March Anniversaries
this month in history

1,005 years ago

March 9, 1009
Lithuania’s name (Lituae in Latin) was first mentioned in the annals of Quedlinburg in relation to the death of St. Bruno: “St. Bruno, an archbishop and monk, who was called Boniface, was struck in the head by Pagans during the 11th year of his conversion at the Russian and Lithuanian border (in confinio Rusciae et Lituae), and along with 18 of his followers, entered heaven on March 9th.”

150 years ago

March 22, 1864
Konstanty Kalinowski (Lithuanian: Kostas Kalinauskas, 1838-1864), the last Lithuanian provincial rebel leader, was hanged a month after his capture by the Russians. Kalinowski was a 19th-century writer, journalist, lawyer and revolutionary. He was one of the leaders of Polish, Belarusian and Lithuanian national revival and the leader of the January Uprising in lands of the former Grand Duchy of Lithuania in the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth.

Born in Poland, Kalinowski was involved in several Polish students’ conspiracy and secret cultural societies while studying law. After graduating, he began writing about the need to liberate all peoples of the former Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth from Imperial Russia’s occupation and to conserve and promote the Greek-Catholic faith and Belarusian language. He gained support among the peasants and he eventually became commander-in-chief of all partisan units fighting in the areas of today’s Eastern Poland, Lithuania, Belarus and Ukraine.

Kalinowski eventually was betrayed by one of his soldiers and handed over to the Russians. He was imprisoned in Vilnius, where he was tried by court martial for leading the revolt against Russia and sentenced to death. He was publicly executed on Lukiškės Square in Vilnius.

Most of his works are short stories, often with autobiographical elements. His early writing demonstrated a realistic style with strong social consciousness, but later works—after his diagnosis of tuberculosis—were of a more psychological nature with melancholy overtones. He also wrote approximately 15 poems, including several sonnets.

85 years ago

March 5, 1929
Lietuvos šaulių sąjunga (Lithuanian Rifleman’s Union, LRU) founder Vladas Putvinskis-Putvys died. The LRU was powerful in independent Lithuania until the Soviet occupation in June 1940, when the organization was dissolved and many members were arrested and sentenced to death. Born a nobleman and landowner, Putvis- kis (1873-1929) also was a social and cultural activist, writer, book smuggler and fishery pioneer.

75 years ago

March 2, 1939
Poet, philosopher and Lithuanian diplomat Oskaras V.Milašius (Oscar Vladislas de Lubicz Milosz) died in Fontainbleau, France. Born in what is now Belarus and raised in France, Milosz was conscripted to the Russian division of the French army during World War I, and was assigned to the press corps, where he learned about the growing movement for Lithuanian independence. By the end of the war, Milosz chose to identify with Lithuania—even though he did not yet speak Lithuanian—because he believed that it had been the original homeland of his ancestors in the 13th century. In 1920 when France recognized the independence of Lithuania, he was appointed officially as Chargé d’Affaires for the new state. He is quoted as saying, “I am a Lithuanian poet, writing in French.” Milosz collected Lithuanian folk tales, and wrote fiction, drama and essays.

70 years ago

March 27, 1944
German Nazis carried out a “Kinder Aktion” (Children’s Action), entering the Kaunas ghetto and taking about 2,000 children under 12 years of age and people older than 55 to be killed. On the same day, the entire Kaunas Jewish ghetto police force was taken to the Ninth Fort outside of the city and accused of aiding the Partisans. Forty of the 130 policemen were shot. That same day, the SS rounded up and killed the majority of the 250 children living at another work camp in Vilnius.

135 years ago

March 3, 1879
Writer and poet Jonas Biliūnas (1879-1907) was born in the village of Niūronys, near Anykščiai, Lithuania.

Biliūnas was a significant contributor to the national awakening of Lithuania in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. His early anti-Tsarist writings caused him to be expelled from medical school in 1901, after which he studied literature at the University of Leipzig and University of Zurich.

15 years ago

March 1, 2004
German Expressionist painter Gerhard Marcks (1889-1971) died. Marcks was a significant artist in the 20th century and his work often reflected the social and political issues of his time.

85 years ago

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Front and back covers: Heart-shaped meduolinės (honey cookies) and necklaces of donut-shaped sausiniai (cookies) are traditional during Kaziuko mugė (Kaziukas fair). These were made by campers at Neringa in Vermont. Kaziuko mugė honors St. Casimir on the Sunday nearest his March 4 feast day. Photos: Vidas Neverauskas

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Dr. Birutė Galdikas and the Wild Orangutans of Borneo
A trip to the wild in search of a primate pioneer
By Dr. Ramunė Zinkutė Cobb

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The Great Exodus of 1944
When Lithuanians fled 70 years ago, they didn’t know they wouldn’t be returning
By Aldona Page

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Looking for Daiva
A short story about the dislocation of war and the inability to turn back time
By Aldona Rastenytė

God, Give Us Wings
by Felicia Prekeris Brown
Reviewed by Ina Stadalninkas
Petokas

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Moments to Never Forget
IX World Lithuanian Games in Klaipėda
By Laurynas R. Misevičius

contents
A Long Way Home

Seventy years is a long time to wait to go home. And yet, many Lithuanians who left their homes 70 years ago have not been able to realize their dream of returning. Some passed on before Lithuania regained independence. Others are limited by age or health. They are the faces of the Great Exodus of 1944, whose 70th anniversary we mark this year.

In this issue, we gain insight into the effects of that diaspora, including:

• A brief history of the period when thousands of Lithuanians left their homes thinking it would be a brief departure, and ended up displaced in far-flung corners of the world.

• A short story about a woman who fled Lithuania during the war who seeks to make a connection with a long-lost childhood friend.

• A peek into a new book chronicling the true story of one family’s struggles to survive the upheavals of World War II and their dangerous journey to safety.

• The story of Dr. Birutė Galdikas, a child born in exile in Weisbaden, Germany, who ended up studying and living among the wild orangutans in Borneo by way of Toronto and Los Angeles.

Also in this issue, we also present:

• Winning moments and sweet memories of last summer’s IX World Lithuanian Games in Klaipėda.

• A cross-country tour of holiday celebrations from Lithuanian communities from the East to the Midwest.

• Lithuanian pre-Lenten traditions including the Kaziukas Fair, the Lithuanian Mardi Gras celebration known as Užgavėnės and a particularly delicious potato pancake recipe for Shrove Tuesday.

With this issue we’re also introducing a new feature called “The List.” Every issue, we’ll provide you with a handy list that you can use as a reference to Lithuanian life in the U.S.—everything from Lithuanian schools, parishes and dance groups to camps and restaurants.

We start this month with a list of all of the Lithuanian American Community chapters in the United States. Did you know we even have a chapter in Hawaii? If you ever want to know what’s going on in your area, consult this list and reach out to your local chapter president. If you don’t see a chapter in your area, reach out to the National Executive Committee at LithuanianUSA@yahoo.com and get one started!

If you have an exodus story to tell, or a list to share, please drop me a line at bridges.terese@gmail.com.

Terėse Vekteris, Editor

Spring can’t be far away when someone you love presents you with a sweet honey Kaziuko širdis (heart of Kaziukas).

Photo: Vidas Neverauskas
U.S. Lithuanian-American Community Chapters

Looking to get involved in your local Lithuanian community? In this issue we list local chapters and contacts throughout the United States. With 68 chapters in 29 states, you’re sure to find a community near you.

Arizona
Zenonas Misius
zenonas1@juno.com
480-710-2848

California
Los Angeles
Žygimantas Kizinis
zygis@aol.com
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San Francisco
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203-661-2654

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954-895-6595

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March 2014
APRIL 2014

April 4-5
ŠALFASS-LAUNA Seniors Basketball Tournament
14911 12th Street, Lemont, Ill.
Info: salfass.org/seniors-basketball-tournament

April 6, 12:30 p.m.
2014 Lithuanian World Center Annual Meeting
14911 12th Street, Lemont, Ill.
Info: admin@lcenter.org, 630-257-8787

April 6, 2 p.m.
Dovas Lietuvnikas Trumpet Concert
Putnam Convent, 500 Liberty Highway, Putnam, Conn.

April 12, 8 p.m.
SEL Musical Group Concert
Copernicus Center, 5216 West Lawrence Ave., Chicago
Info: copernicuscenter.org/sel

April 13, 3:30 p.m.
Toronto Raptors and Jonas Valančiūnas vs. Detroit Pistons
Palace of Auburn Hills, 6 Championsh Ip Dr., Auburn Hills, Mich.

April 15
Lithuanian Foundation Grant Application Deadline
Info: lithuanianfoundation.org/grants

April 25-27
Neringa Women’s Weekend
Camp Neringa, Marlboro, Vt.
Info: www.neringa.org

April 26
“Rondo” Concert
St. Casimir’s Parish Hall, 3855 Evans Street, Los Angeles
$30. Info: 323-360-7787

April 27, 3 p.m.
Info: intermuse@intermusearts.org

MAY 2014

May 2-3
Fifth Conference on Lithuanian Catholic Spirituality
Ateitis House, 1380 Castlewood Dr., Lemont, Ill.
Info: dainacv@gmail.com, 630-257-5613

May 10, 4 p.m.
“Opening Up a Treasure Chest of Dance” Grandis 55th Jubilee Performance
Downers Grove North H.S., 4436 Main St., Downers Grove, Ill.
Info: grandischicago.org

May 11-12
Baltimore Lithuanian Festival
Catonsville Armory, 130 Mellor Ave, Catonsville, Md.

May 30 - June 1
“Eugene Onegin” directed by Rimas Tuminas
New York City Center, 130 West 56th Street, New York
Info: cherrycouchardestival.com

JUNE 2014

June 7-8
Talka Work Weekend
Camp Neringa, Marlboro, Vt.
Info: neringa.org

June 14-21
Detroit Lithuanian Scouts - Baltijos Tuntas/Gabičios Tuntas
Camp Dainava, Manchester, Mich.
Info: druids@ford.com

June 21-28
Ateitinkų Sendraugų Stovykla II
Camp Dainava, Manchester, Mich.
Info: sendraugiai2@gmail.com

June 28 - July 2
Heritage Family Camp in English (younger children)
Camp Neringa, Marlboro, Vt.
Info: neringa.org

JULY 2014

July 2-6
Heritage Family Camp in English (older children)
Camp Neringa, Marlboro, Vt.
Info: neringa.org

July 6-12
Family Camp for Lithuanian Speakers
Camp Neringa, Marlboro, Vt.
Info: neringa.org

July 9-20
Moksleivų Ateitinkų Stovykla
Camp Dainava, Manchester, Mich.
Info: dalialiet@gmail.com

July 13-27
Children’s Camp for Lithuanian Speakers (ages 7-16)
Camp Neringa, Marlboro, Vt.
Info: neringa.org

July 20-27
Ateitinkų Sendraugų Stovykla I
Camp Dainava, Manchester, Mich.
Info: vietke@siliunas.com

July 27
Lithuanian Friendship Day (Putnam Picnic)
Putnam Convent, 500 Liberty Highway, Putnam, Conn.

AUGUST 2014

August 3-10
JAV LB Sviesto Tarybos Stovykla
Camp Dainava, Manchester, Mich.
Info: jave124@yahoo.com

August 3-16
Heritage Children’s Camp in English (ages 7-16)
Camp Neringa, Marlboro, Vt.
Info: neringa.org

August 4-16
Intensive Lithuanian Language Summer Course for Families
Lingua Lituanica, Vilnius, Lithuania
Info: lingualit.lt, +370 5 2313293

August 14-17
Dainų Šventės Mokytojus Seminaras
Camp Dainava, Manchester, Mich.
Info: dainava.org

August 16-23
“Third Week” Youth Camp in English (ages 12-16)
Camp Neringa, Marlboro, Vt.
Info: neringa.org

August 16-17
100th Annual Lithuanian Days
Schuylkill Mall, Frackville, Pa.
Info: kol144.weebly.com

August 16-17
Ethnic Enrichment Festival
Swope Park, Kansas City, Mo.
Info: 816-871-5600

August 24 - September 1
Menos8Dienos Adult Art Camp
Camp Neringa, Marlboro, Vt.
Info: neringa.org

September 2014

September 18, 7 p.m.
Leitāte and Kašubienė Concert
St. Peter’s Church, 619 Lexington Ave., New York, N.Y.
Info: ny.mfa.lt

September 28, 6:30 p.m.
Concert “Bring Me a Song”
14911 12th Street, Lemont, Ill.
Info: forsythia6420@att.net

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