

DRAUGAS NEWS

LITHUANIAN WORLD WIDE NEWS IN ENGLISH

NOVEMBER 2013

Vol.1 No. 1

IT'S OUR STORY



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**What's next for the
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The Balzekas Museum of Lithuanian Culture, in conjunction with Latvian and Estonian museums, is planning a year-long program of exhibits, lectures and events to commemorate the 70 years anniversary since the mass flight of Lithuania's World War II refugees – Displaced Persons – from their native lands. It is a story of hardship and hope. It is also a story of thousands of Lithuanian Americans and their organizations which welcomed these refugees into their homes and communities across America. The Balzekas museum is inviting us to help record oral histories and collect photographs and artifacts.– 13

Lituanica in space

Lithuania's first satellite to launch from NASA

Lithuania will be launching for the first time, not one but two satellites into space this December from NASA. The nanosatellites, named "LituanicaSat-1" and "LitSat-1" are tiny; they weigh less than three pounds each but are packed with modern high-tech electronics. Both satellites are being deployed in commemoration of the 80th anniversary of the transatlantic flight of Lithuanian heroes Steponas Darius and Stasys Girnas in 1933. - - 8



**Lithuania's
contender for best
foreign language
Oscar nomination**



Giedrė Beinoriūtė's "Conversations on Serious Topics", a 65-minute documentary featuring straight forward dialogues with children, has been submitted as a candidate for Best Foreign Language Film at the Oscar awards. The film is a series of short conversations with a number of Lithuanian children about love, God, loneliness and human relations. They speak candidly of their experiences with the modern world – always thoughtful, sometimes melancholic, often-times comical. – 4



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“Draugas” breaks new ground



Kazimierz Chwalek, MIC

November 16, 2013,
Feast of Our Lady, Mother of Mercy

Dear Readers of *Draugas News*:

For over a century, *Draugas*, the Lithuanian Catholic Daily newspaper, has come into the homes of your parents and grandparents, to your educational, religious and cultural institutions. It has been a welcome guest, a native messenger that reports current news from around the world, the United States, and the beloved homeland. But *Draugas* has always been more than a simple newspaper — it has been a standard bearer of Lithuanian culture, tradition, and spirituality. It has formed minds and hearts. It has gathered Lithuanian people scattered around the world, and allowed them to share their lives, express their opinions, obtain news about each other, and grow in the knowledge of all that constitutes the uniqueness of being Lithuanian. From its beginning, *Draugas* was intended to be a publication that promoted social and political values that coexisted with religious ones in a dynamic harmony. With the sound intellectual and spiritual formation of its readers in mind, it strove to bring greater good, wellbeing, unity, and Christian hope.

Draugas News, the new monthly publication that we are placing into your hands, aims to convey the very same sentiments, values, and traditions of *Draugas*, but now in the English language. Can it succeed? Will it be able to convey the same spirit and achieve the same ends as the *Draugas* daily? My heart tells me, yes. Just as a person's heart finds joy in visiting the family home, or coming to know unknown relatives and friends, so will *Draugas News*' readers continue to discover the treasures of their homeland, only in English. It is true that translations are inadequate to express

the richness of poetry, national songs, and prayers with their unique sounds and sense; and spiritual power, and words are limited in communicating the joy and gratitude of the heart upon hearing traditional Lithuanian hymns sung in the Marijampole Basilica or the Church of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Chicago. Nonetheless, the experiences, knowledge, and love of one's beloved homeland can be shared to a significant extent in another language, such as English. Thus, *Draugas News* — through its reports of events, expositions of the richness of the national traditions of Lithuania, and personal reflections and stories coming, not only from the homeland but also from all the places where Lithuanian families are found — will enrich the lives of the younger generation. *Draugas News* will facilitate cultural and religious discussions, help its readers form deeper ties, and keep alive the rich traditions of culture and faith of the Lithuanian people.

It was Fr. Staniukynas, *Draugas*' founder's dream that *Draugas* would be a life-giving haven for the



Rev. A. Staniukynas

Lithuanian community to sustain its national heritage and unique religious character. He understood that to accomplish this task and bring about lasting values within society, the laity must work collaboratively with priests and religious. Thus, when establishing the daily newspaper, he enlisted the help of the laity. Unable to carry the editorial responsibility by himself, Fr. Staniukynas asked the Marian Fathers for help. In 1916, the Marians formed a partnership with the Lithuanian Catholic laity and throughout its long history that partnership remained. And in this joint effort, we

continue to make this extraordinary publication available to both Lithuanian and now English speaking readers. We wish to make this “Friend” a welcome guest in all the homes where the Lithuanian heart beats with love for God and Country. Please make this wish a reality. Please share this “Friend” with others and assist its growth and continuity.

May Our Lady, Mother of Mer-

cy of the Dawn Gate, radiate that tender love of her Son Jesus into each one of your hearts, and may you experience her maternal protection over your family and all your loved ones.

Very Rev. Kazimierz Chwalek, MIC
Provincial Superior



Lithuanian Catholic Religious Aid salutes “Draugas News”!

For over 100 years *Draugas* has been THE trusted Catholic newspaper for the Lithuanian-speaking community. We welcome its new initiative: an English language monthly *Draugas News*. The editorial and administrative staffs' generous sharing of time, talent and treasure is a blessing to Lithuanian Catholics. Thank you and may God bless you!

Lithuanian Catholic Religious Aid is a New York-based foundation that supports Catholic religious, educational and social outreach projects in Lithuania and its diaspora.

Over 50 years, LCRA's generous donors have created a fund of \$12 million. This year LCRA has a budget of providing 1M in aid to Lithuania and its diaspora, both in direct material aid and in providing funds to local organizations with religious, educational and social outreach projects. LCRA has an all-volunteer board, and a staff of one full-time and one part-time employee. Notable LCRA-funded projects this year are: an education initiative aimed at halting the human trafficking of minors in the Lithuanian port city of Klaipeda, and the very first training program for permanent Deacons in Lithuania. Locally, LCRA has granted funds for a chaplain at Camp Neringa in Vermont, and supports the Lithuanian Catholic Press in Chicago.

HISTORY

Lithuanian Catholic Religious Aid was founded in 1961 to support the clergy, the faithful, and dissidents in Soviet-occupied Lithuania. In the 1970's and 80's, it was instrumental in the translation and dissemination of the *Chronicle of the Catholic Church in Lithuania*, which tracked human rights abuses and religious dissent in Lithuania. LCRA sent much religious and humanitarian aid to Lithuanians suffering from persecution, and supported the Lithuanian Information Center, a news-dissemination service about Lithuania under Soviet occupation.

Since the re-assertion of Lithuanian independence in 1990, LCRA has helped the Catholic Church in Lithuania rebuild. 50 years of state-enforced atheism had taken a toll on the Catholic Church, the faithful and Lithuanian society as a whole.

Something New

You are holding the first issue of *Draugas News*, an English language edition of *Draugas*. As you may know *Draugas* is the Lithuanian language Catholic newspaper started in 1909 and continuously published for 104 years, first as a weekly, then for most of its existence as a daily, and most recently as a tri-weekly (i.e. three times per week). Initiated as a joint undertaking of clergy and laity, it was founded as a project of the Lithuanian Roman Catholic Federation of America and was declared to be its house organ. In 1916 the Marian Fathers were invited to assume its management and were entrusted with its publication, a mission which they continue to this day. *Draugas* has served our community well and loyally, defending and promoting Christian ideals, cultural development, respect for human dignity, and fundamental human and national rights.

For some time it has been evident that given the complex nature of our community, encompassing multiple generations, three waves of immigration, and numerous friends outside of our immediate ethnic enclave, that an English language paper is long overdue. Thus after much delibera-

tion it was decided by the publishers of *Draugas*, the Lithuanian Catholic Press Society, to embark on this new project by publishing an English language publication.

On a monthly basis *Draugas News* will reach out beyond our parochial school yard to the wider family of Lithuanian Americans and numerous friends of our community, who have been in a sense disenfranchised by not being conversant in this ancient language. There is a perceived need to share the high ideals and spiritual mission of *Draugas* with the broader English speaking readership. We have a story to tell, values to share, and bear witness to truth and justice as well. We have no right to sequester our heritage. Thus we are raising a broader tent, extending an invitation to all who want to share the friendship and unique mission which has been the hallmark of *Draugas* for over a century by becoming loyal readers of *Draugas News*.

We look forward to your support and participation in this new adventure.

Vida Kuprys
Editor

Congratulations to the new English edition of "Draugas"!

Members of the Lithuanian Roman Catholic Charities (LRCC) are delighted to be part of this new enterprise in the Lithuanian-American Catholic community! I was always amazed at the diversity of people who participate in Lithuanian American activities. I am also quite amazed at the diversity of activities available to those interested and involved in the Lithuanian American community. *Draugas News* will inform us about these people and these activities.

Even as a student, when I started attending Lithuanian American events, I noticed that people who normally would not associate in American society had great times and great friendships together. Students would mingle with retired people, intellectuals with laborers or truck-drivers, artists with house painters, liberals with conservatives,, atheists with Catholics. The common bond was their Lithuanian heritage and love of music,

dance, art and history. *Draugas News* will allow the non-Lithuanian speakers: spouses, friends, grandchildren, to participate in this old and unique culture.

Long ago, in 1928, the LRCC founded Holy Cross Hospital in Marquette Park, Chicago. In 2013, 85 years later, this hospital was literally given away to a non-Lithuanian organization, to Mt. Sinai Hospital. Had there been an English language publication, examining community issues, forming public opinion, focusing attention, perhaps this tragic give-away would not have happened. We would still have our flagship Lithuanian-built hospital.

Examining the bonds of our Lithuanian heritage, defending our culture and representing the community in the English language; this is the challenge for the new *Draugas News*.

Linus Sidrys, M.D.
President of LRCC



Linus Sidrys, President of LRCC with wife Rima, at the annual *Draugas* benefit luncheon.

The Lithuanian Catholic Press Society, "Draugas News", and "Draugas"

Who is the publisher of *Draugas News*, and what is the relationship between *Draugas News* and the Lithuanian language newspaper *Draugas*?

Draugas News is published by the Lithuanian Catholic Press Society (LCPS), whose 19 member board is made up of Marian Fathers of the Immaculate Conception and lay Lithuanian Catholics. LCPS is a not for profit Illinois corporation exempt from taxation under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Gifts and donations are deductible.

LCPS also publishes the Lithuanian language newspaper *Draugas*, one of the oldest continuously running ethnic newspapers in the United States. Today, *Draugas* is published 3 times a week (Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday), including a weekend "Kultūra" (Literature and Arts) supplement edited in Lithuania.

The first edition of *Draugas* was published in 1909 in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania. Many of the very earliest issues of *Draugas* are electronically accessible via the Mažvydas Lithuanian National Library's [epaveldas.lt](http://www.epaveldas.lt) website. It's very informative to go back through the early issues of *Draugas*, read about the Lithuanian American community's issues of the day, learn how it reacted to unfolding political and societal events, and then to view the issues 40 and 50 years later, when the postwar immigrants were establishing themselves in the U.S. One of the long-term goals of the LCPS is to create a fully searchable database of the entire *Draugas* newspaper archive on the Web.



Home of *Draugas*. The Lithuanian Catholic Press Center in Chicago, Illinois.

In 2009, archivist librarian Danguolė Kviklys wrote a 100-year historical overview of *Draugas* which was published in the English language quarterly *Lituanus* (www.draugas.org has a link to this excellent article). D. Kviklys writes in her review article: "By providing a preliminary overview of this paper's past, this article's intent is to encourage future researchers to provide much needed critical analysis of its content and its impact on the Lithuanian-American community as well as Lithuania. The extensive unexplored primary and secondary source material found in *Draugas* may be very useful to genealogists, historians, sociologists, and anthropologists studying Lithuania and its diaspora."

Both *Draugas* and *Draugas News* have their own websites and Facebook pages. You can visit *Draugas* at www.draugas.org and [facebook.com/draugolaikrastis](https://www.facebook.com/draugolaikrastis). *Draugas News* awaits your virtual visit at www.draugasnews.org and [facebook.com/draugasnews](https://www.facebook.com/draugasnews)

Readers with a variety of backgrounds and Lithuanian language abilities will find both newspapers useful, interesting and trusted sources of information. We hope that both *Draugas* and *Draugas News* will become reliable "friends", and serve as trusted links between you, the Lithuanian community and Lietuva.

Jonas Daugirdas
LCPS Board member



Draugas has been published continuously since its first issue in 1909.

Links:
"Draugas" PDF files archived at the Lithuanian National Library:
<http://www.epaveldas.lt/object/recordDescription/LNB/C1BLNB000003DC>
Kviklys, D. "Draugas, the Lithuanian World-Wide Daily Newspaper, 1909-2009. A brief historical overview". *Lituanus*. 55(4) Winter 2009.
http://www.lituanus.org/2009/09_4_01%20Kviklys.html

COMMENTARY

A Grand Centennial of American Lithuanian Institutions

The first and greatest wave of migration from Lithuania to United States began at the turn of the previous century. Shipload after shipload brought thousands upon thousands of Lithuanian immigrants to the portals of Ellis Island. Perhaps even the impressive but elusive 1 million is not far from the mark. Numbers aside, their achievements speak volumes. Upon arrival they began to actively organize a vast community infrastructure – churches, mutual benefit societies, religious orders, schools, newspapers, radio programs, musical ensembles, and ambitious commercial ventures. Many of these entities are presently commemorating a hundred years or more of service to the community. Collectively, we are marking – give or take a few years – the grand centennial of American Lithuanian institutional growth and achievement.

It is awe inspiring when we stand back and take inventory of the accomplishments and dedication of those intrepid pioneers from the Baltic coast. While we don't have a definitive listing of all the anniversaries, a few come to mind. The Knights of Lithuania founded in 1913 as a youth organization, today continues as a dynamic force in the community, especially noted for its charitable disposition. The beginning of the Marian Fathers mission to Lithuanians in the United States in 1913, is predated by the founding of the Lithuanian Roman Catholic Federation of America in 1906, which was followed by the founding of the Sisters of St. Casimir in 1907, and the founding of the Lithuanian Roman Catholic Charities in 1914, which later founded Holy Cross Hospital in 1928, and Holy Family Villa in Lemont, Illinois, in 1939. Our own paper Draugas, founded in 1909, celebrated its centennial a few years ago. Among our parishes, Chicago's Immaculate Conception will be celebrating its centennial next year, while Holy Cross Church, probably the largest Lithuanian Catholic Church in the United States is celebrating the 100th anniversary of its dedication.

What should we resolve as we reflect on the impressive accomplishments of our forebears?

- We should preserve their memory and respect the intention of the founders and donors of these institutions.
- We should follow their example of enthusiasm, optimism and generosity.
- Learn from their mistakes and contradictions, which at times divided the community and undermined their good intentions.

Finally, cherish the spiritual and cultural values, which they nurtured with the hope that they would be carried on for many generations into the future.

These are some of the goals which Draugas News will further and promote. Join us in this new adventure.

Rūta Meilutytė honored as best European young athlete



Young Lithuanian swimming star Rūta Meilutytė was chosen as the best European young athlete for a second year in a row. She was also awarded the Piotr Nurowski Prize by the 42nd European Olympic Committee (EOC) General Assembly on November 23 in Rome. The prize includes a trophy and a training grant of 12,000 euros.

Rūta, aged 16, was selected by the delegations of 49 national olympic committees of Europe.

She is an Olympic gold medalist and is the current world record holder in the 50 and 100 meter breaststroke.

The Piotr Nurowski Prize was created in 2010 in memory of the president of the Polish National Olympic Committee who tragically died in a plane crash in April 2010. An outstanding Olympic leader, Piotr Nurowski was a member of the EOC Executive Committee. He is presented as an embodiment of Olympic ideals, encouraging young athletes to pursue high standards in athletic competition and to promote a healthy life style based on Olympic principles and values.



Lithuania's contender for best foreign language Oscar nomination

Continued from page 1.

Giedrė Beinoriūtė's "Conversations on Serious Topics", a 65-minute documentary featuring straight forward dialogues with children, has been submitted as a candidate for Best Foreign Language Film at the Oscar awards. The film is a series of short conversations with a number of Lithuanian children about love, God, loneliness and human relations. They speak candidly of their experiences with the modern world – always thoughtful, sometimes melancholic, oftentimes comical.

"Conversations on Serious Topics" is filmed in a minimalist style. There are no props to distract from the faces of children, who sit facing the camera and field the director's questions. Their brows wrinkle, they fidget, they fall silent and ponder, and then explode with thoughts and insights. The children, including those with disabilities – one was blind, another deaf and dumb – respond to questions such as: "If you were to draw divorce, what would you draw?" The initial response from a little blond girl about 10 years of age was: "My parents' divorce or in general?" The young blind girl asks the Director, "Don't you believe in God? I can teach you how to start believing."

In a recent interview published in Draugas, the director was asked how difficult is it to get children to open up? "It's like speaking with any person, first of all you have to be interested in them. When they sense that you really care what they have to say, they begin to speak openly. I got into the habit of listening to children and teenagers, when I worked for six years on a youth hotline, called "The Children's line."

Communication is more than words and this is very evident in the film. According to Beinoriūtė, "One of the subjects said that being filmed was the happiest day of his life. This was curious, because he was the one child in the film who did not utter a word. His facial expressions, however, spoke volumes."

Giedrė Beinoriūtė, 37, who resides in Vilnius has directed and written 11 narrative and documentary shorts, and she has worked as an assistant to established Lithuanian film directors Šarūnas Bartas and Arūnas Matelis. "Conversations on Serious Topics" is produced by Vilnius' Monoklis studio. You can view a trailer of Conversations on Serious Topics online at <http://vimeo.com/55265823>

The film has already garnered several awards: 2013 Best Documentary nomination at National Film and TV awards „Silver Crane 2013” and 2013 Best Film Award at DocuDays International Human Rights Documentary film festival in the Ukraine.

It has been shown at numerous film festivals throughout Europe and in Taiwan. It is yet to be determined when the film will be released in the United States.

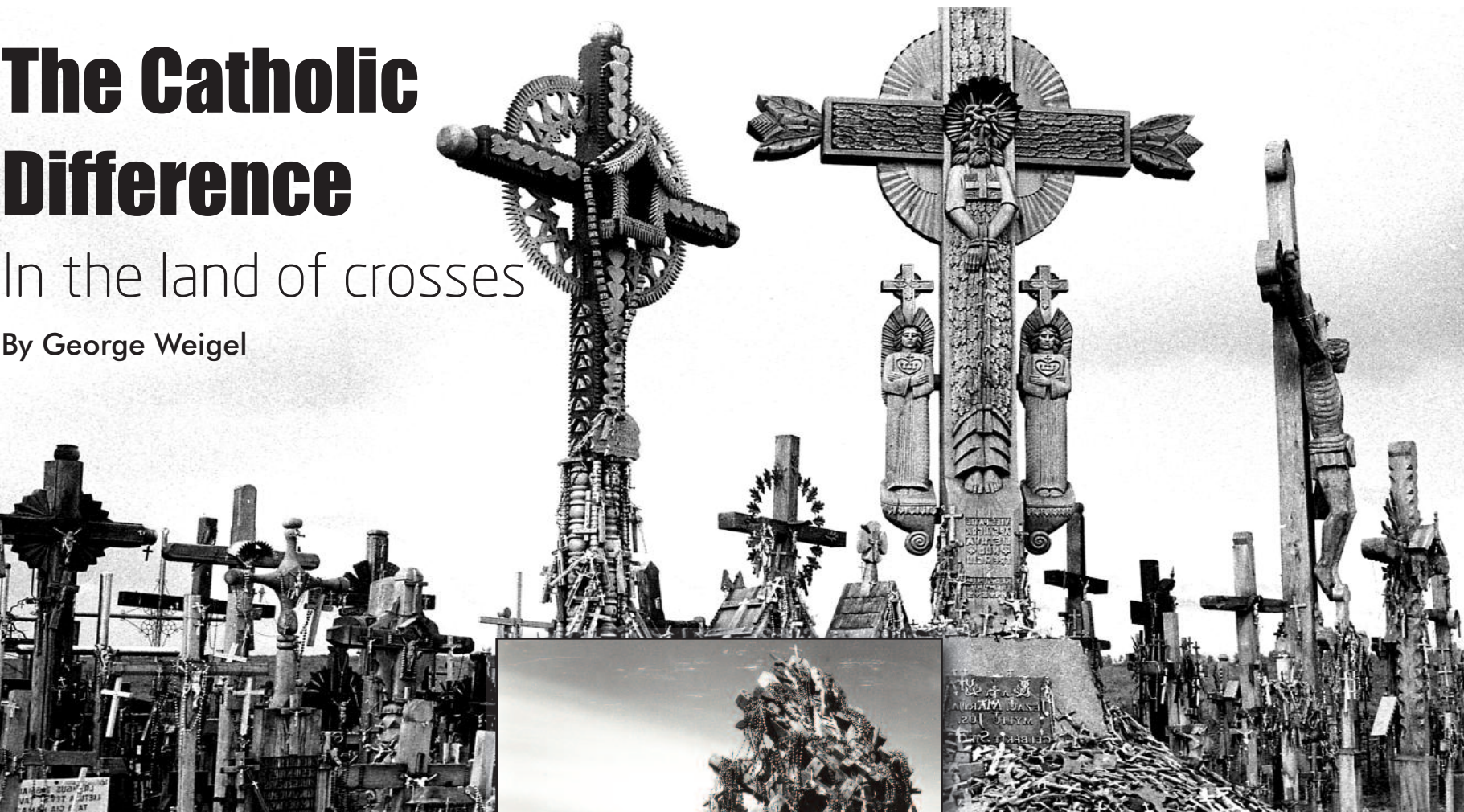


Giedrė Beinoriūtė

The Catholic Difference

In the land of crosses

By George Weigel



No one knows when pious Lithuanians first erected crosses of all sizes on a hill about 7 miles north of the city of Siauliai; it may have been after an abortive 1831 uprising against Russian rule over the small Baltic country. Oftentimes, the bodies of Lithuanian patriots killed during that rebellion, and a similar revolt in 1863, could not be found. So their families planted crosses in their memory on a small mound that was eventually covered with memorials. During the country’s brief moment of independence between the First and Second World Wars, citizens of a free Lithuania continued to plant crosses near Siauliai, as the Hill of Crosses became a pilgrimage center.

I first became aware of this remarkable place in the late 1970s, when I began to take an interest in the Catholic Church’s struggle for religious freedom in Lithuania, then a “republic” of the Soviet Union. That struggle was led by some remarkable men and women, including two priests who did time in the Gulag labor camps, Father Sigitas Tamkevicius, S.J., and Father Alfonsas Svarinskas, and a clandestine nun, Nijole Sadunaite, whose small book, *A Radiance in the Gulag*, remains a moving testament to courage forged by Catholic devotion. The resistance Church in Lithuania produced the longest-running, unbroken underground publication in the history of the USSR, *The Chronicle of the Catholic Church in Lithuania*, which was typed, copy by copy, on manual typewriters, secretly distributed in Lithuania, and then smuggled abroad, where it was translated into English by Brooklyn-based Lithuanian Catholic Religious Aid.

In the mid-1980s, working with my friend Congressman John Miller, I helped organize a Lithuanian Catholic Religious Freedom Caucus in the U.S. House of Representatives. The caucus’s bipartisan membership pressed the Soviet authorities to release Lithuanian Catholic prisoners of conscience, engineered a Congressional resolution in support of Lithuanian independence and religious freedom in 1987, the 600th anniversary of Lithuania’s baptism, and marked that event with a public reception in the Capitol that was broadcast to Lithuania on Radio Liberty. By the time the Soviet Union imploded—Lithuania leading the way with its 1990 declaration of independence—Father Tamkevicius, Father Svarinskas, and Sister Nijole were free, and the Church was widely recognized as a major factor in Lithuania’s successful struggle to maintain its national identity and cultural integrity.

Throughout the difficult years, I was fascinated by the Hill of Crosses. Time after time, the Soviets took down the crosses, bulldozing the site on several occasions. And each time the crosses, large and small, went back up—a dogged display of



religious conviction and political courage that embodied a small, beleaguered nation’s refusal to kowtow to atheistic propaganda and totalitarian power.

Sigitas Tamkevicius has been the archbishop of Kaunas since 1996; Alfonsas Svarinskas, now a Monsignor, is retired but still feisty and active; Sister Nijole continues to radiate the joy of

consecrated life in Vilnius. It was wonderful to see each of them during a recent visit I made to Lithuania to help the Church celebrate the 20th anniversary of John Paul II’s 1993 visit. There were numerous events commemorating that epic pastoral pilgrimage: in the parliament, in the Vilnius cathedral, at universities in Vilnius and Kaunas, and at the great Marian shrine at Siluva. I hope that, through these events, Lithuanian Catholicism looked back in such a way that the path forward, to the free and virtuous society to which John Paul II called Lithuania, came into clearer focus. From a personal point of view, however, the most moving moment in a week of commemorations was my visit to the Hill of Crosses.

Some count 100,000 crosses there now; the exact count makes no difference. At Siauliai, in what John Paul II called the “land of crosses,” the tradition of looking at history, and our lives, through the prism of the cross and its mystery of redemptive suffering continues. I planted a small cross in memory of the martyrs for religious freedom who lie in unmarked graves across Siberia, and prayed for those who defend the first freedom today.

George Weigel is Distinguished Senior Fellow of the Ethics and Public Policy Center in Washington, D.C.

Weigel’s column is distributed by the Denver Catholic Register, the official newspaper of the Archdiocese of Denver. Phone: 303-715-3215.

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American Lithuanian - Nobel Prize winner

Interview with economist at Yale University professor Robert Shiller

By Raimundas Marius Lapas

Yale University Professor, Robert J. Shiller, who is of Lithuanian descent, was one of the recipients of this year's Nobel Memorial Prize in Economic Science. An economist, academic, and author of numerous popular books dealing with economics and finance, Shiller's Lithuanian roots trace back to the 1800's when Lithuania was ruled by the Russian Czar.

Robert James Shiller (born March 29, 1946) currently serves as a Sterling Professor of Economics at Yale University and is a fellow at the Yale School of Management's International Center for Finance. Shiller has been a research associate of the National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER) since 1980, was Vice President of the American Economic Association in 2005, and President of the Eastern Economic Association for 2006-2007. He is also the cofounder and chief economist of the investment management firm MacroMarkets LLC. Shiller is ranked among the 100 most influential economists of the world.

In 1981 Robert Shiller published an article in *The American Economic Review* titled "Do stock prices move too much to be justified by subsequent changes in dividends?" in which he challenged the efficient-market hypothesis, which was the dominant view among economists at the time. Shiller concluded that the volatility of the stock market was greater than could plausibly be explained by any rational view of the future.

The behavioral finance school gained new credibility following the October 1987 stock market crash. Shiller's work included survey research that asked investors and stock traders what motivated them to make trades; the results further bolstered his hypothesis that these decisions are often driven by emotion instead of rational calculations.

His book *Irrational Exuberance* (2000) – a *New York Times* bestseller – warned in March 2000 that the stock market growth had become a bubble (the very height of the market top) which could result in a sharp downturn.

In 2003 Shiller co-authored a Brookings Institution paper called "Is There a Bubble in the Housing Market?". Shiller subsequently refined his position in the 2nd edition of *Irrational Exuberance* (2005), acknowledging that "further rises in the [stock and housing] markets could lead, eventually, to even more significant declines..."

In September 2007, almost exactly one year before the collapse of Lehman Brothers, Shiller wrote an article in which he predicted an imminent collapse in the U.S. housing market, and subsequent financial panic.

His contributions on risk sharing, financial market volatility, bubbles and crises, have received widespread attention among academics, practitioners, and policymakers alike. In 2010, he was named by Foreign Policy magazine to its list of top global thinkers.

In 2011 he made the Bloomberg 50 most influential people in global finance. In 2012, Thomson Reuters named him a contender for that year's Nobel Prize in Economics, citing his "pioneering contributions to financial market volatility and the dynamics of asset prices".

On October 14, 2013, it was announced that Shiller had become a recipient of the 2013 Nobel Prize in Economics alongside Eugene Fama and Lars Peter Hansen "for their empirical analysis of asset prices".

Shiller is married to Virginia Marie (Faulstich), a psychologist and has two sons – Ben (born 1982) and Derek (born 1985). But most importantly – as far as we are concerned – is that prof. Robert Shiller is a Lithuanian-American, whose maternal genealogy might very well date back to Barbora Radvilaitė.



Nobel Prize winner Robert Shiller.

A maternal family portrait

Robert Shiller's grandfather Vincas Radziwilas, son of Kazimeras Radziwil, was born February 16, 1877 at Rimšoniai near Pašvintinys, in the region of Šiauliai. After the unsuccessful Lithuanian revolt against the Czar in 1863, the use of the Latin alphabet was forbidden. It was replaced by the Russian Cyrillic script. All Lithuanian books were banned. It is probable that Vincas attended a Russian elementary school, but studied Lithuanian at home from books smuggled in from Lithuania Minor.

In 1900, Vincas took notice of Rosalia Šerys, a maidservant who came to work in his home. But there was no chance for marriage because Rosalia was viewed as lower class and too young for him.

Vincas frequently traveled. Visiting the United States, he studied at a designers' school in Cleveland. Returning to Lithuania he married a well-to-do widow in Pašvintinys, who had a crippled son by a previous marriage. They had one daughter, Ellen. After the marriage they decided move to the United States. Vincas arrived first in 1907, with the intention of setting up a homestead. His wife and children were to follow. But, within one month, his wife died. His infant daughter Ellen was left under the

care of an aunt and uncle in Lithuania.

Quite by chance, Vincas (now Vincent) met his first love, Rosalia Šerys, in the United States. She had come independently, unaware that he was living in the United States, nor that his wife had died. The two were married in Duquesne, Pennsylvania in 1910. They lived in Chicago where he worked making suits for Marshall Fields. With the advent of mass-produced suits, Vincent lost his job at Marshall Fields. He set up his own tailor shop in Chicago. For about a year during the war the family lived at Fort Sheridan, Illinois where he worked on soldiers' uniforms. Around 1916, lured by a high paying (\$5.00 a day) job at the Ford Motor Company, he came to Detroit. He did not like the job, however, and quit in less than a year. He then worked as a fitter and alterer for J. L. Hudsons, and then for Capper and Capper. In 1918 he set up his own clothing store (The Biruta Clothing Co.) in Oakwood, Michigan (now Detroit) on Oakwood Boulevard just west of the Detroit River Bridge.

The daughter, Ellen joined the family around 1920. During the war his uncle, Vincas Čepinskis (only six years older than he) was the Lithuanian diplomatic representative in London.



Grandmother Amelia Shiller, father Benjamin (Bronislovas) and the grandmother's sister Connie, about 1917 m.



Grandparents' wedding in Chicago. Rozalia Šerytė and Vincent Radziwil, 1910.



Nobel Prize winner Robert Shiller’s grandfather’s shop, “The Biruta” clothing store. Detroit, 1918.

Vincas traveled to Lithuania in 1926 to visit his mother. The visit was apparently timed so that he arrived when the Social Democrat Party (of which his uncle Čepinskis was co-leader) had gained power in Lithuania through an election. The party was soon removed from power by a right-wing military coup, which established a dictatorship in Lithuania. Shortly after his return from Lithuania, he suffered shortness of breath, swollen legs, was ill for about a year and died in 1927.

The widowed Rosalia remarried in 1928 to Joseph Grigaitis, who worked for the U.S. Rubber Co. The children were not happy with the second marriage, he was rather „boorish” compared to their first father, but was nonetheless responsible and good-natured.

In 1938 their daughter Ruth (Birute) married Benjamin Peter Shiller whose son Robert would one day be a Nobel Prize winner.

Around 1940 Rosalia fell ill with diabetes, although it was not severe enough to require insulin. In 1956 they moved to the farm of their daughter, Mildred, in Washington, Michigan. The husband continued to work at U.S. Rubber Company and commuted 25 miles to work every day. He died around 1957, afterwards her son William moved in with her. She died in 1960 of kidney failure.

Upon learning about Prof. Shiller’s Lithuanian background, I pursued obtaining an interview with him. Finally, with the help of several connections at Yale University, I was able to land the interview, which he graciously granted.

I can not resist to ask – your mother’s maiden name is Radvilaitis. Is she a descendant of the famous Lithuanian nobility – the Radziwills?

I grew up with the idea that we were descended from the family of Barbora Radvilaite, who became Queen of Poland. She, however, did not have surviving children, I believe.

If so, that might very well make you indirectly the first Nobel prize winner of royal blood?

I don’t know, maybe.

What was it like growing up in an industrial center such as Detroit? Were you raised in an ethnic environment with Lithuanian traditions such as cuisine? Back then did you have any ties with the Lithuanian community?

We lived amidst a Lithuanian community. We went summers to Dainava, a Lithuanian resort near Detroit. I heard Lithuanian spoken around my house frequently, my parents spoke it, and especially when grandparents were around. But my father did not want me to learn Lithuanian, thinking that it is a small country, we are in America now, and there was no point in learning it. But still my mother taught me a little.

When did you realize that your call was to study economics?

At the University of Michigan.

No regrets?

Certainly no regrets!

What aspect of your profession is closest to heart? Te-

aching? Research? Publishing?

As I grow older, I find that teaching is getting more and more important. I now teach hundreds of students, and I have an online course that is free to the public. I have about 50,000 students signed up for my free online financial markets course at Coursera for February 2014. But, I miss the smaller classes where one can get to know the students well.



Professor. R. Shiller with his mother Ruth (Birute), his wife Virginia, and his sons Ben (b. 1982), and Derek (b. 1985)

In 2011 you made the Bloomberg list of 50 most influential people in global finance. Now you’ve been bestowed the prestigious Nobel Prize in Economics. What price glory? Are you feeling pressure to keep us with this demanding international exposure?

I work very hard. My wife Virginia is telling me to slow down.

What is it like to be alongside Eugene Fama and Lars Peter Hansen?

They are great economists. I wrote an article about them which appeared in the October 26 edition of The New York Times.

Are they perhaps personal friends of yours?

Yes, I know them well.

What is your economic forecast for the United States in the next five years?

I think that it is likely that we will have another recession in the next five years, and that, even five years from now, we will not be back on trend. But we can still hope that won’t happen. If it does, our government will be less willing to pursue stimulus policy to rescue the economy.

And Europe?

The same general forecast there, though their economy looks even weaker.

Many people in Lithuania fear that the euro could be catastrophic if it will be replaced by the national currency litas. What is your opinion?

I think that the euro is of immense symbolic value. It is unfortunate it is tied up in with economic dislocations, but I think it should be retained if at all possible, for it promotes European unity.

By the way, have you ever visited Lithuania? If so, when and under what circumstances?

I have been there, first in 1974, later to visit with my mother, even later to give a talk at the European Humanities University in Vilnius.

And in closing, lets recreate the scenario of the famous phone call you received on Monday. Where were you at the time? Perhaps for a second did you consider it a crank call?

I was getting out of the shower at 6:30am, and was not dressed. I suspected at first that it might be a prank call, but very quickly I believed it, since they

sounded very plausible, and one of them, Per Krusell, I had met before.

Who was the first one you told? Their reaction? Your family? And your students?

I woke my wife to tell her. Then I called my limo driver (who was supposed to pick me up after 7am) to cancel my trip.

Do you think that being a Nobel prize winner will change your life style?

For the past weeks it certainly has, it has been extremely hectic. After a while, I think it will settle down back to the way it always was.



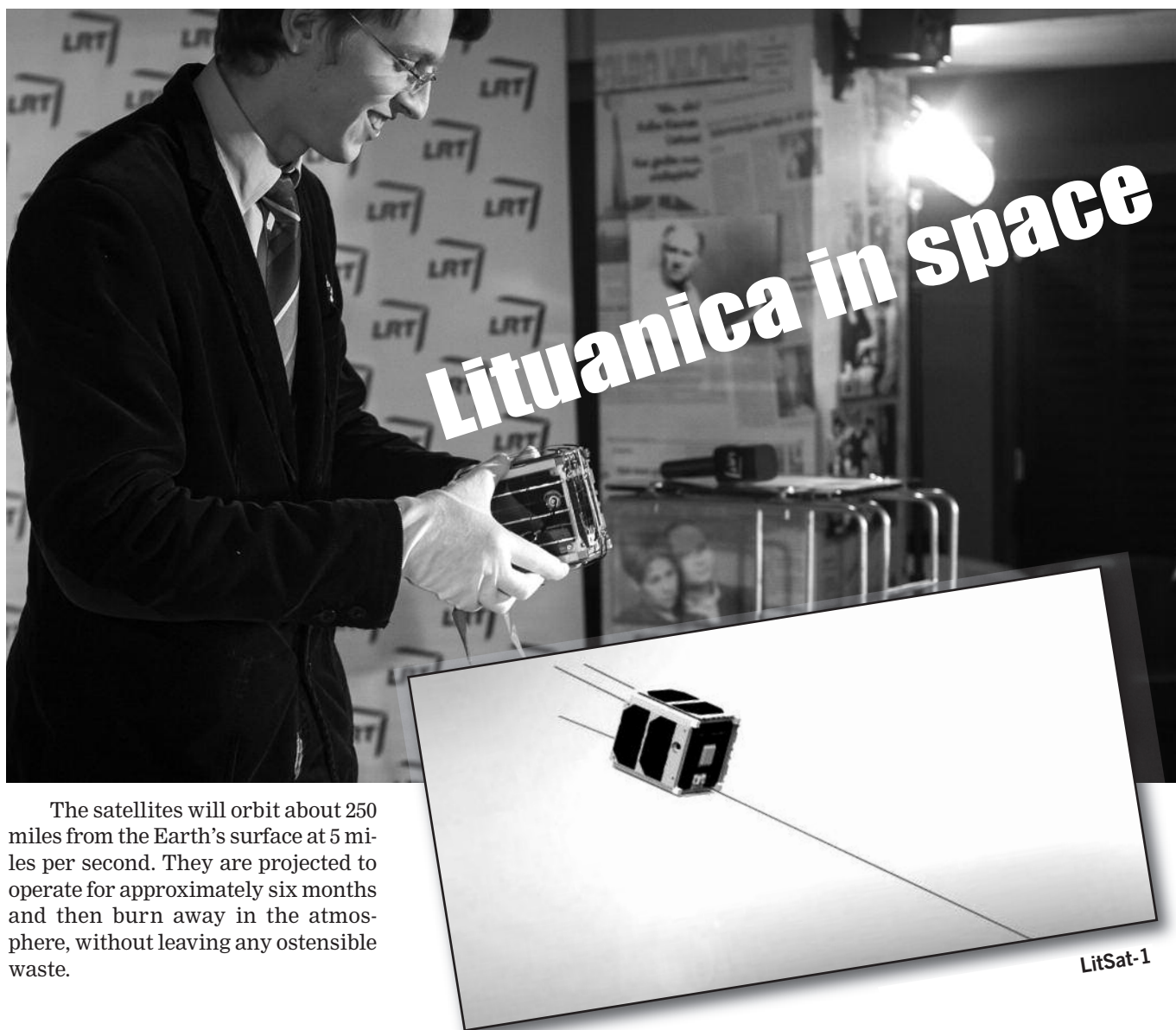
At the Lithuanian Embassy in Washington, D.C. with amb. Žygimantas Pavilionis Ludo Segers photo

Lithuania's first satellite to launch from NASA

Continued from page 1

“LituanicaSat-1”, created by a multidisciplinary team headed by Vytenis Buzas and Laurynas Maciulis at the Kaunas University of Technology (KTU), will transmit the first Lithuanian words from space – a congratulatory message from Lithuanian president Dalia Grybauskaitė. Once it has established contact with Earth, it will transmit information and photographs of Lithuania to its base station. It will also work in conjunction with US launched nanosatellites, gathering information from them and sending it to Earth.

The second satellite, “LitSat-1”, developed by the Lithuanian Space Federation, will carry a prototype of a piezoelectric motor. Lithuanian scientists are exploring a completely new idea which has intrigued NASA – the creation of a piezoelectric guidance system for nanosatellites. Its purpose is to transform high frequency vibrations into rotational motion. According to KTU professor Ramutis Petras Bansevicius, if the experiment is successful, it will facilitate the operation of small satellites in space and considerably reduce manufacturing costs. According to NASA, these small satellites are especially helpful in testing emerging technologies and commercial off-the-shelf components that might be used for future space missions.



The satellites will orbit about 250 miles from the Earth's surface at 5 miles per second. They are projected to operate for approximately six months and then burn away in the atmosphere, without leaving any ostensible waste.

Lithuania elected to the United Nations Security Council



On October 17, 2013 Lithuania was elected member of the United Nations Security Council together with Chad, Chile, Nigeria and Saudi Arabia. Lithuania received a majority of the votes during the 68th session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York and won a seat as a non-permanent member on the 15 member Council for the 2014 - 2015 term.

The newly elected members will begin their membership in January 2014 joining the five permanent members: China, France, The Russian Federation, the United Kingdom and The United States. The five other non-permanent members, Argentina, Australia, Luxembourg, The Republic of Korea, and Rwanda will finish their terms at the end of 2014.

Under the UN Charter, the 15-member Council has the primary responsibility for the maintenance of in-

ternational peace and security, and all member states are obligated to comply with its decisions.

In addition, the Council takes the lead in determining the existence of a threat to peace or act of aggression. It calls on the parties in dispute to settle it by peaceful means and recommends methods of adjustment or terms of settlement.

In some cases, the Security Council can resort to imposing sanctions or may even authorize the use of force to maintain or restore international peace and security.

Lithuania has sought for membership in the United Nations Security Council since 1996, when the country officially submitted a membership application for the first time.

Of the current 193 United Nations members, over 70 states have never been elected to the Security Council.

Team Lithuania Winter Olympic uniforms unveiled



The Lithuanian Olympic Committee has unveiled Team Lithuania's uniforms for the 2014 Winter Olympics in Sochi. The bright green uniforms were designed and created by the Audimas sportswear company in Kaunas. The outfits blend contemporary ornamentation with ancient Lithuanian symbols. Up to nine Lithuanian athletes will participate in the upcoming Winter Olympics. The final team selection will be announced in January. The 2014 Winter Olympics will be held in Sochi Russia, February 7 to 23.



Matulaitis Film Surfaces – 87 years later

Its appearance in Vilnius still a mystery

By Audra M. Giles

A film clip featuring a significant moment in Chicago's Lithuanian-American history long believed to be lost has been discovered not in the US but in Vilnius, in Lithuania's Central State Archives.

The recently initiated internet portal, www.e-kinas.lt, providing access to Lithuania's film archives has made previously inaccessible rare audiovisual material available to the public. (See adjacent story on Lithuania's digitized film project) Among the films found in these archives is a 35mm black and white film of Archbishop Jurgis Matulaitis' historic visit to Chicago in 1926 where he attended the International Eucharistic Congress and consecrated St. Anthony Church in Cicero, Illinois.

The clip, identified by number 5375, has a duration of 5 minutes 25 seconds. The webpage assigns the year 1930 to it. The English description reads as follows: "Lithuanian procession in the United States. Bishop blesses the crowd. Marching of orchestra. Pupils of St. Anthony school. Tram passes by. Marching of representatives of USA Lithuanian organizations. Marching of men and women. Representatives of Lithuanian parishes. Procession enters the church."

The actual event took place in 1926 and not in 1930. (Archbishop Matulaitis died in 1927, so he could not have been filmed in 1930). The specific clip shows the blessing of St. Anthony Lithuanian Roman Catholic Church in Cicero, Illinois, in 1926.

The film starts out with the police escorting a convertible roadster bringing Archbishop Matulaitis to the intersection of 22nd Street and Cicero Avenue. The location is easily identified by the brooding Western Electric complex with its distinctive tower forming the backdrop for this initial scene. The film was probably made by a John Miller whose name is associated with other short films made at that time. What is especially striking is the large crowd greeting the Archbishop. The procession is impressive, thousands may have participated: school children flanked by their

teachers, the Sisters of St. Casimir, and numerous organizations with their banners, all accompanied by a marching band. Judging from the area

landmarks, it is clear that the procession, which began from the noted Cicero Avenue, proceeded west along 22nd Street (later renamed "Cermak Road" after the assassination of Chicago Mayor Anton Cermak in 1933) to 50th Avenue and then proceeded north to 15th Street and ended at the parish hall. This was approximately a one mile long procession.

From the clip it is evident that Archbishop Matulaitis walked the entire route, despite suffering from tuberculosis of the bone. The trek most likely was painful, as his limp is obvious. A number of priests can be identified in the clip: Rev. Jeronimas Vaičiūnas, pastor of St. Anthony parish; Rev. Ignas Albavičius, pastor of Providence of God parish, later of St. Anthony; and Rev. Aleksandras Skripkus of Holy Cross parish in the Back of the Yards neighborhood. The massive crowds at the entrance to the Church are a testimonial to the vibrant Lithuanian Catholic community of the time.

Blessed Jurgis Matulaitis, who was beatified in 1987, is a significant spiritual presence not only in his homeland but beyond it as well. Through his efforts the Marian order was renovated and today continues to promote a robust apostolate in many corners of the world.

The existence of this film was reported some 20 years ago by Blaize Kazlauskas, a noted photographer, who maintained a photo studio in Melrose Park, Illinois. He recalled that a 35mm film was made of the dedication of St. Anthony Church, but that its whereabouts was unknown to him; he feared it may have been lost. Incidentally Blaize Kazlauskas was an active member of the Chicago-based Lithuanian Roman Catholic Charities, and he decried creeping clericalism which he believed undermined a healthy lay apostolate.

The final scenes of the film are taken from a rooftop showing the massive crowd snaking its way to the Church. St. Anthony remains the only church in the Chicago archdiocese consecrated by a beatified Bishop.

To find link of Matulaitis film clip:

To access the historic clip one needs to link to the internet portal www.e-kinas.lt and then go to its "Collections" tab. Then click on "Newsreels of prewar Lithuania." On page 10 of this section, click on the clip entitled "Lithuanian procession in the United States."

From Vilnius to Chicago: Digitizing history

500 miles of historic film now linked to your computer.

The Lithuanian Central State Archives, one of the world's largest Lithuanian audiovisual repositories, announced the creation of an extensive digital database of its archival film collection. The archived films, which for the most part were previously not available to the general public, will now be accessible through the dedicated internet portal: www.e-kinas.lt.

The internet-based film archive will provide journalists, filmmakers, and researchers access to Lithuanian documentary films produced between 1919 and 1961.

The archive includes film from Lithuania's first independence period, that is, prior to the Soviet occupation of 1940; World War II film chronicles; films produced by the Lithuanian Film Studios; television documentaries as well as feature films.

Juxtaposed to samples of Stalinist propaganda produced in accord with the requirements of Soviet Socialist Realism, the archive includes film from the émigré life of Lithuanian-Americans. Among this footage is an early film montage of the Lithuanian-American Congress convened in Chicago in 1919. There is also rare footage of the Archbishop of Vilnius, Blessed Jurgis Matulaitis who visited Chicago in 1926, where he attended the International Eucharistic Congress.

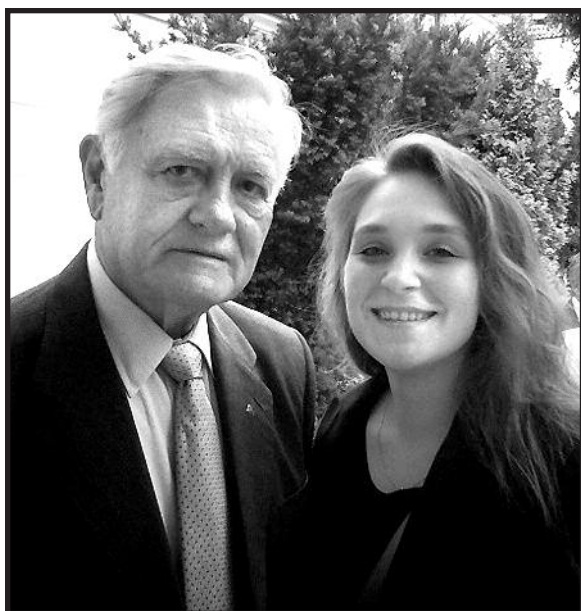
According to Valerija Jusevičiūtė, project manager of the Lithuanian Central State Archive, the online project involved the digitizing of some 1000 Lithuanian documentary films, which required the processing of more than 500 miles of analog film – the distance from Vilnius to Tallinn. The digital storage capacity is equivalent to that of 22 million high-resolution photographs. To accomplish this project, the Lithuanian Central State Archives utilized specialized IBM hardware and software for the restoration and storage of high-resolution digital film copies. These copies will provide for long-term digital storage of invaluable Lithuanian historic films and the preservation of over 400,000 film, photo, audio and video recordings.

The Lithuanian Central State Archive's project "Lithuanian Documentary Film on the Internet" was funded by the European Union and the Republic of Lithuania.



First time producer/director **Rima Gungor**, is currently in the production phase of her new documentary concerning Lithuania's nonviolent revolution that resulted in establishing its independence from the Soviet Union. Her goal: to analyze the 47 year history of Lithuania's struggle for freedom, its evolution from armed insurgence to nonviolent resistance, and bring this saga to

the screen. Her film, **Game Changer** is scheduled to be released next summer. Presently, she and her crew are filming interviews, collecting archival material and beginning the arduous process of editing a hundred hours of footage. We spoke with Rima about how her project is progressing.



Filmmaker Rima Gungor with President Valdas Adamkus.



Filming Andrius Mamontovas – Lithuanian rock star.

Rima, how did this project begin?

I graduated college last year with a double major in political science and philosophy and a double minor in history and foreign policy. As an undergrad I received a Richter Scholarship to study Sąjūdis and other non-violent resistance movements.

[Sąjūdis was formed in 1988 by a group of Lithuanian intellectuals and artists in response to Mikhail Gorbachev's call for more openness and greater democratization in the Soviet Union. Bouyed by massive meetings attended by hundreds of thousands of Lithuanians, Sąjūdis declared and achieved its ultimate goal – Lithuania's independence from the Soviet Union.]

My research covered the period 1988 -1991. I compared Lithuania's nonviolent struggle for freedom to various academic nonviolent methodologies. The project just took on a life of its own, so ever since that Richter scholarship and my successful undergraduate thesis, I felt I wanted to do something more with the research material I collected. And then, the documentary *The Other Dream Team* came out. (Marius Markevicius' film about Lithuania's Basketball team that won a bronze medal in the 1992 Summer Olympics) I felt it cracked open the door explaining Lithuania's struggles to non-Lithuanians, and I thought, we might as well push the door wide open and show there is way more to this story.

You don't think people knew about it?

Soon after Lithuania regained its independence the world forgot about the Soviet Union and Lithuania because the USSR fell apart and it didn't matter any more. Nobody really understood exactly what a big deal it was to launch all those protests and to stand up against the Soviet Union. There are countries today that are seeking independence; they are looking to use non-violent resistance methods. Besides Gandhi and Martin Luther King, people don't have a more recent example of what a successful non-violent resistance movement looks like. If I could convey that through this film, I think it would be a great accomplishment.

Why "Game Changer"?

In political terminology the "game changer" is something that is completely not like the others, it is a major upheaval, a total difference. A lot of history books say that the arms race or the economy is the cause for the fall of the Soviet Union, but the one thing you can't deny is that the way Lithuanians went about their revolution was something that completely changed the game of how Lithuania gained its independence: no war was instigated, no violence was initiated and the people didn't fight back with violence when violence was inflicted on them. So, to me, "game changer" fits, even though it is not easily translated into Lithuanian.

Do you think that Lithuania's experience will inspire other nations seeking independence?

Actually, in September of this year the Catalans staged a protest against Spain modelled after the Baltic Way, that grand gesture in 1989 when Lithuanians, Latvians and Estonians linked hands and made a human chain across their countries in defiance of the Soviet Union. So yes, oppressed peoples are looking for success stories. We know the difficult road we travelled to gain freedom, but I don't think the rest of the world does. I would like my film to show this. Also I don't want to interview just the big players, like prominent Sąjūdis members, I want to talk to average citizens as well, to show how their actions contributed to the non-violent resistance movement. One of the interviews I did was with a man who ran an underground printing press for ten years undetected. I had a chance to tour his facility.

Is that the press by Kaunas, that's literally underground?

Yes, and that was my most interesting interview. His name is Vytautas Andziulis. I was talking to Lithuania's Consul General in Chicago, Marijus Gudynas, and he said, you need to talk to Mr. Andziulis – he's one of the unsung heroes of Lithuania. The KGB never found his facility. The press was under his greenhouse in his garden, under a slab of concrete. There was a turnstile on one side, but the handle was removable so you couldn't see it. You rotate the handle and the slab moves over and a small

set of stairs pop up from underneath. You go down into a little cave that Mr. Andžiulis literally dug by himself. There is a printing press down there and you can close it from the inside. The slab opening was replaced by a water fountain so you could never tell there was anything underneath. And, of course, he and his wife had a secret signal if there were KGB officers sniffing around. I think they used the signal twice, and in both cases it was a false alarm. Someone just wanted to use the bathroom.

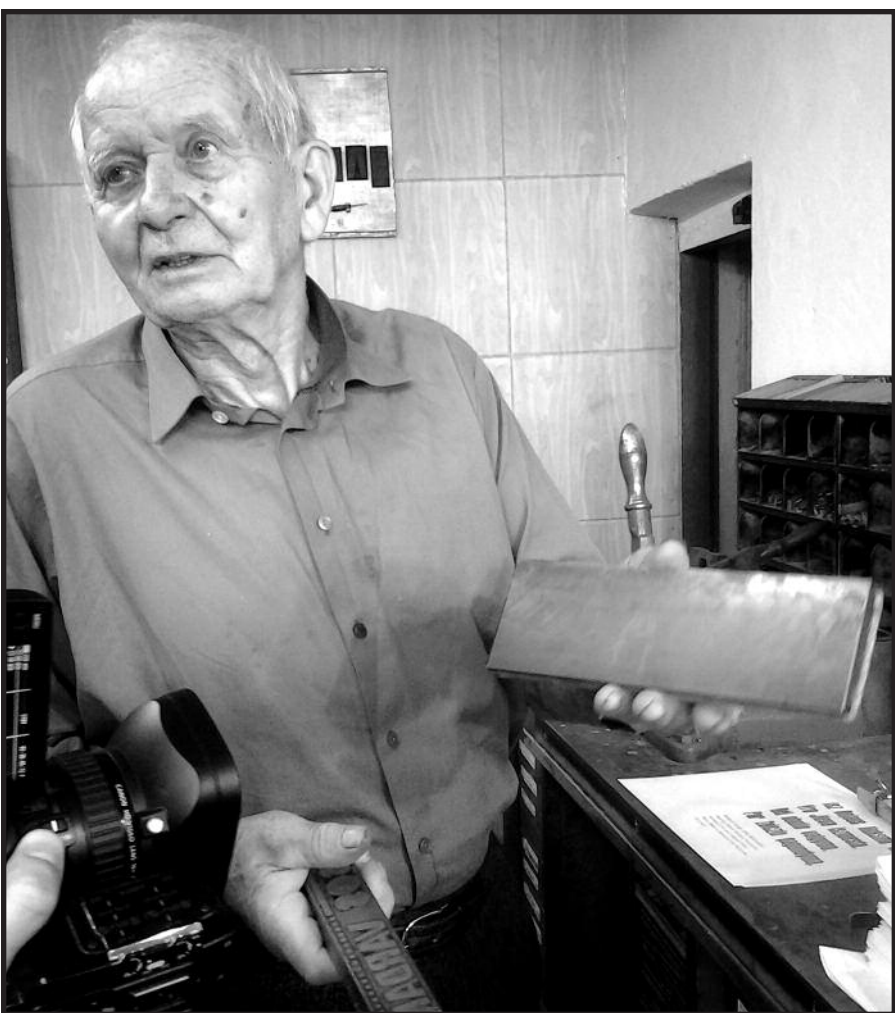
Is it now a museum?
Yes, he turned it into a museum with the help of the government. His courage is something that I completely admire. I want to interview people like that – people that contributed in their own way. He published 138,000 copies of anti-Soviet underground publications within ten years: religious texts, religious pamphlets, and some protest pamphlets as well. More people need to visit this museum.

Do you not think that 1941 to 1991 – fifty years, is too long of a time period to cover in one film?

I think that if we don't chart a complete path then the viewer will say: what is this? was it a magical movement that was formed out of thin air? I think it is important to show that the partisan movement was violently quashed by Stalin and that the resistance went underground. Along the way really interesting things happened. Take for example, Romas Kalanta. He self-immolated for freedom in 1972. Students rioted. Underground publications started to surface. They raised people's awareness that resistance was possible. There was a historical progression toward the Rock and Roll concerts of the late eighties. Performers like Algirdas Kauspedas of Antis, Andrius Mamontovas, and American Lithuanians like Darius Polikaitis, rallied crowds of 60,000 students. They actually sang protest songs. This led to Sajudis, mass meetings, non-violent resistance on January 13th and eventual freedom. Every new expression of resistance built upon previous experience.

Who was your first interview?
My first interview was Dr. Linas Sidrys. I wanted to talk to him about his visits to Lithuania in the 1970's. He had some really good stories to relate from an American perspective. At the time he was a medical student, and travelled to Lithuania to observe hospitals and secretly bring in needed medical supplies. He described how some doctors would drink between surgeries, so if you were really lucky you would be scheduled for the first surgery. You never wanted to be the last surgery of the day. He recounted how he brought in Bibles and religious materials in his suitcase. In order to distract the Moscow customs agents, he placed an adult magazine on top of his things. That was immediately confiscated and the rest of the suitcase was left untouched. Those types of interesting anecdotes give a good feel for what Soviet society was like at the time, and, indeed, what ordinary people had to put up with.

Was it difficult to set up interviews with the important figures of Sajudis?
I had met Angonita Rupšytė while doing research for my thesis. She is an historian who focusses her work on the events that gave rise to January 13th. I sat down for an interview with her, and she asked, "Have you talked with Vytautas Lands-



Vytautas Andžiulis shows his underground press near Kaunas. He clandestinely published 138,000 copies of anti-Soviet underground publications within a ten year period in Soviet occupied Lithuania.

bergis yet?" I didn't have that kind of juice to be able to talk to a former president, so I stammered, "no I haven't been able to get..." She made one call and the next thing I know, I have his cell phone number and I am talking to the former head of parliament of Lithuania. My hand was shaking. He met with me. Our first discussion lasted an hour and a half. He told me, that he showed the film "Gandhi" to inspire Lithuanians. One of the significant accomplishments of Sajudis, was to unite an entire country into believing that non-violence was the way to go. Were there a few dissident groups that tried to incite violence? Yes, but they were immediately told to stop. One of Gene Sharpe's tenants is that if you are going to do a non-violent movement you have to commit, and you have to understand that the minute you turn to violence is when your movement will fail. With that understanding they managed to stop the violence that some people were thinking of perpetrating.

How many interviews have you completed?

We're closing in on thirty right now. And we have a lot to go. The other side to this project is that every interview that we do we are going to give to the Lithuanian Research and Studies Center in Chicago as a video archive for future generations. So even if we don't use every interview we want them to be available for everyone to see and use.

I'm rushing to make this film, because two perspective interviewees passed away in the past two months: Dr. Kazys Bobelis and Dr. Tomas Remeikis.

We are losing major witnesses of history. It is essentially a race against the clock. And even people like my own grandmother, who is 90 years old, or another woman in Toronto that I interviewed, who was part of the partisan movement – she is 93. We're going to lose them, and no one is going to preserve their experiences. That is the scariest, most disappointing thing to me.

Who is on your team?
We have a small team: Nerijus Aleksa is our

web master. Vaiva Rimeika designed our logo and will be designing t-shirts. Jeff Chow is our editor. Erikas Vizinas and Lukas Motiejunas are helping with filming. Jessica Čepenyte is doing still photography. And there is me. We have a small team, but they are very passionate about the project. I am lucky to have fiends who are willing to follow me on this crazy path. They are good people and they make a great team. Of course we are always looking for new people who want to participate in this project.

Jonas Mekas, the Lithuanian avant guard filmmaker, who is extremely popular in Lithuania today, said, you don't need money to make films...

That's largely subjective and I agree and disagree at the same time. I think desire plays a huge part in making films, but when you're making something of this caliber, you need to be able to pay for archival footage and purchase equipment -- that costs money.

Is it very expensive?
It depends. Our budget is \$175,000 right now, and that is on the low end for documentaries. It doesn't mean that it has been any easier to get funding. We have strong positive support, but funding is still hard to come by.

What have you learned about yourself on this journey? How have you changed?
I have a greater understanding of people who come from Lithuania, as opposed to just having been exposed to Lithuanian Americans most of my life. I also have a greater appreciation for our history. Now it's no longer reading about it in books or academic papers, it's listening to a live human beings, witnesses giving a living historical account. History comes to life. That really changed me. It's hard for me to listen to peo-



Filmmaker Rima Gungor with Vytautas Landsbergis.

ple talking about their time in Siberia. Especially when they start crying, because I start crying. I feel that pain. I now have a bigger appreciation for where I came from and my heritage as whole. Even being in Lithuania is now a different experience – it's no longer "oh this is where my grandma's from" it's now, "this is where I come from". This is what it means to be Lithuanian.

I think filmmaking is a huge test of your character and how you react when it gets really tough. I've learned that even with setbacks, I'm going to keep going. It makes you a stronger person. I would definitely say that I've been changed for the better in a lot of ways.

Perhaps that is a way to measure the success of the film?

And Vaclav Havel said an interesting quote "You work at something because it is good, not because it has a chance to be successful." I totally agree with that, I have no expectations, I just want to do justice to the work and to the content and to everyone who has contributed and believed in the project – I want to do them justice. And I want to do our history justice as well. □

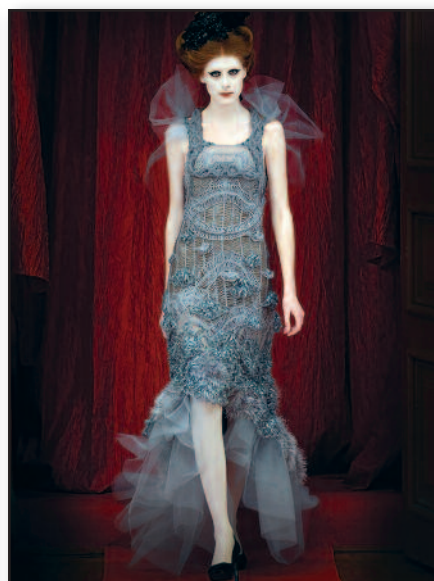




Indra Marcinkevičienė.



Daiva Ložytė.



Indra Dovydėnaitė.



Lina Austė.

LITHUANIA COMES TO PHILLY

Philadelphia – The City of Brotherly Love, opened its heart to Lithuania this November showcasing a weeklong extravaganza of art, craft, cuisine, music, history, and community events. This Lithuanian Festival, which took place November 2-10, was organized by the Lithuanian Embassy in the United States and the Lithuanian Honorary Consulate of Pennsylvania headed by Consul Krista Bard, to celebrate Lithuania's ascendancy to the presidency of the Council of the European Union.

The cornerstone of the festival was a week-long exhibit of Lithuanian crafts at the 37th Annual Philadelphia Museum of Art Contemporary Craft Show. Twenty-three of the finest contemporary Lithuanian craft artists were invited as special guests to exhibit works in glass, ceramics, textiles, wood, metalwork, leather, and furniture design. Absent were the kitschy amber encrusted paintings and garish factory-woven sashes of the bygone Soviet era. These works were contemporary Lithuanian – fresh, clean, and chic. In gallery talks, Virginija Vitkienė described the works in the context of the present Lithuanian craft scene, while Eglė Deltuvaitė presented a lecture on 20th and 21st century Lithuanian photography.

Kęstutis Vaiginis Quintet performed a Lithuanian Jazz Concert at the Philadelphia Museum of Art. Arguably one of the most talented internationally applauded jazz musicians of his generation, Vaiginis played soprano and tenor saxophones as well as the flute.

Philadelphia's beer connoisseur Don Russell, a/k/a Beer Reporter Joe Six-pack, led a tasting of the finest beer Lithuania has to offer. Russell, one of America's best-known beer wri-



Kestutis Vaiginis Quintet entertains at the Philadelphia Museum of Art.



On the eve of the Philadelphia Craft Show, Lithuanian artist Indra Marcinkevičienė was awarded the Bajorunas/Sarnoff Foundation prize for best in show. From left: Lithuanian Minister of Culture Š. Birutis, D. Bajorunas, Indra Marcinkevičienė, Museum president Gail Harry, S. Sarnoff, Honorary Consul Krista Bard and Ambassador of the Republic of Lithuania Žygimantas Pavilionis. Photo Rimas Gedeika

ters, has written a weekly beer column for the Philadelphia Daily News for 15 years and manages a popular beer website <http://www.joesixpack.net>. Last summer he spent several weeks

sampling the best beer in Lithuania.

The celebration moved beyond the museum to other venues. Chef Michael Laiskonis, creative director of NYC's Institute of Culinary Educa-

tion, hosted two evenings of Lithuanian inspired fare. The first was a sit down dinner at the Sbraga restaurant of expertly refined Lithuanian traditional dishes, and the second – a cooking class at the Philadelphia's COOK, a state-of-the-art, kitchen-classroom where guests come to enjoy chef tastings, culinary demonstrations and cooking classes. Laiskonis prepared dishes reminiscent of Lithuanian foods, whose textures and taste combinations were probably never before experienced by the Lithuanian palate. The menu included: Traditional and "Deconstructed" Borscht, Herring with Smoked Potato, Pickled Parsnip and Carrot, Savory Lamb Dumpling "Cepelinai", Poppy Seed Beignet "Spurgos" with Huckleberry, and Creme Fraiche Sorbet. Laiskonis, a Michigan native, has spent the past few years researching and rediscovering his Lithuanian lineage, and making multiple trips to Lithuania to experience the food first-hand.

The final event was a Lithuanian Jewish heritage symposium at the National Museum of American Jewish History. This conference offered insights into Lithuanian Jewish culture, and attempted to assess conditions for preserving and reviving Jewish heritage in today's Lithuania and among Lithuanian Jews worldwide. This event is organized by the Lithuanian Embassy, the Israeli Consulate, the American Jewish Committee and the National Museum of American Jewish History.

Other events included the Lithuanian Community Fair organized by the Lithuanian American Community Philadelphia Chapter at the Lithuanian Music Hall. This was the first Lithuanian Festival of this magnitude in Philadelphia.



Chef Michael Laiskonis transforming Lithuanian dishes. Photo Rimas Gedeika



Philadelphia's beer connoisseur Don Russell, a/k/a Joe Six-pack (far left, smiling) led a tasting of the finest beer Lithuania has to offer. Photo Rimas Gedeika

The Displaced Person Project



In 2014, Baltic communities worldwide will mark the 70th year since thousands of refugees, or “displaced persons”, fled westward from Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania in the last months of World War II to escape the Nazi and Soviet occupation of their war-ravaged homelands. In the decade after the war, the refugees lived in 'DP Camps' throughout Germany and western Europe. At first, the camps were run by the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration (UNRRA) and, afterwards, the International Refugee Organization (IRO) and other UN agencies.

Despite limited resources, hardships and an uncertain fate, the Baltic DPs created a rich and varied cultural life in the camps. They established schools for children and adults; published newspapers and books; maintained religious worship; organized choirs, ensembles, and folk-art guilds; revived scouting and other fraternal activities disrupted by the war; and founded civic and political organizations to advocate for themselves and for their Soviet-occupied countrymen. The DP Camps were a seedbed for the activities diaspora Balts would steadfastly pursue for the next half-century as they established themselves in their adoptive countries and carried forward the mantle of cultural preservation and Baltic independence until its realization in the 1990s.

Coming in 2014: Baltic DP Exposition

In 2014, the Balzekas Museum of Lithuanian Culture, together the Latvian Folk Art Museum and the Chicago Estonian House, are planning a yearlong series of exhibits, events and programs commemorating 70 years since the mass westward flight of Baltic Displaced Persons, refugees from the war-torn Baltic republics. The Baltic DP Exposition will include exhibits, programs and events, documenting the experiences of DP Estonian, Latvian and Lithuanians in European DP Camps; their subsequent immigration to the United States and Canada; and their contributions to their host countries, as well as to the countries they left behind.



Lithuanian Americans came to the aid of Lithuanian war refugees by offering financial assistance, sponsoring families, and even opening their homes to newly arrived immigrants in the United States.

Displaced to This Place

The cornerstone of the Baltic DP Exposition will be an exhibit entitled "Displaced to this Place", spanning three stages of the Baltic DP experience: pre-migration (an introduction to the events and circumstances which compelled the refugees to leave their Baltic homelands); migration (spanning refugees' flight from their Baltic homelands and life in the DP camps); and post-migration (their subsequent immigration and settlement in the United States and countries around the world). The exhibit will open in Chicago on April 26, 2014 and travel to other cities in North America and the Baltic Republics. A permanent online exhibit and website dedicated to Baltic WWII refugees, "DisplacedPersons.org" is also in development.

The exhibit will serve as a launch pad for a series of film viewings, educational programs, art exhibits, lectures, and other events about Baltic DPs, their experiences, and contributions world wide as well as for the exploration of the theme of displacement in general, whether by political, social, economic, or environmental forces. Please check back regularly for more updates.



Share your DP Experiences

An integral part of the DP Project is gathering information and memories from DPs and their descendants.

The Baltic DP Project seeks to record and to preserve as many testimonies of displaced persons as possible. If you or your family members, neighbors or friends fled Lithuania, during World War II and experienced life in DP Camps, or if you grew up in a DP household, please share your story with the project.

Here's how you can help

Gather oral history

Interview a DP friend, family member, or neighbor; and/or sign-up to be interviewed yourself. Download the DP questionnaire from the Balzekas museum website: www.balzekasmuseum.org. This will help you formulate questions.

Donate articles

Balzekas Museum of Lithuanian Culture is appealing to members of the public to donate artifacts for the DP exhibit and programs. Scanned digital and/or photographic images are preferred. Physical, household objects you or your relative carried with them when they fled; photographs, video/audio recordings; diaries, books, correspondence; map(s) showing your or your family members' route from home in the Baltics to the DP Camp(s) and your immigration route and eventual place of settlement in the North America.

If you need assistance with scanning an item, please contact the Museum at 773.582.6500 or email: info@displacedpersons.org.

Lithuanian Roots in Stravinsky's *Rite* Unearthed

Veronika Povilionienė brings ancient Lithuanian songs to Chicago Symphony

By Gerard McBurney

In 1900 a famous volume of Lithuanian folksongs was published in Krakow, Poland: *Melodje ludowe litewskie*. The collector of this cornucopia of tunes was a brilliant folklorist and priest, Father Anton Juszkiewicz (Antanas Juška), who had died 10 years before.

Probably a year or two later this volume fell into the hands of a great Russian painter, mystic and archaeologist, Nikolai Roerich, who was fascinated at this time by the folk cultures of Lithuania and Latvia, as well as by the closeness to Sanskrit of the two languages of these Baltic countries which seemed to him to suggest most powerfully the shadows of forgotten ancestors. (Later, as many will remember, Roerich shifted his attention to the different ancient cultures of India and especially of the Himalayas.)

In the summer of 1910, Roerich was invited by the famous animator Serge Diaghilev to participate in a new project with an up-and-coming young Russian composer, Igor Stravinsky. Stravinsky had proposed the startling idea of a ballet based on an ancient ritual of human sacrifice and it was Diaghilev's inspired thought that Roerich, with his great anthropological knowledge and his talent as a painter and stage designer, would be the best collaborator for the young man.

Stravinsky and Roerich met to discuss the project at Talashkino, the country estate of a generous patron of the arts, Princess Tenisheva. It seems likely that it was at Talashkino that Roerich first suggested that Stravinsky examine Lithuanian melodies as most appropriate to the subject matter of this ballet.

And so it came about that the world-famous ballet *The Rite of Spring* (1913) was based, particularly in its first half, on a whole series of Lithuanian melodies drawn directly from Juszkiewicz's collection.

This fact was not widely known in Stravinsky's lifetime. It was only after the composer's death in 1971 that his friend the American musician Lawrence Morton discovered the full extent of the Lithuanian roots of this score that changed Western classical music forever.

In 2006, when the Chicago Symphony Orchestra asked me to make a *Beyond the Score* program about *The*



Lithuanian Consul General in Chicago Marijus Gudynas, Veronika Povilionienė, Gerard McBurney, Viktorija Kašubaitė Matranga and Rima Kašubaitė Binder, at St. Ann of the Dunes Church in Beverly Shores.

Rite of Spring, I decided that it would be electrifying for audiences worldwide to hear Juszkiewicz's songs performed alongside the music of the ballet, so that listeners could understand and appreciate the deep connection between these two quite different kinds of music. To that end I called the distinguished Chicago-Lithuanian musician, Darius Polikaitis. It was his suggestion to contact Veronika Povilionienė and to persuade her to record a handful of these ancient tunes.

I myself had never met this wonderful singer and did not meet her at this time. But when I received her three recordings, I was overwhelmed with excitement and when her beautiful voice rang round Orchestra Hall on Michigan Avenue, and was then answered by the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, there was absolute amazement from the audience and also from the orchestral musicians themselves, most of whom had had no idea that the tunes they knew so well and played so often were Lithuanian in origin, even though distorted and twisted by the ingenious imagination of Stravinsky.

Since then, our show, complete with the voice of Veronika Povilionienė, has been performed many times by different orchestras and a filmed version is now available for free streaming online at <http://beyondthescore.org/the-rite-of-spring/>

Imagine then my excitement this

November 3 at driving to the lovely church of Saint Ann of the Dunes for an afternoon in the presence of Veronika Povilionienė herself. Although I speak no Lithuanian, I was with friends who could translate her fascinating stories, reaching back deep into her own life and the life of her nation, and her wider thoughts on the importance of song and cultural continuity to us all (no matter what nation we might come from). I sat spellbound, entranced by the contours and rhythms of her speech, her glorious diction and the sheer physical vitality of her presence, and with the autumn leaves through the glass windows, and the lake sparkling not far away, and the towers of Chicago shimmering like a dream on the distant horizon.

And then when, every 10 minutes of so, she broke into song – and I suppose she sang a dozen or so songs in all, each entirely different from all the others – I found myself borne as though on a wave into another world,

through the power, depth and richness of her voice, and through the strong and sinewy rootedness of this music which so entranced Roerich and Stravinsky 100 years ago.

This was an afternoon, and an encounter with a great artist, that I will never forget.

Gerard McBurney is a British composer, arranger, writer, and teacher. He is an artistic programming advisor for the Chicago Symphony Orchestra (CSO) and creative director of the CSO's innovative *Beyond the Score* series, www.beyondthescore.org which weaves together theater, imagery, and music to draw new audiences into the live concert hall:

[Thanks to four friends who made this experience possible: Darius Polikaitis who introduced me to the voice of Veronika Povilionienė; Daina Volodka, who told me about this concert; and my dear neighbor Vicki Matranga and her sister Rima, who took me to St Ann's and translated for me.]



Folk singer, Veronika Povilionienė, visited Chicago this November to open the annual "European Jazz Meets Chicago" festival in honor of Lithuania's ascendancy to the presidency of the European Union. While in Chicago, she participated in an All Soul's Day Mass and Concert at Nativity BVM parish in Marquette Park, sang at St. Ann of the Dunes Church in Beverly Shores, Indiana, explained All Souls Day customs to Lithuanian Saturday school children in Lemont, Illinois, and lectured at the University of Illinois in Chicago.

Veronika Povilionienė is considered by many to be a Lithuanian national treasure. Her strong and commanding voice eloquently portrays the harmony, intonation and controlled dissonance of ancient Lithuanian songs. She is often delegated to represent Lithuania in international folk and jazz festivals.



Composer Igor Stravinsky



Russian painter, mystic and archaeologist, Nikolai Roerich

MaLituanie

A Cross-Cultural Musical Revelation

By Kęstutis Daugirdas

This month the Lithuanian-African folk fusion recording *MaLituanie* is being released. The album is a one-time “live-in-studio” improvised collaboration between African instrumentalist/singer Baba Sissoko and four Lithuanian musicians.

The recording features 13 original tracks, selected from a four-day session at “menų fabrikas LOFTAS,” a converted soviet factory site that now functions as an arts venue and creative space in the industrial district of Vilnius, Lithuania.

MaLituanie

In *MaLituanie*, West African poems pour forth over cascades of Lithuanian *kanklės* notes and Lithuanian field songs are threaded through tamani (talking drum) grooves. Elsewhere, Sissoko accompanies with the xalam (West African proto-banjo) as the *birbynė* (Lithuanian reed instrument) mourns with long expressive melodies. Some of the pieces are more synchronized, while others have moments where the performers allow themselves total freedom of expression.

The Musicians

Baba Sissoko was born in Mali and grew up performing the traditional West-African role of griot (also called *jeli*), or historian, storyteller,



MaLituanie: Saulius Petreikis, Laurita Peleniūtė, Baba Sissoko, Indrė Jurgelavičiūtė and Viktoras Diawara.
Photo GM Gyvai

singer, poet, and musician. Through this cultural practice, he became a master multi-instrumentalist, singer, and inspired improviser. He also has a distinguished international career, including a collaboration with *Buena Vista Social Club* and appearances with *Sting* and *Santana*, in addition to working together with Africa’s top performers.

The Lithuanian artists in the project provide a new context for Sissoko’s music. Contributors include vocalist and *kanklės* (zither) player Indrė Jurgelavičiūtė, folk performer, and multi-instrumentalist Saulius Petreikis, and Viktoras Diawara, who was born in Mali and later formed the Lithuanian pop group *Skamp*.

The *MaLituanie* project presented their album

this November in Vilnius, Lithuania.

Find out more and listen

Currently the album is not available for sale in the United States, but this unique musical offering can be heard at the project’s SoundCloud page: <https://soundcloud.com/gm-gyvai>

For more information about “menų fabrikas LOFTAS,” the arts venue in Vilnius where this album was performed and recorded, visit: <http://menufabrikas.lt/>

Martynas Levickis Becomes First Accordionist to Top Classical Charts

Martynas Levickis has made history by becoming the first accordionist to reach the top of the classical album charts in Great Britain. The young Lithuanian accordionist, who recently won Lithuania’s “Got Talent” competition has landed a major record deal with the international recording company, Decca.

Chicago audiences may recall that a few years ago he was the principal performer at the annual Draugas gala. Even then it was abundantly clear that he was destined for great achievements for the musical world.

At his young age, he has become a world traveler. Most recently he made a guest appearance in Singapore where he was received by Singapore’s president and his family. He was awarded 1st place in the international accordion competition held in Croatia. His ability to combine classical baroque and contemporary music into a highly finished production clearly indicate his creativity and musical talent. Several months ago he again appeared in Chicago as the principal performer at the Chicago Cultural Center. The diplomatic event was sponsored by the Consul General of Lithuania, marking Lithuania’s current presidency of the European Union.

His most recent recording entitled “Martynas” published by Decca

has reached the top of the classical music charts in Great Britain. A curious collection, “Martynas” is an album where Bach and Vivaldi play next to an arrangement of Lady Gaga’s “Telephone” which, in turn, leads to tangos, gypsy dances and classic French movie themes.

Levickis had this to say for himself: “The accordion has never received so much atten-



tion in the U.K. in one week! I believe it's because my album is breaking through to people's hearts, and its music speaks for itself. It's the music that one could never expect to hear on accordion, and I am very happy for everyone now to be able to hear it in this way."

Martynas Levickis is one of the brightest young musicians Lithuania has produced. He started music studies at the age of eight when he entered the Sondeckis Music School in Šiauliai.

How will Cleveland's Lithuanian community survive

"THE END OF" TAUPA

When former CEO Alex Spirikaitis was arrested on the afternoon of Monday, October 21, 2013, he had been on the run for three months and accused of embezzling more than \$10 million from the \$23.6 million Taupa Lithuanian Credit Union in Cleveland, Ohio.

By Edward Staskus

He had changed his appearance by growing hair on his formerly shaved head and shaving his goatee. Despite speculation he had fled to Europe or South America, he was apprehended in the Collinwood neighborhood on Cleveland's east side.

"He was actually walking down the street when they spotted him," said FBI Special Agent Vicki Anderson. Although he had left behind multiple semi-automatic weapons and 10,000 rounds of ammunition stored at the credit union, he was arrested without incident. "He did not put up a fight."

The FBI would not say how he been tracked to Collinwood, only that they had "developed information based upon advanced investigative techniques that led to his apprehension," a brief statement said.

He was less than three miles from the shuttered Taupa Credit Union.

Modern credit unions date to mid-nineteenth century Germany, where they were conceived as 'people's banks' leveraging social capital to serve farmers and the working class. The first credit union in North America began operations in 1901 with a ten-cent deposit. Today more than 8000 credit unions in the United States serve over 90 million members with total assets of nearly \$800 billion.

Managed by their members, most credit unions are non-profit co-operatives taking in deposits, promoting thrift, and making loans. Unlike banks, individuals

combine in them to manage and control their own money. Credit unions range from corporate to community institutions serving local schools and churches.

When Augis Dicevičius emigrated from Lithuania to Cleveland in the early 2000s, he opened an account at Taupa. "It was like loyalty," he said, describing why he kept an account there. The employees at Taupa were from the immigrant community, spoke Lithuanian, and over time became more like friends than bankers.

"There is a level of trust from both sides of the counter at Taupa because you know who you are dealing with," explained Algis Gudėnas, former chairman of the credit union's board of directors, three years before the National Credit Union Association liquidated it. "I think the slogan of Taupa more or less says it: save with one of your own."

From the 1930s when the federal government began to charter them, credit unions grew steadily, especially among immigrant groups. They were instrumental in helping establish Poles, Germans, Italians, and the more recent Asian and Hispanic immigrants in their new homeland. When creating the Office of Ethnic Affairs in 1976 President Ford cited "the ethnic church, school, and credit union" as

fostering "a sense of neighborhood."

Wherever Lithuanians have settled they have formed their own credit unions, from coast to coast. Founded in 1969, the California Lithuanian Credit Union has assets of \$72 million. The Boston Lithuanian Federal Credit Union celebrated its 33rd anniversary in 2013. From its roots in the basement of a hall in the early 1950s, Toronto's Parama has grown to be the world's largest Lithuanian credit union.

Already by 1906 in Cleveland the Lithuanian Building and Loan Association, sometimes known as the Lithuanians' bank, had been established, even though the community numbered less than 1000 at the time. After World War II it evolved into Superior Savings and Loan. In the 1980s, when Cleveland was by then home to more than sixteen thousand Lithuanian Americans and their descendants, Taupa was founded and served the community for almost thirty years.

With approximately 1100 members and \$24 million in assets, located a short walk from both their

church and the Lithuanian Village cultural center, Taupa was stable, healthy, and growing, year after year, even in an economy often troubled by bank failures and recessions.

Until the evening of July 16th, when police and federal agents surrounded Alex Spirikaitis's \$1.7 million home in Solon, a bedroom suburb 25 miles southeast of Cleveland. It was four days after the decision had been made by the

state to liquidate the credit union, determining it was insolvent and had no prospect for restoring viable operations.

Armed with a warrant for his arrest for fraud, when authorities approached the home they were met by his family, who told them he was inside, but refused to come out.

"Family members left the house with us and we thought, from the information we gathered, that he was not going to willingly come out," said Special Agent Vicki Anderson.

The police decided to regroup, the size and layout of the large house playing a big part in their decision to wait for daylight.

After a nightlong standoff, the neighborhood cordoned off for safety's sake, and TV news crews at the ready, tactical teams entered the house in the morning.

But the police came up empty. He was not there.

Before the first members made their first deposits in 1984, the credit union was just a hope and a dream. "We were in our kitchen having coffee one morning, talking about it like we had for months," recalled Angele Staskus, "when my husband suddenly said that yes, we were going to go ahead." Believing Cleveland's Lithuanians would be better

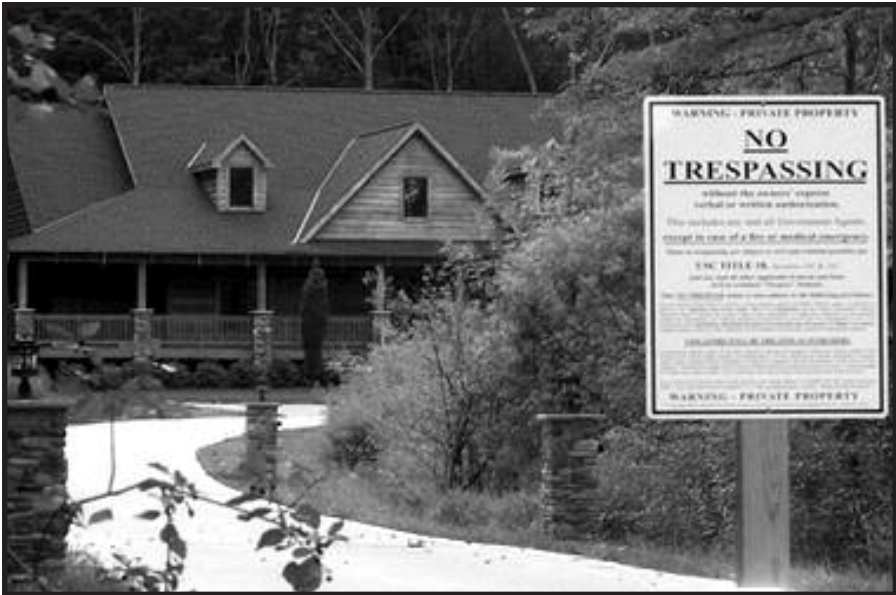


He had changed his appearance by growing hair on his formerly shaved head and shaving his goatee. Despite speculations he had fled to Europe or South America, he was apprehended in the Collinwood neighborhood on Cleveland's east side.





Taupa offices are now closed by Federal officials.



No trespassing sign in front of Alex Spirikaitis' home.

off banding together for their savings and loan needs, Vic Staskus took his brainchild to an ad hoc committee made up of Vytautas Maurutis, Vacys Steponis, Gintaras Taoras, and Vincas Urbaitis. Taupa was coined as its name and chartered by the state.

At a meeting at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church attended by fewer than 20 people, they collected \$4000 in deposits, convinced local Lithuanian attorney Algis Sirvaitis to donate space for an office, and hired Rimute Nasvitiene, as Taupa's first employee.

"At first we did everything by hand," said Vic Staskus. Later that year the Toronto credit union offered them their old computing machine. "It took four of us to bring it into our office, since it was as big as a table, and on top of that we lost most of our small space to it." Fortunately, through a friend at IBM, they were soon able to secure a more modern system.

After they purchased their own building from a retiring Lithuanian doctor in 1985, deposits began to pour in. "That was a problem," Vic Staskus recalled shortly before his death in January 2011. "We had no loans, so we were earning very little. We asked one of our board members to take out a loan. He said he didn't need anything. Every time we asked him, he said no. But we were finally able to convince him and he took a loan out for \$500, and gradually people began to realize we were lending."

By 1990, when Vic Staskus left Taupa, the credit union had nearly \$8 million in assets and delivered most of the same services banks did. "I knew we could offer better rates and interest, and I always believed we could offer as many advantages as banks to our members," he said.

Alex Spirikaitis joined Taupa in the early 1990s, at first working at the front counter as a clerk, later promoted to assistant manager, and eventually taking on the role of CEO, as the credit union quadrupled its assets in those years.

"He lived on the same street as we did, in the neighborhood, just down the street from the credit union, when we were children," said Rita Zvirblis, who served as secretary for Taupa's board of directors in its early years. "He was a really nice kid, really quiet."

Former board director Ricardas Sirvinskas described Spirikaitis as well-liked, especially by older members, because he spoke Lithuanian fluently. "The older generation of Lithuanians, they really liked Alex very much."

After he was arrested, U.S. Magistrate Judge Kenneth McHargh un-

sealed an affidavit revealing the extent of the embezzlement, more than \$10 million, making it one of the largest cases of fraud against a credit union in the country. The largest, recently involving St. Paul Croatian Credit Union, was coincidentally also in Cleveland, Ohio.

The criminal complaint against Alex Spirikaitis is for allegedly making false statements to a credit union from 2011 through 2013.

"He printed out numbers he wanted to report to auditors and the National Credit Union Association and taped them over the real numbers from the true Corporate One Federal Credit Union bank account statements," the affidavit states. "Spirikaitis then photocopied the altered documents resulting in a document that mimicked the appearance of a statement coming directly from Corporate One."

"Everybody accepted the financial statements Alex provided us, and everybody appeared to be happy with them," said Vincas Urbaitis, a founding member of the credit union who sat on its board for more than 25 years until resigning in 2011. "I guess everybody just got duped."

During the summer as Spirikaitis remained at large, federal prosecutors seized his wife's luxury SUVs and moved to take legal possession of his home. Court documents reveal that the downpayment for the house, the construction of which took a year, was paid with two checks totaling \$100,000 from Alex Spirikaitis's personal account at the credit union.

"All remaining checks, totaling approximately \$1,555,132, came from Spirikaitis in the form of Taupa Lithuanian Credit Union official checks," court documents say. "While working at the Taupa Lithuanian Credit Union, Spirikaitis never made in excess of \$50,000."

The Adirondack-style house on a five-acre lot features two full kitchens, indoor swimming pool, entertainment room with big screen and movie projectors, five-and-a-half bathrooms, and an elevator. "No Trespassing" signs surround it.

"I don't think anybody from the board of directors knew or anyone within the Lithuanian community knew he was building a house," said Vincas Urbaitis. "He was not very social. But he was not anti-social. He would talk to you about the business aspects of the credit union, but I don't even know who his close friends were."

Ricardas Sirvinskas describes Spirikaitis as a quiet person, keeping to himself, and only rarely attending

social events in the Lithuanian community.

Although court documents are not completely clear regarding the final tally of money missing, Vincas Urbaitis asked why examiners had not verified the statements prepared by Spirikaitis.

"They never went to the bank, Corporate One, and asked independently as to how much money was in the accounts," he said.

Vytautas Kliorys, board president of Taupa at the time it was closed and liquidated, also questioned the credit union's third-party audit firm and examiners. "The board believed that it had all the procedures in place to prevent this sort of event," he said. "We had received excellent and very good reports from the annual state exams, and we had even gone one step further than required and used an outside CPA firm to perform annual independent audits."

Paul Hixon, VP of marketing at Corporate One, had no comment other than to say the National Credit Union Association was investigating. Officials said it would take up to six months to complete a full forensic account process.

The Lithuanian community reacted to Taupa's closing with dismay. "For those in Cleveland that have been watching the news for the last few days know that the Lithuanian community in Cleveland has been in the spotlight," said Regina Motiejunas-McCarthy, co-host of Siaurinis Krantas: Lithuanian Radio. "Not because of something good but because of a tragedy."

The unexpected closure of the credit union affected all its members, freezing their accounts for a month-

and-more, even though they were insured, as well as severely impacting several businesses, including the Lithuanian Community Center.

"Like many other businesses that have their accounts there, we are all scrambling to open new checking accounts with basically no liquid cash other than from sales over the weekend," Ruta Degutis, president of the center, said when the credit union was closed.

"Alex assumed a public trust when he became CEO of Taupa, to help better the lives of others," said one of the members. "It was not given to him as an opportunity to satisfy personal greed." After 30 years Cleveland's Lithuanian community had lost one of the pillars of its community.

Just days after the arrest U.S. Magistrate Kenneth McHargh found Alex Spirikaitis indigent and qualified for a court-appointed public defender. Since a "Go Bag" filled with blank identification cards, mobile phone cards, and stored value cards that could be used as cash had been found in Spirikaitis's office, the magistrate also ruled he be held behind bars without bond. Assistant federal public defender Darin Thompson did not challenge the no-bond ruling. Spirikaitis agreed to waive his right to a detention hearing. The case was bound over to a federal grand jury.

Alex Spirikaitis left the U.S. District Court in downtown Cleveland as he had entered it, hands handcuffed behind his back, looking at no one in the crowded court.

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MARATHON MAN



Mindaugas Savickas had come to Chicago to run the city’s marathon on October 13. A few days later, we met at the *Draugas* newsroom to discuss his extreme running experiences in Boston, Chicago, and Vilnius

Mindaugas Savickas, 37, a marketing executive, is chairman of the nonprofit organization “Tarptautinis Maratonas” (International Marathon), one of the organizers of the Vilnius Marathon – the premier running event in Lithuania.

We thought that Vilnius was a city of strollers...
Long distance running is growing in popularity in Lithuania. In 2012, 5000 runners participated in the Vilnius Marathon, this fall the number doubled to 10,000. I think this is a very positive trend: people are adopting a more active lifestyle; they’re running, biking. It’s pretty apparent on the streets of Vilnius.

The Vilnius Marathon is a classic marathon: 44 km or 26.2 miles. But runners can opt to run a half marathon, or a relay. Several years Danske Bank became the principal sponsor and significantly spurred the rapid growth of the marathon. This year some 30 countries were represented in the Vilnius Marathon.

When did you begin running?
I started running only a few years ago, and asked myself why not try the marathon? My first attempt, however, wasn’t successful, because I made many mistakes and was injured. Then a friend suggested that I try his coach. I was very fortunate that he introduced me to Paulius Rakštikas. He is an experienced trainer and former Lithuanian orienteering coach. With his help, we established one of the largest running clubs in Lithuania, F.O.C.U.S. Running.

How many marathons have you completed?
I’d say about 10 over the last four years. About two to three per year. I also run half marathons. I’ve run most of my marathons in Europe. This year I completed two in the US – Boston and Chicago.

How do these marathons compare?
Every marathon differs in its history, character, and what it means personally to the runner. Boston is the oldest modern marathon in the world; it’s over 100 years old. And it requires skills. So, your first achievement as a runner is finishing a marathon, any marathon, and then the next step is becoming a “Boston Qualifier.” You are accepted into an elite group. Because of its long tradition and high caliber of participants, there is a special feeling running this race. It is a perfect race. It is intimate. Everyone is full of expectation...

And you were there during the 2013 bombings?
Yes, yes. There were several of us from Lithuania running the race. Our times were all about three

hours, so we had already finished the marathon and arrived at home to rest when we heard of the bombings. That was about four hours into the race. If you can just imagine, this is a huge international event, there is this wonderful atmosphere of good will, peace, friendly competition, but also mutual support. It is unfathomable that such violence could so brazenly mar the lofty ideals of the marathon. We were shocked, as, I am sure, were all Americans.

How was your race in Chicago?
The Chicago marathon is a fast and flat course. For this reason, many runners manage to achieve their personal best here. I clocked in just under three hours, which was my goal during this race.



Vilnius Marathon

I especially liked running in Chicago because of all the local Lithuanian fans cheering us on.

There were many other Lithuanian runners as well.
Yes, the Lithuanian Consulate in Chicago brought together some 15 Lithuanian-American runners and outfitted them with uniform yellow jerseys. When I run at international events, I always wear Lithuania’s Olympic team shirt. So all the Lithuanian runners were easy to pick out. What amazed me was the terrific fan support. I counted at least four stations, where Lithuanians cheered us on, chanting “Lithuania” and waving flags. It gives you an extra charge.

Are you up to competing in the

VILNIUS MARATHON

Next year’s Vilnius Marathon will take place September 14, 2014.
First time runners, if you want to participate, you should start training now.

The Vilnius marathon starts and finishes at Cathedral Square. The course passes through the Vilnius old town, Vingis Park, the Lithuanian Parliament, 4 bridges, 6 medieval churches, Subačius Hill with the best view of the city, Gediminas Castle and other historic buildings. A full marathon is a double loop of the course.

So it spurred you on?
Absolutely. Usually my running pace tends to lag where there are no spectators. But where people are noisy, calling to you, especially the Lithuanians, you get recharged and pick up your pace.

How did the Lithuanian runners finish?
Virginijus Purvys, who now lives in Mexico, had a fantastic time of 2 hours 43 minutes. The other Lithuanians ran slower, but all according to their abilities and all had very sound performances. It's proof that in running there are no miracles. Anyone can achieve this, you only need to put in the effort.

When running a marathon, do you tire gradually, or are there different stages of exhaustion and recovery?
They say, the marathon really begins at about 20 miles when you have used up all of your carbs and start burning fat for energy. The beginning is easy, it's the last third of the marathon, what I call the "corrida", that puts up a fight. It was especially difficult running the last two miles down Michigan Avenue in Chicago. Downtown Chicago was ahead of me, but it did not seem to be getting any closer and I began to think: "What am I doing here? Why am I punishing myself?" But you continue on, and in the end you feel euphoria, not just because it's over, but because you conquered yourself.

What do you think of when you're running the marathon?
I don't try to think of anything except concentrating on my running: what's my pace? what's my pulse? how's my form? am I sufficiently relaxed? Sometimes, however, my thoughts wander. When you lose your focus, your performance suffers.

And the Vilnius Marathon?
The Vilnius Marathon is special because it's on my home turf. I know every stone, every turn. Vilnius is very hilly, you're constantly clambering up slopes, which isn't easy, but those difficulties are redeemed by the beautiful course: Vingis Park, Old Town, and the grand finish at the Cathedral square..



Lithuanian Consul General in Chicago, Marijus Gudynas, awarded all of the Lithuanian participants of the Chicago marathon with medals.

How fast can a couch potato prepare for the marathon?
I think anyone can train to run a marathon, so long as you don't have any particular physiological defects, like, for example, a heart condition. For an able bodied person, who has not been physically active, it should take about six to twelve months of training to properly prepare to run a marathon. It takes that much time to condition your body and develop good pacing habits.
The most important tip I can give is to run your first race with dignity. By this I mean respect your abilities, don't overextend yourself, don't get yourself into trouble. Pace yourself and finish the race. You don't want your first marathon experience to be your last.

So finishing a marathon depends on your state of mind...
Yes, it's not just physical action. There is an intellectual component as well. There are moments when you have to push yourself, and other moments when you need to relax, and then there are moments when it's easy to lose your cool. If you give in to anger, you won't finish the race. You see first-time runners, who start out too strong and after five or ten miles are buckled over, walking in pain. You know they won't finish the race. So you have to be fully focused as you run. I have great respect for elite runners. If you look at their statistics, you'll see that they keep the same average pace throughout the race. Such consistency is incredibly difficult to achieve.

How many pairs of shoes do you wear out a year?
I'd say from 7 to 10 pairs.

SPORT BRIEFS

PAUL TRIUKAS

Cavaliers will honor Z. Ilgauskas



BNS photo

Z (Ilgauskas' nickname) made two NBA All-Star Game appearances.
In 2003, the Cavaliers drafted LeBron James. Ilgauskas and James became the faces of the team. In 2009 they led the Cavaliers to their first franchise NBA Finals; however, the team lost the series to the San Antonio Spurs. A year later Shaquille O'Neal and Antawn Jamison joined the team. In order to receive Jamison, the team traded Ilgauskas to the Washington Wizards. After not signing with the Wizards, Z. Ilgauskas became a free agent and resigned with the Cavaliers a month after being traded. That season they were once again unsuccessful. The following year, Ilgauskas joined James on the Miami Heat but retired after losing in the 2011 NBA Finals.
Ilgauskas holds multiple Cavaliers franchise records to this day. He is still the leader in games played and games started, as well as rebounds and blocks. Currently the assistant general manager, Ilgauskas will become the seventh player on the Cavaliers to have his jersey number retired.

The Cleveland Cavaliers organization made it official, on March 8th of 2014 they will retire the number 11 of their former center Zydrunas Ilgauskas.
Drafted by the Cavaliers as the 20th pick in 1996, Ilgauskas spent 14 years in Cleveland. Although he joined the NBA as an unknown European who had last played for only his hometown *Atletas*, in Kaunas, Ilgauskas became one of the team's favorite players upon his debut.
Sidelined from action due to foot and ankle injuries during the 1996-1997 season, the 7-foot 3-inch (221 cm) tall Lithuanian debuted the next season and went on to become the MVP of the Rookie Challenge during the NBA All-Star weekend and was later named to the All-Rookie First Team. In his first NBA season he played all 82 games and even started 81 of them. He averaged 13.9 points, 8.8 rebounds and 1.6 blocks, while shooting 51 percent from the field. The Cavaliers made the playoffs in 1998 and Ilgauskas played and started all four games. He averaged 17.3 points and 7.5 rebounds. Throughout his career with the Cavaliers, Big

J. Valanciunas to stay until 2015

Recently, the Toronto Raptors exercised the third-year option on Jonas Valanciunas. The Lithuanian center will definitely remain with the Canadian NBA team until the end of the 2014-2015 season.
Selected by the Raptors with the fifth pick in the 2011 Draft, Valanciunas made his debut in the world's strongest league a year later. During his first season he played 62 games during which he averaged 8.9 points and 6 rebounds. His field goal percentage was more than 55 percent while his free throw shooting almost reached 79 percent. The latter is very good among centers.
During the summer, Valanciunas gained more mass and was awarded the MVP award in the NBA Summer League. He averaged a double double, 18.8 points and 10 rebounds. The 21-year-old was also part of the silver medal winning Lithuanian national team at EuroBasket 2013.
Valanciunas' work during the offseason was noticed, thus they offered the young big man to stay in Toronto until 2015. His contract extension should earn him \$3.675 m during the 2014-2015 season.
The Houston Rockets organization chose to keep their Lithuanian, Donatas Motiejunas, through the 2014-2015 season as well.



Photo by John Grigaitis

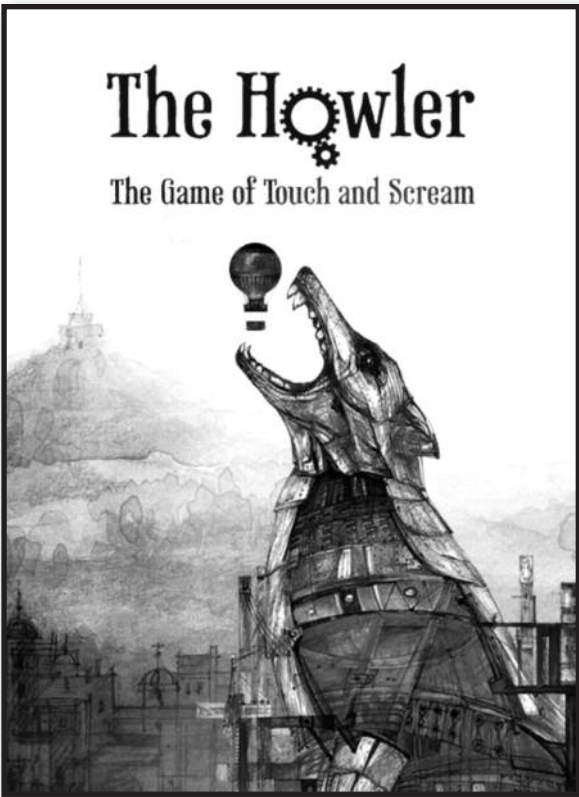
HOWLER: A Lithuanian Game That'll Make You Scream

By Šarūnas Daugirdas

Antanas Marcelionis, a computer programmer based in Vilnius, Lithuania, launched his game “Howler” this April, drawing high praise and interest from the international game-playing community. Characterized by its hand-drawn artwork and unique voice-activated system of controls, “Howler” is a game well-worth the \$2.99 price tag.

BACKGROUND – The year is 1905, and Vilnius is a free city. Outfitted by alchemists and mechanics with steam-powered machines and automatons, it boasts an impressive armada of floating airships and hot air balloons that draws envy and fear from its powerful neighbors. On the streets of Vilnius, riots threaten the city’s peace. The task falls to you, the viceroy of Vilnius, to ensure the stability of your ambitious city...

GAMEPLAY – Players float in hot air balloons above the skyline of early 20th century Vilnius, rendered in “steampunk” style with slowly turning cogs and steam-powered chimneys belching black smoke. A 2D side-scrolling platformer, “Howler” incorporates multiple strata of atmosphere, which have opposing (right/left) wind currents that either assist or disrupt the flight path of the player’s balloon. The player’s objective is to strategically navigate these currents (and avoid pointy obstacles) to safely deliver a message to the designated destination. Players manipulate the balloon’s height with rapid mouse clicks or, unique to this game, by “howling” at their cell phone or computer microphone. The louder one howls, the higher the balloon rises. Fall silent, and the balloon drifts downward, crossing into different wind currents as it descends



I asked Antanas to tell me about the process of creating a platform game, the collaborators involved in the project, and the “steampunk” genre the game proudly represents.

Who created “Howler”? What motivated its creation?

The game was created by the artist Renė Petrulienė and me. A few years back I’d created a prototype for a similar game concept and often considered the possibility of expanding it into a well-produced, full-length game. Even though I’m a programmer by trade, I don’t specialize in game development. “Howler” was actually conceived as a side project. For Renė, it was an entirely new experience. As an older, traditional artist who draws by hand, she had limited experience working with computers. Perhaps that is one of the reasons “Howler” is such a unique game.

How long did it take you to make “Howler”?

Almost a year, with occasional breaks along the way.

I understand that “Howler” complements the steampunk novel “Hour of the Wolf” by Andrius Tapinas. Tell me about this relationship.

We’d already begun work on the game—Renė was busy drawing hot air balloons and airships—when I came



Antanas Marcelionis

across a Facebook post about Andrius’ plans to write a new steampunk novel, “...there will be airships flying above the Church of St. Johns,” he wrote. Well, it happens that we’re good friends, so we had a chat and decided to collaborate. The game’s scenario echoes the script of the book, which in turn borrows selected elements from the game. The novel and the game were created in parallel.

Tell me more about the “steampunk” genre.

Steampunk is usually set during the Victorian era in a distorted world that’s characterized by the prominence of steam-powered machines. In

a steampunk work, you’ll encounter fantastic flying machines and an array of gadgetry that generally can’t exist in the world as we know it. The genre is also known for taking well-known heroes and presenting their histories from a slightly different angle. I encourage everyone to read “Hour of the Wolf”—there are versions available in both Lithuanian and English.

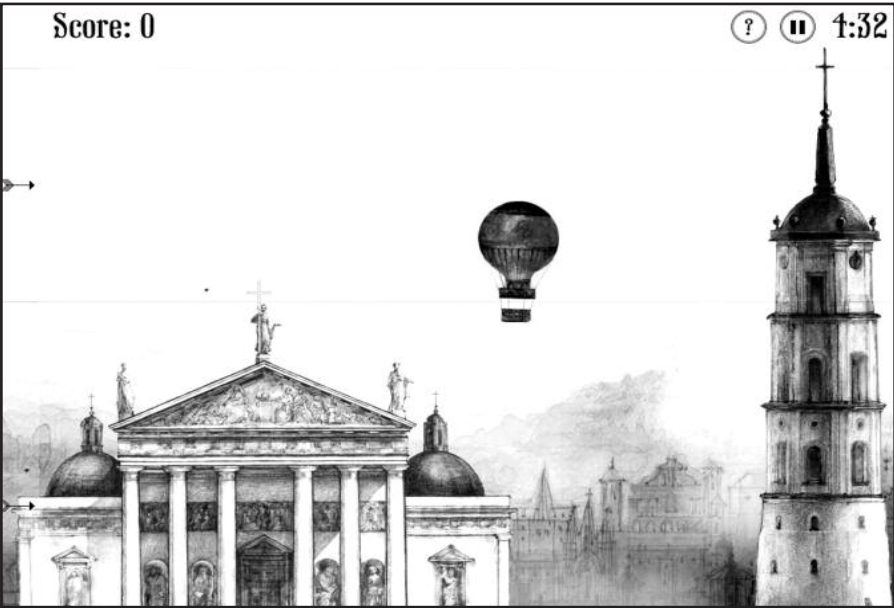
What’s your next project? Do you plan to continue developing “Howler”?

Yes, we’ll continue working on it after a short break. Right now, I need to devote my focus and attention to

my primary business (which I’d neglected during the game’s development). Andrius Tapinas is also moving forward with a sequel to “Hour of the Wolf,” the second book of the Steam and Stone Saga.

For more information, a free demo, or a \$2.99 download of the full game, visit www.howler.com. “Howler” is designed to be played on Android, iPhone, Mac, and PC.

The first 20 users to comment on the Howler post on the “Draugas News” Facebook page will receive a promo code for a free iTunes download of the full game.



Books make great Christmas gifts. Here’s a selection from the Draugas bookstore

Popular Lithuanian Recipes
Josephine J. Daužvardis
Paper, spiral bound, \$15.

Goths and Balts – The Missing Line of European History
Juratė Rosales
\$12.

Lithuanian Customs and Traditions
Danutė Brazytė Bindokienė
English and Lithuanian
Cloth. \$25.

History of Lithuania
Dr. Joseph B. Končius
\$8.

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30,000 words
A, Baravykas
Cloth \$25.

Mano Žodynas
English-Lithuanian Children’s Dictionary
Richard Scarry
Cloth \$20.

Vytautas the Great, Grand Duke of Lithuania
Dr. Joseph B. Končius
\$3.

NEW!
The Cucumber King of Kėdainiai Wendell Mayo
Fiction, 2013
Paper \$15.

Also by Wendell Mayo:
In Lithuanian Wood
Mayo’s first novel investigates the stormy climate of post-Communist Lithuania in the early 1990s through the orbit of an American poetry teacher stationed in Vilnius.
Paper \$15.



Make check payable to **Draugas 4545 W 63rd St, Chicago, IL 60629**
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OLDEST LITHUANIAN ORGANIZATION FORGES ON

Straddling three Centuries
Manhattan-based
Lithuanian Alliance
retools, saves home, and
opens door to new
members.



View from the patio of the Lithuanian Alliance offices with Madison Square Garden in the background. A great location for a Lithuanian cultural outpost. New members are most welcome.

What is the Lithuanian Alliance of America? Founded in 1886, it is the oldest continuously operating Lithuanian organization in the United States and probably in the world.

It was organized as a fraternal organization, which among its many activities provided insurance benefits to its members at a time when insurance was not otherwise readily available. It was one of the largest Lithuanian-American organizations in the US – having over 20,000 members and 300 lodges. There were a few lodges in Canada as well.

The Alliance was and still is an active member of the Lithuanian American Council. It promoted many educational and charitable programs. It helped finance the historic 1933 flight of Darius and Girėnas. Its name was prominently displayed on the fuselage of the *Lituanica* as a testimonial to its largess. The Alliance underwrote extensive publishing and cultural programs. It maintained a fully functioning printing press which printed its weekly newspaper *Tevyne/The Homeland* and numerous books and other publications.

IN TRANSITION

The Fraternal insurance industry is presently

undergoing rapid change. Many ethnic fraternal have ceased to exist through outright closures or mergers. Such a fate befell two other Lithuanian fraternal: the Lithuanian Catholic Alliance and the Lithuanian-American Workers Association. Both were fully absorbed by other fraternal. Incidentally both were originally part of the Lithuanian Alliance of America, but eventually due to ideological differences, split off and formed separate fraternal. Any hope of reunification did not come to pass. There were attempts made to reunite with the Catholic fraternal, but they were not successful.

For many years the membership of the Alliance did not increase, and state agencies began to exert increased pressure by imposing new standards and administrative regulations. The Alliance continued to struggle to meet these demands. The new regulations brought on greater financial and administrative burdens. There was concern that it would be forced to merge or be acquired by a non-Lithuanian fraternal.

OPTIMAL SOLUTION SOUGHT...

The Board of Directors determined that the optimal solution would consist of the following elements: 1. Unload the unprofitable and resource-draining insurance operation. 2. Assure the financial security of its insurance members. 3. Continue to keep the Alliance as a membership organization. 4. Retain ownership of its name and historic corporate continuity. 5. Retain ownership of its Home Office building in Manhattan, New York, free of any mortgage of lien. 6. Retain ownership of its archives and other non-insurance assets.

...AND FOUND

After considering all available options, the Board proposed a creative and novel solution. Following concentrated discussions, analysis, and research with its actuaries, the Board established that it was possible to transfer the insurance division while retaining the other aspects of the organization, specifically its non-insurance assets. Optimally the solution would allow retention of the Alliance Home Office building.

The search began and after a number of false starts, a willing taker was found in the Croatian Catholic Union of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Approval was sought from the State Insurance department and ultimately received. The paperwork was drafted and signed.

RETURN TO BASIC MISSION

The Alliance thus successfully “unloaded” the major drag on its operations. Freed from the burdens of insurance bureaucracy, the Alliance can now fulfill its mission and apply its resources and historic mandate to serve the needs of all Lithuanian-Americans and its affiliated Lithuanian-American organizations.

HOME IN MAHNHATTAN

The principal asset of the organization is the building which it owns mortgage-free in Manhattan, New York. Its location alone establishes its importance, reflected in its 10001 zip code. The Alliance building is located one half block from Madison Square Garden and New York’s historic Penn Station, as well as the Central Post Office.

The building consists of four stories, a basement, and patio garden. It is currently being used for various Lithuanian New York-centered activities. One floor is home to the Consul General for the Republic of Lithuania. It is also home to the Lithuanian National Foundation. Other uses of the Alliance building vary depending upon local needs. The first floor conference room is used for concerts, commemorations, and community meetings. It also serves as an art gallery.

The Alliance’s extensive archives, library, and future genealogical data base will be a significant resource in years to come for scholars and students alike.

ALLIANCE IN CYBERSPACE: THE ART AUCTION

Among the Alliaice’s most recent successful ventures was the organization of its first internet art auction. The proceeds were allocated for the restoration and upgrading of the building. This project was initiated by board member Laima Mihailovich, who coordinated numerous volunteers. It featured some 50 artworks donated by Lithuanian artists who understood the significance of retaining the Alliance and its facility in the heart of New York. Similar activities are planned for the future.

ALLIANCE MEETING IN DECEMBER

A special meeting of the Alliance to plan its future and to ascertain its current challenges will take place on Saturday, December 7th, at 10 a.m. at the home office.

Membership is now open to all who support the mission of the Alliance to promote the long enduring Lithuanian-American heritage in all its manifestations.

The Board of Directors has established membership fees. Individual membership dues are \$25, while organizational memberships are \$100. The board is initiating a broad-based membership drive to supplement its current roster of members.

For more information and to apply for membership please contact:

Vida Penikas, General Secretary
Lithuanian Alliance of America
307 West 30th Stree
New York, NY 10001
Tel 212-563-2210
e-mail laasla@verizon.net



At the unveiling of the new bronze plaque marking the historic Alliance office building in Manhattan. From left: Lithuanian Permanent Representative to the United Nations Dalius Čekuolis, Consul General of Lithuania Valdemaras Serapinas, Foreign Minister of Lithuania Linas Linkevičius and President of Lithuanian Alliance of America Saulius Kuprys

A Lithuanian Best-Seller

First published in 1955 and 12 printings later, Josephine Daužvardis’ *Popular Lithuanian Recipes* is still in high demand



Josephine J. Daužvardis making a holiday favorite – Mushroom Cookies.

“This was the all-time best seller of any book published at *Draugas*” said Jonas Kuprys, former print manager at the Lithuanian Catholic Press Society. “It kept selling out – we had to keep reprinting it.”

Josephine Daužvardis’ classic cookbook, *Popular Lithuanian Recipes* first published in 1955, has gone through 12 printings. On-line stores, like Amazon.com and Ebay, offer used editions for sale, sometimes at exorbitant prices but you can still order a new copy directly from *Draugas* at a reasonable cost.

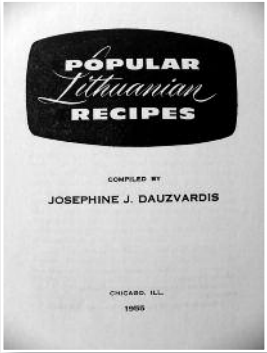
This cookbook includes most of the Lithuanian favorites: several versions of kugelis, potato pancakes, herring, rye bread, jellied pigs feet, and dill pickles. Some people swear that she has the best recipe for “cepelinai” (zeppelins) – the big meat-filled potato dumplings which are very popular in Lithuania today. Besides these classics, the book contains some lesser known esoteric preparations, like toasted hemp seed salt, sour milk, ancient Lithuanian hash and beet wine.

“This cookbook is invaluable to get me through a Lithuanian Christmas Eve dinner – Kūčios”, says Margie Daunis of Chicago. “These dishes are just like Grandma made.”

Josephine J. Daužvardis, a second-genera-

tion Lithuanian, was born in Worcester, MA in 1904. She received a law degree from Northeastern University School of Law. Mrs. Daužvardis served as Consul General of Lithuania in Chicago from 1971 to 1986. after the death of her husband, the then Consul Petras Daužvardis. (The United States never recognized the Soviet occupation of Lithuania, and thus allowed the consulate of Independent Lithuania to continue functioning.) Mrs. Daužvardis was accredited by the State Department and attended to the diplomatic functions of the consulate.

Until her death in 1990, Mrs. Daužvardis actively promoted Lithuanian culture in the United States. Besides publishing the first Lithuanian cookbook in English, she taught children Lithuanian and organized Lithuanian choral and folk dancing groups. She initiated the presentation of a Lithuanian Christmas tree at the Museum of Science and Industry in Chicago for its Christmas Around The World exhibit, decorating it with traditional ornaments made from white paper drinking straws. An active member of the Chicago Lithuanian Women’s Club, Mrs. Dauzvardis helped found the Amber Ball, at which young ladies of Lithuanian ancestry made their debut into society.



Compiled and edited by Josephine J. Daužvardis. Published by the Lithuanian Catholic Press Society 12th printing - 2000. In English. Softcover. 127 pgs.

Includes beverages, breads, rolls, cakes, cookies, cereals, dairy dishes, desserts, eggs, fish, meats, soups, vegetables, and traditional holiday food.

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These peppery mushroom cookies from *Popular Lithuanian Recipes* by Josephine J. Daužvardis get better as they age. Bake a batch today and you will have a tasty and decorative treat for your holiday table!

Grybai Mushroom Cookies

Makes about 2 dozen cookies, depending on size
Prep Time: 30 minutes
Bake Time: 10 min per batch
Decorating time: At your leisure!

COOKIES

Ingredients:

- 1 cup honey
- 1/2 cup sugar
- 1/4 cup butter
- 4 tablespoons brown sugar
- 2 eggs
- 1/4 cup sour cream
- 5 1/2 cups sifted all purpose flour
- 1 1/2 tsp. baking soda
- 1/2 tsp. each lemon rind, orange rind, cinnamon
- 1/4 tsp. each, ground ginger, cloves
- 1/8 tsp. each ground nutmeg, cardamom (optional)

Preparation:

Heat honey. Add sugar, butter, eggs and sour cream, alternately with sifted flour and soda. Stir well. Add grated rind and spices. Knead until smooth. Divide dough in half. Form small pieces of half the dough into various sized mushroom caps, rounded on top, flat on the bottom, making an indentation with fingertip in flat side for insertion of “stem”. Place flat side down on cookie sheet. Form stems by making several rolls of various thicknesses to correspond to mushroom caps, cut about 1 to 1/2 inches long. So stems don’t burn, wrap each stem in a bit of parchment paper, leaving ends open. Place on cookie sheet. Bake caps and stems at 350° for about 10 minutes or until brown. Cool. Enlarge mushroom cap indentation with knife tip. Dip one end of stem in icing, fit into indentation. Allow to set. Ice flat side of caps and stems with white icing. Sprinkle several poppy seeds around bottom of stem. Ice mushroom tops with chocolate icing. Store in a cool place.

ICING

Ingredients:

- 2 cups confectioner’s sugar
- 5 teaspoons cold water
- 4-6 teaspoons strained fresh lemon juice
- 2 teaspoons unsweetened cocoa

Preparation:

Place confectioner’s sugar in a bowl and with wire whisk or rotary or electric beater, beat in water one tablespoon at a time. Continue to beat until smooth, then beat in 4 teaspoons of lemon juice. Taste icing. Add more lemon juice to taste. Divide icing in half, stir in cocoa into one half.

Source: Adapted from **Popular Lithuanian Recipes** by Josephine J. Dauzvardis (Lithuanian Catholic Press, 2000).

Burokinė

Beet Wine

Makes 1 gallon
Prep Time: 30 minutes
Fermentation: 10 days

Ingredients:

- 10 medium beets
- 1 gallon water
- 2 1/2 lbs sugar
- 1 cake yeast
- 1/4 tsp. pepper

Preparation:

Pare and quarter beets. Boil in water until tender. Let stand 24 hours. Remove beets. Add enough water to make 1 full gallon of liquid. Add sugar and pepper. Boil 10 minutes. Strain through cloth into a clay crock. Spread yeast on a slice of bread thoroughly dried in oven. Place in lukewarm liquid. Let ferment 10 days. Bottle. Do not cork tightly.

Source: Adapted from **Popular Lithuanian Recipes** by Josephine J. Dauzvardis (Lithuanian Catholic Press, 2000).



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Norvelita Hot and Cold
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Calendar

CONFERENCES

BALTIC CONFERENCE The Second Joint Conference of The Association for the Advancement of Baltic Studies (AABS) and The Society for the Advancement of Scandinavian Study (SASS) will be held at Yale University on March 13-15, 2014.. The conference features concurrent panels on all topics related to Baltic Studies, thematic lunches, concerts, tours. Membership in the AABS is open to anyone wishing to support the scholarly purposes of the Association. AABS members receive a subscription to the quarterly *Journal of Baltic Studies*, reduced registration fees at AABS conferences, and an annual newsletter of the association's activities. See <http://depts.washington.edu/aabs/>

Lithuanian Alliance of America, Annual meeting, Saturday, December 7, Lithuanian Alliance of America building, 307 W 30th St., New York, NY 10001. For more information write slalaa@verizon.com or call 212-563-2210

Ruta Sepetys
named 2013
Woman of the Year



Award winning author, **Rūta Šepetys**, has been named this year's recipient of the Balzekas Museum Award of Excellence. Her debut novel **Between Shades of Gray** has brought worldwide attention to Stalin-era Siberian deportations. The award will be conferred on December 7 at a gala event at the museum. For more information see www.balzekasmuseum.org

SPECIAL EVENTS

Annual World Lithuanian Center Christmas Fair. Saturday, December 7, 2013 from 9:30. am. to 4:30 pm and Sunday, December 8, 2013 from 10:30 am to 3:30 pm. Sell your crafts! Contact 708-403-7858 for table prices. Lithuanian World Center, 14911 127 St . Lemont, IL. Lemont, IL.

Lithuanian Youth Center Traditional Annual Dinner Sunday, December 8. Mass at 1:00 pm in the Jesuit Chapel, Dinner to follow in the Great Hall. 5620 S Claremont, Chicago, IL \$40.



CONCERTS • MUSIC

Christmas Concert Blessed Jurgis Matulaitis Lithuanian Mission, Sunday December 8, 12:30 p.m.. Featuring Mission Choir, "Vytury's" children's choir and soloists. The Mission is located at the Lithuanian World Center, 14911 127 St . Lemont, IL.

"A Lithuanian Christmas" by the Monadnock Chorus at the Town House, 1 Grove Street, Peterborough, New Hampshire, Saturday, December 14 at 7.30 pm and Sunday, December 15 at 3pm. Tickets \$20 <http://www.monadnock-chorus.org>

Advent Concert Dainava Lithuanian Chorale Saturday, December 21, 7 pm, Nativity BVM Church, 6812 S. Washtenaw Ave., Chicago. \$20. Tickets: www.dainava.us

Opera "Have a Good Day" by Lithuanian composer Lina Lapelytė and librettist Vaiva Grainytė. January 15 – January 19. HERE Theater, 145 6th Avenue, New York, NY, 10013. Tickets \$25 <http://prototypefestival.org>

Boston Lithuanian School Benefit Concert – "A Lithuanian Christmas" by the Monadnock Chorus January 12, 2014 2.30 pm St. Peter's Church 75 Flaherty Rd, South Boston, MA. For tickets contact dali-afoto@gmail.com

2014 Lithuanian Song Festival In Kaunas and Vilnius, Lithuania, June 28 – July 6, 2014. <http://www.dainusvente.lt/en/here-is-my-home/>

EXHIBITS

Christmas Around the World Festival Museum of Science and Industry 5700 S. Lake Shore Dr. Chicago, IL 60637 Sunday, December 1, 12:45 p.m. Knights of Lithuania Dancers and Suktinis perform Lithuanian dances, surrounded by Christmas trees from around the world.

SPORTS

BOXING: In honor of the 80th anniversary of the transatlantic flight of Darius and Girenas and commemorating 90 years of Boxing in Lithuania – Amateur Boxing Tournament: Joint Lithuanian-Polish boxing team vs the Americans. November 30 - December 1, 2013, Lithuanian World Center, 14911 127 St . Lemont, IL. Tickets at the door. For more info: 630-935-1757.

SKIING: March 15-20, 2014, Annual Lithuanian Athletic Union of North America (LAUNA) ski trip Jackson Hole, WY. Email: Edmickus1@aol.com

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Goda Misiunas gmisiuniene@maironis.org

Although the term has started, new students are still being accepted.

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