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# žynys

Jungtinių Amerikos Valstybių  
Lietuvių Bendruomenė, Colorado  
Apylinkė



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

28-ti metai , Nr. 1

Vasaris

1998

February

Vol.28, No. 1

## NEPRIKLAUSOMYBĖS ŠVENTĖ

Mūsų metinė Nepriklausomybės Dienos šventė įvyksta **šeštadienį, vasario mėn. 28 d.** 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue United Church salėje, 3250 East 6<sup>th</sup> Ave., Denver. Kviečiame atvykti ir pasi-  
vaišinti skaniu lietuvišku maistu, pasimatyti su draugais, bei susipažinti su naujais nariais. „Rūtos“ šokėjai pasirodys su lietuviškais tautiniais šokiais, ir taip pat bus pravesta turtinga loterija.

Šiais metais prelegentas bus Tadas Mikelevičius, kuris kalbės apie įvykius ir nuotaikas Lietuvoje. Tadas neseniai grįžo iš Lietuvos, ten praleidęs du metus su Taikos Korpusu Prienuose. Savo darbu jis sugebėjo reikšmingai prisidėti prie Prienų miesto pastangų įsijungti į laisvo pasaulio bendruomenę.

### Laikas:

Kokteiliai 5:00 v.p.p.

Vakarienė 6:00 v.p.p.

### Įėjimas:

Nariams-

\$12.00 su rezrvacija

\$15.00 be rezervacijos

\$10.00 pensininkams ir studentams

Svečiams-

\$15.00 suaugusiems

\$13.00 studentams

Vaikai 14-kos metų amžiaus ar jaunesni veltui.

**Rezervacijas** padarykite ne vėliau kaip trečia-  
dienį, vasario 25 d., skambinant Arvidui Jara-  
šiui, 439-2089 arba Jurgiui Senkui, 694-6518.

## INDEPENDENCE CELEBRATION

Our annual Independence Celebration will take place on **Saturday, February 28<sup>th</sup>** at the 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue United Church hall, 3250 East 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Denver. You are invited to come and enjoy tasty Lithuanian food, visit with friends and get acquainted with new members. The "Ruta" dancers will perform Lithuanian folk dances and there will be a lottery with great prizes.

This year's speaker will be Tadas Mikelevicius who will talk about events and impressions of Lithuania. Tadas recently returned from a two year stay with the Peace Corps in Prienai, Lithuania. He was able to make a significant contribution to the town of Prienai in its efforts to join the world community.

### Time:

Cocktails 5:00 p.m.

Dinner 6:00 p.m.

### Admission:

Members-

\$12.00 with reservations

\$15.00 without reservations

\$10.00 seniors and students

Non-members

\$15.00 adults

\$13.00 students

Children 14 and under free.

Please make **reservations** not later than Wed-  
nesday, February 25th by calling Arvidas Jara-  
sius, 439-2089 or George Senkus 694-6518.



## MŪSŲ APYLINKĖJE

Reiškiame užuojautą **Danutei Creadon** ir šeimai jos tėveliui **Jonui Virkečiui** mirus. Jis buvo gimęs 1927 m. kovo 13 d. and mirė 1997 m. gruodžio 17 d. Jonas buvo vienas iš ankstyvesnių lietuvių atvykusių į Denverį po 2-jo Pasaulinio Karo, aktyviai prisidėjęs prie JAV Lietuvių Bendruomenės, Colorado Apylinkės įsteigimo.

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Linkime sėkmės **Stasiui Lakavičiui**, kūno kultūros mokytojui iš Kauno. Šiuo metu jis gyvena Denveryje ir ruošiasi maratono bėgimui Bostone š. m. balandžio 20 d.

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Mūsų užuojauta **Chuck (Gvidui) Sakiui** ir šeimai jo tėvui **Kaziui Sakiui** mirus š. m. sausio. 5 d. Jis gyveno Glendale, CA.

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Per neapsižiūrėjimą anksčiau nepranešėme, kad mūsų organizacija vėl išsiuntė našlaičiams Lietuvoje didelę batų siuntą. **Laima ir Arvidas Jarašiai** išnaudojo progą ir pereitą gegužės 12 d. gavo pigiai pirkti Wal-Mart parduotuvėje keletą šimtą porų batų. Batai kainavo \$640.00, persiuntimas \$235.00.

## IN OUR COMMUNITY

Our condolences to **Danute Creadon** and family upon the death of her father **Jonas Virketis**. He was born on March 13, 1927 and died on December 17, 1997. Jonas was one of the earlier Lithuanian newcomers in Denver after WW II, having actively participated in establishing the Lithuanian-American Community, Colorado Chapter.

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We wish a fast and successful run for **Stasys Lakavicius**, a PE teacher from Kaunas, presently residing in Denver and training for the marathon in Boston on April 20, 1998.

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Our condolences to **Chuck Sakys** and family upon the death of his father **Kazys Sakys** on January 5, 1998. Kazys lived in Glendale, CA.

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Through an oversight we failed to inform that our organization again shipped a huge box of shoes for the orphans in Lithuania. **Laima and Arvidas Jarasius** took advantage of a sale on May 12 at the Wal-Mart and purchased a few hundred pairs of shoes for \$640.00. The shipment cost another \$ 235.00.

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## IMPORTANT NOTICE

The 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue United Church has significantly raised it's rental rates. We need to find a new hall. Please talk to friends, your church or any organization to which you belong. Call Arvidas Jarasius (429-2089) with any leads. For most of our events we need a kitchen with a good size stove.

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## AGRICULTURAL AND FORESTRY CENTER

An agricultural and ecological expert team from California, USA., consisting of prof. Dr. Calvin Qualset, Mr. Lawrence Clement ( both from University of California, Davis), Mr. Leland Ruth of Sacramento, and Mr. Vytautas J. Šliupas, P.E. of Burlingame, visited Lithuania in August, 1997. They studied the possibility for developing a research and demonstration farm in Auksučiai, near Šiauliai, Kuršėnai district. The land for this purpose - 51 hectares (134 acres) - was donated to the project by Mr. Šliupas. The purpose of the farm would be to experiment and demonstrate to the Lithuanian farmers the latest Western agricultural methods, including the ecological management of forests. The center eventually would become self-sustained, the income coming from the harvested products. The University of California experts already were instrumental in establishing two similar project: one in Russia near Volkov, the other in Crimea, Ukraine. The idea was met with approval by local farmers and government officials, including the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry of Lithuania.

The project is underway. Presently there are no buildings of any kind. Agricultural machinery will have to be acquired. The most important item is to raise capital. A non-profit foundation, "Jonas Šliupas Foundation for Lithuanian Agricultural Development", was established and is actively looking for donations. For more information contact: Auksučiai Foundation, c/o Vytautas J. Šliupas, P.E., 2907 Frontera Way, Burlingame, CA 94010, tel. (650)692-6856.

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## Ex-Chicagoan takes unlikely path to helm of Lithuania

By R.C. Longworth  
TRIBUNE STAFF WRITER

When Valdas Adamkus retired last June as Environmental Protection Agency's top man in Chicago, there already were reports that supporters in his native Lithuania wanted him to run for president there.

"We were incredulous," said Mary Canavan, his longtime assistant. "We said, 'Val, are you really going to run for president?' And he said, 'I'll let you know.'"

To other friends, he was more serious. "If that's what they want," he reportedly said, "I'm there to serve."

That was what they wanted. In a runoff election over the weekend, Lithuanian voters elected Adamkus, a 71-year-old Lithuanian-American from suburban Hinsdale, their president by a narrow margin-fewer than 12,000\* votes out of nearly 2 million cast.

"He is preparing for something big, God bless him," said another former aide, Frank Corrado, president of Communications for Management Inc. in Chicago. "But he's a tough guy. When the hard, tough decisions had to be made, he always called them right."

"It's an amazing story, when you stop to think about it."

Most of Adamkus' life is an amazing story. He fled Lithuania as the communists took over, spent part of his teens in a Nazi camp, went to college in America, became a political appointee of President Richard Nixon, faced down the administration of President Ronald Reagan and no doubt will be wined and dined one day at the table of President Clinton, who once tried to get him fired.

To his friends here, Adamkus is "courtly," "a quiet man," "a straight arrow," an old-world gentleman." But the idea that the man they knew during his 40-plus years in Chicago has become president of a country still leaves them shaking their heads.

Adamkus has kept an apartment in Lithuania since 1991, when the country regained its independence from the Soviet Union. He regained his Lithuanian citizenship in 1992 but still spent most of his time in the United States until 1997 - he has dual citizenship - and was able to run for president only after Lithuanian courts ruled that he met the constitutional requirement for residency.

He and his wife, Alma, spent \$50,000 of their own money on his campaign and got major financing from Chicago friends who raised \$1.25 million for him, according to Stanley Baras, a retired banker and close friend who led the fund-raising. It was a rough campaign. Supporters of his opponent, former Prosecutor General Arturas Paulauskas, attacked him as an American carpetbagger and once picketed him with shouts of "Yankee go home," Baras said.

"He is tired now," said Baras, who talked with Adamkus by telephone Monday, "but he feels very enthusiastic. His ambition now is to unite Lithuania, to improve the economy, to increase investment."

Adamkus said in a news conference in Vilnius, the Lithuanian capital, that "Russia will remain our main partner in the east, but Lithuania will continue to actively seek membership in the European Union and NATO."

It's a world vastly different from the one Adamkus, then only 18 years old, left behind when he and his parents fled Lithuania. According to his official biography, he had edited an underground newspaper in Lithuania during the German occupation. When the Red Army recaptured Lithuania in 1994, the Adamkus family fled and ended up in a German camp.

After the war, Baras said, Adamkus attended highschool in German town of Eichstadt, and then went to the University of Munich.

According to his office in Chicago, he arrived in New York in 1949 "with \$5 in his pocket." Like many young immigrants, he joined the U.S. Army and - already fluent in English, Lithuanian, Polish, Russian and German - taught at the Army's language school at Ft. Riley, Kan.

Adamkus graduated with an engineering degree from the Illinois Institute of Technology in 1960,, became an engineer in Chicago and joined the federal government at Ohio River office of the EPA's predecessor agency in Cincinnati.

An active Republican, he ran unsuccessfully for the Metropolitan Sanitary District commission in Chicago. The EPA had just been formed, and President Nixon, in an apparent reward for his political diligence, named him deputy regional administrator of the EPA's Midwest office in Chicago.

At the time, environmentalists attacked him as a "political hack," Corrado said, "but over the years he showed he was the best friend environmentalists ever had." Among other things, he is given a large share of the credit for cleaning up pollution in Lake Michigan and other Great Lakes.

President Reagan appointed him regional administrator in 1981 and, by the time he retired last year, he was the EPA's longest-serving senior executive. But the high point of his career was a very public battle with the Reagan administration.

\*Final count was over 14,000, ed.

Adamkus' staff had written a report accusing Dow Chemical Co. in Midland, Mich., of polluting Michigan streams. Adamkus sent the report to his boss in Washington, EPA Administrator Anne Gorsuch Burford, who sent his report to Dow for editing and then demanded Adamkus delete the accusation. Adamkus said he refused, but the report was toned down anyway.

Adamkus swallowed the decision for the moment but, in 1993, he bucked EPA pressure and told a congressional committee about the incident, which led to Burford's resignation and a huge boost in morale in the EPA.

The incident also gave Adamkus bipartisan political backing in Michigan, especially from powerful Democratic Rep. John Dingel. When a newly elected President Clinton tried to replace Adamkus with a Democratic appointee, Dingel blocked the move, Corrado said.

In the meantime, Adamkus began leading EPA missions to Russia. Over the years he made some 25 trips and, on each one, tried to get to Lithuania. Officially, his visits were to advise the Lithuanians on ways to clean up their air and water, but he became a well-known figure there whose presence, as a Lithuanian-born American official, carried a powerful political message.

After 1990, Adamkus began spending vacations in Lithuania and then took an apartment there. The idea of a political career took root and, according to friends in Chicago, began to occupy his thoughts in the last two years before he retired from EPA.

Adamkus and his wife still have a home in Hinsdale but, according to Baras, not for long. The new president is expected to be in the area later this month to arrange to move to Lithuania for good.

*Tribune staff writer Casey Bukro contributed to this report.*



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## NAUJAS LIETUVOS PREZIDENTAS

**Valdas Adamkus** tapo laimėtoju antrame prezidentinių rinkimų rate sausio mėn. 4 d. Jis nugalėjo oponentą Artūrą Paulauską maža balsų dauguma. Linkime naujam prezidentui sėkmės ir viso geriausio. Bet yra šiek tiek keista ir ne visai suprantama, kodėl Lietuvos Konstitucinis Teismas (KT) š.m. sausio 10 d. (po rinkimų) išnagrinėjo konstituciją ir padarė sprendimą, kuris suvaržė prezidento galią. Pagal šį sprendimą šalia kitų dalykų buvusios vyriausybės (Ministro Pirmininko, ir kitų) įgaliojimų gražinimai naujam prezidentui esą tik „mandagumo atsistatydinimai“, kurių naujas prezidentas neturįs priimti.

Amerikos spauda Adamkaus laimėjimą įvertino teigiamai (skaitykite apačioje perspausdinamą Chicago Tribune vedamąjį ir kitoje vietoje tilpusį straipsnį apie Adamkų). Amerikoje gyvena apie 11,000 Lietuvos piliečių. Iš jų už Adamkų balsavo 2048, už Paulauską 149. Colorado turėjo 9 balsuotojus.

## NEW PRESIDENT OF LITHUANIA

**Valdas Adamkus** was the winner during the second presidential election round on Jan. 4. He beat the opponent Artūras Paulauskas by a narrow margin. We wish the new president well. However, it is not understood why the Lithuanian Constitutional Court on January 10<sup>th</sup> (after election), having been asked to review the constitution, made an interpretation reducing the presidential powers. Among other things the court ruled that the submission of resignations to the new president by the Prime Minister and others are only “courtesy resignations,” not to be accepted by the new president.

The American press responded to Adamkus' victory positively (see a reprint of the Chicago Tribune's editorial below plus an additional article). There are approx. 11,000 Lithuanian citizens in U.S. Two thousand forty-eight voted for Adamkus, 149 for Paulauskas. Colorado had 9 registered voters.

(Reprint of Chicago Tribune editorial, January 7, 1998)

### President Valdas Adamkus

America's penchant for self-criticism makes it easy to forget that much of the world looks to this country for leadership. This is especially true of European states emerging from the long shadow of the former Soviet Union. People of the heretofore “captive nations” long have yearned for the freedom and efficiency of American life, yet 45 years of Moscow-directed communism inevitably weakened the expertise-necessary to manage such a society.

Inventive peoples, however, have a knack for finding what they need.

Last weekend, voters in Lithuania reached out to Valdas Adamkus, until recently a career federal administrator here in Chicago, and by a narrow margin elected him president of that proud Baltic nation.

Adamkus might seem an unlikely choice in several respects, not the least being that he moved to Lithuania less than a year ago after retiring from his post as Midwest regional administrator for the Environmental Protection Agency. And even though the Lithuanian-born Adamkus served ably at the EPA for 27 years, his name was by no means a household word here, much less in international circles. (Although he now, surely, has the distinction of being the only person to lose a race for the Metropolitan Sanitary District of Greater Chicago and win a race for president of Lithuania.)

Val Adamkus, a graduate of the Illinois Institute of Technology, may be exactly what Lithuania needs at this delicate moment. Any upper-level federal bureaucrat who can survive the comings and goings of six presidential administrations-mainly by staying away from politics and getting the job done-has something special to offer. He is also a notorious straight shooter, having refused more than once to bend his findings and recommendations to conform with the predilections of powers in Washington.

There is a need for such talent in Lithuania, where the vacuum left by the Soviet Union's collapse has been filled too often by opportunists who make their own rules. Indeed, the candidate edged out by the 71-year old Adamkus in a runoff, Arturas Paulauskas, is a former top prosecutor.

Look for Adamkus to build bridges to Paulauskas and to parliamentary leader Vytautas Landsbergis. Look for him, also, to reach back to the Chicago area's Lithuanian community-the world's largest outside of Vilnius-for support both moral and practical.

*Sveikiname* (congratulations) on your election, Valdas Adamkus, and *sėkmės* (good luck!)

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# Lithuanian Community of Colorado

## 1998 CALENDAR

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*Please join us on the first Sunday of every month (unless scheduled otherwise) to socialize and participate with the Colorado Lithuanian Community*

### MONTHLY SOCIALS:

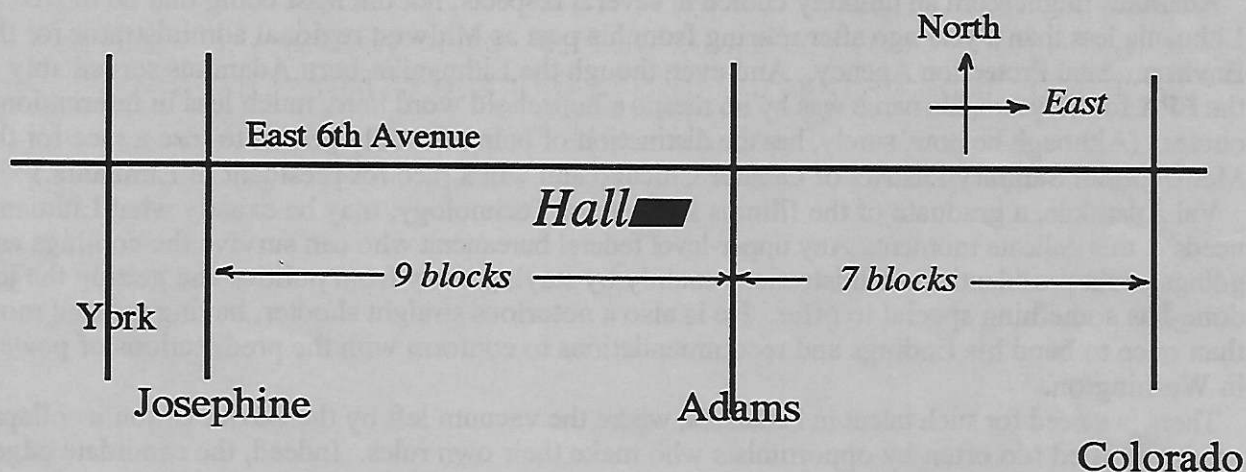
**WHEN:** FIRST SUNDAY OF THE MONTH  
**TIME:** 3:30 - 6:30 PM  
**LOCATION:** LOCATION OF EVENTS MAY CHANGE FROM TIME TO TIME. CALL TO VERIFY.

February 28	Independence Celebration
April 5	Potato Pancake Party - CANCELLED
May 3	Mother's Day Tea - Location TDB
June 27	Summer Camp out (new date)
August 1	Camp out
August 23	Picnic - Dekoevend Park
October 3	Kugelis Party
October 31	"Girių aidas" (from Lithuania) Concert
December 12	Christmas Party



Monthly Social events are potluck, coffee provided. Please make reservations by the Wednesday before each event. RŪTA dance practice will be held at the same location 4:30 - 6:30 Sundays.

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CALL ARVIDAS JARASIUS AT (303)439-2089, OR JURGIS SENKUS AT (303)694-6518



**HALL LOCATION:** South - West corner of E. 6th Ave. and Adams





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*Žynys is the newsletter of the Lithuanian-American Community, (LAC), Colorado Chapter, edited by Al Vaitaitis with assistance from Jeannie Senkus. It is published four times per year (January, April, July, November) and also 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 Jarasius, (303)439-2089; VP Membership: Daiva Mickeviciute, (303)730-6702; VP Public Relations: Jurgis Senkus, (303)694-6518; Treasurer: Juozas Kaleda, (303)670-9597; Secretary: Petras Kazlas, (303)604-0573.*

*\* Annual dues:*  
Family \$15.00  
Single \$10.00  
Retired Family \$7.50  
Retired Single and College Student \$5.00

*Make checks payable to Lithuanian American Community and mail it to LAC treasurer:  
Mr. Juozas Kaleda, 5363 S. Pine Rd., Evergreen, CO 80439*

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

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

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*The next Žynys comes out in April, 1998. Deadline for material is April 10. Send your news in either language to Žynys, 2965 E. Peakview Ave., Littleton, CO 80121, or call Jeannie Senkus, 694-6518 or Al Vaitaitis, 795-6933.*

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# žynys

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