

# BRIDGES

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## To our readers:

We're proud of this issue. We think it includes much that should be of interest to our diverse readership. Your letters make me realize that there is no "average" **BRIDGES** reader. You are truly a unique group: young, old and in between; 1st generation Lithuanian American, to 3rd or 4th generation Lithuanian American, to "plain" American; involved in politics to totally uninvolved in/literally "hating" politics; interested in Lithuanian history, Lithuanian mythology, Lithuanian customs to those who say, "Tell me about now!"

Geographically, you're well scattered, as well. We've got readers from Alaska to Arizona; and California to Connecticut. Some of our readers are in Lithuania, Australia, Canada as well as wherever members of the US Armed Forces may be at any particular time. Some of you are interested in the activities of/involvement with various Lithuanian American groups; while others of you simply aren't interested in what these groups and organizations may be doing. And, of course, amongst those who are members of groups or organizations, the great diversity is there, as well. Our readers stand proudly in the membership ranks of organizations ranging from the Knights of Lithuania to the Lithuanian American Community, Inc. We've got readers for whom English is a second language; while other readers simply never learned the Lithuanian language - or have forgotten it.

So, obviously, I'm challenged every single time I have to decide what to include in any given issue. My constant question is: Am I including enough material, in each issue, which will make it a worthwhile issue for every single subscriber, given the diversity of the subscribers?

Hopefully, I meet the goal more often than not. There are occasions when I know that I am simply not meeting the goal - and that's because I don't have the necessary materials submitted for publication. As you know, I've got to depend on readers, and others, for material to publish. If I don't get it, I can't publish it - no matter how many of our readers want me to publish certain kinds of articles.

For example, I know that I've been "short" on history, culture, myths - subjects many of our readers want; but articles on which I've not been able to get submitted. (I do plan to run a series of articles in this area in the near future; even though they will be reprints of something which appeared in another publication several years ago. Our policy is to try and avoid non original materials; but, in this particular area, I don't appear to have a choice; while trying to meet

your, the readers' needs.)

Help us - please, take the time to write, and send to us, original materials for publication. Share your experiences, hopes and adventures with all of us!

  
Joseph Arlauskas, Editor

(Darius and Garenas monument photos by Ramune Kubilius)

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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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## Letters To The Editor

Dear Sir:

I have just been given a couple of your magazines of 1992. It is very interesting to my wife and me. We have been going back and forth to Lithuania for the past two years. We have made six trips there now, and just returned a couple of weeks ago.

We would like to introduce ourselves. We are Preston and Vivian Brandsen. I'm sure that you can recognize by our name that we are not Lithuanian. We are with the Campus Crusade for Christ and have been given the privilege of working with the Lithuanian people. During the past two years, we have gotten to know and love many Lithuanians, both here in the USA and in Lithuania.

Our goal is to help the Lithuanians as much as we can, physically and spiritually. The people have been denied good Christian material for so long under the Soviet Union, telling and teaching the people that there is no God. How false. And most of the Lithuanian people know it is not true. They have been so appreciative of our concern for their spiritual welfare, and the help we have been able to give them through the work of the Lord.

I wish that I could tell you all that has happened since we began the work here. But we do have a newsletter that we send to all the people who have helped us financially to do what we do.

The Catholic church in the USA has been very helpful in doing some translating, but most important of all, in putting the "Jesus" film in the Lithuanian language. If you have not seen this film, I suggest that you do. It is also available on video. It is the story of Jesus from the Book of Luke.

Mrs. Bailey from the Embassy in Washington, D.C. has been so helpful to us in getting visas. Lithuanian people in Grand Rapids and as far away as California have been encouraging us so much. But most of all the ones in Lithuania, from the Parliament to the people we meet of the street. We have spent time with just about every kind of people from all walks of life there.

I write this letter to you just to let you know that others who are not Lithuanian, are concerned about what is happening in Lithuania, and in some small way, we are trying to help. Our ministry work in Lithuania is called, "New Life Lithuania." We are planning our next trip in April, 1993. Each time we go, we take some professional people with us who can help in some way, whether in business, medicine, or education.

(Signed) Preston & Vivian Brandsen  
4936 36th Ave., Box 204  
Hudsonville, MI 49426-0204

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Dear Sir:

I truly am glad that I renewed my subscription and with each issue of **BRIDGES**, I find it more and more informative.

Page 19 of the September issue, just received, had pertinent information regarding phone calls to Lithuania. It would be more than appreciated if, in your next issue, you would print the CITY CODES, i.e. Alytus, Druskininkai, etc.

I believe it would benefit many because I have found the overseas operators not too cognizant of the towns, cities and very often the spelling is not accurate. Many thanks for this information,

(Signed) Helen Matulonis / Maspeth, New York

(Editor's Note: Does anyone have this information? If we can get it, we'll print it in an upcoming issue.

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Dear Sir:

I would like to voice my support for Sandra Baksys' contention (in Letters to the Editor) that the LAC should expand its American base and accommodate Lithuanian non-speakers. The LAC should strive to be bilingual where it is appropriate. Surely there must be a creative way to do this. After all, we are in America, a place where diversity and versatility are strength.

Even so, I think that Lithuanian should remain the primary language of the LAC. I say this as a person who speaks Lithuanian only a little bit, and is working hard to become fluent. Our Lithuanian language is our most precious cultural possession. It contains the memories of centuries of the history of our people. In learning it I have "recalled" much that my own family had lost over several generations. It is a testimony to the survivability of our people that so many of us mixed-blood Lithuanians cannot and will not forget what we are: Lithuanians all. We too, in our various ways, are part of what has survived. Clearly, being Lithuanian goes beyond mere genetics; it is an affair of the heart and soul as well. The LAC should wholeheartedly accept these people, who only want to help their ancestral homeland. As Ms. Baksys rightly points out, Lithuanians should define themselves by what they do, not simply by what they are.

(Signed) David Skirkey-Skirkevicius/Johnston, RI

(Editor's Note: We welcome letters. We will print those which are appropriate for publication and which we feel may be of interest to other readers; and as space permits. We reserve the right to edit letters before publication. Our goal is to respond to all letters, whether published or not. However, we are constrained by time; and may not always be able to do so. Mail: Letters to the Editor, **BRIDGES**, Post Office Box 363, Gloucester, Virginia 23061-0363) □



# ADAAL: Dental Assistance

## *Experiences Of The American Dental Association For Assistance To Lithuania (ADAAL); And Their Current Programs.*

by **Leonidas J. Ragas, DDS**

*(Presented at the Conference on Organizing Effective Aid to Lithuania - held in Washington, DC during the period 7-8 November 1992; and about which conference there were two reports in the last issue of B R I D G E S. Translated from Lithuanian by R. A. Stirbys.)*

*(Editor's Note: Information about the ADAAL has appeared in previous issues of B R I D G E S; but we are offering this item because it offers new information; and, as well, it adds perspective to some of the difficulties being faced by those participating in various assistance programs. Finally, it is important to note that we "debated" the need to put this article under the "Op-Ed" cover we often use in these pages; but decided, in the end, to not do so. The reason to go this way? Because, unfortunately, the experiences described herein are not unique.)*

Medicine and dentistry have traditionally been separate branches of the health industry not only in Lithuania but in the United States as well. Actually, dentistry is itself a specialized branch of medicine and should be viewed as an integral part of general health care. I emphasize it should be an integral part of general health care, but that is not the case. The mouth, and especially the teeth, receive a very low priority from the medical community. Teeth are always treated separately from the body and receive less respect probably because few people die as the result of dental diseases ... they only suffer pain.

However, teeth play a very fundamental role: they prepare food for digestion. Neglected teeth and gums are often a source of infection. Bacteria from an abscess travel throughout the body and can damage other internal organs. The proper working of the lower jaw depends upon the articulation of the teeth. A pleasant smile can't be managed without healthy teeth.

Keeping healthy teeth requires preventive maintenance and sometimes treatment. Young people in Lithuania often lose many important teeth in part because dental treatment in Lithuania is usually conducted without any anesthetics. Dental prostheses cannot fully replace those teeth, especially if they are made using outdated techniques and materials which ultimately damage the teeth to which they've been attached.

Medical assistance to Lithuania from all sources in addition to that from the Lithuanian Diaspora is in tens of millions of dollars, but dental assistance is virtually zero ... absolutely nothing! If a healthy mouth contributes to a healthy body, shouldn't funds be targeted for dental assistance (since this area gets no part of the medical aid) as well?

***During the Soviet occupation, limited contact with the West prevented Western technological advances from reaching Lithuania.***

During the Soviet occupation, limited contact with the West prevented Western technological advances from reaching Lithuania. As a result, stomatology (the science dealing with the mouth and its diseases) is in a horrible backward state in Lithuania compared to the industrialized West, much worse than the state of medicine itself.

The American Dental Association for Assistance to Lithuania (ADAAL) has taken on the responsibility for improving conditions of dental health in Lithuania. ADAAL collects medical supplies and donations, especially funds, and seeks further help wherever it can be found. ADAAL came into being in September, 1991: with the encouragement and blessing of the Loyola University School of Dentistry and the help of the Lithuanian Embassy in Washington, DC, ADAAL offered to help the Lithuanian Ministry of Health in raising the levels of the stomatological profession in Lithuania. A proposal was sent to Dr. Alvydas Seikus, a dental advisor to the Ministry of Health, that Lithuanian stomatology didn't need more theoretical information, but rather, practical experience which could be rendered most effectively by setting up a modern clinic furnished with working equipment and necessary supplies.

In December, 1991, three members of ADAAL spent two weeks in Lithuania discussing the issues with members of the Health Ministry, visiting "polyclinics"



and consulting with the staff of the Stomatological Division of the Kaunas Academy of Medicine, including the current dean, Dr. Prof. Jonas Zekonis. During this visit, we presented and signed a formal plan for future cooperation. Included in the plan was an agreement to, "found a Stomatological Clinic at the Kaunas Academy of Medicine, with dental equipment, instruments and supplies provided by ADAAL. The clinic will be staffed and directed by stomatologists and dental technicians from the West, together with local stomatologists. The Academy agrees to provide facilities and personnel."

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***Medical assistance to Lithuania from all sources in addition to that from the Lithuanian Diaspora is in tens of millions of dollars, but dental assistance is virtually zero ... absolutely nothing!***

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Soon after returning from Lithuania, our plans caught the interest of a journalist from the *Chicago Tribune*. His subsequent published article on our work opened doors for us and led to further articles in the *Illinois Dental Journal* in July, 1992, and *ADA (American Dental Association) News* in October, 1992. Through those articles, we received many responses from our professional colleagues. Some donated dental supplies, but most offered to work in the clinic when it opened.

There was much written about us in the Lithuanian press, especially in *Draugas* (the Lithuanian world-wide daily), but without similar success. In April and May, Dean Zekonis, wrote that space for our clinic had been found at the Kaunas Academy. We rejoiced at the cooperative atmosphere we found ourselves in ... it fueled optimism and provided energy for further work. We met with Lithuanian dentists in Toronto (Canada) who also have been involved in assistance for Lithuania and received their full approval for our project. At the beginning of this past summer, three of our officers visited Lithuania: Prof. Nijole Remeikis and Col. John A. Buzenas (DDS, United States Air Force, Dental Corps) held lectures, while Dr. Romualdas Povilaitis, having brought along portable equipment, demonstrated certain clinical procedures in five different cities. Dr. Gordon Klockow, an ADAAL Vice-president and a key player in our efforts, is getting approval from the *Rotary Club International* for a substantial grant; and in August traveled to Copenhagen (Denmark) for that purpose.

In September, Dr. Klockow accompanied another of our most active people, Prof. Frank Slaby, an economist

who is an ADAAL Vice-president, to Lithuania for the purpose of re-establishing the *Rotary Club* in Kaunas - a pre-requisite for receiving the grant.

Later in September, after all the successes we had experienced, we got a cold dose of reality. Dean Zekonis wrote that, "the most effective assistance that ADAAL can render stomatology in the Republic of Lithuania would be in the following form: a Lithuanian-American dentist with academic experience and degrees in Dentistry should come to Lithuania 2 - 3 times per year for 1 - 2 weeks per visit. It is desirable that the individual have published his work in academic journals which then would be presented in lectures, and would be used in rendering technical advice. Collected funds would be used for material, equipment, literature, computer diskettes, and similar supplies, since that is what we need the most. There are already nearly enough doctors, dental offices and polyclinics in Lithuania."

I agree that there are many clinics in Lithuania, but nothing that would compare with the purpose, the scope, or the equipment to be offered by ADAAL!

We responded to the letter by reminding Dean Zekonis not only of our earlier agreement, but that we were also bound morally to our benefactors (We already had monetary donations and commitments from dental supply firms for the donation of supplies.) and legally by our principles of incorporation to establish that clinic.

We pointed out that our purpose was to provide western materials, technology and, most importantly, practical, modern methods for the benefit of Lithuanian practitioners. Our reasons for wanting to be as close to the Academy itself was to provide access and experience for the students ... Lithuania's very future. We recognized that we were to start from the foundation up, but that the future held great promise for broader applications and more sophisticated procedures.

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***Later in September, after all the successes we had experienced, we got a cold dose of reality.***

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The two colleagues I mentioned earlier, Dr. Klockow and Prof. Slaby, neither of whom are Lithuanian, had not been received in what we would call a friendly manner by the Dean and several associate professors. Others later apologized for that breach of etiquette, especially one faculty member who had spent several months studying in America. However, when she returned to Lithuania, she was forbidden to teach or even demonstrate any of the knowledge she had acquired.



We have found out that Moscow and Estonia have enthusiastically taken to all forms of modern assistance provided to them, and the new head of the prosthetic department of the Dental Academy in Riga, Latvia is a Canadian-Latvian dentist, Dr. Peter Apse.

ADAAL is not swerving from its mission. At this time, our primary task is collecting funds to establish the clinic for the purposes I stated earlier.

**... it appears that the prevailing opinion of academic doctors in Lithuania is that we want to force our clinic and our methods down their throats, usurp their authority, and disrupt their teaching plans and methods. This, then, is our greatest handicap - a resistance to change, a reluctance to introduce any new means of teaching medicine, administering dental care, or, as we see it, broadening medical responsibility.**

Nevertheless, it appears that the prevailing opinion of academic doctors in Lithuania is that we want to force our clinic and our methods down their throats, usurp their authority, and disrupt their teaching plans and methods. This, then, is our greatest handicap - a resistance to change, a reluctance to introduce any new means of teaching medicine, administering dental care, or, as we see it, broadening medical responsibility. Needless to say, our grants for Lithuania are "on hold."

We trust that this negative behavior which harms the entire nation of Lithuania is only the result of a thoughtless few. If they continue stubbornly to cling to their out-dated methods, long obsolete in the West, and if, according to Dr. Linas Sidrys, they fail to see the light, their future is bleak. (*Translator's Note: Dr. Sidrys, MD, is a prominent ophthalmologist from the Chicago area. A lengthy article of his attempt to help his colleagues in Lithuania, and the consequences of his efforts, appeared in the Lithuanian-language daily, Draugas.*)

Our goal was and remains the improvement of the dental health of the people of Lithuania. We are firm in our purpose of establishing that clinic, if not in conjunction with the Stomatology faculty of the Kaunas Academy of Medicine, then elsewhere.

(*Post Script: On the basis of the generally very poor dental health of its inhabitants, I have long been*

*tormented by the incredibly low level of dentistry in Lithuania. As a professional, I feel an obligation, even a duty, to improve that sorry state. From experience, I know that the unacceptable state of Lithuanian dentistry was not limited to the collective farms, since even the privileged classes, including medical colleagues and dentists, did not fare much better. I am also sure that the problem is not only the lack of technology, equipment or supplies. Could the problem also be that our Lithuanian colleagues, stomatologists, promulgate this specialty (stomatology is the science or study of diseases or organs in the oral cavity and the jaws), and effectively treat and pay more attention and direct more resources to all other areas of the oral cavity at the expense of the teeth, which decay into a dismal state?*

*In contrast, dentists in the West are satisfied to focus mainly on the teeth, taking advantage of the counsel of about six separate specialized branches of odontology in America. I mention that to point how that teeth are, in fact, incredible complex organs in and of themselves. One of those specialties is the province of one of our Vice-presidents, Dr. Nijole Remeikis, head of the Endodontic Department of Illinois University Dental School (endodontics deals with the cause, diagnosis, prevention, and treatment of diseases of the dental pulp; e.g. root canal therapy), and she is an irreplaceable member of our organization.)*

*(Author's Post Post Script: Since this presentation in Washington, a world class dental educator and practitioner, Dr. Harold T. Perry, has come to our aid by sharing his experiences in other countries in situations similar to ours. He is going to help us further. Also, our Christmas present came early this year. We received an affirmative telegram from Kaunas Medical Academy rector Prof. Vilnius Grabauskas which read, in part, "...dental clinic should be established as planned. Apologies for misunderstanding that occurred between dean faculty of dentistry and your group.") □*

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# A Museum To Visit

*Lithuanian Museum - Archives, Located In Mississauga, Ontario, Canada (Near Toronto). A Destination You Will Find Fulfilling.*

by **Ramune Kubilius**

Many people have heard of the *Balzekas Museum of Lithuanian Culture* in Chicago and have made a point of visiting the museum during visits to the Windy City. There are a number of other Lithuanian museums which people may want to visit during visits to other cities. One such museum is the *Lithuanian Museum - Archives* located in Mississauga, Ontario, Canada (outside Toronto).

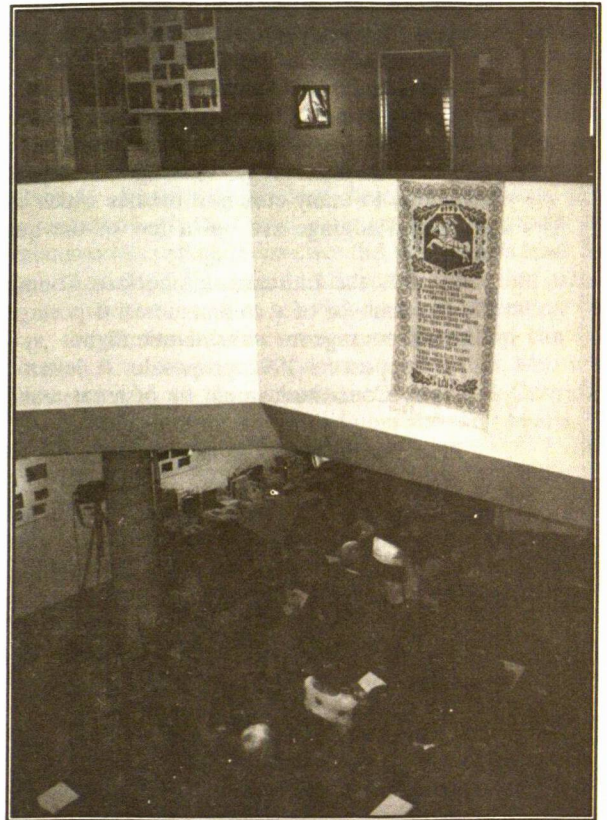


Monument honoring Lithuanians killed defending Lithuania.

The Museum was built as an addition to the Lithuanian Martyrs' Parish (*Lietuvos Kankiniu sventove*). The two story building (really a first floor with a gallery/balcony on the second floor) has as its Director/Curator, Dr. Rasa Mazeika, a historian by training. The *Museum - Archives* has three main

purposes for its collection:

- 1) Documentation on Lithuanians in Canada,
- 2) Collect Lithuanian artifacts of great historical or artistic value,
- 3) Memorabilia and documentation of the present national revival and re-establishment of independence in Lithuania.



View of interior, Lithuanian Museum - Archives.

The first floor primarily serves as a gathering place, exhibit hall for temporary exhibits while it appeared that the second floor space holds more permanent collections-Lithuanian ethnic costume displays, photographs of Canadian Lithuanian life, including a library/video room.

The curator's office is also on the second floor.

(Photos by the author.)





## Remembering The Flight Of Darius And Girenas

### Support is Sought for the Issuance of a Commemorative Stamp

Two American pilots, Stephen Darius and Stanley Girenas, undertook an historic transatlantic flight on July 15, 1933, one hour after Wiley Post took off from the same airport. Their flight aboard the "Lituanica" originated near the Statue of Liberty. The lives of Darius and Girenas ended abruptly when their plane crashed in Soldin, Germany, a few hundred miles short of their destination; the Statue of Freedom in Kaunas, Lithuania. Their journey was recorded as the second longest transatlantic flight of the time.

Stephen Darius and Stanley Girenas blazed a trail in the air. Their mission, to conquer and explore the skies for the betterment of mankind, lives on even today in the spirit of the space shuttles "Columbia", "Challenger" and others.

Darius and Girenas served in the U.S. Army. The Darius and Girenas Post No. 271 of the American Legion was named in their honor. Darius-Girenas memorial monuments were erected in Chicago, Illinois, Brooklyn, New York, in Lithuania, and other places. Many streets, squares, schools, etc. were named in their honor.

The Lithuanian American Community of the U.S.A. and numerous other organizations initiated a campaign for the issuance of a commemorative postage stamp in honor of Stephen Darius and Stanley Girenas. Such a stamp would be a fitting and symbolic tribute to these pioneer aviators and their historic flight. Issuing a stamp remembering these fliers and their mission would bear testimony to many common themes which we in American society hold in high esteem; patriotism, pride and courage are but a few of the qualities which these men inspired then and could do so again.

In 1991 the Lithuanian American Community submitted a proposal to the Postmaster General for the issuance of a commemorative postage stamp in 1993, marking the anniversary of Darius and Girenas' courageous transatlantic flight. The Lithuanian American Community respectfully urges all to support its 1991 proposal. A letter to the Postmaster General and to the Citizen's Stamp Advisory Committee would be of great assistance for the issuance of a postage stamp in 1993.

Please write letters in support to:

The Honorable Marvin T. Runyon  
Postmaster General,  
U.S. Postal Service  
475 L'Enfant Plaza S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20260  
and  
Jack Rosenthal, Chairman,  
Citizen's Stamp Advisory Committee  
U.S. Postal Service  
475 L'Enfant Plaza S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20260

- Article submitted by  
*Patricia Michalski,*  
Assistant to the Governor  
for Ethnic Affairs/Media,  
State of Illinois.



Monument To Darius And Girenas, in Marquette Park, Chicago, Illinois.



## Tennis Players Visit U.S.

*Some Of Lithuania's Tennis Players Come To The U.S.  
To Train (And Enjoy The Weather) In Daytona Beach, Florida!*

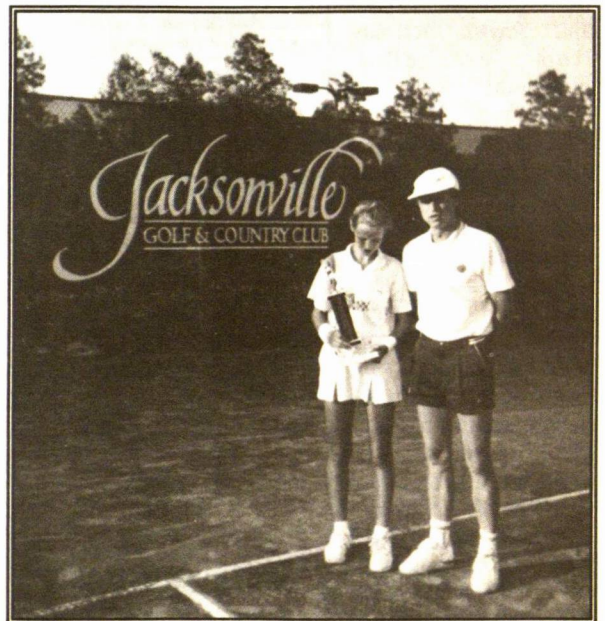
by **Sigita Ramanauskas, Ph.D.**

Thanks to veteran tennis player/basketball star Vytautas Grybauskas and his wife Janina, two of Lithuania's top tennis players had a chance to train in the Daytona Beach, Florida area. They were here during the beginning of this year, when outdoor courts in Lithuania are not in service, and indoor ones are simply not available. One of the visitors was 36 year-old Gracijus Remeikis, five-time Lithuanian champion, currently still a winner in men's and mixed doubles and a leading tennis instructor. Sixteen year-old Gabriele Masiliunaite, who accompanied him on the trip, started to train with Gracijus four years ago. Currently, she is the top Lithuanian female youth player, is ranked third in the Baltics, and even won the Lithuanian women's championship last winter.

The excellent weather in Florida allowed the Lithuanian players to practice for three hours every morning, and another one and a half in the evening. They had a chance to play all types of court surfaces, participating in clinics with well-known instructors such as Tom Gullikson and Acuna, and got to play against excellent Americans, such as Brian Gottfried's son. The Lithuanian tennis champs were able to visit clubs in Jupiter, Palm Coast, Ponte Vedre, as well as the greater Daytona Beach area. When asked to comment about what he saw, Gracijus remarked on the cleanliness of the tennis facilities, including the locker rooms, fresh towels, etc. Gabriele participated in two tournaments in Jacksonville and Ormond Beach, and won both!

The visitors were then scheduled to participate in the annual North American Lithuanian Physical Education and Sports Association Games in Toronto, but were not able to get visas from the Canadian Embassy in Washington. One of the reasons was that Gabriele was a minor and did not have a notarized document written in English showing parent permission to travel abroad. However, the visitors made the most of their stay in Washington, thanks to the hospitality of Elvyra and Jurgis Vodopalas, who arranged for some terrific tennis! After that, the Lithuanians spent ten days in Stamford, Connecticut, where they were the guests of Rolandas Grybauskas and played some more...

In case you are wondering if they did anything else **but** play tennis, Gabriele and Gracijus also did a lot of swimming, saw St. Augustine, the Kennedy Space Center, Disney World, and the highlights of Washington and New York. After this super training trip, Gabriele was indeed more prepared to take on international competition in Italy this past summer. As for Gracijus, this journey was a chance to catch up on some opportunities missed when he was younger. He shared how in 1988 he was not given permission by the old regime to travel to Australia for the Lithuanian World Games. Instead of sending their tennis champ, the government of the time arranged for a group of functionaries calling themselves the **table** tennis team to go. Amazingly, no one questioned the fact that table tennis was not even a scheduled event! Needless to say, the success of this year's memorable trip can be attributed to Janina and Vytautas Grybauskas, who not only arranged the busy schedule, but also took Gabriele and Gracijus into their Florida home and their hearts. □



*Sixteen Year Old Lithuanian Tennis Champion Gabriele Masiliunaite and Coach Gracijus Remeikis.*



## \* From The Past . . . \*

**BRIDGES** began publication in April of 1977. In this section we re-print items from past issues; in an attempt to put current news and information in perspective; and to help us remember where we've been/how far we've come.

Who are the **Soviet dissidents**? James Ring Adams, writing in the June 28, 1977 issue of the **The Wall Street Journal** attempted to answer this complex phenomenon. According to Adams, "dissidence in the Soviet Union includes an astonishing variety of groups and opinions, many of which are no closer to Western capitalism than to Kremlin communism.

They are united only in their use of samizdat ("self-publishing") technique of circulating manuscripts, which has grown in the last two decades into a broad stream of unauthorized newsletters, literature and essays."

Mr. Adams points out that "this writing is coming from the Moscow intelligentsia, from political prisoners in the labor camps, from Ukrainian and **Lithuanian nationalists**, from Crimean Tartars and Jewish activists, from evangelical Protestant sects ..." Religious dissent seems to bother the Soviet leadership even more than the publicized statements of Moscow intellectuals. The authorities are troubled by "a militant nationalist Catholic movement in Lithuania." According to the British scholar Peter Reddaway, the samizdat "Chronicle of the Catholic Church in Lithuania" has produced 26 issues of around 50 pages each in the last five years. (Vol. 1, No. 6, September 1977) ♦

After a seeming hesitancy, President Jimmy Carter, on the morning of Wednesday, July 20, finally approved and released the Presidential Captive Nations Week Proclamation. A summary issued by the White House Press Office follows: "President Carter has proclaimed this week as Captive Nations Week and called on American people to support those who seek national independence and human rights. Mr. Carter said that the U.S. has always sought to give meaning to the principle of national self-determination and he asked

Americans to observe this week with appropriate ceremonies and activities. President Carter acted on the basis of Public Law 86-90, approved July 17, 1950, by President Eisenhower." In view of the fact that Captive Nations Week officially started July 17th, the time lag and hesitancy could not be understood. J. Bolsteins. (Vol. 1, No. 6, September 1977) ♦

On Sunday, July 17, 1977, representatives of 36 captive nations gathered in New York City at St. Patrick's Cathedral for Mass, which was followed by a procession up Fifth Avenue to Central Park, where a Captive Nations Week rally was held, featuring local proclamations, greetings, resolutions, and folklore entertainment.

Lithuanian-American Community of U.S.A., Inc. **BRIDGES** Lithuanian-American NEWSLETTER

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VOL. 1, No. 6

SEPTEMBER, 1977

September Eighth is celebrated by Lithuanians as "Tautos Šventė". This holiday has been translated as the "National Holiday", "The Lithuanian Statehood Day," or "The Day of the Lithuanian Nation." Most translations are inaccurate, therefore let us explain its essence for understanding. "Tautos Šventė" is not to be confused with "Lietuvos Nepriklausomybės Šventė" (Lithuanian Independence Day), which falls on February 16th. In 1930 during the commemoration of the 500th anniversary of the death of Vytautas the Great, the Republic of Lithuania designated September 8th as "Tautos Šventė" to be observed annually as an official state holiday. The purpose of this holiday is to remind Lithuanians the world over that Lithuania did not come into existence as a nation-state in 1918, but that the country had a long and impressive record of statehood that stretched back to Vytautas the Great, and even further back in history to the 12th century.

Why September 8th? September 8, 1430 was the date agreed upon for the coronation of Vytautas as king of Lithuania. To medieval Christian Europe the anointing of a monarch meant absolute sovereignty for his realm. Fearful of Polish encroachments and mindful of medieval political theory, Vytautas sought to elevate the Lithuanian Grand Duchy to the status of kingdom. Defender of Lithuanian statehood, Vytautas had struggled with his cousin Jogaila for ten years (1382 - 1392) to regain his legal rights and patrimony. He consolidated the Grand Duchy of Lithuania and succeeded in curtailing Jogaila's authority. In 1392, after the Treaty of Salin with the Teutonic Order he titled himself "Supremus Dux Lithuaniae" (Supreme Duke of Lithuania). In 1429 at the zenith of his political power Vytautas raised his claim to a kingly crown from the Holy Roman Emperor. King Jogaila of Poland reluctantly consented to his cousin's coronation. The coronation, however, had to be set aside when the Poles waylaid the imperial couriers bearing the crown. Vytautas was never anointed king, because he died on October 27, 1430.

In 1930 Lithuania appreciated Vytautas' regal aspirations and held him up as the model of Lithuanian statesmanship. The observance of "Tautos Šventė" was introduced to the U.S.A. in the early '50's. With the loss of Lithuania's independence, "Tautos Šventė" has assumed a deeper meaning. Lithuanians rededicate themselves to the restoration of Lithuania's national freedom on the occasion. After Lithuanian Independence Day, this holiday is the major memorable date observed by Lithuanians in the free world. Today, the observances are conducted, in the main, by the local chapters of the Lithuanian American Community, Inc. The donations raised at these public meetings and ceremonies are used to fund the various educational, cultural and public affairs projects of Bendruomenė. For this reason, September has come to be referred to as "Bendruomenė Month".

BRIDGES calls upon all readers to reflect for a moment on the past grandeur of Lithuania and to observe September 8th appropriately.

Algirdas Budreckis

Cover Page Of Issue #6 of BRIDGES; With Editorial Comments.



Among the sponsoring organizations were the Knights of Lithuania and the Brooklyn Chapter of Bendruomene. (*Vol. 1, No. 6, September 1977*) ♦

September 24, 1977 is the date of the Baltic Human Rights Rally. The date was chosen because the main proceedings of the European Conference on Security and Cooperation is slated to begin in early October in Belgrade. The Rally is scheduled to be held in the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C. Among the dignitaries invited to speak are President Jimmy Carter, Senator Henry Jackson, Representative Millicent Fenwick and Alexander Solzhenitsyn. A Baltic cultural program is also planned. Many interested Baltic communities have begun organizing local demonstration committees. It is known that Chicago, Rochester and Philadelphia have begun to prepare for the Rally. The Baltic Human Rights Rally Executive Committee, located in Detroit, has published a memorandum entitled "How to Prepare for the Rally." The address of the Executive Committee is: 1668 Bowers, Birmingham, MI 48008. Many organizations have endorsed the Rally. Here is a current Lithuanian list: the Baltic World Federation, Algimantas Gecys (Lithuanian American Community, Inc. of the USA), Dr. Kazys Bobelis (Lithuanian American Council), Gabiha Juozapavicius (Lithuanian World Youth Association), Anthony Miner (Knights of Lithuania), Bronius Nainys (Lithuanian World Community), Jonas Simanavicius (Lithuanian Canadian Community), Jurgis Valatis (Lithuanian Canadian Youth Association) and Dr. Juozas Valiunas (Supreme Committee for the Liberation of Lithuania). A Lithuanian Finance Committee was formed in Chicago. The chairman is Dr. Jonas Valaitis. Any amount can be contributed and donations are tax deductible (send donations to: Baltic Human Rights Rally, Inc., 1617 Fairway La., Naperville, IL 60540.) The Rally has received support from U.S. Rep. James J. Blanchard of Michigan. Victor Nakas is the chairman of the Rally Executive Committee. (*Vol. 1, No. 6, September 1977*) ♦

The Santa Monica Chapter of the Lithuanian American Community (Bendruomene) is probably the most active local group when it comes to informing the American press about the Lithuanian Question. Due to the efforts of the Chapter chairman, Mr. **Juozas Kojelis**, at least five letters to the editor appear monthly in the area press. Mr. Kojelis' letter, entitled "Human Rights" appeared in the **Evening Outlook** (Santa Monica, Cal., July 5). A second one, entitled "Lithuanian Struggle" was published in the **Los Angeles Times** (July 6). Mr. Kojelis pointed out that "in his continuing show of support for the oppressed people in the Soviet Union, the President should also express his concern for the people of Lithuania and the other two Baltic States, Latvia and Estonia, who are fighting not only for civil rights but also for national survivals." The **Herald**

**Examiner, Los Angeles Times, and Evening Outlook** of July, 1977, also carried two letters by P.G. Pamataitis, two by N.G. Nyerges (of Hungarian descent) and one by Vincent Kazlas. (*Vol. 1, No. 6, September 1977*) ♦

The **64th National Convention** of the **Knights of Lithuania** was held on August 17-21 in Providence, R.I. with delegates from the 40 active council being represented. The host council was No. 103 of Providence. The motto for this year's convention was "Our Lithuania waits for your resolves to fight for human rights." The convention program was quite varied with lectures, business meetings, symposia, and discussion groups centering on religious, cultural and organizational topics. Each evening a cultural program was held. On Thursday, the Boston Lithuanian Ethnographic Ensemble staged the "Traditional Lithuanian Wedding" complete with dialogue, folksongs, and folk dances. On Friday the convention participants were treated to a cruise of Narragansett Bay where all enjoyed a true Lithuanian evening of community singing and dancing. The closing banquet was held on Saturday with honored guest, His Excellency Louis Gelleneau, Bishop of Providence in attendance. Young soloist Maryte Bizinskauskaitė delighted the assemblage with her renditions of selected Lithuanian songs. The closing ceremonies were on Sunday which included the concelebrated Mass with Auxiliary Bishop of Providence, Kenneth A. Angell. The traditional group picture of all for the archives was taken. The convention closed with a farewell luncheon. The Knights of Lithuania, founded in 1913, will celebrate their 65th anniversary next year. EVM (*Vol. 1, No. 6, September 1977*) ♦

**Vladas Adamkus** was appointed Assistant Administrator of the Midwest Region of the **US Environmental Protection Agency** (EPA). The Midwest Region is comprised of Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio and Wisconsin. This EPA Region contains 25% of the nation's industries and 20% of the population. Mr. Adamkus is the highest ranking Federal official of Lithuanian descent. (*Vol. 1, No. 6, September 1977*) ♦

A "Showcase of Nations" began in Baltimore, MD at the Charles Center on the weekend of June 7-12 with Lithuanian folk dancers and crafts exhibits leading the festivities. The "Showcase" was sponsored by the Downtown Coordinating Office. (*Vol. 1, No. 6, September 1977*) ♦

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*Editor's Note: This feature in BRIDGES is made possible through the kind assistance of Mrs. Lione Simonaitis, of Hartford, CT; who has a copy of every issue of BRIDGES ever printed!* □



# International Theatre Festival

## Vilnius, Lithuania - May 9 - 23, 1993

*(Editor's Note: Although we've published, in the past, information about organization for this festival; as well as information about one of the most prominent people involved with this festival - Mr. Bernard Sahlins - we felt it appropriate to include this piece at this time; because it should be of interest to those who are "looking for a great destination" this Spring!)*

Plans and preparations for the Lithuanian International Theater Festival move ahead. The organizers of the Lithuanian International Theatre Festival have received a UNESCO grant. The International Fund for the Promotion of Culture of UNESCO awarded a grant to LIFE and 16 other proposals from around the world (out of 125 submitted). In Lithuania, the funds will help defray organizing costs for the ambitious Festival scheduled to take place in Lithuania from May 9-23, 1993.

Ruta Vanagaite-Wiman is manager of LIFE, which will draw theater troupes and audiences from around the world. Ms. Wiman says that the organizers follow the motto of Bernard Sahlins, one of Chicago's SECOND CITY troupe founders who is a supporter of Lithuanian theater and of the Festival in particular. He has always advised the organizers to "think big". If they're going to organize a theater festival, let them invite the best. Scheduled to participate in the Festival are thirteen troupes from around the world - the USA, France, Germany, Denmark, and also include the KATONA JOZSEF THEATRE of Hungary, Japan's DAISAN EROTICA, France's BALLATUM THEATRE, a group from Stockholm's Royal Theatre (directed by Ingmar Bergman). England's WELFARE STATE INTERNATIONAL (also known as "Engineers of the Imagination") will perform in opening ceremonies of the Festival.

LIFE director Wiman has stated in various information pieces that one of the Festival's goals is to bring together business and art into a partnership which properly belongs in a civilized country such as Lithuania is seeking to become. Sponsors have been found, more are being sought. A support group was founded in Chicago. In addition to the grant, organizers of LIFE have published special information newspapers - the third was published in September as a special insert in Lithuania's paper LIETUVOS RYTAS.

The second principle of the organizers is to "Just do it" - go step by step towards the goal.

According to the "LIFE Link" (published in February 1992), plans included the following: "During the course of the Festival, each visiting theatre troupe will hold public discussions and workshops for theatre professionals and amateurs. Every space in Vilnius, suitable for acting, will be used, because all the theatre requires is 'two boards and a passion'." All of Vilnius, especially its old town will become the heart of LIFE: there will be fireworks, street musicians, sidewalk cafes, cultural exhibits, concerts and much more. At the center of the Festival, of course, will be the performances of the various troupes.

Lithuanian director Eimuntas Nekrosius is LIFE's honorary president, Chicago's Bernard Sahlins is a consultant. The Board of Directors includes Lithuania's Minister of Culture and Education, Darius Kuolys, Vilnius Mayor Arunas Staras and other Lithuanian politicians and artistic/theater experts.

Plans for the foundation of LIFE, Lithuania's first non-profit organization, went into effect July 8, 1991. Since then, much work has been accomplished, but much remains to be done by organizers and performers. In the meantime, theater lovers may want to mark their calendars. Vilnius will be the destination of quite a few Lithuanian Americans who already are organizing excursion trips to Lithuania from the U.S. for May, 1993. LIFE's Chicago support group includes Bernard Sahlins as well as Lithuanian Americans active in humanitarian and cultural projects - Stanley Balzekas, Grazina Liautaud, Birute Jasaitis, Ale Kezelis, Indre Tijunelis and others.

- Ramune Kubilius

(LIFE-Lithuanian International Theatre Festival, Jovaro 9, 2009 Vilnius, Lithuania.)

(Editor's Note: Check with your favorite Travel Agency for travel to this Festival. American Travel Service (of Evergreen Park, Illinois - Telephone: 708 422-3000) has a "LIFE Package" available.)





L. to R. - Bottom Row: Regina Gailiesiute, Bernard Sahlins, Ale Kezelis, Grazina Liautaud; Top Row: Indre Tijunelis, Birute Jasaitis, Laimia Zlioba, Nijole Martinaitis, Dalia Anysas, Eileen Mackievich, Stanley Balzekas.



## To Lithuania With Love

*A Personal Report On The American Professional Partnership For Lithuanian Education (A.P.P.L.E.) Activities This Past Summer.*

by **K. Phillip Taylor, Ph.D.**

**T**his summer seventy American teachers had the opportunity to live and work in Lithuania. Our adventure began as we traded our comfortable lifestyles in the U.S. for the stark, monotonous and often bleak existence in the Baltic state of Lithuania.

During the summer of 1991, some of our colleagues spent several weeks in Lithuania and returned from their trip exhausted, excited and eager to return. Their enthusiasm persuaded many of us to spend five weeks teaching in Lithuania because we had something to share with the Lithuanian teachers. We also knew that we would gain far more in cultural insight from the adventure than we could hope to give in return.

The U.S. educators who traveled to Vilnius, Lithuania were part of the U.S. educational group called A.P.P.L.E.: American Professional Partnership for Lithuanian Education. Our mission was to share with our Lithuanian colleagues the latest in U.S. teaching methods, how the U.S. is solving problems of cultural diversity, changes in family life, and the ever-present problem of paying the bill for educating our young people. We discussed many topics. Both countries struggle to get students to read rather than watch television. The Lithuanian teachers were less familiar with the problems of AIDS, children having children, drug use and weapons in the schools.

Our arrival in Vilnius reminded us of the folk tale about Rip Van Winkle. For fifty years, the Baltic states have been under the control of the Soviet Union. Now, with freedom from Communist domination, the citizens of Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia face the challenges of their newly won independence. They must determine their destiny. Independence is a cherished prize but, the Baltic states now face an uncertain future unprepared and alone.

The American teachers traveled to Lithuania to learn, to share and to help.

During our five week stay, we participated in three teacher seminars. Two two-week sessions were held at the Teacher in-Service Institute in Vilnius. A one-week session was held in Klaipeda for teachers who had attended the 1991 seminar. About 750 elementary and secondary teachers and school administrators

attended this year's seminars. Many of the teachers came from Vilnius. But others traveled from as far away as Palanga to attend the seminar.

*In addition to academic lectures, discussions and demonstrations . . . one U.S. teacher taught a class in yoga while another taught a chorus of Lithuanian teachers how to sing the American folk songs, "On Top of Old Smokey" and "So Long, It's Been Good to Know You".*

In addition to academic lectures, discussions and demonstrations, the teachers enjoyed talks about male/female communication patterns and creative problem solving. One U.S. teacher taught a class in yoga while another taught a chorus of Lithuanian teachers how to sing the American folk songs, "On Top of Old Smokey" and "So Long, it's Been Good to Know You." The most unusual experience for the American and Lithuanian teachers occurred the evening Emilija Sakadolskis created an entire Ghanaian village in the courtyard of the Institute. We ate Fu-Fu, drank ginger beer, sang Ghanaian folk songs and danced to authentic African music. Another special treat for the Klaipeda group was the all day excursion to the Neringa peninsula and the dunes of Nida. We visited the home of Thomas Mann and climbed the "Hill of Witches."

### ***Daily Life in the City of Vilnius***

Many U.S. educators were entertained as guests in the homes of our Lithuanian teacher hosts. We learned that most teachers earn only about \$25 per month. A typical family will live in a one or two-room apartment in a high rise complex on the edge of the city. The apartments rent for about \$2.10 per month. Temperatures in the homes during the coldest winter



months would be in the mid 50s. Hot water is not always available for showers. Several weeks during the summer the hot water system was shut down in the entire city for cleaning and repair. Most people cannot afford to own their own apartment because of long waiting periods and the lack of funds to provide loans to assist with private purchases of housing.

### ***The Standard of Living in Lithuania***

The open markets had much produce for sale. Many citizens supplement their income by growing produce on small plots of ground in the country. During July and August, the markets were filled with new potatoes, tomatoes, cucumbers, blue berries and flowers. The nation loves flowers. Carnations were available for 3 rubles or about \$.02 each. Roses were 12 rubles apiece. A bus ride cost 20 rubles or \$.14. But few people purchased tickets because inspectors seldom checked for tickets. Taxis were expensive by Lithuanian standards. A ride from the center of town to our institute hostel ranged from 250 to 400 rubles or less than \$3.00. But if the taxi driver thought you were an American, the prices changed drastically. Upon arriving in Vilnius, one helpless member of our teacher team paid \$20 for a ride from the airport that cost a native less than \$4. Most homes have a television set. Lithuanians watch everything from MTV to "Maryanna" their #1 soap opera. This Mexican import dubbed in Russian dialogue is televised not once but twice daily.

Our group was fortunate to be in Lithuania during the Olympics. We enjoyed rooting for the Lithuanian basketball team. Several of us enjoyed the victory of Lithuania over Venezuela. Our team won 87 to 79.

### ***The Influence of the Church in the Country***

Lithuania has many beautiful churches. But only within the last four years have Lithuanians been allowed to worship freely. For almost fifty years, the Russians had closed many churches or used them for storage, or as museums. One such example is St. Casimir's, the oldest baroque church in Vilnius. Founded in 1604 by the Jesuits, it was made a residence for elderly priests in 1773. In 1812, Napoleon's army made it a military storehouse. Later, the Soviets turned it into the "Museum of Atheism and History of Religion." In 1988, it was returned to the faithful and opened for public worship. But the entire inventory of the church had been destroyed, including the bells and organ.

### ***Miscellaneous Memories***

The group did much sightseeing during our stay in the country. On a tour of Kaunas, Lithuania's second largest city, we gazed at a bridge over the River Nemunas. Our guide reported that one time, this was the longest bridge in the world. This information surprised us because the span seemed quite ordinary.

With a smile our guide explained that in 1923 Germany controlled the territory west of the bridge while Russia controlled the east side. And because the Russian New Year was celebrated on January 13, two weeks after the holiday in Germany and other western countries, when you crossed the bridge, from the Russian side on New Year's Day, by the time you reached the other side, it was the middle of January!

One evening, several of our group enjoyed a concert by the Lithuanian National Symphony. The program featured combined choruses from Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia. The music was truly glorious. As we were filing out from the concert hall, one of our group turned to me and said, "You know, this concert was recorded and will be sold in the U.S. as 'The New Kids on the Eastern Bloc!'"

Our adventure in Lithuania has come to an end. We are back in the U.S. teaching, working and enjoying all the safe drinking water, ice cubes and hot showers we want. We drive our cars around town rather than stand on crowded busses. The biggest frustration for many of us during our Lithuanian adventure was the inability to communicate with the people without the assistance of a translator. But we managed. We found the churches in Old Town beautiful and unlike any we had seen in the U.S.. The teachers enjoyed meeting us and learning about our lives in America.

Certainly many differences exist between our two countries. But this visit impressed us with the similarities. Educators are concerned about doing a good job of teaching their students. Parents work hard to make life better for their children. The government struggles with too few resources for too many needy causes. Lithuania is seeking its destiny uncertain of what it wants for its people; unsure about how to set its priorities. In this way, the United States and Lithuania are very much alike. Our countries differ in our economic conditions and standards of living. But at the level of people and families, we share the same hopes, fears, and dreams for a bright future.

As the Americans roamed the city of Vilnius this summer, we carried the handy travel guide called "Vilnius in Your Pocket." Now that we have returned to our homes in the U.S., our thoughts of the people and places of Lithuania remain with us. We spent the summer with "Vilnius in Your Pocket." But for the rest of our lives, we will carry memories of Lithuania in our hearts.

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*(Editor's Note: If you wish to participate in future A.P.P.L.E. activities, write to: Ms. Vaiva Vebra, Director, A.P.P.L.E., Post Office Box 1370, West Hartford, Connecticut 06107) □*



## 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.*

Preparations are underway for the visit of Pope John Paul II to Lithuania, scheduled for September 4, 1993. The visit is being coordinated by the Lithuanian Bishops' Council, together with Archbishop Justo Mullor Garcia of the Vatican. The general secretary of the committee to welcome the Pope is Deacon Gintaras Linas Grusas, who grew up in California (and who at one time was president of the World Lithuanian Youth Association - RK). On November 16th Archbishop Audrys Backis officiated at the ceremonies elevating Gintaras to deacon, with his parents in attendance. The new deacon has taken time off from his studies at the seminary in Rome for the other duties. It is hoped that the Pope will celebrate mass in large ceremonies in Vilnius and at the Hill of Crosses; a meeting with Lithuanian youth is planned in Kaunas, and if time allows, the Pope will also visit the shrine of Siluva, and Marijampole. (DARBININKAS, 12/4/92)

Poet Kazys Bradunas (a resident of Chicago - RK) was awarded a 1992 Lithuanian National Literary Award. The award was last presented in 1940 to poet Bernardas Brazdionis. Kazys Bradunas left Lithuania in 1944. Fifteen books of his poetry have been published in the United States. The award was presented for two books recently published in Lithuania, PRIE VIENO STALO (At one table) and DUONA IR DRUSKA (Bread and salt). Other cultural and artistic awards were awarded to pianist Petras Geniusas, philosopher Algirdas Sliogeris and other cultural figures. The awards will be formally presented on Lithuanian Independence Day (February 16th) of 1993 in Vilnius. (DRAUGAS, 12/8/92)

The first Lithuanian Song Festival took place in Kaunas, Lithuania in 1924. The anniversary of this event will be commemorated in 1993-94. In 1993 a youth song festival, and in 1994 a world song (and dance - RK) festival is scheduled. Lithuanian choirs and dance groups from all over the world are invited to attend. During meetings in Lithuania this summer, a tentative program was laid out. It is planned that the dance festival days will take place July 1-3, 1994. The travel expenses of groups from outside Lithuania must be covered by the groups themselves, but it is hoped that local Lithuanian accommodations will be provided

by the Lithuanian organizers. It is planned that groups from outside of Lithuania will be integrated into some festival dances, but that groups from the United States, Canada, South America and Australia will perform in a program of their own. Student and veteran dancing group instructors are invited to register their groups by December 31, 1992 to the Lithuanian Folk Dance Institute vice-president, Mr. Juozas Karasiejus, 2364 Adena Court, Mississauga, ONT. L5A 1R1, Canada. The information needed: 1) the name of the group, 2) the address, 3) the name of the group's leader/instructor, 4) the number of members in the group, 5) indicate whether the group consists of students or of veterans. (DRAUGAS, 11/7/92)

Anicetas Simutis, Lithuanian Ambassador to the United Nations, returned to Lithuania after 56 years. The Ambassador had been sent to New York from Lithuania for diplomatic service in 1936. Ambassador Simutis was in Lithuania for a meeting beginning November 9th of diplomats and consuls. Ambassador Vincas Balickas of Great Britain had not been back to Lithuania in 54 years. These two veterans earned the respect of other attendees of the meeting, both because of their age and because of their vast experience. Others flew in from Canada, the United States (Chicago, Los Angeles) and Geneva, Switzerland - the only members of the diplomatic corps invited who were unable to attend were Stasys Lozoraitis of Washington and Dr. Vytautas Dambrava of Venezuela. At this time, Lithuania has 13 ambassadors around the world. All who travelled to Lithuania felt that the conference was helpful, since their work in various parts of the world keeps them remote from each other. Ambassador Simutis presented the status of affairs in the United Nations, and other ambassadors accredited in various capitols of Europe presented reports of their work. The training of young diplomats just beginning their careers would be enriched by a posting to New York where extra help is needed, Simutis said in his report. (DARBININKAS, from an article by Salomeja Narkeliunas, 11/27/92)

Among the new duties of the Prime Minister of Lithuania, Aleksandras Abisala, is the chairmanship of a council of about 20 self-help and humanitarian groups



in Lithuania. The Council is called GLOBOS RUPYBOS TARYBA, and its members include groups for the support of invalids, the blind, children, etc. The purpose of the Council is to coordinate, provide guidelines, and responsibly divide needed help and support throughout all of Lithuania. (*DRAUGAS, from an article by Elvyra Vodopalis, 12/4/92*)

The cultural and press division of the U.S. Embassy in Vilnius organized a two part exposition at the Lithuanian national museum. The first part of the exhibit depicted immigrant American Lithuanians, the second depicted the seeds of change (in honor of the 500th anniversary of the founding of America). Ambassador Darryl Johnson attended the opening on October 12th and during opening remarks, he emphasized how Lithuanian immigrants enriched American life. (*DARBININKAS, 11/6/92*)

Korp! Neo-Lithuania celebrates its 70th anniversary. The fraternity/sorority was founded in 1992 at the Kaunas University (now known as Vytautas Magnus University - RK). Bylaws were written by a student who had studied in Heidelberg, Valentinas Gustainis, the motto of the group was "Pro Patria" and the value of building a strong character was emphasized. Many members of the group went into the resistance movement when Lithuania was occupied, whereas outside of Lithuania, a reorganization took place in 1955 and small groups were active in Lithuanian communities. On November 7th the group commemorates its anniversary in Chicago with a program, lecture, performance by the Neo Lithuania dancing group and dinner. (*DRAUGAS, from an article by Antanas Juodvalkis, 11/7/92*)

On December 1st at the St. Casimir Sisters' Motherhouse in Chicago a meeting took place consisting of members of four Lithuanian American religious orders for women. The purpose of their meeting was to share information and consult with one another to help their counterpart women's religious orders in Lithuania. The Sisters of Jesus Crucified (from Brockton, MA), Franciscans (Pittsburgh, PA), St. Casimir (Chicago, IL), and Sisters of the Immaculate Conception (Putnam, CT) sent representatives to the meeting. Efforts are on a variety of fronts - providing Lithuanian language translations about religious life as a calling, apostolic planning, internal administration of religious orders. The group also expressed interest in providing scholarships and travel stipends. Material help is sent: medical supplies, help for older and retired sisters in Lithuania, etc. In addition to these orders, American sisters from the Daughters of Charity order and the Sisters of Mercy order are already working in Catholic hospitals in Lithuania or plan to do so soon. (*DRAUGAS, from an article by "AS", 12/5/92*)

Dr. Stephen J. Kolesk, according to a recent PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER story, is unusual in today's medical world - he still visits patients in their homes. The 39 year old physician feels that visiting patients is his duty. He mostly limits his visits to those patients who live within a 20 mile radius. The University of Connecticut School of Medicine graduate works with three partners, work in Mt. Laurel and is on staff at Memorial Hospital, Burlington County. The Center for Home Health Development in Princeton has selected Dr. Kolesk their Physician of the Year; the Morristown Visiting Nurse Association named him the Samuel Emlen Stokes Physician of the Year. Dr. Kolesk is the son of Stase and Mecislovas Marcinauskas, who raised four sons of whom three are physicians. Mr. and Mrs. Marcinauskas are active Knights of Lithuania members. (*DARBININKAS, from article by Dalia Bulvicius, 12/4/92*)

As of next year, German trade school teachers will come to Lithuania to work with Lithuania's teachers in the area of metalworks and light industry. (*DRAUGAS-ELTA, 12/9/92*)

The World Lithuanian Youth Association's current president is Paulius Mickus of the United States. Various countries besides the United States belong to the WLYA: Canada, Germany, France, Australia, Switzerland, Brazil, Uruguay, Argentina, Colombia, Venezuela, Great Britain each have active chapters and elected officers. The president of the Lithuanian American Youth Association is Gaile Radvenis of California. The LAYA officers' address is: 2412 Canyon Oak Drive, Los Angeles, CA 90068. LAYA will organize a gathering of members from around the country May 28-31, 1992 in Los Angeles. The theme of the meeting will be "U.S. youth and Lithuania". All young people of Lithuanian descent between the ages of 18 and 35 are invited to participate. (*DRAUGAS, from the "Akademies prosvaistes" youth page and an article by Gaile Radvenis, 12/19/92*)

Representatives from Lithuania attended the 24th meeting of the International Federation of University Women which met at Stanford University, CA in August. The Associations of Lithuania and Estonia were welcomed back into the IFUW. 1700 members, representing 59 countries attended the conference, which featured 120 sessions on world economy, life sciences, world health, and the future status of women in the world. Professor Marija Ausra Pavilionis of Vilnius University is the president of the Lithuanian association. Her trip to the conference was funded by several Lithuanian Americans, supportive Americans from Madison, WI and the IFUW fund. IFUW was founded in 1919 by university women of the U.S., Canada, and England. Today the international membership is 200,000 - 25,000 in California alone. The



Lithuanian association was founded in 1924 in Kaunas, was stifled during the Soviet era, and was re-established at Vilnius University in October 1991. (DRAUGAS, from article by Regina Tack, 11/28/92)

After a long absence, the works of Shakespeare are once again being performed in Lithuania. THE TEMPEST was performed on Christmas eve in Vilnius by the Lithuanian Drama Theater, directed by Olegas Kesminas. The theater in Klaipeda is preparing to present MERCHANT OF VENICE, directed by P. Gaidys and the theater of Panevezys is preparing for MACBETH, directed by L. Zaikauskas. (DRAUGAS-ELTA, 12/29/92)

Scouts will celebrate 75 years of Lithuanian scouting in 1993 with jubilee camps- January 2-10 in Sydney, Australia, July 3-11 in Kunigiskes (near Palanga), Lithuania and July 31-August 11 at Camp Rakas, near Custer, Michigan. (DRAUGAS, 12/19/92)

As of 1993, Illinois architect Rimantas Griskelis becomes president of the 2700 member Illinois Architects' Association. From 1986 R. Griskelis has been the group's treasurer. Rimantas Griskelis is active in Lithuanian American activities, has consulted in the organization of archives and of the renovation of the Lithuanian World Center in Lemont, IL. (DRAUGAS, 12/22/92)

The 60th anniversary of the tragic trans-Atlantic flight of pilots Darius and Girenas will be commemorated July 15 - 17, 1993. A special organizing committee has been formed in Chicago and includes representatives from the Lithuanian - American Community, the Lithuanian Scouts, the American Lithuanian Council, the Darius-Girenas Post, the Knights of Lithuania, and others. The next meeting - January 9, 1993 at the Balzekas Museum of Lithuanian Culture. (DRAUGAS, from an article by V. Ramonis, 12/29/92)

The Lithuanian Embassy in Washington has a list of over 400 families in Vilnius, Lithuania who now care for children who are orphans or who formerly lived in the "children's homes". These are dedicated families, older women who are raising their grandchildren, families who are raising relatives' children in addition to their own. The living conditions of these families are not easy since the children under their care receive no government support. Most of the children are between 10 and 18 years of age, but a 1/4 are younger.

Among them are Lithuanian children, others are children of Russian and Polish descent. Support can be in the form of letters, packages or financial support.

If you wish to provide some support, please write "Vaivorykste" (Rainbow) in care of the Lithuanian Embassy, 2662 16th Street NW, Washington, D.C. 20009. (DRAUGAS, 12/22/92) □

## Lithuanian Pen Pals

Filicija Putro  
Banaicio 16-5  
Kaunas

Vytautas Cimermonas  
P.O. Box 43  
Siauliai 5400  
30 years old, married.

Solveiga Stankeviciute  
Visinskio 15a-403  
Siauliai 5414  
21 year old student.

Aukse Stanciauskiene  
Velzio 21  
Panevezys 5307  
Teaches grades 1-3

Birute Repesko  
Kuhviecio 6-1  
Jonava 5000  
Single mother, 5 children.

Stefanija Smolskiene  
Zukausko 16-9  
Kaunas  
52 year old widow.

Joana Ambrozaityte  
Geguziu 83-27  
Siauliai

Grazina Jurgaitiene  
Sanziles 12  
Berciunai  
Family doctor.

Raimondas Guobis  
Zobarsko 23  
Svedasai 4932

Elvyra Delkuviene  
Lybiskiu kaimas  
Jurbarko 44554  
43 years old.

Genovaitė Kandzesauskiene  
Seinu 12-1  
Kaunas  
64 years old.

Danguole Jociene  
Giruliu 27  
Siauliai 5409  
Young doctor.

Kristina Vareikaite  
Liepu aleja 21  
Panevezys 5300  
48 years old, unmarried.

Tatjana Mickeviciute- Sinusiene  
Sruogos 12-36  
Birstonas 4490

Anatolijus Zabelinas  
Valanciaus 8-29  
Jurbarkas

- Names furnished by Ms. Dalia Stakeliunaite



## “ News & Views & Information ”

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

### **Information Update from the Educational Council, Lithuanian American Community, Inc.**

The Educational Council has taken over the editorial responsibilities of the Lithuanian language children's journal EGLUTE ("the little fir"). The journal, since its inception over 40 years ago, was and is the only one of its kind outside of Lithuania, geared especially for children. The journal is published ten times a year and is filled with stories, poems, drawings, and puzzles geared for grade school children.

The longtime editor, Sister Ona Mikaila of the Sisters of the Immaculate Conception of Putnam, CT, will be stepping down with the December 1992 issue to take on new duties in her order. The Sisters of Putnam will continue to act as publishers and will handle all subscription matters.

The Educational Council has invited educator and mother of two, Nijole Nausedas, to become EGLUTE's new editor with the January 1993 issue. Mrs. Nausedas has edited newsletters at the Lithuanian language schools in Chicago, and has written on educational topics to the educational press in Lithuania.

A December meeting in Chicago brought together the new editor, members of the Educational Council, a member of the Putnam sisters' auxiliary board (Salomeja Endrijonas), and a representative of the sisters (their present superior, Sister Igne Marijosius). Sister Igne shared the results of a survey on the future existence of EGLUTE (when it was still in doubt): a number of readers, their parents and grandparents listed what they liked about the journal and what they wanted improved. One pensioner (74 years old) wrote that he subscribes to EGLUTE for himself - he sees it as a good way to practice and improve his Lithuanian language skills.

Over the years, EGLUTE has featured the works of well-known emigre writers, poets, and artists. Several well-liked children's characters were born in EGLUTE, include the mouse PUPUTIS, to whom some readers wrote, and who was featured at fund-raising events for EGLUTE. At one point it was thought that the journal's editorial duties could be transported to Lithuania. However, after some discussion (and in reading the survey), it was felt that Lithuanian speaking

children who are growing up outside of Lithuania, need their own journal. If persons want to subscribe to the journal for their young relatives in Lithuania, they are welcome to do so. At this time, it is felt that the Sisters of the Immaculate Conception and Educational Council collaborative effort is the most viable and best option. (EGLUTE editorial address: Mrs. Nijole Nausedas, 13154 Sparrow Court, Lockport, IL 60441; subscription inquiries: EGLUTE, 600 Liberty Highway, Putnam, CT 06260.)

**The Educational Council has sent various Lerner Publications "Then and Now" series volumes (previously written up in a BRIDGE S issue) - to the outgoing Lithuanian Minister of Culture and Education, Darius Kuolys, and to all of the Lithuanian language schools in the United States.** The first package was a present of the publisher (who provided a set of all six presently available volumes of the series on countries formerly part of the Soviet Union) to the Educational Council for its mission of sending them to Lithuania. The second endeavor was paid for out of the Educational Council treasury as a present to each Lithuanian language school in the United States. The volume, LITHUANIA, was sent to each school for use in its curriculum, for the edification of the teachers, and as a Christmas present to the school's libraries. Several schools have since decided to encourage parents to purchase copies for their children's weekday school libraries. (Publisher address: Lerner Publications, 241 First Avenue North, Minneapolis, MN 55401.)

**The Educational Council has once again made arrangements for publishing the popular Lithuanian language adaptation of the children's dictionary MANO ZODYNAS (from Richard Scarry's BEST WORD BOOK EVER).** Regina Kucas and Jolita Arzbaecher were the Educational Council liaisons with the publisher for the book's fourth printing.

A second edition of LIETUVIAIS NORIME IR BUT (LITHUANIANS WE SHALL BE) by Dr. Marija Danguole Tamulionis has been published by the Educational Council. The thirty chapter book includes dialogues, verb charts, translations of readings, vocabulary, a guide to pronunciation...



The Educational Council is also in the process of arranging for the printing and preparation of more copies of the popular Lithuanian language teaching program EASY WAY TO LITHUANIAN and for a new printing of the bilingual book LITHUANIAN CUSTOMS AND TRADITIONS by Danute Brazys Bindokas, as well as other projects. The Council also distributes various educational maps and booklets it receives from educational publishers in Lithuania.

(Although the Educational Council does not operate a large scale distribution center, orders may be sent to Educational Council president, **Regina Kucas, 8626 South Mozart, Chicago, IL 60652**).

- Ramune Kubilius



### ***Lithuanian Children's Hope:***

The work of "*Lietuvos Vaiku vilties komitetas*" (Lithuanian Children's Hope Committee) continues. At a recent baby shower, honoring the committee's Coordinator Terese Drutys-Soliunas, committee members, volunteers, mothers and children from Lithuania had an opportunity to dine and share thoughts at the "Seklycia" Restaurant in Chicago.

At that time, two young girls were in the Shriners Hospital, recovering from their respective orthopedic surgeries. Two more children, already mobile, circulated with the guests at "Seklycia". Five other children and their mothers were still undergoing screening tests, and were awaiting the next available surgical time slot. The waiting seemed to be the hardest part for this group, but many are used to that. Some of the children have curvatures of the spine which have progressed over a number of years, curtailing their physical activities, in some cases relegating them to special clinics and hospitals. They are used to waiting, to the unknown, but that doesn't make it any easier.

It seems that Terese Drutys-Soliunas will miss the hectic pace of the almost year and a half she has worked on behalf of the Committee as she prepares to enter a new phase of her life, that of motherhood. Although she always has been a part-time worker officially (and the only paid staffer of the committee), her hours have easily stretched to almost full-time. She indicated that the work is extremely satisfying, and she wished her successor, Jurate Budrys (an experienced organizer in her own right) much luck and best wishes. The Committee felt sure that Terese's connection with the Committee is only on hiatus.

In previous issues of **BRIDGES**, the work of the Committee has been described. The former Lithuanian-American Community, Inc. National Executive Committee, and in particular Rev. Antanas Saulaitis of the Religious Council and Birute Jasaitis of the Human Services Council, advocated the establishment of a committee which would gear its efforts towards bringing sick children to America for

treatment they could not easily obtain in Lithuania (particularly orthopedic conditions, curable by surgery). The Committee established contact with physicians in Lithuania, under the leadership of Dr. Vingris, who would screen the pediatric patients so that submissions could be made to Shriners Hospitals in the United States. If the patients met the criteria of the Shriners Hospitals, the Committee (with Dr. Regina Kulyas as chair) had to commit the funds for travel, housing and miscellaneous expenses for the child and each one's accompanying parent.

As Coordinator of the Committee, Terese has expedited the paperwork necessary, has coordinated flights (Lithuanian Avia Linija flies the children free Vilnius to Frankfurt - after that expenses are the Committee's). Together with Dr. Kulyas, Mrs. Jasaitis, and other members of the committee, she has found lodging for the children and their parents (some of it is donated free of charge, some involves a cost). By last June, about 10 volunteers had contributed valuable hours driving the children and parents for tests, serving as translators and companions to the families both in and out of the hospital. As Terese said, her role has truly been multi-faceted: she has had to be social worker, psychologist, social director, travel agent, and paper pusher. Coordinating the efforts of so many people, keeping them busy while they wait and worry, helping them in other ways during their stay (if the mothers take ill or have other questions or problems, for example) are daily tasks. Most importantly, everyone has to be "on call" at all times, since the hospital schedule can change, and a notice of only a few hours is all that is sometimes given to test or admit a child.

What does the future hold for the work of the Committee? A Mother's Day fund-raising drive is beginning to replenish the treasury of the Committee. As Terese put it, causes involving children bring out the benefactors in all of us. One more child arrived in Chicago, three children have been accepted in a California Shriners Hospital, one in Portland, OR, and one was scheduled to be accepted into the Philadelphia Shriners Hospital. Coordinators in the other cities will have to establish their own volunteer networks. One dedicated surgeon at the Shriners Hospital in Chicago has operated on more than one child from Lithuania, and has expressed a willingness to travel to Lithuania - the Committee may be able to financially support and coordinate his visit to Lithuania to meet with and train physicians there on the procedures needed.

Granted, the efforts of the Committee have been able to help only a small number of children so far, but observing the happy faces, and those of their mothers, one knows that the benefits of the efforts are substantial. The mothers will bring home healthy children to Lithuania. They also will bring back impressions of the patient-oriented, team care approach to medicine offered in the United States. Also,



perhaps they will also gain an appreciation for Lithuanian American life, for the spirit of volunteerism which brought them to the U.S. and helped their children.

(Lithuanian Children's Hope, 2713 West 71st Street, Chicago, IL 60629.)  
- Ramune Kubilius



### **Lithuanian Library Association Of America (LLAA):**

A group of Chicagoland ("Midwest chapter") members of the Lithuanian Library Association of America (LLAA) met recently at DePaul University in Chicago. On the agenda - discussion of the Association for the Advancement of Baltic Studies (AABS) Terra Baltica Conference in Toronto, informal brainstorming, reports of past and future visits to Lithuania, etc. LLAA president Kristina Proskute Mengeling indicated in a letter announcing the meeting: "Some of you made trips to Lithuania on your own or plan to do so in the future. Please feel free to stop at libraries, introduce yourselves as librarians, and expect to be asked questions on how we do things in America. Take along brochures and pictures and forms and software demonstration disks that you use in your own library. This is the best kind of exposure and exchange and does not really require advance planning. They will be delighted to see you!" (The Lithuanian Library Association of America, P.O. Box 275, Woodstock, IL 60098.)  
- Ramune Kubilius



### **Draugas:**

A rather unusual fund-raiser took place October 25th at the Lithuanian Youth Center in Chicago. On that sunny autumn afternoon, thirty-three performers showed their support for the Lithuanian language newspaper DRAUGAS. (The newspaper, which is published in Chicago, is the only newspaper outside of Lithuania which is published with such frequency - five days a week - it is now in its 83rd volume). The Lithuanian Catholic Association sorority GIEDRA organized the afternoon which featured many performers: violinists, cellists, pianists, singers, orators, guitarists, etc. who donated their time to entertaining the several hundred spectators in the Center. The program featured Brahms, Sostakovic, Suk, Verdi, van Beethoven, Puccini, as well as works of Lithuanian composers and writers and creativity of some of the entertainers as well (2-3 pieces performed by each artist). The talented artists were mostly from the Chicago area except for one couple from Michigan. Many of the performers had formal training in their crafts, others were very good amateurs, ranging in age from pre-teens (one young singer) to the majority who were performers in their 20's and 30's.

(Editor's Note: DRAUGAS, of course, figures prominently in our "From The Lithuanian Press . . ." feature, in most issues of **BRIDGE S!**)

- Ramune Kubilius



### **Lithuanian Mission Center:**

September marked the 5th anniversary of the Lithuanian Mission Center, Inc. of Lemont, Illinois. Incorporated in September 1987 as a not for profit tax exempt corporation the Center operates under the name of Lithuanian World Center. In the intervening years, the center served its founding purposes as a Lithuanian cultural, education and religious and organizational center. The Jurgis Matulaitis Mission Sunday masses are extremely well-attended. The World Lithuanian Community Congress was held there in late June during which ardent Center supporter Bronius Nainys, editor of "Pasaulio lietuvis" (World Lithuanian), was elected as president. The VI Lithuanian Symposium on Science and Creativity was held there in 1989. A Lithuanian Montessori school, a Lithuanian language Saturday school, more than one Lithuanian folk dance group, a gift shop, a Lithuanian art gallery, a wing of condominiums all call the Center home base.

The Center began with the purchase of the DeAndreis Seminary Complex in Lemont, IL, consisting of 15 acres, and renovations take place to this day. Granted, a center of the same name in Kaunas, Lithuania may contest the choice of name, but the Lithuanian World Center of Lemont, IL has proven to be an extremely popular and convenient gathering place for southwest and western Chicagoland suburban Lithuanian Americans, as well as to visiting persons of Lithuanian descent from around the world.

- Ramune Kubilius



### **News From The United States Information Agency:**

A 12 member group of environmental professionals from Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia recently visited the United States as a three-phase exchange program called "Ecology Activism in the Baltic Nations." The project is sponsored by the United States Information Agency through its office of Citizen Exchange.

Administered by the Institute of International Education (IIE) in cooperation with the National Safety Council's Environmental Health Center, the project will introduce the Baltic participants to ways in which the United States addresses ecological, pollution, and conservation issues through grass roots organizations, environmental management, and dispute resolution at federal, state, and local levels. Participants will have an opportunity to share ideas and expertise with their



American counterparts, facilitating future cooperative projects between U.S. and Baltic institutions.

Their visit began with an orientation in Washington, D.C. to acquaint them with U.S. cultural values and the political system. They met with a variety of governmental and private environmental organizations, including the World Wildlife Fund/Conservation Foundation and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

On October 22, the participants travelled to San Francisco for an in-depth look at public and private sector cooperation, to include briefings by officials and volunteers from the Sierra Club, Greenpeace, and the EarthFirst! Association. They visited the Golden Gate National Recreation Area and, reflecting the importance of forest management for the Baltic nations, the group will see Muir Woods National Monument, an ideal spot for viewing California's giant redwood trees.

On Oct. 27, the visitors began one-week individual internships with American counterparts organizations across the United States. They regrouped on Nov. 3 in New York city for meetings with national and international environmental groups to discuss litigation, international development and agreements of the environment. Their program included visits to the Environmental Defense Fund, the World Environment Center, the East European Environment Center at Columbia University, and the United Nations. They return to the Baltics on November 6 to prepare to host their American counterparts.

In phase II of the exchange project, six U.S. participants travelled to the Baltics to view the environmental situation in their assigned country and meet with key institutions for site visits and briefings.

Phase III culminated in Tallinn, Estonia, where all the American and Baltics exchange participants attended a workshop to share information and insights gained from their experiences during the exchange project.

The United States Information Agency is an independent foreign affairs agency within the executive branch that explains and supports U.S. foreign policy and national security interests abroad through a wide range of information programs. The agency promotes mutual understanding between the United States and other countries through a series of educational and cultural exchange activities.

The following is a list of Baltic and U.S. project participants:

List of Baltic participants: (Individual Internship Sites) Ms. Sirje AHER Director of Biology In-Service Training, Estonian Education Center, Ministry of Environment, Tallinn, Estonia (Sausalito and Rohnert park, Calif.); Mr. Mart KULVIK Director, Nature Conservation Center, Ministry of Environment Vice-chair, Estonian Green Movement, Tartu, Estonia (Bozeman, Mont.); Mr. Rein KURESOO Director, Estonian Fund for Nature, Tartu, Estonia (Bozeman,

Mont.); Mr. Alo MERILO Editor, Environmental Section of "Estonian Life" Weekly, Tallinn, Estonia (Little Rock, Ark.); Ms. Mara KIOPE Journalist for the Christian Democratic Party of Latvia (SOLIS), Riga, Latvia (Orlando, Fla.); Mr. Maris KLAUVINS Senior Researcher and Head, Environmental Chemistry Group, Institute of Biology, Latvian Academy of Science, Riga, Latvia (Orlando, Fla.); Mr. Juris TIHHONOV Reporter, "Elpa" Weekly Environmental Newspaper, Riga, Latvia (Sacramento, Calif.); Mr. Juris VALINIEKS Chemical Analyst, Faculty of Chemical Technology, Riga Technical University, Riga, Latvia (Orlando, Fla.); Mrs. Irena GAVENIENE Head, Solid Waste Disposal Department, Department of Environmental Protection, Vilnius, Lithuania (Chicago, Ill. and Madison, Wis.); Ms. Daina KARLONAI TE Editor-in-Chief, "Green Lithuanian," Assistant Director, Civil Defense Department, Vilnius, Lithuania (Minneapolis, Minn.); Mr. Vladas SEPORA ITIS Deputy Director, Project Adjusting Section, Klaipeda Regional Agency, Klaipeda, Lithuania (Freeport, Ill.); Mr. Rimgaudas SPOKAS Chief Production Manager, Water Supply of Vilnius, Vilnius, Lithuania (San Francisco, Calif.).

List of U.S. Participants: Ms. Lauri Adams Eirector, International Programs, Sierra Club Legal Defense Fund, San Francisco, Calif.; Mr John E. Daniel Vice President for Governmental Affairs and Community Relations, International Technology Corporation, Washington, D.C.

- Taken from a News Release from the United States Information Agency



### ***In The News:***

The January 1993 issue of CHICAGO magazine includes an article on the 205 "best doctors in Chicago". The list was compiled by surveying physicians and nurses in 34 Chicagoland area hospitals. Included in the list of pulmonary medicine (lung diseases) specialists is Dr. Antanas Razma who is an attending physician at Christ Hospital, Oak Lawn, IL. - *Ramune Kubilius*



### ***News From The U.S.-Baltic Foundation:***

**U.S.-Baltic Foundation to Establish Baltic Reference Library in Washington D.C.; Appeals to Baltic Americans for Books on Baltic History, Culture and Economics.**

Linas Kojelis, President of the U.S.-Baltic Foundation, has issued a general appeal to Baltic Americans for English language books on Lithuanian, Latvian, Estonian and Baltic history, culture and economics to develop the Foundation's reference library



in Washington, D.C. Contributions to the Foundation are tax-deductible, and contributors will receive receipts for the value of the books.

USBF, with professional offices in the heart of Washington, has received increased inquiries from educational, research, professional and trade associations, as well as Washington-based think tanks for background information on the Baltic States. The Foundation is planning to establish a reference library in its spacious conference room, which would be open to the general public. In addition, the books will be used by Foundation staff to develop educational and technical training programs for the Baltic States. Books will be used only at USBF, and will not be lent out.

Charles Omstead, USBF Administrator, who is coordinating the project, explained that the books should be in English, and on the following subjects: economics (including economic data and history), history, culture and language, sociology and demography, geography, current problems, bibliographies, politics, and urban development.

The books may be either specific to Lithuania, Estonia or Latvia, or general to the Baltic region.

To prevent duplications, persons and institutions who would like to participate, are asked to send a list of their books they wish to donate including titles, authors and dates of publishing, to USBF's office at: 1717 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W., Suite 601, Washington, D.C. 20036. USBF will inform the donors of the books which are needed, and will send a receipt to the contributor upon receipt of the donation.

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#### **Chicago Businesswoman Elected To U.S.-Baltic Foundation Board Of Directors.**

U.S.-Baltic Foundation announced January 9, 1993 the election of Ms. Ophelia L. Barsketis to the USBF's Board of Directors.

Ophelia L. Barsketis is Vice President and Principal at Stein Roe & Farnham (SRF). SRF is an independent investment counseling firm founded in 1932 and based in Chicago, Illinois. She is a member of the SteinRoe International Funds Oversight Committee and the Liberty Financial Utilities Fund. From 1982 to 1983, Ms. Barsketis worked as an International Sales Development Associate for McMaster-Carr Supply Company. She received a Master of International Management degree from American Graduate School of International Management in 1981. Ms. Barsketis attended the University of Chicago for her B.A. and Schiller College (Strasbourg, France) for language courses in German and French. She is a member of the Investment Analysts Society of Chicago, the Investment Women of Chicago, the Utility and Telecom Securities Club of Chicago, and the Lithuanian Foundation Executive Committee.

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#### **Vilija Jonaityte Named Director Of New U.S.-Baltic Foundation Office In Vilnius.**

Vilnius, Lithuania - Mr. Linas Kojelis, announced that Vilija Jonkaityte has been named Director of USBF's Office in Vilnius, Lithuania.

In making the announcement, Mr. Kojelis stated, "We are very excited with Ms. Jonkaityte's appointment to head our operations in Lithuania. As a long-time activist in the Vilnius chapter of *Sajudis*, she brings great organizational talents, as well as a deep commitment to the Foundation's mission of strengthening democracy and free markets in Lithuania and the Baltic States." Mr. Kojelis also announced that Ms. Birute Voveriene has been appointed Office Administrator of the USBF Vilnius office.

The Foundation's Lithuanian office is in the heart of Vilnius. USBF's office is located at Gagrino gt. 4, Room 108, Vilnius, Lithuania 2039, phone 620-942, fax 623-012. "Our location in downtown Vilnius will greatly improve our access with key Lithuanian government and private sector institutions," stated Ms. Jonkaityte.

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#### **Prime Minister Predicts Free Market Reforms Will Continue.**

The U.S.-Baltic Foundation (USBF), sponsored a luncheon in honor of Aleksandras Abisala, Prime Minister of Lithuania for forty U.S. business and private sector representatives at the Cosmos Club on November 12, 1992.

Mr Abisala gave a broad overview of economic and business opportunities and problems in Lithuania. Referring to the recent elections in Lithuania which have seen victories for the former Communist party (now the "Democratic Labor Party"), Mr. Abisala stated, "There is no road back. Lithuania will not return to communism. Private property, price decontrol, expanded international trade and other free market reforms will be continued by any future government." The Prime Minister also stressed the importance of intra-Baltic and regional cooperation in the fields of economics, trade, energy and transportation.

In his introduction of Mr. Abisala, USBF President Linas Kojelis stated, "The Prime Minister represents the kind of leaders who have brought Lithuania from the wastelands to its proper place as a full member of the world community."

Attending the luncheon were representatives of Raytheon Corporation, Brown and Root, Caterpillar Corporation, APCO, Ahlstrom Pyropower, American League of Exports and Security Assistance, the U.S. Agency for International Development, International Republican Institute.

Also attending was Lithuania's U.S. Ambassador, Stasys Lozoraitis.

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### **Seminar on Government Ethics and Conflict of Interest for Baltic Leaders.**

From November 30 to December 3, the U.S.-Baltic Foundation and the Office of the State Minister of Latvia co-sponsored a seminar in Jurmala, Latvia entitled, "Public/Private Ethics and Conflict of Interest". Seven top experts in government ethics, including law enforcement, gave lectures and conducted workshops for Baltic participants. Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania each sent thirty senior policy and administrative leaders to learn about the theory, laws and enforcement procedures necessary to maintain the trust of the citizenry in public institutions. In addition, independent media and journalist associations in each of the three countries participated to learn more about the role of a free media in fighting public corruption.

American experts participating in the seminar included, Dr. George D. Beam (Associate Professor Political Science, University of Illinois at Chicago), William B. Canfield, III (Counsel and Staff Director, Secretary to Republican Conference, U.S. Senate), Prof. Dean Mills (Dean, Missouri School of Journalism), George L. O'Connell (U.S. Attorney, Eastern District of California), the Hon. Stephen D. Potts, (Director, U.S. Office of Government Ethics), George A. Romonas (President, the Advocacy Group) and the Hon. Malcolm Wilkey (Office of the Special Counsel to the U.S. Attorney General). This program was funded by grants from the National Endowment for Democracy and the Independent Media Fund.

"The new Baltic leaders are determined to rebuild their societies on a firm basis of public confidence in democratic, public institutions," stated Audrone Pakstys, Senior Program Administrator of USBF. "They know that to be successful, modern democracies, modern democracies, both their own citizenry and the international community must have full faith and confidence in the young Baltic governments. Honesty and openness in government processes are especially important to the Western businesspersons and investors whom the Baltic States would like to attract."

Topics at the seminar included; basic laws of ethics, organization and functioning of enforcement institutions, financial disclosure, the role of media in public ethics and campaign financing.

*(USBF is a not-for-profit foundation established to develop and implement programs in local government, business education, management, agriculture, public health, and media in Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania.)*

*(Editor's Note: For information on how you can participate in/support USBF activities and programs, please call the USBF at Tel: 202 986-0380; or write: U.S.-Baltic Foundation, 1717 Massachusetts Ave., N.W., Suite #601, Washington, DC 20036)*

- From News Releases



### **An Opportunity:**

The United States Department of State has occasional need for Lithuanian linguists to act as free-

lance interpreters for foreign States.

Applicants should have a broad educational background (the equivalent of a college education is almost indispensable) and a fluent active command of English and Lithuanian. Promising applicants will be tested by the Department.

Persons selected as escort interpreters are not employees of the Department of State, but enter into a contractual relationship with the Department. Applicants who qualify may be called upon to accompany foreign leaders and technicians on their travels within the United States and to interpret for them at their professional interviews, meetings, etc.. The work is generally intermittent, and individual assignments usually last close to 30 days. The beginning salary for inexperienced escort interpreters is normally \$140 per day worked, which usually includes Saturdays and Sundays. Transportation is paid by the Government, and the contractor also receives an allowance to cover hotels, meals and incidentals when in travel status.

Application forms may be obtained from and completed applications returned to, the U.S. Department of State, Office of Language Services, Room 2212, Washington, D.C. 20520.

Applicants must have at least four years U.S. residence, and working papers.

There is a possibility of this contract leading to regular employment for a very few exceptionally well qualified American citizens when a vacancy occurs in the permanent interpreting staff of the Department of State.

For further information, you may call Ms. Erica Ginsberg collect at (202) 647-3493 or write to: Interpreting Division, Room 2212, Office of Language Services, U.S. Department of State, Washington, D.C. 20520-2204, Attn: Ms. Erica Ginsberg  
- From Sister Vianney Miklasevich, College Point, New York

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