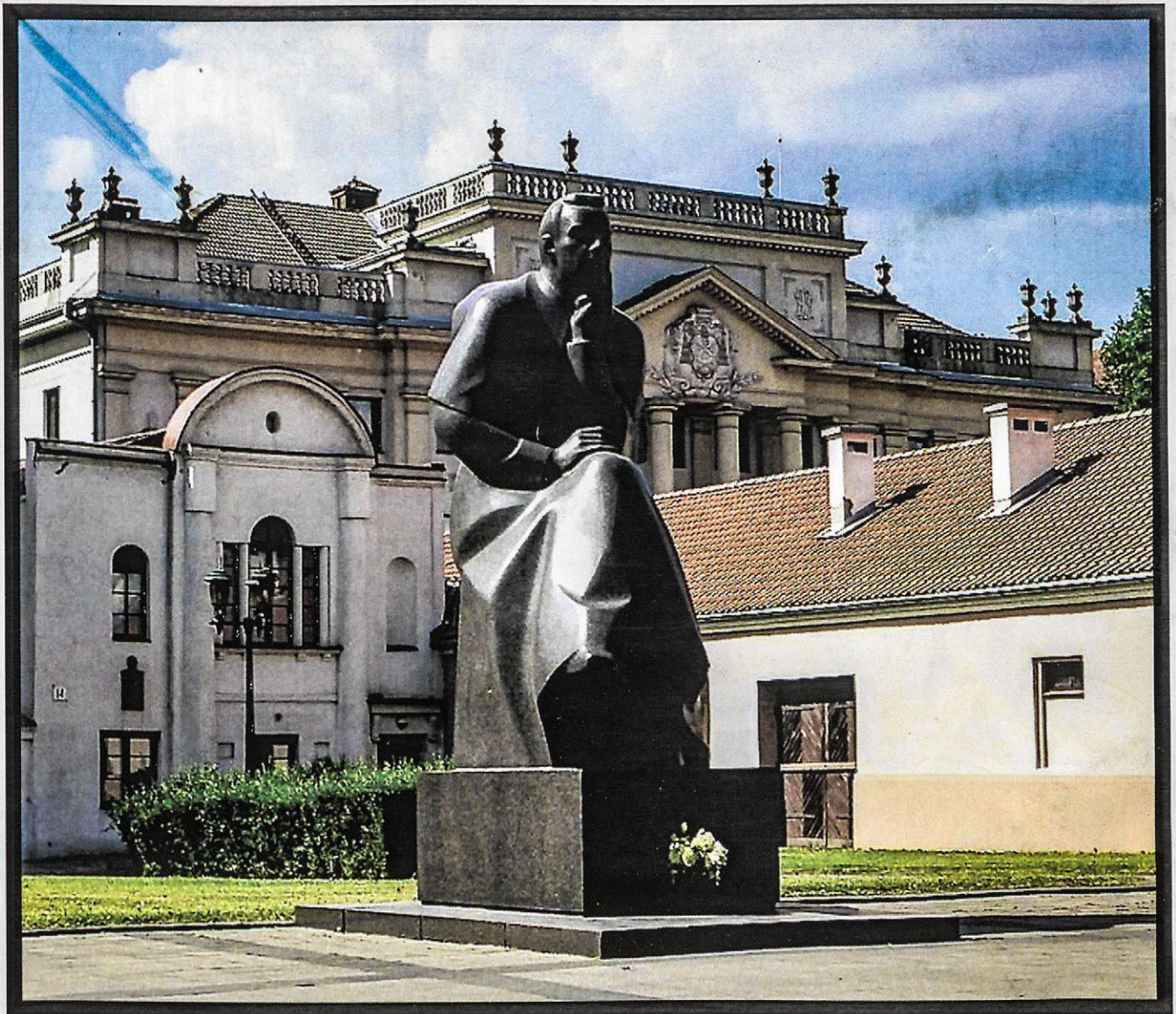


bridges



LITHUANIAN-AMERICAN NEWS JOURNAL

NOVEMBER 2012



Maironis, born Jonas Mačiulis on November 2, 1862 (October 21 in the Julian calendar in use in Lithuania in that year), is one of Lithuania's most famous romantic poets. This year, the 150th anniversary of his birth has been celebrated widely in Lithuanian communities the world over.

bridges

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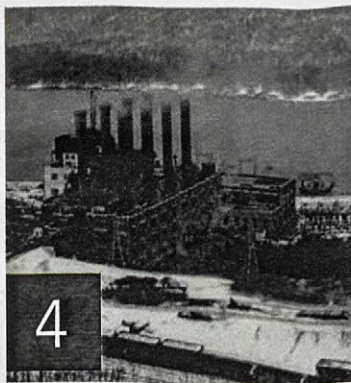
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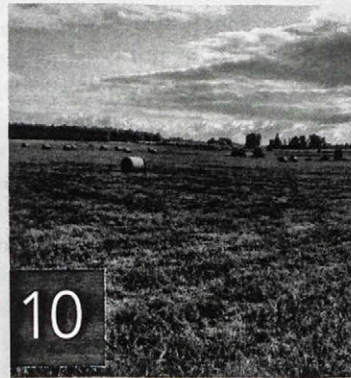
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Cover: Statue of the poet Maironis in front of Maironis Lithuanian Literary Museum at the southwest corner of Rotušės Aikštė (Town Hall Square) in Kaunas. Photo: Teresė Vekteris

Back cover: Childhood home of the poet Maironis in Bernotai, near his birthplace of Pasandravys. Photo: Zuikas Puikas

from the editor

Thanks for the legacies

In this season of Thanksgiving it seems only fitting to reflect back in thanks on the marvelous legacies that have been left us by prior generations and extend gratitude for those that are being created with future generations in mind.

Beginning on page 4 you'll read about a childhood and young adulthood spent in the upstate Pennsylvania town of Coaldale, whose name belies its origins.

For you, the memoir may seem sweet, sometimes amusing, perhaps a bit poignant, a gentle peek back in time to an era glimpsed vicariously through the lens of a celluloid classic like "It's a Wonderful Life." For me, the poignancy runs a bit deeper, because the author, Anngel Daunis, also happens to be my Aunt Angie.

All that's published in these pages certainly took place well before I knew Aunt Angie, so I was fascinated to learn about the experiences that shaped the woman I came to know in the middle of her life. I now know the origins of her artistic nature and her gregarious spirit. I'm all the more grateful for the visits to her shore home during my childhood summers, when she taught me how to make cinnamon buns from scratch and how to wade into the low tides and feel for clams beneath my feet.

I'm thankful that she could tap her artistic reserves not once but three times after strokes tried unsuccessfully to bring her down. Painting turned from therapy into an avocation for which she became recognized. Master of sea and sand in her early days of brushwork, she strayed from her genre and comfort level to render a wild mustang rearing on his hind legs, inspired by a National Geographic cover, because she knew I liked horses. I had that painting hanging in my bedroom for a long time. It made its way to my niece just a few years ago when she entered her horse-crazy phase. The year I got the horse, Angie painted my brother a sailing ship, and my parents a pheasant bursting from the brush.

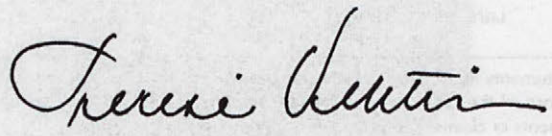
Today at 96, my Aunt Angie is going strong despite needing a wheelchair to get around, her eyes still sparkling and her sense of humor intact.

The legacies of Lithuanians who have served and distinguished themselves in military forces of other countries are the subject of a project outlined on page 3. Lithuania seeks to publicly thank and memorialize these heroes within the context of a history of the Lithuanian Armed Forces.

We can all be thankful for the literary legacy left us by Maironis, who so beautifully captured the spirit of Lithuania in his works. A few examples of his lyric poetry begin on page 10.

Last, but certainly not least, we laud the efforts of A.P.P.L.E. (the education organization, not the computer giant) for creating a modern legacy of learning. Librarians in Lithuania can thank this organization for starting the work that eventually brought an international conference to that nation.

What are the legacies for which you're thankful? Drop me a line at bridges.terese@gmail.com and let me know whose efforts you think should be recognized.



Terese Vekteris, Editor

trivia question

Who Am I?

What is a "Litvak?"

(a) A learned man educated in the style
of the academies of Vilnius

(b) A Lithuanian Jew

(c) A Lithuanian man from Boston

(Answer on page 21)



The Lithuanians, who fought worthily in the armies of other countries

Dear Compatriots,

The storms of history scattered many Lithuanians throughout the wide world. Young men were by force mobilized into foreign armed forces during the first and second world wars. Another part of the Lithuanian nation found themselves in foreign lands which became their new homes. These countries accepted our countrymen and gave them the opportunity to serve in their armed forces and with weapon in hand to defend the values of democracy. And so, many Lithuanian men valiantly fought in various countries during military engagements.

To encourage patriotism and civic duty in today's youth, we need examples. Therefore I ask you to help gather information about Lithuanians by birth or by origin that fought and distinguished themselves in the military forces of other countries and were rewarded signs of recognition since year of 1795 until nowadays. We are interested in the military situations, for which they were rewarded, description and photographs. There might be books written about them or their own memoirs. Any help from you can become an important contribution to the history of Lithuanian Armed Forces. I believe that Lithuanians should know about their gallant deeds, especially in the education of our young people.

I promise that everything you contribute to this noble endeavour will be given to the Vytautas the Great Military Museum in Kaunas, which is the only institution of that kind in our country and where the relics of our military history are cherished and well looked after. Also we plan to make all the collected material accessible not only to people in Lithuania, but everywhere in the world.

Contact person for your information is Captain Tomas Balkus, Telephone: +370 5 264 8527, E-mail: tomas.balkus@mil.lt, Address: Tomui Balkui, Šv. Ignoto g. 8/29, LT – 01120 Vilnius, Lithuania.

I thank you for your understanding and wish you to be worthy ambassadors in foreign communities and never lose your love for your Homeland Lithuania.

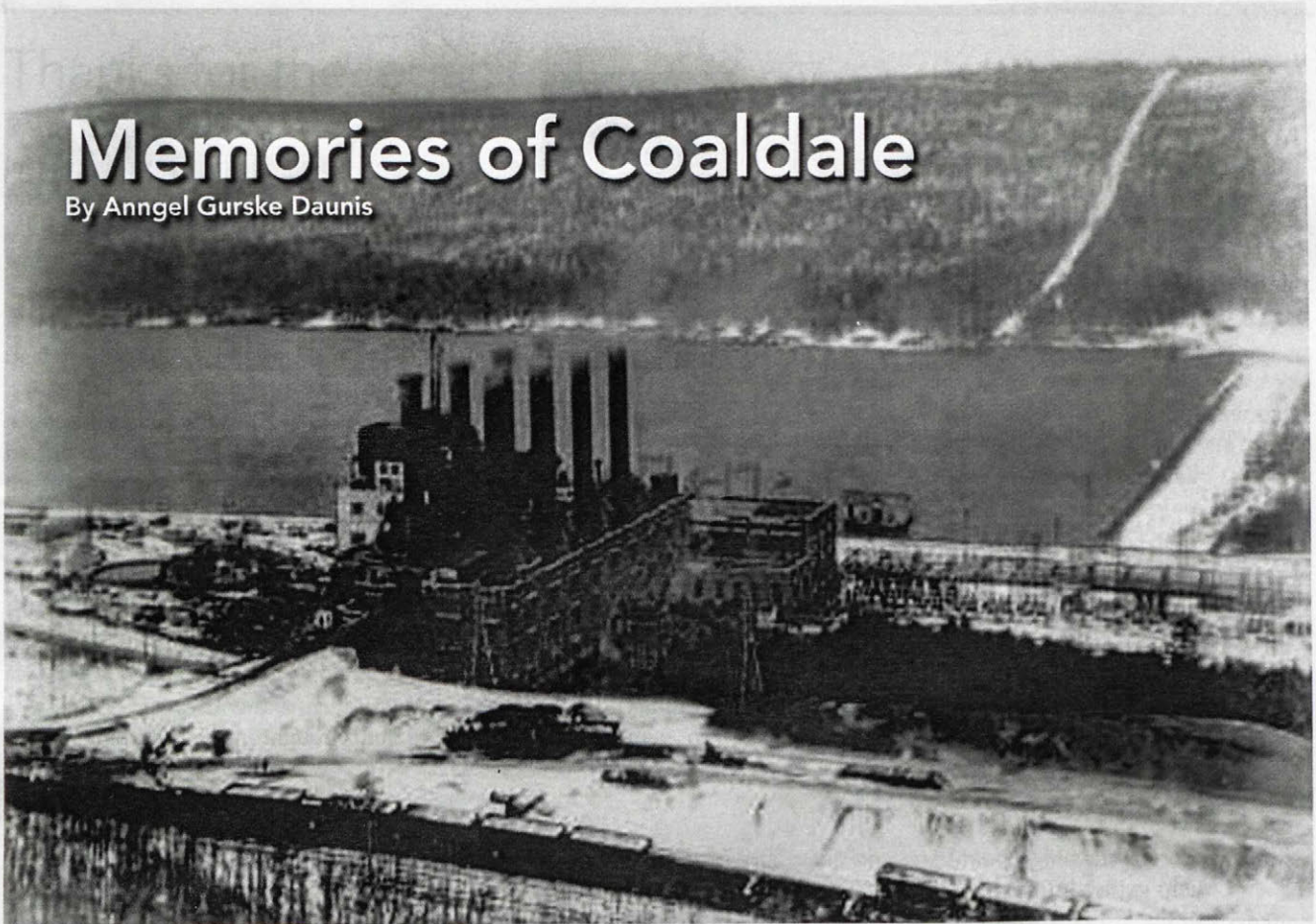
Respectfully,

Lieutenant General Arvydas POCIUS

Chief of Defence of the Republic of LITHUANIA

Memories of Coaldale

By Anngel Gurske Daunis



Residents of Coaldale, Pennsylvania and neighboring communities swam at Hauto Dam. The water in the dam was warmed by the steam electric generating station in the foreground.

My grandparents lived in Vilnius, Lithuania, which is a small country bordering the Baltic Sea. They worked their own farm. In the summer this meant they worked from sunrise to sunset. Since the country is far north, that is an exceptionally long and hard day. They had a large family. Their daughter Anna immigrated to America first. She later sent passage money for four sisters, including my mother, Marta Matonis, to come to the United States.

My mother eventually settled in Coaldale, Pennsylvania, a small mining town in Schuylkill County. She worked in a Jewish household as an assistant cook. There she learned to cook many Jewish foods. After a while she met my father, William Gurske [originally Gurskis], and they were married. My father was an

independent coal miner and also a wallpaper hanger.

My brother Peter was their first child and I was born a year later. I don't really know my birth date. The church records were lost in a fire and my mother did not remember the exact day. She thought that it was November 30, 1916, and so that is what I use as my birth date.

Early Memories

My earliest real memory is about the first day of school. It was a disaster. It was also the day my parents moved to a new, larger home.

We only spoke Lithuanian at home. When I got to first grade I couldn't talk to anyone or understand what was being said. By the end of the day I was so upset that I ran to our old house after school.

Lucky for me my new house was only a block away. After a few weeks, though, I started to fit in.

When I was 8, my mother had twins, Joseph and Marie. Shortly after that she fell down a set of stairs carrying the wash. She broke her arm. I missed a lot of school that year, as I had to help at home. Sadly, when Marie was only 18 months old she died of pneumonia.

Winter Fun

Winter was a fun time for all of us. There was always snow and it was often up to our waists. Even though we had snow, we always had to go to school. Everyone would shovel a path in front of his or her house and out to the street. School was never closed no matter how much snow we had. In fact, my brother Pete and



The author as a pre-schooler in Coaldale. Anngel didn't learn English until she began first grade.

I had perfect attendance most years.

I lived on High Street, which was a very long, steep hill. The street would be closed to traffic so that we could go sled-ding. I used a regular sled but the boys made large toboggans so that 10 or more people could go down the hill together. We would stay out until our toes were so frozen that we would have to go inside to warm them up.

We had an outdoor ice skating area but that was only for the boys. We lived in the mountains but they were not high enough for skiing.

Summer at Hauto Dam

When summer came, we went swimming at Hauto Dam, where there was an electric power plant that discharged hot water into the dam. People could swim there even in winter. We could walk over the mountain to get there or twice a day there was a train that went through a tunnel to the dam. The Lithuanian men built a one-room clubhouse where we could spend the day or even sleep overnight in bunks. There was always a man and woman on duty to supervise the town children.

It was a busy place all summer as people kept rowboats and canoes there. During the day people would go fishing and

swimming. Over the winter, my father knit fishing nets for himself and all his friends. At night there would be a camp-fire and singing and storytelling. Many people would spend their vacations there. The children swam during the day and the adults at night. The boys used to catch rattlesnakes, skin them and take out the rattle. Then they hung them up to dry.

When we could not get to the dam to cool off, my mother would fill a large washbasin with water for us. After I left Coaldale they built a big Olympic-style pool. My daughters would spend their vacations in Coaldale and they did not have to go over the mountain to swim.

Lakewood and Lakeside

Nearby we had two amusement parks, Lakeside Park and Lakewood Park. They were a few miles apart on opposite sides of a lake. The big attraction at Lakeside Park was its ballroom, which had a beautiful spinning crystal ball that reflected different shades of color into the room. Popular bands of the day such as Ina Rae Hutton, the Dorsey Brothers, Wayne King, and Red Nichols and His Five Pennies played there. I only got to go there three times as I did not have a car and it was too far to walk. The crowd was older than I was, so no one asked me to dance, but I loved listening to the music.

Lakewood Park had a large picnic table area under shade trees so many people enjoyed picnicking there. August 15 was an important day in the area. Not only was it the Feast of the Assumption but also Lithuanian Day. The night before, the men went to the park to save a table

LAKEWOOD TONIGHT

"The Sweetest Music
This Side of Heaven"



Guy LOMBARDO
And His Royal Canadians

Featuring the first ballroom
appearance of

Rose-Marie Lombardo
with **BOBBY GIBSON** and
THE LOMBARDO TRIO

Adm. \$1.00, tax 10c

TOTAL ----- \$1.10

LAKEWOOD SATURDAY, AUG. 15 LITHUANIAN DAY

The Day That Everybody Celebrates

Official activities start at 10:30 A. M., with something doing
every minute until past midnight.

Program 2:00 P. M.

**PROMINENT SPEAKERS
DANCING AND ENTERTAINMENT**

Dance At 8 P. M.—Jolly Jack Robel

**Novelty Games Resume At Lakewood
SUNDAY, AUGUST 16th**

Coming In Person Aug. 27—Guy Lombardo

Lakeside Park and Lakewood Park provided diversions for families in the Pennsylvania coal region, hosting big-name entertainers and ethnic festivals such as Lithuanian Day. Both parks are now closed.

for the next day. They stayed all night and they slept on their selected table. Wives and children came the next day, bringing the food and drinks.

We all hoped for good weather, as it was a great day to picnic and meet friends from different towns. The day started with Mass celebrated in a hall in the park. Then there would be refreshments served and people would visit different tables and catch up on any news. There were a few amusement rides for the kids. The men played cards and horseshoes while the women gossiped.

Life at Home

We always had great fresh food to eat. My mother had a large garden in the sum-

mer. She grew all kinds of vegetables to eat fresh and to jar for the winter. There were also apple, pear, apricot and cherry trees. Plus we had blueberry and gooseberry bushes in the yard. But one of the nicest things was the grapevine trained over an arbor that we could sit under on benches or a swing. We also picked wild huckleberries and mushrooms in the woods.

In the back of the yard we had a chicken coop with about six chickens so we always had fresh eggs.

I really remember the coop. My mother always made me wear long underwear under my dresses even though my friends were allowed to wear short underwear. So one day I took some scissors, went out to

the chicken coop so my mother couldn't see me, and cut my underwear short above my knees. The chickens were all clucking and I was scared but I managed to get the chore done. Boy, did I get in trouble for that.

My mother made her own pillows and quilts for the family and did a lot of crocheting and knitting. Our neighbor had a loom and we made our own rugs from strips of cloth. The rugs were made in long runners. My daughters and I are still using some of these today.

We had a big coal stove in the kitchen. My mother loved to bake and would often bake six to eight pies at a time. We would then eat pie for breakfast every day. We loved that. She made her own rye bread,



About a year after meeting at a dance at Philadelphia's Lithuanian Music Hall, Anngel became engaged to John Daunis. They married on January 4, 1942, and eventually had two daughters.

as my father would not eat white bread. She also made her own catsup, tomato juice, sausage, sauerkraut, pickles, jelly and "dashries" [ed.: *dešra* = *sausage*]. To make the dashries she would stuff a sausage casing with a mixture of grated potatoes, onion and bacon. She would bake this in the oven until the sausage skin was crisp. We would then eat this with sour cream. I also enjoyed eating potato pancakes, "virtinies" [virtiniai]—the Lithuanian version of pierogies, pickled pigs feet and spare ribs.

Depression Days

When the Depression came my father went to New York City to work in a sheet metal factory. He stayed in Brooklyn with a cousin on my mother's side of the family. Then one day a metal sheet hit his knee and injured him. He came home to recuperate but then never went back to that job.

My cousin Anna made beautiful jewelry and sold it in a department store. We visited Anna's family several times in Brooklyn and they spent their vacations in Coaldale with us.

I usually had to work summers when I was a teenager. I had several different jobs. One summer I worked in Coaldale in a dress factory. Another time I stayed with my Aunt Marcella in New Philadelphia, Pa., and worked in a housecoat factory. But I liked working at the Mountain Top Inn, in nearby Summit Hill, the best. I stayed there and took care of the owner's children in the morning and then helped out with the housework. On the weekends I was also a waitress there.

Musical Aspirations

We had a musical family. My father taught himself to play the piano. He also thought he was a good dancer. During the winter we had monthly dances at the church hall and he would always ask me to dance. Unfortunately, he danced very stiffly, with his arm straight out in the European style, so I was always embarrassed and hated to dance with him.

My mother sang. My older brother, Pete, played the harmonica and also sang.

He was a good-looking young man and unfortunately died in a car accident when he was 21 years old.

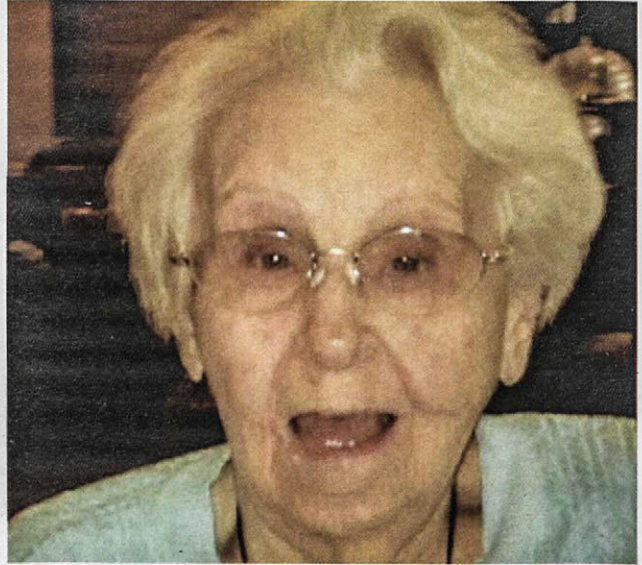
Joe, my younger brother, played saxophone and clarinet. At home he would listen to me sing the latest songs and when he was in grade school he would often be sent around the school to sing for the classes. He would also appear in our high school plays if there was a part for a child. At Christmas he would sing carols and they would be broadcast throughout the town.

I played trumpet and piano. I was in the high school jazz band, marching band and symphony orchestra. I was also very active in school musical productions. I sang with a clear voice, nothing spectacular but very pleasant.

When my music instructor was sick he made arrangements for us to go to Mr. Dorsey, Sr., who lived in the next town, to teach us for a few weeks until he was feeling better. Mr. Dorsey was the father of bandleaders Jimmy and Tommy Dorsey. We had a band concert scheduled and that is why he helped us. That was a concert to pick out the best musical students and I was lucky enough to win a music scholarship to Ernest Williams School of Music. My father didn't understand and since I was a girl he didn't think I should go. My school principal even came to talk to him but he wouldn't change his mind. It was a very sad time in my life.

Leaving Coaldale

When that did not work out I wanted to try nursing school but again my father said no. My father did agree to me leaving Coaldale to stay with family friends in Philadelphia so that I could attend the Wilfred Academy to become a licensed beautician. After graduation I had sev-



Anngel today as a lively 96-year-old.

eral different jobs, all in beauty salons in Philadelphia.

While in Philadelphia I went to a dance with a co-worker and met my husband, John Daunis. He was running the dance at the Richmond Lithuanian Hall [ed.: *the Lithuanian Music Hall in the Port Richmond section of Philadelphia*]. After that I never returned to Coaldale to live.

After about a year, John and I got engaged. Then while we were driving to New Jersey to ask a friend to be the best man at our wedding we heard the news that Pearl Harbor had been attacked. This was a scary time. We really did not know what was going to happen next. We got married anyhow on January 4, 1942.

A talented musician and later in life a painter, Anngel Gurske Daunis grew up in Coaldale, Pa., and raised her family in Philadelphia before moving to Long Beach Island, N.J., and retiring in Vero Beach, Fla. In Florida, Anngel and her husband were active in the Lithuanian community, John serving terms as president and Anngel as social director of their local Lithuanian club. They began to travel the world in 1987 before returning to New Jersey in 2000. Anngel now resides in an assisted-living community in Stafford, N.J. This memory about growing up in Coaldale is an excerpt from a lengthier memoir that Anngel wrote several years ago.



Fostering Lithuanian School Librarians

By Dr. Blanche Woolls and
Dr. Anita Adamitis Scarborough

Students fill bags for conference attendees in Vilnius in August 2012.

The American Professional Partnership for Lithuanian Education Helps Lithuanian School Librarians Organize First National Meeting

In 1991 Regina Petrauskas, a Lithuanian-born high school librarian from Pennsylvania, traveled to Vilnius to act as a translator for the newly established American Professional Partnership for Lithuanian Education (A.P.P.L.E.). The following year she returned to launch the A.P.P.L.E. School Library Seminar for the summer session in Vilnius. It was a successful beginning and she invited Dr. Blanche Woolls to join her. In 1996 Dr. Woolls took responsibility for the sum-

mer seminars. Three colleagues from the U.S.—Drs. Marge Tassia, Brenda White and Barbara Immroth—joined her for subsequent summer sessions. Until that time, only very small groups of Lithuanian school librarians ever had the opportunity to meet.

Over time, the A.P.P.L.E. library seminars attracted new attendees, while maintaining a cadre who returned every year. During a summer session, attendees elected Snaiguolė Raguckienė to repre-

sent them at the meeting of the International Association of School Librarianship (IASL) in Dublin, Ireland. Snaiguolė became a co-instructor for the summer A.P.P.L.E. sessions. One summer when Dr. Woolls was unable to lead the session, Snaiguolė conducted the seminar on her own and was extremely successful.

Snaiguolė and Aldona Paulauskienė from the Gabija Gymnasium in Mažeikiai attended meetings of the IASL in Berkeley, Calif., and Padua, Italy. Aldona joined Snaiguolė and Dr. Woolls for the most recent A.P.P.L.E. school librarian summer seminar held in Klaipėda in 2011. It was Dr. Woolls' dream that the Lithuanian school librarians who had coalesced as a group via A.P.P.L.E. would organize a national meeting for school librarians in Lithuania.

In fall 2010, Aldona organized a successful meeting of school librarians in her area. In spring 2011, Dr. Woolls attended the Bologna Children's Book Festival, which had chosen Lithuania as its featured country. During a program featuring Lithuanian authors, she met a conference organizer, Deimantė Vilcinskaitė, a close personal friend of Dr. Vida Gavin of Cape Cod, A.P.P.L.E. president in 2010-2011.

The wonderful outcome was that Aldona began working with Deimantė and, this past summer, with the support of the Lithuanian Educational Development Center (Ugdymo Plėtotos Centras), the dream was fulfilled. More than 200 Lithuanian school librarians traveled to Vilnius on August 8, 2012, to attend their first national meeting, "New Generation of a School Library." Speakers from Lithuania and international speakers from the U.S., Italy, Malaysia, Qatar and Russia gathered to discuss the challenges facing education and school libraries—and to help government officials understand their value in schools.

Lithuanian government officials and public librarians also spoke at the day-long event. Aldona and Snaiguolė described their work with students and teachers to promote research. Gabrielė Bubokaitė, a student at Paulauskienė's



Long-time seminar leader, Dr. Blanche Woolls, set the wheels in motion for a national conference.

school, and Algirdas Dvarionas, a student at the University of Vilnius, spoke at the "Future of the School Library Through the Eyes of the Student" session, giving

A public librarian from the M. Misikinai Public Library spoke about the "Learning by Playing" project, a series of electronic games developed to help children overcome some learning problems and encourage them to stay in school. It teaches concepts in math and other subjects and has a testing component so that students understand when they need to review content and improve their post-test scores.

The conference ended with Valdas Kaminskas, a Lithuanian education consultant, who helped divide librarians into five regions of the country and asked them to volunteer to lead the creation of a new school library association in their areas. A formal association would allow school librarians as a group to apply for available funds to hold national meetings and to participate in international conferences.

Barbara Ford, director of the Mortensen Center for International Library Programs at the University of Illinois, gave the keynote presentation, "Global Reach, Local Touch," which explained the importance of school librarians adopting a global presence. Ford spoke about her center's program for international visi-

tors and encouraged attendees to apply. She also suggested that the Lithuanian and U.S. governments assist in this type of international meeting.

Other international speakers included Diljit Singh, president of the International Association of School Librarianship and professor at the University of Malaya in Malaysia; Barbara Immroth, professor at the School of Information at the University of Texas at Austin; Luisa Marquart, professor at Italy's Roma Tre University; and Tatiana Zhukova, president of the Russian School Library Association.

With the commitment of American volunteers, A.P.P.L.E. has conducted sessions in Lithuania every summer since 1991. The organization is particularly proud of the accomplishments of the lecturers and attendees of the School Library seminars. They demonstrate how the partnership supports the initiative of Lithuanian teachers by providing information and encouraging independent action.

Blanche Woolls, Ph.D., is professor emerita at San Jose State University's School of Library and Information Science and consulting editor of ABC-CLIO/Libraries Unlimited. Anita Adamitis Scarborough, Ph.D., is a retired researcher from the Frank Porter Graham Child Development Institute at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.



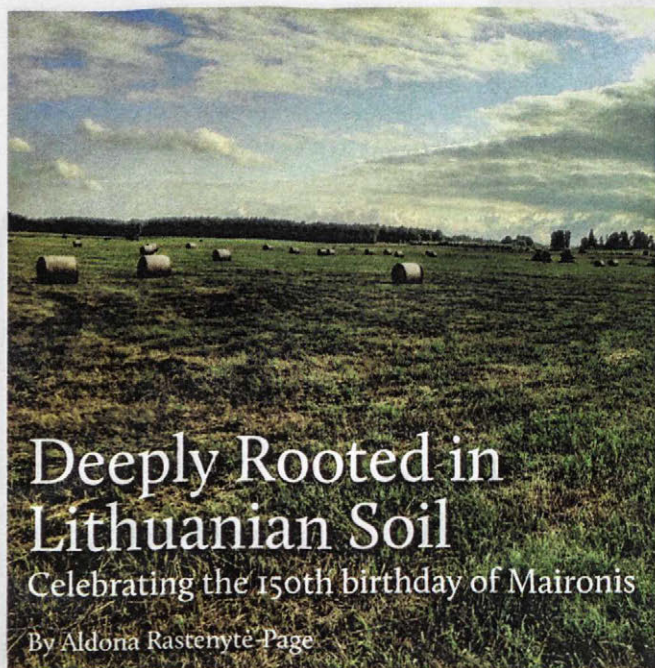
Librarian and seminar co-instructor, Snaiguolė Raguckienė

their positive predictions about the fate of the profession. They said they were grateful for the introduction to information they received and look forward to continuing to use their libraries.



School librarian Aldona Paulauskienė.





Deeply Rooted in Lithuanian Soil

Celebrating the 150th birthday of Maironis

By Aldona Rastenytė-Page

Jonas Mačiulis-Maironis, the famous Lithuanian poet of national revival, was born on October 21, 1862, at the estate of Pasandravys, county of Raseiniai, Lithuania.

Maironis grew up in the beautiful landscape of Žemaitija and his love of the beautiful Lithuanian countryside and its people are so masterfully conveyed in his poems, ballads and dramas. He penned his first poems while still in Kaunas high school, and upon finishing Kaunas gymnasium in 1873 he went to Kiev University to study literature. After a year, he returned to Kaunas and entered Kaunas Seminary to study theology until 1888. Later he studied at St. Petersburg Theological Academy, where he received a master's and a doctoral degree in theology.

Upon finishing his studies, he was a professor at St. Petersburg Academy. In 1909 he took up the position of rector of the Kaunas Theological Seminary, and as professor taught moral theology, as well as Lithuanian and world literatures. He addressed the seminarians publicly in the Lithuanian language and broke the custom of using Polish or Latin. He published his first book, "Lietuvos istorija" ("Lithuanian History"), in 1891, and in 1895 his first collection of poems, "Pavasario balsai" ("Voices of Spring"). During his years in Kaunas he published five tomes of his "Works," which contain his life's writings.

In 1891 he was ordained into priesthood, and in 1911 the honorary title of Prelate was bestowed upon him. He was a highly educated and erudite man, and spoke five languages, but he was deeply rooted in Lithuanian soil, and he knew his past.

The best poetic works of Maironis have become an irreplaceable part of Lithuania's cultural heritage. Here is a sampling of some of his more famous poems.

Aldona Page is immediate past chair of the Cultural Affairs Council of the Lithuanian-American Community.

LITHUANIA

The Nemunas flows in strong repose
And waters our native soil.
Birute's song in our brother's tongue
Can lighten the ploughman's toil.
As our rivers cross the eternal strand,
So shall our songs resound in every land.

Where the jewels gleam, where the rue is green
And graces a maiden's wreath,
Where the cuckoo's cry fills the forest high,
Our cottages stand on the heath.
Where the rue blooms and speckled birds rejoice,
There our mother awaits the wonderer's voice.

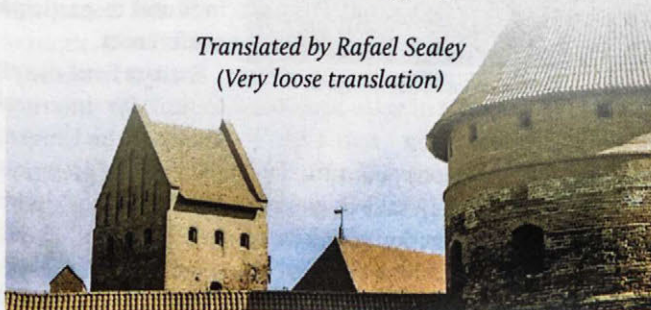
When the sun of spring scatters shades from the ling,
When the hay meets the reaper's hand,
When the stubble-corn is all cold and torn
Ever fair is our native land.
In winter's snows, in summer's ecstasy,
None is dearer, lovelier than thee.

In the sun's bright rays or in clouded days
Our heart returns to our home,
Where our fathers rest and their memory is blest,
Where our sweat has watered the loam.
In joy and hardship, quietude and strife,
Be the land beloved more than life.

There the boyars rode to their Prince's abode
And made the Teuton flee.
Our homage is due and our hearts are true
To the land of our liberty.
In her cause our fathers strove and bled,
In her cause our blood shall yet be shed.

May the Lord of grace defend the place
Where the bones of our ancestors lie.
May Thy powerful hand protect the land
Where Thy children suffer and die.
Shed still upon our home Thy mercy's light;
Still hear us, Lord of everlasting might.

*Translated by Rafael Sealey
(Very loose translation)*





SPRING

The bright sun of springtide rose up and from high
It smiles melting hearts with delight.
The larks have already ascended the sky
And merrily chant in their flight.

The earth has awakened! Away in the fields
The breeze roams caressing your breast.
Bright flowers have flooded the meadows and fields
And twine into garlands with zest.

With spring comes a hope lighting up every face.
The heart yearns for love and its bliss.
It tempts me to clasp all the world in embrace
And give it a rapturous kiss.

Translated by Lionginas Pažūsis

THE EARTH IS SLEEPING

The earth is sleeping. Yet the sky
With its bright silver eyes is gleaming.
The wings of slumber rustling by
Can't lull a youthful heart to dreaming.

The night won't lull the star to sleep.
The heart won't cease to crave for blessings.
Who knows for what the soul can seek
When it is lost in reminiscence?

A glowing sunrise golden-dressed
Will dim away the night-time sparklers.
Alas, the heart will never rest,
No ray of hope will pierce its darkness...

Translated by Lionginas Pažūsis

I'LL VANISH LIKE SMOKE

I'll vanish like smoke drifting up in the air,
And no one will miss me at all!
Like thousands who lived once and sank in despair,
Whose names now can no one recall!

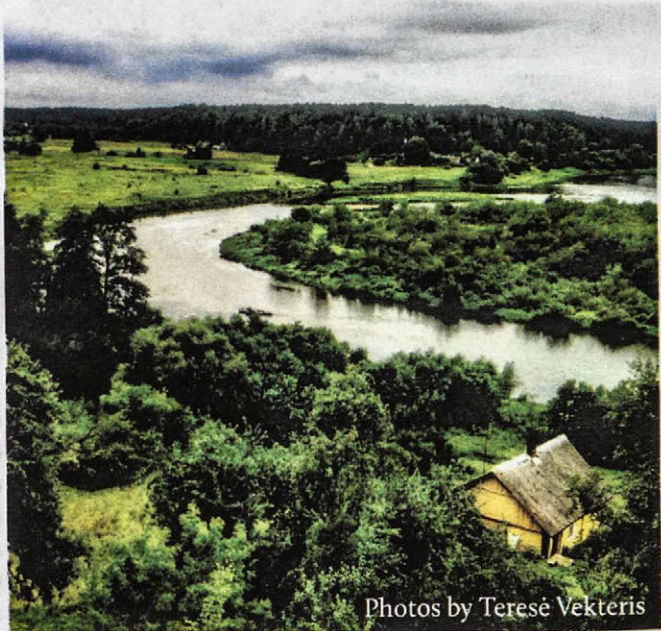
Like waves of the seas or a man's restless thought
This world's deeds are changing with time!
Where's Sardis? Or Athens? The Romans who sought
To reach in their works the sublime?

Then what is my misery or inspiration?
Those flashes revealing my soul?
A stir of my blood or my heart's trepidation
The grave soon will swallow it all!

My songs soon will die! Yet a fond aspiration
Will make other poets fly high!
The same distant star will arouse admiration,
They'll suffer bedazzled like I!

And what is the glory in song so exalted?
A shadow that's tuning along!
When man is no more, all the dreams he has haunted
Will fade soon like thick crimson dawn!

Translated by Lionginas Pažūsis



Photos by Teresė Vekteris

a taste of lithuania



Šakotis: Lithuanian Tradition from Antiquity

By Christiana Noyalas

Have you tasted šakotis? If you have, then you know what a wonderful Lithuanian treat and tradition it is. Crisp along the edges, dense and moist on the inside—purely decadent. The edges are sort of like Italian pizzelles, but crumblier. Toward the center, you may be reminded of rich pound cake. Lots of sour cream and eggs lend a moist, chewy texture while a splash of lemon juice or brandy imparts sublime deliciousness.

Served at weddings and holiday banquets, this Lithuanian tree cake readily adapts to special occasions with festive adornments fashioned from chocolate, colorful icing or fresh flowers. Popular modern accompaniments include fresh fruit and chocolate fondue.

Lithuanian artisans baked šakotis for centuries over expansive open flames. They started with a wooden cylinder mounted on a simple, hand-cranked rotisserie. Then, they applied a thin layer of batter and continuously rotated the cylinder horizontally while the batter baked onto it. They painstakingly applied each layer one by one and cranked the rotisserie over the fire until finally, after 15 to 20 layers, the šakotis tree grew to its mature size. While baking today is far less arduous thanks to rotisserie ovens, finding a bakery that offers these labor-intensive cakes in America is not easy. In fact, unless you live in Chicago or Cleveland, mail order may be your only option.

Historically, tree cakes can be traced to the antiquities of Greece and Rome. Over the ages, recipes evolved with both subtle and distinctive European influences. Unique tree cakes appear throughout Europe today—each with its own proud ethnic heritage. Recipe variations include ingredients such as ground nuts, rum, yeast, raisins, coconut and poppy seeds. In Lithuania, these cakes are called šakotis and raguolis interchangeably. The former means “branched” while the latter means “spiked.” No matter what you call them, they are divine!

To order šakotis from a bakery here in America, visit Racine Bakery in Chicago (www.racinebakery.com) or visit Sakotis Baumkuchenas from the Lithuanian American Citizens Club of Cleveland on Facebook (Facebook name: Sakotis Baumkuchenas).

Christiana Noyalas (Naujalis) is a marketing professional with a passion for cooking and genealogy. A resident of southeastern Pennsylvania, Christiana serves on Philadelphia's Lithuanian Music Hall Association board. She test drives cookware and shares recipes on her blog, www.toolsforkitchens.com.



Deciphering the Secrets of the Census

By Richard Gostautas

In our September issue, we discussed the importance of creating a genealogy time line for your ancestors. The importance of this information is having a map of information that can help determine not only which records to research, but also WHERE we have to research.

If you recall, one of the questions asked was where the person/family was living in 1940, 1930, 1920 and 1910. Why is this information important? It is important because if you know where the person was living during any of these years, then it is possible to find additional information from these U.S. census records. Since 1790, the U.S. has taken census records every 10 years (with 1940 being the last to become public due to the 72-year privacy restriction).

The information in the census records includes household members (e.g., spouse, children, boarders), age, birthplace and occupation, along with information on immigration and citizenship—a wealth of information for any genealogical research. Knowing where the person was living in these various years will help you determine where you might need to search for church records (e.g., baptismal, marriage, etc.), birth or death records, or even local employment records! All of these will add new information to your genealogy time line and will also help in beginning your search and request for potential naturalization records.

Starting in 1890, the U.S. census began asking people the "Number of years in the United States," "Whether naturalized" and "Whether naturalization papers have been taken out." In later census years, supplemental information was added such as "Year of immigration" (1900), "Whether naturalized or alien" (1910), and "If naturalized, year of naturalization" (1920). Knowing the year of immigration narrows down the search for ship manifest records, and the naturalization information will help determine WHERE to search for these records. For those lucky ones with ancestors that never moved, tracking down records may be a bit easier. For you unlucky ones, knowing where the family was living during these various years is critical for tracking down these various records.

For the question on "Whether naturalized or alien" in the 1910 or 1920 census, you may often see the following: "NA," "PA" or "AL." The "NA" means the person was naturalized and has received a Certificate of Naturalization. A "PA" means this person has filed their Declaration of Intention or "first papers" to become a citizen of the U.S. The "AL" means that the person is an alien and has not started the process for naturalization.

Let's look at an example from the 1920 census from Elizabeth,

Union County, New Jersey. On line 55, John Polikavitch was the head of the household, 40 years old (born around 1880), immigrated to the U.S. in 1895 (column 13), is naturalized (column 14) and was naturalized in 1917 (column 15). The 1920 census is the ONLY census that asks for the year of naturalization (if the person was naturalized) and is why this census year is unique. Thus, by knowing the year WHEN the person was naturalized (three years prior to the 1920 census) and if this family was living in the same place in 1910, we now know WHERE the person was naturalized (which will be covered more in depth in our continuing series).

PLACE OF BIRTH				NAME		RELATION		SEX		MARRIAGE		CITIZENSHIP	
of each person whose place of birth on January 1, 1920, was in this family.				of each person whose place of birth on January 1, 1920, was in this family.		of each person whose place of birth on January 1, 1920, was in this family.		of each person whose place of birth on January 1, 1920, was in this family.		of each person whose place of birth on January 1, 1920, was in this family.		of each person whose place of birth on January 1, 1920, was in this family.	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
				Mrs. J. Polikavitch	Wife								
				John Polikavitch	Head								
				Anna Polikavitch	Wife								
				Joseph Polikavitch	Boarder								
				Joseph Polikavitch	Boarder								
				Joseph Polikavitch	Boarder								
				Joseph Polikavitch	Boarder								
				Joseph Polikavitch	Boarder								
				Joseph Polikavitch	Boarder								
				Joseph Polikavitch	Boarder								
				Joseph Polikavitch	Boarder								

There are two options for accessing census records—in person or online. You can view the census records in person by visiting one of the National Archives and Records Administration regional facilities and you can find out more information by visiting <http://www.archives.gov/research/genealogy>.

Most online access will require some type of paid subscription, but there are also some free (although more limited) resources. You can search and view the newly released 1940 census online for free at the National Archives website at <http://1940census.archives.gov>. This site only supports a search by state, county, town or enumeration district but NOT by surname, so if you use this site you will have to do a page-by-page search.

Family Search at <http://familysearch.org/1940census/> is also free and you can perform a search by surname and view the actual census image. For all other census years you will either have to use Ancestry.com or access the microfilm rolls at a Family History Center—go to <http://familysearch.org/locations> to find one near you. This website includes additional information on other records within their holdings for genealogical research (most are searchable for free online). They also offer free classes and research support.

Ancestry.com allows for a free search of the 1940 census records if you sign up for a free account. However, searching

genealogy tips & tricks

for census years other than 1940 will require you to sign up for a paid subscription. This site has a ton of other types of records for research that include U.S. as well as world records. However, each will require a paid subscription at different pricing. Information on what records are covered by each subscription can be found at <http://www.ancestry.com/subscribe/signup.aspx>.

Here's a little tip if you're on a budget—contact or visit your local library! Many local libraries have computers on which you can perform a search and access Ancestry.com records for free through a subscription that has been paid for by the library.

So support your local library by visiting them and, if you have the means, making a small donation that will go a long way to ensuring continued access for you and your local community.

Richard Gostautas currently oversees the Lithuanian Global Genealogy Society (LGGS) at www.lithuaniangenealogy.org. LGGS is the sponsor of the LithuanianGenealogy group on Yahoo! that has 2,000+ members assisting one another in their research. Richard has been performing genealogy research for 15+ years and is one of many volunteers assisting in those researching their Lithuanian roots.

lac news

LAC, Inc. Appoints New National Executive Committee

The Board of Directors of the Lithuanian-American Community, Inc. recently selected a new national Executive Committee chair during the 2012 LAC Board of Directors Annual Meeting, held in Atlanta, Ga., in October. The new president then chose her team for a three-year term. The current Executive Committee's term is 2012-2015. It is the job of the Committee to implement the Board's wishes.

The Committee also oversees several councils, including: Academic Affairs, Archives and Cultural Affairs, Internships and Youth Affairs, Educational Affairs, Religious Affairs, and Public Affairs.

Congratulations to the new Executive Committee and council chairs:

Sigita Šimkuvienė-Rosen
President

Rimantas Bitėnas
Executive Vice President

Dalė Lukienė
Vice President, Archives

Algimantas Gustaitis
Vice President,
Financial Affairs

Loreta Timukienė
Vice President,
Information

Liepa Gust
Vice President, Youth Affairs

Laurynas Vismanas
Vice President,
Organizational Affairs

Arvydas Bubulis
Vice President, Sports

Rasa Ardys Juska
Lithuanian International
Student Services Director

Dr. Žydrūnas Gimbutas
Treasurer

Danguolė Navickienė
Website Team

Dr. Elona Vaisnys
Website Team

Algis Grybas
Website Team

Rūta Pakštaitė-Cole
Co-chair, Cultural Affairs

Laima Apanavičienė
Co-chair, Cultural Affairs

Dr. Regina Balčaitienė
Chair, Academic Affairs

Rev. Gintaras Jonikas
Chair, Religious Affairs

Gražvydas Supronas
Chair, Social Affairs

Daiva Navickienė
Chair, Educational Affairs

Danelė Vidutienė
Chair, Public Affairs



Philadelphia's "Laisvė" choir provided lyric bookends to the night's program.

Philadelphia Celebrates Maironis' 150th Birthday

By Aldona Rastenyte-Page

Photos by Rimas Gedeika

On October 21, 2012, exactly 150 years after Jonas Mačiulis-Maironis was born, Philadelphia's Lithuanian-American Community celebrated the poet's birthday at the Lithuanian Music Hall on 2715 E. Allegheny Avenue, Philadelphia.

For the celebration of this special occasion, Juratė Svedaitė, a soloist with the Connecticut Lyric Opera, was invited to present Maironis' famous poems in song, poems that have become very popular and were put to music by various Lithuanian composers. (See pages 10-11 for some of these poems.)

A lecture on "Maironis, and His Influence on Lithuanian Theatre" was presented by Egidijus Stancikas, an actor and the head of the Kaunas National Drama Theatre in Lithuania. He enthusiastically reported about Maironis' interest and love of theatre and presented excerpts of his historic dramas. He masterfully quoted his most famous drama, "Vytautas pas kryžiuočius" ("Vytautas at the Teutonic Knights"), with an impressive performance of the "Kestutis" soliloquy from the play.

The program was artfully framed by the Philadelphia choir "Laisvė," under the directorship of Ilona Babinskienė. The singers began the program with four Maironis songs and ended the program with four more exuberantly executed songs, raising the audience to their feet in ovations. The accompanist for the evening was Curtis Institute pianist Oxana Harlamova.

The artists and the Philadelphia choir also visited six other U.S. cities and presented the program in Hartford, Ct.; Washington, D.C.; New York; Cleveland; Chicago and Riverhead, N.Y. This tour honoring the revered Lithuanian poet Maironis was organized

by the Cultural Council of the Lithuanian American Community, Inc., and was generously supported by the Lithuanian Fund.

Aldona Rastenyte-Page just completed a three-year term as chair of the Cultural Council of the Lithuanian-American Community, Inc. She is active in the Philadelphia Lithuanian-American community, singing in the choir "Laisvė" and teaching the Lithuanian language to adults among other activities.



Juratė Svedaitė of the Connecticut Lyric Opera presented Maironis' poetry in song.



Lithuanian actor Egidijus Stancikas gave the audience both history and performance.

sports



Play gets going on two courts at Spring Lake

Experience Trumps Youth in Jersey Shore 3x3

Article and photos by Rimas Gedeika

September 16, 2012. A gorgeous, blue, cloudless Sunday morning. Dozens of Lithuanians gathered for battle. Weapon of choice—the basketball.



Dainius bruising for a rebound as Aras plays Lietuviai

It was once again time for the Jersey Shore 3x3 Basketball Tournament in Spring Lake, N.J.

This was the eighth consecutive year that the tournament would be held during the waning days of summer. It had come into existence because one man had a dream.

Marijus Kasuva, a very good basketball player and an even greater fan, always wanted to play in a 3x3 (three players against three players) tournament. So, in 2004, he contacted several players in the tri-state area (New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania) and convinced them that such a tournament would be a great way to end the summer. Everyone agreed and the Jersey Shore 3x3 was born.

Over the past 15 years the 3x3 basketball format has become so popular throughout the world that it is now being considered as one of the new sports to be added to the 2016 Summer Olympics in Brazil. (Note: the Lithuanian team has won the World 3x3 Championships two out of the past three years.)

This year's Tournament comprised seven teams: two from New York, three from New Jersey, one from Long Island and one from Philadelphia.

The preliminary rounds were very competitive and played with great vigor. In the end, four teams made it to the semi-finals: the New Jersey Lietuviai, the two-time champions; the Philadelphia Aras, the surprise team; the Long Island Lietuviai, the perennial semi-finalists; and the New Jersey Kaunas, the young upstarts.

The first semi-final pitted two heavyweights: Philadelphia's Aras and New Jersey's Lietuviai. Throughout the contest the play was rough and tumble. Players knocked heads fighting for rebounds, bodies were flying all over the court, each basket was "earned" gruelingly. At one point Aras had a five-point lead and it did not look good for the Lietuviai. But, being the champs that they were, the New Jerseyans fought back. They found within themselves the extra energy and the toughness of both body and mind to get the rebounds, to hit the crucial



Kaunas vs. Lietuviai

shots from the outside and from underneath the basket. Azuolas Seduikas, their smallest player, who earlier in the game was getting belted all over the court, was now able to slash his way through Aras's tall, muscular players to hit the three-point shots.

The game ended with the champs winning by three points. Both teams were battered and bruised but satisfied with their play.

The second semi-final saw New Jersey Kaunas's youth and speed versus the experience of Long Island Lietuviai. Experience is an important factor, but certainly not the only one. Speed, agility and accuracy often times carry the day as was the case in this contest. Long Island's men played hard but

they could not keep up with the fast hands and feet of the Kaunas players.

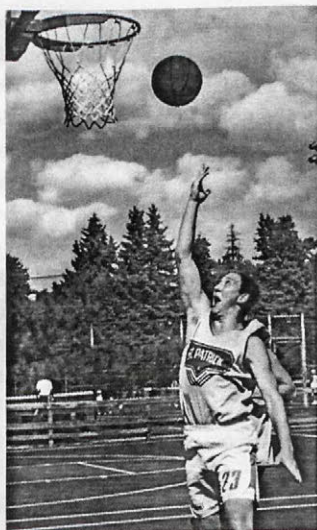
The final was now set. It was New Jersey Kaunas' speed and youth versus New Jersey Lietuviai's strength and experience. The game began with Kaunas players driving, slashing and scoring almost at will. And before you could say "Jackie Robinson," the youngsters were leading by five points.

A time out was called by the champs. It was time to regroup, to play tougher defense in the paint, time to make the youngsters pay dearly whenever they drove to the basket. The Lietuviai came out more energized, more determined, with more fire in their eyes. Now, the Kaunas players had their drives blocked, their rebounding efforts neutralized, their lack of experience exploited.

The Kaunas five-point advantage was quickly erased. Now, the muscular forwards Kastytis Mauricas and Dainius Sakavickas began to grab almost every rebound, began to set tough picks for Azuolas Seduikis, their deadly three-point sniper. The final score: New Jersey Lietuviai 21, New Jersey Kaunas 16.

With this victory the New Jersey Lietuviai won the Jersey Shore 3x3 Tournament for the third year in a row. Congratulations to the victors!

Rimas Gedeika, a New Jersey resident, is an avid photographer and sports fan. He is business manager for Bridges.



Another drive to the basket: Kaunas vs. Lietuviai



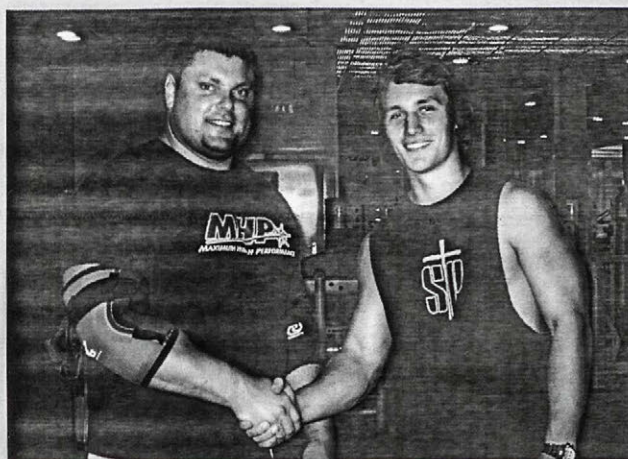
New Jersey Lietuviai are champions for the third year in a row.

Savickas Is World's Strongest Man Once Again

In September of this year, in Los Angeles, Žydrunas Savickas from Biržiai, Lithuania, won the World's Strongest Man Competition for the third time. The 37-year-old, 6' 3", 375-pound power lifter had won two previous World's Strongest Man Competitions—in 2009 and 2010.

Savickas, whom many experts regard as the greatest power lifter and strongman of all time, has won many other international titles. He holds six consecutive Arnold (Schwarzenegger) Strong Man titles (2003-2008), two Europe's Strongest Man titles (2010 and 2012) and 10 consecutive Lithuanian titles.

This year's World competition was of special interest to Lithuanians. For the first time, two Lithuanians won the first two places: Žydrunas Savickas, first place and Viktoras Lalas, second place.



University of Pittsburgh student and Vilnius City Municipality PR intern Paulius Razgaitis (right) met strongman Žydrunas Savickas during a morning workout at Savicko Sporto Klubas in 2011. Photo: Vitalij Lyskoit

Meilutytė Continues Winning Streak in Sweden

Rūta Meilutytė, 2012 Olympic 100m breaststroke gold medalist, continued her winning ways by grabbing another gold in the 100m breaststroke in the World Championships in Stockholm, Sweden in 1:05.02. Even though the race was held in a 25-meter pool (vs. the Olympic 50-meter pool), she bested her Olympic time of 1:05.47.

Meilutytė also won a gold medal in the 50m breaststroke with a time of 29.96 seconds and a bronze medal in the 100m medley.

current events

Lithuania Launches Space Program With Pizza

Lithuania last year signed a cooperation agreement with the European Space Agency targeting the food transportation market for astronauts. In September, it sent a pizza into space in conjunction with Baltic pizza chain Čili's 15th anniversary.

The Hawaii pizza, chosen by Čili's customers in Facebook voting, was lifted more than 30 kilometers into the upper atmosphere by a meteorological balloon, setting the record for the highest an object has been sent from Lithuania.

The pizza's voyage involved careful planning with the Lithuanian Airspace Control Center, which tracked the pizza's position with a phone. With only a 20-minute window for the record attempt, the center monitored the flight closely to ensure that planes kept out of its path.

According to PRWeb, the balloon burst at three times the height at which planes fly after a two-hour ascent. The exact height that the pizza reached is unknown because the signal disappeared at 33 kilometers above the Earth.

The pizza's skyward journey began in the geographical center of Lithuania.

It parachuted back to earth, landing in a tree in some Lithuanian woodlands. It survived the journey intact.

The successful record attempt coincided with the opening of the world's first pizza museum in Philadelphia. The Lithuanian achievement will be shared with the museum along with video captured by the cameras that accompanied the pizza on its trip into space. Watch the flight at <http://vimeo.com/49452812>.

Lithuania Hosts NB8



Lithuania hosted this year's NB8, the annual meeting of the heads of diplomacy of eight Nordic and Baltic countries. Officials from Denmark, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, Finland, Sweden and Iceland attended the meeting.

The Nordic-Baltic cooperation started 20 years ago to coordinate interests and work together toward common goals, including energy cooperation, security and defense, cyber-security, civil safety, responsible economic policy and growth opportunities.

Three Nordic and three Baltic countries also cooperate closely within the EU. Traditionally, Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia, Finland, Sweden and Denmark coordinate their positions on underlying European policy issues before every European Council meeting.

The September meeting produced discussions not only on the eurozone crisis, but also on problems faced by the Eastern Partnership countries, Middle East issues, and on cooperation with the United Nations, NATO and EU missions on general security issues.

The ministers also discussed the new challenges facing the search for peace between Armenia and Azerbaijan, in the face of the Azeri courts' decision to issue a pardon to Ramil Safarov, an Azeri military official who was serving a life term in prison for the murder of an Armenian officer in Budapest in 2004.

The NB8 delegates said the pardon was a blow to trust on both sides of the Azeri-Armenian conflict. The delegates stated their interest in stability in the South Caucasus region and the hope that the current situation will be addressed on the basis of universally recognized norms of international law.

Website Names KGB Personnel in Lithuania

A website exposing the activities of the Soviet KGB secret police crashed soon after it put lists of personnel online in September as crowds of visitors logged on. Lithuania's Genocide and Resistance Research Center had uploaded 628 documents reflecting the activities of the KGB divisions in cities and districts when Lithuania was under Soviet rule, including names of around 1,500 officers.

The lists from around the country include KGB cadres that worked in Lithuania from 1960-1991, usually under cover. The documents revealed the biggest KGB section was in the city of Kaunas, central Lithuania, a flashpoint of anti-Soviet sentiments for decades.

"These people in the lists usually did not expose themselves, worked undercover, and presented themselves as officials from ministries or organizations," said Kristina Bučinskaitė, a historian at the Genocide and Resistance Research Center.

The Vilnius-based center had earlier published documents from KGB central authorities, and intends to release a separate list of more than 1,000 KGB agents who failed to confess after Lithuania achieved independence in the future.

The state-funded website, www.kgbveikla.lt, went online in May 2011.

Nation

...The Government of Lithuania approved a draft law to label cigarette packets in Lithuania with the health warnings, including pictures of mouth cancer and other smoking-related illnesses.

... While overall risk of introduction of the African Swine Fever (ASF) virus into EU countries is low, the risks are higher for Poland and Lithuania, according to researchers. The uncontrolled presence of ASF in the Russian Federation poses a serious risk to the whole EU pig industry. Although trade of pigs and pig products has been banned since 2007, potential introduction of the virus may occur through contaminated waste or infected vehicles returning from Russia.

...Seimas speaker Irena Degutienė has proposed higher taxes on alcohol as a way of combatting growing alcoholism in Lithuania. Alcohol control data puts individual consumption at a minimum of 12 liters of pure alcohol a year.

...During Holocaust Day remembrances on September 23, the day the Vilna ghetto was destroyed in 1943, Lithuania honored late Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin. A plaque was dedicated at Lukiškes Prison, where Begin was interrogated about his involvement in the Zionist movement in Poland.

...Lietuvos Bankas (Bank of Lithuania) has warned residents about Gold Line International, a suspected pyramid scheme. Gold Line is suspected of illegal operations and cheating people in Lithuania out of money. Gold Line International's website promises monetary rewards that depend on the number of recruited participants and the total amount contributed.

...Lithuanian demand for residential property jumped to its highest level in more than four years. The country's registry office registered 2,191 apartment sales in August, the highest since April 2008. Deals on residential houses was up 9.8 percent from a year earlier.

Business

...Lithuania has invited Indian firms to trade in machinery and equipment, textile, food industry, medical devices, chemical products and plastics, as well as to collaborate in science and technology research and education. Bilateral trade between India and Lithuania was at \$208.75 million in 2010-11.

...Kempinski Hotels opened its first property in the Baltics, the 96-room Kempinski Hotel Cathedral Square, in Vilnius. Restoration of the building, once a well-known hotel, sought to preserve its history with its white marble lobby, panoramic windows, high ceilings and parquet floors.

...Twelve Lithuanian enterprises were on the list of Central European Top 500 companies compiled by international audit and business consulting company Deloitte, four more than in the previous ranking. Average growth for Central European countries on the list was 9.8%. The growth index for Lithuania was 6.6% and 22% for Latvia. Estonia recorded a 6% fall.

...Thermo Fisher Scientific opened its Molecular Biology Center of Excellence in Vilnius, to provide molecular, protein and cellular biology products to serve growing demand from life sciences customers throughout Eastern Europe.

...Vilnius hosted the international conference "Life Sciences Baltics 2012," the first event of such magnitude in the three Baltic countries. Educational institutions and companies of the Baltic Sea

region were presented to foreign partners seeking to open the door to the world markets for products of Lithuanian universities and biotechnology firms.

Economy

...Lithuania's producer price inflation accelerated to the highest level in five months in August, according to data from the Department of Statistics. Output price inflation quickened to 6 percent from the revised 2.7 percent in July. The figure was the highest since March, when prices rose 7.1 percent.

...Lithuania needs price growth to slow to remain on track for euro adoption in 2014. In 2006, Lithuania was the only nation rejected for the currency switch after it missed an inflation target by 0.1 percentage point. Popular opinion on euro adoption is waning, however, as the Eurozone debt crisis deepens. According to an SKDS poll, 51 percent of Lithuanians were against joining the eurozone.

...Lithuania's budget expenditures may rise by up to 350 million litas next year compared with this year, but the increase may be fully consumed by costs related to the Presidency of the Council of the European Union, contributions to the EU budget and paying interest on loans.

...Lithuania borrowed Swiss francs for the first time, issuing a 5.5-year bond worth 500 million litas with 2 percent annual interest in the Swiss financial market. The transaction was moderated by banks Credit Suisse and BNP Paribas. Funds from the bond issue will be used to redeem a Eurobond of 3.45 billion litas in 2013, reducing the risk of refinancing or the necessity to borrow next year.

Education



...QS World University Ranking 2012/13 has placed three Lithuanian universities among the 700 world's best: Vilnius University (VU), Vilnius Gediminas Technical University (VGTU) and Vytautas Magnus University (VMU). It

is the first time VGTU and VMU are included in the ranking. Massachusetts Institute of Technology tops the list. Rankings are based on academic reputation, employer reputation, student ratio, citation index, international faculty and international students.

...Kaunas-based Vytautas Magnus University has opened an office in Washington, D.C., becoming the first Lithuanian university with an office in North America. The University's goal is to foster international growth and establish partnerships with the most prominent schools, universities and other educational and cultural programs in the United States, Canada and Mexico. VMU Music Academy has already established a partnership with Juilliard.

current events

continued from previous page

International

...While attending the United Nations' General Debate in September, Lithuania's President Dalia Grybauskaitė called on the UN to outlaw the use of energy to gain political goals. She noted the need to increase global energy sustainability and highlighted the need for nuclear safety.

...Lithuania and eight other countries have opposed a proposed European law that would impose sanctions on EU companies whose boards aren't made up of at least 40 percent women. Women make up only 3.2 percent of presidents and chairmen and 13.7 percent of board seats. The opposers said they agreed that there are too few women on boards, but prefer legislation to happen within individual countries.

...Lithuanian-based pharmaceutical company Valentis' food supplement Cignon for tendons has become the millionth trademark registered in the European Union. The common EU trademark and design registration system was launched in 1996.

...Lithuanian President Dalia Grybauskaitė and Latvian President Andris Bērziņš commemorated Baltic Unity Day on September 22 and discussed the issues of bilateral cooperation on projects such as energy independence. Baltic Unity Day marks the victory of the united forces of Samogitians and Semigallians over the Livonian Brothers of the Sword in the Battle of Saule in 1236.

...While the birthrate declines every year in Lithuania, the number of Lithuanians who have children abroad is growing. Over the last 10 years, more than 17,000 Lithuanian children were born in England and Wales, numbering in the top 10 immigrant births.

...Canada's Lithuanian Community recently celebrated its 60th anniversary. To mark the milestone, community members were invited to submit an original video or photograph illustrating how they show their pride as Canadian-Lithuanians. Contest winners are featured at <http://www.klb.org/en>.

...According to research by Baltic advertising and media agencies, the most popular brand in the Baltics is the online search engine Google. The second most popular brand is Finnish mobile phone manufacturer Nokia and the online phone service provider Skype. Swedish bank chain Swedbank is the fourth most popular brand, followed by the Lithuanian supermarket chain Maxima, the social networking website Facebook and the television channel TV3.

People

...To strengthen ties with Lithuanian organizations abroad, Gintė Damušis was appointed ambassador for relations with the World Lithuanian Community (WLC) by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. In cooperation with the Board of the WLC, the Foreign Ministry will organize world-wide commemorative activities marking the 80th anniversary of the transatlantic flight by Darius and Girėnas, organize Unity Day of Lithuanians of the World events, engage Lithuanians abroad in celebrating the 100th anniversary of Lithuania's statehood and promote cooperation between world Lithuanians and Lithuanian non-governmental organizations.

...President Dalia Grybauskaitė conferred the rank of Brigadier General on Chief of Joint Headquarters of the Lithuanian Armed Forces Colonel Vilmantas Tamošaitis.

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Nov2012

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

DECEMBER 2012

December 1, 7 p.m.
Banquet to support the Lithuanian opera
Lithuanian Youth Center, Chicago
Tickets and info: 630-833-1893.

December 1 & 2,
9 a.m.-3 p.m.
Traditional Christmas Fair
Lithuanian World Center,
4911 127th St., Lemont, Ill.
Info: 630-257-8787

December 7, 7:30 p.m.
**Opening of Ona Birutė
Surdokienė's papercutting
exhibition, "Touch"**
Čiurlionis Gallery, Lithuanian
Youth Center, Chicago

December 7
**St. George Parish Senior
Christmas Dinner / Vyresniųjų
Kalėdiniai Pietūs**
Lithuanian Heritage Society of
Rochester.
Info: www.lhsr.org

December 9, 10:30 a.m.
Pancakes and Poetry
Chapel of the Jesuit Fathers,
Lithuanian Youth Center, Chicago
Mass, pancakes with apple jam,
and celebration of Maironis with
poet Eglė Juodvalkė.

December 9, 2 p.m.
**Lithuanian Citizen's Society of
Western PA Kūčios**
Info: www.pittsburghlithuanians.
com/events.htm

December 9, 7 p.m.
The Sunflower Project Concert
Illinois Holocaust Museum &
Education Center, Skokie, Ill.
Works by Jewish, Lithuanian and
American composers.
Tickets: \$20, \$100 for patron level
Info: 240-463-6884,
jewishlithuanianhp@gmail.com,
facebook.com/pages/The-Jewish
-Lithuanian-Heritage-Project

December 15, 1-3 p.m.
Amber Roots Kūčios
Lithuanian Music Hall, 2715 E.
Allegheny Ave., Philadelphia
English-speaking. Open to all.
Bring a meatless dish to share.
Use side door, go downstairs.
Info: milliemarks@aol.com,
484-231-8532

December 15, 2 p.m.
**Kalėdų Sventė/Christmas
Festival**
Latvian Community Center,
Indianapolis, Ind.
Info: IndyLithuanianComm@
gmail.com

December 15, 5-9 p.m.
**San Francisco LAC Lietuviškos
Kūčios**
Oakwood Athletic Club, 4000 Mt.
Diablo Blvd, Lafayette, Calif.
Potluck and holiday fair. \$5.
Info: dpetrylaite@yahoo.com

December 16, 1 p.m.
Ateitininkai Kūčios
Great Hall, Youth Center, Chicago
Info: Ona Daugirdienė,
630-325-3277,
odaugirdas@hotmail.com

December 16, 1 p.m.
**Cincinnati Traditional Lithuanian
Christmas Celebration**
Terwilliger Lodge, 10530 Deer-
field Rd., Montgomery, Ohio

December 16
**Traditional Kūčios/Tradici-
nės Kūčios & Eglutė**
Lithuanian Heritage Society of
Rochester.
Info: www.lhsr.org

December 30, 3 p.m.
The Sunflower Project Concert
The German Society of Phila-
delphia, 611 Spring Garden St.,
Philadelphia
Works by Jewish, Lithuanian and
American composers
Tickets: \$20, \$100 for patron level
Info: 240-463-6884,
jewishlithuanianhp@gmail.com,
facebook.com/pages/The-Jewish
-Lithuanian-Heritage-Project

FEBRUARY 2013

February 3, 12:30 p.m.
**Presentation of "Child's Gate
to Learning" annual perform-
ance report**
Lithuanian World Center,
4911 127th St., Lemont, Ill.
Info: www.childgate.org,
vwm@childgate.org

February 9, 7 p.m.
**Lithuanian World Center 25th
Anniversary Gala**
Lithuanian World Center, 4911
127th St., Lemont, Ill.

MARCH 2013

March 9
Lithuanian consulate opens
Aspen, Colo.

March 11
Lithuanian Independence Day

March 16, 1-3 p.m.
**Amber Roots Philadelphia
Lithuanian Heritage Club**
Lithuanian Music Hall, 2715 E.
Allegheny Ave., Philadelphia
English-speaking. Open to all.
Info: milliemarks@aol.com,
484-231-8532

APRIL 2013

April 20
**Lithuanian Montessori school
"Žiburėlis" 30th anniversary
celebration**
Lithuanian World Center, 4911
127th St., Lemont, Ill.

JULY 2013

July 25-28, 2013
**Knights of Lithuania 100th
Anniversary Convention**
Boston Marriott Quincy Hotel,
Quincy, Mass.
Info: knightsoflithuania100th
anniversary.org

2014

July 2-4, 2014
**IX Dainu Sventė
(9th Lithuanian Song Festival)**
Location TBD

Who Am I?

Submitted by Edward Shakalis (Question on page 2)

Source: "Lithuanian Jews," from Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia, October 2012.

"Lithuanian Jews or Litvaks are Jews with roots in the Grand Duchy of Lithuania: (present-day Lithuania, Belarus, Ukraine, and the north-eastern Suwałki region of Poland). The term is sometimes used, especially in Israel, to cover all Orthodox Jews who follow a 'Lithuanian' (Ashkenazic and non-Hasidic) style of life and learning, whatever their ethnic background...

"The adjective Litvish means 'Lithuanian': the noun for a Lithuanian Jew is Litvak. The term 'Litvak' itself originates from 'Litwak,' a Polish term denoting 'a man from Lithuania,' which however went out of use before the 19th century, only to be revived around 1880 in the narrower meaning of 'a Lithuanian Jew'."

Edward Shakalis is a retired electrical engineer and a ham radio operator. He and his son Rick ran the "The Lithuanian Open" golf tournament for 20 years before turning the operation over to Gintas Subaitis and Marius Žiaugra this year. Ed and Rick will stay on as consultants.

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