



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



KC Lithuanian's Christmas Party 'Sewn Up' with Fun Games"

*Davis Hall,
Wyandotte County Lake Park*

This year's Lithuanian Community Christmas party was held again at Davis Hall at Wyandotte County Lake. If you haven't attended the Christmas party, you are missing out on a special treat. Davis Hall is a lovely, 80 year old building made of stone and set on Wyandotte County Lake, a very rustic and Lithuanian setting.



This year the party was held later in the day on Sunday, December 6 to illicit a more party-like atmosphere. The LOA Board of Directors decorated the hall with garlands and much candlelight. A new silent auction was held and raised over \$350 to go towards our events and programming. Thanks to Gloria Ruttman and Dianne Schatte for working on the Auction as well as our ever successful Children's Christmas Shoppe. The Children's Shoppe is designed to allow kids to shop for very affordable items for their friends and relatives.



photo by: Jurgita Lukoševičienė

The Aidas Folk Dance Group performed and Father Frost made his appearance with gifts for all of the children. The new highlight of the party was the Lithuanian party games. All participants laughed and joked as we played a rousing game of Musical Chairs for the kids, the Newspaper Dancing game and the Sewing Game. You'll have to attend next year's event to get a true feel for these fun party games. *(continues on page 2)...*

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. Repetuojuame du kartus į mėnesį (sekmadieniais). Kviečiame prisijungti ruožis sekančiai šokių šventei.

PAST EVENTS IN KANSAS CITY

... continue from page 1

Thanks to all who attended and special thanks to the LOA Board of Directors for planning a great party. Please do not forget to join us for a wonderful Lithuanian event in 2010!

More pictures are posted on our facebook page. If you have any questions how to access it, please contact Jurgita at: jmorkute@gmail.com.



photos by: Jurgita Lukoševičienė



Mugė - Lithuanian Market Place

Fans of Margarita's Mugė were in for a special treat at this year's event. In addition to the already famous "balandėliai/cabbage rolls", breads and tortes, new items such as cold beet soup/šaltibarščiai with potatoes and garlic bread beer snacks/kepta duona were also served.

Aidas Dance Group has been bringing the Mugė to Kansas City for over 10 years. It was started in 1999 by Margarita Žemaitienė who saw an opportunity to share Lithuanian christmas traditions with the Kansas City area.



WORD FROM THE BOARD

LOA Board of Directors held its election of officers in September. A by-law change was proposed and voted on to allow some fairly new members of our Board to become officers. The Board felt that it would benefit the entire organization to have younger Lithuanian speaking members as officers. Please join us in welcoming these new leaders to our Community!

- *President - Sally Žemaitytė-Dannov*
- *Vice President - Renata Bakelytė*
- *Treasurer - Anita Strumillo*
- *Secretary - Jurgita Lukoševičienė*

Our Web Site is Up & Running!

Thank you to Matthew Hughey, our "pro bono" web site designer, who dedicated his time to make this happen. Please visit www.kclith.org



Lankykite Mus Internetiniame Puslapyje!

Didelis aciū mūsų dizaineriui Matthew už jo brangų darbo laiką. Apsilankykite www.kclith.org.



MWH

Graphics, LLC

Matthew Hughey
Web & Graphic Designer
www.mwhgraphics.com

Please Join Our Lithuanian Community!



It is time for 2010 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, Joninės
- "Varpas" newsletter 3 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 Paminėjimą, Jonines
- Lietuviška laikraštį "Varpas", paruoštą lietuvių-anglų kalbomis

ANNOUNCEMENTS IN OUR COMMUNITY

Census 2010

The 2010 Census is coming! It's important to be counted so when you are contacted by Census representatives, please take time to answer questions and complete questionnaires. This information is critical to federally funded programs and on going research. A complete and accurate count is important. For more information, see www.census.gov.



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. Information about upcoming events, photo library and much more. For info about our Facebook page, email Jurgita: jmorkute@gmail.com.

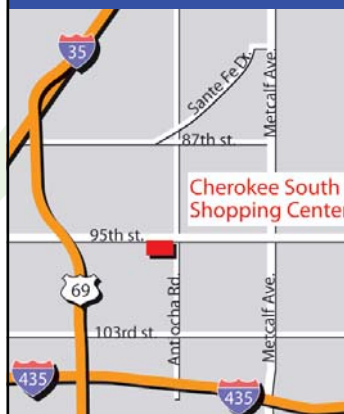
Ieškokite Mūsų Facebook!



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

European Delights

- Lithuanian goods including: cheese, meats, bread and more
- a variety of authentic dairy & meats
- black & red caviar
- unique fish products
- cheeses you can't find anywhere else
- over 180 types of candy
- authentic Eastern European desserts & pastries
- store gift certificates



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

Independence Day Celebration

Wyandotte County Museum
2pm-5pm on Sunday, February 21st



February 16 marks the date in 1918 on which the Council of Lithuania signed the Act of Independence of Lithuania, proclaiming the restoration of an independent state, governed by democratic principles, with Vilnius as its capital.

A second declaration of independence occurred on March 11, 1990, when, following the first free parliamentary elections since 1940, the Supreme Council of the Republic of Lithuania adopted the Act of Re-Establishment of the State of Lithuania. It took more than a year and a half of struggle against economic and military force, before Lithuania's independence was finally recognized.

One of the programs on Sunday will feature a panel discussion by native Lithuanian natives of their personal experiences during this time.

Nepriklausomybės Diena

2-5val. Sekmadienį, Vasario 21mą



Kviečiame kartu paminėti Lietuvos Nepriklausomybę. Programoje išgirsite lietuviško jaunimo požiūrį į tragiškus komunizmo veiksmus sausio 13ąją, galėsite sudalyvauti aulaus degustavime ir traviatos konkurse.

Lithuanian Song Festival in Toronto!

11 of our community members are attending Song Festival on July 4, 2010. Over 1000 singers will perform over 30 songs in this festival. The weekend will include a concert, parties in addition to the day long rehearsal and performance. If you want to join the trip as a guest, contact Sally Žemaitytė-Dannov at: sallyzd@aol.com

- Renata Bakelytė
- Tomas & Susan Paulauskai
- Sally Žemaitytė-Dannov
- Patricia Dalia Dannov
- Amy Žemaitytė-Newman
- Kathy, Richard & Kevin Hazlewood
- Kate Porterfield
- Jonas Pultinevičius

JONINĖS

Saturday-Sunday, June 20-21, 2010
Kate Porterfield & Marvin Rau's House

NEW



Please join us to celebrate our Newest event JONINĖS. The traditions include singing songs and dancing until the sun sets, telling tales, searching to find the magic fern blossom at midnight, jumping over bonfires, greeting the rising midsummer sun and washing the face with a morning dew.

It IS AN OVER NIGHT event! Some rooms and lots of camping space will be available. For more information, please contact Renata at:

renata.bakelyte@gmail.com.

JONINĖS

Šeštadienį -Sekmadienį, Birželio 20-21, 2010
Kate Porterfield ir Marvin Rau Namuose

Naujiena



Kviečiame visus prisijungti prie mūsų naujojo JONINIŲ renginio. Išsitraukite palapines su miegmaišiais ir prisijunkite prie mūsų lietuviško laužo birželio naktį. Visas detales išgirsite Nepriklausomybės Dienos šventėje, o dėl veliau iškilusių klausymų rašykite Renatai: renata.bakelyte@gmail.com.

2010 EEC Diplomatic Ball

Saturday, March 21st, 2010
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.

GLORIA'S STORY...

My grandmother Petronela Serafinas came to United States of America at the age of 15 on the "Kroonland" in 1906. She was a passenger in steerage. Her parents had passed away and she lived with an Aunt. I have always been told that her family was from a small town outside of Vilinus. She first went to Elizabeth N.J. where her aunt worked in a boarding house and married a man named Vytautas Yensus (he wasn't very nice.) After he was diagnosed with tuberculosis and had to go to a sanatorium, my grandmother moved to New York City. She lived in the famous Five Points Section of the lower east side of New York. She cleaned houses for the, as she put it " for the rich people." She became a citizen and belonged to the Lady of Vilinus Church located on Broom Street--this is the church that the Archdiocese now has plans to demolish. We were in many processions at the Lady of Vilinus celebrating the various holy days and saint celebrations and attended Lithuanian polka parties.



My grandmother also had us go along with my mother and father to Lithuanian picnics. I remember long picnic tables with a keg of beer on each one of them and a large dance hall in the center of this park and did the music roar. No air conditioning in those days but it did not stop the dancers.

When my mother became ill, we were separated and I went to my step grandmother who was German and my sister went to my Lithuanian grandmother. My grandmother on my father's side was Lithuanian. She died and my grandfather married this German woman. So I am 100 percent

GLORIA RUTTMAN

SHARES LITHUANIAN PAST



photos by: Gloria Ruttman.

Lithuanian descent. Once my mother finally recovered, we both back home. But, during that time my sister Connie learned Lithuanian and many of the customs that I missed out on.

My grandmother was an excellent cook. She never owned a cook book. I especially remember her salted herring (lots of bones but delicious) and boiled potatoes. She was a strong Catholic and had an altar in her bedroom with candles burning by the Blessed Mother at all times. Even when Connie and I became young ladies we loved going to grandma's house and eating Lithuanian food and gabbing with her about our romantic escapades. She also shared with us her days in Lithuania and the constant fighting between the Polish and Russians and her Lithuania suffered because of their fight for power. She always told us that Lithuanians were refined and cultured compared to these nations.

When I first visited Lithuania I got tears in my eyes remembering my grandmother and wished she lived long enough to know one of her grandchildren returned.

if you want to share your story please contact Renata: renata.bakelyte@gmail.com

About Our Members:

In Memoriam...

ALPHONSE J. PURDUSKI – a Charter member of the Lithuanians of America, passed away on Monday, September 21 of 2009.

Al, who was born March 10, 1920, and served as Master Sergeant in the Marines in WWII; was given full military honors at his graveside services in Leavenworth National Cemetery.

Al was very proud of his Lithuanian heritage, and showed it through his enthusiastic involvement and participation in LOA activities. Al's parents were part of the original community of Lithuanians who helped establish old St. Casimir's Lithuanian Church in Kansas City, Kansas. He was the last surviving member of his family, which included his twin sister, Alberta, sisters Agnes, Tillie and Elizabeth (Elsie), as well as his brothers Charlie, Paul and Pete.

His positive, outgoing and upbeat demeanor, even in his declining years, were an inspiration to all who ever knew him. May he now rest in God's eternal Peace.

* * *

In Memoriam...

FRANCES (SACHEN) SHAMET - 87 years old, passed away on New Year's Day, January 1 of 2009. Frances and her husband, John Shamet, were charter members of the Lithuanians of America club. She and John were married in

articles:

Charlotte Horvatic
Sally Žemaitytė-Dannov
John Brungardt
Gloria Ruttman
Renata Bakelytė

photography:

Jurgita Lukoševičienė

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Web & Graphic Designer
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1941, and became lifelong members of St. Cyril and Methodius Church in Kansas City, Kansas, where many LOA functions and events have been held over past years.

Eternal rest grant unto her, O Lord, and let the perpetual light shine upon her. May her soul and all the souls of the faithful departed, rest in peace. Amen.

Išmok Lietuvių Kalbą



spring - pavasaris
snow is melting - sniegas tirpsta
I missed - pasiilgau
sun - saulė

Snow is already melting, spring is coming -
Sniegas jau tirpsta, ateina pavasaris.

I missed the sun so much - **Aš taip pasiilgau saulės.**

previous issue: Aš dar nenoriu grįžti į mokyklą. Lekiam prie ežero.

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

THANKS TO THESE WHO HELPED

translations:

Renata Bakelytė

please read more at:

www.kclith.org

updated!