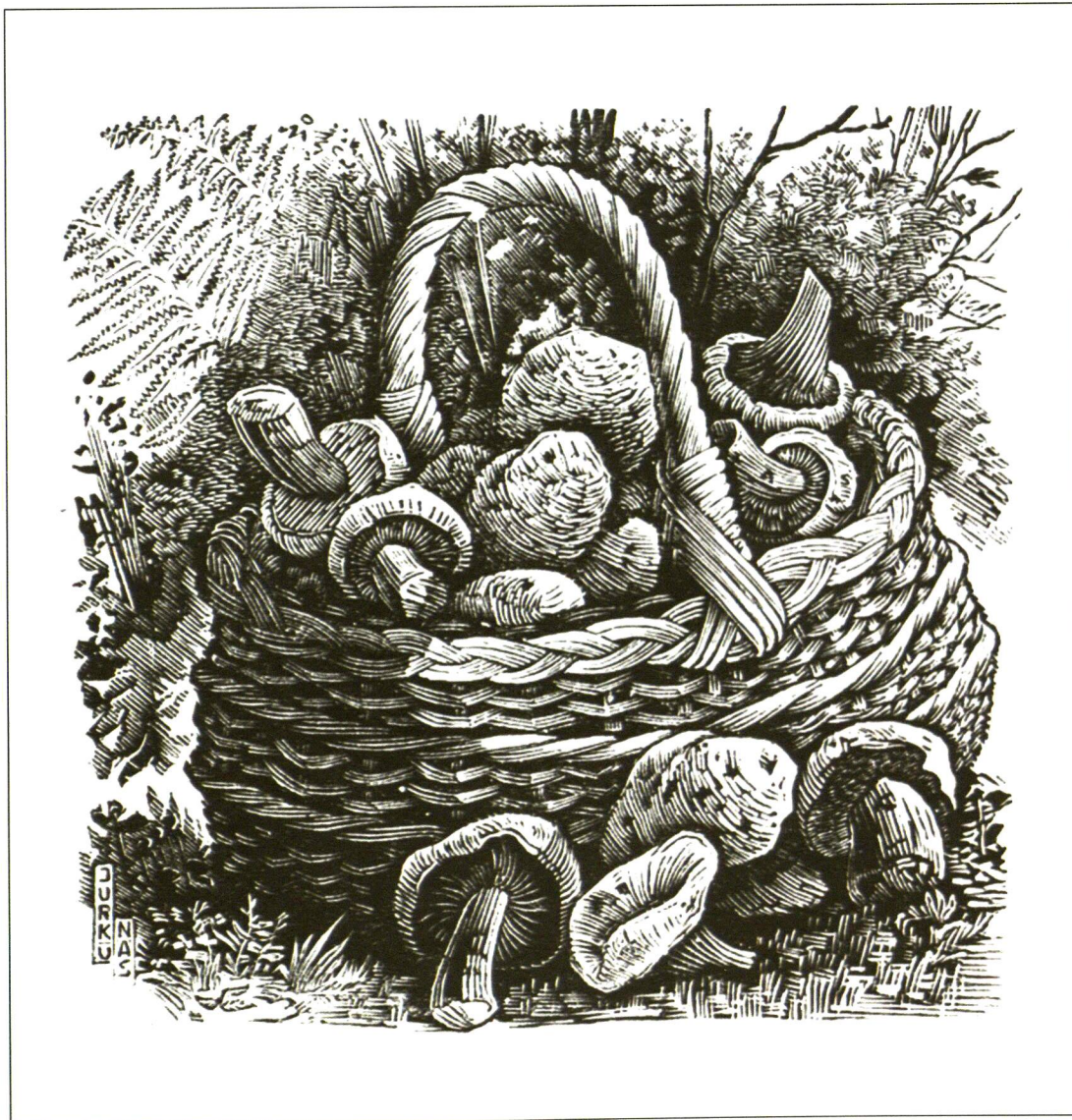


bridges

1

april



september 2006


LITHUANIAN AMERICAN NEWS JOURNAL

Letter from the Editor

It's hard to believe another summer has come and gone. I hope each of you enjoyed your season of warm weather and more relaxed days. Of course, we know what is coming on the heels of summer; Christmas! Just walk into any store and you'll see the signs of Christmas in September. And to help you with your shopping BRIDGES will be reviewing and bringing you books in English about Lithuania that you might like to give to someone. We'll also have other suggestions in upcoming issues for the "person who has everything." Don't forget that there are many worthy charities that would be happy to receive a gift in honor or in memory of someone. See how quickly I've helped you solve your shopping problems and it's all been done in September.

There has been happy and sad news during this time. Lithuania's government seems to be back on track and that is the good news. But the sad news is that yet another Lithuanian parish has succumbed to closure. St. George Church in Shenandoah, PA has been the latest victim. The Committee is hopeful the decision will be reversed as you can read in Dr. Dan Paul's letter. If you live in the Shenandoah area you might join the people who meet every Wednesday evening a 6 pm to say the rosary in front of the church. It is always sad when any parish is closed. But when an ethnic parish closes it's not as simple as transferring to a nearby church. The parish is the heart and soul of the community and very often the closure rips through the spirit of that community. I urge all readers who have a Lithuanian parish within driving distance to attend that church. I know the arguments; the church is too far, it's easier to go locally, you have too much to do on Sunday and it's not in the best neighborhood. But when the doors are nailed shut, we don't have a leg to stand on if we have not supported the parish. The church cannot exist if its parishioners attend only for Christmas and Easter.

This issue marks the completion of the second year I have been editing Bridges. I want to thank Gema who has dedicated so many hours to working on bringing you this beautiful magazine. Sincere thanks to Ramas Pliura for having the magazine printed each month, putting each label on by hand and then mailing it. The reminder postcard you receive that your subscription is expiring also comes from Ramas. My husband, Tim, is my right hand doing this magazine. Thanks to the Lithuanian American Community for sponsoring Bridges as well as Vytis Tours for its monthly ad. But most of all my gratitude is to you, the writers and subscribers who make this such a pleasurable job. Your encouragement and kind words have been overwhelming.


Jeanne Shalna Dorr

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**THE INFORMATION CENTER FOR
HOMECOMING LITHUANIANS.**

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Lithuania.

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*Cover: The cover illustration is by Vytautas Jurkunas from the book *Kristijonas Donelaitis "METAI"*.

a Gift Repaid

She is a lovely and charming First Lady and two countries share pride in her accomplishments. She is not only the wife of President Valdas Adamkus, but she is also the founder of Alma's Fund, a charitable organization to help poor schools.

It was a beautiful morning when I arrived in Vilnius for our interview. Mrs. Adamkus immediately put me at ease by showing an interest in my work as well as asking me about the differences I saw in Lithuania since my last trip. The interview was to focus on Alma's Fund, but since this was not a formal interview we often strayed from the intended topic. We shared mutual friends in Chicago and we both have Lithuania's children as a priority so there were many issues to discuss.

The Past

I asked Mrs. Adamkus how and why she started Alma's Fund. She explained that while she campaigned with her husband she noticed an inequality among the rural schools. Although they traveled all over Lithuania and saw many places, she couldn't keep the children from these schools far from her thoughts. She also knew she had to do something that would change this situation.

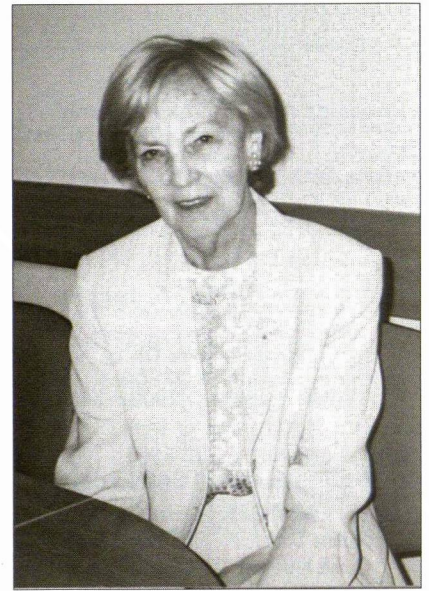
During the presidential campaign a radio station offered to host a call in show so that listeners could ask the wives of the candidates questions about any topics. There were ten candidates for President of Lithuania and nine wives accepted the invitation of the station to participate. The first caller to question Mrs. Adamkus asked her what she would do if her husband was elected. Would she find a job? Would she work for a salary? She said she never had a moment's hesitation when she answered that she would devote her time to charity. She explained what she saw while she was on the campaign trail with her husband and said she would like to help the

children and the elderly. The caller seemed satisfied, but the wife of one of the candidates became very upset with her. How dare she mention charity? The woman began to argue that the Lithuanian people are proud and they didn't need anyone's charity. The Lithuanian people could help themselves, and she insisted that outside charity was not necessary. Finally, another candidate's wife, Gražina Landsbergis, wife of Prof. Vytautas Landsbergis, took issue with the woman who was upset. She explained that since Lithuania regained independence she was involved with charity work. She had traveled extensively to other continents, and that in many places, such as the United States, charity and volunteerism was not looked upon as a disgrace and neither were the people who accepted the help of others.

At that point Mrs. Adamkus reminisced about her early life. She was born in Šiauliai and grew up in Telšiai. When it came time to flee the country her family left with what they had on their backs and two suitcases. During the time she was in a refuge camp she wore out and outgrew her clothes and the family had nothing. She remembered being so happy and so grateful when a shipment arrived from BALFAS, a Lithuanian American charity organization. That people she didn't know, strangers, put aside their own problems to send the clothing, was something she never forgot. She said that in a way, her charity work is thanking everyone who helped her family.

When Mr. and Mrs. Adamkus were leaving Chicago, friends and a women's organization gave her monetary gifts and asked her to put the money to the best use she could find. In her mind, the children would be the best recipients of these gifts. They were, after all, Lithuania's future.

The fund had already started its work, but on March 17, 1999, Alma's Fund was registered and incorporated. Money was



First Lady of Lithuania, Mrs. Alma Adamkus

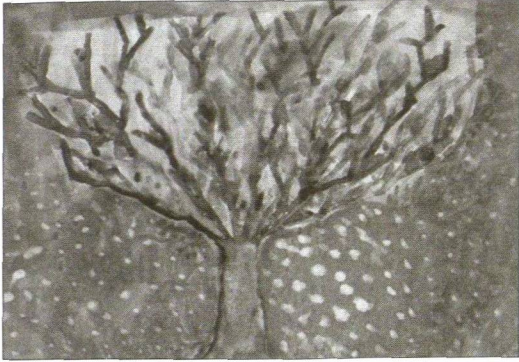
received from many sources, especially Chicago. It was agreed that there should be a way to send donations within America and Lithuanian Orphan Care was approached to help with the fund. They readily agreed to help.

The Present

Letters were sent to schools asking for their participation in the program, but only five schools responded. The schools were the base for the program and as more money was donated more schools were added.

Today forty two schools are being helped by Alma's Fund and the fund has three people in Lithuania to help with administration. The expenses are minimal as the city donates the office space rent free and tax free. Not only individuals donate but organizations have also offered funds.

In the very beginning they arranged for a room to be made in each school for children who came early and stayed late. At this point many schools had two shifts attending classes. The rooms were remodeled and furnished with desks and toys. Hot meals were prepared and served before school and after school. Tutors were hired to help those having academic problems. This is still part of the program today. Rural libraries have been brought up to the standards of city



vide drawings for a calendar. These drawings are offered to business sponsors who then have them made into Christmas cards. The fund pays for the printing and the sponsors offer a donation. Those not selected are framed and can be seen all over the rooms of Alma's Fund. I don't know how anyone is able to make a selection from these drawings.

schools. Computers and the Internet have also been installed in the schools. Roofs were repaired and new windows installed where necessary. Basically, there are safe places for the children to stay before and after school, they receive a hot meal and extra help. The fund believes that social activities must also grow. Each year the supported schools are invited to the Presidential Palace for Easter and Christmas festivities. One week after Easter the children are invited to roll Easter eggs in the courtyard for what is referred to as "Little Easter for Children."

Approximately 300 children receive candy, books, fruit and chocolate.

For a Christmas party five or ten children from each school are invited to the President's House. The teachers are asked what the children would like to see and the secretaries take them sightseeing. Top on the list are Santa Claus, the big Christmas trees, and last, but not least, Mc Donalds.

If a child is selected to visit Vilnius at Easter they are not invited to visit at Christmas. Everyone has to be given an equal chance and the numbers have to be manageable.

Aside from holidays they are taken on day trips to Vilnius to see the historical sites. They have visited a shopping mall, gone skating and enjoyed movies.

Good grades are encouraged and rewarded. There are many contests that are open to competition. Each year a school is selected and asked that the children pro-

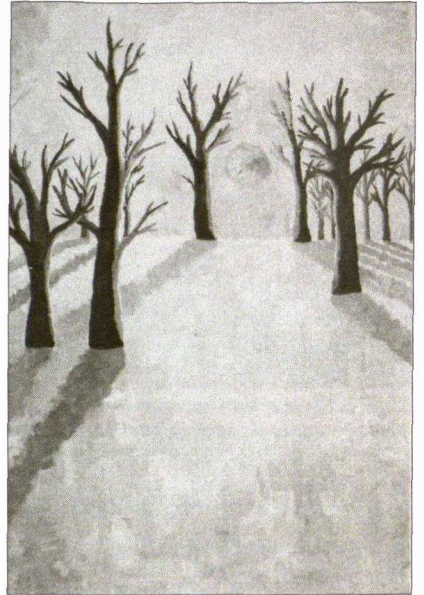
I am looking at a calendar Mrs. Adamkus gave me and after viewing the framed drawings I can only deduct that Lithuania is filled with talented young artists. Three of the drawings are part of this article.

The successes of the children involved in the schools that are sponsored by Alma's Fund have been overwhelming. Many are now on the same level as their city counterparts.

Since volunteerism is fairly new to Lithuania, Mrs. Adamkus has encouraged people to volunteer their time. The fund has reached a point where Lithuanians are also supporting it financially. At the insistence of the First Lady a very strict audit is conducted each year. The fund itself handles no money. Checks are sent directly to the bank in Lithuania or if they sent through Lithuanian Orphan Care the money is transferred directly into the Lithuanian bank account.

Presently several thousand children are being funded and it has made a tremendous difference in their academic as well as their social lives. I am sure that one of

the major factors entering into the success of this program is having a President and First Lady who are involved in the day to day lives of the children.



The Future

Mrs. Adamkus hopes that one day the Lithuanian government will have the resources to fund all schools in Lithuania as they should be funded. She also hopes that more students could visit other countries.

If you would like to donate to this very worthy cause, please send your tax deductible checks written to Lithuanian Orphan care to:

Lithuanian Orphan Care
2711 W. 71st St.
Chicago, IL. 60629

Please write Alma's Fund on the check. Your donation will be transferred to Alma's Fund in Lithuania.

Jeanne Dorr
All photos by Jeanne Dorr

Jeanne Dorr is the Editor of Bridges and is a member of the Board of Directors of Lithuanian Orphan Care, a branch of the Human Services Council of the Lithuanian American Community, Inc.



Lithuanian Song Festival Was a Venue for Reunions



THEN...Some of the University of Vilnius summer course of 1977 students pose for a photo on one of the many organized group excursions to various areas of Lithuania.

2006 seems to be a good year for anniversaries and commemorations. The Lithuanian American Community, Inc. proclaimed 2006 to be the year of Lithuanian summer camps in the United States (two camps in Michigan, Dainava and Rakas, celebrated 50th anniversaries). The organizers of the 8th Lithuanian Song Festival were happy that singers and choirs answered their invitation to participate in a song festival in North America after a gap of 15 years. One group of baby boomers decided to commemorate another anniversary – the 29th anniversary of a memorable six weeks spent in Lithuania during July-August 1977, as part of the Vilnius University summer program for students who live outside of Lithuania (we called the program “Vilniaus universiteto vasaros kursai”). Eleven members of group (almost half of the 1977 group) gathered in Chicago during the 8th Lithuanian Song Festival. Not all eleven were able to gather in one place at one time in Chicago, given personal and family commitments during the Song Festival, but there were several opportunities for most to gather at Song Festival weekend events and on our own to reminisce about that faraway summer that made such an impact on our lives and created a bond that has remained among us even after all of those years.

In 1977, Lithuania was Communist-occupied. Many of our parents probably permitted us to go to Lithuania for the summer course with some degree of trepidation – we were young and many of us had not widely traveled yet. The ages of the persons in our group were 17 – early 40’s. Most of us were from post World War II refugee Lithuanian families, now living in the United States, Canada, the U.K., Australia, and Venezuela. A few were the grandchildren of earlier emigrants from Lithuania whose family stories were about an even different Lithuania, under czarist rule. Some of us knew each other from Lithuanian

activities, summer camps, etc. at home, but in the end, the course group molded together a new mix of people. To even get to Lithuania, we needed to have visas, needed to be accepted to the summer course, needed to fly through Moscow and other Communist countries in order to reach Lithuania. Some of us arrived with adventures of missed flights, bad connecting flights, language barriers to overcome in non-English (or German or Lithuanian) speaking Moscow and other Communist-occupied transit cities that did not show interest in assisting tourists.

The courses were designed to be six weeks of Lithuanian language immersion, mixed with exposure to Lithuanian literature, culture, trips around Lithuania. We stayed in the Vilnius University dormitories and received stipends for food (we were served only breakfast) that we came to realize were more than most of our relatives in Lithuania saw in several months of work.

We couldn’t change our money from home into local currency. We understood that the course organizers had an agenda – they wanted to show us that life in Lithuania under that regime wasn’t all that bad. Some critics in our hometowns had expressed their doubts to our parents (many times unsolicited) whether the training of our parents and the schooling many of us had received at Lithuanian Saturday schools would provide us with the necessary historical context. Would we have the “backbone” to walk that balance beam between being gracious guests in our parents’ / grandparents’ homeland and realistic citizens of the world, understanding what we saw around us (life under Communism). In retrospect, I think our group did well. When we had an opportunity, we “tested” the limits of our hosts. When organizers wanted to schedule departure for a trip to Palanga for Sunday morning, a number of us protested that we would not leave until after attending Mass at a still operating Roman Catholic church down the street from our dormitory. When we sat in class writing sentences on the board, we’d write religious themes such as “God created the world”, to which our instructor would write “Did he really?,” and the “contest” of wills would begin. The local people we met and our relatives were the ones who had to determine how much or how little to have contact with us, the Westerners, since in those days, often, after the Westerners left, the locals who had contact with them, would be taken in for questioning.

So, after all these years, our memories may not be sharp for each and every detail. We may be a bit “grey-haired around the edges”. At the July 2006 reunion, it seemed, that most in the group still retained fond memories of that 1977 summer. We learned a lot about Lithuania and about ourselves. We were privileged to attend classes in the historical buildings

of Vilnius University, while later seminars were moved to a newer campus. Our instructors included some of the best from the faculty of Vilnius University, and guest lecturers included renowned poets and traditional folk singers. Our trips included visits to writers' unions, a collective farm, and sadly- Roman Catholic churches that had been converted into art galleries and museums of atheism. Some were sights many two-week tourists may not have visited if they were unable to venture outside of Vilnius, a restriction placed on most tourists at that time. In six weeks we learned to judge for ourselves what we were seeing. Some members of the seminar group during independent optional outings rubbed elbows with Lithuania's writers and artists, and some during their own outings had opportunities to meet some of Lithuania's dissidents. We learned that Lithuania is beautiful, but that in July-August, one must be prepared for all kinds of weather, including cold and rain (we tested our wardrobes to the limit).

Lithuania re-established its independence in 1990 after years of life under Communist rule. How have we, the "Vilnius University summer class of 1977", changed over the years? Each person's experience is different. Some members of that group continue to visit Lithuania regularly. One has since become a Lithuanian citizen. One has adopted two boys from Lithuania. One married a sympathetic American husband of non-Lithuanian descent who has taken Lithuanian language courses. Some are still active in Lithuanian activities. For some, their Lithuanian activities are primarily with parents and other relatives. Some of us later met our former instructors. Two of them not only have published books. One was a literature professor who attended the underground Catholic seminary and became a Jesuit priest. Another was one of the Vilnius University students who were selected to be our escorts and junior instructors – that student is now a Vilnius University faculty member and curriculum department head.

Do young people of Lithuanian descent still take advantage of courses once they've moved beyond the "Saturday school" and "summer camp" age? Lithuanian language courses are even more available now than they were in 1977 – pick the level, site, and cost. For example, in the United States, the BALSSI (Baltic Studies Summer Institute) courses are for-credit college-level, and various BALSSI member institutions host them. In 2006, that host is Indiana University <<http://www.indiana.edu/~iuslavic/swseel/languages/balssi05.shtml>>. In Lithuania, courses are available in both Vilnius and Kaunas (and possibly elsewhere). For example, Vilnius University summer course information was found at <http://www.vu.lt/en/studies/summer_courses/> and some information on the Intensive Lithuanian Language and



NOW...Some of the University of Vilnius summer course of 1977 students pose for a photo during a reunion they organized to take place at the banquet of the 8th Lithuanian Song Festival in Chicago, July 2006.

Culture Summer Session at Vytautas Magnus University in Kaunas, Lithuania., July 25 August 22 is linked from the Lithuanian American Community's Web site:
<http://javlb.org/index.php>.

So, anyone who has had an opportunity to go to Lithuania for a longer period of time, (through courses such as those at universities, or other ways) will tell you – go for it! Without a doubt, such a longer stay will be memorable. You'll gain personal knowledge of Lithuania and its people as you explore and visit and mingle. You'll feel an interesting sense of belonging. Lastly, you are guaranteed to have a few adventures, meeting new people in the process.

Ramunė Kubilius

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

TRIVIA QUESTION

(No.6)

Who was the first professional Lithuanian architect in the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth and is the most famous representative of Lithuanian classicism?

(a) M. Szule (b) L. Gucevičius (c) L. Bortkevičius

Answer to Trivia Quiz

on page 21

A watercolor Baltic travelogue

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THE FINAL REPORT OF THE LITHUANIAN AMERICAN COMMUNITY NATIONAL ELECTION COMMITTEE 2006

The elections to the Board of the Lithuanian American Community took place during the entire month of May, 2006. All persons of Lithuanian descent over 18 years of age as well as their spouses had the right to vote. The Board is the highest body of the Lithuanian American Community and is responsible for setting activity guidelines and for electing the President of the Executive Committee. Members vote for candidates nominated in their particular District. 4,986 members voted in the 2006 elections; 76 votes were declared invalid. Voting took place in all 10 Districts of the Lithuanian American Community and 60 Directors were elected to a three year term. The number of Directors elected in each District is directly proportional to the number of individuals who voted in the District.

Results Of The Elections To the XVIII Board of Directors of the Lithuanian American Community:

BOSTON DISTRICT

(409 voted, representation on the present Board - 5, elected - 5)

Rima Girniuvienė, Quincy, MA (374);
Daiva Navickienė, Bedford, MA (372);
Irena Veitienė, Milton, MA (347);
Jonas Stundžia, Lawrence, MA (325);
Andrius Jurkūnas, Allston, MA (322).

CONNECTICUT DISTRICT

(331 voted, representation on the present Board - 4, elected - 4)

E. Vaišnienė, Ph.D., North Haven, CT (238);
Rimas Samis, Branford, CT (206);
Ses. Margarita Bareikaitė, Putnam, CT (198);
Alfonsas Dzikas, Hartford, CT (179);
Giedrė Stankūnienė, Cos Cob, CT (165);
D. Giedrimienė, MD Rocky Hill, CT (156).

FLORIDA DISTRICT

(273 voted, representation on the present Board - 5, elected - 3)

Lina Gedvilaitė, Fort Myers, FL (196);
Zita Siderienė, Cape Coral, FL (176);
Dalia Augūnienė, Jupiter, FL (119);
Kęstutis K. Miklas, Singer Island, FL (101);
Elena Jasaitienė, St. Petersburg, FL (90);
Jūratė Miklienė, Singer Island, FL (83);
Alvita Kerbelienė, Seminole, FL (72).

AMERICAN CROSSROADS DISTRICT

(304 voted, representation on the present

Board - 3, elected - 3)

Kristina M. Jonyka, Omaha, NE (291);
Monika Zakaitytė, Sugar Land TX (281);
Arvydas Urbonavičius, Plattsmouth, NE (280).

MICHIGAN DISTRICT

(294 voted, representation on the present Board - 4, elected - 4)

Algis Rugienius, Bloomfield, MI (226);
Kun. Ričardas Repšys, Southfield, MI, (216);
Andrius Anužis, Brighton, MI (190),
Vytautas Jonaitis, Grand Rapids, MI (149);
N. V. Udry, Farmington Hills, MI (143).

NEW YORK DISTRICT

(311 voted, representation on the present Board - 4, elected - 4)

Laima Šileikytė-Hood, Manhattan, NY (255);
Rimas Vaičaitis, Ph.D., Lido Beach, NY (242);
A. R. Lukoševičiūtė, Woodhaven, NY (208);
Kęstutis Bileris, Richmond Hill, NY (185);
Andrius Guobys, Locust Valley, NY (178),
Vytautas Čereška, Woodhaven, NY (107).

OHIO DISTRICT

(277 voted, representation on the present Board - 7, elected - 4)

Rimvydas Tamošiūnas, Webster, NY (185);
Janina Birutė Litvinienė, Rochester, NY (178);
Dalia Puškorienė, Willoughby Hills, OH (162);
Juozas Ardys, Fairview, PA (150);
Darius Sabaliunas, Wyoming, OH (141),
Nomedas Vucianienė, Mentor, OH (123).

SOUTHEAST DISTRICT

I-st Region

(523 voted, representation on the present Board - 6, elected - 7)

Teresė Gečienė, Huntington Valley, PA (395);
Vytautas Maciūnas, Cherry Hill, NJ (394);
Algis Lukas, Silver Springs, MD (353);
Roma Krušinskienė, Churchville, PA (336);
Saulius Garalevičius, Bensalem, PA (315);
Rasa Ardytė-Juškienė, Manasquan, NJ (296);
Audronė Pakštienė, Sterling, VA (254);
Stefa Alšėnaitė-Urban, Bethesda, MD (213).

II-nd Region

(232 voted, representation on the present Board - 2, elected - 3)

Rimantas Bitėnas, Watchung, NJ (184);
Julius Veblaitis, Union, NJ (134);
Žilvinas Bublīs, Rahway, NJ (85);
Valerija Kligienė, Edison, NJ (49).

MIDWEST DISTRICT

I-st Region

(825 voted, representation on the present Board - 12, elected - 10)

Kun. Jaunius Kelpšas, Chicago, IL (649);
Juozas Polikaitis, Lemont, IL (557);
Marija Remienė, Westchester, IL (459);
Danguolė Ilginytė, Palos Hills, IL (431);
Jūratė Budrienė, Chicago, IL (424);
R. Kašuba, Ph.D., St. Charles, IL (423);
Algis Kazlauskas, Orland Park, IL (402);
Irena Vilimienė, Palos Hills, IL (395);
Bronius Abrutis, Palos Hills, IL (388);
Milda Marija Šatienė, Riverside, IL (388);
Birutė A. Vindašienė, Palos Hills, IL (347);
Pijus Vincas Stončius, Lemont, IL (264);
Vytautas Senda, Chicago, IL (262);
Audronė Simanonytė, Lemont, IL (252);
Rita-Nijolė Šakenienė, Midlothian, IL (252);
Nijolė Nausėdienė, Homer Glen, IL (251);
Rūta Kuncienė, Darien, IL (192);
Genovaitė Treinienė, Orland Park, IL (172).

II-nd Region

(173 voted, representation on the present Board - 1, elected - 2)

Birutė Vilutienė, Schererville, IN (139);
Otonas Balčiūnas, Indianapolis, IN (34).

III-rd Region

(370 voted, representation on the present Board - 2, elected - 4)

Gediminas Damašius, Libertyville, IL (249);
Regina Narušienė, J.D., Cary, IL (186);
Dainius Skripkauskas, Gurnee, IL (128);
Ramutis Pliura, Racine, WI (86).

WESTERN DISTRICT

(588 voted, representation on the present Board - 5, elected - 7)

R. Vaitkus, Ph.D., Paradise Valley, AZ (328),
D. Navickienė, Westlake Village, CA (284);
Angelė Katarina Nelsienė, Fullerton, CA (280);
Violeta T. Gedgaudienė, Newhall, CA (279);
R. Marcinkevičius, Rancho Mirage, CA (249);
Gediminas Leškys, West Hills, CA (234);
Jurgis Joga, Valencia, CA (189);
Giedrė Milašienė, Carlsbad, CA (169);
Rimas Mikšys, Seattle, WA (142).

LITHUANIAN AMERICAN COMMUNITY NATIONAL ELECTION COMMITTEE 2006

Vida Jankauskienė – Chairperson
Monika Kungienė
Aldona Marijošienė
Vida Penikienė
Paulius Sabalis
Tomas Sperauskas

Rimas Gedeika

Yes, Virginia - There is a Lithuania! And WOW!



Where's the festival?

In the lower southwest corner of Virginia, in a quiet valley surrounded by the Appalachian Mountains rests Roanoke, a small city of 250,000 people. For the past sixteen years it has hosted in May, a wonderful international folk festival known as LOCAL COLORS. For the past five of those years Rita Maleiskienė single handedly organized a Lithuanian Arts and Craft Table. It was through her hard efforts that this year's representation increased 1000 fold. The Lithuanian Embassy sent two of its representatives and Pranas Remeikis, Culpeper's Lithuanian mayor, was also in attendance, and last but not least, the popular Aušrinė, the Lithuanian Folk Dancing Group from Philadelphia performed its repertoire of energetic, colorful folk dances.

This year there were 80 countries partaking in the festival. Eighteen of them performed their native dances or sang their native folk songs on the main stage. We are very proud that Aušrinė was selected as the main attraction and exhilarated the huge crowd with its half hour of non-stop splendid folk dances.



Lina Maciūnaitė & Darius Šapalys lead the way.



Aušrinė's men kick up their heels.

The countries partaking in the festival represented those from Europe, Africa, North and South America, Central America, and the Caribbean, including India, Korea and China.

It was a truly gala affair enjoyed by young and old.

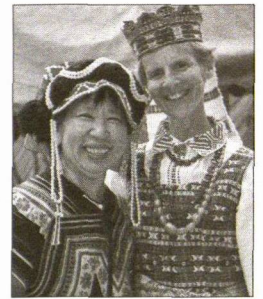
Rimas Gedeika

Photos by Rimas Gedeika

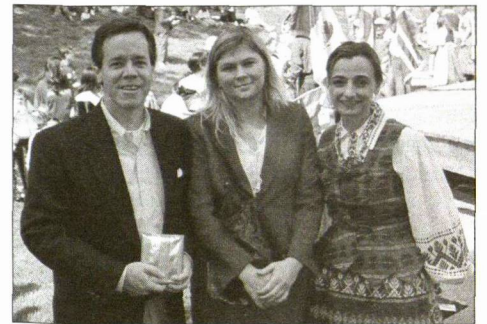
Rimas Gedeika lives in New Jersey and is active in the Lithuanian Sports Community.



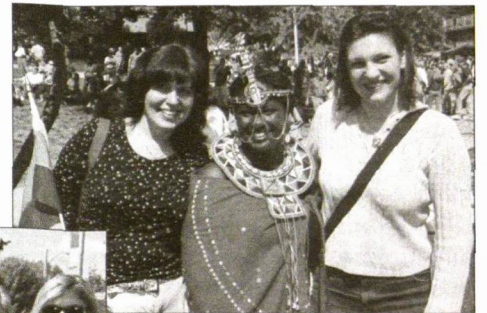
Roanoke's Mayor Harris and local representatives with Zana Tarasevic from the Lithuanian Embassy.



Pearl Fu (Korean), the originator of the festival chats with Danutė Gedeika.



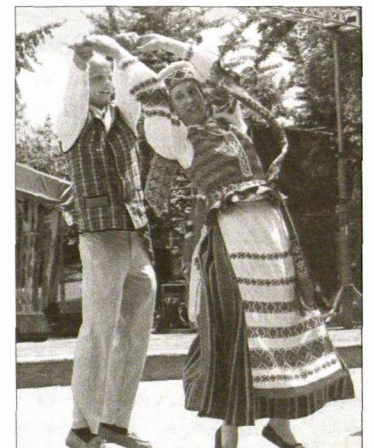
Mayor Harris, Zana Tarasevic and Rita Maleiska, organizer of the Lithuanian contingent.



Smiles speak the same language.

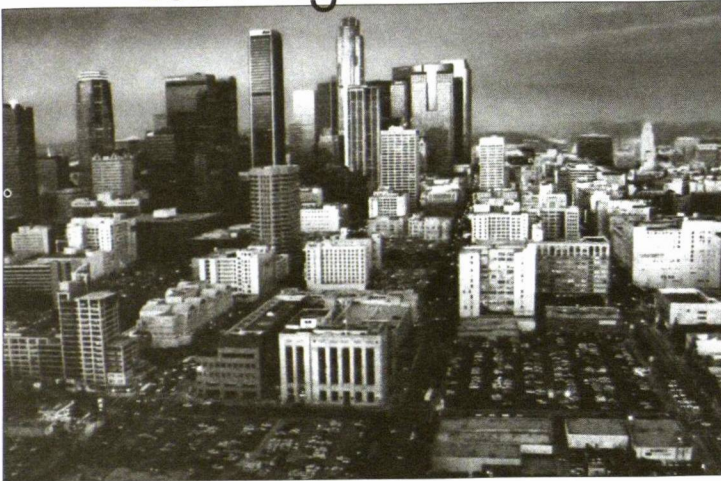


Aušrinė, with Mayor Pranas Rimeikis of Culpeper (top left) and his wife, Rachel, (bottom left).



Darius Šapalys and Danutė Dombroski show some fancy steps.

Los Angeles Trade



Downtown skyline Los Angeles, California.

As coordinator for the Kaunas-Los Angeles Sister Cities Partnership, I am writing to you to invite you to the Los Angeles Sister Cities Trade Conference, which will be held from September 20 through September 22, 2006 at the University of Southern California (USC) in cooperation with USC's Marshall School of Business.

Kaunas has been a sister-city of Los Angeles since 1991, and this year we would like to invite anyone from Lithuania or the Lithuanian expatriate community interested in exploring business opportunities with LA and its sister cities (21 in all) to join us for what promises to be a great conference!

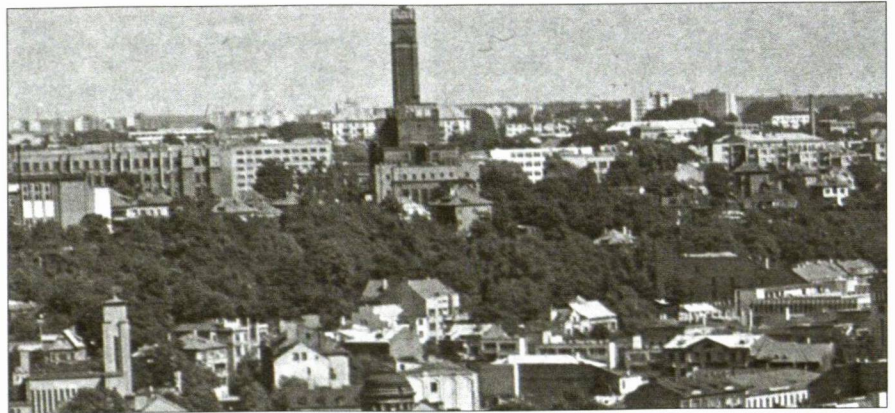
Discussion topics will include product distribution, tourism, the food and beverage industry, disabled access and livable city issues, the health, wellness and entertainment industries. Excursions will include a tour the Port of Los Angeles - the largest in the United States (in terms of container volume) - and a Hollywood studio.

The conference will also provide opportunities to meet LA and Sister City business people. And conference registration fees will be waived for anyone traveling from Lithuania to the conference!

More information is included below, and even more is available at the conference website, where you can register for the conference as well. For Info: www.lasistercitystrade.com

This conference is a unique opportunity for businesses in each of LA's sister cities to showcase and promote their products and services, expanding into potential new markets around the world. It is also an opportunity for business people in LA's sister cities to exchange ideas and improve the effectiveness of their organization.

We would also like to enlist your help in getting the word out about the conference to potential attendees, business owners, trade organizations, and other groups, and in suggesting speakers or participants for the conference. Be sure to see the conference website www.lasistercitystrade.com for further information and online registration.



Downtown skyline of Kaunas, Lithuania.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions in English or Lithuanian, and I look forward to welcoming you to Los Angeles this September!

*Sincerely,
Darius Udryš*

*Coordinator for LA-Kaunas Sister-Cities Program and
Chairman, Lithuanian American Community, Los Angeles
Chapter (LALithuanians.com)*

THE CLOSING OF ST. GEORGE CHURCH,

SHENANDOAH, PA

THE OLDEST LITHUANIAN PARISH IN THE UNITED STATES

Submitted by: Dr. Dan Paul (Friends of St George of Shenandoah) pdlpaul@ptd.net

The following is our statement of hope and resolve to preserve an icon of faith, culture, and tradition given by our parents. We do not necessarily expect this to be placed in the newspaper, but it is our way of communicating our thoughts related to the shameful closing of St. George Church of Shenandoah, Schuylkill County, PA.



It is the oldest Lithuanian Catholic Parish in America. Structurally, it is one of the finest examples of gothic architecture in the United States. Historically, it stands unique as one of the earliest, monumental statements of a newly arriving immigrant people's hope in a new nation. Amazingly, it was not erected in a populace city; it was not brought into existence by wealthy benefactors, or to seat church hierarchy. St. George was built in a poor, small coal mining town in Northeast Pennsylvania by the donations and labor of common, depressed laborers who saw in St. George a confirmation in the faith of their fathers and an acclamation of hope for the children of their children.

Immigrant men and women of exceptional resolve were able to manifest their inner spirituality in physical granite, brick, and mortar that still speak to us today: This is St George, the legacy of a downtrodden generation; a gift to prosperity; a mark in the annals of a people who struggled, suffered, and overcame.

But today, the doors of St George of Shenandoah are closed. Not because parishioners are unable to financially maintain their church, but because church administrators refused to sign building renovation contracts and direct parish funds to enable vital maintenance to be done. Even when these repairs to stonework were urged by structural engineers as early as 2003, only after pieces of stone façade began to fall in 2006 did church administrators take action: not to repair but to lock the doors to the faithful.

Too often we see a pattern in many localities of church closings, particularly of churches with strong ethnic traditions. But, when parishioners are able to financially support their church, what can be the explanation? Today in corporate American, consolidation is viewed as an optimal strategy to better enhance the bottom line, or to change red to black the numbers in an accounting audit. We live in a climate where downsizing, out-sourcing, and offering lowest wages with fewest benefits are viewed as smart administration. Companies that best follow these strategies are rewarded on Wall Street. In this business environment the impact of these decisions on communities and people are held as a secondary. We live in a society where preserving and renovating are considered out-dated thinking; we dispose and discard because it is more expedient and cost-effective.

The Church in the United States faces a financial crisis. There are no easy solutions and the burden of resolving these problems must weigh heavily on our leaders.

Therefore, we ask all to pray for our bishops and pastors that their judgments are not seduced by secular economic models that value bottom-line ledger statements over spiritual welfare, community, and tradition. Our bishops and pastors need to see a financial crisis as temporal but our churches as "for all time." Once a church like St George is lost, it is lost forever. Pray that our bishops and pastors remember there are no saints we honor who closed churches.

Pray for us, the Friends of St George, that to preserve our house of worship we never fail to see in our bishop and pastor the image of Christ and that our actions are guided by humility and love.

Therefore, in humility, we remind our bishops and pastors that in the spring of 1206, outside the poor village of San Damiano a small, decaying road-side church stood. A cross still hung over the altar of that church and before it a young man gazed; a youth much spoiled by his father's wealth. Then as this young man began to pray, he heard a voice from the cross "don't you see that my house has collapsed? Go and repair it for me." Now in the spring of 2006, in the poor town of Shenandoah, a mighty, but recently neglected church stands. There is also a cross over the altar. Do you believe, 800 hundred years later virtually to the month, a voice from that cross would now say: sell-off my assets, salvage what you can, consolidate, tell the people to accept new realities? Do time and current secular economic trends change the words from the cross?

Therefore we pray for our bishops and pastors to reflect on the meaning and timelessness of the words of our Lord himself to Saint Francis of Assisi: "Don't you see that my house has collapsed? Go and repair it for me."



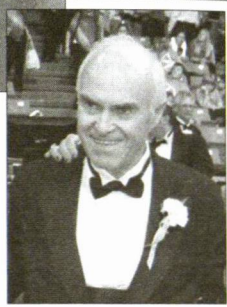
**DAINU
ŠVENTĖ**
CHICAGO • 2006
LITHUANIAN
SONG
FESTIVAL

Early Saturday morning, rehearsal with children in beautiful Notre Dame Cathedral.

Birute Mockiene, Conductor.



Kęstutis Daugirdas, composer and accompanist.



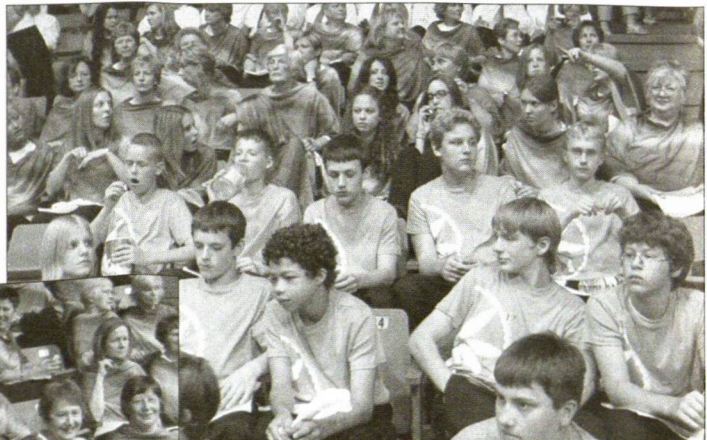
Faustas Strolia, Conductor



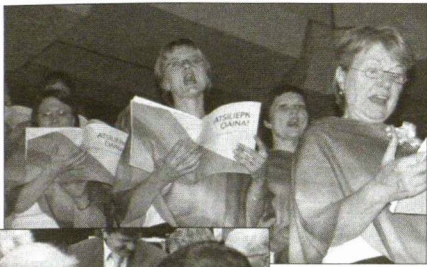
Presentation of the flags of Lithuania, Great Britain, Canada and United States.



Some of the Conductors before the opening of the Festival.



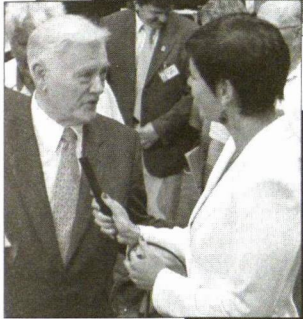
Rita Cyvaitė-Kliorienė, the Artistic Director having fun with some of the singers.



Singing from the heart.



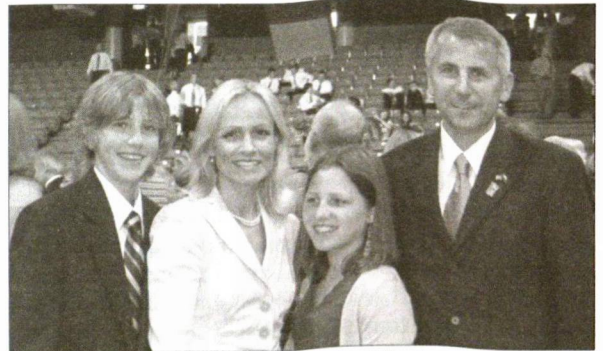
The raising of the Festival flag.



President Valdas Adamkus takes time to be interviewed.



Oh! It's fun to be outside in the rain for children and the long-beaked stork.



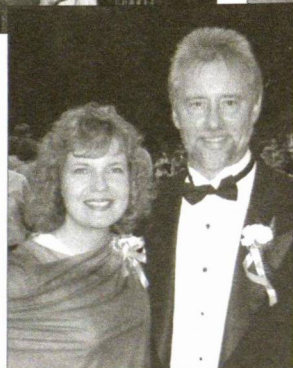
The Lithuanian Ambassador Vygaudas Ušackas and his family.



Valdas Adamkus, President of Lithuania, chatting with some of the Conductors.



Rita Cyvaitė-Kliorienė, the Artistic Director and Dr. Audrius Polikaitis, Organizing Committee Chairman, having a good time with friends from Philadelphia, PA.



Rasa Brittain and Viktoras Ralys, Conductor.

Photos are by Antanas Krusinskas and Kazys Razgaitis

“BIRDS of the BALTIC”

I was asked to write a review on a comic book entitled “Birds of the Baltic.” Well, I love birds and I love comic books including this one! At first, one will be taken aback by the strange subject matter for a comic book. However, the Baltic reader will find it most interesting and enlightening! It is a narrative of author E.J. Barnes’ summer vacation in the Baltic States. I highly recommend everyone buying a copy for their friends and relations who are of Baltic ancestry but are not interested in their roots. Perhaps when they see how interested the author was in everything she did and saw in the Baltic States, including visiting the historical sites, meeting the people, and examining the wildlife, then perhaps a spark of interest can be sown in our “fallen comrades.” The same is true for buying a copy for your kids. However, please be warned that the author mentions celebrating St. John’s Eve in Tartu, Estonia, which she claims “is really an excuse for spending the night drinking with your friends around the bonfire and rolling in the bushes with your sweetie. It is after all, a fertility ritual.” If your kids are young like mine, they might ask you what a fertility ritual is—so be prepared. And you will have to explain that what was once a fertility festival in pagan times to mark the summer solstice is now a celebration of one of the greatest saints that ever lived – St. John the Baptist (St. John’s feast day is June 24th), who lived alone in the desert, wore a garment of camel’s hide, ate wild locusts and honey, and was the first to be a part of Jesus Christ’s public ministry. Thus he was rough and tough like the ancient Baltic forest

dwellers themselves who had long beards and wore bear skins and helmets with horns (including Lithuanians! For example, the ancient folk expression “Lietuviai barzdociai” translates into the “bearded Lithuanians”). That is why, in this reviewer’s opinion, the Balts so readily identified with St. John. And it was interesting to learn from Ms. Barnes that the same St. John’s eve traditions are found in both Estonia and Lithuania (and presumably Latvia)—people stay up all night around bonfires and maidens go searching for the elusive “fern blossom” in the forest. For a person who is not of Baltic ancestry, she certainly did her homework. The illustrations are good and I enjoyed her subtle humor. And the author’s love of the “Birds of the Baltic” is certainly on the front burner. To those who have never visited the Baltics, many of the birds are very colorful, and each has a personality of its own, like the wagtail which no local could correctly identify until the very end of the author’s trip. The book can be purchased by visiting the author’s website at www.ejbarnes.com. I give it four stars. Enjoy!

John V. Duncia, Ph.D.

Editor’s Note: To order the 24 page color comic book please send a check for \$5 to: E. J. Barnes, 174 College St. # 2 Amherst, MA. 01002 - 2329

Dr. John Vytautas Duncia works as a research scientist at a major pharmaceutical company in New Jersey. He is a member of the organizing committee of Balticum Organicum Syntheticum (www.BOS06.ttu.ee) which hosts biennial international organic chemistry conferences in the three Baltic states. Dr. Duncia and his family are members of St. Andrew’s Lithuanian Roman Catholic Church in Philadelphia.

Labas,

Since all the articles in BRIDGES June 2006 issue were so excellent it is hard to list which is the best. I, personally, would like to see more history published like the ROYAL PALACE RESTORATION..... (who lived there, what were the sections of the palace used for, etc.) (Yes, I did donate money towards the Palace’s restoration.). Also great is the article THE LITHUANIAN PARTISAN WAR, THE SIBERIAN JOURNAL, SIBERIA THROUGH THE EYES OF A CHILD and THE STRENGTH OF OUR LITHUANIAN PARISHES....

I was born in the USA but of Lithuanian parents and brothers born in Lithuania. I speak and write Lithuanian but started first grade school in the USA speaking no English, I have visited Lithuania about five times even behind the Iron Curtain days. When Lithuania was fighting for Independence I wrote many letters to leaders all over the world and US for requesting their help in helping Lithuania become independent. In 1991 my daughter, Linda Brenneman, taught English in Lithuania when Lithuania became independent and later taught Math and Science at the University of Vilnius and also taught in schools for APPLE in Telsiai. Next week she is going to Lithuania to visit relatives in Telsiai, Lithuanian teacher friends, one of her students she sponsored to come to US schools for a year, her students, and travel and see changes in Lithuania for a two-week period.

Again, there were many people of Lithuanian heritage doing what they could to help Lithuania become free and independent.

Please continue your great publication of the BRIDGES and although you write that the June 2006 issue was late in coming out it was 100% worth the wait.

Sincerely,
Ruta (Salaveius) Prouty

UNUSUAL TOURIST SPOTS

Lithuania has many attractions for the foreign tourist - places of historical interest and natural beauty. Among all these two spots are truly out of the ordinary.

A half-hour drive out of Vilnius will take you to "Grutas Park" also known as "Stalin's World". The owner and founder of this communist theme park is a Lithuanian millionaire, Viliumas Malinauskas. The park, he says, is his gift to future generations. Opened in April of 2001, ten years after Lithuania regained her independence, it is becoming more popular every year.

Thousands come to look at the relics of a bygone era at statues of Lenin and Stalin and at other soviet artifacts. The place is surrounded by a barbed wire fence complete with guard towers to give it the appearance of a soviet camp. Built, appropriately enough, on fifty acres of drained swamp, the park has room for monuments, statuary, art work depicting communist themes, but also boasts a merry-go-round, a restaurant and even a small zoo.

Last year a quarter of a million visitors from Lithuania and other countries came to see, jeer and remember the symbols that used to inspire so much fear and outrage. Children love the place and are bussed in by the hundreds. Malinauskas admits that the park isn't bringing in a profit, but it isn't losing money either. He had considered building a special railway line connecting Grutas with the city of Vilnius with cattle cars to transport visitors - a reminder of the mass deportations that took place during the Stalinist era. The plan proved to be too expensive.

Not everyone likes the idea of this communist theme park sitting on a spot that once sheltered Lithuanian resistance fighters against the soviet occupation. A member of the Lithuanian parliament tried to have the park closed down which prompted the owner to have wooden replicas of the opposition made and erected alongside the soviet leaders. Malinauskas declared: "Those who are still afraid of the shadows of the past deserve to stand here."

Just outside the city of Kaunas is another unusual site the exact opposite of Grutas Park, but belonging to the same era of soviet

oppression. This is an underground press built under the house of Vytautas and Birutė Andziulis. With his friend Juozas Bacevicius, Andziulis ran this illegal press from 1980 to 1990. They printed 23 books of a religious and patriotic nature and distributed 138,000 copies throughout Lithuania. They were never caught, although there were some close calls.

The press was truly ingenious. It could only be reached through a greenhouse in which the family grew vegetables. A 3 meter cement watering pool to water the plants had been constructed, weighing about 3 tons. This could be moved by cranking a special handle to reveal a set of steep steps leading to two underground rooms. The first contained shelves to hold printing supplies and storage space for the printed material while the second held the small one-man offset press. The two conspirators named their printery "ab" after the initials of their last names. On page 17 of every book they printed, they would stamp their logo.

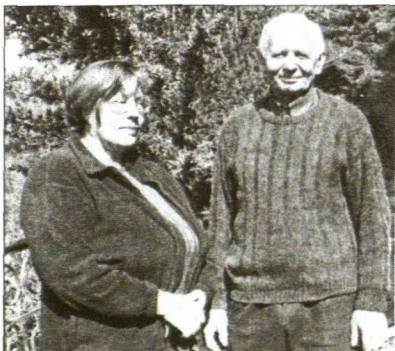
In 1995 Vytautas Andziulis accepted the Order of Gediminas award from the hands of President Valdas Adamkus, but he doesn't consider himself to be a hero. His friend Juozas Bacevicius was not there to share the award with him; since he had already passed away.

The printery and greenhouse have now been converted into a museum exhibiting the original press and copies of the various publications it produced. Andziulis is now busy expanding the museum which also serves as a gathering place for various cultural functions and is a branch of the Kaunas military museum.

These two unusual spots are excellent examples of what went on in Lithuania during the soviet era. They afford the tourist a peek at the real thing. Although the soviet occupation; is done with, it should not be forgotten, nor should its relics instill fear, but rather gratitude for present freedom.

Sister Ann Mikaila

Sister Ann Mikaila belongs to the order of the Sisters of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, a Lithuanian order in Putnam, CT. and is a contributor to Bridges.



Birutė & Vytautas ran the underground printing press under their home during Soviet occupation.



"ab" Logo



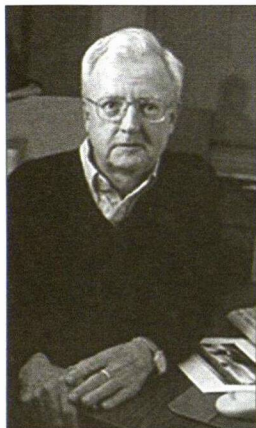
Underground printing press.

Photos by S. Sajausko

Fulbright Assignment Trip Report

College of Marine Studies

University of Delaware



Before going on my Fulbright assignment to Klaipėda University in Lithuania, I shipped books and scientific journals to be used as background material by the students taking my course on "Remote Sensing of Environment." I also provided copies of the textbook *Introduction to Remote Sensing* which the students shared. Before arriving for my six

week Fulbright assignment, I worked with my host, Professor A. Tiknius, Chair of the Geophysics Department, to establish my course as a 5-credit course required for students majoring in hydrology and oceanography. Located on the shores of the Baltic Sea, Klaipėda University has a tradition of preparing specialists in oceanography, ocean engineering, and related earth sciences. However there is a need to introduce these students to the advanced techniques being used in these areas such as remote sensing, Geographic Information systems (GIS), Global Positioning Systems (GPS), etc.

My wife Vida and I arrived in Lithuania on April 9 and spent Easter week in the capital, Vilnius, visiting the U. S. Embassy, the Lithuanian Academy of Sciences, and attending some opera performances with our hosts. On April 19 we were driven to Klaipėda by a university driver. That week I started teaching my course after going through a series of formalities with my host and university administrators. I had fourteen students in my class, about half of them at the graduate level. The students were interested in learning as much as possible and could follow my lectures in Lithuanian with English technical expressions. The textbook, class notes, slides and homework were in English. They all passed the final exam and received grades from C+ to A-. We also issued certificates in English stating that they successfully completed this course. Such certificates are valuable when applying for a job after graduation.

During the six weeks, my wife took lessons to improve her knowledge of Lithuania, the language, customs, traditions, songs, arts, etc. After work and on weekends we traveled to Riga, Latvia, and attended many cultural events such as operas and plays. We did a lot of sightseeing, especially along the Baltic Sea coast which is very attractive. Our hosts also took us to the countryside to become familiar with the life of farmers and those less fortunate than the city folks.

My teaching assignment at the University of Klaipėda was most rewarding. I became thoroughly familiar

with the philosophy, thinking and operating mode of Eastern European universities including faculty, students, and administrators. In Lithuania, the students must take very difficult exams to graduate from high school and get the Gymnasium Diploma. Once they have that diploma, they can enter any university, but they are pretty much on their own. The university exams can be quite hard, depending on the professor. Most of the students would like to find jobs in Lithuania, but several confided they would seek jobs in other European countries or the US, if suitable employment were not available at home.

The University of Klaipėda considers my course a cornerstone for initiating a program in remote sensing, including a basic course, an advanced course and a computer laboratory for analyzing satellite imagery for use in oceanography and hydrology. Therefore, I would like to continue teaching my basic course each year and develop a more advanced course. Once we have trained local faculty to take over, I would continue only in an advisory capacity.

I should also mention that as program chair, I organized the Second US/EU-Baltic Symposium, which took place during my last week in Klaipėda. The symposium attracted 145 speakers from 22 countries and included top government officials and visits to several research ships. The symposium focus was on Ocean and Coastal Observing Systems, including those used in the US, Europe and specifically the Baltic Sea. The symposium was attended by high-level representatives from the US and the US Embassy. The meetings fostered an exchange of scientific and technical information about the Baltic Sea and led to much closer cooperation between various centers in the Baltic Sea region.

Dr. Victor Klemas

Victor Klemas is a Professor of Marine Studies at the University of Delaware and Director of the Center for Remote Sensing. He has specialized in the development and application of a wide range of remote sensing techniques to coastal management and research. Currently he is on the editorial boards of Remote Sensing of Environment, Journal of Coastal Research, Environmental Management, and Geocarto International.

Dr. Klemas has organized technical programs and sessions at thirty-eight national and international conferences including Oceans 2006 and the US/EU-Baltic Symposia in 2004 and 2006. Victor has been a consultant to the World Bank, UNDP, NASA, NOAA, EPA, USACE, etc. Victor Klemas is a trustee of the Coastal Education and Research Foundation and recipient of the GE Inventors Award, the American Academy of Thermology William Hershel Award, the Korean Advanced Institute of Science Award, a Fulbright Fellowship, and various other research awards.

News and Views

ADAMKUS PLANS TO RESHUFFLE HIS TEAM BY SEPTEMBER

Vilnius, (ELTA) - Lithuanian President Valdas Adamkus is planning to reshuffle his advisory team by September 1.

"I have taken steps in this direction and I can affirm you that talks with certain persons whom I will invite to join my team are being held. I hope that the renewed team will start working on September 1," the head of state said when presenting annual activities of his second term of office at a news conference on Thursday.

He did not specify the aides that he plans to replace, however, he noted that he would restructure two main groups, namely the legal department and that of the domestic policy.

Adamkus expects that there will be less political events this summer and thus he will be able focus more on the issues relating to reshuffling of his team.

Information Center for Homecoming Lithuanians

DOLPHINARIUM IN KLAIPEDA TO BE SHOWN IN PROGRAM ABOUT WORLD CURIOSITIES

Klaipeda, (ELTA) - Czech television journalists, traveling around the world, searching for curiosities and filming travel reportages for youth have visited a dolphinarium in Klaipeda.

Journalists from Czech television Prima visited Lithuania Sea Museum in Klaipeda. They learned about dolphin therapy for disabled children and arrived to film this unique project. According to Czech journalists, they had not seen a similar project in any other country.

The journalists have already visited ten countries to prepare reportages for Czech television project "The world over 52 weeks". In our country they shot only two places: Uzupis Republic in Vilnius and the dolphinarium in Klaipeda.

The journalists claimed that they had no idea what to shoot when they arrived in Lithuania. "We did not search historical sites, old towns, buildings or similar things. They should be haunted to raise our interest. We, therefore, searched for things that would interest active youth found of traveling. Our show is popular with the youth in the country" said journalist Radimas Vaculovicus to daily Vakarų Ekspresas.

His colleague Veronika Dvorakova claimed that they became interested in Klaipeda because of dolphin therapy. "There are many dolphinariums in other countries, but Klaipeda is the only place where dolphins help to cure disabled children. When people in Czech Republic see this therapy, some of them may decide to visit Klaipeda. There are many children suffering from autism in our country. I think people will be interested in this issue, since we do not have a dolphinarium in our country", explained Dvorakova.

Information Center for Homecoming Lithuanians

NOVEMBER 4-5, 2006

SATURDAY NOON TO 8 PM & SUNDAY NOON TO 6 PM

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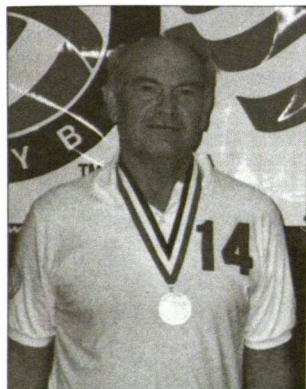
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Sports History

Ed Austras



As a young man, Edward Austras began his career as a sportsman playing volleyball for the travel teams in the Displaced Persons Camps in Germany after the end of WWII. He loved to play sports and was a part of whatever activity was going on.

As a soldier, Ed played on the US Air Force California Travel Team in the early 1950's. He came back to Boston with his bride Vale Montvila, and started playing on Boston Dainava Sports Club in the late 1950's, with Vytautas Eikinas, Helmut Lingertis, Algis Skabeikas, the Levickis brothers, Vytautas Bruzgis and others.

In 1969 Austras, Eikinas and Skabeikas formed Grandis sports club, which included volleyball, basketball, track and field, sports for all ages. Austras was an essential part of the men's team, the setter and sharing the coaching responsibilities with Vytautas Eikinas. He coached the Boston Lithuanian Women's Volleyball team from 1973-1983.

He loved coaching and teaching volleyball to the youth and was a mentor and positive role model to many young men. Wednesday nights practices in Randolph were part of life for the Boston area Lith-American youth in the 70' and 80's. In the last few years, Ed would come to the Wednesday night practices in Canton for the Lithuanian American players to play with his son, son-in-law and grandsons.

The Boston Lithuanian Grandis Men's team competed at Lithuanian Sporto Šventės (festivals), and competed successfully throughout the New England area and US National tournaments winning 1st place frequently. A quote from Yankee VB newsletter, June 1981: "A tip-of-the-hat to Ed Austras, the crafty old veteran who added the magic touch that led his young Lithuanian squad composed mostly of college stars, to a hard-earned first win in the prestigious Yankee "B" Championship tournament. "And the Lithuanian teams continued to do well..."

With his wife Valerie's support, Eddie taught the love of the game to his three children, Joe, Diane and Ed, as well as many other young men and women. All three played in college, and on club teams. Diane coached in the NE Girls' Juniors program and runs the Wilmington Volleyball Recreation Program. While in college Ed was the captain of the WPI VB Men's team and recently played at the Lithuanian Sporto Šventė/Festival in Chicago.

In the 1960's and 1970's Austras and many other Lithuanian Americans played at the Cambridge Y & Salvation Army. The team was known as Cambridge Volleyball Club, and recruited many young college players from the Cambridge and Boston area to play high level volleyball. Among those recruits he coached in the early 1970's included David Castanon, Arūnas Kuncaitis, Barry Sears and Alan Rose, who went on to lead many of the New England AA volleyball teams to Nationals over the next couple of decades. The Cambridge Volleyball Club team was invited to play in the Morgan Memorial invitational tourney in the early 70's, representing New England in a field of 8 teams that included the Canadian National champions, and US teams from the East Coast and Midwest areas, including the Columbus Caps featuring current USAV president Doug Beal. It was the most prestigious invitational tournament on the East Coast, celebrating the birthplace of volleyball.

Austras was also part of the New England Region Board of Directors as the player rep in the 1970's. In this capacity, he helped in the promotion of volleyball throughout New England. As one of the founders of Yankee Volleyball Association, Eddie was the registrar and membership coordinator for Yankee in 1977, its first year as an "official" organization. Cambridge Volleyball Club was one of the original team members that participated in Yankee competition.

In 1987 the 'Marty Avedisian Award' was presented to Eddie Austras in honor for his contribution to Yankee and the Volleyball community during the Yankee Banquet, which was held (appropriately) at the Lithuanian Citizen's Club in South Boston.

Austras, Eikinas and Skabeikas were instrumental in getting the 40th Sporto Šventė (Lithuanian Sports Festival) to be hosted in Boston in 1990 and organizing the games and functions. The Lithuanian Women National team were honored guests and competed against teams from Chicago, Los Angeles, Boston and other areas of the USA.

In Vilnius, Lithuania, Austras coached the Boston Grandis Men's Volleyball team at the 1991 4th Pasaulio Lietuvių Žaidynės (4th World Lithuanian Games) and actually played in a few games. At the US Open National Championships, Ed played and coached in the age brackets, 50, 55, 65 and 70 and older. In 1978 The New England Masters made their mark at the El Paso Texas USA Volleyball Nationals Championships. He played in the initial Men's 65 championship in Holyoke in 1995 during Volleyball's Centennial Celebration, where he won a silver medal with a team composed of New England players. He subsequently won several medals including the Gold in the Men's 65s in Dallas 1996 and Kansas City in 1997.



What you should know about generic drugs

Each year about 56% of all prescriptions filled in the United States are filled with generic medicines. Their popularity stems from the fact that patients, as well as managed care plans, can save a great deal of money with generics—from 30-60% of the cost of brand name pharmaceuticals. More and more generics are being dispensed daily. As a drug comes off patent, patients than have a greater variety of generics to choose from. Also Medicare Part D encourages the use of generics to help alleviate costs to both patients and the government. Even though many patients are aware of generics, they may not know enough about them to realize that they can cut the costs of their necessary medicines without cutting the quality of their health care. When referred to a generic drug, patients may seem hesitant. It is important that patients know the facts so that they can trust a generic choice. **WHAT IS A "GENERIC DRUG"** When offered a generic medicine, patients should understand that generic drugs are comparable to branded drugs. They contain the same active ingredients and deliver the same amount of medication to the body. They may look different from the branded drugs, but they perform the same. The FDA (Food and Drug Administration) regulates all generic products under strict guidelines, including validating the formulation,

potency, and stability of every generic drug. Through various tests and procedures, the FDA checks that generics are pharmaceutically and therapeutically equal to the brand name medications.

HOW CAN PATIENTS KNOW IF GENERICS ARE THE RIGHT CHOICE?

The best individual to make the decision on generics for any patient is the patient's health care provider. The physician can make the decision based on any other medications the patient is taking and other health concerns that need to be considered. The doctor also can specify that a generic NOT be used in place of a branded drug, if he or she believes the branded drug is the best course of therapy. Pharmacists, however have years of experience with different pharmaceutical companies and are kept up-to-date on the latest developments and changes available in medicines. If the physician does not specify "Dispense as written", on a prescription, all U.S. states have laws allowing pharmacists to make generic substitutions in most cases. Most prescription plans require such substitutions to help save on overall costs.

Renata Kucas

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.

He was the main SALFASS contact for Boston after Vytautas Eikinas died in 1991, and prior to that he shared the responsibilities with Eikinas.

At the International Senior Games in Bermuda 1996, Austras played for the US Team and helped bring back the Gold to the US. He and his wife organized a beach party for all the different teams and their spouses.

Throughout his long volleyball career Austras played with unbridled energy and intensity. As a setter, he competed with young & old alike, running rings around everyone! Eddie Austras fostered strong team bonds and great pride among "his" players. He easily made friends of his opponents as well. Everyone knew the Lithuanian teams could play, but they could party too. And Eddie made sure nobody was left out - every Volleyball acquaintance was invited!

Besides having a life-long love of volleyball, Austras played table tennis and outdoor tennis. He competed at local YMCA and Lithuanian Sports Festivals. During summer vacations at the Lithuanian Franciscan Monastery in Kennebunkport, ME and winters in St. Petersburg, FL organized matches. In

addition he played table tennis Thursday nights at the South Boston Lithuanian Club for many years. This winter he was still playing beach volleyball with his two grandsons and nieces, passing on the game to yet another generation.

If there was volleyball going on in the region, he was always interested or involved. You could always hear him and his players shout: "ALAUŠ!" as they broke their huddle.

Edward Austras, of Melrose MA June 1, 2006

Beloved husband of Vale (Montvila). Devoted father of Joe & his wife Ann Austras of Randolph, Diane "Dana" & husband Russ MacDonald of Wilmington, Edward & his wife Vita Austras of Westwood. Loving grandfather of Russell & Geoffrey MacDonald, Elena & Krista Austras.

Donations may be made in Eddie's memory to: Lithuanian Children's Relief, 261 Thatcher St., Brockton, MA 02302

Written by his children, Diane Austras-MacDonald, Eddie Austras, and Joe Austras

Editor's note: BRIDGES would like to extend our deepest sympathy to the family of Ed Austras.

Moose Krause embodied Notre Dame Charles Rice

Right or Wrong?

Who is that big guy with the politically incorrect cigar on the bench outside the Joyce Center? Moose Krause, All-American, coach, athletic director and truly "Mr. Notre Dame."

That is the title of Jason Kelly's excellent new book. If you have a "Domer" in your family, this takes care of one item on your Christmas list. Or you can find a miniature replica of Moose and the bench at the bookstore for only \$1,500 (no kidding). Moose could not have afforded it on his salary, which never exceeded \$30,000. He turned down job offers many times higher because he would not leave Notre Dame.

Edward Walter Krauciunas was born in 1913 into a "cash-poor but spirit-rich" family in Chicago's Back of the Yards. His high school coach, Norm Barry, a teammate of George Gipp, gave him the name "Moose" and shortened Krauciunas to Krause. Krause entered Notre Dame in 1930, Rockne's last year of coaching, and was an All-American in football and basketball. He joined Frank Leahy's football staff in 1942 and was also head basketball coach.

In World War II, Moose was a Marine Corps intelligence officer with an aviation unit in the Solomon Islands. He routinely did his own reconnaissance, squeezing into the nose turret of a B-25 with no parachute.

One night, a Moro scout, Antoun, led Krause and the chaplain, Father James Gannon, to Rabaul to recover the remains of six Marines. They escaped capture because Antoun hid them in a leper colony that the Japanese feared to enter. Krause later collected over \$2,000 from the Marines to finance Antoun's studies for the priesthood. Moose carried Notre Dame to the Solomons.

At a tense briefing before an important raid, he brought in 20 Moro scouts. The Marines expected the usual message, that if they got lost the Moros would bring them back safely. This time Moose turned to the young Moros and they broke into the Notre Dame Victory March in their native language. "The ... 200 men went berserk," Gannon says, "laughing and cheering and whistling." The raid was successful with not a man lost.

During 1946-49, Krause was Leahy's assistant and head basketball coach. He served as athletic director from 1951 until his retirement in 1982. He built a program to serve all the students, emphasizing intramural and club sports.

In January 1967, Moose's wife Elise suffered severe brain and other injuries when a car broadsided the taxi in which she was riding. She lost her rationality and control of her emotions. Moose Krause devoted himself utterly to the care of Elise until her death in 1990. He turned to alcohol but

changed his life after a heart attack and pleas from his children. He became a leader in Alcoholics Anonymous.

Jason Kelly concludes that Krause's greatest achievement occurred at the Cardinal Nursing Home, where he spoon-fed meals and sang to his ailing wife. Although he described it as "a veritable crucifixion for both of us," there was no self-pity in Moose.

"There's really no place I'd rather be than in that room with your mother," Krause said. "I know a lot of people feel sorry for me, but I'm the lucky one. I'm in the fortunate position of being able to extend care. That's the easy part. Mother has the hard part."

"I call him Saint Edward," said Ara Parseghian. "If every person had that kind of compassion and ... respect for his spouse, this would be a ... lot better world."

Father Theodore Hesburgh concurred, describing Moose as, "Absolutely the Rock of Gibraltar, the soul of integrity. If I ever met a saint, he was one of them."

Moose's son, Father Edward Krause, who teaches theology at Gannon University, calls Mr. Notre Dame the story of a whole generation who took God, the 10 Commandments and their faith seriously. Moose, as Father Krause put it, had a special affection for John Paul II as fellow athlete and successor to Peter. In his funeral homily in 1992, Krause quoted his father: "Unless my eyes are getting bad, the Bible doesn't say, 'Thou art Peter, and upon this teenie weenie pebble, I will found my debating society. [It doesn't say] take up a Gallup poll, and tell 'em what they want to hear.'" Moose Krause knew what he believed and why.

College sports are now a major business, driven by money, media and government regulation. Moose and his assistant, Colonel Jack Stephens, ran the show in a different and, in various ways, a better era. The common wisdom has it that it took 23 people to replace Moose. The athletic department has new faces and new skills. But the important things have not changed, like character and commitment. Moose would be pleased.

Notre Dame will never see the likes of Moose Krause again. So buy the book. You can sit on the bench and read it with Moose. You will learn something about the real Notre Dame. And about yourself.

Professor Emeritus Charles Rice is on the Law School faculty. His column normally appears every other Tuesday. He can be contacted at plawecki.1@nd.edu.

The views expressed in this column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer.

This article appeared in the October 2002 issue of The Observer, the independent newspaper serving Notre Dame and St. Mary's.

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LA Banga B-Ball Teams Finish First Season in Finals

Both new LA Banga basketball teams finished their first spring season with 7 wins of 10 games, advancing to the finals in the Los Angeles amateur city league (Banga is the

Lithuanian Athletic Club of Los Angeles, founded in 1959). In the C+ league semi-finals, LA Banga defeated Alliance Bank 58:44, but lost in the finals 33:51 to NCI – a team LA Banga had beaten twice in regular season play. LA Banga C+ came away with a second place trophy for the spring season of 2006. C+ team players included Deirūnas Visockas, Tomas Čevykinas, Žygimantas Kiznis, Andrius Geštautas, Edvinas Valiukevičius, Andrius Steponavičius, Aivaras Bernius and Deividas Šliubauskas. For more about the finals, see:

<http://laparks.com/dos/sports/basketball/league/baldwinHills202.pdf>

In the B + league semi-finals, LA Banga lost to Bushwood in overtime 56:54, finishing in third place for the season. B+team players included Aras Baškauskas, neseniai laimėjęs "Survivor" realybės laidos varžybas, Artūras ir Ainas Lazdauskai, Mindaugas Stončius, Moody Eissa, Deirūnas Visockas, Tomas Čevykinas, Žygimantas Kiznis, Andrius Steponavičius and Aivaras Bernius. For more about the finals, see:

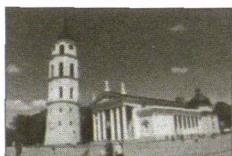
<http://laparks.com/dos/sports/basketball/league/westwood206.pdf>

In February, LA Banga competed in Washington, D.C., winning 4th place in the tournament hosted by the Lithuanian Ambassador Vygaudas Ušackas, and in May the team played in the 56th annual North American Lithuanian Games in Chicago.

Both LA Banga teams were coached by veteran coach Tom Lubin, nephew of Lithuanian basketball great Frank Lubin. Also playing for LA Banga this season were Vejas Anaya, Phil Czernin (injured), Žydrūnas Petrauskas (injured), Mantas Žvinakevičius, Arvydas Pauliukas, Kęstutis Barzdaitis, Donatas Geštautas, Donatas Dargis and Ēli Weisman.

LA Banga is currently preparing for the fall season. Anyone interested in playing for the team, or supporting the team (sponsors are currently being sought), please contact info@LosAngelesLB.com.

The Lithuanian Athletic Club of Los Angeles wishes to thank in particular the following generous sponsors: Bidz.com, Red Lion Tavern and owner A.Mattis, United Management Group and its owner Ž. Kiznis, the Lithuanian Credit Union, E. Sinkys, V. Lembertas, G. Sirutis, D. Paškus bei Š. Vainauskas. For more information about Banga and LA Lithuanians, see LALithuanians.com. LA LB Info



Vilnius Cathedral (1801)

Answer to Trivia Quiz

TRIVIA QUESTION is on page 7

My reference source is Wikipedia the free encyclopedia and I quote:

"Laurynas Stuoka-Gucevičius (1753-1798) was the first professional

Lithuanian architect in the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth & is the most famous representative of Lithuanian classicism. Born in Migonys village, Kupiškis region of Lithuania went to school in Kupiškis and Palėvenė, later in Panevėžys. His father was a peasant Simonas Masiulis, raised by his stepfather Stuoka, this is why Stuoka is sometimes added to his last name. His mother was Kotryna Žekonyte. It is possible that the name Gucevičius (Gucewicz) was given to Laurynas by his godmother Anna Gucewicz, who financed his education.

After school, Laurynas came to Vilnius and became a monk missionary. 1773 - 1775 he studied in Vilnius University, 1776-1777 in Rome. 1778 he traveled through Western

Europe, attended lectures on architecture and learned from the works of the best architects of that time. On his return to Vilnius, he became an architect of Massalaski Verkai palace ensemble. 1789-1794 he taught cartography and military engineering (professor since 1793). 1793 he prepared a program for teaching architecture. Laurynas Gucevičius participated in the Kosciuszko insurrection of 1794, organized Vilnius civil guard and was its leader. He was injured in the battle near Ašmena. He was expelled from Vilnius University because of his part in the insurrection. In 1797 he returned to the University as head of Architecture Department.

His most notable works are Vilnius city hall (built 1799), Vilnius Cathedral (1801), Verkiai Palace ensemble, Rokiškis palace, reconstruction of Raudone castle."

Submitted by Edward Shakalis
Edward is a retired Electrical Engineer and a ham radio operator.
He enjoys playing golf.

The Devil In The Bath-House

Velnius Pirtyje

"Seniai seniai gyveno du našliai – vyras ir moteris. Abudu turėjo po dukterį. Po kurio laiko tas našlys vedė našlę"

The Devil In The Bath-House

A Lithuanian Tale

Long, long ago, there lived two widows – a man and a woman. Each had one daughter. Eventually, they married, and began life together. But the woman loved her own daughter dearly, and disliked her stepdaughter. She scolded her constantly, would not serve her food, and made her wear old clothing. The poor girl was forced to make do with everyone else's leavings.

One Saturday evening the man fired up the sauna bath-house, and everyone went to bathe. The men bathed first, and then the women gathered. But the woman would not permit her stepdaughter to join them. "You are filthy and ugly", she said to the girl. "You will wash by yourself, when the rest of us are finished."

She was hoping that, on her way back to the house, the girl would be seized by devils or witches. Everyone knew these evil creatures liked to hang around bath-houses at night.

After everyone had bathed and gone home, the stepdaughter quietly entered the bath and began to wash herself. Just as she had finished, she heard a tap on the window and a voice: "Oh maiden, dear maiden, hurry and finish your bath, and let's go dancing". But she knew full well that it was the evil one calling to her, and calmly answered: "How am I to wash, when there is no soap"? As soon as she had spoken, the devil disappeared somewhere, then, soon enough, he returned with a bar of soap. "Hurry, my dear, let's go dancing!", he urged. "But how can I hurry, when I have no washcloth"? said the girl. The devil again sped away and returned with a washcloth for her. "Well, now, wash quickly, and we shall go dancing", said the devil impatiently. "Well, think again", said the girl, "as I have no dress to wear."

What then could the devil do, but bring her a dress, but then the girl needed shoes, and after that, a comb, then a shawl, then a few rings, and then a necklace, and after that, many other things, without which she couldn't consider going dancing. The devil ran and ran his errands all night long, till he

was so tired his tongue dragged on the ground. Just as it seemed he had finally supplied the girl with every single thing she could demand, the rooster crowed and the evil one, cursing, vanished.


The stepmother was congratulating herself on having got rid of the girl, since she hadn't come home all night, but as the dawn lightened the sky, she saw her stepdaughter returning home, wearing a fine dress, beautiful shoes, with a pearl necklace, and gold rings on her fingers and carrying a bag of money. Seeing her stepdaughter in possession of such wealth, the resentful woman almost burst with envy. She questioned the girl and, discovering the devil's wish to dance, decided to send her own daughter to the bath-house, all alone, so that she, also, could obtain some of the devil's wealth.

The next Saturday, the man fired up the sauna and the woman sent her daughter to bathe alone. While washing, she heard someone tap on the window and say, "Oh maiden, dear maiden, hurry with your bath, and let's go dancing!" "Oh, go away with you!" cried the girl. "What can you be thinking? How can I go dancing, when I have no dress, no shoes, rings, earrings and other jewels"? "Aha", answered the devil. "I will bring you all of that". He vanished like the wind, and after a half-hour returned with a group of little devils, who presented the girl with everything she had asked for. "Come, let us dance!" said the evil one. The girl, seeing that things were going badly, and not knowing what else to ask for, finally demanded, "Bring me a bag of money". And he did.

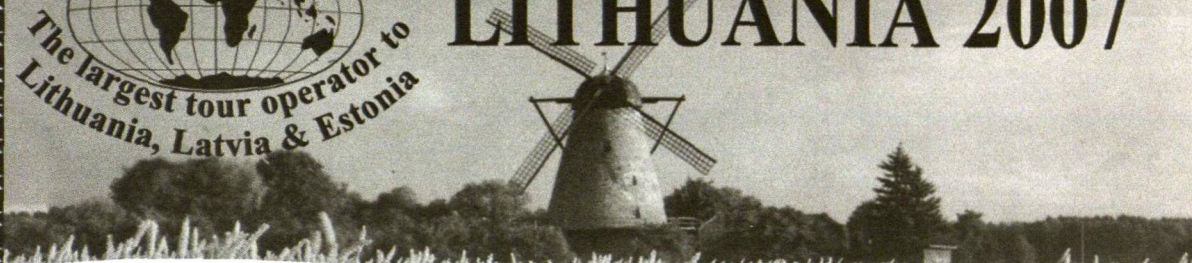
She had no choice – she had to go and dance with the devils. And they seized her and dragged her back and forth among them, "dancing" with her until her poor feet swelled and her hands grew numb. She danced, and danced until the morning, when she fell to the ground, unable to take another step. Neither money, nor finery was left. Her mother found her like that, barely alive, after her night dancing with the devils. The stepdaughter married a handsome young man from the village, and with her bag of money, they lived well and happily.

*Told by Pranas Sasnauskas in "Lietuvių Sakmės"
English translation by Gloria Kivytaite 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.

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All VYTIS representatives speak English and Lithuanian !!

Calendar of Events for September, October and No

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

For all Neringa events,
please go to
www.neringa.org
call 978-582-5592

SEPTEMBER, 2006

September 1 - 5, 2006

LITHUANIAN LANGUAGE COURSES AT NERINGA

Intensive Lithuanian language courses at Neringa.

info: www.neringa.org
for the registration form

September 2, 2006 - 11am- 6pm

ANNUAL PICNIC

Williams Park, Neipsic Rd.
Glastonbury, Ct.
Rt. 2, East, Exit 8, left on Neipsic Rd.
Grounds on left only 1/4 mile
Lithuanian food, shopping, goods
from Lithuania, raffle, sing-along, etc.
No admission charge. All are invited.
Info: 860-657-9067 or
danuteg@juno.com

Sponsors: The Lithuanian-American
Community of Greater Hartford

September 10, 2006

SUMMER PICNIC

After 11:00 am Mass
Lithuanian World Center Yard
14911 127th Street
Lemont, IL 60439
Info: zvilimas@speedsite.com
Sponsor: LAC Lemont Chapter

September 10, 2006

SUMMER PICNIC

Traditional
end-of-summer get-together.
195 Fuller Road, Centerville, MA.
Additional info. will sent by mail.
Sponsor: Cape Cod
Lithuanian American Community

September 16, 2006 - 6:00pm

ANNUAL FALL BALL

Sponsored by San Diego
Chapter of
Lithuanian American Community
Info: www.lithsd.org

September 17, 2006

ANNUNCIATION PARISH PICNIC

Brooklyn, NY
Info: SID100@aol.com

September 20 - 22, 2006

LOS ANGELES SISTER CITIES TRADE CONFERENCE

University of Southern California
(USC) in cooperation with USC's
Marshall School of Business
Kaunas-Los Angeles Sister Cities
Partnership will participate.
Info: www.lasistercitiestrade.com

September 30 - October 1, 2006

LITHUANIAN FAIR

The largest annual Lithuanian
event west of the Mississippi,
drawing thousands of visitors
from around the USA.
This year - the 20th anniversary of
the Fair - special guests will include
Lithuanian hip-hop sensation
DJ Mamanija & Skamp.
For additional questions or
Info: (310) 908 - 8630 or write
info@LosAngelesLB.com

September 29 - October 1, 2006

XVIII LAC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Newly elected
will meet for its first annual session
in Phila., PA Info: 215-938-0783.

September 29 - 30, 2006

Los Angeles

FIRST ANNUAL MEN'S BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT

to be held during
LA's Lithuanian Fair.
The LA Lithuanian Athletic Club
Banga and LAC LA Chapter
For additional questions or
info: (310) 908-8630 or write
info@LosAngelesLB.com

OCTOBER, 2006

October 6 - 8, 2006

CAMP NERINGA

Third annual walk - a thon
Come and enjoy good company,
Vermont fall foliage, and the rocking
Small Farm Animals while helping
Neringa continue its mission.

October 8, 2006 - 2pm

Commemoration of the
40th ANNIVERSARY
of the dedication of the
Chapel of Our Lady of Siluva.
Mass in the main Basilica of the
National Shrine of the
Immaculate Conception
Washington, DC.
Info: www.knightsoflithuania.com

October 8, 2006 (tentative)

LAC Philadelphia Chapter will present
"TEATRIUKAS" Theatre Group
from Vilnius, Lithuania.
Info: (closer to the date):
215-938-0783 or www.phillylac.org

October 29, 2006

WORLD PREMIERE OF NEW WORKS

by Baltic Composers.
Seattle Chamber Players have
commissioned new works from
Baltic composers, including

BLp(LKA)1195
2006, Iss. 7

Benaroya Hall <http://javid.org/seattle/>

NOVEMBER, 2006

November 1, 2006 - 4 pm

ALL SOULS DAY

It is an old Lithuanian tradition to
honor and remember our dead on
the eve of All Souls Day. We will
gather at St. Francis Xavier Cemetery
to celebrate this solemn occasion,
followed by 5:30 pm Mass at
Our Lady of the Assumption Church,
76 Wianno Ave, Osterville, MA 02655.
Sponsors: Cape Cod Chapter of the
Lithuanian American Community
Info: alisdapkus@aol.com

November 4 - 5, 2006

LMHA - MUGE LITHUANIAN FESTIVAL

Saturday 12 - 8 pm
Sunday 12 - 6 pm
Lithuanian food, music,
vendors and much more
2715 E. Allegheny Ave.
Philadelphia, Pa. 19134
Info: 215- 739-4831

November 5, 2006 - 1 to 5 pm

INTERNATIONAL DAY DINNER

Cape Codder Resort Hotel,
Hyannis, MA. - Hosted by
Portuguese - American Association
Cape Cod Chapter of the Lithuanian
American Community will participate.
Info: alisdapkus@aol.com

November 12, 2006 (tentative)

LAC Philadelphia Chapter hopes to
present from Lithuania singing group
"PUSBROLIAI ALIUKAI"
(Cousins Aliukai).
Info: 215-938-0783 or
www.phillylac.org

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