



VARPAS

Fall 2001
Ruduo 2001



The *Varpas* is the official newsletter of the Lithuanians of America which is based in Kansas City, Kansas, the heart of America.

Enjoy Margarita's Mugė November 17th-18th

The LOA's fourth annual bazaar has been named Margarita's Mugė, in honor of founder Margarita McBride Zemaitis. Mugė, pronounced moo-Gay, is Lithuanian for a craft marketplace.

This is a great chance to start your Christmas shopping, or finish it if you're organized. Once again, we will be selling special items from Lithuania at the bazaar, including amber, linens, and wood carvings. LOA member Pat Jesaitis will be selling his unique photography and Rita Eads will be selling antiques. Other vendors include Ukranian Eggs, and Old Country Bakery.

But there's more than just shopping! Children of all ages will be able to have their pictures taken with Father Frost. The Aidas Dancers will also be performing both afternoons at 1:30 p.m. The Young Aidas dancers will dance on Sunday afternoon at 2:00 p.m.

You can enjoy a Lithuanian meal at the Mugė, or take home food for later. We will be preparing cabbage rolls, sausage sandwiches, barley, potato, and chicken soups in our kitchen. Make sure to save room for torte and strudel or take some home. You can also take home Lithuanian bread and whole tortes for your holiday entertaining.

Admission is free with plenty of parking. The Lenexa Community Center is 2 blocks north and 1 block east of 95th and Pflumm. The Mugė is from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday. Come and enjoy a taste of Lithuania!

Lithuanian Christmas Party Sunday, December 2nd

Bring your family, including children and grandchildren, to the LOA Christmas Party and have your picture taken with Father Frost. This year's party will be held on Sunday, December 2nd from 12:30 to 4:00 p.m. at the Lake of the Forest Lodge. See the map inside for directions.

The party will begin with a social hour. Everyone will also be able to sample the dishes on the kučios table. The kučios table has twelve meatless dishes that are traditionally served in Lithuania for Christmas Eve dinner. If you would like to bring a special dish for the kučios table, contact Kathy Hazlewood at (913)262-7175.

The dinner will be pot-luck. Each family is asked to bring a dish or two to share. Bring your favorite casserole, salad, dessert, or alcoholic beverage, and be sure to have your name on the dish and serving utensils. The LOA will provide paper goods and beverages.

Be sure to bring your camera so that you can have your picture taken with Father Frost or purchase a Polaroid picture of your special child with Father Frost. Father Frost will also have gifts for the children. After dinner, the Aidas Dancers will perform, and we will have a Christmas sing-a-long. The LOA will also be having a raffle as a fund-raiser.

If you have any questions, contact Anita Strumillo at (913)299-1453.

Lithuanian Community Loses Leader

Charles J. Zemaitis, Jr., one of the founders of the Lithuanians of America organization in Kansas City, Kansas, passed away suddenly, on Sunday afternoon, August 19, 2001, as he was preparing to come to the Ethnic Festival at Swope Park, to perform with the Aidas Folkdancers. The previous three days, he had spent many hours working with members of the community and the dance group to get our booth up and running at the festival.

“Kazys”, as he came to be known to those of us in the LOA, was in his quiet, friendly way, truly a great ambassador of good will for our culture and our community in Kansas City. He and his wife Margaret were the first commissioners representing Lithuania on the KCMO Mayor’s Ethnic Enrichment Commission. Serving a tenure of almost ten years, they made many friends, and became well-known and respected among their peers in the organization. Their long service earned them both the esteemed title of Honorary Commissioners.

“Kazys” was very dedicated to the promotion and preservation of the culture of his grandparents. He continuously strived to learn more about his culture and loved sharing that knowledge with others. He spearheaded the gathering of data about our Lithuanian community history to be included in the publications of *The Ethnic History of Wyandotte County*, Vols. I, II, and III. His intense interest in the preservation of historical facts and events also led him to search for and collect memorabilia for the Wyandotte County Firefighters’ Museum, located in Bonner Springs. His avid interest in preserving history through photographs, will leave us all with memories of him behind his camera, and lining everyone in just the “right” way, so that posterity would have a good record of our organization’s special events.

“Kazys”, with his open and accepting demeanor, always extending his friendship in a courtly and gracious manner, were the qualities

that made him such a wonderful diplomat and representative of the culture he loved so much. His passing is a great loss to our community, and everyone who knew him.

Diplomatic Ball 2002

The Ethnic Enrichment Commission is sponsoring its annual Diplomatic Ball, on Saturday, March 9, 2002, at the Marriot Hotel. The cost will be \$45.00 for a superb dinner, entertainment and dancing.

The Germans are sponsoring this year’s event. Kenny Royal will provide the music for ballroom dancing.

If you are interested in attending this event, please contact Charlotte or Richard Horvatic in person or by phone. Early reservations of tables mean better seating for a most enjoyable evening with friends and associates. For information or reservations, call (816)461-9073.

Our Lady of Šiluva

Thanks to all our LOA members who helped our Mass in honor of Our Lady of Šiluva. Thanks for Father Russell for coming from Conception Abbey to preside at the Mass. Special thanks to Tony Granosky and Al Purduski for setting up at St. Cyril’s Church. Thanks also to all of our members who attended and brought refreshments.

Volunteers Make 2001 Ethnic Festival A Super Success!

For the past 20 years, our Lithuanian community has participated in the Kansas City Missouri Ethnic Enrichment Festival at Swope Park. Since our humble beginnings with a simple three-sided booth, we have over the years added the beautiful "Gediminas Castle", and a "photo" board depicting a knight on a white horse, a princess and the green "good luck" snake for people to put their faces in to be photographed. Be a "Knight for a Day", or a princess or whatever pleaseth thy fancy.

We have sold Lithuanian artifacts, amber jewelry, pumpnickel "soldier's" bread, sourdough bread, and delicious varieties of tortes, to many who return each year to enjoy the festival. Many hours of preparation, planning, scheduling, transporting, assembling, erecting, dismantling, artistic creating, shift duty, food prep, decorating, selling, cleaning, wrapping, demonstrating, dancing and practicing, educating, promoting good will, and representing our heritage to others, are all part of the colorful presentation of our Lithuanian culture to the metropolitan community each year at festival time.

All of the above activities which make our Lithuanian Castle the showiest, best-managed booth in the entire festival each year, are carried out by the many dedicated volunteers who make it happen. Each of you are part of a great team that just can't be beat!! You consistently produce results which have created a standard of excellence that other groups admire and try to emulate. Aciu, aciulabai, dear friends!!

Thank you, Thank you All, so very much, for a job well done!!!

Christmas Exhibit at the Strawberry Hill Museum

The Strawberry Hill Museum will be opening their Christmas Exhibit on Saturday, November 17, 2001. It will be open weekends from 1-5 p.m. Admission is \$5 per person. The permanent Lithuanian exhibit will include the Lithuanian Christmas tree.

If you are interested in helping with the Lithuanian room or donating or loaning items for the museum, please contact Dolores Purduski at (913)342-4014.

The Strawberry Hill Museum is also having a fund drive for a new roof, which is expected to cost over \$90,000. Donations are tax-deductible and may be mailed to:

Strawberry Hill Museum
720 North 4th Street
Kansas City, KS 66101

About Our Members

Anita and Bill Strumillo are the proud grandparents of twins **Indiana Alan** and **Eden Nichole** born on September 11, 2001 to parents **David** and **Nichole**. Congratulations!

Kristen Christensen will be having a booth at the **Lake of the Forest Arts and Crafts Show**, November 9th and 10th from 4-8 p.m. on Friday and 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday.

Dick Horvatic is stepping down as the Chairman of the Ethnic Enrichment Commission (EEC) after a two-year term. During his tenure, the EEC was able to get non-profit tax status. Thanks for all you work!

Richard Hazlewood is recovering after knee surgery. We hope to see you up and polkaing soon.

Do you have information about your family to share with your fellow LOA members? If you have news to share, call Kathy Hazlewood at 262-7175, mail to 6625 Reeds Dr., Mission, KS 66202, or e-mail khazlewood1@excite.com

Lithuania Gives U.S. Airspace Rights

At the request of the U.S. government, on September 26th, the Lithuanian government agreed to give the United States overflight privileges as part of the campaign against terrorism. Lithuania also gave the right for American transport or military planes to land at Zokniai airport near the city of Siauliai, whose runways are long enough to be used by all planes.

Deputy Foreign Minister Giedrius Cekuolis told reporters after a meeting with U.S. defense attaché Lieutenant Colonel Albert Zaccor that this action demonstrates Lithuania's political will as an ally of the U.S. and NATO.

Anthrax Found in Vilnius

Anthrax was found in mail sent to the United States embassy in the Lithuanian capital Vilnius on November 1st. Public buildings in Vilnius, as well as embassies, were closed for All Saint's Day. No one in the embassy has been diagnosed with anthrax, and the employees who routinely handle mail will take a course of antibiotics for about a week.

It was the second U.S. diplomatic mission, to find the deadly bacteria in mail sent from the State Department in Washington. Anthrax had previously been found in Peru.

Words in Lithuanian

Merry Christmas!	Linksmu Kaledu! (link smoo kah leh doo)
Happy New Year!	Sventu Nauju Metu! (sventoo now joo matoo)

Basketball Players Pose Nude

Four members of the Lithuanian women's basketball team posed nude for Lietuvos Rytas, the largest daily newspaper in Lithuania. Agne Abromaite, Reda Aleliunaite, Lina Brazdeikyte, and Lina Dambrauskaite posed with several strategically placed basketballs.

MU Signs Lithuanian Player

The University of Missouri signed Lithuanian Giedrus Rinkevicius for the men's basketball team. Rinkevicius is 7-foot-2, the same as the tallest Tiger to play.

Rinkevicius is currently enrolled at Bridgeton Academy in North Bridgeton, Maine, where he will study for one year, and then have four years of eligibility at MU. He turned down offers from professional teams in Europe to play in the U.S.

LOA Directory

Please add the following:
HEATH, Charlotte/Bob 972-
394-6404
1923 Middle Glen Dr.
Carrolton, TX 75007

If you have additional corrections, please call Kathy Hazlewood at (913)262-7175.

Use this map as your Car Pass into Lake of the Forest for the Lithuanian Christmas Party on December 2, 2001. Lake of the Forest Sponsors: Ray and Ellen Bailey, (913) 422-5831.

Time for 2002 LOA Dues

LOA dues for 2002 are staying at the same low price of only \$10 per family or \$7 for a single person. As an LOA member, you will receive the *Varpas* mailed to your home. The *Varpas* includes information about LOA members and events, as well as news from Lithuania. You will also be invited to the LOA's events such as the Christmas Party and Lithuanian Independence Day Celebration.

LOA Treasurer, Anita Strumillo, will be collecting dues at the LOA Christmas Party. If you are unable to pay then, you can mail in your dues. Just fill in the form below (or write the same information on a piece of paper), and mail it with your dues to Anita Strumillo.

If you would like to make an additional contribution, it would be greatly appreciated. Remember, the LOA is a non-profit organization, and your contributions are tax-deductible. Your donations allow the LOA to do more activities to help Lithuanians both here in the United States and in Lithuania.

You can also purchase a gift membership for friends or relatives. Many LOA members live outside of the Kansas City area, and the *Varpas* is a nice reminder of Kansas City and the Lithuanians there. Just send the address for your gift membership with your dues.

Baltics Honor Victims

The Baltic governments strongly denounced the airborne attacks against the United States, and hundreds of people left flowers, candles and poignant notes of sympathy in front of U.S. embassies in the three capitals. September 13 was declared an official day of remembrance in Latvia and Estonia, where flags draped with black ribbons would fly during the day.

People across the Baltic states paused for three minutes of silence at midday Friday in honor of the Americans who died in the terrorist attacks that week; from public buildings and private homes, flags draped with black ribbons also flew at half mast. In the heart of the Baltic capital old cities, popular tourist attractions, hundreds of people stopped in their tracks and church bells tolled slowly, echoing down the winding cobblestone streets. In Lithuania, radios and televisions fell silent at noon, and cars in the normally bustling center of Vilnius, the capital, pulled over to the side of the road. In a radio address just before broadcasting stopped, Lithuanian President Valdas Adamkus said that Lithuanians now, for a change, had to think how they could contribute to the defense of the United States. "Until now, we have always tended to think only that American needed to protect us."

Lithuanians of America 2002 Dues

___ \$10 - family ___ \$7 - single ___ Additional Contribution of \$___

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: (____) _____ - _____ Email: _____

Mail to: LOA, 1731 N. 78th Terr., Kansas City, KS 66112