

BRIDGES

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In This Issue

- | | |
|---|---|
| 3 <i>Conference on Aid to Lithuania</i> | 14 <i>Exhibit on Siberia at the Lithuanian Museum</i> |
| 7 <i>U.S. Assistance Programs to Lithuania</i> | 15 <i>Activities in Illinois</i> |
| 9 <i>Humanitarian Aid Conference - Another View</i> | 16 <i>News From the Public Affairs Office</i> |
| 10 <i>Prime Minister Abisala in America</i> | 16 <i>The ALYA</i> |
| 12 <i>A New Lithuanian Dictionary</i> | 17 <i>List of Lithuanian Information Sources</i> |
| 13 <i>A New Book About Lithuania</i> | 18 <i>From the Lithuanian Press...</i> |
| 14 <i>USIA Grant for Eastern Europe</i> | 23 <i>Educational Council News</i> |



Over 70 persons participated at the Lithuanian Embassy and the Lithuanian American Community, Inc. conference on how to make the flow of humanitarian aid more effective. Held in Washington D.C., the two day conference was attended by the representatives of twenty-five organizations currently aiding Lithuania. In the picture are some of the conference participants. Front row, left to right: S. Algimantas Gecys, LAC Public Affairs Council Chairman; Maria Rudys, national president, United Lithuanian Relief Fund of America; Birute Jasaitis, LAC Human Affairs Council chairperson; Bishop Hansas Dumpys, Lithuanian Evangelical Lutheran Church in Diaspora; Danute Harmon; Linas Kucinskas, recently appointed General Consul of Lithuania in New York City. Second Row: left to right, Vincent Boris, chairman, Knights of Lithuania, Lithuanian Affairs Committee.

Photo: B. Cikotas

To our readers:

Yes, we're late again! But, things are looking up for the future. The layout of this issue was accomplished by Mr. Kazys Razgaitis; and, hopefully, he will consent to the layout of future issues, as well. With Mr. Razgaitis' competent, most welcome assistance, we should be able to get future issues out to you on a far more timely basis.

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This issue contains two separate reports on a recent conference in Washington, DC. That conference brought together many groups which have been providing assistance to Lithuania. We decided to run both reports on this conference; because each one gives a different perspective - and, thus, they complement each other.

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Ms. Asta Banionis, Director of the Lithuanian American Community, Inc. Public Affairs Office (which is based in the Washington, DC area), recently flew down to Little Rock, Arkansas; in order to meet with President Elect Clinton's Transition Team. We'll have a report of that meeting in our next issue. (And we'll print, as well, the "Position Paper" presented by Ms. Banionis, to Governor Clinton's representatives.)

There exists, as we all know, a considerable amount of uncertainty regarding the new President's position on/plans for relations with/assistance to Lithuania. Of course, many of us, as well, are pretty well convinced that things "hit bottom" during the current Presidency - even though we've seen, in recent months, some positive steps.

With the current situation in Lithuania as it is, we need to continue to be diligent in ensuring that our government provides necessary assistance to Lithuania (not just financial assistance - there are many, many important ways our government can be assisting Lithuania without spending even a "dime" of U.S. taxpayers' money!).

It will be up to us to keep Lithuania in focus for the new Administration; as well as for all of the newly elected Senators and Representatives.

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Have you seen/read them? Negative stories about Lithuania in the U.S. press. Unfounded - untrue - stories which attack Lithuania either directly or by innuendo.

We need to continue to make sure that we respond to the publications that are printing such stories. Let's tell the editors of the guilty publications, in detail, that they need to get their facts together; and that readers don't appreciate the publication of such "garbage". We

can speculate, "all day long", as to who is behind these stories/as to why they are appearing; but let's not allow them to appear unchallenged!



Joseph Arlauskas, Editor

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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.

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Conference On Organizing Effective Aid To Lithuania

by Rimantas A. Stirbys,
VP for Information Resources
National Executive Committee (NEC)
Lithuanian American Community, Inc. (LAC)

During the weekend of November 7-8 of this year, a special conference was held in Washington, DC to discuss humanitarian and other aid to Lithuania. Nearly ninety leaders and representatives of organizations dedicated to aiding Lithuania's restoration attended, some as panel speakers or moderators. The focus of the two-day session was to increase the effectiveness of aid to Lithuania by discussing and sometimes dissecting current or past programs, analyzing successes and failures, and exploring new avenues of cooperation. The conference was jointly sponsored by the Lithuanian Embassy and the Lithuanian-American Community, Inc., and organized by the Human Services and Public Affairs Councils of the LAC's National Executive Committee. The groundwork and detailed planning was carried out by the Director of the NEC's Public Affairs Office in Washington.

This article will provide no more than an overview of the conference and its participants, as well as some brief highlights. Transcripts of panel discussions and reprints of some of the presentations will be provided in future issues, together with information on contacting the respective organizations should you, the reader, feel that you have something to contribute to their efforts.

The conference was opened with an invocation by Bishop Hansas Dumpys of Chicago, spiritual leader of Lithuanian-American Evangelical Lutherans. A greeting was extended by Lithuania's Ambassador to the United States, Stasys Lozoraitis, and opening remarks made by Birute Jasaitis and S. Algimantas Gecys, respective Directors of the NEC's Human Services and Public Affairs Councils.

There were ten sessions in all, beginning with "US Government Assistance to Lithuania." Participants in this panel were Stuart Swanson, Staff Assistant to the Deputy Secretary, Office of East European Assistance at the State Department; Karen Brown, Desk Officer for Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania at the US Agency for International Development (USAID); and Susan Robinson, Country Affairs Officer for Poland, Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania at the US Information Agency (USIA). The US Government section of the conference was included not only to inform participants of existing government programs, but in the hopes of inciting increased Lithuanian-American participation in those or future programs.

The rhetorical questions thus posed is: "Why should the US Government provide financial support only for non-Lithuanian organizations (excluding such singular successes as the US-Baltic Foundation, but otherwise including those businesses acting for profit), while Lithuanian-American groups have been successfully performing some of the same functions while scrambling for every dime they can get their hands on merely to survive?" The burden of answering this question



At the closing of the conference on humanitarian aid to Lithuania, Vytas Maciunas, president of the National Executive Committee of the Lithuanian American Community, Inc., speaks about the need to coordinate efforts of the donor organizations and to strengthen the flow of aid to Lithuania. Left to right: S. Algimantas Gecys, chairman, Public Affairs Council, LAC; Stasys Lozoraitis, Lithuania's ambassador to the U.S.; Vytas Maciunas; Vaiva Vebraite-Gust, general director A.P.P.L.E.; Alfred Jakniunas, biomedic, Howard University Hospital; Linas Kojelis, president, U.S. Baltic Foundation, Inc. Photo: B. Cikotas

rests in large measure on the Lithuanian-American organizations themselves, which, like the USBF has done, must step up their organizational resources so as to meet statutory and financial requirements and be able to demonstrate, through documentation, their methods and achievements. (The sidebar on existing US aid programs offers some insight on how much aid has been distributed and to who, and how much money is at stake.)

During the panel session, Mr. Stuart Swanson of the State Department discussed how various aspects of the SEED Act (Support for Eastern European Democracies) affected the Baltic States and explained that SEED-supported programs were demand driven: money is spent on the basis of need as well as the success of the program in the country. He also discussed the Baltic Enterprise Fund, an investment bank which will provide \$45-60 million to stimulate private enterprise in Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia in 1993.

Ms Karen Brown, from USAID, discussed US assistance priorities in Lithuania: a focus on privatizing the manufacturing sector, energy conservation, and the safety of the Ignalina nuclear plant. She indicated an appreciation that the energy crisis has become an ever greater priority for the Government of Lithuania, and added that financial sector reforms and agriculture were also a major part of US assistance efforts. According to Ms Brown, total US assistance to Lithuania was \$29 million as of July 30, 1992, with food aid accounting for \$21 million, or nearly three-quarters of that total.

Ms Susan Robinson pointed out that USIA officials act as press counselors and public and cultural affairs officers in their foreign assignments. USIA assisted in setting up a computer link between the Lithuanian Ministry of Justice, the Vilnius College of Law and the Chief Procurator's office, and that a USIA library will open in Vilnius in March of 1993. Ms Robinson also discussed some of the other programs USIA administers, such as the Fulbright scholarships, Benjamin Franklin fellowships, the Samantha Smith Memorial Exchange Program, and other academic and professional exchanges. She also touched on other USIA programs such as Citizen Exchanges, Books for Democracy and USIA English Teaching.

(Editor's Note: Jurate Krokys, the wife of the author of this article, is currently in Lithuania on a Fulbright Scholarship for the current academic year, assisting in the development of special education programs and the training of special education teachers in Lithuania.)

The next session was entitled "Aid to Lithuania from Major Lithuanian-American Organizations." Featured speakers were Marija Rudys, Chairwoman of the Executive Board of the United Lithuanian Relief Fund of America (BALFAS), Bishop Hansas Dumpys, Julija Saulys, Chairwoman of the

Executive Board of CARITAS, and Ruta Virkutis, Director for Lithuanian-Catholic Religious Aid. Birute Jasaitis, Director of the NEC's Human Services Council, moderated.

Next came remarks from Lithuanian Embassy personnel on "Activities of the Lithuanian Embassy as Intermediary in Organizing Humanitarian Aid to Lithuania." These remarks



Attendees of the Humanitarian Aid to Lithuania conference held at the Washington Marriott Nov. 7-8. On the right is the new consul of Lithuania, Linas Kucinskas, who is posted in New York City.
Photo: R. Kubilius

were delivered by Danele Vidutis, Assistant for Educational and Cultural Affairs, and Angele Bailey, of the Embassy staff. Asta Banionis, Director of the LAC Public Affairs Council's Washington office offered insights into "How Other Ethnic Groups Render Aid to their Native Countries."

The luncheon break featured a speech by Dr. Antanas Razma, liaison between the Lithuanian Foundation and the Lithuanian government. Dr. Razma's speech covered the distribution of the "Million Dollar Fund" to various Lithuanian aid recipients.

The afternoon session began with a panel on "Aid for the Upbringing, Education and Individual Development of Lithuanian Youth." Panelists included Emilia Sakadolskis, a director of the American Professional Partnership for Lithuanian Education (A.P.P.L.E.); Regina Kucas, Director of the NEC's Lithuanian Education Council; Sister Igne Marijosius, General Secretary of Lithuanian Catholic Spiritual Leadership; Dr. Albina Prunskis, Chairwoman of the Lithuanian Orphans' Fund; Dana Baltutis, a speech and language pathologist who has served as a special education assistant to the Lithuanian Ministry of Education and Culture, and who is now studying in Pennsylvania; and Rimas Jakas, an A.P.P.L.E. member and representative of the Lithuanian Society of Families of Individuals with Mental Handicaps (Viltis) who also spoke of how the Philadelphia Lithuanian community had "adopted," through the donation of materials and supplies, the University Children's

Mental Health Center, run by Dr. Dainius Puras in Vilnius. The moderator was Viligaile Lendraitis, from Lithuanian Mercy Lift (LML).

The following session was devoted to "Academic and Educational Aid to Lithuania." Included in this panel were Dr. Jonas Rackauskas, President of the Lithuanian Research and Studies Center; Dr. Petras Kaufmanas, a scientist with the US National Health Institute; and Dr. Rimas Vaicaitis, a member of the administrative Senate of Vytautas Magnus University in Kaunas. This panel was moderated by Dr. Vitolis Vengris, NEC Vice-President for Academic Affairs.

After academics came a session on "Rendering Medical Aid to Lithuania Using US Institutions and the Participatory Service of their Employees." Featured speakers were Daiva Veitas-Neidhardt, Chairwoman of the Lithuanian Children's Relief, Inc.; Jeanne Dorr, liaison between the Philadelphia Chapter of the LAC and the Deborah Foundation; and Jurate Peciurys, Univ. of Michigan Coordinator for the American Lithuanian Disability and Rehabilitation Exchange Program. Dr. Regina Kulys, Director for the Lithuanian Society of Families with Mentally Handicapped Children, (Lietuvos Vaiku Viltis), participated and acted as moderator.



Conference on Humanitarian aid to Lithuania. From left: A.D.A.L. president Dr. L. Ragas; US-Baltic Foundation member Dr. J. Laukaitis; Washington D.C. Lithuanian-American Community chapter president V. Butrimas, and LAC president V. Maciunas

Photo: R. Kubilius

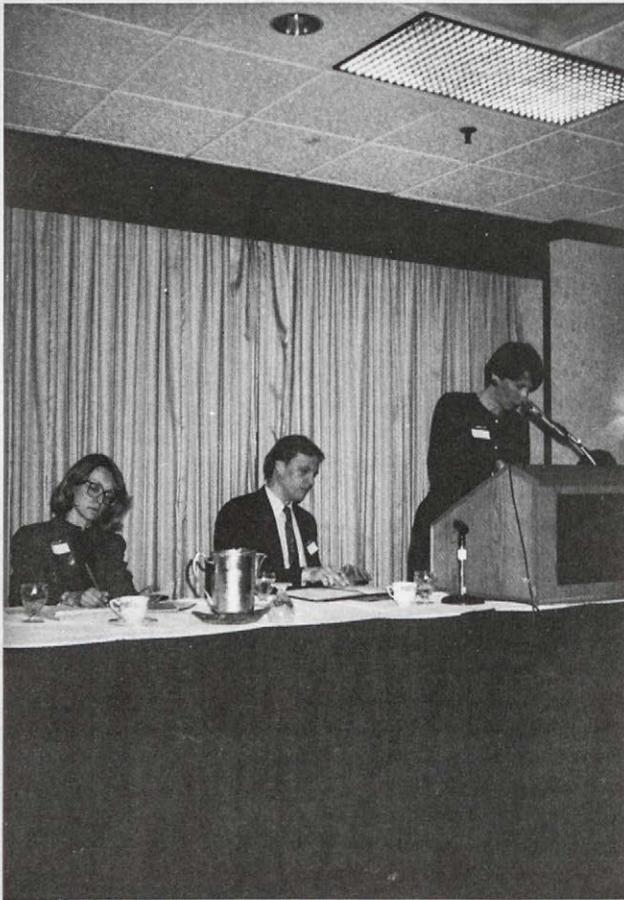
Saturday's program ended with a reception at the Lithuanian Embassy for all participants, but began again in earnest Sunday with a discussion of "Medical Education and Practices, and the Production of Medicines and Drugs in Lithuania." This panel featured Dr. Juozas Laukaitis, Co-chairman of the Medical Section of the US-Baltic Foundation; Dr. Leonidas Ragas, President of American Dental Assistance to Lithuania; Dr. Angele Dirkis, Vice-president of the Lithuanian American Pharmacists Association; Jurgis Lendraitis, Vice-president of Lithuanian Mercy Lift (LML); Alfredas Jakniunas, a biomedical expert from Howard University Hospital; and Rimas Gulbinas, a member of Lithuanian Mercy Lift and Vice-president of CSX Intermodal Transport. The moderator was Dr. Petras Kisielius, Vice-president of the World Lithuanian Community.

Next came some specialized presentations by Dr. Kazys Almenas, a professor at the University of Maryland, who discussed safety features and programs at the Ignalina Nuclear Power Plant; Dr. Stasys Backaitis, an official with the US Department of Transportation who discussed developments in the transportation sector in Lithuania; and Jonas Kronkaitis, a retired American military intelligence officer who



Karen Brown, Susan Robinson and Stuart Swanson outline projects and grants of the U.S. government which provide humanitarian aid to Eastern Europe, the Baltic Region, and Lithuania in particular.

Photo: R. Kubilius



Aid to Lithuania. Educational aid, examples of other ethnic groups. From Left: LAC Government Affairs Office Director, Asta Banionis, Viktoras Nakas of the Lithuanian Embassy who served as moderator, Daniele Vidutis of the Lithuanian Embassy.
Photo: R. Kubilius

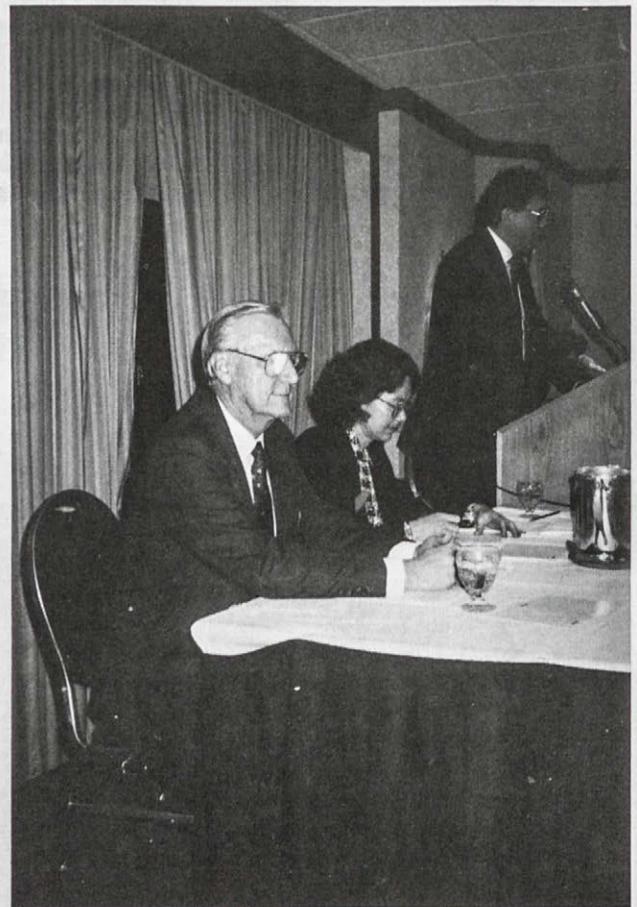
gave an overview of defense and security requirements and potential in Lithuania.

The following session provided additional specialized topics, including Linas Kojelis, President of the US Baltic Foundation, whose organization has been involved with fostering the efficient administration of municipal governments in Lithuania; Felicija Giedrys-Kolp, an official with the US Library of Congress who has been involved in implementing programs of the Frost Task Force (named after its initiator and chief sponsor, Cong. Martin Frost of Texas, officially the Development of Parliamentary Institutions in Eastern Europe Program, which has the goal of helping build strong institutions which can function independently in a multi-party democratic environment); and Regina Narusis, Esq., Executive Vice-president of the LAC National Executive Committee and a director of the Lithuanian-American Bar Association (LABAS). Mrs. Narusis also acted as moderator.

The final session was devoted to the central concept of the conference: "Organizing Effective Aid to Lithuania through Better Planning, Coordinated Development, and Closer Communication." This panel, moderated by the Lithuanian Ambassador Stasys Lozoraitis, included Vaiva Vebra-Gust, Executive Director of A.P.P.L.E., Linas Kojelis (USBF), Jurgis

Lendraitis (LML), Alfredas Jakniunas (Howard Univ.), S. Algimantas Gecys (LAC), and Dr. Vitolis Vengris (LAC). Key themes from earlier sessions were again brought up, as was the need to work through existing organizations with proven track records. The Lithuanian Embassy and the Lithuanian-American Community, Inc. pledged to follow-up on the conferences successes and to initiate specific projects to help each group with planning and coordinating their activities and keeping lines of communication open among the many groups represented. Two items already under development are a comprehensive directory of aid-giving Lithuanian-American organizations, and a survey of those organizations to quantify the amounts and types of aid already delivered to Lithuania.

The directory will be of use not only to Lithuanian-Americans already involved in those efforts, but to others interested in joining as well. More importantly, the directory will be useful to American and international aid-giving institutions and funding agencies searching for an appropriate conduit for their respective assistance. The survey, to be conducted jointly by the LAC, Inc. and the Lithuanian Research and Studies Center, will provide invaluable documentation of the amounts of private aid already being supplied to Lithuania in instances where government or other non-



Aid to Lithuania. From left, Colonel John Kronkaitis of the Baltic Institute, Felicija Kolp of the Library of Congress' Congressional Research Service, and Linas Kojelis, founder of the US-Baltic Foundation.
Photo: R. Kubilius

Lithuanian sources require such proof before contributing their own share.

The conference ended with a summation by Lithuanian American Community National Executive Committee President Vytas Maciunas, who pledged that the LAC, Inc. would continue to pursue the conference's goal of increasing the effectiveness of aid-giving to Lithuania. Perhaps just as important as the implication presented for future cooperation was the shot-in-the-arm administered to many individuals who have struggled for their causes for years or even decades. They found reinforcement for their own personal sacrifices, saw evidence of how their contributions fit into a whole, and saw how the key themes of the conference — planning, coordination, and communication — could not only ease their efforts but increase their output. "Networking" is a term embraced in professional circles in America. It may not yet have a commonly accepted Lithuanian translation, but it was certainly in evidence during the Washington Conference on Organizing Effective Aid to Lithuania.



Conference on humanitarian aid to Lithuania. Lithuanian Ambassador to the U.S., Stasys Lozoraitis chairs a session.

Photo: R. Kubilius

US ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS TO LITHUANIA

US assistance programs to Lithuania are organized according to three priorities: Economic Restructuring, Quality of Life, and Democratic Institution Building. A brief summary of 1992 programs is shown below.

ECONOMIC RESTRUCTURING

- A \$1.1 million contract between the US Agency for International Development (USAID) and KPMG Peat Marwick to privatize five state textile enterprises;
- The International Executive Service Corps., with a \$325,000 grant and an office in Vilnius to develop a Lithuanian-American business and banking sector program to assist nine enterprises and three Lithuanian Ministries;
- An interagency agreement with USAID for short-term technical assistance from the US Department of Treasury in areas of tax policy, budgeting and banker training, plus a long-term advisor to help set up a two-tier banking system;
- An interagency agreement with Treasury and the US Customs Service to assist Lithuanian government officials in establishing an effective customs operation;
- A \$720,000 grant to the American Business Initiative, jointly administered with USAID and the Trade Development Program to finance feasibility studies for the Mazeikiai Oil Refinery and an offshore oil terminal in Klaipeda;
- A \$692,000 USAID grant to the American Bar Association for advisory services to the Lithuanian Ministry of Justice, plus a short-term advisor to the Ministry of International Economic Relations;
- A USAID grant of \$217,000 to the Volunteers in Overseas Cooperative Assistance (VOCA) to assist in privatizing agricultural cooperatives, with a VOCA office and full-time director in Lithuania;
- Agricultural assistance valued at \$300,000 from the Agricultural Cooperatives Development International, to help private farmers, agricultural credit agencies and extension services;
- A \$567,000 program administered by the US Information Agency (USIA) for a management training and economics education program, with assistance provided by Purdue University to Kaunas University of Technology, Vytautas Magnus University, and the Lithuanian Academy of Agriculture;
- A \$600,000 contract with Resource Management Associates to demonstrate potential energy savings at industrial facilities in Lithuania, including energy audits and metering equipment;
- A \$217,000 program involving the US Energy Association to expand energy efficiency activities and cooperation with international efforts to improve nuclear safety in Lithuania.

QUALITY OF LIFE

- 100,000 metric tons of feed grain provided by the US Department of Agriculture, valued at approximately \$11 million, plus \$10 million in future agricultural credits;
- \$500,000 provided to Project Hope by USAID under the Emergency Medical Assistance Program to supply pharmaceutical and medical supplies to Lithuania;
- A cooperative effort with USAID, the World Bank, and officials of all three Baltic Republics to prepare national environmental action plans;
- Over \$300,000 in technical assistance provided by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the Harvard Institute for International Development and the World Environment Center to develop various environmental projects;
- An EPA team working with the Lithuanian Environmental Protection Department and Vilnius University to monitor progress in environmental monitoring;

DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTION BUILDING

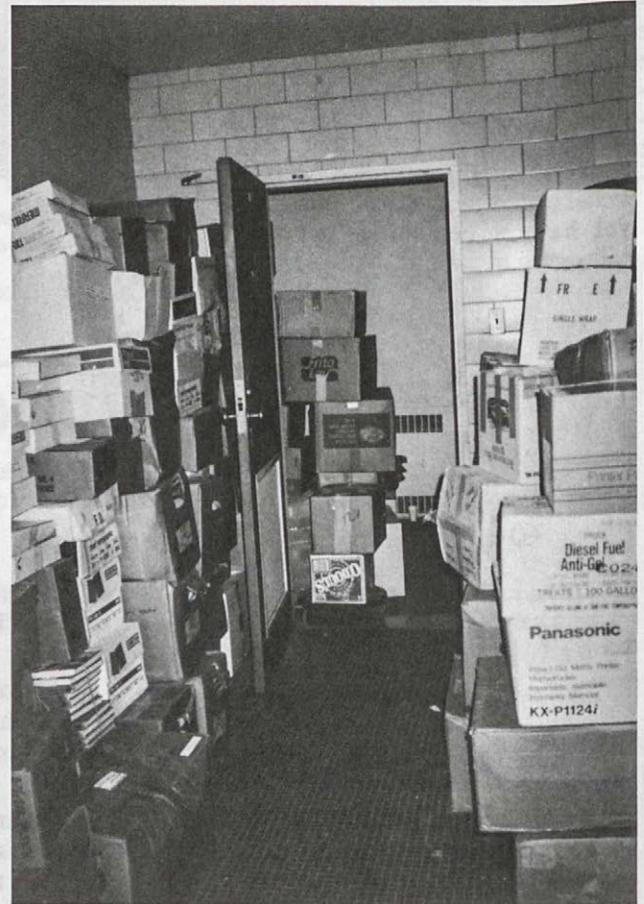
- A \$266,000 program for USAID and USIA to help in areas of public administration and local government management, and constitutional and civil law reform involving Iowa State University and the US Baltic Foundation;
- \$120,000 from the rule of law program to give Lithuanian judges, administrators, prosecutors and attorneys experience with the American legal system;
- \$200,000 from the National Democratic Institute and the International Republic Institute to enhance the organizational capability and effectiveness of political parties in Lithuania and to strengthen the parliament as a democratic, decision-making institution;
- \$170,000 for USIA's English Language Teaching Program for local English teachers, including books and materials;
- \$1 million will be provided the Development of Parliamentary Institutions in Eastern Europe Program (Frost Task Force, named after its initiator and chief sponsor, Cong. Martin Frost of Texas) to help build strong institutions which can function independently in a multi-party democratic environment;
- \$9,000 to the Peace Corps for technical assistance to small and medium-sized businesses in Lithuania.

For additional information on existing US Government assistance projects in Lithuania, or to discuss potential funding for new projects, contact one of the following:

Mr. Stuart Swanson,
Staff Assistant to the Deputy Secretary
Office of East European Assistance
Room 2442, US Dept. of State
2201 C St., NW
Washington, DC 20520-7512
telephone: (202) 647-0695

Ms Karen Brown, Desk Officer
Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania
Room 6668,
US Agency for International Development
320 21st St., NW
Washington, DC 20523-0069
telephone: (202) 736-7242

Ms. Susan Robinson, Country Affairs Officer
Poland, Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania
Room 868, US Information Agency
301 4th St., NW
Washington, DC 20547
telephone: (202) 619-6593



In November, the LAC Educational Council sent its 4th 20-ton container to Lithuania. The container was packed with educational materials for Lithuania's schoolchildren and clothing for orphanages. Donations of textbooks and other materials have come in large quantities, from Glen Elyn, IL and Idaho American schools, from the St. Casimir (Los Angeles) Lithuanian language school and elsewhere. Donors have been asked to help defray costs of sending the container. The contents of the container were stored at the Lithuanian World Mission Center in Lemont, IL until packing day. Lithuania's Ministry of Culture and Education has overseen the unpacking and distribution of all of the containers. Photo: R. Kubilius

Humanitarian Aid for Lithuania - Another View

by Ramune Kubilius

More than 90 participants gathered in Washington, D.C. for a conference on humanitarian aid for Lithuania. The conference, sponsored by the Lithuanian Embassy and the Lithuanian-American Community, Inc. (LAC), was held November 7-8th at the Washington Marriott. The two day conference was divided into 10 symposia, divided by theme, and each of the symposia in turn featured several papers and presentations. The topics ranged from U.S. government aid, to medical aid, to aid for children, assistance in educational areas. Presentations were made in Lithuanian or English, at the presenters' discretion.

Represented at the conference were many associations and projects. Some had existed for many years, some had only been formed in recent years; some have membership composed primarily of Lithuanian Americans, some were branches of groups based in Lithuania; some have membership, members or staff from the general population.

Some of the funds, grants and foundations upon whose resources the projects have relied upon for support in recent years included: Baltic Enterprise Fund, Catholic Charities, Christian Children's Fund, Citizen Democracy Corps, Global Challenge, SOROS Foundation, U.S. AID (United States Aid for International Development), World Medical Relief and others.

The organizers of the conference promised attendees that a list of participants would be distributed. If B R I D G E S readers are interested in participating in the activities of a particular group or project, it seems that the best source would be either of the two organizing bodies. Ambassador Stasys Lozoraitis and LAC Public Affairs Council President Algimantas Gecys each indicated that their efforts were mainly geared towards funneling questions to the groups actually doing the work.

In speaking with attendees and listening to various presentations, a few general thoughts come to mind:

- While not necessarily duplicating each other, a number of projects are complimentary. Communication among various groups seems to be of the essence. Containers might be shared. Proposals for grant funding might be coordinated so that similar proposals don't go to granting agencies at the same time. Other persons spoke of establishing a council of directors of the various projects.

- A number of speakers indicated that interest in all East European countries is now high among granting agencies (including various U.S. government projects). That interest may wane, as the world's attention shifts to Asia, Africa or elsewhere, so efforts should be made to prepare Lithuania for that eventuality. More self-sufficiency must be developed in Lithuania. Some persons quoted the phrase "Teach a man to fish..." Someone remarked that we can't plug the hole with only certain kinds of aid. A number of persons indicated that our efforts are for naught if persons in Lithuania don't fill out

forms, answer queries or invitations which often were not easily come by from the American end.

- A large portion of the conference was devoted to topics upon which a number of groups high emphasis- the future of Lithuania, the children. Their mothers' prenatal care, medical care for the ill, their education are the highest priority of these groups and projects. A horrible legacy of the Soviet system, several conference attendees attested, was the discrimination against physically and mentally disabled citizens of all ages. The public institutions which separated children from their families must be abolished: through the advent of improved adoption programs, return of children to their families (with proper training), and the establishment of small group homes. Exchange programs for special education teachers, public education programs, and parental self-support groups are positive steps in the right direction.

All conference attendees seemed to be motivated and positive. They seemed intent on helping Lithuania. They want to use their professional knowledge and connections, to help raise funds and to secure help in areas in which they had personal interest (eg. a member of their family is disabled, etc.). They did not speak of profit as the motive. The organizers are to be congratulated for their efforts. Now it remains to be seen if the forum which was established will help various groups coordinate their efforts, to cooperate and communicate with each other, to assist Lithuania in rejoining the ranks of the world's nations.

Addresses: Lithuanian Embassy 2622 16th St. N.W., Washington, DC 20009, or Lithuanian American Community Inc., 2715 East Allegheny Avenue, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19134 (Publisher of B R I D G E S).

ETHNIC ORNAMENTS

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Lithuanian Prime Minister Abisala Visits Washington, DC and Philadelphia

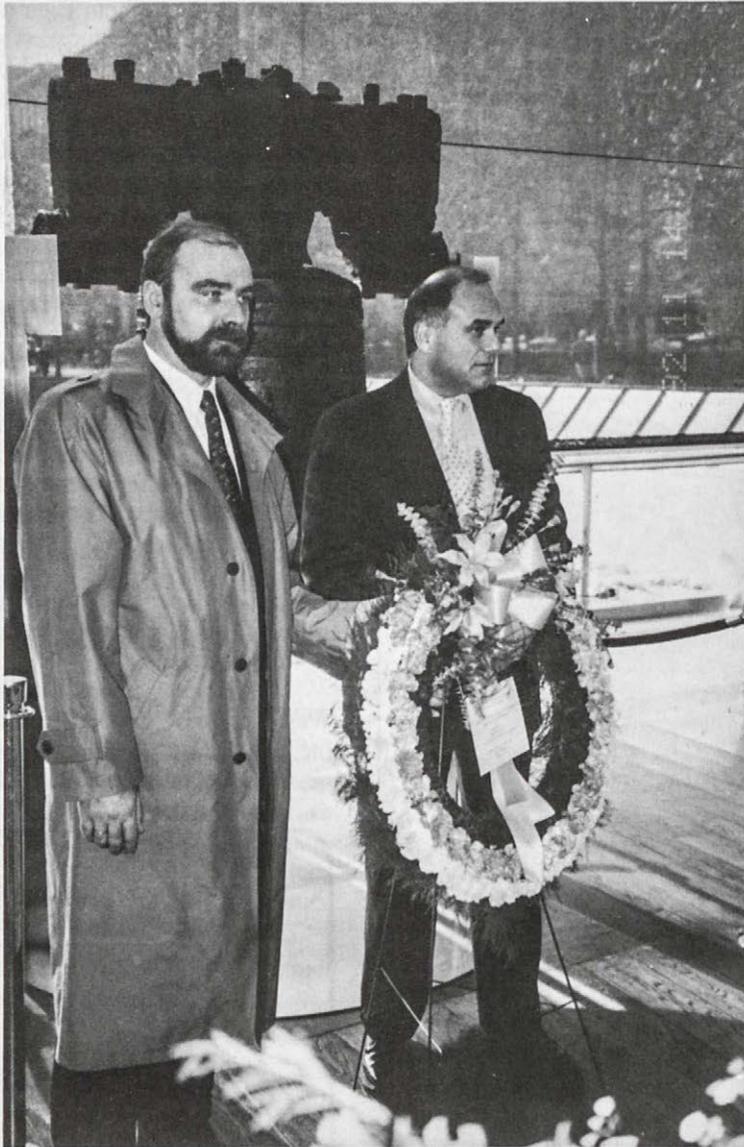
by Rimantas A. Stirbys

On Saturday, November 14, Lithuanian Prime Minister Aleksandras Abisala came to Philadelphia for the first visit ever to that city by such a high-ranking Lithuanian government official. The Prime Minister was accompanied by his wife, Nijole, and by Lithuanian Ambassador Stasys Lozoraitis and Mrs. Daniela Lozoraitis, as well as Embassy staff and a security escort.

The Prime Minister had been in Washington for the four days previous, discussing the political situation in Lithuania with US State and Defense Department officials, and exploring avenues for greater economic assistance and increased trade with US government trade representatives as well as private business leaders. On Friday, November 13, Prime Minister Abisala even got in a phone conversation with Vice-president-elect Al Gore, a long-time supporter of the Lithuanian cause in the US Senate, who reaffirmed President-elect Bill Clinton's resolve to see that Russian army units are withdrawn from the Baltic States.

The entourage came up from Washington by Metroliner late Saturday morning and was met at Amtrak's 30th Street Station by a delegation from the Philadelphia Chapter of the Lithuanian American Community, Inc.

(LAC), as well as members of the National Executive Committee of the Lithuanian American Community, Inc.; which is headquartered in Philadelphia.



Lithuanian Prime Minister Abisala and Philadelphia Mayor Ed Rendell, at the Liberty Bell in Independence Park, Philadelphia during a wreath laying ceremony. Inscription on the wreath reads: "In Deepest Gratitude, to the People of the United States of America, from the People of Lithuania....Your support sustained us in the struggle to regain our independence."

The first item of official business in a tightly packed agenda was a trip to St. Andrew's Lithuanian Roman Catholic Church, where the Prime Minister and the Ambassador viewed the final loading of over 950 boxes of clothing and food items

into a container organized by BALFAS (United Lithuanian Relief Fund of America, Inc.) for shipment to Lithuania and distribution by the Union of Political Prisoners and Deportees of Lithuania, based in Kaunas. The Prime Minister and his wife were visibly moved by the generosity of the Lithuanian-Americans, and, as a symbolic gesture of support, Abisala even took off his overcoat and helped load a few of the boxes himself. The guests were also greeted by the children of the Vincas Kreve Lithuanian Saturday School which holds classes in the parish hall. Father Timothy Burkauskas, newly-appointed pastor of St. Andrew's, hosted a breakfast reception. (It is instructive to note that the Archdiocese of Philadelphia planned to close St. Andrew's in 1991 following the retirement of the former pastor, Rev. Kajatonas Sakalauskas. However, the Philadelphia-area Lithuanians rallied together, formed committees to oversee the church's administrative affairs, and "borrowed" Fr. Burkauskas as spiritual advisor from the Polish monastery in nearby Doylestown. Impressed by

the parishioners' interest and activism, the archdiocese spared St. Andrews and the parish was given a new lease on life.) (Editor's Note: BRIDGES recently had an article about this successful effort.)

Next on the agenda was a noon-time wreath-laying at the Liberty Bell in Independence Park. The Prime Minister and Ambassador Lozoraitis were joined in the ceremony by Philadelphia Mayor Ed Rendell. The wreath bore the inscription "In Deepest Gratitude to the People of the United State of America, from the People of Lithuania....Your support sustained us in the struggle to regain our independence." After the brief ceremony, the Prime Minister was delighted to learn that Mayor Rendell already knew about the full-sized replica of the Liberty Bell that Lithuanian-Americans had donated to the people of Lithuania in 1922. That bell, which was hung in the tower of the War Museum in Kaunas, bore a different inscription: "Ring through the ages for the children of Lithuania, that unworthy of freedom is he who fails to defend it." Unlike the historic Liberty Bell on display in Philadelphia, the one in Lithuania can still be rung.

Mayor Rendell then accompanied the entourage to a luncheon reception at the Sheraton Society Hill Hotel, where he presented the Prime Minister with a smaller scale model of the Liberty Bell, the "official" gift of the City of Philadelphia. During the presentation, the mayor remarked on the continuing struggle of the Lithuanian people to reclaim and keep hold of their independence. He wryly added that, while still at the Liberty Bell Pavilion, he had congratulated Prime Minister Abisala on the Bronze Medal won by the Lithuanian basketball team at the 1992 Summer Olympics. The Prime Minister replied that he had thought the Lithuanians were going to win the Gold. For the mayor, Abisala's optimism was a good omen and he bade the Prime Minister to bring back with him to the Lithuanian people Philadelphia's best wishes for Lithuania's future.

Also in attendance at the luncheon were US Congressman Robert Borski, who had just won reelection for a sixth term to the district in which most of the day's events were being held; Dr. Daniel Pipes, Director of the Foreign Policy Research Institute, who was recently appointed as a board member of the Fulbright Foreign Scholarships Program; local business and Lithuanian-American community leaders; and representatives from the local Estonian and Latvian communities. The luncheon was hosted by the Philadelphia Chapter of the LAC and its co-presidents, Terese Gecys and Kristina Volertas.

During the luncheon, many in attendance commented not only on how delicious the food was, but that it was uniquely arranged...The first course of mushroom soup was enthusiastically received, while the main entree not only had yellow,

green and red vegetables, the colors of the Lithuanian flag, but the red vegetable, a russet potato, had half of its skin on while the other half had been carved into a stalk so that it resembled a large mushroom. It turned out the chef, Jeffrey Klova, was an American of Lithuanian descent. Upon hearing of the nationality of the guest of honor and knowing that Lithuanians love mushrooms, he volunteered to add those special touches, including the wild mushrooms he had acquired for the soup that everyone had raved about. Klova was rewarded for his efforts with a round of applause, a photograph with the Prime Minister and his wife, and some mementos from the Abisalas to take home to his children.

En route to the Lithuanian Music Hall for a "town meeting" with the Philadelphia-area Lithuanian community, the motorcade paid a courtesy call on Fr. Joseph Anderlonis and the loyal Lithuanian-American parishioners of St. George's Roman Catholic Church. The parish had just celebrated its 90th anniversary, and the church was newly redecorated with many Lithuanian motifs which testified to that nations suffering, to the endurance of the Lithuanian culture, and to the deep faith of Lithuania's Roman Catholics. Fr. Anderlonis, pastor of St. George's, is also Spiritual Advisor the Supreme Council of the Knights of Lithuania.

At the Lithuanian Music Hall, the "town meeting" gave



Prime Minister Aleksandras Abisala, in the parish hall of St. Andrew's Lithuanian Roman Catholic Church, helping load boxes of clothing and food items into a BALFAS-sponsored container bound for former political prisoners and deportees in Lithuania.

nearly 200 local Lithuanian-Americans (and approximately 20 secret service agents who were part of the security detail) a chance to hear the Prime Minister address a wide range of topics bearing on the political and economic situation in Lithuania. During the question-and-answer session that fol-



Following the luncheon reception at the Sheraton Society Hill Hotel. From left to right: Mrs. Nijole Abisaliene, hotel chef Jeffrey Klova, and Prime Minister Aleksandras Abisala.

lowed, many in the hall asked about the recent first round of parliamentary elections as well as the second round, due to be held the very next day (this was of the eve of the second round, which saw the Lithuanian Democratic Labor Party, the LDLP, formerly the Lithuanian Communist Party, take a commanding majority in the Lithuanian Parliament).

The Prime Minister emphasized that the Lithuanian people were not voting for a return to Communism but, rather, were voting for the "opposition" in hopes that Lithuania's economic decline might be halted and that their everyday lives might return to some normalcy. Abisala pointed out that although the LDLP had stated (had has since emphatically reiterated through its leader, Algirdas Brazauskas) that the LDLP placed a priority on the withdrawal of Russian troops, vowed to safeguard Lithuania's independence, and might slow but would not stop or retreat on economic reform, Abisala would probably not stay on in the new government.

Other issues raised during the "town meeting" concerned the new constitution, citizenship laws, the pace of privatization and ownership rights, the introduction of the Litas (perhaps

already in circulation by the time you read this), and the upcoming presidential elections in Lithuania. In his wrap-up, Abisala emphasized that, regardless of the outcome of the next day's voting, Lithuania would continue on the path to democracy and economic reform and that Communism would never return. (In subsequent statements to the international press, LDLP chairman Brazauskas has denied that his party's victory signals a return of "neocommunism" and has rejected congratulations from archly conservative — read, die-hard communist — organizations such as the National Salvation Front of Russia. The LAC continues to monitor events in Lithuania and is looking for concrete actions by the new government to verify its stated break with its own past and its assertions of loyalty to Lithuania's embryonic democratic ideals.)

The "town meeting" was followed by a cocktail reception hosted jointly by members of the National Executive Committee and the Philadelphia Chapter of the LAC. The reception gave NEC and local Community officials and leaders an opportunity to speak to and socialize with the Lithuanian government representatives in a less formal and less stressed environment. The day's whirlwind of activities ended early Saturday evening when the guests were whisked back to the Amtrak Station for the return trip to Washington. The size of the Prime Minister's motorcade throughout the day was no small source of pride for the Lithuanian-American spectators...up to a half dozen Philadelphia policemen on motorcycles and several police cars in the motorcade, all with lights flashing and sirens wailing, countless other police vehicles blocking intercessions and stopping traffic along the way, several carloads of secret service agents, the limousines for the dignitaries and accompanying vehicles for the local hosts...we were quite impressed. The Prime Minister and his party returned to Lithuania Sunday evening.

WORDS, WORDS

By Ramune Kubilius

B. and E. Masiokas of Aurora, Colorado have released a labor of love which took more than eight years to complete—a 1339 page dictionary WORDS, WORDS. It contains 18,163 Lithuanian language words, 20,687 English language words. The retirees (a linguist and an engineer) worked diligently, along the way recruiting the consultation and advice of noted Lithuanian American linguist Antanas Klimas. The book consists not only of word definitions, but also of synonyms, expressions, phonetical (phonetical and with stress symbols), expressions/sayings, etc. The 3.5 lb. book may be obtained from the authors: B. & E. Masiokas, 13902 E. Marina Dr. #404, Aurora, CO 80014-3756 or from Lithuanian-American Community, Inc. Education Council president Regina Kucas, 8626 South Mozart, Chicago, IL 60652. The cost is \$25 (plus \$5.65 for first class postage).

A Book About Lithuania Becomes Part of a Series

By Ramune Kubilius

Lerner Publications Company of Minneapolis, MN has published a book about Lithuania as part of its "Then and Now" series. The series, primarily aimed towards grade school children, "covers the republics that have emerged from the former Soviet Union. The series was developed by Lerner Publications Company in response to the scarcity of historical and up-to-date information on these countries" (from book jacket).

LITHUANIA is only 56 pages long, but from an educational standpoint, it seems to be quite well-prepared. The text of the book was checked by a geography professor at the University of Washington (Dr. Craig ZumBrunnen) and by two staffers of the Embassy of Lithuania in Washington, D.C. (Karen Sirvaitis and Diana B. Vidutis). Series editors are Mary M. Rodgers, Tom Streissguth and Colleen Sexton.

The glossary and index are detailed. The book is well-bound (in so called "library binding") and printed on good quality paper. Annotated colored photographs, maps and illustrations accompany the larger size print. Various words and phrases are printed in bold print, then later defined in the glossary (for example: Communists, Russian Empire, industrialized, midnight sun, etc.)

The book is divided into four chapters: The Land and People of Lithuania, Lithuania's Story, Making a Living in Lithuania, What's Next for Lithuania. The first contains the basic facts about Lithuania's climate, cities, ethnic heritage and language, religious festivals. The second covers the grand dukes of Lithuania, Christianity and Vytautas, Russian wars and partitions, russification, glasnost to independence. The third covers agriculture and fishing, manufacturing and energy, nuclear power, trade and currency. The shortest is the last section which mentions the Baltic alliance. Also: "Although Lithuania is once again independent, its leaders are struggling to improve the country's weak economy and to establish new trading patterns. But independence is clearly recognizable in Lithuania today..."

LITHUANIA (and probably books in the series on Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Estonia, etc.) belongs in a school library or public library's children's section and in a family's library collection, too, perhaps. It can certainly help a young student with a homework assignment or special project on "exotic" countries of the world. Lerner Publications felt that a series on Lithuania and the other former Soviet republics filled an educational need. Travel bookstores (such as Savvy Traveller in Chicago) stock books such as this one because they fill a gap, too.

The only criticism one might have about the book are the typographical errors. Efforts were made to add the Lithuanian diacritical marks, but some were left off even in the same word (Kursiu Marios, with one of the two required marks, in the large map on page 14-15, for example). A few other errors also crept in ("Balzekus" Museum instead of "Balzekas", in the Photo Acknowledgements, for example).

(LITHUANIA, prepared by Geography Department, Lerner Publications Company, Minneapolis, MN, 1992.)

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USIA Announces Grants for Donated Book Projects in Eastern Europe

Washington, D.C. — The United States

Information Agency has awarded a total of \$225,000 to three organizations which will administer three donated book projects. USIA funding will help the Sabre Foundation, Inc. of Somerville, MA, the International Book Bank, Inc., of Baltimore, MD, and the Brother's Brother Foundation of Pittsburg, PA, in shipping and distributing approximately 421,000 books to readers in Eastern Europe.

The Sabre Foundation received \$117,000 to administer a 216,000 book project in urban and rural communities in Poland, Hungary, Czechoslovakia, Bulgaria, Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania. The International Book Bank received \$98,000 to distribute 180,000 donated books in Poland, Hungary, Czechoslovakia, Bulgaria and Albania. The brother's brother Foundation received \$10,000 to distribute 25,000 books in Albania.

In commenting on the grant, USIA Director Henry Catto said, "USIA's role in furthering mutual understanding between Americans and the people of Eastern Europe has a direct impact on improved relations among our countries. In addition, these grants will build an appreciation overseas for American authors and publishers."

The grants, awarded through USIA's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, were partially funded (\$150,000) under the support for East European Democracy (SEED) Act, which established a U.S. government-wide assistance program aimed at building democracy and promoting economic reform in Central and Eastern Europe.

- From a USIA News Release

Exhibit On Siberia At The Lithuanian Museum

The Balzekas Museum of Lithuanian Culture, located at 6500 S. Pulaski Rd. in Chicago, has just opened a new exhibit of photographs about Igarka, a Siberian death-camp. The exhibit is entitled "Expedition to Igarka" and is on view in the Audio-Visual Room of the Museum.

1992 marks the 51st anniversary of the beginning of mass deportations of Lithuanians to Siberia. During the Stalinist era, hundreds of thousands of Lithuanians were forcefully uprooted from their homes and deported to hard labor camps of Siberia. Men, women, elderly, children, even newborn babies, were piled up in cattle boxcars and shipped to these camps, from which very few returned. One of those camps was Igarka on the Yenisey river, deep inside Russia, above the Arctic Circle.

In 1988, at the height of the independence movement in Lithuania, a group of dedicated volunteers that included students, journalists, photographers and young folks from all walks of life, travelled 4,200 kilometers from Lithuania to the Igarka death-camp. The purpose of this expedition was to locate and document the sites where the deportees lived and the cemetery where they died, so that their remains could be returned to Lithuania. They also found archives documenting the unbearable living conditions of the deportees during their imprisonment. These documents revealed gruesome stories of 2-3 year-old children taken away from their mothers, of trials



Hard working volunteers help pack the fourth 20 ton container the Lithuanian-American Community's Educational Council has sent to Lithuania. The volunteers provided the "elbow grease" on Nov. 21st at the Lemont, IL World Lithuanian Center

Photo: R. Kubilius

and harsh punishments for being even 15 minutes late for work, etc.

This exhibit by Lithuanian photographer Raimondas Urbakavicius, who participated in the expedition, is a pictorial record of Soviet cruelty to humanity. It shows the present condition of the death-camp — now abandoned —, the cemetery with upturned crosses, and the remains of Stalin's gruesome railroad on which deportees were given a one-way ticket to Igarka.

The exhibit can be viewed during regular Museum hours, seven days a week 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission to the Museum is: Adults \$4, Seniors and Students \$3, Children under 12, \$1.

Activities in Illinois

By Ramune Kubilius

Illinois is probably not unique in that there is a special state position entitled "Assistant to the Governor for Ethnic Affairs" which employs Patricia Michalski. On May 30th in the State of Illinois Center in Chicago, she sponsored a two hour session entitled "Informational Workshop on Funding Grants". More than 70 persons, representing many of Illinois' more than 60 ethnic groups attended. During the two hours, attendees gathered bits and pieces on various state offices, and some non-state offices through which it is possible to obtain assistance, apply for grants, etc.

It was of great interest to hear of the International Press Center in the Merchandise Mart which is a "home away from home" for international journalists who can file their stories from the office there. The Illinois Department of Commerce and Community Affairs has a Matching Grant Program and a Tourism Attraction Program for helping publicize events which draw tourists to Illinois and help improve or build tourist attractions. The Illinois Arts Council, the Illinois Artisan Shops, and the State of Illinois Center provide opportunities to learn a craft, display, and in the case of the shops-sell various ethnic artworks. The Illinois Humanities Council provides funding opportunities for programs and exhibits, while the International Business Division of DECA assist Illinois companies preparing to export with background information, etc.

Ethnic groups have been reluctant to file for grants, but the presentations at this session showed that the offices may be small and their employees willing and able to provide the personal touch to those who seek funding or have various questions. The Balzekas Museum of Lithuanian Culture is one familiar entity which has been successful in the past, and which continues to seek and obtain funding for various projects and lecture series. About a half dozen Lithuanian Americans, representing various organizations were in attendance at the workshop, so others may try to seek funding in the future.

The Office of Pat Michalski provides wonderful volunteer opportunities, it seems, since the hours and projects are flexible, and one can obtain a sound recommendation for work done in that office- written on the Governor's stationery.

It is probably worth finding out what programs other states have for ethnic groups seeking funding for projects which have broader appeal than just the immediate ethnic group itself.

In attendance at a reception at the Balzekas Museum of Lithuanian Culture June 5th in Chicago were Lithuania's Ambassador Stasys Lozoraitis and his wife Daniela. In the month before the event (and finally that evening), \$50,000 was donated for the upkeep, maintenance, and support of the Lithuanian Embassy in Washington, D.C. That evening, it was announced that the heretofore anonymous benefactor who was willing to match that sum was Chicagoan Jim Liautaud and his wife Grazina.



Lithuanian-Americans of the Greater Philadelphia area make it a point to meet their congressman in somewhat less official surroundings for the purpose of discussing issues pertaining to Lithuania. Prior to the national election, one such meeting was held with U.S. Congressman Peter H. Kostmayer at the house of Roma and Anthony Krusinskas of Bucks County, Pennsylvania. Shown from the left: Ray Stirbys, vicepresident for information of the National Executive Committee of the LAC, Inc. discusses the issues with Congr. Kostmayer with his aide and Walter Mameniskis observing.



A group of Lithuanian-Americans at a meeting with U.S. Congressman Peter H. Kostmayer.

Availability of Lithuanian Language Programs/Courses

Two recent articles in the Lithuanian language paper DRAUGAS wrote of the new academic year in Lithuanian language schools in Los Angeles and Chicago. It was also mentioned that both of these schools also have non-credit Lithuanian language classes for those who want to learn Lithuanian. One source of information for finding out if a Lithuanian language school in your area has a Lithuanian language program for children and/or adults, is to contact the president of the Lithuanian-American Community, Inc. Educational Council, Mrs. Regina Kucas, 8626 South Mozart, Chicago, IL 60652.

Ramune Kubilius

News from the Public Affairs Office, Lithuanian American Community, INC.

10/9/92—102nd Congress-Final Leg. Update by Asta Banionis – Director

Everyone who participated in this last campaign to restrict U.S. aid to Russia until Russia gets its troops out of the Baltic States should bask, even momentarily, in the glow of a modest, but significant legislative victory. Both the Freedom Support Act (the Russian Aid Bill) and the Foreign Operations Appropriations bill for fiscal year 1993 (foreign aid bill) contain restrictions on aid to Russia. All that phone calling and letter writing did make a difference. And we've learned that if we had more people who wrote and called, we could have had tougher requirements.

The Freedom Support Act: The House and Senate conferees agreed to include original DeConcini-Pressler language under the conditions for "ineligibility for assistance." The section now reads: "The President shall not provide assistance under this chapter ... for the government of Russia if it has failed to make significant progress on the removal of Russian or Commonwealth of Independent States troops from Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania, or if it has failed to undertake good faith efforts, such as negotiations, to end other military practices that violate the sovereignty of the Baltic States."

Senators DeConcini and Pressler are to be congratulated for their dedicated efforts to restore firm restrictions on aid to Russia. Our members in Maryland, however, should note that the staff of Senator Sarbanes aided by the State Department and White House attempted at the last minute to undo the agreement on restrictions of aid to Russia and troop withdrawals from the Baltics.

Foreign Operations Appropriations (FY93): Thanks to Senator Robert Byrd, Chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee, the spending bill which actually appropriates the money the Administration will use to help Russia, also has restrictions. Senator Byrd gave an eloquent defense of his provision which originally called for no aid, except humanitarian, to be given to Russia until all troops have been withdrawn or final treaties with detailed withdrawal schedules concluded with the Baltic States. Senator Byrd spoke of the moral obligation the U.S. has to help other struggling democracies, "When we were a young democracy occupied by a brutal British army, we were aided by France, we should now help the fledgling democracies of Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia who are occupied by the oppressive Russian army." He reminded his colleagues that in many trouble spots of the world, the U.S. can have little influence, but in this case, the U.S. can be a positive force in resolving this issue — in getting the Russians finally out of the Baltic states. He concluded his initial remarks saying that any money that goes to Russia while it has troops in the Baltics is a subsidy of that military occupation.

In the stand-off between Senator Byrd and the House conferees led by Congressman David Obey, the House blinked and finally offered a compromise which Senator Byrd accepted. The final language now calls for three basic things: 1.

No aid will be provided until the President reports to Congress on the status of troop withdrawals and the negotiations. 2. 50% of the aid is withheld if the President has not certified to the Congress by June 1, 1993 that the Russians have made "substantial progress" in concluding a treaty of withdrawal or "substantially withdrawn" their troops. 3. If by the end of the fiscal year, a treaty has not been concluded or troops totally withdrawn, all remaining aid is frozen.

In agreeing to this compromise, Senator Byrd and we took a substantial risk that money will be left unspent next September and that this a real sanction on the Russians. This compromise also sets up a dynamic for next year. The Congress will be formulating the 1994 spending bills as early as March, 1993 and the issue of how much progress the Russians are making in withdrawing their troops will automatically be raised.

The names of the House conferees who failed to support Senator Byrd in conference are: David Obey (D-WI), Matt McHugh (D-NY), Larry Smith (D-FL), Bill Alexander (D-AR), Pete Visclosky (D-IN), Mickey Edwards (R-OK), John Porter (R-IL) and Bill Green (R-NY). (Other conferees did not attend the meeting.)

Although official representatives of LAC, Inc. have already visited with Senator Byrd, and personally thanked him for his eloquent defense of Lithuania, we would urge all of our members across the country to write to the Senator.

Next year we are guaranteed a great deal of work because at least one-quarter, if not one third, of the Congress will be new faces - persons who may know very little about Lithuania.

THE ALYA

The American Lithuanian Youth Association leadership met in Los Angeles on October 4th. ALYA President Gaile Radvenis, Secretary Linas Vencas, Treasurer Ruta Predkelis, council members Ruta Kvedaras from Phoenix and Rita Starinskas from San Francisco, Chicago ALYA President and Monica Semas from New Jersey participated in the meeting.

The president gave a short synopsis of what took place on September 26th and 27th in Cleveland, at the annual conference of the American Lithuanian Community, which she attended, along with Paulius Mickus, President of the World Lithuanian Youth Association.

The Council members discussed a suitable time and place for the annual conference of the American Lithuanian Youth Association and decided to hold the conference in Los Angeles May 28th through the 31st, 1993. The program will include discussions about how Lithuanian youth living in the United States can help the people of Lithuania. The theme of the conference will be: "U.S. Youth and Lithuania". All Lithuanian youths between the ages of 18 and 35 are invited to attend the conference. For more information, contact Gaile Radvenis at: 2412 Canyon Oak Dr., Los Angeles, CA, 90068.

Gaile Radvenis

Lithuanian Embassy

List of Lithuanian Information Sources in English

AMERICAN BALTIC NEWS

ABN Publishing Company
P.O. Box 19398
Kalamazoo, MI 49019-0398
Tel: 616-384-8787
Fax: 616-384-8787
[monthly 12-page newspaper;
\$20 annually]

THE BALTIC BULLETIN

The Baltic Information Office
H.C. Andersen's Blvd 38
1553 Copenhagen, DENMARK
Tel: 011 45 33 934 817
Fax: 011 45 33 913 099
Tlx: 855 40072 DBIK DK
[monthly 12-page newsletter;
official Lithuanian government
publication; no charge]

BALTIC BUSINESS REPORT

c/o Baltic Ventures, Inc.
1075 Washington Street
West Newton, MA 02165
Tel: 617-527-2550
Fax: 617-527-2823
[monthly 10-page newsletter;
business & economic news;
\$260 annually]

THE BALTIC INDEPENDENT

Subscription Department
P.O. Box 100
Parnu MNT 67A
EE 0090 Tallinn, ESTONIA
[8-page weekly newspaper
published in Estonia; \$48]

THE BALTIC OBSERVER

Balasta Dambis 3
226081 Riga, Latvia
or
558 Pilgrim Drive, Suite A
Foster City, CA 94404
[8-page weekly newspaper
published in Latvia; \$85]

THE BALTIC STATES; A REFERENCE BOOK

c/o Lithuanian Res & Studies Center
6520 S. Claremont Avenue
Chicago, IL 60636
Tel: 312-434-4545
265-page fact book by Lithuanian
Encyclopedia Publishers; Who's

Who, history, politics, economics,
culture, address, telephone &
fax numbers; \$15

BALTIC WEEKLY

Radio Free Europe/
Radio Liberty, Inc.
1201 Connecticut Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20036
Attn: Brian Reed
Tel: 202-457-6912
[weekly digest of news from
Baltic sources; currently
free of charge]

EUROPEAN BUSINESS BULLETIN

Eastern Europe Business Information
Center (EEBIC), H-7412
US Department of Commerce
International Trade Administration
Washington, DC 20230
Tel: 202-377-2645
[12-page monthly newsletter;
free of charge]

BRIDGES

Lithuanian-American News Journal
2715 East Allegheny Ave.
Philadelphia, PA 19134
Tel: 215-739-9353
[24-page newsletter published
10 times/year; official
Lithuanian-American Community, Inc.
(LAC)
publication; \$18 annually]

EAST EXPRESS INTAKAS

P.O. Box 1225
2001 Vilnius LITHUANIA
[32-page newsletter; commercial
advertising & legislation: \$49
annually remitted to: Marburg/Lahn
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[60-page daily digest of news from
"Central Eurasia" including Baltic;
\$525 annually]

GARSAS

Lithuanian Catholic Alliance
71-73 S. Washington Street
Wilkes-Barre, PA 18701
Tel: 717-823-8876
[12-page newspaper published
10 times/year; articles in
Lithuanian & English; \$5 annually]

GUIDE TO THE BALTIC STATES

Edited by Ingrida Kalnins
Inroads, Inc., PO Box 3197
Merrifield, VA 22116
[309-page book of historic,
cultural, and tourist infor-
mation; \$21]

JOURNAL OF BALTIC STUDIES

William Urban, Editor
Department of history
Monmouth College
Monmouth, IL 61462
Tel: 309-457-2388
[100-page quarterly journal
of the Association for the
Advancement of Baltic Studies;
\$50/year or included in \$65
AABS membership]

LITHUANIAN DAYS

4364 Sunset Boulevard
Los Angeles, CA 90029
Tel: 213-664-2919
[24-page magazine published
10 times/year; articles in
Lithuanian & English;
\$25 annually]

LITHUANIAN INFORMATION INSTITUTE

Julius Novickas
Kalvariju 3
LITHUANIA
Tel: 70122-752-284
Fax: 70122-353-017
Tlx: 871-261137 LUVLN SU
[Lithuania Govt Publications
agency; business and general
information; write for list of
publications and prices.]

LITHUANIAN RESEARCH AND STUDIES CENTER

5620 South Claremont Avenue

Chicago, IL 60636

Tel: 312-434-4545

Fax: 312-434-9363

[Lithuanian-American center for historic, archival, and cultural research; write for list of publications and prices]

LITHUANIAN WEEKLY

PO Box 533

2024 Vilnius, Lithuania

Tel: (70122) 223 730

Fax: (70122) 223 730

[4-page weekly newspaper of politics/economics/analysis/key documents/history/culture; \$36 annually by air mail]

LITHUANUS

6621 Troy Street

Chicago, IL 60629

Tel: 312-476-5171

[64-page quarterly journal of the arts and sciences; \$10 annually]

THE OBSERVER

Lithuanian Roman Catholic

Federation of America

4545 W. 63rd Street

Chicago, IL 60629

Tel: 312-585-9500

[24-page bi-monthly magazine; \$10 annually]

From The Lithuanian Press ...

Selected items excerpted from the Lithuanian Press in America; which should be of interest to our readers. Compiled and Translated by Ms. Ramune Kubilius.

Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish of Chicago celebrates its 65th anniversary. 400 Lithuanian Americans who formerly had travelled to the Town of Lakes region of Chicago to Holy Cross Parish or to Immaculate Conception Church in Brighton Park gathered May 15, 1927 to form a new parish together with Rev. Baltutis. The first Mass was celebrated on May 22, 1927, and Masses continued to be celebrated in the convent of the Sisters of Saint Casimir until Cardinal George Mundelein blessed the new church building on June 7, 1929. The rectory was built two years later. The parish grew, and in 1957 a new parish church was built, according to plans modelled on churches of Lithuania. The parish remains one of only five Lithuanian American Catholic parishes in the Chicago area. (DRAUGAS, 6/18/92)

On June 1st, the small luxury hotel "Sarunas" was dedicated in downtown Vilnius. The hotel with 25 rooms is owned by Sarunas Marculionis, who for the past three years has played with San Francisco's "Golden State Warriors". The hotel bar is called "Krepšinis" (basketball), but also known as "Rooney" (as Marculionio's American Basketball colleagues call him). The bar is filled with NBA and Lithuanian basketball decorations, and has been set up with facilities to view basketball and other important sports games directly. Each room is equipped with satellite television, guests get free breakfast, transatlantic phones, and may use the hotel's limousine and chauffeur. (DRAUGAS, 7/11/92)

Lithuania's revolution has been known as a singing revolution. Lithuania's basketball playing has become well known. However, Lithuania has been gaining a reputation in other sports areas as well. In America, soccer is not very popular. Does anyone know that Lithuania's soccer team played against Northern Ireland May 28th and the score was 2:2 - it made the headlines in Europe. July 24th and 26th Lithuania's all star soccer team plays at Chicago's Soldier's

Field in the "Chicago Cup", along with Poland's "Lech Poznan", Mexico's "Guadalajara chivas", and an American all star team. If Lithuania hadn't played so well against Northern Ireland, a team wouldn't have been invited to Chicago. The efforts of former Chicago "Liths" player and international sports FIFA judge Alfredas Kleinaitis also helped to ensure that Lithuania's soccer team have a berth in these games. A committee was formed to host the Lithuanians during their visit to Chicago, chaired by dr. Edmundas Ringus. (Excerpted from an article by Bronius Nainys, DRAUGAS, 7/11/92)

On July 3rd at the World Lithuanian Community Congress ("seimas") an opportunity was made for Lithuanian journalists to meet with Lithuania's Prime Minister Gediminas Vagnorius. Lithuanian language radio programs at "Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty" and "Voice of America" were represented as were Lithuanian language papers and journals published abroad- DRAUGAS, DARBININKAS, DIRVA, NEPRI-KLAUSOMA LIETUVA, LAISKAI LIETUVIAMS and others.

The questions by the journalists, editors and writers were directed by then president of the World Lithuanian Community, Dr. Vytautas Bieliauskas and Lithuanian Journalists' Association member Jurgis Janusaitis. The questions were varied, from explanations about the yet unresolved one about Lithuanian citizenship for those holding citizenships in other countries, to questions about the preparations for the upcoming Lithuanian elections, questions about excise taxes for exports out of Lithuania, questions about Lithuania's "Mafia", about the numerous consulates and embassies now cropping up in Lithuania & Lithuania's being established around the world.

The Prime Minister was diplomatic and chose not to go into detail on any one question. He acknowledged that Lithuania is going through some hard times, that the government invariably must go through reform, including the reorienting of the police and economy. He indicated that Lithuania must deal with the problems of the present so that there would be a far distant future. (DRAUGAS, 7/11/92)

Lithuania played host to an international children's folklore festival in Vilnius. Over a four day period, 20 collectives

from Lithuania, Poland, Latvia, Estonia, Sweden, and France performed in various Lithuanian towns and villages. Closing ceremonies were scheduled for July 15th in Rumsiskes, an outdoor folklore site. (DRAUGAS, 7/11/92)

Chicago's Lithuanian Second City- "Antras kaimas" revived its theatrical life after a break of three years. The Lithuanian language comedy troupe performed six times in September and October at the Playhouse hall on Chicago's Southwest side. New young actors joined the veterans in presenting glimpses of life, Lithuanian American and just the humorous side of life in general. Their practices for the 1992 fall performance began in February. Only a few members in the troupe have a drama background. Alida Vitas, for example, is a drama student. The others represent the spectrum of professions-photographer, engineer, hospital administrator, student, and retiree. The small troupe's skits included scenes written by playwrights, humorists and novelists such as Kostas Ostrauskas, Algirdas Titus Antanaitis and Kazys Almenas, as well as some by present and past actors in the troupe. The forty some scenes included a glimpse into the Soviet past, humorous views of the older Lithuanian American colony in Chicago and the new "upstart" in suburban Lemont, a role reversal of men exchanging recipes while trying to play poker, and women planning a fishing expedition and their poetry evening and others. The small audiences were appreciative and in most cases the native Chicago Lithuanian and newly arrived from Lithuania audience understood the humor. (It seemed just a short time ago, that the troupe travelled to Lithuania where not all of the natives were said to be used to their unique brand of humor. It's hard to realize how long it's really been -RK) The troupe's program notes traditionally include the saying "Juokingi esame ne mes; juokingas yra gyvenimas o taipogi mes neglostome, o jeigu glostome, tai tik pries plauka!" (roughly translated this means We are not funny-life is funny, and we don't stroke, but if we stroke, we stroke against the direction of hair). (Excerpted in part from an article in DRAUGAS by Juozas Prunskis, 9/19/92 and from the program notes themselves-RK)

The new school year began August 31st at the Lithuanian High School "Vasario 16 gimnazija" in Lampertheim, Germany. There had been talk: now that Lithuania has regained its independence, that there is no longer a need for Lithuanians abroad to support this unique Lithuanian language high school. The 1992-93 school year boasts a registration of 106 students, something the school has not seen in thirty years. The school's opening days included a traditional flag-raising, ecumenical services, an eight kilometer hike to the top of Odenvald hill for a picnic and other activities. The school's director Andrius Smitas, who himself is a graduate of the school, spoke words of greeting and extended wishes for a successful school year. During the ecumenical services, the students brought candles to the altar representing the various countries from which they had come: 60 students are from Germany, 24 from Lithuania, 8 from the United States, 6 from Brazil, 3 from Uruguay, 2 from Canada, and 1 each from Australia, Argentina and Mali.

The school will certainly not close due to a lack of students, only possibly will there be a need to close it- if the financial support from abroad ceases. (The German government's support for the school comprises only part of the

school's budget.-RK)

(A number of the students from abroad stay only one year. Many want to experience European culture and attend classes conducted in Lithuanian. Most of the students from South America are supported by scholarships given by the Lithuanian Foundation. Some of them are recent high school graduates who attend special seminar classes. Although all of the students in the high school are of Lithuanian descent, some don't speak Lithuanian fluently. Even for the students staying at the high school for one year, friendships are forged, an appreciation for the European school system, and a fluency in the Lithuanian language is achieved. Classes in Lithuanian grammar, history and literature as well as after school activities further the knowledge and fluency. It will be interesting to see what the addition of such a large number of students from Lithuania will mean for the school- some of them probably will seek to graduate from the high school in order to gain an approved diploma which will allow them to seek admission to universities in Western Europe. All in all, the school is a unique one. -RK) (DRAUGAS, 9/17/92, excerpted in part from an article by Maryte Dambriunas-Smitas)

On July 31st, the first anniversary of the tragedy of Medininkai was commemorated with Holy Mass at the cathedral in Vilnius. At the cemetery in Antakalnis, an honor guard stood near the final burial places of the slain heroes. Flowers were placed near the graves, as were burning candles, and funeral music was played. At one o'clock in the afternoon, a somber commemoration took place in Medininkai where the shooting of the Lithuanian border guards actually took place. (DRAUGAS-ELTA, 8/1/92)

Lithuanian young chemists participated at the 24th International Chemistry Olympics at the University of Pittsburgh July 11-22nd. Lithuania and Latvia were participating a second time among 33 countries from North America, Europe, Australia. Lithuania's chemists were from Vilnius, Klaipeda, and Alytus. The accompanying teachers translated the assignments into their country's languages, but thereafter- the guides were translators. Lithuania's team was guided by Gintas Vilkelis from Lithuania, who is now a physics student at the University of Pittsburgh. The Olympics consists of a theoretical and experimental portion, each taking up to 5 hours (9 chemistry problems and an experiment.) The students had a chance to meet with each other and mingle, they travelled to Georgetown, visited their countries' embassy (the young Lithuanians met both Lithuania's ambassador to the U.S.- Stasys Lozoraitis as well as the U.S. ambassador to Lithuania- Darryl Johnson who was visiting Washington) visited the Smithsonian, and attended the closing ceremonies at the National Academy of Sciences. Lithuania won 2 bronze medals (last year 1 was won). The next Olympics will take place in Italy. (DRAUGAS, 8/1/92, from an article by Gintas Vilkelis)

The new leadership of the World Lithuanian Community (Pasaulio lietuviu bendruomene) was elected at the PLB Congress July 1-4 in Lemont, IL. It consists of: Bronius Nainyspres., members: Dr. Petras Kisielius, Vytautas Kamantas, Rimas Cesonis, Baniute Kronas, Vitalija Vasaitis, Vacys Garbonkus, as well as members of various special committees.

The Congress was attended by 94 Lithuanians from 24 countries- about 200 official representatives in all.

For the first time, former Soviet Union Republics were represented- by 9 attendees (from Georgia, Moldavia, etc.-RK). (Then) Prime Minister Gediminas Vagnorius and Minister of Culture and Education Darius Kuolys, and Audrys Antanaitis (Director of the Office for Ties with Lithuanians overseas-RK) from Lithuania attended the "seimas". It was decided to organize a collaborative song festival 1994 in Lithuania, with participants from Lithuania and overseas.

Delegated into the organizing committee were Dalia Viskontas and Rita Karasiejus, both from Toronto, ONT. It was also decided to establish a World Lithuanian Community office in Vilnius to maintain ties between Lithuania and PLB. (TEVISKES ZIBURIAI, 7/14/92)

As of August 1st, 350 graduates of the University of Vilnius and Kaunas Academy of Medicine medical schools were looking for jobs themselves. Lithuania has discontinued mandatory practice for specialties, the Ministry of Health is in the position to offer jobs for ear, nose & throat specialists, pediatricians, radiologists, etc. where country clinics need physicians. So far, no young physicians have applied for these positions. (DRAUGAS-ELTA, 7/28/92)

The seaport city of Klaipeda celebrated its 740th birthday. The Livonian Chronicles mention the city on August 1, 1252. On July 27th, Lithuanians and foreign delegates gathered in the city for academic conferences, concerts, markets, art fairs, sports tournaments, and a "strongman" contest. The city's shield ("herba") was recently discovered under several layers in the wall of a house. (DRAUGAS-ELTA, 7/28/92)

On September 1st, Lithuania's schoolchildren began a new educational era. New programs, 40 new textbooks, and new courses comprise the new Lithuanian educational model. On a tract of moral upbringing courses, the students and their parents may choose to take an ethics course or religion class. The new school system will move to 8 grades and high school years. Trade schools will be initiated, the old mandatory professional schools will be eliminated. The change will bring the educational system away from the Soviet model to the new, modern Lithuanian model, according to Cultural and Educational Minister Darius Kuolys. (DRAUGAS-ELTA, 9/2/92)

The United States Information Agency has awarded \$317,000 to Purdue University which will begin an 18-month business management program in Lithuania. Lithuania's factory managers and university faculty will be able to take advantage of the program which will feature economics and business management courses. The courses will be taught at Kaunas Technological University (Kauno Technologijos universitetas), Vytautas Magnus University (Vytauto Didziojo universitetas) and the Agricultural Academy (Zemes Ukio akademija). (DARBINKAS, 9/11/92)

On August 19th the Human Services Council of the Lithuanian-American Community, Inc. sponsored an evening on the topic of immigration. The Chicago restaurant "Seklycia" was full of visitors from Lithuania who sought information on

the possibilities of immigration to the United States. Aidas Palubinskas translated the questions from the audience to a panel of immigration attorneys Deborah Kartje, Sylvia Boecker, Solomon M. Myers who donated their time for the session. Chicago Commission of Human Relations' Mary Kolbes organized the evening with Human Services Council president Birute Jasaitis, and the Commission's Lithuanian American members Ale Kezelis and Daiva Meile. The topics which arose included questions about student visas, green cards, asylum, marriage to a U.S. citizen, deportation, arrest of tourists in the United States and so on. Birute Jasaitis announced that, owing to the tremendous interest in the evening's session, another such session would soon be organized by the Human Services Council. (DRAUGAS, excerpted in part from an article by Aldona Smulkstys, 8/28/92)

Cleveland's Lithuanian folk dancing group GRANDINELE will dance for the 40th time in Cleveland's city festival in January. The group, which practices twice weekly, accepts young people from 13 years of age. The founder and longtime choreographer of the group was Liudas Sagys; the present choreographer is Rene Motiejunas-Booth. (Grandinele was founded in 1953 and has performed in and toured Rome, North and South America, Europe, Australia.-RK) (DRAUGAS, 8/28/92)

In April, the "Minties" Publishing House of Vilnius released its bilingual, 244 page photo album "Iseiviai is Lietuvos" (Emigrants from Lithuania). The photographer, engineer (Lithuanian American-rk) Kazys Daugela wrote the text, the editor-Milda Seskus, translator Alfonsas Bernotas, artistic editor-Romas Dubonis. The large format book features photographs from pre-World War II Lithuania and from emigre life in the displaced persons' camps in Germany. 10,000 copies of the book were published, and plans are now underway to bring limited numbers of the book to the United States. (DARBINKAS, 6/12/92)

"Operation Sail 1992" in New York July 1-7 was scheduled to feature 200 ships and about 5000 sailors. On July 4th-an impressive parade of ships. The festival celebrates 500 years from the discovery of America by Columbus. Lithuania was to be represented by three ships: "Sparta", "Lietuva", and "Bravo". Three hospitality centers, staffed by volunteers were to provide information to sailors. (DARBINKAS, 6/12/92)

The Architects' Association of Lithuania now has 1000 members: 488 in Vilnius, 272 in Kaunas, 82 in Klaipeda, 40 in Siauliai and 40 in other towns. Now 3 Lithuanian American architects and 1 Australian Lithuanian have also joined the ranks. In January 1993, the Association will commemorate the 100th anniversary of birth of the patriarch of Lithuania's architecture- Vytautas Landsbergis-Zemkalnis. For that occasion, a book will be published, articles prepared for various periodicals, a commemoration and exhibit prepared, a medal designed. In May 1993, the Association will hold its 12th meeting held since the post-war period. We hope to see attendees from abroad in 1993 as we did in 1992. If anyone has any memorabilia (photographs, clippings, etc.) about the cultural activities V. Landsbergis-Zemkalnis, especially from his

years in Australia, please let us know. Signed-Juozas Vaskevicius, president of the Lithuanian Architects' Association, Kalvariju 1, 2600 Vilnius, Lithuania. (DRAUGAS 7/22/92)

The St. George Society celebrated its 100th anniversary in November 1991, but on June 28, 1992 it was decided to disband the Society. Two thirds of the Society's members voted to disband, since many of the members are elderly and live far from the headquarters in Newark, NJ. Also, in 27 years, the Society had not enlisted any new members. The treasury of the Society was distributed: to the Lithuanian Foundation, Vasario 16-oji High School in Germany, ALKA Museum in Putnam, the Knights of Lithuania, Deborah Heart & Lung Foundation... (DARBININKAS, 7/24/92)

The commercial bank "Vilniaus bankas" on July 21st conducted its first transaction for a VISA credit card cash advance. The check on Howard Jarvis of England took one minute, and the requested amount of money was paid out to him. (DRAUGAS-ELTA, 7/22/92)

The United Nation's Children's Fund UNICEF on June 25th voted on a resolution to expand UNICEF help in the Baltics, Central and Eastern Europe. The resolution was met with some fear from the developing Third World nations which feared that funds would be diverted from the Third World to the Eastern European region. Ginte Damusis of the Lithuanian Mission to the UN spoke June 16-19th at plenary sessions at the UN where she emphasized that Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania were sensitive to the fact that help is still needed, especially in the African continent where the mortality of children is so high. However, she pointed out that the Baltics must pay attention to preventive health measures for mothers and children in the Baltics, something that was sorely neglected in the last decades. During these hard economic times, chronic shortages of medicines, supplies and vaccines paralyze these efforts-the governments are not fully ready and capable of handling the new organizational and distribution systems. Small investments now, she indicated, will save efforts in the long run if the infrastructure should crack. (DARBININKAS, 7/24/92)

Santa Monica's Lithuanian Americans donated a computer to the Lithuanian Embassy in Washington. The Californians, who were coordinated by Albinas Markevicius, purchased a 486-33 computer including word processing, database and other programs. Byte Productions of Inglewood, CA integrated the system and set it up in the embassy. Ambassador Lozoraitis thanked the group and indicated that the Californians, who have probably the largest computer center in the world in Silicon Valley, understood the importance of modern technology. The computer is already being used in the embassy offices in the Economics and Trade division. (DRAUGAS, 8/29/92, from article by D. Navickas)

The traditional Lithuanian American clergy retreat usually takes place at the beginning of summer. For more than 16 years the retreat was conducted in Putnam, CT. In 1992 more than 25 priests moved the retreat to Lithuania, conducting it in various cities and towns, concelebrating mass with the area's

priests. The group began its pilgrimage in the Kaunas Seminary, where 100 priests meditated, together with Cardinal Slatkevicius and his two assistants. In Marijampole, the priests joined a crowd commemorating the life of Blessed Father Jurgis Matulaitis (even President Vytautas Landsbergis participated). The Franciscans invited the Lithuanian Americans to visit a youth camp they were conducting in Girenai near Klaipeda. More than 500 young people from Estonia, Novosibirsk, France, Azerbaijan and elsewhere listed to lectures on Christian themes in 3 languages: Lithuanian, French and Russian. The pastor of Nida's Catholic Church, Franciscan Father Astijus was the heart and soul of the camp. The group visited the cities of Klaipeda, saw the beauty of the sand dunes at Kursiu Nerija, etc. In Vilnius the group toured the basements and lower regions of the Cathedral, stopping to pray at the graves of many of Lithuania's historical figures who are buried there. Their tour guide was Archbishop Audrius Antanas Backis. The group also visited Antakalnis cemetery where those who were killed in the January 13th and Medininkai tragedies. The impressive pilgrimage/tour spiritually joined the participants and left them with memories for years to come. (DARBININKAS, 8/28/92, from article by K.V.C.)

Kristina Pabedinskas, a former Chicagoland resident who now lives in Paris, participated with two pieces of artwork in a Japanese organized worldwide jewelry design contest. More than 800 participants, of them 20 were selected as winners (2 from France). Kristina was awarded a fifth place. (DRAUGAS, 5/21/92)

The Boston-based ethnographic ensemble SODAUTAS has been invited to Lithuania by Caritas as a means of showing re-established cultural ties between Lithuanians on both sides of the ocean. The group, whose director is Gita Kupcinskas was scheduled to perform in July in Kaunas, Marijampole, Alytus, Panevezis and Utena. The group's original concert program was taken from (late 19th century, early 20th century) Pennsylvania's Lithuanian coalminers' songs, folk tales, and other traditions and was choreographed by ensemble members themselves. The group is scheduled to finish off its tour at the A.P.P.L.E. course opening ceremonies in Vilnius. (DIRVA, 5/14/92)

The NEW YORK DAILY NEWS on May 1st published a long article entitled "The 'underdog' & the real victims in the Baltics". The author of the article was Guna Bite Dickson who is an associate editor of the paper. P. Palsy in DRAUGAS, 5/16/92 writes that Ms. Dickson is annoyed with the sympathy shown to minority populations who have lived in the Baltics for over 40 years, have not learned the language or culture, yet are seen as being discriminated against, according to many foreign observers. It's not easy to forget five decades in six months-more than 200,000 Latvian, Lithuanian, and Estonian were exiled or killed on their way to Siberia, while their places were taken by 2 million Russians who are now complaining.) (DRAUGAS, 5/16/92)

Late last year, the Lithuanian Foundation's treasury was increased by \$311,786 from the estate of Ernest J. Zitke-Zitkevicius. The American born Zitke was the son of two

Lithuanian immigrants, who soon after their arrival to the U.S. in 1914 bought a chicken farm in Massachusetts. The benefactor was a Northeastern graduate in mechanical engineering, who during his career succeeded in obtaining several patents in his various places of employment, helped mechanize his parents' farm, and consulted for various firms. Mr. Zitke nursed his dying mother for seven years. Ann Nichols, in writing about her cousin leaving a large amount to the Foundation (which provides grants and scholarships to Lithuania and to Lithuanian Americans), felt that his mother's love for her native land and its language and customs influenced her son. Mr. Zitke, who died at the age of 66 in 1989 is buried near his parents in the Melrose Cemetery in Brockton, MA. (DRAUGAS, from Antanas Juodvalkis article, 5/22/92)

Ingmar Bergman will attend the International Theater Festival in Lithuania in 1993. A proposal has been submitted by Bernard Sahlins for a UNESCO grant. England's "Walfare Station" will work with the organizing committee on choreographing the opening ceremonies, and the Sara Lee Company will finance the trip of the troupe representing Lithuania at the Festival. (DRAUGAS, 6/5/92)

In Chicago, new parents Dr. Ona and Dr. Jonas Daugirdas asked that in lieu of gifts for their son's christening, that guests who wished to, should donate to the Lithuanian-American Community, Inc. "Lithuanian Children's Hope" fund. In a letter to their family and friends, the parents wrote that their son has the three best older brothers in the world, has great grandparents and other relatives. He could hope for nothing more, while some children in Lithuania need some help. More than \$300 was donated to the fund. (DRAUGAS, 6/3/92)

As in other years, more than 4000 applicants are now taking entrance examinations in applying to the University of Vilnius. At this time, Lithuania's schools of higher education have reduced enrollment by a fourth. As in 1991, this year, graduates of Russian and Polish high schools are permitted to take entrance exams in their native tongues, but further studies take place in the official language-Lithuanian, with some exceptions for graduates from eastern Lithuania. Auditing students will be permitted, but they will have to pay tuition as do students in the evening division and the correspondence program. Police academy students receive the most financial support, but if they drop their studies or break the law, they will be responsible for paying back the government. (DRAUGAS-ELTA, 5/7/92)

Chicago's Lithuanian soccer club LITUANICA began its 42nd season. Its new home base is the soccer field near the World Lithuanian Center in Lemont, IL where the club's main and reserve teams practice before major games. The club's wins have been ensured by several players from Lithuania, and the club has progressed to the "major" division of Chicago and suburban clubs. (DIRVA, Ed. Sulaitis article, 5/14/92)

A small group of Lithuanian Americans watched as U.S. Ambassador to Lithuania, Darryl Johnson, gave his oath March 30th in Washington, D.C. and attended a private reception for him and his wife. He has been in Lithuania since September.

Ambassador Johnson began his career in foreign service when he joined the Peace Corps in 1965 and spent two years in Thailand. He has worked in Bombay, India; Hong Kong; Moscow; Beijing; Warsaw; in Washington, D.C. A Chicagoan by birth, Darryl Johnson grew up in Seattle, WA. He studied English Literature from Puget Sound University, furthered his studies at the University of Washington in Seattle, University of Minnesota and Princeton University. (DRAUGAS, from Elvyra Vodopalas article, 5/13/92)

A second delegation of LAPAS (the Lithuanian American Pharmacists' Association) will be in Lithuania June 9-20. The visitors will meet with Lithuania's Minister of Health, Dr. Oleka and with U.S. Ambassador to Lithuania, Darryl Johnson. (DRAUGAS, 6/5/92)

Lithuania has been accepted into the international artistic photography association FIAP to which 66 countries already belong. Lithuania's representative to FIAP will be Vitalijus Butyrinas. (DRAUGAS, 6/2/92)

Tell Us, So That We Can Tell Others!

Why not, today, write up information on activities that you, or someone you know, has recently participated in; and that would be of interest to readers of BRIDGES?

What kind of information? Well, BRIDGES is oriented to Lithuanian-American activities; so use that as your guide. Get published! Get publicity for your efforts! Tell all of us something we'd like to hear!

Mail your submission to: Editor, BRIDGES, Post Office Box 363, Gloucester, Virginia 23061.

Thank you.

FYI

From: George Antonelli,
Associate Vice President for Student Services and
Special Programs,
The University of North Carolina
Date: OCT. 19, 1992
Subject: Teachers of English and German

Dr. Joanna Lileikiene, Director of the College of Language at Klaipeda Teacher Training College, is requesting assistance to fill several new positions. Compensation includes salary and quarters. Klaipeda prepares teachers for primary and nursery schools as well as teachers of English and German.

For additional information, please write to Dr. Joanna Lileikiene, Director of The College of Languages, Klaipeda Teacher Training College, Darius ir Gireno 8, Klaipeda, Lithuania, 5018.

Lithuanian-American Community, Inc.

Educational Council News

by Ramune Kubilius

SUMMER SESSION

The Mokytoju Studiju savaite (Lithuanian teachers' camp) took place in August at Camp Dainava near Manchester, MI. 123 participants included Lithuanian language school teachers, principals and their children, as well as 23 adults who studied Lithuanian in sessions run concurrently with the teachers' camp. The sessions were well-attended: rountable discussions on how to motivate students, a workshop on the "whole language" methodology, an introduction to a book publication project which works in American schools and holds possibilities for the Lithuanian language schools, traditional Lithuanian folk dancing and singing sessions. Also included were daily morning exercise, Lithuanian grammar "mindbenders", lectures on Lithuanian literature and history, etc. Members of the Educational Council and the attendees had an opportunity to brainstorm about the use of textbooks from Lithuania, the revision of other textbooks which are out of print, etc.

LITHUANIAN LANGUAGE SCHOOLS

Educational Council president Regina Kucas has already visited two Chicagoland area Lithuanian language schools and plans to visit schools in Cleveland and Boston in coming months. (Almost all of the schools operate Saturdays from morning until early afternoon.) The Maironis school in Lemont, IL began the school year with a new principal- Egle Novak, and with an enrollment of 270 students (including a class for those just learning Lithuanian). The combined Chicago Lithuanian language school (formed by the union of 3 schools) began the year with a new principal- Jurate Dovilas, and with an enrollment of 120 students (including 2 classes, for youth and adult students learning Lithuanian). Lithuanian language schools feel that a commitment is required, and some have begun to require that parents and students alike sign agreements that all attempts will be made for good attendance and good performance at school.

NEW, REVISED PUBLICATIONS

- The Educational Council holds the rights to publishing the highly popular **MANO ZODYNAS-MY DICTIONARY**. Based on Richard Scarry's **THE BEST WORD BOOK EVER**, the children's dictionary is grouped by colorful illustrated categories which teach children the names of items in Lithuanian. Arrangements for a newly revised edition (5000 copies) are now underway. (Expected price will be \$15.)

- **EASY WAY TO LITHUANIAN** has proven to be popular. After the first run of the self-study audiocassette, grammar, dictionary package has run out, new packets are now being printed/recorded/packaged. (\$50 plus \$4 mailing.)

- **LITHUANIAN ROAD MAP**. The Educational Council distributes a motoring map published in Lithuania in 1991. The three-part map packet includes major and minor highways, roadways, and includes indexes to cities and towns. (\$6)

(A number of libraries have written the Educational Council requesting free maps of Lithuania. The Educational

Council needs to recoup its costs and repay the publisher in Lithuania and cannot fill these types of requests. It might be suggested that the map would be an ideal donation to your local public or university library.-rk)

OTHER

- The Lithuanian Foundation is celebrating its 30th anniversary. A supporter of many projects over the years, the Lithuanian Foundation has been supportive also of Lithuanian language schools and publications. Lithuanian language education will be featured in the Foundation's anniversary book.

- Educational Council president Mrs. Kucas and her husband toured Lithuania this past summer. During her visit, she had an opportunity to meet with Cultural and Educational Ministry officials, and to visit various school districts. She also visited a school where children of Lithuanian repatriates from Siberia study the language of their parents and forefathers. The LAC Educational Council is not a U.S. governmental agency, it has tried to act as a liaison for Lithuania's education officials and educators. The Educational Council, for example, has been sent and has shared sample children's books from Lithuania with U.S. Lithuanian language school educators who were so impressed with their quality, that they ordered some of them for use in their schools. The Educational Council's **EASY WAY TO LITHUANIAN** program will be adapted in Lithuania as a model for teaching English to Lithuanian-language speakers.

- Not all Lithuanian language schools and programs keep contact with the LAC Educational Council, but in so doing, the schools, their teachers and their students miss the dialog the Council tries to establish, the information it tries to pass along. It doesn't matter whether a school operates with only a few children out of someone's house, or whether it rents facilities from the local school district- all are of interest to the Educational Council. All of the schools receive communiques, moral and financial support, if needed, from the LAC Educational Council. The 1992-93 school year should be an exciting and challenging one as we continue striving to convey the Lithuanian language and spirit to new generations and to "born again" or "reborn" Lithuanians here in the U.S.

(For more information, or to order items noted herein, write to the Educational Council of the Lithuanian American Community, Inc. at: 8626 South Mozart, Chicago, IL 60652.)

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