

# bridges



december 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

## BRIDGES

Lithuanian American News Journal  
USPS 017131 – Published 10 times per year  
(Jan./Feb. & Jul./Aug. combined).

Address of publication is:

**LAC, Inc./BRIDGES,**  
3906 Lakeview Dr., Racine, WI. 53403

**BRIDGES**  
is the official publication of the  
Lithuanian American Community, Inc.

### 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.

### THE INFORMATION CENTER FOR HOMECOMING LITHUANIANS

Collects & provides information from Lithuania.

Copyright ©2007 Lithuanian American Community, Inc. All rights reserved. No part of the publication may be reproduced without written permission of the publisher. All statements & opinions, including product claims, are those of the organization/advertiser making those statements or claims. The publisher does not adopt, or put forth, any such statement or claim as his own, & any such statement or claim does not necessarily reflect the opinion of the publisher.

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  
78 Mark Twain Dr.  
Hamilton Sq., NJ 08690

Subscription rate is \$20.00 annually, 2 full years  
for \$38.00 (US Mail serviced subscribers).  
Subscriptions to other addresses are (US \$35.00),  
payable in advance (US funds). Periodicals postage  
paid at Racine, WI & additional locations.

Contact us on the Internet at:

<http://www.lithuanian-american.org>

Postmaster: Send any address correction  
&/or changes to:

**LAC, Inc./BRIDGES,**  
Rimas Gedeika  
78 Mark Twain Dr.  
Hamilton Sq., NJ 08690

## in this issue

### 2 editorial

Letter from the Editor  
*Jeanne Dorr*

### 4 christmas

KŪČIOS IN  
BROOKLYN 1904  
*Gloria Kivytaitė O'Brien*

### 5 lac news

**First Annual Meeting of  
the Lithuanian American  
Community**  
*Danguole Navickas*

### 7 trivia

*Submitted by  
Edward Shakalis*

### 8 reflections

**Blessed George,  
the Marian Renovator**  
PART II  
*Dan Valenti*

### 11 reflections

**A Teenager's  
First Trip  
to Lithuania**  
*Part II*  
*Audra Kriauciūnas*

### 12 photo album

2009  
COLORADO

### 17 reflections

**The Coming of Our Savior**  
*Sr. Margarita Bareikaite*

### 17 letter

*My Brothers and Sisters in Christ*  
*Msgr. Edmond J. Putrimas*

### 18 lac news

**XXIII - Lithuanian  
Festival in California**  
*Eugenija Misevičius*

### 22 calendar



*Part of the live  
manger*

\* *Cover:*

*Traditional manger scene with live animals at the Cathedral Square,  
Vilnius. Photo by Banga Grigaliunaitė, Vilnius, Lithuania*



Juozas Bandoraitis left Lithuania in 1895 to avoid the Russian Czar's military draft. He went to England, found a steady job and a place to live, and stayed. After a while he sent for his wife, Anna, and infant son, Juozukas. When a second son, Antanukas, joined their family, they decided that they should seek a better life in a bigger place -- America.

They settled in New York, in the Lithuanian community of Williamsburg, Brooklyn, and in the course of time, two more children were born -- Mary and Onutė. Both were baptized in Queen of Angels Church, a Lithuanian parish. Juozas worked in the big Domino sugar factory on Williamsburg's waterfront, and the family rented an apartment in a typical four-story tenement nearby, on Grand Street.

It was a "railroad" flat, with five rooms, all in a row. There was no bathroom. There had been an "outhouse" in the backyard, but just recently a small toilet closet was built in the hallway outside their rooms.

The kitchen, the largest room in the apartment, had a large porcelain-clad cast-iron double sink, that was big enough to allow a child to sit in it and bathe. Adults had to make do with washcloths. Many regularly went to the municipal bath-house on Maujer Street, for a comfortable shower.

A large section of the kitchen was taken

## KŪČIOS IN BROOKLYN 1904

up by the big black coal-burning stove that stood against one wall, in an alcove that was a blocked-off fireplace. Standing next to that was a small, four-burner "modern" green porcelain gas stove, and in a corner, a tall silver-colored boiler full of water, that allowed the tenants to light the attached gas-fired mechanism to heat the water. The other large occupant of space in the kitchen, was the very important ice-box, that helped keep foodstuffs fresh. A table covered in colorful oilcloth stood in the middle.

Anna was a proud and busy housekeeper, and her home was decorated with attractive embroidered items, pillows, curtains and spreads. She had spent the whole day yesterday cleaning the apartment. She had special things put aside for special holidays, and she was sorting through her bedspreads as she spoke with her husband:

"Juozai, brangusis, (dearest), you know that it is almost time we must get dressed and ready for Kūčios. The girls and I will bathe in the kitchen, and you can go to the bath-house around the corner for a nice shower. Now where are the boys? They were supposed to go with you. If they do not come home within an hour or so, you will have to go on alone.

"Just remember, this year we will have guests, Mr. and Mrs. Čikanas, who are well-off and accustomed to the best. We don't want them to be disappointed in our hospitality.

"Where are those boys?! I realize it is still only 3 o'clock, but we all know how fast time flies. Juozukas, as the responsible elder, assured me they would be home in plenty of time. I am very angry! They will both know it when they return! And, my dear, before you leave for the bath-house, please stop at the stables across the street and ask them for an armful of sweet hay. I will spread it on the table under our nice new tablecloth."

Anna woke especially early that day, and had already prepared several dishes for the traditional meal: Her ice-box was full today. Just one or two more dishes, and she would be finally ready. She had a whole fresh fish ready to bake in the oven; several dishes of herring prepared in different ways; šližikai and poppy seed milk; kisielius (cranberry pudding); fruit compote; vegetable salad; mushrooms; roasted potatoes; sauerkraut; and dark bread. Her kitchen had been busily steaming and humming all day.

The two boys told their mother they were going to the "movies", to see a picture about a "Bold Bank Robbery", and she expected them home within a short time. But apparently, they had been delayed, and Anna was by now beside herself with anxiety. What if they had an accident? The city could be a dangerous place with all its teeming traffic.

At 3 o'clock, even though the boys had not returned, Juozas decided it was time to go to the bath-house. While he was gone and the apartment was otherwise empty, Anna had her washcloth bath, bathed her two daughters, and put them to bed for a little nap. Soon it would be time for them all to don their best clothes, to be ready for the celebration of Kūčios.

Anna just had time to prepare her table, strewing an armful of sweet hay beneath her pure white tablecloth, setting the places, then distributing her food dishes in an attractive pattern. She dressed the girls, placed her fish in the oven of the coal stove, and was ready.

Juozas had come home, was already dressed, and seated in his soft armchair in the front room, "out of the way". Soon their guests would arrive, but the boys were not to be seen.

Anna began to fret; perhaps they should go to the police station around the corner and ask if anyone had heard anything about two young boys who

may have had some trouble. She fingered her rosary and sat in her rocking chair, praying for her sons' return. Soon tears were flowing; Juozas did his best to calm her, but she could not be consoled.

And, not only were the boys missing, but their guests had not arrived - they were more than an hour late.

Just as Juozas was preparing to go out to the police station, at half-past the hour of five, Juozukas and Antanukas came rushing up the stairs, full of apologies for their parents, and complicated explanations.

"Mama, Papa, we were on our way home, when we passed a fruit cart that was being attacked by a group of boys! They beat up the man, and took all his money, then they overturned the cart and all the fruits and vegetables rolled all around in the street! The man was crying!

"We tried to help him, and gathered most of the fruits and vegetables, and wiped them off before putting them back on the cart. The man was glad we helped him, and when the police came, we had to tell them all about it. We talked with them for a long time. That's why we're so late coming home!"

Anna wielded a soapy washcloth to wash their faces, hands and arms, and that would have to do for traditional Kūčios cleanliness that year.

Immediately, they heard noises from the stairway, and it was their guests, Mr. and Mrs. Čikanas, who were full of praise for the two boys. They had witnessed the incident with the fruit cart, and their compliments and gracious approval made an unforgettable Kūčios feast for the Bandoraitis family. Their friendship endured for many years, until they all were gone to their reward, and during the intervening years, they often mentioned this story with a great deal of satisfaction.

*Gloria Kivytaité O'Brien*

*Gloria Kivytaité O'Brien is a frequent contributor to Bridges. She grew up in Brooklyn, Annunciation Parish. Gloria can be contacted at Senaboba@aol.com.*

*\*The illustration is from the book "Tevu Nameliai Brangus"*

## First Annual Meeting of the Lithuanian American Community

### XIX Board of Directors

The Denver chapter of the Lithuanian American Community (LAC) hosted the First Annual Meeting of the LAC XIX Board of Directors on the weekend of September 25 through 27, 2009 at the Denver Airport Marriott. The air was crackling with excitement and anticipation, since the current Board consisted of many new and young members, promising new attitudes and ideas for the future of the LAC.

The first session on Friday afternoon was opened by the chair of the LAC XVIII Board of Directors, Danguole Navickas. After the singing of the American and the Lithuanian national anthems, Msgr. Albert Contons read the invocation. The remembrance of departed members was especially poignant due to the loss of an unusually high number of long-time active members who died during the past year: Vaiva Vebraite, Kestutis Miklas and Ceslovas Mickunas as well as former Board members Fr. Ricardas Repsys and Algis Augunas. Romas Zableckas, the president of the Denver Chapter, and Kate Porterfield, the America's Crossroads District chair, warmly welcomed the delegates.

Greetings were sent by Ambassador Audrius Bruzga and Consul General Skaiste Aniuliene, who could not attend the meeting because of President Dalia Grybauskaite's first visit to the United States that same weekend. Msgr. Edmund Putrimas, spiritual leader of the Lithuanian

Roman Catholic diaspora and Saulius Kuprys, president of the Lithuanian American Council, also sent their greetings. Regina Narusis, president of the World Lithuanian Community (WLC), could not attend due to commitments to be present at meetings and decisions taking place in the Parliament of Lithuania regarding issues of the World Lithuanian Community, but sent reports on the year's activities and the budget for the construction of the Governors' Palace in Vilnius.

The approval of the proposed 2009 meeting agenda and the minutes of the 2008 meeting in Boston were followed by a report by Romas Veitas, the chairman of the Election Committee. This was especially significant because 2009 was the first year that members could vote via the internet. While not a great number of members took advantage of this new feature, it was successfully implemented without any significant problems and this year's elections proved that it could be done. Voting via the internet enables members who live far from parish and cultural centers or who do not belong to an established chapter to participate in the selection of delegates to the meetings, thereby giving each and every member a voice in the future of the LAC.

In her report on the tasks and accomplishments of the Officers of the LAC XVIII Board of Directors over the last year,

## MEET OUR YOUNG WRITERS...



*Audra Kriaučiūnas*

### A Teenager's First Trip to Lithuania

*Part II*

*In Part I Audra describes her feelings about her first trip abroad. She very quickly learns about missed flights and lost luggage, but none of these mishaps can put a damper on this teen's first trip to Lithuania as the problems are quickly forgotten when she meets her family and walks in the paths of those who came before her. Thanks to Audra for not only sharing her experiences with us, but also her emotions.*

*Part II*

### A Teenager's First Trip to Lithuania



*Amber Ship*

The next morning we went to the amber museum, and got to see all kinds of amber. The coolest pieces were the ones that had big bugs in them, such as spiders and flies. I had never seen anything like it before. Amber is a popular commodity in Lithuania, and it can be very expensive. We also saw lots of amber shops throughout the country. My father saw



*Vytas holding a snail*

a huge ship made entirely of amber at one shop that was 10,000 litai and he thought it was pretty cool. We kept seeing huge ships at different amber shops and my dad stopped at each one to have us take a picture. The biggest one was 25,000 litai! That afternoon we traveled to Klaipeda where we went to a beer tour at Svyturys brewery. Although the tour was in Lithuanian, I was able to pick out a few words here and there and I still found it interesting. During that tour was the first time I had tried a hop, and tried liquid yeast which tasted like candy at first, but then had a bad aftertaste. After the beer tour we partook in a tour of Klaipeda led by the same woman who led the beer tour, although the tour was in English this time. I learned that Klaipeda was a port city and it was damaged during the war. Along the tour we saw a whole bunch of snails which I had never seen in the wild, and here there were hundreds of snails! It was pretty cool to see. My brother even picked one up to examine closer. That evening we ventured to Kaunas, and got to see the place where the Neris River meets the Nemunas River which was pretty cool. We also got to take a walk through a park which was very pretty, especially with the castle in the background. The next day we stayed in Kaunas to see the Devil's Museum and the War Museum which were both pretty interesting. What stuck out to me the most in the War Museum was the actual plane parts that still existed after the crash of Darius and Girenas who tried to fly to Lithuania over the Atlantic Ocean. Even though they were unsuccessful, they brought a lot of attention to Lithuania. There is a huge rock called Punktukas which is dedicated in their honor. The rock is in a story about the Devil who supposedly tried to crush an entire church with it. There were also old

*Continued from page 14*



*Homemade Gingerbread Cookie in Rumsiskes*

weapons of all kinds from all of Lithuania's different eras of war. The Devil's Museum was my favorite because it told many stories of the devil, including the story of the rock Punktukas, and it helped me to understand the origins of some of Lithuania's folklore. In the afternoon we went to Rumsiskes, which can be described as the Lithuanian version of Connor Prairie found in Indianapolis Indiana. Since I am a huge fan of Connor Prairie, I was looking forward to Rumsiskes. Rumsiskes was interesting because it had replicas of houses from all the major regions of Lithuania. In one of the houses in which we visited there was a lady who was selling homemade gingerbread men that were beautifully decorated. She had made them with a recipe that had been used in the same era of the time she was representing. The gingerbread men were both beautifully decorated and delicious. We got to see many old cabins and houses, but the most interesting one was a replica of a house



*Siberian House*

Lithuanians who had been deported to Siberia lived in. They would have been in a house that was probably smaller than my bedroom and there would have been 40 to 50 people living inside. They also would have used ice for windows. It gave me a new perspective and made me appreciate everything that I have. It also gave me a greater appreciation for those Lithuanians who had been deported to Siberia. Rumsiskes is also the place where they filmed the "Amazing Race" segment in Lithuania. We got to see the exact places where different teams had completed their tasks, one of which was walking on stilts. We actually saw the exact street they filmed this, and they even had stilts there of different sizes that we could test to see how we would have done had we been on the "Amazing Race". It was fun and difficult trying to walk on stilts, and I think the highest number of steps I achieved on the stilts was three or four. One woman who worked there even remembered being a part of the "Amazing Race" experience. All in all it was very exciting.



*Gediminas Castle, Vilnius*

The next day the two families split up for a day to rest and recover from the tour around Lithuania. I spent the day with my mom, dad, and brother in Vilnius. We got to see many things that we hadn't seen yet including the Gates of Dawn, Saint Casimir's Church, Gedimino Pilis, Vilnius University, and we even got to witness local students who played their instruments along the side of the street for money; some of them were pretty good and well worth listening to. I enjoyed seeing Gedimino Pilis because we got to climb up to the very top and the view from the top was amazing. We could see out over all the city of Vilnius. I could even distinguish between Old Vilnius and New Vilnius because in old town all the roofs

were colored, and the buildings were older looking, while in new town, all the buildings were grey and modern looking. We also got an up close and personal view of the Lithuanian flag on top which was very exciting. While we were stopped in the square at the Cathedral next to the clock tower we saw a rehearsal of the inauguration of the new president, presented by the armed forces. I had never seen anything like it before and it was interesting to see how the armed forces in Lithuania compared to the armed forces in America. The armed forces were of different ranks and they all had different colors and had a different level of purpose in their marches. Because it was an unplanned event for us we got good seats just by stopping and sitting to eat our snack. That evening we went to a pancake house, and I got to have crepes with chocolate ice cream for the first time. It was an unusual combination, but delicious all the same. My brother even got bacon topping to go with his ice cream and pancakes. It was a good day. My favorite part of the day was seeing Gedimino Pilis because the view from the top was amazing. I could see everything.

The next day we went to Trakai with everyone again, and we got to see Traku Pilis. We took a boat ride around the castle, and got to see a side of it that most people don't get to see since they don't to see it from the water side. That evening we drove to Inkunai to



*Monument to Celebrate  
1000 yr. Anniversary*

my great aunt's farm and we ate dinner with them which was delicious. We had chicken that was wonderfully spiced. Even though the dinner was so good, my favorite part was the dessert because they had cake, Sakotis, and candy. After the meal we saw the church that members of my family had donated money to have built, along with the family graveyard. We also walked across the bridge, and saw the land that my uncle owned. It was good to meet new family members and to see the way they lived and to feel so welcomed into their home. They gave us gifts to take back home.

The next day we went with my uncle to see a place called Gruto Park where they had Soviet statues, which my dad wanted to see. The Soviet statues were from all over Lithuania when the Soviets occupied the country and put up statues of themselves. The most memorable statues for me were the statues of Lenin. Seeing the statues reminded me of all of the hardships that Lithuania has gone through, and made me thankful that Lithuania is a free country now. The most memorable part of the trip to see the Soviet statues, however, was when we went to use the bathroom. It was the first time we had encountered the type of toilet where the toilet was a hole in the ground. I bravely used the hole correctly, by standing up and I was successful. My mother, however, walked into the stall, and said, "Um, uhhhh, I don't think so," all rather loudly for all to hear before walking back out of the toilet and starting on a search to find a "normal toilet". We then went



*Stork Nest*

out for lunch, I had kaldunai which were delicious, and then it was off to Kernave, which was the first capital of Lithuania. On the way to Kernave we stopped by one of only two statues of distinguished



*Trakai*

the Soviet occupation, that of Vytautas Didysis. Kernave was beautiful. We climbed up to the top of the biggest hill and were able to look out over all the land. Next we went to see the Center of Europe which was a highlight for me. It felt powerful to be able to stand at the exact center of Europe and look out in all directions. I got to stand on the rock that said it was the exact center of Europe and I looked out in all directions trying to imagine all the rest of Europe stretching out on either side. I thought it was extremely cool that the center of Europe is in Lithuania. Next we were off to Romas' house for dinner and my Uncle surprised us by serving dinner on the recently recovered family dishes that my great grandfather buried over 50 years ago. I met Marius, who was nineteen and close to my age. It was interesting to discuss how being a teenager in Lithuania compared to being a teenager in America.

The next day was our last day in Lithuania, and we went to the TV tower in the morning. Unfortunately, we didn't have time to go up in the tower, but it was still cool to see the museum. Next we went to Akropolis, which everyone had been looking forward to for awhile now. Akropolis is one of the biggest malls in Lithuania with a Mega Maxima as an anchor store. It was better than a mall in America because it had a movie theatre and an ice skating rink, not to mention all kinds of cool stores. We got to do some last minute souvenir shopping, eat lunch, and try coca cola ice cream, a flavor I had never seen previously, before heading back to the hotel to begin our version of the "Amazing Race". The "Amazing Race" was something my uncle put together. It was a scavenger hunt throughout old



Center of Europe

town Vilnius. My cousin Andrius and I were on a team, with Marius as our chaperone. My brother and cousin Gytis were on another team with my dad as their chaperone. Both teams started out and had to complete the tasks on a sheet of paper, which included buying a newspaper, riding the trolley, meeting people, and finding the answer to history questions. We were allowed to ask the people we saw for help, and the winning team got bookmarks with a picture of Vilnius on them. Unfortunately, I was not on the winning team, but the experience gave me a better appreciation for what the teams in the real "Amazing Race" have to go through and how hard they work. That evening we all dressed up and went to Lokys which is located in a 16th century building. They had all kinds of different game there, and the restaurant was cool because it was underground. Dessert was really good because I had ice cream and melted chocolate. It was delicious. That evening I sat looking out the window of the hotel, trying to soak it all in one last time because the next morning I would be leaving Lithuania and going to England. As I took my last look at Lithuania the next morning from the plane, I knew I would miss it, but I also hoped that I would be back soon. That trip will always be a part of me, and one that hopefully I can learn from for years to come.

*Audra Kriauciunas*

*Audra Kriauciunas is a sixteen-year-old junior at Pike High School in Indianapolis, Indiana. She has played soccer since she was eight years old, and is involved in show choir. She currently sings in an all girls show choir at her school. Audra enjoys writing, traveling, and being outdoors through activities such as camping and biking. She hopes to study Psychology in college, as well as music and writing.*



TV Tower in Vilnius

## XXIII - Lithuanian Festival in California

As it became a beautiful tradition in the "City of Angels", every first weekend of October, Lithuanian Days take place. This year it was the 23rd annual festival, and as many other Lithuanian events in the United States, it was dedicated to the one thousandth anniversary of the name of the Lithuanian state. Thousands of people come to this event, not only from California, but from other neighboring states and from the East coast and Canada, although I should say that this year there were less people than usual. It could be that many American Lithuanians were traveling to the land of their parents and ancestors to celebrate the memorable date there.

Unfortunately, for some reason a couple of the performers from Lithuania could not attend the festival in California. We were expecting to see the rock ensemble "InCulto", as well as the folk group "Kitava" (they perform traditional music in the modern style) of Šiauliai Pedagogical University. Nevertheless, there were local talented American Lithuanian performers entertaining the crowd. The duo from Colorado, "Kolorado vabalai" ("Bugs of Colorado") showed their artistry as well as the well known singer Hokshila, who lived for more than ten years in such places as Africa, Japan and South America and now resides in Hawaii. The energetic young performer from Washington, D.C., Robertas Kupstas-Byla, and well known singer from Chicago Paul Strolia also performed. A group from Los Angeles, "Retro", were dancing in their lovely way.

As I mentioned before, Lithuania proudly celebrates its 1000th year anniversary. Los Angeles' St. Casimir Lithuanian society has smaller but still significant jubilees: this year Los Angeles' Lithuanian St. Casimir's school celebrates its 60th year as well as the folk dance group LB "Spindulys" (Sun Ray).



1



2



3



4



5



6

### CAPTIONS

1. Maryte Newsom, Danguole Varniene and Jurate Venckiene
2. Enjoying a break

3. Lithuanian food - a culinary art

4. Duo from Colorado (Varbalai)

5. LA Retro.

6. Los Angeles Parish. Actress Rūta Lee on right.



Robertas Kupstas- Byla from Washington, DC



Young Spindulys dancers

LA was also interesting because the younger crowd actively participated in it as well. It was the second year there was a basketball "3x3" tournament arranged by the sport club "Banga" (Wave) in which as many as eight teams participated. On this occasion the son of Frank Lubin, the famous Lithuanian basketball player who was named a godfather of Lithuanian basketball, was present. It was a pleasure to meet

newly appointed Honorary Consul of the Republic of Lithuania in the state of Washington, Vytautas Čekanauskas. And of course, what kind of Lithuanian Festival in Los Angeles would it be without the appearance of the Hollywood star of Lithuanian descent, the charming Rūta Lee!

Eugenija Misevičius

Photos by the author from the 2009 Lithuanian Days in LA

Eugenija Misevičius is a graduate of the University of Bridgeport, Bridgeport, CT. She serves as the secretary of the Lithuanian Journalist Association. Eugenija freelances as a court interpreter. She belongs to the Lithuanian Sports Clubs of Connecticut and New Jersey and enjoys participating in amateur sports such as martial arts. She and her husband, Laurynas, participate in many Lithuanian events.



Members of the Banga team



Players in action



Performer Hokshila takes a break

## ANSWER TO TRIVIA QUESTION

Trivia Quiz on page 7

Source: "The Lithuanian Language" (page 43-44) by Alfred Senn

"In the seventeenth and early part of the eighteenth century the Lithuanians came in contact with the Swedes who may have some influence on the Lithuanian vocabulary.

The word "gatve" (street) is of foreign origin and its geographical distribution points toward the north as place of origin It may be Swedish.

Modern Lithuanian is not completely free of foreign elements, but nether is any other language. Moreover, loanwords which are retained look so characteristically Lithuanian that it is difficult to detect their foreign origin. We thus witness an amazing vitality of this conservative language, a vitality enabling it to assimilate completely even recent acquisitions.

Lithuanian is most of all a youthful language, a fact which is usually overlooked because the scholars are overawed by a few striking archaic features."

Edward Shakalis is a retired Electrical Engineer and a ham radio operator. He and his son Rick run "The Lithuanian Open" golf tournament.



**Lithuanian-American Community**

CONTACT INFORMATION:

WEBSITE

[WWW.LITHUANIAN-AMERICAN.ORG](http://WWW.LITHUANIAN-AMERICAN.ORG)

TELEPHONE

**800-625-1170**

Arūna LT

24h 7d.

**AUTOMOBILIŲ NUOMA – CAR RENTAL**

REZERVACIJOS TEL. PHONE FOR RESERVATION  
+370 640 22 916

[www.aruna.lt](http://www.aruna.lt)

# Calendar of Events for Dec. 2009 - Jan./Feb. & Mar 2010

Please verify all events as places & times are subject to change.

## DECEMBER

**December 6, 2009** - 3-6pm  
 KC Lithuanian Community  
 Christmas Party "Kūčios" Table  
 Traditional Christmas Eve Dinner  
 Folkdancing, Music, Games.  
 Davis Hall, Wyandotte County  
 Lake Kansas City, KS.  
 Info: [www.kclith.org](http://www.kclith.org)

**December 6, 2009** - Kūčios  
 Transfiguration Church  
 Maspeth, NY  
 Reservations: 718-849-5725

**December 6, 2009** - 2:00 pm  
 Lithuanian Traditional  
 "Kūčios" McKeon Center  
 Mission San Luis Rey  
 4070 Mission Ave.  
 Oceanside, CA 92054  
 Info: [www.lithsd.org](http://www.lithsd.org)  
 Sponsor:  
 San Diego Chapter of the LAC

**December 6, 2009** - 1 pm  
**CONCERT**, Virgis Stakėnas,  
 Country music performer  
 Lithuanian House  
 Toronto, Canada  
 Info: 416-769-1266

**December 8, 2009** - 7 to 9 pm  
 (Tuesday) Annual Kūčios  
 Bring a Lithuanian dish  
 Lithuanian Music Hall  
 2715 E. Allegheny Ave  
 Phila., PA  
 Use side door on Tilton Street  
 Info: [milliemarks@aol.com](mailto:milliemarks@aol.com)  
 or 610-497-5469

**December 11, 2009** (Friday)  
**Lasagna Take-Out Dinner**  
 4-6 pm (pick up) To order please  
 call 412-885-7232 by Dec. 7  
 Sisters of St. Francis of the  
 Providence of God - Pittsburgh, PA.

**December 12, 2009** - 2:00 pm  
**Christmas Social**  
 Fraternal Order of Eagles Hall  
 1151 S Galena Street  
 (just west of Mississippi & Havana)  
 Denver, CO 80247  
 Info:  
[www.coloradolithuanians.org](http://www.coloradolithuanians.org)  
 Sponsor:  
 Colorado Chapter of the LAC

**December 13, 2009** - 12 Noon  
**Kūčios**, Traditional Lithuanian  
 Christmas Eve Dinner  
 St. Andrew's Parish Hall  
 19th & Wallace Sts.

Philadelphia, PA.  
 \$15 donation -  
 \$5 children 12 and under  
 Tickets and Reservations:  
 Maryte: 215- 969- 2117 or  
 Laima: 609- 268- 8045  
 Sponsor: Philadelphia Lithuanian  
 Scouts Association

**December 20, 2009** - 12 Noon  
 "Vinco Krėvės" Lithuanian  
 Heritage School will present the  
 traditional "Kalėdų Eglutė" and  
 a visit from Santa  
 St. Andrew's Parish Hall  
 19th & Wallace Sts.  
 Philadelphia, PA.

## JANUARY 2010

**January 3, 2010** - 2 pm  
**Annual Christmas Concert**  
 "Laisvė" Choir  
 St. Andrew's Church  
 19th & Wallace Sts.  
 Philadelphia, PA.  
 Info: 215-265-2322

**January 22, 2010 (Friday)**  
**LITHUANIAN HERITAGE NIGHT**  
**WITH THE PHOENIX SUNS** -  
 US Airways Center,  
 201 E. Jefferson St., Phoenix  
 Come celebrate our Lithuanian

heritage with the Phoenix Suns  
 as they take on the Chicago Bulls.  
 This is a great opportunity to  
 enjoy the national sport of  
 Lithuania with family and friends.  
 Our special package includes the  
 following:  
 (1) special Lithuanian Heritage T-shirt;  
 (2) 200 level Suns' game ticket;  
 (3) early entry to watch the players  
 warm up;  
 (4) a group photo on the court after the  
 game  
 (5) Suns' tote bag.

Tickets are \$34 each plus a \$5  
 handling fee per order. Please  
 place your orders directly with  
 David Segal. He can be reached  
 at (602) 379-7593 or  
[dsegal@suns.com](mailto:dsegal@suns.com).  
 Sponsor:  
 Arizona Chapter of the LAC

## MARCH

**March 7, 2010**  
**LITHUANIAN INDEPENDENCE**  
**CELEBRATION**  
 St. Elizabeth Seton Parish,  
 9728 W. Palermas Drive, Sun City  
 Sponsor: Arizona Chapter of the  
 LAC <http://www.lithaz.org>

bridges

## Christmas Gift

Subscription

### ORDER FORM

**Mail to:**  
 LAC, Inc./BRIDGES  
**Subscriptions:**  
 Rimasa Gedeika  
 78 Mark Twain Dr.  
 Hamilton Sq., NJ 08690

Please check:

New   
  Renewal   
  Gift   
  Donation

*Your Subscription:*

Name \_\_\_\_\_ (please print)

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Apt. No. \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

*Subscription Gift To:*

Name \_\_\_\_\_ (please print)

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Apt. No. \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Please send me 10 issues BRIDGES  
 1 full year for \$20.00 - 2 full years for \$38.00 US Mail serviced subscribers;  
 Subscriptions outside the country \$35.00 payable in advance (US funds).

Please enclose the subscription payment.

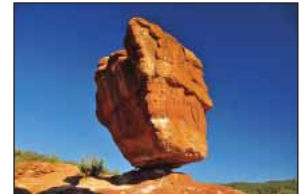
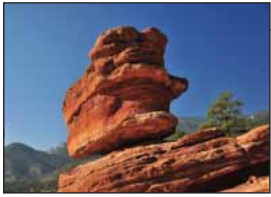
L I T H U A N I A N - A M E R I C A N N E W S J O U R N A L

\$ 20.00

For 10 Issues  
**GOOD GIFT**  
 Subscription

# Photo Album 2009

Annual Meeting  
of the  
Lithuanian American  
Community  
in  
COLORADO



Photos by: Kazys Ruzgaitis,  
Rosemont, PA