



LITHUANIAN AMERICAN COMMUNITY, INC.

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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Press

Juozas Kazlauskas
IT Specialist

Dear colleagues,

As the duality of our name conveys, the purpose of the Lithuanian - American Community is to build bridges and unify people. Our by-laws stress inclusivity, and our programs and committees stress outreach to and cooperative projects with other nationalities and organizations.

Given the deaths of George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor and others, and the ensuing social unrest, it is ever more important to acknowledge and express the values we espouse. The protests may have started in the US, but the whole world has joined in, recognizing that every country in the world still experiences some form of prejudice and has room to grow and be more understanding of diversity.

Our Lithuanian brothers and sisters suffered under Soviet oppression, and Nazi occupation. Lithuania, recognizing its own need for healing with the Jewish community after the horrors of WWII, established tolerance educational centers around the country. They have worked constructively to listen to and address the needs of the Polish minority. They have raised their standing not only in ease of doing business indices, but in social justice and humanitarian indices as well. Progress has been made, and there is always more that can be done.

In our support of diversity, we, the Executive Committee of the Lithuanian-American Community offer these words of solidarity:

The Lithuanian American Community unequivocally condemns all acts of violence. We support freedom of speech and the right to peacefully protest. We stand together against racism and prejudice in all its forms, and we stand for equality. We are committed to creating a safe space for dialogue that fosters greater understanding among all people.

We suggest that we follow Socrates' famous dictum, "The unexamined life is not worth living," and take this time to reflect, and deepen our own understanding.

If you have other suggestions for our community, please know your ideas are welcomed.

Thank you for being the change you want to see in the world.

Arvydas Urbonavicius
Lithuanian American Community Executive Committee President

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