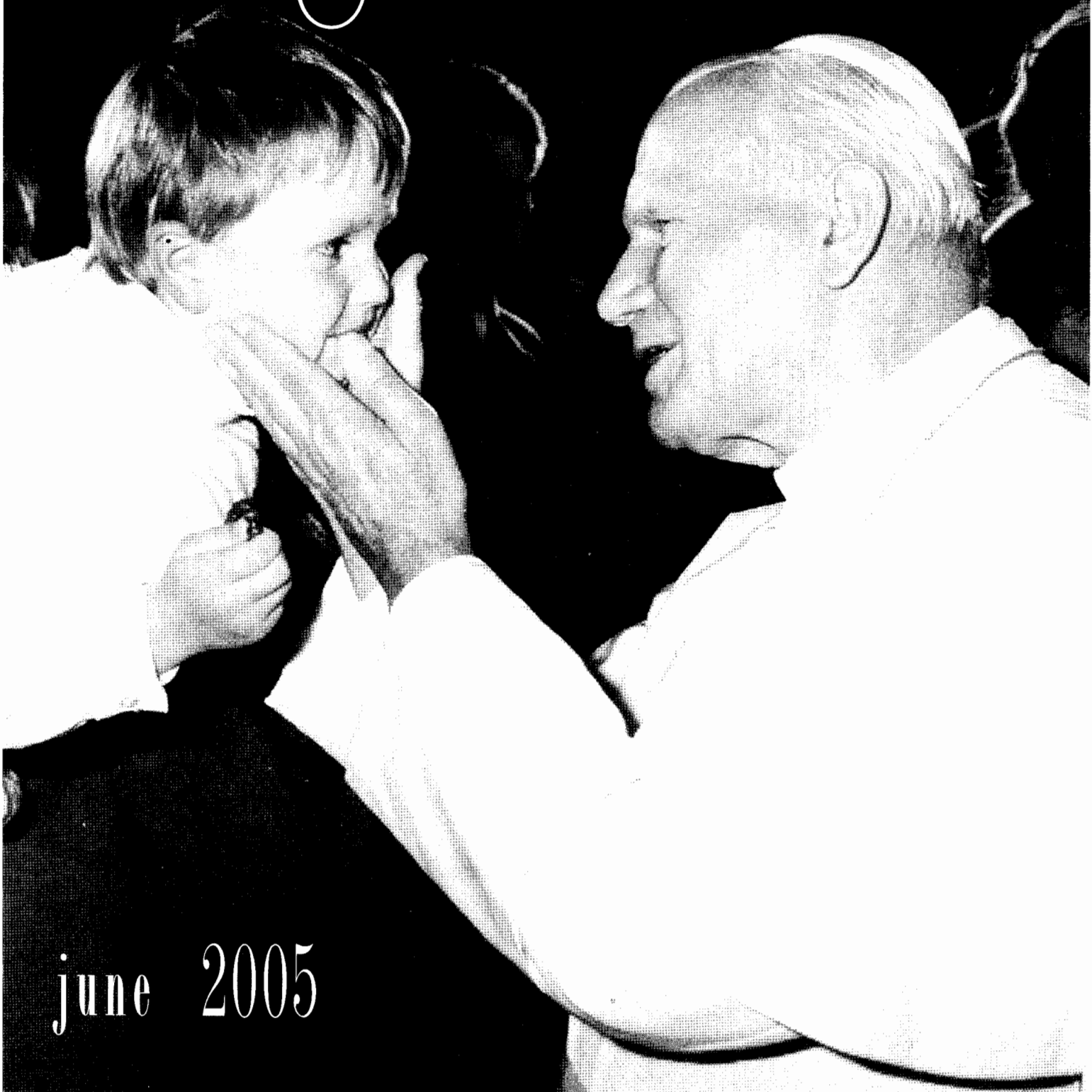


bridges



june 2005

LITHUANIAN AMERICAN NEWS JOURNAL

Letter from the Editor

I would like to wish all of our male readers a Happy Father's Day. You don't need to be a father; you just need to love children. This is way we have dedicated this month's cover to the late Pope John Paul II. Many saw the Holy Father as a loving father and grandfather especially when he gathered the children around him or celebrated World Youth Masses around the globe.

June brings with it the bittersweet memories of massive deportations when so many lives were lost or destroyed. I want to thank everyone who contributed articles or information to this month's issue.

I am going to stray from my usual monthly procedure of thanking everyone for their articles, suggestions, comments and announcements so that I could address an article that caused many people to write and comment. I have received copies of letters that people have written to President Adamkus as well as the Lithuanian Parliament. One writer asked for my opinion of Buyer Beware; the story of Barbara and Raymond Clow who were asked to leave Lithuania. I do not have a legal background but the citizenship law has bothered me since its inception. To deliberately omit an entire group of immigrants as though they never existed is an insult to the thousands and thousands who fled life under the czar. When I visited Lithuania in the early 90's I was told by a minor bureaucrat in Vilnius that my four grandparents were Russian citizens.

In the middle 90's I was seated next to a member of Parliament during a dinner who saw nothing wrong with the law because according to him, Lithuania should not be bought up by foreigners who have money. I asked him why Lithuania did not have a citizenship law by blood such as the one in Ireland. One grandparent born in Ireland qualifies a descendant for citizenship. In some cases a great grandparent could qualify a descendant for citizenship. The gentleman was not aware of this type of citizenship and asked me to send him a copy of the law. I mailed him the law, but as expected, never received a response. The descendants of the first wave were not looking to reclaim land. For the most part their families owned very little.

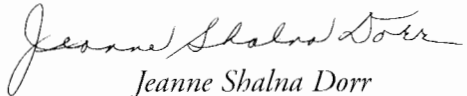
I don't buy the argument that Lithuania was not independent at the time they lived there. These people didn't take a vote and they never asked to live under Russian domination. They were not given a choice. Life was just as cruel to them as those who came later. In fact, many did not have even a basic education. However, because of their love for Lithuania they struggled to build Lithuanian churches, Lithuanian schools, and Lithuanian social organization in cities around the world. These are the people, as well as their descendants, who stormed Washington and gave our leaders no peace until the US government refused to accept the annexation of Lithuania into the Soviet Union.

I heard from and about people who are trying to live in Lithuania with their own health insurance and their own money. They don't want jobs and they ask nothing of Lithuania or the Lithuanian government. Instead they are there to give back. Some have been waiting for years and are still getting the bureaucratic runaround because of citizenship.

It leaves me wondering about the law when I read in the Lithuanian papers that a millionaire is granted Lithuanian citizenship. I also have to wonder when I see who owns some of Lithuania's biggest businesses. I guess I just don't understand these events when the descendants of the first wave are considered "foreigners" who might buy up Lithuania.

As for me, I am happy to be an American citizen. This country has been good to my family, but the option should be there for the descendants of the early immigrants.

If anyone who sent me letters or copies of letters sent to Lithuanian officials receives a reply I would be grateful if you shared it with us. I also look forward to hearing from anyone in the Lithuanian government who could clarify this situation.


Jeanne Shalna Dorr

BRIDGES

Lithuanian American News Journal

USPS 017131 – Published 10 times per year (Jan./Feb. and Jul./Aug. combined).

Address of publication is:

LAC, Inc./BRIDGES,
1927 West Blvd.,
Racine, WI 53403

BRIDGES is the official publication of the
Lithuanian American Community, Inc.
Public Affairs Office
P.O. Box 33464
Washington, DC 20033-3464

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*THE INFORMATION CENTER FOR
HOMECOMING LITHUANIANS.*

Collects and provides information from
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information, please contact:

LAC, Inc./BRIDGES,
Ramas Pliura
1927 West Boulevard
Racine, WI 53403

Subscription rate is \$18.00 annually
(US Mail serviced subscribers).
Subscriptions to other addresses are
(US \$28.00), payable in advance (US funds).
Periodicals postage paid at Racine, WI;
and additional locations.

Contact us on the Internet at:
www.javlb.org

Postmaster: Send any address correction
and/or changes to

LAC, Inc./BRIDGES,
1927 West Boulevard
Racine, WI 53403

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* The cover:

*This Photograph of Pope John Paul II was taken in Vilnius, Lithuania on
Sept. 5 1993, from a book "Jonas Paulius II Lietuvoje", Vilnius. Printed by
"Kataliku pasaulio" redakcija, Vilnius 1994.*



Linda Brenneman shares her knowledge of Lithuania's culture and customs.

The members and guests of the Lithuanian American Community, Cape Cod Chapter, gathered on March 6, 2005 at Our Lady of the Assumption Church in Osterville to celebrate Lithuania's anniversaries of 87 years of independence on February 16th and 15 years of restored independence on March 11th.

Pastor Rev. Philip Davignon and Rev. Pavel A. Swiercz concelebrated the regular 12 o'clock Mass. The Mass was offered for the benefit of Lithuania and its people. Regina Petrutis and Linda Brenneman wearing National Lithuanian costumes presented Mass offerings.

After the Mass the members and guests gathered in the parish hall for the official and cultural parts of the occasion. Vida Morris, the treasurer, and Aurelija Borges, the secretary, collected dues and monetary gifts to support world wide Lithuanian activities. Persons donating one hundred dollars or more were thanked for their generosity with a small special pin.

Algirdas Dapkus, the chapter president, started the meeting with a brief comment; a moment of silence in memory of the fallen and then all sang the American and Lithuanian

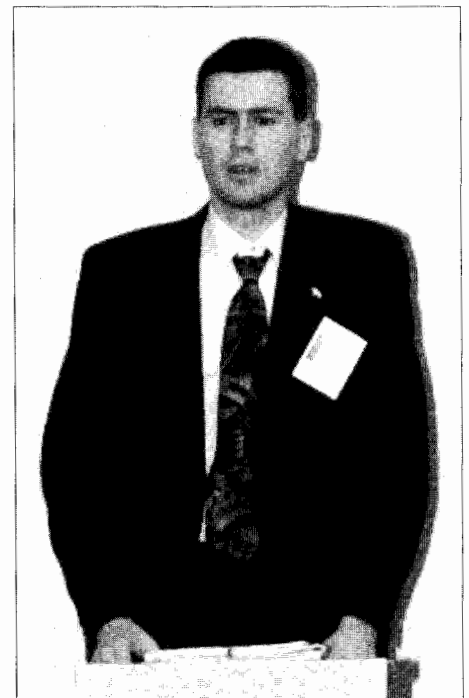
Cape Cod Lithuanians Celebrate Independence Day

anthems. Aurelija Borges read a prayer to the fallen in pursuit of freedom written by Rev. Stasys Yla. Vida Morris read Governor Mitt Romney's proclamation. Eugenijus Uzpurvis, the vice president, read a summary of the meeting's resolutions; congratulating Lithuania and its people on their independence day, thanking President George W. Bush, his administration and the legislature for past support of Lithuania's interests and asking for future economic, cultural and political support, requested the Russian Federation to accept Lithuania's relationship with NATO and other Western Nations and furthermore officially apologize for past wrong doings to the Baltic States, require LUKoil to accept international rules to protect the environment and inspection of the drilling sites for oil in the Baltic Sea. These were accepted at the meeting and will be forwarded to President George W. Bush, Senators Ted Kennedy and John Kerry, Representative Delahant, the Russian and Lithuanian ambassadors, and copies to the director of "World Heritage" center UNESCO and secretary of "Baltic 21 unit/CBSS."

Next the president introduced Regina Petrutis, our new representative from Cape Cod for the Lithuanian Foundation, Inc. She made a short statement.

The president introduced Linda Brenneman, the daughter of our honorary member Ruta Prouty and a school principal in New Hampshire. Linda presented her views, and experiences in Lithuania.

She is a member of the APPLE organization and has taught in Lithuania. She visited Lithuania several times and established professional, family and other relationships. This allowed her to gain knowledge about Lithuania; it's culture and customs. She seeks to gain more knowledge about her heritage, culture and customs. She wore a Lithuanian National costume, made the presentation in English and finished the presentation by playing a song on an old folk music instrument "kankles", similar to a zither. Her presentation was very good and well received. Those gathered, some fifty people including our local priests, appreciated the knowledge and enthusiasm of Linda.



Laurynas Misevicius, the keynote speaker.

The keynote speaker was Laurynas Misevicius from Bridgeport, Ct.. He is a newcomer, has a Master's degree from a university in Bridgeport, and is a member of the Lithuanian American Community, Inc with responsibilities as a V.P. of sports activities. His accomplishments include the reactivating of the Lithuanian American Community of Bridgeport and serving as its president. He is active in the Lithuanian American press and is editor for the East Coast of the weekly "Amerikos Lietuvis". His topic was "The contributions and activities of the new Lithuanians". He started by talking about the emigrants at the beginning of the twentieth century. They were predominantly males and came to this country looking for economic opportunities, since few existed in the homeland. They lived in neighborhoods, established churches, organizations, maintained a community with their customs and language. The next wave at mid century were the DP's, displaced persons

by the Second World War. Their primary motivation was to escape from living in camps and start a normal life with a future as well as economic opportunity. Their main interest was to educate their children, maintain their culture, language and support activities to regain Lithuanian independence. After Lithuania regained its independence the third wave of young Lithuanians started coming to the land of opportunity to look for education and economic improvement. They found aged Lithuanians, churches and organizations. They are attempting to integrate into the existing Lithuanian Community by showing new strength, support and leadership. Much work needs to be done and obstacles overcome. Some questions were answered at the end of the presentation. The gathered appreciated this outlook by a patriotic member of the new generation.

The meeting ended with the usual: good food and pleasant conversation with old and new friends. The ladies supplied a variety of good food,

sandwiches and cakes. Regina Dapkus and Nijole Uzpurvis set up the table with food and coffee/tea and were gracious hostesses. Everybody appreciated his or her effort to make everyone feel at home. A big thanks from all of us.

Laurynas and his associate set up a table with Lithuanian goods and books for sale. Many took the opportunity to purchase items not available in our stores.

This celebration was a great success. It was different; it had a cultural program in English, a young, energetic speaker from the latest newcomers and we even gained a few new members. The old timers were very pleased and look forward to the next occasion and more participation by the Young and New.

Eugene Uzpurvis

Eugene Uzpurvis is the Vice-President of the Cape Cod Chapter of the Lithuanian American Community.

Bridges
June 1986

St. John's Feast - June 24

Lithuanians all over the world celebrate this holiday, in modified form, when they go partying in honor of all whose names are John or its feminine counterpart.

Lithuanians enjoy large parties, like old-time villagers who used to celebrate weddings and holidays en masse.

Festivities began immediately after lunch. The young people went out in groups to thwart witches and gather wild herbs. They sang special herb songs as they hunted. When night fell, they built bonfires, usually on hilltops, lighting up the fields. It was said that witches and evil spirits roamed that day and night, intent on harming the crops, animals

and people. The ashes of the bonfires were spread over the fields.

The young people danced in circles around the bonfires, singing special folk songs. They did not go to sleep that night, but caroused, feasted and sang and went swimming in rivers and ponds - especially the girls who expected the swim would make them prettier. Before dawn, it was customary to roll around naked in the dew to forestall all kinds of aches, pains, and skin eruptions.

The main householder, also naked, whatever his age - ran around his fields several times - or rode on the branch of a tree - to counteract any evil that might threaten his household.



Portrait of Adele Dirsyte

World Famous Prayer Book From Siberia

*Recommended by seven Cardinals of the Church.
Over one million copies in five continents.*

Of all the worst places for a prayer book to be composed was a Soviet-run hard-labor concentration camp in far-away northeastern Siberia. The prayer books there were strictly forbidden. Torture and death awaited those who possessed them. Soviet atheists hated and feared God. Those who believed in Him were considered "the enemy of the people".

And yet a fragile Lithuanian teacher composed original prayers there. She wrote them on scraps of paper, bound them together and distributed them to her companions for consolation and spiritual support. One of such prayer books was secretly smuggled through the Iron Curtain and reached the United States of America. It was immediately printed in Lithuanian in 1959, then translated and published in English in 1960. Soon it was translated in many other languages and published in fourteen countries. Within a decade (1960-1970) over one million copies were printed and distributed in Europe, North and South America, Asia and Australia.

Seven Cardinals of the Church wrote prefaces to various editions, recommending the prayer book to their faithful. Their comments revealed the rich significance of the prayers.

No more beautiful or promising document could come from a Siberian prison. It is proof, if proof is needed, that a cruel master may kill the body but never the spirit. Only souls close to God on the Cross and to His Mother of Sorrows could give expression to the resignation, charity and forgiveness in these prayers.

Richard Cardinal Cushing, Archbishop of Boston, USA

Is a human being still able to pray when his bodily, material and psychological wants are so great that he appears to be abandoned by God and man? "Mary, Save Us" is a truly great literature and a truly deep theology.

Bernard Cardinal Alfrink, Archbishop of Utrecht, Holland

Only the soul that was tried by suffering and strengthened by grace could pray and write this way. These words were prompted by lofty human and Christian inspiration.

Carlo Cardinal Confalonieri, Secretary of the Sacred Consistorial Congregation, Rome-Vatican.

Written in conditions of utmost misery and hopelessness these prayers are a proof that the soul can rise far above material degradation on the wings of faith and love.

John Cardinal Heenan, Archbishop of Westminster, England

Those who were captives of the brutal might Christ made captives of His love and led them heavenward to heroic virtue, to eternal reward...

Josef Cardinal Frings, Archbishop of Cologne, Germany

I invite the young people of France to read these pages and meditate their meaning how their Lithuanian sisters in captivity were always finding God through their suffering and in the milieu of materialism, which engulfs our modern world.

Cardinal Feltrin, Archbishop of Paris, France



A collection of her prayer book translations/editions. Fr.K. Trimakas

This little book of prayers contains the dynamic power of prayer that all will find helpful. Let us read this collection of prayers and share it with others. It puts to flight darkness with God's light...

Antonio Cardinal Caggiano, Archbishop of Buenos Aires, Argentina

Only after the collapse of the Soviet Union the true identity of the author of this prayer book was revealed. Adele Dirsyte wrote these prayers in Kolyma, northeastern Siberia, in 1953. She was isolated, tortured, and finally liquidated without any witnesses in 1956. However, her companions who

survived the ordeal testified about her heroic life and apostolic activities in Siberia. The cause for her beatification was initiated on the eve of the jubilee year 2000.

In this fiftieth anniversary year of her death Our Sunday Visitor has published a new English edition with a new introduction by Rev. Kestutis A. Trimakas.

Please order:

Our Sunday Visitor
 Book Sales Department
 200 Noll Plaza
 Huntington, IN 46750 USA
 or
 1-800-348-2440
 (US\$5.95).

A 16-page booklet "A Voice from Siberia": Adele Dirsyte's Struggle against Tyranny, written by Rev. Kestutis A. Trimakas, is also published this year by Lithuanian Catholic Federation Ateitis. (US\$3). Order this publication and the prayer book:

Sister Margarita Bareikaite
 Convent of the Immaculate Conception
 Liberty Highway
 Putnam, CT 06260 USA.

Rev. Kestutis A. Trimakas

Fr. Kestutis A. Trimakas is a priest psychologist, visiting professor teaching theology, philosophy, and psychology at various universities and priest seminaries in Lithuania. He is an author of many books on religion and psychology.

Lithuanian Mother

You came to the burned village and kneeling poured a handful of burning ashes into a linen scarf which you hid by your heart.

A black falcon clawed at your heart. Then you went home.

Your feet touched the rocks, the river, the grass.

A wild apple tree invited you into its shade.

White ears of rye caressed your hands.

And under your heart fluttered a stranger to this earth still to be born, - as you reached your home, on a high hill.

On a high hill, you bowed to the East and to the West, to the South and to the North, you untied your linen scarf, - a red lark soared into the sky.

While you went on with the pulling of flax, the baking of bread, with putting your son to sleep.

Poem by Janina Degutyte (1928-1990)

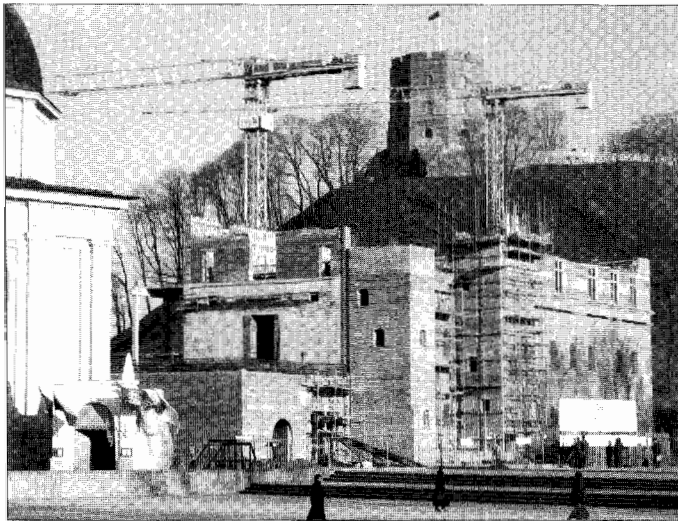
Submitted by:

Rimgaudas Vidziunas

LITHUANIAN ROYAL PALACE

An Update

Every nation takes pride in its history. Lithuania in the year 2009 will celebrate its millennium. The first mention in the written records of Lithuania's name was in the year 1009. In the 14th, 15th and 16th. centuries Lithuania was one of the largest nations in Europe. Its borders stretched from the Baltic Sea to the Black Sea. During this great time in history, the rulers of Lithuania built the magnificent "Royal Palace" in Vilnius, adjoining the Cathedral. It was the cultural, administrative and religious center of Lithuania for about four centuries. In 1799 - 1801 during the Russian occupation, the Royal Place was razed by the order of the Tsar so as to destroy this the most visible symbol of Lithuania's independent existence.



Royal Palace is rising. Vilnius - spring of 2005.

Many occupations later, Lithuania having regained its independence once again, in 1990 began its plans to rebuild the "Royal Palace". The archeological research having been completed, the actual restoration began on May 10, 2002 when the official ground breaking ceremony took place. The Palace will consist of a quadrangle of four three story wings enclosing a courtyard. The total floor space is about 110,000 square feet. The estimated cost of rebuilding the structures is about 35 million U.S. dollars. Work is being done on all four of the wings. Foundations are being set in the north and west wings. The east wing is still being planned and researched as a building rests on that site. The south wing is the furthest along with all three stories being completed. It is hoped the actual construction will be done by year's end. Each year from the annual budget the government of Lithuania has been appropriating large sums of money to restore and rebuild the buildings.

It has been determined that the Palace will serve as a cultural, educational, national ceremonial center and

museum. At present the interior design plans are being formulated. Effort is being made to locate as many as possible original contents of the building that were removed by the various occupiers as the "spoils of war". To date the government has not appropriated funds for the interior restoration of the Palace.



Visitors view the model of the Royal Palace.

In August of 2000, a group of private citizens formed a Royal Palace Restoration Foundation to raise funds to aid in the restoration and refurbishing of the Palace and to publicize the project. The founders of the foundation are well known individuals living in Lithuania and abroad. They include clergy, poets, businessmen, historians, engineers, other professionals and community leaders. In the summer of 2003, a Royal Palace Restoration Committee for the U.S.A was founded. On November 19, 2003, the U.S.A. Committee became affiliated with the Lithuanian Foundation by signing an agreement with the Lithuanian Foundation to work together to assure our U.S. donors that their donations will be recognized by the Lithuanian government and to represent the interests of the Lithuanian Americans.

The United States Committee is headed by Regina F. Narusis. The Committee's treasurer is Bronius Juodelis. The Committee consists of the secretary Skirmante Migliniene, press representative Vaiva Ragauskaitė, for cultural affairs Maria Remiene, for educational affairs Vida Raveniene, for grant funding Milda S. Napjus and chairman of the Lithuanian American Hall commission Violeta Rutkauskiene. This Committee's fundraising efforts began December of 2003. To this date, the Committee has received \$100,000 dollars in donations. Much more is needed to furnish and complete just one hall. We would



Committee members and guest: E. Kulikauskas, President of the Royal Palace Restoration Foundation of Lithuania, V. Rutkauskiene, chair of the Lithuanian American Hall commission, S. Migliniene secretary, V. Ragauskaite, press representative, M. Remiene, Lithuanian American Community, Cultural Council president, R. Narusis, chairperson of the US Committee for the Royal Palace Restoration and B. Juodelis, treasurer.

and non-Lithuanians are invited to become a part of this very historically significant project and to memorialize their family name as builders of the Royal Palace, the symbol of Lithuania's statehood, sovereignty and unity.

Please join us in this very important project by making your donation to the "Royal Palace Restoration Committee for the U.S.A. and sending your donation to 5600 South Claremont Ave., Chicago, Illinois 60636. Your donations are U.S. tax deductible. A receipt will be supplied by the Committee. All persons who donate \$400.00 or more will receive from the Foundation in Lithuania a diploma acknowledging their donation. Please check the Lithuanian Foundation web site www.lvr.lt for more information and a list of the U.S. Committee contributors. Won't you join us in this once in a life-time project !

*By Regina F. Narusis, J.D.
Chairman of the Royal Palace
Restoration Committee for the U.S.A.*

like to have one hall named the Lithuanian American Hall. Plans are now under way to conceptually develop plans for such a hall so as to represent the American Lithuanians in the continuity of Lithuania's existence .

By agreement with the Royal Palace Restoration Foundation, which has an agreement with the Lithuanian government, every donor will be named in the Royal Palace supporters rolls that will be kept on the premises of the restored Palace. Each donor who contributes 1,000 litai (about \$400.00 at today's exchange rates) or more, will be named a "Builder", whose name will be displayed on a plaque in the rebuilt Palace. Those contributors donating 10,000 litai (about \$4,000 U.S dollars) will be listed as "Honorable Builders". Those donating 1000,000 litai (about \$40,000 U.S. dollars) will be named as "Great Builders." Donors will also be able to choose to fund specific projects, be it restoration of artifacts, acquisition of art, furniture, restoration of some part of the halls or an entire hall. The government has not appropriated funds to equip the Palace. Moneys will be needed for rugs, windows, exhibits, decorations and technology. This is where the foundation will be able to help.

Regina Narusis is currently Chairman of the National Board of Directors of the Lithuanian American Community, Inc. and former President of the Lithuanian American Community, Inc. National Executive Board. She is also the chairman of the Royal Palace Restoration Committee for the U.S. A. and is member of the Board of Directors of the Royal Palace Restoration Foundation in Lithuania. Mrs. Narusis is an attorney.

The restoration of the Royal Palace is a historical heritage project of great importance to all Lithuanians wherever they live. It will stand as a permanent visible statement of our justifiable pride in our Lithuanian heritage, symbol of the survival of the Lithuanian nation as well as our hope and faith in her great and prosperous future. All Lithuanians



Exhibit of over 1,000 restored artifacts found during the excavation.

Calendar of Events for June - July - August - September

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

***Information for
Camp Nering events:
www.neringa.org or
978-582-5592**

June

June 3, and June 5, 2005

Annual "Talka" Work Weekend
Help Neringa prepare for its
36th camping summer.
The mechanically-inclined and
people with considerable elbow
grease surpluses are urged to
attend this fun and gratifying
weekend. If you plan to attend.
Contact: Vida Strazdis
Info: www.vida@neringa.org

June 5, 2005 - 12:30 pm

Council 26 Annual Picnic
Maironis Park, Shrewsbury, MA.
Lithuanian dinner,
Baked goods, Games, etc.
www.knightsoflithuania.com

June 12, 2005 - 9:00 am

Deportations Commemoration.
Mass 9:00 a. m.
Program church hall, Holy Trinity
53 Capitol Ave., Hartford, Ct.

June 14, 2005 - 7:00 am

Mass 7:00 am- Remembrance of
the Deportations to Siberia
Our Lady of Victory Church
Centerville, MA
Sponsor: Cape Cod Chapter

June 17, - August 12, 2005

Baltic Studies Summer Institute
(BALSSI) at Indiana University,
Bloomington, Indiana
offering courses
* First and second year Estonian
* First year Latvian
* First year Lithuanian
* Baltic Cultures course
More information on Balssi 2005
homepage:
<http://www.indiana.edu/~iaunrc/balssi/>

June 18, 2005

Annual LAC Picnic
10:00 am - close at sunset.
San Dieguito County Park
1628 Lomas Santa Fe Dr.
Del Mar, CA 92014
Info: www.lithsd.org

June 19, 2005 - 12 pm

Lithuanian Mass 12 pm
St. George R.C.
Lithuanian Church
443 Park Ave
Bridgeport, CT 06604

June 24, and June 25, 2005

Annual New England District Retreat.
Franciscan Monastery,
Kennebunkport, Maine.
Make your reservations now.
www.knightsoflithuania.com

June 25, 2005

Saturday, - TBA
Lithuanian Country Club
Jefferson Hills, PA
Annual "Jonines" Celebration.
All evening and night & celebra-
tion with plenty of food & drink.
Looking for musician(s) to play
Lithuanian music & songs
www.pittsburghlithuanians.com

June 25, to 29, 2005

Neringa
Family Camp in English
Information: vida@neringa.org

June 26, 2005 - 11:30 am

"LIETUTIS"
Lithuanian Folk Dance Group of
Seattle will celebrate summer
solstice by performing at
SKANDIA MIDSOMMAR FEST.
At St. Edward State Park.
Activities begin at 11:30 am
Dancing, music, food and crafts.
Parade of performers followed by
the raising of a garlanded pole.
[www.skandiafolkdance.org/Midsommarfest/](http://www.skandiafolkdance.org/Midsommarfest/midsommarfest.html)

June 29, - July 3, 2005

Neringa,
Art House "Extreme Makeover"

July

July 3, - 9, 2005

Neringa
Family Camp in Lithuanian

July 10, - 24, 2005

Neringa
Children's Camp in Lithuanian,
Ages 10 - 16

July 17, 2005

Lithuanian Mass, 12 noon
St. George R.C.
Lithuanian Church
443 Park Ave, Bridgeport, CT 06604

July 17, 2005

Mid-America District
Summer Picnic at the Jagiella
Farm in Hebron, IN
Info:
www.knightsoflithuania.com

July 24, 2005 - 12 Noon

Picnic and Annual Meeting
with Elections
Sponsor: Lithuanian American
Community Waukegan/Lake
County Chapter Where:
Shelter A, Lake County Forest
Preserve, Half Day, IL
Info: 847 - 855 - 5294

July 24, 2005

Neringa
Putnam Picnic

July 24, - 30, 2005

Neringa,
Children's Camp in Lithuanian
Ages 13- 16
Beginners Camp in Lithuanian,
Ages 7 - 10

July 30, 2005 - Noon to 6 pm

Philadelphia
Lithuanian Music Hall
Annual Picnic
Soupy Island Park
National Park, NJ
Lithuanian food, music,
games, swimming.
Meet old and new friends.
Proceeds to benefit
hall renovations.
www.phillylac.org or
215- 739- 4831

July 31, - August 13, 2005

Neringa
Children's Camp in English
Ages 7 - 16

July 31, 2005 - 2 pm to 7pm

Seattle Daughters of Lithuania
Annual Blueberry Picnic
Year's major fundraiser.
Bring chairs, blankets,
sports equipment, beverages.
Auction, raffles. No pets.
Blueberry Acres Farm,
Arlington, WA
seattledukters@hotmail.com

August

August 6, - 7, 2005

91st Annual Lithuanian Days
Saturday, August 6, 2005
Sunday, August 7, 2005
Schuylkill Mall, Frackville, PA
Sponsored by Knights of Lithuania
Council 144
Info: bermika@infionline.net

August 7, 2005

Annual Community Picnic
www.coloradolithuanians.org

August 7, 2005 - Sunday

Lithuanian American Community
Greater Hartford Annual Picnic
Williams Park, Neipsic Rd.
Glastonbury, Ct.

August 7, - 14, 2005

20th Annual
Lithuanian Language Course
Camp Dainava, Manchester, MI
Info: Vytautas Jonaitis
1332 Sprucewood Dr. NW
Grand Rapids, MI 49504
Phone: 616-453-7549
Email vjonaitis@juno.com
http://lithuanianamerican.org/dainava_lang.php

August 7, 2005

Community Picnic, Details to follow.
Sponsored by: Colorado Chapter
of Lithuanian American Community
www.coloradolithuanians.org

August 11,-14, 2005

Knights of Lithuania 92nd
National Convention.
Hosted by Council 19
Pittsburgh, PA
Wyndham Pittsburgh Hotel.
Info: www.knightsoflithuania.com

August 14, - 20, 2005

TENTATIVE - Neringa
Continuation of Camp in English
Ages 13 - 16

Aug. 15, 2005

House of Lithuania Lawn Program
Balboa Park
Sponsored by San Diego
Chapter of Lithuanian American
Details to follow
Communitywww.lithsd.org

Aug 15, - 19, 2005

Seattle
Lankas Lithuanian Family Camp
Fun-filled week of Lithuanian
heritage at the West Coast
Latvian Education Center in
Shelton, on the Olympia Peninsula.
Camp activities include
Lithuanian dancing, singing,
language, crafts, history,
folklore, hiking, swimming,
scouting, and more!
Contact Linda Mazeika
206-522-1907
Igmazeika@comcast.net

Note:

registration deadline: August 1

August 21, 2005

Mass 12 Noon in Lithuanian
St. George R.C.
Lithuanian Church
443 Park Ave,
Bridgeport, CT 06604

August 21, - 27, 2005

Neringa
Bilingual college students camp

August 28, - September 4, 2005

Neringa
8 Art Days for adults in Lithuanian

September

September 10, 2005

Fall Ball - Dinner Dance
Miramar Marine Base, San
Diego, CA
www.lithsd.org



and another year ends

Just look through the window, can you see it? Right there! On the other side of the street, on that oak, right over there! There you go. Isn't it beautiful? A bird with its little babies and the tree is so green. I just love spring; as a matter of fact, spring is almost everybody's favorite season of the year. The sun is getting stronger, the weather is warmer and you don't have to wear those heavy sweaters and coats. Everyone wants to be outside. There is nothing better than to sit in the park or under a tree. Even better is eating ice-cream with friends. Also, spring is called the season of love. People start noticing the ones that they have never noticed, isn't that interesting? How about students? They have these feelings, too.

The same thing happens every spring. Young people stop thinking about classes, grades and especially books. Who wants to sit at home and study when the sun is shining and all your friends are outside? I guess nobody. But our parents always say, "What you learn now, you're not going to have to study again." And that's what keeps us studying. It's a hard a time for kids. But what can you do? Teachers are getting annoyed by kids asking for no homework, excuses for not doing work, and not coming to class. After all the work that you've done in school, you just want to get out of that building. "I surely understand that" my teacher always was saying, "But when I say work, that means work!" and all of us thank the teachers for their patience. After all they are the ones who care about our education. And how they are happy to see the kids finish the 9th or 10th grade.

This is my story. It was a nice, warm day in at the end of May. All the work is done except for some last tests and the final grades. I really didn't want to go to school; we didn't do much there... talking who is going where for vacation. Teachers didn't want to teach.

Every day they were assigning short essays.. And finally, the last week of school. All we had to do was to bring our books to the library and take home our "grade books" as we used to call them. Our class always had a nice tradition for the last day of school. As we were doing it before, we did it this time, too.

Morning, class tutor is not here yet, but we are! We open the doors and everybody goes inside the room. We decorate the room with flowers, ribbons and balloons. The boys always go to the store next to our school to buy flowers for our teacher. In the meantime the girls finish decorating the room and start getting the table ready for cookies, pies, and lemonade. The boys usually come back right before the teacher comes in. This time they were pretty slow. They brought the flowers two minutes before she showed up. Everything looked so good, the table, flowers, walls and the blackboard. We drew happy faces all over the board. Everybody is here. Eight o'clock. And here she comes. She is the "Best of All". Sometimes you cannot describe how happy and special a person feels when you see her smiling, hugging everybody, talking, and laughing. She was like that. We all sat together around the table, remembering the class trips, wonderful and funny moments, and the most important thing, we had a class diary. A different person was writing something in it everyday. And we never told our beloved teacher about the diary. She was surprised just the way we had hoped. And as always, she baked us a cake. This time it was like never before. It was wonderful. Then she gave us our "grade books". And finally the, boys give her a lot of flowers. And when I say a lot, I mean A LOT of flowers.

It was around two o'clock when we were about to end our "end of school year" party. Some went home, some stayed with the teacher, and some of us went to the park to eat some ice cream and be with friends.

In my own opinion, this tradition that we have is a really nice way to show our teacher how we love her, that we care about her, and she is the "Best of All".

Akvile Dudonyte

Akvile Dudonyte lives in Philadelphia and is a high school sophomore. She is also a member of St. Andrew's Lithuanian choir, Laisves.

LITHUANIAN AMERICAN NEWS JOURNAL

bridges
VOLUME 29 ISSUE 5

PERIODICALS
POSTAGE

Subscriptions:
1927 West Blvd.
Racine, WI 53403

Pranas Pranscevicus 12/1/2005
1284 Camelot Lane
Lemont, IL 60439