

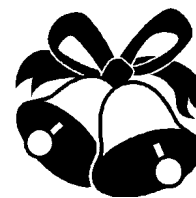


# VARPAS

Summer 2002

*Vasara 2002*

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



## **Come to the Lithuanian Castle August 16, 17, and 18, 2002**

It's that time of year, again! Lithuanian bread and torte have been ordered. Shoppers have been to buying Lithuanian amber, linens, and other items. The pieces of the "Gediminas Castle" are being gathered up from various garages. It must mean that the Ethnic Enrichment Festival is near!

The Lithuanians will be in their castle booth August 16<sup>th</sup> through 18<sup>th</sup> representing their heritage. Fantastic food is a favorite part of the festival, and the Lithuanian booth is no exception. Torte lovers will need to choose from three types: "Napoleanas" Apricot, Chocolate-Raspberry, and Hazelnut. Lithuanian bread and bacon buns will also be sold. A nice cold lemonade or iced tea will quench your thirst. The Lithuanian booth will also feature unique items from Lithuania.

On Sunday, the Aidas (meaning Echoes) Lithuanian Dancers will perform from 1:30 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. The festival will feature ethnic entertainment all weekend. Donations of \$1 are requested to cover costs. Parking is free. Hours are:

Friday, Sept. 16<sup>th</sup> - 6:00 to 10:00 p.m.

Saturday, Sept. 17<sup>th</sup> - 12:00 to 10:00 p.m.

Sunday, Sept. 18<sup>th</sup> - 12:00 to 6:00 p.m.

So, come out to the Festival, Lithuanians all! Join all the other nationalities from around the world for wonderful food, fun, friendship, and entertainment of the finest kind.

For further information, call Charlotte Horvatic, at (816) 461-9073. See you all there!

## **Our Lady Of Siluva Mass Slated For September 8, 2002**

All LOA members are invited to attend the fourth annual celebration of the feast day of Our Lady of Siluva. Mass will be at 11 a.m. on Sunday, September 8, 2002, at St. Cyril and Methodius Church 9th and Mill, Kansas City, Kansas. A social hour will follow immediately afterward at the church hall.

Our Lithuanian flags will decorate the front pews on the left side of the church. As usual, members are asked to sit together in the marked pews, as a sign of our unity as Lithuanians.

We celebrate two feast days each year with a Mass: In March, we honor St. Casimir, patron saint of Lithuania. In September, we honor Our Lady of Siluva. On both of these occasions, we try to arrange to have the hall available, so that all of our members will have a chance to see and visit with each other. With each passing year, we lose more members of the original community of Lithuanians and therefore, it is very important to get together while we still can.

Many of the ladies have been very generous in bringing refreshments for our social hours in the past. Your offerings are always so delicious and appetizing! If you would like to bring something for the social hour after the Mass on September 8, please call Anita Strumillo at (913) 299-1453, or Charlotte at (816) 461 9073.

We look forward to seeing ALL of our dear members on September 8! Mark your calendars, and let us celebrate our faith and our friendship, together!

## Lithuanians to Meet at Conception Abbey

Father Samuel Russell is arranging for LOA members to join with the Lithuanian group from Omaha for a day at Conception Abbey on Saturday, September 21<sup>st</sup>.

Details are still being arranged. If interested in attending, more information will be available at the Lady of Siluva Mass, by calling Kathy Hazlewood at (913)262-7175, or the LOA web page [www.aidasdancers.org/loa.html](http://www.aidasdancers.org/loa.html)

## 5th Annual Bazaar

Plan now to attend the fifth annual Lithuanian Bazaar, November 16-17, 2002, at the Lenexa Community Center. This is a perfect opportunity to buy Lithuanian items for gifts, as well as enjoy some delicious Lithuanian food.

There are still some spaces available for vendors. If interested, contact Anita Strumillo at (913)299-1453.

## LOA Christmas Party

Mark your calendars now and plan to attend the LOA Christmas Party on Sunday, December 8, 2002, at the Lake of the Forest.

## Learning Lithuanian

Lithuanian lessons are available on the internet with animated pictures and sound at: <http://www.angelfire.com/ma4/thelithuanians>

The first lesson includes a variety of animals, with phrases about each animal. Other lessons include additional nouns and introductory phrases.

## Prayer to Our Lady of Siluva

Mary, your desire was always to glorify God. He came and dwelt with you in the flesh through a mystery of love. And you lived in Him in the spirit in which you received Him. You witness that love which builds up Christ in our hearts. As the perfect model of a disciple of the Lord, show us how to live in faith and love that God may always "make His home among us." We want to remain his people forever.

Our Lady of Siluva, from the first instant of their love for you, the faithful people of Lithuania have publicly honored you by building devotional shrines. Raise up to God in prayer those self-sacrificing descendants in your love. With a motherly love you have cared for the suffering children of God, ask Him to continue to "wipe away all tears from their eyes."

## Lithuanian Days in L.A.

The 16th annual Los Angeles Lithuanian Fair (Lietuviu Dienos) will be held Saturday October 5<sup>th</sup> from 12:00 - 4:30 and Sunday October 6<sup>th</sup> from 11:45-4:00

The fair will be held on the grounds of St. Casimir Church, 2716 St. George Street, Los Angeles, CA 90027, which is on the corner of St. George and Griffith Park Blvd in the Los Feliz section of Los Angeles.

There will be Lithuanian food, beverages, music, dancing, vendors and organizations. The following groups will be performing:

- Music Ensemble "Sutaras"  
from Vilnius, Lithuania
- Music Ensemble "Teviskes"  
from Lemont, Illinois
- Vocalists "Trys Sesutes Grikaviciutes"  
from Orange, California
- Dance Ensemble "Spindulys L.B."  
from Los Angeles, California
- Dance Ensemble "Spindulys"  
from Chicago, Illinois

## Russia Objects to Visas for Kaliningrad

As a requirement for Lithuania to enter the European Union (EU), Lithuania plans to require visas for travelers from Kaliningrad. The EU has offered Kaliningrad residents the option to use multiple entry Schengen visas. A Schengen visa allows easy entry between countries that use the Schengen visa, which are currently Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Iceland, Italy, Greece, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Spain and Sweden.

Russian President Vladimir Putin feels that requiring visas will tear Kaliningrad from the rest of Russia. Lithuania has suggested that Russia address the problems caused by delays in border crossing. Lithuania would like to be liberal in granting visas to Kaliningrad residents, but those decisions are subject to EU approval. Lithuania requested to open a Lithuanian consulate in the city of Sovetsk in Kaliningrad last November, but has not received a response from Russia yet.

Gunter Verheugen, EU Commissioner for Enlargement, said that Lithuania has solved the major issues for preaccession that are unique to Lithuania and only needs to address issues that face all candidates.

Verheugen expressed doubts that Lithuania could get a transition period on the sale of farmland, although it has been given to other EU candidates. He suggested that farmers will boost their incomes by 50-60 percent with the benefits of EU membership.

Another advantage of EU membership is that the EU will help finance the shutdown of the Ignalina nuclear plant. The EU has also agreed to grant 9.4 million euros (\$9.1 million) in aid help finance the closure of the Kairiai landfill and other old waste-disposal sites in the northern region of Siauliai and their replacement with a new landfill.

## Parliament Revises Budget

The Lithuanian parliament revised the 2002 budget, raising expected revenues by 57 million litas to 8.93 billion litas. Expected expenditures were also raised with the budget deficit of 1.13 billion litas remaining the same. 30 percent of the additional expenditures will be spent on Euro-integration.

## Personal Income Tax

A general declaration of income will be mandatory for all Lithuanian residents, beginning in early 2004 they will declare their income for 2003. There will only be two tax brackets: 15 percent and 33 percent. The monthly personal tax exemption will be raised from 250 litas (\$71) to 290 litas. The tax exemption for families with children will also increase.

## Energy Exports

During the first half of 2002, Lithuanian Energy exported 3.46 billion kilowatt-hours (kWh) of electricity. The electricity went to Belarus (1.60 billion kWh), Kaliningrad (1.22 billion kWh), Latvia (426 million kWh), Estonia (93 million kWh), and Poland (23 million kWh). The company made a profit of about 155 million litas (\$42 million) from the sales.

## Unemployment Down

At the beginning of July, 187,500 people were registered as unemployed in Lithuania, or 10.7 percent. This is down 0.4 percent from June, and the sixth consecutive month that unemployment decreased.

## About Our Members

Welcome to Major **Vidas and Egle Malinionis**! Vidas is from the Lithuanian army and will be studying at Leavenworth. We hope to see you at future LOA events.

**Pat Jesaitis** will have his photographs displayed at VanDeusen Photography in Prairie Village as part of their Kansas City Show featuring work by Kansas City natives. The show will last through August 31<sup>st</sup>. Congratulations, Pat.

**Frank Mazeitis** is recovering from knee replacement surgery. We wish you a speedy recovery!

The **Hazlewood family** has their dragon collection on exhibit at the Strawberry Hill Museum. If visiting the museum, you can also see the Lithuanian room and other collections including Barbies and cookie cutters.

*Do you have information about your family to share? Call Kathy Hazlewood at (913)262-7175, mail to 6625 Reeds Dr., Mission, KS 66202, or e-mail [khazlewood1@yahoo.com](mailto:khazlewood1@yahoo.com)*

## +++ In Memoriam +++

Our sympathy and prayers are extended to the families of the following persons. Please remember them with your prayers.

**Sophie Druten Stewart**-died on Friday, July 26, 2002. Services were held at the Porter Funeral Home and burial was in Mt. Calvary Cemetery. Sophie grew up in the original Lithuanian community in Kansas City, Kansas, and was a faithful charter member of the Lithuanians of America.

**Bernard A. (Putt) Slevinske** passed away on July 31, 2002. Mass of the Resurrection was held at Christ the King, with burial in Mt. Calvary Cemetery.

*Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let Your Perpetual Light shine upon them. May her souls and all the souls of the mercifully*

*departed rest in peace. Amen.*

## Donations Help LOA

Employers of LOA members are also making donations to the LOA. Hallmark has a program where they donate money every six months to organizations that employees donate their time to. Another employer makes matching contributions to non-profit organizations that their employees contribute to. Thank you to the LOA members that are participating in these programs and helping the LOA.

## Cemetery Lots for Sale

Al Purduski, one of our charter members, has several cemetery lots in Mount Calvary for sale. For information, call him at (913)287-8070 or (913)788-7971.

## Lithuanian Recipes Wanted

The Aidas Dancers are creating a Lithuanian cookbook to sell at festivals. It's not too late to have your family recipes included. Contributors will receive a free copy of the cookbook.

Send recipes to:

Kathy Hazlewood  
6625 Reeds Dr.  
Mission, KS 66202

Or e-mail:

[khazlewood1@yahoo.com](mailto:khazlewood1@yahoo.com)

If you are interested in Lithuanian cooking, you can also get Lithuanian recipes at <http://ausis.gf.vu.lt/eka/food/fcont.html>

## Linen and Flax Clothing Available at Crown Center

Vinone's, in Crown Center, carries linen and flax clothing from Lithuania at their store.

They also sell other lines of women's clothing.