

The Lithuanian Connection

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www.MadisonVilnius.org

Spring 2008

IT'S SPRING AT LAST! CELEBRATE WITH MVSC AT OUR ANNUAL MEETING AND BANQUET

Please join us for the MVSC annual meeting and banquet. This year's event will be Friday, May 30 in the Main Lounge of the University of Wisconsin Memorial Union. Parking information may be found on the University's website at <http://www.vip.wisc.edu/gettingAround.php>. The evening will begin at 6 with a cash bar; dinner will be served at 7. The buffet includes baked salmon, stout-braised beef, deviled eggs, and numerous side dishes. Dessert will be served shortly before the evening's presentations. The cost is \$27, per person, payable in advance to MVSC. Reservations are due May 19th. Checks should be sent to: **Nijole Gaucys, 2210 West Lawn Ave., Madison WI 53711.**



Our speaker for the evening will be Dalia Cidzikaitė, editor-in-chief for the Lithuanian daily newspaper *Draugas*. She will speak on the image of minorities in Lithuanian culture, the topic that she analyzed in her dissertation.

Draugas ("The Friend"), established in 1909, is the only Lithuanian daily published abroad. It is the oldest continuously published Lithuanian newspaper anywhere in the world. *Draugas* publishes various political, religious, scientific, economic, public interest articles, announcements, and paid advertising. The publisher is Lithuanian Catholic Press Society in Chicago, Illinois.

Dalia received her Ph.D. in Slavic and Baltic Languages and Literatures from the University of Illinois at Chicago in 2005. She has been a journalist for the weekly newspaper *Amerikos Lietuvis* (*American Lithuanian*), editor of the *Minor Lithuania Foundation* Newsletter, and proofreader for *Akiraciai* and *Metmenys*. Dalia has been a teaching and research assistant at several universities, including the Baltic Studies Summer Institute, which is held at different universities every two years (and is coming to Madison in 2009). Dalia holds a minor in Acting and performs with the Chicago theater companies "Sprung" and "Žaltvėklė".

What We Are and What We Do

- Offer medical aid and information
- Sponsor cultural & professional exchanges
- Aid immigrants & visitors
- Support orphans & orphanages
- Arrange home stays
- Host ambassadors & judges
- Promote Lithuanian culture here
- Present Wisconsin culture there
- Organize concerts & commemorations
- Hold community events
- Facilitate tours of local enterprises
- Fund humanitarian & cultural causes
- Participate in festivals in Vilnius & Madison
- Welcome academic & medical personnel

Would you like the Lithuanian Connection by email? _____

Is your membership in Madison-Vilnius Sister Cities current? If not, please return this form to:

MADISON-VILNIUS SISTER CITIES, INC.
P.O. Box 55034,
Madison, WI 53705-8834

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Telephone (____) _____

Email address: _____

New ___ Renewal ___ Address change? ___

Enclosed are one year's membership dues:

Individual \$20, Family \$30, Fixed income \$10,

Sponsor \$50, Other \$ _____

Madison-Vilnius Sister Cities relies on the ideas, hospitality, and commitment of its members. Please check one of the following areas that may be of special interest to you: _____ Serving on the Board

_____ Hosting visitors from Vilnius/Lithuania

_____ Traveling to Vilnius/Lithuania

_____ Serving on a committee

_____ Helping with educational/cultural programs

_____ Keeping in touch through a pen pal

Please offer suggestions for other ways in which you might become involved:

Thank you for your support!

Happy Spring to our MVSC Membership and Madison Community!

I feel confident about trading my snow shovel for garden gloves as I trust Mother Nature will be kind after giving us quite the winter!

The MVSC Board of Directors and I thank you all for your continued support of our various activities. We have two events coming up soon that have been in the planning stages for months:

► On May 30, we will be honored with the presence of the *Draugas* newspaper's editor, Dalia Cidzikaite, who will speak at our Annual Banquet (in the beautiful second floor lounge of the Memorial Union)....and

► During the entire month of June, you will find an exhibit of posters from Lithuania produced during the years of Soviet occupation at the second floor gallery of the Central Branch Library (downtown). Please be sure to take a look at the variety of prints that board members of MVSC procured both by loan and purchase with the assistance of Madison's Annual Sister Cities Grant.

Last month, MVSC mailed 120 American English books to the Antakalnio branch of the Vilnius Public Library. Your book donations made this shipment possible, as well as your generous monetary contributions for the mailing costs. Please remember our ongoing book drive as you embark upon spring cleaning and feel free to bring your gently used books to the Annual Banquet.

Sadly, we recently learned that our newsletter editor, Betty Zeps, is stepping down from the position she has held for years. I can't thank her enough for the time and effort she has put in to keeping our membership in touch and informed via *The Lithuanian Connection*. We on the board are brainstorming for ways to continue the publication, but there may be changes coming in the future. As always, please check the MVSC website for updated information on events and projects at madisonvilnius.org. If there are volunteers out there to edit a quarterly newsletter or to volunteer in any capacity, we would love to hear from you!

The board and I are looking forward to seeing many of you on May 30 – thanks again for all of your help. ACIU!

Respectfully,
Daina Zemliauskaite-Juozeviciene
auradain@tds.net
608-260-8971

Madison Vilnius Sister Cities, Inc.
P.O. Box 55034
Madison, WI 53705

RESERVATION FOR MAY 30, 2008 BANQUET

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ **Email:** _____

I would like to make _____ reservation(s) @\$27.00 for the banquet to be held at the UW Memorial Union second Floor Lounge on May 30.

Enclosed is a check (made out to Madison Vilnius Sister Cities, Inc.) for \$ _____

Optional donation to MVSC (tax deductible) for our activities \$ _____

Total enclosed: \$ _____

RESERVATION AND MONEY DEADLINE IS MAY 19, 2008

Send to Nijole Gaucys
2210 West Lawn Street
Madison, WI 53711