

# bridges



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**Front Cover:** Lithuania's Consul General in Chicago Mantvydas Bekešius with a patriotic group of people from the Lithuanian National Guard, Chicago Lithuanian Runners Club, Lithuanian Scouting Association, and the National Lithuanian American Hall of Fame, participated in the run to commemorate those who lost their lives in Lithuania on January 13th at the hands of the Soviets.

**Back cover:** "My Lithuanian Heart". The Washington Lithuanian School Žvirbliukai (Little Sparrows) 4-5 years-old students pressed their little fingers into yellow, red, and green paint to make this adorable, heart-warming, and patriotic fingerprint picture.

# bridges

from the editor

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EDITOR  
Karilė Vaitkutė

ART DIRECTOR  
Daniel P. Craig, Jr.

CONTRIBUTING EDITOR, CURRENT EVENTS  
Alan J. Stankus, P.E. (ret)

ADVERTISING & SUBSCRIPTION MANAGER  
Laura Vidžiūnaitė

**Editorial Office**  
139 Willow Blvd., Willow Springs, IL 60480  
kariledalia@yahoo.com

**Subscriber Services and Advertising**  
spauda@javlb.org

**Facebook**  
facebook.com/  
BridgesLithuanianAmericanMagazine



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LAC, INC. NATIONAL EXECUTIVE BOARD  
149 E Parkview Drive, Shirley, NY 11967  
Phone: 402-203-1119  
finansai@javlb.org

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Dear readers,

2019 is upon us. It will be the year of several important events for the Lithuanian American Community in the United States as well as other Lithuanian communities in the world. 2019 is the year of the 70th anniversary of the Lithuanian Charter (Lietuvių Charta), and the Lithuanian Parliament proclaimed this year as the Year of World Lithuanians. The Lithuanian Charter was written by the Lithuanian Supreme Liberation Committee and published in 1949 in Augsburg, Germany when it became clear that in the aftermath of World War II Lithuania will remain occupied by the Soviets. One of the main ideas of the Lithuanian Charter was that Lithuanians outside of Lithuania's borders will unite and support one another as well as promote Lithuanian culture and language abroad. In 2019, Lithuanians living outside of Lithuania will have an opportunity to show their unity and their work for Lithuania. An important event in May of 2019 will be the referendum in which Lithuanians will have a chance to vote for an amendment in the Constitution allowing those who have birthright Lithuanian citizenship to keep it when taking the citizenship of another country.

The Lithuanian American Community elected its new President and National Executive Committee. In this issue of Bridges, you will have an opportunity to read the thoughts of the President and some of the newly-elected Committee members on the future goals that the Community has.

Also, this issue of Bridges is marked by our activities in the field of writing, translating and publishing. You will meet a tenth-grader who has translated and published two children's books, a ten-year-old girl who likes writing stories for children. You will read about one of the most important accomplishments of the Lithuanian Community last year which is publishing Lithuanian History in English, and you will see the results of a survey on what books Lithuanian Americans were reading last year.

January 13th, the Defenders of Freedom Day, is one of the most important events of our recent history. Students in all 45 Lithuanian Saturday schools in the United States learn about the bloody events that took place on January 13, 1991. In this issue of Bridges, you will glimpse into some of the activities students were involved in while commemorating this important date.

I know that many of you might miss the Taste of Lithuania page. If you have your favorite recipes of Lithuanian dishes, I encourage you to share them with our readers. Or perhaps you would like to become the next editor of the Taste of Lithuania page? Please let me know.

Sincerely,

Karilė Vaitkutė  
Editor



# New President of the Lithuanian American Community is Driven by a Lithuanian Engine

By Dalia Cidzikaitė



Americans would call Arvydas Urbonavičius a dark-horse candidate. He was little known, and yet, at the 12th Session of the LAC XXII Council in Portland, USA, he was elected the new President of the National Executive Committee of the Lithuanian American Community, the largest Lithuanian community outside Lithuania. And it was well deserved. When it comes to the work in the Community, Arvydas Urbonavičius is not a newcomer. He has been counting the years of experience in the LAC since 2002 when he was first elected to the board of this organization. According to Arvydas, spiritual hunger and a great desire to help Lithuania motivate him to take part in Lithuanian activities. And it cannot be otherwise, because being Lithuanian is an integral part of his life.

When visiting Lithuania in the first half of December, the new US LAC president found time to meet and share ideas about the present and the future of his community.

What is the purpose of this short visit to Lithuania?

The main purpose of this visit is to participate in a seminar organized by the Global Lithuania Program. During the seminar, we will discuss the work of Lithuanian organizations abroad, look for ways to coordinate our work in a way that both, Lithuanian organizations abroad and in Lithuania would benefit the most. I myself will benefit greatly from this, as I am only a couple of months old President of the US LAC. For me, it is a great chance to meet other leaders, learn from their example, and share the experience.

After you became President of the Lithuanian American Community, I tried to remember what I know about you. The only thing I remembered was your participation in (together with Janina Udrienė) writing a textbook about the US LAC that was published a few years ago. Americans would call you a dark horse.

Yes, in fact, perhaps because I was not so well known I did not carry good or bad baggage. After all, there is a saying that one can knead better bread from fresh dough. I am not saying that I have no experience. I have been involved in community activities for more than twenty years. I have been with the LAC Council since 2002, and I know the structure of the US LAC very well. I helped Janina Udrienė to prepare the textbook that you mention here, and I have been discussing the issues of citizenship a lot with longtime community members Regina Narušienė, Arvydas Barzdukas, and others. I have not been elected to a high position because I did not feel I was ready and I thought that others could be better than me. However, a day comes when a man matures and thinks that it's time to share experience with others.

In terms of today's requirements and the need for change, the US LAC, being the largest community outside Lithuania, is more like a slow-floating ship than a fast-diving boat. What should be done to enable the LAC to respond more quickly to changing times and new demands?

It would probably be easier to win Powerball lottery than to answer your question (laughs). I miss maneuvering,

looking for common points of contact, and understanding what is it that we want from each other, whether we are talking about the relationship between the Lithuanian American Community and Lithuania, or between the chapters in our own organization. The Lithuanian American Community is one of the largest in the world, it has one of the strongest structures and powerful history. We have so many Lithuanian organizations in America, but we do not have common points of contact, we work individually, we work for Lithuania, but we do not cooperate. One of my desires, maybe even goals, is to unite them all. This does not mean that all of them should be under the guidance of the LAC. Absolutely not! They are separate organizations. I just want to share experiences, ideas, and achievements, and encourage to learn from one another. Then Lithuania will look at us as a larger organization, and maybe we could help Lithuania more. It seems that today, we, Lithuanian Americans, have disappeared from Lithuania's radar, from its television and press.

During both terms in office, the former President Sigita Šimkuvienė-Rosen has paid special attention to the establishment of new chapters of the Lithuanian American Community. Will you do the same?

Spreading good news will always be our priority. It is very important to connect and unite our communities and well as search for new communities. Lithuanian education is, of course, one of our top priorities. We do not want to change anything, we just want to elevate it to the next level. It will not be forgotten or pushed onto the back burner. But at the same time, we will focus on Lithuania so that there would be two-way traffic between us and Lithuania: we give to Lithuania and Lithuania gives to us. Of course, we do not ask for any material support from Lithuania. I would say that this cooperation in all areas was not abandoned but all the gaps were not fully filled. Of course, this is connected to the upcoming elections and the referendum on citizenship. We must remind Lithuanian citizens living abroad every day that we have obligations to Lithuania. Sometimes people start living good lives and forget that they have not only rights but also certain obligations.

The referendum on citizenship will come soon. Aren't we too late? Are we not condemned to lose it before it even starts?

We must show, especially to Lithuania, the Parliament, the Government, and the politicians, that we have the will to go to the very end, and that it is important to us. We want Lithuania to know that we are not indifferent.

I don't want to throw the stone just into my own garden. I would also throw that stone into the garden of Lithuanian politicians because they have not done their job. They do not encourage civic duties in Lithuania, do not encourage people to express their will. Not only in the referendum, but also in the presidential elections. It seems that we have an elephant in the room but politicians ignore it. That is exactly how I see the current approach to the referendum. We ignore it and we think that it will happen on its own.

What motivates you to work for the LAC?

Maybe hunger? (laughs). Spiritual hunger. I come from a small Omaha Lithuanian community. Once, 40 or 50 years ago, the Omaha community was very big. Many prominent people came from it. When I arrived, the golden age of the Omaha community had already passed. Today it is almost gone, but we are trying to keep it. I always wanted to feel Lithuanian, and my Omaha community was too small. I could work there and I still work there, but the field of activity has become too small. I was hungry for Lithuanian activities and that is how I came to the LAC council. I need Lithuanian activities, they are part of my everyday life. My wife is the chairman of the Crossroads District, and I wanted to do something for Lithuania. One could say that being Lithuanian is our family "business" (laughs). I was urged to raise my candidacy and I did because I didn't want to disappoint people who supported me. I did not expect it, but I was elected. I did not expect it, especially, since the other two candidates were very strong and had extensive experience of working with the community.

What have you already achieved in the past few months, and what kind of urgent work is awaiting?

It took a month to find people for the new board and for the council to approve them. The first month was for warming up, searching for people, gathering information, and so on. During the second month, we set our priorities. Right now our two biggest priorities are preparing for the upcoming referendum on the Lithuanian citizenship in May of 2019 and the LISS program.

*Translated by Karilė Vaitkutė  
This article was first published in Lithuanian in the Pasaulio Lietuvis.*

# The New National Executive Committee of the Lithuanian American Community Was Elected



Part of the new National Executive Committee: Valdas Buožys, Vice President, Archives, Rasa Mitrulevičienė, Vice President, Financial Affairs, Živilė Norvilaitė-Petersen, Vice President, Organizational Affairs, Danguolė Navickienė, Advisor to the President, Austėja Sruoga, Executive Vice President, Arvydas Urbonavičius, President, Skirmantė Juodeikytė Philipponė, Vice President, Special Projects, Rasa Savičiūtė Sprindys, Secretary, Tomas Mitrulevičius, Vice President, Special Projects, Sports/ŠALFASS Representative. Photo by Raminta Urbonavičienė.

The new National Executive Committee of the Lithuanian American Community began its work. Arvydas Urbonavičius was elected President of the National Executive Board. Austėja Sruoga will serve as Executive Vice President, Živilė Norvilaitė-Petersen - Vice President, Organizational Affairs, Rasa Mitrulevičienė - Vice President, Financial Affairs, Skirmantė Juodeikytė Philipponė - Vice President, Special Projects, Loreta Timukienė - Vice President, Information, Inga Klimašauskienė - Vice President, Business Affairs, Valdas Buožys - Vice President, Archives, Tomas Mitrulevičius - Vice President, Special Projects, Sports/ŠALFASS Representative, Krista Bard -

Chair, Public Affairs, Auksė Motto - Chair, Educational Affairs, Juozas Polikaitis - Chair, Social Services, Father Jaunius Kelpšas - Chair, Religious Affairs, Giedrė Knieža - Chair, Cultural Affairs, Rasa Dooling - Treasurer, Marius Vilemaitis - IT Specialist, Laura Vidžiūnaitė - Press, Rasa Savičiūtė Sprindys - Secretary. Danguolė Navickienė and Arvydas Barzdukas were elected Advisors to the President.

More information on the Lithuanian American Community: <http://lithuanian-american.org/lt/> and <https://www.facebook.com/JAVLietuviuBendruomene/>

## Danguolė Navickienė Advisor to the President



My name is Marija Danguolė Navickas/Navickienė. My Lithuanian friends call me Danguolė. All others prefer my first name for obvious

reasons. I came to the US in 1949 as a very young WWII refugee and settled in New Jersey. I graduated from Marymount Manhattan College with a degree in Mathematics and went on to work in the insurance and scientific communities as a computer programmer. After moving to California in 1974, I worked as a software engineer on military airplane avionics, later advancing to artificial intelligence programs for airplane design and Insurance risk analysis. I am currently retired.

In the meantime, I raised two children who are both fluent in Lithuanian and active in Lithuanian activities - daughter Rymantė who lives in

Seattle and son Tadas who decided to try his luck in Lithuania in 1993 and never looked back. He still lives in Vilnius with his family and is active there in Lithuanian business and charitable organizations.

I have been active in the Lithuanian American Community from an early age. My deeply patriotic parents raised me to love Lithuania, to be proud of my heritage and to never forget my native land. This inspired me to maintain my Lithuanian identity, raise my children as my parents raised me and to do all I could to help Lithuania. This naturally led to active participation in the Lithuanian American Community. Since 1985 I



have worked in the Los Angeles LAC in several capacities, as president of the chapter and often, including the present, as a member of the executive committee. I have been in the past and still am on the LA Lithuanian Fair Committee. I was VP of the Lithuanian Folk Dance Festival held in Los Angeles in 2008. I have also been the President of the LAC Western Region, member (2006-present) and Chair (2006-2009) of the National Board of Directors, VP of the Executive Committee and last, but not least, the President of the Lithuanian World Community (2012-2015).

I have a strong commitment to charitable work on behalf of Lithuania, was a former chair of the Women's Club Birutė and established the LA chapter of Lithuanian Children's Hope in 1992. Our chapter is still active and over the last 26 years has raised over \$2,000,000 for the betterment of children's health in Lithuania. In 2007 President Adamkus awarded me the Order of the Knight for Services to Lithuania. I am also a member of the Knights of Lithuania.

As Advisor to LAC president Arvydas Urbonavičius, I shall try to be useful in any capacity in which I have experience – Public Affairs, Cultural, Social Services. With my WLC experience, I have made a lot of acquaintances in the Lithuanian government, so networking is one of my strong points. The LAC has been evolving since its inception, with new challenges as well as opportunities awaiting us. The baton of preserving our Lithuanian identity here in the US and maintaining our connection to Lithuania is being passed from those of us who came here after WW II to the new generation of immigrants. My past experience has given me a good grasp of the challenges and how those at the highest levels must be able to predict and overcome them. I hope to usefully and successfully accompany Arvydas on this exciting journey.

**Giedrė Elekšytė-Knieža**  
Chair of the Cultural Affairs  
Lithuanian American Community



I was born and raised in Klaipėda, Lithuania. I came to the United States in 2000. For almost five years, I worked for Amerikos Lietuvis, the most popular Lithuanian weekly at the time. I have been leading Suktinis folk dance group for close to ten years. I have also served as vice president of the Lithuanian Opera in Chicago, and I was the leader of the dance group of the Lithuanian Opera. I was a member of the creative team of the 15th National Dance Festival in Baltimore. I have organized the presentation of Lithuania in the Chicago Thanksgiving Day Parade.

I received certificates of merit from the Minister of Foreign Affairs Linas Linkevičius, the Mayor of Klaipėda Vytautas Grubliauskas, Consul General of Lithuania in Chicago Marijus Gudynas, and the Chairman of the LAC Cultural Council Austėja Sruoga.

I grew up surrounded by folk art and other kinds of art and I don't imagine my life in any other way. Suktinis folk dance group was and will always be my "baby". I often joke that Suktinis came first, then I had my four-legged member of the family, a golden retriever Kuzia, and only then I met my husband Algirdas with whom we have two sons. Currently, I am elected Chair of the Council of Cultural Affairs, and I will try to share my ideas and experiences with all the chapters of the Lithuanian American Community and help the smaller chapters as much as possible.

The year 2019 was proclaimed by the

Parliament of the Republic of Lithuania as the Year of the World Lithuanians. We hope for many unforgettable events. In 2020, the 16th Dance Festival will take place in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Along with organizing and participating in the bigger and smaller events, I would like to solve a big problem of not having one common calendar of events that would help all the chapters of the Lithuanian Community be aware of events taking place in all the communities. I would like to centralize information so that community members would have the opportunity to receive information from one place. In my opinion, the US Lithuanian Community should not be just a big, strong, and beautiful organization, but should be a lively and pulsating organization accessible to people of different generations, hobbies, and professions.

**Inga Klimašauskienė**  
Vice President, Business Affairs  
Lithuanian American Community  
National Executive Committee



I graduated from Vilnius University, Faculty of Law and then studied and received an LL.M. from Suffolk University, Law School (Boston, USA). I hold an MBA in international business from Vilnius University International Business School. I am an attorney, admitted to the Lithuanian Bar and a co-founder of the Baltic American Chamber of Commerce (BACC), an organization incorporated in New York (USA) which helps companies establish and expand their businesses on both sides of the Atlantic (the U.S. and the Baltic States).

I am active in Lithuanian activities because, firstly, I am Lithuanian and I would like to see my country thrive, especially witnessing how much we can offer to the world. Secondly, my extensive professional experience as a business lawyer and corporate advisor are skills that directly facilitate my new role as the Lithuanian American Business Community Vice President, Business Affairs.

I was involved in the distribution and contractual consulting for several Lithuanian foods, apparel, and furniture companies. Currently, I am working on a project that involves researchers from several Lithuanian universities and a private company in the creation of a medical prototype that we will bring to the U.S. market. This project is especially interesting because it relates to life sciences, IT/ICT where I see a huge potential for Lithuania.

In the future, I plan to implement a program which empowers the Baltic companies to build businesses in the U.S. and a Baltic tour for American business people with the purpose to show our region as a place with vast business opportunities. Both projects are ongoing, and I believe that together with a strong team and state support, they can bloom and be impactful to the growth and expansion of our national economy.

Loreta Timukienė  
Vice President, Information  
Lithuanian American Community  
National Executive Committee



I was born and grew up in Lithuania. I graduated from Vilnius University

with a degree in Lithuanian Philology and worked as a Lithuanian language and literature teacher. Together with my family, I have moved to the United States 11 years ago. Here, I worked as an editor in the Draugas Lithuanian newspaper, a Lithuanian language and literature teacher and assistant principal in the Lithuanian Cultural School of Chicago, and served as Vice President of the Lithuanian Studies and Research Center in Chicago. Since 2009 I have been elected to multiple administrative and public relations positions in the Lithuanian American Community (LAC), including Vice President of the National Executive Committee. I have organized and presented multiple public events, including art shows, book presentations, and exhibitions. I am the editor-in-chief of the Lithuanian American Community news magazine Naujienos and Vice President of the LAC National Executive Committee. In my personal life, my marriage and my children are the most important to me. Another event that has fundamentally changed my life was coming to live in the U.S.

It has always been important to me to feel my own person and to be proud of being Lithuanian. All of my Lithuanian endeavors are a testimony to the fact that I am and will always be a part of Lithuania. Since I have come to the United States, I continue spending at least a part of each day devoted to Lithuanian matters. I am very happy to have not lost the connection with my home country and to have an opportunity to spread a message about my country abroad. During my time in the United States, I had learned a lot. I gained valuable experience, met a lot of interesting people, and looked at many things from a different angle. All of this is very important to me. It is difficult to pick out one event or activity but the most memorable events are gatherings and festivities in which we all feel connected regardless of where we

live at a given time.

In the next few years, I expect to work a lot, mainly spreading information about the work of the Lithuanian American Community, relations with Lithuania, getting ready for the upcoming Lithuanian elections and the referendum regarding the preservation of the Lithuanian citizenship. Also, I will be participating in the events dedicated to the Year of World Lithuanians, the 16th North American Lithuanian Dance Festival in Philadelphia in 2020, and the Lithuanian American Community press matters.

In order for all of this and other work to be successful, we need to engage not only the LAC National Executive Committee but all Lithuanians in the US. We should understand that if we want to create a Lithuania that we and our children could be proud of, each and every one of us must contribute as much as we can.

We strongly encourage and invite all those who have the right to vote to take part in the upcoming presidential elections and the referendum on the preservation of Lithuanian citizenship. Our participation will have an impact on the attitude of people that live in Lithuania towards those that live outside of Lithuania. Also, our own further relationship with Lithuania will depend on our participation in the upcoming elections and referendum. Let's love Lithuania not only with our words but also with our actions.



# Englewood Cliffs Teen Linguist Translates Children's Books and Is Recognized by the Lithuanian Minister of Education and Science

*Interview questions by Karilė Vaitkutė*



Book presentation in Raseiniai, Lithuania.

Andrew Jason Mosteika is a tenth-grade honors student at the Dwight-Englewood School in Englewood, New Jersey. Since elementary school, Andrew has been deeply involved not only in school activities, but in local community centers. During summers spent with his grandparents in Lithuania, Andrew has volunteered at the orphanage in the city of Raseiniai ([www.raseiniuvaikai.lt](http://www.raseiniuvaikai.lt)) and local foster care families, helping children to learn English and expand their interest in world in which we all live.

Andrew's continuing interest in Lithuania lead him to learn about former President Valdas Adamkus, particularly President Adamkus' life in the United States and his service and contributions is battling pollution and climate change. This struck a chord for Andrew as he has a deep interest in battling climate change and preserving the environment, which lead Andrew to translate an American children's book, *Planet Earth Gets Well*, by Madeline Kaplan, ([www.planeteearthgetswell.com](http://www.planeteearthgetswell.com)), into Lithuanian. *Planet Earth* seeks to help young children understand the importance of our environment and how everyone should help protect it. By translating *Planet Earth*, Andrew hopes to help expand the awareness of this important cause to the youth around the world.

His efforts and generosity on behalf of the children of Lithuania were acknowledged and endorsed by the Minister of Education and Science of the Republic of Lithuania, Honorary Jurgita Petrauskiene in September 2017.

In December 2018, His Holiness Pope Francis also thanked Andrew for his support of this cause and sharing his work.

Inspired by success of the first translation, Andrew has translated another children's books into Lithuanian, *The Seven Nights of Santa*, by Dwight Ensley and Carolyn Woodruff ([www.captaingreeneyes.com](http://www.captaingreeneyes.com) and [www.cupcakebuddies.com](http://www.cupcakebuddies.com)). Today's family units encompass a large variety of family forms. Many children do not live with both of their natural parents. This leads to much stress and dispute. *Seven Nights* helps everyone to accept and love their family units regardless of form.

Andrew's work and sharing with the children of Lithuania have also been noted in two Lithuanian publications *Alio*, Raseiniai and *Naujas Rytas* in 2017 and 2018.

In addition to being an honor student, Andrew is fluent in three languages, English, Lithuanian and Spanish and has been on his school's tennis varsity team for several years.



The cover of *The Seven Nights of Santa* translated into Lithuanian.

Andrew, you are just a tenth-grader but you've already translated and published two books. How did your "translator's career" begin? What or who inspired you to translate?

Well, first of all, it feels very daunting to be called a "translator". Three different things combined to kick-start my project. Being multi-lingual (my sister Leila and I are fluent in English, Spanish and Lithuanian), I am exceptionally interested in languages. I have been visiting Lithuania every year since I was only three years old. For the past few summers, we both have been volunteering with Lithuanian foster care families during our time with our grandparents. We sought to share our interests with those children. Our school offers a "Climate Change" class as a part of the high school science curriculum. I was also very inspired by the work of former Lithuanian President Valdas Adamkus, particularly his efforts in the United States to help clean up the environment here. Living in the United States, and having been given exceptional educational opportunities, I wanted to give back, to make a difference. At that time, I thought that the children's book *Planet Earth Gets Well*, by an American author, Madeline Kaplan, would be a great beginning. It seemed to me a natural progression -- to best share my interest in the environment with children in Lithuanian, it would be most effective to do so in their own language and starting at a very young age. I love what John F. Kennedy had said "Every accomplishment starts with the desire to try." So, my translating books began.

How long did it take to translate each book? What challenges if any did you encounter in your work?

Each book took quite a long time. I started as a challenge to myself to see if I could do it. I started to translate *Planet*



The cover of *Planet Earth* translated into Lithuanian.

*Earth* early in the winter of 2017, and was only able to work on it in my free time, which was, of course, rather limited. The translation took a few months but the other elements, such as the legal rights, physical production and promotion, took several more months. I am very proud to hold the Certificates of Registration from the United States Copyright Office for both of my translations.

Probably the biggest challenge was translating words that don't specifically exist in Lithuanian – for example, in my second translation, *Seven Nights of Santa*, an "elf" is an important character. To the best of my knowledge, there is no literal translation of word "elf" into Lithuanian. With a professional editor's advice, I settled with the translation "elfas". I learned that this is a common solution with some of the oldest languages in the world, when those languages need to expand to include words developed in other languages. Besides, nowadays kids from around the world are watching Hollywood cartoons and movies, where elves are quite common characters, and can understand the meaning of the word "elf" in any language.



What were some of the gratifying moments after the books were published? Did you meet any of the young readers in Lithuania? Did you witness any positive changes in society or possibly in someone's life that your books contributed to?

The first gratifying moment was very personal. My grandfather was so pleased and proud of my work, especially that I chose his hometown, the village of Kalnujai, his birthplace, and the city of Raseiniai, the birthplace of my father, to introduce my work to their homeland. I think it showed him how much my heritage means to me. My bond with him and his homeland is very important to me. Probably the most gratifying thing publicly was when I had the opportunity to present the books to the children that inspired this project in the first place, the foster care families and the orphanage "Raseiniu vaiku globos namai". I met more of the young readers in Lithuania at the presentations of each book.

I hope the books will inspire children in Lithuania to learn and care about the environment, and to respect and accept other people despite their different situations, which is the goal of Seven Nights of Santa.

Which one of the two languages, English or Lithuanian, you find more challenging to learn? What would your advice be to those trying to learn Lithuanian or those trying to learn English?

Definitely Lithuanian was more difficult, because, although we spoke Lithuanian as well as English at home, growing up in American schools, I was taught English in the standard structured English classes at school. Doing the Lithuanian translations, I had to figure this out myself, and research it on my own, ask my parents, especially about the grammar which is so different from English.

Do you have any other books to translate in the future?

At the moment, I have to focus on my schoolwork, and already have started preparations for the college accept-



Young readers with Andrew in the Kalnujai library.

ance exams, but I am always on the lookout for something that interests me to challenge myself. I will continue to follow a great advice of Theodore Roosevelt "Keep your eyes on the stars and your feet on the ground."



Mosteika family in Vilnius.



# Children's Stories by Paula Martinson



I am ten years old. Born in the deep south of the United States of America, I moved to Virginia at the age of three. There I go to school, including a Lithuanian school on Saturdays to learn to speak, read and write Lithuanian. I enjoy reading and writing, sports, music, playing with friends and laughing. I also like to draw although I am not so good at that. My mom came from Lithuania and my dad's ancestors came from Norway and Ireland. We go visit parks and go hiking often with my rescue dog, Meila. I like to see nature such as waterfalls, animals and streams. I really enjoyed hiking to the top of Mount Rogers, the highest point in Virginia, with wild ponies all around. I call it Ponyland. I attended the Camp Neringa English speaking session for the past five years with my parents for two years and then by myself. It is a place of discovery and I look forward to going every summer.

-- Paula

## Volunteer

I was born slow and I will always be slow. I'm Sloth. I've always loved exploring, but that is a difficult task. All the animals in the jungle used to despise me and taunt me. Now I'm the most popular creature in the rainforest and here's why. One morning last year I woke up to the sun shining in my face. I gazed out the window of my treehouse. It was an extra hot, dry day. Soon enough, the animals fought for water in the midst of the drought. I kept a little pot of water just for these occasions, so I did not need to fight. Many hot weeks went by before then and not a single drop of rain fell. A strong tiger and leader of the animals set out to go find water. After a couple days, Tiger returned dried out and barely clinging to life. Of course, all of his followers immediately gave him some of their water still left. That night the animals held a meeting for our whole jungle.

"Is there anyone here who would like to volunteer to go get water?" Tiger asked. Everyone murmured about who should go, but they did not look at me. I knew I was slow,

but I had traveled to a few places. Maybe I could be the one to find water? Maybe for once, I could be the hero? "I volunteer," I shouted through all the noise!

The tiger burst out laughing, "Someone as slow as you? You wouldn't last a second out there". A chimpanzee ambled up to Tiger and proclaimed, "The forest law says that anyone can volunteer." "Fine then," said the tiger. "Who then would like to accompany sloth?" The crowd fell silent for a long moment. "I will!" screeched Parrot as he flew next to me. "Ok then", said Tiger. "It's settled. Our lives rest with these two. We wish you both the best of luck."

I wasn't confident about how I was going to do this. Why did I volunteer, I thought over and over? I obviously couldn't walk there fast. But after a while of thinking, I came to the conclusion that I should fly there. How to fly I had no clue, but it was my only idea. I figured that Parrot could help me. He flies all the time. First I needed wings. How would I get wings? I got it! I had some sap I could

use to glue materials together, and I could use sticks for the base. Also, I could use big leaves. It was perfect. I started to work slow but steady. Parrot helped collect things for me since I move so slow. After a days' worth of work, we finished the wings. Parrot said, "They look fine and sturdy so they should work."

I climbed up a tree to a high branch and attached the wings. I saw hope in Parrot's eyes so he gave me hope too. I jumped. The view thrilled me and drained away all my fear. The jungle looked so small beneath me. The wings worked as planned and so maybe I could save the jungle animals and be the hero. I flew in the opposite direction that Tiger went. Maybe I would find water this way. It took work to keep my balance, but after a few minutes, I got used to it. Suddenly I began to drop. I saw the ground coming closer and closer. The wind stopped rising. I thought I would crash. But when all hope seemed lost, the wind picked me back up. My legs brushed against the tops of the trees. A feeling of relief came over me as parrot came alongside to see if I was ok. We continued on into the night when finally I saw something reflecting the moonlight. Was that...it can't be! It was...water! I circled down and into a palm tree. We drank our fill of the water and slept next to it. In the morning we filled up some bottles connected to us. I climbed up the tallest tree I could find and jumped again, more confident this time.

The extra weight of the water bottles pulled me this way and that making it much harder to steer. Near exhausted as dusk approached, parrot and I saw it, our jungle!

All of the happy and thirsty animals greeted us. We gave the water to everyone and because of it, we became known as heroes. Tiger walked up to me and said, "Sloth, maybe you are the slowest and maybe you aren't the strongest. But you definitely have more courage than any of us."



Sloth and Parrot.



## The Blue Shell of the Sea

In the eastern Pacific Ocean lived a leatherback sea turtle, but not just any leatherback sea turtle. She was the biggest leatherback sea turtle in the ocean with a glimmering blue shell. All of the sea animals respected her and feared her. She felt full of pride as the most beautiful creature in the whole world, the queen. Many challenged her for the crown, but with all of the sea creatures protecting her, her challengers got nowhere. Some creatures became fed up with the queen and tried forming secret groups to go against the queen. The Big Blue Beauty, they called her. She ordered that anyone who went against her to be put in the sinkhole. The sinkhole is what the sea creatures called the part of the sea with all of the harmful creatures from the other parts of the ocean.

One typical day, a sea creature she had not seen before wandered near the queen's territory. None of the sea creatures knew what it was.

"Bring the mysterious creature to me", the queen ordered. Soon enough the queen forced the strange creature to bow to her. "Who are you", the queen questioned?

"I am a turtle, a leatherback turtle", he answered.

"No you are not, do not lie to me", the queen responded sternly.

"I am", he shot back.

"You cannot be", the queen replied. "You look too hideous"!

The sea creature peered at her in confusion. "I look like any other leatherback turtle", he said.

"You don't look like a leatherback turtle to me", the queen said with growing impatience.

The turtle did not know what else to say and stayed silent so the queen forced the poor turtle to work for her. Though the queen couldn't believe he was a leatherback turtle, he was nice to her. One day the queen asked, "Why are you so kind to me? I forced you to work for me and yet you repay me with kindness. Why"?

The turtle responded, "I'm not sure, you seem lonely sitting upon your throne with a crown and respect, but no friends".

"Friends?" she scoffed, but deep down the queen considered him as her friend.

At the same time, the queen's guards caught some sea animals in a secret meeting and took them to the sinkhole.

"Throw them in, and quick. We don't want those sharks coming", said a swordfish.

They threw them in and the captured sea animals disappeared into the sinkhole. But what the guards did not realize is that they left in such a hurry that they forgot something... the keys. Soon the gates to the sinkhole opened wide.



Queen's throne

The next day early in the morning, the queen heard screaming. She saw a group of sharks bolting to the castle for revenge because of their banishment to the sinkhole. Even with everyone protecting her, the sharks were more powerful. The sharks rammed into the walls of the castle and destroyed them. The sharks swam inside face to face with the queen.

"It was him! She heard one of the sharks say in a raspy voice. Kill them! Kill them both"! All the sharks looked at the smaller turtle. Terror filled his eyes as the shark spoke. The queen hoped that the sharks would forget about her as she hid behind the throne.

"I'll give it back!" he yelled. "Here, take it"! He handed the sharks what seemed to be a totem. "Please just leave us alone", he pleaded.

The sharks looked at one other for a moment, but the biggest shark of the group opened his jaws wide to bite into the turtle. The queen suddenly rushed out to save her friend and the shark bit into her instead. Before the sharks realized that he bit the queen, the smaller turtle swam out into the open sea and escaped. The queen gave her life to save him so he realized that he should bring joy to other's lives for as long as he could.



# BALTIC CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION IN BOSTON 2018

By Živilė Symeonidis



Rolandas Kriščiūnas, Ambassador of Lithuania to the USA, Dr. Regina Balčaitienė, President of LAC New England region, and Sigita Šimkuvienė.

During November 23-25, all Balts gathered for a festive Centennial Celebration in Boston. Celebrants included not only Boston's Estonians, Latvians, and Lithuanians, but also guests from other US locations – nearby New Hampshire, Connecticut, New York, Pennsylvania and even far-away states like California, Arizona, Texas, and Indiana. We also had special guests who traveled across the Atlantic – from Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania. This was a centennial celebration of the Baltic Countries, surpassing in a spectacular finale, all domestic centennial celebrations across the United States. In his opening speech, Rolandas Kriščiūnas, the Ambassador of Lithuania to the United States of America thanked the community for organizing an unbelievable three-day weekend, full of cultural and memorable events. He read the greetings from Dalia Grybauskaitė, the President of the Republic of Lithuania. Andris Teikmanis, the Ambassador of Latvia to the United States of America remarked that this three-day cooperative celebration echoed the Baltic Way back in 1986, when thousands of people in the Baltic countries held hands, forming the longest ever human chain that stretched from Tallinn, Estonia to Vilnius, Lithuania with hope for freedom. Anne-Reet Annunziata, the Estonian

Honorary Consul in Boston for Massachusetts and Rhode Island congratulated all three communities on the Estonian behalf.

Guests were welcomed to peruse the Baltic Art exhibit, featuring prominent artists from all over the USA – Estonians included Sergei Isupov whose impressive sculptures captured the hearts of all attendees, Ivo Lill, distinguished glass artist whose art is displayed in art galleries of Estonia, Denmark, Spain, Russia, China, Germany, Czech Republic, and Vatican, and a ceramicist Kadri Parnamets whose ceramic art invited for a playful, but thoughtful dialogue. Estonian was also represented by artists Epp Ojamaa, Inga Strause, and the photographer Eleri Eve. Featured Lithuanian painters were Vytas Sakalas, Rolandas Dabrukas, Monika Plioplytė, Laima Sprangauskaitė, Julija Mostykanova-Feeney, Diana Puodžiukynaitė, Marija Yanka, Jack McGowan, along with unique leather artist Indrė Mineikienė and a fabric artist Ina Nenortienė. Latvians exhibited works by famous local artists like Janis Sanders whose paintings are in major art galleries in Maine and New England and beautiful paintings by Inga Dankers, Aivars Zanbergs, Maris Platais and works of other Latvian painters.



Vilnius Municipality St. Christopher's Chamber Orchestra plays at BSO. Photo by Mindaugas Kavaliauskas.

At the Marketplace, holiday shoppers discovered one-of-a-kind artistic creations and impressive crafts from Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia. Featured were not only traditional knit items like mittens, sweaters, hats, and blouses, but also artistic amber jewelry pieces, contemporary silver jewelry by Elizabete Ludviks, a Canadian Latvian whose work is featured in Washington Museum of Arts Gallery shop, Rasa Dooling, Lithuanian amber and ceramic artist, Indrė Mineikienė with her leather jewelry and playful ceramic doll collection,

The opening night of the three-day celebration was hosted in at Boston Symphony Orchestra Hall. The concert program offered a unique opportunity for the audience to hear and appreciate music by Baltic composers performed by Vilnius City Municipality St. Christopher Chamber orchestra, the North American Latvian Quartet, and Estonian Hando Nahkur, piano.

Throughout Thanksgiving weekend, Boston's Paramount movie theater was another focal event place, hosting the Baltic Film Festival, featuring newest and award-winning films from Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania. Latvian movie "Pagan King" was completely sold out on Friday night. Other Latvian movies included "Paradise 89", and the very entertain-

ing "Homo Novus". Estonian films featured a documentary "Soviet Hippies", the internationally acclaimed film "Tangerines", and an intriguing artistic movie "November". Lithuanians started Saturday's program with a pre-screening of their newest documentary "Proudly Shy", directed by Mindaugas Kavaliauskas, who joined us from Lithuania, Kaunas. Using photographs, the film took viewers on a tour of the past three decades of Lithuania's history. This was followed by the winner of multiple awards "Miracle", directed by Eglė Vertelytė. On Sunday, the Film Festival program ended with the final movie of the entire festival, "Emilia - Breaking Free", directed



Dr. Regina Balčaitienė, Chair of Organizational Baltic Centennial Boston, congratulates Donatas Katkus, Director and conductor of Vilnius Municipality St. Christopher Chamber Orchestra. Photo by Mindaugas Kavaliauskas.





Samuel Bak and his paintings.  
Photo by Irena Valys.



Birutė Mockutė Posella at Marketplace with her company Lek Gervelės creations. Photo by Živilė Symeonidis.

by Donatas Ulvydas. “Emilia – Breaking Free” has been the most popular movie among Lithuanian communities worldwide. The film was introduced by the director Donatas Ulvydas and the producer Živilė Gallego, who came especially for this occasion from Lithuania. As a finale, it left a memorable impression on the viewers who commented that it was a great choice with which to end the Baltic Centennial celebration Film Festival.

The Friday panel discussions featured talks with Baltic Film Makers (moderated by Joyce Kulhawik, Emmy award winner), writers on post-war memoirs, and a panel discussion on Baltic music “100 Years a Nation, So Many More in Song” – Dr. Katherina Pukinskis. “These discussions panels elevated the entire event to a different intellectual level, and made it very enjoyable and rewarding”, commented a guest from New York.

Saturday at the Marriott offered culturally rich and entertaining choices – discussion panels with the Ambassadors of the three countries, guest speakers, Nobel Prize winner economist Professor Robert J. Shiller, Yale University, CT (lecture “American Dream and Baltic Dream”), Art Show, Market Place, and films. But the highlight of the day was the afternoon Baltic Choir and Folk Dance Concert, featuring Latvian and Lithuanian choirs, folk dance performers and little dancers and singers from Estonian, Latvian, and Lithuanian schools. The event attracted over 600 guests who enjoyed a three-hour joyous program coordinated by Latvian musical professional Krisite Skare. Saturday evening was elegantly concluded with the black-tie Gala banquet. During the cocktail hour and banquet, a musical program entertained attendees

and included local singers Epp Sonin, Danutė Mileika, Marytė Bizinkauskas, Edmundas Minkštimas – piano, Lithuania, Hando Nahkur – piano, Estonia and the Vilnius City Municipality St. Christopher Chamber Orchestra from Lithuania. In her opening speech, the chair of the organizational committee Dr. Regina Balčaitienė thanked the ambassadors of the three Baltic countries, honorary guests, and the donors for their participation and support of this historic event. The Gala was purported to be the biggest and fanciest ball since the declaration of the independence of three Baltic countries.

Another unique feature of this celebration among other communal events was the inclusion of programs for our youngest audience. The Children’s program included a funny and very entertaining puppet show, performed by creative and bubbly Indrė Mineikienė (“Story House”), art classes “You Should be Kittin’ Me” taught by the artist from Los Angeles, Rolandas Dabrukas, and a kids’ show “Zooliday Extravaganza” with the Blue Moose (acted and designed by Rolandas Dabrukas).

Sunday program continued at St. Peter’s Lithuanian Parish in South Boston with a Catholic Mass celebrated by three priests, with hymns sung by “Laisvė”, visiting guest choir from Philadelphia. Following the Mass, an Ecumenical service was conducted which included clergy of three different denominations presiding. The Vilnius City Municipality St. Christopher Chamber Orchestra played while the congregation gathered, and the introductory portion ended with a solo song performed by Epp Sonin. Father Peter DeFazio, the administrator of St. Peter parish welcomed the congregation. Everyone was invited



to join in singing “Now Thank We All Our God” simultaneously in 4 languages. Organized by Dr. Aldona Lingertat, the service included Bible readings, interspersed with musical interludes. Readings were done by clergy, Rev. Udo Tari and Rev. Igor Safins in their own language, with translations included in the printed program. Musical interludes were provided by singers Epp Sonin, Danutė Mileika, Marytė Bizinkauskas and accompanied by instrumentalists Silvia Padešs Grendze, Artur Jansons, George Juris Kenins, Ilona Kudina, and Daiva Navickas. After the Ecumenical Service, people were invited to a Baltic Brunch, featuring the cuisine of three nations – Estonian, Latvian, and Lithuanian.



Guest speaker Prof. Robert J. Shiller, the Nobel Prize Winner in Economy. Photo by Živilė Symeonidis.

The Lithuanian meal was provided by South Boston Lithuanian Citizens’ Club Kitchen and Latvian and Estonian dishes were prepared by Latvian and Lithuanian volunteers.

Sunday afternoon, guests were invited to enjoy Samuel Bak’s artwork at Pucker Gallery. Samuel Bak is a world-famous contemporary painter, who survived the atrocities of Vilnius Jewish Ghetto during World War II. Samuel’s career started at the age of 9, in Paneriai Jewish Ghetto. His first drawings were made with a pencil. Samuel Bak’s drawings were exhibited together with works of other Jewish artists in 1943. The art show represented hope for a better future. In 1948, Samuel Bak immigrated to the newly founded the State of Israel. In 1956-1959, he studied art at the Ecole des Beaux-Arts in Paris. Later the artist resided in Rome, Israel, USA, France, and Switzerland. Since 1993, Samuel Bak resides and creates in Boston, MA. Samuel Bak has participated in more than 60 exhibits worldwide. Gaon museum in Vilnius has a collection consisting of 60 works from the artist’s early period. Samuel Bak gifted 37 paintings to the museum in 2001. His other works will soon leave the USA and will be permanently exhibited in Samuel Bak’s museum in Vilnius, Lithuania. You can watch the interview with the respected artist, recorded during the Baltic Centennial, on the website [www.balticboston.com](http://www.balticboston.com).

Many people were excited to attend the Centennial celebration events and festivities in Boston. Some guests commented that they felt the same uplifting emotion and joy they felt during the early 90’s. Boston city also prepared a nice gift to the Baltic community on this occasion - Estonian, Latvian, and Lithuanian flags were raised at Boston City Hall Plaza three mornings in a row to congratulate all Baltic people on their centennial.

This wonderful celebration would not have been possible without generous donations from our Estonian, Latvian, and Lithuanian governments, our community members as well as organizations who generously sponsored the event – Lithuanian Council for Culture, LTU, Vilnius City Municipality St. Christopher Chamber orchestra, National Lithuanian Society of America Inc. , Embassy of the Republic of Latvia, Baltic American Freedom Foundation Inc., Latvian Heritage Foundation, Lithuanian American Community Inc. , Lithuanian Foundation Inc., TAUPA Lithuanian Credit Union, South Boston Lithuanian Citizen’s Association, Estonian American National Council, Mrs. Gražina Liutaud, Dr. Regina Balčaitienė, Mrs. Epp Sonin, and others.

Special thanks to all organizational committee for their three-year hard effort to put together this memorable celebration for American Balts and their guests. We are all very grateful to one of the biggest donors, the Chair of the Organizational Committee, Dr. Regina Balčaitienė, whose exuberant energy, impressive organizational skills and positive attitude was very inspiring for the members of the organizational committee and made this entire event happen. Thank you for a beautiful Centennial celebration which will remain in people’s memories forever! Centennial Celebration event is featured in the event book *Baltic Centennial Boston 2018* designed by Rita Stuopis, an architect designer. All pictures from the event are posted on the website [www.balticboston.com](http://www.balticboston.com), professionally created and managed by website designer and developer Povilas Mečys, a professor at the Rhode Island College. You are welcome to leave your comments on the event there. All pictures are courtesy of Mindaugas Kavaliauskas, a photographer, photography curator, and international rater from Kaunas, Lithuania.

## Lithuanian Saturday Schools Commemorate the Defenders of Freedom Day

Baltija Lithuanian School in Dallas, Texas



The students of the Baltija Lithuanian School in Dallas, Texas commemorated the Defenders of Freedom Day by singing the Lithuanian National Anthem and observing a moment of silence to honor the heroes killed on January 13, 1991. The younger students created applications of tri-color candles. Later on, the students watched a documentary film which explained in what conditions Lithuanians lived from the day of Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact was signed in 1939 to January 13, 1991, what happened in Lithuania on that fatal night, and why this date is important to Lithuania. The students showed a lot of interest and asked many questions. After discussions took place, the students decided that the symbol of January 13th is the TV tower, and made its models.

*Emilija Vindžigelskė*  
Principal of the Baltija Lithuanian School in Dallas, Texas





# our community

## Colorado Lithuanian School in Westminster, Colorado



The Colorado Lithuanian School students, teachers, and guests dedicated an entire class to commemorate the Defenders of Freedom Day. We honored the heroes killed on January 13, 1991 with a moment of silence and watched a documentary film. Teacher Dalia explained to the students about the events of that day, and teacher Laima shared her reminiscences and explained in what ways the USA was being informed about the events of January 13th, and how shocked the Lithuanian Americans were.

*Edita Buzėnienė  
Principal of the Colorado Lithuanian School  
in Westminster, Colorado*

## Alexandra Kazickas Lithuanian School in Aquebogue, New York



The students of the Alexandra Kazickas Lithuanian School commemorated the January 13th by singing the Lithuanian National Anthem, honoring the heroes with a moment of silence, and lighting candles.

*Gintė Genender  
Principal of the Alexandra Kazickas Lithuanian School in  
Aquebogue, New York*

## Chicago Lithuanian Saturday School



The Chicago Lithuanian Saturday School commemorated the Defenders of Freedom Day with a photograph exhibit and lighting candles to honor the heroes killed in Lithuania on January 13, 1991.

*Vida Rupšienė  
Principal of the Chicago Lithuanian Saturday School*



Maironis Lithuanian School in Lemont, Illinois



The Maironis Lithuanian School students commemorated the Defenders of Freedom Day by lighting candles, honoring the heroes with a moment of silence, and talking about the significance of the January 13th events.

*Goda Misiūnienė  
Principal of the Maironis Lithuanian School  
in Lemont, Illinois*

Lithuanian School in Washington

Students of the Lithuanian School in Washington were drawing patriotic pictures in commemoration of the Defenders of Freedom Day.

*Marija Dainienė,  
Principal of the Lithuanian School in Washington*



Paula Martinson (10 years old). The drawing is entitled "Žemė Lietuvos" (Lithuanian Land). Blooming meadow, forest and Lithuanian flag. The flag is raised up high so it could be seen from afar. Teacher Eigirdas Saulius Kruopis.

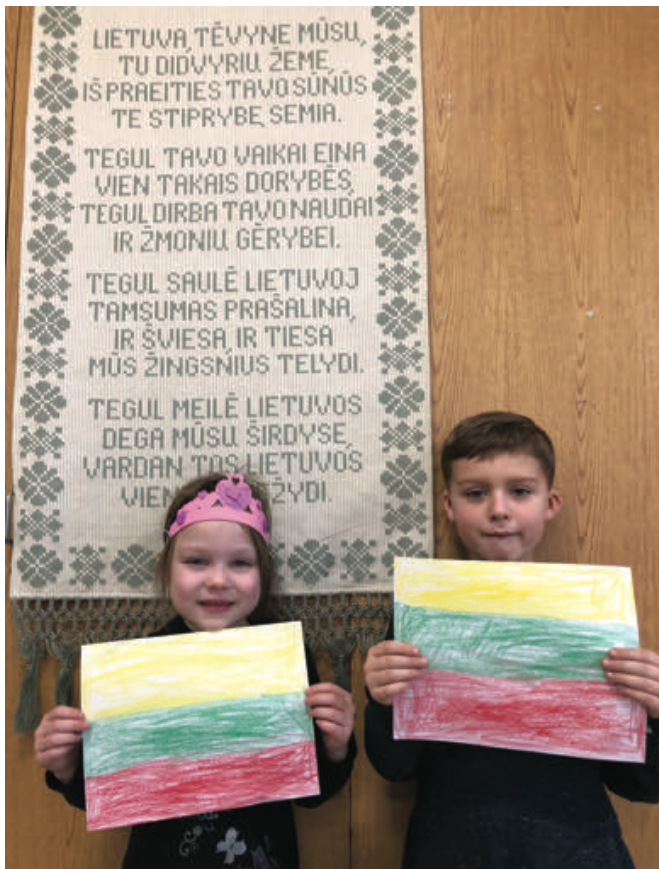


Darius Teel (4th grade) drew the events that took place by the TV Tower on January 13th. The drawing is white because it is winter time. Tanks are coming closer to the TV Tower, one fir tree is broken, a person is wounded, others are singing and peacefully resisting the occupation. Teacher is Eigirdas Saulius Kruopis.



# our community

Vaiva Vėbraitė Lithuanian School in Shelton, Connecticut



The Vaiva Vėbraitė Lithuanian School in Shelton, Connecticut commemorated the Defenders of Freedom Day by creating pictures of Lithuanian flag and castles. Teachers Agnė and Jolanta told the students about January 13th and its importance. The students also watched a documentary film.

Pictured in the photographs are Lily Eidukaitis, Aida Ouloul, Julia Kovaliukas, Luka Mažrimaitė, Gabia Gelumbinckas, Mantas Janušaitis, school principal Agnė D'Orso, teacher Laima Reiss, students Audrina DeEscobar, Lukas D'Orso, Olivia D'Orso.

*Agnė D'Orso  
Principal of the Vaiva Vėbraitė Lithuanian School  
in Shelton, Connecticut*





The Edward Gervickas Lithuanian Heritage School in Rochester, New York



The Edward Gervickas Lithuanian Heritage School in Rochester, New York commemorated the Defenders of Freedom Day by remembering the heroes killed on January 13th and drawing patriotic pictures. Pictured in these photos are teachers: Aušra Clifford (school principal), Skirmantė Juodeikytė-Philippone, Lina Mitchell, Rūta Gečas, and Lina Clifford. Volunteers are: Regina Juodeikienė, Giedrė Logminaitė, and Corie Jenkins. All photographs are by Aušra Clifford.

Banginukas Lithuanian School in Nantucket, Massachusetts



The students of the Banginukas Lithuanian School in Nantucket, Massachusetts commemorated the Defenders of Freedom Day by drawing pictures of events that took place by the TV Tower in Vilnius on January 13, 1991. Inga Puodžiukynienė

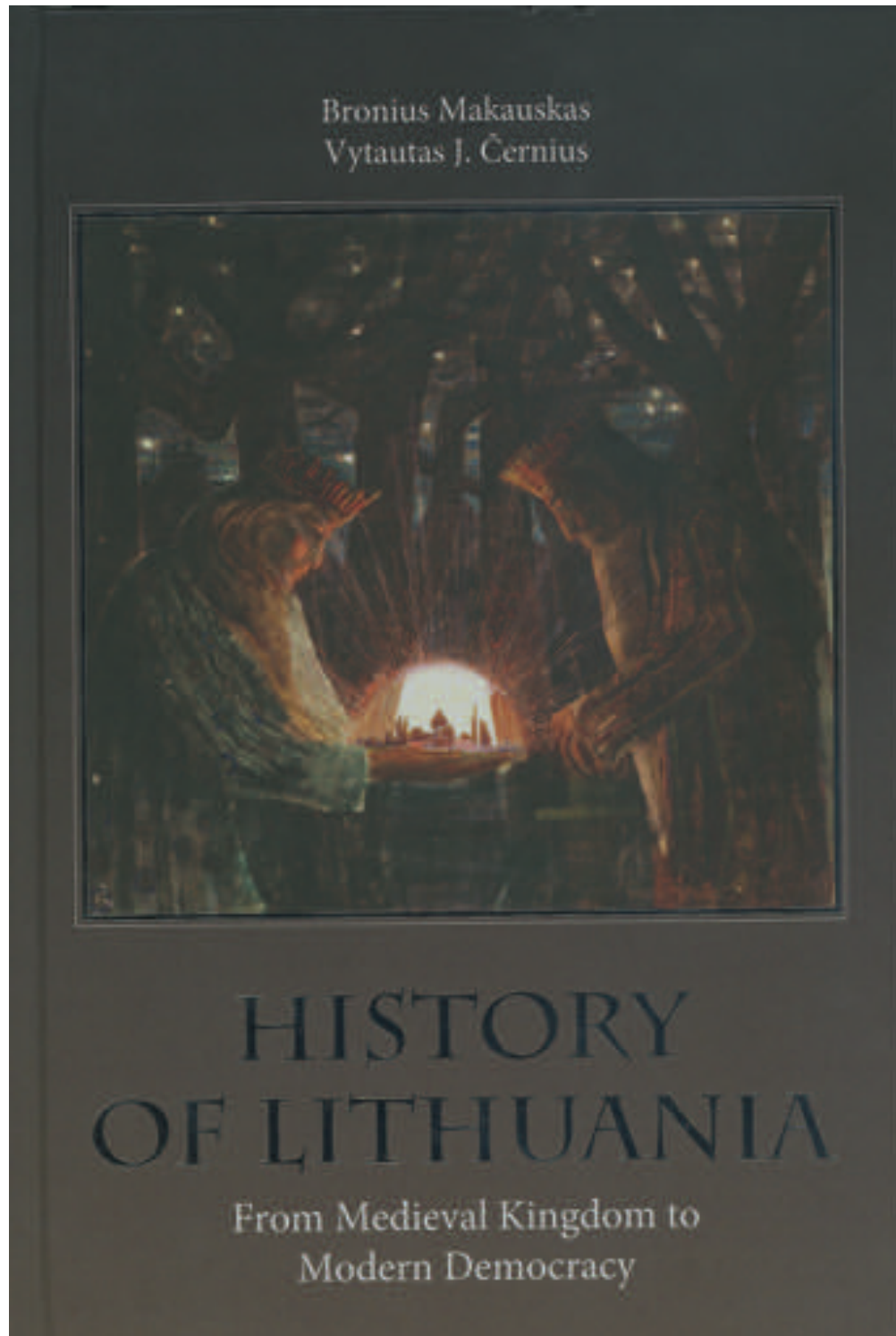
*Principal of the Banginukas Lithuanian School in Nantucket, Massachusetts*





## History of Lithuania – in English!

By Romualdas Kriaučiūnas



Bronius Makauskas, Vytautas J. Černius. *History of Lithuania. From Medieval Kingdom to Modern Democracy.* Copyrighted by Lithuanian American Community, Inc. Hardcover, 686 pages.

The book was published in commemoration of the centennial of the Declaration of Independence of the Republic of Lithuania, February 16, 1918. "This book is dedicated to Lithuanians throughout the world, especially to those who were born or live far from Lithuania, may no longer speak the mother tongue, but remain steadfast in their love for the people and history of Lithuania" (p. iii).

Senior author, Bronius Makauskas, is a Lithuanian historian and since 2011 member of the consular service of Lithuania's Foreign Ministry. He earned Ph.D. in history at the Institute of History in Poland. The second author, Vytautas J. Černius, received Ph.D. in school psychology from the University of Chicago.

Another book on Lithuania's history, *Lietuvos istorija* by Adolfas Šapoka, was also published for the same occasion a year earlier, but it was written in the Lithuanian language (Bridges, July/August 2018). Now we have a set of two books, covering the

same topic, but Lietuvos istorija ended with 1936, the year it was first published. Needless to say, much has happened since then. Even a brief addendum would have been most helpful.

The book being introduced is really up to date. Historian Bronius Makauskas gave the permission to translate the book from Lithuanian to English already in 2002. The second author of the book, Vytautas J. Černius, later stepped in as an editor. In the Preface, we learn that two-thirds of the book were translated by historian Rasa Mažeika. The translation was continued and finished by Karilė Vaitkutė. There were twelve other people that contributed to the preparation and publication of this volume.

The first part of the book was written by Bronius Makauskas. The second part is called *Witnesses to History in the Making* and includes topics that are seldom covered in other histories of Lithuania. In preparing the second part, the editors decided to make recent Lithuanian history more understandable by providing the reader with the remembrances, prayers, and poems of those who lived through this time. "The editors hope that those personal experiences will be of special interest to those whose parents and grandparents fled Lithuania in 1944 when the Soviets moved to occupy Lithuania for the second time" (p. vii).

The first part of the book, named *History of Lithuania*, consists of 13 chapters and takes up 450 pages. It starts with ethnic Lithuania from prehistory, followed by *Between Sword and the Cross* which details the crusades of Livonian and Teutonic Orders to Christianize the region. Then come Vytautas the Great, the Lithuania-Poland Commonwealth and its collapse, and the grip of the Russian Empire. However, the resurgence of Lithuanian ethnic identity eventually led to independent and democratic Lithuania. Soon Lithuania was in the grip of the Soviet Union and Nazi Germany. In 1990 the Republic of Lithuania was restored.

The second part, *Witnesses to History in the Making*, was arranged by Vytautas J. Černius, Algirdas Marchertas, and Vytautas Babušis. It starts with paganism, followed by aristocratic gentry. Algirdas Marchertas describes a genealogical study of one noble family, the Paalksnis clan, spanning some 600 years. Other parts describe events in Lithuania during World War II. Lithuania was occupied by the Soviet Union (1940-1941), by Nazi Germany (1941-1944), then again by the Soviets (1944-1990). Eventually, the reader gets to read the details of the beginning of the Sajūdis movement that led to the rebirth of free Lithuania. Many readers are invited to re-experience some of these events because in some way they were a part of them.

Briefly, I want to mention the contributors to *Witnesses to History in the Making*. I have known many of them. Some are still among us. The list includes Valdas Adamkus, Bernardas Brazdžionis, Adelė Dirsytė, Michael Dobbs, Vilius Grigalaitis, S. Algimantas Gečys, Pranas Jurkus, Richard J. Krickus, Vytautas Landsbergis, Gintaras Lučinskas, Juozas Lukša-Daumantas, Jack Foust Matlock, Jr., Bronius Nainys, Raminta Rudaitytė-Marchertas, Felicija Nijolė Sadūnaitė, Balys Sruoga, Laima Vincė Sruoginis, Algirdas Steponaitis, and Vytautas Volertas. At the end of the book, the lists of abbreviations and foreign words used as well as the bibliography and index are provided. The book is rich with interesting photographs, maps, and copies of various documents.

In looking at non-fiction books, I usually want to check what it had to say about a topic that I know something about or a topic that interests me. In a book on Lithuanian history, I want to see what it had to say about Lithuanian scouts and Lithuanian Catholic Federation Ateitis. These youth organizations had a tremendously positive influence on the cultural, social, and educational development of Lithuania. The book being reviewed has about four full lines of text on the subject (p. 357). The reader learns that president Antanas Smetona became head of the scouts in Lithuania, while Ateitis activities were banned in high schools, and some leaders ended up in a Lithuanian concentration camp. Not nice, but true. In my opinion, it deserved more attention and documentation was readily available.

*History of Lithuania*, in the making for at least sixteen years, is finally available. Good thing that in the USA alone there are tens of thousands of people of Lithuanian heritage who might be and should be interested in it. There are numerous others who simply are curious about Lithuania and its place in history. I want to end my review by quoting one such person, George Akerley, a musician and composer, living in the Philadelphia area:

"I just wanted to tell you that the Lithuanian history book you gave us is fantastic!! The kind of book I need to force myself to stop reading, put down, and get on to other chores. ....as a history buff, this book was a perfect Christmas gift! I even told your daughter a thing or two about Lithuania that she didn't know! And... (Algimantas) you should be very proud of your contribution to the book! I sure am proud of you! Maybe the rest of the family will at some point read it cover to cover, but right now I'm holding the book 'hostage' until I finish... and then read it, cover to over again, taking more notes!!! The book is just what I needed to get the political and cultural history of Lithuania laid out in a timeline...AND in English!!!...Best wishes for the New Year from your curious, non-Lithuanian son-in-law!"



## What Have Lithuanian American Been Reading in 2018?

By Ramunė Kubilius



2018 was a year of various celebrations and commemorations. It was also the year that historical books were published. One in Lithuanian by professor Juozas Skirius, celebrated the activities of Lithuanian Americans on behalf of Lithuania's freedom and keeping Lithuanian culture alive in the years 1918-2018. *JAV lietuvių darbai Lietuvai 1918–2018 metais*. (There is talk of eventual translation of the book into English). The other noteworthy book published in English, was the result of a long-term translation project and was published through the efforts of the Lithuanian-American Community, Inc. *History of Lithuania. From Medieval Kingdom to Modern Democracy* by Bronius Makauskas and Vytautas J. Černius.

An annual year-end tradition for many newspapers and various websites is to publish various "best" and "favorite" lists, including favorite vacation spots, technology tools, restaurants, movies, and books. Favorite or popular book lists have been seen on sites from Lithuania, but less so in the diaspora.

So, what have Lithuanian Americans been reading? A small survey was e-mailed to 100 persons before Christmas. The time for response was only one week, so it may not be surprising the response rate was not very high (perhaps this exercise should be done annually).

Here are some of the English language titles that appeared on the list of books respondents read in 2018 and recommend to others, and the books respondents plan to read in 2019. Some of the titles touch upon Lithuanian themes, or were written by Lithuanians (or Lithuanian Americans), while others, both fiction and non-fiction, show the range of people's interests: philosophy, history, current events.

### Demographic information

Men	8
Women	23
<30 yrs old	2
31-50	2
51-70	19
71+	8

### Questions

What book did you read in 2018 that you liked the best and would recommend to others?

#### Books in Lithuanian:

- *Brydė / Valdas Papievis* (2018)—2x
- *KGB: Visiška slaptai / Arvydas Anušauskas* (2015)
- *Arbatos plantatoriaus žmona / Dinah Jefferies* (2016) (translation of *The Tea Planter's Wife* (2015))
- *Dienos likučiai / Kazuo Ishiguro* (2017) (translation of *Remains of the Day* (2015))
- *Per Klausučių ūlytėlę / Liudas Dovydenas* (1952)
- *Miestelio romansas / Grigorijus Kanovičius* (2013)
- *Sibiro haiku / Jurga Vilė and Lina Itagaki* (2017)
- *Tarp pilkų debesų / Rūta Šepetys* (translation of *Between Shades of Gray* / Ruta Sepetys (2011))
- *Užkeikto keliautojo užrašai / Robertas Pogorelis* (2018)

Some of the books were by Lithuanian authors written in English (and one Latvian):

- *Among the Living and the Dead: A Tale of Exile and Homecoming on the War Roads of Europe / Inara Verzemnieks* (2017)
- *The Barefoot Bingo Caller / Antanas Šileika* (2017)
- *The Book Smuggler / Birutė Putrius* (2018)- 2x
- *The Easiest / Rasa Aškinytė* (2014) (translation: *Lengviausias / Rasa Aškinytė* (2014))
- *Lost Birds / Birutė Putrius* (2015)
- *Salt to the Sea / Ruta Sepetys* (2016)

The rest of the books were in English. The majority were novels; there were a few biographies, autobiographies, or scientific books. There were a few religious or philosophical books.

- *All For Nothing / Walter Kempowski* (2018)

- All the Light We Cannot See /Anthony Doerr (2014) - 2x
- Astrophysics for People in a Hurry / Neil Degrossi (2017)
- Bowling Alone: The Collapse and Revival of American Community / Robert D. Putnam (2000)
- The Bright Forever / Lee Martin (2005)
- Confessions of X / Suzanne M. Wolfe (2015)
- Crazy Rich Asians / Kevin Kwan (2013, a series of three books)
- The Devil's Delusion: Atheism and its Scientific Pretensions / David Berlinski (2008)
- Fruitfulness on the Frontline / Mark Greene (2014)
- A Gentleman in Moscow / Amor Towles (2016)
- The Good Neighbor: The Life and Work of Fred Rogers / Maxwell King (2018)
- A Hero of France / Alan Furst (2016)
- Jesus, a Pilgrimage / James Martin, SJ (2014)
- The Long Loneliness (autobiography) / Dorothy Day (1952)
- The Meaning of Marriage: Facing the Complexities of Commitment with the Wisdom of God / Timothy Keller (2013)
- My Venice and Other Essays / Donna Leon (2013)
- Pachinko / Min Jin Lee (2017)
- Sapiens: A Brief History of Humankind / Yuval Noah Harari (2011)
- Seven Brief Lessons on Physics / Carlo Rovelli (2015)
- Ship of Fools / Tucker Carlson (1962)
- The Sun Does Shine: how I found life and freedom on death row / Ray Hinton (2018)
- "Surely You're Joking, Mr. Feynman!": Adventures of a Curious Character / Richard P. Feynman (1985)
- The Tangled Tree: A Radical New History of Life / David Quammen (2018)
- Unsheltered / Barbara Kingsolver (2018)

## What book are you planning to read in 2019?

### Books in Lithuanian:

- Apie partizanus / Daugirdas (?)
- Dievų miškas / Balys Sruoga (1957)
- Kaip veikia Japonija / Andrius Kleiva (2018)
- Odilė, arba Oro uostų vienatvė / Valdas Papievis (2015)
- Pagairė / Jurgis Gliuda (1975)
- Pasivaikščiojimai po krikščioniškąjį Vilnių / Irena Vaišvilaitė (2017)
- Pietinia kronikas / Rimantas Kmita (2016)

- Šiņnakt aš miegosiu prie sienos / Giedra Radvilavičiūtė (2010)
- Vilnius: meilės stotelės / Liuda Matonienė (2017)

### Books in English written by Lithuanian authors:

- Between Shades of Gray / Ruta Sepetys (2011)
- The Music Teacher/ Renata Šerelytė (2018)
- Shtetl Love Song / Grigory Kanovich (2017)

### Books in English:

- Another life: On Memory, Language, Love, and the Passage of Time / Theodor Kallifatides (2018)
- Born a Crime: Stories from a South African Childhood (autobiography) / Trevor Noah (2016)
- Educated: a Memoir / Tara Westover (2018)
- The Handmaid's Tale / Margaret Atwood (1985)
- Never Home Alone: From Microbes to Millipedes, Camel Crickets, and Honeybees, the Natural History of Where We Live / Rob Dunn (2018)
- Less / Andrew Sean Greer (2017)
- The Memory Wall: Stories / Anthony Doerr (2010)
- The Ninth Hour / Alice McDermott (2017)
- Party of One: the Loners' Manifesto / Anneli Rufus (2003)
- Sapiens: A Brief History of Humankind / Yuval Noah Harari (2011)
- The Shell Collector: Stories / Anthony Doerr (2002)
- Sophie's World: A Novel About the History of Philosophy / Jostein Gaarder (1991)
- 12 Rules for Life: An Antidote to Chaos / Jordan B. Peterson (2018)
- A Walk in the Woods / Bill Bryson (1998)
- Who We Are and How We Got Here / David Reich (2018)

## How do you choose books?

Another reader's recommendation	22
Books chosen by book club	9
Book review	19
It's easy to get	8
Subject	17
Other	8

Wishing you pleasant reading in 2019!



## current events

### Security

...Lithuania joined NATO, the UN, and the U.S. in condemning the Russian attack on two Ukrainian ships and a tugboat in the Kerch Strait and the detention of 24 sailors by the Russian intelligence agency, the FSB. Some of the sailors were injured in the shooting and ramming attack. The Ukrainian parliament adopted a motion by President Petro Poroshenko for 30 days of martial law in 10 districts in the eastern portion of Ukraine. Over the last 4 years, Lithuania has given about 13 million Euros in support of Ukraine and provided medical care to injured soldiers.

...In 2020 The Lithuanian Ministry of Defense will purchase 100 million euro worth of Light Combat Tactical All-terrain Vehicles from Wisconsin based Oshkosh Defense. The contract covers up to 200 vehicles which are equipped with a suspension system that can be changed to accommodate paved or rugged terrain. It can be fitted with manual and remote-controlled machine guns, grenade launchers or TOW anti-tank guided missiles. Since 1976 Oshkosh Defense has supplied the U.S. Army with transporters and is the sole supplier of medium and heavy-duty tactical trucks to the U.S. Army and Marines.

...If the U.S. withdraws from the 1987 Intermediate-Range Nuclear Force Treaty (INF) signed by Reagan-Gorbachev, Russian President Putin warns that Russia may deploy missiles on its allies' territories (e.g. Belarus) to target U.S. missiles. These short-range missiles (300-3,400 miles) are deemed to be destabilizing because they may need only minutes to reach their targets and could initiate a catastrophic response to an erroneous attack warning.

...NATO's Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg welcomed Lithuania's Prime Minister Saulius Skvernelis to the headquarters in Brussels and thanked Lithuania for its defense contribution of 2% of GDP and the peacekeeping efforts in Afghanistan and Kosovo. Lithuania does not have its own air force and has been dependent on rotating air policing missions deployed by NATO countries since 2004. NATO has a Center for Excellence in Vilnius that focuses on energy security.

...Lithuania participated in a 10 day NATO exercise named ANAKONDA 2018 involving about 12,500 troops in Poland and 5,000 troops in Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania. Troops included elements from 10 NATO allies: Czech Republic, Estonia, Germany, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania, Slovakia, Turkey, and the United States. Key training events included river crossings, defenses against chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear

(CBRN) weapons, military medicine and live firings by Polish and U.S. troops.

...During a ceremony marking the centenary of the establishment of Lithuanian Armed Forces, President Grybauskaitė promoted Brigadier General Valdemaras Rupšys of the Land Forces to Major General and elevated Colonel Modestas Petrauskas, Commander of Special Forces, to Brigadier General. She also promoted Navy Commander Captain Arūnas Mockus to Rear Admiral.

### Business

...According to the Manufacturing Risk Index Report 2018, Lithuania is ranked as the second most attractive location in the world for investors in manufacturing. Positive factors include its favorable business environment, logistics, talents, sustainability, and easily accessible services. Eighty-five percent of young professionals speak English and there are close ties between business and the universities. There are Free Economic Zones in six areas: Kaunas, Kėdainiai, Klaipėda, Marijampolė, and Panevėžys.

...Arctic Adventures, an Icelandic tour operator with 300 employees and revenue of \$50 million, has opened its first abroad office in Lithuania and plans to hire up to 75 people in Vilnius over the next 3 years. The Vilnius staff will support IT, sales, marketing and customer service for worldwide clients.

...Railsbank, a leading U.K. based banking and technology company that provides software to help businesses comply with regulatory regulations, has opened an office in Vilnius with seven newly hired engineers. They are working with the Bank of Lithuania and are associated with the Single Euro Payments Area (SEPA).

...A Chinese company, Paytrend Technology, has also chosen Vilnius for developing and selling its financial services software. Within 3 years they plan on hiring 50 professionals in sales, marketing, compliance, product development, and customer service. Lithuania's Minister of Economy, Virginijus Sinkevičius said that the Cross-Border Remittance capability will make it easier for local companies to buy and sell goods and services with China.

...In 2014 Russia established an import boycott of fresh fruit and vegetables from the European Union. The Dutch newspaper, the Volkskrant, reports that the Fruit and Vegetable website documents that much of similar products that have been imported by Belarus is matched

by exports to Russia which effectively circumvents the boycott.

...Lithuania is poised to purchase the Floating Storage and Gasification ship Independence in 2024 from the Norwegian company Hoegh LNG. Klaipėdos Nafta, the terminal operator, plans to borrow up to 308 million Euros which will be backed by state guarantees. The current operating cost is calculated to be 66 million Euros; the projected annual cost after purchase is projected to be 46 million Euros. The ship is docked at Klaipėda Seaport under a 10-year lease and gives Lithuania some energy independence from the Russian gas supplier, Gazprom, which in 2017 had revenue of \$112 billion making it the largest company in Russia. Lithuania has purchased LNG from the U.S. and other suppliers.

...Vitas Vasiliauskas, Chairman of the Board of the Bank of Lithuania, spoke at the Budapest summit of Central Bank Governors from the 16+1 countries of Central and Eastern European (CEE) countries plus China. The CEE states include 11 EU member states (Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania, Slovakia, and Slovenia) plus 5 Balkan countries (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Macedonia, and Serbia). They discussed transport, investment, finance, agriculture, health care, education, and culture. The Chairman announced that Lithuania will launch a 16+1 FinTech Coordination Center in Vilnius to facilitate blockchain technology, application of artificial intelligence (AI) and big data solutions as well as dealing with cybersecurity, consumer protection, and operational risk management issues.

...President Dalia Grybauskaitė attended the First China International Expo in

...Shanghai and met with Chinese President Xi Jinping to review new bilateral cooperation. China is Lithuania's largest trading partner in Asia and last year exports increased by 50%. Current sales include dairy and fish products plus bread, beer, furniture, and textiles. Last year 12% of Lithuanian-made lasers were sold to China. The President hopes that China will speed up the certification of Lithuania's beef and poultry products.

### General

...President Dalia Grybauskaitė missed Latvia's centenary celebration after her military plane was not able to fly because of a defective altitude control system. Lithuania has 3 Spartan military transport planes. The design-

ated plane experienced failure in its altitude controls, another was undergoing repairs after problems last year and the last was undergoing mandatory regulatory work and could not fly. It is reported that the designated Spartan had broken down the day before when Prime Minister Skvernelis was due to return from meeting with the NATO's Secretary General in Brussels.

...Teachers in over 70 schools have gone on strike over the new tenure-based pay schedule introduced in September. Concurrently, the Seimas has voted an interpellation of the Education and Science Minister Jurgita Petrauskienė seeking mandatory clarification of the new schedule.

...The National Cyber Security Center again cautioned people against using Yandex. Taxi, a ride-sharing service, because the app requires access to sensitive customer data which is sent to an address in Russia.

...Lithuania's State Medicines Control Agency is recalling all lots of medicines from Mylan Laboratory Limited of India which contain valsartan because the European Medicines Agency has found an impurity (N-Nitrosodiethylamine)(NDEA) a known carcinogen. In July a similar recall was initiated against products from China's Zhejiang Huahai Pharmaceuticals. Valsartan is used to reduce high blood pressure.

...Statistics Lithuania reports that the population is still shrinking: during the first 10 months of 2018 there were 24,126 births versus 33,940 deaths and the number of emigrants exceeded the number of immigrants by 4,249. One bright spot is that the number immigrating was almost double that of the same period in 2017 and that two-thirds were Lithuanian citizens.

...The poverty level in Lithuania amounted to 22.9% with income less than 307 Euros per month and is among the highest in the 28 members of the European Union. The poverty level increased by 1% from 2016 to 2017.

...In celebration of 100th anniversary of Lithuania granting women the right to vote in the temporary Constitution of November 1918, unique traffic lights on Vilnius' Konstitucijos Avenue featured a women's silhouette.

...And finally, LaMelo Ball's excursion to play basketball in Lithuania has made him ineligible for the prestigious McDonald's All-American high school basketball game because he is deemed to have played professionally.



# our community

## A Resolution for the New Year? Learn the New Language at the Baltic Studies Summer Institute Program at Indiana University

Indiana University's Summer Language Workshop is proud to host the 2019 Baltic Studies Summer Institute (BALSSI), a cooperative project of the Baltic Languages Consortium and the Association for the Advancement of Baltic Studies, offering intensive Estonian, Latvian, and Lithuanian language courses. BALSSI will celebrate its 25th anniversary in 2019 with a special film series, an academic symposium, guest speakers, and more.

BALSSI was founded in 1994 and is currently funded by a consortium of American universities: Indiana University, Stanford University, University of California-Berkeley, University of Illinois, University of Pittsburgh, University of Texas, University of Washington, and University of Wisconsin-Madison. BALSSI was held at Indiana University in 1998 and 1999, in 2005 and 2006, and returns for 2016, 2017, 2018, and 2019.

At Indiana University, BALSSI is held in conjunction with the Language Workshop's summer courses and benefits from the Workshop's long experience as a leader in intensive summer language instruction and programming.

The Workshop has been offering intensive language training at the Bloomington campus of Indiana University since 1950. Drawing on the resources of Indiana University's language and area studies specialists and employing highly qualified and experienced faculty from other universities in the US and abroad, the Language Workshop has developed and maintained a national program of the highest quality. The Workshop's curriculum emphasizes communicative classrooms focused on the student and on development of level-appropriate proficiency in reading, writing, speaking, listening, grammar, and culture. A full range of cultural and linguistic extracurricular activities complement classroom instruction for every language.

Students complete the equivalent of one year of academic instruction in the program and earn 6-8 credits, which can be transferred to other institutions. More information at: [HTTPS://LANGUAGEWORKSHOP.INDIANA.EDU/PROGRAM/BALSSI.HTML](https://languageworkshop.indiana.edu/program/balssi.html)

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January/February 2019

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

## FEBRUARY

February 10, 2019  
at 3 PM – 6 PM  
**Lithuanian Musical Šnekučiai**  
Carl Sandburg High School  
Performing Arts Center  
13300 S. La Grange Rd,  
Orland Park, IL 60462  
More info:  
egiedre@yahoo.com

## MARCH

March 2, 2019  
12:00pm-4:00pm  
**Užgavėnės**  
King's Bend Park, North  
Lodge; Rochester, NY  
More info call or text:  
Skirmante  
Juodeikyte-Philippone:  
585-489-5668  
Janice Raspudic:  
585-419-5571

March 2, 2019  
at 6:30 PM  
**Concert of Žilvinas Žvagulis  
ir Irena Starošaitė**  
City of Light  
3125 Presidential Pkwy,  
Atlanta GA 30340  
More info:  
www.lietuviaiatlantoje.org

March 8, 2019  
at 7 pm  
**Cantilena Concert**  
A group of 12 women vocal-  
ists from Ukmergė, Lithuania.  
More info:  
www.balzekasmuseum.org

March 10, 2019  
12 noon to 4 pm  
**Lithuania's 101st  
Anniversary Banquet**  
Giando on The Water  
400 Kent Ave.  
Brooklyn, NY 11249  
Reservations by Feb 28, 2019  
More information:  
https://www.nylithuanian.org/  
renginiai/1240/

March 15, 2019  
at 7 pm  
**Musical Findings in the  
Balzekas Museum Music  
Collection**  
Prof. Dr. Darius Kučinskas  
will present the results of his  
year-long research.  
More info:  
www.balzekasmuseum.org

March 23, 2019  
at 7 pm  
**The Far Side of Lituanaica**  
Researcher Dr. Gražina K.  
Sviderskytė will present  
her new book about pilots  
Steponas Darius and Stasys  
Girėnas.  
More info:  
www.balzekasmuseum.org

March 30, 2019  
at 10 am  
**Easter Egg Decorating  
Workshop**  
More info:  
www.balzekasmuseum.org

## APRIL

April 13, 2019  
**Velykos**  
Catholic Church of St. Ann  
4905 Roswell Rd., Marietta,  
GA 30062  
More info:  
www.lietuviaiatlantoje.org

## AUGUST

August 4-11, 2019  
**Lithuanian Education Week**  
Dainava Camp, Michigan  
More info:  
www.svietimotaryba.org

## GOT EVENTS?

Let us help you spread the word! Please send your event notice to kariledalia@yahoo.com two months in advance of the month in which you would like to see it listed.

# bridges

VOLUME 43 ISSUE 1

LITHUANIAN-AMERICAN NEWS JOURNAL

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