



Alexandra Kazickas Grant Program (2012-2014)

Vilnius, Lithuania and New York, U.S.A. www.kff.lt

January, 2015

Alexandra Kazickas (1920-2011)



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Diplomacy Star of Lithuania

On November 26, 2014, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Lithuania awarded the Kazickas Family Foundation the Diplomacy Star of Lithuania. Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs Mantvydas Bekesus presented the award to the President of KFF, Jurate Kazickas and her brother Joseph M. Kazickas in Vilnius, Lithuania. The award was given for the support of Lithuanian language, culture and identity.



Photo courtesy of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Lithuania, 2014

Program comes to an end, legacy continues

The Alexandra Kazickas Grant Program, AKGP (2012-2014) for the support of the Lithuanian Heritage Schools in the U.S. initially planned for the sum of \$100,000 a year, three years and \$500,000 later, gave financial assistance to 30 (out of 37) participating schools. The program paid attention to the schools' work drawn from public and official circles of Lithuania, the E.U. and the U.S.A. A sum of \$360,000 went directly to the schools for teacher salaries and staff development (35%), program supplies and equipment (30%), rent (25%), contractors fees and office supplies (10%). A sum of \$30,000 was given to the Lithuanian Educational Council for conferences, summer seminars and educational materials, and the rest was spent on salaries and travel, and an experimental proficiency test.

For the past three years, the Kazickas Family Foundation through the AKGP strengthened efforts of the Lithuanians in the diaspora to keep the Lithuanian language and cultural identity alive. The Heritage Schools were provided with new opportunities to enhance academic and extracurricular work.

What can we expect in 2015? The Lithuanian Heritage schools will be able to request support from the KFF through the regular grant submission process.

Value of the Heritage language programs

The value of Community based Heritage language programs is undeniable; from a simple perspective of keeping school age children off the streets on weekends, to providing them with a routine of learning a language and preparing for the world of a global economy, to giving children a comfortable environment where they meet peers with the same social and emotional issues as immigrants, to making children smarter because of the effects on their cognitive development an additional language makes.

**AKGP
Webpage was
created...**



In 2015, there were 37 Lithuanian Heritage schools in 21 states of the US. About 2200 students, age 2 to 92 (yes, there are adult classes also), were taught by 430 teachers and staff.

Establishing friendships, expanding networks

**... and AKLS
(A.Kazickas Lithua-
nian school) web
page as an addition
to the AKGP...**



“Go and visit [Lithuanian Heritage] schools, see how they are doing, make sure they know that we, the Kazickas Family, are aware of their hard work, hardships and selfless commitment to preservation of the Lithuanian language and culture. Tell them that we are very much interested in their work and we support it.” - Dr.Kazickas (1918-2014), the founder of the KFF, said in 2012.

The AKGP team met with principals of 20 Lithuanian Heritage schools, visiting eleven of them during Saturday classes in their states, nine others either in Lithuania during mutual visits to their Homeland, or in the U.S. during continuous teacher education conferences in New York, Massachusetts, New Jersey, Illinois, Washington D.C. and camps in Michigan and Vermont.

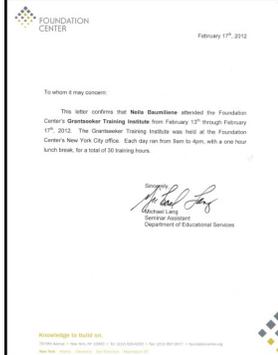


AKGP coordinated its work with the LEC (Lithuanian Educational Council of the US), which also was a AKGP grant recipient.

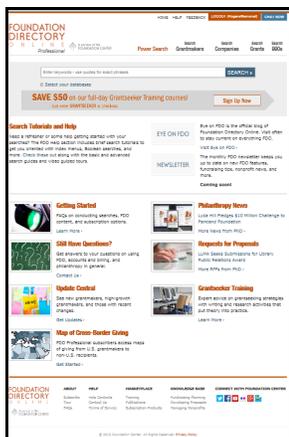
“Thank you for your strong support and commitment to help our schools and the LEC establish a strong financial footing.” - Daiva Navickas, Chairperson of the LEC, wrote in the annual AKGP grant reports.

Dr. J.P.Kazickas, D.Navickas (Chairperson of the LEC), M.Breiva (guest teacher from Lithuania), AKGP team (N.Baumiliene, E.Naujikiene, S.Furajeviene) and John A. Kazickas, East Hampton, NY 2013 10

... 30 hrs seminar in the Foundation Center in New York City was attended, certificate received



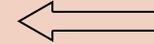
Dozens of hours spent doing research on the Foundation Directory Online Collaborative Collection in the Southampton Library



Taking time to meet with the principals



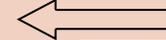
With Maryte Newsom (St.Casimir LS, LA), Aukse Motto (Lietuvele, NJ), Ilona Verbusaitiene (Donelaitis, DC), Daina Petkeviciene (V.Kudirka, NJ) and others in a conference in Washington, DC, 2013



With Violeta Rutkauskiene (Principal until 2012, left) and Giedre Ramanauskaite (Principal since 2013) in Gediminas LS, Mundelain, IL, 2012



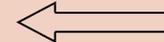
With Jurate Doviliene (former Principal) and Laima Apanaviciene (current Principal) of Chicago Cultural LS, Laima Petroliuonas (member of LEC) and a guest from LA, in Chicago, IL, 2012



With Zibute Maciulienė and staff (Lithuanian Montessori Ziburelis,) Lemont, IL, 2012



With Audrone Elvikiene (former Principal of Maironis LS, Lemont, IL), Maryte Newsom (st.Casimir, Beverly Hills, CA), Sigita Simkuvienė Rosen (Chairperson of the US Lithuanian Community), Irina Melikova Brusokienė (V.Kreve LS, Philadelphia, CA), Manchester, MI, 2013



With Jurate Navickas (middle, Saulute LS, St.Petersburg, FL) and Inga Paegle (right, Indianapolis, IN) in Manchester, MI, 2013



With Jurate Liutkienė (first right, Rasa LS, Naperville, IL) and Aukse Motto (first left, Lietuvele LS, Jackson, NJ) in Naperville, IL, 2012



AKGP
End of Grant Report
Form was created...

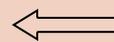
Faces of AKGP recipients: establishing friendships, expanding networks

“ I received a note that the Kazickas Family Foundation had granted \$130,000 for the US Lithuanian schools. I would have loved to have been able to give you full amounts of the requests but the sum is the maximum that the Foundation could give this year. I hope the grant money will help solve the problems, which are plenty while doing this noble work. We would like to wish you best of luck but also to thank you for your honorable sacrifice while educating children in the Lithuanian spirit. It is imposible to pay for all your work but we would like to at least in part help you solve emerging issues. I wish you a successful school year, not to run out of strenght, not to lose hope, joy in your devotion. I hope you have many helpers in this difficult work, I hope you are trying to involve more parents to solve everyday problems. May the Almighty give you the strenght and energy to continue this noble beautiful work. I know that you not only need grants, but also gratitude, we want to show to you that we understand your hardships. “ - Dr.J.P.Kazickas, 2013 09

The following are 30 out of 37 Lithuanian Heritage schools in the US which received AKGP support. Some of them applied three years in a row, others one or two years out of the three. The grants were given to meet their immediate needs. Four schools are not pictured (B.Brazdzionis, CA; V.Vebraite, CT; Teyvnes zibureliai, OH, Ausros Aukstesnioji, OH)



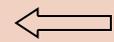
Aitvaras LS, OH est. 2007, currently 20 students, 4 teachers,
 AKGP (2012-2014) \$5,250



Baltijos Krantas LS, MI est. 2009, currently 15 students, 3 teachers,
 AKGP (2013,2014) \$2,300



Baltija LS, NC est. 2013, currently 8 students, 1 teacher
 AKGP (2013,2014) \$10,000



Donelaitis LS, est. 1959, currently 95 students, 21 teachers, AKGP (2012-2014) \$24,000

Documents were sent to the President of Lithuania, Ministry of Education and Science, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Members of Seimas, for different issues in regards to these programs

The faces of AKGP recipients (2)



Chicago Cultural LS, IL, est. 1992, currently 368 students, 60 teachers, AKGP (2012-2014) \$17,000



Gediminas LS, IL, est. 2004, currently 61 student, 11 teachers, AKGP (2012-2014) \$17,000



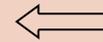
Nauja Karta LS, est. 2010, currently 15 students, 4 teachers, AKGP (2012-2014) \$9,591



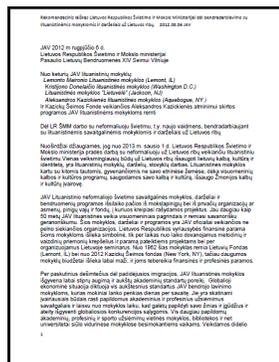
Vytureliai LS, CO est. 2006, currently 10 students, 4 teachers, AKGP (2012-2014) \$10,100



Saulute LS, FL est. 1976, currently 15 students, 3 teachers, AKGP (2012-2014) \$11,000



Linus Lithuanian School, WA est. 2012, currently 31 students, 10 teachers, AKGP (2012-2014) \$20,000



Thank you letters and children's drawings received....



The faces of AKGP recipients (3)



V.Kudirka LS, NJ, est. 1952-1990, 2003, currently 28 students, 6 teachers, AKGP (2012-2014)

\$13,650



Genys LS, CA, est. 2006, currently 62 students, 12 teachers, AKGP (2013,2014)

\$4,500



Ziburio LS, MI, est. 1949, currently 78 students, 14 teachers, AKGP (2013,2014)

\$10,000



Indianapolis LS, IN, est. 2006, currently 30 students, 9 teachers, AKGP (2012-2014) \$15,000



V.Kreve LS, PA, est. 1949, currently 30 students, 7 teachers, AKGP (2012-2014) \$10,500



Lietuvele LS, NJ, est. 2010, currently 20 students, 6 teachers,

AKGP (2012-2014) \$21,000



Official Thank You Certificates and Awards received



Diplomacy Star of Lithuania, from the Ministry of the Foreign Affairs, 2014



Grunwald Medal from the Lithuanian Community of the US, 2013



Thank you letters from Seimas of Lithuania and Chicago Lithuanian Schools, 2014 and 2012

The faces of AKGP recipients (4)



Sauletas Krantas LS, FL, est. 2004, currently 18 students, 3 teachers, AKGP (2013, 2014) \$10,000



Maironis LS, NY, est. 1960, currently 72 students, 13 teachers, AKGP (2012-2014) \$21,000



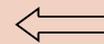
Maironis LS (Saturday school), IL est. 1959, currently 505 students, 78 teachers, AKGP (2012-2014) \$20,000



Maironis LS (Friday school), IL, est. 2013, currently 110 students, 14 teachers, AKGP (2012-2014) \$16,000



Genys LS (Adult class), CA, est. 2006, currently 6 students, 1 teacher, AKGP (Genys LS)



Rasa LS, IL, est. 2004, currently 45 students, 7 teachers, AKGP (2012-2014) \$16,000



Articles about AKGP written in the Lithuanian Press in 2012, 2013, 2014



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The faces of AKGP recipients (5)



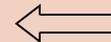
Lithuanian Montessori Ziburelis, IL est. 1983, currently 39 students, 4 teachers, AKGP (2012-2014) \$15,000



St Casimir LS, LA est. 1949, currently 160 students, 24 teachers, AKGP (2012, 2013) \$8,000



Spindulelis LS, IL, est. 2003, currently 26 students, 4 teachers, AKGP (2012, 2013) \$11,250



Orange County LS, CA, est. 2009, currently 22 students, 3 teachers, AKGP (2012-2014) \$11,050



M. Mazvydas LS, MN est. 1999, currently 24 students, 3 teachers, AKGP (2013), \$4,500



Boston LS, MA, est. 1950, currently 120 students, 15 teachers, AKGP (2012-2014) \$18,000 Photo: D. Shilas



Documents were received from an Advisor to the President of Lithuania, Ministry of Education and Science, Ministry of Foreign Affairs un regards of these programs

Community-Based Heritage language schools in the U.S.

At the end of September of 2014, American University in Washington DC in collaboration with the Center for Applied Linguistics (CAL) held a conference for the Community-Based Heritage Language schools, a networking seminar for program administrators, teachers, parents, and researchers. Among 40 participants, 9 represented Lithuanian programs from Illinois, Massachusetts, New York, New Jersey and Washington D.C. (Pictured below with Terrence G. Wiley, CAL President) At the end of the conference, the Lithuanians were approached by Japanese, Portuguese, French and Spanish speakers with a request to disclose the Lithuanian language school survival phenomenon and asked to be invited to their programs for a visit. Participation of the Lithuanians in the conference was in part sponsored by AKGP. In 2014, thanks to AKGP, the American Councils, the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL), the Language Testers International (LTI), and CAL found out about the Lithuanian language schools need for having language proficiency testing in order to

formalize student's multiple years and hundreds of hours of language education. A new step for schools that had their ups and downs over the course of a century of different immigration waves in many instances having schools dwindle to cultural circles until a new wave of immigrants settled in and was able to make them academic institutions again, never giving up on preservation of the Lithuanian language, but never attempting to have a unanimous Lithuanian language proficiency certificate,

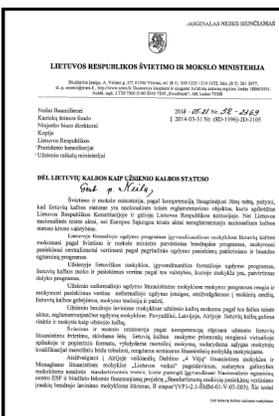


either.

Advocating for the Lithuanian language programs

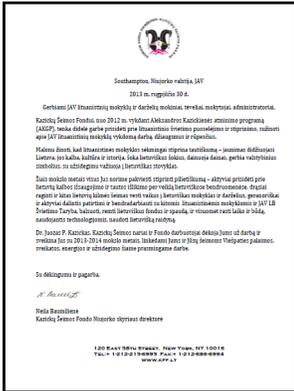
The AKGP team went above and beyond to have the work of the Lithuanian Heritage schools visible and appreciated: from a friendly several minute visit with the Chancellor of the Ministry of Education and Science in a small office of the Ministry, in Lithuania in 2012, to a six hour conference of nearly 40 attendees from the U.S. Lithuanian schools, high ranking officials from the Ministry of Education and Science, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and H.E. President Valdas Adamkus (1998-2003, 2004-2009), himself, in the beautiful Kazickas Family Residence in Lithuania, in 2013 (Pictured below); from a visit to meet with a couple of leading linguists in Vilnius University in Lithuania, to an exclusive meeting of 10 Lithuanian language specialists from the major Universities in Lithuania and the U.S. during the Baltic Scandinavian conference at Yale University in the U.S. in 2014; from attending

meetings in the Consulate of Lithuania in NY with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Lithuania about a Diplomatic mailing system to be used for the schools, in 2012, to a visit to the Lithuanian Parliament in 2013, and a request to an advisor to the President of Lithuania H.E. Dalia Grybauskaitė, in 2014, to have a Lithuanian language proficiency certificate system of international recognition made.



Letters to the schools on behalf and from Dr.J.P.Kazickas were sent for the International Teachers Day, School Year openings

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Advocating for the Lithuanian language programs (2)



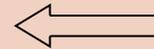
With Irena Degutiene, Speaker of Seimas (LT Parliament), in Seimas, Vilnius, Lithuania 2013



With Abby Huston and Staff at "Teach for All Lithuania—Renkuosi Mokyti" in Vilnius, Lithuania, 2013



With leading Lithuanian language specialists and officials of the Ministry of Education and Science, and Vilnius University in the Kazickas Residence, Vilnius, Lithuania, 2014



With Austra Dumbliauskienė and Arvydas Daunoravičius in the Dept. of the Lithuanians in the Diaspora in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Lithuania, Vilnius, Lithuania, 2012



With Marijus Gudynas, Consul General of LT to Chicago, teachers and administrators of US LT Heritage schools, and the officials from the Ministry of the Education and Science of Lithuania, Lemont, IL, 2014



With Gintare Tamasauskaite, Secretary General of UNESCO Lithuania, Vilnius, Lithuania, 2012

AKGP 2012-2014 report got in the Lithuanian press in the World ...



Lithuanian of the World,
Dec, 2014, 36-39p.

Advocating for the Lithuanian language programs (3)



Presenting Minister of Foreign Affairs L.Linkevicius with a request from the LT Heritage schools, NYC, NY, 2013

With LT Ministry of Education and Science and Ministry of Foreign Affairs officers and the KFF Vilnius Director, Vilnius, Lithuania 2014



With the most renown Lithuanian language Specialist from Lithuania and the US, at the Baltic and Scandinavian Conference at Yale University, New Haven, CT, USA, 2014



With the Head of the Lithuanian language dept. of Vilnius University and Director of KFF Vilnius in Vilnius, Lithuania, 2012



With Ginte Damusyte, Director of Program "Global Lithuania" of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of LT, Vilnius, Lithuania, 2014



With Regina Narusis, President of the Lithuanian Community of the World, Vilnius, Lithuania, 2012

AKGP in the Lithuanian press of the US ...



Participating in 7 Teacher conferences, one camp, and organizing one



Teacher conference in Lemont, IL 2012, 02 (pictured) and 2012, 12



Teacher conference in Jackson, NJ 2012, 04



North American Lithuanian Heritage School Teacher education camp, Manchester, MI, 2013, 08



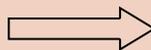
Teacher conference in Brooklyn, NY 2012, 02



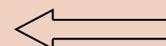
Teacher Conference in the LT Embassy in Washington, DC 2013, 03 with Prof. Vytautas Landsbergis as a guest



Teacher conference in Boston, MI, 2013 10 and 2014 10 (pictured)



AKGP organized teacher conference in NYC, NY 2014, 11



AKGP 2012-2014 report in the Lithuanian press in Lithuania ...



Education News, 2014 II & I2



Lithuanian language proficiency experimental exam

The Lithuanian language proficiency experimental exam initiated by the AKGP was held in the Lithuanian Alliance of America in NYC on Sunday, April 27, 2014. Lithuanian Heritage school students were offered an opportunity to take a B1 language level test for Lithuanian as a Foreign language. B1 in CEFR corresponds to Intermediate High-Advanced Low level of language proficiency in ACTFL. Speaking, reading, listening and writing skills were assessed in order to provide students with certificates of language proficiency to get Lithuanian language credits on their high school diplomas. Twenty one 13-18 year old students from five states participated, with 17 students from five Lithuanian Heritage schools and four students who learn Lithuanian at home among them. Five linguists from two Heritage Schools were on the exam board. Participants were greeted by Mr. Valdemaras Sarapinas, Consul General of the Republic of Lithuania to New York, and Mrs. Laima Mihailovich, Head of the Lithuanian Alliance of America.



The Kazickas Family legacy

The Kazickas's eleven grandchildren are the new generation who one by one are getting involved in their Family Foundation's work. With the AKGP program coming to an end, time comes to shift the Foundation's work to be multigenerational, to embrace what each generation will bring to the table, to connect their philanthropic interests with the Founder's and Foundation's larger goals.

In Today's world of philanthropy, the grandchildren would be named as Gen y/ Millennials (www.nextgendonors.org)– driven by values from parents and grandparents, seeking a balance between honoring family legacy and assessing the needs and tools of the day; putting the full range of their assets – their treasure, their time, their talents, and even

their ties (through endless networks), and actively crafting their Philanthropic identities and thinking about their own giving legacies.

The KFF welcomes its youth!



Kazickas Family 18 (out of 19) members during the Dr.J.P.Kazickas Memorial Days in Vilnius, Lithuania, November, 2014. Photo credits: Lietuvos Rytas

... more initiatives by
AKGP ...



Center for Applied linguistics US Heritage Schools Database had 25 US Lithuanian schools registered by 2015 01 15



Dalia Shilas from Boston Lithuanian school, MA, US participated in the Lithuanians of the World Seimas (Parliament) session on 11/14/2014 pushing for a resolution to give Lithuanian language a foreign language status and to have Lithuanian Language Proficiency Certificate system in place to formalize Lithuanian language learning abroad. Mrs. Shilas presentation was based on AKGP research and documents.

How it all began...



The Lithuanian school idea presented to Dr. & Mrs. Kazickas in East Hampton, NY, 2006 09

children of Long island and, thanks to the generosity to her Family, after her passing in 2011, through the AKGP would impact over 2000 children in the US. Those children not only would feel happier spending time with their peers of similar life experiences as immigrants, but through learning Lithuanian, would keep their families ties stronger with their friends and relatives in Lithuania.

In the Grant Award letter of 2014, Jurate Kazickas, the KFF President wrote: “ The AKGP was very dear to My Father. First of all, because it honored the memory of his dear wife of nearly 70 years, Alexandra, and then because the work that all you teachers do is so important to make sure Lithuanian families now living in America stay connected to their homeland. Our father loved Lietuva with all his heart and soul and he knew how necessary it is to maintain our language, culture and traditions, especially for future generations. “

Dr.J.P.Kazickas was familiar with the work of the Lithuanian schools since the 1960’s when he was on the Board of Directors of the Lithuanian Foundation for 13 years. He donated his own wealth and time, fundraised and gave grants, among other organizations, to the Lithuanian schools in the US.

The success of AKGP was in the magic of Dr.Kazickas’s ability to make people feel special with his attention and love, care and generosity. AKGP carried the magic in the attention that made everyone who participated in the Lithuanian Heritage schools, feel noticed, appreciated and important.

The Kazickas Family and A.Kazickas Lithuanian school members at the Kazickas grave site in East Hampton, NY on All Saints Day 2014.

Since 2006, the KFF gave grants to the AKLS for the total sum of \$230 000. The sum was separate from the AKGP grant to other US Lithuanian schools.

In January of 2006, in her letter from the Bahamas, Mrs. Alexandra Kazickas wrote: “If you ever need any help, let us know, we’ll never hesitate to help. -” The letter addressed to a young Lithuanian family who had moved into a neighboring village on Long Island, was remembered half a year later by Lithuanian immigrant mothers who decided to open a Lithuanian Saturday school for their children on Long Island. In October of 2006, A.Kazickas Lithuanian school (AKLS) opened its doors in Riverhead, NY. Nobody knew that the kindness, care and generosity of Mrs. Kazickas would one day reach beyond 30



A.Kazickas Lithuanian school (AKLS) opening ceremony in Riverhead, NY, 2006





Elena Naujikiene, AKGP coordinator

I started working for the AKGP, thanks to Dr.J.P.Kazickas, in 2012. I was asked to contact every US Lithuanian school by phone, to show interest in their work, and to encourage them to apply for the AKGP grants. Not only from the conversations but also because I have grandchildren living in the US, I knew about the hardships Lithuanian parents were facing while trying to teach their children Lithuanian and to preserve their Lithuanian identity. In the first conversations, principals feared that parents would not be able to pay tuition... Over the three years of the AKGP, new Lithuanian schools were created and old ones preserved. I was responsible for checking Grant reports. Thanks to the AKGP, schools were able to pay rent, salaries for the teachers, renovate classrooms, buy supplies and technology for education, send teachers to continuous education seminars. I am convinced that the Kazickas Family will continue supporting the schools even after the AKGP is over, in preservation of their Parents Lithuanian heritage, in respect to their legacy.



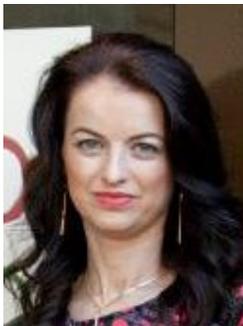
Gailute Urbonaite-Narkeviciene, Lithuanian language specialist, independent contractor for the AKGP

On behalf of the Boston Lithuanian School and myself personally, I would like to thank you all for your continuous support to the Lithuanian education in America, as it faces new challenges and new goals of the 21st century. Teaching the language and promoting Lithuanian culture has been the main focus of the Lithuanian schools for many decades, in order to ensure the continuity of the nation under Soviet rule. After reclaiming a much desired freedom of the Homeland, in 1990, Lithuanians abroad had to refocus and understand their new mission. Thanks to the Kazickas Family Foundation this mission became a little clearer and put in perspective. The AKGP took the initiative to organize the Lithuanian language proficiency exams as well as strive to unite all generations of Lithuanians, despite their differences.



Snieguole Furajeviene, E-center manager

In 2013, the KFF added a project "Lithuanian Heritage school e-center" to the AKGP. Work in the Lithuanian programs requires lots of concentrated information, creativity and time. Most of the programs/schools operate on a volunteer basis. Whether you are a teachers, an administrator, a student, a parent or a guest, we hope that the e-center will help you save time and will provide you with information needed and teaching resources tested over time. We would like to make work in the Lithuanian Heritage schools easier for current and for future generations.



Neila Baumiliene, AKGP Director

The AKGP is almost over. There are only Grant reports from 2014 to be checked in April of 2015. This is how \$500,000, four trips across the Atlantic, half a dozen flights and a couple of thousand miles by car across the US, more than fifty meetings, including two dozen of them with the Kazickas Family members, look on paper. (I would like to thank Dr.Rimas Vaicaitis and Mrs. Aukse Vaicaitiene for proofreading this Newsletter.)



I loved every hour, every mile of the AKGP journey. As an immigrant from Lithuania as many of you, I love Lietuva. With love comes responsibility. The responsibility to preserve the Lithuanian language, culture and Lithuania as a free country, was embodied in the AKGP. I feel much obliged.