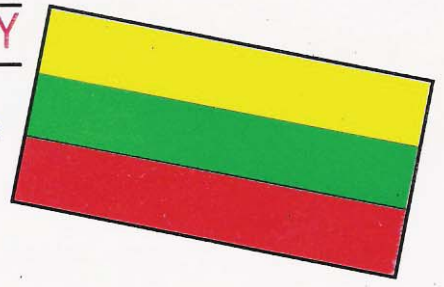


# Newsletter



August/September 2007

## EDITOR'S DESK

Get well wishes go out to Dalia Vacieniene who underwent gallbladder surgery in July. Dalia's surgeon is also a member of the Lithuanian Citizens' Society, Dr. Gintaras Antanavicius.

--

Get well wishes go out to Catherine Whitmer who was recently in the hospital.

--

One of our readers, Edith Lugaila Creedon, is searching for a recipe that her Lithuanian grandmother use to make. She remembers a thin potato pancake that was fried with meat or dry cottage cheese added and then baked in the oven. If you have this recipe, please contact Editor Janet Petrauskas at 412-341-7925 to pass the information along.

--

Happy Anniversary wishes go out to: Gerri and Cliff Todd celebrating 40 years. Mildred and Bruno Sukys celebrating 56 years.

Tony and Ann Zusinas celebrating 60 years.

Congratulations and Best Wishes to all!

--

The August 8 issue of the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette reported that Society member Jane Dansevich was appointed to the 2007 board of examiners for the Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award. The award, presented by the National Institute of Standards and Technology, is designed to promote quality awareness and business achievements. Jane is the daughter of long-time Society member Anna Dansevich. Congratulations Jane!

--

Society member Jeff Katrencik, son of long-time Society member Helen Katrencik, has recorded, edited, and enhanced the sound quality of two videos appearing on YOUTUBE.COM

You can watch the videos at:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QxFsUwhbgRU>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jdk6J95LTCQ>

--

Building Report: A new electrical capacitor has been installed at the Lithuanian Hall on the South Side.

## Society Member Meetings to Resume in September

Regular monthly meetings of the general membership will resume on September 9 at 2:00 p.m. at the Lithuanian Hall on South Side.

We encourage all members to attend the meetings and play an active role in keeping our Lithuanian Society active.

Come out to the meetings and enjoy some socializing with your Lithuanian friends.

## LCS Newsletter Covers Two Months of News!

This issue of the LCS newsletter is covering two months of news-worthy items for August and September. During the summer months, news-worthy items have been quiet. The Board agreed to produce a two-month issue and then return to a monthly issue going forward.

As a reminder, the LCS Newsletter continually seeks stories of interest to the Pittsburgh Lithuanian Community.

Contact Editor Janet Petrauskas at 412-341-7925 or [pittsburghlithuanians@yahoo.com](mailto:pittsburghlithuanians@yahoo.com) with your news, stories, and photos for publication.

Bingo Report: As a reminder, Bingo is held at the Lithuanian Hall on South Side very Wednesday and Sunday evening and is open to the general public. Why not come down to play a few games with your friends?

--

Receive your newsletter in your email days before it arrives in your mailbox! If you are interested in receiving a digital copy (pdf format), please contact Janet Petrauskas at [pittsburghlithuanians@yahoo.com](mailto:pittsburghlithuanians@yahoo.com) and indicate that you want a copy of the newsletter emailed to you each month.

As a reminder, archived issues of the newsletter for the past year are available in digital format on our website at <http://www.pittsburghlithuanians.com/newsletter.htm>.

## Visa Waiver Program Expansion

The following article was received from Vytautas Sliupas regarding invitations and Visa applications for our friends and family in Lithuania.

All people from Western European countries that belong to the European Union and NATO can come for a visit to the United States without a visa. Exception is made to the Eastern European countries even though they are NATO and European Union members. Those people wishing to travel need to go to the consulate in their countries, pay the required (non-reimbursable) \$100 fee and then take a chance on obtaining a visa. It is reported that in Vilnius there are 300 applications submitted daily but only 40 visas are granted. All others are rejected and their \$100 fee is not returned. Obviously, an unfair practice.

Many of us have invited our relatives or friends to come for a short visit, but most of them have had bad luck at the Consulate. We question how the Consulate determines who should be given a visa and who should not. The Consulate reasons that the applicant may be a terrorist or may not return to Lithuania. But the true facts are that about half of those "cleared" people stay in the United States while the true tourists or short-time visitors with no intentions to remain here get rejected. We, as loyal citizens of the United States, send our invitations and provide guarantees that we will be responsible for the visiting party. We question if the Consular screeners are better judges than we are?

We urge you to write to your representative encouraging them to abolish or liberalize visa requirements for visitors from Lithuania. These visitors are not terrorists. If they come to the United States through invitations from solid U.S. citizens, the inviting party should be made responsible for the visitors' actions and ensure that they return to Lithuania when their visit time is up.

Contact information for the editor has changed. Please send your digital correspondence to Janet Petrauskas at: [pittsburghlithuanians@yahoo.com](mailto:pittsburghlithuanians@yahoo.com).



# A Former Soviet Retreat Grows Up

The following excerpt is from an article that was featured in the Sunday, August 5, 2007, edition of the New York Times

Written by Andrew Quested, Submitted by John Kuncas



THE Lithuanian resort town of Druskininkai, built amid natural springs, peat bogs and pine forests, was for many years a favorite retreat for well-to-do Soviets and a playground for their architects. As such, the city, which is about 80 miles southwest of Vilnius, developed an infrastructure of wacky Soviet-style hotels and spa facilities.

One still-operating hotel, Pusynas, appears to have been modeled on a pile of gears. (Fortunately it's much more comfortable on the inside than it looks on the outside.) Another attraction, the shiny new Druskininkai Aqua Park, bristles with bizarre concrete sculptures that look like stray pieces of some giant Erector Set. Sprinkled among all this is the humble charm of colorful wooden cottages that are remnants of the simple Lithuanian village life that existed before communism was invented.

About six miles out of town — a pleasant ride on a bicycle in the warmer months — is Grutas Park. This is where a local mushroom magnate, Viliumas Malinauskas, has gathered many of the toppled statues of Stalin and Lenin. It's now become something of a Soviet theme park and a major drawing card for foreigners and Lithuanians alike. The locals come to stick an umbrella in Stalin's ear or stand on Lenin's foot. For the foreigners, the way that Lithuanians mock and make merry around these symbols is more interesting than the statues themselves.

But bizarre old hotels and busts of former Communist leaders are no longer the main attraction of Druskininkai. The town that was once something of a jolly Soviet adventure has grown to such an extent that visitors now find fine hotels, modern spa treatments and — the one element that hasn't changed throughout history — the stress-melting magic of the region's beautiful natural surroundings.

While the most visible aspect of all this new development may be the Aqua Park, with its spaghetti-tangle of waterslides and clusters of gleaming pools and saunas, the

real gems are somewhat more discreet.

Spa Vilnius, for example, is a combined hotel and wellness center. You could easily spend a weekend without leaving the place, meandering from meal to massage to mineral spa or mud bath in a luxuriously leisurely manner. With 20 kinds of massage (from head to toe, up to 90 minutes in duration, and with optional honey, bamboo sticks or vacuums), 15 different baths (including honey, milk, seaweed and red grapes), and a menu of treatments that would take the whole weekend just to read, you're not going to be short of options.

There are also a growing number of small, comfortable, modern hotels with friendly charm and fine restaurants. If you're staying in one of these, you can get the full range of pampering spa and beauty treatments on an à la carte basis at Druskininku Gydykla.

Oh, if you really want a taste of the past, book a room at the family-run Dalija hotel. It's in a 19th century wooden building right beside a pretty Russian Orthodox church. It has been renovated to offer modern comforts, but whoever chose the furniture is still very much stuck in the past, so you'll feel like you're sleeping in a museum. The contrast will make you appreciate the rejuvenation of Druskininkai all the more.

## Tillie Milauskas serves as Toast Mistress at Communion Breakfast

Tillie Milauskas served as Toast Mistress at the Annual Communion Breakfast of the Catholic Daughters of the Americas at the Clarion Inn in New Kensington this past spring.

The highlight of the event was the awarding of prizes to students of Mary Queen of Apostles School who participated in the Court's Poetry Contest. The winning entries will be sent to the State and then to the National offices for competition.

# Cops: Atlanta Car Dealer Murdered Two Employees Because They Kept Asking for Raises

The following article was identified on foxnews.com on Tuesday, July 31, 2007

The owner of a car dealership has been accused of killing two employees because they kept asking for pay raises in East Point, Ga.

Rolandas Milinavicius has been charged with two counts of murder in the shooting deaths of Inga Contreras, 25, and Martynas Simokaitis, 28. All three are from the eastern European nation of Lithuania but had been living in Atlanta, authorities said.

Milinavicius, who was having financial problems, told police he shot the two after they kept asking for more pay, said police in East Point, which is just outside Atlanta.

"He told us that he was under a lot of stress," East Point police Capt. Russell Popham said. "Unfortunately, he decided to take his anger out with violence."

Milinavicius, who had been living in Alpharetta, started RM Auto International two years ago, hoping to meet the demand for American cars in Lithuania. He began shipping cars and later hired the two victims as his only employees.

Milinavicius, 38, turned himself in two days after the shootings and confessed to the killings, Popham said.

"As I understand, the employees were not really happy about the pay, and they

con't. page 3

## Lithuanian Citizens' Society of Western PA

.....  
President - John Baltrus  
Vice President - Nancy Binkney  
Recording Sec'y - Ausra Cunningham  
Financial Sec'y - Frank Ziaukas  
Treasurer - Greg Baurnes  
Directors - Andrew Marculaitis,  
Mathilda Milauskas, Janet Petrauskas,  
Kathie Skalka, Halina Stabacinskienė,  
and Gerri Todd

.....  
Sergeant-at-Arms - Rose Carroll and  
Kastytis Vaicenais

.....  
Newsletter - Janet Petrauskas  
1010 Arch Avenue  
Pittsburgh, PA 15234  
412-341-7925

## *In Loving Memory*

### **Joseph Brazan**

Joseph (Brazauskas) Brazan, originally from the South Side, passed away in California on June 20, 2007.

Joe retired after a successful career in the U.S. Navy, where he settled in California to operate a public relations business.

Most recently, he had established quite a reputation for his digital photography. His photos were featured in several photography journals and exhibited at the Silver Eyes Studio on the South Side.

### **Frank J. Miskis**

Frank Miskis, a well-known and long-time Society member, passed away on July 25, 2007. Frank was known for his extensive knowledge of Lithuanian postage stamps. He would often display his collection and give presentations about the history of the stamps.

Frank was the brother of the late Tony, Vince, Joe, Connie Pernetas, Elsie Porter, Mary Seraka, Annie Miskis, and brother-in-law of Anna Jan Miskis. He was the uncle of Society member Connie Miskis Zatek.

### **Lillian Makvitis**

Lillian Makvitis, long-time Society member and former Society Board member, died after a long battle with cancer on August 1, 2007.

Lillian was the beloved wife of the late Vincent, mother to Eileen (Bernard) Schneider, and grandmother of Sarah and Anna.

## **U. of Pittsburgh's Nationality Rooms Display Marker for all Ethnic Rooms**

On June 27, 2007, University of Pittsburgh's Nationality Rooms marker, which includes the languages and styles of all the Nationality Rooms including the Lithuanian Room, was completed and etched in granite. The marker was mounted on the Commons Room corridor wall in a temporary frame. The permanent installation will occur in December when the Cathedral of Learning's cleaning process is completed.

## **Lithuanian Proverb**

A woman is at her strongest when she faints.

## **Sisters of St. Francis announce Autumn Gala Dinner and Grand Prize Raffle**

The Sisters of St. Francis of the Providence of God will hold their 3rd Annual Autumn Gala on Thursday, September 13, 2007. The event features a dinner and a grand prize raffle. Proceeds from the event help support the Sisters ministries as well as the care of their retired and elderly Sisters.

The Autumn Gala Dinner begins at 6:00 p.m. with a hospitality reception followed by dinner at 7:00 p.m. The menu includes specialty hors d'oeuvres, filet mignon and lobster, Franciscan wine, apple endive infused potatoes and an autumn inspired dessert. In addition to the great food and fellowship with friends old and new, there will be various basket raffles and a silent auction featuring framed jerseys autographed by Sydney Crosby and Willie Parker.

Cost: Tables of 6 are \$340 and single reservations are \$65/person. **For reservations or additional information, please contact Robyn Gallentine at 412-885-7232.**

\*\*\*

Raffle Tickets are currently being sold for the Autumn Gala Grand Prize Raffle. The winning ticket will be drawn at the dinner event on September 13.

Prizes include:

1st Prize: \$1,000

2nd Prize: One week timeshare vacation (multiple dates and locations negotiable with donor; transportation is not included. Estimated value \$1,700)

3rd Prize: James Farrior autographed Steelers Helmet (with certificate of authentication and protection display case, estimated value \$500+).

Ticket cost for the Grand Prize Raffle: one for \$10, three for \$25, seven for \$50, and 18 for \$100.

Tickets are available by calling the Sisters of St. Francis at 412-885-7232. Raffle tickets will also be sold by John Baltrus at the next LCS membership meeting.

### **Atlanta Car Dealer con't.**

had questioned him about it over the course of time," Popham said. "That morning he said he just snapped."

Contreras and Simokaitis were cremated and an informal memorial service was held at Simokaitis' cousin's apartment. The remains were to be flown to Lithuania on Tuesday.

"It does make any sense," the cousin, Jaunius Simokaitis, of Fayetteville, said. "If he was having money problems, these two would have been the ones to help him get out of debt. They would have helped him make that money."

## **August (Rugpjūtis) and September (Rugsėjis) Birthdays Listed**

Among members with August birthdays are: Donna Marie Fallert (1); Jenni McCafferty (2); Eloise Thomas (3); Susan Bowman (4); Joan Zekas (8); Charlene Yutz Schueler (13); Ted Kairys (15).

Rose Evosevic (16); Ruta Rakutis (16); Constance Quider (17); Zydrunas Tarcijonas (18); Thomas Beall (20); Rima Die-doniene (21); Arunas Maciulis (21); Peter J. Stanley (23); Ann Scheafer (26); Lorraine Yucius (29); Victor Kelminskis (31).

Among members with September birthdays are: Albert Makstutis (1); Michael Dabrishus (3); Paul Stanny (3); Bertha Stashinsky (9); Edward Masilunas (11); Peter Yucius (11); Michele Boyer (13); Maria Raymond (13); Frances Beall (15); John Shukes (15).

Lina Bird (18); Lorrie Daley (18); Anna Dansevich (18); Brian Johnson (18); Margarita Starr (20); Patricia Beyer (21); Virginia Bird (29); Kathy Palket (29); Bronius Sukys (29); Spencer Sass (30); Vincent Tamy (30).

### **Linksmų Gimtadienių!**

## **Seeking YOUR Lithuanian Recipes**

Would you like to cook a favorite Lithuanian dish but am unsure where to start? Have you been searching for that recipe for Kugelis that just melts in your mouth? Do you have your Grandmother's recipe for Ausiukes that you swear is the best on the planet?

If so, we invite you to submit your recipes to the LCS News for an upcoming issue of "Cooking Lithuanian." All recipes will be created in our test kitchen before publication in the newsletter. Recipes of all types are welcomed!

We are also discussing the idea of creating a "Pittsburgh Lithuanians" cookbook for publication. Submit your recipes today to Editor Janet Petrauskas or email pittsburghlithuanians@yahoo.com. Be sure to include your name and phone number in case there are any questions.

## **Quick Facts**

Lithuanian is an archaic language. It has retained its ancient sound system and morphological characteristics. Of all the living Indo-European languages, Lithuanian is the most similar to Sanskrit. The 32-letter alphabet is Latin based.

# Congratulations Graduate!



LCS member Lara Melesky, daughter of Society members David and Karen Melesky, recently received her Bachelor of Arts degree in Spanish and Philosophy from Duquesne University. She completed her studies within three years and graduated with Magna Cum Laude honors.

Lara plans to teach Spanish in the near future.

Congratulations Lara on your achievement! (Photo by David Melesky)

\*\*\*Editor's Note: The LCS welcomes your pictures of notable events and travel for publication in the newsletter

# What's Happening at the Lithuanian Club

## August 18, 2007

Aitvaras, the Lithuanian Music Ensemble, will perform at the Lithuanian Hall on South Side at 1:00 p.m. Cost is \$10/person with children under 16 free. All attendees are asked to bring an hors d'oeuvre or dessert to share with all.

## September 8, 2007

Lithuanian language classes will be begin on September 8 and be held each Saturday from 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon at the Lithuanian Hall on South Side.

## September 9, 2007

The Knights of Lithuania will hold their next meeting on Sunday, September 9, at 1:00 p.m. at the Lithuanian Hall on South Side. The meeting will precede the LCS membership meeting.

## September 9, 2007

The LCS members meeting will be held on Sunday, September 9, at 2:00 p.m. This will be the first meeting of the membership following the summer break.

## September 13, 2007

The Sisters of St. Francis are holding their 3rd Annual Autumn Gala Dinner. Reservations are required by calling Robyn Gallentine at 412-885-7232. Cost: \$65/person or tables of 6 for \$340.

## What's Happening con't.

### September 29, 2007

The first regular Lithuanian Nationality Room Committee meeting will be held on Saturday, September 29, after the Lithuanian language classes at the Lithuanian Hall on South Side. The meeting will begin at 12:30 p.m.

### November 3, 2007

St. Casimir Alumni Association will hold their annual Dinner Dance at the South Hills Country Club. Cost is \$30 per person and is open to all St. Casimir alumnae. For more information, contact Mrs. Dorothy Flaherty, 468 Judith Drive, Pittsburgh, PA 15236.

### Extra Extra!

John Baltrus is selling raffle tickets for the Sisters of St. Francis' Autumn Gala at all Lithuanian events. Tickets are \$10 each, 3 for \$25, or 7 for \$50.

## Language Classes to Resume in September

### Ar jūs norite kalbėti Lietuviškai?

Would you like to learn the Lithuanian language? Or perhaps brush up on your skills?

The Lithuanian language classes will resume on Saturday, September 8 at the Lithuanian Hall on South Side from 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon.

The classes are open to anyone interested in learning to speak Lithuanian and is free-of charge.

Classes run each Saturday from September through June.

Every Sunday 12:30 to 1:00 p.m.

WEDO 810 AM

echoes98@hotmail.com

• Echoes of Lithuania

Sunday & Wednesday from 7 - 10 p.m.

• BINGO

Sunday, September 9 at 2:00 p.m.

• Members' Meeting

Thursday, September 6 at 5:30 p.m.

• Board of Directors Meeting

email: info@pittsburghlithuanians.com  
www.pittsburghlithuanians.com

1725 Jane Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15203  
**Lithuanian Citizens' Society  
Of Western Pennsylvania**

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

NONPROFIT ORG  
US POSTAGE  
PAID  
NEW BRIGHTON, PA  
PERMIT NO 218