

# bridges



LITHUANIAN-AMERICAN NEWS JOURNAL

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## Dear fellow Lithuanians,

On behalf of the National Executive Committee of the Lithuanian American Community, I extend my sincere congratulations to you on the occasion of February 16th and the upcoming March 11th!

These prominent dates remind us of the freedom we regained and of the difficult road that we traveled on and were able to finish only because of our spiritual strength and unity. No matter how different we are, we are united by our history, traditions, and values that we all share. Let the love and respect for our homeland be the foundation for all of our meaningful and important work.

Let us foster unity among us and let the spirit of citizenship, duty, and tolerance towards one another never leave us. Let us be worthy of the price of freedom that we achieved and the values that we preserved.

Even though we are scattered all over the world, Lithuania unites us and inspires us to live in harmony and creativity. Let us be free within ourselves first. As we travel on the endless road of freedom, let us have hope, patience, and faith in what the future holds for us. I wish You the best of luck in Your fine and important work for the benefit of Lithuania.

Let us learn, work, and help each other so that Lithuania would be proud of us!

With love,  
**Sigita Šimkuvienė**  
 LAC National Executive Committee President

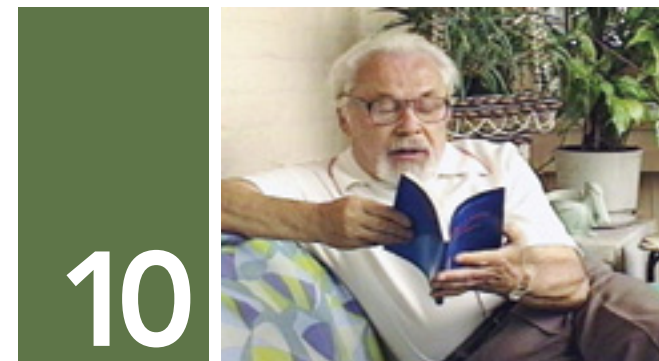


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Front Cover: Lithuanian Independence celebration in Chicago. Photo credit: Sandra Scedrina.

Back cover: The House of Signatories in Vilnius.

Dear Readers,

The month of February always evokes thoughts about the time in the Lithuanian history when the Act of the Restoration of Independence was written, signed and proclaimed to the public in Vilnius in 1918. Time and time again, I cannot but marvel at the incredible bravery, intelligence, and patriotism of the signatories. Having in mind the historical circumstances under which the restoration of independence was proclaimed, it is nothing short of a miracle that they were able to achieve this goal.

And now, almost a hundred years later, we, the Lithuanians all over the world, celebrate the Independence of the land of our forefathers and we cherish its freedom by propagating Lithuania in the world through its culture and traditions.

Here I would like to share some wonderful thoughts expressed by Nojus Liutikas, a young Lithuanian American, who writes about how he found his place among Lithuanians.

Karilė Vaitkutė, Editor

*"The event takes place every four years; it was broadcast all over Lithuanian television and covered widely in the press, and the fact that we, the Lithuanians of America, were given the opportunity to show our spirit, was very exciting. But being the ignorant teenager I was, I didn't care much for that. What surprised me most was the realization that I made. I realized that because I was Lithuanian, I was accepted. I didn't have to work my way into the group, I was already in it. The fact that people who I had never met before blindly accepted me as one of their own lit a whole new feeling inside of me. I wanted to be Lithuanian. I wanted to be accepted, to be laughed at and to laugh with, to be a part of this family. My whole life I had wandered around, looking for someone who would accept me as I am, and finally, I found that place and those people. It was as if I had just found the purpose of my life. For once, I was truly very happy, and ever since then I have learned to value the culture and traditions of my people. I know where I belong."*

Nojus Liutikas

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## 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 General Membership Meeting**  
716 Indiana Avenue, Rockford, Ill.  
Open to all members.  
Info: lithuanianclub.org,  
815-962-9256

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

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

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 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 accommodations: 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 Kriščiūnas, 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 Lithuanian 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 Lithuanian 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

July 23  
**Lithuanian Friendship Day/ Putnam Picnic**  
600 Liberty Hwy., Putnam, Conn.  
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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