

# bridges



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**Front Cover:** Participants of the Lithuanian International Student Services (LISS) program visited the Parliament of Lithuania and were warmly received by the Speaker of the Parliament Viktoras Pranckietis. LISS provides US and Canadian university students internships in Lithuania targeting their major fields of study. Photo by Džoja Barysaitė.

**Back cover:** Participants of the Bring Together Lithuania program visit Trakai Castle. Bring Together Lithuania program, provides an opportunity for diaspora Lithuanian youth to spend 6 weeks in Lithuania as part of an internship program with other young Lithuanians from all around the world. Photo by Kamilė Naraitė.

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## from the editor

Dear readers,

I hope you are enjoying your summer. It seems that traditionally for the Lithuanian community summer is a time for camps. In the United States, we all know of several great camps. They are Dainava, Neringa, and Rakas. However, other camps are emerging. One of them is called Creative Summer Workshop. You will read about it in this issue. There are also many camps in Lithuania. Some Lithuanian Americans spend their time joining them. However, several programs enable Lithuanian American students not only enjoy their time visiting various points of interest in Lithuania and find out about Lithuanian culture and history but also develop their professional skills in their field of studies. One of such programs is Lithuanian International Student Services (LISS) and the other one is Bring Together Lithuania. You will read about both of these amazing programs in this issue of Bridges.

I would also like to bring to your attention the fact that Bridges has a new advertising and subscriptions manager. We are pleased that Marius Naris joined our team. Please send your subscriptions to his address as indicated on the left side of this page. We are also calling on all Lithuanians businesses and organizations to place ads in the magazine. This way you will help keep Bridges alive and everyone will enjoy reading about Lithuanian Americans in the future.

Wishing you a nice summer,

Karilė Vaitkutė  
Editor

# 2019

## the Year of World Lithuanians and the Lithuanian Charter

On February 7, 1932, a fund to support Lithuanians in foreign countries was established in Lithuania, making one of the first attempts to maintain closer ties between the Lithuanian diaspora and Lithuania. Three years later the first Lithuanian World Congress was held in Kaunas, which established the Lithuanian World Union. The mission of the Lithuanian World Union, also drafted during the Congress, called for a cultural and economic union of Lithuanians in different countries. However, World War II and Lithuania's occupation interrupted the work. Many educated Lithuanians fled to western countries, hoping to avoid approaching Soviet repressions. In 1946 the Lithuanian community in Germany established the Lithuanian Deportees Community, which aimed at consolidating and helping Lithuanians in Germany. In 1949 Lithuania's Supreme Liberation Committee (VLIK), established in 1943, delivered the Lithuanian Charter which solemnly pledged to support and unite all Lithuanians outside Lithuania's borders and promote Lithuanian culture and language abroad.

The Lithuanian Charter consists of an introduction and 13 articles. The introduction describes the aspirations of the Lithuanian nation to live freely and independently, to preserve its language and traditions. Other articles discuss the significance of the nation, the Lithuanian language, family, culture, state, school, societies, press, and history. The Lithuanian Charter invites Lithuanians to foster national patriotism, aspirations for freedom and democracy.

In 2019 we commemorate the 70th anniversary of the Lithuanian Charter. The following is the translation of the original Lietuvių Charta from Lithuanian by Jon Platakis.

THE LITHUANIAN NATION, hardened in the agonizing struggle for the right to live freely and independently in the land of its forefathers, is united in its pursuit to preserve, create and nurture its life, language, national and state traditions, to fulfill the will of the Almighty and the vocation of a free human being through their national culture in the co-operation of the progress of the human race. This is proclaimed for the eternal aspirations of the Lithuanian Nation:

LIETUVIŲ TAUTA, užsigrūdinusi amžių kovose dėl teisės laisvai ir nepriklausomai gyventi savo tėvų žemėse, vieninga valia siekia savo gyvybę, kalbą, tautines bei val-

stybines tradicijas išlaikyti, kurti ir ugdyti, kad savo tautine kultūra visuotinei žmonių giminės pažangai bendradarbiaudama, vykdytų Visagalio valią ir laisvo žmogaus pašaukimą. Lietuvių Tautos amžinųjų siekimų vardan skelbiama ši

### LITHUANIAN CHARTER LIETUVIŲ CHARTA

1  
The nation is a natural human community. No one can be coerced to end his relationship with a national community. Lithuanians spread throughout the world form a united Lithuanian Community.

Tauta yra prigimtoji žmonių bendruomenė. Niekas negali būti prievartaujamas savo ryšį su tautine bendrija nutraukti. Pasaulyje pasklidę lietuviai sudaro vieningą Pasaulio Lietuvių Bendruomenę.

2  
A person has the natural right to freely profess and cultivate his nationality. A Lithuanian remains being a Lithuanian everywhere and always. A Lithuanian transfers the life of the Lithuanian nation, that was sustained by his parents, to future generations so that it may live forever.

Žmogus turi prigimtąją teisę laisvai išpažinti ir ugdyti savo tautybę. Lietuvis lieka lietuviu visur ir visada. Savo tėvų išlaikytą Lietuvių Tautos gyvybę lietuvis perduoda ateities kartoms, kad amžinai gyventume.

3  
Language is the strongest link to the national community. The Lithuanian language is a national honor for Lithuanians.

Kalba yra stipriausias tautinės bendruomenės ryšys. Lietuvių kalba lietuviui yra tautinė garbė.

4  
Family is the life of a nation. A Lithuanian creates a Lithuanian family.

Šeima yra tautos gyvybė. Lietuvis kuria lietuvišką šeimą.

5

Folk culture is the way to international recognition and cooperation. By revealing the geniuses of the nation, national culture contributes spontaneously to the universal achievements of humanity. The duty of every Lithuanian is to create conditions for national culture.

Tautinė kultūra yra kelias į tarptautinį pripažinimą ir bendravimą. Apreikšdama tautos genijų, tautinė kultūra įneša savaimingą indėlį į visuotinius žmonių giminės laimėjimus. Kiekvieno lietuvių priedermė sudaryti sąlygas tautinei kultūrai.

6

The state is the supreme organization of the national community. State independence is a prerequisite for the development and survival of national culture. By work, science, wealth and sacrifice, a Lithuanian strives to defend and maintain an independent state of Lithuania.

Valstybė yra aukščiausioji tautinės bendruomenės organizacija. Valstybinė nepriklausomybė yra tautinės kultūros ugdymo ir išlikimo sąlyga. Darbu, mokslu, turtais ir pasiaukojimu lietuvis kovoja, kad apgintų ir išlaikytų nepriklausomą Lietuvos valstybę.

7

The school is the focal point of the national spirit. The noble duty of every Lithuanian is to be a supporter of the Lithuanian school.

Mokykla yra tautinės dvasios židinys. Kiekvieno lietuvių kilniausioji pareiga būti lietuvių mokyklos rėmėju.

8

Society is an effective supporter of national culture. A Lithuanian develops and maintains religious, cultural, youth, self-help, professional and other Lithuanian societies.

Draugija yra tautinės kultūros veiksminga talkininkė. Lietuvis kuria ir palaiko religines, kultūrinės, jaunimo, savišalpos, profesines ir kitas lietuvių draugijas.

9

Our parents' struggle and sacrifice for the Lithuanian book is a testamentary obligation to all generations of the Lithuanian Nation. A Lithuanian organizes and supports the printed Lithuanian word.

Mūsų tėvų kovos ir aukos dėl lietuviškos knygos yra testamentinis įpareigojimas visoms Lietuvių Tautos kartoms. Lietuvis organizuoja ir remia spausdintą lietuvišką žodį.

10

A nation's history is its best teacher. A Lithuanian treasures his nation's past and its national customs. A Lithuanian tries to be worthy of his ancestors so that he may pass on the respect and pride to his descendants.

Tautos istorija yra geriausia tautos mokytoja. Lietuvis brangina savo tautos praeitį ir tautinius papročius. Lietuvis stengiasi būti vertas savo protėvių, kad paliktų pagarbų pasididžiavimą savo palikuonims.

11

National solidarity is the highest national virtue. A Lithuanian develops national solidarity. All Lithuanians are equal in the eyes of the nation, brothers among themselves. As a sign of national understanding and Lithuanian unity, every Lithuanian contributes continually to national solidarity.

Tautinis solidarumas yra aukščiausia tautinė dorybė. Lietuvis ugdo tautinį solidarumą. Visi lietuviai yra lygūs tos pačios tautos vaikai, tarp savęs broliai. Tautinio susipratimo ir lietuvių vienybės ženklai kiekvienas lietuvis moka nuolatinį tautinio solidarumo įnašą.

12

Lithuanian national colors: yellow - green - red. Lithuanian national holiday - February 16th. Lithuanian slogan: "We are born as Lithuanians, and Lithuanians we will continue to be!"

Lietuvio tautinės spalvos: geltona - žalia - raudona. Lietuvio tautinė šventė - Vasario 16-ji. Lietuvio šūkis: „Lietuviais esame mes gimę, lietuviškai turime ir būt!“

13

A Lithuanian is loyal to the country where he lives. The love of Lithuania and respect for the freedom, honor, life, health and wealth of each person determines Lithuania's relations with non-Lithuanians.

Lietuvis yra lojalus savo gyvenamajam kraštui. Lietuvio santykius su nelietuviu nustato artimo meilė ir pagarba kiekvieno žmogaus laisvei, garbei, gyvybei, sveikatai ir turtui.

Supreme Lithuanian Liberation Committee in the Exile,  
1949 June 14

Vyriausiasis Lietuvos Išlaisvinimo Komitetas Tremtyje,  
1949 m. birželio 14 d.

# Bring Together Lithuania



The Opening Ceremony at the Kazickas Family Residence in Vilnius (Bring Together Lithuania picture)

“Bring Together Lithuania” provides a unique opportunity for Lithuanian diaspora youth to rediscover modern Lithuania while gaining professional experience

June 16th, Bring Together Lithuania 2019 summer internship and modern Lithuania program for youth of Lithuanian heritage were officially launched at the Kazickas Family Residence, in Vilnius. Inspiring welcome words were given by John Kazickas and Lucy Kazickas, the directors of the Kazickas Family Foundation Neila Baumiliene and Agnė Vertelkaitė, as well as by the program manager Kamilė Naraitė. We invite you to follow the 6 weeks long journey of Lithuanian diaspora youth in their heritage country while gaining professional experience and rediscovering modern Lithuania.

17 young students of Lithuanian descent, most of whom were born outside of Lithuania but foster their Lithuanian heritage and actively participate in their local Lithuanian communities in their home countries, came for 6 week long internships in Lithuania. The program is designed with a focus on discovering modern Lithuania along with its nature and culture. The participants join

trips to the most beautiful natural places in Lithuania as well as explore the cities. During 6 weeks in Lithuania, they will also engage in company visits, interactive workshops, tours and events at the national level.

Participating students study biochemistry, biology, business administration, economics, cinema, medicine, art therapy, sociology, psychology, political science and more at various American Universities. Their internships will be at different Lithuanian institutions, leading international companies and innovative startups according to the particular field of study.

Companies and organizations that provide internships for this year “Bring Together Lithuania” participants are: „Bankera“, “Civitta”, „Droplet Genomics“, European Commission Representation in Lithuania, “HR Hint Online”, Lithuanian Free Market Institute, Eastern European Study Center, Ministry of Health of The Republic of Lithuania, Life Sciences Centre of Vilnius University, the Child Development Centre at Vilnius University Hospital Santaros Klinikos, “Unnecessary Films”, “Western Union”.

“Bring Together Lithuania” program is initiated and sponsored by the Kazickas Family Foundation, sponsored by the Lithuanian Foundation.

John Kazickas and Lucy Kazickas during the opening ceremony emphasized the importance of supporting the “Bring Together Lithuania” initiative and the value that it brings:

“Our mother Aleksandra Kazickas was a big supporter of the heritage schools in Lithuania and for that reason, it’s a natural extension of what we have always been looking to do. For Mamytė the youth has always been an important part of the continuation of Lithuanian heritage, so it’s just a natural fit that we would support the program.

I think for the children of that generation who are in America it’s important to know their roots and to know exactly of their heritage. While they do get some of that in the United States, thanks to their loving parents and the communities that are there, there are no substitutes for coming back to Lithuania. For them it’s not just the cultural aspect they are getting but also the benefit of the internship, taking some not only professional dances in this but also networking. I think that is an important reason why it’s an important program.”, - John Kazickas.

“For me, not only is it giving the diaspora a sense of a cultural background that they have in Lithuania but the history of the struggle of the Lithuanian people. I think it’s really important for the young people that are living in America to understand the struggles that Lithuanians have had and how far they’ve come. I know my father in law was so proud of Lithuania and wanted so much that young people with Lithuanian heritage understood how wonderful and how great Lithuania is even though it has been under Communist rule for so long’,- Lucy Kazickas.



John Kazickas and Lucy Kazickas giving a welcome word (photo Bring Together Lithuania)

## The first week in Lithuania

The first week in Lithuania were filled with inspiring events and meetings.

The business development and tourism agency “Go Vilnius” welcomed the participants of the “Bring Together Lithuania” program to Vilnius and organized a unique workshop. “Welcome to Vilnius” - workshop for Lithuanian diaspora youth helped quickly get used to the capital city, learn more about tourism, career opportunities, and public transportation. Also, participants got to take part in a guided tour with a local guide and got to find many city’s hidden gems as well as to network with Lithuanian diaspora youth. Moreover, the youth had a meeting with the President of Lithuania Dalia Grybauskaitė and a tour in the Center for Civic Education. As well as, a meeting with members of the Parliament and the representatives of the Lithuanian World Community - Vida Bandis and Simonas Gentvilas. As well as had a great tour around the Seimas Palace, visited the historical places and learned more about Lithuanian history.

In addition, the program for Lithuanian diaspora the youth is under the patronage of Lithuanian National Commission for UNESCO. Therefore, youth had a meeting with Dr. Urtė Neniškytė - one of the most promising young researchers in Lithuania. She has received her Ph.D. in Biochemistry from the University of Cambridge. L’Oréal-UNESCO For Women in Science program recently announced Urtė Neniškytė as one of the 15 most promising researchers – International Rising Talents.



“Bring Together Lithuania” participants celebrating St. Jonas’ Festival in Vilnius (photo by Viltė Vaitkutė)

All the participants have already started their internships and had a long festive weekend. Lithuania is a place to be to celebrate Saint Jonas' Festival (Midsummer Day) – the longest day and shortest night of the year in Lithuania. It's all about singing folk songs, dancing around bonfires, washing your face with morning dew, and most importantly, looking for the magic fern blossom.

### Meeting the President of Lithuania - Dalia Grybauskaitė

June 18th, the President of Lithuania Dalia Grybauskaitė met with young Lithuanians from all around the globe who came to Lithuania with "Bring Together Lithuania" program and will have internships this summer here. Opportunities for young people in Lithuania, patriotism, preservation of Lithuanian identity abroad were discussed during the meeting.

The year 2019 is a year of the Lithuanians of the World. Our unity and work for Lithuania are always extremely important. According to the President, all initiatives that provide opportunities for young Lithuanians from all

around the globe to discover modern Lithuania are celebrated, they help to stay connected with the land of their ancestors and make the decision to return easier.

According to the country's leader, Lithuania needs all benevolent citizens who wish to apply their skills and experience acquired abroad, their ideas and proposals can contribute to making our nation stronger and building its future. Returning youth see the opportunities in Lithuania to build their careers and to reach for their potential. President emphasized that young, active, educated and social Lithuanians could be and must be Lithuania's International Ambassadors spreading patriotism and knowledge about Lithuania's accomplishments that they will learn about during their summer internships at the country's most innovative companies and organizations.

Bring Together Lithuania is inviting all to follow the 6-week long journey of Lithuanian diaspora youth in their heritage country while gaining professional experience and rediscovering modern Lithuania.



Inspiring meeting with the President of Lithuania Dalia Grybauskaitė (photo by Robertas Dačkus)

# LISS Program 2019

## LISS program in Lithuania

By Lukas Janowicz



The LISS program is a very valuable life experience. Firstly, you gain valuable work experience in your field of study which is very important to kickstart your career. This is also an international work experience which gets you out of your comfort zone. It is a different work atmosphere with different ideals. It gives you a different perspective on how to work essentially. It is more about the quality of work and quality of life than the time spent at work. The amenities for stress relief are plentiful and everyone makes sure everyone's ok.

Secondly, being in a foreign country which I have visited before but have never lived day to day working is a shock. It takes about a week to get used to your surroundings, knowing where to get food and other essentials, multiple routes to work and fun places to hang out and meet people. It's helpful to have a support system of people that can answer your questions and recommend things that will help you or suggest places to go. After you get used to everything you start to explore a little more and enjoy what Vilnius has to offer. It is a beautiful city with rich cultural history (senamiestis) and a very modern downtown (naujamiestis) which are a short bus ride away from each other.

Thirdly, The LISS program itself is amazing. After most workdays and weekends there are activities. Some of the weekday activities include tours of Vilnius University, a tour of Vilnius that are very historically and culturally informative. While other weekday activities are more outdoors like kayaking the Neris River and going in a clay pit. It's amazing to be shown local spots. Then there are the weekend trips which are the more extravagant activities or even trips. One weekend we ventured to Nida which was a sight to see. The rolling sand dunes and the feeling of the Baltic Sea crashing against your body are like no other. Plus, the smoked fish is to die for. Also, we went on a trip to Bebro Kelias which is where we participated in a swamp march and a traditional Lithuanian sauna experience. I have never had a more enjoyable sauna experience in my life.

The LISS program has gone above my expectations in job quality and activity quality. I have seen and done things that I could not have done back home and for that, I am grateful that I was able to participate in this program and shout out to Romena Čiūtienė for being an amazing leader and putting her heart and soul into planning everything. Thank you to everyone that made LISS happen.



## Experience at Vaidotas Battalion in Rukla, Lithuania

By Daniel Kwiatkowski



The second weekend of our internship program was a great experience. After a long week working 9:00 - 5:00 every day, by the time Friday came around I was definitely ready for a change of pace and a deep power nap. Luckily Friday our whole group was able to take the day off from work - this was really needed. With all the after-work activities our program organizer provided to us, all the members of the program found themselves exhausted after a long week. We were all able to catch a few extra hours of sleep in the morning, then we all got onto either the bus or car we rented out for use over the weekend. Our first stop was Rukla - a military town out on the land in Lithuania. We were specifically visiting the “Vaidotas

Battalion”. The drive was about two and a half hours so the extra sleep and banter was a good time on the road. When we got there, we were first shown a presentation that told us all types of statistics and history about the battalion and Lithuanian military forces. Not long after, the crowd was divided into groups, and our group headed to a building where we were shown the various weaponry that is used by the army. My friends and I had an opportunity to take pictures with all the different guns and infantry gear they showed us. Not long after, we headed out to an obstacle course that soldiers practice on. We all had to scale a small wall, walk on a balance beam, and go through a short maze. After this, we went to a grenade-throwing



lesson, where we threw fake grenades into a target. It was fun for everyone to try, especially from the prone position. After this, we all went to shoot blank rounds from weapons they had. The classic infantry weapon was a g36, light and portable assault rifle. We also were able to shoot from a SCAR sniper and an older machine gun. The whole group enjoyed doing this and we got plenty of good photos. Next, we all went into an infantry carrying tank and went for a short joyride. This was very interesting to experience because it was a genuine vehicle that the army could use in battle if it were necessary. When we got back, it was finally time to eat dinner. The chefs had prepared lasagna, and I was surprised to find that the army food was very enjoyable. Luckily for the soldiers, the food they are served there is pretty good so they can enjoy their meals. Following dinner, we decided to hit the road so we could continue our adventures in Nida.

The time we spent at the Vaidotas battalion was definitely an interesting experience which I would recommend to any Lithuanian or any foreigner who is interested in military operations in Lithuania. I was genuinely impressed by the camps they had set up and how official things seemed to operate there. They did a great job of showing civilians a simplified tour of their camp while



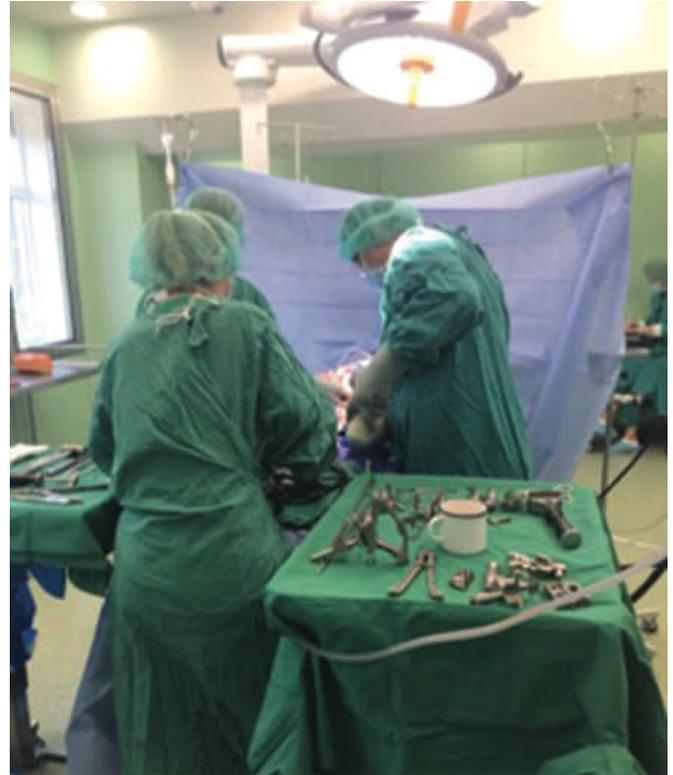
still getting all the main points about military life there across. Honestly, the experience was pretty inspiring; it even made me think about the possibility of joining the military in the future. I still need to think about a decision that big but I'm very thankful I had the opportunity to see what I saw that day.

The LISS internship program has provided me with plenty of great memories that will last a lifetime, all while giving me valuable work experience. From the very beginning, our group has been extremely busy with work during the day and usually some sort of activities to participate in the afternoon. From wading through mud and participating in sauna sessions to meeting with Remigijus Šimašius, the current mayor of Vilnius, the capital city of Lithuania. I would recommend this program to anyone who has Lithuanian roots which they want to get closer to all while getting a great work and pleasure experience. And of course, a huge thank you is due to Romėna Čiūtienė, the organizer of events for us interns. She has done a phenomenal job keeping us busy without getting us involved with events that would be boring. To conclude, the LISS program provided an amazing experience in Rukla and I would recommend anyone with an interest to look into it.



# The Moment Where Perspective Changes

By Tomas Misiunas



The moment I walked into Lazdynai Hospital for my first day of work was the moment when my perspective changed about the surgeon life in a different country (Lithuania). My nervous hands could not stop shaking. The perspiration could be that I was extremely excited for learning about what trauma surgeons do or that I was extremely nervous to jump into working with any surgeon and they would assume that I was a resident of the institution and that I would perform certain tasks without any medical experience. Furthermore, it could have been because of the extreme heat from the sun and that most of the hospital did not have any air conditioning, but it was the concoction of emotions that led me to yearn for the experience of a lifetime. I met my trauma surgeon who was going to lead me throughout my five weeks of my internship, and he gave me the rundown of the place and what they do for residents, not students like me. I was quite excited to see how the doctors perform surgery in a European sense compared to the United States.

We arrived at the operation room's changing room, and my stomach was aching in anxiety that it was like a test of whether I was ready for the life of a surgeon or not. We got dressed into sterilized scrubs for the sanitation protocol

of surgery, this was normal, and every hospital did this. We head into the room and my ignorant and initial view of the equipment before was that it was old and had not the highest level of technology. Although I had my initial thoughts, the equipment was efficient to the standards of many of the hospitals in the United States. The nurses and assistant surgeons started prepping the patient with iodine and when the surgeon arrived and gave me a vibrant smile that is when the nerves went away. I was no longer in fear but immersed into the moment that I can experience the art of surgery first hand and the presentation of class with the surgeon explaining every detail of what they were doing and the purpose of each step in the procedure. The procedure was a hip replacement and I never seen such procedure performed. The procedure took two hours and 32 minutes. From that point on in my internship, my original desire to become a surgeon had cultivated into a greater and more immersed passion after that first day. Every resident opportunity that was presented I always was the first to participate. LISS broke the ceiling of my own potential and gave me the opportunity to open new doors for the near future in my career.

## Trip to Nida with LISS

By Daria Pachucka



Participating in the LISS program, and spending five weeks of my summer in Vilnius, Lithuania has been an unforgettable trip filled with practical work experience, illuminating meetings with the leaders of Lithuania, and amazing views of the beautiful country. Each weekday I got to intern at an environmental protection organization, Baltic Environmental Forum of Lithuania, furthering my interest and passion in the conservation of the natural world. My job itself provided me with the incredible opportunity to witness and participate in a rare bird species' conservation project. On the other hand, evenings and weekends were spent getting to know Lithuania and my culture. After just a week, LISS helped me realize that the opportunities Lithuania had to offer were much more than I had previously understood.

Among the long list of program events, our weekend trip to Nida, Lithuania was one of the most memorable.

Some of this had to do with the fact that I had only been to Nida once, as a child and remembered little of the unique place. I was excited to complete my mental image of the natural wonder and get to swim in the (really cold) Baltic Sea again!

We got the perfect introduction when early Saturday morning we met with the mayor of Nida, Darius Jasaitis, for breakfast. Lively and so informative, mayor Jasaitis had much to share about his town and its history. I was especially interested in hearing about environmental issues such as the effects of the invasive species, the great cormorant, as well as the struggle of preserving Nida's beautiful sand dunes. The meeting got me excited to go see the sights we had talked about.

After climbing a couple hundred steps and taking a look over Nida's sand dunes from the tallest point, I was amazed at how different this land looked from Lithuania's



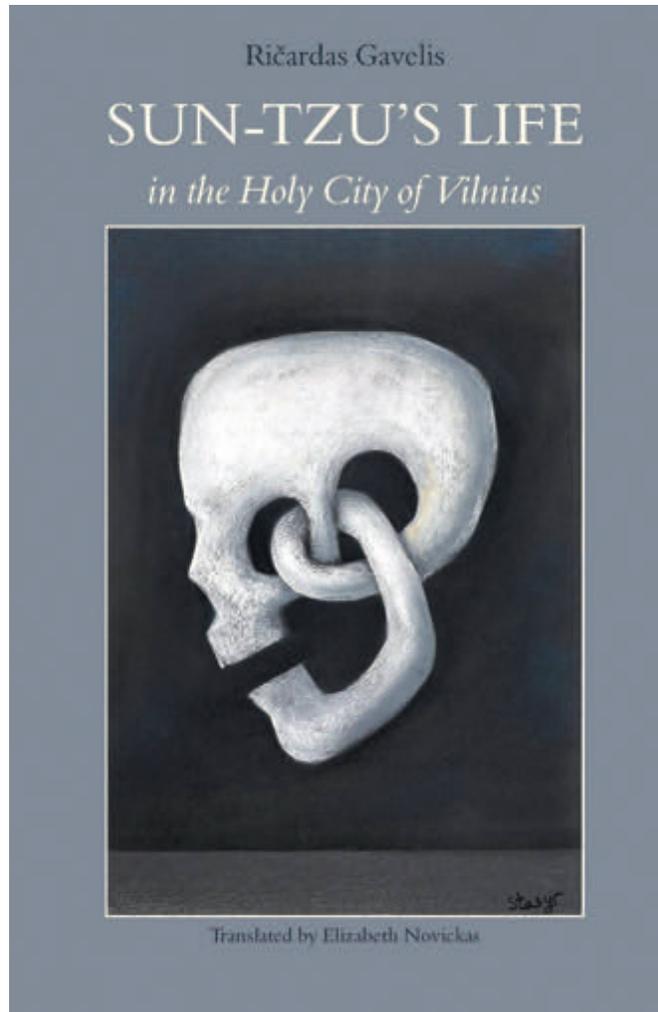
mainland. It's a true national treasure and I'm glad that there are great measures to preserve it. In the afternoon, our whole group headed to the beach where we listened to Lithuanian music, swam and even made a human pyramid. It was nice to relax after an early morning start and quite the hike to the dunes. But we didn't stay too long, because we still had to try Nida's famous smoked fish from "Tik Pas Jona." Fish in hand, we headed to our boat ride to take a look at beautiful Nida from the water.

Sunday morning, we headed back towards Klaipėda, but not before stopping to see the cormorants. The immense amount of the birds and the way they harm their habitat was something I had never seen before. We also took a walk through the old "Raganų kalnas" ("Witch Hill"), where we took fun photos with all the detailed wooden statues. This was one of my most vivid memories from my trip to Nida as a kid, so I really enjoyed seeing it all again. After another swim at a different beach, we headed back to Vilnius. The weekend was packed with so much sight-seeing that most of the LISS team fell asleep on the drive back. It was truly amazing to be able to see an important piece of Lithuania's landscape and learn the history of the heart of Lithuania's tourism.





## New from Pica Pica Press



Sun-Tzu's Life in the Holy City of Vilnius  
by Ričardas Gavelis  
271 pp. ISBN 978-0-9966304-3-6.

Another intellectual horror story by the author of *Vilnius Poker*. In this, Gavelis's last novel before his sudden death at the age of 52, the master of the macabre takes us through the life of the Sun-Tzu of Vilnius, a warrior of the political and economic changes that followed the fall of the Soviet Union. Sun-Tzu launches attacks on his enemies from his bunker hidden in the legendary underground labyrinths of Vilnius. A fantastic metaphoric voyage into the depths of good and evil.

*From The Life of Sun-Tzu in the Sacred City of Vilnius by Ričardas Gavelis*

### 3. The Revolt of the Snails

That dangerous evening had to end tragically; perhaps even with a bloody ball of twisted guts. Perhaps even with the flawless knife of a surgeon. I was overly confident in my disguise; I had ascended too high into pride, and let my soul loose. And worst of all—I completely ignored the danger of a snail uprising. Snails are dangerous for the sole reason that they're small, slimy, and have moveable horns, but you eat them anyway. And as if that weren't enough—when they're well-prepared, they're tasty too. That is the ultimate horror of a snail uprising. That's how they try to get inside you, to melt into your essence and infect you with their snailishness. Sometimes they succeed at this. In fact, they frequently do.

It succeeded on the evening of our silver wedding anniversary. But this time the snails behaved in a particularly disgusting manner. They attacked us without even being eaten. They arranged a conspiracy that equaled the worst conspiracies of edible animals in the history of the world. That evening they got even with the entire restaurant's administration, the waiters, and even some of the paintings on the walls.

It was the paintings that outraged me the most—I always used to get along well with them. I have always considered pictures living creatures, nothing less than a life form of my own race. It's particularly painful when your own race betrays you. A true black would consider a white's betrayal something that practically goes without saying. But betrayal by his black brother could crush him completely. I wasn't at all outraged that the snails betrayed and defied me, but the paintings' betrayal pierced my soul with black voodoo needles.

It was those damned pictures that moved first. Those miserable schemers hung the walls with copies, or maybe imitations, of Francis Bacon. Old Francis keeps turning over in his grave whenever he thinks of them—things are actually quite painful for him: a million idiots have hung a million walls with ridiculous imitations of his figures. And in the other world he has to go on worrying about every one of them. There is no peace on the other side of the Lethe.

## Our Goal is to Create Little Lithuania Here



Choreographer Donatas Bakėjus teaches his class.



Creative summer workshop teachers and organizers. From left, Sigita Kazlienė, Austėja Sruoga, Jolanta Lechavičienė, Julija Kazilaitė.

For the fourth consecutive summer, in the Ateitis Foundation Center in Lemont, Illinois, the Lithuanian American Community hosts a camp for children called the Creative Summer Workshop. The camp's initiators and leaders are Austėja Sruoga, the LAC Executive Chairwoman, and Sigita Kazlienė, a history teacher from Lithuania with over ten years of experience working with students and creative projects. Sigita is responsible for the content of the camp classes and Austėja takes care of organizational and administrative matters. As this year's workshop was coming to an end, we sat down to talk.

**Karilė Vaitkutė:** How did you come up with the idea of organizing the camp?

**Sigita Kazlienė:** In 2015 I visited Chicago with my husband who had been performing here. We were introduced to Austėja Sruoga, the chairwoman of the Lithuanian American Community Culture Department at the time. We talked to her about the natural need for Lithuanian creative camps for children through creative activities of which we could represent contemporary Lithuanian culture. This is how we decided to start these creative summer workshops.

## our community



Felt oak leaves crafted by children.

**Austėja Sruoga:** Many times, projects come from our life experiences. My own child is growing up, and there is a great lack of things to do in the summer. I know that a lot of Lithuanian parents want to involve their children in some sort of activities. "Dainava" and "Neringa" camps are great but they are not enough. Children can stay there only for one week. That's why we started thinking about what kids could do here in the summertime when they no longer have to go to Saturday schools, and at least for a while, they would still be involved in Lithuanian activities. We decided to write a proposal and, if we would get funding, try to do it.

**KV:** What were your main goals?

**SK:** Our goal was to create a little Lithuania here. When I first visited the United States, I noticed that American Lithuanian children knew a lot about Lithuanian history and about Lithuania from the time when their parents lived there. However, they do not know what is happening in Lithuania now, what are the achievements of Lithuanians in the arts. For example, today we dedicated our day to puppet theater, and I told the children about the Vežimo Puppet Theater in Panevėžys. It was fun for kids to learn about it. After all, only a few children have the

opportunity to go to Lithuania, and many do not visit Lithuania very often. We want children to know what is happening in Lithuania right now. The easiest way to achieve this is through meetings with artists of the present day.

**KV:** How is the Creative Summer Workshop different from other summer camps?

**AS:** In summer, a sports camp is organized at the World Lithuanian Center in Lemont and an art camp at the Siela Gallery. There are other daytime camps in the Chicago area. It brings us great joy now. However, when we came up with the idea four years ago and held the first Creative Summer Workshop camp, we were probably the only Lithuanian camp in our neighborhood. We are different because our purpose is to emphasize and represent Lithuanian culture. Our camp is like an integrated class. I have seen a class like that in Lithuania, at the American International School of Vilnius, and it was ingrained in my memory.

One of our main goals is to attract young people. It's not that easy. Our camp is one of the ways to help you find out about contemporary Lithuanian culture. We have many portraits of our dukes, many wooden clogs from



Clay masks made by the children while learning about the art of theatre.

the past but we have little that speaks about modern Lithuania. Therefore, we try to introduce young people to modern Lithuania and we want them to find a connection with it.

**KV:** How many teachers work here?

**SK:** We are four teachers and two helpers. I am a history teacher responsible for the camp's creative activities. Jolanta Lechavičienė is a technology teacher from Lithuania. Also from Lithuania is choreographer Donatas Bakėjus. Local artist, Julija Kazilaitė, joins us every year.

**KV:** How many children attend the camp? What are their ages?

**SK:** Children's ages are 7 to 13 years. We are focusing on the children who may not be ready for camps such as "Dainava" or "Neringa" because they would have to be away from home for a whole week. We want children to have a full day of activities but not spend the nights here. Twenty children can attend the camp per week, and the camp lasts for two weeks. We are constrained by space. We would not be able to accept more children here. On the other hand, one of our priorities is to work profession-

ally, and with a small group, it could be achieved better.

**KV:** What do children learn in this camp? What activities are they involved in?

**SK:** In the first year the camp program was based on various topics from the Lithuanian history. After the first year, we realized that it would be good to present arts through a direct encounter with an artist who is currently active in Lithuania. In the first year, we introduced photography. Photographer Jonas Staselis came and through his playful, artistic activities, he was developing children's visual literacy which is very important in this age. During the second year, we introduced music. A young and talented artist Raminta Naujalytė Bjelle helped us. This year is dedicated to theater and dance. Choreographer Donatas Bakėjus agreed to teach. It is not very easy to find an artist who would be suitable for the camp. I'm looking for them all year round. I need to find someone who's is not only good in what he does but also has the experience of working with children.

**KV:** What does a day at the camp look like?

**SK:** Children stay here every day from 9 am to 5 pm. In



Clay sculptures.

the morning we all come together and present the topic of the day. Then we split the group in half, and one group works with the choreographer while another one works with the artist. And then there are the so-called small activities with the technology teacher who teaches children various crafts. For example, today's theme was puppet theater, and the children were making sculptures of a baller dancer out of clay. Donatas uses two principles in his work: he teaches movement and emotional freedom through colors. Every day we choose a color and relate our games and movements to it. As we know, everything starts with a white sheet, so the colors on the first day were white and black. On the second day, we picked yellow. Today's color is green, and so we made a green oak leaf, and oak is a traditional Lithuanian tree. This way, we make a chain of many symbols that express Lithuanian identity.

**KV:** Have you noticed any differences between the Lithuanian children growing up in the United States and in Lithuania?

**SK:** There are differences. Of course, one natural thing is the language barrier. Children here grow up using English. Therefore, one of the rules in our camp is speaking

Lithuanian. At the end of the week, even those children who did not dare to speak at first speak more Lithuanian. Parents thank us for that.

**KV:** Is there anything in the work with Lithuanian American children that satisfy you as a person?

**SK:** The most beautiful thing is their curiosity and desire. It is very nice that at home or in their families they have been taught to love Lithuania. From the art pieces that they create and their reflections on what we do here, we can say that children get to be very interested and they want to go to Lithuania, to know more about the native land of their parents. We bring them joy, and they delight us. I myself become charged as a Lithuanian here. In Lithuania, we sometimes get lost in our busy every-day lives and we do not feel it anymore. And here, we celebrate Lithuania every moment of every day.

**KV:** What do the children say about your camp?

**SK:** Children do not express their opinions directly but we are pleased when we see their unwillingness to leave the camp, their desire to come back next year. They remember the information we share with them through



Learning through dancing and colors.

the arts and crafts pieces they create. Information is encoded into everything. This year they will bring home a dancer's sculpture, an oak leaf felt, backpacks. Colors, ideas, facts will be ingrained in their memory. Children respond in various ways. There are some who cry after the camp ends because they do not want to leave. Children here differ from those in Lithuania because they are very attentive and warm. They get attached. In Lithuania, children are usually thankful to teachers but they just say goodbye and leave. Here we form a bond, a very warm relationship. The arrival of teachers and artists from Lithuania is a big event here.

**KV:** Does the Creative Summer Workshop have sponsors or its existence just depends on the fee that parents pay?

**AS:** We are supported by the Lithuanian Foundation, the Lithuanian Council for Culture in partnership with the Lithuanian American Community. Without this support, there would definitely not be an opportunity to have the camp.

**KV:** The camp seems to be very popular, it fills up very quickly. It seems that it does not even need advertising.

**AS:** In the first year, we announced the registration to the camp publicly. In the second and third year, we invited the same children first and then looked for additional children to completely fill the camp. And this year we announced the registration publicly again, and our camp was filled in less than an hour. The camp lasts for two weeks. We accept forty children in total.

**KV:** Do you plan to expand the camp by increasing the number of weeks?

**AS:** The Lithuanian Foundation asked the same. We would like to do more, but we are limited by human resources. Summertime is the time of holidays. Teachers want to rest; our guests from Lithuania cannot stay here for a long period of time. Everyone has families, holidays.

**SK:** We have the vision to expand the camp. We would like to work out an exchange. It would be good for the children to go to Vilnius and meet with artists there. In addition, they could go to museums and other places that would help them experience Lithuania. Of course, the need and desire to expand the camp is huge, but so far we are limited by our space and the shortage of teachers from Lithuania. Currently, we are two educators



Pancakes are always the most delicious dish.

from Lithuania. Our language is different and it is very interesting for children to listen to us, to hear the words we use. Of course, it is normal that they speak a simplified Lithuanian language here.

**KV:** Could the camp expand by inviting more teachers?

**AS:** Maybe it could but it is really a lot of work. We provide food and materials. We need to buy everything, to get ready for the classes, fill out the questionnaires, and take care of the finances. We all share the responsibilities. Maybe it would be good to expand the camp but that would mean losing our summers. Already we work on the preparations for more than half a year before the camp actually starts. And after it ends, I will still need to write the account. However, the initial idea was to have a long-term camp. That's why I think the camp will grow with time. Maybe there will be another project manager, other teachers. Space here is very nice. The management of the Ateitis Foundation Center is also pleased to see children here. It's much better than keeping the building empty.

**KV:** Do Lithuanian communities in other states learn from you?

**AS:** We did have our camp in Baltimore once. However, other communities are still cautious about this idea



because they think it's a lot of work. Many do not want to engage in any activities in the summer. And yes, it's a lot of work but the result is really wonderful. After doing the camp for the fourth year in a row we see how meaningful it is.

**KV:** Thank you for sharing your thoughts. For more information about the camp, please visit [www.kurybinevasara.com](http://www.kurybinevasara.com) or Kurybines vasaros dirbtuves Facebook page.

## When Midsummer Reminds Us of Christmas

By Dalia Lankeliene and Vilma Balnyte



This was the first St. John's Day (Midsummer) celebration organized by the Colorado Lithuanian school. We haven't had such a cold beginning of summer in over 35 years. The sun, clouds, and rain competed on the Saturday when we planned to celebrate Midsummer in a stunningly beautiful mountain spot. However, the evening and the night promised even more surprises.

The bravest Lithuanians, who are used to ever-changing Colorado weather, gathered to celebrate Midsummer on the banks of the Meadow Creek reservoir, not far from the Winter Park skiing resort. Regardless of the snowstorms, we decided to follow a flowchart for "How To Have an Adventure," which clearly showed that if you get scared to death, injured, freeze, run out of food, or meet a bear — as long as you don't die — you are bound to have a good adventure.

The amazing local Lithuanians — so-called "mountain men and women" — prepared for the participants ahead of time some dry firewood and a shelter made of a tarp.

Gintas Sutkus, who came one more time on Saturday morning to inspect the situation after the night's snowstorm, told us he scared off three moose from the campsite.

After arriving on narrow winding mountain roads to the meeting place and setting up the tents, the participants cooked lunch on the fire and admired the snow-capped mountains on the other side of the reservoir, the spring flowers rising from the melting snow patches and from the streams gurgling down the slopes into the reservoir. Some children closely studied the adventure flowchart and looked at the tables full of food, noting there was no chance of running out.

We then taught the children to make wreaths from flowers and oak leaves and branches. Teacher Ieva told us about the Lithuanian Midsummer traditions. A clay pitcher and linen towel would be available for everyone arriving to Midsummer celebration to wash their hands, which was a symbolic act of cleansing. Unfortunately, it

## our community

started snowing again as soon as we finished singing around the crackling fire. We pulled out more layers of warm clothes and thick gloves. Oh, but so much fun for the kids! They soon made a snowman with fir tree eyelashes and a Midsummer wreath on his bald head. He became a merry Midsummer celebration participant.

At sunset, we lowered the wreaths with candles into the water. The children watched whose wreath would float the furthest. With the Midsummer fire ablaze, there was no shortage of laughter, talks, games, and ukulele melodies. We wouldn't be surprised if our fire was one of the highest midsummer fires in the world (3,054 meters above sea level).

Instead of the magical Midsummer night dew, nature provided even more snow! It was snowing all night long. Upon opening our tents in the morning, we felt like we were in a Christmas fairytale. This was an unforgettable white Midsummer night!



## The Lithuanian Folk Dance Institute prepares for folk dance seminar at Camp Dainava

Folk dance teachers will learn about the repertoire of the XVI Lithuanian Folk Dance Festival



The XVI Lithuanian Folk Dance Festival in Philadelphia, PA is being organized by the Lithuanian-American Community, Inc., the Lithuanian Canadian Community, and The Lithuanian Folk Dance Institute, Inc. The festival weekend of July 3-6, 2020 will feature concerts, art shows, and various social events. The high point will take place on July 5 when a colorful and dynamic scene will be created by about 2000 dancers from the United States, Canada, and other countries. The Lithuanian Folk Dance Institute announced the invitation of Gintaras Grinkevičius, one of the directors of Chicago's "Grandis" Folk Dance Ensemble, to serve as artistic director of the Festival. As the overall theme, he and his artistic committee have selected "Karalių pasaka", a scenario from the work of artist and musician M.K. Čiurlionis.

From August 11-14, 2019, a Lithuanian folk dance seminar will take place in Camp Dainava (Manchester, MI). The purpose of the weeklong seminar, organized by the

Lithuanian Folk Dance Institute, is to have the XVI Dance Festival's artistic committee familiarize folk dance group teachers and representative group dancers with the repertoire of dances selected for the XVI festival. Participating in the seminar will be the co-author of the XVI Lithuanian Folk Dance Festival scenario, Professor Vidmantas Mačiulskis, the Dean of the Lithuanian Academy of Music and Theatre Dance Department in Klaipėda, Lithuania. The Lithuanian Folk Dance Institute will hold its members' meeting at Camp Dainava on Wednesday, August 14th at 6 pm. All LFDI members are invited to attend the seminar and the members' meeting.

Information about the folk dance teachers' seminar and about seminar registration will be sent to all LFDI members and it is planned to soon place the information in the LFDI website: <http://www.lttsi.net/>. If someone has questions about the seminar or about the LFDI members' meeting, please contact LFDI president, Violeta Smieliauskas-Fabianovich: <LTSI.fabiano@gmail.com>. Newly forming Lithuanian-American folk dance groups or new teachers who need more information can contact the XVI Lithuanian Folk Dance Festival artistic director, Gintaras Grinkevičius: <gintaras@sokiusvente.org>.

### About the Lithuanian Folk Dance Institute

The Lithuanian Folk Dance Institute Inc., abbreviated as LFDI Inc. - in Lithuanian, Lietuvių tautinių šokių institutas - abbreviated as LTŠI, is an independent North American cultural institution, whose mission is to study, foster, and support Lithuanian folk dance. To fulfill its mission, LFDI collects material relating to folk dance, prepares descriptions of folk dances and games, also maintains contact with folk dance groups and concerns itself with their activities. In preparing for each North American Folk Dance Festival (Šokių Šventė), LFDI organizes the Folk Dance Festival artistic program, invites (selects) the artistic program's director, invites (selects) the Folk Dance Festival presenter (MC), and determines the Folk Dance Festival repertoire. Recently elected for a four-year term are the new LFDI officers: Violeta Smieliauskas-Fabianovich (president), Vilija Kirvelaitis (vice president), Gytis Joga (treasurer), Ramona Kaminskas (secretary), Gintaras Grinkevičius (member), and Giedrius Stankevičius (LFDI public relations representative).

LFDI information

# current events

## Security

...The US Department of State security assistance program will finance a \$1.3 million purchase of anti-drone equipment by the Lithuanian Ministry of Defense under a new five-year bilateral defense agreement. The anti-drone equipment is designed to cut communication between the drone and the operator and disable control signals.

...According to the Global Cybersecurity Index, (GCI) Lithuania has moved from 57th in 2017 to 4th in 2018, only behind the U.K., the U.S., and France. By comparison, Canada is ranked 9th, Japan 14th, Germany 22nd, and the Russian Federation 26th. The GCI is produced by the International Telecommunications Union and combines 25 indicators into one benchmark measure. The Lithuanian effort is led by the Vice Minister of Defense, Edvinas Kerza. Lithuania is an active participant in the European Union's Permanent Structured Cooperation (PESCO) including 13 countries.

...Lithuanian Armed Forces participated in one of the largest "live-fire" cyber defense exercises, "Locked Shields 2019" with specialists from the National Cyber Security Center with partners from the U.S. and Georgia. The exercise included virtual systems hit with 2,500 cyber-attacks by "Red Teams". The systems were defended by 23 "Blue Teams" who protected 4,000 large scale power grid control systems and power generating subsystems, a 4G public safety network for public safety and emergency communication.

...Under provisions of the Vienna Document 2011, members of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) can perform an annual inspection of other member's military capabilities. Members of the Russian Federation arms control inspection team visited the Lithuanian Motorized Infantry Brigade Griffin in Klaipeda to gather data on personnel, weapons, and equipment systems. The Lithuanian Ministry of Defense has indicated that in 2019 Lithuania has inspected Russian Federation forces in Georgia and Ukraine.

...Marat Kasem, the Editor-in-Chief of the Lithuanian branch of the Russian news agency Sputnik, was detained on arrival at Vilnius airport from Moscow, deported to Latvia where he has citizenship, and banned from Lithuania for five years. The Lithuanian Border Guard Service has him on a blacklist of people banned from entering Lithuania.

## Business

...As a world leader in lasers, Lithuania companies Ekspla and Light Conversion are constructing a SYLOS laser system for the Hungarian Laser Research Center. The single-cycle femtosecond high-intensity laser system will be used in industrial, biological and medical applications. Nobel Laureate Gerard Mourou heads a team that wants to use the laser to neutralize nuclear waste.

...FESTO, an international engineering company, has grown its Kaunas office from 8 employees in 2005 to a current staff of 450. It supplies product and Computer Aided Design management, supply chain operations, procurement, and marketing. Its 20% growth in employment is due in large part to the availability of talented STEM graduates of the local educational institutions.

...Dana, a worldwide supplier of drivetrain, sealing, and thermal management systems founded in Maumee, Ohio in 1904, plans on opening a finance and accounting center in Vilnius to support its European operations. Projected to employ 100 multi-lingual professionals they will join Dana's 36,000 employees in 33 countries which generated \$8 billion in sales last year and enabled them to be listed in the Fortune 500.

...New car sales in Lithuania during January – April 2019 were 14,700 up 53% from 9,610 a year ago. This was the fastest growth in the European Union according to the European Automobile Manufacturer's Association.

...It is reported that the 5 day a week newspaper, Lietuvos Rytas, will slip to only 3 days (Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays) in 2020. This news follows the closing of another Lithuanian daily, Lietuvos Žinios, with a print run of 5,200 on April 30.

...Revolut, the UK digital bank which obtained a specialized license in Lithuania in December 2018, announced plans for a banking license in Russia, the founder's and CEO's birthplace. There is a concern that the founder's father is a director of a subsidiary of Gazprom, a company that is majority-owned by the Russian government. The Seimas has requested a review of Revolut's license based on security concerns which will likely postpone the launch of banking services to late 2019, if ever. Revolut has over 4 million customers in the European Economic Area, Switzerland, and Australia.

## General

...Gitanas Nausėda, 54, former chief economist at SEB Bank AB in Lithuania, won 66% of the vote for President against 33% for Ingrida Šimonytė, a member of the Seimas and former Finance Minister. He ran as an independent and won the endorsement of Valdas Adamkus, former President (1998-2003) and (2004-2009). On July 12th, Gitanas Nausėda was sworn in as Lithuania's new president, taking the helm of the Baltic nation of 3 million. Nausėda will travel to neighboring Poland for his first foreign trip.



Lithuania's newly-elected President Gitanas Nausėda.

...The referendum on the Constitutional amendment to allow dual citizenship for more Lithuanians did not pass. Although the referendum met the required turnout, it lacked around 300,000 "yes" votes to pass. The Speaker of the Seimas, Viktoras Pranckietis, called for continued efforts to amend the Constitution.

...Lithuania has blacklisted the popular Russian singer, Grigory Leps, over suspected ties to "undesirable individuals" under the "Magnitsky Act". In 2013 the U.S. imposed sanctions on him because the U.S. Treasury

accused him of acting as a money courier for a member of the Brothers' Circle, a Eurasian crime syndicate. He is also blacklisted by Ukraine and Israel. He last performed in Lithuania in March 2019.

...Lithuania continues to celebrate the Soviet victory over Nazi Germany on May 8 by laying a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier the Kremlin wall. It does not participate in the Russian events on May 9 because of Soviet occupation after the war, mass deportations to Siberia, and forced collectivization.

...In its continuing battle against alcohol abuse in Lithuania, Seimas has passed legislation banning the sale of some children targeted non-alcoholic drinks which mimic alcoholic drinks. The World Health Organization ranks Lithuania as having one of the world's highest rates of alcohol consumption at 15 liters of pure alcohol per year with 11% of adults being dependent on alcohol. The government has banned alcohol advertisements and limited the hours of sale.

...The Keystone State Boychoir from Philadelphia will join with the Gaustas Choir from Lazdijai near Poland and sing the U.S. and Lithuanian national anthems at the American Chamber of Commerce 4th of July picnic in Vilnius. They will present a joint concert on July 6, Anniversary of the Coronation of King Mindaugas.

...Lithuanian Olympic and World Champion swimmer Rūta Meilutytė announced her retirement at age 22 after missing three scheduled doping tests and facing a ban of up to 2 years which would rule her out of the 2020 Tokyo Olympics. She never failed a drug test but she moved from Lithuania to Australia and then to the U.S. to train at USC and the drug testing notices did not keep current with her changing addresses. She won the 100-meter breaststroke event at the 2012 London Olympics as a 15-year-old and was awarded the Grand Cross of the Order for Merits to Lithuania. Subsequently, she suffered a broken elbow in a biking accident before the 2016 Rio Olympics where she finished seventh. Last year, she admitted to suffering from depression. She was subject of a 2018 documentary "Rūta" and her YouTube video, "A Day in the Life of an Olympic Swimmer" was viewed over 169,000 times. She plans on continuing her education in psychology.

# calendar

Please verify all events, as places and times are subject to change.

## ONGOING

Most Fridays,  
4:30-7:30 p.m.  
**Friday Fish Fry at the  
Rockford Lithuanian Club**  
716 Indiana Avenue, Rock-  
ford, Ill.  
Open to the public. Weekly  
specials vary. First Friday  
of the month—Lithuanian  
dumplings.  
Info: lithuanianclub.org,  
815-962-9256

Every Sunday,  
11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.  
**All-You-Can-Eat Lithuanian  
Brunch Buffet**  
Lithuanian Club and Gintaras  
Dining Room  
877 E. 185 St.,  
Cleveland, Ohio  
\$15 per person; \$6 kids 6-12  
Info: lithclub@gmail.com,  
216-531-8318

First Sunday of the  
Month, 12-4 p.m.  
**Lithuanian Brunch**  
The Avenue Restaurant, 71-22  
Myrtle Ave., Glendale, N.Y.  
Reservations strongly

recommended.  
Info: 347-725-3853

First Sunday of the  
Month  
**Rockford Lithuanian Club  
General Membership  
Meeting**  
716 Indiana Avenue,  
Rockford, Ill.  
Open to all members.  
Info: lithuanianclub.org,  
815-962-9256

Every Third Saturday,  
Mar-Jun & Sep-Nov,  
1-3 p.m.  
**Amber Roots Lithuanian  
Heritage Club**  
Lithuanian Music Hall,  
2517 E. Allegheny Ave.,  
Philadelphia, Pa.  
Use Tilton Street entrance.  
Bring a dish to share.  
Info: milliemarks@aol.com

**Exhibit "For Freedom:  
Lithuanian American Sup-  
port for Lithuania's Inde-  
pendence and Recognition"**  
Balzekas Museum of  
Lithuanian Culture  
www.balzekasmuseum.org

## AUGUST

Registration for camps at  
Neringa is continuing.  
**Registration forms and any  
other information may be  
found at [http://neringa.org/  
en\\_forms.html](http://neringa.org/en_forms.html)**

August 25, 2019,  
2 - 4 PM  
**Commemoration of the  
Baltic Way**  
at the Buckingham Fountain  
301 S Columbus Dr.,  
Chicago, IL

## SEPTEMBER

September 7, 2019,  
6 PM  
**Ateitininkų Namai 40th  
Anniversary Banquet**  
1380 Castlewood Drive,  
Lemont, 60439, IL

## GOT EVENTS?

Let us help you spread the word! Please send your event  
notice to [kariledalia@yahoo.com](mailto:kariledalia@yahoo.com) two months in advance  
of the month in which you would like to see it listed.

September 21, 2019,  
7 PM  
**Charity Banquet at the  
Lithuanian Hall in Baltimore**  
851-853 Hollins St, Baltimore,  
MD, 21201

September 27, 2019  
at 6 PM  
**Eurobeats Festival Night**  
6:15-7:15 PM MIGLOKO  
(Lithuania)  
Union Stage, 740 Water  
Street SW,  
Washington, DC 20024

## OCTOBER

October 19, 2019  
at 6:00 PM  
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