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NEWS JOURNAL



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Cover: Kaunas Castle. Photo: ©Aliaksei Kruhlenia | Dreamstime.com

Back cover: On May 21, 2016, Lithuanian President Dalia Grybauskaitė took part in the farewell ceremony for the first group of 3,000 recruits in the Grand Duchy of Lithuania Butigeidis Dragoon Battalion to complete their nine months of compulsory military service. All had chosen to serve voluntarily. About a third plan to join the professional military service while the remainder will enter the reserves. Photo: R. Dačkus, Office of the President of the Republic of Lithuania.

from the editor

The Fabric of Memory

In our last issue, we focused on the Lithuanian national costume: the precious weavings, the patterns unique to regions, the stories they tell and their meanings to the wearer. In this issue, we focus on a fabric of another sort: a gauze woven of memories that wraps us—sometimes tightly, sometimes loosely—in our Lithuanian identity.

In “Koldūnai, Basketball and Krupnikas,” Rimas Domanskis uses memories of the Lemont-area community’s accomplishments and events to trigger questions about the larger Lithuanian community’s future. As the old causes for which we worked fade into the past, are we to define our legacy by food, drink and sport? Are there other ways to preserve our heritage? Are there new causes to take up? Do we broaden our definition of Lithuanian community?

“Memories Can’t Fade Away,” beginning on page 8, gathers the reflections of six Lithuanian teenagers regarding a topic of which they have no personal memories, but which lives in the collective memory of all contemporary Lithuanians—the armed resistance against the Soviet Union that took place between 1944 and 1953. Like the sturdy cloth that made the partisans’ uniforms, the strength of these memories continues to help shape Lithuania’s resolve to remain independent.

Another piece woven from recollection is “Tending the Memories of the Dead,” by Laima Vincė Sruoginis. Perhaps the most final and finite repository of memory is the graveyard, and Antakalnis Cemetery at the edge of Vilnius holds generations of Lithuanian history. It is where Laima’s grandparents are buried, and is also the resting place of writers, poets and artists who inspire her. This article is also the first of our new literary section, which Laima will curate, bringing us selections of the best of contemporary Lithuanian literature written in English with each issue.

Even our recipe this month serves as a memorial. Our food editor, Jana Motivans, lost her beloved Močiutė earlier this year, just shy of her 100th birthday. Along with Močiutė Sofija’s potato salad, Jana also relates the events that marked her grandmother’s century of life—the events that motivated her to make sure that her grandchildren knew how closely they were connected to Lithuania.

Just as the textiles that make our national costumes require careful tending and preservation, so do the memories that constitute our Lithuanian identity. Let us exercise the same care with these memories that we take with our most fragile fabrics, handling them with respect and sustaining them intact for generations to come.

Yours faithfully,



Teresė Vekteris, Editor

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EDITOR
Teresė Vekteris

ART DIRECTOR
Daniel P. Craig, Jr.

CONTRIBUTING EDITOR, FOOD
Jana Sirusaitė Motivans

CONTRIBUTING EDITOR, LITERATURE
Laima Vincė Sruoginis

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

ADVERTISING & SUBSCRIPTION MANAGER
Rimas Gedeika

Editorial Office

6125 McCallum St., Philadelphia, PA 19144
bridges.terese@gmail.com

Subscriber Services and Advertising

78 Mark Twain Dr., Hamilton Square, NJ 08690
gedeikar@aol.com

Facebook

[facebook.com/
BridgesLithuanianAmericanMagazine](https://facebook.com/BridgesLithuanianAmericanMagazine)



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

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our community

Upcoming Lithuanian Friendship Day to Feature Crafts, Campers, Hat Contest and More

Lithuanian Friendship Day, aka the "Putnam Picnic," will shine a light on Lithuanian heritage while providing entertainment for all ages on July 24, 2016, in Putnam, Conn.

The day will begin with an outdoor Mass at 11 a.m. followed by a lunch featuring Lithuanian food. Afternoon activities include a Lithuanian arts and crafts fair, a program by campers from Vermont's Camp Neringa, a hat contest and parade, and a drawing for prizes that include a trip to Lithuania.

During the day, guests can also view a video featuring a historical glance of the mission of the Sisters of the Immaculate Conception in Camp Neringa, visit the ALKA Lithuanian archives, meet with Lithuanian Saturday school director and teachers, or just plain socialize with friends and neighbors.

The picnic takes place on the grounds of the convent of the Sisters of the Immaculate Conception, 600 Liberty Highway, Putnam, Conn. For more information, or to make a donation to enter the prize drawing, please contact picnic chairman Aidas Kupčinskas at aidask@aol.com.



Campers' performance at a prior picnic.

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May 2016

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

ONGOING

One Sunday a Month
Lithuanian Brunch, 12-4 p.m.
The Avenue Restaurant, 71-22
Myrtle Ave., Glendale, N.Y.
Call 347-725-3853 for dates and
reservations.
Info: theavenuebarandgrill.com

Every Friday, 2-10:30 p.m.
**Fish Fry Fridays at the
Rockford Lithuanian Club**
716 Indiana Ave., Rockford, Ill.
Open to the public.
Info: rockfordlithuanianclub@
hotmail.com or 815-962-9256

JULY 2016

July 24, 11 a.m.
**Lithuanian Friendship Day
(Putnam Picnic)**
600 Liberty Highway,
Putnam, Conn.
Info: neringa.org

July 24-30
**"Third Week" Youth Camp for
Lithuanian Speakers ages 12-16**
Camp Neringa, Brattleboro, Vt.
Info: neringa.org

July 24-31
**Ateitininkų Sendraugių
Stovkyla I (Ateitis Old Friends
Camp)**
Camp Dainava, 15100 Austin Rd.,
Manchester, Mich.
Info: zaliaruta9@gmail.com

July 31-August 7
Lithuanian Heritage Stovykla
Camp Dainava, 15100 Austin Rd.,
Manchester, Mich.
Info: rimapolikaitis@aol.com

July 31-August 13
**Heritage Children's Camp in
English, ages 7-16**
Camp Neringa, Brattleboro, Vt.
Info: neringa.org

AUGUST 2016

August 5-7
**Knights of Lithuania National
Convention**
Doubletree by Hilton,
Binghamton, N.Y.
Info: knightsoflithuania.com

August 6-12
Ateitis Week
Franciscan Guest House, 26
Beach Ave., Kennebunk, Maine
Info: franciscanguesthouse.com,
207-967-4865

August 7-12
**Lankas Lithuanian Heritage
Camp**
Kursa - Latvian Community
Center, 3381 W. Dayton Airport
Rd., Shelton, Wash.
Info: lankostovykla.com

August 7-14
Lithuanian Language Course
Camp Dainava, 15100 Austin Rd.,
Manchester, Mich.
Info: ausreles@comcast.net

August 13-20
**"Third Week" Youth Camp in
English, ages 12-16**
Camp Neringa, Brattleboro, Vt.
Info: neringa.org

August 19
Ethnic Enrichment Festival
Swope Park, 4701 East Gregory
Blvd., Kansas City, Mo.
Info: kclith.org

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 Celebrates 60
Years**
15100 Austin Rd., Manchester,
Mich.
Saturday evening program will
feature the Dainava Choir Men's
Ensemble, Darius Polikaitis,
director. The weekend will
feature entertainment, activities,
interesting presentations, good
food, and good company.
Info: dainava.org

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

September 11
**Omaha Lithuanian Community
Fundraiser (Sausages and
Cabbage)**
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
Use Tilton Street entrance.
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.
Concert accompanied by Algis
Baranauskas
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
Use Tilton Street entrance.
Info: milliemarks@aol.com

NOVEMBER 2016

November 5
**Lithuanian Foundation Annual
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
Use Tilton Street entrance. Bring a
dish to share. Everyone welcome.
Info: milliemarks@aol.com

November 25
**Kansas City Lithuanian Commu-
nity 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.
Info: milliemarks@aol.com

December 10
**Amber Roots Heritage Club
Kučios**
Lithuanian Music Hall, 2715 E.
Allegheny Ave., Philadelphia, PA
Use Tilton Street entrance. Bring a
meatless dish to share. Everyone
welcome.
Info: milliemarks@aol.com

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

December 11
**Annual Ecumenical Christmas
Concert**
Sts. Peter and Paul Church,
5912 S. 36th St., Omaha, Nebr.
Info: facebook.com/OmahaLB

GOT EVENTS?

Let us help you spread the word!
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