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bridges

Dalia Grybauskaitė the "Iron Lady"



President of Lithuania



july/august 2009

LITHUANIAN AMERICAN NEWS JOURNAL

Letter from the Editor

I hope you are all having a wonderful summer. It doesn't matter if you are traveling the globe or staying at home it's a great feeling to see new places or just sit back and relax. For those of you who have traveled to Lithuania you were there for a very special time. It's very difficult to comprehend a thousand year celebration.

In this issue we are marking the seventieth anniversary of the Molotov–Ribbentrop Pact and the cause and effect it had on the Lithuanian people.

We also celebrate the twentieth anniversary of the Baltic Way when the people of the Baltic countries formed a human chain by linking hands through the three countries. Their thirst for freedom was so great they stood in lines for hours despite the propaganda fliers that were being dropped from the air.

I would like to bring your attention to a beautiful new book that has been recently been published. "Lithuanian Cultural Legacy in America" is written in both English and Lithuanian and the magnificent photos speak for themselves. It commemorates what we had at one time and what we still have now. Many of the churches in the book are no longer Lithuanian or have been totally shuttered. In my own case both Lithuanian parishes where I received all my Sacraments, attended Mass and going back in time, attended catechism, are no longer in existence. The book is not just about churches but covers many aspects of Lithuanian life in America. You will find an excellent review of the book in this issue by Dr. John Vytautas Dunčias. He can always be counted on for an honest opinion. John is an extremely busy person and he and his family are involved in many religious and Lithuanian cultural activities. I am extremely grateful to him for taking time to review this book.

A very special thank you to Julie Skurdenis and Paul Lalli for transporting those of us at home to the events in Lithuania celebrating the millennium through their beautiful photographs.

As always, to everyone who in any way who contributed articles, photographs or information to this issue, a very big thank you.

Thank you for inviting us into your homes.

Jeanne Shalna Dorr

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HOMECOMING LITHUANIANS**

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Covers: The photos on the covers and all photos of "The Song Festival" are by Julie Skurdenis -

"The 2009 Millennium Celebration in Vilnius this July included a week of dance and song events. This event, entitled "Metai" ("Years"), was a combined song and dance program and was presented in Kalnų Park on July 2."

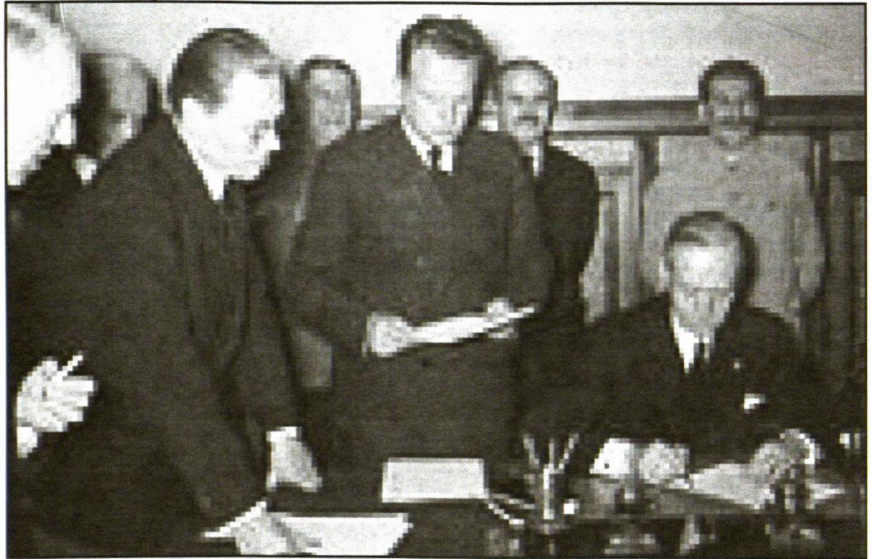
THE SECOND SOVIET OCCUPATION

On July 13, 1944, the Soviet army took Vilnius; on August 1, it drove into Kaunas, and on January 28, 1945, it took Klaipėda. In the wake of the Soviet army came Lithuania's Communist party and Soviet government, with the same people at its head that were in power in 1940. The First Secretary of the Lithuanian Communist party remained Antanas Sniečkus. The Chairman of the Council of Commissars (since 1946 Council of Ministers, after the example of Moscow) was Mečys Gedvilas. The Chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet was Justas Paleckis. The Soviet-Lithuanian leadership was bent on restoring the order that had been imposed by force on the country in 1940, and was prepared to cooperate to the fullest extent with Moscow. By occupying Lithuania with military force, the Soviet Union once again violated her treaties with that country as well as international commitments, including the Atlantic Charter, according to which the Allies were to refrain from territorial conquests. Ignoring all of these promises, the Kremlin not only repeated the annexation of the Baltic States, which was a result of the Ribbentrop-Molotov Pact, but also annexed part of the Old Prussian and Lithuanian lands of East Prussia. Moscow herself took an active hand in the introduction of the Soviet order in Lithuania, assuming an auxiliary role to the Lithuanian Communist party and the local Soviet government there. The task of socialization was assigned to a special emissary from Moscow, Mihail Suslov, a high party functionary, who was well-qualified for the task of sovietization, for he had distinguished himself in the North Caucasus by destroying small anti-Soviet nationalities there for having cooperated with the Germans. The introduction of the Soviet order in Lithuania faced many

obstacles, for a partisan war was being waged against the Communists there. The Soviet regime thus for a long time merely controlled the cities and towns, whereas whole areas of the countryside were controlled by the partisans. During the second Soviet occupation the Klaipėda region was returned to Lithuania. This time, there was no restraining issue of autonomy, especially since the German elements left for the West.

*Source: Lithuania 700 Years
Edited by: Dr. Albert Gerutis
Translated by Algirdas Budreckis
Manyland Books, NY*

** Photo: Internet*



Signing of the Ribbentrop-Molotov Pact

August 23, 1939, shortly before the outbreak of World War II, Germany and the Soviet Union shocked the world by signing a treaty pledging neutrality in the event that either country became involved in a war: Soviet dictator Joseph Stalin stands in the background, right, next to Soviet commissar for foreign affairs Vyacheslav Molotov, while German foreign minister Joachim von Ribbentrop signs the treaty.

Baltic Way

Editor's Note:

This year we mark the twentieth anniversary of the Baltic Way. The following information is from Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia.

Baltic Way

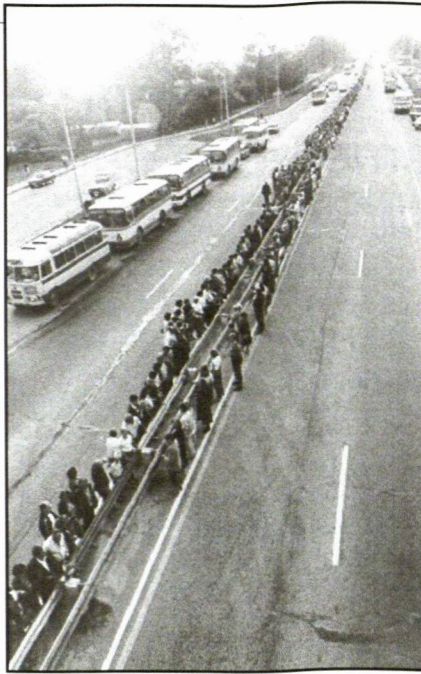
This article is about the 1989 demonstration.

HUMAN CHAIN FORMED IN LITHUANIA

The "STEBUKLAS" stone in Vilnius Cathedral Square, in the place where, according to an urban legend, the Baltic Way started "Baltic Way": is the event which occurred on August 23, 1989 when approximately two million people joined their hands to form an over 600 kilometer (373 mi) long human chain across the three Baltic States. This original demonstration was organized to draw the world's attention to the common historical fate which the three countries suffered. It marked the 50th anniversary of August 23, 1939 when the Soviet Union and Germany in the secret protocol of the Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact divided spheres of interest in Eastern Europe which led to the occupation of these three states.

Background

In the light of glasnost and perestroika, street demonstrations had been increasingly growing in popularity and support. In 1986 a handful of people in each capital gathered to make their protest and were quickly dispersed by police. On August 23, 1986, the first annual Black Ribbon Day Rally was held in 21 western cities including New York, Stockholm, London, Toronto, Seattle and Perth, Australia where tens of thousands of demonstrators drew public attention to the secret protocols of the Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact. In 1987 large demonstrations



Human chain formed in Lithuania

in all three capitals were interrupted by the authorities and ended in arrests. A year later, for the first time, mass protests were sanctioned by the authorities and passed off peacefully.

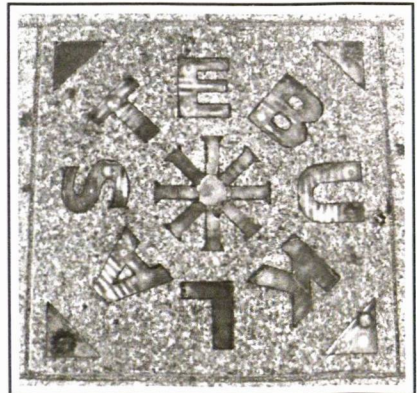
A week before the event, the Soviet Union admitted the existence of the secret protocol but still insisted that the three states joined the union voluntarily. A couple of days previously, 170 members of the council of Lithuania's Sajūdis movement (which won 36 seats out of 42 in the Congress of People's Deputies in March) had voted to seek an independent Lithuanian state "without political, cultural or administrative subordination to the Soviet Union".

The protest

The chain was sanctioned by local Communist Party authorities and well-planned to make sure that it had no gaps; most cities and towns had designated spots they needed to cover and provided free bus rides for those who did not have other transportation. Demonstrators linked hands for 15 minutes at 19:00 local

time (16:00 GMT). Special radio broadcasts helped to coordinate the effort. Later, a number of local gatherings and protests took place. In Vilnius, thousands of people gathered in Cathedral Square, holding candles and singing national songs and elsewhere, priests held Masses or rang church bells. In one of the most spectacular moments of the protests, leaders of the Estonian and Latvian Popular Fronts gathered on the border between their two republics for a symbolic funeral ceremony, in which a giant black cross was set alight. A public holiday was declared in Estonia.

The estimates vary, but Reuters News the following day reported that about 700,000 Estonians, 500,000 Latvians, and 1,000,000 Lithuanians joined the protests. These numbers rank much higher than 1,500,000 overall estimate before the event. About 8 million people in total live in the three states. The official Soviet numbers provided by TASS were 300,000 people in Estonia and nearly 500,000 in Lithuania. No official Soviet estimates for Latvia were released.



The "STEBUKLAS" stone in Vilnius Cathedral Square, in the place where, according to an urban legend, the Baltic Way started

here at home

Remembering them – Lithuanian cemeteries celebrated

NKC TRIBUNE - June 18, 2009

ROSLYN - A crowd of 200 or more showed up in Roslyn last Saturday, Jun. 13, for a dedication of the 100-year-old Lithuanian cemetery there and the shiny 3,000-pound chunk of Chinese black granite that marks the spot. The Polish-Lithuanian cemetery was also dedicated, with a separate stone memorial. At that dedication, Jim Barich, former chair of the Roslyn City Cemetery Commission, delivered the keynote address.

Keeping History Alive

Saturday's ceremony marked the end of a three year effort by William Zalpys, president of the Portland (Oregon) Lithuanian Community, who visited Roslyn in August 2006, when he heard a cemetery full of his countrymen and women actually existed.

"It's the only Lithuanian cemetery east of the Mississippi," he said.

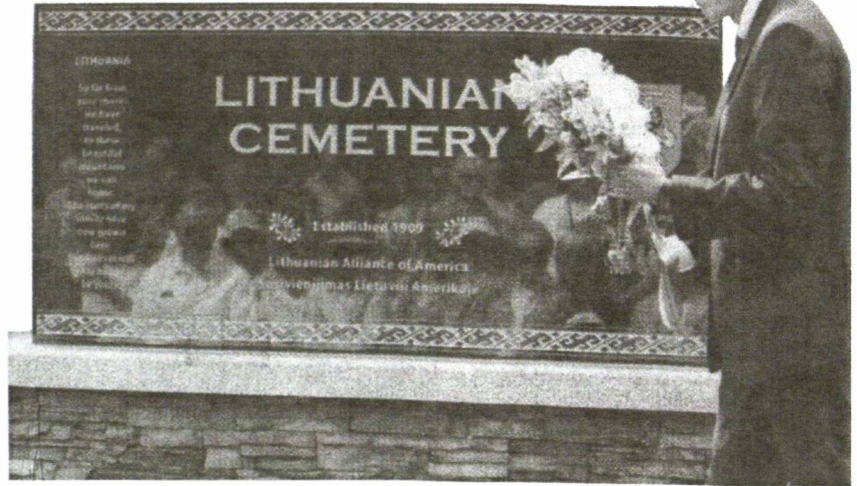
Lithuanian nationals and family with loved ones laid to rest in the cemetery drove or flew in from all over the country for the dedication. Some came from as far away as Bowie, Maryland.

"We had to come," said Bowie's Jim and Karen Holk, *"when we heard Uncle Eddie was to be honored. He's a Zackovich, the gentleman who built Zacklift International in Cle Elum. We've got family buried here."*

"My parents came from Lithuania," Ed said.

"We're first generation."

Dignitaries on hand included Audrius Bruzga, Lithuanian ambassador to the United States accompanied by his wife. Rep. Bill Hinkle gave a brief welcome address, and Mayor Jeri Porter presented the ambassador with a key to the city.



AMBASSADOR AUDRIUS BRUZGA lays a wreath in memory of those who perished when the Soviets deported thousands of Lithuanians to Siberia.

Local Dick Watts, credited as the ignition point for an explosion of clean up work at Roslyn cemeteries this spring, also spoke.

The Reverend Father Lawrence Reilly gave a blessing.

At one point, Zalpys read a letter sent from Kestutis Miklas, President of the Lithuanian Alliance of America, headquartered in New York City. The letter characterized the magnitude of the effort put forth by all who shared in Zalpys's project.

"You have opened up to the world an almost forgotten page of Lithuanian-American history."

Color, Song, and Dance

As, Cle Elum-Roslyn Chamber of Commerce Manager Judy Tokarsyck put it, there was an overwhelming presence of Lithuanian nationals at Saturday's round of festivities. It could be said they provided the primary color for the event, with traditional garb, song and dance.

From Seattle, a group called Vakarai performed folk songs and the national anthem for those assembled at the cemetery, and then they joined

50 folk dancers for a celebration held at the Coal Miners Memorial in Roslyn.

Dancers represented three different groups, Lietutis (gentle rain) and Lankas (circle of friends) from Seattle, and Aitvaras (mischievous spirit) from Portland, Oregon.

For some of their routines, dancers wore klumpės (wooden shoes). As for the music, many traditional instruments were played, including the dudmaisys, a Lithuanian version of the Scottish bagpipe.

After a brief visit to The Brick in Roslyn for cheer and song, the group packed up and left for dinner at the Ronald Community Center.

Full-blooded Lithuanian chef Rumatė Cumming prepared a lavish spread of authentic ethnic foods.

Dinner guests started with herring, mushrooms and onions, balta mišrainė (potato-vegetable salad), Lithuanian cheese, fried garlic bread, and hunter's sausage.

The entree featured more sausage, sauteed-hot sauerkraut, and potato pudding.

For dessert, there were a dozen or more ten-layer honey cakes. Plates heaped, high with strawberries appeared on every table.

While patrons feasted, Česlovas Gestautas, a 50 year-old accordion player, boisterously charmed his way around the room. In intervals, diners broke loose to sing along.

Let's just say, it appeared Lithuanians ... know how to party.

Quotable Quotes

Saturday's event seemed to be an emotional affair, filled with familial and nationalist sentiments, brotherhood and camaraderie. Speakers, even Lithuanians one passed on the street in Roslyn, had something special to say. And some of the most important words of the day were chiseled on monuments, preserved for as long as the rock may last.

Verse from a song Zalpys asked to appear in this newspaper:

"Wherever I shall go, I shall never forget Lithuania."

Chiseled on the Lithuanian Monument: *"So far from your shores we have traveled to these beautiful mountains we call home. The roots of our family have now grown here, but forever will our heart be yours."*

Dick Watts: *"It's so important to maintain sacred grounds."*

Ambassador Bruzga: *"Lithuania celebrates a thousand years in*

2009. It was a thousand years ago the country first appeared in written history - in Latin."

Rep. Bill Hinkle: "We must maintain the memories of our past to maintain the dreams of our future."

Chiseled on the Polish - Lithuanian Monument. "This cemetery is the resting place of both Lithuanians and Poles whose nations were united in a Commonwealth for hundreds of years. After migrating to America, the two nationalities shared churches, cemeteries and societies until the reawakening of nationalism in their home countries at the end of the 19th century, when the two groups parted. This cemetery is an example of the old Commonwealth days carried over into their new adopted country, America."

Seattle's Irena Blekys: *"We Lithuanians are separated by generations, but we are still one in spirit"*

Note: Jun. 14, the day following Saturday's ceremony is a solemn day in Lithuania, marking the day the Soviets occupied that country, and deported thousands to labor camps in Siberia. Many died on the trip. Ambassador Bruzga, midpoint in Saturday's dedication ceremony, laid a wreath on the Lithuanian cemetery monument in memory of those who perished.

**Article and photo by Jim Fossett*

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Editor's Note: *Special thanks to Jim Fossett*

Toks žmogus

(Such a Man)

1.

*A mother sighed beside the Luokė grave,
three pairs of eyes cried beneath her wings,
Wheat chafed bowing to a breeze,
and whispered words to any who were near:
Toll the death knell slow he is gone.*

2.

*Tadas was not meant to die an outlaw,
but a morning came when he challenged darkness,
running off to join a Kalnauškas band,
bloga nuotaika pitting pitchfork and scythe
against slaughtering Rusas army hordes:
he escaped an ending ride to Siberia.
In Kinėiukai he settled in with wife and land,
until compassion for man snatched his twig:
turning a back on cat-o-nine-tail acts,
and venting the level of circumstance.
Oak of Stelmužė shouted at the Tower of Slaves:
A long way to go . . . būt būt.*

3.

*He gathered men of discontent in Byrainė
to rage and plunder the ruling class,
Žemaitian highwaymen who robbed a train,
distributing gains to the lesser set,
and found the end of a Tsarist noose:
it's said forest booty is buried still.
Tiesą sakant, Tadas Blinda was no outlaw,
just a man who tired of bending his head.*

*Luokė - a town in the Žemaitija Duchy.

*Tadas - Tadas Blinda.

*Kalnauškas - A leader in the 1863 rebellion.

bloga nuotaika - poor disposition

*Rusas - Russian

*The Oak of Stelmužė - the oldest oak in the Baltic States, located at the village of that name near the Latvian border.

*The Tower of Slaves - a stone and brick building located in close proximity to the oak, used to imprison serfs in the 18th century.

*būt būt - at all costs.

*Byrainė - a forest located near Kinėiukai, Blinda's hometown.

*Tiesą sakant - to tell the truth.(spiking the truth)

Michael Lucas: PGA Professional & member of the Poetry Society of South Carolina. Grandparents on his father's side emigrated from Kaunas & Alytus sectors of Lithuania.

We wish to extend our sympathy to the family and friends of the late Ann Z. Morrissey who passed away in May. Ann lived in Richmond, VA and was formerly from Jackson Heights, NY. She was an activist in Lithuania's struggle for independence and then turned her energies to helping children in Lithuania. Ann was an active

member of the Maspeth Council of the Knights of Lithuania. She retired after working as an independent real estate broker in New York.

Our condolences to her husband Paul, daughter Paula and her husband William Madigan and granddaughters Kayla Mary and Justine Abigail.

Christmas in July

I often wonder how I could put a different slant on this story, but, of course, I can't. I am unable to give you any updates or recent photographs because the young man I am writing about died soon after I met him. For those who read the article every year you know the beginning, the middle and the end. All I can do is repeat it each July. Over the years it has appeared under several titles; A Tribute to Arturas, The Boy and the Blue Bicycle, and Christmas in July.



Principal Jonas Kirkliauskas, Arturas and his mother at the school before Christmas

I wrote the first article in 2001 after meeting Arturas, a sixth grader who was diagnosed with leukemia when he was in second grade. Arturas lived in a small village about a half hour from Kaunas. Our first meeting was postponed because he suffered a relapse and was rushed back to the hospital. Several weeks later we met in the village school. His mother, a young widow with another son who was a toddler, was too embarrassed to let me see her house. Little did she know the things I saw on my trips to Lithuania visiting Lithuanian Orphan Care families.

They were given a ride to school by a neighbor. Even though it was a short walk, Arturas was just too weak to walk. I was a sixth grade teacher and I must share with you that he was the frailest boy I ever saw. And yet, there was a twinkle in his eye and joy in his heart. He was absolutely thrilled to meet an American. His mother said that was all he talked about for weeks. I was just as thrilled to meet Arturas because for a long time I heard about his bravery and courage from his principal. Everyone rallied around this young man. But I have to wonder the thoughts and fears that went through his head. He knew he was dying, but his biggest concern was for his mother and his little brother.

But what do you talk about to a boy in Arturas' position? We talked about what I would have spoken about with any of my sixth grade students in New Jersey with a little twist here and there. He became more relaxed when I began to tell him some funny stories

about the young people I taught. We discussed school although Arturas was too sick to attend most days. His teachers tutored him at home when he able to sit up. Yet he begged to be in his class photo. Perhaps he knew this would be the final class picture. His classmates stood very close to him so they could hold him up on both sides. These same classmates would carry his casket to his final resting place. We discussed sports. He loved basketball. We talked about music and I convinced him he was right in style. You see, he had lost his hair and was

embarrassed to take his cap off. He couldn't believe that athletes and rock stars paid to have their heads shaved. After that the cap came off. For some strange reason the conversation got around to Christmas. I have no idea how that happened in July. I asked him what he would like and without hesitation he answered that his dream was to own a used, blue bicycle. The emphasis was on the word used. He knew how difficult it was for his mother physically, emotionally and financially. I guess in the back of my mind I was hoping for a miracle and I vowed to myself that if at all possible, Arturas would have his bicycle.

As he began to tire we stood and said our good-byes. I think we both knew that this was really good-bye. When I hugged him I felt his ribs through his shirt and as I glanced at his mother I could see the tears in her eyes and on her cheeks.

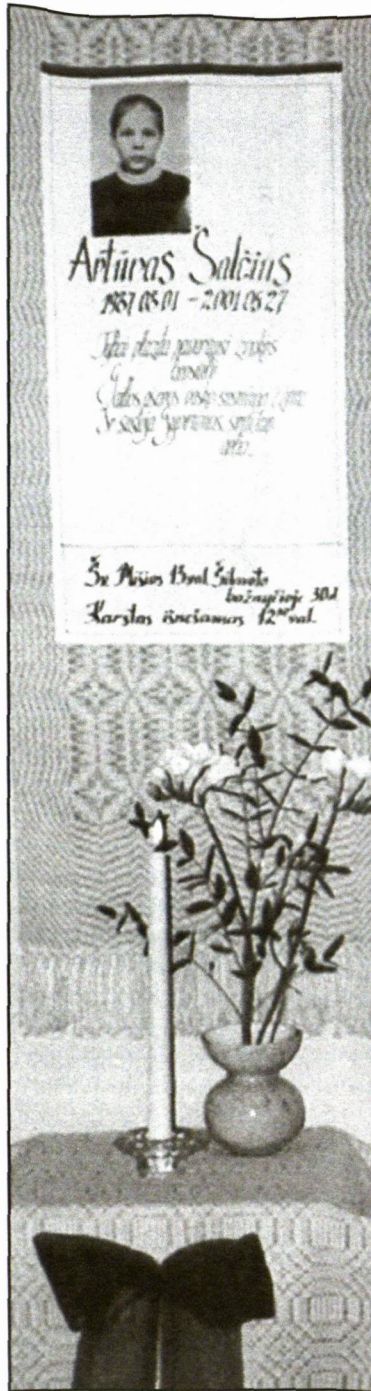
I had a short note from Arturas in the winter telling me he was thinking about me and asking me to thank all the people in America, those he would never meet or would meet him, who were praying for him and helping to pay for his medications. Two of my most prized possessions are the note and the red rose he handed me when we met. The rose is pressed and faded but the memory of Arturas will never fade or leave me.

The following May he was free of his pain and his suffering as his classmates walked to the cemetery carrying his casket.

As I continued my visits with families for Lithuanian Orphan Care that summer I kept hearing about Christmas and it was only July. Mrs. Gražina Landsbergis was concerned that many children would not have even the smallest gift. Dr. Regina Svoba voiced the same concerns for Countryside Children Fund which was part of a Vilnius newspaper of which her husband was the editor. Good heavens, it was only July. My own thoughts were not on Christmas but I kept hearing it over and over. I told them I would try to approach the Bridges readers but there were no promises. And the Bridges readers were more than generous as they always are since I have been writing for Bridges.

But after I got the phone call the following May that Arturas had died I could not shake the thoughts from our meeting and his longing for a used, blue bicycle. In my own mind I felt useless and helpless. This was one problem I was not able to fix. I could not help Arturas but maybe the readers would once again consider bringing joy to other children in Lithuania at Christmas. This time the gifts would be in memory of Arturas. No, they would not be getting used, blue bicycles but rather gift bags with candy, small toy cars, coloring books and crayons, barrettes for the girls. Some of the gifts are distributed to the poorest schools, very often Mrs. Landsbergis plans a party where children are greeted or she brings your gifts to homes in different parts of Lithuania.

I questioned the need for talking about Christmas so early in July until I realized that the two groups who split the funds must know in advance how many children they can help. The money has to be sent from Chicago to Lithuania. Gifts have to be purchased,



Klebisio village school's final tribute to Arturas

wrapped and visitation times have to be coordinated with social workers, schools and parents. All involved here and in Lithuania are volunteers.

Just as here at home and around the globe there are many problems, Lithuania has not escaped the financial crisis. There are more and more people unemployed and prices are rising for the basic necessities of life.

Did I ever buy a gift for Arturas? Unfortunately, I did. The year after he died I bought the monument for his grave. It was a far cry from a used, blue bicycle.

If you are interested in sponsoring a child for an entire year the cost is \$150. If you would like to make Christmas brighter for a child in Lithuania any donation is greatly appreciated. There is no amount that is too small. Please send your tax deductible gifts to:

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

*You must enclose a note or mark **CHRISTMAS GIFTS** on the memo of the check.*

A very sincere thank you to the volunteers of Lithuanian Orphan Care in Chicago for the extra time they spend on this project. But the greatest thanks is to you, the Bridges readers, who have been supporting this program for almost ten years. You are the ones who are making a difference.

"It's not how much we give but how much love we put into giving."

Mother Theresa

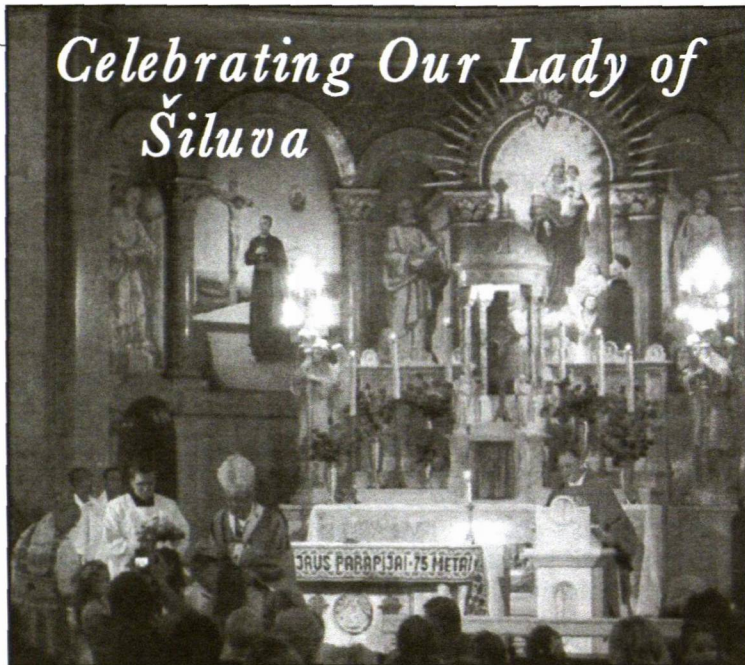
Jeanne Dorr

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.



The procession prepares to enter the church.

Celebrating Our Lady of Šiluva



The beautiful altar of St. Andrew's Church enshrines the apparition at Šiluva.



Cardinal Rigali, the Archbishop of Philadelphia, greets the altar boys.

Last year Lithuanians throughout the world honored Our Lady of Šiluva by celebrating the 400th anniversary of the Marian apparitions which took place in Lithuania. From Brazil to Rome, from Los Angeles to Boston, from Chicago to Hartford, from Vilnius to Philadelphia solemn Masses, devotions and hymns echoed in the churches of our Lithuanian communities. One of the last celebrations to take place in the United States was in Philadelphia when Cardinal Justin Rigali came to Saint Andrew's Lithuanian Church in October. National costumes, church banners, trumpets, choir, altar boys, and a church full of prayerful souls all united to celebrate what took place in the village of Šiluva in 1608.

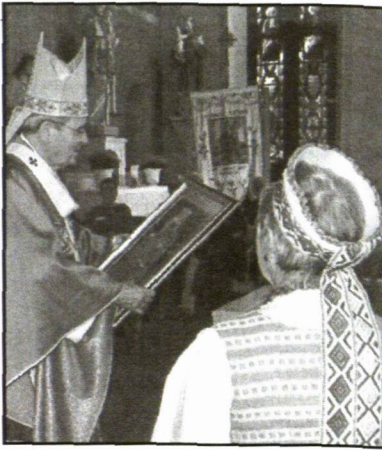
But unlike many other Lithuanian communities, where the 400th anniversary awoke an awareness and devotion to Our Lady of Šiluva, the parishioners of the three Lithuanian churches in Philadelphia already had a tradition of devotion rooted in their hearts. St. Andrew's Lithuanian Church has a beautiful mural at the main altar depicting the Šiluva apparition and St. George's Lithuanian Church has a hand carved statue in its sanctuary of



Cardinal Rigali celebrated the Holy Mass with eight priests.



Msgr. Putrimas from Canada and Father Burkauskas, Pastor, with the Cardinal.



Cardinal Rigali gratefully admires the picture of Our Lady of Šiluva that was presented to him by the parish.



An honorary arch of Lithuanian sashes bids the Cardinal farewell as he leaves the church.



The Lithuanian Choir of St. Andrew's Church and brass ensemble solemnized the Mass with inspiring music and hymns.

Our Lady of Šiluva. Each year, in solidarity with the pilgrims in Lithuania who journey to Šiluva on Sept. 8th, pilgrims from Philadelphia's Lithuanian parishes travel to the chapel of Our Lady of Šiluva in the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C. The bus pilgrimage brings to the ornate Lithuanian chapel the devotion that unites them with the pilgrims praying at Šiluva in Lithuania.

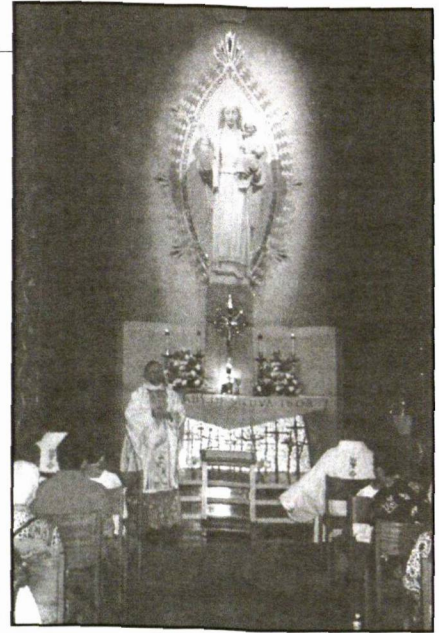
Before the school closed at Saint Casimir's Parish, altar boys were included in the pilgrimage of young and old who brought flowers and hymns to the feet of Our Lady's altar in the spacious basilica church. The yearly Mass is attended by the Philadelphia pilgrims and Lithuanians living in the Baltimore-Washington, D.C. area. Tourists and pilgrims visiting the Basilica are also drawn to the Lithuanian chapel on September 8th on hearing the singing of Lithuanian hymns and seeing the chapel illumined and decorated for Holy Mass.

This yearly pilgrimage keeps alive in the hearts of Lithuanian-Americans the devotion to Our Lady of Šiluva and the message the Mother of God brought to Lithuania in 1608. This year the pilgrimage will take place on Tuesday, September 8th. Lithuanian Catholics are encouraged to keep alive the devotion to Our Lady of Šiluva which was celebrated around the world last year. Plan to participate in this annual pilgrimage by calling St. Andrew's Rectory at 215-765-2322 for details.

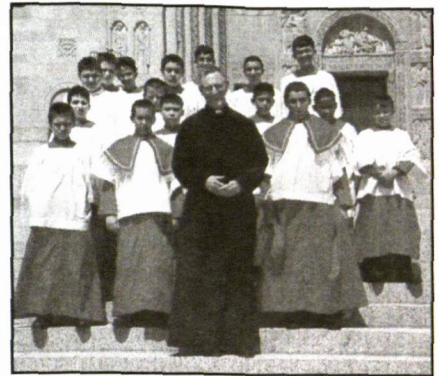
Rev. Peter Burkauskas

Rev. Peter Burkauskas is the pastor of St. Casimir and St. Andrew Churches in Philadelphia, PA.

*Most photos by Rimas Gedeika



Father Burkauskas at the altar in the chapel of Our Lady of Šiluva in the Basilica of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C.



The altar boys from St. Casimir's Lithuanian Church always enjoyed participating in the annual pilgrimage on September 8.



Pilgrims pose for a group picture on the front steps of the Basilica after celebrating Holy Mass before heading back to Philadelphia.

book review

Lithuanian Cultural Legacy in America

Dr. John Vytautas Dunčia

It was with great interest that I read the book "Lithuanian Cultural Legacy in America." The book was published by the Lithuanian American Community this year on the occasion of Lithuania's 1000th year anniversary. Edited by Algis Lukas, it covers the history of Lithuanians in America and the churches, monasteries/convents, clubs and halls, organizations, businesses, ethnic festivals, youth camps, newspapers, artistic monuments, and cemeteries that they have created and/or left behind. The hard cover book contains over 350 photos and 224 pages of material illustrating what the three waves of Lithuanian immigrants built and established here in America.

The one lasting impression that the reader takes with him/her is that the "first wave" of immigrants (late 1800's-early 1900's) sacrificed so much to build churches and halls in America and poured millions of their hard earned dollars into helping establish the newly founded republic of Lithuania in 1918. The numbers in today's dollars are staggering considering that the earliest immigrants worked in the coal mines of Pennsylvania, the textile factories of the Northeast, and the slaughter houses of Chicago. Two million dollars of Lithuanian Liberty Bonds were purchased by Lithuanian-Americans which today would be worth forty million dollars. It is estimated that between 1915 and 1920 Lithuanian-Americans sent back home about ten million dollars (worth about 200 million today). During the 22 years of independence (1918-1940), Lithuanian-Americans sent their relatives in Lithuania an estimated thirty million dollars (375

million dollars today). One can only bow in reverence to the sacrifices that first wave of immigrants made for Lithuania and for their communities here in America.

The second wave of immigrants built beautiful churches too and established youth camps, which yours truly attended during his younger days at Dainava (MI) and Neringa (VT) and elsewhere. The camp pictures in the book brought back many wonderful memories in which my love was kindled for the Lithuanian language, history, customs, and most importantly people. One thing I noticed while looking at the pictures of the churches built or renovated by the second wave immigrants is that many of them had stained glass or sculptures done by the artist Vytautas Jonynas. I would be interested in what the readers think of his style. I can see the genius behind the work, but I just can't appreciate the modernism. I am sorry, but I want Jesus to look warm, loving, and human, just as he does in St. Faustina's commissioned painting of Jesus, Divine Mercy, which can be found in almost every Catholic Church around the world, the original hanging in Vilnius in the Divine Mercy Chapel (for more information see www.galeistingumas.lt and www.mercyimages.com).

What I mostly appreciate is the editor's attention to providing the addresses of all of the Lithuanian churches covered in the book. Thus there is no excuse for missing Sunday Mass if one is visiting Los Angeles CA, Cincinnati OH, Baltimore MD, Brooklyn NY, Maspeth NY, Cicero IL, Chicago IL, Boston, MA, Philadelphia PA, New Britain CT, Mahanoy City PA, Waterbury CT, Scranton PA, Providence RI, Worcester MA, Elizabeth NJ, Grand Rapids MI, Hartford CT, Wilkes-Barre PA, East St. Louis IL, Cleveland OH, Washington, D.C., Dayton OH, Maizeville PA, and Southfield, MI!

One can obtain the book for \$40.00 plus \$10.00 shipping and handling. Checks are to be made payable to: LAC, Inc., Cultural Affairs Council.

The address is:

Lithuanian-American Community, Inc.
15100 Interlachen Dr., Suite 526,
Silver Spring, MD 20906-5606.

Every Lithuanian household should have a copy of this book. Happy reading!

TRIVIA QUESTION

(No.30)

Dictionary/Žodynas

Who wrote the first dictionary of the Lithuanian language?

- (a) Pranicškus Šrubauskas
- (b) Jonas Jaknavičius
- (c) Konstantinas Širvydas

Answer to Trivia Quiz
on page 24

„Lietuvių kultūrinis paveldas Amerikoje“

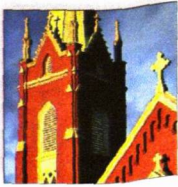


Foto albumas supažindina skaitytojus su gausiu Amerikos lietuvių kultūriniu palikimu Amerikoje: Amerikos lietuvių istorija, Lietuvos Respublikos ambasada, lietuvių kultūriniais centrais, pirmosiomis lietuvių bažnyčiomis, taip pat bažnyčiomis ir jų architektūra po 1950 metų, vienuolynais, jaunimo stovyklomis, nekilnojamo menu, paminklais ir koplytstulpiais, lietuvių kapinėmis. Kiekvienas albumo skyrius turi trumpą aprašymą. Albumas gausiai iliustruotas – yra daugiau kaip 350 spalvotų nuotraukų; kietais viršeliais, 224 puslapių 9“ iš 12“ formato.

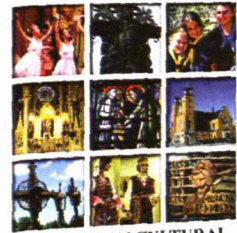
Foto albumas yra lietuvių ir anglų kalba, todėl jis gali supažindinti lietuvius, amerikiečius ir kitus svetimtaučius su gausiu „Lietuvių kultūriniu paveldu Amerikoje“. Foto albumas yra puiki dovana mūsų giminaičiams, pažįstamiems ir kitataučiams draugams.

“Lithuanian Cultural Legacy in America”

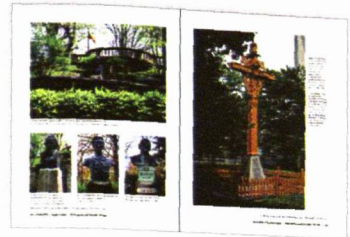
This photo album introduces the reader to the wealth of Lithuanian cultural legacy in America. The album presents a short history of: Lithuanians in America; the Lithuanian Embassy in the USA; Lithuanian cultural centers; the first Lithuanian churches in America; churches and their architecture after 1950; religious houses; youth camps; installed art; monuments and wayside shrines; and Lithuanian cemeteries. Each chapter has a brief introduction, over 350 beautifully reproduced photographs, an index and resource list. The album is a 9x12” hard-cover 224-page publication.

“Lithuanian Cultural Legacy in America” is written in Lithuanian and English and is a valuable resource to friends of all nationalities. The photo album is a wonderful gift for relatives, fellow Lithuanians and for anyone interested in a pictorial presentation of Lithuanian cultural legacy in America.

LIETUVIŲ KULTŪRINIS PAVELDAS AMERIKOJE



LITHUANIAN CULTURAL LEGACY IN AMERICA



YES! I would like to order “Lithuanian Cultural Legacy in America!” Complete and mail this form today!

FIRST & LAST NAME: PHONE:

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Publication pricing: US \$40 (+ US \$10 shipping and handling) ■ Number of copies _____ x US \$50 = _____

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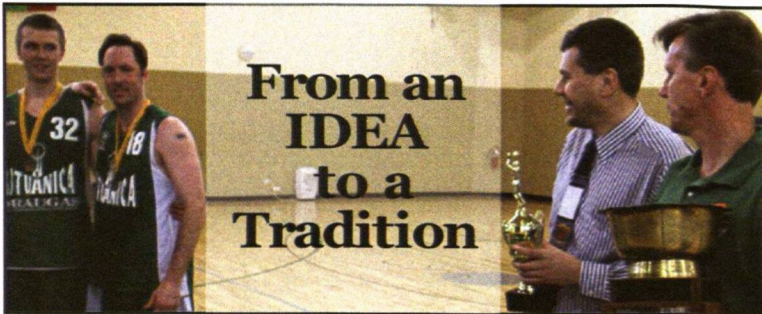
NOTE: No P.O. Boxes please. All payments must be made in U.S. Dollars. Please allow 2-4 weeks for delivery. For bulk orders (12 per carton), rush delivery, or for orders to mailing addresses outside the USA, please call 301-598-6657 for discounts and/or rates. Pricing and availability subject to change without notice.



Photo Album
2009
Song Festival,
Lithuania

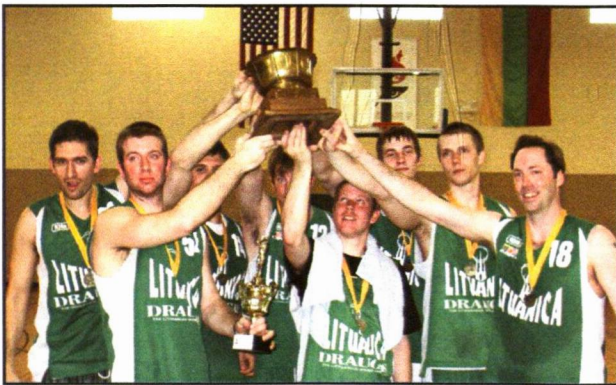


Photos by:
by Julie Skurdenis, Bronxville, NY



LAUNA Chair Laurynas R. Misevičius and Dr. Donatas Silunas, a leading organizer of the games, prepare to present the Lithuanian Foundation and LAUNA trophies to Chicago's "Lituanica"

What started as an innovative idea is rapidly becoming a tradition. Although the presentation of a trophy at a sports tournament is not a novelty, the uniqueness of the format where the winning team also wins the right to name the Heritage school that will be receiving a \$1000 grant, garnered attention from all the attendees.



Lituanica, representing the "Windy City" has won the LAUNA tournament for the third consecutive year

For the third consecutive year, the presentation of the Lithuanian Foundation trophy was done at the 59th annual LAUNA (Lithuanian Athletic Union of North America) basketball tournament which took place in April at the Lithuanian World Center in Lemont, IL. Team "Lituanica" from Chicago, accepted the cup, presented by Laurynas R. Misevičius, LF Board member.



Chair of the Lithuanian Foundation Board Rimantas Griškėlis (right) greets the Texas team and gives them momentos of the Lithuanian Foundation

As the third place winners, "Seni Krienai" from Texas looked on, "Lituanica" announced that a \$1000 grant would be awarded to "Saulė", the newly formed Heritage School in Houston. Newly elected LF Chairman of the Board, Rimantas Griškėlis, expressed congratulations to all.

Despite fluctuations in worldwide economic markets, the Lithuanian Foundation remains steadfast in its mission – that of ensuring continuity of the Lithuanian culture in our émigré community – and reaches out

to all members of our ethnic family. With continued support of our members and increased involvement of new members, support such as this will continue long into the future.



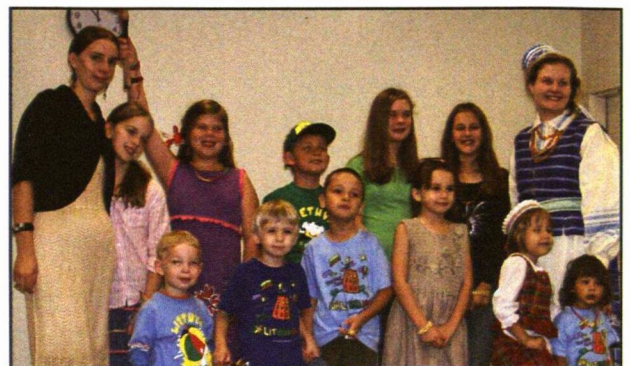
Texas "Seni krienai" are happy with their bronze medals

JOIN US!

www.lithuanianfoundation.org

Laima Petrolinienė

*Photos by Eugenija Misevičius



Texas "Saulė" Lithuanian language (Heritage) School, led by Kristina Andrijauskaitė (first from left). Photo is from her personal album



A Lithuanian Princess

For close to 75 years the National Cherry Blossom Festival has been heralding the coming of spring to the Nation's Capital. From its inauspicious beginnings in 1935, it has blossomed into a spectacular two week festival seen by millions of tourists.

The Festival commemorates the 1912 gift of 3,000 cherry trees by Tokyo's Mayor Yukio Ozaki. The trees were to enhance the growing friendship between Japan and the United States. In 1965 Japan sent an additional 3,000 cherry trees which were accepted by the First Lady, "Lady Bird" Johnson.

This year the Festival began on March 29 and ended on April 4. The two week long festivities culminated with a huge parade witnessed by more than 100,000 people. The highlight of the parade was the appearance of the Cherry Blossom Princesses. The Princesses, representing the fifty states, are selected by their respective states for their academic, as well as their civic, social and international activities. This year, as in the prior three years, the foreign embassies in Washington D.C. were invited to participate in the traditional Princess Parade.

Representing the Lithuanian Embassy was Sofija Degesyte. Sofija graduated from Duke University with a major in History and this fall she'll be studying law at Georgetown University.

All the princesses, in addition, to visiting the White House, the Congress and participating in numerous events in their honor,



were also invited by Ambassador Audrius Bruzga to visit the Lithuanian Embassy.

The Ambassador briefly apprised all the princesses of the many celebrations that are and will be occurring in Lithuania, specifically the celebration of Lithuania's millennium and about all the events that will be taking place in Vilnius, this year's Europe's Cultural Capital. Afterwards Ambassador Bruzga invited all the young ladies to partake in the many delicious Lithuanian pastries.

Captions: Top Photo - Lithuanian Princess, Sofija Degesyte and other princesses at the Lithuanian Embassy enjoy the company of Ambassador Audrius Bruzga. Bottom Photo - The Princesses experience Lithuanian hospitality at the Embassy.

Rimas Gedeika

Rimas Gedeika lives in New Jersey. He is a member of the National Executive Committee of the Lithuanian American Community serving as Vice-President for Special Projects. He is also active in the Lithuanian Sports Community and is the administrator of Bridges.



Church of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary and Grusdis Tavern

There are many Lithuanian communities in the United States, but Chicago was and is the capital of all Lithuanians residing here. The center, the main community of Chicago Lithuanians from 1950-1990 was Marquette Park and the main street was West 69th Street. The stretch between Western Ave. and California Ave. is only half a mile but it contained many Lithuanian establishments and you could live there and purchase all the necessities without uttering a single word of English.

On the east end the street begins with a tavern-restaurant, Paulius hardware store, dry cleaners-laundry, Lekas funeral parlor, dentist office and Marginiai – a gift store, where you could buy Lithuanian books, gifts etc. Then a liquor store, tavern and the old Parama food store, which later was converted to a restaurant, then a theater. There was a drug store, Andrijauskas tavern, Eages tavern, which later became the Continental lounge and Butkus tavern. On the corner of 69th and Maplewood the new Parama supermarket was built. It was the pride of 69th Street, next to it was the Putis tavern, which was the center of social activities. Next there was a drug store, an apparel store, a couple of taverns, a bank, a bakery, grocery store, dentist office and three more

taverns. Chicago's Loop has Rush Street with all the night clubs, we Lithuanians had West 69th Street.

We were not all alcoholics, we had little money to spend on drinks, but after four years of German DP (Displaced Person) camps we needed a place where we could gather and meet each other and taverns provided such a place. Many Lithuanian cultural and political organizations started in taverns.

One of the main taverns was the Putis saloon. Mr. Putis came to America in the late twenties, spoke Lithuanian well and was a friendly, good natured man. He was a veteran of the Second World War and would boast that he was a cook for General Patton. In 1950 and 51 Putis saloon was the place where you went to meet other new immigrants and find out where to get a job or a place to live. During the weekend Mr. Putis was serving drinks, but Monday or any day during the week in the morning he would load his car with new immigrants and take them to the Chicago Clearing district where many factories were located and help them find a job.

Putis tavern became the center of DP activities. The tavern had two medium-size halls; one in the basement and the second at street level. In those halls many DP cultural and political

West 69th Street

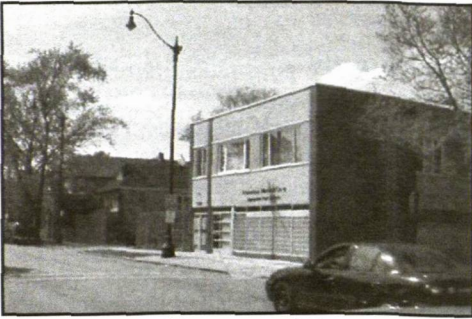
Part 1

taverns. At the west end the street ended at California Ave, and was anchored by the Holy Cross Hospital and Nativity BVM Lithuanian Catholic Church.

The street had one hospital, church, diner, funeral parlor, bank, hardware store, apparel store, and bakery. Two grocery stores, pharmacies, and twelve

organizations were started. There I joined the Lithuanian Male Chorus "Vytis", which later developed into the Lithuanian Opera of Chicago. The chorus and later the Opera held its rehearsals there on Fridays and Sundays, and every Friday after rehearsal we stayed and had a few drinks. At those sessions most of the planning for the future was made, many arguments were conducted and songs were sung. In my dreams I can still hear our stars, Al Brazis and Stefan Vicik, singing duets-La tura, La tura. The Opera rehearsed at Putis' tavern until the Jesuits built the Youth Center where we moved the rehearsals, but Friday night we stopped at Putis' tavern for a drink, discussions, arguments and songs. After some years of wear and tear Mr. Putis decided to remodel the tavern and hired Charley the painter to do the remodeling. Charley was an artist and a painter. Since he could not live from his art, he became a painter and earned enough money to keep himself in spirits most of the time. He repainted the tavern and the halls and as a bonus painted a mural on the tavern wall. It was a typical saloon picture showing a rather plump, almost naked lady resting on a couch. No one really cared about the mural until one day while sipping beer with a couple of friends one of them paid a little more attention and said: look at her, look at her feet and count the toes! One, two, tree, four, five, six! Yes, the lady had six toes on each foot. Charley the painter overdid it. The mural remained on the wall showing the beauty with twelve toes.

Some time in the sixties Mr. Putis sold the tavern and retired. Many other owners followed but the Putis' tavern survived all the changes of the neighborhood and today only the Putis' tavern and the Nativity BVM Church are left to remind us that here flourished a large Lithuanian community.



What remains of Parama and Putis tavern.

When I returned from military service the activities at Putis' tavern had diminished, and veterans started to gather in a new Gruzdis tavern which was located across the street from Nativity Church. Mr. Gruzdis was a DP and we veterans made his tavern our hangout. We sipped beer, swapped war stories and discussed what we should do with our lives. One of my new friends, Felix, was urging us to go back to school. He became a pain in the butt with his arguments but finally I took his advice and returned to school. My education started in a tavern.

There were many other taverns, all of them had something unique about them. There was Eages saloon. Eage was the only Lithuanian gangster I knew. His saloon did not try to sell liquor or beer. It was a gambling establishment and as a bonus on weekends showed stag movies. The saloon was open past legal hours and it had some kind of immunity from police, but at that time Chicago was an open city. The street had a tavern to meet anyone's desires. The main emphasis, with time, shifted from one tavern to the next. First it was Putis' tavern, then Gruzdis' place, Eages' saloon which was converted to the Continental Lounge, then to Andrijauskas' tavern and it ended back at Putis', which then was renamed to Gintaras-Amber tavern. In the eighties and nineties the Andrijauskas tavern was the center. This was the place where any Lithuanian visiting Chicago stopped for a drink. This was the place to visit and meet anyone you

wanted to see. In 69th Street taverns I met President Reagan, most Chicago and Lithuanian politicians and had a drink with our basketball star, Sabonis. All the celebrities were interesting, but each tavern had its own celebrity, characters that made each tavern an exciting place to visit.

Putis' tavern had Charley the painter, Eages' saloon all the gamblers and Lukan gangsters, Gruzdis' tavern had a bunch of young comedians. One day while sipping beer with a few friends we noticed a girl who came to the tavern every day for a week asking if anyone could tell her where she could find Zigi. We knew him, but did not know where and why he was hiding. After a week of inquiries someone decided to help her and told her that Zigi was arrested by the police, was in jail, furthermore that the police found her footprints on the dashboard of Zigi's car and that police were looking for her. After hearing this story she left in a hurry and never came back. I do not know if we helped or hurt Zigi's love life. Now I think that it was a dirty trick, but then it was funny. Andrijauskas' tavern had Joe the cook. Joe was a retired master mechanic. He was a widower and lived in an apartment close to the tavern. Joe was a country artist: he made all kinds of Lithuanian art objects using steel, wood and plastic. His art was crude and clumsy, but he could make anything he desired. Art was his second hobby. The first hobby was food. He loved to eat, but he also loved to cook. He prepared all kinds of delicacies and stored it in the trunk of his car. In winter it was fine, but in summer it created a problem. All his meat dishes were loaded with salt, and I think they could survive a

Saharan summer. He would come to the tavern carrying a huge bag of foodstuff, lay it out on the bar, order a drink and invite friends, whom he liked, to share the food with him. It was a feast, all kinds of meat dishes with pickled mushrooms, pickled green tomatoes and all kinds, sometimes strange, side dishes. Joe was an interesting, one of a kind person to know. He liked me and I was always invited to share his food. When he found out that I was an engineer he handmade a stainless steel anvil which I mounted on my desk set. I still have it and to me it is a part of the old 69th Street that I like to remember.

Continued next month.....

Vytautas Kupcikevičius
Vytautas Kupcikevičius was born in Kaunas, Lithuania. He is a holder of 51 US Patents in the food packaging field. His hobbies are art water colors and drift wood sculptures.

*Dear Jeanne,
I must tell you how I appreciated your story about your Mama. Every word brought hot, sweet tears to my eyes. I wonder, how many of us had somebody like your Mama to bring sweetness to their lives. Your words reminded me of my own mother, and so many of her friends, ladies I called "teta". Bless them all.
All the best,
Glaria O'Brien*



Lithuanian-American Community

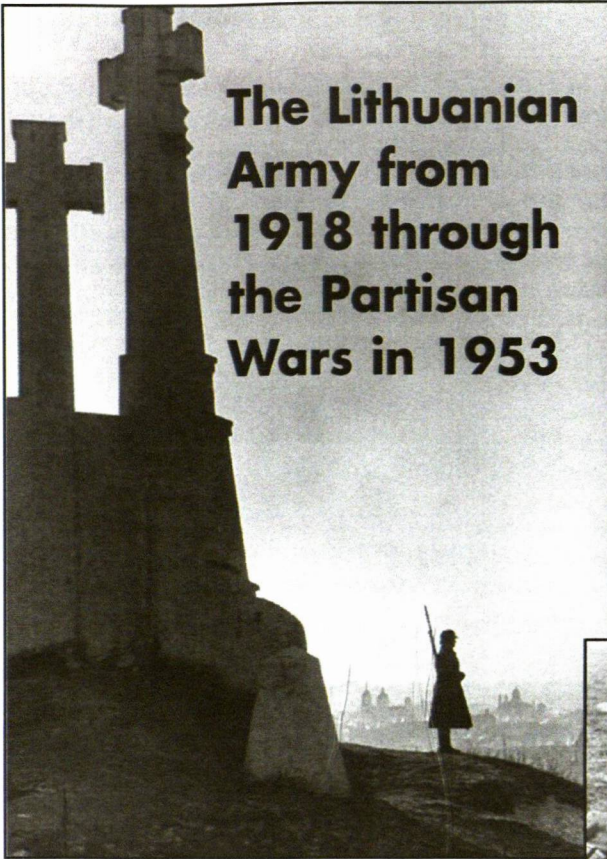
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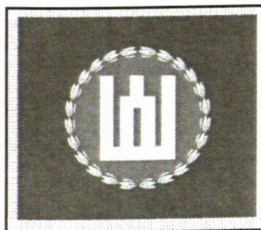
The Lithuanian Army from 1918 through the Partisan Wars in 1953



Sentry overlooking the Capital, Vilnius - 1939

During the First World War Lithuania became a battleground. In 1915 the Kaiser's Army occupied the country. Initially, Germany planned to annex Lithuania but the Empire's military setbacks created a situation more favorable for the small nations of Eastern Europe to regain their independence. An even more favorable development was the collapse of Russia. On February 16, 1918 the Lithuanian Council (known as the Taryba) declared Lithuania's independence but the actual creation of a truly independent state had to await the end of the Great War in the fall of 1918.

In November the Provisional government of Lithuania was established headed by Augustinas Voldemaras who was also appointed the country's first Minister of Defense. The youthful and inexperienced Lithuanian politicians hoped that postwar international problems would be settled peacefully by diplomatic means without the use of an armed force and so, initially, they did not pay much attention to the establishment of an army. However, the threat of the Red Army and the emergence of a hostile Polish state in the south forced Lithuanian leaders to consider forming their own military force.



Lithuanian Army flag

On November 23, 1918, the government issued the first order to the nascent military and this date is now celebrated as the official establishment of the modern Lithuanian army, although, in fact, no military force yet existed. On December 29 the new Lithuanian Prime Minister Mykolas Sleževičius and the Defense Minister Mykolas Velykis officially called for volunteers. The decision to establish a volunteer force was the correct one for the time: the government was not yet in control of much of the country; the fledgling administration was incapable of mobilization and volunteers would be more motivated to serve.

In early 1919 Russian Bolshevik units were advancing towards Kaunas which at the time was the seat of the government (which had withdrawn from Vilnius). In February Lithuanian volunteers halted the Russian forces north of Kaunas and defeated them in Kėdainiai, thus foiling the Bolshevik offensive. After a few days the Bolshevik forces



Platoon of soldiers resting before battle - 1920

Which were attacking from the south were also turned back. The direct threat to Kaunas was averted, but these were but the first successful battles. The Bolsheviks had seized Panevėžys and Šiauliai as they advanced deep into Žemaitija, reaching Telšiai and nearing the border with East Prussia. The fledgling Lithuanian army lacked experienced commanders, guns, ammunition, transport, artillery and airplanes. The infantry units were initially armed only with rifles and light machine guns. Artillery and heavy machine guns arrived only later.

The battles with Bolshevik Russia lasted from January 5, 1919 until exactly a year later. During the spring and summer of 1919 the Lithuanian forces attacked in the direction of Ukmergė-Utena and Panevėžys-Rokiškis. Successful operations resulted in the liberation of Ukmergė, Panevėžys, and Utena. In August 1919 the decisive Zarasai operation was launched, which was the most successful offensive of the entire independence wars.

The Lithuanian army defeated the Russians, liberated Zarasai and pushed the enemy forces beyond the Dauguva River in Latvia.

The independence wars did not end with the defeat of Soviet Russia. In July 1919 a new enemy appeared, the Bermondists (named after their commander, the adventurer Colonel Bermond-Avalov). These were units formed from Russian POW's in Germany, armed, equipped and supported by the government in Berlin which hoped to utilize the Bermondists to maintain a sphere of influence in the Baltic. The Bermondists invaded Lithuania from Latvia and approached Kaunas at a time when the Lithuanian army was preoccupied with the war against Soviet Russia. New forces had to be directed against this threat and on November 21, 1919 the Lithuanian army routed Bermond's men at Radviliškis and began pushing them towards the German border. The complete collapse of the Bermondist army was prevented by the intervention of the Allied powers led by France which demanded that the Lithuanians withdraw to their initial positions and allow the Bermondists, essentially a ragtag mass of plunderers, to evacuate to Germany.

The most serious threat to the new Lithuanian state came from Poland which hoped to make Lithuania a dependency of the new Polish state. The Allied commissions tended to favor the Poles in drawing demarcation and armistice lines, but these concessions only encouraged new Polish attacks. On October 7, 1920 a Lithuanian-Polish agreement was signed in Suwalki delineating a new armistice line, but on the following day Polish forces advanced into Lithuania. On October 9, the Poles seized Vilnius and continued their attack; however, on November 21 the Lithuanian army defeated the Polish units at the towns of Širvintai and Giedraičiai, halted the enemy advance and initiated a counterattack, but the Allied Control Commission demanded an immediate halt to the Lithuanian offensive. The Lithuanian military victories saved the country from a Polish



*The legendary partisan,
Col. Adolfas Ramanauskas -
VANAGAS (the hawk)*

occupation, but Vilnius and one-third of the Republic of Lithuania's territory remained under Polish control. During the independence wars of 1918-1920 Lithuania lost 4,256 soldiers, national guardsmen and partisans.

In June 1940 the USSR, by previous agreement with Nazi Germany, occupied Lithuania and the other Baltic states. The Lithuanian government did not agree with the proposal of President Antanas Smetona and the Defense Minister Kazys Musteikis to resist the Soviet invasion, deciding to accept Moscow's ultimatum. At the time the Lithuanian army had 31,000 active servicemen while the Soviets had concentrated some 220,000 troops, 1,500 tanks, 250 armored cars, 1,140 aircraft and nearly 3,000 mortars and artillery pieces. Following the occupation and annexation of the country, the Lithuanian forces were attached to the Red Army as a so-called territorial riflemen's corps. Many soldiers were arrested and sent to prison or Siberian concentration camps. The Soviets planned to eliminate virtually all Lithuanian officers and noncoms by 1942.

At the outbreak of the German-Soviet war on June 22, 1941, the majority of the men of the Red Army's Lithuanian territorial riflemen's corps mutinied, many of them attacking Communist functionaries, Russian officers and even Red Army units. An anti-Soviet uprising spread

through the country and most Lithuanians hoped for a restoration of an independent state. About 600 insurgents were killed in the June 1941 uprising. There was a widespread belief that a German defeat of Soviet Russia would bring independence but these hopes were dashed by Nazi atrocities and a severe German occupation. Most Lithuanians supported neither the Germans nor the Soviets while the policy of the nation's leaders was to await the war's end and try to save as much human, cultural and material resources as possible.

The partisan struggle against the second Soviet occupation began almost immediately upon the



A group of partisans from the Dainava region



A parade of tanks - 1936

return of the Red Army in 1944. The anti-Soviet guerilla war can be divided into three stages. First, there was the period between the fall of 1944 and the summer of 1946. During this period partisan units formed spontaneously: they were quite large and were based in fortified camps. These units often fought large pitched battles against the enemy. The Great Battle (Didžioji kova) force under Jonas Misiūnas-Žalias Velnias was divided into battalions and controlled large areas of eastern Lithuania fighting successful battles against several Soviet regiments at a time. In Ukmergė district alone this force carried out 162 operations. Of the larger-scale battles of the time one should mention the Battle of Kalniškės Forest in which 44 partisans were killed, while the Soviet forces lost several hundred men. The partisans not only engaged large Soviet units but they often seized control of smaller towns, such as rural district centers, liberating detained Lithuanians and killing many Soviets and their collaborators. The partisans also attempted to halt Russian colonization of Lithuania by demanding that settlers from the USSR stay out of the country and attacking those who did not heed the warnings.

The second phase of the armed struggle lasted from the summer of 1946 until the end of 1948. During this period the partisans sought to create a unified and well-organized nationwide command structure. The guerillas also changed their tactics by avoiding large-scale battles and devoting more efforts to reconnaissance and anti-Soviet agitation. The partisans sought to warn people about forthcoming deportations and it is thought that some 15,000 persons were able to avoid Siberian exile with the help of the resistance. The best-known leader of the partisans during this period was Antanas Baltūsis-Žvejys who led the Tauras partisan district and sought to unite all Lithuanian partisan units.

The third and final phase of the partisan war can be dated from the end of 1948 until the summer of 1953 during which the armed struggle weakened decisively. The

Lithuanian Freedom Fighter Movement was created in the summer of 1949 which united all the partisan units into a single organization and adopted many legal documents. Partisan Gen. Jonas Žemaitis-Vytautas was elected leader of the Movement, while Partisan Col. Adolfas Ramanauskas-Vanagas was chosen head of the armed forces of the resistance.



ANBO training and reconnaissance aircraft, which were designed and built by a Brigadier General, were well known in Europe in the 1930s

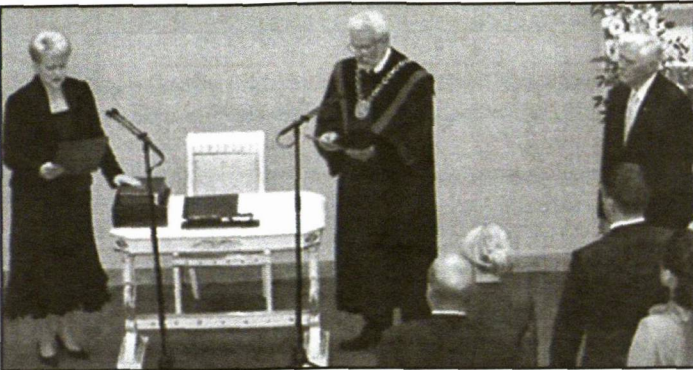
Hopes that aid would come from the West, which had been high during the earlier period of the war, now vanished. The partisans now discouraged new recruits, except for people who were in imminent danger from Soviet authorities. Most of the earlier partisan leaders were killed. In 1953 the Soviets destroyed the last staff headquarters of a partisan district, that of Žemaičiai, and killed the district commander Vladas Mantvydas-Žemaitis. Organized resistance now ceased although individual partisans and small units fought on for several more years. The last members of an organized partisan unit, Antanas Kraujelis-Siaubunas and Pranas Končius-Adomas, were killed in 1965. It is estimated that about 20,000 partisans were killed during the anti-Soviet armed struggle from 1944 to 1953.

Author: Captain Vytautas Voveris

Translated by Prof. Saulius Sužiedėlis, Millersville University

Capt. Vytautas Voveris is a member of Lithuania's National Guard. He has held various military positions in the Guard and was an army correspondent from 1990 through 1994. He has written many articles for various Lithuania military magazines. Currently he is a member of the editorial staff of the National Defense Ministry's magazine, "Krašto Apsauga"

Editor's Note: A very special thank you to the Lithuanian Defense Ministry's Army Archives for permission to use the photographs appearing in this article.



Dalia Grybauskaitė takes the oath of office

Lithuania's First Woman President

The following photos were taken by Rimas Gedeika at the inauguration of President Dalia Grybauskaitė on July 12, 2009 in Vilnius, Lithuania.



President Adamkus and President Grybauskaitė



The new President is greeted by Cardinal Backis after Mass in the Vilnius Cathedral



President Grybauskaitė and former President Adamkus review the troops



A jubilant President Grybauskaitė addressing the people of Lithuania

News and Views

CULTURE

Honorable guests to visit Lithuania's Millennium celebratory events

Vilnius, (ELTA) - July 6 will see a number of honorable guests attending the events in Vilnius dedicated to the Millennium of the Name of Lithuania, reported the press service of the president.

Their Majesties Queen Margaret II of the Kingdom of Denmark, King Harald V and Queen Sonja of Norway, and King Carl XVI Gustaf and Queen Silvia of Sweden plan to visit Lithuania on this occasion. The celebrations are also to be attended by President Olafur Ragnar Grímsson of Iceland, President Valdis Zatlers of Latvia, President Lech Kaczynski of Poland, President Viktor Yushchenko of Ukraine, President Tarja Halonen of Finland, Cardinal Angelo Sodano, Legate of Pope Benedict XVI and Dean of the College of Cardinals, Prime Minister Andrus Ansip of Estonia, President of the European Commission José Manuel Barroso, and Russia's Minister of Culture Alexander Avdeyev.

The celebrations of the Millennium will start with the Flag Hoisting Ceremony on the Daukanto Square and the address by the President of the Republic of

Lithuania Valdas Adamkus, after which the honorable guests will attend Holy Mass at the Vilnius Cathedral.

The Holy Mass on the Cathedral Square will be followed by the ceremony of a symbolic opening of the Palace of Rulers of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania and the greeting and seeing-off of the participants of the Millennium Song Celebration of Lithuania that goes under the title of "The Song of the Centuries". In the courtyard of the Palace of Rulers, Lithuanian and foreign leaders will be greeted by Lithuanian dance and song group "Lictuva" (Lithuania).

TRANSPORTATION

Star1 Airlines begins flights

Vilnius - All necessary permits for flights have been granted to Star1 Airlines. As of this Friday, the Lithuanian capital-based company will restore the air bridges between Vilnius and London, Dublin and Girona (Barcelona).

According to Star1 Airlines CEO Martynas Laivys, the first regular flight to London will take place this Friday. Meanwhile, charter flights are being performed from today morning. The air company will perform flights to Turkey in line with the order of the travel organizer Star Holidays.

"Very soon Vilnius will restore air bridges with the most important European cities. Therefore, I personally believe that the beginning of our activities will be useful to the entire Lithuania," says Laivys.

Star1 Airlines will expand regular flights geography to other European destinations after adding the second aircraft to its fleet. Paris, Milan and additional flight frequencies to London are now being planned.

"We will continue putting all effort into strivings to renew Vilnius, and entire Lithuania's, connection to the European countries and intend to present new flight directions with a new plane in the end of the summer," Laivys says.

CULTURE

Baltic Way may be included into UNESCO programme "Memory of the World"

Vilnius (ELTA) - It is foreseen in the Government's special programme on commemoration of the historic Baltic Way action to prepare necessary documents on inclusion of the Baltic Way into the cultural values registry and UNESCO programme "Memory of the World".

Air balloon fiesta, documentary film "Called by Freedom", mobile photo document exhibitions and international race Vilnius-Riga-Tallin to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the Baltic Way also foreseen in the programme approved by the Government on Wednesday as well as a bicycle trip via the Baltic Way and patriotic songs competition "Songs of Freedom".

The Seimas had announced this year the year of the 20th anniversary of the Baltic Way.

Information Center for Homecoming Lithuanians

ANSWER TO TRIVIA QUESTION

Trivia Quiz on page 12

Konstantinas Širvydas (1579-1631) was a Jesuit priest and author of the first dictionary of the Lithuanian language. He wrote *Punktai sakymų* in Lithuanian, which was published in two volumes in Vilnius in 1629 and 1644, respectively. Another work was his dictionary of three languages: Polish - Lithuania - Latin. He wrote a Lithuanian language grammar text.

Source: *Eastern Lithuania*, edited by Algirdas M. Budreckis Ph.D.

Edward Shakalis

Eward 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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Explanation of voting REGIONS in U.S. of the THE LITHUANIAN-AMERICAN COMMUNITY

Amerikos Kryžkelių / America's Crossroads District Colorado, Houston, TX, Kansas City, KS, Omaha, NE, Salt Lake City, UT, San Antonio, TX, Sioux City, IA	New Britain, CT, New Haven, CT, Eastern Connecticut Chapter, Waterbury, CT	Buffalo, NY, Long Island, NY, Manhattan, NY, Brooklyn-Queens, NY	Vakarų Apg. Raj. I, II, III / Western District Alaska, Arizona, Hawaii, Los Angeles, CA, San Diego, CA, San Francisco, CA, Portland, OR, Washington State Chapter (Seattle)
Naujosios Anglijos / Boston District Boston, MA, Brockton, MA, Cape Cod, MA, Providence, RI, Worcester, MA	Florida District Atlanta, GA, Amber Shore, Southwest Florida, Daytona Beach, FL, North Carolina, Palm Beach, FL, St. Petersburg, FL, Sunny Hills, FL, Miami, FL	Ohio District Cincinnati, OH, Cleveland, OH, Dayton, OH, Pittsburgh, PA, Rochester, NY	Vidurio Vak. Apg. Raj. I, II, III / Mid-West District Brighton Park, Cicero, IL, East Chicago, IN, Greater St. Louis, Lemont, IL, Waukegan, IL, Indianapolis, IN, Madison, WI, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Lake Ozark, MO
Connecticut District Bridgeport, CT, Hartford, CT,	Michigan District Detroit, MI, Grand Rapids, MI, Lansing, MI	Pietryčių Apg. Raj. I, II / Southeast District Baltimore, MD, Philadelphia, PA, Washington D.C., Elizabeth, NJ, Newark, NJ, Scranton, PA, Roanoke, VA	
	New York District		

*This is the list of names from the National Election Committee voting results for the 19th Board of Directors of the Lithuanian-American community by Region.

*Vardas = Name

*Pavardė = Last name

*Apygarda, Rajonas = Region

JAV Lietuvių Bendruomenės XIX Tarybos Nariai		
Apygarda, Rajonas	Vardas	Pavardė
Amerikos Kryžkelių	Kristina	Jonyka
Amerikos Kryžkelių	Aryvydas	Urbonavičius
Connecticut	ses. Margarita	Bareikaitė
Connecticut	Dijana	Norkienė
Connecticut	Laima	Reiss
Connecticut	Giedre	Stankuniene
Florida	Jolita	Dromantaite
Florida	Mindaugas	Satas
Florida	Zita	Siderienė
Florida	Alyvydas	Smilinskas
Florida	Diana	Striogienis
Florida	Dr. Andrea	Zotovas
Michigan	Birutė	Bublienė
Michigan	Kastytis	Gledraitis
Michigan	Rasa	Karvelienė
Michigan	Linas	Orentas
Naujosios Anglijos	Regina	Balcaitiene
Naujosios Anglijos	Rima	Girniuvienė
Naujosios Anglijos	Algimantas	Gustaitis
Naujosios Anglijos	Daiva	Navickienė
Naujosios Anglijos	Jonas	Stundžia
Naujosios Anglijos	Irena	Veitienė
New York	Vida	Jankauskiene
New York	Stanislovas	Kavaliauskas
New York	Laima	Šileikyte - Hood
New York	Laurynas	Vismanas
Ohio	Janina Birutė	Litvinienė
Ohio	Dalia	Puškorienė
Ohio	Grazvydas	Supronas

Apygarda, Rajonas	Vardas	Pavardė
Pietryčių Apg. Raj. II	Robertas	Kupstas Byla
Pietryčių Apg. Raj. II	Teresė	Gečienė
Pietryčių Apg. Raj. II	Roma	Krušinskienė
Pietryčių Apg. Raj. II	Algis	Lukas
Pietryčių Apg. Raj. II	Vytas	Maciūnas
Pietryčių Apg. Raj. II	Nerija	Orentas
Pietryčių Apg. Raj. II	Audronė	Pakštienė
Vakarų Apg. Raj. I	Violeta	Gedgaudienė
Vakarų Apg. Raj. I	Jurgis	Joga
Vakarų Apg. Raj. I	Danguolė	Navickienė
Vakarų Apg. Raj. I	Albinas	Sekas
Vakarų Apg. Raj. I	Irena	Blekys
Vakarų Apg. Raj. III	Stanley(Stasys)	Vanagunas
Vidurio Vak. Apg. Raj. I	Stanley	Balzėkas
Vidurio Vak. Apg. Raj. I	Algimantas	Barniškis
Vidurio Vak. Apg. Raj. I	Ophelia	Baršketis-Vainius
Vidurio Vak. Apg. Raj. I	Rimantas	Dirvonis
Vidurio Vak. Apg. Raj. I	Birutė	Kairienė
Vidurio Vak. Apg. Raj. I	Ernestas	Lukoševičius
Vidurio Vak. Apg. Raj. I	Juozas	Pofikaitis
Vidurio Vak. Apg. Raj. I	Jonas Vytautas	Prunskis
Vidurio Vak. Apg. Raj. I	Marija	Remiene
Vidurio Vak. Apg. Raj. I	Milda-Marija	Šatienė
Vidurio Vak. Apg. Raj. I	Liudas	Šlenys
Vidurio Vak. Apg. Raj. I	Loreta	Timukienė
Vidurio Vak. Apg. Raj. I	Vilija	Vakaryte
Vidurio Vak. Apg. Raj. I	Paulius	Vertelka
Vidurio Vak. Apg. Raj. II	Birutė	Vilutienė
Vidurio Vak. Apg. Raj. III	Gediminas	Damašius
Vidurio Vak. Apg. Raj. III	Regina	Narušienė, J.D.

Calendar of Events for July/August, September, October, 2009

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

JULY

July 3 - 4, 2009 - NERINGA TURNS 40 - Neringa's on-site birthday celebration (aside from celebrating at every camp). See the 40th birthday party information at www.neringa.org for a registration form and details on the program as they become available. If you can't make it to Vermont, be sure to join in the celebration at Putnam during the annual picnic. www.neringa.org

July 26, 2009 - PUTNAM PICNIC
Lithuanian Friendship Day Picnic
 Immaculate Conception Convent Grounds
 600 Liberty Highway, Putnam, CT 06260

AUGUST

August 6 - 9, 2009
96th National Convention Knights of Lithuania.
 Oak Brook, IL - Hosted by Council 16, Chicago, IL
www.knightsoflithuania.com

August 15 - 16, 2009 - 95th LITHUANIAN DAYS
 Food, vendors & fun for all. Lithuanian Textiles will be featured this year - Schuylkill Mall, Frackville, PA
 Sponsor: **Knights of Lithuania Council 144**

August 16, 2009 - 2 PM
 Dedication of new monument "For Those Who Died for Lithuania's Freedom" The Lithuanians of Brockton, MA Invite you to participate in the dedication at the Convent of the Sisters of Jesus Crucified and to

celebrate the 90th anniversary of the Lithuanian National Guard. 261 Thatcher St., Brockton, MA

SEPTEMBER

September 8, 2009
St. Andrew's Phila., PA
 Parish annual pilgrimage to the chapel of Our Lady of Šiluva in the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C
 Plan to participate in this annual pilgrimage, for details: call St. Andrew's Rectory at 215-765-2322

September 17, 2009 (Thursday)
5th Annual Autumn Gala
 Includes a hospitality reception & sit down dinner
 3603 Mc Roberts Road, Pittsburgh PA 15234
 Info. & Reservations 412- 885- 7232 or
info@osprov.org
 Proceeds benefit the
 Sisters of St. Francis of the Providence of God

September 25, 2009
Lithuanian-American Community's
Convention 2009 of the Board of Directors
 Time: 3:00pm Location: Denver Airport
 Marriott at Gateway Park
 16455 E. 40th Circle, Aurora, CO 80011
 Contact: For further info., please contact
 Romas Zableckas 970-310-3170 .

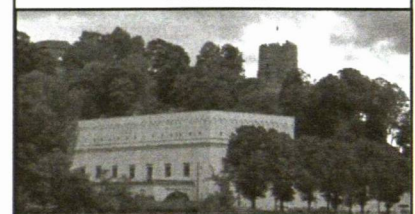
OCTOBER

October 9 - 11, 2009
Neringa Walk - a Thon www.neringa.org

October 10, 2009
Annual Fall Ball, Saturday - 6:00 pm
 Marine Corps Air Station Officer's Club,
 Miramar, San Diego
 San Diego Chapter Lithuanian-American Community Inc.

October 24, 2009
Krupnikas class, Time: 3.00 pm
 Location: Fraternal Order of Eagles Hall
 1151 S. Galena Street
 (just west of Mississippi and Havana)
 Denver, CO 80247
 For further info. www.coloradolithuanians.org

Correction



In the May issue, "Wonder of Lithuania and Lithuanians" the photo of Gediminas Tower was by Laima Reiss.
 Our apologies for the error.

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Donate your car, boat, truck, RV, Jet Ski or snowmobile to Lithuanian-American Community, Inc, and receive a tax deduction. This no cost, no hassle process begins when you contact our fundraising partner, DONATION LINE LLC at 877-227-4787. Make sure to ask for our extension, 2430. Or you can go to the website: www.donationline.com and complete the Vehicle Donation Form on line. Make sure to select Lithuanian-American Community, Inc. from the drop down list. Please have your title in hand when you donate.

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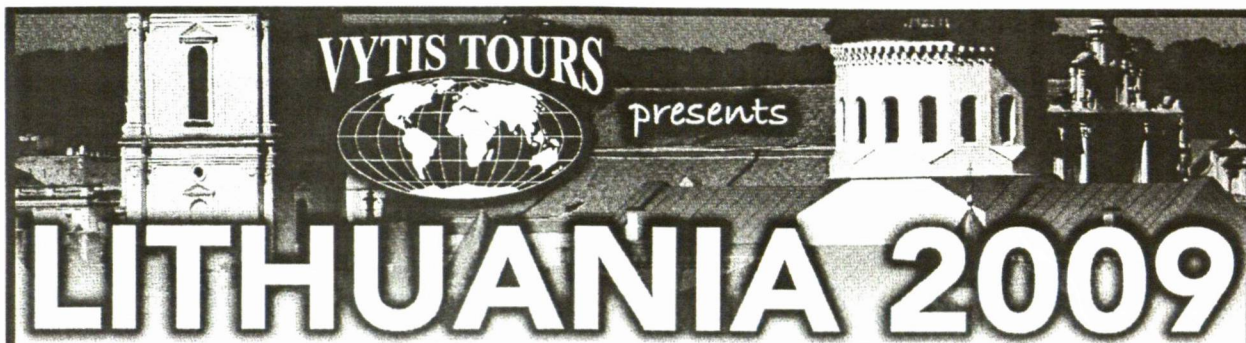
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VOLUME 33 ISSUE 6

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*July 4 - American Independence Day
Commemorates coronation of the first king, Mindaugas
August 15 - Feast of the Assumption Day-Žolinė*



Faces of The Lithuanian Song Festival

