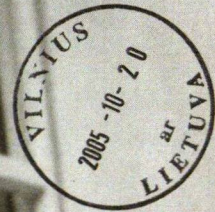


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october 2005

LITHUANIAN AMERICAN NEWS JOURNAL

Letter from the Editor

This is the season nature shows her magnificent talents with every color imaginable on her trees. So too, Bridges readers show their talents in writing articles and sending newspaper and magazine stories they feel readers will enjoy.

Sister Margaret Bareika takes the time to encourage us to move away from our materialistic world if even for a short time. Sister's article encourages us to pause and give some thought to the Kingship of Christ.

Congratulations to Coach Bob Hodgson and his hard playing basketball team who brought home the honors of the VII Lithuanian World Games. As Rimas Gedeika points out in his article, it wasn't easy. Eugenija Fedosejeva gave us an inside look at life inside the Kaunas Seminary. Gloria Adomkaitis sent us an update on St. Peter Church in Boston. It is a time of celebrating, but as Gloria writes, the parishioners must continue to remain vigilant. The challenge is still not over. Although I don't like to print a story over two months, Barbara Bilsky sent so many beautiful photographs of the farm and horses that we wanted to share as many of them with you as possible. If you have visited Lithuania several times and have seen the usual tourist attractions, you might consider a visit to Judra's stables. Thanks to Al Radzius for sharing his knowledge of numismatics with us. As for Gloria O'Brien, no issue of BRIDGES would be complete without her translation of a folktale or legend. But as she warns, this legend should be read with several grains of salt. We were so proud to receive the photos of Ona Mikulskiene, especially the one where she is holding the copy of BRIDGES. A very special thank you to Terese Gecys who wrote the original article as well as this month's follow up. Dalia Dzikiene writes of remembering Jadvyga Meiliunaite-Matulaitiene, a woman who touched so many lives through her choreography. Regina Juska-Svoba did an incredible job of writing the article for BRIDGES about the annual Knights of Lithuania Convention. I had this article in my hands less than a week after the convention ended.

There are times when several people send me the same article. I thank each and every one of you. Please don't stop because you think perhaps someone else sent it. I can use as many copies as I can get. People who work with me know I live with Murphy's Laws and am prone to lose the first few copies of everything. I appreciate all the copies but I credit the first person who sends the article. Thanks to all of you for taking the time.

Many thanks to Julie Skurdenis for the cover photo.

As for Gema, thanks for the many hours spent on each issue; putting it together, taking it apart - I don't know how many times we go through this process for each issue.

Enjoy the October issue and we'll see you next month.


Jeanne Shalna Dorr

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*Cover: Photo of Bernardinų Street in the Old Town Vilnius by Julie Skurdenis

KNIGHTS OF LITHUANIA ANNUAL NATIONAL CONVENTION

“Faith, Freedom and Fraternalism”



President Agnes Mickunas, HM, addresses the delegates.

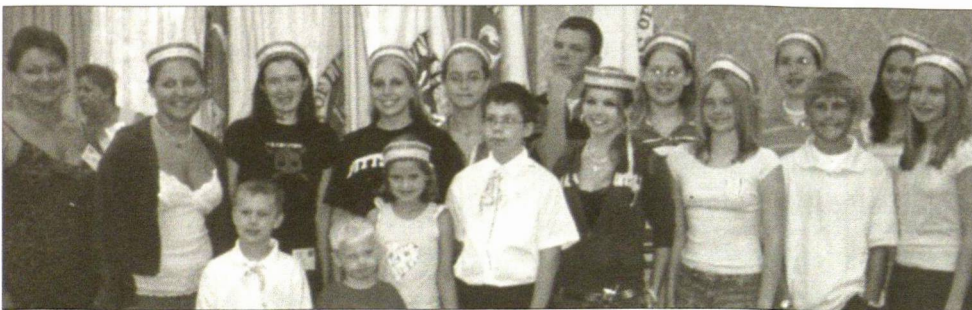
The Knights of Lithuania is a national Roman Catholic organization consisting of men and women of Lithuanian ancestry. Its motto is - “For God and Country.” The Knights of Lithuania’s primary focus is to foster, maintain and nurture an appreciation of the Lithuanian language, customs, traditions and culture among its members. The Knights are actively involved in programs to assist their less fortunate brothers and sisters in Lithuania. There are four charity groups within the organization: Aid to Lithuania, Inc., K of L Foundation, St. Casimir’s Guild, and Our Lady of Šiluva Fund.

There are currently 51 councils in the United States with approximately 3,000 active members. A National Convention is held annually at different state sites. Council 19, located in Pittsburgh, PA was host to the 2005 convention.

August 11-14, 2004, Council 19 hosted the 92nd convention in Pittsburgh, PA. Nearly 100 delegates, clergy, guests and youth converged to participate in the 4 day long meetings, cultural activities and banquet celebration. Prior to each day’s sessions and meetings, Mass was celebrated.

August 11, 2005, Thursday

The opening 92nd National Convention Mass was celebrated at the Wyndham Pittsburgh Airport Hotel, by the Knights of Lithuania’s Supreme Council spiritual advisor



The K of L juniors with 3rd Vice President Maryte Bizinkauskaitė (1st left).

Monsignor Rev. dr. Joseph Anderlonis and Rev. Anthony Markus of Chicago, IL. The theme for this year’s convention - “Faith, freedom and fraternalism.”

The first convention session was held at the hotel (as were all subsequent sessions). The Supreme Council Officers processed into the meeting room and were introduced. The National anthem and the Lithuanian and K of L Anthems were sung. K of L National President Agnes Mickunas, HM, opened the convention and gave a

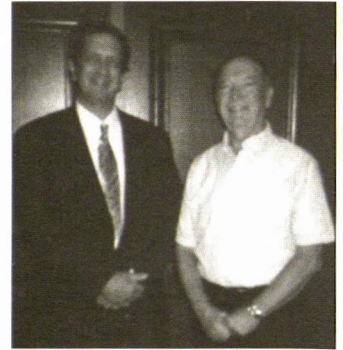
comprehensive state of the organization report. Greetings from organizations and individuals were read. Among the numerous (20) greetings received were those from President of the US George W. Bush, President of the Republic of Lithuania Valdas Adamkus, Cardinal Audrys J. Barkis, Archbishop of Vilnius, Edward G. Rendell, Governor of Pennsylvania, US. Ambassador to Lithuania in Washington Vygaudas Usackas and Mgrs. Algimantas Bartkus, Rector from the St. Casimir Pontifical College in Rome.

The evening get-together, a special private dinner cruise of Pittsburgh’s Three Rivers on the Gateway Clipper, was held for the Knights. The summer night was warm and the illumination of the city was just spectacular! An enjoyable evening was had by all.

August 12, 2005, Friday

During the second plenary session, guest speaker Karl Altau, managing director of JBANC, gave a presentation of his organization’s activity. He relayed greetings from

Saulius Kuprys, president of the American Lithuanian Council and the Latvian and Estonian Committee councils. In the past, JBANC’s role was to organize and assist the Baltic States in regaining their independence from Russia. But since the Baltic States regained their freedom and have



Karl Altau, managing director of JBANC and K of L's Lithuanian Affairs Chair John Mankus.

been accepted into NATO and the EU, the focus must shift. It is vital to work to keep the Baltics secure and watch for any undue threats that the three countries may face. Last year JBANC drafted a letter for the House and Senate committees for Russia to formally apologize to the Baltic States for 50 years of occupations and suffering caused to the people of the countries. Efforts continue to be promoted in the European Union to achieve the apology. Fundraising efforts have commenced to build the "Victims of Communism" Memorial in Washington, DC. It is anticipated that the project will be completed by end of 2006. Mr. Altau requested support from the Knights in the effort to complete the memorial. He also spoke of the "adopt a country caucus," where the Baltic States would be paired with states in the US for the purpose of promoting education. Lithuania and Pennsylvania, Estonia and Maryland and Latvia and Michigan would work together in promoting various education partnership projects.

An evening of Lithuanian poetry (Maironis, Basanavicius and Degutytye), folk songs and dances (by the Pittsburgh "Neris" dancers) entertained the Knights and guests. The evening proved to be both cultural and most enjoyable.

August 13, 2005, Saturday

The organization's ancillary groups - Aid to Lithuania, Inc., Foundation, St. Casimir's Guild and Our Lady of Šiluva fund, presidents gave updates about the past fiscal year's activities and projects.

Maryte Bizinkauskas, the organization's third vice-president (working with the junior/youth members), gave a comprehensive report about the junior K of L members' activities. The youth were busy and active during the convention. They held a fund-raiser by selling raffle tickets for a beautifully dressed Lithuanian doll. The money received (\$353) would be forwarded to the Lithuanian Children's Relief, Inc. for ongoing projects. Also, the K of L juniors

sold greeting cards created by a young girl Simona Pauzeraite in Lithuania. The profit (\$115) realized from the sales will be sent to her in Lithuania.

Elections of the new 2005-06, Supreme Council were held. Agnes Mickunas, Council 3, Philadelphia, PA, a member since 1955, who has held various local, district and Supreme Council offices, was unanimously re-elected for a third term, as president to lead the K of L organization. The formal sessions were concluded.

Banquet

After every K of L National Convention completes the working sessions and elects a new Supreme Council for the next year, a celebratory banquet is held. So, too, the 92nd National Convention celebrated with a formal banquet. Approximately 150 delegates, guests and family participated. The host for the evening was Len Barcoucky, of C-19 and active convention committee member. The Supreme Council elect marched into the banquet hall and were introduced to the guests.

John Baltrus, K of L Scholarship committee chair presented this year's scholarship monetary awards to: Ericka Fryburg, C-103, Providence, RI- for \$2,500 and Adam Westerling, C-136, Hudson-Mohawk, NY. Due to serious health reasons, Alexander Mockus, recipient of the K of L Honorary Membership of 2005, could not participate and



*"Friend of Lithuania"
Sister Margaret Carney and
Lithuanian Affairs Community
Chair John Mankus.*

Continued on page 17



2005-2006 Supreme Council at the Banquet.

U.S. House of Representatives Passes H. Con. Res. 128

JBANC PRESS RELEASE:

For Immediate Release

July 22, 2005

contact: Karl Altau (tel. 301-340-1954)

Washington, DC (JBANC) --- The United States Congress has issued another signal to the Russian Federation that it should be truthful about its past Soviet legacy with respect to the Baltic countries. Legislation seeking an acknowledgement and condemnation by the Russian Federation of the Soviet Union's occupation of the Baltic countries of Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania passed today, July 22, in the House of Representatives.

The legislation passed by unanimous consent, meaning that there was no opposition. House Concurrent Resolution 128 (H. Con. Res. 128) was introduced by Congressman John Shimkus (R-IL) on April 29. The measure had also received the strong support of Rep. Thaddeus McCotter (R-MI), and other members of the House Baltic Caucus.

The complete text of H. Con. Res. 128 will be available on the congressional website <http://thomas.loc.gov>, along with the floor statement of Congressman Shimkus (see below). JBANC believes that by admitting and condemning the Soviet occupation and annexation of the Baltic countries, the Russian Federation can develop more tolerant relations with its neighbors and chart a more positive course for its own future.

There were twenty-nine co-sponsors of H. Con. Res. 128 (House Baltic Caucus members marked by an "*"): Xavier Becerra (CA)*, Howard L. Berman* (CA), Mary Bono* (CA), Christopher Cox* (CA), Danny K. Davis (IL), Lloyd Doggett* (TX), David Dreier* (CA), J.D. Hayworth (AZ), Tim Holden* (PA), Darrell Issa (CA), Jack Kingston (GA), Dennis Kucinich* (OH), Daniel Lipinski (IL), Stephen Lynch (MA), Thaddeus McCotter* (MI), James McGovern* (MA), Grace Napolitano* (CA), Michael Rogers* (MI), Dana Rohrabacher* (CA), Edward R. Royce* (CA), Loretta Sanchez* (CA), Adam B. Schiff* (CA), David Scott (GA), E. Clay Shaw, Jr. (FL), Mark E. Souder (IN), Lee Terry* (NE), Fred Upton* (MI), Henry A. Waxman* (CA), Frank R. Wolf (VA).

Including its sponsor Rep. Shimkus, 20 of the 30 supporters are members of the House Baltic Caucus. The Caucus, co-chaired by Congressmen Shimkus and Kucinich, currently has 70 members. Nearly a third of

Caucus members co-sponsored. Support was completely bi-partisan, with 16 Republicans and 14 Democrats. 12 of the 30 supporters are from California, an indication of the excellent activism of the Baltic American Freedom League there. Illinois and Michigan congressional delegations mustered three supporters each. JBANC would also like to recognize the efforts of the Midwest Baltic Coalition and the Baltic-American organizations of Oregon for their great help in getting the legislation introduced. The Senate already passed their version of the measure (S. Con. Res. 35), on May 19. It was introduced there by Sen. Gordon Smith (R-OR), and co-sponsored by Senators Richard Durbin (D-IL), and Dianne Feinstein (D-CA).

In conjunction with the passage of H. Con. Res. 128, July 23 marks the 65th anniversary of the U.S. policy of non-recognition of the Soviet occupation of the Baltic countries. For over half a century, the U.S. never wavered in its support for the sovereignty of Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania. Undersecretary of State Sumner Welles issued the first U.S. public statement on the Soviet takeover of the Baltics, condemning that act, and recognizing the true nature of the predatory intervention by the USSR upon its neighbors:

<http://estonia.usembassy.gov/sumnerwelles.php>

In addition, the week of July 17-23 marks the 57th anniversary of Captive Nations Week, marking support for peoples that suffered and are still victimized by communism and tyranny. President Bush has issued a proclamation on this occasion:

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2005/07/20050715-12.html>



Dr. Vincas Kudirka Lithuanian Saturday School at Sts. Peter & Paul Parish, Elizabeth, NJ will begin on Sat. Sept. 10th. Registration is at 10:00 a.m. in parish school building.

Classes are held every Sat. between 9-12.

We accept children starting at age 4.

We also have a class for adults wishing to learn the Lithuanian Language.

For information please contact
D. Didzbalis at 908-925-4761 or
e-mail EDidzbalisnj@aol.com.

Editor's note: It is not too late to register.





Remembering Jadvyga Meiliūnaitė-Matulaitienė

A Beloved Teacher and Choreographer.

Jadvyga Meiliūnaitė-Matulaitienė was born in Lithuania in 1916. She graduated from "Aušros" girls' high school and went on to physical education courses in Kaunas. She obtained her physical education teacher's diploma. Teaching in Veiveris with her students she participated and organized sports events which included folkdancing. She was very interested in Lithuanian folk dancing and took part in collecting and recording the memories of dances and games from the farm people.

During WWII Jadvyga's husband encouraged her to leave Lithuania with their baby daughter Ramunė and Jadvyga's sister's family. They made their way to Germany, finding refuge in DP camps in Wiesbaden, Kassell and Schwabisch-Gmuende. While here Jadvyga found out that her husband had been killed. Throughout the remainder of her life she and her sister's family stayed as one. In the DP camps the refugees found solace in keeping up their culture. Jadvyga organized and taught Lithuanian dancers. Since on leaving Lithuania she did not bring any of her notes or workbooks, she taught the dances from memory and started choreographing her own to music of Lithuanian folk songs.

As the end of WWII showed that return to the homeland was not possible, Jadvyga immigrated to the

United States, making Brooklyn, New York her home.

Unable to use her teaching diploma, Jadvyga sought work in tailor shops. Ten years later, after completing office work courses, she obtained an office job with American Airlines, where she worked until retirement.

She never gave up her love for folk dancing. From 1950 until 1970 she taught folk dancing at the Maironis Lithuanian Saturday school in Brooklyn. Not satisfied with this bit of folk dancing, she organized a high school students' folk dance group. However as the young people went off to college the group disbanded, and Jadvyga looked at the younger set to form a group. This group later chose the name of "Tryptinis". She gave 45 years to nurturing "Tryptinis". For a few years Jadvyga directed 3 groups: "Rūta's" ensemble folk dance group of New Jersey, 1956-1960. The New York Knights of Lithuania, Council 41 folk dancers, 1958-1960 and of course Tryptinis, 1950-1995.

"Tryptinis" under her direction participated in nine Lithuanian Folk Dance festivals. 1994 found Jadvyga in Lithuania with "Tryptinis" at the Lithuanian World Song and Dance festival. The 500 dancers from outside of Lithuania performed two of her choreographed dances.

For 23 years she annually went to Dainava in Michigan to teach Lithuanian folk dancing and Lithuanian games at the Lithuanian teachers and youth workshop. While a member of the Lithuanian American Community Educational Council, Jadvyga compiled a folk dance and games' teaching guide for the Lithuanian Saturday schools.

She was the author of the book "Imk į ratą" published by the Educational Council.

On the establishment of the Lithuanian Folk Dance Institute, Jadvyga was an active member and was its president from 1973-1978. She organized dance workshops, gave seminars and taught dances. Her enthusiasm and love of the Lithuanian folk dance spread to others. Having shown her talent in choreographing massive dance performances at the World's Fair Lithuanian Days in 1964, Jadvyga Matulaitienė was selected as artistic director of the third Lithuanian Folk Dance Festival in 1968. To enhance the performance she included a chorus to sing along with some of the dances.

Even after Jadvyga Matulaitienė retired from active participation in folk dancing, she continued her interest in the dance, reading articles and sharing thoughts and ideas with other dance teachers. We all knew that we always could and often did turn to Mrs. Matulaitienė for advice, assistance and encouragement in pursuing Lithuanian folk dancing.

During her lifetime she was recognized for her talents with various awards and citations.

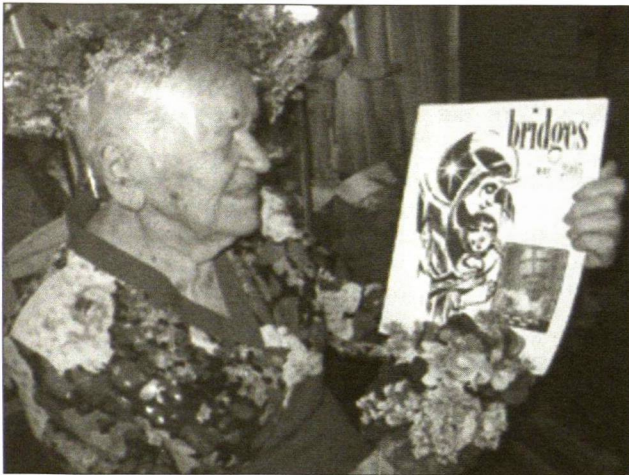
On Thursday, August 11, 2005 Jadvyga Matulaitienė departed from among us. Her memory will linger on in the treasury of dances that she created:

Vakaruškos, Per Girią Girelę, Juodberėlis, Botagėlis, Grebejėlė, Grybs, grybs, Žąselė and many others.

Dalia Dzikiene

Dalia Dzikiene was a former dancer in "Tryptinis", now is a Director of "Berželis" Lithuanian Folk Dance Group of Hartford.

cultural (and other) tidbits



Mikulskiene - 100 (update)

In the May 2005 issue of BRIDGES, we wrote about Ona Mikulskiene in Vilnius celebrating her 100th birthday. It came to our attention that O. Mikulskiene received that particular BRIDGES, the article was read to her and she was photographed with BRIDGES so that all of our readers would enjoy an update about this very spunky special lady. The photo and update was sent to us from Vilnius by Banga Grigaliunaite who had met Ona Mikulskiene in Cleveland in 1988 on one of her trips to visit relatives in the United States. Since O. Mikulskiene in 1995 returned to Lithuania and took up residence at the Geriatric Center in Vilnius, Banga visits her often. She wrote the brief update, which we provide for you in translation.

“100 years and six months”

“Ona Mikulskiene, having successfully celebrated her 100th birthday in January 2005, continues to live happily at the Geriatric Center (nursing home) of Vilnius Institute of Experimental Medicine. She is reasonably healthy, eats everything, but has trouble with her eyesight. She only sees light, large numerals, large drawings and very large letters.

July 26th she had many visitors for her feast day of St. Ann. Friends, relatives and her admirers came to congratulate her. One of her admirers made a wreath of wild flowers and placed it on her head. Ona was very happy because this also was her 100 years and

six months birthday. She talked about her life and sang “Lietuva Brangi” with all her visitors. One of her visitors was a musician from Zarasai region and he too joined the singing of Lithuanian folk songs.

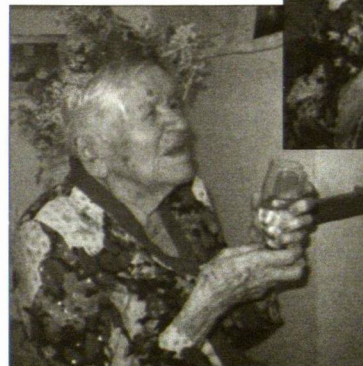
She was very cheerful and happy, but once during the evening she commented that this will be her last St. Ann's day and invited everyone to come to her funeral to sing for her. She said ‘that is all she needs. All else is in God's will.’

Ona said that she was very happy about the article in BRIDGES. She was photographed with the journal in her hands. Very soon the book she wrote about the CIURLIONIS ENSEMBLE (of Cleveland) should be coming off the presses. The book will have 700 pages. We will keep you informed about the book's presentation.

As her days become physically more difficult, let us wish Ona Mikulskiene “ sunny days, health, and, most of all hope and optimism.

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.



Christ; Kingship

Christ is our king and we meet this theme everywhere in the Bible and in our liturgy during the Mass. We recognize that there are a number of feasts in the Church year consecrated to the theme of our Lord's kingship. At Christmas we sing of the Prince of Peace, Epiphany when we celebrate the fact of the King's nuptials with the Church. On Palm Sunday we pay homage to the King and conqueror. At Ascension we celebrate His glorification and at Corpus Christi we honor the King and High Priest hidden in the Eucharist.

In Sacred Scripture, too, we meet frequent references to Christ's kingship. The prophets are fond of viewing Christ as a king, especially David, who so often sings in the psalms about the Messiah- King. Christ was first represented to Mary as a king when the angel said to her: "He shall reign in the house of Jacob forever. And of His kingdom there shall be no end" (Lk 1:32). In the face of death Christ told Pilate who was judging Him, "Are you King? The answer of Christ was " Yes, I am a King...although my kingdom is not of this world." Our Lord meant that His kingdom is not a temporal one like that of earthly rulers. We could keep on multiplying the scriptural testimony for the kingship of Christ, but all Christians do agree that Christ has the full right to be honored and acclaimed as a king. Christ has a kingdom which embraces the entire world. The nature of Christ's kingdom is the kingdom of God, of which the Gospel speaks so often: "For the kingdom of God is within us"

(Lk 17:20). The kingdom of God has a twofold aspect, the one external aspect that is the Church founded by Christ with its visible head, Holy Father-Pope and the internal aspect is the Mystical Body of Christ, of which Christ is the head, we are the members, and the Holy Spirit is life-giving principle of sanctifying grace.

There are three manifestations of Christ's kingdom which exist and in which we are obliged to see Christ the King to honor Him: The parish to which we belong, the family with whom we live and our own soul.

In the sermon on the Mount, Christ explained how the kingdom of God could be realized within the soul of man, when He spoke the eight Beatitudes,

Blessed are the poor in spirit for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are the meek: for they shall possess the land.

Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted etc... (Mt 5:3-10).

In these words we have the basic law for the existence of Christ's kingdom in the soul, whose hearts are full of kindness and love, these are the proper subjects for the kingdom of Christ.

Sister Margarita Bareikaite

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. Sister Margarita is the Chair of the Religious Affairs Council of the Lithuanian American Community and is a regular contributor to Bridges.

St. Peter

Lithuanian Parish, South Boston, MA

Status Update

In May 2004, St. Peter Lithuanian Parish in South Boston, Massachusetts received the devastating news that under an archdiocesan reconfiguration plan, the Parish would be closed. Parishioners and Lithuanians throughout New England were devastated and shocked at the unexpected news! Not only is St. Peter Lithuanian Parish the spiritual center for Lithuanians throughout New England but it is also its cultural center.

Parishioners gathered to discuss the horrendous position into which they had been thrust and voted unanimously to fight to save the Parish. The Friends of St. Peter Lithuanian Parish was formed and during the ensuing year we banded together to save a part of our

heritage. We stood shoulder to shoulder in our determination to keep our Parish open. We demonstrated, we wrote letters, we made phone calls. We contributed monies and built a treasury to launch a canonical challenge to the closure and we were prepared to launch a civil challenge if it became necessary. We built a hill of Crosses in front of our church. We took preliminary steps to plan a vigil/live in to prevent the archdiocese from locking us out of our church.

We prepared and planned and strategized. We appealed to the Vatican a year ago and still await a response from them. We refused to cooperate with the archdiocese when they kept clamoring for us to set our own date of closing. Imagine the absurdity of setting our own closing date! Why would the archdiocese think that we would willingly set our own date of execution?

What an unexpected shock we received when on June 16th, 2005, the archdiocese of Boston removed the

Continued on page 22

Kaunas Seminary



**Commemorates
140 years
of its
establishment**

To study for the service of God is an important duty. This article focuses on the 140-year anniversary of the founding of the Kaunas Seminary.

Jesus Christ entrusted his Apostles and Church with a mission to announce the Good News to all people. There are people who follow this mission – priests and other of God’s servants. For the Lithuanians who live far away from their homeland it is very important to have a Lithuanian Mass and a Lithuanian priest in the churches they attend while residing in different countries. To hold Lithuanian Masses priests are invited directly from Lithuania. We have to be grateful for men who help us interact with God in our native language. One of the seminaries the priests are studying in and come from is the Kaunas Seminary, which last year celebrated its 140th anniversary. The history of the Seminary for Priestly Formation has always been closely related to the history of the Church and Lithuania.

The present-day Seminary of Kaunas traces its beginning into the city of Varniai, in response to the declaration of the XXIII session of the Council of Trent of 1563. This decision of the Sacred Council encouraged every cathedral and metropolitan church of all dioceses to establish their own seminary school (seminarium clericorum) for young men determined to follow the call to discern and develop the priestly vocation. The Seminary was moved from one town to another. And only in 1864, after the suppression of the Lithuanian-Polish uprising (in 1863) against the Tsarist occupation, the Russian government transferred H.E. Bishop M. Valančius with his entire office and Varniai Seminary to Kaunas. The Seminary was given the grand architectural buildings of the former Bernardine monastery and St. George’s Church. H.E. Bishop Valančius appointed Canon J. Račkauskas the first rector of the seminary. It was a difficult period for the Seminary as it was under the

Russian government’s control. But later, under the leadership of the great priest and poet-laureate Rector Canon J. Maciulis-Maironis the Seminary became a center for the rebirth of the richness of Lithuanian culture, language and ethnic identity.

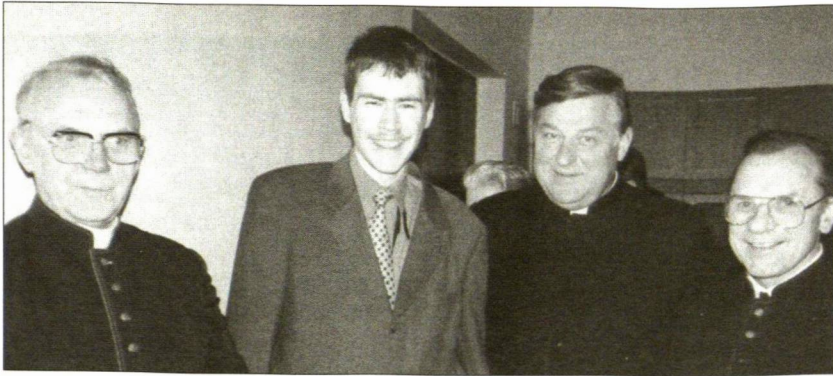
During World War I, the seminary was temporarily moved to the Vašuokėnai Estate in the District of Troškūnai. However, after the Declaration of Lithuania’s Independence in 1918, the seminary returned to its former premises. Much work was needed to restore the seminary that had been converted into a military hospital by the German occupational forces of World War I. In 1922 the Kaunas Seminary was consolidated with the Faculty of Theology and Philosophy at the University of Lithuania in Kaunas. The students of that time were greatly inspired by the most prominent professors of Lithuania’s intellectual history who were lecturing at the University in this era of cultural and spiritual rebirth.

During the years of Soviet occupation (during and after World War II), when the country’s entire structure was destroyed, the Church’s activity was also severely impaired. Other seminaries in Telšiai and Vilkaviškis were closed at the time. Kaunas Seminary remained the only functioning seminary in Lithuania. But still it had a very difficult time, as its functioning was controlled and suppressed.

In the early 1980’s small elements of soviet repression began to recede and touched upon the life of the seminary. On February 17, 1982, H.E. Bishop L. Povilionis consecrated anew the Church of the Holy Trinity, which was restored after being returned by the soviet government. Little by little, until the collapse of the soviet regime, the nationalized seminary buildings were being returned and restored. After the reestablishment of Vytautas Magnus



Photos from the Kaunas Priest Seminary calendar issued to commemorate 140 years of its establishment.



Photos by Joana Misevičienė, Kaunas: "Bridges" correspondent Laurynas R. Misevičius together with Msgr. Vaičiūnas and other priests.

University in 1989, the Faculty of Philosophy and Theology resumed its work in 1990. In 1994, the Vatican Congregation of Catholic Education authorized that the Faculty of Theology at Kaunas Interdiocesan Seminary and the Faculty of Philosophy and University would be unified into one Faculty of Catholic Theology at Vytautas Magnus University. Since September 1, 1999, on the basis of the decree issued concerning the reorganization of studies in the Faculty of Theology by the Archbishop Metropolitan of Kaunas and the Grand Chancellor of the Faculty of Theology H.E. Sigitas Tamkevičius, seminarians have been attending classes together with other University students. Today, after successful graduation and reception of a Bachelor's degree from Vytautas Magnus University, alumni of Kaunas Seminary may continue their studies at the Master's and Doctorate level. In the course of time, bishops and priests, who, due to their rich life experience and high moral qualities, have successfully fostered the spiritual growth of many generations of future priests, have governed the seminary of Kaunas. Today there are four seminaries in Lithuania. The second largest Lithuanian city seminary is not the biggest one, but it has a good aura. Let's look at how the seminarians live today. There are 53 seminarians in Kaunas. They study many hours a day. They study church law, construction, dogmatic and fundamental theology and liturgy, attend Bible studies and other subjects. Some classes, such as English, are held in the seminary itself. Those who fail three courses are eliminated from the seminary with no exceptions.

The most difficult subject for seminarians is informatics. The regime in the seminary is strict. The day starts at 7 a.m. At 7:30 a.m. the seminarians must be in the church for the Morning Prayer. Then they have a very delicious breakfast, usually prepared by an experienced cook, Aldona Kaušylienė, who tries to make them feel like they are eating their mothers' home cooking. After breakfast they go to lectures at the VMU. After classes, between 12-2:45 p.m.,

they come back to the seminary to have dinner. After the meal they sit in the auditoriums again. No later than 5 p.m. all of the seminarians have to come back to the seminary. After supper they are expected for choir rehearsal, then at 7:30 p.m. – Mass. After the evening Mass it is a quiet time for relaxing and individual studying and reading. At 10 p.m. – it is time to get ready for the night sleep. But it doesn't mean that exactly at 10 p.m. all of the yet-to-be-priests fall asleep. They talk for a while, think, meditate... Some of them would read longer. However, a

seminarian's room has only basic furniture: bed, table, bookcase and a wardrobe. However, they are permitted to make their rooms a little more comfortable. They are allowed to bring in a carpet, flowers, music center or computer (there is still no Internet usage in the room). They can get connected online in a special computer room with 6 PCs in it. Sometimes they can watch TV in the special room. There are special instances when they are allowed to watch TV later-especially when it's... an important basketball game of Lithuanian teams!

Unfortunately, the numbers of seminarians nowadays is not as high in any of Lithuania's seminaries, probably even throughout the world. Even worse, about one of two students changes his mind and leaves the seminary... As they study together at the regular university (VMU) with female students, some fall in love. Almost every seminarian has a crisis during his studies, and only those who have a real calling, stay. Life is like that - one day it goes to the right direction, unfortunately, another of those days it's quite opposite. But a crisis often helps you become even stronger. It is difficult for the seminarians to live like they are in a closed world, but future priests understand that their calling is a treasure, an invaluable gift from God. "God respects a human's freedom, but we don't have to trespass on it"- says Rev. Msgr. Dr. Vytautas Steponas Vaičiūnas, also an Associate Professor, who is the Dean of the Catholic Theology faculty in the Vytautas Magnus University. So let's wish our future priests patience and the will not to lose their calling to follow a heavenly mission!

Eugenija Fedosejeva

Eugenija Fedosejeva is a graduate student at the University of Bridgeport, Bridgeport. 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.

Continued from September.

The Art Of Dressage Riding In Lithuania



Author at Judra's barn, 1996.

photo by Zenonas Nekrosius

Part II.

One spring and summer, Judra's place was a mini United Nations with the group, who called her place home, consisting of American, Brit, Danish, Finnish, French, German, Italian, Norwegian, Russian and Swedish riders. After the horses were saddled, every one trotted into the upland meadow and then cantered up toward the hippodrome acreage at the top of the hill.

The hippodrome had been built to specifications in the '70's and consisted of a fine expansive cross country course, a long circular dirt track for warming up and a natural fenced area with proper training jumps.

Judra was traveling even more in these following years to attend judging seminars, and exhibitions with her students who were competing. If any of her regular foreign pleasure riders called up to make an appointment to ride and Judra was away, one of her trusted young aides would accommodate the request. Everyone knew that Judra had competed at the highest level of dressage in former years and that she was also very shy in talking about her early accomplishments. On occasion, she would mention that during this or that year, a certain rider, champion winner, presently a trainer, was someone she herself had trained.

There has always been a great rapport between the Scandinavian countries -- especially Sweden -- and the Baltic countries. Sweden has maintained a consis-



Christmas 2000, Judra showing her yearling hopefuls to friends and author.
photo: Barbara Bilsky

tent series of wins in Dressage and is famous for its riders and horses. In 1996, Volvo sponsored the Vilnius International World Cup Horse show at Vingio Parkas. Riders from all over came and competed. Judra entered her young group of students to exhibit a display of synchronized Dressage riding. Sixteen riders, smartly turned out, rode a well trained program that delighted the spectators. No one was expecting such a performance since the main attraction at this show was the Olympic jumping competitions. Judra's mini U.N. fan club applauded mightily. The following year, Volvo sponsored the Vilnius World Cup again and Judra's top students gave a flawless exhibition of Dressage riding. In between these two shows there were other exhibitions and the Lithuanian F.E.I. had reformed and gained recognition.

Judra's barn was the home away from home for so many students and devotees of classic Dressage. Sitting around, after finishing a lesson or a session at the hippodrome, was typical of all barn areas, but at Judra's it was something unique and special. Judra had two black and white cats who befriended everyone and a mascot goat that guarded the horse stalls. Summer parties, Lithuanian style, with riders and guests were frequent social occasions full of fun in a "horsey" atmosphere. Many times, during the late afternoon heat of an August day, Judra could be found taking time out drinking tea and sitting on her permanent outdoor furniture, a series of large tree stumps that had been cut to perfect seating height, complete with a larger stump in the middle that served as a table. Surrounded by native growing trees of birch, elm and maple, Judra's umbrella for her table and chairs was a well grown lilac tree.

To promote dressage and to maintain a high level of good feeling in the winter, Judra organized Christmas festivities with her young riders who would demonstrate basic level dressage by riding in paired columns, trotting and cantering in unison to classical music around an enormous decorated fir tree stationed in the middle of the indoor arena at the national riding barn. Parents and friends of the

riders came to watch these future champion hopefuls, gaily costumed, happily enjoying themselves. Mock competitions were also engaged in with pairs of riders dressed as equestrian Santas and other figures of Christmas pageantry, cantering around the arena.

It was during this time, while she had been doing some reconstruction on her stable buildings that a disaster happened. Fire broke out and completely destroyed the stable area, along with the tack room and groom's quarters overhead. Fortunately, no horses suffered. But, the little mascot goat perished. This was a sad and mournful time.

Nevertheless, Judra bounced back soon afterward. As she said, "What is the point of dwelling on sorrow. I have my horses at least. I must go forward." This was typical of Judra, a strong and resilient woman who had seen some sorrowful things in her lifetime but would not let them or this newest loss discourage or dissuade her. Meanwhile, she was still having diffi-



Judra's young synchronized riding team, Vingius Parkas, 1996. photo by Barbara Bilsky

compete in the Eastern U.S. Dressage Championship for young riders and children. Marija scored a 4th and 5th place out of 200 entries, a most honorable accomplishment.

In 2002, an Equestrian Jubilee Program Journal was published in Vilnius illustrating Lithuania's contribution to the sport horse world and featuring photos and histories of riders and jumping horses, driving teams, the famed Lithuanian winter ice trotting competitions and the most elegant of all riding, Dressage. Major photos of Judra, in her early days of championship riding, together with her accompanying text, explain the story of Dressage in Lithuania. As Judra tells it, "Dressage began in Lithuania, in 1955, in Kaunas, and the first sport horses for this type of riding were brought there. In those days, the riding sport of Dressage in Lithuania was called "Taryba."

"Today, in independent Lithuania, Dressage is known as "Vilisio". Most of the horses in the Soviet days were obtained from Moscow and went to where they were needed most, so they were sent to Kaunas."

Judra explains that she first trained with Vldas Zaukas, an army officer who had been at the famous French military equestrian center. Later, Judra rode with Liudas Navickas. Judra states that, "The best years for riding contests in Lithuania were in the 1980's and 1990's because at that time Lithuania had quality horses that could compete favourably for the top prize, the Grande Prix de Dressage. Such horses were successful in winning championships in Russia."

Judra went on to train outstanding riders who achieved their own championships. It is of particular interest that the Lithuanian riding team took part in international competitions and they won prizes during the years of Perestroika. They also rode successfully in Czechoslovakia, Poland and Hungary. An occasional horse was donated by Westerners, such as the international class horse "Landscape", owned by a British nobleman.



Champion rider exhibiting at Judra's exhibitionarena, Belmontas, 2000. photo by Barbara Bilsky

culty with some of the jumping riders at the national barn who wanted to commandeer the inside arena by either scheduling their jumping practices at the same time as her dressage students or erect their jumps in such a way as to make riding on the flat an impossibility. Some of the jumping riders behaved arrogantly to the dressage people, causing a lot of disruption overall. This was one of those internal barn problems that had yet to be reconciled.

In August of 2001, Judra accompanied one of her young advanced riders, Marija Vaupsaite, to Connecticut, to



Judra with champion horses, Toreia and Corrida, 1996.

photo by Zenonas Nekrosius

Nowadays, Judra emphasizes, "Lithuanian riders have good opportunity to train and ride in competitions with excellent horses such as our Baltic Hanoverians." Followers of these riding events will be familiar with the German Hanoverians which first took wide notice in the 60's, because of their seemingly unlimited pussissance ability. Judra herself favors the Dutch warmbloods. At heart, though, she gives a nod of approval to any horse that demonstrates ability, has an ear toward his rider and can move with spirit to musical cadences.

Today, Judra continues to be busy with her training, judging, arranging schooling shows and buying and selling quality horses for competition. Negotiations can be made to train with her in a riding seminar or clinic by providing some advance notification. Anyone in the U.S. who is a dressage rider or enthusiast, visiting Vilnius, should seek Judra at her barn. She is a generous person, eager to share Lithuanian Dressage procedures. Riders seeking her as a trainer could not do better anywhere else.

However, be advised! Judra is a stern task master and is a strict adherent to the traditional mores of Dressage riding. She was trained by masters who comprehended fully the legacy of the Spanish Riding School in Vienna. One lesson with Judra is a full course of intensive study. That she continues to remain in Vilnius is a giant bonus for that city. Interested persons can reach Judra by writing to her directly: Judra Ciuderyte-Kasarina, Filaretu 42-8; 2007 Vilnius. Even if someone is merely a great admirer of fine classical riding, a visit to Judra's barn should be on the list of things not to miss when in Vilnius.

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.

Simokaitis stands out for UN

Excerpt from the
OMAHA WORLD-HERALD
By MITCH SHERMAN
WORLD-HERALD BUREAU

"He's one of the few guys we have who's just playing the game. It sounds easy, but it's not. He's not thinking much. He's just being passionate about baseball."

Mike Anderson,
Nebraska coach, on Joe Simokaitis

The unsung infielder isn't a first-round draft pick, but he's as valuable as anyone in Nebraska's chase for a Big 12 title.

Simokaitis is senior from St. Louis.

According to the paper Nebraska shortstop Joe Simokaitis just might be the ideal college baseball player.

"The past two years, I've started off hot and then fell off in conference (play)," he said. "This year. I wanted to make it a point to stay strong."

As the Huskers' No.2 hitter, Simokaitis faces a steady stream of fastballs from pitchers unwilling to let the All-American hit with runners on base.

"I know I'm not going to hit 15 home runs," Simokaitis said. "But I do take a lot of pride in knowing that I can do my job at the plate."

With 42 career sacrifice bunts, Sirmokaitis ranks sixth in NCAA history - not bad for a guy known around the Big 12 as a defensive whiz.

Sirmokaitis' fluidity and range give him the look of a pro shortstop. He drew interest before the draft from a few major league organizations last year, but no club took a risk on him.

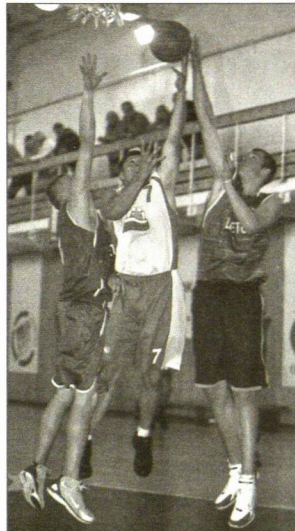
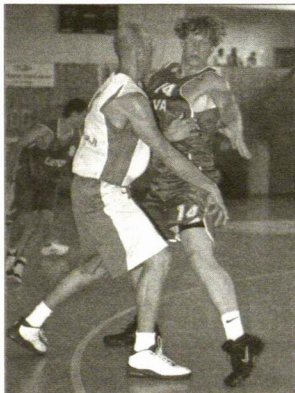
His chance, Anderson said, should come this year.

"I think it will happen," the coach said. "There's a question with his bat, but I think people see he's going to compete at the plate and be a great defensive shortstop. And I'll tell you what, if you can play defense in pro ball as a shortstop, you can stick around for a while."

Submitted by: Reda Pliura

Rimas Gedeika

THE 7th World LITHUANIAN GAMES



Lithuanian American basketball team in Vilnius.

The VII Lithuanian World Games took place in Vilnius on June 30, 2005. These Games were by far the largest Games to date. There were over 5,000 athletes—4,086 from Lithuania, 600 from another 18 other countries. Of the 600, 118 came from the USA and 117 from Poland.

There were 27 sporting events - and not surprisingly, the biggest and most popular one was basketball with 43 teams and 667 athletes participating. This was followed closely by soccer with 507 participants.

The VII World Games were the fourth Games to be held in Lithuanian since 1991 (its Independence). Prior to 1991 three Games were held outside Lithuania; 1978 in Toronto, 1983 in Chicago and 1988 in Australia.

Basketball Venue

The USA team performed very well. It won medals in swimming and tennis. But it was in basketball that it performed outstandingly. Its 19U Team surprised everybody by defeating a very powerful Sabonis basketball Team. As surprising as was this victory, the Men's A Team's victory over Vilnius' powerful, talented, but cocky PERLAS was even more amazing. This was a team that nobody picked to win any medal, yet it won the gold medal!

How did they do it ?

The Team, the Players, the Coach.

The team was formally organized a mere

three weeks prior to departing for the Games. Its players came from all over the USA. They were first, third, and fourth generation Lithuanian Americans, who did not meet each other till they arrived for their first practice session in Vilnius.

The players, as individuals, were very talented, but they lacked the cohesiveness of a team. Molding them into a team fell upon the broad shoulder of Bob Hodgson, a third generation Lithuanian who is a no nonsense high school coach from New York. From the very first practice session, he made it very clear that if a player missed or came late to the practice or did not like any of his other rules, that player would not be playing in the next game. He told them all that the team came to Lithuania to play basketball, to make the Lithuanian Americans proud of them.

During the next practice session several players came late or did not show up at all. They did not play the next game. The message got through loud and clear and was understood by everybody.

In its first game the USA soundly defeated the team from Siberia. Its second game against Druskininkai was more competitive. It was not until the fourth quarter that the USA pulled away. After the game, Coach Hodgson telephoned me and said, "We won, but the refs were totally for the home team. The road towards the gold medal will be difficult." How prophetic were his words!

Entrepreneurs

Forbes

Author: Phyllis Berman

According to an article in FORBES magazine written by Phyllis Berman and entitled *The Three Marketeers*, the Ortiz brothers — George Jr., 40, Oliver, 38, and Nicolas 36, the great-grandsons of Simon Iturri Patino, a Bolivian tin baron, have created a little empire of their own: Iki (literally, “till the next time”), the second-largest supermarket chain in Lithuania. Last year Iki's 67 stores, plus 51 discount units called Pigiau Grybo (“cheaper than mushrooms”) and 15 convenience stores, earned \$16 million pretax on revenue of \$377 million. Over. This in a country with only 3.5 million people and a per capita GDP of \$12,500. The Ortiz brothers tapped into the Baltic nation's long-suppressed appetite for luxury foods and added a few tricks of their own. It started in August 1991 as the brothers, recent college grads (George went to Harvard, Oliver to St. Andrews and Nicolas to the University of Pennsylvania) sat around their parents' kitchen table in Geneva, wondering what to do.

After watching Boris Yeltsin on TV, staring down the coup leaders in Moscow and the same Soviet tanks that had fired on Lithuanian civilians back in February, something clicked, and the three young men decided to start something of their own in the newly liberated East.

They arrived in Vilnius, in the near-dead of winter in 1992, the trio stood in long lines in minus 22 degree Fahrenheit weather to buy necessities. That prompted the idea of opening a supermarket. Using \$20,000 of their savings, they leased a store in Vilnius' Old Town and stocked it with home-grown produce and domestic sausages, and cheeses and fish imported from France. Within weeks they had a visit from the fire brigade, threatening to close down the operation unless the Ortizes applied a coat of fire resistant paint-or paid a bribe. The brothers aired a story that persuaded the govern-

ment to keep the store open. When their employees stole food, the brothers dealt with the problem by offering the manager a small equity stake, just enough incentive to keep an eye on his subordinates.

With hard currency, the only coin accepted at first for imported goods, the brothers were able to buy or rent their pick of sites. Most of their competition came from stores once owned by the state, offering drab items and day-old baked goods that couldn't compete with fresh Camembert and Crest toothpaste. By 1997 there were 17 Iki outlets. They offered novelties such as discounts on food via customer-loyalty cards and lotteries for prizes that included a \$150,000 Ferrari Modena 360. That year the Ortizes borrowed \$3.5 million at 10% from the Lithuanian Development Bank to build a 110,000-square-foot warehouse.

In 2000 they opened their first discount stores. They added corner markets-Ikiukas (“little Iki”)-in 2002 offering staples as cigarettes and vodka. This year they developed a line of private-label goods-free-range chickens and gourmet mushrooms among them. “If we had to do it again, we would have done it much earlier,” says George. The margins on these items are double what they are on other brands.

Lithuania's entry into the European Union last year has been a big boon, and a slight bane, for Iki. New regulations forced the chain to spend \$10,000 in each of its supermarkets. It was necessary to build a separate entrance for fresh meat delivery. But membership has also helped to lift sales, as the nation's per capita GDP grew 7.4% in 2004, the fastest rate of any country in the EU. And it has attracted the notice of Western capital. Earlier this year Citigroup's global equity investment arm put up \$50 million for a reported 25% stake in Iki. That money will be scattered around the Baltics, as the brothers move into Latvia and Estonia.

Information submitted by: Anthony Matulinis

The 7th World Lithuanian Games

In the semi finals the USA handily defeated Great Britain. Now the stage was set for the meeting of the two top teams — PERLAS from Vilnius and team USA. Right from the start the game was a nail-biter. The lead changed hands frequently and with 3 seconds left in the game, the score was tied. The USA player had the ball, he shot the ball, the ball went in the hoop, the USA won!

Right?

Wrong!

First the referee said that the shot was made after the time ran out. Wrong! There were .03 seconds left on the clock after the basket. Then

he said that the USA player was fouled before the shot — two foul shots. The player missed them both. And the game ended in a deadlock.

Overtime!

The USA team was shocked and demoralized. It was here that Coach Hodgson's many years of coaching experience came into play. He told the team to forget the referees. “We can't do anything about them. We have to go out and make the first shot. If we do, the victory is ours.”

The team went out with renewed confidence. It made the first shot; it made the second shot. It defeated

PERLAS 103-90 !!

Lithuania's 19U team's victory; the Men's A team's victory showed home crowds and the experts that the Lithuanian American teams understand and know how to play the GAME. Never underestimate them.

Future of the World Games.

The next Games will be held four years from now—in 2009 in Lithuania.

Rimas Gedeika

*Photos by Alfredas Pladis

Rimas Gedeika lives in New Jersey and is active in the Lithuanian Sports Community.

Continued from page 5
K of L ANNUAL NATIONAL CONVENTION



The delegates of the 92nd Convention at the Mary Immaculate Chapel.

receive his honorary medal. It will be bestowed upon him in the near future in Chicago, IL.

Lithuanian Affairs Chair John Mankus presented Sister Margaret Carney, OSF, STD, with the "Friend of Lithuania" award for her outstanding contributions to Lithuania and her people. Sister Margaret Carney is the current President of St. Bonaventure University.

The formal portion of the banquet closed with words from the K of L re-elected president Agnes Mickunas. Musical entertainment for dancing livened the rest of the evening.

August 14, 2005, Sunday

The closing Mass was concelebrated at the Mary Immaculate Chapel on the grounds of the Sisters of St. Francis of the Providence of God facilities, by Msgr. dr. J. Anderlonis, Msgr. A. Bartkus and Rev. A. Markus.

ture special friendships of members known for many years and establish new acquaintances and contacts. It was a special time of sharing and catching up.



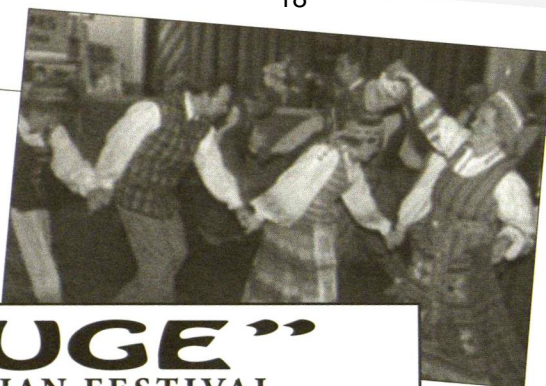
Honorary Members who were present at the Convention.



Pittsburgh's "Neris" dancers.

The 93rd National Convention will be hosted by the Supreme Council on August 3-6, 2006, in Lake Buena Vista, FL. Hope to see everyone there!

*Regina Juska-Svoba
K of L Public Relations Chair
All photos are by R. Jusla-Svoba



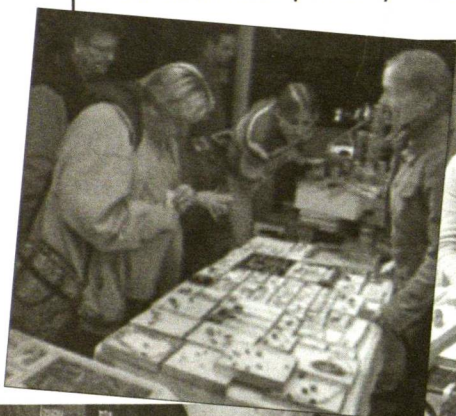
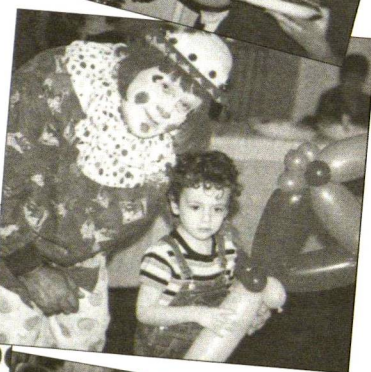
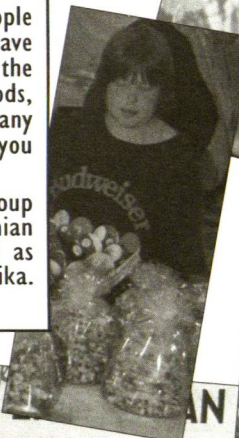
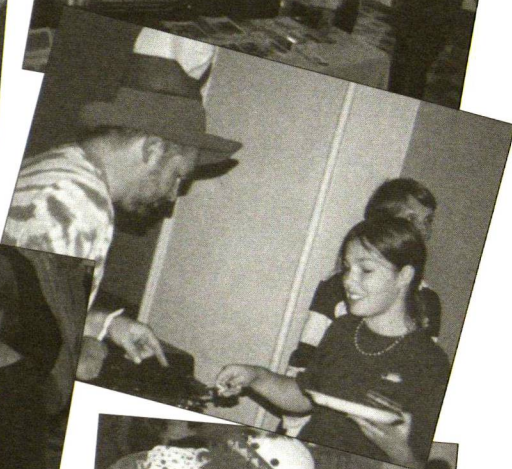
“MUGE” LITHUANIAN FESTIVAL

What and where in the world is it? It's a Lithuanian festival put together by people who enjoy celebrating their heritage and culture.

You can find it anywhere you have a group of happy people (usually they are happy people) who want to get together and have a good time. Enjoy Lithuanian and American food, toe tap as the folk dancers twirl and show off their steps, buy Lithuanian goods, such as books, shirts, wood carvings, straw ornaments and many other items. Beware! Someone will probably grab you and sign you up to work at next year's muge. I guarantee you'll love it.

If you don't live near a city or a place where there is a group of Lithuanians, please enjoy the photos from the 2004 Lithuanian Music Hall muge in Philadelphia. A great time was had by all as evidenced in these photos by Dalia Bagdonaite and Rimas Gedeika.

Jeanne Dorr



Gloria O'Brien

The Journey of Palemonas

Translated by Gloria O'Brien from "Lietuvių Padavimai",
A collection of Lithuanian legends edited by Pranas Sasnauskas

One of the best-known and most beloved legends about
Lithuania's origins is the story of Palemonas, an aristocrat of
Ancient Rome. This story should be taken with several grains
of salt.

This happened during the dark time when Attila, the ruler
of the Huns, attacked the Roman Empire. His army, like
a cloud of hornets, had besieged the northern limits of the
empire and was marching toward the eternal city – Rome.
Attila had occupied the lands of the French, Italians and
Croats, then built a mighty fort, Buda, on the Hungarian
plain, declaring himself their King.

Foreseeing the fast-approaching fall of Rome, the noted
patrician, Palemonas, assembled a group of his kindred
and friends, numbering five hundred, and, taking sail in
several ships, they left their homeland. They had heard of
a beautiful land somewhere in the north, with abundant
game, fertile soil, and valuable amber. Tacitus himself
had written about this land. In one ship sailed an
astronomer, who knew the stars and thus was able to
determine the location of lands and that of the ships in the
sea. And a large number of men-at-arms, noble knights
and their mounts, and various servants traveled with
the group.

Their journey was very long, indeed. First crossing the
Mediterranean Sea, they entered the Atlantic Ocean and
turned toward the north. They passed France and England
without stopping, and continued northward towards
Denmark. There they turned eastward and sailed along
the coast, until they reached the mouth of the beautiful
Nemunas River. The waters of the Nemunas, split into
several branches, seemed as clear as sparkling crystal, as
if flowing from a magical source hidden in the midst of the
impenetrable surrounding forests. There at the end of
their long journey, the eyes of the Roman travelers bright-
ened, and they understood that they had finally found the
place they had sought. Palemonas ordered the ships to
turn into the Nemunas, and as they sailed along the river,
they passed dark, dense forests and steep hills covered with
many-hued wildflowers.

"This soil must be especially fertile, suitable for the
growing of wheat", said Palemonas. "This land is not less

beautiful than Italy, and its resources even surpass those
of our homeland. Just look at the trees in the forest, the
wild game, the fish in this river!" "That is true",
answered his nobles. "We will not be able to find a more
beautiful land in all the world".

Sailing up the Nemunas, they reached the Dubysa River,
where some of the ships turned in, and some nobles got out
and decided to settle. They named the area Žemaitija.
Their leader was the noble Julijonas, whose coat-of-arms
bore the image of the Bear. From that time on, the coat-
of-arms of Žemaitija displays the Bear, carried here by
Roman patricians and left to all the nobles of Žemaitija.

The Grand Prince Palemonas had three sons and he
decided to name them the leaders of the new land. The
eldest, Barkas, built his fort near the river, calling it
Jurbarkas. The middle son, Kunas, settled near the
Nemunas, where it is joined by the Nevėžis, building a
strong fort which he named after himself – Kaunas. The
youngest son, Spera, continued to travel further eastward,
until he reached the Širvinta River, with a beautiful lake
nearby. The lake pleased him greatly, and he gave it his
own name – Spera. He settled here and built a powerful
principality, absorbing much of the surrounding land.

And Kunas had two sons: Gimbutas and Kernius. The
younger, Kernius, led his group, including family, servants
and men-at-arms, across the River Neris, and traveled
eastward. Soon they found a beautiful place near the
Sventosios River, and he named it after himself – Kernavė.
Later, after the death of their elders, Gimbutas ruled
Žemaitija, and Kernius, the land called Aukštaitija, up to
the River Dauguva.

In those days, when Kernius ruled in Kernavė, his vassals
who had settled beyond the Neris, liked to play a pipe
called "tūba". Since field-workers are called "litai" in
Latin, Kernius referred to the tūba-playing field-workers
as "litubanai", and their land – "Litubanija". Later, people
began to call it "Lituanija", and later still, "Lietuva".

And that is how the land composed of Žemaitija and
Aukštaitija came to be called Lietuva, and Roman nobles
laid the foundation of a powerful country, which, for
hundreds of years, ruled the fate of several neighboring lands.

Gloria Kivytaite O'Brien

Gloria Kivytaite O'Brien is a frequent contributor to Bridges.

KING or GRAND DUKE *but best of all* Great Lord

Up to the era of Vytautas, all Lithuanian sovereigns were titled REX in Latin, KONIG in German and KNIAZ or VELIKII KNIAZ in Church Slavic.

During his conflict with King Jogaila and while a refugee with the Teutonic Order, Vytautas, using KNIAZ and VELIKII KNIAZ as a model, began totling the Lithuanian sovereign as HERZOG and GROSS HERZOG. About a decade later, after King Jogaila had given the throne of Lithuania to Vytautas and after Vytautas had established himself a sovereign, he repeated this titling innovation in Latin as DUX and MAGNUS DUX.

Unfortunately, neither then nor now is it sufficiently understood, if at all, that there are two systems for titling rulers and nobles. One system is specific and distinguishes a sovereign from his vassals and also ranks the vassals. The other is nonspecific, having a general title of nobility making no distinction between a sovereign and his vassals. An example in English of the specific system is KING, DUKE, EARL, BARON; and of the non-specific system: LORD. Non-specific titles in other cultures are: VIESPATIS in Lithuanian, KNIAZ in Church Slavic, PAN in Polish, KHAN in Mongolian/Tartar, UR in Hungarian and HERR in German.

In Western Europe both systems were, and continue to be used. In Eastern Europe, the nonspecific titles predominate with specific titles being a foreign influence grafted to each eastern culture with varying degrees of success.

It must be emphasized that modifying a nonspecific title does not make it specific. Examples are three surviving seals of Lord Lengvenis/Simeonson of King Algirdas and the brother of King Jogaila. Lengvenis was a loyal liege of Jogaila and Vytautas. He never pretended to, or occupied, the throne of Lithuania, Lachia, Polonia or Galicia. Though a vassal, Lengvenis is titled KNIAZ on two seals and VELIKII KNIAZ on one seal. Another example is the chronicle "Tale of the Battle on Kulikovo Field". King Jogaila - a sovereign, and Dimetri of the Don, Lord of Moscow - a vassal of the Tartars, are interchangeably titled KNIAZ and VELIKII KNIAZ. Another example is the dirge the Tartars lamented on the death of Genghis Khan. Genghis Khan is referred 10 times simply as KHAN, a title used for every Tartar noble down to

an army line officer. Examples of the interchangeability of unmodified with modified non-specific titles can go on and on.

Thus, and most unfortunately, Vytautas's mistake was having a nonspecific eastern title rendered into a specific western title. Had the distinction been appreciated then, the rendering could have been made correctly into German as HERR and GROSS HERR, and into Latin as DOMINUS and MAGNUS DOMINUS. The consequence would have been that today we would clearly understand the title to mean LORD and GREAT LORD. And we would not find ourselves burdened by the ridiculous opinions of Lithuanian and Polish historians that it's possible to rank titles of sovereigns or that there are "rules" as to when certain titles of a sovereign can or can not be used.

In the meanwhile, King Jogaila and, after his death, his eldest son Vladislaus of Varma continued titling themselves REX of Lithuania as evidenced by their seals. It was Jogaila's younger son Casimir who made permanent the title MAGNUS DUX for the sovereign of the Lithuanian Empire.

But, certain cultures had rejected the title REX. Romans categorically rejected the concept of a "King of Rome" with the assassination of Julius Caesar. Oh, yes, their supreme ruler was an EMPEROR, literally, the COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF. Again, in ignorance or because something sounds more important when expressed in a foreign tongue, did our European historians give the title a connotation in excess of what the Romans understood it to mean. And, the Austrians never had a KING. True, their supreme ruler was the Holy Roman Emperor, REX of the Bohemia, and REX of Hungary, but never REX of Austria. Yes, rejecting the title REX has a long and noble tradition indeed, but those are another set of facts for another day.

Aleksandras Radzius

Aleksandras Radzius is Director of The Knight, the official publication of the Lithuanian Numismatic Association. Subscription/ memberships and five issues of The Knight are \$25 a year.

To subscribe please contact:

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PO Box 22696
Baltimore, MD 21203
or Lithnumis@hotmail.com

CALL FOR PAPERS

US/EU-BALTIC INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM

On “Integrated Ocean Observation Systems for Managing
Global & Regional Ecosystems Using Marine Research,
Monitoring & Technologies”

May 23-24-25, 2006 – Klaipėda, Lithuania

Denmark Lithuania	Estonia Poland	Finland Russia	Germany Sweden	Latvia Other EU & US
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Sponsors: Center for Marine Research, Ministry of Environment, Lithuania; US National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration’s National Ocean Service (invited); US Office of Naval Research Global (invited); Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers’, Oceanic Engineering Society (OES); Vilnius University; Kaunas University of Technology; Klaipėda University; Others invited.

Symposium Chairmen: U.S.Chair: Joseph R.Vadus, Vice President, IEEE Oceanic Engineering Society j.vadus@ieee.org ; EU Chair: Dr. Algirdas Stankevicius, Director, Center for Marine Research (CMR),Klaipeda; Co-Chairs:Prof. Raimundas Jasinevicius, Kaunas University of Technology; Prof.Algimantas Juozapavicius, Vilnius University.

Finance Chairman: James Barbera, President, IEEE/OES j.barbera@ieee.org

Technical Program Chairs: Prof. Algimantas Juozapavicius, Vilnius University, algimantas.juozapavicius@maf.vu.lt, & Prof. Victor Klemas, Univ. of Delaware, klemas@udel.edu, Co-Chairs: Dr. Albert Williams, IEEE/OES, awilliams@whoi.edu; Algis Kalvaitis, IEEE/OES, algissuzanne@erols.com and Lina Siauliene, CMR, lineka@delfi.lt

Program Tracks & Suggested Topics:

Integrated Ocean Observation Systems: Global Ocean Observation Systems; Baltic Ocean Observation Systems; Euro GOOS; NOOS; GEOSS; Remote Sensing; Real Time Measurements; Monitoring Systems; Data Collection, Analysis & Distribution; Data Standards & Calibration; Modeling.

Ecosystem-Based Management: Sustainable Development; Protection and Restoration; Remediation; Geographic Information Systems; Charting Coasts and Waterways; Cooperative Research Projects; Partnerships.

Marine Ecosystem Research: Fate of Pollutants; Run-Off Pollution; Sediment Transport & Analyses; Ocean Dumping; Oil spills and Hazardous Material; Eutrophication; Marine Biodiversity; Bio- Sensors; Natural Hazards.

Environmental Monitoring: Operational Monitoring of Physical, Chemical, Biological Parameters; Water Quality; Real Time Measurements; Remote Sensing; Modeling; Ocean Dumping; Pollution Control; Satellite Measurements; Global and Baltic Monitoring Programs; Monitoring Systems; Drifting Buoy Networks.

Environmental Technologies: Oceanographic Measurements (Current, Wave, CTD, Tidal); Sampling Techniques (Water, Chemistry, Sediment); Acoustic Techniques; Integrated Systems; Oil Spill Measurements & Modeling; Instrument Platforms; Satellite Systems; ROV’s & AUV’s; Gliders; Profiling Floats; Drifting Buoys.

Symposium Objectives: To Discuss and Exchange Information for Development of Integrated Ocean Observation Systems:

- Problems, Needs, Requirements & Solutions
- Advances in Application of New Technologies
- Promote Cooperative Projects & Partnerships

Background for Prospective Authors:

This is the Second Baltic International Symposium. The first, held in 2004 attracted speakers from 17 nations. A report and other information is available on the Web Site: www.US-Baltic2006.org

The Baltic Sea is a valuable natural resource shared by nine countries bordering its waters. It provides marine resources, transportation corridors, marine recreation, tourism and desirable coastal living. Economic benefits are dependent on a clean environment. The Baltic Sea is 422,000 sq.km. with a relatively shallow average depth of 55 meters. The nine coun-

tries, bordering the Baltic Sea are working closely together in continuous monitoring of the Baltic Ecosystem, sharing research and environmental data in order to detect and assess changes that may impact environmental health. Other EU Nations and the U.S. have similar needs and many research programs addressing coastal and global environmental

problems, and they can exchange information and experience with the Baltic Nations. Integrated Ocean Observation Systems provide an overarching mechanism to incorporate research and technology projects and systems to facilitate ecosystem-based management.

Environmental protection policies are based on a sustainable development approaches. Cleaning the Baltic Sea, preserving biodiversity and monitoring long range transboundary pollution are of great importance. Baltic nations boast many protected coastal areas that also serve as parks and recreational areas. For example, in Lithuania, the Curonian Spit separates the Curonian Lagoon from the Baltic Sea. It is famous for its nature and its landscape. UNESCO includes it in the World Heritage List, along with the capital city of Vilnius. The Commemoration of Lithuania's Millennium will be celebrated in 2009.

Call for Papers -- You are invited to send a one-page abstract addressing one of the suggested topics. Early submittal is suggested because of program size limitations.

Send abstracts by E-mail to Technical Program Chairs & Co-chairs listed on the previous page.... by December 1, 2005.

Continued from page 9

St. Peter, Lithuanian Parish

threat of closure and announced that our Parish would stay open. The official word from the archdiocese was that "St. Peter Lithuanian Parish would not have a closing date established." Of course we are jubilant that the wolf is not prowling at our door ready to pounce. However, we will remain vigilant and cautious because the intentions of the archdiocese are not clearly known. We are seeking clarification about their position but none has yet been received.

We believe that the archdiocese will once again revisit the issue of closing parishes. It is our intention to enjoy our parish life as never before. It is our intention to recommit ourselves to making our St. Peter Lithuanian Parish more vibrant and thriving than ever before. It is up to us to build a Lithuanian ministry that will make it impossible for the archdiocese to ever consider closing St. Peter again. We must now think bigger and better. This is the challenge of our Lithuanian Community. This is our mission!

Gloria R. Adomkaitis

Gloria R. Adomkaitis for the Friends of St. Peter Lithuanian Parish. For additional information, please see our website at <http://www.savestpeter.org>

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Calendar of Events for October, November, Dec

Please check the addresses or appropriate websites to be sure the events are still being held.

BLP(LKA)1195
2005, Iss. 8

October

October 7 - 9, 2005

Neringa Walk-a-thon Weekend
Saturday, October 8, 2005
Neringa in Marlboro, VT
Will benefit camp Neringa.
www.neringa.org or
978-582-5592

October 8, 2005 - 7 pm

Book Introduction-Cultural Center
Lithuanian Music Hall,
2715 E. Allegheny Ave., Phila., PA
Ambassador of Lithuania Vygaudas
Usackas will introduce his book on
his travels in the US & other parts
of the world. Proceeds will benefit
U.S. Baltic Foundation program for
children of rural Lithuania.

Sponsored by the Phila. Chapter of
the Lithuanian American
Community & the Lithuanian
Cultural Center. Info. 215-938-0783

October 15, 2005 - 6 pm

Taters & Talent - Denver's first
Kugelis dinner & talent show night.
Call Romas Zableckas with your
performance proposal.
Admission - \$10 members,
\$15 nonmembers &
children under 13 are free.
RSVP: Arv Jarasius 303-439-2089
Reservations no later - Oct. 12
Fraternal Order of Eagles Hall
1151 S Galena Street
Denver, CO 80247

October 15, 2005

Baltimore Lithuanian Athletic Club
Northeast basketball tournament
Games played in Catonsville, MD
Evening starts around 8 pm
at the Lithuanian Hall
Vyt_S@juno.com

October 16, 2005 - 12:00 pm

K of L Amber District Meeting
The Church of the Holy Trinity Hall
346 Prospect St. Binghamton, NY.
Lunch downstairs - Cost \$10.00.

October 16, 2005 - 12:30pm-2:30pm
Immaculate Conception Parish

110th Anniversary Celebration
Sunday, 11:30 am Anniversary Mass
Immaculate Conception Church
1509 Baugh Ave., East St. Louis, IL
Reception Church Hall
ALL ARE INVITED!!!

3:00 pm - 9:00 pm School & Parish
Reunion Dinner Banquet
National Shrine of Our Lady
of the Snows
442 South De Mazonod Dr.,
Belleville, IL 62223
To celebrate the 110th Anniversary
of the IC Parish, the East St. Louis
Chapter of the Lithuanian American
Community (LAC) is producing a
commemorative publication.
Info. www.ICNATION.com

October 16, 2005

K of L C-141, Bridgeport, CT
Meeting following the
Noon Mass in Lithuanian
St. George R.C. Church
443 Park Ave., Bridgeport, CT 06604
Info. pbschmidt@optonline.net

October 16, 2005

K of L New England District
Cultural Festival, "Maironis Park"
52 S. Quinsigamond Ave.
Shrewsbury, MA
Lithuanian food, vendors & folk dance

October 18, 2005 - 7 pm - 9 pm

Amber Roots Club
Lithuanian Sing-a-Long Evening
Refreshments will be served.
Culture center-use side door
Lithuanian Music Hall
2715 E. Allegheny Ave.
Phila., PA 19134
Milliemarks@aol.com
610-497-5469

October 22, 2005 - 2 pm - 4 pm

Concert of piano music performed
by Lithuanians: Dainius Vaicekonis,
Asta Vaicekonis, & Dainius
Kepezinskas & will include some
contemporary Lithuanian composers
Seattle Central Library
1000 Fourth Ave., Seattle, WA

Microsoft Auditorium,
Free Admission
Sponsored by Seattle Public Library

October 29-30, 2005

Camp, Large attendance expected.
Berisso, Argentina. Get acquainted
with the new Board of ALJS
Argentinean Lithuanian Youth
Organization-Participation fee: 15 pesos
Contact: Kalvelis_jif@hotmail.com
aljsajunga@yahoo.com.ar

October 30, 2005 - 1:00 pm

Fall Picnic - Yavapai Pavilion in
North Mountain Park in Phoenix.
Park is located on
7th Street at Peoria Ave in Phoenix.
Lithuanian music, food, cold
refreshments, & friendly people.
Hosted by the Lithuanian American
Community of Arizona.
Info. Rimmas Vaitkus 480-483-2418
vaitkus@lithaz.org

November

Nov. 5 - 6, 2005

Muge-Lithuanian Festival
Saturday 12-8 pm-Sunday 12-6 pm
Lithuanian and American Food
Lithuanian Dancers, Musical
Entertainment, Lithuanian Crafts
Lithuanian Music Hall
2715 E. Allegheny Ave. Phila., Pa.
Info. 215-739-4831

Nov. 15, 2005 - 7 pm-9 pm

Amber Roots Club Meeting
Culture Center, use side door.
Lithuanian Music Hall
2715 E. Allegheny Ave. Phila., PA
Milliemarks@aol.com
610-497-5469

Nov. 13, 2005 - 12 noon-6 pm

Vetra's Vakaras
Germania Schwaben Hall,
416 Horace Street, Bridgeport, CT.
His Excellency Ambassador
Dr. Vygaudas Usackas will present
his book. Co-sponsored by the

Lithuanian American Community
Bridgeport Chapter & "Vetra"
Dance Grope (from New Haven, CT
Info. larrykaunas@yahoo.com
203-452-5208

Nov. 19, 2005 - 7 pm

"EXULTATE" Choir from Cleveland
40 member choir - Direction of Rita
Cyvaite-Klioriene, Musical Director
2006 Lithuanian Song Festival of
North America in Chicago.
Lithuanian Music Hall
2715 E. Allegheny Ave., Phila., PA
Sponsored by Phila., Chapter of
LAC, Inc. & Phila., Lithuanian Youth
Association. Info. 215-938-0783
www.phillylac.org

Nov. 19, 2005 - 10 am - 4 pm

8th Annual Margarita's Muge
Lenexa Community Ctr,
13420 Oak, Lenexa, KS 66125
2 blocks north and 1 block east of
95th and Pflumm
Lithuanian food, crafts, local
crafters for holiday shopping.
Kansas City Lithuanian American
Community

Nov. 20, 2005 - 1 pm - 5 pm

International Night
Cape Codder Resort, Hyannis, MA
Hosted by German-American Club,
Members of Cape Cod
Lithuanian American Community
will participate. Info. Eugene
Uzpurvis uzpurvis@aol.com or
Algirdas Dapkus
Alisdapkus@aol.com

Nov. 20, 2005

K of L C-141 Bridgeport, CT
Meeting following the
Noon Mass in Lithuanian
St. George R.C. Church
443 Park Ave., Bridgeport, CT
Info. pbschmidt@optonline.net

Nov. 27, 2005 - 1:00 pm

Lithuanian Christmas Tree

Santa Claus-gifts for children.
Fund-raiser to aid to needy children
in Lithuania. Hosted by the
Lithuanian American Community of
Arizona. www.lithaz.org

December

Dec. 3, 2005

K of L Supreme Council Meeting
Lake Buena Vista, Florida
www.knightsoflithuania.com

Dec. 3, 2005 - 12:30 pm - 4 pm
Christmas party & "Kucios" table
Lake of the Forest Lodge,
West of Edwardsvell on Hwy 32
Social hour, potluck, "Aidas"
Dancers performance, caroling &
photo opportunity for kids with
Santaklus. Kansas City
Lithuanian American Community
Info. www.aidasdancers.org

Dec. 4, 2005 - 1:00 pm

Lithuanian Traditional
"Kucios"
McKeon Center
Mission San Luis Rey
Oceanside, CA
San Diego Lithuanian American
Community, www.lithsd.org

Dec. 13, 2005 - 7 pm - 9 pm
"Kucios" - Amber Roots Club
Meatless buffet. Everyone is
asked to bring a dish to share.
Lithuanian songs.
Culture Center - use side door.
Lithuanian Music Hall
2715 E. Allegheny Ave., Phila., PA
Milliemarks@aol.com
610-497-5469

Dec. 18, 2005

K of L C-141 "Kucios" will be
celebrated following the
Noon Lithuanian Mass
St. George R.C. Church
443 Park Ave., Bridgeport, CT

LITHUANIAN-AMERICAN NEWS JOURNAL

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