

bridges



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Dear fellow Lithuanians,

On behalf of the National Executive Committee of the Lithuanian American Community, I extend my sincere congratulations to you on the occasion of February 16th and the upcoming March 11th!

These prominent dates remind us of the freedom we regained and of the difficult road that we traveled on and were able to finish only because of our spiritual strength and unity. No matter how different we are, we are united by our history, traditions, and values that we all share. Let the love and respect for our homeland be the foundation for all of our meaningful and important work.

Let us foster unity among us and let the spirit of citizenship, duty, and tolerance towards one another never leave us. Let us be worthy of the price of freedom that we achieved and the values that we preserved.

Even though we are scattered all over the world, Lithuania unites us and inspires us to live in harmony and creativity. Let us be free within ourselves first. As we travel on the endless road of freedom, let us have hope, patience, and faith in what the future holds for us. I wish You the best of luck in Your fine and important work for the benefit of Lithuania.

Let us learn, work, and help each other so that Lithuania would be proud of us!

With love,
Sigita Šimkuvienė
 LAC National Executive Committee President

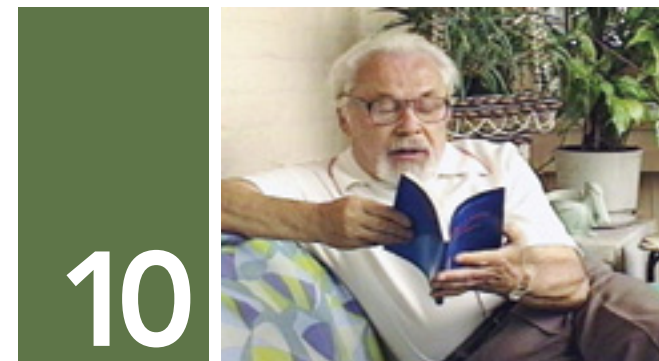


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Front Cover: Lithuanian Independence celebration in Chicago. Photo credit: Sandra Scedrina.

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from the editor

Dear Readers,

The month of February always evokes thoughts about the time in the Lithuanian history when the Act of the Restoration of Independence was written, signed and proclaimed to the public in Vilnius in 1918. Time and time again, I cannot but marvel at the incredible bravery, intelligence, and patriotism of the signatories. Having in mind the historical circumstances under which the restoration of independence was proclaimed, it is nothing short of a miracle that they were able to achieve this goal.

And now, almost a hundred years later, we, the Lithuanians all over the world, celebrate the Independence of the land of our forefathers and we cherish its freedom by propagating Lithuania in the world through its culture and traditions.

Here I would like to share some wonderful thoughts expressed by Nojus Liutikas, a young Lithuanian American, who writes about how he found his place among Lithuanians.

Karilė Vaitkutė, Editor

"The event takes place every four years; it was broadcast all over Lithuanian television and covered widely in the press, and the fact that we, the Lithuanians of America, were given the opportunity to show our spirit, was very exciting. But being the ignorant teenager I was, I didn't care much for that. What surprised me most was the realization that I made. I realized that because I was Lithuanian, I was accepted. I didn't have to work my way into the group, I was already in it. The fact that people who I had never met before blindly accepted me as one of their own lit a whole new feeling inside of me. I wanted to be Lithuanian. I wanted to be accepted, to be laughed at and to laugh with, to be a part of this family. My whole life I had wandered around, looking for someone who would accept me as I am, and finally, I found that place and those people. It was as if I had just found the purpose of my life. For once, I was truly very happy, and ever since then I have learned to value the culture and traditions of my people. I know where I belong."

Nojus Liutikas

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The Signatories of the Act of Independence and Their Relation to the United States

by Karilė Vaitkutė



The Council of Lithuania on February 16, 1918. From the left, seated: Jonas Vileišis, Jurgis Šaulys, Justinas Staugaitis, Stanislovas Narutavičius, Jonas Basanavičius, Antanas Smetona, Kazimieras Steponas Šaulys, Steponas Kairys, and Jonas Smilgevičius. From the left, standing: Kazys Bizauskas, Jonas Vailokaitis, Donatas Malinauskas, Vladas Mironas, Mykolas Biržiška, Alfonsas Petrusis, Saliamonas Banaitis, Petras Klimas, Aleksandras Stulginskis, Jokūbas Šernas, and Pranas Dovydaitis.

The result of the Vilnius Conference (September 18, 1917 - September 22, 1917) was the election of a twenty-member Council of Lithuania that was entrusted with the mission of declaring and re-establishing an independent Lithuania. The Act of Reinstating Independence of Lithuania, otherwise known as the Act of February 16, was signed by the Council of Lithuania on February 16, 1918, proclaiming the restoration of an independent State of Lithuania, governed by democratic principles, with Vilnius as its capital. The Act was signed in Vilnius at Pilies Street No. 26 by all twenty representatives of the Council, which was chaired by Jonas Basanavičius.

Who were the twenty members of the Council? They were men of different ages, social status, professions, and political affiliations. The statistics are as follows: eighteen of the signatories were born in villages, and two were born in small towns. Mykolas Biržiška was born in Viečkėnai and Pranas Dovydaitis was born Višakio Rūda. Three of the signatories came from Tauragė County, three came from Telšiai County, and three came from Šakiai County. Two members were from

Marijampolė County and another two were from Ukmergė County. Others came from Rokiškis, Trakai, and Vilkaviškis counties, and one was born in Latvia. The youngest signatory, Kazimieras Bizauskas, was 25 years old, and the oldest one, Jonas Basanavičius, was 67 years old at the time of signing the Act. Nineteen of twenty signatories were graduates of various universities. Among the members of the Council, there were seven lawyers, four priests, two agronomists, two financiers, a historian, a physician, an economist, and an engineer. Sixteen of the signatories were farmers' children and four were the children of the nobility: Donatas Malinauskas, Stanislovas Narutavičius, Jonas Smilgevičius, and Mykolas Biržiška.

What was their fate? Five of the signatories died prior to World War II. They were Stanislovas Narutavičius, Jokūbas Šernas, Alfonsas Petrusis, Saliamonas Banaitis, and Jonas Basanavičius. Three of the Council members died during the years of Nazi occupation in Lithuania: Justinas Staugaitis, Jonas Vileišis, and Jonas Smilgevičius. The fate of the other 12 signatories was tragic. Six of them fled to the West and died in Germany, Swit-

zerland, and the United States of America. Another six signatories became victims of Soviet terror. Vladislavas Mironas and Kazimieras Bizauskas were arrested by the NKVD in July of 1940. Kazimieras Bizauskas was taken from Kaunas jail and together with a large group of prisoners transported to Russia. On the way, he was shot to death near Minsk, Belorussia. Vladislavas Mironas died in 1953 in prison in Vladimir, Russia. Aleksandras Stulginskis, Donatas Malinauskas, and Pranas Dovydaitis were exiled to Siberia on June 14, 1941. Donatas Malinauskas died in exile in 1941 or 1942. Aleksandras Stulginskis survived and came back to Lithuania in 1956. He died in Kaunas in 1969. Pranas Dovydaitis was shot in Sverdlovsk in 1942. Petras Klimas served as Lithuania's Ambassador in Paris at the time World War II started. In 1942 he was arrested, kept in a concentration camp for a year and then sent to Lithuania. In 1944, he was exiled to Siberia. He returned to Lithuania and died in 1968 in Kaunas. Six of the signatories had ties with the United States of America. The first one to visit the United States was Dr. Jonas Basanavičius. He came together with Martynas Yčas, sailing from Bremen on S.S. Prinz Friedrich Wilhelm on July 12, 1913. They arrived at the port of New York on the 21st of July, 1913. Both men were representatives of the Lithuanian Learned Society and went to the United States with the purpose of raising money to build a National House for the Society. Dr. Basanavičius and Martynas Yčas spent 120 days in the United States, visiting 84 Lithuanian colonies and speaking to audiences that ranged from several dozen to several hundred. In his autobiography, Dr. Basanavičius wrote that they had collected \$23,799.36. The cost of travel was \$1,468.89. The profit to benefit the National House was \$22,330.47. Unfortunately, all the trouble of the journey did not pay off. Basanavičius deposited the collected funds in a Russian bank, and in the course of the war the money was lost.

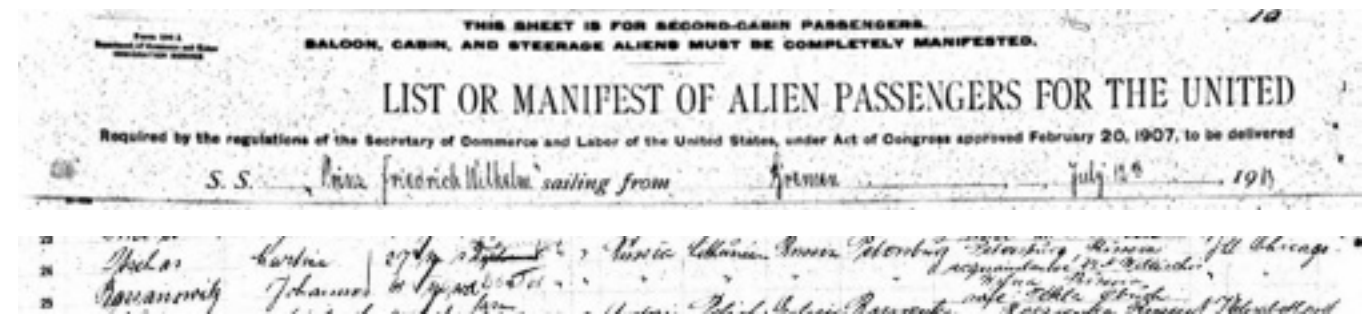
Jonas Vileišis was the second of the signatories to reach the shores of the United States. He sailed from Le Harve on the S.S. Lafayette on December 6, 1919, and came to New York on December 18, 1919. After reestablishing its independence, the most important task for the new Lithuanian Republic was to gain international recognition and to strengthen its economy. And so, in 1919, Jonas Vileišis was sent as the first ambassador to the United States, where he worked to obtain recognition of the state de jure and establish financial and trade relations. He also

solicited donations from the Lithuanian-American community, collecting over 1.8 million US dollars.

Kazys Bizauskas came to the US on December 6, 1923, sailing from Naples, Italy on the S.S. Conte Rosso together with his family: his wife Paolina Bizauskas, 3-year-old daughter Prima, and his daughter Alge, not yet a year old. After the independent state of Lithuania received U.S. recognition in 1922, it needed to acquire a building for its legation. Lithuanian envoy Kazys Bizauskas worked in Washington from 1923 to 1927. He was able to purchase a building at 2622 16th Street NW in Washington, D.C. for \$90,000 on a large 17,000 square foot (1,580 square meters) plot of land. On June 1, 1924, Lithuanian diplomats moved into the new premises, which are still in use today. Quite a different story of arriving to the U.S. was of the other three of the six signatories: Antanas Smetona, Mykolas Biržiška, and Steponas Kairys.

Lithuania's President Antanas Smetona and his wife Sofija came from Rio de Janeiro on the S.S. Argentina, sailing on February 21, 1941. They arrived in New York on March 10, 1940. Lithuania was occupied by Soviet troops in 1940 as a consequence of the 1939 Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact between Nazi Germany and the Soviet Union. After the USSR presented an ultimatum to Lithuania in June of that year, Smetona proposed armed resistance against the Soviets. The majority of the government and the commanders of the army did not concur with this proposal. On June 15, Smetona turned over the duties of President to Prime Minister Antanas Merkys on an interim basis as per the constitution and fled to Germany with his family. Shortly afterward, the Smetonas fled to Switzerland, from where they went to Brazil, where he was warmly met by the Lithuanian community. Having stayed a couple of weeks in Rio de Janeiro, in 1941 he sailed to the United States. Smetona lived in Pittsburgh and Chicago before settling in Cleveland, Ohio in May of 1942. Smetona died in a fire at his son's house in Cleveland on January 9, 1944. His wife Sofija died in Cleveland on December 28, 1968.

Professor Mykolas Biržiška came to the United States twice. During the time of Lithuania's independence between the two world wars, Biržiška moved to Kaunas, the temporary capital, where he became a professor of literature at the University of Lithuania (later Vytautas Magnus University). While a professor, he was an editor of the Lithuanian Encyclopedia and



The names of Dr. Jonas Basanavičius and Martynas Yčas on the passenger list.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
List 12

LIST OR MANIFEST OF ALIEN PASSENGERS FOR THE UNITED STATES
ALL ALIENS sailing at a port of continental United States from a foreign port or a port of the border possessions of the United States, and all those sailing at a port of said border possessions from a foreign port, a port of continental United States, or a port of the border possessions of the United States, shall file with the Collector of Customs at such port a manifest of such passengers, in duplicate, as follows:

S.S. ARGENTINA Passengers sailing from RIO DE JANEIRO & SANTO, FEBRUARY 21 & 28, 1941

No. on List	HEAD-TITLE STATUS (The status of each alien as shown on the manifest)	NAME IN FULL (Family name, Given name, Surname)	Age	Sex	Color of Hair	Color of Eyes	Height	Weight	Build	Complexion	Place of Birth	Country	City or town, State, Province or District	Date of last departure from such place	Occupation	Place of destination	Country	City or town, State, Province or District
1	DIPLOMAT	BONIFACIO	34	M	Brown	Blue	5-11	140	Slender	Light	Portugal	Portugal	Coimbra	1900-01-11	Teacher	U.S.A.	San Francisco	
2	DIPLOMAT	OLIVEIRA	31	F	Brown	Blue	5-10	120	Slender	Light	Portugal	Portugal	S. Paulo	1900-01-11	Teacher	U.S.A.	S. Paulo	
3	S.T.P.	BERNARD	45	M	Brown	Blue	5-10	140	Slender	Light	Lithuania	Lithuania	Paris	1930-01-11	Teacher	U.S.A.	Paris	
4	S.T.P.	MARIA-FLORENTINA	44	F	Brown	Blue	5-10	120	Slender	Light	France	France	Paris	1930-01-11	Teacher	U.S.A.	Paris	
5	S.T.P.	Jorge Eduardo	25	M	Brown	Blue	5-10	140	Slender	Light	Brazil	Brazil	S. Paulo	1930-01-11	Teacher	U.S.A.	S. Paulo	
6	S.T.P.	Charles	41	M	Brown	Blue	5-10	140	Slender	Light	Hungary	Hungary	Budapest	1930-01-11	Teacher	U.S.A.	Budapest	
7	S.T.P.	Victor Hugo	50	M	Brown	Blue	5-10	140	Slender	Light	France	France	Paris	1930-01-11	Teacher	U.S.A.	Paris	
8	S.T.P.	Sofia	36	F	Brown	Blue	5-10	120	Slender	Light	Brazil	Brazil	S. Paulo	1930-01-11	Teacher	U.S.A.	S. Paulo	
9	S.T.P.	Louis Henri	38	M	Brown	Blue	5-10	140	Slender	Light	France	France	Paris	1930-01-11	Teacher	U.S.A.	Paris	
10	S.T.P.	Roberto Emmanuel	27	M	Brown	Blue	5-10	140	Slender	Light	Brazil	Brazil	S. Paulo	1930-01-11	Teacher	U.S.A.	S. Paulo	
11	S.T.P.	Andre Achille	47	M	Brown	Blue	5-10	140	Slender	Light	France	France	Paris	1930-01-11	Teacher	U.S.A.	Paris	
12	S.T.P.	Stephane Marie-Louise	28	F	Brown	Blue	5-10	120	Slender	Light	France	France	Paris	1930-01-11	Teacher	U.S.A.	Paris	
13	S.T.P.	Stephane Robert	5	M	Brown	Blue	5-10	140	Slender	Light	France	France	Paris	1930-01-11	Teacher	U.S.A.	Paris	
14	S.T.P.	Phillippe Jean	5	M	Brown	Blue	5-10	140	Slender	Light	France	France	Paris	1930-01-11	Teacher	U.S.A.	Paris	
15	DIPLOMAT	ANTANAS	66	M	Brown	Blue	5-10	140	Slender	Light	Lithuania	Lithuania	Kaunas	1900-01-11	Teacher	U.S.A.	Kaunas	
16	DIPLOMAT	SOPHIA	36	F	Brown	Blue	5-10	120	Slender	Light	Lithuania	Lithuania	Kaunas	1900-01-11	Teacher	U.S.A.	Kaunas	

President of Lithuania Antanas Smetona and his wife Sophia arrived in the US in 1941.

participated in a number of social and cultural organizations. Biržiška then served as Rector of Vilnius University from 1940 to March 1943 and in autumn of 1944. In 1931 he came to the United States and stayed for three months, during which he visited 45 Lithuanian colonies giving speeches about the state of Vilnius under Polish occupation and urging Lithuanian Americans to work towards the liberation of the Vilnius Region. After the second Soviet occupation in 1944, Biržiška went to West Germany and was a professor at the Baltic University in Hamburg and Pinneberg. He moved to the United States in 1949 and became a naturalized citizen. He pursued his earliest interests, folklore and folk dance, until his death in 1962.

The last of the six signatories who traveled to the United States was Steponas Kairys. After the 1940 Soviet invasion of Lithuania, the Supreme Committee for the Liberation of Lithuania (VLIK) was formed and Kairys became its chairman. In April of 1944 the majority of the members were arrested by the Gestapo. Kairys changed his name to Juozas Kaminskas

and tried to escape to Sweden. Before moving to the United States in 1952, he lived in Germany, where VLIK was revived. For the last decade of his life, he battled illness and could not fully participate in various political organizations. Kairys died in 1964 in Brooklyn and later was reinterred in Petrašiūnai Cemetery of Kaunas.

ORIGINAL (To be retained by Clerk of Court)

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
DECLARATION OF INTENTION
(Invalid for all purposes seven years after the date hereof)

No. 143487 (143487)

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

As Applicant: MYKOLAS BIRZISKA
As Agent: THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA - LOS ANGELES

(1) My full, true, and correct name is MYKOLAS BIRZISKA
(2) My present place of residence is 1048 N. Washington Blvd., Los Angeles, Cal.
(3) My occupation is None
(4) I was born on 8/24/1882
(5) My personal description is as follows: Male, white, height 5 feet 5 inches, weight 130 pounds, eyes blue, hair grey, complexion light
(6) I was married; the name of my wife or husband is Bronislava, she was married on 6/2/1907
(7) I was born at Moscow, Russia, but I was born at Vilnius, Lithuania
(8) I entered the United States at New York, N.Y. on 9/28/1949
(9) I have resided in the United States, and now reside at Pinneberg, Hamburg, Germany with me.
(10) I have children and the name, sex, date and place of birth, and present place of residence of each of said children who is living, are as follows: Marija - F - Born 2/25/1908 in Vilnius, Lithuania, resides in England
Ona - F - Born 9/24/1909 in Viskemiai, Lithuania, resides with me.
(11) My last place of foreign residence was Pinneberg, Hamburg, Germany
(12) My last entry for permanent residence in the United States was on 9/28/1949 under the name of Mykolas Birziska
(13) I was the USAT General J. H. Mc Rae.
(14) Have my last entry for permanent residence been made from the United States, for a period or periods of 6 months or longer, as follows: None

Partial view of Prof. Vaclavas Biržiška's Declaration of Intention.



The Namsen River in Norway.

By Jurgis Savaitis
Translated by Gabija Barnard

Wednesday, May 9, 1945.

I'm sitting on a hill covered with fir trees. In front of me the Namsen River flows into the distance; in the valley, the forest gradually changes into cultivated fields dotted with a few farmsteads. A few kilometers away, I can see the white Ranem church and a village, but the view beyond it is obscured by a chain of snowy mountains.

Paulius and Vytautas are sleeping on the moss; I'm supposed to be keeping watch. We cannot all sleep at the same time, as someone might still be searching for us: we left our unit of the camp at midnight. I'm already wearing civilian clothing, but they will only receive theirs in the evening.

There had been no point in waiting any longer. At the very moment when we left the camp, peace reigned across Europe. The fronts, the air, and the oceans fell silent as the shots and explosions ceased. The war was over – sadly, not how I had imagined it. I am a thousand kilometers away from my homeland to which I can't return. My homeland is in the clutches of the Bolsheviks. I neither want to go to Germany nor be taken to England as a prisoner. There is only one other way: to try to get to Sweden and to take it from there. Vytautas and Paulius approved of my plan, and lo and behold – we're now as free as

birds. We are men with no homeland, no roof over our heads and no possessions – but with faith in what the future may bring. We trust in the guidance of God!

It was quite difficult to leave the camp, but our plan went without a hitch. Vytautas and I were standing guard last night. I was on watch from 10 to 12 pm. A few minutes before twelve Vytautas jumped over fence and joined Paulius, who was already on the outside with his gun. After the changing of the guards I didn't go back to the headquarters, but instead I walked over to the outhouse, where the others had jumped the barbed-wire fence. Unfortunately, I found this part of the fence uncomfortable to climb over. I also heard voices nearby and I was worried about being noticed as the night wasn't particularly dark. I sneaked across the vegetable garden as far as the garage and, noticing that both guards were making their way towards the outhouse, I took the opportunity to slip out through the slightly open gate. I made my way past the railway and the field towards the forest and the river. At this point, I spotted Paulius and Vytautas a little way ahead of me. Together we hurried along the river to the Moelen village where we crossed the water in a small boat and finally reached the house of our Norwegian benefactor. We hastily went to sleep in the barn, but we could

only rest until 5 o'clock. Then, I changed my clothes, we had some breakfast and made our way to the hill on which I am now sitting.

I can say very little about the kind-hearted Norwegians whose farmstead is at the foot of the hill, as I have no words to express my gratitude. I feel as if I had found a father and a lovely mother in far-away, lovely Norway. My eternal gratitude goes out to them!

Today I acquired civilian clothes for Paulius and Vytautas. Once it starts getting dark, they'll have to change. Tomorrow we'll slowly make our way forward. This is the beginning of an interesting and adventure-filled journey from a war that we had never asked to be a part of, but into which we had been drawn by force all the same.

Norway is celebrating. The bells are ringing and flags are flying everywhere. One Norwegian woman heard me speaking in English and greeted me with the words "Welcome i Norge!" It's a pity I couldn't do anything nice for her...

Friday, May 11

We're in Sandnes. Quite a long way from Skagnes. It wasn't easy to get here. I'll try to remember it.

After sunset on Wednesday, we left our daytime hideout. We descended down the hill and were ready to make our way to a barn by the river and to wait for nightfall. But then someone suggested crossing the river so that we wouldn't have to walk all the way to the bridge. We crossed, and a little while later we ran into another river, which we weren't familiar with. Somehow, we crossed this one, too. We were hoping to approach the farmstead in the cover of the forest, so that Vytautas could pick up his clothes, but this task turned out more difficult than we had anticipated. Looking down from the hill, the valley had seemed quite empty, with only a few farmsteads here and there. As it turned out, we were mistaken. There were many farmsteads and we could see no way to get through unnoticed. Carefully, we crept as close as we could get to the house of our first "conspirator" – it was still far enough away, in the field. We would have to walk in the open, in plain sight of the other farmsteads. It was still too light; the smart thing to do would be to wait. However, Vytautas was eager to exchange his uniform as quickly as possible. I went to take a look: across the field to the road leading to the "conspirator's" house, and back again in a roundabout way. On the road, next to the farmstead, there stood a small crowd of people. I told my companions that we should wait until it got completely dark, but Vytautas was adamant, so we went. I walked ahead, with Vytautas and Paulius trailing ten meters behind. We

The Dream

Once I dreamt of a great river. Instead of water, it was filled with blood, tears, and money. Many people were swimming in the river: they were drowning in mud, tears, and blood, but they still tried to grab the money; they were even pushing each other down into the torrent, just to get more for themselves.

The river flows into the darkness. On the shore, there is no greenery, only some strange, leafless trees.

In the morning, I asked my mother what my dream meant. "That's life," she said. At the time, I didn't understand this answer – the life I knew was so beautiful. It was springtime and the morning was green and warm.

Many years have passed since I had that dream. I am more and more certain, that my mother was right.

Stockholm, 1945.

walked by the windows of a few houses; the group of people was still gathered by the farmstead we were heading for. We walked by them as well. Inside the yard, we found another gathering. We stopped. Vytautas and Paulius went inside, whereas I stayed to talk to the people in the yard. As it turned out, there was a newly released prisoner among them: he spoke German fluently and wasted no time to pounce upon me with questions. Why were we running? Why weren't we waiting for the Americans? Why did we not want to return to Lithuania? It was that last question that we couldn't reach a common ground on. The man knew nothing of the nature of bolshevism. We talked for half an hour, maybe even longer, but our ideas remained very different. Finally, he said he couldn't help us. The man who had promised to give us clothes also went back on his words. He was afraid, for obvious reasons. Having gained nothing here, we pressed on towards the house of our second ally. His house, too, we approached through the forest. Once more, I walked in front, and the others followed me. In the forest, we met the man – he had been waiting for us.

This time, we were lucky. Paulius received clothes that fitted him well – his outfit change had been arranged. The man found some clothes for Vytautas, too – now, he looked a lot like a bandit, especially his torn trousers.

It seemed that this man was immediately worried, that we might want to stay the night. We couldn't get around it, however – walking any further was impossible. After midnight, we fell asleep in the barn, but we only got about three hours of sleep: at 5 o'clock, we had to move on. The man pointed us towards a shorter route to Oysletta.

The rest of our journey went smoothly. We got through Oys-



The cover of newsletter Svetur, issue No. 3, September 20, 1945. When living in Stockholm in 1945, Jurgis Savaitis contributed writing to the newsletter.

letta, Grong and Formofoss. Twice, we walked right in front of our military unit; in Formofoss, we saw a Russian POW camp, still guarded by Germans. At lunchtime, we reached Sandnes. We met some wonderful people here: they fed us and gave us a place to rest, we got a chance to compose ourselves. Once again, the Norwegians have helped us.

It's raining heavily now, so we cannot move forwards. Today, we need to walk 45 kilometers. If the rain ceases at around lunchtime, we will be fine as the distance can definitely be traveled in ten hours.

God, help us continue our journey!

Sunday, May 13

We have already spent one night in Gäddede, Sweden. Yesterday, at 7 PM, we crossed the border at Kvelien. The journey from Sandnes went without a hitch. It turned out that the man we met in Sandnes was the lensman of Grong. He phoned the Norwegian police in Namsos and was told that we would be

able to continue our journey unimpeded. "We cannot allow them to return to the Germans," said the police. The lensman found us shelter and something to eat. On Thursday, after our meal, we slept until 10 PM, then, after dinner, we slept until morning. The lensman advised us to wait until after the German police, on its way from Nordli, had passed, as they could have arrested us. On Friday morning, rain was pouring heavily, so we couldn't continue our journey. Our host telephoned Grong and learned that at three or four o'clock in the afternoon we could expect a bus that would give us a lift.

That is exactly what happened. The bus took us as far as Mortenslund, 24 kilometers away from Sandnes. In Mortenslund, they had already been notified we were coming. Once we got there, a woman gave us some bread, cheese, preserves, and tobacco, which she had received from a German gendarme. We saw some gendarmes riding in automobiles, adorned with white flags. The gendarmes also wore white ties on their sleeves. They didn't even suspect we were runaways.

The bus driver passed us on to the post carrier. We tossed a backpack into a post sleigh and kept walking. The rain stopped. We paused in Siberien, but we could not stay overnight as the only house was housing many snow diggers. We had to reach Sandmoen that same day – it was 15 kilometers away from Siberien. That was the most difficult leg of the trip and we completed it in five hours. We started by ascending the mountain by a narrow winding road. We went even higher than the low-hanging clouds. It started snowing; we walked into a blizzard. The wind was particularly strong – luckily, it blew from behind. There were no farmsteads on our way, just a single cottage in Gosen. It was around midnight when we finally reached Sandmoen. Having warmed up and eaten, we fell into the soft beds. Then, probably at 11 AM on Saturday morning, we pressed on. A few hours later we reached Nordli. We bid the post carrier farewell, as he turned a different way along the border of Sweden. He still had 31 kilometers to go. We, on the other hand, went down a shorter route, which would be only 15 kilometers, albeit walking in the snow. On the way, we lit a small fire, had some lunch and warmed our hands.

In Kvelien, some boy called us into one of the houses and told us to talk to someone on the telephone. I answered that we only spoke English and German. In a moment, more people appeared, one of whom spoke German. We found that we were at the Norwegian border police, who were making sure that Norwegian Nazis didn't cross into Sweden. They checked our documents, phoned what I assumed was the Nordli police, and, finally, told us everything was alright. We were given a hearty meal and a guide who escorted us to the border and handed us over to the Swedish military. At exactly 7 PM, a barrier went up and we found ourselves in Sweden.

I had thought I would be prepared for anything, but I hadn't expected such a reception. There were no questions about who we were, where we were running from and why. The Swedish soldiers immediately gave us some cigarettes and tobacco, as



White Ranem church in Norway.

well as food. And what food! Meat in oil, a piece of butter, cacao. Food that we not only had not eaten in a long time but, in some cases, had never even laid our eyes on.

What sincere people! Sadly, we couldn't stay with them overnight as about an hour later we had to march on. We had two guides with us; for the sake of appearances, they were armed with guns. We walked a few kilometers, then we were met by a wagon. We got in; the soldiers threw in their guns. In a little while, we were met by a customs officer. The soldiers turned back, having said farewell to us as if we had been old friends. We entered Norway again; then, three kilometers further, we crossed the Swedish border for the final time. At the customs office, the policeman who had been escorting us took down our personal information and checked our things. All that got confiscated from me was a topographic map, whereas Paulius lost his map of Norway. One soldier was fluent in German, so he could tell us some information on what to expect from the future. We learned that the rumors of Lithuanians being required to return to Lithuania were false – those, who didn't want to, were free to stay away.

At around midnight we took an automobile to Gäddede. From the automobile, we went straight to the sauna. We washed (a nurse helped us...), received Swedish R. K. underwear and blue work trousers and went to the bedroom, where a delicious dinner was waiting for us. Then – to bed.

Today, nothing special happened. We talked to the doctor who checked our health. After lunch, we were visited by the police (dressed in civilian clothes).

The food is exceptionally good. Cacao,

milk, chocolate (sent by the doctor). I am amazed by the sincerity and politeness of the Swedes.

Monday, May 14

We are eating, sleeping and taking advantage of Swedish generosity. Today, we washed our linens (with the help of a nurse), had a conversation with some military officers and received some clothing.

Tuesday, May 15

We're preparing to leave Gäddede. We're leaving at half-past-ten. We reach Strömsund by bus; from Östersund, we travel by an electric train.

Wednesday, May 16

We arrived in Stockholm at 7:30 AM and half an hour later we reached the Baltic

refugee camp in Kummelnäs. There, we found a Lithuanian family (Ramanauskas) and two other Lithuanians – Juozas Kazlauskas and Jonas Keršis.

Thursday, May 17

I went to the Lithuanian Committee in Stockholm and met Būga, who escaped from Finland to Sweden back in the fall. I wrote a letter to my aunt in America and asked her to do what she could to try to help me emigrate to the USA.

Jurgis Savaitis was born in 1921 in Raguva County, Panevėžys District. He worked as a teacher and translator in Lithuania. In 1944, he fled and found himself in Norway and then Sweden. While in Stockholm, he published Lithuanian newsletter Svetur. In 1946, he immigrated to the United States. In 1946-1950, he edited Draugas newspaper. In 1950-1952, he served in the US army in Korea. In 1959, he graduated from New York University and worked in the Chase Manhattan Bank.

Form Approved
Budget Item No. 43-5000-02

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION SERVICE
Form I-146

INFORMATION SHEET (concerning passenger arriving on aircraft)
This sheet must be filled out in the English language, typewritten, or printed in ink
(Note further instructions on back of this sheet)

1. Aircraft: NC 9906 Departing from Stockholm Date Feb. 26, 1946
Arriving in area at New York Date Feb. 27, 1946

2. Passenger:

NAME IN FULL		Age	Sex	Country of Birth	EMIGRATION	
FAMILY NAME	GIVEN NAME			Place	Place	Country
SAVAITIS	Jurgis Jurgis	24	M	Lithuania	Stockholm	Sweden

3. Destination in United States: Ill Chicago 1239 S. Emerald St.

Partial view of the immigration document. Jurgis Savaitis was the first Lithuanian DP who flew to the United States by plane from Sweden in February of 1946.

We Crossed the Alps on Lithuanian Farm Horses Just Like Hannibal Who Once Crossed Them on Elephants



Extract from Kazys Bradūnas' memoirs

Translated by Karilė Vaitkutė | Photos by Arvydas Reneckis

2017 marks the 100th Anniversary from the birth of Kazys Bradūnas (February 11, 1917 – February 9, 2009), a Lithuanian poet and editor. Kazys Bradūnas was born in Kiršiai, Lithuania. He graduated from Vilnius University where he studied Lithuanian language and literature. During the post-war period he lived in Displaced Persons camps in Germany. In 1944, Bradūnas emigrated to the United States of America and lived in Baltimore and Chicago. In 1995, he returned to Lithuania and lived in Vilnius until his death.

Commissioned by the Budrys Lithuanian Photo Archive, in 1992, filmmaker Arvydas Reneckis made a documentary about Kazys Bradūnas. The photos used here are still images from the filmed material which is available for viewing on YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Tb4oQZj90A4>

After I left Lithuania, I was able to return only forty-six years later. We, the university students, would talk about what we were going to do in case the frontline comes to the Lithuanian border and the Bolsheviks come back. I used to say that I would go to my birthplace which was on the border with Germany. It was the westernmost part of Lithuania, and the Bolsheviks would come there last. However, it turned out differently. They came to Vilkaiviškis, to my homestead, almost earlier than anywhere else. After they took Vilnius and moved across the

Nemunas River, the Russians, you could say, came to Vilkaiviškis in one day. That day, we were getting ready to cut rye as we saw people coming from Vilkaiviškis. They were fleeing westward saying that Russian tanks were already in the town. In a straight line, it would be just five kilometers away from where we were. We have already lived through the time of Bolsheviks and we have seen what they do to people. My parents were on the list of those who were to be exiled during the first occupation. It's just that the Bolsheviks did not have enough time to do it as the war started and the Germans came. So we all knew that in case Russian tanks would come to Vilkaiviškis we would immediately leave and flee to the west. We knew that no cakes were waiting for us in Germany and we knew that we might never come back but still we packed in an instant and started heading west. The border was not guarded at all and anyone could cross it. Being the residents of the border zone, we always, even during the time of independence had permits to cross the border. The Germans easily let us through. We harnessed four horses, put everything we had into two wagons and on the 31st of July we crossed the German border. It is interesting that the very next day our house was bombed and burned down. Later on, in Germany we met people who fled later than we did and they told us about it in great detail.

I should say that there was nothing special about our ride. After we crossed the German border on July 31, 1944, I and my wife Kazimiera boarded the train in Eitkūnai. My parents went together with my brother and my sister. I was recently married, and we agreed that I and my wife Kazimiera would go to Graz in Austria by train. And so we did. There were no hin-

drances on our way. My parents, brother and sister travelled in the horse-drawn wagons all that distance until they reached Graz which is on the border with Yugoslavia. Our strategy was that we would live in Graz, and they would have our address and in case they would be stopped along the way they would say that they had their son and daughter-in-law in Graz who would take them in, give them shelter. It turned out to be a real salvation to them as there were so many control posts in Poland and Czechoslovakia and throughout Austria. Every time they

were stopped they would say that they were going to their son's in Graz. That was how they came to Graz, riding in their farm wagons drawn by their farm horses.

It was not safe for us to live in the city of Graz itself as it could have bombed any time. A group of Lithuanians formed, and we settled in the Alpine mountains, between Vienna and Graz. There was a factory there in which they were making files and rasps. About sixty Lithuanians worked in that factory during the fall and winter. My parents came to the place we were staying at the Alpine mountains. It was called Forthof and was close to Hochenberg. We stayed there until Bolsheviks occupied Vienna and Budapest. When Russian tanks were approximately seven kilometers away from Forthof, we, all the Lithuanians, fled. We did not get any permits to leave. We knew we had to leave quietly, without any panic. We left during the nighttime. In our group, there were five small children and two old ladies that were over 80 years old. There were approximately sixty Lithuanians in the group.

We fled westward in our wagons. We knew that in the morning they might start looking for us riding on their motorcycles. We started going on the highway towards the Danube River but then we turned into a small road that led up to the mountains. Later, we learned that they really were looking for us riding on their motorcycles and asking about us. However, nobody thought that we could go in the mountains with our horse-drawn carriages. We fled to the mountains on April 1st when the valley was already in bloom. However, in the mountains where we went there was snow and huge snow blizzards. Now I don't even understand myself how we managed to cross those Alpine mountains and go down to the valley on the other side. We did not have any brakes for horses, our horses were used to valleys not mountains. Of course, men thought of how to make brakes. At one point, we went into such deep snow that our horses after climbing into the mountains for two days just gave up and fell on the road and did not get up. Again, our salvation was nothing short of a miracle. There was Hungarian cavalry retreating over the Alpine mountains. It was huge army, with weapons and everything. When the Russians broke the front line in Hungary the Hungarian army started going westwards through Austria. They had everything with them, and we started going together with them. They gave our horses oats and anything else we wanted. For almost four days we went together with the Hungarian cavalry, our horses were fed and this way we managed to escape. Of course, we could hear the artillery close behind us. And this way, we crossed the Alpine mountains on our Lithuanian farm horses just like Hannibal once crossed the Alps on elephants.

I don't know if there were others who managed to go as far as we did away from Lithuania on Lithuanian farm horses. I never heard of anyone who would have gone throughout Europe in the time of war on Lithuanian horses.

Of course, when we worked in the factory during winter we were able to keep the horses. Sometimes we had to take the files





to the railway station or do something else, and our horses were helpful. My younger brother was working as a wagon driver in the factory. This way we could keep those horses. Once an army officer wanted to take those horses away but the manager of the factory did not let him saying that if the factory would not have the horses, the army would not have the files. This was why we could save the horses.

Later on, just before the end of the war, in April we had to cross the border from Austria to Bavaria and the border ran along the Inn River. It is quite a swift river that flows from the Alps to the Danube. By a place named Scharding we had to cross the bridge to the Bavarian side. There were a couple of men on bicycles in our group. They would go in front of us to see if nobody was taking horses away. They saw that Germans on the other side of the border were taking horses from the Hungarian refugees who were crossing the border. They would take away better horses and people would be left with their wagons, and without their horses they could not travel further. We were the only Lithuanians among the big crowd of Hungarians. There were approximately fifty Lithuanians, two carriages, and four horses. We could see that they were taking away horses from the Hungarians, and we knew that our horses were good as they had been well fed and the Germans would surely take them away. However, we were standing in line and there was no way that we could turn around and not go across the border. We couldn't take a side road as there were soldiers everywhere. So we came to this German officer, and we told him that there were fifty of us, Lithuanians, and we had two very old women who were almost dying in the carriages, and we had a bunch of very sick children who were not able to walk. We drew a very tragic picture of the situation we were in. The German officer showed us some kind of a permit and told us that he could not let us go as he had orders from some marshal or general instructing him to take away horses from Hungarian refugees. Then a thought came to our heads, and we told him that he had an order to take horses away from Hungarians but not Lithuanians. And since we were Lithuanians he did not have to take our horses. Germans usually do everything by the book. He shook his head and what was he to do, he let us go. This is how we crossed the Inn River and found ourselves in Bavaria in the spring of 1945.

There was a camp in Muhlendorf where Latvians, Estonians, and Lithuanians lived. It was halfway between Munich and Salzburg. The camp management used our horses to bring food and various other items from the railway station to the camp. The administration of the camp fed our horses well and my father and my brother were driving the wagons.

In 1949 our family received permits to go to the United States. Our daughter Elenute was born already. So then my father asked us if we, the children could do something to help our horses go on the ship and go to the United States. Of course, we couldn't do anything about it. We had to sell our horses to Bavarians in 1949. That was the second time in my life that I saw my father cry.

Nonrecognition and Recognition: US-Lithuanian Relations and International Law 1940-1992



Robert A. Vitas, Ph.D.
Chairman of the Board
Lithuanian Research and Studies Center

The struggle for national self-determination was central to the history of the previous century. All states, no matter what their size or importance, have claimed moral and intrinsic equality with other nations, as well as the right to rule themselves under international law. The process whereby new states are created and governments are formed is based on long-established principles. Traditionally, effective administrative control over a territory and population, and the capacity and willingness to discharge international obligations have sufficed to qualify a state for recognition. Nonrecognition, on the other hand, is a positive reaffirmation of the international legal order, namely that illegal actions cannot be the source of legal title to territory and power in the eyes of those not recognizing the new rulers. The displaced regime continues to possess juridical continuity.

Nonrecognition as applied to Lithuania in 1940 meant that the independence prewar government of that country possessed at least some vestiges of international legal personality until national sov-

ereignty was recovered in 1991. According to the announced policy of the United States government, Lithuania's so-called incorporation into the USSR was actually a military occupation which merely suspended, but did not erase, the sovereignty of the prewar regime.

The Stimson Doctrine of Nonrecognition
The Stimson Doctrine originated in September 1931 when the Secretary of State issued the first of a series of pronouncements condemning the Japanese creation of the puppet state of Manchukou. On 7 January 1932, he sent notes to Japan and China announcing that the U.S. "does not intend to recognize any situation, treaty or agreement which may be brought about by means contrary to the Covenant [of the League of Nations] and obligation of the Pact of Paris [Kellogg-Briand Pact] of August 27, 1928." Two months later, on 11 March 1932, with Japan abstaining, the League unanimously declared: "that it is incumbent upon the members of the League of Nations not to recognize any

situation, treaty or agreement which may be brought about by means contrary to the Covenant...or to the Pact of Paris."

The Stimson Doctrine withstood the transition to the Roosevelt administration. In a note to Japan on 6 October 1938, regarding violations of the Open Door Policy toward China, the U.S. government utilized the phrase, "the regime now functioning in Manchuria." Moreover, the Stimson Doctrine of nonrecognition carried over, in the case of Lithuania and the other Baltic States, to the European continent.

Nonrecognition and Lithuania
The secret protocol to the Russo-German Non-Aggression Pact signed 23 August 1939 opened the way for the German blitzkrieg in Poland. On 17 September, the Red Army moved into the Polish-occupied Vilnius territory. Ten days later, the two powers carried out the "fourth partition" of Poland. Lithuania immediately mobilized, albeit temporarily, and began absorbing and interning Polish refugees and military personnel. On October 14 Lithuania reluctantly signed a mutual assistance pact which allowed the Soviets to establish four bases in Lithuania, in return for which Lithuania received her ancient capital, Vilnius, and the surrounding territory which she had been demanding in vain from Poland for nineteen years. It became widely recognized that the Soviet bases were Trojan horses. Lithuania, like Estonia and Latvia, would lose its sovereignty the next summer when Stalin sent an ultimatum requiring the Baltic States to replace the existing regimes with "friendly governments."

The final cabinet meeting of independent Lithuania took place during the night of 14-15 June 1940. President Antanas Smetona relegated his authority to Prime Minister Antanas Merkys and left the country. Two days later Merkys named communist sympathizer and journalist Justas Paleckis prime minister and de facto president. Paleckis was the political operative who assisted in arranging elections for a People's Diet which petitioned

Moscow for membership in the Soviet Union on 21 June.

The application of the Stimson Doctrine to the Lithuanian occupation was brought about not because America's vital interests were threatened, but because of internal bureaucratic forces and domestic pressure. A leading player behind the scenes at the U.S. State Department was Loy Wesley Henderson, assistant chief of the Department's European Affairs Division. He had been a member of a select group of diplomats to study the Baltic situation and later opened the U.S. Embassy in Moscow following U.S. recognition of the Soviet Union. On 15 July 1940, exactly one month following the occupation, Henderson authored an internal memorandum describing and evaluating recent events, and raising the dilemma the U.S. faced not only in terms of policy, but also in terms of principle:

Is the Government of the United States to apply certain standards of judgment and conduct to aggression by Germany and Japan which it will not apply to aggression by the Soviet Union? In other words, is the Government...to follow one policy with respect to, say Czechoslovakia, Denmark, and German-occupied Poland, and another policy with respect to Latvia, Estonia, Lithuania, and Finland? Is the United States to continue to refuse to recognize the fruits of aggression regardless of who the aggressor may be, or for reasons of expediency to close its eyes to the fact that certain nations are committing aggression upon their neighbors?

Not being one to ignore practical consequences, and perhaps wishing to spur his superiors onto a policy of nonrecognition, Henderson added: "The United States will probably not receive one cent of the several million dollars which the governments of these three states owe us. Furthermore, American interests in those three countries will probably be a total loss."

Evidently, Henderson's memorandum echoed the concerns of policy makers, for that same day the U.S. Treasury, pursuant

to President Roosevelt's Executive Order No. 8484, blocked all Baltic accounts in the U.S. with title to assets remaining in the name of the non-Soviet governments, though they no longer practically existed. Subsequent protests from the Kremlin and the new Baltic governments went unheeded by Washington. The U.S. was forging a new trail in the interpretation of international law.

On 15 October 1940, a delegation of Lithuanians met with President Franklin D. Roosevelt at the White House and presented a memorandum. Roosevelt stated that Lithuania had not lost her independence, but that it had merely been suspended: "The address mentioned that Lithuania had lost its independence. That is a mistake. The independence of Lithuania is not lost but only put temporarily aside. The time will come when Lithuania will be free again."

The League of Nations continued to list Lithuania and the other Baltic States as member states, although the United Nations later failed to do so. The Lithuanian Government Under Duress operated under Minister Stasys Lozoraitis, Sr., Chief of the Lithuanian Diplomatic Service resident in Rome, Italy. He had, while serving as Lithuania's minister to the Vatican, received instructions from the last foreign minister, Juozas Urbšys, to manage Lithuanian diplomacy in case of emergency. The legation in Washington continued to function with Minister Povilas Žadeikis at the helm even though the Council of Ministers of the Lithuanian S.S.R. published a determination on 14 August 1940 that stripped him of his Lithuanian citizenship and property, and forbade him to return to the country.

U.S.-Lithuanian treaties concerning consular relations remained in force, as were other treaties. However, the trade, economic, cultural, and scientific functions of the consulates practically ceased. Because official contact with the sending state was severed, Žadeikis was in no position to conclude treaties or other agreement with the U.S. government. Nevertheless, when the legal rights of the Estonian consul general in New York

were affirmed in a U.S. court, it established a precedent applicable to Lithuanian consuls. Even so, the consuls were left in the unusual position of defending the interests of their nationals vis-à-vis the United States through the de facto authorities in Soviet Lithuania.

A number of cases in U.S. courts involved the Soviet Union's efforts to gain possession of vessels which were in foreign ports when it nationalized all shipping. Following World War II, Soviet authorities occasionally attempted to collect insurance payable for Baltic ships sunk during hostilities. However, these claims of ownership or insurance proceeds were rejected because such claims in each case were grounded upon governmental acts based on unrecognized Soviet sovereignty. The Baltic Ship Cases, reinforced by corresponding decisions in a number of other countries, established the doctrine that nonrecognition of an alleged successor state or government resulted in a failure to create immunity claimed for vessels of that state or government. Since the incorporation of Lithuania into the Soviet Union occurred without any legal foundation, it was null and void. It was of no consequence that the Soviets claimed "historical importance" to the previous union of Lithuania to Russia. The true national will and sovereign aspirations of the Lithuanian were expressed in the emergency diplomatic powers conferred upon the Lithuanian minister in Rome, the president's exit from the country, the 1941 revolt, the eight-year postwar partisan movement, Lithuanian diplomatic protests and activities, passive resistance in the 1970's, and the active reconstitution of national independence in 1990-1991. The Soviet argument that Russia was too weak in 1920 to refuse recognition of Lithuanian independence, was fiction. The Soviet Union explicitly repeated recognition many times later. Even as late as 13 July 1940, before the formal incorporation of Lithuania into the USSR, Soviet President Kalinin greeted President Justas Paleckis as a legal head of state.

In short, no international act, no formal treaty or agreement, and no peace

or armistice legally changed the status of independent Lithuania. In the final analysis however, the arbitrary acts of nonrecognition on the part of the international community were not sufficient to restore Lithuanian sovereignty. It was the legal principle that the fruits of illegal acts cannot be legalized which was the foundation of both nonrecognition and the continued existence of Lithuania. Although Lithuania was de facto occupied, the annexation was null and void.

The military occupation of Lithuania did not confer any title of territory to the Soviet Union and did not legally extinguish the independent government of the nation. Sovereignty persisted as long as it was evident that the occupation was challenged by those living under it. As a result, sovereignty was again effectively exercised as soon as the occupying forces relinquished their claim to the country in August 1991.

Imperfect Implementation of Nonrecognition

As the wartime alliance became cemented in 1941-1942, pro-Soviet sentiment grew in both public and private circles in the United States and Britain. This made it impossible to raise the question of Lithuanian independence in those years. Nevertheless, when Moscow requested that the U.S. and Britain recognize the Baltic States as incorporated components of the U.S.S.R., both powers refused to do so. Moreover, even though practical exigencies dictated a cautious approach (knowing full well that the U.S. could not completely influence events in Eastern Europe, and that the American people would not support a war with the Soviets following the defeat of Germany) and the Yalta Conference of February 1945 confirmed the division of Europe into military zones as agreed upon at Teheran, the following month Secretary of State Cordell Hull declared that "as far as the United States is concerned, the status of the Baltic States has not altered in any way, not even after the Yalta Conference."

The Potsdam Declaration of 3 August 1945 did not mention the Baltic States.

However, certain inferences existed in Section VI, "City of Königsberg and the Adjacent Area," which grew out of Stalin's claim to the city which he said had been agreed to at Teheran in December 1943 by Roosevelt and Churchill. President Truman did not oppose Stalin's claim, but when Churchill recommended that the question be deferred until a final peace settlement, Stalin assented. As a result, Section VI of the Declaration stated that the U.S. and Britain will support at the "forthcoming peace settlement" the Soviet proposal to transfer that area to the U.S.S.R. This indicates that ultimately the Western powers intended to agree to Baltic incorporation, for it is difficult to discern how a transfer of the adjacent area of East Prussia could be accomplished without including Lithuania.

The U.S. policy of nonrecognition continued through the failed Soviet coup of August 1991. There were, of course, errors, misapplications, and misunderstandings. Thousands of Baltic displaced persons in the western occupation zones of Germany were repatriated to their countries, i.e. returned to the Soviets, despite affirmations of the policy. On 23 November 1970, a Lithuanian sailor, Simas Kudirka, jumped from the Soviet trawler *Sovetskaya Litva* onto the U.S. Coast Guard *Cutler Vigilant*, moored off Martha's Vineyard, Massachusetts, and requested political asylum as a Lithuanian citizen. Soviet sailors were allowed to board the *Vigilant* and brutally return him to the Soviet vessel. The Helsinki Accords of 1975 practically guaranteed the territorial status quo in Europe. Regardless of American statements, East European émigré groups interpreted the treaty as the abandonment of the region to the Soviets.

On the other hand, an important victory for Lithuanian diplomatic continuity occurred during the administration of President Jimmy Carter. In October 1980 he announced that persons not commissioned as officers of the Lithuanian Diplomatic Service in 1940 could assume diplomatic positions in the U.S. Though honorary consuls had been appointed for years, this opened the

door to providing for a successor to the aging chargé d'affaires in Washington, Dr. Stasys Bačkis.

The Completion of the Legal Circle

As historians often point out, Lithuania was not a state fabricated during the twentieth century, but a nation which had achieved statehood in the thirteenth century. Though formal statehood and the exercise of sovereignty have occasionally been interrupted, the essence of statehood has been alive within the Lithuanian nation for over seven hundred years. A renewed consciousness of Lithuanian statehood and citizenship appeared before the formal reconstitution of the Lithuanian state during the national renaissance of the late nineteenth century. Statehood manifested itself during various rebellions, the Vilnius Conference of 1905, the 1918 declaration of independence, the wars of independence and, finally, by functioning as an independent nation from 1918 until the occupation 1940. Statehood also manifested itself during the 1941 national revolt, which attempted to reconstitute the Lithuanian state following the Soviet retreat and, after the return of the Red Army, in underground and partisan activity.

In the U.S. nonrecognition policy, morality and reality converged. The United States stayed the nonrecognition course and took the moral high ground at times when it would have been politically expedient to repudiate the policy. On the other hand, the Roosevelt administration never intended nonrecognition to commit the U.S. to liberate Lithuania. This task would have to be accomplished by the Lithuanians themselves. The events of 1988-1992 bore this out.

When the independent Lithuanian Republic was restored in 1991, it became the legal successor of the regime extinguished in the summer of 1940 and inherited the legal and financial claims of its predecessor, including the network of envoys and consuls existing in 1991. This provided the newly reconstituted Lithuanian government an international rep-

resentation in the western capitals which did not exist in 1918. The nonrecognition policy which was begun in Washington in 1940 reached its successful conclusion in Vilnius in 1992.

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Dr. Robert Vitas is Chairman of the Board of the Lithuanian Research and Studies Center in Chicago. The Center is the largest Lithuanian academic institution outside of Lithuania. It regularly hosts students and researchers from around the world who are conducting their studies and preparing publications.

Dr. Vitas has published The United States and Lithuania: The Stimson Doctrine of Nonrecognition; Civil-Military Relations in Lithuania Under President Antanas Smetona 1926-1940; and two volumes of U.S. National Security Policy and Strategy: Documents and Policy Proposals, co-edited with Sam C. Sarkesian and John Allen Williams. His other publications include over two dozen scholarly reports, articles, book chapters and book reviews. One of his articles published by the US Army Command and General Staff College was translated into Chinese by the Taiwanese Ministry of Defense for use in officer education. He has served on the editorial boards of Armed Forces & Society, Journal of Baltic Studies, Lituanus, and Presidential Studies Quarterly.

He earned his Ph.D. degree in political science at Loyola University in Chicago, specializing in national security, international law, and normative political philosophy. Dr. Vitas served as a Visiting Scholar at Northwestern University from 1995 until 2009. He served as an enlisted man and commissioned officer in the United States Army Reserve where, among other assignments, he was a liaison to troops from the Lithuanian Army during early NATO Partnership for Peace exercises.

February Anniversaries

630 years ago

February 17, 1387



Jogaila founded the Diocese of Vilnius (now: Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Vilnius). With the Treaty of Dubysa in 1382, Jogaila promised to baptize himself and convert the Grand Duchy of Lithuania to Christianity within four years. In 1387, he sent Dobrogost, Bishop of Poznań as ambassador to the Pope Urban VI with a petition for the erection of an Episcopal see at Vilnius and the appointment of Andrius Vasila (Andrzej Wasilko) to fill it. This was granted and the foundation of a collegiate church of ten canons authorized. Under Vasila's rule, the churches of Saint John, that became the parish church of the city, as well as of Saint Martin and Saint Anne (in the Upper and the Lower Castle, respectively) were erected in Vilnius. St. Mikalojus Church, the oldest surviving church in Vilnius, was founded in 1387.

February 17, 1387

The name of Molėtai was first mentioned as a private property of the Bishop of Vilnius. Molėtai is a town in northeastern Lithuania. One of the oldest settlements in Lithuania, it is a popular resort for the inhabitants of Vilnius.



February 20, 1387

Jogaila awarded Lithuanian nobles who would convert to Christianity with new rights and granted Magdeburg rights to Vilnius. This served not only as an incentive for conversion but also equalized nobility rights in Poland and Lithuania.

225 years ago

February 23, 1792

King Stanislovas Augustas Poniatovskis granted the town of Marijampolė the rights of self-government, and the Marijampolė coat of arms was established. Marijampolė is an industrial city and the capital of the Marijampolė County in the south of Lithuania, bordering Poland and Russian Kaliningrad oblast, and Lake Vištytis. It is the Lithuanian center of the Suvalkija region. The city has also been known as Marijampolis, Mariampol, Starapole, Pašešupiai, Marjampol, Mariyampole, and Kapsukas. The settlement was originally founded as a village called "Pašešupė" (in Polish: Poszeszupie), after the nearby river of Šešupė. As such the town was first mentioned in 1667. In the 18th century, the village grew to become a market town and its name was changed to Starpol or "Staropole". The settlement was destroyed by a fire in 1765. After the disaster, the wife of the starost of Prienai, Pranciška Butlerienė financed a new church and a monastery for the Congregation of Marian Fathers. Following the foundation of the monastery, a new town was built in the area. It was named "Maryampol", after the Blessed Virgin Mary (Marya-), with the suffix -pol denoting a town.



135 years ago

February 21, 1882

Mykolas Sleževičius, a Lithuanian lawyer, political and cultural figure, and journalist, was born in Drembliai Village, Raseiniai District. Sleževičius was one of the most influential figures in interwar Lithuania. He served as the prime minister of Lithuania on three occasions. Taking helm at a difficult time in 1918 and again in 1919, Sleževičius has been credited with preparing Lithuania for the fights to come and for laying the foundations of the fledgling state. Sleževičius was elected to the Lithuanian parliament, initially the Constituent Assembly, later the Seimas, on four occasions. In 1926, as a representative of the Lithuanian Popular Peasants' Union, Sleževičius became the prime minister for the third time. His government introduced important changes aimed at normalizing the situation in Lithuania. Sleževičius was married to Domicėlė Sleževičienė who worked as a dentist. The pair had no children of their own but had an adopted daughter Marytė Sleževičiūtė-Mackevičienė. Marytė married Mečislovas Mackevičius, who would later serve as the minister of justice on the Provisional Government of Lithuania in 1941. Sleževičius died on 11 November 1939 in Kaunas. He was buried in the Petrašiūnai Cemetery.



95 years ago

February 16, 1922

Vytautas Magnus University (VMU) (Lithuanian: Vytauto Didžiojo Universitetas (VDU)) was founded in 1922 in Kaunas during the interwar period as an alternate national university. Initially, it was known as the University of Lithuania, but in 1930 the university was renamed to Vytautas Magnus University, commemorating 500 years of the death of Vytautas the Great, the Lithuanian ruler. The beginnings of higher education in Lithuania go back to the 16th century when, in 1579, the college founded by Jesuits in Vilnius became a higher school of education – Academia et Universitas Vilnensis. In 1832 in the aftermath of the November Uprising Czar Nicholas, I closed the university. In 1918, with the establishment of the independent Republic of Lithuania, the State Council decided to reestablish the Vilnius University. Since Vilnius was later under Polish administration and the Lithuanian government had to be transferred to Kaunas, this decision was not put into effect. The Lithuanian Cabinet of Ministers decided to establish the University of Lithuania in Kaunas, February 13, 1922. The ceremonial opening of the university took place February 16, 1922, while on the 12th of April the President of Lithuania confirmed the university's Statute along with six departments: Theology-Philosophy, Humanities, Law, Mathematics and Sciences, Medicine and Technical Studies.



Security

... President Obama authorized Anne Hall, US Ambassador to Lithuania to sign a formal agreement on the permanent deployment of 140 US troops with associated support staff in Lithuania. It was cosigned by Lithuanian Defense Minister, Raimundas Karobis. The agreement gives US jurisdiction over crimes committed by its military personnel but allows Lithuania to take over jurisdiction in certain offences. It also gives the US the right to use certain military facilities which remain the property of Lithuania. US Special Forces have been positioned in the buffer zone between Russia's Kaliningrad Oblast and Lithuania.



Border of the Republic of Lithuania and Kaliningrad Region

... The Lithuanian Seimas (Parliament) has budgeted 3.8 million euros for building a 2 meter high fence between Kaliningrad on the Baltic to the junction of Lithuania and Poland. Most of the 30 million euro cost will come from the EU. It is expected to be completed in 2017 and is designed to limit smuggling and illegal movement. It is the region where last year, Ramzis, a Lithuanian guard dog, was killed by cigarette smugglers. Currently the zone is marked only by signs within a 13 meter wide control zone. The 130 km fence and natural barriers cover the 255 km Kaliningrad –Lithuanian border which runs through the Curonian Spit, Curonian Lagoon and follows several rivers and Lake Vištytis. It is expected that the fence will be supplemented by electronic surveillance and drones.

... British Prime Minister Theresa May and Defense Minister Michael Fallon were emphatic in their support of NATO as being the cornerstone of their defense system. They fully support Article 5 for collective support of any NATO country that is attacked.

... NATO is deploying multinational battalions in each of the Baltic countries. German, Belgian, Dutch, Norwegian, French, Croats, and Luxembourgers will rotate through Rukla, Lithuania. Canada will lead troops in Latvia. The United Kingdom will have troops in Estonia and the US will lead troops in Poland.

... As part of Operation Atlantic Resolve the US landed the 3rd Armored Brigade at the northern port of Bremerhaven, Germany which then moved by rail and convoy to Poland. The 4000 soldier Brigade includes 87 tanks, 144 Bradley fighting vehicles and 18 self-propelled howitzers. The US also plans to move a combat aviation brigade with 60 Chinook and Black Hawk helicopters and 1800 personnel from Fort Drum NY and a battalion of Apache attack helicopters and 400 personnel from Fort Bliss, TX.

... One of President Obama's last acts was to quadruple the funding for American forces in Europe to \$3.5 billion in 2017.

... The 10th annual Snow Meeting was held in Trakai near Vilnius. The closed door informal meeting of about 90 Lithuanians and foreign security experts from 20 countries included NATO Deputy Secretary General Rose Gottemoeller, retired US Air Force General Philip Breedlove, former Supreme Commander of NATO and US forces in Europe and Lithuanian Minister of Foreign Affairs, Linas Linkevičius and Minister of Defense, Raimundas Karoblis.

Business

... Lithuania will again buy gas from Russia's Gazprom but now at lower prices. Last year it purchased 60% of its needs from Norway's Statoil via the Klaipėda LNG terminal.

... Vilkyškių Pieninė, one of Lithuania's largest dairy companies has exported 20 tons of Mozzarella cheese to China. This initial shipment replaces some of the products that were embargoed by Russia in 2014. Vilkyškių Pieninė is one of the sixteen Lithuanian dairies that have been approved by China in August 2016.

... Japan has approved the import of Lithuanian poultry and poultry products. The Lithuanian Ambassador to Japan, Egidijus Meilūnas, said that producers are welcome to participate in the International Food and Beverage Exhibition being held in Tokyo March 7-10. Lithuanian exports to Japan exceeded 154 million euros during 2016 and included tobacco, optical, measuring and medical devices. Japan is currently considering importation of Lithuanian beef. The EU and Japan are negotiating a Free Trade Agreement for lowering duties on industrial goods, agricultural and food products and it is hoped that it will be signed in 2017. Ikea, the Swedish furniture company, has purchased a 19 turbine wind farm in northwestern Lithuania as part of its 2020 plan to produce as much renewable energy as it consumes.

... Maxima Grupė has acquired Barbora, the largest e-commerce company in Lithuania for 1.4 million euros. Maxima Grupė manages retail chains in the Baltic states and Bulgaria. Barbora, which currently only covers Vilnius, will be integrated with Maxima's other e-commerce companies in Latvia and Estonia.

... Deutsche Bank has agreed to pay \$625 million to US and UK financial authorities to settle charges that it facilitated Russians to launder up to \$10 billion. The scheme involved clients buying Russian stocks with rubles in Moscow and selling, often on the same day, a similar amount for US dollars in London. Some 2400 of these paired mirror trades and 3400 suspicious trades occurred between April 2012 and October 2014. The \$10 billion was moved from Russia to external accounts in Cyprus, Estonia and Latvia.

... In 2016 Invest Lithuania said that 36 foreign investment projects are projected to invest 135 million euros and create 3700 jobs over the next three years. The major investors are Swedish, German, Danish and Finnish. Taxes derived from this production are estimated at 50 million euros which matches the increased budget for public security.

... Minister of Foreign Affairs Linas Linkevičius met with US Ambassador Anne Hall and the President of the American-Lithuanian Business Council (ALBC), Eric Stewart, to discuss economic relations. Current American companies doing business in Lithuania include Western Union, AIG, Thermo-Fisher Scientific, Philip Morris and Pfizer. An ALBC group is scheduled to visit Lithuania in March. In 2015 Lithuania exports to the US were valued at 1 billion euros and imports at 360 million euros.

... The Multi-National Tax Transfer Pricing News reports that Lithuania has joined 56 countries to require multinational companies to report revenues, profits, income tax paid, stated capital, accumulated earnings, number of employees and tangible assets. This is an effort to combat corporate tax avoidance through transfer pricing and is part of the OECD, G20 standard.

General



H. E. Mr. Wei Ruixing, Ambassador of the People's Republic of China, and Hon. Ms. Liana Ruokytė-Jonsson, Minister of Culture of the Republic of Lithuania, attended the Exhibit opening. Photo credit: Embassy of the People's Republic of China in the Republic of Lithuania.

... Lithuanian Cultural Minister Liana Ruokytė-Jonsson opened a Chinese art exhibit "Silk Road Treasures Exhibition" at the Museum of Applied Arts and Design in Vilnius. It includes artifacts from the Western Zhou Dynasty (1046-771 BC) to the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644 AD) from the region of the ancient Silk Road. The exhibition marks the 25th anniversary of diplomatic relations between China and the Republic of Lithuania. A Lithuanian arts exhibition will be held in China this spring.

... New Prime Minister Saulius Skvernelis and a Seimas group (May 3 Group) believe that up to eight Polish TV stations should be rebroadcast in the Vilnius region because most Poles in the area currently watch Russian and Belarusian stations with associated Russian bias. The May 3 Group aims to address problems of Poles in Lithuania and Lithuania-Poland issues and derives its name from Europe's first written constitution, the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth which was signed on May 3, 1791.

... After a two week investigation Lithuanian Finance Minister Vilius Šapoka dismissed Dainoras Bradauskas, head of the State Tax Inspectorate, because he had leaked information regarding investigations to officers of the groups being investigated, i.e. MG Baltic and Vilniaus Prekyba.

... The Lithuanian program "Guess the Melody" was abruptly canceled from the LRT national TV channel when actress Asta Baukutė was seen doing the Nazi salute on air.

... Russian citizen, Vladimir Razvodov, was convicted in absentia for involvement in the 1991 execution of seven Lithuanian border guards and customs officers at the Medininkai checkpoint on the Lithuanian-Belarusian border. A member of the Russian OMON (Special Purpose Mobility Unit) he was sentenced to 12 years for war crimes and crimes against humanity. In 2015 a Vilnius district court acquitted him as events not occurring during conditions of war or occupation but prosecutors disagreed with the verdict and the Lithuanian Court of Appeals agreed that the events should be interpreted as Soviet aggression against Lithuania.

... Vilnius welcomed its one millionth visitor in late December 2016, a new record. The visitor from Helsinki was greeted by Vilnius' mayor, Remigijus Šimašius, the boys' choir, Ažuoliukas, and representatives of Go Vilnius, the city's economic development agency. Prizes included a return trip for two, a two night stay at a 5-star hotel in Vilnius and services of a private tour guide.

... On Wednesday April 19, 2017 PBS's NOVA will broadcast a film, Holocaust Escape Tunnel, about a 100 foot tunnel in the Paneriai Forest near Vilnius that was used to enable 12 Holocaust survivors escape a killing site. As many as 100,000 Jews and enemies of the Nazis were shot but these few escaped via the hand dug tunnel.

Grikių Blynai

(Buckwheat pancakes)

By Jana Sirusaitė Motivans



This year, the last day of February is Shrove Tuesday, also known as Fat Tuesday and Mardi Gras. In Lithuanian, it is known as Užgavėnės. The following day, March 1st, is Ash Wednesday, and starts the period of Lent (Gavėnia) leading to Easter.

In Lithuania, as in many Catholic countries, Lent used to be a period of strict abstinence - no meat, milk or eggs, nor any sort of rich food. In addition, there were no parties, weddings or dances during Lent. As a result, Fat Tuesday was the last chance for indulging in what was soon to be forbidden, the last opportunity for merriment before the solemn period of Lent. My Močiutė told me that they used to eat twelve times on that day. In other parts of Lithuania the tradition was to eat nine times.

The main dish for Užgavėnės is pancakes. Because of this, the day has also become known as Pancake Tuesday. A friend of mine here in Montreal has hosted a pancake supper at Aušros

Vartų Parapija for many years. She prepares an assortment of pancakes, including meat-filled crepes, potato pancakes, zucchini pancakes, buckwheat pancakes, apple pancakes and cheese-filled blintzes for dessert. It is an amazing feast eagerly anticipated by the parishioners. I have helped in the kitchen the past few years and have learned a lot about pancakes.

Buckwheat pancakes are known as grikių blynai or grikainiai in Lithuanian. They have a wholesome, nutty taste and are delicious with bacon (of course!). They are actually healthy and nutritious because they are made with whole grain buckwheat groats which are high in fiber and protein. For a healthier option, these pancakes can be served with fresh berries or jam instead of bacon and sour cream. Buckwheat groats can be found at health food stores or stores specializing in Eastern European products. Bob's Red Mill, a well-known brand, can often be found in grocery stores.

a taste of lithuania

Grikių Blynai (Buckwheat pancakes)

INGREDIENTS

- 2 cups cooked buckwheat groats
- 2 cups water
- 2 cups whole wheat flour
- 1 teaspoon salt and 1/2 teaspoon pepper
- 2 eggs, beaten
- cooking oil



For serving: spirgučiai (sautéed bacon and onion) and sour cream, or jam or applesauce

1. To cook buckwheat groats (Bob's Red Mill organic whole grain buckwheat), combine 1 cup groats with 2 cups water in a medium-sized pot. Bring to a boil, cover the pot, reduce the heat to a simmer and cook until the groats are tender, about 10 minutes. Drain off any excess liquid. Makes about 2 1/2 cups cooked grains. (Cooking time may vary for other brands).
2. In a medium-sized bowl, combine the cooked buckwheat, whole wheat flour and beaten egg. Mix thoroughly. Add the water and mix to combine. Add salt and pepper to taste.



3. Cook the pancakes in oil a large frying pan over medium-high heat. Pour the batter into the pan using a 1/4 cup measure, cook for 2-3 minutes or until the bottom is browned. Turn the pancake over and cook for an additional 2-3 minutes or until golden brown.



4. Serve with spirgučiai (sautéed bacon and onion) and sour cream, or jam, or applesauce.



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FINNAIR
DESIGNED FOR YOU

Alatėja Women's Club Started Its 12th Year of Charitable Work

The Alatėja Women's Club is a charitable non-profit organization founded by a group of Lithuanian American women in 2005 in Chicago. During its 11 years of charitable work, the Club supported many children's homes and schools in Lithuania, children stricken by cancer or other diseases, and families that found themselves in dire straits because of fire or other calamities. According to the organization's "driving engine" Audronė Sidaugienė, people are good and willing to help, it's just the matter of knowing how and when to ask for their help. The Alatėja Club raises its funds through its annual banquet and other events.



Valentine's Day Fundraising, February, 2017.



Children of the Linkuva Children's Home send their thanks to Alatėja.



Alatėja helped a family with multiple children in Lithuania.



Alatėja collects clothes, shoes, and school supplies several times per year.

X World Lithuanian Sports Games Will Take Place in Kaunas, Lithuania June 30 - July 2, 2017

During the games, Lithuanian athletes will compete in 20 sports: badminton, bowling, soccer, golf, triathlon, downhill skiing, orienteering, basketball, ice hockey, track and field, swimming, sports fishing, table tennis, chess, tennis, volleyball, darts, shooting, archery, travelling sports.

Registration for American Lithuanians is handled through the Lithuanian Athletic Union of North America (LAUNA). Those interested in participating in the Games should register with the LAUNA president Laurynas Misevicius before February 28th at rytupakrante@yahoo.com. When registering, please answer the following questions:

- What is the age of the participant(s),
- What sports you will be competing in (up to 3 per each participant),
- Will you require hotel in Kaunas during the Games (complimentary for the participants of the Games),
- Will you require transportation from Vilnius to Kaunas before or during the Games as well as from Kaunas back to Vilnius after the Games.

Fans are also encouraged to register. Registered fans will have access to attend the Opening and Closing ceremonies as well as the Games.



For further information, please contact your local sports club or LAUNA at rytupakrante@yahoo.com.



Representatives of LAUNA delegation with Chairman Laurynas R. Misevicius (third from left) in the Kaunas Sports Museum after the IX World Lithuanian Sports Games in 2013.

Lithuanian Independence Celebrated in Saturday Schools

Lithuanian Saturday schools throughout the United States of America celebrated the 99th Anniversary of the Restoration of Lithuania's Independence. Pictured here are students and teachers of the Chicago Lithuanian School. Also pictured, are a few art works by third graders of this school. In March of this year, the Chicago Lithuanian School will be celebrating its 25th Anniversary.



Lithuanian Coat of Arms by Adriana Paulavičiūtė.



Gediminas Castle by Alexander Janz



Photos from the Independence Day celebration at the Chicago Lithuanian School. Photo credit: ČLM.



Gediminas Castle by Emilija Narvilas.



Gediminas Castle by Kamilė Žilinskaitė.

Come See the Shows at the Bridge Theatre in Chicago

The Bridge is Back! We are proud to announce our winter/spring season. On March 17 & 18 at 7:30 pm we proudly present TWO FROM BRIDGEPORT, in which Bridgeport residents Audre Budrys and Kestutis Nakas present a double bill of original solo works featuring our beloved Bridgeport neighborhood! "Une Baye", written and performed by Audre Budrys is the true story of a 1930's actress who moves from Lithuania to Bridgeport to Hollywood and back to Lithuania to meet her fate. "No Bees for Bridgeport", written and performed by Kestutis Nakas, satirizes south side stereotypes as an urban beekeeper gets unwittingly caught up in 11th Ward politics.

Coming to The Bridge on Saturday April 22, 30, May 6 & 13 at 8pm: "RIP", a musical/spoken word performance by Kestutis

Nakas, Jesse Kegan and Andrew Taylor. RIP is take off on Washington Irving's Rip Van Winkle set in New York's East Village in the 1980's. It's a meditation on aging, death and collective memory written in Nakas' trademark iambic funtameter style. Watch this page for ticket information coming soon.

Our next FOLLOWSPOT event comes your way on April 30, 2017. We'll start at 4pm and perform on until late night with short bursts of original live spoken word, music, dance, cabaret and every imaginable permutation thereof! Join us at FOL-LOWSPOT and share in crazy good cabaret, sensational spoken word, and so much more at The Bridge.

More info at: www.thebridgeperforms.com



The Bridge

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

July 23
**Lithuanian Friendship Day/
Putnam Picnic**
600 Liberty Hwy., Putnam, Conn.
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.

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 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:
ednickus1@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 Skaucių + 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

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