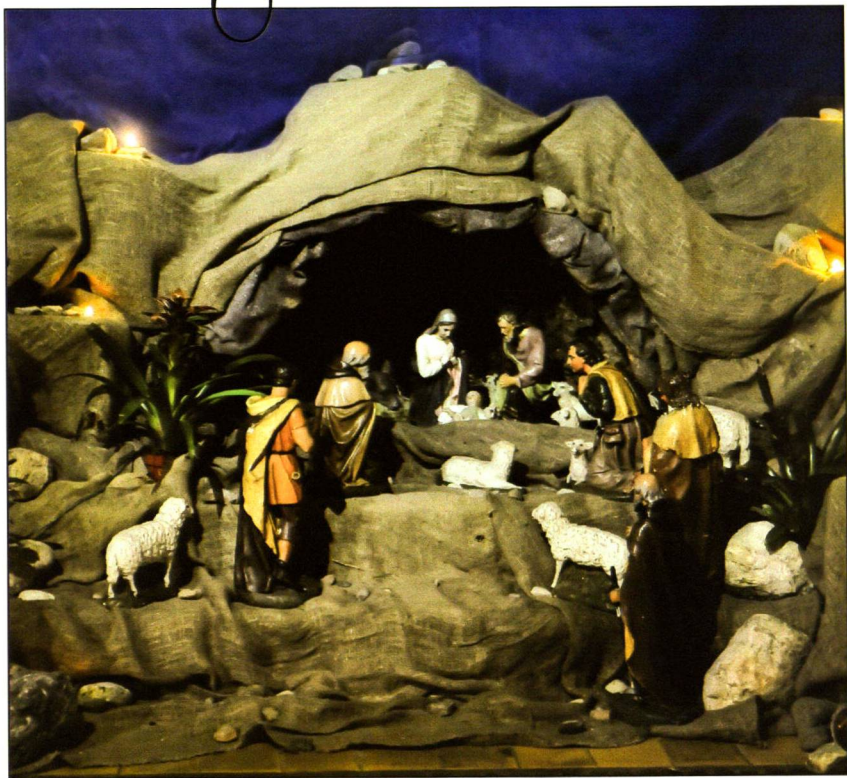


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december 2010

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's so difficult to believe another year is coming to an end. I remember always waiting for some big and important event to take place. At least the events were important in my life at the time. In reality, some were and some weren't. I often wonder how I thought dances and proms were such milestones in my life. Now I can't ever remember who I went with or what I wore. But as life goes on the days seem to have wings, they fly. I wish I could have had flying days when I was suffering through high school and college math. I'm just not a logical thinker. But it does remind me that we have to treat each day as a gift and use it to the best of our abilities. And yes, we all have abilities. People often ask me how I can write or raise so much money for Lithuanian Orphan Care. I'll let you in on a secret - I envy those of you can sew or bake a beautiful cake. I envy those who have a sense of direction. It is absolutely true that if someone put me in a paper bag I couldn't find my way out.

We couldn't let this year come to an end without an article about the Battle of Žalgiris which took place 600 years ago. It was a battle that changed history.

For those of you who are away from Lithuanian communities and long for the merriment of an old fashioned festival, please click on this link from the Knights of Lithuania Festival in Frackville, PA that took place in August. I guarantee you will not be able to keep your feet still when you hear this music. <http://animoto.com/play/HKeuAyiiOcd4N1nnoJsIA>.

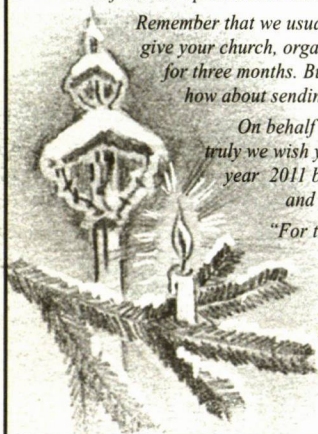
You still have time to give someone you know a gift subscription to Bridges. Don't forget to check the Market Place page. In both instances you will save yourself a trip to a crowded mall. If we don't protect and encourage our Lithuanian heritage, who will?

Remember that we usually have a three month calendar in Bridges. We would love to give your church, organization or club event publicity by placing it on the calendar for three months. But to do that we need to have your information. After the event, how about sending us a paragraph or two and a few photos?

On behalf of Gema Kreivenas, Vytautas Maciunas, Rimantas Gedeika and yours truly we wish you a very Merry Christmas filled with happiness. May the year 2011 be a year filled with peace, good health and happiness for you and your families.

"For the spirit of Christmas fulfills the greatest hunger of mankind."

~ Loring A. Schuler



Jeanne Shalna Dorr
Jeanne Shalna Dorr

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"Kybartai Eucharistic
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Front, Back Covers and
Photo Album is by
Juozas Lukoševičius,
Alvitas, Lithuania

"Kybartai Eucharistic
Saviour's Church"
Darvino Street, Kybartai,
LT-70440 Vilkaviskis district

THE ROADS GOD TAKES

Laima Paceviciene

That foggy morning Vilnius airport was overcrowded. The fog wrapped the land like a thick, grey blanket; some flights were delayed, and some arrivals were late as well. I was waiting for a friend of mine coming from Copenhagen. There were several announcements that the plane was late due to the bad weather conditions. Having nothing to do more, I made my way to a small cafe nearby. Sipping my hot black coffee I looked around and almost instantly paid my attention to the man sitting at the table by the window. His back was turned to me but in the mixture of grey morning light and the light of electricity his profile seemed somehow familiar to me. There was something in it from almost forgotten times – a curve of the lips, or maybe this red mark on his left cheek- from the street with wooden houses, from my childhood...

This narrow, dusty street had the most poetic name – the Nightingales' Street. I can't say if there were any nightingales, but I am sure about sparrows, bathing in the dust, and about children, running all around. Now I can't recall neither their names nor faces, but I won't forget one name, the boy's name. At that time he was five and I was four. His name was Saulius. His family lived nearby, and we often played together. Now I could say that sometimes our games were immoral but they gave us life experience. It was Saulius who suggested we play "doctor." It was me, who secretly took Saulius' toy bucket and brought it home. I wanted to have this small red metal bucket with the white flower on one side very much, but then I heard sort of an inner voice (at that time I really knew nothing about conscience), which told me that I was a bad, bad girl and that it was a bad thing to steal. This voice within me was so fierce and painful, that I, hiding the stolen toy under my dress and almost crawling on my knees made my way to Saulius' house and put the toy bucket back on the pile of sand. At that moment I could feel the whole wide world watching me, at least all the people from our street.

And it was Saulius, who nearly burned alive in the fire. Their old stove was heated by petrol or by similar stuff and that was the cause of the big fire. Thanks to the brave neighbor Saulius was saved, but

the fire left ugly red marks, scars on his face and head. Nobody wanted to play with him any more, except me, and he proved to have a golden heart, he really had one.

It was a cold winter day, but perhaps not so cold, because parents let us play outside. I was worried. My dog had put his head into the mousetrap the day before, all night he was painfully howling and in the morning he disappeared. I discussed this problem with Saulius. "His head should be aching,"- said Saulius seriously, - "just put your own head into the mousetrap and see how it is." "Maybe he has lost his mind and is wandering somewhere now? Maybe he can't find his way back? He could be frozen,"- guessed I. "I could take my sled and if we find him, we could carry him back home" – offered Saulius. "Yes, why not?" – Gladly agreed I. In a minute or two he came back pulling his sled by the rope. "But where should we go?" – Asked I. "Look"- he said, pointing upward, - "just look at the sky." We turned our heads up and looked at the vast blue winter sky. There were some white lines on it, like two snowy paths (I guess now that they were left by a plane, but at that time I knew almost nothing about planes.) "This is God's road. God goes sledding all over the sky,"- explained Saulius. "We should follow it and we'll find your doggie, as God knows everything." Saulius was one year older, he was miraculously saved from the fire, he once was in church, and of course he knew much more about God than I did. So I trusted him. So looking at the sky and sometimes at the ground we started our search. I can't tell you now for how long we had been making our way through the snowdrifts and where were we going.

"I'm tired. My hands are freezing. I wanna go home" – I started crying. I couldn't see our street. We were alone in the white open field with the forest in the distance. Just two small figures in the winter whiteness and nothing more. No dog, alive or dead. "Don't be a crybaby. Sit down on my sled and I will carry you a little bit. "My hands are freezing. I've lost my mittens." – Tears were running down my cheeks. "Look, take one of my mittens and put your both hands into it. Now sit down on the sled. I'll wrap your legs in my coat. Are you warm now?" – Asked Saulius, tucking me in. Now he was left dressed in a sweater and with one mitten only. Saulius started carrying me back on the sled, but it was not so easy because of the snowdrifts. He was almost crying, but

he didn't stop pulling the sled. I was sitting silently, feeling the smell of his old winter coat, tears like little drops of melting ice running down my cheeks. We had lost our way and we didn't find my poor doggie... "I guess, he's with God now, maybe pulling His sled, too..." – said Saulius as if he was reading my thoughts, when he stopped to rest for a minute, puffing heavily. The blue shadows of the few black, bare trees and bushes were growing longer and thicker on the silvery white snow... Suddenly we saw some lights in the distance. "Look, this should be our street. And stop crying, please. We are almost home. There is nothing to cry about. You, women are so silly." – said Saulius proudly. I had neither any power left in me nor any wish to argue with him. From somewhere we heard my father's voice and after some minutes he brought us back home. That was the day before Christmas Eve.

Saulius fell ill with pneumonia, he was taken to our capital Vilnius, and his parents sold their house and moved to Vilnius as well. Since that time I heard nothing about him, but I still could remember the smell of his warm mitten and of his old winter coat.

I looked again at the man sitting by the window and I prayed for him silently not to turn his face to me. I simply didn't want to see that he wasn't Saulius. I didn't want to lose my dream - to meet him one day and to tell him that among the treasure of the dearest things, hidden deep down in my heart, is his shabby winter coat and his old mitten. Who knows, maybe this dream will come true one day. We never know the roads that God takes.

Laima Pacevičienė is an English teacher in the Moletai district in Lithuania. She enjoys writing in her spare time and is a contributor to Bridges.

Meeting of the Lithuanian American Community Board of Directors in Orlando, Florida

Danguolė Navickienė

Orlando, Florida is considered America's playground, renowned for its theme parks, outlet malls and myriad of other entertainments. Alas, not so for the LAC XIX Board of Directors, who arrived on September 24th for three days of work, work, work! We did, however, manage to sneak in some fun, but more about that later.

The Renaissance Orlando Airport Hotel impressed with its stylish elegance and comfort. We loved the friendly staff who were fascinated with our language and within a few hours were greeting us with "Labas" and thanking us for our patronage with "Ačiū". The event was hosted by the young and energetic LAC Orlando chapter and went off so smoothly that one would never imagine that this was their first time hosting such an event. Many thanks to Mindaugas Šatas and his organizing committee.

According to custom, the first meeting was started by the Chairman of the Board of Directors Juozas Polikaitis with the singing of the national anthems of the United States and of Lithuania as well as a prayer for a successful meeting. We were honored with the presence of the new Ambassador of Lithuania to the United States and Mexico Žygmantas Pavilionis, who urged the LAC to take a more active role in strengthening relations between the U.S. and Lithuania and wished us unity and success. The Honorary Consul of Lithuania for Western Florida Algimantas Karanavičius expressed his best wishes. A number of greetings received by mail were

read, including those from Irena Degutienė, the President of the Lithuanian Parliament, the Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Lithuanian Foundation Rimantas Griškėlis and the President of the Lithuanian American Council Saulius Kuprys.

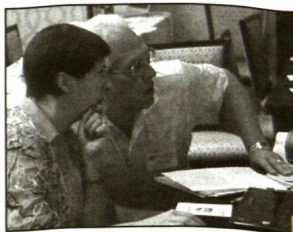
A moment of silence honored departed members, especially Birutė Bublienė, the Executive Vice-president of the LAC Executive Committee and founder of the highly successful LAC summer internships in Lithuania.



LAC National Executive President Vytas Maciunas presenting a poster from Lithuania commemorating the 600 year anniversary of the Battle of Žalgiris to M. Satas, President of Orlando's Chapter.



Attendees at the Lithuanian American Community Board of Directors meeting in Orlando, FL.



You have to see this !



LAC Vice President for Sports Stasys Kavaliauskas and NY Chapter president, Vida Jankauskiene deep in concentration



Left: Lithuania's Ambassador to America Zygmantas Pavilonis and LAC Public Affairs Vice President Dr. Jonas Prunskis discussing world affairs

LAC President Vytas Maciūnas and the LAC Executive Committee presented an accounting of the activities and accomplishments of the past year. The presentation by the Ethics committee (previously known as the Honor Court) regarding irregularities in voting practices inspired a resolution to simplify and enforce stricter regulations in this matter.

Laurynas Vismanas, Chairman of the Ethics Committee, a member of the Organizational Affairs Commission and a professional strategist, presented his proposal for the LAC strategic plan. Suggestions for forming a committee to create such a plan were unanimously approved by the Board. Commissions for Public, Social, Religious, Sports, Educational, Financial, Cultural and Organizational Affairs together with the Rules and Regulations commission presented their proposals for future LAC policies, procedures and activities for approval by the Board. Most dealt with the continuation and improvement of current activities, with a growing emphasis on youth and the future of the LAC.

The President of the Lithuanian World Community, Regina Narušienė, gave an update of the continuing effort to enact the right to dual citizenship for Lithuanians living abroad and of the finances and status of the reconstruction of the Royal Palace in Vilnius.

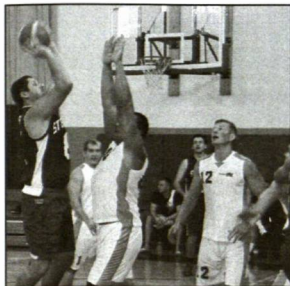
A report about the highly successful 2010 Song Festival in Toronto was very gratifying. This was followed by a report by Rima Girmius about the 2012 Folk Dance Festival being planned in Boston.

Three new members of the Executive Committee were approved by the Board: Dalė Lukienė as the Chair of the Archive Preservation Council, Danguolė Navickienė as the new Executive Vice-president and Stanislovas Kavaliauskas as the Vice-president for Sports. Gražvydas Supronas was appointed to the Lithuanian Parliament/Lithuanian World Community Commission to replace Birutė Bublrienė.

A very interesting part of the meeting were the reports by a number of local chapters of the LAC. Several chapter presidents or their representatives spoke about their membership, activities, goals and problems. It served to drive home how much the same and also how different each chapter can be depending on its demographics and location. A major challenge for the LAC is to be a unifying force as well as a provider for both their common and their unique needs.



Resolutions presented to the LAC Board Chairman, Juozas Polikaitis



Action from the Lithuanian Days basketball tournament

Sunday morning, after Mass said by Fr. Artūras Sederavičius, the last points of the agenda were covered. As usual, the meeting ended with the selection of the site of the next convention on October 8-11, 2011. The challenge was taken up by the Elizabeth, New Jersey chapter.

And now, the fun part: The first evening is traditionally reserved exclusively for the Board of Directors, the host chapter and invited guests. We ate, we danced, we renewed old friendships and made new ones. As if that were not enough, the Orlando chapter showed its amazing capabilities by organizing the Orlando Lithuanian Days the same weekend. This consisted of a sports tournament, an art show and a highly successful gala on Saturday night with entertainment by the group "Vairas" from Lithuania and the St. Petersburg ballroom dance club. The huge attendance and enthusiastic audience certainly bodes well for the future of the LAC in Florida. We thank the Orlando chapter for their hospitality and wish them success in all their ventures.

*Danguole Navickas is a past Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Lithuanian American Community and is currently Executive VP of the LAC National Executive Committee. 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. *Photos by Rimas Gedeika*

- ADVENT - The Good News

Sister Margaret Bareikaite

Advent and Christmas form a unity. We cannot engage in one season without reflection upon the other. Both seasons complement one another and do not stand alone.

The origin of Advent dates back to the fifth century and is influenced by the Eastern Church. The primary focus of this season is expectation of the Lord's birth at Christmas.

Advent asks us questions. If we are God's people, if we are in a covenant relationship with God, then we must be advocates of justice wherever injustice takes center stage. The prophets' cry is as relevant today as it was then, "Repent and change your lives!"

Advent has to do with this great event of history, the historical

coming of God, Jesus Christ, to our earth. We commemorate His arrival - His birth on Christmas Day, and we call the days leading up to the event "Advent" or Jesus' coming. The prophets foretold the light that would shine in the midst of darkness, Christ is that light. We Christians are to embrace the light and become the light of Christ in the world.

Advent is a really a time for longing for Christ, to be closer to Him through prayer. It's time for us to use His Sacraments and His grace to make more intimate and instill His life and love in us.

During Advent the theme of final judgment resounds throughout the season. The symbolism of the Advent wreath represents the long time when people lived in spiritual darkness, waiting for the coming of the Messiah, the light of the world, Jesus



Advent Wreath

Christ. The four candles represent the four weeks of Advent that Christ, the Light of the world is coming soon.

Mary plays a special role in Advent's unfolding drama. Rev. C.

Stahlmueller teaches us in his meditation, "Lord, strengthen me to wait upon with courage and faith." Father's thoughts on Advent show us how to wait, not with anxiety, but with hope and courage. The Holy Scripture of Advent challenges us to wait for the Lord, Jesus Christ to come a second time....

Sister Margaret Bareikaite belongs to the order of the Sisters of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, a Lithuanian order in Putnam, CT.

Sister Margaret is the Chair of the Religious Affairs Council of the Lithuanian American Community and is a regular contributor to Bridges.



Monday, November 8, New York - President of the Republic of Lithuania Dalia Grybauskaitė gave a lecture at Columbia University on measures to boost economic recovery and Lithuania's experience in mitigating effects of the economic crisis.

In the lecture, which attracted much interest from students and the academic community of Columbia University, the President underlined that ambitious fiscal consolidation and structural reforms must be implemented, financial sector reform must be sped up, and unemployment and social cohesion challenges must be addressed in order to overcome consequences of the

The President: global economic crisis calls for global measures

economic crisis. According to the President, global crisis needs global response, and governments and international organizations all over the world must therefore take common action to address economic challenges and implement global solutions.

"The crisis has uncovered weaknesses in the global economic and financial system. The crisis offers its own lessons, but we need to be smart and creative today to ensure sustainable growth in the future. Only quick reaction, flexibility, openness to change and global coordination of economic policy will help overcome consequences of the crisis and boost global economic growth," President Dalia Grybauskaitė said.

Participants of the prestigious World Leaders Forum of Columbia University in the City of New York feature political leaders and prominent figures from the business world and civil society. Last year alone, lectures were given there by Presidents of France, Argentina, Guyana, and Serbia, the President of the European Commission, Prime Ministers of Spain, Nepal and Thailand.

LITHUANIAN PRESIDENT AMONG FIVE WOMEN AWARDED AS A WOMAN WORLD LEADER OF 2010



President Dalia Grybauskaitė of Lithuania attends the 20th annual Glamour Women of the Year Awards at Carnegie Hall in New York Photo: PRESS RELEASE VILNIUS

Tuesday, November 9, New York - President of the Republic of Lithuania Dalia Grybauskaitė was honored as the Woman of the Year 2010 in the election of women world leaders organized by the U.S. Glamour magazine. The President of Lithuania is one of 19 women heads of states of governments nominated for the award,

including German Chancellor Angela Merkel, President Tarja Halonen of Finland, President Cristina Fernandez de Kirchner of Argentina, also leaders of Brazil, Switzerland, Kyrgyzstan, Costa Rica and other states. The award was presented to the President of Lithuania, along with President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf of Liberia, Prime Minister Iveta Radičová of Slovakia, and Prime Minister Kamla Persad-Bissessar of Trinidad and Tobago.

"In the past two decades, the number of women world leaders grew from eight to nineteen. Women on the highest-level of politics is not just a matter of fashion anymore but a reality of the daily life. More and more women run for election in their own countries and win because they are not afraid to take challenges and assume responsibility and because they see politics as an instrument to make their countries a better place to live," the President of Lithuania said.

President Dalia Grybauskaitė and other awardees received personal congratulations from U.S. President Barack Obama. The awards were presented by the U.S. Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Susan Rice.

PRESS RELEASES
Vilnius, Lithuania



The painting supposedly illustrates the moment when Ulrich von Jungingen, the 26th Grand Master of the Teutonic Order (left, dressed in white, with a black cross), is killed by infantry. Vytautas the Great is shown in triumphant position (center, dressed in red). In the battle, the Teutonic Order was defeated and never recovered its former influence.

“Žalgirio mušis” Jano Mateikos painting



Battle of Žalgiris

TANNENBERG, Battle of (Lith. Žalgirio mušis), was one of the major military battles of the 15th century. It was fought near the villages of Grunwald and Tannenberg, in Prussia, where on July 15, 1410 the combined Lithuanian-Polish army inflicted a crushing defeat upon the Teutonic Order. The battle was described in detail by two contemporary chronicles: *Cronica conflictus Wladiolae regio Polonae cum cruciferis anno Christi 1410* and *Johannes von Posilge Chronik des Landes Preussen*. About 60 years later Jan Długosz returned to it in his *Historiae, Polonicae*, filling out his account with the testimony of a few surviving eyewitnesses.

The interplay of three nations. The Battle of Tannenberg was the consequence of a territorial contest which had been waged among Lithuanians, Poles, and Germans since the 13th century. The Teutonic Order began to expand into territories inhabited by Slavic and Baltic peoples in 1231. The Order's goal was missionary: To christianize the pagan Prussians and Lithuanians in accordance with the medieval method of first subjugating and then baptizing the heathens. Within a 53-year period the Teutonic Knights succeeded in conquering relatively sparsely inhabited Prussia, setting up their own state in the area between the Vistula and Nemunas Rivers and populating it with German settlers.

Somewhat earlier (1202) the Bishop of Livonia had established a similar military-monastic order, the Livonian Order, along the banks of the Daugava River. After the conquest of Prussia only the Samogitians, a Lithuanian people living near the Baltic coast, prevented the physical merger of the German powers.

Polish relations with the Order were likewise hostile. The Poles were pushed away from the Baltic coast when in 1308-09 Pomerelia (Pol. Pomorze) and the mouth of the Vistula with the port of Gdansk (Danzig) were conquered by the Knights. Thus, having become the common enemy of Lithuania and Poland, the Teutonic Knights drew the two neighbors together and provided one of the incentives for their union of 1385. Upon the ascension of Lithuanian Grand Prince Jogaila to the throne of Poland (1386) and the assumption by his cousin Vytautas of rule over Lithuania (1392), the Order took measures to disrupt this union, taking no account of the fact that Lithuania was now Christian (since 1387). Crusades continued to be undertaken against Lithuania, especially Samogitia. In attempting to negotiate peace with the Order, Vytautas twice (1398, 1404) ceded Samogitia, but the Samogitians were not to be subdued: In 1409 they threw off their Teutonic yoke forever. The Order then began making preparations for a major offensive.

Preparation for Battle. Guessing that the Poles might begin

their attack on the left bank of the Vistula, the Knights concentrated their forces at the fortress of Schwetz, while the grand master awaited the enemy at Kauernick.

The army of Vytautas departed from Vilnius on June 3, 1410. At Gardinas it was joined by Russian and Tatar units from the eastern territories of the Lithuanian State. As Dlugosz indicates, all in all Vytautas commanded 40 regiments, or, in his terms, 40 standards.

The allied forces crossed the Prussian border on July 9 and made their way towards Marienburg. They planned to cross the Dravanta (Pol. Drweca) by fords, but found them blocked by palisades and guarded by Teutonic Knights. Rather than attempting to cross, the allies made their way northeast and on July 13 took the fortress of Gilgenburg, where they found huge food supplies. Before dawn on July 15, they reached the villages of Grunwald (Grunfeld) and Tannenber, where the Teutonic army was already encamped.

The Battle. The forces of the Teutonic Order consisted of their own knights, their "guests" (a designation applied to Western European knights fighting alongside the Order), and mercenaries. Both armies arrayed themselves facing each other in front lines stretching out to 3 km. Zydras z Maszkowice formed the Polish ranks (comprising the left flank of the common front), while Vytautas drew up those of the Lithuanians (comprising the right flank). Dlugosz describes how the latter commander busily moved around on horseback among his men without any guards to protect him. Meanwhile, King Jogaila, the formal commander-in-chief, was attending Mass in his forest tent.

Eager to begin combat, the Teutonic Knights sent two soldiers to the enemy camp bearing two swords, one for Jogaila and the other for Vytautas, as a provocative gesture. At length Jogaila, mounting a horse and riding atop a hill to observe the battle, gave the signal to start. Commencing at 9 A.M., the fighting lasted for approximately 10 hours. Spears, swords, cudgels, and other weapons were used in a clash which pitted man against man. The military command of the Order initially directed its main thrust against the Lithuanians. When the latter withstood this attack, the Order marshalled additional troops from the Polish left flank against them. The pressure thus having been increased, the



Lithuanians fighting Teutonic Knights. Evolvent of relief. Source = Scan from Bumblauskas. "Senosios Lietuvos istorija 1009-1795." Original relief around first half of the 14th c.

Lithuanians began to retreat, at first still striking back, then gradually going into flight. This withdrawal of the Lithuanians from the battle-field was reported in both the Craoica conflictus and the Chronik des Landes Preussens, the latter saying that the pagans were "knocked off their feet." A different interpretation is suggested by a new source discovered and published by S. Ekdahl

(1963). According to that interpretation, the Lithuanians took to flight on purpose, their intention being to get the Teutonic Knights to pursue them and thereby separate their ranks. The Lithuanians were being pursued largely by the foreign guest knights, who thus were lured further away from their main units. This maneuver, however, not only disrupted Teutonic formations but also created panic within Polish ranks. Dlugosz reports that the Czechs separated themselves from the Polish flank and fled to the forest. The Order responded by putting 15 or 16 fresh units into action, anticipating quick victory. But things turned out differently: Polish and Lithuanian forces not only regrouped, but, reinforced by men who had previously withdrawn from the battlefield and by reserve units, gradually managed to surround their enemy. Some military historians believe that this strategy of flight and encirclement was borrowed by Vytautas from the Tatars. At any rate, the encirclement was effective, taking the lives of Ulrich von Jungingen, the Teutonic grand master; four high commanders (grossin gebittiger); eleven castle commanders; and roughly 100 knights. The battle ended in a decisive defeat for the Order.

Aftermath and Consequences. Having cleaned up the battlefield in two days and collected their booty, the allies set out for Marienburg, the enemy's capital. Along the way fortresses, towns, entire districts, and four bishops (who were also territorial rulers) surrendered to the passing Lithuanian-Polish army. Advancing slowly, it reached Marienburg after eight days and surrounded it. The fortress was defended by a strong garrison led by Heinrich von Plauen the new grand master, who refused Jogaila's demand to give up but accepted to negotiate concerning the return the seized land. The allies considered storming the castle, but they lack means of breaking its brick walls while inside the defenders were extremely well provisioned with food.

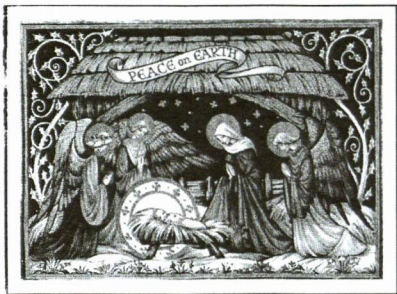
Meanwhile, a Livonian army had made its way to Prussia from the north. The allies avoided clashing with it, having

agreed on a truce, but they were uncertain whether the Livonian Knights might not attempt to turn back and attack Lithuania. When it became apparent that Marienburg could not be taken quickly and when disease began to weaken the ranks of the besiegers, Vytautas decided to withdraw (Aug. 11, 1410), followed by Jogaila a week later.

An "eternal peace" was signed at Thorn (Pol. Torun) on Feb. 11, 1411. Vytautas negotiated for the allies, advised by seven Polish counselors. The conditions agreed upon did not reflect the magnitude of the Order's defeat, which the Council of Constance (1414-18) characterized as a universally unprecedented crushing of an entire state. The Order was allowed to retain all of its lands, except for Dobrzyn, which was to be returned to Poland, and Samogitia, which was to be returned to Lithuania (but only until the death of Jogaila and Vytautas). Since the boundaries of Samogitia were not defined, there existed the seeds of renewed conflict, which actually flared up in 1422. Finally, the Order had to pay 100,000 Czech silver grosz for the return of its noble prisoners; the other captives were released without ransom.

The victory at Tannenberg constituted an epoch-making event in relations between Lithuania and the Teutonic Order. It put an end to the crusades organized throughout Western Europe against Lithuania and blocked the German Drang nach Osten. The borders of Lithuania were pushed westward as a result of the reacquisition of Samogitia and of the rehabilitation of devastated southwestern Lithuania (Suduva). With the demise of the Order as a military power, Lithuania and Poland became the dominant powers in Eastern Europe.

*Excerpts from Battle at Tannenberg,
by Jano Mateikos (1878)
Encyclopedia Lituanica*



The Coming of Our Savior

Sister Margaret Bareikaite

"You have brought abundant joy and great rejoicing" Isaiah Ch. 9

The story of Jesus' birth does more than merely gift. 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!

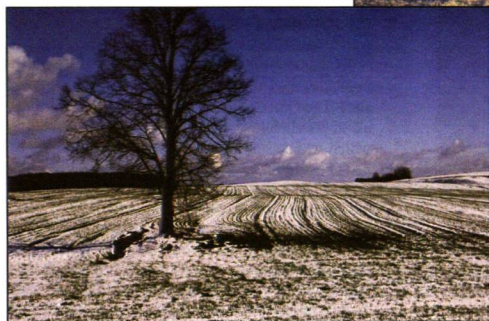
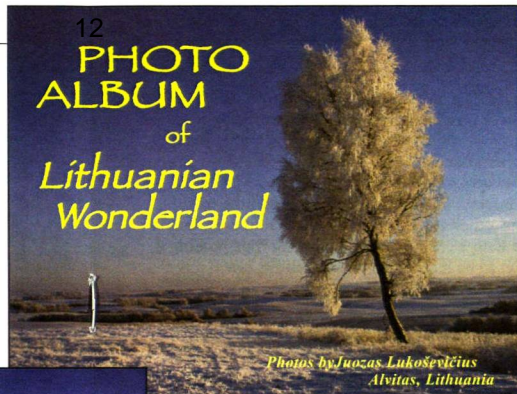
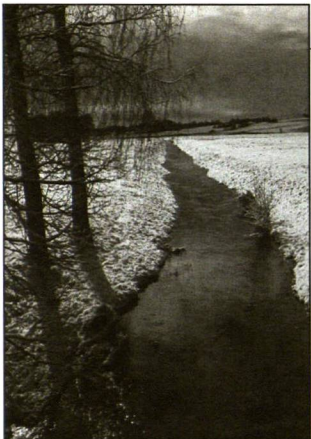
God's love, care and concern is so wonderful that Jesus is God's eternal gift to all of us. Most scholars acknowledge that the gospels relate religious truth. Each Evangelist proclaimed the Good News of salvation in a unique way. Matthew and Luke include stories of Jesus' early years to show that the 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.

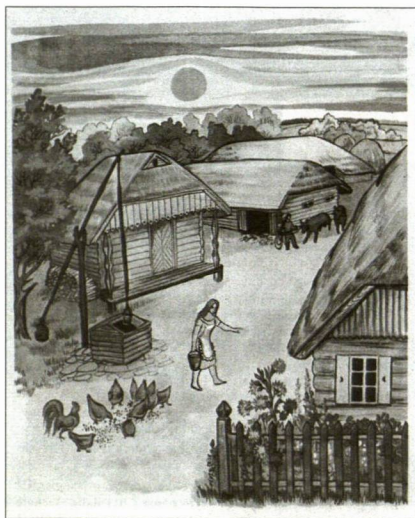
Matthew 2:1-23 tells us that Jesus was conceived and born during the reign of King Herod the Great. Most scholars agree that Jesus was born before 5 B.C., the year Herod the Great died.

Also Matthew tells the story of the Magi visiting Jesus from the east.(Matthew 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. (Luke 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. (Luke 1:35). "The Holy Spirit will come upon you"...



Part IV
**THE
 LITHUANIAN'S HOME**

Angelė Vyšniauskaitė
 English translation and adaptation by
 Gloria O'Brien



Šulinys - The Well

The well is often mentioned in Lithuanians' beliefs and customs. All of Lithuania firmly believed that well water turned into wine at midnight on Christmas Eve. It was just unfortunate that the instant was so fleeting that no one was able to ever taste the wine.

So that their well waters would always be fresh and clean, householders would bring home some specially blessed holy water from the church on Grabnyčios day, (February 2) and pour some of it down the well. On Holy Saturday, any holy water that remained from last year would be poured into the well, while some of it was also sprinkled on the cottage roof as protection from lightning.

Two types of wells were prevalent in the Lithuanian

countryside. The oldest was the sweep, with its tall, y-shaped lever (svirtis) holding the long sweeping pole. From this pole hung the chain to which the water bucket was attached. The pole was lifted from the ground, swung round its place in the notch of the Y, and the bucket was let down into the depths of the well. The other type was a hooded, above-ground structure with a crank controlling a long rope holding the bucket to be let down into the well.

A wedding custom still observed today shows respect to the well: A newly-wed couple, awakened the next morning and escorted from their bed by a delegation of celebrating relatives, neighbors and musicians, is brought to the well to wash. According to old tradition, the bride must leave a few gifts (woven towels) at the well. This serves as homage to the water, as well as thanks to those hosting the wedding festivities.

The well was sometimes thought to predict future events: Some villagers believed it was wise not to look into a well on Kūčios eve, as you might see a coffin, and never see another Christmas. Girls, wanting to know who they would marry, would throw some hemp seeds towards the well on St. Andrew's Day (November 30), hoping to see a handsome face when next they looked into the water. Even better, a maiden could throw some seeds directly into the well water, then pray: "Saint Andrew, sower of hemp, let me see my cavalier". She then had to listen for music - if it was happy, she could expect a wedding.

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

**Illustration by A. Korskaitė-Sukuvienė from the book "TĖVŲ NAMELIAI BRANGŪS".*

Lithuanian Army

For those interested in genealogy Millie Helt of the Philadelphia Lithuanian Heritage Club (Amber Roots) has provided this link. Take a look. You might find some familiar names.

Lithuanian army 1918 volunteers list, containing more than 10,000 surnames, is available online with additional info, like birth place, date, etc. You can find it at:

http://www.versme.lt/sav_a.htm

Scroll by placing your arrow on the bottom of the page until it scrolls to find the alphabet, choose the initial of the last name. Click, then repeat on the new page. It is in Lithuanian, but you will be amazed, especially if you find a relative of long ago.

The WASHERWOMAN And The Count



One day some washerwomen from a count's estate were out on the lake rinsing their washing, and they began talking amongst themselves.

"I will only marry a man who is tall and has blue eyes," said one.

"And I'll only marry a man who is rich," said another.

"I don't care if I'm showered with gold and dressed in silks, I'll never marry an old man and one I don't love," said the youngest and prettiest of them.

"Catch us believing you!" Laughed her friends. "What if the count should ask you to marry him?"

"I'd rather die than live with that old fossil. I don't need his riches!"

Now, as fate would have it, the count happened to be walking along the lake just then together with his steward. Hearing what the washerwomen were saying, he said to him:

"Tomorrow you will bring the third of those maids to my palace. She is far too proud for one so poor."

On the following day the count opened his late wife's wardrobe and took out her best gowns and dresses of silk, her amber necklaces and her gold bracelets and earrings. His servants laid out all these riches in the large hall of the palace and it was there that the steward brought the young washerwoman. The count showed her the silks and jewels and said: "That is your dowry. Will you marry me?"

The girl burst into tears.

"No, sir, I will only marry a man I love," said she. The count was very angry that a simple girl, a bondswoman of his, should turn him down despite his riches and high birth.

"You will knit me three waistbands by morning," said he, "the first as bright as the sun, the second as bright as the moon, and the third as bright as the stars. If you fail to do this in time I will have your head chopped off."

The girl left the palace and went to the lake, weeping bitterly.

The Laumès or witches who lived beyond the lake heard her and ran up to her.

"Why do you cry, pretty maid?" asked they. "Why do you sigh so heavily?"

The girl told them of her sorrow and the Laumès began

trying to comfort her.

"Here is a soft pillow for you," said they, "and a quilt and a shift. Do not grieve and go to sleep."

One of the Laumès made a bed for her, another sang her a song and between them they lulled the girl to sleep.

She slept very sweetly, and in the morning when she opened her eyes what did she see hanging on a tree branch and gleaming in the sunshine but three waistbands, their brilliance set off by the morning rays. One of the waistbands was as bright as the sun, the second, as bright as the moon, and the third, as bright as the stars.

The girl was overjoyed and took the waistbands to the count who, though he admired their beauty, was too hard of heart to be moved by it.

"You must bring me a coach by morning which can be hidden away in a nut-shell," said he. "When I ride in it there must be bright day ahead of me and dark night behind me. If you fail to do this in time I will have your hands chopped off."

Off went the girl to the lake again, even heavier of heart than before, wringing her hands and sighing.

"O my white hands, o my quick-fingered hands!" Cried she. "I am to part with you tomorrow. Without you I'll not be able to plait my hair or to water flowers."

The Laumès heard her sighs, they surrounded the girl and asked her why she was weeping and wringing her hands.

The girl told them of her sorrow, and the Laumès combed out her hair, laid her down on a soft bed and lulled her to sleep with their songs.

In the morning when she opened her eyes what did she see but a rich coach standing before her. There were two horses harnessed to it and they were stamping on the ground with their golden shoes. The girl felt something in her hand, she opened it, and there in her palm lay an empty nut-shell.

Continued on page 20

The Lithuanian Foundation's "Liepsna 2010"

*Dr. Romualdas Kriauciunas
Translated by Vaiva Laniauskas*

At the end of August, the Lithuanian Foundation's members and sponsors received a letter from both Rimantas Griskelis, LF Chairman of the Board, and Marius Kasniunas, LF President. Within that letter was an explanation of the Lithuanian Foundation's newest drive to raise money, "10-20-50." What do these numbers mean? "10" – the hope to have 10,000 members, "20" – to supplement the Lithuanian Foundation members' contributions to reach 20 million dollars, and "50" – to reach the two previous goals by the Lithuanian Foundation's 50th anniversary in 2012.

Also within the letter was included information about the annual LF fall gala, "Art and Music" that will be taking place on November 6, 2010. Two weeks prior to the gala, will be the opening of the late Dr. Jonas and Mrs. Joana Valaitis art exhibit and silent auction. During the silent auction, you will not only be able to walk around and enjoy the different art pieces, but also purchase them. During the fall gala, there will be musical performances by the Chicago Lithuanian Opera Choir and the capella group "Biru Bar" from Indianapolis. Dinner and dancing will follow these performances with music provided by the Svabas brothers. More information can be found on the website, www.lithuanianfoundation.org.

Along with the letter came the booklet, "Liepsna 2010." This 28 page booklet gave detailed information regarding the 2010 Lithuanian Foundation's allocation of grants. In the introduction, the Grant Committee's president, Algis Saulis, announced that in 2010 the LF Board decided to allot up to \$400,000 in order to support various Lithuanian cultural, educational, and youth programs and projects. Special attention was given to requests for support of projects for education, improvement of Lithuanian youth camps, and cultural activities attracting younger participants.

Further Algis Saulis wrote: "Because of an increase of the number of Lithuanian heritage schools, funding for them was a primary concern and \$70,000 was granted. The Student summer internship program in Lithuania received \$30,000, youth camp improvement projects received \$13,500, the endowed Lithuanian Studies Chair at University of Illinois-Chicago, \$13,860, and scholarships, \$79,365. Other

major beneficiaries of the grant process were the IX Lithuanian Song Festival in Canada, \$16,000, Lithuanian media \$24,774, research and archive centers, \$18,000 and the upkeep of Lithuanian community centers, \$26,500."

During the Grant Committee's May 22, 2010 meeting, 87 grant applications, requesting \$1,131,663 were considered and reviewed. Of the 87 grant applications, 53 of the requests received either partial or full support for a total of \$284,710 in grant distributions. On April 17, 2010, the Scholarship Sub-Committee evaluated 69 scholarship requests and 55 scholarships were granted for a total of \$79,365. Therefore, the total sum amount distributed for 2010, was \$371,971. The exhaustive list of requests can be found on the LF Website.



The LF 2010 Grants Committee (from left): Vytautas Narutis, Virgus Volertas, Gintautas Taoras, Arvydas Tamulis, Gintaras Čepas, Jonas Vainius, Narimantas Udrys, Algirdas Saulis (chair).

Following was information regarding the three largest sums that were received in each of five categories: Education, youth activities, community activities, cultural affairs, and Lithuanian media. A total amount of \$92,610 was granted for different educational projects, with the largest being \$70,000 that was granted for various Lithuanian heritage schools in the United States. The second largest amount, \$13,860 was granted for doctorate studies at the PLB Lithuanian Cathedral. \$2,800 was granted for technological tools as well as for continuing education of teachers working in Lithuanian heritage schools. A total amount of \$63,500 was granted for various youth activities. The three largest recipients were as follows: \$8,000 was granted to Camp DAINAVA for projects concerning its infrastructure and nature preservation, \$6,000 was granted to the Lithuanian Catholic Federation ATEITIS for "A Century Devoted to

Lithuania", 100th anniversary Congress in Lithuania as well as its 100 year Jubilee in America, and \$4,000 was granted to NERINGA, Inc. for the installation of new windows in the main lodge dining hall. Community activities received a total amount of \$44,000 in grants. The three largest amounts were given to the Lithuanian World Center in Lemont, Illinois for the general support of the center, including a fire suppression sprinkler system, \$12,000; to the LAC Philadelphia chapter in order to replace the roof of the Philadelphia Lithuanian Music Hall, \$7,500; and to the Chicago Lithuanian Youth Center for upkeep and maintenance, \$7,500. Cultural affairs received a total amount of \$62,100 in grants. The Lithuanian Research and Studies Center received \$18,000 for the preservation and modernization of the LRSC museums and archives, \$16,000 was granted to the IX Lithuanian Song Festival in Toronto, Canada, and \$10,000 was granted to the Lithuanian-American Community, Inc. Executive Committee for the support of cultural events of local Lithuanian communities. The last category, Lithuanian media received a total of \$22,500 in grants. \$10,000 was granted to the Lithuanian Catholic Press Society for the DRAUGAS Lithuanian daily newspaper, \$3,500 was granted to Margutis II, for the MARGUTIS II, daily Lithuanian radio program, and the Lithuanian-American Community, Inc. received \$2,750 for its journal titled "BRIDGES."

Within the "Liespsna 2010" booklet, are listed the scholarship recipients, their majors, and the universities and/or



"I'll be forever thankful for the opportunity to participate and be a counselor at the Lithuanian Students Internship program held in Lithuania. It truly has changed, strengthened and enhanced my life. Thank you to all that lent support to this fantastic program"

Aista Kazlauskas, 2010 m. LF scholarship recipient

colleges where they are currently studying. Also included are the 2010 scholarships and project grants from donor directed funds totaling an amount of \$174,796. The booklet announced the newly established President Valdas and Mrs. Alma Adamkus Scholarship Fund, which was created to provide scholarships for students in the field of environmental protection.

The booklet also contained two pie chart diagrams.

The first one illustrated the 2010 allocation of grants by organizations. The diagram showed that the largest sect LAC grants received 40% of the allocated grants, following that was projects from other US organizations, 23%, scholarships, 21%, LWS grants, 8%, projects from other countries, 6%, and projects from Lithuania, 2%. The second diagram illustrated the 2010 allocation of grants by categories, with education having received 25% of the allocated grants, scholarships received 21%, cultural affairs and youth activities both received 17%, community activities, 13%, and Lithuanian media, 7%.

Also found in the book was a photo collage depicting the Lithuanian Foundation's and Lithuanian World Center's annual Lithuanian Golf Tournament which took place on June 19, 2010 at the Old Oak Country Club in Homer Glen, Illinois. Eleven other photographs were posted throughout the booklet that consisted of LF committees and sub-committees, scholarship recipients, and scenes from various Lithuanian youth camps throughout the United States.



LF President Marius Kasniunas (center), presents a check supporting the IX Lithuanian Song Festival, held on July the 6th, 2010 in Toronto Canada, to the festival's co-chairs, Paul and Rasa Kuras.

CONCLUSION

IN THE DEATH-CAMPS AND BANISHMENT REMINISCENCES

By JONAS KREIVĖNAS
CHICAGO, IL - 1981

Editor's Note: In part five Mr. Kreivėnas wrote of his fears and frustrations and the easing of some restrictions in the lives of the prisoners. A very special thank you to the daughters of Mr. Kreivėnas for sharing their father's memories of his days as a prisoner with us. Jonas Kreivėnas died on March 2, 1987.

Difficult road to freedom

After my amnesty, I received a passport and was allowed to live in any Soviet republic, except Moscow, Leningrad, and capital or harbor cities. At that time I was not aware that my passport had secret markings prohibiting me to live in my homeland of Lithuania.

In the last years in Kazakhstan I had saved some money. After my amnesty I applied for a vacation and bought a railroad ticket to Lithuania. My clothing was nothing but patched up rags. To buy anything decent in local stores was impossible therefore I stopped in Moscow and bought a very modest suit in a large department store for "only" 1700 rubles.

Next morning I arrived in Kaunas, Lithuania. From there I took a bus to Marijampolė (Kapsukas) to visit my brothers. While travelling by bus, I saw how badly the scenery of my homeland had changed during the years of occupation. In the last phase of World War II Marijampolė was partly ruined and not yet rebuilt. I did not, however, realize how changed and aged I was myself. After 16 years in KZ camps and deportation, my best friends, and even my own brother, could not recognize me.

My elder brother told me that while working as a forester, he was arrested, sentenced, and served eight years in KZ camps. My younger brother was captured as a refugee in Germany and also spent many years in KZ camps.

After a few days in my home country, I tried to get a job and to settle in Lithuania. Wherever I was interviewed for a job, I was told to get registered as a resident first. When I tried to register and get shelter, I was told to get a job first. Finally it was clear to me that all my efforts to remain in my homeland were fruitless.

From Lithuania I travelled to Leningrad, where I knew a Finnish woman, who was a former deportee in Kazakhstan. I was hoping that with the help of her broad acquaintances,



Photo was taken on January 22, 1974, in the Chamber of Nebraska's Senator Carl T. Curtis, Washington, DC. The purpose of the visit was to thank Senator Curtis for his help in bringing Mr. Kreivėnas to the United States. Seated: Jonas Kreivėnas (auteur), granddaughter Daiva Dambrauskaitė and wife Ona Kreivėnienė. Standing: Son-in-law Dr. Dwain Peetz, Senator Carl T. Curtis and three daughters: Carmen Terese Peetz, Roma Dambrauskienė and Gema Kreivėnaitė.

I would be able to cross the heavily guarded Soviet border, flee to the Western world, and eventually reunite with my family living in the USA. My hopes were fruitless.

Sad and disappointed, I returned back to Kazakhstan. In the spring of 1957, I went to the Soviet Republic of Turkmen to explore the possibilities of crossing the Soviet-Iranian border. But even there the border was heavily guarded. Late in 1957 I went to Tashkent and had some lengthy conversations with Spaniards, who were interned after the Spanish Civil War, and since then lived in a camp.

In the summer of 1960, I returned for the second time to Lithuania. One militia official explained to me about the secret markings on my passport. He advised me to settle permanently in East Prussia, which was annexed to the USSR after World War II. From E. Prussia I would be able to visit my friends and relatives in Lithuania.

I took his advice, went to E. Prussia, and got a job in a building and repair brigade in Tilze (Sovietsk). To get an apartment or even a small room in Tilze was impossible, because

the town was heavily damaged during the last months of World War II and was never rebuilt. I was lucky to get one little room in Pagegiai, Lithuania. For a whole year I lived there illegally and commuted to Tilze by train.

For a 1000 rubles I bought a house near Tilze. In Moscow's Pravda and Izvestia newspapers I announced the "loss" of my passport. After six months and some bribery, I received a new passport without any secret markings. Through friends, acquaintances, and again some bribery, in December, 1964, I got a job as a custodian-carpenter in a five story lodging house, in Vilnius.

I tried to register myself for a permanent residence in Vilnius, but the city was "closed". My present temporary permit, in the event of changing or losing the job, would have been automatically "revoked". The only possible loophole for permanent registration was to get fictitiously married to a resident woman. For 500 rubles I "married" a Lithuanian, who was a former Siberian deportee, and was permanently registered to reside in Vilnius. Following our agreement, we had to get "divorced", but this woman refused and tried to incriminate me of working against the interests of the Soviet Union, secretly listening to foreign radio stations, etc. When I was cleared of these accusations, the "divorce" was granted.

I sold my house in Tilze to a collective farm, made a 1000 rubles profit and paid 500 rubles to the farm's officials for their "efforts".

From August, 1971, I worked as an administrator {caretaker} of a lodging house for the students of the 33rd technical school. My salary was 60 rb. per month and a three room apartment. The director of the school was a former lieutenant colonel of the NKVD. When I refused to spy on the students, I was demoted to a carpenter's position.

After Stalin's death, local Soviet newspapers and radio began a propaganda campaign, claiming that World War II would have been much shorter if not for the USA's "help", which caused the USSR more harm than good. The Soviet propaganda insisted that the USA was the only obstacle to Communist domination of the world, and for this reason it is the



J. Kreivėnas with two of his sisters, Magdūtė Mikučauskienė and Petrė Baniienė, daughter Roma Dambrauskienė, granddaughters Kristina and Daiva Dambrauskaitės

USSR's enemy number one.

In following years school students and office and factory workers were forced to participate in demonstrations demanding the return of Alaska and Turkish-Armenia to the USSR. For some reason, such demonstrations suddenly ceased.

The Soviets developed their propaganda network also among emigrants and refugees in foreign countries, inviting them to return back. Those who believed the Soviet lies and returned to their homelands, were bitterly disappointed. They were deprived of their money and other valuables, and the door behind them was closed shut.

At one time Soviet radio and newspapers announced that it would be possible to subscribe to some foreign magazines. A catalog was printed and sold in bookstores. I tried to subscribe to "Amerika" and a few other magazines. Later the post office returned my money, claiming that

the allowed quotas had been filled. A few months later, radio and newspapers announced that Soviet citizens demonstrated political "maturity" by refusing to subscribe to foreign magazines.

When in 1944 the Red army was approaching Lithuania, my family escaped to Germany and later immigrated to the USA. Within eight years I mailed eight petitions to the Soviet government, asking for a permission to reunite with my family. Petitions had to be typewritten by qualified lawyers and provided with revenue stamps: each petition cost me between 52 and 55 rubles.

Early in 1973 I wrote a letter to my daughter Teresa, who is married to a famous surgeon Dwaine J. Peetz, M.D., living in Nebraska, USA. I asked her to help me to emigrate. Dr. Peetz knew influential US senators and congressmen.

In October, 1973, I received a telegram from the US Consulate in Moscow. It informed me about the Soviet government's permission to emigrate and inquired about the status of my foreign passport.

The Soviet Ministry of Internal Affairs told me to write another petition for a passport. The post office refused to

accept my telegram to the US Consulate, claiming that they did not know the address. Finally, I succeeded to mail a registered letter to the US Consulate and informed them of all the obstacles in trying to obtain the required documents. For a foreign visa, I had to obtain various certificates, licenses, recommendations, and statements.

Characteristics of my work at the 33rd technical school had to be rewritten five times until finally they met the Soviet bureaucrat's satisfaction. For the results of a blood test I had to return to the laboratory for 19 consecutive days. The woman in the registry office would not issue my birth certificate and actually chased me out, suspecting that I was one of the freedom fighters.

Thanks to my stubbornness, perseverance, and the fact that I was living in Vilnius, where all the Soviet bureaucracy offices were located, within two months I had all the required documents.

On January 6th, 1974, I was in the US Consulate in Moscow. There I was met and greeted by Steven E. Steiner, the Consul General of USA. He told me in Russian about all the efforts to get me out of the USSR.

In a matter of a few hours the Consulate's doctors examined my health, and secretaries prepared all the required documents for entry into USA. The very same day I received my airplane ticket and was on my way to bid the last good-bye to my friends and relatives in Lithuania. I was astonished with the efficiency of Western democracy as compared to the sluggishness of Soviet bureaucracy.

On January 20th, accompanied by my two brothers and a couple of friends, I arrived at Moscow's airport. From the airport building two other passengers and I were escorted by

six armed soldiers to the Pan American airplane. Finally I was on my way to freedom. That same evening I was in New York, being greeted by my wife, all three daughters, my son, my son-in-law Dr. Dwane Peetz, two granddaughters, and other relatives.

When I had been arrested in 1940, my children had been only little babies, and one still unborn. Now they all were grown-up persons, some already married, with children of their own. Suddenly I realized a horrible truth: I had lost so much in those 34 years, which could have been the best years of my life; life had been passing by at full speed, while I stood still, isolated from the world.

From the airport in New York we went to Philadelphia, Pa., where a reception dinner was arranged in one of the finest restaurants. On the next day we drove to Philadelphia's airport and, with Dr. Peetz at the controls, we flew in his private six-seat airplane to Washington, D.C.

In the Capitol we went to the office of Carl T. Curtis, Senator of the State of Nebraska, to express our gratitude. Thanks to his tireless efforts and influence, I was able to leave the Soviet "paradise" and arrive in the United States. After the visit, we toured the halls of the Capitol and saw one of the Senate's sessions.

There is no other more generous country in the world as the USA. America has always been a friend of overrun nations and oppressed people.

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The WASHERWOMAN And The Count

Just then a sun-beam fell on the nut-shell, and at once the coach and the horses rolled into it!

Overjoyed, the girl rushed to the count. She opened her hand and the coach and horses rolled out of the nut-shell. The count got into the coach and rode off in it, and it was bright day ahead of him and dark night behind him.

Said the count to the girl: "All this is simple witchcraft. But if you are really clever you will bring me a magic mirror in which I will see both my past and my future."

What was there to be done?

The girl went to the lake again and she wept and sighed as before. The Laumė heard her, they came sliding over the water as, over ice, and, surrounding the girl, began trying to comfort her.

The girl told them of her sorrow and of the count's whim, and the Laumė said:

"It is a difficult task that your master has set us this time. But never you fear. We will fix it so that after this he will stop plaguing you."

The Laumė put the girl to sleep, and when she rose in the morning what should she see lying beside her but a beautiful mirror in which the sun and the stars were reflected in all their brilliance.

The girl took the mirror to the count who stared in it greedily, and, gluing his nose to it, cried: "Ha! There's my uncle playing cards with the king and my brother talking to the queen! Why, I can see my whole noble family in this mirror! Now I'd like to see my future."

But no sooner were the words out of his mouth than he saw himself in the mirror hanging from a tree.

So enraged was he by this that he flung the mirror down on a stone and shattered it to bits.

And from that day on he left the washerwoman in peace and never plagued her any more.

Source: "Tales of the Amber Sea"

Calendar of Events for December 2010

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

DECEMBER

Dec. 4, 2010 - 5 pm
Lithuanian Christmas Eve dinner
St. Thomas Aquinas
535 Rucker Road,
Alpharetta, GA 30004.
Children Free under 6,
\$ 5 guests between 6 & 18
\$10 for adults -

\$15 for Atlanta Community members who have not paid their annual membership contribution. We ask you to bring your own traditional Christmas Eve dish and share with others. "Saulės" school students will present their Christmas performance & Santa with Snow White will visit the children. If you would like Santa to give a present to your child, put it in Santa's bag with your child's name on it. <http://www.lietuviaiatantoje.org/1ndex.php?id=4&L=1>
Sponsored by the Atlanta Chapter of the LAC

Dec. 5, 2010 -10 a -pm
*Crèche Display
*Over 200 crèches & nativity scenes will be on display in the lecture hall. The Crèche Display is free for all to attend.

*For info. or directions, call (412) 885-7232. The Sisters also invite members of the commu-

nity to enter their crèches to be displayed at the event. For eligibility, crèches must be received with completed registration forms at the **Motherhouse by 5:00 pm on Friday, Nov. 19th.** Those interested in entering a crèche or nativity scene should call **Sister Mary Ann Losatoski 412-885-7232.**
3603 McRoberts Rd. Pittsburgh, PA 15234

Dec. 5, 2010 - Workshop
Making traditional Lithuanian Straw Ornaments. Following both 10 AM & 11:30 AM Masses at Annunciation Church 250 North 5th Street Brooklyn, NY (Corner N. 5th St. & Havemeyer) The Lithuanian Folk Art Institute and Annunciation Parish will present a workshop on making traditional Lithuanian Straw Ornaments. There is no charge for this event. Donations of WHITE STRAWS would be helpful! <http://www.annunciation-ny.com/>

Dec. 5, 2010 - 2:00 pm
Lithuanian Traditional **Kūčios** -Sunday - McKeeon Center Mission San Luis Rey 4070 Mission Ave.

Oceanside, CA 92054
<http://www.lihdsd.org>
Sponsor: San Diego Chapter of the LAC

Dec. 5, 2010 - 3-6 pm
*"Kaledų Vakaras" - Christmas Party
Davis Hall at Wyandotte County Lake Park
91st & Leavenworth Rd. Kansas City, KS
913 573-8327-www.kclith.org
Sponsor: Kansas City LAC

Dec. 10, 2010 (Friday)
Soup Take Out
*Pick-up: 4 to 6 pm
*\$5.00 for a quart of soup, plus 2 dinner rolls.
*To Order Call 412-885-7232, by Friday, Dec. 3rd at 5pm
3603 McRoberts Rd. Pittsburgh, PA 15234
Sisters of St. Francis of the Providence of God

Dec. 11, 2010 -Kūčios
St. Laurence Church
3100 Sweetwater Blvd. Sugar Land, TX.
www.houstonlithuanians.org
Sponsors: Houston Chapter of the LAC

Dec.11, 2010
Lithuanian Christmas Eve dinner & children's program
Latvian Hall
5500 SW Dosch Rd
Portland, OR 9723
www.portlandlithuanians.com

Sponsor: Portland Chapter of the LAC

Dec. 11, 2010 - Kūčios
Lithuanian Christmas Eve Observance. Traditional dishes, songs & more, admission only by advance purchase of tickets (no tickets at the door), **More info. will follow Latvian Hall 10710 3rd Ave NE, Seattle, WA 98125**
<http://seattle.lietuviu-bendruomene.org>
Sponsor: Seattle Chapter of the LAC

Dec. 12, 2010 - 12 Noon
Kūčios, Traditional Lithuanian Christmas Eve Dinner
St. Andrew's Parish Hall
19th & Wallace Sts. Philadelphia, PA.
\$15 donation - \$5 children 12 & under
Tickets & Reservations call: **Maryte: 215-969-2117 Laima: 609-268-8045**
Reservations will be accepted till Dec. 7
Sponsor: Phila. Lithuanian Scouts Association

Dec. 14, 2010 - 7-9 pm
Kūčios (Tuesday)
Lithuanian Music Hall
2715 E. Allegheny Ave. Phila. PA.
Please bring a meatless dish, Lithuanian if possible. Use the left side

entrance and proceed downstairs. All are invited to attend. The Philadelphia Lithuanian Heritage Club, Amber Roots
For info:
Millie at 610-497-5469
milliemarks@aol.com

Dec. 18, 2010 - 2 to 4 pm
Christmas Social & Arvydas Vilcininkas concert
Children's Party (free)
Bring a wrapped gift marked with child's name for Santa
Fraternal Order of Eagles Hall
1151 S Galena St. (just west of Mississippi & Havana)
Denver, CO 80247
www.coloradolithuanians.org

Dec. 19, 2010 - Annual
Maionis School, Lithuanian Scouts Association & Annunciation Parish
Kūčios Following 10 AM Mass at Annunciation Church Mt. Carmel Hall.
275 North 8th Street Brooklyn, NY.

Dec. 26, 2010 - 2 pm
Christmas Concert
Lithuanian Hall
851 Hollins St
Baltimore, MD

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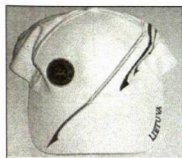
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29 - Baseball hat
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20 - Amber necklace &
bracelet - \$ 30



27 - CD by Exultate / Rita
Kliorys, director - \$ 15



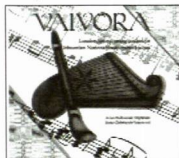
30 - CD by Steel Wolf
\$ 20



5 - CD by Jurga
"Instrukcija" - \$ 20



6 - CD by Jurga "Aukso
Pieva" - \$ 20



7 - CD by Vaivora (ethno-
cultural music) - \$ 20



8 - Vytis decal approx
(3" x 3") - \$ 3



23 - Exploring Lithuania & Exploring Vilnius
(2 set DVD with 3 hour total viewing time) - \$ 45.



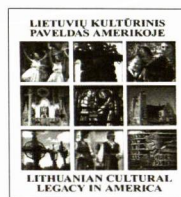
25 - First Lithuanians in
Texas, 116 p. - \$ 25.



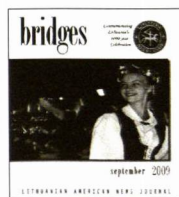
28 - Café Emigrant DVD
\$ 25



13 - DVD of 13th Folk
Dance Festival at Galen
Center of USC \$20.00



14 - Cultural Legacy Book
(hardcover, 224 pages) \$45



15 - Bridges subscription
\$20 for 10 issues



31 - Christmas Hymns CD
by Exultate, Rita Kliorys,
Director - \$ 15



17 - Car license plate
holder \$12



18 - LT sticker
(4" x 9" approx) - \$ 4.



19 - LIETUVA decal
(1" x 2.5") - \$ 3

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Christmas time at the Town Square in Vilkaiviškis

Photo by Juozas Lukoševičius, Alvitas, Lithuania

December 8 - Immaculate Conception
December 25 - Christmas