



LITHUANIANS OF KANSAS CITY

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



photo by: Renata Bakelytė

KC Lithuanian Community Annual Christmas Party *Davis Hall, Wyandotte County Lake Park*



Over 100 Lithuanian community members enjoyed meatless Kūčios dishes and a sausage and potluck supper at our Christmas Party in December. The setting was Davis Hall at Wyandotte County Lake Park, a lovely natural area in northwest Kansas City.

The AIDAS Dance Group, both adults and children, performed for the crowd after a lively Lithuanian language ‘class’ and contest. Prizes were awarded to 3 groups who successfully translated the traditional “Jingle Bells” Christmas carol. Renata Bakelytė led the contest, however, Lithuanian speakers weren’t allowed to participate in the game this time.

Father Frost made his annual appearance and had gifts for the children. We hope you’ll join us next year for another fun Christmas party; we have special plans for next year’s event!

A special thanks to those who contributed to the Kūčios Table, a traditional Christmas Eve dinner with 12 meatless dishes. Dishes such as poppyseed milk and biscuits, cranberry pudding, dried fruit and herring were enjoyed by all. Thanks goes also to Craig Alexander and his family for supplying the delicious Lithuanian sausage, made from a family recipe. Craig generously donates the sausage for our Christmas party every year. Thanks also to those who paid their 2009 LOA dues at the event. We have many new members and our membership is continues to grow. (see more images on page 2)



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Kviečiame reklamuotis mūsų laikraštyje!

PAST EVENTS IN KANSAS CITY

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Davis Hall. (photo by: Renata Bakelytė)



photo by: Jurgita & Darius Lukoševičiai



A large group of native Lithuanians joined our annual Christmas Party. For many of them it was a first time participating in our community's event. (photo by: Jurgita & Darius Lukoševičiai)

Independence Day Celebration Wyandotte County Museum, KS



The Kansas City Lithuanian Community's Independence Day Celebration was held Sunday, March 1 at the Wyandotte County Museum.

Our thanks to Trish Schurkamp at the Museum for hosting our organization's gathering for the 3rd year. The Wyandotte County Museum is the permanent home to the St. Casimir's bell, a half ton piece of history with many of our founding families' names inscribed on the front.

The Independence Day's program consisted of: an introduction exercise led by Tom Paulauskas-LOA Board Member, a fun and lively Lithuanian trivia contest led by Alan Brizendine, a performance by the Aidas Adults and Juniors groups, and a beer tasting contest.

Winners of the trivia contest were awarded genuine Lithuanian currency, or "Litas" which will soon be quite collectible as Lithuania converts to the Euro currency. Winners of the beer tasting contest were awarded Lithuanian chocolates. Most interesting was the ranking by taste of the beers sampled in the tasting contest. In rank order, most favorite to least favorite was:

1. Baltika-Russian beer
2. Uostas-Lithuanian beer
3. Aiko-Lithuanian beer
4. Švyturys-Lithuanian beer
5. Kaliper-Non Alcoholic beer
6. Pale Ale-American beer

Our LOA General Membership also elected a new slate of Board of Directors:

- Kate Porterfield
- Anita Strumillo
- Renata Bakelytė
- Tomas Paulauskas
- Dick and Charlotte Horvatic
- Gloria Ruttman
- Sally Žemaitytė Dannov
- Kathy Hazlewood
- John Brungardt
- NEW - Jurgita Morkūnaite Lukoševičienė
- NEW - Ieva Krupskis

Lietuvos Nepriklausomybės Dienos Paminėjimas “Wyandotte County” Muziejuje



Kovo 1mąją dieną, 2009-ųjų metų, Kanzaso Lietuvių bendruomenės dėka, įvyko Lietuvos Nepriklausomybės ir jos Atkūrimo Paminėjimas. Didelis ačiū Trish'ai Schurkamp, “Wyandotte County” muziejaus menedžerei, kurios dėka jau treči metai lietuvių bendruomenė turėjo galimybę pasinaudoti muziejaus patalpomis šia, brangia Lietuvos istorijai, proga.

Šventės programą pradėjo Tomas Paulauskas, vienas iš organizacijos lyderių, kalbindamas šventės dalyvius apie jų ryšį su Lietuva ir Kanzaso

Lietuvių bendruomene. Tomas pagarbiai pristatė šventės svečius Aleksiejų Gaizevskį su dukra Ronata. Aleksiejus su šeima neseniai atvyko iš Lietuvos ir šiuo metu gyvena Fort Leavenworth, KS, kur Aleksiejus šiuo metu baiginėja karininko kursus ir 2009-ųjų metų pabaigoje planuoja grįžti į gimtinę.

“Traviatos” konkursu apie Lietuvos istoriją, programą pratęsė Alan'as Brizendine. Dešimt metų pragyvenęs Vilniuje, be galo įsimylėjęs tiek Lietuvą tiek lietuvaites, Alan'as kiekvieno susibūrimo metu nustebina lietuvius savo lietuvių kalbos žiniomis.

Kasmetinis AIDO šokių, vaikų ir suaugusiųjų, kolektyvo pasirodymas sužavėjo šventės svečius. Šventės pabaigoje dalyviai turėjo galimybę sudalyvauti alaus degustavimo konkurse, kurio rezultatai pasirodė ir komisijai ir konkurso dalyviams gan įdomūs!

Ir kaip gi be prizų! Kiekvienos užduoties nugalėtojai buvo apdovanoti prizais iš Lietuvos: lietuviškais litais ir lietuviškais saldumynais.

All Ads Welcome!
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PAST EVENTS IN KANSAS CITY



Tomas Paulauskas. (photo by: Jurgita & Darius Lukoševičiai)



AIDAS dancers. (photo by: Jurgita & Darius Lukoševičiai)



Beer tasting was one of the great successes of our Independence Celebration. Nine Lithuanians participated in the contest. (photo by: Jurgita & Darius Lukoševičiai)

FUTURE EVENTS IN KANSAS CITY

Please Join Our Lithuanian Community!



It is time for 2009 member renewals:

- \$15 for a single
- \$20 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:

- \$15 vienam žmogui
- \$20 šeimai

Nario mokestis jums suteikia:

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

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 šventę.

2009 EEC Diplomatic Ball Saturday, March 21, 2009 KC Downtown Marriott Hotel



This year, the Ball will be hosted by members of the Pacific Rim countries of Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Philippines, Republic of China, and Vietnam. The spectacular entertainment of the evening will feature each country's cultural music, dance, and native dress.

Members of our Lithuanian community have been attending the Diplomatic Ball for many years. It is an evening to remember, as many would tell you.

Tickets are \$60.00 and include:

**Double entrée dinner featuring Petit Filet of Beef and Sea Bass
Cash Bar at 6:00 P. M.
Dinner at 7:00 P.M.
Ballroom Dancing after the cultural entertainment program**

For Tickets, call Dick or Charlotte Horvatic at (816) 461-9073 or email at: charpapa@comcast.net.

Lithuanians Doing Business With Other Lithuanians!

Call Renata Bakelytė if you would like a cost effective advertisement to people who want to do business with you and if you are interested in helping to support this publication.

All Ads Welcome!

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SIGHTSEEING IN VILNIUS, LITHUANIA

NEW

In 2008, Vilnius was one of two Cultural Capitals in Europe. It is especially timely to focus on the opera and ballet performances. The City of Vilnius is gearing up for a special focus on tourism.

If you are interested, an eight day trip to Lithuania's capital offers you an opportunity to visit this historic rich castle town, called Vilnius. The stay includes reservations at the Artis Hotel, located in Old Town, which is just one block from Gediminas Street ("Main Drag").

**Vilnius, Lithuania
Sightseeing by Day
Opera/Ballet at Night
May 17-24, 2009
\$1625 per person
(\$660 Single Room Supplement)**

Vilnius - the "Prague of the Baltics" - trip includes:

- Six (6) nights accommodation in a beautiful hotel in historic Old Town Vilnius
- Full breakfast daily at the hotel
- One (1) dinner
- Private motor coach transportation for sightseeing
- Tickets to all scheduled tourist events
- Guide fees
- Transportation between Vilnius International Airport and hotel on May 18 and May 24

Air Transportation

Airfare: \$1300-\$1500 on SAS Airlines from Chicago (through Copenhagen) to Vilnius through Vytis Tours www.vytistours.com.

Speak with Rimmas (REE-mas), 800-778-9847, for flight information from other cities.

Deposit and Final Payment

A deposit of \$500 per person is required to confirm your reservation. Final payment is due by April 1, 2009.

TRAVEL OPPORTUNITY

Cancellation

A full refund, minus a \$300 cancellation fee, will be refunded until April 1, 2009 if it is necessary to cancel.

Not Included

- Airfare
- Alcohol
- Room service
- Telephone calls
- Hotel gratuity

Responsibility

The tour, sponsored by Vytis Tours in Douglaston, NY, www.vytistours.com, is under the direction of Linda Maxey (USA) and Laima Bakiene (Lithuania) who act only as agents for the guests.

They accept no responsibility in whole or in part for injury, damage, loss, accident, delay or irregularity which may be occasioned either by reason of defect, through the acts or defaults of any company or person engaged in conveying the passengers or carrying out arrangements of the tour, or as a direct or indirect result of acts of God, dangerous incident due to fire, breakdown in machinery or equipment, acts of governments or authorities, hostilities, civil disturbances, strikes, riots, theft, pilferage, epidemics, quarantines, medical, or customs regulation.

Personal Attention

We will do everything we can to see that you have a wonderful time in Vilnius. We will try to accommodate your individual interests, help you with additional excursions, and show you where to buy amber and other fine Lithuanian hand crafts. If you would like to attend additional concerts or visit other museums, we can help you obtain tickets. We want your trip to Vilnius to be filled with special memories.

**for more information please contact
Linda at: lwmmaxey@aol.com**

About Our Members:



- **Congratulations!** Michelle Morgan's family had a great addition when Rose, an 8 lbs. 8.6oz. and 19 3/4 inch long, beautiful girl came into the world on August 29th, 2008. Currently Michelle teaches our young dancers - AIDAS kids group.



- **Congratulations!** Recently one of our newest community members, Mindaugas Kliukevičius got engaged to Lauren Alenxanders. Congratulations to the young couple!

- **Dianne Schatte** has moved from Kansas City to Washington, MO. Our best wishes in her new home!
- **Didelis Ačiū/ Big Thank You.** A donation was sent to LOA by Peggy Quackenbush, of Beatrice, NE, in memory of her niece's father-in-law, Alfonsas Tamošiūnas. The donation was given specifically to help with costs for our annual Mugė, held in November.
- **Congratulations!** Recently, Carolyn M. Novelo, daughter of Anita and Bill Strumillo, won 1st place in an Art Contest sponsored by PepsiCo.



The art had to reflect Guiding Principles of the Pepsi Corp. She chose "Diversity and Inclusion" for her theme. Ms. Novelo won 1st place at the Plano, Texas Division and won the People's Choice Award at all locations.

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

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THANKS TO THESE WHO HELPED

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please read more at:

www.kclith.org