

Lithuanian Citizens' Society of W. Pennsylvania



NEWSLETTER

Serving the Lithuanian American
Community in Western PA since 1912

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November/December 2008

Nominees announced for 2009 Society Board Members

This issue of the newsletter provides information on each of the candidates nominated for the 2009 Board of Directors. Elections will take place at the December 14 Member meeting.

Office of the President Unopposed

John Baltrus

John has been an active member of the Society for 27 years and served as a Director before being elected President in 2007. He is the President for the Knights of Lithuania C-1 9 and has been National Treasurer and a District President for the Knights. John is active in many Lithuanian organizations including APPLE and also updates and maintains the Society's web site. John is comfortably fluent in the Lithuanian language. John holds both a Bachelor's and Ph.D. degree in chemistry and is a research group leader at the U.S. Department of Energy's National Energy Technology Laboratory.



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Candidate's Statement: "As we continue to struggle with the lack of revenue from our bingo, shrinking membership, and the reality that many of those members who contributed so much to the Society through the years are no longer able to do so, it is time to take the steps necessary to preserve the viability of our organization. I ask that the members realistically look at what is the best course for the Society, work together and stand behind the officers no matter what decisions need to be made. As president, I hope to provide leadership in making these important decisions, but the decisions must be those of the members. Participation and volunteerism are essential to our continued success."

Kucios Event to be held on December 13

The LCS Kucios and annual Christmas party will be held on December 13 from

Office of the Vice President Unopposed

Nancy Binkney

Nancy has been a Society member for the past 16 years during which she served as a Director for four years and Treasurer for two years. She is currently the Society's Vice President.

She has been active in the weekly Lithuanian Language

Classes for years. Nancy also is the unofficial "choir director" for the Lithuanian Language classes and has often performed on the piano for Lithuanian social events. Nancy is currently employed part-time by Carnegie Mellon University where she does desktop publishing, purchasing, and reconciliation of accounts.

Nancy has been employed as a Graduate Coordinator for Biomedical Engineering at Carnegie Mellon University. She has served as Secretary and Vice President of CMU's Staff Council, an entity similar to a professional union. While in that position, she served on a mediation board and authored a bi-monthly column for the Faculty/Staff newspaper. Nancy and her husband, Bill, have one daughter, Lisa Pinigis, and granddaughter Emily.



Nancy Binkney

2:00 - 5:00 p.m. at the Lithuanian Hall on the South Side. The event will feature a full dinner in traditional Kucios tradition, and a visit from Santa too!

Reservations are being accepted by Nancy Binkney at 412-462-8865 or Mildred Sukys 412-341-7925. Cost \$12/adult, \$6/child ages 6-12. Children under 6 are free.

Don't miss this great event--contact Nancy or Mildred with your reservations.

Upcoming Events

December 13, 2008, 2:00 - 5:00 p.m.
Kucios and Annual Christmas Party, Lithuanian Hall, South Side

December 14, 2008, 2:00 p.m.
Monthly members' meeting and Voting of Officers, Lithuanian Hall, South Side

January 11, 2009, 2:00 p.m.
Monthly members' meeting, Lithuanian Hall, South Side

May 1 & 2, 2009
Pittsburgh Folk Festival. David L. Lawrence Convention Center

Every Saturday September through June, 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon
Lithuanian language classes, Lithuanian Hall, South Side

Editor's Column

Wishing all LCS readers ...
*Linksmų Sv. Kalėdų ir Laimingų
2009 Naujuju Metų!*



Get well wishes are sent out to Catherine Whitmer. She recently was ill with pneumonia and was in the hospital for two months! She's now home recovering. We send Catherine our best wishes, and hope she is better soon!

Jean Walkauskas Schoentag has moved recently and would love to hear from our members. Her new address is at Hampton Fields, UPMC-Room 232 Independent Living, 4480 Mt. Royal Blvd., Allison Park, PA 15101.

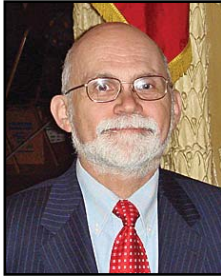
The Pittsburgh Folk Festival Lithuanian Committee is once again sell year-long lottery tickets to benefit the Folk Festival. The cost is only \$25 and your number is good all year. We have had quite a few winners in our community over the past years. Contact Dalia Yucius to purchase your lottery ticket at (412) 381-8669.



Office of the Recording Secretary Unopposed

Len Barcoucky

Len Barcoucky is Lithuanian on both sides of his family. He is the grandson of Jonas and Viktorija Muskelavicius and Petras and Roze Barkauskas. His maternal grandparents came from Kaunas and his paternal grandparents were from Dzukia. His late parents, Peter and Nora Barcoucky, grew up in Schuylkill County.



Len Barcoucky

He has been active in the Knights of Lithuania for more than 25 years, serving as a local and national officer. Although their families have been separated for more than a century, he and his Lithuanian cousins keep in contact with letters and visits. He has been a Citizens Society member for more than 10 years.

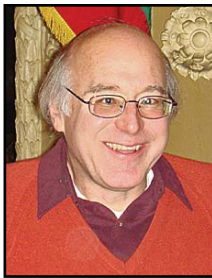
A veteran reporter and editor, he works for the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette. He also teaches journalism at the University of Pittsburgh. He holds a BA degree from Penn State and an MBA degree from Columbia University.

He and his wife Barbara live in Ben Avon with their children, Sarah, 20, and Peter, 14.

Office of the Treasurer Unopposed

Bill Kolicus III

Bill has been a Society member for more than 20 years. He has helped with planting trees, painting and maintenance of the Society's properties, and provided assistance as a Folk Festival volunteer, helping with setup of the Lithuanian Display and Food Booths.



Bill Kolicus III

He has been employed as a social worker for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania for the past 15 years and holds a Bachelor's degree in Electrical Engineering from the University of Pittsburgh. Interests include hiking, music and travel. He is currently first Vice President of the Catholic Alumni Club of Pittsburgh, the local branch of a national Catholic singles club.

Don't Forget!

Make your reservations TODAY for Kucios being held on December 13.

The event will feature a full meal in Kucios tradition plus bake sale, door prizes, and 50/50 raffle.

Contact Nancy Binkney at 412-462-8865 or Mildred Sukys at 412-341-7925 to make your reservation.

Office of the Financial Secretary Unopposed

Don Martello

Don has been a governing (regular) member of our Society since January 2005. During the past three years, Don has served as a member of the Society's 2006 Financial Committee, as a member of the 2007 Long - Term Planning Committee, and since January, as the Financial Secretary.



Don Martello

Don has extensive volunteer experience including Vice President, Treasurer, and Union Steward for the American Federation of Government Employees (AFGE) Local 1916, and as an Allegheny County - City of Pittsburgh 14th Ward 39th District Democratic Party Committee Representative.

Don earned a Master's degree in Materials Science and Engineering (Ceramic Engineering) and a Bachelor's degree in Metallurgical Engineering, from the University of Pittsburgh, and has a PA Professional Engineering Board certified Engineer-in-Training license.

Since June 2007, Don has served the taxpayers as one of ten supervisory Research Division Directors for the Office of Research & Development - Environmental Science & Technology Division, at the US-Dept of Energy National Energy Technology Laboratory (NETL-ORD-EnvSciDiv).

Don and his significant other, Ellie Sero, have lived together in Squirrel Hill for more than 23 years. Their daughter Julia Sero is finishing her PhD in Molecular & Cell Biology at Harvard Medical School in Boston, MA; and son-in-law John Springford has started a new position as a government policy researcher and consultant in London, UK.

Office of the Director Three Candidates

Janet Petrauskas

Janet has been a Society member for more than 20 years and has most recently served as recording secretary for the Society. She is also Editor of the LCS newsletter. In addition, Janet creates promotional flyers for social events for the Society.

Janet is a member of the Lithuanian Nationality Room Committee with the University of Pittsburgh.



Janet Petrauskas

Petrauskas con't

She is employed by the Allegheny Intermediate Unit as a Web Designer/Developer and also trains teachers in technology applications. She holds a bachelor's degree in Information Technology, a Master's in Multimedia Technology, and a Master's in Education, all from Duquesne University.

In her spare time, Janet is active with the Mt. Lebanon Hockey Association and serves as Business Manager for the Squirt B hockey team.

Janet has a 10-year-old son, Andrius, who is often seen assisting her with taking photos for the newsletter.

Mildred Sukys

Mildred has been a Society member since 1981 and has been active in the weekly Lithuanian Language Classes for many years. She's also a member of the Lithuanian Nationality Room Committee and Women's International Club with the University of Pittsburgh Nationality rooms.

Mildred enjoys writing and has contributed many articles for the LCS newsletter. She also enjoys traveling and has been to Lithuania five times since 1985.

A graduate of the Robert Morris Business School, Mildred is now retired. She and her husband Bronius (Bruno) live in Castle Shannon. She has two daughters, Dr. Nancy Sukys of Wheeling, WV, and Janet Petrauskas of Pittsburgh.



Mildred Sukys

Ray Sabo

Ray has been a Society member for the past 18 years. He was on the Society's Building Committee and active in keeping the Lithuanian Country Club operating. He is also on the Society's Strategic Long-Term Planning Committee, the House Committee, and the Nominating Committee.

A graduate of Operating Engineering School, Ray also completed coursework with CCAC. He is a U.S. Navy veteran where he held the position of flight engineer. He is Treasurer for Vintage Tin of Western Pennsylvania and on the council for Tri-River Car Club Council. Ray is a member of Elks Lodge #11 and Chairman for the upcoming 2009 Oldsmobile National at Seven Springs. Ray is retired from his position of Operating Engineer and now works as a real estate investor. He and his significant other, Susie, live in Duquesne.



Ray Sabo

Knights of Lithuania and LCS join for All Souls Commemoration at St. Casimir's Cemetery



by Len Barcoucky

About two dozen members of the Knights of Lithuania and the Lithuanian Citizens Society came together at St. Casimir's Cemetery in Whitehall for an annual All Souls Commemoration.

The prayers for the departed and the visit to gravesites took place this year on the actual date for the Feast of All Souls - Nov. 2.

After the traditional lighting of a memorial candle, participants said prayers

in Lithuanian and English. Each person attending then had a chance to request prayers for friends and family members.

Because some participants have difficulty walking, those taking part in the event did not visit graves as a group. Many individuals, however, stopped and said prayers at their family plots.

Following Lithuanian custom, some members of the group then traveled to nearby Armstrong's Restaurant for a meal and conversation.

Graffiti watch recognizes a good neighbor

The following article was recently printed in the South Pittsburgh Reporter and features a story on Society member Ben Savinis. Written by Lois McClain, Sept. 16, 2008

A never-ending battle wages between those who trash our streets and graffiti our homes and businesses and the determined South Siders who clean up after them. It is easy to become frustrated and even easier to just give up when after cleaning, painting, and working so hard to improve the South Side, litter and graffiti reappear as if by magic.

Meet Ben Savinis, WWII veteran, former city basketball coach, proud father of three accomplished children, and South Side resident for more than fifty-five years. Mr. Savinis is an unsung hero, one of those folks who does the right thing and does not seek recognition. Mr. Savinis cleans and sweeps his own property daily and every Saturday cleans the neighborhood near his home. He picks up litter, sweeps the sidewalk and street, and quickly removes any graffiti. He says "God

gave me the strength to get up every day so I am happy that I can help to keep my neighborhood clean. I hope what I do does some good. I take pride in my neighborhood and in the South Side and doing this keeps my neighborhood clean and keeps me young. Cleaning up doesn't take much time and makes a big difference."

Mr. Savinis remembers a time when the older ladies of the South Side would come outside every day with their brooms and sweep their doorways and the sidewalks. He says that in his younger days, the South Side connections ran deep. Neighbors knew each other, watched out for each other, and took pride in their neighborhood. His mother instilled this pride in him telling him that "Even if your clothes are torn and tattered, you can still be clean." Mr. Savinis's experience in the military strengthened his work ethic and he brought that work ethic back home to the South Side after WWII. He says that the neighborhood boys he worked with were super proud of the South Side adding

November (Lapkritis) & December (Gruodis) Birthdays Listed

Among members with November birthdays are: Anthony Zusinas Jr. (4); Robert Matchett (7); Patricia Mauersberg (7); Kathleen Suthard (9); Edward Savolskis Jr. (13); Pauline Pikunas (14); Margaret Turner (14).

David Melesky Jr. (17); Paul Savolskis (20); Clement Stanisauksis (20); Almante Diedonyte (23); Simon Aleliunas (23); Nancy Binkney (24); Eileen McMonigal (28); Janet Zusinas Ruperto (28); Elizabeth Beall (29); Gregory Rozman (29); Frank Ziaukas (30).

Among members with December birthdays are: Eva Martin (1); Beatrice Packy (2); Barbara Lee Sass (3); Rita Emerick (7); Bernard Burdulis (8); Douglas MacPhail (9); Laverne Perry (9); Norman Martello (12); Jean Schoentag (13).

Anna Greegus (18); Rita Johnson (18); Arminas Maciulis (18); David Stanley (20); Edward Young (21); Edward Johnston Jr. (21); Stanley Andrunas (23); Dolores Morante (24); Benedict Savinis Jr. (26); Bernadette Valenta (31)

Linksmu Gimtadienių!

Lithuanian Citizens' Society of Western PA

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President - John Baltrus

Vice President - Nancy Binkney
Recording Sec'y - Janet Petrauskas
Financial Sec'y - Don Martello
Treasurer - Bill Kolicius

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

that, "If Mickey Stalley and the Capezulli boys were around now, we wouldn't have these litter and graffiti problems because those boys cared so much about the condition of their neighborhood."

Fortunately, Mr. Savinis sees a recurrence of that neighborhood pride. He sees a new breed of folks moving into the South Side and says, "I see folks trying to create a neighborhood the way it used to be. I see what hard-working people are doing with their homes." He gives credit to these folks, to the volunteer groups from Duquesne University and the South Side, and to Bruce Kraus for his "integrity and commitment" and to Steve Root

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The Lithuanian Bingo needs you!

Bingo at our Lithuanian Hall is important to the economics of our Society. We are in need of volunteers to work alongside some of our regular bingo employees for the first bingo of each month.

If you are willing to volunteer to help or know someone who can, please contact President John Baltrus at 412-233-2764.

We also invite everyone to come down and play. It's a great atmosphere and Bingo is held every Wednesday and Sunday from 7:00 - 10:30 p.m. Remember, bingo is now smoke free.

Eglutė, Lithuanian language magazine, now available for children

There is good news for families with children who read Lithuanian or who are learning Lithuanian. "Eglutė," the Lithuanian-language magazine for children, is now available (complete with all kinds of happy cartoon characters and things to do!) by way of www.lithuanian-american.org.

Encourage young parents to take a look. Mention it to grandparents also. Tell them that, thanks to the LAC Educational Council, "Eglutė" is now available to their grandchildren wherever they live.

U. of Pittsburgh Lithuanian Nationality Room decorated for the holidays



Lithuanian Room Committee members (front), Vince Rodgers, Vincent Paul Rodgers, (back) (l to r) Rose Carroll, Pat Macey, Tillie Milauskas, Mildred Sukys, and Kathie Skalka.

The Lithuanian Room Committee joined efforts recently to help decorate the Lithuanian Room at the University of Pittsburgh. The room will remain decorated throughout the holiday season.

The Holiday Open House at Pitt will be held on Sunday, December 7, 2008. Make the Lithuanian Room one of your annual Christmas/Holiday destinations. For information concerning tours, call (412) 624-6150.

Graffiti Watch con't from Page 3

for the "desire in his heart" to improve the South Side.

Mr. Savinis exemplifies the best of the South Side. He is a man who does not wait for others to take care of local problems but steps up and takes personal responsibility for maintaining his neighborhood. As this unsung hero reminds us, getting rid of litter and graffiti "doesn't take much time and makes a big difference."

Lithuanian Citizens' Society of W. Pennsylvania

1725 Jane Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15203

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- **Board of Directors Meeting**
Thursday, December 11 5:30 p.m.
- **Members' Meeting**
Sunday, December 14, at 2 p.m.
- **BINGO**
Sunday & Wednesday from 7 - 10 p.m.
- **Echoes of Lithuania**
echoes98@hotmail.com
WEDO 810 AM
Every Sunday 12:30 to 1:00 p.m.

