

1

04/06

bridges

SEMINIUS
2005-10-10
LITVA
ac
LITVA

september 2005

LITHUANIAN AMERICAN NEWS JOURNAL

Letter from the Editor

Traditionally a first anniversary is celebrated with gifts of paper. This month marks the first anniversary that Gema and I have been bringing you BRIDGES. Did I mention paper? Reams and reams of paper have been used the past year, possibly enough to mark a trail from New Jersey to California and back again. Each issue is printed out over and over until we hope we have it right. In some cases I have read the stories so many times that I have them memorized.

It's been a very different experience. For years I wrote articles for BRIDGES, moaned and groaned about how many hours it took, and then sat back and waited to read them in print. Little did I realize what was involved into putting each issue together. I have the greatest amount of respect and admiration for the past editors, especially those who worked before computers. And yet I have met so many wonderful people, even if only online, by letter or by telephone.

First, I want to say a sincere thank you to the Lithuanian American Community that more than twenty five years ago foresaw the need to "bridge" the gap between people who spoke Lithuanian and those who didn't. Certainly, no one could foresee the events that would lead to the restoration of Lithuania's independence. Initially BRIDGES was an eight page newsletter with valuable information on what was happening in the U.S. and in Lithuania. Special editions were printed when valuable information needed to be given during the independence movement. The Lithuanian American Community was able to reach so many English speaking people who were more than willing to donate money, write letters and join protests. In addition, every topic imaginable was covered somewhere along the line.

I have sung Gema Kreivenas' praises to the highest as the design and production person who brings you BRIDGES each month. She has journeyed to my house in all kinds of weather to make final changes in the copies. On Sundays we can be found cluttering the dining room table with papers, photos and folders at St. Andrew's rectory in Philadelphia. Thanks to Father Peter Burkauskas for his hospitality and patience.

Once we complete the magazine it is forwarded to Ramas Pliura, the treasurer of the Lithuanian American Community, it is read again, taken to the printer, and then Ramas labels each magazine by hand. Thank you, Ramas. We truly operate on a shoestring and BRIDGES has not increased its prices since 1992. This is due in part to the generosity of the Lithuanian Foundation and the Lithuanian Citizens' Society of Western Pennsylvania. A very special thank you to Vytis Travel who have remained loyal advertisers. Many subscribers have sent a few dollars more, while some have sent rather large donations when they renew their subscriptions. All of these factors aid us greatly in bringing you BRIDGES each month.

I am not going to thank individual writers who have helped me so much this year because I know I will forget someone. Although it would be an inadvertent act, it would bother me greatly to omit even one name. But the heart and soul of the magazine are the writers. Without you there would be no BRIDGES. Having written for so many years for this magazine, I know the effort you put into your work. I know the time you spend trying to find the "correct" word to finish a sentence. I also know the personal sacrifice of your time. Be assured, you are spreading your knowledge about Lithuania to those who would never have a chance to read it because they do not speak or read the language. Others have sent me news articles, spent hours proofreading the articles or have brought in new subscribers - thank you.

Needless to say, you, the BRIDGES readers, hold a special place in our hearts.

Kestas Vaskevicius, Press and Public Affairs at the Embassy of Lithuania and Jurate Mikseniene, Office Manager of the Lithuanian American Community, Inc have more than gone the extra mile with their help and advice. Al Dzikas, Vice-President of the Lithuanian American Community, spent many hours with me while I was getting my feet "wet" as editor.

Special thanks to my husband, Tim, for his patience and understanding of missed dinners, burned dinners, and lack of clean laundry as we approach the BRIDGES deadline date.

Now Gema and I look forward to our second year with BRIDGES. Any suggestions for celebrating our "cotton" anniversary next year?

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.

Public Affairs Office
P.O. Box 33464
Washington, DC 20033-3464

Tel: 410 663-0158

Fax: 815 327-8881

E-mail: LithuanianUSA@yahoo.com

BRIDGES Consultants

Jeanne Dorr Editor
Gema Kreivenas Design & Production
Ramas Pliura Treasurer,
Lithuanian American Community, Inc.,
and Subscription Manager.

**THE INFORMATION CENTER FOR
HOMECOMING LITHUANIANS.**

Collects and provides information from
Lithuania.

Copyright ©2005 Lithuanian American Community,
Inc. All rights reserved. No part of the publication may
be reproduced without written permission of the pub-
lisher. All statements and opinions, including product
claims, are those of the organization/advertiser mak-
ing those statements or claims. The publisher does
not adopt, or put forth, any such statement or claim as
his own, and any such statement or claim does not
necessarily reflect the opinion of the publisher.

Address all editorial correspondence to:

BRIDGES

Jeanne Dorr
4 Shrewsbury Yard
Riverton, NJ 08077-1038

E-Mail: Jeanneshalna@aol.com

For subscription and advertising
information, please contact:

LAC, Inc./BRIDGES,
Ramas Pliura
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

Postmaster: Send any address correction
and/or changes to

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

in this issue

2

editorial

Letter from the
Editor*Jeanne Dorr*

10

cultural

THE
DANCING
SEA GULLS*Sr. Ann Mikaila*

18

sports

Lithuanian
Embassy Champs
Kestas Vaskelevicius

4

news

Celebrating its
5th Anniversary
Eugenija Fedosejeva

11

cultural

A few
words about
"Aitvaras"*Tomas Pleckaitis*

19

we got mail

20

cultural

Kazys Šimonis

6

human interest

Child's Gate
To Learning
Ramune Kubilius

12

cultural

Cultural Tidbits
Terese M. Gecys

22

baltic folklore

The Woman and
the Devil
Compiled by
Dr. Jonas Balys
English translation by
Gloria O'Brien

8

here at home

Now a Literary
Landmark
Embassy of Lithuania,
USA

14

history

Emily
Henry L. Gaidis

9

cultural

"The Jungle"
Jon Blackwell

16

sports

The Art Of
Dressage Riding
Barbara Bilsky

24

calendar

* The cover:

Painting of "Girl with a flower", 1930, Tempera by *Kazys Šimonis* from the
book "Gyvenimo Nuotrupos" - *Atsiminimai*, second edition, Vilnius 1966.

AMERIKOS LIETUVIS

Celebrating its 5th Anniversary

(The Lithuanian American Weekly)

It is very difficult to imagine our lives without the media. There are so many things going on that newspapers and television can not report everything. After Lithuania regained its independence various weekly, daily papers and magazines of our country started growing at a fast pace. Almost every small town in Lithuania issued a new local newspaper. Even in the land of recalcitrant people called Žemaitija, there are quite a few publications, and a newspaper "Plungė" (named after the town, where it is published) has been coming out for more than 10 years. Why are we so interested in this paper?

Because its publisher, a recent immigrant from Lithuania, Bronius Abrutis, settled in America, the country of dreams, and gave "birth" to one more newspaper. "Amerikos Lietuvis" today is one of the most popular, interesting and informative of Lithuanian news media in the USA. This weekly is known by most Lithuanians who live in America, regardless of whether they came to this country recently or they are American Lithuanians, or even people of Lithuanian descent, who live all over the world. May 7, 2005, in the most Lithuanian suburb of Chicago, Illinois, Lemont, "Amerikos Lietuvis" along with its readers and supporters celebrated the first, not so big but yet very meaningful 5th anniversary. There are other Lithuanian newspapers published in the U.S.A., Canada, Western Europe and one of them – the Lithuanian daily "Draugas" is almost 100 years old. However, the publisher of "Amerikos Lietuvis" is a so called "third-wave" immigrant from Lithuania, who came to the U.S. just seven years ago.

We all know that people are coming to America for many different reasons. "Once my wife Sandra, – remembers Bronius, – told me something about a "green card" lottery. In



Bronius and his wife, Sandra. "Amerikos Lietuvis" writer Nijole Tarvainaitė (center) looks on.

Photo by Eugenija Fedosejeva

the time I had no idea what that was. Her sister Jovita, who was living in Chicago for some time, had offered to try to fill out an application and take a chance on it. I said, "My wife, if you want to go – OK... and totally forgot about that conversation. I didn't think it was important." Maybe Mr. Abrutis forgot about the "green card", but one day his wife found a letter in their mail box, which changed the family's life forever. That letter had informed the Abrutis family that they had won the American residency, "green card". They decided to take a chance and go to the United States.

When Bronius arrived in America, he never thought about publishing a newspaper; he didn't know any English, didn't know where to go or where to start. In the beginning he worked in a factory, settled down, just lived and let things go their way. Still, he had some experience in newspaper publishing back in Lithuania... and became interested in the Lithuanian media in the United States. Looking at the newspapers written by Lithuanian immigrants and published in America, Bronius thought that it would be useful to publish a different kind of paper that would be more appealing to youth and newcomers from his Motherland.

"I had not written a single article in

my life, but I am a businessman by nature, I would say a creator, I always needed to come up with something new" – now professes Bronius. His first job after graduating from the secondary school was related to creativity as well. Publisher of "Amerikos Lietuvis" now, an ordinary guy then, Bronius had designed and sewn... handbags. It was his first business, unfortunately not very successful one. But later on, when Bronius became an American Lithuanian himself, he decided to do what he

knew best – to create a newspaper. Though his friends treated his idea skeptically, they said he would not have any luck. "Why not" – the future publisher of a new Lithuanian newspaper wondered. "I did it once already, "Plungė" is still publishing!" So he relied on himself and decided to follow his dream. He quit the monotonous job in the factory and focused on his creativity, trying to put together the first issue of his newspaper. Not much time elapsed before Bronius found out from the other publishers how to incorporate a company and what to start with. He found a couple alter egos, who have helped him from the beginning, when he was writing the first and the only editor's letter. That was it! On May 5, 2000 the new newspaper called "Lietuvis" (at that time) saw the light of day for the first time. The most difficult thing was to find contributors. At the beginning all the expenses were paid from Bronius' own pocket (actually... from his wife's pocket), and he could not pay others much. His wife Sandra was working, at the same time Bronius was taking care of his kids and also of a couple of his friend's children and spending hours at his computer looking for the material for every new edition. The first papers were only four pages and after they were printed,

Bronius would take them to the Lithuanian church or other Lithuanian events where he was giving away "Amerikos Lietuvis" for free. A little later, people started to chip in money and they were paying a dollar for each issue. More and more people heard about "Amerikos Lietuvis". Some of them were willing to put an advertisement into the paper. Later the newspaper became eight pages long. Some people have sent their own articles. Although the staff turnover was troublesome in the beginning, Bronius was lucky since he was able to find a few professional and loyal people, who are still working there. In five years "Amerikos Lietuvis" evolved from a four page news-sheet to a forty page publication. Today it has three editions – "Rytų Pakrantėje" (East Coast), then "Vakarų Lietuviams" (for West Coast Lithuanians) and humorous "Fotelis" (The Arm-Chair). But that's still not the end of the story. Bronius Abrutis is planning to expand his newspaper even more. He is always thinking about what he can change, vary and improve upon to make "Amerikos Lietuvis" more interesting to its readers with different points of view regardless of where they live. A staff of 15 people is working to make sure that the new issue of the newspaper is ready each week. With a circulation of almost 4,000 thousand copies – "Amerikos Lietuvis" reached this threshold within five years.

As mentioned, its fifth anniversary was held in one of Chicago's suburbs – Lemont, Illinois at the World Lithuanian Centre. That day there were almost 400 guests at the party along with colleagues and readers to celebrate together. Also included were most of the 15 current associates of the paper (representing not only Chicago, but also the East and West Coasts of the U.S.). A couple of co-workers could not attend as they live in Lithuania. They were a

designer Žydrunas Pilipauskas from Plungė and journalist Agnė Marčinkevičiūtė from Vilnius. Bronius thanked everyone for their hard work as well as those who could not join him on this special day. He mentioned the "Amerikos Lietuvis" web designer, Vytis Bižauskas, one of the most loyal newspaper's contributors and Albinas Hoffmann and others. He expressed a great appreciation for the readers themselves, who send their own articles and letters.

Bronius grew up not far from the Baltic Sea, that's probably why it was symbolic that his colleagues guests entered the banquet hall that was decorated with a newspaper ship made of copies of "Amerikos Lietuvis". Ms. Vaiva Ragauskaitė, the chief-editor of the weekly was holding an authentic wheel of a ship while congratulating all. She passed the wheel to Bronius and wished him that no matter how big the storms would be, not to lose his way in this ocean of life. Then Kęstutis Vaškelevičius from the Lithuanian Embassy read a congratulatory letter from his Excellency, Ambassador of Lithuania to the United States and Mexico, Dr. Vygaudas Ušackas. The American Lithuanian TV director, Arvydas Reneckis, spoke as did several local businessmen. Special honour was given to the Man of the Year (2004) Mr. Donatas Šiliūnas and also the Woman of the Year (2004) Mrs. Rasa Poskočimienė (both from Chicago). The winners of the contest "How to remain Lithuanian in America" were announced. The first place went to Vida Bučmienė from Cleveland, Ohio. Fr. Jaunius Kelpšas blessed everyone and dinner followed. An excellent meal was prepared by the five year old "Lithuanian Plaza Bakery and Deli" owned by the Morkūnai family. The guests were entertained by an ensemble from Vilnius, "Keistuolio Teatras". Everyone had a great time, enhanced by a lot of nice songs, music and dancing at the World

Lithuanian Center Hall. The festivities lasted well into the late evening! So let's wish "Amerikos Lietuvis" further growth and many more birth-days to come.

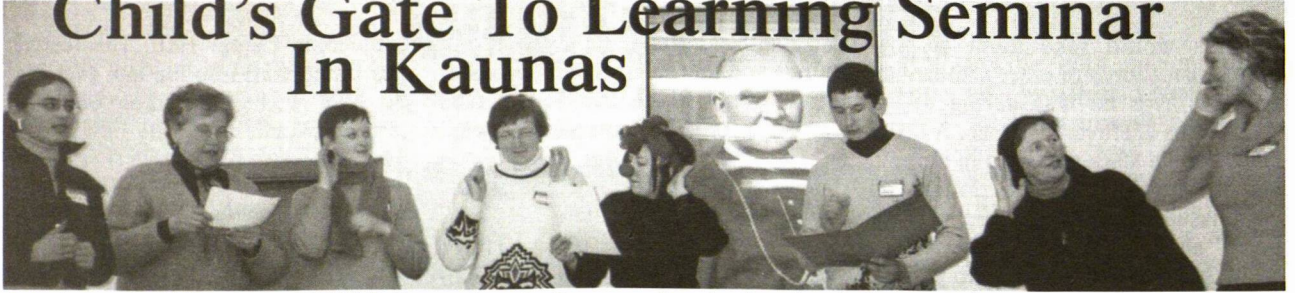
Eugenija Fedosejeva

Eugenija Fedosejeva is a graduate student at the University of Bridgeport, Bridgeport, CT. Eugenija is an active member of Lithuanian American Community, was elected as a treasurer of its Bridgeport (CT) Chapter. She enjoys participating in amateur sports, fitness and basketball being her favorites and belongs to the Lithuanian Sports Club of Connecticut.

Editor's Note: On behalf of BRIDGES, I would like to wish Mr. Abrutis and his staff continued success in all their endeavors.



Child's Gate To Learning Seminar In Kaunas



Attendees at the 2005 sponsored "Child's Gate to Learning" sponsored weekend seminar in Kaunas perform a skit on what they've learned about volunteerism, the influence of music on children, the profession of social work.

CHILD'S GATE TO LEARNING SEMINAR IN KAUNAS:
Supporting those who work with Lithuania's "at risk" children.

It's said that in Lithuania only about 5.5% of the adult population is involved in some type of volunteer activity, whereas in other countries the statistics are higher (eg. United States 44%, Great Britain 48%, Germany 34%, Japan 25%, according to a 2004 Louis Penner article in Journal of Social Issues Article). Statistics don't tell the full story as "Child's Gate to Learning" organization members well know. In the nine after school centers and temporary homes (dienos centrai, laikinosios globos namai) supported by the group, there are a number of devoted volunteers who give up their free time, and there are a number of paid social workers and other employees who work beyond their scheduled hours. There is room for improvement, as there is with much in life, as Lithuania still grapples with problems with alcoholism and other problems that impact children, families, and society at large. "Child's Gate to Learning" was founded to support centers in Lithuania that work with children who largely still live at home, but in "at risk families", so the centers are a haven for the children to eat, do homework, participate in crafts and art projects, and learn social skills that may be neglected at home.

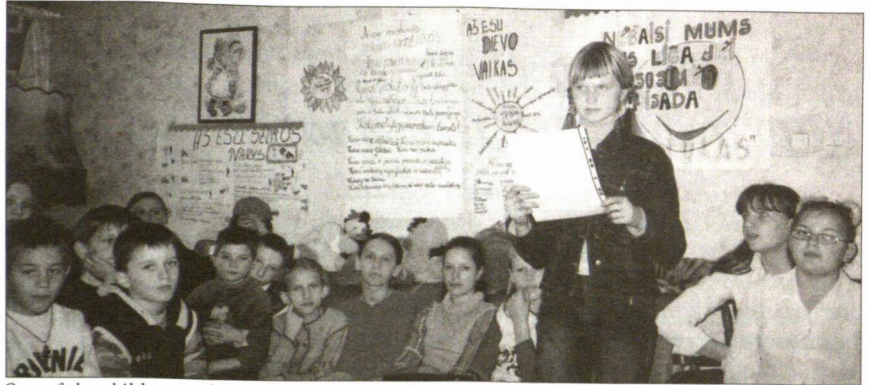
The weekend of April 23-24 was special because the organization brought to Kaunas 40 directors, employees and volunteers from the 9 centers "Child's Gate to Learning" (Vaiko Vartai į Mokslo) supports. The centers work with upwards of 350 children. Many of the workers would not have another opportunity to meet, since the centers in which they work are scattered throughout Lithuania and were founded by different organizations, a parish, a school principal, a teacher, the Catholic organization CARITAS, even a devoted retired physician. What they have in common is the continual financial and moral support of the "Child's Gate to Learning" organization. The two-day 2005 seminar was the third seminar sponsored by the organization, which has worked on behalf of Lithuania's children since 1998. Earlier seminars focused on one of the character building programs developed by the group (there have been three programs), while the 2005 seminar offered

some lectures and activities that focused more generally on the development and psychology of children, and the valuable role of volunteerism.

The nine supported centers are located throughout Lithuania: Vilnius (3 centers), Naujoji Akmenė, Marijampolė, Kazlų Rūda, Obeliai, Uzpaliai, and Rumbonys. Earlier "Bridges" articles provide information about the founding and the early days of "Child's Gate to Learning", a Chicago-based organization with fundraising chapters in Cleveland, OH, Detroit, MI, Philadelphia, PA, Washington, D.C. and Sunny Hills, FL. The group established ties with the centers in a variety of ways, but primarily on a personal level by its two "programs in Lithuania" coordinators, Rita Venclovas and Aldona Kamantas. In the past few years, the two have spent months at one time in Lithuania working at the centers with the children, familiarizing them with the character building methodologies and programs developed by a special "Child's Gate to Learning" subcommittee. Other "Child's Gate to Learning" officers and members (including this article's author) have only been able to visit for shorter stays, to accomplish specific organization-related projects, visit at least some of the centers, etc. Another role has been played by young Lithuanian American volunteers (see article by Audre Kapačinskas in a past issue of "Bridges") who have gone to work with the children of a particular center for at least a month at a time. During the summer of 2005, a recent college graduate from the Chicago area is the latest to offer to contribute a part of this summer – we await a report of his experiences upon his return.

Back to the 2005 seminar... The seminar was organized by Rita Venclovas, with the input of the newly appointed "Child's Gate to Learning" representative in Lithuania, Žydrūnė Liobikaitė, who works with at risk mothers in the "Vilties Angelo" center in Vilnius. Together, they put together a program that enhanced the knowledge base of attendees about social work (Vilnius University instructor, Birutė Švedaitė); about the impact of music in a child's life (Emilija Paktas Sakadolskis, a long time Washington, D.C. music teacher who, after obtaining her doctorate in music, has moved to Vilnius with her husband, Romas, for perma-

nent residence and continued educational work); about the ties between child and care-giver (Vytautas Magnus University professor Daiva Kuzmickaitė, an early “instigator” in the founding of the “Child’s Gate to Learning” organization, who has the distinction of being the first in Lithuania to receive her doctorate in sociology); the social mission of the Catholic Church (Rev. dr. Arvydas Žygas, an instructor at the Kaunas seminary, Chicago-area (Cicero, IL) born and raised, former Fulbright professor who now lives and works in Lithuania permanently); about volunteerism (Vilnius “Vilties Angelo” employee, formerly volunteer, Lina Gervytė, who returned to Lithuania after a two-year volunteer stint living and working in Thailand); practical steps preparing and supporting volunteers (Lina Gervytė and social worker Žydrūnė Liobikaitė, mentioned earlier in the article); a short overview of American volunteerism and the “Child’s Gate to Learning” organization in particular was provided by Ramunė Kubilius. There was time for the centers’ workers and volunteers to mingle, and share insights on common concerns and problems. Attendees were broken up into smaller groups to analyze a case study and to perform skits about their centers and the lessons they learned at the seminar. Although the work they do is serious, a sense of humor among centers’ workers can go a long way, in the right context. The hospitable facility of the Archbishop Matulaitis House, run by the Sisters of the Immaculate Conception (Nekalto Prasidėjimo Vargdienių seserys) in Kaunas, was a peaceful site that accommodated the tightly packed seminar schedule, leaving time for meals and sleep, as well as Catholic Mass in the adjoining chapel. Do methodologies such as those provided by “Child’s Gate to Learning” prove to be useful in Lithuania? The organization has received several inquiries from other centers in Lithuania – permission is granted for their use, upon arrangement with the directors of “Child’s Gate to Learning”. More importantly, the directors of the centers, and the workers at the seminar confirmed that the programs provide methodologies for instilling values in children-friendship, sharing, good citizenship, avoiding alcohol and smoking, self esteem... That type of material is not easily found currently in Lithuania. The center directors and representatives who met in Kaunas during the seminar provided a long list of other social issues for which they would like to see teachings, lesson plans, and group activities. The “Child’s Gate to Learning” programs have been created by a special volunteer-based subcommittee of qualified teachers, social workers and psychologists who



One of the children at the Caritas after school center (dienos centras) “Sypsniukas” in Kazlų Rūda reads a greeting and thank you to the “Child’s Gate to Learning” organization for its support and character-building programs.

glean the English-language professional literature and adapt what they feel is suited and translatable in the Lithuanian environment. Each program plan, from conceptualization of the outline, to editing and printing of the Lithuanian-language manuals, is several months in the making. The workers at the centers can use the material as they see fit, often meshing activities into each center’s weekday packed programs, filled as they are with feeding the children, and ensuring their homework is completed. After all, the primary focus of the centers and “Child’s Gate to Learning” is to ensure that the children continue going to school, and all activities circulate around that core. It is hoped that the smaller centers, located further from Vilnius, will also have the availability and infrastructure to select, prepare and utilize more volunteers. Additional “helping hands” can make a difference in the children’s lives, as well as those of the centers. As Hillary Clinton’s 1996 book indicated, paraphrasing an African saying, “It Takes a Village”...

The Lithuanian Foundation and Seneca House have funded larger projects undertaken by the “Child’s Gate to Learning” organization. Purchases are made in Lithuania or packages sent from the United States – school necessities; arts and craft supplies, shoes, whatever is deemed needed at specific centers. Some supplies and necessities are purchased and sent from the U.S. because of their high costs or short supply in Lithuania. A few American families regularly contribute to “Child’s Gate to Learning” as their family’s special commitment. All donations are appreciated, no matter how large or small. The Web site of “Child’s Gate to Learning” (<http://www.childgate.org>) was recently updated. They highlight past accomplishments and current organization’s character building and substance abuse prevention program methodologies. Goals for 2005 are outlined. A Lithuanian language text page was added, to reflect the support the organization receives from Lithuanian as well as non-Lithuanian speaking Americans. We invite you to visit the site and to contribute towards our

here at home

Stockyard Gateway Now a Literary Landmark

According to a recent article in the Chicago Tribune the Union Stockyard Gate on Chicago's South Side has been designated a literary landmark. This was done to honor the novel that shocked the world by exposing the brutal work that had been done here. The gate was the entrance to the city's slaughterhouses where so many men, many of them immigrants, toiled in unsafe and unsanitary conditions.

The proclamation was made to celebrate the 100th anniversary of Upton Sinclair's, "The Jungle." The book tells of the horrors that Lithuanian immigrant Jurgis Rudkus suffered while working in the stockyards.

According to Chicago Alderman James Balcer, one of the dignitaries who attended the ceremony, "They worked 84 hours a week at 16 cents an hour."

Sinclair was challenged by the editor of Appeal to Reason, a socialist magazine, to make the trip to Chicago and to write about the inhuman conditions that workers in many industries faced.

Sinclair told it as he saw it; struggles among different groups, strike breakers and corruption in many areas. He was successful in describing what he saw and the public rose up in anger over these conditions. The White House received a hundred letters a day urging reforms in the meat packing industry. In response, President Theodore Roosevelt and others established the Pure Food and Drug Administration.

Embassy of Lithuania, USA

CHILD'S GATE TO LEARNING SEMINAR IN KAUNAS:



Volunteers at the Caritas "Vilties Angelas" after school center (dienes centras) in Vilnius. Some are Education majors at nearby Vilnius universities. At left is the director, Sister Jolita Matulaityte.

efforts, if you are so inclined.

Confirmation that the efforts of "Child's Gate to Learning" are appreciated could be found in the comments made by seminar attendees in an evaluation form they filled out. It was more a "what I learned and can use in my work" type of questionnaire. Answers included an expression of gratitude to the organization for its programs and this seminar. More importantly, it appears that seminar attendees absorbed what they heard—they seemed to have a greater appreciation for the role of social workers, the value of each child, the impact of caregivers and music on children's development, and the importance of volunteers... It was a privilege to visit some of the centers "Child's Gate to Learning" supports and meet with many of the center directors, employees, and volunteers during the seminar. Only by first-hand visits and personal exchanges can one truly appreciate the circumstances under which at risk child care and guidance takes place. May the centers con-

tinue to have ideas, inspiration, respect and love for the children in their care, since they are Lithuania's future. Meanwhile, organizations like "Child's Gate to Learning" will continue to support them from this side of the Atlantic, as long as circumstances require, and our own energies allow.

Addendum: Since this article was written some statistics appeared in a recent issue of "Draugas."

According to recent statistics from the Lithuanian government, at the beginning of 2005, there were 746,300 children in Lithuania. In 2004, there were 30,400 births, 179 fewer than in 2003. 29% of the children were born to unmarried parents. On June 1st, international NGO (non-governmental organization) group representatives urged governments to show concern for the well-being of children not only at election times. There are not enough programs for children with social problems, nor is there enough financing. According to the Lithuanian NGO president's assistant, Marytė Leliugienė, this year 2.3 million LT (litai, about 2.6 per U.S. dollar-RK) were set aside for "dienes centrai" (after-school, "Head Start"-like programs-RK), whereas to realize the desired goals, 154 million LT (litai) are really needed.

Ramunė Kubilius

Ramunė Kubilius is an academic medical librarian by profession. She has served in the Lithuanian American Community's Executive Committee in the past, is currently active in several other Lithuanian organizations and she dances with the Lithuanian folk dance ensemble, "Grandis". She writes for the Lithuanian language press in North America and has contributed to "Bridges" over the years.

1906: Rumble over "The Jungle"

An excerpt from the Trentonian newspaper
A first edition, 1906.

Upton Sinclair at the time he first achieved
muckraking fame.
1906: Rumble over "The Jungle"

The Trentonian by JON BLACKWELL

Upton Sinclair was a desperately poor, young socialist hoping to remake the world when he settled down in a tarpaper shack in Princeton Township and penned his Great American Novel. He called it "The Jungle," filled it with page after page of nauseating detail he had researched about the meat-packing industry, and dropped it on an astonished nation in 1906.

An instant best-seller, Sinclair's book reeked with the stink of the Chicago stockyards. He told how dead rats were shoveled into sausage-grinding machines; how bribed inspectors looked the other way when diseased cows were slaughtered for beef, and how filth and guts were swept off the floor and packaged as "potted ham."

In short, "The Jungle" did as much as any animal-rights activist of today to turn Americans into vegetarians.

But it did more than that. Within months, the aroused – and gagging – public demanded sweeping reforms in the meat industry.

President Theodore Roosevelt was sickened after reading an advance copy. He called upon Congress to pass a law establishing the Food and Drug Administration and, for the first time, setting up federal inspection standards for meat.

Sinclair, all of 28 years old, had gone overnight from literary failure to the man who took on the mighty "beef trust" – and won. Visions of ridding America of all its capitalist evils came floating into his head.

"It seemed to me that the walls of the mighty fortress of greed were on the point of cracking," he later wrote. "It needed only one rush, and then another, and another."

Sinclair then read of a meat-packing strike in Chicago, and knew he had a good plot for the first great socialist novel.

For two months in 1904, Sinclair wandered the Chicago stockyards – a place he would write of as "Packingtown."

He mingled with the foreign-born "wage slaves" in their tenements and heard how they'd been mistreated and ripped off. He saw for himself the sloppy practices in the packing houses and the mind-numbing, 12-hour-a-day schedule.

Then it was back to the quiet woods of Princeton to write "The Jungle." Sinclair hunkered down in a hand-built, 18-by-16-foot cabin and took pen to paper.

"For three months I worked incessantly," Sinclair later said. "I wrote with tears and anguish, pouring into the pages all the pain that life had meant to me."

"The Jungle" was the story of Jurgis Rudkus, a Lithuanian immigrant working in Packingtown.

Jurgis sees his American dream of a decent life dissolve into nightmare as his job hauling steer carcasses in the stockyards leaves him bone-weary and unable to support his family.

He loses his job when he beats up his boss, furious at discovering the cad seduced his wife; then he loses the wife to disease and his son to drowning.

But Jurgis finds rebirth upon joining the socialist movement, and the book closes with a socialist orator shouting: "Organize! Organize! Organize! ... CHICAGO WILL BE OURS!"

"I aimed at the public's heart, and by accident I hit it in the stomach," he said.

Sinclair lived to be 90. In the last year of his life, in 1968, he came full circle – moving back to New Jersey to be near his son's family in Bound Brook.

Right up to his death, Sinclair would be taken in a wheelchair to talk about his life's struggles in high schools. At Bridgewater-Raritan High School, the original muckraker got one of his last tributes from a teen-aged girl. "You're cool, Mr. Sinclair," she told him.

Submitted by: George Akerley

St. Peter Church

Congratulations to the parishioners of St. Peter Church in Boston who received word that an Archdiocesan Review committee recommended that "no closing date be set". Please check their website frequently at www.savestpeter.org for updates as there are still many questions to be answered and the parishioners are anxiously awaiting the outcome of their appeal to the Congregation of the Clergy at the Vatican.

THE DANCING SEA GULLS

The port city of Klaipėda is the third largest city in Lithuania, ranking next after Vilnius and Kaunas. The Baltic Sea is Lithuania's window into the world. This town of sailors, merchants and traders came to be in the Middle Ages. It has literally risen up from its own ashes after the devastation of WW II, when hardly a dozen buildings were left intact. Now it is proud of its Fishing Seaport, the "Baltija" shipbuilding yards and other industries. It is a rather noisy, bustling place, but also full of life. Once known as the "city of a hundred windmills" with its characteristic multinational and multicultural population, Klaipėda is again coming into its own.

The new naval hospital in Klaipėda, its educational and cultural institutions and its historical Old Town have made it a city worth visiting. The university of Klaipėda now sponsors the dance group "Žuvėdra".

Formed in 1965-67 when ballroom dancing was relatively unknown in Lithuania, the group now consists of 22 student dancers. These dancing seagulls really spread their wings in 1989 winning 7th place in the World Championships in Stuttgart,



Klaipėda, Dress Rehearsal, 1985

Germany. The young dancers were elated to be participating in an international competition and proudly displayed their tricolor flag in the locker-room to remind everyone that Lithuania was taking a radical step toward freedom and independence. Since then the dancing seagulls have won four firsts in the World Championships and four firsts in the European Championships.

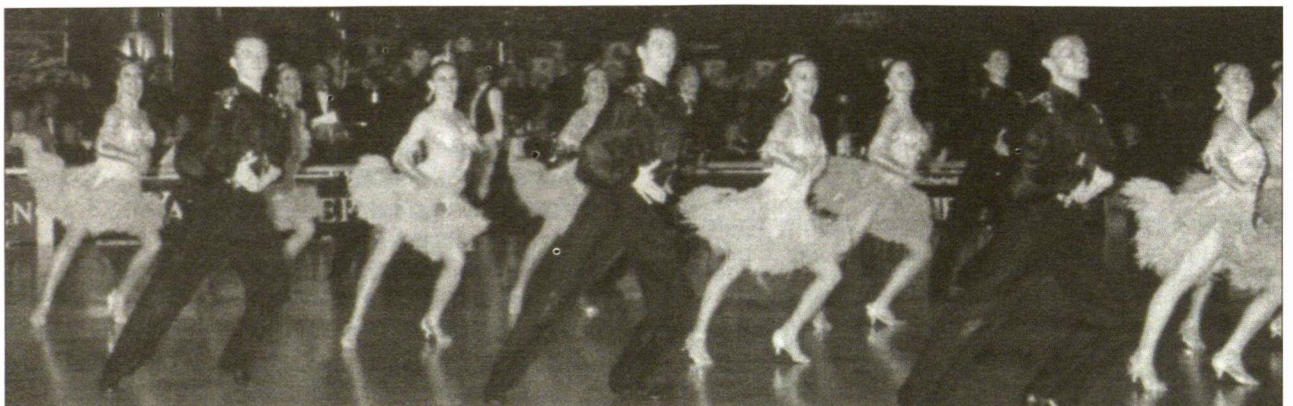
On May 1st of this year the "Žuvėdra" group performed in the USA for the first time. Their concert, organized by the Cultural Council of the American Lithuanian Community headed by Mrs. Maria Remienė, took place in Chicago, the capital city of the Lithuanian diaspora. The group is very popular in its native country, but was seen for the first time in America.

Since 1971 the dancers have been trained by a husband and wife team -- Skaistė and Romaldas Izdelevičius, both of whom are professors at the Klaipėda university and also former dancers. The two coach-

es carefully select their dancers from the student body who are able to meet the rigorous physical and mental demands of competitive sport dancing and also keep up with their studies. Two former dancers, Daina Bertulienė and Juūra Laivyte assist the coaches since new students must be constantly trained. The colorful and artistic costumes are designed by another former dancer -- Aina Zinkevičiūtė. The resident composer from Vilnius, Audrius Balsys, arranges the dance music according to Latin rhythms like samba, rumba, cha-cha, tango and also from show tunes and popular songs. The recent concert in Chicago turned out to be a spectacular success, the auditorium was filled to capacity by both second and third wave Lithuanian immigrants. It was a moment of real cultural sharing.

Sister Ann Mikaila

Sister Ann Mikaila 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 contributor to Bridges.



Munich Master - Gala Concert, 1995

Tomas Plečkaitis

A few words about "Aitvaras"

During the past few years in Connecticut, a new cultural activity emerged in the Lithuanian American community, the theater. Newly arrived Lithuanians enthusiastically participated in the social, cultural, and religious events in the various Lithuanian American communities. These new and young people had their own ideas for diversifying and energizing the Lithuanian cultural scene. One such idea evolved over time during poetry recitals, events such as the February and March Independence Day celebrations, etc. The theatrical group was formed about 2 years ago, and later called itself "Aitvaras."

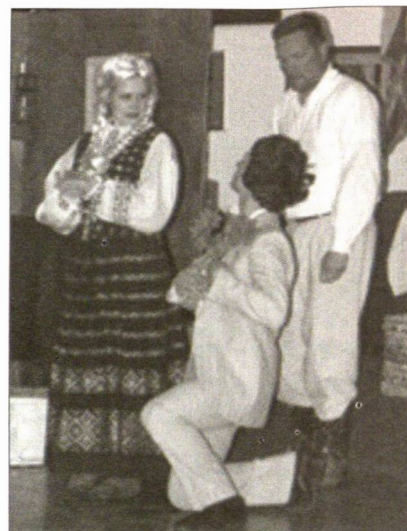
In the beginning, there were only five members: Sigita Šimkuvienė-Rosen, Rolandas Kiaulevičius, Laura Žilytė, Jurgita Močkutė, and Irina Chanko. They, and others, began to work on a play, "Ženteliai," for the first time in June, 2004, during the Lithuanian Holiday, St. John's Day, which had been celebrated by a large gathering of Lithuanians at the home of Vaiva Vebra-Gust.

The first play was brief, cheerful, and comical production suitable for children and adults. It was performed in New Britain, CT. From this modest beginning, the group decided to pursue a more earnest approach to the theater. Subsequently, a partial presentation of "Ženteliai" was performed in November 2004, New Britain, during the Connecticut Sports Club festival. Present for this performance was the Lithuanian Republic's ambassador to the USA, V. Ušackas.

The premiere performance of "Ženteliai" was November 21st, 2004, in West Haven, as part of the annual "Vakaras" sponsored by the New Haven Lithuanian folk dance group "Vėtra." In 2005, "Aitvaras" has performed in: Branford, CT; Bridgeport, CT (for its celebration of Lithuania's

Independence Day); Maspeth (Long Island), NY (during New York City's annual assembly of LAC); and most recently, in Philadelphia, PA. In Philadelphia "Aitvaras" was warmly received by about 150 people. The group received flowers and was treated to an excellent Lithuanian meal that included a mushroom soup that was just awesome. The current members of Aitvaras are: Vaclovas Ambrozaitis, Ona Ambrozaitienė, Linas Balsys, Irina Chanko, Gabrielė Inkrataitė, Edvinas Inkrata, Rolandas Kiaulevičius, Jurgita Mockutė, Liudas Musteika, Asta Nenortienė, Stan Rosen, Tomas Plečkaitis, Sigita Šimkuvienė-Rosen, Rimas Samis, and Laura Žilytė. Seven or so members of "Aitvaras" also belong to the New Haven Lithuanian folk dance group "Vėtra." Because the group does not have a permanent home, rehearsals are held wherever and by whomever would accept them. The actors are sincere people who come from all walks of life. They are so struck by the theatrical bug that it is not surprising that they assemble for rehearsals from all parts of Connecticut: New Haven, Branford, Guilford, West Hartford, Farmington, Naugatuck, Waterbury, and Woodbridge. The group is very diligent about its work. However, the atmosphere is friendly and the members enjoy socializing with one another before and after rehearsals.

The driving force behind the formation and growing success of "Aitvaras" is Sigita Šimkuvienė-Rosen. She is not only an actor in the group, but also



A scene from the play "Ženteliai": Bendoraitis (Linas Balsys) and Kalakutas (Rolandas Kiaulevičius) with Marcė (Laura Žilytė).

its director, and the glue that holds everyone together. Sigita informs that the mission of "Aitvaras" is to promote our Lithuanian culture providing the Lithuanian American community with opportunity to experience Lithuanian theater. The plays are written by Lithuanians and performed in the Lithuanian language.

"Aitvaras" will recess for the summer. When the group resumes in the fall, the group is planning to begin work on a new Lithuanian comedy. Anyone interested in participating is welcome—no experience necessary!

On behalf of "Aitvaras," Sigita wishes to thank the families of the actors for their support and patience.

For additional information about "Aitvaras," e-mail Jurgita Mockutė at jmockute@gmail.com



Photos taken in West Haven, CT by Žydrunas Gimbutas. All the actors after the performance of "Ženteliai."

cultural!

(and other) *tidbits*



The author and her husband, Algimantas Gecys, at Mikalojus Dauksa oak tree, the largest and oldest one in Kedainiai district. It took four people to encircle its circumference.

Photo by Vldas Butkus

Lithuania 2005

Several of our past trips to Lithuania were planned around participation in Lithuanian World Community conventions. During those trips almost a week was spent sitting in meetings in Lithuania's Parliament building and little time afterwards to tour Lithuania. This year we decided to travel to Lithuania to really see as much of the country as possible and to take in its culture. Fortunately, through word of mouth, we learned that the Sisters of Immaculate Conception of Mary, (in U.S. popularly called the Putnam Sisters) had recently renovated their Vilnius convent with an entire floor furnished for guests. Twice before we had stayed with the sisters in Kaunas at the Blessed Jurgis Matulaitis convent and intended to do the same again this year. Calls to Vilnius and Kaunas, confirmed availability of accommodations at both. In Palanga we had arranged to stay with friends and to take advantage of their kind offer to chauffeur us around Zemaitija. On May 24 we boarded a US Airways flight from Philadelphia to London and from there the next day Lithuanian Airlines would carry us to Vilnius.

Although we had assured Sister Igne that we were very comfortable with taking a taxi from Vilnius Airport to Holy Cross (Svento Kryziaus) House, she was there waiting for us at the airport. We were most pleasantly surprised to discover that Holy Cross House was practically across from the Presidential Palace and just a five minute walk to the Cathedral and Gedimino prospektas. Our room was more than adequate and comfortable with a modern private bath. On the

ground floor we had access to a small kitchen with a refrigerator which held everything we needed for a self-service deluxe European continental breakfast. A pot of hot coffee waiting for us every morning, compliments of Sister Dalia.

The first things on our agenda was to buy "Vilnius in Your Pocket" guide book (available at all the "Lietuvos spauda" kiosks in both Lithuanian and English as well as other languages) to find out what cultural events were to take place during our time in Lithuania and if tickets would be available. The weekend of our arrival in Vilnius, the annual folk music festival "Skamba, skamba kankliai", featuring folk song and dance groups from all over Lithuania was taking place with artisans showing off their handiwork in Sereikiskiu park next to the Cathedral and at the foot of Gediminas castle. Since we had already seen similar folk performances, we opted for a concert of love songs by the well-known opera singer Judita Leitaite. For several of her songs she was joined by a cadet vocal group from General Zemaitis Military Academy (Lithuania's West Point).

Sunday, May 29, after Mass at the Cathedral, we were picked up by my nephew Tadas and his wife Renata for a trip to Kaunas to the opening concert of Pazaislis Music Festival held in the courtyard of the 16th century baroque Pazaislis monastery. The concert featured the National Symphony Orchestra of Lithuania under the direction of Gintaras Rinkevicius, Kaunas National Choir under direction of Petras Bingelis and an international roster of soloists in a concert performance of Tchaikovsky's "Queen of Spades". The performance, the ancient surroundings and a perfect summer evening created an unforgettable experience!

On Friday, June 3, we were very lucky to get the very last two tickets to the opening concert of Vilnius Festival 2005 at the Lithuanian National Philharmonic Hall. The concert sponsored by the British Embassy in Vilnius featured the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra conducted by Sakari Oramo of Finland. The program included works by Edward Elgar, Richard Strauss, Ralph Vaughn Williams and Ludwig van Beethoven. During intermission we recognized many dignitaries including United States ambassador Stephen Mull and his wife.

Having gotten a good dose of culture we were ready for touristy adventures. We took buses from Vilnius to Palanga and back, to and from Kaunas and many taxis. We encourage everyone who travels to Lithuania to use public inter city buses. They are clean, comfortable and inexpensive, driven by professional and courteous drivers. Most taxis had "No smoking" signs, which was not the case two years ago. We are lucky to have friends in Lithuania who took time to show us places we had not been to or were eager to see again. The last time I had seen the Hill of Crosses was ten years ago. Now there is wide, paved road with a monastery built in the

vicinity of this sacred place. There are a number of souvenir booths and stands as well as individuals who pester tourists with their wares. Busloads of tourists make the Hill of Crosses a regular stop on their itinerary. We were driven through Siauliai, Mazeikiai and stopped in Kretinga where I was born and spent the first three years of my life. We saw St. Anthony Church where I was baptized and St. Anthony High School (gymnazija) where my father was a teacher. We had lunch at the Tiskevicius museum in a restaurant called "Pas grafa". In Palanga we walked the famous Vytautas gatve (street) which is a beautiful pedestrian promenade of restaurants and villas leading to the famous pier out to the Baltic Sea. During vacation season everyone walks out to the pier to say good night to the setting sun. Palanga and the nearby family resort of Sventoji are witnessing a building boom and expansion. A new very impressive Catholic church is being built in Sventoji with a steeple which when completed will be like a shining lighthouse beckoning everyone to seek spiritual solace within its walls. No visit to Palanga is complete without a meal at "Pas Juozapa" - a restaurant and a brewery with every imaginable old time Lithuanian form of entertainment. There is music, saunas, children's playground, petting zoo, ponies for horse rides, and many other games. The menu features all varieties of peasant foods deliciously prepared and beautifully served by very amiable wait staff. One side trip out of Palanga was into Latvia's port city of Liepoja, which had been a naval fort throughout the history of Latvia. During Soviet times because of its military fortifications Liepoja was closed to tourists. Now only the city center shows some vibrancy. Otherwise it is quite shabby and neglected. We stopped in the beautiful St. Nicholas Orthodox cathedral just recently returned to the faithful and in process of slow restoration. We returned to Palanga convinced that in Lithuanian hands by now Liepoja would be a flourishing restored city.

We also visited Kedainiai, the cucumber and pickle capital of Lithuania and the base of Victor Uspaskich. For many miles around the city one can see hothouses and women at roadsides in early June selling small pickling cucumbers. In the center of Kedainiai old town sits Uspaskich house. It stands out not only because of its dark red paint and white trim, but mostly because all windows facing the street are mirrors!

I had visited Marijampole ten years ago. At that time it looked especially shabby. It is remarkably improved, especially around the church where Blessed Jurgis Matulaitis is interned. Nearby is Marijonu gimnazija returned to Marian Fathers and beautifully restored inside and outside. This was final spring exam make-up time as both teachers and students buzzed in the halls getting ready for summer vacation. This was my father's Alma mater and a must on the list of places to see.

Another must was Leipalingis and Lazdijai in the heart of Dzūkija region of Lithuania. At the former's church my father

was christened, received his First Communion and ten years ago his very last Communion. Next to the church we were shocked by the sight of a small cemetery with a large red star atop the tallest monument. An inscription at the entrance read: "Cemetery of soldiers fallen during the war of 1941-45. Restored in 2004 by the Russian Embassy in Lithuania with funds from the Russian Federation". Lazdijai was the town from which my family fled westward during World War II. At that time I was already six years old and some memories remained. We stopped at the school where my father was principal and our family was provided with an apartment. It was already closed for the summer. Only a few teachers were cleaning out their classrooms and were kind enough to talk to us to explain some of the more recent history. The wing where our family had lived was turned into a school museum and already closed up for the year.

Druskininkai is a booming town with construction machinery at every turn. Ten years ago we could not find a decent restaurant. Now from pizzerias to elegant restaurants with white tablecloth and flowers, whatever your choice! Here, a stop at the M.K. Ciurlionis Museum and home is a must. No matter, how many times one visits here, it is an overwhelming emotional experience.



Puntukas with carvings of Darius and Girenas profiles in the Anyksciai district.

Photo by Terese Gecys

Anyksciai region is distinct for its rich history and beautiful natural surroundings. The home of Lithuania's literary giants - Antanas Baranuskas, Antanas Vienuolis, Jonas Biliunas. Nearby Vorutos and Seimyniskeliu piliakalnis (castle hill) the site of Mindaugas first castle. St. Matthew the Apostle Church on the banks of Sventosios river with a towering statue of Baranuskas. Nearby Puntukas is the second largest rock formation in Lithuania with Darius and Girenas profiles sculpted on its face.

We passed through Raseinai, Ariogala, Krekanava, Liskiava and Merkinė, Castles of Raudonė and Panemunė, with only brief stops and mental note to explore these places in depth on future trips to Lithuania. As we passed through the countryside, we saw orchards of fruit trees,

Continued on page 21

Emily

The Plater Family was one of the most distinguished families in ancient Lithuania. Members born into the family bore the title of Count and served as generals, politicians, and statesmen. The roots of the family can be traced back to the 10th century Westphalia and by the 1500's the family was well established in Lithuania where it had acquired vast estates and had become prominent in all walks of public life. As the years passed, few families of the

Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth could match them as avid patriots. Members of the family took an active part in the anti-Russian insurrections of 1794, 1812, 1831, and 1863. Still, with all the great men born into the family, the most noted member of the family to bear the name Plater was a female. At one time, the name Emily Plater (Emilja Plateraitė) was a household name across Europe and stretched to the shores of America. In March 1832, Adam Mickiewicz wrote his immensely popular poem "The Death of a Colonel" in which Emily was compared to the ideal commander and Cirque Franconi in her spectacular "The Poles of 1831" compared her to a new Joan of Arc.

Emily's fame was spread to America when J.K. Salomonski translated and published his book "The Life of the Countess Emily Platter in New York in 1842". Among its many distinguished patrons were the then President John Tyler, former President Martin Van Buren and future President James Buchanan. The list also included historical American figures such as Henry Clay and Daniel Webster. Regrettably, fame is often fleeting and with the passage of time her glory has waned. Today the name Emily Plater is not even well remembered among her own people. It is the author's hope that this brief article about Emily will rekindle her well deserved glory. In this work, it was noted that Emily's name excites a thrill of emotion in every heart which is not insensitive to feelings of honor and patriotism.

Emily was born on November 13, 1806, to Count Francis-Xavier and Countess Anna Plater in Vilnius, Lithuania. At the time of her birth, Europe was engaged in the bloody Napoleonic wars that eventually led to French and Russian troops marching across Lithuania.



With the defeat of Napoleon, Lithuania and Poland once again found themselves firmly under the yoke of Czarist Russian occupation. Though the ancient Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth had been wiped off of the map of Europe, the dream of independence beat firmly in the heart of Polish and Lithuanian patriots.

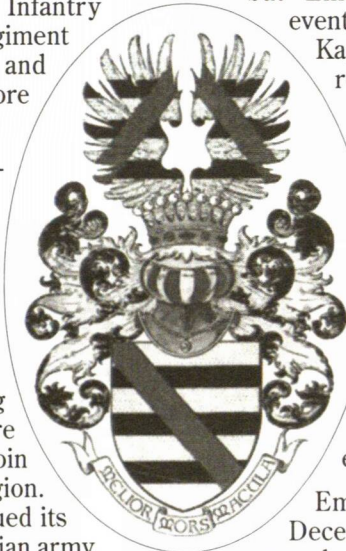
Emily's parents separated when she was still a young girl. In 1815, her mother took her to live with relatives in Liksnie. Here she developed a love of reading and a great interest in mathematics, poetry, riding horses and hunting. Having a compassionate heart, Emily took great pity upon the local peasants and sought to help them where she could. She took a special interest in studying their habits and customs. She soon began collecting and transcribing ancient folk songs. In 1823, Emily went to stay with her aunt Apolinara in Dusiaty where she continued her interest in peasant life. She grew to be a beautiful and accomplished woman with many male suitors. From a very early age, Emily became an ardent patriot and yearned for the day her homeland would be free of Russian occupation. The hated Russians had suppressed her nation's freedom and religion and she regularly prayed for an uprising that would throw the oppressor from the country.

When the news of the 1831 insurrection reached Emily in Vilnius, she was immediately filled with patriotic fervor. Within a short period of time, Emily was one of the leaders of the local insurrection. Dressing herself in male attire, Emily, after church services, appealed to the people to rise up against their Russian oppressors. Traveling to her family's estate in Lixna, Emily and her cousins Lucien and Ferdinand conspired with a group of cadet leaders to organize a local insurgent unit in the Dusetos area and seize the Russian fortress at Daugavpils in Latvia. Gathering an armed band consisting of 60 mounted nobles, 280 mounted riflemen and several hundred scythe armed peasants, insurgents began to march north. Along the way, the unit under Emily's command, defeated Russian forces in a number of skirmishes and liberated the town of Zarasal. Unknown to the insurgents, the Russians had uncovered the cadet plan to seize the fortress and were prepared. As a result, Emily's forces were defeated and they were forced to retreat. Upon returning to Lithuania, Emily joined another insurgent band led by her cousin, Cezary Plater, which became part of the Wilkomierz Riflemen Regiment under the command of Karol Zaluski. She later served with various partisan

detachments under the command of Constantine Parczewski and participated in the capture of Ukmerge and an attempt to liberate Vilnius.

In an attempt to organize the various insurgent bands, Generals Anthony Gielgud and Desiderius Chlapowski were sent to Lithuania from Poland to take command and form them into detachments of a regular army. Upon assuming command of the army, General Chlapowski addressed the soldiers forming his army. In the name of Poland, he thanked the Lithuanians for all they had done at that time for the common cause. Emily's fame had already reached Poland and she was given a field commission as a Captain as the commander of the 1st Company of the 1st Lithuanian Infantry Regiment, later known as the 25th Infantry Regiment of the Line. Emily and her regiment fought with distinction at Kaunas and Siauliai until being forced to retreat before a superior Russian force.

While protecting the army's supply column, Emily's regiment was ambushed but successfully drove off the attacking Russian force. During the initial stages of the engagement, Emily barely managed to escape capture. After the engagement, it was learned that Emily's regiment had been reduced to less than a hundred men fit for duty. Upon arriving at Rosienie, the regiment's survivors were ordered to disperse and attempted to join partisan units operating in Samogitia region. Emily stayed with the army as it continued its struggle with an even greater sized Russian army. When General Chlapowski's announced that he was going to withdraw his army into Prussia to avoid capture or decimation, Emily refused to accept his orders. This patriotic female warrior confronted the General. Salomonski documents Emily's address to the general. "You have betrayed the cause of freedom and of our country, as well as of honor. As for myself, I will not follow your steps into a foreign country to expose my shame to strangers. Some blood yet remains in my veins, and I have still left an arm to raise the sword against the enemy. I have a proud heart, too, which never will submit to the ignominy of treason. Go to Prussia! Your representation of our situation does not affright me. I prefer a thousand deaths to dishonor, and I fear not to encounter them while forcing my way through the Russian battalions, in order to go and offer to my country this sword, which I have already raised in her defense, and the sacrifice of my life, if necessary".



That same evening, Emily with her indispensable friend, Mary Raszanowics and Cousin Count Caesar Plater, decided to make their way to Warsaw where an insurrection force was still fighting. Though the insurrection continued in Lithuania for some time, the dream of any successful outcome died when General Chlapowski gave up his sword to the Prussian authorities. Emily's journey was a perilous one with Russian soldiers searching everywhere for partisans. During her dangerous journey, Emily and her companions sought to avoid identification by dressing as peasants. As they traveled, Emily became ill from exhaustion and a burning fever had consumed her. They were given tender care and refuge in a peasant's cottage, but Emily's condition worsened. Emily was eventually taken to the Justinava manor near Kapciamiestis in the hope that she would recover. Here she instructed Caesar to continue his journey to rejoin the insurgents while Mary would stay by her side to care for her. Hope for recovery soon passed and Emily soon felt the approach of her last hours. She took consolation in her Catholic religion and submitted herself to God's will. When the time of her death came, Emily was unwilling to be separated from her arms. Her last request was that they be placed in her tomb and pressing them close to her heart, expired.

Emily Plater died at age twenty-six on December 23, 1831, and was buried in an unused cemetery in Kopciowa near Kapciamiestis. Due to her bravery and military skills, Emily's heroic life became well known around the world. The Polish author A.E. Odyniec, when writing about Emily's battle field exploits, stated "Your name in Polish and Lithuanian history will sound eternally as a song amidst the battle". When she was buried a wooden cross was placed at the head of her grave. It was later covered with a white stone slab by her countrymen. The only epitaph on that stone is the single word, EMILIA.

Henry Gaidis

Henry Gaidis is a contributor to Bridges. He is a member of the Board of Directors of JBANC and among his many interests is military history.

*The Code of Arms is of the Count Broel Plater

The Art Of Dressage Riding In Lithuania

Introduction

Horses have always been an integral part of Lithuanian culture. Everywhere throughout the country there are images of horses portrayed in icons of straw art, lithograph, paintings, wooden and iron sculpture. The distinctive artifact of two horse heads looking in opposite directions is as familiar in Lithuania as the "Koplystulpis."

From earliest times, most European and Asian countries depended upon horses for the success of their defense, agriculture and transportation. Horse breeding itself has always been an art since the time of Xenophon the Athenian. From the period of the Norman Conquest, 1066 A.D., and the following centuries, the development of horse breeding to satisfy those necessities were active occupations.

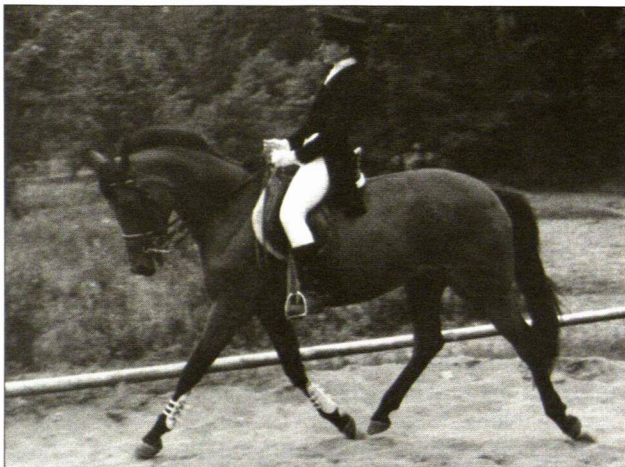
In the modern world, the evolution of breeding programs to produce horses for specific purposes has resulted in such identifiable types as Clydesdales and Percherons for strength and even disposition; Arabians for stamina and refinement, and, Thoroughbreds for speed and endurance.

In the late 18th and early 19th centuries, horse breeding reached a pinnacle as the industrial revolution expanded, territorial pursuits increased, and, economies flourished, all requiring the energy of the horse. At the same time, steam engines were beginning to replace horses for industrial production.

Thanks to James Watt, the term "horsepower" is used in reference to automotive engines to designate power. Horses are powerful animals, capable of producing great energy and they are handsome in appearance. When Watt defined horsepower as 550 foot-pounds per second, or three-quarters of a kilowatt, he based his formula on how much work a horse can do in a day. The prototype horse he used was undoubtedly one from the draft breeds. If Watt measured the energy output of an eight horse team, that team would be generating 8 hp.

In high tech countries, engines have now completely replaced horses for industrial purposes and the standard of elite engine performance is still measured in terms of the superb, beautiful, indomitable horse. The kind of race car engine used at such spectacles as the famed Indianapolis speedway is a 600 hp kind. As one advertisement boasts, "Unleash All Your Horses!"

In the last century, serious horsemanship and the art of riding developed into a popular and cultivated international spectator sport. Competitions in dressage, show jumping and cross country became regularly scheduled world events. Divisions



Anya exhibits the extended trot on an advanced level horse at Judra's outdoor exhibitionring.

of riding grew and shows began including classes to exhibit puissance (strength) agility, stamina, courage and speed in various events. This increased activity and interest soon generated an equine industry with sophisticated products and services available for every conceivable need, from hoof care and fly repellent to psychology and air transportation.

In some nations, such as the U.S., certain regional areas of California, Florida, New York, Connecticut, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Virginia, Kentucky, etc., are known as "horse worlds", where people go to work and live in those locations devoted to the sport horse and to a particular breed or style of riding. Equestrian teams have always participated in the Olympics. It was in the Olympic arena that countries with strong military equestrian units could display their top riders and horses over mammoth fences and complex courses. In these exhibits, countries celebrated with justifiable pride when their champions earned top prizes, attesting to a particular nation's horsemanship prowess based on the highest internationally recognized horsemanship standards.



Anya and Natasha at grassy riding area at Judra's.

*All photos by Zenonas Nekrosius, Vilnius, Lithuania

The inevitable disbanding of military equestrian units due to the full mechanization of militaries in the '40s, altered the appearance of Olympic team participation. In modern times, international teams appear and participate as civilians.



Anya and Natasha ride their horses. Both horses are advanced dressage competitors. Between the riders stands Judra.

Today, Lithuania is in the process of rebuilding its horse sport since independence in 1990. Prior to that year, when the country was still part of the Soviet Union, riders and horses were subsidized by the government in Moscow. For all athletes, in every type of sport, this was a convenient plan since it guaranteed that no genuine competitor would have to expend valuable time and effort working an outside job or worrying about funding. As a result, the Soviet system built up an immensely strong athletic resource farm and dominated certain branches of the sport world for decades because the government was drawing the best athletes from every country under its control.

After independence in 1990, those riders and trainers who had been living and working in the Soviet system were turned out on their own, many with no place to go, no way to earn a living and their years of equestrian skill, competence and knowledge invalidated. Competition for sponsors, supporters and funding in general became a battle, often of heroic proportions.

In 1996, the renowned Lithuanian Grand Prix de Dressage champion rider and trainer, Judra Ciuderytė-Kasarina, had been slowly but surely for several previous years, re-establishing herself. She earned her first Grand Prix championship in 1960 and her credits include being consistent champion from the years 1970 through 1974 and from 1977 through 1979.

Currently, Judra is a qualified FEI dressage judge. She has her own small stable in Belmontas, a Vilnius suburb, and she has the use of all the land in the Belmontas hippo-

drome area, located approximately one kilometre from the Belmontas national riding club barn and training facility. This is the same barn that houses the Lithuanian mounted police horses. Judra's personal stable consists of six to eight horses and she always has many young students who board their own mounts at the national barn.

In the early '90's, Judra was well known to Vilnius ex-pat riders of a more conscientious nature. She had made herself available to those same pleasure riders who appeared occasionally and who she knew would treat her horses sensibly. Judra's name was spoken of highly among embassy people and other foreigners residing in Vilnius. She was devoted to training the young people who were riding for exhibitions and who aspired to become champions. In the 90's Judra traveled to Belourus and Ukraine frequently, looking for good horses and being successful in finding them. There were still many horses in Eastern Europe that could be found with Russian Orloff breeding and when Judra could bring such an animal home with her, she would return ecstatic. Such animals were a real treasure. Unfortunately, various Eastern European governments were still marking all horses in a crude way by tattooing identifying numbers in visible areas on the horse's body and this blighted the animal's appearance if the number was not in a place that would be covered by a saddle.

At this time, the early '90s were unkind to Lithuanians, the country and certainly to horses in general. Transition from the Soviet system was a slow and sometimes anguishing process. Feed was costly and so were all the basic essentials for horses. Grains and mineral blocks could only be obtained in the West. Stallions were used for horse sport of an intense kind such as show jumping and cross country since their endurance level was stronger than that of mares and geldings. Stallions seemed to be able to convert their rations more efficiently under such feed constraints. Although a lot of these animals often seemed underweight and quite listless.

Judra agonized over these conditions as did every one of her horsey ex-pat friends. A few people who knew they were going to be in Vilnius for a year or more were able to buy a horse from Judra, stable it with her and take training with her. In this way, her reputation increased among the foreign community and clients from Western Europe would find their way to her.

Continued next month.

Barbara Bilsky

Barbara Bilsky lived and worked in Lithuania for eight years. She currently lives in CA. Barbara was a regular contributing writer for "Lithuanian Weekly" and also contributed to "Lithuania in the World" which is the flagship journal for Lithuanian Airlines. She was a frequent contributing writer for "Baltic Newsletter" published in Berkeley.



Lithuanian team- winner of Ambassador's Cup 2005: from the left seated: Laimonas Bytautas, Mark Rivera, Nidijus Puškorius, Linas Jakovlevas, Ambassador Vygaudas Ušackas, Virgis Zuromskas, Aleksandras Bilostennyj, Martas Vaičiūnas. Standing from the left: Raimundas Ušackas, Vidmantas Petraitis, Gediminas Petraitis, Virgis Anušauskas, Valentinas Jankelaitis, Anton Buhaslavskyy, Konstantin Silov, Alvydas Jocys. * Photo by: Kęstas Vaškelevičius

On Sunday, June 26, a joint soccer team of diplomats of the Lithuanian Embassy in Washington D.C. and Lithuanian emigrants won the Ambassador's Cup (inaugural tournament). The Lithuanian team in the semifinals defeated Armenia's team 5 to 1, and Malawi's team 5 to 0 in the final.

The tournament was organized by the U.S. Department of State and the McLean Youth Soccer. Sixteen teams competed

for the Ambassador's Cup, among them: the U.S. State Department team, teams of the Embassies of Germany, Russia, Italy, Israel, Malawi, Afghanistan, Iran, Mongolia, Armenia, and other teams.

The Ambassador's Cup is planned to be held in Washington D.C. every year.

* Kęstas Vaškelevičius is Press and Public Affairs Embassy of Lithuania, USA

CONGRATULATIONS winning team - world games

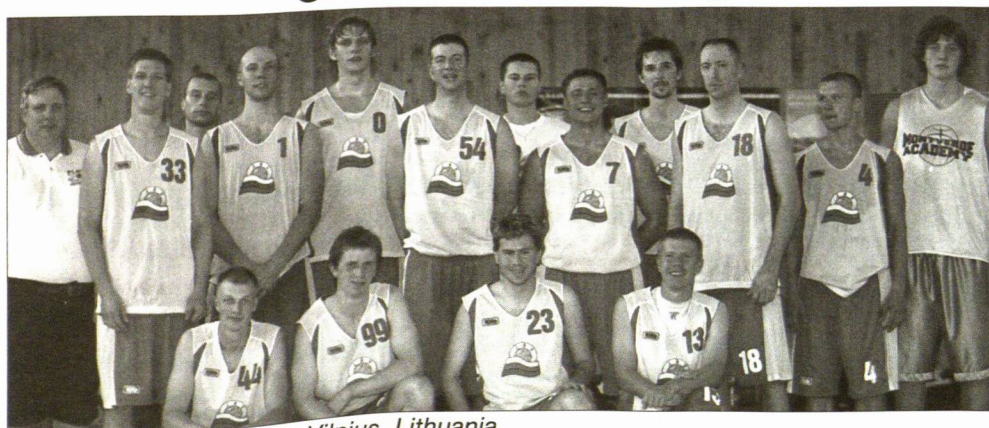


Photo by Alfredas Pliadis, Vilnius, Lithuania

The American Lithuanian Men's Basketball Team won first place in Vilnius, Lithuania on Sunday July 3, 2005 during the VII World Lithuanian Sports Games.

More on these exciting games in the next issue.



Dear Jeanne,

What a lively magazine - something for every taste and replete with information! Congratulations!

Not often do we find poetry included among political, historical, religious or other gripping topics. Degutyte's "Lithuanian Mother" was a poignant addition. Thank you. We need to read more by her and about her. Keep it up, Jeanne.

Linkejimai,
Ina Bray

We took Ina's suggestion and there is more to come of Janina's Degutyte's moving poetry.

Dear Jeanne:

There was an error in the story "Lithuanian TV Crew Filming in Waterbury" that was in the June 2005 edition. The story incorrectly stated that Waterbury, CT is home to New England's only Lithuanian cemetery. Actually, there are 4 other Lithuanian cemeteries. They are as follows: "Lithuanian Cemetery" in Bradford, MA, a section of Haverhill (non-sectarian).

Lithuanian National Catholic Cemetery in Methuen, MA, started by the members of the former Sacred Heart of Jesus Lithuanian National Catholic Church that was in Lawrence, MA.

Holy Cross Cemetery in Hudson, NH affiliated with the former St. Casimir's Church in Nashua, NH.

The Lithuanian Co-operative Cemetery in Nashua, NH (non-sectarian).

The largest number of Lithuanian Catholics from the Greater Lawrence Area are buried in the Immaculate Conception Cemetery in Lawrence. This is a multi-ethnic cemetery.

Sincerely,
James J. Ouellette
Fall River, MA

Dear Jeanne,

First, congratulations on the great job you have done and continue to do with the publication of BRIDGES.

I am a third generation American Lithuanian, born and brought up in Methuen, Mass, a suburb of Lawrence, where there was a very large Lithuanian population.

Your recent issue by Randy James on TV Crew in Waterbury, Ct indicated that Waterbury had the only Lithuanian cemetery. This statement is not true. The Lithuanians in Lawrence had two churches, one was St. Francis's Roman Catholic Church, and the other, the Lithuanian National Church, which was not Roman.

The Majority of the Lithuanian National people, were extremely active, founding Schools and the Lithuanian Club which was a gorgeous building, where all kind of activities were held regularly. They also founded and built buildings on a large picnic ground that was used just about every weekend in Methuen. Next to the picnic was, and still is, a very large Lithuanian Cemetery, and as I understand still active. The St. Francis people used a common cemetery known as St. Mary's in Lawrence. They also founded the Lithuanian National Co-op Bakery, which was owned by the people, and extremely successful, with a good sized fleet of trucks for home deliveries. My Grandfather was one of the "spark plugs" who fired up these activities, and was President, and Chairman of them all at one time (maybe even more than once).

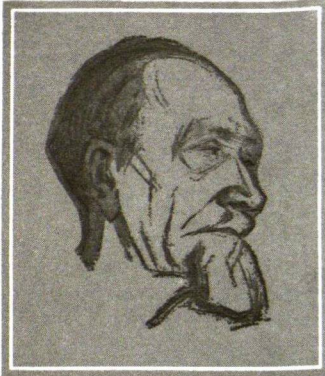
We spoke Lithuanian regularly, read and wrote it, although, because I don't have much opportunity to use it, I do not speak it very well.

Hope this tidbit of information is interesting to you.

Sincerely,
Keith (Kestutis) Vaskelionis Sr.
Derry, NH

I would like to thank Mr. Ouellette and Mr. Vaskelionis for writing to BRIDGES so that we could correct this error. They have certainly added to my knowledge of early Lithuanians in New England.

Kazys Šimonis (1887-1978)



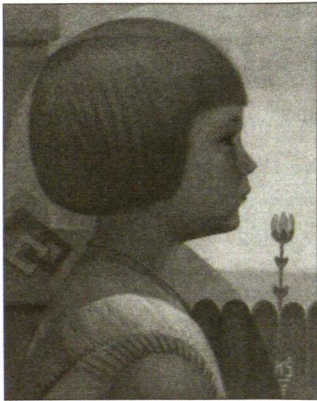
K. Šimonis

Painter, born in Starkonys, county of Panevėžys, on Aug. 25, 1887. He studied in Petrograd (1916-17) and later in Kaunas under the painters Adomas Varnas and Tadas Daugirdas. In 1920 he exhibited 50 works, in which the fluency of folk art could already be felt. In 1927 he held a show in Paris; one of the canvases, a

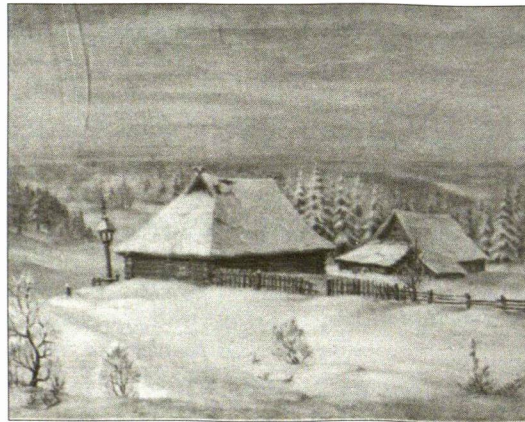
stylized depiction of a Lithuanian village, was acquired by the city's Luxembourg Museum. In his paintings such as "Eternal Fire", "Reverie", "Sunward", the artist

displayed an idealist conceptual orientation, embellishing his subjects with heavily stylized motifs from folklore and fantasy. Later, after the Soviet occupation of Lithuania, his expression became more realistic, as in "The Vicinity of Kulautuva, Nemunas Valley" near "Kernavė", and "Oak-Grove." Among his favorite themes are fortress hills, a fine example of which is the impressive "Evening on a Fortress Hill". Besides painting, he has also engaged in graphic work. He has illustrated several collections of stories, among them, Simonas Daukantas' "Žemaičių pasakos" (Samogitian Stories, 1941), In 1936 he published his own prose poetry, "Girių giesmės" (Forest Hymns), with illustrations. A volume of reminiscences, "Gyvenimo nuotrupos" (Bits of Life, 1959, 2nd ed. 1966), contains a number of colored reproductions.

* This information is from "Encyclopedia Lituonica."
Self-portrait and the art work is from the book
"Gyvenimo nuotrupos" (Bits of Life, 1959, 2nd ed. 1966)



Girl (Mergaitė) 1928 Tempera



Winter (Žiema) 1940 Oil



Morning (Rytmetis) 1956 Tempera

Cultural (and other) Tidbits, Continued from page 13

fields plowed and planted. And a number of cooperative farms were rebuilding the neglected former collective farms. Homes in villages landscaped with attractive flower gardens. Much more so than on previous visits. Surprisingly, some wooden houses are stuccoed and renovated with vinyl siding. Towns are bustling with new stores full of people. Supermarket chains like Maxima, Hyper Maxima, Saulute, Iki, and the odd named "Price Leader" are in every city and town. Everywhere credit cards are accepted and ATM machines are available if one prefers to use cash. This time we still were hesitant to rent a car, but do intend to do so in the future. Attractive and clean gas stations as well as roadside restaurants and motels with beautifully landscaped grounds beckon tourists to explore and enjoy Lithuania.

A final reminder, the "Putnam" Sisters of Immaculate Conception in Vilnius and Kaunas have some comfortable guest rooms which for a donation, can be your base to explore Lithuania. If you are planning a trip, you might want to call in advance:

Vilnius 011-370-5-260-9347,
Kaunas 011-370-37-38-73-59.

Terese M. Gecys

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.



A. A.

*In Memory of
Rev. Msgr. Leon J Peck
1915 - 2005*

*Leonas J. Pečiukevičius
studied in the seminary of
Vikaviškis, Lithuania
1936-1940*

*Ordained to the Sacred Priesthood
May 30, 1942
Cathedral of Saints Peter and Paul,
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania*

*In 1999 he was elected to be a
Honorary Canon of the
Cathedral Diocese of
Vikaviškis, Lithuania*

NOVEMBER 5-6, 2005
SATURDAY NOON TO 8 pm & SUNDAY NOON TO 6 pm

LITHUANIAN
“MUGĖ”
FESTIVAL

FREE ADMISSION-Door Prizes

**Do your
Christmas shopping early!**

- Lithuanian crafts
- books - amber - jewelry
- music - t-shirts
- many other items for sale

Lithuanian Christmas
Ornaments Lesson

Lithuanian food
like

Grandma used to make

World's
best potato pancakes

Dancing
Krupnikas contest
Balloon animals for children

Kaimo Kapela
Country Village Band
Lithuanian Music

Entertainment
Music and
Lithuanian Dancers
Lithuanian Folk Dance
Lessons

for beginners - just have fun

LITHUANIAN MUSIC HALL
2715 E. ALLEGHENY AVE., PHILA., PA 19134 (215)739-4831

The Woman and the Devil

Boba ir Velnias

From
 "Lietuviškos Pasakos" - "Lithuanian Fairy-tales"
 Compiled by Dr. Jonas Balys
 Published in 1951 by the Lithuanian Book Club, Chicago
 Translated from Lithuanian by Gloria Kivytaitė O'Brien

Buvo kitasyk toks žmogus. Jis vedė, ir pasitaie labai nedora žmona

Once there was a man, who happened to marry a very unpleasant woman who made his life miserable. She was difficult to live with and impossible to please. She would invent all sorts of unreasonable jobs for him, and he was never able to complete them, no matter how he tried. And so this poor fellow passed his time cursing each day of his life. And they say that he who curses while living in this world, sinks into Hell upon his death.

And so it happened to this man: when he died, devils carried his soul off to Hell. Once a soul has entered Hell, certainly the devils will not greet them with kisses, and they began to apply all kinds of tortures. But, the more they tormented him, the more he laughed at them. Amazed by his behavior, they asked:

"What are you laughing at? Everyone who ends up here screams and weeps uncontrollably, and you just laugh!"

He answered, "While among the living, I suffered far more from my wife's treatment, than anything you have attempted here. I am well accustomed to torture, and this is nothing."

One devil thought a bit about this, and then told him, "Well, now, I will have to go and see this woman for myself." He changed himself into a handsome young man, and finding her at home, approached her saying: "I have heard that you are a widow, how about marrying me?"

The woman, pleased to have such a handsome fellow at hand, jumped at the chance and they were immediately married. One or two days passed quietly, but then her character asserted itself, and she began to load her young husband down with work and other torments. Now, our friend the devil was strong and agile enough, but still, he couldn't complete all the jobs she gave him.

Life with the woman was tough, and when the devil had had enough, he dropped everything and took off running. The woman, seeing that he was leaving her, ran right after him. She was closing in on him, when, spying an old man raking hay, he asked: "Old man, if you will hide me someplace in this hay, I will repay you well." The man covered him with a big haystack.

The woman ran up and questioned the old farmer: "Did you see a fellow just running past here?" "I haven't seen anyone", he answered. The woman looked all around, saw nothing, and turned, muttering to herself: "Guess it's no good trying to find that Satan".

The devil, hearing his name spoken, actually began to tremble in fear of being found. But the woman, after a lot of cursing, turned around and went home. The devil, safe now, came out from under the haystack and ran into the woods, where he dug out a black kettle from under a tree. He gave the kettle, full of gold pieces, to the farmer and returned to the safety of Hell.

Once there, he spoke to the man: "I don't know how you were able to live with that woman for so many years, as I couldn't stand it for less than a year. So, go wherever you want, away from Hell, as we all know that you have done your penance on earth."

And the devils let him leave Hell, but where he went from there, I surely do not know.

Translated from Lithuanian by Gloria Kivytaitė O'Brien
 Gloria is a frequent contributor to *Bridges*.

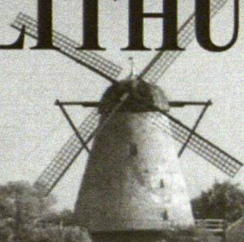
VYTIS TOURS

The largest tour operator to
Lithuania, Latvia & Estonia



PRESENTS

LITHUANIA 2006



VYTIS TOURS

35 Years in Business

Offers the following prearranged tours in 2006

Classical Baltic - 10 days
Lithuanian Economy Tour - 9 days
Grand Tour of Lithuania - 14 days
Latvian Extravaganza - 8 days
Estonian Extravaganza - 8 days
The Baltic Capitals Plus - 10 days
The New Baltic Explorer - 12 days

Hotels, Car Rentals, Lowest Air Fares
to Europe out of Chicago, New York and virtually all airports in the US
on Finnair and other carriers

VYTIS TOURS

40-24 235th St.

Douglaston, NY 11363

718-423-6161 800-77-VYTIS

Fax: 718-423-3979 e-mail: vyttours@earthlink.net Web site: www.vytistours.com

*** Book your flights Online ***

CHICAGO REPRESENTATIVES

Rita Pencyliene..... tel: 708-923-0280 e-mail: pencylar@comcast.net

Brone Barakauskiene.....tel: 708-403-5717 e-mail: mamabar3@aol.com

All VYTIS representatives speak English and Lithuanian !!

Calendar of Events for - September - October - **BLp(LKA)1195** Please verify all dates, times, and places as events are subject to **2005, Iss. 7**

September

September 8, 2005 -Thursday
 Birthday of the Blessed Virgin Mary Annual Pilgrimage to the Basilica Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, Washington, D.C. from Philadelphia. 1:00 p.m. Mass in the Uthuanian Chapel of Our Lady of Siluva Organized by St Andrew's Lithuanian Church, Phila., PA
 Information: 215-765-2322

September 10, 2005
 Fall Ball - Dinner Dance
 Miramar Marine Base
 San Diego, CA
www.lithsd.org

September 17, 2005
 DCLAC Fall Picnic
 Great Seneca Park,
 Washington, DC
 Lithuanian American Community
 Information:
www.dclac.org/events

September 18, 2005
 Annunciation Parish
 Annual Picnic
 Parish Lower Hall and
 School Parking Lot
 70 Havemeyer Street,
 Brooklyn, NY
 Following 10:00 a.m. Mass.
 Free admission. Hot lunch will be available, cash bar, music and dancing. There will be a raffle and the drawing for the parish chance books will be held at the close. The picnic ends at 4:00 p.m.

October

October 1, 2005
 Lithuanian Block Party
 Celebrating 100 years
 St. Casimir's School
 Philadelphia, PA
 Festivities will begin at 12 noon on Wharton St. at St. Casimir's Church
 Information: 215-765-2322

October 1st - 2nd, 2005
 Lithuanian Days
 St. Casimir's Catholic
 Parish Grounds
 Los Angeles, CA.
 Information:
www.losangeleslb.com

October 7- 9, 2005
 Neringa Walk-a thon Weekend
 Actual sporting events
www.neringa.org
 978-582-5592

October 8, 2005 - 7 p.m.
 Book Introduction
 Lithuanian Music Hall,
 Cultural Center
 2715 E. Allegheny Ave.,
 Philadelphia, PA
 Ambassador of Lithuania
 Vygaudas Usackas will introduce his book on his travels in the United States and other parts of the world. Proceeds will benefit U.S. Baltic Foundation program for children of rural Lithuania.
 Sponsored by the Philadelphia Chapter of the Lithuanian American Community and the Lithuanian Cultural Center.
 Information: 215-938-0783

October 8th - 9th, 2005

Lithuanian Business Conference
 St. Casimir's Catholic
 Parish Hall
 Los Angeles, CA
 Information:
www.losangeleslb.com

October 9, 2005
 Daughters of Lithuania
 Luncheon All members as well as ladies wishing to become members, and your daughters, are invited to this special potluck. Bring your pictures from Daughters' events in past years!
 Sunday, 1 p.m.
 Information and RSVP:
www.javlb.org/seattle/events.html

October 15, 2005 - 7:30 p.m.
 Traditional Fall Ball and
 Lithuanian Folk Dance Group's
 "KLUMPE" 25th Anniversary
 Sponsor:
 Lithuanian American Community
 Waukegan/Lake County Chapter
 European Crystal Banquet
 Center 519 W. Algonquin Road,
 Arlington Heights, IL
 Information: 847.623.7927

October 15, 2005
 Annual Ball, Trinity Hall
 53 Capitol Ave., Hartford, CT
 Please save that date for an interesting evening with Lithuanian food, program and dancing to S. Telsinskas music.
 Sponsored:
 Lithuanian American Community of Greater Hartford
 Information: 860-657-9067
danuteg@juno.com

October

Taters and Talent
 Kugelis Dinner and Talent Show
www.coloradolithuanians.org

November

November 5 - 6, 2005
 Muge - Lithuanian Festival
 Saturday 12 - 8 p.m.
 Sunday 12 - 6 p.m.
 Lithuanian and American Food
 Lithuanian Crafts, Lithuanian dancers and musical entertainment.
 Lithuanian Music Hall
 2715 E. Allegheny Ave.
 Philadelphia, Pa. 19134
 Information: 215-739-4831

November 19, 2005 - 7 p.m.
 EXULTATE-Choir from Cleveland
 The 40 member choir is under the direction of Rita Cyvaite-Klioriene who is the Musical Director of the 2006 Lithuanian Song Festival of North America in Chicago.
 Lithuanian Music Hall
 2715 E. Allegheny Ave.,
 Philadelphia, PA
 Information: 215-938-0783
www.phillylac.org

November 20, 2005 - 1-5 p.m.
 International Night
 Cape Codder Resort
 Hyannis, MA
 Hosted by
 German-American Club
 Members of Cape Cod
 Lithuanian American Community will participate.
 Information: Eugene Uzpurvis
uzpurvis@aol.com
 Algirdas Dapkus at
Alisdapkus@aol.com

LITHUANIAN AMERICAN NEWS JOURNAL

bridges
 VOLUME 29 ISSUE 7

PERIODICALS
 POSTAGE

Subscriptions:
 1927 West Blvd.
 Racine, WI 53403

National Library of Lithuania
 12/1/2005
 Gedimino Prospektas 51
 LT-2600, VILNIUS LITHUANIA

AIR MAIL
PAR AVION