

bridges

1

ap



april 2006

LITHUANIAN AMERICAN NEWS JOURNAL

Letter from the Editor

It's such a wonderful feeling to wake up in the morning and see nature starting to perform her annual miracles. The winter coats are being worn less and less, the boots, hats, scarves and gloves are stored away for another year and that sluggish winter feeling has disappeared.

In this issue we will read the second part of Gloria O'Brien's translation of the Bernardine Monastery legend. Ed Shakalis once again tests our trivia knowledge. This one was rather tricky as there were several different ways that the same words were spelled and pronounced. But there is no question that his love story had a happy ending. Bronius Krokys has contributed an article about an American born partisan. We cannot let these people be forgotten as many made the ultimate sacrifice for Lithuania. As always, Renata Kucas has some sound health advice. What should you do with Lithuanian family memorabilia, especially if you are the end of the family line? Thanks to Ina Bray who wrote about family history, you'll find some answers. A special thank you to Zita Petkus, editor of Seattle's Lithuanian American Community's, Tulpė Times, for permission to reprint the article.

On a cultural note, Ramune Kublius has introduced us to the dance group "Grandis." Do you live near Los Angeles? Give their Lithuanian American Community a visit. You'll meet a group who certainly is "on the move." Are you between the ages of 16 and 35? Why not contact Arunas Karalis and find a Lithuanian Youth Association near you? And now I'm going to "borrow" from the big event this summer. What's your seat number? It's been fifteen years since North America has hosted a song festival. I had the pleasure of hearing the Cleveland choir directed by Rita Klioriene, the Director of the Song Festival, when they performed in Philadelphia. It is no exaggeration when I tell you they "brought the house down." Our own Philadelphia choirs are practicing many hours each week and I'm sure all the participating choirs are doing the same. The big event is July 2 in Chicago. And now I ask you once again, "What's your seat number?"

I don't usually publish congratulations to individuals as this is an international magazine and we seem to be always short of space. However, a very happy birthday to Jurgis Petkaits who has influenced so many people with his music. We heard about Jurgis through Florence Morkus. On a very happy note, congratulations to Amerikos Lietuvis and Bridges writers Laurynas (Larry) R. Misevičius and Eugenija Fedosejeva who were recently married. Larry and Eugenija were among the first people to offer not only their help, but also the gift of their friendship when I became the editor of Bridges. May they have many years of good health and happiness.

A very Happy Easter to you and yours.


Jeanne Shalna Dorr

BRIDGES**Lithuanian American News Journal**

USPS 017131 – Published 10 times per year
(Jan./Feb. and Jul./Aug. combined).

Address of publication is:

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

BRIDGES is the official publication of the
Lithuanian American Community, Inc.
Public Affairs Office
P.O. Box 33464
Washington, DC 20033-3464

Tel: 410 663-0158

Fax: 815 327-8881

E-mail: LithuanianUSA@yahoo.com

BRIDGES Consultants

Jeanne Dorr Editor
Gema Kreivenas Design & Production
Ramas Pliura Treasurer,

Lithuanian American Community, Inc.,
and Subscription Manager.

*THE INFORMATION CENTER FOR
HOMECOMING LITHUANIANS.*

Collects and provides information from
Lithuania.

Copyright ©2006 Lithuanian American Community,
Inc. All rights reserved. No part of the publication may
be reproduced without written permission of the pub-
lisher. All statements and opinions, including product
claims, are those of the organization/advertiser mak-
ing those statements or claims. The publisher does
not adopt, or put forth, any such statement or claim as
his own, and any such statement or claim does not
necessarily reflect the opinion of the publisher.

Address all editorial correspondence to:

BRIDGES

Jeanne Dorr
4 Shrewsbury Yard
Riverton, NJ 08077-1038

E-Mail: Jeanneshalna@aol.com

For subscription and advertising
information, please contact:

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

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

Contact us on the Internet at:

<http://www.lithuanian-american.org>

Postmaster: Send any address correction
and/or changes to

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

in this issue

2
editorial

Letter
from the Editor
Jeanne Dorr

4
cultural

"Respond with a
Song!"
Viktorija Benotaitė

6
cultural

A Source of
Inspiration
Arūnas Karalis

7
traditions

Traditional
Lithuanian
Easter Eggs

8
genealogy

DON'T LOSE YOUR
FAMILY'S HISTORY!
Ina BertulytėBray

10

lac chapter

L.A.'s LAC
On the Move

11

trivia question

Submitted by
Ed Shakalis

12

human interest

NBA
COMMISSIONER
D. STERN
PRAISES
LITHUANIAN
BASKETBALL

13

news and views

Jeanne Dorr

14

health care

PREVENTING
MEDICATION
ERRORS
Renata Kucas

15

treasures among us

A Man of
Many Talents
Florence Morkus

16

cultural

United Through
Dance
Ramunė Kubilis

17

human interest

The Winged One
Bronius Krokys

19

baltic folklore

Part 2
The Underground
Vaults Of The
Bernardine Monastery
Gloria O'Brien

24

Calendar
of Events

*Cover: Easter Greeting card sent from Siberia by freedom fighters.
Dated April 13, 1952.

(From Exile and Resistance Museum in Kaunas, Lithuania.)

“Respond with a Song!”



Rita Kliorys in July of 2003 at the Lithuanian Song Festival in Vingio Parkas, Vilnius, Lithuania. At the conclusion of the Song Festival, all its conductors line up in the front of the massive 18,000 people choir and are congratulated with a wreath of oak leaves. What an honor it was to be in the presence of their conductors!

Photo by Vitas Cyvas

After a lengthy 15 year intermission, North America will once again hear the beautiful chords of the Song Festival sung. The slogan of the 8th Song Festival, which will take place July 2nd 2006, is “Atsiliepk daina!” It is a call to all Lithuanians, from every generation, to remember that songs were always the unifying factor in the lives of Lithuanians. Songs led our country through everything; tears and tragedy, smiles and happiness, and will continue to be a big part of our lives.

Throughout the ages, songs have been the glue that’s held our country together and given us hope for better times during different occupations by other bigger nations. Therefore, songs have been, and always will be our nation’s historical story, spirit, and our aesthetic reflection.

Song Festivals in North America are part of our deep traditional roots as a Lithuanian heritage. The first Song Festival was organized in the United States by the American Lithuanian Organists Organization and took place in Chicago in 1956. The following festivals were jointly organized by the Canadian and American Lithuanian Organizations and held every 5 years until 1991, when Lithuania regained its independence and everyone’s focus was directed to our homeland. A few representatives, as well as larger groups participated in three World Lithuanian song and dance festivals in Vilnius, however, the majority of Lithuanians remained inactive. To revive the tradition of the song and music festival, the North American Lithuanian community took the initiative.



Seminar for choir directors was taken on August 20, 2005 at Camp Dainava in Manchester, Michigan. This seminar was a huge success. Choir directors came from all parts of the US and Canada, from coast to coast.... from Los Angeles, California to New York, New York, from Ottawa, Ontario to Palm Beach, Florida. These are all the directors who have taken on the immense job preparing their choirs for the Song Festival! And what an exciting group it is!

Photo by Kristina Kliorys

This year's Song Festival is an excellent opportunity to remember the Lithuanian words and songs, to revive traditions, and to welcome everyone, young and old. These big gatherings and festivals create a wonderful opportunity for the development of new friendships, and establish a firm foundation for the continuation of future festivals.

The committees for the organization and planning of the festival face a long, hard and stressful responsibility. Inevitably, one would expect to have doubts and/or fears associated with the widespread task of organizing such a festival. But not, in fact, hardworking and energetic artistic director and "Exultate" choir director, Rita Kliorienė "Doubts?" she asks. "This is a strong word. If I had ever been doubtful, never would I have started this task. I think people have a longing and a desire to sing, and therefore will be enthusiastic in helping with the festival."

Perhaps Mrs. Kliorienė feels so confident because work on the festival has been long underway. Preparations for the festival began back in the fall of 2002, and since then a lot has been accomplished. Different committees have been created to complete unique organizational work. Song books have been published for the adults, youth, and children's choirs, a workshop was organized for all the choir directors in August of 2005 in Camp Dainava (Michigan), a website was created in which not only the participants but the audience as well can find information on the festival. Also, almost all of the festivals repertoire, with each voice part recorded separately, can be downloaded from the website, so that even those singers who cannot attend practice all the time, can learn the songs. These are just the few of the many tasks that have been completed so far. A lot of work still awaits the organizing committee until the first songs chord can be heard again after fifteen years.

The festival will take place in Chicago's University of Illinois Pavilion, which holds approximately 10,000 people and a vast number of performers. The centre is located in close proximity to the 2 main airports, Midway and O'Hare, as well as to the main highway in Chicago. Interestingly, after scouting many centres, halls, pavilions, theatres and auditoriums throughout Chicago, the same hall was picked where the last festival took place.

Indeed, the festival promises to be an exciting and inventive one. The program of the 8th Song Festival will be very interesting. It will include a professional lighting and sound system. "We plan and promise to utilize visual effects in order to involve the audience

into the program, so that all present can be undoubtedly incorporated into the festivals motto, 'Atsiliepk daina'," confirms Andrius Polikaitis, the organizing committee's chairman. The festival will also be pioneering in the fact that it is anticipated to be one of the biggest the Lithuanian community has yet seen, as there are 58 choirs registered to participate. However, although the festival promises a sizeable outcome of participants, Rita Kliorienė urges participants to remain focused and hardworking. "One of my bigger concerns is that choirs should not wait till the last minute to begin preparing, because it will take them time to get everything organized. I would like for the choirs to feel that it is important to learn all the songs as much as possible, and not have the mindset that stronger choirs will pick up the slack. To know the whole repertoire should be the ultimate goal of all the participants. Only then will we be able to sing together, create musical history moments, and be happy when we experience the joy and strength of singing together."

All current and up to date information regarding the festival can be found on the festivals website,

www.dainusvente.org.

See you in Chicago!

Viktorija Benotaitė



**What's
your seat
number?**

**LITHUANIAN
SONG
FESTIVAL**
CHICAGO • 2006

Tickets are
now on sale

lithuaniansongfest.org/tickets
Ticket master 1-800-277-1700
ask for "Lithuanian Song Festival"
July 2, 2006 - Chicago, IL

A Source of Inspiration

Lithuanian American Youth Association (LAYA) or JAV Lietuviu Jaunimo Sajunga (JAV LJS, the Lithuanian abbreviation) is a representative body to the World Lithuanian Youth Association (PLJS).

Currently JAV LJS is separated into Chapters. These chapters act upon their own discretion, yet the presidents of each chapter belong to the Executive Committee of JAV LJS (LAYA). The United States is very large, so JAV LJS unifies each chapter through this representative body. JAV LJS is similar to Europe. Each country has its identity, but the continent is unified by the European Union. At present, Europeans are philosophizing their identity as Europeans. I say that the JAV LJS is similar to the EU for each region/each chapter has its identity and sovereignty, but it can label itself as part of a larger body.

This association was formed after World War II in America when activities and organizations needed a source of inspiration. Presidents and their executive committees would encourage groups of young Lithuanians to organize events throughout the country. Today, my executive committee does the same, but because organizations and interest groups have established themselves and their programs, JAV LJS acts more as an informational center, representative body, and financial supporter.

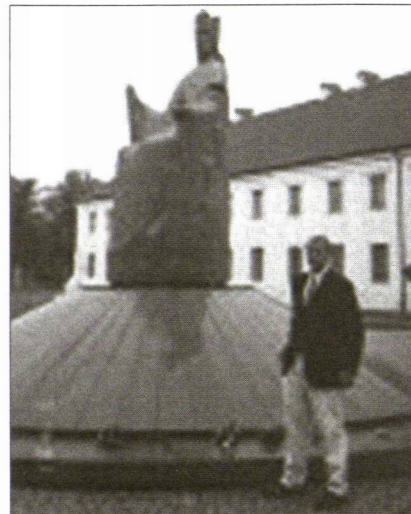
Why we do this?: Lithuanian Americans claim an identity when their lives are filled with the Lithuanian culture. Young Lithuanians have another set of friends besides those they see during the school week. Extra-curricular activities, although they may be considered hobbies, are fun and part of our in-grown cultural aesthetic of responsibility. Most of the time, responsibility feels like obligation, but because Lithuanian culture is fun, love for the culture, its people, food and activities

blossoms, develops, and remains within the person's identity. JAV LJS facilitates interests groups and young Lithuanians, so this responsibility is less hectic.

Who is part of JAV LJS?: Any young person from 16-35 of Lithuanian descent is a part of JAV LJS. Those individuals' opinions, endeavors, and interests create the Lithuanian American experience. As President of JAV LJS, my intentions were to reawaken and to inform Lithuanians about JAV LJS and how important our Lithuanian heritage and culture are to us. I have traveled across the country and met with chapter presidents, sat with the Lithuanian American Community Parliament and Executive committee www.javlb.org. I also have flown to Lithuania and met presidents from Canada, South American and European countries.

The extent of my participation in Lithuanian culture is vast: Lithuanian Scouts, Ateitininkai, Grandis Folk Dance Ensemble, Lituanica basketball Club, help at the Maironis Lithuanian Saturday school, tutor Lithuanians the English language, and JAVLJS executive committee. I have hiked 100 miles in 10 days and climbed Mt. Baldy through Philmont Scout Ranch in New Mexico at the age of 16. The next year, I led a cavalcade (troop by horseback) through that same range. I have danced in several folk dance festivals including the 2003 dance festival in Vilnius, Lithuania. I won a gold medal in basketball at the 7th World Lithuanian Games last summer. I work full time and do my MBA at Loyola University Chicago downtown, but my life and identity is Lithuania. My executive committee and others in the USA live a life similar to mine. I have met many Lithuanians through those activities including Žiburelis preschool. I still play hoops and hang out with friends from that class.

There is a lot of information on our website www.javljs.org and www.javlb.org



Arūnas Karalis stands near a statue of King Mindaugas in Vilnius.

for those interested joining anything.

JAV LJS plans are extensive and made for the long run. For anyone interested in participating in a World Lithuanian Youth Congress, there will be one in Canada this summer. The main theme is Mentorship. It's a great theme for now is the time to ask if we are doing what we wanted to do at the onset of independence, and if our actions today are how we want our culture to be perceived and how we want our culture to last. We are the mentors to our youth. More information can be found www.kongresas.org. I encourage you to register or if you are unable to register, please spread the good word.

JAV LJS belongs to the Lithuanian American Community, so any donations to our organization are tax deductible. We have a fundraising campaign in order and info can be found on our website.

Other plans include a mentor program. Each chapter will have a mentor or contact person for each profession. This person will be asked to field questions from students who have an interest in his/her career. Contact info will be on the chapter's and JAV LJS websites. If you are interested, please contact me at akaralis1@hotmail.com

Arūnas Karalis

Traditional Lithuanian Easter Eggs (*Margučiai*)

Re-print
BRIDGES
Vol. 3, No. 4 April, 1979

Lithuanians are well known as “people of the earth” whose very culture, songs, and traditions were shaped by their everyday communion with land and nature. Celebrations surrounding important events of the calendar year were replete with ancient customs modified by the coming of Christianity to Lithuania. One of the most important events of the year for Lithuanians was, and still is, Easter. The word for Easter, Velykos, comes from the Byelorussian velikii den, which means didele diena - the big or important day.

Religious services would commence at sunrise on Easter Sunday with a ceremonial procession that wound around the church three times, during which *Linksmą dieną mums prašvito* was sung. This was followed by a High Mass and then by a blessing of the food brought by the parishioners. Since Easter coincides with the start of the planting season and a renewal of spirits after the long, hard winter, one can find many traditions that deal with a new beginning and an assurance of health and good harvests. The following traditions are taken from Jonas Balys' *Lietuvių Kalendorinės Šventės* (Lithuanian Calendar Festivals).

* Easter eggs (*margučiai*) were painted using natural dyes such as birch leaves and onion skins, with alum added. The custom of inscribing Easter eggs with designs (either wax applications or engravings) is a recent addition. The Easter morning meal was begun when family members and friends each took a hard-

boiled egg and lightly struck it against the egg held by another to see which shell would last unbroken. Those with the strongest eggs would live the longest. It is also said that, whenever in trouble or lost, if you remembered the name of the person with whom you cracked or shared the first egg on Easter, you would be helped.

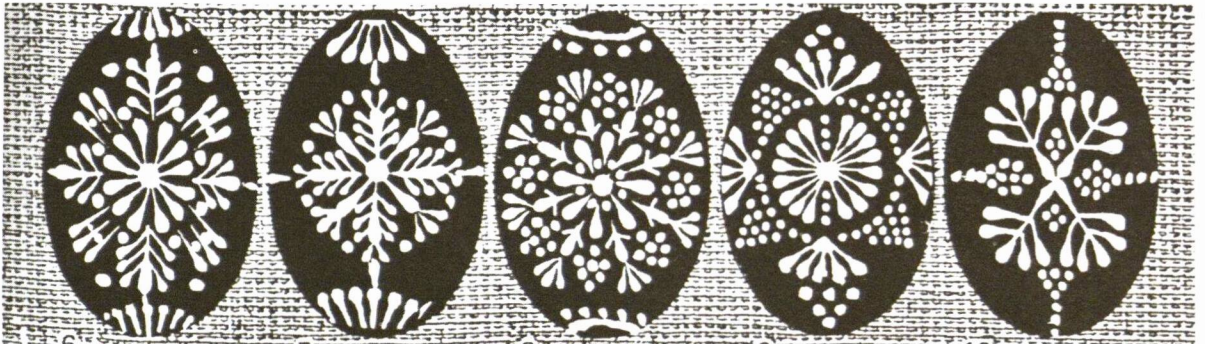
* *Velykų bobutė* (perhaps translated as Grandmother Easter) was similar to the Easter bunny we know in America, in that she brought *margučiai* to good children. It is said that she comes before sunrise in a little wagon whose wheels are made of beets, drawn by wax ponies, and holding reins of “beggars’ canes.”

* Swinging on swings was also a custom practiced to ensure good harvests and happiness. It is said that those who swung higher would have a higher growth of flax. Swinging was later prohibited since, in their zeal to earn a good crop, many Lithuanians had accidents.

* Problems with fleas for the coming year could be prevented by a simple practice on Easter morning. While everyone is sleeping, you should sweep up the house floor and carry the debris to your neighbor’s land, depositing it just over the border. This is almost guaranteed to prevent fleas from bothering you for the coming year, but there’s one catch. You have to sweep the floor and carry the sweepings outside while totally naked, making sure, of course, that no one sees you.

Traditionally, Easter was celebrated over several days, ending with the Wednesday following Easter. Known as *ledų diena*, or “day of ice”, several other traditions were practiced on this day to prevent frost from damaging the crop you had spent the past several days doing your best to protect.

* *The illustration of the “Margučiai” is from the book “Lithuanian Easter Eggs” by Antanas Tamošaitis in 1982.*



DON'T LOSE YOUR FAMILY'S HISTORY!

Where to Preserve our Stories for Future Generations

Slowly but ever so perceptively, the generation that had fled Lithuania during the Second World War is fading away. Some have written or recorded their own story, others have accumulated books and magazines, memoirs, pictorial material and music that in some way reflected their own experiences, or perhaps represented a tangible extension of their lost homeland.

That passionate attachment to Lithuania frequently remains unreplicated in the next generation, however. Consequently when the time eventually comes to downsize one's accumulations of a lifetime or to clean out a parent's home, items that once were so emotionally precious, may wind up on the recycling truck.

But it is not only the World War II refugees that have a story to tell. As Zita Petkus notes in her "Tulpė Times" article (Feb. 2004), Lithuanians had left their footprints in the Northwest already in the late 19th century. Have you seen the gravestones in Roslyn, Washington, on the other side of the Cascade Mountains, bearing Lithuanian names and dates going back more than 100 years? These were miners and lumbermen, eking out a living in forbidding forests and murderous mines. Have you heard the stories of the Lithuanian lumberjacks in Raymond, near the coast? And, should you wander through the Lakeside Cemetery on Capital Hill in Seattle, you will find yet more evidence of a Lithuanian Northwest legacy (albeit at times again with Polonized names). Sadly, too many of those experiences became relegated to "the dustbin of history" and now are lost to us.

And what about those who chose America in the more recent past, when Lithuania was emerging from under the Soviet yoke? What additions are they making to this "mosaic"?

The history of the Lithuanian diaspora still has gaps. It is precisely this kind of personal material and archives, inconsequential as it may seem to the owners, which provide invaluable primary raw material as witnesses to our past.

Libraries and archives, both in America and other Western countries, in addition to Lithuania itself, are vying for this evidence of life in exile or emigration. And, our story increasingly is finding an audience. Our lives, or those of our ancestors here, do have meaning beyond the immediate. Our culture, our traditions, our songs and dances are entering the mainstream of the ethnic rainbow in America.

A case in point is the project being initiated by the Special Collections section at the University of Washington Library, a project of far-reaching significance for our Baltic communities: the documenting of the history of the Baltic people in the Northwest. The intent of this undertaking is to recognize our historic and cultural role here and making our story available to the wider American community. This will be the first such comprehensive compilation of our local Baltic past. Nicolette Bromberg, who is the Visual Materials Curator at the Library, heads this project and will provide more extensive information as the work evolves (nbx@u.washington.edu). We are becoming

aware that increasingly those photographs, those remembrances of activities, events and achievements, depicting who we were and who we have become, are warranting interest far beyond our "language border."

Should you have arrived at a point in your life when parting with your Lithuanian collections, when sharing your past, is becoming appealing if not mandatory, let me enumerate a few repositories for your consideration.

University of Washington: Baltic Library collection

As we already know, under the guiding hand of Michael Biggins who heads the Slavic and East European Section of the University Library, the Lithuanian holdings have increased exponentially. They now contain some 6,000 volumes - an impressive quantity. Yet, for example, when Seattleite Veronika Petrulis, to honor her late husband Antanas, had donated a number of his Lithuanian books, quite a few were new to the UW collection (e.g., *Lietuvos Žemes Ūkis ir Statistika*, published in 1948 in Germany, a yellowing, brittle compilation of facts and statistics, primarily from the Interwar period but also from before—what a treasure!). The academic Baltic Studies program is continuously expanding and requires the back-up of a strong and wide-ranging library collection. If you have books or magazines that in any way cover Lithuanian topics and you are willing to part with them, please discuss that with Mike. Duplicates are most welcome.

Email mbiggins@u.washington.edu or call 206-543-5588.

UW Choral Music Library Collection

Choral singing traditionally has been a finely honed presentation of music for Baltic peoples and with surprising frequency it now is being included in American choral repertoires. Recognizing this, and again as an adjunct to the Baltic Studies Program, a library of printed, written, and recorded choral music, a collection that is the first of its kind in the United States, is growing astoundingly fast. Professor Geoffrey Boers, a dedicated enthusiast of our music (he led the UW Chamber Singers to the Baltics on a concert tour this summer) is spearheading this effort. Why not check through your old LP records that are probably collecting dust, and consider enriching this new library? Heather MacLaughlin Garbes is in charge of the UW Baltic Choral Initiative program. Contact her at garbeshm@u.washington.edu or 206-543-8412.

Lithuanian Research and Studies Center, Chicago

One of the most extensive collections of Lithuanian written or printed material is found in this Center: Archives of Lithuanian organizations; a library of Lithuanian magazines and books from the antique and rare to the most current; cartography; photo and visual material archives; Lithuanian musicology, and so much more. For years people sent their files, private libraries, their artifacts, to this Center, yes, in some cases resulting in duplication.

However, items not needed are then made available to worthy institutions in Lithuania or in America, such as to our University. This spring, for example, Michael Biggins chose some select 2,400 books gratis for the University of Washington's Baltic library. More books will be coming in the future.

Jonas Rackauskas, Ph.D., Director,
5620 South Claremont Ave., Chicago, IL 60636.
Email lithuanianresearch@ameritech.net or 773-434-4545.

Balzekas Museum of Lithuanian Culture, Chicago

The Balzekas family, the founders of this private, non-profit institution, over several generations has amassed an impressive collection of artifacts, in many instances museum-quality items of Lithuanian culture. In addition, in their library one can find truly distinct publications. A particularly unique service is provided by their Genealogy and Immigration History Departments, the only such extensive Lithuanian resource outside of Lithuania. It is also a beehive of cultural programs and activities, attracting an array of visitors and participants. Beyond the usual items (weavings, way-side crosses, amber, books, etc.) they are interested in such biographical material as photographs (with identifications), documents, letters, memoirs, directories, yearbooks, etc.

Contact Rita Janz,

Balzekas Museum, 6500 South Pulaski Road, Chicago IL 60629.
Write president@lithuanianmuseum.org or call 773-582-6500.

The Center for Lithuanian Diaspora Studies, Vytautas Magnus University Kaunas, Lithuania

As with most of the here-mentioned institutions, the purpose of this Center (established in 1994) is – quoting their website – “to collect historical material and books from diaspora organizations and those actively involved in diaspora activities; safeguard manuscripts and publications, cataloguing them and preparing them for use by researchers; prepare archival material for publication;” etc. The Center enjoys a solid reputation, works closely with the Center for Research of Lithuanian Inhabitants and Their Resistance in Lithuania, with the Lithuanian diaspora in America, and the World Lithuanian Community. Address: **Daukanto 25, Kaunas 44249, Lithuania;** isc@hmf.vdu.lt or visit the university website: www.vdu.lt.

Martynas Mažvydas National Library of Lithuania, Dept of Lithuanian Publications

Silvija Velavičienė, the Head of this Department, in addition to her focus on Lithuanian studies, for many years has taken great effort to collect historic material about the past and the present of Lithuanians outside of Lithuania. The result is a formidable resource at the National Library, used by scholars and lay people from around the world. Repeatedly she and others from her Library spent time working and doing research at the Lithuanian Research and Study Center in Chicago (mentioned above), with a consistent cross-fertilization of ideas and information. Silvija Velavičienė

Dept. Head, Gedimino pr. 51, Vilnius, 2635 Lithuania.
silvija@lnb.lt

**University of Tasmania,
Lithuanian Studies Society Library
Hobart, Sandy Bay, Australia**

Algis Taskunas Ph.D., the force behind the Lithuanian Studies

Society at this University, is establishing a library of materials by and about Lithuanians and related topics. In the early 1990's, when the University of Washington Baltic Studies program was still struggling financially, Dr. Taskunas sacrificed the entire yearly budget of the above-mentioned Society and donated it to the UW. Perhaps some in the American Lithuanian Community might want to show their appreciation by individually donating books, magazines, or subscriptions to such publications as “Lithuanian Heritage” or “Bridges.” Materials in English are most important since the student body consists primarily of English speakers. For your information, a box of books, donated by Mrs. Veronika Petrulis and others, was recently shipped off, the cost of mailing underwritten by the Lithuanian American Community of Washington State. Lithuanian Studies Society Library, P.O. Box 777, Sandy Bay, Tasmania, 7006 Australia,

Taskunas@postoffice.utas.edu.au, or 03-62-252-505

Keep in Mind

The repositories enumerated here are not the only institutions interested in your history or your collections. There are many others both in the United States and abroad, particularly in Lithuania, that would gladly accept your discards. (“One person's trash is another person's treasure”). Your local Lithuanian organizations usually can give you further guidance. Just don't toss the contents of your shelves!

Ina Bertulytė Bray

Ina Bertulytė Bray is a past president of the Washington State Lithuanian American Community and a former member of the National Council of the Lithuanian American Community.

Reprinted with permission from the Tulpė Times, February 2006 issue. The Tulpė Times is published quarterly by the Lithuanian American Community of the USA, Inc, Washington State Chapter.

*A very sincere thank you to Lietuviu Fondas
(Lithuanian Foundation)
for their generous grant awarded
to Bridges.*



*Their support of Bridges is
very much appreciated.*

bridges

New Subscription Prices

Bridges has held the line on subscription rates for the past fourteen years. During that time both printing costs and postage have increased several times.

As of JUNE 1, 2006 the cost of a subscription will increase by \$2. The new rate will be \$20 per year for domestic mail. Subscriptions to other addresses will be \$30 per year.

L.A.'s Lithuanian American Community- *On the Move*



Celebrating with Kaunas, Sister City of Los Angeles

Last February a new Executive Committee was sworn in for L.A.'s Lithuanian American Community (LAC), and we're pleased to report it has hit the ground running! Having represented Lithuania at L.A.'s annual Scan-Fest 2005, and Kaunas at L.A.'s Sister-Cities Festival, the Committee began its cultural program by hosting children's book author and film-maker Vytautas V. Landsbergis, Jr. for a weekend of films for the entire community and readings of his works for students of St. Casimir's Lithuanian School.

Summer was devoted to the development of a new website – LALithuanians.com – which now serves as an information clearing-house and forum for discussions about Lithuanian life in Southern California. The website is constantly being upgraded and includes more than a dozen pages with articles, events calendar, links and a large photo-gallery as well. The Executive Committee also devoted and continues to devote a lot of time and effort to creating an effective database of L.A.'s Lithuanians.

A new event this year was an end-of-summer Lithuanian beach party at Playa del Rey, which saw attendance swell from the usual 150 or so at Lithuanian Community events to more than 300 people! Young and old, long-time residents and recent emigres alike mingled, enjoying free food, sun and fun all day long. Beach games, including a volleyball

tournament, rounded out a fun-filled sunny August day at the beach with L.A.'s Lithuanian Community.

Building on the "good vibrations" generated by the beach party, L.A.'s Lithuanian Community hosted three music concerts in the fall: one by singing duo Žilvinas Žvagulis and Irena Starosaitė, one by heart-throb Alanas Chosnau and one by dance-music sensation SEL, followed by an extended mix set by L.A.'s own DJ Sinclair.

The first weekend of October is time for L.A.'s traditional "Lithuanian Fair", and this year was no exception. The Fair, organized by a committee of LAC's L.A. Chapter headed by Aidas Mattis, was a smashing success, attended by more than 4000 people including L.A. Mayor Antonio

Villaraigosa, Hollywood star Rūta Lee and Lithuanian Ambassador Vygaudas Ušackas. A sunset harbor cruise departing from Marina del Rey with dinner and dancing on two levels featuring Chicago's folk ensemble Sodžius and star Lithuanian DJ Mamania rounded out the evening and was attended by what by L.A. standards was a whopping 350 people!

The Executive Committee also played special host to an exhibit of folk art and costume at the Fair by Dr. Zigmantas Kalesinskas – director and founder of Lithuania's only folk art college (folkartcollege.org). Thanks to a recommendation by Marytė Newsom – director of St. Casimir's Lithuanian school – Dr. Kalesinskas was able to meet with officials of L.A.'s Fashion Institute of Design and Merchandising, who expressed an interest in some of the traditional techniques for producing textiles that Dr. Kalesinskas and his students have rediscovered through their research. Dr. Kalesinskas also visited with students of St. Casimir's Lithuanian school, explaining different production techniques and characteristics of traditional Lithuanian folk costume.

January 8th was the date of the first all-city Lithuanian basketball tournament, the goal of which was not only to play ball and have a good time, but

also to select all-star players for a team that could compete for the Lithuanian "Ambassador's Cup" in Washington, D.C., on March 18th. L.A.'s Lithuanian Community is proud to report that for the first time in the tournament's history a team will compete representing L.A.'s Lithuanian Community.



Executive Board of the Los Angeles Chapter.

More good news came recently from St. Casimir's Parish Committee, which, as requested by the Executive Committee of L.A.'s Lithuanian Community, has designated facilities that in the coming year, given successful fundraising, will be developed into an Information and Social Services Center that will provide information, assistance and fellowship to L.A.'s growing Lithuanian Community on designated days of the week. It will be only the second such center in the US, and the only one outside of Chicago. L.A.'s Lithuanian Community appeals to all Lithuanians of good will to support this project by sending tax-deductible donations by check made out to "LAC" to Lithuanian American Community, P. O. Box 29743, Los Angeles, CA 90029

or by PayPal via LAC L.A.'s website
LALithuanians.com
(see "Giving/Dues" or "Aukojimas")

In addition to all of these activities, LAC's L.A. Chapter also assists other Lithuanian organizations in supporting their activities, such as December's literary event hosted by L.A.'s "Friends of the Front" featuring author Rolandas Rastauskas.

The Executive Committee of L.A.'s Lithuanian Community – Chair Darius Udrys, Vice-Chair Vilius Žukauskas, Secretary for Public Relations Nona Kondrotas, Treasurer Algis Matulevičius and Coordinator for Emigre and Lithuanian Organizations Rimtautas Marcinkevičius – are all rightfully proud of a productive and exciting first year and wish to thank all of their generous sponsors for supporting Lithuanian cultural and community events in the greater Los Angeles.

For more information about LAC's L.A. Chapter, please visit LALithuanians.com or write info@LosAngelesLB.com.

TRIVIA QUESTION

(No.2)

The days of the week in the "OLD LITHUANIAN" language is:

Četvergas-Ketvergas, Nedėlia, Panedėlis, Pėtničia, Subata, Sereda and Utarninkas.

The challenge for you is the match them up with the

"STANDARD LITHUANIAN" days of the week as follows:

<u>Standard Lithuanian</u>	<u>Old Lithuanian</u>
Pirmadienis	_____
Antradienis	_____
Trečiadienis	_____
Ketvirtadienis	_____
Penktadienis	_____
Šeštadienis	_____
Sekmadienis	_____

ANSWER TO TRVIA QUESTION

on page 22



LITHUANIAN LANGUAGE COURSES

The 21st annual Lithuanian language courses at Camp Dainava, Manchester, MI will take place August 6 - 13. These one-week intensive courses, operating under the auspices of the Lithuanian Educational Council of USA, are designed for beginners, intermediate, and advanced students, or those just wishing to refresh their Lithuanian. The courses are taught by experienced instructors in a vacation-like surroundings and atmosphere. There are no limitations regarding age or formal education. For more information please contact Vytautas Jonaitis, 1332 Sprucewood Dr. N.W., Grand Rapids, MI 49504;

Phone 616-453-7549

E-mail: vjonaitis@juno.com.

or search the Internet for Dainava language courses.

NBA COMMISSIONER DAVID STERN IN HOUSTON

PRAISES LITHUANIAN BASKETBALL



Commissioner D. Stern presented Ambassador V. Ušackas with two NBA All Star jerseys: one with President Adamkus, another with Ambassador Ušackas' names on them.

A Lithuanian Basketball Party on NBA All Star Friday was held on February 17 in Houston. NBA Commissioner David Stern and Ms. Kim Bohuny, NBA Vice-president for International Basketball Operations were honored at the event with Lithuanian state awards.

"It is my honor to receive the award bestowed upon me by Lithuania," said Commissioner D. Stern, who also expressed his gratitude for having Lithuanian players in the NBA.

"Thank you for the six Lithuanian players who are on league rosters this season. It is amazing that a small country of three and a half million people has six players in the league,*" said Commissioner D. Stern.

Ambassador of Lithuania to the USA, Vygaudas Ušackas, opening the event said, "The passion for freedom and the passion for basketball are the best that unites the peoples of Lithuania and of America. Therefore, it is only natural that today's basketball party takes place in between the Lithuanian National Day and the celebration of the 16th anniversary of Lithuania's Independence from the Soviet Union."

President of Lithuania Valdas Adamkus gave his televised greetings to the honorees.

In his remarks Commissioner D. Stern also recalled his first acquaintance with Lithuanian basketball back in 1986, and praised Šarūnas Marčiulionis, who was the first Lithuanian and one of the first Europeans to play in the NBA.

Commissioner D. Stern announced that a NBA summer camp for young people "Basketball Without Borders" will come to Lithuania this summer.

Šarūnas Marčiulionis and Algimantas Pavilionis, the director of Lithuanian National Men's Basketball Team Foundation presented Commissioner D. Stern with old Lithuanian armor with his name on it - a reference to a "new archeological discovery" that basketball was invented in Lithuania.

Lithuanian television LNK and the National Team Foundation ended the Basketball Party by showing a film produced in a humorous manner especially for the event. According to the film, while defending their homeland from foreign invaders, ancient Lithuanians accidentally found out that they could attack invaders with canon shells using their hands. By throwing canon shells into the invaders, Lithuanians invented basketball. The bravest soldiers were given armors with their names on it.

The Lithuanian Basketball Party, which was organized by the Embassy of Lithuania in the USA and the Lithuanian National Men's Basketball Team Foundation, was honored by the presence of Mr. Antanas Sireika Head Coach of the Lithuanian National Men's Team, Mr. Philip Saunders the Head Coach of the "Detroit Pistons," Mr. Del Harris, a coach of "Dallas Mavericks," Mr. Donn Nelson, member of Lithuania National Team coaching staff since 1992 Barcelona Olympics, basketball legends Manute Bol, Antoine Rigoudeau and Sergey Tarakanov, as well as Lithuanian players Šarūnas Jasikevičius, Linas Kleiza and Martynas Andriuskevičius.

Rimas Kurtinaitis, who participated in the Houston 1989 NBA All Star Weekend Three-Point Shootout, was also at the party.

The guests enjoyed ancient traditional Lithuanian instrument wooden bells played by Regimantas Šilinskas, and Lithuanian folk-pop music by Žilvinas Žvagulis and Irena Storosaitė.

* Martynas Andriuskevičius (Cleveland Cavaliers), Šarūnas Jasikevičius (Indiana Pacers), Žydrūnas Ilgauskas (Cleveland Cavaliers), Linas Kleiza (Denver Nuggets), Arvydas Macijauskas (New Orleans/Oklahoma City Hornets) and Darius Songaila (Sacramento Kings and Chicago Bulls).

**Two Lithuanians played in NBA in the 1990s-beginning of 2000s: Arvydas Sabonis (Portland Trail Blazers) and Šarūnas Marčiulionis who was one of the first Europeans to play in NBA (Golden State Warriors, Seattle Super Sonics, Sacramento Kings and Denver Nuggets).

Lithuanian Embassy

Jeanne Dorr

News and Views

WORLD BANK TO CLOSE OFFICE IN LITHUANIA

The World Bank is closing its office in Lithuania, which is a relatively well-off country and needs less assistance from this international financial institution.

Mantas Nocius, World Bank country manager for Lithuania, said that the country's gross national income (GNI) per capita reached 5,740 US dollars in July 2005, above the World Bank's "graduation threshold" of 5,685 dollars.

"Formally, the Lithuanian government could today ask to upgrade Lithuania's status from a borrower to a donor country," Nocius said.

However, he does not expect this to happen in the next few years.

Lithuania joined the World Bank in 1992. The organization extended around 480 million US dollars in loans to the country during the first ten years of membership.

The country stopped borrowing from the World Bank in 2002. The World Bank's Partnership Strategy leaves only a theoretical possibility of borrowing.
http://www2.omnitel.net/ramunas/Lietuva/Lt_subscribe.shtml

LITHUANIA'S HOUSING PRICES SKYROCKET IN 2005

Lithuania's real estate prices skyrocketed last year as the rise in housing prices in urban territories averaged at 50 percent, to far exceed the respective growth rates in previous years, InReal realtor has reported adding that the prices of some types of housing surged up to 2.2 times compared with the year-earlier average.

The average housing prices (per 1 square meter) in Vilnius soared by approximately 55 percent over 2005. In Kaunas the respective prices expanded by some 25 percent, while in Klaipeda the surge averaged at approximately 65 percent.

The prices of new apartments in Vilnius showed the steepest rise, at some 65

percent, while the prices for renovated apartments and non-renovated flats rose by approximately 55 percent and 45 percent, respectively.

In Kaunas, the prices of renovated apartments grew by some 35 percent last year, while the growth in the prices of new housing and non-renovated apartments was more modest, at 30 percent and 20 percent, respectively.

In Klaipeda, the third-largest Lithuania's city, the prices of non-renovated apartments soared by 75 percent over 2005, with renovated apartments growing 65 percent more expensive, and the prices of new housing going up by approximately 55 percent.

"The changes on Lithuania's real estate market are largely the result of essential economic factors, including the economic development and the rise in income, low interest rates. Moreover, the demand in new housing far exceeds the supply on the market," said Rimantas Kirdulis, head of InReal trade department.

Prices of private houses rose by some 30 percent in Lithuania's cities, with the prices in some districts growing up to 70 percent.

The prices of land showed the steepest rise, with the land for private houses growing more expensive by approximately 70 percent, and the prices of commercial land surging within the range of 75-215 percent. The prices of commercial premises and rent rates remained largely unchanged.

In Vilnius, the prices of land for private houses surged by approximately 65 percent over 2005, however, the rise was twofold in some districts. In Kaunas and Klaipeda the prices of land for private houses expanded by 70 percent on average in the reporting period.

The prices of commercial land in Vilnius and Kaunas soared by some 65 percent and 80 percent, respectively.
http://www2.omnitel.net/ramunas/Lietuva/Lt_subscribe.shtml

LITHUANIA TO IMPOSE FINANCIAL SANCTIONS ON TERROR SUSPECTS

Lithuania will impose financial sanctions on persons related with terrorism.

In view of a joint position of the Council of the European Union, the Lithuanian

government approved a list of persons, groups and organizations related to terror acts.

The rights of EU natural and legal persons entered in the list to own and use funds, other property, including interest, owned by them in finance institutions is planned to be restricted, the government's press service reported.

Finance institutions, insurance companies and offices of foreign insurance companies will have no right to make any payments, provide financial services to natural and legal persons included in the list.

However, it is allowed to make payments using natural persons' funds for goods and services provided to them to satisfy main human needs - for food, medicines, health care services, payments for a dwelling rent, dwelling credits, etc.

Those willing to use the exceptions will have to address the Financial Crime Investigation Service, and the Foreign Ministry will have to give its consent in each specific case.

There are 19 natural persons and 21 legal persons, groups, organizations on the list at present.

http://www2.omnitel.net/ramunas/Lietuva/Lt_subscribe.shtml

LITHUANIAN PRIME MINISTER, EXPERTS UPBEAT ABOUT CHANCES OF ADOPTING EURO IN 2007

(Report by Marius Jokubaitis: "Government Does Not Want To Believe Bad Signs; Prime Minister Affirms Country Meets Conditions for Joining Eurozone")
Wealth Not Most Important

Lithuania could convince the European Commission to invite the country to join the eurozone next year not with wealth, but with completed homework.

For that reason, the new signals about Lithuania's slim chances of adopting the euro on 1 January 2007 do not seem compelling to our country's politicians and experts.

After Austrian Finance Minister Karl Heinz Grasser publicly said he doubted Estonia and Lithuania's chances of becoming eurozone members on 1 January 2007, the influential Financial Times expressed a similar opinion.

Continued on page 18



PREVENTING MEDICATION ERRORS FROM HAPPENING TO YOU

- * Keep a personal list of your drug therapy, including prescriptions and nonprescription drugs.
- * Maintain a list of medications that you can't take, with the reasons why - you Can't take them (e.g. allergic reactions).
- * Communicate your actual self-medication practices to direct health care providers, especially if they are different from originally prescribed directions.
- * Learn the names of the medications that are prescribed and administered to you, as well as their dosage strengths and schedules.

- * Ask if you should avoid certain foods, beverages, other medications, or activities while taking a drug.
- * Request written information on the drug product.
- * Question anything you don't understand or that doesn't seem right. Be especially alert to unexpected changes, such as receiving a refill that looks different from your original prescription.
- * Verify your understanding of the medication you are taking by repeating medication information back to health professionals.

ASK YOUR PHARMACIST IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS ABOUT THE MEDICATIONS YOU ARE PRESCRIBED.

Renata Kucas

Pharmacist Renata Kucas BA, BS, Rph. comes to us with 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.

ANNOUNCEMENT

2006 Baltic Studies Summer Institute (BALSSI)

INDIANA UNIVERSITY, BLOOMINGTON
June 16 - August 11, 2006

The Baltic Studies Summer Institute (BALSSI) was founded in 1994 and is at present partially funded by a consortium of several American universities: UCLA, Harvard University, the University of Illinois, Indiana University, the University of Iowa, the University of Michigan, the University of Texas-Austin, the University of Washington, and the University of Wisconsin-Madison. BALSSI was held at Indiana University in 1998, 1999, and 2005, and it returns here in 2006.

Utilizing the resources of Indiana University's own specialists as well as native speakers from other universities and abroad, the Summer Workshop has developed and maintained a national program of the highest quality. Allowing

all participants to pay in-state tuition fees, the program has as its goal the enhancement of speaking, reading, listening and writing skills through classroom instruction and a full range of extra-curricular activities. At Indiana University, BALSSI is held in conjunction with SWSEEL and benefits from the Summer Workshop's long experience in language study.

For summer 2006, BALSSI offers first-year and second-year Estonian, first-year Latvian and first-year and second-year Lithuanian. The 2006 BALSSI begins on Friday, June 16, and concludes on Friday, August, 11. Classes meet Monday through Friday, except on July 4.

Tuition for all Workshop courses is \$226.55 per credit hour for all participants regardless of state origin (except undergraduate residents of Indiana who pay a lower fee based on the student's matriculation date). A limited number of Foreign Language and Area Fellowships (FLAS) will be available to US citizens or permanent residents who are accepted for enrollment or are enrolled in a graduate program. FLAS fellowships cover tuition and fees and provide an allowance of \$2,400 for food and housing.

For more information go to:
<http://www.indiana.edu/~iaunrc/balssi/>



Jurgis Petkaitis was honored by family and friends.

A Man of Many Talents

With Soviet occupation of Lithuania, the family fled their homeland, making their way through Prussia, Poland, Czechoslovakia, finally reaching Austria. Here they found themselves in the displaced persons camp in Glasenbach, not far from Salzburg. He attended high school and went on to study piano, organ and music theory at the Mozarteum Conservatory. During this time, Jurgis organized the first men's chorus and later organized a mixed chorus. They performed at concerts and sang at the Lithuanian Masses. He was also the organist for the American Catholic soldiers stationed at Camp Truscott near Salzburg.

In 1948 Jurgis immigrated to the United States and lived with his uncle in Rockville, CT, moving to Hartford in 1949 when he became the organist of Holy Trinity Church and where he directed St. Cecilia's choir. In 1952 Jurgis became the organist in St. Patrick's Church in Hartford.

While working, Jurgis attended the Hartt College of Music at the University of Hartford. Among his professors was Professor Vytautas Marijosius. In 1964 he culminated his studies with a degree in music from the University of Hartford-Hartt School of Music.

From the beginning, Jurgis Petkaitis was active in Lithuanian cultural and musical circles. In 1949 he organized the men's octet which became the basis of Aidas choir. Today's choir which can be heard at Holy Trinity

Church is descended from the Aidas choir. Over the years the choir participated in numerous Lithuanian cultural events.

For several years, beginning in 1958, Jurgis was the director of the Lithuanian Radio Hour, *Tėvynės Garsai* (Sounds of the Homeland). In 1974 he organized a women's choir, *Paslaptis* (Mystery). In 1993 the men's trio was organized, consisting of Alfonsas Zdanys, Vytautas Zdanys and George Petkaitis. The trio continues to perform at various functions and churches.

From 1981 Jurgis has assisted the Berželis folk dance group by arranging and recording folk dances and directing the dancers in song. Also, in 1981, Jurgis was the musical director at the Northeast Folk Dance Festival which was staged at Trinity College in Hartford. For thirty years he served on the faculty of Old Bacon Academy in Colchester, CT. For twenty two of those years he was the Director of the Music Department at the Academy.

Jurgis and Irene were married in 1954 and are the parents of three children and three grandchildren.

Holy Trinity Parish and the Lithuanian American Community of Hartford congratulate Jurgis on his 80th birthday and may God bless him with good health and much happiness.

Ilgiausią Metų!

Florence Morkus

Editor's Note:
Bridges also congratulates Mr. Petkaitis on this happy occasion.



Lithuanian folk dance ensemble "Grandis" dancers and their teachers, pose for a group photo before a new season of dancing practices and performances.

United Through Dance

The Chicago area dance ensemble, "Grandis", was organized in 1953 by Mrs. Irena Silingas. She was one of the principle organizers of the first Lithuanian Folk Dance Festival, held 1957 in Chicago. The members of this first group were Lithuanian Boy and Girl Scouts. The group flourished and represented the Lithuanian community in Chicago through 1959, but disbanded, due to the failing health of Mrs. Silingas. In 1963, under the direction of Mrs. Irena Smieliauskas, the group revived. Once again, "Grandis", which means 'chain' or 'link'- united the hearts of these young people, scouts and their friends from other organizations. The revived "Grandis" started with a meager but enthusiastic and determined group of twelve dancers, but during the following decades, the group grew tremendously. About 1000 dancers have danced in "Grandis" over the years, so it became and still remains

one of the major Lithuanian dance ensembles in North America, one of the oldest in Chicago and the suburbs. Its members have danced and performed on a consistent basis since that first Lithuanian Folk Dance Festival of 1957.

From its modest beginning, "Grandis" expanded its repertoire to over 130 dances. Since 1994, "Grandis" has a balletmaster, Gintaras Grinkevicius, a graduate of the School of Choreography, Department of Art, University of Klaipeda in Lithuania. He helps ensure the high level of dance artistry the ensemble seeks to achieve in its performances. Since 1995, the daughter of Irena Smieliauskas, Violeta Smieliauskas-Fabianovich, has served as artistic director and administrator of "Grandis". Many dance teachers in the ensemble grew up dancing in the group, while others came to "Grandis" with years of dancing experience in groups of other Lithuanian communities. Currently, teachers include: Dalia Bilaisis-DeMuth, Rima Polikaitis, and Elyte Zukauskas-Maurukas who teach the children; Vida Brazaitis; who lends her youthful energy to teaching the older veterans' group. Reda Ardys-Pliura lends her talents wherever they are needed.

"Grandis" dancers present programs of original choreography with traditional and stylized Lithuanian dances, often incorporating folk vignettes, customs, poetry, folk songs and folk instruments. "Grandis" celebrated its 45th anniversary with a concert, "Be merry while you are young" (Linksminkimes pakol jauni esma), on May 15, 2004. Through the years, "Grandis" dancers have represented Lithuanians in city of Chicago and Illinois state programs. The ensemble has performed in most of the larger Lithuanian American communities in the United States and Canada. "Grandis" has participated in all of the Lithuanian folk dance festivals and the III, VI, and VII Lithuanian Song Festivals of North America. The ensemble has traveled abroad as well: Venezuela and Brazil (1975); Australia's Sydney, Melbourne, Adelaide and Canberra (1981). Perhaps most memorable to the dancers are the performances in Lithuania - the 1992 performances in Vilnius, Kaunas, Marijampole, Palanga, Telsiai, Elektrenai (the concert video, filmed by Lithuanian TV, was shown on the Lufthansa flight home!) and performances at the Dance Days of the Lithuanian Song Festivals of Lithuania - in 1994, 1998, and 2003.

Lithuanian folk dance groups have played an important social role in the Lithuanian American communities. There is no other cultural activity, not even the hugely popular basketball, that unites so many people of different age groups. Folk dance groups may be losing some of their status in larger communities. "Grandis" and other groups are trying to change the trend, since dance celebrates the human spirit and Lithuanian folk dancing helps Lithuanians preserve our heritage and traditions.

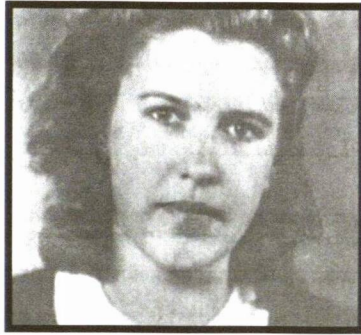
Ramunė Kubilius

Ramunė Kubilius, using excerpts from a longer text prepared by "Grandis" alum, Regina Narbutas.

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

Bronius Krokys

*Philadelphia-born
Lithuanian
American died a
partisan and
a martyr.*



The Winged One

Izabelė Vilimaitė was born in 1925 as noted in the baptismal certificate at St. George's Lithuanian Parish in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Following the early death of her father, Jonas Vilimas, seven year old Izabelė with her mother and three year old brother Victor, left to live in Lithuania in 1932. Her Uncle Kazimieras, cousin Jonas (born in 1916) and cousin Ona (born in 1918) all stayed behind in the United States.

In Lithuania, Izabelė's mother, Agota Vilimienė, settled down in her birth place of Šeduva, where she purchased a farm and married a second time, she had two more children; a daughter Edita and a son.

Izabelė grew to be a beautiful, attractive girl; she attended school and intended to study medicine. She was a very able student who distinguished herself by her intelligence, her insight and her youth activities. However, she had no premonition of the fate that awaited her.

Being a patriotic young Lithuanian she was drawn to the mission of her partisan "Forest Brothers", and their fight for Lithuanian freedom and ultimately came to serve as their liaison.

Working in a pharmacy in Panevėžys, she supplied medicine to the partisans and treated those injured in battle. She served bravely and eventually was promoted to the role of liaison in regional headquarters.

Izabelė showed great initiative in misleading the KGB by joining the Young Pioneers Communist Youth Party. Later she and a friend were captured by the KGB, but managed to escape without divulging any information.

When caught a second time, Izabelė, relying on her good looks "flirted" with her captors and was released on the condition that she work for the KGB.

After her release Izabelė went directly to her partisan brothers and retold everything that had happened to her. Unbelievably partisan law dictated that she must be tried as a traitor and shot. These were the harsh laws of the time.

Among the "Forest Brothers" Izabelė had a fiancée, Vytenis, the director of the partisan newspaper and a poet who wrote her love poems. Much like Vytenis, many of the "forest brothers" liked Izabelė because she was beautiful and happy and helped them through sad times. But the partisan law and solemn oath simply stated... to betray partisans, is to betray your homeland.

Izabelė's sentence was never carried out. A partisan who was present at her trial stood up and exclaimed, "If Izabelė dies, I die as well, here and now! I have a grenade on my belt and will blow myself up." It seems that love is greater than the law.

This terrible tragedy happened in Lithuania during the years of the Communist occupation. The partisans did not kill Izabelė, nor did the partisan that pleaded for her life kill himself. She was killed instead by KGB and Russian soldiers who encircled her hide out. But where? When? How? This is all collected interrogation material from the KGB archives. And these materials, many of the personal testimonies of Izabelė during her interrogations were collected by author Eugenius Ignatavičius, from which he wrote a play that was then adapted to a televised documentary film.

Izabelė's-Spamuota-Winged One (this was her partisan code name); her remains have been found in Tytuvėnai, after being hidden by those close to her.

Funds are being collected in order to publish a novel, a separate publication, and a short documentary film chronicling the events of her life, so that we could read and witness the life of Izabelė Vilimaitė.

Bronius Krokys

*Checks to further promote the heroic deeds of
Izabelė Vilimaitė's life may be sent to:*

Lithuanian World Community Foundation
PO Box 140796
Grand Rapids, MI 49514 0796

For more information contact:

Bronius Krokys
1124 Hedgerow Ln.
Philadelphia, PA 19115
(215) 671-0397

Continued from page 13

The influential British business publication said the two Baltic countries were too poor to join the eurozone.

Country's Prime Minister Is Calm.

"I would not want to agree with such an opinion. First, that is not an official opinion, but an opinion of one economist. There are many experts," Prime Minister Algirdas Brazauskas commented on the views of the Financial Times.

The British daily mentioned that inflation in Estonia and Lithuania could soon rise by 1-3 per cent.

According to Brazauskas, it is not yet known what the inflation figure will be in April and May and what criteria will be used to determine Lithuania's readiness to adopt the euro.

The Finance Ministry predicts that the average annual inflation for the month of April in Lithuania will be around 2.6 per cent. The Maastricht inflation criteria applied to the candidates for the eurozone will be close to that figure.

Criteria Most Important Issue.

The head of the Bank of Lithuania, Reinoldijus Sarkinas, emphasized that there is no wealth criteria among the euro adoption requirements for the countries.

"Such conditions do not exist - rich or poor country. The criteria that have been set are very clear. If we fulfill them, we will join the eurozone," Sarkinas told Lietuvos Rytas.

The five criteria relate to inflation, short-term loan interest rates, government deficit, aggregate debt, and stability of the currency exchange rate.

On 31 January, the prime minister affirmed that our country meets all the requirements to adopt the euro.

No One Will Change Requirements.

The Financial Times has criticized the criteria that are to be used in accepting new eurozone members. According to

Lithuanian experts, it is not related to the threat that the requirements will be changed this year.

"It would illogical to change the criteria now. Lithuania has been trying to fulfil them and to join the eurozone," Sarkinas noted.

Gitanas Nauseda, adviser to the SEB Vilnius Bank president, also does not believe that the requirements could be amended within the next 11 months.

"If we continue to successfully fulfil the requirements that were set, no one will be able to keep us out. I am convinced that the European Commission will formally look at how we were adhering to the tasks," Nauseda noted.

However, the head of the Bank of Lithuania agrees with the opinion of the Financial Times that certain mandatory criteria for joining the eurozone should be amended.

For example, the inflation of the countries that want to adopt euro could not exceed more than 1.5 per cent of the average inflation of the three EU countries that experienced the lowest price increases.

In other words, Lithuania, where consumption has been increasing very rapidly, should be stopping aggregate price increases with all possible means.

A country with growing salaries and a growing overall economy has a hard time adjusting to the inflation of stagnating members of the European Union.

Fear of Instability

Sarkinas did not deny that EU officials may have unofficially debated the possibility of amending the requirements for the candidates for joining the eurozone. Nonetheless, the head of the Bank of Lithuania said he did not hear anything about it.

Meanwhile, Nauseda, adviser to the SEB Vilnius Bank president, guessed that the old members of the eurozone were afraid

that Lithuania, Estonia, and Latvia, after adopting the euro, could cause instability: "Of course such a fear exists. If the euro is introduced in poor countries, inflation could grow even more. Naturally, the old members of the eurozone are concerned."

On the other hand, it is unlikely that Lithuania and Estonia would make an impact on the entire eurozone, even if prices rose considerably in the Baltic countries.

Danger of Falling Back.

Nonetheless, it is possible that Lithuania could miss the opportunity to adopt the euro in 2007.

Nauseda thinks that the statements by the Austrian finance minister and the commentary in the Financial Times show that the candidates' homework will be checked very thoroughly.

"For example, if Lithuania fails to meet the criteria by a little bit, the door to the eurozone could be slammed very firmly. How little? Let us say, if the inflation in our country exceeds the allowed level by only 0.1 per cent, we could be left behind the doors of the eurozone," Nauseda contemplated.

Decision in 6 Months.

In November of last year, the European Commission said Lithuania, Estonia, Slovakia, and Slovenia were the closest to the door of the eurozone.

True, back then the European Commission did not say if Lithuania would be able to replace litas with euro on 1 January 2007.

The countries evaluation and the decision regarding adopting euro should be made in the middle of the year.

The Financial Times predicts that the commission's decision will not be favourable to Estonia and Lithuania, but the concrete reasons will not be named.

<http://www.omnitel.net/ramunas>

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Ed Shakalis whose article "To Be Executed" that originally appeared in BRIDGES, Issue 1 January/February 2001, is scheduled to be reprinted in The Voice of the Angels (A Quarterly published by the 11th Airborne).

In "To Be Executed", Ed tells the story of Dan Miles, an academic prize winning scholar and track star who is in Northeastern University's Hall of Fame. During World

War II, he was captured by the Japanese and spent over three years in prisoner of war camps in the Philippines. He was eventually tagged for execution. Fortunately, the story has a happy ending.

Dan's parents were Lithuanian emigrants.

Editor's note: *I am trying to help Dan Miles find copies of the Jan/ Feb 2001 issue of Bridges so that each of his children could have a copy. If anyone has this back issue and would like to donate it to Dan, please send it to me. My address is on page 3. I will be more than happy to forward it to him.*

Gloria O'Brien



Art work by Juozas Bagdonas

The Underground Vaults Of The Bernardine Monastery

Part 2

BERNARDINŲ VIENUOLYNŲ POŽEMIAI

Part 1

1831 was a disastrous year for Lithuania. The rebellion against the Russians had failed, and the poorly organized insurgent groups scattered, with the Russian military in pursuit. Adomas Jasas was a rebel on the run. He found his way to the the Bernardine Monastery in Vilnius where the monks gave him refuge. But mys-

terious things started to happen. Although Adomas was grateful to the monks, he feared he had put them in great danger by his presence. What should he do now? He had to leave the monastery.

Part 2

Later, the monk appeared at one of the cave openings, carrying a bag. Drawing closer, he said, "I have brought you some other clothes and food for a few days. Change your clothing and we will leave here. It is now evening, and by the time we reach the exit, night will have fallen and it will be safer to travel."

Adomas changed quickly. Now he looked like a young merchant from a big city. As he changed, he rained questions on the monk, but he gave no answer, as if he hadn't heard a thing. Adomas made as if to take his pistols, but the monk took them instead. "Weapons don't go with your disguise", he said. Adomas was very reluctant to part with those pistols, as they had been in his family for many years. They were antique, beautifully made, and so handsomely decorated that they might better have belonged in a museum than to a soldier. Adomas's father had gotten them from his grandfather in 1794, when he went off to join Kosciuszko's insurrection against the Russians. Adomas got them from his father when he prepared to join this rebellion. The pistols should pass to his own sons, as

he firmly believed they would also fight for their country's freedom.

The monk noted his reluctance to part with the pistols: "Your war is over now, but when it is necessary that you fight again, they will be returned".

Tying up the bundle of food, the monk took the torch from the wall, and led him through another of the cave openings. They walked for a long time. In some places the passage became very narrow; at times it was even necessary to walk bent over. The path branched out in different directions in a few places, and it seemed easy to get lost. In some places the walls were damp, and it was once necessary to wade through a narrow stream. The monk led Adomas without hesitation, and appeared to be well-acquainted with the underground. After more than an hour, the monk stopped: "Take the torch and wait here, while I go to see if it is safe". After a while he returned and, leaving the torch in a bracket, he led Adomas through an opening and turned to the left. Walking a few more yards they exited the cave and found themselves amid thick shrubbery.

"Here we must part", said the monk. "We are not far from the right bank of the Neris. Now, walk towards Kaunas, but when you reach Maišiogala, turn west, cross the Neris, and the Nemunas, and keep to the road leading to Kazlų Rūda, and then from there, to Germany. The first two days, go by night, and later, you can ride if you like. Remember that you are a German cloth merchant and are traveling from Vilnius to Vilkaviškis. Your name is Hamerman. In your pockets you will find bills and statements bearing your name. You know some German, so you should be able to play a German merchant. This package contains food for the first couple of days, and here, until you find work in a foreign land, is a bit of money" - and the monk handed him a leather purse with the letter "R" embroidered in gold. The purse contained seven gold coins.

Adomas didn't know how to begin to thank the monk for having saved his life, and for all his care of him.

"I am still young", he said, "and I believe that I will be able to earn enough money to repay this loan - for that is how I regard it - ten times over. Only please tell me your name, which I will remember always."

"They called me Father Romualdas", answered the monk. "And now go, and may the Lord preserve you. And when you want to repay the money, you may give it not to me, but to a monastery, whose patron is St. Anthony."

Adomas said farewell and left. Following the monk's instructions, he safely reached Germany, rode to Hamburg and took ship for America, where he established a business and prospered.

Seven years passed. Lithuania was occupied by the Russians. They closed Vilnius University and many monasteries and convents, but for some reason the Bernardine monastery remained untouched.

In 1838, a carriage was driven up to the monastery entrance, and a man, young-looking but with hair beginning to gray, stepped down, boldly approached the doors and pulled the bell cord. A distant peal was heard, then footsteps. The little grilled window opened, and a monk's face peered out.

"I would like to see Father Romualdas", said the visitor.

"Father Romualdas? There is no one here by that name." – and the gatekeeper started to close the window.

"Wait!" cried the visitor – "If Father Romualdas isn't here, then I want to speak with the abbot about an important matter".

The monk asked the visitor to wait, closed the window and stepped away. Five minutes later, he returned, opened the door to admit the visitor, and instructed:

"Follow me."

The gatekeeper led him through a heavy oaken doorway through a corridor, and stopped before another door, which he opened without knocking and invited him to enter a large, dark room.

A long table with chairs set against both sides stood in the middle of the floor; it seemed to the visitor that this might be a refectory or conference room. An elderly monk sat at the head of the table and his deep-set eyes studied the new-comer.

"I am Adomas Jاسas" – the visitor introduced himself. "I have come to thank Father Romualdas for saving my life in 1831 and making it possible for me to leave the country."

"There is no Father Romualdas in our monastery", answered the abbot.

"Then where is he? Where can I find him?"

"There was no Father Romualdas in our monastery in 1831, and I don't know who told you that he was here. It appears you are mistaken and have come to the wrong monastery."

"No, no, I am not mistaken!" cried Adomas. "Father Romualdas led me to the Neris through this monastery's underground!"

"I know nothing about any underground passages here, and neither does anyone else in this monastery!" said the abbot.

Adomas realized that the abbot didn't trust him, and suspected him of being someone who could do harm to the monastery. He knew that the Russians often employed provocateurs and sent them to mingle with people or visit monasteries, in attempts to examine feelings and opinions about Russian rule. But how could Adomas convince the abbot that his story was true?

Adomas pulled something out of his pocket – a small leather purse, with the letter "R" embroidered in gold.

"Father", he said, "this purse was given to me by Father Romualdas. In it were seven gold coins for my journey and to help me establish myself in a foreign land. I promised him I would return the loan tenfold, and now this purse holds seventy gold coins, which I conscientiously and honestly earned while living in a far-off land. Father Romualdas said that I could repay the loan to a monastery whose patron was St. Anthony of Padua. I am repaying my debt to you, as your monastery holds the miraculous portrait of St. Anthony."

The abbot accepted the purse and carefully examined it, paying particular attention to the embroidered letter "R". He began to question Adomas in detail, asking when he had been at the monastery, why the police had pursued him, who were his parents, when had he returned to Lithuania. Adomas told him everything about the failed insurrection, about his experiences in Vilnius and about Father Romualdas, who had helped him.

"That is just like Father Romualdas. He often played this kind of trick on the Russians – and for the money, well, he always gave whatever he had to someone who may have needed it more than he. But your having met Father Romualdas is puzzling, as he died in 1827. Drunken Cossacks, coming upon him on the road from Eišiškių and Vilnius, cut him to ribbons with their swords. They suspected that he was one of the organizers of the insurrection, and we had a great deal of trouble

because of that. The authorities even considered closing the monastery.”

This was difficult for Adomas to believe, but he couldn't doubt the abbot's words. He remembered meeting Father Romualdas as if it had been yesterday. He saw again, the living figure of a tall man, his face shadowed by his hooded habit, beckoning to him, urging him to run to the gate. He remembered the underground very well, though he couldn't say how he got there. He remembered falling asleep in the chamber where Father Romualdas had left him, and the basket of food that he found when he woke. And finally, he remembered the moment of leave-taking, when he had asked the monk his name:

“They called me Father Romualdas” – the monk had replied.

Why use the word “called” instead of “call”? He had thought nothing of it at the time, but now the word became meaningful. But he could not be dead, he was alive, Adomas saw him, spoke with him. Adomas decided he wouldn't think about it.

He asked the abbot to accept the seventy gold coins and use the money for the monastery's needs, and to attach the purse to the portrait of St. Anthony at the chapel's altar.

Adomas had changed his name before returning to Lithuania, and was now called Adomas Beržėnas. But even with a changed name, he was not safe in Vilnius or its environs, and upon leaving the monastery, he immediately went to Kretinga, where he bought a large farm and settled down. He married and had a son, Jurgis, who studied in Vilnius, and two daughters. Hatred for the occupiers and a longing to see their homeland liberated always lived within the family.

In February of 1863, when Adomas was about sixty years old, a traveler arrived and asked if he could stay overnight. The times were unsettled, rumors were rife, and the Russian authorities had strengthened their occupying forces. No one seemed to know what was really happening, and the Beržėnas family welcomed the guest, hoping to hear the latest, reliable news.

The traveler said that a new rebellion against the Russians was growing. A unit had already formed in the Rudninkų forest under the leadership of Ludvikas Narbutas, and had carried out several attacks on larger groups of Russian soldiers and annihilated them.

Adomas spoke about his own role in the 1831 uprising, and the reasons for its failure.

The next day, as their guest was leaving, he suddenly remembered: “I would have gone on and forgotten, that I have something for you. A stranger, having heard that I was on my way to Kretinga, asked me to deliver this to you.” He handed Adomas a package securely wrapped in a cloth.

Adomas couldn't imagine who might have sent him a package. Seeing his guest off and returning to the house, he unwrapped it and found two pistols, the same ones that Father Romualdas had taken from him in the Bernardine monastery's underground. He respectfully laid them on the table and fell to thinking.

He remembered days long gone. Again, he saw Father Romualdas standing at the little gate and beckoning to him. And he remembered the monk's words, as he took the pistols from him:

“When it is necessary that you fight again, they will be returned to you.”

The time had come.

His son, Jurgis, came home and saw his father standing at the table, looking at the pistols. Adomas had told him the story of the 1831 uprising, about his flight from the authorities, and about the Bernardine monastery.

“Father, give them to me!” Adomas, embracing his son, gave him the pistols. “I hope you will be luckier than I was, and that you will bring back liberty to us and to our Motherland.”

Three days later, Jurgis Beržėnas-Jasas was on his way to the Rudninkų forest. He joined Narbut's team using his old family name of Jasas. The family left at home told neighbors that Jurgis had gone to school in Prague. He returned after a year-and-a-half. The uprising failed, and many rebels fled to German territory. Once there, they were disarmed and imprisoned by the German authorities. Jurgis had eventually managed to escape, slip through the border and find his way home. His first words were: “Father, I have returned without your pistols, as the Germans took them from me.”

“It's nothing, Son the day will come when they will repay us for those pistols with cannon.”

Neither Adomas nor Jurgis lived to see the day or the payment, but this saying survived and remained in the family. Even their neighbors knew of it, and often mentioned, that the Germans owed the Beržėnas two

cannon. But no one knew how or why this debt had come to be.

The World War tore through the countryside, and in 1919 the battle for Lithuanian independence began. Two descendants of Adomas Beržėnas-Jasas immediately volunteered for the fight, and soon the Bolsheviks were driven from Lithuania. Then it came the turn of the Bermontininkai, and after success in battles with them, Lithuania's army took over Radviliškis. They recovered much that had been looted, and confiscated a great amount of weaponry. The two volunteer Beržėnas brothers were able to seize a pair of brand-new cannons as the Germans were transporting them from Radviliškis to Šiauliai. For this exploit, they were awarded the Vytytis Cross, and when the wars for independence had been won and they returned home, they were able to tell all that the Germans had repaid their debt with the two cannons.

Then ensued a time of peace and creativity in Lithuania, which had the effect of lulling the nation and weakening vigilance, and leaders did not foresee the danger posed by their eternal foe. In 1940, the Bolshevik army overran Lithuania, beginning a wave of arrests, killings and forcible exile, even more brutal and cruel than the murders and deportations after the 1831 and 1863 rebellions. No one was safe. Anyone could be arrested, killed or shoved into a prison with no hope of release. Arrests were carried out at night, with no witnesses.

Rumors flew in 1941, that the Bolsheviks were looting churches, monasteries and convents, driving out monks and nuns and arresting priests. The Bolshevik army had plundered the Franciscan monastery at Kretinga, and driven away the monks. In June, the youngest Beržėnas son found a leather purse on the road, embroidered with the letter "R", containing seven Russian paper rubles. It must have been dropped by a Russian soldier who had participated in the looting of the Kretinga monastery. The boy showed it to his parents, but they paid no attention, as the past had been forgotten, along with the role that this little purse had played in their ancestor's life.

On June 13, 1941, the Russians began mass deportations of Lithuanians to Siberia. Entire families were taken, men and women with their children, regardless of age or condition, stuffed into railroad cars with the doors nailed shut, under heavy NKVD guard. A Lithuanian name was a ticket to exile.

One night, the Beržėnas homestead was unexpectedly surrounded by Bolshevik troops. The men, women and children were put into a truck and driven to the railroad station, where they were stuffed into a cattle car. This time, there was no Father Romualdas, there was no Bernardine monastery underground, and no member of the Beržėnas-Jasas family escaped, except for the youngest son, he who had found the little leather purse with the letter "R". Jonas had not been at home that night. Later he chose the role of exile of his own free will; not in Siberia, but in the west, and from there, to that land to which, in 1831, his ancestor Adomas Jasas fled.

Jonas, like his ancestor, Adomas, was determined never to forget his country, and when the time came, to return to Lithuania and join the fight for her freedom.

The exiled Beržėnas family vanished in the Siberian taiga, their unknown graves clad in eternal ice and deep, silent snow.

By Genrikas Songinas
English translation by Gloria O'Brien

Gloria Kivytaite O'Brien is a frequent contributor to Bridges. She grew up in Brooklyn, Annunciation Parish. Gloria can be contacted at Senaboba@aol.com

continue from page 11

TRIVIA QUESTION ANSWER TO TRIVIA QUIZ:


English	Standard Lithuanian	Old Lithuanian
Monday	Pirmadienis	Panėdėlis
Tuesday	Antradienis	Utarninkas
Wednesday	Trečiadienis	Serėda
Thursday	Ketvirtadienis	Četvergė-Ketvergė
Friday	Penktadienis	Pėtnicia
Saturday	Šeštadienis	Subata
Sunday	Sekmadienis	Nedėlia

Love Story

Jonas who was a first wave Lithuanian who spoke Old Lithuanian. Birutė, a second wave Lithuanian spoke Standard Lithuanian. Jonas met Birutė at a Picnic and fell in love with Birute at first sight. Jonas asked her for a date, and when Birutė responded in Standard Lithuanian, "SEKMA-DIENIS" was OK for her; Jonas did not want her to know that he did not understand and assumed that she meant "SUBATA" Needless to say this romance was going nowhere. After many missed dates, Jonas and Birutė both agreed that they should speak to each other in a common language. They solved the language problem by going to night school and learned to speak English.

Now, Birutė only speaks to her children Vida and Kęstutis in Standard Lithuanian when she doesn't want her husband Jonas to know what she is saying.

Ed Shakalis

VYTIS TOURS

 The largest tour operator to
 Lithuania, Latvia & Estonia

PRESENTS
LITHUANIA 2006

VYTIS TOURS

35 Years in Business

Offers the following prearranged tours in 2006

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

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

VYTIS TOURS

40-24 235th St.

Douglaston, NY 11363

718-423-6161 800-77-VYTIS

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

*** Book your flights Online ***

CHICAGO REPRESENTATIVES

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

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

All VYTIS representatives speak English and Lithuanian !!

Calendar of Events for April - May - June

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

BLp(LKA)1195

APRIL

April 1 - 2, 2006

2006 Seniors basketball tournament, Chicago
The 2006 men's senior basketball tournament (age 35 and older) is being organized by Chicago ASK Lituanica and Chicago LSK Zalgiris in Chicago.
Info: Dr. Donatas Siliūnas
5116 Illinois Ave.
Lisle, IL 60532-2014
Tel: 630-852-3204
Fax: 630-852-4026
E-mail: dsiliunas@aol.com
Website: www.lituanica.org

April 9, 2006 - 2 pm
Lithuanian Easter Egg Dyeing Workshop
Seattle, Washington
www.lithuanian-american.org/seattle

April 18, 2006 - 7pm
Amber Roots
Heritage Club Meeting
Culture Center
Philadelphia
Lithuanian Music Hall
2715 E. Allegheny Ave.
Philadelphia, PA 19134
All are welcome.
Milliemarks@aol.com
610-497-5469

April 23, 2006 - 12 Noon
Easter Table Buffet
St. Andrew Parish Hall
1913 Wallace St.
Philadelphia, PA
MUST HAVE ADVANCE RESERVATIONS
Info. and Reservations:
215 - 969 - 2117

April 29, 2006

Annual Ball of the Kristijonas Donelaitis Lithuanian School of Washington, DC
The school will celebrate its 45th Anniversary.
More information to come later.
www.javlib.org

MAY, 2006

May 6 or 13, 2006

Baltic Rites of Spring Festival
Seattle Central Library downtown
1000 Fourth Ave
Microsoft Auditorium, LIETUTIS and LANKAS dancers will perform.
Exact date to be announced.
Info: <http://www.lithuanian-american.org/seattle>

May 7, 2006

4:00 pm
"Kugelis"
Mother's Day Dinner
Mothers of our community will be honored with special performance by our Lithuanian chorus.
Admission: \$10 adults, free admission for mothers.
RSVP: Reservations must be called in or emailed to Arv Jarasius.
Location: Fraternal Order of Eagles Hall
1151 S Galena Street
(just west of Mississippi & Havana)
Denver, CO 80247
Info: Arv Jarasius
303-439-2089

NEW DATE

May 13, 2006

7 pm
Spring Concert
Philadelphia LAISVE Choir
Lithuanian Music Hall
2715 E. Allegheny Ave.
Philadelphia, PA
Info: 215-938-0783

May 16, 2006

7pm
Amber Roots
Heritage Club Meeting
Culture Center
Philadelphia
Lithuanian Music Hall
2715 E. Allegheny Ave.
Philadelphia, PA 19134
All are welcome.
Milliemarks@aol.com
610-497-5469

May 20, 2006

Lithuanian Work Day at Kurša Campground
In support of Lankas Family Camp Overnight stays available in the dorms.
Do some work and have some fun!
Info: <http://www.lithuanian-american.org/seattle>

May 19-21, 2006

56 Sports games in Chicago
The 56 North American Lithuanian Sports Games Chicago Organized by Chicago ASK Lituanica & Chicago LSK Zalgiris.
Competition in basketball (men, women & junior A class) volleyball (men, women & mixed teams), swimming, table tennis & chess.
Info: dr. Donatas Siliūnas
5116 Illinois Ave.
Lisle, IL 60532 - 2014
Tel: 630-852-3204
Fax: 630-852-4026
E-mail: dsiliunas@aol.com
Website: www.lituanica.org

May 27 - 28, 2006

The 2006 North American Lithuanian juniors B, C, D, E & F (molecule) class basketball tournament for boys and girls age 6 - 16 is being organized in Toronto, Ontario by Sports Club Aušra.
Info: Sports Club "Aušra"
c/o Edis Punkris, pirmininkas
1 Resurrection Road
Toronto, ON M9A 5G1
Canada.
Tel: 905-465-1010 Ext. 227
E-mail
edpunkris@hotmail.com.
Aušros E-mail:
info@ausra.net.
Website: www.ausra.net

2006, Iss.3

~~June 11, 2006~~ 10:00 am
Mass in memory of Lithuanian deportees to Siberia
St. Andrew Church
1913 Wallace St.
Philadelphia, PA

June 11, 2006 - 2 pm
Concert featuring singers and musicians of SAULĖS Ensemble from Šiauliai, Lithuania
Lithuanian Music Hall
2715 E. Allegheny Ave.
Philadelphia, Pa. 19134.
Info: 215-938-0783

Jun. 17, 2006 - 10:00 am
Annual LAC, Inc. SD Chapter Picnic "Gegužinė" - Saturday
San Dieguito Park
1628 Lomas Sante Fe Drive
Del Mar, CA 92014
Sponsors: San Diego Chapter Lithuanian American Community
Info: www.lithsd.org

June 20, 2006 - 7pm
Amber Roots
Heritage Club Meeting
Culture Center
Philadelphia Lithuanian Music Hall
2715 E. Allegheny Ave.
Philadelphia, PA 19134
Milliemarks@aol.com
610-497-5469

LITHUANIAN AMERICAN NEWS JOURNAL

bridges
VOLUME 30 ISSUE 3

Subscriptions:
1927 West Blvd.
Racine, WI 53403



National Library of Lithuania
12/1/2006

Gedimino Prospektas 51
LT-2600, VILNIUS LITHUANIA

PERIODICALS
POSTAGE

