

# bridges



LITHUANIAN-AMERICAN NEWS JOURNAL

\$5

January 2017

January 2017

**bridges** LITHUANIAN-AMERICAN  
NEWS JOURNAL

3



3 Čia kalba Kaunas!  
*by Audre Budrys Nakas*

6



6 January 13, 1991 in the Photographs of a  
Lithuanian Filmmaker  
*By Arvydas Reneckis*

11



9 Good Literature Is Like Lightning  
An interview with Laura Sintija Černiauskaitė  
*By Stephan Collinshaw*

11 The Double Anniversary of Musician  
Algirdas Kačanauskas  
*By Danutė Petrauskaitė*

14 The Last Days in Lithuania  
*By Jurgis Savaitis*

**2 from the editor**  
*By Karilė Vaitkutė*

**16 this month in history**  
January Anniversaries

**18 Baltic Summer Studies Institute Invites to  
Study Lithuanian in 2017**

**19 current events**  
*By Alan Stankus*

**21 a taste of Lithuania**  
Balandėliai (Stuffed Cabbage)  
*By Jana Sirusaitė Motivans*

**our community**  
**23 My Big and Merry Lithuanian Wedding**  
*By Laima Liutikienė*

**25 Minister of Education Met with the Winners of National  
Dictation Competition**

**25 Invitation to the Evening with Professor Jonas Zdanys**

**26 Running on the Road of Life and Death**

**c3 calendar**

14



**Cover and Back cover:** Participants of the Bėgimas Gyvybės ir Mirties Keliu (Running on the Road of Life and Death) event in Chicago. The run was held to commemorate the events of January 13th in Lithuania in 1991. Photos: Silvija Basijokaitė

## from the editor



Dear Readers,

It is with great excitement that I am writing this first letter to you. I am honored to have been asked to serve as the new editor of Bridges and I am very thankful to the President of the Lithuanian Community Sigita Šimkuvienė Rosen and the members of the Krašto Valdyba for their trust in me. The magazine has been skillfully edited by Teresė Vekteris for the past number of years. I am very grateful to Teresė for her guidance during this transitional period. I am also grateful to the contributing

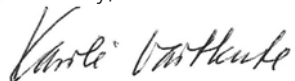
editors Alan Stankus, Jana Sirusaitė Motivans, and Laima Vincė Sruoginis for their work in the past, and I hope that we will have a truly fruitful and joyful cooperation in the future. I am also truly thankful to the magazine designer Daniel Craig, Jr. for his patience and great work. With their help and with the guidance from you, dear Readers, I will do my best to make this great publication thrive.

It so happened that the first issue edited by me is the January issue. For the past twenty six years, the month of January has always triggered thoughts of sacrifice for freedom. We will never forget what happened during the Bloody Sunday in Vilnius. The images of peaceful people crushed by Soviet tanks, beaten, shot at and killed by the Soviet military will forever be stuck in our minds. The names of those who sacrificed their lives and became our heroes will never fade. However, as President Obama said in his Farewell Address, we can't take our democracy for granted. We can't take Lithuania's freedom for granted either. We need to work every day to guard it. I believe that we need to collect as many stories of the events that took place in the January of 1991 as we possibly can in spite of the fact that many have been collected already. Every story of each eyewitness, be it a parliamentarian or an ordinary citizen, counts and is extremely important. I am grateful to the authors who agreed to share their stories in words and photos in this issue of Bridges.

My fate brought me to Boston on January 17, 1991. I was a recent graduate from Vilnius University and dreamed to work as a translator from English to Lithuanian. I was offered to help interpret for a professor who was going to teach at Emerson College in Boston for one semester. It was the first exchange project of the kind after Lithuania regained its independence in 1990. A professor from Emerson College was to teach in Vilnius. Lithuania was ready to explore, learn, teach, and exchange ideas with the world. We were free! And then, the events of January struck. However, we did not dismay and miraculously were able to travel. Later on, I became what one might call a "double citizen at heart". I graduated from the University of Illinois in Chicago and continued working in the Lithuanian community. I still work for the Balzekas Museum of Lithuanian Culture where my main responsibilities are editing the Museum magazine and doing genealogical research. I also played the part of a researcher and curatorial assistant in preparing the very successful "No Home To Go To" exhibit, which tells the story of displaced persons after the Second World War. My connection with Lithuania did not fade. I travel to Lithuania very often, both of my children are fluent in Lithuanian and, I am happy to say, they grew up very proud to be Lithuanian.

And now, once again I would like to express my gratitude for entrusting Bridges to me. I will try my hardest and I welcome your thoughts and advice. I can always be reached at [kariledalia@yahoo.com](mailto:kariledalia@yahoo.com).

Sincerely,

  
Karilė Vaitkutė, Editor

# bridges

Vol. 40 No. 10 / January 2017

Bridges is the English-language publication of the  
**Lithuanian-American Community, Inc.**

[lithuanian-american.org/bridges](http://lithuanian-american.org/bridges)

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Our thanks to  
LITHUANIAN FOUNDATION  
for its support of this magazine.  
[www.lithuanianfoundation.org](http://www.lithuanianfoundation.org)

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BRIDGES (ISSN: 87508028) is published 10 times per year (Jan/Feb and Jul/Aug combined) by Lithuanian-American Community, Inc. The known office of publication is located at 2711 W. 71st Street, Chicago, IL 60629. The editorial office is located at 139 Willow Blvd., Willow Springs, IL 60480. Periodicals postage paid at Chicago, IL and additional locations. Vol. 40, No. 10. POSTMASTER: Send address corrections and changes to LAC, Inc./Bridges, 208 Linden Ponds Way, Unit 403, Hingham, MA 02043. SUBSCRIPTIONS: For subscription questions or address changes, write to [spauda@javlb.org](mailto:spauda@javlb.org). Subscription rates are: US: \$30 per year or \$58 for two years.; International: \$55 per year payable in advance in US funds. COPYRIGHT: ©2017 by Lithuanian-American Community, Inc. All rights reserved. No part of the publication may be reproduced without written permission of the publisher. PRINTING: Printed in Chicago, USA by Lithuanian American Community, Inc.

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

## ONGOING

### Through April 22, 2017 Daily Life: Photography from Lithuania Exhibit

The Print Center, 1614 Latimer St., Philadelphia, Pa.  
Free and open to the public  
Tuesday through Saturday  
11 a.m. – 6 p.m.  
Info: printcenter.org,  
215-735-6090

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

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

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

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

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

March 9-April 17  
**No Home To Go To. The Story  
of Baltic Displaced Persons,  
1944-1952**  
Exhibition on display at the  
Arlington Public Library, 1015 N.  
Quincy St., Arlington, VA 22201  
Info: info@balzekasmuseum.org  
or 773-582-6500

## FEBRUARY 2017

February 11  
**Poker Tournament to Benefit  
Versmė Lithuanian School of  
Kansas City**  
Cedar Creek Clubhouse, 25775  
W. 103rd St., Olathe, Kans.  
\$45 ticket includes \$3,150 in  
chips, dinner buffet, soft drinks  
and Lithuanian snacks.  
Info: Renata Nantz, 913-271-3422

February 24-March 4  
**Lithuanian Snow Ski Trip**  
Aspen Mountain Resort,  
Aspen, Colo.  
Sponsored by Lithuanian Athletic  
Union of North America and  
Lithuanian American Doctors  
Union. Skiers, non-skiers and  
families welcome. Race schedule  
TBA. Travel and accommoda-  
tions: linda@ski.com,  
800-525-2052 x3329  
or 970-925-9500 x3329.  
Identify yourself as part of the  
Lithuanian Ski Group.  
General info:  
edmickus1@aol.com  
or vsaulis@sbcglobal.net

February 26, 4 p.m.  
**Annual Aspen Lithuanian  
Independence Day Celebration**  
809 South Aspen Street,  
Aspen, Colo.  
Special guest Rolandas  
Krisčiūnas, Lithuanian  
Ambassador to the U.S.  
Info: dmb@aspenconsul.com

## MARCH 2017

March 3-6  
**17th Annual Florida Lithuanian  
Open Golf Tournament**  
Info: LTConsulFlorida.com,  
727-895-4811

March 17-19 (new date)  
**Women's Weekend**  
Camp Neringa, Brattleboro, Vt.  
Group discussions, exercise,  
art, cooking, and spiritual and  
personal rebirth.  
Info:  
kerry@watershedcoachingllc.com  
or kriscon@frontiernet.net

March 17-20  
**Vyresnių Skaučių + Gintarių  
Lithuanian Scouts Jamboree**  
Agatha A. Durland Scout  
Reservation, 1 Clear Lake Road,  
Putnam Valley, N.Y.  
Registration: via Facebook: Vyr.  
Sk. + Gintarių Suvaziamas 2017  
or Skautai.net  
Info: djmattis@gmail.com  
or vaiva.rimeika@gmail.com

March 25  
**Ethnic Heritage Mass**  
St. Peter and Paul Basilica,  
Philadelphia, Pa.  
Choir "Laisvė" will sing  
at the Mass

March 25, 10 a.m.  
**Easter egg decorating  
workshop**  
Balzekas Museum of  
Lithuanian Culture  
Info: info@balzekasmuseum.org  
or 773-582-6500

## APRIL 2017

April 1  
**Benefit Concert for Neringa**  
600 Liberty Hwy., Putnam, Conn.  
Info: neringa.org

April 22, 2 p.m.  
**Kendall Svengalis will present  
his book "The Great Emerson  
Art Heist"**  
Balzekas Museum of  
Lithuanian Culture  
Info: info@balzekasmuseum.org  
or 773-582-6500

## MAY 2017

May 13-14, 11 a.m. - 6 p.m.  
**45th Annual Baltimore Lithua-  
nian Festival**  
Catonsville Armory, 130 Mellor  
Avenue, Catonsville, Md.

May 19-21  
**Counselor Retreat**  
Camp Neringa, Brattleboro, Vt.  
Info: neringa.org

## JUNE 2017

June 3-4, 2017  
**Talka Work Weekend**  
Camp Neringa, Brattleboro, Vt.  
Info: regina@neringa.com,  
978-582-5592

June 5 – July 28  
**Baltic Studies Summer Institute**  
Indiana University Bloomington  
Campus, 107 S. Indiana Ave.,  
Bloomington, Ind.  
Six-week intensive beginning  
Lithuanian, Latvian and Estonian  
language courses.  
Application deadline for Title VIII  
Fellowships is February 1, 2017.  
Info: indiana.edu/~swseel/balssi

June 9-11  
**New England Chapter Knights  
of Lithuania Retreat**  
Franciscan Guest House,  
26 Beach Ave., Kennebunk, Maine  
Info: 207-967-4865

June 24-29  
**Heritage Family Camp in English**  
Camp Neringa, Brattleboro, Vt.  
Info: neringa.org

## JULY 2017

July 2-8  
**Family Camp for Lithuanian  
Speakers**  
Camp Neringa, Brattleboro, Vt.  
Info: neringa.org

July 9-23  
**Children's Camp for Lithuanian  
Speakers 7-16**  
Camp Neringa, Brattleboro, Vt.  
Info: neringa.org

## GOT EVENTS?

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

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VOLUME 40 ISSUE 10

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