

Lithuanian Citizens' Society of W. Pennsylvania



NEWSLETTER

Serving the Lithuanian American
Community in Western PA since 1912

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September/October 2008

The "Lourdes of Lithuania"

Lithuanian Catholics are looking forward to this year's celebration of the feast of the Birth of the Blessed Mother on September 8. It will mark the 400th anniversary of the apparition of Mary -- the first recorded in Europe -- outside of the rural village of Siluva.

Mary appeared in Siluva in 1608 to non-Catholics. Little shepherds saw what they described as a beautiful woman, dressed in white and blue, with a baby in her arms, enveloped in gentle splendor. The Lady wept bitterly and suddenly disappeared.

Subsequently, the Virgin, again weeping, appeared to a crowd that had formed at the site where the children indicated. The town's Calvinist pastor was among the group.

An icon of the Virgin that had belonged to the village's former Catholic church was found in the place of the apparitions. The

icon had remained hidden for almost 100 years.

In the wake of those events, and after several miraculous cures, this apparition brought Lithuania to return to the faith after 80 years of Calvinism.

The event was recognized by a papal decree published by Pius VI on Aug. 17, 1775. Siluva is now Lithuania's most important Marian shrine.

Source: *The Pittsburgh Catholic*, August 29, 2008, and *ZENIT, The World Seen From Rome* <http://www.zenit.org/article-23443?l=english>

South Side LCS Building to be Non-Smoking during Bingos

In coordination with the Pennsylvania Clean Indoor Air Act (CIAA), all parts of the LCS South Side building will be non-smoking when the doors are open for Bingo. This Act goes into effect on Thursday, September 11, 2008.

Šokių Šventė, XIII Lithuanian Dance Festival, brings dancers together from all over the world

Society Member Kathie Skalka was in Los Angeles in July with her granddaughters Cassie and Sonja and son Vince with wife Yvette to see Šokių Šventė, XIII Lithuanian Dance Festival. Kathie and her family watched 40 dance ensembles, comprised of more than 1,100 dancers from 27 cities through out North America and Lithuania, dance traditional folk dances.

Photo by Kathie Skalka



Upcoming Events

September 14, 2008, 2:00 p.m.

Monthly members' meeting, Lithuanian Hall, South Side

September 19-20, 2008

International Taste of Pittsburgh, Riverplex, Homestead, PA

October 12, 2008, 2:00 p.m.

Monthly members' meeting, Lithuanian Hall, South Side

November 9, 2008, 2:00 p.m.

Monthly members' meeting, Lithuanian Hall, South Side

Every Saturday September through June, 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon

Lithuanian language classes, Lithuanian Hall, South Side

Editor's Column

Good wishes are being sent out to Viola Stanny who is in the hospital. Get better soon Vi!

Congratulations to long-time member Anna Dansevich on her upcoming birthday. Anna will be 90 in September! Best wishes for this birthday and for many more to come!

The documentary, "Red Terror on the Amber Coast," by Ken Bumbert and David O'Rourke, 2008, is being released on DVD. It documents the fifty-year-long struggle between the people of Lithuania and the Soviet KGB and their predecessors to impose Soviet control on a free and democratic, Western republic. For more information please visit: www.domediaproductions.org

Don't forget that the Lithuanian Club Bingo is held every Wednesday and Sunday evening at the Lithuanian Hall on South Side.

Submit your articles and photographs for publication in our newsletter to pittsburghlithuanians@yahoo.com or mail to Editor, LCS Newsletter, 1010 Arch Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15234



In Loving Memory

Mary H. Tamy

Long-time Society member Mary Tamy passed away on July 17, 2008. She was the beloved wife of Vincent and mother of Vincent of Virginia.

Mary was a member of the LCS, Knights of Lithuania, and was secretary of the Lithuanian Language classes along with Margie Turner. She was instrumental in arranging multiple bus trips to Cleveland, Chicago, Cape May, Atlantic City and Canada for our Society. She organized three bus trips to Washington, DC, for the freedom for Lithuania.

Mary loved to travel, and she and her husband traveled all over the world including six times to Lithuania within a ten year period.

We shall miss Mary's smiling face. May she rest in peace.

Lithuanian Hospice benefits from Society's past donations



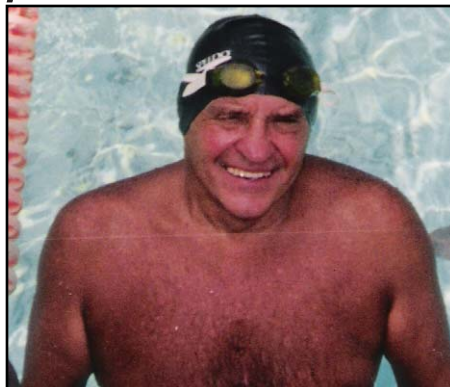
St. Clares' Hospice in Utena, Lithuania

This past June, LCS president John Baltrus had the opportunity to visit St. Clares' Hospice in Utena, Lithuania. There he was greeted by Sr. Dolorita Butkus from the Sisters of St. Francis in Whitehall. Sr. Dolorita has been a consultant to the hospice since it opened in 1996 and continues in her pastoral ministry there.

Sr. Dolorita took John on a thorough tour of the facilities, and he came away impressed with how much they have done with what seemingly is so little space. He was able to see many of the improvements made with donations from the Sister's benefactors in the United States, including a new elevator, laundry facilities, a conference room, chapel and kitchen, which was under extensive renovation during his visit. He also saw a plaque honoring all the benefactors including our Lithuanian Citizens Society. He was able to speak with the hospital's administrator, Zaneta Valiuliene, and visit with several of the patients.

The hospice continues to have many needs.

Society Member Ronald Gainsford Gold Metal Winner at National Transplant Games



Ronald Gainsford

Society Member Ronald Gainsford (Grandparents were Konstantanovitchas) won four swimming gold medals at the National Transplant Games held at Carnegie Mellon University and the David Lawrence Convention Center July 12-16, 2008. He participated in four swimming events.

Gainsford was the oldest participant in the meet at age 78. He is a fourteen year transplant survivor, receiving a new heart on December 5, 1994. Gainsford also swam for the United States Masters Swimming Team in 2000 where he took fourth place at the World Championships in Munich, Germany.

Gainsford was a champion high school and college swimmer. For three consecutive years, 1952 through 1954, he was an all American swimmer at the University of Pittsburgh, competing mainly in the butterfly and backstroke, and was a state champion while a sophomore at Schenley High School. After graduating from college, Gainsford was the head swimming coach at the University of West Virginia from 1956 until 1959 before becoming a middle school gym teacher in the city of Pittsburgh.

Gainsford also owned a scuba shop on Hawley Avenue in Bellevue for 15 years.

Congratulations on such a prestigious achievement. **Labai labai gerai!**

Hospice con't.

Currently it is bursting at the seams and someday hopes to expand into the remainder of the building currently occupied by part of Utena's city government. John was able to present Sr. Dolorita with a donation of \$100 on behalf of the Knights of Lithuania, C-19. Sister said that donations are welcome and major bequests in memory of the deceased can be memorialized on the plaque that hangs in the hospice corridor. You can contact John or the Sisters of St. Francis for further information.

September & October (Rugsejis & Spalis) Birthdays

September Birthdays: Albert Makstutis (1); Michael Dabrishus (3); Paul Stanny (3); Elizabeth Mars (5); John Walluk (5); Danute Snee (6); Sandra Maciulyte (7); Bertha Stashinsky (9); Edward Masilunas (11); Peter Yucius (11); Michele F. Bayer (13); Maria Raymond (13); Frances Beall (15); John Shukes (15); Lorri Ragan Daley (18); Lina Bird (18); Anna Dansevich (18); Brian J. Johnson (18); Margarita Starr (20); Patricia Beyer (21); Rose Mutkus (21); Virginia Bud (29); Kathy Palket (29); Bruno Sukys (29); Vincent Tamy (30); Spencer Sass (30)

October Birthdays: Colleen Beall (24); John Chasky (1); Mary Ann Schaum (3); Michael Vidunas (9); Frances Shagas (10); Kathleen Rabickow (11); Joan Richards (11); Janice Savinis (12); John Baltus (16); Nell Brazauskas (18); Anita DeChancic (18); Darryl Wisbar (18); Kristina Antanaviciene (19); Alan Martello (20); John E. McCloskey (20); Fr. Joseph Markalonis (22); Joan Pakalnis Turner (22); Marcella Zizza (24); Dana Miselis (25); Frances Gill (29); Julia Dolino (31); Vincent Paul Rodgers (31).

Linksmu Gimtadienių!

2008 Member Meetings

Cut and post these meeting dates for future reference.

Sunday, September 14, at 2:00 p.m.

Sunday, October 12, at 2:00 p.m.

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

Sunday, December 14, at 2:00 p.m.

Lithuanian Citizens' Society of Western PA

.....
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, Kathie Skalka,

Halina Stabacinskiene,

Gerri Todd and Dalia Yucius

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

.....
Newsletter - Janet Petrauskas

1010 Arch Avenue

Pittsburgh, PA 15234

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How Lithuanians Curse!

The following article is from *Lithuanian Customs and Traditions: How Lithuanians Curse*.

<http://www.lithuanian-american.org/educat/tradicijos/curse.html>

A nation's character can be identified from many things, customs, traditions, folk art, folklore; how people make merry, how they mourn, how they treat others and so on. But a nation's traits are also mirrored by negative qualities, for instance, how people express their anger, how they curse.

When a person curses he most often expresses anger towards another, he upbraids and degrades him. To voice these ill wishes, the person cursing uses words or phrases he considers to be the angriest, foulest and most offensive and which he would never use in ordinary conversation.

Certain nations are notorious for the abundance of their curses. They are often unconsciously mixed into daily conversation and are almost used as adages. The linguistic influence of neighboring nations (in particular Slavic) is felt in certain oaths used by Lithuanians. Emigrants also borrow expletives from the language of the country where they live. However, we cannot judge the true nature of the Lithuanian nation from these foreign profanities. If we examine the purely Lithuanian swearwords, we will note they are distinct from the expletives and curses of other nations.

Lithuanian oaths are an amalgama of folk beliefs from various timespans. They contain remnants of ancient paganism and Christian elements. At times references are made to ancient mythological beings; the god thunder, fairies, witches, and certain living creatures; at others, to the devil, hell, Lucifer and so on. Curses are closely related to magic. Primitive man believed in the magical power of certain words or sayings, thus curses wish: "May thunder strike you down!" or "May the earth swallow you up!"

Most Lithuanian expletives are based on the words devil, hell, toad, snake, thunder, and serpent. In curses, these words are embellished by other vivid expressions, producing coarse and angry invocations. The most striking curses help the person voice his feelings better and have a stronger impact on the person cursed.

The format of vulgarities depends on the degree of anger being expressed. The vilest Lithuanian curses are called profanities. They convey the direst things to another; a shameful death, eternal suffering, terrible calamities. For example: "May nine demons take you!", "May you hang yourself from a dead branch!", "May your tongue not fit in your mouth!", "May the spring's first thunder kill you!"

con't. next column

Curse con't.

Admonishing curses are more restrained. They do not invoke disaster nor intend vengeance, but merely express hatred for an outrage at another. It is a form of angry namecalling or dismissal of an annoying person. For example: "You pock-marked toad!", "You slough of a serpent!", "You son of a snake!", "You cursed fairy!", "You horned witch!"

Another type of curse is the non-malicious invocation using the format of a profanity. The things such curses intend are certainly not terrible, a smile usually hides behind the anger. For example: "May a rabbit butt you to death!", "The deuce take you", "May a shoe swallow you!", "May you drown in a spoon!"

Sometimes certain swearwords are replaced by sound-alikes which have nothing to do with evil-wishing. When a person flares up and has an urge to curse, he pulls himself together and stops in mid-stream. The expletive's angry content is turned into a joke.

From these few paragraphs, it is evident that Lithuanians were not accustomed to using vile words, especially those degrading women or certain relationships between people. Their curses, in comparison to those of other nations, are relatively "clean" and "innocent" but they do not lack wit or inventiveness.

Did you Pay your Dues for 2008?

Just a reminder that all member dues must be paid by the October meeting in order to vote at the December elections. If you haven't paid yet, please do so. Submit your payment to Don Martello, Financial Secretary, or any of the board members.

Hey, isn't that Peter Yucius with that Gigantic Sandwich?

The familiar faces of Erika and Peter Yucius were at Primanti Bros. in the Strip District on the eve of the restaurant's 75th anniversary when this photo was snapped by the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette on July 19, 2008.

Society Member Peter and wife Erika have moved to Wilmington, NC, three years ago but were home to attend a wedding when this picture was taken.

Primanti's was their first stop in Pittsburgh.



Erika and Peter Yucius chow down on Primanti Bros. sandwiches. Photo by John Heller/Post-Gazette.

Lithuanian Children in Need of a Loving Home through Adoption

International adoption is an exciting journey. It combines a family's love for children and desire to adopt with the wonder, blessings, and challenges of international travel and of receiving a child from another culture.

Maureen Ticich of Bethany Christian Services tells us that there are more than 40 Lithuanian children waiting for loving homes including those with special needs.

Some of the Lithuanian requirements for adoptive parents include married couples must be between the ages of 25 and 48; single women of Lithuanian heritage will be considered for children ages 6 and over; the waiting time for a referral of a healthy child is 12 to 24 months. There is no waiting time for a referral if you choose one of the many waiting children; you would travel approximately 2-4 months after accepting a referral. Two trips would be required.

For people with documented Lithuanian heritage (parents or grandparents born in Lithuania), the country fee is about \$10,000 per child. For people without documented Lithuanian heritage, the fee is slightly higher for a healthy child and about \$10,000 for a waiting child.

For additional information, please contact Maureen Ticich, Bethany Christian Services, 724-940-2900 or mticich@bethany.org.

"Adoption is not about finding children for families, it's about finding families for children" -- Joyce Maguire Pavao.

Congratulations to Rodi Vis: 2008 South Park High School Graduate

R o d i Vis graduated with the Class of 2008 of South Park Senior High School this past June. He is the son of Ron and Society member Daina Vis. Rodi is the nephew of



Rodi Vis
Dalia, Paul, and Peter Yucius. Proud grandma is Lorraine and late grandad was Vito Yucius.

For many years, Rodi was his Aunt Dalia's "right-hand man" as she chaired the Display Booth Committee at the annual Pittsburgh Folk Festival. Always active in sports, he played soccer and ice hockey and was a member of the football and track and field teams while at South Park High. Javelin-triple long jump and high jump were his events. He also belonged to the Robotics team.

Rodi Vis, 2008 Graduate con't.

Accepted at West Virginia University's School of Engineering, Rodi has already claimed his dorm room. Now he is busy getting himself acclimated to life as a college freshman.

Parents and family couldn't be prouder of their boy and wish him a successful academic career.

Lithuanian Classes to Resume on Saturdays

The Lithuanian language classes will resume on September 13, 2008, at the Club's South Side location on Jane Street. The session is held each Saturday from 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon.

This is an excellent opportunity to learn to speak Lithuanian in a relaxed environment.

We encourage all members to join our language classes.

Questions may be directed to Halina Stabacinskiene at stabacinskiene@comcast.net.

We look forward to seeing you on Saturday mornings!

Famous Quotes

Life has taught me that it is not for our faults that we are disliked and even hated, but for our qualities.

--Bernard Berenson, Lithuanian-American art critic and author (1865-1959)

International Taste of Pittsburgh scheduled for September 19 & 20

The International Taste of Pittsburgh is a celebration to bring together the Pittsburgh community for two days of International camaraderie. The event will be held on September 19 & 20 at the Riverplex (between Sandcastle and Waterfront, behind Costco). Friday hours: 4:00 p.m. - 12:00 midnight; Saturday hours: 11:00 a.m. to midnight.

The event's goal is to contribute to the rich cultural expression of the multicultural history and tradition that exists in Pittsburgh.

There will be traditional and contemporary entertainment, ethnic food and refreshments, International marketplace, children's activities-performances, dance workshops and performances, multicultural conversation, beer and wine tastings, and more!

Performances scheduled include: Scott Blasey of The Clarks, Joe Grushecky, Slavjane, Afro Latin Funk, British Rock, Bulgarian Performing Ensemble, India, Ireland, West Africa, Russia, Caribbean, Greece, and more!

Cost is \$10.00/adult, \$8.00 Senior (60+) and Students with ID.

\$5.00 Military Active/Retired with ID, \$3.00 children (3 - 12 years), Under three is free! Tickets can be purchased at the gate.

Hope to see everyone there!

Lithuanian Citizens' Society of W. Pennsylvania

1725 Jane Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15203

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NEW BRIGHTON, PA
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- **Board of Directors Meeting**
Thursday, September 11 5:30 p.m.
- **Members' Meeting**
Sunday, September 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.

