



Varpas

LITHUANIANS OF KANSAS CITY

The Varpas is the official newsletter of the Lithuanians of America which is based in Kansas City. www.kclith.org



Speech by Valdas Adamkus at the Galla reception in the Presidential Palace Court Yard. (photo by: unknown).

Lithuania Celebrates 1000 Years Anniversary!

The weekend preceding King Mindaugas Day was full of events: first the 1000-year Song Festival took place with thousands of participants from all over the world. The song festival is a traditional event in Lithuania where singers, dancers, choirs and musicians performed traditional songs and dances.



Saturday singers in the park. (photo by: unknown).

All Lithuanians around the world sang the National Anthem at 9M on Sunday, July 5. From the smallest villages in Lithuania to the NY Times Square Lithuanians honored their home by singing its anthem.



On July 6th many important officials, leaders and kings gathered in the Vilnius to participate in the day of celebration. The Royal Palace was symbolically opened and the statue of unity called "Unity Tree" was unveiled. The statue represents 1000 Lithuanian names of people who have added to the effort of making for a beautiful Lithuania.

The events for mentioning the thousandth birthday have not ended yet. There will be more happenings.

For more information visit <http://lietuva1000.lt/en/>. Excerpt from an article on innovationcircle.com.



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Kviečiame reklamuotis mūsų laikraštyje!

PAST EVENTS IN OUR COMMUNITY

Dalia Grybauskaite **Country's First Female President**

The country's media have dubbed her "the hope of Lithuania". Many Lithuanians believe she will be the leader who can bring an end to the nation's economic troubles. Never before in the country's post-Soviet independence have aspirations for improvement been pinned so strongly on a single person, as now, during the global recession. And on top of all that, 53-year-old Dalia Grybauskaite, inaugurated on 12 July, is also the country's first female president.

Grybauskaite or the "Iron Lady," another of her nicknames ran as an independent candidate and won in a landslide on 17 May with over 68 percent of the vote. The results surprised no one.



Dalia Grybauskaite during discussion. (photo by: unknown)

Until recently the European Union budget commissioner, Grybauskaite, has received high ratings in polls for the last few years and her popularity has only increased in recent months. When she announced that she was running for the presidency, the other potential candidates either withdrew at the start or remained in the contest only to garner public attention and visibility before the recent elections to the European Parliament. As a result, the presidential race featured tedious campaigns lacking intrigue, as the winner could easily be guessed beforehand.



Lithuanian former President Valdas Adamkus kisses the hand of Lithuania's new President Dalia Grybauskaite, right, after an inauguration ceremony at the S. Daukanto Square, in front of the Presidential Palace in Vilnius, Lithuania Sunday July 12, 2009. (photo by: unknown)

In an interview Grybauskaite once mentioned that she had always been different from other people. Those words spawned rumors that she was a lesbian, but Grybauskaite seemed to have been referring to her nonconformist mindset. She spoke about how she liked to follow her own path and make her own decisions. Looking back at her road to the presidency, it is easy to see many examples along the way.

In addition to her lengthy résumé, Lithuanians have been impressed with Grybauskaite's straight-talking toughness. Unlike other Lithuanian politicians, she gives direct answers to direct questions, and her rhetoric sometimes borders on the aggressive. She names and shames when she deems it necessary. (Provided by *Transitions Online—Intelligent Eastern Europe*)



Dalia Grybauskaite during discussion. (photo by: unknown)

KC Lithuanians Are on Facebook!

You must be a registered member of Facebook to enjoy this page and connect with Lithuanians all over the world. For info about our Facebook page, email Jurgita: jmorkute@gmail.com.

ieškokite Mūsų Facebook!

Prisiregistruokite internetiniame puslapyje Facebook turesite galimybę susisiekti su lietuvių bendruomene visame pasaulyje. Del iškilusių klausimų rašykite Jurgitai: jmorkute@gmail.com.

A 'Word' From The Board:

- The timing of future events has been changed to occur later in the day. Stay tuned to future editions The Varpas for exact timing.
- JONINES is coming next spring! Camping on the lake, singing by the fire and much more! Details will follow early next year.

Please Join Our Lithuanian Community!

It is time for 2009 member renewals:

- \$10 for a single
- \$15 for a family

Membership gets you:

- membership into our organization
- sponsored annual events, including: Christmas Party, Fall Picnic, Lithuanian Independence Day Celebration
- "Varpas" newsletter 4 times a year with updates about our community

Kviečiame Prisijungti Prie mūsų Lietuvių Bendruomenės!

2009-ųjų metų nario mokestis:

- \$10 vienam žmogui
- \$15 šeimai

Nario mokestis jums suteikia:

- nemokamai suorganizuotus renginius: Kaledininį Vakarą, Rudens Pikniką, Lietuvos Nepriklausomybės Dienos Pamėinimą
- Lietuviška laikraštį "Varpas", paruoštą lietuvių-anglų kalbomis

ANNOUNCEMENTS IN KC OUR COMMUNITY

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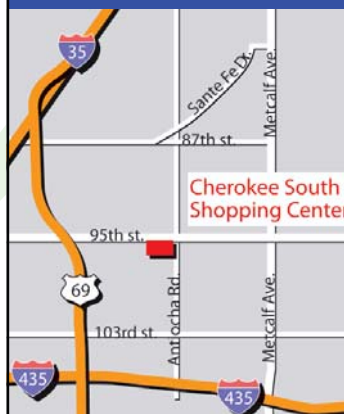
The Varpas is read by hundreds of individuals, families and businesses all over the US! Your advertising dollars will support our Community and spread your message.

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For Information, email Varpas Editor Renata Bakelyte: planet_designer@hotmail.com

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The store is located at south-west corner of the 95th St. and Antioch Rd. intersection at Cherokee South Shopping Center.

8841 W. 95th Street
Overland Park, KS
66212

phone: 913.385.3876

Mon-Sat 10am-8pm
Sun 10am-6pm

FUTURE EVENTS IN KANSAS CITY

Taste the World at the Ethnic Enrichment Festival



August 21-23, of 2009 in Swope Park
Friday.....6-10PM
Saturday.....12-10PM
Sunday.....12-6PM



2008 Ethnic Festival. (photo by: Jurgita & Darius Lukoševičiai)

Visit the Lithuanian Tower of Gediminas' booth for Lithuanian bread, torte, amber, arts and crafts. Kids novelties will be offered for sale. Have your photo taken with our picture board!

Lithuanian folk dance group AIDAS performs on Sunday, August 23rd at 1:30pm.

Adult admission \$3, children 12 and under FREE with adult. Parking is free (handicap parking available). We need volunteers if you can help out, please contact Anita Strumillo at: (913) 299-1453.

Come Dance with "AIDAS"

Throughout the year we participate in a variety of events. Practices are held twice a month (Sundays). Please come join us as we prepare for the next dance Festival.

Šokių Grupė „AIDAS“ Visus Kviečia į Savo Kolektyvą

Dalyvaujame įvairiuose renginiuose. Repetuojame du kartus į mėnesį (sekmadieniais). Kviečiame prisijungti ruošti sekančią šokių šventei.

Tautinė Šventė Swope Parke Rugpjūčio 21tą - 23tą



Apsilankykite mūsų Gedimino pilyje ir paragaukite bandelių su spyrgučiais; abrikosų, lazdyno riešutų ir aviečių su šokolodu torto; taip pat parsineškit šviežios duonos lauknešėlių namo. Nepražiopsokite mūsų žavingųjų gintaro papuošalų!

Nepamirškite pasigrožėti mūsų lietuvių liaudies šokių kolektyvo „AIDAS“ pasirodymu, kuris įvyks sekmadienio popietę, rugpjūčio 23čią dieną 1:30val.

Pirmą kartą Kanzase merginų kolektyvas sušoks populiarųjį ir žiūrovų numylėtą lietuvių liaudies šoki "Kepurinė".

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Don't Miss Out Our Future Events Save The Date!

- **Fall Picnic:** October 11, 2009 at 2-5PM at Wyandotte County Park, Shelter J. Language Game, Kids Activities, Volleyball, food and drinks provided. Bring a dish for your group.
- **Margarita's Mugė:** November 21st, 2009 at 10-4PM. Lithuanian Holiday Marketplace at Lenexa Community Center.
- **Christmas Party:** Sunday, December 6, 2009 at 3-6PM at Davis Hall, Wyandotte County Lake.

A FAREWELL TRIBUTE...

For many years, since the founding of the Lithuanians of America and the Aidas Lithuanian Folkdancers, Kathy (Werp/Kelly) and Richard Hazlewood have been very involved in furthering the growth and success of each of these clubs in our community.

Kathy has served a two terms as President of the L.O.A., and has been the editor of the VARPAS community newsletter for many years beyond her term. She initiated a new look and format to the newsletter, putting articles into newspaper columnar form; and much enjoyed by our readers.

Over the years, both Kathy and Richard have given much of their time and talent to furthering the causes of both organizations. Their sons David and Kevin were often recruited to be "helpers" at the various events put on by our members throughout the year, such as the Christmas Party, the Ethnic Festival, Lithuanian Independence Day etc. Richard's and Kathy's home has been the place where the "cabbage roll team" meets to prepare for the annual Margarita's Muge.

Kathy's calm and imperturbable demeanor, as well as her ever present smile and sense of humor always keep everyone on an even keel, even during "crunch" time at all our events. Richard is the "GO TO" guy who keeps everyone on task and his leadership qualities show in the way he pays attention to every detail, in an effort to create excellence of presentation and overall effectiveness of any of our Lithuanian events.

KATHY & RICHARD HAZLEWOOD



Ethnic Festival 2008. (photo by: Jurgita & Darius Lukoševičiai)



Fall Picnic 2008. Richard caught in the moment of his dreams on the swings.. (photo by: Renata Bakelyte)



Independence Day 2008. (photo by: Jurgita & Darius Lukoševičiai)

To the great loss of all who know them, as dancers and fellow LOA members, Kathy and Richard will soon be leaving the Kansas City area, due to a job transfer to Oklahoma. However, their intention is to return to Kansas City often, to visit their Lithuanian family members here, and to perhaps attend and continue to help at some of our events, should their schedules permit.

We wish them a heartfelt "Farewell and Godspeed". May they be blessed with health, happiness, and much success in their new surroundings and new life experience! ACIU, ACIU LABAI!, Kathy and Richard! You have made such a difference in the lives of all who have ever known you!

About Our Members:



- **Congratulations!** A couple of months ago in New York City on the immigrant Ellise Island Renata Bakelyte, one of our community board members, got engaged to Andrew Nantz. Congratulations to the young couple!
- **Welcome** to our newest member, Shannon Seyler from Prairie Grove, Arkansas.
- **Congratulations!** One of our newest members, Vygintas Urbonavicius, became a father on June 10th when a beautiful baby-boy Cameron Nikkolay was born. Congratulations to the new father!

articles:

Charlotte Horvatic
Sally Žemaitytė-Dannov
Renata Bakelytė

photography:

Jurgita and Darius Lukoševičiai
Renata Bakelytė

Lithuanian Language Classes Starting Soon!

Weekly class will include reading, speaking and grammar exercises. The exercise book needs to be purchased prior the class. For information on class materials, class times and other details please contact Renata at: planet_designer@hotmail.com

Išmok Lietuvių Kalbą



a lake - ežeras
on the lake - prie ežero
a school - mokykla
to school - į mokyklą

Let's go to the lake - **Lekiam prie ežero**
I don't want to go back to school yet - **Aš dar nenoriu grįžti į mokyklą.**

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Do you have information about your family to share? Please contact Sally Žemaitytė-Dannov at: sallyzd@aol.com

THANKS TO THOSE WHO HELPED

translations:

Renata Bakelytė

please read more at:

www.kclith.org