

# Žynys



Juntinių Amerikos Valstybių  
Lietuvių Bendruomenė, Kolorado  
Apylinkė

The Colorado Chapter of the  
Lithuanian-American  
Community of U.S.A., Inc.

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## PAVASARIS ATEJO!!

Tikiuosi, kad visi mėgaujatės nuostabiu tipišku pavasarišku Kolorado oru, kuris džiugina mus šiuo metų laiku. Šis pavasario Žynys supažindins jus su praėjusių ir ateinančių mėnesių įvykiais. Lietuvos Nepriklausomybės šventėje, vasario 27 d. buvo pristatyta keletas naujų lietuvių mūsų bendruomenėje. Taip pat kovo mėnesį netikėtai mus aplankė muzikantas iš Lietuvos Gintautas Abarius. Visi renginiai pavyko puikiai, tik gaila, kad Kugelio pietūs, nesuradus išnuomoti vietos, buvo atšaukta.

Buvo labai smagu susitikti visus jus ir aš žinau mes pasimatysim dar kartą, ateinančiais mėnesiais. Mes vis dar turime šiek tiek likusios dešros po \$4 už 1/lb ir po \$20 už 5/lb maišelius, taigi skambinkit Arvydui Jarašiui ir sužinosit kiek tikrai yra likę. Išsiųskite savo email adresą šiuo adresu: "arv\_jarasius@hp.com", taip sužinosite naujausias žinias. Linkiu jums nuostabaus pavasario ir neužmirškite siųsti Žyniui žinutes apie savo, ateinančios vasaros, keliones į Lietuvą, del spausdinimo ateityje.

Tadas

## Praėjusių įvykių apžvalga

Lietuvos Nepriklausomybės šventė vasario 27 d. dar vėl buvo pripildyta lietuviškais patiekalais (pagamintais "Rūtos" virtuvėje), tautiniais šokiais ir daugeliu naujų veidų. Labai ačiū John Yanz už leidimą naudotis VFW sale ir Laimai Jarašienei už vadovavimą Rūtos virtuvėje. Rūtos šokėjai ir vaikai padovanojo nuostabų pasirodymą.

## SPRING HAS COME!!

I hope that everyone is having a wonderful spring enjoying the typical Colorado weather that blesses us at this time of the year. This spring edition of the Žynys will bring you up to date with the happenings of the past few months as well as the next couple. The Lithuanian Independence celebration on February 27th introduced quite a few new Lithuanians to our community and we had a surprise visit from Lithuanian musician Gintautas Abarius in March. Those events went very well, unfortunately the Kugelis Dinner was canceled due to lack of reservations. Remember, reservations are a must to insure the event is a success.

It was great seeing all of you and I know we will meet in the coming months. We still have some sausage left at \$4/lb or \$20/5lb a bag, so please call Arvidas Jarašius to check what is still left and send your email address to "arv\_jarasius@hp.com" to keep up with current events. Have a great spring and don't forget to send in a note to the Žynys about your Lithuanian trips this summer for future publishing.

Todd

## Past Events

The Lithuanian Independence Celebration on February 27th was once again filled to the brim with Lithuanian food (handcrafted from the Rūta Kitchen), Lithuanian dancing and many new faces. Special thanks go out to John Yanz for arranging the VFW Hall and Laima Jarasius for overseeing the cooking in Rūta's kitchen. The Rūta dancers and children gave great performances.

## Gintauto Abariaus Koncertas

*Ilona Didzbalienė*

Kovo 20-tą dieną, 1999m., garsusis muzikantas/pianistas Gintautas Abarius atvyko į Denverį. Buvo suruoštas ekspromtinis koncertas pradžiuginti bendruomenės lietuvių. Šeštadienį vakare, latvių salėje, susirinko daugiau kaip 40 Abariaus muzikos pasiilgusių, žiūrovų. Koncertą pradėjo, trumpu istoriniu įvadu apie savo gimimą, šeimą, mokslus ir muzikos takelį. Gintautas buvo žinomo muzikanto Liongino Abariaus sūnus, todėl nėra sunku suprasti, kad jo talentas muzikai gimė namuose. Žinomas pianistas pasakojo mums, kad kai buvo jaunas berniukas, vakarais, ruošdavo koncertus savo tėvelių svetainėje. Taip pat paminėjo keletą ankstesnių ir dabartinių muzikantų turėjusių įtakos jo muzikai. Vienas iš jų buvo Jerry Lee Lewis, kitas - Elton John.

Pirmoje programos dalyje skambėjo Gershwin muzikiniai kūriniai, keletas "Rag Time" dalių, taip pat nemažai džiaz. Nuostabiai gražios melodijos pripildė mažąją salę nepaprasta jėga skverbėsi į kūnus ir širdis.

Antroje dalyje vėl truputį papasakojo apie diskutotinus įvykius savo gyvenime ir kaip po daugelio metų, pagaliau, pavyko susitarti groti kartu su kitu, labai žinomu, Lietievos musiku V. Kernagiu. Vėliau drauge jie išleido pirmą savo dainą kartu. Su didžiule meile Gintautas kalbėjo apie savo žmoną, sakydamas: "ji yra mano geriausia dragė, meilužė, motina mano vaikams ir mano pasaulio centras."

Koncerto pabaigoje skambėjo "Palaimink Dieve mus". Žiūrovai negailėjo ovacijų, plojimai skambėjo be sustojimo. Garsiajam musikantui buvo įteikta gražių gėlių puokštė, bei daugybė nuostabių Palmiros komplimentų, padėkos žodžių, buvo prisiminta, kad Lietuva jau irgi pasiilgo jo.

Džiaugsmo ašaromis Gintautas Abarius dėkojo susirinkusiems, linkėjo viso geriausio ir pažadėjo grįžti į vakarus, vėl mus aplankyti ir kartu praleisti nuostabiai linksimą vakarą.

## The Gintautas Abarius Concert

*By Ilona Didzbalienė*

March 20th, 1999, the famous musician/pianist Gintautas Abarius arrived in Denver. An impromptu concert was organized to give him an opportunity to bring cheer to the Denver Lithuanians, which coincided with the arrival of spring. A little over 40 spectators gathered at the Latvian Hall Saturday with a brief historic introduction, talking about his birth, family, school and music path. The son of the well-known musician Lionginas Abarius, it is easy to see where Gintautas' natural talent stems from. It all started at home. He told us the story of how, when he was just a young boy, he would host after-dinner concerts in his parents' living room. He spoke of his early and most recent musical influences, one being Jerry Lee Lewis and the other, Elton John.

During the first half of the concert, he played a few Gershwin numbers, some "Rag Time" pieces and quite a bit of jazz. With his entire body, heart and soul, he filled the small latvian hall with the most amazingly beautiful melodies. During the second half, he went on to talk about his controversial days in Lithuania and how, after many years, he finally called Kernagis (another very well-known Lithuanian musician) and suggested a duet. Together as friends, they later recorded their first song together. Gintautas later spoke of this wife, describing her as "his best friend, the love of his life, his wife, mother to his children and center of his universe." He finished the concert with "Palaimink, Dieve Mus", his extremely famous and most popular hymn. He received three standing ovations from the crowd, who clapped infinitely. He was then presented with an exquisite bouquet of flowers and praised in the kindest words by Palmiera, who reminded him that Lithuania misses him terribly. Breaking into tears, he thanked those gathered, wished us the best and promised to return to the West for a visit to spend another wonderful evening together.



## Ateinantys įvykiai

### MOTINOS DIENOS ARBATĖLĖ

Motinos Dienos Arbatėlė įvyks Gegužės 2d 14-tą valandą, (Knolls Club House, 6999, S. Knolls Way) salėje. Kaip ir pernai, vaikučiai paruos įdomią programėlę mamoms. Prašome atsinešti deserto, o gėrimais bus pasirūpinta. Gėrimo mokestis \$5. Club house yra vienas blokas į rytus nuo University Blvd. Nuo University ir Arapahoe važiuokite į pietus iki antro šviesoforo, pasukite į kairę Knolls Way ir jūs pamatysite C.H priekyje prie "STOP" ženklą.

### KRUPNIKO GAMINIMO PAMOKOS

Birželio 5 d. Aleksandras Špokas mokys nuostabaus lietuviško gėrimo "Krupniko" gaminimo paslapčių. Pamokos, kurios kainuos \$5 prasidės 6 val. vakaro, Arvido Jarašiaus namuose.

### VASAROS STOVYKLA

Iki šiol dar neturime galutinai parinktos stovyklavietės. Jei kas turite idėjų, prašom pasidalinti su valdyba.

### 11-TA LIETUVIŲ TAUTINIŲ ŠOKIŲ ŠVENTĖ

Šventė vyks liepos 4-osios savaitgalį 2000m. Rūtos šokėjai planuoja vykt ten vaikų ir jaunų veteranų grupėmis. Susidomėjusius švente prašome skambinti Toni Bulota (303-770-6687). Jei atsirastų norinčiųjų pajėgtume sudaryti ir vyresnių veteranų grupę.

## Mūsų apylinke

\*Sveikiname Sal ir Kris Miceli, Kovo 12-tą dieną susilaukus 9 paundų ir 1 oz. sūnaus Philip Salvatore.

\*Sveikiname Sandra Songailaitę įstojus į Phi Beta Kappa Honor Sąjungą Front Range Community Koledže.

\*Sveikiname Thomas Vytas Belzer, Aldutės ir Robert Belzer sūnų, Antaninos ir Juliaus Bulotų anūką, gavus krikštą 99/11/4 NJ valstijoje.

\*Libetions Wine & Spirits dabar importuoja iš Lietuvos ir Utenos alų!!! Atsargos išsibaigia labai greitai, taigi, prieš važiuodami paskambinkite tel: (303-766-0575). Parduotuvė įsikūrusi 6554 S. Parker Rd. NE Arapahoe ir Parker Rd susikirūme.

## Future Events

### MOTHER'S DAY TEA

The Mother's Day Tea will be at 2:00pm on May 2nd at the Knolls Club House (6999 S. Knolls Way). Like last year our children will prepare some special presentations for all of our mothers. Please bring a dessert, drinks will be provided. Admission will be \$5.00. The Club House is located one block East of University Blvd. From University and Arapahoe go south to the second traffic light, turn left on Knolls Way and you'll see it in front of you at the stop sign.

### KRUPNIKAS LESSONS

On June 5th Alex Spokas will teach the finer points of making Krupnikas, that fine Lithuanian liquor. The \$5 classes will start at 6 P.M. at Arvidas Jarasius' house.

### SUMMER CAMPOUT

We haven't been able to find a group campground yet for a summer campout. If anyone has an idea, call one of the officers.

### 11th WORLD LITHUANIAN DANCE FESTIVAL

The Festival will be over the July 4th weekend in the year 2000. Our Ruta dancers are planning to take a children's and a young veteran's group to dance. Anyone interested in the event should contact Toni Bulota (303-770-6687) for information. If there is interest they can put together a senior veteran's group.

## Our community

\*Congratulations to Sal and Kris Miceli on the birth of their 9 pound, 1 ounce son, Philip Salvatore on March 12th.

\*Congratulations to Sandra Songailaitė on her induction into Phi Beta Kappa Honor Society at Front Range Community College.

\*Congratulations to Thomas Vytas Belzer, son of Aldute and Robert Belzer, grandson of Toni and Julius Bulota was Baptised on 4/11/99 in NJ.

\*Libetions Wine & Spirits is now importing Utenos beer from Lithuania!!! Supplies go quick so call before going (303-766-0575). Located at 6554 S. Parker Rd NE corner of Arapahoe and Parker Roads.

# 1999 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## Lithuania

## Denver

### May:

05/28-07/05 Vilnius Festival

### June:

06/30-07/01 International Folk Festival  
"Baltica-99" (*Vilnius*)

06/30-07/07 Tomas Manas Festival (*Nida*)

### July:

07/06 National Day

07/01-07/31 St. Christopher Music  
Festival (*Vilnius*)

07/06-08/29 Trakai Music Festival

07/01-08/31 Pažaislis Music Festival  
(*Kaunas*)

07/04-07/06 Klaipėda Jazz Festival

07/23-07/25 Sea Festival (*Klaipėda*)

07/28-08/07 Night Serenade (*Palanga*)

### August:

10 year anniversary of the "Baltic Road".

08/01-08/22 Musical August at the  
Seashore (*Klaipėda*)

08/12-08/15 Vilnius Days

(All events require **reservations** by the Wed. before the event, please call 303-439-2089)

*May 2nd*

**Mother's Day Tea**

2PM, \$5, Knolls Club House  
(6999 S. Knolls Way)

*June 5th*

**Krupnikas Lessons by Aleksas**

6PM, \$5, Jarasius House  
(4189 W. 97th Ct)

*August 15th*

**Summer Picnic**

1PM, DeKovend Park, Littleton

*September*

**Balandeliu Dinner**

(Stuffed Cabbage)

*October 2nd*

**Koldunu Dinner** (Dumplings)

*November 6th*

**Lašinočiū Party** (Bacon Buns)

*December 11th*

**Christmas Party**

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*This is an interesting article by Christine Temin for the Boston Globe, 01/31/99 Vilnius, Lithuania (edited for space)*

Nearly everything about Vilnius surprised me, starting with the presence of a first-rate sculpture park. My hotel was fine, the food was fine, the architecture and art were fine, the shopping was fine, even the visit to the former KGB detention cells was, in a creepy way, fine.

Getting there was not fine. I was travelling with a small group from Warsaw to Vilnius. LOT, the Polish airline, bumped us from our flight, which meant the organizers of the Baltic States tour I was on had to charter an 18-seat prop plane with stringent space limitations. Our luggage was weighed; the steward who looked well in excess of 200 pounds wasn't. The great communist tradition of overmanning because Labor is cheap is still in force, I found: Hence, the half-dozen guys with walkie-talkies at the Warsaw airport who spent an hour thrashing out the problem of getting us from the terminal to the plane, which would have been a two-minute walk. Eventually, they found a bus. In Vilnius, we were the subject of a similarly overmanned dispute: No, we couldn't walk the 100 yards or so from the plane to the terminal.

Things brightened the moment we entered the building. People waiting to meet friends and family held armloads of flowers to welcome them. Travelling freely is still a novelty here, and travelling by plane still has a whiff of glamour and excitement. Arrivals are special occasions. And while the outskirts of Vilnius are filled with left-over Soviet buildings - bleak, huge apartment blocks with laundry hanging over the rusting metal balconies - the city centre has a fairy-tale charm.

Vilnius is a perfect size for walking. Many of the city's pale stucco neoclassical structures - painted gold, yellow, vanilla, peach, and rose - have been lovingly restored, often with foreign money. "IBM," says the sign on one lovely turquoise building. On the facades of some, you'll see a spot where centuries' worth of exterior layers have been peeled away, intentionally exposing the buildings' bones, a reminder that the past is ever present, even when it's covered over. Vilnius is reclaiming its architectural past. The Soviets had closed the city's beautiful cathedral, and yanked three huge Baroque sculptures off its roof, allowing them to smash on the ground below. Reproductions were put up after the fall of the Soviet regime - but not without debate. The cathedral architecture is a restrained 18th-century neoclassical, and the exuberance of the Baroque figures was always incongruous. In this case, though, the final decision was to make the cathedral look just as it did before the Soviets took control. Back went the statues. Vilnius is a religious city - but Egle Jakubenaite, my guide, also observes that "basketball is our second religion." Lithuania's victories over the Soviet Army team, she says, used to be a particular point of pride.

One of the many things I loved about Vilnius is that I could afford it. Much of Europe has become too expensive for Americans who want to shop; Lithuania hasn't. On the street you can find an array of well-made crafts, including baskets, amber jewelery, handmade clothing, and bracelets and buttons made from woods with intricate graining. For \$5, you can buy quite a nice basket from the woman who made it, who will be enthusiastic about selling her wares without being so aggressive that you're uncomfortable.

*Continued...*



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Outside the handsomely rebuilt Island Castle in Trakai, Lithuania's former capital, a half-hour drive from Vilnius, is a row of stalls selling dresses and sweaters crocheted from Lithuanian flax. They're chic, they won't wrinkle, and they cost next to nothing. I paid \$20 for a dress with full-length vest. I've actually worn the outfit back home, as opposed to the complete wardrobes I've lugged back from places like Senegal and Indonesia, clothes that turned out to look ludicrous outside their country of origin.

I'm always afraid that "amber" will turn out to be plastic, so in Vilnius I bought mine at a legit-looking place in the centre of town, called the Amber Sculpture Museum. (It's the kind of museum where the "exhibits" are all for sale.) There was something irrationally comforting about the high-overhead premises, and the shop has a far broader range of styles than the street vendors do. In an attempt to educate their clientele, the shop's personnel offer pamphlets with interesting translations from the Lithuanian. One claimed that the most significant deposits of amber "occur only on the shores of the Baltic Sea," which made me check the owner's footwear.

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It was Vilnius, though, that made the biggest impression on me, maybe partly because I stopped there first, but also because Egle was such a great guide. (My guide in Tallinn had kept her Soviet-era totalitarian lack of humour intact, along with a tendency toward the literal. "Now we are turning left" was her idea of fascinating information to pass along to tourists.)

Its historic centre may have been restored to movie-set perfection, but Vilnius still bears scars left by Nazis and Soviets alike. Egle pointed out the edge of a forest on the outskirts of the city where people once went to gather mushrooms and berries: It's also where thousands of Jews and intellectuals were taken by the Nazis to be shot and dumped into mass graves.

It's Russia's unpredictability that Lithuanians fear now. "We live on a box of powder," Egle said, and it wasn't detergent she was talking about. Pointing out some Stalinist sculpture that still remains, she said, "We shouldn't get rid of all of it. We can't erase 50 years of Soviet presence here."

But they've turned part of that presence into a tourist attraction - the KGB Museum, a converted turn-of-the-century courthouse where thousands of Lithuanians endured interrogation before being shipped to Siberia. A former inmate now gives tours of this chamber of horrors that was used as a prison right up until Lithuania gained independence in 1991. Upward of 20 prisoners inhabited the same small cell, he said, where they slept standing up, leaning against one another. Prisoners were allowed to wear only underwear in the unheated isolation cells. Showers were allowed once a month, the temperature of the water controlled by guards who could make it scalding or freezing. One torture cell could be flooded with cold water so prisoners couldn't lie down to sleep. And so on.

For all this, the guide says the KGB prison was nothing compared to Siberia, where he spent 15 years in a climate where the temperature bottomed out at 50 degrees below zero. This elderly gentleman looked remarkably hale and hearty, given what he'd endured. His secret? "Siberia was like living in a refrigerator," he said "It preserved me."



# LITHUANIAN LANGUAGE SUMMER CAMP

Learn or improve your Lithuanian capability at Camp Dainava in Michigan August 1st-7th. The total cost for lodging, food and instruction is \$130.00 for adults, \$110.00 for spouses and youth ages 10 - 18, \$60.00 for each child ages 3 - 9. The registration fee is extra is \$10.00 for an individual, \$15.00 for a couple or a family. For more information contact Mr. Vytautas Jonaitis at (616) 458-6378 or 1546 Quarry N W, Grand Rapids, MI 49504.

The Web Site is at <http://members.aol.com/mkarustis/dainava.html>.

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Žynys is the newsletter of the Lithuanian-American Community, (LAC), Colorado Chapter, edited by Daiva Mickevičiūtė with assistance from Tadas Mikelevičius. It is published four times per year (January, April, July, October) and on special occasions. Žynys is mailed free to everyone who has paid the annual dues on a calendar year basis.\* Other advantages of paid membership include discounts to various functions, information on matters related to Lithuania and Lithuanian-English or English-Lithuanian translation service. Current officers are: President: Arvidas Jarašius (303) 439-2089; VP Membership: Sandra Songailaitė (303) 440-1068; VP Communications: Tadas Mikelevičius (303) 368-8353; Treasurer: Juozas Kalėda (303) 670-9597; Secretary: Ilona Didzbaliene (303) 554-0783.

\*Annual dues:      Family:      \$15.00  
                         Single:      \$10.00  
                         Retired Family: \$7.50  
                         Retired single or student: \$5.00

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Juozas Kalėda, 5363 S. Pine Rd., Evergreen, CO 80439

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All other mail to LAC is to be addressed as follows:

***Lithuanian American Community, Colorado Chapter, 4189 W. 97th Ct., Westminster, CO 80030***

The next Žynys comes out in late April, 1999. Deadline for materials is April 5th, 1998. Send your news in either language to: Žynys, 13352 E. Jewell Ave. #202, Aurora, CO 80012, or call Daiva Mickevičiūtė, 730-6702 or Todd Mikelevičius, 368-8353. We'd like to encourage everybody to participate in preparing Žynys. Your involvement will be greatly appreciated! The more the merrier, so join our team!!!!

**If you went to Lithuania since the last Žynys, we'll put your name in the next Žynys!**

**Also, write us about your travels there, we might print it!**

Žynys

*Lietuviais esame mes gimę, lietuviais turime ir būti*

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