

bridges

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LITHUANIAN AMERICAN NEWS JOURNAL

Letter from the Editor

I hope you are all in "spring mode". It's so nice not to have the lights on at four o'clock in the afternoon or picture dollar signs floating out the door because the heat is running day and night. I guess it's God's way of giving us a break. But for me personally, sitting outside and listening to the birds offering their repertoire of melodies is such a wonderful gift. And those first spring flowers bring such hope for the world.

I would like to welcome George Stankevicius who submitted his first article to Bridges. But what fascinated me was the email I received from George. He wrote that he submitted his article after reading what Audra Kriauciunas wrote. George was motivated and inspired by the then sixteen year old teenager's article of her first trip to Lithuania. It also turns out that George is quite the photographer so you will see his photos in upcoming photo albums.

Are you planning a vacation? If you don't see Lithuania in your plans this summer, how about the song festival in Toronto, Canada? Whether you tour the world or sit on your porch, enjoy yourself.

On this Memorial Day we honor all those who came before us. Some of us still remember when it was called "Decoration Day". We especially thank our veterans for their service to our country.

In this month's Photo Album I have shared my photos of Lithuanian mothers and children from many, many trips to Lithuania. There are so many more people I met who have taken on the roles of mothers. Sister Michele Garas and Sister Dolorita Butkus have many, many "children" in the Utena area. They not only feed their "children" spiritually but physically and emotionally. I have met men who are not only fathers but mothers as well. I can't forget the many foster mothers who have taken in the children of strangers and have raised them as their own. And let's not forget the wonderful Lithuanian grandmothers. Although they have raised their own children, they are tired and often have little money, they don't hesitate to raise their grandchildren.

To all our readers, Happy Mother's Day and thank you for sharing your homes with us this month.

"Mothers hold their children's hands for a short while, but their hearts forever".

Author Unknown


Jeanne Shalna Dorr

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2715 E. Allegheny Avenue
Philadelphia, PA 19134
Tel: 800-625-1170
Fax: 856-428-6014

E-mail: LithuanianUSA@yahoo.com

BRIDGES Consultants

Jeanne Dorr Editor
Gema Kreivenas Art Director/Production
Rimas Gedeika Treasurer
Lithuanian American Community, Inc., &
Subscription Manager.

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Address all editorial correspondence to:

BRIDGES

Jeanne Dorr
4 Shrewsbury Yard
Riverton, NJ 08077-1038

E-Mail: Jeanneshalna@aol.com

For subscription & advertising information,
please contact:

LAC, Inc./BRIDGES,

Rimas Gedeika
78 Mark Twain Dr.
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* COVER: Sculpture of “VARGO MOKYKLA” - “School of Hardship” by Petras Rimša representing the period of suppression of Lithuanian schools by Russians. Mothers, while working at their spinning wheels, taught their children the Lithuanian language and their prayers.

Editor's Note: Realizing that he could not move the Lithuanians to accept the Cyrillic alphabet, Czar Nicholas II restored the right to use the Latin alphabet. The persistence and determination of the Lithuanian people should never be doubted. Throughout Lithuania's long history, so much is owed to so many in the name of freedom.

The following are excerpts from “LITHUANIA 700 YEARS”

The Battle To Retain The Lithuanian Free Press And National Rebirth

1. The Successful Resistance to Cyrillic Alphabet

The Russian prohibition of the use of the Latin alphabet for the Lithuanian press, and in its stead the forced use of the Russian Cyrillic alphabet, was an unprecedented event in the history of Europe. Though this prohibition did not have a direct link with the revolt of 1863, it was nevertheless an outcome. The Russians saw very well how the Poles and Lithuanians (together with the White Russians) had led the uprising. The Russians began to observe the Lithuanians more closely-the Lithuanians were, to them, too much under the influence of the Poles. The Russian concern was to separate the

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Mothers to Many

By Ona Aleknavičienė

Those who are living fortunate and satiated lives probably will never really comprehend what a poor person experiences, especially when one has no money and daily hunger is gnawing at one's stomach. Quite often such a person is also embarrassed by his predicament and does not contact existing support organizations to ask for food and other assistance. According to an article in a Lithuanian newspaper, "Utenos Žinios" (No. 119, dated October 24, 2009), it is estimated that in the near future about 400,000 Lithuanians will be experiencing such hunger and want.



Seated is Sister Michele, registering a child and her grandmother while Sister Dolorita looks on.

Seventeen years ago, two nuns, Sr. Dolorita Butkus and Sr. Michele Garas, of the Sisters of St. Francis of the Providence of God, arrived from Pittsburgh, PA to Utena, Lithuania. Their goals were to offer the Lithuanian people support and guid-



Lines of people registering for their food. They wait for hours even through rain, snow and sleet.

ance; to minister to both the physical and spiritual needs of the people; to provide Catholics and others the opportunity to meet and work with vowed religious women in their daily lives. The sisters now are involved in youth projects, religious instructions with children and their parents, and teaching religion classes in a local school. Additionally, the sisters are offering pastoral services at the 45-bed St. Clare Hospice. The sisters have created several projects and are seeking supporters to carry out their projects.

For the past five years they have an on-going project to feed the hungry of Utena. Over the years the numbers of the hungry have been increasing. In October 2009, there were 3,651 workers unemployed and looking for work. (On January 01, 2006, the population of

Utena was 38,876). In the beginning, the sisters were providing food for 50 needy individuals. Today they provide food for more than 300 needy families. These families include the elderly, invalids, and orphans. Some of the families are single-parent and some have numerous children. For some of the families this is the only help that sustains them from one month to the next. This assistance provides a measure of joy and happiness, especially to the children and the elderly, who know that they will not go hungry that month.

Food packages are prepared and given out once a month. The food packages basically consist of cooking oil, flour, various cereal grains, sugar, macaroni, cookies, and other items. The food packages vary monthly, based on local food prices. The Lithuanian Catholic Religious Aid



An elderly woman is grateful.

Continued from page 3 **The Battle To Retain The Lithuanian Free Press And National Rebirth**

Lithuanians, Poles, and White Russians. The tiny country of Lithuania within the giant Russian Empire seemed to the Russians to be unimportant, and to be easily Russified. Thus, the first implement in this program of Russification was to forbid the use of the "Polish" letters—that is, the Latin alphabet. Through the use of the Cyrillic alphabet, the ultimate aim was to Russify Lithuania through prohibition of the Latin alphabet.

The Russians thought that it would be relatively easy for the Lithuanians to adopt the Cyrillic alphabet. The first three books introduced into the country were a grammar, a prayer book, and a calendar. The Russian grammar books meant nothing to the people, who just read the old books. At first, even the prohibition of the free press did not touch the average citizen, for few were schooled in recognizing Russian characters; furthermore, the awakened spirit of anti-Russianism during the revolt helped in resisting this alphabet, which the Lithuanians came to abhor.

Religion, as had been the case in the past, played an important part in the lives of the people. This was especially evident concerning the new prayer books of Cyrillic alphabet. The Lithuanians refused to use

these missals, and naturally did not purchase them. There was no use or profit for the Russians to continue further publication; in fact, only fifty-four prayer books were published in forty years!

Meanwhile, Lithuanian books were published in Prussia; the first editions, printed in Königsberg in 1866, were smuggled across the border into Lithuania by contrabandists who had engaged in similar black market activities since ancient times.

The first united resistance against the Cyrillic alphabet began with the peasants. At first, the relatively small educated class did not realize the imminent danger lying in the prohibition. Some even helped in preparing some texts for the new Russian printings. Bishop Valančius, held under arrest, was persuaded to give his imprimatur for the first religious writings in the Russian characters; however, he soon saw the danger and began to protest such publications. In 1866 he wrote to Kaunas' general-governor: "I believe it is impossible to publish the Samogitian Gospels as a Bible in Russian letters because it is my duty to see that such a book would not be ruined." A year later Valančius requested permission to publish a very popular prayer book, *Aukso Altorius*, in the Latin

Continued on page 19



A young mother and her child depend on the generosity of others.

(64-25 Perry Avenue, Masbeth NY 11378) has been supporting this project, but the sisters are asking your help to continue this project and also to increase the number of families to be supported.

Director of the Association of St. Francis:
Ona Aleknavičienė

<http://www.osfprov.org/lithuania.asp>

Editor's note: "Whatsoever you do to the least of my people, that you do unto me".

Matthew 25:40

I have held this article for several months because I wanted to print it for Mother's Day. These Sisters are mothers to so many people. They do all a mother does and even more. It's easy to love and help your own family. But the Sisters are helping strangers and these strangers are the downtrodden and those left behind in a world beset by a financial crisis.

For many years I have been writing about the work being done in Utena and the surrounding areas by Sister Dolorita and Sister Michele. The mission statement of their order can be found on the above link. Many of you have supported the Lithuanian Mission of the Sisters of St. Francis of the Providence of God. If you would like to help with the food pantry please send a check to:

**Sisters of St. Francis of the
Providence of God
3603 McRoberts Road
Pittsburgh, PA. 15234**

You must write Lithuanian Mission on your check.

The Tradition Of The Lithuanian Song Festivals – Dainų Šventės

Birutė Litvinienė

If nations were to be asked to open their heritage treasure chests, at the forefront of Lithuania's cultural treasury would be *dainos* – our songs. The word is as ancient as the Lithuanian language and, according to Indian linguist Professor Suniti Kuman Chattergi, comes from the old Indo-European word *dhaina*: “To think, to ponder, to give thought to.”

Historians and musicologists describe them as “immortal” *dainos* because they recount Lithuania's history, offering tangible relics of the ancient past as well as chronicling events of the present day. *Dainos* “give thought to” who Man is, and to his relationship with the events in his life and the country of his origin. A Lithuanian is enveloped by *dainos* from birth to death: there is a song for every experience, and he is equipped to reflect upon and narrate the story of his life through song. It is no surprise, therefore, that there are over 100,000 Lithuanian songs about weddings alone.

These *dainos*, from ancient folk songs to modern-day works by Lithuanian composers, will be the focus of the IX Lithuanian Song Festival hosted in Toronto, Canada, on July 2-4, 2010. Over 50 choirs with 1,000 singers of all ages, from Canada, the United States, England, Poland and Lithuania, will come together to be part of this celebration reflecting Lithuanian pride in the tradition of singing and to ensure that this unique living cultural treasure continues to be handed down from one generation to the next.

A song festival is a culmination of choirs' hard work, and a show of unity. The song festival tradition began in Lithuania in 1924 and still continues there, with last year's festival drawing 30,000 singers.

Even though there had already been unofficial Lithuanian song festivals in the United States, such as the gathering of 3,000 singers at the 1939 World Fair, the ALRK (American-Lithuanian Roman Catholic) Organists' Society endorsed the idea of organizing the



The youth choir Naujoji Intriga, one of the participants in the IX Song Festival in Toronto

first official Song Festival for Lithuanians living outside of then-occupied Lithuania. Because Chicago was centrally located and because it had a large Lithuanian community, it was chosen as the site of the first festival.

And so the first official Lithuanian Song Festival outside of Lithuania was held in 1956 in Chicago, Illinois, with 34 choirs with 1,200 singers. Since then there have been eight such events, all held in Chicago with one exception: The 1978 Festival was held in Toronto at Maple Leaf Gardens, with 51 choirs with 1,400 singers participating.

Toronto is very proud to again embrace the tradition and host this year's event. As with all the other festivals, the contributors – the organizers, various committee members, choir directors and singers – work tirelessly and without remuneration toward the objective: A successful song festival, a truly unique example of priceless cultural heritage that can be enjoyed by every member of the audience, even if he or she does not understand the language.

Robert Payne – novelist, poet, historian, anthropologist – writes:

One comes to them (dainos) almost unbelieving, surprised that such perfect songs should be permitted to survive. They have a beauty and pure splendor above anything I know in Western literature except the early songs of Greek islanders. They seem to have been written at the morning of the world, and the dew is still on them... in our desperate age, the dainos acquire a supreme importance for they speak of a time when joy still walked over the earth.

Birutė Litvinienė

Attending Lietuva's 1000th Birthday Celebrations

George A. Stankevicius

This was my fourth visit to my homeland since 1994 when my wife and I went to see our daughter Danutė participate in the Sokiu Šventė as a member of Samburis – Lithuanian Folk Dance Group of Boston. It was my first visit and my wife's first since coming to the U.S. in 1949. We visited again in 1998 staying with her family in Vilnius as we did in 1994. On this visit we met my Father's family. In 2007 my cousin – a retired Boston policeman on his first visit – and I ventured on our own. This was a time for him to learn more of his heritage.

In 2009 I was on my own for five weeks. A venture with a very long "to do" list. In the first week my agenda included attending the dance festival at the Hill of Three Crosses and Sport Stadium in Vilnius. The performance at the Hill of Three Crosses is and always has been my favorite. (Except when our daughter performed at the sport stadium in 1994.) The Hill of Three Crosses performance is more of the "country" "old time" folk dances, music and songs that I love so much. Then it was off to attend the special events in Kernavė. This time Arvydas, neighbor of my "cousin" (my wife's cousin's husband) has offered to take us on this journey. Arvydas, his wife Veronika, my "cousin Kazis" and I along with another of my wife's cousins – Algirdas – from Klaipėda all traveled to Kernavė. And what a day it was for me. To see how my ancestors lived and survived with the barest of tools and materials. When we walked as far and as long as we could we all sat on the edge of the grounds and enjoyed the view of the valley. The river finding its own path through some of the most beautiful green hills and grasses. To climb the many stairs to the top of one of the hills that let you see even more of the valley ahead. If there is a more breath taking view in Lietuva I would like to see it. Of course as we left to return to our car one cannot pass the many craft stands and not buy something to take home.

Now it is the day that my driver and I travel to Kaunas to visit with my Father's side of my family. I have not seen many of them since 1998 and one that I have never met before. He and his family were first on my "to visit" list. With the help of a great researcher in Vilnius I was able to make contact with Juozas and his wife Jūra before my visit. We exchanged information and old photos of our families. This made our family ties a reality. However I did not tell them of my planned visit. Telling them I was unable to visit due to the bad economy here in the states. And that a friend would be bringing him some family documents that I have researched in the U.S. Archives. This was my effort to surprise my new family. The long journey from Vilnius to Kaunas was filled with many emotions for me. How will they accept me? Are they good people? Will they understand why I had to find them? Needless to say all of these



Arvydas, Algirdas and George enjoy the breathtaking views at Kernavė.

emotions were gone as soon as they opened the door to their apartment. My "surprise" worked perfectly. Once we finished the hugs and kisses it was time to sit and talk. Me, with my broken Lithuanian, and them with no English. Thanks to Donata – my "cousin's" sister-in-law who did the translating for us – we managed to make it through the visit. Then it was time to eat and drink – a tradition in all Lithuanian homes. The table became covered with their best dishes of food that they prepared knowing a "visitor" was arriving. Of course we had stopped at a "super market" during our travel to pick up some bottles of "cheer" for this special occasion. We spent the better part of that morning and afternoon talking, eating, toasting (my driver did not "toast") more eating and plenty more "toasting". I think I "toasted" more that day than I have in the past five years. Homemade cepelinai, silkė, dark bread, potato pancakes hot off the stove, chicken, broiled potatoes, garden fresh tomatoes and cukes and juice to chase the "toasts".

After too many "toasts" I remembered the Family Tree print-out I brought for my new family.

It has more than 500 names on it with as many dates as I could find. When it folded out it went across the entire room.

Juozas could not believe that he had so large a family – past and present. Although they lived a short distance apart from family also living in Kaunas they had no knowledge of each other. The years of occupation and turmoil pushed so many families apart and lost forever. I am happy that I had a small role in maybe re-connecting them as a family. The time came for us to leave came much too fast. The drive back to Vilnius is long and tiresome.

A few days later we went to visit family #2 – Irena and her family – in Kaunas. My last visit with my cousin in 1998 at her parents' farm. Her father Jurgis, my first cousin, passed since then. And now their son lives in New Jersey working

very hard. We were greeted in the parking area for their apartment to be sure we did not get lost. When we entered their apartment we were greeted with hugs and kisses and a special surprise, their daughter Neringa flew from Italy to meet me. She is now a grown young lady with her own business in Italy. Plus she speaks awesome English. I am saved-Donata, my other translator, was not able to join us. The time for a "toast" is now over due. The glasses are filled to the top and a toast is said. And out from the kitchen comes more food. More food and even more "toasts" went on for at least four hours.

The time came for my driver and me to say our good byes and head back to Vilnius when we were told – you cannot – Kazimiera is waiting for us at her farm. She is the widow of my first cousin Jurgis.

I can feel that this will be another repeat – food and drink. Once again it is not possible for me to say no when so much has been done for my visit. If I do not visit my guilt will never leave me. So off we go in two cars. On the way we stop at the cemetery to visit Jurgis. It is a time for me to say my "hellos & goodbye" to my cousin. Next to him lie my Father's parents. Their remains and stone moved from one cemetery to this one. This is my first "meeting" with them. I cannot hold back my emotions and tears. To be this close to Grandparents I never knew is more than I can ask for. All the years of searching and now I have found them. Or is it they have found me? No one hurries me to leave the cemetery. It is when I am ready that we leave. One more stop before Kazimiera's farm—another daughter Emilija has a farm on the way. Of course she has been "warned" of my arrival and the food is out on the table. This time we eat outside under a shade tree. Thank goodness this is just a "snack". Fresh picked strawberries and fresh cream from their cow. And I "toast". Time for a few photos and off we go again. This time we made it without any stops. And Kazimiera was waiting for us in front of her home. She was happy that I had not forgotten her since Jurgis passed. More eating, more "toasting" and more photos made the time fly. And of course much more remembering our past visits. Before we knew it, it was time for us to head back to Vilnius. After several rounds of hugs and kisses we finally were on the road. And I was glad that I was not driving. I can honestly say that I did not feel or get sick at any time on the way home. Nor did I feel sick the next day. All in all it was a very good day for me. I enjoyed every single second of it.



Kazimiera's farmstead

The next morning I was the first in the kitchen to have my basic cereal and fruit breakfast. And without a "headache" that I was very thankful for.

My wish was that we use this day as an R & R day. But it was not to be. Plans were made and could not be changed. Our first stop was Europa Centro – European Center. A well designed area with a tall monument and the flags of all the E.U. countries.

I found it very impressive. After some photos and a visit to the tourist building we were off and running again.

This time we were going to visit some very good friends of my "cousin" the driver—Romas, his wife and their children.

They have a summer home on the shores of a very large lake in Dubingiai. Driving down a one lane dirt road proved to be more adventurous than planned. We came bumper to bumper to a very large trash truck. Needless to say we had no choice but to give up our piece of the small road. Driving for more than a half mile in reverse down a very narrow road was a test indeed. But all ended well. After being greeted by my new friends, their two sons and very big dog I was given the \$50 tour of their new home they are building. It was absolutely awesome with a deck and view of the lake. As is Lithuanian custom one cannot visit and not stay for a meal. And a few "toasts" too. Our meal was fresh made beaver stew, (my first ever and it was delicious) and all the basic garden harvest. I was smart enough to bring along some "give out" gifts; Kennedy half dollars. These coins went over very big with everyone. As a special treat for the kids I brought a Connect Four game. Now this game went over fantastically well due to the challenge aspect. After an enjoyable stay with my new friends it was time once again for us to head back to Vilnius. Just before sunset is the time of the day where I enjoy sitting out in the backyard and enjoying the peace and quiet of the area. And the time to digest all the food we ate. It is a time to talk of our plans for the next day. As I had told my "cousin" when I arrived my main objective is to do some family research. Mostly I wanted to walk around some of the old cemeteries near and around Ukmergė. This is where Kunigas Rimantas Laniauskas and school teacher Laima Pacevičienė of Balninkai came to my aid.

I had made contact with Kun. Laniauskas some time ago in one of my letters looking for information of a possible relative on my Mother's side. This relative was from Balninkai and Kun. Laniauskas was my best option. I also made arrangements through LCR – which I am a volunteer – to send a container of

FOREST BROTHERS

By Juozas Lukša

Reviewed by: Vytautas Volertas

THIS IS THE BOOK!

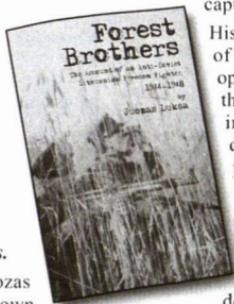
For authentic information about the Lithuanian Freedom Fighters (Partisans) read this book:

FOREST BROTHERS,
the Account of an Anti-Soviet
Lithuanian Freedom Fighter,
1944-1948, by Juozas Lukša;
published by Central European
University Press 2009, 412 pages.

The author of this book is Juozas Lukša. He was one of the best known post-World War II resistance leaders in Lithuania. He tells in an autobiographical account of the armed resistance against the Soviet Union which took place from 1944-1956. Efforts to understand and evaluate this period have only recently begun. Lukša's work in this respect is a valuable contribution.

Lukša decided to join the partisans in the middle of 1945. In 1948 he and two comrades broke through the Iron Curtain and sought training from the French intelligence and from the CIA. Lukša was flown back

into the Soviet Union under the radar in late 1950. After eleven months of surviving and operation he was captured and executed on September 5, 1951.



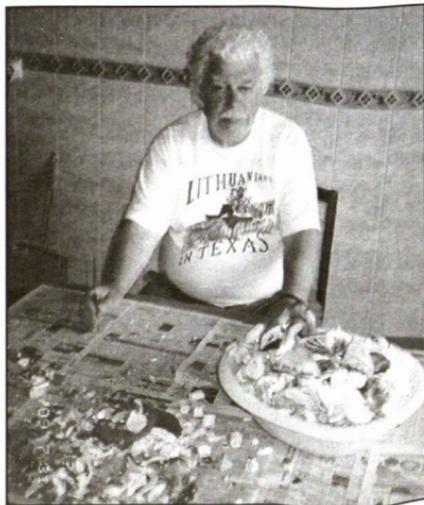
His account describes the vivid scenes and dialogue of the daily struggles of the resistance, night operations and life deep in the woods. This book is the first of Lukša's unabridged memoirs published in English. The eye-witness accounts of this dangerous struggle for freedom against an occupant are breath taking. Here we also clearly see the true recent history as well as the courage and determination of the young Lithuanian partisans. At the same time we experience very interesting reading. This book contains a great number of pictures, some maps and documents, it is highly recommended, and it can be obtained by contacting ceupress@ceu.hu or

Central European University Press

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New York, NY 10019-1105

Vytautas Volertas

Vytautas Volertas is the author of many books in the Lithuanian language. He has received numerous awards for his many achievements.



The author enjoys some Lithuanian mushrooms

items for his community. It was a small task on my part. For an entire day the four of us walked several cemeteries throughout the area. We were looking for any sign of the name Stasiunas on the headstones. Many of the headstones were so old and made of a soft stone that the writing had disappeared. There were some Stasiunas that we did find but they did not "fit into" my family tree. These I left notes in "zip-lock" baggies telling who I am and how to contact me. On the drive back to Balninkai we stopped at a small kavinė for some koldūnai and cold drinks. At the church we took some photos and exchanged small gifts. I gave them a roll of Kennedy half dollars knowing they had an interest in collecting coins. If one has not visited Balninkai I say – go there. It is a very nice small town with a very beautiful lake.

To be continued next month.....

George A. Stankevicius

George A. Stankevicius is a retired "International/Domestic Satellite Systems Installation Supervisor" living with his wife Nijole in Natick, MA. His interests include fishing and completing his family genealogy. He also volunteers for the Lithuanian Children's Relief founded by Sister Helen Ivanauskas S.J.C.

Money at Work

While not every Lithuanian is aware of the many wonderful activities and causes that the Lithuanian Foundation has supported since it was founded more than 47 years ago, hardly any Lithuanian has remained untouched by its philanthropic works. Dollar for dollar, donations have brought unparalleled benefits to the Lithuanian community.

Will you be attending the song festival in Toronto this summer? Do you have pleasant memories of your family enjoying past dance festivals in various cities across the U.S. as well as in Canada? Did you or have your children attended Saturday school classes? Do you recall camping during summers with the scouts or "Ateitininkai"? And how about sports, museums, theater, opera? Summer and Holiday celebrations at Lithuanian schools and community centers? Have you enjoyed receiving your personal copies of "BRIDGES"? And the many other activities planned by the Lithuanian American Community, Inc., a major recipient of LF funding?

These and countless other activities and places have been supported by member donations, their dollars at work, just part of the \$14 million in grants towards Lithuanian education, scholarships and community affairs allocated over the years. And it continues.

The 2009 newly elected Board of Directors and Officers made a commitment to continue reaching out to all members and especially to all generations to build a better understanding and a greater awareness of the Foundation's mission and past accomplishments. An excellent example was the dinner and program prepared in honor of the President of Lithuania Valdas Adamkus and Mrs. Alma Adamkus last fall at the Lithuanian World Center in Lemont, Illinois. It proved to be an elegant and refined event of a quality transcending the norm and attracting new members and an infusion of donations.

More events are planned, such as a unique golf tournament on June 19 in suburban Chicago, unlike any previous such event in the Lithuanian community, replete with prizes and gifts for the golfers (see www.lithuaniangolf.com for details). LF plans to have a hospitality suite at the 2010 Song Festival

in Toronto, Canada this summer where the LF Board members and Officers will share first-hand knowledge of the Foundation, answer questions and assist with the planning of donations. Of course, refreshments will be served to all visitors. Please come and participate in this wonderful event!

We are all keenly aware of the global economic circumstances which drastically impacted not only the national economy and our personal lives, but also significantly affected the Foundation. Fortunately, the U.S. moved swiftly and decisively to contain a deteriorating condition and all indications are that the economy is moving towards a slow albeit positive recovery. We are very optimistic that the Foundation will continue to rebuild its capital base. In spite of such difficulties, the Board felt it critical to continue supporting education, youth programs and cultural projects this year again allocating \$400,000 from its capital for grants to that end.

Appreciating the difficult economic circumstances experienced by many of our members, the Board is truly grateful to all who have continued to give their support. Every donation is valued, large or small, for collectively we create the opportunity to support important programs and contribute to the longevity of the Lithuanian Foundation. We invite everyone to visit www.lithuanianfoundation.org or call 630-257-1616 and learn more about us. Together, we can help ensure the future of our traditions and culture without which all our lives would not be as rich and rewarding as they are.

Lithuanian Foundation

TRIVIA QUESTION

(No. 36)

MONEY

The ancient Lithuanians used which of the following objects as money:

- (a) Spearheads of bone (c) Furs of small animals
(b) Axes (d) all of the above

Answer to Trivia Quiz on page 20



Does your heart sing when you hear Lithuanian songs? Are you preparing to attend the IX Lithuanian Song Festival in Toronto? The Lithuanian Foundation, a long time supporter of dance and song festivals, was proud to feature the Lithuanian Choral ensemble "Dainava" at the gala honoring President Valdas Adamkus and Mrs. Alma Adamkus.

Lithuanian dignitaries were among the guests at the gala honoring President Valdas Adamkus and Mrs. Alma Adamkus. Pictured (left to right): President Valdas Adamkus, Imsre Bruzgiene, Alma Adamkus, Consul General of Lithuania in Chicago Skaiste Aniulienė, Ambassador of Lithuania to the United States of America and the United Mexican States Audrius Bruzga.



A special moment with organizers at the gala honoring President Valdas Adamkus and Mrs. Alma Adamkus. Pictured (left to right): Rimantas Griskelis (LF Chairman of the Board), Rasa Kasniunas, president Valdas Adamkus, Alma Adamkus, Marius Kasniunas (LF President) and Regina Griskelis.

President Valdas Adamkus and Mrs. Alma Adamkus take a moment to express their delight to "Gabija", an ensemble that entertained guests during the cocktail hour at the gala honoring President Valdas Adamkus and Mrs. Alma Adamkus. They are pictured here with the traditional instruments "kankles", wearing beautiful traditional costumes.



At the Independence Day commemoration held at the Lithuanian World Center in Lemont, the Lithuanian Foundation Chairman of the Board, Rimantas Griskelis, presented grants to Lithuanian heritage schools in the Chicago area. Participants at the Commemoration applauded the Foundation for its continuous support of Lithuanian education. Pictured: Egidija Nefiodaviene representing "Pipiru ratelis", Jurate Liutkienė representing "Rasos Lithuanian Saturday School", Žibutė Maciulienė representing "Suburban Lithuanian Montessori", Audrone Elvikienė representing "Maironis Lithuanian Community School of Lemont" and Rimantas Griskelis, LF Chairman of the Board. In all, Lithuanian heritage schools nationwide were granted \$70,000 in 2009 alone.

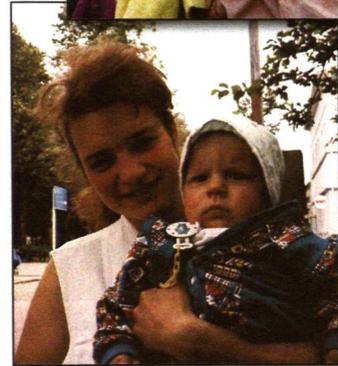
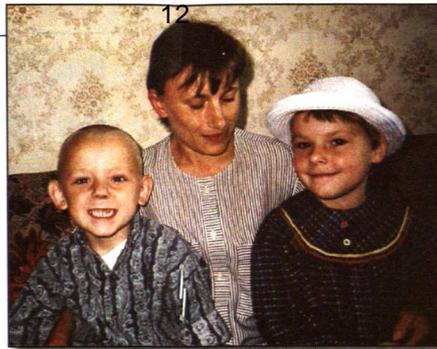
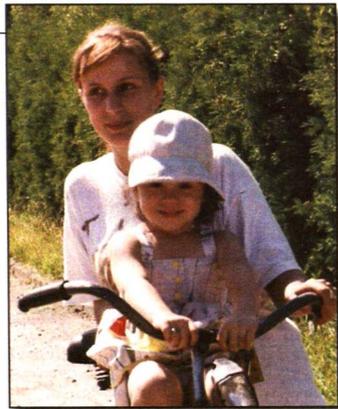
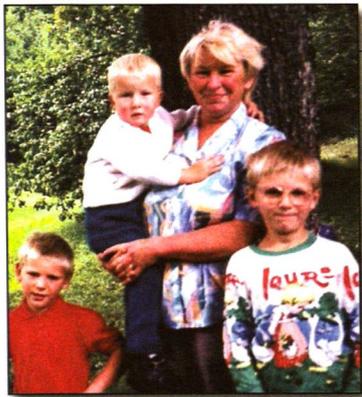
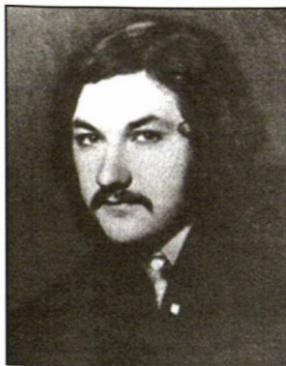


Photo Album of Lithuanian Mothers

The photos used in this album were taken over many trips to Lithuania. Some were used in articles I wrote, but this is the first time they have been printed in color.

Jeanne Shalna Dorr



Romas Kalanta
February 22, 1953 Alytus
May 14, 1972 Kaunas

Memorial for Kalanta in Kaunas

Romas Kalanta set himself on fire in the square adjoining the Laisvės Aleja in front of the Kaunas Musical Theatre in the city of Kaunas, Lithuania



The Eye of Freedom

In remembrance of Romas Kalanta

The mark of manhood burns,
and the Neman always flows.
Oppressors take their bites,
and the soul cries out at night.

The Neman always flows:
like freedom rolling on,
in hearts of Lithuanians
back to Mindaugas' son.

Oppressors take their bites,
and we drag our chains,
not so invisible in infamy
that marks cannot be seen.

My soul cries out each night
to stamp the hearts of men
with freedom's breathe to breath,
or fall a self-imposed wreath.

Oppression is too slow,
and the Neman will always flow.
My soul shouts freedom tonight
a mark of manhood burns.

Michael Lucas

Michael Lucas is a PGA Professional and member of the Poetry Society of South Carolina. His grandparents on his father's side emigrated from Kaunas and Alytus, Lithuania.

Conclusion
LIKE A SHOT EAGLE
 Chicago Lithuanian Opera - revisited

By Vytautas Kupcikevičius

Editor's Note: In the first two parts the author explained the history of the Lithuanian Opera in Chicago. He wrote of the challenges and the mishaps showing us the "behind scenes" in the making of an opera. We are very grateful to Mr. Kupcikevičius for sharing his memories.

In 1968 we staged *Fidelio* and in 1969 a second Lithuanian opera, *Dana*, written by J. Gaidelis of Boston. The opera was based on our life in Germany's DP camps, and it did not excite the spectators. Most of them were former DPs, and probably did not want to be reminded of the camp life. For the 1970 season we staged *La Forza del Destino*. V. Marjosius from Hartford, Conn. was the new conductor. This was the last opera that I participated as a chorus member. My work travel schedule was heavy and it was impossible for me to attend rehearsals. I never left the opera organization; I was there to assist and help any way I could. In 1971 we repeated *Traviata* and in 1972 we staged a new Lithuanian opera *Jūratė and Kastytis* written by K.V. Banaitis, of New York City. The story of this opera started a long time ago. In 1954 we knew that Banaitis was writing the opera. We supported his work as much as we could. When we started staging operas our musical director, A. Kuciūnas, traveled to see the composer. When he returned he told us that the opera was producible and it had nice music, but that the composer was recovering from a stroke and was very sick, but the opera was finished. He gave the original score to us, and the work started to produce the opera. A sponsor was found who covered the cost to publish a piano score. A composer was retained to compose the orchestral score based on the piano music. Notes were prepared for each instrument. An artist designed the stage scenery and costumes for everyone appearing in the opera. Scenery and costumes were made and after three years of work the opera was ready to go on stage.

We did 5 performances and the opera was one of the great events in Chicago Lithuanian cultural life. I was working in the auditorium, helping people find their seats. During the last performance a person approached me complaining that he

had come from out of state and there were no tickets available. I led him to the balcony and told him he could sit on the stairs. He agreed and I left him there. When the performance ended he walked over to me, gave me a \$100 bill, thanked me and left. I was stunned. This was one indication that *Jūratė and Kastytis* opera was a success; it was the milestone #3. The opera was recorded in a studio and issued on two LP records. We never recovered the expenses, but the recording will remain a permanent record of the Opera's existence.

In 1973 *Carmen* was repeated, in 1974 the *Masked Ball* and in 1975 *Elixir of Love* were produced. In 1976 three short Lithuanian Operas were produced. *Amber Land*, *Swearing In* and *Black Ship* were operas written for the Lithuanian Opera of Chicago. It was something new and interesting. We were becoming modern. In 1977 we did *Romeo and Juliet*, in 1978 *Nabucco*, in 1979 *Lucia di Lammermoor* and in 1980 *Carmina Burana* with Pagliacci. *Carmina Burana* was one of those performances that everyone enjoyed. The chorus and soloists had beautiful singing parts, the ballet had a nice dance score and the spectators truly enjoyed everything. It was a success.

In 1981, for the 25th season, we produced *Poncielis' I Lituani*, the Lithuanians. *I Lituani* is a grand, rarely staged opera. It would be its American debut. The Classical Radio Station WFMT of Chicago made a recording which was broadcast on a national opera program. It was the first time an ethnic opera performance was broadcast on national

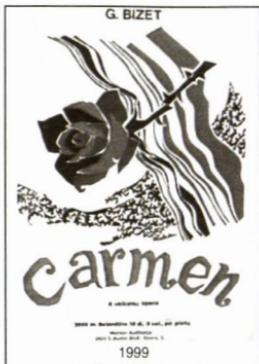
radio. This time my involvement was different. I made all the weapons for the opera's Lithuanian and German soldiers. I made 13th century swords, battle axes and spears. It was a fun project and I was happy to help. I am sure that some of the chorus members still have some of the weapons as souvenirs. I was given an acting role to be the Cardinal who had to bless everyone and give a medal to the Lithuanian Grand Duke. The production was a huge success; it was milestone #4. The opera was repeated in 1984 in the Chicago Auditorium located in the center of the city.



We also traveled to Toronto, Canada. In Canada I stepped out for a smoke dressed as the cardinal. An elderly lady came into the hallway and seeing me she stopped, saying, "A Cardinal! And he is smoking!" She just stood there staring at me. If I had a beer can in my hand, she probably would have passed out.

We produced *Der Freischutz* in 1982, *Faust* in 1984 and *Don Carlo* in 1985. For this production the opera needed a Bishop. I agreed with the demotion and was given the role. The part was simple, all I had to do was enter the stage, walk to the castle door, tap my staff to the floor 3 times and the king would enter. I entered the stage dressed as a bishop, carrying a fancy staff with an elaborate crown, walked to the castle gate and on the orchestra's cue tapped the floor. On my second tap the crown of the staff broke off and rolled down the stairs with a loud clanging noise. It was almost a show stopper. I was standing there with a broom stick in my hand, but the show went on. In 1986 we produced *William Tell* and *Bartered Bride* in 1987. Also in 1987 the opera chorus traveled to Rome, Italy to take part in 600 years celebration since Lithuania converted to Christianity. With time the opera started to age and some of our stars left the organization. We were all getting a little tired and old, the quality of our productions started to decline. It appeared that we were approaching the end. And then a miracle happened - Lithuania regained its independence. Starting in 1989 artists from Lithuanian's State Opera from Vilnius and Kaunas Opera started to appear in our productions.

The Chicago Lithuanian Opera received a huge blood transfusion and was alive and advancing again. All the major Lithuanian soloists appeared on our stage. Conductors, stage directors, soloists, chorus members and in 1994 even the Vilnius Opera orchestra came to Chicago. We obtained all the help we needed and our Opera was flourishing again. *Il Trovatore* was staged in 1989, *Elixir of Love* in 1990, *I Lituani* in 1991, *Otello* in 1992, *Norma* in 1993 and a new Lithuanian opera *Pilėnai*. This opera was written by Vytautas Klova in Lithuania in the seventies, when Lithuania was under Russian Communist rule. The story is based on a legend about a Pilėnai Castle where the defenders burn themselves inside the castle to avoid being imprisoned by the advancing Germans. It is a very powerful, patriotic story and to satisfy the Communist



regime a scene was added in which a Russian knight attempts to save the Lithuanians. They could not glorify Communism in 12th century, thus a Russian knight was used. This was a standard procedure to ensure that the opera would be approved by the censors. As soon as Lithuania became free the scene was dropped and we staged the new version in Chicago. The opera was a huge success; it was milestone #5.

The production of the Lithuanian operas was continuing. In 1995 *The Pearl Fishers*, in 1996 *Jūratė and Kastytis* was repeated. This time with the Kaunas Musical Theater conductor, stage director and soloists. It was a nice production, but it was not the same as the first. The next summer the opera chorus traveled to Lithuania and repeated the production in Kaunas. I was there to support them. In 1997 *Martha* was staged, in 1998 *Gypsy Baron* and *Carmen* in 1999 with artists from Klaipėda Opera. In 2000 it was *La Traviata*, in 2001 *Elixir of Love*, in 2002 *Lucia*, in 2003 *The Masked Ball*, in 2004 *Il Trovatore* and in 2005 *Cavalleria Rusticana*. During the last 5 years I met many Lithuanian Opera artists, many of them lived at our house during the opera productions. My wife and I became friends with them and it was an interesting and rewarding experience.

2006 was approaching. This would be the 50th year of the Chicago Lithuanian Opera's existence. Work started early to celebrate the occasion. I was engaged to prepare an exposition exhibiting the Opera's achievements. It was decided to compose a poster for each year of the Opera's existence, plus posters naming all of our conductors, stage directors, soloists and any other persons who made our existence possible. It took me eight months to do the work. For the occasion the opera *Pilėnai* was repeated. The production was better than the first. The last scene, where the maidens and warriors walk into the flames singing the last song, was done very well, a very effective ending. *Pilėnai* was an excellent opera to celebrate 50 years of Chicago's Lithuanian Opera's work. After the performance a dinner dance took place at the Opera's home, the Chicago Lithuanian Jesuit Center. To mark this occasion the remaining original *Rigoletto* participants were introduced. There were 3 soloists and 5 chorus members. Time had taken its toll. Just listening to Al Brazil singing the arias opened a river of memories - a

lifetime of Chicago Lithuanian Opera. How had this experience started? Who started it? There is a simple answer. It was started by a group of men and women who loved to sing. None of us had formal musical education; none of us were MBAs. We had to learn it all. We succeeded beyond our dreams. We sang the most difficult choral music, we did not bankrupt the Opera and each year thousands of spectators came to see us. Their support kept us alive.

An Octet was formed in 1955 from the men's chorus members. We sang for smaller Lithuanian organization functions and made a record of songs for the Chicago Lithuanian scouts. Later we became the nucleus for a group of men who sang for each other's weddings, our parents' funerals, our children's weddings and finally our own funerals. We sang one song "The Eagle" which we learned in 1955. No one knows who wrote this song or when it was written but the best guess is that it was written in 1944 or 45. Our first men's chorus conductor wrote the music and words from memory. Later he harmonized it for four male voices. "The Eagle" became our hymn. It tells a story which is so descriptive of our lives.

Shot Eagle

Like an eagle shot and tossed by a wind
I find myself far from my homeland
I pray, for one wish dear God
To die under my homeland sky

How comforting it was, to rest my
tired head

Under a branchy linden tree
And in a golden morning to wade
through dewy meadows

To reach the very haven
The brooks flowed and the woods rustled
In the homeland where I was born
The brooks are the same, the woods are the
same
But we are not the same, not the same.

Vytautas Kupcickavičius

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

What a Season!



At CAA Banquet: (l-r) Simona Petronyte, Dovile Miliauskaitė, Greta Luksyte and Kamile Nacickaite.

Photo by Rimas Gedeika

When the NCAA Basketball Tournament, also known as "March Madness," came to its dramatic finish (April 5, 6 2010), it brought down the curtain on the 2009-2010 College Basketball Season --- one of the most remarkable, enjoyable seasons ever.

The Men's Division was won by Duke University, the only one of the Tournament's four top seeded teams to make it to the Final Four and to the Final. Its 61-59 riveting victory over Butler University, the gallant, underdog, mid - major team, was a nail bitter all the way to the end. The game ended when Butler's Gordon Hayward's "Hail Mary" shot from beyond the half court line just missed going in!! And Duke won its fourth title! What a finish!

The Women's Division title was won by the University of Connecticut which defeated Stanford for its 78th straight victory. A truly remarkable



Simona Petronyte guarding Greta Luksyte.

Photo by Rimas Gedeika

winning streak!! Nine more victories and the Connecticut ladies will break NCAA's all time unbeaten record which is currently held by UCLA's men's team.

The 2009-2010 Basketball Season was a great season for its fans. It was filled with great individual efforts, with vastly undermanned, over-matched teams somehow managing to win against far superior teams, records set, records broken!

For me the season was even better for I had the opportunity to see the Colonial Athletic Associations Conference's teams in action. What made this Conference especially interesting was that it had three teams that had four Lithuanian women basketball players: Kamile Nacickaite (Drexel University, Philadelphia), Greta Luksyte (University of North Carolina at Wilmington), Dovile Miliauskaitė and Simona Petronyte (Towson University, Maryland).

I am very fortunate that Philadelphia is just a hop-skip-and-a jump for me. Thus, I was able to see every home game that Drexel played. I especially enjoyed watching Drexel play against UNCW and Towson and seeing one Lithuanian playing against another. But, this presented an interesting dilemma-for whom should I root?

During the season I got to know the players "up close and personal." Here they are:

Greta Luksyte --- from Vilnius --- Senior --- for four years was the starting guard for UNCW. During her four years she set several school records --- played the most games -117;



Simona Petronyte driving toward the basket.

Photo by Kazys Razgaitis



Two more points for Kamile Nacickaite.

Photo by Kazys Razgaitis

scored 53 consecutive foul shots; scored 1,145 points (10th on the all time list); and fifth in three point shooting. This season Greta was the team's second leading scorer (9.2 points per game) and the best foul shooter (she was the fourth best in CAA).

Greta has also played on various Lithuanian Women's National Teams. This year she was again invited to play on the Lithuanian Women's National Team. This year Greta was also selected on the CAA Honorable Mentioned All Academic Team and received the prestigious Dean Ehlers Leadership Award.

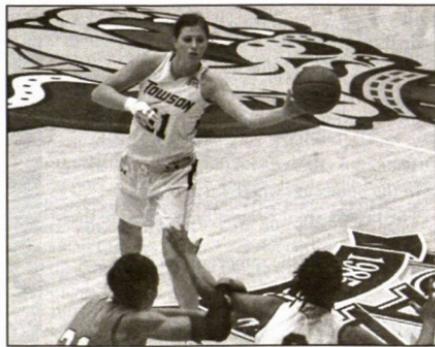
Dovile Miliauskaitė from Vilnius, Junior at 6' 2", Dovile is the tallest of the four Lithuanians. For three years she played center where she constantly battled (for rebounds) against taller, stronger opponents. This year Dovile was the third leading rebounder.

Dovile also played on various Lithuanian Women's National Teams.

Simona Petronyte -from Vilnius-Junior. Plays the point guard position very well-is quick, handles the ball very well, is a good three point shooter. According to her coaches, Simona has excellent court vision.

Simona has also played on various Lithuanian Women's National Teams.

Kamile Nacickaite --- from Sauliai --- Sophomore. The 2009-2010 season was her best, most productive season yet. As a starting guard she was the team's second leading scorer



Dovile Miliauskaitė passing the ball to a teammate.

Photo by Rimantas Gedeikis

Continued from page 5

The Battle To Retain The Lithuanian Free Press And National Rebirth

alphabet. When he received no answer, Valančius realized the plan of the Russians and resolved to resist. He showed the first organized example of resistance by writing several didactic books aimed especially at the Lithuanian peasant. He also paid a goodly sum of money to a Prussian publisher for their printings.

The job of publishing and smuggling Lithuanian books became a highly organized matter, due to Valančius' efforts. At first, he alone organized and conducted this work, but a little later he had the regular parish priests join his activities. Very soon the layman also joined. The most energetic layman in this work was Jurgis Bielinis. Having started his work in 1866, he received the title of - "King of books." Many people joined Valančius' activities, and there arose in Lithuania a new profession-book-smuggling. This new class of smugglers were not unlike the contrabandists except that those involved in this new profession were in much more danger than the regular contrabandists. The Lithuanian book smugglers in fact were a bother to the military police since there was no profit in their capture; it was just extra work to confiscate the books, to list them, and to send them intact to Vilnius or Kaunas, where they were burned. The military police could not stand the Lithuanian book-smugglers, and when the opportunity presented itself would either beat up, torture, or press lawsuits against them. The trials would usually end with the smugglers' convictions or deportation to Siberia.

A graduate of Moscow University, Jonas Basanavičius (1851-1927) began to edit a weekly newspaper *Aušra* (1883), which was published in Prussia. With the publication of *Aušra* we have the beginnings of the Lithuanian national rebirth. In 1889, *Varpas*, a monthly newspaper, was conceived and published by a graduate of Warsaw University's School of Medicine, Vincas Kudirka (1858-99). Alongside *Varpas*, with the same liberal leanings, was the newspaper *Ūkininkas*, first published in 1890. The clergy associated with *Aušra* began to publish their own newspaper with the idea of continuing Valančius' original doctrines. Their first newspaper was *Sviesa*, published in 1887. *Sviesa* was short-lived and was followed by *Žemaičių ir Lietuvos Apžvalga* (1890), *Tėvynės Sargas* (1896), and others. Concurrently, there appeared the first Lithuanian political parties (the Social-Democrats), and various allied newspapers, most of which were short-lived.

All newspapers, magazines, and publications which were not periodicals were directed toward one purpose: To educate the rural peoples and awaken their feelings of Lithuanian nationalism. The editors and publishers attempted to circulate their publications as widely as possible, and it was toward this purpose that the book smugglers and other propagandists were of invaluable service.

Finally, the Russians admitted that the suppression was a fruitless endeavor. The governor-general of Vilnius, SviatopolkMirski, wrote

Continued on page 20



Up, Up and two more for Greta Lukyte!
Photo by Kazys Razgaitis

(11.8 points per game), second in rebounding (6.4 rebounds per game), second in three point accuracy (.398) and fourth in foul shooting.

Kamile is a multi-talented player who can drive aggressively to the hoop or stop, jump and shoot from beyond the three point line. Being able to drive to the basket or shoot from the three point line has often caused various defensive problems for those attempting to guard her.

At 5'11" Kamile is a strong rebounder who is not afraid to mix it up with the taller, stronger opponents. She has the knack of positioning herself in such a manner as to box out her opponent, grab the rebound and make a quick outlet pass to a teammate streaking down the court for an easy basket. Everyone on the coaching staff foresees a bright future for her for the next two years.

As with her three friends, Kamile has also played on various Lithuanian National Women's Teams.

Rimas Gedeika

Rimas Gedeika lives in New Jersey and 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.

Continued from page 19

The Battle To Retain The Lithuanian Free Press And National Rebirth

to the Czar in 1902: "Official publications sold with no regard for their true value, and even distributed at no cost, were unpopular." About the so-called foreign (Prussian) publications, he said, "The foreign publications, regardless of their cost, irrespective of the dangers involved in their contraband distribution, and regardless of confiscations and penalties, which incur holders of Lithuanian books in Latin characters, and the arrest of distributors themselves-are spreading, spreading by the tens of thousands." Having outlined such a situation, he admitted the government's helplessness by stating that the central government, as well as individually local authorities, had no means of effectively coping with the smuggling in of Lithuanian books. Because of this, any and all efforts were totally worthless, and caused antigovernment feelings within the population. In writing so, he expressed the government's problem.

The stubborn Lithuanians had withstood oppression from the Czarist government, and had actually brought Russia to her knees. The Imperial leaders had not expected such resistance, and thus had not taken

the whole matter seriously. They had failed to make it an Imperial law, and had left it merely as a local administrative decree during the war. When the war was over in 1871, this decree could not but come to naught. However, the censorship committees still held to it. Educated Lithuanian patriots whose numbers increased toward the end of the nineteenth century understood the weak legal foundations of the oppressive laws and attempted to undermine them.

The government, as though ashamed of having oppressed Lithuania with this decree, secretly lifted the restrictions on May 7, 1904. The government's central press affairs agency notified the censorship committees and local and foreign censors to abide by this decision. Thus, prohibition of the free press had gone out as quietly as it had come in.

From the book "LITHUANIA 700 Years"

Edited by DR. ALBERTAS GERUTIS

Translated by ALGIRDAS BUDRECKIS

Introduction by RAPHAEL SEALEY

MANYLAND BOOKS New York

ANSWER TO TRIVIA QUESTION

Trivia Quiz on page 10

Source: *Encyclopedia Lituania*

"At various times the ancient Lithuanians used the following objects as "money": Spearheads of bone, rock and metal; axes, pins and other common and useful articles; amber; silver and bronze necklaces; the furs of small wild animals, most commonly the sable, 40 skins of which were a basic

monetary unit called a kartis; and sticks of cast silver; used from early Middle Ages until they were replaced by modern coins."

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



Lithuanian-American Community

CONTACT INFORMATION:
WEBSITE

WWW.LITHUANIAN-AMERICAN.ORG

TELEPHONE

800-625-1170

Aruna LT

24h 7d.



AUTOMOBILIŲ NUOMA - CAR RENTAL

REZERVACIJOS TEL. PHONE FOR RESERVATION
+370 640 22 916

www.aruna.lt

Calendar of Events for May, June and July/August 2010

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

MAY

May 1, 2010

KOSCIUSKO FOUNDATION'S GOOTH ANNIVERSARY

commemoration of the Battle of *Zalgris* (Tannenber) NY Lithuanian Choir & Annunciation Parish Choir & others will provide Lithuanian music under the direction of Gintare Bukauskas. United States Military Academy West Point, NY.

Mass at West Point, 9:45 am

Other activities will follow. American Legion Lithuanian Post 154, Baltimore, MD WILL BE PART OF THE HONOR GUARD.

May 8, 2010

US - BALTIC FOUNDATION LALA

Mayflower Hotel Washington, DC
Keynote Address H.E. Andrius Kubilius Prime Minister, Republic of Lithuania
Weekend Events include: Baltic Business Program, VIP Reception, Silent Auction & Dinner. All proceeds from the events will benefit USBF programs. For tickets please visit www.usbaltic.org
Trevor Dane: 202-785-5056
TREVOR@USBALTIC.ORG

MAY 9, 2010, - 2:00 pm

MOTHER'S DAY CELEBRATION

featuring a puppet play by a Lithuanian artist Ona Puckoriute-Zalenskas from Cleveland followed by a pancake supper. Admission: \$15 for dues paying members, \$20 for everyone else. Discount for seniors & children under 16. Fraternal Order of Eagles Hall 1151 S Galena Street (just west of Mississippi & Havana) Denver, CO 80247

Info: www.coloradolithuanians.org

May 16, 2010

ANNUAL LAC, INC. SO CHAPTER

PICNIC "Geguzis"

Sunday - 12:00 pm
San Diegoquito Park
1628 Lomas Santa Fe Drive
Del Mar, CA 92014
Info: <http://www.lithsd.org>
Sponsor: San Diego Chapter of the LAC

May 22-23, 2010 -

11am-6pm,
38th Annual Lithuanian Festival
Cantonsville Army
130 Mellor Ave.
Cantonsville, MD.
Voted "Best Little Ethnic Festival in Maryland", this year's theme is "A Lithuanian Celebration of Spring." Lithuanian folk dancers, exhibits, vendors &

Lithuanian food. Admission- \$4 per person. Children age 10 & under are free.
Info: Maria Pattaba at 410- 646- 0261.

JUNE

June 5, 2010 - 8am-2pm

SPRING FLING

Featuring indoor & outdoor activities, crafts, vendors, flea market, food, raffles, children's activities, bake sale, book sale & much more!

3603 Mc Roberts Road
Pittsburgh, PA.
For info, or to register for space please visit www.Osprov.org call 412-885-7232. Sponsor: Sisters of St Francis of the Providence of God.

June 5-6, 2010

TALKA WORK WEEKEND

Please plan to come help prepare the Neringa campsite for the summer during the annual. Talka work weekend. Kindly inform regina@neringa.org (or 978-582-5592) if you plan to attend.

JUNE 26, 2010 - 1:00 pm

JOININES IN THE ROCKY MOUNTAINS

with the Latvian Community (If you want to travel to

Meadow Creek Reservoir from Fraser together, we'll be meeting at the Fraser Safeway parking lot & will be leaving at 12:30) Location: Meadow Creek Reservoir (the campsite's coordinates are 40.056376, -105.752056)
Info: Romas Zableckas or Gintautas Sutkus
970-531-25, Sponsor: www.coloradolithuanians.org

JULY

July 2-4, 2010

IX LITHUANIAN SONG FESTIVAL

Toronto, Canada
www.lithuaniansongfest.org

July 2-4, 2010

We are offering the possibility of a BILINGUAL

INTRODUCTION TO NERINGA CAMP

for families, to be facilitated by Sr. Igne Marijosius. Pending interest, families who have always wondered about Neringa will have a chance to become acquainted with her spirit, mission, & beautiful landscape. Please see www.neringa.org if interested in this possibility.

July 25, 2010

ANNUAL PUTNAM PICNIC & NERINGA

campers will perform as has been the tradition in the past. www.neringa.org

AUGUST

August 1-14, 2010.

CAMP NERINGA HERITAGE
Children's Camp in English (7-16 yr-olds)
www.neringa.com

August 5-8, 2010.

Knights of Lithuania 97th National Convention
Binghamton, NY
Hosted by Council 72
www.knightsolthuania.com

August 14-21, 2010.

CAMP NERINGA CONTINUATION OF HERITAGE
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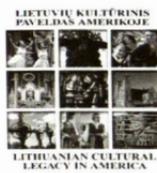
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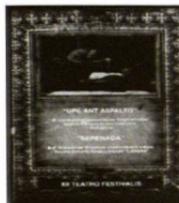
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