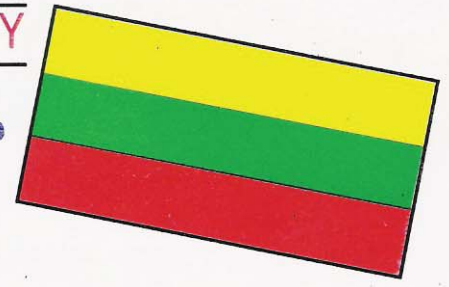


Newsletter



November 2007

EDITOR'S DESK

Get well wishes go out to Viola Stanney who is in the hospital.

Frank Ziukas is at home recuperating after a stay in the hospital.

Congratulations to Agnes Kuzin who won the 50/50 at the October members meeting.

Lithuanian-style Andruleis cheese is available for sale at McGinnis Sisters on Rt. 51 in Brentwood.

Calling all Lithuanians! The Pittsburgh Folk Festival will participate in the "Celebrate the Seasons Parade" on Saturday, November 24 in downtown Pittsburgh. If you are interested in walking in the parade for the Lithuanians, please contact Dalia Yucius at 412-381-8669. All participants are required to wear a Lithuanian costume.

Mark your calendars! The 52nd Annual Pittsburgh Folk Festival will be held on May 16-18, 2008, at the David Lawrence Convention Center. Please note the date change from the traditional Memorial Day weekend.

The Lithuanian Committee of the Pittsburgh Folk Festival is seeking a Committee Chair for the Cultural Display for the 2008 Folk Festival being held May 16-18. Interested parties should contact General Chair Dalia Yucius at 412-381-8669.

The Pittsburgh Folk Festival is once again offering Lottery Calendars for sale as fundraisers. The cost is only \$25 and your numbers are good for the entire 2008 year. Many of the Society members have been winners in the past. Why not take a chance and help the Folk Festival at the same time. Please contact Dalia Yucius at 412-381-8669 for information. Remember, these calendars make great Christmas gifts!

B - I - N - G - O! As a reminder, Bingo is held at the Lithuanian Hall on South Side every Wednesday and Sunday evening and is open to the general public. Why don't you stop on down one night and play a few games with your friends!

Kucios Christmas Party to be Held on December 8

Planning is already underway for the 2007 Kucios Celebration. The event has been quite successful in past years and represents, in a unique Lithuanian custom, the Christmas Eve meal of the Last Supper.

This year, the party will be held on Saturday, December 8, at the Lithuanian Hall on the South Side.

If you are interested in attending, please contact Ausra Cunningham at 412-341-5649 or Nancy Binkney at 412-462-8865. More details will be forthcoming!

The Tales of Our Traveling Members

Our Pittsburgh membership is constantly on the move. Whether coming or going, we hear many interesting stories of their travels and encounters.

This past September, Society member Jane Dansevich, daughter of long-time member Anna Dansevich, had an audience with the Pope in Rome, Italy. Jane, who was accompanied by her niece Kimberly and nephew Bradley, were present as friend Joseph Freddie of Upper St. Clair was installed as a priest at the Vatican.

Also this past summer, long-time Society member Mildred Sukys visited the Greenbrier with her daughter Nancy Sukys in White Sulphur Springs, West Virginia. Mildred shares some history with us saying that the Greenbrier, a resort hotel, was first decorated by interior designer Dorothy Draper in 1948. Carleton Varney, a reknowned interior decorator wrote "In the Pink," a visually stunning book on his mentor Dorothy Draper. Varney is currently working on a final screen play for a movie about Ms. Draper's life as well as doing the interior of the royal palace in Vilnius, Lithuania. He continues to work with the Greenbrier on their decorations.

con't on Page 2, column 3

Society Officer Nominations to be Announced at November Meeting

Officer nominations will be received at the November Members' Meeting on November 11 at 2 p.m., with voting taking place at the December Meeting.

The following positions are open for the 2007 calendar year.

- President
- Vice President
- Recording Secretary
- Financial Secretary
- Treasurer
- Director (3 positions open)

Officer and Director positions are open to all members of the Society.

XIII Lithuanian Folk Dance Festival to be Held in Los Angeles

The 13th Lithuanian Folk Dance Festival will be held on Sunday, July 6, 2008, in Los Angeles, California. The festival, which is typically held every four years, brings together Lithuanian folk dancers of all ages from across the United States and other countries including a couple of groups from Lithuania. Usually well over 1,000 dancers participate. Pittsburgh's Neris dance group has participated in some of the previous festivals in Chicago, Toronto, and Hamilton.

All folk dance groups are invited to participate in the festival. This past August, John Baltrus from the Neris dance group attended a course for Lithuanian folk dance instructors where he was able to receive instructions on the dances that will be performed at the upcoming festival. The organizer of the festival, Danguole Varniene, encouraged John to assemble a group from Pittsburgh to participate in the festival. Another option

con't on Page 2, column 3



Sisters Display the True Meaning of Christmas in Whitehall



A Sample crèche

The Peace of the Christmas season is often lost among the stress of shopping for gifts and other holiday preparations. At their 4th Annual Crèche Display, the Sisters of St. Francis of the Providence of God are offering the public a chance to stop, relax and reflect upon the true meaning of Christmas.

The event displaying over 100 crèches and nativity scenes will be held on Friday, November 30th from 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM and Saturday, December 1 from 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM. Crèches will be on display in the lecture hall of the Sisters' Motherhouse, located within short driving distance of South Hills Village, Century III Mall, and Caste Village at 3603 McRoberts Road in Pittsburgh's South Hills. This event is free for all to attend.

Many of the crèches and nativity scenes are from the Sisters' friends and family. The Sisters are also inviting members of the community to enter their crèches to be displayed at the event. Those interested in entering a crèche or nativity scene should call (412) 885-7232 or visit www.osfprov.org. For eligibility, crèches must be received with completed registration forms by 5:00 PM on Friday, November 23 at the Motherhouse campus located at 3603 McRoberts

You Know You're Lithuanian When...

This list (items 1-12) was started in the October 2007 newsletter. Read on for a chuckle...

13. You keep on switching between languages in a conversation.
14. Your last name has more letters than most alphabets.
15. Someone sneezes "ACHOO" and you answer, "You're welcome!"
16. You can Lithuanianize any word just by adding "as" to the end.
17. You have at least one relative that is 6'5" and plays professional basketball.
18. Nobody can pronounce your last name and people always ask you if it's Greek.
19. You've inherited more gintaras jewelry than you know what to do with.
20. You want to do multiple shots of Krupnikas.
21. Your grandfather can out-party Americans.
22. You can smell Kugelis a mile away.
23. Everything you eat has something to do with potatoes.
24. You put sour cream on everything.
25. On the first day of school, the teacher goes through everyone's names and you hear a silent pause for about 10 seconds and then raise your hand and answer "that's me."
26. You get excited when you are in a store and hear another person speaking Lithuanian.
27. Someone always has an accordion at parties and breaks it out.

...more next month!

Seeking YOUR Lithuanian Recipes

Lithuanian recipes can *still* be submitted for publication in our LCS Newsletter. Members have already submitted some delicious recipes for Kugelis, Farmer's Cheese, and soups, but we are seeking more for an upcoming newsletter!

We invite you to submit your recipes to the LCS News for the "Cooking Lithuanian" issue. All recipes will be created in our test kitchen before publication in the newsletter. Recipes of all types are welcomed! Salads, cookies, main dishes, soups...you name it, and we'll cook it!

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. All recipes printed will be associated with the submitter's name.

Get Your Newsletter On-Line!

Sign up today to receive your newsletter via email. By signing up, you will receive your newsletter as soon as it's ready to go to print, often up to two weeks before delivery time in your mailbox.

Submit your request to Editor Janet Petrauskas at pittsburghlithuanians@yahoo.com. Remember, emailed copies can be sent to anyone including family, friends, and neighbors.

Tales of Travel Members con't. from Page 1

And finally in November, George Zilinskis and Juozas Rudzianskas will be traveling to Lithuania for a few months. We wish them a safe trip.

Lithuanian Folk Dance con't. from Page 1

was to team with dancers from another city if only a few dancers were interested and the group from the other city also did not have enough dancers but wanted to participate.

The deadline for groups to register is December 1. If you are interested in participating in the festival, please contact John at 412-233-2764 or jonaspb@verizon.net no later than November 15. Participation requires practicing from mid-February through the end of June plus all costs associated with travel to the festival. Further details can be obtained by contacting John.

Details on the festival itself will be published as they become available for those who might wish to attend as spectators.

November (Lapkritis) Birthdays Listed

Among members with November birthdays are: Anthony Zusinas Jr. (4); Robert Matchett (7); Kathleen Suthard (9); Ingrid Tarcijonas (12); Edward Savolskis Jr. (13); Bernadette Blinn (14); Pauline Pikunas (14); Margaret Turner (14).

Frances Andrunas (20); Clement Stanisauskis (20); Simon Aleliunas (23); Almantė Diedonyte (23); Nancy Binkney (24); Patricia Mauersberg (26); Eileen McMonigal (28); Janet Ruperto (28); Frank Ziaukas (28); Elizabeth Beall (29); Gregory Rozman (29); Bertha Kuzma (30).

Linksmu Gimtadienių!

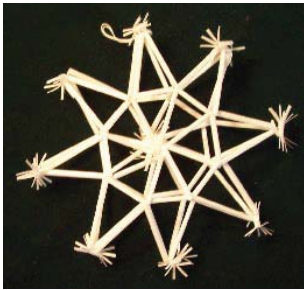
Lithuanian Citizens' Society of Western PA

.....
 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 Vaicenasa

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

Lithuanian Straw Ornaments “Siaudinku Pavyzdiziai”



Nell Brazauskas recently located a tutorial on making Lithuanian ornaments. With Christmas right around the corner, now

would be a good time to create some of your own family heirlooms.

Delicate ornaments of straw adorn a traditional Lithuanian Christmas tree. Straw ornaments, called “siaudinku pavyzdiziai,” were originally fashioned from wheat or rye straw and used to decorate Lithuanian cottages for weddings and holiday festivities. Later, after World War I brought the German custom of a decorated tree to the Baltics, Lithuanians used these same ornaments to decorate boughs of evergreen.

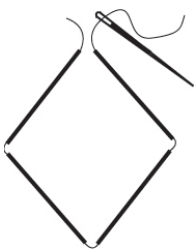
The designs of the ornaments are limited only by the creativity of the maker: triangular bells, simple lanterns, birdlike figures and elaborate bird cages. “Birds” are made of walnut shells and feathers or empty egg shells with colored paper for wings, tails and beaks.

The first Christmas tree decorated to represent Lithuania, appeared in Chicago in 1943, when the Museum of Science and Industry presented “Christmas Around the World.” Today, natural straw ornaments are replaced with the more durable plastic drinking straw.

Instructions for Basic Straw Ornament:

Materials: Plastic drinking straws, kite string, large eye needle, ruler and scissors.

NOTE: Thread needle. Be sure to keep a single strand of string while working the entire ornament. Work all angles so they are **firm**. Be careful not to cut into the straws.

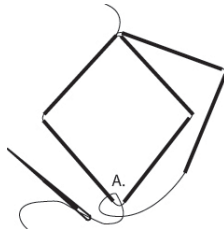


Cut Straw:

8 pieces, each 4 inches long.
4 pieces, each 3 inches long.
Thread needle with about 4-5 feet of string.

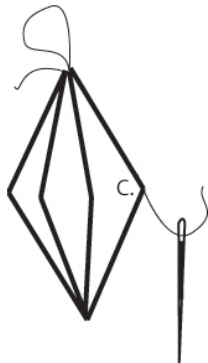
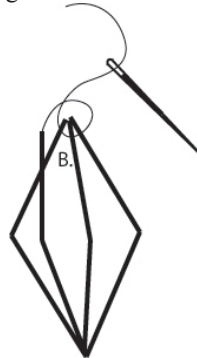
Begin:

String 4 pieces of 4-inch straws on a string. Tie a knot to connect last piece to first piece of straw at corner. Do NOT cut string.



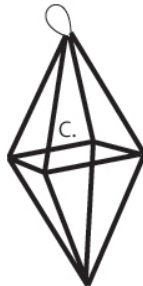
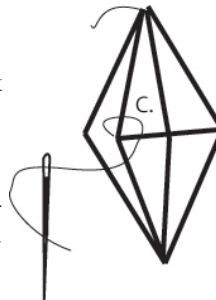
Add 2 4-inch straws to the string and wrap around corner “A”. Pull string tight.

Add last 2 4-inch straws and wrap string around corner “B.” This makes the four sides of a basic diagram.



Push the needle through any of the straw to reach corner “C”.

Put one 3-inch straw on the string and hook it to the next corner by winding the string around once, as before. Repeat this step until you have all four sides completed. Tie a knot at corner “C”.



Push needle through the nearest 4-inch straw UPwards to the starting point and tie it securely. Leave enough string to fasten to tree.

Once you have mastered the basic ornament, you can add more straws to each of the angles to increase the size and dimensions. However, be sure to always use the same length of straws on all similar angles to keep points of the “star” even.

Now that you have made a few basic ornaments, try making chains from bits of plastic straw and wrap them around the tree like garland. To do this, you need a SHARP needle, strong white thread, as well as straws and scissors. Cut the straws into one inch lengths on the bias. Pierce the straw pieces with the needle and string them on the thread into long chains.

You can also add short lengths of these straw chains to the end points of your geometric bell, lantern or star for added beauty.

In Loving Memory

Rasa Bieniewitz, sister of LCS Director Ausra Cunningham, passed away after a long battle with cancer on October 31 in Vienna, Virginia.

She leaves behind the joy of her life, her husband Don Bieniewitz and their twin daughters Marzhan and Tolkin (15 yrs. old). They adopted/rescued the girls from a dismal orphanage in Kazakhstan ten years ago.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Ausra and her family during this time of sorrow.

Sisters Sponsor 8th Annual Christmas Craft Sale

Those looking to give hand-made gifts this holiday season will be able to find them in the South Hills. The Sisters of St. Francis of the Providence of God in Whitehall are sponsoring their 8th annual Christmas Craft Sale on Friday, November 9 from 1:00 PM-4:00 PM and Saturday, November 10 from 10:00 AM-2:00 PM at the St. Francis Convent located at 3603 McRoberts Road.

Organized by Sister Theodora Shadis, age 89, the craft sale features various items hand-made by the Sisters and their friends. Crafts for sale include ornaments, holiday decorations, ceramics, embroidery, jewelry, crochet blankets and the famous “scrubbies”—hand crocheted pot scrubbers that fans say can clean anything without leaving a scratch.

Pumpkin pies and assorted baked goods will also be available for a limited time.

Proceeds from the event benefit the Sisters of St. Francis of the Providence of God, whose ministries include pastoral and parish services, education, spiritual direction, healthcare, youth and prison outreach and other social services.

For more information, please call 412-885-7232 or e-mail info@osfprov.org. You can also visit the Sisters’ website at www.osfprov.org.

Look Who’s Reading our Newsletter Now!

Our LCS Newsletter is read and enjoyed by many people in the greater Pittsburgh area. Through the use of email, our newsletter also reaches people around the globe who are interested in hearing what the Pittsburgh Lithuanians are doing.



Fox News Reporter Greg Palkot

Fox News Reporter Greg Palkot recently took time out of his reporting assignment in Pakistan to catch the latest LCS news. Greg, who is based in London, tells us that there is a huge young immigrant population of Lithuanians residing in London. Greg is a cousin to Editor Janet Petrauskas and nephew of long-time members Mildred and Bruno Sukys.

We send our best wishes to Greg and look forward to hearing more comments on our newsletter.

St. Casimir School Converted into Upscale Condo Lofts

The following article and photo appeared on popcitymedia.com on May 2, 2007. Written by Jennifer Baron.



The former St. Casimir School on the Southside has been converted into luxury condo lofts.

A turn-of-the-century Southside schoolhouse is home to 17 new luxury lofts that opened on June 9th. Located at the corner of South 22nd and Jane Streets, St. Casimir School was purchased a year ago by New York City-based developer David Forbes for \$1.5 million.

"We sold our first unit last weekend to young professionals originally from Pittsburgh who are returning from California -- they're the exact prototype I think it's perfect for," says Lynne Bingham with Howard Hanna Real Estate Services. "With no closing costs, low condo fees and a variety of stylish condos to select from, we truly have our niche in the area,"

says Forbes, a loft specialist who hails from Ireland.

"Instead of just another condo on the Southside, this has full facility and financing packages. Someone just out of college can come to the table with zero down," says Bingham. The building's Romanesque Revival style features sandstone lintels, arched entryways, 14-foot ceilings and ornamental woodwork. Amenities include gated parking and fitness, storage and laundry facilities. The

condos also feature a barbecue deck, on-site maintenance and guest suites. Bradley Michaels designed the project's model unit. "Each unit is completely unique in size and structure -- no two are the same," says Bingham of the one-bedroom units, which start at \$189,000.

"He's fallen in love with Pittsburgh for a couple of reasons. There's one-fifth of the red tape compared to a project like this in New York," says Bingham of Forbes' interest in the Pittsburgh market. "He said this building in New York would go for ten million. I do think he wants to do another neighborhood."

What's Happening at the Lithuanian Club

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.

November 9 & 10, 2007

Sisters of St. Francis of the Providence of God in Whitehall are sponsoring their 8th annual Christmas Craft Sale. Friday: 1:00-4:00 p.m.; Saturday: 10:00 -2:00 p.m. at the St. Francis Convent in Whitehall.

November 10, 2007

Lithuanian Nationality Room Committee will hold their annual Decorating of the Lithuanian Christmas tree event from 9:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. in the Lithuanian Classroom at the Cathedral of Learning, University of Pittsburgh. Contact Vince Rodgers at 412-461-9957 for more information.

November 30 & December 1, 2007

Sisters of St. Francis of the Providence of God in Whitehall will hold their 4th Annual Creche Display at the Sisters' Motherhouse. Friday 5:00 - 8:00 p.m.; Saturday 10:00 - 3:00 p.m.

December 8, 2007

Kucios will be held at the Lithuanian Hall on the South Side. Mark your calendar and stay tuned for more details.

May 16-18, 2008

The 52nd Annual Pittsburgh Folk Festival will be held at the David Lawrence Convention Center.

Every Saturday

The Lithuanian language classes are held at the Lithuanian Hall on South Side from 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon. Classes are free of charge and open to anyone interested in learning the Lithuanian Language. The classes run each Saturday from September through June.

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- Board of Directors Meeting
Thursday, November 8 at 5:45 p.m.
- Members' Meeting
Sunday, November 11 at 2:00 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.

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