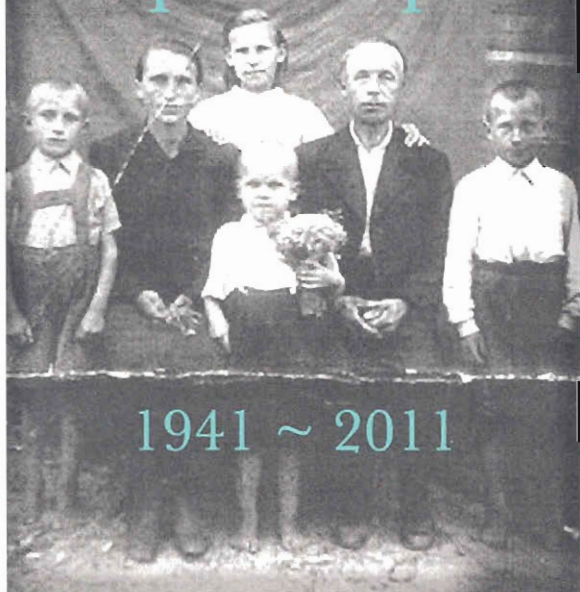


Hope & Spirit



1941 ~ 2011

Exhibits, events and programs marking
the 70th anniversary of the start of mass deportations
from Lithuania to the Soviet Gulag

June 18 - October 22, 2011

Balzekas Museum of Lithuanian Culture
6500 South Pulaski Road, Chicago, Ill. 60629



Hope & Spirit

June 18 to October 22, 2011



Calendar of Events June 18 - October 22, 2011

Saturday, June 18 - 2 p.m.

Hope & Spirit / Nepalaužta dvasia

Series Opening

The inaugural event of the commemorative *Hope & Spirit* series, marking the 70th anniversary of the start of mass deportations from Lithuania to the Siberian Gulag*—forced labor camps and prisons—in June of 1941, includes:

Hope & Spirit: What my parents told me about deportations and life in Siberia

Exhibit opening



Long and Sad Road to Siberia
Bernardas Covalesky - Age 7 Randolph, N. J.

The *Hope & Spirit* series opens with a juried exhibition by children who were asked to create works of art that reflect their understanding of what their parents or grandparents have told them about the deportations and the harshness of life in Siberia. The art works will be exhibited at the Balzekas Museum from June through August, 2011. (Subsequently, selections from the children's exhibit will tour various locations across North America.)

Smurto Kronika / Chronicle of Violence

Exhibit opening

A multi-part exhibit *Smurto Kronika / Chronicle of Violence* including photographs, letters, documents, publications and maps from the Lithuanian Research and Studies Center archives and the Balzekas Museum's own permanent collection and twenty floor-to-ceiling panels of pictures and text in Lithuanian and English from The Museum of Genocide Victims in Vilnius, Lithuania

Birželio ledas / Ice in June

Film screening

The documentary film *Birželio ledas/Ice in June (2001)* recounts the physical and spiritual destruction of the Lithuanian nation during the first Soviet occupation in June, 1941, and the resulting deportations. Survivors — Irena Valaitytė-Špakauskienė, Ričardas Vaičekauskas, Rytė Merkytė and others— recount their exile near the Laptev Sea. The drawings of Gintautas Martinaitis accompany the deportees' testimonials. *English subtitles*

Friday, June 24 - 7:00 p.m.

Gyveno Senelis ir Bobutė / There Once Was a Grandfather and a Grandmother

Film screening and discussion

The film *Gyveno Senelis ir Bobutė/There Once Was a Grandfather and Grandmother (2007)* tells the life story of director Giedrė Beinoriūtė's grandparents, deportees to Siberia, through a young girl's perspective and understanding of historical events and in her own words. The film is interspersed with photographs from the filmmaker's family album as well as animated and archival film footage. *English subtitles*

* "Gulag" stands for "Главное управление исправительно-трудовых лагерей и колоний" (Glavnoye upravleniye ispravitel'no-trudovih lageryey i koloniy) Russian for "Main Administration of Labor Camps and Colonies"
** Vorkuta Gulag was a Soviet era prison camp located in the Pechora River Basin, in the Komi Republic, part of the Siberian region of Russia, located 1,200 miles from Moscow and 100 miles above the Arctic Circle.

Friday, July 1 - 7 p.m.

A Discussion with Deportees

Panel discussion and presentation

This evening's program features a film screening of *Misija Sibiras/Mission Siberia '08* (see below) and a presentation in Lithuanian by former deportees, Rimas Mackevičius and Kestutis Keparutis. Both men were very young when their families were deported to Siberia and lived there for 10 years until they were repatriated to Lithuania. In addition to their reminiscences, the men will share photographs, books and other personal effects, brought back from Siberia. *In Lithuanian - Event will be filmed and shown subsequently with English subtitles*



Misija Sibiras '08

Misija Sibiras '08

Film screening

Since 2006, expeditions of Lithuanian young people have travelled to 70 locations in Siberia to maintain the cemeteries of Lithuanian deportees who perished in Soviet forced-labor concentration camps. *Misija Sibiras/Mission Siberia* expedition members also visit with Lithuanian deportees and their descendants who still live in these remote regions. *Film screening and discussion in Lithuanian*

Friday, July 8 - 7 p.m.

Mirties lageriai / Death Camps

Išlikti ir papasakoti / To Survive and to Tell
Film screening and discussion

A viewing of two documentary films about Soviet Gulags, their victims and their survivors by Gintautas Alekna, a member of Lemtis (see below) and a *Misija Sibiras* expedition leader *In Lithuanian*

Saturday, July 9 - 2 p.m.

Misija Sibiras '10



Paulius Miezėlis
Misija Sibiras '10

Film screening, presentation and discussion
Paulius Miezėlis, a participant in the *Misija Sibiras/Mission Siberia '10* expedition, will introduce the film and share personal photographs and impressions of the *Mission Siberia* experience: traveling to a former Gulag to help restore the grave sites of Lithuanian deportees and to visit with Lithuanian survivors and their descendants, who still live in these remote regions. *Discussion in English and Lithuanian*

Friday, July 15 - 7:30 p.m.

Children in Exile

Film screening and discussion

Children in Exile (2007), which made its local debut at the Chicago International Documentary Festival in 2008, tells the story of civilian deportations to the Siberian Gulag through the testimony of the survivors, including Gen. Wojciech Jaruzelski, Poland's last communist leader. The film's writer and director, Chris Swider, a graduate of and instructor in the film department at Chicago's Columbia College, was himself a child of a deportee. *Film screening and discussion in English led by film director Chris Swider*

Friday, July 22 - 7 p.m.

Misija Sibiras '09

Film screening and discussion

Film footage of the 2009 *Misija Sibiras/Mission Siberia* project to restore grave sites in remote Siberian regions (See project description above.) *Film screening and discussion in Lithuanian*

Friday, July 29 - 7 p.m.

Kruvinasis rugpjūtis / Bloody August Važiuojam iš ukvatos / Going 'Willingly' Atsimenu, vadinasi, esu / I Remember, Therefore I Am

Film screening and discussion

Three documentary films produced by Lemtis, a Lithuanian organization established in 1992 to document, preserve and raise awareness about the history of mass Lithuanian deportations to Soviet Gulags: *Kruvinasis rugpjūtis/Bloody August (2004)* about the Vorkuta Prison ** uprising; *Važiuojam iš ukvatos/Going 'Willingly' (2004)* about the deportations to the Tomsk region of Siberia; and *Atsimenu, vadinasi, esu/I Remember, Therefore I Am (2009)* about the Lemtis organization and its mission. *Film screening and discussion in Lithuanian*

Friday, August 5 - 7 p.m.

The Soviet Story

Film screening and discussion

The Soviet Story (2008) exposes the criminal history of the Soviet Union, beginning with the murder of 7 million Ukrainians in 1933. The film reveals how the Soviet Union helped Nazi Germany instigate the Holocaust and how these 20th Century terrorist regimes were philosophically, politically, and organizationally allied. The film shows recently uncovered archive documents revealing Soviet-Nazi collaboration; interviews with former Soviet Military intelligence officers unveil shocking details. Despite this allegiance, Soviet atrocities, such as the Ukrainian famine, the Katyn massacre, and the mass deportations of innocent people to the Siberian Gulag, are only now coming to light. *Film screening and discussion in English*



Friday, August 12 - 7 p.m.

Birželio ledas / Ice in June

Film screening

The documentary film *Birželio ledas/Ice in June (2001)* recounts the physical and spiritual destruction of the Lithuanian nation during the first Soviet occupation in June, 1941, and the resulting deportations. Survivors—Irena Valaitytė-Špakauskienė, Ričardas Vaičekauskas, Rytė Merkytė and others—recount their exile near the Laptev Sea. The drawings of Gintautas Martinaitis accompany the deportees' testimonials. *English subtitles.*

Friday, August 26 - 7 p.m.

The Way Back

Film screening and discussion

The Way Back (2010) is director Peter Weir's film about Siberian Gulag escapees who walk 4,000 miles overland to freedom in India. *Film screening and discussion in English*

Balzekas Museum of Lithuanian Culture, Chicago, Illinois

Saturday, September 10 - 7 p.m.

Lithuania in Exile, 1988-1989

Exhibition opening and discussion

A photo exhibition *Lithuania in Exile, 1988-1989* by photographer, film director, cameraman and traveller Juozas Kazlauskas will complete the exhibition offerings. Kazlauskas has been featured in several dozen one-man and group exhibitions in Lithuania, Bulgaria, France, Mexico, USA, Germany, Yugoslavia, Georgia, and Russia. On a historic and geographic level, this cycle of photographs is archivally significant as it documents the remains of Siberian barracks that have now vanished from the contemporary landscape. On an aesthetic level, the photographs consider the relationship between man, history and nature through the subtle play of light and dark in the images, asking the viewer to consider what cannot be seen as much as what can. The photography exhibition will include a discussion led by a group of U.S. students who visited Siberia to search for the graves of the Lithuanians who perished there.

Sunday, September 25 - 5 p.m.

Bloodlands: Europe Between Hitler and Stalin

Book reading, signing and discussion

Author and Yale University professor Timothy Snyder will discuss his acclaimed book *Bloodlands: Europe Between Hitler and Stalin* in which he links the Ukrainian famine, the Holocaust, Stalin's mass executions, the planned starvation of Soviet POWs, and postwar ethnic cleansing. Columnist Anne Applebaum who has written extensively on the Soviet Gulags, observes: "Instead of studying Nazi atrocities or Soviet atrocities separately, as many others have done, he [Snyder] looks at them together. Yet Snyder does not exactly compare the two systems either. His intention, rather, is to show that the two systems committed the same kinds of crimes at the same times and in the same places, that they aided and abetted one another, and above all that their interaction with one another led to more mass killing than either might have carried out alone." Deportees will also participate in the discussion. *Discussion in English*

Saturday, October 8 - 7 p.m.

Red Terror on the Amber Coast

Film screening

Red Terror on the Amber Coast documents the fifty-year-long struggle between the people of Lithuania and the Soviet KGB and their predecessors to impose Soviet control on a free and democratic, Western republic, Lithuania. Using filmed interviews, archival photos and newsreel footage, it describes Stalin's use of state-sponsored terror to destroy opposition, collectivize agriculture and industry, and create a single social class all under party control. Some interviews record the long-term, armed resistance by organized partisans to the KGB and its troops. Others describe their experiences, as adults and children, of arrest, imprisonment, deportation to Siberia and the Arctic coast, and years as slave laborers in the mines and forests of the far East. *In English*



The *Hope & Spirit* series is dedicated to the millions of victims of Soviet deportations—the men, women and children from all Soviet-occupied nations and of all nationalities, religions, and races—who suffered two profound indignities: the brutality of forced exile, imprisonment, starvation, torture, and genocide and the injustice of the subsequent denial, minimization and suppression of their suffering and victimization.

The Balzekas Museum gratefully acknowledges the following individuals, organizations and institutions for their contributions, support and assistance with the *Hope & Spirit* series:

*The 52 children from the United States and Canada who submitted artwork to the *Hope & Spirit: What my parents told me about deportations and life in Siberia* children's art exhibition and the teachers, parents and grandparents who educated the children about deportations and encouraged them to create their artwork

*Mrs. D. Karužienė, Kestutis Keparutis, and Rimas Mackevičius for sharing their stories and personal artifacts

*The Lithuanian Youth Council (Lijot), organizer of the *Misija Sibiras/Mission Siberia* project for providing documentary films and photographs of the expeditions

*Gintautas Alekna and Lemtis for providing documentary films about the deportations to the Soviet Gulag and the experiences of the deportees

*Lithuanian Film Studio Monoklis for providing director Giedrė Beinoriūtė's *Gyveno Senelis ir Bobutė / There Once was a Grandfather and a Grandmother*

*Paulius Mieželis, *Misija Sibiras '10* participant

*Mr. Jonas Variakojis, President, Lithuanian Philatelic Society

*Dr. Augustinas Idzelis, President, Ms. Kristina Lapienytė, Executive Director, and Ms. Skirmantė Miglinienė, Archives Director, of the Lithuanian Research and Studies Center, Chicago, Illinois, for their assistance and loan of archival materials

*The Museum of Genocide Victims, Vilnius, Lithuania

*Dr. Audrius Plioplys—the *Hope & Spirit* project creator—for his initiative, artistic vision, leadership and tireless efforts in bringing this series into being and for his dedication to ensuring the people and events it commemorates are never forgotten



Thank you to all of the Donors who generously contributed to the *Hope & Spirit* series. Please visit the Museum's website to see a complete list of sponsors, additional information about the series, and, after June 18, a gallery of children's art submissions:

www.BalzekasMuseum.org

Balzekas Museum of Lithuanian Culture
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Balzekas Museum events are partially supported by the Illinois Arts Council, an Agency of the State of Illinois, and CityArts grants from the City of Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events.

THE HOPE AND SPIRIT SERIES EXTENDED



Sunday, October 16, 2011, 2:00 p.m.

LECTURE AND SLIDE SHOW BY WESLEY ADAMCZYK,
AUTHOR OF *WHEN GOD LOOKED THE OTHER WAY*

Author of *When God Looked the Other Way* Wesley Adamczyk comes to the Balzekas Museum to give a first-hand account of deportation as experienced by his family during WWII. Adamczyk will discuss his book and present a slideshow of drawings from Siberia, created by children who were exiled there.

Fee: \$5



Saturday, November 12, 2011, 7:00 p.m.

CONCERT BY AUDRONĖ SIMANONYTĖ

Singer Audronė Simanonytė will perform songs composed and sung by Lithuanian deportees during 1941 -1953.

Fee: \$10; Museum members \$5

Saturday, January 21, 2012, 7:00 p.m.

LETTERS FROM SIBERIA



Audrius V. Plioplys, MD, the curator of *The Hope and Spirit* exhibit will present letters written from Siberia by deportees. 218 original photographs from Siberia, 157 original letters from Siberia, and 71 envelopes from Siberia are on display. Many of these letters had been sent to London, England, Sydney, Australia, Chicago, Illinois, Toronto, Ontario, North Bay, Ontario and Montreal, Quebec, from across wide swaths of Siberia.

Fee: \$5

The Balzekas Museum of Lithuanian Culture will honor Audrius V. Plioplys MD, FRCPC for his contribution to neuroscience, neurology and art, as well as for his dedication to preserving the memory of the victims of Soviet deportations at the Man of the Year Excellence Award Dinner Saturday, December 10, 2011 at 6:00 p.m.

6500 South Pulaski Road, Chicago, Illinois 60629
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Web: www.balzekasmuseum.org

The Hope and Spirit programs are partially supported by grants from the Illinois Arts Council, a state agency; the Illinois Humanities Council; The National Endowment for the Humanities; the Illinois General Assembly; a City Arts grant from the City of Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events; and the ECPC.