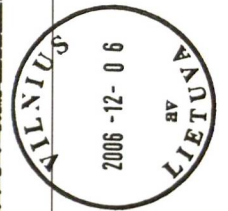
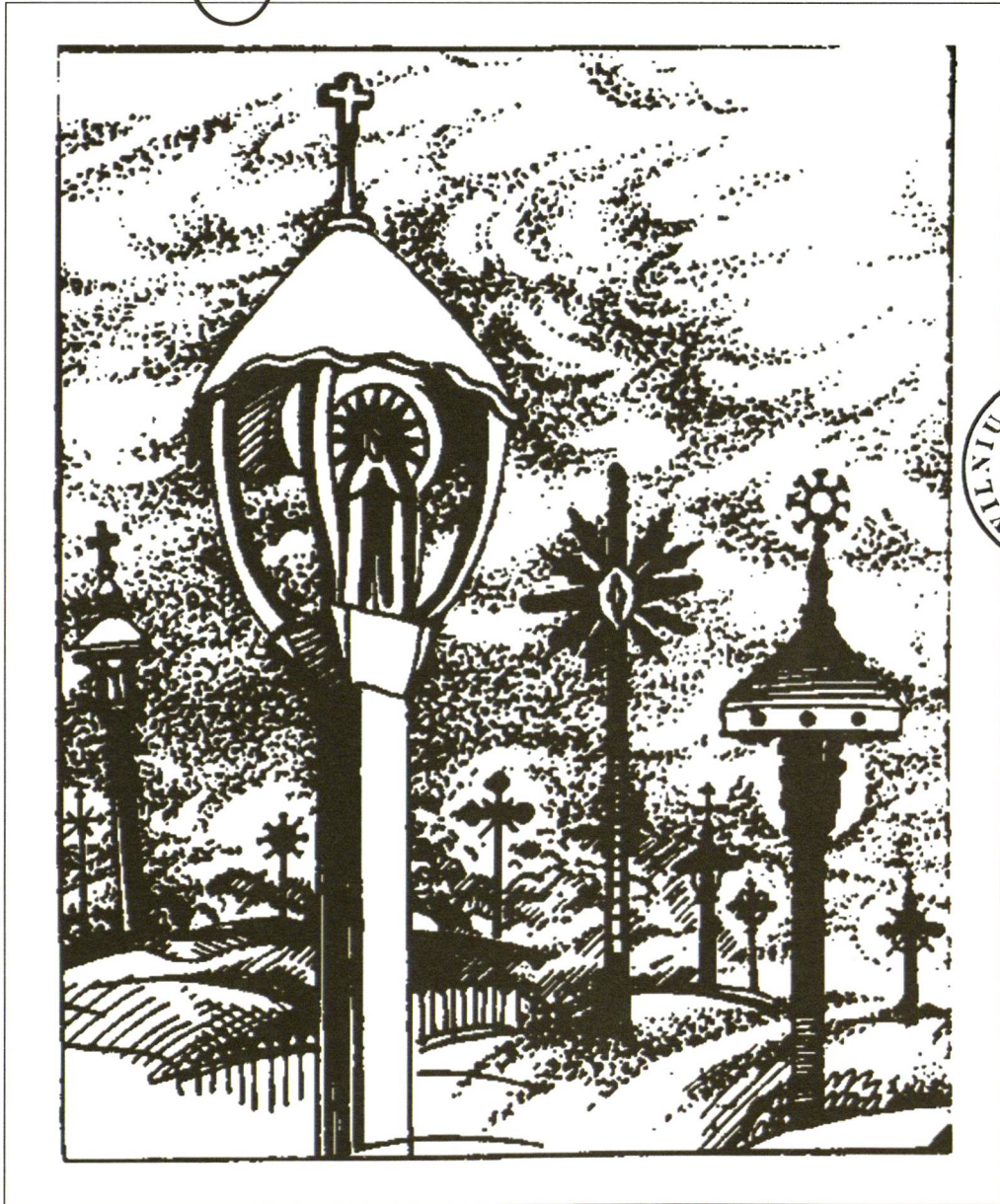


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november 2006

LITHUANIAN AMERICAN NEWS JOURNAL

Letter from the Editor

Congratulations to Vytas Maciunas who was recently elected President of the Lithuanian American Community Executive Committee. The Presidium of the Board of Directors consists of Danguole Navickiene Chair, Angele Nelsiene, Violeta Gedgaudiene, Jurgis Joga, and Rimtautas Marcinkevicius, MD. The elections were held in Philadelphia as we were going to press. More results of the meetings will be presented as I receive them from the Lithuanian American Community.

This issue of BRIDGES marks several important days. The Cape Cod Chapter of the Lithuanian American Community has shared their beautiful tradition of visiting their cemetery on All Souls Day. Henry Gaidis reminds us of the sacrifices made by so many of our veterans. And of course, with Thanksgiving Day we should be grateful for everything we have, including one thing that money can't buy-good health. Sister Dolorita Butkus and the "angels" of St. Clare's should make us ever aware of how precious the gift of good health is to each of us.

As always, I want to thank all the writers and the readers who have submitted articles for this month's BRIDGES. If you send me an article and you do not see it published it is because I was unable to receive permission to reprint it.

You will notice that from now through March the calendar will be filled with events. I'm sure that I don't have the majority of the events that are happening as I can only print what organizations send me or those that have details on the Internet. If you are fortunate enough to live in an area where there is a fair, a Christmas meal that is shared, a concert, or a commemoration marking Lithuania's Independence Days, please take some time from your busy schedules and attend. It means you are living within distance of a thriving community. Lithuanian organizations are like those all over the country; they need your help and support.

To all the veterans who served our country; THANK YOU. To the BRIDGES readers and your families, have a safe and a Happy Thanksgiving.

*God gave you a gift of 86,400 seconds today.
Have you used one to say "thank you?" William A. Ward*

Thank you for reading BRIDGES this month.



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,
3906 Lakeview Dr.
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

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**THE INFORMATION CENTER FOR
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Collects and provides information from
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LAC, Inc./BRIDGES,
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3906 Lakeview Dr.
Racine, WI 53403

Subscription rate is \$20.00 annually (US Mail serviced subscribers). Subscriptions to other addresses are (US \$30.00), 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,
3906 Lakeview Dr.
Racine, WI 53403

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*Cover: The artist unknown.

LITHUANIAN HERO OF THE FORGOTTEN WAR



The Korean War fought from 1950 to 1953 is frequently called our Forgotten War largely because it was overshadowed by World War II and the Vietnam War. Still for those who fought in the conflict it was every bit as bloody and hard fought as any war before or since. This historic small peaceful nation had been occupied by the Japanese and was divided at the end of World War II. The division of Korea with a Communist dictatorship in the north and a fledgling democracy in the south would soon become the first battle field of the Cold War. The war commenced in the early hours of June 25, 1950, when troops of North Korea crossed the 38th parallel dividing the two nations. This war was not an exclusive American-Korean fight, but involved a combined United Nations effort with troops provide by Australia, Belgium, Canada, Columbia, Denmark, Ethiopia, France, Great Britain, Greece, Holland, India, Italy, Luxembourg, New Zealand, Norway, South Africa, Sweden, Thailand, and Turkey. In turn, the North Koreans were supplied and assisted with troops from China and the Soviet Union. Though Lithuania is not listed among the countries providing soldiers to this conflict, hundreds of Lithuanian-Americans took part in this epic struggle. I doubt that more than a few among us are aware that many single Lithuanian males in the German Displaced Persons Camps were allowed to migrate to the United States after having enlisted and fought in the Korean War. It was

from such camps that America obtained some of its most dedicated warriors. These young men who had fled their homeland in the advance of Russian tanks fully realized the great threat that Communism posed to the world. The number of these aging warriors is daily decreasing, but many of these heroes still live among us never talking of their past glories. If your grandfather, father, uncle, or neighbor is one of these forgotten heroes take the opportunity now to thank them for their service.

History documents that the war featured some of the most intense fighting and worst weather and geographic conditions ever encountered by troops on a battlefield. Before the three years of fighting ceased, some 37,000 Americans lost their lives. This three year struggle produced a significantly higher number of casualties than the 58,000 Americans lost during ten years fighting in Vietnam. Before fighting ceased the members of the United Nation forces underwent severe trials and tribulations. The small American force assigned to Korea during the surprise attack that commenced the war suffered a series of humiliating defeats before being able to stop the enemy on a terrain of slough. Through the brilliant landing of American troops under the command of General Douglas MacArthur at Inchon took the struggle into North

Korea. American Marines had to fight and show true grit in their epic withdrawal from the Chosin Reservoir when surrounded by a vastly superior Chinese force that entered the war. The fighting took place from mountain to mountain through out freezing winter conditions and stifling hot summers. In the end, an armistice was signed in 1953, between the United Nations, the United States, China, and North Korea, leaving the two nations divided as they had been before the war commenced. Today North Korean's efforts to secure a nuclear weapons is just a continuation of this long ago struggle.

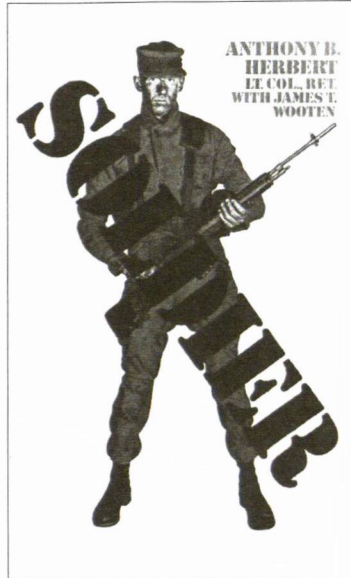
Many Americans who lived through these years chose to forget the heroic struggle of the American fighting man in this war like many others before and since. Our educators tasked with the responsibilities of teaching political correctness, have little time to dwell upon the past glories and struggles of those who gave us the freedom we have today. Regrettably Lithuanian Americans for the most part are little different than their fellow Americans. Few take an interest in our struggles in Iraq and Afghanistan. Before starting to read this article I have no doubt few of you have thought about the heroes of the Korean War. I only have a limited amount of space to devote to these heroes. As a result, I will have to limit my remarks to the recounting of the exploits of one single Lithuanian American, but what a story !

Tony's grandmother was pregnant when the Arbutus family first came to America in 1896 to work in the Pennsylvania coal fields. His father was born in Lamar, Pennsylvania, but when his grandfather became ill a year after his birth the family returned to Lithuania. As frequently happened to new immigrants their

Lithuanian family name of Arbutus was soon changed to sound like American name of Herbert. As his father told Tony so they "could put his bones into dirt he knew." His grandmother remarried Nicholas Solkinus and the family of six returned to America at the turn of the century and settled in Herminie, Pennsylvania. Like many Lithuanians before him, Grandfather Solkinus went to work in the coal mines. Though in America, the family always sought to continue their lives as they had lived in Lithuania. Over time the family prospered and Tony's father grew to manhood, eventually marrying the daughter of one of the town's most respected citizens of English descent. As a youth, Tony regularly visited with his Lithuanian grandparents who preferred to live a traditional Lithuanian peasant life. For some time they operated the Solkinus Distillery making homemade whiskey. His grandfather was a grizzly old miner who loved to tell stories about his youth in the old country. The family was typical of those living through the depression and World War II. Two of his uncles served in World War II. His uncle Chuck was an infantry officer in Italy and Uncle Bud was a torpedo man aboard a destroyer in the North Atlantic. Having grown up in such a proud Lithuanian American family it was no surprise that in 1947 Tony and his friend Charlie Czhieczeczek found their way to a military recruiting station Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

On the morning of May 10, 1947, Private Anthony B. Herbert arrived at Fort Dix, New Jersey, and began a long and distinguished military career. As recounted in *Soldier*, an autobiography Tony would write years later, "I recall that moment was among the happiest days of my life; the moment I stepped off that train, I knew I was on my way to my

dream. I was going to be a soldier." And what a soldier, Tony would make. After basic training, Tony went on to "paratrooper training" at

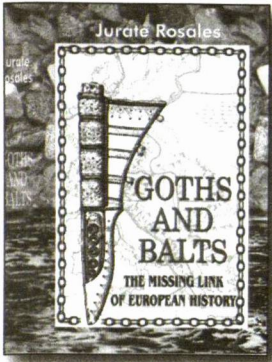


Fort Benning, Georgia, and a tour of duty at Fort Lewis, Washington with winter survival training in Alaska. He re-enlisted, on February 3, 1950, in the 82nd Airborne and was assigned to Fort Dix and Fort Monmouth, New Jersey. In June, 1950, the Korean War started and many sought ways to avoid the fight. Still for others this was their opportunity to see combat and Tony soon wangled his way in unit serving at the front. Learning that his old unit, C Company, 23rd U.S. Infantry Regiment from Fort Washington, he reported to a Replacement Depot and secured orders assigning him to the unit. He soon found himself fighting in the Toback Mountains just north of the 38th parallel pushing the North Koreans back. The American advance was later stopped on the night of November 26, 1950, when units of the Chinese Army crossed the Yalu River and unrepentantly entered the war. The next few days were nightmares as thousands

upon thousands of Chinese soldiers pushed southward through snow and freezing ice. As Tony would later recount they fell back fighting and constantly regrouping as their numbers progressively decreased. Tony noted although he and his fellow soldiers were just fighting to survive, many would later be decorated for their bravery. During this epic withdrawal, Tony was attached to a Turkish unit and later with E Company of the 38th Infantry Regiment. Tony continued in action through that winter and into the spring. Eventually the Chinese advance was stopped and they were pushed back. After three years of bloody fighting, an armistice was agreed upon in 1953 and fighting ceased. During those three years, Tony was promoted to Master Sergeant and for his bravery was selected by the military to go on tour around the country. During that time Tony met President Harry S. Truman, Governors, Senators, Congressmen, and hundreds of thousands of Americans.

For his bravery in the Korean War, Anthony B. Herbert was decorated with twenty-two medals making him the most decorated U.S. Army enlisted man of the Korean War. His decorations included the Purple Heart with three Oak Leaf Clusters, the Silver Star with two Oak Leaf Clusters, the Bronze Star with "V" for valor, the Soldier's Medal, the Army Commendation Medal with two Oak Leaf Clusters, Combat Infantryman's Badge, Master Parachutist Badge, Jump Wings from the German and British Armies, the Pathfinder's Badge, and Ranger Tab. In addition, Herbert was the only non-Turkish citizen in the world to have been awarded the coveted Turkish Ozanu Order.

One would think after all Tony went through he would choose to rest upon his past laurels, but such was not the case. Tony remained in the service



The book "Goths and Balts" describes the history of the Goths, an ancient European nation the author has identified as being the Balts, whose customs and migrations significantly shaped our Western culture. It should be seen as a piece of investigative journalism where the author applied a strict information-collecting system to write, not about the

clear distinction between Germans and Goths and that it set the Gothic site of origin in an area corresponding to modern Baltic nations, who were known by then to be a powerful group of tribes covering the whole of northeast Europe.

Her book set to compare the contents of the Chronicle with the most recent archeological and linguistic data, as well as known events and information existing on Europe and its peoples for those particular dates. Special chapters are also devoted to the Goths' ancient languages, religion, routes, means and ways of traveling, social structure and laws.

The author's journalistic experience of editing and writing for a general public made her strive to continuously involve her readers in the suspense of her own search and discoveries, and write in a style as easy and pleasant to read as possible. Her final conclusions are that Europe possesses a written history as old as that of the Middle East or Egypt, that it is the history of the Baltic nations whose particular culture spread worldwide and that an old historical account written 800 years ago can lead us to rediscover, through modern scientific and linguistic evidence, our own heritage and that of the Western world we live in.

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life of a famous person, but the "life" of a nation, which turned out to be the "life" of early Europe.

The book is principally a detailed commentary of a famous chronicle of the Gothic nation, written in the thirteenth century by Spanish King Alfonso X The Wise. The works of Alfonso X are a landmark of Spanish language, history and literature, but this particular story of his own ancestors was for a long time considered partly imaginary, for many of the events described in it clashed with the longstanding belief that the Goths were originally German. The Chronicle covers 4,000 years of history and an enormous geographical area, from the Baltic Sea in the North, India in the East which the Goths reached around 1300 BC and where they gave birth to the Sanskrit language, all the way to 410 AD when they conquered Rome and subsequently invaded southwest Europe.

Journalist Jurate Rosales was the first to notice that modern dating of archeological finds might be a way to verify whether the Chronicle was right in its apparently incredible - yet strictly chronological - description of that long history. She noticed that the Chronicle drew a

LITHUANIAN HERO OF THE FORGOTTEN WAR

and went on to a distinguished military career. He was commissioned a 2nd Lieutenant in 1957 and eventually rose to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. His colorful career took him to Japan, Korea, Alaska, Iceland, the Azores, Canada, Saudi Arabia, 51 African Nations and across Europe. He commanded Special Forces units in the Dominican Republic in 1956 and the 173rd Airborne Brigade in Vietnam in 1969. He became fluent in Portuguese and a qualified military interpreter. Herbert went on to receive a bachelor's degree from the University of Pittsburgh and a Masters Degree

and PhD from the University of Georgia.

Herbert was the perfect American military officer and that perfection would eventually cause him to leave the service. While commanding combat troops in Vietnam, Herbert would find himself forced to report corruption and criminal malfeasance he saw around him including the war crimes. Rather than being praised for reporting such issues, Colonel Herbert was attacked by his commanders and political office holders. As a result, Colonel Herbert was forced to leave the service in order to continue his struggle. It has only been with the passage of time that history has

proven the allegations he made so many years ago to have been truthful. Today, Colonel Hebert lives a quiet life in retirement with his family and enjoys fishing. Bridges is proud to briefly recount the story of this outstanding Lithuanian American military officer. For those seeking a more in depth story, the author recommends Colonel Herbert's own book, *Soldier* by Anthony B. Herbert, Lt. Col. Retired with James T. Wooten, Holt Rinehart Winston, New York, New York, 1973.

Henry Gaidis

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

100 years

A Journey in Faith



Sisters of St. Casimir 100th Anniversary banner carried by Sr Agnese Chapp (not shown) Sr Lourdine Ramoska and Sr Dolorine Lopez.

The long anticipated day finally arrived. The 100th Anniversary Committee of the Sisters of St. Casimir had planned for an entire year for this momentous event. Saturday, August 26th dawned with a bright sun and an uncontainable joyous feeling in the air-it was the Opening Mass of the Sisters' Centennial Anniversary of founding - and what an awe inspiring event it was.

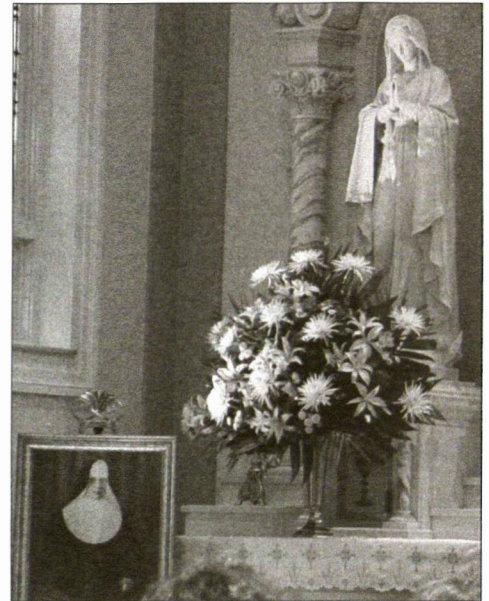
One hundred years (1907-2007), well actually 99 years, this year, but the event was too historic and significant to be celebrated in merely a day, so the Committee opened the year with a special Mass held in the Motherhouse chapel. Chicago's Auxiliary Bishop Gustavo Garcia Siller was the main celebrant and he was assisted by 14

priests invited because they had ministered at one time at the Motherhouse. It was so fitting that they should join the Sisters, once again, to offer heartfelt thanksgiving to the Lord for the blessings and graces of the past 100 years within the lives of the Sisters of St. Casimir. Among the priests concelebrating were the Augustinian Provincial, Rev. William Leggo, OSA and Marian Fathers' Provincial, Rev. Donald Petraitis, MIC.

The Entrance Procession solidified in graceful form the essence of the past 100 years. A banner carried by Sister Agnese Chapp and created by our own Sister Kathleen Smith, was adorned with a cross, symbolizing God's love for all people. The Community symbol, the lily, sword and crown embossed in the center was designed by Bishop John Shanahan of Harrisburg, PA, in 1907 when our Congregation was first founded. The Holy Spirit symbolized the gifts of wisdom, courage,



100th Anniversary Candle with Sisters of St. Casimir logo, made by Sr. Kathleen Smith, SSC.



Picture of Mother Maria Kaupas, foundress of the Sisters of St. Casimir before the altar of the Blessed Mother in the Sisters of St. Casimir Motherhouse.

love, fidelity and joy which continue to inflame our hearts and our lives.

Three lovely, vivacious little ones, Clare, Helen and Sophia Signorelli, accompanied Sister Elizabeth Ann who carried a beautifully crafted community candle. Each girl carried a rose symbolizing the life, love and beauty of Mother Maria and her first two companions, Mother Immaculata and Mother Concepta. The young girls symbolized new life and hope for the future. The candle holder had been decorated with ribbons of gold on which were tied over 600 gold rings, each representing the young women who entered our community, following in the footsteps of Mother Maria as a Sister of St. Casimir.

The Sisters' choir was enhanced by several lay people and was directed by Faustas Strolia while Sister Theresa Papsis, SSC was the organist. The musical selections, accompanied by flute and trumpet, rendered the feelings of all present that of gratitude,



The Mass with celebrant, Bishop Gustavo Garcia-Siller.

triumph, joy, and thanksgiving to the God who loves us all. As Sister M. Immacula, Superior General, proclaimed the opening of the 100th Anniversary Jubilee Year, the feelings of joy and thanksgiving pervaded the chapel and were expressed by a resounding applause. Among the many people and visiting Sisters present was our Sister Joyce Dopkin from Buenos Aires, Argentina. Also present was Sister Barbara Jablonski, IHM, representing the Sister Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary from Scranton, PA, our dear friends and first mentors. The Sisters of SS Cyril and Methodius, termed our “cousins” because their early members were trained almost simultaneously with Mother Maria, were represented by Sister Linda Marie Bolinski, Superior General and her Council Members from Danville, PA, Sisters Donna Marie and Jeanne Ambre along with several other SSCM Sisters from Merrillville, IN. Three Sisters of St. Casimir from Lithuania, Sisters Juta, Birute, and Silvija, arrived early in the month for the celebration but also experienced and shared life with the Chicago SSC’s. Their youthful energy, joy and enthusiasm in learning so much of the Congregation’s history radiated throughout their time among us.

The meaningful Mass Intercessions incorporated all who in the past had been a part of the founding including Mother Maria and her two companions,

Mothers Immaculata and Concepta, Father Staniukynas, our co-founder, spiritual father and teacher, the Sister Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, and in a special way all of the Sisters of St. Casimir who had gone before us and laid the path by their faithful commitment to be women of prayer, community, and service, witnessing to God’s presence in our world and nurturing the life of faith for all who came in touch with them. The intercessory response sung in three languages was “Lord, hear our prayer, Dieve išklausk mus, Senor, escuchanos.” The Lithuanian was used to remember the early immigrants to whom the Congregation first ministered. The Spanish represented those with whom many Sisters of St. Casimir minister and work with today, here in the US and Argentina.

“A year of the harvest” is what Bishop Gustavo termed this Jubilee year. His awe inspiring homily delivered with love, spirit and fervor reignited the hearts of all listening. “100 years of faith,” he continued, “represents a field ready to be harvested.” He expressed greetings on behalf of Cardinal George and all who were not here but have been touched



Mass Recessional - Sr. Immacula, partially shown, (l. to r.) Sisters Elaine, Margaret Petcavage, Joyce Dopkin, Grace Ann, and Teresita.

by the dedication and spirituality of the SSC's. Filled with the fervor of his recent eleven day trip to Lithuania the Bishop expressed greetings from all of the Sisters in Lithuania and even from the Lithuanian President, Valdas Adamkus (a fellow Chicagoan) and his wife, with whom the bishop had visited at Pažaislis, the Sisters' Motherhouse.

Bishop Gustavo stated, "The theme of "thanksgiving" recalls the life and spirit of Mother Maria." For him three outstanding virtues drew his attention, firstly Mother was a woman of conviction – a beautiful woman who attracted others by her beauty and virtue. Secondly, she was a woman who believed that she was "chosen" by God. She knew that she was "chosen" for it was not her idea to found a religious community, but it came from God. Here the Bishop made reference to the beautiful hymn "Come Thou Chosen" which for the past 100 years was sung at every Profession ceremony, the day the Sisters pronounced their vows. And in being "chosen" Mother Maria expanded her vision. Yes, she was called to minister to the Lithuanian immigrants, but she expanded that vision because she was imbued with the universality of the Church. The Bishop's third observation about Mother Maria was her deep love – her love for people, the Lord and the Church.

In concluding Bishop Gustavo reminded all to remain thankful for these 100 years. He said he has been personally touched by the deep SSC spirituality and encouraged the Sisters to remain connected to the Lord and remain in God's love. He continued, "The harvest of this jubilee year will be in abundance. There is no time for complaining, no time to look at the difficulties of life for it's a jubilee year. May it be used to harvest the fruits of conviction, the fruits of being chosen, the fruits of living in love, then the Church will be beautified, the world enriched and all of us will end being better people, better Christians, better Sisters. May the intercession of Mother Maria convey to us her beauty, as you renew your dedication to the Lord with conviction, knowing that you are chosen. Let us help you to harvest – to taste the fruits of 100 years of God's work through your community in the Church. We are with you and for you and through the intercession of St. Casimir, may we come together next year with joy and our hands full, because the harvest in the name of the Lord is great."

Moved by the Bishop's inspiring words, the Sisters of St. Casimir, at the end of the Liturgy together proclaimed



Faustas Strolia conducting the choir.



Reception after the 100th Anniversary Mass in the SSC Motherhouse Auditorium.

their Mission Statement with love and conviction.

With the culmination of the beautiful Liturgy the guests assembled in the Auditorium where a delicious catered reception awaited under the guidance of Sisters Virginia Gapsis and Rita Marie. The spirit and blessings of the day lingered and echoed long within the hearts of all who attended.

Sister Margaret Petcavage

Editor's Note: BRIDGES wishes to congratulate and thank the Sisters of St. Casimir on the occasion of their 100th anniversary. May God continue to shower them with His blessings.

A Dream Come True

I'm really quite proud of myself. For this year's trip to Lithuania I made a new purchase- a 99cent notebook. It took a lot of thought to make this purchase as I was rather attached to my old one, but that notebook flew to Lithuania so many times it had its own frequent miles. My loyal blue notebook deserved a life of retirement. And the very first entry in the new notebook, this one is purple, was a visit to St. Clare's Hospital in Utena. I absolutely could not conceive of a trip to Lithuania without a visit to St. Clare's. And now I would like to share my day with you. At least I will share part of my day with you in this issue. The second part will be shared in another issue.

This is my third article about St. Clare's in BRIDGES; the first one was in 2001 and the second in 2004. This was also my third trip to St. Clare's. Yet I never cease to be amazed by this beautiful refuge for people, many who are terminally ill. Depressing? Not at all ! It really is a celebration of life and for some, unfortunately, the end of their lives on earth are really their most comfortable days because of the love and quality of care they receive at St. Clare's.

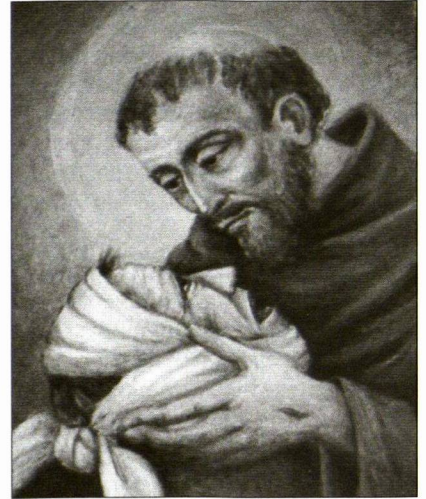
The day started bright and early in Kaunas. This was a very short trip to Lithuania and there was no time to waste. In fact, I had just arrived in Lithuania the day before my trip to Utena. Along with my friend Joanne from Philadelphia and my cousin Dana from Kaunas, we boarded the bus from the main bus station for Utena. I usually manage to twist someone's arm to drive me places but since I just arrived there I didn't have time. However with my usual brand of nagging and arm twisting I would manage rides for subsequent days. It was a very pleasant trip and those of you who would like to experience the "local flavor" of Lithuania, don't be afraid to try the bus. Sister Dolorita Butkus was wait-

ing for us at the bus station. Oh, it felt so good to see her bright smile from the bus window as she waited at the bus stop.

We sat in a van with a friendly driver and made the short trip to the hospital. For our new BRIDGES readers Sister Dolorita Butkus and Sister Michele Garas were instrumental in the building of St. Clare's shortly after independence. The concept of a hospice was new in Lithuania and was not accepted by all. They obtained and remodeled an old dilapidated building and St. Clare's came into existence. Today the hospital cares mainly for terminally ill cancer patients and stroke victims. The patients receive not only medical care but emotional care as well. Sister and her staff know everyone's name and they are never too busy to hold a hand or share a smile.

We enjoyed a wonderful lunch that was, as always, prepared by the staff. Joining us was Elyvra, the social worker. Elyvra is on call day and night. She comforts patients and families and makes final funeral arrangements when the time arrives. Zana is the nursing service director and was also the acting administrator at the time I was there. It is not unusual in the summer to see the director of nursing planting flowers at 10:30pm so the patients can sit outdoors and enjoy the garden. Both women, along with the rest of the staff, go far beyond the call of duty. It has to be emotionally draining when you know that many of your patients will never recover and you will spend their final hours on this earth with them.

We made the usual tour of visiting the patients. As on my two previous trips I did not use my camera as I believe



This beautiful painting of St Francis in St. Clare's Hospital Chapel shows the meaning of their mission.

people have the right to privacy. Sister did ask permission of two patients to be photographed and they readily agreed if she would be in the photograph with them. I don't have the writing ability to



Elyvra, Sister Dolorita, and Zana stop to chat with a 100 year old gentleman.

express to you the gratitude I saw and heard from the patients as they told me about the care they experienced at St. Clare's. I always get the same question when I am in Lithuania. Invariably at least several people will ask me if I know their relatives in Chicago. Rather than go through a geography lesson on the size of the United States and the distance between New Jersey and Illinois I usually nod my head and

explain that I hadn't met their relatives yet. When I saw the elevator my heart jumped for joy. A BRIDGES reader from New York and other BRIDGES readers and organizations played a very big part in financing the construction of the elevator. Sister asked me to express her thanks again to all the individual donors and organizations that made the dream come true. Now patients can be moved with ease to attend Mass in the beautiful chapel or enjoy the lovely flowers in the garden. The nurses no longer have to carry huge pots of boiling soup up and down steps.

Wherever you go in St. Clare's you can see the benefit the patients enjoy from the charity of others. As Sister Dolorita always says, "St. Clare's depends on the charity of others." Yes, it receives government help, but it is never enough. Sister is a nurse and dreamed of the quality of care she worked with in this country. Because of the charity of others the patients at St. Clare's have railings on the beds and privacy curtains around the beds. A family in Pennsylvania donated a room in memory of their beloved deceased relative. A room bearing the woman's name was added for the families of the dying. The patient and family spend the final days in the room. A bed is available for family members, there is a closet for family belongings, a coffee pot and anything the family needs so they do not have to leave their loved one in the final hours.

St. Clare's continues to need your support. The laundry room must be changed to meet new hospital standards. A new machine must be purchased where soiled linens are fed into one part and come out through another part after they have been cleaned. Walls have to be torn down to meet the new requirements. The entire project is VERY expensive. Once again I had the privilege to meet the woman who does the laundry. She has been with St. Clare's since they opened and she washed the linens in large tubs by using the hottest water she could tolerate. Leokadija Lasiene, wearing boots,

climbed into the tubs and washed everything by hand. There is no end to laundry in a hospital and her hands were so red and so raw that they bled. She then lifted the heavy wet linens and took them outside to hang them up to dry. Often they froze as the Lithuanian winters can be harsh. She then carefully ironed everything so the linens would not hurt the sensitive skin of the patients. She now has machines but she loves her work and the dedication is still there. On every trip, Sister Dolorita takes me to the laundry to chat with Leokadija. That is the beauty of St. Clare's; every person's job is important. I am introduced to every staff member, not just administrators.

There is a very beautiful plaque inside the hospital that lists the donors. Many list the names of deceased friends and relatives. There are very few families who have not been touched by serious illnesses such as cancer or stroke. We are fortunate to have an excellent health care system. Won't you consider helping St. Clare's to continue its high quality of care for those who are spending their final days on earth? Your dear ones names will be inscribed on the plaque at St. Clare's. Are you tired yet from all this running around? Relax, we're only into the early afternoon. The rest of the trip will be continued in a future issue. We still have a small country school to visit and a home for homeless men as well as a food pantry.

On September 15th, St. Clare's celebrated their tenth anniversary. It hasn't been easy, but the fruits of labor and love are visible everywhere. BRIDGES adds its congratulations to the staff and patients of St. Clare's.

I would like to add my personal thanks to the organizations and BRIDGES readers who have supported St. Clare's



Leokadija is a dedicated worker in the laundry room.

in the past. Please remember that St. Clare's never has a holiday from helping the sick and dying.

"Do all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all the ways you can, in all the places you can, at all the times you can, to all the people you can, as long as ever you can." John Wesley.

Checks are tax deductible and should be written to:

Sisters of St. Francis

You must write:

Lithuanian Mission-St. Clare's Hospital
on the memo part of the check

Please mail to:

Sr. Janet Gardner

Sisters of St. Francis of the
Providence of God

3603 McRoberts Road

Pittsburgh, PA 15234

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.

TRIVIA QUESTION

(No.9)

When was the Lithuanian flag composed of three horizontal stripes of yellow, green and red adopted?

(a) 1895 (b) 1905 (c) 1918

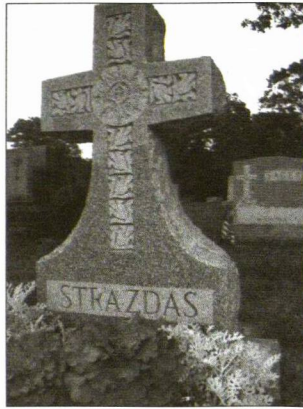
Answer to Trivia Quiz
on page 22

All Souls Day at Cape Cod

It is an old Lithuanian custom and tradition to honor and remember our dead. This tradition is practiced in Lithuania from old times. At the suggestion of our new and young member, Deimante, we started this remembrance last year. All Souls Day is on November 2nd.

The majority, about fifty, of our deceased members and their loved ones are interned at St. Francis Xavier Cemetery in Centerville and some, about forty, are in other cemeteries.

At dusk on the eve before All Souls Day about thirty members and their children of the Lithuanian Community of Cape Cod gathered at St. Francis Xavier's Cemetery with candles in hand to celebrate this solemn occasion. The event was started with a few words by A. Dapkus, our president, and next A. Borges, our secretary, read a general prayer. In each section of the cemetery the names of the interned were read by one of our members and prayers were said by all "Our Father, Hail Mary, Amzina Atilsi...", (Eternal Rest)" and then a candle was lit at each grave site. After completing the fourth and last section of the cemetery the names of our deceased members resting in other cemeteries were read, we prayed and lit one large candle. To end the celebration we sang a Lithuanian church song "Marija, Marija". As we started to leave the cemetery the mood was somber, yet we felt good and a little closer to our loved ones. Some of us went home and others attended a mass at Our Lady of Assumption Church in Osterville. Hope to do this again next year and continue this tradition.



Monument of the first deceased LAC member of Cape Cod.



Members praying at St. Francis Xavier Cemetery.



E. Uzpurvis reads names of deceased members.

*Written in Lithuanian
by Aurelija Borges.
English translation
by Eugenijus Uzpurvis.*

For
Jadvyga Lendraitis
(1915-2006)

Bobute died.

Now what?

*We have words. But
what can they name
that does not die?*

*The world is so construed
that grandmothers too must
pass*

into the earth

transformed into dust, dirt, or ash...

*But that is not
what we loved.*

*What we loved:
the eyes like fertile soil,
the smile like a field of rye
caught in the evening sun,
a face like a platter
serving warm food
to those beloved and their beloved.*

*All who would come were served,
and continue to be served:
like the light of a distant
extinguished star just now
reaching our world-we bask
in her still radiating love.*

*You can rest now Bobute.
You have done well
by your family, your friends,
and must we not even say,
by humanity as well?*

*For to shine so brightly on a few-
we are moons reflecting her light
to others. Now as such stones
in a suddenly empty space,
we cannot help but to know:
the original has gone out.*

*We hope that she enjoyed
her shining in a long, often toilsome
life. And there was so much to enjoy:*

*The weddings and births of so
many children, grandchildren,
great-grandchildren, the holiday feasts,
showcasing her culinary skills, the toasts,
the songs, her sweet wine and chocolates,
the smiles and laughs at the packed tables,
the cool water off
Dowses, sitting ny the beach grass
talking and joking with Valteris and the
Simonaviciai, cultivating her garden...*

Continued on page 16

Jeanne Dorr

News and Views

Half of Lithuanians optimistic about situation in country Vilnius (ELTA)-In September, 51 percent of Lithuanians had the opinion that the situation in the country was improving.

A slightly smaller number of Lithuanians (47 percent) indicated that the general situation in the nation was getting worse, a survey conducted by Baltijos Tyrimai shows.

Public opinion on this topic has become more negative in Lithuania since August. The number of respondents who think that the general situation in Lithuania is becoming better dropped 4 percentage points in September.

Compared to September 2005, the number of pessimists fell in Lithuania. Fifty-five percent of respondents then evaluated the situation in the country negatively.

Men (53 percent), people younger than 30 (68 percent), people in rural areas (54 percent), and people who receive an above average income feel more optimistic about the gen-

eral situation in the country.

This is the first time since this indicator is surveyed that the assessment of rural residents is more positive than that of people in cities.

Lithuanian prime minister does not think gas prices for consumers will increase more than 5-10 percent Vilnius (ELTA)-Lithuania cannot control the price of natural gas, because it cannot influence the factors that determine it, Prime Minister Gediminas Kirkilas said at Government hour in the Seimas on Wednesday. In his opinion, gas prices for consumers will not increase more than 5-10 percent next year.

According to Kirkilas, neither Lithuania nor the Russian company Gazprom, which is a shareholder in Lietuvos Dujos, is raising prices for no reason. "Prices for gas are growing due to the situation in the world market. The price of gas mainly depends on oil prices," Kirkilas said.

According to the prime minister, it is not clear yet how much gas prices will increase next year because Gazprom has not changed its prices yet. Kirkilas does not think that gas prices for consumers will increase more than 5-10 percent.

While visiting Lithuania on Tuesday, Aleksandr Riazanov, deputy chairman of Gazprom, promised that the Russian company would announce

its new prices in about three weeks.

Gas prices in Lithuania will reach the EU level before 2008. At present the price of natural gas in Lithuania amounts to 60 percent of the price in Germany.

Lithuanian prime minister disapproves of setting up emigration affairs ministry Vilnius (ELTA)-Prime Minister Gediminas Kirkilas does not approve of the proposal to establish an emigration affairs ministry.

"What does this ministry mean? Do we want to stop the current situation? Do we want to encourage Lithuanian emigrants to come back to their homeland?" the head of the Government asked on Thursday.

In the words of Kirkilas, not a ministry, but a wide range of methods is needed to promote the return of emigrants to Lithuania.

The idea to establish an emigration affairs ministry was proposed this week by MP Petras Austrevicius, the leader of the Lithuanian Liberal Movement.

In sixteen years of independence, over 400,000 Lithuanians have left their homeland. This figure could be much higher since only every second or third emigrant declares that he is leaving the country.

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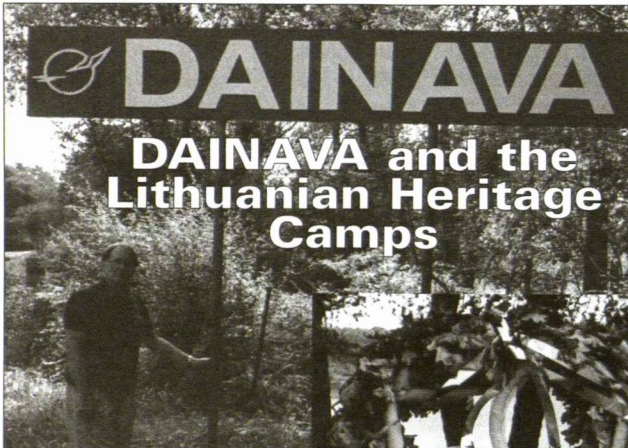
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L I T H U A N I A N A M E R I C A N N E W S J O U R N A L



*Romualdas Kriauciūnas
by the recently renewed
entrance sign to Dainava.*

*An oak wreath greeted the
visitors. Lake Spyglys is in
the background.*

Ernesto, the first Tropical Storm of 2006, missed Dainava by some 50 miles. That was welcome news to some 500 people who came to this youth camp to celebrate its 50th anniversary. All of this happened over the Labor Day weekend a few miles West of Manchester (15100 Austin Road), Michigan.

The 226-acre camp property was purchased in 1955 by about to be incorporated nonprofit organization, an affiliate of the Lithuanian American Roman Catholic Federation. It took two years to transform this farm into a well-functioning youth camp. That meant building roads, draining and cleaning the 12-acre lake, and erecting dormitories as well as the dining hall. In 1957 the first youth camp was held. Eventually the camp expanded and now it is a 210-bed camp, licensed by the State of Michigan.

The Board of Directors decided to celebrate the camp's golden anniversary in 2006. That also coincided with the LAC, Inc. declaration of 2006 as the Year of Lithuanian Youth Camps.

By now an astute reader should have done his or her math and wonder how the 500 people that showed up at the anniversary celebration would fit into the 210 bed facility. The truth is, they did not fit. Some camped out in their tents, others stayed at nearby motels. Still some others drove back home and came back the following

day to continue with the festivities.

After the US and Lithuanian flags were raised and the Lithuanian national anthem was sung, Kastytis Giedraitis, the President of the Dainava's Board of Directors, opened the gala event by setting down three rules: 1. Be patient while waiting in line for food... 2. Be patient while waiting in line for a shower... 3. Be patient in whatever you do... and have a good time!

In retrospect, the weekend was well planned and well executed. Even the weather could not have been any better, even though there was well-founded anxiety about Ernesto's uninvited visit.



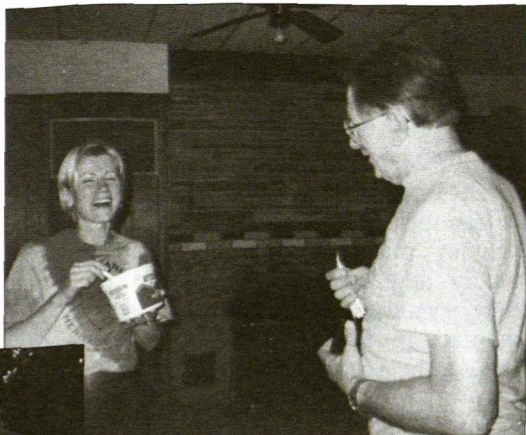
*Camp Dainava is home to eleven Lithuanian wayside crosses and shrines.
Some guests waiting for a flag raising ceremony.*

Who made up the crowd and what did it actually do? To my surprise, most of those attending were young people, really young, under 21. Some were with their parents, a few more were some of the original "founding fathers and mothers" of the camp. It should be noted that the camp was built and developed and run mostly by volunteers.

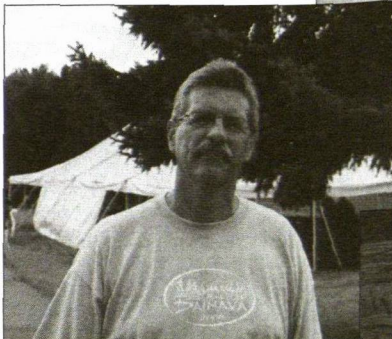
Besides consuming four meals, there were plenty of activities to attend: lottery drawing, group singing, accompanied by three accordionists. That was the highlight for me! There was the Spyglys Lake to swim in, sandy beach for building sand castles, volleyball court... There was an unusual raffle. You bought the tickets and then decided which prize you wanted to win. When time came to pick the winning number, all those that wanted that particular item were the only ones competing for it.

While there were organized activities, much fun was had

by simply running into friends not seen for a while or running into children of friends. The official highlight of the weekend was the concert performed by Dainava Lithuanian Folk Ensemble's men's sextet (that means six men and not anything



Rima Polikaitytė-Birutienė, Director of Lithuanian Heritage Camp, chatting with Romualdas Kriauciūnas.



Kastytis Giedraitis, President, Board of Directors of Youth Camp Dainava. Behind him is a specially erected tent for the camp's 50th anniversary festivities.



Top of a picnic table, with signatures of all campers at the 2006 Lithuanian Heritage Camp, covered with many coats of varnish. What a neat idea!

else). Under the leadership of Darius Polikaitis they sang about a dozen well chosen and beautifully rendered songs. Between some songs poetry was recited. The subject of the poetry - Camp Dainava, of course. There was also a video presentation.

The concert took place under a huge white tent. As soon as people left the tent, an unexpected display of fireworks lit the sky. The road to the other side of the lake was decorated by hundreds flickering lights embedded in glass jars. What a sight! Of course, the

crowd followed the lighted path and ended up in the beach pavilion. Waiting there were plastic glasses filled with Champagn and an Anniversary Sakotis cake, over three feet high, was also on hand. We sang "Ilgiausiu metu, ilgiausiu!" - a "Happy Birthday!" equivalent in Lithuanian. As we finished singing, Rimas Kasputis and his orchestra took over the sound space. Dance and socialization followed into the night.

Sunday morning (September 3) about a hundred Dainava "shareholders" met for the annual meeting at which time financial reports and other issues were reviewed, discussed, and approved. Formation of Dainava Camp Foundation received much attention. This is an independent non-profit corporation whose primary function will be to provide financial support for capital improvements at the youth camp. Persons wishing to contribute to this Foundation may write a check to Dainava Foundation, Inc. and mail to Albertas Susinskas, Treasurer, 5348 Richards Drive, Mentor, OH 44060.

The holly Mass was celebrated



More guests are waiting for the flag raising ceremony, celebrating Dainava's 50th anniversary over the Labor Day weekend.

by Rev. Ricardas Repsys, Pastor of Divine Providence Lithuanian Parish in Southfield, MI. In his sermon he reiterated the natural beauty of Camp Dainava and the joy of being here together. Amazingly, like the night before, the tent was packed by worshipers. The liturgy and musical program during the Mass was coordinated by Dalia Lietuvninkiene.

After the flags were lowered, the grand finale took place back at the beach pavilion. Some 170 pounds of pork, reduced to small pieces, were shishkabobbed over hot charcoal. Of course, there were trimmings, too.

The celebration and the mood was so festive and joyous that about one third of people chose to stay an additional day. While the official program was over, the fun, excellent weather and games continued.

What else does Camp Dainava do besides celebrating its anniversary? It has been the site of summer camps for a number of Lithuanian-American youth and adult organizations over the years. Among them have been four Associations of Ateitis Federation, Lithuanian Scouts, teachers from Lithuanian schools in US and Canada, "Frontininkai", Lithuanian Dance teachers, teachers of Lithuanian songs, sports and religious groups. The program in all of these camps is conducted in Lithuanian. Of special interest to the readers of "Bridges" should be the Lithuanian Heritage Camp which is aimed at children of Lithuanian descent who no longer speak the Lithuanian language. The Heritage Camp was conceived by Jadvyda Damusiene who in 1960 approached B. Boris, Detroit Chapter President of the Knights of Lithuania. He agreed to have such a camp, provided J. Damusiene managed it. She agreed and the rest is history for the next five years. The

camp became dormant until it was resurrected by Jadvyga in 1978. Since then the official sponsor of the Heritage Camp is Dainava's Board of Directors. Jadvyga Damuciene gathered a large staff of experts in such areas as folk dances, weaving, music, sports, Lithuanian history and literature. Of course, there was also dietary personnel, a chaplain and a health officer. Among them was Rima Polikaityte who was in charge of evening programs. It's the same Rima, now Mrs. Birutiene, who since 1993 took over running of the Lithuanian Heritage Camp. She is still at it.

According to the information provided in one of the Dainava's publications, the Heritage Camp accepts children of Lithuanian descent that are 7 to 16 years of age. The duration is one week. During that week they are exposed to the various aspects of Lithuanian heritage and culture. All camp staff and counselors are bilingual (specifically, English and Lithuanian). Each year the camp has a specific theme, e.g., Lithuanian heroes, Lithuanian geography, Lithuanian songs and dances. These themes are transmitted in an educationally sound, yet playful manner. During the week the children get the rudimentary beginning of their ethnic background, their Lithuanian identity. Close to 150 children come to this camp from all over the US. Some come: from Canada, few others are recent arrivals from Lithuania.

"It's not easy to accept the fact that Lithuanian Diaspora is changing. As long as among us there are dedicated idealists who try to unite all children of Lithuanian background into one ethnic family and pass on the cultural values, this Heritage Camp as well as Lithuanian Diaspora will thrive", noted Rima Polikaityte in DAINAVA 40 publication.

Romualdas Kriauciūnas

Continued from page 12

Bobutė died.

*All that and so much more, so much
Bobute that I know you enjoyed
unheard of to me,
unnameable*

*You were more than words
can name.*

*You are so long as we call
your name.*

Oh, I wish I understood you.

Instead, I try to sing you

What now?

What else?

Jadvyga.

If only I could sing...

The author, Rimantas Uzgiris PhD. composed this poem as a tribute to his recently departed grandmother ("Bobute"), Jadvyga Lendraitis. It was read during her funeral mass on 05/20/06.

Can you help?

I am looking for close relatives-children or grandchildren of my grandmother's Jusefa Monstvilaite's sisters' (dead) Jadvyga Monstvilaite - Mikalauski (born in 1891) and Brone Monstvilaite-Kreffka (lived in Pittsburgh). I would be glad to get a message from them and I would like to visit my relatives' graves while staying in the United States.

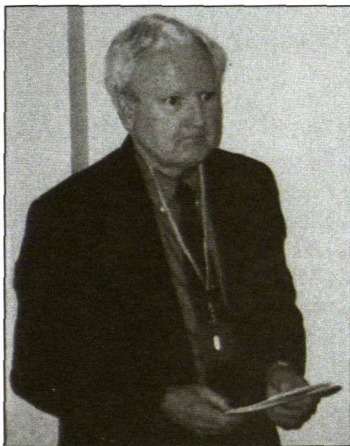
I am Juzefa Monstvilaite's granddaughter. My name is Vida Cepulkauskiene.

I live in Lithuania. My address is
CHEMIJOS 7-53,
51346 KAUNAS, LITHUANIA

E-mail: adiv05@yahoo.com

*Romualdas Kriauciūnas Ph. D.,
Clinical Psychologist.
Executive Vice President of the
National Executive Committee,
Lithuanian-American Community,
Inc. (2000-2003). Recipient of the
2005 Award for Journalism, given by
the Cultural Council of LAC. Editor
of www.ateitis.org web site.*

US/EU-BALTIC INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM 2006: SUMMARY REPORT



Prof. Victor Klemas Univ. of Delaware Tech-Program Chair.

This second US/EU-Baltic International Symposium was successfully conducted in Klaipeda, Lithuania May 23-25, 2006. The first was successfully held in Klaipeda in 2004. The plan is to continue this series in the Baltic every 2 years. The symposium was sponsored by: Lithuania's Ministry for the Environment and its Center of Marine Research; The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA); The US Office of Naval Research Global, centered in London; The Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineer's (IEEE), Oceanic Engineering Society; and supported by Klaipeda University, Kaunas University of Technology and Vilnius University, all in Lithuania; and the University of Delaware in the U.S. Participating sponsors were Dr. Richard Spinrad, Assistant Administrator for Research at NOAA, and CDR. Eric Gottshall, Associate Director for Space, Land and Ocean at ONR Global. Our sponsors greatly insured having a meaningful program. Dr. Algirdas Stankevicius, Director, Center of Marine Research in Klaipeda was Symposium Co-Chairman; Program Chairman was Prof. Victor Klemas, University of Delaware; Co-Chairmen included Professors Benediktas Tilickis,

Klaipeda University; Raimundas Jasinevicius, Kaunas University of Technology; and Algimantas Juozapavicius, Vilnius University.

INTRODUCTION

The theme of the Symposium was "Integrated Ocean Observation Systems (IOOS) for Managing Global & Regional Ecosystems". IOOS is the ocean component of the Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS), a high priority topic of over 60 nations. Over 140 papers were presented by authors from over 20 nations, and provided an excellent forum for exchange of research information and promotion of international cooperation. Many papers discussed the problems of natural and man-induced hazards, including oil pollution and the many hazards caused by the thousands of tons of munitions of all kinds that were dumped after World War II. These include chemical weapons that are slowly deteriorating and exposing highly toxic chemicals to Baltic fisheries resources and endangering environmental health. Oil pollution from tankers and drilling platforms is a major concern in accidental spills. There were papers on potential oil spills, and discussions of the controversial offshore drilling platform D-6 producing oil about 20 km from Kaliningrad and Lithuania's southern tip of the Curonian Spit, a World Heritage Site. Neighboring countries, Latvia and Estonia, are especially concerned. Pollution transported by river outflow into the sea is another topic of great concern.

The writer summarizes below, some highlights of the symposium's 140 papers, and edits, paraphrases and abbreviates information provided by and credited to the authors. However, the writer does not necessarily endorse all highlights reported. The writer encourages readers to refer to the proceedings for the full text of the papers.



Joseph Vadus Co-chair and Raimundas Jasinevicius Program Co-chair (Former Lith. Ambassador to Denmark).

OPENING ADDRESSES

In his opening address, Thomas P. Kelly, U.S. Charge d' Affaires at the U.S. Embassy in Vilnius stated that the best way to face complex challenges - controlling oil spills, protecting marine ecosystems, improving navigation and transportation, and enhancing global security on our seas - is through international cooperation. Lithuania stands out, thanks to the work of a handful of talented individuals at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency back in the 1970s. The group at EPA, led by a Regional Administrator named Valdas Adamkus, recognized the U.S. Great Lakes system has much in common with the Baltic Sea. He and his colleagues saw an opportunity to work with Lithuania, even though it was then occupied by the Soviet Union. The program they pioneered brought scientists together to solve common problems. Following the restoration of Lithuania's independence, research continued under the Great Lakes-Baltic Sea Partnership program, with exchanges of technical expertise and personnel. The program officially ended some years ago, but the partnerships continue. And that EPA guy named Adamkus enjoyed the exchanges so much that he engaged in an exchange of his own and became Lithuania's President. In the coming weeks, we will sign a new bilateral agreement that will enhance and facilitate science and technology cooperation between the U.S. and Lithuania. The U.S. Government's Fulbright exchange program is active in



R. Spinrad, NOAA, A. Stankevicius Co-chair, J. Vadus Co-chair, J. Barbera, IEEE/OES, CDR. E. Gottshall, ONR Global, London Co-chair with Sponsors NOAA & ONR BLOBAL.

all of the Baltic countries and offers an exceptional vehicle for exchanging graduate students and accomplished academics between our countries. For example, Prof. Victor Klemas, a Fulbright Scholar from the University of Delaware, has played an important role in planning this conference while teaching at Klaipeda University. (Thomas P. Kelly, U.S.A.)

In his opening address, Lithuanian Deputy Minister of the Environment, Rytis Sadkauskas, stated that it is gratifying to know that an event of such a high level was organized here in Lithuania, and this fact demonstrates Lithuania's contribution to the science of the ocean and the sea. The Baltic Sea is one of the youngest seas in the world, and, its evolution has undergone changes, which have been influenced by human economic activities, and by more rapid exploitation of natural resources. The biggest part of the Lithuanian coastal zone belongs to the Curonian Spit, which UNESCO included as a World Heritage Site. Unfortunately, one of the biggest problems in the Baltic Sea is contamination by oil and its products, which causes tremendous damage to the environment, and disorganizes behavior of ecosystems. (Rytis Sadkauskas, Lithuania).

Another address was presented by Dr. Zenonas Rokus Rudzikas, President, Lithuanian Academy of Sciences, who gave a broad overview of global perspectives in science and technology and social and environmental concerns. The English language is being universally adopted in international science and technology activities. Lithuania must upgrade scientific and technical facili-

ties and make use of emerging technology. There is need for globalization not only in science and technology, but also in education and training. The English language is being universally adopted in international science and technology activities. Considerable demographic and statistical data was presented to support the findings. (Z.R. Rudzikas, Lithuania).

SYMPOSIUM PROGRAM U.S. IOOS Program

The Administration's response to the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy is the U.S. Ocean Action Plan that provides the priorities for ocean and coastal resources. Among those priorities is building the Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS), including the ocean and coastal component of the Integrated Ocean Observing System (IOOS), with U.S. leadership by NOAA. (R. Spinrad, NOAA). Other U.S. papers by T. Malone, W. Nowlin and A. Clark reaffirmed the management structure and Action Plan.

EuroGOOS – a GOOS Regional Alliance

EuroGOOS is an Association of Agencies, founded in 1994, to further the goals of GOOS, and in particular the development of Operational Oceanography in the European Sea areas and adjacent oceans. Euro GOOS now has 33 members in 17 European countries to cooperate on European priorities. (H. Dahlin, Sweden)

Industry Role in IOOS

The National Office for Integrated and Sustained Ocean Observations (referred to as Ocean.US) is a federal interagency

planning office sponsored by 10 U.S. Federal Agencies: to develop a National capability for integrating ocean observations and predictions to meet research and operational needs and to serve as a National focal point for relating U.S. ocean observing system elements to the Global Ocean Observing System (GOOS); both components of Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS). The goal is the establishment of the U.S. Integrated Ocean Observing System (IOOS), comprising both a global scale ocean component as well as a regional/local scale coastal component (A. Clark, U.S.)

Naval Oceanography

The U.S. Naval Meteorology and Oceanography Command assesses and predicts the world's most challenging operating environment and its impact on global military defense operations. A number of significant recent developments has led to a new vision for Naval Oceanography, incorporating Numerical Ocean Prediction as a key component. (E. Gough, U.S.A.)

Hazardous Material

About 1,000 battleships and civil vessels sunk in the Baltic Sea during the World War II, more than 300 of them belonged to the Soviet Union. Every sunken vessel might have been carrying military cargo. So, all the unexplored shipwrecks present a potential hazard to the marine ecosystem and its inhabitants. Russia proposes to draw up a Register of potentially hazardous underwater objects, in particular all the vessels, which might have more than 300 kg of ammunition. Searching and exploration of the known sunken vessel is the task proposed by the joint team of Shirshov Institute of Oceanology in Kaliningrad and the Russian Federal Ministry of Extraordinary Situations, and their collaborators. (V. Paka et al, Russia)

Environmental Monitoring The D-6 Oilfield

The Major participants were the Atlantic Branch of the P.P. Shirshov Institute of Oceanology of the Russian Academy of Sciences and LUKOIL, both of



*Joseph Vadus and Zenonas Rudzikas
(Pres. Lith. Academy of Sciences).*

Kaliningrad. The major result of their monitoring program in 2003-2005 is the conclusion, that D-6 oilfield development at all stages (construction, drilling, and oil extraction) had not caused marine environment pollution. (O.E. Pichuzhkina, V.V. Sivkov et al., Russia)

Arsenic occurs as a constituent in many of the chemical weapons dumped into the Baltic Sea; it can be used as an indicator of leakage and dispersal of released munitions to the marine environment. Although there was evidence of slightly elevated arsenic content in sediments near the weapons dumpsite, arsenic concentrations were nevertheless quite low relative to other investigations in the Baltic and North Seas. (G.Garnaga, A Stankevicius, Lithuania; E.Wyse, S. Azemard, S.de Mora, Monaco).

Beach Erosion

Coastal beach erosion is a concern in Lithuania, particularly in Palanga where it has been great since destruction of a bridge/groin structure to a promenade offshore in a storm in 1999. Wave models have been applied and also scenarios of remediation analyzed and even tried. Reconstruction of the groin helped to the south as did beach nourishment but erosion continues to the north. The sand seems to want to go to Latvia. (A. Williams, U.S.A.)

Remote Sensing Summary

Four sessions on Remote Sensing of the Environment illustrated the remarkable

progress the Baltic Sea countries are making in monitoring their biological and physical environment from aircraft and satellites. Over a dozen speakers discussed the problems of monitoring oil spills, beach erosion, harmful algal blooms, fisheries resources and coastal wetland changes. These applications are of particular interest to Lithuania, due to major concerns regarding oil drilling by Russia off Kaliningrad and plans to install natural gas pipelines along the bottom of the Baltic Sea. Any oil spills or bottom disturbances due to gas pipe construction would directly impact Lithuania's coastline, including the UN Protected Curonian Spit and Lagoon. (V.Klemas U.S.A.)

Port Security

Studies of the Port of Klaipeda indicate that by making small improvements the physical security of the port could be improved significantly. Port security and management must concern itself not only with physical security, but also with environmental security. Planning is underway to develop industries in the port of Klaipeda which will be environmentally sound, minimizing the amount of waste created. (V. Klemas, U.S.A.).

Environmental Monitoring

The Curonian Lagoon is a large shallow coastal water body between the Curonian Spit and the Lithuanian Coast. The average water level in the lagoon is mostly higher compared to sea level, and it flows into the Baltic Sea. Its ecosystem is influenced by fresh and saline water masses. A characteristic feature of the lagoon is high bioactivity and the mixing of salty marine water and fresh river water. The water salinity data of the Curonian Lagoon were retrieved from the national monitoring data for the period of 1961-2004 to determine salinity distribution and its variation

in the course of time and forecasting the chemical regime in respect to variation and also cause increases in salinity. The growing problem is more intense anthropogenic activity and its influence of the natural environment. (I. Dailidiene, A. Stankevicius, B. Tilickis, and L. Davulien, Lithuania)

Fisheries Research

Fisheries Surveys were performed seasonally at randomly stratified monitoring stations. Factors in terms of sediment type, depth range and season influencing species diversity, abundance and biomass of catches within Lithuanian Exclusive Economic Zone (LEEZ) were investigated. Length-age distribution of commercially important species, namely cod, flounder, herring and sprat, were analyzed. As a result, nursery areas for species were detected and closed as a fishery. (R.Statkus, Lithuania)

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The writer, Co-Chairman Dr. Algirdas Stankevicius, Prof. Victor Klemas, Program Chairman and the Symposium Committee recognize the valuable contributions of the authors and the active participation of all attendees. We would like to welcome you to The Third US-Baltic International Symposium in June of 2008.

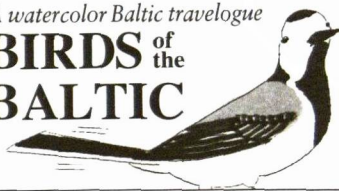
The original summary report was edited to extract and highlight items most relevant to Lithuania.

Joseph R. Vadus, Symposium Co-Chairman
Vice President, Oceanic Engineering
Society Institute of Electrical and
Electronics Engineers

Editor's Note: A very special thank you to the author for all the hours he spent writing the report in "layman's" terms.

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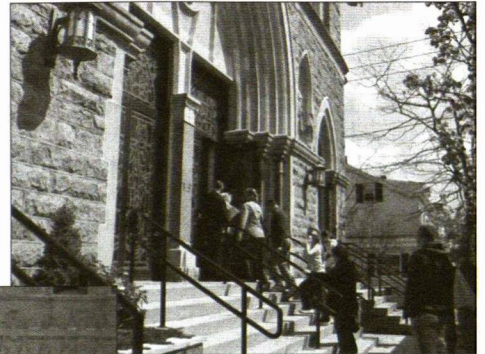


*Symbol
of
Hope!*

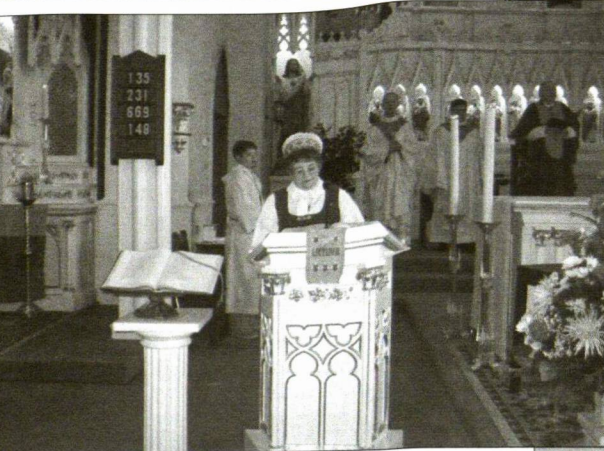
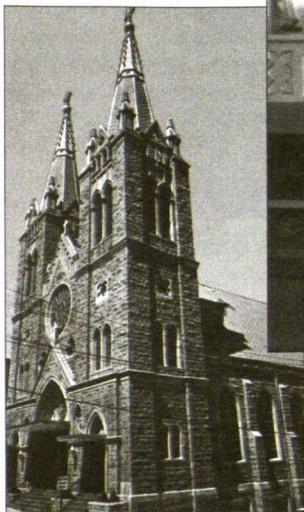


*Partisans and
Rosary on
Aug 13, 06*

*Just one year ago, church was filled for a
Lithuanian Mass.*

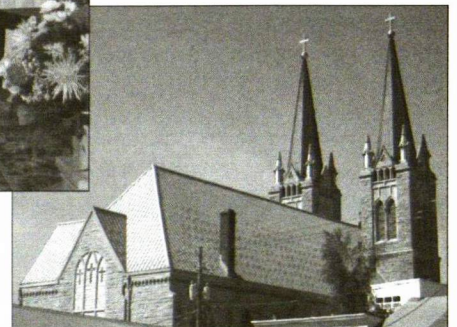


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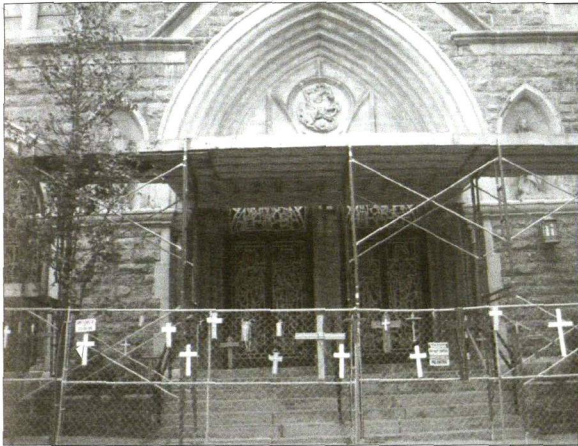


*Celebration of 16th of February 2006 -
The main altar.*

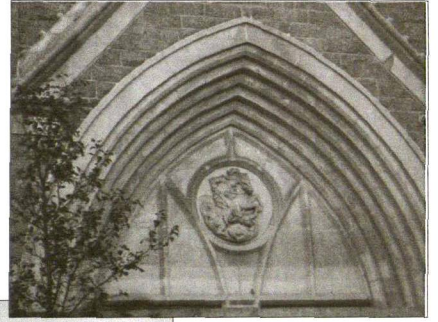
*The church stood for
over 100 years!*



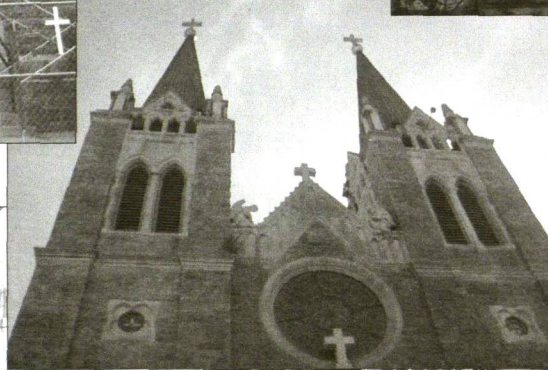
Back view of St. George.



Demonstration at the closed church.



Beautiful detail of St. George over the front door.



Massive church bell towers.



Gintaras dance group, singing at 16th of February, 2006 celebration.



Praying the rosary Aug. 13, 2006



Heritage parade.

The Sun and The Moon

From "Lietuvių Liaudies Pasakos"
Audiocassette produced by UAB "Plokštelės"
English Translation by GLORIA O'BRIEN

SAULĖ IR MĖNULIS

Seniai seniai, neatmenamais laikais, kada dar Žmonių nebuvo pasaulyje.....

THE SUN AND THE MOON

From "Lietuvių Liaudies Pasakos" Audiocassette produced by UAB "Plokštelės"
sh Translation by GLORIA O'BRIEN

Long, long ago, during time immemorial, even before there were people in the world, in one little house, there lived the Moon and the Sun. While living together, they came to love each other so well, that they decided to get married.

And living happily together, they had a daughter, whom they called Earth.

Moon and Sun lived together for many, many happy years, but one day, they quarreled.

"If you are going to be such a hot-head, I will abandon you!", said the Moon to the Sun.

"And if you continue to be so cold, I will not live with you!", answered the Sun.

"Very well – let us separate. But our daughter stays with me."

"No! – I will never leave her with you. Do you want her to freeze, living there with you?"

So they applied to Perkunas, asking him to settle their argument.

Mighty Perkunas, in his thunderous voice, declared – "Let it be thus: The Sun will protect her daughter Earth during the day, and the Moon, at night."

Thus, even till now, they follow the will of Perkunas. From morning till evening, the Sun watches over her daughter Earth, and from evening until morning, the Moon guards her. And when the Moon has no time, then his sisters, the Stars, watch over her.

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

ANSWER TO TRIVIA QUESTION

In Danute Brazyte Bindokiene's book Lithuanian Customs and Traditions, she wrote:

A flag commission composed of Dr. Jonas Basanavicius, artist Antanas Zmuidzinavicius and Tadas Daugirdas submitted a proposal which the council of Lithuania adopted on April 19, 1918.

The newly adopted Lithuanian flag was composed of three equal horizontal stripes of yellow, green and red.


According to Dr. Basanavicius, the colors were selected because they recur most often in

Lithuanian folk weavings and other folk art. Today, they are explained as follows:

- A. Yellow: the fertile fields of Lithuania, golden with ripe rye, wheat flax and other grains.
- B. Green: the symbol of the nation's vitality (as represented in nature also).
- C. Red: the blood shed in defending the homeland's freedom.

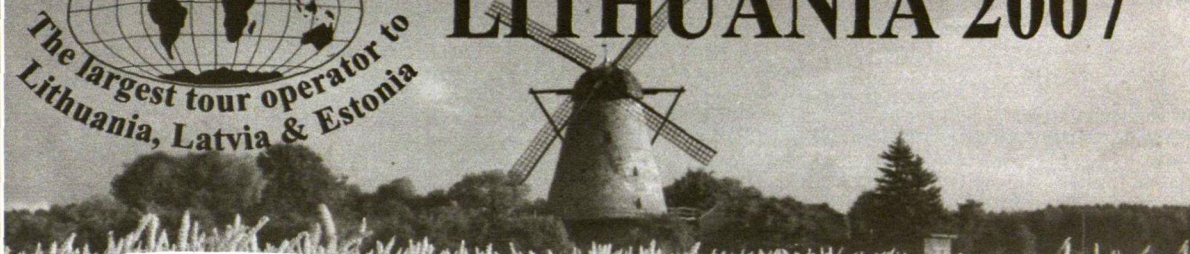
Submitted by Edward Shakalis

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

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Calendar of Events for November-December 2006 - January

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

BLP(LKA)1195
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November

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 Mugé - Lithuanian Festival
Saturday 12-8 pm - **Sunday** 12-6 pm
Lithuanian food, music, vendors and much more
2715 E. Allegheny Ave., Phila., 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 5, 2006 - 5 pm

Andrius Mamontovas

Concert 2006 USA & Canada Tour
Tickets \$30 in advance (postmarked by November 1st), \$35 at the door
Send checks to Romas Zableckas
2918 Hawk Dr., Evans, CO 80620
Info: 970-310-3170
Fraternal Order of Eagles Hall
1151 S Galena St., Denver, CO 80247
(just west of Mississippi and Havana)
Info: www.coloradolithuanians.org

November 10, 2006

Andrius Mamontovas Concert

in Atlanta, GA.
Info:
<http://www.lietuviaiatlantoje.org/upcoming.htm>

November 11, 2006 - 10 am-5 pm
Margarita's Muge featuring: Fine Arts and Crafts, Lithuanian Kitchen, Folk Dancing, Live Music, Father Frost
Lenexa Community Center,
13420 Oak St., Lenexa, KS
Info: www.kclith.org

November 11, 2006

K of L Supreme Council Meeting

St. George Church
Salmon and Venango Sts., Phila., PA
Hosted by C-3

November 12, 2006 - 2.00 pm

Cooking Lesson

Dalė Spokas will be teaching the fine art of cooking lašiniuokiai (bacon buns).
Admission: \$5 Stogis House
Contact:
www.coloradolithuanians.org

November 19, 2006 - 2-4 pm

Dedication and reception for the

St. Casimir's Bell

Wyandotte County Museum,
631 N. 126th St., Bonner Springs, KS
Refreshments provided.

November 19, 2006 - 12 NOON

Lithuanian Mass

Followed by luncheon and meeting
St. George Church
443 Park Ave., Bridgeport, CT
Sponsored by: K of L - C 141

November 26, 2006 - 5 pm

Lithuanian singer and songwriter
Andrius Mamontovas
Latvian Hall
400 Hurley Ave., Rockville, MD
The Embassy of the Republic of Lithuania & Show Center from Chicago
Info: (202) 234-5860,
(630) 464-5000 or
www.scentras.com

DECEMBER

December 2, 2006 - 5:00 pm

Saturday - "JŪRA" Lithuanian Folk Dance Group of San Diego performs at December Nights Balboa Park San Diego, CA
Info: www.lihdsd.org

December 3, 2006 - 12:30 to 3 pm

Kūčios

Kansas City Lithuanian Community Christmas Party. Main Dish and drinks provided. Bring a side dish. Visit from Father Frost.
Lake of the Forest Lodge,
Bonner Springs, Kansas
Info: www.kclith.org

December 9, 2006

Kūčios

Lithuanian Christmas Eve Supper Following 5 pm Mass
St. George Parish Hall
Salmon & Venango Sts. Phila., PA
Info: 215-426-6762
Sponsored by: K of L C.3

December 10, 2006 - 12 Noon

Kūčios

St. Andrew's Parish Hall
1913 Wallace St., Phila., PA
Advance reservations required.
Info: 215-969-2117 or
609-268-8045

Sponsored by: Lithuanian Scouts

December 10, 2006 - 3 to 5 pm

Christmas Party

Admission: \$5 adults
(children under 13 are free)
RSVP:
Reservations no later than Dec. 3rd.
Location:
Fraternal Order of Eagles Hall
1151 S Galena St., Denver, CO 80247
(just west of Mississippi & Havana)
Info: www.coloradolithuanians.org

December 12, 2006 - 7 pm

Kūčios

Lithuanian Music Hall Cultural Center
2715 E. Allegheny Ave., Phila., PA 19134
Info: 610-497-5469

Lithuanian Mass

St. George Church,
443 Park Ave., Bridgeport, CT.
Followed by **Kūčios** celebration at 1:00 pm. Reservations needed.
Contact: pbschmidt@optonline.net
Sponsored by:
K of L - C 141- Bridgeport, CT

January

January 7, 2007 - 2 pm

Annual Christmas Concert

Laisve Choir
St. Andrew Church
1913 Wallace St., Phila., PA
Info: 215-265-2322

January 14, 2007 - 10:30 am
Mass in memory of the massacred defenders of the Vilnius TV tower on January 13, 1991
St. Andrew Church
1913 Wallace St., Phila., PA

FEBRUARY

February 10, 2007 - 4:30 pm

Annual Celebration of

Lithuanian Independence Day

Latvian Hall,
11710-3rd NE, Seattle, WA
The scheduled keynote speaker is University of Washington teaching assistant Ieva Butkute. Her topic will be her visit to deportation camps in Siberia.
<http://seattle.lietuviu-bendruomene.org/events.html>

February 25, 2007

Lithuanian Independence Day

(February 16 and March 11)
11 am Mass at St. George Church
Salmon & Venango Sts., Phila., PA
2 pm Program at
Lithuanian Music Hall
2715 E. Allegheny Ave., Phila., PA 19134
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