



VARPAS

Fall 2007

Ruduo 2007

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



Kucios/Christmas Party in Davis Hall

Yes, fellow LOA members, our annual Christmas/Kucios party is slated for Sunday, December 2, 2007, from 12 noon until 4 P.M. All members and their families are welcome!

One important change has been made, however; the location is different. Instead of the party being held at the Lake of the Forest Clubhouse, it will be held in Davis Hall at Wyandotte County Lake. Due to an increase in the clubhouse rental, the LOA board voted to look for a different venue.

As always, volunteers will prepare the various dishes for the Kucios table, where our members can sample twelve meatless dishes which are traditionally served in each Lithuanian home on Christmas Eve. The twelve dishes represented the twelve apostles. Fish was a staple in biblical times, and still is in Lithuania and many European countries. Dishes made with whole grains, legumes, sauerkraut, mushrooms and dried fruits are also included.

The Social hour begins at 12:00 noon, and members are invited to meet and greet before lunch and the program. Father Frost will magically appear, to meet and greet the children and the young at heart.

The Aidai Folkdancers will perform a short program and afterward, all the members will be invited to dance some polkas, to learn and participate in some short and easy folkdances. Our members have enjoyed the dancing, and in this and other ways we continue to preserve the cultural traditions of our common heritage for our children and grandchildren.

Come join everyone in the festivities of the winter holidays. Mark your calendar for Sunday, December 2, 2007, at 12 noon. Bring your smiles and your pot luck dish to share!

Kuciu Vakaras “Davis” Saleje

Gerbiami LOA nariai maloniai kvieciame jus ir jusu seimos narius i musu kasmetini Kuciu Vakara, kuris ivyks 2007tuju gruodzio 2aja diena, sekmadieni. Svente presides 12 valanda dienos ir tesis iki 4riu valandu vakaro.

Del nuomos padidejimo grupes nariai nutare pakeisti sios sventes vieta. Skirtingai nuo praeitu metu Kuciu vakaras ivyks ne “Lake of the Forest” klube, bet “Davis” pokyliu saleje, kuri randasi “Wyandotte” rajone.

Kaip ir kiekvienais metais LOA nariai gales pasimegauti ir paragauti dvylika patiekalu, kuriuos paruos musu savanoriai virejai. Dvylika skirtingu patiekalu ant Kuciu stalo yra senoji lietuviu kataliku tradicija. Dvylika Kuciu patiekalu atspindi dvylika apastalu. Ant Kuciu stalo visada rasite zuvies patiekalu, kurie irgi yra viena is senuju tradiciju Lietuvoje ir kitose Europos salyse nuo biblijos laiku. Be zuvies patiekalu, ant Kuciu stalo dar rasite ivairybe patiekalu pagamintu is avyziniu kruopu, pupeliu, raugintu kopustu, grybu ir dziovintu vaisiu.

Pries programos pradzia ir pietu pateikima visus maloniai kvieciame atvykti truputeli anksciau, apie 12 valand , kur galesite susipazinti ir pabendrauti su kitais sventes dalyviais. Kaip visada, sventes pabaigoje senelis saltis nudziugins vaikucius ir visus kitus sventes dalyvius savo pasirodymu.

Lietuviu liaudies “Aido” soku grupes bus paruose keleta lietuviu liaudies soku, po kuriu visi sventes dalyviai gales pasimokyti polkos ir prisijungti prie lietuviu liaudies soku ratelio. Kiekvienais metais sventes svečiai pramogaudavo dalyvaudami soku ratelyje. Tai yra vienas is lengviausiu ir idomiausiu budu islaikyti musu salies kultura tiek suaugusiuju tiek ir jaunimo nerupestingame gyvenimuose.

Maloniai kvieciame visus sudalyvauti musu sventeje. Taigi nepamirskite pasizymekite gruodzio 2aja diena, sekmadieni, jusu kalendoriuose. Kvieciame visus atvykti su syksenomis veiduose. Ir nepmirsti jusu specialaus patiekalo, kuris papildys musu Kuciu stala.

Come Away to Margarita's Muge!

Want to have some fun in the dreary days of November? Mark your calendar now for Saturday, November 17, 2007, to get in the holiday mood, and begin your holiday shopping from the wide variety of vendors who will be displaying their handcrafted items. Of course, visiting with the crafters is always fun, as you learn about their wares and the skills it takes to produce their creations. The hours are from 10 A.M. to 5 P.M., so come at your convenience.

When your shopping is done, you can visit our Lithuanian kitchen, where you can order a snack or a "full-meal" deal, specially prepared by our famous and experienced team of Lithuanian chefs. The menu will include our delicious cabbage rolls, bacon buns, sausage sandwiches, a hearty "winter" salad made with beans and other vegetables with a yogurt dressing, a sauerkraut salad, our sourdough rye bread, and a variety of soups including our beef, barley and mushroom soup, cream of potato, and a rich and tummy pleasing chicken with noodles. For the young ones, whose palates are not as discerning as adults, we feature a hotdog and potato chip plate. For dessert, you may choose Lithuanian apricot or chocolate raspberry torte. Beverages will include a choice of coffee, hot or iced tea, lemonade, or hot cider.

While enjoying your meal, you can visit with family and friends, and maybe even meet some new acquaintances, of various ethnic roots, who find this an enjoyable event to attend. Before leaving, of course, you will want to stop and get some loaves of bread, or tortes, or some of the homemade cookies, brownies, fudge, and small gift items from the ladies of the Lithuanians of America table for later! Yum!

Father Frost will appear for the enjoyment of young and old alike. He always has a cheery smile, a hearty "Ho, Ho, Ho", and hugs to share. The Aidas Folkdancers will perform a short program between 1:00 p.m. and 2:00 p.m., which is always a crowd pleaser!

So, come one and all, to our annual holiday market place! We look forward to seeing you there!

Jei norite pasilinksminti ir pragiedrinti rudeningas lapkričio dienas, pasizymekite savo kalendroriuose 2007tuju lapkričio septyniolikta diena ir nepamirskite atvykti i Margaritos Muge. Cia galesite pradeti savo sventini dovanu pirkima nuo ivairybes nuostabiu meniniu ranku dirbiniu. Bendravimas su musu meninkais yra visada labai idomus ir pazintinas. Cia galite suzinoti ir ismokti apie ju meno sriti, ju gabumus ir talentus, kurie leidzia jiems sukuria nepakartojama mena. Svente prasides 10ta valanda ryto ir tesis iki 5sios valandos vakaro, taigi prasome apsilankyti jums patogiu laiku.

Pasibaigus dovanu pirkimui galesite apsilankyti lietuviskoje virtuveje kur jusu pasirinkimui mes pasiulysime ivairiu uzkandziu ir tradiciniu lietuvisku antruju patiekalu, kuriuos paruos musu patyre virejai. Lietuviskame menu rasite balandeliu, bandeliu su spyrguciais, sumistiniu su desra, baltos misraines su pupelemis, darzovemis ir jogurto padazu, raugintu kopustu salotu, namines duonos ir ivairiu sriubu: jautienos su perlinem kruopom, grybu, bulviu ir skanosios vistienos su makaronais sriubos. Jaunimas, kuris dazniausiai buna daug isrankesnis, gales pasigardziuoti desrelemis su batonu "hotdogais" ir bulviu traskuciais. Desertui mes pasiulysime obuoliu pyrago ir abrikosu arba avieciu torto. Is gaivinamu gerimu galesite pasirinkti kava, karsta arba su atsaldyta arbata, limonada ar karsta sideri.

Mugeje galesite ne tik paragauti ivairiu lietuvisku patiekalu, bet ir pasibuti su savo draugais ir seima ir net gi susipazinti su ivairiu tautybiu žmonemis, kurie irgi dziaugiasi sia Margaritos Muge. Be abejo, pries isvykstant namo nepamirskite nusipirkti kepala namines duonos ar keleta riekuciu torto, naminiu sausainuku, sokoladinio pyrago ir kitu ivairiu skanumynu prie Amerikos Lietuviu moteru dovanu stalo. Skanaus! Sventes pabaigoje savo apsilaikymu Senelis Saltis nudziugins visus sventes dalyvius. Senelis visada visus pralinksmina savo sypsena, gera nuotaika, sventisku pasveikinimu ir savo siltais apkabanimais. Populiariausia Muges dalis yra Lietuviu liaudies soku kolektyvo 'Aidas' pasirodymas, kuris ivyks 1ma valanda dienos ir tesis apie valanda. Visus kvieciame atvykti i musu kasmetine Muge! Iki pasimatymo

Christmas Candlelight Tours at Strawberry Hill Museum

In addition to the regular Christmas tours of the Strawberry Hill Museum, the museum will also offer candlelight tours on three Friday evenings: November 23rd, December 7th and December 21st. Tickets for the tours must be purchased in advance by mail or at the gift shop. Tickets are \$20 each. The tours are from 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m, with music and dessert following the tour.

Saint Nicholas will visit with children at the museum on December 1st. Photos will be available for \$5. Enter at the door by the iron bridge on the south side.

Christmas season at the museum is from Saturday, November 17th until Sunday, January 27th. On Sunday, December 9th, Lipovac and Sturdevant will have a Christmas program at 2 p.m. in the West room. The Liederkranz Singers and Ethnic Choir will perform at 2 p.m. on Saturday, December 15th in the chapel.

Strawberry Hill Museum
720 N. 4th Street
Kansas City, KS 66101
913-371-3264

About Our Members

Jack Christopher Hoult was born on Tuesday, October 9th, 2007, at 2:47p.m. to **Jason** and **Julia Hoult**. He weighed in at 8 lbs and 11 ozs and was 21 1/2 inches long. Congratulations!

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@yahoo.com

Lithuanian Translation

Lithuanian translation provided by. Renata Bakelyte Acui!

LOA Fall Picnic a Success!

Many thanks to Gloria and Lloyd Ruttman, and their daughter and son-in-law, Pamela and Drew, for all their work on the fall picnic. About 60 people attended (in spite of the brief rain). The picnic was also an opportunity to enjoy some good home made krupnikis.

Lithuanian Words

žiema(zhyeh-mah') – winter
šalta žiema(shahl-tah' zhyeh-mah') - a cold winter
ruduo – autumn
rudens diena(ru-dens' dyeh-nah') - an autumn day
primadienis(pir-mah'-dyeh-nis) – Monday
antradienis(ahn-trah'-dyeh-nis) – Tuesday
trečiasdienis(ish treh-chyah'-dyeh-nis) – Wednesday
ketvirtadienis(keht-vir-tah'-dyeh-nis) - Thursday
penktadienis(penk-tah'-dyeh-nis) - Friday
šeštadienis (shesh-tah'-dyeh-nis)- Saturday
sekmadienis(sek-mah'-dyeh-nis) - Sunday
motina (mo'-ti-nah) – mother
motinos meilė (mo-'-ti-nos mey'-ley) - a mother's love
tėvas (tey'-vahs) – father
šeimos tėvas - father of the family (shey-mos' tey'-vahs)
su-nus (soo-nus') – son
duktė(duk-tey') – daughter
ji mums kaip duktė(yi mums keyp duk-tey') - she's like a daughter to us

E-Mail Addresses

The LOA would like to use e-mail to remind members of upcoming events. When you pay your 2008 dues, please include your e-mail address.

Addresses will only be used for occasional e-mail by the LOA and never for advertising.

Lithuanians Represented Throughout the Year

Our Lithuanian community was represented at the following events which took place throughout the year in the greater metropolitan area. These events represent a commitment of many of our fellow members who have volunteered their time and talents to support these events in Kansas City, Kansas and Missouri.

- February 18, 2007 - Lithuanian Independence Day Celebration at Wyandotte County Historical Museum. Certificates of recognition given to members whose financial gifts and gifts in kind made possible the permanent display and preservation of the St. Casimir church bell at the Museum. Potato pancakes and Lithuanian beer were served in celebration.

- February 24, 2007 - Ethnic Enrichment Commission Diplomatic Ball, hosted this year by Lithuania, Czech Republic, Slovak Republic, Croatia, Russia, Serbia and Ukraine.

- March 19, 2007 - 4-H Regional Conference-Aidas dancers perform and Lithuanian cultural artifacts and amber jewelry on display and for sale.

- March 23, 2007 - Kansas City, Missouri Lawn and Garden Show-Lithuanian Commissioners join representatives of other nations, all dressed in costume, to represent the Ethnic Enrichment Commission. Short performances by several countries as entertainment

- March 31, 2007 - Northland Ethnic Festival – Cultural displays represent Lithuania and other nations of the world.

- April 20, 2007 - Aidas Folk dancers perform at Sweet Life Retirement Community

- April 25, 2007 - Lithuania representatives in native attire meet and interact with international visitors in the offices of the International Committee of the Kansas City, Missouri, City Council, to discuss methods of raising cultural awareness and preservation of traditions and languages for posterity and understanding among peoples.

- April 26, 2007 - Aidas Folk dancers perform

for residents of Foxwood Springs Retirement Community, in Raymore, Missouri. A brief talk about costumes and customs was followed by a question and answer session.

- May 5, 2007 - A cultural display of Lithuanian artifacts and amber jewelry at the Lenexa, Kansas, 100 Year City-wide Celebration. Participation in an international Fashion Show with other member nations on the KCMO Ethnic Enrichment Commission.

- May 28, 2007 - Participation of Lithuanian Commissioners as flag bearers, representing Lithuania in ceremonies at the Liberty Memorial –Greater Kansas City, MO Memorial Day tribute to our armed services, and veterans of foreign wars, past and current. Also honored that day were outstanding students from the greater metropolitan area schools for achieving top awards for best patriotic essays.

- July 17, 2007 - Lithuanian Commissioners join other international representatives on the EEC to welcome the new members of the KCMO Parks and Recreation and Board at the Parks and Recreation offices near Swope Park. Dressed in their native costumes, each of the participating countries brought ethnic foods for the new Board Members, as a gesture of welcome and gratitude to the Board for its past and continuing support and enthusiasm for the Ethnic Enrichment Festival.

- August 17-19, 2007 - Lithuanian community has a booth for the 28th year at the KCMO Ethnic Enrichment Festival. The “Gediminas” castle is a favorite landmark at the Swope Park event each year. The knight on a horse is a favorite stamp for the children with passport books. Aidas Folk dance group performs on the stage in the Swope Park Pavilion, and receives much applause for their lively and enthusiastic performance, in spite of heat. Lithuanian representatives carry the national flag in the annual Saturday Parade of Flags at the festival. Representatives say “Welcome” (to the festival) in Lithuanian. Aidas

folk dancer dressed in costume represents Lithuania in the Sunday afternoon International Fashion Show onstage in the Swope Park Pavilion.

- September 29, 2007 - American Royal Parade – Kansas City, Missouri, Lithuanian Commissioners in National costumes, join other international ethnic commissioners in walking with EEC banner or riding on float with international flags flying on both sides of the float, and waving to the crowds while shouting “hello’s” in native tongue to all bystanders along the route.

- November 17, 2007 - Margarita’a Muge - Lithuanian community sponsors 9th annual Lithuanian holiday Marketplace, with crafters and ethnic vendors, as well as Lithuanian food, recipe books, amber jewelry and cultural artifacts for sale.

- December 2, 2007 - Lithuanian “Kucios” and Christmas Party for members and family. Kucios food sampler table, Pot luck buffet, Father Frost brings little gifts, aidas folk dancers perform and then interact with members in “mixer” dances and polkas. Children’s Christmas Shopping Store and membership renewal.

Lithuanian Unemployment

Unemployment fell from (6.0% to 4.1%) in Lithuania in September. It was the second largest fall in the European Union, after Poland’s decrease from 12.9% to 8.8%. The euro area’s seasonally-adjusted unemployment rate stood at 7.3% in September 2007.

Lithuania's gross domestic product grew at an annual rate of 10.8% during the third quarter. That's a big jump from both the first and second quarters, when year-on-year growth was 8.3% and 8% respectively. For the full-year of 2006, economic growth was 7.5%.

The Lithuanian Statistics Department has forecast a 0.8 pct monthly inflation for October.

New Ignalina Suggested

The Lithuanian President, Valdas

Adamkus, met with the presidents of Latvia and Estonia to discuss their support for a new nuclear power plant in Lithuania to replace the existing Ignalina plant and the erection of the electricity bridge to Poland. They feel that energy independence is necessary for political independence.

Poland has expressed interest in the project, but has requested a third of the power from the new plant. Lithuania could also invite Scandinavian utilities to participate.

Lithuania’s accession agreement with the European Union stipulates that the country shutdown the Ignalina plant in 2009, but one clause in the treaty states that Lithuania is able to apply to the EU for an extension until Dec. 31, 2012, “if the energy supply is disrupted in Lithuania.” Many people fear that without an EU agreement to extend Ignalina’s lifespan, Russia will take control of Lithuania’s energy market in 2009.

The European Union has earmarked 865 million euros to spend on Ignalina over the 2007 - 2013 period, both for the plant’s decommissioning, and for the modernization of Lithuania’s energy production capacity after the plant closes. The Ignalina shutdown was a safety concern because of the design of the Soviet-built plant.

Reduction of carbon dioxide emissions is another advantage of a new nuclear power plant. Lithuania decreased its emissions by 67 percent since 1990; however, further reduction of would become difficult after closing the plant if gas use increases. Lithuanian Prime Minister Gediminas Kirkilas said, “I think that at this time, when Europe is taking up leadership in the front of fighting climate change and plans to make higher demands yet than were formulated regarding reduction of CO2 emission, a better juncture is created for discussing the extended operation of the second block of the Ignalina plant.”

Time for 2008 LOA Dues

LOA dues for 2008 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, and keep dues at a low price.

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.

LOA Calendar

Nov. 17th – Margarita’s Muge, Lenexa Community Center, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Nov. 17th – Jan. 27th (weekends only) - Strawberry Hill Museum Christmas Exhibit, noon to 5 p.m.

Dec. 2nd – LOA Christmas Party, Davis Hall at Wyandotte County Lake, 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

January 13th - Day of Freedom Defenders, in memory the lives lost on January 13, 1991, to Soviet troops at the Lithuanian TV tower.

February 16 - National Day - Day of Restoration of the State of Lithuania (1918)

March 1st - Ethnic Ball at the downtown Marriott hosted by the American Indians, Hawaiians, and Somoans. Tickets at \$60 each.

March 4th – St. Casimir’s Day

March 9th - Lithuanian Independence Day/St.

Lithuanians of America 2008 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

Casimir’s Day Celebration at the Wyandotte County Museum.

March 11th - Day of Restoration of the

Independence of Lithuania (1990)