

bridges



LITHUANIAN-AMERICAN NEWS JOURNAL

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April 2013

this month in history

April Anniversaries

495 years ago

April 18, 1518

Bona Sforza (1494-1557) crowned Queen of Poland and Grand Duchess of Lithuania.

Bona Sforza was the Italian niece of Bianca Maria Sforza, who in 1493 married Holy Roman Emperor Maximilian I. She became the third consort of Lithuania's Grand Duke Sigismund the Old (1467-1548). Mother of Sigismund II Augustus, Bona Sforza was suspected of having his wife, Queen Barbora (Radziwill), poisoned. She herself died under suspicious circumstances.



180 years ago

April 11, 1833

Antanas Strazdas, priest and poet, died.



Born in a peasant family in the village of Astravas, Strazdas (also known as Strazdelis) studied at a number of Jesuit schools before graduating from the Varniai seminary in 1789. Restless, he traveled among several parishes in eastern Lithuania, often living on his own as a farmer. He was ordered confined at Pažaislis Monastery in 1828 to repent for conduct unbecoming a priest (he fathered children), but left a year later and spent the last years of his life in Kamajai. He published two

books, *Secular and Religious Songs* and *Ode to Riga*; a third collection of Lithuanian poems was destroyed by censors. As many as 50 folk songs that have been passed by word of mouth have been attributed to Strazdas.

130 years ago

April 4, 1883

Politician and historian Augustinas Voldemaras born.

Voldemaras served as the country's first prime minister in 1918. He was part of the 1926 coup that deposed president Kazys Grinius after six months and reinstalled Antanas

Smetona as president and Voldemaras as prime minister. He was ousted by Smetona in 1929 because of his involvement in the fascist-leaning organization Geležinis Vilkas (Iron Wolf). After another, unsuccessful coup attempt in 1934, Voldemaras was imprisoned for four years, then pardoned and exiled. He was arrested by the Bolsheviks in 1940 and died in a Moscow prison in 1942.

100 years ago

April 27, 1913

Knights of Lithuania established as a youth organization.

The purpose of the Knights of Lithuania was to unite the Lithuanian youth living in the United States and, through them, preserve Lithuanian culture and restore freedom to Lithuania, then divided between Russia and Germany.



90 years ago

April 18, 1923

Poland annexed Central Lithuania.

80 years ago

April 29, 1933

Writer Juozas Tumas-Vaižgantas died in Kaunas.

Juozas Tumas, pen name Vaižgantas (1869-1933), was a prominent Lithuanian writer, priest, social activist, literary historian and one of the founders of the Party of National Progress. He wrote novels, short fiction and non-fiction. His most notable works include the novel *Pragiedruliai* (Rays of Hope) and the narrative "Dėdės ir dėdiėnės" (Uncles and Aunts). Tumas is considered one of the most important Lithuanian writers of his era.



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contents



4

Lietuvos mokytojų fondas

Americans Sponsoring Lithuanian Education Innovation
By Dr. Anita Adamitis Scarborough, Amanda Muliolienė and Rimutė Žemonienė



6

Small Responsibilities Grow Into Bigger Ones

Excerpt from Desire and Red Wine, A Life's Journey by Victoria Norvaisa



8

21st Century Lithuanians

San Francisco Community Reflects on Independence, Identity and Innovation
by Stanley Currier



10

An Introduction to Lithuanian Independence Day

University Students in Global Village Learn About Lithuania
By Audra Kriaučūnas

Departments

c2 this month in history

3 from the editor

12 lac news

Central NJ and Philadelphia independence celebration; K of L 100th anniversary plans

14 a taste of lithuania

"Grate" Potato Recipes: Kugelis and Bulvių Dešros
by Christiana Noyalas

16 current events

18 genealogy tips & tricks

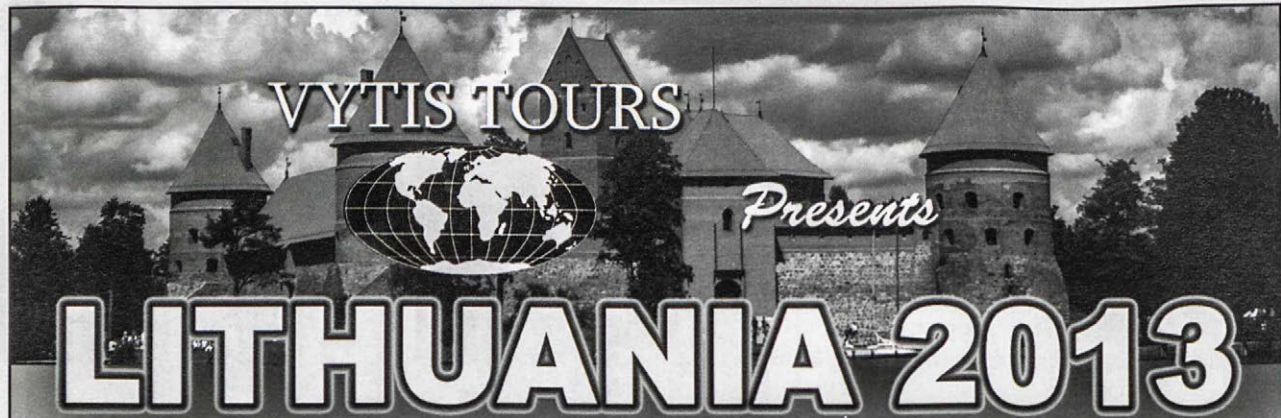
The Immigration Experience: How They Came to America
by Tom Sadauskas

20 subscription form

c3 calendar

Cover: Pažaislis Monastery in Kaunas, where priest and poet Antanas Strazdas was confined for a year in 1828. Photo: Teresė Vekteris

Back cover: The town of Maleišiai, in the Anykščiai region, is the birthplace of Juozas Tumas-Vaižgantas, noted author and social activist, who died 80 years ago this month. Photo: Arvydas Svirka



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The Season to Renew

It sure doesn't feel like it, but the calendar says it's spring. I feel a little like the plants that are just beginning to poke their heads through the ground—a little hesitant to emerge from cozy hibernation but tempted to surface by the beckoning sun and lengthening days.

The other reason I know that it's spring is that I'm once again making plans to travel to Vermont at the end of April for the annual Women's Weekend at Camp Neringa. It's the perfect place and time of year to renew. I didn't go to camp at Neringa when I was a child, but I was lucky enough to find it a little more than 10 years ago and got to experience Family Heritage Camp with my niece and nephew. A few years later I was again lucky to discover the Women's Weekend, which provides a welcoming and nurturing environment in which to reflect and renew—as well as to eat well and laugh well—in a beautiful, wooded setting.

The theme of renewal carries through our pages in this issue:

- The Lithuanian educational organization A.P.P.L.E. is funding projects that challenge teachers in Lithuania to bring renewed energy and innovation to their classrooms. Learn more about these projects starting on page 4.
- Vicky Norvaisa shares a chapter of her new novel, the story of a woman named Aurelia who discovers a new self-awareness borne of both personal and ancestral experience. Read more beginning on page 6.
- In San Francisco, a new generation of 20- and 30-somethings from Lithuania is helping to renew the Bay Area community while lending their talents to Silicon Valley tech companies such as Facebook. Their story is on page 8.
- By living in the Global Village at Indiana University, college students learn about other cultures. Read on page 10 about how a student and professor there nurtured interest in Lithuania among the dorm's residents.
- The Knights of Lithuania turns 100 this month and the organization is seeking to renew and grow its membership. Read about the some of the planned centennial events on page 13.
- Many of our immigrant ancestors were looking for new lives in America, and the Lithuanian communities in which we participate today began thanks to their efforts. Read about how they got here beginning on page 18.



"I can feel my daily worries melt away as soon as I pull up to Camp Neringa. Spring is the perfect time to renew amidst nature in the quiet forests surrounding the camp."

Wishing you a beautiful spring!

Teresė Vekteris, Editor





Saulutės (Little Suns): Professional association of 19 Lithuanian preschools

By Dr. Anita Adamitis Scarborough, Amanda Muliolienė and Ramute Žemonienė

The American Professional Partnership for Lithuanian Education (A.P.P.L.E.) was founded in 1990 to support educational reform in Lithuania, as laid out by the then newly formed Lithuanian Ministry of Education. The organization was built on the vision and inspiration of founders Juratė Krokys (Philadelphia) and the late Vaiva Vebraitė (Durham, Conn.). A.P.P.L.E. is a non-profit educational organization that has utilized volunteer U.S. educators to conduct seminars for teachers in Lithuania every summer since 1991. With the Lithuanian Ministry of Education and Science, and now the support of the Lithuanian Educational Development Center (Ugdymo Plėtotės Centras or UPC), A.P.P.L.E. partners with Lithuanian educators to foster the implementation of innovative educational approaches.

For many years A.P.P.L.E. encouraged teacher participation in its summer sessions by providing scholarships that covered the cost of attendance. Over time, as the summer program evolved and grew into two one-week sessions, rather than funding teachers to attend, A.P.P.L.E. in 2006 implemented Lietuvos mokytojų fondas (LMF), a small grant program designed to encourage and support teachers who attend A.P.P.L.E. sessions to implement new ideas to enhance teaching and learning in their schools and classrooms. During that summer session, the program's goal and application process were explained to participating teachers from all over Lithuania.

In LMF's first year, A.P.P.L.E. received 72 applications, which were evaluated and ranked by three independent reviewers. With award amounts ranging from 200 to 1,000 litas, A.P.P.L.E. funded the top 29 ranked projects. It was apparent many teachers were intrigued by the opportunity to have their ideas recognized and endorsed. Writing a proposal requires describing and defining how you want to accomplish the project in definable terms. Operationalizing ideas has the added value of helping teachers refine their thinking about the purpose of their project.

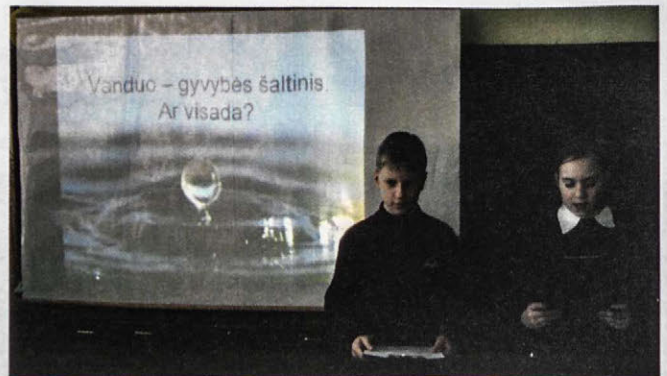
Many areas of learning experiences are represented in the proposals, but themes involving the community, the environment and nature, the arts and supporting special populations are popular categories. We highlight a few, but a list of all projects is available at www.applequest.org. On the website, awardees are listed according to year of award, school name, region and project title in Lithuanian and English. Each proposal includes photographs showing the implementation of the project.

From Proposal to Reality

One example of a project that utilized a 1,000 litas grant from LMF was the formation of a preschool association to sup-

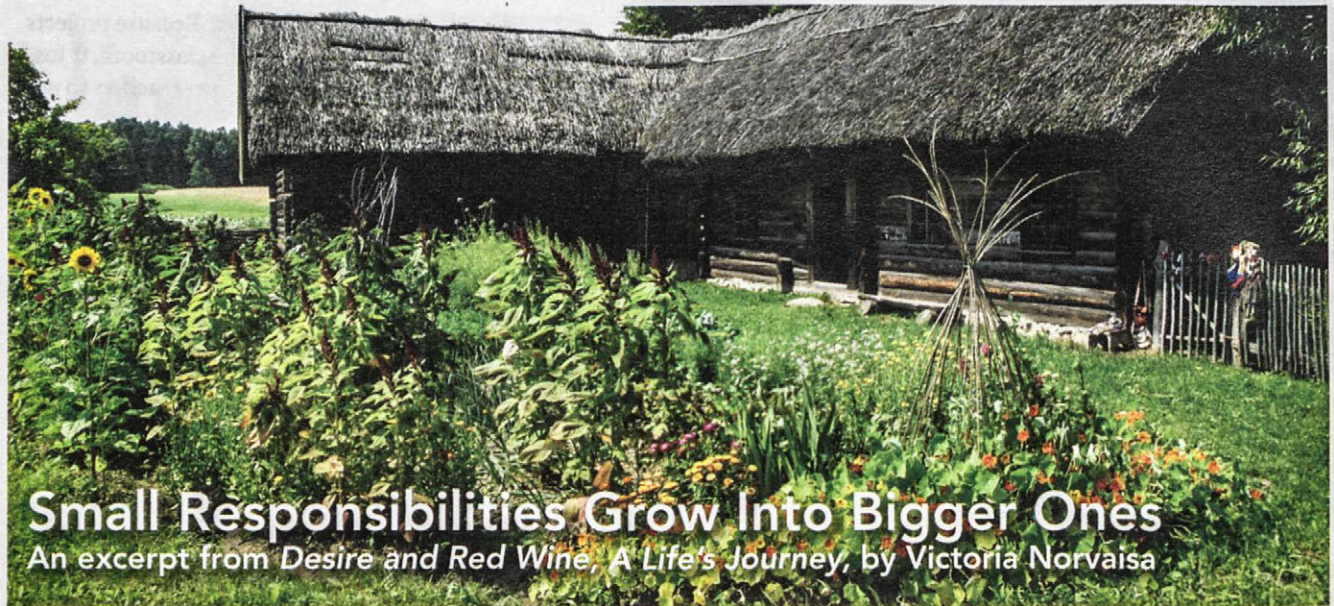
port the 19 Saulutė preschools from around Lithuania. The purpose of the association is to disseminate information about effective practices with preschool-age children. The association held their first meeting in Pakruojis. Preschools from Prienai, Šiauliai, Telšiai, Širvintai, Joniškis, Jonava, Gargždai, Kupiškis and Mažeikiai were represented.

Teacher Rolanda Miškūnienė at the Romuvos school in Šiauliai received funds for an environmental project. Forty third-grade students sampled water from their home faucets, from the wells of families, friends and neighbors, and from a local spring touted for its purity and where many residents get water for cooking. The students collected the water, tested the samples for levels of six different chemicals and prepared charts depicting the percentage of samples, according to the source, that exceeded safe levels for consumption. They found that the city water was safe and the spring water really was pure, but 32 of the wells sampled had unacceptably high levels of nitrates. The students presented their findings and local health officials came and discussed the implications of the findings.



Students at Romuvos school in Šiauliai present their findings on local water purity

After participating in an A.P.P.L.E. session focused on the integration of children with disabilities into the regular classroom, Svajonė Šnapštienė, a psychologist in Pakruojis, and Giedrė



Preserved farmhouse at Rumšiškės Open-Air Museum. Photo: Teresė Vekteris

The novel Desire and Red Wine, A Life's Journey, is a love story that traverses Eastern Europe after WWI and during WWII, and the United States after the war, where parents' traditional values conflict with modern American. It's the story of Aurelia (Lia) who, while dealing with commitment, career and an alcoholic husband, slowly discovers a new awareness of her true self.

...

From the preface

...Lia lay on the far side of the bed, thinking back to her parents' youth, their strict moral code, all that they had accomplished, endured and then lost due to events out of their control. Thinking that, in spite of all the tragedy, happiness and sorrow, they had stayed together. She could hear her father's voice coming out of the darkness, "Duty and obligation comes first...it comes before anything else in life..." Could she do it, was she strong enough to do the right thing...

Chapter 4

Aurelia's father, Joseph, was born in 1899 and grew up on a small farm in northern Lithuania. The homestead stood on a hill, surrounded by woods and a rolling countryside. No other farms could be seen from the farmhouse, which faced a dirt road. A large flower garden bloomed profusely in front of the house, while

cultivated fields and pastures stretched out behind the barn. The house itself consisted of a large kitchen with a huge clay oven, used for cooking and baking; it also warmed the whole house in the winter. An oak table and benches stood at the opposite end, near the windows. White, starched percale curtains gave the kitchen a clean, crisp look.

A large living room with two adjoining bedrooms were separated from the kitchen by a cool, dark pantry where Joseph's mother stored her canned fruit and vegetables, smoked hams and sausages, potatoes, flour and other food staples. She was well known throughout the countryside for her housekeeping and cooking abilities. Tall, slim and graceful, with her light brown hair braided and piled high on her head, she often sang as she went around her home doing her chores. She was the source of warmth and affection in the family, raising her sons to love God, to help those in need, to be compassionate.

As the younger of the two boys, Joseph was loved and spoiled by his parents and his brother. Even at seven, he was tall for his age and had a definitely masculine body. His dark, curly hair, intelligent and sensitive hazel eyes, a straight nose and a determined, square chin made him look too mature for his age. In contrast,

his older brother, Martin, was blond and blue-eyed. He had a carefree, congenial personality, and was always quick to joke and laugh. There was, however, a serious side to Martin that was well hidden from his friends. Only his parents knew his deep sense of responsibility and loyalty to his family, especially to his younger brother.

Joseph learned early in life that everybody had to pitch in and help to keep the small farm functioning. One spring evening after supper, his father came and put his arm around Joseph's small shoulders. He was tall and muscular. Tanned, leathery looking, prematurely wrinkled from the wind and the sun, he looked older than his thirty-four years. Clear, hazel eyes, which Joseph had inherited, conveyed an inner strength, which came from a firm belief in God and honest living. He spoke to his son with a serious, intense voice.

"You're growing older; it's time you start sharing in the work, helping me and your brother out on the farm."

Joseph's eyes shone with pride. He was going to be allowed to be a part of his father's days. His mother, too, would send him out at sunrise with a loving kiss and a hot lunch. He would be helping with the plowing, tending horses, driving the wagon, sowing and harvesting the crops.

"I need somebody to tend the geese in the fields. It's not hard work and you'll be close to home. I want you to start tomorrow," his father went on.

Joseph's heart skipped a beat. Tending geese was not man's work and he was terrified of the big, white gander.

"But father, why can't we hire somebody to do that? That old gander doesn't like me. Anyway, tending geese is not man's work."

His father suppressed a smile. A caloused hand stroked the little boy's head, and he was glad that nobody could see the sympathy and compassion he felt for his small son.

"Money is very scarce these days." His voice was low and kind. "I can't afford to pay wages to somebody else. It'll be fine, you'll do well. We all have to start with small responsibilities and grow into bigger ones. You'd better go to bed now. I'll get you up early tomorrow."

Joseph tossed all night. As soon as he would fall asleep, a white, fluffy head with an open, orange beak was hissing at him. He was almost glad when his father shook his shoulder early the next morning.

"Wake up, Joseph. Time to go to work." It was still dark in the house. The sounds and smells from the kitchen told him mother was making breakfast. He rubbed his eyes until they started to sting. The temptation to sink back into the down pillow was irresistible, but he could not disappoint his father. He dressed slowly, little fingers fumbling with the buttons. A mother's loving glance greeted him as he walked into the kitchen and slid behind the big oak table. Eggs with home fried potatoes and dark rye bread baked the day before smelled delicious, but he was too sleepy to eat. A smile from his brother made him feel special.

"Don't let those geese get an upper hand, Joey. Show them quickly who is the boss."

Joseph laid his head on the table and felt himself drifting off into slumber.

"Come, Joseph. Let me show you where I want you to go. Put your jacket on. It'll be cool in the pasture."

The boy stood up and threw a beseeching glance at his mother, hoping for a reprieve. Why couldn't she come, put her arms around him, and carry him back to bed? She was facing the oven.

"Mamma...," in a faint whisper. He could see his mother's back stiffen, but she did not turn around. There was a small tremor in her voice.

"Go on, hurry, your father is waiting. I'll bring you your lunch at noon."

Joseph opened the kitchen door and was startled by the beauty and the wonder of an early sunrise he had never seen before. The sky was clear and golden pink with the sun's morning rays. Graceful birch trees, strikingly white against the gray shadows that still lingered around the corners of the house and barn, separated the homestead from darker greens and blues of nearby woods and pastures. Strips of silver-gray fog gave the whole scene a mystical, eerie appearance. The sun's rays caught the heavy dew on the lower branches of the big oak tree and the grass below and studded the morning scene with glittering specks of gold, red and purple.

Father and son drove the flock of geese behind the barn into a pasture through which a small, fast flowing stream wound its way. Tall, brown cattails grew profusely around its edges. A slight morning breeze swayed long, graceful branches of a willow tree near the edge of the stream. Blue forget-me-nots and white daisies dotted the meadow, but Joseph was unaware of the beauty of the scene.

His father had left him with the geese just minutes ago and he stood in the middle of the field uncertain what to do next. Settling down to breakfast, the geese nibbled at the grass and paid no attention to him. Leaning his back against the rough bark of the willow tree, he listened to the chirping of the birds and the gurgling of the stream; slowly all the sights and sounds faded from his consciousness.

Joseph awoke with a jolt, not sure what had startled him. It took him a few moments to realize where he was. His flock was gone. He ran up a small hill and, to his relief, saw the geese on the other

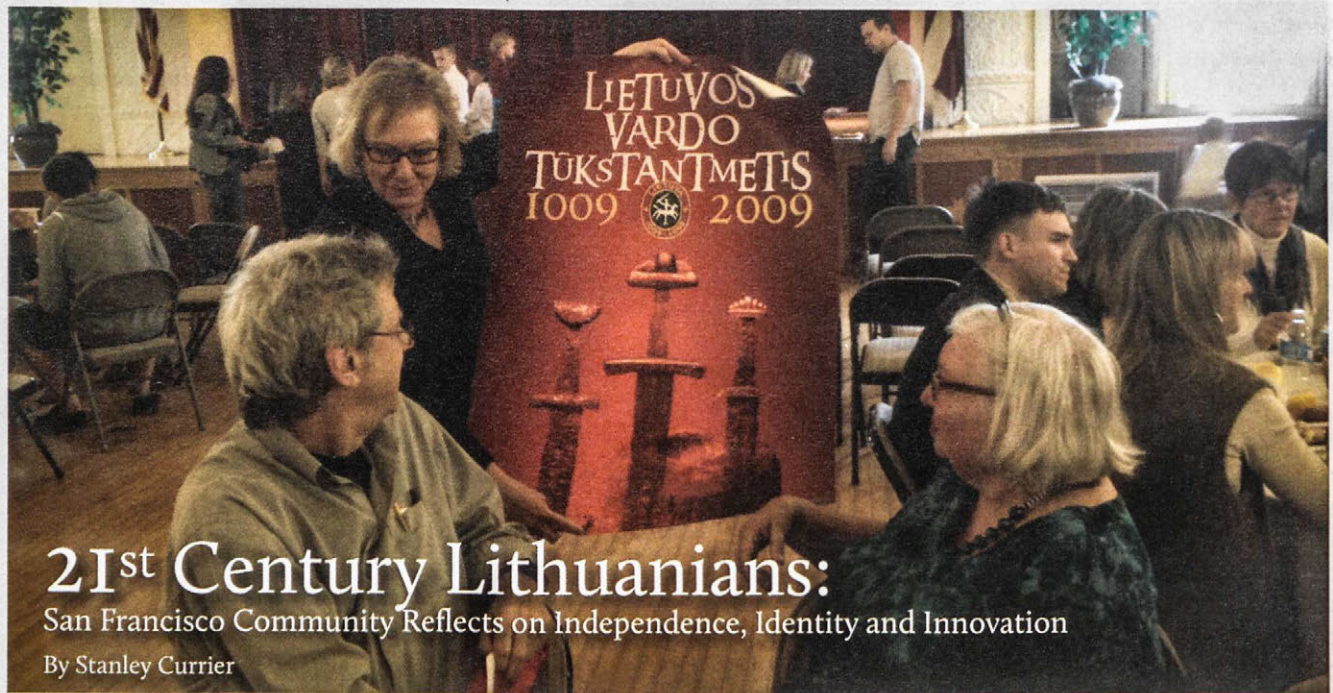
side of the stream. The big gander was leading the whole flock into the forest. Jumping from stone to stone across the stream, yelling and waving his arms, he tried to turn the flock around. Some of the geese started coming back, when suddenly he heard that horrible, terrifying, hissing sound. The big gander had spread his wings low to the ground, stretched his neck, and hissing through his open beak was running towards him. Three of the geese took up the challenge and were running with the gander.

Joseph was terrified as he envisioned those orange beaks tearing into his flesh. He ran towards the willow tree, falling, scraping his knees, jumping to his feet and running faster. He could never remember how he managed to scramble up the willow tree so the gander could not reach him. The geese cackled around the tree trunk for a few minutes and finally settled down for their mid-morning rest. Joseph was afraid to climb down, but he knew he had to. The most important thing was to prove to his father that he could handle this job. A gust of wind slapped a willow branch against his leg and he felt a small sting. Suddenly he had the answer to his problem. He broke off a long, slender willow cane, and holding it tightly in his hand, slid down from the tree. The gander lifted his head and looked at the boy. Joseph felt fear tugging at his heart. As the gander attacked, the cane rose high above the boy's head and swished down on the bird's head and body.

"I'll show you, you mean old bird! Take that! And that! And that..."

The startled bird, regaining its balance after each blow, finally retreated into the middle of the flock. Joseph was shaking from the effort of the confrontation, but there was a smile of triumph on his face. His small chest swelled with pride; he was on his way to becoming a man like his father.

Desire and Red Wine, A Life's Journey, by Victoria Norvaisa, is available at Amazon, Barnes&Noble, Books123 and as a Kindle or Nook eBook.



21st Century Lithuanians: San Francisco Community Reflects on Independence, Identity and Innovation

By Stanley Currier

Alberta Astraitė-Singh, Danutė Janutienė and Henry Jason enjoying the program. Photo: Stanley Currier

Bay Area Lithuanian-Americans gathered on March 3, 2013 to celebrate the 95th anniversary of Lithuania's declaration of independence from the Russian empire on February 16, 1918 and the more recent March 11, 1990 anniversary of its declaration of independence from the Soviet Union. The event featured traditional Lithuanian folk song and dance performances, national cuisine and a presentation by visiting Fulbright scholar at UC Berkeley, Lithuanian historian Dr. Vilius Ivanauskas. More than 150 people drove from as far as Grass Valley, Santa Cruz and Monterey to attend the annual event, held this year at the Latvian Church Hall in San Francisco's Noe Valley.

Dressed in traditional white cotton shirts and linen pants, with brightly woven sashes around their waists, 15 students ages 4 to 15 from the local Lithuanian Saturday school kicked off the event. The students led the audience in singing "Lietuva, Tėvyne mūsų" ("Lithuania, Our Homeland"), the country's national anthem, which was banned during the 50-year Soviet occupation of the country. The children then performed folk dances, their circular movements and sweeping gestures evoking movements reminiscent

of village life and the country's largely agricultural past.

But the keynote speech, while briefly touching on the "compulsory, hollow Soviet rituals" of Lithuania's difficult past, was decidedly forward-focused. During his talk, "Identity Today: Between Innovation and Tradition," Dr. Ivanauskas urged participants to consider how they could help shape Lithuania's future.

"Lithuanians abroad need to feel they are still a part of Lithuania, and share their talents with the country," he said. "San Francisco Lithuanians are known for their innovation. With Silicon Valley and so many world-renowned universities here, how can we utilize this modernity and uniqueness of Bay Area infrastructure to help Lithuania understand its role in the world?"

Indeed, Lithuanian immigrants are proving their ability to adapt quickly to America and to the world of high tech. Facebook's world headquarters in Silicon Valley hired two young Lithuanians last year. Several other 20-somethings from the community, armed with master's degrees in engineering, found jobs with tech start-ups in San Francisco in 2012.

But not everyone present at the inde-

pendence celebration was from Lithuania. Audience members spanned different waves of migration to the United States and varying levels of Lithuanian language and cultural knowledge.

"The dynamic of these gatherings has changed so much," said Julia Vindasius of Danville, Calif. "For my parents' generation, Lithuanian-Americans held their traditions together in the face of American cultural influence and Soviet occupation of their homeland. Now, it's really about celebrating Lithuanian culture, and there is a whole generation of 20- and 30-something immigrants from Lithuania helping to hold it all together."

Berkeley resident Danutė Januta offered words of praise for the newest wave of immigrants to San Francisco, those who came after the Soviet Union disbanded. "There has been an influx of Lithuanians to the Bay Area over the past 15 years, and they have really enriched our community," she said. "The Saturday school Lithuanian language and cultural program started due to demand from these families, and they've driven it themselves."

San Franciscan Aldona Watts, 26, came to the event to express her gratitude to the



Above: Children sing the Lithuanian national anthem. Below left: Mišrainė and black bread. Photos: Stanley Currier

members of the community who helped fund her documentary film project, "The Land of Songs" (www.landofsongs.com). The film chronicles the oral singing tradition of a close-knit group of Lithuanian *močiutės* (grandmothers) in the forest village of Puvočiai—a tradition that is slowly dying out, as youth there and elsewhere migrate from their native villages in search of employment in urban centers or abroad.

"I really wanted to get to know some of the people who have supported my



project, and to personally thank them," said Aldona.

Her younger brother, Julian, also involved in the film project, had praise for another aspect of the event. "The food is really good here," he said, smiling at his plate overflowing with Lithuanian sausage, stewed cabbage and delicate mushroom dumplings covered with a generous dollop of sour cream.

As during the Soviet period, Lithuanian diaspora groups around the world continue to demonstrate their political, cultural and financial support for their motherland. San Francisco's Lithuanian independence celebration this year underscored the importance of staying

linked in: maintaining and developing new connections from the Baltic Sea to the Bay Area, and utilizing San Francisco and Silicon Valley resources to help ensure Lithuania's prosperity for generations ahead.

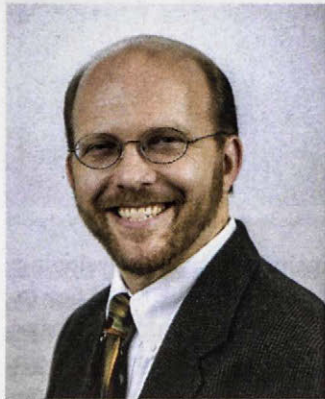
Stanley Currier has spent more than 10 years working in the field of education, promoting exchange opportunities for students and scholars internationally. He currently lives in San Francisco, with frequent travel to Kazakhstan and India. Stanley's grandmother Uršulė Astrienė was a celebrated Lithuanian folk artist and poet. Connect with him at stasys14@yahoo.com or on Twitter @stascurrier.

Below: Lithuanian-American film producer Aldona Watts with friends and family.



An Introduction to Lithuanian Independence Day

By Audra Kriauciūnas



Jeff Holdeman, IU professor and Global Village director, organized the Lithuanian Independence Day activities. Photo courtesy Indiana University

At 6:00 p.m., on February 11, 2013, students and faculty from Indiana University gathered in the first floor lounge of the Global Village to celebrate the second annual Lithuanian Independence Day event. The Global Village is a living-learning center and dormitory that was created for students interested in learning more about other cultures, languages, global issues and opportunities to study abroad. The Global Village hosts weekly events for

its residents such as language cluster meetings and foreign film presentations designed to teach the students more about the world. It was the perfect location to teach others about Lithuania's history and culture.

The event was put together by Jeff Holdeman, the director of the Global Village and a professor at IU. Speaking more than 13 languages (including Lithuanian) and doing research in Lithuania, Jeff is very interested in Lithuania culture, and had put on the first Lithuanian Independence Day event the previous year. He is also a member of The Baltic and Finnish Studies Association (BAFSA), which is an IU organization made up of mostly graduate students and professors interested in the culture of Lithuania, Estonia, Latvia and Finland. BAFSA and the Global Village partnered to put on this event with the help of a few residents of the Global Village, including myself.

The students did much preparation before the event. Tasks included cleaning and vacuuming the lounge; hanging yellow, green and red streamers (the colors of the Lithuanian flag); washing and drying dishes; and setting up a display of various Lithuanian artifacts provided by Jeff, BAFSA members and myself. On display were amber jewelry, language learning and story books, CDs and informational posters about traditional

clothing, the language, the geographical regions of Lithuania and other aspects of Lithuania's culture. All that was left was to dress for the event; I wore my traditional Lithuanian costume, passed on to me from my grandmother, who made it. As I was the only one in full Lithuanian dress, it was apparent that I was Lithuanian, and visitors had many questions for me about my costume and heritage. It was a great conversation starter, and I enjoyed meeting other Lithuanians in the Bloomington area who, though they had always lived in America, could recount childhood memories of their grandmothers' Lithuanian home cooking and language lessons.

As food and music are an important part of any Lithuanian celebration, our event began with a cooking demonstration, led by Jeff, who had recipes for us to try making, along with lots of traditional Lithuanian foods and ingredients he had picked up from Chicago. As traditional Lithuanian folk songs played in the background, students and faculty were divided into groups to try their hand at making various Lithuanian salads. In the wintertime, Lithuanians eat the foods available to them (usually stored underground to keep fresh) so most of the salads were made with potatoes, cabbage and other root vegetables, and even one that included herring. The cooking demonstration was fun and successful (except for the cutting of the onions, which produced many tears). In addition to the salads there were other tasty dishes to try: meat, cheese and potato dumplings; potato pancakes; herring and other fishes; tea and various desserts, including a šakotis (tree cake) that produced confusion for those who had never seen or tasted one before. All the foods were labeled with both their English and Lithuanian names so those who had never experienced the food could learn more about what they were eating.

With full bellies and merry hearts, we proceeded to the next phase of the celebration—to teach students about the history of Lithuania and Lithuanian Independence Day. We sat down together on the couches, and Jeff asked if anyone had any questions at all about Lithuania. He gave a short speech, explaining that at one point Lithuania had been the biggest country in Europe. He also explained to us the origins of the



Lithuanian language, one of the oldest Indo-European languages still spoken today. Jeff then briefly touched on the five regions of Lithuania: Aukštaitija, Samogitia, Dzūkija, Suvalkija and Lithuania Minor. He then showed pictures of the different clothing worn by each region, asked everyone from which region they thought my costume originated and then explained when traditional costumes are worn and why different regions wear different patterns.

The evening ended with stories of trips to Lithuania from those who had visited the beautiful homeland. I shared about my trip to Lithuania during the 1,000-year anniversary of the first mention of the country in historical chronicles, and talked about some of my favorite places: Kryžiu Kalnas, Kernavė, Vilnius, Trakai and the Baltic Sea. Jeff had been to Lithuania as well, and so had a few of the Estonians and Latvians. It was said that of the three Baltic States, Lithuania's history could be felt the most upon setting foot there since its history is so rooted in its culture. Because Lithuanians have endured so much throughout history, there is so much pride in being Lithuanian, which can be felt from the country's people and culture today. It was great to hear the stories and compare adventures, as well as compare and contrast Lithuania with the other two Baltic States, Latvia and Estonia. All in all, the event was a smashing success. I am hopeful that the Global Village will continue to host a Lithuanian Independence Day celebration in the future to teach even more students about Lithuanian culture.

Audra Kriaučiūnas is a sophomore at Indiana University, majoring in psychology. She lives in the Global Village, where she learns about other cultures and develops her ability to speak Spanish. Audra is also involved with Bible Study, Psychology Club and ushering for musical and theater productions at Indiana University's Auditorium. She enjoys outdoor activities such as camping, skiing, biking and rock climbing, as well as travel. She is a past contributor to Bridges.



our land

by John J. Kazlauskas

I see the white tablecloth
spread over the open field
stumps serving as chairs
surround the majestic land
children run and laugh
a care not to be thought
elderly women carefully uncover their surprises
the men sit back and taste their hard work
for this is their land now
fought and won throughout history
no more a servant to unknown kings
no more a fear of celebrating
the love of the risen one
today on easter morning

John Kazlauskas's grandfather immigrated from Lithuania and settled in Connecticut, where the author was born. After working in Wisconsin, Mr. Kazlauskas retired and moved to southern Arizona, where he spends his days writing, painting, swimming and cooking.

Freedom to Celebrate

Central NJ and Philadelphia Collaborate on Gala Independence Celebration



Following a February 24 "Mass for Lithuania" at St. Andrew's Church, hundreds of Lithuanians from Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Delaware gathered at Philadelphia's Lithuanian Music Hall for an afternoon of commemoration and conviviality.

The large turnout for the event, celebrating both the February 1918 declaration and March 1990 re-establishment of Lithuania's independence, challenged "Aldona's Kitchen" to keep the standing-room-only crowd in cepelinai, but assured that the hall echoed with applause and cheers all afternoon.

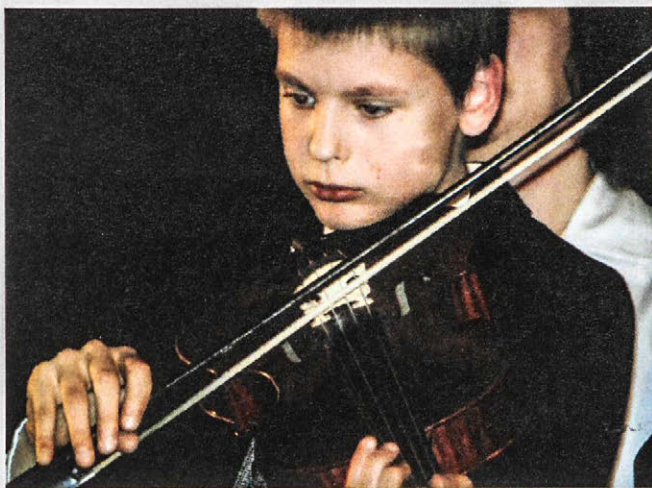
A flag procession, U.S. and Lithuanian national anthems and an invocation preceded an address by Lithuanian Ambassador Žygimantas Pavilionis, in which he noted parallels between Philadelphia's and Lithuania's fights for independence. Resolutions and recognitions culminated with a special award to Marytė and Vytautas Susinskas, quiet pillars of the Philadelphia community, who received a standing ovation for their contributions to the community, St. Andrew's Church and Lithuanian school.

The cultural program included performances ranging from lively to poignant by dance groups "Viesulis" and "Lietuvėlės" and children's ensemble "Spindulėlis" from Central New Jersey plus Philadelphia's "Laisvė" chorus, Vincas Krėvė Lithuanian School students and folk group "Varpelis."

After the formal program, the crowd adjourned to the middle hall, where all partook of the groaning potluck dessert table, accompanied by family, friends and more music by "Varpelis."

This page, top: Lithuanian Ambassador Zygimantas Pavilionis with Central NJ LAC president Rasa Miliute (third from right) and dancers. Center: Entertainment by Central NJ Lithuanian school dance group "Lietuvėlės" and children's music group "Spindulėlis." Bottom left, Philadelphia folk group "Varpelis." Bottom right: Marytė and Vytautas Susinskas. **Opposite page**, top: Philadelphia's Vincas Krėvė Lithuanian School students. Center: Philadelphia's Vytis Duncia on fiddle. Bottom: Central NJ dance group "Viesulis." Photos: Rimas Gedeika



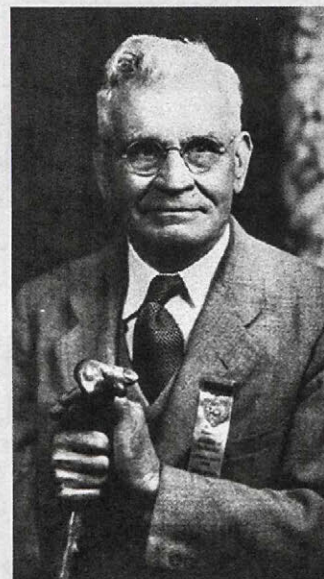


K of L Plans Events to Celebrate 100 Years

The Knights of Lithuania are planning several events in 2013 to celebrate the organization's 100th anniversary.

April 28, 2013

The centennial year begins officially with a 9 a.m. pilgrimage to the gravesite of founder Mykolas Norkunas, HM, at Sacred Heart Cemetery in Andover, Mass., on April 28. A wreath laying will be followed by 11 a.m. Mass at Corpus Christi Parish at Holy Rosary Church in Lawrence, Mass., and a luncheon reception in the parish hall. The New England District and Council 78 will host the event.



Knights of Lithuania founder, Mykolas Norkunas, in the late 1940s.

RSVP by April 20 to David Boucher, 978-337-3737, davenh-guy@aol.com. Those needing rooms may take advantage of a special \$99/night rate at the Courtyard Boston Andover, 800-321-2211. Reserve by April 5, and identify yourself as part of the Knights of Lithuania room block.

July 25-28, 2013

The Supreme Council of the Knights will host a gala 100th anniversary celebration in conjunction with their annual convention July 25-28. The Boston Marriott in Quincy, Mass., will be the site of convention-related activity, including daily Mass, committee and council meetings, plenary sessions, meetings of ancillary organizations and activities for junior members. Plenary session topics and speakers will be announced.

Activities include a pre-convention Duck Tour and Faneuil Hall on Wednesday, a get-together dinner at the South Boston Lithuanian Club on Thursday, cultural concert and performances on Friday, convention banquet on Saturday, post-convention Boston Harbor dinner cruise on Sunday and Samuel Adams Brewery Tour on Monday.

For more information and to register for the convention, go to <http://www.knightsoflithuania100thanniversary.org>. Early registration ends June 13.

September 8, 2013

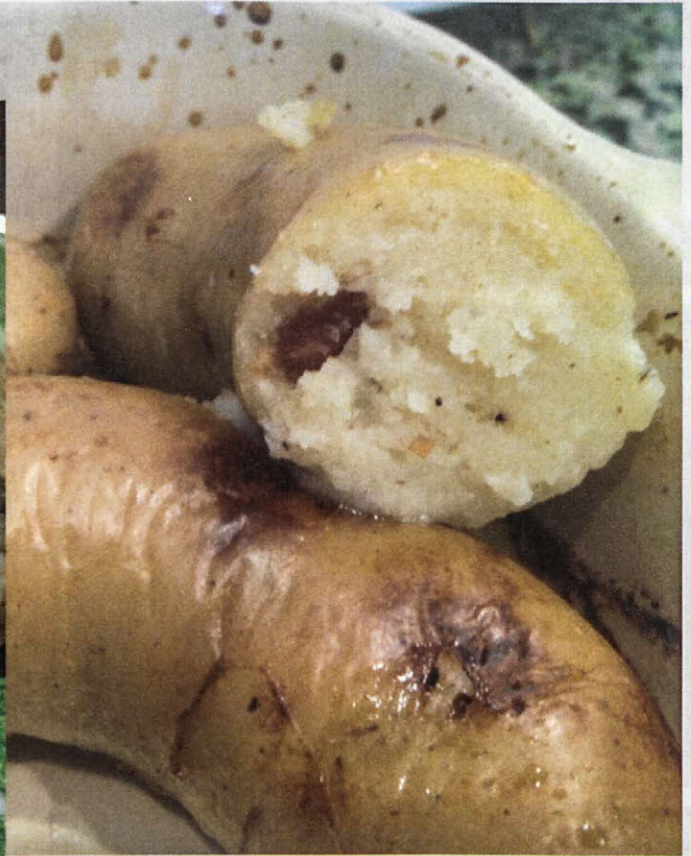
The Mid-America district of the Knights of Lithuania will host the dedication of a new Our Lady of Šiluva monument in Chicago's St. Casimir Cemetery.

a taste of lithuania

"Grate" Lithuanian Potato Recipes

Lithuanian Kugelis (Bulvių Plokštainis/Potato Cake) and
Bulvių Dešros (Potato Sausage)

By Christiana Noyalas



Mention comfort food and Lithuanian kugelis immediately pops into my mind. Just as baked macaroni and cheese is the ultimate comfort food for so many people, this is my ultimate comfort food. Try it once and you just might feel the same way. In Lithuania, kugelis is widely popular—appearing in home kitchens and on menus everywhere.

My family has been serving kugelis for decades (likely, centuries) and over the years, we experimented with our recipe. My grandmother's generation and those before her grated the potatoes and onion by hand. We used to grate everything manually, too, but discovered that a blender accomplishes the same results. Purists probably would disagree with us, but we are pleased with our results.

On the other hand, we studied two other elements of our recipe and, after experimentation, decided that they should not be compromised. We tried to make a reduced-fat version of kugelis by experimenting with the bacon drippings. Kugelis made without bacon drippings or with less than ¼ cup of them simply is not the same, in our opinion.

Similarly, we conducted our own blind taste test for potato varieties and discovered that potato variety also has a significant impact on kugelis. Redskin potatoes are by far the best in terms of flavor and texture. Yukon gold are also very good. White, russet and Idaho potatoes are not good choices for kugelis, in our opinion.

While most kugelis recipes contain several eggs, you may find it interesting that ours contains only one. I am not sure why our recipe is so different than others in this regard, but I guess it relates to how we used the mixture interchangeably for potato sausage—bulvių dešros. Ours is a denser kugelis than many others and this density probably is better suited for dešros than fluffier varieties.

My father grew up in the coal region of Schuylkill County, Pennsylvania and always referred to both kugelis and bulvių dešros as "dasherries." When I began studying Lithuanian, I could not understand why he called them dasheries, as no similar word seemed to appear in the dictionaries I had seen. After stumbling upon the translation for sausage, I realized that dasheries was an American adaptation of dešros. Why he referenced kugelis as a sausage remains a mystery!

Kugelis and Bulvių Dešros

| | |
|------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 5 lbs red potatoes | 1 tbsp flour |
| 1 lb bacon, partially frozen | 1 tsp seasoned salt |
| 1 large yellow onion, diced | ½ tsp ground pepper |
| ½ cup milk | 2 pork casings (if making sausage) |
| 1 egg | Sour cream for garnish |

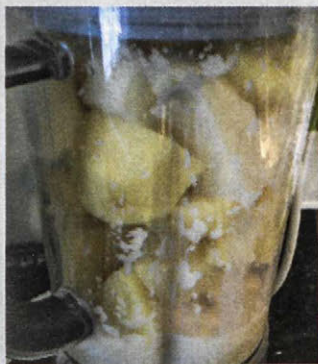
Serves 4 - 6 persons as a main course.

Preheat oven to 425°.



Slice the frozen bacon into small ½" pieces. Fry it until very crispy and set this pan of bacon and drippings aside. Do not discard the drippings.

When served, kugelis should be golden brown. To achieve this golden color, work quickly with the potatoes and keep them immersed in cold water. If your raw potatoes are exposed to too much air before baking, your kugelis may turn gray. It will taste fine, but will not look as appealing. Also, processing the onion first and adding the potatoes to the puréed onion helps to prevent the kugelis from graying.



Fill a large bowl halfway with cold water. Peel and rinse the potatoes and then place them in the cold water. Take a few potatoes from the water and roughly dice them. Return them to the cold water. Repeat this process until every potato is diced. Peel and dice the onion.

Remove the bacon from the pan and place it in a large bowl. Reserve the bacon drippings (about 3/8 cup).

Purée the onion in a blender with the milk. Using a slotted spoon, fill the blender with potatoes and purée until smooth. Pour this purée over the bacon. Continue puréeing all of the potatoes in the blender using the egg as the liquid for one batch and bacon drippings as the liquid for the other batch.

Stir the mixture in the bowl each time you add purée to it. Sprinkle the seasoned salt, ground pepper and flour over the purée and stir again.



If making kugelis, pour the potato mixture into a 9" x 13" baking pan. Bake at 425° for 1 hour and 5 minutes. The kugelis is ready to serve when the top is golden brown and when it starts pulling away from the sides of the baking pan.

Slice into squares and serve hot with a dollop of thick sour cream.

If making bulvių dešros (potato sausage), tie a knot in one end of the sausage casing and then slide the entire casing onto a funnel. Quickly fill the casing with the potato mixture while carefully squeezing the sausage to remove any air pockets that form. When the casing is filled, remove it from the funnel and knot the open end. Place the potato sausage in a greased 9" x 13" baking pan. Repeat this process with the other casing and place this sausage into a second greased baking pan of the same size.

Using a toothpick, gently poke holes in the sausage to allow air to escape while baking (one hole every six linear inches or so is plenty). Because ovens and potatoes vary, you may want to baste the sausage once or twice with a little water while it is baking. Bake at 350° for about 1 hour until the "dasheries" are golden brown.

Slice into large pieces and enjoy with a dollop of thick sour cream.



current events

Former Ambassador to U.S. Accepts EU Post in Moscow

By Rimās Gedeika



Vygaudas Ušackas at a Lithuanian-American Community function in Houston in 2006.

Photo: Rimās Gedeika

On February 5, 2013, Catherine Ashton, the high representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, announced the appointment of Vygaudas Ušackas as the new head of the European Union's Delegation to Moscow. This is the first time that a Lithuanian has been appointed to this important and highly visible post.

Ušackas will represent 217 European Union countries. He will assume his new position on September 1, 2013.

Currently Ušackas is head of the European Union's Mission to Kabul and special envoy to Afghanistan. He has held this position since 2010.

Prior to the Afghanistan post, Ušackas served as the Republic of Lithuania's Ambassador to the United States and Mexico from 2001 to 2006. After finishing his tenure in America, he was appointed as Lithuania's Ambassador to the Court of St. James from 2006 through 2008.

From the United Kingdom, Ušackas moved back to Lithuania and served as that country's foreign minister from 2008 to 2010. He resigned from that post over a disagreement with President Dalia Grybauskaitė.

Ušackas was born in Skuodas in 1964. He earned his law degree from Vilnius University and his postgraduate degree in political science while studying in Denmark and Norway.

As the ambassador to United States, Ušackas worked tirelessly to get Lithuania into NATO and into the European Union. He also worked very closely with the Lithuanian-America Community, organizing many cultural conferences, political and business seminars, and sporting events. His use of "basketball diplomacy" has become legendary. He was instrumental in starting various initiatives to encourage American businessmen to invest in Lithuania.

Restoration Efforts Save Lithuanian Breeds from Extinction

Lithuania is taking steps to preserve national breeds and plant varieties that are or have been on the verge of extinction, including Lithuanian hounds, Žemaitukai horses, Šilavotas carp and Lithuanian blueberries.

Before World War II, hounds were plentiful in Lithuania, but their numbers fell sharply after the war and they were crossed

with other breeds. By 1974, there were only 78 dogs left that bore some resemblance to the Lithuanian hound, but most of them did not have pedigree documents. Efforts to standardize and restore the breed since then have resulted in more than 400 pedigreed hounds in Lithuania today, which experts say is enough to assure the survival of the breed.

In September 2010, 10 Lithuanian riders set out to recreate the 2,000-kilometer journey of medieval Lithuanian dukes from Trakai to the Black Sea. Like the medieval knights, they rode on Žemaitukai horses, one of the oldest horse breeds in Europe. First mentions of the breed go back to the 6th and 7th centuries. At the beginning of this year, there were 556 pedigreed Žemaitukai in Lithuania. In 1994, when it was decided to revive the breed, there were only 42.

In the EU

...Lithuania's state-owned railway company Lietuvos Geležinkeliai faces a European Union antitrust probe. The European Commission will investigate whether the 2008 dismantling of a railway track between Lithuania and Latvia was a move to limit competition for railway freight. Lithuanian authorities said the track was removed because Lithuanian railroad inspectors said its poor condition could cause an accident.

...Lithuania was one of 21 EU countries to discover horsemeat being mislabeled as beef in food products. The country's State Food and Veterinary Service said DNA tests found that part of the beef in canned meat products of Latvia's Kursu Zeme, which are sold in Lithuania, was replaced with horsemeat without indicating this on product labels. The products were ordered taken off the market. Traces of horsemeat were also found in products made by Latvian meat processing company Forever.

International

...Lithuania asked organizers of Britain's "Miss USSR" beauty pageant to remove the Baltic state's name from the event. Asking Lithuanian girls to participate in the pageant, which says it is looking for the most beautiful woman from an ex-Soviet Union republic living in Britain, "is an anathema," according to a statement from the Lithuanian embassy in London. Britain was among western powers that never accepted the forced incorporation of Lithuania in the Soviet Union.

...Hotels.com's annual Hotel Price Index named Vilnius the best value European city break destination. According to the online reservation site, budget travelers looking for a weekend or short getaway within Europe should consider Vilnius, where the average hotel room comes in at 61 euros. The Hotel Price Index looked at more than 155,000 properties around the world from 2012. The top 10 Best Value European City Break Destinations include Vilnius, Riga, Krakow, Bratislava, Budapest, Tallinn, Prague, Warsaw, Athens and Bucharest.

...The World Economic Forum ranked Lithuania 32nd among 144 countries on its quality of roads rating. Estonia ranked 51st while Latvia was ranked 101. The United States ranked 20th. The best roads were in France, the United Arab Emirates and Singapore; the worst in Russia, Ukraine, Gabon, Haiti and Moldova.

...The United States will provide Lithuania's Armed Forces more than 21 million litas (\$8.6 million USD) worth of support in 2013, according to Lithuania's Defense Minister Juozas Olekas, who received the news from the new U.S. Ambassador to Lithuania, Deborah A. McCarthy. The funds will provide Lithuanian soldiers in Afghanistan with communications equipment, night vision devices, unmanned aircraft and other military equipment, in addition to training.

...The Lithuanian independent film "Vanishing Waves," directed by Kristina Buožytė, received the best film award at The Jamestown Dublin International Film Festival, Ireland. The film, funded in part by the Lithuanian Ministry of Culture, received special mentions and prizes in numerous European film festivals in 2012.

Nation

...Last October, electoral violations in two districts—Zarasai-Visaginas and Biržai-Kupiškis—caused results to be invalidated and repeat elections to be scheduled for March. Voting was also held in Ukmergė because their elected representative died. Social democrat Aleksandras Zeltinis took the parliament seat in Biržai-Kupiškis. In Zarasai-Visaginas, Algimantas Dumbrava of the Order and Justice Party won the election. Kazys Grybauskas of the Social Democratic Party was elected in Ukmergė.

...As of March 1, individuals in Lithuania may declare personal bankruptcy, an option not previously provided by law. Citizens of Lithuania used to search for bankruptcy opportunities abroad, mostly in Latvia and the United Kingdom. The bankruptcy process may be initiated by a person with a permanent residence in Lithuania who cannot meet debts that exceed 25,000 litas.

...Growing public opposition may delay Chevron's plans to begin shale gas exploration. Vilnius was recently the site of a demonstration opposing the Lithuanian government's move to issue a license to the U.S. company. Critics say shale gas exploration and production creates a significant environmental risk in the heavily forested areas close to the Baltic Sea.

...Statistics Lithuania has created an "Official Statistics Services Portal" online to modernize how it shares data. The website, financed by the European Regional Development Fund and the budget of the Republic of Lithuania, provides public access to official statistics and allows users to compare, combine and display data in different configurations themselves.

Future enhancements will include descriptive and statistical information, links, references and other information in English.

...Lithuania has nearly 2,000 family doctors, which the republic's National Audit Office says is enough to serve the country, but their services are not equally accessible to all residents. The uneven distribution means there is a shortage in six municipalities and a surplus in 34. The Audit Office said that 37 percent of family doctors have more patients and 18 percent have fewer patients than recommended for provision of efficient care.

...Lithuania's government approved construction of the "Nord-Balt" powerlink, which will lay 280 miles of cable under the Baltic Sea to allow the region's first power link with Sweden to start operating by the end of 2015. The 700-megawatt link will be the world's third-longest undersea power cable, with switching stations in Klaipėda, Lithuania, and Nybro, Sweden. Drilling is planned for the fall. Cable will be installed starting in April 2014.

...Lithuanian President Dalia Grybauskaitė has removed Algirdas Paleckis, leader of the Socialist People's Front, from the list of state award recipients. Paleckis has been convicted for denying Soviet aggression on January 13, 1991, something that has been criminalized in Lithuania. The decision was based on a recommendation from the State Awards Council. Paleckis received a Cross of the Knight of the Order for Merits to Lithuania in 2004 from acting President Artūras Paulauskas.

...Lithuanian inflation slowed in February to the lowest in more than two years as the country seeks to stabilize prices to qualify for euro adoption. The inflation rate fell to 2.2 percent from a year earlier, the lowest since September 2010.

...Lithuania's Catholic Church disagreed with a proposal by the Electoral Action of Poles in Lithuania to introduce compulsory religious education in primary and secondary school. The Archbishop of Kaunas said that mandatory religion classes belong in Catholic schools but not in state-run schools.

People

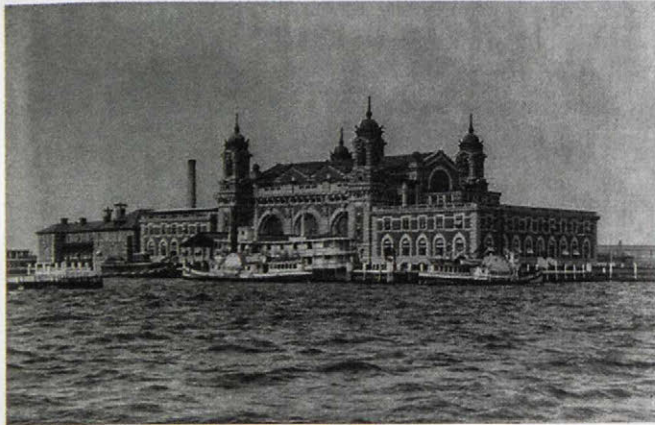
...Viktor Uspaskich, leader of Lithuania's Labor Party, was admitted to a Kaunas hospital after suffering a suspected heart attack. Uspaskich underwent tests, but remained in stable condition with no risk to his life.

...Prime Minister Algirdas Butkevičius and President Dalia Grybauskaitė top Lithuania's popularity polls, according to a February survey by newspaper "Lietuvos Rytas." Grybauskaitė, liked by 63 percent, is slightly behind Butkevičius, whose favorable rating was 64.4 percent. The least-favored politician was Valdemar Tomasevski, the leader of the Electoral Action of Poles in Lithuania, preferred by only 7.2 percent of those polled.

genealogy tips & tricks

The Immigrant Experience: How They Came to America

By Tom Sadauskas



Ellis Island as it appeared to new arrivals soon after it was built.

Every family with immigrant ancestors has stories of how their family first arrived in America. Many of these stories contain grains of truth as well as unsubstantiated myths. This article looks at the immigration process that our ancestors went through to come to America with a focus primarily on the period beginning around 1871 through the imposition of immigration quotas by the United States in 1921 and 1923. In this article, I use the term "emigrant" to describe a person who leaves their native land to travel and live (either temporarily or permanently) in a new country. The same person becomes an "immigrant" when I refer to them after they have arrived at their destination.

During the period 1871 to 1914, historians have estimated that about 37 million Europeans crossed the Atlantic Ocean headed to the Americas as emigrants. Nearly 25 million of those Europeans had the United States as their ultimate destination. Other major destinations were Argentina (4.5 million immigrants), Brazil (3.2 million immigrants) and Canada (4.6 million immigrants).

The flow of emigrants increased significantly beginning in the 1870s as sail-powered ships were replaced by steam-powered passenger ships, reducing the transit time from Europe to 10 to 14 days compared to four to six weeks using sail-powered ships. Another factor helping to reduce problems in migrating to the Americas was the tremendous growth of railroad track mileage in Europe, which made it much easier for people to travel by train from their rural villages to the ports of embarkation such as Hamburg, Bremen, Antwerp and Amsterdam. For example, from 1860 to 1900, railroad track mileage in Austria-Hungary increased from 4,543 kilometers to 36,330 kilometers while in Russia it increased from 1,626 kilometers to 53,234 kilometers. No longer did potential emigrants have to face the challenge of traveling hundred of kilometers on foot in order to board a ship to take them to the United States.

No single European port had the dominant market share when it came to European emigrants leaving for destinations in the Americas. The German ports of Bremen and Hamburg were the most accessible ports for those emigrants coming from east of the Elbe River (e.g., Poles and Russians). Many emigrants sailing from Bremen or Hamburg used the "indirect route," which meant sailing across the North Sea to an English port (e.g., Hull, Grimsby, London, Newcastle) and then going by train to Liverpool or Southampton to catch a ship sailing to the United States. It was a slightly cheaper fare and resulted in a slightly shorter sailing time aboard ship rather than going directly to the United States from a German port. From 1836 to 1914, about five million transmigrants passed through the United Kingdom. More than three million of these entered through the ports of Hull and Grimsby.

Germans from west of the Elbe River found Antwerp, Amsterdam and Le Havre more convenient. Italians emigrants embarked from Naples, Genoa, Trieste or Marseilles. Those from the Balkans tended to use Trieste while many from the Ukraine and the Russian Poles used Odessa on the Black Sea.

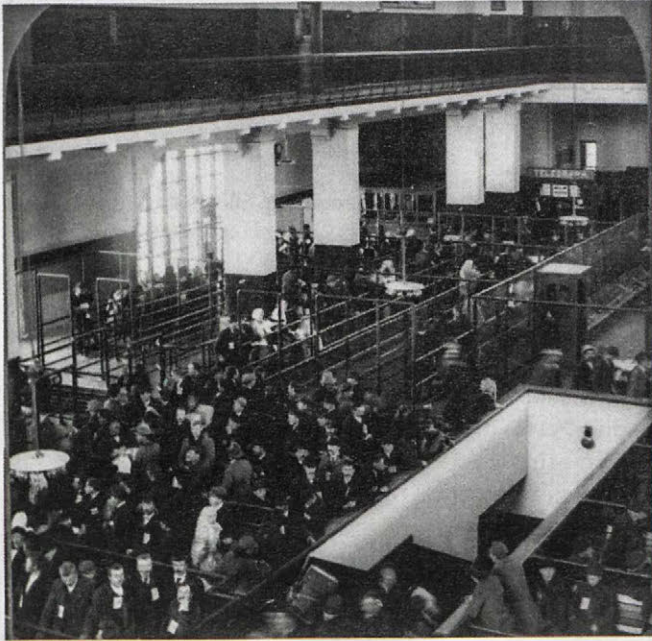
Potential European emigrants were well aware of the economic conditions in the United States and acted accordingly. When business panics hit the United States economy in 1893 and again in 1907, the number of European emigrants coming to the United States declined while the number of European immigrants leaving the United States to return to their native countries in Europe increased.

Not all emigrants that came to the United States planned to make it their new home. Many were "Birds of Passage" who migrated to the United States to find higher-paying jobs than they could find in their home country. They would work in the U.S. for a period of time and then return back home to Europe. While the percentage of European emigrants that ultimately returned home to Europe after coming to the United States was estimated to be between 30 percent and nearly 40 percent of total emigrants, the actual percentage varied considerably by ethnic group. As an illustration, U.S. statistics for return migrants of 1908 as a percentage of incoming migrants of 1907 showed the following percentages: South Italians (61.0 percent), North Italians (37.8 percent), Poles (33.9 percent), Irish (6.3 percent) and "Hebrews" (5.1 percent).

The largest number of European immigrants coming to the United States entered this country through New York City (about 79 percent of all immigrants). Beginning January 1, 1892, all immigrants arriving in New York City were processed at Ellis Island.

One urban myth that seems to be perpetuated by many people is that changes were made to immigrant given names/sur-

genealogy tips & tricks



Immigrant processing station inside the Ellis Island facility.

names by Ellis Island personnel that processed the new arrivals. Even my daughter's seventh-grade history book writes about it happening. One question I always ask is, "Just what computer database was that name change entered into back in 1900?" Or perhaps the newly arrived immigrant was issued their brand new U.S. internal passport (with his new given name/surname spelling) that we are all required to carry around with us today. Or even less believable, perhaps the immigration inspector who only spoke English told the immigrant in English just what his new name would be. The truth is—it never happened!

As many as 5,000 immigrants a day were processed through Ellis Island. Immigration inspectors had only about two minutes per immigrant to determine their suitability for entry into the United States. They used the ship registers that were created by the shipping companies at the European ports of departure as their data sources for questioning the immigrants (translators speaking more than 40 different languages worked at Ellis Island to assist inspectors). If the immigrant answered the questions the same way they had been answered at the departure port then they were usually admitted. There were severe restrictions put on immigration inspectors as to when they could make any changes to the entries on the ship registers.

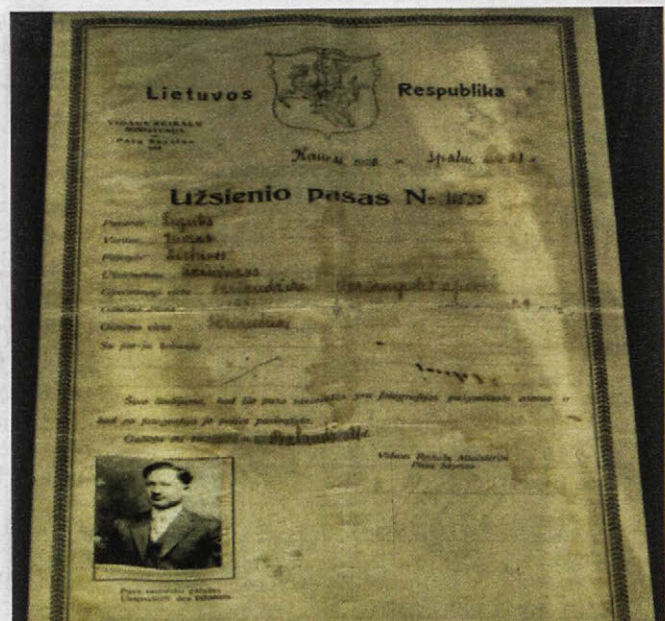
About 20 percent of immigrants would be held temporarily for further questioning. Only about 2 percent of total immigrants were rejected and not allowed entry into the United States. Shipping companies had a financial incentive to pre-screen passengers before allowing them to board ships in Europe. Companies paid financial fines for each rejected/deported immigrant and were responsible for transporting them back to Europe as well as paying for the meals served to detained immigrants while they awaited their return to Europe.

Before Ellis Island opened in 1892, immigrants arriving in New York City were processed at Castle Garden, located at the very southern tip of Manhattan Island. Castle Garden operated from 1855 to 1890 and some eight million immigrants were processed through there. In 1890, federal legislation was passed that shifted the responsibility of processing immigrants from the states to the federal government. Plans were announced that a new federal immigration processing center would be built at Ellis Island. New York State refused to allow the federal government to lease Castle Garden until the facilities on Ellis Island could be completed. As a result, immigration processing was moved to the Old Barge Office (also located near the tip of Manhattan Island) from April 19, 1890 until January 1, 1892 when Ellis Island finally opened.

The current main building on Ellis Island is not the original main building. The original main building was made of wood and was totally destroyed by a fire that started the evening of June 14, 1897. It was not until December 17, 1900 that the current main building was completed and opened for processing immigrant arrivals. On its opening day, 2,251 immigrants were processed.

Only immigrants arriving in third class/steerage were processed at Ellis Island. Passengers traveling in first class and second class were examined aboard ship and allowed to enter the United States without visiting Ellis Island. Ferries or barges were used to transport the third-class passengers from the docked ships to Ellis Island.

While New York City received the bulk of immigrants coming to the United States, about 6.5 million immigrants came in through Boston (2 million), Baltimore (1.5 million), Philadelphia (1.2 million) and other ports (1.7 million) during the period 1820



Lithuanian passport from the 1920s in an Ellis Island Museum exhibit.

genealogy tips & tricks

to 1920. Other immigrants arrived in the United States using Canadian ports such as Montreal, Quebec and Halifax.

The start of WW I in August 1914 significantly reduced the flow of European immigrants to the United States. In 1917, Ellis Island received only 28,867 immigrants for processing. Once the war ended in November 1918, the flow started again with 560,971 immigrants passing through Ellis Island.

Anti-immigrant sentiment in the United States continued to grow, resulting in the passage of the Emergency Immigration Act of 1921, which put temporary quotas on how many immigrants could enter the country. The quota law that was passed capped overall immigration to about 350,000 per year and limited the number of immigrants from any particular country to 3 percent of the number of people of that ancestry who were recorded as living in the United States as per the 1910 Census. No more than 20 percent of a country's quota for immigrants would be allowed in any single month. Immigrants from countries whose monthly quota had been exceeded would be rejected and made to return back to their port of departure.

The subsequent Immigration Act of 1924 (Johnson-Reed Act) was a more restrictive law that reduced the overall annual cap on immigrants to about 165,000 per year and the country cap to 2 percent of the number of people of that ancestry living in the United States as per the 1890 Census. Shifting to the use of the 1890 Census reduced the number of persons of Southern and Eastern European ancestry that would be counted, as immigration from those areas of Europe only increased significantly after 1890.

Unrestricted open immigration to the United States came to a close in 1924 with the passage of the Johnson-Reed Act. Today, the issue of immigration continues to be a contentious topic. Understanding some of the history of how things really

were when our ancestors arrived in the United States may help you formulate your views regarding current-day immigration challenges and potential solutions.

Useful Websites

Stephen Morse Website for Searching Ellis Island and Other Useful Search Tools

www.stevemorse.org

Ellis Island

www.ellisland.org

Castle Garden

www.castlegarden.org

Canadian Ports – Index of Arrivals

members.shaw.ca/nanaimo.fhs

Immigration to America

www.akvhs.org/their_journey_to_america.htm

European Migration Ports

www.estudiosatlanticos.com/aehe_files/Torsten_Feys.pdf

Tom Sadauskas has been actively conducting genealogy research since 2000, with a special focus on Eastern Europe. All four of his grandparents and his father were born in Lithuania. He has made several trips to Lithuania and Germany to do genealogy research and has been successful in re-establishing contact with relatives in Lithuania as well as making contact with newly uncovered ones. Tom has made numerous presentations at various genealogy conferences including those organized by the Polish Genealogy Society of Connecticut & the Northeast Inc. (PGSCTNE), the Washington D.C. Family History Center and the Baltimore Family History Center. He is also a frequent contributor to the monthly Polish genealogy ezine Gen Dobry! Tom can be reached at saksuadas@gmail.com

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April 2013

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

ONGOING

Through December 30
Exhibit: 80th Anniversary of Darius and Girėnas Heroic Transatlantic Flight
 Balzekas Museum of Lithuanian Culture, 6500 S. Pulaski Road, Chicago

APRIL 2013

April 20, 1-3 p.m.
Amber Roots Philadelphia Lithuanian Heritage Club
 Lithuanian Music Hall, 2715 E. Allegheny Ave., Philadelphia
 English-speaking. Open to all.
 Info: milliemarks@aol.com, 484-231-8532

April 25-28
Lithuanian Consular Service Mission
 Colorado Latvian Cultural Center, 10705 W. Virginia Ave., Lakewood, Colo.
 Passport, civil document, residency and citizenship services.
 To register: kons.cikaga@urm, 312-397-0382, ext. 201 or 203

April 26-28
Women's Weekend at Camp Neringa
 Theme: Nurturing One Another Through Life Stages
 Camp Neringa, Brattleboro, Vt.
 Info: neringa.org

April 27, noon
Maria High School / St. Casimir Academy closing mass and celebration
 6727 S. California Ave., Chicago
 Info: Michelle Brown, 773-925-8686, mbrown@mariahighschool.org

April 27, 3 p.m.
Lithuanian Opera performs Donizetti's "Elixir of Love"
 J. Sterling Morton Hall, 2423 S. Austin Blvd., Cicero, Ill.

April 28
Lithuanian Foundation Annual Members Meeting
 Lithuanian World Center, 4911 127th St., Lemont, Ill

April 28, 2013, 9 a.m.
Knights of Lithuania Centennial Year Kickoff Event
 9 a.m. pilgrimage to gravesite of founder Mykolas Norckunas, Andover, Mass.
 11 a.m. Mass and reception, at Corpus Christi Parish at Holy Rosary Church, Lawrence, Mass.
 RSVP: David Boucher, 978-337-3737, davenhguy@aol.com.

MAY 2013

May 11, 5:30 p.m.
Grandis Folk Dance Ensemble Annual Concert
 Lithuanian World Center, 4911 127th St., Lemont, Ill
 Info: poniavioleta@yahoo.com, 708-422-3556, grandischicago.org

May 18, 1-3 p.m.
Amber Roots Philadelphia Lithuanian Heritage Club
 Lithuanian Music Hall, 2715 E. Allegheny Ave., Philadelphia
 English-speaking. Open to all.
 Enter through side door. Bring a dish to share.
 Info: milliemarks@aol.com, 484-231-8532

May 18, 7 p.m.
Lithuanian and American Folk Song Concert with Mustard's Retreat and Eastland
 Holy Trinity Church, 53 Capitol Avenue, Hartford, Conn.
 \$15 adults; \$10 seniors, students
 Info: neringaus2@yahoo.com, 203-909-4696

May 19, 12:30
Daughters of Lithuania Society General Meeting
 Lithuanian World Center, 4911 127th St., Lemont, Ill

JUNE 2013

June 3-July 12
Lithuanian Summer Language Institute
 University of Pittsburgh
 6-week intensive beginner and intermediate courses; six credits.
 Info: www.slavic.pitt.edu/sli/programs/ceeu/index.php

June 15, 1-3 p.m.
Amber Roots Philadelphia Lithuanian Heritage Club
 Lithuanian Music Hall, 2715 E. Allegheny Ave., Philadelphia
 English-speaking. Open to all.
 Info: milliemarks@aol.com, 484-231-8532

June 16-19
10th European Conference on Baltic Studies
 Tallinn University, Estonia
 Register through June 1
 Info: balticstudies2013@tlu.ee or online: www.tlu.ee/?CatID=6323&LangID=2

June 22
Omaha Joninés Celebration
 Info: omahoslbt.blogspot.com

June 22-26
Heritage Family Camp in English (younger children)
 Camp Neringa, Brattleboro, Vt.
 Info: neringa.org

June 26-30
Heritage Family Camp in English (older children)
 Camp Neringa, Brattleboro, Vt.
 Info: neringa.org

June 30-July 6
Family Camp for Lithuanian Speakers
 Camp Neringa, Brattleboro, Vt.
 Info: neringa.org/camps.html

JULY 2013

July 7-21
Children's Camp for Lithuanian Speakers
 Camp Neringa, Brattleboro, Vt.
 Info: neringa.org

July 21
Lithuanian Friendship Day (Putnam Picnic)
 Immaculate Conception Convent, 600 Liberty Highway, Putnam, Conn.

July 21-27
"Third Week" Children's Camp
 for Lithuanian speakers ages 12-16
 Camp Neringa, Brattleboro, Vt.
 Info: neringa.org

July 25-28, 2013
Knights of Lithuania 100th Anniversary Convention
 Boston Marriott Quincy Hotel, Quincy, Mass.
 Info: knightsoflithuania100thanniversary.org

July 28 - August 10
Heritage Children's Camp in English (for ages 7-16)
 Camp Neringa, Brattleboro, Vt.
 Info: neringa.org

AUGUST 2013

August 4-11
Lithuanian Language Courses
 Camp Dainava, 15100 Austin Road, Manchester, Mich.
 One-week intensive courses for beginner, intermediate and advanced students.
 Info: Ausrele Sakalaite, ausreles@comcast.net, 630-243-6302

August 10-17
"Third Week" Heritage Children's Camp
 for English speakers ages 12-16
 Camp Neringa, Brattleboro, Vt.
 Info: neringa.org

August 17
Lithuanian World Skiing Olympic Games
 Snowy Mountains, Perisher, Australia
 Info: Ed Mickie, edmickus1@aol.com

August 18-25
Meno8Dienos Adult Art Camp
 Camp Neringa, Brattleboro, Vt.
 Info: neringa.org

OCTOBER 2013

October 20
Cepelinai Dinner
 St. Anthony's Parish Hall, Omaha
 Info: omahoslbt.blogspot.com

NOVEMBER 2013

November 9
Lithuanian Foundation Gala
 Info: lithuanianfoundation.org

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