

bridges



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from the editor

Dear readers,

The 2018 year is coming to an end. It was the year of the 100th Anniversary of Lithuanian Independence, and therefore it was special to us. We celebrated all year long by putting up exhibits, publishing history books, dancing and singing in festivals and concerts, and having a variety of other events in our communities.

Most of us will be reflecting on the most important goals that we achieved this year, our biggest accomplishments, our greatest memories, our favorite and most enjoyable things we did. I hope there were many of good and positive events in your families and in your communities.

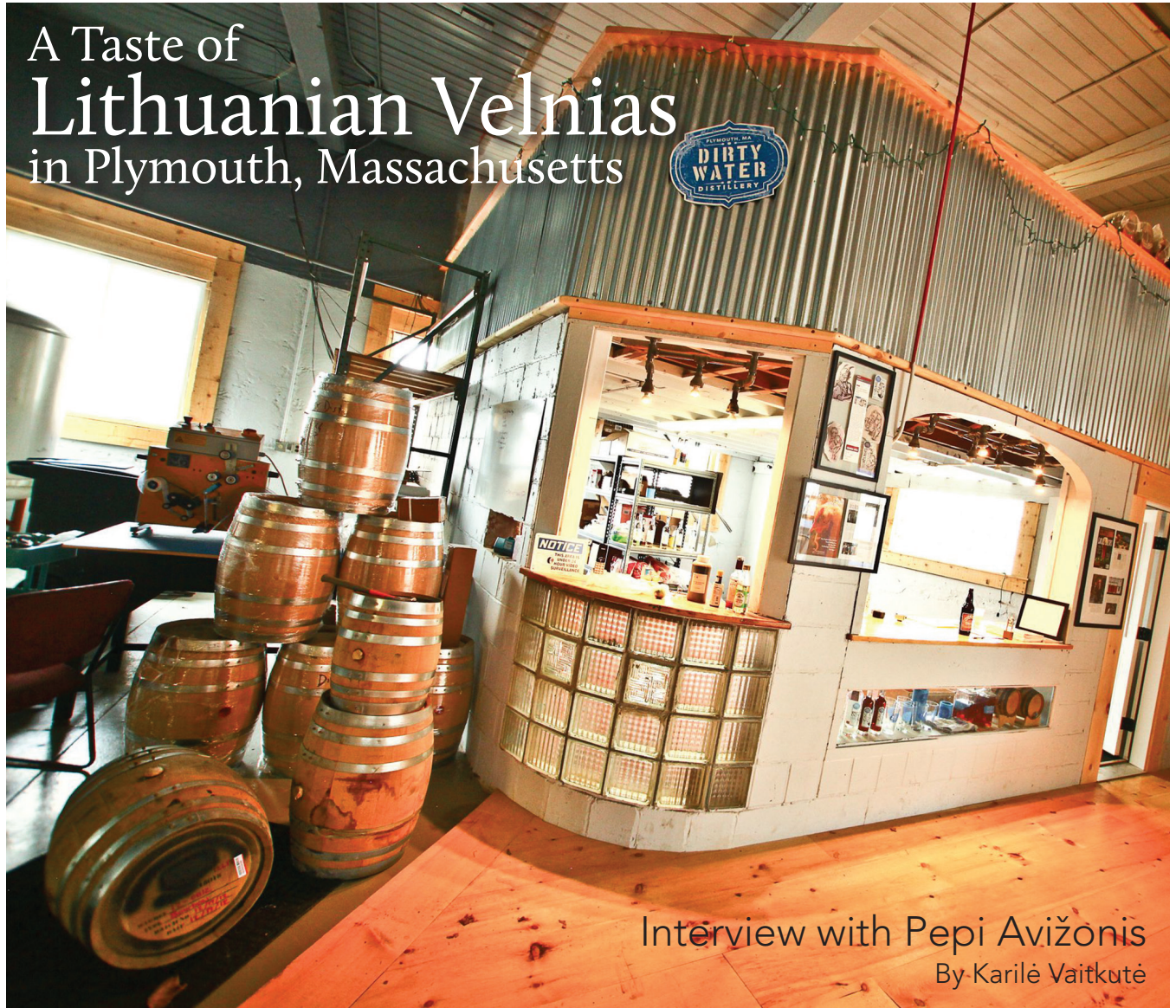
For the covers of this issue of Bridges I chose two photos that reflect the work of the Lithuanian Americans in the field of propagating Lithuanian culture. On the front cover, you see a Christmas tree decorated with traditional Lithuanian straw ornaments. This tree stands in Chicago's O'Hare International Airport. Every day, thousands of passers-by have the opportunity to see these unique ornaments, stop by the tree, admire the craft, and learn of a cultural aspect of Lithuania. The Balzekas Museum has been putting up the Lithuanian Christmas trees in O'Hare and Midway airports in Chicago for a great number of years, this way advertising Lithuanian customs and traditions. On the back cover of the magazine you see a photo of the Lithuanian folk dance group Suktinis performing in the Uncle Dan's Thanksgiving Day parade in downtown Chicago. The dance was broadcasted live on TV, and thousands of viewers had an opportunity to hear the name of Lithuania and see one of our dances. The Suktinis dancers are all recent immigrants from Lithuania who actively continue promoting Lithuanian culture in the United States.

I wish you happiness and success in the coming year!
Linksmų Šventų Kalėdų ir Laimingų Naujųjų Metų!

Sincerely,

Karilė Vaitkutė
Editor

A Taste of Lithuanian Velnias in Plymouth, Massachusetts



Dirty Water Distillery in Plymouth, Massachusetts.

Interview with Pepi Avižonis
By Karilė Vaitkutė

This interview might have never happened if not for a few coincidences. In one of the previous Bridges issues, there was an article about the Knights of Lithuania annual convention written by Regina Juska Svoba, in which the Dirty Water Distillery was mentioned. The article said that the distillery was run by Lithuanians, and I was curious enough to find out who the owners were. It turned out it was Peter (Pepi) Avižonis. When I mentioned this fact to my husband who currently is working on a documentary film about the history of Lithuanians in the United States, he said that Petras Avižonis was the also the name of a man who wrote the very first Lithuanian grammar at the time when Lithuania was still not a free country. Being a genealogist, I, of course, wanted to see if both Petras Avižonis were related. It turned out they were! Peter

(Pepi) Avižonis, the owner of the Dirty Waters Distillery in Plymouth, Massachusetts is the great-grandson of Petras Avižonis, a famous Lithuanian ophthalmologist and rector of the University of Lithuania at one time. I asked if Pepi Avižonis would agree to an interview about his distillery and his famous great-grandfather, and he agreed.

Karilė Vaitkutė: It seems that microbreweries are very popular these days. However, they are mostly beer breweries. Why did you decide to open a distillery?

Pepi Avižonis: My brother-in-law (at the time) and I made the same observation - there's a brewery on almost every corner and we thought it would be good to do something less common (also more challenging).



Petras (Pepi) Avižonis, the owner of Dirty Water Distillery, with his family. Photo source: Avižonis family.



Velnius Krupnikas label.

KV: How did you come up with the name Dirty Water Distillery? Does it have any significance?

PA: It was a code-word we were using to say we had 'wash' (basically the beer - fermented liquid) ready to distill while we were experimenting. You can distill water at home legally, but distilling at home is still illegal. We'd email each other that we had 'dirty water to distill'. As we went forward figuring out what to name the business, my sister-in-law suggested 'Dirty Water' since it had the hidden meaning, and it fits the Boston area with the song (Stanelles?).

KV: One of the liquors your distillery offers is called Velnius (Devil). What is it and why is called this way?

PA: We started making Krupnikas (Lithuanian honey liquor) and decided the word was a bit challenging for non-Lithuanians to say (not that Velnius is much easier). That said, we decided to find something that would lend itself to hand-drawn artwork and we went with 'Velnius'. We also like to point out that the devil isn't so much evil in Lithuanian culture, rather he's the guy that makes you do stupid things. Drink enough and this Velnius will have you doing silly things...

KV: The labels of your liquors are very distinctive and unlike any other. Who is the designer?

PA: Most of our artwork is done by Tony Ciavarrro - a local (but world famous) tattoo artist who has become a good friend. Some I do myself, and we're starting to pull in some other artists as well - but Tony has been our core guy that I have a barter-system set up with - I do engineering work for him (design cables, connectors, and power supplies for his industry) and he does artwork for me.



Petras Avižonis and his wife, Sofija Gruzdytė whom he married in 1901. Photo source: Avižonis family.



Pepi Avižonis's maternal grandfather Antanas Jucėnas with his family. It is Jucėnas's krupnikas honey liquor recipe that Pepi makes in his Dirty Water Distillery. Photo source: Avižonis family.



Avižonis family in 1909: sons Vytautas, Konstantinas and Jonas with their mother Sovija Avižonis. Photo source: Avižonis family.

KV: How did you come up with the creative names for your liquors?

PA: We really just try to find names that reflect the product in one way or another. We make a single-malt whiskey that we named 'the Bachelor' - single, get it?

KV: You come from a family of scholars. There were famous historians, engineers, physicians among the members of your family. You yourself have a Ph.D. in physics. Did your education help in your distillery business or it has nothing to do with it?

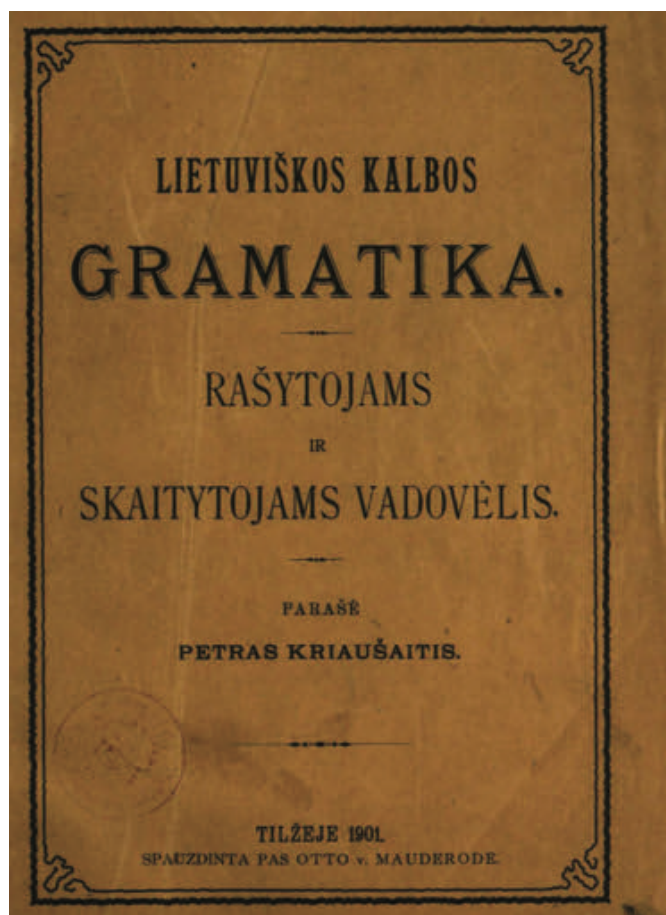
PA: The Ph.D. doesn't hurt - basically a Ph.D. really just means you know how to teach yourself and figure things out (a lesson I was taught at a summer internship at Rockwell). The education really just helps with the confidence to try doing new things and figuring them out.



In 1898, Petras Avižonis, Jadvyga Juškytė and her sister Marija sailed across the Nemunas River to visit Vincas Kudirka, the publisher of Varpas living in Naumiestis in Suvalkija. Petras Avižonis was born in 1875 in Pasvalys. His parents were active book smugglers. Petras attended the Mitau Gymnasium together with many other Lithuanian students, later prominent figures in Lithuanian politics and culture. These students organized an illegal student organization, which Avižonis reorganized into the Infant Society in 1890. The society promoted the Lithuanian national consciousness and helped distribute banned Lithuanian books. Photo source: Avižonis family.

KV: Your great-grandfather, Petras Avižonis, was a famous Lithuanian physician. It might be a lesser known fact but he was also the author of the first Lithuanian grammar. Did your father and grandfather have any stories about your great grandfather's life?

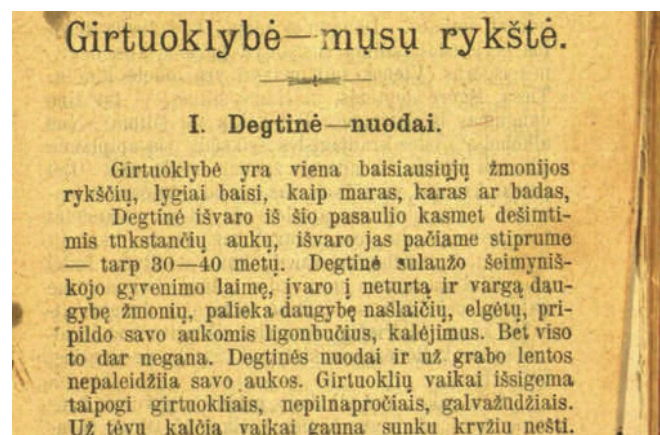
PA: Most of my father's stories were about growing up in Lithuania, and life during wartime. They ran from the Soviets because my grandfather was a medical doctor and educated. There were some stories about him being a scholar (working on the grammar text), teaching medicine in Tartu (Estonia), and starting a hospital in Lithuania.



Cover page of the Lithuanian Grammar written by Petras Avižonis together with Jonas Jablonskis. This grammar textbook was based on the Lietuviška gramatikėlė, a small Lithuanian grammar that Petras Avižonis wrote based on the German-language writings of Frydrichas Kuršaitis and on works by Kazimieras Jaunius. It was the first work that used the Lithuanian alphabet as it is used today. When the book could not be printed, Antanas Smetona and Vladas Sirutavičius made about 100 copies using a mimeograph in 1898. This grammar was insufficient for Lithuanian needs and in summer 1900 Jablonskis and Avižonis wrote a more substantial grammar, which became highly influential in creating the standard Lithuanian language. It was published in 1901 under the pen name Petras Kriaušaitis (Petras is Avižonis' first name and Kriaušaitis is Jablonskis' pen name). The grammar was published using the funds of the Susivienijimas Lietuvių Amerikoje (SLA) organization. Photo source: www.epaveldas.lt.

KV: One of many books your great-grandfather wrote was a small booklet called „Girtuoklybė – mūsų rykštė“ (Drinking is our misfortune) and the first chapter is called Degtinė – nuodai (Vodka is poison). Did you know about that? What would your thoughts be about his position regarding alcohol use as a problem?

PA: I wouldn't believe that he had a prohibitive perspective rather a cautious one. There's no family history of being anti-alcohol, instead a history of moderation. For those who have issues with alcohol, it's a very bad thing and I have many friends who do not drink at all. Professionally (via the distillery), we're very supportive of organizations and programs that help those people since we all have someone close that has dealt with or is dealing with addiction.



A page from Girtuoklybė mūsų rykštė written by Petras Avižonis in 1907. It was a 14-page booklet published by Žarija. Source: www.epaveldas.lt



Avižonis family in 1938. Avižonis graduated from the Dorpat University where he studied medicine from 1897 to 1900. In independent Lithuania, Avižonis focused his efforts on medicine. He organized the Medical Society of Kaunas in 1919. From 1920, Avižonis lectured at the Higher Courses, the predecessor of the University of Lithuania established in 1922. At the new university, he was the dean of the Faculty of Medicine (1923–1924), university proctor (1924–1925), and rector (1925–1926). He continued to teach ophthalmology and history of medicine until his death in 1939. Photo source: Avižonis family.

KV: The distillery has been opened since 2013. What were the ups and downs? What have you learned?

PA: It's an ongoing effort that really requires you never let off the gas - as soon as you think you're making progress, something happens to set you back (like a forklift dying). You just have to keep pushing as in any business...

KV: What is your most popular liquor?

PA: I'd say that the Krupnikas is by far the most popular ("Velnias") - it's not something many non-Lithuanian (or Polish) people are very familiar with so it's an exciting discovery for most. After that, our whiskeys do quite well... a good hand-crafted whiskey that's a year old is easily as good as a 12-16-year-old whiskey from a big producer.

KV: Would you share any recipes in which your liquors are used? Where can one buy your spirits? When is the distillery open for tasting?

PA: We self-distribute in Southern Mass, and are distributed by 'Blueprint Brands' in the rest of Mass as well as Rhode Island. One can also buy our products directly at the distillery - we have free tours and tastings Wed/Th/Fri 2-7pm, Sat 12-6pm, and Sun 12-5pm.

Since people are starting to discover our Velnias Krupnikas, here are a couple recipes to try with that:

Black Forest Honey

- 1 1/4oz Velnias Spiced Honey Liquor
- 1 1/2oz Bourbon
- 5 Blackberries
- 5 Mint leaves
- 1 lemon slice

Muddle all ingredients except bourbon. Add ice, bourbon and shake. Double strain over fresh ice. Garnish with mint sprig.

The Irish Beekeeper

- 1 1/2oz Velnias Spiced Honey Liquor
- 1 1/2oz Irish Whiskey
- 1 1/2oz OJ
- 1/4oz Simple Syrup

Shake all ingredients and strain over fresh ice in a high-ball glass.

KV: Thank you. I am sure some of our readers will try the recipes, especially during the holiday season.



Dirty Water Distillery in Plymouth, Massachusetts.



Petras and Liuda Avižonis, Pepi's parents.
Photo source: Avižonis family.



Second cousins Terrence List and Darius Kučinskas.

The thought of finding relatives who immigrated to the United States came to me only after both of my parents were deceased and there was no one left who could tell or recall anything. The desire to find out about the life of those who left for the other shore of the Atlantic became especially intense then. When I was growing up I would often hear my family talk about our close relatives - my mother's cousins - who lived far away.

The only thing I knew was that my grandmother Ona Žukauskaitė's three sisters and my grandfather Juozas Valiuškevičius's brother went to America from Dotnuva before the First World War. Their names were Konstančija, Margarita, and Veronika Žukauskaitė and Jonas Valiuškevičius. I also knew that one of my grandmother's sisters married a Kazlauskas (she became Margaret

Kazlauskas) before the Second World War. Another sister also got married and had twins. She sent a photo to Lithuania, which, unfortunately, did not survive. That was all I knew.

My grandparents communicated with their relatives in the United States by writing letters. The letters were not frequent, and eventually, they stopped coming when after the war the Soviet iron curtain landed on Lithuania. For more than half a century we lived with no news about them. Only in 1990, after Lithuania regained its independence, we could freely contact the United States again and the hope of finding relatives became stronger.

I started my search by talking to my relatives in Lithuania. I found more distant relatives that were still alive and started inquiring if they knew anything or had any

Family name Zukowski		Given name Konstancja		Alienage by 220 One	
Place of birth (town, country, etc.) Reidany, Russia		Age 17	Sex F	M. S. S	Occupation Domestic
Race Lithuanian		Nationality Russia		Last permanent residence (town, country, etc.) Bershity, Russia	
Name and address of nearest relative or friend in country whence alien came Father Anton Schukowsky, Bershity, Kowno, Russia					
Ever in U. S.		From	To	Where	Passage paid by self P.F. mon
no					yes
Destination, and name and address of relative or friend to join there Schenectady, N.Y. Rob. Karbuc, -606 Center St.					
Money shown 26.00		Ever arrested and deported or excluded from admission			
Height 5	Pl. 4	Complexion fair	Hair fair	Eyes grey	Distinguishing marks C
Support and date of landing and name of steamship Philadelphia, Pa. Sep. 12, 1909 "Merion" Liverpool					
Form 348-S, Jan. 11, 1909, U. S. Dept. of Commerce					
Vol. No. 116		Page No. 24		Line No. 21	

Konstancija Žukauskaitė's immigration card.

FOR THE GROOM			FOR THE BRIDE		
NAME <i>John Zukowski</i>	COLOR <i>white</i>	RELATION <i>son of</i>	NAME <i>Veronika Zebrowskaite</i>	COLOR <i>white</i>	RELATION <i>daughter of</i>
RESIDENCE <i>Amsterdam, N.Y.</i>	AGE <i>28</i>	PL. OF BIRTH <i>Lithuania</i>	RESIDENCE <i>Amsterdam, N.Y.</i>	AGE <i>22</i>	PL. OF BIRTH <i>Lithuania</i>
EDUCATION <i>High school</i>	NO. OF MARRIAGE <i>1st</i>	WEDDED <i>Lithuania</i>	EDUCATION <i>High school</i>	NO. OF MARRIAGE <i>1st</i>	WEDDED <i>Lithuania</i>
OTHER <i>None</i>	DIVORCED <i>None</i>	" WHEN <i>Lithuania</i>	OTHER <i>None</i>	DIVORCED <i>None</i>	" WHEN <i>Lithuania</i>
ETHNICITY <i>Polish-Lithuanian</i>	" WHERE <i>Lithuania</i>	RELATION <i>son of</i>	ETHNICITY <i>Polish-Lithuanian</i>	" WHERE <i>Lithuania</i>	RELATION <i>daughter of</i>
DATE OF LICENSE <i>Aug 28, 1916</i>	DATE OF MARRIAGE <i>Sept 2, 1916</i>	PLACE OF MARRIAGE <i>Amsterdam, N.Y.</i>	OFFICIAL <i>Rob. Karbuc</i>		
WITNESSES <i>Antoni Stankiewicz and Michael Stankiewicz</i>			WITNESSES <i>Antoni Stankiewicz and Michael Stankiewicz</i>		

Veronika Žukauskaitė's marriage record.



Second cousins Sally Miller and Darius Kučinskas.

old photographs. Unfortunately, nobody had any photos and all I got were stories that some of them had several photos a few years ago but they threw them away when moving or that there was a fire in the storage shed and everything was lost... However, all the bits and pieces that I collected started shaping up into a more general picture. Eventually, some particular details that I heard in Lithuania were repeated by the relatives that I found in America. I also visited the Dotnuva Church, one of the few churches in Lithuania that preserved almost all baptismal, marriage and death registration books starting with the 16th century. Unfortunately, the only book in which I would have been able to find the birth records of my grandparents and their sisters and brothers did not survive...

Then I cast my "nets" in the United States via the Internet. I dived into Geni, My Heritage, Ancestry, Family Search and other web pages not knowing what to expect. I was pleasantly surprised to find out that the United States has preserved and already digitized most of its archives. Although not all of the websites were

free, they allowed me to find information that led me to further discoveries.

Given the fact that entire Europe was streaming to the United States and the names of immigrants were written down mostly from listening to how they were pronounced (most of the immigrants were illiterate) there were many mistakes and inaccuracies in the names made. My hope to quickly find relatives was quickly expiring. Moreover, the surnames of my relatives are among the most widespread in Lithuania and Poland.

I managed to find the first significant document only after two years of searching. It was the immigration card issued to Konstancija Žukauskaitė, my grandmother's eldest sister. The card was dated 1909. (Figure 1). From it, I learned that Konstancija came to the United States at a young age of 17. She was invited by and had to stay with Rob. Karbuc in Schenectady, NY. Only then I remembered that my family was mentioning that the sisters went to "uncle Rokas", the brother of my great-grandmother Apolonija Karbočiūtė. He went to the United States in 1890 trying to avoid drafting to the Russian Czar's army. He never married and lived alone. It was bizarre to see



Rachel, Darius, Clifford, Rasa, Antanas, and Edward Meilun.



Timothy, Edward, Darius, Matthew, and Terrence.



Dorothy (93), Charles (97), and Darius Kučinskas.

uncle Rokas's name spelled so differently on Konstancija's immigration card. It must have been a common practice to give oneself a new name after arriving in the United States and becoming "American". Or perhaps it was done for security reasons so that nobody would be able to find you.

Another discovery was Veronika Žukauskaitė's marriage registration record (Figure 2). From it, I learned that in 1916 she married John Gudzinskas, and later I discovered that this name was changed to Gudzis. It was more challenging to find Margarita. Although I knew that after marriage, she became Margaret Kazlauskas, I came across quite a few Margaret Kazlauskas in America who were born at approximately the same time. One of them lived in Waterbury, CT. I found her grandson's daughter-in-law who had the family tree posted online. She told me an incredible story. Margarita came to the United States at a very young age already knowing that she would marry her future husband, who lived in America but visited Lithuania, proposed to her and bought her a ship ticket. The bride's mother did not want her daughter to go to America without a dowry so she gave her a cow named Bussy, and so Margarita happily reached the shores of America with her cow...

Eventually, I found my grandmother's real sister. I came across a newspaper clipping with information about a fire and a request for help. It was, as we later discovered, Terrence, Margarita's grandson, and my second cousin who has written this appeal. It turned out that Margarita's two sons, who were already in their 70s, were not married and still working on their farm and residing in a small and old house. The fire was caused by old electrical wiring and everything they had burned down. Old letters, photos, and other records were lost in the fire. Later I met them in person and it was incredibly enjoyable for me to hear the stories about their lives in America. Unfortunately, they did not have any documents to show me.

After I found out everything about the lives of the three sisters I realized one thing - people were inclined to live in the same place. As in Lithuania, Lithuanians in America were very sedentary. My grandmother's sisters arrived in Schenectady and stayed there. Not only them but their children and grandchildren stayed in the same place as well. They are still farming on the piece of land bought by their grandmothers.

My search for my grandfather Juozas Valiuškevičius's brother was different from the search of my grandmother's sisters. Here, my intuition and luck helped me to make discoveries. While browsing the Internet, I noticed a note in which the name I was searching for was written down in many variations. The surname was included in a family tree managed by a person I did not know but his contacts were indicated there, and I wrote him short letter. In my



Mark, Caroline, Natalie, Sally, Elmer (93), and Darius.

letter I mentioned that the person I was looking for had a daughter named Dorothy, and I included her photograph (I received the photo from my distant relatives in Lithuania; it's the only surviving photo). And imagine my surprise, when my letter was answered very quickly and it had joyful news - yes, the people I was looking for were members of this vast family tree, and furthermore, Dorothy was still alive and wanted to meet me! I was surprised not only because Dorothy was 93 years old and she still could remember everything perfectly, but also because during our first very brief conversation on the phone, she immediately asked if I knew anything about another brother who had come to America. I was unexpected to me because I did not know anything about it. She then explained that after the eldest brother Jonas (her father) came to the United States, his brother also was to come here. However, in Europe, he mixed up ships and went to South America instead of going to North America. Afterwards, the ties with him were broken ...

It so happened that after I discovered and contacted my relatives in America, the opportunity to get together came up. After winning the Baltic American Freedom Foundation scholarship for my research, I arrived in Chicago where I stayed for an extended period. At the same time, my brother, Antanas, had won the Fulbright scholarship and also came to America. We visited our newly-found relatives. The family reunion was very moving and symbolic. It was as if the branches of a large tree were united again. I want to believe that these branches will never separate again.



Archives Tell the Story

Traces of the Lives of Aviator Steponas Darius's Family Members

By Karilė Vaitkutė

Steponas Darius family in 1917. Standing from left: Boleslovas (William) Jucus, Aurelija (Laura) Jucus, Steponas (Stephen) Darius. Sitting from left: Konstancija (Catherine) Jucus, Augustina Jucus-Degutis, cousin Mikalina (Mildred) Regiene. Sitting in front is Stanley Degutis (later Jucus). Source: Darius-Girėnas Exhibit at the Balzekas Museum.

If you were to ever walk through the Lithuanian St. Casimir Cemetery in Chicago, and if your eye ever caught a glimpse of a grand monument with engraved names of Laura and John Nalson and Catherine and William Stulpin, you would probably not think that this is where the sisters and brothers-in-law of the legendary Lithuanian aviator Steponas Darius rest. A good eye may find the tiny let-

ters at the bottom of the monument that read, "The Sisters of the Transatlantic Flight Captain Darius and their spouses." The names of John Nalson and William Stulpin do not sound particularly Lithuanian. One might wonder if the sisters married men of other ethnicities?

Let's see if we can find any information in the U.S. archives about the close ones of Steponas Darius. Who

were his parents, sisters, and brothers? Where did they live? What their lifestyle was? What did they do for a living?

Of course, there are a few books written about Steponas Darius. His biography is on the Internet as well. Steponas Darius was born in Lithuania, in the village of Rubiškė, near Judrėnai. However, it will not help to search for Rubiškė in present-



Headstone marking the grave of John and Laura Nalson and William and Catherine Stulpin in St. Casimir's Cemetery in Chicago. Photo by Karilė Vaitkutė.

day maps of Lithuania. Rubiškė was renamed to Darius village after Steponas' tragic death. This is one example of how the names of villages, towns, and cities change over time. In Lithuania, there are multiple locations with names changed, sometimes more than one time. If searching for a location of one's birth we should consult the maps of the time of birth. Steponas Darius was born at the end of the 19th century and we should look for Rubiškė village in old maps.

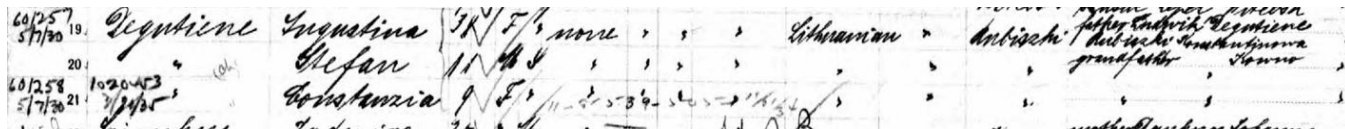
Another change is the family name. Darius' father and brothers were not named Darius, his mother was not named Darienė, and his sisters were not named Dariūtė. The name of the

family head was Jucevičius-Darašius. Later in his life, Steponas chose Darašius surname and shortened it to Darius. His brothers and sisters chose Jucevičius surname and shortened it to Jucius. After the death of Jonas Jucevičius-Darašius, his widow, Augustina, married a neighbor, Kazimieras Degutis, and traveled to America to seek her destiny.

In those few books that were published, we read that in 1907 Augustina Degutienė and her three children, Steponas, Konstancija, and Laura, came to the USA to be with her husband Kazimieras Degutis, who had arrived a year earlier. Being a genealogist, I thought it would be interesting to find the record of the family's arrival

in the United States – the ship passenger list. The search usually begins with a surname. I start wondering which surname the family would have used. Degutis? Jucevičius? Darašius? After the mother became Degutienė, did the children keep the Jucevičius surname? The search was not easy or quick. Finally, I found out that the future legendary pilot Steponas Darius immigrated to the United States from Lithuania under the name of Stefan Degutiene. Therefore, searching for records of his arrival under the names of Darius, Jucevičius, Darašius or Jucius would be impossible. The archives show that upon little Steponas' arrival in America, his surname was "substituted" with Degutienė's surname. Why did this happen? The explanation is simple. The recorder of the passengers' names wrote down the name of the mother as Degutiene and substituted the children's surnames with quotation marks to imply that their surnames were the same as their mother's. Steponas became Stefan Degutiene, his sister Konstancija Jucevičiūtė was recorded as Constanzia Degutiene. This was how the distortion of first and last names, which often shadowed the lives of many immigrants in America, began. Another daughter, Laura, was not sailing with her mother and her siblings on the same ship. So far, I could not confirm when she arrived in the US.

The passenger list gives us a lot of information. Augustina Degutiene and her children sailed on the Breslau. She left Bremen on November 30, 1907, and arrived in New York two weeks later, on December 15th. At the time, Augustina Degutiene was 38 years old, Steponas (Stefan) was 11 years old, and Konstancija (Constanzia) was 9 years old. Their last place of residence was Rubiszki (Rubiškė), and the name of their closest relative or friend who had stayed in their home country was Ludwik Degutiene in Rubiszki. Augustina's father's name



Enlarged image of the entries of Augustina Degutiene and her two children, Stefana and Constanzia from ship manifest. Source: www.ancestry.com.

was Liudvikas, but his surname was certainly not Degutiene. The recorder simply rewrote Augustina's surname without taking into account such "unimportant" things as recording a person's correct name. From New York, Augustina and her children were supposed to go to Newark, New Jersey to her husband Kazimieras Degutis, who lived on 570 Market Street. Augustina's outer appearance is described as follows: 5.1 feet tall and blonde. Her birthplace was Judrenas (Judrėnai) and the birthplace of her children was Rubitzki (Rubiškė). As we can see, the ship passenger list gives a lot of information for a family portrait.

I proceed to find Kazimieras Degutis's arrival record. Again, after a brief search, I find out that he arrived not a year before Augustina, as was written in various biographies of Steponas Darius, but only a couple of weeks before his wife and step-children arrived. The ship passenger list provides the following information: the Barbarossa sailed from Bremen on November 12th, 1907. Passenger Casimir Deguttis was 21, a farm worker, a Lithuanian by nationality

SALOON, CABIN, AND STEERAGE ALIENS MUST BE COMPLETELY MANIFESTED.

LIST OR MANIFEST OF ALIEN PASSENGERS FOR THE UNITED STATES

Received by the registration of the Secretary of Commerce and Labor of the United States, under Act of Congress approved February 20, 1907, to be delivered to the collector of customs at the port of arrival.

S.S. *Barbarossa* sailing from *Bremen* *November 12, 1907*

No.	Family Name	Given Name	Sex	Age	Rank or Profession	Nationality	Place of Birth	Last Previous Residence	Final Destination
1	Wailow	Toma	M	27	Farmer	Lithuanian	Judrenas	Barbarossa	Newark, N.J.
2	Tobiasch	Haben	M	12	Student	Lithuanian	Rubiškė	Barbarossa	Newark, N.J.
3	Stefan	Stefan	M	11	Student	Lithuanian	Rubiškė	Barbarossa	Newark, N.J.
4	Constanzia	Constanzia	F	9	Student	Lithuanian	Rubiškė	Barbarossa	Newark, N.J.
19	Degutiene	Augustina	F	38	Housewife	Lithuanian	Judrenas	Barbarossa	Newark, N.J.
20	Deguttis	Casimir	M	21	Farm worker	Lithuanian	Rubiškė	Barbarossa	Newark, N.J.
21	Degutiene	Stefana	F	11	Student	Lithuanian	Rubiškė	Barbarossa	Newark, N.J.
22	Degutiene	Constanzia	F	9	Student	Lithuanian	Rubiškė	Barbarossa	Newark, N.J.

S.S. Breslau passenger list. Augustina Degutiene is under number 19. Her two children are listed below her. Source: www.ancestry.com.

and changed his first name to William B. He arrived in America a couple of years before his mother and his siblings. Most probably, Kazimieras Degutis and Augustina Degutiene and her children indicated Boleslovas's name as the relative or friend to whom they were coming. Given how incredibly distorted the records of surnames sometimes were, it's easy to assume that Vincentas Jakas was William Jucius since the name Vincentas was often "Americanized" to William. Perhaps Boleslovas had two names – Boleslovas Vincentas? This question could be answered only after researching the documents of

the Jucevičius family in Lithuania.

Having lived in New Jersey for about a year, the Degutis family moved to Illinois. The family settled in West Pullman neighborhood on the south side of Chicago. This is where Stanley, the last of Augustina's children, was born. Steponas Darius' half-brother, Stanley Degutis, was born on June 10, 1909, on Butler Street, West Pullman, Chicago. His parents were recorded as 23-year-old Charles (Kazimieras) and 40-year-old Auguste Waswila (Augustina Vaišvila). Vaišvilaitė was Augustina's maiden name. Another interesting detail is that later, sometime between 1930 and 1940, Stan-

REGISTRATION CARD—(Men born on or after April 28, 1877 and on or before February 16, 1897)

SERIAL NUMBER U. 3392	1. NAME (Print) CHARLES (NONE) DEGUTIS	ORDER NUMBER
2. PLACE OF RESIDENCE (Print) 7212 S. ROCKWELL CHICAGO COOK ILL		
3. MAILING ADDRESS SAME		
4. TELEPHONE PROSPECT 3438	5. AGE IN YEARS 56 DATE OF BIRTH MAR 1 1886	6. PLACE OF BIRTH LITHUANIA
7. NAME AND ADDRESS OF PERSON WHO WILL ALWAYS KNOW YOUR ADDRESS STANLEY JUCUS 7212 S. ROCKWELL		
8. EMPLOYER'S NAME AND ADDRESS UNEMPLOYED		
9. PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT OR BUSINESS		

I AFFIRM THAT I HAVE VERIFIED ABOVE ANSWERS AND THAT THEY ARE TRUE.

D. S. S. Form 1 (Revised 4-1-42)

INFORMATION GIVEN BY
 (over) *Stanley Jucus* *Charles Degutis* *John Nalson*

Charles Degutis's World War Two draft registration card. Source: www.ancestry.com.

M 452

Family name Malinosky (Darius)	Given name or names Stephen William
Address 749 W 33rd St.	Title and location of court Chgo. Ill.
Certificate no. (or vol. and page) PM 5229 CN 1451996	U.S. Distr. Chgo. Ill.
Country of birth or allegiance Russia	When born (or age) Jan. 9, 1897
Date and part of arrival in U. S. Dec. 1907 N.Y.	Date of naturalization June 28, 1920
Names and addresses of witnesses John Nalson-3205 S Halsted St. Chgo. Ill. Anton J Malinosky-3246 S Halsted St. Chgo. Ill.	

U. S. Department of Labor, Immigration and Naturalization Service. Form No. 1-IP.

Steponas Darius's naturalization record of 1920 with the mistake in his last name. Source: www.ancestry.com.

ley Degutis changed his surname to Jucus, the same as his half-sisters and brother. We can only guess at why he did not keep his father's surname, which he had received at birth. His father Kazimieras Degutis is absent from many group family photos as well. The fact that Stanley changed his surname is recorded in another document, the World War II draft registration card. The information on the card is as follows: 56-year-old

Charles Degutis lives at 7212 S. Rockwell, Chicago, IL, and Stanley Jucus is named as a person who would always know his place of residence. Charles Degutis is recorded as unemployed. The card bears the signature of Stanley Jucus as well. Why did a 56-year-old man live with his son? Why was he unemployed? Why did he not write down his information or sign for himself? These questions might be left unanswered.

What else can we add to the story of Steponas Darius' family members? On June 3, 1917, William (Boleslovas) Jucus filled out the First World War draft registration card. He indicated that he was unmarried, worked as a "barn man" for Peter Schanof Co., and lived at 3358 S. Auburn Avenue in Chicago. Auburn Street is located in Bridgeport, Chicago. It was later renamed into Lituanica Street in honor of aviators Darius and Girėnas.

On December 15, 1918, Steponas's older sister Laura married. Her husband was John Nalson. I found out that Nalson would often be confused with Nelson, for Nelson is a much more popular surname. I found out that John Nalson was not an American. He was Jonas Našlėnas, a Lithuanian, born in 1888 in the village of Rečioniai, Taujėnai district, Ukmergė County. His father was Baltramiejus Našlėnas. Jonas Našlėnas came to America in 1909, and in 1919 he became a US citizen. In 1924, he and his wife Laura traveled to Lithuania. All of the above information is included in John's request to issue a passport. On May 3, 1924, John and Laura sailed on the Leviathan from New York to Lithuania, passing through France and Germany. They would return to Chicago only after half a year. Steponas Darius was living in Lithuania at the time. In 1924 he married Jaunute Škėmaitė. Steponas' sister Laura and her husband John most probably went to Lithuania to attend his wedding.

Another interesting document is the USA census of January 7, 1920. It shows that Steponas' mother and stepfather no longer lived in the West Pullman neighborhood. They moved to Bridgeport neighborhood in Chicago and resided at 749 W. 33rd Street. The following people are enumerated as living in one house: forty-year-old unemployed Charles Degutis (his name is recorded as Deguidis, which is why the document was so hard to find), his wife Augusta (Augustina),



Farewell dinner in honor of Steponas Darius and Stasys Girenas at the Jucus Sisters Restaurant in Chicago in 1933. Source: Darius-Girėnas Exhibit at the Balzekas Museum.

their son Stanley, William Jucus, Katie (Konstancija) Jucus, John Nelson, Lizzie (Laura) Nelson, and Stephen Darius.

In the summer of the same year, Steponas Darius will go to Lithuania to serve as a volunteer in the Lithuanian army. He will return to the United States only in 1927. Nonetheless, before leaving for Lithuania, Stephen Darius becomes a United States citizen. However, there was a mistake made even in this important naturalization record: Stephen Darius is recorded as Stephen Malnosky, erroneously confusing the last name with that of Anthony Malnosky's, who was the witness in the naturalization process.

In the 1930 census documents, we see a changed situation. The head of the family is no longer Darius's 45-year-old stepfather Kazimieras Degutis. Instead, it is Darius's 44-year-old brother William Jucius. The family lives at a different address:

3339 Halsted Street, Bridgeport, Chicago. William (Boleslovas) works as a restaurant manager. With him lives 41-year-old John Nelson (Našlėnas), who works as a hairdresser in the shop he owns, Lora Nelson (Laura Našlėnienė), Charles (Kazimieras) Degutis, who works as a cleaner, Augustina Degutis, and twenty-year-old Stanley Degutis, who works as a driver for a restaurant. Konstancija (Catherine) and Steponas (Stephen) no longer live in the house. Konstancija got married in Chicago in 1923 to William Stulpin and lived with him. And although Steponas had returned to the United States, he was in a veterans' sanatorium in Colorado being treated for tuberculosis during the census taking in 1930. Catherine's husband Stulpin was a pharmacist and owned a pharmacy. The couple lived at 6410 South Talman, Chicago.

The restaurant in which Darius' brothers William (Boleslovas) and

Stanley worked belonged to their sisters, Laura and Catherine. It was called the Jucus Sisters Restaurant. It was in this restaurant that Steponas Darius met Stasys Girėnas with whom he later flew over the Atlantic.

I also found records of other trips that Darius's family members had taken to Lithuania. There were a few of them. In 1930, Steponas Darius' mother Augustina Degutienė left for her homeland. She traveled with her daughter Konstancija (Catherine) and her son-in-law William Stulpinas. Laura Nalson and her husband John traveled to Lithuania in 1933, where they were waiting for Darius and Girėnas to fly in Kaunas after crossing the Atlantic. After the Lituanica's crash and the burial of both pilots, the Nalsons went back to the United States. Laura and her husband traveled to Lithuania once more in 1937.

In 1934, Steponas Darius' mother, Augustina, passed away. Her remains



Obituary of Lauras Jucus Nalson from the Draugas newspaper. November 13, 1949. Source: www.draugas.org.

were taken to Lithuania and buried in the Judrėnai cemetery, next to her parents and her first husband. In 1935, Catherine and William Stulpinas, as well as Boleslovas Jucus, crossed the Atlantic once again to participate in their mother's funeral.

In the US census of 1940, only John and Laura Nalson and William and Stella Jucus (Jacus, Jocus) lived at 3239 S. Halsted Street in Bridgeport, Chicago. John worked as a hairdresser and Darius' brother William worked at a restaurant bar. His wife, Stella, was the restaurant manager. This is



Laura and John Nalson lived in this building in Chicago. Photo by Karilė Vaitkutė.

how we know that William also got married, and his wife's name was Stella.

On August 7, 1940, William Jucus died. He was buried in St. Casimir's Cemetery in Chicago. On September 30, 1945, John Nalson (Našlėnas) died. Four years later, in 1949, his wife, Laura, also died. She was buried next to her husband.

Augustina Jucevičienė-Degutienė's youngest son, Stanley, was also married. In 1942, he still resided in Chicago, and sometime later he moved to Fort Lauderdale, Florida. William and Catherine moved there as well. William Stulpin died in 1968 and was buried in St. Casimir's Cemetery next to John and Laura Nalson. Catherine died in 1972 in Florida and was also buried in St. Casimir Cemetery in Chicago. Stanley and Josephine Jucus died in Florida and were buried there.

This is the short overview of the lives of Steponas Darius' loved ones. Today, walking down the streets of Chicago and trying to find places where Steponas Darius, his sisters, their husbands, and his mother lived, we see how drastically the neighborhoods changed. Neither West Pull-

man, nor Bridgeport, nor Marquette Park is "Lithuanian" neighborhoods anymore. The house in which Steponas lived before flying to Lithuania is no longer standing. The Jucus Sisters Restaurant, in which local Lithuanians would eat their everyday dinners no longer exists. By the way, in this restaurant, Steponas Darius and Stasys Girėnas had their last get-together with family and friends before leaving for New York from where they flew over the Atlantic in 1933. The house in which the Našlėnas and Stulpinas families lived still stands, but the outside of the building does not testify to the prosperity of these families. What remains is the impressive monument in the cemetery. There is a photograph on the monument from which Laura and Jonas Našlėnas smile to passers-by. Although all of Steponas' siblings were married, none had children, and there are no descendants to talk to about the past of the family. Only a few books exist that tell some information about the lives of the pilot's family members. And, of course, the archival records with erroneously spelled names.

“I am delighted I could contribute to the activities of the Lithuanian American Community”



Interview with Sigita Šimkuvienė,
President of the Lithuanian American Community

Sigita Šimkuvienė participating in the Lithuanian Dance Festival.

Karilė Vaitkutė: What was the Lithuanian American Community like when you first became its President and what it is like now, at the time you are leaving this position?

Sigita Šimkuvienė: I am amazed at how fast the time is flying. I remember myself 17 years ago when I arrived in this friendly country and started the "career" of a public figure. I was lucky to find myself in the environment with so many distinguished people. I met the late Vaiva Vėbraitė for the first time during the APPLE courses in Klaipėda, Lithuania. She was the director of this program and she spoke to us, Lithuanian teachers, about Lithuanian identity, its importance, and the mission of Lithuanian emigrants. A few years later I met Vaiva Vėbraitė again when I came to New Haven, Connecticut where I settled and started working. We met at St. Kazimir church. This was how I found a small Lithuanian American community in New Haven and where I met its great members: Dr. Elona and Rimas Vaišnys, General Jonas Kronkaitis and his large family and others. I am grateful to J. Kisielius who was always taking me to various Lithuanian events in Connecticut. This way I

got to know a lot of beautiful people: Dikas, Banevičius, Aleksandravičius, Zdanys, Karosas, Nenorta, Ivaška and other families with whom I still keep in contact. What surprised me most was their love for their homeland, Lithuania, and the preservation of Lithuanian culture and traditions and passing it on to their descendants. We never knew about it when living in Lithuania.

Although I was active in communal life, I felt nostalgia for Lithuania. Having come to the Lithuanian American Community I met many great prominent figures. I still vividly remember my first time at the session because until then I have never seen so many Lithuanian patriots, interesting people gathered together so far from our Homeland. I was invited to the session by Algimantas and Teresė Gečas, and Sister Margarita of Putnam, CT was taking care of me during the session. Of course, my impressions were difficult to describe. I can still remember the visit to the old DC post office, where the Marozas amber exhibition was opened, and my first acquaintance with diplomats working in the USA. I was astonished by the abundance of participants, by how many seniors were there, and by the Lithuanian language that they spoke. The sound of it was unusual for us, the newcomers from

Lithuania. At the time, I was 45 years old but I felt like a teenager who suddenly "fell into the life of adults" and did not understand what was happening.

KV: Did the statute of the Lithuanian Community change over the years?

SŠ: The long and thorough review of the statutes of the Lithuanian American Community was waiting for me when I first started. It must be recognized that any organization needs to change because life itself changes. Therefore, the statutes are continually being changed. However, nobody is interested in reading complicated, repetitive sentences, and try to make sense of it.

Another challenge was to present the goals of this organization to the so-called "newcomers" in an appealing way, to get them interested and involved. I can say that I am quite able to communicate directly with various types of people and get them interested in the activities of the Lithuanian Community. I am glad that over the past several years, the younger generation has been involved in the activities of our chapters and more chapters were established.

What has changed in the Lithuanian Community during my time as its President was the age of its members? We have attracted many younger members. Now we have many exciting activities going on in the chapters. Creative

young people come up with various new ways to celebrate the Independence of Lithuania and to foster Lithuanian traditions. Our strength lies in the chapters. You cannot even imagine how much talent we have there!

I can safely say that the Lithuanian Community now is younger, more creative and hard-working. I found new members who grew with me and started working for the National Board of the Lithuanian Community. We have to believe in our new generation and its goals. I am always ready to help and advice.

KV: What were the main challenges and problems? What were the main aims and tasks?

SŠ: The hardest was to prove to some people that it is possible to work together with the new wave of young people. There were many unfortunate misunderstandings in many chapters, and young people were disappointed, turned away and "disappeared" from Lithuanian activities.

KV: The Lithuanian American Community claims that all Lithuanians in the United States are members of the Community. However, not all Lithuanians in the United States know about that. What is being done to involve more people in Lithuanian activities?



Sigita Šimkuvienė with Ambassador Rolandas Kriščiūnas and leaders of the Lithuanian American Community.

SŠ: All Lithuanians in the United States belong to the Lithuanian Community just because they are Lithuanians. However, its active members are only those who join the Lithuanian organizations. As always, an active person participates in many organizations and this was he expresses himself.

I think it is essential how the Lithuanian Community is presented to its new members. It is particularly true now. Therefore, young Lithuanian teachers should work in Lithuanian schools, they should talk about our organization, its goals, and advantages. Everyone can be involved. I have some examples of how I have involved people who had never been involved in Lithuanian activities before to work for the Lithuanian Community. Often, in my conversations with people, I would ask: "If we do not get involved now what will happen next?" Most often, I was able to get them interested in our activities. A lot of excellent, smart leaders grew up from the newcomers to the Lithuanian Community. I think that even members of the Lithuanian Government could be jealous of their creativity and diligence.

KV: This year, as we celebrate the 10th Anniversary of Lithuania's independence, we turn back to see what has been done by the Lithuanian Americans one hundred years ago. We remember what organizations they founded, what publications they were publishing, what churches they built and how they presented Lithuanian culture to Americans. What, in your opinion, will Lithuanians remember about us a hundred years from now?



Sigita Šimkuvienė with Lithuania's President Dalia Grybauskaitė.



Sigita Šimkuvienė with LISS students at the Hill of Crosses in Lithuania.

SŠ: So much has been done before us. There were churches and centers built. Our identity was being fostered. There was so much done for the freedom of Lithuania. We joined NATO. All of this is thanks to the Lithuanian Americans and we should be forever grateful to the older generation of American Lithuanians.

Those who work with non-profit and non-governmental organizations know how the requirements for these types of organizations changed in this country. Not only that we have to pay the IRS, but we also have to carry out an annual audit, which costs the organization a lot of money. I am grateful that under my chairmanship, I had a chance to work with a great professional, Algimantas Gustaitis. Thanks to him, the finances of the Lithuanian American Community are handled correctly.

I am happy that we had an abundance of events not only during this special year for Lithuania but also during previous years. The creative and skillful members worked diligently in preparing applications for the Lithuanian Foundation, the funding of which enabled us to organize more and diverse events and carry out other projects. In these last few years, we had a good relationship with the Lithuanian Foundation's administration. The Lithuanian Foundation welcomed our projects and our activities became especially vibrant. There were opportunities to support cultural activities in many chapters.

This year, the internship programs for Lithuanian American students (LISS) celebrated its 10th anniversary. We signed cooperation agreements with the strongest Lithuanian universities: Vilnius University, Vilnius

Gediminas Technical University, Lithuanian University of Medicine. After five weeks of internship, students received five credits in Lithuanian institutions in their future specialties: future engineers and architects from VGTU, future medical specialists from LSMU.

We collaborate with the Kaunas Technical University in discussing future student placements and signing a cooperation agreement. I headed the LISS program for five years. I invite parents and grandparents to invite their children and grandchildren to join this program. Leaders for the next year's LISS program have been selected. They are Renata Vėbrienė and Kęstutis and Roma Norvila.

I can safely say that the US LB will continue to be active and will work with both Lithuanian institutions and the American public. I am delighted that I was able to contribute to the activities of this organization. At the same time, I broadened my horizons and received an invaluable asset - meeting a lot of wonderful people. I would like to thank the members of the National Board who have worked with me for two terms and who have done a lot of important work: Dr. E.Vaišnienė, R. Domanškis, A. Gustaitis, J. Kazlauskas, J. Udrienė, A. Sruoga, R. Pakštaitė, L. Liutikienė, L. Timukienė, Dr. R. Vaičaitis, R. Bitėnas, A. Galvanauskas, L. Boberienė, R. Dooling, Dr. R. Balčaitienė, A. Motto, Daiva Navickienė, G. Supronas, D. Vidutienė, J. Howes, V. Buožys, Father G. Jonikas and Father V. Aušra, D. Plačiakienė, A. Kavakienė, T. Mitrulevičius, N. Pangonytė, R. Mitrulevičienė, the late D. Lukiene, and the late L. Vismanas.



Sigita Šimkuvienė participating in the meeting of the representatives of the Lithuanian American Community Midwest chapters.

Vairas Gets a Star in the Hollywood Walk of Fame

By Laurynas R. Misevičius



Vairas performing in the Lithuanian Days in Los Angeles, California

Seven years ago, one of the oldest Lithuanian pop music group Vairas has unexpectedly been entered to the Rock'N'Roll Hall of Fame in Cleveland. I wonder if anyone expected this legendary group from Šiauliai to surprise their fans again. In 2010, for the first time in its history, the band performed to Lithuanian Americans in Orlando, Florida, and just recently it has been participating in the US Lithuanian Community Council session in Portland, Oregon. Immediately after the last weekend in September, the musicians went on a journey through the magical West Coast. They visited the famous Las Vegas, and on the first weekend of October, they were already performing for the visitors of the 32nd annual Lithuanian Days in the City of Angels. However, the band leader Rolandas Janušas and his group were in for the biggest surprise of their lives on the eve of their trip back home to Europe. Thanks to the ties that a few well-known local Lithuanians have, Vairas was immortalized on the Hollywood Walk of Fame! On October 7, 2018, the Vairas star was embedded on the sidewalk among two and a half thousand other stars that stretch along 15 blocks of Hollywood Boulevard and three blocks of Vine Street in Hollywood, California. These stars are long-term monuments that symbolize the remarkable achievements of the entertainment industry. The stars include the names of various personalities, actors, musicians, directors, producers, as well as musicals and theater groups or fictional characters. Each year, up to 10 million people visit the



Vairas pop music group from Šiauliai, Lithuania by their star in the Hollywood Walk of Fame

Hollywood Walk of Fame. Since 2006, the famous Lithuanian American actress Rūta Kilmonytė-Lee, has had her star here. Among other Lithuanian Americans we can mention actor Jason Sudeikis, movie director Robert Žemeckis, and actor Karolis Bučinskis (more widely known as Charles Bronson). Still, it is highly unlikely that the fans of Vairas would have even dreamed of their favorite Lithuanian music group from a small town of Šiauliai finding itself in the company of such prominent stars.

Translated by Karilė Vaitkutė

New Lithuanian Research Center Publication – The Memoirs of General Grigaliūnas-Glovackis

By Kristina Lapienytė
LRSC President



Kristina Lapienytė, LRSC President, and General Grigaliūnas-Glovackis's granddaughter Nemira Grigaliūnaitė with her grandfather's memoirs. Photo by Indrė Antanaitis-Jacobs.

The book *Vincas Grigaliūnas-Glovackis. A General's Memoirs*, published jointly by the General Jonas Žemaitis Military Academy of Lithuania in Vilnius and the Lithuanian Research and Studies Center in Chicago, was presented this spring at the Vilnius Book Fair. This is another two-part publication, which continues the tradition of LRSC publications about Lithuanian culture and history.

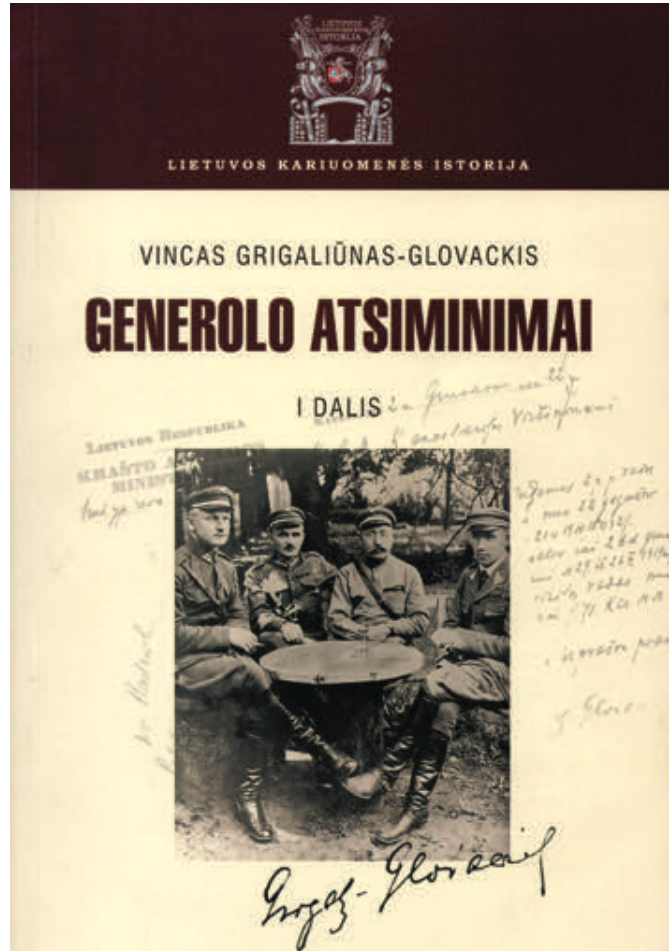
From the first pages of his memoirs, it is clear that the General was an extraordinary person. Vincas Grigaliūnas-Glovackis was born in 1885 in a laborers' residence on the Jieznas estate. He generally was in poor health, got lost in his childhood and was taken in by strangers, to be found only after a few weeks by his mother; he started going to school shortly thereafter, and after a few years was already teaching the wealthier farmers' children. In 1907, he graduated from Vilnius Military School. The book contains many entertaining stories about the life, education, and adventures of the cadets back then. After graduating from Military School, Grigaliūnas-Glovackis was sent to Turkestan and then to Bukhara (now Uzbekistan). Life there was undoubtedly very different from the life he had been used to in Lithuania or even in Russia, but by being communicative and open to change, the General found a common vocabulary both with the locals (he even includes a short glossary in his memoirs) and with the Russian soldiers. In 1918, he returned to Lithuania and helped to create the Lithuanian Army, was the organizer and leader of the First Infantry Regiment, as well as the organizer and leader of the Volunteer Union, fighting for independence against the West Russian Volunteer Army.

Already as a general in 1936, Grigaliūnas-Glovackis left the military service and pursued a lawyer's career. He moved to Germany together with his family in 1944, and later – to Belgium, finally ending up in Colombia, where he died in 1964.

The memoirs are written in a lively spoken language – not to mention sometimes more powerful phrases – but precisely because the editors have retained the general's authentic language, one can vividly imagine his charisma. The General's memoirs are of interest both for lovers of Lithuanian military and for Independence war history buffs and researchers, as well as for ethnographers of the General's native Dzūkija region, since it contains so much information regarding contemporary famous and



General Vincas Grigaliūnas-Glovackis with his wife.
Source: LRSC archives.



Book cover



Presentation of the book Vincas Grigaliūnas-Glovackis. A General's Memoirs at the Vilnius Book Fair in 2018. Photo by I. Gataveckienė.

not-so-famous people of that region. The book is attractive and easy to read because the memoirs are presented in an easy style and with humor. The publication is available in libraries in Lithuania. The publishers wanted the book to be read by as many people as possible, so both volumes can be downloaded for free in PDF format from the website of the General Jonas Žemaitis Military Academy of Lithuania:

http://www.lka.lt/lt/moksline-veikla/leidiniai/leidiniu-sistemis-katalogas/humanitariniai-mokslai/istorija_283.html

Translated by Indrė Antanaitis-Jacobs

2017 bridges content

Note: Every issue of Bridges had two pages of news on current events in Lithuania compiled by Alan Stankus.

January 2017

- 3 Čia kalba Kaunas! By Audrė Budrys Nakas.
- 6 January 13, 1991 in the Photographs of a Lithuanian Filmmaker. By Arvydas Reneckis.
- 9 Good Literature Is Like Lightning. Interview with Laura Sintija Černiauskaitė. By Stephan Collinshaw.
- 11 The Double Anniversary of Musician. Algirdas Kačanauskas. By Danutė Petrauskaitė. Translated by Karilė Vaitkutė.
- 14 The Last Days in Lithuania. By Jurgis Savaitis.
- 18 Baltic Summer Studies Institute Invites to Study Lithuanian in 2017.
- 21 Balandėliai (Stuffed Cabbage). By Jana Sirusaitė-Motivans.
- 23 My Big and Merry Lithuanian Wedding. By Laima Liutikienė. Translated by Karilė Vaitkutė.
- 25 Minister of Education Met with the Winners of National Dictation Competition.
- 25 Invitation to the Evening with Professor Jonas Zdanys.
- 26 Running on the Road of Life and Death.

February 2017

- 3 The Signatories of the Act of Independence and Their Relation to the United States. By Karilė Vaitkutė.
- 6 From Norway to Sweden. By Jurgis Savaitis. Translated by Gabija Barnard.
- 10 We Crossed the Alps on Lithuanian Farm Horses Just Like Hannibal Who Once Crossed Them on Elephants. Extract from Kazys Bradūnas' memoirs. Translated by Karilė Vaitkutė. Photos by Arvydas Reneckis.
- 13 Nonrecognition and Recognition. US-Lithuanian Relations and International Law 1940-1992. By Robert A. Vitas, Ph.D.
- 21 Grikių Blynai (Buckwheat pancakes). By Jana Sirusaitė-Motivans.
- 24 Alatėja Women's Club Started Its 12th Year of Charitable Work.
- 25 X World Lithuanian Sports Games Will Take Place in Kaunas, Lithuania June 30 - July 2, 2017.
- 26 Lithuanian Independence Celebrated in Saturday Schools.
- 28 Come See the Shows at the Bridge Theatre in Chicago.

March 2017

- 3 A Lithuanian Letter Like No Other. By Prof. Giedrius Subačius. Translated by Karilė Vaitkutė.
- 6 Staging Lithuania. By Kestutis Nakas.
- 9 When Lithuania Ruled the World. By Kestutis Nakas.
- 16 The Return of Storks – Gandrinės. By Karilė Vaitkutė.
- 20 Meduolis or Medaunykas (Honey Cake). By Jana Sirusaitė-Motivans.
- 22 SALFASS Snow Ski Trip in Aspen, Colorado. Lithuanians Celebrated Independence in Chicago.
- 23 Užgavėnės in the Chicago Lithuanian School.
- 24 Lithuanian Independence Day Celebrated in Colorado. The Year of Lithuanian Sports Celebrated in Washington
- 25 Winter Celebration.
- 26 Lithuanian American Authors at the Vilnius Book Fair.

April 2017

- 3 The Original of Lithuania's 1918 Independence Act Found in Berlin. By Prof. Liudas Mažylis.

- 4 "...There is Meaning Within Challenge, Hardship and Suffering..." Interview with Ruta Sepetytė. By Vingra Liucija Steponkevičiūtė.
- 5 Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish Celebrates 90th Anniversary.
- 7 The Relationship between the Lithuanian Government and Lithuanian Americans in 1926-1940: Search for the Ways of Consolidation. By Prof. Juozas Skirius.
- 12 Folk Dance Group Surprised the Audience with a Folk Rock Concert. Interview with "Suktinis" Folk Dance Group Director Giedrė Elekšytė Knieža. By Karilė Vaitkutė.
- 15 Tūla. By Jurgis Kunčinas translated from the Lithuanian by Elizabeth Novickas.
- 20 Pikantiška Mišrainė (savory mixed salad). Musmiriai (Egg Toadstools). By Jana Sirusaitė-Motivans.
- 22 AABS 2018 at Stanford.
- 23 The Baltic Studies Program.
- 24 Chicago Sister Cities International Hosted First Annual Reception.
- 26 Folk Art Creations to Adorn Easter.

May 2017

- 3 I Am an Immigrant. By Vingra Steponkevičiūtė.
- 6 Car Palace: A Memoir by Gediminas Trimakas. By Ina Bertulytė Bray. Extract from Car Palace by Gediminas Trimakas.
- 10 The Making of Lithuanian American Sports Celebrities. By Egidijus Balandis.
- 13 Connections Between the Lithuanian Government and Lithuanian Americans in 1926-1940. By Prof. Juozas Skirius.
- 20 Rūgštynių Sriuba (Sorrel Soup). By Jana Sirusaitė-Motivans.
- 24 Mother's Day Celebration in Lithuanian Schools.
- 26 Spring Palm Sunday Fair in Los Angeles, California. By Algis Bludzius.
- 27 Studies at the Vilnius Lithuanian House.
- 28 No One Asked Us. Photography exhibit by Anna Reich.

June 2017

- 2 An American Person Infused with Lithuania. Interview with Irena Brokas Chambers. By Karilė Vaitkutė.
- 10 This Is Not My Sky. Excerpt from the newest novel by Laima Vincė.
- 16 A Generation Remembered. By Vytautas Sirusas.
- 20 Beets for Summer. By Jana Sirusaitė-Motivans.
- 22 Keeping Our Folk Art Alive. By Ramūnė Jonaitis.
- 24 The 35th Annual Baltic American Freedom League's Banquet. By Aleksandra Kudukis.
- 26 Atlanta Lithuanian Community Celebrates Its 40th Anniversary. By Emilia Kairys.

July/August 2017

- 2 "...I hope to tell stories that allow us to see ourselves in a new light"... Interview with film director Tomas Vengris. By Viltė Vaitkutė
- 6 Significance of the Battle of Grunwald. By Augustas Senuta.
- 8 Where Do I Belong? An Immigrant's Quest for Identity. By Tony Mankus.
- 12 Connections Between the Lithuanian Government and Lithuanian Americans in 1926-1940: Search for the Ways of Consolidation. By Prof. Juozas Skirius.
- 20 Sūdyti Agurkai. By Jana Sirusaitė-Motivans.
- 22 The Record World Lithuanian Sports Games. By Jana Sirusaitė-Motivans.
- 24 Farewell, Consul General Marijus Gudynas!

- 26 Year Premier – The Theatricalized Oratorio "Chronicles Of Vilnius".
- 27 Lithuania 4,000,000. A Project that Strives to Unite Lithuanians of the World for the 100th Anniversary of Lithuanian Independence.
- 28 TĖVYNĖ / PATRIA. An Exhibition Commemorating the 130th Milestone of the Lithuanian Alliance of America.

September 2017

- 2 Dr. Adolfas Damušis. Part One: Resistance Fighter. By Augustine Idzelis, Lithuanian Research and Studies Center.
- 8 Fear Itself. By Kestutis Nakas.
- 12 Ask Not What Your Country Can Do For You, Ask What You Can Do For Your Country. 2017 Winning Essays of the Alytus-Rochester Sister Cities Committee Essay Writing Contest.
- 20 Plokštainiai (Squares). By Jana Sirusaitė-Motivans.
- 24 A Lithuanian Language Proficiency Test for Lithuanian Heritage Schools Students Abroad.
- 26 I Fulfilled My Childhood Dream. By Rūta Misiūnas.
- 27 Traces of Lithuanian Life in the Anthracite Region. By Karilė Vaitkutė.

October 2017

- 2 We Thought We'd Be Back Soon. I Bow My Head to Your University. Interview with Janina Jakševičienė by Laima Petrauskas VanderStoep. Excerpt from We Thought We'd Be Back Soon: 18 Stories of Refugees, 1940-1944.
- 9 Memories That Last a Lifetime. Knights of Lithuania 104th Annual National Convention. By Regina Juška-Švoba, K of L Supreme Council President, Honorary Member and K of L Public Relations Chair.
- 15 Schuykill Lithuanian Days. A Community Celebration Continues for More than a Century. By Margaret Valinsky, President of K of L Anthracite Council 14.
- 20 Lietuviškas sūris (Lithuanian Cheese). By Jana Sirusaitė-Motivans.
- 24 Lithuania Alliance of America (LAA). Susivienijimas Lietuvių Amerikoje (SLA). By Giedrė Stankūnas, SLA Vice President
- 26 Summer Interns at the Lithuanian Research and Studies Center. By Dr. Indrė Antanaitis-Jacobs.
- 27 I Spent My Summer Learning Lithuanian. By Emi Milukas.

November/December 2017

- 3 My Grandfather's Gift. By Aldas Kriaučiūnas.
- 8 Dr. Adolfas Damušis: Defender of Historical Truth. By Augustine Idzelis, Lithuanian Research and Studies Center.
- 13 Our Summer in Lithuania. By Greta Diržytė and Ema Vilčinskaitė.
- 20 Silkė for Kūčios (Herring for Christmas Eve). By Jana Sirusaitė-Motivans.
- 16 Lithuanian World Center's Holiday Craft Fair. By Elena Reklaitis.
- 24 Lithuanian Culinary Heritage Weekend. By Jana Sirusaitė-Motivans.
- 26 The Lithuanian Foundation Celebrated Its 55th Anniversary. By Laima Apanavičienė. Translated by Karilė Vaitkutė.
- 27 Lithuanian Ski Week and Independence Day Celebration in Aspen, Colorado.
- 27 The Annual Aspen Lithuanian Independence Day Celebration.

January 2018

- 2 The Bloody January Events. By Karilė Vaitkutė. Photographs by Viktoras Pročksys.
- 3 Baltic Studies Summer Institute (BALSSI). By Dalia Cidzikaitė.
- 4 Being a Representative of Lithuania Throughout the World. Interview with Honorary Consul John Vytautas Prunskis, M.D., FIPP. By Karilė Vaitkutė.
- 14 Vladas Daumantas. A Politician and Collector. By Gaiva Vaitkevičiūtė. Translated by Karilė Vaitkutė.
- 20 Poppy Seeds for the New Year. By Jana Sirusaitė-Motivans.
- 26 The Lithuanian Youth Center Celebrates 60 Years! By Laima Apanavičienė. Translated by Daiva Peterson.

February 2018

- 2 Lithuanian – U.S. Relations in 1918–1940. By Prof. Juozas Skirius.
- 7 Juozas Bertulis (1893-1969). By Ina Bertulytė Bray.
- 14 The Cross of Lithuanian-American Catholics: A Sign of Gratitude and Hope. Liuda Rugienienė's interview with Father Gintaras Antanas Jonikas.
- 20 Cepelinai (Meat-filled Potato Dumplings). By Jana Sirusaitė-Motivans.
- 26 Chicago Lithuanian Running Club Commemorated the Events of January 13th.
- 28 From the Office of Lithuania's Honorary Consul in Aspen, Colorado.

March 2018

- 2 Lithuanian – U.S. Relations in 1918–1940. By Prof. Juozas Skirius.
- 7 The Subject of Discussions -- Lithuanian Heritage Abroad. By Dalia Cidzikaitė, Ph.D. Translated by Karilė Vaitkutė.
- 8 Lithuanian Independence Celebrations. in the US
- 10 Poems. By Daiva Valeria Karuža.
- 12 Camp Rakas. By Taiyda Chiapetta, Camp Rakas administration.
- 14 Professor Liudas Mažylis Shares the Joy of His Discovery. By Gabrielė Petraitytė. Translated by Karilė Vaitkutė.
- 18 Elytė's Bread. By Jana Sirusaitė-Motivans.
- 22 Chicago Lithuanians Celebrated Užgavėnės.
- 24 Lithuanian Research and Studies Center News. By Loreta Timukienė. Translated by Dr. Indrė Antanaitis-Jacobs.
- 26 Student Internship and Studies Program Invites to Join.
- 27 Lithuanian Foundation Receives Global Lithuania Leaders Awards 2018.
- 28 Knights of Lithuania 105th National Convention.

April 2018

- 2 Representing Lithuania in the United States of America. Interview with Ingrida Bublys, Honorary Consul in Cleveland, Ohio. By Karilė Vaitkutė.
- 5 Excerpt from White Shroud by Antanas Škėma. Translated by Karla Gruodis.
- 9 Will the Hill of Owls Be Restored to Its Pre-War Glory? Interview with Modestas Mastavičius, Head of the Hill of Owls (Pelėdų kalnas) project in Lithuania. By Karilė Vaitkutė.
- 12 Book review: Raven with a Foreign Accent. By Romualdas Kriaučiūnas.
- 14 Balzekas Museum of Lithuanian Culture Opens a New Exhibit. By Karilė Vaitkutė.

- 16 Lithuania's Independence Celebrated at the Lithuanian Consulate in Aspen.
- 17 Lietuva, Tėvynė Mūsų. By Evelyn Naujokas, senior at Caledonia Mumford High School.
- 18 Baltic American Freedom League.
- 20 Lithuanians on the West Coast Celebrate Lithuania's Independence.
- 24 Medaus Tortas and Tinginys. Two Desserts for the Modern Lithuanian Baker. By Jana Sirusaitė-Motivans.
- 26 Lithuanian Research and Studies Center News. By Loreta Timukienė, LRSC Vice President of Community Affairs. Translated by Dr. Indrė Antanaitis-Jacobs.

May 2018

- 2 "My Goal Is to be of Service to Lithuania in Any Way I Can." Interview with Astra Michels, Honorary Consul of the Republic of Lithuania in Nevada. By Karilė Vaitkutė.
- 8 The Jasaitis Family – Patriots of Lithuania. By Algirdas Joseph Jesaitis.
- 12 Reading is in Fashion in Lithuania. Vilnius Book Fair 2018. By Vilma Kava. Translated by Karilė Vaitkutė.
- 15 Twenty years of work to ensure the future of Lithuania's children. "Child's Gate to Learning" supports and cooperates with after school centers. By Ramunė Kubilius.
- 18 Lietuvių esame mes gimę. Chicago Lithuanians Celebrated Lithuania's 100th Anniversary with a Concert. By Darius Polikaitis.
- 20 Fairfield University - Lithuania Connection through Basketball Social Responsibility. By Vilia Baumilaitė.
- 24 Blynai (pancakes). By Jana Sirusaitė-Motivans.

June 2018

- 2 Mstislavas Dobužinskis's Efforts to Revive Lithuanian Historical Symbols. By Jurgita Kristina Pačkauskienė. Translated by Karilė Vaitkutė.
- 6 A Twentieth Century Miracle: Lithuania's Transition From World War I to Independence. By Robert A. Vitas, Ph.D.
- 11 Interview with Birutė Putrius, author of "The Last Book Smuggler". By Karilė Vaitkutė.
- 22 Močiutės pyragas (Grandmother's cake). By Jana Sirusaitė-Motivans.
- 26 Lithuanian Research and Studies Center News. By Dr. Indrė Antanaitis-Jacobs.

July/August 2018

- 2 Unstoppable. Interview with Inga Lizdenytė, author of Unstoppable. It's a Choice. By Karilė Vaitkutė.
- 7 LISS Internship in Lithuania. By Sophia Herrera.
- 9 The Baltic States Presented in the Capital of Oregon. By Laurynas R. Misevičius. Translated by Karilė Vaitkutė.
- 11 2018 AABS Conference at Stanford. By Rima Ziuraitis.
- 16 Singing and Dancing Lithuanians of the World Celebrate Lithuania's Centennial.
- 24 Ridikėliai (radishes). By Jana Sirusaitė-Motivans.
- 28 LRSC News. By Dr. Indrė Antanaitis-Jacobs.

September 2018

- 2 Knights of Lithuania 105th Annual National Convention. 105 and Still Alive. By Regina Juška-Švoba.

- 9 Lithuanians Celebrate Lithuania's Centennial: A Participant's Perspective of Song Festival Week. By Ramunė Kubilius.
- 13 Zimbabwe and Lithuania. Two Worlds Meet. By Vilia Baumilas.
- 17 Growing Professionally While Connecting to our Past. A Participant's Perspective on the We Connect Lithuania Pilot Program. By Ieva Juska.
- 20 Passing on traditions at Camp Neringa. Vištienos kotletai (Chicken Patties, or 'Tortadoes'). By Jana Sirusaitė-Motivans.
- 22 Lithuanian Americans of Minnesota. By Živilė Norvilaitė-Petersen.

October 2018

- 2 Sisters of St. Casimir Open Legacy Rooms. Interview with Daina Cyvas, Communications and Project Coordinator for the Sisters of St. Casimir. By Karilė Vaitkutė.
- 6 We Connect Lithuania. By Nathan Radtke.
- 9 Fast Reverse! Extract from the Memoirs by Romualdas Kriaučiūnas.
- 13 No One Will Ever Love You As Much: A Glimpse into One Hundred Years of Lithuanian Poetry. By Audrė Budrytė Nakienė.
- 16 Summers That I Will Never Forget. By Lukas Šmidtas.
- 17 The Lithuanian Research and Studies Center Purchased a New Home. By Dr. Robert Vitas, Chairman of the Board.
- 18 The Lithuanian Community Reacts to The New York Times Article. By Donatas Januta.
- 19 I Would Certainly Do It Again. By Emelia Dooling.
- 20 Innovation Is Not Always Easy. The Annual Meeting of the Lithuanian American Community Midwest District. By Birutė Kairienė. Translated by Karilė Vaitkutė.
- 22 Baltic countries want Walmart to remove Soviet-themed shirts.
- 23 Lithuanian Americans Urged Ambassador Vygaudas Ušackas to Participate in Lithuanian Presidential Elections. By Laurynas Misevičius.
- 24 Building a Lithuanian Cookbook Library. By Jana Sirusaitė-Motivans.

November/December 2018

- 3 A Taste of Lithuanian Velnius in Plymouth, Massachusetts. Interview with Pepi Avižonis. By Karilė Vaitkutė.
- 8 Family Reunion 110 Years Later. By Darius Kučinskas. Translated by Karilė Vaitkutė.
- 12 Archives Tell the Story: Traces of the Lives of Aviator Steponas Darius's Family. By Karilė Vaitkutė.
- 18 "I am delighted I could contribute to the activities of the Lithuanian American Community" Interview with Sigita Šimkuvienė, President of the Lithuanian American Community. By Karilė Vaitkutė.
- 22 Vairas Gets a Star in the Hollywood Walk of Fame. By Laurynas R. Misevičius. Translated by Karilė Vaitkutė.
- 23 New Lithuanian Research Center Publication – the Memoirs of General Grigaliūnas-Glovackis. By Kristina Lapienytė, LRSC President. Translated by Indrė Antanaitis-Jacobs.

current events

Security

...Reuters reports that during a meeting at the White House Poland's President Andrzej Duda offered President Donald Trump two billion dollars toward the building of an American base on Polish soil.

...The US Army moved Abrams tanks and Bradley Infantry Fighting Vehicles (IFV) from Poland to the newly built firing range in the Pabradė training area in the eastern part of Lithuania. The improved rail and off-loading infrastructure resulted in the deployment in one-third the time as previous exercises. They will use live fire and inert heavy equipment ammunition in their exercise.

...The Czech manned NATO enhanced fighting group in Lithuania moved into Latvia to engage Latvian forces in defensive positions. The mechanized infantry company size force included 180 troops and 15 Pandur II IFV's

...The US has transferred two 33 foot Coast Guard patrol boats to Ukraine to help them withstand Russian interference with Ukrainian shipping in the Sea of Azov. The Sea of Azov lies just north of Russia's newly constructed "Crimean Bridge" which spans the Kerch Strait which separates the Sea of Azov from the Black Sea.

...During the UN General Assembly Meeting in New York, President Dalia Grybauskaitė met with US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and the Prime Minister of Norway, Ema Solberg. Among the topics discussed at the trilateral meeting were military cooperation with the US and Norway and the need to ensure regional air defense for the Baltics. Lithuania is buying mid-range air defense NASAMS from Norway. Lithuania had a demonstration of the US Patriot system; however, the cost is more than its annual military budget. Lithuania still does not have a single jet fighter.

...NATO has named Rasa Juknevičienė the Parliamentary Assembly President. She previously served as head of the Lithuanian delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly and from 2008 to 2012 served as Lithuania's Defense Minister.

...As a formality, Ukraine has sent a note to Russia to notify it of the non-extension of the Treaty on Friendship, Cooperation, and Partnership which took effect on April 1, 1999, with automatic terms of 10 years unless terminated. The treaty outlines the principals of strategic partnership, inviolability of existing bor-

ders, respect for territorial integrity, and mutual obligation not to use the other country's territory to jeopardize its security. In light of recent events involving Crimea and Eastern Ukraine, the April Fools' date seems ironic.

Business

...Tonbo Imaging plans to invest up to 10 million euros to establish a 50 person R&D center in Kaunas to continue their development of advanced imaging and sensor systems used in defense, security, and intelligent transportation systems. Originally organized as a research branch of the US-based Sarnoff Corporation (NJ) and Stanford Research International (CA) it became independent in 2008 and is funded by Artiman Ventures, WRV Capital, Qualcomm Ventures and Edelweiss Private Equity. It has facilities in India, Singapore and Weston, Florida near Fort Lauderdale with customers in 25 countries. A YouTube presentation describes the wide breadth of their capabilities. Specifically, Virginijus Sinkevičius, Minister of Economy, is very impressed with their capability in autonomous vehicle systems in the automotive sector.

...The Blackstone Group, which manages assets worth \$439 billion, is investing \$1 billion for 60% interest in Luminor, a Scandinavian bank operating in the Baltic nations. They will join the current shareholders, Nordea Bank, and DNB, Norway's largest financial services group.

...The Bank of Lithuania has granted Nayax, a Payment Institution (PI) license. The Israel based provider of cashless payment systems for the unattended retail market will now be able to process cross-border remittances to its merchant clients across the European Union and European Economic Area via its subsidiary, Nayax Europe UAB in Lithuania. With 150 employees it shipped 43,000 point of sale terminals in 2015 and has subsidiaries in Maryland, UK, Japan, and Australia.

...The Bank of Lithuania's payment system CENTROlink is now operational. The financial company TransferWise sent money in 3 seconds rather than days if previously the payer and payee use different banks. It will be available in the 34 countries making up the Single Euro Payments Area (SEPA) which includes members of the European Union plus the European Free Trade Association (Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, and Switzerland) plus Andorra, Monaco and San Marino. Instant payments will reduce the use of cash.

General

...Pope Francis was greeted by President Dalia Grybauskaitė and eventually 60,000 in Cathedral Square in Vilnius and addressed worshippers at the Gate of Dawn chapel (see YouTube). On Sunday he traveled to Kaunas and was met by 100,000 worshippers for Mass in Santaka Park. Later on Sunday, he returned to Vilnius where he participated in the Day of Remembrance commemoration ceremony in Paneriai Forest with the Seimas Speaker, Mayor of Vilnius, and many members of the Jewish community in Lithuania. He concluded his mission with a visit to the former KGB headquarters in Vilnius where Lithuanians were detained, tortured and executed. He was accompanied by Archbishop Sigitas Tamkevičius of Kaunas who served 10 years in prison and exile in Siberia.

...Speaking of visitors, Germany's Chancellor Angela Merkel held bilateral meetings with President Grybauskaitė prior to the informal European Council meeting in Salzburg. They visited the German troops in Rukla in central Lithuania near Kaunas. Germany is Lithuania's main economic partner, second largest trade partner and third largest foreign investor. However, there is disagreement regarding the Nord Stream 2 gas pipeline which the Russian gas company, Gazprom, has a partnership with German, Dutch and French companies and approval for construction of the pipeline in Germany's territorial waters. Lithuania is working to wean its allies away from dependency on Russian gas supplies.

...Following Washington, D.C., Vilnius is the second city to name a park near the Russian Embassy for the assassinated Russian opposition leader, Boris Nemtsov. Foreign Minister Linas Linkevičius spoke of his friendship with the late former deputy Prime Minister and Remigijus Šimašius, Mayor of Vilnius, said that "the values that [Nemtsov] fought for - freedom, democracy, peace, human rights - are universal."

...Dr. Kęstutis Strupas, general manager of Santara Clinics of Vilnius University, has stepped down just prior to his dismissal on corruption charges involving kickbacks in the procurement of computers, software, telephones, and supplies. He managed the hospital since November 2013 and was suspended in February 2018. He is a licensed surgeon in Germany and Lithuania specializing in laparoscopic and transplant abdominal surgery and the author of over 250 scientific articles.

...Four Lithuanian students will intern at NASA's Ames Research Center in California for 16 weeks. Funded by the Science, Innovation and Technology Agency (MITA) and the Ministry of Education and Science, they join students from 11 select countries (Australia, Brazil, Israel, Jordan, Mexico, Portugal, South Africa, South Korea, Sweden, Trinidad and Tobago, and the United Arab Emirates). The students include an undergrad in Biophysics from Vilnius University, a master's student in Nanomaterials Chemistry also from Vilnius, an undergrad in Aviation from Kaunas University and an undergrad in Biomedical Electronics also from Kaunas.



...The first Sunday in September saw 15,000 runners from 45 countries compete in the annual Vilnius International Marathon which includes various distances including family and kid runs sponsored by Danske Bank. Ukrainian runner Bogdan Semenovych won in 2 hours, 24 minute and 23 seconds for the 26.2 mile (42.2 Km) race. About 4,000 runners used the Lympo Run app to track their runs and were rewarded with LYM crypto coins for completing various events. Lympo is a Lithuanian company that focuses on blockchain technology and the LYN coins can be used to buy health and fitness products on the Lympo marketplace or exchanged for dollars or euros on digital exchanges. The next marathon in Lithuania is scheduled for June 2019 in Kaunas.

...Pedestrians in Lithuania can now be fined up to 40 euros for using mobile devices while crossing the street. Last year 68 pedestrians were killed by cars or motorcycles at a rate of 24 deaths per million population which ranked Lithuania the third worst in the European Union

current events

behind Romania and Latvia. The same rules also require motorists to STOP for pedestrians already in the crosswalk and for those stepping into a crosswalk or standing on the edge of the road waiting to cross.



...The Speaker of the Seimas, Viktoras Pranckietis, has set the dates for elections: March 12, 2019 – municipal councils and mayors for terms of 4 years; May 12, 2019 – President for a term of 5 years; May 26, 2019 – 11 members of the European Parliament for terms of 5 years.

...Lithuania's Seimas has finally ratified the Geneva Convention on Road Traffic which grants holders of Lithuanian driving licenses the right to drive in 54 countries including the US, Japan, New Zealand, and Thailand. The bill passed 81 votes in favor and none against and none abstained. In 1991 the Seimas ratified the 1968 Vienna Convention but not the Geneva Convention which is recognized by the 54 countries. Better late (27 years!) than never.

calendar

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

ONGOING

Most Fridays,
4:30-7:30 p.m.
**Friday Fish Fry at the
Rockford Lithuanian Club**
716 Indiana Avenue, 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

DECEMBER

December 1-2, 2018
LWC Holiday Craft Fair
Lithuanian World Center,
Lemont, IL

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

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