

bridges



LITHUANIAN-AMERICAN NEWS JOURNAL

\$5

February 2016

this month in history

February Anniversaries

720 years ago

February 11, 1296

Birth of Algirdas, Grand Duke of Lithuania (1345-1377) and Duke of Vitebsk (ca. 1318-1345). Algirdas was the son of Grand Duke Gediminas. Twice married, he had several daughters and six or seven sons, the most well-known of whom are Jogaila, Skirgaila and Švitrigaila.

680 years ago

February 25, 1336

The Teutonic Knights laid siege to Pilėnai Castle in Samogitia. Unable to defend themselves against the large number of invaders, the inhabitants of Pilėnai, under the leadership of Duke Margiris, made the decision to burn the castle and their property to leave nothing of value for the enemy, and to commit mass suicide rather than face subjugation by the Teutonic Order.



440 years ago

February 8, 1576

Transylvanian prince Steponas Batoras (Stefan Batory) was elected king of Poland and grand duke of Lithuania after a lengthy negotiation. Considered one of the most successful kings in Polish-Lithuanian history, his most notable achievement was repulsing a Russian invasion of commonwealth borderlands in Livonia and securing a highly favorable peace treaty.

215 years ago

February 16, 1801

Motiejus Valančius, Lithuanian educator, historian, writer and bishop of Samogitia, was born in Nasrėnai village in the Kretinga region. After he was consecrated bishop in 1850, he expanded and improved the Samogitian parochial school network, wrote many religious books and started a temperance movement that grew to encompass nearly a million members, almost half of the county's population at the time. A strong opponent of Russification, especially the Lithuanian press ban, he sponsored the illegal practice of printing Lithuanian books in East Prussia and smuggling them into Lithuania, helping stimulate the emergence of the Lithuanian national movement.

155 years ago

February 19, 1861

Russian Czar Alexander II issued a manifest and laws ending serfdom in Lithuania as part of a program of westernization. This action spurred the beginning of the first wave of Lithuanian mass immigration to America.

115 years ago

February 2, 1901



Violin virtuoso Jascha Heifetz (1901-1987) was born Iosef Ruvimovich Heifetz in Vilnius. His father, a violinist and concertmaster of the Vilnius Symphony Orchestra, taught him to play beginning at the age of 3. At the age of 5, Heifetz was accepted at the Royal School of Music in Vilnius, completing the program of study in four years. He performed as a soloist with the Berlin Philharmonic at age 10 and toured Europe as a pre-teen. His family immi-

grated to the United States after World War I, and Heifetz made his debut at Carnegie Hall at the age of 16.

Heifetz was a decorated commander of the French Legion of Honor, won three Grammy Awards, and a Grammy Lifetime Achievement Award.

65 years ago

February 16, 1951

The radio program "Voice of America," founded in 1942, began to broadcast a 15-minute program in the Lithuanian language. The first announcers were Kazys Grinius and Povilas Labanauskas.

25 years ago

February 9, 1991

More than 2.6 million Lithuanian citizens took part in a non-binding national plebiscite in which 90.47 percent expressed support for an independent, democratic Lithuanian republic.

February 11, 1991

Iceland became the first Western country to officially recognize Lithuania as an independent nation.

February 18, 1991

Vytautas Kancevičius of Kėdainiai died at a Vilnius hospital from gunshot wounds sustained during the bloody Sunday in January. He became the 16th victim of the military terror of the Soviet Union against the Republic of Lithuania.

February 21, 1991

The European Parliament adopted a resolution urging the leaders of the USSR and the Baltic States to start direct negotiations without any conditions precedent or any military or economic pressure.

February 26, 1991

At about 9 p.m., armed Soviet soldiers broke into the TV relay station in Plungė, searched the premises and cut off cables.



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Cover: Revelers in costumes and traditional masks celebrate Užgavėnės, Lithuania's pre-Lenten carnival. Photo: astudio/Shutterstock.com

Back cover: Skaters enjoy the frozen Lake Galvė at Trakai. Photo: R. Babakin/Shutterstock.com

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Congratulations to you and your families as we celebrate Independence Day on February 16th and March 11th. This is a very important year for our Lithuanian-American community because we're celebrating 65 years as an incorporated organization. We have 50 chapters and 40 Lithuanian Saturday School programs with their doors open for our children.

The Lithuanian American Community provides a rich foundation for our vision and goals to pass our Lithuanian Heritage to the younger generation. It provides an island oasis to enjoy and continue our traditions and language, so our culture will not be lost in America. This organization calls for us to gather together, work together, and sing and dance together. Through the community, we learn from one another, share our traditions, and enjoy each other's companionship and talents. We will show the American public the strength of our people, which we have cultivated as we endured many hardships throughout the years.

Sigita Šimkuviene

President, National Executive Committee
Lithuanian-American Community, Inc.

Freedom Revisited

After the terrible January of 1991, the struggle for freedom in Lithuania continued unabated. Citizens stood their ground, and remained steadfast in protecting their fledgling government, as illustrated in the photographs at right, taken in February 1991.

As the days progressed, Lithuania found it was not alone in bringing pressure to bear against the Soviet regime. Foreign government representatives, including a contingent from the United States Congress, made official visits. World leaders admonished the Soviet Union for its violent actions and urged peaceful negotiations. How appropriate, then, in the month that Lithuanians celebrated the anniversary of the restoration of independence, that they would finally receive their first international recognition of the reestablishment of that independence. On February 11, 1991, Iceland would become the first foreign government to officially declare that they considered Lithuania a sovereign nation. Others would follow shortly.

In this season of independence commemorations, take a moment to reflect on our freedoms. Are we being good stewards of the privilege of independence? Are we modeling the values of democracy or letting nationalism get the best of us? Are we willing to assist those seeking to escape oppression and poverty today, just like our forebears sought refuge? Without independence, where would we be today?

Teresė Vekteris
Teresė Vekteris, Editor



Parliament defenders and defense equipment. Photos: Vytautas Daraskevičius, from the exhibition "To Freedom."

readers respond

Deeply Moving

Just finished the first article, by Rasa Tautvydas in the latest Bridges [January 2016]. Even knowing that it had a happy end, I felt fear, terror and other sad emotions. There's been a lot of excellent reporting on those events, but this one was truly the best. It was not only deeply moving but also the most succinct, yet detailed description of those days.

The night of January 13, 1991, we were in Hamburg in the apartment of Lithuanian friends, watching horrified the live coverage of the events. How brave those who were there.

Nijolė Etwiler, via email

Tearful Enjoyment

I have been reading through the most recent (January) issue of Bridges and tearfully enjoying every page, photo and article! Thank you so very much for putting together such a valuable publication. The memories and reflections on the historical events of January 1991 are so very important for the world to know and learn and never forget!

I'm so proud to share this with my family and friends. You've done most wonderful work in putting together the variety of articles.

With sincere appreciation,
Janina Juskevičiutė Adelhardt,
via email

Wonderful - But Late!

What a wonderful issue of Bridges. The only problem is I have just received my January issue today, March 9th. The calendar of events on the last page is already passed.

My best,
Bill Kunst, via email

Editor: We were thrilled that our January issue with special coverage of the January Events struck a chord with our readers. So we were especially pained when equipment failure caused a nearly month-long printing delay. We regret that the lengthy repair window resulted in Bridges arriving so late.

Making Connections

Addressing Questions of Global and Local Importance at the Top of the Tower



Article and photographs by Rimas Gedeika

Philadelphia skyline from The Top of the Tower.



Penn Science Diplomacy Group students with Lithuanian Ambassador Rolandas Kriščiūnas (fourth from left) and Honorary Consul Krista Bard (fourth from right). Enrique Lin Shiao, founder of PSDG, is third from right.

Did you know that there are more than 300 world trade centers located in 92 countries around the globe, and that one of them is in Philadelphia?

Did you know that the oldest Consular Corps Association in America is also located in Philadelphia, and that Krista Butvydas Bard, honorary consul of the Republic of Lithuania to Pennsylvania, is its president?

Did you know that Honorary Consul Bard provided the connection between the Philadelphia World Trade Center's latest Embassy Series and two important Lithuanian questions?

The Question of Security in the Baltics

Of the many meetings, conferences and panel discussions that the Philadelphia World Trade Center hosts, its signature events are its global business conferences, its International Trade Week and its Embassy Series.

The Embassy Series brings senior international diplomats and experts to Philadelphia for an informal evening of building new relationships, sharing business opportunities and practices, and sampling the culture and cuisine of countries around the world.

It is organized in collaboration with the Consular Corps Association of Philadelphia, which comprises 32 member countries.

The Top of the Tower, with sweeping views of the city, was the venue for the latest Embassy Series topic, “The Baltic Question: Is the Region Secure in Its Post Soviet Success ... or Is Russia Lying in Wait?” The panelists discussing this question and related issues on October 8, 2015, were Rolandas Kriščiūnas, ambassador of Lithuania to the United States, Andris Razāns, ambassador of Latvia to the United States and Marki Tihhonova-Kreek, Estonia’s deputy chief of mission.

All three diplomats were quite optimistic regarding the ambitions and adventures of Russian President Vladimir Putin. They strongly believed that NATO would adhere to its Article 5 agreement—if one of its members is attacked, all other members will come to its defense.

The panelists also discussed the accomplishments and future of their own countries, their global role, and opportunities for expanding commercial ties with the greater Philadelphia region.

The Question of Suicide in Lithuania

Once the official program concluded, attendees had an opportunity to network and to continue their discussions with the diplomats on an individual basis.

While making my rounds, I met a very interesting group of five graduate students majoring in genetics or molecular biophysics at the University of Pennsylvania. Members of Penn’s Science Diplomacy Group (PSDG), the students were about to start a very interesting project in Lithuania.

Enrique Lin Shiao, PSDG’s founder, had a vision: to help establish international scientific collaborations, bringing together laboratories in different parts of the world, and promoting development and innovations by connecting and training scientists worldwide.

To implement his vision, Shiao wrote a letter to the president of the Consular Corps Association of Philadelphia, presenting his ideas. The letter drew Bard’s interest. A few weeks later, Shiao and Bard met and discussed what projects would be of interest to both. After considering numerous projects on a global basis, with special emphasis on those that would fit Lithuania, they agreed that suicide prevention would be the project.

Suicide is a major problem in Lithuania. The country’s suicide rate is the highest in Europe and very close to the top in the world. The problem has been studied and written about, but with very little movement toward a solution.



“Baltic Question” panelists (l-r): World Affairs Council of Philadelphia President Craig Snyder, moderator; Estonia’s Deputy Chief of Mission Marki Tihhonova-Kreek; Latvian Ambassador Andris Razāns; and Lithuanian Ambassador Rolandas Kriščiūnas.

The Penn Science Diplomacy Group will use their esoteric scientific skills to study the problem (why, where, how), evaluate various existing suicide prevention programs globally, and make recommendations on those best suited for Lithuania.

As with other international cultural projects involving Lithuania, Bard was the driving force behind this project. She introduced the project to Lithuania’s academic and religious circles, and got their support. Now she is endeavoring to obtain funds to allow the project’s leader to travel to Lithuania for an up close and personal look at the problem, as well as to learn about Lithuania’s history and culture—and to feel its soul.

The suicide prevention project is expected to be implemented and completed in 2016.



Lithuanian Ambassador Rolandas Kriščiūnas answering a high school intern’s question.



Let Us Write the History of Our People Together

By Loreta Timukienė, translated by Gabija Barnard

Left to right: Dr. Robertas Vitas, the chairman of the board of the LRSC, and Marijus Gudynas, the consul general in Chicago.

When we speak of the history and the current state of the émigré archives today, the answers are outnumbered by the questions.

At first glance, it may seem that the archives with various different archival materials do not require any special interest or care. However, once you consider the fact that those archives house unique original documents, photographs and records that cannot be found anywhere else, you realize that the archives also have the function of confirming authenticity. They preserve memories, provide the opportunity to understand one's roots and to reconnect with them. This realization raises the question of whose responsibility it really is to protect these memories. Is it Lithuania's or the émigré community's duty, or of both? So far, the question is just hanging in the air. From time to time it is brought up in the press or in archivists' meetings, but there is no definitive answer—and we probably won't have one anytime soon.

As we know, Lithuania has its own archives in need of organizing and digitizing, and that requires a substantial amount of money. Luckily, on this side of the Atlantic we still have sponsors and enthusiasts who are concerned about the preservation and maintenance of the émigré archives. Nevertheless, the question of funding, just like many other problems regarding the protection of our valuables, demands more of our attention and a further-reaching discussion. We cannot let the intellectual riches acquired over hundreds of years be scattered and lost, whereas the occasional suggestions to relocate the émi-

gré archives to Lithuania are usually disproportional. Why? We live in a swiftly globalizing world that allows us to easily find and use information stored thousands of miles away, thus rendering considerations on the physical location of the archives irrelevant. Instead, we should find a way to make the records readily available to those who are interested or to whom they are necessary. We should keep in mind that in today's world many people feel "displaced" and develop a keen interest in the factors that are formative toward their identity. I believe that providing the opportunity to have the information one finds necessary to resolve the dilemmas of one's identity is one of the most important uses of the archive. Let's face it—those of us who live far from our homeland find comfort in the knowledge that we have a real and obvious attestation of our individuality. Lithuanian churches, schools, the press, archives, museums, cemeteries, monuments and hills of crosses—without them we would dissolve like a drop of water in the ocean of nations and cultures.

In this article I will review one year's performance of the center that protects the evidence and elements of our identity. Just a few rhetorical questions—if we didn't have our archives, how would we fill the void that has opened up within us? Where would the thousands of photographs, documents, records and letters from our yesterdays end up? Having taken a look at the funding meant to maintain the biggest émigré Lithuanian research center, one also has to ask: will we really be able to preserve all that needs to be saved for future generations?

Various Projects

Apart from the usual everyday duties (like organizing the archives, taking records, finding and presenting information, digitizing various data), the employees of the Lithuanian Research and Studies Centre also carry out numerous projects with the aim of making the archives more approachable and well-known.

Last year we commenced with a new project: we are presenting our work to the Lithuanian communities of Chicago and surrounding areas. On November 22, 2015, we talked about our initiatives to the people of Brighton Park. The participants gathered in the parish hall to see our touring exhibition, “We Shall Open the Chest of Song Festivals,” while we answered questions on storage conditions and the passing on of the archival information at the LRSC. We are very grateful to the Brighton Park vicinity administration for the Lithuanian American Community, to the parishioners, and to Fr. Gediminas Keršys. We plan to continue having such meetings this year as well.

At the beginning of February 2015, Genė Razumienė, the director of the Juozas Žilevičius-Juozas Kreivėnas musicology archives, took part in a special lesson for the pupils of Chicago’s elite international school, GEMS World Academy. In the lesson, organized by the general consulate of the Republic of Lithuania, she presented Lithuanian folk music, instruments and works of art.

On March 29, 2015, in Cleveland, Ohio, Dr. Augustinas Idzelis, the LRSC’s chairman of administration, gave a lecture entitled “The Facts and Controversies of the Terrible May” at a gathering of the Lithuanian Scout Collegiate Division.

On November 8, 2015, in the Lithuanian World Center’s Lithuanian Museum of Art in Lemont, the LRSC held an afternoon program, “The History of American Lithuanian Musical Activities.” There Prof. Dr. Danutė Petrauskaitė, lecturer at

Klaipėda University, presented her recently published monograph, “Lithuanian Music Culture in the USA, 1890–1990.” She was aided by musicologist Alvydas Vasaitis. The audience heard pieces of Lithuanian music performed by the male ensemble Dainava, Rūta Pakštaitė-Cole, her daughter Vilija Pakštaitė-Longwell, Agnė Giedraitytė, Aras Biskis and Mindaugas Razumas. Participants also had the opportunity to see our unique archival videos of the composer, choirmaster, organist and founder of the musicology archives, Prof. Juozas Žilevičius. We thank the Lithuanian Foundation for funding the event.

Prof. Petrauskaitė not only presented her monograph, a lot of the research for which had been done at the Žilevičius-Kreivėnas Lithuanian musicology archives, but also gathered information and took notes for her future studies. The debut of her valuable publication proves how easy it is to reach the invaluable contents of the émigré archives from as far as Lithuania. Luckily, these treasures are not left to decay—they are put to good use in scientific studies, research for publications and films, preparation for exhibitions, and in finding the documents that reveal one’s genealogical roots.

In an attempt to spread the word about the work of the LRSC, we send information about our initiatives to the Lithuanian newspapers in the USA and Canada; we also post status updates on our Facebook page—visited by thousands of people—almost every day.

Exhibitions

The LRSC hopes to introduce as many people as possible to its archival material and to the rich cultural heritage of Lithuania. To this end we arrange various exhibitions. The subject of the exhibition “We Shall Open the Chest of Song Festivals” is the rich history of American Lithuanian song festivals. The 12 displays show publications from the nine song festivals, as well as documents, photographs and descriptions of the festivals in both Lithuanian and English. The exhibition was first displayed at the 10th North American Lithuanian Song Festival in Chicago; afterwards it was relocated to the Lithuanian World Center’s Lithuanian Museum of Art in Lemont, Ill.

Another exhibition of ours, “Sport in the Lives of American Lithuanians,” was first opened at the beginning of May 2015 in the Lithuanian World Center in Lemont during the Embassy basketball championship. Apart from other exhibits, it also boasted various items—like awards, documents, photographs and T-shirts—from recent sporting events our teams took part in.

In September, both exhibitions were moved to Cleveland, where the Lithua-



Employees of the LRSC at the annual ball in the Youth Center, which also houses the Lithuanian Research and Study Center. Standing, left to right: Vytautas Beleška, chairman of the board Dr. Robertas Vitas, Dr. Indrė Antanaitis-Jacobs, Loreta Timukienė, Kristina Lapienyte and Regina Idzelienė. Seated, left to right: chairman of administration Dr. Augustinas Idzelis, Juozas Bendikas, Enata Skrupskelytė and Gediminas Indreika. Photo: Audronė Sidaugienė.

nian American Community was holding its 21st session and where the LAUNA games were taking place. After that, they were presented on the West Coast: at the 29th Los Angeles Lithuanian Fair, at the Lithuanian community centers in Portland, and in Seattle, where in December the Lithuanian communities were invited to see the sports exhibition. Come springtime, both exhibitions, sponsored by the Lithuanian Foundation and the Lithuanian American Community, will be sent off to Canada, where Lithuanian communities from all over the country will get a chance to enjoy them. We are sincerely grateful to everyone who lent or even donated their archival materials so we could put together these exhibitions; we also thank everyone who helped us present the exhibitions in their communities. Special thanks go to Ingrida and Laurynas Misevičius, Violeta and Mindaugas Gedgaudas, and Nomedas Lukoševičienė.

We also contribute to exhibitions organized by other organizations. When our long-time collaborator, the Lithuanian Museum of Art, was putting together an exhibition in honor of the photographer, poet and writer Algimantas Kezys, we lent some photographs from the Kezys Archive of the Lithuanian Research and Study Center. In August, some exhibits from our exhibition for the 90th anniversary of the Consulate General of the Republic of Lithuania in Chicago were presented at the opening ceremony of the consulate's new offices.

This year brings another important project. From June 30 to July 3, 2016, the 15th Lithuanian Folk Dance Festival will take place in Baltimore, and for this occasion we are compiling an exhibition about the history of Lithuanian folk dance festivals in North America. We have already discussed the concept of the exhibition with the committee in charge of the dance festival and contacted participants, organizers and photographers from previous festivals. If you have any interesting materials in your personal archives (high-quality photographs, documents, emblems, etc.) we urge you to share them with us. If you wish to



Valdas Adamkus, former president of the Republic of Lithuania, viewed the LRSC's exhibition about sport.



Left to right: Genė Razumienė, director of the Žilevičius-Kreivėnas Lithuanian musicology archives; Vytas Beleška, an employee of the archives; and Danguolė Ilginytė, a long-time participant of the Lithuanian choral ensemble Dainava view the LRSC's archival materials on the ensemble's history.

keep the originals, we will be happy to make copies and return your material to you. For more information please call 773-434-4545 or email us at info@lithuanianresearch.org.

Guests

Rarely is there a day when the door of the Center doesn't open to welcome guests from near and far. Rolandas Kriščiūnas, Lithuania's Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary in the USA and Mexico; Marijus Gudynas, the consul general in Chicago; professor Vytautas Landsbergis; Dalia Henke, the chairwoman of the Lithuanian World Community; Dr. Virginija Paplauskienė, the head of the émigré literature department in the Maironis Museum of Lithuanian Literature; Liudas Gumbinas, reserve lieutenant colonel and leader of the Lithuanian Riflemen's Union; Julius Butkus, leader of the National Guard of Lithuania in Exile; Dr. Dalius Viliūnas, senior scholar at the Lithuanian Culture Research Institute in Vilnius; Onutė Surdokienė, the organizer of exhibitions at the culture center of Marijampolė; Brett Matulis from Philadelphia, Pa., who flew to Chicago just to find some information about his homeland; numerous relatives of Lithuanian origin, living in the U.S. or Canada, who met for the first time in Chicago not only to get to know each other, but also to find more documents that prove their family ties—these are just a fraction of the visitors we have, at one time or another, received at the archives.

Though it is hard to name all of our visitors, the entries in our guest book bear witness to the fact that our patrons are grateful for the opportunity to learn more about the history of their families and their country. Many guests have admitted to being pleasantly surprised at the quantity and quality of our archived treasures. We are always happy to help find a necessary document, a photograph, a book, or an audio or video record-

ing. After all, the aim of the archive is to enable us to write the history of our people together.

Last summer, Ina Vaisiūnaitė, a Ph.D. student at Vytautas Magnus University (VMU), spent a few months here researching the evolution of audio-visual media in Lithuanian American communities.

In late October, we received Mary Umans and Joseph Jakubauskas from St. Petersburg, Fla., who were interested in our displaced persons camp archives. Displaced, the film they are making, will tell of the Lithuanians who moved to the West at the end of World War II. Umans and Jakubauskas were especially interested in the photographs that captured not only the everyday life, but also the active cultural activities in the DP camps. Another guest was the director Ramunė Rakauskaitė, who currently lives in Lithuania but still makes the time to visit our archives. On this occasion she was researching the video recordings made by Lithuanian Americans visiting Soviet Lithuania. Rakauskaitė hopes to use her research in her upcoming film. We are looking forward to the premiers of both films.

Collaborations

The LRSC collaborates with various Lithuanian and Lithuanian-American organizations, thus expanding the scope of our activities and improving our opportunities to share our experience and resources.

One of our consistent collaborators is the World Lithuanian Community's Department of Lithuanian Studies at the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC), chaired by Prof. Giedrius Subačius. The students studying Lithuanian culture can do a placement at the LRSC for course credits. This year, the trainees scanned photographs in the Budrys photography archive.

We also collaborate with the Department of Lithuanian Studies of the Martynas Mažvydas National Library of Lithuania (NLL). Later this year we plan to put together a virtual exhibition to mark the 70th anniversary of the Lithuanian Writers' Union.

Our collaborations with the Lithuanian University of Educational Sciences (LUES) has also been going strong. In March 2015, we received Prof. Juozas Skirius, head of the Department of Universal History at the university. The historian and scholar of Lithuanian émigré history has visited the LRSC before; this time he was gathering information for a book on the input of the émigré communities to the establishment of the Republic of Lithuania. In January and February, we had some help from LUES students Agnė Aleksaitė, Šarūnė Baronaitė, Raimonda Gadliauskaitė and Ingrida Viluckytė. On weekends they interned at the Chicago and Maironis Lithuanian schools, and on their days off did some work at the Lithuanian Research and Studies Center. Students of Lithuanian language and literature and journalism in Vilnius, the trainees organized the archive of translator and diplomat Povilas Gaučys, and rearranged the collections of postcards and business cards. Later this year we expect a few more LUES students to intern here in Chicago.

We recently forged a new connection with the Lithuanian choral ensemble Dainava, which is celebrating its 70th anniversary later this year. Recently we started digitizing the ensemble's archive kept in the Žilevičius-Kreivėnas Lithuanian musicology archives. The ensemble's management had decided to gather all the materials that reflect on the activities of Dainava, and were delighted to discover the wealth of our archive. It contains photographs, documents, programs and newspaper clippings that track the history of Dainava from its very beginning in 1945 in Hanau, Germany. All of this valuable information was collected and neatly organized into folders by Viktoras Žeronas; the more recent information on the activities of Dainava will soon be supplied by the ensemble members themselves.

Our friendship with the Chicago Lithuanian School (which shares a building with the Youth Center) has also been flourishing. Traditionally, the graduates of this school have an excursion in our archives—we show them our main foundations and tell them about the works undertaken by the LRSC. The opportunity to visit the archives, to see how much important information we store here and to touch the documents from past epochs—all this makes for the perfect history or citizenship lesson. We are always happy to lend our archival materials for the school's events. When we learned that the school was searching for national costumes for its pupils, we gave them one set as a gift. In the future, we plan to suggest that the school's teachers teach themed lessons in the archives, which are full of information relevant for history, literature or music lessons.

We continue to organize and describe the Lithuanian American Community (LAC) archives, which have grown so vast to fill a whole room. This project is sponsored by the LAC; we plan to continue it in the future.

Wealthy Paupers

Every year, we become a little richer and our archives expand. This year we received archival materials from: Pilypas Narutis, an engineer and ateitininkas (member of the Lithuanian Catholic Federation "Ateitis") who was one of the main organizers of the 1941 June Uprising, participated in the anti-Nazi resistance, and was imprisoned in the Stutthof concentration camp; writer and teacher Antanas Giedraitis (pseudonym Giedrius); public figure Petras Linkus; cultural public figure Viktoras Vaitkus; the Vincas Krėvė Lithuanian school; Dr. Vytautas Bieliauskas, the former chairman of the board of the World Lithuanian Community (WLC), member of the LAC Archive Committee and chairman of the board of the LRSC; and the former active athlete Juozas Kijauskas. We receive new documents and photographs related to the work of LAC from various locations on a regular basis. The libraries have been enriched with gifts from Ilona and Henrikas Laucys, who gave us a valuable collection of books in English and Lithuanian about World War II, the post-war period and the Soviet occupation. Our libraries contain almost 200,000 books—fiction, non-fiction and even some literature from the 17th century.



Left to right: executive vice-chair Kristina Lapienytė with LRSC guests Al Vaskas and his wife, who were searching for archival documents about their family.

Currently, one of our biggest worries is the digitizing of our archival materials and their presentation in the digital medium. We realize that in the 21st century just safely storing and describing our archives is not enough, but the lack of funding for the digitizing of documents, photographs, and audio and video recordings is worrying. There is no time to waste—a significant portion of our archival materials must be converted into digital form immediately, as tomorrow they will be gone. Paper and audio and video tapes simply do not last forever. We are trying to acquire the equipment required to digitize the archival materials. We are grateful to the Oak Tree Philanthropic Foundation and the Saulys Foundation, both of which sponsored the acquisition of such equipment. This year we plan to continue scanning the old photographs from the Budrys photography archive, as well as digitizing our videotapes. A lot of attention will be devoted to one of the oldest and richest of our subdivisions—the Žilvičius-Kreivėnas Lithuanian musicology archives. Even though our employees Kristina Lapienytė, Genė Razumienė, Dr. Indrė Antanaitis, Juozas Bendikas and Vytas Beleška, and volunteers Enata Skrupskelytė and Gediminas Indreika work hard, sparing neither time nor energy, we still lack the human resources to tackle all the work that needs to be done. We are always searching for volunteers who could help scan photographs or have the skills to digitize audio or video recordings.

The work of the LRSC is unimaginable without the financial support of the Lithuanian Foundation and the generosity of our sponsors. We are sincerely grateful for the funds we have received and invite all the Lithuanians who reside in the U.S. to donate to the LRSC according to their means. The survival of our cultural heritage depends only on our self-reflection and generosity. We are prepared to do anything to preserve the émigré archives for our children and grandchildren because the archives are a part of our history that we have no right to lose or forget. You can donate to the LRSC by sending your donation to the Lithuanian Research and Studies Center, 5600 S. Claremont Ave., Chicago, IL 60636-1039 (donations are tax-deducti-

ble). Every one of you can contribute to the preservation of our shared history by passing on your personal documents or those of an organization, as well as letters, photographs, objects, etc. to the World Lithuanian Archives (WLA). You can also mention the LRSC in your will. We thank you in advance!

We also urge you to consider whether it is worth handing over your archival materials to private collectors. If you do so, all the valuables become their private property.

In Place of an Epilogue

To conclude my review of last year's performance, I want to quote a few of our visitors. Their thoughts provoke some deeper reflections on the value of the émigré archives and the perspectives of their preservation.

Dr Dalius Viliūnas, senior scholar at the Lithuanian Culture Research Institute in Vilnius:

"I learned two things at the LRSC. First, the WLA is like a treasure for researchers of Lithuanian intellectual heritage because of the rare—almost unique—periodical publications stored here. The possibilities for a Lithuanian studies scholar are huge. Second, it's obvious that the LRSC offers a truly good environment for scientific research and new discoveries: the descriptions of different archives and even individual cases are detailed enough; the periodicals are exemplarily grouped; the researcher, guided by the attentive and helpful LRSC employees, can easily find the required archival object. I learned how important it is to respect the spiritual heritage of the displaced and the cast away. This respect cannot be replaced by modern technology, the most state-of-the-art equipment, or an army of archive organizers. I believe that the archive must not be under any circumstances be divided or 'given away'. I hope that this Atlantis of Lithuanian culture will emerge and enlighten not only the researchers and scientists of the future, but also strengthen the spirit of Lithuania."

Sigita Nemeikaitė, journalist:

"Beyond the doors of the WLA lies an inexhaustible treasure of undiscovered history, waiting for both current and future generations to uncover it. It is like a Klondike for historians, journalists and scientists of various fields. Here you can find the archives of Lithuanian diplomats, DP camps, Siberian deportations, art, music, periodicals, and even the Society of Lithuanian American Doctors. There is so much undiscovered Lithuania here."

Brett Matulis, who flew to Chicago from Philadelphia hoping to find documents about his relatives in the archives:

"I am genuinely grateful for all the help I received while searching for the archival documents of my family, as well as for the interesting tour of the Center. You have some invaluable treasures here and your work is very important in preserving Lithuanian history."

Loreta Timukienė is vice chair of the Lithuanian Research and Studies Centre (LRSC) in Chicago.

Meeting on the Hardwood

By Rimas Gedeika



Nik Stauskas challenges Jonas Valančiūnas at the basket. Photo courtesy of the Philadelphia 76ers.

From 1991 to present, Lithuanian basketball has made enormous strides in becoming the best of the best. Lithuania's national team appeared in seven Olympic Games, winning three bronze medals (1992, 1996, 2000) and finishing fourth twice (2004 and 2008). In 23 European Championships, Lithuania won one gold medal (2003), three silver medals (1995, 2013, 2015) and one bronze medal (2007). The team also appeared in four World Cup games, winning a bronze medal in 2010 out of 24 participating teams.

During the past 25 years, Lithuania has produced several outstanding, world-class basketball players. Some have played in the Euroleague and have won its Most Valuable Player (MVP) Award. Ten others have played in the United States National Basketball Association (NBA), the world's most-renowned basketball league.

The Lithuanian National Team

Two of Lithuania's legends—center Arvydas Sabonis and guard Šarūnas Marčiulionis—worked very hard to have the Lithuanian National Team qualify for the 1992 Olympic Games. Marčiulionis was the team's inspirational leader, its heart and soul. He spent many hours forming and organizing the team and obtaining financial support to get the team qualified for one of the European positions for the '92 Summer Games. It was during these games that the Lithuanians, playing for the

first time under the Lithuanian flag, surprised the entire sports world by winning the bronze medal!

While Marčiulionis was the team's inspirational leader, Sabonis was the go-to guy, the strength, the warrior. He battled aggressively for every rebound, scored well from the post, dominated inside the paint. It was his tenacious play that inspired his teammates to give everything that they had and more. No matter how bad the situation, he would not let them quit. Sabonis, together with Marčiulionis, brought cohesion, strength and passion to the team and then the bronze medal to Lithuania.

The NBA

Sabonis and Marčiulionis also had a major impact on the NBA. Marčiulionis was the pioneer. He was the first player from the then-Soviet Union to play in the NBA (for the Golden State Warriors); in doing so, he was instrumental in opening the NBA's doors to other European basketball players. For his on-court and off-court achievements, Marčiulionis in September 2014 was inducted into the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame, the second Lithuanian player to be so honored.

In 1995, Sabonis became the second Lithuanian to play in the NBA (seven years for the Portland Trail Blazers). Many basketball experts maintain that had Sabonis been able to join the NBA at a younger age (not at 31) and without major Achilles

School Trip Creates Lasting Memories

By Daina Petkevičienė, director,
Dr. V. Kudirkos Lithuanian School



Nik Stauskas (left) and Jonas Valančiūnas (right) with the Lithuanian fans. Photo: Dr. V. Kudirkos Lithuanian School

On January 9, 2016, the Dr. V. Kudirka Lithuanian School of Elizabeth, N.J. ([facebook.com/lituanistinemokykla](https://www.facebook.com/lituanistinemokykla)) organized a trip for its students and friends to the Philadelphia 76ers vs. Toronto Raptors game. More than 100 Lithuanian cheered for both Raptor Jonas Valančiūnas and Sixer Nik Stauskas. Lithuanian Consul General of New York Julius Pranevičius, along with his family, was also in the group.

It was an exciting game and the Raptors won by 13 points, 108-95. Valančiūnas played with 17 points and nine rebounds and made a good comeback after his hand injury. The other Lithuanian heritage player, Stauskas, played with three points and five rebounds.

More fun moments were awaiting the group, especially the children, after the game. Both Stauskas and Valančiūnas were kind enough to accept the school's invitation and met with them after the game. The children had a chance to take photos together, receive autographs and talk with both NBA stars. Everybody left Wells Fargo Arena that night with a smile on their face and probably with memories they will never forget.



Fans in the stands. Photo: Dr. V. Kudirkos Lithuanian School

tendon and back injuries, he would have been the best overall center in the history of the game.

Even with his limiting injuries, Sabonis was still able to play at such a high level that, in August 2011, he was inducted into the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame, thus becoming the first Lithuanian to receive basketball's highest honor.

Youth Marches On

Since 1991 there have been 10 Lithuanian basketball players in the NBA. The current group comprises Jonas Valančiūnas (Toronto Raptors), Nikolas "Nik" Stauskas (Philadelphia 76ers) and Donatas Motiejunas (Houston Rockets). Of the three, the one who has been by far the most successful player both in the NBA and on the Lithuanian National Team is Valančiūnas, the 23-year-old, 7' 0" center from Utena, Lithuania.

In Europe, playing in three different FIBA age group championships, Valančiūnas was the dominant player in each one of them. In the FIBA European U16 Championships (2008), he led the Junior National Team to a gold medal and was selected the tournament's MVP. Two years later (2010), at the FIBA European U18 Championships, he again led the Junior National Team to a gold medal and again was selected tournament MVP. Finally, in 2011, at the FIBA U19 World Championships, he led the Junior Team to a gold medal and received another MVP award. By so doing, Valančiūnas became the only junior player to win three gold medals and receive three MVP awards in the FIBA age group championships in which he played.

In 2011, at the age of 19, Valančiūnas became the youngest player on Lithuania's Senior Men's National Team. Playing in the FIBA Men's European Championships, he helped the National Team win two consecutive silver medals, in 2011 and 2015. In the 2015 Championships, he was selected to play on the tournament's All-Star Team.

In the 2011 NBA Draft, Valančiūnas was the fifth overall player to be drafted by an NBA team, the Toronto Raptors. During his four years in the NBA, Valančiūnas has improved tremendously on both offense and defense, leading many experts to foresee a bright future for him.

Donatas Motiejunas, a 25-year-old from Kaunas, Lithuania, is another 7' 0" center. He started his professional career in Lithuania and then moved around various European clubs. His play in the Euroleague was so good that it attracted the NBA's attention. In the 2011 NBA Draft (the same one in which Valančiūnas was drafted fifth), Motiejunas was drafted by the Minnesota Timberwolves as the 20th overall pick. Soon after the draft, the Timberwolves traded him to the Houston Rockets, where he began his NBA career.

Motiejunas was playing well above average, improving with every game, when tragedy struck. Late in 2014 he sustained a major back injury. It not only ended his 2014-2015 NBA season, it also prevented him from playing on the Lithuanian National Team in the 2015 European Championships.

Motiejunas started the 2015 season slowly but steadily regain-

ing both his strength as well as his shooting eye when, for the second time in less than two years, his back gave out. Fortunately, this time the injury is not as serious and after several weeks of rehabilitation he was able to return to action.

Nik Stauskas, a 6' 6" shooting guard, is the youngest of the three and the only one not born in Lithuania. Stauskas was born in Toronto, Canada, of Lithuanian DP (displaced persons) descent—three of his four grandparents lived in Lithuania before fleeing to escape the invading Russians during World War II. He began his collegiate career at Michigan State and although he played there for only two years, he nevertheless was able to achieve some very impressive results. He was one of the best collegiate three-point shooters and was selected to the 2014 NCAA Men's Basketball All-American second team.

After completing his sophomore year, Stauskas decided to forego his last two years of college eligibility and try his fortune in the NBA. In the 2014 NBA Draft, he was the eight overall player to be drafted. He was drafted by the Sacramento Kings. After his rookie year, the Kings traded him to the Sixers, where he started the season on a high note, hitting more than 37 percent of his three-point shots. However, his hot shooting streak did not last too long. Shortly thereafter, he hit a terrible shooting slump where he couldn't buy a basket. It wasn't until about a month ago that he was able to break out of his slump and start to play in the manner in which the Sixers expected him to play when they traded for him.

The Fans

To Lithuania, basketball is almost like a second religion. Its fans are loud, emotional, expressive and very, very patriotic. How did this come about? It all started during the 50 years that the Soviet Union occupied Lithuania. During this occupation, the Lithuanians were subjugated to the Soviets' totalitarian rule. They were not allowed to express themselves in any manner. However, being a resourceful group of people, the Lithuanians found an avenue through which they could express their patriotism and their feelings without any Soviet intervention—on the hardwood floor!

During the many aggressive, emotionally charged matches between Kaunas Žalgiris basketball team and Moscow CSKA team, the Lithuanians were allowed to cheer for their team. And did they ever! They cheered so loudly, so enthusiastically and with such great patriotic fervor that at times it felt as if the roof would come tumbling down. While fans inside the stadium were cheering their heads off, Kaunas and the rest of the cities in Lithuania were practically empty. All of its people were at home with their ears glued to their radios, cheering Žalgiris with the same enthusiasm as those in the stands.

Today, Lithuanian basketball fans are just as enthusiastic as they were in the past, except now they are scattered all over the world. They still cheer their National Team as enthusiastically as ever—remember the 1992 Summer Olympics when they went ballistic when the team won the bronze medal. Now, however,



Daiva Kazlauskas-Makrakis presents Jonas Valančiūnas with the book *Philadelphia*, a compilation of photographs by Lithuanian photographer John Andriulis. Photo: Kostas Makrakis

they are also cheering the Lithuanian basketball players who are playing in their countries of residence. A Lithuanian is a Lithuanian regardless of where he plays. And where he plays, there are fans avidly supporting him and supporting Lithuania.

Philadelphia

Lithuanian fans are proud of all their basketball players no matter at what level—high school, college or professional. They are especially proud of those playing in the NBA. So it was not at all surprising that when Jonas Valančiūnas and Nik Stauskas met for the first time in Philadelphia, in November 2015, that a large group of Lithuanian fans was there to cheer them on.

The outing was organized by Philadelphia's Daiva Kazlauskas-Makrakis. The fans came from New York, New Jersey and southeastern Pennsylvania. They came wearing Lithuanian T-shirts, sweat shirts and hats, and waving Lithuanian flags. They cheered loudly when Valančiūnas scored or made a great defensive play. They cheered just as loudly when Stauskas scored.

LIE-TU-VA! LIE-TU-VA! could be heard resonating throughout the entire stadium. It didn't matter which team won (the Raptors did), for in the end, a Lithuanian won.

After the game activities, Kazlauskas-Makrakis had organized a "greet and meet" with Valančiūnas and Stauskas. The two athletes graciously met the fans, signed autographs and posed for photos. Kazlauskas-Makrakis, on behalf of all the fans, gave Valančiūnas a copy of a book entitled *Philadelphia*. The book is a compilation of photographs in and around Philadelphia taken by resident Lithuanian photographer, John Andriulis. She also gave a pictorial book of Lithuanian places to see and visit to Stauskas.

All in all, it was a truly memorable evening out on the town!



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FINNAIR
DESIGNED FOR YOU

Kruopy Sriuba su Grybais (Mushroom Barley Soup)

By Jana Sirusaitė Motivans



Left: Mushroom barley soup is a tradition at Women's Weekend at Camp Neringa. Photo: J. Motivans. Top Right: The kopylčia (chapel) at Neringa in the fall. Photo: T. Vekteris. Bottom right: Seventeen women gathered at Camp Neringa to celebrate the 10th anniversary of Women's Weekend.

Neringa Women's Weekend celebrated its 10th anniversary this past October. This special 10th year weekend of reflection, rejuvenation and celebration in the beautiful hills of Vermont was designed for women connected to Camp Neringa and Lithuania who are interested in spending time to nourish mind, body and spirit. There was a variety of activities, including group discussion, arts and crafts, yoga, cooking, and individual reflection and prayer.

Women's Weekend is organized by Dr. Kristina Mačiūnas and Kerry Secrest. Kristina is a family medicine physician with a holistic, integrative approach to medicine and a special interest in women's health. Kerry is a professional leadership coach for individuals and organizations and has been involved in personal development work for more than 18 years. In their professional work, they both lead a number of women's circles of development, and facilitated the first Neringa Women's Weekend in 2004, creating a unique experience for women who share a Lithuanian background.

Seventeen women gathered last year, newcomers as well as regular attendees. Most of the women who attend have been associated with Camp Neringa for many years, either as former campers or as counselors. Some have never been to Neringa before but are drawn to connect with their Lithuanian heritage. There is a mix of women of various ages, as well as a mix of those born in the United States and those who are more recent

arrivals from Lithuania. Discussions and activities are held in both English and Lithuanian.

One of the highlights of our gatherings is cooking and eating together. It is amazing how many women can work together in the spacious Neringa kitchen! It is an opportunity for us to prepare and enjoy each other's favorite foods, including Lithuanian specialties such as kepta duona (fried garlic bread), herring, kugelis (baked potato casserole) and balandėliai (stuffed cabbage).

One of the traditions of Women's Weekend is to start with a dinner of mushroom barley soup. This tradition was started by Vida Strazdis, who was previously the director of Camp Neringa. Vida tirelessly supervises the kitchen and prepares all the meals for the annual Neringa Walk-a-thon held every year in October. She began serving mushroom barley soup to the walk-a-thon attendees, and then brought the tradition to Women's Weekend, which is normally held in the spring.

A different volunteer prepares the soup each year, therefore the soup changes slightly according to each cook's preferences. I had the opportunity to prepare the soup this year, and now I share my interpretation with you. It is a delicious and warming soup for the cold winter months. Enjoy!

This year's Women's Weekend will be held May 20-22, 2016. For more information about Women's Weekend, please visit neringa.org/en_events_women.html

a taste of lithuania

Kroupų Sriuba su Grybais (Mushroom Barley Soup)



INGREDIENTS

- 1/4 cup butter
- 1 pound mushrooms: cleaned, stems trimmed, caps chopped
- 2 large carrots, peeled and chopped
- 2 large celery stalks, trimmed and chopped
- 1 large onion, peeled and chopped
- 1/2 cup pearl barley
- 8 cups beef or chicken stock or vegetable broth
- 1/4 cup chopped fresh parsley
- 2 tablespoons chopped fresh dill

1. Melt the butter in a large heavy pot over medium heat.
2. Add the chopped carrots, celery and onion. Cook, stirring often, until the vegetables have softened.



3. Add the mushrooms and continue to cook, stirring occasionally, until all the mushrooms are tender, about 15 minutes more.



4. Add the stock and the barley, increase the heat to medium-high, and bring to a boil. Reduce the heat to medium-low, cover the pot, and simmer until the barley is completely cooked and tender, about 1 hour.



5. Add the fresh herbs just before serving.



Tip: To boost the mushroom flavor, soak a handful of dried boletus mushrooms (baravykai in Lithuanian, porcini in Italian) in two cups of boiling water. When the mushrooms are soft, remove them from the liquid and chop into pieces. Strain the soaking liquid thru a fine mesh sieve, and add both the chopped mushrooms and the strained soaking liquid to the soup, reducing the eight cups of stock in the recipe to six.

Once Again “The Path of Life and Death” Stretches from Vilnius to Portland

By Laurynas R. Misevičius and translated by Gabija Barnard
Photographs by Kristina Langaitienė and Darius Kuzmickas



On Sunday, the Lithuanian community of Portland, Ore., once again joined The Path of Life and Death. On the 25th anniversary of the January events, the community organized a 9K run along the Willamette River.

Last year it was almost at the last minute that Inga Sadaunikaitė-Kozhevnikov, the leader of the local Lithuanian running club, Lituanica, and other running enthusiasts received invitations from Vilnius to join The Path of Life and Death. This time around, however, the new route for the Lithuanian runners from the states of Oregon and Washington had been selected some time before the New Year and was ready for the run this Sunday: nine kilometers along the Willamette River by Oaks Park. Just like last year, on the eve of the run we gathered in Portland to listen to a concert by Rūta Kuzmickaitė, an American-born Lithuanian who is a sophomore at Rice University in Houston, Texas. Listening to her performance, we were transported back to our homeland and many of us recalled our own experiences from January 13 a quarter of a century ago. Fittingly, Bach's complex music was so demanding that the talented pianist played with endurance strong enough to have been hardened in a fight for freedom.

Among the four and a half thousand runners gathered in Vilnius by the Lithuanian Association of Running Enthusiasts to participate in The Path of Life and Death, one that really stood out was the firefighter Aidas Ardzijauskas. In the summer of 2013, he ran 5,000 kilometers between Los Angeles and New York; then in the spring of 2014, he won the 10-day ultramarathon in the Big Apple. In the run commemorating the 25th anniversary of the January events, the firefighter from Vilnius—number 2073—represented Portland's Lithuanian running club,

Lituanica. This August the indestructible runner hopes to join his compatriots across the Atlantic and to take part in the legendary Hood to Coast marathon on the northwestern coast.

Just like Lithuania and many other European countries, this weekend the City of Roses saw plenty of symbolism: on a Sunday morning, a group of exactly 25 running enthusiasts came together to participate in the 25th The Path of Life and Death. Only Lithuanian snowflakes were missing, to be replaced with warm wintry sunshine of the West Coast. For the first time, the runners were accompanied by their young children—including our very youngest participant, who raced in his stroller. Although 9-month-old Sabonis Rokas Misevičius didn't manage to complete the 9-kilometer track on his own, his valiant attempt to beat The Path of Life and Death has been documented in a group photograph of all the participants as a memento for Sabonis' adult years.

Meanwhile, Inga, the two-time organizer of Portland's historical run, didn't even let the Lithuanian flag that snagged on a fence and tore dampen her mood. After completing The Path of Life and Death, Inga said, "Our children are still too young to understand the meaning of this run. But if every year they see their parents running in patriotic T-shirts, with the Lithuanian flag in their hands, they might learn some lessons from our recent history. It's so nice that no one was deterred by the morning chill; that everyone is still sensitive to the history of our people and still remembers to be thankful to those who gave their lives for our and our children's freedom. 'Wasting' two or three hours once a year is worth it to honor those who stood unarmed in front of tanks. The cold and rain aren't armored vehicles. Events like this one bring the community closer; there are no winners or losers: there are just Lithuanians and our friends, we remember our brothers and sisters together, we honor our heroes and teach history to our little ones. And yet initiatives like this one should do even more to bring communities together: next year, I'd like to see the number of participants double."

Apart from Chicago, the unofficial capital of American Lithuanians, last year only Portland participated in the initiative that started in our homeland a quarter of a century ago. This year, however, these two communities were joined by Lithuanians in New York, Seattle, San Francisco and Washington, making the number of runners in The Path of Life and Death almost reach 5,000. Hopefully, given some time, the annual The Path of Life and Death on January 13 will catch up in popularity with July 6, Statehood Day, when thousands of Lithuanians throughout the world sing the Lithuanian anthem.

our community

January 13 Commemorations Across the U.S.

Washington, D.C.



Like their compatriots in other cities, the Washington, D.C., Lithuanian community ran the Path of Life and Death in the nation's capital. Runners stopped at landmarks along the way, including the Capitol Building, the Washington Monument and even the White House, bringing a bit of Lithuanian color to the grey day. Photos courtesy of the Embassy of the Republic of Lithuania to the United States.



Los Angeles



On Sunday, January 10, 2016, the Lithuanian Scout organization in Los Angeles celebrated the 25th anniversary of events that took place on January 13, 1991. Photo: Ina Petokas.

New York City



New York Lithuanians didn't let a little rain deter them from commemorating the 25th anniversary of the January Events. They gathered for the Path of Life and Death run in Central Park in New York City to honor those who died on January 13, 1991, as the Soviets stormed the TV Tower in Vilnius. Photo: G. Meškėlienė

Brooklyn

On January 17, 2016, Annunciation Church in Brooklyn, in conjunction with the New York Chapter of the Lithuanian American Community, commemorated the frightful murders at the Vilnius TV Tower in 1991. Before the Offertory of the Mass, a procession of adults and children carried burning candles and photos of those murdered to the altar, where they were placed on the rail. After Mass, in the Parish Lower Hall, Consul General Julius Pranevičius spoke of the horrors of that terrible day. Maironis Lithuanian School children Elzbieta Kungys, Greta Nemickas, and Elena Pranevičius recited poetry in honor of the dead. Following the program, the Robert Mullan film *Mes Dainuosim* (We Will Sing), with subtitles, was shown. The film poignantly follows the path of those murdered as they made their way to the TV Tower.

History Does Not Disappear if It Leaves Its Mark

By Irena Nakienė-Valys



The chapter's Lithuanian Independence Day in Putnam.

I would like to confess that this is my first article that I had to force myself to write for three months. I had that feeling that I would close the door that would never open again.

As the Lithuanian American Community, Inc. (LAC) is counting its 65th year, I decided to review and go through 60 years of my Eastern Connecticut district's existence. Maybe we are not the oldest district?

The Marijonai (Congregation of Marian Fathers of the Immaculate Conception of the Most Blessed Virgin Mary) who settled in the New England town of Thompson, Conn., a few miles from Putnam, Conn., established a Lithuanian school for boys and called it Marianapolis (now the co-ed Marianapolis Preparatory School). At first, Lithuanian youth were invited here for summer camps. In 1944, the Sisters of the Immaculate Conception of the Virgin Mary settled in Putnam, and later opened Raudondvaris boarding school for girls. When new immigrant children arrived in 1955, Lithuanian activity began in earnest.

Local Lithuanians gathered at Marianapolis. Without any big festivities, they and the residents of Villa Maria—the home for the aged that the Sisters had opened in Thompson—said a prayer, sang the anthem, listened to Lithuanian chants and created the LAC Putnam chapter, registered under the Connecticut District. I can't find the exact number of members, but, according to the newsletter, six people paid the solidarity fee; four

of them were 18-25 years old. The first board members were Algis Mitkus, the chairman; and Sisters Palmyra Kavaliauskaitė and Audra Antanaitytė. In the beginning, the focus was on the boarding school activities. The girls had their choir, folk dance group, and drama, art, and literature circles. The monastery's publishing house in Putnam produced the following publications until 1963: "Our Friend" (Mūsų draugas) and "Under the Raudondvaris Sky" (Raudondvario padangėje).

In 1964, chapter members participated in the LAC board election. Around 1975, when the girls' dormitory was closed down, community activity was transferred to Lithuanians who lived within the chapter's boundaries and one nun representative, Sister Augusta Sereikytė. Activity was limited to commemoration of February 16th and annual chapter meetings. Under the leadership of Juozas Tamašauskas, the chapter sent many documents to U.S. government officials concerning Lithuanian matters. Under the leadership of Dr. J. Kriaučiūnas, protest letters were sent to the American Teachers Association regarding the movie *Unknown War*. A written protest note was sent to NBC television because Lithuanians were depicted as Nazis in the movie *Holocaust*. The bishop of Lomza, Poland, was reprimanded in writing for disrespectful treatment of Lithuanians living in the Suvalkai region. During one February 16th commemoration meeting, a resolution was adopted asking the

our community



In the commemoration of the February 16th holiday in 2010.



Chapter board, Putnam, 2011.

U.S. President, the Secretary of State, Connecticut Representative and Congressman Christopher Dodd and the head of the U.S. Delegation to the United Nations to bring up the issue of Lithuania's annexation and the persecution of Lithuanians under Soviet occupation in all international forums, especially in the upcoming Madrid Conference in 1980. This resolution was sent to Lithuanian embassy in Washington, D.C., and the Consulate General of Lithuania in New York.

From the documents of the chapter accounts, I found out that more than 100 actual members took part in meetings during 1982 and 1983. In the period of one year, U.S. Congress and government officials received: 60 letters with the request to announce the Baltic Day; 150 letters concerning the issue

of Lithuanian independence (the same issue was addressed in the resolution to the United Nations with 16 letters); 90 letters regarding the postage stamp with Lithuanian aviators Darius and Girėnas; and one letter written to the representatives of Lithuania in Washington, D.C., regarding diplomat allocation. Donations made by the chapter included: \$710 for Lithuanian Language and Culture Department in Chicago; more than \$20,000 for the freeing of Lithuania; and \$957 for VLIK (Vyriausybės Lietuvos išlaisvinimo komitetas or Chief Committee for Liberation of Lithuania). Chapter records show that both the chapter and individual members financially supported: BATUN (Baltic Appeal to the United Nations), Baltic League in California, Priest Unity, ALKA (American Lithuanian cultural archives and museum), Lithuanian church publication, religious activity, and many other organizations and causes. Chapter members collected funds and financially supported the building of the convent chapel and Blessed J. Matulaitis Nursing Home in Putnam. They donated their time and effort to build Father Stasys Yla's project, Mindaugas' Castle.

Over time, the Putnam chapter was joined by more active Lithuanians from nearby chapters that had ceased to exist, including people from the communities of New London, Woodstock, Achford, Thompson and Quaker Hills.

As our community life was centered around Lithuanian activity and the idea of Lithuania's liberation, after regaining of independence, the chapter's activity was focused on staying Lithuanian, preservation of Lithuanian culture, loyalty to America, improvement of morale among Lithuanians, and fostering hope and faith. People from this chapter were always elected to the LAC board and World Lithuanian Community parliament (I am serving a second term myself).

After the name change to LAC Chapter of Eastern Connecticut, the chapter's board is composed of five individuals elected from the membership. During the 60 years of the community's existence, the chairmen of the board (in addition to those mentioned earlier) have included Jonas Paknys, Vytautas Abromaitis, Dr. Česlovas Masaitis, Albina Lipcienė, Juozas Rygelis, Vytautas Alksninis and Diana Norkienė. I, Irena Valys, have the honor of being the latest one.

Assistant chairmen have included Sister Palmira Kavaliauskaitė, Rev. Vytautas Zakaras, Balys Mikaila, Dr. Antanas Matukas, Sister Margarita Bareikaitė, Sonata Lazauskienė and Regina Taunienė. Treasurers have included Laima Sileikytė, Marytė Saulaitytė, Sister Augusta Sereikytė, Anne Žaloniš (Žalionytė), Vita Noreikaitė, Juozas Tamašauskas, Juozas Bruzas and Francis Valys.

The Control Committee's long-term serving members include Ona Štrimaitienė, Sister Oliveta, Elena Kondrotienė, Birutė Ignienė, nurse Rita Trimakė, Mikas Klimas, Juozas Vasaitis, Liuda Petravičienė, Aldona Rygelienė, Regina Mikailienė, Ona Skardienė, Marija Noreikienė, Leonardas Norkus, Eglė Sierkevičienė, Rolandas Lazauskas and Rev. Izidorius Sadauskas. Many famous and respected people lived and worked for

this chapter: poet and essayist Aistis (Jonas Aleksandravičius) and Aldona Grajauskaitė (his wife); professor, mathematician, social activist, explorer of Samogitian (Žemaičiai) ethnography and one of the founders of Kretinga's Museum, Ignas Končius; agronomists Stasys Miknius with his wife, Elena Smilgevičiūtė; painter, organist, choir leader, educator and composer Jonas Banys; educator, historian and social activist Emilija Putvytė; women's Šiauliai army division member and social activist, daughter of V. Putvinskis-Pūtvis, Sofija Pūtvytė-Mantautienė; Dr. A. Matukas; professor Dr. Balys Mikaila; Juozas Vembrė; painter Jurgis Juodis; painter Vytautas Ignas; and professor of mathematics, computer specialist and poet Česlovas Masaitis.

Famous chapter members still residing here include poetess and writer Sister Onutė Mikailaitė; writer Danutė Lipčiūtė-Augienė; and poetess Danguolė Sadūnaitė. Priests who put lots of effort and work for Lithuanian heritage preservation: Rev. Stasys Yla, Valdemaras Cukuras, Vaclovas Paulauskas, prelate Jonas Balkūnas, Dr. Prof. A. P. Žygas, Salesian Rev. Izidorius Sadauskas and others.

Our chapter has been visited and our meetings attended by many guests from Lithuania or those living in the U.S., e.g. all consuls from the Lithuanian Consulate in New York, ambassador Anicetas Simutis, consul Jonas Paslauskas, VLIK Chairman prel. Mykolas Krupavičius, painter Paulius Jurkus, Dr. Kazys Bobelis, scientist Dr. Algimantas Liekis, Dr. Ferdinand Kaunas, Silvija Vėlavičienė and others.

The chapter has two social activists who radiate the essence of citizenship through their work and actions, creativity and respect to every person. These people testify their love of Motherland, and their wish to see it prosper and bravely step into the future. They are Dr. Juozas Kriaučiūnas, awarded the Third Rank Order of the Lithuanian Grand Duke Gediminas, and Vytautas Alksninis, the founder of Alksniniai and Alfred Senn Family Foundation to support Lithuania, the patron of Zana-ykai Regional Museum, awarded the Cross of the Knight Order for Merits to Lithuania by President Dalia Grybauskaitė.

Not only invited guests took part in the chapter's festivals and art performances, the community members actively participated as well. Papers were presented by Rev. V. Cukuras, J. Rygelis, V. Alksninis, Sister O. Mikailaitė, Danutė Wilson and I. Valys; Vytautas Alksninis, Zenonas Jūris and Romas Kezys sang songs, Romas Drazdauskas and Mr. and Mrs. Rygelis' granddaughters, the twin sisters Ona and Emilija Rygelytes, played music.

Year after year the activists have gotten older, passing away, moving into the nursing home to live, or moving away—only a handful of the chapter founders remain. We still have some members who are over 100 years old; a few 100-year-old members have recently passed away. There are some Lithuanian seniors who consider themselves to be Lithuanians at heart and who are over 90 years old.

During the few years that I have been chairman of this chap-



Meeting in ALKA, Putnam, 2008.

ter, not a single Lithuanian family or immigrant has moved to this area. We have been attending Connecticut district or Hartford chapter events for a several years now. Sooner or later time comes. Society changes, becomes older, becomes apathetic or indifferent. Many things can be done or said, but they would be deemed not relevant. I've realized that too much frankness is as dangerous as too much reticence. My Lithuanian communal creative energy, enthusiasm and belief has not and will not change. I am grateful to LAC Inc. Chair Sigita Šimkuvienė for the invitation to join the community, and for encouraging me to write articles for the magazines and newspapers.

Now the situation is very different. We cannot compare new immigrants with old-time immigrants. Lithuania has gone far ahead, achieved a lot, and there is no doubt that it is a different country now. Now the perception of what it means to be Lithuanian has changed. There is a shift from traditional patriotic attitudes toward culture. New immigrants are more interested in celebrating Lithuania through art, cultural events and sporting activities. On one hand, it is a very welcome change because it is meaningful. We say that people must not be judged by their looks, but by the work done. If we wish to be Lithuanians, we must speak beautiful proper Lithuanian, and love and appreciate Lithuania.

Though time flies and our ranks are thinning out like leaves in the fall, we always remember those who passed away, but left their mark on this earth. Time is accounted for. I am happy to have acquired such experience in eight years (the last three, in a management position). I am happy I was in the right place time at the right time.

Irena Nakienė-Valys is community chair of the Eastern Connecticut Chapter of the Lithuanian-American Community, Inc. She is also a member of the Lithuanian World Community.

Thriving After More Than 120 Years: Elizabeth, N.J.'s Lithuanian Community

By Jonas Dunčia, Ph.D.



Everyone dancing the ratelis (little wheel) with Santa.
Photo: Dr. V. Kudirka Lithuanian School

Good things are happening in the Lithuanian community of Elizabeth, N.J.

The Church of Sts. Peter & Paul still continues to serve the community after 120 years, being the first Lithuanian church founded in New Jersey. The Lithuanian children's choir, Varpelis (Little Bell), organized by Birutė Mockienė, often sings during Sunday Mass at 11 a.m. Being under the care of a neighboring Polish parish, St. Adalbert's, Lithuanian priests Fr. Daniel Staniškis and Fr. Pranciškus (Francis) Nekrošius volunteer to say Mass monthly or sometimes even more frequently. Fr. Daniel drives more than two hours up I-95 from his American parish in Wilmington, Delaware. Fr. Pranciškus is a Ph.D. student from Lithuania studying at Seton Hall University. He speaks perfect English and works in the busy student campus ministry there. He is a member of a contemplative order, the Community of St. John (Lithuanian: Joanitai), established rather recently in 1975 in France. Parishioners are very grateful to these two beloved priests who sacrifice their time to say Mass and to hear confessions in the language of their forefathers.

The Dr. Vincas Kudirka Lithuanian School, headed by principal Daina Petkevičiene, meets every Sunday in St. Adalbert School to convey the language, culture and traditions to the younger generations. This year, they invited this author to prepare the students for their First Holy Communion, which will take two

years. The school is also preparing two Lithuanian folkdance groups that meet Sundays to practice for the upcoming 15th Lithuanian Folk Dance Festival in Baltimore this summer (www.sokiusvente.org). One dance group is composed of the young school children taught by Aušra Covalesky and Jurgita Kašiuba. The other teenage group is taught by Zita Poderienė and Lina Giusti. The teenage group is looking for "a few good men" to pair up with the extra girls who are looking for dance partners. Before the holidays, the school held its annual Christmas play. After Mass with Fr. Daniel, the school students put on a play in Lithuanian about Little Red Riding Hood (Raudonkepuraitė) and the animals in the forest, who together at the end sang a song wishing everyone a happy and holy Christmas (Linksmų Šventų Kalėdų). The teen dance group, who were dressed as Santa's helpers, performed one dance from the upcoming festival. Lastly, the New York rock band Steel Wolf played their rowdy song "Kur Tas Kugelis?" (Where's the Kugelis?). With that, the onlookers were, of course, treated to a tasty dinner of kugelis (potato cake), kielbasa, sauerkraut and other treats. Everyone had a great time, going home with lasting memories and feeling part of one large and loving Lithuanian family.



Little Red Riding Hood and cast. Photo: Dr. V. Kudirka Lithuanian School

More information:

Elizabeth, N.J., Lithuanian community:
facebook.com/groups/lietuviaisiauresnj

Church of Sts. Peter & Paul:
peterandpaul.us

Dr. Vincas Kudirka Lithuanian School:
facebook.com/lituanistinemokykla

Security

... In January, Lithuania's Ministry of National Defense published the 2016 conscription list of 30,000+ names of men between the ages of 18 and 25. Between April and October, the military will call up 3,000 draftees and volunteers for a period of nine months.

... Vilnius is the site of a trial of 65 Russian, Belarusian and Ukrainian former military officials and officers charged in 14 deaths in the January 13, 1991, attack on the Vilnius TV Tower. Only two defendants were present; most of the others were represented by court-appointed lawyers.

... On the 25th anniversary of the January 13 attack, Lithuanian Foreign Minister Linas Linkevičius thanked the Ukrainian military who volunteered to defend Lithuania's institutions. Former commander Yevgen Dykiy gave a speech at the Seimas (Parliament) on the Day of the Defenders of Freedom.

... U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Victoria Nuland met with Lithuanian Foreign Minister Linkevičius and NATO Deputy Secretary-General Ambassador Alexander Vershbow in mid-January at the informal "Snow Meeting" to discuss security issues prior to the NATO summit in Warsaw, July 8-9, 2016. The "Snow Meeting" in the Paunguriai district of Trakai, west of Vilnius, covered Russia's role in eastern Ukraine and Syria plus reviewed defense and energy cooperation among the U.S., Baltic and Nordic countries.

... The U.S. Department of Defense European Infrastructure Consolidation involves shifting U.S. presence from being focused in Western Europe (Britain, Belgium, Germany) to facilities in Eastern Europe (Baltic nations). This shift is matched by a proposed increase in funding under the European Reassurance Initiative from \$1.0B to \$3.4B

... The widely respected Foreign Policy Research Institute in Philadelphia has introduced a new publication, Baltic Bulletin, which extends their coverage to "embrace history and geography to illuminate foreign policy challenges facing the United States." The main article, "Little Green Men in the Baltic States Are an Article 5 Event," is a reference to the fact that if Russians appear in the Baltic, NATO's Article 5 for mutual defense would need to be invoked.

Business

... Lithuania's Ministry of Economy announced new financial support packages for foreign investors who invest in research activities in Lithuania. Applications are being accepted until April 11, 2016. Funds are being supplied by the European Union and distributed through Smartinvest LT+. Applicants are asked to reserve at least 20 percent of new jobs for researchers and commit to at least five years' employment.

... Forbes listed nine reasons why Lithuania is a good place to start a business: it has the fastest WiFi; it is relatively safe; 97 percent of adults (25-64) know at least one foreign language; most of Europe is within a two- to four-hour flight; there are multiple entrepreneurial events to pitch ideas; operating expenses are low compared to the rest of Europe; there are multiple venture capital sources for EU funding; it is central to markets in Scandinavia, Western Europe, Russia and the Commonwealth of Independent States; and it is the largest market in the Baltics.

... Forbes also reports on Lithuania's economy one year after converting from litas to the euro. They report that real wages are up by 5 percent, home prices are up by 2.4 percent, and overall GDP growth is up 2.5 percent and projected to be 3 percent in 2016. Any weak sectors were caused by Russian sanctions such as the ban on dairy imports. Tadas Vizgirda, chairman of the Vilnius-based American Chamber of Commerce in Lithuania, says, "The euro is still fairly fresh for us all. Overall, I'd say it's been a success. It's good to be here." Žygmantas Mauricas, chief economist at Nordea Bank also in Vilnius, says, "Now you have stability and the common currency just makes it easier to do business and to invest."

... Invest Lithuania, an investment development agency, reports that foreign investors are led by Sweden, the Netherlands, Germany, Poland and Norway. Initially investors were attracted by low labor costs but the expanding service sector is supported by a large pool of skilled labor and high levels of education. Areas of expansion include finance, insurance, IT and real estate. Justinas Pagirys, director of Investment Development Department of Invest Lithuania, reports that there is active interest from companies from China and America.

... Lukoil, Russia's largest private oil company, plans to sell 240 of its gas stations in Lithuania, Latvia and Poland to AMIC Energy Management, an Austrian company. Last year, Lukoil's CEO Vagit Alekperov said that they would leave the Baltic countries because of anti-Russian sentiment. In 2015, Lukoil sold its Estonian subsidiary to Olerex, an Estonian company, and since 2014 has sold its gas stations in the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary and Ukraine.

... In January 2016, Lithuania submitted an Initial Memorandum to the OECD (Organization of Economic Co-operation and Development), a successor to the successful Marshall Plan of post-WWII. The review will take two to three years, and would enhance Lithuania's economic prospects beyond that currently available through the World Trade Organization and European Union. OECD is an economic organization of 34 countries committed to democracy and market economy. Estonia became a member in 2010 and Latvia's 2013 application is pending.

our community

Lithuanian Consuls Help Open Mardi Gras

Two honorary consuls of Lithuania to the United States participated in the official Mardi Gras opening ceremonies in New Orleans on February 9, 2016.

Hon. Consul of the Republic of Lithuania to New Orleans, Jackie Clarkson, and Hon. Consul of the Republic of Lithuania to Aspen, Colorado, Dr. John Prunskis, along with their spouses, sailed down the Mississippi River with military and civic leaders to the French Quarter to officially open the pre-Lenten celebration.

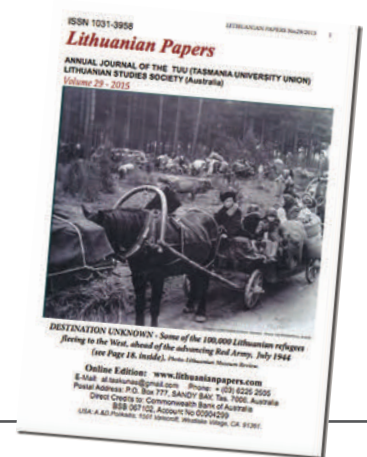
New Orleans Mayor Mitch Landrieu noted the consuls' presence in his greeting to Rex, King of Carnival, when his parade float paused at the grandstand. Rex also acknowledged the guests in his slightly tipsy toast to the mayor and the gathered crowd, saying "Lithuania is one of my favorite people."



On board the U.S. Coast Guard Cutter Harry Claiborne are (left to right) Hon. Consul of Lithuania to Aspen, Colorado, Dr. John Prunskis; Dr. Terri Prunskis; Admiral Dave Callahan; Hon. Consul of Lithuania to New Orleans, Jackie Clarkson; and Mr. Buzz Clarkson.

Annual Issue of Lithuanian Papers Now Online

Lithuanian Papers, the annual journal of the Lithuanian Studies Society of the University of Tasmania in Australia, was released in December 2015. The free, online-only issue is available at www.lithuanianpapers.com, along with the 2014 and 2013 issues.



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Order online at lithuanian-american.org/bridges

February 2016

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

ONGOING

One Sunday a Month
Lithuanian Brunch, 12-4 p.m.
The Avenue Restaurant, 71-22
Myrtle Ave., Glendale, N.Y.
Call 347-725-3853 for dates and
reservations.
Info: theavenuebarandgrill.com;

Every Friday, 2-10:30 p.m.
**Fish Fry Fridays at the
Rockford Lithuanian Club**
716 Indiana Ave., Rockford, Ill.
Open to the public.
Info: rockfordlithuanianclub@
hotmail.com or 815-962-9256

APRIL 2016

April 9, 2 p.m.
**Benefit Concert for
Camp Neringa**
600 Liberty Highway,
Putnam, Conn.
Info: Neringa.org

April 16, 1-3 p.m.
Amber Roots Heritage Club
Lithuanian Music Hall, 2715 E.
Allegheny Ave., Philadelphia
Everyone welcome. Use side
entrance on Tilton Street.
Bring a dish to share.
Info: milliemarks@aol.com

MAY 2016

May 1
**Omaha Lithuanian Community
Mother's Day Celebration**
Sts. Peter and Paul School
cafeteria, 5912 S. 36th St.,
Omaha, Nebr.
Info: facebook.com/OmahaLB

May 7-8, 11 a.m. - 6 p.m.
**44th Annual Baltimore
Lithuanian Festival**
Catonsville Armory, 130 Mellor
Avenue, Catonsville, Md.

May 15
**Omaha Lithuanian Community
Annual Meeting and Elections**
Sts. Peter and Paul School
cafeteria, 5912 S. 36th St.,
Omaha, Nebr.
Info: facebook.com/OmahaLB

May 20-22
Women's Weekend at Neringa
Camp Neringa, Brattleboro, Vt.
Info: kriscon@frontiernet.net or
kerry@watershedcoachingllc.com

May 21, 1-3 p.m.
Amber Roots Heritage Club
Lithuanian Music Hall, 2715 E.
Allegheny Ave., Philadelphia
Use Tilton Street entrance.
Info: milliemarks@aol.com

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

JUNE 2016

June 4-5
Talka Work Weekend
Camp Neringa, Brattleboro, Vt.
Info: neringa.org

June 18, 1-3 p.m.
Amber Roots Heritage Club
Lithuanian Music Hall, 2715 E.
Allegheny Ave., Philadelphia
Info: milliemarks@aol.com

June 25
**Omaha Lithuanian Community
Jonines - St. John's Day Picnic**
4435 S. 184th Plz, Omaha, Nebr.
Info: facebook.com/OmahaLB

June 25-29
**Heritage Family Camp
in English**
Camp Neringa, Brattleboro, Vt.
Info: neringa.org

JULY 2016

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

July 4-9
**Family Camp for Lithuanian
Speakers**
Camp Neringa, Brattleboro, Vt.
Info: neringa.org

July 10-24
**Children's Camp for Lithuanian
Speakers 7-15 years old**
Camp Neringa, Brattleboro, Vt.
Info: neringa.org

July 24
**Lithuanian Friendship Day
(Putnam Picnic)**
600 Liberty Highway,
Putnam, Conn.
Info: neringa.org

July 24-30
**"Third Week" Youth Camp
for Lithuanian Speakers 12-16
years old**
Camp Neringa, Brattleboro, Vt.
Info: neringa.org

July 31-August 13
**Heritage Children's Camp in
English, ages 7-16**
Camp Neringa, Brattleboro, Vt.
Info: neringa.org

AUGUST 2016

August 5-7
**Knights of Lithuania National
Convention**
Doubletree by Hilton,
Binghamton, N.Y.
Info: knightsoflithuania.com

August 13-20
**"Third Week" Youth Camp in
English, ages 12-16**
Camp Neringa, Brattleboro, Vt.
Info: neringa.org

August 21-28
**Meno8Dienos Adult Lithuanian-
Language Art Camp**
Camp Neringa, Brattleboro, Vt.
Info: danguole@kuolas.com,
781-383-6081

SEPTEMBER 2016

September 11
**Omaha Lithuanian Community
Fundraiser (Sausages and
Cabbage)**
Sts. Peter and Paul School
gymnasium, 5912 S. 36th St.,
Omaha, Nebr.
Info: facebook.com/OmahaLB

September 25,
9 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.
**Divine Providence Lithuanian
Church Parish Picnic**
Info: divineprovidencechurch.com

OCTOBER 2016

October 7-9
Iškyla/Walk-a-Thon
Camp Neringa, Brattleboro, Vt.
Info: neringa.org

October 9
**Golden Jubilee of Our Lady of
Šiluva Chapel**
Shrine of the Immaculate
Conception, Washington, D.C.
Info: siluva50usa.org

NOVEMBER 2016

November 5
**Omaha Lithuanian Community
Fundraiser Bowling Tournament**
Immaculate Conception Hall,
2708 South 24th St.,
Omaha, Nebr.
Info: facebook.com/OmahaLB

DECEMBER 2016

December 11
Lithuanian Scouts Kucios
Divine Providence Lithuanian
Catholic Church,
25335 West Nine Mile Rd,
Southfield, Mich.
Info: divineprovidencechurch.com

December 11
**Annual Ecumenical Christmas
Concert**
Sts. Peter and Paul Church,
5912 S. 36th St., Omaha, Nebr.
Info: facebook.com/OmahaLB

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two months in advance of the
month in which you would like
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VOLUME 40 ISSUE 1

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