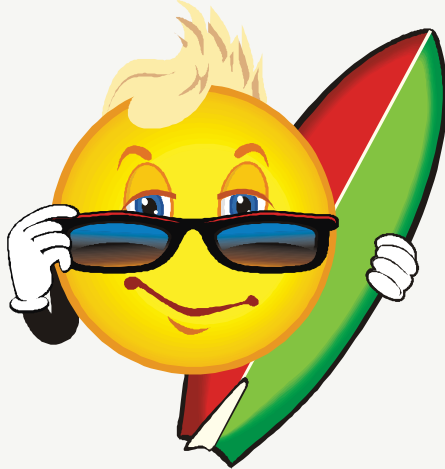


THE LITHUANIAN CONNECTION

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SUMMER 2009

MVSC 1st Annual Summer Picnic August 16th .



MVSC is starting a tradition of summer picnics in Madison. Please join us on Sunday, August 16th at Burrows Park at 4 pm. The park is located at [25 Burrows Road](#) on the East side of Madison, north of Tenney Park and Sherman Terrace. MVSC will provide some grilled goodies, but please bring a dish to share. Soft drinks and water will be provide, but you can also "bring your own." This is a family friendly

event. Please send an email to Jolanta at Jolantukas@yahoo.com indicating how many people will be attending so that we can plan accordingly. We hope to see you swimming, playing games and having fun on August 16th!



Žaibas danced with BALSSI students and Staff

As the Baltic Summer Studies Institute (BALSSI) at the University of Wisconsin passed its mid-semester mark, students took an evening off to learn some Lithuanian dances, demonstrated and taught by the Žaibas Lithuanian Dancers of Madison. Students and staff, as well as commu-



nity residents, danced and laughed their way through Grecinike, Kalvelis and Suktinis. [See more event pictures.](#)



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MVSC BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

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THE LITHUANIAN CONNECTION

Lithuanian Picnic for BALSSI Participants – June 15, 2009

Madison Vilnius Sisters Cities (MVSC) organization was honored to be able to host students, faculty and staff from the [Baltic Studies Summer Institute \(BALSSI\)](#) which is being held at the University of Wisconsin in Madison this summer from June 15th through August 7th. The University of Wisconsin, [Center for Russia, East Europe and Central Asia \(CREECA\)](#) is one of 11 American Universities in a consortium that alternate sponsoring the intensive Estonian, Latvian and Lithuanian summer courses. In addition to learning their chosen language, the courses provide a cultural enhancement program which introduces students to the rich world of Baltic history and culture. The picnic that MVSC hosted in the outdoor courtyard of a downtown Madison condominium complex provided the attendees with the opportunity to sample Lithuanian food



which was prepared by members of the MVSC organization. The picnic included Balandeliai (Cabbage Rolls), Saltibarčiai (Cold Beet Soup), Grybu Koldunai (Mushroom Ravioli), a variety of Lithuanian salads and breads, Lithuanian Beer and homemade Gira (a Rootbeer type of beverage), along with desserts such as Krustai (deep fried pastry with powdered sugar) and Napoleonas (pastry layered with custard). The picnic provided members from the Institute the opportunity to get to know each other better and to meet members of MVSC in a relaxing environment after having finished their first day of classes. The Lithuanian language course is being taught this summer by Daiva Litvinskaite, a doctoral candidate in the department of Slavic and Baltic languages and Literature at the University of Illinois – Chicago, who is teaching her fourth summer in the BALSSI program. [Click there to see more pictures.](#)



MVSC celebrates 20th anniversary (1989-2009)

The **20th anniversary** celebration of the Madison Vilnius Sisters Cities (MVSC) organization drew over 50 people for an evening of fellowship, dinner, drinks and commemoration. MVSC was organized in 1989 to pursue a cultural, charitable and social exchange between the cities of Madison, Wisconsin and Vilnius, Lithuania. Guests came from as far as Chicago, Baraboo, and the Milwaukee area to participate in celebrating the anniversary at the University of Wisconsin Memorial Union in Madison. Guests were able to enjoy beautiful weather and cocktails on the veranda overlooking Lake Mendota, while connecting with old acquaintances and establishing new friendships. Jim Sykes, the first MVSC president, along with Ernie Coonie, a past president of MVSC, provided a historical perspective of the organization, describing its purpose, goals and past accomplishments. Daine Zemliauskas-Juozevicius, the current MVSC president, welcomed attendees and provided an update regarding the organizations' activities over the past year, as well as upcoming events that everyone is invited to participate in. [Click to enjoy pictures from the Banquet.](#)

