

bridges



LITHUANIAN-AMERICAN NEWS JOURNAL

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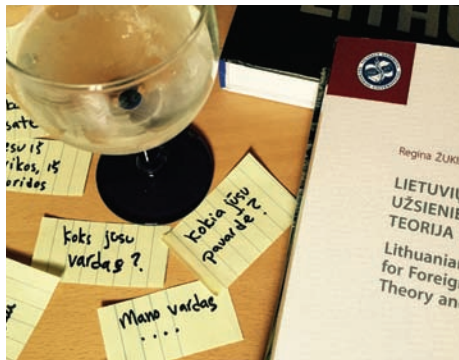
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Cover: The Meridianas, a 1948 sailing ship from Finland that has been converted into a restaurant, docked on the Danė River in Klaipėda. Photo: Yevgen Belich | Shutterstock.com

Back cover: Ceremony to commemorate the victims of occupation, genocide and Soviet repressions. Photo: Robertas Dačkus, Office of the President of the Republic of Lithuania

from the editor

A Matter of Survival

As a teenager, reading Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn's *The Gulag Archipelago*, at once fascinated and appalled at the treatment of inmates in the Soviet gulag system, I marveled at how anyone could survive such physical and psychological abuse. Many years later, I would learn that two of my own relatives—my grandmother's niece and nephew—had themselves been imprisoned and deported, political prisoners, enemies of the state.

Like Mykolas Devenis, whose testimony about the time he spent in Siberia begins on page 3, my grandmother's nephew was a physician with a young family. Unlike Devenis, he had never lived in America. He was, however, a lieutenant in the Lithuanian Army. He was arrested during the first Soviet occupation and imprisoned at Ninth Fort in Kaunas—where his name is now inscribed alongside the names of other military held there—until he was transported to Siberia, eventually ending up to Norilsk. He was one of the lucky, a survivor of a prison camp in the world's northernmost city, who lived to see his country independent once again.

For those who escaped deportation, life was little better. Caught between the Soviets and the Nazis, many made unconscionable alliances and others suffered the consequences of their action or inaction. As Ellen Cassidy relates in her article on Holocaust remembrance, Lithuania is only now confronting that sad and difficult period during which relative peace turned into violent hatred with devastating rapidity.

Jocelyn Bartkevičius relates her own family's tale of survival in the context of her contemporary experience of language study in Lithuania. Her poignant and funny narrative, *How To Survive in Lithuania*, examines the many nuanced meanings of the word.

Lithuania today is a product of the survival of its people. It's our responsibility to help ensure that it continues to survive and thrive as an independent nation, and one way we can do that is at the polls. As you consider the options, be sure to weigh carefully who has the world's best interests at heart.


Teresė Vekteris, Editor

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reader's response

Have just received the WONDERFUL April issue of Bridges today, only a few months late, but am extremely happy about the Lithuanian costumes stories. More stories like this are welcome. Well done!

Interestingly, the sash worn by the male dancer on page 3 is poignantly inscribed (with apologies for my translation) "Heroes are sleeping in the cemetery."

I appreciate your research in producing "This Month in History" and "Current Events."

And the delicious story about "Garden-Milk Soup" brought back warm memories of home long ago.

Bukit sveika,
Tony Kiveta, *via email*

calendar

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

AUGUST 2016

August 13-14
102nd Lithuanian Days
 Schuylkill Mall, Frackville, Pa.
 Saturday 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.
 Sunday 12 p.m. to 4 p.m.
 Info: kofl144.weebly.com

August 21-28
Meno8Dienos Adult Lithuanian-Language Art Camp
 Camp Neringa, Brattleboro, Vt.
 Info: danguole@kuolas.com, 781-383-6081

SEPTEMBER 2016

September 3-5
Camp Dainava: 60 Years
 15100 Austin Rd., Manchester, Mich.
 Entertainment, activities, presentations, good food, good company. Saturday evening: Dainava Choir Men's Ensemble.
 Info: dainava.org

September 10
Portland Lithuanian Community Piknikas (Picnic)
 Rooster Rock State Park, Hwy. 84, Corbett, Ore.
 Info: 503-974-6407

September 11, 12:30 p.m.
Daughters of Lithuania LA Benefit Concert: Liudas Norvaiša
 St. Casimir's Parish Hall, 2718 St. George St., Los Angeles, Calif.
 Tickets: \$60
 Info: daughtersoflithuaniala.org

September 11
Omaha Lithuanian Community Fundraiser
 Sts. Peter and Paul School gym
 5912 S. 36th St., Omaha, Nebr.
 Info: facebook.com/OmahalB

September 17, 1-3 p.m.
Amber Roots Heritage Club
 Lithuanian Music Hall, 2715 E. Allegheny Ave., Philadelphia, PA
 Info: milliemarks@aol.com

September 18, 3 p.m.
Vilija Kerelytė Concert "Bring Me a Song"
 Sabre Room, 8900 W. 95th St., Hickory Hills, Ill.
 Info: vrk15@att.net, 708-567-6718

September 25, 9 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.
Divine Providence Lithuanian Church Parish Picnic
 25335 West Nine Mile Rd., Southfield, Mich.
 Info: divineprovidencechurch.com

OCTOBER 2016

October 7-9
Iškyla/Walk-a-Thon
 Camp Neringa, Brattleboro, Vt.
 Info: neringa.org

October 9
Golden Jubilee of Our Lady of Šiluva Chapel
 Basilica Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, Washington, D.C.
 Info: siluva50usa.org

October 15, 1-3 p.m.
Amber Roots Heritage Club
 Lithuanian Music Hall, 2715 E. Allegheny Ave., Philadelphia, PA
 Info: milliemarks@aol.com

NOVEMBER 2016

November 5
Lithuanian Foundation Fall Gala
 Lithuanian World Center, 14911 127th St., Lemont, Ill.
 Info: lithfund.org

November 5
Omaha Lithuanian Community Fundraiser Bowling Tournament
 Immaculate Conception Hall, 2708 South 24th St., Omaha, Nebr.
 Info: facebook.com/OmahalB

November 19, 1-3 p.m.
Amber Roots Heritage Club
 Lithuanian Music Hall, 2715 E. Allegheny Ave., Philadelphia, PA
 Info: milliemarks@aol.com

November 25
Kansas City Lithuanian Community Christmas Party
 Cedar Creek Clubhouse, Olathe, Kans.
 Info: kclith.org

DECEMBER 2016

December 3-4
Holiday Craft Fair
 Lithuanian World Center, 14911 127th St., Lemont, Ill.

December 10
Amber Roots Heritage Club Kučios
 Lithuanian Music Hall, 2715 E. Allegheny Ave., Philadelphia, PA
 Info: milliemarks@aol.com

December 11
Lithuanian Scouts Kučios
 Divine Providence Lithuanian Catholic Church, 25335 West Nine Mile Rd., Southfield, Mich.
 Info: divineprovidencechurch.com

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