



# VARPAS

Summer 2007

*Vasara 2007*

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

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## **Come to the 2007 Ethnic Festival !**

August 17<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> are the dates of this year's Ethnic Enrichment Festival, which is in its 28<sup>th</sup> consecutive year, at Swope Park in Kansas City, Mo. Every year, the Festival draws more and more people, who want to taste foods and enjoy the entertainment from around the world. Especially fun for families, but people of all ages and walks of life, come year after year to experience the casual, yet exhilarating atmosphere, and the camaraderie and neighborliness among the attendees and participants alike.

The Festival, which is always located just west of the Zoo and Starlight Theater, has been a big draw for friends and families in the greater Kansas City area. Parking is free and tickets are only \$ 3.00 each. Children under 12 get in free, but they receive a facsimile Passport Book at the Information Booth, when they arrive. The Passport Books are always a fun and exciting activity for the children, as they visit each booth and get their books stamped with each country's logo. The Lithuanian Knight on a horse is always a favorite with the children, especially when they see the "picture board" with a knight, princess, a horse and a serpent with head openings for one to peer through and have one's picture taken. Would you like to be a horse or a knight for a day ?

This year, for the first time, the Festival will feature a Youth activity booth, which will feature stories and tales from around the world, coloring and paper art crafts, all with an ethnic

## **Kviciame I 2007tuju Tautine Svente!**

Siu metu rugpjucio 17ta, 18ta, ir 19ta dienomis Swope Parke, kuris randasi Kansaso valstijoje Missouri, ivyks 28oji Tautine Svente. Kiekvienais metais sventes dalyviu skaicius tik dideja. Dalyviams tenka paragauti ivairiu saliu patiekalu ir pasimegauti pramogomis is viso pasaulio. Svente ypac palieka dideli ispudi nt tik seimynoms, bet ir ivairaus amziaus zmones, kasmetai atvykstantiems atsipalaiduoti malonioje aplinkoje su kaimyniniu saliu atstovais.

Tautine Svente vyksta vakarineje zooparko ir "Zvaigdziu sviesos" kinotetro puseje. Kasmetai I Kansaso miesta si svente pritraukia daugybe draugu ir seimynu. Sventes metu masinu parkavimo aikstele yra nemokama. Bilieto kaina vienam zmogui tik \$3.00. Vaikams jaunesniems nei 12 metu iejimas nemokamas, bet jiems kaip ir visiems kitiems sventes dalyviams yra isduodama lygiai tokia pati "kuponu knygte". Si "kuponu knygele" yra smagus uzsiemimas vaiku uzsiemimas, kadangi kiekvienoje salies palapine, jos atstovai uzdeda savo salies antspauda "kuponu knygele".Lietuviu kunigaikstis ant zirgo yra vaiku numiletinis, o ypac kai jie pastebi didziuli paveiksla su kunigaiksciu, jo zirgu ir princese, kur jie gali nusifotografuoti su savo veidu vietoj ju (paveiksle heroju galvos buna iskirptos). Kuo noretum buti siandien: zirgu ar kunigaiksciu?

Siais metais pirma karta sventeje galesite aplankyti jaunuoliu palapine, kurioje galesite isgirsti pasakas is viso pasaulio, pasigrozeti

theme, to interest the children in the countries and cultures around the world.

The international Beer Garden will feature both local and imported brews for your tasting pleasure. Various booths will offer flavored drinks such as lemonade, cantaloupe slush, Hawaiian Ice and coconut milk, to be sipped from the coconut itself, will keep you cool.

The food will run the gamut from Greek gyros, Jamaican jerk pork and chicken, Swedish abelskiers, (apple pancakes in a spherical shape), Philippine grilled kabobs, German bratwurst sandwiches, Mexican tacos, Lithuanian bacon buns with sour cream, and curried dishes from various Mediterranean and Asian Countries.

Many of the countries also will be exhibiting their countries' handcrafts, ranging from wood carvings, jewelry, woven fabrics, and clothing of ethnic style for purchase.

Every half hour, a different country will present a program of ethnic music and dancing or singing. On Saturday afternoon, member countries of the Ethnic Enrichment Commission will walk in a Parade of Flags, to show the diversity of cultures which is present in the Metropolitan area. On Sunday a colorful Fashion Show of native costumes will be a highlight of the afternoon.

Mark your calendar for August 17<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>, and come out to visit Lithuanian "Castle" and visit with fellow LOA members. We'll have some Napoleanas Tortas waiting for you to taste.

See you there!



tautiniai paveikslais ir meno darbiniais, kurie sudomins jaunuolius kultūros ivairove is viso pasaulio pasaulio.

Usenietiskas alaus sodas jums leis pasimegauti tiek vietiniu tiek uzsenietisku alumi. Daugybeje palapiniu rasite ir kitokiu gaivinanciu gerimu: citrinu gerimo, moliugu saldyto gerimo, taip pat svieziai isspaustas kokosu pienas su Havaju ledais leis jums atsigaivinti karsta vasaros diena.

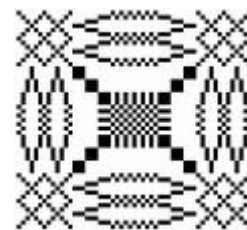
Sventeje galesite paskanauti ivairiausiu patiekalu pradedant nuo graikisku "gyros", Jamaikos dziovintos kiaulienos ir vistienos, Svedisku "abelskiers" (ivairiu formu blynai su obuoliais), Filipinu kababu, vokisku brolisku sumustiniu, mexikietisku "tacos", lietuvisku bandeliu su mesa ir grietine ir ivairiu patiekalu is Vidurzemio Juros ir Asijos saliu.

Ranku darbinu parodoje galesite pasigrozeti ir isigyti medzio droziniu, papuosalu, vilnos darbinu ir ivairiu saliu tautiniu drabuziu.

Kas puse valandos kiekviena salis uzims sventes dalyvius savo muzikos, soku ar dainu programa. Sestadienio popiete salys, kurios priklauso "Ethnic Enrichment Commission", dalyvaus veliavu ejime, noredamos pademonstruoti saliu ivairove Kansaso mieste ir priemesciuose. Sekmadieni galesite pasigrozeti zavingu ir spalvotu tautiniu drabuziu paroda,

Nepamirskite pasizymeti savo kalendoriuose rugpjucio 17ta, 18ta ir 19ta dienas atvykti aplankyti lietuviskos pilaites ir pabendrauti su LOA nariais. Atvykusius svecius pavaisinsime Napoleono tortu. Iki pasimatymo!

*Translated by Renata Bakelyte*



## Fall Picnic

The LOA is planning a Fall Picnic on Sunday, October 7<sup>th</sup> at the #2 shelter house, which is near the Ranger Station, at Wyandotte County Park. It is near the old railroad tracks and the new playground area.

The picnic will be held from 1pm to 4pm. LOA members are asked to bring a dish to share. Meat and beverages, including beer, will be provided by the LOA. There will also be games for the children

## Lithuanian Economy Expands

Lithuania's economy expanded 8.1% annually during the first half of the year, according to the statistical office.

The statistical office also reported that the retail sales turnover jumped 21.3% at constant prices during January to June, compared to the same period of the previous year. Total value of retail trade during the period totaled 14.82 billion litas.

## Internet Voting for Lithuania

Lithuania aims to follow fellow Baltic state Estonia and use the Internet for voting in elections. In March, Estonia became the first country in the world to allow voting via the Internet in a national parliamentary election. Other countries are studying the idea. Lithuania said it hoped to launch its system in time for elections in 2008.

## Our Lady of Siluva

During the month of September, crowds flock to the church in Siluva, Lithuania, to pay homage to Our Lady of Siluva. The greatest feast day at the shrine is the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, on September 8. A week of celebrations and festivities follows and continues through September 15. This celebration is known as "silines."

The church was built to honor the appearance of Mary on a summer day, in 1608, as a number of children were tending their sheep in a field on the outskirts of the village of Siluva. They heard the sound of loud sobbing and saw a beautiful young woman standing on the rock holding a baby in her arms and weeping bitterly. She asked the a church be built on the spot where a Catholic Church had once stood.

## A Prayer to Our Lady of Siluva

O Most Holy Virgin Mary, Thou who didst appear to the shepherds in the fields at Siluva, Thou whose tears did bathe the rock where once an altar stood, Thou who didst with plaintive voice say: "You plow and seed here where formerly my Son was honored," grant that we, moved by Thy tears, may, once as our Forefathers did, revive the spirit of adoration of Thy Son in our fallow hearts, strengthen the tottering structure of the shrine which is the family, and seek forgiveness for our negligence and sins.

O Mother of God, we desire to raise up the glory of Your revelation from forgotten ruins, that we may all the more honor Thee, the Patroness of Lithuania, and with Thy help obtain for us the spirit of a living Faith. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

## Commentary -- Baltic Gala Celebrates Freedom's Return

*by Lt. Col. Teena M. Barber, International Military Student Division, Command and General Staff College*

The value of freedom may be measured best by those who have realized it in their own lifetime.

I was lucky to experience the pride and dedication of generations of people from the Baltic nations Feb. 10 in our nation's capitol. At the American-Baltic Celebration Gala, citizens from the three Baltic nations gathered with Americans to celebrate freedom, democracy, friendship and the rebirth of old nations.

On the same day in Munich, Germany, Russian President Vladimir Putin criticized the United States for meddling in world affairs beyond its scope, while Lithuanian President Valdas Adamkus praised the United States for the same actions. The leader of this former Soviet republic expressed to an audience of 500 participants at the gala his profound appreciation for recognition in his honor of receiving the Baltic Statesmanship Award, but found it even more important to emphasize the 85th anniversary of Lithuanian-U.S. relations. Adamkus' emphatic desire to continue to foster the common values of both nations and to extend the concept of democracy to the east stood in complete contrast to the sentiments of Putin.

A quick look around the room testified to the resilience of the Baltic region's people, who have withstood the test of time to maintain their own identity and freedom.

At a table behind me sat three generations of one family. There was the doctor in her mid-30s who came to America to further her career after Lithuania regained its independence following the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991. To her left was her father, who still lives in Lithuania and cherishes his country's refound freedom. To her right was her mother, who stayed in London during the oppression by the communist regime when the country was incorporated into the Soviet Union in 1944. The proud, soon-to-be-American doctor sat across the table from her grandfather, who had learned first-hand from his parents about the Russian Bolshevik invasion, and knew a period of freedom and independence before struggling for personal survival during the German invasion and occupation in 1941.

Then came freedom again. The citizens of the Baltic nations know what freedom means. They cherish every day they are given to make

their lives better and to make the world a better place for the next generation. They feel it in their hearts and souls, they express it in their joy and pride, they know that to waste it would be shameful and unforgivable because they are fully aware of the opportunity that they have right now.

Knowing that the border with Russia is only miles away and that the Baltic Sea is all that separates them from the Western world keeps them on guard in their approach to the outside world. But once let in, it is easy to see that a society formed in the early second century has withstood the trials that our young nation can only imagine. Our new NATO allies stand shoulder-to-shoulder with us to ensure not only their own continued freedom, but to champion change around the globe.

To bolster the continuation of their efforts, the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College has welcomed officers from the Baltic nations into the course since 1996. In the span of a decade, 28 military students from Lithuania, Estonia and Latvia have graduated from the Army's intermediate level education program, which educates leaders in the values and practice of the profession of arms and promotes the advancement of military art and science.

One of the gala attendees pleased to see the progression of U.S.-Baltic military relations was retired U.S. Air Force Maj. Gen. Tiiu Kera. Kera was the U.S. military attach/ in Vilnius, Lithuania, when the first officer from that nation attended CGSC.

"I am so pleased that it has become routine and that the Baltic military members are doing so well abroad," Kera said. "Thank you and the college for supporting them."

Two current Lithuanian students at CGSC were able to continue their dedication to their nation by participating in the U.S.-Baltic celebration weekend.

The entire room was filled with national pride. From the Midwest businessman who came to see the progress of a region that he had fled as a child to avoid German persecution, to the bright eyed 20-year-old assistant from Lithuania who came to share her country's gratitude for continued U.S.-Baltic relations. Three nations, each independent with their own ethnic diversity, came together to celebrate with the U.S., as Adamkus said, their common values and diverse

cultures.

(Baltic Gala continued)

One may hope that the CGSC attendance of officers from the Baltic nations will continue to enhance the connection between our land and theirs. May our common professional learning develop into long-term friendships that will continue the values and freedoms that we all enjoy for centuries to come.

## Lithuanian Sea Festival

The Sea Festival is the biggest summer festival in Lithuania, attracting more than half a million visitors every year. It has been held annually in the city of Klaipeda for the last 70 years.

The festival features a wide range of musical acts (classical, rock, country, jazz and pop) as well as a crafts fair which gathers more than 300 craftspeople from around Lithuania to offer their unique wares.

Following the old traditions, the Festival carries a strong maritime theme, and the Sailor's Party is a particularly noteworthy spectacle. During the festival, a fleet of meticulously restored ships are launched into the Baltic Sea.

The Baltic Sail, as it is known, allows visitors to take sailing tours between the Baltic Sea harbours at Klaipeda, Gdansk (Poland), Karlskrona and Halmsted (Sweden), Helsingor (Denmark) and Roksok ([Germany](#)). People are also offered the opportunity to spend the day learning how to sail themselves.

During the Sea Festival, Klaipeda will also host the Baltic Sprint 2007, an international offshore sailing event which covers 624 nautical miles over 15 days.

The Sea Festival began in Klaipeda on July 27th, with a four day party beginning on July 29th, when the Baltic Sprint passed through

## Lithuania Seeks Freedom From Russia's Oil

An empty pipeline in the pine forests of north-eastern Lithuania called Druzhba -- Russian for friendship -- has become a symbol for the increasingly hollow relations between the Baltic states and Russia.

A year ago, a reported leak on Russian territory blocked the flow of oil into AB Mazeikiu Nafta, the only refinery in the three former Soviet republics. While deliveries have stopped before at politically tense moments, this time the refinery didn't wait for the leak to be fixed. It now pays more to buy oil off tankers from Russia and from as far away as Venezuela.

Lithuania is exploring other ways to reduce its dependence on the world's largest energy supplier. Like its Baltic neighbors, Lithuania has worried about the energy network that ties it to Russia. In the past, Russia has used its pipelines as a tool to wield power over smaller neighbors. such as withholding oil and gas supplies on the eve of Lithuania's independence in 1991. Lithuanian President Valdas Adamkus says the Druzhba drought is ``political" and won support from fellow European Union members at a May summit in Samara, Russia.

Lithuania, meanwhile, is working on more ways to cut energy dependence, says Vytas Navickas, the nation's economy minister. It is negotiating with Sweden and Poland to join their electricity grids by 2012. It may buy excess electricity from Ukraine and gas from Poland. It plans to build a \$5 billion nuclear reactor with Poland and the two other Baltic states by 2015.

Russian gas, which accounts for 75 percent of Lithuania's heating fuel, poses a more difficult problem. When Lithuania closes its Chernobyl-style nuclear reactor at Ignalina in 2009 to comply with EU standards, 75 percent of its electricity demand will be met by Russian gas, more than double the 34 percent now provided by Russian gas.

## About Our Members

**Bill Kelly** is recovering from back surgery. We wish you a speedy recovery.

**Caitlin Stegeman** was a finalist in the Fox 4 "Mic in the Metro" singing competition. She and 64 other auditioned at Union Station with a 45 second a capella piece. Congratulations!

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

## +++ In Memorium +++

**Petronella "Pat" (Wallatka) Dehaemers**, 84, of Kansas City, Kansas, passed away March 11, 2007 at the Overland Park Regional Medical Center. Funeral services were held at 10:00 A.M at Sacred Heart Catholic Church. Burial was in Resurrection Cemetery, Lenexa. Pat was born in Kansas City, Kansas and had lived all of her life in Kansas City, Kansas, area

*Eternal Rest Grant Unto Them O Lord, and Let the Perpetual Light Shine Upon Them, May Their Souls all the Souls of the Faithful Departed, Rest in Peace, Amen.*

## Calendar of Events

August 17<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup>, and 19<sup>th</sup> - Ethnic Enrichment Festival in Kansas City at Swope Park. Join us at the castle.

September 8<sup>th</sup> – Feast of Our Lady of Siluva

October 7<sup>th</sup> – LOA Picnic at Wyandotte County Park

November 17<sup>th</sup> – Lithuanian Muge at the Lenexa Community Center.

## Space Still Available at Lithuanian Muge

Space is still available for vendors wanting to sell merchandise at the Tenth Annual Margarita's Muge, or Lithuanian Bazaar. This year, the Muge will be held November 17<sup>th</sup>.

The Lithuanian booth will feature various Lithuanian goods, including amber, linens, wood carving, and eggs. The kitchen will serve a variety of foods to enjoy at the bazaar or carry-out. Lithuanian tortes and bread will be sold; the perfect addition to holiday meals.

If you are interested in having a booth at the Muge, contact Anita Strumillo at (913)299-1453.

## Poland Apologizes for Fans

Poland has apologized to Lithuania after Legia Warsaw fans went on the rampage during an Intertoto Cup match against Vetra Vilnius in July. Lithuanian police had to use tear gas and water cannons to try to disperse the Polish hooligans in a fight that lasted for about 30 minutes.

The game was abandoned at halftime with Vetra leading 2-0. The repair bill for the stadium has been estimated at about 21,000 euros (\$28,670) to repair advertising panels, seats, gates, portable toilets and TV cables.

## Lithuanian Riddle

Break the ice, find silver; break the silver, find gold. (egg)

Pramušė ledą, rado sidabrą; pramušė sidabrą, rado auksą. (kiaušinis)