

# bridges



LITHUANIAN-AMERICAN NEWS JOURNAL

\$5

January 2017



# LITHUANIA 2017

OUR 44th.YEAR!

**Download our 2017 Brochure  
on our website**

LOWEST AIR FARES TO EUROPE OUT OF CHICAGO, NEW YORK  
AND ALL U.S. AIRPORTS ON FINNAIR AND OTHER CARRIERS

HOTELS AND CAR RENTALS ALSO AVAILABLE

**BOOK FLIGHTS ONLINE  
SIGN UP FOR SPECIAL PROMOTIONS ON OUR WEBSITE  
[WWW.VYTISTOURS.COM](http://WWW.VYTISTOURS.COM)**

FOR EXCURSION TOURS TO LITHUANIA PLEASE CALL  
RITA PENCYLA (708) 923-0280

VYTIS TOURS  
40-24 235th. STREET, DOUGLASTON, NY 11363  
(800) 77-VYTIS / (718) 423-6161  
[info@vytistours.com](mailto:info@vytistours.com)

CHICAGO REPRESENTATIVES  
RITA PENCYLA (708) 923-0280 - [pencylar@comcast.net](mailto:pencylar@comcast.net)  
BRONE BARAKAUSKAS (708) 403-5717 - [mamabar3@aol.com](mailto:mamabar3@aol.com)



**FINNAIR**  
DESIGNED FOR YOU

3



6



11



14



bridges LITHUANIAN-AMERICAN NEWS JOURNAL

January 2017

- 3 Čia kalba Kaunas!  
*by Audre Budrys Nakas*
- 6 January 13, 1991 in the Photographs of a Lithuanian Filmmaker  
*By Arvydas Reneckis*
- 9 Good Literature Is Like Lightning  
An interview with Laura Sintija Černiauskaitė  
*By Stephan Collinshaw*
- 11 The Double Anniversary of Musician Algirdas Kačanauskas  
*By Danutė Petrauskaitė*
- 14 The Last Days in Lithuania  
*By Jurgis Savaitis*
- 2 from the editor**  
*By Karilė Vaitkutė*
- 16 this month in history**  
January Anniversaries
- 18 Baltic Summer Studies Institute Invites to Study Lithuanian in 2017**
- 19 current events**  
*By Alan Stankus*
- 21 a taste of Lithuania**  
Balandėliai (Stuffed Cabbage)  
*By Jana Sirusaitė Motivans*
- our community**
- 23 My Big and Merry Lithuanian Wedding**  
*By Laima Liutikienė*
- 25 Minister of Education Met with the Winners of National Dictation Competition**
- 25 Invitation to the Evening with Professor Jonas Zdanys**
- 26 Running on the Road of Life and Death**
- c3 calendar**

**Cover and Back cover:** Participants of the Bėgimas Gyvybės ir Mirties Keliu (Running on the Road of Life and Death) event in Chicago. The run was held to commemorate the events of January 13th in Lithuania in 1991. Photos: Silvija Basijokaitė

## from the editor



Dear Readers,

It is with great excitement that I am writing this first letter to you. I am honored to have been asked to serve as the new editor of Bridges and I am very thankful to the President of the Lithuanian Community Sigita Šimkuvienė Rosen and the members of the Krašto Valdyba for their trust in me. The magazine has been skillfully edited by Teresė Vekteris for the past number of years. I am very grateful to Teresė for her guidance during this transitional period. I am also grateful to the contributing

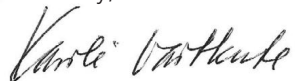
editors Alan Stankus, Jana Sirusaitė Motivans, and Laima Vincė Sruoginis for their work in the past, and I hope that we will have a truly fruitful and joyful cooperation in the future. I am also truly thankful to the magazine designer Daniel Craig, Jr. for his patience and great work. With their help and with the guidance from you, dear Readers, I will do my best to make this great publication thrive.

It so happened that the first issue edited by me is the January issue. For the past twenty six years, the month of January has always triggered thoughts of sacrifice for freedom. We will never forget what happened during the Bloody Sunday in Vilnius. The images of peaceful people crushed by Soviet tanks, beaten, shot at and killed by the Soviet military will forever be stuck in our minds. The names of those who sacrificed their lives and became our heroes will never fade. However, as President Obama said in his Farewell Address, we can't take our democracy for granted. We can't take Lithuania's freedom for granted either. We need to work every day to guard it. I believe that we need to collect as many stories of the events that took place in the January of 1991 as we possibly can in spite of the fact that many have been collected already. Every story of each eyewitness, be it a parliamentarian or an ordinary citizen, counts and is extremely important. I am grateful to the authors who agreed to share their stories in words and photos in this issue of Bridges.

My fate brought me to Boston on January 17, 1991. I was a recent graduate from Vilnius University and dreamed to work as a translator from English to Lithuanian. I was offered to help interpret for a professor who was going to teach at Emerson College in Boston for one semester. It was the first exchange project of the kind after Lithuania regained its independence in 1990. A professor from Emerson College was to teach in Vilnius. Lithuania was ready to explore, learn, teach, and exchange ideas with the world. We were free! And then, the events of January struck. However, we did not dismay and miraculously were able to travel. Later on, I became what one might call a "double citizen at heart". I graduated from the University of Illinois in Chicago and continued working in the Lithuanian community. I still work for the Balzekas Museum of Lithuanian Culture where my main responsibilities are editing the Museum magazine and doing genealogical research. I also played the part of a researcher and curatorial assistant in preparing the very successful "No Home To Go To" exhibit, which tells the story of displaced persons after the Second World War. My connection with Lithuania did not fade. I travel to Lithuania very often, both of my children are fluent in Lithuanian and, I am happy to say, they grew up very proud to be Lithuanian.

And now, once again I would like to express my gratitude for entrusting Bridges to me. I will try my hardest and I welcome your thoughts and advice. I can always be reached at [kariledalia@yahoo.com](mailto:kariledalia@yahoo.com).

Sincerely,

  
Karilė Vaitkutė, Editor

# bridges

Vol. 40 No. 10 / January 2017

Bridges is the English-language publication of the  
**Lithuanian-American Community, Inc.**

[lithuanian-american.org/bridges](http://lithuanian-american.org/bridges)

EDITOR  
Karilė Vaitkutė

ART DIRECTOR  
Daniel P. Craig, Jr.

CONTRIBUTING EDITOR, FOOD  
Jana Sirusaitė Motivans

CONTRIBUTING EDITOR, LITERATURE  
Laima Vincė Sruoginis

CONTRIBUTING EDITOR, CURRENT EVENTS  
Alan J. Stankus, P.E. (ret)

ADVERTISING & SUBSCRIPTION MANAGER  
Laura Vidžiūnaite

**Editorial Office**  
139 Willow Blvd., Willow Springs, IL 60480  
[kariledalia@yahoo.com](mailto:kariledalia@yahoo.com)

**Subscriber Services and Advertising**  
[spauda@javlb.org](mailto:spauda@javlb.org)

**Facebook**  
[facebook.com/  
BridgesLithuanianAmericanMagazine](https://facebook.com/BridgesLithuanianAmericanMagazine)



Our thanks to  
LITHUANIAN FOUNDATION  
for its support of this magazine.  
[www.lithuanianfoundation.org](http://www.lithuanianfoundation.org)

LAC, INC. NATIONAL EXECUTIVE BOARD  
43 Anthony Street, New Haven, CT 06515  
Phone: 203-415-7776, Fax: 703-773-1257  
[admin@lithuanian-american.org](mailto:admin@lithuanian-american.org)

All statements and opinions, including product claims, are those of the organization/advertiser making those statements or claims. The publisher does not adopt, or put forth, any such statement or claim as his own, and any such statement or claim does not necessarily reflect the opinion of the publisher.

BRIDGES (ISSN: 87508028) is published 10 times per year (Jan/Feb and Jul/Aug combined) by Lithuanian-American Community, Inc. The known office of publication is located at 2711 W. 71st Street, Chicago, IL 60629. The editorial office is located at 139 Willow Blvd., Willow Springs, IL 60480. Periodicals postage paid at Chicago, IL and additional locations. Vol. 40, No. 10. POSTMASTER: Send address corrections and changes to LAC, Inc./Bridges, 208 Linden Ponds Way, Unit 403, Hingham, MA 02043. SUBSCRIPTIONS: For subscription questions or address changes, write to [spauda@javlb.org](mailto:spauda@javlb.org). Subscription rates are: US: \$30 per year or \$58 for two years.; International: \$55 per year payable in advance in US funds. COPYRIGHT: ©2017 by Lithuanian-American Community, Inc. All rights reserved. No part of the publication may be reproduced without written permission of the publisher. PRINTING: Printed in Chicago, USA by Lithuanian American Community, Inc.



# Čia kalba Kaunas!

by Audrė Budrys Nakas

because it's the land of my protėviai, my ancestors, a land I fell in love with a few years before when I first set foot on its soil. No, I am also here in search of the holy grail of my theatre vision, Jaunimo Teatras and its brilliant director, Eimuntas Nekrošius – to see as many of his plays as I can, to meet his actors, observe their rehearsals, and perhaps, if I'm very lucky – gulp – to get to speak with the man himself. I am a Chicago Lithuanian, raised on Saturday school and stovyklos (summer camps), and I am here because Lithuania is the crossroads of who I am. I had only recently learned of the excellent, world-class theatre work being done in Vilnius, so as a young theatre artist, Lithuania felt like the place I needed to be. In September 1990 I began rehearsals at the Drama Theatre of Siauliai. I never thought that Soviet tanks would be buzzing about the capitol city by Christmas time!

What should we do? Eglė and I look at one another, neither of us having ever experienced a moment like this: deep fear. We turn off the tv, and I head to my room, when I am startled by the sound of sirens blaring. Sirens! I'm reminded of how my father always wanted me to keep my bedroom door open when I was a child, telling me that closed doors at night made him feel anxious, reminded him of the war. Is that what these sirens mean – can it be the start of war? Eglė comes to my room – we've got to go, we decide. Where? To Laisvės Aleja, Kaunas's main boulevard; that must be where everyone who lives near the old town is gathering. To Laisvės Aleja to surround and protect the Kaunas

From right: Audrė Budrys Nakas with her cousin Audronė Vaitkutė, a correspondent for the daily Kauno Laikas, standing by the monument for Vytautas the Great in Kaunas in January of 1991. Photo by Laimis Brundza.

"Čia kalba Kaunas!"  
"Kaunas speaking!"

With these words Kaunas television took over broadcasting from Vilnius TV. It was the night of January 13, 1991, and the main Lithuanian state television studios in Vilnius had just been breached and occupied by Soviet troupes. Eglė Bučelytė, the beloved star anchor, is interrupted in the middle of her broadcast, the troupes are at her door, entering the studio, when suddenly the screen goes blank!

I am watching tv with my cousin's wife Eglė in Vilijampolė, Kaunas, and we both freeze in shock and terror. I'm on Christmas break from my job at the Drama Theatre of Siauliai, my first job in theatre, my first year on my own in Lithuania. I'm three years out of college, and have come to Lithuania not only

tv station; if they've taken over the Vilnius station, surely Kaunas is next. We dress warmly, and bring candles for the vigil. We will stand all night, all the next day; we will stand as long as we have to.

I think of my parents, and wonder what they're hearing about all this – they are on their way home to Chicago right now. They had come to Lithuania for Christmas. The holiday had been beautiful – to be in Kaunas on Christmas Eve, to have Kūčios with extended family in Lithuania – it was something from a wonderful dream! My father was battling cancer at the time, but he seemed to be doing well, and I was so glad to spend some time with him. My mother and I – we were not engaging in our left-over-from-teenage-years-mother-daughter battles; we had missed each other these last four months. They had flown to



"Mūsų Vaikai" (Our Children) at the Šiauliai Drama Theatre premiered on September 13, 1990. From left: Silva Povilaitytė, Gražvydas Udrėnas, Edmundas Leonavičius, and Audrė Budrytė.

Ryga, and taken a train from there to Kaunas, but when it was time to return, they couldn't do it, because the Vilnius central railroad station had been occupied on the night of January 11 and all train travel across Lithuania had ground to a halt. Thus early in the morning on January 12 my cousin Antonis and his friend had driven my parents from Kaunas to Ryga. Was that just yesterday? I hope they're not too worried. I am so grateful to be standing here, standing for freedom, standing as a Lithuanian with other Lithuanians, for an independent Lithuania. I have flashes of fear, but they melt away as we run into friends, and huddle together for warmth. We don't know what is happening down the street, much less in the rest of the country. Tanks may be approaching. People may be out in all of the major cities, with candles and songs. We don't know. We walk, and we pray, and we sing.

At dawn we go home. Dark deeds are done in the dead of night, we reason, and so it must be safe to go home now to rest for the next night. Rest would be welcome, but who can rest in the face of these events? The information reaches us little by little; people have died in Vilnius, more than a few, maybe even a dozen! Crowds have been surrounding the TV tower, as well as the Parliament building, tanks have plowed into people! Gorbachev does not want to let go of his grip on Lithuania.

What's my role in this, I wonder? I want to be here, I know that. I want to stand with my sisters and brothers. Is there more that I can do? We watch the tv broadcasts from Kaunas, learning what we can. It turns out that the signal from Kaunas is being broadcast outside of Lithuania, and reaching some countries in Europe, so that the news of these bloody events is spreading to the free world. The idea comes to me that maybe I can be of some service? I speak English, after all, and perhaps the tv station will need someone to translate news into English.

I run my idea by Eglė, and she thinks it's a good one. My cousin drives me to the tv station, and there I am.

It's half a lifetime ago, but I can still remember the serious yet kind face of Raimundas Šeštakauskas, the director of Kaunas TV. He welcomes us, Lithuanian-Americans, to be of service as translators in the tv studio. It turns out that I am not the only one with the idea that my English may be of use; there is a professor from California, Dr. Liucija Baškauskaitė, as well as some childhood friends from Chicago who have also shown up on the doorstep of Vaižganto 13. We are immediately put to work, and soon work in shifts. We are handed pages of information in Lithuanian, and must, without preparation, translate it into English on camera, live. I'd always been proud of my Lithuanian speaking, reading, and writing

skills; it was my first language, and I spoke a lot of it growing up. But here were pages dotted with military terms; I did not know what a "desantininkas" was, only that it was a bad, terror-inspiring thing and it was loose on the streets of Vilnius. (It turned out to mean paratrooper.) Yet little by little certain terms became more familiar, and while never easy, the instant translating became doable.

My cousin Antonis would drive me to the station early in the morning. At first my heart would pound a little, but soon it began to feel like going to work, and at the station, everyone was so busy, one could almost forget we were in the midst of a crisis; this was just a typical, hectic tv studio. Yet while I enjoyed being busy, having something useful to do, we could never, of course, actually forget why we were here. Raimundas Šeštakauskas remains in my memory a beacon of calm, compassion, and intelligence. When others became nervous, he could find a way to calm them. One day, it seemed that my eyes were becoming rather itchy, very irritated. Soon others began to complain of similar symptoms. In mid-afternoon, Raimundas called all of us together, and then asked that all of the women leave the station. He thought that some sort of noxious gas had been leaked in by collaborators, and he did not want the women to remain inside the studio. I remember looking at him in disbelief; we wanted to stay, no matter what! But he was the director, and we had to abide by his decision. Though I found his calm demeanor reassuring, I couldn't believe that we could be targeted in this way; again, I was jolted into reality, reminded of why I was there, and of the kind of foe we were fighting. We never did find out what it was that caused our eyes to be so aggravated that morning.

Antonis would pick me up at the end of the work day, and we would drive back to Vilijampolė, where I would share the

day's news with my family. We were living in a strange reality, waiting for what was to happen next. Would Lithuania be fully occupied, as during World War II? Would America and Europe intercede? Everything was on hold; the only thing that mattered now was to keep our voices raised in protest against any occupying actions.

One day I came to the studio to learn that the Vilnius tv people would soon arrive to join the Kaunas team. The director of Vilnius tv was the formidable Antis rock superstar, Algirdas Kaušpėdas. Despite the circumstances, my hand shook a little when I met him! He and Raimundas would have to negotiate the running of the small studio, I supposed.

I continued translating until my Christmas break had come to an end, and it was time to go back to Siauliai to continue rehearsing and performing. It felt strange, letting go of this new world that had suddenly become mine. Yet life had to slowly get back to normal, even as there was so much uncertainty in the air, and I had to attend to my responsibilities.

Back in Siauliai, actors and crew-members shared their experiences of the January events. I began to receive letters from strangers, people from various parts of Lithuania who had seen me on the news broadcasts, who thanked me for being there. I was amazed, and so deeply touched. This was what I had longed for in coming to Lithuania, I realized – to find a personal connection to this place, so that it was not only the land of my parents and ancestors, but that it was a place I, too, belonged.

On February 9, a referendum was held across the country, and ninety percent of eligible voters confirmed that they would like to see Lithuania as an independent republic. At the theatre, we rehearsed, performed, and toured with our productions; I got to explore many small towns and villages in Lithuania through my work, which was extremely gratifying. Days passed, the long dark winter ended, spring arrived, then summer. In August, we prepared for the traditional Drama Theatre of Siauliai end of summer tour to Palanga. I was excited to perform in this beautiful town by the Baltic Sea! As our bus headed down the road near Plunge, however, we received word of an attempted coup in Moscow. What did this mean – would the army take over, and crush the singing revolution? My friends from the theatre, Aušra, Romutė, and I decided that the only thing we could do would be to head to Vilnius, to surround the Parliament building. This time I would be keeping vigil in the capitol city itself! We didn't know what to expect, but we spent the night in a familiar way – walking, singing, and declaring ourselves for a free Lithuania. The old familiar fear was there, but by August 21, the coup had been quashed, and Gorbachev was once again in power. What this would mean for Lithuania, we did not yet know.

That September the United States recognized Lithuania as an independent nation, and Lithuania became a member of the United Nations. September also brought me back to the United States. I returned a different person, in many ways. I had a year's worth of impressions to unpack, I had grown as an actor, and I



"Protėvių dangaus ieškojimą" (Searching for the Ancestors' Sky) at the Šiauliai Drama Theatre. From right: actress Silva Povilaitytė, director Audronė Bagatyrytė, and actress Audrė Budrytė.

understood my Lithuanian identity in a far deeper way. I would return to Lithuania again, to work in the first LIFE Lithuanian International Theatre Festival, and to act with Kaunas Drama Theatre. Later, I would visit with my husband and son. I continued to spend time with relatives and old friends, and also meet many fascinating, kind, and courageous people. Yet the events of January 13, 1991, and the fellow Lithuanians I shared those times with, are seared in my heart forever, and have taught me to never take freedom for granted. And Kaunas, the birthplace of my beloved father, also speaks deeply to me!

*Audre Budrys Nakas teaches drama at the University of Chicago Laboratory Schools. She taught for many years in Evanston at the Piven Theatre Workshop. Audre has worked as an actor in Chicago as well as in Lithuania, and has directed several productions at the Chicago College of Performing Arts/Roosevelt University. Audre created and performed the solo show *Une Baye*, about the life of Lithuanian actress *Une Babickaite-Baye* and performed it at Chicago's *Rhino Fest*, at *Prop Theatre*, and also showed the piece in New York, Boston, and Washington DC, as part of *Europe Week*, a festival of culture curated by EU embassies. This play will be restaged at the *Bridge Theatre* in Chicago in March, 2017 (please see [thebridgeperforms.com](http://thebridgeperforms.com) for more details.) Audre also performed in Washington DC at the *Kids Euro Festival*, presenting two of her one-woman shows, *Milda the Wonderkid* in *Vingis Park*, which she wrote, and *Night Herders*, based on a short story by *Juozas Tumas Vaizgantas*.*

# January 13, 1991

in the photographs of a Lithuanian filmmaker



Military guard shift change at the Vilnius TV tower seized by the Soviets. January, 1991.



These photos were taken by a documentary filmmaker Arvydas Reneckis. At the time of the January events in Lithuania, Arvydas was working on a film that had to tell the story of Lithuania during the dark times since its occupation by the Soviet Union in 1941 until 1990. The film entitled *Night Over Lithuania* was completed in 1991 and distributed. It is now available to view on YouTube. The events of January 13, 1991 were incorporated into the film. The link to the *Night Over Lithuania* is here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FqGuFeTiQVY>

The filming crew visiting former Lithuanian Foreign Minister Juozas Urbšys in 1989. Mr. Urbšys was sharing his memories about the event in 1940 when Stalin handed him an ultimatum for Lithuania. Pictured from left: Juozas Urbšys, Edmundas Zubavičius, and Arvydas Reneckis. Photo by Algirdas Damulis.





In the early hours of January 13, 1991, soviet tanks and soldiers encircle the TV tower. Soldiers then fired live ammunition overhead and into civilian crowds gathered around the building. Tanks drove straight through lines of people. Fourteen people were killed in the attack, most of them shot and two crushed by tanks. Pictured here are Vilnius residents by the TV tower in Vilnius after it was seized by the soviet troops. January, 1991.



Following the January 13th events, tens of thousands of independence supporters gathered around the Supreme Council building. People started building anti-tank barricades and setting up defenses inside surrounding buildings. Provisional chapels were set up inside and outside the Supreme Council building. Members of the crowd prayed, sang and shouted pro-independence slogans. Despite columns of military trucks and tanks moving into the vicinity of the Supreme Council, Soviet military forces retreated instead of attacking. People mounted posters, slogans, drawings, and even passports on the wall this way expressing their feelings and thoughts. Pictured in this photo, are a soviet citizen's passport, a bagel, and a poster which expresses a thought that Communist Party and Nazis equal the events of 1991.



The Martynas Mažvydas National Library building was used by the Red Cross. The windows are "ready" in case of a bombardment.



Traditional Vilnius verbos (Easter Sunday Palms) placed by a Soviet tank in January of 1991. Palms symbolize Easter and Resurrection that is celebrated in spring. Vilnius residents brought these verbos in January wishing to honor the peaceful people that were killed on January 13th.



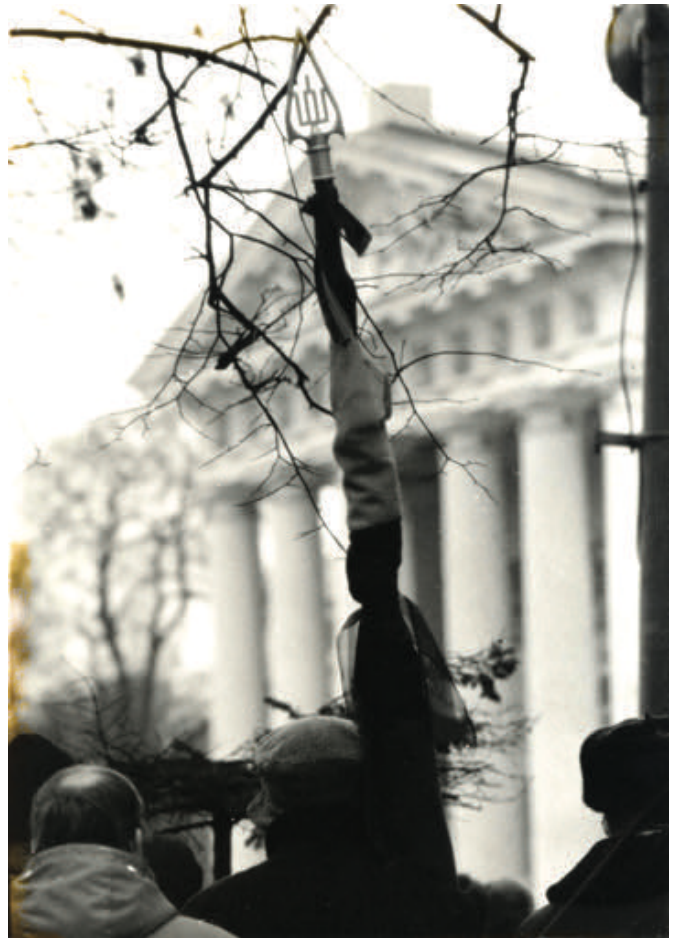
Barricades by the Supreme Council building. January, 1991.



People were keeping wake by the Supreme Council building day and night. Pictured in this photo are volunteers who distribute hot tea to the crowd.



In 1991 in Lithuania, the general secretary of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union Mikhail Gorbachev was being compared to bloody dictators of the world. In this poster, he is pictured side by side with the then President of Iraq Saddam Hussein whose army occupied Kuwait.



A tri-color Lithuanian flag bound by a black ribbon by the Vilnius Cathedral during the funeral of the victims of the January 13th bloodshed.

## Good Literature Is Like Lightning It Has To Shock, To Pierce The Heart



### An interview with Laura Sintija Černiauskaitė By Stephan Collinshaw

Laura Sintija Černiauskaitė is a leading figure in contemporary Lithuanian writing. Born in Vilnius in 1973 she was 15 when Lithuania gained independence. She was almost immediately successful, when, at the age of 17, she won the Lithuanian Writers' Union's First Book Award. Since then she has gone on to win many awards in Lithuania. Her books have

been translated into a number of other languages. 'Breathing into Marble', published in English by Noir Press, won the European Union Prize for Literature in 2009. She is one of the few Lithuanian novelists to win this award. The novel is now being turned into a feature film in her native Lithuania.

When did you first decide that you wanted to be a writer?

I think I have always been a writer. I don't remember deciding to become a writer at any particular moment; I simply discovered I had the potential to be one. I started writing when I was young because I enjoyed it. I was 17 when I first stepped into the Writer's Union, in the wonderful palace of Duke Oginskis, carrying the first copy of my book to the publishers. Those four short stories were written in school during math and science lessons; I wasn't a particularly zealous student. I remember that as I put my hand on the banister rail of the stairs, such a strong feeling washed over me that I would be a part of that building for rest of my life. That moment, I felt, was a defining moment in my life. And so it turned out; the book won the First Book Award organized by the Writers' Union and was published. That was how I became a writer.

You have written both plays and novels, do you find them very different to write?

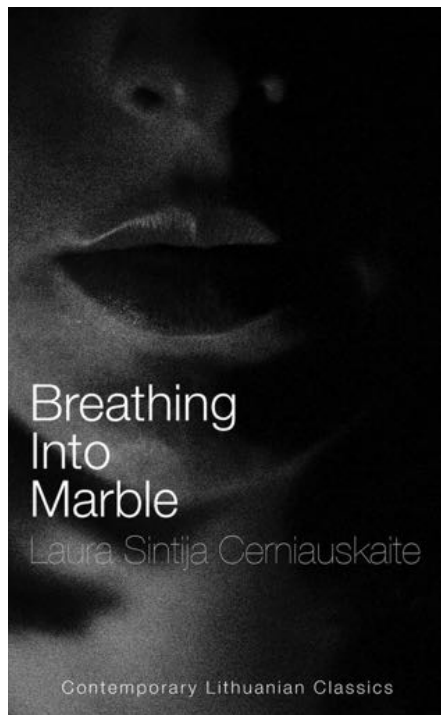
For me, they are different processes. Plays are more orientated towards functionality – while with writing I have to think about the possibilities of realizing the ideas on stage. In prose I have more freedom; I'm limited only by my imagination and flow of ideas.

What did winning the EU Prize for Fiction mean for you as a writer?

Obviously, it opened up the possibility of having my writing translated. But, I have to say, for me, it's more important to be read and valued here in Lithuania. I have my readers. I know that there are people who wait for my books to come out and collect them. I feel needed here. The Lithuanian literary awards are special to me; I have five of them.

How would you summarize the novel *Breathing into Marble*?

It is the tragic, poetic story of a family. There is everything in the novel: love, betrayal, childhood illness, unsuccessful attempts at adoption, alcoholism, abuse,



Breathing into Marble by Laura Sintija Černiauskaitė was published in December 2016 by Noir Press. It is available through the website [www.noirpress.co.uk](http://www.noirpress.co.uk) or through all major internet retail outlets. ISBN - 978-0-9955600-0-0

murder, the inner conflict of a female artist. It was my first novel; I was very young when I wrote it. I think that I would have been more careful now, as a writer, and wouldn't dare to put such a lot of problems into my novel. But while writing it I was driven by the desire to raise these terrible problems to the level of poetry, to look at them with a purity of vision, as if through clean glass. I think that's why they call me an optimistic writer.

The character of the main character, Isabel, is interesting; are there aspects of her that are autobiographical?

I didn't put any conscious autobiographic aspects of myself into Isabel's character, but I am sure that something seeped through unconsciously. That usually happens. Isabel and I are both artists and mothers. Only my medium is language; I wouldn't be able to paint a picture, I have zero artistic abilities. But all my three children, thank God, are healthy and I have not adopted. And my hus-

band, as far as I know, is not thinking of leaving me.

The relationship between Isabel and Ilya is a complicated one, and quite twisted. What do you think you were saying about mother-son relationships in this novel?

I wouldn't agree that the relationship between Isabel and Ilya is twisted. It's certainly complicated. Isabel is not ready to break through the obstacles to love; her lack of success with Ilya only emphasizes her own problems, the most important of which is that she has been crippled by her parents and doesn't know how to love. She needs to be loved. After the murder, she lets Ilya go and covers for him because she feels she is responsible for what he has done. She feels that she provoked him because she abandoned him. I tried to write a story of a woman growing into maturity when one tragic loss after another devastate her and break her down. From the ruins of her soul emerges a new, more mature person.

You deal with some very dark issues in the novel, including murder and abuse as well as marital breakdown and suicide. Is this reflective of Lithuania today – are these issues that contemporary Lithuanians are struggling with?

In recent years a lot of attention has been given to the issue of adoption in Lithuania; people have been encouraged to adopt or foster the children left in orphanages. The media only cover the positive experiences, but I know that there are sad experiences too, when parents change their minds and return the children. When I was writing an article about this topic, I happened to talk to a social worker who dealt with preparing parents for adoption. I was shocked by her stories of some people's irresponsibility. Specialists prepare parents for the 'shock' of adoption now in order to reduce the number of cases of children being returned to orphanages.

The issue that is most acute in contemporary Lithuania is the problem of sui-

cide; here, as a country, we have, unfortunately, the highest rates of suicide in Europe. Also, statistically, it's clear that half of marriages end in divorce here.

Though Breathing into Marble can often feel spiritual, particularly in those scenes focused on Isabel, another of your novels, Honeymoon (Medaus mėnuo), has a more overt religious theme. Do you think that Lithuanian writers are comfortable with their spirituality? To what extent is Catholicism a shaping force in Lithuanian writing?

Whether we think we are believers or not, we grew up in a Christian culture and received its moral values in our mother's milk. Speaking about a more conscious relationship with religion - at 30, after long wanderings through Buddhism and Hinduism, I experienced a powerful conversion to Catholicism; it was important for me to write about those experiences in the novel 'Honeymoon'.

Are Lithuanian writers comfortable writing about spirituality? Who is comfortable writing about intimate things? It's similar to writing about sex. But literature shouldn't be 'comfortable'. Comfortableness is what 'pop' is and it doesn't interest me. Good literature is like lightning; it has to shock, to pierce the heart. That is not comfortable. But that is exactly what I would like my English speaking readers to experience.

What are you working on at the moment? Another novel or a play? I am writing a novel, but... I don't talk about work that's not finished. I worry that the ideas will be scared off and never return.



Stephan Collinshaw



## The Double Anniversary of Musician Algirdas Kačanauskas

By Danutė Petrauskaitė | Translated by Karilė Vaitkutė

Algirdas Kačanauskas was born in St. Petersburg, Russia one hundred years ago on January 3rd to the family of composer, singer, and organist Aleksandras Kačanauskas. During the First World War, quite a number of Lithuanians found shelter in the then capital of Tsarist Russia. After the proclamation of Lithuania's independence, many of them returned home. The Kačanauskas family settled in Kaunas in 1920. Having perfect pitch and a good musical memory, Algirdas started singing in various children's events since he was nine years old. His father would accompany him on the piano. Later on, Algirdas attended his father's class in the Kaunas Conservatory.

Additionally, he learned to play the violin and viola, which he found beneficial in later years. After a while, he started working in the Radio Orchestra as concertmaster of a viola group. For a year he led the Jesuit High School string orchestra. At the same time, he made attempts to gain another profession, and in 1939 he graduated from the Vytautas Magnus University with a law degree. However, he never left music: he led the Military School Choir, sang in the choir established by his father, accompanied the Vytautas Magnus University Neo-Lithuania Men's Choir, a men's vocal quartet, as well as various soloists, including singer Barbora Darlis Drangelienė, who came to Kaunas from the United States in 1936. During the Second World War, Algirdas Kačanauskas worked for a mutual aid organization where he founded a men's octet and toured Lithuanian towns. However, in 1944, as the Red Army was approaching, Algirdas Kačanauskas was forced to flee his Motherland and seek refuge in Germany.

Music made the hard life in DP camps somewhat easier. In 1946-1947, Kačanauskas continued his education in the Stuttgart Higher School of Music. In 1945 he formed a Lithuanian art ensemble Sietynas in Würzburg and led it until 1948. Thanks to his leadership, the ensemble won one of the main prizes in the international choir competition in Heidelberg and was given the opportu-

Algirdas Kačanauskas. Photo from the LTSC J. Žilevičius-Kreivėnas Lithuanian Music Archive.



Organ players discuss the New York Lithuanian Day program. From left: K. Vasiliauskas, M. Cibas, J. Žilevičius, A. Visminas, A. Kačanauskas, and V. Mamaitis. 1964. Photo from the LTSC J. Žilevičius-Kreivėnas Lithuanian Music Archive.

nity to sign a contract with the Special Service Section of the American Army to perform in the Army controlled zone.

Having received an invitation from Father Norbertas Pakalnis, on January 20, 1951, Algirdas Kačanauskas arrived in the US and started working as an organist in the parishes of New Jersey. However, he was attracted to Brooklyn, the home of many Lithuanians who knew his father's songs by heart and sang them not only in Lithuania but also in America. It was in Brooklyn that Kačanauskas had held his first music performance. Just a week after the arrival to the New World, he was invited to accompany the performers in an anniversary celebration of Klaipėda's return to Lithuania. Apparently, during this event, he first met with the local singers. Soon afterward Kačanauskas began leading the men's vocal quartet Aitvarai, replacing the previous director Aleksas Mrozinskas. During the four years of Kačanauskas' leadership, the quartet often performed in the eastern states of the US and even visited Canada. The quartet was well liked by the audience. Its repertoire included not only Lithuanian songs but also works by composers of other nationalities. At the same time, Kačanauskas was invited to lead the Newark Lithuanian Ensemble Rūta that was founded as an adjunct to the Lietuvos Atsiminimai (Remembrances of Lithuania) radio program. Kačanauskas led the ensemble for the next two decades. He prepared programs for the Lithuanian radio broadcasts, participated in the Lithuanian song festivals, and had concerts together with various drama actors, singers, ballet dancers, and folk dance groups. Under his leadership, Rūta's repertoire was enriched considerably and consisted of over 150 songs, 30 hymns, and a number of selections from popular operas. In 1961-1967 the ensemble's choir recorded a number of long-playing albums: "Memories of Lithuania", "Songs of Lithuania", "Sing Along in Lithuania". Organist Juo-

zas Stankūnas aptly characterized his colleague's style: "The choirs conducted by him (Kačanauskas) were not developed to perfection; he did not seek a higher level of artistic interpretation of a song. However, his short and sometimes quite trivial popular songs soon became admired by the masses. (...) It was a kind of "entertainment," and so the three records were quickly bought out and were often played by Lithuanians in their homes." (Muzikos žinios (Music News), 1977, No. 1-2, p. 2). However, under the roof of the church, Kačanauskas would become "more serious." A testament to that is his record entitled "Linksmų Kalėdų" (Merry Christmas).

The church organist's work was the main source of Kačanauskas' income. He played in Harrison, Linden, Kearney, Elizabeth, and from 1967 to his death, he

worked as an organist in the Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary church in Brooklyn. He was happy that living in this New York suburb allowed him to easily access the most famous US theaters and concert halls. Under Kačanauskas' leadership, the Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary church choir has become one of the best among Lithuanian church choirs throughout the state of New York and was invited to perform even for the Americans. Every year on Palm Sunday he held a concert of religious music. During those concerts, music by composers Juozas Naujalis, Aleksandras Kačanauskas, Česlovas Sasnauskas, Bronius Budriūnas, Juozas Žilevičius, Luigi Cherubini, Théodore Dubois, Gabriel Fauré, Charles Gounod, Georg Friedrich Handel, Gioachino Rossini, Francis Poulenc, and Alessandro Stradella was performed. In 1971, the choir singers joined Lithuanian American and Lithuanian Canadian choirs in the IV Song Festival, and Algirdas Kačanauskas was entrusted to the position of the Festival's chief conductor.

In 1974, Kačanauskas became the chairman of the Lithuanian American Organists Union. He tried to attract new members to the Union and intensify its activities. Under his leadership, not only Catholics, but also Evangelical-Lutherans could become members of the Union, and musicians did not necessarily have to be church organists. This way the ranks of organ players were increased by opera singers and conductors of secular choirs.

In 1974 - 1976, Kačanauskas was editing a quarterly magazine Muzikos Žinios (Music News). He worked with great responsibility and wanted the magazine to reflect the music life of Lithuanians all over the world. He introduced an English section for those who did not understand Lithuanian, continued publishing the Index of Lithuanian Musicians assembled by J. Žilevičius, and paid a considerable amount of attention to the publishing of notes by releasing new vocal music works by



Algirdas Kačanauskas (third from right), Director of Sts. Peter and Paul Church Choir in Elizabeth, NJ. 1960. Photo from the LTSC J. Žilevičius-Kreivėnas Lithuanian Music Archive.

Lithuanian composers in the magazine's supplement. Algirdas Kačanauskas tried to compose music himself but he either did not have a high desire or much time for this hobby. Instead he wrote articles. On occasion, a musical annotation or review written by him would show up in the Lithuanian periodicals. Kačanauskas devoted most of his time to his organist's duties, the leadership of choirs, and social activities. In 1953 he founded the Kearny-Harrison District Committee of the Lithuanian American Community and served as its chairman. He was also elected the secretary of the New Jersey District of the Lithuanian Community, the chairman of St. George Lithuanian Charitable Society in Newark, and the director of the Lithuanian Freedom Park in Linden. In 1964, he supervised the Music Section of the Lithuanian Day at the World's Fair in New York. In 1972, he was the chairman of the jury of the Sacred Music Competition for Lithuanian Composers. In 1975, he contributed to the celebration of the Mikalojus Konstantinas Čiurlionis' 100th birth anniversary in New York. Algirdas Kačanauskas knew how to improvise, could read music a prima vista well, and had good oratory skills. For these reasons, he was often invited to accompany singers on piano or accordion and host events.

When in 1967 a journalist from *Vienybė* (Unity) newspaper asked Kačanauskas what his utmost desire for his fiftieth birthday anniversary was, the musician answered: "Health permitting and following in my father's footsteps (his father worked

until he was 80 years old), I would like to continue to work in the realm of Lithuanian music. My greatest desire would be (...) to perform in a free, independent Lithuania". (*Vienybė* (Unity), March 3, 1967, p. 12). Unfortunately, he had only one decade to live. The number 7 became fateful for Kačanauskas. He was born and died under its sign. On May 9, 1977, the Lithuanian Americans of East Coast lost this energetic musician who fostered Lithuanian culture in emigration. Father Vldas Budreckas fittingly characterized Kačanauskas' personality: "He was a high-class intellectual and a gentleman who was able to get along with everyone and was loved by all". (*Muzikos žinios* (Music News), 1977, No. 3-4, p. 5).

*Danutė Petrauskaitė* is a professor and researcher at the Klaipėda University Department of Music, a member of the Lithuanian Composers' Union and the Association for the Advancement of Baltic Studies (AABS). In 1978, she graduated from the Lithuanian State Conservatoire (now Lithuanian Academy of Music and Theatre). She completed her post-graduate studies with a Doctoral Degree at the Vilnius University in 1993. In 2001-2015, she led the Klaipėda University Institute of Musicology. The principal areas of her interest are Lithuanian music, history of music pedagogy, music culture of Lithuanian emigrants in exile, connections between Lithuanian music and that of other nations.



# The Last Days in Lithuania

By Jurgis Savaitis  
Translated by Gabija Barnard

Kaunas prior World War II

Saturday, August 24, 1946

I started writing my diary over seven years ago. When my first dream was shattered...

As the years went by, almost every night, I wrote new dreams of mine in the pages of the diary. The first, second and third notebook filled up, I started a fourth. Then I was forced to stop writing, as my relatively calm life had come to an end and I set off on a long, very long journey. I left everything behind – in Lithuania. I left my diaries, too. Thus, today I am trying to start writing again. No one can console me over my broken dreams except for the pages of a journal.

Starting in the fall of 1943, I worked as a translator for the Kaunas office of the Trade Union Center. In the summer of 1944, I was supposed to take two weeks to drive out to the forest to do the so-called fuel duty. I think that, during the German occupation, everyone had to do it. However, almost no public servants actually went to the peat bogs or the forests. Instead, they would hire local, experienced workmen, whereas the forest or peat bog ranger would issue a document to attest that the duty had been successfully performed. I didn't go either – instead, I took a two-week holiday. I spent a few days in Kaunas, not doing anything much, and then I returned to the home of my parents. During my time there, I recovered from my near-starving busy-city lifestyle (I wasn't involved in speculations), I looked through my library, now stored in boxes, I leafed through photo albums and through the letters from Irutė. I didn't know at the time that this was my farewell to those precious things.

My sister Bronė drove me back to Ukmergė. I barely even said goodbye to my parents and brothers as I was sure I would be

seeing them soon, during my next holiday. Maybe it was for the best that I didn't know this was my last farewell to my parents, brothers, sisters, and the familiar fields of my homeland. It was easier for both me and them. As I was driving with my sister, we spoke of issues relevant to her and Monė. I encouraged both of them to apply to the Teacher's Seminary, as both of them had completed four years of school. I also urged them to force my brother Ipolitas to high school in the fall – he had already missed one year. When we had driven half of the way, we said our farewells: she turned back and I reached Ukmergė on foot. At the time, I didn't know that the journey I had just started wouldn't even be over now, over two years later.

I said goodbye to my family and my homeland in June, 1944, just after St John's Day.

I returned to Kaunas but I barely had any work to do. Even while I was at the home of my parents, I could hear the roaring of cannons: the Eastern Front was inching closer and closer to Lithuania. In Kaunas, the roar of cannons was muffled by the noise of the city. However, the reports from the German army were worrying. In the near past, we were hoping for the Germans to be beaten – now, we prayed for them to stand their ground for as long as possible.

On the first Sunday of July, I was sitting with some friends in a public park in front of the National Theatre. We spoke only of the situation on the front. We would often see swarms of German airplanes flying over the city to the east. This calmed us somewhat – maybe they will stop the Bolshevik forces outside the Lithuanian border?

The next day, Monday, July 3, Kaunas was already in a panic.



We learned that the Germans were resisting weakly and were even retreating. Along with them, the streets of Kaunas saw civilian Belarussians dressed in rags, herding their scraggy animals. These civilians scared us the most. I don't know if the Germans were forcing these people to come with them, or if they were migrating voluntarily, in the hope of escaping the Bolsheviks. It was obvious that the Bolsheviks would soon reach Kaunas too, as the Germans weren't strong enough to resist them. Everything started to go to pieces. Public servants went to work only to burn documents in the hope that the Bolsheviks wouldn't get their hands on them. If, quite recently, we had to pay thousands of marks for shoes or clothes (it was very rare to acquire an official permission to purchase these items), now, we could get almost anything. Only bread was running out.

One of those days, maybe on June 28, I ran into Irusia on the street. We spoke for a moment and then parted, probably, forever... But maybe not.

Just months ago, the offices where workers were registered for jobs in Germany and Austria were largely avoided. Now, long queues were forming outside. Everyone was trying to get as far to the West as they could, like Bavaria or Austria.

In the meantime, I stayed in Kaunas and was in no hurry to leave. On Sunday, July 9, I saw off my roommate with four students as they left for Vienna. The next day, I went to Vilkaviškis to look around. I visited Marija's parents and asked to look after my "valuables" for a while. I visited Vilkaviškis a few more times and left all the things I had in Kaunas: my clothes, some books, the bed linens. I left my photographs and diaries – I thought they were safer there. I guess, not a trace of my things remain in Vilkaviškis, as the course of war there changed three times: Vilkaviškis was taken by the Bolsheviks, and then taken back by the Germans.

When I returned to Kaunas for the last time, on July 15, I had nothing with me. I was wearing light summer clothes, as the weather had been unusually hot ever since late June. On Sunday, on my way to church, the police accosted me and tried to deliver me to dig the trenches, but I got out of it.

On Monday, July 17, I made a confession and took communion at the Christ's Resurrection Church. I put some bread and pig fat into my rucksack, a few books and the New Testament into my briefcase; I stopped in my room for a few minutes, unable to leave. For the last time, I looked around the rooms, bid farewell to the landlady and left. I didn't feel any pain or bitterness. Just a little sadness.

Slowly, I walked down Žemaičių Street towards the ferry; at the foot of the hill, I crossed Donelaičio Street by the War Museum. I stopped at the Grave of the Unknown Soldier to reflect for a few minutes, then I headed for the Jesuit house, where I volunteered to join the Luftwaffe reserves. I did so because I didn't want to starve in Germany as I did a few years ago when I only received civilian rations. I didn't want to suffer through a rough journey, to be thrown around in trains and be forced to do even harder work.



Kaunas prior World War II

The people who had registered earlier had already left Kaunas. That day only nine people gathered at the Jesuit House. Pranas Lapė and Vytautas Lipniūnas were there too. As the evening drew close, we went to the station. The city was half empty. We saw only unpleasant-looking individuals, slinking around and probably waiting for the Bolsheviks. Everyone else was either hiding or had already left. There was little traffic in the station, too. All the civilians, except for those who found it hardest to leave home, had already gone away. There was a lot of smoke hanging over the town. The whole of Vilijampolė was burning: the Jewish ghetto used to be there. The remains of the Jews were taken away somewhere (I saw a train taking them on Saturday morning from the Garliava station). The surviving Jews were being hunted down: grenades were being thrown through the windows and into cellars, in the hope they would come out. Something was burning in Aleksotas, too.

We sat down by one of the columns in the train station and eat our first refugee dinner. I think it was the same column, next to which, five years ago, I first met Irutė...

It was already impossible to go to Tauragė via Šiauliai as the railway had been blown up. Therefore, the route went through Virbalis towards the border, from there to Insterburg, Tilžė and, finally, to Tauragė. Some were already in uniform. We also receive uniforms; the clothes we were wearing we had to pack and send home. I don't believe these parcels ever found their destinations...

We stayed in Tauragė for a very short time. On July 20, we sat (or lay down) in the train. All night, the train didn't move from the station. I went for a walk with the head of transport. A few airplanes were gliding across the sky, they weren't dropping bombs here. In Šiauliai, on the other hand, bombs were exploding and the town was crimson with flames.

At sunrise of 21 July, we moved away from the station, drove over the last kilometers of Lithuanian land and – farewell, Lithuania! I hope I will see you again...

I next visited Lithuania as a tourist on June 3, 1994 – fifty years after I had left.

# this month in history

## January Anniversaries



Sigismund I the Old

### 550 years ago

**January 1, 1467**

Sigismund I the Old (Lith. Žygimantas Senasis, 1467-1548), Grand Duke of Lithuania and King of Poland, was born. Sigismund I, the fifth son of Casimir IV and Elisabeth of Habsburg, had ruled Głogów, Silesia, since 1499 and became margrave of Lusatia and governor of all Silesia in 1504. In a short time his judicial and administrative reforms transformed those territories into model states. He succeeded his brother Alexander I as Grand Duke of Lithuania

and King of Poland in 1506. Although he established fiscal and monetary reforms, he often clashed with the Polish Diet over extensions of royal power. At the Diet's demand he married Barbara, daughter of Prince Stephen Zápolya of Hungary, in 1512, to secure a defense treaty and produce an heir. She died three years later, however, leaving only daughters. In 1518 Sigismund married the niece of the Holy Roman emperor Maximilian, Bona Sforza of Milan, with whom he had one son, Sigismund II Augustus, and four daughters. His daughter Catherine later married John III of Sweden, from whom the Vasa kings of Poland were descended.

### 350 years ago

**January 30, 1667**



The Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth in 1667: dark green indicates areas ceded to the Tsardom of Russia at Andrusovo

The Truce of Andrusovo established a thirteen-and-a-half year truce, signed in 1667 between the Tsardom of Russia and the Pol-

ish-Lithuanian Commonwealth, which had fought the Russo-Polish War since 1654 over the territories of modern-day Ukraine and Belarus. Afanasy Ordin-Nashchokin (for Russia) and Jerzy Chlebowicz (for the Commonwealth) signed the truce on the 30th of January, 1667 in the village of Andrusovo not far from Smolensk. They agreed on the following terms: A truce was signed for 13.5 years during which both states were obligated to prepare the conditions for eternal peace, Russia secured the territories of the Left-bank Ukraine, Siever lands, and Smolensk, Poland-Lithuania was left with the Right-bank Ukraine and the Russian-occupied Belarus with Vitebsk, Polotsk, and Dzwinsk, the city of Kiev, though situated on the right bank of the Dnieper River, was handed over to Russia for two years under series of conditions, the Zaporizhian Sich was recognized as a condominium of both states, both states agreed to provide a common defense against the Ottoman Empire, the right of a free trade was granted, and a compensation from Russia to Poland-Lithuania of 1,000,000 zloty or 200,000 rubles was agreed on for the lands of Left-bank Ukraine.

### 300 years ago

**January 30, 1717**

Silent Sejm (Lithuanian: Nebylūsė seimas) of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth was held in Warsaw. A civil war in the Commonwealth was used by the Russian Tsar Peter the Great as an opportunity to intervene as a mediator. It marked the end of Augustus II of Poland's attempts to create an absolute monarchy in Poland, and the beginning of the Russian Empire's increasing influence and control over the Commonwealth. While some beneficial reforms were passed (such as the establishment of standing taxes for the military), the Sejm is regarded negatively by modern historians. The reduction in the size of the army and the establishment of Russia's position as the settlement's proposed (even if rejected) guarantor reinforced Commonwealth military inferiority compared to its neighbors, and unofficially, put it in the position of a Russian protectorate. Historian Norman Davies wrote that this Sejm "effectively terminated the independence of Poland and Lithuania".

### 250 years ago

**January 1, 1767**

Bishop Andrius Benediktas Klungevičius (Polish: Andrzej Benedykt Kłagiewicz, 1767-1841) was born in Alūksta. From 1797 to 1815 he studied in the Vilnius University and Vilnius Seminary. In 1799, Klungevičius was ordained Deacon. In 1830, he was appointed Auxiliary Bishop of Vilnius, Lithuania, and in 1840, Bishop of Vilnius, Lithuania. He was the first Lithuanian bishop of peasant ancestry. In 1831-1832 he was exiled to Yaroslavl, Russia for his affection towards the Lithuanian-Polish rebellion against the Russian rule.

## 225 years ago

**January 13, 1792**

King Stanislovas Augustas Poniatovskis granted the town of Plungė the rights of self-government, and the Plungė coat of arms was established.



Plungė coat of arms.

## 150 years ago

**January 13, 1867**

The Suwałki Governorate (Lithuanian: Suvalkų gubernija) was established. This administrative unit covered a territory of about 12,300 km<sup>2</sup>. After World War I the governorate was eventually split between Poland and Lithuania, mostly along ethnic lines (with an exception of Puńsk). The Polish part, known as Suwałki Region, was incorporated into the Białystok Voivodeship. The Lithuanian ethnographic region Suvalkija was named after the governorate. According to contemporary Russian Empire statistics from 1889 the Suwałki Governorate was predominately Lithuanian – Lithuanians comprised 57.8% of the population. The Lithuanians formed a majority only in the northern part of this governorate (Counties of Kalvarija, Marijampolė, Naujamiestis, Vilkaviškis and eastern part of Sejny) and the Poles had a majority in the southern part (counties of Suwałki, Augustów and the western part of Sejny).

## 150 years ago

**January 12, 1867**

Joseph Godlewski (Juozas Godliauskas, 1773-1867) died in Freda, a suburb of Kaunas. Joseph Godlewski was born in Griniškiai in the district of Kėdainiai, Grand Duchy of Lithuania. After his studies at the Kražiai Jesuit College, in 1792 he served in the Lithuanian army as aide-de-camp to General Sulistrowski. He participated in the insurrection of Kościuszko in 1794. In 1809 Józef Godlewski built a Holy Trinity church in Garliava near Kaunas. He named the village Godlewo in his own honor. However, Lithuanians started calling it Garliava.

## 150 years ago

**January 17, 1867**

Book smuggler Jeronimas Dalbokas (1867-1930) was born in Gudaičiai village in the Krakės region. In 1886 he started distributing banned Lithuanian books that were supplied to him by book

smuggler Juozas Karabinas of Šiluva. The Lithuanian press ban was a ban on all Lithuanian language publications printed in the Latin alphabet in force from 1865 to 1904 within the Russian Empire, which controlled Lithuania at the time. Jeronimas worked as a tailor and travelled from village to village in the Krakės parish sewing clothes and distributing Lithuanian books, this way risking his life.

## 120 years ago

**January 23, 1897**

Lithuanian writer Ieva Simonaitytė (1897-1978) was born. She was an author of autobiographic tales and novels, in which she depicted the everyday life of "lietuvininkai" - Lithuanians from Lithuania Minor. Simonaitytė was born in a small village of Vanagai (then Wannaggen in German East Prussia) in Klaipėda district. At the age of five, she became ill with tuberculosis, which affected her bones, and she had to walk with crutches ever since. Hailing from a poor peasant family and growing up without a father, she had to work from a young age as a gooseherd or babysitter. Learning to read and write from her mother, Simonaitytė was largely self-taught. From 1912 to 1914 Simonaitytė received treatment for tuberculosis in Angerburg. She returned in better health and, influenced by World War I, began her literary career publishing poems and short stories in various Lithuanian periodicals of Lithuania Minor. She earned a living working as a seamstress until 1921, when she moved to Klaipėda, where she completed the training course for typists and stenographers. Simonaitytė worked as a secretary and translator. To some extent she was involved in the political life of the Klaipėda Region, participating in the Klaipėda Revolt of 1923, working for the local seimelis (parliament established to guarantee autonomy for the region), and testifying in Nazi trials in 1934. Her big break came in 1935 with the publication of *Aukštųjų Šimonių likimas*. She received a state literary award, a pension, and dedicated her remaining life to literature. After the 1939 German ultimatum to Lithuania, Klaipėda was attached to Nazi Germany and Simonaitytė moved to Kaunas, moving again in 1963 to Vilnius. Simonaitytė bought a summer house in Priekulė near Klaipėda in 1961 and spent most of her summers there. The summer house was turned into her memorial museum in 1984. Simonaitytė died in Vilnius and was buried in the Writers' Hill of the Antakalnis Cemetery.

## 110 years ago

**January 9, 1907**

The first Lithuanian Art Exhibit was opened in Vilnius.

## 100 years ago

**January 20, 1917**

Pope Benedict XV announced "The Day of Lithuania", appealing to all the countries of the world to organize collects in favor of Lithuania, which was impoverished by the World War I.

# Baltic Studies Summer Institute 2017



Photos of BALSSI in 2016

Indiana University's Summer Language Workshop is proud to host the 2017 Baltic Studies Summer Institute (BALSSI), offering intensive beginning Estonian, Latvian and Lithuanian language courses. Courses will be held from June 5-July 28, 2017 on the Bloomington campus.

BALSSI was founded in 1994 and is currently funded by a consortium of American universities: Indiana University, Stanford University, University of California-Berkeley, University of Illinois, University of Pittsburgh, University of Texas, University of Washington, and University of Wisconsin-Madison. BALSSI was held at Indiana University in 1998 and 1999, in 2005 and 2006, and returns for 2016 and 2017.

At Indiana University, BALSSI is held in conjunction with the Summer Language Workshop and benefits from the Workshop's long experience as a leader in intensive summer language instruction and programming.

The Workshop has been offering intensive language training at the Bloomington campus of Indiana University since 1950. Drawing on the resources of Indiana University's language and area studies specialists and employing highly qualified and experienced faculty from other universities in the US and abroad, the Summer Language Workshop has developed and maintained a national program of the highest quality. The Workshop's curriculum emphasizes communicative classrooms focused on the student and on development of level-appropriate proficiency in reading, writing, speaking, listening, grammar, and culture. A full range of cultural and linguistic extra-curricular activities complement classroom instruction for every language.



Students complete the equivalent of one year of academic instruction in the program and earn 6-8 credits, which can be transferred to other institutions.

Complete the online application and submit all required supporting documentation to be considered for participation in the IU Summer Language Workshop at <http://indiana.edu/~swseel/apply/start>.

## Security

... An article in the Journal of the Royal United Services Institute (RUSI) recommends that the Baltic countries not try to defend themselves by trying to match Russia's military capability but default to the "forest brothers" tactic as advocated in the recent Lithuanian handbook, "Guide to Active Resistance" Thirty five thousand copies of the 75 page survival manual were printed. RUSI is a United Kingdom think tank founded by the Duke of Wellington in 1831 with a focus on defense and security issues.

... American airborne unit, Able Company, 2nd Battalion, 503rd Infantry Regiment based in Vicenza, Italy is on a 6 month rotation to Rukla Lithuania to train their Lithuanian counterparts as paratroopers. From September 2016 to March 2017 they will be participating in live fire exercises and then training for cold weather operations. The Company is part of the 173rd Airborne Brigade which is the US Army Contingency Response Force in Europe and is charged with projecting military operations across the US, Europe, Central and Africa Commands within 18 hours.

... The World Conference on Constitutional Justice has 103 members ranging from Albania to Zambia, including all the Baltic countries and Russia but not the US. It has evolved to hold triannual meetings beginning in 2009 in South Africa, 2011 in Brazil, 2014 in Seoul. The next meeting is scheduled for Vilnius September 11-14, 2017. The Lithuanian Foreign Ministry has banned the judges of the Constitutional Court of Russia (CCR) from attending the meeting. The FM spokesman, Kestutis Vaskevicius said "The decision is made due to the fact that the Constitutional Court of Russia adopted a judicial definition, formalizing the annexation of Crimea in 2014. This is a flagrant violation of the universally recognized norms of international law." He said that Lithuania has informed all the EU countries of this ban because Lithuania believes the judges pose a threat to the security of Lithuania. The Chairman of the CCR, Valery Zorkin, complained directly to Vladimir Putin, President of Russia, that their unanimous decision was based on the Crimean vote to rejoin Russia. Putin called the Lithuanian ban "idiotic" and added "Sometimes I get the impression some people are visitors from another planet."

... Lithuania has contracted with Saab to provide shoulder mounted RBS-70 simulators for defeating aerial threats. They are being equipped with 3-D maps from Baltic Institute of Advanced Technologies to visualize real world environments. Deliveries are scheduled for 2018.

... In 2017 the Royal Netherlands Air Force will take over NATO air policing duties with four F-16AM Fighting Falcon's operating out of Siauliai airbase in Lithuania. The Dutch take over the 4 month responsibilities from the French for protecting the Baltics. There is additional support from the German Air Force

which operates four Eurofighter Typhoons out of Amari, Estonia. A deployment of four fighter aircraft usually requires between 50 and 100 support personnel

... Three US Senators (John McCain (R-AZ), Lindsay Graham (R-SC) and Amy Klobuchar (D-MN)) visited leaders of Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia, Georgia, Montenegro and Ukraine and assured them of US support in their security and bilateral cooperation. They met with Lithuanian President, Dalia Grybauskaitė, and Prime Minister, Saulius Skvernelis.



President Grybauskaitė meets with the U.S. senators. Photo by Robertas Dačkus. Source: Office of the President of the Republic of Lithuania.

... Sputnik, the Russian controlled news agency launched a Lithuanian news portal in December with both Russian and Lithuanian languages. It follows portals in Latvia and Estonia that were launched in early 2016 to serve the larger Russian populations in these countries. The Estonian Defense Ministry recently denied Sputnik accreditation for a news conference with the Ukrainian and Estonian Defense Ministries citing Sputnik's "propaganda for Putin's regime". The head of Sputnik Estonia said he will complain to Reporters Without Borders, UNESCO Communication and Information Sector, and others saying "We consider the denial of accreditation an attack on freedom of speech."

... Sputnik reports that on December 15 Lithuanian border guards banned representatives of the Russian government sponsored "Foundation for Supporting and Protecting Rights of Compatriots" from entering Lithuania on the grounds of being a threat to national security. The Russian Foreign Ministry spokesperson, Maria Zakharova, expressed deep regret and would have a response.

... Rimtautas Cerniauskas, head of Lithuanian Cyber Security Center, said that they have found three cases of Russian spyware on government computers since 2015. The spyware was active for at least 6 months and was transferring passwords and documents to an internet address commonly used by Russian spy agencies. The head of the Lithuanian counter intelligence

## current events

agency said that in 2012 Russia tried to disrupt the operations of the Lithuanian central bank and its online news website.

... Tomas Ceponis, an analyst for the Lithuanian military, said that there is a huge disinformation campaign against our society - it is harder to quantify than the number of tanks or planes but it still exists. Delfi, a main news site in Lithuania, found that its comment section was filling with pro-Russian posts and now has full-time staff deleting the most extreme messages. Ricardas Savukynas leads an informal group of Lithuanian bloggers who patrol Facebook and Skype to expose fake accounts, demolish pro-Soviet nostalgia and unravel conspiracy theories that seem to originate from Moscow. Lithuanian Foreign Minister, Linas Linkevičius, on commenting on the 3 month ban on Russia's RTR Planeta channel for its anti-US rhetoric said "A lie is not an alternative point of view. One can say 'its freedom of speech, everyone can say whatever he wants' Of course, I agree. But if it's (a) resourced propaganda machine brainwashing people, it's not just an alternative point of view. It's a weapon."

### Business

... AviaAM Leasing of Vilnius has established a joint venture with China's Henan Civil Aviation Development and Investment Company to purchase and lease 16 Airbus aircraft worth \$800 Million to be used by the Russian airline Aeroflot. Delivery is scheduled between March-December 2017. AviaAM Leasing was established in 2007 and is listed on the Warsaw Stock Exchange.

... Lietuvos Energija (Lithuanian Energy) has contacted with Russian gas supplier, Gazprom, for a third of its needs in 2017. The remaining two thirds of the needs will be supplied via the Klaipėda LNG terminal. The new contract replaces an arrangement which expired in 2015.

... With its goal of eventually joining the Organization of Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), Lithuania has joined a related working group to enact laws combating bribery in international business. Lithuania will enact relevant laws to penalize bribery of foreign public officials. Without these laws a country cannot be a full member of OECD. Thirty five countries are already members including Poland, Latvia and Estonia. Lithuania applied for membership in 2002 and was invited to begin the process in 2015. It hopes to become a member in 2018.

... SPI Group, producer of Stolichnaya vodka has acquired KAH Tequila and will manage it under its subsidiary, Amber Beverage Group. SPI Group employs 1,400 in Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia where it bottles, markets and distributes about 500 spirits and wines to 160 worldwide markets.

... Swedish retail group, ICA Gruppen will acquire Lithuania based UAB Palink which operates the IKI grocery chain for 213

million euros. ICI currently operated the Rimi Baltic grocery chain which ranks fourth in Lithuania. With the purchase the combined chain will rank second.

... Kaunas will be the fifth site of the Dutch company, GeoPhy, which collects, processes and analyses data on the global real estate market. "Big data" and its related analytics are part of the new industrial revolution. The data is used by banks, pension funds, government organizations and investors to rate buildings and has a database of over 100 million buildings in more than 50 countries. Kaunas University of Technology has already offered studies in Big Business Data Analytics. GeoPhy which was founded in 2013 in the Netherlands has offices in Delft, London, Hong Kong and New York will be hiring 25 people in Kaunas in 2017.

### General

... Just prior to Christmas a construction crew broke a sewer pipe on Upes Street in Vilnius which resulted in a sinkhole which swallowed at least one car and resulted in an environmental mess in the River Neris. The nearby Barclays bank was evacuated.

... Gediminas Hill in Vilnius has been closed to tourists because of major landslides in February and October. The future of the thirteen year old funicular railway which runs up the hill to the Castle is being debated regarding fixing or replacing.

... The Lithuanian Under 20 Ice Hockey team won gold in the IIHF Division II Group B World Championship by defeating Japan 6-4 in a match between previously undefeated teams in Tallinn. The win advances Lithuania to play in Division I Group B next year.

... Latvia has enacted Teacher Loyalty tests after a pro-Russian teacher in a Russian language school in Riga expressed disloyalty to Latvia in a radio interview. Latvia which has about 26 % Russian speakers (compared to 6% in Lithuania) allows firing of any teacher found disloyal to Latvia. Principals are also subject to assessment every 6 years and will lose their jobs if found disloyal to the Latvian state, Latvian constitution or instilling "wrong" attitudes regarding life, society or the country.

... The Russian Post will now require all incoming foreign mail will go through Mirny in Eastern Siberia, 4,000 km east of Moscow. Previously a package mailed to Moscow would go directly to Moscow; now it must go through Mirny before going to Moscow which will add to the transit time.

... For a Christmas treat Google" Vilnius Christmas tree 2016-17" and view some YouTube videos!!!

## Balandėliai

(Stuffed Cabbage)

By Jana Sirusaitė Motivans



Cabbage rolls are popular throughout Eastern Europe. Each country has its own regional variations, and all are delicious and comforting on a cold winter day. The filling for the cabbage rolls can vary from vegetarian (usually mushrooms and potatoes), to rice, onion and bacon, to ground meats (usually pork or beef) although I once ate a Lebanese version made with ground lamb and spiced with cinnamon. Traditionally, cabbage rolls are made with one leaf of cabbage at a time, but I have also seen recipes where an entire head of cabbage is boiled and stuffed and then served in slices, like a cake. Cabbage rolls are usually served with a tomato sauce, but I have also eaten them with a delicious creamy sauce. There are many recipes to choose from, but the recipe I use comes from the excellent Toronto cookbook *Treasures of Lithuanian Cooking*.

I was reminded just how good stuffed cabbage is this past July when we were in Baltimore for Šokių Šventė and went for lunch at the Lietuvių Namai (Lithuanian Hall). The Hall is walking distance from the Inner Harbor/Downtown area, and is quite an impressive place. The top floor houses a Lithuanian Museum,

the main floor has a beautiful banquet room, and the basement has a restaurant and bar. The menu features Lithuanian favorites such as Cepelinai (meat-filled potato dumplings), Kugelis (baked potato pudding), Šaltibarščiai (cold beet soup) and Balandėliai (stuffed cabbage). The enormous bar is well stocked (of course!) and features Lithuanian beer. Kepta Duona (fried garlic bread) is also available at the bar. The atmosphere is warm and welcoming, and the food is delicious. Lithuanians in Baltimore are lucky to have such a special place and should be proud that they have managed to maintain it all these years. Do them and yourselves a favor and go for a visit and enjoy a good meal, especially the stuffed cabbage! The Lithuanian Hall is located at 851 Hollins Street, in Baltimore. To verify the restaurant hours, call ahead (410-685-5787) or e-mail the Hall at [lithuanianhall@yahoo.com](mailto:lithuanianhall@yahoo.com).

More information on the Lithuanian Club is available at the Lithuanian Hall Facebook page and on the web at [www.lithuanianhall.com](http://www.lithuanianhall.com).

# a taste of lithuania

## Balandėliai (Stuffed Cabbage)

### INGREDIENTS

- 1 large head of green cabbage (about 2 pounds or a little more)
- 1 large onion, chopped
- 1 pound ground meat (beef or pork, or mixture)
- 1 egg
- 1 cup of cooked rice
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/4 teaspoon pepper

### Sauce

- 1/2 cup chicken broth
- 1 (14 ounce) can of diced tomatoes
- 2 tablespoons tomato paste
- 4 tablespoons parsley, chopped
- pinch sugar
- salt and pepper

1. Remove core from cabbage. Place the whole head of cabbage in a large pot of boiling water, making sure there is enough water to cover it completely. Cover the pot and cook for 15 minutes.



2. Carefully lift out and remove the softened outer leaves. Leave the cabbage head in the pot of boiling water and keep removing the outer leaves as they soften. Place the separated leaves in a colander to drain. When they are cool enough to handle, trim away any thick center spines from the larger leaves.



3. Meanwhile, if you would like, sauté the onions in a little butter in a frying pan. The recipe calls for the onions to be added raw, but I prefer to soften them a bit for better flavor. The recipe also calls for the rice to be added uncooked, but I also prefer to add that cooked as well. If you choose to add the rice uncooked reduce the amount by half.
4. In a large bowl, mix together the meat, onions, egg, rice, salt and pepper.



5. Place several tablespoons of filling on each cabbage leaf. Fold the sides of the leaf around the filling, and roll up the leaves from the thick end to the thin end.



6. Place each roll seam side down in a large sturdy pot or Dutch oven. Combine the sauce ingredients and pour over the cabbage rolls. Cover and bake in oven for one hour at 325°F.





## My Big and Merry Lithuanian Wedding

By Laima Liutikienė

Translated by Karilė Vaitkutė



The newlyweds lead the guests in dancing the "Hakerių Polka".  
Photo by Eglė Petrauskaitė.

Did you know in what way in different regions of Lithuania the bride says farewell to her wreath of rue (the symbol of chastity) during her wedding? Or what the groom's father is called? Or what the *sugražtai* are? The participants of "My Big and Merry Lithuanian Wedding", a staging of a wedding organized by the Lithuanian American Community Northern New Jersey District, learned new things about Lithuanian wedding traditions. More than a hundred guests sang, rocked, danced, laughed, and performed a variety of tasks at the event. Mrs. Matchmaker (Sigita Šimkuvienė) and Mr. Matchmaker (Rimantas Bitėnas) did not let anyone stay on the sidelines, while the bride and the groom (Neringa Liutikaitė and Gytis Kavaliauskas) as well as the bridesmaids and groomsmen (Saulė Petrauskaitė and Nojus Liutikas and Greta Donnelly and Vytis Dunčia) performed their roles so well that one could believe they were participating in a real wedding instead of performing.

The weather seemed to be rejoicing along with the wedding participants. The sun was shining brightly and there was not a cloud in the sky! When the newlyweds returned from their "wedding ceremony" they were greeted by a big group of children who, according to the tradition, blocked the way and did not let anybody in until Mrs. Matchmaker generously gifted

them with candies. The bride and the groom's parents met the newlyweds, offering them bread, water, and salt, and advised the couple to look after one another, stay together through the storms of life and keep going forward together. The guests enthusiastically applauded the groom after he passed his first test of carrying his bride across "the bridge of life". Then the newlyweds had to smash a plate and the number of fragments show us that the couple would have no less than ten children! The atmosphere grew even merrier after the guests found out that the wedding table was occupied by "pretenders" and that Mr. and Mrs. Matchmaker had to buy them out. These excellent and witty "pretenders" would be envied by every real Lithuanian wedding!

After the pretenders gave the table back to the real wedding participants, a group of young dancers danced a traditional wedding dance "Rezginėlė" and Mr. Matchmaker announced the beginning of the feast. The tables were full of delicacies prepared by "Linos Skanumynai," and the heads of each table were making sure that the guests would not be shy, that they would eat and drink, behave well, and enjoy themselves. The merry Mrs. Matchmaker introduced the bride and groom's families to each other and they, in turn, introduced themselves as well as the bride and groom with a great deal of wit and creativity. It turned out that we married New Jersey and New York and at the same time brought together two talented families of scientists, artists, chefs, and politicians. It was company that you could not call boring! The guests had to pass a test by answering questions about marital life, and those who replied correctly received valuable prizes. Later on, musician Stasys Telšinskas began playing the "Matchmaker's Polka", and the matchmakers as well as the whole support team found themselves swirling merrily on the dance floor. The bride and the groom had



Traditional Lithuanian dance "Rezginėlė". Photo by Eglė Petrauskaitė.

# our community



The bridesmaids and the groomsmen. Photo by Laima Liutikienė.



Pretenders dressed as the newlyweds and the matchmakers occupy the table and demand a payoff. Photo by Saulius Galavackas.



The bride's family members happen to be politicians. Photo by Laima Liutikienė.

help from their parents in dancing their first waltz. The dancing turned to singing, the singing turned to group dancing in a circle, and in the midst of all the fun we realized that the bride was missing. The groom and the parents had to find her and buy her out from her kidnappers.

In accordance with the customs of Aukštaitija (Lithuania's ethnographical region) during the second part of the wedding, the wreath of rue was taken off the bride's head, put into a small chest, and given to the groom for safekeeping. The bride, together with Mrs. Matchmaker, put the veil on the maid of honor's head. The groom's mother adorned the bride's head with a kerchief, this way showing that the bride has become a married woman and a homemaker. Mr. Matchmaker handed the groom a husband's hat, showing that from now on the groom could oversee the house and be the head of the family. As the evening progressed, the guests had no time to relax. They had to look for the matchmaker who was hiding in order to avoid the trial, to hear the executioner (Žilvinas Merkevičius) read the charges, to listen to the judge's (Consul General of Lithuania in New York Julius Pranevičius) speech, and the matchmaker's last will. The judge's heart melted at Mrs. Matchmaker's pleas, and it was decided that the lying matchmaker would not hang but instead be drowned in a puddle. However, to the joy of all single people, the bride rescued the matchmaker, tying a linen towel around him. As a thank you, Mrs. Matchmaker treated everyone to the delicious karvojus cake and the bride served everyone cake as well.

I was there amidst it all but had little to eat or drink because amongst all the fun I did not have much time... :) I will make up for it during the sugražtai when in accordance with the old tradition the newlyweds visit the bride's parents and all the family will come together once again. Come visit us next time we celebrate a wedding in our village. It will be a lot of fun!



The newlyweds with the matchmakers, the bridesmaids and the groomsmen. Photo by Laima Liutikienė.

## Minister of Education Met with the Winners of the National Dictation Competition

The Education and Science Minister Jurgita Petrauskienė met with the students of Lithuanian schools outside of Lithuania who competed in the National Dictation Competition. The Minister awarded students with electronic readers that contain a variety of Lithuanian literary works. The Minister wished the students success in learning the Lithuanian language and encouraged them to participate in the National Dictation competition this year.

During the meeting, the students talked about their schools, shared their impressions of visiting Lithuania, and some talked about their plans to return to study in Lithuania.

The following students are the winners of the competition: Ramunė Raziūnaitė from the Riga Lithuanian School (teacher Jolanta Nagle), Ugnė Ališauskaitė from the Brussels European School II (teacher Rasa Pivorytė), Rūta Razmaitė from the Cork (Ireland) Saturday School Banga (teacher Inga Lukšienė), Renata Mačiulytė from the Kaliningrad Sunday Lithuanian School (teacher Laima Meščariakova). Gabriela Liesinskaitė and Alesandro Liesinskas from Venezuela also participated in the meeting with the Minister of Education. They will be studying Lithuanian at the Vilnius Lithuanian House High School for one year. The educational trip to Lithuania on January 2-6 was the prize awarded to the students by the Ministry of Education and Science of Lithuania. Students participating in the educational trip



Minister of Science and Education of Lithuania with the winners of the National Dictation Competition.

program visited the National Center for Protected Areas, the State Center of Knowledge at the Presidential Palace, and the Vilnius Center of Ethnic Culture. The students also had fun in a water park and saw "Othello" at the National Drama Theatre. In 2016, over 100 schools in Lithuania participated in the National Dictation competition. Lithuanian schools in Latvia, Kaliningrad, Ireland, and the United States were also active.

The National Dictation Competition of 2017 will take place on February 27th. Students that live outside of Lithuania will be able to participate at a more convenient time on Saturday, February 25th. The Competition is organized by Pilietinės Minties Institutas.

## Invitation to an Evening with Professor Jonas Zdanys

The New Britain Museum of American Art invites to an evening with professor and poet Jonas Zdanys, presenting "Red Stones, and the Relationship Between Poetry and Painting" on Thursday, March 09, 2017.

New Britain native Jonas Zdanys, Professor of English and poet-in-residence at Sacred Heart University, will talk about the relationship between poetry and painting, discuss the ekphrastic literary tradition (otherwise known as the verbal description of visual art), and present excerpts from his new book, *Red Stones* (Lamar University Press, 2016). *Red Stones* is a volume of lyric poetry—inspiration beginning in front of Andrew Wyeth's *McVey's Barn* at the NBMAA—which includes 14 original paintings created for the book by Chicago-based abstract expressionist Steven Schroeder.

Zdanys is a graduate of Yale and earned a Ph.D. in English literature from the State University of New York. A bilingual poet and translator, he is the author of forty-six books—forty-two of those are of poetry. He has received a number of prizes, awards,



Professor Jonas Zdanys

grants, and public recognitions for his poetry and for his translations. Zdanys has taught at the State University of New York and at Yale University, and has served for more than a decade as the state of Connecticut's Chief Academic Officer. More information available at <http://www.nbmaa.org>.

# our community

## Running on the Road of Life and Death

The run entitled "Bėgimas Gyvybės Ir Mirties Keliu" (Running on the Road of Life and Death) has become an international annual tradition. The event is held in order to honor those killed during the bloody events of January 13th, 1991. In Chicago, the run was organized by the Lietuvos Šaulių Sąjunga Išeivijoje, Chicago Lithuanian Running Club, Chicago Lithuanian Scouts, and the Lithuanian Consulate in Chicago. We are and we will remain grateful forever to those who lost their lives on January 13, 1991. They died for the freedom of Lithuania and for the freedom of each and every one of us. We share the photos taken by Silvija Basijokaitė and hope to see even more runners next year.





*Bridges* is your connection to Lithuanian life and culture in the United States and around the world. Share that connection with the people you love!

**bridges**

**SUBSCRIPTION ORDER FORM**

**Please check all that apply:**

- New       Renewal  
 Gift       Donation

**Mail to:**  
 LAC, Inc./BRIDGES  
 Subscriptions  
 208 Linden Ponds Way,  
 Unit 403  
 Hingham, MA 02043

- Please send:**
- 1 year electronic (10 issues via email) \$20
  - 1 year print (10 issues by mail) \$30
  - 2 years print (20 issues by mail) \$58
  - Print subscription outside U.S., add \$25 per year

**e-subscriptions  
 60% off  
 the cover price!**

Your Name (please print)

Gift Subscription Name (please print)

Your Email

Gift Subscription Email

Your Address

Apt. No.

Gift Subscription Address

Apt. No.

City

State

Zip

City

State

Zip

Order online at [lithuanian-american.org/bridges](http://lithuanian-american.org/bridges)

January 2017

**bridges**

**SUBSCRIPTION ORDER FORM**

**Please check all that apply:**

- New       Renewal  
 Gift       Donation

**Mail to:**  
 LAC, Inc./BRIDGES  
 Subscriptions  
 208 Linden Ponds Way,  
 Unit 403  
 Hingham, MA 02043

- Please send:**
- 1 year electronic (10 issues via email) \$20
  - 1 year print (10 issues by mail) \$30
  - 2 years print (20 issues by mail) \$58
  - Print subscription outside U.S., add \$25 per year

**e-subscriptions  
 60% off  
 the cover price!**

Your Name (please print)

Gift Subscription Name (please print)

Your Email

Gift Subscription Email

Your Address

Apt. No.

Gift Subscription Address

Apt. No.

City

State

Zip

City

State

Zip

Order online at [lithuanian-american.org/bridges](http://lithuanian-american.org/bridges)

January 2017

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

## ONGOING

### Through April 22, 2017 Daily Life: Photography from Lithuania Exhibit

The Print Center, 1614 Latimer St., Philadelphia, Pa.  
Free and open to the public  
Tuesday through Saturday  
11 a.m. – 6 p.m.  
Info: printcenter.org,  
215-735-6090

Most Fridays, 4:30-7:30 p.m.  
**Friday Fish Fry at the  
Rockford Lithuanian Club**  
716 Indiana Avenue, Rockford, Ill.  
Open to the public. Weekly  
specials vary. First Friday of the  
month—Lithuanian dumplings.  
Info: lithuanianclub.org,  
815-962-9256

Every Sunday,  
11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.  
**All-You-Can-Eat Lithuanian  
Brunch Buffet**  
Lithuanian Club and Gintaras  
Dining Room  
877 E. 185 St., Cleveland, Ohio  
\$15 per person; \$6 kids 6-12  
Info: lithclub@gmail.com,  
216-531-8318

First Sunday of the Month,  
12-4 p.m.  
**Lithuanian Brunch**  
The Avenue Restaurant, 71-22  
Myrtle Ave., Glendale, N.Y.  
Reservations strongly  
recommended.  
Info: 347-725-3853

First Sunday of the Month  
**Rockford Lithuanian Club Gen-  
eral Membership Meeting**  
716 Indiana Avenue, Rockford, Ill.  
Open to all members.  
Info: lithuanianclub.org,  
815-962-9256

Every Third Saturday,  
Mar-Jun & Sep-Nov, 1-3 p.m.  
**Amber Roots Lithuanian  
Heritage Club**  
Lithuanian Music Hall, 2517 E.  
Allegheny Ave., Philadelphia, Pa.  
Use Tilton Street entrance.  
Bring a dish to share.  
Info: milliemarks@aol.com

March 9-April 17  
**No Home To Go To. The Story  
of Baltic Displaced Persons,  
1944-1952**  
Exhibition on display at the  
Arlington Public Library, 1015 N.  
Quincy St., Arlington, VA 22201  
Info: info@balzekasmuseum.org  
or 773-582-6500

## FEBRUARY 2017

February 11  
**Poker Tournament to Benefit  
Versmė Lithuanian School of  
Kansas City**  
Cedar Creek Clubhouse, 25775  
W. 103rd St., Olathe, Kans.  
\$45 ticket includes \$3,150 in  
chips, dinner buffet, soft drinks  
and Lithuanian snacks.  
Info: Renata Nantz, 913-271-3422

February 24-March 4  
**Lithuanian Snow Ski Trip**  
Aspen Mountain Resort,  
Aspen, Colo.  
Sponsored by Lithuanian Athletic  
Union of North America and  
Lithuanian American Doctors  
Union. Skiers, non-skiers and  
families welcome. Race schedule  
TBA. Travel and accommoda-  
tions: linda@ski.com,  
800-525-2052 x3329  
or 970-925-9500 x3329.  
Identify yourself as part of the  
Lithuanian Ski Group.  
General info:  
edmickus1@aol.com  
or vsaulis@sbcglobal.net

February 26, 4 p.m.  
**Annual Aspen Lithuanian  
Independence Day Celebration**  
809 South Aspen Street,  
Aspen, Colo.  
Special guest Rolandas  
Krisčiūnas, Lithuanian  
Ambassador to the U.S.  
Info: dmb@aspenconsul.com

## MARCH 2017

March 3-6  
**17th Annual Florida Lithuanian  
Open Golf Tournament**  
Info: LTConsulFlorida.com,  
727-895-4811

March 17-19 (new date)  
**Women's Weekend**  
Camp Neringa, Brattleboro, Vt.  
Group discussions, exercise,  
art, cooking, and spiritual and  
personal rebirth.  
Info:  
kerry@watershedcoachingllc.com  
or kriscon@frontiernet.net

March 17-20  
**Vyresnių Skaučių + Gintarių  
Lithuanian Scouts Jamboree**  
Agatha A. Durland Scout  
Reservation, 1 Clear Lake Road,  
Putnam Valley, N.Y.  
Registration: via Facebook: Vyr.  
Sk. + Gintarių Suvaziamas 2017  
or Skautai.net  
Info: djmattis@gmail.com  
or vaiva.rimeika@gmail.com

March 25  
**Ethnic Heritage Mass**  
St. Peter and Paul Basilica,  
Philadelphia, Pa.  
Choir "Laisvė" will sing  
at the Mass

March 25, 10 a.m.  
**Easter egg decorating  
workshop**  
Balzekas Museum of  
Lithuanian Culture  
Info: info@balzekasmuseum.org  
or 773-582-6500

## APRIL 2017

April 1  
**Benefit Concert for Neringa**  
600 Liberty Hwy., Putnam, Conn.  
Info: neringa.org

April 22, 2 p.m.  
**Kendall Svengalis will present  
his book "The Great Emerson  
Art Heist"**  
Balzekas Museum of  
Lithuanian Culture  
Info: info@balzekasmuseum.org  
or 773-582-6500

## MAY 2017

May 13-14, 11 a.m. - 6 p.m.  
**45th Annual Baltimore Lithua-  
nian Festival**  
Catonsville Armory, 130 Mellor  
Avenue, Catonsville, Md.

May 19-21  
**Counselor Retreat**  
Camp Neringa, Brattleboro, Vt.  
Info: neringa.org

## JUNE 2017

June 3-4, 2017  
**Talka Work Weekend**  
Camp Neringa, Brattleboro, Vt.  
Info: regina@neringa.com,  
978-582-5592

June 5 – July 28  
**Baltic Studies Summer Institute**  
Indiana University Bloomington  
Campus, 107 S. Indiana Ave.,  
Bloomington, Ind.  
Six-week intensive beginning  
Lithuanian, Latvian and Estonian  
language courses.  
Application deadline for Title VIII  
Fellowships is February 1, 2017.  
Info: indiana.edu/~swseel/balssi

June 9-11  
**New England Chapter Knights  
of Lithuania Retreat**  
Franciscan Guest House,  
26 Beach Ave., Kennebunk, Maine  
Info: 207-967-4865

June 24-29  
**Heritage Family Camp in English**  
Camp Neringa, Brattleboro, Vt.  
Info: neringa.org

## JULY 2017

July 2-8  
**Family Camp for Lithuanian  
Speakers**  
Camp Neringa, Brattleboro, Vt.  
Info: neringa.org

July 9-23  
**Children's Camp for Lithuanian  
Speakers 7-16**  
Camp Neringa, Brattleboro, Vt.  
Info: neringa.org

## GOT EVENTS?

Let us help you spread the  
word! Please send your event  
notice to kariledalia@yahoo.  
com two months in advance of  
the month in which you would  
like to see it listed.

# bridges

VOLUME 40 ISSUE 10

LITHUANIAN-AMERICAN NEWS JOURNAL

PERIODICALS  
POSTAGE PAID

POSTMASTER:  
Dated Material  
Please Deliver Immediately

