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Front Cover: Lithuanian Americans in Washington, DC gathered to sing the Lithuanian National Anthem together with Lithuanians in different countries of the world on July 6, 2018.

Back cover: A moment from the Evening of Ensembles in Kalnų Park, Vilnius, part of Lithuanian Song and Dance Festival.

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from the editor

Dear readers,

This summer so many Lithuanians from all over the world travelled to Lithuania to either participate in several major events in connection with the 100 years of Lithuania's independence or visit their families or just like tourists. One of the major events significant for Lithuanians abroad was the Lithuanian World Community (LWC) Seimas. On July 8-11, 2018 Lithuanians from thirty-three countries of the world came to Vilnius where the Seimas was held. Dalia Henke of Germany has been reelected as chairwoman of the LWC. She noted that the Lithuanian World Community is ready to work together as we face big challenges in 2019: elections, the (dual citizenship) referendum and the Year of World Lithuanians. The delegates also elected a new LWC board: Rolandas Žalnierius, WLC Special Projects, Legal and Organizational Affairs; Vaidas Matulaitis, Public Relations; Jūratė Caspersen, Culture; Alviša Černiauskaitė, Education; Eglė Garrick, Finance and Pooling Resources; Sigita Šimkuvienė, Development; Rimvydas Baltaduonis, Economics; Prelate Edmundas Putrimas, Pastoral Care and South American Affairs; Vida Bandis, Representative in Lithuania; Laurynas Misevičius, Sports; Vladas Oleinikovas, World Lithuanian Youth Organization.

Lithuanian World Community (Lithuanian: Pasaulio lietuvių bendruomenė or PLB) is a non-governmental and non-profit organization established in 1949 that unifies Lithuanian communities abroad. The Constitution of the Lithuanian World Community declares that it consists of all Lithuanians living abroad. The Community is active in 44 countries, including representation in Lithuania. The first Seimas met 60 years ago, in 1958 in New York.

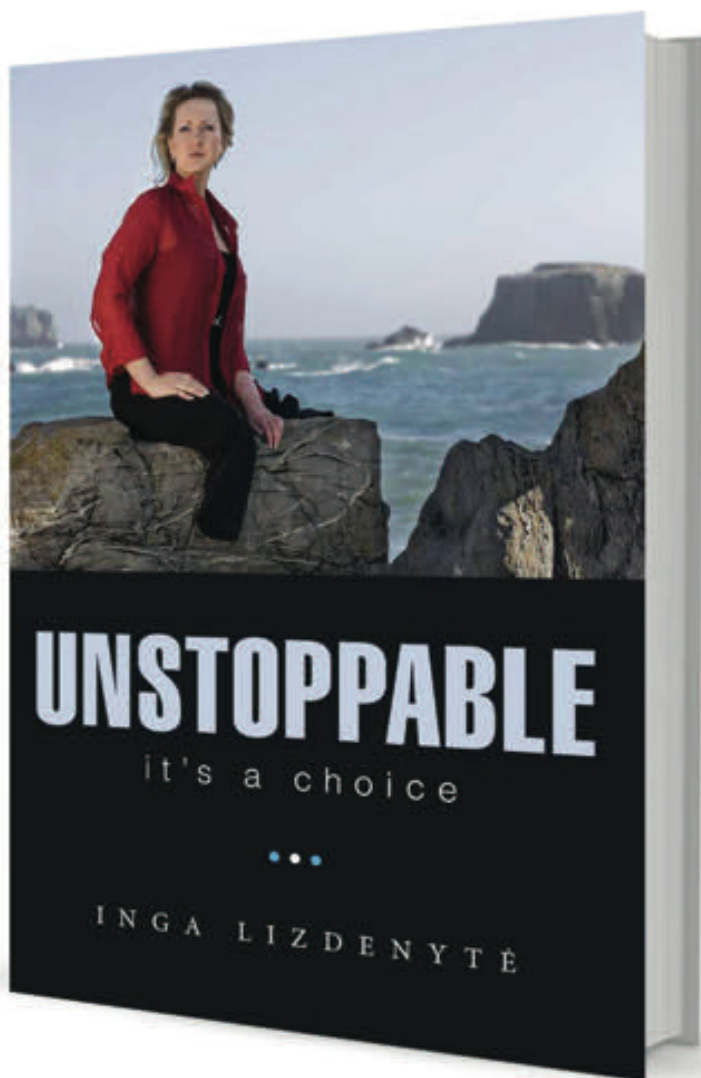
We will be following the work and achievements of the Lithuanian World Community as well as the involvement of the Lithuanian American Community in that work. I wish everyone the best of luck in working together for the benefit of Lithuania and world Lithuanians.

Sincerely,

Karilė Vaitkutė
Editor



The newly elected Board of the World Lithuanian Community.



Interview with Inga Lizdenytė,
author of Unstoppable. It's a Choice

Karilė Vaitkutė: Most probably, only a few do not suffer severe blows in their lives, from losing their close ones to losing their health, to succumbing to addictions... You were one of those who suffered the most severe blow. Could you tell us about the tragic accident you suffered?

Inga Lizdenytė: As many people do, I thought that a bad car accident can happen to someone else, but not to me. But there was a day when I had to face the event that neither I nor my family could ever even thought of. Overnight one event like a bomb explosion destroyed everything in my life. The only thing the crash was not able to take away from me was the love of my family and friends, but everything else was gone in a blink of an eye.

I was always healthy and athletic, constantly doing something with my friends and leading a lively lifestyle. I worked as a manager at the Business Lounge at the Vilnius International Airport and loved it. It was a dynamic

enjoyable life. I truly loved my life. I lost it all in a blink of an eye when my date and I were racing 100 miles an hour (160 km/h) in the downtown of Vilnius city and hit a light pole. The scenery was brutal. My boyfriend was ejected out of the car and killed instantly due to a severe skull injury. He was 26 y/o. After cutting the wrecked car into pieces, the emergency crew extracted me half-dead, without my legs. Upon the moment of impact, some parts of the car severed both of them above the knees. Due to a substantial loss of blood and the extensive trauma, I was immediately placed into the ICU and hooked up to a life support machine. I was given a 30% chance of survival.

Praise the Lord, I was brought back to life even though my heart has stopped two times. When I woke up, I found myself in a world that was a pure devastation: severe injuries throughout my body made me unable to speak, move and do anything independently. I had lost both of my legs above the knee. My left hand was fully paralyzed and did not show any signs of life except delivering constant, sharp, burning pain. I was confined to the bed, unable to do anything independently, except open and close my eyes. I was not able to sit up nor could I turn to either side. In one moment my life turned upside down. I lost everything that made my life beautiful, and there was no way to return back.

KV: What were your feelings and thoughts after the accident?

IL: As first, it was a big shock. I couldn't believe this really has happened to me. I will never forget the first day I returned home from the hospital. My dad carried me in his arms into my room and carefully placed me in a wheelchair. We both felt very strange while fully realizing that no longer was I able to walk. After dad left me alone in the room, I sat there for a moment trying to come to my senses. Then, I looked down, and instead of my legs I



Inga's photo at the Baltic Sea, Lithuania, about half a year before the car accident.

saw the carpet. I then fully comprehended that it's not a dream; both of my legs were no longer there. It seemed every part of my being screamed in anguish. I kept asking why it had to end so cruel and how I was going to live my life now. Besides losing my legs, my left hand was paralyzed and I was left with only one hand to continue my life. Every part of my body had some type of injury, every movement caused pain. Paralyzed hand didn't show any signs of life except a sharp constant burning pain in the palm. But the physical pain was nothing comparing to emotional anguish. I knew that physical pain would go away when the wounds would heal. But there was no end to emotional pain. At the time, losing nearly half of my body meant losing my life. At the time Vilnius city was not accessible for people in wheelchairs, and that meant that I no longer could leave my home, go to the city or anywhere. I had to resign from the Airport and no longer could I continue the life I had. I became literally imprisoned by the walls of my own home. My life turned into a dull and painful existence. It was an enormous agony to lose my life and my independence. The scariest thing was knowing that we couldn't do anything to change the situation. Losing legs was not like getting a cut on your finger. It was a horrifying agonizing experience of the sudden change.

Nevertheless, I did not lose hope. It was hope against hope. My faith in Jesus Christ empowered me greatly. Actually, it was the only thing that gave me hope and tenacity to not give in to circumstances but to remain positive despite the reality. I sincerely believed that the Lord had the power to change any circumstances and I was holding on to my belief that my circumstances could change someday. I kept saying to my family and everyone around - my life will be beautiful no matter what. I felt so much contempt for what this crash created in my life that I couldn't stand my existence in it. I vowed to myself that this was not how I was going to live. I would change it. I have heard people saying to me numerous times that this car accident broke my destiny. My response was - this crash did NOT destroy my destiny; I will create the destiny that I desire. I firmly believed that with God's help I could reclaim my independence and I was ready to work relentlessly to achieve my vision. I knew this was not the end. It was only the beginning of my life journey. And, it truly was the beginning of my extraordinary and amazing life journey.

KV: How did you manage to change your life? What was the turning point? What helped you the most?

IL: Changing my life was not a quick process and it wasn't easy, as it may seem to some since I don't really talk about my difficulties. It required inner strength, unshakable



Three years since the car accident. Standing again, on the Pacific Coast in California wearing my prosthetic legs made by the US specialist.

faith, tenacity, unbreakable determination and relentless perseverance.

People's actions depend on their mindset and beliefs. In order to begin changing anything in life, first, there must be changes in your mind, in your heart. I think my turning point was when I realized that I could change my circumstances. I will never forget that beautiful sunny day when I realized that if I did not like how my life was - I could change it. Nothing - no accident, pain, challenges due to my changed physical condition, nor any other problems were going to rule how I felt and how I would continue my life journey. Those desperate circumstances were created by the event - the car accident. So, if the circumstances and my life's conditions could be changed by certain events, then I could create different kinds of events by taking the initiative and action that would alter my current position! I didn't have to settle for what was created by the crash, and I believed with God's help I was going to get out of this horrible place in my life. That moment something deep inside of me has shifted. I felt strong and determined to change my living conditions. I decided not to waste my time and not to allow the unknown to make me doubt, but take the initiative and start making changes to get myself out of the "dead-end". I asked myself solution-oriented questions, determined my long term and short term goals, and strategized what exactly I needed to do to start the process. First, I set the goals that helped me gain my independence back on a daily routine. I learned new ways to get up from the bed, to shower, to dress and other. Then, I decided that I needed to walk again if I wanted to return to a full life, which was my ultimate goal. So, after 6 months since the accident, I went to the local Orthopedic Center to get artificial legs.

In spite of suggestions of local prosthetic specialists that it was impossible for me to walk in my physical condition, I pursued my dream anyway. After 2 years of hard and painful work of learning to use prosthetic legs, I did learn to walk and to ascend/descend stairs. However, due to the enormous amount of pain caused by prostheses, I was not able to fulfill my ultimate dream of being able to walk throughout the day and return back to the active lifestyle. I heard many advices to come to terms with a "disabled lifestyle." But, going against circumstances and opinions of others, I aimed for goals that seemed beyond my grasp. I started the research online about prosthetic legs worldwide, and after countless hours of research, I emailed three prosthetic companies. On the next day, I received a response from the American prosthetic specialist.

It turned out that in several weeks he was planning to travel to Turkey to give prosthetic lectures, and he invited me to meet him in Istanbul for the evaluation. After meeting me and seeing my immense desire to walk again, the American specialist decided to make artificial legs for me as a donation and invited me to come to the USA.

This way, three years since the car accident I traveled by myself to the United States to get comfortable artificial legs made for me. I returned to Lithuania walking again and I was able to do everything that I was told was impossible in my condition. Then, a year later I moved across the globe from my family in Lithuania and established my life California even though at the time of my decision I had no place to live, no work, not a lot of money, and even no right to live and work in America. But I always held my vision in my mind and consistently worked toward my goals. A beautiful dream, which seemed impossible at the time, has become my reality.

What helped me the most was my family and friends, help that I received from people in the USA. I will be always grateful for their unconditional love and support.

I truly don't know how I would have made it if I didn't have the love and help from people. Also, without the perseverance and God's blessing, I wouldn't have attained the life I live today. So many times I was in a situation when it seemed that there was no way my goal could be achieved. But my decision to persevere broke through those obstacles and those goals were achieved in spite of all odds. Most of all, I thank the Lord for everything because he was my source of strength and many changes in my life occurred in an incredible way and I have no way to explain it but that they were answers to my prayers.

KV: How do you feel now?

IL: I feel happier than I was before the car accident. It's true. I live a fulfilling and meaningful life. As I was saying that this crash did not break my destiny but I would make my destiny the way I desire - I did create the destiny I desired then. Even beyond what I could possibly dream about. Now my new mission is to make a difference in the lives of other people. I want to bring my testimony to others and help others break through their hardships and create lives that they desire.

Recently you wrote a book that was well received and that might be helpful to many readers. Please tell us what or who inspired you to write the book?

Yes, recently I published my book "UNSTOPPABLE. It's a Choice", a memoir and life coaching book, based on Christian faith. I never thought of myself as an author. I couldn't even imagine myself writing a book, and for many years I rejected the suggestion to write a book. But, I began writing, when I received a text message from my brother (he was in Lithuania) "Inga, I don't know how to live my life anymore. Help me" His text pierced me through. As I was thinking about what I could possibly do to help him, a thought came to my mind to write him a letter sharing what helped me to be strong and restore

my life from the adversity. So I began writing him letters, openly and honestly sharing with him my experience and things I have learned, so he could learn from my experience and take my advice to overcome his hardship. After some time, my brother shared with me that he was thinking about ending his life at the time when he texted me, and the only reason he was still alive was my letters. He suggested to continue writing and to publish a book to help other people. And I did. It took me seven years to write it, and finally, it was published in February of 2018.



One more dream come true - meeting with a Dolphin Suzie in Jamaica.

KV: How would your book be helpful to others who cannot find a way to heal their wounds?

IL: I meet people who continuously live in pain, and often I see that they are a big cause of why they can't get away from pain. Pain doesn't just go away. We have to do something for it to leave us. I can't even count anymore how many times I felt emotional pain due to the loss, heart-breaking experiences, betrayal, various hardships, and hopelessness, up to the point of unspeakable anguish. I have learned to handle emotional pain and I share it in the book.

"UNSTOPPABLE. It's a Choice" is like two books in one. In the book, I share my personal story, which will inspire readers, give them hope and encourage them. It will show that no matter how helpless you are and how hopeless your situation might be in life - there is a way to get out of it. With God's help, all things are possible. While sharing my story, I coach the reader, who is facing any type of difficulties and desires to improve his or her life. The book includes practical advice.

Be it a life-altering adversity, depression, betrayal, obstacles that make their goals hard to reach, bad decisions or any hardships that they face, reading the book they will find a roadmap how to keep on going, how to trust the Lord in the midst of troubles, how to overcome depression and thrive again, how to break through hardships, overcome obstacles and achieve any goals.

"Unstoppable" will inspire, ignite faith and coach, and equip readers with the knowledge that will help them in their own life journey.

KV: You are not only a writer but also an inspirational speaker. Please tell us about that part of your life.

IL: Over the years I have conducted a number of public speaking engagements and interviews in both Lithuania and in the United States for television programs, radio, and publications for inspirational purposes. People find my story very inspiring. I've heard numerous times how people felt stronger and became determined to deal with their own hardships after hearing my story, and that's what encourages me to continue sharing my story. Now that the book is published, in addition to sharing my story, I include coaching aspect where I share practical guidance and self-management strategies/tools to empower people to keep on going and break through any circumstances to create the lives they're desiring to have. Recently I was one of the main speakers at a 3-day seminar in Sacramento, CA where I taught a master class about strategies and practical steps to overcome depression. I loved it and look forward to continuing making a difference in people's lives, whether it would be Christian faith-



On June 2, 2017, the Board of Directors of California Human Development (CHD) presented to Inga a Champion Award for serving as a role model to people with disabilities and for vital support of CHD's disABILITY Services programs through my work with the Disability Services & Legal Center.

based events, disability-related organizations, or business seminars and corporate events. I offer my services in English, Lithuanian and Russian languages.

KV: What are your biggest challenges in life now? What are your biggest successes and your biggest disappointments?

IL: I think now my big challenge is to have my company Becoming Unstoppable, LLC working in full speed while still having my job (I work part-time as Public Relations & Volunteer Coordinator at Disability Services & Legal Center). Also, I keep asking myself how to find a way to translate my book into Lithuanian and Russian languages and publish it for our people who don't read in English.

I am blessed to have a friend Anzhelika Polyak, another Lithuanian, who is my business associate and a co-founder of Becoming Unstoppable. We take steps to fully establish our company/ministry while we both have day-jobs and daily we both deal with pretty severe chronic pain and fatigue, which often is quite challenging. We consistently do what has to be done; only we are facing not an easy task.



Inga with her friend and business associate, a co-founder of Becoming Unstoppable, Anzhelika Polyak.

Disappointments? What disappoints me greatly is when people do not stay true to their word or don't have the integrity to admit their mistakes and try to avoid the responsibility. This is what mostly is disappointing to me. As for experiencing a disappointment, I think up to this time, my biggest disappointment is a choice I have made earlier and I did not establish my life in the USA from the first time. At the time, I was in a relationship with a married man. It was a crucial choice that I have made and which brought enormous anguish and total destruction. I am very disappointed that I allowed my feelings and desire to make another person happy to justify my actions. I am very disappointed by my choices and what I have done. At the same time, it was nearly unendurable to continue my life after being betrayed by the person who convinced me of his love and unconditional faithfulness and then, in a cold-blooded way abandoned me when I became a threat to his well-being, while totally destroying my opportunity to establish my life in California. I was forced to return to Lithuania feeling totally broken and devastated. I still returned to USA to try again implementing my dream and achieved my vision from the second time. It's all written in the book.

My biggest successes are achieved goals which seemed impossible.

Walking wearing prosthetic legs - I was told by the local Lithuanian specialists that my desire to walk wearing prosthetic legs was impossible – I returned from the USA walking comfortably and able to do all those activities that I was told I would never be able to do.

Recovering my life - After the car accident it seemed that it was just a wishful dream for me to live a full life, it seemed absolutely impossible – in 5 years I attained the

life that I desired even though I had no resources and no guarantees to make it happen. It's been over 13 years that I live a fulfilling and dynamic life. Last year I even got to kiss Dolphin's Susie little nose in Jamaica – who could ever think this experience would ever become part of my life!

Publishing my book - I have achieved many personal goals over the years, but my latest big achievement is publishing my book. It's another goal that seemed impossible, and even seemed as an absurd idea. When I began turning my letters to my brother into a book, I had no knowledge how the book needs to be written, I had no editor and no funding to pay for the editing and publishing costs. For seven long years, I consistently wrote it having no idea how I was going to turn it into an actual book. But, here you are – today, on July 11th I have my first Book Signing at Barnes and Noble in Santa Rosa, CA.

Now my eyes are set on another goal – to spread my message of faith and hope, and make Becoming Unstoppable a well known resource where people can find answers as to how to be strong during the hardships, how to deal with challenges, break through obstacles and attain lives that they've been longing to live.

KV: Please let me know where readers can buy your book.

LL: "Unstoppable. It's a Choice" can be purchased online on Amazon, Barnes and Noble, GoodReads.com, Christian Book.com as well as in the local Sonoma County bookstores.



With Anzhelika at the Seminar "The Heart of the Defender", presenting Inga's newly published book "Unstoppable. It's a Choice. Sacramento, March 2018.

LISS Internship in Lithuania

By Sophia Herrera



Pictured are views of Lithuania during the time of LISS internship in the summer of 2018.

My name is Sophia Herrera and this September 2018, I will be entering my fourth year of Undergraduate study at the University of Guelph, where I am completing a Major in Bio-Medical Science and a Minor in Neuroscience. Unlike many of my peers, who are currently undertaking various jobs or classes back in Canada, I am in Lithuania doing something quite different. Thanks to LAC LISS (Lithuanian International Student Services), I, along with twenty other students from around the world, have the opportunity to experience a once in a lifetime internship, in a country that our past generations called home.

Earlier this year, while applying for usual research positions for summer work, I came across an opportunity available only to students of Lithuanian descent. I decided to research further, as I thought it would be amazing to work in a foreign country for a month this summer. I got in touch with a current Medical School student who had done the LISS program a couple years back, in the hopes that she could give me insight on the internship. After a brief conversation over the phone, I immediately knew this was the program for me and proceeded to fill out and submit my application that evening.

When I first arrived in Vilnius, I must admit, I was a little bit nervous. It was my first time in Lithuania and I really did not know how the month would play out. However, any doubt I had was relieved within the hour. I met the students with whom I would be spending the better part



of July, and to my surprise, I already knew quite a few of them just from being involved with the Lithuanian community back in Toronto. We proceeded to an initial meeting, where we discussed the internship further and what would be involved, as well as the plans for the rest of the week. This year happened to be a special one because of Lithuania's hundredth year of independence overlapping with Šokių and Dainų Šventė. As one could imagine, it was an adventure packed week. Not only did we get to tour Vilnius and visit beautiful historical landmarks, but we also had the chance to embrace our heritage, as Lithuanians all over the world came together for this celebration of song and dance. For my first time in Lithuania, I must say, it will be a very memorable one.

As exciting as all these cultural events were, the real reason we students are here, is for an internship. It has only been a week since we arrived, but already, I have learned and seen more that I could ever possibly have imagined. For anyone who may not be familiar with the medical system in Canada or America, it is very strict in regulating who can even volunteer in a hospital. As a student on her way to studying medicine, it would be a dream to see the inside of an Operating Room, to be allowed to listen in



on patient examinations, maybe even take a look at diagnostic scans. But alas, that is only a dream...at least for most. An undergraduate student would never be allowed to work with medical faculty, let alone take a look at what goes on behind the scenes or with patients. However, at LSMU (Lietuvos Sveikatos Mokslų Universitetas), one of the highest ranked teaching hospitals in Eastern Europe, I am being treated as an upper year medical student. I am currently placed in the Cardiology Ward, and on my first day, I was taught how to do a cardiac and pulmonary exam, how to analyze echocardiograms and ECGs, and allowed to watch multiple surgeries (both laparoscopic and open-heart surgery). I left the hospital that first day knowing that this truly is an experience I will enjoy to the fullest. As someone who is very passionate about medicine and health care, it is a privilege to have this hands-on opportunity so early on in my studies.

If it was not for LISS organizing this internship for students, many of us would not have the chance to get up-close and personal with our future careers. I am looking forward with anticipation for the next four weeks, in which I will acquire not only an insurmountable amount of experience and knowledge, but also create memories with the incredible new group of people I have had the privilege of meeting.





The Baltic States Presented in the Capital of Oregon

By Laurynas R. Misevičius
All photos by Grisha Alpern and Laurynas Misevičius

A moment from the parade of the nationalities which featured representatives of over 70 nations and countries.

The 21st International World Beat Festival took place in the Riverfront Park in Salem, Oregon on the last weekend of June, 2018. Between Friday afternoon and Sunday evening, about 25 thousand people visited the capital of the state of Oregon, and for the first time in the history of this festival, Lithuanians also participated with a separate exhibition. The Portland Lithuanian Community represented the Baltic countries that had been celebrating the centenary of their Independence, and presented Latvia and Estonia alongside with our homeland. Upon the initiative of the Lithuanian Honorary Consul in Portland Randy L. Miller and Salem resident Grisha Alpern who has moved to the United States from Vilnius, Lithuania, the World Beat Director Kathleen Fish made it possible for the Lithuanians to participate and distribute leaflets presenting tourism opportunities in the three Baltic States, sell Lina's breads, souvenirs, books, music, DVDs, sports shirts and other attributes specially prepared for this event in Los Angeles. The author of this article,

among other things, initiated a friendly discussion among former residents of Palestine, Lebanon and Israel - two mothers who settled in the capital of Oregon two decades ago, together with their daughters. They emphasized that they decided to hold such a multifaceted cultural festival for the first time in order that we could understand each other, avoid racial or ethnic discrimination, non-dialogue or hostility between people and nations. Though over 20 years have passed since February 1997, today, the world is still experiencing similar challenges, and thus the World Beat Festival has not lost its relevance. From now on, we hope that our compatriots will be invited to participate annually. Meanwhile, the Portland Lithuanian Community will hold the first session of the 22nd Council of Lithuanian Community on September 28-30 of 2018. We kindly invite all interested representatives of the LAC districts to participate. More information is available in the official website at www.tarybossesija.com.



During the festival, Lithuanians distributed leaflets promoting all three Baltic countries, talked about the possibilities for Latvian, Lithuanian, and Estonian tourists, offered goodies and souvenirs of our culinary heritage.



Another moment from the parade.



Laurynas Misevičius initiated a peaceful discussion with Israelis, Lebanese and Palestinians near our nation's exposition.



At the World Beat Festival in Salem, Oregon.



2018 AABS Conference at Stanford

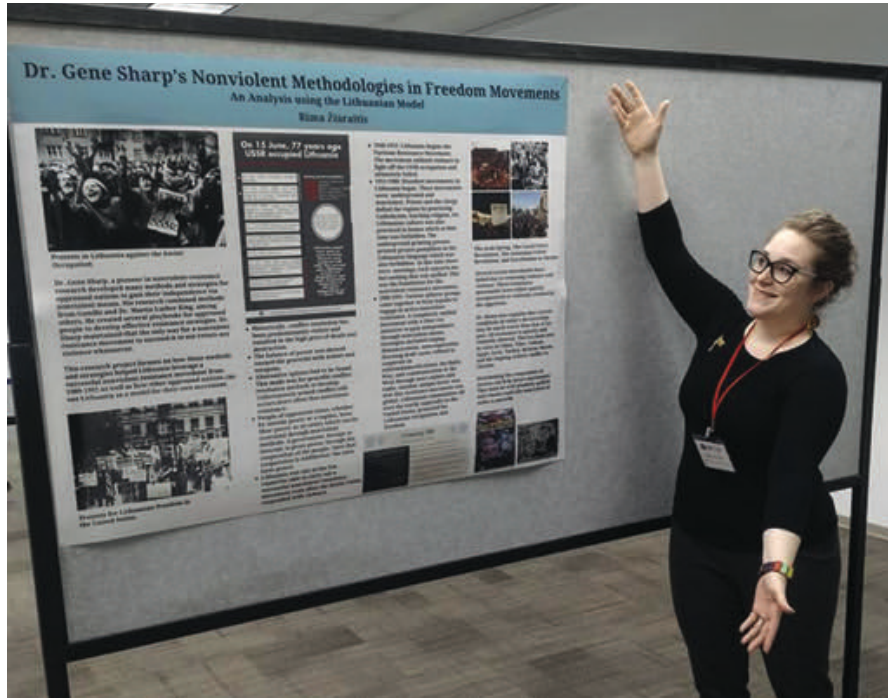
By Rima Ziuraitis

In line with the current bicentennial celebrations of the Baltic nations, this year's Association for the Advancement of Baltic Studies (AABS) conference took place at Stanford University in Serra Mall, California. Along with the 100th anniversary of Baltic independence, AABS also celebrated the 50th anniversary of its founding. Since its inception, AABS has promoted research and education in Baltic studies by holding meetings, conferences, supporting publications, offering a scholarship program, and providing grants and prizes. The organization's mission is to disseminate current research of interest in the field of Baltic studies.

The main goal of this year's conference was to highlight important achievements in Baltic studies not only 100 years after independence but also nearly 30 years after regained independence after the fall of the Soviet Union. Organizers of the conference posed three important questions for participants to think about, such as why Baltic studies are important today, how the Baltic region fits into larger and transnational trends, and what the intersection is between Baltic and Eastern European studies. The three day program featured 124 panels, roundtable discussions, and workshops on 15 broad topics. In addition to this, there were several keynote speeches, receptions, and film screenings.

This was my second time attending the AABS conference as a participant representing the Lithuanian Research and Studies Center in Chicago as director of media projects. Dr. Robertas Vitas, Chairman of the Lithuanian Research and Studies Center, was in attendance as well, presenting the focus for the Lithuanian Research and Studies Center in the next 100 years. I presented my research on nonviolent resistance methodologies using Lithuania as a case study. At the conference, I attended several panels, keynote speeches, and even-

Rima Ziuraitis representing the Lithuanian Research and Studies Center in Chicago as director of media projects and Dr. Robertas Vitas, Chairman of the Lithuanian Research and Studies Center at the AABS conference.



Rima Ziuraitis presented my research on nonviolent resistance methodologies using Lithuania as a case study.



Lithuania's Foreign Minister Linas Linkevičius participated in a roundtable entitled "Baltic Exceptionalism?"

ing events. The keynote speeches featured prominent figures in Baltic studies and politics such as Dr. Norman Neimark, who spoke about a historical exploration of Russian and Eastern European studies and how they relate to Baltic Studies, Dr. Nils Muiznieks, who was the Council of Europe's Commissioner for Human Rights from April 2012 to March 2018 and spoke about the past; present; and future of human rights in Europe, Dr. Agnia Grigas spoke about 50 years of transforming geopolitics and Baltic Studies, and Dr. Lauri Malksoo who discussed the Baltic States at 100. Each keynote highlighted important features in history of the Baltic States and their future.

There were many fascinating roundtables such as one entitled "Baltic Exceptionalism?" featured several Baltic Foreign ministers; specifically Foreign Ministers Linas Linkevičius

(Lithuania), Edgars Rinkevics (Latvia), and former President of Estonia Toomas Hendrik Ilves. The roundtable discussion focused on what makes the Baltics special in terms of being able to weather the proverbial political storm of anti-democratic sentiments, political pressure from neighbors, etc., in very vigorous fashion. In this meeting of the minds, the conclusion was that each Baltic country had their own way of remaining cool under pressure, but that national cohesiveness and strength was key. The academic panels ranged in topics from Lithuanian military security, Lithuanian musicology, early political history of the Baltic area, World War I in the Baltic Region to women in Baltic fiction, dialects and bilingualism, and cultural memory and national movements.

In addition to the panels and roundtables, there were several evening events and exhibits. The main exhibit: "The Baltic Way: History and Culture in Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania 1918-2008" was organized by Stanford University Libraries in partnership with the Hoover Institution. The exhibit utilized documents, photographs, letters, and posters to paint a comprehensive picture of the complicated freedom history of the three Baltic states. It commemorates the 1989 Baltic Way protesting the Molotov-Ribbentrop Secret protocols, that literally joined the hands of all three nations together to demand their independence from the Soviet Union. It also celebrates the unique cultural heritage of each nation. Another event, the open-air celebration of Baltic Culture, featured musical and dance performances by Baltic-American groups.

This included the Magi ensemble from Seattle, Tiltas Lithuanian dance group from San Francisco, and Volukeeled, a violin ensemble from Tallinn.

Finally, perhaps, the biggest event of the conference was a special film screening of *Ashes in the Snow* based on the famous novel by Ruta Sepetys called *Between Shades of Gray*. The film's main premise is about the 1941 Soviet deportations in Lithuania as seen through the main character Lina Vilkas's eyes. The film is seen by many as the biggest Lithuanian film of all time. The screening was extremely well received and many congratulated director Marius Markevicius for his hard work. It is set for worldwide release on October 12th, 2018.

These conferences presented by AABS are vital to the longevity and relevance of Baltic studies. They provide a platform for students and experts to present and expand their research, and discuss relevant and vital topics and issues. It will be interesting to see what the next conference will bring in 2022 in Charlotte, North Carolina.



The main exhibit: "The Baltic Way: History and Culture in Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania 1918-2008" was organized by Stanford University Libraries in partnership with the Hoover Institution.



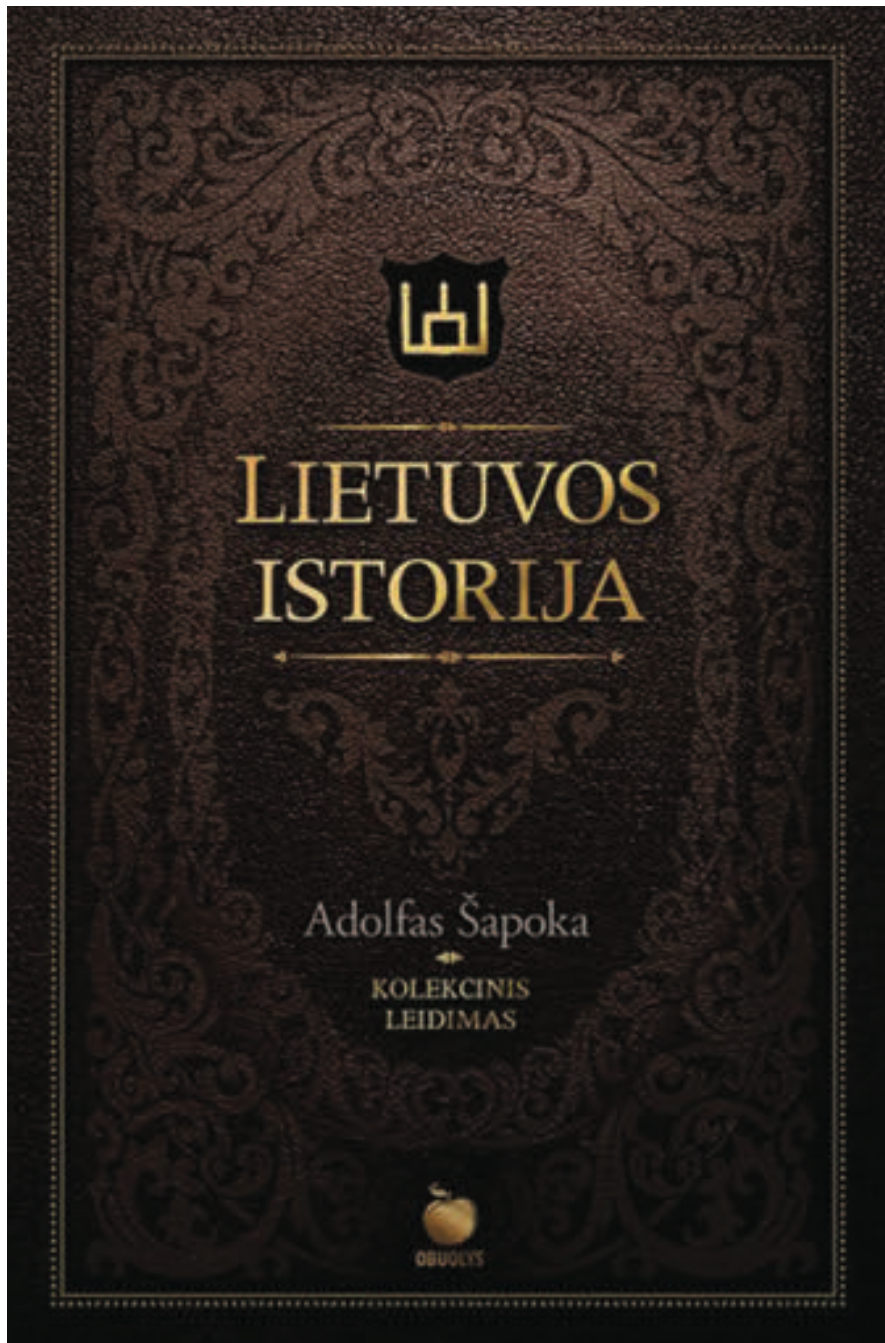
Joint Baltic American National Committee presentation.



Film screening of *Ashes in the Snow* based on the famous novel by Ruta Sepetys called *Between Shades of Gray*.

Lithuania's History Repeats Itself

By Romualdas Kriaučiūnas



The cover of *Lietuvos Istorija* by Adolfas Šapoka.

Adolfas Šapoka. *Lietuvos istorija*. Obuolys, Kaunas, 2017. Hard covers, 752 pages. Price: 39.99E.

In preparation for Lithuania's 100th anniversary of Declaration of Independence in 1918, the authoritative book, by Adolfas Šapoka was published again. This time the

edition is called "Kolekcinis leidimas" ("Collector's Edition") and is richly supplemented by a number of documents and visual aids. Among them are four maps, pictures of historical flags, color portraits of rulers, a reproduction of famous picture "Žalgirio mūšis", a copy of Lithuania's Declaration of Independence, and unique 2 meter-long chronological summary of Lithuania's history.

What follows is not a typical book review by an authority in the field, but sharing of impressions and observations by a person who values and is proud of his ethnic heritage. First of all, let me note that I met the book's author in Toronto on July 7, 1954. My mother Rožė Kriaučiūnienė and I were driving through Toronto, Canada when she expressed an interest to visit Adolfas Šapoka who, at that time, was the chief editor of Lithuanian weekly paper "Tėviškės žiburiai". The reason for the visit was not that he was a well-known author of *Lietuvos istorija* or the editor of the newspaper, but because he was somehow related to my mother. According to her, they were cousins of some degree, but I never learned the details. Doing my research about the author now, I learned that he was born on February 13, 1906, in Grybeliai by Utena. He attended the middle school there and then graduated from Panevėžys high-school in 1925. My mother was about a year older, but, I believe, she also attended the same schools with him. During our visit with him, I had no idea that he was the primary author of the well-known history book, published in 1936, that, in time, was the authoritative book on Lithuania's history. Initially, the book was published as a history textbook for students. Later it

was banned by the Soviet rulers.

When the Soviet empire was falling apart, the book was published again in 1988 and was followed by repeated editions in 1989, 1990, 2016 and 2017. It echoed the "Sąjūdis" movement, followed by restoration of Lithuania's Independence in 1990.



Adolfas Šapoka

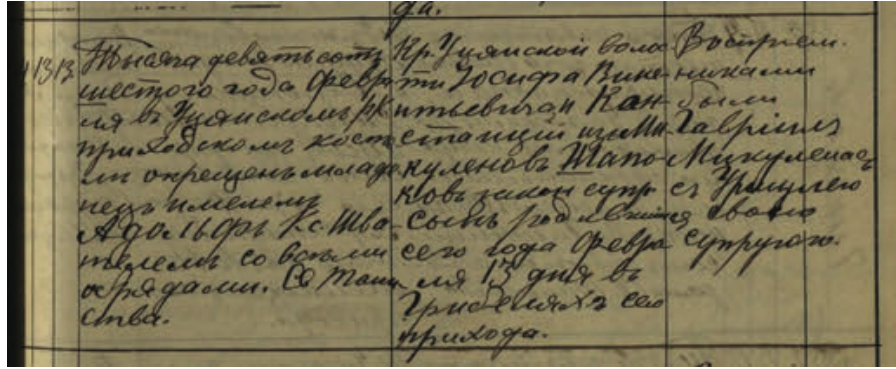
Adolfas Šapoka, who earned a Ph.D. degree in history, was not the only the author of the book, still one of the best and most extensive general textbooks in the field. It was edited and written, in collaboration with Juozas Jakštas, Zenonas Ivinskis, Paulius Šležas and Petras Klimas. In the book, Šapoka developed more extensively Lappo's thesis that Lithuania and Poland did not coalesce into one state after 1569. Šapoka distinguished between a legal-political and a socio-cultural aspect of Lithuanian-Polish relations. As regards the former, Lithuania remained an independent state, managing its own internal affairs. Regarding the latter, Lithuania's nobility gradually merged with its Polish counterpart and lost its sense of national identity (Encyclopedia Lituanica, Boston, 1972). One may say that the rest is history, covered in detail in Šapoka's Lietuvos istorija.

On the very first page of the new edition, former President of Lithuania Valdas Adamkus reminisces about having studied the book as he was growing up. He adds that the book is a good source for teaching patriotism. That may have been the reason why the book was seen as dangerous to the occupying forces and was warmly welcomed during the period of national revival.

Next follows an introduction by Birutė Kairienė. She quotes a number of sources, testifying the historical importance of the book which has been secretly copied and read during the time of Soviet occupation. She also adds some interesting facts about the book. When first published in 1936, some 17,500 copies were sold, the highest in the category of non-religious books. Only prayer books had a larger circulation. The 1990 edition of the book had 100,000 copies. Soon thereafter additional 155,000 copies were published.

There also is an interesting article, written by author's nephew Algirdas Šapoka, first published in "Kultūros barai" in 1989. It adds face and character to the legacy of Adolfas Šapoka.

Now we finally come to the Table of Contents, taking up full twelve pages. It contains eight parts: Prehistoric times, Lithuania before unification, Creation of Lithuanian State, Lithuania under Gediminas rule, Lithuania during the time of aristocracy, Lithuania under Russian



Adolfas Šapoka's baptism record from Utena Roman Catholic Church.

Rule, Life during Lithuania's Independence period, and The fate of Lithuania's diaspora. The text provides well-organized reading, written in a style that is relatively easy to understand and retain. A major shortcoming of this impressive book is the fact that this rendition of Lietuvos istorija ends with the year when it was first published – 1936. That is over seventy years ago. Much has happened since then. Even a brief addendum would have been most helpful.

The "Collector' Edition" remains a treasure, regardless of one's interest in history or knowledge of the language. To own it is like having your own copy of the family Bible. Lietuvos istorija is not about religion, but about a family of people with strong beliefs, a pride in its history and a caring attitude toward humanity.



Roman Catholic church in Utena where Adolfas Šapoka, the future author of Lithuanian History was baptized.

Singing and Dancing Lithuanians from All Over the World Celebrate Lithuania's Centennial



This year, the World Lithuanian Song Festival was special as it was dedicated to the commemoration of the Centenary of the Restoration of Lithuania's Independence. Lithuanian song and dance groups from all over the world participated in the festival. Twenty two choruses came to Lithuania from Australia, Austria, Great Britain, Canada, Latvia, Poland, Russia, Ukraine, Germany and the United States. Lithuanian Americans were represented by Los Angelai Chorus and Tolimi Aidai chorus from Los Angeles, California, Dainava from Chicago, Illinois Laisvė from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, Vyturys from Lemont, Illinois, and Exultate from Cleveland, Ohio.

Among eight thousand dancers, Lithuanian Americans were represented by Grandis from Chicago, Illinois (Gintaras Grinkevičius and Dalia Bilaišytė - DeMuth),

Suktinis from Chicago, Illinois (Giedrė Knieža), Spindulys from Lemont, Illinois (Kastytis Šoliūnas), Laumė from Buffalo Grove, Illinois (Vaida Indriliūnas), Švyturys from Cleveland, Ohio (Aušrinė Širvinskienė and Eglė Žukauskienė), Jievaras from Atlanta, Georgia (Giedrius Stankevičius), Spindulys from Los Angeles, California (Danguolė Razutytė-Varnienė and Daina Žemaitaitė), Retro from Los Angeles, California (Sigita Barisienė), Malūnas from Baltimore, Maryland (Rytis Grybauskas and Eglė Baublytė), and Sambūris from Boston, Massachusetts (Tomas Mikuckis).

These photographs are shared with our readers by Sigita Šimkuvienė, Linas Umbrasas, Rasa Paulauskaitė Dooling and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Lithuania.















a taste of lithuania

Ridikėliai

(radishes)

By Jana Sirusaitė-Motivans



Radishes are well suited for the Lithuanian climate, where the summer growing season is short. They can be planted during the spring, when the weather is still cool. They are fast growing and can mature in three to four weeks. The peak season for radishes is from April to July.

In the past, many families in the Lithuanian countryside would get through the winter by storing food from their harvests, gardens, and forests that they had gathered and preserved. I remember visiting relatives and seeing their beautiful jars of pickles, jams and jellies, tomatoes and other fruits and vegetables. I also remember root cellars chock full of potatoes, onions, apples and home-made beer and cider. These stored foods were delicious, but after a long, cold and dark winter, people would look

forward to fresh vegetables and fruits. The fresh peppery taste of radishes must have been a welcome treat.

Here are four recipes featuring radishes. Serve all four together for an early summer lunch, or try one or two as a side dish for your next cook-out. The cucumber and radish salad was inspired by a salad prepared by Atiana Benoit and served at the Neringa Culinary Heritage weekend last September. The recipe for the radish butter came to me from my friend Kerry Secret. The recipes for the radish and smoked salmon sandwiches and the potato, radish and celery salad come from my recipe files.

Ridikėliai

Cucumber and radish salad

INGREDIENTS

- 1 pound radishes
- 1 bunch scallions
- 1 pound cucumbers (I used small Lebanese cucumbers. Kirbys would also be good)
- Fresh dill
- 1/3 cup sour cream
- 1/2 teaspoon salt

1. Trim the radishes and cucumbers. Slice both into thin rounds and place in a large bowl.
2. Chop the scallions and dill. Add to the bowl.
3. Add sour cream and salt. Mix it all together.



Smoked salmon toasts

INGREDIENTS

- 4 ounces cream cheese, room temperature
- 1 tablespoon prepared horseradish
- 3 tablespoons thinly sliced fresh chives
- 1 bunch radishes
- Smoked salmon

In a small bowl, stir together the cream cheese, chives and horseradish. Season with salt and pepper. Spread the cheese mixture on sliced Lithuanian bread. Top with thinly sliced radishes and smoked salmon.



Potato salad with radishes and celery

INGREDIENTS

- 3 pounds baby gold potatoes
- 4 cups sliced celery
- 1 cup olive oil
- 1 bunch scallions, sliced (1 cup)
- 1/4 cup white wine vinegar
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 2 bunches of radishes, sliced
- 1/2 teaspoon pepper

Bring a large pot of salted water to a boil. Add the potatoes and cook until tender, about 20 minutes. Drain and let cool slightly. Peel and slice the potatoes.

Meanwhile, in a large bowl, whisk the olive oil with the vinegar and season with the salt and pepper. Add the sliced potatoes and celery and mix gently. Let stand at room temperature until cool, about thirty minutes. Just before serving, mix in the radishes and scallions and season with salt and pepper.



Radish Butter

INGREDIENTS

- 1 bunch of radishes
- 6 tablespoons unsalted butter, softened

1. Wash radishes and trim the root ends. Grate the radishes using the large holes of a box grater.
2. Place the grated radishes on a paper towel, cover with another paper towel, and press to remove the excess moisture.
3. Combine the grated radishes and the softened butter in a small bowl, and mix to combine.
4. Spread the radish butter on Lithuanian bread, and sprinkle with coarse salt.

current events

Security

...Lithuania held a large military drill over a two week period involving 9,000 local soldiers and officers. This defensive exercise, Thunder Storm 2018, is coordinated with the NATO's Enhanced Forward Presence battalion.

...The Tallinn based International Center for Defense and Security issued a report indicating that the three Baltic nations cannot afford to acquire and maintain a modern air defense system. With limited funds, it can only hope to coordinate systems within the countries and with NATO. The report was authored by British Air Force Marshall Christopher Harper, ICDS researcher Tony Lorem and ICDS Director, Sven Sakkov.

...Foreign ministers from Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania met with newly appointed U.S. National Security Advisor, John Bolton, to discuss the need for naval and air defenses in the run-up to NATO's July meeting.

...In preparation for the "football" World Cup being hosted by Russia during June 14 to July 15, Lithuanian border guards are undergoing training for the estimated 16,000 fans that will use transit trains to get to Kaliningrad where 4 matches are scheduled. Even more Russian fans are expected to come by car via Belarus using special travel documents. Fans from non-EU states such as Nigeria and Morocco will need Schengen visas to travel through Lithuania.

...The Strasbourg, France based European Court of Human Rights has ruled that Lithuania allowed the CIA to use "black" sites for detention and torture of al-Qaeda leader Abu Zubaydah, suspected of planning the September 11 attacks. He was later moved to another CIA detention site in Afghanistan and is currently detained in the U.S. military prison in Guantanamo Bay. The seven-judge panel unanimously found in favor of the plaintiff and ordered Lithuania to pay him 100,000 Euros. The Lithuanian Justice Minister, Elvinas Jankevičius indicated that they may appeal the verdict but President Dalia Grybauskaitė feels that the country's reputation has already been damaged and payment should be made without delay.

...An amendment to the Law on Political Parties would have allowed any EU national over 18 the right to form a political party in Lithuania. The Seimas rejected the amendment by 39 to 6 with 43 abstentions. The EU was in favor of the amendment. The existing law only permits Lithuanian citizens to found a political party; EU nationals permanently residing in Lithuania may join a local party.

...Russia has opened 18.1 km parallel bridges over the Kerch Strait in the Black Sea to join annexed Crimea to mainland Russia. The dual lane truss arch bridges will be joined by rail links in 2019 and be known as the Crimean Bridge. The length makes it the longest bridge in Europe and Russia and has a clearance of 35 meters. It was built at a cost of \$3.7 billion and is estimated to be able to handle 40,000 cars per day and 14 million tons of freight per year. Ukraine filed a claim with the International Tribunal stating it was illegal under international law and a threat to Ukraine's sovereignty. During the opening week, there were 7,700 ceasefire violations between Ukrainian forces and separatists in the Donetsk and Luhansk regions of eastern Ukraine.

...The BBC reported that the Polish Internal Security Agency has detained a Russian national suspected of agitating tensions with Ukraine and shut down two hybrid war networks.

...Lithuania is the 28th nation to contract with Microsoft's Government Security Program that gives it direct access to information and studies on cyber-security.

Business

...With anticipated approval by the Seimas, Lithuania will become the 36th and newest member of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development Convention after a three-year application and approval process. Estonia joined the OECD in 2010 and Latvia in 2016. Membership will enable Lithuania to receive OECD expert assistance, obtain better investment ratings and lower interest loans. Using OECD recommendations Lithuania has reformed the forestry and road maintenance services, depoliticized the state-owned companies and increased anticorruption efforts including a 10 fold increase in related fines. One recent OECD report, Reviews of Health Systems: Lithuania 2018, recommends that complex services be delivered at fewer hospitals and some services be delivered at local clinics rather than in hospital. Life expectancy is 6 years lower in Lithuania than other OECD members.

...Currently, Lithuania has a standard 15% tax rate. Tax penalties range from 10 to 50% of unpaid taxes and are more often only 10%. New laws will increase the penalties from 50 to 100% and would double for repeat offenders. Unreported income in Lithuania is estimated at one-third of personal income.

...Prime Minister Saulius Skvernelis has introduced a quota system to limit the immigration of unskilled labor.

The government is also looking at workers who receive work permits in Poland (such as drivers and building trades) but are posted to Lithuania and avoid taxes. Over 11,300 Ukrainians came to work in Lithuania in the first quarter of 2018 compared to 3,600 last year.

...The airBaltic company has contracted with Bombardier to buy 30 CS300 aircraft with an option to buy an additional 30. By 2025 airBaltic will join other European airlines that only fly one model plane with an associated reduction in operating costs. The Canadian company has a plant in Northern Ireland. The CS300 seats 145 passengers with a 2 seat- 3 seat configuration with wider seats than comparable aircraft.

...Videntifier, an Icelandic developer of visual search and identification systems has opened an R&D center in Vilnius. It will relocate 3 researchers from Reykjavik and hire about 5 in 2018 with expertise in algorithm conversion, computer vision, and high-dimensional indexing. Founded in 2008 its clients include Interpol, U.S. Dept. of Homeland Security, Europol, UK Home Office and the Swedish National Police.

...FESTO, a German-based company with sales of 3 billion Euros opened a new office in Kaunas. Although known mostly for industrial automation controls, it has a Bionic Learning Center which connects biology and new technology. Currently, FESTO LIETUVA has 400 employees in Kaunas and has been growing at 20% per year and employs engineers, applied mathematicians, economists, financial analysts, IT and managers.

...China was the major factor in the establishment of the 16+1 Agriculture and Food Forum 5 years ago. The 16 represent 16 countries in Central and Eastern Europe (CEE) and the "1" in China. A recent forum was held in Vilnius where Lithuania expects to get permits for beef, feed and corn exports to China. Current exports include cheese, curd, frozen bilberries, concentrated milk, cream and alcoholic beverages. There is an expectation that the China Merchant Group (CMG) is interested in building a new container terminal in Klaipeda. Talks were started in 2015 but have been moving very slowly. The planned visit by the Dalai Lama in June may be a factor in the trade negotiations based on who welcomes him.

...Statistics Lithuania reports that in the first quarter of 2018 Lithuania's unemployment rate fell from 8.0% to 7.2%. The rate was 8.6% for men and 5.7% for women.

...The 48-page Parliamentary Committee on Nation Security and Defense report on business influence on

politics finds that MG Group and Vilniaus prekyba, the two largest business groups in Lithuania and Rosatom, Russia's State Atomic Energy Corp., exercised undue influence on energy projects and public procurement. Opposition politicians noted that the large fertilizer and agribusiness, Agrokoncernas, run by the ruling Peasants and Greens Union leader, Ramūnas Karbauskis, was not subject to investigation.

General

...A federal judge in Chicago, Virginia Kendall, has given former Lithuanian parliamentarian and judge a month reprieve from possible extradition back to Lithuania while she has scheduled another hearing for June 14. Neringa Venckienė fears for her life for exposing a pedophile ring. She faces charges of slander in Lithuania.

...Bi-annually the Norwegian Academy of Science and Letters awards the Kavli Prizes in Astrophysics, Nanoscience, and Neuroscience. This year Virginijus Šikšnys of Vilnius University will receive a gold medal and share the \$1 million award in Nanoscience with two others for developing the CRISPR-Cas9 precision gene editing tool. The award ceremony will be held in Oslo on September 4.

...The Lithuanian government will pay 349,000 euro for one year to rebroadcast five Polish-language TV channels aimed at southeastern Lithuania where the majority of Polish speakers reside.

...The Seimas is considering granting state recognition to Romuva, a neo-pagan religion of ancient Baltic faith. The Justice Ministry stated the Romuva represents a religious community promoting ethnic culture and noted that it is the country's fastest-growing religious community.

...Russia has banned, Emanuelis Zingeris, a Lithuanian lawmaker, and reporter selected by the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, from entering Russia to report on the murder of Boris Nemtsov, the Russian opposition leader to Vladimir Putin.

...Double agent Sergei Skripal, 66, was released from Salisbury Hospital in May after he and his daughter Yulia, 33, were exposed to novichok, a military grade nerve agent in March. She was released in April. Detective Sergeant Nick Bailey, who helped in the investigation and was also exposed and hospitalized, was released in March. Police identified the highest concentration on Skripal's front door.

our community

LRSC News

Dr. Indrė Antanaitis-Jacobs



Erika Weir



Egidijus Balandis

Recently, the Lithuanian Research and Studies Center (LRSC) in Chicago was visited by a couple graduate students – Lithuanian American Erika Weir and native Lithuanian Egidijus Balandis.

Erika Weir is a Master of Science student in Library Science at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and toured the LRSC. She had learned about the Center while working on an archives project at the University and was excited to see the vast scope of LRSC's Lithuanian material information. Erika Weir is an "Outreach and Engagement Assistant" in the Slavic Reference Service area at her University and is preparing an online course on digitizing paper documents; she invited the Center to tune in to her course.

Egidijus Balandis is a PhD student at Vytautas Magnus University in Kaunas, Lithuania, who is preparing his doctoral dissertation on the social history of Lithuanian diaspora athletes of the first wave in the United States. He researched athlete Konstantinas Savickas's archive for his dissertation at LRSC, as well as our library materials for his June 5th lecture at the Balzekas Museum of Lithuanian Culture on ideological trends of Lithuanian American organizations at the end of the 19th and beginning of the 20th C.

These two graduate students are fine examples of Lithuanian researchers who are using their area of academic expertise in promoting Lithuanian culture.

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July/August 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, Rock-
ford, 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

**Exhibit "For Freedom:
Lithuanian American Sup-
port for Lithuania's Inde-
pendence and Recognition"**
Balzekas Museum of
Lithuanian Culture
www.balzekasmuseum.org

AUGUST

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

August 22-26, 2018
**Cultural Days '18 (ages 21+)
Neringa Camp**
Hands-on classes and activi-
ties will be offered by folk
artists, writers, music lovers,
history, film, drama and food
specialists. Each evening
program will highlight a
particular theme engaging
everyone in discussions and
a social.
Coordinator: Dr. Aldona
Lingertaitienė.

August 23, 2018, 7 p.m.
**No One Will Ever Love You
As Much: A Glimpse into
One Hundred Years
of Lithuanian Poetry**
Poetry Foundation
61 W. Superior St.,
Chicago, IL

SEPTEMBER

September 14-16, 2018
**Lithuanian Folk Art Week-
end for adults (ages 18+)**
The first Lithuanian Folk Art
Weekend at Neringa will
include learning how to make
straw ornaments, decorate
Easter eggs, weave, wood
carving, work with metal, etc.
Weekend coordinators:
Reggie Jagminas and
Jana Sirusaitė Motivans.

September 14, 2018,
7 p.m.
**Presentation on Lithuanian
piano rolls**
by Prof. Darius Kučinskas
at the Balzekas Museum of
Lithuanian Culture in
Chicago, 6500 S. Pulaski Rd.

September 22, 2018,
2 p.m.
**Book signing by Birutė
Putrius, the author of The
Last Book Smuggler.**
Balzekas Museum of
Lithuanian Culture in
Chicago, 6500 S. Pulaski Rd.

September 30, 2018,
6 p.m.
**Balzekas Museum Man of
the Year Excellence Award
Banquet honoring Marijus
Gudynas, Director of the
Department of Lithuanians
Living Abroad at the Minis-
try of Foreign Affairs of the
Republic of Lithuania.**
Balzekas Museum of
Lithuanian Culture in
Chicago, 6500 S. Pulaski Rd.

OCTOBER

October 20, 2018, 9 a.m.
**International Basketball
Tournament
"Ambassador's Cup"**
in Fort Washington, Maryland
at Southern Regional
Technology and Recreation
Complex, 7007 Bock Road,
Fort Washington, MD 20744.
More info: tadas.kubilius@
urm.lt or (202) 234-5860.

NOVEMBER

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

DECEMBER

December 8, 2018,
1-3 p.m.
**Amber Roots Lithuanian
Heritage Club Kūčios
(Christmas Eve).**
Lithuanian Music Hall, 2517 E.
Allegheny Ave., 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.

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VOLUME 42 ISSUE 6

LITHUANIAN-AMERICAN NEWS JOURNAL

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