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november 2005



LITHUANIAN AMERICAN NEWS JOURNAL

Letter from the Editor

November is filled with so many special days. Bridges tries to cover them all but somehow I always get off the beaten path along the way.

As we commemorate Veterans' Day we are proud of two Lithuanian American women who have given much to their country. Anne Krizanauskas and Ann Agnes Bernatitus both grew up in "coal country" and neither woman forgot her roots. A special thank you to Henry Gaidis for the article about Ann Agnes Bernatitus and the extra hours he spent researching her life after her retirement.

This issue will give you an opportunity to do your Christmas shopping without leaving your home. We are featuring two books of poems. If you enjoy writing then give some thought to the lovely note cards. Lithuanian Christmas ornaments will enhance the beauty of your tree. Please consider giving someone a gift subscription to Bridges. This might be just the "nudge" someone needs to awaken their interest in their heritage.

I know you will enjoy the story of Angela Puodziunas' determination to keep a promise.

Do you ever wonder what makes Lithuanians tick? Gloria O'Brien finds the answer in this month's folktale.

We often think of those who have done so much for us and are no longer here with us. This is especially true on All Soul's Day. Edward Baranauskas shares his memories of a trip to Argentina where he visited the final resting places of some of his family.

In this issue you will meet Renata Kucas, a pharmacist who has volunteered her time to share her knowledge with Bridges readers


Irena Blekys writes about the Lithuanian Oak in Seattle and also took the time to obtain permission from MSCUA, Washington Libraries to use the photo. Thank you to the Tulpe Times, Newsletter of the Washington Chapter of the Lithuanian American Community, for permission to reprint the article.

Thank you to the Cleveland and Cape Cod Chapters of the Lithuanian American Community for sharing their events.

What happened to the calendar and why can't you find the event as you sent it? We honestly had to shorten everything to the minimum in this issue as the calendar was so long it would have taken pages and pages. I'm not complaining, please keep sending in those events as soon as you have a date; it's never too early.

This month you will find an expanded section of News and Views. For several months we have not had room for the news and we thought it would be good to catch up on what is happening in Lithuania.

Gema and I wish you and your families a Happy Thanksgiving.


Jeanne Shalna Dorr

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*Cover: The art work on the cover is from a book by Antanas Gedminas
of Antanas Kucas' Art Works, Printed in VILNIUS, Lithuania 1971.
The Summery of his works is on page 21.

Captain Ann Agnes Bernatitus

U.S. NAVY, WORLD WAR II



Ann Agnes Bernatitus

The Americans born before and who took part in World War II have been described as our nation's finest generation. These heroes grew up expecting to live traditional lives where they worked for a living and raised families before retiring in old age. Ann Agnes Bernatitus, a young girl growing up in Exeter, Pennsylvania, surely expected to live such a simple and mundane life. Time would soon reveal that fate had reserved a greater purpose for the lives of Ann and her generation. Ann's early life was typical of many young girls of the period.

She had been born on January 21, 1912, to Lithuanian immigrants who had settled in Exeter, Pennsylvania. Her parents, Alexander Bernatitus and Margaret Adamits, had been born in the Suvalki region of Czarist Russian occupied Lithuania. Like hundreds of thousands of Lithuanians they chose to leave their loved ones and migrate to America seeking better lives for themselves and their children. Alexander, a skilled craftsman, not only earned a successful livelihood, but even built the family home during the early part of the century. Ann received her early education through the Exeter public school system where she graduated from high school in 1928. Ann had always had an interest in caring for others and always wanted

to be a nurse. She once commented there was nothing else for girls to do in those days, but to teach or nurse. Though her widowed mother could not afford to send her to college, Ann worked briefly after high school and managed to get into nursing school. In 1931, Ann entered nurses' training at the Wyoming Valley Homeopathic Hospital in Wilkes Barre, Pennsylvania. Graduating in 1934, in the middle of the Depression, there were few opportunities for employment in the area. While taking a post graduate operating room technique course at the Pennsylvania Graduate Hospital in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, she managed to secure a position on the hospital's nursing staff from February to May 1935, followed by similar positions at the New Rochelle Hospital, New Rochelle, New York and Nanticoke State Hospital, Nanticoke, Pennsylvania.

One of Ann's hospital superintendents had served in the U.S. Army during World War I and spoke favorably of military nursing so she applied for a position with the U.S. Naval Nursing Corps. On September 25, 1936, Ann was appointed an Ensign in the U.S. Navy Nurse Corps. For the next twenty three years, Ann would continue to care for the sick and injured and rose through the ranks to Captain. Like thousands of her generation, Ann's life proved to be far from the mundane existence she had expected in childhood. Ann served in various military posts throughout the United States and the Pacific. During her long and distinguished career, Ann served as the Chief of Nursing at the Naval Hospitals at Camp Pendleton, California and Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. She retired, on April 1, 1959, and returned to a quiet life living in the family home in Exeter, Pennsylvania.

Throughout her military career, Ann

was known for her care of the sick and injured and during her later career, occupational therapy of the wounded return to civilian life. She is still largely remembered for her experiences during World War II that rival any male war hero of the period. Like many of our World War II heroes, Ann's heroic exploits have long been forgotten by the current generation. It is hoped that the following brief account of Ann's service at Bataan and Corregidor while the American strongholds were being over run by Japanese forces, will restore her to an honored place within the Lithuanian American Community.

After being commissioned, Ann served briefly at the Naval Hospitals at Chelsea, Massachusetts and Annapolis, Maryland before being assigned to the U.S. Naval Hospital, Canacao, Philippine Islands. She left the United States by naval transport from Norfolk, Virginia, via the Panama Canal, and made a brief stop to drop some U.S. Marines off at Midway Island.

In July 1940, Ann arrived in Canacao, Philippines and was immediately impressed by the easy life style enjoyed by the American personnel stationed there. She was one of twelve nurses assigned to the Naval Hospital where the work was easy and there was plenty of time to enjoy golf, bicycling, swimming and the officer club. Manila was only a ferry boat ride away where one could get anything found in the U.S. at a reasonable cost. In the Philippines, as the rest of the world, this pleasant era would soon come to a quick end.

Though there had been talk about war in Europe for some time, Ann was surprised to take a 6 o'clock telephone call from a boyfriend advising that

war had been declared. It was only then that they learned of the December 7th 1941 attack on Pearl Harbor. Work immediately commenced with the sandbag being placed around the hospital because the foundation of the three story building was so strong. When the war was declared an American who could not be moved was sent to her hospital and the Filipinos sent home. A few days later Ann recalled coming off duty early one morning and hearing sirens going off and planes bombing nearby Nichols Field. With this attack, Ann was assigned to assist in the evacuation of their patients to Sternberg Hospital in Manila. On December 10, Ann watched the Japanese bombing of the Cavite Navy Yard by some 125 planes from the nurses' quarters. The wounded were immediately brought to the hospital where Ann took part in providing needed medical assistance and first aid. As Japanese forces began their invasion, American wounded continued to be brought to the hospital. As the number of wounded continued to rise a temporary hospital was ordered to be established at Balintawok, just outside Manila. Half of the Navy medical personnel were sent to this facility and the remaining personnel divided into teams for assignments to various locations. Ann was assigned to a surgical team sent to such a facility at the Santa Scholastica School where she worked long hours caring for the wounded.

On December 22, General Douglas MacArthur came to the conclusion that Manila could not be held and declared it an open city. All American military personnel were ordered to fall back to Bataan and Ann's surgical unit withdrew with the retreating Army convoy. Due to the hectic conditions, units were mixed up and Ann became the only naval nurse in her group. Ann served at Camp Limay on December 24th and remained there until January 23, 1942,



Bright Ribbons Are Her Honors of Bataan and Corregidor

Lt. (jg) Ann Agnes Bernatitus is the only member of the Navy Medical Staff who escaped after Bataan and Corregidor service under fire. The nurse's ribbons represent the first Legion of Merit Medal ever awarded, the new Distinguished Unit Badge, American Defense with star, and Asiatic-Pacific Theater. Her patient, Pvt. Daymen M. Carter, USMC, is a twice-decorated hero of Guadalcanal.

assisting in operations and the treatment of all type of casualties under the most extreme conditions.

On January 23, 1942, her unit was ordered removed to Little Baguio. Farther down the peninsula the Japanese forces continued their advance. On March 3, her hospital was bombed, even though the warehouse on the beach had a big red cross. The work day drew progressively longer with every operating table being constantly filled. During an interview, Ann stated, "They would come in from the field all dirty. You did what you could, there were lice; I kept my hair covered all the time. He did a lot of leg amputations because we had a lot of gas gangrene out there. I remember one patient we were operating on. Dr. Smith didn't want to sew him back up. He had died. I remember

telling him that I didn't want him to do that if anything happened to me. He said, 'I'll sew him up just to shut you up.' We were washing the dirty dressings that they used during an operation. We would wash them out and refold and sterilized them and use them again..."

"It was terrible. By that time, they had stopped advancing for a while. Things were kind of quiet at the front lines. But we were getting a lot of patients with malaria, dysentery, all that. We ran out of beds. You'd go to bed at night and when you awoke the next morning you'd get out there and there would be all these two or three-decker bunks made of wood and patients in them. There wasn't much surgery going on, but the nurses taking care of the sick were very busy."

On April 7th, the hospital was bombed for the second time and when their front line collapsed was moved aboard the hospital ship Relief to the Island fortress at Corregidor. Ann recalled that she had been less scared at Bataan, for on Corregidor the whole place shook when bombed by the Japanese. On Corregidor the hospital was set up in the Malinta tunnel under a rock mountain like formation which also contained the headquarters of General MacArthur and Wainwright. Upon arriving at Corregidor, Ann came down with dysentery and her operation work became limited. The bombing of the Island was terrific and the casualties continued to rise. As conditions worsened, it was decided that an attempt would be made to evacuate some key personnel and the nurses were added to this selection. This decision was made by President Roosevelt himself when he ordered General MacArthur to leave the Philippines while continuing the struggle for its eventual liberation. Ann has no idea of how she and the other nurses were selected, but somehow they were added to this list of key

personnel. She recalls being ordered with others to meet in front of Wainwright's headquarters where someone began reading out names. As your name was called, General Wainwright shook your hand and wished you Godspeed. He told the departing 'Tell them how it is out here.' and then drove off. Those selected were then taken out of the tunnel down in pitch dark to the dock where they boarded small boats and were taken to awaiting submarines.

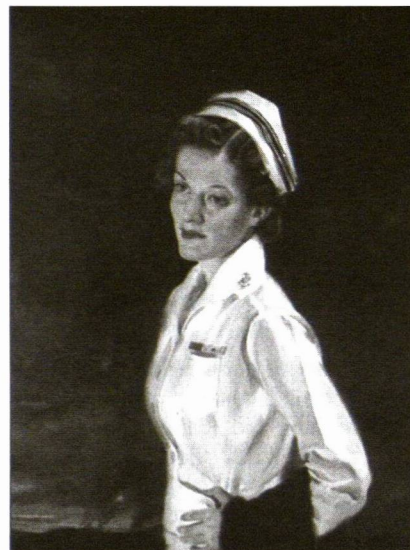
Their travel was slow with all effort being taken to conceal their movement. Ann later learned that Corregidor had fallen during their escape and that the Japanese forces were everywhere. The appearance of two dark shapes in the water was a welcomed sight to all. They boarded the submarines quickly with little or no noise. On May 3rd, Ann embarked on a 17 day voyage aboard the U.S.S. Spearfish (SS-190) through Japanese filled waters to Fremantle, Australia. After a brief stay in Fremantle, Ann was sent home flying to Melbourne and aboard the U.S.S. West Point to New York via the Panama Canal.

Ann's World War II service did not

end here. She went on to serve at the Naval Hospitals in Bethesda, Maryland and New Orleans, Louisiana and as the chief nurse aboard the Hospital Ship Solace during the Okinawa landings. The ships' assignments took her to Saipan, Tinian, and Manchuria, China caring for our wounded and liberated prisoners of war.

Sadly, Ann died on March 3, 2003.

I doubt if anyone reading this article is not proud to read about this heroic Lithuanian American and her contribution to our World War II war efforts. A grateful nation was also just as proud of Ann. Due to a quirk in military regulations, Ann could not be given an existing decoration for service in Manila, Bataan, and Corregidor. At that time, the United States did not have a military decoration for military service for a non combat member. To correct this situation, the U.S. Congress created the Legion of Merit on July 20, 1942, to award individuals who have distinguished themselves by exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding service. The first individual to be awarded the Legion of Merit was Lieutenant Ann Agnes Bernatitus, Naval Nurse

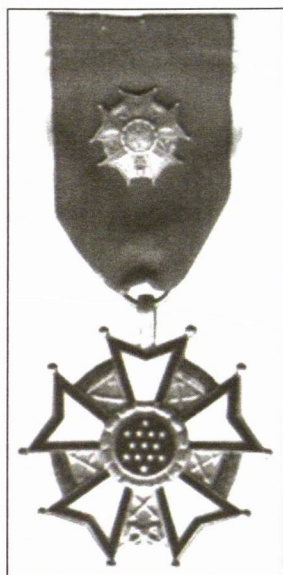


*LTjg Ann Bernatitus, (NC), USN
Albert K. Murray
Oil on canvas, 1942*

for her service on Corregidor. BRIDGES takes this opportunity to honor Ann for her heroic and meritorious service to our country.

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.



First Recipients

American

The first American recipient of the Legion of Merit was Lieutenant (Junior Grade) Ann Agnes Bernatitus, USN, whose award was approved on October 14, 1942 based on her service as a nurse during the campaign in the Manila-Bataan Peninsula areas from December of 1941 to April of 1942.

A Woman for All Seasons



Danutė Gedeika, a Žilvinas dancer from Philadelphia, and Maj. Anne Krizanauskas (Ret) enjoy the Lithuanian Fair in Frackville, PA.

Photo by Rimas Gedeika

A Woman for All Seasons, Anne Suzanne Krizanauskas was born to Lithuanian parents in 1913 in Pennsylvania.

When the President signed the bill authorizing the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps, she enlisted as soon as the recruiting office received the necessary forms and became the first woman in her area to volunteer for active duty. Taking her training at Ft. Des Moines, IA, she was commissioned less than a year later.

She served in the WAAC until it was disbanded and when it was replaced with the Women's Army Corps she did not hesitate and was among the first to be sworn into the WAC. In June of 1948 when women were awarded Regular Army and Air Force status making them a permanent part of the regular and reserve establishment in limited numbers, Kris was selected for integration into the Regular Air Force. Again, she was one of the first to receive a regular Commission. She was sworn in by none other than Col. Frank "BODO" Bostrom, the man who flew General MacArthur out of the Philippines.

As an administrative officer her duties were varied. She served on the original manpower Commission at Tinker Field, Oklahoma. She was a counselor for casualty assistance, education and separation. She was a staff officer at Air University and also served as an athletic officer, housing, public relations, published a newspaper, was in charge of German Youth activities and commanded troops in both the Army and Air Force. She was the base Adjutant at Hahn Air Base in Germany and Director of Administrative services of the 316th Air Division in North Africa.

Her duty assignments took her to Augsburg, blockaded Berlin. Rhein/Main and Hahn Air Base in Germany, as well as Etain France and Morocco in North Africa. Awards and decorations include: The Air Force Commendation Medal: American Campaign Medal, World War II Victory Medal, Army of Occupation Medal (Germany), National Defense Service Medal, Air Force Longevity Award with 4 bronze Oak Leaf Clusters, Medal for Humane Action Women's Army Corps Service Medal, The Berlin Airlift Device, The U S Treasury Department Service Award and the National Red Cross Appreciation Award.

While on active duty she completed her education and earned a B. A. Degree at Mississippi Southern University.

INDUCTION INTO THE ARIZONA VETERANS HALL OF FAME

Arizona Veterans Hall of Fame was recently established by Unified Arizona Veterans on behalf of the Office of the Governor and the Arizona Department of Veterans' Services to honor Arizona veterans for their military service and their accomplishments throughout their lifetime. The inaugural induction ceremony, held on May 30, 2001, recognized 26 Medal of Honor recipients with Arizona ties, and 24 other distinguished Arizona veterans. Among the inductees to the Arizona Veterans Hall of Fame were a former Arizona House Majority Leader Burton S. Barr, former Arizona's U.S. Senator Barry M. Goldwater, former U.S. Senator, Governor, and Justice of the Arizona Supreme Court William McFarland, former U.S. House of Representatives Minority Leader John J. Rhodes, and our Anne Krizanauskas. We, in the Lithuanian American Community of Arizona, celebrated Anne Krizanauskas and her achievements by cheering her induction and by presenting her with a traditional Lithuanian sash. Present at the ceremonies were Kestutis and Siga Eidukonis, Antonija Petrulie, Vytautas and Rima Reklaitis, Nora Burba Trulsson, and Rimantas and Aldona Vaitkus.

Since retirement she has been active in various veterans' affairs. Anne is active in the NAC Veterans Association, The Retired Officers Association, and the Tempe Sister City Corporation. She was also an original sponsor of a Vietnamese Boat People family in Tempe in 1979. Anne is also a member of the Lithuanian American Community of Arizona.

Editor's note's:

Anne has never forgotten her Pennsylvania roots and has joined others by actively working to keep St. George Lithuanian Church in Shenandoah from the same fate that so many Lithuanian parishes have succumbed to or are facing today.

Major Anne Krizanauskas, USAF (Ret.) deserves our gratitude for a job well done.

Sources: Major Anne Krizanauskas (Ret) and Arizona Chapter of the Lithuanian American Community.

A Mission Accomplished and a Promise Kept

Angela Puodziunas and her husband John are just two of the very strong heartbeats that keep St. Andrew Lithuanian parish in Philadelphia strong. They are in the church, hall and rectory every Sunday doing what needs to be done without complaint.



Angela proudly displays her ornaments on the Christmas Tree in St. Andrew's rectory.

But Angela has a special talent and gift, one she did not know she had. In fact, she worked at it and developed it out of necessity. That necessity was to help Father Peter Burkauskas have a Christmas tree decorated with Lithuanian straw ornaments in the rectory.

Angela knew that Lithuanian traditions were often reflected in ornaments. In Lithuania these intricate ornaments were made from real wheat or rye straw called *siaudinukai* and the designs were based on centuries-old folk art motifs. They were used not only at Christmas time but also for weddings and other holidays.

With the Lithuanians immigrating to the United States after the war, they began to introduce them here at international Christmas tree exhibitions in Chicago, Washington, DC and other cities, where these decorations highlighted the Lithuanian trees that stood out from other nationalities.

In Angela's words this is how her gift was born: For many years I have seen these ornaments, during Christmas craft shows "Mugė", they were made from real straw or paper or white plastic straws sippers. At that time Father Peter Burkauskas served as Administrator at St. Andrew's Lithuanian Church in Philadelphia. He is currently the Pastor of St. Casimir and St. Andrew parishes. Father Burkauskas, a third generation Lithuanian, has very deep feelings for Lithuanian traditions and one of his wishes was to have a Christmas tree dec-

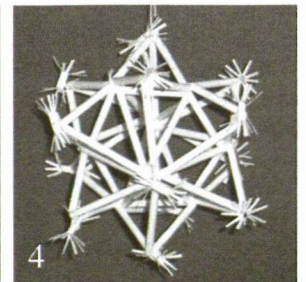
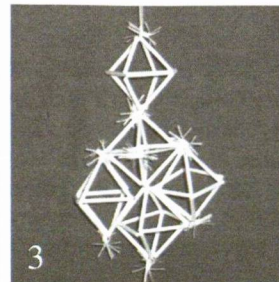
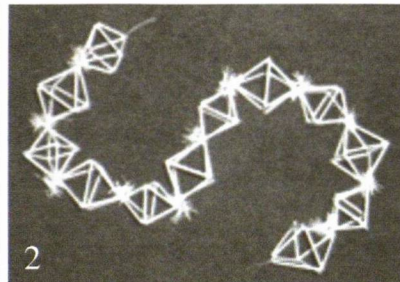
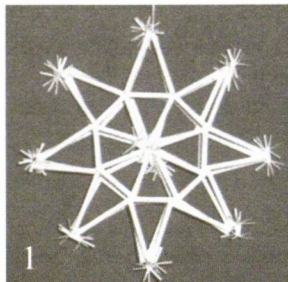
orated with Lithuanian ornaments at the parish rectory. I promised him the tree would be decorated with Lithuanian ornaments.

It sounded like an enormous project because the tree was always around 14 feet in height and it was difficult to know how many I would need to make. My very first attempt to make one, I tried to read instructions from a magazine, but had no success and the results were very discouraging. A parishioner, Snieguole Jurskyte, gave me few samples and that's how I started in February of 1998.

I decided to make the snowflakes, stars, carousels and angels with plastic cocktail sipping straws, not real straw. Sturdier than the original decorations they would last for years. It wasn't easy to make the decorations and tie them tightly, with string, as I pushed away quiet feelings of panic. Could I deliver on my promise?

But I persevered; fitting together tiny straws during the morning commute on the Frankford EL to my job at a Center City insurance company or staying up after my husband had gone to bed to finish a particularly challenging design.

I eventually filled a cardboard box with the ornaments. Gaining confidence and speed, I filled a second carton with my creations, and then a third. Winter passed, then spring, and still I worked; snipping, stitching, and slipping more decorations into their boxes.



My grown children teased me about all the effort I put into diminishing the inventory. They became accustomed to finding little bits of white plastic everywhere in the house. My husband grumbled, good-naturedly, about losing sleep while I worked late. I figured I spent about 20 hours a week making the ornaments - roughly 900 hours in all. But I was on a mission and I couldn't stop until the mission was accomplished.

By October of the same year I had made 250 ornaments and used almost 10,000 white plastic straws.

The 1998 Christmas Eve tree at the parish rectory was decorated with the ornaments I had made and it stood waiting to be blessed by Fr. Burkauskas. The white lights were lit after 12 o'clock Midnight Holy Mass (we still have this Christmas night Mass which is another of our pastor's preserving Lithuanian traditions).

I was at home, and getting ready for Kūcios and waiting for my family to arrive in the evening.

It was a snowy and icy afternoon when Father Burkauskas called me asking

me to come to the parish rectory for an interview with a correspondent and photographer from "The Philadelphia Inquirer" daily newspaper. After asking many questions and details involved in making these ornaments and the meaning of the traditions related with them, the interview ended and the correspondent and the photographer left. The next morning, Christmas Day, much to my surprise, the pictures including one of the ornaments, as well as the entire interview, was on the front page of the newspaper.

This type of recognition by the American public, which also included my former employer meant so much to me. I felt very honored. My former employer had the pictures and articles matted and framed and kept in the main reception area of the office for six months. He later gave it to me to take home and it is now hanging in St. Andrew's parish hall.

Since then I have been participating in Lithuanian craft demonstrations in Philadelphia, Canada, Washington, DC and Baltimore. I have also made ornaments made from real straw and

my newest ornaments are made from amber beads.

This is my contribution to preserving one of our many beloved Lithuanian traditions for all ages and for future generations here in America.

The straw ornaments may be purchased for \$7 each including postage. If interested in ordering these traditional ornaments as your Christmas decorations or gifts, or if you have any questions, please contact Angela at:

angelep@verizon.net

or write to:

**Angela Puodziunas
3313 Kayford Circle
Philadelphia, PA 19114**

*Author: Angela Puodziunas as told to
Jeanne Dorr*

The actual size of the displayed ornaments are:

1. Star, actual size is 6 inches in height.
2. Galleon, actual size is 24 inches in length.
3. Bell, actual size is 6 inches in height.
4. Snowflake, actual size is 5 inches in height.

Ornament photos: Vyta Bagnonavicius

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LITHUANIAN AMERICAN NEWS JOURNAL

My Memories of ARGENTINA

I made several trips abroad, over the years, visiting Soviet-occupied Lithuania and, again, after the nation regained its independence; but my visit to Argentina in 1978, to visit my other relatives, left me with lasting impressions which I still remember today.



My mother is on the right. She is the oldest in the family. Apolonija, on the left, Alfonsas is in the center, the youngest in the family. He emigrated to Argentina and died there in 1978.

I went to Lithuania alone the previous two years as my wife passed away several years before. The only way to see Lithuania during the Soviet period was to be with a tourist group. My widowed mother lived with me, and she felt, that since I saw my relatives in Lithuania, I should also visit my other relatives in Argentina. She had corresponded with them for many years, and continued to write to them. They were most anxious to meet me, especially my mother's brother, Alfonsas. Even though I knew only a few words in Spanish, I thought this would not pose any problem. Boy, was I surprised!

"You have relatives in Argentina?" Some of my friends asked me that question as they raised their eyebrows in surprise when I told them that I did have relatives there. I would like to turn back the pages of time to the years following the end of the First World War, and the effects it had on the Lithuanian people. This will show how it came to pass that I had relatives in Argentina.

The Lithuanian landscape was scarred by the fighting between the German and Russian armies. The Germans occupied practically all of Lithuania, and took just about all they could; taking plows, tools, lumber, and carting away all the livestock and seeds they could get their hands on before leaving. There was little left for the Lithuanian people to start a new life within the postwar period.

Diplomatic and commercial representatives from Argentina, Brazil, and Uruguay came to Lithuania to invite people to

work and live there, and their passage would be taken care of by them. The Lithuanian government encouraged people to emigrate to those countries.

My parents tried to have our relatives come to the United States, but were unable to do so. The Americans were having economic problems of their own after the war, converting to a peacetime economy, and being faced with a high unemployment rate. The very restrictive immigration laws made it very difficult for new immigrants to come here.

According to the Lithuanian Bureau of Statistics, 16,658 Lithuanians left for Argentina between 1923 and 1939, with the largest Lithuanian communities residing in the Buenos Aires area. Among them, on my mother's side, were her brother Alfonsas K. Licius, his wife and two daughters. On my father's side, were three members of the Laskauskas family, his step-sisters Teofile and Emelia, and step-brother Juozas, all of whom were not married. The only surviving member of the family when I arrived there was my Aunt Emelia.

In making plans for the trip, the question that came to my mind was when to go. My relatives told me that the best time would be during their winter season, July and August. The temperature at night in Buenos Aires would go down to about 40 degrees Fahrenheit, and would go up to about 55 degrees during the day. They never had any snow or freezing rain. The hottest time would be between December 15 to February 15, so they told me, when Buenos Aires, especially on weekends, would be like a deserted city, with most people heading for the beaches.

Upon my arrival, I was greeted at the airport by my widowed Aunt Emelia and her daughter-in-law Norma, a school teacher. Even though we had never met before, they recognized me because they had my picture. I was able to make arrangements for a rented car, for I knew beforehand that none of my relatives had an automobile of their own. Without one, I would not have been able to get around. Of course, wherever I went, my aunt was by my side and was my guide.

Most of the time I stayed at my aunt's house, sharing it with her son Jose and Norma. Their two sons, Diego and Pablo, were at the home of Norma's parents. I was treated to a small room with a cot to sleep on, and there was a portable electric heater nearby to take the chill out of the air, in case of need.

Her house was a short walk to a three-story building where a sign on the outside read "Centro Lituano", and upon entering, another sign over the hall's entrance doors said "Argentinos Lietuviu Centras", founded on October 10, 1926 (Isteigtas Spalio 10, 1926). Inside, there was a large kitchen, dining hall, and an auditorium for dancing. Here I had the pleasure of meeting a lot of very friendly Argentine-Lithuanians. I have to give those early Lithuanian immigrants a lot of credit for keeping alive their roots and heritage. Another center

was the *Argentinos Lietuviu Centras*, located in another part of the city.

Nearby was the residence of the editor of “*Argentinos Lietuviu Balsas*”, Pranas Ofinskas, the Lithuanian language newspaper of Argentina, which, incidentally, was published only once a month. He subscribed to a Lithuanian-language newspaper published in the United States, and after looking it over, he published the high points of the news in his newspaper.



*My aunt Emelija and me,
Buenos Aires, Argentina, 1978*

During visits to my other relatives who lived on the outer fringes of Buenos Aires, I stayed with them for a few days.

My knowledge of Spanish was very limited, to say the very least. To my surprise, no one I met spoke English. I conversed with my aunt in Lithuanian, and she, in turn, summed up our conversation into Spanish for the others. I was somewhat surprised when Jose spoke to his mother (my aunt) in Spanish, for he knew very little Lithuanian. His wife was of Italian parentage. I learned that the numbers of Italians living in Argentina far exceeded those of other ethnic groups.

I was shocked and saddened to learn that Uncle Alfonsas had passed away about a month or so before my arrival, at age 82. His family told me there was not enough time to write and give me the bad news. I was able to spend a few days with his daughters, Gene and Vanda, their families and my uncle's widow. There was no language problem as we all spoke Lithuanian.

I visited the Lithuanian parish “*Ausros Vartu Parapija*” (Gates of Dawn), which was being served by the Marian Fathers at that time. It was located on the other side of Buenos Aires from where I was staying. I was impressed by the beauty of the church's interior and its altars.

The morning came when I asked Aunt Emilia if we could go to the cemetery and pay our respects to her husband, brother and sister, who had passed away years ago. But first, she wanted to explain the custom of burying the deceased, which I never heard of before, and which I thought to be rather strange.

Argentina is the ninth largest country in the world, in size, and one-third of its population lives in Buenos Aires. With the population of Buenos Aires increasing, it became evident to city officials that land is very valuable, and it should be used for the living, and not for the dead. This is what Aunt Emelia told me.

A person who dies must be buried the next day. This was the rule, not only in Buenos Aires, but also in other provinces as well.

A year after my aunt's husband was buried, her son Jose was requested to come to the cemetery at 6 o'clock in the morning to witness the digging up of the grave. If any flesh was found on any bones of the deceased, then the grave was covered up again, and a family member had to come back after a certain period of time to witness the same procedure. My aunt did not say when that would be.

If the examination was satisfactory to the cemetery workers, then the remains had to be removed completely.

The grave, now being vacated, would be used over again for another decedent. This left the family with two options. One was to have the remains cremated and put in a metal box, or to have the bones, also put in a metal box. In either case the remains would be put in place in a special wall elsewhere on the cemetery grounds. My aunt chose the latter. An annual fee had to be paid, you might say, something like a charge for a safety deposit box. If this was not paid, then the box would be emptied, and the remains cremated and buried. This left an empty box for the next occupant.

If no family member came to witness the digging up of the grave, then the remains would be cremated and buried in a common grave elsewhere.

One afternoon, my aunt, her daughter-in-law and her sister, and I went to one of the several cemeteries in Buenos Aires to see where the remains of our dear ones were stored. This one was in the city of Lomas de Zamora. The structure was one long wall on one side, perhaps about the length of a city block, and maybe 20 feet high, of metal boxes, but the opposite side had no wall at all. The roof was extended out far enough to protect the boxes from the elements. I was told that this building was made in this manner to allow air to circulate. High up on the wall we found the one with the name of her husband, Zvinys. We moved the tall, special ladder, which was available, in order to reach his box. There was a receptacle on it for placing flowers.

Next we went to the box that contained the remains of my aunt's sister Teofile L. de Litvinskas, (her married name). She passed away in 1966. In the same box were the remains of her brother Jose (Juozas) Laskauskas who died in 1952. We had no problem in reaching it, as it was the second one up from the floor. This time it was I who placed some flowers in the special receptacle on the box.

We made a tour of the rest of the cemetery, and I was surprised to see mausoleums and statues over many graves. I was told that only the wealthy could afford to buy such expensive plots.

Continued on page 13



Influenza

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, influenza (the flu) causes an average of 36,000 deaths

in the United States yearly; mostly among the elderly. The flu is a contagious disease caused by the influenza virus. It spreads through coughing and sneezing. It usually comes on suddenly and may cause fever, headache, cough, sore throat, chills and muscle aches. Most people feel better in 1-2 weeks but complications such as pneumonia, can occur.

A yearly flu vaccine can prevent much of the discomfort caused by the flu. It may not prevent all cases, but those who do get the flu should have much milder symptoms.

The best time to get the vaccine is October-December. The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices recommends that the following people be vaccinated:

- * Ages 50 or older.
- * All infants and children ages 6-23 months.

- * Anyone 2-64 years of age with underlying medical conditions.
- * Pregnant women.
- * Children and adolescents ages 6 months-18 years who are receiving long-term aspirin therapy.
- * Health care workers with direct, face-to-face patient contact.
- * All household members and caregivers of people in high-risk groups.
- * Residents and staff of nursing homes and long-term care facilities.

Make plans and schedule your flu shot today!

Pharmacist Renata Kucas BA,BS,Rph.. has 24 years experience. She currently works at the nation's first hospital, Pennsylvania Hospital, located in center city Philadelphia. She will address current topics and at times make suggestions for improving your own approach to managing medications or addressing your personal health-care concerns.

Janina Degutyte

POEZIJA/POEMS

*Selected and translated by M. G. Slavenas
Lithuanian Writers' Union Publishers
Vilnius, Lithuania
ISBN 9986 39 29 7, 294 page*

This book is a beautifully produced bilingual edition of selected poems by Janina Degutyte, one of Lithuania's finest lyric poets during the half-century of Lithuania's occupation by the Soviet Union, and has already received literary acclaim for the fine translation which makes this poetry available to English-speaking readers. In her quiet voice, Degutyte succeeded in intertwining her own personal sorrows with the historic tragedies of her country into poetry which spoke directly to the hearts of her audience and made her the beloved poet she was.

Ian Seeth, the reviewer of this book for the British poetry magazine "New Hope International" on line, ends with the following words:

By her honesty, understanding and the sheer beauty of her lyrics, her work in the end affirms and offers hope. If you are in any way interested in post-war central European

poetry or would just like to read poetry which really has something to say, then get hold of a copy of this book.

The book offers an introduction by Prof. R. Silbajoris and extensive comments by the translator. The English translations come with the Lithuanian original.

You can order it for Christmas for \$15.00 by emailing the translator at:

slavenmg@bscmail.buffalostate.edu

or write to:

**SlavenMG
PO Box 363
Deerfield, Illinois 60015**

You can also write to:

**Lithuanian Writers' Union Publishers
Sirvydo 5
Vilnius**

Or E-mail: **vadovas@rsleidykla.lt**

Marija Gražina Slavenas is an educator, translator and researcher and has published in English, German and Lithuanian. Her translations of Degutyte and other Lithuanian women poets have appeared in poetry journals and in several anthologies.

For "November Fog" see page 15.

Aurelija Borgess

Cape Cod Lithuanian Get Together

One sunny Sunday in June a group of enthusiastic young Lithuanians now called the “third wave” – (treciabangiai), decided to invite young and old Lithuanian Cape Codders to a fun afternoon in Brewster. The main attraction was “cepelinai”, potato balls with ground meat interiors that are often considered the Lithuanian national dish.

Lithuanian American Community Cape Cod Chapter committee member, Deimante Vilcinskaite was the one responsible for organizing this event. Her helpers were students who are in the USA with work visas. Kristina and Dalius need to be singled out



Continued from page 11
My Memories of ARGENTINA

Aunt Emilia's son died in a train accident a few years after I returned home and she told me that his young widow married again. I wanted to help her so much, financially, but she told me that every letter from the United States would be opened by postal employees in search of money, and then resealed. It was a no-win situation. When my aunt, who now in her 80s, stopped writing, I assumed that she probably had passed away.

I also lost contact with my Uncle Alfonsas' two daughters. Since his widow was about the same age as he was, I had to assume she moved on. Once again I had the same communication problem with all of my relatives in Argentina, as I didn't know Spanish and they didn't know English. My uncle's daughters had very little, if any, expertise in writing Lithuanian.

Now, decades later, I often think of what became of them. The economy of Argentina, at that time, was not good because of the high inflation rate, which was 176 percent, and was still climbing. The country was ruled by military leaders who, evidently, did not know how to handle the economy.

That trip in 1978 was both an emotional and educational one for me. My big disappointment was that I was not able to see the beautiful sights of Buenos Aires.

Edward Baranauskas

Edward Baranauskas lives in Vilnius and is a frequent contributor to Bridges.

as chief chefs and cooks.... They, with the help of others, diligently peeled sacks of potatoes, grated and strained them, made a delicious ground meat center, and a super bacon and sour cream sauce. There was not enough time to shape the “cepelinai”, so when

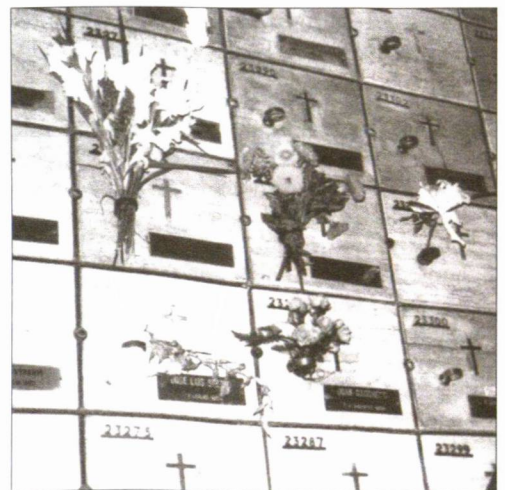


Kristina, Dalius and Deimantė keep watch over the cepelinai

older members arrived some ladies pitched in and helped in making more than 100 “cepelinai.” Several huge pots were needed to boil them. All present stood patiently in line for the culinary delight. Much praise was lavished upon the young doers and many stood in line again for seconds and even thirds. Other good food offerings were available as well, but the most appreciated dessert was the Napoleon torte, which all Lithuanians love.

After satisfying appetites, there was singing, dancing and games. A video was shown about Vilnius, the capital, and there was opportunity to chat with old friends and make new ones. Applause, applause for a friendly get together, a mingling of young and older Lithuanians. May there be more like it on Cape Cod!

Aurelija Borgess



Buenos Aires, Argentina 1978. The final resting place of my aunt's husband Zvinys. His flowers are between the white colored ones.

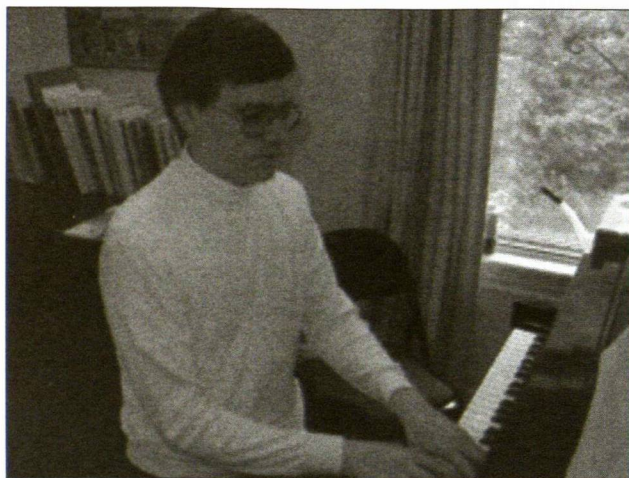


Photo of Vytas is from Rivers School of Music in Weston, Massachusetts.

Photo: Tiffany Thompson

On Saturday afternoon, August 20, 2005, the Family Concert program in Ozawa Hall at the Tanglewood Music Festival featured a composition entitled Goulash Mélange by pianist Vytas J. Bakšys. The composition, a piano arrangement for four hands, was performed by Bakšys and his colleague Randall Hodgkinson. This is the first performance at Tanglewood of the work, commissioned by and dedicated to the Boston Secession, Jane Ring Frank, Artistic Director, and premiered in November 2002. Goulash Mélange is the second commission Bakšys completed for Boston Secession, one of America's premier contemporary music ensembles. The occasion was a program with the theme "The Third 'B': Johannes Brahms, Past and Future" in which carefully selected pieces of music ranging from Hassler and Bach to Schönberg and Schickele illustrate the inspirational thread that is tied to Brahms, before, during, and after his lifetime.

Bakšys is celebrating his 17th season at Tanglewood, the summer home of the Boston Symphony Orchestra. Since 1989, Bakšys has served as faculty pianist with the Fellowship Conducting Program. He had also collaborated for five years with the Conducting Program at Yale School of Music. In addition to his position as orchestral keyboardist with the Boston Symphony Orchestra as well as the Boston Pops, Bakšys is active in various contemporary ensembles such as Boston Secession, Boston Symphony Chamber Players, Boston Musica Viva, Concord Chamber Players, and Boston Artists Ensemble, promoting contemporary music and pioneering new works. His extensive performance career of approximately 150 concerts annually has taken him to many countries, and he has participated in recordings produced by major labels. He has composed and arranged over thirty pieces.

Vytas J. Bakšys

PIANIST

Vytas Bakšys is the son of Viktoras and Sofija Bakšys, who immigrated to the United States from Lithuania in 1949. He entered the New England Conservatory Preparatory School at the age of five and earned his Bachelor's degree with Distinction from the New England Conservatory of Music where he was also elected to Phi Kappa Lambda. He then went on to receive a Master of Music with High Honors in performance from SUNY at Stony Brook and a Doctor of Musical Arts in 1991. His mentors were A. Ramón Rivera, Victor Rosenbaum and Gilbert Kalish. Other studies included cello, composition, theory, harpsichord, organ, chorus, percussion, orchestra and theater. While a student, he spent summers at Kinhaven Music School in Vermont and the Eastern Music Festival, North Carolina.



Photo is a "video grab" from a souvenir DVD from a concert in Taiwan, the violinist is Chao-Hsiu Lee.

Bakšys lives in Massachusetts with his wife, Sandra Nortier, a violist. Their daughter Emilija attends the Boston Lithuanian School, is active in Lithuanian Girl Scouts, and performs with Marimba Magic, an exciting ensemble for children at the Rivers School of Music in Weston, Massachusetts.

Milda B. Richardson

Roads and Crossroads

Roads and Crossroads,
Poetry by Bernardas Brazdžionis.
Chicago: Vydunas Fund, 2002.

This collection of poems by Bernardas Brazdžionis in English translation encompasses the main themes of his renowned oeuvre: religiosity, nature, homeland, love, death, poetry or creativity, and the journey, which branches out to commentaries on ideals such as truth, freedom, and friendship. The central experience of war and exile ("At the Great crossroad," "The Great Waters," "Freedom's Obelisk," for example) is flanked by exquisite patriotic lyrics ("Northern Light," "The Land of My Ancestors"); by philosophical, prophetic early poems, like "Destiny" (1929) on one side and delightful nature lyrics, like "Sea and Wind" (c. 1985), on the other. Yet within the diversity of these selected poems and the variety of tone, mood, and perspective, the connecting threads are evidently faith and religiosity, as they are in the original collections: The Collected Poems ("Poezijos Pilnatis," Los Angeles 1970), Under the High Arches ("Po aukštisiais skliautais," Los Angeles 1989), and On This Side and the Other of our Time ("Siapus ir anapus mūsų laiko," Vilnius 1997). Numerous poems concerning pilgrimage, Christ, and saints in the Christian tradition render orthodox faith an abundant, vital spiritual sustenance, which in turn pervades other subject matter in Brazdžionis' poems. Faith and religiosity thus assume a broader meaning (by way of reader response if not the poet's intention) of perfection in humanity and nature that is by no means continuous in our experience, but attainable and perceptible enough to sustain belief in a higher power. Take "The Blind One" ("Aklasis," 1944) and "Sand and Years" ("Smiltys ir Metai," 1943), for example.

The Blind One

When after heat the earth's assailed by cloudbursts,
When angry lightning strikes against muse walls
God, You are the shelter of the fragile violet,
And Your hands, God, are here protecting us.

Review:

Roads and Crossroads

When darkness cloaks the earth's connection highways
And when all expectations dash against.
The reefs of death, skeletons sing hymns to You.
You, only, in that darkness are alight.

The smallest blade of meadow grass perceives You,
The highest arch of sky is filled with You,
For You the earth turned, the sun shone, the stars burned;
You were not noticed, God, only by man.

Translated by Aušra Kubilius

Sand and Years

Lord, through Your fingers time runs like sand,
Through Your fingers, Lord, it flows like water,
And like a child gathering blossoms, I gather its leavings,
And I search for rivers before they submerge into autumn.

White sand will run ceaselessly, and stars will blaze and fall,
But I'll be content with those leavings of cold light
Because You decorated them with the day's miraculous
blossoms, And You, my Lord, are the evening's light.

Your rivers will flow ceaselessly like our years,
But for me the current's song and cold raindrops will suffice,
For in the flood of death, You are Ararat's summit,
And You, my Lord, are the eternal deep.

Translated by Algirdas Žolynas

These two translations demonstrate the idiomatic English, precise diction, and authenticity achieved by the collective of translators (Jūra Avižienis, Živilė Gimbutas, Demie Jonaitis, Aušra Kubilius, Auksuolė Rubaviciūtė, Birutė Putrius Serota and Algirdas Žolynas). Occasional rendition of rhythm and meter, as in "The Blind One," further celebrates the Bard, or Singer, among Lithuanian poets. Well done.

At \$10/paperback and
\$15/hardcover (plus \$3 for shipping),
this book is a great value.

Order while available from:

Vydunas Fund or
The Lithuanian Scouts Association
c/o Gediminas Leskys,
8240 Melba Ave.,
West Hills, CA 91304

(R.G.)

November fog, November fog.

Cutting fog of November streets...
...This world was not for you.
Only now have I begun to understand
how helpless you were.
Your only escape was to run
from yourself. But we can't
run from ourselves. Sorrow
and fears flowed in your veins.
How did you bestow on me a poetry
you knew absolutely nothing about?
Why was nobody nobody there
to wake you up?
Forgive me.

*By Janina Degutyte
Translated by M. G. Slavenas*

Oaks are venerated trees in Lithuania. From cradle to coffin, the oak provided for the needs of Lithuanians. Planted around homesteads, they protected the farm from winds and storms and marked borders between neighbors. Planted in a town square, the oak served as a monument. Planted in foreign soil, it marked that Lithuanians are here.

So, stepping onto the campus of the University of Washington in Seattle today, a visitor would be surprised to know that among the neo-gothic and modern architecture and groves of mature trees, once stood or may still stand a Lithuanian oak. This was certainly the reaction when a visiting journalist from Lithuania before WWII wrote about an oak being planted at the University of Washington in 1932. The story was printed in "Pasaulio Lietuvis" (World Lithuanian) then published in Kaunas. In Chicago, the Margutis Lithuanian language radio program also broadcasted this story, but soon it was forgotten.

With time, those Seattle Lithuanians who participated in this occasion died or moved away. Thirty years later, as more and more people of Lithuanian ancestry came to live in Seattle, nothing was known about this oak or much about these earlier Lithuanians. The only clues they left behind are the many Lithuanian language books found on the shelves of the Seattle Public Library. Inside the covers, the books are stamped with the words, "DLK GEDIMINO DRAUGISTE". (Society of the Great Lithuanian Grand Duke Gediminas). Most of these books were published in the early decades of the 1900's.

Recently, the Lithuanian oak story resurfaced once again when Chicago journalist Petras Petrutis commented in "Draugas" about this interesting story found in the archives. How surprising to think that in faraway Seattle, in the 1930's there were enough prominent Lithuanians who left a legacy at the University of Washington by planting a Lithuanian oak. Who were these Seattle Lithuanians? What happened to this Lithuanian oak they planted?

The answers to these questions are still being researched and information is being sought from anyone who might have a piece of the puzzle to share with us. Among the artifacts we have of the Lithuanian oak planting is a photograph from 1932.

In that year, the University of Washington desired to commemorate the 200th year anniversary of the birth of



Hopefully someone will be able to help better identify these people.

From left to the right: Judge Kazis Kay, three unidentified women, and Stephen Eringis.

*This photo is the property of MSCUA, Washington Libraries, Photo Coll 700

America's first president, George Washington, for whom this state was named and in whose honor, in 1909, the university had erected a statue which still stands at the western periphery of the UW campus. In those early decades of the century, it was customary to celebrate George Washington's birthday on campus each year.

A special event was planned for the occasion of the bicentennial celebration. The Danish consul, Hon. Henning Plaun suggested a tree planting ceremony by the Consular corps of 1932 to commemorate this celebration. The archives of the University's beloved Professor Meany reveal many letters between him and the Consular corps working on the celebration and the effort that was made to find appropriate trees to represent the national tree of each participating consul: an oak for Latvia, a birch for Norway and Finland, a fir for Sweden, a beech for Denmark, and a white birch for Russia. On February 22nd, seventy-three years ago, in addition to the Lithuanian oak planted that day, thirty-four other trees were planted in a place on campus that became known as the International or Consular grove. Today, whatever remains of this original grove on campus is part of the Grieg Garden where the bust of the Norwegian composer Edvard Grieg commemorates Seattle's connection to its sister city Bergen, Norway.

The question of the Lithuanian oak still remains a mystery. Is it still on campus or did it fall victim to the trees that were cleared when the Allen Library was being built on campus?

Baltic Association to the UN

Through the initiative of BATUN (Baltic Association to the UN) an extensive collection of Baltic folk art was exhibited at the Public Library in Tarrytown, New York. By popular demand, the exhibit was extended for a two month period of July and August.

Submitted by: Laurynas R. Misevicius

Left to right Giedre, Stankunas (Lith. American Community Executive Committee), Baiba Pinnis (Latvian, initiator of the exhibit) and Epp Vinkman (Estonian rep., and BATUN Board member). Missing in photo is Saulius Geniusas (Lithuanian on the teaching staff of the New School University) who also helped with this exhibit.



Was the tree really an oak from Lithuania or just another oak that would represent Lithuania? A letter sent from Seattle to the Lithuanian Embassy in Washington DC requesting an oak sapling from the oak tree brought from Lithuania suggests that an attempt to plant a real Lithuanian oak was made. Unfortunately, there is no reply from the Embassy in the UW Archives to answer one way or another.

The photograph of the Lithuanian representatives planting the tree is unique in the archives among the other photos commemorating this event. It is the only picture showing more than one person in attendance and the only one revealing the name of the country as seen on the sash worn by one of the young women. The Archives reveal that in 1932, in contrast to Latvia with its consul, Hon. Hans Cron, Seattle had no honorary Lithuanian consul. Instead, a Lithuanian American, Stephen Eringis, approached the University to represent Lithuania in the planting ceremony. Eringis was a graduate student in the school of education working on a master's degree. In a letter written by Eringis in 1931, he asked Lithuania's Foreign Ministry in Kaunas to give him a special commission to participate in these ceremonies. There was no reply. Then by agreement with the dean of the Consular corps in Seattle, Eringis, as a private citizen was given permission to participate in the Consul's event.

Other letters reveal that three national Lithuanian societies existed in Seattle. No names are mentioned except that of the DLK Gediminas Society which had already been in existence for 27 years in Seattle. B.G. Sitko, a trustee and charter member of this society suggested that Judge Kazis Kay Krauczunas, a superior court judge in Seattle take the place of Eringis. Two days before the event, the society approved Eringis' participation. The picture which is not labeled in the Archives, then can be identified as showing Judge Kay, three unidentified women, and Stephen Eringis. It's possible to surmise that the three women could be the three daughters of Judge Kay. Their names would then be Agle Reedy, Julia Duncan and Alice Hilling, after their married last names. Judge Kay passed away six years later in 1938. Not much is

known about Stephen Eringis except that he went from Seattle to live in Baltimore, Maryland in 1947, and died there in 1963, at the age of 75. Much less is known about Mr. B.G. Sitko and DLK Gedimino Draugiste outside of the few intriguing clues mentioned earlier.

If anyone knows more about this society or the people mentioned in this article, please contact me at iblekys@windermere.com. It would be extremely important to let us know so we could create a fuller picture of Lithuanian society before WWII and learn about their contributions in Seattle life.

In some way, there is a fascinating symmetry to learn that 73 years ago, Lithuanians had created a presence at the University of Washington by planting an oak tree as monument to Lithuanian culture. Today, Lithuanians are once again building a monument to Lithuanian culture and language by endowing the Baltic Studies Program at the University of Washington. A tree may be cut when there is no one to save it. This time we are working slowly but surely to establish a permanent presence in the Scandinavian Studies Department at the University of Washington to stand as proudly as those trees once stood together on campus.

I want to thank Guntis Smidchens, Sr. Lecturer in Baltic Studies program in the Scandinavian Studies Department and Bill Talley, UW landscape architect for their help in researching the UW Archives, trying to find and piece together the story of the 1932 Lithuanian oak planted at the University of Washington.

The article appeared in the May 2005 issue of "Tulpe Times". Courtesy of "Tulpe Times" Newsletter of the Washington State Chapter of the Lithuanian American Community.

Irena Blekys

The author is a former president of the Lithuanian American Community, Washington State Chapter, and currently serves as a member of its Board. She is also on the Advisory Board of the Scandinavian Studies Department of the University of Washington.

LITHUANIAN AMERICAN COMMUNITY, Inc. CLEVELAND CHAPTER

The Lithuanian American Community Inc. of the USA promotes close ties with its chapters.

A youthful and enthusiastic National Executive Committee of the Lithuanian American Community Inc. headed by President Vaiva Vebraite- Vebra, advisor to Lithuanian President Adamkus, held its committee meeting in Cleveland, Ohio Aug 20-21, 2005 as part of its ongoing effort to maintain close ties with and receive input from its chapters.

Members flew in from Lithuania, New England, Chicago, and Washington D.C. They met with Cleveland chapter president Algis Gudenas, Executive V.P. Dr. V. Stankus, and vice presidents, Valerija Adomaviciene Vida Bucmiene and Dr. Kristina Phillips at the Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Lithuanian Parish facilities. During the meeting and presentation, it became apparent how deeply committed the executive committee is in promoting its goals and the welfare of Lithuanians in America and Lithuania.

Its youngest member, Arunas Karalis, president of the American Lithuanian Youth Association, related how he is recruiting new members by traveling to the major U.S. cities to promote the Youth Association and the upcoming World Lithuanian Youth Association Congress in Toronto on June 23-25, and the subsequent Lithuanian folk dance festival in Chicago July 02, 2006, and how to raise the finances and select the voting delegates to the Congress and the need to update the by-laws of the association.

Laurynas Misevicius, vice president of sports related how the Lithuanian American men's basketball won first place at the 7th Lithuanian World Games in Vilnius this summer. He played for the Lithuanian Americans as did Arunas. Laurynas believes such sports events give Lithuanian youth a way of maintaining their Lithuanian identity because half of the American team were American born, the other half, the new immigrants.



LAC Meeting Aug. 20, 2005 at Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Cleveland, Ohio

President Vaiva Vebraite raised the concern why most of the approximately 300,000 Lithuanians that left Lithuania for perceived better wages, are not returning. In the USA i.e. the worker pays some 17% to the government from his wages, on return to Lithuania he is forced to pay an additional 13% thus paying 30% from his, her wages. Most people thus do not return, viewing this as double taxation and if they entered the U.S. illegally are afraid also to return for they would not be able to re-enter the U.S.

Gabrielius Zemkalis of the Lithuanian World Community has asked president Vebraite that the National Executive Committee of the Lithuanian American Community write to the Lithuanian government to negate double taxation, regulate entry in to and from the USA, so people would return to Lithuania. Its members agreed to do so.

Stasys Backaitis, Ph. D. vice president of academic affairs stated that the Lithuanian Government is seeking guidance what Lithuanian programs/existing or in the process of being established at American universities, to fund. The committee agreed with him to supply the Lithuanian Government with the information about the programs i.e. at Illinois Circle in the Chicago area, Kent State by Cleveland, Seattle etc, in order to preserve Lithuanian heritage and studies in the U.S. In general, the committee

agreed on the need to fund the preservation of the archives of Lithuanian culture.

Other topics regarding the reorganization of the Social Services Council, preparation for the upcoming LAC national board of director's session and other timely topics received worthy consideration from committee members Laima Karosiene V.P. Resources, Sigita Simkuviene-Rosen V.P. Youth Affairs, Elona Vaisniene V.P. Community Development, Juozas Polikaitis V. P. Social Services Council.

The Executive Committee further demonstrated its interest in the Cleveland Lithuanian Community by attending a fund-raiser of the Lithuanian Cultural Garden Society that is restoring the statues of Kudirka and Maironis in its Cultural Garden, a part of a unique system of nationality gardens in Cleveland, and unique in the USA.

And on Sunday 8-21-05, after Lithuanian Mass at Our Lady of Perpetual Help the committee members acquainted the assembled parishioners with their respective duties and the tasks of the committee, in general, and answered any and all question regarding the work of the Lithuanian American Community.

Dr. Viktoras Stankus

Jeanne Dorr

News and Views

Government blesses shift to euro, no endorsement of parliament needed.

The government voted on Tuesday to approve a plan to introduce the euro. The scheme contains major principles, a timetable, and the procedures for the shift to the new currency.

The plan will need to be endorsed by the Bank of Lithuania. Later, it will be sent to the Seimas (Lithuanian parliament), but it will not be necessary for the parliament to vote on it, the Lithuanian Ministry of Finance announced in a statement released on Tuesday. The same procedure should take place for the government-approved strategy meant to ensure that the Lithuanian people are informed properly and timely about the shift from the litas to the euro.

The plan sets the date for the introduction of the euro for January 1, 2007. For the first 15 days after the adoption of the new currency, both the euro and litas can be used to make payments.

Local commercial banks will exchange litas for euros free of charge for 60 days after the introduction of the euro, and the nation's central bank will do this for unlimited period of time. Institutions that need cash for making settlements will have the possibility to buy euros 20 days prior to the introduction of the new currency.

All prices, according to the plan, will have to be specified both in euros and litas in the first 60 days. Rounding up will be done only if it is beneficial to the consumer.

According to earlier statements made by Reinoldijus Sarkinas, the governor of the Bank of Lithuania, the shift to the euro may cost to the bank about 100 million litas (28.9 million euros). The manufacture of new banknotes and coins, the restructuring of the bank's information system, and its integration with the European settlement system TARGET are

expected to account for the most of the sum.

Lithuania promised to adopt the euro as a precondition to entering the European Union. The most likely exchange rate during the shift is 3.4528 litas per euro.

The litas was pegged to the euro in February 2002. Lithuania reintroduced its national currency in 1993, three years after the end of the Soviet occupation.

LUKoil president says his company will buy Mazeikiu Nafta from Lithuanian government.

Vilnius (ELTA) - Russian oil giant LUKoil say it will purchase the stake in Mazeikiu Nafta not from YUKOS, but from the Lithuanian government.

Seimas Speaker Arturas Paulauskas said this after his meeting with Vagit Alekperov, the president of LUKoil on Tuesday.

"They believe they would purchase it from the government. According to them, the government (of Lithuania) will buy it (control stake in Mazeikiu Nafta), whereas they will acquire it from the government, and, therefore, they will be have to communicate only with the government," Paulauskas stated.

A little earlier, Alekperov, who arrived in Lithuania for a visit on Tuesday, said his visit was meant to secure the support of the Lithuanian politicians to the ambitious plan of LUKoil.

"I hope the Seimas and the government will decide to allow our company into the tender on equal rights with other companies," Alekperov spoke after his meeting with Prime Minister Algirdas Brazauskas.

According to the president of LUKoil, the virtual advantage of his company as a buyer of Mazeikiu Nafta is the oil drills, which could guarantee crude for the Lithuanian oil refinery and the market for selling oil products, which comprises a network of filling stations in the Baltic States and Poland.

"You can hardly know anyone better than we. We are the only ones who have been working in the Lithuanian market for 15 years. Moreover, many people who speak about political threat from LUKoil are filling their tanks in our gas

stations every day. You can see nothing bad happening to their automobiles," were the words of Alekperov to reporters.

He also stated that the talks with the embattled YUKOS concern over Mazeikiu Nafta have not started. As of now, he added, YUKOS has only chosen a financial advisor for the deal, who has launched consultations with potential buyers.

"Unfortunately, neither YUKOS nor the government (of Lithuania), have formulated the sale conditions. It is not clear so far whether YUKOS and the government will be selling their stakes separately or the government will offer for sale all 74 percent. It is difficult to be speaking about the deal, when you don't know either the amount or the time of the would-be purchase," Alekperov said. He, by the way, confirmed the determination of LUKoil to buy 20 percent of the government-controlled stake in Mazeikiu Nafta.

In Alekperov's opinion, the deal should be carried in line with the requirements of transparency and publicity under the supervision of the Lithuanian government. But LUKoil will consult the Russian government too over the deal, he added, as the latter controls oil pipes to Mazeikiu Nafta and Butinges terminal.

"The Russian government manages to create friendly environment for its own investors. I have never felt any pressure from it over our foreign investments," Alekperov said.

Politicians request demilitarisation of Kaliningrad Region.

Vilnius (ELTA) - The crash of a Russian Su-27 on the Lithuanian territory may become a serious argument both when asking NATO to step up the control of the airspace above the Baltic States and requesting demilitarisation of the Kaliningrad Region.

Such a conclusion was made on Wednesday during a sitting of the parliamentary group of the opposition Homeland's Union (Lithuanian Conservatives). Defence Minister Gediminas Kirkilas was invited to the sitting too.

Kirkilas said he was surprised by "excessive militarization of this region",

as there is no need for that big number of soldiers and amount of weapons on this territory. In the words of the minister, the pilots often speak among themselves about it being too difficult to hit a target in that narrow corridor over the neutral zone over the Baltic Sea.

So, during talks with the NATO leadership and representatives of other countries of the Alliance, Lithuanians are to insist, he added, on stepping up the control of the airspace above the Baltic states and guarantee its continuity.

The NATO-led mission for the patrolling of the airspace over the Baltic states, which began a few years ago is temporary and would continue for another 18 months only. Some of the members of the Alliance look upon it sceptically.

"We need political support for such a mission, period. NATO must decide on how it should be performed," Kirkilas spoke in his meeting with the Conservatives.

In the words of the defence leader, the most important thing now is to prove the threat existing because of too frequent flights of Russians rather than the recent incident (the crash of the Russian military aircraft).

"We will be speaking about it (the patrolling mission) until the end of my office term. Now we have serious arguments. Earlier, there were some thoughts about the mission to be closed in one year or a little bit longer. Now, we do not have such thoughts any more," Kirkilas said.

According to Andrius Kubilius, the leader of the Conservatives, the crash of the Russian fighter showed again "that Russia being too close means a permanent threat".

"It does not matter whether it (the crash) was a premeditated provocation or it happened because of regular chaos in the Russian army, in any case, it is dangerous. We must carry a review of our security measures, arrange properly the financing and apply to NATO with a request to make the air police operations more effective," Kubilius told reporters after the meeting.

Kirkilas, when asked by reporters, did not confirm or deny that the Lithuanian

experts could find the "insider-outsider" identification system of Su-27. This special system is built in the aircrafts for the military forces of their own country to tell them from the planes or devices of the hostile country.

The minister only mentioned about the stepped up protection of the things discovered on the crash site. It will be the prosecutors who will decide what to do with these "things". But at the present time, they do not tend to return them to Russia.

US military to take over Baltic airspace patrol mission.

The United States is taking over the mission to patrol the airspace of the three Baltic States from Germany. The U.S.A., as a member of NATO, has sent four F-16 Fighting Falcons to Lithuania.

The ceremony to mark the takeover of the mission by the US military will take place at Zokniai Military Airbase, near the northern city of Siauliai, on Friday, the Lithuanian Defence Ministry reported.

The American pilots and technicians are to arrive in Lithuania from the US 52nd Fighter Unit stationed in Spangdahlem Air Base in Germany. The pilots of this unit have taken part in missions in Afghanistan and Iraq. Around 100 American soldiers will be based in Zokniai for six months.

The ceremony will be attended by German Ambassador Volker Heinsberg, US Ambassador Stephen Mull, Lithuanian Defence Minister Gediminas Kirkilas, commanders of the Air Forces of Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia, envoys from the German and US air forces, and Col. David Goldfein, the commander of the 52nd Fighter Unit.

NATO started the air patrol mission in the Baltic States when the three nations joined the defence alliance on March 29, 2004. The mission has included Belgian, Danish, British, and Norwegian troops.

LIETUVOS RYTAS

Conservative MP Emanuelis Zingeris has suggested building a monument to commemorate the policy of the western countries -- primarily the U.S.A. -- that object-

ed to the unlawful incorporation of Baltic countries in the Soviet Union.

Zingeris told journalists he had suggested that the municipality of Vilnius build a monument featuring a bust of Sumner Welles, the one-time US vice-secretary of the state, in Washington Square in Vilnius.

He declared on July 23, 1940 that the U.S.A. did not recognise the annexation of the Baltic States by the Soviet Union.

In 2005, the US Congress passed a resolution, in which it again stressed that the Baltic States had been incorporated into the Soviet Union against their will.

KAUNO DIENA

Lithuania is starting the implementation of the largest language reform in the past 15 years, a front page article states.

The daily claims that the Lithuanian rules for punctuation might be changed this year, and the spelling rules of some of the words will be modified in 2006.

According to the article, Lithuanian syntax rules should become less complicated after the project is completed.

The State Commission of the Lithuanian Language (VLKK) also intends to initiate changes in the spelling of some of the words that contain Latin letters with diacritics characteristic of only the Lithuanian language.

Irena Smetoniene, the head of VLKK, believes that such changes will help increase the literacy of Lithuanians, although the majority of older linguists and the writer Justinas Marcinkevicius are discontent with these intentions.

Marcinkevicius, who is often referred to as the moral authority of the nation, says that any type of changes to the language would reduce its authority and our respect for it.

"If we can dispose of one thing, another thing, and then one more thing, then we may as well just dispose of the language itself," Marcinkevicius said.

Smetoniene said that France is also preparing for language reform and that Germany has already reduced the number of spelling rules from 110 to 10.

ANTANAS KUČAS

1909 -1989

*The art work on the cover is from a book by
Antanas Gedminas of Antanas Kučas' Art Works
Printed in VILNIUS, Lithuania 1971*

Antanas Kučas, People's artist of Lithuania, Professor of the State Art Institute, was born on January 24, 1909. In 1935 he graduated from the Kaunas Art School and immediately began his creative activity. His works of the pre-Soviet period ("Matchmakers", "Village with a Church", the first illustrations for "The Cart") indicate the painter's bent for the themes of the Lithuanian village and up till nowadays they predominate in his creative work.

During the Soviet years A. Kučas has created quite a great number of book illustrations which reveal his talent of the subtle text interpretator and splendid type designer ("The Cart" by Aisbe -1947, "Fables" by S. Stanevicius - 1959, "Daughter-in-Law" by Žemaitė -1964).

On the basis of folk ornamentation he has acquired highly impressive, individual and original ornamental style ("Collection of Lithuanian Folk Songs" by B. Sruoga). He has created about two hundred of book covers. Landscape, often enlivened by figures of the people, predominates in his etchings ("In the Open", "Painter in the Lap of Nature"). Sometimes man and nature blend with one another producing the epic view

of the Lithuanian village ("By the Niemen"). Most of all A. Kučas likes woodcut and linocut and in them he achieves great plastic freedom, dynamism and noble beauty of strokes. The painter has created many meaningful ex-libris and some placards. From 1944 he teaches at the Vilnius Art Institute and has inculcated firm foundations of composition and technology of graphic arts, the art of print, book illustration and placard on many young artists. A. Kučas constantly takes part at the republican and many all-Union as well as foreign exhibitions, he has held two large personal exhibitions (in 1959 and 1969). A. Kučas' immense and many-sided creative work as well as his tactful pedagogical activity have made a valuable contribution to the strengthening of the authority of the Lithuanian graphic art.



news and views

LIETUVOS RYTAS

"Lithuanian clothing producers receive unpleasant warnings from Britain," the headline of the article states.

Representatives of well-known apparel making companies in other countries say they will cut off the deals with Lithuanian manufacturers unless the latter start investing in modern technologies and take care about skill training of their employees.

"Lithuania is a wonderful country with very nice people, but if nobody takes care of the tremendous migration of its labour force, lack of engineers and too scarce investment in the modern technologies, we will have to leave the

country," Kevin Managhan, a representative of the British clothing company Mark and Spencer, said.

A total of twelve Lithuanian companies are now manufacturing products for this company.

According to the article, this is one of the largest foreign customers in the domestic textile industry.

The British company says it wants to continue cooperation with Lithuanian contractors, who unfortunately often reject large orders because of the lack of work force.

Jeff Scrivner, the head of EM-TEX, an association of the British textile companies, forecasts that the Lithuanian textile industry may shrink 60 percent in the next five years.

He said that the lack of workers

would be one of the reasons for foreign investors to start looking for contractors in other countries.

LIETUVOS RYTAS

According to the article, low salaries in Lithuania are the main reason why residents choose to emigrate.

The results of a survey conducted by RAIT, a market analysis and research group, revealed that 90.3 percent of respondents believe that increasing emigration is caused by low monthly wages.

At the same time, nearly 72 percent of Lithuanians said that unemployment was another important factor for emigration.

** All news items courtesy of Information Center for Homecoming Lithuanians.*

The Devil and the Lithuanians

"VELNIAS IR LIETUVIAI"

Kartą velnias labai supyko ant Lietuvių.....

Once, the devil was very angry with the Lithuanians, and he grabbed four – one each from Aukštaitija, Dzūkija, Suvalkija and Žemaitija. He shoved them all into a big bag and hauled it to the seashore, intending to drown them. But he grew weary carrying the heavy bag and sat down on a rock to rest. He put the bag down, stretched out his legs, and lit his pipe. The bag soon became untied.

Sensing liberty, the Dzūkija was the first to crawl out of the bag, and without a backward glance, hurried home. He flew home all out of breath, closed the shutters, crawled under the bed and hid.

Next, the Aukštaitija extricated himself. He ran off a little way, and seeing that the devil wasn't pursuing him, he crouched beneath a bush to observe what would happen further.

The Suvalkietis was the third to climb out, brushed off his clothing, beat the dust from his boots with his hat, lit his own pipe from the devil's, and, instead of fleeing, just walked around.

"Well, what are you waiting for?", asked the surprised devil. "A pity to waste a good bag", answered the man. "When the last fellow crawls out, I'll just take it home".

Even the devil was now interested in the outcome, so he filled his pipe again and waited to see what would happen. And the bag shook and moved around a bit, but no one came out.

"Hey, what are you doing there? Why don't you come out?" The devil, losing patience, shook the bag.

"Well, you shoved me in here, now you pull me out!!" answered the stubborn Žemaitis, fixing the bag around himself even more comfortably.

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

"Pasakaitė" from "Lietuviškai Apie Lietuvą"
"A Little Story" from "In Lithuanian, About Lithuania"

By Evalda Jakaitienė

Translated from Lithuanian by Gloria O'Brien

Child's Gate to Learning

Some of you have already nicely supported the Chicago area based volunteer organization "Vaiko vartai į mokslą / Child's Gate to Learning". The organization is in the midst of a new fund raiser. If any of you need some note cards, illustrated with the works of a Lithuanian artist, here's an opportunity. See the link and examples on our Web site (<http://www.childgate.org>). Click on the "Special fund-raising drive" link. "Child's Gate to Learning" has produced a series of blank note cards illustrated with the work of artist Raimonda Sakalauskiene (Užpaliai, Lithuania).

A packet of 10 cards (with envelopes) costs \$15, and donations are appreciated. Funds will be used to aid the projects of "Child's Gate to Learning" at nine supported after-school centers in Lithuania described elsewhere on this Web site. The "Child's Gate to Learning" organization is based in the Chicago area and has chapters that help with fund-raising, in Cleveland, OH, Detroit, Philadelphia, PA, Washington, DC, Sunny Hills, FL.

Individual supporters live throughout the United States. For more information about "Child's Gate to Learning" its mission and work in Lithuania, please visit the organization's Web site,

<http://www.childgate.org>.

Please make checks out to "Child's Gate to Learning" and send to:

Child's Gate to Learning
P.O. Box 381
Downers Grove, IL 60505

Thanks for your past and future support for our efforts helping Lithuania's children!

Ramunė Kubilius

Ramune Kubilius is an officer and on the board of "Child's Gate to Learning."

Editor's Note:

In the September issue of BRIDGES we printed a story about Child's Gate to Learning. These cards would make great gifts and your donations would be put to a good use.

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All VYTIS representatives speak English and Lithuanian !!

Calendar of Events for November and December

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

BLP(LKA)1195
2005, Iss.9

NOVEMBER

Nov. 5 - 6, 2005

"Muge"- Lithuanian Festival
Saturday 12 - 8 pm
Sunday 12 - 6 pm
Lithuanian Music Hall
2715 E. Allegheny Ave.
Phila., PA 19134
Info: 215-739-4831

Nov. 13, 2005 - 12 noon - 6:00 pm

Vetra's Vakarass
Germania Schwaben Hall
416 Horace St., Bridgeport, CT
His Excellency Ambassador
Dr. V. Usackas will present his book.
Co-sponsored by the Lithuanian
American Community Bridgeport
Chapter & "Vetra" folk dance group
Info: larrykaunas@yahoo.com
203-452-5208

Nov. 15, 2005 - 7 pm- 9 pm

Amber Roots Club Meeting
Culture center
Lithuanian Music Hall
2715 E. Allegheny Ave.
Phila., PA 19134
Milliemarks@aol.com
610- 497- 5469

Nov. 19, 2005 - 7 pm

EXULTATE Choir from Cleveland,
direction of Rita Cyvaite-Klioriene
and Director of the 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

Margarita's Muge
Lenexa Community Ctr,
13420 Oak, Lenexa, KS 66125
Kansas City Lithuanian American
Community

Nov. 20, 2005 - 1 pm - 5 pm

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

Nov. 20, 2005

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

Nov. 20, 2005

Army Day
Blessed Virgin of the
Annunciation Church,
259 North Fifth St., Brooklyn, NY
Parish Lower Hall,
70 Havemeyer St., Brooklyn, NY.
Info: Vladas Sidas
SID100@AOL.COM

Nov. 27, 2005 - 1:00 pm

Lithuanian Christmas Tree
Luncheon
St. Elizabeth Seton Parish Hall
9728 W. Palmeras Drive
Sun City, Arizona
Hosted by the Lithuanian American
Community of Arizona.
www.lihaz.org

Nov. 27, 2005

Thanksgiving Feast
Following 10 am Mass
Blessed Virgin of the
Annunciation Church,
259 North Fifth Street, Brooklyn, NY
Parish Lower Hall,
70 Havemeyer Street, Brooklyn, NY
Info: Vladas Sidas
SID100@AOL.COM

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 and "KUCIOS" table
Lake of the Forest Lodge,
west of Edwardsvell on
Hwy 32, Kansas City
Lithuanian American Community
Info: www.aidasdancers.org

Dec. 4, 2005

Siaudinukai Workshop
Blessed Virgin of the
Annunciation Church,
259 North Fifth Street, Brooklyn, NY
Parish Lower Hall,
70 Havemeyer St., Brooklyn, NY.
Info: Vladas Sidas
SID100@AOL.COM

Dec. 4, 2005 - 12:30-4pm

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

Dec. 10, 2005

"KUCIOS"
Following 5 pm Mass
St. George Parish Hall
Salmon and Venango Sts
Phila., Pa.
Reservations: 215 - 739 - 3102
Sponsored by: K of L Council 3

Dec. 11, 2005 - 12 noon

"KUCIOS"
St. Andrew Parish Hall
1913 Wallace St. Phila., Pa.
Need RESERVATIONS
215 - 969 - 2117
609 - 268 - 8045
Sponsored by: Lithuanian Scouts

Dec. 11, 2005 - 12:30 pm

R. C. Mass In Lithuanian
Our Lady of Guadalupe Chapel
55th Ave. one block south of
Glendale Ave., Glendale, Arizona.
Mass is followed with refreshments
Info: kvedaras@earthlink.net.

Dec. 13, 2005 - 7 pm - 9 pm

"KUCIOS"
Amber Roots Club
Meatless buffet.
Culture center
Lithuanian Music Hall
2715 E. Allegheny Ave.
Phila., PA 19134
Milliemarks@aol.com
610 - 497- 5469

Dec. 18, 2005

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

Dec. 18, 2005

"KUCIOS" Following the
10:00 am Lithuanian Mass
Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church
275 N. 8th St. Brooklyn, NY 11211
Sponsored: Parish, Scouts and
Maironis Mokykla
Contact:
Pat or Vladas Sidas 203-762-9726
Vida Jankauskas 718-849-2260

Dec. 25, 2005 - 12:30 pm

R. C. Mass in Lithuanian
Our Lady of Guadalupe Chapel
55th Ave one block south of
Glendale Ave in Glendale, Arizona.
Mass is followed with refreshments
Info: kvedaras@earthlink.net.

Jan. 8, 2006 - 2 pm

Christmas Concert dedicated in
memory of January 13, 1991
Massacre of Vilnius Defenders
St Andrew Church
1913 Wallace St., Phila. Pa.
215- 765- 2322
Jan. 14th - 19th, 2006
Lithuanian Athletic Union of North
America (LAUNA) invites you to a
ski vacation/competition, and the
American Lithuanian Medical
Association (ALGS) or
its annual seminar, in beautiful
Telluride, Colorado.
Everyone is invited.
Info: Al Bielskus 440-833-0545

January 15, 2006

TV Tower Commemoration
Blessed Virgin of the
Annunciation Church
259 North Fifth St., Brooklyn, NY
Parish Lower Hall
70 Havemeyer St., Brooklyn, NY.
Hall is across the street from
the church.
Info: Vladas Sidas
SID100@AOL.COM

FEBRUARY

Feb. 26, 2006

Lithuanian Independence Days
February 16 and March 11
Celebrations 10:30 am Mass
St. Andrew Church
1913 Wallace St., Phila, Pa.
Program at 2pm
Lithuanian Music Hall
2715 E. Allegheny Ave., Phila., Pa.
Sponsored: LAC Phila. Chapter &
Phila., Chapter of Lithuanian
Youth Association

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