

# bridges

1

2009



december 2009

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



*Letter from the Editor*

*It is quite difficult to concentrate on a December issue when it's seventy degrees outdoors. Please don't think I'm complaining, I love every minute of it while it lasts, but somehow snow and Christmas trees are not in my thoughts.*

*My own life was tragically changed this year with the sudden death of my husband and I will be happy to see this year come to an end. But I have seen so much good in people that it's impossible to find the words to describe the comfort and support I have received.*

*Many people reflect back at the end of the year and Bridges is no exception. Without our volunteer writers there would be no magazine, so from the bottom of my heart I thank them. I am grateful to the readers, to those who send articles from time to time from their local papers and announcements, and special thanks to our sponsors. What can I say about our wonderful photographers here and in Lithuania who have filled our magazine each month with glorious photographs? Many of you have written that you feel you were actually visiting Lithuania after seeing the lovely scenes. To the Lithuanian American Community, heartfelt thanks for your support. I can't even tell you how many hours Gema Kreivenas spends each month putting this magazine together, especially after I discover I've done something wrong and she has to pull it apart and start over. Rimas Gedeika is the administrator who takes care of the details while Vytas Maciunas and Kazys Razgaitis keep the technical wheels turning. We are all dependent on one another.*

*Are we satisfied? Absolutely not! We are always looking for ways to improve. One comment we received was that the calendar is not up to date. I try for three months in advance but this is a big country; there are many chapters, councils, organizations and parishes. If you don't contact me with your events then I can't list them.*


*From time to time we will be introducing new features. This coming year will mark the twentieth anniversary of the reestablishment of Lithuanian independence. We will be taking you back twenty years in Bridges and reprint articles that led up to March 11, 1990. It wasn't easy for the people in Lithuania and many people around the world worked and supported the cause for freedom. Hopefully, we'll stir your pot of memories.*

*If your church, chapter or organization held an event, please send along a few photos with captions and a paragraph describing the event. We'd love to share it with readers all over the country.*

*As always, thank you for sharing your homes with us. May you and yours have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. May your New Year be filled with peace, good health and happiness.*

*Wouldn't life be worth the living  
Wouldn't dreams be coming true  
If we kept the Christmas spirit  
All the whole year through?*

*Author Unknown*

  
*Jeanne Shalna Dorr*



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\* Cover:

*Traditional manger scene with live animals at the Cathedral Square,  
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Juozas Bandoraitis left Lithuania in 1895 to avoid the Russian Czar's military draft. He went to England, found a steady job and a place to live, and stayed. After a while he sent for his wife, Anna, and infant son, Juozukas. When a second son, Antanukas, joined their family, they decided that they should seek a better life in a bigger place -- America.

They settled in New York, in the Lithuanian community of Williamsburg, Brooklyn, and in the course of time, two more children were born -- Mary and Onutė. Both were baptized in Queen of Angels Church, a Lithuanian parish. Juozas worked in the big Domino sugar factory on Williamsburg's waterfront, and the family rented an apartment in a typical four-story tenement nearby, on Grand Street.

It was a "railroad" flat, with five rooms, all in a row. There was no bathroom. There had been an "outhouse" in the backyard, but just recently a small toilet closet was built in the hallway outside their rooms.

The kitchen, the largest room in the apartment, had a large porcelain-clad cast-iron double sink, that was big enough to allow a child to sit in it and bathe. Adults had to make do with washcloths. Many regularly went to the municipal bath-house on Maujer Street, for a comfortable shower.

A large section of the kitchen was taken

## KŪČIOS IN BROOKLYN 1904

up by the big black coal-burning stove that stood against one wall, in an alcove that was a blocked-off fireplace. Standing next to that was a small, four-burner "modern" green porcelain gas stove, and in a corner, a tall silver-colored boiler full of water, that allowed the tenants to light the attached gas-fired mechanism to heat the water. The other large occupant of space in the kitchen, was the very important ice-box, that helped keep foodstuffs fresh. A table covered in colorful oilcloth stood in the middle.

Anna was a proud and busy housekeeper, and her home was decorated with attractive embroidered items, pillows, curtains and spreads. She had spent the whole day yesterday cleaning the apartment. She had special things put aside for special holidays, and she was sorting through her bedspreads as she spoke with her husband:

"Juozai, brangusis, (dearest), you know that it is almost time we must get dressed and ready for Kūčios. The girls and I will bathe in the kitchen, and you can go to the bath-house around the corner for a nice shower. Now where are the boys? They were supposed to go with you. If they do not come home within an hour or so, you will have to go on alone.

"Just remember, this year we will have guests, Mr. and Mrs. Čikanas, who are well-off and accustomed to the best. We don't want them to be disappointed in our hospitality.

"Where are those boys?! I realize it is still only 3 o'clock, but we all know how fast time flies. Juozukas, as the responsible elder, assured me they would be home in plenty of time. I am very angry! They will both know it when they return! And, my dear, before you leave for the bath-house, please stop at the stables across the street and ask them for an armful of sweet hay. I will spread it on the table under our nice new tablecloth."

Anna woke especially early that day, and had already prepared several dishes for the traditional meal: Her ice-box was full today. Just one or two more dishes, and she would be finally ready. She had a whole fresh fish ready to bake in the oven; several dishes of herring prepared in different ways; šližikai and poppy seed milk; kisielius (cranberry pudding); fruit compote; vegetable salad; mushrooms; roasted potatoes; sauerkraut; and dark bread. Her kitchen had been busily steaming and humming all day.

The two boys told their mother they were going to the "movies", to see a picture about a "Bold Bank Robbery", and she expected them home within a short time. But apparently, they had been delayed, and Anna was by now beside herself with anxiety. What if they had an accident? The city could be a dangerous place with all its teeming traffic.

At 3 o'clock, even though the boys had not returned, Juozas decided it was time to go to the bath-house. While he was gone and the apartment was otherwise empty, Anna had her washcloth bath, bathed her two daughters, and put them to bed for a little nap. Soon it would be time for them all to don their best clothes, to be ready for the celebration of Kūčios.

Anna just had time to prepare her table, strewing an armful of sweet hay beneath her pure white tablecloth, setting the places, then distributing her food dishes in an attractive pattern. She dressed the girls, placed her fish in the oven of the coal stove, and was ready.

Juozas had come home, was already dressed, and seated in his soft armchair in the front room, "out of the way". Soon their guests would arrive, but the boys were not to be seen.

Anna began to fret; perhaps they should go to the police station around the corner and ask if anyone had heard anything about two young boys who



may have had some trouble. She fingered her rosary and sat in her rocking chair, praying for her sons' return. Soon tears were flowing; Juozas did his best to calm her, but she could not be consoled.

And, not only were the boys missing, but their guests had not arrived - they were more than an hour late.

Just as Juozas was preparing to go out to the police station, at half-past the hour of five, Juozukas and Antanukas came rushing up the stairs, full of apologies for their parents, and complicated explanations.

"Mama, Papa, we were on our way home, when we passed a fruit cart that was being attacked by a group of boys! They beat up the man, and took all his money, then they overturned the cart and all the fruits and vegetables rolled all around in the street! The man was crying!

"We tried to help him, and gathered most of the fruits and vegetables, and wiped them off before putting them back on the cart. The man was glad we helped him, and when the police came, we had to tell them all about it. We talked with them for a long time. That's why we're so late coming home!"

Anna wielded a soapy washcloth to wash their faces, hands and arms, and that would have to do for traditional Kūčios cleanliness that year.

Immediately, they heard noises from the stairway, and it was their guests, Mr. and Mrs. Čikanas, who were full of praise for the two boys. They had witnessed the incident with the fruit cart, and their compliments and gracious approval made an unforgettable Kūčios feast for the Bandoraitis family. Their friendship endured for many years, until they all were gone to their reward, and during the intervening years, they often mentioned this story with a great deal of satisfaction.

*Gloria Kivytaitė O'Brien*

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

*\*The illustration is from the book "Tevu Nameliai Brangus"*

## First Annual Meeting of the Lithuanian American Community

### XIX Board of Directors

The Denver chapter of the Lithuanian American Community (LAC) hosted the First Annual Meeting of the LAC XIX Board of Directors on the weekend of September 25 through 27, 2009 at the Denver Airport Marriott. The air was crackling with excitement and anticipation, since the current Board consisted of many new and young members, promising new attitudes and ideas for the future of the LAC.

The first session on Friday afternoon was opened by the chair of the LAC XVIII Board of Directors, Danguole Navickas. After the singing of the American and the Lithuanian national anthems, Msgr. Albert Contons read the invocation. The remembrance of departed members was especially poignant due to the loss of an unusually high number of long-time active members who died during the past year: Vaiva Vebraite, Kestutis Miklas and Ceslovas Mickunas as well as former Board members Fr. Ricardas Repsys and Algis Augunas. Romas Zableckas, the president of the Denver Chapter, and Kate Porterfield, the America's Crossroads District chair, warmly welcomed the delegates.

Greetings were sent by Ambassador Audrius Bruzga and Consul General Skaiste Aniuliene, who could not attend the meeting because of President Dalia Grybauskaite's first visit to the United States that same weekend. Msgr. Edmund Putrimas, spiritual leader of the Lithuanian

Roman Catholic diaspora and Saulius Kuprys, president of the Lithuanian American Council, also sent their greetings. Regina Narusis, president of the World Lithuanian Community (WLC), could not attend due to commitments to be present at meetings and decisions taking place in the Parliament of Lithuania regarding issues of the World Lithuanian Community, but sent reports on the year's activities and the budget for the construction of the Governors' Palace in Vilnius.

The approval of the proposed 2009 meeting agenda and the minutes of the 2008 meeting in Boston were followed by a report by Romas Veitas, the chairman of the Election Committee. This was especially significant because 2009 was the first year that members could vote via the internet. While not a great number of members took advantage of this new feature, it was successfully implemented without any significant problems and this year's elections proved that it could be done. Voting via the internet enables members who live far from parish and cultural centers or who do not belong to an established chapter to participate in the selection of delegates to the meetings, thereby giving each and every member a voice in the future of the LAC.

In her report on the tasks and accomplishments of the Officers of the LAC XVIII Board of Directors over the last year,





*The LAC XIX Board of Directors at the First Meeting in Denver, September 2009.*

*Photos by Kazys Razgaitis*

chair Danguole Navickas spoke about the conducting of elections to the World Lithuanian Community Seimas, which took place in Lithuania in July 2009 as well as the organizing of the current meeting by the outgoing Officers. All of the required administrative functions were accomplished, including the publication of the resolutions and decisions of the XVIII Board, the dissemination of the minutes of the last meeting and the formation of the functional commissions of the current Board. Especially important was the publication of a reference manual of the latest version of the LAC Bylaws and Regulations painstakingly updated and compiled by the Bylaws commission. The final work of editing the manual was performed by Dr. Rimantas Vaitkus, assisted by Arvydas Barzdukas. Their dedication to completing this task in time for the meeting was praiseworthy. Danguole Navickas ended her report with a sincere "Thank you" to the Colorado chapter hosting the first meeting. The meeting was so well organized that one would never guess that none of the committee members had ever even attended a Board meeting. Their efficiency and enthusiasm was apparent in every aspect of the event, from meeting rooms to equipment to food and even to entertain-

ment, but more about the last item later in this report.

Since most of the first annual meeting of the Board is devoted to administrative issues and the election of the functional committees of the Board, this necessitated the election of a Nominations committee and an Elections committee to nominate candidates and then monitor the voting which would take place during this and all subsequent meetings of the XIX Board. These committees performed the task of conducting the elections of the Ethics Committee or Honor Court, the Audit Committee, the Lithuanian Parliament/WLC Commission, the Officers of the Board and the President of the Executive Committee. Juozas Polikaitis was elected Chair of the Officers of the Board, while Vytas Maciunas, the President of the 2006-2009 Executive Committee, was reelected to another term.

A summation of the issues covered during the last year's meetings of the Lithuanian Parliament/WLC Commission was presented by commission co-chair Dalia Puskorius. This was followed by comprehensive reports by the members of the Executive Committee. Their accomplishments were extremely impres-

sive, among them the publication of a photo album of the "Lithuanian Cultural Legacy in America", the continuing collection and maintenance of Lithuanian archives in the US, the promotion of Lithuanian cultural, religious and sports events in the US, the modernization of Lithuanian education in America via the internet, the commemoration of important historical and religious events in Lithuanian history, the highly successful implementation of work/study programs for Lithuanian American youth in Lithuania, the lobbying on behalf of Lithuania directed at US government officials and the social services provided to those in need in Lithuania and the US.

All work and no play would have threatened to make even this Board of Directors dull children, but this was successfully prevented during a Welcome evening organized by the Colorado chapter. Entertainment was provided by the band "Kolorado Vabalai (Beetles)", its name inspired by the eponymous song by the late great Lithuanian singer/entertainer Vytautas Kernagis. By amazing coincidence, the band consists of the president of the Colorado chapter and the Organizing Committee Romas Zableckas and his talented partner Narimantas Gruzdyas. These two



excellent entertainers made the evening dedicated to meeting new members and renewing acquaintances with old friends exceptionally enjoyable.

Saturdays are usually dedicated to finishing elections, followed by separate meetings of commissions dedicated to discussion and presentation to the Board of suggested policies regarding religious, public, educational, financial, cultural, sports, youth, social and organizational affairs.

Saturday evening the delegates attended Mass said by Msgr. Contons at the Marriott, followed by the traditional dinner dance. The evening's festivities, again organized by the Colorado chapter of the LAC, started with a banquet attended by the delegates, their spouses and guests from the Denver area. After an excellent dinner, Danguole Navickas again thanked the hosts on behalf of the Board of Directors. She then began a surprise roast and toast of longtime LAC activists Terese and Algimantas Gecys who, in her words, were celebrating the 50th anniversary of their marriage to the LAC. Vytas Maciunas, Sigita Simkuvienė-Rosen, Arvydas Barzdukas and Violeta Gedgaudas were in on the surprise and added their personal memories and congratulations. Entertainment and music for dancing was again provided by "Kolorado Vabalai", but this time, as with all bugs, their numbers doubled overnight into a larger band. The delegates sang and danced until a late but still decent hour, because more hard work awaited them on Sunday.

On Sunday morning the various commissions presented their resolutions for approval by the Board. Among the major approved resolutions were the following:

One of the Public Affairs resolutions obligated the LAC Executive Committee to remind the Congress, Senate and President of the United States to stay true to their obligations to



*Incoming Officers of the Board. Left to right: Janina Udrys, Vilija Vakaris, Juozas Polikaitis – chairman, Irena Vilimas, Loreta Timukas and Arvydas Barzdukas.*

the Baltic States in light of the current political atmosphere of the world and to continue encouraging members of Congress to join the Baltic Caucus. Another resolution urges the Public Affairs Council of the LAC Executive committee to remind the Baltic Caucus of the unresolved legal and political status of the Kaliningrad region.

The Educational Commission tasked the Educational Council of the LAC Executive committee with the publicizing of the availability of Lithuanian education in the US, the dissemination of information regarding the means available via the internet and with continuing programs to improve the skills of teachers in the Lithuanian education system in the US.

The Cultural resolutions addressed the issues of the organization and preservation of Lithuanian archives, the upcoming Song Festival in Canada in 2010 and the presentation of Lithuanian literature, film and other media to Lithuanian communities in the US.

Among the resolutions presented by the Organizational Commission was one urging the LAC Executive Committee to create a strategic plan to guarantee the viability of the LAC in light of constantly changing conditions affecting activities in the US. Another urged the LAC Executive Committee to conduct seminars to acquaint new and potential members with the structure, activities and goals of the LAC.

Resolutions by the Youth Commission encouraged the LAC to continue its work/study programs for Lithuanian American youth in Lithuania, to create a similar program for youth to work with Lithuanian American businessmen and specialists in this county and to disseminate information about the

various Lithuanian summer camps for youth in North America.

The Bylaws Commission resolved to continue its work updating the Bylaws and Rules governing the LAC. Resolutions

by the Financial, Social, Religious and Sports Commissions were also approved by the Board. All of the approved resolutions will be published in the press and in the LAC website.

The last part of the meeting is traditionally dedicated to selecting the site and date of the next meeting. This can be difficult if none of the chapters volunteer to host the event, but this time the Board was pleasantly surprised by an invitation from a young and enthusiastic Orlando chapter. The 2010 meeting date was set once again for the last weekend of September.

After a final discussion period, the delegates sang "Lietuva Brangi" before heading home, determined to be even more active in their LAC chapters and to hopefully instill the same energy and resolve in other members of their home communities.

*Danguole Navickas*

*Danguole Navickas is a past Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Lithuanian American Community. She has been active in the Lithuanian American Community since she was a young adult, as the LA Chapter president and a member of the Western District executive committee. She is currently a member of the LAC Board of Directors and of the World Lithuanian Community Seimas. She has been President of the Los Angeles chapter of Lithuanian Children's Hope since 1992, working to provide the latest medical technology as well as modern facilities to the Vilnius University Children's Hospital and to bring children to the U.S. for treatment they cannot get in Lithuania.*

## TRIVIA QUESTION

(No.34)

### LOANWORD

Which of the following is a Lithuanian word of foreign origin?

- (a) Dievas (God) (b) draugas (friend)  
(c) gatve (street)

Answer to Trivia Quiz on page 19



## Blessed George, The Marian Renovator

How 100 years ago, one man rescued the Marians from extinction.

PART II

### *Can one man make a significant difference?*

SCENE: The Marian monastery at Mariampole, Lithuania.

DATE: July 20, 1909.

Father Vincent Senkus, Superior General of the Marian Fathers of the Immaculate Conception, appears troubled. He is the last surviving member of the Order. The elderly priest is inspired to write a desperate letter to Pope Pius X - reporting that no new novices to the Order have been permitted by the authorities since 1864 and he is the only remaining Marian.

Father Vincent asks permission for novices to secretly enter the Marians, specifying that the Order's white habits be replaced with diocesan black cassocks or secular garb so the secret police won't notice them. Second, he asks permission to waive canon law, so he can immediately permit a parish priest to become a Marian without going through the novitiate.

### **The impact of one holy man**

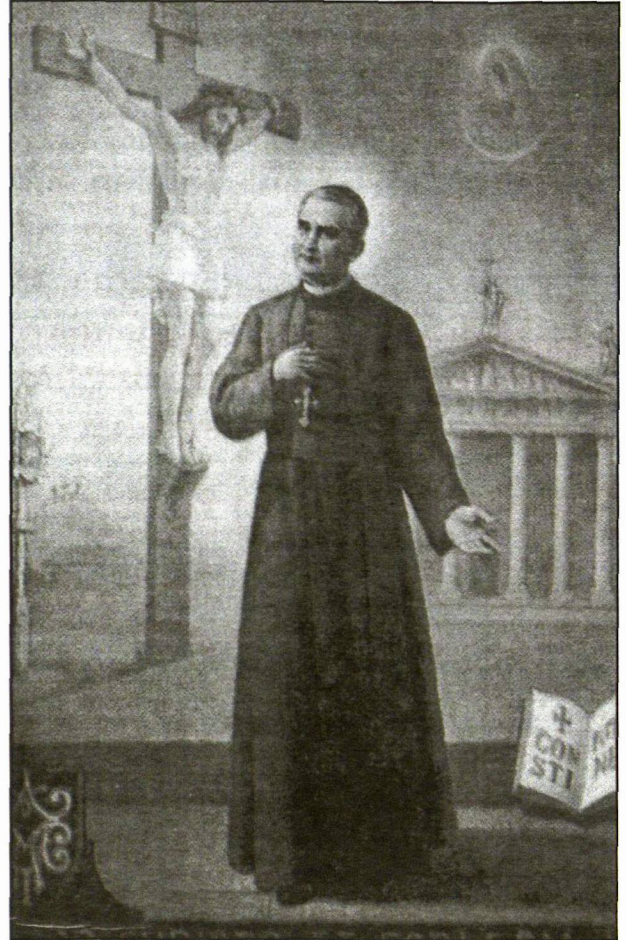
The Pope approves both requests, and on Aug. 29, 1909, Fr. George Matulaitis-Matulewicz becomes a Marian. In 1910, Fr. George completes the new Marian Constitutions, which are approved by Rome, and directs a secret novitiate for the renovated Congregation. He also begins to write his spiritual journal.

Three months after Fr. Vincent's death on April 10, 1911, the revived Marians elect Fr. George as Superior General.

Today, we know him as Blessed George, the Marian Renovator. Without this man, there would be no Marian Congregation and no Association of Marian Helpers.

Blessed George gave up everything to join a dying religious order. What kind of man takes this type of risk? It takes one who measures success with humility learned from failure. It takes a man like Blessed George.

George was born on April 23, 1871, in Lugine, Lithuania, the last of eight children of Andrew and Ursula Matulaitis. His devout parents served as



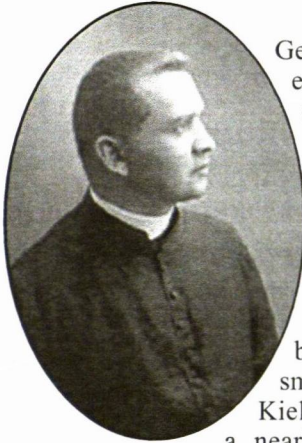
young George's first Christian "school." The Marian priests and brothers in nearby Mariampole took over from there, guiding him in school and at church. He never forgot their kindness.

### **Resigned to God's will**

Young George felt the tug of a priestly vocation, but he wasn't strong physically. Consequently, he went to work on the family farm, where he recovered his health.

Then one of his cousins, a professor of classical languages in Kielce, Poland, noticed in George unusual intelligence and spiritual talent. His relative took him to Poland to study. George learned well, and in 1891, at 20, he entered the seminary.





George excelled at virtually everything. He was a model seminarian and received a master's degree in sacred theology with highest honors. After his ordination on Nov. 20, 1898, he did post-graduate work, obtaining a doctorate in 1902. In 1903, Fr. George became assistant pastor at a small country church outside Kielce and also taught Latin at a nearby seminary. He worked

hard but a year later became ill. He was exhausted and suffering from tuberculosis of the bone, a painful condition that would remain with him for the rest of his life.

Because he had no money, he had to be admitted to Transfiguration Charity Hospital in Warsaw in December 1904. The bedridden priest resigned himself to God's will, believing that to be his only hope. Not coincidentally, he also became aware of a burning desire to help win salvation for souls.

### **Marian renovation, years as a bishop**

Following his recovery, Fr. George secured a position as a professor of sociology at the Academy of Theology in St. Petersburg, Russia, where he taught from 1907 to 1909. During that time, Fr. George - inspired by the Holy Spirit - resolved to help souls by assisting a floundering religious order. The Marian Order, which he never forgot from his youth, came to mind. Concurrent with Marian General Fr. Vincent Senkus's recognition that the Order was dying, Fr. George formulated a plan to revive the community after many hours of prayer and meditation. He contacted Fr. Vincent, obtained his blessing, and journeyed to Rome. From the Vatican, Fr. George received permission to implement his plan to save the Order.

After the Marian renovation in 1909-10, Fr. George sought to strengthen the Marians and expand their service to the Church. As Superior General, he founded a Marian house and novitiate in Chicago, Ill., in 1913. Two years later, he did the same in Bielany in suburban Warsaw. In 1918, he revived religious life in the Marian monastery at Mariampole, Lithuania.

On Oct. 23, 1918, Fr. George was appointed Bishop of Vilnius, Lithuania, and consecrated on Dec. 1 at

Kaunas. Vilnius was a large diocese characterized by great faith but located in a land of social and political turmoil. In the first seven years of Blessed George's service as bishop, the government passed into eight different governmental hands, including German, Russian, and Polish.

Blessed George referred to those years as his crown of thorns. He faced accusations of spying and political intrigue, and the authorities maligned and harassed him. A colleague at the time noted that Bishop George, though he knew much physical suffering and emotional distress, was "intensely happy in his work."

### **'I love dearly all people'**

In 1925, he submitted his resignation as Bishop of Vilnius to Pope Pius XI. The cauldron of vicious politics and rabid nationalism had produced too toxic an environment for the man for whom national origin made no difference. "I am a citizen and patriot of the Catholic Church," Blessed George said at the time. "I love dearly all people without exception. I simply cannot understand how one can nurse in his bosom love of God and hatred of any man."

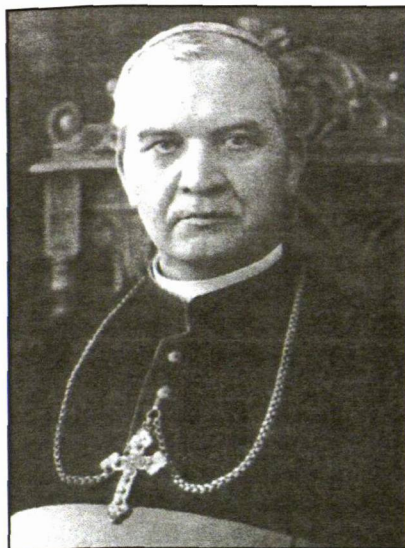


*\*PHOTO IS FROM MARIAN ARCHIVES*

The Vatican complied with his request, within months made him an archbishop, and appointed him Apostolic Visitator to Lithuania. So on Dec. 7, 1925, he undertook his new pastoral and diplomatic duties on behalf of the Vatican in his homeland, living in Kaunas.

Blessed George continued to suffer in silence from ill health. Of his work in Lithuania, he wrote in 1926, "It seems I had to encounter Satan himself, who with his legions of spirits labored to destroy the very foundations of the Church. ...I worked day and night; I fasted and I prayed. God blessed my work."





\*PHOTO IS FROM MARIAN ARCHIVES

### A century of Marian service

Through it all, Blessed George burned with an undying love for the Congregation he renovated to serve in the modern world, calling his Marian confreres to spend themselves, like a "common dust cloth," in service to Christ and the Church.

His sufferings and labors continued, and he became ill on Jan. 21, 1927. Archbishop George was hospitalized and his condition worsened. His final words to the Congregation were, "Be prepared. Sanctify yourself." He died at 3:45 a.m. on Jan. 27, 1927. He was beatified by Pope John Paul II on June 28, 1987.

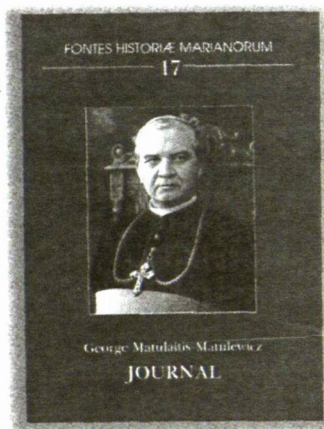
Blessed George was a shining lamp in a dark world torn by sectarian strife. Spiritually, he demonstrated great fortitude and strength of character in overcoming obstacles. He also left a remarkable legacy of service to Christ and the Church that continues to inspire the Marians, his spiritual sons.

One hundred years after one man took it upon himself to save a congregation, the Marians number more than 500 priests and brothers serving in 19 countries. In the spirit of their Renovator, they are committed to

serving Christ and His Church wherever the need is greatest.

We can thank God - the Marians especially thank God - for the great gift of Blessed George, one man who did make a difference. MH

## "The Journal OF A Spiritual Mentor For Our Time"



*While it is not an autobiography, the journal is a wonderful self-portrait by the artist, made on the spur of the moment, without careful posturing or some later touching-up. It is the testimony of a soul seeking God in everything. It is an unpretentious, engagingly simple, and sincere declaration of love for God and for Christ's Church.*

- Fr. Witold Niececki, MIC  
from the Introduction of  
the first Polish Edition

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Continued from page 17 - *My Brothers and Sisters in Christ*

as well. Great numbers of Lithuanians are emigrating from their Fatherland, seeking economic stability elsewhere. But an even deeper form of poverty is widespread – the inability to appreciate and maintain our national identity and our Christian roots; the lack of gratitude and appreciation for what we already have – our families and our communities.

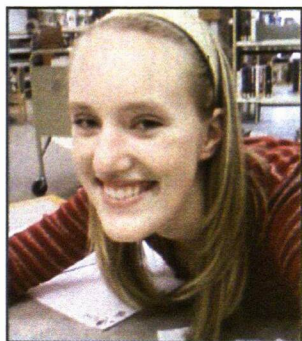
During this Christmas season, may the spirit of Christmas be a sacred time not only of hope and joy but also of spiritual renewal through a deeper commitment to the "Good News". Wishing you the Lord's blessing for your families and communities now and throughout the New Year of 2010.

**Linksmų Šventų Kalėdų visiems! A happy and blessed Christmas to you all!**

Msgr. Edmond J. Putrimas  
Lithuanian Bishops' Conference Delegate for the  
Apostolate of Lithuanian Catholics Living Outside of Lithuania



## MEET OUR YOUNG WRITERS...



Audra Kriauciūnas

*In Part I Audra describes her feelings about her first trip abroad. She very quickly learns about missed flights and lost luggage, but none of these mishaps can put a damper on this teen's first trip to Lithuania as the problems are quickly forgotten when she meets her family and walks in the paths of those who came before her. Thanks to Audra for not only sharing her experiences with us, but also her emotions.*

### Part II

## A Teenager's First Trip to Lithuania



Amber Ship

The next morning we went to the amber museum, and got to see all kinds of amber. The coolest pieces were the ones that had big bugs in them, such as spiders and flies. I had never seen anything like it before. Amber is a popular commodity in Lithuania, and it can be very expensive. We also saw lots of amber shops throughout the country. My father saw

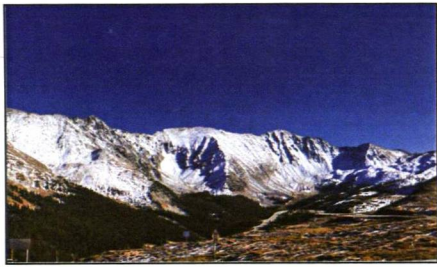
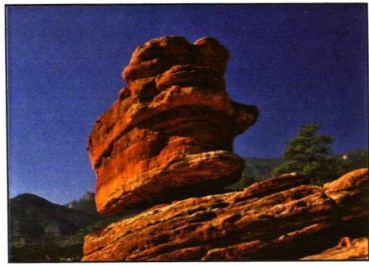


Vytas holding a snail

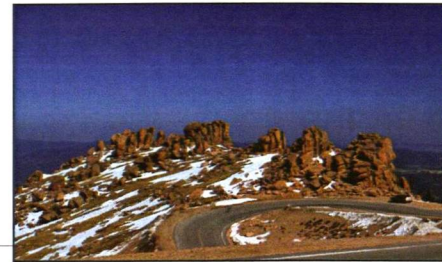
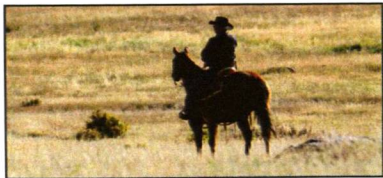
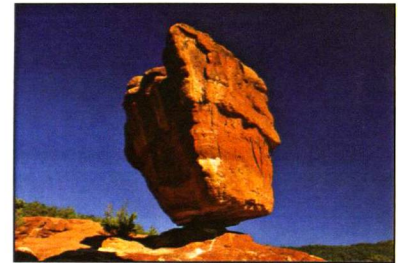
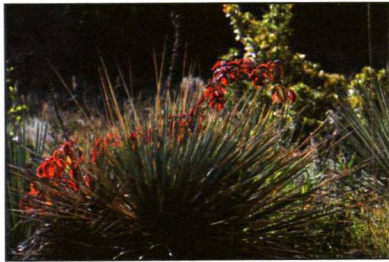
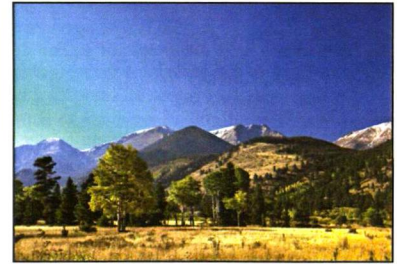
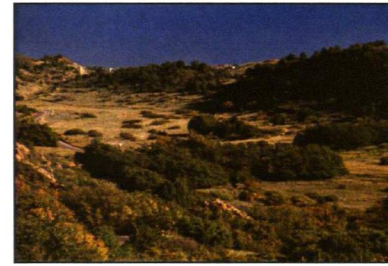
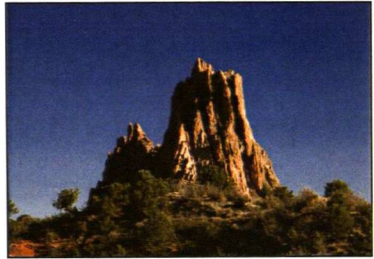
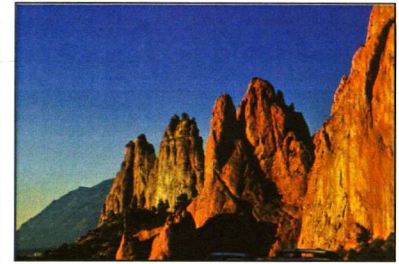
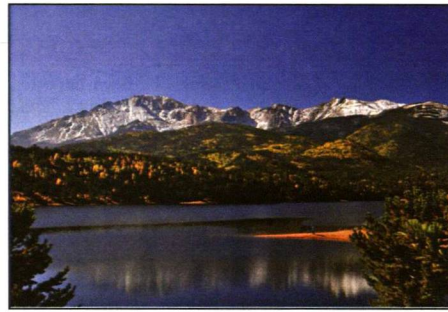
a huge ship made entirely of amber at one shop that was 10,000 litai and he thought it was pretty cool. We kept seeing huge ships at different amber shops and my dad stopped at each one to have us take a picture. The biggest one was 25,000 litai! That afternoon we traveled to Klaipeda where we went to a beer tour at Svyturys brewery. Although the tour was in Lithuanian, I was able to pick out a few words here and there and I still found it interesting. During that tour was the first time I had tried a hop, and tried liquid yeast which tasted like candy at first, but then had a bad aftertaste. After the beer tour we partook in a tour of Klaipeda led by the same woman who led the beer tour, although the tour was in English this time. I learned that Klaipeda was a port city and it was damaged during the war. Along the tour we saw a whole bunch of snails which I had never seen in the wild, and here there were hundreds of snails! It was pretty cool to see. My brother even picked one up to examine closer. That evening we ventured to Kaunas, and got to see the place where the Neris River meets the Nemunas River which was pretty cool. We also got to take a walk through a park which was very pretty, especially with the castle in the background. The next day we stayed in Kaunas to see the Devil's Museum and the War Museum which were both pretty interesting. What stuck out to me the most in the War Museum was the actual plane parts that still existed after the crash of Darius and Girenas who tried to fly to Lithuania over the Atlantic Ocean. Even though they were unsuccessful, they brought a lot of attention to Lithuania. There is a huge rock called Punktukas which is dedicated in their honor. The rock is in a story about the Devil who supposedly tried to crush an entire church with it. There were also old

*Continued from page 14*





*Photo*<sup>12</sup> *Album*  
**2009**  
 Annual Meeting  
 of the  
 Lithuanian American  
 Community  
 in  
**COLORADO**



*Photos by: Kazys Razgaitis,  
 Rosemont, PA*





*Homemade Gingerbread Cookie in Rumsiskes*

weapons of all kinds from all of Lithuania's different eras of war. The Devil's Museum was my favorite because it told many stories of the devil, including the story of the rock Punktukas, and it helped me to understand the origins of some of Lithuania's folklore. In the afternoon we went to Rumsiskes, which can be described as the Lithuanian version of Connor Prairie found in Indianapolis Indiana. Since I am a huge fan of Connor Prairie, I was looking forward to Rumsiskes. Rumsiskes was interesting because it had replicas of houses from all the major regions of Lithuania. In one of the houses in which we visited there was a lady who was selling homemade gingerbread men that were beautifully decorated. She had made them with a recipe that had been used in the same era of the time she was representing. The gingerbread men were both beautifully decorated and delicious. We got to see many old cabins and houses, but the most interesting one was a replica of a house



*Siberian House*

Lithuanians who had been deported to Siberia lived in. They would have been in a house that was probably smaller than my bedroom and there would have been 40 to 50 people living inside. They also would have used ice for windows. It gave me a new perspective and made me appreciate everything that I have. It also gave me a greater appreciation for those Lithuanians who had been deported to Siberia. Rumsiskes is also the place where they filmed the "Amazing Race" segment in Lithuania. We got to see the exact places where different teams had completed their tasks, one of which was walking on stilts. We actually saw the exact street they filmed this, and they even had stilts there of different sizes that we could test to see how we would have done had we been on the "Amazing Race". It was fun and difficult trying to walk on stilts, and I think the highest number of steps I achieved on the stilts was three or four. One woman who worked there even remembered being a part of the "Amazing Race" experience. All in all it was very exciting.



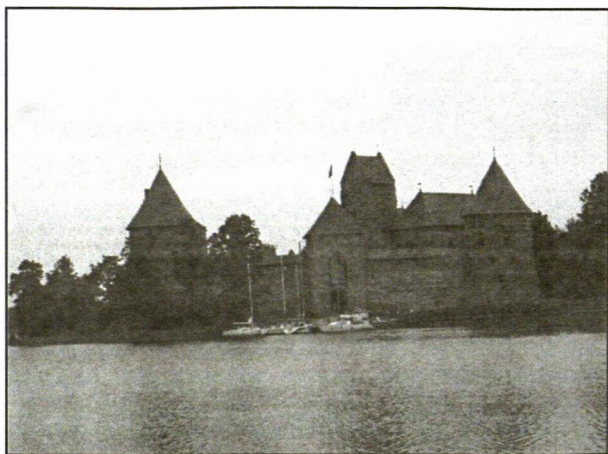
*Gediminas Castle, Vilnius*

The next day the two families split up for a day to rest and recover from the tour around Lithuania. I spent the day with my mom, dad, and brother in Vilnius. We got to see many things that we hadn't seen yet including the Gates of Dawn, Saint Casimir's Church, Gedimino Pilis, Vilnius University, and we even got to witness local students who played their instruments along the side of the street for money; some of them were pretty good and well worth listening to. I enjoyed seeing Gedimino Pilis because we got to climb up to the very top and the view from the top was amazing. We could see out over all the city of Vilnius. I could even distinguish between Old Vilnius and New Vilnius because in old town all the roofs



were colored, and the buildings were older looking, while in new town, all the buildings were grey and modern looking. We also got an up close and personal view of the Lithuanian flag on top which was very exciting. While we were stopped in the square at the Cathedral next to the clock tower we saw a rehearsal of the inauguration of the new president, presented by the armed forces. I had never seen anything like it before and it was interesting to see how the armed forces in Lithuania compared to the armed forces in America. The armed forces were of different ranks and they all had different colors and had a different level of purpose in their marches. Because it was an unplanned event for us we got good seats just by stopping and sitting to eat our snack. That evening we went to a pancake house, and I got to have crepes with chocolate ice cream for the first time. It was an unusual combination, but delicious all the same. My brother even got bacon topping to go with his ice cream and pancakes. It was a good day. My favorite part of the day was seeing Gedimino Pilis because the view from the top was amazing. I could see everything.

The next day we went to Trakai with everyone again, and we got to see Traku Pilis. We took a boat ride around the castle, and got to see a side of it that most people don't get to see since they don't see it from the water side. That evening we drove to Inkunai to



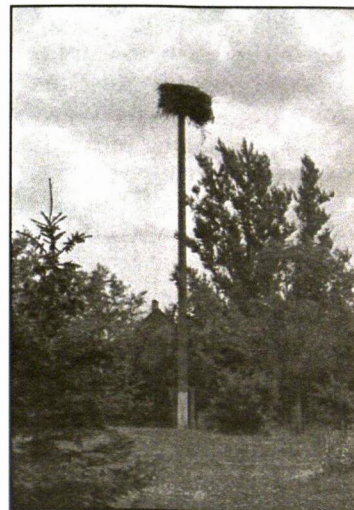
Trakai



Monument to Celebrate  
1000 yr. Anniversary

my great aunt's farm and we ate dinner with them which was delicious. We had chicken that was wonderfully spiced. Even though the dinner was so good, my favorite part was the dessert because they had cake, Sakotis, and candy. After the meal we saw the church that members of my family had donated money to have built, along with the family graveyard. We also walked across the bridge, and saw the land that my uncle owned. It was good to meet new family members and to see the way they lived and to feel so welcomed into their home. They gave us gifts to take back home.

The next day we went with my uncle to see a place called Gruto Park where they had Soviet statues, which my dad wanted to see. The Soviet statues were from all over Lithuania when the Soviets occupied the country and put up statues of themselves. The most memorable statues for me were the statues of Lenin. Seeing the statues reminded me of all of the hardships that Lithuania has gone through, and made me thankful that Lithuania is a free country now. The most memorable part of the trip to see the Soviet statues, however, was when we went to use the bathroom. It was the first time we had encountered the type of toilet where the toilet was a hole in the ground. I bravely used the hole correctly, by standing up and I was successful. My mother, however, walked into the stall, and said, "Um, uhhhh, I don't think so," all rather loudly for all to hear before walking back out of the toilet and starting on a search to find a "normal toilet". We then went



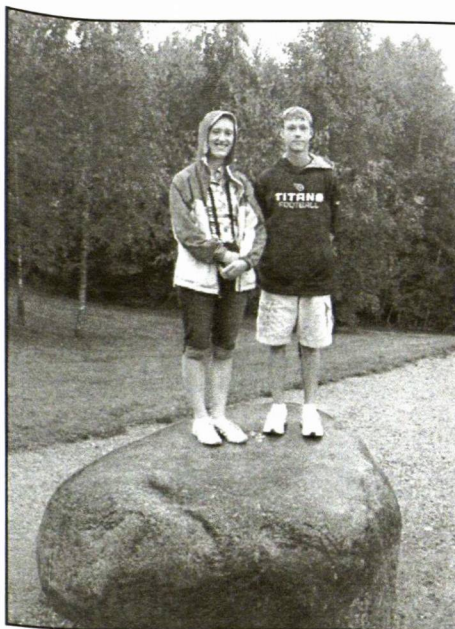
Stork Nest

out for lunch, I had kaldunai which were delicious, and then it was off to Kernave, which was the first capital of Lithuania. On the way to Kernave we stopped by one of only two statues of distinguished



the Soviet occupation, that of Vytautas Didysis. Kernave was beautiful. We climbed up to the top of the biggest hill and were able to look out over all the land. Next we went to see the Center of Europe which was a highlight for me. It felt powerful to be able to stand at the exact center of Europe and look out in all directions. I got to stand on the rock that said it was the exact center of Europe and I looked out in all directions trying to imagine all the rest of Europe stretching out on either side. I thought it was extremely cool that the center of Europe is in Lithuania. Next we were off to Romas' house for dinner and my Uncle surprised us by serving dinner on the recently recovered family dishes that my great grandfather buried over 50 years ago. I met Marius, who was nineteen and close to my age. It was interesting to discuss how being a teenager in Lithuania compared to being a teenager in America.

The next day was our last day in Lithuania, and we went to the TV tower in the morning. Unfortunately, we didn't have time to go up in the tower, but it was still cool to see the museum. Next we went to Akropolis, which everyone had been looking forward to for awhile now. Akropolis is one of the biggest malls in Lithuania with a Mega Maxima as an anchor store. It was better than a mall in America because it had a movie theatre and an ice skating rink, not to mention all kinds of cool stores. We got to do some last minute souvenir shopping, eat lunch, and try coca cola ice cream, a flavor I had never seen previously, before heading back to the hotel to begin our version of the "Amazing Race". The "Amazing Race" was something my uncle put together. It was a scavenger hunt throughout old



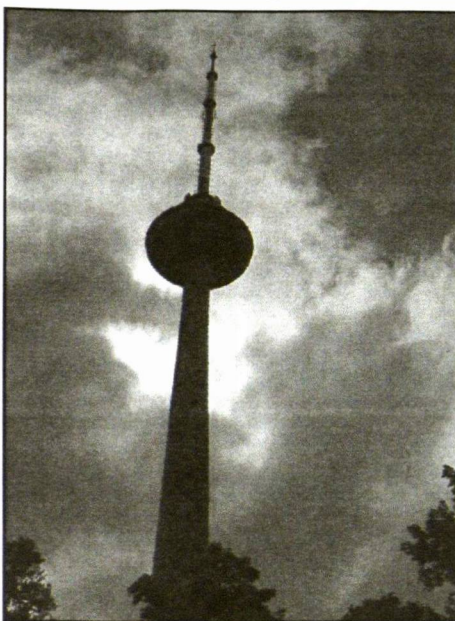
Center of Europe

real "Amazing Race" have to go through and how hard they work. That evening we all dressed up and went to Lokys which is located in a 16th century building. They had all kinds of different game there, and the restaurant was cool because it was underground. Dessert was really good because I had ice cream and melted chocolate. It was delicious. That evening I sat looking out the window of the hotel, trying to soak it all in one last time because the next

morning I would be leaving Lithuania and going to England. As I took my last look at Lithuania the next morning from the plane, I knew I would miss it, but I also hoped that I would be back soon. That trip will always be a part of me, and one that hopefully I can learn from for years to come.

*Audra Kriauciunas*

*Audra Kriauciunas is a sixteen-year-old junior at Pike High School in Indianapolis, Indiana. She has played soccer since she was eight years old, and is involved in show choir. She currently sings in an all girls show choir at her school. Audra enjoys writing, traveling, and being outdoors through activities such as camping and biking. She hopes to study Psychology in college, as well as music and writing.*



TV Tower in Vilnius



## The Coming of Our Savior

The story of Jesus' birth does more than merely gift – giving. The story of Jesus' birth does more than merely chronicle the birth of our Savior 2,000 years ago. It shouts across the centuries the powerful message that God loves us!

God's love, care and concern is so wonderful that Jesus is God's eternal gift to all of us. Most scholars acknowledge that the gospels relate religious truth. Each Evangelist proclaimed the Good News of salvation in a unique way. Matthew and Luke include stories of Jesus' early years to show that the risen Jesus, Lord of the universe, was special from the very beginning of His life on earth. For them what was important to bring out is the theological significance.

Let us take Matthew and Luke's versions of Jesus' family tree. They do tell us what is taking place in the birth of Jesus. They bring out Jesus' true identity- He is both the Son of God and a human being like us. For Luke, Jesus is the Savior of all people, both Gentile and Jew alike. Luke's genealogy reveals two important truths. That Jesus is both God and human.

Matthew's readers were Jewish – Christians. So, Matthew begins with the father of the Jewish people. It stresses Jesus' identity as the Messiah promised by Yahweh long ago. The birth of Jesus means that God fulfills the promises be made to his Chosen People.

Matthew 2:1-23 tells us that Jesus was conceived and born during the reign of King Herod the Great. Most scholars agree that Jesus was born before 5 B.C., the year Herod the Great died.

Also Matthew tells the story of the Magi visiting Jesus from the east.(Mt 2:1-2).Matthew shows us that Jesus is a king,

someone deserving of our loyalty and worship. The story of the Magi's gift giving is richly symbolic. Gold is a gift worthy of a king. Incense is a gift burnt in offering to God. Myrrh is an ointment used to prepare a body for burial – it testifies to the suffering the Son of Man would endure. Both Matthew and Luke tell different stories but they agree that Jesus was born in Bethlehem, a small village, southwest of Jerusalem. Also both agree that Jesus was born of the Virgin Mary. This tells us that Jesus is unique and miraculous. (Lk 1:34). The angel assures Mary that she will conceive in a miraculous way. That her son is one of a kind, God's own Son. (Lk1:35). "The Holy Spirit will come upon you"...

Mary and Joseph were both ordinary Jewish people, living ordinary lives. But they were special in two ways. Each was a descendant of King David. Their family history is recorded in Matthew 1 and Luke 3. Mary showed her love for God by her obedience and in her praise (Luke 1:26-38). St. Joseph showed his love for God by obeying the angel too.

The Bible says very little about Jesus' childhood. Luke 2:41-52. Even as a boy, Jesus knew that He is God's own Son. Also Jesus understood what the Bible teaches. Most important Jesus always pleased God. Jesus trusted the Bible as God's Word. Talking about the Old Testament Jesus said,"Surely you have read what God said to you"(Matthew 22:31).

Christmas is a time to thank Jesus for coming to us all – to save and make us happy.

*Sr. Margarita Bareikaite*

*Sister Margarita Bareikaite belongs to the order of the Sisters of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, a Lithuanian order in Putnam, CT. Sister Margarita is the Chair of the Religious Affairs Council of the Lithuanian American Community and is a regular contributor to Bridges.*

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### Christmas 2009

***"The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us." (John 1:14)***

*My Brothers and Sisters in Christ,*

*This past year of 2009, was proclaimed by the Lithuanian Bishops' Conference, as the celebration of the Millenium Jubilee of the first attempts to evangelize Lithuania. This year we commemorated the 1000th anniversary of the written mention of the name of "Lithuania" in the Quedlinburg annals. Celebrations took place not only in Lithuania but also in Lithuanian communities, parishes and missions around the world to mark this special moment in history.*

*The first missionary steps of Evangelization 1000 years ago were begun by Archbishop and Martyr St. Bruno of Querfurt. The word "evangelization" derives from the Greek word meaning "good news". For us Christians, the "Good News" begins with the love of God manifested to us through the Word of God, Jesus Christ: "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was God" (John 1:1) and "the Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us."(John 1:14a)*

*One of the greatest challenges our Church has today is evangelization – sharing and spreading the Good News and the truths of our faith in the Resurrected Jesus Christ to all generations. Pope Benedict XVI explained, "We must reflect seriously on how we might carry out a true evangelization today, not just a new evangelization but often a true first evangelization... and it is not enough just to maintain the community of believers... I believe that, together, we must find new ways of bringing the Gospel to today's world" (Cologne, August 2005).*

*Thus today the challenge and responsibility for Lithuanian Catholics living abroad is to share the "Good News" not only with our children through catechesis but also to evangelize adults. Evangelization encompasses not only formal lessons but also discipleship. "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations" (Matthew 28:19) explained Christ before his Ascension.*

*Many are experiencing economic difficulties, even unemployment. This is the case in Lithuania,*

*Continued on page 10*



## XXIII - Lithuanian Festival in California

As it became a beautiful tradition in the "City of Angels", every first weekend of October, Lithuanian Days take place. This year it was the 23rd annual festival, and as many other Lithuanian events in the United States, it was dedicated to the one thousandth anniversary of the name of the Lithuanian state. Thousands of people come to this event, not only from California, but from other neighboring states and from the East coast and Canada, although I should say that this year there were less people than usual. It could be that many American Lithuanians were traveling to the land of their parents and ancestors to celebrate the memorable date there.

Unfortunately, for some reason a couple of the performers from Lithuania could not attend the festival in California. We were expecting to see the rock ensemble "InCulto", as well as the folk group "Kitava" (they perform traditional music in the modern style) of Siauliai Pedagogical University. Nevertheless, there were local talented American Lithuanian performers entertaining the crowd. The duo from Colorado, "Kolorado vabalai" ("Bugs of Colorado") showed their artistry as well as the well known singer Hokshila, who lived for more than ten years in such places as Africa, Japan and South America and now resides in Hawaii. The energetic young performer from Washington, D.C., Robertas Kupstas-Byla, and well known singer from Chicago Paul Strolia also performed. A group from Los Angeles, "Retro", were dancing in their lovely way.

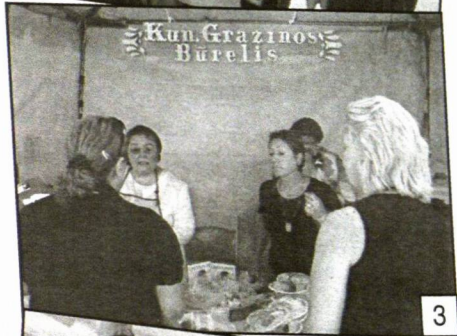
As I mentioned before, Lithuania proudly celebrates its 1000th year anniversary. Los Angeles' St. Casimir Lithuanian society has smaller but still significant jubilees: this year Los Angeles' Lithuanian St. Casimir's school celebrates its 60th year as well as the folk dance group LB "Spindulys" (Sun Ray).



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### CAPTIONS

1. Maryte Newsom, Danguole Varniene and Jurate Venckiene
2. Enjoying a break

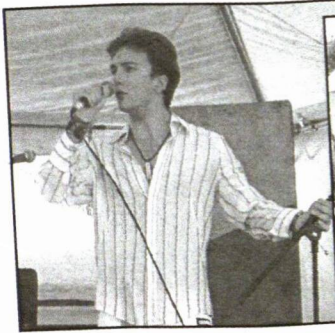
3. Lithuanian food - a culinary art

4. Duo from Colorado (Varbalai)

5. LA Retro.

6. Los Angeles Parish. Actress Rūta Lee on right.





Robertas Kupstas-Byla from Washington, DC



Young Spindulys dancers

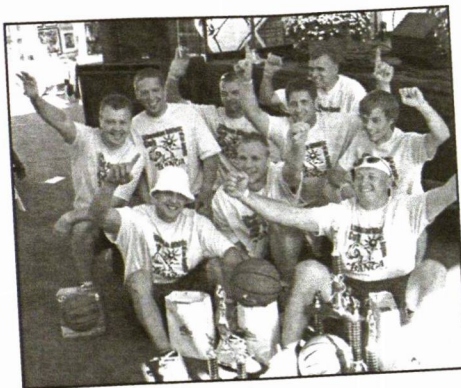
LA was also interesting because the younger crowd actively participated in it as well. It was the second year there was a basketball "3x3" tournament arranged by the sport club "Banga" (Wave) in which as many as eight teams participated. On this occasion the son of Frank Lubin, the famous Lithuanian basketball player who was named a godfather of Lithuanian basketball, was present. It was a pleasure to meet

newly appointed Honorary Consul of the Republic of Lithuania in the state of Washington, Vytautas Čekanauskas. And of course, what kind of Lithuanian Festival in Los Angeles would it be without the appearance of the Hollywood star of Lithuanian descent, the charming Rūta Lee!

Eugenija Misevičius

Photos by the author from the 2009 Lithuanian Days in LA

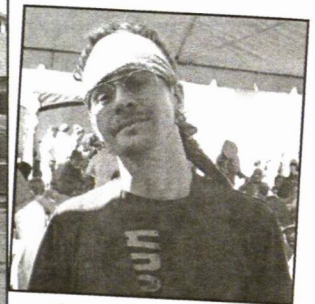
Eugenija Misevičius is a graduate of the University of Bridgeport, Bridgeport, CT. She serves as the secretary of the Lithuanian Journalist Association. Eugenija freelances as a court interpreter. She belongs to the Lithuanian Sports Clubs of Connecticut and New Jersey and enjoys participating in amateur sports such as martial arts. She and her husband, Laurynas, participate in many Lithuanian events.



Members of the Banga team



Players in action



Performer Hokshila takes a break

## ANSWER TO TRIVIA QUESTION

Trivia Quiz on page 7

Source: "The Lithuanian Language" (page 43-44) by Alfred Senn

"In the seventeenth and early part of the eighteenth century the Lithuanians came in contact with the Swedes who may have some influence on the Lithuanian vocabulary.

The word "gatve" (street) is of foreign origin and its geographical distribution points toward the north as place of origin. It may be Swedish.

Modern Lithuanian is not completely free of foreign elements, but neither is any other language. Moreover, loanwords which are retained look so characteristically Lithuanian that it is difficult to detect their foreign origin. We thus witness an amazing vitality of this conservative language, a vitality enabling it to assimilate completely even recent acquisitions.

Lithuanian is most of all a youthful language, a fact which is usually overlooked because the scholars are overawed by a few striking archaic features."

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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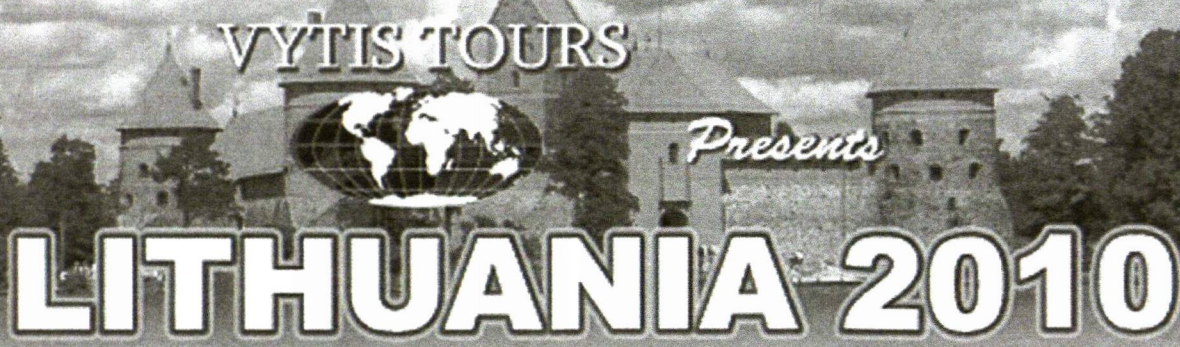


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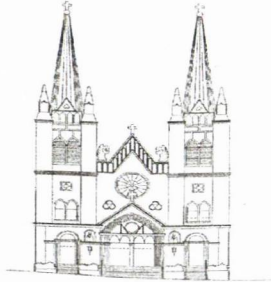
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Make Checks Payable to: **ST. GEORGE HERITAGE**



# Calendar of Events for Dec. 2009 - Jan./Feb. & Mar 2010

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

## DECEMBER

**December 6, 2009** - 3-6pm  
 KC Lithuanian Community  
 Christmas Party "Kūčios" Table  
 Traditional Christmas Eve Dinner  
 Folkdancing, Music, Games.  
 Davis Hall, Wyandotte County  
 Lake Kansas City, KS.  
 Info: [www.kclith.org](http://www.kclith.org)

Sponsor:  
 Kansas City Chapter of the LAC

**December 6, 2009** - Kūčios  
 Transfiguration Church  
 Maspeh, NY  
 Reservations: 718-849-5725

**December 6, 2009** - 2:00 pm  
 Lithuanian Traditional  
 "Kūčios" McKeon Center  
 Mission San Luis Rey  
 4070 Mission Ave.  
 Oceanside, CA 92054  
 Info: [www.lithsd.org](http://www.lithsd.org)

Sponsor:  
 San Diego Chapter of the LAC

**December 6, 2009** - 1 pm  
**CONCERT**, Virgis Stakėnas,  
 Country music performer  
 Lithuanian House  
 Toronto, Canada  
 Info: 416-769-1266

**December 8, 2009** - 7 to 9 pm  
 (Tuesday) Annual Kūčios  
 Bring a Lithuanian dish  
 Lithuanian Music Hall  
 2715 E. Allegheny Ave  
 Phila., PA  
 Use side door on Tilton Street  
 Info: [milliemarks@aol.com](mailto:milliemarks@aol.com)  
 or 610-497-5469

**December 11, 2009** (Friday)  
**Lasagna Take-Out Dinner**  
 4-6 pm (pick up) To order please  
 call 412-885-7232 by Dec. 7  
 Sisters of St. Francis of the  
 Providence of God - Pittsburgh, PA.

**December 12, 2009** - 2:00 pm  
**Christmas Social**  
 Fraternal Order of Eagles Hall  
 1151 S Galena Street  
 (just west of Mississippi & Havana)  
 Denver, CO 80247

Info:  
[www.coloradolithuanians.org](http://www.coloradolithuanians.org)  
 Sponsor:  
 Colorado Chapter of the LAC

**December 13, 2009** - 12 Noon  
**Kūčios**, Traditional Lithuanian  
 Christmas Eve Dinner  
 St. Andrew's Parish Hall  
 19th & Wallace Sts.

Philadelphia, PA.  
 \$15 donation -  
 \$5 children 12 and under  
 Tickets and Reservations:  
 Maryte: 215- 969- 2117 or  
 Laima: 609- 268- 8045  
 Sponsor: Philadelphia Lithuanian  
 Scouts Association

**December 20, 2009** - 12 Noon  
 "Vinco Krėvės" Lithuanian  
 Heitage School will present the  
 traditional "Kalėdų Eglutė" and  
 a visit from Santa  
 St. Andrew's Parish Hall  
 19th & Wallace Sts.  
 Philadelphia, PA.

## JANUARY 2010

**January 3, 2010** - 2 pm  
**Annual Christmas Concert**  
 "Laisvė" Choir  
 St. Andrew's Church  
 19th & Wallace Sts.  
 Philadelphia, PA.  
 Info: 215-265-2322

**January 22, 2010 (Friday)**  
**LITHUANIAN HERITAGE NIGHT**  
**WITH THE PHOENIX SUNS -**  
 US Airways Center,  
 201 E. Jefferson St., Phoenix  
 Come celebrate our Lithuanian

heritage with the Phoenix Suns  
 as they take on the Chicago Bulls.  
 This is a great opportunity to  
 enjoy the national sport of  
 Lithuania with family and friends.  
 Our special package includes the  
 following:

- (1) special Lithuanian Heritage T-shirt;
- (2) 200 level Suns' game ticket;
- (3) early entry to watch the players  
 warm up;
- (4) a group photo on the court after the  
 game
- (5) Suns' tote bag.

Tickets are \$34 each plus a \$5  
 handling fee per order. Please  
 place your orders directly with  
 David Segal. He can be reached  
 at (602) 379-7593 or  
[dsegal@suns.com](mailto:dsegal@suns.com).

Sponsor:  
 Arizona Chapter of the LAC

## MARCH

**March 7, 2010**  
**LITHUANIAN INDEPENDENCE**  
**CELEBRATION**  
 St. Elizabeth Seton Parish,  
 9728 W. Palermas Drive, Sun City  
 Sponsor: Arizona Chapter of the  
 LAC <http://www.lithaz.org>

bridges

# Christmas Gift

## Subscription

### ORDER FORM

**Mail to:**  
 LAC, Inc./BRIDGES  
**Subscriptions:**  
 Rimas Gedeika  
 78 Mark Twain Dr.  
 Hamilton Sq., NJ 08690

Please check:

New   
  Renewal   
  Gift   
  Donation

**Your Subscription:**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ (please print)

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Apt. No. \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

**Subscription Gift To:**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ (please print)

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Apt. No. \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Please send me 10 issues BRIDGES  
 1 full year for \$20.00 - 2 full years for \$38.00 US Mail serviced subscribers;  
 Subscriptions outside the country \$35.00 payable in advance (US funds).

Please enclose the subscription payment.

\$ 20.00

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**GOOD GIFT**  
 Subscription

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



# LITHUANIAN MARKET PLACE - Order from BRIDGES



1 - Style A hat - \$ 20.00



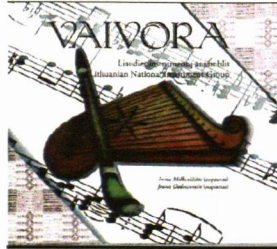
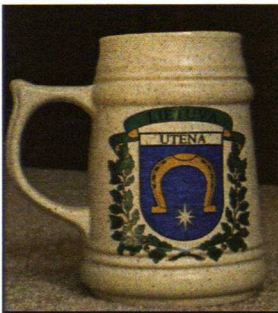
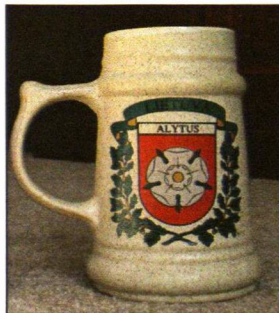
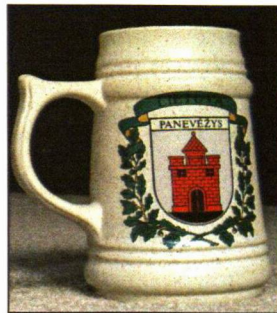
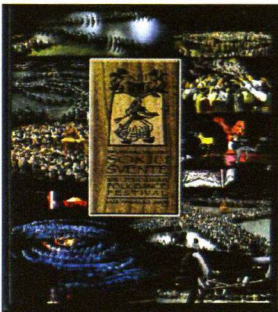
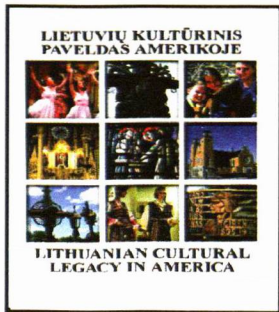
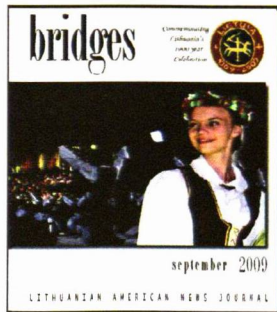
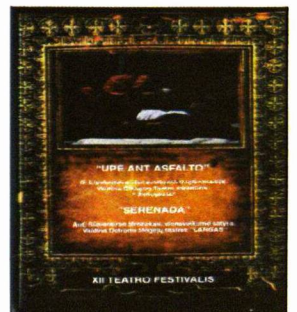
2 - Style B hat - \$ 20.00



3 - Style C hat - \$ 20.00



4 - Style D - \$ 25.00

5 - CD by Jurga  
"Instrukcija" - \$ 206 - CD by Jurga "Aukso  
Pieva" - \$ 207 - CD by Vaivora (ethno-  
cultural music) - \$ 208 - Vytiis decal approx (3"  
x 3") - \$ 39 - mug w city of Utena  
coat of arms - \$ 1310 - mug w city of Alytus  
coat of arms - \$ 1311 - mug w city of  
Panevezys insignia - \$ 1312 - "LIETUVA" scarf (4" x  
52" long) - \$ 2513 - DVD or 13th Folk  
Dance Festival at Galen  
Center of USC \$20.0014 - Cultural Legacy Book  
(hardcover, 224 pages) \$4515 - Bridges subscription  
\$20 for 10 issues16 - Set of 6 DVD's of XII  
Theatre festival (in  
Lithuanian) - \$ 4517 - Car license plate  
holder \$1218 - LT sticker (4" x 9"  
approx) - \$ 4.19 - LIETUVA decal (1" x  
2.5") - \$ 3

Use included Order Form and make check payable to Lithuanian-American Community

send order form to:  
78 Mark Twain Road,  
Trenton, NJ 09439

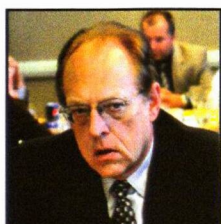


# bridges

VOLUME 33 ISSUE 10

**SUBSCRIPTIONS:** Rimas Gedeika  
78 Mark Twain Dr., Hamilton Sq., NJ 08690

December 8 - Immaculate Conception  
December 25 - Christmas

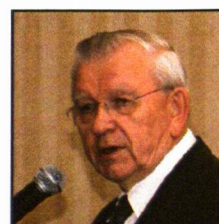


**Jurgis Joga,**  
*Los Angeles chapter,  
Western region,  
outgoing Secretary of the  
Officers of the Board,  
member of the Lithuanian  
Parliament/WLC  
commission*

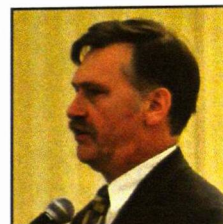


**Dalia Puskorius,**  
*Cleveland chapter,  
Ohio district,  
past co-chair of the  
Lithuanian  
Parliament/WLC  
commission*

## Moments from the LAC Board Meeting



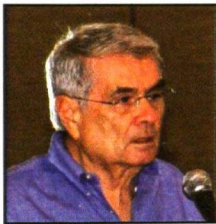
**Juozas Polikaitis,**  
*Lemont chapter,  
Midwest district,  
incoming chairman of the  
Officers of the Board,  
chair of Social Services  
council*



**Vytautas Maciunas,**  
*Philadelphia chapter,  
Southeast district,  
President of the LAC  
Executive Committee,  
member of the Lithuanian  
Parliament/WLC  
commission*



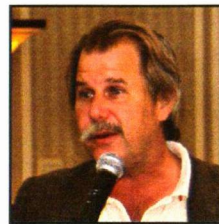
**Danguole  
Navickas,**  
*Los Angeles chapter,  
Western district,  
outgoing Chair of the  
Officers of the Board*



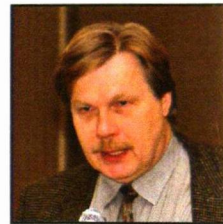
**Arvydas  
Barzdukas,**  
*Washington DC chapter,  
Southeast district chair,  
incoming member of the  
Officers of the Board*



**Giedre Stankunas,**  
*president of the  
Bridgeport chapter,  
Connecticut district*



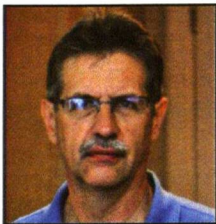
**Ramutis Pliura,**  
*Wisconsin chapter,  
Midwest district, VP for  
Financial Affairs, LAC  
Executive Committee*



**Jonas Prunskis,**  
*Lemont chapter,  
Midwest District,  
member of the Lithuanian  
Parliament/WLC  
commission*



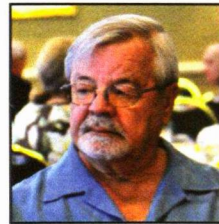
**Terese Gecys,**  
*Philadelphia chapter,  
Southeast District*



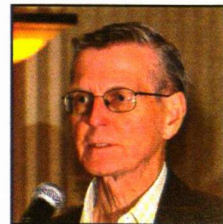
**Kastytis Giedraitis,**  
*Detroit chapter,  
Michigan district*



**Milda Satas,**  
*Cicero chapter,  
Midwest region*



**Stasys Vanagunas,**  
*Arizona chapter,  
Western district*



**Algis Lukas,**  
*Washington DC chapter,  
Southeast district*