

# bridges



LITHUANIAN-AMERICAN NEWS JOURNAL

\$5

March 2017



Dear members of the Lithuanian American Community,

Currently, the Lithuanian-American Community is comprised of 52 chapters and 41 Lithuanian schools in 10 locations. This 66-year old organization is the most numerous Lithuanian group. Its mission is to bring Lithuanians together, to maintain the Lithuanian language and traditions, and to keep close cooperation with Lithuania and its institutions. I have to add that especially at this time we, Lithuanian-Americans, are worried about Lithuanian Independence and the preservation of democracy and security.

I would like to ask that the district and regional chairmen would introduce the resolutions of the Social Affairs Council to the public as well as get in touch with your local government representatives and members of the Congress. Everyone should know that Lithuania and the Baltic countries must be protected against Russian aggression. I ask everyone to do their homework!

The rejuvenated National Executive Committee is working hard to intensify Lithuanian activities, to stir up as many Lithuanians as possible, so that they would contribute to the organization of various events and festivals. Our wonderful Committee members - Algimantas Gustaitis, Austėja Sruoga, Laima Liutikienė, Auksė Motto, Valdas Buožis, Tomas Mitrulevičius, Ieva Smidt, Jonas Howes, and Juozas Kazlauskas - make the National Executive Committee activities visible to the public. In many of them, I see strong community leaders who will be able to confidently lead this organization. I also must mention an excellent community leader: my teacher and colleague Dr. Elona Vaisnys.

We are pleased that the Lithuanian American Community manages to publish several publications. One of them, Bridges, has long traditions and is coming out in English. I would like to apologize to our readers who had received the magazine late last year. As of this year, the editor of Bridges is Karilė Vaitkutė (kariledalia@yahoo.com). The Lithuanian language magazine Naujienos (News) was launched in 2013. Its initiator and editor is Loreta Timukienė (loretim@gmail.com). I invite our Lithuanian Community chapters, schools, and other groups to write to the magazines and share their joys and worries. I also invite everyone to subscribe to these two magazines and share the news about them with your friends.

In 2016 we participated in an especially beautiful event – the 10th North American Folk Dance Festival in Baltimore. This impressive festival was organized by a small group of Lithuanians in Washington, D.C. and Baltimore who were led by Linas Orentas and artistic director Tomas Mikuckas. In 2018, we will all participate in the Song Festival in Lithuania, where the 100th Anniversary of Lithuania’s Independence will be solemnly celebrated.

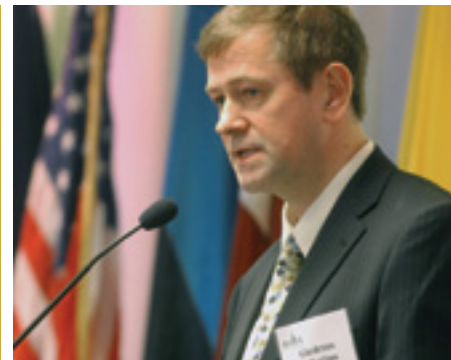
In its meeting in January, the Lithuanian American Community National Executive Committee passed a resolution regarding these important events. The gaps between these festivals should be longer than two years. An organizing committee has been formed, and several of its members are former presidents and artistic directors of former festivals. It is perfectly understandable that continuity and consistency are necessary, and the preparation for these events is time and effort-consuming work.

The LISS program has been going on for nine years. It is a program that gives an opportunity to Lithuanian-American students to receive internships in Lithuania. We have been cooperating with the Vytauto Didžiojo University, and this year we have also signed agreements with the Vilnius Gedimino Technical University. After completing a six-week practical training, students will receive credits from these universities. We added a program for younger students called Gimnazistai Lietuvai (High School Students for Lithuania), which aims to enable 15 to 18-year-olds to travel to Lithuania and set up volunteer camps together with the Lithuanian students. This year, Lithuanian students from the UK and Latvia will join the students from the United States and Lithuania. If you wish to enroll in these programs, please write to Gintarė Kazlauskas (Gintars.kazlauskas@gmail.com).

We are extremely grateful to our sponsors: the Lithuanian Foundation, the Kazickas Foundation, and the National Foundation, as well as private sponsors whose support inspire us to work further and organize wonderful events.

On behalf of the Lithuanian American Community National Executive Committee, I personally thank everyone for their sincere and selfless work.

Sigita Šimkuvienė  
LAC National Executive Committee President



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Front Cover: Taking part at the 18th annual Vilnius Book Fair. From left: Former editor of Draugas newspaper Dalia Cidzikaitė, translator Karilė Vaitkutė, playwright Kestutis Nakas, and publisher Sigita Pūke.

Back cover: A white stork in Lithuania. Photo credit: Romualdas Barauskas



When Lithuania Ruled the World/Kai Lietuva valdė pasaulį by Kestutis Nakas.

A four-part play cycle dealing with Lithuanian history. Provocative, romantic, spiritual, and sometimes ludicrous. The play non-traditionally combines a variety of genres: farce, tragedy, grotesque, magic realism, and „pseudo-classicism.“ The action takes place in the 13th through 15th centuries with occasional leaps into the 20th century. Slang, pop culture elements, humor, and anachronisms abound.

Dear readers,

This year, I took part in the Vilnius Book Fair, the largest event of its kind in the Baltics. An American playwright Kestutis Nakas and I presented his cycle of plays entitled When Lithuania Ruled the World. I translated this four-part play into Lithuanian and it was published by "Aukso Žuvys" in both languages.

During the week in Lithuania, writers of Lithuanian descent living abroad were invited to a reception at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Lithuania. At the reception, Ambassador Alfonsas Eidintas expressed a suggestion that I would like to share with you. He suggested that all periodicals that are published abroad would have a chapter in which writers of Lithuanian descent would share the news about their newly-published books, both fiction and non-fiction.

I think it is a great idea. I would like to encourage our readers to share information about such books they might know of. You could write to my e-mail: kariledalia@yahoo.com. Information should include the title, the author's name, and short description.

Let's share the news about our books and let's read them!

Karilė Vaitkutė  
Editor



Reception at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Lithuania. Photo credit: Global Lithuania.

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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

## 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

April 22, 30, May 6 & 13 at 8p.m.  
**RIP, a musical/spoken word performance by Kestutis Nakas, Jesse Kegan and Andrew Taylor.**  
RIP is take off on Washington Irving's Rip Van Winkle set in New York's East Village in the 1980's. It's a meditation on aging, death and collective memory written in Nakas' trademark iambic funtometer style.  
Info: www.thebridgeperforms.com/theatre/

April 28-29  
**14th Annual Kosciuszko Conference and Kosciuszko Day Program**  
United States Military Academy, West Point  
Info: http://www.kosciuszkoat-westpoint.org

## MAY 2017

May 13, 6 p.m.  
**"Grandis" Annual Concert**  
Pasaulio Lietuvių Centras in Lemont, IL  
Info: grandis.vadovai@gmail.com

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

May 21, 1 p.m.  
**Farewell Reception for Consul General Marijus Gudynas**  
Balzekas Museum of Lithuanian Culture  
Info: info@balzekasmuseum.org or 773-582-6500

## JUNE 2017

June 3, 6 p.m.  
**Kestutis Nakas will present his book When Lithuania Ruled the World**  
Balzekas Museum of Lithuanian Culture  
Info: info@balzekasmuseum.org or 773-582-6500

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

July 23  
**Lithuanian Friendship Day/ Putnam Picnic**  
600 Liberty Hwy., Putnam, Conn.  
Info: neringa.org

July 23-29  
**"Third Week" Youth Camp for Lithuanian Speakers, 12-16 Years Old**  
Camp Neringa, Brattleboro, Vt.  
Info: neringa.org

July 27-30  
**Knights of Lithuania 104th National Convention**  
Holiday Inn Hotel, Dayton, Ohio  
Info: knightsoflithuania.com

July 30-August 12  
**Heritage Camp in English, 7-16 Years Old**  
Camp Neringa, Brattleboro, Vt.  
Info: neringa.org

## AUGUST 2017

August 12-19  
**"Third Week" Youth Camp in English, 12-16 Years Old**  
Camp Neringa, Brattleboro, Vt.

**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 41 ISSUE 2

LITHUANIAN-AMERICAN NEWS JOURNAL

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