

bridges



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The Bloody January Events



The January 13th Memorial on the western side of the Lithuanian Parliament.

It has been twenty seven years since the Bloody January events in Vilnius. No matter how I think about it, twenty seven years seems to me as a big chunk of time. An entire new generation grew up since then. Those who were toddlers back then now hold the future of Lithuania in their hands. What do they know of how their parents and grandparents really felt in January of 1991? How do we tell them about how we really felt? When I think of that time I think of the great unity among almost all of the residents of Lithuania. The feeling of unity was present in the air. It was so strong it felt like you were breathing it in together with the air, you could almost touch it. It felt like our unity was unbreakable, impenetrable, untouchable, invincible. Were we afraid of the enemy? Perhaps, some were, and others were not. However, freedom is an unspeakable force. Once you get a taste of it there is no force on earth that could bring you back to being imprisoned.

Those few photos of the square in front of the Supreme Council building (now it is called the Independence Square) were sent to me by my friend Viktoras Pročkys in 1991. I was in the United States then. Viktoras was roaming the streets of Vilnius taking pictures that would one day prove to be important historical documents. It pains my heart to think that Viktoras is no longer among us on this earth, and I will not be able to show this issue of Bridges to him. However, his photographs will live among us as a reminder of those days, weeks, and months after the Bloody January events. They remind us of the anti-tank barricades that were built by people the following day after the Bloody Sunday. The cement and reinforced steel barricades were there to protect our Parliament, to protect our freedom. However, I think that the unity of people was the force much stronger than the barricades. It was the unity of people that made the Soviet forces retreat. Today we think of it almost like a miracle. This year, Lithuania is celebrating the 100th Anniversary of Independence proclaimed in 1918. Isn't it a miracle that we, the Lithuanian people, are still on the map of the world as an independent state? Sometimes I think it's a miracle. And sometimes I think we were worth of this miracle because of our unity.

Karilė Vaitkutė
Editor

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The Bloody January Events

Photographs by Viktoras Pročkys



The side facade of the Supreme Council building. One of the signs reads "The Red Army is murderers."



Another fragment of the barricades. A portrait of Mikhail Gorbachev with caption: "I have ended the perestroika and I started the shooting." Signed: Mikhail Gorbachev.



One of the barricades by the Supreme Council picturing Jesus and Virgin Mary. The words read "Freedom to Lithuania".



Barricades by the headquarters of volunteer defenders of the Supreme Council.



The square by the Supreme Council. It cannot be seen in this picture, but the entire square is full of bonfires. If there would be an attack, people would have to step back 300 meters so it would be easier to defend the Supreme Council. All the surrounding buildings have their windows taped with paper ribbons so that they would not shatter in case of explosions.



Beyond the wire fences the square is full of iron constructions which should hinder any possible helicopter landing. Further there are trenches dug so that tanks would not be able to come near.



One of the barricades by the Supreme Council with various signs, pictures and slogans. The top sign reads: Jesus, Mary, I love You. Save Lithuania!"



The view of the square next to the Supreme Council. Behind the barricades there is the bridge to Zverynas. It is full of reinforced concrete bricks that should hinder the passage.



Soviet passports, identity cards of the Soviet armed forces, Soviet money and all kinds of other Soviet attributes piled up on the ground. The sign in Russian reads: "Shame on the Communist Party that instigated and carried out bloody and terror acts!"



War-like sights by the building of the Supreme Council in Vilnius, Lithuania.

Being a Representative of Lithuania Throughout the World Interview with Honorary Consul John Vytautas Prunskis, M.D., FIPP

By Karilė Vaitkutė



Prunskis family: Owen Vytautas Prunskis, Kristina Prunskis, Dr. Terri Dallas Prunskis, and Dr. John Vytautas Prunskis at the top of Ajax Mountain, Aspen, Colorado.

Let us start with the beginning of your family's life in the United States. You were born in Chicago, but your parents came to this country after World War II as Displaced Persons. Could you talk about that?

There is no question that I have to start with my paternal grandparents because they were both deported to Siberia. My grandfather was executed there and my grandmother was allowed by Krushev to leave the Soviet Union in 1960 through an amazing effort of my uncle Monsignor Prunskis. He left Lithuania right after the first Soviet occupation. The Nazis and Soviet Communists agreed to partition Europe with Poland going to the Nazis and the Baltic countries going to the Soviets. Since at that time, he was not only a young priest but also the editor of a newspaper called "The 20th Century" ("Dvidešimtas Amžius"), he was warned that he was put on a list to be arrested by the Sovi-

ets. The night when he got that information he ran to escape capture. He was helped by an underground organization to get out. The final 500 meters a farmer helped him. The farmer pointed out that in about a hundred meters was the front with the Nazis, and he crossed that border not knowing what would happen to him and if he would be shot or not. Of course, he had no weapons. He was arrested by the Nazis and held for a while in a prison. He told the Nazis that his goal was to get to America to explain what was happening in Soviet-occupied Lithuania. Then they somehow allowed him to get out and he was successful in reaching America. My aunts and uncles and parents fled towards the end of World War II through Germany and then came to the United States. My father completed his medical studies in Lithuania. My mother was a medical student in Lithuania but completed her medical studies in Germany.

Where in Germany did they stay?

Bonn and Berlin. At the Friedrich Wilhelm University.

Do you recall your parents telling you about Lithuania when you were a small child?

At home, we were only allowed to speak Lithuanian. My English was relatively poor. It might still be poor (laughs). When I started kindergarten my English got better because, of course, everybody was speaking English there. Lithuania was an abstract concept to me when I was five or six years old. All we knew was that we had to speak Lithuanian at home, we had to go to a Lithuanian school on Saturdays, and we joined various organizations like Ateitininkai, Scouts, etc. My story is not unique. Many people of my age who settled in this country have similar stories.

Did your parents tell you about the fate of your grandfather when you were a child?

No. Because I don't think they knew. We only found out later. He was executed in 1942, and information was hard to come by during those times. Alternatively, if they knew I was not told about it. I don't really recall it being a topic of discussion. I wish that as a child I would have understood things as I understand them now. I would have spoken with my grandmother and asked her about all the trials and sufferings she went through which I can only imagine. That's one regret I have. But again, when you're twelve years old or fifteen years old, you don't think about these things.

How did you think of erecting a cross for your grandfather in Siberia?

I just felt it was something that had to be done. My friend Antanas Rasiulis who in the Lithuanian Parliament Commission represented the Lithuanians who were living in Russia and served with me in the Lithuanian Parliament, offered that he would help me when we started discussing the concept. One thing led to another. I contacted my sisters and my cousins asking if they would be interested in doing something like this. They agreed. Antanas lives in Krasnoyarsk. He was deported there as a young child with his parents. He then stayed there as some Lithuanians did. What's interesting is that he speaks Lithuanian still. So many children who were deported to Siberia together with their parents do not speak Lithuanian anymore but he does. He



1934 in August, Žvilbučiai Utena, Lithuania. Prunskis family with Blessed Bishop Teofilus Matulionis. Ona (Prunskis) Garūnas (middle right next to little boy), Ona (Gineitis) Prunskis and Juozas Prunskis next to bishop (left and right), bishop in white in middle, Anelė above bishop, left of Ona Prunskienė are Vladas and Fr. Juozas with unknown man in between. Vladas was Dr. John Prunskis's father.

orchestrated the erection of the cross. It is a difficult twenty-hour trip to go to the location and back because the roads in Siberia are not great. There were some crosses already erected in that area but there hasn't been one erected there in many many years. We felt it was the right thing to do. On the cross itself we wrote the message in Lithuanian and in English so that those who might not read Lithuanian might understand it as well. The cross/monument was erected 75 years to the day of my Grandfather's execution.



The cross erected by Juozas Prunskis's grandchildren in Siberia where Juozas Prunskis was executed. The cross was erected 75 years to the day of his execution.



Inscription on the cross erected in memory of Juozas Prunskis.



Our grandmother Ona Gineitytė-Prunskienė escaped from Siberia to Communist Lithuania in 1958, then in March of 1960, through relentless efforts of Monsignor Joseph Prunskis, Khrushchev released her to come to Chicago. She lived with her daughter Onytė and her husband Dr. Albinas Garūnas. Here lived her other daughter Anelė Prunskytė. First party/gathering in America. Sitting from left to right, Ona Prunskienė (mother), Fr. Dr. Juozas Prunskis, Jonas (Johnny) Prunskis, Jonas Prunskis, Dr. Albina Pundytė-Prunskienė. Standing –Marytė and Teresė Prunskis (deceased Dr. Vladas Prunskis's daughters), Anelė Prunskytė, Dr. Ona Prunskytė-Garūnas. In the back stands a boy, Dr. J. Rainys.

While you were growing up in Chicago and Lithuania was under the Soviets, did your parents express any belief that Lithuania would be free and independent again?

I think they all had that belief, however, I think that they recognized that it might not become a reality. As you know, the schools, the churches, the hospitals, the organizations were built so remarkably quickly because many of them had the realization that this might never happen or it would be a very long process.

You visited Lithuania when it was still under the Soviets.

Yes. Three times. In 1969, 1977, and 1979.

What are your most prominent reminiscences of those times?

In 1969, getting off the airplane in the Moscow Airport and instead of the usual signs that you see "Welcome to..." there were two rows of Soviet soldiers with Kalashnikov rifles that we had to walk through. That was pretty memorable for a twelve-year-old. I also remember that even though it was June I was wearing about four winter coats and shirts on my body that we were bringing to our relatives. It was difficult for people in Soviet-occupied Lithuania to obtain these things. We heard,

and rightfully so, that in the customs in Moscow they would sometimes take things and not let you bring everything you wanted and that you had no recourse. We brought very many suitcases. It was a very long process through customs. I remember my mother had to pay a lot of duty but they let most of the things we brought through. I remember landing in Vilnius and then seeing Gedimino pilis (Gediminas Castle) which is stuff that I only read about in Saturday Lithuanian school. I remember seeing the Cathedral which under the Soviets was not a cathedral but an art museum and that also really bothered me. But what bothered me more was St. Casimir's Church which was turned into an atheist museum. Also I remember that in 1969 we snuck out to where my grandparents' large farm was. It is called Žvilbučiai. One of the friends of my mom's from the time she was living in Lithuania had a friend who was in the Communist party. He accompanied us. "Accompanied", I think, is a two-edged sword. He was watching us but also in case something happened because we were traveling without a permit he might smooth the way. Žvilbučiai was a dvaras or a large farm estate of my grandparents. I had never seen it, I only heard about it, and I was the first Prunskis to be there since June 14th, 1941. I remember we stopped to ask for directions, and the person looked into the car and asked in Lithuanian "Ar čia gal yra Prunskiai?" (Is there a Prunskis here?). He was a neighbor who remembered my family. We said "No" since we were traveling without a permit. That was an interesting moment. Seeing the actual farm houses was a memorable moment. And then, of course, for a twelve-year-old fishing in a Lithuanian lake is a memorable moment. In Kaunas, it was interesting to see Lithuania, Darius and Girėnas plane. Previously I had only read about it and there it was. Seeing Čiurlionis' paintings, selling a stick of chewing gum for 50 kopeks and trading it for a knife, going to a market with a son of my mom's friend, my mom singing with her friends who did not have a chance to escape after World War II. So those are some of my memories as a twelve-year old in Lithuania..

In 1977 I was 20 years old. I remember spending time with my friends on the 4th of July in Red Square in Moscow. You didn't want to fly through Moscow but in those days you had to. It just



John and his mother, Dr. Albina Prunskis in Red Square in Moscow in June, 1969.



John Prunskis in Lithuania with relatives in 1977.

happened that we were in Moscow on the 4th of July. We stayed in the Red Square all night long. And each time they changed the guard by Lenin's tomb, I think it was every 30 minutes or so, we would walk up to the soldiers for some unknown reason and then 30 minutes later we would sit back down. To us, it was a form of resistance. When you're twenty you think of these things. We didn't get too disrespectful because we were being watched all night

In 1979 I went to Lithuania with my medical school classmate Steve Bunting. He was my best friend in medical school. He didn't have any Lithuanian heritage at all but he wanted to come with me to Lithuania. We went through Helsinki on a



Documentation from Siberia. Cover page on Juozas Prunskis in Russian. It reads: "USSR. People's Commissariat of Home Affairs. Operations Cheka Department. Kraslag NKVD. KGB at the Council of Ministers of the Lithuanian SSR. File No. 2981. In Prosecution of Prunskis Juozas, son of Mikolas, article 58-4. Started April 24, 1942. Finished April 24, 1942."

train. Again, we were bringing tons of clothes and blue jeans, of course, as gifts to my relatives. They took virtually everything from us. I brought a dress for my niece. She was seven years old. It was a nice dress. I remember the customs official held the dress up and he said in English: "This is going to look good on my daughter". And he took it. That's how they were. They tried just to intimidate you. I remember the microphones, and being followed. You know, being twenty years old you try to make fun of it. For example, we were in the Rossia hotel. It no longer exists but at that time it was the biggest hotel in Moscow. The light wasn't working in our room. We were going out and we said to the walls with "ears": "Could you fix the light?" When we came back, the light is fixed. We also had a little cassette recorder playing rock and roll music. It must have been too close to the listening microphone so in came this woman who was a "monitor" on that floor and she told us "nyet", no, don't play that music. So we had to move our cassette player. And then I remember the day my American friend and I were leaving Vilnius via train. It was a specific day. I think Brezhnev was the Premier then and I remember he said that as of that day everyone whose parents were born in any place that was then the Soviet Union would automatically become a Soviet citizen. That described me. So we wanted to make sure we were leaving Lithuania the day before. Nothing happened. It was just to scare people. We missed our train, of course, so I started to think: "OK, so this might be my new home" but we got on another train that finally got out. We got to Berlin. In those days, we had to go through Checkpoint Charlie. We rented a car. I still remember the barbed wires with plowed fields between East Germany and West Germany very vividly. It was very emotional because I remember I was thinking about my family in Vilnius.

We went through the barbed wire, the German shepherd guard dogs, the East German soldiers with their machine guns, and finally made it to West Germany. Then I could sigh the sigh of relief.

At that point in time, were you thinking about ways to help Lithuania regain its freedom?

I would have to say that it wasn't so much having a specific timetable or date or even a thought that one day Lithuania would be free but a continuation of mine and other people's activities, being active in Lithuanian activities and participating in protests for Lithuania's freedom whenever possible. But I have to say I was skeptical about the concept "Lithuania will be free". It did not mean that it stopped us from doing what we felt was all we could do at the time.

And then 1990 came.

It was amazing! Prior to 1990, 1970 was the first time Lithuania was ever mentioned in the newspapers because of the Simas Kudirka incident. If you go back to 1960s, there was a big story in the American newspapers when my grandmother came. It was a big deal. It wasn't until 1990 that I remember Lithuania being on the TV again! It was so amazing! I used to see the Soviet Lithuanian flag with hammer and sickle on the top of Gedimino pilis. And then, to see the independent Lithuanian flag, to see Lithuanians on American TV -- ABC, NBC, CBS! It was amazing! And people would ask me at work: "Wait, aren't you Lithuanian? What's going on over there?"

You are an American doctor, you live an American life. How did you decide to be involved so heavily in Lithuanian affairs?

It just started to grow. It had to start with my parents, with me visiting Lithuania three times. It also had to start with my wife Terri who is not Lithuanian. Before we got married I said: "We have to talk about something. I know you're not Lithuanian but it is really important to me for my kids to speak Lithuanian." And her answer was the best answer in the world. She said: "It's really important to me too." So that was easy, that was it. It grew slowly. Just like my activity in Lithuanian affairs and with the Lithuanian Parliament/World Lithuanian Community Commission. I never dreamed of running. I remember in the first session that I had with the Lithuanian American Community meeting in Denver where I was elected as the representative to Parliament, three people surrounding me saying "We want you to run for the Lithuanian Parliament World Lithuanian Commission. I didn't even know what that was. I just knew that there were ten candidates. I asked "Why?" and they said: "We know you would be good." And that is how it started. It was initially with zero knowledge of the Commission but I am thankful that they trusted me and I am really thankful that they pushed me to do that. I also have to thank my mom, who among other things, founded Lithuanian Orphan Care. She was tireless in her efforts to make a better life for Lithuanian orphans.

What were the most important things that were achieved during your term on the Lithuanian Parliament/World Lithuanian Community Commission?

Dual citizenship is one of the most important issues. I am a dual citizen by law, however, I absolutely understand how difficult it must be for someone who was born in Lithuania and then to lose their Lithuanian citizenship when taking a new country's citizenship. So even though it did not affect me personally, I and our team did all we could, our team did all it could to make sure we would steer this whole concept away from danger and hopefully towards a good result which was that anyone who prove they or their ancestors were citizens of Lithuania between the two world wars when Lithuania was independent, would have a right to dual citizenship. I am no longer active in the Commission and one of my regrets is that right now the new Commission was unable, unwilling or not aware of the danger of not stopping or advising the Parliament to not send the citizenship



Lithuanian ski group in Heavenly Valley, California with Honorary Consul Dr. John Prunskis.

issue to Lithuania's Supreme Court because this is now almost an insurmountable hurdle. But more important than that, I see that this citizenship referendum may be tearing the country apart. It's going to be torn not only by the internal forces but external forces from non-friendly countries that are going to take advantage and try to draw a wedge amongst Lithuanians. That is what hurts me. So that is one thing. Stopping the Parliament literally days, sometimes hours before a vote would be happening, I and two or three other people went to the President of Parliament explaining to him why we feel so strongly that they should not send this citizenship vote to a referendum. Now, unfortunately the Parliament allowed the Supreme Court to rule that the only way for the citizenship issue to be resolved is through referendum which has virtually insurmountable criteria in order to succeed.

My Parliamentary initiatives that were successful sometimes took up to seven years. It was initiated in our commission that Lithuania must meet its NATO obligation of 2% of its GDP going to its defense. We were the first ones to bring that officially to the Parliament. At that time the Conservatives were in power. They didn't really want to deal with it. Then the Social Democrats were in power. They wanted to deal with it a little bit more. As the momentum grew, we brought it up five times. Two times when I was just a member and three times when I was the chairman. We just would not let it go. You have to understand, the members of the Parliament would be saying: "You keep bringing the same thing back". Well, we would not be bringing it back if you would change it and if it wasn't so important.

The second success was changing Labor Code. When you look at many things you think they have always been like they are now. Regarding the Labor Code, we brought it back time



Dr. John Prunskis (center), the Chairman of the World Lithuanian Community Commission in the Lithuanian Parliament, 2014.

after time because in our discussions with businesses both, in Lithuanian and outside Lithuania, we realized that investors like Lithuanian workers, they like Lithuania but the bureaucracy, and the rules were stifling their investments in the country and they would go to other countries to set up and grow their businesses. Lithuanians, as we know, emigrate because there is better opportunity in other countries. So reform of the Labor Code was something that we brought to the Parliament as necessary for Lithuania's survival.

A third success during my chairmanship was that after identifying that Lithuania was the third highest consumer in the world of alcohol per capita we caused the issues surrounding alcohol to change. The alcohol industry (beer and spirits) have a strong political influence because of financial support to politicians. It was an uphill battle but we assembled a team of physicians, clergy, social workers who were passionate about this issue and we started the process of identifying what we could do to help this issue. It is remarkable that in January of 2018 all these three projects hit. In January of 2018 advertising of alcohol is banned on any media: internet, billboard, newspaper, television. So those are probably the biggest three successes.

You are also Lithuania's Honorary Consul in Aspen, Colorado. Is that connected to your being the Chairman of the World Lithuanian Committee?

It is a separate thing. As a matter of fact, when I was running for re-election in the Parliament Commission I also became the Honorary Consul. There were people who were whispering: How can he be both, a diplomat and an elected official? I understand that people are people, politics is politics, and election opponents will say certain things. There was a discussion with Ambassador Žygimantas Pavilionis. We have a home in Aspen. One of the requirements of being an Honorary Consul is that you have to have a home in the area you will serve. We are there frequently. Aspen, as you know, is a center where politicians, actors, artists, CEOs, businessmen, and leaders come from all over the world all year long. It is this wonderful goulash of people who do interesting things. We were the first diplomatic mission to be approved in Aspen. At that time, Hillary Clinton was Secretary of State. I don't know Hillary but there were people who knew me and Hillary, and they told Hillary that I was the right guy, this was the right place, this was the right time, and she signed off on it. I am thankful to her for that.

And the rest of it was a pretty straightforward process: you go through a background check, then the senior Senator of Colorado approved my appointment.

What are the main activities of the Honorary Consulate in Aspen?

The main activities are to continue to elevate the awareness about the name of Lithuania, answer any questions about business opportunities in Lithuania and just being a representative of Lithuania, not only in Aspen but throughout the world. Obviously, since I am the highest ranking EU official in Aspen, if anybody loses their EU passport in Aspen, I can give them a letter of transit but that has never occurred. And then, of course, every year I have a Lithuanian independence celebration where I would have a guest of honor. I have been fortunate that in the past years the Lithuanian ambassadors have come, this year the Consul General in Chicago will come. We invite local community leaders, politicians, business leaders, and members of the Lithuanian community in Colorado to attend. The Colorado Lithuanians always bring a šakotis (traditional cake of celebration), the children dance and sing, and we have a good time. It seems that you don't have to be in Aspen to perform as an Honorary Consul of Lithuania. Wherever you go and to whom ever, you speak, Lithuania is always on the tip of your tongue.

Please tell us how did it happen that Vilnius University Medical School and Chicago Medical School signed a treaty of cooperation.

I am a Clinical Professor at the Chicago Medical School. We have physician residents who rotate through our pain clinics, the Illinois Pain Institute, and every year there is an annual faculty appreciation dinner because it's a volunteer effort on our part, we don't get paid. I had an occasion of meeting the Dean, Dr. James Record, the head of the whole school. We somehow connected on a personal level, I wanted to know more about him, and I spoke a little bit about Lithuania. And by the way, frequently when I wear a suit, I wear my Knight's Cross on the lapel. President Grybauskaitė knighted me several years ago. I wear it because sometimes it prompts questions. People would ask what my Knight's Cross represents, and then I would just start talking about Lithuania. So I asked Dean Record if he would be interested in creating a formal relationship with Vilnius University Medical School. And he said: yes, absolutely. He said that right now they had a formal relationship with a university in Austria and they were actually looking to expand. Then I called my contact at Vilnius University, Dr. Vaiva Hendrixson, and asked if Vilnius University would be interested. They said: yes, absolutely. There were a few Skype conversations between the schools where I was involved and then they continued on their own. And so now, starting this year, medical students from Vilnius and medical students from Chicago will be officially able

to get accreditation for their studies, and then also professors, and the way the agreement is written, also general research together if that opportunity presents itself.

American students will not have to learn Lithuanian in order to go and study at the University of Vilnius, will they?

Why not? Right now there are about four hundred foreign students from all over the world who study medicine at the Vilnius University in English. They are also learning Lithuanian. I was sent a videotape of their efforts and how they start to speak simple phrases in Lithuanian, for example: "I want to order a pizza", "I want to order this or that"... I think it would be helpful to them to learn some Lithuanian.

Let us talk about your medical specialty – interventional pain treatment. You started with one pain clinic in Illinois and now you have eight clinics. How did this happen?

I met Terri who later became my wife when she was recruited to be the Chairman of the University of Chicago Pain Program. When I went out to practice we were not married yet. I was practicing as an anesthesiologist and in the evening I would have patients come see me for pain problems and I would perform procedures for back pain, etc. I got so busy that it was just physically impossible to do both. So I spoke with my wife and asked her if she would be willing to do something that has never been done before. And of course, she was already pregnant with our first child which is perhaps the worst time to start a business. But we did it. Imagine, 25 years ago physicians and the public really did not have an idea what we do but it was growing and growing. One of the things that we never did was widely prescribe opiate narcotic pain medications. Now it is a big epidemic in the United States and that is why now I am in discussions with certain people in Washington about how we might be able to fix some of these problems.


You are among the Top Doctors in the nation as selected by the Castle Connolly Medical Ltd. You have been selected the best doctor in your field for eight years by your colleagues. Please tell about that.

It is an anonymous vote that happens every second year and I am very fortunate and feel blessed that my colleagues voted for me eight times.

Nowadays some doctors don't seem to have a lot of time for patients. They seem to be busy with filling out forms or on computers while they are talking to their patients. When a doctor leaves after fifteen minutes with a patient, sometimes the patient is not even sure if the doctor heard him or was even listening to him attentively.




Vilnius University Medical School and Chicago Medical School representatives. From left, Ben Juri, Drs. Terri Dallas and John Prunskis, Dr. Vaiva Hendrixson, Drs. Herena and James Record, Mr. and Dr. Vaidya.



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Newspaper clipping from New York Times.

What makes a good doctor?

What makes a good doctor is both, internal and also external. Compassion, knowledge, and medical skills are key. There are forces that help or prevent someone from being the best doctor he could be for his patients. Let's go back to the narcotic issue for a second. It is much easier for a doctor to write a narcotic for someone who has pain than dig deep into what is causing the pain. In 2007, I introduced legislation in the State of Illinois to monitor if a patient is getting narcotics from more than one doctor. It took about four years for the legislation to pass. One thing I learned in politics is that you have to be patient. You can be passionate but you have to be patient and not take things personally. Finally, in 2011 it became a law. There is now, as a result of this legislation, a data bank where a physician or a pharmacist can look up if a patient is getting narcotics from multiple physicians. It is interesting because it is one of the last laws that Governor Blagojevich (you know Governor Blagojevich, don't you? He is in prison but in Illinois, every second Governor goes to prison, you know that right? It's a fifty/fifty chance.) So anyways, it is one of the last things he signed before he went to prison and it's a good thing. In regards to what makes a good doctor, I think it is listening to your patients, ordering appropriate testing, and having a strong skill set. The typing or the electronic medical record issue, in my opinion, in most specialties, is hurting that relationship. Electronic medical records is now a multi-billion dollar industry with huge lobbying in Washington. As you said, some doctors have lost the ability to communicate with patients. Even my own doctor is typing all the time I see him, and I don't know what he is typing. We are now in midst of an extremely active discussion in the medical community to get rid of those electronic medical records. In our practice, we have gotten rid of the electronic record. We speak into a recorder in front of a patient and the patient can hear everything that goes on his record. Hospitals get a huge financial incentive to use electronic medical records which in my opinion is making health care worse.

You are also involved in stem cell research.

There are many types of stem cells. We are doing something that is called autologous stem cell research which means the stem cells are coming from the patient and go back to the same adult patient. So it is not controversial. We don't see anybody who is under 14 years old. It is an approved research study. The group that we are affiliated with has now deployed stem cells in over seven thousand patients. We are injecting stem cells directly into joints. If it is an internal organ where we cannot safely inject, for example, the lungs, the heart, the intestines or the brain, we deploy them intravenously. We are offering stem cell therapy for joints, gastrointestinal problems, heart and lung problems, post concussion therapy, eye problems and more.

And what does that do for a patient's disease, his condition, his body?

A stem cell by design has not differentiated into anything. Mother Nature designed stem cells to turn into whatever tissue they are near. We have these stem cells in our body in several places. They congregate near fat because the fat is very rich in nutrients. They also are in bone marrow because it is rich in nutrients. If we harvest those stem cells, purify and concentrate them and deploy them in the body where the body is not used to seeing them, stem cells by design will go to wherever there is inflammation to repair and replace the tissue. So for example if someone has a knee problem or a hip problem and we deploy it, it will cause the cartilage to grow again, it will turn into cartilage or it will stimulate what is left of the cartilage to start growing. It's not a magic medicine. Up to 70 % of patients will get a good benefit, 30% will not. It takes up to nine months to see a result. These are cells. They have to divide, divide, divide. We tell patients that they have to be patient and wait up to nine months. But it might help for many medical conditions, including head trauma, heart trouble, lung, intestinal problems, Alzheimer's disease, Parkinson's disease. We are using stem cell therapy for many medical conditions.

What is your advice for the young generation of Lithuanians and Lithuanian Americans as far as the relationship with Lithuania?

My advice might not be for everyone but it was important for me. Since we do not live in Lithuania, and marriages between Lithuanians and non-Lithuanians occur, and marriages between Lithuanians who have different viewpoints occur. I believe, it is important that their children speak, read and write Lithuanian, I think that discussion needs to be had long before the wedding date. For the first five years of my married life, my wife had no idea what I was saying to my children because it was a hundred percent in Lithuanian. So that was a difficult thing for her, however, she supported it. And as far as whether the fire or the love for Lithuania occurs I would probably think that it would come from the parents because they are the most important people in a child's life.

What would be your advice to Lithuanian citizens all over the world who want to help the image of Lithuania in the world arena?

It is not surprising that a small country of three million people who had been basically imprisoned by the Soviet Union would be affected by that imprisonment. But that was 25 years ago. I do recognize when I speak to people that some of them have a small country mentality. I understand it but I think it is something they don't need to do. You raised a question of the painful past of Jews. World War II is a painful past for Jewish people. It



Dr. Terri Dallas Prunskis and Dr. John Prunskis, founders of Illinois Pain Institute, at the Inauguration of Donald Trump in 2017.

is also a painful period for non-Jewish people. We can't ignore the past, we can't forget it. I try to encourage my relations with the Litvak community. When a Jewish person tells me that his or her grandparents were from Russia I always correct them saying that the czar did not allow Jewish people to live in Russia proper. I tell them they are probably Litvak "Lithuanian". Some get interested in Lithuania then. I explain my grandparents' story and how my grandparents were in boxcars and how my grandfather was executed. There was a lot of suffering on all sides during and after World War II. I might suggest to connect directly the Lithuanian Foreign Ministry, Parliament, Genocide Study Center, Vilnius and Kaunas Universities, Ministry of Culture among other institutions and visit them yourself to get a better appreciation of some of the depth and resources they offer.

As far as being a small country, let's talk about Singapore. It has also been under Communist influence, it also has China breathing down its neck but they evolved from it in 25 years. Obviously, there are differences in politics but something has to be learned from Singapore. And I am not the only one who is saying that. Being small does not mean that we have to have an inferiority complex. Singapore went from a third world country to a world powerhouse. Lithuania can also do that, however, it will take much needed political resolve by the Lithuanian Parliament. As Chairman of the Lithuanian Parliament/World Lithuanian Committee I caused resolution to pass stating that Parliament should support legislation to have the friendliest climate for business investment in the EU. The Lithuanian Parliament has not yet fully acted on our resolutions but it needs to.

VLADAS DAUMANTAS

A Politician and Collector

By Gaiva Vaitkevičiūtė



Vldas Daumantas with his dogs and a pipe.

How do you tell about a person if you had never seen him alive, if his contemporaries are deceased and you have never questioned them? You would have to piece together the facts of his life into a mosaic using old documents, photos, memoirs, and personal effects.

My determination supports only on my great desire and hope that I would find as many pieces left as I would need for

this mosaic. I hope I will be able to collect them and to recognize what is the right place for each of them.

Vldas Daumantas was born Vladislavas Dzimidavičius. He was an active member of a group of Lithuanians in Switzerland that was very involved in attaining Independence for Lithuania. He was the first Lithuania's Consul in Switzerland. He was also a sworn interpreter. His knowl-

edge of many languages helped him earn a living throughout the time he was living in Kaunas. Daumantas was a passionate collector, a book lover, a philatelist, a numismatist, and a connoisseur of classical and oriental art. In Kaunas, the Provisional Capital of Lithuania, he was known for his book library, art collections, arrogance, debts, aristocratic lifestyle, and the love of dogs and pipes.

In approximately 1989 I started rebuilding the biography of Vldas Daumantas basing my work on the archive that at the time was still in our home (now it is in the Vilnius University Library).

My Father spent the years of his youth in the yellow house marked No. 31 on Duonelaitis Street in Kaunas. My Grandmother moved into this house just before the war. However, my Grandmother's husband, Vldas Daumantas, lived here longer than both of them. He was reserved and mysterious that even some of his relatives who were his contemporaries could not tell much about him. Therefore, I can only imagine him as a silhouette standing in between the back doors of the apartment. The doors shut making a dry sound and there is nothing left but silence. From some scarce stories I am able to piece together an image of an unattractive, reserved, busy with who knows what, angry, although intelligent old man. However, as I tried to get deeper into things and find out more information, the image started changing towards the opposite side!

Vldas Daumantas loved things and understood them well. I suspect that he even knew intuitively what were the stories of the things he owned. Did he love people? Perhaps just a few who were from his own surroundings and time. The reason for not liking people, I think, was that he knew them too well. Of course, he respected the wise men of the past. He wanted to leave his collection for future generations. He was a cosmopolitan and lived in his homeland as much time as he lived in other countries. I don't know if he missed his homeland at the time he was dying. His dream to leave the collection of his life, accumulated in one place

and marked with his surname, was not fulfilled. Lithuania did not remember his good deeds in spite of the fact that he was one of those people who helped his country to become strong. However, he must have died with Hope in his heart. He was a spiritually rich and strong man.

The life of Vldas Daumantas could be clearly divided into three periods. The first one was until the beginning of 1920. It was the period of studies and political activity in Switzerland. The second period was in Kaunas where he worked in the county court until 1944. The third period was his life in the United States. He lived in Chicago until his death in 1977.

Vladislavas Dzimidavičius (later Vldas Daumantas) was born in 1885 near Kražiai. His mother was the daughter of a well-known book smuggler Pranas Penikas. Vladislavas received his elementary education in Kražiai. Later, he continued to study in Libau (Liepāja). After that, until 1911 his address was: Kowno, Roman Catholic Seminary. There is a photo that survived from that period of time. In it we see Daumantas as a seminarian, standing in front of a music stand with a sheet of notes on it and playing a violin. His studies friend is sitting at the desk. Daumantas must have played other instruments as well. Among his belongings that survived, there was a cello and a "beginner to play a flute" that was rewritten in his handwriting. He must have known the taste of foreign languages at the time because there are some notes and diaries from that time written in German. Already then, like during all of his life until 1944, he constantly and purposefully was buying books and marking them with his last name on the title page. He used to give his books to bind to a good binder and he would even draw a picture of what the cover and the back of a book should look like.

Then came the year of 1912. Vladislavas Dzimidavičius graduated from the Seminary and left for Europe. At first, he settled in Munich. There he attended theatre plays and museums. There was a ticket booklet that survived. Many tickets



Lithuanian Information Bureau. Standing, from left: Dr. J. Purickis, Dr. Ehretas, Dr. V. Bartuška, Fr. Daumantas. Sitting in the middle: Fr. A. Steponaitis and two typists.

to all cultural institutions in the city were used. Undoubtedly, he visited bookstores, shops of antiques, libraries, and took a quite large amount of high-quality photographs. Maybe he even thought of staying and studying in Munich. However, in that same year he went to Switzerland where he studied history and art history at the Catholic University of Fribourg, a place favorite with Lithuanians. He graduated from the University in 1916. I think that one of the nobles Radvilas has studied there. The Lithuanian Students' Academic Society Rūta was founded at this University in 1899.

During World War I, a brave idea came to many Lithuanians who were scattered all over the world, including the ones in Fribourg, Switzerland. Maybe Lithuania could become an independent state again? The work of restoration of Lithuania as an independent state that was done by Lithuanians in emigration still needs to be researched by historians. There were several Lithuanian organizations in Switzerland at the time, and sometimes they did not agree among themselves. A lot of work was done by three priests: Purickis, Steponaitis, and Daumantas. All of them were members of "Rūta" (it was later renamed to "Lithuania"). These names were their pseudonyms. However, at that time they still signed their real surnames: J. Koribut, A. Steponavičius, and V. Dzimidavičius. They were fully

devoted to political activities and rarely mentioned their title "Father". Eventually, the title completely disappeared. Not one of the three served as priests after they came back to Lithuania.

One can read more extensively about the activities of Vldas Daumantas during the "Swiss period" in the memoirs written by his contemporaries and published during Smetona's time. However, the entrance in the latest edition of the Lithuanian encyclopedia is just a mere summary. Therefore, in this article, I will allow myself to present this period in Daumantas's life and work in more detail.

In an attempt to raise the issue of Lithuania in the press, in 1915, members of the Rūta Society contacted Juozas Gabrys (Paršaitis) who emigrated to France in 1905 and was the founder of the Information Bureau in Paris. He was publishing a magazine called "Les Annales de Nationalites". From time to time, he wrote articles himself and he was publishing brochures about Lithuania with the financial help from American Lithuanians. Gabrys asked the Rūta Society members to prepare as much a detailed publication about Lithuania as possible, and this way their cooperation started. In 1916, Gabrys moved the Lithuanian Information Bureau to Switzerland.

It was very hard to write about Lithuania at the time. Nobody in foreign countries knew anything about it, and nobody



From left: V. Daumantas, J. Bielskis, J. Gabrys, and R. Karuža in 1916 in Switzerland.

cared about its hardships and desires. In the fall, the news from Lithuania was very bad: the country was being destroyed by the occupiers, people were taken for forced labor, the situation of war prisoners in German and Austrian camps was absolutely hopeless. While the Red Crosses of other countries were taking care of their nationals, Lithuanians were starving, had no clothes, no books, no priests, no teachers who would organize schools for children in camps.

In the fall and winter of 1915, they had three tasks: to inform the press, to pre-



A fragment of the map of Lithuania by Daumantas.

pare the brochure, and to aid prisoners of war. And they had three people to execute these tasks. After the summer vacation, Steponaitis brought back the first 5 pounds that were donated by Lithuanians in England. It was the beginning. The Comité de secours pour prisonniers de guerre lituaniens (Relief Committee for Lithuanian Victims of the War) was established. Steponaitis became its Chairman, and Daumantas was the Treasurer. The Committee asked Lithuanian Americans for financial help and communicated with the German and Austrian authorities in an attempt to find out the number of prisoners and their situation.

At the end of 1917, Switzerland started feeling the effects of food shortage, and similar committees of various other nations were closed. The Lithuanian Committee was saved only because of personal contacts with the Swiss president. It was already standing firmly on its feet, renting out space for its headquarters and hiring employees. The times when just the three of them were writing letters and packing parcels were already in the past. The committee was closed in 1919, when prisoners of war had already started going back home, while those who remained in the country were taken care of by the Lithuanian Red Cross. The review of activities looks impressive: there were a total of 15,000

victims; in 1916 alone, there were 1,808 letters written on their behalf; in four years, 243,326.29 franks were received and used; 18,696 kilograms of bread were bought and shipped.

However, the work was not only charitable but political as well. After Gabrys moved to Switzerland, a number of conferences were organized, and representatives from America, Russia, and Lithuania prepared the platform of political battle and planned out the main directions and methods.

On February 12-14, 1916, the first Berne Conference took place. Representatives spoke for complete independence and protested against the attempts of the Poles to seize the rights of Lithuania in the political arena. For the first time, it caught attention of the press.

On April 25-30, 1916, the Hague Conference took place. All the injustices that were done by Russia to Lithuania were counted out and the participants of the Conference categorically refused to be a part of Russia ever again. It was not by mistake that the place of the conference and the names of the participants were left secret. The Russian Attaché in Switzerland, Count Bibikov, was very nervous and threatened to not allow anybody to return to the territory of the Russian Empire. However, they were destined to return to Independent Lithuania. Even though, at that time, they still had to have the courage.

On May 30 - June 4, 1916, the first Lausanne Conference took place. Participants approved to the main line.

On June 30 - July 4, 1916, the second Lausanne conference took place. There were some new resolutions adopted. Among them was the resolution to expand the activities of the Information Bureau, to appoint Purickis as secretary and Daumantas as treasurer, it was decided to establish the Supreme Council of Lithuania as a political organization with representatives of Lithuanians living in all countries. Until such Council would be organized (and it never was, only American Lithuanians sent their representative Bartuška for regular work

in Switzerland), the organization that would take up political work was named the Council Delegation, and until the second Bern conference in 1917, its functions were performed by the Lithuanian Information Bureau, in other words, by five Lithuanians who worked there: Gabrys, Purickis, Steponaitis, Daumantas, and Bartuška. On February 28, 1917, the sixth worker, Fr. K. Olšauskis, arrived. He did not arrive empty-handed. He brought the long-awaited permission from the Holy Father to organize the Lithuanian Day. The following practice was common in the war-devastated countries: Holy Father would call on all Catholics to donate in the churches for the benefit of the poor in that country. The donations would be transferred to the accounts of the committees. The tasks of sending out information and organizing were the responsibilities of the committees themselves. It was not easy for Lithuanians to get that permission.

However, finally Pope Benedict XV announced the Lithuanian Day and donated 20,000 liras himself. Immediately after that, the Comité Ezeitif was founded in Lausanne, and all six started an enormous information campaign. They rented the building of the Pansion Francaise, hired typists, translators, expeditors - a total of 20 people. Two printing shops worked day and night making huge quantities of bulletin copies in many languages. A loan of 30,000 franks was taken to pay for everything. In North America, the National Fund was responsible for the fundraising, in Russia it was the Central Lithuanian Committee in Petrapolis (now Sankt Peterburg). They decided to visit the European bishops themselves. This was accomplished as far as it was possible having in mind that it was the time of war with military censorship present. For example, Daumantas could not receive a visa to go to Italy. The Lithuanian Day was held differently in different countries. The donations collected in some countries, unfortunately, never arrived. It was even more difficult to write the final report. It was accustomed that the final account would be published in



Daumantas's apartment in Switzerland in 1919.



Daumantas's apartment in Kaunas.

the Vatican newspaper "Observatore Romano". Everyone blamed Daumantas not the objective reasons. The donations that were collected were sent to the Vilnius Council and the bishops in Lithuania. However, the final amount was never announced, not even during the Committee's last meeting on July 26, 1919.

The activities of the Information Bureau consisted of the publication of magazines "Litauen" (German editor

Purickis) and "Pro Lituania" (French editor Gabrys), contacting the press, writing various appeals, protests, and applications, and collecting the archives.

On August 21, 1916, an idea to publish a map of Lithuania was expressed for the first time. Daumantas took upon himself to carry out this idea and he worked on it for a couple of years. It has been several hundred years since Lithuania's borders were drawn on any map, the place names



The portrait of Vldas Daumantas in the Lithuanian Album, published in 1930.

were used in Polish, Russian or German transcriptions. It was the time of war, Daumantas lived in a foreign country so it was not easy for him to collect information. The volume of the work that was done is evidenced by the material that

survived. The sketch of the national coat of arms for the cover of the map is one of the first attempts of the official standard. Daumantas was the closest to the art and he took upon himself the responsibility to create Lithuanian postcards, post stamps and even the seal of the Council Delegation. Because the activities of the Delegation were to be kept secret, the documents were not signed, only marked with Daumantas's seal.

As far the activities of the Delegation, it was a complex political game, and, in most cases, it was played under hopeless circumstances: the Entente was leaning towards the union with Poland, Russia wanted to see Lithuania in its possession, for Germany we were war booty and it did not intend to give us up without a fight. Therefore, we can understand Gabrys's words when he said that he would deal with the devil himself if only it would benefit Lithuania. And there were dealings. Some dealt with the Entente, others - with German intelligence.

The end of 1917 was very intense. Conferences were held in Bern, Stockholm, Petrapilis, and Vilnius, where the Council

of Vilnius was elected. Those who went to the Vilnius Conference from Switzerland used fictional surnames. One could already feel Independence being somewhere very near. The smell of power could be felt too and differences between people became harsher. Those who were in Vilnius had greater chances, however at that moment, they were most suppressed by the Oberost. The idea of a monarchical unity with Germany came up in order to get moving from a standstill. Fortunately, the Germans did not use it in time. One of the stimulations to declare Independence on February 16, 1918 was the absence of a way out. Whatever will be will be, it could not get worse than it already was. The document reached Switzerland in a week. You can imagine the joy and the stir! The representatives of all foreign countries as well as the President of Switzerland were visited. The news were conveyed to the press. Daumantas, being a representative of the Vilnius Council in Switzerland, had a lot of work. The events were developing very rapidly. Lithuania became too small for people coming back from all over the world. The old disagreements between Gabrys and Voldemaras surfaced. One of the consequences of that disagreement was that Lithuania officially was not allowed in the Versailles Peace Conference. We were viewed as not solid enough. We had to stay in the wings. I have two pieces of indirect evidence that Daumantas was among them: a big map of Paris of the time and a hint in Daumantas's obituary. After Gabrys was defeated in this political duel, his Swiss team lost as well. None of them made a startling political career.

From 1919 to 1925, Daumantas's life was very intense. On January 10, 1919, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Augustinas Voldemaras, officially appointed him the Representative of Lithuania in Switzerland. It is very difficult to sort out when he was in Switzerland and when in Lithuania.

Daumantas had problems with the accounts of the funds of the Lithuanian organizations in Switzerland that were being closed. He tried to transfer

the money to Lithuania but the Swiss authorities did not like it, and the matters were sent to court. President Smetona himself interfered on Daumantas's behalf, and he was acquitted. A debt note survived which says: "We owe Daumantas a hundred thousand franks. Gigned: A.Smetona, J.Dobužis, Kaz. Pakštas, B. J. Mastauskas. Bern, 1918." Of course, they did not use that money for feasts or gambling. That money was needed for the common goal which was the future of Lithuania. But did they return the money? From what pocket? The note remains as a sad reminder of this fact.

In April-May, 1919, he participated in the negotiations with Poland regarding the recognition of the Independent Republic of Lithuania and the establishment of state borders. He even had a business card made for him that read: Vldas Daumantas. Representant du Ministere des Affaires Etrangeres a la Mission Lituanienne Opficielle en Pologne, Varsovie, Hotel Bristol (Representative of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs at the Lithuanian Operational Mission in Poland, Warsaw, Hotel Bristol).

Until 1925, Daumantas travelled in Europe and Scandinavia. He visited friends, paid off debts and borrowed again, visited antique shops, filled out orders for books in bookstores. In subsequent years, he was receiving book catalogues sent to his home in Kaunas. The hopes of the bookstores that he would order books were not empty. One can only imagine how much time and trouble was needed to bring back to Lithuania all the valuables accumulated in Switzerland! Large-format photographs of his apartment in Switzerland are exceptional in their quality. Perhaps only museums are photographed like that. True, it was not as superfluous as it would later be in Kaunas but there were carpets, porcelain, sculptures, paintings, more interesting pieces of furniture and books, books and more books. Even the bookshelves in which the remnants of his library are still kept came from Switzerland.

In about 1924, the life of Vldas Daumantas finally settled. His final address

at which he lived the longest was Duonelaičio 31 in Kaunas. He worked as an interpreter at the Kaunas County Court, and this job had no relationship to politics. He knew 20 languages and there was nobody in Kaunas who could boast of the same. It was the time when he financially helped out his mother and sister, and a pile of money transfer receipts bears testimony to that.

The memory of the contemporaries who wrote about the history of Lithuania's independence is short. In the "Lietuvos Albumas" (Album of Lithuania) published in 1920, we can find the portrait of Vldas Daumantas as the Representative of Lithuania in Switzerland. However, in the Lithuanian Encyclopedia that was started in 1933, his name is not mentioned in a separate entry.

I've been thinking about it all the time. If people are like that, is it worth to expect anything of them, to rely on them? It is much easier to work for the benefit for all mankind than for oneself. However, we only have one short life. Wouldn't it be better to communicate just with inanimate objects and books? They are silent but they are true friends. They would never disappoint. On the contrary, having felt love and attention, they would warm up and start talking. To a wise man, a company of himself is not a burden.

And so, Vldas Daumantas's apartment in Kaunas gradually started resembling a museum. Old friends and acquaintances remembered him from time to time but he did not offer himself to anyone. A small but steady company of friends was passing time merrily and intellectually. Here is another piece for the mosaic: a card from Stockholm written by Ignas Šeinius in 1931: "May You have a Happy Easter among interesting books, good coffee and other fun accessories of life".

Other articles should be written about Vldas Daumantas's childhood, his life in Kaunas and, especially, his life in Chicago where he lived until his death in 1977. They will undoubtedly be written by researchers and historians. After all, their work never ends.



The tombstone of Vldas Daumantas in the Lithuanian National Cemetery in Justice, Illinois.



The house on Duonelaitis Street in Kaunas in which Vldas Daumantas lived before World War II.



Gaiva Vaitkevičiūtė-Kuliesienė.

Poppy Seeds for the New Year

By Jana Sirusaitė-Motivans



Eastern Europeans, Lithuanians included, have a fondness for baked goods containing poppy seeds, especially during the Christmas and New Year's holiday season. According to Barbara Rolek, an Eastern European food expert, the tiny poppy seeds symbolize fertility and wealth and are usually served on New Year's Day to express hope for prosperity in the coming year.

Here are two recipes for baking with poppy seeds. The first one is for Aguony Sausainiukai (Lithuanian Poppy Seed cook-

ies). This recipe comes from Barbara Rolek's Eastern European food site 'The Spruce'. The second recipe is for Poppy Seed Cake. This recipe comes from Solo Foods, the makers of canned poppy seed cake and pastry filling. Both the cookies and the cake are not too sweet, and perfect with a cup of coffee or tea.

I hope the poppy seeds bring you luck in the New Year!

Aguony Sausainiukai (Lithuanian Poppy Seed Cookies)

INGREDIENTS

- 1 can (12.5 ounces) poppy seed filling
- 3 large eggs (room temperature)
- 2 tablespoons sour cream (room temperature)
- 2 tablespoons butter, melted and cooled
- 1/2 teaspoon baking soda
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1 pinch salt
- 1 cup flour

1. Break the eggs into a small bowl and gently beat with a fork.
2. In a large bowl, combine the poppy seed filling with the beaten eggs. Add the sour cream, butter, baking soda, vanilla, salt and flour. Mix thoroughly.



3. Heat the oven to 350 degrees. Scoop the cookie dough onto parchment-lined baking sheets. (I used a one tablespoon scoop).



4. Bake until the cookies are golden brown, about 15 minutes. Cool cookies on pan. Dust with powdered sugar, if desired. Store in an airtight container.

Poppy Seed Cake

INGREDIENTS

- 1 cup butter, softened
- 1 1/2 cups sugar
- 1 can (12.5 ounces) Solo poppy seed filling
- 4 eggs, separated
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 1 cup sour cream
- 2 1/2 cups flour
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 1 teaspoon salt

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Grease and flour 12-cup Bundt pan or 10-inch tube pan and set aside.
2. Beat butter and sugar in large bowl with electric mixer until light and fluffy. Add poppy seed filling and beat until blended. Beat in egg yolks, one at a time, beating well after each addition. Add vanilla and sour cream and beat just until blended.
3. In another bowl, stir flour, baking soda and salt until mixed. Add to poppy mixture gradually, beating well after each addition.
4. In another bowl, beat egg whites with electric mixer until stiff peaks form. Gently fold beaten egg whites into batter. Spread batter evenly in prepared pan.



5. Bake 60 - 75 minutes, or until cake tester inserted in center comes out clean. Cool in pan on wire rack for 10 minutes. Remove from pan and cool completely on rack. If desired, dust with powdered sugar just before serving.



January Anniversaries

695 years ago



Gediminas Letter.

On January 25, 1323 the second letter of Gediminas was written. There are 6 surviving transcripts of letters of Gediminas written in 1323–1324 by Grand Duke Gediminas. These letters are one of the first surviving documents from the Grand Duchy of Lithuania. Since they were sent to the Western Europe, the Pope, merchants, and craftspeople, they were written in Latin.

The second letter was written on January 25, 1323 to the German cities of Lübeck, Sund, Bremen, Magdeburg, Cologne and other cities in the Holy Roman Empire. Gediminas explained that the Grand Duchy of Lithuania was very tolerant to the Christians, but remained pagan and did not accept Christianity only because of brutal Teutonic Knights. He told about the first letter sent to the Pope and his intentions to baptize in the Catholic rite. Gediminas invited knights, squires, merchants, doctors, smiths, wheelwrights, cobblers, skimmers, millers, and others to come to the Grand Duchy and practice their trade and faith without any restrictions. The peasants were promised tax exemption for ten years. The merchants were also exempt from any tariffs or taxes. This letter is best known because Vilnius, capital of Lithuania, was mentioned in written sources for the first time. Therefore, 1323 is considered to be the official founding year of Vilnius. Gediminas is considered to be the city's founder even though the city existed years before Gediminas' reign. Also, Vilnius is unambiguously mentioned as the capital city. His invitation notably included German Jews as well as Christians, and its issuance is closely linked to the establishment of the Jewish community in Lithuania.

430 years ago

The Third Statute of Lithuania was published. The Statutes of Lithuania, originally known as the Statutes of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania were a 16th-century codification of all the legislation of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania and its successor, the Polish–Lithuanian Commonwealth. The Statutes consist of three legal codes (1529, 1566 and 1588), all written in Ruthenian language, translated

into Latin and later Polish. They formed the basis of the legal system of the Grand Duchy. The Third Statute was accepted in 1588 in response to the Union of Lublin, which created the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth. The main author and editor of this statute was the great Chancellor of Lithuania Leonas Sapiega. The statute was the first one to be printed (in contrast to the handwritten statutes before) in Ruthenian language using Cyrillic alphabet. Translations of the statute were printed in Muscovite Russia and also in Poland, where at that time laws were not thoroughly codified and the Lithuanian statute was consulted in some cases where respective Polish laws were unclear or missing.

The Third Statute re-organized and modified existing law, and also included new laws. Progressive features included a tendency toward severe penalties, including capital punishment, which was in line with the general trend in contemporary European law (cf. *Malleus Maleficarum*); also the statute codified that crimes committed by or against people from different social ranks were nevertheless punished alike, following the idea of equal worth of human life.

225 years ago



Second Partition of Lithuanian-Polish Commonwealth.



Title page of the Third Statute published in 1588.

On 23 January 1793, Prussia signed a treaty with Russia, agreeing that Polish reforms would be revoked and both countries would receive chunks of Lithuanian-Polish Commonwealth territory. It was the Second Partition of Lithuania. The Third Partition (1795) ended the existence of the Polish–Lithuanian Commonwealth. The second partition occurred in the aftermath of the War in Defense of the Constitution and the Targowica Confederation of 1792, and was approved by its territorial beneficiaries, the Russian Empire and the Kingdom of Prussia. Russian and Prussian military took control of the territories they claimed soon afterward, with Russian troops already present, and Prussian troops meeting only nominal resistance. In 1793, deputies to the Grodno Sejm, the last Sejm of the Commonwealth, in the presence of Russian forces, agreed to the Russian and Prussian territorial demands. The Grodno Sejm became infamous not only as the last sejm of the Commonwealth, but because its deputies had been bribed and coerced by the Russians (Russia and Prussia wanted legal sanction from Poland for their demands).

Russia took 97,000 sq mi, while Prussia took 22,000 sq mi. The Commonwealth lost about 5 million people; only about 4 million people remained in the Polish–Lithuanian lands. What was left of the Commonwealth was a small buffer state with a puppet king, and Russian garrisons keeping an eye on the reduced Polish army.

95 years ago

The Klaipėda Revolt took place on January 10-15, 1923 in the Klaipėda Region (Memel Territory, Memelland). The region, located north of the Neman River, was detached from East Prussia, Germany by the Treaty of Versailles and became a mandate of the League of Nations. It was placed under provisional French administration until a more permanent solution could be worked out. Lithuania wanted to unite with the region (part of Lithuania Minor) due to its large Lithuanian-speaking minority of Prussian Lithuanians and major port of Klaipėda (Memel) – the only viable access to the Baltic Sea for Lithuania. The Klaipėda revolt started on January 10, 1923. Arriving on trains to Kretinga and Tauragė, 1,090 volunteers (40 officers, 584 soldiers, 455 riflemen, 3 clerks, 2 doctors, 6 orderlies) crossed the border into the



Algirdas Jesaitis, one of the soldiers who was killed during the Klaipeda revolt.

region. Among them were Steponas Darius and Vladas Putvinkis. They wore civilian clothes and had green armband with letters MLS for *Mažosios Lietuvos sukilėlis* or *Mažosios Lietuvos savanoris* (rebel/volunteer of Lithuania Minor). Each man had a rifle and 200 bullets; the rebels had a total of 21 light machine guns, 4 motorcycles, 3 cars, 63 horses. In hopes to negotiate a peaceful retreat of the French and to avoid any casualties, shooting was allowed only as a last resort of self-defense. Galvanauskas ordered perfect behavior (politeness, no plunder, no alcoholic drinks, no political speeches) and no Lithuanian identification (no Lithuanian documents, money, tobacco, or matchboxes). In the Klaipėda Region, these men were met by local volunteers. The rebels met little resistance, but struggled with cold winter weather, lack of transportation and basic supplies (they were not provided with food or clothes, but were given a daily allowance of 4000 German marks). The contingent was divided into three armed groups. The first and strongest group (530 men commanded by Major Jonas Išlinskas codename *Aukštuolis*) was ordered to take Klaipėda. The second group (443 men led by Captain Mykolas Kalmantavičius codename *Bajoras*) was sent to capture *Pagėgiai* (*Pogegen*) and secure the border with Germany and the third (103 men led by Major Petras Jakštas codename *Kalvaitis*) to *Šilutė* (*Heydekrug*). By January 11, the pro-Lithuanian forces controlled the region, except for the city of Klaipėda. The French administrator *Pestiné* refused to surrender and fighting over Klaipėda broke out on January 15. The city was defended by 250 French soldiers, 350 German policemen, and 300 civilian volunteers. After a brief gunfight, a ceasefire was signed by *Pestiné* and *Budrys* and the French soldiers were interned in their barracks. During the fighting, 12 insurgents, two French soldiers, and one German policeman were killed. The Lithuanians were: Captain *Eduardas Noreika*, Lieutenant *Viktoras Burokevičius*, cadet *Vincas Stašelis*, privates *Vincas Vilkas*, *Jonas Simonavičius*, *Adolfas Viliūnas*, *Povilas Trinkūnas*, *Jonas Petkus*, *Antanas Ubavičius*, *Jonas Pleštys*. On January 16, the Polish ship *Commandant Piłsudski* entered the port of Klaipėda carrying Colonel *Eugène Trousson*, a member of the French military mission in Poland, and reinforcements to French troops. However, the ship soon departed as the fighting was over and ceasefire was in effect. The League of Nations accepted the *fait accompli* and the Klaipėda Region was transferred as an autonomous territory to the Republic of Lithuania on February 17, 1923. After prolonged negotiations a formal international agreement, the *Klaipėda Convention*, was signed in May 1924.

Security

...Lithuania has signed a 109 million euro contract for the NASAMS networked surface to air missile system from Norway's Kongsberg Defense & Aerospace. The system is designed to shoot down aircraft up to 15 km altitude. It is not an anti-missile system. Delivery is scheduled to start in 2018 and be completed in 2021. It will be stationed in Radviliškis in northern Lithuania but can be moved as needed.

...Lithuania's defense budget for 2018 will be 873 million euros or 2.06% of Gross Domestic Product. If the economy grows more than projected, the percentage will drop to 2% or below. This year the spending was 724 million euros or 1.8% of GDP. According to NATO the goal of 2% was met by the U.S., Greece, Great Britain, Estonia, Poland and Romania. All three Baltic counties are expected to reach the 2% goal in 2018.

...More than 2,300 troops from 12 NATO countries participated in a two-week military exercise, Iron Wolf II, in central and eastern Lithuania. The Lithuanian lead Enhanced Forward Presence (EFP) battalion practiced operation planning, defense and offense operations and interoperability. The EFP included troops from Germany, Belgium, Luxemburg, the Netherlands and Norway plus personnel from the U.S., Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Poland, and Slovakia. A video is available on YouTube courtesy of the NATO Channel.

...The former ambassador from Finland to Russia and author of a new book, "West or East – Finland and the return of geopolitics" raised the debate on Finland joining NATO. Passionately neutral during the Cold War the debate is being considered because of Russia's annexation of Crimea, war in eastern Ukraine and multiple violations of Baltic and Nordic airspace by Russian aircraft. Finland's closest military ally and non-NATO member, Sweden remilitarized Gotland, its island in the Baltic, and hosted military exercises with NATO in September that involved 20,000 troops from Sweden, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Lithuania, Norway and the U.S.. Finland maintains its defense via a 280,000 person conscript force.

...The Lithuanian Foreign Ministry has sent an apology to the Belarusian Foreign Ministry regarding the trespassing of Lithuanian border guards about 40 meters into Belarus on Sept. 28 in pursuit of suspected border violators at the Lavoriškės-Kotlovka checkpoint just east of Vilnius.

...A Russian Mi-8 helicopter crashed in the sea off Norway's Arctic Svalbard archipelago near Barentsburg, a Russian coal mining town of about 500 people. The helicopter, voice recorder and one body have been recovered but a search continues for the remaining crew of 5 and 3 passengers from the Russian Arctic and Antarctic Research Institute. Svalbard was formerly known as Spitzbergen and is controlled by Norway but other countries including Russia can exploit the natural resources.

...Injured Ukrainian soldiers are receiving rehabilitation in Druskininkai, in southern Lithuania near the Polish-Belarus border. Well known as a spa on the Nemunas River, its water contains large amounts of calcium, sodium, potassium, iodine, bromine, magnesium and iron. After the dissolution of the Soviet Union it experienced a slowdown in tourists from 400,000 per year but new features including one of the biggest indoor ski slopes in Europe are reviving attendance.

...Under the Lithuanian Criminal Code, public support for international crimes, Soviet or Nazi crimes against the Republic of Lithuania or its residents, denial or gross humiliation is deemed criminal. Vilnius Judge Robertas Rainys imposed home detention on Jurijus Subotinas (67), a Lithuanian citizen of Russian origin and resident of Visaginas, because he supported Soviet deportations of Lithuanians to Siberia on an online portal. He is confined to his home from 10 PM to 5 AM for 14 months. Subotinas said that he would appeal. Visaginas was established in 1975 for workers building and maintaining the Ignalina Nuclear Power Plant. The majority of the population is Russian and less than 20% Lithuanian. The nuclear facility was shut down in December 2009 and is being decommissioned. Over 5,000 people were employed in the plant.

...NATO has opened a new counterintelligence center in Krakow, Poland sponsored by Lithuania, Hungary, Romania, Croatia, Slovenia, Germany, Italy and the Czech Republic. This is the 24th such Center of Excellence which is coordinated by the Allied Command located in Norfolk, VA.

Politics

...The chairman of Lithuania's Liberal Movement party, Remigijus Šimašius, resigned as party leader after the Central Electoral Commission stated that they had violated laws when funding its campaign during the 2016 general election. Šimašius, also mayor of Vilnius, will not resign as mayor. The Liberal Movement's Vice Chairman, Eugenijus Gentvilas, will serve as interim Chairman.

...The Organized Crime and Corruption Reporting Project (OCCRP) and the online site, 15min, report that Artūras Skardžius, a member of Seimas, is under investigation for profiting from his wife renting land to a company that subleased parts of it to a windfarm. The rent is based on the price the wind farm earns for the electricity. To encourage renewable energy, the Lithuanian government is required to pay above market price, thereby subsidizing alternative energy. Between 2012 and 2016 the price for electricity increased by 35% and the rent had a similar increase.

...Two Vice Mayors of Tartu, Latvia were arrested for corruption- one for participating in decisions in which he had an undisclosed financial interest and one for bribery for providing money to organizations in exchange for kickbacks.

General

...President Dalia Grybauskaitė has been invited to speak at the prestigious World Economic Forum scheduled for January 23-26, 2018 in Davos, Switzerland. She is likely to speak on cyber threats. The founder of the Forum, Professor Klaus Schwab was in Vilnius for the annual Lithuanian Economic Forum where he presented his book, "The Fourth Industrial Revolution" which was recently translated into Lithuanian.

Business

...For the sixth time since 2013 Lithuania has raised the minimum wage. In July 2016 it went from 350 euros/month to 380. In January 2018 it will go to 400 euros/month. About 264,000 workers receive minimum wage.

...Invest Lithuania has published its third annual survey of the service sector, "Lithuania's Business Services Report". The full report can be downloaded for free. The services sector includes 14,000 employees and is growing at 1,000 to 2,000 per year and is on the forefront of the fourth industrial revolution. It enumerates the need for specialists in foreign languages, retraining, attracting foreign personnel and robotization of service centers. Currently Western Union, Barclays, and Danske Bank employ over 1,000 each in Lithuania.

...Brolis Semiconductor of Vilnius is establishing a R&D center in Ghent, Belgium. Brolis, with expertise in long wave infrared technology is cooperating with Ghent University and use their CMOS technology to develop silicon on insulator systems on a chip laser sensing application for the handheld healthcare and industrial markets. The effort was championed by the Vilnius office of Flanders Investment and Trade, an entity of the Belgian government.

...In 2008, Lithuanian Railways, a government entity, dismantled a 19 km railway track connection between Mažeikiai in northern Lithuania and Renge, Latvia to prevent Orein Lietuva a subsidiary of the Polish oil company PKN Orein from using other railway companies. The European Commission found that this obvious restraint of competition warrants a fine of 28 million euros and the rebuilding of the railroad track. It has given Lithuania Railways three months to come up with a plan of correction.

...The German manufacturer, Continental, will invest 95 million euros over the next five years in a plant in Kaunas and employ 1,000 skilled workers to make automotive electronics including adaptive cruise control, emergency brake assist, door and seat control as well as radar sensors.

Another German company, Hella, will invest 30 million euros in an automotive electronics plant in Kaunas to manufacture sensors, actuators and control modules with a staff of 250 beginning in mid-2018.

...During the German occupation of Lithuania in WWII, Jewish scholars defied Nazi orders to ship or destroy all Jewish records by hiding 170,000 records in six locations in Vilnius. After the war they were consolidated in the basement of St. George Church in Vilnius and in 2016 they were moved to the Martynas Mažvydas National Library of Lithuania. New York's YIVO Institute of Jewish Research will exhibit 10 documents until January 2018. Among the ten are a 1751 astronomy manuscript with descriptions and drawings of the solar system and an 1883 Russian censor's copy of a poem by Abraham Goldfaden, founder to the modern Yiddish theater.

...Lithuanian Aleksandr Sorokin (36), a casino employee, won the 35th running of the 246 km Spartathlon race in 22 hours, 4 minutes, 4 seconds. The race traces the path of the Athenian messenger, Pheidippides, who sought the help of Sparta against the Persians at Marathon. The race covers rough paths, vineyards, olive groves, steep hillsides and the 1,200 m ascent & descent of Mt. Parthenion in the middle of the night where the wind chill temperature can be in the single digit degree Celsius. The race started with 369 runners at the foot of the Acropolis at 7 AM and ended at 5 AM in the Peloponnese peninsula city of Sparta. On average only about one third of the starters are able to finish. The goal is to reach the statue of ancient Spartan King Leonidas within the 36 hour time limit and be awarded an olive wreath and a drink of water from the nearby Evrotas River.

...Lina Batulevičiūtė (28) of Vilnius won the 2017 women's Champion of Champions Modern Pentathlon in Doha, Qatar. The competition included swimming, riding, combined (shooting and running), and fencing. She recently won the World Military Championships in Drzonkow, Poland and aims for the 2020 Olympics in Tokyo.

...The Lithuanian government has decided to pay an average of 314 euros for rent during the 12-month integration period for asylum refugees. Currently they receive a one-time benefit of 204 euros per adult, 102 euros per child and 1,122 euros per unaccompanied minor when they turn 18. They are paid 204 euros per person per month for the first six months and 102 euros during months 7-12 to cover their basic needs (rent, utility services, food, transport, etc.). Many refugees have gone on to Germany after a few months because of their larger benefits.

...Kaunas University of Technology Professor Arminas Ragauskas has been nominated for the European Inventor Award for designing a non-invasive system to measure intracranial pressure. He is also part of a team including researchers at Vilnius University Hospital that were awarded "Paper of the Year" citation by the U.S. based Congress of Neurological Surgeons for presenting evidence that long episodes of impairment to brain autoregulation and circulation are associated with secondary injury to the brain and resulting mortality.

The Lithuanian Youth Center Celebrates 60 Years!

By Laima Apanavičienė
Translated by Daiva Peterson



The Lithuanian Youth Center in Chicago celebrates its 60th Anniversary.

2017 was rich with anniversary celebrations. Recently the Lithuanian Foundation grandly celebrated 55 years. The Lithuanian World Center celebrated a more modest 30 years but also with great fanfare. And December 3rd, the Lithuanian Youth Center invited guests to celebrate its 60 year anniversary. The Youth Center and Čiurlionis Gallery anniversary celebration began with Mass in the Jesuit chapel. It was a beautiful

and solemn start to the celebration. Five priests – 4 Jesuit fathers: the Provincial of Lithuania and Latvia, Father Vidmantas Šimkūnas, Father Algis Baniulis, Father Gintaras Vitkus, Father Lukas Laniauskas, and Father Jaunius Kelpšas offered the Mass. Music was performed by the Connecticut Lyric Opera soloist, Jūratė Švedaitė-Waller and the Chicago Lithuanian School students led by music teacher Dalia Gedvilienė.

After Mass everyone gathered in the grand hall for the banquet.

Banquet guests were shown a film by Algimantas Kezys about the history of how funds were raised for the Youth Center and about the construction that linked the Youth Center with the Jesuit father residence. Guests viewed the film with great interest. Many recognized friends, neighbors, and some even themselves. The hall echoed with laughter, applause and friendly exchanges. The film, part of archival material belonging to the Lithuanian Research Studies Center, was digitized and prepared for presentation by Arvydas Reneckis.

And what would a banquet be without a concert? The musical program featured the guest from Connecticut, soloist, soprano Jūratė Švedaitė-Waller. She was accompanied by pianist, music director of the Romanian "Madrigal Consort" as well as music director of Saint Benedict Catholic church, Luciano Laurentiu. The audience thanked the performers with enthusiastic applause for the beautiful concert.



Jesuit fathers: the Provincial of Lithuania and Latvia, Father Vidmantas Šimkūnas, Father Algis Baniulis, Father Gintaras Vitkus, and Father Lukas Laniauskas.



Chicago Lithuanian School students pictured with their music teacher Dalia Gedvilienė (second from left) and Consul General in Chicago Mantvydas Bekešius (center).

Following, Neringa Aleksonis, the evening's host and the Director of the Youth Center Board of Directors, greeted everyone gathered together and thanked the Jesuit fathers, all past and present Youth Center Board members, and benefactors for all the contributions that helped to create and continue to maintain the Youth Center's Lithuanian spirit.

There were also other speakers. The Youth Center and its leaders were congratulated by the Lithuanian Consul General in Chicago, Mantvydas Bekešius, and by the Jesuit Provincial of Lithuania and Latvia Father Vidmantas Šimkūnas. The Director of the Lithuanian Foundation, Saulius Čyvas, rejoiced that the Youth Center continues to thrive to this day and presented a check for \$15,000 in support of its activities. The Principal of the Chicago Lithuanian School, Vida Rupšienė, and the Assistant Principal, Vilma Poliuvienė, expressed their appreciation for the Center's spirit of cooperation and presented a gift to the Youth Center's Director, Neringa Aleksonis – a framed arrangement of photos of all the Lithuanian school students and teachers. Congratulations on the occasion of this special anniversary were also expressed by Julius Butkus, the head of the Lithuanian Rifleman's Union outside of Lithuania.

For the special occasion greetings were also sent from the Lithuanian Ambassador to the United States and Mexico, Rolandas Kriščiūnas.

Many guests came to share in the celebration of this special anniversary. Among them were the pastor of the Church of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, father Jaunius Kelpšas, the Director of the Blessed Jurgis Matulaitis Mission in Lemont,



Director of Čiurlionis Art Gallery Laima Apanavičienė.



Guests with the Youth Center Director Neringa Aleksonis (standing).

Jesuit Father Algis Baniulis, Jesuit Father Gintaras Vitkus, and Jesuit Father Lukas Laniauskas. The Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Lithuanian American Community Inc., Juozas Polikaitis, the President of the Lithuanian Foundation, Marius Kasniūnas, the head of the Lithuanian Scouts Association Albert Kerelis, the chapter heads of the Lithuanian American Community Inc, in Marquette Park, Aušrelė Sakalaitė, and Brighton Park, Viktoras Kelmelis. Attending the event were also the heads of various organizations, Youth Center benefactors, and guests.



Soprano Jūratė Švedaitė-Waller.

After Father Vitkus spoke the invocation, a member of the Youth Center's Board of Directors, Robertas Vitas, made a congratulatory toast and all the guests sang "Ilgiausių Metų" or wishes for a long life to the Center.

Guests enjoyed a delicious meal prepared by the Lithuanian Plaza Deli, took many photos, tried their luck at the lottery presented by Milda Šatienė, and did not hurry to leave for home. The Lithuanian Youth Center Board members are very grateful to those who created the Center, to those who supported its efforts and to those who continue to remain loyal supporters and visitors. It is enormously gratifying that the Center, built 60 years ago through the efforts of the Jesuit Fathers and the generous donations of its Lithuanian supporters, is still filled with the sound of children every Saturday attending the Chi-



Assistant Principal of the Lithuanian school, Vilma Poliuviene, presented a gift to the Youth Center's Director, Neringa Aleksonis – a framed arrangement of photos of all the Lithuanian school students and teachers.

cago Lithuanian school; that the Lithuanian Research Studies Center continues to gather, study and organize rich archival material about Lithuania and Lithuanians throughout the world, historical material about their fight for freedom, material concerning musicology, folk art and photography; that the Center continues to be a place where Lithuanian scouts and šauliai (Lithuanian Riflemen's Union) meet; that houses the flourishing Čiurlionis Gallery; and that has a welcoming cafe where people look forward to gathering after Sunday Mass. Thank you to all for their work and dedication, so that the Center would continue to remain an important, active and welcoming Lithuanian hearth.

Baltic Studies Summer Institute (BALSSI)

Indiana University's Summer Language Workshop is proud to host the 2018 Baltic Studies Summer Institute (BALSSI), offering intensive beginning Estonian, Latvian, and Lithuanian language courses. Courses will be held from June 4-July 27, 2018 on the Bloomington campus.

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 extracurricular 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. Participants study 4 hours a day and earn 8 undergraduate credits or 6 graduate credits of First-Year Lithuanian. All courses are contingent upon enrollment and funding.

More information: 815-855-2889, languageworkshop@indiana.edu, <http://indiana.edu/~swseel/languages/details/lithuanian>

calendar

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

ONGOING

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 General 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

JANUARY 2018

January 28, 2018, 12:30 p.m.
Lithuanian Research and Studies Center Celebration and Concert
 at the World Lithuanian Center in Lemont, IL

FEBRUARY 2018

February 8,9,10, 2018
Mirga Gražinytė-Tyla will conduct Philadelphia Orchestra
 performances at Kimmel Center.

February 23 - March 5, 2018
Lithuanian Athletic Union of North America organizes its snow ski and winter trip
 in Aspen Mountain Resort, Aspen, Colorado.
 Info: Ed Mickus at edmickus1@aol.com or Dr. Vytas Saulis at vsaulis@sbcglobal.net

February 28
The Philadelphia Chamber Music Society presents pianist Ieva Jokubavičiūtė
 at the American Philosophical Society, 105 S. 5th St., Philadelphia, Pa.

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.

February 16, 2018, 6 p.m.
Lithuania's Independence 100th Anniversary Celebration
 at JW Marriott Essex House New York, 160 Central Park South, New York, NY 10019. Organizers: New York City Lithuanian Community and Lithuanian Consulate in New York. Robert Nagys tel: 212-484-4686, E-mail: Robert.nagys@marriott.com.

JUNE/JULY 2018

June 1-3, 2018
American Association of Baltic Studies Conference
 Stanford University, Palo Alto, Calif.
 Info: aabs-balticstudies.org

June 30 - July 6
Dainu Svente: Lithuania's Centenary Song Celebration
 Vilnius and Kaunas, Lithuania
 Info: dainusvente.lt/en/programme/



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