

# BRIDGES

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**COVER PHOTO:** The month of May brings Mother's Day and First Communion celebrations. Pictured are the celebrants at St. Andrew's Church in Philadelphia, PA. from l. to r. Daina Andries, Ruta Bagdonavicius, Gaja Stirbys, Viktorija Danta, and Pranas Naujokaitis, 2nd row, Gintautas Stirbys, Father Jonas Puodziunas and Father Timothy Burkauskas.

## To Our Readers:

Next month, one of our featured articles will describe a recent conference between representatives of the National Executive Committees of the Lithuanian Communities of the United States and Canada. Although such gatherings have become nearly an annual occurrence to discuss common concerns and jointly plan upcoming events, this year's meeting had a greater sense of urgency.

Number one on the agenda: what is the relationship between the inhabitants of the Republic of Lithuania and the Lithuanian Diaspora? The generational distance from Lithuanian soil plays a significant role in determining the depth of our individual emotional or material commitment, but where is the balance point—cultural, economic, social, legal—between Lithuanians here in North America and those east of the Baltic Sea? Of nearly equal concern, what role does the LAC, or its Canadian counterpart, play in that relationship now that the goal which has dominated the agenda of Lithuanian organizations for five decades, Lithuanian independence, has been achieved? Another topic that was met with heated discussion was the role of young people, those under 25 of "Lithuanian descent". Actually, assigning them a role in the face of Soviet occupation and russification was relatively easy and the cultural, educational and political indoctrination was usually easily accepted. Now, without having concrete answers to the questions posed above, where is the counterweight to the forces of assimilation? What buttons do we push to keep knowledge of Lithuanian language and history desirable in and of itself?

None of these questions are easily answered. In fact, the conference did not and perhaps could not answer them conclusively, but some inroads were made for the future. You'll be able to read about them next month. In the meantime, I want to hear from you, the readers, about this topic. If you had to pick the most important aspect of the relationship between "us" and "them" what would it be? If you were setting organizational goals for a Lithuanian-American group, what would be the number one priority? Finally, if you wanted not only to preserve your Lithuanian-American organization for the future but infuse it with new ideas and the enthusiasm only youth can sustain, how would you go about getting them on board (voluntarily, of course; not because their parents made them do it)?

I want to hear from all of our readers, especially those who are not Lithuanian-American by birth, since they have the advantage of objectivity and the perspective their own ethnicity brings. I'm also eager to hear from the "under 25" group; remember that last month I noted they were woefully underrepresented in responses to the LAC's Professional Survey (have you sent yours in, by the way?). I want to hear what it might take to motivate someone from that generation to become involved in Lithuanian-American activities in competition with attending college, starting a career, beginning a family, or establishing and coming to know your own identity. Write a "Letter to Editor," c/o BRIDGES, 2715 E. Allegheny Ave., Philadelphia, PA 19134-5914. We'll put together a summary of responses, citing from the best of them, so we can all participate and share in the redefinition of our Lithuanian-American sense of purpose.



Rimantas A. Stirbys, Editor

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

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Asta Banionis

# “Where, Oh Where, is the Baltic American Enterprise Fund?”

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) in its memorandum of January, 1994 entitled, “U.S. Assistance to Lithuania” lists as one of its program highlights the missing Baltic-American Enterprise Fund (BAEF). To cite the memorandum, “The Baltic-American Enterprise Fund, which will provide capital funds to small and medium-sized businesses, was authorized in 1993. The Fund is expected to be operational in 1994, commencing with the nomination of the Board of Directors.” As faithful *Bridges* readers know, the Baltic-American Enterprise Fund (BAEF) announced by Secretary of State Christopher in June, 1993 is far from being operational in 1994. Even if President Clinton were to appoint the BAEF Board of Directors this month, the experience of other enterprise funds has demonstrated that it takes another six to eight months of set-up before the BAEF can even accept its first business prospectus. At this point, another year has been lost to strengthen the fledgling private sector in Lithuania while government monopolies and a lack of affordable credit continues to smother private initiative.

To understand the real tragedy that this delay in the establishment of a functioning BAEF has caused to the private sector in Lithuania one has only to look at the success of the enterprise funds in Poland, Hungary, the Czech Republic and Slovakia. The 1993 annual reports of these three funds demonstrate once again what a positive impact the enterprise funds have had in the growth of a private market economy in these countries. Not only have the funds provided critical capital for the start-up and expansion of small and medium-sized businesses, but they have also attracted additional equity capital from private sources thereby multiplying their efforts for growth of the private sector.

Why have the enterprise funds focused on small and medium-sized business? As any student of Western economics will tell you, small business is the engine of job creation in a free market economy. And the major challenge faced by the Eastern European nations as they move from the old communist command economy to a free market economy is to move as many people as possible as quickly as possible to employment in the private sector. If the economy is unable to provide

gainful employment to the average citizen, public trust will erode for the transition from communism to capitalism. And, the public debt burden of the unproductive state-controlled factories which litter these societies and



*LAC, Inc. Public Affairs Office Director Asta Banionis meets with Thomas Dine, newly confirmed Assistant Administrator at the US Agency for International Development (USAID). As Assistant Administrator, Mr. Dine heads the Bureau for Europe and the Newly Independent States.*

the welfare benefits for the unemployed will ultimately bury the noble experiment.

Based on the success of the enterprise funds, other international aid givers to Eastern Europe have begun to adopt the American model. The European Union which

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

has focused on loans to government factories and government institutions in Eastern Europe recently began a small private business development program known by its acronym PHARE, but the amounts of aid money dedicated to PHARE have been minuscule in comparison to the U.S. funded enterprise funds.

Now, let's look at the accomplishments of the three oldest enterprise funds as reported in their 1993 annual reports.

The Polish-American Enterprise Fund (PAEF) in its three years of operations has disbursed \$142 million in equity investments and loans, and \$8 million in technical assistance. This capital has gone to more than 2,500 private businesses throughout Poland, creating an esti-

Thereby becoming the largest and most accessible lender to small businesses in Poland. Since its establishment in 1990, the ECC has approved more than 2,500 small business loans totaling nearly \$60 million. By September 30, 1993, \$40 million has been disbursed and nearly \$20 million repaid with only a 2.2 percent default rate.

The Polish American Enterprise Fund has also been willing to use its expertise and resources to effect changes in other spheres of the economy. In 1992, the PAEF formed a partnership with Polish investors and established the Polish-American Mortgage Bank. This bank has now begun to make construction and mortgage loans for single-family housing. Although the PAEF admits to having to overcome a variety of hurdles while introducing the concept of a mortgage to Poland, the Fund feels that its mortgage bank is now helping to educate the Polish public and also beginning to have a positive impact on the building of private housing in Poland.



*On March 25, 1994 Thomas Dine of the USAID chaired a meeting with representatives of major non-governmental organizations interested in the course of US assistance to Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia, Poland, Russia and Ukraine. Mr. Dine heads the newly organized Bureau for Europe and Newly Independent States at USAID. Asta Banionis, LAC Public Affairs Office Director was represented LAC, Inc. at the meeting. Mr. Dine is seated in the center of the photograph.*

mated 10,000 new jobs. In November, 1992 the PAEF mobilized additional foreign capital to expand investment in the Polish private sector by organizing the Polish Private Equity Funds (PPEF). Combining resources from the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, Creditanstalt-Bankverein and a group of American investors, this new investment fund began its work with \$101 million. After its first year of operation the PPEF holds six investments valued at \$10.9 million.

In order to improve their ability to provide loans to small business in Poland, the Polish American Enterprise Fund board of directors created a wholly-owned subsidiary named the Enterprise Credit Corporation (ECC) which operates as an independent entity in separate offices in Warsaw. During 1993, the ECC disbursed \$21 million in 787 small loans averaging about \$27,000.

In recent years, the United States government in its foreign aid programs throughout the developing world has focused a sizable share of resources on encouraging women entrepreneurs. In 1993, the Polish American Enterprise Fund with a \$250,000 grant launched a program to make very small loans available to micro-businesses owned by women in rural areas. Working with the Foundation for the Development of Polish Agriculture, the PAEF has targeted rural areas in Poland with the highest rates of unemployment to provide loans in the range of \$500-\$7,000. Loans are only granted to women who have successfully completed a business training program. More than 400 women completed the course within the first year. As the PAEF itself reports, "In extending this financing, we hope we are beginning to encourage the latent entrepreneurship which exists in some of the most depressed areas of the country."

The Polish American Enterprise Fund has also applied its technical assistance monies in an original fashion. Of course a portion of the technical assistance funds has been used to provide expertise and training for the Polish companies receiving loans and capital investments from the PAEF. But in 1992, the PAEF provided a grant to the Foundation in Support of Local Democracy to establish a network of Polish-American Enterprise Clubs. By 1993, there were clubs operating in ten cities with more than five thousand members. These clubs help to promote confidence in economic reform as well as

informing the public about free market values, institutions, and practices.

The Hungarian American Enterprise Fund began operations in July, 1990 and describes its broad mandate from the U.S. Congress to be: "to consider proposals or to originate activities, which are directed toward: 1. Developing the business infrastructure of Hungary; 2. Expanding and developing Hungary's capital market; 3. Strengthening and diversifying Hungary's economy; and 4. Broadening the Hungarian public's understanding of private enterprise." Since its inception, the HAEF has disbursed a total of \$43.3 million for equity investments and loans to private business.

The HAEF also has a "Small Loan Program" which makes local currency loans from \$10,000 to \$100,000 to small entrepreneurs for terms of up to five years. In an effort to reach very small businesses, in mid-1993, the fund created a "Micro Loan Program" which targets borrowers in the range of \$1,000 to \$20,000. Through 1993, the Small Loan Program had disbursed a total of \$5 million to 109 small businesses, while the just-started Micro Loan Program had given out 18 loans. To cite the 1993 annual report, "While the Fund does not expect these small and micro loan programs to generate as much income as the Fund's larger equity program, the Board is especially pleased to make

this capital available to small entrepreneurs who have few alternative sources of capital, and limited access to loans exceeding one year's maturity." This is a situation all too familiar to students of

Lithuania's transition to a free market economy.

Although many of the Hungarian American Enterprise Fund's investments have been centered in and around the capital city, Budapest, the Fund has managed to invest equity or loan funds to private companies in all 19 counties of Hungary. In 1993, the Fund's investments included companies in the service sector, high-tech, manufacturing, agriculture and other sectors which are critical for Hungary's transition to a market economy.

The Czech and Slovak American Enterprise Fund (CSAEF) had to restructure itself slightly when the division of Czechoslovakia occurred on January 1, 1993. The CSAEF is now similar to a holding company with two operating Funds, one for each Republic: the Czech American Enterprise Fund and the Slovak American Enterprise Fund. The Enterprise Funds concentrate upon small and medium businesses and as of September 30, 1993 they had invested in 47 companies employing on average, 40 staff. Anticipated exports represent about 65% of total sales of these private companies.

The Board of Directors of the CSAEF writing in the 1993 annual report summarized its mission, "The U.S. Government created the CSAEF to help bring

pluralism—economic and political—to Czechoslovakia by fostering viable business enterprises which create jobs and exports while actively meeting the needs of a growing society for goods and services. By multiplying the growth of small and medium-sized businesses, economic decision making becomes decentralized through an active market-oriented process. Such development is fundamental to a broadly based and open democratic political system. It is a critical ingredient if such a system is to be sustained."

This precise and powerful analysis serves to highlight the tragedy of Lithuania's private sector today. Lacking a knowledgeable and articulate "defender of the faith" Lithuania's private entrepreneurs struggle along without affordable capital or effective technical assistance. The Baltic American Enterprise Fund could change this sorry state of affairs. Mr. President, where's the Baltic American Enterprise Fund you promised?

### **TROOP WITHDRAWAL UPDATE: "Get with the Program, Mr. Yeltsin"**

Despite the fact that on March 15, 1994, the Russian Federation initialed an agreement with the Republic of Latvia to withdraw its military personnel from Latvia's territory by August 31, 1994 (with exceptions for the

temporary use of the radar base at Skrunda), on April 5, 1994 Russian President Boris Yeltsin signed a Presidential Decree granting the Russian Defense Ministry, with approval of Russia's Foreign Ministry, the authority to create Russian Federation military bases on

the territory of the CIS and Latvia. The purpose? "To ensure the security of the Russian Federation and the above named nations, as well as to test new weapons and military technology."

Latvia's diplomatic corps swung into action mobilizing the support of Western and CIS governments to protest this decree. The American Latvian Association did yeoman duty recruiting the help of the U.S. Congress in this matter.

The result? Two days later President Yeltsin publicly declared that the decree did not apply to Latvia and that the Russian government was sticking to its agreement to remove troops by August 31, 1994 from Latvia. The LAC, Inc. Public Affairs Office has to admit that it relished every moment watching Russia's Foreign and Defense Ministry spokesmen scramble to explain their "technical mistake" in including Latvia in the original decree. But this merriment is always short-lived when we remember that Russia is still planning to expand its military presence throughout the region under the guise of the Commonwealth of Independent States. Let's not forget that Ukraine and other freedom-loving states need our support as well. The game's not over yet, folks.

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## ***Russian Federation...agreement ...to withdraw its military personnel from Latvia's territory by August 31, 1994***

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Albert Cizauskas

# Lithuanian Economy Deteriorates

The Lithuanian economy, which had shown signs of modest improvement, once again has shifted direction. The latest information on developments in 1993 are discouraging: industrial output was down, inflation had soared to new heights and real income continued its decline from already low levels.

The government of President Brazauskas, chief of the former Communist Party (now the Lithuanian Democratic Labor Party or LDDP) seemed unwilling or unable to formulate consistent programs to halt the economic erosion. The issuance last summer of the national currency, the litas, had brought about a brief period of stability but the tendency to cave in to demands by special interests and the conversion of the central bank to a virtual printing press of the new currency, reversed the beneficial if brief trend. On top of these uncertainties, the resurgence of xenophobic Russian nationalism sent shock waves throughout the country and weakened confidence in the faltering economy.

## Lithuania Quarrels with the IMF

The International Monetary Fund (IMF), the global arbiter of the economic health of countries seeking financial support, recently expressed concern with the sharp fall in the value of the litas. The local chief of the IMF mission in Vilnius disputed the Lithuanian government's claim that the nation's economy had stabilized, pointing out that the monthly inflation rate had risen from 0.9 percent in August to 6.2 percent in December. For the entire year, the rate of price inflation was almost 200 percent. (This may be compared with an increase in the US price index of around 3 percent for the comparable period.) The IMF representative issued a stern warning that the "Fund was deeply troubled by the unacceptable rate of inflation."

That the IMF aired its differences publicly with the Lithuanian government is unusual and underscores the gravity of the situation, Western aid is contingent upon a seal of approval by the IMF and unless the matter is satisfactorily resolved, it might very well entail serious consequences for the Brazauskas administration. An indication of Lithuania's dependence upon foreign aid comes from a World Bank study stating that \$115 million is believed to have been disbursed in 1993 from sources such as the World Bank to finance essential imports and development projects. This amount, however, is only one fourth of the estimated financial requirements from external sources.

Behind the rift with the IMF lies the Brazauskas administration's bias for printing money to solve problems rather than adopting corrective policies prescribed by the IMF. For example, monthly pay raises have been mandated for state employees, the retired, and students. While laudable, automatic raises simply add fuel to the fires of inflation, or, as some economists put it, "Too many dollars (in this case litas) chasing too few goods."

In November, 1993, sales of industrial products decreased by almost 10 percent compared with the previous month, the sharpest drop of the year. Although the final data are unavailable at this time, industrial output for the year is estimated to have fallen by 25 percent. When we place this figure beside those for the previous two years, we get an alarming picture of the plight of the Lithuanian economy. Industrial output in 1992 fell by more than 50 percent whereas in 1991 the decline was very modest, only two percent. A simple arithmetic calculation will show that, if present trends continued, industrial output will soon reach rock bottom, reducing Lithuania to the status of a poor third-world agricultural country.

Although agricultural output revived from the severe drought of the previous year, the sharp drop in the purchasing power of the litas led to a heavy decline in sales of meat and dairy products. There is even talk of a strike by collective farmers to compel the government to place a floor under prices for agricultural goods. This, however, would circumvent the market place and prevent it from performing its classic function: reducing prices when demand falls.

Although aware that collective farming has no future, the government has bowed to pressure from the collective farm lobby and has stalled agricultural reforms by establishing more stringent criteria for the return of land to its former owners and slowing the break-up of collective farm units.

While much of the economy in Lithuania remains troubled by the same difficulties noted for 1993 and enumerated above, some progress has been achieved thus far this year. Inflation has moderated (from 6 to 5 percent per month) and the standard of living has improved slightly. On April 20, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) approved a 36 million dollar loan and will probably release another 28 million dollars later this year if improvement continues. Apparently, the IMF's public rift with the Brazauskas administration has been

*Cont'd p11*

Antanas Dambriunas

# Business News

## LITAS pegged to the U.S. dollar (4:1)

After a long series of debates, The Lithuanian Parliament has passed a law establishing a National Currency Board and pegged Lithuania's national currency, the Litas, to the U.S. Dollar at a rate of one U.S.\$ = 4 Litai. This move follows similar monetary mechanisms introduced previously in Hong Kong, Argentina, and more recently, in Estonia. The introduction of the Currency Board effectively diminishes much of the control over monetary policy previously exercised by Lithuania's central bank - The Bank of Lithuania, and has thus been criticized by some economists and financial advisors.

## Lithuania's inflation and unemployment remain low

The Lithuanian Statistics Department has reported a 3.3% rate of inflation for the month of March, following 2.9% inflation in February. Inflation last March was 21.3%, while for calendar 1993 the overall inflation rate was 188.7%. In 1992 the rate of inflation was calculated to be 1,263%.

The Lithuanian Labor Exchange has reported that official unemployment in the country has remained constant at 3.2%. Unemployment ran at 2.4% in the cities, while it stood at 4.3% in the rural districts. It is widely believed that the real unemployment rate might be somewhat higher, due to the common practice by many semi-idle plants of sending workers on temporary unpaid or partly-paid leave and not reporting them as unemployed or underemployed.

## Lithuanian investment agency formed

Following a series of major disappointments in attracting foreign capital into Lithuania, the government has decided to form a state-run non-profit enterprise, the Lithuanian Investment Agency. The establishment of the agency is being administered by European Union's PHARE program via a two year technical support project. Appointed Phare program administrators will oversee recruitment of a General Director (currently underway) and a support staff of 20 professionals and trainees. Aside from the main task of helping to streamline regulatory procedures surrounding foreign investments in Lithuania, the agency will address the main problems surrounding valuation of state assets and state enterprises being offered for sale to foreign investors.

## Flour Daniel wins oil terminal design contract

The Lithuanian Government has awarded a contract to Irvine, California based company Flour Daniel to design the infrastructure and facilities of an offshore oil terminal to be constructed

in the Baltic Sea. It is expected that the total construction cost of the terminal and surrounding facilities will amount to approximately U.S.\$ 130 million, instead of the \$ 170-200 million previously estimated. Flour Daniel beat out an Italian firm "Snamprogetti" and an Argentinian firm "Techint", who were the other finalists. The terminal is expected to handle 12 million tons of oil per year. To keep costs at a minimum, the government plans to award different phases of construction to different companies rather than using one vendor for the entire construction project.

## Baltic-American Chamber of Commerce to be inaugurated

In cooperation between Lithuanian American Community's Economic Affairs Council and the Latvian Association of Greater Los Angeles, the Southwest Regional office of the Baltic-American Chamber of Commerce will be formed in Los Angeles on June 9, 1994 with the second Baltic Business Mixer. The event will once again be sponsored by Scandinavian Airlines. The Chamber will initially base its activities at the Los Angeles Latvian Center and will also become a member of the Council of European-American Chambers (CEAC). For invitations to the inaugural meeting please contact Annette Haraldsted at SAS (tel: 310-615-2750, fax: 310-322-7862).

## Four companies awarded licenses for DUTY-FREE shops

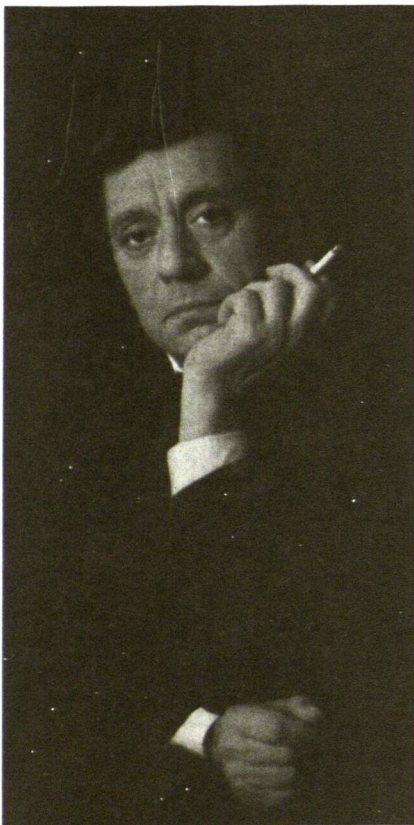
The Lithuanian government has recently awarded licenses to four companies to establish duty-free shops within Lithuania. The four firms are Germany's "Marine Air Supply Tumas GmbH", Lithuanian-German joint venture "Litbela", Lithuanian-Danish joint venture "Aero-Chef-LAL", and U.S. firm "Fragrances International, Inc." The U.S. firm is thought to have the most lucrative license, in that it covers the newly constructed international airport duty-free zone rights. Other duty-free areas are expected to be formed at the Kaunas and Palanga airports, Klaipėdas's harbor, as well as the border crossings at Lazdijai and Kalvarija.

# Bits and Pieces...

## Lithuanian pop vocalist visits US cities

In an interview in Philadelphia, Stasys Povilaitis relayed, that even as a young boy, he was captivated by the big band sound and always wanted to be part of that music. In 1970 he joined an ensemble called "Nemuno Žiburiai" and between 1970-1973 he toured much of the former Soviet Union and Eastern Europe on concert. In 1973, the ensemble "Nerija" was formed where Stasys Povilaitis became its lead singer. "Nerija" was an exceptional ensemble both musically and politically. Unlike

most ensembles of that day, "Nerija" was created for a "Lithuanian only" audience. Today's leaders of Lithuania grew up dancing and listening to the music of Stasys Povilaitis and "Nerija". It toured cities and villages throughout Lithuania. The "Nerija" ensemble with Stasys Povilaitis reflected the influences of Tom Jones, Blood, Sweat & Tears, and Engelbert Humperdinck in a Lithuanian setting. In the brave new world of free enterprise in



Lithuania, Stasys still makes his livelihood as a professional musician which is a testament to his popularity in Lithuania many years after his style of music became popular there with the diaspora community here in the US who could obtain his records. Last year he had nearly 200 performance appearances and received Lithuania's annual top pop music performers' award. The award was established after the independence declaration of March, 1990. During the last few months, he has visited and sang at Lithuanian community centers in St. Petersburg, Miami, Baltimore, Philadelphia and Chicago. He plans to

return to Lithuania in early June.

## Baltic Librarians

A group of six Baltic librarians toured the United States in March as part of the "Library Science in the United States" group. The tour, sponsored by the United States Information Agency (USIA), featured trips to Washington, D.C.; Raleigh, N.C.; Chicago and Urbana, IL; Seattle, WA; New York, N.Y. USIA provided the librarians with stipends which they used for travel expenses. Local libraries, International Visitors Centers and local librarians (Baltic and non-Baltic alike) made the guests feel at home by providing local tours, visits, and sightseeing opportunities.

The USIA International Visitors Project for the Baltic States provided the group with a guide/escort, Californian librarian and antiquarian bookseller Dr. Richard Press, who helped with logistics and helped explain American customs to the visitors. The librarians tried to focus in on their specific areas of interest as they visited the Library of Congress, the Folger Library, University of Illinois-Urbana, Chicago Public Library and many other sites. The visitors had travelled extensively in recent years throughout Europe, but this was their first visit to America. If there were any regrets expressed by the professional group, it was the fact that there weren't enough hours in the day to complete the tours on the agenda, "play tourist", visit with local members of their ethnic communities, souvenir shop for their families... (It can be noted that all six are great walkers and probably traipsed many streets in each city they visited!) Dr. Kaliju Tammaru is Director of Library Services for the National Library of Estonia in Tallinn. He is responsible for day-to-day administration of his library, but also is instrumental in organizing the annual conference of the Baltic national libraries.

Asko Tamme is a librarian in the Department of Baltica and Rare Books at the Library of the Estonian Academy of Sciences. His interest is in creating a database on the library's collection of rare prints. Ilze Bunke is the Director of the Ventspils Central Research Library, one of the few libraries outside Riga which is being automated. She was a fellow in 1990 at the National Library of Latvia.

Daina Puntuka is Director of the Information Center at the Institute for Educational Advancement in Riga, presently being re-organized to be a major resource center for professors and teachers in Latvia. Dr. Regina Varniene is the Director of the Center of Bibliography and Book Science at the Lithuanian National Library, an



institution which is at the forefront of modernizing library systems in Lithuania. Dr. Renaldas Gudauskas is Dean of the Department of Library Science at the University of Vilnius. Formerly a faculty member in history as well, Dr. Gudauskas is a member of the board of the Lithuanian Librarians Association.

(Information provided by the librarians themselves and from the International Visitors Center of Chicago.)

Ramune Kubilius

### Publications worth noting

*The Baltic Path to Independence*, sponsored by the World Federation of Free Latvians (WFLA), marks the 75th anniversary of the independence declaration of Latvia on November 18, 1918. Initiated by Gunars Meierovics (son of the first Latvian Foreign Minister Zigfrids A. Meierovics), as President of WFLA at the time (now a member of the new 1993 Council of Ministers of Latvia), this volume consists of recent (republished) scholarly writings in English, French, and German by experts who have studied the Baltic area and its problems for many years. Dealing with the political, legal, and social aspects of the Baltic questions, specialists of different nationalities address the serious reader in the academic, diplomatic, and political worlds. *The Baltic Path to Independence* presents objective, well-researched, and richly documented views and descriptions on the difficult struggle by Latvia and her neighbors to re-emerge from foreign occupation and obscurity and to rejoin the family of free nations again. Authors represented include the pre-eminent expert in Baltic affairs Boris Meissner, historians and political scientists Juris Dreifelds, Stanley Vardys, and Rein Taagepera, as well as international law and relations expert Dietrich Loeber, Romain Yakemtchouk and others. Each contribution is followed by extensive footnotes and the reader can consult a twelve page chronology of Baltic events of 1987-1992, compiled by the editor, who also wrote a brief, documented introduction to the Baltic story.

*The Baltic Path to Independence* is available, hardbound for \$52 or paperbound for \$37.50 (USD) from the publisher: William S. Hein & Co., 1285 Main Street, Buffalo, NY 14209. Phone-1-800-828-7571.

Information from Internet

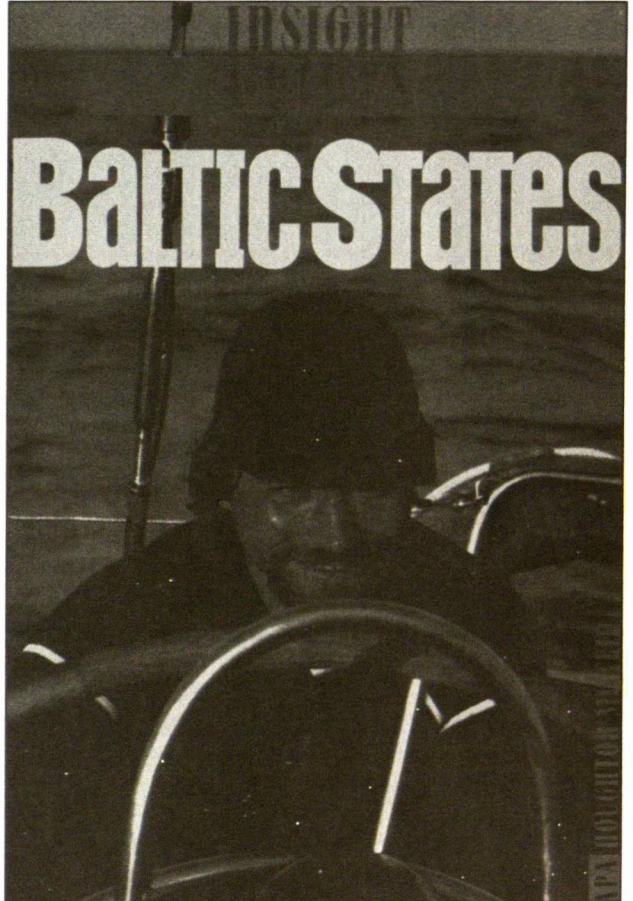
### Travel Guides

As many of our readers prepare for trips to the Baltics this summer, we thought the following travel guides may be helpful:

*Insight Guides - Baltic States*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Co. 1993. Williams, Roger . This travel book is extremely useful. It includes many, beautiful color photographs, accurate maps, practical information as well as a history and description of the people and personalities of the Baltic countries. The book is divided into four main sections: a description of the people and history of all three Baltic countries; features of all three including

food, folklore, and religion; descriptions and information about places to visit; and practical travel tips such as travel essentials (visas), getting around, currency, etc. This is a well organized and current travel guide.

*Baltic States & Kaliningrad - a travel survival kit*, John Noble author, published by Lonely Planet Publications, Hawthorn, Australia, 1994. This guide is organized in much the same fashion as the Insight Guide, with general facts and information about the Baltics appearing in the first section and country specific information in



subsequent sections. This guide has the most comprehensive coverage of the area including many of the smaller towns and many good maps.

The second edition of *The Baltics & Russia Thru The Back Door*, Edis Bevan, 1994 is now available. Its based on up-to-date spring 1994 research, and combines practical information, like train schedules and visa details, with sightseeing info and maps for Tallinn, Riga, Vilnius, Kaunas, St. Petersburg, Moscow. With 128 pages there's a lot it can't cover, but it's a good value for only \$6.00. Order in the USA and Canada by sending a check for US\$6.00 to Europe Thru The Back Door, Box 2009, Edmonds, Wash. 98020 Tel 206-771-8303

Information from Internet

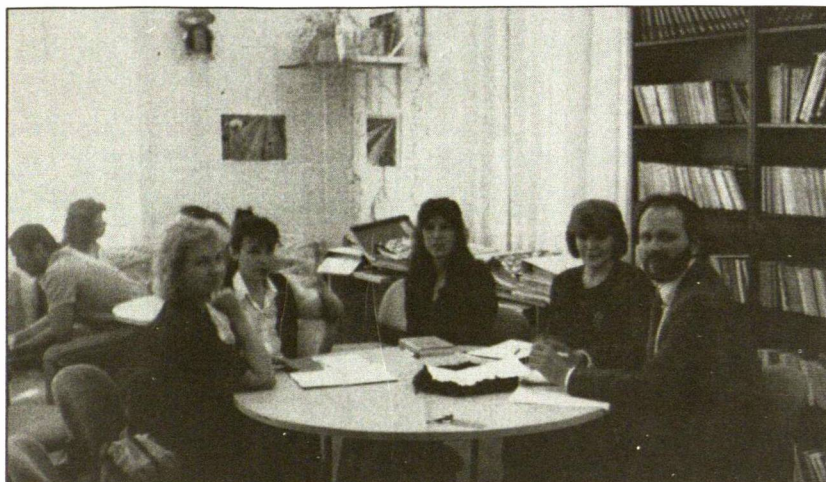
Aukse Trojanas

# The New York Scene

Arunas Ciuberkis, as executive producer, has developed a major project in Belarus with the New York choreographer, Tamar Rogoff. *The Ivy Project* evolved

the woods and fields of Ivye. Young lovers stroll, children play, teenagers smoke and a woman hangs up her laundry. Surreal events occur: the burial of two candlesticks side by side and a gardening ritual in which knives and forks are planted. Small groups of the audience join in the choreographed movement of the performance. At the end of their journey the audience, the young girl, and the angel return to a memorial wall beyond which all the characters of the past have disappeared. They are left with two large burial mounds and the rest of their lives.

An extraordinary creative effort has gone into this production by many individuals including theatre designers, dancers and actors. The angel will be performed by Kostas Smoriginas, the distinguished Lithuanian actor. Prima ballerina Ausra Gineityte will dance in the production. Original music was composed by Frank London of New York. Lithuanian television will telecast the performance. Arthur Allan Seidelman will film the production for American

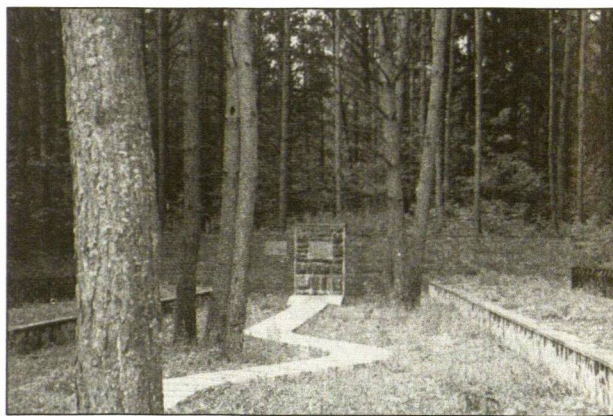


Left to right: Tamar Rogoff, Daiva Dapsiene-Director of the Theatre Department of the Ministry of Culture and Education of Lithuania, and Arunas Ciuberkis

as a lamentation and memorial for a large population of Jews who were murdered by the Germans during World War II in the town of Ivye. A "site-specific" theatre piece is being prepared for August 1994 to commune with the spirit of vanished peoples, both Jews and Gentiles, who were destroyed by various oppressors, losing their lives and the opportunity to engage in the pageant of life with us, their survivors.

In her dance creations Tamar Rogoff seeks to physicalize emotional expression. Her works are startling and innovative. She was particularly drawn to create a work in Ivye since her father had visited relatives in the town in 1935, seven years before they were shot and buried in a mass grave. Visiting the town in 1989 she realized how much she regretted the irretrievable loss of her share of her father's heritage.

Tamar conceived of a way to reconnect with the dead of Ivye by creating tableaux of moments in daily shtetl life which could be visited and observed: a boy studying among books on his bed, a family at a seder, the marriage of a young couple and a mother cradling her newborn child. A girl joins in the events being portrayed, but is not seen. She represents the modern day seeker who can briefly enter the world of the past but cannot stay there. The common and uncommon are juxtaposed as an angel escorts the audience and narrates events re-enacted in



Burial site and memorial wall, Ivye

television. Local students are drawing portraits of the children who died in Ivye. These works will be attached to trees as part of the landscape of the past.

*The Ivy Project* will be performed in early August. Buses will transport audiences to Ivye from Vilnius, Kaunas and Minsk. If interested, please contact Arunas Ciuberkis at (718) 935-0053 or in Lithuania, Juozas Sirvinskas, Director of the Lithuanian Opera and Ballet

Theatre, at 620093.

Kestutis Nakas is coming back to New York for the world premier of his new play *JACK RUBY SLIPPERS* at the Ohio Theater, 66 Wooster St. NYC, May 13 through May 21 at 8PM. Tickets are \$12. For reservations, please call (212) 924-0077.

According to a press release, "*JACK RUBY SLIPPERS* is a mutant hybrid of Hollywood backstage sagas, archetypal American pop and political imagery, and an old fashioned drama. The story traces the improbable rise of Gary Knox [played by Nakas] to the heights of show biz stardom...

Kestutis Nakas is a playwright, director, actor, performance artist and professor. His original works include: *When Lithuania Ruled the World: Parts 1, 2 and 3*; *The Amazing Spear of Destiny*, *Rasputin*, *The Andrew Carnegie Story*, *Lost Child*, *Crime of Ages*, and *Downward Facing Dog*. Plays he has written, directed and/or acted in have appeared at the Public Theatre, La MaMa, The Kitchen, PS 122, 8BC, The Pyramid and others. More recently, he directed Everett Quinton and members of the Ridiculous Theatre in *Salome* at the Charles Ludlam Theatre and in 1983, he directed a serialized version of Shakespeare's gory *Titus and Andronicus* in NYC. He has been critically acclaimed in the *New York Times*, *Village Voice*, and *The Drama Review* and his "Gates of Dawn" venue in NYC was a popular underground success

for two years. Kestutis Nakas, a Lithuanian-American, grew up in Detroit, Chicago and Phoenix, then came to New York to attend NYU Graduate school and pursue a professional theatre career. He has taught at NYU



Kestutis Nakas as a medieval ruler in *When Lithuania Ruled the World*.

Experimental Theatre Wing, City College, Circle in the Square Theatre, Penn State and the University of New Mexico."

Bonnie Sue Stein

PHOTO: Paula Court

### OPINION continued from p 6

resolved for the time being. The IMF estimates that GDP (the value of all goods and services) will grow by a healthy 4 to 5 percent. The government has continued to strengthen its economic ties with the European Union, Latvia, Estonia, and Poland.

Other observers of the Lithuanian economy are less sanguine than the IMF. They tend to believe that a GDP growth of 4 to 5 percent per annum will increase inflationary pressures. They point out that economic relations with Russia, Lithuania's most important outlet for its industrial exports, has deteriorated. Moscow did not include Lithuania among the nations to which it granted most favored nation status and has doubled customs duties on Lithuanian exports. As a result, the outlook for Lithuanian industry is considered "grim".

The Privatization program hasn't gotten off the ground thus far and most of the country's economy remains in the hands of the former communist administration of Brazauskas. Badly needed foreign investment is lagging in part because the government has reneged on agreements with major US and French firms. Foreign investment is not likely to increase in the near future because of the perception in Western media and business that Lithuania lags behind Latvia and Estonia in market reforms.

Despite these negative factors, the litas has been able

to maintain its pegged exchange rate of four to one dollar, partly because of the influx of foreign exchange from the thousands who flocked to Lithuania during the Pope's visit, and in part due to loans from the IMF, the World Bank, and countries such as the US. Basically, however, a currency's strength on foreign exchange markets is tied to the country's economic health, and especially its hard currency export earnings and here the outlook is not satisfactory.

The overall picture that emerges in the current year continues to be worrisome. The Brazauskas government thus far has not demonstrated it possesses a coherent concept of Western economic growth.

One interesting and encouraging development is the unusual step the government has taken of advertising in the London Economist, perhaps the most prestigious economic/political journal in the West, for an outside expert to run a new Agency to promote foreign investment. *BRIDGES* readers may be interested as the post seems to be limited to "suitably qualified Lithuanians".

Much remains to be done for Lithuania to embark on a path of sustained, non-inflationary growth as its neighbors, Latvia and Estonia, are doing. It will need all the help it can get, and the cooperation of all political parties, including that of the parliamentary opposition of Professor Landsbergis.

Arunas Brazauskas

# Money: From Furskins to Banknotes

## A history of Lithuanian currency

Reprinted from *Lithuania in the World*, Vol. 2, No. 1 - January/February 1994 with permission.

On June 25, 1993, Lithuanian residents were finally able to enjoy the soft rustling sound of the national currency's new bank notes. Elderly people recalled that the litas - Lithuania's pre-war legal tender introduced in 1922 and repealed by the Soviet occupation authorities in 1940 - had been a stable and reliable currency. The mere word "litas" brought back memories of social and economic welfare.

Lively discussions about the establishment of an autonomous currency started immediately after the emergence of the national revival movement in 1988, at a time when political independence still seemed nothing more than a dream-like vision.

In 1991, the government of Lithuania signed a contract to print its banknotes with the American Banknote Corporation. However, for various reasons, the execution of the contract was delayed. While the public became impatient, the economists tried to deal with the challenges of finding backing for the currency and the problems of the exchange rate of the Soviet rubles into the litas, and establishing the value of the litas against foreign currencies.

At that time, the Moscow-issued ruble was still in use in Lithuania and the amount of money in circulation was estimated at a high 43% of the gross national product. It was decided that with the introduction of the litas, a large part of the old currency would have to be taken out of circulation. To resolve the problem of interstate payments with Russia, the Lithuanian government established a transitional money - the *talonas* - on August 1, 1991, to be replaced by the litas twenty months later. But the people did not trust the talonas because of its temporary nature. Therefore, when the new national currency was finally introduced, everybody seemed to immediately forget about the talonas and the beautiful animal designs on its back. Few remembered the picture of a marten, printed on one of the talonas denominations. But still fewer knew that the expensive fur of this wild animal had been used as a medium of exchange in ancient Lithuania.

The first money used by the Baltic tribes residing in the territory of Lithuania was amber, a golden fossilized resin washed ashore by the waves of the Baltic Sea. The Phoenicians exchanged bronze articles for amber. Lithuania had no metal-ore mines and the forest, with its

abundance of fur-bearing animals, was the country's only natural source of material wealth. Scholars say the "furskin money" emerged as a means of paying contributions to ancient rulers. Marten furs were light and shiny; they were well suited for long transportation in large quantities. Moreover, they were in great demand in the West and Southeast; hence, marten furskins became the second major export commodity used in Lithuania.

In the 10th century, silver sticks, or ingolts, became a Lithuanian currency of full value. They were cast from almost pure silver and usually weighed 105 grams each. The quality of castings was tried by cutting into them. For lesser values, the sticks were cut into smaller pieces. This silver-stick currency was called "kapos", from the Lithuanian word "kapoti" (to cut). Some silver sticks had no cuttings; others were marked by various signs: IX, XII, I/I, and others. Ingolts of various forms and weight circulated until the 15th century.

The deepest invasion into the Lithuanian economy was made by the Bohemian "Grossi Pragensis" which flooded the land from the beginning of the 14th century. The new silver coins, called "grašis", were 0.938 in proof and weighed 3.66 grams each. Later, the first Lithuanian coins were issued according to Bohemian minting standards. However, with the beginning of the Hussite Wars in 1415, the Prague-made "grašis" was seriously undermined on the Lithuanian market, when its production came to a halt in Bohemia.

Beside the Prague-made "grašis", other western media of exchange were used in small amounts in the Grand Duchy of Lithuania, which at that time included many eastern Slavic lands and covered 700,000 square kilometers. The lack of small-denomination money and the need to represent the state by legal tender led to the introduction of Lithuanian coins. The first Lithuanian silver coins appeared in the second half of the 14th century, when a diarchy was established and two brothers - the dukes Algirdas and Kęstutis - ruled the Grand Duchy of Lithuania. Scholars assert that one of the oldest coins had the sign of a spearhead and the cross on one of its sides; the inscription of the Slavic word "pechat", which meant "Seal of the Ruler" was inscribed on the other side.

The oldest Lithuanian coins also features several other heraldic symbols. One of the symbols representing the ruling dynasties of the Grand Lithuanian Duchy was the Column Gate, introduced in the 14th century, presumably by Grand Duke Gediminas as his coat of arms.

Another, still more important, was the Vytis (a mounted horseman) - the sign of the state. Both these symbols became, in the course of time, Lithuanian national emblems.

The Column Gate with the initial "K" was depicted on the obverse of yet another Lithuanian coin. On the reverse it had a mounted horseman, a prototype of the Vytis. Later coins varied, but included the same state and heraldic symbols inscribed on them. In Lithuania, these coins were called "pinigėliai".

The Vilnius Mint started to operate in full capacity in the 16th century. Sigismund August, Grand Duke of Lithuania and King of Poland, issued both gold and silver coins. But because of continuous wars and political unrest in the mid-17th century, the quality of the silver coins steadily decreased. Jan Casimir (1648-68) minted the first copper shillings (šilingas), but these coins were of very little value.

The last coins attributed to the Grand Duchy of Lithuania were the "three-grosh" and the "six-grosh", minted in 1706 in Gardinas, a small town currently on the territory of Belarus, with the inscription "Moneta NOVA M.D.L." encircling the Vytis. Later, the Lithuanian people used the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth currency and, after being annexed to Russia in the 19th century, rubles and kopecks.

In the course of World War I, German military forces occupied large western areas of czarist Russia. The year 1915 saw Lithuania under complete German control. Immediately after the occupation, the German military administration began to collect the circulating czarist rubles and replace them with their own Reichsmarks. The exchange rate was not confiscatory, since the German troops were dependent on local supplies and the occupation authorities did not want the Lithuanian economy to collapse.

Until World War I, the czarist ruble was a very stable currency: it was based on and exchanged to gold without

any restrictions. The Germans did not ban the ruble; thus two currencies circulated in Lithuania. The people, however, were unwilling to part with the ruble and did not spend the Russian-issued gold coins. At the end of 1917, the Russian money was prohibited by law.

With Germany's defeat, new states started to crop up in Eastern Europe - a process which resulted in many local armed conflicts. The opposing sides issued their own "currencies". In Lithuania, for example, people used the German-printed Ostmarks and Ostrubles, as well as Avalov-Bermondts marks, Latvian rubles, Kerenski-notes, and even Bolshevik "revolutionary money" in everyday business transactions.

In 1922, the government of Lithuania, which had been declared an independent state on February 16, 1918 began extensive preparations for the introduction of a national currency. Two trends - the so-called patriotic and the realistic - prevailed in establishing the parity of exchange for the litas. The "patriots" wanted to fix the value of the litas at 1/5 of the US dollar. Meanwhile, the "realists" argued that this exchange rate was too high for a war-devastated country. Eventually, the litas was set at 1/10 of the US dollar.

On October 1, 1922, a national currency was officially established in Lithuania. The monetary unit was the litas, consisting of 100 centas and containing 0.150462 grams of pure gold.

The first litas notes were printed in Berlin. Later, the litas was issued in Czechoslovakia and the United Kingdom. It might be of interest to note

that the American Banknote Corporation, the issuer of the current litas banknotes, took part in the bill printing tender held by the Lithuanian government in 1924.

Anti-counterfeit threads are imprinted on the new litas bills. Some people joke that these threads stick out and make the litas resemble a marten furskin used by ancient Lithuanians as their first money.



Jeanne Dorr

# Lithuanian Orphan Care

Jeanne Dorr, BRIDGES Humanitarian Aid Editor, is a third generation Lithuanian-American born in Scranton, PA to George and Jean Miliuskas Shalna (Salna). Jeanne graduated from Marywood College and pursued graduate studies at the University of Scranton. Jeanne is an elementary Social Studies teacher in Willingboro, NJ.

From the time she was a little girl, Jeanne's grandmother instilled a love of Lithuania into her heart. Along with her family, Jeanne has traveled to Lithuania nine times; eight of those trips were made during the dark years of occupation.

Jeanne only became an active member in the Lithuanian-American community in 1990, when the cry for help came from Lithuania. She spent countless hours working at the Lithuanian Communications Center in Philadelphia. After recognition of Lithuania's independence, Jeanne became a



Jeanne Dorr

member of the Executive Committee of the Philadelphia chapter of the LAC.

Jeanne's husband, Tim (who happens to be non-Lithuanian), is not only supportive of Lithuania and the many Lithuanian causes Jeanne has embraced, but is himself an active participant. Jeanne and Tim are the parents of two adult sons.

In her own modest summary, Jeanne states "The work I have done for Lithuania has never been an imposition or a burden. It has been a privilege from which I have received far more joy and satisfaction than I have ever given."

Lithuania is a beautiful country with many good people, but it is experiencing hardships and poverty. The occupational forces inflicted harm and suffering. Those who can least help themselves or change their circumstances are the children - especially the orphans and abandoned children.

There are approximately 10,000 orphans or children who have been abandoned in Lithuania. These children are living in orphanages, infant care centers and other state supported institutions. Many of them will grow up without knowing the love of a family or how to become members of a family when they reach adulthood. It is more difficult to be a loving and caring spouse or parent if you have never experienced family life. Some will have difficulty becoming responsible and good citizens. The

Lithuanian Orphan Care Committee is attempting to remove as many children from institutions as possible and place them in good foster homes. It is also trying to prevent the children from entering the institutions in the first place.

The Orphan Care Committee was organized at the request of Mrs. Grazina Landsbergis. One of her greatest concerns was for the welfare of Lithuania's children. The program is modeled after the foster-a-child American programs. However, almost all of the Orphan Care Committee people are volunteers. There are no expensive offices, high salaries, or costly advertising programs, and administrative expenses are kept to a minimum. As a result, most of the money is given to the foster family for the care of the child. The family receives its money each month. Both family and child are interviewed before they are accepted into the program.

The cost to support a child for one year is \$150. Your \$12 a month or .42 a day could be the difference that will change someone's life. If you are unable to support a child for the entire year, any donation will be appreciated. If you would like to support a child from a particular area of Lithuania please let us know. We will do everything possible to accommodate your request. This is an investment not only in the life of a child, but also in the future of Lithuania.

The Lithuanian Orphan Care Committee tries to hear the voices of those not heard by others- the youngest, the smallest and the weakest- those who cannot help themselves.

This program has been very successful in the Philadelphia area as well as other cities. Families and friends have put their money together to sponsor a child, groups with similar interests, such as the Philadelphia Lithuanian Pharmacists and a group of theatrical performers are also supporting a child for a year. Some families who have lost loved ones have requested that donations be sent to Orphan Care. Is there a more beautiful or more meaningful way to keep the memory of a dear one alive than to give the promise of a better life to a child?

Tax deductible checks should be made payable to: Lithuanian Council of Human Services - Orphan Care For more information please contact:

Lithuanian Orphan Care  
2711 West 71st Str  
Chicago, IL 60629

More information about this program will follow in later issues.

## Items needed by disabled children in Lithuania

The following list was compiled in response to requests made by people and organizations working with disabled children in Lithuania. Because BRIDGES readers are involved in many professions, including those in the medical fields, as indicated by responses to our professional survey, we are publishing this list in hopes that you will respond. Many of these items are inexpensive and can easily be purchased. When we are presented with these long lists individually, the task becomes overwhelming, yet *together we can make a difference!*

Please take a few minutes and look through the list. Go through your children's and grandchildren's toy boxes. Phone, or better yet, pay a visit to your local children's hospital, schools (especially those with special education classes), and those bargain stores. Primary and special education teachers, let's get those school closets and shelves cleaned out. If you didn't use it this year, you won't use it next year either. I know from experience! Why not consider acquiring some of these items as a club or group activity?

Don't worry about shipping to Lithuania, that will be handled. I'm one of those optimists who still believes in miracles. Somehow, some way, we'll get it to Lithuania.

If you have any of the listed items, please contact me through the BRIDGES office at the address listed in the inside cover. Please include your name, address, and evening phone number. I'll be waiting to hear from you!

### Infants' Home:

- Chairs and wheelchairs
- Sensory-motor development toys/games
- Books or pictures for 2-3 year olds

Speech Pathologist working with children with neurological handicaps requests teaching materials to develop:

- fine motor skills
- spatial orientation skills
- thinking-reasoning skills
- a current catalogue of equipment
- speech and language equipment to use with a child with cerebral palsy

### Visually Impaired Children

- teaching materials for partially blind and blind from birth children
- large print typewriter for visually impaired children
- literature with concrete examples
- toys that rattle and make noise, blocks
- magnifying glasses
- white canes and tinted glasses
- compasses for the blind
- white walking frames
- balls with bells inside
- optic magnifying glass (for 1/2 page) enlarging 3 X 5

### Cerebral Palsy

- a current catalogue for materials and equipment for individuals with cerebral palsy
  - speech and language assessment kits
- Special Education Pre-School
- memory games
  - color, size, shape recognition games
  - math games
  - visual motor games
  - puzzles
  - plastic fruits and vegetables

Good Luck!

ADVERTISEMENT

## Lithuanian Fonts

for Windows 3.1 and  
Mac Sys 6 or 7



Available now in  
TrueType or



PostScript Type 1 formats

Palanga a e u i š č ž è ū  
A E U I Š Ž Č Ū Ė

Udraliai a e u i š č ž è ū  
A E U I Š Ž Č Ū Ė

Skuodas a e u i š č ž è ū  
A E U I Š Ž Č Ū Ė

Telsiai a e u i š č ž è ū  
A E U I Š Ž Č Ū Ė

My system is a:

- Mac  PC - 3.5" disk  PC - 5.25" disk

Desired format:

- PostScript  
 TrueType

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Yes I want to order:

- Palanga \$40  
 Udraliai \$40  
 Skuodas \$30  
 Telsiai \$30  
 All 4 fonts \$125

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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State \_\_\_\_\_

Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

add \$5 shipping and handling for total order



Make check payable to  
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Rosemont, PA 19010

Vytautas Grybauskas

# Sports News

## Arturas Karnisovas graduates from college and finishes the basketball season

Three years ago, 18 year old Arturas Karnisovas, a member of the Vilnius Statyba basketball team came to the US in hopes of freedom and success in basketball. His arrival in the US was accomplished with the help of Sarunas Marciulionis. During his first year here, Vida Lanys-Anton was his "guardian" while Arturas studied for his exams and learned to speak English.

After successfully completing his entrance requirements and having been accepted to Seton Hall University, Arturas was granted a basketball scholarship and began a new part of his life.

Having chosen Economics as his major, Arturas did well in his studies as well as on the court. During his last season, Arturas was Seton Hall's star player; he was their best point thrower, averaging 18 points per game, was a tremendous rebounder and defensive player as well. Unfortunately, the rest of Seton Hall's team was not as effective and the team lost the first round to Michigan State University.

Since Arturas was an excellent student in addition to being a great athlete, the Eastern Conference selected Arturas as the Scholar-Athlete of the Year. Family friends organized to surprise Arturas, by inviting his parents, Irena and Mykolas Karnisovas, to the recognition ceremony.

In addition to the honor bestowed upon Arturas by the NCAA, Arturas takes pride in his accomplishment as part of the Bronze Olympic medal-winning Lithuanian basketball team in Barcelona, where he was one of the starting players.

Having successfully completed his college education, Arturas now dreams of becoming a member of the NBA. He anxiously awaits the NBA draft announcements in June.

Arturas is 6'9", with a successful track record for his college playing. We wish him the best of luck.

## Golden State Warrior Marciulionis progresses through recovery

Sarunas Marciulionis, Golden State Warrior guard, is back on the court. Sarunas suffered a torn anterior

cruciate ligament during a workout last September. He underwent reconstructive surgery in October.

The road to recovery has been long and tedious for impatient Sarunas, who at first was not willing to accept the seriousness of his injury. Having finally accepted the fact that he would be unable to complete the 1994 NBA season, Sarunas concentrated his energy on his rehabilitation and some major undertakings in Lithuania. Sarunas owns a hotel and sports bar in Vilnius. He has established a foundation that funds a basketball school and publication, also in Vilnius. In addition, Sarunas oversees the Lithuanian Children's Fund, which helps bring youngsters to the US for life-saving operations.

After months of therapy, Sarunas is finally working out on the court. He feels that even though he'll turn 30 in June, he'll return "smarter and stronger" next season, as he anxiously awaits training camp.

## First Professional Tennis Tournament scheduled for Vilnius

The first professional tennis tournament in Lithuania took place in Vilnius in March, 1994. Algirdas Brazauskas, President of Lithuania opened the tournament. This re-established the President's Cup Tournament, which had been initially started by President Antanas Smetona in 1931.

The men's class had 16 players, 10 of which were foreigners. The winner was Raymundas Murask, of Klaipeda having defeated finalist R. Filipov of Moscow; 4:6, 7:5 and 7:5. The victor, Raymundas Muraska was awarded the President's Cup and \$3,000.

16 women competed in the tournament, as well. First and second place was shared by two Byelorussians, third place went to a Latvian, while Lechaviciute of Kaunas finished in fourth. The winner was awarded a trophy by Vilnius mayor, Vytautas Janiulaitis and a \$2,000 cash prize.

In the senior division, Mindaugas Dagys took first, having defeated R. Liubartas.

The tournament took place at Vilnius' Karolinos Turas, a newly completed Tennis Complex which contains 4 indoor courts, 8 outdoor courts, a swimming pool, sauna, whirlpool, exercise equipment, as well as a 104-room hotel and two restaurants. The director of the club is Petras Vozbutas, himself proficient in the sport. Karolinos Turas houses a tennis school for children (currently 150 students enrolled) and is an official sponsor of the Lithuanian National Olympic Committee.

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*Vytautas Grybauskas, active member of SALFAS and winner of many tennis tournaments is an active Lithuanian sports figure and writer. His reports frequently appear in Lithuanian-American publications.*



Ramune Kubilius

# From the Lithuanian Press...

Selected excerpt from the Lithuanian Press in America.

## Lithuanian town cares for orphans

Rev. V. Aukstakalnis, the pastor of the Vidukle parish in Lithuania, spoke March 9th to the senior citizens of Chicago at the "Seklycia" Restaurant (as part of the weekly lecture/entertainment series sponsored by the LAC Human Services Council-rk). The town, twenty years older than Vilnius, watches over 30 orphans. It is Rev. Aukstakalnis' belief that fifty years of Soviet oppression ruined people's souls, ruined the power of their consciences, and that alcoholic parents all too easily rescind parental responsibility for their children. In that way, these poor children become homeless. Rev. Aukstakalnis, together with kindhearted people in his town, take care of the orphans (našlaičiai in Lithuanian is "orphan" although most of these children probably have parents who are alive-rk). The children live in three homesteads, consisting of dilapidated buildings and surrounding land, which donations from America helped buy. One group home with ten children is watched over by Sister Aldona, another by a newlywed childless couple, and the third by a couple who have three small children of their own. All eat together, the older children attend school, but the small ones require much attention. Rev. Aukstakalnis has formed a small church choir consisting of the children who sing at Holy Mass. They are being raised in a Christian atmosphere, learning to help one another, to take care of their surroundings- they garden and milk their cow. A local bakery donates loaves of bread daily, generous local townspeople donate some meat products - there are enough potatoes, carrots, and cabbage for all. When the Chicago audience asked what is needed most for these children, Rev. Aukstakalnis replied that it was shoes and vitamins. The Lithuanian government pays 46-60 litai per child each month. Clothing is obtained for the children from international relief agencies (such as Malta in Germany). Canadian Lithuanians were most generous last year when they visited. Money is still needed for reconstruction of buildings, electricity, and heat. In talking about the children, Rev. Aukstakalnis said that each child's story is painful. One young boy who lives with him in the rectory, now 14 years of age, was chased away by his mother, and lived winter and summer for two years in the streets of Vilnius (he walked there 70 km from Ukmerge). An acquaintance told the priest about the boy, and the priest traveled to Vilnius to get him. The boy now has his own room, but requests that it not

be heated, since that is what he is used to. Rev. Aukstakalnis also informed the audience about orphans being cared for by priests in Krakiai and Kaltinenai. His wish is that more priests and sisters in Lithuania take on the care of abandoned children, raising them in the spirit of love - that of God and a family. That day, the Chicago Lithuanian audience donated \$400 to the priest who spoke with such heartfelt words. Mrs. Perigis turned over a check from her relative, retiree Aleksandra Gylys of Olympia, WA for \$1000.

(DRAUGAS, 3/18/94, from an article by Aldona Smulkstys)

## Update:

A family from California has donated \$11,000 to support the efforts of pastor Viktoras Aukstakalnis in providing housing and family life for 30 orphans in Vidukle, Lithuania.

(The Committee can be reached in care of the Lithuanian-American Community, Inc. Human Services Council, 2711 West 71st Street, Chicago, IL 60629-rk.)

(DRAUGAS, from an article by Birute Jasaitis, 4/8/94)

## Lithuanian Opera presentation in Chicago

Tenor Virgilijus Noreika, formerly of Lithuania, now teaches at the conservatory in Venezuela and sings in South American concerts. He will sing and act the part of Rutenis in the upcoming Lithuanian Opera Company's (of Chicago, IL) presentation of the opera "Pilenai". Lithuanian soprano Irena Milkevičiute will also sing. Aldona Stempuzis (who has performed with the Lithuanian Opera Company in other operas-rk), director of the "Tevynes garsai" radio program in Cleveland, played excerpts from and provided background information on the Vytautas Klova opera "Pilenai". The opera will be performed one time, April 17, 1994 at Morton East High School in Cicero, IL. (In times past, Lithuanian Opera Company offered three performances of their annual opera presentations; now, soloists and some chorus members are invited from Lithuania. The operas, always with Lithuanian libretto, though not always Lithuanian in nature, are presented one time. Sometimes a different concert program is presented a week later. Sometimes, the opera is planned or actually is performed again in Lithuania. The orchestra consists primarily of union musicians from the Chicago area, the conductor is al-

ways Lithuanian. The chorus members are longstanding volunteers who love to sing and have gotten to be quite cohesive over the years. The set designs now are rented, sometimes even from Italy, or are built in Lithuania. Thanks to successful publicity over the years, Opera Company presentations usually draw local opera lovers, at least one local classical radio station usually plays excerpts, and some operas have even been reviewed by the major daily newspapers-rk)

(DRAUGAS, 3/4 and 3/18/94)

### Baltic documentary film now available

"Baltic Fire" is a documentary film produced by Canadian Rita (Zoe) Dirse in 1993. Rita worked for the National Film Board of Canada for many years. Raised in Canada by her Lithuanian father and Latvian mother, Rita speaks both her parents' languages.

The dialogue in the 55 min. video is in English, and the words of ethnic songs are subtitled. The film starts with a panoramic view of Vilnius and a background history of Lithuania and the Baltic nations' struggle under occupational forces. The calm of the past is interrupted by scenes of the events around Lithuania's Parliament in 1991. The faces are serious as people stand before the Soviet tanks rolling down the streets of Vilnius. After Rita succeeded in climbing over the barricades, she managed to interview Vytautas Landsbergis who patiently continued to wait for the world's moral support. The longer second part contains scenes from similar events in Latvia. A segment of the film is devoted the death of film operator Andris Slapins, and to his funeral. The film then returns to Vilnius, and ends with Landsbergis' visit to Canada. "Baltic Fire" can be ordered from Rita Dirse in Montreal.

(DRAUGAS, 3/19/94 from an article by Vikt. Zakaris)

### Lives of Lithuanians on video

The video journal "Lietuviai", numbers 1 and 2 is a two hour videotape produced in California. The tape has received positive reviews, and is highly recommended especially for viewing in schools, libraries, nursing homes and hospitals. The tape depicts life of Lithuanians in Lithuania, Brazil, Canada, the United States. It includes segments on: Lithuanian sailors in Boston, a Lithuanian Independence Day commemoration in Arizona, a visit with a Lithuanian who works in the jungles of Indonesia, Lithuanian sashes, Lithuanian scouts, and a memorial plaque to an early Lithuanian scholar in America. Correspondents are being sought in various cities, as are subscribers. The initiator of the project, Vytautas Petrulis, called together a meeting February 28th with plans for production of a third segment of the news journal, elec-

tion of officers, and non-profit status. Vytautas Petrulis was chosen - president, Almis Kuolas - vice president and treasurer, Paulius Jasiukonis - editor, Vilija Paulauskaite - secretary, Algirdas Gustaitis - correspondent. For more information about "Lietuviai", contact Vytautas Petrulis, 817-2nd Street, Apt. 105, Santa Monica, CA 90403, tel. 310-587-0711.

(TĒVIŠKĒS ŽIBURIAI, 3/22/94)

### Draugas Foundation established

In November 1993 the Draugas Foundation was incorporated in Illinois. The purpose of the fund is to ensure the continuity of the Chicago-based Lithuanian language newspaper (published five days a week-rk). It seeks to collect donations totaling \$1 million, so that the interest (about \$80,000 to \$100,000) can be invested. In recent years, the newspaper has experienced increas-



*The Draugas Foundation Directors. l. to r. Ramune Kubilius, Maria Remiene, 2nd row, Bronius Juodelis, Rimas Domanskis, Jurgis Riskus, Dr. Antanas Razma. Under the able leadership of B. Juodelis, the Foundation has collected over 190,000 in donations since September 1993.*

ingly difficult economic realities, with decreasing subscriptions and revenues from advertisements. In previous years, the Lithuanian Catholic Press Society's major backers, the Marian Fathers, helped defray higher debts, but they are no longer able to do so. Fund-raising initially moved along well-in three months, the Foundation collected \$140,000 for the long-term upkeep of DRAUGAS. There are nine directors, all of them volunteers; one of them - Bronius Juodelis as the Vice-President for Finance, spends up to three days a week in an office at DRAUGAS (since the Foundation doesn't really have a home of its own-rk), registering donations, writing thank you notes, writing articles. Foundation members donate \$200, but smaller donations are accepted as well. It is touching when a 90 year old woman sends \$10 with an attached note—that is the only donation she can afford.

Annual meetings of the Foundation with matters for voting are planned for the near future. (Chicagoland subscribers of DRAUGAS have recently been beset with awful delays, misplaced and lost mail, due to postal service problems, but most readers feel: "better late than never")

Draugas Foundation may be reached at the DRAUGAS editorial address, 4545 W. 63, Chicago, IL 60629.

(DRAUGAS, 3/5/94, from an interview with Bronius Juodelis)

### **Lithuanian parishes in the US celebrate anniversaries**

St. George's Parish in Cleveland, OH will celebrate its 100th anniversary in 1995. Plans have been underway since 1993 to commemorate this event, including plans to publish a special publication. St. Peter's Lithuanian Parish in Boston, MA, together with its pastor Rev. Albertas Kontautas, celebrates the parish's 90th anniversary this year. The first Holy Mass in the church was celebrated on January 31, 1904; the Mass celebrating the 90th anniversary was offered by Bishop Paulius Baltakis, OFM. During the Mass the church choir sang, as did the Lithuanian school and children's choruses. The celebration of the event will last all year, and the church will be repainted and renovated.

(TĖVIŠKĖS ŽIBURIAI, 3/22/94)

Sts. Peter and Paul Church in Elizabeth, NJ will also celebrate its 100th anniversary in 1995.

### **Lutheran activity in Lithuania**

The Archbishop of Canterbury, George Carey was scheduled to visit Lithuania April 9th, accompanied by his wife, two bishops from his Anglican church and two advisors. In Vilnius the Archbishop was to be greeted by Lutheran church representatives, including Bishop Jonas Kalvanas, by Catholic Archbishop Audrys Juozas Backis, with Orthodox Archbishop Chrizostomas. The Archbishop was also scheduled to meet with Lithuanian President Algirdas Brazauskas, to participate in ecumenical services in St. John's Church of Vilnius University, and to bless the newly renovated British Embassy. The Archbishop was invited to Lithuania by the Lithuanian Lutheran Church, which has 52 registered congregations and 12 ministers. Lithuanian Lutherans have six charity funds, and their printing press publishes several newsletters and newspapers. The Lutheran Church in Vilnius on Vokieciu Street, is being reconstructed-services are already being conducted on Sundays in the hall, Bible Study groups and Sunday School meets there as well. Vilnius Lutherans operate a soup kitchen for the poor and have a special pharmacy for the poor. When reconstruction is completed, the Vilnius Lutheran congregation buildings will house a library, a facility for

choral studies, and there are plans to extend cultural and charitable works.

(DRAUGAS, 4/9/94)

### **Jesuits plan meeting in Kaunas**

Lithuanian Jesuit Provincial, Rev. Jonas Boruta traveled from Vilnius to visit young Lithuanian Jesuit clerics in Germany and Austria. This year there are eight clerics, in the fall there will be twelve. Some of the clerics are supported by local Jesuit orders, others receive scholarships and stipends from Holland, still others are supported from small funds made available from the small Jesuit group in Chicago... For the first time, Jesuit leaders from middle Europe will meet in Kaunas June 29 - July 3rd. Rev. Leo Klein, S.J. a liturgical specialist, will conduct five courses in Kaunas and Siauliai about liturgical renewal. Also traveling from St. Xavier University in Cincinnati will be Sister Ruth Graf, a professor of theology, who will conduct seminars for religious orders and others in June.

(MŪSŲ ŽINIŲ, 3/94)

### **Priest-Fireman**

Ausros Vartai (Our Lady Gate of Dawn-rk) Parish Church is in Manhattan near the Holland Tunnel. Driving through the tunnel to New Jersey, the church's twin towers are easily seen. For many years the parish was served by Rev. J. Gurinskas. When he died, there was a danger that the parish would be closed. Rev. Vytautas Palubinskas and a number of parishioners came to the rescue by appealing to the

Cardinal, and in that way they saved the small "Lithuanian island" in Manhattan. Rev. Palubinskas was a good host, and he allowed people to use the parish hall for various functions - the number of cultural activities increased.

Several hundred Lithuanians live in Manhattan, many are well-paid professionals who finished their studies here in the U.S. Ausros Vartai became their gathering place. Permanent visitors from Lithuania also began to gather here.

A group called "Branduolys" organizes concerts, lectures, and exhibits. For two years the Kestutis Nakas theater operated here. For 70 years the Knights of Lithuania have met here. When the Queen of Angels Parish closed its doors in Brooklyn, Ausros Vartai moved and installed the stained glass windows which had been designed by Artist Vytautas K. Jonynas. When Rev. Palubinskas moved to Annunciation Parish in Brooklyn, a new priest - Rev. Dr. Eugenijus Savickis-Sawicki began his duties and continued the hospitable traditions of Rev. Palubinskas. On Sundays after High Mass, a group of parishioners gather for coffee and discuss local news and news from Lithuania.

Pastor Savickis is an interesting personality. He is

almost certainly the only priest-fireman around. From the central fire station at Central Park and 79th Street in Manhattan, he is the dispatcher who sends firemen to fight fires all over the city. It was while performing these duties that he felt the calling to become a priest. He finished the seminary in Rome and was blessed by Bishop Paulius Baltakis in 1986. Among those congratulating him - New York's Archbishop John O'Connor.

Rev. Eugenijus is a scholar. He has obtained 8 degrees, including a master's degree in psychology and a doctorate in education. He admits that he chose that path because he likes to mingle with people and help them as well. In his work, Rev. Eugenijus is assisted by musician Aldona Kepalas who plays the organ at Mass and has composed church music for the Masses. His "right arm" is Anthony Zagarino who controls parish finances. Thanks to his talents and to donations of generous parishioners, in just a few years, the debts of the parish have diminished. The Knights of Columbus use the parish hall and have contributed thousands of dollars worth of repair and renovation work. Each Sunday, parishioners travel to the Lithuanian language High Mass not only from Brooklyn and the Bronx, but they also "sail in" from Staten Island. It is very important in a city the size of New York to have a Lithuanian "island" - a parish at which to gather and continue traditions. Rev. Eugenijus invites all to visit and to keep the parish in Lithuanian hands.

(DARBININKAS, from an article by P.J./  
Paulius Jurkus/, 4/8/94)

### Lithuanians living in Poland discuss concerns

A group of visitors from Seinai, Poland visited Lithuanian Prime Minister Adolfas Slezevicius. The primary purpose of the visit was to seek support for Poland's Lithuanians in building their Lithuanian cultural center in the Polish "island" of Seinai. Previous promises to build the center were made in 1989 when funds of 160,000 rubles were designated. One reason for the delay - Poland has not given permission for building materials to be brought duty-free to Poland from Lithuania. The savings would be about one third - about 1 million litai. Also discussed - the legal rights of Lithuanians in Poland; educational issues, the possibilities of translating teachers' educational materials, radio and television programs in Lithuania.

(DRAUGAS, 3/4/94)

### President Brazauskas to have new residence

Lithuania's Parliament voted (53 for, 10 against, 21 abstentions) on the issue of building the residence of

Lithuania's president in the lower Castle area of Gediminas Hill in Vilnius. President Algirdas Brazauskas presented the matter for vote on Thursday. The same resolution included the condition that a project be presented to Parliament on the status of the Vilnius Castle Historical National Park.

(DRAUGAS, 4/5/94)

### Male appointed to chair committee for implementation of UN women's programs

Plans are underway to implement United Nations women's programs in Lithuania. The Lithuanian government consultant on women's issues, G. Purvaneckiene, presented the matter at a March 30th government meeting. Lithuania will participate in the 4th international women's conference in Peking and a special commission was established to prepare for the international conference. Its chair - Justice Minister, Jonas Prapiestis, one of only two men whose names appeared on the long list.

(DRAUGAS, 4/9/94)

### WLYA prepares for Congress

The World Lithuanian Youth Association will organize a special seminar in Vilnius Friday and Saturday in preparation for the upcoming 8th World Lithuanian Youth Congress. Youth of Lithuanian descent from Esto-



Members of the Washington, D.C. Lithuanian Youth Assn. at the 1994 February 16 Commemoration. From left to right: Ginta Draugelis, WLYA vice-pres.; Julyte Minkunaite, Linas Orentas, and Andrea Staertou.

nia, Latvia, Moldova, Poland, Ukraine, Uzbekistan, Russia were scheduled to attend lectures, included one by visiting WLYA President Paulius Mickus from the U.S.

(DRAUGAS, 4/9/94)

## Generous support for Vasario 16 High School

Western Europe is experiencing an economic crisis. In addition, Germany is burdened with the costs of reconstructing eastern Germany. Cultural and educational institutions have begun hard times, and the financial support for schools has been diminished. Vasario 16 High School (in Lampertheim, Germany-rk) has also felt the difficulties, since the government has reduced its support by \$120,000. Besides that, donations to the school have decreased. The high school's directors had the challenge of figuring out how to survive the crisis. Parents had already seen one tuition increase. To raise tuition again would have been unreal, because many parents would have to withdraw their children from the school, and without students, the school would have to close.

During this difficult time, the letter of Juozas Babilius reached the school. He wrote that he was seriously ill, that he soon would have to go into the hospital, but before that, he wanted to arrange a donation to the school. He asked for instructions on how to do that. A few weeks passed, and Jurgis Mikaila sent a check from Juozas Babilius, who amazed everyone with his generosity - \$100,000; the largest amount ever donated by one person to the high school. Through his actions, Juozas Babilius this year saved the school and guaranteed its future.

Juozas Babilius is a sailor, born in 1912 in Kalnenu village in the Jurbarkas region. He worked in the central post office in Klaipeda, Lithuania and at its port authority. While completing military service, he served for one year on the military ship "Prezidentas Antanas Smetona". After military service he continued to work at the naval shipyard, and in 1938, he was sent to navigation school in Marseilles, France. When Germany invaded Poland, the Lithuanian Embassy in Paris advised that he return to Lithuania. He worked in Lithuania, and when the Germans were in evidence in the Baltic Sea, in 1940, he returned to Marseilles. When the Germans invaded Paris, he was arrested by the Gestapo, then later released. He worked in commercial shipping, and worked on a Norwegian ship. He later worked on an American ship and obtained American citizenship. He passed his captain's assistant's exam, and in the course of his work sailed around the world three times. In 1975 he retired and settled in So. Pasadena, FL.

Upon his return from the hospital, Jonas Babilius wrote that he sent his donation to Vasario 16 High School so that the students would be taught English and German, and that their physics, chemistry and computing studies would have practical applications.

Some people might think that there no longer is a need for a high school like Vasario 16. People can send their children to Lithuania. Not many people have done so. That is why emigres' children need the high school. They meet young people from Lithuania who attend the high school, learning to speak Lithuanian fluently and

learning about Lithuania in the process. Students from Lithuania learn more about the Western world, and many are supported by relatives who live outside of Lithuania. The students from Lithuania learn German and English. Upon their return to Lithuania, those language skills will prove to be very useful. That is the reason that it is important to support the high school - the students, teachers, and directors thank Jonas Babilius for his huge support and wish him good health.

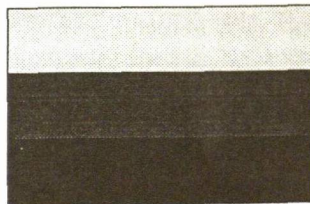
(DARBININKAS, from an article by Vasario 16 High School Director Andrius Smitas, 4-8-94)

## Former Chicagoan opens restaurant in Vilnius

Rita Dapkus, originally from Chicago, opened a 100 seat restaurant in Vilnius - "Ritos slėptuvė" (Rita's hideaway). The restaurant, built on the banks of the Neris River, is in the basement of the city's planning office building. Rita Dapkus was one of the first younger Lithuanian Americans to receive Lithuanian citizenship. She was director of the informational office in the Parliament, but her interests turned to business. Her pizza shop, "Ritos virtuvė" delivers hot pizza and beer to people's homes.

(DRAUGAS, 3/18/94)

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# USIA Invites Applications for Fulbright Teacher Exchange Program

Washington, D.C. - The US Information Agency's (USIA) Fulbright Teacher Exchange Program is accepting application requests from elementary through university level educators (teachers and administrators) interested in participating in an exchange abroad during the 1995-96 academic year.

Applications will be distributed beginning in April. They must be completed and submitted to the Fulbright Teacher Exchange Program office by Oct. 15, 1994. Requests for application booklets, publicity material, and general information should be directed to Fulbright Teacher Exchange Program, 600 Maryland Avenue S.W., Room 235, Washington, D.C., telephone: 1-800-726-0479.

Since the Fulbright Program was created almost 50 years ago, over 190,000 Americans and citizens of other countries have studied, conducted research, and taught abroad and in the United States. Each year about 500 educators take part in the Fulbright Teacher Exchange Program.

This program includes direct exchanges, where partners typically exchange classroom assignments, as well as a limited number of semester and short-term assignments and some one-way placement. There is also an eight-week seminar in Italy for university/college faculty and teachers of grades 9-12 of Latin, Greek and the Classics. Most often, the US and international exchange participants remain on their home institutions' payrolls while exchanging classrooms and sometimes even homes, although this is not a requirement.

The aim of the Fulbright Program is to promote mutual understanding between citizens of the United States and other countries through educational and cultural exchanges. The Fulbright Teacher Exchange Program reflects the multicultural nature of the US educator population and strongly encourages teachers and administrators from minority groups to apply.

A tentative list of the 1995-96 academic year's participating countries includes: Argentina, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Mexico, Morocco, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Romania, Russia,

Senegal, Slovakia, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine and the United Kingdom. Barbados, Jamaica, Namibia, Trinidad and Tobago, and Zimbabwe are also possible additions to the roster for 1995-96 program.

US educators interested in participating in the program must meet the following requirements: US citizenship; at least a Bachelor's degree; three years of full-time teaching experience (for teaching positions) or two years full-time teaching experience (for seminar participation); current full-time employment in a relevant subject area; and, for some non-English speaking countries,

fluency in the appropriate foreign language. All participants must be approved by the Presidentially appointed J. William Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board (BFS), a group of private citizens that oversees the Fulbright Program.

The Fulbright Teacher Exchange Program offers a double advantage to participating institutions. Schools and communities gain the expertise and perspective of the visiting exchange partner, and subsequently share in the international experience of their returning faculty member.

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

USIA's educational and cultural programs include the Fulbright Academic Program, University Affiliations, the Hubert H. Humphrey Fellowship Program, educational advising, the International Visitor Program, the Citizens Exchanges Program, Arts America, book translations, English teaching, and a network of overseas libraries and cultural centers. Other programs include the Voice of America, the WORLDNET satellite television system, the daily Wireless File, publications translated in over 15 languages, and three Foreign Press Centers in the United States. The Agency has more than 210 posts in over 140 countries.

*From a News Release from USIA*

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***The Fulbright Teacher Exchange Program application deadline is Oct. 15 1994 for the 1995-96 academic year.***

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