

bridges



LITHUANIAN-AMERICAN NEWS JOURNAL

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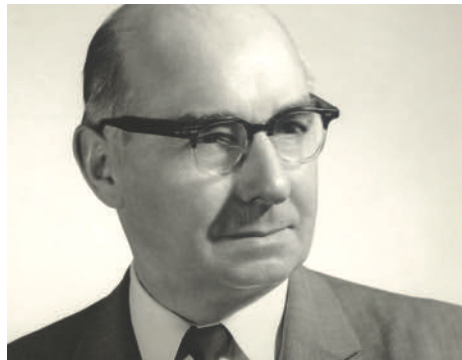
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EDITOR
Karilė Vaitkutė

ART DIRECTOR
Daniel P. Craig, Jr.

CONTRIBUTING EDITOR, FOOD
Jana Sirusaitė-Motivans

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

ADVERTISING & SUBSCRIPTIONS MANAGER
Laura Vidžiūnaitė

Editorial Office
139 Willow Blvd., Willow Springs, IL 60480
kariledalia@yahoo.com

Subscriber Services and Advertising
spauda@javlb.org

Facebook
facebook.com/
BridgesLithuanianAmericanMagazine



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LAC, INC. NATIONAL EXECUTIVE BOARD
43 Anthony Street, New Haven, CT 06515
Phone: 203-415-7776, Fax: 703-773-1257
admin@lithuanian-american.org

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from the editor

Dear Reader,

On February 16th of 2018 we celebrate the 100th Anniversary of Lithuania's Independence. We celebrate 100 years of Lithuania's freedom even though Lithuania was free only half of that time period during the last century. I have chosen to put Vytis on the cover of this issue of Bridges. This Vytis was created by Vladas Dzimidavičius-Daumantas in 1918 and used to illustrate the cover of the Map of Lithuania (Carte de la Lituanie), also created by Daumantas. The map was published in 1918 in Berne, Switzerland by the Lithuanian Information Bureau and later republished in the United States of America. It illustrates the changes of Lithuania's territory since the times of Mindaugas in the Middle Ages. Daumantas worked for almost two years to create this map and Vytis, the symbol that represents the country. Lithuanians were getting ready to declare its independence, and it was very important to show the world that Lithuania used to be a state, and Lithuanians were a nation, separate from the Polish and the Russian ones. It was very important to show the world that Vytis was still "alive" after a period of more than a century when it was abolished in 1795 by the Russian czar.

Vytis became the coat of arms of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania in the 14th century. After the Union of Lublin in 1569, the Polish-Lithuanian state was established, and a joint coat of arms was adopted with the eagle and the riding knight as the symbols of the two constituent states. The history of the name of Vytis is also interesting. During the old times, Ruthenian and Polish languages were used to name it. In the middle of the 16th century, the Polish heraldry devised a Polish name for the Lithuanian coat of arms, calling it "pogoń, pogonia, pogończyk." In the 17th century, while looking for a Lithuanian counterpart to the word, Konstantinas Sirvydas identified two meanings of the concept as "waykitoias" (pursuer) and "waykimas" (pursuing). In the 19th century, the coat of arms of Lithuania was called Vytis. The word is considered to have been coined in the middle of the 19th century by Simonas Daukantas. However, instead of referring to the coat of arms itself, Daukantas rather referred to the knight represented therein. Mikalojus Akelaitis was probably the first person to have referred to the Lithuanian coat of arms per se as "Vytis" in the Aušra newspaper in 1884.

After Lithuania declared the Act of Reinstating Independence of Lithuania in 1918 the historical knight on horseback of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania became the coat of arms of the Republic of Lithuania. On June 15, 1940, Lithuania was occupied by the Soviet Union and all the symbols of statehood were banned and their use was punishable by strict penalties. Nevertheless, the symbols of the independent Lithuanian state were used for underground press by freedom fighters and also by separate individuals and members of anti-Soviet organizations as a way to demonstrate resistance.

Today, Vytis is once again the coat of arms and the symbol of independent Lithuania, and I hope that today we still carry it in our hearts having in mind its original meaning – a knight, a warrior, a pursuer, ready to defend the Motherland and chase the enemy out.

Karilė Vaitkutė
Editor

Lithuanian – U.S. Relations in 1918–1940

By Prof. Juozas Skirius



Lithuanian Americans helped Lithuania recover after World War I. In this photograph, we see one of multiple events held in order to raise funds for Lithuanians who suffered after the Great War. Lithuanians in Chicago met with Lithuanian writer Žemaitė who was visiting and collecting funds. Photo by Stankūnas.

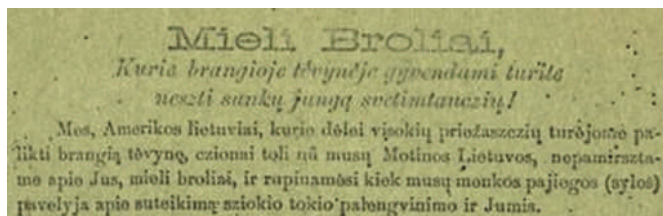
Since the mid-1800's the history of Lithuania has recorded close relations between our nation and the United States of America. This is primarily related to Lithuanian emigration. It was maintained in the early 1900's that one-third of all Lithuanians lived outside Lithuania, with some sources stating that 500,000 to 1,000,000 of our compatriots lived in the USA. There were really no families in Lithuania that bore no connection to emigration. Emigration had an economical, cultural and political effect on the nation and embedded the name of America in Lithuanian society. Over time, this word acquired plenty of meanings in the mind of a simple Lithuanian. This remote and

mysterious country became a symbol of freedom, wealth, and later on, a powerful intercessor and ally.

Established in 1918, the Lithuanian state had a natural striving for prompt international recognition, especially from the great powers. The international recognition de facto and de jure is an act of quite complicated political and diplomatic process describing, in concentrated legal form, the attitude of a state towards its new partners.

The first still not official contacts between the State of Lithuania and the USA were detected precisely at a time when Lithuanian politicians were striving for recognition. At this point, it should be noted that research shows that representatives of the newly established Lithuanian state focused a great deal of their attention on the United States and expressed deep sentiments towards the country. Moreover, many Lithuanian people had set their hopes on the "mysterious and wealthy America" that emigrants were so fond of. Why?

On closer analysis of the international situation after World War I (1914-1918) we will take note of many reasons, most of which are related to the advantages of the U.S. over Great Britain, France, Germany and other great powers. Firstly, after the war, the U.S. emerged on the international stage as the greatest economic power (over 40 percent of the world's production).



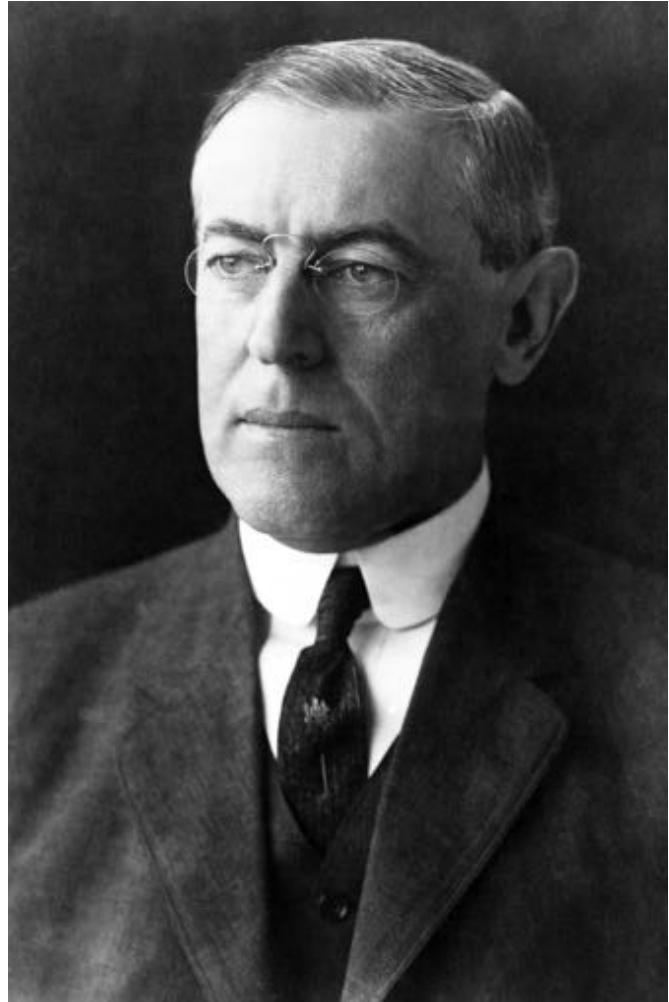
An excerpt from a proclamation published in 1893 in Tilžė in which Lithuanian Americans write to their brothers and sisters in Lithuania pledging their solidarity with the fight of Lithuanians for the Lithuanian press, against the Czar, and urging Lithuanians to educate themselves and stay united. Many Lithuanians who emigrated to the United States never forgot their native land and helped Lithuania politically and economically.

Secondly, Europe was under American financial control (20 countries, including the major U.S. allies, were its debtors). Consequently, the immense economic and financial potential necessary for Europeans was concentrated across the Atlantic Ocean. Thirdly, the famous Fourteen-Article Program, the peace and post-war world arrangement program, declared by U.S. President W. Wilson's Administration on January 8th, 1918, gave the hope of self-determination to all dependent and liberated nations. This objectively caused the U.S. to be regarded as the international leader and protector of small nations. Fourthly, the U.S. was also very important to Lithuania because of the numerous Lithuanian emigrants united into quite strong political and social organizations. The American Lithuanians supported the motherland by means of active propaganda and financial support, sending their representatives to work in the state institutions of Lithuania. Moreover, many emigrants were determined to come back to Lithuania, and later on, a part of them did, bringing their capital and professional experience to the country.

The Issue of the Recognition of Lithuania by the United States of America from 1919-1922

It is reasonably understandable that political leaders of the young Lithuanian state were highly interested in gaining the patronage of such a political and economic giant, along with its approval on decisions aimed at solving national and economic problems in Lithuania as well as border determination. Therefore, it was not by coincidence that on October 31, 1919, Prime Minister Ernestas Galvanauskas signed a mandate for a mission to be sent to the U.S. On the 3rd of October, former Minister of Finance Jonas Vileišis, major Povilas Žadeikis and the American Lithuanian priest Jonas Žilius left Kaunas. However, for a long while, they could not obtain permission from U.S. ambassadors in Paris to leave for America. Permission with certain restrictions was issued only on the 6th of December. The U.S. Consul had not granted visas explaining that the U.S. Government did not recognize Lithuania. Still, it did not object to the activities of the mission by the American Lithuanians.

The road to recognition by the U.S. Government was long, extending to 1922. Moreover, the very process of recognition appeared to be amply complicated. So, what caused the Americans to sit on the fence, bringing disappointment to the Lithuanian society, particularly politicians, and breaking their faith in the principles of peace, democracy, and self-determination advocated by America? Martynas Yčas, a member of Lithuania's delegation to the Paris Conference in 1919, in his published review of U.S. policy towards Lithuania in 1920, ventured an opinion that "in Paris the American politicians failed to support the cause of Lithuania even though it was the United States from which the Lithuanian Government had expected the most support". In order to find out why this happened, it is necessary to discuss the position of the then U.S. Government in regard to



President Woodrow Wilson.

the Baltic States and Lithuania in particular. It should be noted here that the stated position was not unanimous because several political opinions prevailed.

It became clear from the meetings of Lithuanian political leaders with their counterparts from the USA in 1918 - 1919 that the latter still held Lithuania as a part of Russia. American President Wilson and Secretary of State R. Lansing followed the so-called principle of undivided Russia in official foreign policy (with the exception of the former parts of the Russian Empire - Poland and Finland). When on April 6, 1917, the U.S. entered the war on the side of the Entente it became Russia's ally. After the revolution in February 1917, Russia was in the hands of new Provisional Government. After the Bolshevik coup d'etat in October, the U.S. Government held the position that the rightful successors of A. Kerensky's government in Russia were the governments of the major anti-Bolshevik forces (A. Kolchak, A. Denikin). This is well-illustrated by the relations of Americans with the envoys of A. Kolchak during the Peace Conference in Paris in 1919. There exists a letter to Kolchak dated May 26, 1919, and signed by the leaders of the major countries of

Amerikos lietuvių parapijų 1929 metų statistika

Šalies ir valstijos pavadinimas	Parapijų pavadinimas	Parapijos įkurtimo metai	Parapijos bendras parokhijos turtas					Parapijos bendras turtas										Privačių asmenų turtas						
			Sąskaita	Katalikams	Mokslui	Kitam turtui	Iš viso	Katalikams		Mokslui		Kitam turtui		Iš viso	Katalikams	Mokslui	Kitam turtui	Iš viso	Iš viso	Iš viso				
								Parapijos turtas	Kitas turtas	Parapijos turtas	Kitas turtas	Parapijos turtas	Kitas turtas											
Albany, N. Y.	St. Mary's	1898

In the United States, Lithuanians were founding their own Lithuanian parishes, schools, and organizations. This leaflet shows the abundance of Lithuanian parishes in the United States by 1929. There were 118 Lithuanian parishes in fifteen states.



Lithuanian American representatives to the Paris Peace Conference in 1919: Bronius Kazys Balutis, Petras Klimas, Tomas Norus-Naruševičius.

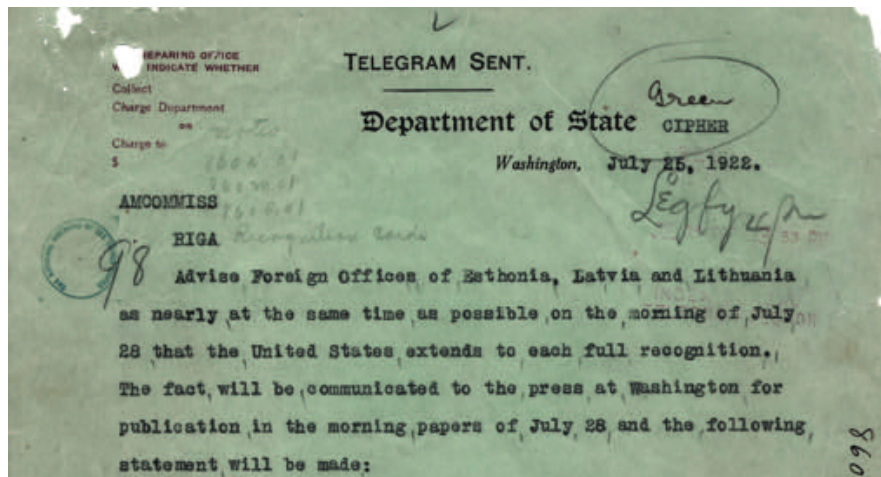
the Entente (Great Britain, France, Italy, Japan) and the American president. In the letter, Kolchak was in fact recognized as the head of would-be democratic Russia on condition that the national minorities on the peripheries, including the Lithuanians, were granted wide autonomy. Therefore, the American officials regarded the envoys of Lithuania (likewise Latvia and Estonia) as representatives of an autonomous Lithuania within Russia. In addition, the ambassador of the anti-Bolshevist forces in Washington, B. Bakhmetyev, attempted to officially represent Lithuania in America from 1917-1922.

On the other hand, Americans had another point of view – to unite Lithuania and Poland. This idea found support not only among some American businessmen interested in trade with a country as big as Poland (in compensation for lost markets in Russia) but also some politicians connected to the Embassy of Poland in Washington and activities of the 4 million American Poles. The legal grounds for such a position were provided for in Article 13 of the Fourteen-Article Program on the Polish Issue. The article, in its abstract form, points out that the territories indisputably populated by Poles are to be incorporated into Poland, and that Poland should have a free and reliable gateway to the sea. A provision like that provided the Polish Government with the opportunity to lay claim to the Vilnius region and to Klaipėda, the nearest port to Poland since Danzig (or Gdansk) was established as a free city under control of the League of Nations Union. It is understandable that Lithuanian politicians resisted such plans of a union with Poland and unexpectedly received support from the White Russians. On June 1st, 1921,

Ambassador B. Bakhmetjev delivered an official memorandum on the status of the Baltic States to the U.S. State Department. The document offered a so-called ‘conditional’, i.e. provisional recognition. The ambassador’s position could be explained as follows: should Lithuania be incorporated into Poland, it would be more difficult to ‘recapture’ Lithuania after the overturn of Bolshevik rule. The memorandum provided the Washington administration with new legal grounds for amending the ‘Russian Issue’. Hence, officially on the U.S. Government level, there emerged a third viewpoint – the possibility of a provisional recognition of Lithuania. America, however, delayed this recognition. Why?

Firstly, American diplomats were making preparations for an international conference in Washington (Nov.1921 – Feb.1922) where they intended to use the principle of an undivided Russia against the plans of Japan in the Far East. Before the conference, U.S. Deputy Secretary of State Flecher gave a straight answer to the analogous question of Senator V. King: ‘at the moment it is not beneficial to the United States to recognize the Baltic States’. It is known that the opinion of American officials that Bolshevism would not be liquidated was growing stronger in 1921- 1922. American businessmen were more and more interested in economic relations with Soviet Russia. It can be proven by the statement of U.S. Trade Department officer H. Grove in 1922 saying that the Baltic States were the best American–Russian trade base.

Secondly, delay of the recognition of the Baltic States until 1922 was also caused by territorial disputes between Poland and Lithuania, which resulted in the incorporation of the Vilnius region into Poland on January 8, 1922, in violation of the interests of Lithuania. Thus, with the approval of the Entente countries, the dispute was solved in favor of the larger country – Poland. Nevertheless, it should be admitted that by satisfying Poland’s minor claim to the territory of Lithuania, a more acute political and military conflict between the two states was avoided. The interests of Lithuania were, in fact, bargained away for the benefit of the great Western powers and their political purposes in Eastern Europe. In addition, such a situation in the Eastern European region satisfied the Americans, as their primary priority had always been peace...at any price. It was now possible to decide the question of international recognition of the Baltic States. However, the administration in Washington was still waiting for some “pretext” that could completely justify the actions of the U.S. Government to Russian emigrants in America (not only the leaders but the society as well). Such a pretext occurred on June 30, 1922, when the Conference of Ambassadors (an international organization of the ambassadors of Great Britain, France, Italy and Japan) passed a resolution on the intended recognition de jure of Lithuania. Upon complete examination of the issue of official recognition of the Baltic States, the U.S. State Department, before the Conference of Ambassadors on July 28, 1922 ‘recognized the governments of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania’ de facto and



An excerpt from the telegram of July 25, 1922 in which the United States announces its recognition of Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia.



A conference of Lithuanian representatives abroad. Sitting from left: Kazys Bronius Balutis, Dovas Zaunius, Tomas Norus-Naruševičius, Ernestas Galvanauskas, Jurgis Baltrušaitis, Petras Klimas, Oskaras Vladislovas Milašius. Standing from left: Valdemaras Vytautas Čarneckis, Pranas Dailidė, M. Lisauskas, Jonas Aukštuolis, Magdalena Avietėnaitė, Vaclovas Sidzikauskas, Ignas Jonynas, R. Karuža, Ignas Jurkūnas-Šeinius. Kaunas, November 12, 1923.

de jure. Attention should be given to the fact that the governments were recognized instead of the states. In other words, America recognized the autonomous governments of Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania within Russia, but which at that time (of course, temporarily) were not within Russia. It was obviously a limited and uncommon recognition. Why? Because the recognition was provisional, i.e. until the Soviet Bolshevik power ceased to exist. When the regime collapsed, the Baltic States would have to return to democratic Russia, and only then their future would be decided democratically: whether to grant inde-

pendence or not. Yet, it did not happen that way because, after the collapse of the USSR, the scenario of the rebirth of Russia was different.

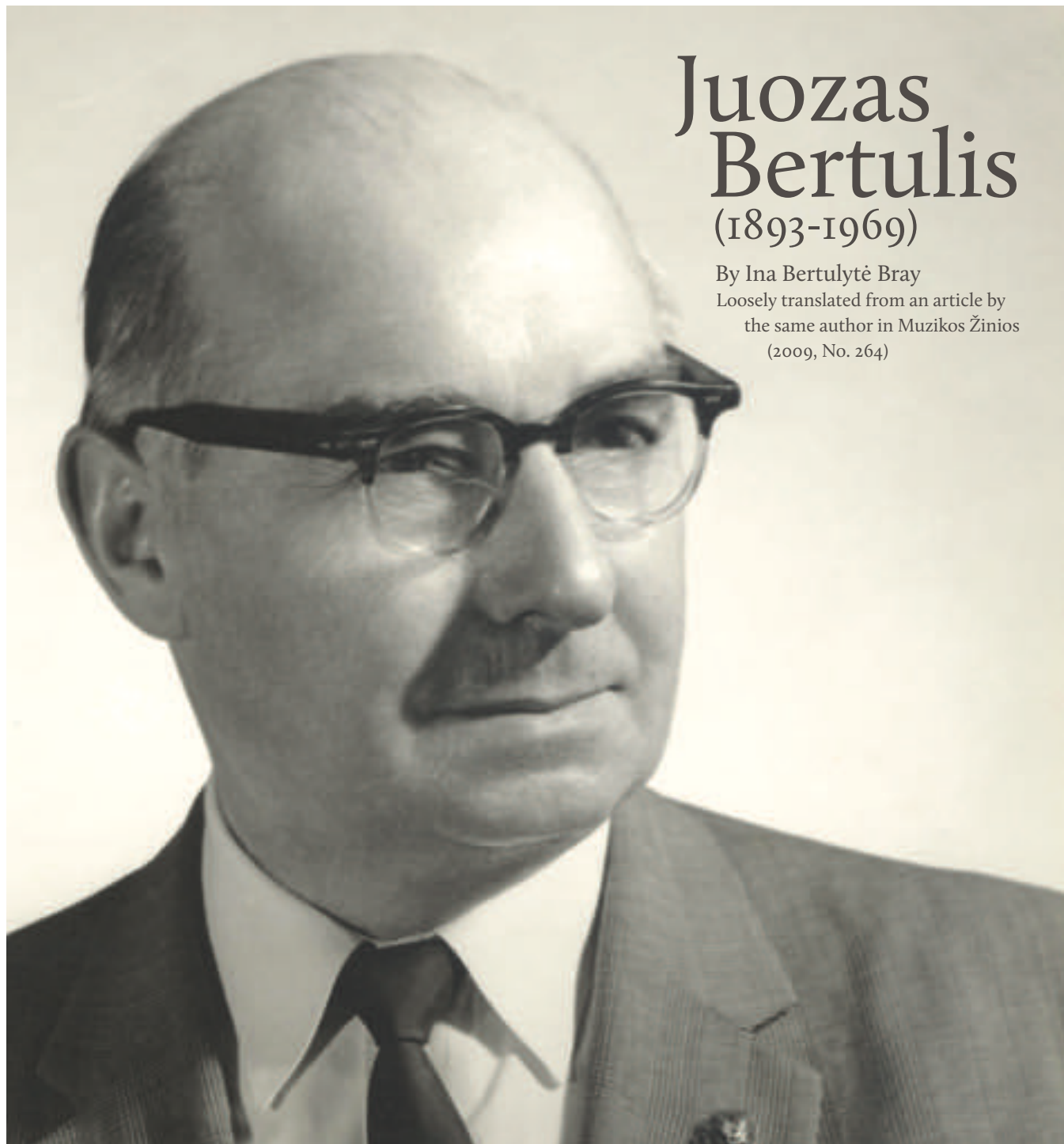
It should be noted that the above status of the recognition of the Baltic States in 1922 was not given publicity, nor did politicians speak about it. One can imagine that they did not go deeply into it or possibly even did not know about it. The politicians and press in Lithuania simply used to maintain that the U.S. Government recognized Lithuania, and that was enough.

Such limited recognition at the time embedded some positive factors. Firstly, the Lithuanian Government was granted recognition at a time when it had already lost the Vilnius region, and when the Klaipėda region had not yet been legally incorporated into Lithuania on an international level. The recognition of the State of Lithuania by America would have made difficult the return of the mentioned territories. Secondly, the United States was still the first Western power to recognize Lithuania on such a high level, which added to Lithuania's international self-confidence and moral strength when fighting for its national rights. Evidence of that was the Lithuanian Government's refusal in 1922 to accept the proposal of the Conference of Ambassadors concerning internationalization of the Nemunas.

To be continued in the next issue.

About the author

*Prof. Juozas Skirius, Ph.D. is Dean of the World History Department of the Lithuanian University of Educational Sciences (LUES), the LUES Senate Member, Members of the Vytautas Magnus University Department of Humanitarian Sciences Committee, Chairman of the Editorial Board of the LUES History Department's multi-volume publication *Historia Universalis in Lithuania*, and members of many other boards and organizations. He earned his Ph.D. degree in history at the Lithuanian University of Educational Sciences. He advanced his studies in Great Britain (1994, 2002), Poland (1991–1994, 2006), Germany (1993), the USA (1998, 2000, 2003, 2008), Stockholm (Sweden) Institute of International Relations (1993), and Izrael (2011).*



Juozas Bertulis

(1893-1969)

By Ina Bertulytė Bray
Loosely translated from an article by
the same author in *Muzikos Žinios*
(2009, No. 264)

Juozas Bertulis, c 1950. Photo by V. Noreika.

Over the centuries, in Lithuania as in a number of other Eastern European countries, music has played a significant cultural as well as political role. Particularly in the late 1800s, with the awakening of national consciousness, gifted musicians, writers and activists emerged and through their songs, dances, poetry and various cultural expressions sought to promote Lithuanian identity.

Juozas Bertulis was one such patriot, a composer whose own story echoed the tragic history of his homeland. He was born on January 1, 1893 in the village of Paudruvė, in the district (valsčiuje) of Joniškis, of the Šiauliai region (apygarda), at the time when the ruthless tsarist regime still claimed Lithuania as a Province. His life ended on September 13, 1969, in Chicago, far from his native soil.



Juozas Bertulis (first from left) in Jurbarkas in 1917. He is showing a tulip flower to his fellow Lithuanian patriots and saying: "Just as this tulip revives and springs back to life after winter, Lithuania must revive and become independent."

Bertulis wrote in his memoir that his ancestors hailed from the Klaipėda region and in the mid-19th century had moved to a village near Joniškis. Musically talented, the men superb fiddlers, and both men and women with fine voices, their fame grew. And so, generation after generation as small bands they entertained at weddings, christenings, and all manner of gatherings. His father (also named Juozas) even constructed a clavichord and played it by ear. In his memoir, the son Juozas wondered how his father, with no instructions, managed to build such a complex instrument. Perhaps his aptitude came from owning a wool-carding workshop, having created some of the equipment himself. His ingenuity in producing intricate devices was widely known.

Bertulis, along with his three brothers and four sisters began life around the turn of the 20th century in the rural region near Joniškis. But tragedy followed them. One brother died in childhood; another was killed shortly after World War I fighting the bermontininkai, a Russian counter-revolutionary paramilitary gang. Vladas, the third brother, and his family survived the German and Soviet occupations on a farm near Joniškis and lived to an old age. His sister Pranė and her family as well remained in Lithuania to the end of her life. Fibronė and her family, however, were deported to Siberia, where her husband died. But after some 20 years she and her children returned. Ada and her husband also were forcibly taken to Siberia where she died under mysterious circumstances. Malvina and husband fled to Germany in 1944, and in 1949 emigrated to the United States.

The Bertulis family was further torn apart when, like many other Lithuanians, in 1944 Juozas and his family fled to Germany, and in 1950 emigrated to the United States.



Students and teachers of the Lithuanian elementary school in Jurbarkas in 1917-1918. Juozas Bertulis is sitting second from right.

In spite of the oppressive tsarist regime under which young Bertulis grew up, the sense of being Lithuanian had anchored deep roots in him. Already as a 12 year old, with other youngsters his age, he was arrested for “revolutionary activities.” They had carried placards with the words: “Šalin caro valdžią” (“Out with the government of the Tsar”), on the reverse side: “Tegyvuoja revoliucija” (“Long live the revolution”). For that transgression, with the other “revolutionaries”, he spent several days in jail. However, as punishment for his son’s illegal activities, his father was sentenced to two months behind bars. The word “revolutionary” hardly meant anything to the boy, but the loss of freedom left an indelible impression. Years later, still under the tsarist regime and living in Senoji Žagarė, he organized and directed a theatrical group and in his apartment rehearsed forbidden Lithuanian plays. Defying harsh restrictions, he staged them in surrounding villages.

Bertulis’s own musical talents surfaced early. Already as an eight-year old with a good voice he sang alto in the Joniškis church choir. By the time Bertulis was 14, the organist Kazys Dizys started teaching him piano and organ. Lessons on other instruments, violin among them, followed.

Although still a teenager, 1910 marked the beginning of his “professional” life. He moved to Žagarė, continued high school, concurrently worked as an organist and directed a choir. This choir premiered his first composition, the song “Birute.”

With the onset of World War I in 1914, he faced conscription into the dreaded Russian army. To avoid it and follow his religious calling, he entered the seminary in Kaunas. But the war with Germany created considerable insecurity and the seminary relocated to another town. Uncertain of the country’s future and the direction of his own life, in 1916 Bertulis left the seminary and to pursue his other passions – teaching, choir directing, and composition. His future compositions of sacred music very much reflected those two years of rigorous educational and religious training.

Between 1916 and 1924 he taught as well as directed choirs in Tryškiai, Jurbarkas, Anykščiai and Šiauliai. In Šiauliai he also worked as an organist and formed a string orchestra.

Independence in 1918 increased the aggressiveness of the bermontininkai in the Šiauliai region, and particularly because of his brother’s death at their hands, Bertulis joined the resistance. But neither the end of the war nor independence brought peace, and as a volunteer for the Lithuanian military, between 1919 and 1920 he saw battle with the Red Army, and subsequently between 1920 and 1921 with Poles. Wherever his unit



Juozas Bertulis (standing, first from left) teaches Lithuanian folk songs in Ukmergė on October 19, 1924. The teaching continued for two days. Bertulis taught Lithuanian officers, soldiers, high school students, Polish high school students, Jewish high school students and general public. Pictured are: Puskunigis, a kanklės player from Kaunas (sitting in the center), women singers from Varžai and Baravykai villages (Taujėnai County), and war veterans kanklės players.

was stationed, he sought to teach music in local schools, or in other ways become musically involved. In Ukmergė, for example, along with teaching music, he directed a community choir, then combining several choirs, in 1924 he staged the town’s first song festival. That same year he was discharged with the rank of lieutenant.

In 1923, the Treaty of Versailles united the Klaipėda region with Lithuania. The indigenous Germans, stirred on by the Nazi regime, vigorously undermined this annexation. The Lithuanian government, however, throughout the interwar period, made every effort to strengthen the Lithuanian presence, establishing political, economic, social, and cultural institutions. The school of music, which rapidly evolved into the well-regarded Klaipėda Conservatory of Music, was founded at that time, with the noted composer Stasys Šimkus as director.

Encouraged by Šimkus, in 1924 Bertulis enrolled in this new Conservatory. Now finally, after years of working in that field, he would study it systematically. He also joined an orchestra and a folk instrument ensemble, and organized and directed a men’s choir dedicated to sacred music.

From his early years, folk songs had fascinated Bertulis. With other music students he crisscrossed Lithuania and wrote down melodies and words of some 500 folk songs, including distinctive ones by a 115 year old woman. Unfortunately, during Soviet times the entire collection was lost. Listening to Bertulis’ songs, it becomes quite evident to what degree these ancient and deeply Lithuanian folksong have influenced his own compositions.

Recognizing the value of early childhood education, he organized summer courses for music teachers. And, while still a student, he taught music at the Vytauto Didžiojo High



Juozas Bertulis and Eugenija Paškevičiūtė wedding in Klaipėda, c 1931.

School (1927-28) and directed its 80-member choir. In 1928 he graduated, and subsequently was invited to continue on faculty. In later years, he was promoted to Inspector and Associate Director.

This culturally vibrant period in Klaipėda completely absorbed Bertulis. Now a professional, he joined “Aukuras” a cultural organization, participated in the formation of the Opera of Klaipėda and played in its orchestra. He directed several choirs, and with them in 1927, 1933, and 1938 took part in local song festivals.

In Bertulis’ personal life, the 1930s as well proved significant. He married Eugenija Paškevičiūtė, had a daughter Ina (Irena) and a son Alexandras. In Giruliai, on the outskirts of Klaipėda,



After Germans occupied Klaipėda Region, the Klaipėda Conservatory was moved to Šiauliai. In this picture, Juozas Bertulis is saying good-bye to his wife and daughter on March 19, 1939 in Giruliai before leaving to Šiauliai. Family remained in Giruliai because the house stood in the neutral zone.

within walking distance to the Baltic Sea, he built a residence. Those years, no doubt, were the most fulfilling and happiest of his life.

March 22, 1939, an infamous date in Lithuanian history, ended Bertulis’ Lithuanian reality. Hitler annexed the Klaipėda region, transforming it into the thoroughly German “Memeland” with German as its mandatory language. “Klaipėda” became “Memel”. Lithuanians were designated as “Untermenschen” (subhuman) with the threat of concentration camps for real or perceived transgressions. In droves they were forced to flee to their homeland, typically abandoning their properties and businesses.

These homes did not stay empty for long. Families from the western regions of Germany, having been promised “Lebensraum” (living space), rapidly began to occupy them. These new inhabitants were given the mandate to keep the remaining Lithuanians “under control” – and that they did with considerable fervor.

The German and the Lithuanian governments had agreed upon a neutral transit zone between the Lithuanian border and the port of Klaipėda/Memel, and since Giruliai fell into that

space, the Bertulis family was allowed to stay. However, no jobs were available. Since the Conservatory had relocated to Šiauliai, Bertulis followed it. He continued teaching and played in its orchestra. With the Soviet take-over in June of 1940 he returned to Memel.

In spite of the war, German authorities supported entertainment for their population. They even permitted musicians from occupied countries to perform, and so from 1940 to 1941 Bertulis played in the Memel Symphony Orchestra. Subsequently he joined a Hungarian band and from 1941 to 1943 toured major German cities: Aachen, Cologne, Dortmund, Munich, Frankfurt am Main, and a number of others. Depending on the need, he played piano or bass. He came back to Memel in 1943 and taught in a German school of music.

By early summer of 1944, the Russian front was approaching rapidly and the Germans forced every able-bodied man to the war zone. Bertulis was sent off to dig trenches (Panzergraben). He could not know that on August 4th, his wife and children had fled to Graz, Austria. In the chaos of the disintegrating



Children from the IRO Children's Center after performing Juozas Bertulis ballet "Orphan". The ballet was performed two times, in 1946 and in 1947 in Rosenheim and Trautendorf. The ballet was staged by the author.

front by September he got away and was able to reunite with his family. Yet war continued to rage. When Croatia changed allegiances from fascist to communist, it became obvious that Soviet armies could invade from the south as well as the east, and the Bertulis family fled west, to Ismaning near Munich.



A meeting of the Fine Arts Club members in Los Angeles on March 23, 1957. First row, from left: Juozas Bertulis, Dr. Elena Tumienė, Prof. Mykolas Biržiška, poet Bernardas Brazdžionis. D. Mickutė-Mitkienė, Mrs. Railienė. Second row, from left: J. Mitkus, J. Tininis, Bronys Raila, Algimantas Gustaitis, Violeta Mitkutė, E. Tūmas, Bronius Budriūnas, Mrs. Rūkštelienė, A. Rūkštelė, and Andrius.

World War II ended on May 9, 1945, and the fate of all refugees now depended on the Allied Forces, the conquerors. Bertulis made every effort to work in his field: he taught music in the Lithuanian schools in various DP (Displaced Persons) camps; he organized and directed choirs and staged concerts. Intermittently, he also administered and taught in a number of DP orphanages in Indersdorf, then in Prien a/Chiemsee, and Bad Aiblingen.

In Munich, under the auspices of UNRRA (United Nations Refugee Rehabilitation Agency) and later IRO (International Refugee Organization), he organized an art school, a ballet studio, and a music conservatory and was appointed its director. 26 highly qualified academics taught the approximately 400 enthusiastic students of various nationalities and ages. As emigration intensified, in 1950 these institutions were disbanded. 1950 also marked another major turning point in Bertulis' life: emigration to America and a new life in Los Angeles, California. The early years in the new country were years of hardship: learning a new language, finding a job – any job, anxiety about the family's health and the perpetual lack of money, adjustment to an unfamiliar way of life. To continue in his profession seemed beyond his reach, so he sold his beloved bass. Bertulis and his wife became dishwashers in the flight kitchen of United Airlines, and that provided some semblance of security.

But music remained in Bertulis' soul. One of the first pieces of furniture that the family acquired was an old piano. He would come home exhausted and dejected but when he touched the keys he would enter his now-vanished world. In the dark of the night when all were asleep, he would tiptoe to his instrument, cover the hammers with a soft cloth in order not to wake the family, and lose himself in his music, his heritage, his faith.

Few Lithuanians lived in Los Angeles in the early 1950s, yet at the St. Casimir Church a Saturday School opened. It included a music program in which he participated until 1959.

In 1960 Bertulis retired and moved to Chicago. By then his adult children were leading independent lives. His wife, Eugenia Bertulienė, was to follow him some years later after her own retirement. But that did not happen. On a trip to Argentina she passed away.

In the vast Lithuanian community of Chicago his musical life began to bloom with full force. He assumed the position of organist and choir director at the Church of Aušros Vartai (Gates of Dawn). Soon he also led the student choir in the Lithuanian Youth Center, as well as choirs in a Lutheran and a Latvian church.

Teaching gave him extraordinary satisfaction. He became the head of the music section of ALVUDAS, (Association for the Education of Lithuanian Students in America). Between 1961 and 1962, he taught music in the K. Donelaitis School; during the 1965/66 school year in the Darius and Girėnas School; and from 1965 also in the Lithuanian School in Brighton Park. Again he organized choral performances, and prepared choirs for song festivals, this in addition to giving private piano lessons. To the end of his days, his intense interest in the history of music and music theory did not wane. He gave lectures on those and other topics and wrote prolifically for Lithuanian periodic publications.

His deepest passion, however, was composing. Even in his ending days when gravely ill and in the hospital, he had a notebook on his chest, and already barely able to see and with a trembling hand, he jotted down fragments of a symphony. His life extinguished before he could finish the final notes.

He has written and marked with opus numbers 278 compositions, in addition to some 150 unmarked songs. A number of his songs have attained the popularity of folk songs: "Ten kur žaidžia Nemunėlis", "Aš esu lietuvis", "O atsimenu namelį", "Tau įteiksiu aš gėlytę", "Aš pasėjau kanapėlę" and others. He intended that most of his songs be easily learned by children, by

less sophisticated singers or choirs, and also chose poets, such as his favored Bernardas Brazdžionis (Vytautas Nemunėlis), for their uncomplicated verses. Lithuanian Song Festivals in the U.S. and other countries have included his songs in their programs: "Tau, brangi Tėvyne", "Vasara", "Pabuska, pasauli", "O atsimenu namelį" and more.

Around 1930 he had published some 100 compositions as the series "Tulpių žaros". With international tensions rising, in 1939 the Lithuanian Ministry of Culture directed Jonas Petronis, the most prominent publisher of music at that time, to collect and hide the compositions of the country's most noted composers. Of Bertulis' work, he gathered a nearly complete set of "Tulpių žaros," and as the Soviet



Bertulis Family. From left: Ina Bertulytė, Juozas Bertulis, Eugeniya Bertulienė, and Aleksas Bertulis. Los Angeles, 1959. Photo by Paulius Jasiukinis.



Composer Juozas Bertulis thanks Lithuanian student ensemble for the beautiful singing of his song "I Am Lithuanian" during Mother's Day celebration on May 17, 1959 in Chicago.

front approached, concealed them in the family barn, some distance from Kaunas. When Bertulis' daughter Ina Bertulytė Bray in 2000 was looking for her father's compositions for publication, he turned the series over to her.

Selected Bertulis' compositions have now appeared in three compilations: *KŪRINIAI FORTEPIJONUI* (Compositions for the Piano), Petronio leidykla, 2003; *BAŽNYTINĖ MUZIKA* (Sacred Music), Klaipėda University Press, 2004; *AŽUOLĖLIS ŽALIUKĖLIS* (The Little Green Oaktree), a collection of songs, Vilnius Pedagogical University Press, 2009.

Beyond songs, his compositions range from symphonies ("Pavasaris"), to operas ("Sapnas sapne"), to operettas ("Abejotinas asmuo"), ballets, cantatas, poetry reading set to music, compositions for single or several instruments (piano, organ, violin, bass, or others); entire Masses and hymns.

Since 1935 various records, LP's, tapes, CD's or other recordings have included his songs. Vytautas Strolia, the well-known musicologist, by 1995 had actually identified 37 sound recordings. More appeared in later years.

All his work Bertulis donated to the Archives of Lithuanian Musicology at the Lithuanian Research and Studies Center in Chicago where he had devoted much of his time. Some of these compositions also are archived in Lithuania, in the Martyna Mažvydas National Library, the Library of the National Academy of Theater and Music, and other institutions.

2019 will mark the 50th anniversary of the death of Juozas Bertulis. Because of the patriotic or religious nature of his songs, in Soviet Lithuania his name had almost vanished. Among the diaspora, however, to this day his songs resonate at joyful or solemn occasions, strengthening the bond of heritage.

Juozas Bertulis, the creative, honorable, industrious individual, dedicated to his family, his music, his church, and his Lithuania, that was my father.



Juozas Bertulis presenting a lecture in Chicago, c 1967.

The Cross of Lithuanian-American Catholics: A Sign of Gratitude and Hope



Father Gintaras Antanas Jonikas

Chairman of the Kunigų Vieniybė and the Pastor of the Divine Providence Lithuanian Catholic Parish in Southfield, Michigan

Interview by Liuda Rugienienė

What is the purpose of the American-Lithuanian Roman Catholic organization Kunigų Vieniybė?

The organization was founded in 1909 with the purpose of serving Catholic immigrants coming from Lithuania. Lithuanian Catholic priests answered the spiritual needs of these Lithuanians in Lithuanian-American parishes. Lithuanian parishes do not only answer parishioners' spiritual needs. They are strong centers for maintaining Lithuanian traditions. These centers

host Lithuanian schools for children and adults, cultural centers, various organizations like the Daughters of Lithuania, the Christian Services, the Lithuanian Community, and others. Dance groups, choirs, and art clubs also function as parts of the centers. Therefore, priests who are members of the Lithuanian Roman Catholic Kunigų Vieniybė and serve in Lithuanian parishes also help maintain the Lithuanian identity through organizing spiritual, cultural, educational activities.

In how many Lithuanian parishes the Mass is still being served in the Lithuanian language?

The official website, which is overseen by Prelate Edmundas Putrimas, is called Užsienio Lietuvių Katalikų Sielovada, and it tells us that at this time we have 39 Lithuanian parishes. However, there are only 13 parishes and convents that hold Lithuanian Mass every Sunday and actively host Lithuanian organizations. There are also a few missions where Lithuanian Mass is held once a month. For example, there is St. George's mission in Rochester, there is a mission in Beverly Shores, Indiana. There are also missions where Lithuanian priests come for Christmas or Easter or some other time of the year, and give service to local Lithuanians. Here I would like to mention Atlanta, Georgia, Portland, Oregon, and Palm Beach, Florida. There are parishes, like the one in Connecticut, where the priests do not speak Lithuanian and the service is not held in Lithuanian. But, during Mass, people read the Liturgical texts in Lithuanian, come together to celebrate Lithuanian holidays, and help maintain Lithuanian traditions, passing them on to the next generation.

Lithuanian pastors and vicars who are members of the Kunigų Vieniybė are very exemplary priests who deeply care about the Lithuanian Mass, Lithuanian activities, the youth, camps, and visiting the sick and the elderly. All the priestly duties are carried out mostly in the Lithuanian language, and that is why we already have the fourth generation of Lithuanian immigrants who speak, pray, and sing hymns in Lithuanian. This is our pride!

We know that there is a great shortage of Lithuanian priests, not only in immigrant communities but in Lithuania as well. How many priests from Lithuania work in the Lithuanian parishes in the United States?

There are not, and there will never be, too many priests, especially good and devoted ones. My brothers in the United States are much like that – good and devoted. We are not perfect, but we know very well that we serve God, Lithuania, and our people, whom we value, love, and whose spirituality we care about.

For me, having come from Lithuania, which had suffered under Soviet occupation, it was strange to see that in free America, Lithuanians had only produced a few priests. Meanwhile, in Lithuania, there was never a shortage of future priests, except it was difficult to overcome the KGB and enter the seminary.

Because Lithuanian-Americans did not produce enough priests to serve the Lithuanian parishes in this country, we have to be grateful to the Lithuanian bishops who allow priests from Lithuania to come and serve here. On the other hand, the world is changing and is becoming more global, and priests from Lithuania will always go wherever there is a Lithuanian community. At this time, there are 7 priests from Lithuania who work in the United States.

Is the Kunigų Vienybė getting ready to commemorate the 100th Anniversary of Lithuania's Independence in any special way?

You, I, and the entire Lithuanian community in the United States are happy to be a part of the commemoration of the 100th Anniversary of Lithuanian Independence. Even the Declaration of Independence, recently found, is coming back to Lithuania! As many may already know, the Lithuanian-American priests will be celebrating by erecting a cross on the Hill of Crosses in Lithuania as a symbol of gratitude and hope! The cross is already being carved by a famous Lithuanian folk artist. I am happy to say that Vilnius Archbishop Gintaras Grušas agreed to bless the cross of Lithuanian-Americans and that Bishop Eugenijus Bartulis will consecrate the mass at Šiauliai Cathedral, where all the Lithuanian-Americans will be welcomed. A concert will also be held, where the St. Casimir's parish choir from Los Angeles will sing, and afterward we will go to the Hill of Crosses, where the ceremony of the blessing of the cross will be held.



Divine Providence Lithuanian Catholic Church in Southfield, Michigan.



Šiauliai Cathedral.



Hill of Crosses near Šiauliai, Lithuania.



Pope John Paul II in the Hill of Crosses.

Lithuania has a unique spiritual and cultural monument – the Hill of Crosses. I remember from my childhood how the Bolsheviks would tear down the crosses during the night, and the faithful would build them back up during the day. In 1993, Pope John Paul II visited Lithuania and prayed at the Hill of Crosses for the only time in the history of Lithuania. Before leaving, the Holy Father left a gift for Lithuania – his cross on the Hill of Crosses. There is no cross representing the entire Lithuanian-American community on the Hill – only those erected by individual people or organizations from the United States. For the occasion of the 100th Anniversary of Lithuanian Independence, Lithuanian-American Catholics not only want to erect a beautiful cross, but to also thank God for the gift of freedom, for His love for Lithuania, for volunteers, for the partisans who fought against the occupation, to commemorate the exiles to Siberia, the dissidents, Lithuanian mothers and fathers who raised honest and patriotic children who did not sell themselves to the occupiers, to thank those who preserved the Lithu-



Pope John Paul II in the Hill of Crosses.

anian language, customs and traditions, sobriety, Lithuanian spirit and strength, and who raised a spiritual, hard-working, and educated new generation of Lithuanians. When visiting the Hill of Crosses, Pope John Paul II said,

“In our times, sometimes people erroneously think that freedom is a goal in itself, that a person is free when he uses freedom in any way he sees fit, and that freedom can be achieved by using any means possible. However, freedom is only good when we are consciously able to use it for the greater good. Christ teaches us that the love of sacrificing oneself and of serving others is what makes freedom perfect. Christ freed us for this kind of freedom and continues to free us today. The Church continues to be inspired by Him in serving people.”

When speaking to the Lithuanian youth, Pope John Paul II said that he fondly remembers his visit to the Hill of Crosses, and he urged the young Catholics to “be true to the cross of Christ and hold it as a source of love and hope.”

And again, in 1994, when walking the Stations of the Cross in the Coliseum in Rome, the Holy Father remembered the Lithuanian Hill of Crosses. “Here, in the Old Town of Rome, in this holy place, I would like to remember the Lithuanian Hill of Crosses. I was touched by the Lithuanian coliseum. Not the ancient Roman Coliseum, but the coliseum of our times. Today, I am thinking about many other coliseums, about the ‘hills of crosses’ – the ones that are in the European part of Russia, and the ones in Siberia. There are many ‘hills of crosses,’ there are many coliseums in our time.”

On the 10th anniversary of his visit to Lithuania, Pope John Paul II sent a letter to Lithuanian Archbishop Audrys Juozas Bačkis, in which he reviewed his visit. “I am always moved when remembering the Hill of Crosses,” the Holy Father wrote. “The crosses there remind us of the terrible trials that the Lithuanian nation had to go through during the most difficult periods in

history. During those times the crosses near Šiauliai served as the source of spiritual inner strength, which enabled the continuation of the fight and hope for a better future.”

And so – the cross is the symbol of faith and hope for the Lithuanian nation!

What will the cost of the event be, and do you have any plans for fundraising?

Thank you for this question. We will need \$20,000 for the ceremony of the blessing of the cross to take place. We are already fundraising in various Lithuanian-American parishes. We have a “traveling cross” that travels from parish to parish. It has already visited Cleveland, Detroit, Los Angeles, Rochester, and Connecticut. We are thankful to those parishes for their donations. The traveling cross will visit all the parishes in the United States.

On July 7, 2018, during the ceremony of the blessing of the cross on the Hill of Crosses, the traveling cross will be placed on the grand cross of the Lithuanian-Americans. All those who want to donate can send their donation check to:

Divine Providence Lithuanian Catholic Church
25335 W 9 MILE RD., SOUTHFIELD, MI 48033

Please send your donations with a note on the memo line stating that it is for the Lithuanian-American cross.



Hill of Crosses near Šiauliai, Lithuania.

this month in history

February Anniversaries

610 years ago



Kaunas Castle.

On February 14, 1408, Kaunas was granted Magdeburg Rights by Vytautas the Great. Long before that, approximately during the 10th century A.D., a settlement had been established on the site of the current Kaunas old town at the confluence of the Nemunas and the Neris rivers. Kaunas was first mentioned in written sources in 1361 when Kaunas Castle was built. In 1362, the castle was captured and destroyed by the Teutonic Order. It was one of the largest and most important military victories of the Teutonic Knights in the 14th century against Lithuania. The Kaunas castle was rebuilt at the beginning of the 15th century and the town was granted Magdeburg Rights. Kaunas became the centre of Kaunas County in Trakai District in 1413. The power of the self-governing was shared by three interrelated major institutions: *vaitas* (the Mayor), the Magistrate (12 lay judges and 4 burgomasters) and the so-called Benchers' Court (12 persons). Kaunas began to gain prominence as it was standing on the intersection of trade routes and it was a river port city. In 1441, Kaunas joined the Hanseatic League, and a Hansa merchant office *Kontor* was opened. It was the only one in the Grand Duchy of Lithuania at the time. By the 16th century, Kaunas also had a public school and a hospital and was one of the best-formed towns in the country.

405 years ago



Mikalojus Dauša.

On February 19, 1613, Mikalojus Dauša died in Varniai. Mikalojus Dauša was a Lithuanian and Latin religious writer, translator, and a Catholic church official. He is best known as the first among Lithuania's humanists to underline the need to codify and promote the Lithuanian

language over Ruthenian and Polish, which were used in the Grand Duchy of Lithuania at the time. Daukša's Lithuanian translation of Jacob Ledesma's Catechism became the first book in Lithuanian to be published in the Grand Duchy of Lithuania. Born at some time after 1527 somewhere in the territory of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania (perhaps in Babėnai), Daukša received his education in Vilnius and in one of the Western European Universities. He spoke several languages and had a personal library including books by Erasmus of Rotterdam and Philip Melanchthon. Daukša translated the Catechism by a Spanish Jesuit, Jacobo Ledesma. The book was published in 1595 and became one of the means to fight paganism. The work also served to counter the growing threat posed to Catholicism by the Reformation, which was promoted in Lithuania by the mighty Radvila family. It was also the first book in Lithuanian to be printed in the Grand Duchy of Lithuania. In 1599 Daukša published another important work, the Lithuanian translation of a Polish language collection of sermons by Jakub Wujek, the "Postilla Catholica". There are two prefaces to this work, one in Latin and one in Polish. In the Polish preface, Daukša advocates the promotion of the Lithuanian language in the Grand Duchy and gives a brief definition of the Lithuanian nation and state. The book is regarded to be more valuable and important than the Catechism, and constitutes one of the monuments of the Lithuanian language. In his translations, Daukša used the central High Lithuanian dialect, influenced by both eastern High Lithuanian and Samogitian. As one of pioneers of written Lithuanian, he is credited with the introduction of several neologisms, among them *mokytojas* (teacher), *valia* (will), *įkvėpimas* (inspiration), and *išmintis* (wisdom).

285 years ago



King Augustus II on horseback.

On February 1, 1733, Lithuanian Grand Duke Augustus II died. Augustus II the Strong (German: August II. der Starke; Polish: August II Mocny; Lithuanian: Augustas II; 12 May 1670 – 1 February 1733) of the Albertine line of the House of Wettin was Elector of Saxony (as Frederick Augustus I), Imperial Vicar and elected King of Poland and Grand Duke of Lithuania. Augustus' great physical strength earned him the nicknames "the Strong", "the Saxon Hercules" and "Iron-Hand". He liked to show that he lived up to his name by breaking horseshoes with his bare hands and engaging in fox tossing by holding the end of his sling with just one finger while two of the strongest men

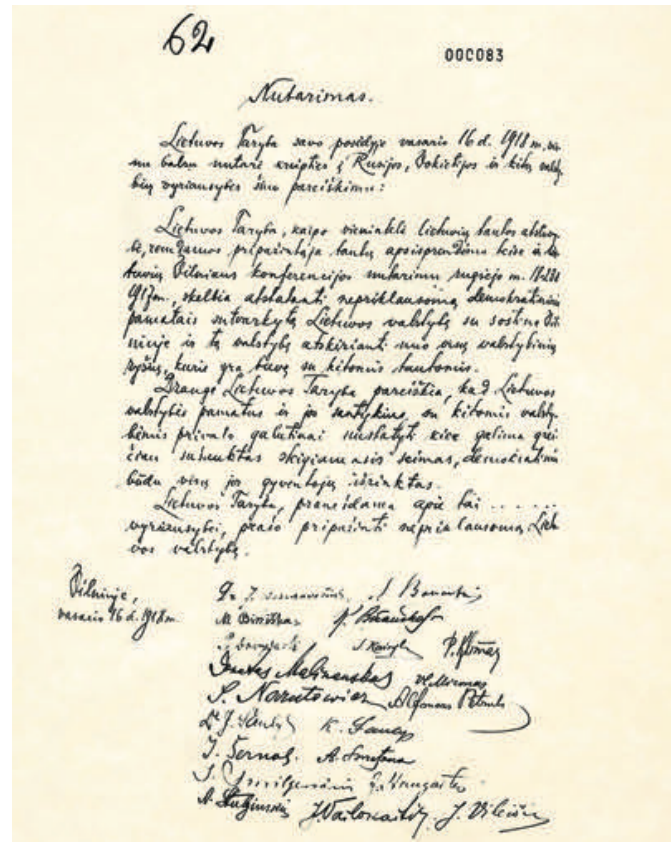
in his court held the other end. In order to be elected King of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth, Augustas converted to Roman Catholicism. As a Catholic, he received the Order of the Golden Fleece from the Holy Roman Emperor. As Elector of Saxony, he is perhaps best remembered as a patron of the arts and architecture. He established the Saxon capital of Dresden as a major cultural centre, attracting artists from across Europe to his court. Augustus also amassed an impressive art collection and built lavish baroque palaces in Dresden and Warsaw.

His reigns brought Poland some troubled times. He led the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth in the Great Northern War, which led to the Russian Empire strengthening its influence in Europe, especially within Poland. His main pursuit was bolstering royal power in the Commonwealth, characterized by broad decentralization in comparison with other European monarchies. He tried to accomplish this goal using foreign powers and thus destabilized the state.

100 years ago

On February 16, 1918 Lithuania's Independence was proclaimed. The Act of Reinstating Independence of Lithuania (Lithuanian: Lietuvos Valstybės atkūrimo aktas) or Act of February 16 was signed by the Council of Lithuania on February 16, 1918, proclaiming the restoration of an independent State of Lithuania, governed by democratic principles, with Vilnius as its capital. The Act was signed by all twenty representatives of the Council, which was chaired by Jonas Basanavičius. The Act of February 16 was the result of a series of resolutions on the issue, including one issued by the Vilnius Conference and the Act of January 8. The path to the Act was long and complex because the German Empire exerted pressure on the Council to form an alliance. The Council had to carefully maneuver between the Germans, whose troops were present in Lithuania, and the demands of the Lithuanian people. The immediate effects of the announcement of Lithuania's re-establishment of independence were limited. Publication of the Act was prohibited by the German authorities, and the text was distributed and printed illegally. The work of the Council was hindered, and Germans remained in control over Lithuania. The situation changed only when Germany lost World War I in the fall of 1918. In November 1918 the first Cabinet of Lithuania was formed, and the Council of Lithuania gained control over the territory of Lithuania. Independent Lithuania, although it would soon be battling the Wars of Independence, became a reality. The laconic Act is the legal basis for the existence of modern Lithuania, both during the interwar period and since 1990. The Act formulated the basic constitutional principles that were and still are followed by all Constitutions of Lithuania. The Act itself was a key element in the foundation of Lithuania's re-establishment of independence in 1990. Lithuania, breaking away from the Soviet Union, stressed that

it was simply re-establishing the independent state that existed between the world wars and that the Act never lost its legal power. On March 29, 2017, the original document was found at the Diplomatic archive in Berlin, Germany.



Declaration of Independence of February 16, 1918.

80 years ago

On February 1, 1938 the Fourth Parliament of the Republic of Lithuania adopted the third Constitution of Lithuania.

The constitution reversed the liberal ideas of the constitution of 1922, introducing the notion that the state was the foundation of existence of its citizens and not the other way round. The constitution did away with the separation of powers, stating that the power, wielded by the President, the Seimas, the Government and the courts, was "undividable" and led by the President. The constitution of 1938 has the distinction of being revived on March 11, 1990, when Lithuania declared its independence from the Soviet Union. It served a purpose of establishing legal continuity between the Republic of Lithuania of the interwar period and the newly independent state. The constitution was suspended on the same day and replaced with the Provisional Basic Law while a new constitution was drafted.

a taste of lithuania

Cepelinai

Meat-filled Potato Dumplings

By Jana Sirusaitė-Motivans



Lithuanian Culinary Heritage Weekend was held at Camp Neringa in September of 2017. I was an instructor, and led a group of participants through the process of making cepelinai (meat-filled potato dumplings). Making cepelinai is admittedly quite a bit of work, but with careful planning it can be done at home. In a previous article (October 2014), I featured cepelinai using a recipe provided by Vaidas Šukys, owner of Mama Papa Lithuanian restaurant near San Francisco. You can reference that article and make delicious cepelinai, however, I am now offering an alternative.

In preparation for the Neringa event, I searched my cookbooks and the Internet for cepelinai recipes and advice, and even telephoned my Aunt Dana (who I call "the cepelinas hotline"). What I learned was that most recipes call for a mixture of both raw and cooked potatoes, while the Mama Papa recipe used just raw potatoes. Several participants in my class also make their cepelinai this way, and were surprised to see cooked potatoes added.

According to Beata Nicholson, in her excellent cookbook *Taste Lithuania*, adding cooked potatoes makes the cepelinai softer. She recommends a ratio of 3:1 (raw:cooked). The traditional book *Lithuanian Cookery*, published by Darbininkas in 1962, also uses this ratio. The cooked potatoes must be completely cooled. Adding hot potatoes to the raw mixture will melt the potato starch, rather than gel it.

Beata Nicholson also has another suggestion, which I found extremely helpful. She rolls all the meat filling into meatballs before she starts to work with the potato mixture. This makes it much easier to form the cepelinai and leads to less messy hands. Having evenly-sized meat-balls also helps make evenly-sized cepelinai. Restaurant-sized cepelinai are made with one cup of potato mixture encasing 1/4 cup of filling. For serving at home, a smaller cepelinai can be made using 1/2 cup of potato mixture and approximately one heaping tablespoon of filling. You can vary the quantities to make your preferred size of cepelinai but keep in mind that smaller-sized ones are less likely to rupture while boiling.

Cepelinai (Didžkukuliai)

Cepelinai are probably one of the most loved Lithuanian foods. Traditionally they were known as didžkukuliai (literally, big dumplings) but the name cepelinai came into use because of their resemblance to the shape of German Zepelin aircraft!

The following recipe uses 12 pounds of potatoes (9 pounds raw and 3 pounds cooked) and makes approximately 24 cepelinai (one pound of potatoes yields approximately two cepelinai).

Dumpling Mixture

- 12 pounds large Idaho potatoes
- 4 medium onions
- 1 tablespoon salt, more or less to taste



Separate the potatoes into two piles, one nine pounds and the other three pounds. Peel the three pounds and boil in salted water until soft. Drain and mash (do not add anything else) and set aside to cool. The cooked potatoes must be completely cool.

Grate the remaining nine pounds of potatoes and the onions, using a Lithuanian grating machine, a food processor or a box grater. Add salt. Place a portion of the grated mixture into a piece of cheesecloth then bring up the corners to form a pouch. Wring the cheesecloth over a bowl, straining the excess liquid from the grated potatoes through the cloth, squeezing firmly with your hands until the potatoes are as dry as possible. Put the dry potatoes into a mixing bowl, and repeat the process until the potatoes have been squeezed dry. Let the starch settle to the bottom of the bowl of liquid, then pour the liquid off and add the starch back to the dry potatoes. Add the cool mashed potatoes and mix thoroughly.

Meat Mixture

- 2 pounds ground meat (1 pound pork and 1 pound beef)
- 2 large beaten eggs
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 medium onion, peeled and finely minced
- 1/4 teaspoon pepper

Combine the ground meat, minced onion, salt and pepper, and the eggs in a bowl. Mix thoroughly, using your hands. Pre-shape the mixture into evenly-sized meatballs, using a heaping tablespoon of meat. Place all the meatballs on a tray.

Bacon Sauce (Spirgučiai)

- 1 pound bacon, diced
- 1 cup sour cream
- 1 large onion, chopped
- black pepper to taste

Sautee the bacon and onion in a large frying pan. Drain off extra grease. The sour cream can be stirred directly into the bacon and onion mixture, or served separately.

Making The Cepelinai



Take 1/2 cup of the potato mixture into your hands and roll it into a ball. (It works better with wet hands) Gently flatten it into a 1/2 inch thick round patty. Place one meatball into the center of the potatoes. Cup your hands together to form a football shape, gently forming it into an oval and encasing the meatball. Repeat forming more cepelinai with the remaining potato and meat mixtures.

Bring a large pot of salted water to a boil. Dissolve two tablespoons of potato starch into a glass of cold water, and stir this into the boiling water. Gently slip the cepelinai into the pot. Do not overcrowd the pot. Cook in two batches if necessary. Reduce the heat to a gentle simmer and boil the dumplings until they are cooked through, about 20 to 25 minutes. Remove the dumplings with a slotted spoon and serve with the bacon sauce.

current events

Security

...The 2-meter-high security wire fence between Lithuania and Kaliningrad which was started in June 2017 should be finished before the end of December. It stretches for 45 km along the land portion of the border. It is intended to reduce smuggling and provocations rather than forestall a full-scale attack. The 109 km river portion is covered by a surveillance system. The border is now demarcated by over 550 signs. Surveillance systems are being enhanced at five checkpoints on the border with Belarus.



...The U.S. National Defense Authorization Act for FY 2018 has authorized the expenditure of \$14 million to expand the fighter jet apron and fuel facilities at Amari Air Base which is 37 km southwest of Tallinn, Estonia. The NATO airbase is the host of the American Operation Atlantic Resolve.

...Lithuania has taken delivery of two German training vehicles as part of a 386 million euro purchase of 88 infantry fighting vehicles armed with 30 mm Israeli cannons. The first combat version is expected in 2019 and the rest will be shipped by 2021.

...Russia has objected to the U.S. supplying heavy weapons to Ukraine. This year about 500 have died in the conflict in eastern Ukraine.

...Ukraine has arrested Stanislav Yezhov, an interpreter, for treason in supplying information to the Russian Main Intelligence Directorate (GRU). He had worked for Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovich who was replaced by a western-oriented government in 2014. He is said to have passed information regarding subsequent Ukrainian meetings with representatives of the U.S., Estonia and the United Kingdom.

...The Lithuanian Defense Ministry has banned software from Moscow based Kaspersky Lab as a threat to national security. Its software will be removed from infrastructure controlling energy, finance, and transportation including those run by private companies. This action follows similar responses by the U.S. and British governments over concerns that the software could be used to enable spying by Russian agencies.

...The Washington Post reports that the commander of NATO's submarine forces, U.S. Admiral Andrew Lennon notes "We are now seeing Russian underwater activity in the vicinity of undersea cables that I don't believe we have ever seen." The cables link North America to Europe. Russia has 60 full-size submarines to the U.S. 66. Admiral Lennon reports that one converted ballistic vessel carries smaller submarines for research and data gathering projects.

Business

...The World Bank now ranks Lithuania the 16th most business-friendly country in the ranking of 160 countries. Lithuania moved up 5 positions in the "2018 Doing Business Index" with improvements in connecting to electrical networks, obtaining construction permits, protecting minority investors and paying taxes. The top ranking goes to New Zealand; the U.S. ranks 6th; the U.K ranks 7th; Estonia 12th; and Latvia 19th. The 312-page report is freely available via www.doingbusiness.org.



...Gazprom, the Russian energy company, supplies Europe with 40% of its gas needs. To protect this market in the face of imports from the U.S., Qatar, and others, it has aggressively cut prices and increased production by 12.4% to 471 billion cubic meters. *Kommersant*, the Russian business journal, reported that Putin's executive order allows the sale at unregulated prices after January 1.

...The European Commission has informed President Dalia Grybauskaitė that it will aid farmers who have suffered losses from August & September rains that amounted to twice the annual rainfall. Over 140,000 hectares were flooded and in some areas, up to 50% of the crops were unable to be harvested. Preliminary estimates of losses run from 40 to 200 million euros.

...In 2016 Vilnius welcomed more than 1 million visitors, a record. This year it expects 4% more. The millionth visitor was given a weekend stay at the Kempinski Hotel in Cathedral Square and a sightseeing tour around Vilnius. Even more visitors are expected in 2018 with the availability of three new hotels in Vilnius: Courtyard by Marriott-Vilnius, Ibis Vilnius Centre, and Hotel Pacai.

...A new modern art museum is expected to open in 2019 which will feature 4,000 works by Lithuanian artists from 1960 to present. Conceived and sponsored by chemist, inventor and entrepreneur, Viktoras Butkus, and his wife, Danguole Butkiene, the 3,100 square meter MO Museum is designed by architect Daniel Libeskind's Studio.



...A new tourist tax will go into effect in July which will fund marketing program for Vilnius.

...The Estonian design group RIFAS, part of Harju Elekter, will triple its 2,500-meter square facility in Panevėžys while creating 100 new jobs over the next three years. They specialize in engineering and installing electro-mechanical equipment. They recently won a Rolls Royce Marine award for its innovative electricity distribution and control system being used in new semi-automated ships and will evolve into fully automated ships. The company will collaborate with the Klaipėda Higher Maritime School and the Visaginas Technology and Business Vocational Education and Training Center.

...A Welsh lawyer, upset over the mandate that he loses weight before obtaining a referral for hip surgery, elected to go to Nordorthopaedic clinic in Kaunas, Lithuania. The cost of treatment for this "medical tourism" will be about 6,000 pounds versus 11,000 to 12,000 pounds in the UK.

General

...The Lithuania basketball club Vytautas Prienai-Birštonas have signed LiAngelo Ball (19)(6'5"-215 lbs.) and LaMelo Ball (16)(6'3"-160 lbs.) to play in the Lithuanian Basketball League. They are the younger brothers of LA Lakers point guard Lonzo Ball (20). Their father, LaVar Ball, is a sports apparel promoter; their mother, Tina Ball, is the athletic director at a southern CA middle school. The UCLA basketball team was scheduled to play in China, but LiAngelo and two others were caught shoplifting. They were released via the intercession of President Trump and President Xi. The shoplifters were suspended for an indefinite term by UCLA and LiAngelo left school. The towns of Prienai and Birštonas are about 40 km south of Kaunas on the Neman River. The Balls will be staying at the luxury spa hotel in Birštonas, a town of 2,600 residents. The Ball brothers'

contracts run to May 2018 with an exit option after 1 month. The demand for tickets has ski-rocketed despite the increased in ticket price from 3 to 8 euros. The high schooler, LiMelo, has his own signature basketball shoe and 3 million Instagram followers, more than the population of Lithuania.

...A Lithuania team and President Dalia Grybauskaitė presented Pope Francis with a nanoscale nativity scene that could fit into the eye of a needle. The 30 person team from the Vilnius Gediminas Technical University, the Laser Research Center at Vilnius University, Ideja 3D and Femtika (a micro-fabrication company) worked for 3 months using 3-D printing to create 5 copies of the creche.



...A Lithuanian court has nullified an election by the Jewish Community of Lithuania (LZB), a national umbrella group of all the Lithuanian Jewish communities, on behalf of the Vilnius Jewish Community, the largest group. The nullification followed a complaint that the voting rules were changed in mid-campaign from proportional to the size of each group to each organization having one vote. The president of the LZB is also the chairwoman of the Goodwill Foundation which was established in 2011 to administer about \$40 million in restitution funds for the Holocaust. The Vilnius group has raised concerns about the handling of the funds and nepotism.

...The Constitutional Court has rejected the request of the widow of former President Algirdas Brazauskas for free housing saying that free housing is a guarantee for the individual and does not pass to the president's spouse. The Baltic Times reports that Kristina Brazauskienė and her son own a hotel in Vilnius.

...In another Constitutional Court action, it has stripped the immunity from Kęstutis Pūkas, a member of Seimas, of prosecution of violating his oath by sexually harassing at least 4 women applicants for his open assistant positions. The founder of radio and TV stations and Founder & President of the Lithuanian Music Industry Association is on his fifth marriage and just welcomed his tenth child. Seimas elected not to grant him his request for parental leave but instead will likely impeach and expel him.

Dr. Vainutis Vaitkevičius

Dr. Vainutis Kazimieras Vaitkevičius, who was instrumental in the founding of the Barbara Ann Karmanos Cancer Institute, died December 24, 2017.



A physician who played a pivotal role in the establishment of the Barbara Ann Karmanos Cancer Institute and later served as its interim president has died.

Vainutis Kazimieras Vaitkevičius, "Dr. Vee," 90, died Dec. 24, 2017, at Omega House Hospice in Houghton, Michigan.

He lived in Oakland County for many years before moving to Houghton last year.

He was born Jan. 12, 1927, in Kaunas, Lithuania. His father, Henrikas Vaitkevičius, was an architectural engineer who died in forced exile in the Ural Mountains, after being arrested for his political convictions. His mother, Kamilija Zakaviciute, was a nurse who spent years in Siberian labor camps protecting his brothers.

In 1941, he was separated from his family when he narrowly escaped KGB organized mass arrests that led to the exile of the rest of his family. Finding himself alone, he was sheltered by his

grandfather, Vytautas Zakavičius, who was trained as a physician and a botanist. Dr. Vee often spoke about the early lessons he learned from his grandfather, who was executed by the Nazis after he was found to have hidden Jewish children.

Dr. Vee later lived with his aunt, Dr. Jadvyga Zakavičiūtė, a prominent physician in Lithuania. To avoid the ongoing forced conscriptions by the Nazis, she fictitiously diagnosed Dr. Vee with tuberculosis and hid him in a quarantined ward.

As World War II was moving across Lithuania, it became unsafe to remain there, and by the end of 1944, Dr. Vee found himself in a Lithuanian refugee camp outside of Frankfurt, Germany. While there, he was instrumental in establishing a secondary school for Lithuanian refugees; he was an alumnus of the school.

In 1951, he graduated from Johann-Wolfgang-Goethe-Universität Frankfurt Medical School and moved to Detroit for post-graduate training. Two years later, he began a two-year stint in the U.S. Army, where he achieved the rank of captain.

In 1955, he enrolled in residency programs at Detroit Grace Hospital and Detroit Receiving Hospital and later completed a fellowship in Medical Oncology at the Detroit Institute for Cancer Research.

He later served as an attending physician in oncology services at Henry Ford Hospital and was appointed assistant professor at Wayne State University School of Medicine.

In 1962, he was named clinical director at the Detroit Institute for Cancer Research. In 1966 was appointed associate professor at Wayne State and became the Director of Wayne's new Division of Conjoint Services and Curriculum in Oncology.

He received numerous awards in teaching over the years and was recognized for his work with cancer patients.

In 1982, he was named physician-in-chief at the Detroit Medical Center and chief of medicine at Harper Grace Hospital.

Two years later, President Bill Clinton appointed Dr. Vee to the National Cancer Advisory Board in Bethesda, Maryland.

In 1995, he played a pivotal role in establishment of the Barbara Ann Karmanos Cancer Institute and later became medical director of the home care and hospice. In 2000, he was named interim president of the Karmanos Cancer Institute as well as interim chief of Wayne's Division of Hematology-Oncology.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Ingeborg, and survived by his children: Eva Marks, Camille, Henrikas, Peter, Walter and Martin.

Photo courtesy of the Sullivan & Son Funeral Home

Learn Lithuanian This Summer!



"Language is not a stagnant object but a living, changing organism. Language is every being's means of interaction, and in today's increasingly globalized society, it is becoming imperative to make the effort to understand other peoples. Reaching out to learn a language is reaching out to make a connection."

~ Skylar Lipman in The Polyglot Newsletter

1ST-YEAR LITHUANIAN

Indiana University and the Association for the Advancement of Baltic Studies are pleased to offer Lithuanian as part of the 2018 Baltic Studies Summer Institute.

Participants in First-Year Lithuanian learn to understand and speak Lithuanian at the Novice High or Intermediate Low level. Participants who complete the course successfully will be able to navigate in an Lithuanian-speaking environment, engage comfortably in day-to-day exchanges, and participate in simple social exchanges in Lithuanian. They will have a solid foundation for further study or for traveling to Lithuania.

Participants study 4 hours a day and earn 8 undergraduate credits or 6 graduate credits of First-Year Lithuanian.

All courses are contingent upon enrollment and funding.

PROGRAM FEATURES

Participants supplement their classroom instruction by participating in the Workshop's extensive program of events, presentations, and activities. Some activities are conducted in English and some in the language of study.

DATES

June 4 - July 27, 2018

The summer program consists of two 4-week courses, with participants receiving grades for each. No classes will meet on July 4.

ELIGIBILITY

Graduate students, undergraduates, and professionals from all over the United States, as well as from other countries, participate in the Summer Language Workshop. The staff will work with international graduate students to help arrange necessary visa support.

HOUSING AND MEALS

Single-room housing in Willkie Quadrangle is available to Workshop participants at an estimated rate of \$30.70 per day. Participants studying the same language live in adjacent units and share a kitchen and lounge. Housing details will be included in the admissions packet for successful applicants.

Participants are not required to stay in the dorm and may make their own housing arrangements if they prefer.

Indiana University offers summer meal plans, but Workshop participants are not required to purchase them and may opt to cook in the dormitory or to make their own arrangements.

There is a \$200 non-refundable housing application fee. This fee may be waived or reduced for current IU students who live in RPS residence halls during the academic year.

MORE INFORMATION

<http://indiana.edu/~swseel/languages/details/lithuanian>

IU Bloomington | College of Arts and Sciences | School of Global and International Studies | Summer Language Workshop
355 North Jordan Avenue, Global and International Studies Building, Bloomington, IN 47405-1105
Phone: (812) 855-2889 | languageworkshop@indiana.edu

our community

Chicago Lithuanian Running Club Commemorated the Events of January 13th

On Sunday, January 14, 2018, the Chicago Lithuanian Running Club commemorated the events of January 13, 1991 and paid their respect to the victims by participating in the Way of Life and Death Run. Once again, the runners proved that history lives in their hearts.

The runners met on the icy coast of Lake Michigan and warmed each other by singing Lithuanian songs and running with Lithuanian flags hoisted high above their heads. This year, for the first time all the participants were awarded with memorial medals. After the run, participants had a chance to taste some of hot porridge provided by the Lithuanian Riflemen's Union. Even though the day was exceptionally cold, nobody rushed home.

The runners are grateful to the Lithuanian Consulate in Chicago, the Lithuanian Riflemen's Union in Chicago, and the Chicago Running Club for organizing the event and participating in it.

Thanks to D & Z Photo Studio for capturing beautiful moments of the event!





our community

From the Office of Lithuania's Honorary Consul in Aspen, Colorado



From left, Martin Gruss, Audronė Gruss, Lithuania's Honorary Consul in Philadelphia Krista Bard, Lithuania's Honorary Consul in Aspen Dr. John Vytautas Prunskis, and Alex Bard. Photo by Kristina Prunskytė

Discussions that took place in the snowy mountains on a sunny day in Colorado were related to the new Lithuanian laws regarding the Labor Code, the reduction of alcohol consumption in Lithuania, and the successful contribution of 2% of Lithuania's GDP going to its defense as per NATO agreement.

Also discussed were stem cell treatment, charity, the possibility for US citizens to study medicine in Lithuania in English, mountain skiing, Lithuanian politics, and car racing.

It was agreed to arrange another meeting and discuss these and other topics in the coming months. Everyone is invited to meet during the Lithuanian Aspen Ski Week from February 23 to March 6, 2018.

J. V. Prunskis, M.D.
Knight of the Order of Merit
Hon. Consul of Lithuania
Dean of the Aspen Consular Corps

bridges

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February 2018

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

ONGOING

Most Fridays, 4:30-7:30 p.m.
Friday Fish Fry at the Rockford Lithuanian Club
 716 Indiana Avenue, Rockford, Ill.
 Open to the public. Weekly specials vary. First Friday of the month—Lithuanian dumplings.
 Info: lithuanianclub.org, 815-962-9256

Every Sunday, 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.
All-You-Can-Eat Lithuanian Brunch Buffet
 Lithuanian Club and Gintaras Dining Room
 877 E. 185 St., Cleveland, Ohio
 \$15 per person; \$6 kids 6-12
 Info: lithclub@gmail.com, 216-531-8318

First Sunday of the Month, 12-4 p.m.
Lithuanian Brunch
 The Avenue Restaurant, 71-22 Myrtle Ave., Glendale, N.Y.
 Reservations strongly recommended.
 Info: 347-725-3853

First Sunday of the Month
Rockford Lithuanian Club General Membership Meeting
 716 Indiana Avenue, Rockford, Ill.
 Open to all members.
 Info: lithuanianclub.org, 815-962-9256

Every Third Saturday, Mar-Jun & Sep-Nov, 1-3 p.m.
Amber Roots Lithuanian Heritage Club
 Lithuanian Music Hall, 2517 E. Allegheny Ave., Philadelphia, Pa.
 Use Tilton Street entrance.
 Bring a dish to share.
 Info: milliemarks@aol.com

GOT EVENTS?

Let us help you spread the word! Please send your event notice to kariledalia@yahoo.com two months in advance of the month in which you would like to see it listed.

FEBRUARY

February 8,9,10, 2018
Mirga Gražinytė-Tyla will conduct Philadelphia Orchestra performances at Kimmel Center.

February 23 - March 5, 2018
Lithuanian Athletic Union of North America organizes its snow ski and winter trip in Aspen Mountain Resort, Aspen, Colorado.
 Info: Ed Mickus at edmickus1@aol.com or Dr. Vytas Saulis at vsaulis@sbcglobal.net

February 28
The Philadelphia Chamber Music Society presents pianist Ieva Jokubavičiūtė at the American Philosophical Society, 105 S. 5th St., Philadelphia, Pa.

February 16, 2018, 6 p.m.
Lithuania's Independence 100th Anniversary Celebration at JW Marriott Essex House New York, 160 Central Park South, New York, NY 10019. Organizers: New York City Lithuanian Community and Lithuanian Consulate in New York. Robert Nagys tel: 212-484-4686, E-mail: Robert.nagys@marriott.com.

MARCH

Sunday, March 11, 2PM
Kansas City Lithuanian Community Independence Day Celebration
 Wyandotte County Museum
 Bonner Springs, KS

APRIL

April 27-29, 2018
Women's Weekend at Neringa Camp
 Kerry Secrest and Dr. Kristina Mačiūnas are planning a special program and a variety of activities including group discussions, exercise, art, cooking, spiritual and personal rebirth.
 For more details please contact Kerry at kerry@watershedcoachingllc.com or Kristina at kriscon@frontiernet.net

MAY

May 11-13, 2018
Counselor Retreat at Neringa Camp
 We invite current and former Neringa counselors, who are over 18 years old, to come to the Neringa Counselor Retreat. Get together with counselors of all ages to reflect on how Neringa has and continues to impact their lives.
 Retreat coordinators are: Jessica Zikaras and Rebecca Liudzius.

JUNE

June 1-3, 2018
American Association of Baltic Studies Conference
 Stanford University, Palo Alto, Calif.
 Info: aabs-balticstudies.org

June 2-3, 2018
Talka Work Weekend at Neringa Camp
 As every year, Neringa is awaiting volunteers who can come and help prepare the campsite for the upcoming summer.

June 30 – July 6
Dainu Svente: Lithuania's Centenary Song Celebration
 Vilnius and Kaunas, Lithuania
 Info: dainusvente.lt/en/programme/

June, 2018
Jonines/Summer Picnic Event
 Kansas City Lithuanian Community
 More info to be announced

AUGUST

August 17-19, 2018
Kansas City Lithuanian Community Ethnic Enrichment Festival
 Swope Park, KCMO

NOVEMBER

November 24, 2018, 4PM
Kansas City Lithuanian Community Christmas Party
 Cedar Creek Clubhouse, Olathe, KS

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