

BRIDGES

Lithuanian American News Journal

Volume 15, No. 9

November/December 1991

\$1.95 Per Copy

In This Issue

- 3 Letters to the Editor.
- 5 Editorial.
- 6 Lithuanian/Kwakiutl Indian Connection.
- 9 Lithuanians In Florida Are Alive, Well and Active!
- 11 Lithuanian Display In Columbus, Ohio Wins Grand Prize.
- 13 The *Hudson Institute's* View Of Lithuania.
- 15 "Try On" Some Bold, New Ideas For Lithuania.
- 16 *Lithuanian American Community, Inc.* - Chapter News.
- 18 *Sister Cities International* - What It Is; And What It Can Do.
- 20 *IX Lithuanian Folk Dance Festival* - An Update.
- 21 "Bits & Pieces"

Plus... much more information, including news about a program similar to *Lithuanian Children's Hope*.



Lietuvos Vaiku, Viltis
Lithuanian Children's Hope



Lietuvos Vaiku, Viltis
Lithuanian Children's Hope



Lietuvos Vaiku, Viltis
Lithuanian Children's Hope

To our readers:

In the middle of November, Lithuanian Catholic Religious Aid quietly announced the closing of its subsidiary, the Lithuanian Information Center (which had operated out of offices in Washington, DC and Brooklyn, New York). This Center had been an essential source of information about Lithuania/activities in Lithuania, for Lithuanian Americans, for the news media and for government officials, among others. Rev. Casimir Pugevicius, Executive Director of Lithuanian Catholic Religious Aid, in announcing the closing, noted that, "With the re-establishment of Lithuania's independence, its governmental institutions such as the ELTA wire service, embassies and consulates...", the mission of the Lithuanian Information Center (over the past 15 years) has now been, "...completed."

Of course, events bring about change in their wake. Yet, this writer is saddened - even disappointed - by the closing of this "powerhouse"; which has done so much good, absolutely essential, work; and which, this writer feels, should have continued to do even more of the same.

Ms. Ginte Damusis, Mr. Victor Nakas and other dedicated people who devoted their whole being to the activities of the Lithuanian Information Center ("Worked in" is just not an appropriate/not nearly complete way to say it.) deserve the grateful appreciation of us all; as they move on to new endeavors.



The American Professional Partnership for Lithuanian Education (A.P.P.L.E.) is actively seeking donors to support a specific project in that organization's ongoing program to assist in reform/development of education in Lithuania.

Lithuanians, in order to be able to take advantage of educational opportunities/to interface with educators abroad (i.e., here in the United States), must learn English. A.P.P.L.E.'s "English as a second language" program will go a long way towards meeting this essential need in Lithuania. You can support A.P.P.L.E.'s efforts in this program, with your donations. A \$20.00 donation will purchase a set of books; while a \$55.00 donation will purchase a set of books with accompanying cassettes. A.P.P.L.E. has even put into place a program whereby donations can be made in the name of another person (as a gift); with notice of the donation going to the desired person. Send your donations to A.P.P.L.E., Post Office Box 1370, West Hartford, Connecticut 06107.



Responsibility for subscriber services (i.e., mailing, inquiries, new subscriptions, etc.) for **BRIDGES** has now been transferred to the new *Lithuanian American Community, Inc. National Executive Committee* offices in Philadelphia. As a result, all inquiries pertaining to subscriptions, including requests for new subscriptions, should be addressed to those offices. Write to: **BRIDGES**, 2715 East Allegheny Avenue, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19134; or call: 215 739-9353.

The editorial office continues to remain in Virginia; where manuscripts, Letters to the Editor and requests for advertising information should be directed. (And, that address is: **BRIDGES**, Post Office Box 363, Gloucester, Virginia 23061-0363; Tel: 804 693-3366.)

(Continued on Page 8)

BRIDGES: Lithuanian-American News Journal (ISSN 8750-8028), is published 10 times per year by the Lithuanian-American Community, Inc., 2715 E. Allegheny Ave., Philadelphia, PA 19134 (Tel: 215 739-9353). Correspondence to the editorial offices, i.e., manuscripts, requests for advertising information, Letters to the Editor, etc., should be mailed to: **BRIDGES**, Post Office Box 363, Gloucester, Virginia 23061-0363. (Telephone: 804 693-3366) All correspondence pertaining to/requests for subscriptions should be mailed to **BRIDGES**, 2715 E. Allegheny Ave., Philadelphia, PA 19134 (Tel: 215 739-9353). Subscription rate is \$12.00 annually (US Mail serviced subscribers; subscriptions to other addresses are \$25.00), payable in advance (US funds). Second Class Postage paid at Auburn, MA 01501; and additional locations. Copyright © 1991 Lithuanian-American Community, Inc. All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced without written permission of the publisher. All statements, including product claims, are those of the organization/advertiser making those statements or claims. The publisher does not adopt, or put forth, any such statement or claim as his own, and any such statement or claim does not necessarily reflect the opinion of the publisher. Unsolicited manuscripts must be accompanied by a stamped, self-addressed envelope if return is desired. POSTMASTER: Send any address corrections and/or changes to **BRIDGES**, 2715 E. Allegheny Ave., Philadelphia, PA 19134.

BRIDGES: Lithuanian-American News Journal serves as a link between Lithuanian Americans and their Lithuanian heritage (as well as a source of information for those interested in Lithuania and/or the activities/goals/background of Lithuanian Americans), by presenting items on Lithuanian culture, history, conditions in Lithuania, Lithuanian related events and personalities in America; and serves the aspirations of those who want to assist Lithuania's integration into the community of democratically governed, free market economic system, nations of the world.

Editor: Joseph Arlauskas



Letters To The Editor



Dear Sir:

I am writing in response to an article in the September-October issue by Mr. Linas Norusis, former Executive Vice-President of the Lithuanian-American Community.

Mr. Norusis' identification of the LAC with primarily cultural, social, and educational institutions clearly explains why I am not, and have never been, a registered member. Nevertheless, I am a Lithuanian-American who was motivated to join the recent independence struggle, spending an average of 20 hours per week from January to September 1991 on grass-roots organizing, letter-writing, public speaking, and media outreach under the aegis of the Lithuanian Communications Center in Philadelphia.

Contrary to what Mr. Norusis asserts, I have a lot to show for my efforts. Starting from zero last January, I now have a cadre core of 5 or 6, 15 or 20 who will sign letters and make phone calls, and up to 50 who can be spurred to some level of action. On June 1, 42 Balts and sympathetic Americans joined in my backyard to celebrate a "First Annual Baltic Bash." I now have three excellent media contacts who featured us a total of five times on television, 8 times on the radio and 7 times on the national or local front pages of a statewide newspaper. Did anyone in LAC headquarters ever expect to find Lithuania on a map of Kentucky?

It's understandable that the LAC, up to now, has concentrated on preserving the national life of Lithuanian immigrants and passing a vital core of this on to successive generations of Lithuanian-Americans. Lithuanian language ability is clearly crucial in qualifying us to be of help to our relatives and friends overseas. Where, indeed, would we be now without our indispensable fount of bilingual translators?

The point is that the LAC, up to now, has been reaching only a segment of a potentially larger community in which the "American" element would be more pronounced. If this were not so, Mr. Norusis, kindly explain the "surprise" activism of people like me. Explain what has happened to the large majority of first, second, and third generation Lithuanian-Americans, and especially, our youth -- not the ones who squirm and roll their eyes through practically every cultural event, but those who have totally immersed in the American mainstream.

Not everybody likes a fight. And the struggling spirit surely relies on cultural and social restoratives. Yet just as "cultural, educational, and social junkies" may not have the will or energy to wage the political struggle, there are potentially plenty of "political junkies" with little Lithuanian culture or linguistic experience, which is nearly impossible to come by outside the meccas of

Chicago, Toronto, and the big, immigrant cities of the Northeast.

I was activated by restored ties with relatives in Lithuania and pressing concerns about their safety. Every one of the Baltic-Americans I now know in Kentucky approached me through the political struggle, as a result of newspaper publicity.

The LAC should take this historic opportunity to reach out to those with reinvigorated family ties and personal contacts resulting from increased travel and tourism, to those with human passions aroused by Lithuania's continuing independence and reconstruction efforts. If it doesn't, it will continue to exclude an "American" contingent which has not, and perhaps, never will be reached by folk dance and Saturday school.

Without some broader ties and post-independence projects SOON, the vitality and urgency of our group here will go to waste.

(Signed) Sandy Baksys (Marefat)/Lexington, Kentucky

(Editor's Note: Ms. Baksys has been a regular contributor to the pages of **BRIDGES**. Her most recent article appeared in the July/August 1991 issue.) (Her sister, Terry, was featured in a story, written by Bill Byrd, in a recent issue; which described Lithuanian American activist successes in the Richmond, Virginia area.)

○ ○ ○

Dear Sir:

We like the "old" style **BRIDGES** that used to be published.

This new style doesn't have enough pictures and closer to home news. Too much history.

(Signed) Mrs. Roy Wandell/Lisbon, Maine

○ ○ ○

(Editor's Note: We welcome letters. We will print those which we feel may be of interest to other readers; and as space permits. We reserve the right to edit letters before publication. Mail to: Letters to the Editor, **BRIDGES**, Post Office Box 363, Gloucester, Virginia 23061-0363) □

To: **BRIDGES**

From: *William Waring M.D., Department of Physical
Medicine and Rehabilitation, University of
Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48103*

Re: *Lithuanian Children's Hope (Lietuvos Vaiku Viltis)*

With great interest I read the report by Rammune Kubilius in the July/August issue of **BRIDGES** concerning Lithuanian Children's Hope (Lietuvos Vaiku Viltis). I have been involved with American Lithuanian exchange programs since 1989 that have focused on disability and rehabilitation, including children, adults and senior citizens. During my two visits to Lithuania (1989 and 1991) it was obvious that many Lithuanians could benefit from medical care and rehabilitation in the United States.

Although the current state of medical care in Lithuania is not up to our standards it definitely is not totally backwards. However one glaring absence of services in Lithuania concerns chronic disability. Many children that benefit from treatment through specialized organizations such as the Shriners are still left with a disability. Rehabilitation services for adults and children we take for granted don't exist in Lithuania such as occupational therapy, physical therapy (as we know it), vocational schools, special education teachers, therapy in schools, modern prosthetics, etc...

What I would like to suggest for other groups that are planning to provide American care for Lithuanian children is to consider adding educational components to their services. The Detroit Lithuanian American community, specifically the Daughters of Lithuania, and Healing the Children have been working together to bring Lithuanian children to Michigan for medical care and rehabilitation. Healing the Children has brought children to America from many areas of the world such as Korea and Central America. Our current plans are to invite a Lithuanian medical care provider to accompany the child to America so the professional can learn the treatment techniques that will be provided. The obvious advantage of this approach is that the next child with a similar problem can be treated in Lithuania.

To save expenses and service more children we are not inviting the child's parent(s) to accompany the child to America. Although this might seem cruel, we get around this by having a host family "adopt" the child while they are in America. The next case we are planning is to bring Mantas Blantaitis to the University of Michigan. Mantas is 12 years old and lives in Panevezys, Lithuania. Mantas was run over by a Soviet tank on July 7, 1991. He sustained injuries to his left leg, wrist and hand. The leg was amputated above the knee. We are also planning to invite a Lithuanian prosthetist to accompany Mantas. The current state of Lithuanian prosthetics is at least 40 years behind our standards. The Lithuanian prosthetist will help fabricate Mantas's prosthesis and learn how to modify it as Mantas grows. The prosthetist will also have the opportunity to learn about prosthetics and orthotics in general.

There is no way we can bring every Lithuanian to America who can benefit from our health care. With the new freedom in Lithuania I am hopeful that honest people can be chosen and educated in America so that a more lasting gift can be given. I challenge other Lithuania American groups to be creative by helping Lithuania improve their own services instead of helping one adult or child at a time.

If anyone has a specific interest in rehabilitation and disability in Lithuania or concerning the exchange programs we are developing, they are welcome to contact me at my home address (2355 South Seventh, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48103) or contact Jurate Peciuara (1435 Catalina Drive, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48103). Ms. Peciuara is coordinating these programs with the Detroit Lithuanian American Community.

(signed)
Sincerely yours,
William Waring M.D.

(For the latest news from Lithuanian Children's Hope, please turn to Page 12.)

The Task Facing Us Is A Formidable One; And It Will Take Our Collective Efforts To Achieve Success

(Of Course, Lithuania Deserves Nothing Less Than Our Full Effort.)

C-Span (the Cable TV Public Affairs Network), during the first part of November, ran a three hour, special program on Lithuania.

The program included scenes from Lithuania (taped in September); as well as a telephone "call in" segment during which viewers were able to address questions and comments to Mr. Linas Kojelis, President of the U.S.-Baltic Foundation, Mr. Victor Nakas of the Lithuanian Information Center and Mr. Marius Lukosiunas, of Lithuanian Television (all of whom were present in the C-Span studios for this program).

It was an interesting, revealing, three hours.

Of course, Mr. Kojelis and Mr. Nakas, as always, "made us proud". Mr. Lukosiunas was a refreshing voice, indeed. C-Span has consistently been "good" to Lithuania; and to publicizing the efforts of Lithuanian Americans.

What was "not so good"; and which, unfortunately, confirms what this writer has been saying, is that America's embrace of Lithuania is far from complete/is a long way from where it should be.

We've got a lot of work to do.

The people calling in to this special program made it clear that Lithuania needs to gain many more "friends" here in America. Some of the callers left no doubt that they are, for various reasons (which weren't revealed), true enemies of Lithuania. (Mr. Lukosiunas, in response to one call, noted that America is, obviously, a democratic country; because the caller's comments proved that a Communist can freely express his opinions on C-Span/on national television!)

Other callers demonstrated a profound lack of knowledge of Lithuania's history, politics, and current situation. As a result, instead of being supporters of Lithuania, they are open to acceptance of the comments, opinions of those who want to denigrate Lithuania.

C-Span's viewers are, for the most part, precisely the kind of people our message needs to reach; because they are people who take the time to learn of/to influence national policy and opinion. They're America's formal, and informal, leaders.

If they don't hold an accurate/positive view of Lithuania, then very few others will, as well.

A favorable impression of Lithuania, in America/by Americans, is critical, this writer believes, to Lithuania's ultimate success, both economically and politically.

Even though some "America bashers" want us to believe that America's opinion doesn't matter/that America's prestige has slipped, such is simply not the case. The world at large still looks to America for leadership. As a result, as America goes, so will much of the rest of the world. A favorable impression/a willingness to "help" Lithuania, by America, will foster such activity among other countries; and, of course, Lithuania will "win" from such activity.

Other ethnic groups in America have demonstrated, eminently well, that "lobbying" of Americans, for a cause/a country is possible/produces positive outcomes. In order to be effective, such "lobbying" efforts have to be consistent, persistent and pervasive.

Just a "few" can't accomplish such a formidable mission on their own. We all have to be involved, in our own, special ways; while "hammering home", to the American people, a unified, positive message. We can't expect, for example, Mr. Nakas, Mr. Kojelis, et. al., to carry out this enormous task on their own, without the help of us all.

When we see the tremendous accomplishments, in this regard, by Mr. Nakas and Mr. Kojelis, for example, we feel that "enough" is being done; and we are lulled into a feeling of "success". Yet, as this C-Span program demonstrated, "success" is far from being achieved.

Let's roll up our sleeves and continue to work, together, towards measurable, real success. Lithuania deserves nothing less.

- Joseph Arlauskas

Lithuanian/Kwakiutl Indian Connection

The Author Draws Parallels In Both The Curator's Background, And The Subject Matter Of An Exhibition.

by **A. Azukas**

The American Museum of Natural History in New York City recently opened its premiere exhibition of artworks and related materials pertaining to the Indians of the coastal Pacific Northeast. This exhibition, entitled, "Chiefly Feasts: The Enduring Kwakiutl Potlatch", is to run until February 23, 1992. Dictionaries of American English define *potlatch* as a ceremonial feast traditional to the Pacific Northwest Coastal Indians, among whom the Kwakiutl Tribe is an important part.

The main purpose of hosting a *potlatch* was the opportunity it presented for displaying one's wealth in order to validate and/or advance one's social status or political position. To set an elegant table upon which to serve a sumptuous meal, while entertaining with song and dance and, finally, to make an ostentatious distribution of expensive gifts to one's invited guests was, in another time, the sure way of proving a chiefly person's wealth and wisdom, prerequisites for leadership with its attendant perks. Sometimes, when the feasting ended, the host might make a great show of destroying quantities of his personal wealth simply to show how he could afford to do so. At first glance, the *potlatch* rite appears and extravagant absurdity. In expert practice it was as sophisticated a sociological evolvment as some of our own rites, practiced in the world of business and politics for winning friends and influencing people.

Among the Indians of the coastal Pacific Northwest, the Kwakiutl, whose homeland is the northern part of Vancouver Island, are the acknowledged masters of stagecraft and dramatic art, most artistically agile in adding fertile fantasy to their every creative activity from Totem poles to woodcarving to *potlatch* generosity and tribal dance. At the turn of the century it was to Kwakiutl country that the first of the Museum of Natural History expeditions, led by distinguished anthropologist Franz Boas, made its way; to amass an amazing array of artworks, photos and *potlatch* descriptions. It is mainly from this first expedition's collections that the present exhibition of 120 *potlatch* objects, including masks, ceremonial poles, button

blankets, bowls, copper shields, vintage photographs and musical instruments were taken. In addition to these displays, there are to be varied programs of films and demonstrations on Indian song and dance.

Curator of this exhibition, and Vice President for Public Programs at the American Museum of Natural History, is Dr. Aldona Jonaitis."

This exhibition should be of more than passing interest to **BRIDGES** readers; because of its Lithuanian connection in the person of Dr. Aldona Jonaitis, Art Historian, Curator of the exhibition and the Museum's Vice President for Public Programs. Dr. Jonaitis came to the American Museum of Natural History from the New York State University at Stonybrook, where she herself had become something of a monument, enduring much like the Kwakiutl *potlatch* of which she has become an expert. In April, 1987, after having been recommended for the office by a search committee from a slate of 120 candidates, Dr. Jonaitis was named Vice Provost of the university. In announcing her appointment, Provost Schubel remarked that the dynamic Dr. Jonaitis had served at every level as she had advanced from undergraduate student to faculty member, head of department, associate provost, acting vice provost and, finally, vice provost. While serving in the latter capacity, Dr. Jonaitis was also a Research Associate in the Department of Anthropology at the American Museum of Natural History.

As art historian Dr. Jonaitis has published and lectured widely on Native American art. She is the author of *The Art Of The Northern Tlingit* (University of Washington Press, Seattle, 1986), funded by grants from The National Endowment for Humanities, the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation and the Division of Humanities and Fine Arts at the New York State University, Stonybrook. This was followed by a ➡

second major work, From The Land Of The Totem Poles (The American Museum of Natural History, New York and The University of Washington Press, Seattle), funded by a grant from The National Endowment for the Humanities. A second corrected printing of the latter book, produced in Japan, became available in April, 1991. It is a splendid piece of work: artful, scholarly, insightful; a veritable one-volume history/encyclopedia of the Pacific Northwest Indians and the Museum of Natural History's relationship with these Native Americans. In recounting what is known of the history of these Indians, Dr. Jonaitis displays an empathy in their regard that is born, one feels, of her own origin as a third generation Lithuanian-American whose ancestors emigrated from Lithuania in the final quarter of the 19th Century. It is not surprising then, that some of us who share that ancestry also share that same empathy and find it interesting to seek, and very gratifying to find, so many parallels in life-experience among peoples so remote from each other as these Indians and Lithuanians happen to be. Consider the following:

The Lithuanian parallel, known through old "dainos", indicates that in olden times all the youths and maidens of a particular village were considered to be broleliai ir seseles - brothers and sisters - so it was the custom to search for a spouse from outside one's natal village.

Despite a possible ten thousand mile geographical separation, both these Indians and the Lithuanian peoples live in pretty much the same latitudes. The coastal area of British Columbia, where these Indians live, is approximately bound by the 48th and 55th parallels. In Lithuania, Kaunas is almost smack-dab on the 55th parallel; with Vilnius just a mite further south; which indicates that both peoples lived in similar natural environments: in areas that are or were areas of immense primeval forests that provided wood as the most readily available material for construction and for fuel and for other less utilitarian purposes, like totem poles, wayside crosses, carvings and sculptures. Because wood exposed to weather does not endure like granite or marble, there in neither area any remains of pyramids of granite or sculptured marble.

The homeland of Lithuanian and Indian alike was so isolated from history's highroads that both were "discovered" relatively late by more mobile Europeans. And because neither Indian nor Lithuanian had a

written language, their earliest mention in history must needs come from foreign sources. The earliest mention of Lithuania is likely to be that in the Annales Quedlinburgenses which reads that, "In the year 1009, at the Lithuania-Prussia border, St. Bruno (Bonafacius) from a pagan blow to the head, with 18 of his men, departed life on February 23rd." The first Europeans to make contact with the coastal Indians of British Columbia were probably those in two boats sent out in 1744 the Dane Vitus Bering who was scouting the Pacific for Russia. They never returned. They are presumed to have perished from Indian attack.

By the beginning of the 19th Century, the Indians and the Lithuanians had arrived at something of a parity in their political lives. For the Lithuanians the 18th was a century of revolution and repression and, finally, a dawning of some hope for the future. The final partition of the Lithuanian - Polish Commonwealth, left the majority of the Lithuanians a part of the population of the Russian Empire. After the failed revolution of 1831, a Russian decree forbade any reference to the lands that were once part of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania as Lithuania. Instead, the area was to be called "The Northwestern Territory". After the failed revolution of 1863, another Russian decree prohibited the printing of the Lithuanian language in the latin alphabet. These Russian repressions had the effect of precipitating the organization of a strong nationalist movement within Lithuania, and, at the same time, a rising tide of emigration to the West that brought to the shoe factories of New England, the coal fields of Pennsylvania and the stockyards of Chicago the ancestors of many 2nd, 3rd, 4th and even 5th generation Lithuanian-Americans. At the far eastern limit of their empire, the Russians, in 1799, claimed for the Czar all the Northwest Pacific coastal lands north of the 55th parallel. It appears as if they might be consciously attempting to keep the unwieldy empire on an even balance with the western end of its axis at the 55th parallel in Lithuania and its Eastern extremity in the Americans at that same 55th parallel that marked its border with what was to become the Canadian province of British Columbia (1871). It would have been difficult if not impossible to find white folk permanently settled in the coastal Indian areas of British Columbia prior to 1851. The white fur traders came, they did their business and then departed until the next time. They and the Indians prospered mightily. But in 1851 gold was discovered in the area and this precipitated an influx of immigrants, many of them from England, that boded no good for the Indians. In 1884 the Canadian government enacted a law prohibiting the *potlatch* ceremonial rite and the dancing went with it. This social tool, evolved over a very long period of time to serve the native life-style, was seen to be an impediment to a rapid and desirable assimilation of the Indians into the superior ➡

Christian Western European culture. Sixty-seven years later, in 1951, the government saw fit quietly to revise the Indian Act of 1884, deleting all mention of the potlatch, but great damage had already been done. In

contrast to the arrivals and departures of the fur traders, which occurred with mutual respect and were of great mutual profit, the white immigrants, with permanent settlement in mind, came with a baggage of gifts for the Indians too bounteously baneful: alcoholism, impoverishment, prostitution and disease. Over the decades that ensued, the Kwakiutls alone were reduced from 18,000 to 2,000 souls! A bit of Indian ethnosis related by Dr. Jonaitis that is less disquieting than the foregoing tale of the tragic results on the Kwakiutl of the white man concerns the Haida clan. These Indians divided themselves into two halves, or moieties, the one distinguished by the crest of the Eagle, the other by that of the Raven. Tradition made tabu the marriage of a member of one clan to marry any but a member of the opposite crest. Furthermore, inheritance was through the matrilineal line. The Lithuanian parallel, known through old "dainos", indicates that in olden times all the youths and maidens of a particular village were considered to be "broleliai ir seseles" --- brothers and sisters --- so it was the custom to search for a spouse from outside one's natal village.

○ ○ ○

When we hear from those who know her best that they are most impressed by Dr. Jonaitis' pride in having peasant ancestors from Lithuania and her utter lack of self-pride, we must feel sure there is a psychic connection between her concern for the centuries-old foreign oppression of Lithuania and the current exhibition she's prepared for the Museum of Natural History in celebration of her love for Indian culture and the culture of her Lithuanian ancestors recently set free!

The exhibition, "Chiefly Feasts: The Enduring Kwakiutl Potlatch", will close its run at the Museum of New York City on February 23, 1992, the 983rd Anniversary of the death at the Lithuania-Prussia border of St. Brunonas (Bonafacius). After that date, it will tour various museums throughout the country on a schedule to be announced later.

○ ○ ○

It might be of interest to **BRIDGES** readers not now aware of it that when Independent Lithuania (in this century) was hardly seven years old, it managed to participate in the Second Bi-Annual Exhibition of Decorative Art at Monza (Italy) upon which occasion the *Grandi Edizioni Artistiche* of Milano published in 1925, and in English, Giuseppe Salvatori's monograph entitled Rustic and Popular Art in Lithuania. □

"To Our Readers" (Continued from Page 2)


I can't say it often enough! Isn't it a great feeling to finally have people understand what you're talking about when you tell them that you, or your parents, or grandparents, were born in Lithuania; and they don't get a puzzled look all over their faces? Gone, finally, are the days when I'd have to go into a long "dissertation" right after noting that I was born in a place called "Lithuania", i.e., what it is, where it is, and that, no, I am not a "Russian", nor am I from a "communist country" (but, instead, am from a country which was enslaved by communists).

Furthermore, isn't it great to know that our "brothers and sisters" were instrumental in bringing communism, finally, to its knees? (It seems so long ago, but, in fact, it was less than 2 years ago when Gorbachev travelled to Lithuania in an attempt to "talk" the Lithuanian people back into quiet servitude. The response he got, from an overwhelming majority of Lithuanians, was one he should have remembered; because that response was the first of many, of the same kind, that he would get from other nations oppressed by communism.)

While many talk of impending famine in what remains of the "Soviet Union"; and of the need to "help" avoid such a forecast, I can't help but wonder where those same people were/what they said while Lithuania was living under a total blockade engineered, and put in place, by Gorbachev. Lithuanians survived; and their resolve to break free from the shackles of communism became even stronger as the result of the deprivation forced on them by that blockade. (Representative Lee Hamilton, of Indiana, is now a leading force, in Congress, behind an effort to provide assistance, for "humanitarian purposes" to the remains of the "Soviet Union". Isn't it interesting that Representative Hamilton was an equally formidable (and eminently successful) force, less than 2 years ago, in insuring that Lithuania - during the economic blockade - be denied even token aid from the US?)

A news story in the November 30, 1991 edition of *The New York Times* notes that President Bush's decision to move towards an early interface with, and recognition of, Ukraine is at least partially the result of Ukrainian American votes during the recent election for Senator in Pennsylvania. Our votes - and the rhetoric which accompanies those votes - count!

Congressmen Hamilton and Obie (Wisconsin) should be brought to task, in 1992; for their actions regarding Lithuania. Let's send a clear signal to those who need our vote. They need to know how we feel about Lithuania; and that their actions will determine how we will vote, how we will support and how we will campaign - for, or against.


Joseph Arlauskas
Editor □

Florida Is Alive And Well!

*A Report On Activities Of Lithuanian Americans
Living In Florida. Recent Reports Don't Do Them Justice.*

by **Sigita Ramanauskas**

At the recent (September 19 - 22, 1991) Lithuanian American Community, Inc. sponsored "Lithuanian Freedom Forum II", in Washington, DC, I listened in disbelief as a representative from Port St. Lucie, Florida (Palm Beach area) told the gathering that Lithuanian Americans in Florida are all retired folk, who have come South precisely "to get away from it all" and therefore, very little activity can be generated from that kind of membership. Asta Banionis, who was moderating, knew better and asked me to respond. But I could not begin to do justice to Florida activism there, so I decided to document it in print; proving once and for all: Florida is indeed very much alive!

Just this past summer, four Floridians were part of the *American Professional Partnership for Lithuanian Education (A.P.P.L.E.)* contingent working for four weeks with educators in Lithuania. They represented all regions of our state; Ruta Meyer from Miami, Jadvyga Kuncaitis from Sarasota, Susan Andersen from Orlando, and I from Daytona Beach. Others working directly in Lithuania include Drasa Gudelis of *Nida Corporation*, Palm Bay (Melbourne), featured in the Business section of [The Orlando Sentinel](#) over a year ago for his initiative there. Egle and Vytas Dudenas, New Yorkers who are winter residents of Palm Beach, have been in Lithuania twice this year; both times for extended visits, helping foreign language teachers and the Ministry of Finance.

Do you want to hear about demonstrations? We were in the auditorium, asking questions, when Gennady Gerasimov spoke at the *University of Central Florida* on his disinformation tour of college campuses. We gathered outside the Federal Building in Orlando, *Riverfront Park* in Daytona, and attended the "town meetings" our congressional representatives held whenever they returned to their districts. We saw the Dubauskas family (Lithuanian flag, stroller, and all) on national television while President Bush was in Key West; then, those of us in Central Florida, met his motorcade at the *Orlando Convention Center*; where months previously, Al Sumanas of Winter Park had picketed a Soviet trade show. Meanwhile, Vilius Brazenas and Kristina Krulikas (also with baby carriage)

were organizing marchers on the West Coast in Naples and Ft. Meyers; as Vytas Dubauskas and the Miamians were greeted with ovations while marching in Cuban parades. Of course, we chartered a special bus to take Floridians to Washington for the Summit demonstration.

Let's move on to the media! A half page ad in [The Palm Beach Post](#), on behalf of Lithuania, thanks to the initiative of Egle and Vytas Dudenas. Hundreds of letters found their way to Yelena Bonner, to various embassies, to the Nobel Committee; and together with interviews, appeared in local newspapers all over Florida; many by prolific writers such as Vytas Semaska of Sebring, Romas Shatas of Sunny Hills; not to mention Vytas Dubauskas of Miami, Vytas Chainas of Naples, and Vilius Brazenas of Bonita Springs. The latter even organized a Letter Bank to share them nationally so others could copy the content locally. Two of my letters won awards from [The Orlando Sentinel](#); as a result of which, I will be invited to a Star Letter Writer Banquet in March, 1992 to meet with other winners and the editors. I am told that we will each get three minutes at the mike to say whatever we wish; you can be sure I will use my time for more Lithuanian coverage! Of course, we Floridians do not limit ourselves to the medium of print! Regular viewers of *C-Span* and *Larry King Live* now associate Baltic issue questions coming from the West Coast of Florida with Vilius Brazenas; they know Daytona means me; and Winter Park/Orlando has to be Al Sumanas. In fact, we alert each other to call-in opportunities! Al and Vilius have also been guests on numerous call-in radio shows. As for TV coverage, we get it all the time! Sometimes, it means preparing some information and sending it ahead of the event; so when they come, they ask all the right questions! A recent Baltic independence celebration this fall was featured on all three local Orlando TV stations during the nightly news. During the last two years our telephones and fax machines also got a workout, as we communicated with politicians, editors and columnists, and other activists; telling *CNN* to emphasize the first, not second, syllable in both Vytautas and Landsbergis; earning a "we are embarrassed" from the network when we told them their graphics were showing communist Baltic flags; pointing out to *CNN Sports* by fax that Marciulionis ➡

does not want to be called a Soviet player....

And there were so many other projects! Young Lithuanian Americans of Miami organized a fund-raising "Monte Carlo Night" for the general public. A container of books, toys, and clothing was sent directly from South Florida to Lithuania, thanks to Birute Pautienis and others. The Consul of Iceland was an honored guest at a Lithuanian American function in Miami. Sebring, in the middle of the state, hosted and activist seminar (organized by Vilius Brazenas) last February. Everyone driving to it was very aware of the many billboards along the highways owned by a Lithuanian American (Richard Genaitis, President, *Rite Media*) of Clermont; for a year and a half, freedom for Lithuania was advertised free on both sides of the Florida Turnpike between Ocala and Orlando. Daytona Beach Lithuanian Americans honored Charley Reese of The Orlando Sentinel for his support of Lithuania in the 85 newspapers in which he is syndicated. He was the main speaker at a June 14th Commemoration; then was our guest at a restaurant banquet. Then there was our trip to the *Orlando Arena*, armed with a couple of Lithuanian flags, in an attempt to meet Sarunas Marciulionis during an April, 1990 game between the *Golden State Warriors* and the *Orlando Magic*; drinking beer afterward, in his hotel lobby, we discovered how deeply patriotic he is about Lithuania....

A group of Baltic Americans formed the *Estonian Latvian Lithuanian Alliance (ELLA) of Central Florida*. This organization (modeled after *ELLA of Connecticut*), visited the International Editor of The Orlando Sentinel; sent flowers to Mstislav Rostropovich, the human rights activist, when he was in Daytona playing with and conducting the *London Symphony*. *ELLA* also helped with the arrangement of a classical piano recital in celebration of freedom at the *Daytona Marriott Hotel* by visiting Latvian Girls Biritis. We also toasted diplomatic recognition with a champagne and cake party in Orlando, where Al Sumanas found the perfect site! Apparently, the *Sheraton Resort* across from *Sea World*, has always had "Baltic Rooms I, II, and III" in their conference wing! The TV commentators loved that! Some of us have been busy for over a year, clipping and collecting newspaper articles about Lithuania for the archives of the *Lithuanian Research and Studies Center* in Chicago. Projects organized by other states which Floridians supported include the media campaign about Congressman Obie of Wisconsin preventing aid to Lithuania; the sending of flowers and a fax to Boris Yeltsin on his visit to the United States; the sending of flowers to President Landsbergis on his arrival at the United Nations, and the contribution of money to various Lithuanian causes. Dr. Saulius Jankauskas of Orlando gathered thousands of dollars of medical supplies!

As you can see, not all Floridians are retired. Not all are just "resting" in our Sunshine State. We have

many creative, energetic activists. Unfortunately, very few of them have fax machines; this means of instant communication is vital. Moreover, not all of our cities have *Lithuanian American Community, Inc.* chapters. Many have a "club" which is not tied in to the *Government Affairs Office* or the *Communications Center* of the Community. Therefore, they are often not informed quickly and effectively about Lithuanian American activities. Moreover, when they contact others, they can not capitalize on the "clout" which membership in a long-standing national organization (with its own letterhead, etc.) entails. Therefore, I urge all independent "clubs" in Florida to convert to Community chapters and to establish good communication systems; both in terms of technology and routings to distribute information. Perhaps then, all the Lithuanian American residents of our own state will know what we have accomplished and how active political life has been in the last two years. Even in Florida!

BOSTON/NEWARK - RIGA

\$801.00 (Via Copenhagen)

BOSTON/JFK - RIGA

\$801.00 (Via Helsinki)

CHICAGO - RIGA

\$851.00 (Via Copenhagen)*

- ➔ All fares are round trip.
- ➔ Fares can be used by individuals and groups.
- ➔ Reservations must be made 21 days in advance of departure.
- ➔ Fares are based upon a minimum stay of 7 days and a maximum stay of 21 days.

BALTIC TOURS can make arrangements for those wishing bed and breakfast only, in: Vilnius, Kaunas, Panevezys, Siauliai, Klaipeda and Palanga.

BALTIC TOURS can also take care of your travel arrangements from Riga to the city of your choice.

For information and reservations, please contact:

BALTIC TOURS

77 Oak Street, Suite #4
Newton, MA 02164

Tel: 617 965-8080 ☎ Fax: 617 332-7781

* (Chicago fare includes overnight in Copenhagen w/breakfast and transfers.)

Lithuania Wins!

Lithuanian Americans In Columbus, Ohio Show Their Neighbors What Lithuania Has To Offer - And Win The Prize.

by Alex Silbajoris

The 36th annual Columbus [Ohio] International Festival, sponsored by the United Nations Association of the USA, filled a huge meeting hall with 173 exhibitors representing 70 nations, sharing their cultures, craftworks and foods for two days. An estimated 25,000 - 30,000 people attended the weekend festival held on November 2 - 3, 1991.

The Lithuanian-American display booth won the festival's top honors for an ethnic, non-commercial entry. It was the second year of Lithuanian representation at the festival, and the first since Lithuanian independence. Congratulations came from many participants, and the spirit of celebration was shared among the representatives from all three Baltic states, who had adjacent booth locations.

The work of producing and arranging the Lithuanian booth was done mainly by Algimantas and Mirga Valaitis, Algirdas and Josepha Vasiliauskas, and Dr. Irene Jasys. Many others helped in staffing the booth, assisting in hospitality during the festival, and providing materials for the booth.

Mr. and Mrs. Valaitis first went to the International Festival in 1988 and 1989 looking for a Lithuanian booth, but finding none. They registered with festival officials as being interested in starting a booth, and were contacted for the 1990 festival.

"Having the booth has made it possible for the Lithuanians in the area to find each other," Valaitiene said; "for example, we now have names of several people interested in participating in a dance group."

The booth offered many traditional Lithuanian craftworks, including amber jewelry, woven ribbons, straw decorations, decorative ceramic Easter eggs, and various Lithuanian-American mementoes such as lapel

pins, key fobs and bumper stickers. On display were many craftworks, including carved wooden boxes, traditional tablecloths, crucifixes and figures of Christ; booth volunteers demonstrated the production of straw ornaments and ribbons as festival attenders watched.

"Many people stopped and congratulated us on our recently won freedom and recognition by the United Nations," Mr. Vasiliauskas said, "and they complimented us on how nicely everything was displayed."

The festival has grown since its inception in 1955; it now fills the largest indoor venue in Columbus, the meeting halls of Veterans' Memorial Auditorium.



Festival Chairman Daisy Nemser said activities included 30 live performances of songs, dances and skits on two stages.

Children's activities at the festival included a children's room with international cultural arts-and-crafts projects, and, for older children, "passports" listing the current member nations of the UN. Each booth stamped the passports with its own unique seal, just as real passports are stamped with visas. □

News from *Lithuanian Children's Hope*

Perhaps you're familiar with the story of Birute, a 13-year-old Lithuanian girl who was a victim of advanced scoliosis, a severe and painful crippling of the spine. Just one year ago, she and her father were desperately seeking a cure for her curvature of the spine which had dislocated her rib cage to such an extent that her heart and lungs were in danger of being punctured. After seeking help in many Eastern European countries, they journeyed to America and spent three months searching for a cure, never giving up the hope that they would find it. Finally, they learned of the Shriner's Hospital for Crippled Children, an organization whose mission is to assist children with orthopedic, neurologic and burn problems from all over the world. The Shriners provide this wonderful help at no cost to the families. Three days after Birute's laser surgery, she was walking. Her father joyfully declared that his daughter's back was straight as a nail. Within a month, they had returned to their hometown of Vilnius, Lithuania, to celebrate Christmas with their family. Today, Birute can walk straight and tall. As a way of expressing her gratitude for the help that she received while in Chicago, she became a volunteer with Caritas -- an international Catholic organization that assists orphans and the homebound elderly.

Unfortunately, throughout Lithuania, hundreds more children like Birute suffer from severe orthopedic problems. Birute's story ignited the imagination of a group in Chicago; which formed Lithuanian Children's Hope in January 1991. Their goal is to help one child each month by funding the expenses of flying the child and one of the parents, as required by Shriner's Hospital, from Lithuania; by arranging a place to reside before and after the hospital stay; by providing living expenses; and by funding a translator and coordinator. Children's Hope has two committees in Lithuania with pediatricians and orthopedic surgeons to evaluate and select children whose conditions cannot be treated in Lithuania, but who can be helped in America. About 20 children are in various stages of the evaluation process.

Laima, another 13-year-old Lithuanian girl with scoliosis, and her mother came to Chicago in May. Laima's operation on October 31st was very successful; and, today, Laima is recuperating and preparing for her return to Lithuania. By the end of this year, we hope to bring two or more children with orthopedic problems for treatment.

- Silvia Kucenas Foti

Lithuanian Children's Hope

The *Lithuanian Children's Hope Committee ("Lietuvos Vaiku Viltis")* was founded in January 1991 as a division of the *Lithuanian-American Community, Inc. Human Services Council*. The Committee attempts to finance the trips and accommodations of as many as a child per month from Lithuania who come to the U.S. for medical care not available to them at home. The Committee works with a medical team in Lithuania which screens the youngsters to make sure they fit the diagnoses acceptable under the program of free medical care available through the Shriners Hospitals: orthopedic conditions, burn injuries, certain dermatologic conditions, etc.

Even though the medical care is free, airfare and accommodation expenses are being paid by the Committee, and wherever possible, Lithuanian American families are serving as hosts. An invitation only fund-raising reception, scheduled for December, in downtown Chicago, it is hoped, will bring in donations from generous Lithuanian supporters who may not be of Lithuanian descent. Coordinator Terese Drutys-Soliunas spends considerable time dealing with paperwork and serving as translator for patient and his/her parent. In order to raise consciousness of young Lithuanian American children and their families about the impact of illness, and about the *Lithuanian Children's Hope Committee's* work, a writing contest will be initiated in Lithuanian language schools in the U.S. The *Educational Council* of the *LAC* endorsed the project, and a letter from its president, Regina Kucas, went out before Thanksgiving. Mrs. Kucas urges the Lithuanian language school teachers whose students are between the ages of 11 and 20 to participate by writing themes up to 250 words (in Lithuanian) on the following topics: How I help when a child comes from Lithuania; When I was in the hospital...; and, When I visit a sick person... The contest winners will be selected and announced in April 1992, and the essays will be published in the Lithuanian language press. The president of *Lithuanian Children's Hope* is Dr. Regina Kulys, and the coordinator of information is Silvija Kucenas Foti. Tax-deductible donations to the fund can be written to the *Lithuanian Children's Hope Fund*, 2711 West 71st Street, Chicago, Illinois 60629.

- Ramune Kubilius, member of S.K. Foti's Information Committee

The Hudson Institute's View

The World Renowned Hudson Institute Takes A Realistic Look At Lithuania; Sees Success/Projects More Of The Same.

by Joseph Arlauskas

The world renowned Hudson Institute is actively involved in fostering Lithuania's emergence into the "real world".

During the Hudson Institute's National Policy Forum, held in Washington, DC, on November 22nd, a presentation entitled, "Hudson Institute's International Baltic Economic Commission (IBEC)", revealed the extensive involvement of the Hudson Institute in Lithuanian issues and programs; as well as the Hudson Institute's clear understanding of Lithuania's current situation and requirements.

Two Directors of the IBEC, Mr. Richard W. Judy, who also serves as Director of the Hudson Institute Center for Soviet and Central European Studies; and Dr. Frederick Starr, President of Oberlin College, and a Hudson Senior Fellow, made a more than hour long, joint presentation describing the IBEC's past, present and future role in assistance efforts for Lithuania.

Addressing some extremely topical issues (which have recently received extensive - and distorted/inaccurate press coverage), they made it clear that Lithuanian Americans' efforts in helping the American public to distinguish truth from slander on those issues are being supported by many prominent Americans, as well.

For example, the Forum speakers addressed both the "Polish minority rights" and the "rehabilitation of persons convicted of war crimes against Jews" issues. Their conclusions? Precisely the same conclusions that impartial, honest people have reached, i.e., that the Polish minority in Lithuania is being accorded at least all rights due under the Helsinki Agreements, the "model" on human rights issues; and that those who are promulgating discord on this issue have neither Polish nor Lithuanian best interests in mind.

The Forum speakers went on to note that Lithuania's record on the entire "war crimes rehabilitation" process is, "...commendable...", i.e., that Lithuanians, in an effort to be fair, impartial and just, have requested, and have responded to, input from other governments and organizations.

The Forum speakers gave participants a "heads up" on another, similar, issue on which we could soon expect to see an unjustified, "fanning of flames" - the

Russian minority in Lithuania. As Soviet central power completes its disintegration, several Soviet central power operated/established/funded factories and other facilities in Lithuania will close down (because they are irrelevant, inefficient, etc.). Many of these facilities are operated and staffed exclusively by Russians (because that was the method desired and established by Soviet Central authorities). So, large numbers of ethnic Russians living in Lithuania - who were there only to operate these facilities - will soon lose their jobs. When this begins to happen, those who want it to appear that way, will start accusing Lithuania of "throwing Russians out of work". They won't give an accurate description of what is happening, why it is happening. Instead, they will use this inevitable event to their own purpose.

Lithuania's privatization program, "...is a model for the whole region."

The IBEC's interest in Lithuania, it was noted, extends across a broad spectrum of issues. Of prime concern is development of the economy.

Forum speakers had considerable praise for Lithuania, citing progress to date, as well as Lithuania's historic mindset. For example, it was noted that Lithuanians have a commendable work ethic and appreciation for quality that even 50 years of oppression simply couldn't obliterate. As well, for a variety of reasons, Lithuania's work force is more technically qualified than are the work forces of other republics in the region. And, there is still a remaining generation in Lithuania which can relate to the old ways - to the traditions of the West. So, Lithuania begins its journey far in front of others in the region.

Furthermore, Lithuania's democratically elected leadership has made a model commitment towards privatization; promising to turn over up to one third of government owned entities into private hands by the end of this year; because it is understood that such an action will put those entities under the control of ➡

people who will thus have a true incentive to make those entities into successful enterprises. Pointing to the obvious emphasis that this program has in the minds of the Lithuanian leadership, Forum speakers noted that the program is under the direct control of the Lithuanian Prime Minister, G. Vagnorius. Calling this an "irreversible step", the Lithuanian leadership has promised that fully two thirds of Lithuanian assets will be in private hands by the end of next year. Ownership is being transferred through a variety of techniques, including auctions, vouchers and subscriptions to shares. The Forum speakers called Lithuania's program a, "...model for the whole region."

Lithuanians have a commendable work ethic and appreciation for quality that even 50 years of oppression simply couldn't obliterate.

Of course, the Forum speakers noted that Lithuania faces challenges which Hungary, Poland and others simply didn't have when they broke free of the Soviet yoke. For example, Lithuania's currency is the Ruble, while Poland and Hungary had their own currencies. Furthermore, Lithuania's economy was completely integrated into the Soviet economy, in every aspect. As a result, Lithuania's emergence is more difficult and is far more complex.

While noting that many more, positive changes can be expected to take place in Lithuania, as time progresses, and, eventually, even with election of a new leadership, there are current restrictions which must be viewed as obstacles to investment, in Lithuania, by outsiders. One of these is the prohibition against foreigner ownership of land; and another is the difficulties associated with repatriation of profits.

The IBEC has recommended that Lithuanians continue to pursue, and complete, efforts towards the establishment of a separate currency; because of the Ruble's current, and expected, future, problems.

Furthermore, the IBEC would like to see Lithuanians dismantle a good portion of the existing social welfare system; because, it is felt that such a system is unsustainable. With reform/downsizing of that system, as well as of the government entities which manage that system, taxes will become realistic/manageable.

And, the IBEC notes, Lithuania - as it is already doing - has to continue to establish, maintain and refine trade relationships with newly emerging republics; as well as with those republics which are still clinging to a "Soviet Union"; because those republics are a source of needed raw materials, and are, as well, markets for

products of Lithuania.

The Hudson Institute sees a real, sustainable, positive future for Lithuania (and Estonia and Latvia); and is in the process of establishing a "US - Baltic Trade and Economic Council". The speakers made clear that there is a considerable amount of dismay over the fact that the United States and some other leading nations, instead of trying to encourage the process of Baltic (and other, emerging republic) entry into the economic "mainstream", are, instead, attempting to preserve the Ruble and promote artificial, non equal "union".

There is no doubt that the "world" has noticed/is confident of the opportunities that Lithuania, and the other two, Baltic States have to offer, because, according to the Forum speakers, there are already far more joint ventures in the Baltics than in all of the other republics of the former Soviet Union.

The Hudson Institute believes in a positive future for Lithuania; and bases that belief on a thorough analysis of past, present and anticipated, future events.

(Author's Note: I was able to participate in the Hudson Institute's National Policy Forum as a guest of the U.S. - Baltic Foundation; and I am indebted to Mr. Linas Kojelis, President of the U.S. - Baltic Foundation, for granting me this opportunity. I should note that there were really two, different, highlights for me during this Forum. One, obviously, is the subject of this article. The other was attendance at a luncheon during which Former President Ronald Reagan was presented with the Hudson Institute's "James H. Doolittle Award". Both President and Mrs. Reagan were in attendance. During the course of the ceremony, President Reagan received several, eminently well deserved, standing ovations. It is this writer's opinion that President Reagan, more than any other, single person, is responsible for Lithuania's independence. Our current President, and our news media, want us to believe that Gorbachev is the one who changed the Soviet Union, and brought us to today's reality. This writer vehemently disagrees with that assessment; and firmly believes that Gorbachev's only contribution was his ability to quickly, rightly realize the reality of the situation in which the Soviet Union found itself after President Reagan had done what needed to be done. Yes, Gorbachev made a contribution - he saw defeat and actually recognized it. (One of the guest speakers, during the ceremony, while quoting former British Prime Minister Thatcher, said that, "President Reagan won the 'cold war' without firing a shot.") History, this writer believes, will give President Reagan the credit he deserves, and which he hasn't yet gotten, to a sufficient degree; for the wonderful changes we have seen take place all over the world - especially in the Baltics and Eastern Europe. Don't we, as Lithuanian Americans, owe a formal expression of appreciation to President Reagan? I believe so - let's do it!) □

Pushing Into New Frontiers

We Can Help Lithuania, And Lithuanians, Test The Limits Of Interesting Technologies; While Gaining In The Process.

by Joseph Arlauskas

Let's help Lithuania get back into its traditional role of being the "natural gateway" to Eastern Europe; by encouraging businesses to "try Lithuania first". Here's a simple, yet, I feel, very sound, example of how we can do just that; by helping Lithuania fill a critical, existing need:

We as Americans are constantly being told of our "energy crisis"; yet many say there is no such thing here in America. Lithuania, on the other hand, has an *Energy Crisis*, without question. Lithuania is virtually totally dependent, for energy resources, on a dangerous, obsolete, improperly constructed, nebulously controlled nuclear power plant; and on oil from Russia (at a time when Russians are literally "rocking" world markets as the result of Russia's attempts to decide on proper allocation/export/pricing/use of that oil).

What should Lithuania do in order to resolve its energy crisis? Should it go the "traditional" route, i.e., work towards building new, safe nuclear power plants; should it attempt to arrange for oil deliveries from countries other than Russia? Or, should Lithuania take some bold, new approaches towards solving this problem?

There are several interesting, exciting, "experiments" underway, throughout the world, in development of "alternative" energy sources; some of which could be practically applied in Lithuania. Such "alternative" sources have a way of "sticking" in an environment like Lithuania's; because an energy crisis is real, because, unlike in the United States, there are no vested, entrenched interests, in place, supporting a particular source of energy. So, in effect, Lithuanians have the "luxury" of seeking out/experimenting with sources which are "non traditional"; and with achieving real, rapid success with such sources.

Of course, Lithuania has no money with which to build nuclear power plants, or with which to import oil. Those who build nuclear power plants, and those who sell oil want to be paid in hard currency; because they can get same, for their skills and products, "all day long", elsewhere. They have nothing to "prove". They have established products which don't need to be "proven" in the marketplace.

Yet, those who are promoting "alternative" sources of energy may be willing to offer incentives to an emerging country facing precisely the kind of need that Lithuania now has; in return for having a market in which to demonstrate the viability of their products or procedures. A "win win" situation!

So, where do we fit in/what can we do to promote an "exploration" of these alternatives? Some ideas:

○ For example, we, as individuals, could encourage companies specializing in development of geothermal energy sources to research the possibilities of/practicality of developing geothermal sources of energy in Lithuania. Does Lithuania possess such potential? Are Lithuanians interested in exploiting such potential? Is it economically feasible? Would such an energy source fill an existing need in Lithuania? If "yes" to any/all of the above, there may be interest among companies/organizations/institutions which would be capable of assisting Lithuania in pursuit of such a program, on either a governmental or private sector basis, at "below market rates"; in order to demonstrate such capability on a "world market" level basis.

○ Another example: In the United States, "wind powered" electricity generation is finally starting to gain recognition; and is finally starting to be viewed as an economically viable, practical source of energy. Several world class companies are presently manufacturing and selling equipment used to develop such energy. It's a "hot" business, competitive and rapidly growing. And, it's a business which needs new markets. Most certainly, Eastern and Central Europe are potential markets for these companies. We could encourage these companies to use Lithuania as the place in which they could begin their entry into these markets. These companies would gain; and so would Lithuania.

If you have the "energy", and desire, to "push" these ideas along, in a real way, consider beginning your effort by finding, in the Reference Section, of your local library, addresses and telephone numbers for geothermal or wind power energy trade organizations and necessary equipment manufacturers. For example, there is an American Wind Energy Association, based in Washington, DC (Tel: 202 408-8988). □

Lithuanian American Community, Inc.

Chapter News

News of various activities, projects, initiatives, as reported by LAC Chapters throughout the United States.

Lithuanian-American Community, Inc., News

by Ramune Kubilius

LAC National Executive Committee's Term Ends:

Three years of LAC National Executive Committee work have ended with today's meeting No. 36 (November 10, 1991). The 3 year term of office has been unbelievable in both work and accomplishments. During this term of office, the work of Lithuanian emigres ultimately tied in with the work of re-establishing Lithuania's independence. After the turmoil of events in the Soviet Union, thanks to the struggle and a show of unity, Lithuania's independence was re-established, the world acknowledged it, and Lithuania was accepted into the United Nations as an equal member with equal rights. That was something all Lithuanians accomplished, something that we also, the Lithuanian-American Community, Inc. worked towards for 40 years, with strong hopes of winning.

We are joyful and proud, that in this three year period of hardship, work and sacrifice for us and for the Lithuanian nation, we, together with each LAC region, chapter and special committees, have achieved the light of freedom for Lithuania. Our term of office was a historical term of office. The lighthouse of freedom's has been lit. The future assignment for LAC's National Executive Committees, for LAC members, and for all of the Lithuanian nation is to protect and defend Lithuania's lighthouse of freedom, strengthen its light and spread it throughout the world. It should also be strengthened and spread in the destroyed Lithuanian nation's homestead, so that no dark powers, no winds can blow out the light of freedom.

The re-establishment of independence on the international level is only half of the work. The second, more difficult half is the strengthening of Lithuania's independence, when the Soviet occupation army is still in Lithuania, causing potential dangers. The inculcation of freedom has to take place not only in spirit, but also in work. The help of other nations for Lithuania, and the help of the Lithuanian diaspora will be productive only when Lithuania's citizens themselves work for the good of the nation and the

rebuilding of the state.

LAC and all of the diaspora is obligated to remain as a firm support for the Lithuanian nation, especially in its most difficult hours. The diaspora will be organized and strong only when there is a strong and fully aware Lithuanian-American Community, Inc.

Having finished a 3 year term of office, the LAC National Executive Committee sincerely thanks all those who worked for the upkeep of the Lithuanian culture (in the U.S.) and for the re-establishment of freedom in the motherland. A big thank you to all.

To the new officers beginning terms of office in the LAC National Executive Committee, regions, chapters, we wish you new energy, luck, and strength in working further for the good of the Lithuanian state and for the strong upkeep of the Lithuanian spirit in the diaspora.

Dr. Antanas Razma, President
Bronius Juodelis, Secretary

*The new LAC National Executive Committee
headquarters address:*

*Lithuanian-American Community, Inc.
2715 East Allegheny Avenue
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19134
Telephone: 215 739-9353
Fax: 215 739-6587*



News From Columbus, Ohio

by Alex Silbajoris

United Nations Ceremony:

On October 24, 1991, the Columbus, Ohio chapter of the United Nations Association of the USA sponsored ceremonies honoring nations recently admitted into the UN. Local residents served as flag-bearers representing their home countries. Among those nations honored were the three Baltic states which joined the UN in September 1991. The date marked the 46th anniversary of the founding of the United Nations. ➡

The ceremony in the Ohio Statehouse Rotunda recognized 11 new and merged member nations admitted to the UN in 1990 and 1991. Honored were 1990 entrants Liechtenstein and Namibia and the newly-merged nations of Yemen and East and West Germany; 1991 entrants included Micronesia, the Marshall Islands, and North and South Korea. The warmest welcome of all was extended to the newly-freed Baltic states of Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia, who received special recognition and a standing ovation from the audience of over 100 in attendance.

Lithuania was represented in the ceremony by Dr. Irene Jasys, Algirdas Vasiliauskas, and Josepha Vasiliauskiene. Mrs. Jasys and Mrs. Vasiliauskiene wore Lithuanian national costume, and Mr. Vasiliauskas bore the Lithuanian tricolor.

August B. Pust, Special Assistant for Multicultural Affairs to Ohio Governor George Voinovich, conducted the flag processional. Pust announced plans under development by the Voinovich administration to develop closer economic ties between Ohio and the Baltic states.

"Along with diplomatic recognition, economic development is an absolute must," Pust said, "we are trying to arouse the interest of Ohio's business community in developing ties to the Baltic states."



News From Florida

by Sigita Ramanauskas

Regional Conference:

The Florida Region of the Lithuanian American Community, Inc., will be holding its annual conference during Easter weekend on the 25th of April (a Saturday) in 1992. The conference will be held in the Treasure Island Inn. There will be a meeting, luncheon, and banquet. All are invited - especially members from other states. Make your plans for the Easter holiday now, we hope to see you. For more information contact me, Sigita Ramanauskas, at 2922 Riverpoint Drive, Daytona Beach Shores, Florida 32118; or call, Tel: 904 761-4879; Fax: 904 788-5181.



We Want To Hear From You!

What are all of the other LAC Chapters, throughout the country doing? We know you're busy and productive; so share, please, with us, here, information on your activities. With such information sharing, we'll all learn from each other; and we'll stay "fresh" in our programs and efforts. Why not - if you don't already have such a person - appoint a **BRIDGES** liaison; who will send us information on your activities?

Transpak Offers New Services

✓ **CLOTHING:** new and used, shoes, food, medicine (prescription and non prescription) can be sent with no weight limit to your relatives and friends in Lithuania. **NO CUSTOMS DUTY.**

Outside Chicago your packages can be sent to us by mail or UPS.

✓ **FOOD PACKAGES:**

1. 55 LBS various foods: sugar, flour, rice, barley, meat, sprats, cheese, cooking oil, raisins, nuts, condensed milk, coffee, tea, spices, \$95-
2. HOLIDAY GIFT package: champagne, flowers, coffee, raisins, nuts, chocolate, sprats, meat or sausage, \$65-
3. 22 LBS: two different sausages, hunters sausage, smoked fillet, Canadian bacon, \$95-
4. 13 LBS: sausages, Canadian bacon, \$68-

✓ **MONEY TRANSFER:** hard currency transferred to your relatives or friends in Lithuania.

When corresponding with us, please include your telephone number; so that any of your questions can be answered immediately.

Transpak

Telephone: 312 436-7772 * Fax: 312 436-8581
Mail: 2638 West 69th Street, Chicago, Illinois 60629
Open daily from 9AM to 5PM; Saturdays until 2PM.

Statement of Ownership, Management and Circulation

BRIDGES: Lithuanian - American News Journal, is published 10 times per year. Its publisher and sole owner is the Lithuanian-American Community, Inc. The purpose, function, and non-profit status of this organization and the exempt status for Federal income tax purposes have not changed during the preceding 12 months. The editor is Joseph Arlauskas. The offices of editor, publisher and management are located at 2715 East Allegheny Avenue, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19134. In the preceding 12 months **BRIDGES** averaged a press run of 3,800. Total distribution, as follows: 3,600 copies, mail subscription; 40 copies, free distribution; 100 copies, bulk subscription (direct delivery); 60 copies, left over. None (0) were distributed to news agents; and none (0) were sold through dealers. Annual subscriptions is \$12.00, single copy - \$1.95. Second class postage paid at Auburn, Massachusetts.

Sister Cities International

(Editor's Note: A review of the latest issue (1991) of the Sister Cities International "Directory of Sister Cities, Counties and States by State and Country" reveals that only one affiliation between a Lithuanian and American city (Vilnius/Madison, Wisconsin) is in place. Yet, as will be shown below, from information furnished by the Sister Cities International organization, an affiliation could serve many positive purposes; not the least of which is bringing a positive awareness of Lithuania to Americans in communities throughout the United States. This information is furnished in the hope that groups throughout the United States will consider involving their local governmental bodies, with similar bodies in Lithuania, in this worthwhile program.)

What is it?

"The Sister Cities program offers an unequalled opportunity for people of all ages to experience and explore other cultures through long-term partnerships established at the local level. The program is built on a foundation of public and private collaboration in communities around the United States and focuses on international outreach, exchange and cooperation.

The city has long served as the nucleus of social, educational, cultural and economic development for civilization. Since the beginning of time, communities have drawn citizens together in mutual cause and purpose. At Sister Cities International, the goal has always been to harness that sense of mutual purpose to further the cause of peaceful and substantive urban partnerships on a global scale.

Experience has taught that when a community establishes a relationship with a community in another country an unlimited talent is unleashed. Issues of local, national and international scope are addressed. The program is committed to a process whereby values are examined, differences acknowledged, and experiences shared, all in an atmosphere of mutual respect and trust.

The mission of Sister Cities International is to develop, facilitate and serve the Sister City movement throughout the United States and to coordinate with similar national organization in other countries. By working with volunteer leadership from all sectors in local communities, the program strives to create a network of partnerships around the world which provide a resource unmatched in value. By stimulating creative possibilities within established, long-term frameworks, issues ranging from the technical to the human, from the environmental to the cultural and beyond may be examined. Dialogue can be opened and solutions sought.

Sister Cities International believes the very first step to a future which ensures global cooperation is the irreplaceable vital process of people meeting other people. Through Sister City partnerships, we can learn together, work together, live together and dream together. Through Sister Cities, the people of the world can reach out to grasp new challenges and to solve some of life's problems...together."

Some History

"The Sister Cities program is an important resource to the negotiations of governments in letting the people themselves give expression of their common desire for friendship, goodwill, and cooperation for a better world for all."

- President Dwight D. Eisenhower



Town affiliations between the United States and other countries began shortly after World War II, and soon became a national effort when President Dwight D. Eisenhower proposed the People-to-People program at a White House Conference in 1956. His idea was to involve people and organized groups at all levels of our society in personal diplomacy.

One of the groups formed as a result of the People-to-People concept was the Civic Committee, established to promote Sister City relations on a national scale. At the request of the Civic Committee, the National League of Cities, representing more than 15,000 cities, towns, and villages in the U.S., agreed to serve as a clearinghouse in expanding the Sister City concept among its members.

In the first few years of the program, a dozen active affiliations were started. In the early 1960's, the number of sister cities began to increase rapidly and it became clear that a new national organization devoted exclusively to the support of the Sister Cities program was needed.

In 1965, delegates to a Western Regional Sister City Conference in Portland, Oregon, unanimously supported the establishment of a national organization. The League of California Cities and the League of Oregon Cities adopted resolutions supporting the idea. The executive committee of the National League of Cities followed suit at its meeting late in 1965.

In response the Town Affiliation Association of the United States, Inc. was officially incorporated on June 12, 1967 as a non-profit corporation of the District of Columbia. The Association is defined in its articles of incorporation as a "membership organization to foster better international understanding and cooperation through Sister City relationships."

The Town Affiliation Association (IAA) is governed by a board of directors. Voting membership in the Association is held by cities, counties, states and state associations of municipalities, the National League of Cities, other units of local governments and local Sister City committees which pay annual dues and are responsible for carrying out an affiliation with a foreign community.

Sister Cities International (SCI) has evolved as the principal program of the Town Affiliation Association. Although the TAA title is still used on corporate documents, Sister Cities International is the name now widely used and recognized as descriptive of the U.S. Sister Cities concept.

SCI program development is handled by a professional staff with years of international experience and service. The Alexandria headquarters is directed by an executive vice president and sector directors responsible for specific program development. A network of state coordinators provide close contact and advice to local programs. They are available to assist any individual, organization or community wishing to join the program.

- All of the above is excerpted directly from the 1991 Directory.

○ ○ ○

For answers to questions, or for an information package, or other assistance, please contact: Sister Cities International, 120 South Payne Street, Alexandria, Virginia 22314; or call, 703 836-3535.

○ ○ ○

(Editor's Note: When I called for information, my query was answered quickly, courteously and promptly. Relevant materials - a complete package - were sent to me, free of charge, in just 3 days!)

○ ○ ○

IX Lithuanian Folk Dance Festival Update

(The following are excerpts from a recent Lithuanian language press briefing of Nov. 15th, held in Chicago at "Seklycia." Various members of the Folk Dance Festival Organizing Committee gave updates on the progress of registration and preparation for the upcoming festival, scheduled for July 5th, 1992.)

Theme:

The theme of the Festival will be "Celebration of Independence." The July 4th weekend holds special significance for Americans, since it is a celebration of independence won in 1776. For Lithuanian Americans and for all participants and spectators at the Folk Dance Festival, it will be a mass celebration of the recognition of Lithuania's independence by other countries of the world, a process which began in February 1918, was lost at the end of World War II, was re-declared March 1990 and was finally recognized by the world in September 1991.

Registered Groups:

Mrs. Dalia Dzikas, Artistic Director and Choreographer of the Folk Dance Festival, announced that to date 50 groups have registered to participate in the Festival, representing over 2000 dancers. It is interesting to note that approximately 40 of the groups will dance in the "student" portion of the program (considered to be the most lively and physically exhausting to dancers). Since only 28 groups can dance on the floor of the Rosemont Horizon at one time, some groups will have to share the quadrants (squares), and take turns dancing segments of the program. The remaining groups represent the children's, youth, and veteran dancer portions of the program.

Guests From Lithuania:

At this time, only one representative group has been invited from Lithuania, "Vetrungė" from Klaipėda. The festival is, and has always been a celebration for persons of Lithuanian descent who live outside of Lithuania. It is hoped that our brothers and sisters in Lithuania understand the significance of this gathering to us.

Music and Choir:

Darius Polikaitis, Musical Director for the Festival hopes to gather singers from the Chicagoland area to comprise a choir which would sing during portions of the Dance Festival, to provide a backdrop for the dances. He will recruit good singers from the many choir members who will be able to commit themselves to the frequent rehearsals. Darius also plans on putting together an orchestra comprised not only of modern day musical instruments, but also of traditional Lithuanian folk instruments. Some persons already play the "kankles", "birbynes", etc., but he also felt that musically talented persons should be able to learn in time to play at the Festival.

Miscellaneous:

Festival Location: Rosemont Horizon (located near O'Hare Airport); Date: July 5, 1992

Audience/Participation Potential: 14,000 capacity seating; 28 squares for simultaneously dancing groups

The Organizing Committee:

Almost every person in turn heads a sub-committee to help with tasks assigned:
 Dr. Petras Kisielius, President; Birute Jasaitis, Vice-president; Dalia Dzikas, Artistic Director/Choreographer; Jurate Budrys, Secretary; Darius Polikaitis, Musical Director; Kostas Dockus, Treasurer; Saulius Kuprys, Legal Affairs Advisor; Dr. Antanas Razma, Fund Raising; Danute Bindokas, Festival Publication Editor; Petras Aleksa, Artistic Director; Bronius Juodelis & Silvija Foti, Press Information; Petras Petrutis, Lithuanian language radio information; Dalia Dudzilas, Group registration; Gene Rimkus, Tickets; Marija Remys, Banquet; Lidija Rasutis, Youth Dance; Angele Karmis, Guests of honor welcoming committee; Violeta Fabionovich, Liaison with Rosemont Horizon; Regina Kucas, Liaison with participating Lithuanian language schools; Ale Kezelis, Liaison with Chicago city officials; Juozas Polikaitis, Organization of celebratory Mass; Nijole Pupius, Organization of function to honor all dancing group instructors; Rasa Poskocimas, Lithuanian Folk Dance Institute representative.

For dancing group registration and information: Mrs. Dalia Dzikas, 43 Mildred Road, West Hartford, Connecticut 06107.

- Ramune Kubilius

“ Bits & Pieces ”

Information which might be of interest to you; gathered from near and far; as well as provided by readers like you. We look forward to having you share information with us for future issues.

Interpreters Wanted:

The U.S. Department of State is seeking individuals interested in serving as free-lance Lithuanian interpreters. Promising applicants will be tested by the Department. Successful candidates would serve primarily as escort-interpreters for distinguished Lithuanian visitors invited to the United States under the International Visitors Program. The average of such travel assignments is thirty days. Applicants must be available on an on-call basis.

Applicants must have a strong command of Lithuanian and English, at least four years U.S. residence, working papers, and a college degree.

For more information you may call Erica Ginsberg at (202) 647-3493.

- *From Lithuanian Action Center [California] Newsletter, October 1991.*



A Valuable Sourcebook:

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce's Central and East European Trade and Technical Assistance Center has published a guide entitled DATAFILE: SOVIET UNION AND BALTIC STATES. Order directly from: U.S. Chamber of Commerce, Attention: Ingrid McKenzie, International Division, 1615 H Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20062. Cost is \$42.50 for Chamber members; and \$47.50 each for non-members.

CEETTAC -- the Central and East European Trade and Technical Assistance Center -- has been established with the objectives of assisting U.S. companies to gain access to markets in Central and Eastern Europe and, conversely, providing the necessary expert technical assistance to Central and Eastern Europe governments and other entities for the development of programs which will institute and sustain economic reform.

Country Datafile on the Soviet Union and the Baltic States -- This two-volume set includes over 200 pages of information, provides an analysis of the business climate and a brief summary "snapshot" of data on the U.S.S.R. and each of its 12 republics. A comprehensive directory lists government and non-government contacts, including U.S. companies with offices in Moscow, banks and marketing facilitators. Industry-specific contacts are

provided for some two-dozen sectors. A separate chapter provides the same information on Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania. The most current English-version texts of investment legislation and regulations are also included.

- *From information provided by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce.*



Balzekas Museum 25th Anniversary Art Exhibition:

On November 15th, the Balzekas Museum of Lithuanian Culture officially opened "THE LITHUANIAN ART CONNECTION: A 25th Anniversary Exhibition".

This landmark event was planned and organized by Balzekas Museum Executive Director Val Ramonis to coincide with the Museum's 25th Anniversary gala celebrations.

Thirteen artists are participating in this exhibition. Although they all are of Lithuanian descent, their personal backgrounds differ. Some have spent most of their lives in Lithuania. Others left Lithuania at the end of World War II to avoid Soviet occupation and repression, and have since resided in the West. Some were born outside of Lithuania. Many live in the Chicago area, others in nearby states. Their styles and techniques also differ, ranging from the traditional to the non-representational.

The main thing that unites these artists to the Balzekas Museum and to each other -- apart from their Lithuanian background -- is that at one time or another during the past 25 years, they all had one-person exhibits at the Museum. "THE LITHUANIAN ART CONNECTION" gives these artists not only the opportunity to exhibit at the Museum again, but also to compare each other's progress in the art community.

The following artists are participating in the exhibition: Nyole Banys, Romas Dalinkevicius, Jone Karuza, Antanas Lipskis, Jadvyga Paukstiene, Zita Sodeika, Magdalena Stankunas, Mary Strasevicius, Ada Sutkus, Jonas Tricys, Gintare Uogintaite, Ed Walaitis and Giedre Zumbakis. ➡

The exhibition will run through December 31. Exhibition hours: seven days a week 10 AM to 4 PM. Admission is by donation, which also includes a visit to the Museum. For additional information, call Val Ramonis, the exhibition's curator at 312/582-6500.

- From a news release.



Register, Now:

"Your Help Is Needed -

All of a sudden Lithuania is again a politically independent country. Now she is undergoing the difficult process of economic reconstruction and development. At this stage Lithuania is in great need of obtaining knowledge of what to do and how to do it better. Lithuania can best be helped by those who have empathy with her situation, particularly the Lithuanians living abroad.

Dr. James Yackel, the Chancellor of Purdue University Calumet, understands this and wishes to help Lithuania by creating a list of Lithuanian specialists in business, economics and public administration who would like to assist Lithuania by sharing their expertise with her. These people would be invited to participate in specific projects in Lithuania.

If you are experienced in business, economics, or public administration, and would like to participate in practical assistance projects in Lithuania, please write or call: Dr. Feliksas Palubinskas, Head, Management Department, Purdue University Calumet, Hammond, Indiana 46323; or call, Telephone (219) 989-2607 or (219) 989-2388"

- From a news release.



Special Mail Service:

"November Surprise" from the U.S. Postal Service:

Good news for all of those who will be mailing letters and packages to Lithuania for the Christmas holidays. The U.S. Postal Service announced in late October that all airmail for the Baltic States is no longer being routed to Moscow for handling and transshipment via the Soviet postal system. Instead, mail for the Baltic States is either being flown directly to Tallinn, Riga and Vilnius; or routed via a Western European transfer point such as Copenhagen or Helsinki. If a mail shipment is forced to go through Moscow because of flight availability, only a "ramp transfer" occurs (i.e. the mail is not sorted in Moscow).

As for surface mail, it is already forwarded in separate containers designated for the Baltic States (i.e. it also is pre-sorted); and the U.S. Postal Service will begin routing surface mail containers for the Baltics through Helsinki by the end of November. In other words, the risk that the Soviet Union will "play games"

with your letters and packages is greatly diminished if not eliminated.

Now, more good news. On November 1, 1991 the U.S. Postal Service began accepting packages for mailing to individuals or families in the Baltic States at a reduced "humanitarian airlift rate" through March 31, 1992. Normally, there are only two postal rates - one for surface with an average delivery time of two months and another for airmail with an average delivery time of ten days. For the next five months, you will be able to mail packages to individuals and families at a savings of about 50 percent over regular airmail rates. The average delivery time will be 2-3 weeks and the packages may not exceed 22 pounds.

As an example, a ten-pound parcel mailed at surface rate to the Baltic States costs \$23.35; the airmail rate for that same parcel is \$70.30. The new "airlift rate" for that ten-pound parcel will be \$33.35.

The instructions are as follows: Parcels mailed at the "airlift rate" may not exceed 22 pounds. They must be addressed to specific individuals or families. The destination - Estonia, Latvia or Lithuania - must appear in English as the last line of the address; and the parcel must bear the words "HUMANITARIAN AIRLIFT" in bold red-colored letters. This humanitarian airlift service to the Baltic States will continue through March 31, 1992.

- From Ms. Asta Banionis, Government Affairs Office, Lithuanian American Community, Inc.



Investment Protection:

If you are a businessperson considering making an investment in Lithuania:

You may now qualify for investment insurance through the Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC). OPIC has also introduced a Central & Eastern European Growth Fund and an Environmental Investment Fund which can provide some financing for your project. There is a cap, however, on money available for a given fiscal year, so apply early. Call the LAC, Inc., Government Affairs Office at Telephone: 703 524-0698, for more information.

- From Ms. Asta Banionis, GAO, LAC, Inc.



Offer Your Talents . . . :

...to help Lithuania. If you are a retired executive, you may want to consider joining the International Executive Service Corps. If you meet their requirements, you can be sent at their expense to Lithuania for up to six weeks to improve the management and business skills of local entrepreneurs and firms. You may contact the IESC, directly, by ➡

writing to Post Office Box 10005, Stamford, Connecticut 06904-2005; or by calling telephone: 203 967-6000.

- From Ms. Asta Banionis, GAO, LAC, Inc.



Legislative/Foreign Aid Update:

Two important proposals of vital interest to Lithuania are pending in the Congress (and if they don't get adopted before the end of November, will be considered in February, 1992). They are a resolution calling for the removal of all Soviet troops and a new MFN (Most Favored Nation) bill which also provides tariff breaks for the Baltic States. Readers are urged to call their Congressman and Senators and have them make a commitment to cosponsor the following bills:

(For the House of Representatives - if you don't have your Congressman's direct telephone number - call: 202 224-3121.)

1. H. Res. 234; which calls for the removal of all Soviet troops from the Baltic States; sponsored by Congressman Ron Packard (R-CA); and which already has 60 co-sponsors. It needs 218 to get out of Fascell's/Hamilton's committees. Chances are your member hasn't signed on yet.

2. H.R. 3313; which grants MFN status as well as special tariff reductions to the Baltic States; sponsored by Congressman Sam Gibbons (D-FL); and which has been passed by Gibbon's subcommittee, but is being held "hostage" by Congressman Rostenkowski, Chairman, Ways & Means Committee. We encourage readers to have their own Congressman sign up as a co-sponsor and also call Chairman Rostenkowski's Ways & Means Committee and urge the chairman to allow a vote on H.R. 3313.

(For the Senate - if you don't have your two Senators' direct telephone numbers - call: 202 224-3121.)

1. S. Res. 234; which calls for the removal of all Soviet troops from the Baltic States; and is sponsored by Senator Orin Hatch (R-UT). It has 10 co-sponsors. It needs 51 co-sponsors to get Senators' Pell and Biden to bring it to the Senate floor for a vote.

2. S.Res. 1833; which grants MFN status as well as special tariff reductions to the Baltic States; and is sponsored by Senator Larry Pressler (R-SD). It presently has 11 co-sponsors. Again, it needs 51 co-sponsors to get Senator Bentsen to pass it out of the Senate Finance Committee and bring it to the floor for a vote.

On another, related note: The Executive Branch of government has moved quickly to distribute \$11 million to private contractors and government agencies to administer and provide technical advice to Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia. This \$11 million is part of the \$14 million in unspent fiscal year 1991 foreign aid funds

that were "re-programmed" during September, 1991 for use in the Baltic States under the Support for Eastern European Democracies program.

Here are some examples of how the money is being spent:

\$2.5 million has been given to the U.S. Information Agency, Democratic Institute for International Affairs and the National Republican Institute for International Affairs to support the strengthening of democratic institutions.

\$1.0 million will be used by the U.S. Treasury Department to create three technical training assistance programs in banking, tax policy and financial system reform.

The firm of Peat Marwick has been given a contract to provide technical assistance to the government of Lithuania on privatization strategies.

\$949,000 has been given to the International Executive Service Corps to furnish management and technical experts to private businesses in the Baltic States.

\$1.05 million will be shared by Agricultural Cooperative Development International and Volunteers in Overseas Cooperative Assistance to increase efficiency and productivity in the agricultural sector of the Baltic States.

All this funding can be only a beginning. The foreign aid money for fiscal year 1992 is not yet appropriated; in an unusual agreement with the White House, the Congress will delay funding 1992 foreign aid programs until February, 1992. Therefore, many of these programs may die in the planning stages if we don't remind Congress to provide adequate funding for aid to Eastern Europe in the CONTINUING RESOLUTION (C.R.) which will provide temporary funding for foreign aid until the appropriations bill can be passed in February or March, 1992 (five months into the fiscal year). Please do so when you call your Congressman and Senators.

- From Ms. Asta Banionis, GAO, LAC, Inc.



A New Book:

...Baltic States vs. The Russian Empire: 1000 Years of Struggle for Freedom, by Val Ramonis, is, "...an easy to read book which describes one thousand years of political, military, social and cultural relations between the Russian Empire and the three Baltic States of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania. The book gives special emphasis to the Baltic countries' efforts to regain their independence during the past three years, culminating in their recognition by the world community. It is profusely illustrated with maps, drawings, engravings and photographs -- many never seen in print before. It is probably the first book ever published that describes the Kremlin coup d'etat and the diplomatic

Blp (LVA) 1195
1991, N. 9

recognition of Baltic independence." Published by Baltech Publishing. It can be purchased at places where Lithuanian books are sold or ordered directly from Heritage Guild, P.O. Box 225, Lemont, Illinois 60439. The price is \$5.00. If ordered by mail, \$2.00 for shipping and handling have to be added.

- From a news release.



Position Available:

The University of Illinois at Chicago has an endowed chair in Lithuanian Studies, which was established by the World Lithuanian Community. Its present professor, Bronius Vaskelis, will retire in the summer of 1992 and plans on going to Lithuania to teach at Vytautas Magnus University in Kaunas, Lithuania. A search committee for Dr. Vaskelis' replacement has been established, consisting of 5 persons appointed by the University, and 2 delegated by the World Lithuanian Community. The professor teaches graduate level and research courses in Lithuanian studies, while undergraduate courses are taught by other instructors.

- Ramune Kubilius; from an item in *Draugas*, 11/14/91



Research Collaboration Opportunities:

The National Institute of Health is seeking to alert scientists from the Soviet republics and the Baltic states to scientific research collaboration opportunities available to them. For example, the efforts of the Fogarty International Center, the international arm of NTH, include a new program of Fogarty International Research Collaboration Awards (FIRCA). Intended to stimulate U.S. collaboration with foreign scientists, FIRCA will be awarded for the first time in 1992 for up to three years for materials, supplies, and equipment for the foreign scientists' research laboratories and for travel expenses for foreign and U.S. scientists to each other's facilities.

Information on FIRCA as well as other Fogarty Center programs is available from Office of Planning, Evaluation & Public Affairs, Fogarty International Center, Bldg. 31, Room B2CO8, National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, Md. 20892. Telephone (301) 496-1491; Fax (301) 402-0779.

- Sigita Ramanauskas; from an item in *Chemical and Engineering News*, 10/7/91.



Photography Exhibit:

Recent visitors to the Ackland Art Museum, located in Chapel Hill, North Carolina, got a rare, most interesting view of an exhibit which featured many

recent Lithuanian photographs. known for their lively and emotional photography. The exhibit included displays by artist Vitaly Butyrin. His picture "Legend", which features a woman's face blended into a tree trunk, uses unique photographic effects to produce a fantastic mythological feeling in the viewer. Part of the exhibit included series like Sonta's "Lithuanian Folk Artists" and Pozerskis' "Lithuanian Old Cities." Ackland Art Museum, Chapel Hill, North Carolina. Tel: (919) 966-5736.

- Victor Boris; from an article in *Omnibus - The Daily Tar Heel Weekend Magazine*, 10/3/91



Lithuanian Companies:

The following is text from a series of ads which ran in a special "Baltics" advertising supplement in *The New York Times*, on October 28, 1991. We thought it might be of interest (although we know nothing - good or bad - about any of these firms):

Lithuanian Airlines - The largest national transporter in the Lithuanian Republic. Lithuanian Airlines is a company with great experience working not only in Lithuania, but in the Soviet Union as well. From Vilnius, Lithuanian Airlines offers convenient connections to the major Soviet cities. For further information please contact our offices: Lithuanian Airlines, 2023 Vilnius, 8, Radunes Road, Tel: (011-7-0122) 630116/(011-7-0122) 638717, Telex: 261165 VILJA SU (sic!)

Balticon - That will be Your first Successful step to Lithuania. Business school, Publishing Activities, Marketing, and Relaxation Industry. For more information contact our office in Vilnius: Balticon, 31 Shevtchenko str., Tel: (011-7-0122) 263363/ (011-7-0122) 230218

LITEXPO - The Lithuanian Exhibition Centre is the main organizer of Exhibitions and Fairs in Republic and abroad. Welcome to the International Exhibitions of 1992: "Agro Balt" April 7-14, "CE Balt" September 22-26, "Baltic Textile" October 6-10, "Hunter and Nature" November 4-11. LITEXPO, 5 Laives Ave. 232600, Vilnius, Lithuania, Tel: (011-7-0122) 454500, Telex: 261186 EXPO SU (sic!), Fax: (011-7-0122) 454511

Airlines "Lietuva" For you..., Airlines "Lietuva", 3010 Kaunas, 132, Veiveriu str., Tel: (011-7-0127) 202881/ (011-7-0127) 291770, Fax: (011-7-0127) 226030

60302*3 12/31/99
SOPHIE BARCUS RADIO
408 S. OAK PARK AV. #505
OAK PARK, IL 60302

(Pl)

S-