

# BRIDGES

LITHUANIAN AMERICAN NEWS JOURNAL

Volume 18, No. 3

APRIL 1994

\$2.50 per Copy

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COVER PHOTO: Old meets new in Vilnius, signs of change in Lithuania

Foto : V. Maciunas



## To Our Readers:

Responses to the LAC's Professional Survey (see Dec. 1993) have been coming in and preliminary results show few surprises: the most popular profession reported is "Medicine, Veterinary Medicine or Health" with 15%, followed by "Engineering" (13%), "Education or Academics" (11%), "Management" and "Sales, Marketing, or Advertising" (6% each), "Computer-Related" (5%), "Financial, Investment or Banking" and "Sociology, Psychology or Philosophy" (4%), and "Service Occupations", "Law and Jurisprudence" and "Architecture" (3%). Less than 3% covers everything else, from "Administrative Specialization" to "Machine Trades".

Within this group, 61% are employees, 18% are self-employed or are consultants, and 20% are retired. The self-employed total may be higher, since a number of "employees" listed their titles as "President", "Chairman", or "CEO", but it was impossible to determine if they headed enterprises they started themselves or had been tapped to be leaders by others. Also, some people note they are retired, but still work as consultants or university professors.

The type of respondents is predictable as well. For example, 36% indicate they were born in Lithuania, 39% say at least one parent was born there, while 17% are linked by at least one grandparent. Two-thirds of the respondents are male, and most respondents are over 41 years old (only one-quarter are under 40, while one-third are in the 41-55 age range, and 14% are over 70). Only three completed surveys came from the 25-and-under set; they may be immersed in studies or in starting new careers, but we still want to hear from them.

The geographic spread of the respondents is also pretty much in line with what we know about the distribution of Lithuanian-Americans in the US. You can get an idea of that distribution in the table shown below, which compares survey responses to BRIDGES subscribers and to the LAC's mailing list.

State	Survey	Bridges	LAC List
Illinois	22%	10%	37%
California	7%	7%	10%
Pennsylvania	7%	11%	6%
New Jersey	6%	9%	3%
Florida	5%	6%	5%
New York	5%	12%	9%
Massachusetts	5%	8%	5%
Michigan	5%	4%	4%
Ohio	5%	3%	4%
Connecticut	4%	6%	4%
Virginia	4%	3%	1%
Maryland	3%	3%	2%
Washington	3%	1%	<1%

The rest of the respondents are scattered across the U.S., as are BRIDGES readers and Lithuanian-Americans in general. I hope to hear more from New York state residents and from the under 26 year olds and, if you haven't responded, I hope to hear from you as well. We'll reprint the survey form in a future issue, but if you want extra copies now for your spouse, your neighbor, your granddaughter, or even for yourself, drop us a line or call us and we'll mail them to you.



Rimantas A. Stirbys, Editor

**BRIDGES: Lithuanian-American News Journal** (ISSN 8750-8028), is published 10 times per year by the Lithuanian-American Community, Inc. 2715 E. Allegheny Ave., Philadelphia, PA 19134

**BRIDGES Journal**  
Editorial / Subscription Offices  
2715 E. Allegheny Ave.  
Philadelphia, PA 19134  
tel. 215-739-9353

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POSTMASTER: Send any address corrections and/or changes to **BRIDGES JOURNAL**, 2715 E. Allegheny Avenue, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19134.



Vytas Maciunas

# Impressions and Insights...

## from Lithuania, on the 4th Anniversary of the March 11 Declaration Reestablishing Lithuanian Independence

On the eve of the 4th anniversary of the declaration of March 11, 1990 to reestablish the independence of the Republic of Lithuania, I boarded a flight for a one week series of meetings in Lithuania to learn more about the current state of Lithuanian political and social develop-



*At a meeting at the Seimas, Vytas Maciunas with Rabbi Samuel Kahn, his son, an unknown visitor, and Emanuelis Zingeris, a Seimas representative. Rabbi Kahn was in Lithuania meeting to discuss the re-establishment of the Jewish community in Lithuania.*

ment and seek to better define the role that diaspora community organizations, but in particular the Lithuanian-American Community, Inc. should take in the ongoing rebuilding process in Lithuania. An additional purpose of the trip was to identify available cultural and educational resources that would be of interest and benefit to the diaspora community.

Though such a trip had been considered for quite some time, the catalyst for making the trip at this time was the invitation received from Mr. Vytautas Landsbergis, leader of Sajūdis and now president of the "Tevynės Sąjunga" faction in the Seimas, or Parliament of Lithuania, to speak at the commemorative ceremonies to be held at the Vilnius theater to mark the anniversary of the March 11 declaration. A telephone conference of the LAC National Executive Committee (NEC) was called to sanction the trip. Members of the NEC then helped plan the one week agenda.

The first scheduled event was the commemorative ceremony at the Vilnius theater on the evening of March 10. The theater is a very impressive place conveying both old world grandeur and modern form. It was standing room

*Vytas Maciunas is President of the LAC National Executive Committee*

only during the commemorative ceremonies. The speakers, including professor Landsbergis reviewed the events and the feelings which led up to the March 11 declaration. Professor Landsbergis recalled for all of us that the debate immediately preceding the March 11 declaration included many seemingly good reasons for not taking such a decisive move. If March 11 had not occurred, there would have been ample explanations why such a step should never have occurred. Historians could very easily now be documenting a markedly different path.

In my own address I extended greetings from across the Atlantic and recalled how the news of March 11 declaration was received with "tears and champagne". I explained that March 11 was also a beginning for many Lithuanian-Americans. Some rediscovered their Lithuanian heritage, others joined in the struggle to seek recognition of Lithuania's independence while others organized to provide medical assistance to the Lithuanian people.

On the following day, March 11, there was an official government commemoration of the March 11 anniversary in the Parliament chambers. The first speaker was Mr. Jursenas, the president of the presidium of the Parliament and a leading member of the LDDP faction. His one hour and ten minute speech was in large part a diatribe against the opposition in parliament. Other speakers from the opposition factions, however, balanced things out by rail-



*Vytautas Terleckas, President of the Lithuanian Freedom League and Vytas Maciunas.*

ing against the majority LDDP faction. It was rather disappointing to witness. However, I was reassured by others that last year's ceremonies had more discord and significant progress had actually been made toward political civility.



After the official ceremony was over, I retreated to the office of our parent organization, the World Lithuanian Community (WLC) Inc., which is located on the second floor of the Parliament Building, to make detailed arrangements for the following week's appointments. The office is equipped with all the traditional modern office equipment - phone, fax, computer, copier. The director of the WLC office is Mr. Joseph Gaila. Mr. Gaila has always been involved in Lithuanian community activities in the United States and was one of my predecessors in the LAC, also serving as president of the NEC. Mr. Gaila, who recently retired maintains a home in a suburb of Baltimore, Mary-



Visiting the Lithuanian Children's Hope (Vaiku Viltis) orthopedic surgical unit; from l.to r.: Dr.E.Aleksejus, V.Maciunas, Dr.D.Baleviciute, Dr.D.Radzevicius and Dr.K.Saniukas.

land and has been serving in Lithuania as a volunteer for more than nine months. His administrative assistant, Virginija Grybaite manages the office and was very helpful to me during my entire stay.

I had separate meetings with prime minister Adolfas Slezevicius, ex-prime minister Gediminas Vagnorius, prof. Landsbergis, Antanas Terleckas, president of the Lithuania Freedom League, Dr. Bobelis, the sole emigre community member in Lithuania's Parliament (elected from Marijampoles region), and Mr. Gediminas Kirkilas, the deputy chairman of the LDDP party among others.

The differences between Lithuania's political opponents did not appear to be defined by well articulated, differing visions of the future, but rather by a different expressed understanding of the past.

Seeing the front page stories in the local press suggesting dishonest machinations in procurement and privatization practices, I came home with a better appreciation of the structures that we take for granted, which allow us to make objective decisions of fairness, honesty and even morality. Many such structures either don't exist, or are still in the process of being created in Lithuania. For example, in the United States within our civil service system, we have a central nonpartisan procurement office, which was developed to isolate decision processes from overt party and/or personal interests. It is such systems, respected by both parties, that give us, as citizens, the confidence that there is an objective measure of fair and honest performance. A

democratic system of government can become dysfunctional if citizens do not have confidence in government institutions. Under such conditions there is always the danger of a drift toward anarchy, which can eventually lead to totalitarian rule again.

However, we should appreciate that what we as a nation developed over many years, Lithuania is trying to accomplish in a very short time. I have also returned with a stronger conviction, that the diaspora community has a unique opportunity in time to increase the chances for the survival of an independent, democratic Lithuania by lending our professional expertise, and sharing our confidence in the democratic process and human initiative, which we naturally bring to our interactions with people.

One of the most uplifting parts of my trip was the visit to the Vilnius University children's hospital in Santariskiai, where the Children's Hope Committee of the LAC last year set up an orthopedic surgical unit with the help and guidance of Dr. Lubicky of the Shriner's Hospital in Chicago. The Children's hope committee (known in Lithuanian as Vaiku Viltis) was organized to bring to America, children from Lithuania with the most serious orthopedic problems to give them a new chance at life without their crushing physical "shackles". While in America, the parents of the children who were being treated and operated on in US Shriner's hospitals, had the opportunity to observe the dedication of our Children's Hope committee volunteers. These volunteers were helping children that were not their own and whom they did not even know, for the personal satisfaction of making the world a little better place. I believe that the personal initiative to do good, to take joy in another's joy is infectious. And now the parents of the children who were helped in the US through the efforts of the Children's Hope Committee have organized into a committee in Lithuania under the same name to bring hope and joy to more and more kids in Lithuania.

The medical staff headed by Dr. Sanukas has been empowered by this program to change the lives of many who would have otherwise had to live a continuous medical struggle. The news, that there is a hospital in Lithuania that is able to perform "miracles" is spreading into the countryside. Parents, who had been taught to consider their children as medical cast-offs are bringing their children to the hospital for evaluation, carrying with them a hope that they had long been told to forget. The elements of the program's success are not accidental. There are donations from US institutions, there is professional collaboration with some of the best medical talent, there is a group of dedicated volunteers and there is talented, hard-working leadership, which exemplifies the best that the Lithuanian diaspora has to offer.

To see what Lithuania could give to us, I visited the offices of the Mathematics and Information Sciences Institute. I learned about their use of the international medium of computer programs in the teaching of Lithuanian language. Though I had been aware that Lithuanians have moved steadily forward in this modern era field, I was



enthralled by the developmental program which is currently bringing the most modern computer science techniques into the field of the humanities to preserve the national cultural treasures through instantly retrievable CD-ROM technology. I was shown a program on which first appeared a map of Lithuania on the screen. I could locate a pointer on the map, using a mouse, double click to seek the characteristic weaving patterns developed in that location, point to an icon on the screen to hear songs of the region, while reading a history of the region in another window of the screen. There are window provisions for video clips from the area as well. The development program is being sponsored by the Open Society for Lithuania Fund. This pioneering effort offers new possibilities for bringing Lithuania closer to the diaspora community and in particular its younger members. I also reviewed a "spell-checker" for Lithuanian writing. It operates on ASCII files or Word 5.0 files. The program called "RAŠTAS" identifies words that do not appear to be correct in spelling or syntax, but does not yet suggest the corrected alternatives, nor does it work in Windows mode. The program is a good first step. The LAC has agreed to purchase a number of copies of "RAŠTAS" in present form and may sponsor further development work to assure WordPerfect compatibility, use in a Windows environment and other upgrading needs.

On my last day in Vilnius, I met with Mr. Vytautas Cinauskas, who is the president of a Lithuanian foundation called the "Tremtinių Grįžimo Fondas" (translated as "Deportees' Coming-Home Foundation"). The foundation was created to support the return of Lithuanians who were deported and still living in the vast expanses of the Soviet Empire. The majority of them are in Siberia. He said that there are lonely, maimed and ruined former exiles, partisans and their compatriots living in the polar regions, towns and distant taiga and tundra communities. Some are still cherishing the hope to return and die in their native land, while others have already lost this hope. Children and grandchildren of the deportees and political convicts who perished in the mines, woods and steppes and Ural mountains or beyond still live there. They recall that they are Lithuanians despite their poor Lithuanian language. A number no longer speak Lithuanian, but they still seek the opportunity to return to their native land. During the Soviet occupation, collaborators and the communist party nomenclatura, through various means, hindered the return of exiles to their native country. Those who actually returned faced a number of obstacles in reporting to the militia, trying to find a job. Young people were hindered entering higher schools. Unofficially, the deportees and their children were prohibited from studying any of the more prestigious subjects. They were not allowed to occupy higher positions at work. These people were actively discriminated against by the communist government. The majority now have no place to live when they return, since they were deprived of their homes, their farms were destroyed. The survivors of the resistance battles and their families (not them alone) were called "bandits". Most of

them were forbidden to return to live in Lithuania. Thus thousands and thousands of Lithuanian citizens were forced to stay beyond Lithuania's borders. The LAC can not make a recommendation for direct support to this foundation, since we have not had opportunity to assess its actual ability to deliver services. However, the discussion with Mr. Cinauskas revealed another human consequence of the Soviet occupation of Lithuania which now confronts the Republic of Lithuania.

While in Vilnius I met up with Mr. Antanas Dambriunas, who is chairman of our Economic Affairs Council, and who was in Lithuania at the same time. Together we paid a courtesy call to our ambassador to Lithuania, Mr. Darryl Johnson. We reviewed with the ambassador our perceptions of the current political and social development in Lithuania and as always were impressed by the Ambassador's thorough understanding of the rebuilding process and current events in Lithuania. It is not surprising that Ambassador Johnson is very popular in Lithuania. He conveys both good will and professionalism. We were, however, disappointed to learn that the Baltic Enterprise Fund created by the US government to provide \$ 50,000,000 for investment in the three Baltic States still does not have an administrative board and thus has not begun operations. I would hope that we could report in the next issue of BRIDGES that the administrative hurdle has been cleared. In any case, we will keep you informed on this issue.

I completed my trip home flying out of Kaunas on Air Lithuania (which I think, is not the same as Lithuanian Air Lines) to Helsinki, Finland. Based on US standards, the airport facilities in Kaunas are still very crude. (The main airport at Vilnius already has undergone significant renovation.) I flew for the first time in a YAK 40 jet, i.e. soviet vintage with the fold-down chairs, which seats 36 people. I'll admit to some trepidations, but the flight and landing were very smooth. The stewardess passed out breakfast platters that were rather good and I had some Lithuanian beer even though it was still morning.

Though one can find much to criticize from an American perspective, with each visit, I feel more strongly that we are participating in an exciting rebuilding process. And thus, the present does not seem so bleak nor the future so distant.

The national executive committees of the Lithuanian-American Community, Inc. and the Canadian-Lithuanian Community are planning a joint meeting towards the end of April to decide on a common organizational approach vis a vis the ongoing rebuilding process in Lithuania.





Asta Banionis

# Washington Update:

## Whitewater Maelstrom

With the Washington press corps and the White House immersed in "Whitewater" it's amazing that any policy-making is still getting done. Thank the Lord for bureaucracies and bureaucrats. Nonetheless, some of our own Baltic issues have been lost in the eddies swirling about the White House. Here's an update of the key Baltic issues: Russian troop withdrawals from Latvia and Estonia; the Baltic American Enterprise Fund; and the Clinton Administration's response to Russian imperialism.

**WITHDRAWAL DATE:** The on-again, off-again negotiations between Russia and Latvia appear to be on-again as of March 15, 1994 with the Russians and Latvians initialing a treaty on the complete withdrawal of Russian military personnel from Latvia by August 31, 1994. There is an exception for the Russian radar base at Skrunda which will be allowed to operate for 4 more years with an additional 18 months for dismantlement. The sub-agreement governing the operation of Skrunda allows up to 599 military and 199 civilian personnel with dependents to stay in Latvia.

In early March, the Russians broke off negotiations with Estonia demanding \$25 million in compensation from the Estonians; this was the supposed cost of resettling the 2,500 soldiers and officers who are yet to be withdrawn from Estonia. The Nordic, British and Germany governments, however, reacted swiftly in countering these Russian demands by insisting on a "rapid, ordered, and complete" withdrawal of Russian troops from Estonia and Latvia by August 31, 1994. The Estonian government has expressed the hope that Russia will finally initial a withdrawal agreement with the target date of August 31, 1994 at the next scheduled round of negotiations in Moscow on April 5-6.

A critical date to note is the target date for withdrawal of Russian troops: August 31, 1994. Judging from Lithuania's experience with Russian troop withdrawals last year, the Russians can be expected to try to squeeze additional concessions from the Latvians and Estonians by unilaterally abrogating their withdrawal treaties as the target date draws near. The support of the United States government will be crucial to Latvia and Estonia. Keep tuned to the radio. And heads, up!

The Baltic American Enterprise Fund. Now there's a project that needs a life raft. Ask a responsible State Department or Agency for International Development

bureaucrat about the BAEF. He'll shrug and tell you — it's at the White House. Before the Baltic American Enterprise Fund can begin to function, providing affordable loans to small and medium-sized businesses in the Baltics, the Fund needs a board of directors. The names of those board members have been at the White House for six months and counting, waiting for approval by the President. This delay in the appointment of a Board of

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***"...President Clinton and his advisors have learned first-hand that most, if not all, of Russia's neighbors view Russia as the primary threat to their independence and economic development"***

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Directors for the BAEF is unwarranted. The enterprise funds are the most successful projects to date operating within the U.S. government aid program for Eastern Europe. Poland, Hungary, the Czech and Slovak republics, as well as Bulgaria have had enterprise funds functioning for a number of years. Despite, Secretary Christopher's announcement last June that the United States was establishing an enterprise fund for the Baltics, we've seen only a stream of bubbles coming from this Administration as the Baltic fund sinks into the 1995 fiscal year. Public pressure is apparently needed to get this program moving.

On the third issue of United States resolve in countering Russian imperialism in Eastern Europe, there has been some positive movement. Thanks to the recent visits of President Nazarbayev of Kazakhstan, President Kravchuk of Ukraine and President Shevardnadze of Georgia to Washington, DC, President Clinton and his advisors have learned first-hand that most, if not all, of Russia's neighbors view Russia as the primary threat to their independence and economic development. With Deputy Secretary of State Strobe Talbott engrossed in his new administrative duties, other voices are finally being heard in the Cabinet Room. The Russia-first policy which he advocated so effectively is in temporary retreat. Not only has the United States pledged more aid to the non-Russian republics of the former Soviet Union, but the United States has taken a tougher position on

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*Ms. Banionis is Director of the Lithuanian American Community's Public Affairs Office in Washington, DC.*



international loans to Russia. As reported by the New York Times on March 15, 1994, President Clinton in answer to reporters questions said that he feared that

\$305 million in FY 1997 and only \$225 in FY 1998.

These projected spending levels raise concerns that the smaller nations of the region like Lithuania will be shortchanged. Having spent close to \$2 billion in the previous four years, primarily on Poland, Hungary, and the Czech and Slovak republics the Clinton Administration is proposing to cut back. At the hearings before Chairman Hamilton's Foreign Affairs Committee, Administration witnesses even suggested the order of "phase-down" beginning in FY'96: the Czech Republic, then Slovenia, followed by Estonia. Technical assistance under SEED to Lithuania has been about \$10 million each year for the last two years. The use of FY'94 funds is still a mystery, six months into the spending cycle, but they are expected again to be in \$10-11 million range.



Foto: Asta Banionis

Lithuanian parliament's Opposition Leader prof. Vytautas Landsbergis meets with National Executive Committee members of LAC, Inc. during his visit to Washington, DC on February 4, 1994. From left to right: Dr. V. Vengris, A. Gecys, R. Narusis, Prof. V. Landsbergis, and V. Maciunas.

Russia's leaders, in response to demands from their people would begin "the reimposition of some sort of empire." That same week, we heard Defense Secretary William Perry put forward a cogent rationale for more active United States leadership in the defense of democratic gains in Europe in a speech delivered at George Washington University.

It is also important to note developments in United States foreign aid programs. Last year, the Administration promised that it would propose a new law to govern U.S. foreign assistance. The Congress is now evaluating that draft law known as the "Peace, Prosperity and Democracy Act" which seeks to "reinvent" foreign assistance and replace the much amended Foreign Assistance Act of 1961. The House Foreign Affairs Committee has begun a series of hearings on the draft law (H.R. 3765), while the relevant House and Senate Appropriations' subcommittees analyze the budget requests for foreign aid which mirror the new set of priorities under H.R. 3765.

The technical assistance programs which have been developed for the countries of Eastern Europe over the last four years remain unchanged under H.R. 3765. The reasons for this are twofold: first, the Administration believes that the current programs are working successfully in Central and Eastern Europe, and second, the Support for Eastern European Democracy Act (SEED) was designed to be a short-term program to aid the transition of these nations to democracy and a free market. These judgements are borne out by the Administration's funding requests for SEED over the next three years — they drop off precipitously: \$380 million in Fiscal Year 1995, \$360 million in FY 1996,

Administration witnesses this year are acknowledging that mistake and are endorsing more long-term advisers. However, the single, most important program that could be made available to Lithuania is the enterprise fund. Although Secretary Christopher announced the establishment of a Baltic American Enterprise Fund last June, the White House has yet to name a board of directors for the fund — so it doesn't exist. And another year has been lost to help the growth of the private sector in Lithuania.

### Key Political Issues to Watch

1. Appointment of a Board of Directors for the Baltic American Enterprise Fund.
2. Russian troop withdrawal from Latvia and Estonia.
3. US government reaction to Russian Imperialism.

*Don't forget that calling and writing your Senators and Congressmen is a very effective way of letting them know how you feel about these and other issues.*



Edmundas Kulikauskas

# Risk and Reward in Baltic Investment

## Global Airline SAS Encourages Business in the Baltics

On March 3, 1994 the Scandinavian Airline Systems (SAS) Los Angeles office organized a business gathering for those interested in doing business in the Baltic States. The event named the Baltic Business Mixer took place at the Doubletree Hotel in Los Angeles Marina Del



*The Scandinavian Airlines System (SAS) Baltic Business Mixer in Los Angeles was attended by 165 individuals interested in business in the Baltic States.*

Rey. The idea for the mixer evolved after the U.S.-Lithuanian Business Conference and Trade Expo in Pasadena, California in September of 1993 where SAS participated. Thru radio ads on local stations SAS invited businesses to sign-up to its Baltic Resource List. Surprisingly over 150 companies responded. Others interested can still contact SAS sales representative and principal organizer of the mixer, Annette Haraldsted, tel (800) 252-0178 ext. 2750.

The mixer, intended to provide an opportunity to meet and share experiences, drew a gathering of 165 individuals. Among them were a fair number of Lithuanian-Americans from the area. It demonstrated a significant interest in doing business in the Baltic States. The Economic Affairs Council (EAC) provided support and chaired the program at the event. Opening the program, EAC member attorney Bill Acromite underscored that much in business is achieved by means of cooperation and raised the idea of forming a Baltic Chamber of Commerce. All those interested were invited to leave their business cards for future contacts. Antanas Dambriunas, EAC president related some differences in the way the Balts do business. According to him, Lithuanians form a committee before undertaking a task,

*Mr. E. Kulikauskas is a member of the LAC's National Economic Affairs Council*

the Latvians prefer to proceed directly with the task, and the Estonians are most pragmatic - they give some of the tasks to their neighbors, the Finns. The Estonians also prefer to use short as opposed to thick contracts. The Estonian consul Jaak Treiman said that the US businessman will feel right at home in the Baltic States because the political situation relative to Bosnia, Somalia and other such places is quite peaceful. Estonia's trade with Russia is only 20% of its total trade and Estonia's economy is expected to grow 6% per year! The Latvian representative Girts Budkevics said that by summer the Los Angeles Latvian Center will have a business center which will serve visiting businessmen from Latvia.

Lithuania's honorary consul general Vytautas Cekanauskas provided an overview of Lithuania's economy. The planned deficit is less than 1% of the gross domestic product (GDP). Energy will be subsidized only for residential use. Exports were principally from industry - 91%, with only 9% from agriculture. Imports were also primarily from industry, total of 80% and 20% from agriculture. Exports to US consisted of only 2% of all exports and US imports consisted of 10.4% of all imports. Germany, Poland and Sweden are the principal Western trading partners. Tax incentives will still be available for foreign companies established in Lithuania this year.

Mordechai Rabinowitz who has been in business in the former Soviet Union and Ukraine for the past six



*Attorney William Acromite, member of LAC's Economic Affairs Council speaking at the SAS Baltic Business Mixer raised the idea of establishing a Baltic Chamber of Commerce.*

years related his relationships with businessmen of those countries. First, trust must be established then business is done. Maintaining trust is a long term challenge. Local businessmen want you to drink with them because then you will expose yourself as to who you really are.

Dr. Arthur Jones of Ragnarok Associates is studying Baltic and other central European legal systems and documenting the activities of their governments and





"Business Lithuania-94" organizers in Vilnius, from left: M. Aleliunas of Confederation of Lithuanian Industrialists, A. Genulskis, A. Tarvydas "Litexpo" director, E. Kulikauskas member of LAC's EAC, consultant G. Jakstaite, M. Cerniauskas president of Lithuania's Chambers of Commerce Assn., S. Davainis business representative.

parliaments as well as the dynamics of the societies. One of his objectives is to draw some conclusions, e.g., how to deal with crime, protect democracy and make the economy tick. He finds interesting facts as he conducts these studies. For example, last year the US was probably the largest importer from and investor in Lithuania because much of the money flows through Germany. That is, US companies buy from distributors in Germany who purchase in Lithuania. He said, the Czech government, desiring direct commercial ties invites businesses to Prague. He also noted that experience in Europe shows that foreign aid is generally more beneficial to the grantor than to the recipient.

Businessman Zigmas Zableckis of International Design Services suggested it is best not to deal with the governments except those of Japan, Singapore and Hong Kong which support business; others support themselves. He thinks the Balts tax too much and believes that generally it is best to be obscure and insignificant when making money. He recommends not to get friends and relatives involved because everyone will know what you are doing and success is viewed with disdain. He believes we should support a society that is able to live off the land. Therefore, it is important that the farmers own their land, but unfortunately, not all are able to get their land back.

After the program, anyone who wished to, could introduce themselves and state their interests. The mixer was upbeat and useful from the standpoint of information and the opportunity to meet others. What develops in the future depends on individual activity and cooperation, but every such gathering encourages more people to become active. The next gathering will be in three months. As SAS slogans proclaim they would like to be the 'business air line' in the Baltics as well. A number of Lithuanian-American businesses from the Los Angeles area use SAS for cargo and travel to Lithuania because the prices and service are quite good. There was a danger at one time that the SAS flights from Los Angeles to Copenhagen would be eliminated, but this action has been postponed. In organizing the mixer and getting the Balts involved SAS promoted not only itself, but also benefited others.

## Exchange Rates And Interest Rates

On March 21 the official exchange rate was \$1 = Lt 3.904. The exchange rate and the commercial bank interest rates, provided in the table, have been relatively stable.

On March 17 the Parliament (Seimas) adopted the Litas Reliability Law (Lito Patikimumo Įstatymas). This will cause the establishment of the Currency Board which will subsequently be responsible for maintaining the Litas at a stable value. The law goes into effect on April 1. Before then the Government and the Bank of Lithuania will select the foreign currency to which the Litas will be tied to and its rate of exchange. The commercial banks are likely to change their interest rates at that time.

## Economic Forum "Business Lithuania-94" And World Congress Of Lithuanian Business

Lithuanian International Organizations Committee and the Lithuanian Exhibition Centre "Litexpo" are

*continued page 12*

Commercial Bank Rates March 21, 1994					
		Annual Percentage Rate (%)			
Bank	Deposits Term (months)	3	6	9	12
• <b>Akcininis Inovacinis Bankas</b> A. Jakšto 6, Vilnius tel 616 022					
	\$100 to \$25,000	15	18	20	24
	100 Lt to 10,000 Lt	45-50			
• <b>Litimpex Bankas</b> Verkių 37, Vilnius tel 352 461					
	\$1,000 to \$5,000	8	18		20
	\$5,000 to \$10,000	10	20		22
	\$10,000 to \$20,000	15	22		25
	1,000 Lt to 50,000 Lt	50-60			
• <b>Vilniaus Bankas</b> Gedimino 12, Vilnius tel 612 949					
	\$500 to \$5,000	5	5.2		6
	\$5,000 to \$10,000	7	12		14
	over \$10,000	16	18		20
	1,000 Lt to 100,000 Lt	40			
• <b>Bankas Hermis</b> Jogailos 9/1, Vilnius tel 227 724					
	\$100 to \$10,000	15	25		
	200 Lt to 10,000 Lt	40			
	over 10,000 Lt	by agreement			
• <b>Taupomasis Bankas</b> Vilniaus 16, Vilnius tel 220 508					
	\$200 to \$10,000	8			
	\$1,000 to \$5,000	13-16			
	\$5,000 to \$10,000	16-18			
	250 Lt to 5,000 Lt	to 40			
	over 5,000 Lt	to 45			



DANA MIKUZIS

# Introducing "Mes Dainuojame" and Danguole Varnas

Here in the United States, we are awash in music videos for English and Spanish speaking children. There are all types; some straight forward with a group of children just singing, others of a rock variety and still others beautifully done with puppets and other such creatures. The time for a Lithuanian musical video - a story-telling fantasy, with songs, fascinating costumes and sets, with something exciting for children and adults alike - has indeed come. After all, what better way is there to enchant and educate our children as to the treasures of Lithuanian culture than through a musical video?

A video of this type has been a life-long dream of Danguole Varnas. Danguole is a teacher with a degree from UCLA. She has taught in Massachusetts and in California for the last 20 years. More notably, she is, at present, also the director and choreographer of the Los Angeles "Spindulys" Youth Ensemble. Throughout the Lithuanian communities of both the United States and Canada, Danguole Varnas is a well known figure. Her incredible creativity has delighted many audiences through an array of productions ranging from simple children's plays for a school stage to much larger scale performances involving all of the members of the Spindulys Ensemble. She has been a frequent lecturer at the Lithuanian Educational Council's conducted teachers' camp at Dainava, Michigan, where she has taught simple, yet creative methods of



"MES DAINUOJAME" stars with their producer: left to right; Darija Varnaite - the cuckoo (*geguė*), Jonathan Dudor - the heron (*garnys*), Producer Danguole Varnas, and Povilas Jocas - the rooster (*gaidys*).

teaching to help inspire the desire for the Lithuanian-American youth to expand their knowledge of Lithuanian culture as well as the language. The Youth Ensemble itself, was founded by Danguole's mother, Ona Razutis in 1957 and took the name "Spindulys" in 1977. Danguole was her mother's assistant throughout all of the ensemble's tours in the United States, England, Italy, Switzerland, Germany and other countries. In 1982, the Ensemble participated at the Lithuanian Days celebration in Melbourne and Sydney, Australia. In 1985, the Ensemble toured and performed in South America and was frequently shown on the local television stations there. Upon the death of Ona Razutis in 1987, Danguole took over as the director of the group. She is assisted by a large staff of musicians and very talented dancers. As a tribute to Ona Razutis, the ensemble is preparing to publish a book, with the help of editor Vale Baltrusiene.

Danguole is married to Algis Varnas, raising two beautiful and talented school-aged children, Valdas and Darija. Her children are often the sounding board for any idea that Danguole comes up with, often telling her if a certain idea is good and appealing, or not. Having children of her own and realizing the shortage of videos for Lithuanian children, Danguole had thought

*continued page 12*



The Owl, Daina Zemaitaitis, and her children - left to right; Linute Polikaitis, Kristina Tarleton, Liana Bandziulis, Andreja Dabsys and Linas Sepikas



Aukse Trojanas

# The New York Scene

Jonas Jurašas is back in New York this spring. This eminent Lithuanian theatre director is teaching alternative directing styles at Rutgers University. He will present Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* at the university's playhouse from April 15th to May 1st. If his version of this play had been performed about 30 years ago, when he was studying directing in Moscow, he assures us that he would have been burned at the stake.

Jurašas has experienced many exciting and dangerous years in the theatre. While a student he was encouraged to try acting by a pair of drama instructors whom he met on a train. He soon found himself drawn to directing and won entry into the prestigious Moscow Institute for the Theatre Arts. In 1967 he completed a five year program of study with distinction. Excellent teaching and exposure to fine theatre provided perhaps less drama than did official attempts to control subversive interpretations of plays. Chekov could be dangerous. Shakespeare's tragedies were dangerous. Beckett was forbidden. 1977 Jurašas' *Macbeth* had been in rehearsal for six months at the world renowned Moscow Theatre when the play was cancelled for being ideologically unacceptable.

The late 1960s and early 1970s were especially exciting. Lithuanian theatre was a subsidized organ of Soviet propaganda. Young directors such as Jonas Jurašas at the Kaunas Drama Theatre took the opportunity to use plays as a means of exploring relevant truths in metaphor so that the audience learned to seek alternative levels of meaning in every play. Ironically, the vehicle for propaganda became a principal means of the expression of resistance. People came to his plays as if to attend a forbidden mass. Theatre performances were sold out. But heady success was accompanied by the chronic disruption and harassment of censors.

In 1972 Jurašas wrote a letter to the Central Committee of the Lithuanian Communist Party complaining of the interference of censors in the theatre. He was harassed by the KGB, lost his job as a director and was prevented from having gainful employment in the arts, even as a museum guard. After two years of enforced inactivity he wrote again to the Committee, asking to be given work or to be allowed to leave Lithuania. In 1975 he and his wife Aušra-Marija Sluckaitė-Jurašienė left, paying a large fine for being obliged to give up their citizenship.

Since that time, Jurašas has been a director-at-large, creating distinguished theatrical interpretations around the world. His home bases have been in Munich and New York where his wife was employed by Radio Free Europe.

In 1991 Jurašas was invited to become the artistic director of the Kaunas Drama Theatre but his efforts were fatally hampered by the inflexibilities of post-independence bureaucracies. An attempt to create a new theatre in Vilnius by invitation in 1993 also became untenable.

Jurašas continues to return to stage plays in a country once spiritually unified against a common enemy and now disoriented by the inherent difficulties of independence, an inadequate leadership, the increasing power of a criminal underground and the surrealism of having to live side by side with your former interrogator. In some ways Jurašas feels like a man without a country, but then being an artist, he is by definition a man without a country. The artist is always suspect in a society. He is dangerous because he destroys convention: he is always looking for something new, thereby working against the grain of the prevailing culture.

In a warehouse filled with tons of sand, Jurašas rehearsed his most important play, *Pianos of Sand*. It was November of 1990. Soviet tanks and planes were a menacing presence as the director prepared the first environmental theatre piece in Lithuania. Adapted by A.M. Sluckaitė-Jurašienė from a German novel about a search for ancient Prussia, the play is an allegory of 16th century Lithuania emerging from oblivion. Elements of a culture and its people become visible: villagers, a loom and then, a piano rise from the sand in an evocation of the rebirth of a nation. After independence, in 1991, *Pianos of Sand* toured theatre festivals in Riga, Tallinn, Hamburg, Toronto and Copenhagen in a shared celebration of Lithuania's new freedom.

In 1992 Jurašas directed Ariel Dorfman's *Death and the Maiden* in Kaunas. While sitting in the audience he noticed, behind him, the KGB agent who had monitored his plays 20 years earlier. In Dorfman's play a woman unexpectedly meets her former torturer during the democratic period following a long dictatorship. She seizes control of him at gunpoint. The play examines the dynamics which motivate the victim, her husband and the torturer, a physician. How does one deal with one's oppressor? Exact revenge? Victimize the torturer? Find a way to co-exist? A way to heal? Jurašas eliminated the names and places in this Chilean play but the problems are endemic in the history of modern man. He wants his audience to realize that we are all capable of losing our humanity with one another.

Above all else Jonas Jurašas is concerned with truth and truth's aftermath. He finds it layered, concealed

*continued page 12*



**DAINUOJAME***continued from page 10*

of creating this type of video for years and has finally decided that the time is more than ripe and ready for this venture.

The process of creating such a video has already begun. "MES DAINUOJAME" (*We Sing*) starring the children of the Lithuanian Community of Los Angeles is presently being filmed and edited and will be ready for release in June of 1994. This video is intended for international distribution and will be a blend of Lithua-



*Mushroom action in the forest as the Baravykas (Liudas Deveikis) meets the Lepše (Inga Newsom).*

nian song and story-telling as performed by children for a children's (and adult) audience.

"MES DAINUOJAME" is produced by Danguole, directed by Aloyzas Razutis (her brother) who is a professional film maker, and features the music arrangement of Viktoras Ralys. It was photographed in numerous outdoor locations with the assistance of Bill Hilliard and Kestutis Kazlauskas and features the artistic work of Danielle Hunter and Sigute Mikutaityte. Under their guidance, the production ensemble is creating professional-quality work, loaded with educational fun. The "MES DAINUOJAME" video is expected to be 40 minutes long featuring Lithuanian songs, dances and story-telling themes presented in an enchanting fashion. It will be available by June 5, 1994 on VHS tape. Danguole, the whole production team and the members of the Los Angeles "Spindulys" Youth Ensemble hope that this video will bring endless joy to all children, and their parents, interested in Lithuanian culture and song. Congratulations to Danguole for making her dream come true!!

*Spindulys is seeking patrons and donors to help offset the estimated \$6,000 in production costs. They are also offering a discount for early, pre-paid orders for the video. Questions regarding the purchase and sponsorship of the video can be directed to:*

*Danguole Varnas  
4113 Tracy Street  
Los Angeles, CA. 90027*

**BUSINESS***continued from page 9*

organizing the fourth Economic Forum 'Business Lithuania-94' which will be held on July 4-8 at the 'Litexpo' exhibit center in Vilnius. The purpose of the Forum is to provide an opportunity to develop business contacts between entrepreneurs and manufacturers and strengthen business ties. The Forum will be open to all and will consist of "Made in Lithuania '94" product exhibit, international fair "Baltica-94" and on July 5, the third World Congress of Lithuanian Business which is planned to be opened by President Brazauskas. The Congress will have three sessions: I. Development of Lithuania's business and industry institutions; II. Development of economic ties between Lithuania and Lithuanians abroad; III. Lithuania's economic domestic and foreign policy - to participate are Lithuania's Economic, Trade and Foreign ministers. A reception and a show, offering business people an opportunity to get acquainted are planned for the evening. It is hoped that the many visitors who are coming from other countries to the Lithuanian Song Festival will take the opportunity to attend the Forum.

Chairman of the Government's commission for the Forum is Prime Minister Mr. A. Slezevicius. Forum supporters are: Government of Lithuania, Lithuania's Commercial Bank Association, Confederation of Lithuanian Industrialists, Lithuania's Chambers of Commerce Association, Lithuania's Private Capital Alliance and LAC's Economic Affairs Council. For more information and participation in the exhibits please contact:

Lithuanian International Organizations Committee  
V. Kudirkos 18, suite 405  
2600 Vilnius, Lithuania  
tel (370-2) 614-532, fax (370-2) 222-621

or the LAC Economic Affairs Council, 2606 Deep Canyon Drive, Beverly Hills, CA 90210, tel (310) 859-9668, fax (310) 273-6305. The Economic Affairs Council invites you to attend the Forum and for those who have not, as of yet, to participate in Lithuania's economic recovery. Please let us know if you plan to attend, so that provisions can be made for any special events, etc. plan to attend.

**NEW YORK SCENE***continued from page 11*

within classical and modern plays. Often he shocks or surprises to get the attention of his audience: a bloody *Macbeth* at La MaMa in 1977, the black comedy of *The Suicide* with Derek Jacobi on Broadway in 1980, Harold Pinter's severe play about totalitarianism, *Mountain Language*, performed outdoors in Lithuania in November of 1991. Jurašas is excited about his upcoming production of *A Midsummer's Night Dream*. He is making a journey into the unknown and he assures us that what he finds will be amazing.

For tickets please call the Levin Theatre Box office at (908) 932-7511, performances April 15 to May 1 Rutgers University, Douglass Campus, Art Complex, George Street, New Brunswick, New Jersey.



Rimas Jakas

# Hope for Lithuania's Handicapped Children Grows

*Editor's note - I would like this monthly column to be dedicated to the different organizations and individuals who are helping Lithuania in so many ways. If you have an active organization or know of one, I need to hear from you. Please send me your name address, and evening phone number.*

Jeanne Dorr  
4 Shrewsbury Yard  
Riverton, NJ 08077

It began a few short years ago in the fall of 1990. Dr. Dainius Puras, president of the Lithuanian Psychiatric Association, and founder of the Lithuanian Society of Families with Mentally Handicapped Children - "Bendrija Viltis," (Hope Society), was visiting the US at the invitation of the American Congress of Psychiatrists. His travels



*Young adults at a sheltered workshop - part of Viltis Bendrija - in Vilnius 1993.*

were coordinated by the A.P.P.L.E. organization and its Director for Special Education Jurate Krokys-Stirbys. During his brief stay in Philadelphia, Dr. Puras met with a number of Lithuanian families and individuals with vested interest in mental health and special education. Just a few short months before his visit, Dr. Puras was directed by the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Lithuania to establish the Vilnius University Children's Mental Health Center which would initiate programs for mental health care and screening, and address social, educational and vocational concerns of families raising mentally handicapped children. This was to be the first institution of its kind in Lithuania.

*Rimas Jakas is Director for Special Projects for A.P.P.L.E.*

Dr. Puras was very candid in his assessment of the state of the mentally handicapped. Fifty years of Soviet occupation had devastated Lithuania's infrastructure, society and the educational system. The result was most evident in the plight of the mentally and physically handicapped children. Until 1988, it was impossible to discuss problems of mental retardation, because it was claimed that no such problems existed. Parents of children with developmental difficulties had been forced to institutionalize them. The children were forgotten in nameless institutions, which at best could be described as human storage centers, providing no opportunity for education or growth and frequently violated their basic human rights. Few specialists existed in the field of mental health and special education and no agencies that could provide supportive care. Parents who refused to institutionalize their special children were forced to stay at home without support from the government or their community. Searching help for their children, they traveled to different doctors and "healers" seeking medication or surgery or a miracle. They themselves were in a state of depression suffering feelings of guilt.

In 1990, after Lithuania re-established its independence from the Soviet Union, the situation began to change. Special attention was being directed towards serious problems with residential institutions. A strategy was being developed to assist families with handicapped individuals. However, the situation was complicated by the absence of professionals, community level services and an integrated educational system that would allow each child to reach his full potential. Dr Puras and his staff were committed to bring hope into the lives of the families with disabled children, but they needed help. Shortages existed everywhere, but they were most felt in the area of special education, mental support, therapy, equipment, teaching aids, and diagnostic tools.

Raimonda Ruksys, herself a recent emigre from Lithuania, understood the urgency of the problem and along with Jurate Stirbys organized the Philadelphia community to assist Dr. Puras in his effort. Armed with a generous donation from the Lithuanian-American Community, Inc., Philadelphia Chapter and an overwhelming response to a request for donations by the Lithuanian Scouts of Philadelphia, this small but energetic group was able to provide special furniture, diagnostic materials, books, toys and numerous other essential items for the newly established children's center in Vilnius. A group was born that nurtured the beginnings of what today is the leading mental health



facility in all of the Baltics.

In time, more people became involved in providing assistance to the mentally and physically handicapped children and young adults. The assistance is no longer limited to the University center, but also includes special schools throughout Lithuania in cities such as Kaunas,



*Vilnius University Children's Mental Health Center with computers donated by the Philadelphia community.*

Marijampole, Vilkaviskis and others. The Vilnius School for the Blind, Bendrija Viltis (Hope Society), the Kaunas Center for Handicapped Children, and many other schools are beneficiaries of this effort. The emphasis has expanded from assisting only the professional needs of the schools to providing items such as personal clothing, medicines, wheel chairs, walkers, and toys. Gifts previously donated mainly by the Lithuanian American community now include a broad network of contributors throughout the Delaware Valley and extend as far as Chicago. Businesses and institutions such as J C Penney, King of Prussia Sewing Center, Next-to New Shop, DiBello Shoe Center, Computer Forum, Rediscovery Shops, and others such as Tyco Toys, Immaculata College, Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Mary, General Electric Co., Martin Marietta Corporation, and Continental Electric have been generous contributors. Friends and co-workers spreading the word to their friends and neighbors to help a child in need thousands of miles away is an innate American tradition which knows no national boundaries. This compassion is an attribute of a great nation. Romas Jakas, a Down Syndrome child, donated his computer, software, and a musical synthesizer to help the "poor children of Lithuania" as he put it in his own words. His gesture resulted in the establishment of a computerized learning center at the University Children's Mental Health Center which since has received four additional computers donated by George Sall, Alvydas Jarmas, Jack Daughtery and Larry DeFillipo. It is the only such learning facility for the mentally disabled in Lithuania.

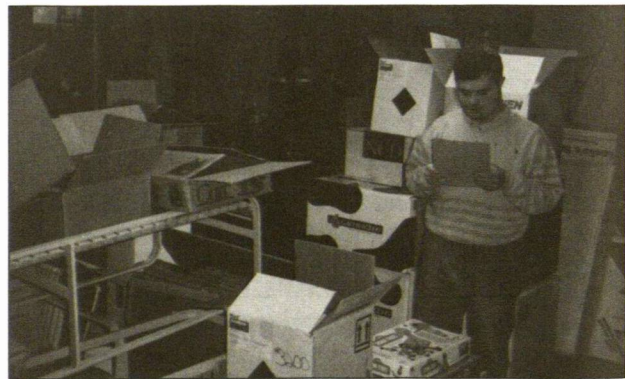
In the ensuing years, more than three hundred packages were sent by the Philadelphia community in support of the handicapped people in Lithuania. Each shipment generated many "thank you"s, typical of which is a recent letter received from the Vilnius School for the Blind: "We are writing to express our gratitude and to convey to you the joy that we observed on the faces of our children when a huge

truck pulled into our school yard. With great anticipation the children unloaded the truck and carried the gifts inside. Every item was needed and appreciated. God bless the people who have made this possible. Thank you for the kindness and dedication."

Today, our network is broader than ever. All donations are shipped through BALFas (United Lithuanian Relief Fund), Philadelphia Chapter. Juozas Majauskas, Chairman of the local chapter, is not only sympathetic to this cause, but is an active member of the network. For the past several years, Rimas Jakas, Director for Special Projects for A.P.P.L.E., has been coordinating collection and distribution of donations. For his work on behalf of the mentally handicapped in Lithuania, the Montgomery County Association for Retarded Citizens honored him with an "Individual Award of Excellence".

In a few short years, the state of the mentally handicapped children in Lithuania has made a giant leap forward. However, much remains to be done. Besides the need for material assistance to children, families, and institutions, extensive help is needed in special education, computer assistive technology, early intervention and other specialized areas. The Philadelphia community, with the help and dedication of its people, businesses, and institutions is helping and making a difference in the lives of some very special people.

The Vilnius University Children's Mental Health Center has grown and achieved world-wide recognition for its work. It is in people such as Dr. Puras and his staff that the future of Lithuania rests. Dr. Puras, in an interview for the publication *Šiautės Atėnai*, concludes with the following statement: "For some time now, I have realized that men-



*Romas Jakas preparing packages for shipment to Lithuania.*

tally handicapped children have a special purpose in this world. In some ways they are superior to us - if only because they obey the Ten Commandments, share their love without reservation and die without sin. Societies that accept them - flourish; those that spurn and reject them - degrade. When we return to them their dignity, they will blossom like beautiful flowers and we ourselves will become real human beings. And if that happens, they will heal our nation."



Pranas Gvildys

# Sports News

## Lithuanian Results From Winter Olympics

### BIATHLON

Gintaras Jasinskas	20 km.	58th of 70
	10 km.	55th of 68
Kazimiera Stroliene	7.5 km.	48th of 69
	15 km.	62nd of 68

### CROSS COUNTRY SKIING

Richardas Panavas	10 km.	38th of 88
	15 km.	48th of 74
	30 km.	did not finish
Vida Venciene	50 km.	32nd of 61
	5 km.	did not finish
	15 km.	32nd of 54
	30 km.	25th of 55

### ICE DANCING

Margarita Drobiazko and Povilas Vanagas	12th of 21
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•••

We have received a letter from the United States Rowing Federation that the World Rowing championships will be held in the United States in September, 1994. The Lithuanians have strong teams but do not have the funds to send their teams to the championships. The United States Rowing Federation is asking for assistance to the Lithuanian team to raise approximately \$ 8000 for living expenses by May 31, 1994. Anybody interested in helping can send donations to:

U S Rowing Federation  
201 S. Capitol Ave. Suite 400  
Indianapolis, IN 46225

Make checks payable to:  
U S Rowing - Lithuanian Fund.

## Basketball

The final four tournament to determine the winner of the prestigious "Lithuanian Sport" trophy was held on February 19, and 20 in Prienai. The four qualifiers were Kauno "Atletas", Siauliu "Kelininkas", Prienu "Taupomasis Bankas" and Kauno "Merkurijus". The surprise of the tournament was "Kelininkas" which defeated the second place team "Lavera" in the preliminary rounds.

"Atletas" defeated "Merkurijus" 94:88, while "Kelininkas" defeated the Bank team 116:95. In the finals "Atletas" defeated "Kelininkas" 103:100 in over-

time.

The Lithuanian women's basketball league is coming to the end. The finals of the four qualifiers are being held in Alytus on March 11 and 13, 1994. The leaders are: Kauno "Victorija" with 17 wins, Kauno "Apus" and Vilniaus "Telecom" with 14 wins, and Vilniaus "Rina" with 10 points.

## Lithuanian Sports News From The US

The senior men - 35 years and over - basketball tournament was held on February 12 and 13 1994 in Toronto, Canada. Because of the severe winter storms the teams from Chicago, Cleveland and Detroit were not able to come. That left only four teams, Toronto Ausra, Toronto Vytis, Hamilton Kovas and London Taurus in the tournament. The winners were Hamilton Kovas defeating Toronto Ausra in the finals 71:58 (33:24).

The Lithuanian skiing championships in grand slalom and slalom events were held on February 26, 1994 in Collingwood, Ontario. There were 62 participants in various age groups ranging from 9 years to over 65. The winners in the main women's and men's events were:

### Grand Slalom

Men	I	Richard Lapas from Toronto
	II	Petras Tarashka from Cleveland
	III	Motiejus Tarashka from Cleveland
Women	I	Gaile Jonyte from Toronto
	II	Lijana Shipelyte from Toronto
	III	Indre Freimanaite from Toronto

### Slalom

Men	I	Richard Lapas from Toronto
	II	Motiejus Tarashka from Cleveland
	III	Petras Tarashka from Cleveland
Women	I	Gaile Jonyte from Toronto
	II	Indre Freimanaite from Toronto
	III	Lijana Shipelyte from Toronto



Ramune Kubilius

# From the Lithuanian Press...

Selected excerpts from the Lithuanian Press in America.

## Schedule of Planned Events for the World Lithuanian Song Festival

July 5th - All attendees from overseas must arrive in Lithuania by July 5th. Even though the Festival is called a Song Festival, other traditional celebrations and events have also been added.

July 6th - The choruses and folk dance ensembles from overseas will perform. Groups electing to perform in various halls in Vilnius will give Lithuania its first glimpse of groups from outside of Lithuania. July 7th - Various folk art fairs will be opened in Vilnius museums and galleries. A folklore evening will be enacted in the Old Town of Vilnius, which will highlight the various regions of Lithuania. A general practice session will be held that evening at sunset, at 9 pm. Some spectators consider these performances even better than those conducted on the day of the actual festival!

July 8th - A unique "detour" not conducted in previous festivals will take participants and attendees to Kaunas. This will commemorate the first song festival held there in 1924. The opening ceremonies of the festival will take place in Kaunas, with participation of Lithuania's best choruses joining others from outside of Lithuania. A memorial stone will be uncovered in Vileisis Square where the first festival took place, then a procession will lead to Lithuania's Statue of Liberty, to the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, then on to the song valley ("dainų slėnis") where a concert will take place.

On July 8th in Vilnius, wind instrument and folk dancing ensembles will perform in various Old Town courtyards, then that evening two to three thousand of Lithuania's best talents will perform. The ensembles will practice and perform in Kalnu Park (Hill Park) in central Vilnius. July 9th - The dancers will perform in Zalgiris Stadium. There will be two performances to accommodate more spectators. The first will be at 3 pm, the second at 7 pm. The 3 pm performance will include performances by the folk dancers from outside of Lithuania. That evening, more small concerts, exhibits, and folk art fairs in the Old Town.

July 10th - 12:30 PM, a High Mass will be celebrated at the Vilnius Cathedral. A procession will take spectators and attendees from Cathedral Square along Gediminas Prospect to Vingis Park, where Song Day will

take place. Choruses from Lithuania and overseas will participate.

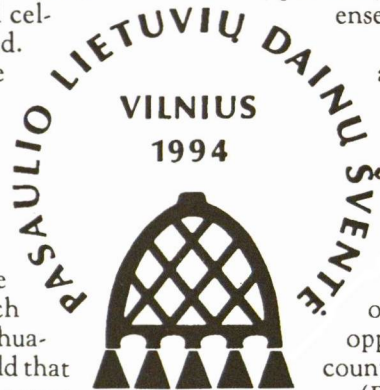
July 11-18th - Visiting ensembles will have the opportunity to tour Lithuania, hosted by Lithuania's ensembles.

On July 11th, a closing conference evaluating the Festival will be held.

The motto of the Festival is "One nation, one culture" ("Viena tauta-viena kultūra").

Tourists are encouraged to take advantage of the opportunity to visit Lithuania through a travel agency which can help organize tickets to various events of the Festival, and which may provide opportunities to tour neighboring Baltic countries as well.

(DARBININKAS, 2/11/94)



## Medical Library update

Last May, Lithuania's (National-rk) Medical Library celebrated its move to a new home. From small, cramped quarters in the Ministry of Health building, the Library moved to more spacious quarters on Kastonu Street. A half year has passed, and in this New Year, the Library is being frequented by interesting visitors. Representatives from the Economic, Building and Urban Studies ministries are being given tours of the Library by C. Norkus of the Health Ministry. Perhaps nothing is unusual about these tours, except that the Library's Director, Salvinija Kociene, is not informed about these impending visits (or their purpose-rk). The Library waited and fought 30 years for better facilities, according to the Library Director. It was thought to relocate the reading and office areas in separate buildings, but with the help of the Health Ministry, the building on Kastonu Street allowed everything to be kept in one location. But for how long?...Financial problems abound. The annual budget of the Library is 83,000 litai. Heating costs alone cost 60,000 litai. The Director reports that the budget doesn't leave enough funds for books and journal subscriptions. The Open Society Fund of Lithuania pays for some overseas journal subscriptions. The World Lithuanian Physicians' Association, with the Lithuanian Studies and Research Center in Chicago has established

a teaching center (with a medical teaching videotape collection) at the Library. One employee of the Library



is an International Associate at the National Library of Medicine this year, and the NLM (of Bethesda, MD-rk) has contributed computer aided instruction programs...It is said that a drowning man will even grasp at straws. The Medical Library receives book and journal donations from abroad. Last year, the Library became a World Health Organization depository library with specific requirements for computer access to materials. The Library has a collection of 700,000 volumes. In 1992, of the 150 books published in Lithuania, only 25% were scientific and academic publications. It has long been said that there is a severe shortage of medical literature for allied health personnel, though the situation has improved somewhat. Two years ago, Library surveys showed that 80% of the nurses who frequented the Library, caught up on reading fiction. Every day the Library is visited by about 100 persons. As job requirements increasingly emphasize continuing education, medical personnel come to the Library to use medical literature they can no longer afford...

Renovation costs have been high, since the building was built in 1954 (and also to be adapted to structurally serve its function as a library-rk). The Health Ministry had promised to cover last year's bills for renovation, but to date, that has not been done - the bills have not been paid. Whether library personnel will have the desire and patience to keep working under these conditions as well as being paid low salaries, remains to be seen...

(MEDIKU ŽINIOS, from an article by Reda Petrosiute, 2/3-9/94-published in Lithuania)

### Economics professor in Vilnius

Dr. Vladas Miklius, a longtime Hawaii State University Economics professor and former department chairman is retiring from his position, but leaves February 12th travelling to University of Vilnius to teach Economics as a Fulbright Scholar.

(DRAUGAS, 2/8/94)

### Germans donate publications

A large book and journal donation for Lithuanian educational institutions and Lithuania's Parliament was turned over at the German Embassy in Vilnius on February 4th. The newly published textbooks, journals and other publications, valued at 20,000 marks, were donated by a German scholarly society and the Springer Publishing Company. Last year, various German publishers and organizations donated scientific and technical books and journals valued at over 500,000 marks. Irene Schultze-Rhonhof, Cultural Attache for the German Embassy in Vilnius observed that the educational standards in Lithuania and Germany are very similar, and that any time German language materials are needed in Lithuanian educational and government institutions, they should feel free to contact the German Embassy.

(DRAUGAS from ELTA, 2/8/94)

### Trusted institutions

In December 1993, Lithuania's inhabitants were surveyed about which institution they trusted most. 77% indicated that they trusted the **Catholic Church** in Lithuania, a percentage which grew by 6% from November. **Mass information media** were marked by 66% of the Lithuanians,

Lithuania's government- 47%,  
the President and his cabinet- 42%,  
Lithuania's Parliament- 38%.  
(DARBININKAS, 2/11/94)

### Young criminals

**Two thirds** of all crimes in Lithuania are committed by persons **under the age of 29**, and of those, mostly by under-age youths, according to the Interior Ministry. The crimes are committed by youths who have too much free time; they are not attending school, have no parents or are being raised in incomplete (single-parent?/rk) families, and by unemployed youths. The crimes occur in places frequented by young people: dormitories, coffee houses, discotheques, mostly in Vilnius and Klaipeda, but also in the regions of Kupiskis, Anyksciai and Moletai. Four fifths of the crimes are thefts, but the other portion is more serious, such as murders. Drugs and alcohol are often involved, and in 1993 it was on record that youths were as young as nine years of age. Two centers have been founded to work with the mentally-ill young criminals: psychologists, physicians, and the clergy are involved in the treatment process.

(DRAUGAS, 3/12/94)

### V-16 High School celebrates

A double celebration took place February 16th (then the 19th) at the Vasario 16 (February 16th) High School in Huttenfeld, Germany. Lithuanian Independence Day was celebrated, as was the school's namesday and **40th anniversary**. By tradition, students have no classes on February 16th. Ecumenical services were held, a short introduction was presented by the school's director, Andrius Smitas, then visiting Vilnius high school "Lietuviu namai" director and history teacher Vidziunas spoke to the students. The students performed their program, which served as a general rehearsal for the larger commemoration held February 19th. Nearly 500 persons from Germany, Poland and Lithuania gathered at the Huttenfeld "Biurghaus" Hall, including Lithuanian Ambassador Z. Namavicius, Honorary Consul K. Rothenberger, Federal Parliamentary member R. Hiller, the Head of Hessen's Parliament, K. Starzacher, and others. Founders and supporters of the school were honored. It was remembered that the founders of the school were not millionaires, but poor political refugees from war-torn and occupied Lithuania. German political and church officials were thanked for their longtime support of the school. Huttenfeld's Edmund Maul almost bragged

*continued page 20*



Gintaras Cepas

# Lithuanian - American Community Elections

The Lithuanian - American Community, Board of Directors (Taryba) is elected for a three year term. The current Board of 60 members was elected in 1991. Elections for a new Board will be held on two weekends in 1994: April 30 - May 1, and May 7 - May 8, 1994.

The Board of Directors meets once a year to review LAC activity and to set policy guidelines for the upcoming year(s). In the first session which will occur in the fall of 1994, the Board will elect the executive committee chairperson (Krašto Valdybos Pirmininka), the present chairman is Vytautas Maciunas, and executive committee members (Krašto Valdyba) nominated by the elected chairperson. It is very important that Board members represent all segments of the Lithuanian - American community.

For election purposes, the United States is divided into ten voting districts. The tenth district is divided in four voting sub-districts so that there are a total of 13 voting districts, each of whom elects representatives from that district or sub-district to the Board of Directors. The boundaries of the districts and sub-districts are approximately shown on the map of the United States - see Page 19.

The elections are supervised by the National Election Committee (Vyriausią Rinkimų Komisiją) chaired by Mrs. Angela Karnius.

*Gintaras P. Cepas is Vice President for Organizational Affairs of the LAC National Executive Committee*

Each of the ten principal voting districts has a District Election Committee (Apygargos Rinkimų Komisija). The tenth district's election committee has members from, or responsible for, each of its four sub-districts.

Candidates to the Board of Directors are nominated within each district and sub-district from LAC members living within its boundaries and are elected by Lithuanian - Americans from that district. Each district and sub-district are ensured of electing at least one member to the Board. Each elected member represents the entire district or sub-district, not just the chapter or city\town where he or she resides.

The number of board members elected to the 60 member Board of Directors by a district or sub-district is determined by the ratio of voters voting in that district to the total number of voters in all districts. For example, if the total voter count in the elections was 6,000, then for each 100 voters in a district they could elect one board member. If in District I, 300 voters participate in the elections, then District I could elect up to three members to the Board. If the voting turnout was greater in District I, say 500, then they could elect up to five members from their district.

Therefore, it is very important that each LAC chapter in a district fully participate in the elections, even if none of the candidates are from their chapter - the total district or sub-district vote count determines the number of candidates elected to the Board.

Who can vote? According to the LAC by-laws, any

Regional Voting Districts and Election						
Voting District	Committee Chair	Tel Nr.	Address			
<b>National Election Committee</b>	Angela Karnius	219-872-4654	220 Pokagon Trail, M.S.	Michigan City	In	46360
<b>I Boston</b>	Vladas Zidziunas	508-771-0075	56 Wedgewood Dr	Centerville	Ma	02632
<b>II Connecticut</b>	Longinas Kapeckas	203-956-6476	637 Hillside Ave	Hartford	Ct	06106-4325
<b>III Florida</b>	Jurgis Mikaila	813-399-1865	10251 98th St., No	Seminole	Fl	34643-4537
<b>IV Michigan</b>	Dr Romualdas Kriauciunas	517-321-0091	1816 Tecumseh River Dr	Lansing	Mi	48906
<b>V New Jersey</b>	Juozas Juska	908-686-6193	301 Orchard Meadows Dr	Union	NJ	07083
<b>VI New York</b>	Dr Jonas Bilenas	516-643-5433	75 Beaumont Dr	Melville	NY	11747-3431
<b>VII Ohio</b>	Stepas Butrimas	216-481-2130	1801 Hiller Ave	Cleveland	Oh	44119
<b>VIII Southeast (pietryciu)</b>	Algis Danta	215-287-1014	892 Brandon Ln, PO Box 304	Lederach	Pa	19450
<b>IX Western (vakaru)</b>	Valentinas Varnas	213-662-2611	2307 Lyric Ave	Los Angeles	Ca	90027
<b>X Mid-western (vidurio vakaru)</b>	Kazys Laukaitis	708-323-5326	17 W. 050 91st Street	Hinsdale	Il	60521
<b>X-1 A. First Sub-district</b>	" "	" "	" "	" "	" "	" "
<b>X-2 B. Second Sub-district</b>	" "	" "	" "	" "	" "	" "
<b>X-3 C. Third Sub-district</b>	" "	" "	" "	" "	" "	" "
<b>X-4 D. Fourth Sub-district</b>	" "	" "	" "	" "	" "	" "



Lithuanian - American who:

- a. has expressed a desire to belong to the LAC  
or
- b. who has at least once paid the "solidarity" payment  
or
- c. who has participated in LAC Board member elections  
or
- d. who is registered by the LAC chapter officers in the LAC chapter member list.

A new voter may be added to the list and register with the election committee on the day of the voting.

Voting will take place on the stated dates in person or by correspondence. Each LAC chapter has formed a Chapter Election Committee (Apylinkes Rinkimu Komisija) that will supervise the voting within each chapter.

Listed below are the chairpersons of the Election Committee and the candidates to the Board of Directors from that district and sub-district. If you have any questions about where to vote, please feel free to contact them or the LAC chapter nearest you.

So let us practice the democracy that we preach. Let us all make the effort to participate in the LAC Board of Director elections on April 30 - May 1, or May 7 - May 8, 1994 - VOTE!

## List of Candidates to the LAC Inc Board of Directors

### Region I - Boston

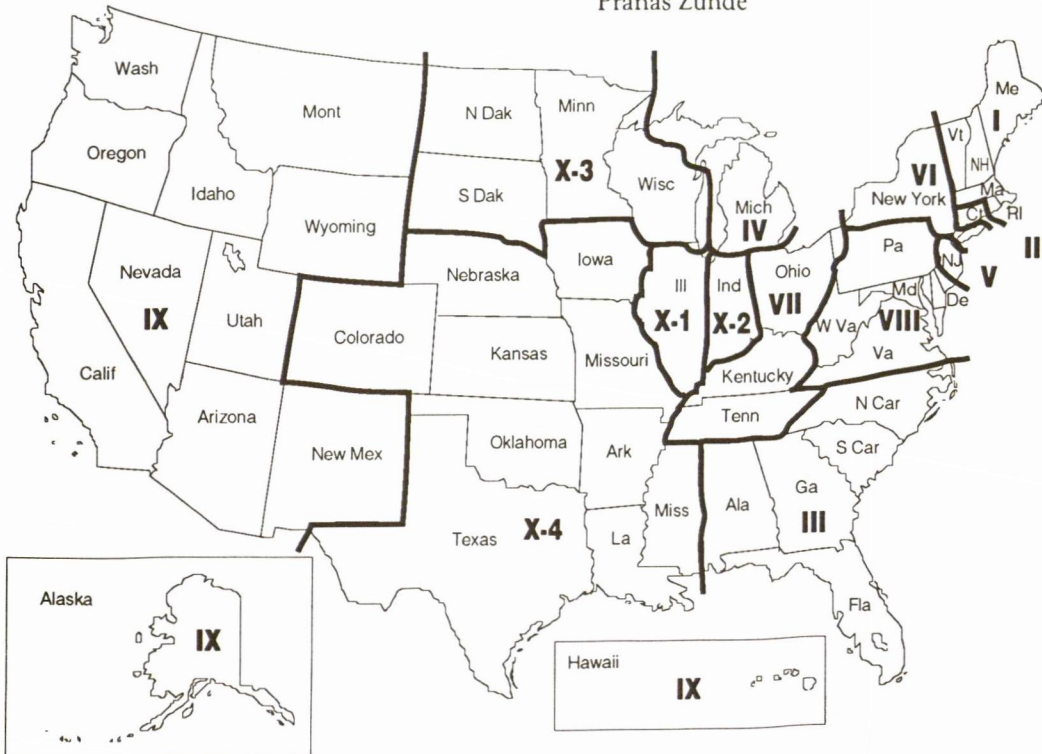
Gintaras Cepas  
Aldona Kairys  
Ruta Kalvaitis  
Aidas Kupcinskas  
Vytautas Suziedelis

### Region II - Connecticut

Linas Balsys  
Jurate Bernotas-DiBenedetto  
Alfonsas Dzikas  
Vaiva Vebraite-Gust  
Laima Karosas  
Vytautas Treciokas  
Stefa Alsenaitė-Urban

### Region III - Florida

Vanda Bagdonas  
Vytautas Dubauskas  
Algirdas Petrulis  
Sigita Ramanauskas  
Laima Savaitis  
Mecys Silkaitis  
Pranas Zunde





**Region IV - Michigan**

Vytautas Kamantas  
Grazina Kamantas  
Vytautas Kutkus  
Algis Rugienius  
Janina Udry  
Jonas Urbonas

**Region V - New Jersey**

Rimantas Bitenas  
Rasa Ardyte-Juskys  
Julius Veblaitis

**Region VI - New York**

Kestutis Bileris  
Ramute Cesnavicius  
Daiva Kezys  
Kestutis Miklas  
Rimas Vaicaitis

**Region VII - Ohio**

Juozas Ardys  
Ingrida Bublys  
Algimantas Cepulis  
Pranas Joga  
Dalia Puskorius  
Vytautas Staskus  
Salomeja Sukys

**Region VIII - Southeast**

Gintaras Buivys  
Julija Danta  
Terese Gecys  
Audrone Gulbinas  
Dalia Jakas  
Ramunas Kondratas  
Jonas Kronkaitis  
Vytas Maciunas  
Audrone Pakstas  
Donatas Skucas

**Region IX - West**

Irena Blekys  
Zigmas Brinkis  
Violeta Gedgaudas  
Gediminas Morkunas  
Angele Nelsas  
Antantas Polikaitis  
Juozas Pupius  
Stase Simoliunas  
Vytautas Vidugiris  
Zigmas Viskanta  
Kestutis Zygas

**Region X - Midwest****Sub district 1**

Jurate Budrys  
Salomeja Daulys  
Linas Gylys  
Birute Jasaitis  
Svajone Kerelis  
Petras Kisielius  
Grazina Liautaud  
Vytas Narutis  
Linas Norusis  
Juozas Polikaitis  
Jonas Rackauskas  
Leonidas Ragas  
Antanas Razma  
Tomas Remeikis  
Kestutis Susinskas  
Liudas Slenys  
Birute Vindasius  
Aleksas Vitkus

**Sub-district 2**

Albinas Karnius  
Birute Vilutis

**Sub-district 3**

Rima Binder  
Zigmas Grybinas  
Regina Narusis  
Reda Pliuras

**Sub-district 4**

Arvidas Jarasius  
Ausrele Sakalas

**LITHUANIAN PRESS cont'd from 17**

that the little town was known by Lithuanians around the world. Ambassador Dr. Zenonas Namavicius reminded attendees that Lithuania already regained its independence twice- he hoped there would be no need for a third. The cultural program lasted about one hour and featured about half the student body-folk dancers, choir, and orchestra, who had practiced several months for this important commemoration and celebration. High school officials and local Lithuanians were essential to the organizing effort- they invited, chauffeured, and fed the honored guests, they decorated and cleaned the hall. Also essential to the efforts were the officers of the German Lithuanian Community and the German Lithuanian Youth Association, which ran the cafe during the commemoration.

(DRAUGAS, from an article by A.S., 3/2/94)

**LYA in France**

Voting members of France's Lithuanian Youth Association now may include students from Lithuania who are studying in France for more than 3 months. As the number of students from Lithuania grew in Paris, a gathering was called together on November 23, 1993, and the Youth Association established future plans, guidelines and projects. The group will try to meet monthly, each meeting will have its own theme. News from Lithuania and interesting guest speakers are on the agenda, as are baked goods (brought by the young ladies!!) and liquid refreshments (brought by the young men!!!). In Paris, Rev. J. Petrosius invited the young students who couldn't return home for the holidays to a traditional Christmas Eve dinner. "In a group," the group's announcement declares, "we will get to know each other, and will be braver in facing the challenges of everyday life."

(PASAULIO LIETUVIS, from a newsletter from the Association, 3/94)



# Lithuania in the News

## Prof. Vytautas Landsbergis in the United States

At the invitation of the Detroit LAC chapter, in conjunction with the New York Regional LAC., Philadelphia and Cleveland Chapters of the LAC, Professor Vytautas Landsbergis arrived in the US on Monday, March 14. He began his whirlwind tour in New York. Tuesday, March 15 found Prof. Landsbergis addressing the Lithuanian-American Community there and the World Affairs Council of Philadelphia Wednesday morning. Mr. Landsbergis was warmly received, as he spoke on the topic "Should the US fear Russia today?"

Professor Landsbergis was in Cleveland Thursday, March 16 where he met with over 400 Lithuanian-Americans as they commemorated the events of March 11, 1990. Mr. Landsbergis addressed the City Club of Cleveland on March 16. His tour of the US continued on to Detroit, where he met with the director of the World Medical Relief Center, Ms. Carolyn George, to thank the organization for pharmaceutical donations valued at over \$7 million. After a press conference, which included correspondents from the major Detroit newspapers, Mr. Landsbergis met with leaders of the A.F.L.-C.I.O. to discuss labor-related issues. Later that evening, Prof. Landsbergis attended the Oakland County Republican Party Lincoln Club's 105th Anniversary banquet. Among the 800 guests in attendance was Gov. John Angler, Senators and Congressmen of the state of Michigan. Professor Landsbergis was introduced and received a standing ovation. On March 19th Mr. Landsbergis met with local Lithuanian-Americans and representatives of the Michigan chapter Lithuanian-American Community Executive Boards. In Detroit on March 20th, Mr. Landsbergis was the principal speaker at the LAC commemoration of March 11, 1990. After a stop in Berlin, Mr. Landsbergis returned to Lithuania on March 22.

## Destination: Lithuania

Lithuanian-American Community Educational Council member Rima Binder is presently involved in an educational project with the Peace Corps. R. Binder, a professional educator and consultant, is working on a study guide for teachers and students participating in the Peace Corps World Wise Schools program. The guide will accompany a videotape shot in Lithuania. The preface in the guide's draft indicates its purpose: "The primary purpose of the study guide is to enhance each class's correspondence with its Peace Corps Volunteer and to help students gain a greater understanding of regions and cultures different from their own... The spe-

cific purpose of DESTINATION: LITHUANIA is to support these aims through a close-up study of a nation which had been under Soviet domination for 50 years and has reclaimed its independence..." The study guide is grouped by three academic levels: grades 3-5, grades 6-9, and grades 10-12. Educational and illustrative materials have been gathered from various sources and permission has been sought from the publishers, including the Educational Council. R. Binder wrote text, coordinated and selected materials, finding ways to test and challenge the various age groups about what they learn about Lithuania's history, geography, culture, food, language... For example, in the "World Traveler" section, students are instructed to underline the items they think would be found in Lithuania—radios, ski slopes, castles, soccer fields, etc. The guide is being edited and probably will be ready for use in the fall.

## Independence Day Proclamations

Many US mayors and governors issued Proclamations commemorating the 76th anniversary of Lithuanian Independence. Among them were Governor Jim Edgar of Illinois who presented the proclamation to Gediminas Kazenas, Pres. of the Lemont, IL chapter of the LAC.



*Pictured from left to right: Jonas Vazmelis, V. Sadauskas, A. Lelis, J. Bagdzius, J. Jasiunas, Gov. Edgar, G. Kazenas, A. Repshys, S. Balzekas, E. Kaspeitis, C. Oksas, Z. Mereckis and V. Naudzius.*

## US-Lithuanian Sister City Relationships flourish???

Over the last several years, many Lithuanian-Americans have been involved in setting the foundations and on-going efforts for successful sister city relationships of their American hometowns and a variety of Lithuanian



towns and cities. Yet, **only two** are registered with Sister Cities International in Alexandria, VA.: Los Angeles - Kaunas and Madison, WI - Vilnius. If you know of other established programs, please let BRIDGES know.

### **Lithuanian-American Folk Dance Update**

Many folk dance groups from the US are preparing to participate in the World Lithuanian Song Festival in Vilnius this coming July. The Lithuanian Folk Dance Institute is coordinating US activities. Newly elected officers are: Dalia Dzikas (W. Hartford, CT) - Pres., Juozas Karasiejus, Ruta Mickunas, Rasa Poskocimas, Reda Pliuras.

Those not being able to attend the Festival in Vilnius can look forward to the summer of 1996, when the next (Tenth) Lithuanian Folk Dance Festival is being planned for in Chicago. Initial work has already begun.

Events to watch for in the immediate future include:

- Chicago - April 16, 1994 - *Grandis* Folk Dance Group Anniversary Concert
- Hartford - April 16, 1994 - *Berželis* Annual Concert
- Toronto - May 7th, 1994 - *Gintaras* Annual Concert

From the Lithuanian Folk Dance Institute's Newsletter No. 8, March 1994

### **Lithuanian-American Community, Inc. Brochures Now Available**

As part of this year's commemoration of Lithuanian Independence, LAC, Inc. has published a brochure listing LAC, Inc. activities. In addition, LAC has updated and reprinted the informative, full-color brochure about Lithuania. Brochures are available through your local LAC chapter for a nominal fee or directly from the LAC, Inc. Executive Office 2715 E. Allegheny Ave. Philadelphia, PA 19134. Brochures are .25 each.

### **Response received from Publisher of Surprises**

In the March issue of BRIDGES, we alerted our readers to a gross error made by the editors of *Surprises* magazine for children in their depiction of the Soviet Union and the Republics. On March 7 the Editorial offices of BRIDGES received an apology from the Associate Publisher, along with a promise that this type of error will not reoccur. Case in point -it does pay off to notice and report these type of flagrant mistakes.

### **Educational Conference**

The Educational Council not only finds experienced teachers for various projects around the country, such as that worked on by Mrs. Binder, but also seeks a new generation of U.S. trained teachers to provide insight and experience for the 28 Lithuanian language schools. Older teachers who had trained in Lithuania are retiring or taking on lighter teaching loads. The Educational Council tries to provide materials and support for teachers of all backgrounds. On February 27th, at the Lithuanian World Center in Lemont, IL, almost 30 Lithuanian school directors, teachers and Lithuanian educational

supporters gathered for a one day conference. A similar conference may be organized in Philadelphia in April.

Attendees heard Nijole Gierstikas, a reading instructor in the Chicago Public Schools, talked about the establishment of Lee Kanter's assertive discipline techniques in the classroom. (Interestingly enough, the instructor from Pennsylvania who taught the Chicago Public School teachers was a Catholic nun of Lithuanian descent!) Educational Council conference attendees speculated about the adaptation of these techniques in the Lithuanian language schools. Erika Brooks, a special education teacher in the Chicago Public Schools, wears a different hat on Saturdays at the Chicago Cultural School. She teaches 17 students about Lithuanian language and culture. Since her students range in age from grade schoolers to retirees, she has gathered quite a collection of reading materials suitable for all ages. Her teaching methods include a "theme each month" technique, and involving students in Lithuanian historical and cultural commemorations in the school.

Janina Juknevicus, a retired Montessori teacher and directress, introduced her workbook of ideas, games, and exercises for those who work with preschool children.

The Educational Council displayed its publications such as Mrs. Juknevicus' workbook, as well as new children's books it was distributing for a Lithuanian children's publisher. It was very interesting to see Walt Disney characters speaking Lithuanian (LITTLE MERMAID, ALLADIN, and so on). The teachers seemed to enjoy hearing all of the speakers at the conference, as well as examining the newest publications.

### **New Publication**

A sample publication has recently been sent to the Educational Council from Lithuania. This publication, *BOOKS FROM LITHUANIA* is an English language quarterly supplement to *KNYGNESYS*. It will present the newest information about Lithuanian books in print, advertisements and news. Annotations and sketches of the book covers accompany most listings. A list of the materials of various publishing houses is also included. The publisher of *BOOKS FROM LITHUANIA* is the Publishing Centre of the Lithuanian Ministry of Culture and Education, located at Geležinio vilko 12, 2600 Vilnius. The listed circulation of the publication is 1000. Issue one is dated 1993.

(Educational Council, 13648 Kickapoo Trail, Lockport, IL 60441.)

### **Baltic Database Workshop Scheduled**

A workshop on National Infrastructure Databases: Problems, Methods, and Experiences will be taking place in Vilnius, Lithuania on May 17-20, 1994. The workshop is being organized by the Institute of Mathematics and Informatics, Vilnius Technical University, Kaunas U of Technology, the Norwegian Institute of Technology, and the Swedish Institute for Systems Development (SISU).

The objective of the workshop is to bring together



researchers as well as practitioners in the field of large databases for public administration, serving as vital components in national infrastructures. Particular emphasis will be placed on problems, issues, and opportunities in the Baltic states and their developing societies and economies. The workshop addresses theoretical and methodological as well as usage oriented and political issues related to the technology of information systems and data bases and their application. The workshop seeks to gather professionals from the Baltic countries and experts from the rest of the world, to present and discuss their findings and experiences, thereby promoting future contacts and cooperation.

Contact person for the workshop:  
Saulius Maskeliunas

Institute of Mathematics and Informatics

Akademijos str 4  
2600 Vilnius, Lithuania

phone: +370-2-620529 or

+370-2-620011

FAX: +370-2-359209

### May Baltic Renaissance Trade Mission

Professor Mark Kramer of Brown and Harvard Universities will guide a working business and trade study mission to Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania, May 12-24, 1994. Baltic Renaissance is a study tour which will explore crucial economic, political and social issues in each of the three newly-independent republics, with opportunities to meet government and community leaders, academic experts and members of the emerging private business sector. Limited to thirty-five participants nationwide the 12 day tour begins on Lufthansa leaving 2 US gateways, Seattle and Boston, direct to Frankfurt and Vilnius. Then by motorcoach the mission will visit Kaunas, Riga, Tartu and Tallinn.

Mark Kramer is a senior research fellow at Brown University's Center for Foreign Policy Development, a fellow of Harvard University's Russian Research Center, and adjunct research fellow at Harvard's Center

for Science and International Affairs. Professor Kramer is deputy director of European studies at Brown. He did undergraduate work at Stanford University and his master's and doctoral work as a Rhodes Scholar at Oxford University. The tour is a particularly valuable opportunity for anyone interested in trade or business advantages in the Baltic republics, providing high-level and influential personal contacts.

For more information contact: MIR Corporation at (206) 624-7289 or (800) 424-7289; or FAX (206) 624-7360

### University of Oklahoma honors Professor Vardys

Recently, the academic community and Lithuanian-American community lost a respected scholar and spokesman. For over forty years, Professor V. Stanley Vardys wrote, spoke, and taught extensively on the struggle for political and religious freedom in the Baltic Republics, on Soviet politics, on West and East European politics, and on the transformation begun in the aftermath of the Cold War. At the initiative of the graduate students in the Department of Political Science, the Department has established the Vytautas Stanley Vardys Memorial Award to honor scholarly excellence and commitment as exemplified by Professor Vardys during his distinguished professional and administrative career. In particular, the award will recognize outstanding research work (e.g., papers and articles) by doctoral students in the Department. The award is regarded as a tribute to the man and the career of V. Stanley Vardys by his students, colleagues, and friends.

Professor Vardys served as a professor in the area of comparative politics, specializing in the Soviet political system and Eastern European politics at the University of Oklahoma for 24 years, before his retirement in 1992. Professor Vardys has been extensively published, including several books, among them, *Karl Marx: Humanist? Scientist? Revolutionary?*, editor with original essay, 1971; *Lithuania under the Soviets:*

*Portrait of a Nation, 1940-65*, editor and author of four of its eleven essays, 1965; *The Catholic Church, Dissent and Nationality in Soviet Lithuania*, 1978; *The Baltic States in Peace and War, 1917-1945*, 1978; *Regional Identity Under Soviet Rule: The Case of the Baltic States*, coeditor and one essay, 1990.

Anyone interested in contributing to the V. Stanley Vardys Award Fund may do so by contacting Chairman Donald Maletz, Geri Rowden, or Erich Frankland at :

Department of Political Science  
University of Oklahoma  
455 West Lindsey Street Rm 205  
Norman, OK 73019-0535

Phone: (405) 325-2061

Fax: (405) 325-0718

### Bishop Paul Baltakis O.F.M. sends Easter Greetings

excerpted and translated  
by Audrone Gulbinas

Easter and Spring both herald the same secret - resurrection to a new life. This is why the Church invites us to celebrate - not only the historical Resurrection of Christ, but also the resurrection of truth over lies, of good over evil, and life over death. In addition to individual joy, we all celebrate our native homeland's hopes for spiritual, moral, and social resurrection. The Lithuanian nation, just as each and everyone of us, travels the path pioneered by Christ. Our nation struggles, but does not lose hope because it knows that after Holy Week, the dawn of Easter morning follows.

Let the joy of Easter, flowing from our deep faith in the meaning of work and suffering in Christ and His Resurrection, touch all of our lives. Joy is as contagious as sorrow. If our joy is sincere, growing from a deep belief in a bright future for our nation and ourselves, it will be felt by our brothers and sisters as well. I wish everyone a joyous Easter. Alleluja!



# Lithuanian Summer Camp Schedule

Dates	Place	Camp type	For Info Contact:
July 3-16	CAMP NERINGA, West Brattleboro, VT	English-speaking Lithuanian Heritage Camp for children ages 7-16 years	Neringa 600 Liberty Hwy Putnam, CT 06260
July 17-24	CAMP DAINAVA, Manchester, MI	LAC, Inc. Educational Council organized teachers' week for teachers of Lithuanian language	Regina Kucas (708) 301-6410
July 17-24	CAMP DAINAVA	Lithuanian language course geared for beginners and intermediate students of Lithuanian	Bronius Krokys 1124 Hedgerow Lane Philadelphia, PA 19115 Tel.: (215) 671-0397
Aug. 14-21	CAMP NERINGA	English-speaking Family Week	Camp Neringa Putnam, CT 06260
Aug. 14-21	CAMP DAINAVA	Lithuanian Heritage Camp	Rima Polikaitis (708) 257-2022

## BRIDGES

LITHUANIAN AMERICAN NEWS JOURNAL

Volume 18, No. 1 JANUARY / FEBRUARY 1994 \$2.50 per Copy