

# bridges

Dalia Grybauskaitė the  
"Iron Lady"



President of Lithuania



july/august 2009

L I T H U A N I A N   A M E R I C A N   N E W S   J O U R N A L

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### National Executive Board

2715 E. Allegheny Avenue  
Philadelphia, PA 19134

Tel: 800- 625 -1170

Fax: 856-428-6014

E-mail: Lithuanian USA@yahoo.com

### BRIDGES Consultants

Jeanne Dorr	Editor
Gema Kreivenas	Art Director/Production
Rimas Gedeika	Treasurer
Lithuanian American Community, Inc., & Subscription Manager.	

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Address all editorial correspondence to:

### BRIDGES

Jeanne Dorr  
4 Shrewsbury Yard  
Riverton, NJ 08077-1038

E-Mail: Jeanneshalna@aol.com

For subscription & advertising  
information, please contact:

### LAC, Inc./BRIDGES,

Rimas Gedeika  
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*Covers: The photos on the covers and all photos of "The Song Festival" are by Julie Skurdenis -*

*"The 2009 Millennium Celebration in Vilnius this July included a week of dance and song events. This event, entitled "Metai" ("Years"), was a combined song and dance program and was presented in Kalnu Park on July 2."*



*The procession prepares to enter the church.*



## *Celebrating Our Lady of Šiluva*

*The beautiful altar of St. Andrew's Church enshrines the apparition at Šiluva.*



*Cardinal Rigali, the Archbishop of Philadelphia, greets the altar boys.*

Last year Lithuanians throughout the world honored Our Lady of Šiluva by celebrating the 400th anniversary of the Marian apparitions which took place in Lithuania. From Brazil to Rome, from Los Angeles to Boston, from Chicago to Hartford, from Vilnius to Philadelphia solemn Masses, devotions and hymns echoed in the churches of our Lithuanian communities. One of the last celebrations to take place in the United States was in Philadelphia when Cardinal Justin Rigali came to Saint Andrew's Lithuanian Church in October. National costumes, church banners, trumpets, choir, altar boys, and a church full of prayerful souls all united to celebrate what took place in the village of Šiluva in 1608.

But unlike many other Lithuanian communities, where the 400th anniversary awoke an awareness and devotion to Our Lady of Šiluva, the parishioners of the three Lithuanian churches in Philadelphia already had a tradition of devotion rooted in their hearts. St. Andrew's Lithuanian Church has a beautiful mural at the main altar depicting the Šiluva apparition and St. George's Lithuanian Church has a hand carved statue in its sanctuary of



*Cardinal Rigali celebrated the Holy Mass with eight priests.*



*Msgr. Putrimas from Canada and Father Burkauskas, Pastor, with the Cardinal.*



Cardinal Rigali gratefully admires the picture of Our Lady of Šiluva that was presented to him by the parish.



An honorary arch of Lithuanian sashes bids the Cardinal farewell as he leaves the church.



The Lithuanian Choir of St. Andrew's Church and brass ensemble solemnized the Mass with inspiring music and hymns.

Our Lady of Šiluva. Each year, in solidarity with the pilgrims in Lithuania who journey to Šiluva on Sept. 8th, pilgrims from Philadelphia's Lithuanian parishes travel to the chapel of Our Lady of Šiluva in the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C. The bus pilgrimage brings to the ornate Lithuanian chapel the devotion that unites them with the pilgrims praying at Šiluva in Lithuania.

Before the school closed at Saint Casimir's Parish, altar boys were included in the pilgrimage of young and old who brought flowers and hymns to the feet of Our Lady's altar in the spacious basilica church. The yearly Mass is attended by the Philadelphia pilgrims and Lithuanians living in the Baltimore-Washington, D.C. area. Tourists and pilgrims visiting the Basilica are also drawn to the Lithuanian chapel on September 8th on hearing the singing of Lithuanian hymns and seeing the chapel illumined and decorated for Holy Mass.

This yearly pilgrimage keeps alive in the hearts of Lithuanian-Americans the devotion to Our Lady of Šiluva and the message the Mother of God brought to Lithuania in 1608. This year the pilgrimage will take place on Tuesday, September 8th. Lithuanian Catholics are encouraged to keep alive the devotion to Our Lady of Šiluva which was celebrated around the world last year. Plan to participate in this annual pilgrimage by calling St. Andrew's Rectory at 215-765-2322 for details.

Rev. Peter Burkauskas

Rev. Peter Burkauskas is the pastor of St. Casimir and St. Andrew Churches in Philadelphia, PA.

\*Most photos by Rimas Gedeika



Father Burkauskas at the altar in the chapel of Our Lady of Šiluva in the Basilica of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C.



The altar boys from St. Casimir's Lithuanian Church always enjoyed participating in the annual pilgrimage on September 8.



Pilgrims pose for a group picture on the front steps of the Basilica after celebrating Holy Mass before heading back to Philadelphia.

## Lithuanian Cultural Legacy in America

*Dr. John Vytautas Dunčia*

It was with great interest that I read the book "Lithuanian Cultural Legacy in America." The book was published by the Lithuanian American Community this year on the occasion of Lithuania's 1000th year anniversary. Edited by Algis Lukas, it covers the history of Lithuanians in America and the churches, monasteries/convents, clubs and halls, organizations, businesses, ethnic festivals, youth camps, newspapers, artistic monuments, and cemeteries that they have created and/or left behind. The hard cover book contains over 350 photos and 224 pages of material illustrating what the three waves of Lithuanian immigrants built and established here in America.

The one lasting impression that the reader takes with him/her is that the "first wave" of immigrants (late 1800's-early 1900's) sacrificed so much to build churches and halls in America and poured millions of their hard earned dollars into helping establish the newly founded republic of Lithuania in 1918. The numbers in today's dollars are staggering considering that the earliest immigrants worked in the coal mines of Pennsylvania, the textile factories of the Northeast, and the slaughter houses of Chicago. Two million dollars of Lithuanian Liberty Bonds were purchased by Lithuanian-Americans which today would be worth forty million dollars. It is estimated that between 1915 and 1920 Lithuanian-Americans sent back home about ten million dollars (worth about 200 million today). During the 22 years of independence (1918-1940), Lithuanian-Americans sent their relatives in Lithuania an estimated thirty million dollars (375

million dollars today). One can only bow in reverence to the sacrifices that first wave of immigrants made for Lithuania and for their communities here in America.

The second wave of immigrants built beautiful churches too and established youth camps, which yours truly attended during his younger days at Dainava (MI) and Neringa (VT) and elsewhere. The camp pictures in the book brought back many wonderful memories in which my love was kindled for the Lithuanian language, history, customs, and most importantly people. One thing I noticed while looking at the pictures of the churches built or renovated by the second wave immigrants is that many of them had stained glass or sculptures done by the artist Vytautas Jonynas. I would be interested in what the readers think of his style. I can see the genius behind the work, but I just can't appreciate the modernism. I am sorry, but I want Jesus to look warm, loving, and human, just as he does in St. Faustina's commissioned painting of Jesus, Divine Mercy, which can be found in almost every Catholic Church around the world, the original hanging in Vilnius in the Divine Mercy Chapel (for more information see [www.gailistingumas.lt](http://www.gailistingumas.lt) and [www.mercyimages.com](http://www.mercyimages.com)).

What I mostly appreciate is the editor's attention to providing the addresses of all of the Lithuanian churches covered in the book. Thus there is no excuse for missing Sunday Mass if one is visiting Los Angeles CA, Cincinnati OH, Baltimore MD, Brooklyn NY, Maspeth NY, Cicero IL, Chicago IL, Boston, MA, Philadelphia PA, New Britain CT, Mahanoy City PA, Waterbury CT, Scranton PA, Providence RI, Worcester MA, Elizabeth NJ, Grand Rapids MI, Hartford CT, Wilkes-Barre PA, East St. Louis IL, Cleveland OH, Washington, D.C., Dayton OH, Maizeville PA, and Southfield, MI!

One can obtain the book for \$40.00 plus \$10.00 shipping and handling. Checks are to be made payable to: LAC, Inc., Cultural Affairs Council.

*The address is:*

**Lithuanian-American Community, Inc.**  
15100 Interlachen Dr., Suite 526,  
Silver Spring, MD 20906-5606.

*Every Lithuanian household should have a copy of this book. Happy reading!*

### TRIVIA QUESTION

(No.30)

#### Dictionary/Žodynas

Who wrote the first dictionary of the Lithuanian language?

- (a) Pranicškus Šrubauskas
- (b) Jonas Jaknavičius
- (c) Konstantinas Širvydas

Answer to Trivia Quiz  
on page 24



## „Lietuvių kultūrinis paveldas Amerikoje“

Foto albumas supažindina skaitytojus su gausiu Amerikos lietuvių kultūriniu palikimu Amerikoje: Amerikos lietuvių istorija, Lietuvos Respublikos ambasada, lietuvių kultūriniais centrais, pirmosiomis lietuvių bažnyčiomis, taip pat bažnyčiomis ir jų architektūra po 1950 metų, vienuolynais, jaunimo stovyklomis, nekilnojamu menu, paminklais ir koplytstulpiais, lietuvių kapinėmis. Kiekvienas albumo skyrius turi trumpą aprašymą. Albumas gausiai iliustruotas – yra daugiau kaip 350 spalvotų nuotraukų; kietais viršeliais, 224 puslapių 9" iš 12" formato.

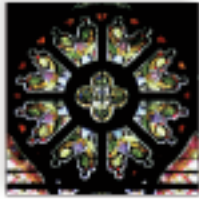


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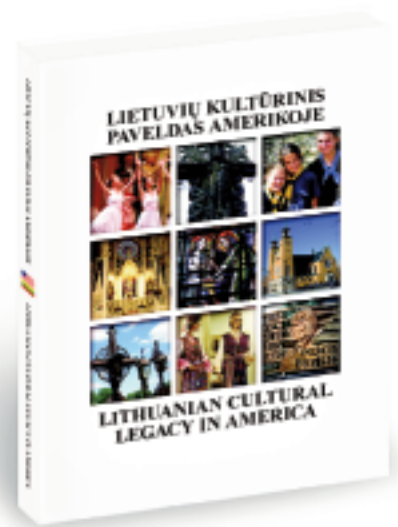


## “Lithuanian Cultural Legacy in America”

This photo album introduces the reader to the wealth of Lithuanian cultural legacy in America. The album presents a short history of: Lithuanians in America; the Lithuanian Embassy in the USA; Lithuanian cultural centers; the first Lithuanian churches in America; churches and their architecture after 1950; religious houses; youth camps; installed art; monuments and wayside shrines; and Lithuanian cemeteries. Each chapter has a brief introduction, over 350 beautifully reproduced photographs, an index and resource list. The album is a 9x12" hard-cover 224-page publication.



“Lithuanian Cultural Legacy in America” is written in Lithuanian and English and is a valuable resource to friends of all nationalities. The photo album is a wonderful gift for relatives, fellow Lithuanians and for anyone interested in a pictorial presentation of Lithuanian cultural legacy in America.



**YES!** I would like to order “Lithuanian Cultural Legacy in America!” Complete and mail this form today!

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Make checks payable to: **LAC, Inc., Cultural Affairs Council**  
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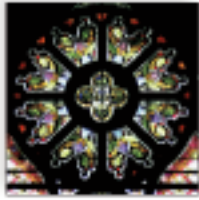


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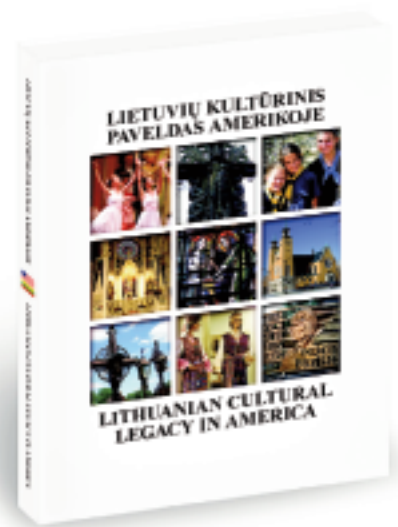


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*Photo Album*  
**2009**  
**Song Festival**  
**Lithuania**





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Festival,  
ania



Photos by:  
by Julie Skurdenis, Bronxville, NY

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