

bridges



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Back Cover: Winter Berries. Photo by Karilė Vaitkutė.

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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
Marius Naris

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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621 Field Street, Naugatuck, CT, 06770
Phone: 402-203-1119
finansai@javlb.org

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from the editor

Dear readers,

The end of the year is always a good time for reflection. What was done throughout the year? What were our achievements? What did we commemorate? What did we celebrate? Looking back at the ten issues of Bridges, we can see how vibrant the Lithuanian American community is. Of course, Bridges can only report on a small fragment of all the Lithuanian activities throughout the United States. There were new books published, there were concerts held, there were Lithuanian school anniversaries celebrated, there were important dates in the Lithuanian history commemorated... There were film and theatre festivals, there were trips and tours, there were creative summer camps, there were Lithuanian crosses erected... We also glanced at the activities of different organizations and centers, such as the Lithuanian Research Center, Knights of Lithuania, the Lithuanian Rifle-men's Union in Exile, and others. It is especially joyful that the young generation of Lithuanian Americans is actively participating in the Lithuanian activities and finding the connection to Lithuania, be it through Mission Siberia, LISS, or Bring Together Lithuania programs.

December is a month for reflection as well as celebration. December is also the time for Christmas markets. In Lithuania, traditionally several different markets were being held in December. However, in northern Lithuania, there were three particularly named markets held: šeškaturgis, skaistaturgis, and saldaturgis. Šeškaturgis or Ferret Market was held on the first weekend of December. In that market, one could buy all kinds of warm clothes for the winter: fur coats, wool socks, mittens, and sweaters. Skaistaturgis or Gift Market was held on the second weekend of December. It was time to buy Christmas presents. A young man could buy a nice scarf for his girlfriend and a hat, a lighter, or a knife for himself. The last market before Christmas was Saldaturgis or Sweet Market. This is when one could buy anything and everything for the holiday table: honey, cranberries, dried mushrooms, poppy seeds, etc. I hope that your trips to Christmas markets this year were joyful. I also hope that the Bridges subscription for the next year was one of your presents for yourself or your loved ones.

I wish you Merry Christmas and much happiness and success in the New Year!

Linksmų Šventų Kalėdų ir Laimingų Naujųjų 2020-ųjų Metų!

Karilė Vaitkutė
Editor

Liūnė's Life Tale on Stage

Interview with Audrė Budrytė-Nakas



Audrė Budrytė-Nakas in her play "Tarytum pasakoj". October 16, 2019, Kupiškis Cultural Center.

Audrė Budrytė-Nakas is well known to the Chicago Lithuanian community. We often see her in the role of poetry reader in various cultural events of the Lithuanian Americans. From time to time, she also presents her new roles in plays. This professional actress works as a drama teacher at the University of Chicago Laboratory Schools. It is one of the few schools in this multimillion city where drama is taught alongside mathematics, physics, biology, literature, and other traditional subjects. However, this time we met with Audrė to talk about her recent experiences in Lithuania.

Karilė Vaitkutė: In November of this year, you traveled to Lithuania to participate in two theater festivals: "Interrampa" in Rokiškis and "Theatre Cluster" in Northern Lithuania. Let's talk about the latter. What was your road to that festival?

Audrė Budrytė-Nakas: I learned of the theatre festival "Theatre Cluster" through an old friend, the well-known Lithuanian actress Virginija Kochanskytė. She introduced me, via email, to the festival director, Neringa Danienė, and told her about the one-woman show I was working on at the time, "Une Baye." Neringa thought this would be a great piece to have at the festival, but at the time I was not available to travel to Lithuania. Finally, during this third Theater Cluster Festival in the fall of 2019, the fates aligned, and I was able to commit to participating in the festival. Then, my performance was "lent out" to the Interrampa festival in Rokiškis; that festival is in its 25th year, and it was an honor to perform there, too.

KV: The Theater Cluster festival takes place in several small towns of Lithuania, far from the capital Vilnius. What theatre groups are participating and why is the festival far from the usual cultural centers - Vilnius, Kaunas, Klaipėda?

ABN: Vilnius, Kaunas, and Klaipėda all have their own established theatre companies - Vilnius has more than one, of course. Visiting artists from all

over the world are invited to these cities - again, mostly to the capital, Vilnius, which also hosts the "Sirens" theatre festival. Thus these cities are already amply provided for. Neringa Danienė had big dreams for her own part of Lithuania and imagined that if the three cities of Kupiškis, Utena, and Pasvalys shared the costs, they, too, might be able to host international companies for a theatre festival. Three years ago she made her dreams come true, with a fantastic team of Cultural Center employees and volunteers. The first festival was successful, and the audiences wanted to see more, so a second festival was organized, now - a third, and hopefully next fall, a fourth!

KV: Is it an amateur or professional theater festival?

ABN: The festival hosts a variety of theatre companies, some of them professional, some - amateur.

KV: What attracts foreigners to such a "not-so-famous festival" in a "not-so-famous place?"

ABN: I imagine the feeling of discovering lesser-known places, traveling to a city one's friends have never been to or being the first to find a new and wonderful destination, which Lithuania certainly is. Also, artists travel to perform, wherever they are invited. They do not question the location but are happy to have the opportunity to show their performances.

KV: Who are the ordinary viewers, non-actors, non-professionals?

ABN: The viewers included local people from Kupiškis, Utena, and Pasvalys, including young people involved in amateur theatre companies in those towns, teachers, and citizens of the neighboring areas. Also, all of the visiting artists had a chance to see one another's productions, so there were many actors and directors in the audience, too.

KV: You played actress Unė, you played poet Liūnė. How do you choose the heroes of your performances?

ABN: I was intrigued by these two women, who couldn't be more different! Unė was outwardly directed - she was an actress, after all. She thrived in the theatre world, enjoyed performing, socializing, interacting with all kinds of people. Liūnė, on the other hand, was more introverted. She was a poet, so her art form demanded solitude. That is the main difference between them. Their greatest similarity is their commitment to their art form. I found them fascinating, wanted to know more about them, and now, having lived in their shoes, I truly feel I know them personally. During a free afternoon in Kupiškis, I was lucky enough to be taken to visit the gravesite of Unė Baye and light a candle there for her and her husband, Vytas Graičiūnas. As far as future performances - I don't know, I am currently looking for inspiration, but I feel my next piece will not be the biography of a famous artist; rather, it will be an original piece.



By the Kupiškis Cultural Center. From left: Theatre expert from Moscow Roman Kalkaev, Vita Vadoklytė, theatre expert from Sakartvel Turgay Velizade, Audrė Budrytė-Nakas, and Kupiškis Cultural Center Director Janušonienė.

KV: What were the audience reactions to your story about Liūnė?

ABN: I am grateful to have received a lot of positive feedback. On the first night of the festival, the audience included people from Mažeikiai, Liūnė Sutema's home town. They told me that they were deeply moved, and invited me to perform the play in Mažeikiai, which I hope to do in the future. There were also "experts" - theatre professors and other theatre professionals, who gave feedback to the artists in an open forum - a critique and question/answer session opened to the audience. I was happy to receive kind words, that the poetry and biographical segments blended well together, that the piece moved people, and also to hear that people who had not read Liūnė Sutema before were now eager to read her poetry. Finally, I was grateful to hear compliments about the fact that the piece was performed in Lithuanian, and that my command of the language was good.

KV: What do people in European theaters are interested in playing today?

ABN: Let me share a little about the pieces that were brought to Theater Cluster. The brilliant Theater Trafec of Catalonia performed ASAIG T4, a fantastic nonverbal, movement-based piece that begins with the liberation of the Nazi concentration camps, with people leav-



"Theatre Cluster" Festival Director Neringa Daniienė, actress Helena from Catalonia, and Audrė Budrytė-Nakas.

ing the camps and trying to move into a "normal" way of living, then transforms into the crisis that Syrian refugees face today. We can feel the piece asking us, "What are you going to do about all that is happening today? Can you turn your heads away from the deep suffering of others?" Idle Discourse, of London, England, brought a brilliant piece called "Axolotl." This was also movement-based, but included text, and told a remarkable story of trying to recreate Helen of Troy, the "perfect" woman. The performance was at times funny, at times shocking, totally inventive, and left me wondering why we waste so much time in Western culture trying to develop the perfect body. What does that even mean, really? The Vilnius youth theatre "Arlekinas" (Harlequin) presented a wonderful, nonverbal "clown" version of Hamlet. Nadia Kasan's New Vision Dance Theatre, from Belarus, blew me away with an incredible, earthy dance performance called "Existence." I wish we still had the International Theatre Festival of Chicago; I would encourage festival programmers to invite all of these companies to Chicago.

KV: Often people who live in fear and uncertainty become hostile to one another. Why is that?

ABN: It seems that the natural state of being is harmony. Human beings are social creatures; we care about one another, live in families or with groups of friends, we crave interaction, even those among us who are more introverted still seek the company of a few close buddies.



With Theatre Trafec actors from Catalonia.

Yet when someone tries to separate groups, introduces unhealthy competition - an "us-or-them" mentality, when people are made to feel there is not enough to go around for everyone, then conflicts arise. Theatre helps us see that there is no "us-or-them"; even folks with customs very different from our own are part of the human family. When we empathize with others, we no longer see those others as the enemy. That's very important in the United States right now - regardless of our race, religion, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, or political party, we are citizens of a great democracy, and if we want to keep this democracy, we must fight for it. We must not let those in power separate us, or scare us into thinking that we've got to grab a share of the pie for ourselves only. Finally, we all have to work together globally, all of us, to save this wonderful planet

of ours. I believe the arts bring us together and help us recognize our humanity.

KV: Why don't we have Lithuanian theater festivals in Chicago anymore?

ABN: That is a good question! Some years ago we had local theatre companies performing more frequently. Many years ago I helped found the ensemble "Žaltvykslė," directing two plays with this group; later director Ilona Čiapaitė continued the work and produced some great plays. There have also been some lovely children's theatre productions happening over the last few years. This is an encouraging development, and many of us hope to see more productions emerging! However, I'm also noticing a new trend - performance groups inviting artists from Lithuania to perform leading roles, with local performers taking on supporting roles. In that case, productions usually are limited to one large performance, due to the costs and constraints on the visiting artists' time. Thus it would be challenging to showcase these types of productions in theatre festivals. I do believe the Lithuanian theatre festival will reemerge, perhaps in a different form, but still showcasing local companies. I do think that will happen, and I look forward to it!

KV: Will Lithuanian American audiences see your play about Liūnė?

ABN: New York audiences will be able to see "As If in A Story" ("Tarytum pasakoj") on February 29, 2020. The play is about 70 minutes and is performed in Lithuanian.

All photos are from the Audrė Budrytė-Nakas personal collection.



Audrė Budrytė-Nakas in her play "Tarytum pasakoj". October 16, 2019, Kupiškis Cultural Center.

THEATER CLUSTER 2019
KUPIŠKIS UTENA PASVALYS
TARPTAUTINIS TEATRŲ FESTIVALIS

KUPIŠKIO KULTŪROS CENTRE
SPALIO 16 - 20 D.

SPALIO 16 D. TREČIADIENIS

- 19.00 VAL. ATIDARYMAS
SAKARTVELAS. Bolnisi savivaldybės teatras A. Chigvinadze **MIRTIES DIENOS DOVANA** 21.00 VAL. JAV. Mono spektaklis A. Budrys Nakas **TARYTUM PASAKOJ: LIŪNĖ SUTEMA, MOTERIS IR POETĖ** 22.15 VAL. Ugnies šeris (jeonimija aikštėje prie fontaną)

SPALIO 17 D. KETVIRTADIENIS
VAIKŲ IR JAUNIMO DIENA

- 11.00 VAL. LIETUVA. Rokiškio r. Bajorų kultūros centro lelių teatras „CIZ“ **GRAŽIAUSIOS ŠARLIO PERO PASAKOS** 12.00 VAL. LIETUVA. Rokiškio r. Pandėlio jaunimo teatras Lietuvos liaudies pasakų motyvais **SENOSIOS PALĖPĖS ISTORIJA** 13.30 VAL. Spektaklių aptarimas (Vilniaj salė)

SPALIO 18 D. PENKTADIENIS

- 17.30 VAL. UKRAINA. Teatras „GaRmYdEr“ N. Kulis **MAZAILO** 19.00 VAL. LIETUVA. Anykščių kultūros centro teatras Euriplėdas **MEDĖJA** 20.30 VAL. Spektaklių aptarimas (Vilniaj salė)

SPALIO 19 D. ŠEŠTADIENIS

- 13.30 VAL. LIETUVA. „Kultūros inovacijos“ teatras Pagarbė ir pažinimas- biografinė **MARCELĖS LEGENDA** 15.00 VAL. ANGLIJA. „Idle Discoverie“ teatras D. Dawes **AKSOLOTLIS** 16.30 VAL. RUSIJA. Jekaterinburgo jaunimo teatras - studija „Galiorka“ V. Chemdof **LIK SVEIKAS, BERLYNE** 19.00 VAL. BALTARUSIJA. „New Vision Dance theatre“ N. Kalkan **EGZISTENCIJA** 19.30 VAL. Spektaklių aptarimas (Vilniaj salė)

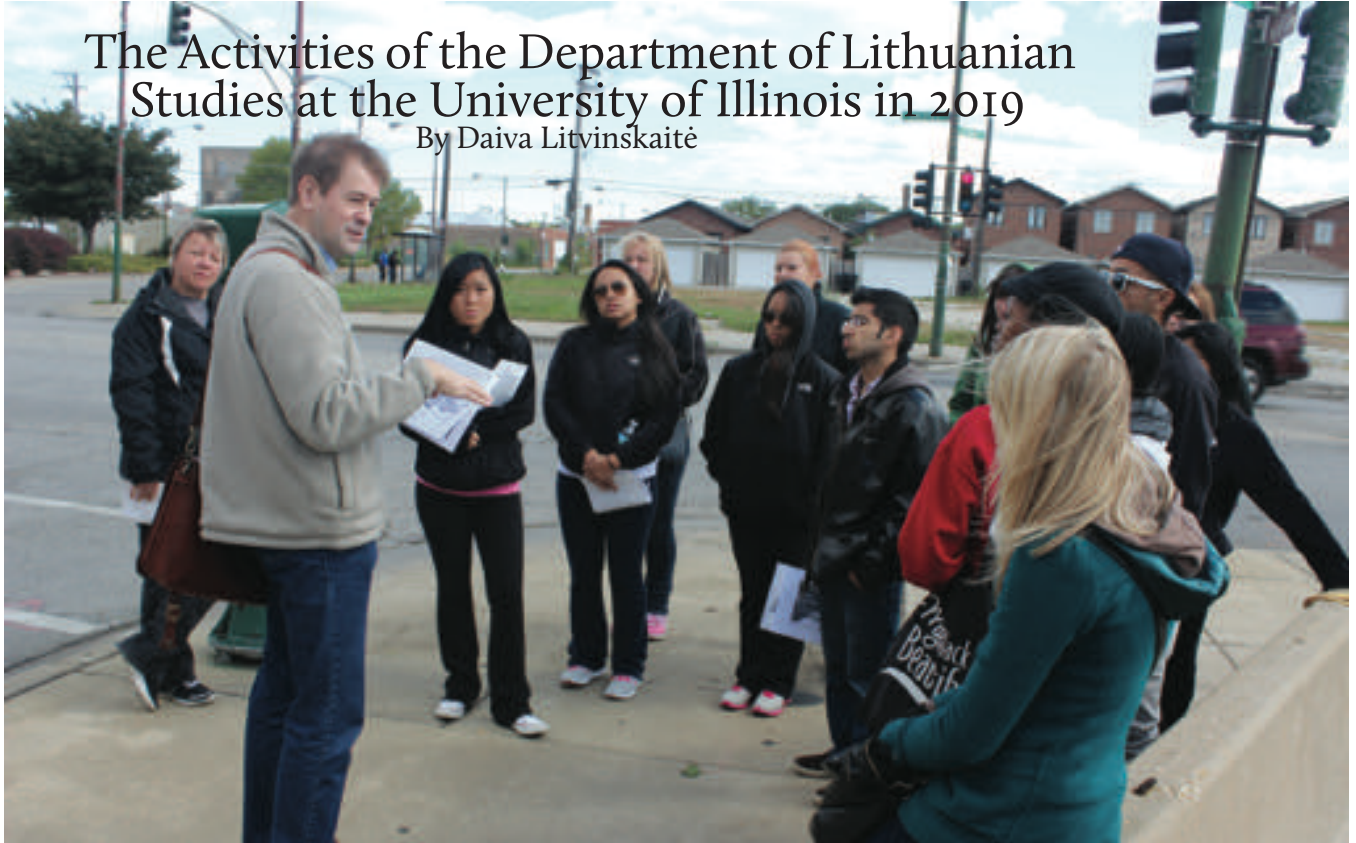
SPALIO 20 D. SEKMADIENIS

- 14.00 VAL. KATALONIJA. Barcelonos teatras „Teatrec-Teatre“ **ASSAIG T4** 15.30 VAL. LENKIJA. Jelenia Gora C. K. Norvido vardo teatras M. Gawan **MANO ŽMONOS VYRAS** 18.00 VAL. LIETUVA. Vilniaus jaunimo teatras „Arlekinas“ V. Sekspyras **HAMILETAS** 19.30 VAL. Spektaklių aptarimas (Vilniaj salė)

Theatre Cluster Festival poster.

The Activities of the Department of Lithuanian Studies at the University of Illinois in 2019

By Daiva Litvinskaitė



Prof. Giedrius Subačius with UIC students on a tour in the Chicago slaughterhouse area.

At the end of the year, we would like to introduce the readers to the activities of the Department of Lithuanian Studies at the University of Illinois at Chicago. Let's start with lectures which is the most obvious work of the department staff. Three courses were taught during the spring semester. Dr. Daiva Litvinskaitė was teaching the fourth level of Advanced Lithuanian Language and the course of Lithuanian Literature (Lith 130); Prof. Giedrius Subačius taught the course of Lithuanian Culture (Lith 115) which is the most popular among students. A total of 34 students attended lectures this semester.

During the fall semester, the following courses were taught: the Lithuanian Language for Beginners, the Lithuanian Literature, and the Lithuanian Culture. This semester, Karilė Vaitkutė was also teaching. 46 students attend the lectures.

It is important to mention that the Lithuanian language and literature courses are funded by the European Union structural funds within the framework of the Vilnius University project "Strengthening Cooperation between Foreign Baltic Studies Centers and Lithuanian Institutions of Higher Education". The duration of this project is seven years (2015-2022). Sincere thanks for the support!

Whenever possible, important representatives of Lithuanian culture, history, and politics, as well as scholars,

are invited to speak as guest lecturers. This year, Vytautas Juozapaitis, a member of the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania, spoke to the students about the past and present of Lithuania. During the fall semester, Minister of Culture of the Republic of Lithuania, Dr. Mindaugas Kvietkauskas, visited the Department of Lithuanian Studies and gave a presentation about the multilingual heritage of Vilnius literature.

The work does not end after the doors of classrooms are closed. Research, the writing of articles, and presentations continue. This year, Prof. Subačius participated in the American Linguistics Association conference and the Lithuanian Seimas Conference on Jonas Juška; in November, he participated in the 16th World Lithuanian Symposium on Arts and Sciences held in Kaunas, where he was awarded the Ministry of Education, Science, and Sports Award. Prof. Subačius received this award for his work in sociolinguistic research and Lithuanian activities for the second time. During the last decade, Prof. Subačius published two monographs: Simonas Daukantas's Riga Orthography (1827-1834) and The Lithuanian Language Experts in the Service of the Russian Empire: Dmitry Kashirin, Zachary Liacki, and Andrius Poidėnas. In these works, Prof. Subačius takes an innovative look at the writings of Lithuanian authors and their significance.

The staff members of the Department of Lithuanian Studies are also editors of scientific journals. Prof. Subačius is the founder and editor-in-chief of the international scientific journal *Archivum Lithuanicum*, and Dr. Litvinskaitė is the deputy editor-in-chief of *Lituanus* magazine.

In addition to her courses at the University of Illinois at Chicago, Dr. Litvinskaitė also teaches the Lithuanian language courses for adults at the Chicago Lithuanian School on Saturdays. This year, she taught intensive language courses at the Dainava camp during the skill advancement program for Lithuanian school teachers, as well as gave a presentation on the activities of the Department of Lithuanian Studies.

Together with the Consulate General of the Republic of Lithuania, the Department of Lithuanian Studies organized a meeting with poet Prof. Tomas Venclova who talked about narratives of pluralism in Lithuania's past and present. The event was attended by Jonathan Brent, Executive Director of the YIVO Institute; Mindaugas Kvietkauskas, Minister of Culture of the Republic of Lithuania; and Faina Kukliansky, Chairwoman of the Lithuanian Jewish Community.

In addition to official events, guided tours of the Chicago slaughterhouse described in Sinclair's novel, *The Jungle*, take place each semester. These tours are open to anyone.

Finally, we would like to remind you that students (not only from the University of Illinois at Chicago but also from other universities) can take the Lithuanian language proficiency test at the Department of Lithuanian Studies. If the test is passed, credit is given for the foreign language requirement. If you have any questions about this test, please email the author of this article at dlitvir@uic.edu.



Minister of Culture of the Republic of Lithuania, Dr. Mindaugas Kvietkauskas visits the Department of Lithuanian Studies. From left: Lithuanian cultural attaché in New York Gražina Michnevičiūtė, Minister of Culture Dr. Mindaugas Kvietkauskas, General Counselor for Cultural Affairs Gabija Čepulionytė, and Counselor for Cultural Affairs and Public Diplomacy Ieva Dilytė. Photo by Prof. Giedrius Subačius.



Dr. Mindaugas Kvietkauskas gave a lecture to students of Lithuanian culture.



Five scientists working abroad, Prof. Giedrius Subačius, Sandra Petraškaitė-Pabst, Dalia Staponkutė, Lina Basel-Salmon, Rytis Prekeris, were awarded the Ministry of Education, Science, and Sports Award for their achievements and cooperation with Lithuania. Pictured in the center is Minister of Education, Science, and Sport Algirdas Monkevičius. Photo by Jonas Petronis.



1863–1864 Uprising, drawing by Artur Grottger. Wikimedia

Vilnius hosted one of the biggest international ceremonies of recent years, a state reburial of the leaders of the 1863-1864 uprising. The ceremony was attended by the presidents of Lithuania and Poland and a deputy prime minister of Belarus.

The January Uprising was a failed attempt to restore the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth, most of which had been under the Russia rule since 1795. The uprising started in January 1863 among young Polish conscripts and spread across the lands of present-day Poland, Lithuania, Belarus, and Ukraine, involving both the peasantry and landed gentry.

It was the longest-lasting insurgency in the post-partition Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth but was eventually crushed by the Tsar's forces by the summer of 1864. Many of its leaders were sentenced and executed in Lukiškės Square in Vilnius.

For a century and a half, historians had been wondering what happened to the remains of the executed leaders. They were discovered two years ago, during fortification works on Gediminas Hill.

The twenty unearthed remains were confirmed to include Konstanty Kalinowski (or Konstantinas Kalinauskas, as he is known in Lithuanian)

and Zygmunt Sierakowski (or Zigmantas Sierakauskas).

The discovery and the reburial ceremony are a historic occasion not only for Lithuania but for Poland and Belarus as well, says the Deputy Chancellor of the Lithuanian government, Deividas Matulionis.

The January Uprising has different meanings in Lithuania, Poland and Belarus. In the interwar Republic of Lithuania, which defined itself largely in opposition to Poland, the insurgency was regarded skeptically, since it sought to restore the joint state.

In the Soviet times, the uprising was interpreted as a class struggle

between the peasantry and landed aristocracy. Since 1990, it came to be seen in Lithuania as strife for liberation from the Russian rule.

Meanwhile, in Poland, the January Uprising has always been a pivotal moment in national history. "The restoration of Poland in 1918 was effected with the memory of the 1863 uprising," said historian Alvydas Nikžentaitis.

In Belarus, the uprising and particularly Konstanty Kalinowski, one of its leaders, mark the beginnings of national self-consciousness.

Kalinowski published a newspaper in Belarusian and wrote poetry. He is seen as a national hero.

"In fact, in 1995, just before [Alexander] Lukashenko was elected president, Belarus named its highest state decoration after Kalinowski," Nikžentaitis said, adding that it was discontinued after 2004.

At the moment, Kalinowski is a divisive figure in Belarus: the opposition still holds him as a hero, while Lukashenko's regime finds him inconvenient – after all, Kalinowski fought for independence from Moscow.

In September, a group of Belarusian cultural figures, critical of Lukashenko, sent a letter to the Lithuanian government, asking to hand over Kalinowski's remains to Belarus. That would remind the Belarusians to love and fight for their nation, they wrote.

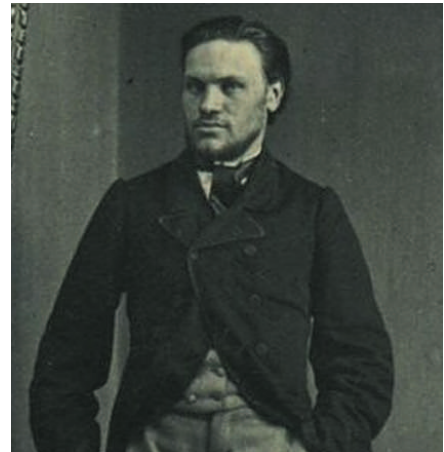
Matulionis says that the government did not consider the request.

"First, there was no request from the [Belarusian] government and, second, should we really use a man's remains as a political instrument?" according to Deputy Government Chancellor Matulionis.

The funeral was attended by Polish President Andrzej Duda, Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki and Belarusian Deputy Prime Minister Igor Petrishenko.

"It was indeed an international event," said Salvina Taukinaitienė, the head for the protocol at the Ministry of Defence. "I have had the honor of being involved in organizing several state funerals, but this one exceeds them all."

The leaders of the 1863 January uprising were laid to rest in a chapel of Rasos Cemetery in Vilnius.



Konstantinas Kalinauskas, one of the leaders of the 1863 uprising. Photo courtesy of the Lithuanian State Historical Archives.



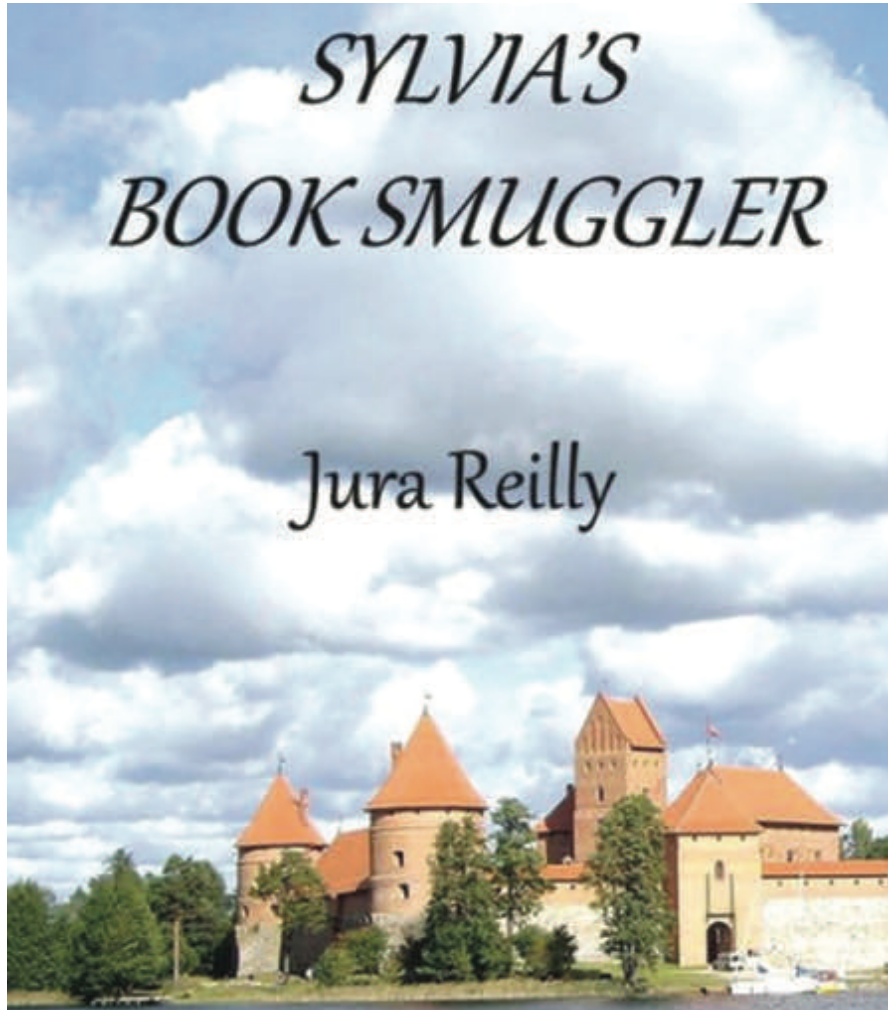
Zigmantas Sierakauskas, one of the leaders of the 1863 uprising. Wikimedia



Polonia (Poland), 1863 by Jan Matejko, 1864. Pictured is the aftermath of the failed January 1863 Uprising. Captives await transportation to Siberia. Russian officers and soldiers supervise a blacksmith placing shackles on a woman (Poland). The blonde girl next to her represents Lithuania. Wikimedia



Reburial of 1863 Uprising leaders.



Sylvia's Book Smuggler, a novel by Jura Reilly

As the sun is setting in all its glorious colours, Tomas reappears.

'Good evening Miss Sylvia, I trust I haven't interrupted your dinner?'

I show him the empty packet of koldunai.

'I don't understand. My wife took most of the day to make koldunai.'

'Really? Well you can buy them in the store now.'

Tomas shakes his head as if it's the strangest thing he's ever heard of.

'Hmm. What did you find out in our little library today?' he demands with his hands on his hips. Obviously, he's more at ease with intellectual things.

'Well, Mr. Tomas, there was so much information on the internet,' I reply sweetly, 'that I haven't decided what info I'm going to use. I thought

that maybe I'd start with the 1863 rebellion.'

'Ha! I can tell you everything you need to know about the 1863 rebellion. I was there!'

I have to confess that I am feeling a bit worried about this research paper, so I start to wonder whether it would be ok to include a first-hand account of the rebellion against the czar. I'd just have to fudge my sources in the bibliography.

'Ok buddy! You win! Tell me what happened during this rebellion.'

Tomas looks very pleased with me and launches animatedly into his recollection.

'Tomas, Tomas, Tomas!' yells my mother, clicking her tongue in disapproval.



Book smuggler Tomas Žickauskas-Žickis, Jura's great grandfather

'What possessed you to do such a stupid thing? Did you think that your band of friends armed with scythes would be a match for the czar's army?' My mother is tearing strips off me, just as expertly as the horsewhip the czar's men used on me. She carefully wipes the blood off my back with a damp cloth, informing me that it's crisscrossed with angry red welts. I don't want to think about the pain, so I lie there helplessly, breathing shallowly. I think that some of my ribs might be broken.

'When you were born with those protruding ears, your dear grandmother, bless her soul, told me you'd grow up to be a braggart!' mother informs me. 'Just as well you've got a high forehead. Now that's a sign of intelligence, though when you're going to develop some, is a huge mystery to your father and me!'

'You'll be lying on your stomach for a while son,' my father scolds, as mother applies her homemade salve to my back. 'Just as well that Muravjov the Hangman didn't string you up with the other rebels! We know what these Russians are like; they took your grandfather Motiejus by force into their army back in 1792!'

'Yes, yes. I know!' I've heard this story so many times. How he deserted his post and ran off with his weapons to hide in a manor house. How he changed his surname so the army

couldn't find him, etc., etc. I was six when my grandfather died. He was always telling me stories about how he ended up working in the nobleman's hothouse and orchard. Then a few years later, he was in charge of the other workmen.

I feel myself drifting in and out of consciousness and hear the voice of our leader, Father Antanas Mackevičius, telling us he would never abandon us. We'd been thrown into jail together. For trying to escape I was horse-whipped. Where's the good priest now? I pray silently that he was able to get away somehow.

'You'd think that you would have learnt your lesson back in 1861!' thunders my father.

'At least we joined our Polish brothers to sing a hymn on the bridge over the Nemunas river,' I croak in reply. 'A fat lot of good that hymn singing did you! Why the Poles and Lithuanians have never been able to agree to act as a united front is beyond me! It's all very well for you to sing and play the church organ; I made sure you learnt, just like me. But Tomas, this is a different kettle of fish! You're a grown man. Surely you should have had more sense this time!' retorts my father angrily, thumping the wall above my bed with his fist. 'Maybe we shouldn't have let you learn Latin or the violin! It's put all these crazy ideas in your head! You should have become a priest in the first place, like your mother and I wanted.'

'Enough! Stop it Joseph! And as for you Tomas, don't you dare move!' commands my mother, pointing a bony finger at me as she bustles into her kitchen.

'You are very lucky you weren't exiled to Siberia with those other rebels! I've heated up some chicken soup for you, but you'll have to lie on your side, so I can spoon it into your mouth.'

I feel a bit guilty for all the worries I've caused. After mother has stopped her fussing, I am left to contemplate

my parents' words. Why does my father always have to bring up what they have sacrificed for my education every time there's a bit of trouble? Or how they took a risk to let me learn to read prayer books in Lithuanian, or how they let me go to religious instruction classes.

'Anyway, the priest who taught you was exiled to Penza, that god-forsaken Russian fortress town four hundred miles south of Moscow!' father would repeat a hundred times.

I wonder if he's still alive? My parents also made sure that I grew up speaking proper Polish like our local noblemen. As I lie here, I recall the meeting we had with that Irish rebel, William Smith O'Brien, when he came to visit us during our rebellion. Maybe we should have heeded his warning that there was danger at every step. Someone must have betrayed me, but who?

I reflect on my bravery, that others call foolishness, for rebelling against Russia's almighty Czar, Alexander II, and his policy of conscription. Why should we be cannon fodder for his campaigns? I let out a huge sigh and ponder my fate. No. There was nothing else I could have done. Since 1795, Lithuania has been under the Russians, poor and downtrodden. Even though the serfs were freed in 1861, many of the landowners decided to drive them off the lands they'd worked on for years. I'd put my trust in our leaders and now look at me – lying crumpled in a whimpering heap. Horsewhipped to an inch of my life. I'm pathetic.

Mother comes back to stoke the fire. I feel the walls warm up, their thick logs embracing the warmth. The stones that my father has placed along the far wall of the stove grow hot as well. It's so hot, I imagine that this is what hell would be like.

'Well, I hope you and your revolutionaries are happy now!' father shouts. 'We've just heard that all our churches are going to be closed and

no Lithuanian books will be published from now on!'

I know it's useless to argue, so pretend I'm asleep and my parents tiptoe off leaving me to contemplate my "foolish ideas". It's hardly my place to point out them that they've been completely brainwashed! Or russified and polonized, as people say in polite circles.

By the time my ghost has finished recounting his sorry tale, I'm overwhelmed. It's all too much for me to take in at one time! Why were the Poles and Lithuanians unable to get along during the rebellion? Why had Lithuania been under Russian rule for so long? What does Tomas mean by "russified" and "polonized"? Perhaps I should pop into the library to check out to see how much of Tomas' story is true.

Extract from Sylvia's Book Smuggler, pp. 35-42.

www.amazon.com/Sylvias-Book-Smuggler-Jura-Reilly/dp/0648203808

Jura Reilly (*Juratė Vitkūnaitė*) is an Australian-Lithuanian author. Apart from poetry, Jura's first book, *A Wolf At Our Door* (2013), was based on her aunts' memoirs of exile in Siberia; it is available on Ebay. Her other two books, which are available on Amazon, are historical novels. *Circle Of Amber* (2016) is set in Lithuania and Australia, whereas *Sylvia's Book Smuggler* (2018) is set in Chicago and Lithuania, and is based on the life of her great grandfather, Tomas Žickauskas – Žickis, who took part in the 1863 rebellion against the Czar, and later became a teacher and book smuggler in Marijampole.

www.etnografija.vilkaviskis.lt/lt/asmenybes/3804-zickus-zickauskas-tomas

Jura is also the founder of the Facebook group "Baltica"

www.facebook.com/groups/291014531051707

and the administrator of "Baltics in Australia"

www.facebook.com/groups/balticinaustralia

Not Too Much, Not Too Little

By Gražina Kazilienė

Public Relations Representative of Portland Lithuanian Community

Translated by Ernesta Ingelevičiūtė



Not too much, not too little, in just one year we accomplished a lot!

Settled in one of the most remote corners of the US, Portland Lithuanian Community cannot boast of high membership. It has only around 150 active members. However, the number of its activities is comparable to those of more numerous Lithuanian communities in the US.

When we look back, we have a reason to be proud. A lot has been accomplished in just one year.

We started 2019 by participating in the On the Road of Life and Death race dedicated to the painful events

of January 13th when in 1990, Soviet troops occupied the TV tower in Vilnius. The race was initiated by Inga Sadaunikaitė-Kozhevnikov, the captain of the Lituanica Running Club.

Like every year, this year on February 16th, our community commemorated Independence Day. The keynote speaker was Rimantas Valatka, a well known political analyst from Lithuania. The entertainment was provided by the Atžalynas Lithuanian School (led by Inga Sadaunikaitė-Kozhevnikov) and Aitvaras Folk Dance Group (led by Luana and Vilius Žalpsys).

our community



On March 18th, sports fans met with Domantas Sabonis, the son of a legendary Lithuanian basketball player Arvydas Sabonis. The meeting was held at Portland's Moda Center. Domantas is continuing his family tradition and currently plays for Indiana Pacers.

On the same day, the Portland International Film Festival featured *Acid Forest*, a documentary directed by Rugilė Barzdžiukaitė. The documentary tells us about a huge cormorant colony near Juodkrante, Lithuania. The colony is one of the largest in Europe. The excrement of the birds are destroying the old forest. However, the camera often captures people as well, as if seeing them from the cormorant point of view. Tourists that visit the viewing point of the dying forest share their opinions on this phenomenon. Apocalyptic and ironic, the cinematography reveals varying cultural reactions and raises complex moral questions about the relationships between species.

On March 23rd, we had a yearly meeting of the Portland Lithuanian Community. A new board of seven members was elected. Giedrė Babarskienė became the new President of our community.

Inga Sadaunikaitė-Kozhevnikov, Gražina Kazilienė, Vaidotas Žievys, Vilija Jozaitis, Kantautas Žalpins, and Vilmantas Babarskas were elected to the Board.



On March 9th, a big group of supporters of the Lithuanian language came together to write the Nacionalinis Diktantas (National Dictation Exam). It was hard for many of us to remember all of the intricacies of the Lithuanian grammar and punctuation. It was worth it, though....



On the same day, we participated in the Celebration of the Baltic States. Representatives from Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia gathered at the Latvian Hall. The mood was elated. It seemed like we were all standing together again, holding hands, at the Baltic Chain. We were and we still are united. Each country has its unique history and culture, yet we are all united by a common goal, which is the freedom and welfare of our native countries. The audience was delighted to see the performances of the Lithuanian Saturday school students, dance groups from each community, and the Estonian Community Choir. At

our community

the end of the evening, everybody danced together in a circle and learned each other's traditional dances. We had a wonderful time!



Last but not least, in March, a few Portland Lithuanian community members dedicated their 14-hour climb to Mount Saint Helens in celebration of March 11th. On the top of the mountain, everyone saw the beautiful Lithuanian flag fluttering and heard the proud Lithuanians singing their national anthem. Mount Saint Helens is an active volcano. The mountain is a popular climb for both beginning and experienced mountaineers. This route gains 4,500 feet in five miles to the crater rim at 8,365 feet elevation.



April 13th marked the celebration of Easter, the most beautiful spring holiday. The community members decorated Easter eggs using various techniques; children played traditional games. Of course, everyone enjoyed kugelis and potato pancakes.

For many years, the first weekend in May has been marked on the calendars of many Lithuanians as a Spring Cleaning Day. Our brothers, Latvians, hoped to have our support. Each year, representatives from all three Baltic communities come to the Latvian House for spring cleanup this way expressing their thanks to the Latvians for the continued use of their facility for various events.



Another event that we cannot forget is Mother's Day. We are grateful to the Atžalynas Lithuanian Heritage School, its principal Inga Sadaunikaitė-Kozhevnikov and teacher Ernesta Ingelevičiūtė, who spend much time teaching our little ones the beautiful Lithuanian language. Songs and poetry dedicated to mothers made multiple tears run down the mothers' faces.



On June 9th, the Lituonica Running Group took part in the Kaunas Marathon.

On June 14th, we commemorated the Day of Mourning and Hope at the Grotto outside the Catholic Shrine and Sanctuary that was built in Portland, Oregon in 1924. On June 14, 1941, at 3 AM Soviet Secret Police started mass arrests in Lithuania. It was the beginning of the mass deportations of Lithuania citizens to Siberia. 18,500 people were deported just during the first week. Altogether, 300,000 Lithuanian citizens were exiled to Siberia. June 14th is the day when we honor the memory of all Lithuanians who died and suffered due to the deportations. We sang the songs of Lithuanian exiles; Medeina Mikalauskaitė played "By the Lake", a song by Balys Dvarionas. Prelate Edmundas Putrimas and Fr. Tomas Karanauskas of St. Casimir's Catholic Church in Los Angeles held the Holy Mass at the Grotto Catholic Church. Vakarė Rūta Marshal sang the hymns at the Mass.



On the next day, Portland Lithuanians met with Prelate Putrimas again. This time, he introduced *The Mules*, a documentary directed by Martynas Starkus. The film was inspired by the work of Prelate Putrimas. It tells the story of three young Lithuanians who got involved in drug trafficking and ended up serving long sentences at a prison in Peru. Three different lives, similar mistakes, and high price to pay. The characters of this documentary agreed to tell their life stories to the world. Prelate Edmundas Putrimas devoted a lot of his time visiting and helping the Lithuanians who are languishing in prisons in South America. He spent a lot of time in Lima helping the production crew communicate with the prisoners and obtain the permissions to film from local authorities. It was fascinating to hear directly from Prelate Putrimas about his experiences and perspective.

Portland Lithuanians never forget to celebrate Joninės. It's a midsummer festival that has been held at the Rooster State Park a few years in a row. Thanks to the longtime former president of Portland Lithuanian Community Vilius Žalpyis, we were able to experience authentic Lithuanian traditions, rituals, and games. Lithuanian ancient legends became alive that day. A group of musi-

cally inclined members of our community, led by Gražina Kazilienė, Auksuolė Jaskūnaitė, and Vakarė Rūta Marshal, sang old Lithuanian folk songs late into the night. The tables were full of delicious food, and Lithuanian beer was on tap. Unfortunately, due to fire danger, the Joninės bonfire was not an option that day. However, we kept the tradition of floating colorful flower wreaths down the Columbia River.



our community

Another very important date that Portland Lithuanians never forget is July 6th. Every year, no matter if it's sunny or raining, we come together at the Portland waterfront to sing the Lithuanian National Anthem. Once again, the Lithuanian flag was proudly raised high.



At the end of August, the Litanica team is always more than ready to face the yearly Hood to Coast relay event. Hood to Coast is the largest road-running race of its kind in Oregon. It takes to the roads, highways, and streets at around 5 am on Friday. The relay features 12,000 runners and walkers as well as more than 3,000 volunteers along the route from Timberline Lodge to Seaside and continues through Saturday evening. Our team has twelve runners. This year, Litanica dedicated its run to the Baltic Way. 199 miles were finished in 26 hours. Team captain, Inga Sadauninkaitė-Kozhevnikov, finished the race at Seaside, OR. A big THANK YOU to our sponsors, the Lithuanian Foundation and Bandi Foods.



On September 14th, we marked the end of summer at a community picnic in the Rooster Rock State Park. The weather was still beautiful and sunny. Eugenijus Disevičius, a professional singer from Cleveland, entertained everyone with his engaging songs. Dancing continued into the evening! Loreta Pociuvienė organized the best homemade drink competition. Volunteer judges had to select the best from five different drinks. After long deliberations, the homemade mead by Karolis was selected as the winner.



One of the community's fall traditions is mushroom hunting in local forests. Laurynas Misevičius is our local mushroom expert and enthusiast. Thanks to him, the hunt for mushrooms continued throughout September, October, and well into November. Those mushrooms should last us through the winter!

On November 9th, Giedre and Vilmantas Babarskas opened their home for the viewing of *The Secret of the State*, a documentary by Donatas Ulvydas. Ulvydas is well known for his films, *Tadas Blinda*, *The Beginning* and *Emilija from Freedom Boulevard*. *The Secret of the State* features the former President of Lithuania, Dalia Grybauskaite. She was loved by some and hated by others. Nobody was indifferent.

This was a short overview of Portland Lithuanian Community activities in 2019.

However, the year is not over yet! We look forward to Christmas and Kūčios celebration on December 7th. Fr. Tomas Karanauskas will hold the Holy Mass for the community members. Rolandas Dabrukas, a professional artist and entertainer from Los Angeles, will provide an interesting program full of engaging competitions for children and their parents. Students from the Atžalynas Lithuanian School will show a play, *Grybų Karas* (The War of Mushrooms), and Santa Claus will bring presents to the children.

We will end the year with an evening of reflection on December 18th hosting Bishop Lionginas Virbalas and

our community



Fr. Tomas Karanauskas from Los Angeles, California. In the Christian world, the Advent period lasts for about a month before Christmas. It is the time when we come together with family, make peace, focus, and offer kindness. It is the time when we reflect on the past, plan for the next year, make decisions about changes in our lives, and work on self-improvement.

Last but not least, the Portland Lithuanian Board is working hard to plan events for 2020. The Lituonica team will dedicate its run to January 13th. February will start with the National Zeppelin Day. As every year, all community members will get together to celebrate Lithuanian Independence Day. Of course, our little ones can't miss the Easter hunt. We plan to continue the tradition of getting together with Latvians and Estonians to celebrate the yearly Baltic Festival, as well as meeting together for the spring cleaning at the Latvian Center. Our little ones will surprise their mothers and grandmothers with their performance dedicated to Mother's Day in May. The Rooster Rock Park is reserved for St. John's Festival and the yearly picnic. Lithuanian National Anthem will be heard once again at the Portland's waterfront, and everyone will gather together at the Grotto to commemorate the Day of Mourning and Hope. I am sure that Portland Lithuanians will have more activities, gatherings, and events that will be announced and shared.

Pictures of Giedrė Babarskienė.



Lithuanian Christmas Tree on View at the Atlanta International Airport

By Karilė Vaitkutė

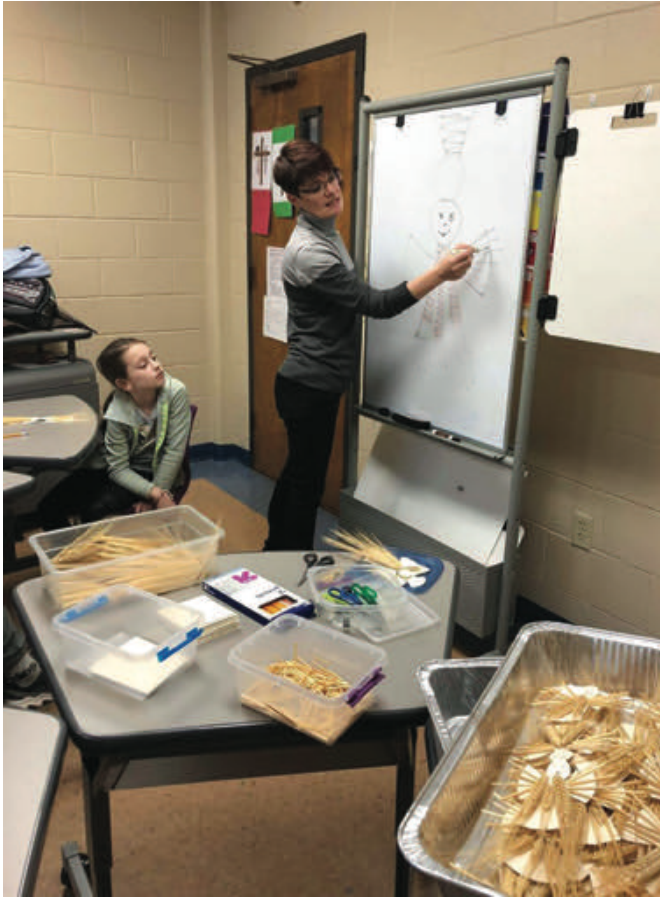


It has been five years now since Šarūnė Stankevičius started decorating the Lithuanian Christmas Tree that is on view at the Atlanta International Airport throughout the holiday season. It all started when Dr. Roma Kličius Lithuania's Honorary Consul in Atlanta, Georgia, asked Šarūnė, an active member of the Lithuanian Community in Atlanta and art major if she would be willing to participate in this project. Mrs. Kličius provided the tree and handled all the necessary formalities of the agreement with the airport. Šarūnė was more than willing to participate in such a wonderful way of promoting Lithuanian culture.



Šarūnė came to the US more than fifteen years ago and immediately got involved in Lithuanian activities. Today, she is teaching at the Saulė Lithuanian Heritage School in Atlanta. Together with her students, who range in age from 4 to 13 years old, every year she is making ornaments for the Lithuanian Christmas Tree. The very first year, the Christmas tree was decorated with white plastic straw ornaments that were brought from Chicago. Šarūnė and the students added some decorations made of natural straw and wheat kernels. Afterward, the decorations made by students were enhanced, and today, students are making beautiful angels. Every angel has a face, and that makes the tree decorations unique. Šarūnė makes sure that every student's angel would be put on the Lithuanian Christmas Tree in Atlanta Airport because it is very important for them. On average, 30 students attend the Lithuanian school in Atlanta every year. This year, the tree has a new crown topper – a straw angel made by Šarūnė.

The Lithuanian Christmas Tree is not alone at the airport. It stands together with fifteen other trees that represent different nations, including Canada, Japan, Jamaica, Brazil, and others. The Lithuanian Community in the United States is strong and vibrant. Besides Atlanta International Airport, every year Lithuanian Christmas trees traditionally are displayed at O'Hare International Airport and Midway Airport in Chicago as well as at the Museum of Science and Industry in Chicago.



A Book about Lithuanian Scouting Has 300 Authors!



100th Anniversary celebration in Rumšiškės in 2018.

Book team:

Editor: Dalia Cidzikaitė (Vilnius)

Compiler: Nomedā Bepirštytė (Vilnius), responsible for the material of scout history in Lithuania.

Compiler: Gintautas Taoras (U.S.A), responsible for the material of Lithuanian Scout Association (Lietuvių skautų sąjunga) active abroad

Last year, the Lithuanian scout movement celebrated its centenary. To commemorate this jubilee, a book detailing the history of the scouts has been commissioned. Over 300 authors are contributing – not just from Lithuania, but also from overseas: Australia, Canada, USA, South America, and England.

To become a scout you have to give a promise.

“Scouts were founded in England in 1907 by Lord Robert Baden-Powell. Lithuanian scouting history began in 1918 on the 1st of October with its instigator, captain Petras Jurgėla. In 1933, Lord Baden-Powell together with his wife and scouts from England visited Palanga, Lithuania, where they were received by the Lithuania’s President



Robert Baden-Powell and wife and President Antanas Smetona and wife in Palanga in 1933

Antanas Smetona and Palanga Mayor Jonas Šliūpas. The street currently called Pine Street was at that time named Baden-Powell Street, and the initials of Antanas Smetona and Baden-Powell were carved onto a stone still visible at the foothill of Birutė’s Hill in Palanga. To become a scout you have to give a promise (to serve God, country and your fellow man). A scout is obliged to do a good deed for no reward every day,” explains the book’s compiler scout fil. Nomedā Bepirštytė.

How do scouts live?

The purpose of the book is not only to collect scouting history, but also to show how scouts actually serve God, country and their fellow man, what sort of good deeds they do every day, what traditions they have, how they live, how a Lithuanian citizenship is enhanced, and how leaders (volunteers) willingly give their attention, time, and hearts to guiding children.

“In the book, you can travel across Lithuania from Kybartai to Zarasai, from Mažeikiai to Druskininkai because every scout troop – even the ones no longer active – have described their activities. “The Scouting Family” is without doubt varied, everyone can find something that suits them: if you love the sea and swimming, you can become a sea scout; those who love to gaze up at the sky become air scouts; scouts from Žemaitija (Samogitia) province can gather under their provincial flag; tertiary students come together in university scout groups; horse-riding scouts bring together children who love riding and help maintain the Samogitian breed of horses; Catholic scouts are under the wing of the Pope; adult and Christian scouts also have their own flags,” Nomeda adds.

What sort of Lithuanian scouting organizations are there?

Lithuanian scout association is the original scout group that continues the tradition formed in the country between the two world wars. The biggest of the scout groups, which has units across the country in every region and is called Lithuanian Scouting. Overseas, Lithuanian scouting has continued over the generations of immigration and is a way of keeping up Lithuanian traditions and instilling Lithuanian culture. The book also describes the activities of other scouts groups living in Lithuania – Polish scouts, Russian scouts in Visaginas and recently formed Jewish scouts.

Scouts: from the President to the actor

Today there are over 50 million scouts active in 216 countries across the world. Famous Lithuanian scouts include President Valdas Adamkus, major-general Jonas Kronkaitis, Prof. Algirdas Avižienis, Fr. Antanas Saulaitis SJ, cardinal Audrys Juozas Bačkis and Sigitas Tamkevičius SJ, opera soloist Merūnas Vitulskis, journalist Aistė Stonytė, Prof. historian Valdas Rakutis, poet Rimvydas Stankevičius, Lithuania’s ambassador to Greece Rolandas Kačinskas, actors Eimutis Kvoščiauskas and Paulius Tamolė, song-writer and singer Eglė Sirvydytė, pianist Eglė Andrėjėvaitė, the group “Ugniavijas” mem-



Plungė scouts in 2017.



Jonava scouts in 2016.



Kaunas scouts with Cardinal Sigitas Tamkevičius in 2018.

ber Martynas Švedas, CEO Alkas Paltarokas, lecturer Jolita Buzaitytė-Kašalynienė, lecturer Eglė Verseckaitė – Grzeskowiak, and many other well known people in the community.

If you have your story to tell or wish to contribute to the book, let us know by writing an email to skautuknyga@gmail.com

Prestigious Award Presented in Us to the Faculty of Public Health from Lithuanian University of Health Sciences

By Prof. Ramunė Kalėdienė, lect. Tomas Vaičiūnas



On October 25-30, the American College of Lifestyle Medicine hosted an International Conference on Lifestyle Medicine attended by more than 1500 participants from 35 of the world this year in Orlando, Florida.

During the conference, more than 60 scientists and clinical practitioners from around the world made presentations and shared good clinical and scientific practice in medical field. Much emphasis has been placed on the treatment, reversion and prevention of chronic diseases through clinical lifestyle medicine interventions. The American College of Lifestyle Medicine is one of the most influential international organizations in the field of lifestyle medicine, uniting scientists and clinical practitioners, officially recognized and in close cooperation with the World Health Organization.

During this international event, the Master's program of Lifestyle Medicine, offered by the Faculty of Public Health of Medical Academy from Lithuanian University of Health Sciences (LSMU), also received a lot of attention. Program curriculum coordinator Tomas Vaičiūnas presented the Lifestyle Medicine program, its development and content to the International Board of Lifestyle Medicine and its members. At the solemn ceremony, the American College of Lifestyle Medicine presented the

prestigious Lifestyle Medicine Award to LSMU for its Lifestyle Medicine degree program and its achievements.

"The International Association for Lifestyle Medicine and the American College of Lifestyle Medicine have been considering six internationally recognized programs in the world (in United Kingdom, Australia, Philippines and Qatar). The program, developed by LSMU MA, has been recognized in its content and form as the most advanced and most relevant for science-based competencies in lifestyle medicine interventions. This is a really significant recognition in the international context" commented T. Vaičiūnas.

The award was also given to prof. Pekka's Puska (Finland) for contributing to a project in North Karelia, where cardiovascular mortality has been reduced by as much as 80 percent through lifestyle change interventions. The professor also expressed his support for the study program at LSMU, emphasizing its importance and innovative approach to the long-known subjects - the treatment and reversion of chronic diseases using non-specific intervention methods.

Delighted with the award, Dean of the Faculty of Public Health prof. Ramunė Kaledienė emphasized the importance of lifestyle medicine in the health care systems: "We hope that the program we have created and implemented will make the Lithuanian health system more efficient and make lifestyle health services more accessible to patients. We are ready to share our good practices with colleagues from other countries as well."

The Harvard Faculty of Public Health is particularly interested in the LSMU MA's achievement in developing the Lifestyle Medicine curriculum, and invited them to present the program and its content to the Harvard community and discuss further opportunities and forms of collaboration.

On April 16-17, 2020 LSMU MA Faculty of Public Health is hosting the Sixth International Conference on Lifestyle Medicine, where Professor Walter Willett (Harvard School of Public Health, USA), North Karelia Interventions Manager professor Pekka Puska from Finland will share his experience and expertise, Doctor of biochemistry Scott Stoull and others.

2020 Baltic Studies Summer Institute Invites to Study Lithuanian



Lithuanian is taught through the 2020 Baltic Studies Summer Institute (BALSSI), a cooperative project of the Baltic Languages Consortium and the Association for the Advancement of Baltic Studies.

BALSSI combines support for the student of Baltic languages with Baltic-focused cultural events and Baltic studies. Classes are small, intimate, and customized to help students achieve their individual academic and personal Baltic-related goals.

Lithuanian (Level 1). This intensive program provides beginners a solid introduction to Lithuanian. Students who complete the course successfully will complete the equivalent of the 1st-Year curriculum in the Department of Central Eurasian Languages at Indiana University and will reach a proficiency of Intermediate Low or better. They will be able to communicate in day-to-day situations in Lithuanian, will be able to read and write effectively on familiar topics, and will have a solid foundation for further study or travel. The program introduces Lithuanian culture through work with authentic materials and media, as well as Lithuanian activities and structured interactions with Lithuanian speakers.

DATES

Class Dates:

June 8 – July 31, 2020

Class Times:

Monday – Friday, 08:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m., plus afternoon activities

Main Application & Scholarship Deadlines:

January 31, 2020

Rolling Admissions:

February 1 - May 8, 2020

ELIGIBILITY

The program is open to all, including IU and non-IU students, graduate and undergraduate students, non-students, and high-school students over age 16.

HOUSING AND MEALS

Workshop students live in Willkie Center in air-conditioned single rooms, sharing a lounge with other students studying the same language. On-campus dining options in the summer are limited. Indiana University Meal plans are available, but the number of cafeterias and hours of operation are limited. Most Workshop students prefer pay-as-you-go dining.

COSTS & ACADEMIC CREDIT

Undergraduate: \$5,003; Graduate: \$4,974. All prices are subject to change. Participants are responsible for checking current prices and details before signing billing, housing or meal contracts.

ABOUT YOUR INSTRUCTOR

Dalia Cidzikaitė is a senior researcher at the Martynas Mažvydas National Library of Lithuania. She received her PhD in Slavic & Baltic Languages and Literatures from the University of Illinois at Chicago. From 2007-2013, she was the editor-in-chief of the American Lithuanian newspaper Draugas. This will be her thirteenth summer teaching Lithuanian at the Baltic Studies Summer Institute.

More information at: <https://languageworkshop.indiana.edu/program/balssi.html>

current events

Security

...The Lithuanian Ministry of Defense announced that it has begun negotiations for the purchase of 6 Black Hawk Sikorsky UH-60 helicopters. These will replace 3 Soviet Mi-8s and 3 AS365 N3+ Dauphin units. The Mi-8s are at the end of their useful life and difficult to maintain because of limited access to spare parts from Russia. The planned purchase is scheduled for 2020 with initial delivery planned for 2024. The anticipated cost is about 300 million euros, i.e. 50 million each. The UH-60's can be used for search & rescue, medevac, VIP transport, fire-fighting, and combat assault.

...A cyber attack was identified and foiled by quick action by the Lithuanian Foreign Ministry via a Twitter statement nullifying a purported Press Release that the U.S. was building a permanent base in Lithuania to store nuclear weapons being transferred from Incirlik Air Base in Turkey. The Foreign Ministry included an image of the fake document in its public clarification. A European diplomat postulated that the target of the cyber attack was not Lithuania but was NATO by those who want to see it divided and weak.

...Six Lithuanian military instructors are training local forces in Iraq as part of an anti-Islamic State coalition. Another 7 liaison officers are attached to the NATO mission in Iraq and there are plans to send several military doctors and additional instructors. The Lithuanian Defense Minister, Raimundas Karoblis, said that Lithuania will not send troops to Syria if the U.S. pulls out of Syria.

...President Donald Trump has nominated Robert Gilchrist to replace Anne Hall as US Ambassador to Lithuania. At his nomination hearing before the Senate Foreign Affairs Committee, he was in favor of increased defense cooperation but said he was not yet prepared to comment on a permanent presence of U.S. troops. A 500 strong U.S. battalion is in Lithuania on a planned 6-month rotational deployment includes 30 Abrams tanks, 25 Bradley Infantry Fighting Vehicles, and 70 wheeled vehicles. He praised Lithuania's defense budget of 2% of GDP and its plans to increase its defense budget to 2.5% by 2030. He also praised Lithuanian citizens' monitoring of the media for disinformation and notifying the government of suspicious reports.

...In response to the deployment of the U.S. troops and tanks to Lithuania, Belarus President Lukashenko has ordered the country's Security Council and the Defense Ministry to draft a response plan including concentrating its troops near its border with Lithuania. Belarusian

Defense Minister Andrei Ravkov said, "Individual tactical actions will be taken by missile and artillery units, air force, motorized infantry, paratroopers". Lithuanian Defense Minister Karoblis tried to calm Belarus saying, "Therefore, I can assure that at least from the Western side, there's no military or any other threat to Belarus's sovereignty. The battalion-sized army unit, to be deployed in Lithuania until spring, cannot pose any threat to Belarus' security, therefore, we hope Belarus' reaction will be adequate." Information on the forthcoming large scale military exercise, Defender 2020, in the Baltic Sea region has been published and Russia and Belarus will be invited to monitor the activities.

...Lithuanian Defense Minister Raimundas Karoblis encouraged NATO to expand its defense posture from an air-policing mission to air defense to protect NATO ground formations from attack especially following the demise of the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty this summer following allegations of noncompliance by both the U.S. and Russia. The next day the Latvian Defense Minister Artis Pabriks echoed the same sentiments to visiting German Defense Minister, Annegret Kramp-Karrenbauer.

...Lithuanian Air Force experts are in Norway evaluating the medium-range air-defense system, NASMS, being manufactured by Kongsberg Defense & Aerospace for planned delivery in 2020. The 110 million euro contract was signed in October 2017.

Business

...Every year the World Bank surveys countries for the ease of "Doing Business". For the third year in a row, Lithuania has improved its ranking to being 11th globally and 4th out of the 28 EU nations behind Denmark, the UK, and Sweden. This year's improvement came because of improved access to the electrical grid and protections for small investors. The full report is available at <https://lnkd.in/dFcYNyR>.

...Danske Bank (which has 20,000 employees) is now the fifth-largest employer (3,725) in Lithuania right after Lithuanian Railways because it brought in-house a significant number of previously outsourced jobs including servicing servers, networks, end-user equipment, computers, conference equipment, etc., and a lot of engineers required for this relocation. Five years ago they planned to hire 400 employees but the quality of the engineering talent and the evolution of responsibilities now include 1,000 employees in IT. With 14,000 servers in the bank, the majority are monitored in Lithuania. Eighty percent of the

network maintenance from India to the London office is carried out in Lithuania. One continuing issue is staff turnover: 8 years ago it was 10%; now with a strong economic climate it is closer to 17%. Danske Bank has a program where students can work 20-30 hours/week at the bank while maintaining enough time to devote to their studies. While India maybe 30% less costly than Lithuania, Danske Bank believes it makes up the difference with efficiency and quality of work in decision-making processes.

...The German company HELLA has been operating in the Free Economic Zone in Kaunas for a year and a half with the manufacture of auto lighting and electronics. It has begun the manufacture of turbine air pressure actuators for all gasoline cars in the European market and with an automated production line using laser welders for plastic parts is staffed for 3 shifts and can produce several million actuators a year. Twenty new jobs were created with 8 specialty engineers and 12 technicians and operators. There are now 146 employees in Kaunas. The turbine actuators are designed to react quickly and efficiently without delay, reducing fuel consumption and CO2 emissions.

...Returning last year's visit by Japan's Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, Lithuanian President Gitanas Nausėda spoke at the opening of the Lithuanian-Japanese Business Forum in Tokyo to solidify the strong bilateral trading relationship and further purchases in the laser, life sciences, and manufacturing sectors. He said, "Today I will have the privilege of witnessing the signing of a memorandum of cooperation between Lithuania and Japan on energy. It will open opportunities for cooperation in important areas, such as LNG, renewables, energy efficiency, and energy storage technologies. We are looking for initiatives and projects to decrease our energy dependence on Russia." The two-day forum was attended by three dozen Lithuanian companies and 80 Japanese firms. He highlighted Lithuania as a gateway to Europe for Japanese financial technology companies and he visited Hitachi, Toshiba, and Tokyo Electric Power Company.

...The Bank of Lithuania has selected IBM Polska and Tieto Lietuva UAB as finalists to implement LBChain, a blockchain "sandbox" to enable Lithuanian and international startups to carry out blockchain research, test, and offer services to their clients. Built on Hyperledger Fabric and Corda, it will aid in testing financial products and services while aiming for a cost-efficient and low-risk path and address problems with legal and regulatory issues.

...The Financial Crime Investigation Service (FNTT) is investigating five orthopedic product retailers of defrauding the National Health Insurance Fund (VLK) of at least 1 million euros by falsifying request forms and customers' signatures affirming the receipt of splints, shoes, or other orthopedic equipment based on sham doctors' orders. Raids were conducted in targeted homes, cars, and offices in Vilnius, Kaunas, Klaipėda, Panevėžys, and Šiauliai.

General

...A fire at the Ekologistika tire recycling facility in the southern city of Alytus covering an area of 2,000 m² took a week to put it out. A nearby rehabilitation hospital had to be evacuated. The poisonous smoke will have lasting environmental effects including forbidding dairy farmers to consume or sell the milk; inhabitants were advised to stay indoors and cover water wells and not drink the water. Smoke was felt 12 km south of the fire. The National Security Commission called a meeting to discuss the poor emergency response between all of the emergency local and national organizations. Soil samples will be taken within a 10 km radius of the site and tested to determine if the area can be returned to farming. They will test for dioxins and heavy metals which can last for years in soil and living organisms. Dioxins are formed during the burning of chlorinated compounds and can cause cancer, reproductive and developmental problems, damage to the immune system, and interfere with hormones.

...Lithuania's men basketball team won the gold medal at the 7th CISM Military World Games in Wuhan, China besting the USA team 91-83. Mindaugas Sušinskas scored 35 points and Ignas Lukošius had 20 points while two other team-mates scored double digits. The CISM is held every four years and this one included 329 events in 27 sports. The 7th included 9,308 athletes from over 140 nations. China, as the host country, had 553 participants and recruited 230,000 volunteers to make the events go smoothly in Wuhan, the capital of central China's Hubei Province.

...In honor of the 20,000 partisan fighters who fought Soviet occupation after 1945, a sword-shaped monument is being constructed in Kryžkalis midway between Kaunas and Klaipėda. An estimated 2,500 were killed in the struggle.

...Former Lithuanian President Dalia Grybauskaitė has agreed to join the Board of Trustees of the Friends of Europe, a think-tank, which includes current and former heads of state, EC leaders.

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calendar

2020 Ski and Winter Trip

This year's snow ski and winter trip is to the beautiful Steamboat Resort in Steamboat Springs, Colorado during February 27th - February 29th, 2020, and come ski with us February 29th - March 2nd at Aspen Mountain Resort in Aspen, Colorado!

The trip is being organized by Siaures Amerikos Lietuviu Fizinio Auklejiimo ir Sporto Sajunga (SALFASS) aka Lithuanian Athletic Union of North America (LAUNA).

As in the past, there will be many sports enthusiasts from the USA, Canada & Lithuania attending and having a great time. Both skiers and non-skiers and their families are welcome. We will be having organized SALFASS ski races that week for all who wish to participate!

Accommodations and other information:

Please contact Jamie Bangerter who is a "Mountain Vacation Specialist" to make your hotel reservations. Her email address is: jamie@ski.com, or you can call her direct at: (866) 265-7490 x3306. She can also assist with any ground transfers, lift tickets, and/or airfare. In order to receive special rates, please identify yourself as part of the Lithuanian Ski Group trip.

The Steamboat Grand is the preferred hotel for our group while staying at Steamboat Resort.

Please contact Jamie Bangerter at ski.com to confirm booking ASAP as this is a heavy travel week.

Schedule of Events:

The 2020 SALFASS ski championships will be held at Steamboat Resort and has tentatively been set for Saturday, February

29th at the race course. Race registration will at race course on ski day. More information coming soon!

Come ski with Linas Vaitkus, former Olympian with the Lithuanian Ski Team during the 1998 Winter Olympic Games. He will be stopping by to ski with us at Steamboat Springs and Aspen! More information coming soon!

Any general questions can be directed by email to either Ed Mickus at edmickus1@aol.com. You are urged to make all your travel reservations now as this is a busy travel period.

The Annual Aspen Lithuanian Independence Day Celebration

You are also invited to come to Aspen to celebrate this occasion on Sunday, March 1st at 4PM - 6PM! Please RSVP for this event to: ltaspenconsul@gmail.com

Sponsored by Hon. Consul and Dean of Aspen Consular Corps J. Prunskis M.D. The LT Consulate in Aspen is the highest elevation LT Consulate in the world and the first diplomatic mission approved in Aspen by the US State Department.

Medical conferences shall take place at Steamboat Resort on February 27 - 29, 2020.

Sincerely,

SALFASS-gos slidinejimo valdyba

Dr. Jonas Prunskis, President
Ed Mickus, Vice - President

GOT EVENTS?

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

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