

# bridges



LITHUANIAN-AMERICAN NEWS JOURNAL

\$5

**July/August 2015**

# this month in history

## July Anniversaries

### 755 years ago

**July 23, 1260**

Lithuanians defeated the Crusaders at the Battle of Durbė, near Liepāja, Latvia. Livonian Grand Master Burchard von Hornhausen, Marshal of Prussia Heinrich Botel and 150 knights were killed.

### 695 years ago

**July 27, 1320**

The Battle of Medninkai took place between the Teutonic Order and the Samogitian Lithuanians, resulting in the defeat of the Order.

### 615 years ago

**July 25, 1400**

Jogaila, grand duke of Lithuania and king of Poland, reestablished the University of Cracow, which now bears his name. University regulations required equal access to Poles and Lithuanians. Jogaila registered as the first student, the first student from Lithuania was Abraham from Rudnia, and the third to register was the chancellor of the University, Vaidutis, Kęstutis' grandson.



### 605 years ago

**July 15, 1410**

Joint Lithuanian and Polish forces conquered the Teutonic Knights in the Battle of Žalgiris (also known as the Battle of Grunwald or Battle of Tannenberg), halting their eastward expansion along the Baltic and hastening the collapse of their power. The war ended with the Treaty of Thorn, in which the Knights gave up Žemaitija to Vytautas.

### 515 years ago

**July 14, 1500**

Grand Hetman of Lithuania Konstantinas Ostrogiškis was taken captive and 8,000 Lithuanians were killed by the army of the Grand Duchy of Moscow in the Battle of Vedrosha, one of many conflicts during the Russo-Lithuanian war of 1500-1503.

### 500 years ago

**July 22, 1515**

Emperor Maximilian and Vladislav of Bohemia forged an alliance between the Habsburg (Austrian) and Jagiello (Polish-Lithuanian) dynasties.



### 375 years ago

**July 31, 1640**

Birth of Mykolas Kaributas Višnioveckis (Michał Korybut Wiśniowiecki), Polish king and Lithuanian grand duke from 1669–1673. Considered

a less-than-successful monarch, Michael I's reign was marked by struggles between pro-Habsburg and pro-French political factions, and a war with the Ottoman Empire that resulted in the Turkish annexation of Podolia.

### 145 years ago

**July 22, 1870**

Birth of Antanas Jaroševičius, an artist who traveled across Lithuania making paintings of folk art crosses. His album, released in 1912, turned the attention of the general public to the value of this field of folk art. He was also the first to start teaching cross-crafting and its techniques.



### 130 years ago

**July 16, 1885**

Birth of Marija Rudzinskaitė-Arcimavičienė, the first Lithuanian professional Egyptologist. She began a course in Egyptology at Vytautas Magnus University in Kaunas, published numerous articles and travelled to Egypt three times, sometimes as the only European and the only woman on the expeditions. A mummy and many other antiquities from her collection are now at the National Museum of Art in Kaunas.

### 95 years ago

**July - September 1920**

Operation of Augustavas-Suvalkai. An unsuccessful attempt of the Lithuanian Armed Forces to recapture Augustavas, Suvalkai and Seiniai, which were occupied by the Polish Armed Forces, and to stop further penetration of Polish troops into the territory of Lithuania. After this operation, Lithuania lost southern Suvalkija once and for all.

**July 12, 1920**

Lithuania and Russia signed a peace treaty in Moscow in which Russia gave *de jure* recognition of Lithuanian independence. The Russian army left Vilnius two days later.

### 75 years ago

**July 21, 1940**

Following rigged elections, the new USSR-controlled parliaments of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania held simultaneous sessions in which they declared their countries to be Soviet socialist republics and applied for admission to the USSR.

### 65 years ago

**July 15, 1950**

Lithuania's national anthem, Vincas Kudirka's "Tautiška giesmė," was banned by the presidium of the LSSR and an alternate anthem was introduced. "Tautiška giesmė" was reinstated in 1989 shortly before the reestablishment of Lithuanian independence and confirmed in the National Anthem Act of October 21, 1991.

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**Cover:** Darius Polikaitis, artistic director of the 10th North American Lithuanian Song Festival, which was held in Chicago on July 5, 2015. Photo: Ernestas Stanulis, I.magin.E Photography

**Back cover:** Vocal group Capella A from Klaipėda, Lithuania, performed at the Vic Theatre in Chicago on July 4, 2015, as a prelude to the 10th North American Song Festival. Photo: Ernestas Stanulis, I.magin.E Photography

from the editor

## It's Good for a Lithuanian Soul

I have to thank everyone who took the time to respond to our spring readers' survey for their time and the thoughtfulness of their responses. The overwhelmingly positive nature of the comments lets us know that we're on the right track and will continue to inspire us to deliver the best possible bridge to our shared Lithuanian heritage.

One of the comments about *Bridges* that stood out to me is a feeling that I hope is familiar to all of you: "It's good for a Lithuanian soul." Reader and frequent contributor Romualdas Kriauciūnas hit the nail on the head in describing why we are dedicated to bringing you this magazine 10 times a year. Your words also feed my soul, which is why I've created a folder with every written response that I can open any time I begin to feel a little overwhelmed. Glance over to the next page to read some of those responses for yourself, and read below for a more quantitative analysis.

Overall, more than 60 percent of respondents say they always read everything in every issue! And only one or two say they never read recipes, sports or book reviews.

We also asked what types of content our readers wanted more of or less of—or if they thought we're currently publishing the right amount.

Quite a few people want to see more content related to the following subjects:

- 60 percent want to see more articles devoted to traditions
- 50 percent want to hear more about modern-day Lithuania
- 45 percent want to read more about history prior to the 20th century
- 45 percent would like more current events content
- 45 percent would like more political coverage
- 35 percent want more community news
- 35 percent would like more interviews
- 30 percent want to see more travel-related articles

The content that most respondents judged as "just right," with between 70 percent and 90 percent agreeing, included contemporary history, recipes, genealogy, book reviews and excerpts, human interest, trivia, education and youth, arts and culture, events calendar and religion.

Almost no one wanted to see less of anything, and those few responses were largely offset by those who wanted to see more of the same subjects. The most notable example was sports coverage, where the 20 percent who wanted to see less were perfectly counterbalanced by the 20 percent who want more. Fifteen percent want to see more religion, but 10 percent want to see less. Other content on which just one or two votes either way effectively canceled each other out included book reviews and excerpts, trivia, and education and youth activities.

A special note to those who would like more current events coverage, and who may have noticed the absence of that section from the last couple of issues—it will come back! We're just looking for some help in putting that section together, as it takes quite a bit of effort to scan, aggregate and digest numerous news sources every month. If you know anyone who is a current events maven with a talent for writing unbiased "headline news," send them our way!

Now with our survey results analyzed, we're off to begin planning an editorial calendar that will satisfy your cravings for connection to Lithuania. Most immediately, as I pack for my upcoming trip to our homeland (whether ancestral or by birth), on my list are the suggestions that you've made regarding travel-related articles. You asked for content about destinations that may be a little more off the beaten path than the usual tour stops, and your wish is my command. Stay tuned!

Teresė Vekteris, Editor

# bridges

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## We Hear You!

### Responses to *Bridges* Lithuanian American News Journal 2015 Reader Survey

We want to say a huge thank you to all of the readers who took the time to respond to our survey in the April 2015 issue, either by mail or online. Here's sampling of verbatim responses we received to some of our questions. We'll do our best to satisfy your requests in upcoming issues.

Why do you subscribe to *Bridges*?

I subscribe to *Bridges* because it is the best link that I have with my Lithuanian roots.

Joe Sharron  
Cape Porpoise, Maine

All my grandparents came from Lithuania about 1900. I am very interested to learn more about it. I did go there for a family reunion. It was great.

Richard (Baltrusaitis) Balt  
Poultney, Vt.

It is informative and I want to keep up with the Lithuanian cultural events in Lithuania and the USA.

Mary Majauskas  
Mount Laurel, N.J.

Link to my Lithuanian heritage and glimpse of the life of my grandparents in Lithuania prior to 1905.

Thomas Resk  
Chico, Calif.

My 98-year-old mother passed in 2014 and I would read to her from *Bridges*. She loved the stories and information. I love reading about my roots also. I continue for my enjoyment and in Mom's memory.

Marie Elaine (Jankunas) Degnan  
Barnegat Twp., N.J.

*Bridges* brings to life events in Lithuania and historical articles about my homeland in and easy-to-read format in my adopted language.

Stasys Barauskas  
Diamond Bar, Calif.

Best all-around information, human interest and current events.

Anonymous

I enjoy hearing about Lith events across the country. It is a nicely written and illustrated magazine.

Nijolė Semenaitė Etwiler  
Baraboo, Wisc.

How would you describe *Bridges* to someone who asked about it?

Everything from history to current events to recipes, this is the publication for anyone who is interested in Lithuania. You don't have to be Lithuanian to appreciate it.

J. Skurdenis  
Bronxville, N.Y.

Great publication about historical and current day Lithuanian country, people and culture. Priceless!

Joe Sharron  
Cape Porpoise  
(Kennebunkport), Maine

The best Lithuanian-American journal!

Veronica Bizinauskas  
Boston, Mass.

Excellent source of information for people with Lithuanian heritage.

Leland H. Ruth  
Sacramento, Calif.

Read it—you will like it—especially if you are of Lithuanian blood.

I was born in the USA, but proud to say I still speak and read the Lithuanian language. I'm so glad we spoke Lithuanian at home when I was a little girl. I let everyone know I'm Lithuanian.

Victoria Augustine  
Worcester, Mass.

A representative sample of Lithuanian history and current events. "It's good for a Lithuanian soul."

Romualdas Kriaučiūnas  
Lansing, Mich.

A monthly journal for Lithuanian-Americans who prefer to read about Lithuanian history, culture and traditions in English. It does an excellent job of presenting all of the above to both Lithuanian and non-Lithuanian readers.

Teresė Gečienė (Gečys)  
Huntingdon Valley, Pa.

How Can We Improve?

No improvement needed. Doing an excellent job. It would be good to receive *Bridges* each month. I receive it a month late. Example: April issue comes in May.

Mary Majauskas  
Mount Laurel, N.J.

Pick out an interesting spot in Lithuania to visit and do a story, e.g., Grūtas Park, Russian rocket site, Amber Museum, Hill of Crosses, Puntukas, Stelmužė, Visaginis, KGB Museum, 9th Fort, Rumšiškės, Trakai, etc.

Anonymous

I'd love to see travel-related articles, especially geared to those like me who have visited Lithuania more than a dozen times.

J. Skurdenis  
Bronxville, N.Y.

Would like to read articles about life as a serf, pre1865/ tourist attractions by region with pics!/average persons' life in Lithuania in WWI and WWII/postal road of the czar/Blessed Matulaitis and Siberia/Napoleon and the Grand Armee 1812-13/ Jewish slaughter by Nazis and Lithuanian complicity.

Thomas Resk  
Chico, Calif.

# A Bright-Colored Bird of Song in the Clear Skies of Chicago

By Jolanta Urbietienė  
Translated by Gabija Barnard



Photographs by Ernestas Stanulis, I.magin.E Photography

Above, the performance during the cantata "Dainuojanti revoliucija" (The Singing Revolution), featuring a re-enactment of the Baltic Chain (the Baltic Way) with Gediminas' Tower in the background.

On July 3 to 5, 2015—a festive weekend—the Windy City chattered (or, rather, sang) in Lithuanian. The long-awaited events of the 10th North American Lithuanian Song Festival "Padainuosim dainų dainelę" (We'll Sing a Song of Songs) made the capital city of émigrés bustle.

A swarm of participants started gathering much in advance of the festival. Those who took heed of the organizers' suggestion and booked rooms in advance stayed at the picturesque Sheraton Chicago Hotel and Towers situated on a riverbank in the city-center. Others found lodging at the slightly more remote dormitories of the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC), while some stayed with family and friends. Each and every one of the participants found shelter, even though accommodation was scarce: a few months earlier the legendary rock band "The Grateful Dead" had announced three 50th anniversary concerts in Chicago. All of a sudden, most hotel rooms were swept up and participants of the Lithuanian festival found themselves empty handed. Event organizers faced the unanticipated task of putting up scores of performers with nowhere to stay. All's well that ends well, though—the University approved the use of its dorms for the duration of the festivities. In order to aid the participants in getting around an unfamiliar, busy city, the organizers hired special coaches.

At right, composer of "Dainuojanti revoliucija" (The Singing Revolution), Kęstutis Daugirdas, joins hands with other audience members during the re-enactment of the Baltic Chain.



Just as promised, the festival boasted a variety of events. Tickets for the concert held at St. James Cathedral on Friday, July 3, sold out a couple weeks in advance. The audience had a unique opportunity to hear three well-known Lithuanian collectives: the boys' and youth choir of Kaunas Varpelis, the girls' choir Viva Voce of Vilnius Balys Dvarionas Music School and the mixed chamber choir Bel Canto of Vilnius Teachers' House. Having performed their separate repertoires, all three collectives sang together, much to the delight of the audience, who showered the singers with sincere applause and requested encore after encore. Some of the more musical listeners even joined in to sing the more popular, recognizable pieces. Meanwhile, those who hadn't managed to acquire tickets or felt young at heart were invited to socialize together at one of the local bars.

The evening of July 4 saw a commotion at the Vic Theatre in the Lakeview community area of Chicago. It was the group Capella A from Klaipėda that attracted the crowds, as well as



the singer Rasa Serra, who had been invited to sing both solo and as part of the group. Many audience members were weary after the tiring dress rehearsal that took all day, but thanks to the plentiful refreshments at the bar and the lively music, they managed to beat their fatigue. Saturday's repertoire, at first performed *a cappella*, then accompanied by keyboards, drums and wind instruments, transported many listeners to the days of their youth. Those who grew up in the Soviet era recognized "Senieji Vilniaus Stogai" (The Old Rooftops of Vilnius, by Mikas Vaitkevičius), "Juodas Garvežys" (The Black Steam Engine, by Viktor Havasy) and "Skinsiu Raudoną Rožę" (I'll Pick a Red Rose, by Algimantas Raudonikis). The audience, though very familiar with the lyrics of the songs performed by Kristina Jatautaitė, Aušra Smičiūtė, Mindaugas Putna and Rasa Serra, were at first somewhat shy to sing along, but toward the end of the concert the performers coaxed them into wholeheartedly crooning beloved Lithuanian popular songs. Once again the performers were urged to stay on and repeat songs on demand. Later, those who still had energy to spare danced the night away with the younger generation of attendees.

Sunday morning started with Mass held at the Sheraton hotel. Then, at 1 o'clock in the afternoon, both participants and audience members gathered at the UIC Pavilion for the main event of the weekend—the Tenth North American Lithuanian Song Festival, "Padainuosim dainų dainele." The very first chords that sounded from an enormous screen and signified the beginning of the festivities revealed that this event would be unique. Unique not only in the number of performers (almost 1,400 singers from 65 American, Canadian, U.K. and Lithuanian choirs), but also in the idea and presentation of the program (all the information was displayed on the screen in English and Lithuanian), the pieces composed especially for the festival, the guest performances of Rasa Serra and Saulius Petreikis who were both invited from Lithuania, and the bare minimum of official speeches.

Another notable aspect of the festival was the rich and varied repertoire. According to the participants interviewed after the event, the organizers sought to turn the music festival into an explosion of dance, acting, movement, decorations and lighting effects where the audience would feel included. This vision was definitely realized: the audience was amazed by the ideas and the directional solutions. The highlight of the program was the staged cantata "Dainuojanti Revoliucija" (The Singing Revolution), which recreated the 25-year-old Lithuanian events and brought tears to many a viewer's eyes. On stage, the monument to Adomas Mickevičius morphed into Gedimi-



Festival guest from Lithuania, Rasa Serra.

nas' Tower; the living image of the Baltic Chain, mirrored by the audience, gave way to the barricades of January 13 and the Vilnius TV Tower. Even we, the members of the choir, found our sight clouded by emotion and had to try extremely hard to focus on the music and deliver it with the intensity it deserved.



Three well-known Lithuanian choirs, Varpelis from Kaunas and Viva Voce and Bel Canto from Vilnius, performed at St. James Cathedral on July 3, 2015.

The greatest reward was the standing ovation from the public. Both the older listeners, who had, perhaps, witnessed these events first hand or followed them from abroad, and the young adults, whose knowledge of this period of Lithuanian history comes from stories and books, were equally touched.

The feeling that came over us when the voices of the joint choir and the sounds of accordions merged with the voice of the audience was incredible, especially during the renditions of fun, well-known songs during “Stovyklinių dainų pynė” (A Braid of Camping Songs). The same feeling was evoked when 3,500 people sang “Baltas Paukštis” (White Bird) together with the joint choir and the image of Vytautas Kernagis projected on screen. Moments like this made you see the event as an actual celebration. It was also very interesting to find out the opinion of the youngest audience members—the most truthful of critics. They, it turns out, liked the songs to which they could clap and act out the lyrics. They liked the man who “whistled like a little bird” (Saulius Petreikis, who played various wind instruments one after the other). And, in their own words, “the Lego video” shown on the screen! So, young or old, everyone found something to enjoy.

I believe that all of us were sincerely grateful to the choristers, the conductors, the soloists, the musicians, the dancers,

the actors, the sponsors, the volunteers and the organizers. Special thanks go to the artistic director Darius Polikaitis, director Vytas Čuplinskas, the chairman of the organizing committee Kastytis Giedraitis and member of the creative team Liudas Landsbergis, who put a lot of work and effort into the project. The organizers, on their part, expressed their gratitude to anyone who in any way aided the realization of the festive weekend. Thanks to committed people like you, our beautiful traditions can live on.

In the evening the participants also had a chance to share their impressions and enjoy the festivities. They wandered through the fair held in the hotel, enjoyed an interesting exhibition on the history of song festivals and, in great spirits, gathered at the gala that officially closed the festival. After socializing, dancing, wining and dining they bid farewell. Some will be invited to the 15th Lithuanian Folk Dance Festival in Baltimore in 2016, others—to future song festivals.

Of course, there’s one more “thank you” to say. This year the summer was lacking in warmth and generous with rain, as if saving up nice weather especially for this weekend. It couldn’t have been better! Alas, I don’t know where to send our gratitude. Maybe to the clear blue sky, with the bright-colored bird of song... She promised to return.



The sounds of accordions merged with the joint choir and the audience during lively renditions of favorite camp songs.





The audience participated and sang along with the choir, acting out one of the children's songs.

### Share Your Festival Photos

If you took photos during the Song Festival weekend, the Festival organizers would like share them on the Festival website. Send three to five of you best photos that capture the spirit of the weekend to [photos@dainusvente.org](mailto:photos@dainusvente.org), along with captions.

### Watch the Festival Online

LRT Lituanica (Lithuanian National Television) aired a special 90-minute version of the 10th North American Song Festival that they are sharing on YouTube. Watch at [youtu.be/k8eT1XCTzz0](http://youtu.be/k8eT1XCTzz0).



From left, creative team member Liudas Landsbergis, artistic director Darius Polikaitis and creative director Vytas Čuplinskas.



# Sounds of the Homeland Echo in Connecticut

Hartford Lithuanian Radio Program Celebrates Its 3000th Program

By Saulius Dzikas

A selection of music for a recent broadcast. Photo: Saulius Dzikas

With the number of Lithuanian radio programs in the United States dwindling, a special event is about to take place. On September 6, 2015, Hartford, Connecticut's Lithuanian Radio Hour *Tėvynės Garsai*—Sounds of The Homeland will celebrate its 3000th show. The program airs weekly on WWUH 91.3 FM, Sundays from 5 p.m. to 6 p.m. It also streams live online at WWUH.org. On Sunday, September 13, 2015, a commemoration brunch and reception is planned at Holy Trinity Church Hall in Hartford, following a Mass held in memory of the deceased former program volunteers.

Every week for 58 years, “*Tėvynės Garsai*” has been dedicated to broadcasting Lithuanian music, segments on Lithuanian culture and news, local Lithuanian community and parish announcements, special events programs, interviews and com-



The 1000th broadcast of “*Tėvynės Garsai*” Lithuanian Radio Hour in 1976, broadcast live over WRYM from the Lithuanian American Citizen's Club in Hartford, Conn. From left, WRYM engineer, Algimantas Dragūnevičius, Zita Dapkienė, Alfonsas Dzikas and Lionginas Kapeckas.

mentary in both Lithuanian and English. Along with more than a thousand musical LPs, cassettes and CDs at its disposal, the program's archival library contains several hundred cassettes and reel-to-reel tapes containing old programs, live recordings of Lithuanian concerts, interviews and commemorations dating back to the 1960s. Not one to be left behind, the long-standing program also takes advantage of modern technology in the form of MP3 files, live in-studio musical performances and on-location digitally recorded interviews. Over the years, the program has broadcasted from four different central Connecticut radio stations before finding its current home in 1991, at WWUH, a public alternative radio station at the University of Hartford. WWUH is staffed almost entirely by volunteers.

The first Lithuanian radio program in Connecticut was heard in the late 1940s and early 1950s. It originated in New Britain, Conn., and was produced and aired by Vytautas Žalnieraitis, who relinquished the show to Vidas Plečkaitis in 1954. The program closed in early 1957 and gave way to the “*Tėvynės Garsai*”—“Sounds of the Homeland” Lithuanian Radio Hour.

The Hartford area-based Lithuanian radio program was born at the home of Joseph Belazaras of South Windsor, Conn. He, with the assistance of Barney Vedeikis, gathered a group of supporters, with whose financial support “*Tėvynės Garsai*” first aired on March 17, 1957, on station WPOP.

The first program director was Vidas Plečkaitis, then a resident of New Britain; he was succeeded by George Petkaitis in July 1958. Petkaitis is the long-time director of the Holy Trinity R.C. Parish Choir and also serves as its organist. In 1960, George invited Algimantas Dragūnevičius to assist him in the production of the *Tėvynės Garsai* programs. Dragūnevičius assumed the helm of the Lithuanian program in 1961, and remained its host for 27 years, until 1988, when due to failing health he turned over the responsibilities of the show to my father, Alfonsas Dzikas.

As a young boy, I remember going to WRYM with my dad when the show used to be produced live, and sitting on the other side of the glass from the announcers with the engineer. It was all very exciting to me. I have always been into music and technology, the latest stereo systems, speakers, etc. By the time I graduated from college, the show was being recorded instead of being done live. After college, I began helping my dad out with the show when he travelled for business, vacations with my mom or to Lithuanian events and meetings out of town. It wasn't until his passing in 2008 that I took over the production duties full time.



I assumed the duties of engineer and co-director, with my mother, Dalia Dzikas, as administrator and director. Today, the program has a dedicated team of five announcers who rotate and record the program each week in our home studio, in what used to be my bedroom when I was growing up. In the beginning, a small mixing board, turntable and cassette player with two microphones were all we needed to produce the show. Later we added a CD player. Luckily my old bedroom is very large. The records, cassettes and even old reel-to-reel tapes are all well organized. The biggest issue we have is the heat in the summer and keeping the air conditioner in the window turned down so its noise does not end up on the recording of the show. The actual recording area is not that large.

Over the years we have interviewed and recorded live performances with many Lithuanians: singer/songwriter Vytautas Kernagis, Lithuanian ambassadors and consuls general, the pop group Vairas and NHL hockey player Darius Kasparaitis. Recently we had longtime Long Island, N.Y., Lithuanian rock band Steel Wolf live in our studio chatting and performing an acoustic set using the three microphones our small mixing board can handle. Thanks to the show streaming live online, we have many listeners all over the world. But our core audience is here in Connecticut and has been listening for decades. The Steel Wolf program was a bit “unique” for many of them, though I think they appreciated the work we put into producing it.

Our announcing staff has evolved over the years. Two announcers, Zita Dapkienė and Lionginas Kapeckas, both lent us their talents for well over 30 years each. Currently we have a talented and diligent crew of announcers with whom we set up a rotational schedule a few months in advance. Four of the announcers are “third-wavers,” Lithuanians who have come to the U.S. in the past 10 to 20 years. The fifth was born in Los Angeles and has come to us here in Connecticut thanks to his career. We are very lucky to have this team.

Most weeks, my mother puts most of the show together and emails the readings to the announcers. We both pick the music for the show. Then I will get together with the announcer sometime after work late in the week or on Saturday morning to record the show. The hour-long show usually takes an hour and a quarter to an hour and a half to record, depending on how well prepared we are that week. Stopping and starting during some of the readings is common and can be pretty funny as we try to pronounce some of the “new” Americanized Lithuanian words. One of our announcers puts her own segments of the show together, records it through her laptop and emails me MP3 files to splice into that week’s show. As she lives in the far eastern corner of the state, this works well for both of us. I take the tape to WWUH to air the show on Sundays. At times, we have broken into the show “live” to give updates on Lithuanian Olympic basketball scores and such. A few years back, we had an issue with our tape deck while recording and had to do the entire show live on Sunday afternoon. My fellow WWUH volunteers joked that it was “like REAL radio.”

My father, Alfonsas Dzikas, was always very active in the Lithuanian community, holding leadership roles for decades in local and national Lithuanian organizations. He spent 45 years working with the radio program. I see this as his legacy and something I am proud to keep alive.

*Saulius Dzikas is the engineer and co-director of the weekly Tėvynės Garsai Lithuanian Radio Hour. By day, he is a tactical buyer in the aerospace field.*



“Tėvynės Garsai” co-director and engineer Saulius Dzikas in the WWUH studio on a Sunday afternoon to air the show.

### The Current Production and Announcing Staff of Tėvynės Garsai



From left, Rimas Polikaitis (since 2012), Asta Nenortienė (since 1998), Algis Simonaitis (Administrator), Dalia Dzikas (since 1995), Saulius Dzikas (since 1988), Sigita Lančinskienė (since 2006), Irena Nakienė Valys (since 2013). Photo: Anastasia Dzikas  
Not pictured, Kristina Čižauskaitė (since 2015)

Tune in to Tėvynės Garsai every Sunday from 5 p.m. to 6 p.m. on WWUH 91.3 FM Hartford or listen live at WWUH.org. You can also listen later at [wwuh.streamrewind.com](http://wwuh.streamrewind.com).





## Tragic Fate Mingles with Joyful Emotions at 65th LAUNA Games

By Laurynas (Larry) Misevičius  
Translated by Gabija Barnard

Men's basketball division A champions, Lituania from Chicago. Photo: Ingrida Misevičiene

After an interval of five years, at the annual Lithuanian Athletic Union of North America (LAUNA) games held in Cleveland, Ohio, from June 5 to June 7, 2015, Lithuanians from overseas showed remarkable skill on basketball and beach volleyball courts, as well as at the table tennis table and the chessboard.

As usual, basketball—the most popular sport among Lithuanians—was the main attraction, with 20 teams registered to compete. For the first time, the LAUNA games saw the participation of Australian Lithuanians. The team, currently based in Canada, represents the town of Geelong, which is famous for its small, yet active Lithuanian community.

Before the basketball finals, a minute of silence marked the tragic loss of a player that concluded the table tennis tournament. The festive atmosphere of the LAUNA games was interrupted by a terrible incident: for the first time in the history of the organization, one of the athletes passed away while competing. During a table-tennis singles match, Edmundas Čapas, a Lithuanian-American from Cleveland, suffered a heart attack

and died on the way to hospital. The man's contributions to this year's table tennis championship had been tremendous. Any further table tennis matches were immediately cancelled, and the participants unanimously decided to award the gold medal to Edmundas.

### The Third Triumph of Paulius Gurlklys

Twenty-nine table tennis enthusiasts competed in the Table Tennis Cup (TTC) competition organized by the Table Tennis League of Chicago Lithuanians (TTLCL). This year the participants stood to win the LAUNA challenge cup as well. Two of the many athletes contending at the eight tables in the Lithuanian World Center gym in Lemont, Ill., were women: Simona Kerulienė and Brigita Dubrindienė. It was Kerulienė who outshone all the men in TTC competition division B matches. In the final, the ardent fan of this sport beat Kęstas Jurgelaitis from Cleveland. The bronze medal went to Artūras Lukauskis.

Together with Mindaugas Bindokas, Kerulienė won another medal, this time

silver, in the doubles match. In the fateful final the pair was surpassed by the duo of Tomas Povilanskas, the manager of the TTC competition, and Paulius Gurlklys. Having defeated Mindaugas Bieliauskas and Karolis Abromavičius, Stefas Majauskas and Juozas Džervus were third.

In the table tennis match in the C division, Mindaugas Bindokas proved victorious once again, thus earning one more medal in this year's championship. In the spirited final, he crushed the defense of Kęstas Vileikis. In this group Ken Cherman from Cleveland was awarded the bronze medal.

The main table tennis tournament of A division athletes saw the triumph of Paulius Gurlklys, who took home the LAUNA championship cup. In the final, Gurlklys defeated Renatas Lapinskas, thus winning the TTC competition for the third time in five years. Others to win the gold medal were Deivis Pavasaris from New York (2011) and Gediminas Žilys from Chicago (2014).

### Chicago's "Lituania" Proves Strongest

Meanwhile in Cleveland, basketball players were receiving their awards. In the men's A division final we saw Chicago's "Lituania"—a surprise to no one, as this experienced team has reached the finals many years in a row—locked in a battle with the boys of "Juodkrantė." The latter team had only recently won the Basketball League of Chicago Lithuanians championship, however, their brave attempt to take down the consistent winners of the LAUNA championship fell short; "Lituania" won 81:74.

The chairman of LAUNA, Laurynas R. Misevičius, presented this year's most valuable player, "Lituania's" center, Šarūnas Škadas, with a special prize: the DVD "Another Dream Team." The Lithuanian Foundation, an initiative that has already existed for a whole decade, also found its place in Cleveland. This year Chicago's "Lituania" selected the St. Casimir Lithuanian Saturday School in Cleveland to receive a \$1,000 prize from the education committee of the Lithuanian com-



LAUNA games chess tournament award winners. Photo: Ingrida Misevičienė

munity. Headed by Asta Šlechtichovienė, the school did an admirable job in helping to organize the competition.

Toronto's "Aušra" was third in this year's A division tournament after proving superior to New York's "Geležinis vilkas" and beating them 83:60.

Chicago's "Lituanica-2" didn't fall far behind their stronger counterparts in division A. The team came within arm's reach of victory just to see it snatched from under their noses in the last seconds of the final. The surprise winners of the B division tournament, Hamilton, Ontario's "Kovas," beat the Windy City team by only two points—44:42. In third place were New York's LAK, who, after a thrilling match, defeated Detroit's "Kova" with the result of 54:48.

Lithuanians from the Motor City remained empty handed even after the youth (under 18) A division tournament. In the fight for third place, after two overtime periods, "Kovas" finally lost to Toronto's "Aušra" 48:49.

The struggle between Chicago's "Lituanica" and the hosting "Žaibas" team from Cleveland was definitely worthy of the final. Only thanks to a last moment three pointer did "Žaibas" defeat its younger rivals 47:44.

### A Lithuanian Super Bowl Star on the Basketball Court

In the C division tournament consolation final, the Canadian-Australian "Geelong Vytis" met Cleveland's "Žaibas-auksiniai" to compete for the "little" gold medals. Much to the joy of the Australian guests, at the very end of the match the Geelong Lithuanians changed the course of the game and won 61:58. Venclovas, the team's kangaroo mascot, offered enthusiastic support from the bench.

Cleveland's "Žaibas-žalieji" came third in this division and last in the overall standings. One of the representatives of the team, Lithuanian-American Joe Jurevičius, was, in his prime, a powerful American football player. The man, who sports a Vytis tattoo on his right arm, a few years ago was part of the team that won the NFL's Super Bowl XXXVII.

The LAUNA chess tournament medals were distributed at the Lithuanian Club in Cleveland. Fittingly for a head of the chess section, Visvydas Matulis from Washington won the gold medal after defeating Vytautas Nasvytis, who had for many years managed the LAUNA chess affairs. Žanas Valius from Cleveland received the bronze medal.

This year, beach volleyball was played by mixed teams of four. Gintautas Garsys, the head of volleyball at LAUNA, turned out to be unbeatable, as did his teammate Rytas Petraitis, whereas the team's female players Julie Murray and Aleksa Sušinskaitė offered invaluable assistance. Next year, the organizers are hoping to hold the LAUNA games during the first weekend of October (coinciding with the Lithuanian Fair) in sunny Los Angeles. The youth basketball championship should take place in mid-May at the same Eastlake Complex that housed the main festivities of LAUNA this year.

### West Coast Lithuanians Tackle Mountains and Marathons

Even though this year Lithuanians of the West Coast didn't directly participate in the annual LAUNA games, those with a flair for sport organized marathons in several towns to coincide with the games. On May 14, 2015, in Los Angeles, San Francisco and Portland, members of local Lithuanian communities ran five or 10 kilometers wearing T-shirts specially brought from Kaunas, where the Kaunas Marathon was held on the same day.

Our fellow Lithuanians from Oregon and Washington didn't stop at running. On the eve of the Kaunas marathon, a few mountaineering enthusiasts organized a team of 11 people who ascended Mount St. Helens early the next morning.

Standing tall roughly 50 miles from Portland, this mountain famously erupted 35 years ago and flooded the surrounding countryside with lava. There were 57 casualties, as well as 250 destroyed buildings and 50 wrecked bridges. To this day, the eruption of Mount St. Helens is considered to be the most detrimental and expensive eruption in the history of the United States.

Though the mountaineering team was made up of climbing enthusiasts from at least three different countries, that morning they all became Lithuanians from Kaunas, and it was the flag of Kaunas the fluttered at the height of 2.5 kilometers in the Ring of Fire in the state of Washington.

# Knights Conquer the Land of Fantasy, Fun and Mickey Mouse

By Regina Juška-Švoba

This year's Knights of Lithuania 102nd National Convention was hosted by Council 16 (C-16), Chicago, from August 7 to August 9, 2015. Convention home base was the Hilton Orlando Lake Buena Vista in Florida, which accommodated 60 delegates plus clergy, guests and five K of L junior members for three days of meetings, cultural activities, daily Mass and a banquet celebration.

The Knights of Lithuania (K of L), a national Roman Catholic organization consisting of men and women of Lithuanian ancestry, was founded in 1913. The organization's primary focus is to foster, maintain and nurture an appreciation of the Lithuanian language, customs, traditions and culture among its members. It further stresses the importance of the beliefs of the Roman Catholic Church.



Knights of Lithuania Foundation President Irene Ozelis with the five junior Knights who attended the convention: James Riley, Makenzie Mooney, Justin Johnson, Jason Muldowney and Brian Johnson. The junior Knights conducted their own meeting and discussed methods of helping Lithuania, after which they each presented their ideas and received a \$100 stipend from the Foundation.

## Pre-Convention Tour

Forty K of L travellers embarked on a day-long pre-convention tour of St. Augustine, Fla., the nation's oldest city. At the Fountain of Youth property, we were told about Ponce de León's discovery of "La Florida" and his encounters with the Timucua Indians. We had the opportunity to see the Mission Nombre de Dios and Shrine of Our Lady of La Leche, which is the most sacred and historic area in St. Augustine. It is also where Pedro Menéndez de Avilés, the city's founding father, first landed and proclaimed the site for Spain and the Church. We stopped at Castillo de San Marcos National Monument and were told the history of the construction of the fort out of coquina, a native stone, and about the battles surrounding this castillo. Our tour continued past the beautiful bay front and through the heart of the city, by the Flagler Memorial Presbyterian Church, built by Henry M. Flagler and containing his family's mausoleum. We drove past Flagler's famous hotels: the Ponce de León Hotel (now Flagler College), where many presidents and the elite stayed, and the Alcazar Hotel, which houses the world's largest swimming pools. We saw St. Augustine's old Government House, constructed in 1833, which contained the offices of the colonial government. We saw the Plaza de la Constitucion, followed by free time to explore this impressive city with a rich history. What a day, what an experience, what a time we shared!

## Opening

The convention opened with Mass celebrated by K of L spiritual advisor Rev. Msgr. Dr. Joseph Anderlonis, H.M. He was assisted by Rev. Audrius Arštikaitis, rector of the St. Casimir Pontifical Lithuanian College in Rome, and Rev. Anthony Markus, H.M., president of the Our Lady of Šiluva Fund. Hymns were led by Susan Binkis, C-112, Chicago, accompanied on the piano by Sister Theresa Papsis, also of C-112.





From left, Rev. Audrius Arštikaitis, rector of St. Casimir Pontifical Lithuanian College in Rome; Msgr. Joseph Anderlonis; and Rev. Anthony Markus.

K of L National President and Honorary Member Regina Juška-Švoba officially opened the convention, followed by an opening prayer, singing of the national anthems of the United States, Republic of Lithuania and Knights of Lithuania, and roll call of the Supreme Council officers. Peter Paul Zansitis, C-16 president and host of the 102nd National Convention, welcomed all delegates and friends to Florida and wished everyone a good and memorable stay in the land of fantasy, fun and Mickey Mouse.

The convention presidium was elected, followed by a state of the organization report and financial report. Special prayers were said in memory of former Supreme Council officers and honorary members who passed away in 2014-2015, including Elinor Sluzas, Clemencine Miller and composer and musician Faustas Strolia.

### Charitable Mission

The Knights are actively involved in programs to assist their less fortunate brothers and sisters in Lithuania, among other charitable work. Several presentations highlighted these contributions.

The Knights of Lithuania Foundation will distribute nearly \$16,000 to causes including the continued support of an orphan through the "Saulutė" organization and the Servants of the Lord religious order in Panevėžys, in addition to other K of L efforts.

The Our Lady of Šiluva Fund, Inc., supports ourladyofsiluva.org, which has been translated into Polish and Spanish. Our Lady of Šiluva Chapel at the National Shrine in Washington, DC, will celebrate its 50th year anniversary on October 9, 2016.

St. Casimir's Guild supports St. Casimir's Pontifical Lithuanian College in Rome, Italy, sending the college \$136,537 over the past year for terrace renovations and building maintenance that included replacement of the roof and repair of water damage, plus Mass requests. The College received an additional check for \$45,000 during the convention for façade repairs and replacement of the diesel boiler with a gas-fired boiler to meet air pollution regulations.

Donations of \$3,870 collected during the convention will be distributed among several K of L funds. In addition, \$1,850 was allotted for requested donations to the Sisters of St. Casimir, Sisters of the Immaculate Conception, Sisters of the Jesus Crucified, and Sisters of St. Francis of the Providence of God; Lithuanian newspapers Draugas, Draugas News and Amerikos lietuvis; a symbolic gift/donation to Msgr. Algimantas Bartkus, former rector of the Pontifical St. Casimir's Lithuanian College in Rome, in honor of his 50th anniversary of ordination; and the Joint Baltic American National Committee (JBANC).

### Recognitions

This year's K of L essay contest gave writers the choice of two topics: "What am I going to do to keep the K of L alive?" or "What would I change if I were K of L President?" The winners were: first place (\$150) - Stephany Gutauskas, C-3, Philadelphia; second place (\$100) - Ronald Voveris, C-143, Anthracite, Pa. and third place (\$50) - Maryclaire Voveris, C-143, Anthracite, Pa. The Junior category winner was Tristan Pant, C-96, Dayton, Ohio, who will receive \$75.

Six members were approved to receive their 4th degrees: Irene Petkaitis, C-6, Hartford, Conn.; Barbara Sokolowski, C-30, Westfield, Pa.; Andrew Berzcelly, C-96, Dayton, Ohio; Maryanna Gerčius, C-112, Chicago; and Anna May Domalakes and Diane Drogalis, both of C-144, Frackville, Pa.

Regina Juška-Švoba, H.M., C-102, Detroit, was unanimously re-elected as president for a fourth year to lead the K of L organization.

Julie Zakarka, C-158, Lakeshore, Ind., was unanimously approved as an honorary member by the convention delegates.

The 2015-2016 scholarship winners were Madeline Domalakes, C-144, Frackville, Pa.; Emilija Latas, C-158 Lakeshore, Ind.; and Liza Macke, C-157, Lemont, Ill., who will share \$6,000 in awards.

The 2015 "Friend of Lithuania" recipient was Karl Altau, director of JBANC, who will receive the award at next year's convention.



New honorary members Irene Ozalis and Maria Deksnis with honorary member chair Walter Svekla, H.M.

New honorary members Irene Ozalis, C-3, Philadelphia, and Maria Deksnis, C-158, Lakeshore, Ind., were presented. Maryanna Gerčius, C-112, Chicago, received her fourth degree medal.

### Presentations

Henry Gaidis, Joint Baltic American National Committee (JBANC) board director, gave the keynote address. He related a brief history of the inception of the JBANC and spoke of the organization's current efforts related to Latvia, Estonia, Lithuania and Russia. Gaidis spoke of threats to the Baltic nations from Russia and noted that these countries should be vigilant. He encouraged the membership to write letters to their senators and congressmen requesting continued support of the Baltic nations. A question/answer session followed Gaidis' presentation.

A video presentation, "Divine Mercy—A Virtual Pilgrimage," was narrated and guided by Vilnius Metropolitan Archbishop Gintaras Grušas. In addition to presenting a history of Lithuania, the video tells of Sister Faustina Kowalska's visions and conversations with Jesus as the King of Divine Mercy beginning in 1931, which she wrote about in her diary. The famous Divine Mercy painting is based on her reported vision. Archbishop Grušas showed the Shrine of the Divine Mercy in Vilnius, which Pope John Paul II visited during his first trip to Lithuania in 1993. The pope later designated the first Sunday after Easter as Divine Mercy Sunday. The Sisters of the Merciful Jesus currently reside in a convent in Vilnius and work in a hospice center there.

### Family Fun

The conference's first evening get-together was at Disney Fort Wilderness Resort and Campground's Pioneer Hall for the Hoop Dee Doo Musical Review "Frontier-Style Family Fun." The Pioneer Hall players entertained the delegates with Wild West dancing, singing and vaudeville comedy. We clapped our hands, sang along and stomped our feet. We enjoyed the din-

ner that consisted of BBQ pork ribs, chicken, green salad, baked beans, cornbread and strawberry shortcake. A truly fun-filled, entertaining and enjoyable get-together evening was had by all.

After the working sessions concluded, convention attendees enjoyed a celebratory banquet. The formal portion of the banquet included thanks from C-16 convention committee chair Robert A. Martin, Jr., H.M., and K of L National President Regina Juška-Švoba, who recited the poem "Didžiojoj Kryžkelej" ("At the Great Crossroad") by pre-eminent 20th century poet Bernardas Brazdžionis. Musical entertainment and dancing continued until midnight.

After the closing Mass, everyone gathered for the farewell luncheon. After the luncheon, the junior members sold raffle tickets for the Mickey Mouse ears that they made and decorated, collecting \$370 for orphan care in Lithuania.

### Looking Forward

The 2015 National Convention and sessions were productive and fruitful. It was good to see and nurture special friendships of members known for many years and establish new acquaintances and contacts. It was a special time of sharing and catching up. May this organization continue to live and work by our motto: "For God and County - Dievui ir Tėvynei!" Valio, Vyčiai, ilgiausių metų!

Our 103rd National Convention will be hosted by C-72 Binghamton president Barbara Miller and her council members. The convention will be held from August 6 to August 8, 2016, in Binghamton, N.Y. Mark your calendars and save these important dates! Hope to see everyone there!

For those who like to plan ahead, the 104th National Convention will be hosted by C-96 in Dayton, Ohio, in 2017 and the 105th National Convention will be hosted by C-1, Brockton, Mass, in 2018.

*Regina Juška-Švoba is the Knights of Lithuania Supreme Council president, an honorary member and Knights of Lithuania public relations chair.*



Delegates of the 102nd National Convention.

# The Long Road to Freedom

## Milestones and Memories

**July 2, 1990**

Chairman of the Soviet Council of Ministers, Nikolai Ryzhkov, declared that there was an order to lift all the economic restrictions imposed on Lithuania, following Lithuania's agreement on a 100-day moratorium on the Act on the Restoration of the Independent Lithuanian State of March 11, 1990, and to start inter-state negotiations. However, this change in the Soviet position and hint of a compromise could be attributed to the growing intensity of the political struggle within the Soviet Union, between the political leaderships of the USSR and the Russian Federation over the central authority of the USSR.

**July 9, 1990**

The economic blockade was formally lifted by a Gorbachev decree and a USSR state delegation for negotiations with Lithuania was formed.

**July 17, 1990**

Lithuania announced that it would create its own army units.

**July 12, 1990**

While visiting Lithuania, the deputies of the Supreme Soviet of the Russian Federation maintained that Russia, "regardless of the procedure of the preparation of a treaty with the Soviet Union, [would] conclude a treaty of its own with the Republic of Lithuania." The Russian side promised that relations with Lithuania would be based on independence, equality, good-neighborly relations and mutually beneficial cooperation. These were the first contacts made between Lithuania and the Russian Federation as independent and sovereign actors of international relations.

**July 27, 1990**

The first meeting between the chairmen of the Supreme Councils of Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia and the Chairman of the Parliament of the Russian Federation, Boris Yeltsin, was held in Jurmala, Latvia. At the summit, it was decided to begin the preparation of bilateral inter-state treaties between each of the three Baltic Republics and the Russian Federation.

**August 15, 1990**

Visit of the government delegation of the Russian Federation in Vilnius, during which both governments signed an agreement on trade and economic relations for the year 1991. Both parties also agreed that it was expedient to start negotiations and prepare a treaty on long-term economic and cultural co-operation.

**August 3, 1990**

Lithuanian Prime Minister Kazimira Prunskienė met with Ivan Silayev, Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Russian Federation, in Moscow for preparatory discussions between the government of the Republic of Lithuania and other leaders of the Russian Federation.

**August 6, 1990**

In Kaunas, monuments to Lenin and "The Four Communards" were dismantled.

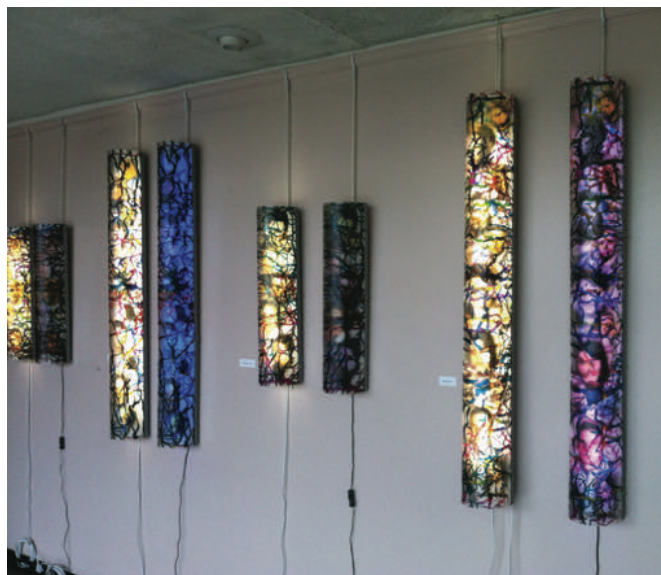
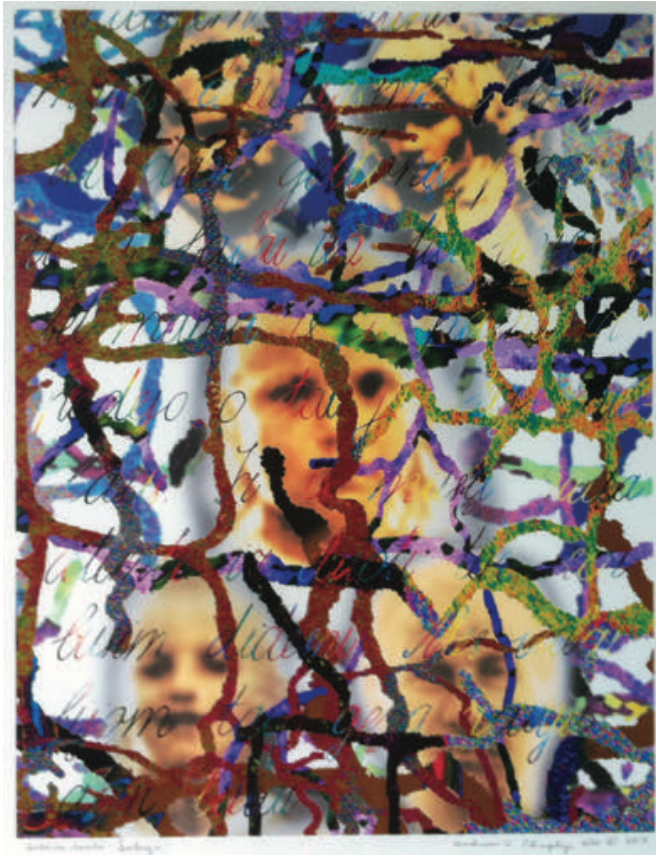
**August 23, 1990**

The European Way, photographed at the Lazdijai border-crossing point between Lithuania and Poland. Photo: V. Daraškevičius, from the exhibition "To Freedom"





## Siberia Souls Exhibit Encodes Memories of the Deported in Light



Artist and neuroscientist Audrius V. Plioplys, MD, whose Hope and Spirit project in 2011 marked the 70th anniversary of the deportations from the Baltic republics to Siberia by Stalin, has created a new project to commemorate the victims of these atrocities: Siberia Souls.

Four of Plioplys' blood relatives died during NKVD interrogations, and eight were deported to Siberia. The primary purpose of the first project was to inform the general public of these events and the deaths of 20 million innocent people. "If history is forgotten, it will repeat itself," writes Plioplys. "With the recent events in Ukraine, it appears that my concerns were prophetic. History is repeating itself."

The Siberia Souls exhibit grew from Plioplys' efforts to find and save more than 400 letters and photographs sent from Siberia, which reveal tragic family stories.

The images in the exhibit consist of neuronal profiles, intertwined with the artist's own MRI brain scans, electroencephalograms and transformations of his previous works. "It is these extensive, overlapping neuronal networks that encode our memories, which include memories of those who were dear to us," he says.

The images also include portraits of those deported to Siberia and their handwritten letters. Placing the portraits in deeper layers gives them a hazy, ghost-like appearance.

"If someone remembers you after you pass, in a sense you are immortal," Plioplys writes. "By using my own neuronal patterns and networks, I am trying to give these individuals a degree of immortality."

Part of the body of work consists of diptychs composed of three layers of printed polycarbonate, back-lit by a white LED light in one and a color-changing LED light system in the other.

Plioplys likens the diptych structures to our own brains, where the left cerebral hemisphere is more analytic, logical, black and white, and the right hemisphere more artistic, creative and colorful. The three layers of images correspond to our own three levels of awareness: consciousness, sub-consciousness and unconsciousness.

In the accompanying 27-inch square pieces, his emphasis is letters written by children deported to Siberia, combined with their photographs. These letters and photographs are also reproduced in a sequence of prints on paper.

Siberia Souls is on exhibit at the Balzekas Museum of Lithuanian Culture, 6500 S. Pulaski Rd., Chicago, through September 1, 2015. For more information, visit [balzekasmuseum.org](http://balzekasmuseum.org).

## Lithuanian Picnic Salads

By Jana Sirusaitė Motivans

Here are three salads to enjoy this summer during picnic and cookout season. The first is cucumber salad, which is a Lithuanian classic probably familiar to most of you. The recipe presented here, modified slightly, is from the Toronto cookbook *Treasures of Lithuanian Cooking*, published in 2008.

I found an excellent recipe for beet salad in the Lithuanian Scouts cookbook entitled *Tried and True Treasured Recipes*, published in Illinois in 2012. The traditional salad is given an updated taste with the addition of cider vinegar, Dijon mustard and walnuts. This salad has become a family favorite that also takes a place on our Kučios (Christmas Eve) table as one of our 12 dishes.

The third salad is a fresh-tasting carrot salad introduced to me by Tana Perkins, the cook for the Lithuanian Heritage session at Camp Neringa. I have been volunteering in the Neringa kitchen for the past three summers, and have learned a lot about food preparation by working with Tana. This simple salad is a favorite of both counselors and campers.



## Carrot and Apple Salad

(Morkų Salotos su Obuoliais)



### INGREDIENTS

- 1 pound carrots
- 1 pound apples
- 1 or 2 cloves garlic
- 1/4 cup chopped fresh dill
- mayonnaise

1. Peel and trim the carrots and apples, then grate coarsely, using a box grater. Place the grated mixture into a serving bowl.



2. Use a garlic press to squeeze one clove of garlic into the carrot and apple mix. Add the dill. Add enough mayonnaise to moisten (start with 1/4 cup). Mix it all together and taste. Add more garlic or mayonnaise if you prefer.



3. Serve garnished with more dill.



# a taste of lithuania

## Cucumber Salad

(Agurkų Salotos su Grietine)

### INGREDIENTS

- 1 large English cucumber, washed and trimmed, but not peeled
- 1/2 cup sour cream
- 1 teaspoon sugar
- 2 teaspoons white wine vinegar
- 1/4 cup chopped fresh dill
- 2 tablespoons chopped green scallions
- salt and pepper

1. Cut the cucumber into thin slices. You may leave the slices whole or, if you prefer, cut each in half or quarters.



2. Place the cucumber pieces in a bowl and sprinkle with salt, tossing to coat the slices evenly. Set the bowl aside for 30 minutes to allow the salt to draw out some of the excess water in the cucumbers.



3. In the meantime, combine the sour cream with the sugar and vinegar in a serving bowl.
4. Drain the liquid from the salted cucumbers, and add them to the dressing along with the dill and scallions.



5. Mix everything together and serve, garnished with more dill.

## Beets With Dill and Walnuts

(Burokėlių Salotos)

### INGREDIENTS

- 2 pounds fresh beets
- 1 tablespoon cider vinegar
- 1 tablespoon lemon juice
- 2 teaspoons sugar
- 1 1/2 teaspoons Dijon mustard
- 3/4 teaspoon kosher salt
- 1/2 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper
- 3 tablespoons olive oil
- 1/4 cup chopped fresh dill
- 1/4 cup chopped walnuts

1. Preheat the oven to 400°F.
2. Place a large piece of aluminium foil onto a baking sheet. Place a piece of parchment paper on the foil, and then put the beets onto the parchment paper-lined foil. Wrap up tightly, using more foil if needed, to enclose the beets.
3. Slide the baking sheet into the oven and bake until tender. This typically takes about an hour, but if the beets are large it could take up to an hour and a half. The beets are done when they can be pierced easily with the tip of a knife.
4. Let the beets cool and then peel using a small knife. Trim off the roots and stems.
5. Cut the beets into slices, then cut the slices into strips, and finally into cubes. Place into a medium bowl.



6. Combine the vinegar, lemon juice, sugar, mustard, salt, pepper and olive oil in a glass jar and shake to combine. Pour the dressing over the beets, and stir it in. Let stand 15 minutes, stirring occasionally.
7. Stir in dill and walnuts before serving.





## Unprecedented Exhibition Travels the U.S.

Tuesday, June 23, 2015, was the opening of an unprecedented exhibition about the Baltic diaspora at the Free Library of Philadelphia, Central Branch, entitled "No Home To Go To: The Story of Baltic Displaced Persons 1944-1952," focusing on the plight of the Estonia, Latvia and Lithuanian peoples through the World War II period.

The exhibit is a collection of personal memories in writing, documents, photographs and memorabilia of the families and individuals who endured and fled the horrors of WWII. These people, called displaced persons, or DPs, uprooted their families in advance of the approaching Soviet army during the last year of WWII, fearing deportation or death should they remain in Lithuania.

This exhibition was created, organized and produced by Chicago's Balzekas Museum of Lithuanian Culture in collaboration with the Chicago Estonian House, the Latvian Folk Art Museum and the Lithuanian Emigration Institute of Vytautas Magnus University in Kaunas, Lithuania. Part of the exhibit has been travelling the country since last November while part remains in Chicago at the Balzekas Museum.

The Philadelphia opening drew many visitors, some of whom were displaced persons themselves or whose parents were DPs, as well as many others.

*Article and photographs by Rimas Gedeika*



Left to right: Laila Gansert, president, Philadelphia Society of Free Letts; Alvar Soosaar, president, Philadelphia Estonian Society; Linda Rink, executive director, Estonian American National Council; Adams M. Berzins, vice president, Philadelphia Society of Free Letts; and Krista Butvydas Bard, honorary consul of the Republic of Lithuania in Pennsylvania.



Krista Bard, honorary consul of the Republic of Lithuania in Pennsylvania, with Aleksandra Brittain. Pieces of Aleksandra's folk costume are from different Lithuanian relatives who came to the United States as DPs.



The traveling exhibit of "No Home To Go To" was in Philadelphia from June through August.

# Lithuanian National Foundation Awarded Diplomacy Star

The New York-based organization Tautos Fondas (Lithuanian National Foundation) received one of the highest awards of the Lithuanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs—the Diplomacy Star.

On July 13, 2015, Lithuanian Ambassador to the United States Žygimantas Pavilionis presented the award to representatives of the organization. He thanked the organization for its continued support of Lithuanian schools and young people.

Tautos Fondas is one of the oldest Lithuanian-American organizations. It provides financial support for projects promoting education, particularly for schools in the greater Vil-



nius region, student scholarships and publications. Each year the Foundation allocates more than \$200,000 in funding for its projects.

## U.S. Welcome New Lithuanian Ambassador

Rolandas Kriščiūnas, 44, has been named the new ambassador of Lithuania to the United States and Mexico. He replaces Žygimantas Pavilionis, Ph.D., who held the role since 2010. Pavilionis is now Lithuanian ambassador at large for Europe's East.

The appointment is not Kriščiūnas's first service in the United States. From 1998 to 2001, he was first secretary of the Embassy of the Republic of Lithuania to the U.S.

Prior to being appointed ambassador on August 3, 2015, Kriščiūnas was vice-minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Lithuania from 2012 to 2015. He worked at Lithuania's Ministry of Finance before that, holding positions of vice-minister of finance, undersecretary and director of EU Program Management. His experience also includes positions in the Economic Analysis Division of the Economics Department in Lithuania's Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Kriščiūnas was born in Panevėžys, Lithuania. He received his bachelor's degree in business informatics from Vytautas Magnus University in Kaunas, Lithuania, in 1993; completed European Union Studies at Clingendael Institute of International Relations in The Hague, Netherlands, in 1994; and received his master's degree in economic sciences from Ohio State University in Athens, Ohio, in 1996. Most recently, he completed the Management Studies Program at the Swedish Institute in Stockholm in 2008.



Rolandas Kriščiūnas, new ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the Republic of Lithuania to the United States of America and the United Mexican States, stepped into his role on August 3, 2015.

Kriščiūnas received the Cross of the Knight of the Order for Merits to Lithuania in 2004. In addition to his native Lithuanian, he also speaks English, Russian and French.



## Lithuanian Days Enters Second Century

Photographs by Rimas Gedeika

Lithuanian Days, the longest-running consecutive ethnic festival in the nation, entered its second century this year on August 15 and 16, with fun, food and folk dancing in Frackville, Pa.

The 101st Lithuanian Days featured a theme of "Travel to Lithuania" with exhibits and photographs designed to entice participants to journey to the land of their ancestors. Vytis Tours was on hand to help with suggested itineraries and practical advice for those contemplating a trip.

Participants didn't have to travel far to experience Lithuanian traditions over the festival weekend, however. In addition to cultural exhibits and demonstrations, everyone who attended was a guest at a traditional Lithuanian wedding, and got to experience the songs, dances and customs associated with the ceremony.

Entertainment came in the form of pop singer Augis from Cleveland, folk band Varpelis from Philadelphia, and folk dance groups Malūnas from Baltimore, Žilvinas from Philadelphia and local children's dance group Gintaras. Lithuanian partisan re-enactors led a fireside sing-a-long.

Vendors offered all things Lithuanian, from wood carvings, crafts and amber jewelry, to books and Lithuanian food products. Genealogist Tom Sadauskas helped people curious about their family histories.

Congratulations to Knights of Lithuania Anthracite Council 144 for their annual efforts to produce a meaningful and successful event.



Folk dancers taught young festival-goers some traditional dances.



National Guard members talked about their Lithuanian partnership.



Vendor offering included everything from amber to wood carvings.



Newly "married" couple escapes from the juostas held by bridesmaids.



# Banner Summer for Lithuanian Athletes Around the World

By Rimas Gedeika



Airinė Palšytė demonstrates her winning form on the high jump. Photo: Alfredas Pliadis

## Track and Field Champions Excel in Palanga

The annual Lithuanian Track and Field Championships took place on August 8 and 9, 2015, held for the very first time in Palanga's newly renovated stadium. All previous Championships had been held in Kaunas.

The Championships' most notable winners were:

**Dovilė Dzindaletaitė**, European U23 (under 23) champion, took a gold medal in the triple jump. Dzindaletaitė also set a Lithuanian record in this event and qualified for this year's World Track and Field Championships in Beijing, China, and for the 2016 Rio de Janeiro Olympic Games.

**Airinė Palšytė** won the high jump and qualified for both the World Track and Field Games and the Olympic Games. Of all the Lithuanian athletes participating in the World Games, Palšytė has the best chance to medal.

Besides winning the gold medal in the Lithuanian Games, **Edis Matusevičius** also won a bronze medal in the U23 Track and Field Championships.

**Lina Grinčikaitė-Samuolė**, Lithuania's premier sprinter and two-time Olympian, won gold medals.

In addition to excellent performances in the Lithuanian Track and Field Championships, this summer has been a very good season for Lithuanian athletes, especially for those under 23 years of age, in games throughout the world. Lithuania has shown that for a small country, its athletes have excelled in many sports other than basketball. Let's see how they have done.

## Summer Universiade

Lithuania had a great showing in the 2015 Summer Universiade, also known as the University Games, held this year in Gwangju, South Korea, claiming nine medals:

**Rolanda Maščinskas and Saulius Ritter**, men's double sculls, gold  
**Žygimantas Gališanskis**,

men's single sculls, gold

**Donata Vištartaitė and Milda Valčiukaitė**, women's double sculls, gold

**Lina Šaltytė**, women's single sculls, gold

**Airinė Palšytė**, women's high jump, gold

**Sonata Petrikaitė**, women's lightweight single sculls, silver

**Santa Pakenytė**, women's +78kg judo, bronze

**Karolis Bauža**, men's open judo, bronze

**Andrius Gudžius**, men's discus throw, bronze

## Track and Field

In Tallinn, Estonia, at the European Junior Track and Field Championships (under 23 years of age), **Dovilė Dzindaletaitė** won the gold medal in the triple jump with a jump of 14.20 meters. This eclipsed the Lithuanian women's record by 6 cm. Next stop, the World Track and Field Championships in Beijing, China.

In Latvia, at the Baltic Track and Field Championships, **the Lithuanian team** won the silver medal.

In Latvia, at the Junior Baltic Track and Field Championships



The newly renovated track and field stadium in Palanga. Photo: Alfredas Pliadis  
Lithuania's Junior Team, for the sixth consecutive year, won the gold medal.

### Rowing

At the World Junior (U23) Championships in Bulgarija, **Sonata Petrikaitė** won the bronze medal in the 2000m lightweight women's single sculls.

In the same Championships, in the women's 2000m single sculls, **Ieva Adomavičiūtė**, who is currently studying at Washington State University, won the gold medal.

In Latvia, at the Baltic Rowing Championships, Lithuania's athletes won seven medals: **Raminta Morkūnaitė**, gold in the women's 500m and 2000m; **Viktorija Vareikaitė**, bronze in the women's 500m and 2000m; **Lukas Dobrovolskis**, gold in the men's 500m and 2000m; and brothers **Andrius and Vytautas Lapatiukas**, gold in men's 500m doubles.

### Canoeing

In Prague, Czechoslovakia, at the World Junior Canoeing Championships, **Henrikas Žutautas** won the gold medal in the men's 200m single.

### Tennis

This year's Merko Estonian Open women's singles title was won by **Joana Eidukonytė**, who received \$10,000 for her effort. She, together with England's Helen Parish, took second place in the doubles. Joana currently attends Clemson University in South Carolina.

### Judo

Prague, Czechoslovakia was the site of the 2015 Europe's Junior Judo Championships. In this tournament **Rokas Nenartavičius** (90 kg) won the silver medal.

### Handball

In Denmark's Generation Handball Tournament, Lithuania's U19 team won first place.

### Wrestling

**Mantas Adomaitis**, at the World Junior Wrestling Championships in Serbia, won the bronze medal, dramatically defeating his Armenian opponent in the last three seconds of the bout.

### Swimming

At the World Swimming Championships in Kazan, Russia, **Rūta Meilutytė**, the reigning Olympic champion in the 100m breaststroke and the holder of three world breaststroke records (50m, 100m and 50m short) did not have what was considered for her a good meet. She won the silver medal in the 100m, being caught from behind by her archrival, Russia's Yuliya Efimora. In the 50m, she finished in a disappointing fourth place. After taking off two weeks to recuperate from the World Championships, Meilutytė began to train intensively for the 2016 Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro. She promises that her results in Rio will be considerably more satisfying to her supporters.

At the same Championships, **Giedrius Titenis** advanced to two very strong finals, placing sixth in the men's 100m breaststroke and fifth in the men's 50m breaststroke. Titenis set Lithuanian records in both events.

Also, the men's 4 x 100 relay team set a new Lithuanian record and qualified for the 2016 Olympic Games.



Lithuanian Track and Field Championships triple jump gold medal winner Dovilė Dzindaletaitė, center. Photo: Alfredas Pliadis

# calendar

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

## ONGOING

Through December 31  
**No Home To Go To: The Story of Baltic Displaced Persons 1944-1952**

Balzekas Museum of Lithuanian Culture, 6500 South Pulaski Rd., Chicago  
Info: balzekasmuseum.org

## SEPTEMBER 2015

September 19  
**Omaha Lithuanian Community Golf Outing Fundraiser**  
Info: omahostlb.blogspot.com

September 19, 1-3 p.m.  
**Amber Roots Heritage Club**  
Lithuanian Music Hall, 2715 E. Allegheny Ave., Philadelphia  
Info: milliemarks@aol.com

September 20, 10:30 a.m.  
**Lithuanian Family Day and Mass**  
before World Meeting of Families and Pope Francis visit  
St. Andrew Lithuanian Church, 19th & Wallace Sts., Philadelphia  
Mass celebrants: Bishop Rimantas Norvila of Lithuania, Msgr. Edmundas Putrimas and St. Andrew's pastor Fr. Peter Burkauskas

September 27, 7:30 p.m.  
**Viktoras Paukštėlis Piano Concert**  
Carnegie Hall, 881 7th Ave., NYC  
Info: nylithuanian.org/renginiai/785/

## OCTOBER 2015

October 3 and 4  
**Los Angeles Lithuanian Fair**  
St. Casimir's Parish, Los Angeles  
Info: lithuanianfair.com

October 9-11  
**Iškyla/Walk-a-Thon**  
Camp Neringa, Brattleboro, Vt.  
Info: neringa.org

October 17, 1-3 p.m.  
**Amber Roots Heritage Club**  
Lithuanian Music Hall, 2715 E. Allegheny Ave., Philadelphia  
Info: milliemarks@aol.com

October 23-25  
**Neringa Women's Weekend**  
Camp Neringa, Brattleboro, Vt.  
Info: neringa.org

October 25, 12:30 p.m.  
**Child's Gate to Learning Fall Harvest Fundraising Lunch**  
14911 127th St., Lemont, Ill.  
Info: vvm@childgate.org

## NOVEMBER 2015

November 7, 5:30 p.m.  
**Lithuanian Foundation Annual Fall Gala**  
Lithuanian World Center, 14911 127th St., Lemont, Ill.  
Tickets: lithuanianfoundation.org or 630-257-1616

November 7 and 8  
**Philadelphia Lithuanian Fair**  
Lithuanian Music Hall, 2715 E. Allegheny Ave., Philadelphia  
Info: lithuanianmha.org

November 21, 1-3 p.m.  
**Amber Roots Heritage Club**  
Lithuanian Music Hall, 2715 E. Allegheny Ave., Philadelphia  
Info: milliemarks@aol.com

November 28, 8 p.m.  
**Andrius Mamontovas Concert**  
Copernicus Center, Chicago  
Info: copernicuscenter.org/mamontovas

## DECEMBER 2015

December 6, time TBA  
**Omaha Lithuanian Community Christmas Program**  
Sts. Peter & Paul, Omaha, Nebr.  
Info: omahostlb.blogspot.com

December 12  
**Kansas City Lithuanian Community Christmas Party, Potluck Dinner and Kučios**  
Cedar Creek Clubhouse, Olathe, Kans.  
Info: kclith.org

December, date TBA  
**Amber Roots Heritage Club Kučios**  
Lithuanian Music Hall, Philadelphia  
Info: milliemarks@aol.com

## MAY 2016

May 26-28  
**Association for the Advancement of Baltic Studies Conference**  
University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia  
Info: aabs-balticstudies.org

## JULY 2016

July 3  
**15th North American Lithuanian Dance Festival**  
Royal Farms Arena, Baltimore  
Info: sokiusvente2016.org

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July/August 2015



## August Anniversaries

### 630 years ago

**August 14, 1385**

Lithuanian Grand Duke Jogaila signed the Act of Krėva, a set of prenuptial promises made at the Krėva Castle in exchange for marriage to Queen Jadwiga of Poland. The union marked the beginning of four centuries of shared history between Poland and Lithuania.

In the document, Jogaila agreed to Christianize Lithuania; pay 200,000 florins to William, Duke of Austria, for terminating his engagement to Jadwiga; return all lands lost in wars by Poland; release all Christian war prisoners held by Lithuania; and attach all Lithuanian and Ruthenian lands to the Crown of Poland.

### 495 years ago

**August 1, 1520**

Birth of Žygimantas Augustas (Sigismund II Augustus), grand duke of Lithuania (1544–1572) and king of Poland (1548–1572). The only son of Sigismund the Old, he remained childless despite three marriages, including one to Barbora Radvilaitė, and was the last of the Jagiellon dynasty.

Sigismund was considered an effective statesman, mediating for 20 years between the Catholic Church and the Protestants. He was the architect of the Union of Lublin, which united Poland and Lithuania into the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth, also known as the Republic of the Two Nations or *Abiejū Tautų Respublika*.

### 360 years ago

**August 7-9, 1655**

The Battle of Vilnius. Russian and Cossack forces under Alexis of Russia defeated Polish-Lithuanian forces under the leadership of Grand Hetman of Lithuania Janusz Radziwiłł. It was the first time a foreign power managed to capture the Vilnius Castle complex. Invading forces plundered the city for several days, burning large parts of the city and killing an estimated 20,000 inhabitants. The Vilnius region was occupied by Russia for six years after the battle. The defeat prompted Radziwiłł to surrender much of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania to Sweden as a protectorate under the Union of Kėdainiai on August 17, 1655.



### 205 years ago

**August 15, 1810**

Birth of Laurynas Ivinskis, a Lithuanian teacher, publisher, translator and lexicographer. He published a series of annual calendars in almanac form, Lithuania's first, between 1847 and 1877, in which he summarized the daily life of Samogitian peasantry. He was the first to publish Antanas Baranauskas' most famous work, "Anyksčių Šilelis." Ivinskis' book, *Pasauga*, is considered as one of the first Lithuanian books dedicated to the subject of environmental protection.



### 105 years ago

**August 28, 1910**

Birth of Vaclovas Peleckis, a construction engineer, boxer, trainer and international-class referee who is considered the "father of Lithuanian boxing." Peleckis, who was taught by famous Lithuanian-American boxer Juozas Vinča, who had returned to Klaipėda in 1934, became Lithuania's boxing champion in 1935.

As a trainer, Peleckis coached Jonas Čepulis, who won a silver medal in the XIX Summer Olympics in Mexico City. He trained 26 Lithuanian boxing champions, 18 Lithuanian youth champions, eight sports masters and two USSR junior champions. In 1998, he was awarded the "Fair Play" prize by the International Olympic Committee and in 1999 was named best Lithuanian boxing coach of the 20th century.

### 100 years ago

**August 3, 1915**

After the outbreak of hostilities in World War I, the German army occupied Šiauliai.

**August 7-18, 1915**

The German army assaulted the Soviet troops occupying the forts surrounding Kaunas, finally taking the city after 11 days of fighting.

### 80 years ago

**August 11-17, 1935**

The first Lithuanian World Congress took place in Kaunas.

### 75 years ago

**August 3, 1940**

The Supreme Soviet officially registered the acceptance of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania into the USSR.

**August 30, 1940**

Chiune Sugihara, the Japanese diplomat in Lithuania who had been issuing transit visas to Jewish refugees seeking to flee the Nazis, received orders from Japan to stop immediately. He disobeyed the order and continued issuing visas until the consulate closed in September and afterward from his hotel room and his departing train. In all Sugihara issued visas to between 3,500 and 6,000 Jewish refugees.

### 70 years ago

**August 6-12, 1945**

Battle of Žuvintas-Paliai. A large deployment of Soviet forces with armored vehicles and planes encircled partisans in the Žuvintas-Paliai region. Partisans entrenched themselves in marshy islands and resisted Russian attempts to assault them from the lake by boats for a week before managing to withdraw.

# bridges

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