

1

apb

# bridge



2007  
january  
february

LITHUANIAN AMERICAN NEWS JOURNAL

*Letter from the Editor*

*It's hard to believe another year has come and gone. May 2007 bring peace to all people in the world.*

*Many Lithuanian churches and organizations will be commemorating February 16 and March 11. But these independence days did not come without sacrifices and bloodshed by thousands and thousands of people.*

*These unsung heroes deserve never to be forgotten. We may not know their names, but we know their deeds for love of their homeland.*

*Because of the proximity of the dates they are usually celebrated at the same time. Please check the calendar and attend at a place near you.*

*To most of the world January 13 is just another day on the calendar. But in Lithuania and to Lithuanians around the world January 13 means remembering a night of terror and bloodshed. On that date in 1991 the Lithuanian people showed a passive world that they could not and would not continue to live in a nation that was occupied and oppressed. They were willing to pay with their blood and offer the ultimate sacrifice to live in a free nation. They did it with perseverance and patience, prayer and song without firing a shot. We are so fortunate to have Dalia Rimkutė Kairiuskienė share her memories of that night with us this month.*

*The second part will appear in the March issue. Although more than fifteen years have passed this was not easy for Dalia. We stopped many times as her eyes filled with tears and her voice quivered while she talked about that night. Although I was thousands of miles away on that night, safe in my home, I could feel her pain as the story unfolded. I want to thank her for the hours she spent with me in preparation for this article..*

*Over the years I have come to depend on many people who provide information for BRIDGES. Among them is Zita Petkus, the editor of *Tulpė Times*, the very informative newsletter published by the Seattle Chapter of the Lithuanian American Community. Zita has now retired from that position after an astonishing 25 years and 101 editions of the newsletter. She did assure me that she would still contribute to BRIDGES. Thank you for a job well done. Congratulations and good luck to the new Editorial Board consisting of Nomeda Lukosevicienė, Vilma Cincienė, Ainius Lasas and Renata Kepezinskienė.*

*Gema and I wish you and your families a year filled with good health, peace and happiness.*



*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.

**PO Box 2376**  
**Naperville, Illinois 60567**

Tel: 410 663-0158  
Fax: 815 327-8881

E-mail: Lithuanian USA@yahoo.com

**BRIDGES Consultants**

Jeanne Dorr Editor  
Gema Kreivenas Design & Production  
Ramas Pliura Treasurer

Lithuanian American Community, Inc.,  
and Subscription Manager.

**THE INFORMATION CENTER FOR  
HOMECOMING LITHUANIANS.**

Collects and provides information from  
Lithuania.

Copyright ©2007 Lithuanian American Community, Inc. All rights reserved. No part of the publication may be reproduced without written permission of the publisher. All statements and opinions, including product claims, are those of the organization/advertiser making those statements or claims. The publisher does not adopt, or put forth, any such statement or claim as his own, and any such statement or claim does not necessarily reflect the opinion of the publisher.

Address all editorial correspondence to:

**BRIDGES**  
Jeanne Dorr  
4 Shrewsbury Yard  
Riverton, NJ 08077-1038

E-Mail: Jeanneshalna@aol.com

For subscription and advertising  
information, please contact:

**LAC, Inc./BRIDGES,**  
Ramas Pliura  
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

## in this issue

2

## editorial

Letter from the Editor  
*Jeanne Dorr*

4

## reflections

At the Beating Heart  
of Lithuania  
Part One  
*Dalia Rimkute-  
Kairiukstiene*

7

## lac news

WELCOME,  
YOU BELONG!

7

## lac news

LAC grows  
because we all  
pitch in!

7

## lac news

Lithuanian American  
Community -  
Executive Board

8

## human interest

Whatever You Do  
for the Least of  
My Brothers,  
You Do for Me  
*Jeanne Dorr*

10

## history

THE  
DECLARATION OF  
INDEPENDENCE

11

## reflections

DAY OF JOY,  
DAY OF GRIEF  
LITHUANIAN  
INDEPENDENCE DAY -  
SOVIET OCCUPATION

12

## genealogy

THE LITHUANIAN  
LEGACY OF  
NORTH KITTITAS  
COUNTY  
*Vilius Zalpys*

13

## trivia question

Submitted by  
*Edward Shakalis*

16

## photo album

Kansas City Ethnic  
Enrichment Festival

17

## lac chapter news

LA Lithuanians in  
2006 Hollywood  
Christmas Parade

18

## here at home

Hartford Honors its  
Veterans  
*Florence Morkus*

18

## JBANC

7th Baltic Conference

19

## cultural

Documentary on the  
story behind the  
writing of *The Jungle*  
*Dr. Randy Richards*

20

## sports

Most  
Valuable Player-  
Derek Molis  
*Eugenija Misevicius*

22

## legend

KRIVIU KRIVAI&IO  
S&NUS  
English Translation by  
*GLORIA O'BRIEN*

23

## lac chapter activities

\*Cover: Peak of Statue of Liberty of Lithuania, artist unknown.



# At the Beating Heart of Lithuania

## Part One: The Night of January 13

### Introduction:

*The following was written by Dalia Rimkute Kairiukstiene for the Voice of the Lithuanian Community Radio program of Philadelphia in January of 2002. Later, her memories were published in Draugas, the American Lithuanian daily, and Lietuvos Aidai, the Lithuanian daily.*

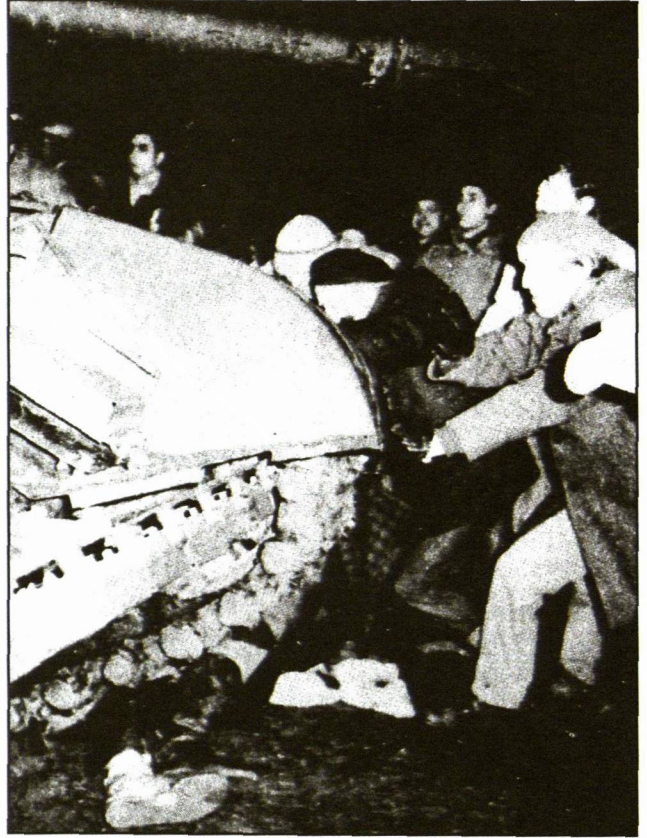
*In 1991, Dalia was a young designer living in a communal residence building in Vilnius. Like many others, she was one of the eyewitnesses of the events of the night of January 13, 1991.*

*Part two of this article, Dalia's memories of the following morning, will continue in the March issue.*

Jeanne Dorr

Dear Bridges Readers, let me share my memories of the night of January 13 with you.

"Dalia, Dalia!" I felt someone waking me! "What?" I was still in a state of sleep. Over my bed, in the dark, I could see the face of my dormitory roommate. "They are attacking and have taken over the Television tower!" I could see tears running down my roommate's cheeks. Suddenly, I was wide awake. I didn't need to be told who *they* were. During the past week Soviet tanks were rolling back and forth from their military base in northern Vilnius past the Television tower. I knew it was *them*, the enemies of our independence movement. Our independence, *if* it had not been destroyed yet, was in grave danger. With both feet I jumped out of bed. My friend and I (me still in my pajamas) hurried to her dormitory room where there was a television set. The set was on; the screen was blinking with a bluish light. It was around 2 am. My friend was crying as she started telling me what was happening on the screen just minutes before it went blinking. Just minutes ago, on the screen, there was Bucelyte, the announcer, reporting the news from her studio at the Television tower. Bucelyte was announcing the events as they were happening. At first, she reported that she heard gunfire outside the tower. Then, she heard soldiers in the corridor outside her television studio. After that, she saw soldiers entering her studio and rushing towards her. Then, the air waves went dead... It was clear that the tower was now in Soviet hands. My friend turned on the radio. Lithuanian radio was still alive and broadcasting. They reported that there were



This picture was on the front pages of newspapers around the world. Men are trying to push against a tank which is crushing a young woman. This is happening late at night on January 13, 1991 at the radio and television tower in the residential neighborhood Karoliniskes of the city of Vilnius.

fatalities. My friend turned to me and said, "Dalia, what now?"

I knew only one thing - I had to be there. I must go immediately. "Let's go!" She looked at me with her eyes wide open. "No", she said as she started to back up. I turned to see a young man from our dormitory standing in the doorway. "Let's go," I said to him. He explained he had a baby son, so he, a father, would not go to a place where he could get killed. Fatalities were already happening there, he knew. He quietly left the room...

"You're not going? Fine!" I quickly dressed and headed out the door.

It was dark on Tuskulenu Street in Zirmunai where I



lived. Yet, it was evident that the city was wide awake. There were more cars on the road than usual for this time. I could hear an unfamiliar noise. Above Karoliniskes hills I could see changing lights in the night sky. These were lights and sounds of firing artillery... I turned into a larger street. Here four large tanks rolled past me heading in the direction of the Television tower. I ran after them. I kept thinking the tower was very far and I would never get there on time. I turned around, saw a few approaching cars and quickly flagged down the driver of the first car with my hand. The car stopped, I jumped to the car and opened the door. "Are you going to the TV tower?" I asked the driver, a relatively young, well-built man (I felt that every car on the street should be going there). "If not to the tower, then perhaps you are going to the

Supreme Soviet building?" I asked. "No, I'm going to the center of the city," he replied, "From the center, you won't have far to walk to the Supreme Soviet building." I jumped into the car. As we began talking, I learnt that the driver was a doctor. He had been called to the Red Cross Hospital in the middle of the night to operate on the injured. The news was bad, hundreds were wounded.

After a few minutes we entered the courtyard of the hospital. "The exit gate is over there," he told me. He pointed to the gate and wished me luck. I thanked him and jumped out of the car. The courtyard was completely dark, yet, the gate was wide open. Suddenly, with flashing lights and a blaring siren an ambulance rushed into the courtyard. To me, it seemed like scenes from a movie. Like in a movie, ambulance attendants in white coats jumped out of the vehicle and quickly opened the back doors of the ambulance, bringing out a stretcher. On the stretcher, there was a man. He did not move as if he was dead. The attendants rushed him through the doors into the hospital. There were more flashing lights and blaring sirens as yet another ambulance rushed into the courtyard. There were more attendants, more stretchers, and more unmoving bodies. As soon as one ambulance was empty, the next one was in line moving up to unload more stretchers with bodies. The empty ambulances immediately turned around with sirens blaring and lights flashing to soon return with more victims.

I left the courtyard and entered Lukiskiu Square. There were many people. One group was standing on the steps of the Ministry building. I joined them. It was a strange scene. On the city streets, there seemed to be a



The first victims at the radio and television tower. Shock registers on the face of the man at left. A man, blood streaming from his hands, helps another who is even more badly hurt.

complete chaos: sirens, flashing lights, squealing brakes, all that noise and movement. But here, at the Ministry building, it felt like an island of peace. People were just standing and peacefully singing. How these people could be so peaceful here, I wondered. A woman, standing next to me, as if she could read my mind, shrugged her shoulders and said, "What else can we do?" She continued singing. I felt the last thing I could do at this moment was to sing. My throat seemed to be blocked. I just could not stay here and sing when I did not know what was happening at the Supreme Soviet building where there was the *heart of Lithuania, still beating*. I left the island of peace and ran through the back yards so I can get to the Supreme Soviet building faster.

The square at the Supreme Soviet building was crowded with people. I could not walk without pushing my way closer. There I saw men, women and youth, people of all ages. Before Lithuanian radio was silenced by the soviets, people stood in groups around those who had battery run radios and listened to the news. After Lithuanian radio was silenced, people dispersed from the groups and became a sea of faces surrounding the square. They began to look toward the windows of the Supreme Soviet building.

*Professor Vytautas Landsbergis came to the open window. He paused as he looked out toward the crowd. Then he began to address the crowd. Dear People, you all see clearly what is happening (No one needed an explanation. Radio and Television stations were already shut down). They are coming with tanks. They are armed to their teeth. They did not stop in front of*



*an unarmed crowd of men, women and young people at the Television Tower. They shot into the crowd. They will come back here- to the beating heart of Lithuania- to finish their bloody job. They will not stop. Those of us who are in the Supreme Soviet Building - we will stay here and stand until the last minute. We are the leaders, the soldiers... It is our duty. And your, our people... We all know the odds are not equal. We must remember we are a small nation. We must keep fatalities to a minimum. It is why I am asking you to go home. Thank you for your support and faith, dear people, but... Leave the square now.*

From what I could see, no one in the crowd moved.

I could not say I was not afraid. I was very much afraid. I would feel safer in any other place but not here. Yet, I joined and supported the independence movement from the beginning. I was part of it. Now, at this very critical moment, I felt I had no right to abandon it. It was not the time to be concerned about my own safety. I was to be here where the fate of Lithuania was to be decided. I had to stay here. My feet were rooted to where I was standing.

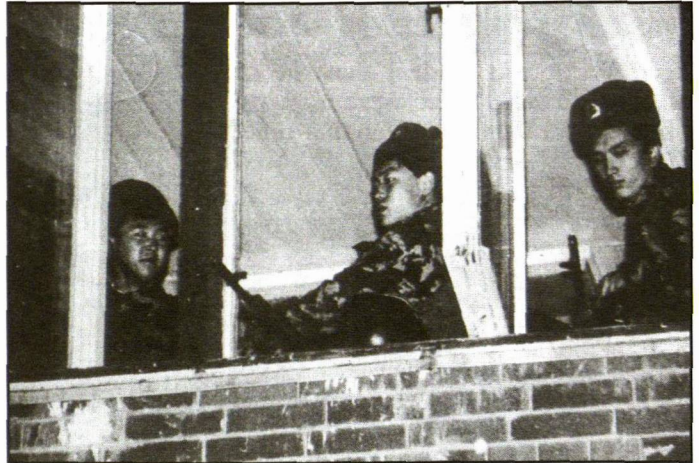
I remember scanning the faces of the crowd and thinking, "What will the square look like in the morning?" How many of us will survive until the next day? Will I be among those who will see the new day?"

Professor Landsbergis continued speaking, "*Women and children, go home. Choose to live.*"

The women and children did not move.

Among people around me, there was a man with a son, a boy in his early teens. The man had his arms around his son as if to protect him. After Professor Landsbergis' words, people around me turned to the man and his son. It was almost as if we had planned to turn toward the father with a question. The man heard the unspoken question in our eyes, "*Why are you still here? Why is your son still here?*" The father simply said, "*Him! My son absolutely must witness what they (Soviets) will do to our nation.*" He explained this with so few words and little emotion. The boy just looked at us with his large clear eyes. Everyone remained where he/she stood.

We stood through the night thinking this might be our last night of independence and possibly the last night of our lives. We stood there waiting to learn the fate of Lithuania and the fate of our own lives. We knew that it was not in our power to change anything. We knew that by remaining there all night we proved our love, devotion and faith in Lithuania. Our desire was to be with the *beating heart of Lithuania*



Radio and Television Committee building at Konarskis street 49. This building houses Lithuanian radio and television studios. It was occupied by special army units.

until her last moment. We would stay as long as there was a heart beat. There was no doubt that the Soviets would come that night with their tanks and that those tanks would not stop from firing into the crowd.

At that time we felt so alone. It seemed like no one was able to help us to keep Lithuania safe from the impending events. It seemed as if many light years separated us from our brothers and sisters who supported us from around the world. At that moment, we felt isolated standing against our aggressors who had no idea of how to treat their fellow human beings with dignity. We were standing against the destructive forces.

A priest appeared in the window with a cross in his hand. He started praying, "*Hail Mary full of grace.....*" The crowd joined him in the prayers. At that moment I felt a sense of relief. I felt the Lord was with us. He was our strength. The prayers continued with believers and nonbelievers praying together. That dark and cold night we were praying not only with our voices, but with our hearts.

In the distance, we could still see the lights from the tank firing. We could still hear the gunfire.

"*Hail Mary full of grace.....*" we continued praying through the night. Never in my life had I felt the power of this simple prayer that I experienced that night. I felt encouraged and cleansed. It was uplifting to our hearts and souls. We no longer felt alone. There was no more fear. We had a duty to protect our country. We were accountable to our God and to our nation. We were united and were doing God's will.

*Continued on page 26*



## WELCOME, YOU BELONG!

*If you are of Lithuanian heritage, you already belong to the Lithuanian American Community.*

*LAC is for people of Lithuanian heritage regardless of where they were born or how*

*long they have been living in the U.S., or how many generations ago their ancestors came to this country. And non-Lithuanian spouses are one of us also. The Lithuanian American Community, Inc., (LAC) is the network that keeps us connected. We have 60 chapters in 27 states and the District of Columbia.*

*Where there are Lithuanians but no LAC chapter, entrepreneurial individuals are urged to organize a new chapter (get in touch with the LAC Executive Committee for guidance).*

*There is much to do and people to meet! JOIN US!*



Since 2003 we grew by five new chapters. Four of the five chapters were founded and are chaired by our newest arrivals from Lithuania. LAC is also growing in importance in the eyes of the Lithuanian government which has realized that Lithuanians who belong to LAC also stay connected to the country of their heritage.

As LAC grows, so do expenses. But we pitch in and do great things in our Saturday schools, at our huge festivals (Song Festival, Folkdance Festival). We want LAC to give more attention to our youth, we need develop ways to assist those are in need (a recent initiative is "Paguodos telefonas," a hotline for Lithuanians desperate to tell someone their troubles). We want to give more attention to our elderly. We should grow more creative in how we welcome non-Lithuanian spouses, of whom we have quite a few new ones.

The members of our national Board of Directors donate their time and expertise pay out of pocket for their travel, lodging, and meals at the hotel where they hold their annual meeting to discuss objectives that our national Executive Committee will have to implement. (We should remember to thank them for their civic mindedness!).

But our Executive Committee needs all of us to pitch in to pay for printing, postage, phone, website, fax, and necessary trips. Their time and their work and minor

out of pocket expenses they, too, donate, of course. Besides, like other Lithuanians, once a year they attend their chapter's Independence (February 16/March 11) Commemoration and leave a larger annual donation. (Note: Solidarity dues are separate from the annual donation).

In 2003, only 60 people in the whole U.S. donated \$100 or more on the occasion of "February 16". Alarmed, then LAC president Vaiva Vebra suggested „100 x 100!" a call for 100 people to donate \$100 or more to further LAC work..

### "100 x 100!" in 2007!

Those who donate \$100 or more will receive this badge of honor.

Donations to support the work of LAC are very welcome. You may support the work of the Lithuanian American Community by visiting our web site at : [www.lithuanian-american.org](http://www.lithuanian-american.org). or by sending a check made payable to the

Please mail checks to:  
Lithuanian-American Community, Inc.  
Treasurer - LAC, Inc.  
National Executive Committee  
2194 Old Ironsides Court  
Woodbridge VA 22192-2215  
Source: [www.lithuanian-american.org](http://www.lithuanian-american.org).

## Lithuanian American Community – Executive Board

Dr. Stanley Backaitis  
*Vice President - Academic Affairs*  
Sister Margarita Bareikaite  
*Chairman-Religious Affairs Council*  
John R. Gedeika  
*Vice President-Special Projects*  
Ms. Dale Lukas  
*Chairman-Cultural Affairs Council*  
Vytautas Maciunas  
*President*  
Eugenija Misevicius  
*Secretary*

Laurynas Misevicius  
*Vice President-Sports Programs*  
Gediminas Naujokaitis  
*Treasurer*  
Mrs. Daiva Navickas  
*Chairman-Educational Council*  
Ramas Pliura  
*Vice President, Finances*  
Juozas Polikaitis  
*Chairman-Human Services Council*  
Kazys Razgaitis  
*Vice President-Technology Implementation*  
Marija Remiene  
*Vice President-Information*

Rev. Antanas Saulaitis, S.J.  
*Vice President-Youth Affairs*  
Sigita Simkuvienė-Rosen  
*Vice President-New Chapter Development*  
Dr. Elona Vaisnys  
*Vice President-Website Site Management*  
Dr. Rimantas Vaitkus  
*Vice President, Organizational Affairs*  
Vaiva Vebraite  
*Vice President-Representative in Lithuania*  
Stephanie A. Urban  
*Chairman-Public Affairs Council*



## Whatever You Do for the Least of My Brothers, You Do for Me



*Sister Dolorita offers hope and encouragement to those in need.*

In Part I of the article about my trip to Utena I wrote about my visit to St. Clare's Hospice. That took up several pages in "BRIDGES" and was only a part of our day. Now Sister Dolorita Butkus had my friend, my cousin and me visit a small country school. We arrived at the school where principal Danute Tamosuiniene, the teachers and the children were waiting for us.

Everyone was dressed in their best finery and we were greeted with flowers. The school was nestled in a lovely setting, almost like something you would read about in a Laura Ingalls Wilder book in *Little House on the Prairie*. The children were beside themselves with joy at seeing Sister Dolorita. They entertained us by singing and reciting poetry. Being a teacher I understood the hours of practice the students endured and the patience of the teachers who taught them to learn everything to perfection. The classroom where they performed was colorfully decorated and the children's work was on display. After the performance the children asked us questions about America and we asked them questions about school and their daily lives. But the most important topic on their minds was their trip to Vilnius which was organized by Sister Dolorita earlier in the year.

The trip that generated all the excitement? There were twenty five students and four teachers and Sister ordered a bus and took them to Vilnius for a day. I should rephrase that and tell you that Sister took the entire school to Vilnius. Please keep in mind that these children have little opportunity to enjoy the beauty and the culture of Vilnius. They are country children and their parents don't have an abundance of money. Of course, Sister Dolorita also does not have a tree that grows money. In the summer of 2005 Sister celebrated her 65th jubilee as a Sister of St. Francis of the Providence of God. She wanted to share her good fortune and gifts with the people of Lithuania and part of

that was to expand her work to help the children. And what a day it would be! The thrill of a bus ride was enough to excite them, but once in Vilnius they were awestruck by the size of the buildings, the traffic and so many people. The visit to the magnificent cathedral alone would leave them speechless. Where does a child look first when he or she is seeing such splendor for the first time? Then it was off to the Puppet Theater. The excitement was almost too much! But there was still one more surprise. Everyone was treated to McDonalds. To a child from the country this is an almost unbelievable experience. For the very first time in their short lives these children would understand the beauty of Lithuania and the magnificence of Vilnius. How many seeds were planted in their minds that day that there is something for them to strive for? There is an opportunity for them to do well if they would stay in school and do their very best. But most importantly, they could be proud of Lithuania. Children don't understand gross national product, per capita and growth. They comprehend what they see at the moment. This day is one they will remember forever whether they stay in their village and work the land, whether they become scientists or whether they become doctors, nurses or teachers. What they will remember is that there was a nun who cared so much about them that she shared her gifts with them. Months later it was still imprinted on their memories.

Once again we were treated to Lithuanian hospitality by the staff. And what hospitality it was! We shared in the homemade food, homemade pastries and homemade juices. But mostly we shared in their gift of friendship.

And then all too quickly our time with our new friends came to an end. The children were waiting for us outside. Again, there were hugs and thanks all the way around and we were on our way while turning around waving and blowing kisses through the windows.

Sister Dolorita would like to expand the program to other country schools. She hopes to invite students who work hard and earn good grades to visit Vilnius and other points of interests in Lithuania. As I wrote earlier, she doesn't have a money tree and she won't have an important anniversary for a few more years. Please consider helping Sister make her dream come true.



### *I Was Hungry and You Fed Me*

Once we were back in the van Sister Dolorita briefed us on our next stop. We were on our way to a food pantry and a shelter for homeless men. We would be visiting the Ascension of Our Lord Parish. As we pulled up near the rectory Father Saulius Kalvitis was waiting for us. Father is young and energetic with hopes and dreams that match his enthusiasm and determination to help the people of his rural area. As we entered the rectory there were boxes and boxes of supplies stacked near a doorway. I knew that Sister had started a food pantry, I just didn't know that she was off and running so fast. When we met in New Jersey she told me she was going to put a limit of two hundred people on the food pantry. I told her "that would be the day" that she could turn someone away and I was right. She always finds a way to feed "just one more."

The idea of the pantry was born when Sister began to make home visits as a visiting nurse. She saw so many people who were not only sick, but hungry as well. She began to bring them food on her return visits. Always in the back of her mind were the words, "I was hungry and you fed Me." One Christmas she brought food to twenty-eight families. It was extremely cold and slippery. Sister Dolorita began to wear down and wear out. Some of the people lived on the fifth floor and it just got to be too much for her. She asked them to start coming to the rectory at an appointed time if they were physically able.

Once a month there is a registration at the rectory before anyone receives any food. This is to keep out those who really are not in need. Lithuanians are no different than people anywhere else and there are always a few who try to take advantage of others. Sister's first priorities are widows and mothers who are trying to raise children on their own. She told us of a mother raising eight children. The woman's eyes filled with tears as she told Sister the food pantry kept her family alive.

Sister's family and friends support this program and it receives much needed help from Lithuanian Catholic Religious Aid. This is a "no frills" pantry. The products are bought in bulk for reasons of saving money and are packaged into smaller amounts and distributed. Flour, sugar, oil, farina, oatmeal,



*The lines are long as people wait patiently for help from the "food pantry".*

barley, split peas and macaroni are some of the staples that are distributed. Price is very important and is the deciding factor of what foods are distributed. In spite of all her organizational skills and no nonsense attitude Sister Dolorita definitely has a sense of humor as well as a soft spot. She tries to include a few cookies and some candy for the children at Christmas and Easter. Sister is the first to laugh, especially at herself. She told us how she was getting her hair cut and the talk was of the terribly cold winter last year. The woman cutting her hair was concerned that people would die of the severe cold. Sister misunderstood the woman and spent the next few minutes wondering why the hairdresser was so concerned about bananas dying in the Lithuanian cold. Fortunately, it was straightened out before the end of the visit. She also spoke of the little boy who had never seen a nun. He had only question for her. "What world did you come from?"

And yes, the miracles she prays so hard for are starting to happen. The Lithuanian people are beginning to help her. She was in chapel deep in prayer wondering where the food would come from when she heard the phone. A gentleman called with an offer to help. The man has been helping her for three years now. She has received donated coffee and much to her delight Sister even received a jelly roll as a donation. Sister said she would easily feed three hundred people on this program if she had the means. But to help them as they should be helped requires much more help.



## THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE

People once believed that slavery was just, and that owners of slaves could do as they pleased with their property. The life of a slave was a hard one. Slaves and free people both realized that the severest punishment the slave receives is to lose his freedom. Eventually slavery was abolished. Just as individual people thirst for freedom, so do nations want to live independently.

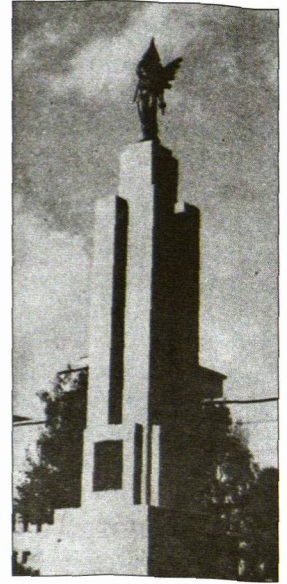
In the past, our fatherland Lithuania was a large country, but later it was occupied. For 120 years it was ruled by the Russian czars. Lithuania then did not have any Lithuanian schools, books, or newspapers. The people were taught their language secretly. Books

and newspapers were printed in other countries, and smuggled into Lithuania.

There was much sacrifice, and much spilled blood, until Lithuania took its independence.

Lithuania's Independence was declared in Vilnius, on February 16, 1918. It was proclaimed by the Lithuanian Council through the Declaration Act, which proclaimed to the world that Lithuania exists as a free and independent nation. From then, the rebuilding of the Nation began, but the freedom which was heavily fought for lasted only until 1940, when again Lithuania was invaded by communist Russia, which began a brutal rule of Lithuania.

*\*This is from "Lithania my Heritage"  
Statue of Liberty in Kaunas  
By Juozas Zikaras*



Right now the costs are about \$1,000 a month. There is no donation that is too small. "I was hungry and you fed Me."

When I originally wrote this I included Father Kalvitis and his work. But after thinking about it for some time, I realized that Father deserves his own article and that will be printed in another issue.

When I visit people like Father Kalvitis, Sister Dolorita, the staff at St. Clare's Hospital and the teachers in the small school, my own spirit is uplifted and my desire to try to help these people in some small is renewed. The day I finished this article I received a note from Sister with some photographs. She wrote of her work and as usual never a word of complaint. But she wrote a sentence that really stayed in my mind. "Our people deserve our very best, our 100%." It is not realistic for all of us to be in Lithuania helping others, but we can lighten the burden for those who are doing this work with our prayers and our financial support.

A very special thank you to Sister Janet Gardner, OSF, General Minister for her efforts in accepting funds for these projects. Every dollar you donate will be transferred to Sister Dolorita for her work.

Checks are tax deductible and should be written to:  
Sisters of St. Francis



*Sister Dolorita is photographed with her biggest fans at a small village school.*

You must write **Lithuanian Mission-Education, Food Pantry or St. Clare's Hospital** on the memo part of the check. If you would like your gift to be used where Sister Dolorita needs it most, simply write **Lithuanian Mission**.

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.*

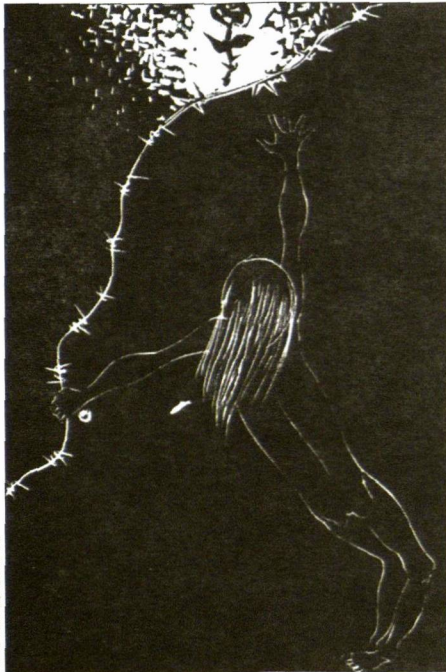


## DAY of JOY, DAY of GRIEF

LITHUANIAN INDEPENDENCE DAY - SOVIET OCCUPATION



February 16, 1918



February 16, 1941

THIS was our special day and we prisoners had made up our minds to celebrate it in whatever way we could. The Russian warden was suspicious and he ordered the guards to divert us with as much work as possible. The guard in our corridor, who was despised by everyone for his arrogance and meanness, distinguished himself by bullying us. He commanded us to scrub the floors and wash the one small window which was encrusted with years of dirt. Surreptitiously, we glanced at one another and exchanged the message: "For February 16th!" We sweated, scouring, scrubbing, polishing, and finally the window and floors were immaculate. "Swine!" screamed the guard. "Filthy swine!" He made us get on our knees again and scrub, as he bombarded us with insults. He made us do the same job over five more times. As we worked, each of us thought: "It's for February 16th" Our acquiescence enraged him; he slammed our cell door shut.

Then we felt free and we began to communicate with the prisoners in other cells by tapping on the wall with our toothbrushes and sending each other messages in Morse code: "Greetings, brother, on February 16th!" "We will survive for February 16th!" "We will win for February 16th!" Silently, down the pale sunken cheeks of some of the men, rolled large crystal tears.

Lithuania's Independence Day! Only a year ago, we had celebrated our holiday with joy and pride. And today - the same holiday - Lithuania was no longer ours. Through the small win-

dow, boarded up from the outside, sneaked the last gleam of the sinking sun.

Suddenly, into our cell marched a group of guards: "Raise your hands. Higher! Higher! Do not move." They were armed with carbines and Russian bayonets. "Now, march. One by one. Into the corridor. Single file." We were ordered to face the wall. They searched our cells high and low with flashlights. They ripped up the wooden slats of the floor we had scrubbed six times.

They commanded us to take off all our clothes which we threw into a heap. They pushed us around, punched us, slapped us. They examined every part of our shivering naked bodies. With their big flashlights, they probed into our ears and mouths and private parts. They examined every inch of our skin and nails for possible "messages". Hours after this visitation, we were permitted to retrieve our clothes which they had searched and left in a big tangled mess.

When they were gone, we lay in the darkness, comparing this February 16th with the February 16th we had celebrated for years as free human beings. Today the guards had debased and ridiculed us and all that was dear to us. We lay silent on the hard prison floor that held our bodies like a stepmother livid with hate.

(From "Mirties Kolona")

*Antanas Tolls*

*Reprint from Bridges, Vol. 8, No. 2,  
February, 1984*



# THE LITHUANIAN LEGACY OF NORTH KITTITAS COUNTY

## Part One

*Editor's Note: Rarely a week passes when Bridges does not receive a question about genealogy. This is the first part of a two part article. In the March issue you will the opportunity share Vilius' visits to Roslyn - Cle Elum.*



Crowds gathered on the wooden sidewalk during the 1899 parade in Roslyn, WA. around the same time the first wave of Lithuanians were arriving. Courtesy of Roslyn Museum

Near the Wenatchee National Forest on the east side of the Cascade Mountain range of central Washington is a small town of the century coal mining town called Roslyn. You may have heard of Roslyn because in the recent past it was the location for the filming of the highly popular TV series, "Northern Exposure."

In 1883 coal was discovered in Roslyn and by 1886 the Northern Pacific Railway Company began developing mines. Some 28 nationalities immigrated to Roslyn-Ronald-Cle Elum and surrounding communities. (1) Lithuanians started migrating here at the beginning of the 20th century. Some of the earliest arrivals came from the coal regions of Pennsylvania or Arkansas, as well as directly from Lithuania. Many Lithuanians would remain in this area but others would move on to the western Cascades and the coal region of Maple Valley; yet others came to the Seattle area. Though the coal mines attracted most of the Lithuanians who settled in Roslyn, the neighboring towns of Cle Elum and Ronald also had Lithuanian settlers.

One of the living legacies of the many ethnic groups that populated this area can be found in the Roslyn cemeteries, a conglomeration of 25 cemeteries side by side like a city block of houses, all different and unique, each with its own size and flavor. "Since 1887 land was donated by or was pur-

chased from the Northern Pacific Company by fraternal ethnic, and civic organizations for burial of their deceased members. At least 24 nationalities are represented within the nearly 5,000 graves." (2) The Lithuanians had their ethnic cemetery as well.

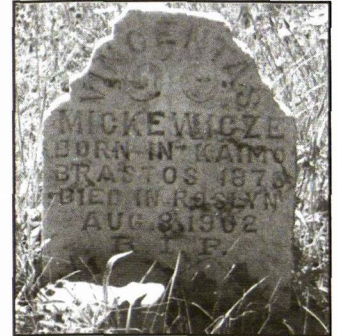
### Lithuanian Cemetery

The grave markers of the small Lithuanian ethnic cemetery stand today as living testimony to the influx of Lithuanians to Roslyn. In 1909 the Lithuanian Alliance of America (Susivienijimas LietuviÅ Amerikoje) established the Lithuanian Cemetery for its members and by 1910 the first recorded burial was that of A.S. Strastysky. The Roslyn Lithuanian cemetery contains a conflicting count of burials. This author is now in the process of looking at all existing records to come up with an as accurate as possible list of names and dates of burials. Hopefully, names can be added to some of the unknown graves. There appear to be 46 graves in the Lithuanian Cemetery. You will find, scattered among the 25 other cemeteries surrounding the Lithuanian cemetery, other Lithuanian graves as well. Another cemetery that Lithuanians used was the Polish cemetery in Roslyn, and the neighboring city of Cle Elum just down the hill from Roslyn contains a larger number of Lithuanian graves in its cemetery.

The Mulvihill Chernosky (Cernauskas) family, Marvin and Antenette, had overseen the care of the Lithuanian Cemetery in Roslyn for years, and when they passed away their daughter Virginia Mulvihill Osborne took over the task. Today, a Board oversees the Roslyn Cemeteries, with Teresa Kloss (Sestokas) the current appointed board member for the Lithuanian Cemetery.

### Polish Cemetery

Prior to the establishment of the Lithuanian cemetery in 1909, many Lithuanians were buried in the Polish cemetery. But was this really a Polish cemetery? Perhaps the answer lies in Lithuanian-Polish history. Early Lithuanian immigrants to the U.S. "...established mutual aid societies and parishes together with Poles. Many were familiar with the Polish language (3) and some Lithuanians called themselves or were labeled Poles. In the eastern United States Lithuanians and Poles sometimes had joint churches and cemeteries. Roslyn was no different as told by the statistics of who is buried in the Polish cemetery: of the



Oldest dated grave marker in the Roslyn Polish cemetery. Lithuanian Vincentas Mickevicius.\*



31 burials that this author counted, 15 are Lithuanians.

Of the first 17 burials all but two are Lithuanian. (4) The earliest date found on the gravemarkers in the Polish section is that of Wincentas Mickewicz (Vincentas Mickevicius). His inscription is written in Lithuanian and English with some Polish influence in the spelling of his name. It reads, "Born in Kaimo Brastos 1876, died in Roslyn Aug. 8 1902, RIP." "Kaimo" is the possessive case of "Kaimas" which means "village" in Lithuanian, and Brastos is the name of the village. The deceased's first name was written in Lithuanian with a Polish "W" instead of the Lithuanian "V", while his surname was written in Polish/Lithuanian form.



Fenced in grave of Lithuanian in Roslyn Polish cemetery.\*

in that same 15 years period, 42 Lithuanians from Washington State left America for lands unknown.

In 1915, Cle Elum boasted a Lithuanian population of 68. The first Lithuanians arrived here in 1901, and most worked in the coal mines. Roslyn had 135 Lithuanians (24 families, 39 bachelors, 2 unmarried women, and 46 children). A saloon was the sole Lithuanian-owned business. Seventeen families owned their homes. There were four Lithuanian social/fraternal organizations. People worked as coal miners, taking home about \$30-\$60 every two weeks. Other Washington locations mentioned in the book included Renton with 30 Lithuanians (6 families, 18 singles); all six families owned their own homes.



Grave of Ludwikas Venckus who moved to Roslyn from Throop, PA.\*

Another interesting inscription is that of Ludwikas Wenckus (Liudvikas Venckus) whose inscription reads "Gimi 1882, Miry Jan 26 1909, Prizulejo pri draugistes, letuwos sunu, Throop PA" (Born 1882, Died 1-26-1909, laid to rest along my society (or Lodge), "Sons of Lithuania", Throop PA). This headstone might have the clue to the cemetery's origin as the inscription appears to be saying that those buried in this cemetery are members of the Society or Lodge called "The Sons of Lithuania".

Glancing through old funeral records at Cascade Funeral home in Cle Elum one will find that more often than not Lithuanians were labeled as Polish or Russian. I even found one Lithuanian listed as Austrian due to the fact that at one time Poland was part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire.

#### 1915 statistics of Lithuanians - North Kittitas Co. & WA State

V. Rackauskas in 1915 released a book giving statistics for Lithuanians living in the state. Washington State had 35,000 square miles of forest, the major industries being fishing, agriculture and forestry. General population: 1,141,990, with 3,674 employers and 80,118 employees.

In the year 1899 only five Lithuanians arrived in Washington State, but over the course of the next 15 years, another 569 Lithuanians had settled here; however,

Seattle in 1915 had approximately 200 Lithuanians, 25 of whom owned real estate. There was one Lithuanian-owned bar, two other businesses and a lawyer who had his offices in the Lyon Building. Four social/fraternal organizations existed. Lithuanians were employed in slaughterhouses, ironworks, and lumber mills, earning an average daily wage of \$3. The first Lithuanians to settle in Seattle were Martin Bagdonas (1877), Vincas Aleksa (1879), and Jonas Gladena (1890). Author Rackauskas credits Seattle area statistics to Seattleite Aleksandras Kalvaitis.

Roughly 2,000 Lithuanians were thought to be scattered throughout Washington State in 1915, many in smaller towns and hamlets, working as loggers and coal miners. (5)

#### Zackovich - Zakevicius

If Cle Elum had a famous "Lithuanian Son" it would have to be Ed Zackovich (Edvardas Zakevicius), the son of Stasys Aloysas Zakevicius and Anele Valeciutis.

Today Ed's family business is known worldwide as Zacklift International. Ed had an idea about a new concept for towing automobiles. This idea was patented and is now sold throughout the world.

Known as Stanley, Ed's father Stasys Aloyzas Zakevicius first settled in Pennsylvania where he worked as a coal miner. Later he worked in the coal mines of Arkansas and in 1907 came to Cle Elum, Washington. That same year he became president of the Lithuanian Alliance of America (Susivienijimas Lietuvių Amerikoje) Lodge number 97. (6)

#### Lithuanian Fraternal Assns and Societies of Cle Elum, Roslyn

The Lithuanian Alliance of America is a fraternal association that gives aid to its members in the event of illness or





Wedding of Alek Savisky and A. Valenta, Cle Elum WA.\*\*

94 year-old Blanche Larrigan (Zackovich/Zakevicius). A photo copy of the Cle Elum Lodge's original document of incorporation that was printed in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania on May 26, 1904, is also in the book. This book gives us a glimpse of the past and contains valuable data, including the death records of its members from 1904-1914. Recorded in the book are the meetings held by Lodge 97 for 46 years.

Virginia Mulvilhill Osborne, the daughter of Anton Chernosky (Cernauskas), says that Lodge 219 of Roslyn was chartered in 1907 by eight men, Virginia's father among them. This Lodge purchased the land for the Lithuanian cemetery in 1909.

Another society in Roslyn and Cle Elum was the Fraternal Aid Society of Lithuania's Grand Duke Vytautas. We know of the existence of this society because the logbook has been kept in the Mankus (Mankevicius) family since approximately 1918. This book contains the list of paying members which numbered 52 at one time. The recorded payments cover the years 1913-1920.

Another Lithuanian Society or "draugyste", as they were called by the Lithuanians in those days, is the one referenced on the headstone of Ludwikas Wenckus (Liudvikas Venckus). The name translates as the "Society of Lithuania's Sons". Sadly, no information is known about this one.

### Roslyn Museum

Many items reflecting the Lithuanian presence in the area can be found in the Roslyn Historical Museum. The most obvious item is a mining company sign that is written in 17 languages. In Lithuanian is the inscription "Apsauga Pirmiau, mes nenorim nesaugiu zmoniu savo Dirbtuveje." (Safety First, we do not want careless people in our employ). Also in the Museum are items that belonged to

death (7). This Alliance is still in existence today with its headquarters in New York (e-mail: labas@megsinet.net).

The Lithuanian Alliance of America had Lodges in Cle Elum (#97) and another in Roslyn (#219). The first entry in the original logbook for Cle Elum is dated June 1904, the last on April 1950. Amazingly this book is in good shape and has been preserved by the

Lodge's last secretary,

Anne Chernosky Lower (Cernauskas), including her nurse's training uniform from Providence Hospital in 1927. She also donated her nurse's bag that she used while working for the Roslyn/Cle Elum Beneficial Hospital in Cle Elum.

For sale in the Museum are several books of which three contain Lithuanian legacies: "Heritage Recipes" contains at least four Lithuanian recipes, possibly more. Two other books contain one biography each from two different Lithuanian families.

### Lithuanian Cemetery Fund

While on my trip to Roslyn-Ronald-Cle Elum I was so struck by the passion and love each and every person of

Lithuanian descent expressed that I felt the need to help in more ways than one. I told the descendants that I will attempt to raise funds to put up a granite marker identifying the Lithuanian cemetery and immortalizing all the Lithuanians buried there, those with and also without grave markers. This monument would also list the names of Lithuanians buried in the nearby Polish cemetery and could name all the Lithuanians buried in Cle Elum cemetery since the two communities were one big family.

I encouraged the descendants to form a local group of concerned citizens to oversee the monument project. The group is called Friends of the Lithuanian Cemetery, with Teresa Kloss (Šeštokas) as chair. Teresa is also on the Roslyn Cemetery Board in charge of the Lithuanian Cemetery.

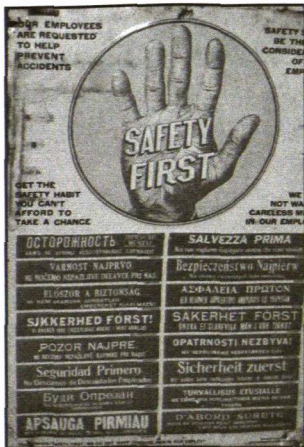
The Friends of the Lithuanian Cemetery will decide what should be printed on the monument and agree on its design and ultimate location. The funds raised will be used to put up a uniquely Lithuanian style monument being designed by Vilius Zalpys. Any monies left over will be used for badly needed repairs (the fence is falling) and possibly the purchase of small markers to be placed on the unknown graves, once they are identified. Funds are being collected and overseen by the Portland Lithuanian American Community, Inc. (of which this author is the current president) in a Key Bank account listed as "Lithuanian Cemetery Fund."

You, too, can make a tax-deductible donation to this



Wedding of John Dalisky and Maggie Gladdus. Cle Elum WA.\*\*





Coal Miners Safety Sign in 17 languages, sign found in the Roslyn Museum. Used with permission of Museum. Lithuanian on the bottom left corner.\*

currently working with Scott Carver, the very helpful funeral director of Cascade Funeral Home in Cle Elum. Another source I am researching is the Washington death certificates that are available on microfilm in the LDS Family History Center.

One record found in the Washington Death Certificates is that of John Janiski, (Uniskie), birth place listed as "Russia Lithuania", cause of death listed as "instantly killed on Railroad track five hundred yards east of dump house near Mine 3. Run over by train."

Census records are being used as well. I am cross referencing census reports with family stories to follow up on possible burials or to see who was living in each household (households often had boarders). The History Librarian at the Ellensburg Public Library, Milton Wagy, has offered his help.

As a result of the research for this article and the cemetery monument, a lot of information is being collected. My entire research will be passed on in booklet form to the various local libraries and museums, as well as to Lithuanian interest centers. This is entirely a "labor of love" for me. I invite you to support this effort with your information, should you have any to share, and with your monetary donation to the Lithuanian Cemetery Fund.

*Contributors helping collect data for this study: Scott Carver of Cascade Funeral Home, Teresa Kloss (Šeštokas), Ed and Susan Zackovich (Zakevičius), Blanche and Dick Larrigan/ Zakevičius.*

- 1 "Old Country to Coal Country," pages 12-13, by the Roslyn-Roland-Cle Elum Heritage Club
- 2 From the Roslyn Cemeteries pamphlet published by the Cle Elum Kiwanis Club
- 3 "Lithuanian Emigration to the United States 1868-1950" by Alfonsas Eidintas

effort for the historical preservation of a Lithuanian legacy in our "back yard." Make your check out to

Lithuanian American Community, Inc. and mail to

William Zalpys,  
27412 NE 11<sup>th</sup> Street.,  
Camas, WA 98607

Be sure to write  
"Lithuanian Cemetery  
Fund" at the bottom of  
your check.

Direct questions to me at  
zalpai999@aol.com.

### Searching for Records

More research is needed to locate the names of other Lithuanians buried in the Lithuanian cemetery. I am

4 *Statistics taken from census records where the people list themselves as Lithuanian as well from Lithuanian inscriptions found on the existing headstones*

5 *"Tulpè Times", Washington State Lithuanian-American Community Newsletter, by Zita Petkus in her article "America's First Lithuanians." Her source: V. Račkauskas' book "Amerika"*

6 *"Coal Town Heritage" by Cle Elum High School class of 1946, edited by Larry Hill*

7 *"Lithuanians in the USA" by David Fainhauz, p. 120*

Vilius Zalpys

\* Photo by V. Zalpys

\*\* Photo:

Courtesy of Zakevicius Larrigan family.

Vilius (William) Zalpys is the president of the Portland Lithuanian-American Community and maintains close ties with Seattle Lithuanians.

Special thanks to Vilius

Zalpys & to Zita Petkus of the Tulpè Times.

Reprinted with permission from the Tulpè Times.



Roslyn Historical Cemetery Sign telling about the 25 ethnic and fraternal cemeteries.



1910's wedding picture of Stella and Jim Kuzminskas, Cle Elum WA.\*\*

## TRIVIA QUESTION

(No.7)

The present day area of Lithuania is about one fifth the size of Poland. What was the size of Lithuania compared to Poland back in the year 1466?

- (a) Lithuania was half the size of Poland.
- (b) Lithuania was three times the size of Poland.
- (c) Lithuania was the same size of Poland.

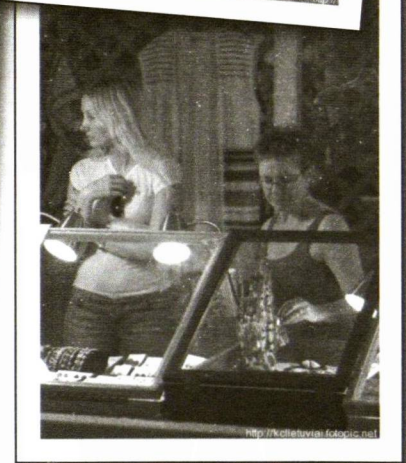
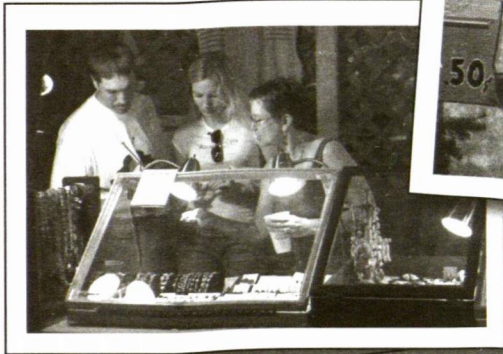
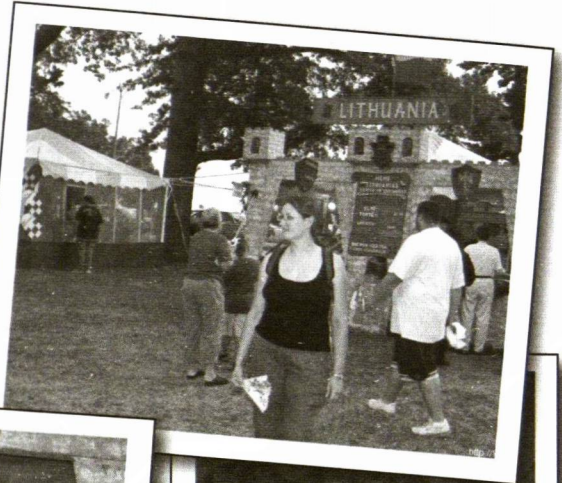
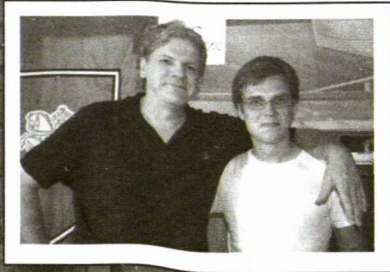
Answer to Trivia Quiz  
on the back page



## Kansas City Ethnic Enrichment Festival

Lithuanian display at the Kansas City Ethnic Enrichment Festival.

The booth is sponsored by the Aidas Folk Dance Group, which is a part of the Lithuanians of America, the Kansas City Lithuanian American Community Chapter.



### CAPTIONS

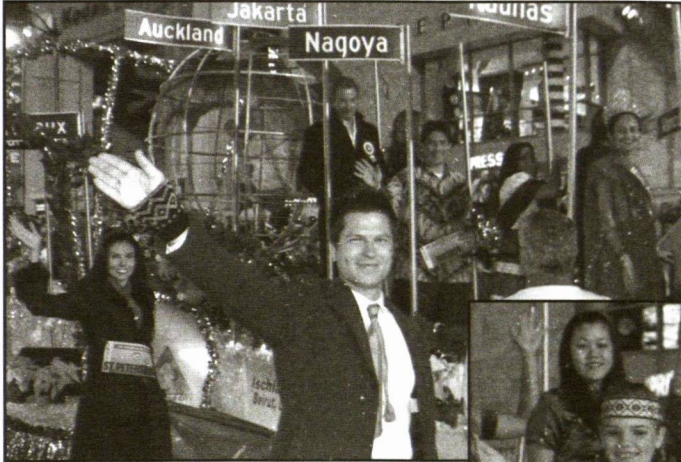
- 1)- Jonas Pultinevicius, Omaha, Nebraska and Sally Zemaityte-Dannov, Kansas City, sell Lithuanian folk art.
- 2)- Jonas Pultinevicius and Darius Lukosevicius.
- 3)- Jurgita Morkunaite Lukosevicius in front of Lithuanian booth at Ethnic Festival.
- 4)- Brian Dillon, Illona Dillon and Kate Porterfield examine amber to sell.
- 5)- Darius Lukosevicius selling Lithuanian bread at our booth at the Kansas City Ethnic Festival.
- 6)- Illona Dillon and Kate Porterfield.
- 7)- Front view of "Tower of Gediminas" Lithuanian booth at the Ethnic Enrichment Festival.

*Photos by Darius and Jurgita Lukosevicius*

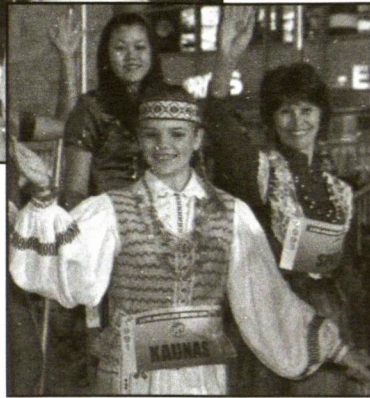


## LA Lithuanians in 2006 Hollywood Christmas Parade

"I thought we'd be warm in our heavy Lithuanian outfits," said Udrys. "But a cold snap arrived in LA just in time for the parade, and so, unlike some of our friends with folk costumes more appropriate for warmer climes, Kristina and I were just fine."



Kristina Vystartaite and Darius Udrys represented Lithuanians in this year's Hollywood Christmas Parade. Wearing traditional Lithuanian folk costumes, Vystartaite and Udrys were part of LA's Sister City float, representing LA Sister City Kaunas. Riding on the float with them were representatives of LA's other 21 Sister Cities, with daytime television star Eric Braeden ("The Young and the Restless") and Greek-American spokesmodel and television celebrity Patricia Kara ("Deal or No Deal", "Extra").



The Sister Cities float was accompanied by City Councilman Tom LaBonge and his family. LaBonge has been a key promoter of LA's Sister Cities program, and a friend to Lithuanians. He represents Los Feliz – home to LA's Lithuanian Parish and School – in City Council.

Udrys, who coordinates the Kaunas-LA Sister Cities partnership and is also Chairman of the Lithuanian American Community's Los Angeles Chapter (LACLA), said it's high time to increase the visibility of LA's Lithuanians to the broader LA public, and was glad to have the opportunity to represent Lithuanians and Kaunas in the traditional Christmas parade, seen by hundreds of thousands of Angelenos. The parade has been a city tradition since 1928.

The parade ended with Santa riding in on his sleigh.  
[www.Losangeleslb.com](http://www.Losangeleslb.com)

*Photo 1 - Darius Udrys represented Lithuanians in this year's Hollywood Christmas Parade.*

*Photo 2 - Kristina Vystartaite, wearing a traditional Lithuanian folk costume, was part of LA's Sister City float, representing LA Sister City Kaunas.*

*\*Photos by Povilas Zemaitaitis*

bridges

Celebrate the New Year  
WITH A SUBSCRIPTION

Mail to: LAC, Inc./BRIDGES,  
c/o Ramas Pliura  
Subscriptions:  
3906 Lakeview Drive  
Racine, WI 53403

Only \$20.00 for 10 issues (1 full year) of Bridges.  
(US Mail serviced subscribers; Subscriptions outside the country are US \$30.00).

Name \_\_\_\_\_ (please print)  
Address \_\_\_\_\_ Apt. No. \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Please enclose the subscription payment.

LITHUANIAN AMERICAN NEWS JOURNAL





Air Corps James Stewart and  
Navy Florence Morkus.  
Photo by Mrs. Stewart.

## Hartford Honors its Veterans

On Veterans' Day, November 11, 2006, Holy Trinity Church in Hartford, CT. paid tribute to over 400 parish veterans whose names appear on two plaques on the wall. Air Corps James Stewart and Air Corps Peter Petkaitis read some of the names during the Mass. Organist George Petkaitis played the national anthem and patriotic songs.

Florence Morkus drove her decorated car with WAVES National members in the Connecticut Veterans' Day parade in Hartford.

*Submitted by: Florence Morkus*

## JBANC 7<sup>th</sup> Baltic Conference

U.S. - Baltic Foundation (USBF) GALA AWARDS DINNER & SILENT AUCTION JBANC 7th Baltic Conference - February 9-10, 2007: "Oil and Blood: Baltic Energy and the Legacy of Communism."

JBANC is organizing its seventh Baltic Conference, to be held February 9-10, 2007 at the L'Enfant Plaza hotel in Washington, DC.

The conference keynote address will be by H. E. Valdas Adamkus, President of the Republic of Lithuania.

Conference themes are Baltic Energy Security, and the Legacy of Communism. Documentary films on the Baltics will be shown at a special Friday afternoon session at the Woodrow Wilson Center. A Friday U.S. Administration briefing is also being planned.

Registration forms are available at:  
<http://jbanc.org>.

For information, please contact JBANC at:  
[jbanc@jbanc.org](mailto:jbanc@jbanc.org) or tel. 301-340-1954.

Karl Altau, Managing Director  
Joint Baltic American National Committee, Inc.  
400 Hurley Avenue, Rockville, MD 20850  
tel. 301-340-1954 fax 301-309-1406  
[jbanc@jbanc.org](mailto:jbanc@jbanc.org) <http://jbanc.org>

Representing:  
Estonian American National Council, Inc.  
American Latvian Association, Inc.  
Lithuanian American Council, Inc.

\*\*\*\*\*

AMERICAN BALTIC CELEBRATION 2007  
GALA AWARDS DINNER & SILENT AUCTION  
HONORING LITHUANIAN PRESIDENT  
VALDAS ADAMKUS

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2007 MANDARIN  
ORIENTAL HOTEL, WASHINGTON, DC

A national organization that unites all American friends of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania, the U.S. - Baltic Foundation (USBF) develops and implements programs to strengthen democracy and free markets in Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania.

Leading professionals and experienced policy-makers, including five former U.S. Ambassadors to the Baltics, direct the activities of the Foundation. USBF maintains a professional office in Washington, DC.

Information: Brett Gerson at USBF (202 785-5057)  
or Diana B. Vidutis 202-282-5308

<http://www.usbaltic.org/id26.html>

### Correction:

In the December issue on page 6, photo # 5, Zilvinas Bubliss was mistakenly identified as Rimas Samis. Mr. Bubliss represents Rahway, NJ (Elizabeth LAC Chapter).



Dr. Randy Richards

## Documentary on the story behind the writing of The Jungle.

In case it has escaped your attention, last year was the 100th anniversary of the publication of Upton Sinclair's gritty, tough novel The Jungle. The story dramatizes Chicago's Back of the Yard Lithuanian immigrants trying to eke out a living and a new life in the shadow of the meat-packing industry.

In March of last year, Dr. Giedrius Subacius, a professor of Lithuanian culture and language, at the University of Illinois at Chicago published a new book on the story of the writing of The Jungle, Upton Sinclair: The Lithuanian Jungle. His book is a detective story that reveals who the real people, places and events were that inspired the novel.

In his book, Sinclair went to considerable lengths to hide the real people so that they would not be subject to any reprisals by the company officials. At the same time, he always asserted that he made "nothing up" and that everything in it was "accurate to the smallest detail."

This assertion and a question about why Sinclair, who had no previous acquaintance with Lithuanians, decided to get his social critique across using Lithuanian characters aroused Subacius' curiosity.

Subacius said, "I first became interested in the use of Lithuanian names and terms. How did Sinclair decide to use the Lithuanians as the main characters in the novel? I was especially intrigued by Sinclair's choice of Lithuanian names. I connected these names and terms back to their Lithuanian places and roots. I speculated that he had borrowed the names of some people and used them for others. I call these people "name donors". Tracking the donors down and learning their stories have consumed a major part of my researches."

Hoping to reach a larger audience, Subacius is now turning his book into a documentary film that extends his research and contains new and exciting development in his already ground breaking study.

"I have made several presentations on my findings and every time the reception has been overwhelming positive. This story behind the writing and its connection to the Lithuanian immigrant experience strikes a responsive chord in diverse audiences for a variety of reasons. Through encouragement of my friend Dr. Richards, from St. Ambrose University in Davenport, Iowa, I decided that the potential national audience for what I have uncovered. We decided to get this made into a documentary."

"I have met the descendents of some of the name donors and interviewed them at length", he said. "They have been generous with their time and recollections. Some have been

especially helpful in allowing me to use family photos. In fact, the photo on the book cover is from a family collection."

The highlight of his discoveries of the descendants includes the granddaughters of both the tavern owner and the wedding couple from the critical first chapter of The Jungle. This is particularly poignant since neither of them knew of their grandparents connection to the novel.

"Until my researches, no one had uncovered their true identity. I have strong evidence that they are Walter and Caroline Kiskunas. Through painstaking and thorough research, I have found their granddaughter who currently lives in the Chicago area.

"Plus there was always a question as to the location of the tavern of the wedding celebration. I have answered that question as well. The grand daughter lives in California. It is my intention to unite them together in the film so they might see the importance of their family in the history of American literature."

Readers of Bridges can assist in the completion of this project. Professor Subacius is seeking pictures and information about the Rutkus family, the Dr. Graiciunas family, the Walter Kiskunas Family and the Joseph Elias (Elijosius) Family. He is also seeking pictures of St. George Church from its early years, the dumps at 47<sup>th</sup> and Damen Streets (now a shopping mall), the old Kuszlejko tavern building at 4558 S. Paulina Street, and any old pictures of any buildings in the Back of the Yards neighborhood.

He would appreciate any help in gathering photos and information for his new film.

"Of course, we are looking for financial support for the film so if any of your readers want to help sponsor this important film, they can contact me. We will be soliciting major funding from recognizable foundations but we hope that those Lithuanian corporate and professional leaders will step forward and help bring this important Lithuanian story to film."

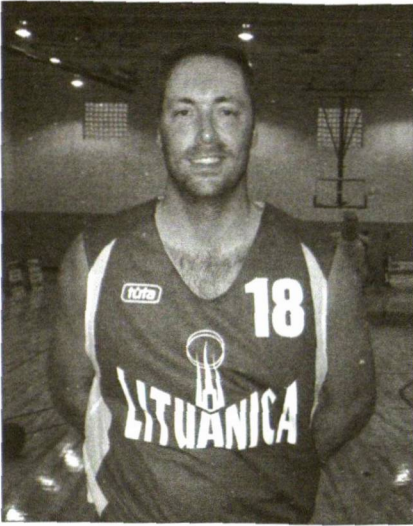
Dr. Subacius can be contacted at  
Dr. Giedrius Subacius  
900 W AINSLIE ST, UNIT F  
CHICAGO IL 60640-3840  
U.S.A.  
tel. (773) 989 7909

Randy Richards

*Dr. Randy Richards is a professor of Managerial Studies and Philosophy at St. Ambrose University in Davenport, Iowa. For the last six springs he has been an Associate Visiting Professor at Vilnius University's International Business School. He teaches Business Ethics and International Negotiations. He is a partner with Geidrius Subacius in making the documentary film. He can be reached at richardsrandyl@sau.edu*



## Most Valuable Player - Derek Molis



I would like to introduce you to the most valuable player of the Los Angeles Basketball tournament – 32 year old Derek Molis from Chicago: Derek is a second generation Lithuanian, born in the USA. His grandparents came from Lithuania. Derek was born in Chicago and lived in this area all his life. He has one brother, Brian, who is a salesman and a sister Jennifer who is a photographer. Both siblings have families of their own.

However, all Derek's life is about basketball. He was born an athlete! His love for the game of basketball has carried him through his life. Teaching the virtues of persistence and hard work, basketball brought Derek many athletic accolades. Playing under Coach Gene Pingatore and making appearances in the movie "Hoop Dreams," Derek had a successful college preparatory career at St. Joseph High School in Westchester, IL, where after his senior year he was named a Street and Smith's Honorable Mention All American. A full athletic basketball scholarship to Fordham University in the Bronx, NY ensued, and after two successful years at Fordham, Derek transferred home to Loyola

University, Chicago, where he finished his collegiate career. In two seasons at Loyola, he maximized his achievements. Derek was playing basketball since childhood from the moment when his dad took him to the Lithuanian team "Neris" practice. Later Derek joined one of "Lithuanica's" teams and plays for it still, participating with them in most Lithuanian run tournaments across North America. Derek Molis was always inspired by his father, Wayne Molis who had played in the NBA for the New York's "Knicks". In 1967 the new basketball league ABA (American Basketball Association) was founded. Derek's father was a member of that league from the first year it was started. It means a lot to Derek that this year he also has signed a contract for a year with the same league. He is going to play for Chicago's "Rock Stars" basketball team.

While basketball was the principle catalyst in Derek's drive for success, writing was a personal escape. He received his B.A. in Communications from Loyola in 1997 and soon after commenced work... at the Chicago Mercantile Exchange where he became a Commodities Trader in 1999. The rigors of trading forced him to put his passions – basketball and writing – on hold. But after trading for two and a half years, and longing to write again, Derek founded his own company and called it "Old School Athletics, Inc." (<http://www.oldschoolathletics.com>) in the year 2000, where he began working on a timeless collection of inspirational and motivational prints centered on athletics. Derek's vision was to create a line of prints to honor those athletes who played,

play, and will someday play the game for the love of the game, and for nothing more. The prints give every past, present, or future athlete the opportunity to return to school, the Old School, or the time when athletes played to earn nothing more than the respect of the game and their peers. The vision was realized in 2001 with the launching of the first line.

Several times Derek Molis was thinking of going to play for one of the European teams, he almost made an arrangement with one from Spain, then an Australian team, but he never finalized these actions. But still he had a chance to play in Europe, during the VII World Lithuanian Sports Games in Vilnius during the summer of 2005, representing the American-Lithuanian team! After those games many participants were wondering who that Derek Molis is. "Who is that American?" – the chief Coach Rimantas Grigas of the Lithuanian youth basketball team asked when the thin guy with the army style hair-do, left handed, put up one three-pointer after another through the arms of the 6'9" Vilmantas Dilys and it went right in... so it was reported in one of Lithuania's major newspapers "Lietuvos Rytas". "He reached the highest record of three-point shooting in many student league contests" – was the answer. Derek Molis also holds a number of records at Chicago Loyola University. He is a leader of every team he plays. "I am a competitor – I was born one and grew up as a sportsman, always reaching the goals I set for myself" – says Derek now. Of course his life wasn't always as straight. In March 2002 he was supposed to marry his long-time girlfriend in Jamaica.



But when they got to the island something tragic had just happened. Derek's father, Wayne, only 58 years old, died from the effusion of blood to his brain. The wedding was canceled and Derek went into mourning. "When my Dad just left us like this, it really killed me, - said D. Molis, - I almost lost my mind." Weeks passed as Derek was lying on the sofa in depression. His future bride-to-be couldn't bear that and left him. "I didn't leave my house for a month and a half,-recalled Derek. Then I was forced to look inside myself again: decide what I want in my life". He summoned all his strength and dove into his business once again. He started to communicate with welfare recipient children and found a new perspective for his life. "Then I decided to behave in the way I was teaching others to do",- said Molis. After two and a half years he returned to Jamaica - the place he never wanted to go to again. "I was able to turn away from the past and take a step forward. I realized that my life shouldn't be wasted. Shortly afterwards he started dating his girlfriend Carolyn again and in the fall of 2004 they were married...unfortunately only to separate later. Then Derek concentrated on his work and career more so. He was doing so well that he was noticed by the well known LA producer Branden Blinn and O'Rourke Entertainment Company, who are planning to



shoot a documentary movie about Derek Molis and the positive messages he is sending to the public by creating his posters. "Now I am really satisfied with my life, I achieved almost everything I could think of..." - says Derek, "the only thing is that I would like to find is the right woman to create a family with, then I could say I have lived my life the right way..." "Could it be a Lithuanian girl this time?" "I can not disagree", confirms Derek smiling, "since I'm also going to submit a request for Lithuanian citizenship and will definitely go to Lietuva pretty soon again!" So that is exactly what I would like to wish Derek right now and... perhaps others who are looking to find their way in life.

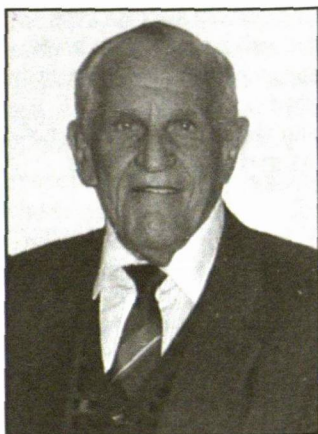
*Eugenija Misevicius*

*Eugenija Misevicius is a graduate of the University of Bridgeport, Bridgeport, CT. Eugenija is a member of the Board of Directors of the Lithuanian American Community and serves as its secretary. She is also a member of the Bridgeport Chapter of*

*the Lithuanian American Community and of the Knights of Lithuania. She was recently elected secretary of the Lithuanian Journalist Association. Eugenija freelances as a court interpreter. She belongs to the Lithuanian Sports Club of Connecticut and enjoys participating in amateur sports such as martial arts. She and her husband, Laurynas, participate in many Lithuanian events.*

*Photo 1 by Eugenija Misevicius*

*Photo 2 by Alfredas Pliadis, Vilnius, Lithuania*  
<http://www.pliadisfoto.lt/>



## Dr. Jonas Valaitis

1922 - 2006

Dr. Jonas Valaitis died in Lithuania on December 19 when he suffered a stroke in his apartment in Vilnius.

He was born in Marijampole, Lithuania and fled his homeland for Germany in 1945.

In 1950 he immigrated to Chicago.

Dr. Valaitis spent almost forty years as the chair of the

pathology department at Lutheran General Hospital in Park Ridge, IL. He also taught medical students at the University of Illinois at Chicago Medical School.

Dr. Valaitis was a past president of the Lithuanian American Medical Association as well as a founding member of the Lithuanian Foundation.

He was also a member of the Lithuanian Social Democratic Party which supported independence for Lithuania.

Dr. Valaitis was devoted to medicine and to Lithuania.

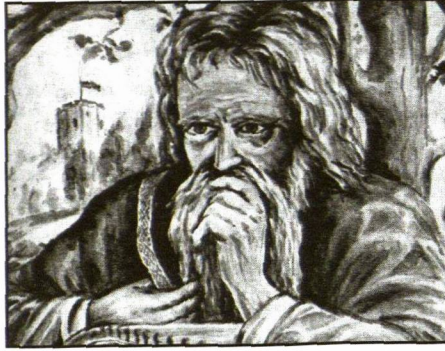
He was married to the former Joana Paltarokas who died in 2002. His survivors include daughters, Sandra Valaitis - Rose and Laura ; a brother, Jurgis, and two grandchildren.

*Editor's Note: BRIDGES offers its deepest sympathy to the Valaitis family.*

*Photo by Edvardas Šulaitis*



# KRIVIŲ KRIVAIČIO SŪNUS



## KRIVIŲ KRIVAIČIO SŪNUS

Tankios, neižengiamos girios ošė  
Neriės slaituose, - kur stovėjo  
galingojo lietuvių dievo Praamžiaus šventykla.....

### THE SON OF KRIVIŲ KRIVAITIS

A Lithuanian Legend. From "Lietuvių Padavimai"  
English Translation by GLORIA O'BRIEN

Dense, impenetrable woods rustled on the Neris River banks, where stood the sanctuary of the Lithuanians' mighty god Praamžius. Only narrow paths tread by bison, aurochs and elk wound through the thicket, where one might easily meet one of these, or perhaps even a shaggy bear, but never a human being, as the forests were ruled by beasts and the powerful gods.

In the midst of an ancient oak grove, encircled by the Neris and Vilnelė rivers, stood the famous Romuva (pagan sanctuary), sacred to the honor of Praamžius, where the eternal flame had burned for ages, never extinguished, day or night, winter or summer. Here lived Krivių Krivaitis (the high priest), whose every word was obeyed, not only by the other kriviai (priests) and vaidilutės (consecrated maidens tending the sacred flame), but by all Lithuanians, even the Grand Prince.

Krivių Krivaitis was very powerful, as the people all believed that the greatest god, Praamžius, spoke through him; every word was accepted as the decree of the gods, and all hurried to carry out his bidding.

Krivių Krivaitis lived with his beautiful wife in this sacred oak wood, sacrificing to the gods, announcing and explaining their will, acting as judge and peace-maker amongst the people. All came to him for advice and justice, and even the Grand Prince often visited the Šventaragio valley, for a word of wisdom or welcome advice.

Though he served the gods faithfully, fulfilling their will without question, they did not grant him life's greatest joy - children. But he loved his wife dearly and didn't reproach her or the gods, or complain against fate.

But life is far more apt to strew man's path with pain and sorrow, than with bright moments and joy. And so it happened with the highest priest.

One summer's day, his wife died, and he, a forty-year-old, was left all alone, as the Lithuanians' religion strictly forbade a priest to marry a second time. All the kriviai and vaidilutės felt great sympathy as they watched him, head bowed in sorrow and heavy thought, walking through the sacred oak grove.

Each morning, after offering prayers to Praamžius, he would wander far along the banks of Neris and Vilnelė, until it was time to return to the eternal flame, to sing hymns in praise of the gods. He avoided people, gazing into the depths of the river, listening to birdsong and rustling trees, wondering at the shining stars in the night sky, and sometimes forgetting some of his grief.

And so the inclement autumn arrived, its strong winds tearing leaves away from the oak trees, and then the winter, with its snow-storms, ice and frost. It was more and more difficult to maintain the sacred flame, and guard it from wind and rain. The hot flame of the eternal fire must flutter lively, shining as the spirit of the entire Lithuanian nation.

No longer did Krivių Krivaitis wander along the riverbanks, now hidden by deep snowy hills, the rivers' waters clad in thick sheets of ice. All sheltered at the sanctuary's flame and its warmth. On clear nights, he walked through the oak grove, imagining his wife's eyes looking down at him from among the stars.

At last, the grim winter passed, and spring's sun sparkled over the high banks of the Neris. The snow had melted, revealing the year's first violets. One early morning, having sung a hymn welcoming Aušrine (the Morning Star), Krivių Krivaitis walked along the bank of the Neris, to meet the approaching spring, admire its magic, fill his lungs with its fresh, lively air, perhaps to meet someone along the way, to soothe his sorrowing heart. He knew that spring was bringing him gifts, but didn't know what they might be.

He glanced at the violets, at the row of cranes flying across the bright sky, at Neris and Vilnelės foaming current singing an unknown song, and his heart, so long troubled by grief, finally lightened. Just as the ice melted, which had imprisoned the earth and rivers, so also did his grief begin to soften and his visage to brighten.

Suddenly he heard a song, a song so unexpected that he froze in place, unable to move. Years ago, his wife used to sing this song, softly stroking his hair, which was then black as a crow's wing, not woven with silver





Lizdeika aiškina Gedemino sapnā.

strands, as now. The song was carried on the heartfelt tones of a woman's lovely voice.

He took a few steps and saw a young girl standing on the bank of the Vilnelė. She had picked a handful of early violets, and was twining them into her long, thick blond braids. She was no more than eighteen years of age, as beautiful as Aušrinė, striding each morning across the purple skies.

Propelled by an unknown force, Krivių Krivaitis stepped closer, and a dry branch cracked loudly under his foot. The girl jumped like a frightened deer and, seeing the august personage of the highest priest, ran into the wood. Another second, and she was gone.

Krivių Krivaitis stopped and wiped his perspiring brow. He carefully gathered a few of the violets she had dropped, pressing them to his chest. "O mighty Perkūnas! - he whispered - "What is happening to me! Why did I forget everything, when I saw that lovely face, those bright eyes, and crown of braids adorning her head?" He continued to stand by the riverbank for a while, but no one appeared and, saddened, he

returned to the sacred oak grove. The next morning, irresistibly drawn to the same place, he walked and waited for a long time, meeting no one.

Several weeks passed. Spring hurried by, strewing its green gifts all along the way. The lilacs had bloomed and faded, and the birches had arrayed themselves in their bright green leaves. Silver wildflowers and golden marigolds carpeted the forest. All of Nature seemed like a bride dressed for her wedding. As Krivių Krivaitis walked along the riverbank, choirs of songbirds trilled merrily, but his heart was heavy.

One day, quite unexpectedly, he again heard the same song, and saw the girl who had stolen his heart's peace. Parting the branches of a thick bush, he saw her, seated, with her feet dipped into the water, twining a wreath from vari-colored flowers. Totally occupied, she did not realize she was being observed.

She was startled when he stood beside her, but calmed as she recognized the highest priest, honored by all the nation as well as herself. She knew of his misfortune, and her sympathetic young heart felt his deep grief and unhappiness.

Bowing low, eyes cast down, she stood before him; he stroked her golden hair, and invited her to sit beside him. She replied, as openly as a trusting child, to his gentle questions about her life and her family. She was eighteen years old, an only child, and remembered her mother not at all, as she had died when the girl was only two years of age. Her father had perished on the horns of an aurochs during a hunting party with the Grand Prince. She found shelter with her aunt, her mother's sister, who had a little cottage at the edge of the Vilnelė. During winter, she and her loving aunt spun thread and wove fabrics; in summer, they collected mushrooms and berries. They had a cow, and grew apples, pears and berries. People eagerly bought their woven products, sheets, towels and sashes, and, though they had no wealth, they were both contented and happy.

They conversed for a long time, both feeling as though they had been the closest of friends for many years. Krivių Krivaitis, for the first time in his life, almost forgot his duty to sing the evening hymns to the gods and invoke their help and advice for all.

They met again in the same place, the next day, and each day after. He would bring her a small gift: an amber necklace, a silver ring, lovely pins or hair clasps made by a talented artisan. She in turn sang many songs for him, related fairy-tales and legends she had learned from her old aunt. She grew a bit bolder and, with childlike trust, nestled against him, stroking his beard, weaving flowery wreaths for his gray head, or feeding him berries from her little hands.



## Legend

Soon, words of love were spoken, and they knew the sweetness of a first kiss.

Krivių Krivaitis was a wise man, and understood the mortal danger of their attachment. According to the ancient tradition of hundreds of years, the Krivių Krivaitis could not marry a second time. Having disobeyed this law, he must be burned to death, and his beloved must be buried alive. The wrathful Perkūnas was pitiless with those who broke his laws.

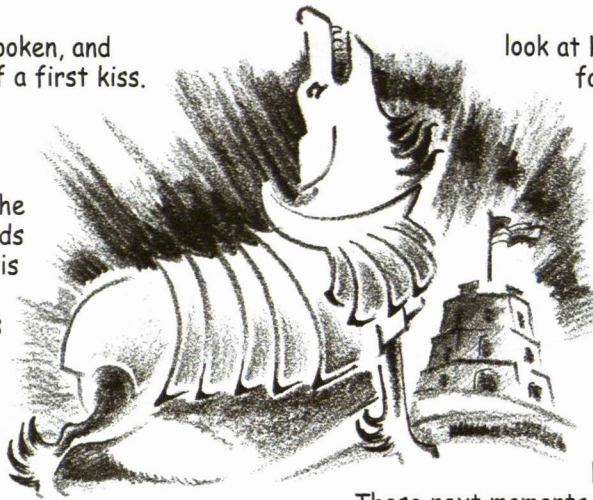
But just as it would be impossible to hold back a wildfire in a dry field, so their love would not be extinguished. The following spring, as the cuckoo called through the forest, their son came into the world, at once their greatest joy and deepest sorrow. They rejoiced in their beautiful child, but were sad that they must hide him from others, could never speak of their love, living always in worry and fear.

Krivių Krivaitis searched his mind over and over again for a way to allow the boy to be raised by his mother, and permit his father to visit them each day. Finally, he had a plan.

Every spring, Grand Prince Vytenis came to hunt in the Sventaragis Valley. The ancient forest, with its natural beauty and, most important, its abundance of wild game, attracted the prince to the banks of the Neris, where he could rest from his worries in fighting Lithuania's enemies.

Krivių Krivaitis decided to wrap his son in silk adorned with golden ornaments and wreaths and garlands of flowers, then place him in an eagle's nest that had been built high in an oak tree. As the tree stood at the edge of a path trodden by game, where the prince was apt to wait for an aurochs to show itself, it was certain that the infant in the nest would be seen. And it was equally certain that the prince would call for the Krivių Krivaitis to explain the will of the gods.

A few days later, the forest was alive with the voices of hunters, beaters and hounds, as the prince headed towards his favorite place and made ready to signal the start of the hunt. Suddenly there was the cry of a child. The prince raised his head and saw something shining in the eagle's nest high in the tree. He sent a servant to climb up and investigate, and the man was seen to carefully extract an infant! The child was laid down at the prince's feet, and as the prince bent to



look at him, the boy, seeing a bearded face much like that of his father, left off crying and smiled. The prince's bajorai (nobles) said that surely this child was a message from the gods, but how were they to know if it was a benevolent message or something other? The Krivių Krivaitis was sent for.

The prince asked Krivių Krivaitis to consider and explain the mystery. The high priest didn't answer immediately, as his heart was leaping in his chest:

These next moments would decide the fate of those he loved, and his own. He began a long prayer to Praamžius, asking for an explanation for the miracle. Finally finishing his prayer, which all had listened to with great respect, Krivių Krivaitis picked up the child and gave him to the prince.

"Great prince! The gods favor you and have sent you this child as a blessing, and you should accept this gift, for you and all of Lithuania.

The gods have destined this child to take my place, when I have traveled to the kingdom of Praamžius. Teach him well, to be the servant of the gods, so that he may be a worthy mediator between our gods and the people."

The prince was pleased with this prediction, and asked Krivių Krivaitis to be the guardian of the child so miraculously found. The priest again prayed to the gods, and received their agreement to the prince's plan.

Krivių Krivaitis took his son back to the sanctuary, where he soon brought the boy's mother to raise the child and teach him. To commemorate the amazing discovery of the child in an eagle's nest, (erelio lizdas) the prince named him Lizdeika, and the place where he had been found crying (verkiant), was named Verkiai.

The favor of the gods continued further. Lizdeika, on his father's death, became the Krivių Krivaitis, married the daughter of grand prince Vytenis, and made his own name and that of Lithuania widely famous. It was he, Lizdeika, Krivių Krivaitis, who interpreted the dream of Lithuania's grand prince Gediminas, about an iron wolf, and the creation of the great city, Vilnius.

Gloria Kivytaite O'Brien

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

\*Illustrations from books "TĖ VŪ ŠALIS" and "GINTARAS".



## Lithuanian American Community Events

Please verify all events for dates, times and places.

### Arizona chapter

March 11, 2007 - 1:00 pm  
Lithuanian independence  
celebration  
St. Elizabeth Seton Parish  
9728 Palmeras Drive, Sun City, AZ  
Contact: Martin Karsas  
480-661-3957,  
mgkarsas@netscape.com  
http://www.lithaz.org/

### Boston LAC chapter,

MA LAC region, and ALT  
February 11, 2007 - 1:00 pm  
Celebration of Lithuanian  
independence  
Speaker: Vaiva Vebraitė  
Cultural program:  
soloist tenor Edmundas Seilius  
South Boston Lithuanian Citizen's Club  
368 West Broadway Boston, MA  
Contact: Daiva Navickienė  
508-998-9351  
donavickas95@hotmail.com

### Bridgeport, CT, LAC chapter and

Knights of Lithuania C-141  
February 18, 2007  
Celebration of Lithuanian  
independence and the 100-year  
anniversary of the  
Lithuanian parish of St. George.  
Mass at 12:00 noon,  
commemoration after the Mass.  
St. George Parish  
443 Park Ave., Bridgeport, CT  
pbschmidt@optonline.net

### Brighton Park (Chicago) chapter

February 18, 2007  
Celebration of Lithuanian  
independence - Mass at 10:00 am  
February 16th commemoration at  
11:00 am in the parish hall.  
Immaculate Conception Parish,  
2745 W. 44th Street, Chicago, IL  
Contact: Salomeja Daulienė  
773-847-4855, dauliai@aol.com

### Cape Cod, MA, chapter

February 11, 2007  
The Lithuanian Independence  
Day Celebration. A noon mass for  
Lithuania (in English) will be  
followed by an assembly in the  
church hall. Featured speaker:  
Lithuanian Consul General  
Dr. Mindaugas Butkus.  
Cultural program: violinists

Edita Orlinaite & Nida Janulaitis.  
Our Lady of the Assumption Parish  
76 Wianno Ave., Osterville, MA  
Contact: Algirdas Dapkus  
508-428-2818,  
alisdapkus@aol.com

### Cicero, IL, chapter

February 18, 2007  
(date is not absolutely certain at this time)  
Lithuanian independence  
celebration - Mass at 9:00 am  
assembly at 10:00 am  
in the parish school hall.  
St. Anthony Parish  
1502 S. 49th Court, Cicero, IL  
Contact: Mindaugas Baukus  
708-863-9849

### Cleveland chapter

February 17, 2007 - 6:30 pm  
Lithuanian independence  
celebration. Optional supper.  
Speaker: Vytautas Šliupas from  
California. Cultural program:  
choir from Montreal directed by  
Aleksandras Stankevičius  
Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish  
18004 Neff Road Cleveland, OH  
February 18, 2007

Mass at 10:00 am  
Lady of Perpetual Help church  
Mass at 10:30 am  
St. George Parish church  
Contact: Algis Gudėnas  
216-481-0465,  
linrik@adelphia.net

### Elizabeth, NJ, chapter

February 25, 2007  
Lithuanian independence  
celebration Mass at 11:00 am  
commemoration program  
at 12:30 pm. Cultural program:  
Lithuanian Saturday school  
students directed by Laima  
Liutikiene, Lithuanian parish  
children's choir "Varpelis"  
directed by Birutė Mockienė, &  
Lithuanian chapter's musicians  
Lithuanian Sts. Peter ir Paul  
Parish hall,  
216 Ripley Place, Elizabeth, NJ  
Contact: Julius Veblaitis  
908 687-4943,  
iveblaitis@comcast.net  
Floridos Pietvakarie  
(Southwest Florida) chapter

March 10, 2007 - Celebration of  
Lithuanian independence  
most likely at 1:00 pm  
Fort Myers or Cape Coral, Florida  
Contact: Danutė Balciunienė  
239-265-4367,  
marcedanute@yahoo.com  
Hartford, CT, chapter  
February 18, 2007  
Celebration of Lithuanian  
independence Mass at 9:00 am  
with a choir directed by  
J. Petkaitis, followed by a  
commemoration in the parish hall  
Cultural program: "Berzelis" dancers  
Contact: Viktoras Kogelis  
860-657-9067  
danuteg@juno.com

### Indianapolis chapter

February 17, 2007  
Celebration of Lithuanian  
independence & election of  
chapter's governing board.  
Time and place to be determined.  
Contact: Jonas Beleckas  
adrijonas@mywdt.net

### Kansas City chapter

Celebration of Lithuanian  
independence usually coincides  
with St. Casimir's Day,  
the first Sunday in March  
Contact: Kate Porterfield  
913-441-9283  
kjpinkc@yahoo.com

### Lemont chapter

February 18, 2007 - 12:30 pm  
Celebration of Lithuanian  
independence - Main speaker:  
Aleksas Vitkus, Cultural program:  
Maironis Saturday school students,  
mission choir, and Lithuanian  
psaltery (Kanklės) ensemble  
"Gabijs". Lithuanian World Center,  
Foundation Hall, Lemont, IL  
Contact: Irena Vilimienė  
708-974-0591  
zvilimas@speedsite.com

### Los Angeles chapter

February 17, 2007, time tbd  
Lithuanian independence  
celebration  
St. Casimir's Parish Hall  
3855 Evans Street, Los Angeles, CA  
www.lalithuanians.com

Los Angeles ALT & LAC Western Region  
February 18, 2007 - 12:00 noon  
Celebration of Lithuanian  
independence

St. Casimir's Parish Hall  
3855 Evans Street, Los Angeles, CA  
Minnesota chapter  
February 17, 2007 - 4:00 or 5:00 pm  
Celebration of Lithuanian  
independence  
Prince of Peace Lutheran Church  
2561 Victoria Street, Roseville, MN  
Contact: Tomas Urbonas  
952-200-8743  
urbotomas@hotmail.com

### Newark, NJ, LAC chapter and

Knights of Lithuania #29  
February 11, 2007 - 12:00 noon  
Celebration of Lithuanian  
independence - Cultural program:  
"In love with Lithuania" film  
Holy Trinity and Three Kings  
Parish Hall  
207 Adams Street Newark, NJ  
Contact: Vladas Audenas  
908-352-7828  
Audapet@worldnet.att.net

### New York region

February 11, 2007 - Lithuanian  
independence commemoration  
Mass will be celebrated at  
Annunciation Church  
North 5th St. & Havemeyer St.  
Brooklyn, NY  
10:00 o'clock. Dinner will also be  
served at Annunciation parish, in  
the lower hall. The commemoration  
will begin at one o'clock at  
Our Lady of Mount Carmel Hall  
Havemeyer St. on North 8th St.  
The main speaker will be  
Prof. Jonas Ohman, from Sweden  
who has learned Lithuanian and  
has brought great attention to the  
cause of the partisans/resistance  
fighters in Lithuania during the  
Soviet occupation. The cultural  
program is still to be announced.  
Sponsored by Joint Committee for  
the Commemoration of Lithuanian  
Independence: The Lithuanian  
National Foundation  
(info@TautosFondas.org) and the  
Lithuanian American Community  
(RamuteZukas@hotmail.com)



# LAC chapter activities

## Lithuanian American Community Events

### Palm Beach chapter

January 21, 2007 - 12:00 noon

Picnic at the customary site in Jupiter, Florida

February 16, 2007 - 10:00 am

Raising of the Lithuanian flag at Juno Beach City Hall

March 10, 2007 - 2:00 pm

Celebration of Lithuanian independence

St. Paul of the Cross Parish hall

Route 1 (Ocean Drive)

North Palm Beach, Florida

Contact: Kestutis Miklas

561-863-8030

kkmiklas@earthlink.net

### Philadelphia chapter

February 25, 2007

Celebration of Lithuanian independence (Note the change in church location and the time of Mass.)

10:30 am Mass at St. Andrew Church

19th & Wallace Sts., Phila., PA

2:00 pm commemoration at the

Lithuanian Music Hall

2715 E. Allegheny Ave., Phila., PA

Cultural program: "Laisvė" choir,

folk dance groups "Aušrinė" &

"Žilvinas", "Kaimo Kapela"

musicians, & Vincas Kreve

Lithuanian school students.

Sponsored by LAC Phila. chapter &

the Lithuanian Music Hall.

Contact: Terese Geciene

215-938-0783

gecysta@verizon.net

http://www.phillylac.org

### Portland, OR chapter

March 3, 2007 - 6pm

Celebration of Lithuanian

independence

Latvian Hall

505 SW Dosch Rd, Portland

Vilius Zalpys, 360-834-6988

Zalpai999@aol.com

### Providence, RI, chapter

February 18, 2007

Celebration of Lithuanian

independence Mass at 10:00 am

followed by a commemoration program.

St. Casimir Parish,

350 Smith Street, Providence, RI

Contact: Aldona Kairienė

401-831-4270,

parente2@cox.net

### Rochester, NY, chapter

February 25, 2007

Celebration of Lithuanian

independence

Mass at 11:00 am followed by a

commemoration program in the

parish hall.

St. George Parish

545 Hudson Ave, Rochester, NY

Contact: Birutė Litvinas

585-342-9468

janinabirute@aol.com

### Rytine (East) Connecticut chapter

March 12, 2007 - 2:00 pm

Celebration of Lithuanian

independence

Matulaiitis Care Home's Hall

10 Thurber Road, Putnam, CT

Contact: Vytautas Alksnis

alks@snet.net

### San Diego chapter

February 25, 2007 - 2:00 pm

Celebration of Lithuanian

independence

McKeon Center,

Mission San Luis Rey

4070 Mission Ave., Oceanside, CA

Contact: Giedrė Milas

760-753-1256 milasiusg@aol.com

### San Francisco chapter

March 11, 2007 - 1:00-6:00 pm

Celebration of Lithuanian

independence

Mary Magdalene Church

2005 Berryman St., Berkeley, CA

Contact: Dalia Grybinas Lee or

Marytė Currier, 650-588-5514

daliaray@comcast.net

maryte@comcast.net

### Šiaurės Karolinos

### (North Carolina) chapter

February 16, 2007 - 6:00 pm

Celebration of Lithuanian

independence.

Organized by Rytas Vilgalys

Contact: Enrikas Vainorius

919-607-0371

enrikas@nclietuviai.com

http://www.nclietuviai.com

### Waterbury, CT, LAC chapter and

### Knights of Lithuania

February 18, 2007 - 10:30 am

Celebration of Lithuanian

independence

St. Joseph Parish Hall,

Congress Ave & John St., Waterbury, CT

Contact: Albertas Melninkas

203-266-5053

### Waukegan, IL, chapter

February 25, 2007 - 1:00-5:00 pm

Celebration of Lithuanian

independence & family Cultural

program: Gediminas Lithuanian school

students & country band "Sodzius"

German House,

259 W. Grand Ave., Lake Villa, IL

Contact: Darius Skripkauskas

847-855-5606,

dscripkauskas@yahoo.com

www.waukegan-lakecountyilb.org

### St. Petersburg, FL

March 12, 2007

7<sup>th</sup> Annual FL Lithuanian Open Golf

Tournament. Net proceeds to benefit the

Lithuanian Kaimas "Countryside" Fund

Through the US-Baltic Foundation.

Registration must be received by March 5.

For details contact: Al Karnavicius

727-895-4811

Fax 727-822-2252

rltconsulf@baypintonline.com.

Continued from page 6

## Part One: The Night of January 13

The priest gave a general absolution to the crowd. If there would be deaths this night we could leave the world free of sin.

Time seemed to be standing still. Minute after minute the threat continued to hang over us. But still it was exhilarating to be a part of this moment in history. People talked and prayed and waited.....

An hour passed... then one more hour. They did not come. Lights and noise of heavy guns slowly faded over the city. The night became silent, just as a usual night over here, with some city noise, here and there. At the square, men and women, and youth were looking at each other, in disbelief, "What? Are they not coming? Could it be?" Could it be that they won't come? Right, they won't. At least, they won't come tonight.

I remember I looked to the horizon where in a few hours, the sun was to rise. It was such a relief, the

thought, *Oh, Lord, I will see another day. Be a thousand times blessed, my new day!*

*Dalia Rimkutė-Kairiukštienė*

*Dalia Rimkutė-Kairiukštienė is a native of Siauliai, Lithuania. She is from a family of "dissidents". As young people both her father and mother served their terms as political prisoners in Stalin's times. Dalia received several college degrees in the former Soviet Union, the highest being that of a Ph.D. in Architecture. She worked as an assistant professor at Vilnius Gediminas Technical University for a several years before coming to the United States for a graduate program in Lighting. She and her family currently reside in Pennsylvania.*

\* The Photo is from the book "THE GIFT OF VILNIUS".





**VYTIS TOURS**

The largest tour operator to  
Lithuania, Latvia & Estonia



PRESENTS

**LITHUANIA 2007**



**VYTIS TOURS**

**\*36 Years in Business\***

**Ask for our 2007 Tour Brochure !!!**

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

**VYTIS TOURS**

40-24 235th St.

Douglaston, NY 11363

718-423-6161 800-77-VYTIS

Fax: 718-423-3979 e-mail: [vyttours@earthlink.net](mailto:vyttours@earthlink.net) Website: [www.vydistours.com](http://www.vydistours.com)

**\* Book Your Flights Online \***

Sign up for special promotions on our website

**For Information about tours to the Song and Dance  
Festival in 2007, please contact Rita Pencyliene**

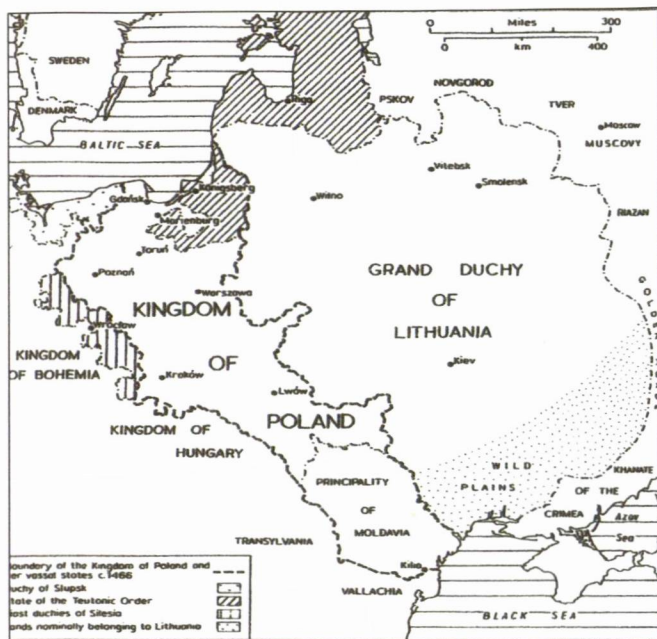
CHICAGO REPRESENTATIVES

Rita Pencyliene..... tel: 708-923-0280 e-mail: [pencylar@comcast.net](mailto:pencylar@comcast.net)

Brone Barauskiene.....tel: 708-403-5717 e-mail: [mamabar3@aol.com](mailto:mamabar3@aol.com)



## ANSWER TO TRIVIA QUESTION



The Combined Kingdom Of Poland and Lithuania in 1466.

In addition to answering the trivia question, Adam Zamoyski's book "The Polish Way", also makes some interesting comments about Lithuanians during that period. Here are some excerpts:

"The Lithuanians were a Baltic people like the Prussians and the Letts, between whom they settled. There was a forest culture, which included worship of fire and of snakes, a complicated, ill-defined yet cohesive religion that gave the savage and robust Lithuanians remarkable dynamism. The Lithuanians were ruled by a turbulent, cunning and ruthless dynasty well suited to the people and its needs. They were prepared to make peace and accept token Christianity from the Knights in order to gain support against the Russians of Novgorod, and from Novgorod in order to defeat the Knights. Their policy was so wily and volatile that nobody could keep up with it, and none of their neighbors could ever rest easy. After the debacle of Kiev, there was no stopping the Lithuanians, who poured into devastated area and annexed vast tracts of masterless land.

In 1362 the Lithuanian Duke Algirdas defeated the Tartars at the battle of the Blue waters, and in the following

year he occupied Kiev itself. In less than a hundred years, the Lithuanian state had quadrupled in size, but while this made it more formidable to its enemies, it endeared it to none and enmeshed it in problems, which, for once, were too great even for the ravenous appetite of its rulers. Poland had linked its destiny to a backward pagan state THREE TIMES its size, which it never quite managed to control.

The benefits to Poland of the arrangement were not always clear. Most of the power and riches added by Lithuania were spent on Lithuanian ambitions and it was the problems generated by the alliance, which were largely responsible for bringing the whole Polish world crashing down four centuries later. Yet the benefits were immense and there is no doubt that the Krakow Lords had foreseen some of them when making their choice."

Ed Shakalis

LITHUANIAN AMERICAN NEWS JOURNAL

bridges  
VOLUME 31 ISSUE 1

Subscriptions:  
3906 Lakeview Drive  
Racine, WI 53403

PERIODICALS  
POSTAGE

National Library of Lithuania  
12/1/2006  
Gedimino Prospektas 51  
LT-2600, VILNIUS LITHUANIA

