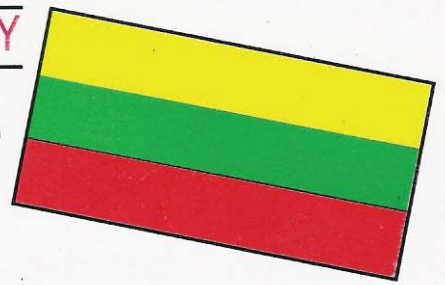


# Newsletter



June 2007

## EDITOR'S DESK

**Happy Father's Day to all the Society members who are fathers, grandfathers, and great-grandfathers!**

Most people around the world celebrate Father's Day, but the dates to honor dads are not the same everywhere.

Father's Day in Lithuania is a relatively new event. It is celebrated on the first Sunday in June. Since it is such a new holiday, there are no special performances or traditional events for this celebration. Usually fathers receive small gifts or just flowers from their family members and nothing more.

In many countries, where the Catholic Church has had a important influence on the culture, Father's Day is celebrated on St. Joseph's Day (March 19).

On this Father's Day, I wish every father a Sveikinu su tėvo diena!

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Get well wishes go out to Frank Ziaukas who is recovering from minor surgery.

-:-

Congratulations to the May 50-50 winner Joan Zekas. Joan graciously donated half her winnings back to the Society. Thank you Joan!

-:-

Don't forget that the membership drive is still in effect until the end of June. Sign up your friends and family for membership. A one-year membership is only \$15 per person. If you join before the end of June 2007, your \$10 initiation fee will be waived. Don't wait-see John Baltrus or Frank Ziaukas for your application.

-:-

Be one of the first to receive your newsletter via email before it is delivered to your mailbox. If you are interested in receiving a digital copy (pdf format), please contact Janet Petrauskas at [j\\_petrauskas@yahoo.com](mailto:j_petrauskas@yahoo.com) and indicate that you want a copy of the newsletter emailed to you each month.

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

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The LCS Newsletter continually seeks stories of interest to the Lithuanian community. Contact Janet Petrauskas at 412-341-7925 or [j\\_petrauskas@yahoo.com](mailto:j_petrauskas@yahoo.com) with your story or photos for publication. ☺

## County's Smoking Fine Dropped Against the Lithuanian Club

by John Baltrus

The \$16,250 fine assessed by the Allegheny County Health Department to our Society became moot on May 22 when Commonwealth Court declared the County's no-smoking ordinance illegal. The fine was the result of a health inspector observing more than 60 people smoking at a bingo in March, two months after the ordinance went into effect for most workplaces in Allegheny County.

The Society's believed that it was exempt based on an injunction issued against the ordinance for bars and confusing information provided by the Health Department with respect to the injunction's applicability to social clubs.

Society officers Greg Baurnes, Frank Ziaukas, and John Baltrus attending a hearing on the fine on May 10. At that time, Dr. Bruce Dixon of the Allegheny County Health Department indicated that a ruling on the legality of the ordinance was imminent. He therefore stated that the hearing would be continued at a later date should the ordinance be upheld. He also indicated that since the Society had complied with the ban since the citation was issued, the fine would be waived should the Society continue to comply.

With the demise of the ordinance, the Society no longer needs to worry about the fine or continuing the smoking ban at bingos.

Beginning with the May 23 bingo, the participants sitting in the upper floor of the hall will be permitted to smoke while the entire lower floor will remain non-smoking. This modification is a considerable increase in the non-smoking area compared to the setup before the smoking ban.

Unfortunately there is no indication that the major drop in the number of customers who frequent the Society's bingo has been mitigated since the return of smoking.

## Jonines Picnic Scheduled for July 7 at the Lithuanian Country Club

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS!** The biggest event of the year, the Jonines Picnic, will be held on Saturday, July 7, at the Society's Country Club location in Jefferson Hills.

The event is held in observance of the Feast of St. John the Baptist, the longest day of the year when all who are named John are especially honored.

**Volunteers are still needed to help coordinate in the kitchen, with the bonfire, and grill. Volunteering together, we can make this our best year yet! Contact Austra Cunningham at 412-341-5649 to let her know that you can help!**

The event has always been extremely successful in the past and is guaranteed to be a fun time for young and old alike.

A donation of \$2 per person (children 12 and under are free) is requested and each person is asked to bring some covered dish (soup, meat, fish, salad, or dessert) to be shared by all. You may bring your own beer or wine if you wish.

You should also bring a folding chair and wear comfortable clothing. Remember: this is a Lithuanian heritage family picnic.

In case of rain, activities will be held inside the barn.

This will be the 8th year for the Jonines Celebration with each year more successful than the previous year. At the end of the evening, a bon fire is lit with everyone signing Lithuanian songs.

Make your plans now for our Jonines Celebration. A good time is guaranteed for all!

## Directions to the Country Club

The Country Club is a 50.7 acre site located in Jefferson Hills, south of Pittsburgh.

Take Rt. 51 South from the Liberty Tunnels, past Century III Mall. Turn right onto Coal Valley Road, right beyond the Saturn car dealership. Watch for the Lithuanian Country Club sign on the right-hand side.



## Viola Stanney Celebrates 90th Birthday in Style

Viola Stanney was certainly surprised when the Lithuanian classes planned a surprise birthday party for her. Viola celebrated her 90th birthday on May 23.

Ruth Thon provided entertainment by performing on the violin. The entire class sang and danced to the music.

A full spread of food was provided by the class members.

Viola was toasted by everyone in attendance with a glass of champagne! Viola, who was more than surprised by the event, said she never realized that so many people loved her.

Congratulations Vi on your 90th birthday. We all love you!



Viola Stanney

## Welcome New Members!

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

Susan Bowman  
Beth DeFilippo  
Barbaralee Sass  
Spencer Sass  
Paul Savolskis  
Michael Vidunas  
Darryl Wisbar

Please welcome our newest members with a big warm **LABAS** when you see them at the next Society event!

## June (Birželis) Birthdays Listed

Among members with June birthdays are: Georgeann Zoog (1); Clare Doran-Kolat (2); Wanda Jankoski (3); Karen Pasquini (3); Len Barcoucky (4); Steve Rozman (5); Eleanor Kondrot (8); Annette Parker (9); Eldona Sabo (9).

John McCloskey III (11); Patricia Mac-ey (11); Nancy Sukys (15); Stanley Kondrot (20); Bernard Slancauskas (22); Nick Knight (23); John Paul Kolicius (24); Daina Vis (24); Ann Zusinas (24); Arvydas Adomavicius (29); Helen Zappa (29).

*Linksmū Gimtadieniū!*

## Duquesne University hosts Europe Day Forum

by Frank Ziaukas

A Europe Day Forum was held at Duquesne University in observance of the 50th Anniversary of the European Union on May 9, 2007. Anthony Smallwood of the European Commission gave the keynote address followed by panel discussions. A reception and "Everything Europe" exhibit concluded the day.

Exhibitors included government and private agencies concerned with business, such as the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development, the Honorary Consul of Austria, France, Italy, and Slovakia, and ethnic groups, such as the Pan-Cretan Association and the Polish Cultural Council.

John Baltrus reserved a table on behalf of the Lithuanian Citizens' Society. The display included two dolls in Lithuanian costume, a Lithuanian flag, a wayside cross, and products of Lithuania, such as candy, beer, and honey. The Lithuanian embassy supplied material about the country itself as well as Lithuanian business and economic development. The Lithuanian page from Global Pittsburgh, updated and revised by John Baltrus, and a selection of the Society's newsletters told the story of the Lithuanian community in Pittsburgh. John Baltrus and Frank Ziaukas, outfitted in their Lithuanian ties, were on hand to answer questions.

## Language Classes on Summer Break until September

The language classes celebrated the end of their school year with a class party on June 2. Class members were treated to a variety of food to mark a successful school year.

Classes will resume on September 8 at 10 a.m. Everyone is welcomed to attend the two-hour session which is held free of charge.

## LCS planning bus trip to Schuylkill County in August

The Society is investigating the possibility of chartering a bus to the 93rd Annual Lithuanian Days in Schuylkill County on August 11. The bus would leave in the morning and return at the end of the day.

Lithuanian Days includes the Malunas Dancers from Baltimore, Zilvanus Dance group from Philadelphia, and the Lynn Cox Troupe (singalong).

*con't next column*

## Goda Tarcijonas Awarded Carson Scholar

by Frank Ziaukas

Goda Tarcijonas, daughter of Society Members Ingrid and Zydrus Tarcijonas, was a recipient of The Pittsburgh Carson Scholar Fund Award. Goda was acknowledged at the 3rd Annual Spring Awards Banquet that was held on Sunday, April 29, at the Omni William Penn Hotel. Goda is a two-time Carson scholar winner and was one of 80 students who received the prestigious reward.



Goda Tarcijonas

The Carson Award recognizes students who have realized their potential and have excelled in their schools and communities. Recipients of the award receive a \$1,000 scholarship for their academic excellent.

Congratulations Goda!

*con't from Bus Trip to Schuylkill*

In addition, Lithuanian food is served during the event along with vendors selling a variety of goods from clothing to jewelry to cookbooks.

40 people are needed to secure a space on the bus. **If you are interested in attending, please contact Nancy Binkney at 412-462-8865 by July 7.**

Chartered bus trips have always proven to be a fun time, and Nancy has promised the same for this trip.

### 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 Baumes  
Directors - Andrew Marculaitis,  
Mathilda Milauskas, Janet Petrauskas,  
Kathie Skalka, Halina Stabacinskienė,  
and Gerri Todd

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

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

# Knights of Lithuania Host District Meeting in Pittsburgh

by John Baltrus



*The Knights of Lithuania gathered for a dinner at the Baltimore House on May 19. (photo by Janet Petrauskas)*

The Pittsburgh Council of the Knights of Lithuania hosted the Mid-Central District's annual Spring Meeting on Saturday, May 19. Participants included members from councils in Dayton, Detroit, DuBois, and Cleveland with approximately 30 people in attendance. The District was honored by the presence of the Knights of Lithuania Supreme Council President, Ellie Nakrosis, who traveled from Kearny, NJ, to be with the Knights for their meeting.

The weekend began on Friday evening with a reception at the Hampton Inn in West Mifflin. Following a business meeting on Saturday morning, the Knights held their annual bowling tournament. Seven teams participated with the Detroit Council taking the first-place trophy. Unfortunately, the Pittsburgh Council did not fare as well but promised to stage a comeback at the next gathering!

On Saturday evening, the Knights attended mass at St. Elizabeth's Church in Pleasant Hills followed by a banquet at the Baltimore House. The dinner was open to other members and guests from Pittsburgh. District President Michael Petkus of Dayton indicated that everyone had a good time and was thankful for the hospitality extended by the Pittsburgh Council. The District's Fall Meeting scheduled for October 6 will include activities of a religious theme and will be hosted by the Dayton Council.

# Michigan Polkas

*The following information is an excerpt from the March 2007 issue of Polka Times and was submitted by Clare Doran-Kolat.*

The Lithuanian Club polka dances in Muskegon, Michigan, have really taken off! These dances are held each month on the third Friday from 7:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.

The polka dances are filled each month with many great people that enjoy all the great polka music.

The monthly dances also include 50/50 drawings and a spread of food.

Great to see the Lithuanians of Michigan kicking up there heels! If you are interested in dancing the polka while in Michigan, call the hall at 231-722-6811 and ask for "Puppy" for more information.

# Cleveland Cavaliers features Ilgauskas

Although Cleveland has always been a huge rival in sports with Pittsburgh, we are excited to see the Cavaliers in the NBA finals.

Even more exciting is to watch Zydrunas Ilgauskas, the 7'3" professional basketball player who hails from Kaunas, Lithuania, and has played with Cleveland since 1996.

To honor Ilgauskas, Fathead®, the sports and entertainment brand, is sponsoring a building wrap of Ilgauskas that will be displayed across from the Quicken Loans Arena in Cleveland. The banner will be 70 feet high by 54 feet wide.

Cavaliers General Manager Danny Ferry said he is "very happy that Ilgauskas is getting the well-deserved recognition for all of his hard work during his past nine seasons with the Cavaliers organization."

"He serves as an inspiration to fans for fighting through injuries early in his career to achieve greatness as a two-time NBA All-Star and as an integral member of the Cleveland Cavaliers Eastern Conference Championship team."

# The Pittsburgh Folk Festival Declared a Success!

The Pittsburgh Lithuanians once again were active participants in the Annual Pittsburgh Folk Festival held at the Pittsburgh Convention Center May 25-27. The Lithuanians have been part of the festival since it's inception 51 years ago.

The Neris Dancers, organized by John Baltrus, performed multiple dances on Saturday evening. Dressed in national costumes, the dancers performed for a full audience.

The cultural display booth featured an outline map of Lithuania showing the location of ten must-see sites. Photos of the sites were displayed along with a brief description. Artifacts were also on display which included amber jewelry, pottery, and dolls dressed in full costume.



*The Neris Dancers of Pittsburgh pose in front of the cultural display booth at the 51st Annual Pittsburgh Folk Festival. (photo by John Baltrus)*

# Congratulations 2007 Graduate!

On May 5, Patty Zusinas, former Neris dancer and wife of Society member Tony Zusinas, was awarded a Master of Science degree from Robert Morris University in Communications and Information Systems. Patty holds an undergraduate degree from the University of Pittsburgh where she majored in Administration of Justice and Public Administration.



*Patty Zusinas*

She currently works for RMU's School of Education as a Coordinator of Doctoral and Graduate Studies.

Patty's family was present for the graduation ceremony and included her four daughters, Anna, Christine, Toni, and Rose, Anna's fiancé Dan Wentz, husband Tony, and in-laws Ann and Tony Zusinas.

After the ceremony, the entire Zusinas family celebrated at the Grand Concourse in Station Square.

Congratulations Patty on your achievement!

# Drunk Students Learn Lesson From Peeved Giraffe

*The following article from the Associated Press was identified on www.msnbc.msn.com on May 8, 2007.*

VILNIUS, Lithuania - Climbing into a giraffe's cage at the local zoo seemed a good idea after a few drinks. But the prank went wrong when the 1.3-ton animal flew into a rage and attacked the three student trespassers at a zoo in Lithuania.

Ruta Greiciūtė, a 22-year-old student at Kaunas Technology University, was hospitalized with a broken collar bone and nose after the 9-year-old male giraffe, named Solut, attacked her.

The other students survived the incident unscathed.

"This was a very silly thing they did. The scared giraffe could have stomped her to death," Kaunas Zoo spokeswoman Angele Grebliauskaitė said.

The zoo reported that many animals had been disturbed Monday night as students celebrated a festival in a nearby condominium.

Police have launched an investigation to find out how the intoxicated students entered the zoo at night and climbed the 10 foot high fence surrounding the giraffe cage.

# The Cost of Emigration

*The following article is from the April 21 issue of The Washington Times and had been reprinted in Lietuvos Rytas.*

**Vilnius, Lithuania** -- A new poll has revealed a shocking truth: More than 20,000 children have been left by parents, who emigrated to work abroad. Most of those children -- very lonely and deprived of basic care -- are raised by strangers. These children tend to become more absent-minded and aggressive.

We often hear loud condemnation of those who left their loved ones in search of better pay. But before condemning emigrants, we should ask what makes people abandon those who are most important to them and travel to a strange land in hopes of earning more money for their family?

These people are eager to build something they never had: cozy homes and a brighter future for their children.

Imagine those same 20,000 or more staying in Lithuania, existing on an allowance or humiliating pay for odd jobs. For most, leaving was the only choice.

Had they not left, the army of unemployed would be even larger and crime rate possibly higher. There is no reason to be angry with people who decided to sacrifice their children's today for a better tomorrow.

## REMINDER!

There will not be any member meetings held during the months of June, July and August. The next meeting is scheduled for September 9.

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, June 14 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**

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