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LITHUANIAN-AMERICAN NEWS JOURNAL

November 2023

contents

bridges

November 2023
LITHUANIAN-AMERICAN
NEWS JOURNAL

3



3 History of Chicago Lithuanian Churches

13



13 The Lithuanian Gene

By Laima Apanavičienė

23 Christmas Songs

24 Our Community

23



19 Cepelinai

20 Homemade Fudge with Poppy Seeds

9 Gifts of the Cold

By B. Kerbelytė.

current events

17 Security. Ukraine. Covid-19. Business. General.

24



29 Lithuanian museum to open branch
at the heart of Chicago

Front cover: The Lithuanian Community participated in the Chicago annual Thanksgiving Parade with a float of Gediminas Castle celebrating the 700th Anniversary of Lithuania's Capital Vilnius and the 30th anniversary of the Vilnius-Chicago Sister Cities.

Back cover: For the seventh year in a row, the Lithuanian folk dance group Suktinis participated in the Chicago Thanksgiving Day Parade. This year, the dancers promoted Lithuanian culture by dancing "Paskutinė polka" dance.

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EDITOR
Karilė Vaitkutė

ART DIRECTOR
Skaistė Bosas

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

ADVERTISING & SUBSCRIPTION MANAGER
Tomas Petroliūnas

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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finansai@javlb.org

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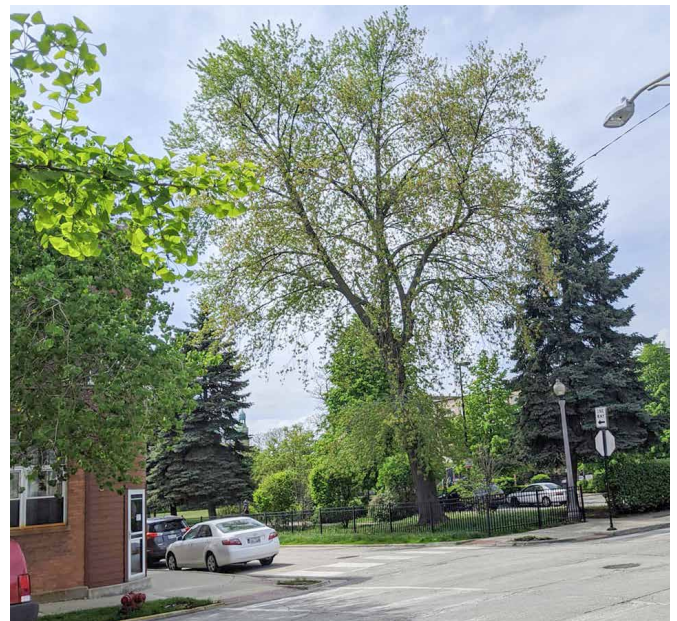
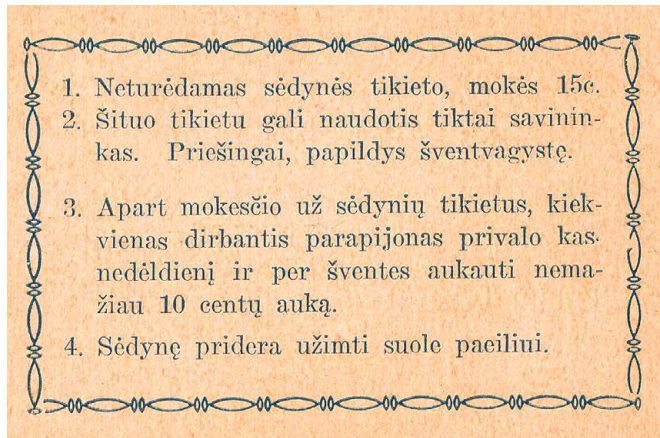
HISTORY OF CHICAGO LITHUANIAN CHURCHES

Šv. Jurgio Parapija - St. George Parish

3230 South Litanica Avenue, Chicago, Illinois
Organized in 1892 – Demolished in 1990

As the Lithuanian colony in Bridgeport was growing rapidly, in 1884 the St. George Society was formed. In 1892, St. George Parish was organized, and the archbishop appointed Fr. Jurgis Kolesinskis as its first pastor. In 1884, Fr. Matas Kriauciunas took over, and 121 baptisms were performed that year alone. The pastor even claimed 10,000 parishioners.

By 1908, he had to erect a new three-story brick schoolhouse of sixteen classrooms. Sadly, the Parish could celebrate its 100th anniversary, as by the archbishop's order it was demolished in 1990. Three bronze bells (named St. George, St. Casimir, and St. John) were destined for the church of the Holy Martyrs in Berčiūnai, Lithuania. Digitized baptism, marriage, and death records for the years 1893-1925 are available online.

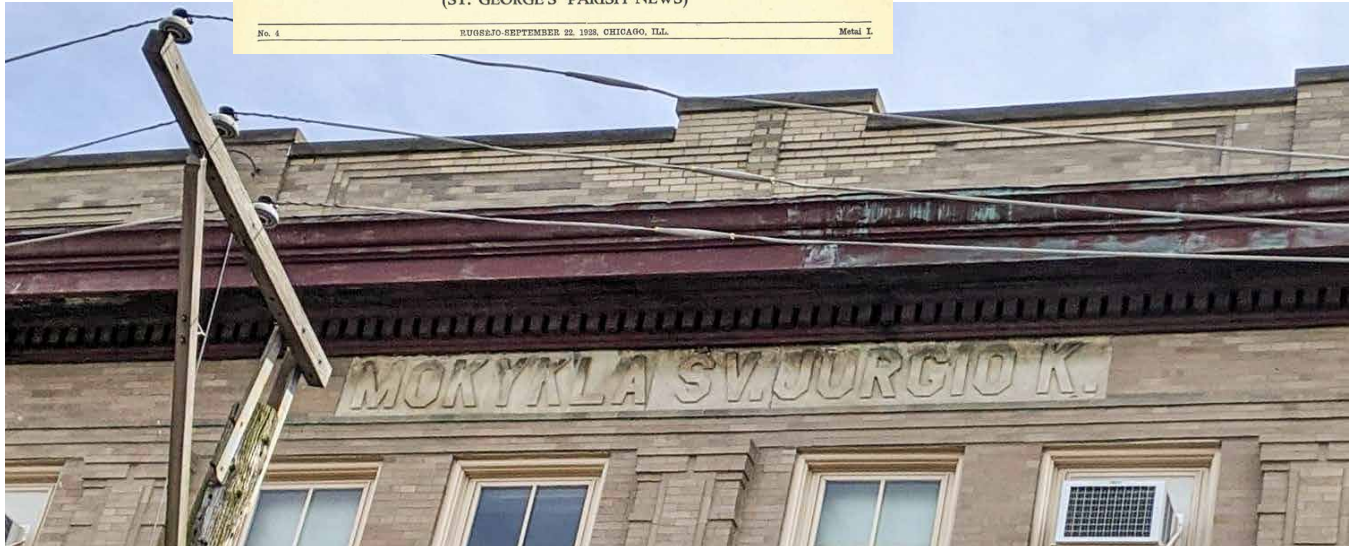


Registrum Baptizatorum in Ecclesia *S. Georgii Nar -* 3
S. Jurgii Diocesis *Chicagiensis.*
 1893 d.n.

Nomen Familiae	Die	REGISTRUM BAPTISMORUM.	Observantia.
<i>Radomski</i> <i>Vincentius</i>	<i>Die</i> <i>26. Februarii</i>	Ego infrascriptus baptizavi <i>Vincentium</i> natum <i>19. Februarii</i> <i>A. D. 1893.</i> a <i>Georgio Radomski</i> ex loco <i>Chicago</i> a <i>Agathe Kratorovica</i> ex loco <i>eodem</i> Patris fuerunt <i>Vincentius Radomski</i> et <i>Veronica Radomka</i> <i>Rev. G. Kolasiński</i>	
<i>Lubojtas</i> <i>Anna</i>	<i>Die</i> <i>5. Martii</i>	Ego infrascriptus baptizavi <i>Annam</i> natum <i>28. Februarii</i> <i>A. D. 1893.</i> a <i>Josepho Lubojtas</i> ex loco <i>Chicago</i> a <i>Henrica Pruzynska</i> ex loco <i>eodem</i> Patris fuerunt <i>Jacobus Pruzynka</i> et <i>Mariaanna Pilicka</i> <i>Rev. G. Kolasiński</i>	
<i>Marpelas</i> <i>Venceslaus</i>	<i>Die</i> <i>19. Martii</i>	Ego infrascriptus baptizavi <i>Venceslaum</i> natum <i>14. Martii</i> <i>A. D. 1893.</i> a <i>Antonio Marpelas</i> ex loco <i>Chicago</i> a <i>Caroline Wojtkiewicza</i> ex loco <i>eodem</i> Patris fuerunt <i>Josephus Seyenkievica</i> et <i>Barbara Wigricki</i> <i>Rev. G. Kolasiński</i>	
<i>Karamikas</i> <i>Anna</i>	<i>Die</i> <i>19. Martii</i>	Ego infrascriptus baptizavi <i>Annam</i> natum <i>8. Martii</i> <i>A. D. 1893.</i> a <i>Francisco Karamikas</i> ex loco <i>Chicago</i> a <i>Henrica van Meximonte</i> ex loco <i>eodem</i> Patris fuerunt <i>Andreas Davionis</i> et <i>Maria Sandelke</i> <i>Rev. G. Kolasiński</i>	



Šv. Jurgio Parap. Žinios
 (ST. GEORGE'S PARISH NEWS)
 No. 4 RUGSEJO-SEPTEMBER 22, 1922, CHICAGO, ILL. Metal I.



Dievo Apvaizdos Parapija - Providence of God Parish

717 West 18th Street, Chicago, Illinois

Organized in 1900 – Merged with Sacred Heart Church in 1959

By the end of the 19th century, the Lithuanian colony of Bridgeport has grown, and parishioners wanted a separate parish. The twenty-cent ride from the 18th Street to St. George church in Bridgeport proved to be an obstacle, and in 1900, Divine Providence Parish was established. By 1916, the parish had 8,000 people of 1,100 families. An influx of Mexicans added Spanish Masses on the schedule in the 1960s, while the construction of the overhead Dan Ryan Expressway in 1962 displaced many families. Pope John Paul II spoke in front of the Divine Providence church in 1979. Digitized baptism and marriage records for the years 1900-1915 are available online.



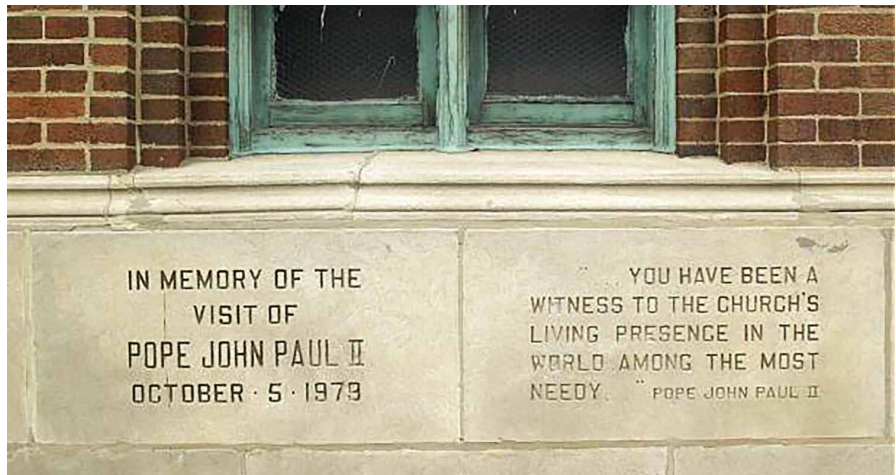
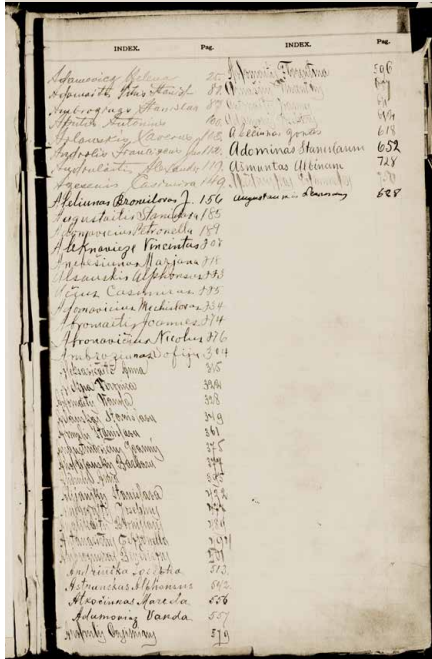
PROVIDENCE OF GOD

CHICAGO

BAPTISM

1911-1915

I



Švento Kryžiaus Parapija - Holy Cross Parish

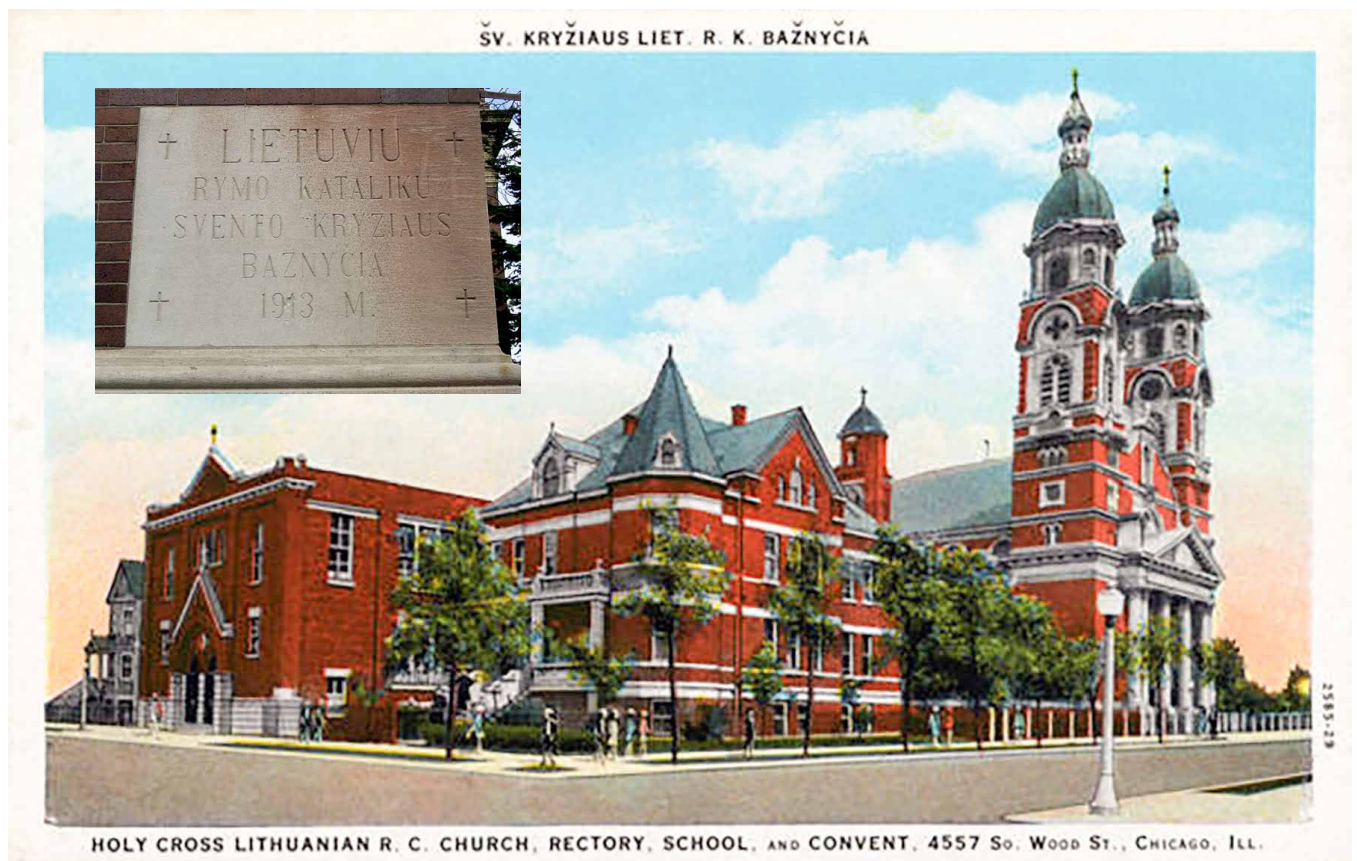
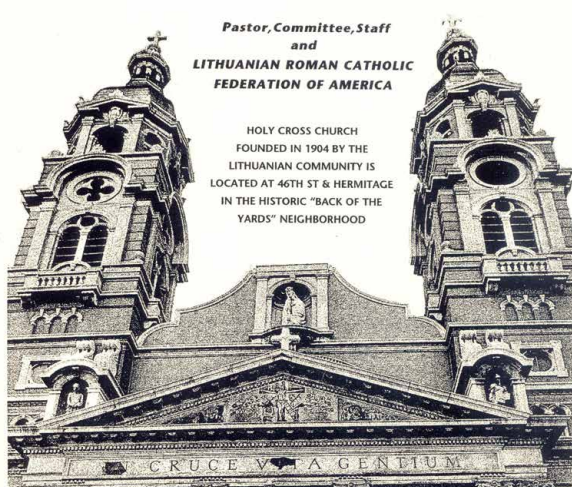
4557 South Wood Street, Chicago, Illinois
Organized in 1904 – Merged with Immaculate Heart of Mary in 1983

At the beginning of the 20th century, the Union Stock Yards had attracted enough Lithuanian immigrants to the South Side “Town of Lake” neighborhood of Chicago. The Holy Cross Parish was established in 1904, and the solemn blessing of the church followed in 1905. By 1919 the parish boasted of over 1,100 families, numbering over 6,000 members. In the DP era after World War II, the parish swelled in activities and members. The rectory became a haven for visiting the refugee Lithuanian clergy. Later on, the ethnic composition of the neighborhood altered, with an influx of Spanish-speaking, and the archdiocese assigned the Holy Cross to the newcomers. The last Lithuanian Mass was celebrated in 1995. Digitized baptism, marriage, and death records for the years 1904-1925 are available online.

Founders' Mass
HOLY CROSS CHURCH
100 YEAR JUBILEE
SATURDAY • NOVEMBER 13 • 2 PM
His Excellency **Bishop Paulius Baltakis OFM**
Lithuanian Choral Group **DAINAVA**

*Pastor, Committee, Staff
and*
**LITHUANIAN ROMAN CATHOLIC
FEDERATION OF AMERICA**

HOLY CROSS CHURCH
FOUNDED IN 1904 BY THE
LITHUANIAN COMMUNITY IS
LOCATED AT 46TH ST & HERMITAGE
IN THE HISTORIC "BACK OF THE
YARDS" NEIGHBORHOOD





Visų Šventųjų Parapija - All Saints Parish

10809 South State Street, Chicago, Illinois

Organized in 1906 - Closed in 1989



On August 18th, 1907, the cornerstone of All Saints church was blessed. The first pastor was Fr. Pranas Serafinas. Fr. Petras Lapeilis became Serafinas replacement in 1915, taking charge of some 450 families, amounting to about 1500 parishioners. Digitized baptism, marriage, and death records for 1906-1925 are available online.



BAŽNYČIOS ŠVENTINIMAS

Naujoji Visų Šventųjų parap. bažnyčia jau visiškai užbaigta. Jos šventinimas įvyks birželio 16 d. 6 val. vakaro Dievo Kūno šventėje. Bažnyčią šventins J. E. Chicagos arkivyskupas kardinolas Albert Meyer, kardinolui asistuos prel. J. Paškus, prel. I. Albavičius ir prel. D. Mozeris, apeigų vedėju bus kun. d. M. Egan. I aike šventinimo šv. mišias celebruos kun. A. Linkus, dijakonu bus kun. V. Černauskas, subdiakonu kun. V. Tikusis ir apeigų vedėjas kun. E. Abromaitis. Laike pamaldų giedos sol. S. Baras ir Dainavos Ansamblio dalis kartu su parap. chorą. Solistą ir chorą vargonais palydės M. H. Mondeikaitė.

Statybos planai ir darbai

Naujos bažnyčios statybai fondas buvo pradėtas klebonaujant kun. J. Paškauskui 1942 metais. Bet šis fondas sparčiai pradėjo didėti tik 1957 m., kada klebonui kun. J. Šaulinskiui pavyko įtikinti parap. komitetą, kad reikia statyti naują bažnyčią ir, kad Dievo namai turi būti panašūs į Dievo namus. Klebonui pageidaujant, sudarytas darbingas statybos reikalams komitetas, komiteto pirm. inž. K. Johnson, vicepirm. S. Valius, sekret. Phillis Fandell-Zemaitytė, nariai: E. Ričkus, S. Kernagis, E. Fandell, A. Gričius, Kostas Bružas, M. Martinkešnas-Martin, M. Razmienė, O. Šidlauskienė ir T. Koncevičiūtė.

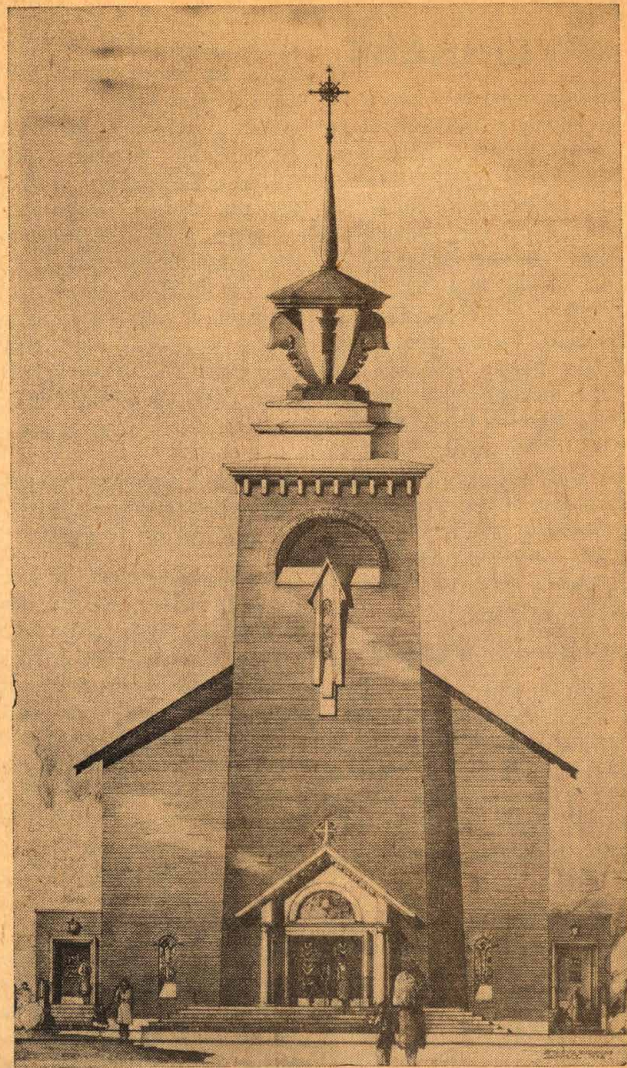
gingas kunigas Pranciškus Lukošius, naujasis parap. klebonas.

Bažnyčios vaizdas ir grožis

Bažnyčios išorės stilius yra naujoviškas, meniškasis, bokšto viršus papuoštas lietuviškom tulpėm ir žalvarinis kryžius esantis 112 pėdų aukštumoje sudaro įspūdingą vaizdą ir yra matomas gana toli. Bažnyčios ilgis 138 pėdos, plotis 51 pėda. Pamatai ir sienos padarytos gelžbetoninės, tam reikalui panaudota 145 tonos geležies. Išorinės sienos yra rausvos plytų spalvos, stogas padarytas iš juodo akmens plokščių. Viduje aukščiausia vieta turi 45 pėdas. Penkios išlenktos arkos ir netie sioginis apšvietimas iškelia bažnyčios jaukumą ir subtilumą. Altoriai padaryti iš žaliojo Polcevera marmuro atvežto iš Italijos. Altoriai, nors ir moderniais pagrindais daryti, sukurti senovės bažnytinės statybos dvasioje, primena pirmųjų amžių katakombose vartojamus akmeninius karstus.

Langams vitražai padaryti prisitaikant prie bendro bažnyčios architektūrinio pobūdžio. Jie sukurti senovės stilium su modernišku atspalviu. Vitražus paruošė dail. Kazys Varnelis, tam panaudodamas rankų darbo stiklą atgabentą iš Prancūzijos ir Vokietijos. Bažnyčioje sėdimų vietų yra 565 ir rūsių salėje 400.

Ryšium su bažnyčios šventi-



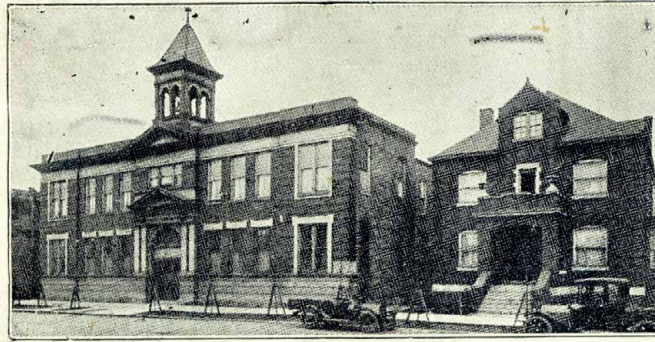
Visų Šventųjų bažnyčia, arch. Kudokas

Anus 1910				In Ecclesia Omnium Sanctorum			
NOMEN INFANTIS ET RESIDENTIA		DIEI MENSI ANNO		NOMEN PARENTUM		LOCUS NATIVITATIS	
Matrimonia	Residentia	Matrimonia	Residentia	Matrimonia	Residentia	Matrimonia	Residentia
469	Franciscus Obamas W. Callman, Ill.	27 die Per 1910	27 die Per 1910	Rosanna Neles et Lilla Catherine Gubinsaitė	Polonia Polonia	Polonia Polonia	Polonia Polonia
470	Josephus Lellan, Ill.	27 die Per 1910	27 die Per 1910	Josephus Puzos et Lilla Catherine Gubinsaitė	Polonia Polonia	Polonia Polonia	Polonia Polonia
471	Margdalena W. Callman, Ill.	27 die Per 1910	27 die Per 1910	Maria Antonina et Lilla Catherine Gubinsaitė	Polonia Polonia	Polonia Polonia	Polonia Polonia
472	Agnes Hemington, Ill.	27 die Per 1910	27 die Per 1910	Antoni Gilson et Lilla Catherine Gubinsaitė	Polonia Polonia	Polonia Polonia	Polonia Polonia
473	Stephana Hemington, Ill.	1 die Per 1910	1 die Per 1910	Venerantius Jucaite et Lilla Catherine Gubinsaitė	Polonia Polonia	Polonia Polonia	Polonia Polonia
474	Barbara Hemington, Ill.	1 die Per 1910	4 die Per 1910	Josephus Puzos et Lilla Catherine Gubinsaitė	Polonia Polonia	Polonia Polonia	Polonia Polonia



Aušros Vartų Parapija - Our Lady of Vilna Parish

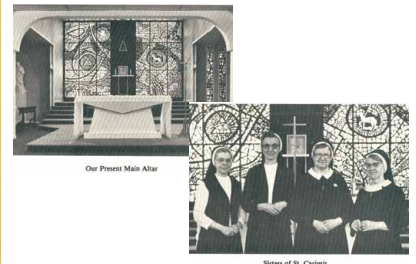
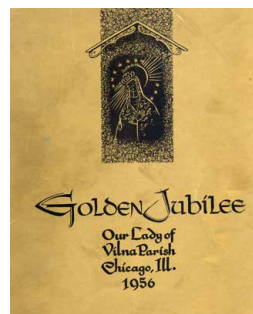
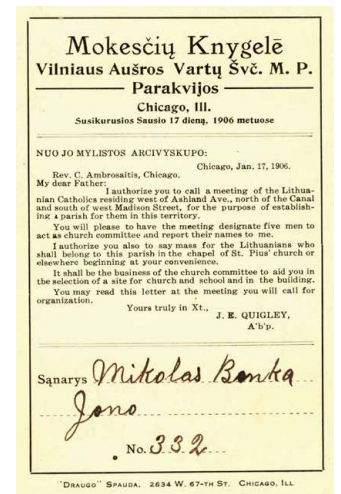
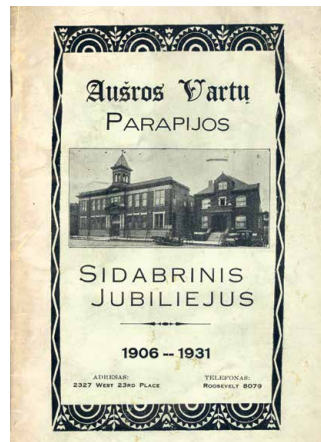
2327 West 23rd Place, Chicago, Illinois
Organized in 1904 - Closed in 1987



The parish was named after the famous Marian shrine in Vilnius. It became incorporated on April 18, 1904, under the title Blessed Virgin of the Holy Rosary Lithuanian Roman Catholic Church of Chicago. However, it was known as Our Lady of Vilna Parish. From 1906 to 1915 Father Kazimieras Ambrozaitis baptized 1,486 babies. After the church was closed, the bell with Lithuanian inscription was given to St. Julie Church in Tinley Park, Illinois. Digitized baptism, communion, marriage, and death records for the years 1910-1925 are available online.



Parapijos Mokyklos Gradantai, - ca 1936 m. — Graduating Class of 1936



Šv. Mykolo Parapija - St. Michael Parish

1641 Wabansia Avenue, Chicago, Illinois

Organized in 1903 - Closed in 1970, later demolished

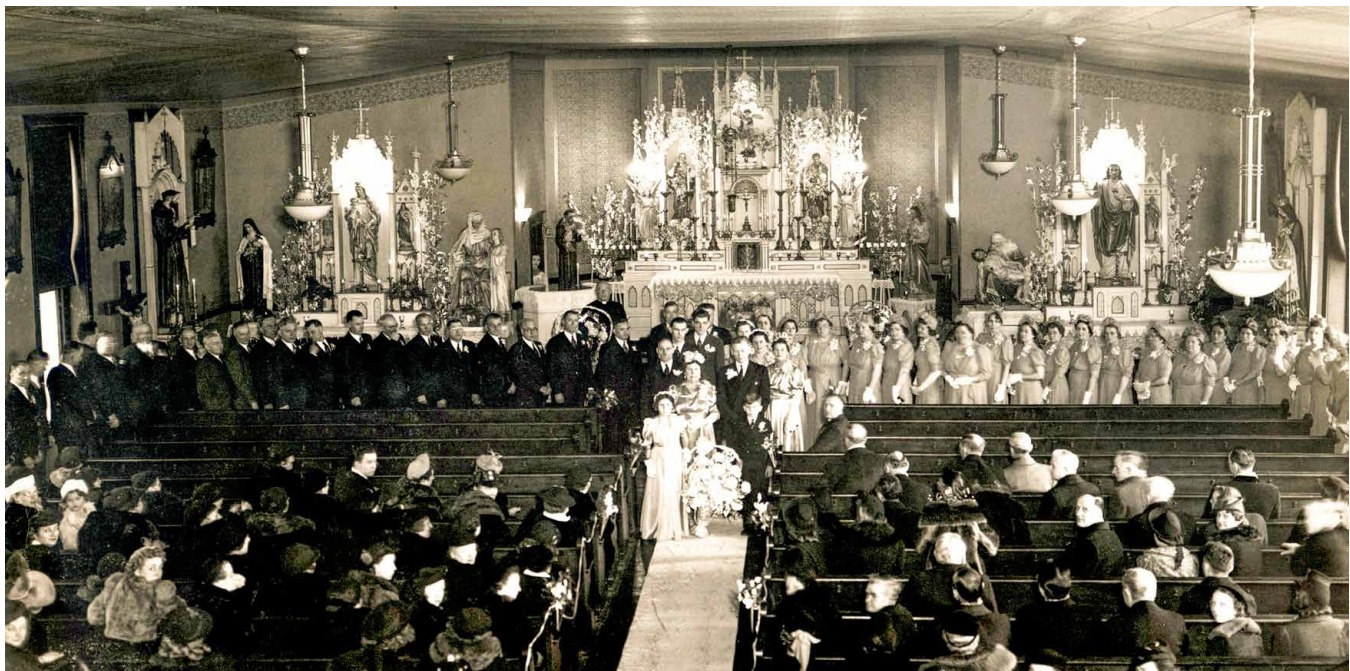
St. Michael's Parish was organized in 1903 on the north side of Chicago. In 1909, Fr. Lukosius was the pastor, and about 2,000 to 2,500 Lithuanians attend this Lithuanian church. It is estimated that there were about five or six thousand Lithuanians living on the North Side in the first decade of the 20th century. Altogether there were eighteen Lithuanian business establishments on the North Side: Two meat markets, one owned by Mr. Sliuza, the other by Mr. Nauseda; one grocery store, owned by Mr. Kareiva; one confectionery store, by Mr. T. Grigalis; Mr. P. M. Kaitis sells men's furnishings, steamship tickets, real estate, and operates a printing shop; seven Lithuanian owned 3 saloons; six tailor shops, by Mr. Dovydaitis, Mr. Buividas, Mr. Sakalas, Mr. Zitkus, Mr. Paulikaitis, and Mr. Antanavicius.

About two-thirds of the Lithuanian workers on the North Side were tailors. A large number of Lithuanians were employed in the following factories: Deering Farm Machine Works; Northwestern Yeast Co., where about 200 Lithuanians are employed; and the Jackson Bridge Works.

The Lithuanians on the North Side had twelve organizations; seven were Catholic and five were non-Catholic. The Catholic organizations were as follows: St. Michael Archangel parish; St. Michael Archangel Society; one branch of the Lithuanian Roman Catholic

Alliance of America; Lithuanian Brothers Society; Grand Duke Gediminas of Lithuania Society; Lithuanian Dramatic Society of St. Cecilia (This Society was formerly known only as the "Lithuanian Dramatic Society;" when the name was lengthened most members resigned and the Society became less active)--the latter society maintains a Lithuanian-American library. The non-Catholic societies are as follows: Lithuanian Tailors Mutual-Benefit Club; Chicago Lithuanian Mutual-Benefit Association; two branches of the Lithuanian Alliance of America; one branch of the Lithuanian-American League; and the Singers' Circle.

St. Michael's Roman Catholic Church served the Lithuanian parishioners for many decades. The structure had three levels with the church on the second floor, the school on the second floor, and the social hall on the lower level. The teachers at the school were the Sisters of St. Casimir's Order. The sisters' residence was a two-story home directly across the street from the church. The social hall consisted of a stage, cloak room, bar, full kitchen, and restroom. It was used for a variety of purposes including as a gymnasium for students, for play performances (in Lithuanian) by the junior and senior sodalities, game nights (bunco for women, pinochle for men), showers, weddings and dinners for special occasions.



The Lithuanian Gene

All Lithuanians living in the USA are members of the Lithuanian American Community. Efforts to preserve our identity through our traditions, language, and culture unite us. In the twists and turns of history, Lithuanians always find a place for themselves and a way to survive in order to stay confident in themselves and preserve their Lithuanian identity. Our lives are diverse: some might be more colorful and vibrant than others. However, whatever they might be, they are our lives and our stories. They are like colorful beads strung together in a necklace or connected in a DNA spiral, so that they do not get lost and stay together. After all, it is always more fun to stay connected. We might say that the stories of our lives are held together, strung on the "thread" of our community, and we enrich one another by telling those stories. What is the code of our Lithuanian gene? We will try finding out by sharing the stories of those who live among us.



Prof. Bronius Vaškelis

Prof. Bronius Vaškelis: I have always been committed to Lithuania

Theatre and literary scholar Prof. Bronius Vaškelis taught at Lafayette College (Easton, Pennsylvania) and the University of Illinois (Chicago). He was the Rector of Vytautas Magnus University (Kaunas, Lithuania) and the founder and head of the Department of Theatre Studies of the Institute of Arts. Since 1992 Vaškelis and his wife Stasė have been engaged in philanthropic activities. He established a scholarship in his name for young researchers in the arts and humanities. Prof. Vaškelis was awarded the Order of the Grand Duke Gediminas of Lithuania, 5th degree, and the Balys Sruoga Prize.

We talk to Professor Emeritus Bronius Vaškelis about his life between Lithuania and the United States of America, his 48 years of work with young people, and theatre in the Lithuanian American diaspora.



After immigrating to Canada, Bronius Vaškelis attended University of Toronto.

Can we begin this conversation with your childhood?

I was born in Puodžiai Village, Užpaliai Parish. That makes me an aukštaitis.

Your path across the Atlantic was a bit different from other Lithuanian Americans. First, you went to Canada, and only later to the USA?

In the summer of 1944, after the Seda Battle, we left for Germany, East Prussia. Later, our unit managed to move to Denmark. After the war, I lived in Lubeck, where I attended high school and graduated in 1947.

At that time, emigration from Germany began. Some went to England, others to Australia, and I went to the forests of Canada. After ten months, I moved to Toronto, where I worked in factories and construction.

In 1954, I started my studies at the University of Toronto. After obtaining my Bachelor's and Master's degrees there, I decided to continue studying and get a Ph.D. I came to Philadelphia and received my Ph.D. in the Department of Baltic-Slavic Studies at the University of Pennsylvania, where I taught Russian.

Why did you choose Slavic Studies?

I have always loved literature. I tried to study psychology, but I didn't like it. I thought about taking German literature, but I got an offer to study Russian language and literature, and

there was a need for specialists in the US in this field, so it was easier to find a job.

And then you went to Lafayette College?

I worked there for 21 years. I was an associate professor of Russian literature. I was promoted to professor in 1975 and served as dean of the Department of Foreign Languages (1966-1981). I had a good job but I was always interested in Lithuanian literature.



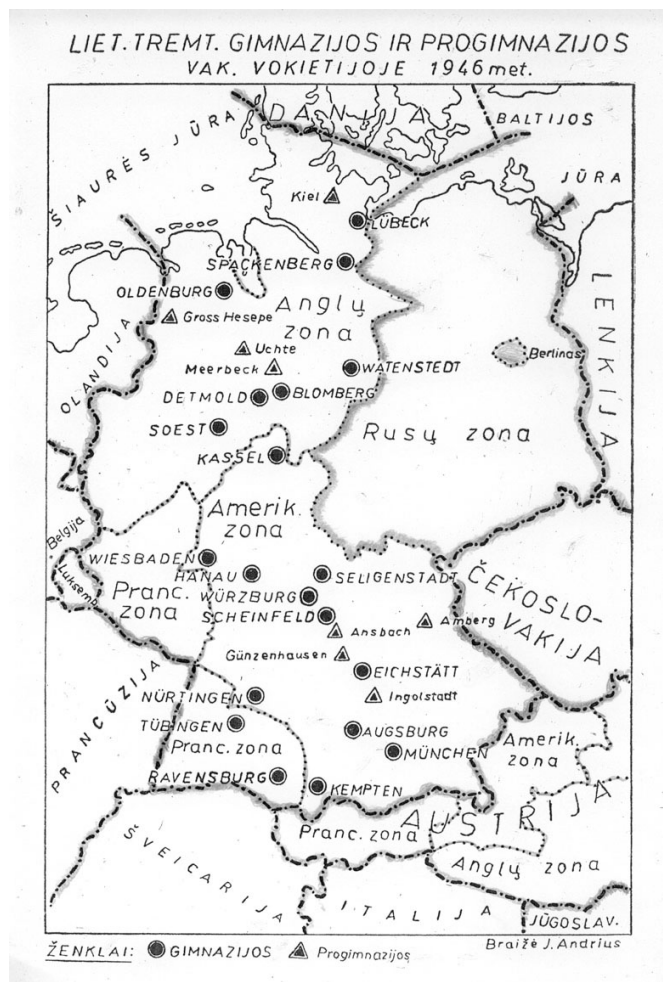
Bronius Vaškelis defended his Ph.D. thesis at the University of Pennsylvania.

Was the move to Chicago related to the establishment of the Lithuanian Studies Department at the University of Illinois at Chicago?

In 1984, I was offered the position of Head of the Lithuanian World Community Department of Lithuanian Studies. Even though I knew I would have to start from scratch, I decided to go. I set up Master's and Doctoral Programs. While working at the UIC, I was able to audit seminars on directing, acting, and postmodern theatre. I participated in projects and conferences on ethnic theatre and Baltic drama in the USA. But the greatest joy was to be able to return to Lithuanian literature. I have always been committed to Lithuania, and then there was an opportunity to concentrate all my efforts on working in the Lithuanian field.



Prof. Bronius Vaškelis



Lithuanian schools in DP camps in Germany, 1946. Bronius Vaškelis went to school in Lubeck, in the British Occupational Zone.

But later on, the Master's and Doctoral Programs were closed.

It was painful. Perhaps now that you can go to Lithuania to study, there are fewer students? Moreover, when the department was set up, it was not envisaged that Lithuania would be free. It was about the young people of the diaspora learning Lithuanian; it was about training Lithuanian teachers and press workers, preparing them for scientific work in the United States.

The great love of your life is poet Jurgis Baltrušaitis, isn't he?

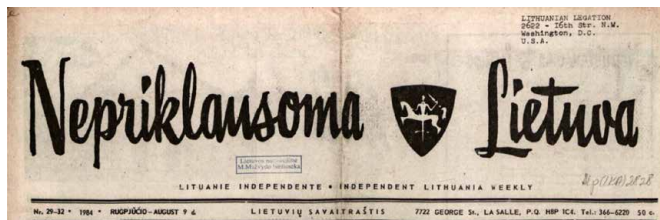
Jurgis Baltrušaitis is an interesting personality. He was involved in Russian literary and cultural life, and had even forgotten the Lithuanian language, but he returned to serve Lithuania and Lithuanian literature. He can be an example for expatriates with a similar fate.

How was your love for theatre born?

When I was researching Baltrušaitis's contacts with Russian theatre people, I found out that Balys Sruoga was a friend of his. I became interested in Sruoga's plays and Lithuanian theatre. In the summer of 1979, I was col-



Lafayette College where Prof. Bronius Vaškėlis taught for 21 years.



PIRMASIS LITUANISTIKOS KATEDROS VEDĖJAS – DR. BRONIUS VAŠKĖLIŠ

Pasaulio Lietuvių Bendruomenės Valdyba su malonumu praneša lietuvių visuomenei, kad Illinois Universitetas Chicagoje pakvietė profesorių **dr. Bronių VAŠKĖLIŠ** vadovauti LITUANISTIKOS KATEDRAI. Profesorius Vaškėlis pradės savo mokslinį darbą RUGSĖJO mėnesį, kaip pirmasis šios katedros vedėjas.

Prof. dr. **Bronius Vaškėlis** gimė 1924 m. Lietuvoje. Toronto Universitete Kanadoje 1958 m. gavo bakalauro laipsnį ir 1961 m. – magistro laipsnį. 1964 m. Pensilvanijos Universitete apgynęs disertaciją "The Language of Jurgis Baltrušaitis, Lithuanian Poetry" gavo filosofijos daktaro laipsnį. Nuo 1963 metų profesoriavo Lafayette Universitete Pensilvanijoje. Lietuvių literatūros ir kitais klausimais bendradarbiavo Lietuviškoje ir kitų kalbų spaudoje.

Jaunimo ir visuomeninėje veikloje **Bronius Vaškėlis** reiškėsi kaip lietuvių jūrų skautų vadovas, akademikas skautas, Kanados Lietuvių Studentų Sąjungos pirmininkas ir 1959–63 buvo Pirmosios Pasaulio Lietuvių Bendruomenės Valdybos narys.

PLB Valdybos pastangomis ir rūpesčiu 1981 metais įkurta ir pasaulio lietuvių parama per trejus metus ugdyta Lituanistikos Katedra šiais metais tapo realybe. Tai didžiulis kultūrinis ir mokslinis laimėjimas lietuvių tautai, pasaulio Lietuviams ir Lietuvai.

PLB Valdyba sveikina profesorių dr. Bronių Vaškėlį, linki jam prasmingo lituanistinio darbo, ir šia proga kviečia pasaulio lietuvius dar daugiau visokiais būdais remti Lituanistikos Katedrą.

Vytautas K a m a n t a s,
PLB Valdybos Pirmininkas

In 1984, the Lithuanian World Community established the Lithuanian Studies Department at the University of Illinois. One of the Lithuanian newspapers, *Nepriklausoma Lietuva* (Independent Lithuania) wrote about the new Department and Prof. Bronius Vaškėlis, who was invited to lead it.

lecting material on theatre in the diaspora and finishing a study on the first decade of Lithuanian theatre in the diaspora, *The Beginning of Lithuanian Theatre in the USA (1889-1899)*. Since then, I have been interested in the theatrical activities of the Lithuanian diaspora.

Did your life path lead you back to Lithuania?

Since 1957, I have been in contact with my brother, who lived in Vilnius, and I used to get the latest books from him. When my parents returned from exile in Siberia in 1965, I visited Vilnius, but they wouldn't let me go to my hometown. Later, I did an internship at the Vilnius University. When Vytautas Magnus University (VMU) was re-established in 1989, I was elected to the University's Reconstructing Senate. I was coming to the meetings every year. In 1992, I came to VMU for one year as a visiting professor. One year turned into 18 years of work.

I am grateful to my destiny, which led me to contribute to the restoration of VMU and its further work.

Did you establish the Department of Theatre Studies at VMU?

In Lithuania, there was no possibility of continuing theatre studies at the Master's and Doctoral levels. In 1996, we established a Master's degree and, a year later, a Doctoral degree.

You once wrote after a visit to Lithuania: "Such a repulsively alien void." Has that emptiness disappeared?

These are the words I wrote in 1992, after visiting the fields of the village I was born in, where the fall twilight was gloomy and only occasionally a bird would call.

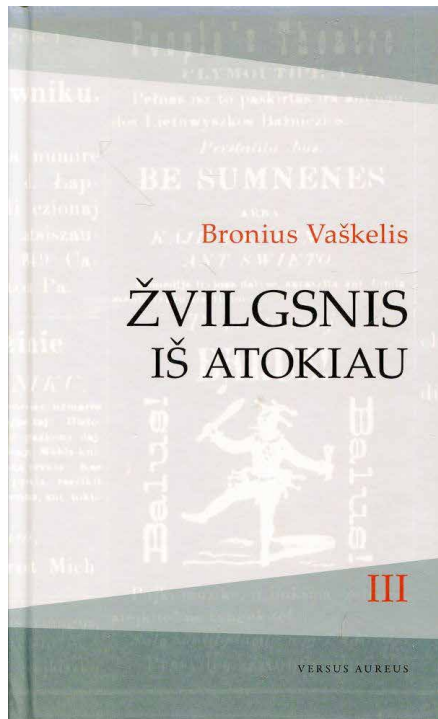
It was not easy for me as a newcomer in Kaunas either. Often there was no hot water, and the apartment was

cold. It was difficult to get better food in stores and even restaurants. But I wasn't upset. I walked around Kaunas and Vilnius and was happy that this was my Lithuania, my own! I love the United States, but it's not my home country.

Versus Aureus, a publishing house in Vilnius, has published the third volume of your book, A Glimpse from Afar. What is this book about?

It is a collection of articles. The first volume (2004) is devoted to literature. The second volume (2008) is about the development of Lithuanian theatre in the USA. I also had the idea to write a review of 100 years of Lithuanian American theatre.

In 2012, your and your wife Stasė's philanthropic activities were recognized with the Gabrielė Petkevičaitė-Bitė Memorial Medal "Serve Lithuania."



Žvilgsnis iš atokiau (Glancing from afar), a compilation of articles by Prof. Vaškėlis published in Lithuania.



Prof. Bronius Vaškėlis taught at the University of Illinois until he moved back to Lithuania

My wife and I were able to support students in financial need. I have provided financial support to the Bronius Vaškėlis Center for Comparative Literature which was established in 2008 to help publish monographs written by the Master's and Doctoral students.

In 2011, I established three scholarships for students of Lithuanian literature and theatre studies. While living in Kaunas, I founded a student canteen, where Caritas workers cooked hearty soups. My wife collected donations from Lithuanians in Florida (St. Petersburg). We took the donated money to help Lithuanian students. In total, Florida Lithuanians donated about 400 thousand dollars. We are still part of the Lithuanian community in Florida, and my wife still takes care of the school.

Interview by **Laima Apanavičienė**

First published in Lithuanian in *Draugas* in January 2003.

P.S. Bronius Vaškėlis, age 98, passed away on Friday, September 3, 2021, in St. Petersburg Beach, Florida. He was born on November 14, 1922.



Vytautas Magnus University in Kaunas, Lithuania was the last university at which Prof. Vaškėlis taught.

Security

NATO will temporarily deploy two Airborne Warning and Control System (AWACS) surveillance planes with 159 military personnel to Siauliai, Lithuania to monitor Russian military activity. The Russian Foreign Ministry said that the recent Ukrainian attacks on the Russian Black Sea Fleet headquarters in Sevastopol used NATO spy equipment.

In the spring of 2024, NATO plans drills entitled “Steadfast Defender,” which will involve 41,000 military personnel in Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia, Poland, and Germany. The exercise will involve over 50 aircraft and entail over 500 air combat simulations to simulate the defense against a hypothetical Russian attack on a member state.

In response to recent migrant incursions, Lithuania plans on building physical barriers in marshy areas along its borders with Belarus and Russia (Kaliningrad). This year, over 700 illegal migrants from Belarus were turned back, and 13 cases of smuggling were thwarted. Environmental experts have evaluated the plan and concluded that the ecological impact would be minimal.

The Defense Ministry said that the next US Army rotation will include the “Hounds” of the 3rd Battalion, 67th Armor Regiment from Fort Hood, Texas, and the “Battle Kings,” 1st Battalion, 9th Field Artillery from Fort Stewart, Georgia. Their equipment includes M1A2 Abrams tanks, Bradley infantry fighting vehicles, ATVs, trucks, and other auxiliary military equipment.

Following a pre-trial investigation, a Vilnius resident, Mantas Danielius, is being held for trial for being a spy for Belarus. He is accused of gathering state secrets to pass on to Belarus. If convicted, he could face imprisonment from 6 to 15 years.

In mid-October, thousands of hoax bomb threats were emailed to schools and municipal buildings in Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia. The Lithuanian National Crisis Management Center in the Interior Ministry linked the attacks to Russia and said that they were aimed at destabilizing the countries by creating panic and overburdening authorities.

The government is budgeting 2.71 % of GDP for defense in 2024, with 2.52 % coming from the state and the rest from the “solidarity contribution” by commercial banks, which will make record profits of about 1 billion euros from increases in interest rates. In turn, the Association of

Lithuanian Banks has complained to the European Commission that the exemption of some financial institutions constitutes discrimination and runs counter to EU law. Lithuania expects to collect around 400 million euros over two years and intends to use the funds for defense and military and civilian transport infrastructure.

Prime Minister Ingrida Šimonytė and the Chief of Defense General Valdemaras Rupšys visited NATO Headquarters Multinational Corps Northeast in Szczecin, Poland. They were briefed on NATO’s defense plans, responsibilities, and ongoing activities.

Belarusian opposition leader Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya, operating from Lithuania, cautioned against overreacting to Belorussian discussions of Litvinism, which questions Lithuanian historical independence as just a radical offshoot of Belorussian nationalism.

So far this year Lithuanian border guards have turned back 1,900 irregular migrants from Belarus. Since August 2021, the border guards have repelled 21,200 attempts to cross into Lithuania from Belarus.

Last year, 430,000 Lithuanians traveled to Belarus; this year, the number was 255,000. The National Security Commission is considering banning officials, civil servants, and soldiers who can access classified information from travel to Belarus and Russia for security reasons. About 20,000 Lithuanians have access to classified information.

Ukraine

By request of the Ukrainian Navy, the Lithuanian Navy has handed over radar equipment to protect Ukrainian territorial waters from Russian intrusion. The Defense Ministry purposely did not disclose the quantity and cost of the transferred equipment; however, they did disclose that there is a new package of military aid to Ukraine of 200 million euros for the period of 2024 to 2026.

President Nausėda met with a group of Ukrainian lawmakers visiting Lithuania and promised to increase military support for Ukraine and urged them to continue to fight corruption and money laundering in their effort to secure EU membership.

The Union of European Football Associations reversed its decision to ban Russia’s U17 teams from competing in international competitions after Russia’s invasion of

Ukraine. The Lithuanian Football Federation disagreed with this reinstatement and will not play Russian teams.

COVID-19

The Health Ministry noted an uptick in daily cases. A typical daily Covid-19 status is 300 new cases, no deaths, with 47 hospitalized, including 3 in the ICU.

The Health Ministry will declare an epidemic if the cumulative incidence of colds, flu, and COVID-19 exceeds 1500 cases per 100,000 inhabitants per week and if COVID-19 and flu patients occupy over 1500 beds and over 120 ICU beds for more than a week.

The Health Ministry said that all Lithuanians over six months covered by compulsory insurance will be offered COVID-19 shots at no cost.

Business

The state-owned Lithuanian Post plans to lay off about 400 letter carriers in response to changing customer mailing habits and reduced demand for traditional postal services. The remaining letter carriers will have a five-day workweek. The system has allocated 800,000 euros for severance payments.

Warburg Pincus, a U.S.-based private equity firm, has invested \$100 million in the Lithuanian-founded cybersecurity firm Nord Security, which now has a valuation of three billion dollars. Nord Security was Lithuania's second unicorn, with a start-up valuation of 1 billion dollars. In April 2022, it raised another \$100 million from Novator, a British alternative investment firm.

President Nausėda signed a law banning fur farms by 2027. The ban was previously approved by the Seimas: 68 for, 25 against, and 15 abstained. It was noted that the biggest customers were Russia and China. The farmers have complained that the compensation that they will receive will not cover their losses. Lithuania is now the 20th European country to ban fur farming.

The British-based travel data platform OAG, with offices in Kaunas (established in 2018) has acquired Infare, a leading provider of competitor air travel data, headquartered in Copenhagen, Denmark, with offices in Vilnius (established in 2011). The Kaunas office, with 60 employees, will coordinate with the Vilnius office, with 70 employees,

to provide data for effective pricing decisions multiple times a day or live.

The high-tech group Teltonika will invest 75 million euros in a new electronics assembly plant in Vilnius, which will employ 700 people. It will be located in Liepkalnis, next to the existing Teltonika EMS electronics assembly plant. Eventually, the High-Tech Hill Technology Park will include ten new production facilities to be built over five years and employ about 6,000 people.

The European Commission has transferred more than 540 million euros to Lithuania this year but has withheld 26 million due to the country's failure to reform taxation and meet two milestones related to "green" fuel excise duty and the reform of real estate taxes.

General

The head of the State Language Inspectorate, the language watchdog, was criticized for drawing parallels between ethnic Poles living in the Vilnius District wanting street signs in Polish with Russia changing the signs in the Russian-occupied region of Ukraine.

The Seimas has asked the Constitutional Court's opinion on whether the Istanbul Convention is in line with Lithuania's Constitution. The Istanbul Convention, which relates to gender equality and violence against women, was adopted by the European Convention in 2011 and signed by Lithuania on June 7, 2013, and submitted to the Seimas by former President Dalia Grybauskaitė but has not been ratified.

The EU rejected Lithuania's plan for a two-year delay in the deadline for tax reform on the tax laws on personal income and social insurance contributions. Lithuania's Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF) plan aims to eliminate certain tax exemptions and special tax regimes while making the tax system friendlier to growth and reduce income inequality and poverty. The European Commissioner for Lithuania, Virginijus Sinkevičius, said that Lithuania failed to provide any substantiated arguments when requesting an adjustment to the RRF plan's tax reform-related deadlines. The Commissioner noted that Lithuania was the first EU country to have its request denied. Lithuania now has one month to provide additional material on the matter before the EC makes the final decision, which will impact how much of the RRF funds that Lithuania could lose.

CEPELINAI

Potato Dumplings with Lentils and Lovage

The classic Lithuanian *cepelinai* dumplings are usually stuffed with ground meat and served with sour cream and fried bacon bits, so if you're not cooking for vegetarians, feel free to add bacon to the onion topping. Conversely, the dumplings are vegan-it's only the accompanying sour cream that isn't, and you could easily leave it out. Dried lovage (*lubczyk*) is available from all Polish shops, but if you can't get your hands on any, you can replace it with dried oregano.

SERVES 4

1 cup (200 g) green or brown lentils, rinsed
Scant 1/2 cup (100 ml) rapeseed oil
2 onions, thinly sliced
1 teaspoon dried lovage (or oregano)
1 1/2 teaspoon sweet paprika
1x14 oz (400 g) can of chopped tomatoes
Salt and white pepper
Sour cream and sprigs of dill, to serve-optional

For the dumpling dough
3 lb 5 oz (1.5 kg) potatoes
Juice of 2 lemon
1 onion
2 1/2 tablespoons cornstarch

Cook the lentils in a saucepan of simmering water until tender, about 30 minutes, then drain well.

Pour the rapeseed oil into a frying pan over medium heat, add the onions, and fry for 10 minutes or until golden. Transfer half of the fried onions to a plate and pour most of the oil from the pan over the top.

Add the lentils to the frying pan, along with the lovage and paprika. Stir for a moment, then add the tomatoes. Bring to a simmer and cook uncovered (you want most of the moisture to evaporate) for about 15 minutes, stirring occasionally. Season generously with salt and pepper, then set the filling aside to cool completely.

For the dumpling dough, peel the potatoes, cut them into



chunks, and place them in a bowl of cold water.

Take half of the potatoes and cook them in a large saucepan of boiling salted water until soft but not falling apart. Drain well and mash until smooth.

Take the other half of the potatoes and finely grate them in a powerful food processor or on the smallest holes of a box grate so they turn to mush. Place in a bowl lined with cheesecloth or a clean tea towel and stir in the lemon juice to stop the potatoes from discoloring. Now gather together the corners of the cloth, twist them together, and use your hands to squeeze out the excess water into the bowl. Reserve the soft white starch, which will settle at the bottom of the bowl, just in case you need to use a bit of it to bind the dumplings (usually this isn't necessary, so instead I save the contents of the bowl to pour into my bathwater-it acts as a natural skin softener).

Place both grated raw and mashed potatoes in another bowl. Finely grate in the onion, then season well with salt. Using your hands, mix the potatoes and onion together. Slowly start to add a heaped tablespoon of the cornstarch with one hand while you carry on mixing with the other hand: depending on the potatoes you used, you may not need to use all of it. The aim is to form a ball of soft dough that's neither too wet nor too dry. If the dough feels a bit dry, add a teaspoon or so of the reserved potato starch.

HOMEMADE FUDGE with Poppy Seeds

This fudge makes a lovely gift, when cut into squares and individually wrapped; it will keep in the fridge for a couple of weeks.

SERVES 12-20, depending on the size of the pieces

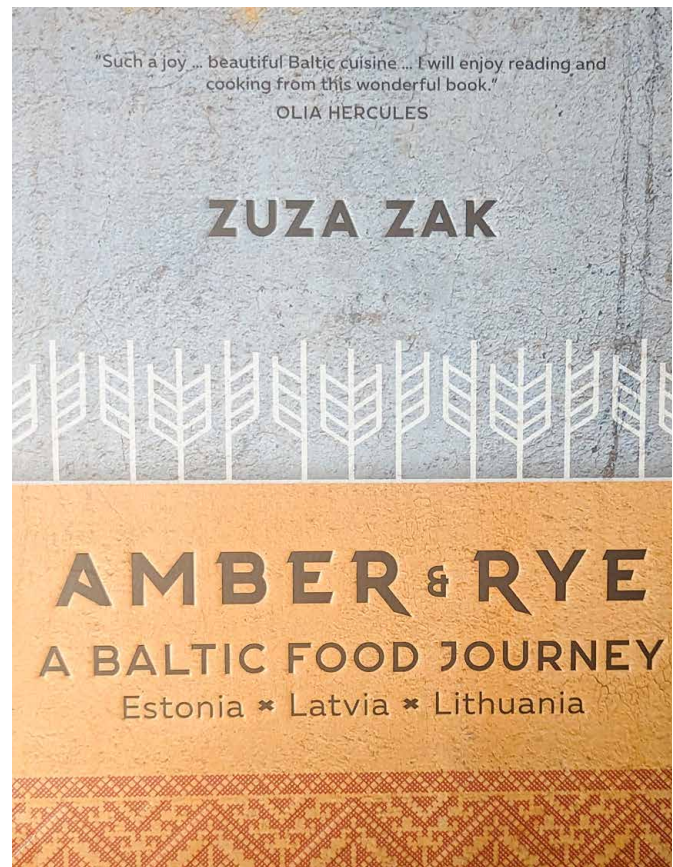
1x 14 oz (400 g) can of condensed milk
Generous 1 tablespoon poppy seeds
Pinch of salt
3 1/2 tablespoons (50 g) unsalted butter

Line a small baking pan or ovenproof dish with parchment paper. I use a glass baking dish about 12 inches x 8 inches (30 cm x 20 cm).

Pour the condensed milk into a frying pan and place over medium heat. Once the color starts changing to a light golden, add the poppy seeds and salt. Keep heating, stirring constantly, for another 15 minutes or until it turns golden brown.

Finally, add the butter and stir until melted, then take off the heat, and carefully pour into the baking pan or dish.

Leave to cool, then cut the fudge into squares or rectangles and chill in the fridge for about 30 minutes. Remember to take it out about 10 minutes before you want to eat it!



Gifts of the Cold

Once there lived an old couple. The old woman was unwell, always coughing, and couldn't do any work. For this, the old man didn't love her and just waited for her to die. But the old woman didn't think about dying. She just went on suffering. One night, the old man, unable to wait any longer, grabbed her, threw her in the sled in only her nightgown, took her to the forest, and left her there on a hill. The night was as cold as could be. The old woman curled up next to a rock and believed she would have to freeze to death. As she was sitting there, a huge man appeared in front of her and asked:

"Isn't it cold, old woman?"

"That it is. But now it's winter's time, let it be cold."

The man turned around and went away, taking some of the cold with him. After a while, the same man returned, only this time he was a little smaller. He brought a fur coat, shoes, a wimple, and some cheese, and said:

"Isn't it cold, old woman?"

"That it is. But now it's winter's time, let it be cold."

Then he put the fur coat on the old woman, as well as the shoes and the wimple, offered her the cheese, and went away. The woman felt a little warmer. She sat by the rock and ate the cheese. Soon she noticed that someone was approaching, riding in a fine carriage pulled by four horses. When the carriage drew closer, she recognized the same man, only this time he was very small. He pulled up and said:

"Isn't it cold, old woman?"

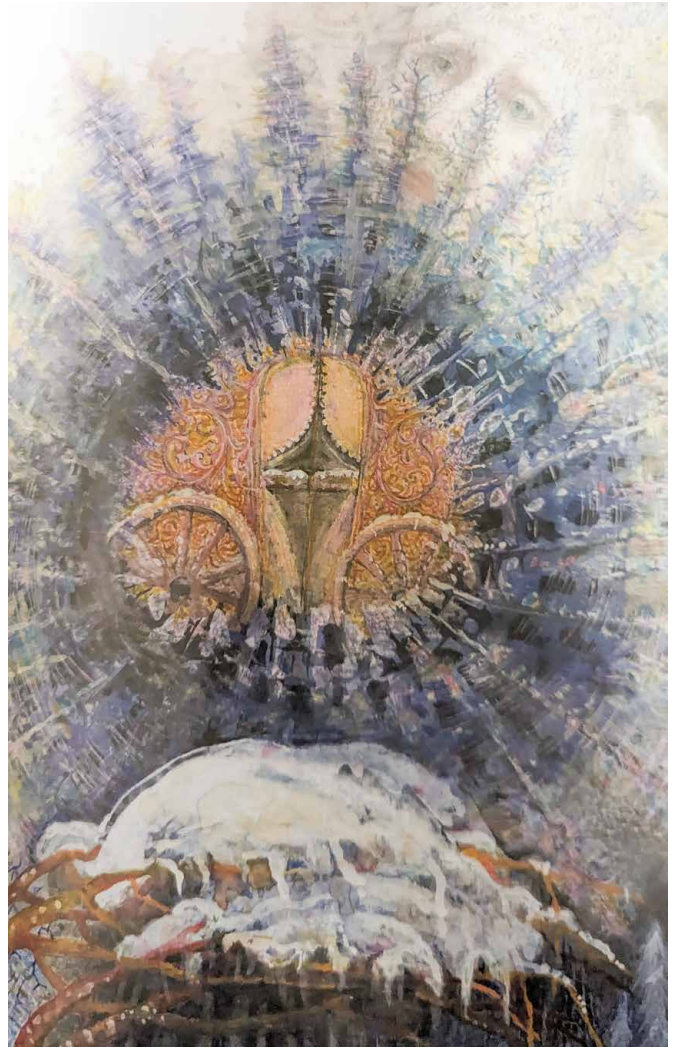
"That it is. But now it's winter's time, let it be cold."

Then the man put the woman in the carriage, gave her a bag of coins, and told her to ride home. When the old man saw that someone had pulled up into his yard in a carriage, he thought that someone had come to scold him for freezing the old woman. He ran out of the hut without his hat and saw that his old woman was in the carriage and that she had a bag of coins. Then they made up and lived happily.

Nearby, there lived another old man, who, having heard what happened to his neighbor, arranged with his wife that they would try to trick the cold. Although this old couple had always lived happily, now the old man started to hate his wife and when the cold came, he too left her in her nightgown on the hilltop. It was so cold that the fences creaked. A huge man appeared and said:

"Isn't it cold, old woman?"

The old woman raised her frozen eyes, and barely able to speak, started to splutter and swear: "Damn you! Let



the thunder strike you down!"

The man turned around and left. But this time it grew colder. After a while, the same man returned, only this time much larger, and said:

"Isn't it cold, old woman?"

The old woman swore at him again, only much worse, as she thought this man was waiting to rob her of the coins she hoped to get. Sitting and arguing, the old woman froze completely. Then the cold stuck her into a sack, which he put in a trough harnessed to a pig and rode it to the old man's hut. The old man gleefully went out to greet the arrival, but upon seeing that there was no carriage or horses, only a pig, and a trough, he grew sad. He thought the sack must be full of coins, but when he opened it, all he saw was his frozen wife.

Šaltio dovanos

Buvo senelis ir senelė. Senelė buvo nesveika, nuolatos kosėdavo ir nieko negalėdavo dirbti. Užtatai senelis jos nemylėjo ir diena iš dienos laukė, kad tik greičiau numirtų. Bet senelė net negalvojo mirti, kentė ir kentė sau toliau. Senis, nebesulaukdamas senės numirštant, paėmė ją, įmetė vienmarškinę į rogeles, nuvežė į mišką, išmetė ant kalno ir parvažiavo sau namo. O šąla, šąla, kad net spraga! Senelė prisiglaudė prie akmens ir sėdėdama laukia mirties: mato, kad jau reikės sušalti. Jai besėdint, atėjo baisiai didelis ponas ir klausė senelę:

– O ką – šąla, senel?

– Šąla, ponuliuk, kaipgi nešąla: jau dabar jo laikas, tegul šąla sau sveikas! Apsigręžęs ponas ir nuėjo tolyn. Tuo tarpu ir šaltis truputį sumažėjo. Palaukęs ateina tas pats ponas, bet jau mažesnis. Atnešė kailinius, batus, nuometą ir pusę sūrio ir vėl klausia:

– Ar šąla, senel?

Senelė atsakė:

– Šąla, ponuliuk. Jo darbas, jo laikas, tegul šąla sau sveikas.

Tada ponas apvilko senę kailiniais, apavė kojas, aprišo nuometą ir, padavęs pusę sūrio, liepė valgyti, o pats vėl sau nuėjo. Ir šaltis visiškai sumažėjo. Apšilo senelė, sėdi prie akmenų ir valgo sūrį. Netrukus pamatė, kad kažin kas atvažiuoja gražioje karietoj, užkinkytoj ketvertu arklių. Kai privažiavo artyn, pažino, kad tai tas pats ponas, tik tai jau buvo visiškai mažutis. Privažiavęs klausė:

– Ar šąla, senel?

– Šąla, ponuliuk, kaipgi nešals: jo darbas, jo laikas, tegul šąla sau sveikas!

Tada ponas išlipo iš karietos, pasodino į ją senelę, davė jai maišą pinigų ir liepė važiuoti namo. Parvažiuoja senelė namo. Pamatęs senelis, kad kažin kas karietoj įvažiavo jo kiemelin, pamanė, kad koks ponas atvažiavo jo lupti už senelės sušaldymą. Išbėgo iš trobelės be kepurės pasitikti ir pamatė, kad karietoje sėdi senelė ir turi maišą pinigų. Dabar senelis su senele susitakė ir gražiai sau toliau gyvena.

Netoli jų, kaimynystėje, gyvena kitas senelis, kuris, išgirdęs apie šitą atsitikimą, susikalbėjo su savo pačia apgauti šaltį. Nors pirmiau abu santarvėję gyvena, bet dabar tyčia pradėjo senis senės neapkėsti ir, šalčiams atėjus, nuvežė ją ant kalno ir paliko tenai vienmarškinę. O šąla, kad net pykšti ir tvoros lūžta! Ateina labai didelis ponas ir klausia senę:

– O ką? Šąla, senel?

Senė pakėlė užšalusias akis ir, vos begalėdama apversti

liežuvi, ėmė keiktis ir plūstis, sakydama:

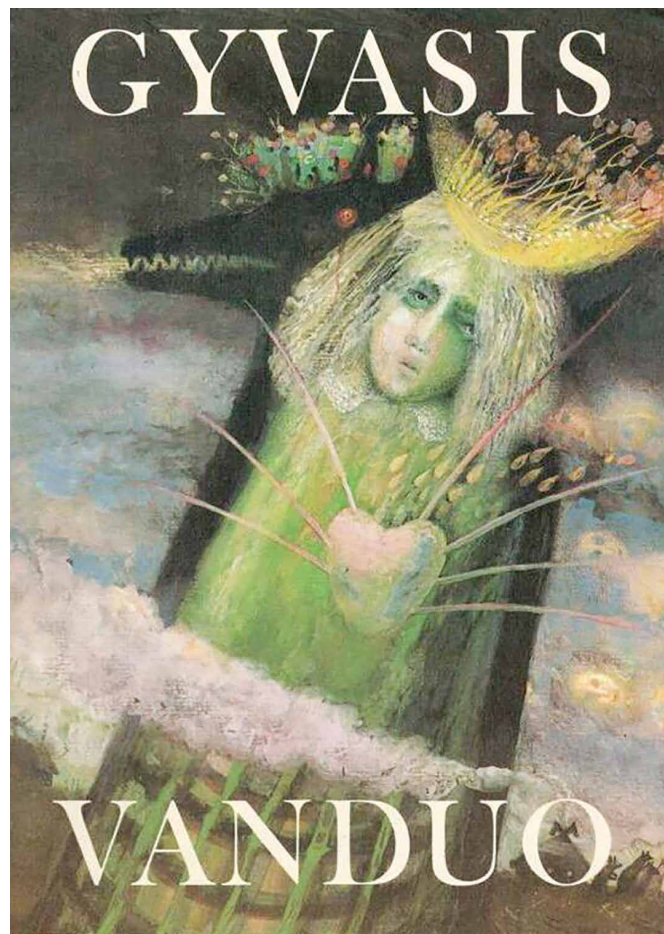
– Atsitrauk, tu prakeiktasis! Kad tave perkūnėliai užmuštų!

Apsigręžė ponas ir nuėjo. Tuo tarpu dar labiau šalti pradėjo. Palaukęs truputį, vėl ateina tas pats ponas, bet jau daug didesnis, ir klausia senę:

– Ar šąla, senel?

O senė kaip ir pirma keikė ir vis šaukė, kad jį perkūnas užmuštų. Jinai mat manė, kad tas ponas tyko jos pinigų pakliudyti, kuriuos ji tikėjosi gauti. Taip besėdėdama ir besibardama, senė ėmė ir sustingo. Tada šaltis įkišo ją į maišą, įdėjo maišą į geldą, užkinkė kiaulę ir nuvežė prie senio trobelės. Pamatė senis, kad atvažiuoja, su džiaugsmu išėjo pasitikti, bet, pamatęs, kad ne arkliais karietoj atvažiavo, o tik kiaule geldoje, senis nuliūdo. Pamatęs maišą, tuoj puolė prie jo, manydamas, kad tai pinigai. Atrišo, žiūri – jo senė sustingusi.

Source: Gyvasis vanduo: lietuvių liaudies stebuklinės pasakos. Sudarė B. Kerbelytė.



Christmas Songs

One of the most prominent customs of Christmas period is the walkabouts of Christmas carolers. Christmas carolers were usually dressed in fur coats, sheets, blankets, and flax fibers, wearing masks. They walked around the village in groups. When they entered a farmer's yard, they would greet the owners, wishing them a fruitful and prosperous year ahead. The Christmas carolers were usually men and boys, but sometimes girls would join them. The custom of visiting homes at Christmas is known throughout Lithuania, but individual regions, while retaining a common ritual structure of the rite, differed in their own ways. For example, in Aukštaitija, 'gypsies' used to walk around on Christmas Eve and sometimes throughout the inter-holiday period; in Žemaitija, the Christmas carolers were also known as 'young men', while in Suvalkija, the distinctive feature of the walks was the "horse dance", a lively performance in which participants dressed up as a horse, a horseman, gypsies, a crane, a bear, devils, witches,



and other characters. The Christmas carolers were always accompanied by clamor and noise, but the dressers had to be well prepared to perform their roles and their ritual duty to greet the host properly, sing sacred carols, and entertain the household with their speeches, ingenuity, acting and, of course, their songs. Christmas carol singers from Dzūkija and eastern Aukštaitija sang special songs. One of the Christmas songs is "Atbėga elnias devyniaragis" ("Here the Nine-horned Deer Comes Running")

Atbėga alnis devyniaragis, lėliu
(The nine-horned deer has come)
Ant devinto rago kavalėliai kalė, lėliu
(Upon its ninth horn blacksmiths are forging)
Jūs kavalėliai mani broalėliai, lėliu
(You, blacksmiths, my brothers,)
Tai jūs nukalkit auksalio žiedų, lėliu
(Forge a golden ring)
Auksalio žiedų, sidabro žirklas, lėliu
(A golden ring and silver shears)
Aš nukarpysiu pušų viršūnes, lėliu
(I shall cut off the tops of the pines)
Pušų viršūnes, aglių šakelas, lėliu
(The tops of the pines and the branches of the spruces)
Tai pamatysiu tėvulio dvarų, lėliu
(So that I might see my father's yard)
Po tėvulio dvarų povas povinėjo, lėliu
(A peacock was strutting in my father's yard)
Povas povinėjo, panas varinėjo, lėliu
(A peacock was strutting, scattering the maidens)
Panas varinėjo, plunksnelas rinko, lėliu
(Scattering the maidens, gathering down)
Plunksnelas rinko, patalus pylė, lėliu
(Gathering down to make a quilt)

The links to the song:

http://www.šaltiniai.info/files/literatura/LA00/Kalendorini%C5%B3_apeig%C5%B3_daina._I%C5%A1_CD_LIETUVI%C5%B2_LIAUDIES_DAIN%C5%B2_ANTOLOGIJA.LA0323.mp3

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hdlDE679Zyl> Kūrybinio folkloro grupė „Sedula“: „Atbėga alnis devyniaragis“

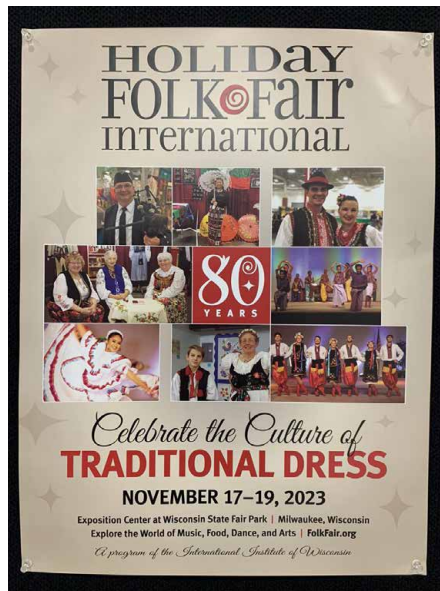
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pRUWDGuAsHs> Klaipėdos folkloro ansamblis „Kuršių ainiai“: „Atbėga alnis devyniaragis“

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=peg68rMzIhQ> Pasaulio muzikos grupė „Marga muzika“: „Devyniaragis“

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ind6qty7z9M> Folkloro grupė „Obelija“: „Atbėga alnis“



On November 18, 2023, Chicago Lithuanian School had a workshop with Don Astras during which students were learning to make Christmas Tree ornaments using natural straw.



On November 18, 2023, Martynas Mažvydas Lithuanian Heritage School participated in the International Fair in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Folk dance group Vetra performed.

our community



On November 18, 2023, Lithuanian Youth Center in Chicago had its annual fundraising ball. Dance groups Švyturys from Cleceland and Spindulys from Lemont participated.



Kristijonas Donelaitis Lithuanian School had its annual fundraiser.



Lithuanian American Community Detroit Chapter celebrated Vilnius 700th Anniversary. Detroit Lithuanian Community member Juozas Orentas was congratulated for his many years of work in the Community. Agnė Giedraitytė and Martynas Matutis performed.



Rasa Lithuanian School students had an opportunity to learn about Lithuanian national instruments. Ruta Kukanskiene taught about kankles.



The Balzekas Museum of Lithuanian Culture decorated traditional Lithuanian Christmas Trees in Chicago's O'Hare International and Midway Airports.



On May 12, 2024, a referendum on the legalization of multiple citizenship will be held in Lithuania. The draft Constitutional Law on Citizenship, which elaborates on the principles of citizenship of the Republic of Lithuania and the grounds for acquiring and losing it, is available here: <https://e-Seimas.lrs.lt/.../3a2ea860d44d11ed9b3c9397e1236c2a>. The World Lithuanian Community is preparing a plan for engaging the diaspora and disseminating the referendum to it. Meetings are also planned with the Chief Elections Committee (CEC) and other institutions to improve the automation and dissemination of voting registration processes. If you have ideas and/or would like to contribute, please contact plb@plb.lt.



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Lithuanian museum to open branch at the heart of Chicago

The Balzekas Museum of Lithuanian Culture is opening a new branch next to Millennium Park at the heart of Chicago.

The Museum's President Sigita Balzekas has confirmed that the institution has recently purchased a building on Michigan Avenue.

The third biggest city in the United States is the hub of the Lithuanian diaspora in North America. Lithuanian-American Stanley Balzekas founded the Museum of Lithuanian Culture back in 1966.

According to Sigita Balzekas, opening a cultural center dedicated to the Lithuanian culture at the heart of Chicago was Stanley's old dream. Stanley Balzekas passed away in 2020.

"No other national diaspora, even the most influential one, has done that in Chicago," commented Marijus Gudynas, Lithuania's ambassador in Ireland, in a Facebook post.

"Even the descendants of people who emigrated a century and a half ago have not stopped radiating their love for Lithuania, working for Lithuania, creating Lithuania here and in the world," he continued. "The power of the Lithuanian diaspora in the United States is also a special testimony to all of us, and to the newly emerging Lithuanian communities, of the power of instilling in our children and

grandchildren a love for the land of their parents."

The Balzekas Museum of Lithuanian Culture is located at 6500 S. Pulaski Rd. in Chicago's West Lawn neighborhood. It boasts a collection of publications, manuscripts, and artifacts linked to the Lithuanian diaspora and Lithuanian culture.

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November 2023



Lietuvai reikšmingas paveldas Amerikoje: kaip (iš)saugoti?

Projektą „Lietuvos tarpukario modernizmo mokykla ir jos tęstinumo ženklai pasaulio žemėlapyje (duomenų bazės U-PAVELDAS aktualizavimas naujais naratyvais ir sklaida)“ iš dalies finansuoja Lietuvos kultūros taryba

On November, 22, 2023 at 5 p.m. (Lithuanian time), the Lithuanian National Martynas Mažvydas Library will host a meeting and discussion organized by the State Commission for Cultural Heritage on "Lithuanian Heritage in America and How to Protect it?".

The meeting will include presentations about famous artists from the Diaspora, architecture reflecting the Lithuanian interwar modernist school and its continuity, the situation and problems of Lithuania's significant immovable cultural heritage located in the USA, and a discussion on the politics of cultural heritage abroad, the possibilities of its preservation and future prospects.

More information at: <https://www.lnb.lt/.../10749-diskusija-lietuvai...>

The event will be broadcasted live at: https://youtube.com/live/PJlyPoiS_Bg

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SANDRA SCEDRINA