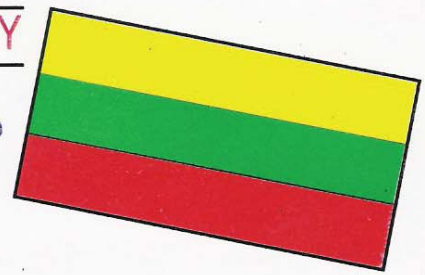


Newsletter



February 2007

EDITOR'S DESK

Get well wishes go out to Alice Lewellyn who recently had triple bypass surgery. Alice is staying with her daughter, Pat Beyer, while she recovers. Well wishes may be sent to Alice at: c/o Pat Beyer, 363 Middlegate Drive, Bethel Park, PA 15102-1437.

--

Get well wishes go out to Jack Patton, husband of Society Member Nancy Patton, who recently suffered a heart attack.

--

Stanley Yarulis, Society member and author of *The Life Story of a World War II C.B.I. Veteran* has donated a copy of his book to the Society's Library. All Society members are invited to browse the library and borrow books for a limited time.

--

St. Francis Academy Alumnae Association will hold its annual Tulip Luncheon on Sunday, April 15, at the Hilton Garden Inn at Southpointe. Cost is \$25/person and doors open at 10:30 a.m. All SFA alumnae are invited to attend. Contact Joann Binek at 412-341-3334 for more information.

--

Denis Cunningham, son of Society Member Ausra Cunningham, is in Ireland conducting a study abroad semester. We wish him the best of luck and good study habits! Look for some photos of Denis in the coming issue of the Lithuanian Newsletter.

--

Congratulations to the January 50-50 winner Don Martello. The winnings were valued at \$44, but Don graciously donated the majority back to the Society. Thank you Don!

--

Correction to the January 2007 newsletter: Nancy Binkney was not a door prize winner as stated in the newsletter.

--

Got a story or picture that may be of interest to the Lithuanian Community? Or perhaps you're really a writer at heart and would like to submit an article for publication. If so, contact Janet Petrauskas at 412-341-7925 or j_petrauskas@yahoo.com, and let us know what's going on.

Message from President John Baltrus

Labas Visiems!

I want to thank our members for the confidence they have shown in me by electing me President of the Society. I hope to continue the example set forth by my predecessors, who have provided strong leadership over nearly a century of our organization's existence.

We face many challenges in the near future. I am confident that with the support of the membership and Board, we can meet those challenges. We have already identified several initiatives that should be of interest to our members. I encourage you to attend the monthly members' meetings and to read the Society's newsletter to learn more about these initiatives. At our February meeting, I will present information about our financial outlook for the coming year.

I have formed a series of committees that I believe will address the needs of our Society. These committees include:

- Financial Advisory: analyzing various financial aspects of the organization.
- Cultural Heritage: researching and presenting Lithuanian culture and heritage.
- Social: organizing various social activities for the Society's members.
- House: with prior approval of the Board, initiation and supervision of building repairs and maintenance.
- Facilities Use: exploring ways for the Society to use its buildings and properties to generate revenue.
- Bylaws: review of the organizations bylaws.

I strongly encourage our members to volunteer for one or more of these committees.

In an effort to bring in new members, I have initiated a membership incentive for the first half of 2007, whereas the \$10 initiation fee would be eliminated for new paying members. Please encourage your friends, relatives, and others to join our Society, or to rejoin should their membership have lapsed.

I look forward to working with each of you during the coming year. Again, I encourage you to devote some of your time and ideas to help improve our Society and promote our Lithuanian heritage.



Neris Reorganizes and Seeks Dancers

Pittsburgh's Lithuanian folk dance group, Neris, has begun the process of reorganizing following the resignation of its director, Janet Zusinas-Ruperto. Janet served as the group's director for the last 25 of Neris' 40 years. A meeting for all those interested in participating in the group's performance at the 2007 Pittsburgh Folk Festival and possibly other venues will be held on Friday,

February 16, at the Lithuanian Hall in South Side. The group welcomes interested people of all ages, abilities, and nationalities. All that is needed is a desire to learn Lithuanian Folk dancing and to have fun in the process. If you would like to participate but cannot attend the meeting, please contact John Baltrus at (h) 412-233-2764 or by email at president@pittsburghlithuanians.com. More information about Neris is available on the Society's website at www.pittsburghlithuanians.com.



Society Seeks Committee Volunteers

This year we hope to develop a more formal structure for committees to address some of the most pressing needs of our society. The president, with the approval of the board of directors, is seeking volunteers from among the membership to help fill the various committees.

The committees will receive assignments from the Board as well as explore their own ideas. They will report their findings and proposals to the Board for further action. **If you would like to volunteer for a committee and did not sign up at the January meeting, please contact John Baltrus either by email at president@pittsburghlithuanians.com or by calling 412-233-2764 by February 9th.**

The committees being formed are:

Financial Advisory: Will explore in more detail various financial aspects of the organization with the hope of reducing costs or increasing income.

Cultural/Heritage: Will organize presentations and other activities alone or in cooperation with the Social Committee to further our understanding of Lithuanian culture and heritage at meetings and other events.

Social: Will organize social activities for members such as Jonines, Kucios, socials, bus trips, etc.

House: With the approval of the board, interacts with various contractors to initiate and supervise various repairs and maintenance of our properties as well as prioritizing a list of future capital improvements should funds be available.

Facilities Use: Explore ways for the organization to make better use of its buildings and properties to generate revenue. Must be willing to do detailed planning of such use.

Bylaws: Review of our organization's bylaws. Identify items that need to be changed and suggest appropriate changes.

Lithuanian Club Bingo

February 2007 Specials!

Feb. 4 - Monthly Drawing:
Feb. 7 & 21 - \$15 Discount Nights
Feb. 14 - Gift for all ♥
Feb. 18 - Lucky Ball Night

\$1 off COUPON Valid Feb. 2007	\$1 off COUPON Valid Feb. 2007
\$1 off COUPON Valid Feb. 2007	\$1 off COUPON Valid Feb. 2007

Knights, Sisters of St. Francis collaborate on St. Casimir's Day.

By Len Barcoucky

This year's commemoration of the Feast of St. Casimir falls on Sunday, March 4.

While our relatives and friends in Lithuania will be baking special cookies for the fairs that honor their country's patron saint, we in Pittsburgh will be marking the occasion with a mass and brunch.

The Pittsburgh Council of the Knights of Lithuania and the Sisters of St. Francis in Whitehall will once again co-sponsor the activities.

Mass will start at 10:30 a.m. March 4 in the chapel at the Sisters of St. Francis motherhouse at Grove and McRoberts roads. Brunch will follow in the sisters' dining hall. No reservations are needed to attend mass, but those planning to attend the brunch should contact Len Barcoucky at 412-766-1499 or Alice Lewellyn at 412-833-5192. The cost is \$8 for adults and half price for children age 16 and under. The brunch menu traditionally includes at least one Lithuanian food, and mass will include the singing of at least one Lithuanian hymn.

The deadline for reservations is Wednesday, Feb. 28.

The events this year fall on the actual feast day of St. Casimir.

St. Casimir was the grandson of Jogaila, the grand duke of Lithuania and later king of Poland. Known for his piety, St. Casimir died at age 25 and was buried in Vilnius.

Alphonse P. Minauskas

Alphonse Minauskas, 76, member of the Lithuanian Citizens' Society, died on Sunday, January 7.

Alphonse was the brother of the late John McNavish, Victor, Joseph, and Antoinette Miknevich. Also, a dear friend to Holly Winters.

May he rest in peace.

Welcome New Members!

Congratulations to the following new members who were voted in as Society Members at the January meeting.

Lara Melesky
David Melesky Jr.
Rob Medonis, Jr.

Jurgyte Bakutyte Medonis

Please be sure to give them a warm Lithuanian **LABAS** when you see them!

February (Vasaris) Birthdays Listed

Among members with February birthdays are: George "Porky" Chedwick (4); Sean Stanley (4); Jeffrey Cepaitis (5); William Kolicius III (5); Thomas Zemaitis (10); Vince Cizauskas (14).

Edward Savolskis Sr. (15); Gintaras Antanavicius (19); John Kuncas (19); Aldona Zilinskas (19); Diane Zilinskas (19); Viktorija Stith (20); Suzann Zizza Kuntch (22); Marlene Bridson (24); Beverly McKinney (25).

Linksmų Gimtadienių!

Possible Lithuanian Food Booth at the Pgh. Folk Festival

Do you like to organize social events for a good cause? If the answer is yes, the Lithuanian Committee for the Pittsburgh Folk Festival needs you.

The Committee is seeking any interested member(s) who would be interested in chairing the Lithuanian food booth initiative for the Folk Festival in May.

If you are interested or need more information, contact Frank Ziaukas 412-381-5502 or Dalia Yucius 412-381-8669 by the end of February.

Your LCS Dues are now due!

Don't forget to pay your 2007 yearly dues at the February or March meeting. The fee is only \$15 for the year and includes many benefits.

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 Stabacinskiene,
and Gerri Todd

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

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

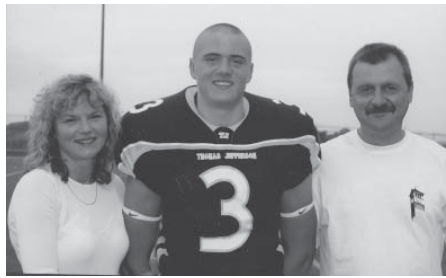
Arminas Maciulis, a Champion Football Player at Thomas Jefferson High School

by John Baltrus

Western Pennsylvania is known for producing its share of outstanding professional football players. Among them is Johnny Unitas, who was of Lithuanian descent. Perhaps another Lithuanian might be among that group in the future. Arminas Maciulis, son of Society members Arunas and Erika Maciulis, and a senior at Thomas Jefferson High School in Jefferson Hills just completed his third and final year as a member of the school's championship football team.

Arminas' team, the Jaguars, was crowned the WPIAL Class AAA Champions in a playoff game played at Heinz Field in late November. The team then advanced to the PIAA State Playoffs where they progressed to the semifinals before losing to the eventual state champions in mid-December.

Arminas, at 6'3" and 205 lbs., played outside linebacker for the Jaguars all three years in high school. He saw limited playing time his sophomore year, when the team won both the WPIAL and PIAA State Championships, due to a broken arm



Arminas Maciulis, above center, pictured with his mother, Erika (l.) and father, Arunas (r.). Photo by John Baltrus.

sustained during the middle of the season. He then started every game during both his junior and senior years. The Team lost in the WPIAL Championship game in 2005. In addition to playing linebacker, he also played on special teams and occasionally as tight end on offense. His versatility was shown in one game this year when he played every play in the second half. Because of his outstanding play, Arminas was named to the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette Big Seven All-Conference Defensive Team for 2006.

While most Lithuanians tend to follow the lead of their countrymen and take up basketball as a sport, when Arminas came to the United States in 1998, he found himself in an area that was rich in football tradition. So naturally he followed the lead of his schoolmates who had been playing in organized football programs since early grade school. While Arminas had the disadvantage of not knowing anything

about American football when he came to the United States, he quickly learned the game by joining a local junior team.

Arminas learned the game quickly and his hard work and dedication found him advancing past his classmates who had played the game for much longer. He was encouraged to participate by his parents. His father felt that it was a good way for him to quickly make friends and to stay out of trouble while learning self discipline. His mother just worried and hoped that he would not be hurt. However at one time, she joked that he made enough visits to the Jefferson Hospital's emergency room that the nurses knew him by his first name.

Arminas' calm demeanor and good behavior earned him praise from his teachers, coaches, and fans. He was honored by being named co-captain of the team for his senior year. However his team's opponents found out that Arminas' calmness could change once he took the field. He made strong efforts to be part of every play and his aggressiveness on defense lead to many spectacular plays and often lost yardage and turnovers. Some comments that were heard from fans during the games included, "He is the hardest worker out there," and something all Lithuanians can identify with, "He plays like Darius Kasperaitis with cleats," because of Arminas' aggressiveness on defense.

FOX Sports announcers focused on Arminas during the televised WPIAL Championship Game and talked about

con't. on Page 4

Become a LSC Member Today!

Membership in the Lithuanian Citizens Society is only \$15 per person for a one-year membership. Why not sign up your friends and family today to become members and socialize with their fellow Pittsburgh Lithuanians.

Membership includes a one-year subscription to our monthly newsletter, monthly social meetings and gatherings, and many other great events.

If you join now through June 2007, your \$10 initiation fee will be waived.

For your convenience, an application form has been printed in this newsletter. **Simply complete the application form along with your two Society Members' sponsorship, and return it to the Lithuanian Citizens Society, 1721-25 Jane Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15203.**

Don't wait--JOIN TODAY!

Did you know...

The current population in Lithuania is 3.7 million people. That works out to a density of 53 people per square kilometer.

Pennsylvania's population is 12.3 million people with a density of 274 people per square mile.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION	Lithuanian Citizens Society of Western Pennsylvania 1721-25 Jane Street Pittsburgh, PA 15203
Name: _____	
Address: _____ _____	
City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____	
Telephone: _____	
Date of Birth: _____ U.S. Citizen? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
What is your Lithuanian Heritage? <input type="checkbox"/> Mother <input type="checkbox"/> Father	
Marital Status: <input type="checkbox"/> Single <input type="checkbox"/> Married <input type="checkbox"/> Widowed <input type="checkbox"/> Divorced	
Name of Spouse: _____	
<i>I hereby certify that the above answers are true to the best of my knowledge.</i>	
Signature: _____	
Date: _____	
Sponsor: _____ Sponsor: _____	
Status: <input type="checkbox"/> Accepted <input type="checkbox"/> Rejected Date: _____	

Become a Member of the Lithuanian Room Committee

The Lithuanian Room Committee invites you to join its association and help support the Lithuanian Classroom at the University of Pittsburgh. Membership is only \$5.00 for a one-year membership.

For your convenience, the application form has been included with this newsletter. **Complete and submit your membership application to Vince Rodgers, President, Lithuanian Room Committee, 142 Marham Road, Munhall, PA 15120-2710.**

Attention All Readers of the LCS Newsletter!

We are in the process of updating our mailing records for the newsletter. Currently, we use the U.S. Postal Service returned mail service as indicators of undeliverable mail. Many newsletters are not deliverable due to "temporary absence."

In order to help reduce our costs, we ask that you notify Frank Ziaukas at 412-381-5502 when you will be away for a protracted period of time. Please indicate the date you are leaving, the date of your planned return, and any alternative address for mailing of the newsletter.

If the LCS receives **two** consecutive notices that there is a temporary absence, your name and address will be removed from the mailing list.

Lithuanian Proverb: Everywhere is good [to live], however, best is at home. *Visur gerai, namie geriausia.*

UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH
Lithuanian Room Committee

I want to become a member of the Lithuanian Room Committee and support the Lithuanian Classroom in the Cathedral of Learning at the University of Pittsburgh.

I have enclosed \$5.00 for 2007 Year dues.

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

City/State/ZIP: _____

Please make your check payable to University of Pittsburgh. Mail to: Vince Rodgers, Lithuanian Room Committee, 142 Marham Road, Munhall, PA 15120-2710



Maciulis Champion Football Player

con't. from Page 3

some of the comments Jaguar Coach Bill Cherpak made about Arminas. Cherpak said, "Nobody has had a better year than him. He has played great all year long. He is the most consistent player on the team and the hardest worker. If there were an unsung hero on the team and most valuable player, it would be Maciulis." It was also noted that Cherpak asked Arminas if he had any cousins still in Lithuania that would want to come and play for Thomas Jefferson.

Because Western Pennsylvania football is so competitive, Arminas has not been able to gain the attention of any major college football programs, but he has been recruited by several smaller regional universities. He is still making visits to those schools where he currently hopes to major in criminal justice.

Updating Mailing List for LCS Newsletter

The mailing list for our newsletter is being updated! If you are not a member of the Society, but still wish to receive the newsletter each month, please contact Frank Ziaukas and indicate that you want to remain on the mailing list for 2007. **Your response must be received by March 15, 2007, or your name will be removed.**

Address your response to Lithuanian Citizens Society, ATTN: Frank Ziaukas, 1725 Jane Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15203.

What would YOU like to see printed in the LCS newsletter?

In an effort to print news information that is of interest to the general membership, we are taking a poll to learn more of what you would like to see printed in the LCS newsletter.

Please submit your suggestions to Janet Petrauskas at 412-341-7925 or at the February members' meeting.

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, February 11 at 2 p.m.

• Members' Meeting

Thursday, February 8 at 5:30 p.m.

• Board of Directors Meeting

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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

Lithuanian Citizens' Society
Of Western Pennsylvania
1725 Jane Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15203
www.pittsburghlithuanians.com
email: info@pittsburghlithuanians.com