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LITHUANIAN-AMERICAN NEWS JOURNAL

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March 2018



Dear Americans of Lithuanian Heritage,

On the occasion of the 100th anniversary of the declaration of Lithuania's independence in 1918, it is my honor and joy to greet you on behalf of the Lithuanian American Community of the USA.

Let us celebrate a century of Lithuania's democracy and resourcefulness, remember the devastating loss of its sovereignty, and rejoice in the courageous restoration of both the sovereignty and democracy of the country of our origin.

May we honor our heritage by making Lithuania known throughout the world and may we share our insights, talents, and experience with the land that history has reserved for Lithuanians on the shores of the Baltic Sea.

*Sigita Šimkuviėnė
President
Lithuanian American Community, Inc.*





Front Page: Lithuanian Americans in Chicago celebrate the 100th Anniversary of restored Lithuania. Photo by Sandra Šcedrina, Studio Light.

Back page: Lithuanian athletes at the 2018 Winter Olympics in Pyeongchang, South Korea. Biathlete Tomas Kaukėnas is the flag bearer during the opening ceremony.

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Celebrating Lithuania's Independence in Palm Beach, Florida. Photo by Gabija Karlonaitė and Arvydas Račiūnas.

Dear Reader:

This year, Lithuanians all over the world rejoice celebrating the 100th Anniversary of restored Lithuania on February 16th and the 28th Anniversary of re-established Lithuania on March 11th. Many Lithuanian American communities celebrated by hoisting Lithuanian tri-color flags high, saying speeches, having concerts, dancing and singing, toasting to freedom in banquets and galas, and lighting up major buildings in town with the colors of Lithuanian flags. Celebrations are wonderful opportunities for us to be united, to express joy over what was achieved and to look into our collective future as Americans of Lithuanian descent. On this occasion, I would like to cite President Ronald Reagan who in his speech at the Republican National Convention in 1964 said:

"Freedom is never more than one generation away from extinction. We didn't pass it to our children in the bloodstream. It must be fought for, protected, and handed on for them to do the same, or one day we will spend our sunset years telling our children and our children's children what it was once like in the United States where men were free."

Seeing young children participating in the celebrations, singing Lithuanian songs and dancing Lithuanian dances I hope that we are passing on to them the patriotism and the knowledge of how to fight for freedom and how to defend it so we would never have to tell our grandchildren what it was like in Lithuania where men were free.

Karilė Vaitkutė
Editor

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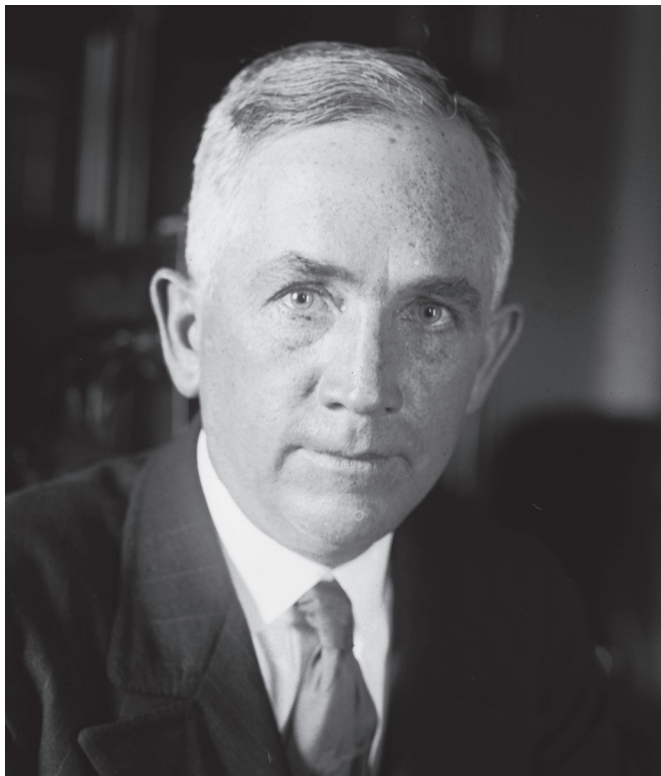
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Lithuanian – U.S. Relations in 1918–1940

By Prof. Juozas Skirius



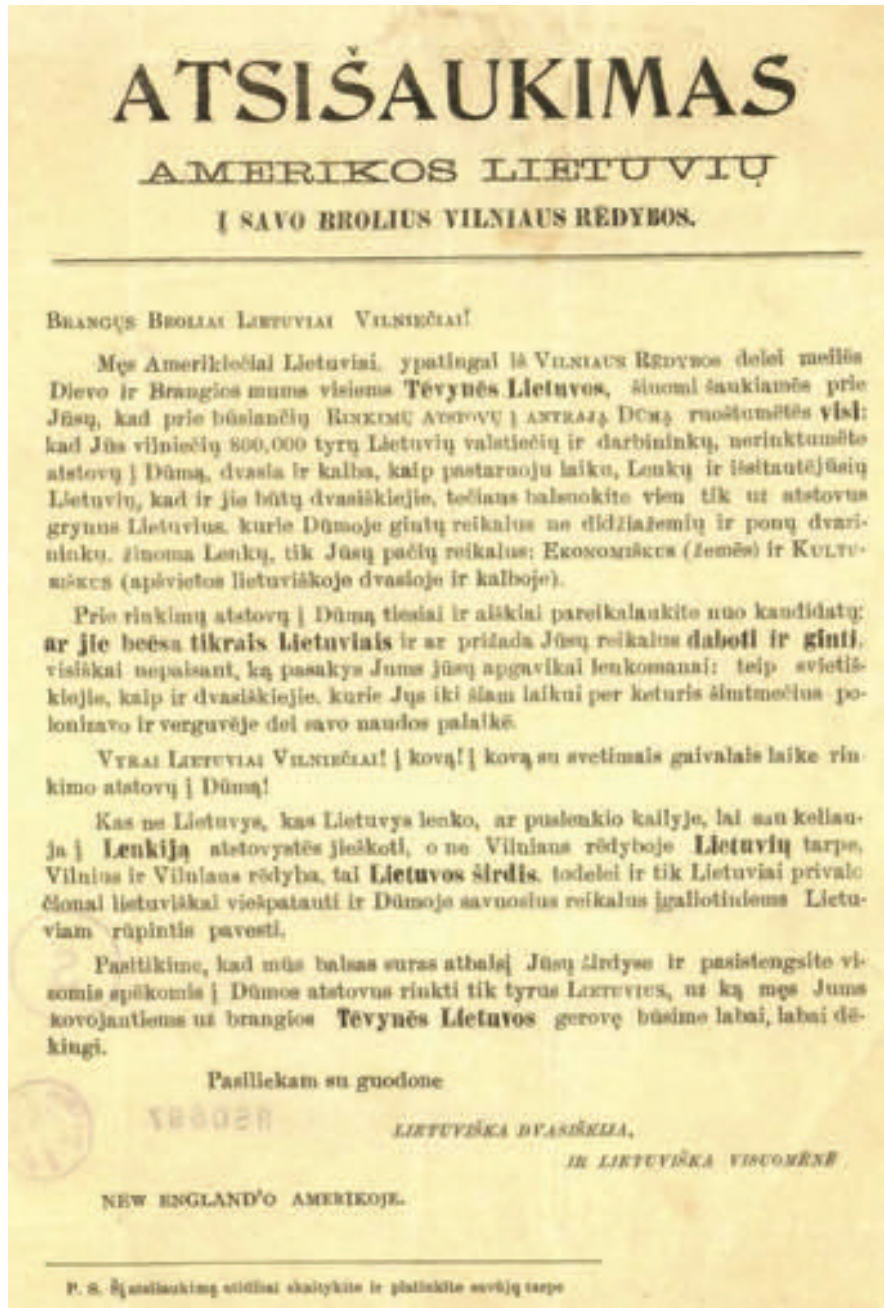
Map of Lithuania.



Norman H. Davis.

THE KLAIPĖDA AND VILNIUS ISSUE IN AMERICA

The Lithuanian Government really anchored its hopes in the USA when dealing with the territorial problems of Lithuania because it knew that in 1922 the American Government was inclined to attribute the Klaipėda region to Lithuania. Therefore, it was not a coincidence that in 1923, when this issue became a topic in international relations, Lithuania requested the U.S. mediation. The American position represented by Norman Davis, Chairman of the Nations Union Commission on the Klaipėda issue constituted in 1924, was clear – to give Klaipėda to Lithuania in exchange for the Vilnius region, which was occupied by Poland. The American decisions and proposals concerning Lithuania were more favorable than those of other Western countries. The Polish representatives were against Davis' proposal because they wanted more rights to the Nemunas and Klaipėda seaport. Nevertheless, when on March 23, 1939, Hitler's Germany forced the Lithuanian Government to surrender the Klaipėda Region; American Government officials accepted that fact in silence and thus approved the occupation of Klaipėda by Germany. It was conditioned by the U.S. neutrality in European policy, as well as through fear of heightened tension. This could be proven by the circulation of the American media of the day making mention of the possibility of the outbreak of war in Europe in the context of events related to Klaipėda.



Proclamation published by Lithuanian Americans in 1907 urging Vilnius Region Lithuanians to elect true Lithuanians to Russian Duma (Parliament). Photo credit: Martynas Mažvydas National Library of Lithuania.

The American Government tried to settle relations between Lithuania and Poland but it did not demand the return of the city and region of Vilnius to Lithuania. America tried to neutralize the tension in relations between the two countries by involving them both in various conventions and agreements. The American Government invited both Poland and Lithuania to sign the well-known Briand-Kellogg pact, but the Lithuanian Government took this invitation coolly since it knew that signing thereof could prevent it from regaining Vilnius.

In order to tilt the balance of the U.S. Government's position more in Lithuania's favor, Lithuanian politicians had to seek out different and more effective forms of action. Beginning in September 1924, the Vilnius Liberation Committees of American Lithuanians were organized in Chicago and then in other colonies of Lithuanian emigrants. They started active anti-Polish publicity campaigns with a view to turning the U.S. Government's attention to the most agonizing problem for Lithuania. Beginning in the year 1930, representatives of the Vilnius Liberation Union (VVS) organization in Kaunas (Prof. M. Biržiška, Prof. F. Kemėšis, V. Uždavynys and others) regularly went to visit American Lithuanians. Their aim was to invite the emigrants to organize and join the branches of the Vilnius Liberation Union in Lithuanian colonies in America, to collect money for cultural and educational institutions in Vilnius and thereby try to unite the emigrants in joint activities for the benefit of Lithuania. Every year, on February 16th and October 9th (the day Vilnius was surrendered to Poland in 1920), there were mass meetings organized in Lithuanian colonies in America, with speeches, the collection of donations, various newspaper articles, resolutions addressed to the U.S. Government and the Nations Union and protests addressed to the Embassy of Poland in Washington demanding restoration of the rights of Lithuania to its capital Vilnius. Through its envoys in Washington – Kazys Bizauskas (1923-1928), Bronius K. Balutis (1928-1933) and Povilas Žadeikis (1935-1957) – the Government of Lithuania supported the movement of American Lithuanians because it was of great political importance for Lithuania and particularly for emigration. In

general, as far as the interwar Lithuanian - U.S. relations were concerned, the Lithuanian Government focused its attention on emigration.

ECONOMIC COOPERATION

Economic cooperation contributed to the consolidation of international relations between Lithuanian producers and the American Lithuanians. Trade relations started with the signing of economic agreements in Paris in 1919. It should be noted that



October 9, 1925 Draugas First Page.

the Americans were first among the Western nations, granting six million dollars worth of economic support to Lithuania. It was a loan granted according to the agreements signed on April 10, May 7, and June 30, 1919. Lithuania received train engines and cars, munitions, medicaments, food, etc. Some goods, however, were of low quality, and Lithuania had to pay high interest according to the Lithuanian-American agreement dated September 22, 1924. Like major debtors of the USA (Great Britain, France, and others), the Lithuanian Government duly executed payments until 1933, when these payments were completely suspended. Negotiations continued until 1940 as the parties tried to find a mutually acceptable outcome.

By the year 1921, the American Relief Administration under the leadership of H. Hoover had shipped food products to Lithuania valued at over 1 million dollars, and the American Red Cross (ARC) had sent medicaments, munitions and other goods purchased with 130 thousand dollars donated by American Lithuanians.

As far back as before Lithuanian independence was recognized in 1922, the first Lithuanian ambassador in Washington Jonas Vileišis (1919-1921) and the second one Voldemaras



Lietūkis Company building in Kaunas.



Maistas products. Photo credit: Balzekas Museum of Lithuanian Culture.



Maistas Company Advertisement. Photo credit: Martynas Mažvydas National Library of Lithuania.

Čarneckis (1921-1923) had done much for the benefit of Lithuania: motherland. The American Lithuanians granted a 1.8 million dollar.

U.S. statistics started recording data on trade turnover with Lithuania only in 1921. Since trade statistics were low, America opened its consulate in Kaunas with a view of trade development and dealing with the problems faced by migrants. Beginning in 1923, trade relations between Lithuania and America became increasingly stable. This resulted not only from recognition of the Lithuanian Government but also from the opening of Lithuanian consulates in New York (1923) and Chicago

(1924), as well as the signing of a trade agreement in Washington on December 23, 1925. America's share in the total trade turnover of Lithuania was not significant, but more critical was that Lithuania had an inactive balance of trade. Lithuania exported timber, leather, fur, cellulose, small amounts of butter, sweets, amber, folk art articles, etc. It was difficult for Lithuanian goods to win their way into the American market. Lithuanian merchants were exposed to impediments such as high requirements, legal profits, the absence of means of transport and enormous distances. From 1929, Lithuania started exporting the most important commodity – meat and meat products. In 1937, Lithuanian companies Maistas, Lietūkis and Pienocentras opened their trade mission in New York and started the direct export of their goods to the U.S. With the intention of boosting sales of Lithuanian goods in America, the Lithuanian The government tried to involve American Lithuanians. In 1930, the Economics Centre of American Lithuanians was established (initiator – P. Žadeikis, Consul General in New York) with a view of uniting American Lithuanians engaged in business who could be mediators between Lithuanian and American societies (including the American Lithuanians) in their economic relations.

Unfortunately, the disunity of the Lithuanians and ravages of the economic crisis (1929-1933) to the U.S. economy hindered prompt achievement of the desired results. Moreover, when in 1939 Lithuania lost Klaipėda, Lithuanian exports to the U.S. shrunk because of the termination of production of the major exported good – cellulose. America exported agricultural

equipment, cars, petrol, lubricants, chemicals and luxury goods to Lithuania, and since these goods were more expensive than the Lithuanian goods being exported to the U.S., the result was a negative trade balance for Lithuania. All in all, it was the economic connection that the U.S. was mainly interested in. In his interview with the American Lithuanian newspaper Vieniybė in 1937, the newly appointed U.S. ambassador to Lithuania O. Norem said that one of his primary duties was the consolidation of U.S.-Lithuanian trade relations. Lithuania, though, expected more from the United States – protection and support in European policy issues.

The Subject of Discussions -- Lithuanian Heritage Abroad

By Dalia Cidzikaitė, Ph.D., Senior Researcher at Martynas Mažvydas National Library of Lithuania Lithuanian Studies Unit
Translated by Karilė Vaitkutė



Participants of the discussion. Photo credit: Martynas Mažvydas National Library of Lithuania.

On January 26, 2018, a round-table discussion "Lithuanian Heritage Abroad" was organized by the Martynas Mažvydas National Library of Lithuania. The discussion was a good opportunity to review the situation of the Lithuanian heritage abroad, to identify the challenges and problems, and to share the information about accomplishments and future plans.

The event was started by Augustinas Žemaitis, the participant and the leader of the project "The Goal is America" (Tikslas -- Amerika) that started last fall. He told about a 16-day trip to the United States of America where he and his team visited Lithuanian places, photographed the objects of Lithuanian heritage and recorded the stories told by local people. Augustinas Žemaitis became interested in the Lithuanian heritage outside of Lithuania in 2012. He is convinced that his project is important not only to the Lithuanians in the USA, but also to Lithuania itself. In the opinion of the leader of "The Goal is America" project, new ways of preserving the Lithuanian heritage abroad have to be found. He suggested that volunteering or tourism could be those new ways.

The Lithuanian Chief Archivist Ramojus Kraujelis stated that presently, unfortunately, there are not enough resources for recording Lithuanian heritage abroad. At the same time he was pleased with the initiative of the participants of "The Goal is America" project. He proposed that the project should be continued not only in America but also in other countries that have Lithuanian heritage. Although the lack of financial and human resources is felt both in Lithuania and abroad, there have been some achievements in this area. In 2010-2011, joint plans with Lithuanians abroad were made to manage the archives of Lithuanian émigrés. The goal was set to identify and describe the heritage in the US, Australia, and other countries. Each year, at least one, and most often two groups of Lithuanian archivists travel to different sides of the world to research and describe the heritage. Mr. Kraujelis mentioned a new tendency: more

and more of the written heritage accumulated in the Lithuanian communities in different countries comes to Lithuania. Recently, Lithuania has received a large amount of such documents from Australia. Lithuanians in Brazil are also expecting help from the archivists from Lithuania.

Arvydas Reneckis, who is currently filming a documentary about the history of Lithuanian Americans, represented the Lithuanian Research and Studies Center, based in Chicago, Illinois. He emphasized that the Center is one of the pillars of Lithuanians in North America. "Moving it or, in other words, removing the heritage that has been accumulated in the Center during several past decades would be the same as cutting the branch on which we are sitting," the representative of the Center said. He suggested that instead of rushing, a precedent should be made that would serve as an example for future exchanges and projects. During his visit in Lithuania, Mr. Reneckis has already started negotiations with the Lithuanian State Central Archives regarding the digitization of video and audio archives kept in the Lithuanian Research and Studies Center.

Ramūnas Kondratas, Director of the Vilnius University Museum, did not hide the fact that the Lithuanian heritage abroad (in particular, in the United States) is undergoing difficult times. In some places, the future of the buildings where the archives are housed is not certain, in other places, the document storing conditions are not appropriate. According to Mr. Kondratas, the most important heritage has to be immediately digitized and stored in an easily accessible digital archive of global Lithuania.

Participants of the event acknowledged the necessity of a private initiative in preserving the Lithuanian heritage abroad because personal interest in the heritage reaches much further and deeper than paid initiatives. "The Goal is America" project is a great proof of that.

Lithuanian Independence Celebrations



Lithuania celebrates the 100th Anniversary of Independence. The Cathedral Square in Vilnius. Photo by Alfredas Pliadis.



The Empire State Building in New York was lit up with Lithuanian flag colors.



Lithuanian Americans in San Francisco rejoice on February 16th in front of the City Hall lit up with Lithuanian flag colors.



Lithuanian Americans celebrate Lithuania's Independence in the City Hall of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.



Lithuanian Americans in Seattle celebrated Lithuania's independence with a concert.



Lithuanian Americans in St. Petersburg, Florida celebrate Lithuania's independence.



Lithuanians of New Jersey celebrate the 100th Anniversary of Lithuania.



Times Square in New York City is lit up in Lithuanian flag colors for February 16th.

Poems

By Daiva Valeria Karuža (-itė)



VIBRATIONS OF THE LITHUANIAN MUSE

Energy
is the captive
of music/caught
In a soft vibration of sound,
The flow
Caught up into a movement
Of air/
Into my spine of liquid sun.
I am a bird
A mad mourning bird
Escaped in a cacophony of feathers
I shed skins
A žaltys snake/a
frantic lizard moving up beams of light. The sun!
I am mad for/
Dance for
the sun!
My spine
Bent and
Twisted.
A welcome dance
A freedom dance
In and out of music/
Mercury
I shatter into the SUN!!

THE EARTH IS TOO COMFORTABLE

The sun breaks cutglass
Against stone edges.
While the wind sings a soft song
Seducing the rivers: Come
Out of the ground. Out:
The earth is too comfortable,
The rock only monuments, monoliths.
Latter, I will gather up the sun for you
Out each shattering to sleep,
I will sing to them
The rocks like babies in my apron.
I will close their earthen eyes
Turn them into universes
Into nighttime galaxies.
When you leave I become wind,
A wash in the sun
Till you put it together again.

THE MOON BEING TOO FULL

In the corner of a dream
we were locked inside a plastic globe on my dresser.
and I, who am illusioned with the thought
that I spin the world,
made it spin on a silver threaded axis,
wove it into a blanket to cover us and hide us
from the red moon
as it crept through the obstructions of our bones
making shadows inside of our systems.

A love formed on their spinning wheels;
Precious are that ancestors,
they lend us their transparent threads to spin.

We are making invisible weavings.

They drape across our caverns
Which we have so carefully constructed.

Outside sound breaks the blue moon.,
Cut glass against the storm,
with sharp stone edges.

SPHINX

I don't know
if I believe in your appearances,
turning sudden sharp corners
out of the sphere of my vision,

Touching what you
think
Are the edges of wings,

winding back around yourself
where you close your eyes

And lions lie back to relax
between your hard, slender fingers.

AMANI HOUSE

In the homeless shelter, angels weep
And children sleep
wiping a glistening tear away from the awesome eye,
tired of waiting at the window
for the mother, that did not come home that night.

The nuns, they left just a while ago
and already
addicts wash their cravings
in the same sink,
that mothers wash their babies –
Chasing the gray ghosts of the highs gone by,

Waiting to live
and waiting to die
Fighting and waiting just to stay alive

Chiming doorbells ring
On and on:

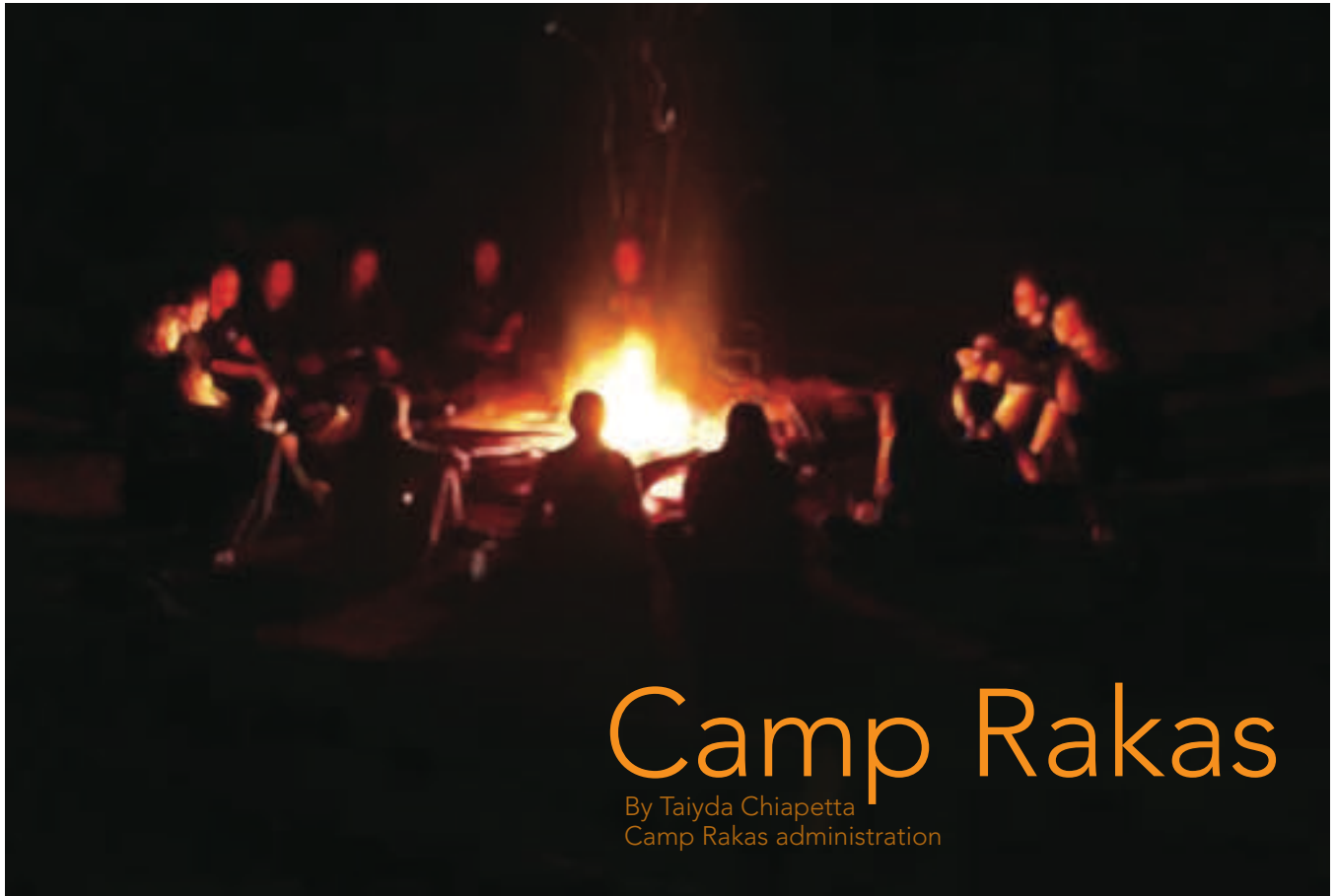
...and on and on.
No one is let in.
Inside the fortress wall of the ex-convent:
A bullet hole through the head of a nun's picture,
And the glass is shattered,
A broken needle is left out on the antique dresser.

It does get old, even for the young, as it goes on and on
And high and low

And on and on.....

As children weep
And angels sleep

Inside the old safe fortress walls of the ex-convent
In the homeless shelter.



Camp Rakas

By Taiyda Chiapetta
Camp Rakas administration

Camp Rakas is a scout based youth camp located in Custer, Michigan, about 260 miles from Chicago. The 80 acres originally belonged to Chicago based pharmacist Frank Rakas. He valued the importance of scouting and leased his 80 acres to the Chicago scouts. The lease was signed in 1956 for a payment of \$1 per year for 50 years. After the 50 years were up, the scouts were able to purchase the land for a token price from the family.



For over 60 years, the Chicago scouts have benefited from the Rakas family's kind gesture.

Lithuanian immigrants settled in a variety of areas, including parts of Michigan. Between 1880 and 1924 about 1200 Lithuanians established farms in and around Custer, Michigan. Saint Mary's church was an active Lithuanian parish with readings still being read in the Lithuanian language until 1960. Parts of the Church décor and façade have traditional Lithuanian motifs. The area is still home to people of Lithuanian heritage.

Camp Rakas has evolved throughout the years. In the beginning, trees needed to be cleared for camp sites and basic roads within the camp. Each year more scouts attended the camp and basic improvements were necessary. Wells were dug, electric lines were laid, and phone lines were put in. Between 1965 and 1975 a variety of buildings were erected: kitchens, pavilions, bath houses, first aid center. After 62 years, many of the buildings have taken their toll and major renovations are underway. Bath houses have been rebuilt or updated as well as kitchen sites. The Lithuanian scouting movement is celebrating 100 year anniversary and three jubilee camps are planned: Australia celebrated in January, Lithuania will celebrate in early July, and Camp Rakas will host the third of the celebrations. It is expected that up to 600 will attend the Custer camp for the celebration.

The purpose of the Lithuanian scouts is to organize people of Lithuanian descent under the principles of Robert Baden-Powell and thereby provide them with additional opportunity to become useful citizens of their country, sincere members of their faith and constructive members of their community. Camp Rakas is an outdoor opportunity for the scouting youth to achieve its mission statement. The camp is used primarily in the summer to host a two-week camp for scouts from the Chicago area and other Midwest cities. Lithuanian scouts from all over the states are welcome to partake in the camps offered. Every other year, a sailing camp is run for a week, alternate years bike trips from Lemont, IL to Custer, MI are organized. Scout leaders take advantage of the beautiful camp during all seasons with a variety of weekend trips.

Scouting has left an impression on the scout youth; for some it has continued to be a way of life and for some, certain remnants of the program have stayed with them. The memories formed during camp days will last forever: working together as a unit, fun nature outings, singing and bonding around campfires, the early morning whistles, night games in the forest, cooking over an open fire or just listening to raindrops on the tent. All of these memories, in one way or another unite the scouts. Camp Rakas can truly be called a second home by many. For information about the camp or if you'd like to make a donation, go to www.camprakas.org



Professor Liudas Mažylis Shares the Joy of His Discovery

By Gabrielė Petraitytė | Translated by Karilė Vaitkutė



Vincas Kudirka Lithuanian School students meet with Professor Liudas Mažylis.

In February of 2018, Liudas Mažylis, a political science professor at the Vytautas Magnus University in Kaunas, visited a number of Lithuanian communities in the United States and shared his story of the discovery of the Act of February 16th. While the celebration of the 100th Anniversary was being hindered by various political circumstances, Professor Mažylis was able to give Lithuania the greatest gift on the occasion of the first centennial of our modern state. During the meetings, professor shared the joy of his discovery, vividly described the personalities that were creating our state, introduced the circumstances of their era, and outlined the guidelines for further research that would be needed in order to better understand the processes of creating the state of Lithuania.

The Act of February 16th is one of many attempts to write the document

At the first glance, the reestablishment of the state of Lithuania in 1918 seems like a miracle that happened under lucky circumstances. However, according to the professor, intense efforts to

restore the independent state have been taking place since the insurrections of the 19th century, and as a result of constant work in the direction of the restoration of the state, it was in 1918 that the circumstances were right for it, educated people of that time reacted very promptly, and the goal was achieved. The Act of February 16th that was so joyfully discovered was not the first and only document created in attempts to validate the state of Lithuania. At that time, such acts were called formulas, and it was very likely that the formula of December 11th, not February 16th, could have been established, and Lithuania could have been linked with Germany. Lithuanians were looking for various ways to reestablish the state, and various options were being considered. One of them was union with Germany. Another one was creating a constitutional monarchy by offering Lithuanian throne to the German noble Wilhelm, 2nd Duke of Urach who, by the way, did become King Mindaugas II for a very brief period of time but later his election was considered illegal. In total, there were approximately twenty such formulas prepared.



Lithuanians of Elizabeth, New Jersey meet with Professor Liudas Mažylis.

The Signatories

During World War I, in 1915 Lithuania was occupied by Germany. It was only towards the end of the war when Germany started to weaken that the Lithuanians managed to persuade Germany to agree to the formation of a council of 20 people who would be allowed to make autonomous decisions. After forming such a council, in 1917 the attempts to reestablish the independence of Lithuania began.

During the meetings with Professor Mažylis, family members of several Signatories of the Act of Independence who live in the United States were present. They added to the story offering their lively reminiscences. In Los Angeles, Professor visited the daughter of Jonas Vailokaitis, while relatives of Saliamonas Banaitis and Petras Vileišis came to the meeting with Professor in Connecticut.

During the meetings, Professor often quoted Petras Klimas' diary, which reflects not only the political events of 1917-1918 and the inside life of the Lithuanian Council but also gives savory details from the lives of its members, future signatories of the Act of February 16th. Professor Mažylis described Antanas Smetona's hot temper, Jonas Basanavičius' authoritative strength. The signing of the Independence Act was vividly painted in various, sometimes even slightly comical, shades of accidental events that occurred in the lives of the signatories. Professor Mažylis urged everyone to read the diary of Petras Klimas who was an especially subtle diplomat. By the way, the diary is much better available on this side of the Atlantic. It was published in Chicago in 1988.

The first modern state of Lithuania

The first modern state of Lithuania was, in a sense, much more modern than we could expect or imagine. The Council of Lithuania sought to represent various political trends. Among Catholics, there was one representative of Evangelical Reformed Church, and there were Jewish people in the Council. After the proclamation of independence, the Constituent Assembly of Lithuania represented Poles and Germans as well. Gabrielė Petkevičaitė-Bitė, a prominent Lithuanian writer, and feminist,



Professor Liudas Mažylis with LAC President Sigita Šimkuvienė.

chaired the first session of the Constituent Assembly of Lithuania. She was not the only woman in the Parliament.

In its Constitution, the first modern state of Lithuania of the 20th century emphasized the equality of all citizens of the state: "All citizens of Lithuania, men and women, are equal in the eyes of the law. No special privileges shall be granted and no rights shall be diminished because of citizen's origin, religion, or nationality."

Professor Mažylis had ten meetings with Lithuanian communities. Four of them took place on the West Coast and six on the East. Despite the fact that professor has been telling his story of the discovery of the Act of February 16th multiple times, every time he managed to share new and interesting details.

Professor Mažylis thoroughly examined the circumstances of the writing of the Independence Act well as its path to Germany where it was kept for 99 years. He now joyfully shares the symbolic occurrences of the discovery of the act: he was shown the road by a man named Angel, and an archivist by the name of Wilke (vilkė – she-wolf) strictly prohibited him to touch the document. Professor recalled that prior to his discovery he wrote to himself about how he would have to live further if the Act of February 16th could not be found. He also said he was afraid to tell anyone that he was going to look for it.

The meetings of Lithuanian Americans with Professor Mažylis were filled with emotions. Professor called them "the sharing of joy". Professor's visit was made possible thanks to the Lithuanian Consulate in Los Angeles and Valdas Buožis, Vice-Chairman of the Board of the Lithuanian American Community.

this month in history

March Anniversaries

160 years ago



On March 1, 1858, Kazimieras Prapuolenis, a Roman Catholic priest, recipient of the Orders of Gediminas and of Vytautas the Great, was born in Lauckaimis, Šakiai County. He studied at the theological seminaries of Warsaw and St. Petersburg and took his candidate's degree in theology (1885) at the Theological Academy of St. Petersburg. While working there as secretary of the metropolitan curia,

he succeeded in introducing Lithuanian-language sermons and hymns in St. Petersburg Cathedral. Through his efforts and the influence of Archbishop Kłopotowski, St. Nicholas Church in Vilnius was assigned for use to the Lithuanian community. He was one of the founders of the first Lithuanian society in St. Petersburg (1892). He used his contacts among Russian intellectuals and government circles to agitate in favor of abolishing the ban on Lithuanian-language publications in force since 1864, demonstrating that it was based on an illegal administrative decree. The case was brought before the Supreme Court, whose ruling resulted in the ban's repeal in 1904. That same year he was dismissed from his duties as secretary. Thereupon he took up residence at Seinai, southern Lithuania, where, together with Rev. Juozas Laukaitis, he founded the weekly *Šaltinis* (The Source, 1906) and the monthly *Vadovas* (The Guide, 1908) for priests. In his numerous articles for Lithuanian and foreign (Italian, German) periodicals, he frequently discussed Lithuanian-Polish relations and criticized the methodic Polonization practiced in Lithuania. While living in Kaunas, he thoroughly researched Polonization practices prevalent in the Church and published his findings under the title *Polskie apostołstwo na Litwie* (The Polish Apostleship in Lithuania, 1913). Written in Polish in a journalistic style, the work appeared in a Lithuanian translation in 1918 and 1928, and in a French translation in 1916. In 1912 Martynas Yčas, member of the Russian Parliament (Duma), obtained for him the office of rector of St. Stanislas' Church at Rome, which belonged to the Russian embassy. During the eight years that he held this post, his office was a focal point for Lithuanian priests studying in Rome as well as for visiting Lithuanians. Following the restoration of independent Lithuania (1918), he served for a time as his country's unofficial representative at the Vatican. On his return to Lithuania in 1921, he was charged with organizing a department for religious affairs and was its director for almost five years. He resigned for reasons of health in 1925 and settled in Palanga, where he died on April 17, 1933.

150 years ago



On March 22, 1868, Wilhelm Storost, mostly known as Vydūnas, was born. 2018 is proclaimed the Year of Vydūnas in Lithuania. Vydūnas was a Prussian-Lithuanian teacher, poet, humanist, and philosopher, a leader of the Prussian Lithuanian national movement in Lithuania Minor and one of the leaders of the Theosophical movement in East Prussia. Wilhelm Storost was the name on his German passport, while Vilimas or Vilius Storostas was the literature Lithuanian form used by himself, his family, and other Lithuanians. "Vydūnas" was added to his surname as a pseudonym when he was about 40 years old.

Storost was educated in a teachers' seminary in Ragainė (1885–88). From 1888 to 1892 he worked as a teacher in Kintai. Later he worked as a teacher in Tilžė until 1912. He taught German, French, English, Lithuanian and sports. In 1912 he left his teaching position in order to take up philosophical studies, which he took at the universities of Greifswald, Halle, Leipzig, and Berlin. 1918-1919 he taught Lithuanian at the Seminar for Oriental Languages in Berlin under the director Eduard Sachau. Back in Tilžė, he dedicated himself to the reestablishment of Lithuanian culture, especially folk songs and traditions. He directed a choir and wrote songs as well as theater plays. From 1933 on he worked in Klaipėda at the music school. In 1932 he wrote a book *Sieben Hundert Jahren Deutsch-Litauischer Beziehung* (Seven Hundred Years of German-Lithuanian relations). His ideas expressed in the book did not please the Nazis and in 1933 the book was outlawed. 1938 he was shortly incarcerated, but because of protests released after two months. In 1944, he was expelled from Tilžė together with nearly all of its residents and lived in a refugee camp for some time. He died in Detmold, West Germany.

Vydūnas was active in the old Lithuanian pagan religion. However, he never declared the revival of the pagan religion as either his personal goal or a goal of Lithuanians, remaining a national leader but not a religious one. His moral influence transcended the confines of being a typical political leader or a writer at his

time. He was compared by later biographers with national leaders in India of his time, such as Rabindranath Tagore or Mahatma Gandhi. Pantheistic universalism, not predefined with participating in any obligatory religious practice, was one of the leading ideas of his philosophy and gained him later fame as a pioneer of both pagan revival and theosophy in Lithuania. Vydūnas was an ethical vegetarian and wrote several essays about his ethical choices. Vydūnas was considered a candidate for the Nobel Prize by Lithuanian writers association.

135 years ago

On March 19, 1883, a playwright, translator, and journalist Kazys Alexander Puida was born in Šėčiai, Lekėčiai County. In 1902, after he graduated from Marijampolė Gymnasium, Puida studied at Frydeberg Polytechnic School, later in Berlin. In 1904 he returned to Kaunas and started writing for Lithuanian newspapers published in Sankt Petersburg. In 1905-1907, he participated



in the revolutionary events in Panevėžys. In 1907-1913 he taught Lithuanian in the Šiauliai Gymnasium. He was exiled to Chelyabinsk during the First World War. In 1920 he returned to Lithuania together with his wife, Ona Pleirytė-Puidienė. They lived in Kaunas. Puida worked at the Švyturys book publishing company. He wrote for various Lithuanian newspapers and translated literary works of Polish, English and American writers.

100 years ago

On March 6, 1918, Adolfas Ramanauskas codename Vanagas, one of the most prominent leaders of the Lithuanian partisans, was born in New Britain, Connecticut. In 1921, his family returned to Lithuania, bought 6 hectares (15 acres) of land in Bielėnai near Rudamina, and took up farming. Ramanauskas graduated from Galiniai primary school in 1930, and from Lazdijai secondary school in 1937. He continued his studies at the Klaipėda Pedagogical Institute. Just before graduation the Klaipėda Region (Memel Territory) was ceded to Nazi Germany; therefore the institute was evacuated to Panevėžys. The same year, Ramanauskas enrolled into the Kaunas War School. He graduated with the rank of second lieutenant in the reserve forces. His class of 1940 was the last class to graduate from the war school before Lithuania was occupied by the Soviet Union in June 1940. Ramanauskas worked as a teacher when Lithuania was occupied by the Soviet Union in 1944-45.

He joined anti-Soviet resistance, advancing from a platoon commander to the chairman of the Union of Lithuanian Freedom Fighters. From 1952 he lived in hiding with fake papers. Ramanauskas was the last partisan commander to be captured. Betrayed, he was arrested, tortured, and eventually executed by KGB. After Lithuania regained independence in 1990, Ramanauskas was posthumously awarded the Order of the Cross of Vytis and promoted to brigadier general.



a taste of lithuania

Elytė's Bread

By Jana Sirusaitė-Motivans



Elytė is a wonderful woman who was live-in companion and care-taker for my beloved Močiutė Sofija for more than eight years. Thanks to her care, my Močiutė was able to live out her days at home, speaking Lithuanian and eating Lithuanian food. In addition to kugelis and many other Lithuanian specialties, Elytė baked hearty and nutritious bread. This dense grainy bread is probably similar to the bread my grandmother ate growing up on a farm in Lithuania. It is not made with yeast, but with raugas (starter) and contains whole wheat or rye flour, flax seeds, oat bran, oatmeal, and sunflower seeds. This is very healthy bread!

Elytė shared her recipe and raugas with me, and I have been baking this bread every month or so for the past few years. Unfortunately, last year when we moved from Canada back to the States I was unable to bring the raugas. After much back and forth correspondence, Elytė was able to explain to me the process for creating raugas from scratch. I am happy to be baking bread again. Even better, I can share this information with you and encourage you to try baking this bread.

This bread is a Lithuanian equivalent of Amish Friendship Bread, where one person can share their starter with others. This may be why starter is sometimes referred to as 'the mother' because it can create so many offspring. That may not be the true origin of the term, but I like the metaphor. When I taught bread baking at Camp Neringa and Aušros Vartų Parapija in Montreal I gave each participant raugas to allow them to bake at home, thereby creating a bread 'circle of kinship'. I would like to include each of you in this circle but it certainly is not feasible to mail raugas to each of you! Instead, I hope that you can start some new bread friendships by sharing your raugas with others.

This recipe makes two loaves of bread, one to eat and one to freeze for later. The bread is best when fresh, and after the first few days it should be stored in the refrigerator to maintain its freshness.

Happy Baking!

Elytė's Bread

RAUGAS (bread starter)

The raugas is basically a mixture of small quantities of the ingredients of the bread itself, combined and left to ferment.

Combine ½ teaspoon brown sugar, ½ teaspoon salt, 1 tablespoon whole-wheat flour, 1 tablespoon oatmeal, ½ tablespoon ground flax seeds and ½ tablespoon sunflower seeds in a small glass jar. Add 3 tablespoons warm water and stir with a spoon to combine. Put the lid on the jar, and store it in your refrigerator for at least three weeks, or up to six weeks.

INGREDIENTS

- 3 tablespoons raugas (starter)
- 4 cups warm water
- 2 teaspoons salt
- 1/3 cup brown sugar
- 2 tablespoons oil (I use olive oil)
- 2/3 cup sunflower seeds
- 2/3 cup ground flax seeds
- 2/3 cup oat bran
- 2/3 cup oatmeal (I use old-fashioned large flake)
- 2/3 cup wheat germ OR wheat bran
- 5 cups whole wheat flour (or a mixture of whole wheat flour and rye flour)
- Sesame seeds to sprinkle on top of the loaves

1. In a large bowl, use a wooden spoon to mix the starter with the warm water. Add salt, brown sugar and oil and mix.



2. Add sunflower seeds, ground flax seeds, oatmeal, wheat germ, and oat bran. Mix to combine.



3. Slowly add flour, one cup at a time, mixing well. Mix only with a large wooden spoon – no kneading!
4. Remove three tablespoons of the bread dough to become your new raugas for next time. Place in a clean glass jar, tighten lid, write the date on it, and store in refrigerator. You can also remove additional quantities of raugas to share with others. Keep the raugas in the refrigerator and use it every 4-6 weeks. There is no need to stir it, or add anything. Just let it age. It will get stronger the longer it is kept, but I have never gone beyond 8 weeks.
5. Pour a little oil into two 9 x 5 loaf pans, and use your fingers to oil the pans. Divide the bread dough into the two pans, smooth out the tops, and sprinkle with sesame seeds. Put the pans in a warm place, cover with a clean towel, and let rise for 6-7 hours. The dough will become puffier and softer to the touch but will not increase significantly in volume.



6. Bake in a 350° oven for one hour and 15 minutes. Cool in pans on cooling rack for 15 minutes. Remove bread from pans and cool completely on rack.



current events

Security

...Twelve F-16 fighters from the Ohio Air National Guard have arrived in Amari Air Base in Estonia for military exercises until March 2018. The drills will be assisted by observers from Belgium and will involve islands in western Estonia.

...With major funding of 81 million euros from NATO and the U.S., the Lithuania Defense Ministry plans on doubling training ground areas by 2022. In eastern Lithuania, the Žukauskas training grounds in Pabradė will increase from 85 to 176 square km with tank and fighting vehicle firing ranges plus barracks. In central Lithuania, the Gaižiūnai training ground in Jonava will increase from 52 to 125 square km. Additional plans are being drafted for training grounds in Kaunas, Klaipėda, Telšiai, and Kazlų Rūda.

...Lithuania and Germany continue military cooperation with military medicine and medics being added to the German leadership in NATO's enhanced Forward Presence Battalion Battle Group in Rukla in central Lithuania near Kaunas. Since 1994 about 400 Lithuanian troops have graduated from German military educational facilities including the Bundeswehr Senior Military Academy, the General Staff College of the German armed forces.

Latvian Interior Minister Rihards Kozlovskis confirmed the existence of a "black list" that excludes individuals with an "unfriendly attitude" toward Latvia and its people. Among those listed were a Russian journalist, Olga Kurlayeva and her reporter husband, Anatoly Kurlayev, who were refused entry into Latvia and deported because they had a connection with a 2015 film, "NATO at the Gates" that was deemed derogatory about Latvia and NATO. Latvian TV reports that several thousand people are on the "black list" at any time and after 3 years individual cases are reviewed and sometimes changed. Occasionally individuals are listed for a short time so that they cannot attend a specific event. The Russian Foreign Ministry complains that Latvia grossly violates international obligations to ensure freedom of speech.

...The Lithuanian news website, tv3.lt, was hacked on January 18 and false information related to the Minister of National Defense was published. E-mail letters containing a malicious code were then sent to representatives of Lithuanian state authorities and media outlets. The National Cyber Security Center under the Ministry of National Defense and tv3.lt prevented further spread and they are investigating the incident to prevent recurrence.

Business

...The Lithuanian State Tourism Department has revoked the license of Travelonline Baltics and begun a pre-trial investigation into possible criminal activity by its owners. It is linked to at least eleven on-line booking sites including Easytravel.lt, Toptravel.lt, Jedek.lt, and 24fly.com. The Easylink's offices in Vilnius near Lukiškės Square have been searched. Travelonline Baltics is owned by Aviahero which is

owned by Paulius Jasaitis. Since mid-December, the CEO is Eglė Lenovičienė who transferred the assets of Flights LT to a new company, "Two Four".

...Outokumpu, the Finnish stainless steel maker, plans to add 60 finance specialists to the 100 employees in the business service center in Vilnius. Worldwide it has 10,000 employees in more than 30 countries and manufacturing facilities in Finland, Germany, Sweden, the UK, Mexico, and the USA. In 2016 it delivered 2.4 million tons of steel valued at 5.7 billion euros. The Vilnius group is part of its effort to harmonize its business processes throughout the world while providing finance, data, procurement and IT services.

...The state-owned Lithuanian Railways has submitted a plan to the European Commission to rebuild the railway that it dismantled in 2008 to disrupt deliveries to an oil refinery in Renge, Latvia. The EC fined the Railways 28 million euros for this anti-competitive action which it paid in January 2018. The cost of rebuilding the line is estimated at 20 million euros.

...Russia's gas company, Gazprom, supplied 54% of Lithuania's needs in 2017 versus 40% in 2016.

The NordBalt power interconnection between Lithuania and Sweden had a week-long outage which resulted in a 38% increase in the price of electricity. The outage was blamed on onshore cable joints which have been the cause of previous power failures and are planned to be replaced between July 30 and October 10, 2018.

...Statistics Lithuania reported that in 2017 the Lithuanian economy amounted to 41.8 billion euros (\$51.9 billion) up 3.9% versus a forecast of 3.6% after growth of 2.2% in 2016. The economy saw low unemployment, growth in real wages but inflation accelerating to 3.9% in part due to the increased cost of food, non-alcoholic beverages, and services.



Blockchain Center in Vilnius.

...Lithuania opened the first European Blockchain Centre in Vilnius on January 27 where hundreds of blockchain experts exchanged information on the practical examples of this new secure technol-

ogy using cryptography. Once recorded the data in any given block cannot be altered retroactively. The Vilnius Centre will link with similar hubs in Melbourne and Shanghai. The Lithuanian Minister of Economy gave the keynote address at the opening attended by partners including the Lithuanian Confederation of Industrialists, Kaunas Technology University, and Price Waterhouse Cooper. The Bank of Lithuania plans on launching a platform service, LBChain, in 2019 for financial companies to test their blockchain based solutions for secure transactions.

General

...There is increased speculation of a visit by Pope Francis to the Baltic States between the second and third week of September to celebrate the 100th anniversary of their establishment as independent states after World War I.

...The recently enacted prohibition on alcohol ads is likely to be amended because of the negative appearance of missing pages or red stickers in foreign magazines. Even President Grybauskaitė has opined: "I believe the fact is shameful, it brings back the Middle Ages and causes immense damage to our international reputation". The World Health Organization calculates Lithuania's annual consumption of pure alcohol at 19.6 quarts per person and associates this high consumption with the highest suicide rate in Europe. Less likely to be changed are the increase in drinking age from 18 to 20 and curtailing hours of sales.



Germany loans Lithuania's Independence Declaration.

...A recently discovered copy of Lithuania's 1918 Independence Act has been loaned by the German government to Lithuania until 2023. Apparently, the document was sent to Germany in 1918 after the war to inform Germany that it could no longer station troops in the now independent Lithuania. It was found in the archives of the German Foreign Ministry by Professor Liudas Mažylis of Vytautas Magnus University in Kaunas. The original document was kept in Kaunas but disappeared in 1940 when Soviet Russia occupied Lithuania.

...The Baltic States were selected for the Peace of Westphalia Prize to be awarded in July 2018. The bi-annual Prize commemorates the treaties that ended the Thirty Years War in 1648 and recognizes the region's current contribution to peaceful and democratic develop-

ments. The 2016 recipient was King Abdullah of Jordan. Other recipients have been Kofi Annan (Secretary General of the UN and co-recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize), Vaclav Havel (Velvet Revolution, President of Czech Republic, the Philadelphia Liberty Metal), Helmut Kohl (German Chancellor, Charlemagne Prize).

...Lithuanian Statistics indicate that the population declined by 38,000 in 2017. There were 29,600 births and 39,500 deaths; 57,200 emigrated (24,800 to the UK) and 29,300 immigrants (18,800 returnees). Newcomers included 4,400 from Ukraine; 2,800 from Belarus and 673 from Russia. President Dalia Grybauskaitė has initiated the campaign "Choose Lithuania" which encourages Lithuania's mayors to focus on making it easier for people returning home.

...The Lithuanian Foreign Ministry gave permission for Russia to set up additional voting sites for the forthcoming presidential election, March 18. Voting usually is allowed at the Russian embassy in Vilnius and the Consulate in Klaipėda. Additional voting sites will be allowed in Kaunas, Šiauliai, and Visaginas.



Sugihara House in Kaunas.

...Foreign Minister Linas Linkevičius hosted a visit of Japan's Prime Minister Shinzo Abe to the Antakalnis Cemetery in Vilnius and the Sugihara House in Kaunas. Last year 14,000 Japanese visitors toured the Sugihara House where in 1940 then Japanese Consul Sugihara issued visas to about 6,000 Jews to escape the Holocaust and transit to China and Japan.

...The basketball Ball family is getting acclimated to life in Prienai, Lithuania: Brothers LiAngelo (19) and LaMelo(16) are playing basketball for Vytautas which plays in two leagues: the Lithuania League (LKL) where they are 4-16 and in the last place and in the Big Baller Challenge friendly league where they are 4-0 and first place. More than 100,000 people tuned in to Facebook to watch the friendly game. Their brother Lonzo, who plays for the LA Lakers, will perform a rap concert in Lithuania this summer. Their father, LaVar, is acting as the assistant coach in the friendly games which are sponsored by his apparel company. The teenagers' favorite things in Lithuania are "the people" and "snow" in addition to pizza, ice cream, and Skittles.

Chicago Lithuanians Celebrated Užgavėnės



Participants learned traditional Užgavėnės dances and games.



Children dressed in Užgavėnės costumes are ready to chase the winter away.

Traditional Lithuanian celebration Užgavėnės is known around the world as Shrove Tuesday, Fat Tuesday, Mardi Gras, Fastnacht, and Carnival. If translated from Lithuanian, Užgavėnės would mean “time before Lent”. Seven weeks before Easter and the day before Ash Wednesday, Užgavėnės marks the end of winter and the beginning of Lent.

The celebration is filled with food, dance, and merriment. Lithuanian dance group Suktinis” organized Užgavėnės in the World Lithuanian Center in Lemont, Illinois. Folk music group “Rongė” participated, traditional Užgavėnės pancakes were served. Pancakes symbolize the sun and are eaten in abundance during the festivities.

The main task during the celebration is to chase the winter away. Therefore, people dress in all kinds of “scary” costumes (devils, witches, goats, the grim reaper, gypsies) and many wear masks. Several key characters are Lašininis, Kanapinis, and Morė. Lašininis symbolizes winter and Kanapinis symbolizes spring. Kanapinis and Lašininis fight, and, of course, Kanapinis (Spring), wins. Morė also symbolizes winter and traditionally is burnt at the end of the festivities. However, in Lemont, a new “tradition” was created: More was deported.

All photos by Arūnas Giedmintas.



More was not burnt. It was deported.



Consul General of the Republic of Lithuania in Chicago Mantvydas Bekešius among the characters of Lithuanian Užgavėnės.



Folk music group Rongė visited from Lithuania.



Lašininis and Kanapinis fight.

Lithuanian Research and Studies Center News

By Loreta Timukienė, LRSC Vice President of Community Affairs
Translated by Dr. Indrė Antanaitis-Jacobs

Having started a brand new year, we continue our ongoing – and ever-growing – work, prepare new projects and share the news of recent months with you.

Lina Žukauskaitė, Deputy Director of the Lithuanians Living Abroad Department of Lithuania's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, visited the Lithuanian Research and Studies Center (LRSC) in Chicago at the beginning of last October. Žukauskaitė told the Center about "Global Lithuania," the program that she is overseeing, and we discussed Lithuania's support of diaspora archives as well as opportunities for preserving our cultural heritage.



Left to right: Žukauskaitė examines archival materials while Timukienė relates LRSC activities.

Dr. Raimondas Baltrušaitis and Valentinas Aleksa of the World Lithuanian Sports Association visited the LRSC on October 18th, interested in both our archives and in opportunities for collaboration. They were given a tour of the Center and examined its North American Lithuanian Physical Education Association archive, as well as particular athletes' documents and photos.



Dr. Baltrušaitis and Mr. Aleksa chat with LRSC head librarian Enata Skrupskelytė. Photo by Dr. Antanaitis-Jacobs.

"Mission Siberia" long-time expedition leader Arnoldas Fokas and project coordinator Raminta Kėželytė visited the LRSC to see our archives. They left the following entry in our guest book: "Together with our team "Mission Siberia," we travel to Siberia in efforts to preserve living history. It is very gratifying to see

that the preservation of history is so important and meaningful here. We share a common history regardless of where we reside. Only together can we preserve our living history!"



Loreta Timukienė, Aušrelė Sakalaitė, Arnoldas Fokas, LRSC Executive Vice President Kristina Lapienytė, Dr. Audrius Plioplys, and Raminta Kėželytė.

Movie director Giedrė Žickytė, who presented the film "The Master and Tatyana" at the Gene Siskel Film Festival last spring visited Chicago again, but this time with a new project – a documentary film called "The Jump (Šuolis)". This film tells the history of extraordinary Lithuanian Simas Kudirka, who in 1970 jumped from a Soviet fishing boat into an American coast guard boat. We take pride in the fact that not only will Žickytė's film make use of LRSC's archival documents about and photographs of Simas Kudirka, but also it will utilize the original film of the time, which is safeguarded in our archives.



Consulate General of the Republic of Lithuania in Chicago, Mantvydas Bekešius, and film director Žickytė and her son looking at LRSC archival material.

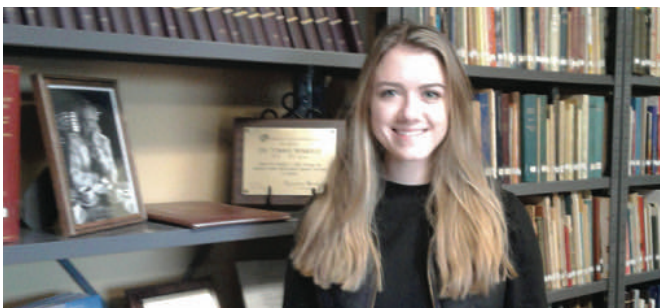
The Lithuanian Research and Studies Center collaborates with various US Lithuanian organizations, one of them being the Lithuanian-American Community, Inc. (LAC). Our funds hold a

large LAC archive and we proudly collaborate in joint projects. On September 23, LRSC Chairman of the Board Dr. Robert Vitas and Loreta Timukienė met with visiting LAC President Sigita Šimkuvienė and discussed future collaboration as well as preparations for the upcoming centenary of the restoration of Lithuania's independence.



From left: Loreta Timukienė, LRSC Chairman of the Board Dr. Robert Vitas, and LAC President Sigita Šimkuvienė.

Ariana Žliobaitė researched archives at LRSC for a few days in the beginning of January this year. She is majoring in political science at the University of Notre Dame and currently is writing her thesis on North American Lithuanian support to Lithuania and that support's influence on Lithuanian politics after the 1990s reestablishment of Lithuanian independence. Žliobaitė collected information from the Lithuanian American Council archives and Dr. Tomas Remeikis's political science library archives where, as she said, "I found an unbelievably large amount of information on Chicago's Lithuanian political activities during the time of Soviet occupation. Having read the various documents and correspondence between US Lithuanian community leaders and US government, I better understand how that political influence worked." Upon her departure, our guest commented that she would like to return to LRSC and more thoroughly research the archival material relating to her research. Žliobaitė is a fine example of Lithuanian youth applying scholarly, professional knowledge to Lithuanian topics.



Ariana Žliobaitė

We are so gratified by the youth who not only are interested in Lithuanian history and culture but who also contribute to preserving and fostering our invaluable heritage through their work. Under the Education Exchange Support Foundation's administered program, intern Ieva Volungevičiūtė (on the right) invited Viktorija Noreikevičiūtė to see our archives. Noreikevičiūtė currently is an intern at the Dr. Vincas Kudirka Lithuanian School in Elizabeth, NJ. Lukas Dumašius, computer engineering student at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, also volunteered to help digitize LRSC's archival documents.



Lukas Dumašius, Viktorija Noreikevičiūtė, and Ieva Volungevičiūtė.

The LRSC funds are constantly growing with interesting and valuable material. Recently we received a huge donation of St. Peter and Paul Lithuanian parish (Elizabeth, NJ) archival material, donated by Regina Narušienė, former President of the Lithuanian-American Community. Interestingly, Elizabeth, NJ is where Prof. Žilevičius maintained his Musicology Archive before it came to us in Chicago. Another considerable contribution was made by Chicago Lithuanian musician, composer, and conductor Darius Polikatis, who donated a wealth of musical notes from several Lithuanian Song and Folk Dance Festivals.



Donation of St. Peter and Paul Lithuanian parish (Elizabeth, NJ).

our community

Student Internship and Studies Program Invites to Join

We have just started vasaris (Lithuanian: February) which is such a close word to vasara (Lithuanian: summer). Thoughts about summer are already in the air.



Have you started to plan your summer?!

Do you want to know better the land and culture of your parents, grandparents or ancestors? Do you want to meet young people from this tiny and mysterious Baltic country overseas? Do you want to get professional experience abroad? To have a great and unforgettable summer adventure?! To breath some Lithuanian air and to bring some Baltic sand? To know more about the last European pagans? To walk the ground your previous generations walked? Do you want to experience how it feels to live in Europe? To feel the artistic vibes in Vilnius and to meet people who created the smallest Nativity scene as a gift to Pope?! (Yes! It was smaller than a human cell!!)

You are on the right path. Keep reading.

This year, the Student Internship and Studies Program LISS starts its 10th season. Young students from around the world with Lithuanian roots are welcome to join the program. The summer internship program, just like every year, will allow students to take full advantage of immersion into living and working in Lithuania.

The program is not only for University students, but also for high school students, who would volunteer, participate in guided tours and in cultural exchanges with Lithuanian teenagers instead of completing an internship.

Interested?!

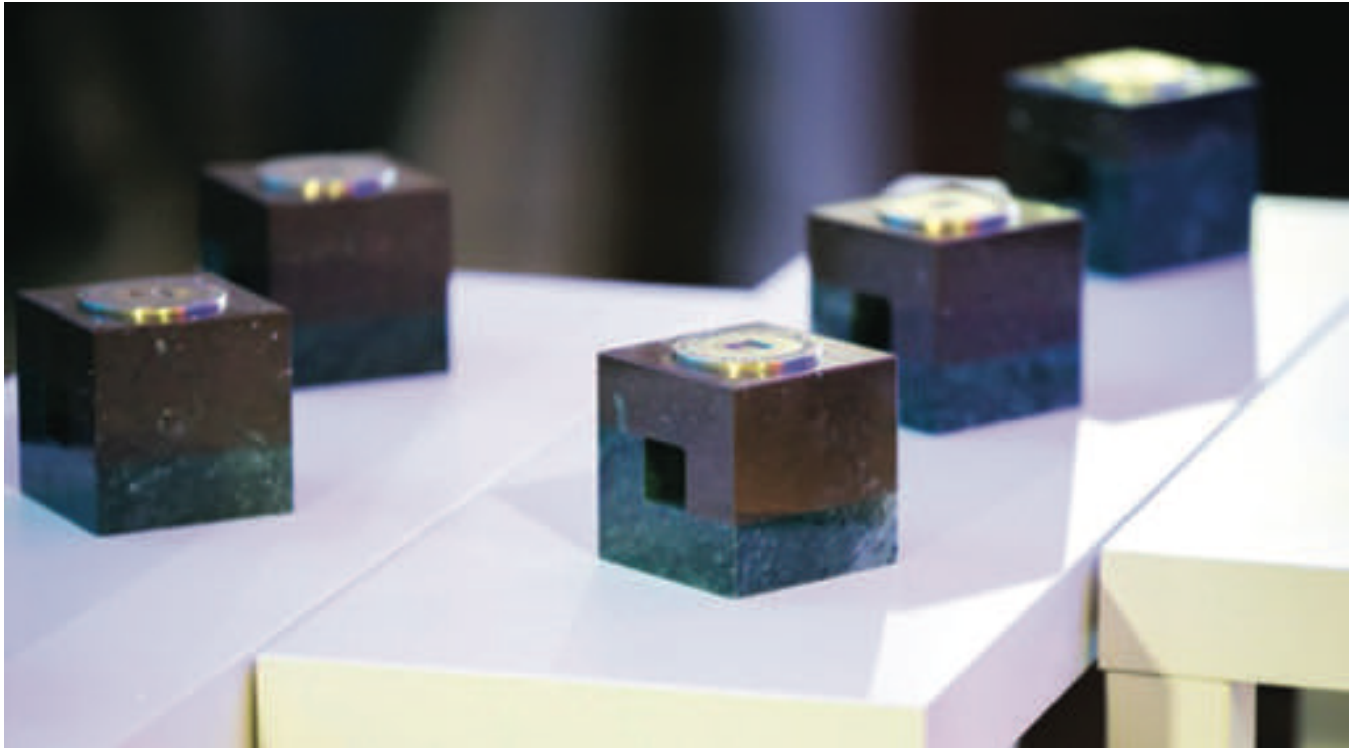
Visit our Facebook page @LISSinternships and find out more about the program and experiences of last year's participants.

You will also find more information on our website lithuanian-american.org (LISS program).

No need to know more? Want to fill the application out right now?! Send your motivation letter, CV and recommendations to liss@lithuanian-american.org.

Registration ends March 1, so don't wait—fill out your application!

Lithuanian Foundation Receives Global Lithuania Leaders Awards 2018



Global Lithuania Leaders Awards.

On Thursday, December 28, 2017, guests and laureates for the Global Lithuania Awards 2018 gathered at the Town Hall of Vilnius. With the now sixth year of these awards, international Lithuanians and Lithuania-related business, culture and science professionals, talents seeking to create a successful and acknowledged Lithuania on the global level were honored.

This year 33 nominees in 9 different categories from 8 different countries were presented in the Global Lithuania Awards. The patron of the awards, President Dalia Grybauskaitė awarded laureates with statues, representing the ideas of strength and integration, made by sculptor Stasys Žirgulis exclusively for the event.

The Lithuanian Foundation received the award for preserving and fostering Lithuanian culture and traditions. Since its inception in 1962, the Lithuanian Foundation has advanced its goals by awarding \$18,000,000 in grants and scholarships. This includes a special, one-time capital fund disbursement of more than a million dollar aid Lithuania's educational and cultural institutions. The bulk of the funds were designated to the preservation of Lithuanian heritage and projects that are related to this cause: education, culture, art, science projects, public and youth events, student scholarships. With the support of



Representatives of the Lithuanian Foundation receive the Global Lithuania Leaders Award.

the Lithuanian Fund, Lithuanian schools can continue working all around the world, Lithuanian books are being published, foreign Lithuanian parliaments are being organized, as well as various events relating to the promotions of Lithuanian culture and heritage.

President Dalia Grybauskaitė is the patron of the Global Lithuania Awards.



Knights of Lithuania Council One Brockton

Host of the Knights of Lithuanian

105th National Convention

proudly presents

A Gala Concert

Celebrating the 100th Anniversary of the Republic of Lithuania highlighting

100 years of Lithuanian Music

Featuring the celebrated talents of

Dr. Edvinas Minkštimas-Concert Pianist

Marytė Bizinkauskas-Soprano

Danutė Mileika and Giliana Norkunas~Mezzo Sopranos

Algimantas Barniškis~Baritone

Antanas Meilus-Tenor

Jonas Kublickas-Lutist and Guitarist

Sodauto Ensemble

Friday August 3, 2018

Hilton Boston ~Dedham Hotel

25 Allied Drive Westwood, MA

6:00 PM Cocktails and hors d'oeuvres 7:00 PM Concert

Donation \$35.00 by July 1, 2018 \$ 45.00 at the door

Youth 16 and under free



Continue to Celebrate the 100 years of Freedom on Saturday, August 4, 2018 at our

Gala Convention Banquet

Honoring Sr. Helen Ivanauskas, Frances Bumila and June Grenier

as they are elevated to Honorary Member

6:00 Cocktails and hor's Oeuvres

7:00 Dinner

Award Presentation and Dancing to follow

\$125.00 per person.

Closing Mass at 11:00 on Sunday, August 5, 2018 ~ St. Peter's Lithuanian Church in South Boston followed by the 'Lithuanian Days Luncheon'. Commemorate this event by placing an ad in the Convention Booklet. Suggested Donation Levels:

Full Pages Inside Front and Back Covers \$ 250.00 *

Platinum Special Section \$ 200.00 Gold \$ 100.00

Silver \$ 75.00 Half Page Bronze \$ 50.00 Business Card

Friend \$ 25.00 Well Wisher \$ 15.00

For further details, please contact:

Susan Trautman, Co-Chairman 774-451-0262 S1trautmanKofL2018@comcast.net

Maryte Bizinkauskas, Co-Chairman 617-365-6699 m_bizinkauskas@comcast.net

Tickets may be obtained by CREDIT CARDS. To pay in this manner, contact chairmen.

All tickets should be purchased by July 15, 2018 to assure seating.

This concert is graciously supported by our benefactors:

Laisvės Varpas \$2,000: Tautinė Sajunga-Bostono Skyrius
Vytis: Knights of Lithuania New England District- South Boston
Lithuanian Citizen's Association ~ Taupa Lithuanian Federal Credit
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Shield: David Casper, Casper Funeral Services ~ In memory of Stephen and Victoria Contons ~ Steven State Representative Gerald Cassidy~Elias Papadopoulos & Maryte~Kraunelis Family~ In memory of Dr. Peter, Andrew & Luke Bizinkauskas

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March 2018

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

MARCH

Saturday, March 10, 2 p.m.
"For Freedom: Lithuanian American Support Lithuania's Independence and Recognition" Exhibit opening.
 Balzekas Museum of Lithuanian Culture
 6500 S. Pulaski Rd., Chicago, IL
 Info: www.balzekasmuseum.org

Sunday, March 11, 2PM
Kansas City Lithuanian Community Independence Day Celebration
 Wyandotte County Museum
 Bonner Springs, KS

Sunday, March 18, 12:30 p.m.
The 150th Anniversary of the birth of Vilhelmas Storosta Vydūnas
 Lithuanian World Center, Lemont, IL
 Info: aldrauch@gmail.com

March 25, 2018
If you would like to work at Neringa Camp this upcoming summer, counselor application forms are online at http://neringa.org/en_counselors_forms.html
 Counselor applications for Heritage Children's Camp will be accepted until April 22, 2018. Applications for the Lithuanian Speaking Children's Camp are due by March 25, 2018.

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.

APRIL

April 27-29, 2018
Women's Weekend at Neringa Camp
 Kerry Secrest and Dr. Kristina Mačiūnas are planning a special program and a variety of activities including group discussions, exercise, art, cooking, spiritual and personal rebirth.
 For more details please contact Kerry at kerry@watershedcoachingllc.com or Kristina at kriscon@frontiernet.net

MAY

May 11-13, 2018
Counselor Retreat at Neringa Camp
 We invite current and former Neringa counselors, who are over 18 years old, to come to the Neringa Counselor Retreat. Get together with counselors of all ages to reflect on how Neringa has and continues to impact their lives. Retreat coordinators are: Jessica Zikaras and Rebecca Liudzius.

JUNE

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

June 2-3, 2018
Talka Work Weekend at Neringa Camp
 As every year, Neringa is awaiting volunteers who can come and help prepare the campsite for the upcoming summer.

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

June, 2018
Jonines/Summer Picnic Event
 Kansas City Lithuanian Community
 More info to be announced

AUGUST

August 17-19, 2018
Kansas City Lithuanian Community Ethnic Enrichment Festival
 Swope Park, KCMO

NOVEMBER

November 24, 2018, 4PM
Kansas City Lithuanian Community Christmas Party
 Cedar Creek Clubhouse, Olathe, KS

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