

# bridges

1



may 2008

LITHUANIAN AMERICAN NEWS JOURNAL



*Letter from the Editor*

*Every so often I meet a former student or I receive a phone call from someone I taught twenty or thirty (or even more) years ago and then the light bulb goes off - some of these "children" are in their late 40's and their 50's. That started me thinking of all the plans that were never done, the places that were never visited and the projects that were never finished. Life and its every day problems seem to get in the way of the best thought out plans. If you're like me you may often think of could have, would have, should have.*

*For those of you who have put off making the big trip to Lithuania, you still have time to go this year. If you're really looking for a big celebration then 2009 is your year. Can you imagine being in a country while it's celebrating its millennium? Of course, it will be a year-long celebration so why not give it some thought? If staying closer to home appeals to you then there is the dance festival in Los Angeles, the annual picnic in Putnam, CT or visit [www.lithuanian-american.org](http://www.lithuanian-american.org). I'm sure you will find something happening in your area during the summer months. For those of you in the Maryland vicinity don't forget to mark May 17-18 on your calendars. The Lithuanian Festival is being held at the Catonsville Armory in Catonsville, MD. It was voted "Best Little Ethnic Festival in Maryland" and something you won't want to miss.*

*I want to offer a very sincere thank you to all of you who have renewed your subscriptions. Many readers have included an extra donation to help Bridges continue to familiarize people with their history, heritage, customs and traditions. A very big thank you for your generosity. Of course, we could not do any of this without the fantastic people who contribute articles to the magazine.*

*May brings us two commemorative days - Mother's Day and Memorial Day. How many people have gone before us upon whose shoulders we stood from the time we were children? And what is left to say about mothers that has not been said or written. To all our mothers, grandmothers, aunts and caregivers we wish you a Happy Mother's Day.*

*"The heart of a mother is a deep abyss at the bottom of which you will always find forgiveness."  
~Honoré de Balzac.*

*Jeanne Shalna Dorr*  
Jeanne Shalna Dorr



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Membership contributions and bequests to the Lithuanian Foundation help support scholarship programs and the preservation of the Lithuanian language, culture and traditions.

***The future of our heritage is in our hands***



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\*Cover: By Domicelė Tarabildienė "Laukų Madona/Madonna of the Field" (Linocut, 1942). More about the artist can be found on page 11.





We live in a wonderful age. Grandmothers write articles about climbing mountains with their grandchildren, starting new careers when they are great grandmothers, flying around the world to take interesting classes. Grandmothers have certainly changed with modern times.

As Mother's Day approaches my thoughts go back to my own mother. Not a day goes by that I don't miss her. But I was fortunate to have several aunts who were like second mothers to me. However, the woman who had the greatest influence on me was Mama, my beloved grandmother. She didn't hold a corporate position and she didn't have any degrees. In fact, she could barely sign her name. But her love and her wisdom was all her family ever needed.

By the time I came along Mama rarely left her little neighborhood which consisted of her own street which had many Lithuanian families as well as other Eastern Europeans. She came to America from Lithuania as a young girl and married my grandfather in Scranton, PA. My grandfather also came from Lithuania as a young man, they met in America and married. But whenever I think of Mama, I see her in an apron. I would like to share my memories with you and I am sure many of you have your own similar memories.

### *The Everyday Apron*

This has to be where the phrase, "A woman's work is never done" originated. Mama literally rose with the chickens every morning and donned her apron over her dress. She always wore a dress, never skirts and blouses or slacks. The apron was always clean and covered the front of the dress. It was probably sewn with neat stitches where it may have been caught on a nail.

The first chore was to feed the chickens. Yes, she had a chicken coop even though she lived in the city. The apron was also used to bring in the fresh eggs. This was a task that took great skill. She lifted the apron, folded it over, and gently placed the eggs in it. I never saw a broken egg.

In the summer the apron was used to carry vegetables from her garden. I was well out of my teens before I realized that everyone didn't can their own vegetables. I was shocked to find out that you could buy vegetables already canned in a store.

The everyday apron was also used to wipe perspiration from her face while she boiled the berries we picked for jelly, the vegetables, especially the jars and jars of tomatoes, mushrooms and beans that had to be boiled and then stored in Mason bottles. The apron was very useful for carrying grass home. We would walk a few blocks to two empty lots and cut special kinds of grasses that grew wild. These would be boiled and mixed with different concoctions that were also homemade. The pantry held a shelf that rivaled today's pharmacies although nothing was hazardous to your health except the smell and the taste. If you could survive the taste you would be cured of whatever ailed you. Maybe that's another reason we didn't often complain of aches and pains.

In the winter the apron carried potatoes upstairs from the cellar. Notice the use of the word cellar, not basement or recreation room. The cellar was dark with probably a 25 watt bulb to light the entire area - no use wasting electricity. It didn't have a furnace or a hot water heater because Mama didn't trust that kind of technology. Part of the cellar held the glass bottles of preserved vegetables, relishes, mushrooms, and jellies. The pickle crocks were also in the cellar with a huge plate and a rock on top of the plate. As a young child, I had no desire to dally in the cellar between the darkness and the occasional spider that scampered across the floor. On the third floor, in the attic, the kielbasa was hung on broom or mop handles. The horseradish was grated on the back porch. None of these tasks could be done without wearing an apron.

The kitchen was literally the warmest room in the house because it had two stoves; a big black coal stove and a smaller gas stove. Once a week both rye and white bread came out of the oven. I'm sure today's manufacturers of room scents would pay a small fortune to duplicate the smell of that freshly baked bread coming from the oven. Supper was started early in the morning as everything was simmered slowly on top of the stove. Forget healthy eating and broiling. It didn't happen.

Clothes were washed one day a week and this was an all day process. First they boiled in a big wash tub on top of the coal stove. The most beautiful shade of bluing, like that of a peacock, was added to the white clothes while Mama stirred them around with a stick while singing softly to herself. Then the apron pockets were filled with clothes



pins and the clothes were taken outside to dry. Cold or wind never factored into the equation of hanging them outside. There were days the clothes were frozen so stiff they could get off the line themselves and walk back into the house on their own. Now and then the apron was used to wipe away the tears of a little girl who hurt her finger or had some other "catastrophe" happen to her. That didn't happen too often. Another good use for the everyday apron was to hold the corner and wipe the noses of toddlers.

As I grew older I learned not to complain. If I had a sore finger Mama remembered knowing a little girl in her village who had no fingers. Wasn't it better to have a sore finger than no fingers? How could you argue with that? Arguing or offering an opinion was a thought that never entered my head.

I also learned quickly not to be a "lady of leisure." If that happened there was a garden that had to be weeded, clothes that had to be ironed, a sidewalk and a front porch that had to be swept. If the weather was inclement a rosary was quickly thrust into my hands and I was instructed to offer it for the poor souls in purgatory. The rosary was always in the apron pocket. You couldn't have an everyday apron without a pocket.

### *The In-Between Apron*

This apron was too good to be an everyday apron but not good enough for company. It was usually worn after all work was finished at the end of the day in the summer. It was still light and the family would move to the front porch with its glider swing and several chairs. Across the street were several other Lithuanian women who were Mama's age. Like Mama, they did not speak English. They seemed to have some type of hidden message among themselves because some nights they would come on our porch, other nights we went to their porches and at times everyone stayed on their own porch. Mrs. S. lived across the street. It seemed her entire life revolved around finding her two bachelor sons *good* Catholic, Lithuanian wives. The key word here was good because Mrs. S. decided several Catholic Lithuanian young ladies were not suitable wife material. The sons doted on their mother and her every wish was their command. But she would sit on the porch and often use the corner of her apron to wipe the tears from her eyes. She feared she would die before she ever became a grandmother.

Mrs. B., the neighbor a few doors away, also had a problem. She had only one son who was engaged to a Lithuanian, Catholic woman. But Mrs. B., swore she would never attend the wedding. The bride-to-be had a

terrible habit - she smoked cigarettes. Mrs. B. would also wipe the tears from her eyes with the corner of her apron. She lived to be very old and the wedding did not take place until after her death. The couple was well into their 50's when they married.

### *The Good Apron*

The good apron was worn for holidays and very special company. Special company, unlike the local women who sat on the porch in the summer or in the kitchen during their winter visits, was invited into the parlor. The parlor doors were kept closed unless the room was being used. You could probably count on one hand how many times it was used each year. Special company was the priest or relatives who came from far away from such places as Massachusetts. These guests were served food at the dining room table, another rarity.

The apron used on these occasions was usually new. That meant it was probably worn only several times a year. I never remember seeing a solid color apron. The usual choice of design had some colorful flowers on it. Forget any half aprons or aprons with frills. These aprons covered everything that was worn and were made from cotton.

### *No Apron*

There was no apron worn to Sunday Mass. It was a rather long walk to the church so for some reason this meant that the walk should not be wasted and that two Masses would be attended. The first Mass was 9AM and after that we stayed for the High Mass which followed at 10:30. There was no whining or complaining, no having to use a bathroom and no entertainment such as plastic baggies with cereal or little toys. The biggest thrill came when I was allowed to put the envelope in the basket.

After we came home from Mass, the "good" apron came back on for the rest of the day. Mama died the day after Christmas in 1961. This wonderful woman left a void in the lives of her family. She would never have wanted that to happen but her influence was so great. Her kindness, her wisdom and her patience could never be replaced. Not a day goes by that I don't think of her or pray for her. I do believe she watches her Genute from heaven wearing her "good" apron. In its pocket is a piece of my heart.

*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.*



# My Mother



By Leonardas Andriėkus  
Translated by Jonas Zdanys

1.

I watched you  
As you threaded the amber  
And decorated your hair with flowers.  
In the beauty of your adornment  
I still see summers playing  
With the rainbows of dawn,  
Plenitudes of blossoms.

You explained that  
Witches weave rainbows,  
The earth gives birth to flowers without pain –  
I saw happiness in your smile:  
The colors of the rainbow,  
The joy of the flower.

But when the wind  
Howled in from the seas  
I saw fear again in your eyes.  
You hurried to thread the amber,  
Finish your stories  
And plait your braids –  
Faster, faster ...

2.

As the sun returns  
To rest in the sea,  
So you returned.  
Each day, thinking of the shores of your birth,  
Your face gleamed  
With the colors of sunset.  
You didn't seem to be yourself,  
Singing of the waves –  
The setting sun warmed your songs,  
The storm shook loose the waves,  
And I remained  
A martyr of the memories of childhood  
And I too  
Was uneasy  
When the sea-winds howled.  
I watched you

Near the shattered amber home –  
You stood in my eyes  
Like a goddess of the seas . . .  
3.

I am indeed  
A martyr of the memories of childhood,  
Though my face hides my secret well –  
Perhaps only that Baltic wave  
Knows my heartache,  
Perhaps only that ocean wind ...

I believe with my whole heart  
That rivers are the daughters of the sea  
And lakes, the sons.  
Nothing clouded my young convictions,  
Not the restless sea,  
Not the terrible ocean whirlwind.

And I would not trade  
My mother's belief:  
The power of song, the truth of stories  
In the amber castle of the sea goddess,  
In the majesty of stormy seas.

.....

Leonard's Andriėkus  
(1914 – 2003)

Leonard's Andriėkus, priest, poet, and editor, was born in a village of Barstyčiai near the city of Mažeikiai in north-western Lithuania. After entering the Franciscan Order in 1935 he studied theology in Austria and Italy, from 1937 to 1941. He was ordained a priest in Milan in 1940 and in 1945 earned his doctorate in Canon Law from Antonianum University in Rome. While in Italy, Father Andriėkus ministered to the needs of Lithuanians stranded in Reggio Emilia refugee camps. He came to the United States in 1946, became involved in the daily activities of the Franciscan Order, and during 1964-1969 served as the Provincial Superior of Lithuanian Franciscans in the U.S. and Canada. He was Chairman of the emigre Lithuanian Writers' Association in 1970-1980 and an editor of cultural magazine Echoes. Leonard's Andriėkus has published five volumes of poetry.

Source: [www.efn.org/~valdas/poezija.html](http://www.efn.org/~valdas/poezija.html)

Translated by Jonas Zdanys



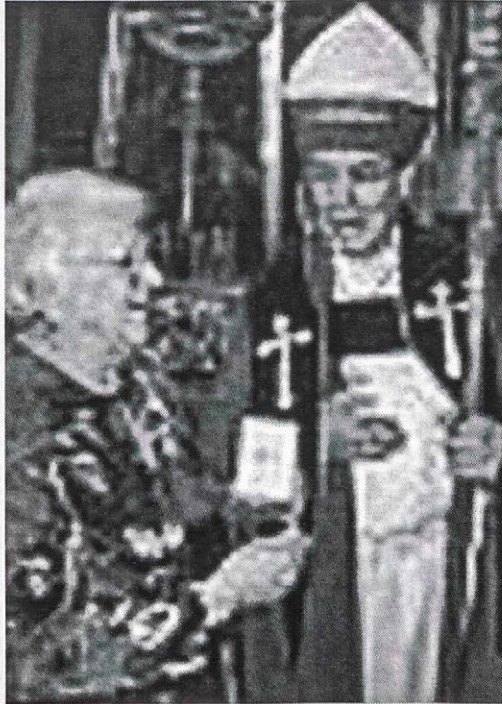


**KAY URBAN  
OF HOLY TRINITY  
ROMAN CATHOLIC  
CHURCH,  
HARTFORD, CT  
RECEIVES  
ST. JOSEPH'S  
MEDAL OF  
APPRECIATION**

Kay Urban of Holy Trinity Roman Catholic Church, Hartford, CT, had the honor of being named recipient of the St. Joseph's Medal of Appreciation for 2008, and received her award on Sunday, March 9, 2008, at St. Joseph's Cathedral in Hartford, CT.

As well as being a life-time member of Holy Trinity Roman Catholic Church, a great part of Kay's life was spent "for the church" in all her activities and presence in the church. Kay is a wonderful example of enthusiasm and "get out and do it". One in particular stands out in the loving way she saw to it that her late brother, Tommy, (who was mentally challenged) attended mass and many church functions. Kay was very devoted to him.

Kay was past President of the former Blessed Mother Sodality, past President of the Knights of Lithuania, Council 6, Hartford, and President of the former Lithuanian American Roman Catholic Women's Alliance (LARC), Chapter 17, Hartford. She is presently Chairperson of Ritual for the Knights of Lithuania, Council 6,



*Kay Urban and Archbishop Henry J. Mansell*

Hartford. Kay was also National Vice-President of LARC.

Instrumental in having the Lithuanian American Roman Catholic Women's Alliance obtain the outdoor church sign for Holy Trinity Roman Catholic Church, Hartford, Kay would also call membership in the event of a member's demise so that a Court of Honor would be held at a funeral mass. Per her suggestion, other items have been purchased for the rectory, as well as providing Paschal Candles for Holy Trinity Church for many years.

Kay was instrumental in planning and getting 45 people together for a pilgrimage to Washington, DC, during 2006 to honor Our Lady of Šiluva shrine at the Immaculate Conception Basilica (the first apparition in Europe in Lithuania.) The Shrine of Our Lady of Šiluva was rededicated after 40 years.

She is on the Svilkas-Tamulavich Scholarship Committee for the Knights of Lithuania, Council 6, Hartford - National - and was influential in giving a Lithuanian Seminarian from the Holy Apostles Order a scholarship. This man later became a priest.

Kay is instrumental in the on-going "Save a Stamp-Save a Child" project encouraging people to save foreign and domestic stamps, eyeglasses and faces of greeting cards. The greeting cards are used for art projects by orphanages in Lithuania and eye glasses are sent there as well. Initially, they are sent

to Sister Helen Ivanauskas (organizer of the Lithuanian Children's Relief project) in Brockton, Massachusetts, who sends them to Lithuania.

*This article/picture is presented by Leona E. Sawka, Vytis Correspondent for Knights of Lithuania, Council 6, Hartford, CT.*

**CORRECTION**

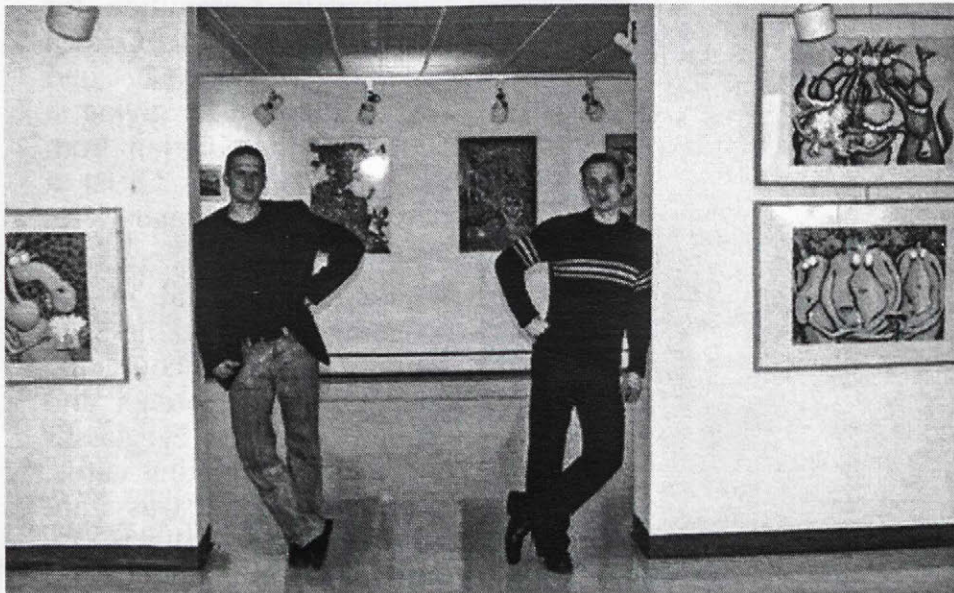
In the March issue it was stated that the Sisters of St. Casimir were founded in Paterson, NJ. The order was founded in Scranton, PA in 1907.

As added information the picture of the young St. Casimir on page 5 was painted by J. Aponovich, and was dedicated at St. Patrick Parish in Nashua, New Hampshire 2003. The picture is in his parish in New Hampshire.

*Many thanks to Sister Margaret Petcavage SSC for the correction and added information.*



## YOUNG AND TALENTED LITHUANIAN ARTISTS WOW THE CROWD!



*GIRO's debut: the first joint artistic exhibition "It is the way it is" (in Lithuanian: "Yra kaip yra" - Chicago, Ciurlionis gallery, January 6, 2007.*

*Photo is from the artists' personal album*

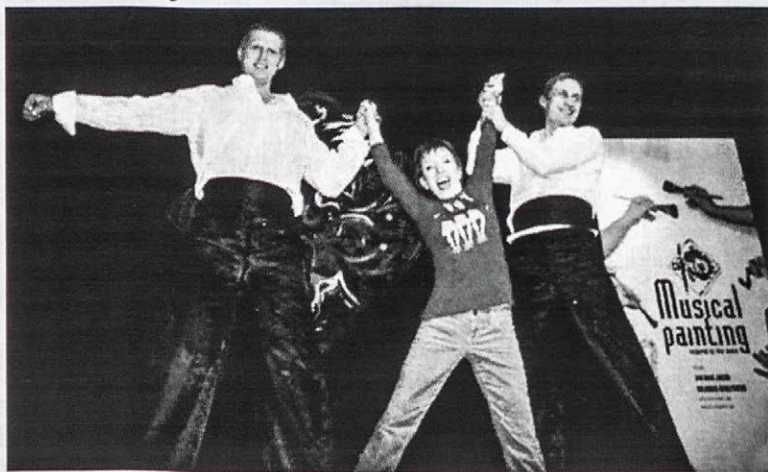
Our daily life is just a routine. Day after day life is usually the same. Some days are down right boring. But there are some things that can make our days better – nice weather, a delicious meal, meeting an old friend, winning the lottery, a beautiful house and of course a nice piece of art. I am really happy that I can introduce you to two young and talented Lithuanian artists who live on the East Coast. Their art and their shows delight young and old alike.

Rolandas Kiaulevicius ([www.RolandasArt.com](http://www.RolandasArt.com)) currently lives in Connecticut. He was born in the small Lithuanian village of Sankonys to a family comprised of his parents and three sisters. During his studies in Lithuania, he joined the Šiauliai University Lithuanian folk dancing group "Saulė". With his good friends in Šiauliai University they edited a humorous newspaper for the students. Subsequently Rolandas became interested in fashion design. In fact he hosted three shows, inviting other fashion designers to join the wonderful and

marvelous event. Rolandas met a beautiful and wonderful person, his life's love, Laura. After two years together she went to the USA with an au Pair program. After Rolandas finished his studies and gained a bachelor's degree from the University of Art in Šiauliai (Lithuania) he followed her to America. Here he completed a master's degree in illustration from Western Connecticut State University. The young couple were married and now live in Branford, Connecticut. Rolandas produces murals for homes and businesses.

In 2006 Rolandas Kiaulevicius wrote and illustrated his first children's book "Zoolidays".

Rolandas really loves nature and that is what inspires him. He is a very energetic person and likes to make others laugh. He does this through his art. He made a costume of Blue Moose (the hero from the book) and during two years Rolandas visited more than 50 schools in Connecticut doing artistic presentations of his book. Rolandas also teaches at Eastern Connecticut State University. He is not only a wonderful artist, he is an excellent dancer. He performs with the Lithuanian folk dance group in Hartford and also with the Connecticut Ballroom Theatre. He has won the Tassy Walden Award from the Guilford Art Association, among others, and was recently named the Griswold Special Care Artist of



*Performance artists Rolandas Kiaulevicius and Gintaras Jocius suspend sponsor Lesley Mills of Griswold Special Care.*

*Photo by Collin Knapp*

the Year. The company, which provides personal care and homemaking to keep elders live independently at home, has seven offices in Connecticut. It developed the Artist of the Year Award to provide year-long support to "an artist who has demonstrated a strong work ethic and commitment to their profession while enriching the



community at large.” The award comes with the company’s commitment to support the artist monetarily and with consulting services. “We recognize that in addition to immediate revenue, many artists need support in building their micro-enterprises,” said Lesley Mills, owner and director of Griswold Special Care. She is the past president of Connecticut’s National Association of Women Business Owners.

Gintaras Jocius ([www.GintarasArt.com](http://www.GintarasArt.com)) resides in New Jersey at the moment. He was born in Vilnius, the capital of Lithuania. He received his master’s degree in stage design from the Academy of Fine Arts (Vilnius, Lithuania) in 1994. Gintaras illustrated his first children’s book in 1992 soon after his daughter Aistė was born. He has continued working for the Lithuanian publishing houses. By 2008, he has formatted dozens of children’s books and a few graphic novels. Like Columbus discovering America, Gintaras Jocius discovered other fields of art. Since 2001 when he came to America, he began painting for art shows, making murals, drawing funny portraits and cartoons. Gintaras even started writing. A couple of his very interesting and creative articles appeared in one of the most popular Lithuanian weekly newspaper in the United States, “Amerikos lietuvis” (The Lithuanian-American Weekly). Since 2003, Gintaras has been participating in different art shows. In 2008 the Čiurlionis Art Gallery (Chicago, IL) hosted an exhibition and contest of the Lithuanian artists. Out of the artwork of sixty five immigrants, his canvases “Barbora” (2003) and “The Amber Lady” (2003) were awarded second prize. Gintaras Jocius works in the graphic design field, creates children’s books and comics as well as gorgeous art pieces.

On one of those beautiful days the two talented men met each other and Rolandas Kiaulevicius and Gintaras Jocius merged their artistic forces. In 2007 out of their mutual artistic work the wonderful team was born. Together they started an unusual and marvelous GIRO show (GIntaras+ROlandas). This show has a very special meaning to these artists. Around the Lithuanian Communities in the United States their unusual perform-



Artistic Performance Team GIRO-Gintaras Jocius and Rolandas Kiaulevicius  
Photo by Dalia Shilas

ances triggered an echo of joyful welcome from children for Story Time Extravaganza as well as from the more mature audiences for Painting to Live Music.

One of the latest GIRO shows took place on March 29th in Branford, Connecticut. It was their first show in this state and it received an enthusiastic response from the 250 attendees. That is what one of the show’s sponsor Lesley Mills said about it: “The show almost defies description and was a challenge to promote because it is so original and unusual. The description on the poster says, “Live painting inspired by live music and dance,” but that doesn’t do justice to the creativity that exploded that evening. Nor does it speak to the

attraction that it held for both adults and the children, many of whom sat up close on the stage. “First night” always conjures images of glitches and delays but the spectators, including many fellow countrymen, were relaxed and patient, particularly when the buffet and wine bar were opened early, giving many friends an opportunity to socialize. So the entertainment began with an already receptive audience”.



During the opening of the exhibition “The Signs of Water” at the Lithuanian Art Museum in Lemont, IL. Gintaras and Rolandas continued to draw to live music while a crowd gathered to watch them.

Photo from Rolandas’ personal album.

The program includes the unusual “GIRO” painting. Rolandas and Gintaras were creating amazing pieces of art while intelligent music was performed. There was also the band RAT brought in from Chicago to perform.

Continued on page 10



## Embassy News

On May 3, 2008 the European Union Embassies and the European Commission Delegation to the U.S. in Washington, DC will open their doors to everybody!

Following last year's success, with some 35,000 visits to participating Embassies and the EC Delegation, the 2008 EU Open House inaugurates Europe Week (May 3-10) and opens Passport DC (May 3 - 17), a two-week celebration of international culture in DC coordinated by Cultural Tourism DC.

On Saturday, May 3, the EU Embassies and the EC Delegation will once again invite Washington-area residents and visitors to experience the diversity and richness of European culture. From 10:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m., visitors will get a rare behind-the-scenes look at the European Embassies, many of which are among Washington's historic and architectural treasures. Each Embassy will present its activities and offer a unique program featuring the country's cuisine, music, and other events for the whole family.

However, the European fiesta will not end on May 3! The EU Open House kicks off Europe Week, a week long celebration of European culture in Washington, DC. From May 3 to May 10, enjoy the rhythms of European classical and modern music, admire the performances and voices of European actors and singers, or simply stroll among some of Europe's most beautiful paintings and pictures. All cultural events will be hosted by EU Embassies or by cultural institutions in Washington, DC.

*See you in Europe on May 3-10, 2008!*

*More information at:*

*[www.europe-in-dc.com](http://www.europe-in-dc.com), [www.culturaltourismdc.org](http://www.culturaltourismdc.org)*

Dear Editor!

Re: Renaissance Polish- Lithuanian Winged Hussars, Bridges March 2008, page 18

*The article contains a glaring error.*

Vytautas the Great fought that battle of Zalgire/Tannenberg/Grunwald 1410 against the German Crusaders and not against the Russians.

This fact is well known in Europe.

A big painting of this event is hanging in the fortress – castle of Trakai - admired by Tourists.

You can find info on this battle in the English-language book

A History of Lithuania, by C. Koncius available at Draugas 4545 63rd Street, Chicago, Illinois 60629

Tel - 773-585-9500 Fax-773-585-8284  
[www.DRAUGAS.org](http://www.DRAUGAS.org)

Elizabeth Verikas  
Racine, WI

Editor's Note: *Thank you for taking time to share this information.*

*Continued from page 9*

### LITHUANIAN ARTISTS WOW THE CROWD!

during the show. It included the performance of ballroom dancers. The paintings created during the show later were presented for the auction. There was a raffle and dancing for everyone. And of course there were delicious snacks, drinks and wine. What else would you dream of during an art show?

The first act was a "shadow painting" created on a dark stage with a backlit blank canvas. Bach and Beethoven music inspired the two artists who were hidden from view. Everyone was watching as the brush strokes appeared as if by magic, first general stokes then layer upon layer until, miraculously, Mona Lisa appeared. "One expects that DaVinci took longer than the GIRO show's 10 minutes in his creation but we had a creditable version" – says Lesley.

Act two belonged to choreographer and dancer Alex Scott performing with two partners. Scott teaches in Baltimore at Let's Dance in Rhythm, in Branford. He is also a professional ballroom dance judge and long-time coach of the Yale Ballroom Team. His first partner, the sequined Sherry Gethers, joined him in a hot salsa and the pair drew loud applause. Marta Matchabelli smoked a cha-cha to the delight of the audience. The number, "Mambo Italiano", appears in Sentimental Journey, the current production of the Connecticut Ballroom Theatre that was co-founded by Scott, Susan Woods and Laurent Mullen (owners of Let's Dance in Rhythm).

Finally, a black square canvas hung on the diagonal was unveiled and contemplated by the artists on stilts. Musing briefly, they began to paint simultaneously to the music, criss-crossing each other frequently with surprising comfort and balance. Purple, red, gold and black colors dominated as the paint covered the canvas and only toward the end did it coalesce in the striking form of a dancer clad in swirling skirts. The evening concluded with a spirited raffling of the stunning artwork.

The GIRO show has previously performed in California, Chicago and Boston. Everyone is more than welcome to attend any of the upcoming GIRO shows that will be held in New York, New Jersey and California. For more about the art and upcoming events of Rolandas Kiaulevicius and Gintaras Jocius you can check their websites. I am sure each and every one of you will enjoy it. So let's wish these two young and talented artists good luck in their future and hopefully we'll meet with you, our dearest readers, at one of their performances.

*Eugenija Misevičius*

*Eugenija Misevičius is a graduate of the University of Bridgeport, Bridgeport, CT. She serves as the secretary of the Lithuanian Journalist Association. Her passion is reading, traveling and participation in amateur sports such as martial arts. She and her husband, Laurynas, participate in many Lithuanian events.*

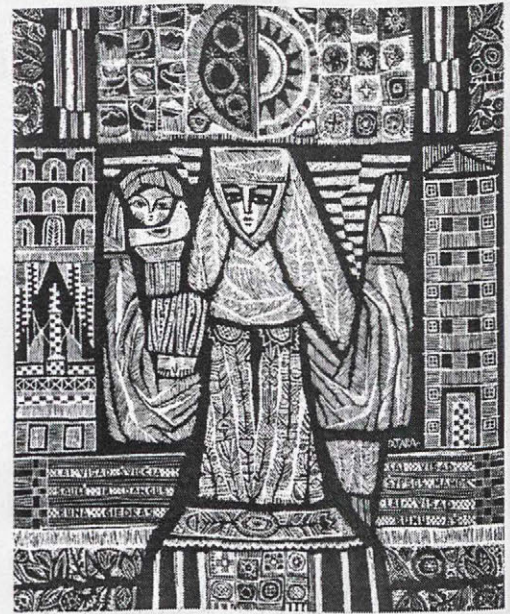


## Something About the Artist!

**Domicelė Tarabildienė**  
(1912-1985)

Engraver, sculptor, wife of Petras Tarabilda, born in Andrioniskis, county of Utena, on April 26, 1912. After graduating from Kaunas Art School (1935), she continued studying in Paris (1937-39). At the Paris World's Fair (1937), she won a grand prix for her Lithuanian dolls and a gold medal for her illustrations. Up to the present she has illustrated more than 100 publications, a sizeable portion of them for children. Her Work for *šimtas liaudies baladžių* (A Hundred Folk Ballads, 1940) won the Lithuanian state prize. Other books illustrated by her include Jadvyga Čiurlionylė's *Lietuvių liaudies dainos vaikams* (Lithuanian Folk Songs for Children, 1948), Žemaitė's *Raštai* (Writings, 1949), and Maironis' ballad *Jūratė ir Kastytis* (Jūratė and Kastytis). She has also executed thematic compositions, such as *Saulė* (The Sun, 1967) and *Žuvėlė* (The Little Fish, 1967), as well as portraits (Jonas Jablonskis, Kristijonas Donelaitis, Žemaitė) and sculptures. The list of her individual exhibits is impressive. She is well represented in a number of museums behind the Iron Curtain (former Soviet Union). Her engravings are colorful and show a keen sense of rhythm and the influence of folk art.

\* *ENCYCLOPEDIA LITUANICA*



*The Sun, 1967*

*Linocut by Domicelė Tarabildienė*

*This copy of the print is from the book "Lietuvos Dailė"*

### **Dr. Algirdas Maciunas**

Dr. Algirdas Maciunas died March 22, 2008 at the age of 95. He was born on January 10, 1913 in Papilė, Lithuania, the son of Juozas and Juozapina (Sauciunaite) Maciunas. He grew up in Linkuva and graduated from the Vytautas the Great Medical School in Kaunas, where he would later be head of surgery. In 1939, he married odontologist Genovaitė Strikaitė.

Having moved to Germany during the war, Dr. Maciunas helped the US Army set up a hospital for displaced persons in Augsburg after the war. Upon moving to the US, he founded and for many years headed up the Central Community Hospital in Chicago. Upon moving to Jupiter, Florida, he founded and headed up the Oak Tree Philanthropic Foundation which donated generously to efforts to improve the lives and education of those living in Lithuania and to various American organizations. His wife, Dr. Genovaitė Maciunienė, died in 2007.

Dr. Algirdas Maciunas is deeply mourned by his children and their families: daughter Dr. Danutė Mockienė and her husband Dr. Vytautas Mockus and grandchildren Dr. Danutė and her husband Michael, Rimas and Andrius; daughter Dr. Gražina McClure and her husband Dr. Michael McClure; daughter Dr. Jūratė Landwehr and her husband Dr. Carl Landwehr and grandson Peter; son Dr. Robertas Maciunas and his wife Dr. Ann Failinger and grandsons Nicholas and Joseph; the widow Genovaitė of his late brother, Dr. Vincas Maciunas, and their sons Vytautas and Algis and their wives Alė and Liucija.

The funeral took place in Lemont, Illinois.

In lieu of flowers, those wishing to donate may contribute to the Jesuit High School in Kaunas, Lithuanian, Jesuits Fathers – Baltic Project .

Dr. Maciunas was the uncle of Vytas Maciunas, national president of the Lithuanian American Community.

*Bridges extends deepest sympathy to the Maciunas family.*



## My Search for My Lithuanian Roots



My research into my Lithuanian background has resulted in some interesting and some anecdotal findings. I am convinced that there is much to be learned from doing genetic mapping. For example, there must be a genealogical interest gene, a shopping gene, an electronics gene and a clutter gene. My sister could care less about the family tree while I spend hours trying to track down any and all branches. Meanwhile, she goes out shopping and I get uncomfortable if I stay in a store for over 15 minutes. As for electronics, so many Lithuanians are interested in it and my father was an electrician. As for the clutter gene, certain family members became

experts in accumulating goods of no apparent value which could fill a dumpster or two when the stuff finally had to be removed.

All of the above leads me to the fact that some family members are interested in genealogy and can be very helpful to one's search efforts and others are not. Therefore, the first guideline is to find those family members with the genealogical gene and compare notes with them. Often times, this may be the domain of the in-law as I have found that women are much more interested in the family background than the men. (Yes Pete and Valcovas - this refers to you.)

Going through the

Ellis Island Web site

(<http://www.ellisland.org/>) requires patience. About the only fact that was for certain in my family search was the sex. Name and age were not very helpful. Of course, most descendants know that names may have been changed upon arrival in the US but this is only partially correct. The documents which form the Ellis Island data base are from the ship's records which were created at the port of departure. A site that is helpful when spelling is

<http://www.jewishgen.org/databases/EIDB/ellis.html> For my maternal grandfather, the only two letters that were the same as

the name I knew him by were the first and the last! Oh, those vowels! Sometimes the vowels were "ei," other times, "ie" or even a "y." According to my findings, the spelling of my grandfather's name had six variations.

Even when spelled correctly, there were often changed with names. In looking at the city documents for the 1920's that recorded residents by addresses, I could not find my paternal grandfather but did find another man at the address whose name was spelled the same except for the first letter. When I mentioned this to my aunt, she said that "the other Man" was indeed my grandfather. It seems that he was not in good relations with one of his relatives with the same last name who lived in the area so he changed the first letter of his last name so the city wouldn't confuse the two. So, at times, even the first letter of the last name isn't helpful.





Trying to determine someone's age and birthday also brought some laughs but didn't help my searching. In a letter that my great grandmother who remained in Lithuania wrote to her daughter, Great Grandma told my Grandmother to ask her brother when she (grandmother) asked how old she was as "He is three years older than you." If your own mother doesn't know how old you are, well ....

The other interesting information on age was derived from birth certificates of my various aunts. When the oldest was born, my grandparents were the same age; by the time the fifth child was born, Grandpa was five years older than Grandma. Amazing!

Country of origin on various documents for my family could be Lithuania or Russia. When I telephoned some people with the same last name as part of my family, I opened the conversation with "You wouldn't happen to be Lithuanian, would you?" One respondent replied that they were Polish. Well, in the old days, some Lithuanians changed nationality for status reasons not to mention that country border also changed. The next person I called hesitated when I asked if he was Lithuanian. Why? It is not an answer you should have to think about.

Directly asking family member for genealogical information was never helpful to me. It was casual comments that were a total surprise that offered the greatest information. I

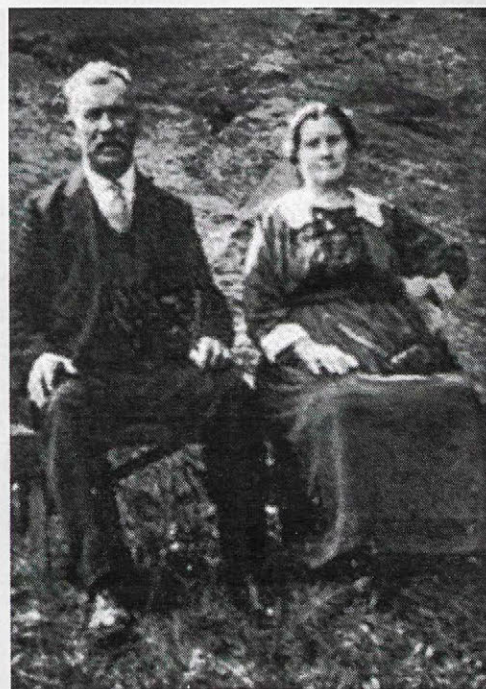


had assumed that all my great grandparents were buried in Lithuania or Siberia but one day my mother says, "Oh no, Grandpa's mom is buried in Connecticut." No one had ever mentioned that she had come to the US. So I started asking around my aunts for information. Only one aunt remembered the funeral as it took place in the house where she lived and she must have been five or six years old at the time. Okay. I never thought to ask my uncle, the youngest of the children, about her because he wasn't even born then. But, one day in causal conversation he says, "Oh, I know where she is buried. We used to go visit her grave when I was growing up." So those are some of the joys and frustration I encountered doing my genealogical research. Now, I have to ask a favor of you. Does anyone recognize the name and women in this pic-

ture? And, what do you think the spelling of this name is? It came from church records (The church will not allow me to see other names so I can compare the writing for "privacy reasons." If you do, please contact me at the address below. It would really help my search for my Lithuanian roots.

*Dorothy Minkus-McKenna*

*Dorothy Minkus-McKenna is a consultant and professor of marketing and international business at Berkeley College in New York City. She received her doctorate from Pace University and her MBA from New York University. She may be reached at [minkusmck@aol.com](mailto:minkusmck@aol.com) or PO Box 2442, Darien, CT 06820.*



1913  
 Jul 7. Mai Mottua aka Wojdolna  
 Cepalione 70 am. Sepucta aka die 9  
 Moiri in St. Benedict's Cemetery  
 Hartford  
 I wanted to know if anyone could identify the names.



## LAUNA Tournament

The annual LAUNA (Lithuanian Athletic Union of North America) basketball competition for men 35 years and older was held in Elizabeth, New Jersey this spring. On April 5th, six teams from the US and Canada came together to the Garden State's historically most Lithuanian city in their quest for a special trophy brought by the organization's Northeastern chair Mr. Žilvinas Bublīs from Kaunas a few days before the games, which took place in the newly renovated Dr. Albert Einstein's High School gym.

Surprisingly Chicago, where the largest number of Lithuanians resides outside of Lithuania and where a Lithuanian Basketball League has existed for 5 years did not compete. However the Windy City did get some representation - three referees flew into Newark, NJ the night before the tournament to serve as the officials of all LAUNA Senior basketball tourney games. As was expected, the local team New Jersey "Liepsna-1" ("The Flame") defeated their competitors to claim the gold medals and the Cup was presented to the team's captain Marijus Kuzavas, who also received a monetary prize from one of the officials, Mr. Žydrūnas Širvinskas from Chicago.

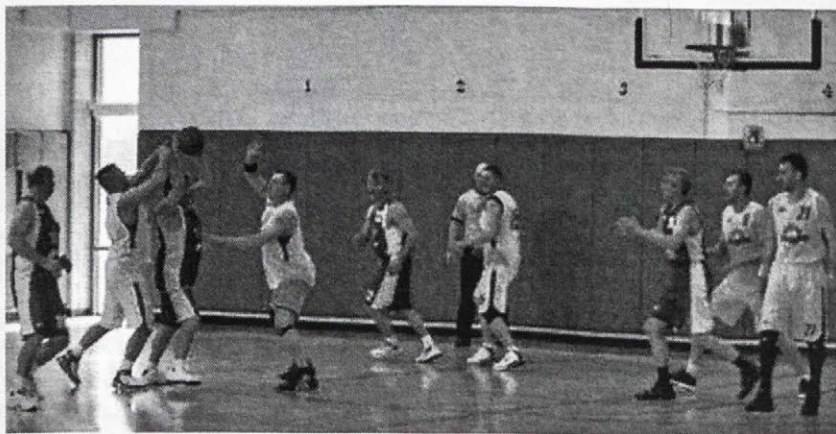
The MVP prize presented by the organizers went to another player from the New Jersey Lithuanian American Community sports club - the "Liepsna-2" leader



*The championship winners "Liepsna-1" from New Jersey shown with the referees from the Chicago Lithuanian Basketball League*

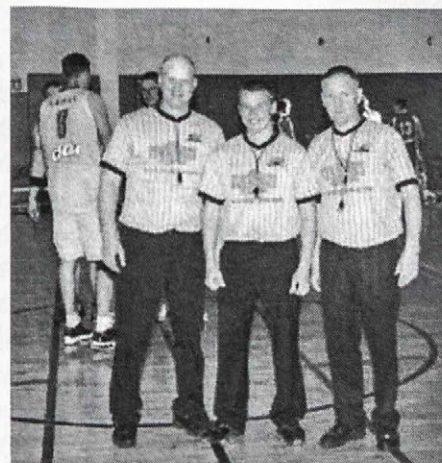
Darius Babkauskas. Second and third places were taken by New York's "LAK-2" and "LAK-1" squads respectively, the latter of which narrowly defeated Hamilton "Kovas" in the bronze medal game.

The tournament was well organized - thanks to the LAC Elizabeth, NJ chapter treasurer Mr. Rimantas Bitėnas for his great role. Because of his efforts the City of Elizabeth Board of Education granted LAUNA the right to use the Dr. Einstein's High School gym. LAUNA is most grateful to them.



*The final moments in the championship game for the gold medal when New Jersey "Liepsna-1" defeated New York's "LAK-2"*

Saturday night was danced away by the tournament participants and guests as they gathered in the Lithuanian Sts. Peter and Paul Church parish hall to rock according to various styles of music, professionally prepared by DJ's Rimas and Arvydas from Connecticut. We are looking forward to the future basketball events, the first of which will be going on around Washington D.C. organized by the Lithuanian Embassy in U.S. on April 26, 2008.



*The referees from that Lithuanian Basketball League of Chicago: (from left) Žydrūnas Širvinskas, Evaldas Monstavičius and Giedrius Jovaiša.*

*Laurynas (Larry) R. Misevičius, Chair - LAUNA Board*

*Photos by Algis Navikauskas Brookfield, CT*



Jeanne Dorr

# News and Views

## Companies experience difficulties in finding new employees

Vilnius-In Lithuania, seven out of ten companies admit that it is becoming more and more difficult for them to find new employees and four out of ten companies believe that the main cause of the lack of employees is emigration.

These results were revealed by the survey of over 500 companies in various areas throughout Lithuania performed by the Economy and Legal Consultations Center.

"Some residents emigrate because they do not have enough qualification or experience to find a well-paid job in Lithuania, for others the inflexibility of working hours is the same problems. These people could be preserved if the employers could apply created and checked methods of the integration of employees, "Živilė Baronienė, representative of the theme network of the programme EQUAL, which takes care about the integration of people with low qualifications into the working market.

According to the data presented by the Lithuanian Department of Statistics, almost half of the immigrants are between 20 and 34 years old. The majority of them had no work in Lithuania before leaving.

## Monthly volume of cargo handled in Lithuanian sea port exceeds record

Klaipėda - In March this year, 2.88 million tonnes of cargo were loaded in the Port of Klaipėda - this is the highest monthly load ever. Compared to March last year, cargo load advanced 26.2 percent last month.

In the third month of 2008, the load of liquid and loose cargo advanced 37 percent and 54.4 percent respectively.

The load of general cargo went down 6.4 percent year-on-year.

This March over 16,000 passengers visited Klaipėda, an increase of 9.3 percent compared to the same month last year.

Over the first three months of this year, a total of 7.89 million tons of cargo were loaded, an increase of 23.7 percent compared to January-March 2007.

The load of containers (including TEU) advanced 21.6 percent and the load of ro-ro units remained stable.

The total number of passengers visiting Klaipėda sea port in January-March this year advanced 8.4 percent year-on-year and reached 42,100 people.

In Butinge Terminal, 1.95 million tons of crude oil were loaded, an increase of 2.1 times. This growth mainly resulted from doubling of the number of tanks served at the terminal. In January-March 2008, 19 tanks were served, ten tanks more compared to the same period last year.

## ECONOMY

A slump in birth rate and emigration, which reduced the number of potential employees make employers not only complain, but also raise salaries and think hard of new ways of labor force attraction. They start to understand that a simple job advertisement on the internet or address to stock exchange is not enough. Originality helps in the light of the reduction of labor force.

VAKARU EKSPRESAS

Almost half of the Lithuanian residents believe that there are enough immigrants in the country and one should not permit their number to increase. The majority of residents (56 percent) admit that people arriving from abroad to live and work in Lithuania are beneficial for the national economy. However, 47 percent of all respondents believe that there are enough immigrants in Lithuania. They think that the authorities should not permit larger

number of immigrants to arrive into our country, the results of the survey conducted by RAIT revealed.

LIETUVOS RYTAS

## Positions of democracy weaken

Vilnius-(ELTA)-The number of residents satisfied with the way democracy operates in Lithuania is decreasing. A year ago 13 percent more residents were satisfied with the way with the way democracy functions in Lithuania compared to March 2008 when only 35 percent of all respondents expressed satisfaction.

In March, more than half of all Lithuanians (57 percent) were dissatisfied with the way democracy functions in Lithuania. Eight percent of all respondents had no opinion on this matter.

Over the month, the number of residents dissatisfied with the way democracy operates in Lithuania advanced 4 percentage points.

## It is purposeful to review law on legal status of foreigners - Jursenas

Vilnius-(ELTA)-According to Seimas Speaker Ceslovas Jursenas, since the situation has changed it is necessary to take into account the interests of major partners and review the law on legal status of foreigners.

Jursenas noted that such strict law had been passed in order to protect the then young state from the influx of undesirable people from third countries.

US ambassador John Claud who took part in the working lunch with Seimas Speaker on Monday, regretted that Lithuania's laws for foreigners who are not EU citizens and want to work and study in Lithuania restricted opportunities to bring together family members. Therefore, according to the ambassador, some scientists and businessmen choose other resident countries. This also hampers the attraction of US investment to Lithuania.

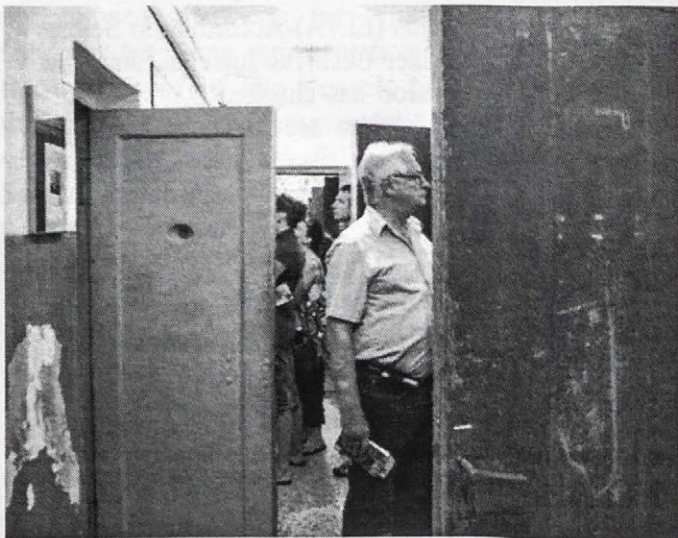
Information Center for  
Homecoming Lithuanians



## Looking Back

Last summer I spent ten days in Vilnius as part of a research trip to Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia. This was my first trip back to Lithuania since I lived in Kaunas as a Fulbright student in 1993-1994. It was also my first trip to Lithuania after starting the Ph.D. program in History at the University of Washington. I wondered what I would think of Lithuania thirteen years later, especially since I had taken the big step of leaving a career to return to graduate school and study Lithuanian history.

My first impression was how beautiful Vilnius is. Many of the buildings in Old Town and on Gedminas Street have been restored. I spent a whole day just walking around the city appreciating how lovely it is. Another big change after thirteen years was the number of shops and restaurants. Pop music played in the shops and restaurants and people on the street were dressed in the latest fashions. Vilnius looked like any other city in the European Union.



*Museum visitor views KGB prison cells, Museum of Genocide Victims, Vilnius*

Yet Lithuania's experience as part of the Soviet Union was not far beneath the surface. At the far end of Gedminas Street is the Museum of Genocide Victims. The museum is located in the building that housed the KGB headquarters from the beginning of the Soviet occupation in 1940. The museum was established in 1992 by the Ministry of Culture and



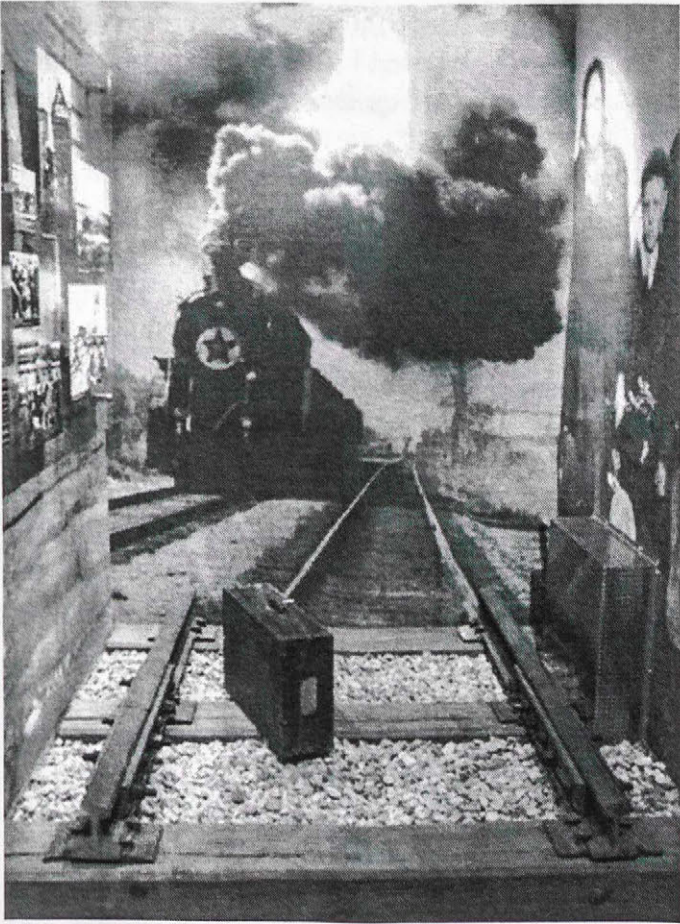
*Exhibit at Museum of Genocide Victims*

Education and the Union of Political Prisoners and Deportees. The museum's exhibits focus on the executions and deportations carried out by the Soviets and the partisan war against the Soviet occupation from 1940 to 1953. The exhibit then jumps forward in time and ends with a small display about the Lithuanian independence movement in the late 1980s. When I asked the public relations director what the museum's goal is, she said that they want visitors to gain an understanding of the tragedy of the Soviet occupation and to know that the Lithuanians fought back.

Since Lithuania regained its independence, there has been a great deal of research on the 1940s and early 1950s, documenting Soviet crimes against the Lithuanian people and Lithuania's resistance to Soviet rule. And Lithuanians are rightly proud of their independence movement that contributed to the demise of the Soviet Union. Yet as I stood in the hall of the Museum of Genocide Victims, I was struck by the enormity of the history that exists between these two time periods.

I believe that it is very important to study the 1960s and 1970s because we have a great deal to learn about the everyday lived experience of Lithuanians under the Soviet regime. By studying these decades, we can better understand how Lithuanians maintained their national identity under Soviet occupation and understand the different ways in which





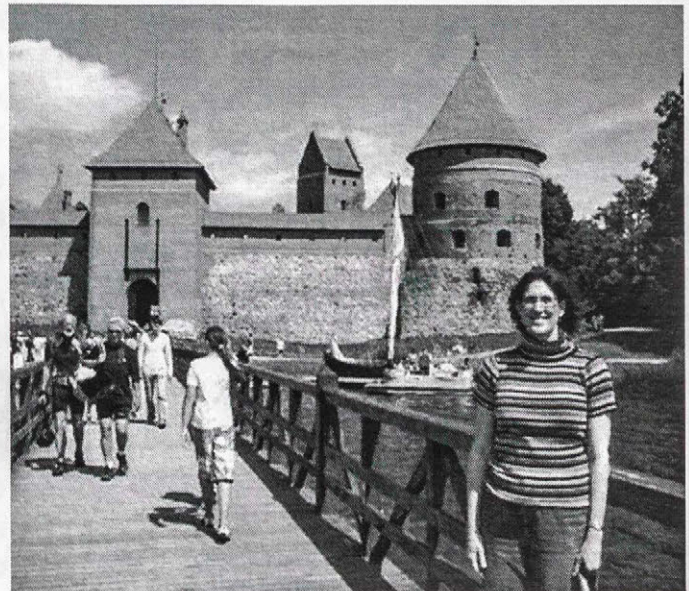
*Deportation display, Museum of Genocide Victims, Vilnius*

Lithuanians resisted and had to accommodate to Soviet rule. As a result, my dissertation research will focus on the social and political consequences of Romas Kalanta's self-immolation on May 14, 1972 in Kaunas and the two days of demonstrations that followed his death.

It is also important to study how Lithuanians, as well as Latvians and Estonians, are telling the story of the occupation years. Another project that I am working on is a comparative study of the three museums that were established in the Baltic countries to present the history of the Soviet period - the Occupation Museums of Estonia and Latvia and the Museum of Genocide Victims in Lithuania. In this project I am examining the different ways in which the history of the Soviet occupation is being presented, both the story that is being told and the way it is being told through different types of exhibitions. Each of these museums takes a different approach to presenting the history of the Soviet years. These museums can serve as case studies of the ways in which museums and

the societies that they represent integrate a traumatic past into their understanding of their history.

The importance of further understanding and documenting Lithuania's experience as part of the Soviet Union is clear just by following the news in Lithuania. The debates over lustration laws which have occurred over the last six months are one example of how the Soviet past continues to affect Lithuania's present. I hope that my research will contribute to these conversations in a positive way.



*Amanda at Trakai, July 2007*

I returned to Seattle after my summer trip excited about my second year in graduate school. After taking my Ph.D. exams in Fall 2008, I plan to return to Lithuania for a year to do my dissertation research. When I am in Lithuania and tell people that I study Lithuanian history, they always say to me, "Lithuania has a very complicated history." My response is "that's why I want to study it." Lithuania does have a complicated - a fascinating one. I am glad that I have the opportunity to study it. I am especially grateful to the Lithuanian Foundation, Inc. for supporting my graduate studies with a grant in 2007.

*Amanda Swain*

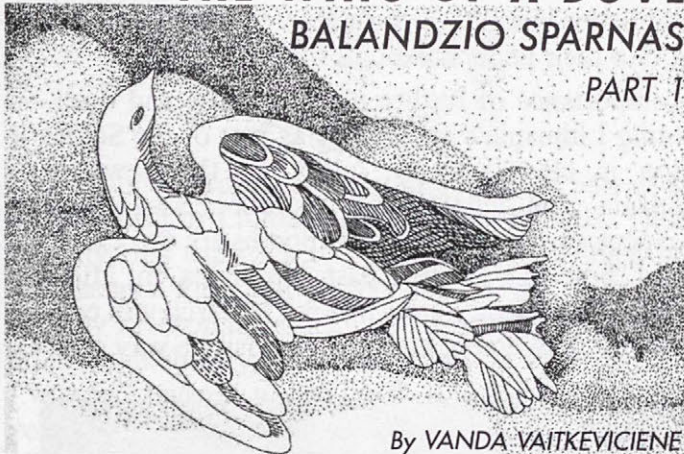
*Amanda Swain lives in Seattle, where she likes to cross-country ski and hike when she isn't studying. She enjoys traveling and always visits museums where she goes. Prior to starting the Ph.D. program in History at the University of Washington, she was Associate Director for Humanities Washington and Executive Director of the Arizona Humanities Council.*



## THE WING OF A DOVE

BALANDZIO SPARNAS

PART I



By VANDA VAITKEVICIENE

English Translation by GLORIA O'BRIEN

As evening shadows fell, the church bell rang the "Angelus", summoning the faithful to break from their work, their daily cares and earthly joys, and for at least a short time, to remember the Almighty and the world of the spirit. The sounds reverberated through trees in deep shadow, passed through the silver rays of the rising moon, and casting a pall of tranquility over the busy city, touched tall buildings with their soft music, then continued, echoing into the distance.

A man walked the street. His step was weary, like that of a soldier completing a long march. He seemed bent and completely exhausted, with no idea where his fateful road would end. His face was seen as he passed under a streetlamp: pale and stiffened features, staring eyes, mouth hanging open in a silent, fearful moan. A woman hurrying by, glanced at him and thought: "Drunk, perhaps, or mad? Does he even know where he's going?" Overtaken by fear, she crossed to the other side of the street.

And the sound of the bell reached this strange man, as if bringing him out of a deep sleep. He stopped, shuddering, and whispered: "Church bells ringing. The Lord is calling! Where am I?" Looking around, he saw that he stood in front of a small white church. Pulling himself together, he stepped into the house of God. It was dark inside the church, only the small votive candles and large red sanctuary lamp casting their flickering light over all. A comfortable silence prevailed. Light, hurrying footsteps announced the entrance of an elderly fellow, carrying a flashlight and a large key: the sacristan,

Tercijonas, about to lock up for the night. He was startled to see a person standing at the altar.

"What nerve!", thought Tercijonas. "As if he were a priest or something, to pass the altar rail and stand leaning on the altar, staring at God! And so poorly dressed! And his shoes are worn and filthy!"

"Sir, please leave the church. I must close and lock up for the night". The man didn't answer, nor did he move at all. Tercijonas, now irritated, stepped closer to the man and repeated his request a bit more strongly.

The man turned and replied, "Well then, go ahead and lock up! I will stay here! I came in to find God. I want to speak with Him".

"Insane!", Tercijonas muttered, and hurried to the rectory next door. Father Viskantas, the pastor, after calming the excitable old man, heard all about "the madman who wanted to be locked in the church overnight, and who was waving a fistful of white feathers all around, claiming he was going to talk to God". The priest remarked, "Well, this is certainly something peculiar", and himself walked to the church, the sacristan bustling after.

Silently, they passed through the sacristy to the church proper, where the pastor saw a person standing at the altar, and heard a ghostly voice echoing through the twilight silence. The man was apparently praying aloud.

"Oh God, if you are really there, hear me, oh please hear me! Please don't take my little Petras from me, I beg you! I will believe, that You do exist, only have mercy! I know that I am not worthy. I am a doubter, and an angry father. I have killed my own son....."

And the man was consumed by dreadful sobbing, his entire body shaking in grief. He fell to his knees, and as he prostrated himself, a white object fell out his hand and rested at the foot of the altar. The pastor, deeply moved, understood that this was no madman, but a person enduring cruel suffering, a wounded soul. Quietly, he approached the fallen white object and, picking it up, was amazed. "A dove's wing!" he thought.



The man rose, and beating his chest, staring at the cross, spoke again. "God, I have killed my own son, do You hear me?! I killed him, though I didn't intend it. I love him. He is my own. Have mercy, God, revive him. Don't take him from me. You will find he is still alive, please have mercy and revive him!"

Father Viskantas laid soft hands upon the fellow, and in a soothing voice, spoke: "Calm yourself. Who calls upon the Lord, will always be heard. Come, come with me. Perhaps I may be able to help you."

Seeing the priest beside him, the man quieted at first, but then immediately began to shout: "Leave me alone, don't touch me! I am a murderer! I have killed my son! I cannot leave here until I have persuaded God, through my prayers, to cure him! He lies there, in the hospital, dying....."

The priest breathed more easily, hearing that the man's son was not dead, but alive and lying in a hospital. It was possible that the boy could be cured and the father could escape the terrible label of killer, and a life-long burden of conscience.

"Come, come with me. I have a good friend who is a very fine doctor. He may be able to help your son. Only come, and it is important that you tell me all that has happened. And then we will both go to the hospital."

"You say that my son may get well?" – He allowed himself to be led out of the church to the rectory, where they both sat down in the old-fashioned parlor and he told his story.

"I have a good wife, Elena, and three children. Danutė and Jonukas came here with us from Lithuania, and Petras was born here, in America, on our farm which is about fifty miles from Chicago. We felt we could not live without owning our own place, so by working a while in a factory, we saved enough money to buy a piece of land. We operate a poultry farm. We also have two cows. Danutė and Jonukas both go to university. Petras is only twelve years old, still in elementary school. Even from infancy, the boy was nothing like his brother or sister, and certainly not like me or my wife. That has always been a great worry for me. At three years of age, he was already asking questions like – 'What is a star? What is the sun? Why does it burn so hot?

When does the moon sleep, if he shines all night? And on and on. I am uneducated and ignorant, and had no idea how to answer many of his questions .

"As he got older, he became very interested in birds. He learned to identify them by their different songs, and knew where and when each would build their nests and how they would raise their young. He learned to imitate their songs with his whistling. It seemed as though he was able to converse with them.

"I tried to encourage Petras to interest himself in more useful, practical things, and bought him several tools – an axe, a saw, and a few other things. But imagine how surprised we were, at the use he made of those tools. All sorts of pretty, fanciful little bird-houses began to show up in the surrounding trees. These attracted more and more birds, and before we knew it, our neighborhood was filled with them, and Petras was bright with happiness, enchanted by their warbling and song. In truth, it was all pleasant, even beautiful, but not helpful in making a living! I tried to explain this to him, to teach him: 'Son, why don't you try to make a bench, or a table?' He just laughed, answering, 'Why Papa, who needs a bench? It's much nicer to sit on the grass. And we already have a table.'

"I admit, he did help with general chores, planting and watering, and took joy in helping things grow. He loves flowers and animals, but his greatest weakness is his love for those birds. He is a good student, reads a great deal and writes very well. But he values his natural science textbook like a prayer book. He doesn't pay much attention to arithmetic, however, and doesn't value money. And this was really the basis of my worry: What will become of him, growing up to be such an impractical adult? Birds and the heavens – that is his life. At once infuriating and amazing.

"My wife and I talked it over, and decided to leave the boy in peace. We said, he will grow up, gain knowledge and experience, and perhaps he will change. But others, well-meaning, of course, confused the issue and caused more problems. One

Continued on page 21



Tickets for the XIII Lithuanian Folk Dance Festival are ON SALE NOW.



# XIII LITHUANIAN FOLK DANCE FESTIVAL

LOS ANGELES  
JULY 6, 2008

GALEN CENTER  
at The University of Southern California

HOSTED BY THE LITHUANIAN AMERICAN  
AND CANADIAN COMMUNITIES  
XIII LITHUANIAN FOLK DANCE FESTIVAL COMMITTEE  
ARTISTIC DIRECTOR DANGUOLE VARNAS

## FOLK DANCE FESTIVAL - Sunday, July 6th 1:30pm

- \_\_\_ Tickets @ \$39.50
- \_\_\_ Tickets @ \$5 (children 12 & under)
- \_\_\_ Premium tickets @ \$75 (upper bowl seating)
- \_\_\_ Wheelchair seating required.

## Welcome Dance - Saturday, July 5th 8pm

- \_\_\_ Tickets @ \$30

## Banquet - Sunday, July 6th 7pm

- \_\_\_ Tickets @ \$85
- \_\_\_ Reserved banquet table of 10 @ \$800
- \_\_\_ Youth banquet tickets @ \$35  
(Alcohol will not be served at this banquet)
- \_\_\_ Dance only @ \$25 (10 p.m.)

## Ticket Packages

- \_\_\_ Welcome dance and banquet @ \$105
- \_\_\_ Welcome dance and youth banquet @ \$60
- \_\_\_ 10 Welcome dance tickets plus reserved banquet table  
for 10 @ \$1,050

**Ticket orders must be postmarked by June 3th. Orders received after June 3th will be available for pick-up at the Universal Hilton.**

Total enclosed for tickets	_____
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<b>TOTAL</b>	_____

Make check payable to (US \$): LAC XIII Folk Dance Festival

Send to: 2608 Manhattan Ave. #A. Montrose, CA 91020  
Ticket orders will not be processed without payment.  
Please allow 4 - 6 weeks for delivery.

Tickets, donations and advertising can also be secured with a credit card via [www.lithuaniandance.com](http://www.lithuaniandance.com)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

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Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_



summer day, Petras came home from school carrying two doves. His teacher had noticed his fascination with birds, and had given the two doves to him. He was glowing with such happiness, I can't even describe it. I didn't dare complain, as it was the teacher's personal gift. Petras made them at home in the rafters of the threshing-barn, and then, of course, he needed seed to keep them well-fed. I saw this as a good opportunity for Petras to become accustomed to farm-work, to earn the seed in exchange for chores done. He was to keep the yard swept, feed the hogs, tend the cows, and cut the grass, and I would pay him in seed. He was pleased with the arrangement, worked willingly, and attentively raised his doves. And they multiplied. And multiplied.

"One would have to see this, to believe it. He would be pitching hay, and a dove would be sitting on his shoulder, cooing away. Petras would respond, and one could see that they understood each other. There are no words to tell the amount of love and care that he gave those birds. He spent every minute of his free time with them. Early each morning, while he was still asleep, the doves could be heard cooing on his windowsill. Believing that we were asleep and unaware, he would raise his window and converse with them.

"Eventually, the doves had multiplied to the point where there were far too many of them. One day,

while Petras was at school, I gathered them up and took them all to the city. I left only his two most beloved ones....."

*Continued next month.*

*Gloria Kivytaite O'Brien*

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

*\* The illustration by Daina Kizlauskienė from the book "Laisves Sonata-Poema".*

## TRIVIA QUESTION

(No.21)

Antanas Smetona was one of the most important Lithuanian political figures between World War I and World War II. He served as the first president of Lithuania from April 4, 1919 to June 19, 1920 and again from December 19, 1926 to June 15, 1940. How would you characterize his presidency?



- a) Democratic      c) Benevolent Dictator  
b) Authoritarian    d) Fascist

Answer to Trivia Quiz  
on page 22

bridges

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# Events fo May, June and July/Aug 2008

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

## May

**May 4, 2008** - 7 pm **NEW DATE**  
**BOSTON THEATER BENEFIT**  
Neringa at the theater! Audre Budryte-Nakiene will present her play "Une Baye" (in English) Proceeds will benefit Camp Neringa. The performance at St. Peter's Lithuanian Church hall (under the Church) 75 Flaherty Way South Boston, MA 02127

**May 4, 2008**

**Mother's Day Celebration**  
Fraternal Order of Eagles Hall 1151 S Galena St. Denver, CO (just west of Mississippi & Havana) Info. Romas Zableckas romas@coloradolithuanians.org Colorado Chapter of the LAC

**May 16-18, 2008**

**Men's Weekend.** First Annual Neringa Men's Alumni Meet with old & new friends for exploration, creativity & reflection. The program will be in the spirit of Robert Bly & the new men's movement. There will be a drum circle, perhaps a bonfire, many other activities . [www.neringa.org](http://www.neringa.org)

**May 17-18, 2008** - 1 pm-6 pm  
36th Annual

**Lithuanian Festival**

Catonsville Armory 130 Mellor Ave., Catonsville, MD Voted "Best Little Ethnic Festival in Maryland" Music, dancers, vendors & food

Admission: \$3 per person  
Info. Lithuanian Coordinating Committee of Baltimore

**May 20, 2008** - 7-9 pm

**Amber Roots**

Lithuanian Heritage Club  
Lithuanian Music Hall  
2715 E. Allegheny Ave. Phila., PA  
Left side door, Culture Center  
Info. Millie Helt 610-497-5469  
E-mail: milliemarks@aol.com

## June

**June 7, 2008** - 8:00 am - 2:00 pm

**Spring Fling**

3603 McRobert Rd.  
Pittsburgh, PA 15234  
Flea Market Items, Vendors, Crafts, Raffles, Food, Franciscan Child Day Care Center Book Sale, Franciscan Spirit & Life Center Bake Sale & Much More!  
Sisters of St. Francis of the Providence of God  
[info@osfprov.org](mailto:info@osfprov.org)  
412-885-7232 or 412-882-9911

**June 12-1314 & 19-20-21, 2008**

**St. George's Bazaar**

Kitchen opens at 6:00 pm  
Stands at open at 7:00 pm  
Bingo at 7:30 pm  
Potato pancakes & variety of foods.  
Fun for everyone  
St. George's  
3500 Edgemont St. Phila., PA  
Info. 215-739-3102.

**June 17, 2008** - 7 pm to 9 pm

**Amber Roots**

Lithuanian Heritage Club  
Lithuanian Music Hall  
2715 E. Allegheny Ave., Phila., PA  
Left side door, Culture Center  
Info. Millie Helt 610-497-5469  
E-mail: milliemarks@aol.com

**June 22, 2008** - 11:30 am

Remembrance of the  
**1941 Deportations.**  
St. Andrew's Church  
396 Church St. ,New Britain, CT  
Sponsor: LAC of New Britain, CT  
Contact: Irena Belanger  
[pqbel@hotmail.com](mailto:pqbel@hotmail.com)

**June 22-29, 2008**

**23rd Annual Lithuanian**  
language courses

**Camp Dainava**

Manchester, MI  
Courses are designed for beginners, intermediate & advanced students. They are taught by experienced teachers in vacation like surroundings. The one week intensive courses are under the auspices of the Lithuanian Educational Council USA.  
Info. Vytautas Jonaitis  
1332 Sprucewood Dr. NW  
Grand Rapids, MI 49504  
Phone: 616-453-7549  
[vjonaitis@juno.com](mailto:vjonaitis@juno.com)  
Web: Dainava language courses.

**June 28-July 2 - 2008**

**Neringa** - Heritage Family  
Camp in English

**June 29 - 2008**

**St. Andrew's Annual Picnic**

Location to be determined  
Sponsor:  
LAC of New Britain, CT  
Contact: Irena Belanger  
[pqbel@hotmail.com](mailto:pqbel@hotmail.com)

**July 6 - 2008**

XIII Lithuanian  
**Folk Dance Festival**  
Los Angeles, CA  
<http://www.sokiusvente.com>

**July 6 - 2008**

**Neringa** - Family Camp in  
Lithuanian

**July 13-27 - 2008**

**Neringa** -Children's Camp in  
Lithuanian - Ages 8-16

**July 27 - 2008**

**Putnam Picnic**  
600 Liberty Hwy., Putnam, CT

**July 27- Aug 2 - 2008**

**Neringa** -Children's Camp in  
Lithuanian - Ages 13-16

## August

**August 3-16 - 2008**

**Neringa** - Children's Camp in  
English - Ages 7-16

**August 8-9-10 - 2008**

The Fifth Annual  
**Lithuanian Adoption**  
Friday evening through Sunday  
afternoon, including:  
**FRIDAY:** Pizza & Pool Party for  
Dads & Kids at the Tomalonis  
Farm Mom's Night Out

**SATURDAY:** Family picnic,  
food, fun, crafts & photo galore!  
Teen Evening Activity  
Organizational Meeting for  
LAPAS (Lithuanian Adoptive  
Parents Association)

**SUNDAY:** Breakfast on the  
Farm & Clean Up. Info. Gina  
Pollock [rmprrp@yahoo.com](mailto:rmprrp@yahoo.com)  
James Tomalonis  
[cedar-springs@comcast.net](mailto:cedar-springs@comcast.net)  
Info. LAPAS website:  
<http://www.orgsites.com/pa/lapas>

**August 9-19 - 2008**

9th Lithuanian **Scout Jamboree**  
Info.  
<http://tautinestovykla.com/index.php?lang=EN>

**August 16-17 - 2008**

94<sup>th</sup> Annual **Lithuanian Days**  
Ethnic food, entertainment,  
demonstrations, Lithuanian  
artifacts, wood carvings &  
"The Hill of Crosses".  
Info. Larry Domalakes  
570-874-4092  
[domalakes\\_ins@hotmail.com](mailto:domalakes_ins@hotmail.com)

**August 16-23 - 2008**

**Neringa**  
Children's Camp in English  
Ages 13-16

**August 24-31 - 2008**

**Neringa-Meno 8 Dienos**  
Art camp for adults in  
Lithuanian

For Neringa events please  
visit [www.neringa.org](http://www.neringa.org)

## ANSWER TO TRIVIA QUESTION

Trivia Quiz on page 21

*Answer Source: Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia*

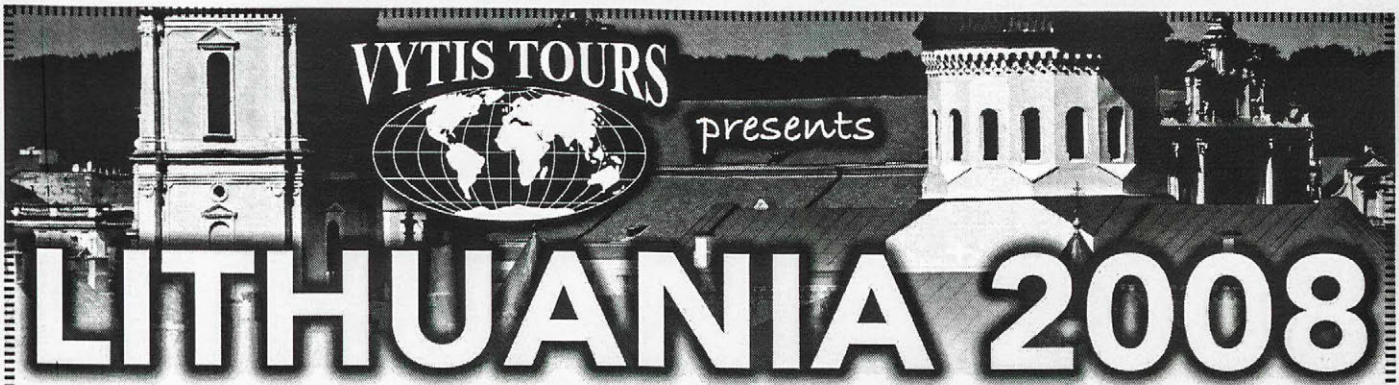
"Antanas Smetona was one of the leaders of the coup d'etat of 1926, which deposed President Kazys Grinius, and Smetona once again became president on December 19 of that year (two others briefly held the office during the coup, which began on December 17, before Smetona was formally restored to the Presidency). He designated Augustinas Voldemaras, as Prime Minister. One year later he suppressed the parliament, and on

May 15, 1928, with the approval of the government, he promulgated a new constitution of the Lithuanian state with more extensive presidential powers. In 1929, he removed Voldemaras and became authoritarian head of state. He was re-elected President in 1931 and 1938, and remained in office until June 15, 1940."

*Edward Shakalis*

*Edward Shakalis is a retired Electrical Engineer and a ham radio operator. He and his son Rick run "The Lithuanian Open" golf tournament.*





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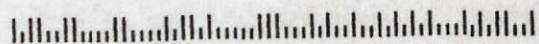
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*May 11 Mother's Day - Happy Mother's Day*

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