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U.S. Ambassador To Lithuania, Darryl N. Johnson (left); With Linas Kojelis, President, U.S.-Baltic Foundation; At Foundation's Luncheon In Washington, D.C., March 15th.

To our readers:

Earlier this month, the undersigned attended a luncheon hosted by the U.S.-Baltic Foundation; at which Ambassador Darryl N. Johnson, U.S. Ambassador to the Republic of Lithuania was the featured luncheon speaker.

Ambassador Johnson gave attendees an overview of the current situation in Lithuania; and expanded, with specifics, during an extensive "question and answer" session. (Because this luncheon was sponsored, specifically, by the Business Council of the Foundation, participants included a number of representatives of major U.S. corporations.)

Although Ambassador Johnson appeared to be somewhat disappointed with the level/amount of U.S. businesspeople engaged in/planning to engage in business activity with Lithuanian enterprises, he made it clear that he, and the entire U.S. Embassy staff, are committed to providing U.S. businesspeople interested in doing business in Lithuania with a level of assistance that will insure they are going to be at least competitive with businesspeople of other countries.

While responding to several questions from the audience, Ambassador Johnson left at least this participant with the impression that - across the board - there is a considerable amount of uncertainty in Lithuania; and that, only as time goes on, will it be clear what President Brazauskas will do/will be able to do - and in which direction he intends to go.

Although, because of the audience, most discussion centered on economic issues, Ambassador Johnson, nonetheless, took time to note that he felt Lithuanian Americans made an immense difference/contributed immeasurably towards actions to secure Lithuania's freedom; and are, as well continuing to make crucial contributions in subsequent/current support activities to Lithuania.

Later this month, Ambassador Johnson is scheduled to visit and address Lithuanian Americans in Cleveland and Chicago.

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The above noted luncheon left this participant with three very strong impressions worth noting, as well: (1) The U.S.-Baltic Foundation is now, without a doubt, a formidable activity. The wide array of participants at this luncheon made it clear that the U.S.-Baltic Foundation commands attention. (2) Interest in Lithuania, among the U.S. business community, is strong, indeed. (3) Lithuanian Americans have a clear mission to promote/support democratic, free market oriented activity in Lithuania; because such an environment in Lithuania will encourage investment -

and will thus lead to an economically viable, open society. At this time of uncertainty, we need to insure that things move towards "positive certainty".



Joseph Arlauskas, Editor

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

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Out Of The Past



The Story Of Emily Plateris.

A Young, Determined Woman Rouses The Lithuanian People.

by Albert Cizauskas

Like a wraith out of Lithuania's ancient past, a young woman, armed and mounted, exhorted her people to rise against their Russian oppressors.

Appearing unexpectedly on a Sunday in March of 1831, in front of the local church near her ancestral estate, she cried out: "It is time ... (to) break the chains that bind us...we must be free, God wills it!"

These impassioned words helped light the spark of rebellion among the troubled and leaderless people. Taking matters into her own hands, Countess Emily Plateris scorned the undecided men in Vilnius waiting for Polish support before daring to take up arms against their common enemy.

It was one of those rare moments in a nation's history when a single individual, this time a young and determined woman, rouses the people. What made it all the more memorable was that Emily, like Joan of Arc in a male-dominated society centuries earlier, shamed and led men into action. It would be easy to exaggerate the military significance of what Emily Plateris accomplished, but it was her heroic spirit and temper which became the stuff of history.

Little biographic material is available on this latter-day Joan of Arc. Most of it is based on a book written by Joseph Strasevicius, a friend and neighbor, who knew Emily most of her life and participated with her in Lithuania's partisan warfare of 1831 against Russia. He provides the facts but embroiders them with the florid language and sentiment typical of the 19th century. Still, his biography has the virtue of personal knowledge. It presents a story that is at once romantic, patriotic, and tragic, one that reflects the story of Lithuania itself.

The making of a heroine.

The Plateris family, which originated in Germany, arrived in Lithuania as crusaders early in the 13th century to force Christianity upon the pagan Baltic peoples. Eventually, however, the Plateris warriors buried the sword and settled in the Baltic lands to become rich and powerful barons.

It was into the Lithuanian branch of the family that Emily was born in Vilnius on the 13th of November,

1806. Her father, the Count Xavier Plateris, was considered a libertine and ne'er-do-well, whose marriage to Anna von Mohl, a Baltic German noblewoman, soon broke up. In a move unusual for the time, Countess von Mohl fled her husband, taking the young Emily to live with a relative in Livonia, near the Lithuanian border.

There Emily grew up as an only child in a feudal castle, whose very walls exuded the historic lore of olden battles and heroic deeds. Her biographer notes that the "antique aspects of her surroundings" induced certain melancholic aloofness and independence of spirit. Ancestral inheritance and a rigorous education which included mathematics and history were additional factors in shaping the unique personality of Countess Plateris.

From the very first, Emily was unlike the average daughter reared in an aristocratic environment. Dolls and other playthings gave her scant pleasure. As the noblewoman matured, she longed to do more than grace a ballroom, indulge in idle gossip, and snare a titled husband. She preferred the solitude of the Baltic forests and such masculine pursuits as hard riding and the handling of arms. She even groomed her own horse and kept pistols on a writing table. In a sense, Emily Plateris was a living contradiction. Her strong will forced a frail constitution to endure hardships to the very end. Despite a melancholic temperament, she developed into a brash and outspoken person, brooking no nonsense of opposition, an early champion of the right of a woman to express her thoughts and act accordingly.

Yet this unusual woman had a softer side as well. Like her fellow countryman, Kosciuske, whom she greatly admired, the Countess felt a deep compassion towards the less fortunate, especially the ill and old serfs on the castle's estate whom she tended and whose children she taught. In her day, such concern for the underprivileged was rare. Interest in peasant welfare melded naturally with her absorption in history and led to collections of peasant songs and tales which scholars have praised.

Her biographer describes Emily Plateris as a slender woman, of middle height, well shaped, with soft features, gray-blue eyes, and thick hair waiving down

over her shoulders. This image is confirmed by a portrait which almost seems to belie her vaunted aggressiveness and melancholy, except for the military style of dress and the large, piercing eyes as if seeing things unseen.

It is not difficult to believe that Emily's good looks attracted the attention of several men, none of whom she encouraged. One, a Russian general, was highly incensed at her refusal of his marriage offer, and stiffly demanded to know why. Emily replied, briefly but pointedly. "Sir, I am a daughter of my country." Evidently, she had already made up her mind to sublimate the natural impulses of a young woman for the sake of her native land.

The year of the rebellion.

To appreciate the phenomenon of Emily Plateris, one must first understand the tumultuous history of her age. Napoleon's militarism had shaken up the ruling dynasties of Europe and awakened the nationalistic aspirations of its subject peoples. His defeat in 1815, however, resulted largely in the return of the despotic rule of the old regimes. As a consequence, Europe seethed with political unrest from one end of the continent to the other. Among the more significant and successful uprisings was that of the Parisians, who, in a short but bloody struggle in July of 1830, overthrew their tyrannical king. The Parisian example encouraged the Lithuanians and Poles who had long regarded the French as their political and cultural mentors.

Following Napoleon's defeat, Alexander I, the Russian Czar, played a cat-and-mouse game with the Poles. He granted them a kingdom with all the trappings of autonomy, but with himself as Poland's sovereign. The Poles learned the hard way, as they are doing today, that political independence is meaningless so long as ultimate authority resides elsewhere. Lithuania was not even allowed the charade of independence; the Czar treated it as a Russian province.

Neither the Lithuanians nor the Poles could accept such an unsatisfactory resolution to their national interests. Unrest among both peoples fed on itself, inflamed by news of various rebellions across Europe, especially that of the French. Open revolt finally broke out when it was rumored that the Czar intended to deploy the Polish and the Lithuanian components of the Russian forces, to crush the insurrection in France.

In an action born of false hope, the Poles, late in 1830, expelled the Czar's viceroy and declared the country independent of the Romanov dynasty. Having a small, regular army at their disposal, the Poles fought valiantly against their giant, but surprised opponent, receiving and inflicting heavy losses. The crucial element of surprise, however, was soon dissipated, as the Poles lapsed into a puzzling lethargy, as if they misunderstood or feared the consequences of their own

bold action. Polish historians allege that the insurgents hoped somehow to appease the Czar and arrive at an acceptable compromise with them, all this despite open military defiance.

In any event, hesitation proved fatal, affording Russia the opportunity to regroup and ending whatever little hope there had been of foreign support for the Polish rebellion. Lithuanian leaders, for their part, relied heavily on Polish intervention because the Czar, sensing an uprising, had earlier neutralized Lithuanian conscripted forces by stationing them in far-off Russia. Depending on the Poles was a serious blunder since Polish help, when it finally arrived, was too little, too late, and too weak. It was at this moment that Countess Emily Plateris, at the age of 24 years, entered Lithuanian history.

And a woman shall lead them.

The year 1830 was a turning point in Emily's life. In a sense, the coincidence of private and political crises was fitting, since the young Countess had deliberately courted the image of heroine from her earliest days. Her mother, to whom she was deeply attached, died that year after a long illness. Bereft of the one person she dearly loved, Emily for a time became disoriented with grief. In desperation, she turned to her father from whom she had not heard in all the years since their separation. That strange man, however, spurned his daughter's emotional plea for reconciliation. Emily herself, never robust, fell seriously ill, suffering from the psychic wounds inflicted by a loved mother's death and a father's callousness.

News of the Polish uprising, however, roused her spirits. Throughout Lithuania, the people were waiting for a signal from the Vilnius committee to break out into open revolt and expected the support of the Polish army. The signal, however, wasn't given and the Polish army didn't come.

When nothing happened, Emily went directly to Vilnius to confront the secret committee established to coordinate Lithuanian efforts with those of the Poles. The committee, we are told, looked upon this strange young noblewoman as an intrusive female who should be occupied with the conventional interests of her sex and dismissed her.

But Emily was not to be dismissed so easily. She remembered the example of a kinsman, Michael Plateris, who, at the age of 13, had provoked Russian ire by scrawling patriotic sentiments on a blackboard at the University of Vilnius, for which he was severely punished. The bold and quixotic behavior of a relative had deepened Emily's growing animosity toward the foreign occupier and implanted a sense of mission some day to help liberate her people. Deciding that the moment had now come, she was ready to leap over the barricades of time into immortality.

Back home, Emily criticizing what she called "the folly of men in power," devised a plan for action. With

the help of another cousin, Caesar Plateris, she proposed to take by surprise a strategically important Russian fortress near her home. She cut short her long hair, put on a military uniform, and armed herself with a sword, two pistols, and a dirk (for close combat and to kill herself if necessary). Her militant address in front of the local church emboldened the populace which had been preparing for "a great war" of liberation. Telling the listeners not to wait any longer, she won to her side a surprisingly large force of 60 mounted nobles, 280 mounted riflemen, and several hundred peasants armed only with scythes. These volunteers were a cross-section of Lithuanian society, and showed that Emily, a woman, possessed sufficient force of personality to inspire men of different classes to follow her.

Her plan of action, however, was too ambitious and complicated. Lithuanian military cadets, stationed at the fortress, were to rebel at a given signal, creating a diversion within to facilitate its takeover. On the way, Emily's group, under her command, managed to defeat several units of surprised Russian troops, and even liberated several villages. The Russian commander at the fortress, however, not only learned of Emily's movements, but was also apprised, probably by informers, of the cadets' intended role. He had them removed from the fortress and ordered a battalion equipped with cannon to route the approaching insurgents. Superior forces and the element of surprise, now on the other side, did exactly that. Emily and her volunteers had to retreat but the rumor of a young woman leading Lithuanian men into battle against the Russians soon spread throughout the countryside.

The initial euphoria of meeting the enemy head-on gave way to the more practical consideration of how to continue the struggle. At about this time, a number of other uprisings had flared across Lithuania Minor, where the people ignored the continued inaction of the Vilnius committee. Emily joined one of these groups which greeted her first with considerable skepticism because of her sex. The proud Countess was not a woman to be scorned and asserted defiantly that she could endure the fatigues and dangers of partisan war as well as they.

And so she did, shifting from company to company of guerrillas to fight with those whose potential for harassing the enemy seemed greater to her. One of these units, caught by heavy Russian fire for many hours, was finally routed. Emily was the last to flee. She led some forty men to safety past enemy lines and then eluded that pursuit by taking refuge in a neighboring forest.

For two months, rebel groups roamed Lithuania. One historian estimates the lightly armed and untrained 'freedom fighters' at 50 to 60 thousand men who hit the Russians here and there and everywhere, and then melted into the countryside. At the high point of the rebellion, Lithuanian partisans had even managed to

liberate villages and towns. Emily Plateris was part of all this, an example of Lithuanian nationalism in one of its finer hours.

In retrospect, however, the hour was far from troubled. Peasants were among the first to revolt, heartened by rumors that serfdom would be abolished with independence. They were bitterly disappointed when they saw that the landed gentry had no such intent. Internal dissension between the two classes broke out into open conflict in some areas, weakening their efforts against the Russians. Another handicap was the lack of arms. Without centralized authority or planning, rebel units split into small, uncoordinated groups, operating pretty much on their own.

The Russians began their counteroffensive in June with the dispatch of large armed forces in a three-pronged attack to quell the rebellion in both countries. Two armies converged upon Lithuania, one from the north and one from the east. The insurgents soon were flushed out from their strongholds in the rural areas and forced to hide out in the Lithuanian forests.

A third army descended upon Poland. After some fierce engagements, the Poles also found their backs against the wall. In desperation, they now decided to send their long awaited troops into Lithuania with the hope of diverting pressure from Poland.

The Polish debacle.

The late Polish intervention, however, was poorly executed. Several Polish armies crossed the Nemunas one by one in late spring without clear lines of authority or coordination, a situation made to order for professional bickering among the generals. One eyewitness observes that the Polish military, having many chiefs, ended up by having none. On top of this, the senior general, Anthony Gelgaudas*, a Polonized Lithuanian noble, is said to have been lazy, incompetent, and vain, idling his days away in socializing with the Lithuanian aristocracy.

The first Polish general to arrive was Chlapowski who was greeted with considerable enthusiasm. Emily's exploits were already known in Poland so that the general "welcomed her in a most flattering manner." Puzzled, however, by what to do with this female warrior, the general condescendingly advised her to return home and rest from her excursions. Once again, Emily confronted male chauvinism and once again, she rose above it. Her powers of persuasion must have been unusually strong, for the initially dubious general ended up by commissioning the feisty young woman a captain in command of the first company of a Lithuanian regiment.

Following a few successful minor skirmishes with the Russians, Chlapowski became highly incensed and non-cooperative when General Gelgaudas came on the scene and, by virtue of his superior rank, assumed overall command. Gelgaudas marched on Vilnius but, through his usual dilatory behavior, permitted the

Russian garrison there to be reinforced from three thousand to thirty thousand defenders. Prodded finally into action, the inept Gelgudas was soundly beaten and forced to retreat.

In the meantime, Emily's company had been ordered to Kaunas where, once again, poor leadership resulted in disaster. The company was virtually cut to pieces but Captain Plateris fought to the last as usual, and would have been killed or captured but for the gallant action of a Polish officer who gave Emily his horse on which she fought her way out. When Gelgudas heard of the intrepid behavior of this by now widely acclaimed woman, he commended her officially for 'great courage and astonishing coolness' under fire.

Crippled by heavy losses, the Polish high command, after less than two months, decided to abandon Lithuania to its fate and return to Poland. Gelgudas was the first to leave, but chose instead the security of neutral Prussia where he surrendered his arms. When it became apparent that Prussia rather than Poland was their objective, his troops became resentful and even suspected a betrayal. No sooner had Gelgudas crossed over into Prussia than a young Polish officer rode up to him suddenly and shot him to death, crying "Treason!"

By this time, Emily's company had ceased to exist. She chose to join Chlapowski's forces in the belief that they would rejoin the fight in Poland. When Emily Plateris realized that Chlapowski too was deserting to Prussia, she rebuked him with sarcastic defiance: "Sir, I wish you a safe journey, (but) I will fight for my country as long as I live."

The end.

The disillusioned Countess now disguised herself as a peasant and, accompanied by her cousin, Caesar, endeavored to reach Poland where resistance still persisted. The dejected group, which included another young woman, Mary Rasanavicius, fled by night through forests to elude the Russians, especially Cossacks whom all feared. After ten days and nights without shelter and virtually without food, Emily came down with a high fever and collapsed, her body no longer responding to her indomitable will. Her companions bore her to a neighboring village, Kapciamiestis, in southwestern Lithuania. Here they were able to find refuge with a friendly Lithuanian landowner. Rest and a doctor's care helped to restore Emily's health somewhat but not sufficiently to resume the flight to Poland.

For security, the Countess even assumed a fictitious name, that of Madame Korawinska, during a long convalescence of several months. Everyone involved was in considerable danger, since the Russians were combing the countryside for insurgents and their supporters, many of whom were sent to a sure death in Siberia.

Despite efforts to shield her from the news, Emily

began to sense the bitter truth about the insurrection's impending collapse. She had clung with a zealot's hope to the illusion that somehow the fortunes of war could be reversed. When defeat became irreversible, the small spark of hope that had sustained her was extinguished, and with this, her life too. Countess Emily Plateris died on the 23rd day of December, 1831, barely 25 years of age.

For a person of Emily's temperament, it was fitting that death came with defeat. She had performed with a passionate intensity in the drama of her people's liberation, a drama that continues today, its last act yet to be written.

Postscript

The life of Emily Plateris could have inspired a Verdi of Puccini. In fact, a Lithuanian musical drama based on her life was presented at Chicago in 1979 by the Lithuanian National Ensemble. In the last century, Adam Mickiewicz, the epic poet, memorialized her in verse. Poems in her honor were also composed in English, French, German, and Italian. Before World War II, the Poles had imprinted Emily's countenance on one of their currency notes.

The biography mentioned earlier, originally written in French, was translated into English by a J. K. Salmonowicz and published in New York in 1842. We learn from the introduction that the book's sponsors (whatever that term might mean) were distinguished political leaders in pre-Civil War American Society, such as Presidents John Tyler, Martin Van Buren and James Buchanan. The book is a rare volume which cannot be found even in the Library of Congress (except in the French version) and was graciously made available to me, as well as other relevant material, by Emily's descendants, Mr. and Mrs. Alexander Plateris of Maryland.

An interesting sidelight is that a member of the Plateris clan named George emigrated to England early in the 18th century. He was rewarded for his services to Lord Baltimore with a grant of land in Maryland where George Plateris founded a plantation and built a mansion called "Sotterly" after his wife's maiden name. A grandson served as governor of Maryland in 1791-1792.

*The famed English actor, John Gielgud, is a descendant of the Gelgudas family.

Most passages in quotation marks in this article are taken from the book.

(December, 1988)

Copyright © 1993 by Albert Cizauskas. Mr. Cizauskas' articles have appeared on a regular basis, over several years (most recently focusing on Lithuania's economy) in past issues of BRIDGES. Now a freelance writer based in the Washington, DC area, he is retired from the US Diplomatic Service and the World Bank. □

What Should We Do, Now, After Lithuania's Elections?

An address, by Regina F. Narusis, Esq., to the Omaha, Nebraska Chapter of the Lithuanian American Community, Inc., on the Commemoration of the 75 Year Jubilee of Lithuania's Independence.

Today as we commemorate the 75th anniversary of Lithuania's Declaration of Independence the earlier joy we all shared has been, to a large extent, displaced by a sense of disappointment and gloom over recent political events in Lithuania. We should not allow these events to demoralize us. In 1918, after more than 120 years of Czarist tyranny and enslavement, Lithuanian independence emerged from the German/Bolshevik destruction of the Imperial Russian Empire. The following years saw Lithuania's newly won independence and its very national existence threatened by powerful internal and external forces. Notwithstanding the temporary presence of foreign armies, the threat of Bolshevik take over and the loss of Vilnius to Polish aggression, Lithuania survived, and thereafter made significant progress culturally, politically and economically.

In 1990, after more than a half of century of Communist tyranny and enslavement, Lithuania's independence was again heroically restored, this time during the disintegration of the Soviet/Russian Empire. Today, as in 1918, our beloved homeland's national existence appears to be threatened by similar internal and external elements.

The Lithuania of today is, in many respects different from the Lithuania of 1918. The fifty years of Sovietization was harmful to our Lithuanian people and their culture. The Soviets recruited and employed local leaders to serve them at all levels of their society, made the intellectuals dependent on the Soviet order and established a police state that bred suspicion and distrust among the Lithuanian people. Even today, Lithuanians hunt for the K.G.B. You will recall that Cepaitis, a strong Sajudis leader was also a K.G.B. informant. Today's Lithuanian was indoctrinated in the Soviet educational system without an accurate and workable knowledge of the West. However, today, due to continuing advances in communication technology, television, radio, computers, Lithuanians can come closer to the Western world, we hope, much faster.

Lithuania is more dependent on the outside world today than it was in 1918. In 1918, Lithuania was primarily an agrarian economy; there was not the dependency on gasoline or industrial goods as there is

today. The standards of today's modern world are much more demanding. Lithuanian products are presently having a hard time competing in the Western markets; until those markets accept Lithuanian products, and even afterward, Lithuania will, as it must continue to trade with Eastern European States.

We should not allow these events to demoralize us.

Politically there are a number of similarities between 1918 and 1990. In 1918-1920 - conservative nationalists (tautininkai) controlled the nation, when the Christian Democrats took over. Then came the leftist coalition supported by minority nationalities. In 1926 the rightist took control of the government with the support of the military. Lithuania's political history seems to be repeating itself. 1988-1992 - the Sajudis reform movement provided the moral strength for national unity under the leadership of President Landsbergis. But, in November 1992, the former communists won marginal control of the Seimas (Parliament) in a democratic election and chose Brazauskas as their leader in the Seimas (Parliament). A Lithuanian President was elected February 14, 1993 - Algirdas Brazauskas. That pivotal election may very well change the way the nation evolves. One party, LDDP, will control the executive, legislative and judicial branches of the government. Under the new Lithuania constitution adopted October 1992 - the President will have a primary responsibility to establish the first "independent" courts. He will share responsibility with the Seimas in the appointment of the Prime Minister and the Cabinet and for development of an economic program. He will deal with foreign governments.

Why did this happen? We must explore and understand the prevailing facts and circumstances in Lithuania if we are to comprehend this change in leadership.

Distrust continues to plague the nation. The

economy has suffered through at least two economic blockades: Gorbachev's policy of blockade and military attack destroyed much of her small financial reserves. Russia's suspension of delivery of gas and raw materials just before the elections caused industrial stoppages, disastrous agricultural underproduction, transportation deficiencies, unemployment and lack of heat. The conversion of free market economy among other factors caused, inflation. Farmers were unable to obtain capitol for machinery, stock and buildings. The Soviet military was and is still present in Lithuania, creating fear and discouraging foreign and domestic investments. All this has brought about instability. The Rule of democratic and property law has not yet been established and institutionalized. The Lithuanian people wanted a change. Sajudis, not being a political party, lacked the political knowledge and experience to win elections, whereas the former Communist party organization remained intact, as was very evident in the rural area. Lozeraitis received 38.3% and Brazauskas - 60%. Lithuanian citizens in United States voted 93.8% Lozeraitis and 3.5% Brazauskas.

What about President Brazauskas? During the momentous and heady events of 1989 and 1990 he was the First Secretary of the Communist Party Central Committee. He prominently attended the historical gathering at Gedeminas Square in 1988, but then demanded that the flags of independent Lithuania be lowered before he would speak. Yet, later he urged the Communist Party to legalize the display of the Lithuanian flag and symbols and pushed for the adoption of the Lithuanian language as the nation's official language. He worked with Sajudis which initially was created to support Gorbachev's perestroika. Brazauskas supported the principal of self-dependence and was greatly responsible for the restoration of Gedeminas Cathedral to the Catholic Church. Yet, in October of 1988, he called the Lithuanian Freedom League, led by Antanas Terleckas, who first called for independence, "emotional, extremists and irresponsible." Brazauskas agreed with Sajudis on Lithuanizing the Republic, developing economic self-dependency and decentralizing the Soviet system. He condemned the Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact and took the position that the annexation of Lithuania to the Soviet Union in 1940 was an illegal act. However, he differed with Sajudis on the right to nullify the laws enacted by Moscow. On the vote for independence on March 11, 1990 he voted for independence. But since then he, according to Sajudis, has acted in opposition to further change. Since he became Acting President and Head of Seimas - privatization was suspended. Seimas has voted by secret ballot, making it impossible for a citizen to know how his representative voted on critical issues. Freedom of the press has not been institutionalized.

We have the right to feel uneasy about Mr. Brazauskas, who since 1988 rose to power as the leader of the LDDP over the more moderate party members.

He is a person who understands power and the use of power. In a democratic society power is used to attain goals. Power for Mr. Brazauskas appears to be an end in itself, as evidenced by his efforts in those early days to save the Lithuanian Communist Party. Even now he is sending mixed signals. Our concern is well founded, but it must not prevent us from acting and assisting the people of Lithuania.

The Lithuanian-American Community is supportive of Lithuanian independence and is able to give more assistance than was the Lithuanian-Americans of 1919. First, there are more emigres. Second, all early and later emigres and their offspring are now better educated and economically established.

That brings us to the last and perhaps most important question, what role, if any, should the Lithuanian-American Community play in the re-development of Lithuania. I believe there is a role for all of us in this difficult process.

Foremost, we need to continue our efforts to preserve our Lithuanian heritage and language. We need to learn and understand the Lithuania of today and the Lithuanians need to learn and understand and trust us. Lithuanian-Americans need to record their history so that our participation in the struggle for Lithuanian's independence is properly documented for posterity.

We need to continually expand our communications with Lithuania. We should continue to use Radio Free Europe, T.V. and our pens (Draugas, **BRIDGES**, Aidas, Republica, Leituvos Rytas, etc) to convey our attitudes and opinions to the Lithuanian people about a democratic way of life.

We must support the emergence of the Catholic Church and other religious groups, which were the source of Lithuania's strength through the many hard years. It will furnish the basis for a strong and moral democratic nation.

In the United States, we need to strengthen the Lithuanian-American Community. An organization that will welcome all Lithuanian-Americans, including those who do not speak the Lithuanian language. To do less is to deprive ourselves of their intellectual resources. We need to become politically strong. First, we need to continue to lobby for the prompt and total withdrawal of the Soviet troops will be withdrawn by September 1993 from Lithuania. No nation can be totally free to grow while it is occupied without its consent by military forces of a foreign power. We felt the Bush Administration let us down. The Clinton Administration does not as yet perceive Lithuania as being strategically important either. No international observers were sent to Lithuania to monitor the February election. No objectives have been set for U.S. assistance to Lithuania. The Clinton Administration has shown no concern over the suspension of privatization in Lithuania. It is imperative that we convince our Senators and

Congressmen that Lithuania is an important policy objective. If democracy and free market economy won't work in Lithuania, it has no hope of working in Russia. Our representatives in Washington must carry this message to the new Administration. It is our duty to inform and persuade our representatives in Washington as to the importance of Lithuania in U.S. foreign policy.

Our short-term goal should be to assist Lithuania in its political, economic and commercial development through various governmental and non-governmental programs, that we need to identify, investigate and then facilitate. This includes Lithuanian Bonds, coordinating the Baltic Enterprise Fund, exchange programs, Sister City projects, grants and loans. Our long term goal must always be the preservation of Lithuanian independence, it's borders, democracy and culture. To achieve this ultimate goal Lithuanian-Americans must remain informed, committed, and politically visible and active.

How can Lithuanian-Americans help Lithuania today? Join Lithuania professional organizations that have been established. Form one if none exists. Lawyers (LABAS), doctors, teachers (APPLE), journalists, dentists, veterinarians, librarians have formed such associations. Through these associations we can help form strong ties, render expert assistance, build trust and so bring about much needed change in all walks of life. We can help the people free themselves of the Soviet indoctrination they have been enslaved to. Individual persons have rendered assistance, but such assistance is by its nature limited in quantity and quality. These individual efforts need to be coordinated so that time and effort on both sides of the Atlantic is not squandered or misused.

We need to be always informed as to what is happening in Lithuania. If independence, human rights or privatization are threatened, we need to forcibly speak out and offer constructive criticism. We must read both the Lithuanian and the American press. If we do not now do so, we should subscribe to one or more newspapers from Lithuania as well. We need to voice our opinions. It is as simple as writing to our family and friends in Lithuania. You might write letters to the editor or articles for publication. By all means, express your thoughts to your local "Bendruomines" chapter. There is room and need for all our talent.

In summary, we must expect some set-backs, but we must not be discouraged by them. Our efforts now are extremely important. We must support the people of Lithuania who so courageously won that independence that we are able to celebrate today.

(Editor's Note: Ms. Narusis, a practicing attorney, is a frequent traveller to Lithuania; is Vice President of the National Executive Committee, Lithuanian American Community, Inc.; and is active in several of the programs, projects and initiatives she notes in this speech.)

An A.P.P.L.E. Report

American educators, under the sponsorship of the American Professional Partnership for Lithuania Education (A.P.P.L.E.), worked for five weeks this past summer in Siauliai and Klaipeda to bring the English language and American methods to Lithuanian teachers.

A.P.P.L.E., under the directorship of Vaiva Vebris, organized more than seventy high school teachers, college professors, principals, etc., who agreed to share their expertise with the Lithuanian teachers who attended these seminars. This is the second year of such work for A.P.P.L.E., which during its first year held seminars only in Vilnius. The Vilnius workshops were so well received that this year the program was expanded to two additional cities, Siauliai and Klaipeda.

The goals for Siauliai, a four-week program, were to explain the methods of teaching English as a second language that are currently in use in the United States. English language courses were also available for those teachers who were not teachers of English, but wanted to enhance their own facility in speaking the language. A resource library for teachers was created to house the materials that were brought over by the visiting professionals to make them available to as many Lithuanian teachers as possible.

In Klaipeda, a one-week program, the goals were somewhat different. This center was created as a site for advanced Lithuanian teachers who had attended the Vilnius seminar last year. However, in addition to the repeaters, many first time participants arrived because news of the seminars had reached them and they were anxious to participate. Advanced methodology was the main purpose of the work in this seaport city, but classes were also run for those who wanted to begin learning English or to perfect their current ability.

In both cities, the local ministry of education arranged opening and closing ceremonies for the visiting professionals. Along with the Lithuanian teachers, the ministry expressed gratitude that American teachers, many of whom had no roots in Lithuania, would volunteer their vacation time to help this new democracy. In both cities, the hope was stated that this work would continue next summer.

Some of the professional topics that were especially popular during some of the general sessions were: "New Teachers and Their Mentors," "The Student-Centered Classroom," "Communications Between Administrators and Teachers," "Problem-Solving Techniques," "Motivating the Reluctant Student," "How to Utilize Cooperative Learning Techniques," "Brainstorming and Other Graphic Organizers," "Different Learning Styles," and "Controlling Stress."

At the end of the session, the Lithuanian teachers wrote evaluations of their experiences. Typical of the responses was one by Marija Jurgeleviciene of Siauliai, who wrote, "I want you to know, it was the most important help for us."

- Charlotte Adomaitis

Promises To Be Kept (Or Broken)?

President Bill Clinton talked to Lithuanian Americans (about Lithuania) during his campaign; and, of course, he made some promises about Lithuania.

During the last Presidential Election Campaign, the Lithuanian-American Community, Inc. Public Affairs Committee sent all three presidential candidates a questionnaire dealing with issues of concern to the future of Lithuania.

The questions dealt with U.S. policy in support of Russian troop withdrawals from the Baltics; the linkage of U.S. aid for Russia to troop withdrawals; continued technical assistance; support for a Baltic American Enterprise Fund and a U.S. commercial center in Vilnius. Also raised was the question of the demilitarization of Kaliningrad (which all candidates declined to answer).

The real question we'll want answered, now, is: How will these answers match up to reality, in six months, in a year, in two years, etc.?

Many of you will recall a now "famous" letter sent by the "Bush-Quayle '88" Campaign Committee, to a Lithuanian American in Florida; which was a response to that Lithuanian American's inquiries, about where Bush-Quayle stood in regard to Lithuania. Needless to say, the "famous" letter's pledges, statements and commitments didn't even resemble the reality that we came to see when Lithuania critically needed the then President to "come through" on the promises of that "famous" letter.

Responses from the Clinton-Gore Campaign Committee are listed below.

October 21, 1992

Bill Clinton and Lithuanian-Americans

"Al Gore and I share the aspirations of Baltic-Americans for the future of our country, our families, and our communities. We also share their hopes for the futures of Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia. The Baltic nations helped inspire the democratic revolution that has swept the world during the last three years. In re-establishing their independence, they struck some of the first blows that led to the collapse of the Soviet empire. Today, the Baltics continue to press forward with democratic and economic reforms which will secure their independence for future generations.

The United States has an important and continuing role to play in the renewal of democracy and free enterprise in the Baltic countries and the other nations of the former Soviet Union. When we support democracy abroad, we also preserve our own economic and security interests.

A Clinton Administration will treat the governments of Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia as partners in securing the goals we share. We will work to support democracy and encourage trade and investment with the Baltic nations. We will establish a Democracy Corps to help strengthen democratic institutions in the Baltics and other nations of the former Soviet Union. A Clinton Administration will press for a rapid and orderly withdrawal of all foreign troops from Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia."

Comments before the Foreign Policy Association in New York, April 1, 1992:

"I know it isn't popular today to call for foreign assistance of any kind. It's harder when Americans are hurting, as millions are today. But I believe it is deeply irresponsible to forgo this short-term investment in our long-term security. Being penny wise and pound foolish will cost us more in the long run in higher defense budgets and long economic opportunities... We owe it to the people who defeated communism, the people who defeated the coup. And we owe it to ourselves. Having won the Cold War, we must not now lose the peace... I believe America needs to organize and lead a long-term Western strategy of engagement for democracy. From Russia to Central Europe, from Ukraine to the Baltics, the U.S. and our allies need to speed the transition to democracy and capitalism by keeping our markets open to these countries' products, offering food and technical assistance, helping them privatize key industries, converting military production to civilian uses."

Comments before the World Affairs Council in Los Angeles, August 13, 1992:

"... Mr. Bush has been oddly reluctant to commit America's prestige on the side of people inspired by American precepts and examples. When democratic reformers sought to break up the Soviet empire, Mr.

Bush... sided with the crumbling Soviet center... From the Baltics to Beijing, from Sarajevo to South Africa, time after time, George Bush has sided with the status quo rather than democratic change - with familiar tyrants rather than those who would overthrow them - with the old geography of repression rather than the new map of freedom."

On the first-year anniversary of re-establishment of full U.S. relations with the Baltic governments, September 2, 1992, Governor Clinton sent congratulations to the Baltic-American communities:

"...I am also concerned about the continuing presence of some 100,000 former Soviet troops in the Baltic countries. The United States must work to ensure that these troops are withdrawn as rapidly as possible so that the Baltics can enjoy full sovereignty. The U.S. Senate has properly made it clear that this issue will affect the future of American relations with Russia, including assistance..."

Speaking to Americans of Eastern European descent in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, October 1, 1992:

"You have raised your children to be proud of their heritage. As the freedom movements in your homelands have gained strength, you have marched and organized. And as the voice of John Paul II gave that movement inspiration, so you gave your moral and financial support to Solidarity in Poland. You helped keep RUKH alive in Ukraine, Sajudis in Lithuania... as the freedom-loving people in each of those nations rose up to challenge communist orthodoxy. Many factors contributed to the downfall of the Soviet empire. But the decisive blow was clearly delivered by the peoples imprisoned within it.

For over 50 years, the United States refused to recognize Soviet claims to the Baltic nations - Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia. But when at long last, the moment of Baltic independence came, President Bush suddenly became a reluctant bridegroom. The U.S. was 37th among the world's nations to extend diplomatic recognition to these countries. We should have been the first.

"...I will support the establishment of a Democracy Corps, which could provide teams of experienced Americans in local centers throughout the former Soviet Union, to help grassroots leaders overcome bottlenecks to democratic development... We will enlist the untapped skills of the many immigrants and their descendants in cities like Milwaukee, Chicago and Cleveland, who came to our shores to escape oppression and to build America - to help build democracies in the countries from which they came."

(Clinton-Gore Campaign materials furnished by the Public Affairs Office, Lithuanian American Community, Inc., 2060 N. 14th Street, Arlington, Virginia 22201. Tel: 703 524-0698. Ms. Asta Banionis, Director.) □

Of Gods And Men:

Studies in Lithuanian Mythology

by Algirdas J. Greimas; translated by Milda Newman

From the Forward to *Of Gods And Men*:

"...By positioning myth alongside language, Greimas sidesteps much of the philosophical discussion that has surrounded, often clouded, the conception of myth. In contrast, Greimas examines mythology on a semiotic rather than philosophical level. For him it is a symbolic system, much as language is. Myth is subject to the same probing questions and analytical methods that are applicable to language and any other symbolic system.

"...The present volume is a synthesis of Greimas's early method with his later accomplishments. In examining his own Lithuanian folklore, language, and culture he combines native sensitivity for Lithuanian nomenclature with profound knowledge of his people's ancient literary corpus, and brings to bear upon both of them current rigorous analytical methods. Through his lexicographic method he emphasizes the historic dimension of myth analysis, while through his semantic theory he orients his interpretation toward a search of the integration of meaning in Lithuanian culture. Hence Greimas rightly views this study of mythology as an archaeology of culture.

"...As a language Lithuanian mythology forms a semantic code. This is a key concept in Greimas's theory of structural semantics. The idea of mythology itself as a code dates back to the Alexandrian grammarians and the Renaissance mythographers who interpreted myths allegorically, and has continued up to the solar mythology of Max Muller and the sexual mythology that Sigmund Freud inspired... It is as a semantic code that the Lithuanian mythology forms the cultural ideology of the Lithuanian people..."

"In conclusion, this volume is a literary, philological, semiotic, and folkloristic *tour de force* in which subjective attitude and objective analysis join in a synthesis, reconstructing the mythology of the past in a way that will be a model for future studies." - *Dal Ben Amos and Alessandro Falassi, 1988.*

1992; 248 pgs., 17 figs., notes, indexes. ISBN 0-253-32652-4. \$35.00 cloth (price is higher outside North America). Published by, and available directly from, Indiana University Press, 601 N. Morton St., Bloomington, Indiana 47404. Tel: 812 855-8054.

Lithuanian Rowers In Seattle

*A "Coming Out Party" For The Lithuanian Rowing Federation;
At The 6th Annual Windmere Cup Races In Seattle, Washington.*

by Zita E. Petkus

A prestigious showcase of competitive international rowing, the sixth Annual Windmere Cup races were held in Seattle on May 2, 1992. Sponsored in conjunction with Opening Day of Boating Season, the event typically draws about 200,000 spectators on yachts and the shores of Lake Washington. For the Lithuanian Rowing Federation the event symbolized their "coming out party;" it was their first international competition under the flag of Lithuania since the nation gained formal diplomatic recognition for its independent statehood.

The invitational competition featured very strong University of Washington teams, crews from Cambridge, England, and the select men's and women's teams from Lithuania. The entire event—including travel expenses for the British and Lithuanian teams—was generously underwritten by Windmere Real Estate.

According to Bob Ernst, head coach of the host University of Washington Husky team, the Lithuanians specifically were issued an invitation for two reasons: the University's previous experience in the 1987 Windmere Cup Race with the mighty Soviet team which was heavily comprised of Lithuanian rowers (the Soviets won),

and the local Lithuanian Community's ongoing relationship with the University and the Community's commitment to participate in this venture through hosting and translating opportunities. A third reason given was the pleasure of providing the Lithuanian rowers their formal entree to international competition under their own colors. "It's like 'taking down the wall' for them," Ernst commented during a press conference held several days prior to the event.

To welcome their guests, the University of Washington flew not only the American flag, but the Union Jack and the Lithuanian flag atop the Conibear Shellhouse all week.

Eleven women and 11 men, plus 4 coaches, arrived in Seattle on April 26 to acclimate themselves and prepare for the competition. In keeping with Bob Ernst's request that the fairness of the competition be maintained by having only college-age youngsters



Basketball star Marciulionis surrounded by rowers from Lithuania and Seattle area Lithuanian Americans.

participate in the race, the Lithuanian athletes ranged in age from 18-22 years. Although they were the national teams for their respective age group, to the relief of the Washington and Cambridge rowers, the Lithuanians were not the Olympic-caliber teams which were back home training for Barcelona. In fact, having won the national championship last year, the Lithuanian women split up and were brought together again only for this trip. The second workout of the reunited crew took place after arrival in Seattle. The Lithuanian men were selected for this trip in competitions held only two weeks prior to departure for America, so their performance as a unit for the upcoming race also posed a question.

The week prior to the competition was packed full of excitement for the wide-eyed athletes, all of whom except for two, had never been to America. The day after the crews' arrival, the local Lithuanian Community hosted a "welcome to Seattle" potluck dinner. It was an opportunity for the locals to make connections with the visitors, and for the visitors to express thanks to the key individuals who had worked hard behind the scenes to make their visit possible. Ina Bertulyte-Bray, member of the Board of the Lithuanian-American Community and the reception's hostess, had dedicated long months as the Community's liaison with the University and also with the Lithuanian Rowing Federation, to bring about the Lithuanians' invitation. Irene Blekys, president of the Lithuanian-American Community, acted as liaison with Windermere Real Estate and also served as primary translator and on-the-spot "caregiver" for the teams on a day-to-day basis during their intensive visit.

A thrilling surprise capped off the evening for the guests: basketball superstar Golden State Warrior Sarunas Marciulionis, their national hero, dropped in to visit and be photographed with the team. Many of the youngsters couldn't believe they were in the same room with him! (Incidentally, Sarunas was in Seattle with his team to compete against the Seattle Super Sonics in the NBA playoffs.)

Another unbelievable surprise awaited the rowers: Windermere Real Estate treated the Lithuanians to tickets for the following night's playoff game. Accompanied by equally excited local Lithuanians, the visitors enjoyed the sold-out basketball game, cheered wildly for Sarunas and waving tri-couleur every time he scored; as it turned out, Sarunas had an extraordinary night, scoring 27 points, among them 10 straight free throws in the last five minutes of the game. The Sonics won the game literally at the last second by one point. Later, Sarunas told the press that although he couldn't hear the Lithuanian contingent cheering amidst the roaring hometown fans, he certainly saw the flags waving while he was on the court.

Each day in America had its own highlight. The day after the basketball game, all crews competing in the Windermere Cup were invited to the home of the

Jacobi's, the owners of Windermere Real Estate. To get to the palatial residence on Bainbridge Island, the rowers took a ferry across the Puget Sound. The grand reception provided a perfect venue for the Lithuanians to formally thank Windermere for sponsoring their trip of a lifetime. On behalf of the Lithuanian contingent, Eugenijus Levickas, the president of the Lithuanian Rowing Federation, and Vytautas Briedus, head coach, presented Mrs. Jacobi with a beautiful amber necklace and matching bracelet; Mr. Jacobi was presented with a Lithuanian sash which they tied across his shoulder in traditional fashion. The Jacobis also received a sculpted insignia of the Lithuanian Rowing Federation and a pictorial book about Lithuania, inscribed and signed by all the rowers. The host were beaming! Later, Mrs. Jacobi commented privately how much she and her husband enjoyed their gifts, and how generous Lithuanians were. She also added, after looking through the book, what a beautiful country Lithuania was.

The visit was not without its down side. During one of their training sessions, the Lithuanian men slammed into a buoy, breaking a "shoulder", the rib of the racing shell they had borrowed from the University of Washington. The accident caused immense embarrassment to Arunas Sata, the men's coach, who agonized over how to repair the boat. (Apparently, in Lithuania the coach is not only the trainer but the repairman in such cases.) To Satas' immense relief, the University machine shop and the Pocock Company, a racing shell builder, cooperated in restoring the shell to its previous condition. The skilled workers were the recipients of Lithuanian souvenirs from the grateful coach. The absence of the Lithuanian women's coxswain also caused some anxiety for the team. Renata Uleviciute was sick with a high fever the day the team departed for America. The Huskies were all set to "loan" a coxswain to the guests for the race, but a phone call to Lithuania and some last minute arrangements allowed the recovered athlete to arrive in Seattle mid-week, in time to train for the competition.

Local media were on top of the Lithuanian story, with five separate newspaper articles and several television reports over the course of the week preceding the race. "A rare day for Lithuania, and Husky," read the SEATTLE POST-INTELLIGENCER headline which topped the unique story of Kestas Sereiva. A Vilnius native and rower currently enrolled at the University of Washington where he is majoring in computer science, Kestas rows in the number 5 seat on the junior varsity team for the Huskies. When Lithuania re-declared independence in 1990, Kestas was living in Vilnius. Because he was draft age, he was forced to spend the next year hiding from Soviet troops to avoid impressment into the Red Army. His parents sold the family's prize VCR to pay for tickets to get Kestas and his brother out of the country for their own safety. The brothers ended up in Chicago; eventually

one of them returned to Lithuania to marry his sweetheart, but Kestas made a connection with the University of Washington. "I just decided I was going to help this guy," explained Bob Ernst. Kestas' J-V team, undefeated for the season, would also compete in a race on Opening Day; but would not be rowing against his countrymen since the Windermere Cup is for varsity competition only.

The week prior to the competition was packed full of excitement for the wide-eyed athletes, all of whom except for two, had never before been to America. The day after the crews' arrival, the local Lithuanian Community hosted a "welcome to Seattle" potluck dinner.

"Pulling for Lithuania" proclaimed the headline of THE SEATTLE TIMES in their major sports story which was illustrated with two color photographs. The comprehensive article described the rowers' delight that "Uncle Vasya," a colloquialism for a KGB plant, no longer accompanied them on their travels.

In an interesting column in the SEATTLE POST-INTELLIGENCER, the writer tried to draw analogies between social injustice in America as demonstrated by the Rodney King verdict which had just been handed down, and the tough time Lithuania had achieving its freedom.

Other articles reported on the visiting rowers' impressions of friendly Americans, and their shopping spree for shoes. Windermere had given each guest \$50 spending money, nearly all of which was spent at a local discount shoe outlet store which happened to be having a sale on already reduced prices. Bargains galore for the hard-to-fit big feet of tall rowers!

Waving colors of yellow, green, and red, on the day of the race local Lithuanians rendezvoused on the shores of the Montlake Cut to form a cheering nucleus for their countrymen. Although 12 races would precede the Windermere Cup, the Lithuanian fans got an early start on cheering since several members of the visiting team joined forces with local rowers to participate in other races. Lithuanian head coach, Vytautas Briedus, former silver and bronze medalist in the Tokyo and Mexico City Olympics, started things off the right way by rowing on the winning men's master eight crew in the first race. Two Lithuanian girls were also accorded the opportunity of rowing with a local team; the newly formed international unit finished second. The cheers of local Lithuanians blended into the clamor of the

Husky fans during the junior varsity race in which Kestas Sereiva competed for the University of Washington. The Huskies won!

In the featured women's competition, the Windermere Cup was won by the Husky women during the last few seconds, as they pulled out in front of the Lithuanians who had led most of the way in the 2,000 meter race. The men's Cup was also won by the University of Washington, who got off to a flying start and maintained their lead of several boat lengths for the entire race. The Lithuanians finished second, and Cambridge third.

After the presentation ceremony, the Lithuanian rowers diplomatically commented to the press that as athletes they were disappointed not to have won, but that winning was second in importance to having had the experience of coming to Seattle. Other rowers voiced their surprise at the huge crowds lining the shores of the lake. (Rowing is not a particularly popular sport in Lithuania, basketball being the acknowledged sport of interest. Only about 2,000 Lithuanians participate in rowing.) It was astonishing to the rowers to see such fan support for the sport, and to hear the roar of the crowd during the race. Local rowing experts informed the Lithuanians that they had just participated in rowing's premier American event, a race which draws more crowds than do the Olympics!

Lunch for the athletes was aboard a luxurious yacht flying the Stars and Stripes, the Union Jack, and the Yellow-Green-Red. The outdoor deck served as a perfect review stand for the parade of boats, an annual feature of Opening Day. The rest of the day was spent visiting with local Lithuanians, then partying student style into the wee hours of the morning with American rowers.

On their last full day in Seattle, the rowers attended a picnic on Mercer Island, then regrouped at the Bray residence for one last time to bid farewell to their newly made Lithuanian-American friends; one last time to eat bunches of bananas; one last time to leave souvenirs for that special Lithuanian-American host. The good-bye part also commemorated several birthdays, the crowd lustily singing "*ilgiausiu metu*" as well as "happy birthday" to two female rowers who had just turned 19, and to Irene Blekys' daughter, Jessie, who had turned 8.

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The next day, as the SAS flight departed for Copenhagen, the home town contingent breathed a sigh of relief tinged with regret. Our lives could now return to a semblance of normalcy, but it would be hard to settle down after the excitement of the visit, after the rapport established with young fellow-Lithuanians, after the visibility in the American sporting community and in the local press, and especially after the sheer exuberance of the past week. □

* 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.

The Berkeley Putnam Publishers have released a science fiction novel by **Algis Budrys**, entitled **Michaelmass**, describing life in the United States in the year 1999.

An accomplished Sci-Fi writer, Mr. Budrys is the son of the former Consul General of Lithuania in New York, the late Jonas Budrys. **Newweek** in its July 14th issue declared the book to be a wonderful work. The weekly **New Republic** has published Mr. Budrys article on the Politics of Deoxyribonuclear Acid, a theme handled by Adrienne Jucius for **Time Magazine** some time ago. **V.S. (Vol. 1, No. 7, October 1977)** ◆

Although the main purpose of the executive board of the Republican Heritage Groups is to define areas of responsibility, recent developments in Foreign policy and the delay in the Presidential Proclamation on Captive Nations had aroused deep concern in the minds of Republican Heritage leaders.

A special **Human Rights Committee** was created under Mrs. Anna Faltus (Czech). Mr. **Algimantas S. Gecys** was nominated and elected by the (Nationalities) Council for the position of Co-Chairman of the Human Rights Committee. **(Vol. 1, No. 7, October 1977)** ◆


Rev. Casimir Pugevicius, Lithuanian Catholic civic leader and activist, responded to John Hodgson's journalistic praise in the **Catholic Standard** (Washington) of Young Communists in Leningrad "giving their time" to carry handicapped American pilgrims around for two days - "even at church on Sunday when we all prayed for peace in the world."

Rev. Pugevicius observed: "I would be delighted to participate in Mr. Hodgson's proposed 'people to people' program, if the Soviet hosts would let us meet


people, and not specially assigned Party activists or severely intimidated puppets; if they allowed me more than the mandatory five days in the land of my forebears, Lithuania, forcibly held by the U.S.S.R. since 1940; if they allowed me to take a half-dozen Bibles to religious believers, starved for religious literature; to say nothing about being a little more realistic about the dollar-ruble exchange rate."

Rev. Pugevicius in his poignant letter concluded: "I do not believe the handicapped should ever be used - to promote personal or business interests of the militant atheists in control of the U.S.S.R. or for any other reason." **(Vol. 1, No. 7, October 1977)** ◆

Lithuanian-American Community of U.S.A., Inc.



BRIDGES



Lithuanian-American NEWSLETTER

P.O. Box 9061 Boston, MA 02114

VOL. 1, No. 7
OCTOBER, 1977

SOMETHING FOR ALL OF US TO THINK ABOUT . . .

The summer vacation season for all intents and purposes is over with everyone settling back into the usual routine, be it at work or at school throughout the nation. With the coming of the fall season, one cannot but think about a return to "active" participation in Lithuanian affairs — which in some areas remained dormant during the summer months. There were the annual picnics, Lithuanian Days and other such social types of Lithuanian activity during the summer, but now a return to "activism" is necessary, especially of the caliber which was shown recently by the Lithuanian youth of the United States with the complete support of the Lithuanian communities at large. Let us now focus on that important segment of Lithuanian-American society — the youth — and its role in Lithuanian affairs.

It has been said that the youth is the backbone of a nation, in addition to being its future. Without young activists, the nation as a whole is doomed to extinction. This may take less time than most people realize unless the youth become active. The nation we call our own, Lithuania, especially needs its youth to continue being a distinct ethnic entity in the world.

The recently concluded Baltic Human Rights Rally at the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C. was conceived, planned, organized, and carried to a successful completion by the Lithuanian youth of the United States, to be specific, the Lithuanian American Youth Association, with the support of all Lithuanians throughout the United States. From all accounts, this mass rally has been seen as a significant achievement, in that it unified Lithuanians into a cohesive unit behind youthful leaders, young activists who will in time accept complete responsibility for the leadership of the Lithuanian communities and organizations. It should be noted also that these young activists were given the chance to show their capabilities to lead. Because of this, one can say, without any reservations that the "Lithuanian Idea" will continue outside of Lithuania's borders, something which is very important to us all.

Now to the youth who read BRIDGES and to all the youth in general, I say this mass Baltic Human Rights Rally cemented our unity of purpose. This public manifestation of unity is a very good beginning. Let us all now, today, resolve to continue showing our enthusiasm, our interest, our desire to know about things Lithuanian. The fire of Lithuanian feeling burns within us. We must now continue feeding the fire so that it will burn inside us forever. A sense of Lithuanianism does not all of a sudden fall out of the sky and land inside of a person, nor is it something that you can take off or put on at will like a suit or a dress. Lithuanian national feeling has absolutely no direct relation to the extent of your knowledge of the Lithuanian language because emotions know no language except emotion's own. Our ethnicity was not drummed into us by our parents, but actually made available to us by exposing us to Lithuania, its traditions, its culture, its history, its language. This initial and continuing exposure gave us the tools with which to shape our own sense of Lithuanianism. Therefore, we would show ourselves to be completely ingrateful, if we did not thank our parents for the strong foundation on which they helped us build our lives. It would also be a disservice if we did not accept the

Cover Page Of Issue #7 of BRIDGES; With Editorial Comments.

On April 5th **The Financial Times** (London, England) carried an article entitled "The Ghost in the Machine" noting the difficulty in Lithuania that not all aspects of Lithuanian national culture fit easily into the socialist framework. The teaching of the Catholic Church are opposed to Marxism, and it is this ideological conflict which gives nationalism in Lithuania its unusual tenacity. (Vol. 1, No. 7, October 1977) ◆

On July 23rd the Jesuit publication, **America**, carried an article by Janice A. Broun, entitled "Soviet Cure for Religion." The article detailed the tragic story of the young engineer **Mindaugas Tamonis**, a victim of Soviet psychiatric hospitals. Tamonis was "hospitalized" for refusing to restore a Red Army monument. After a series of tortures, still "unrehabilitated," Tamonis' body was discovered on a railway, struck by a passing train. (Vol. 1, No. 7, October 1977) ◆

In his AP story entitled "Half-Diplomats Hopings for Better Days", **Arthur L. Gavahon** has the following to say about the Lithuanian diplomat in Washington: "Backis of Lithuania is blunt without being cynical. There are about 1 million Lithuanians in the United States, he says. Maybe one-third speak their mother tongue. The retain links with the 3.4 million or so Lithuanians still under Soviet rule. Cases of divided families, jailed dissidents in a country striving to regain its freedom, oppression of the Roman Catholics, are brought to the attention of the U.S. State department. They do what they can, pragmatically using the offices of the U.S. consul in Leningrad to negotiate with Soviet authorities." (Vol. 1, No. 7, October 1977) ◆

The U.S. Congressional Commission of Security and Cooperation in Europe (Helsinki Commission) has released its completed document entitled "Report to the U.S. Congress on Implementation of the Final Act of Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe: Findings and Recommendations Two Years After Helsinki," along with a supplement compiling information on the individual cases relating to the Human Contacts provisions of the Helsinki Act. This 227 page report, issued to closely coincide with the adjournment of the preliminary Belgrade Conference meetings, documents the compliance and non-compliance of the signatory nations to the Helsinki Act. The report is broken down into the various provisions and baskets of the Helsinki Act, than to each individual nation's actions in those areas. One point of objection here is that the Baltic States have been included under the Soviet Union. The report makes various references to the Baltic States, citing Soviet repressions against espousals of Baltic nationalism, suppression of religion in the three Baltic countries and giving specific instances of individual cases. he great emphasis on the fact that Communist compliance has been grossly lacking in almost all areas. This report and its

supplement was provided to the U.S. delegation at Belgrade for use as background material. Copies of the report may be requested by writing to: The Hon. Dante B. Fascell, Chairman, Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe, Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515; or your local Senator or Congressman. **J. Bolsteins** (Vol. 1, No. 7, October 1977) ◆

August 23rd marked the anniversary of the infamous "Treaty of Non-aggression" concluded in 1939 by the two dictators, Adolf Hitler and Joseph Stalin and signed by their foreign ministers. This treaty and the second one, concluded and signed by the same persons only a short time later (September 29, 1939) are historically significant and should not be forgotten. The treaties themselves contain high sounding, but rather innocuous phrases. Their actual significance is in the secret protocols, attached to them. In these protocols the two dictators agreed, cynically and brutally, to annihilate and to divide up the territories of the republic of Poland and also of the three Baltic republics, Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania. To these four countries the treaties meant their death sentence, since through and by them their independence was extinguished, never to be restored again. The treaties are, however, of much deeper significance since the first one enabled Hitler to attack Poland, thus starting World War II. Without Stalin's cooperation, exemplified in these treaties, Hitler would not have dared to start World War II, and the World would look different now. **Jonas A. Stiklorius** (Vol. 1, No. 7, October 1977) ◆

Every so often teh American press carries stories about the contributions of Lithuanians to America, but never with illustrations. In August, **The Scrantonian** of Scranton, Pennsylvania carried an illustrated capsule about Lithuanians. It was part of Patrick M. Reynolds' award winning series "Pennsylvania Profiles". (Vol. 1, No. 7, October 1977) ◆

The 64th National Convention of the **Knights of Lithuania** conferred its honorary membership upon **Lawrence (Larry) Janonis**. Mr. Janonis has an outstanding 40 year record of energetic and selfless service in almost all phases of Knights of Lithuania activity. He joined the organization in 1937. There is one office for which Larry seems to be a natural: Convention Presidium Chairman. With skill, fairness and frequent humor, he has "wielded the gavel" at nine National Conventions ... [and] ... is considered to be a master parliamentarian.... **Isabelle McKinley**. (Vol. 1, No. 7, October 1977) ◆

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! □

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.

26,000 persons left Lithuania in 1992 to live elsewhere, mostly to Russia, Ukraine, Gudija, but also 466 Jews, 105 Lithuanians, 47 Germans, 41 Polish, 3 Greeks, 3 Tartars, 2 Finnish, 1 Chinese, 1 Karelian. 992 persons submitted requests to move to the West: 293 wanted to emigrate to the United States, 122 to Germany, the others to Canada, Poland, Australia and elsewhere. Of those, 139 requests have not yet been processed. (DARBININKAS, 2/26/93)

Efforts are underway to pull together persons of Lithuanian descent who are Occupational Therapists, Physical Therapists and Speech Therapists. There are plans for these health professionals to participate in projects to help Lithuania. Please send your name, address and telephone number to Ina Nenortas OTR/L, 44 Alban Street, Boston, MA 02124. (DARBININKAS, 2/26/93)

Cleveland's St. Casimir Lithuanian language school celebrated its 35th anniversary February 14th as Cleveland commemorated the 75th anniversary of Lithuania's independence. Mass was said at both Lithuanian parishes, a wreath was laid, 400 persons gathered in the auditorium of Our Lady of Perpetual Help (Dievo Motina) Parish. Greetings were read from Pres. Clinton; Ohio Governor G. Voinovich's representative for ethnic affairs A. Gust read the governor's proclamation; Mayor M. White's proclamation was read; 52 countries and ethnic groups sent their congratulations. The main speaker was University of Maryland and Kaunas' Vytautas Magnus University Professor Jonas Genys. The St. Casimir school's 60 students participated in a well-rehearsed show which included all of the students, as they carried a banner, sang various patriotic songs and re-enacted scenes from Lithuania's history. (DRAUGAS, from an article by V.R., 3/5/93)

The 8th Lithuanian Symposium on Science and Creativity will take place November 24-28, 1993 in Chicago's Lithuanian Youth Center and the Lemont, IL World Lithuanian Center. The organizing committee has begun its work of coordination and will hold a press conference for press, radio and the Lithuanian American public on March 14, 1993. The Chair of the

Program Committee is Dr. Kestutis Keblys. (DRAUGAS, 3/5/93)

The administration of Klaipeda's city hospital has signed an agreement with the German firm Dina Handel International. With the help of the firm, a center will be founded in Klaipeda for medical continuing education and patient care. The physicians of Klaipeda will be invited to train in clinics in Germany. Later, it is planned that a cooperative firm will be established for surgical care of local Klaipeda inhabitants and for German patients. (DRAUGAS, 3/4/93)

The Economic Affairs Council, a new council of the Lithuanian-American Community, Inc., is based in La Palma, California. In the February 27th issue of DRAUGAS, Edmundas Kulikauskas writes that the Council seeks to participate in cooperative assistance of Lithuanians in the diaspora with and for Lithuania. The Council seeks to help disseminate information, but does not seek to make recommendations of one project over another, and does not guarantee accuracy or profit of the project information provided. Projects mentioned in the article included: American Travel's support and travel advice of 700-1000 travellers to Lithuania each year; G. Bludzius Contractors' cooperative projects in Lithuania include a six story office building in the old town of Vilnius; IPSA International has 14 professionals and investors who work with their counterparts in Lithuania; Chicago architect Albertas Kerelis and his Facilities Design, Ltd. and Daina Appraisal Services owner Linas Norusis have prepared a proposal for a research -industrial park in Murova-Kaunas; D.S. Engineering, Inc. is involved with the operation of a meat processing plant in Siauliai; Banionis Construction Co., Inc. is planning a cement block factory; Leita-Lituanica will produce microwave ovens... (The Lithuanian-American Community, Inc. Economic Council's Information Division can be contacted at 7311 Douglas Circle, La Palma, CA 90623; tel. 714-521-8694; FAX 714-521-1210.) (Editor's Note: We now have a regular feature in **BRIDGES**, which is prepared by the Economic Affairs Council.) (DRAUGAS, 3/4/93)

The New York-based Lithuanian Filatelist Society has produced a videotape about the history of Lithuanian stamps. The video is 30 min. in length and includes footage from a 1943 film about Lithuania. The Society previously had published a book entitled "Postage Stamps of Lithuania", a 300 page book which includes a catalog; later a computer-generated list of prices was published. The book was presented at a stamp fair in Vilnius still during the occupation years, where it won a gold medal. A 190 page Lithuanian language translation of the book, including colored depictions of the stamps, is available. (Information about the video and about the publications may be obtained from: C. Matusa, 107-33 177 St., Richmond Hill, NY 11419.) (DARBININKAS, 2/26/93)

Edward "Moose" Krause (Kraucunas) died in South Bend, Indiana on Dec. 11, 1992. The sports figure, born in 1913, was the son of Lithuanian immigrant parents, and grew up in the stockyards neighborhood in Chicago. While at de LaSalle High School in Chicago, "Moose" played football, basketball, baseball and participated in track & field events. While at Notre Dame, he was an All Star for three years in a row. At 21, "Moose" became a basketball trainer for St. Mary's College in Minnesota, in 1942 he returned to Notre Dame as a head trainer, in 1948 he was assistant head of the Athletic Department, then Head until his retirement in 1980. "Moose" usually lived further from Lithuanian American centers, but he followed Lithuanian sports, saying a few words at the 1990 "Zalgiris" (from Kaunas, Lithuania) game against Northwestern University all stars in Evanston, Illinois. He visited Lithuania only once, in 1935 when he went to a World Lithuanian Congress organized sports festival, with a team headed by "the father of Lithuanian basketball" K. Savickas who died last spring. His brother- Feliksas Kriauciunas (Phil Krause) was on the Lithuanian basketball team which won the European championships in 1937 and 1939, and was team captain. The death of "Moose" was widely written up in the CHICAGO TRIBUNE and the CHICAGO SUN-TIMES, though the write-up in the second paper was memorable for mentioning how the De La Salle coach shorted his name to Krause, since Kriauciunas was too long, and further adding the nickname "Moose" which later caught on. (DARBININKAS, from an article by Ed. Sulaitis, 2/19/93)

Golden State Warriors pro basketball player Sarunas Marulionis is known for being a basketball star from Lithuania, and the person on whose initiative the Lithuanian Olympic basketball team was formed for the 1992 Summer Olympics. Not many persons know of his efforts on behalf of Lithuania's children. He has founded "Lietuvos Vaiku fondas" (Lithuanian Children's Fund) which is supported by the Golden State Warriors' administration. On January 15th the Golden

State Warriors played against the Chicago Bulls. On January 14th, Sarunas Marculionis, thanks to the efforts of trainer Don Nelson Jr. and public relations representative Michael Murphy was able to meet with Chicago's Lithuanian Americans as well. He visited Standard Federal Bank, partly to meet with president David Mackevicius where an account for the fund is maintained - the bank even donated \$1000 for the cause. Over 500 persons gathered that day to meet with Sarunas, to buy and get autographs on souvenir Grateful Dead designed t-shirts which were worn by Lithuania's athletes in Barcelona. That day, Sarunas also visited Lithuania's children brought for orthopedic treatment to Chicago by "Lietuvos Vaiku viltis" (Lithuanian Children's Hope) and Shriners Hospital at the Seklycia Restaurant. Generous donations to the Lithuanian Children's Fund, from persons of Lithuanian descent and from other supporters, totaled over \$4000. That evening, many students and young professionals gathered on Chicago's near north side, at "Gamekeeper's" pub, again for an evening of souvenirs, autographs, donations, and photographic opportunities with a gracious sports figure. During every game in which he plays, Sarunas Marculionis is introduced as being from Lithuania. He is to be admired not only for his sports skills, but also for his interest in and concern for Lithuania's underprivileged children. More importantly, he should be congratulated for succeeding in pulling in the support of persons who are not of Lithuanian descent into this worthwhile cause. (DRAUGAS, from an article by Ruta Juska, 3/5/93)

The State of Illinois Building in Chicago will feature an exhibit entitled "Lithuanian Contributions to Illinois". The exhibit will include photographs of Lithuanian American organizations, cultural centers, churches, cemeteries, song & dance & sports festivals, Lithuanian operas - all based in Illinois. There will be a section entitled "Lithuanians You Might Know" (politicians A. Olis, A. Valukas, R. Durbin); musicians (A. Stephens); heroes (S. Darius and S. Girenas) and others. One of the primary organizers was Indre Tijunelis of Buffalo Grove, IL. (DRAUGAS, 3/5/93)

The St. Petersburg, FL Lithuanian Club has 551 dues-paying members; 45 new members joined and 17 members died in the past year. The treasury has \$45,000. On January 15th, the Club's president Klemas Jurgela presided over the members' meeting. The club publishes a newsletter "Lietuvos zinios". SPIFFS (St. Petersburg International Folk Festival Society) representative A. Cesna reminded everyone of SPIFFS, its founding in 1975, its membership consisting of 50 ethnic groups, its scholarship fund, radio hour and its annual festival to be held March 12-14 at the Sun Dome Stadium. The Lithuanian Club was scheduled to participate, though perhaps with a smaller food booth than in previous years. The Club also has a choir,

though its future is unclear now that longtime choir director Petras Armonas had to withdraw from his duties due to ill health; the folk dancing group - "Audra" (storm) has 19 members and in its program are 26 dances; the Club has sponsored 6 cultural afternoons; the library director announced that in the past few years over 2500 books have been sent to small libraries in Lithuania. The new officers already took responsibility for that Sunday's lunch for meeting attendees. (DRAUGAS, from an article by Mecys (Silkaitis-RK), 3/4/93)

The Lithuanian language paper DRAUGAS has begun publishing a new column, containing information from the Lithuanian-American Community's Human Services Council. Council president Birute Jasaitis and other article authors write the column which presents information for Lithuanian - speaking elderly, and for visitors and new immigrants from Lithuania. The February 27th column, for example, included information about public transportation for the handicapped and for invalids; about assistance for low income Illinois residents; about the Lithuanian Children's Hope Committee - sponsored children who were brought to Chicago for treatment at the Shriners Hospital. Unfortunately, not all of their "wings have healed"; some will not be able to look forward to full recovery from their orthopedic conditions. In some cases, their conditions had progressed too much during years of neglect by the Soviet medical system. Others might have a better quality of life if funding can be found to provide them with a continuing supply of proper orthopedic braces or shoes. (The Lithuanian-American Community, Inc. Human Services Council may be contacted: 2711 West 71st Street, Chicago, IL 60629; tel. 312-476-2655; FAX 312-436-6909.) (Editor's Note: Ms. Kubilius regularly writes, in **BRIDGES**, about the Human Services Council.) (DRAUGAS, 2/27/93)

Lithuania's bishops visited Pope John Paul II February 22-27. Unity with the Holy See and rebuilding all that was destroyed by Communism were primary topics of the meeting. On February 26th the Holy Father saw the bishops in a private audience, and he spoke with each individually about their archdioceses. The next day, Cardinal Vincentas Sladkevicius, Archbishop Audrys Backis and all of Lithuania's bishops, together with the Holy Father, celebrated Holy Mass in the Pope's private chapel. After that, at an official reception, Cardinal Sladkevicius on behalf of all of the bishops, spoke about the state of the Church in Lithuania, its problems and its hopes. The Pope expressed joy that he met with the shepherds of a formerly suffering country, and he expressed hope that the renewal expressed by Vatican 88 would be realized in spirit and through new evangelization. (DRAUGAS-ELTA, 3/5/93) □

Educational Council News

The Lithuanian-American Community, Inc. Educational Council sponsored a conference for Lithuanian language school teachers on February 28th.

The conference, held at the Lemont World Lithuanian Center, drew almost 40 participants. Attendees and lecturers included: the World Lithuanian Community's Vice-President for Educational Affairs, Milda Lenkauskas from Cleveland; the Canadian Lithuanian Community Educational Section president, Giedra Paulionis, who is also principal of the 270-student Maironis Lithuanian Language School of Toronto; one teacher's assistant from Detroit; two visiting teachers from Lithuania; several educators and consultants from the Chicago area (some work in only the local school systems, some only in the Lithuanian language schools, some in both).

The one day conference was taped, and hopefully those held back by weather and Lithuanian Independence Day celebrations in their communities, would be able to hear the presentations.

Not everyone might know it, but educational matters also have some controversy. For those not well-versed in educational methodologies and theories, a conference like this was an eye-opener.

Matters which raised much discussion included the immersion of Lithuanian language speaking children with those just learning into the same classes; the merits or problems of running a Lithuanian language book reading contest (when many schools now have recently immigrated children from Lithuania competing against those for whom Lithuanian is not their native language); the proper preparation of children for reading (should words have all lower case, all upper case, or mixed letters?); the adaptation of books from Lithuania for Lithuanian language (four hour weekly) classes.

Some of the presenters gave teaching tips on how to incorporate the teaching of science, math, literature, story-telling and other techniques into the curriculum.

All in all, Educational Council president Regina Kucas and other members of the Council, considered the conference a success, and encouraged all participants to bring their desire for discussions and teaching tips to the annual Lithuanian Educators' week at Camp Dainava in Manchester, Michigan, scheduled for August 15-22.

- Ramune Kubilius

Letters To The Editor

Dear Sir:

This past summer Sister M. Caroline, one of our sisters who has been in our mission in Brazil since 1938, came to ask me to write you a letter regarding the article, "Lithuanian Youth Congress", by Audra M. Kubilius, in the April 1992 issue of **BRIDGES**.

She had been visiting her niece (as part of her three-month home visit from Brazil), where she chanced across the article.

On Page 5, Column 1, in about the center of the page is this sentence: "One evening we were welcomed by the local Lithuanians at a school run by the Sisters of St. Casimir."

Sister M. Caroline was highly incensed, saying that she and her associates - all Sisters of St. Francis of the Providence of God - had spent uncounted hours preparing table settings and favors to greet the Lithuanian delegates in the "local school." named St. Michael the Archangel. So far as she knew, there is no Casimirite Foundation in Sao Paulo, Brazil. Casimirites are in Argentina, not Brazil.

I wonder whether you could print a correction in your next issue.

(Signed) Sister Mary Jaskel, O.S.F., Sisters of St. Francis of the Providence of God / Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

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Dear Sir:

I wonder if Dr. Vitolis Vengris' reference to the expansion and development of "Lithuanianism" in America (May 1992 **BRIDGES**) can be read as an official policy of the Lithuanian-American Community's National Executive Committee. If so, I would be interested in a clearer articulation of what the policy is intended to accomplish and for whom.

Moreover, if it means encouraging Lithuanian linguistic and cultural fluency, I would like to know how such a policy can be applied to those who already have a primary national affiliation.

One can certainly see how new opportunities to "Lithuanianize" Lithuania would raise similar ambitions in other places where ethnic resources are concentrated. Ethnic rejuvenation is a force even out here, where Lithuanian-Americans are few and far between.

Nevertheless, I would hope our leadership recognizes that Lithuanian fluency of any kind is an unrealistic goal for dispersed individual Americans living lives already saturated with activity.

Out here, no critical community mass relieves lone individuals of the high personal cost of "extra-curricular" Lithuanian interests. There are no pools of resources,

no economies of scale. The most I can expect, as an organizer, is that an individual will eventually devote some corner of his life to some Lithuanian activity. Having only this to deal with, I have learned to appreciate its worth.

Our menu must be of appetizers, not entrees, fully accommodating to the American individual and his or her lifestyle. We're not going to make any Lithuanians here, but we might have a little fun trying to give Lithuania a hand. Give us projects and encouragement; believe our contribution is also worthwhile.

(Signed) - Editor's Note: While this letter was being transcribed for printing, we misplaced the envelope and "original". As a result, we don't know the author's name or address. If you sent us this letter, and wish to get it credited to you in a future issue, please be kind enough to drop us a note. In spite of this mistake, we felt it should be published. We apologize for our error.

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Dear Sir:

Our son, Gregory Palkot, co-anchor and senior producer of *European Journal* broadcast from Cologne, Germany recently aired the second of two stories covering conditions in Lithuania. These broadcasts included interviews with the leading political leaders.

European Journal sponsored in part by *Mind Extension University* can be viewed on *Public Broadcasting* stations in 40 states, and in Canada. In New York, *European Journal* is aired by the following UHF stations: WNYC Channel 31, WNYE Channel 25, WNJM Channel 50, and WLIW Channel 21. The program is also broadcast on several cable networks, such as, GUNY in New York. Check your newspaper for time and date.

European Journal on January 15, 1993 won the Gold and Silver Medals for Best TV Magazine Program for 1992 given out by the *New York International Film and TV Awards*.

(Signed) Edward J. Palkot / Garden City, NY

(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) □

Tuberculosis Strikes Lithuania's Children

Lithuania is faced with an outbreak of tuberculosis (TB). The children of Lithuania have been greatly afflicted by this disease. Caritas, The Daughters of Lithuania, along with Lithuanian Mercy Lift (LML), initiated a fund raising drive to buy TB medicine. The drive began in November, and by December the first shipment of medicine was hand-delivered to Antakalnis Children's TB Hospital. It is through the efforts of many people that this was made possible. The public opened up its hearts, Highland Park Hospital helped LML obtain the medicine, and American Travel Service provided the transportation.

The Antakalnis Children's TB Hospital has 50 beds. They are all occupied. More than half the children are orphans or come from socially deprived homes. There are presently 7 children from one family being treated at the hospital. The children's ages range from 8 months to 16 years.

The medicine brought in December, provided all the children with treatment for 3 months. In March, another shipment will be delivered to the hospital. Unfortunately, this time only a month's supply will be brought. LML still needs \$2,000 to buy another two months supply. It costs about \$100.00 a month to treat one child. The complete treatment program requires 9 months of medication. This drive will continue so that all the necessary medication can be purchased for these children.

The Antakalnis Children's TB Hospital is experiencing many hardships. Naturally, of utmost importance is the lack of TB medicine, but there are other defects as well. These children should have an abundance of vegetables and fruit in their diets, vitamins would help supplement the children's diets, but they are not available. Cough medicine and inhalators are necessary, but once again they are not available. All of these items: vitamins, cough medicine, and inhalators seem to be such minor/trivial items that we can purchase at any drug store, yet in Lithuania, they are extremely difficult to find. If they are available, their price makes them out of reach for the average person.

The children spend many months in the hospital. The accommodations are grim. The building itself is old and dreary, but it is extremely clean. The basic physical needs of the children seem to be taken care of. Visiting the hospital, one immediately notices the barren play rooms. There are a few toys, but even those have seen better days. One begins to wonder what these children do day after day, month after month. There are teachers who come and work with the children, but what about all the freetime? The teen-agers were seen drawing. The younger ones were playing with the few stuffed animals. It all seems so unfair knowing how many toys our children have and yet how many do they really play with?

The children appear to be attached to the nurses. Many of these children have few visitors. Any affection they receive comes from the nurses and doctors. The sad eyes of the children are heart piercing. The little ones need so much love and attention, yet there are only 4 nurses for the 50 children. The women seem warm and caring, but how can they provide enough emotional nurturing for all those children?

Lithuanian Mercy Lift feels a strong commitment towards the sick children of Antakalnis Hospital. This TB Hospital is only one of four in Lithuania. There are some 475 children diagnosed with tuberculosis. Unfortunately, it is financially impossible to help all of the hospitals at the same time. LML would greatly appreciate any kind of support for these children.

If you wish to help, please contact/send your donations to: Lithuanian Mercy Lift, 14911 127th Street, Lemont, Illinois 60439. Telephone: (708) 257-6777.

- Lithuanian Mercy Lift

LAC Economic Affairs Council: News and Reports

Information provided, on a regular basis, to readers of BRIDGES, by the Economic Affairs Council of the Lithuanian American Community, Inc.

Economic growth is vital for assuring a stable and prosperous nation. With that objective in mind, the Economic Affairs Council (EAC) of the Lithuanian American Community, Inc. is encouraging activities and cooperative efforts to promote economic growth in Lithuania.

One of the efforts undertaken by the Economic Affairs Council is to provide information about business and industry opportunities in Lithuania as a regular column in BRIDGES. Various economic activities will be written about and we hope to hear about many others, so we can all thereby share our experiences.

For the past four months, the Los Angeles branch of the EAC has been sponsoring regular meetings to discuss potential projects, exchange information, and encourage economic activities with Lithuania. The group up to now has consisted of 15-20 individuals, some already doing business with Lithuania, others still searching for opportunities to participate. Future meetings will be held on the first Thursday of the month, 7:30-10:00 PM at St. Casimir's Church hall. Monsignor Dr. Algirdas Olsauskas has kindly agreed to the use of the lower church hall. All interested parties are invited to attend.

Los Angeles Residents Invest in Lithuania

This article describes some of the Lithuanian economic activities undertaken by Los Angeles area residents. The projects are quite varied - some large, some small, others still evolving. Why are they investing in Lithuania, especially now when the risks are so high? Some hope to establish a base in the current market, expecting to make a profit once the Lithuanian economy "takes off". Others do it for philanthropic reasons, with the expectation that their investments will promote economic growth in Lithuania. Many work with relatives or acquaintances. For some it is just an interesting side activity; for others it is a full time business. Whatever the motivation, we would like to encourage the exchange of information, thereby helping each other. We hope that in reading this column, the readers will obtain information on investment opportunities and use it as a source for answering questions they may have. Our goal is to support all efforts to promote economic growth in Lithuania. In future articles, we will write about similar activities in other locations. The following is provided for information purposes only. Of course, not all of the participants described below are personally known to us.

EAC does not promote or recommend any project, nor does it take responsibility for the accuracy of the information provided.

American Lithuanian Investment & Development Corporation (ALIDCORP), Ambrose Zatkus - president, Vincas Juodvalkis - treasurer (213) 667-3080. The corporation was established a few years ago for the purpose of investing in Lithuania's agriculture and industry. It was started in Seduva Agricultural School, establishing a branch office there. Ambrose Zatkus, an American Lithuanian and director of the company, was the instigator of the project and is its greatest enthusiast. He has stayed in Lithuania for extended periods of time, has established a store, a hotel, a center for teaching the use of farm equipment, and has equipment available for lease, such as a tractor, combine, truck, etc. On his last visit there, he bought a hanger which will be used as a repair station for farm equipment. Currently, he provides jobs for 10 people. He also has an agreement with three other agricultural schools to use the company's equipment and to participate in teaching new farmers who recently reclaimed farmlands. The corporation is enjoying success and is continuing to expand. The next step is the establishment of a credit cooperative to help farmers obtain loans. ALIDCORP currently has 20 members who have invested a total of \$20,000. They are looking for additional members who are interested in investing for the long term. Members are invited to come and stay at the Seduva Center each year at no cost.

Baltic Rim Trading Co., Linas Baskauskas - director (310) 399-0734. The company has been active in the import-export business with Lithuania for two years. It uses both air cargo and ship transportation. At this time it is importing-exporting clothing and food. It is seeking investors.

Bridge Associates, Richardas Kontrimas (714) 768-3650. The company has established contacts with several factories for the manufacturing of parts. It is searching for reliable transport by ship between the US and Lithuania.

Vytautas Burokas, businessman (310) 474-0211. Through numerous trips to Lithuania, he has become very familiar with the textile industry in Lithuania and

has formed a high opinion of that industry. Through his efforts, contacts have been established with foreign firms, potentially leading to substantial contracts for Lithuanian produced cloth. He has just signed a contract with one firm for \$35,000 for an initial order of T-shirts and expects the order volume to grow over time. He has brought back high quality sweater and blanket samples produced by textile firms in Lithuania. These are produced on order to Italian and Swedish firms, who dye the material and then sew on their own labels for export to the US. His advise to those who would do business in Lithuania is to not expect huge profits, but to be satisfied with a reasonable profit margin, never give bribes, and let them know this right up front, thereby establishing a base of trust.

Eastnet Import-Export Co., Rachel Samolis (310) 379-2794. Last year Eastnet exported a large quantity of sunglasses to Lithuania. These were well received in Lithuania and were also taken for sale to Minsk, St. Petersburg, and other cities of Russia. All trading has been done on consignment. R. Samolis is knowledgeable about film, television, and recording studios, including their technology and capabilities. She also is familiar with some production/ manufacturing facilities in Lithuania that are available for leasing/investing. Eastnet is also looking for investors to import products from Lithuania.

Dr. Algirdas Kanauka (310) 541-9041 - retired US Air Force officer, aerospace engineer, advisor to the Lithuanian Defense Ministry, trade consultant, and for the last few years has been actively interested in Lithuania's economy. He currently is pursuing the following projects: importing of coffee bean roasting/grinding equipment to Lithuania (looking for investors), importing of used computers to Lithuania (looking for investors), importing of modular cement fence molds to Lithuania, exporting from Lithuania of naturally produced collagen (looking for buyers/investors), and production in Lithuania of US central vacuuming systems. He also can provide a Lithuanian spell checker program running on a PC computer.

Antanas Mikalajunas (310) 394-2927 - businessman, sponsor of various cultural activities. He has an agreement with Ukmerge's municipal government and Dotnuva Agricultural Academy for the establishment of a cooperative for showcasing a multi use farm. The farm will be located at what was once a country manor which presently includes a park and several hundred acres of farmland. Work on this project will start this spring. He also is participating in the privatization of a transportation enterprise, which has over 300 automobiles and trucks available for transportation use and for the distribution of food and other products. This enterprise also has a facility on 17 acres for performing repairs. Both projects are looking for investors. He also is promoting the continuation of the preservation of archeological objects and castles. For this purpose, he is

establishing a fund. Plans call for consulting with Sweden and Germany, as well as experts in other nations, for the coordination of objects that are of historical interest to us and them. This will have importance not only in the cultural sphere, but also can help to promote tourism in Lithuania.

Rasa Trade Company, Arvydas Jakeliunas, owner (310) 458-8823. For the last year and half, this company has been serving the Los Angeles Lithuanian community. Packages are sent to Lithuania by air cargo, at the rate of 120 packages per week. The packages arrive to the addressee in Lithuania in about a week. They also forward money from the US to Lithuania and from Lithuania to the US (such requests are received from individuals who would like to purchase products in the US). They also send faxes to Lithuania. They handle some request for delivering food products within Lithuania. Packages can be submitted at their establishment in Santa Monica or can be brought to a schoolroom at St. Casimir's Church every Sunday.

Kestas Reivydas, (818) 772-6646, insurance company owner, businessman. At the encouragement of young entrepreneurs in Lithuania, he has established an import/export business. He buys wholesale in the US large quantities of popular music CD's for export to Lithuania, where they are successfully sold in three stores. He in turn imports folk art, devil's masks, amber jewelry, etc. from Lithuania.

Vytautas Cekanauskas, Lithuanian General Consul in Los Angeles, (805) 496-5324. He provides information on business opportunities, Lithuanian laws and taxation regulations, and on how to start economic projects in Lithuania. Up to now most inquires came from American small businessmen. More substantial requests, of which he has had six, are directed to the Lithuanian embassy in Washington.

Comments. In the future, we will provide information on activities in other Lithuanian American communities as well as update the information from Los Angeles. We invite everyone to submit information on economic matters for incorporation into future articles. Please let us know what may be needed - investors, helpers, information, experts. Regarding these published articles, please contact Edmund Kulikauskas by writing or calling to:

Lithuanian American Community, Inc. Economic Affairs Council (EAC), 7311 Douglas Circle, La Palma, California 90623,

Telephone (714) 521-8694; Fax (714) 521-1210.

Note: This is an updated version of the article written by Edmund Kulikauskas which appeared in Draugas on January 23, 1993 "Los Angelieciai Investuoja I Lietuva".

- Translation by Mikda Skucas Napjus

LAC Educational Council Announces

As always, we are pleasantly surprised by the enthusiasm shown by **B R I D G E S** readers in response to news items about various publications prepared by or distributed by the Educational Council of the Lithuanian American Community, Inc. (**LAC**).

In the case of the dictionary **WORDS, WORDS**, the authors Evelyn Kolupaila-Masiokas and Bruno Masiokas underestimated the potential interest in their work, and the number of copies printed is insufficient to meet the demand. In the very near future, Mr. and Mrs. Masiokas and the Educational Council will be conferring about a possible collaboration for a second printing of the informative work.

In the case of the Lithuanian road map (and a few Lithuanian language publications), an urgent request for more copies has been relayed to the Ministry of Culture and Education of Lithuania. It is hoped that future "guesstimates" of inventories will be more accurate. We thank you for your interest and understanding in this matter. Educational Council, Lithuanian American Community, Inc., 8626 S. Mozart, Chicago, Illinois 60652 -
Ramune Kubilius

Lithuanian Independence Day Celebration At United Nations (February 16, 1993):



L-R: H.E. Peter Osvald, Ambassador of Sweden to U.N.; Mrs. Teresa Gecys of Philadelphia Chapter, LAC; H. E. Anicetas Simutis, Ambassador of Lithuania to U.N.



U.S. Ambassador to U.N., Madeleine Albright, with Lithuania's Ambassador to U.N., Anicetas Simutis. The reception drew 300 guests, including 100 ambassadors.

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Just some of the attendees at a recent meeting of the LAC Economic Affairs Council in Los Angeles, California.

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