

# BRIDGES

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Photo: Jadvyga Budrys

**COVER PHOTO:** June brings back memories of all the lives sacrificed for Lithuania's freedom, especially those of the Terrible Days of June with their terror and deportations.

**Pictured:** Memorial to the most recent lives sacrificed at the Vilnius television tower. Inscription reads; "Lord cleanse my nation's face with the blood of the slain."



## To Our Readers:

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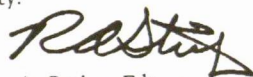
This month, while America and its World War II allies pay homage to the heroes of the D-Day invasion that paved the way for the liberation of Europe, Lithuanians look back to a grimmer time. While the allies were establishing their beachhead on the coast of France, Germany was still retreating from the east. The Soviet army reached Vilnius and recaptured Kaunas in July, 1944. All of Lithuania was reclaimed from the Nazis by October, except for Klaipeda, which fell to the Red Army in January, 1945. The returning Soviets re-invaded Lithuania "like a sovereign returning to its land," according to Joseph Pajaujis-Javis in his 1980 *Soviet Genocide in Lithuania*. "The front-line troops did no harm to the civilian populations, but the rearguard troops which followed started pillaging, raping women, and killing those men who tried to protect them." It was a time during which the Soviets ruthlessly tried to root out all potential dissension, while Lithuanian partisan groups took to the forests in their futile efforts to oust the invaders. It was a resumption of the terror and 1942 deportations which have come to be known as the Terrible Days of June, or simply as Black June. It set the stage for fifty years of oppressed rule.

U. S. *News and World Report* paid an indirect tribute to Lithuania's commemoration of the deportations in its June 6 issue. An article written by Victoria Pope was about a museum recently opened at the site of the former KGB headquarters at 40 Gediminas Prospect in Vilnius. After the abortive coup in 1991 led to the dissolution of the USSR and the liberation of the Baltic states, the KGB closed its spy center and Soviet officials removed or tried to destroy many of the files. Balys Radvius led efforts to reconstruct as many documents as possible, gluing them together a piece at a time for half a year. Radvius, arrested as a guerrilla in 1946 while a 24-year-old music student, spent six months at the KGB prison and 11 years in a Siberian Gulag. After liberation, he returned to Lithuania and devoted himself to the archives and to establishing the museum, at which Radvius and other ex-inmates are tour guides.

Pope describes some of the features of the prison and recounts practices used by the KGB. "In a burlap-covered padded cell hangs a straitjacket that looks like a black sorcerer's robe. It has sleeves twice normal length, to be wrapped around a prisoner's torso, pinning down the arms. A metal rod would be inserted in back between the layers of fabric. When prisoners were uncooperative, interrogators would twist the stick, which would act like a vise, breaking bones.

"Radvius...recalls a routine calculated to break spirits. At 11 p.m. jail wardens would start [silently] walking down the hallways, their steps muffled by felt boots and their keys clasped firmly in their hands—until they opened a cell and took its occupant away for interrogations. 'The silence,' Radvius recalls, 'made things even more frightening.' Through the night, prisoners panted like dogs next to cell doors trying to catch fresh air amid the stench and crowding. In the morning, they took off their shirts and shook off lice, some of which they used to play letter games.

Near "the reception room...metal boxes monitored prison conversations. Two stories up were listening stations to the outside world. The floor boards have been pried up to reveal black cables once connected to hotel rooms assigned to foreigners." The article neglects to mention access to the museum or its hours, but visitors to Vilnius should have no trouble finding it. Ask any resident of the city.



Rimantas A. Stirbys, Editor

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**Rimantas A. Stirbys**

# LAC/Canadian Conference

During the weekend of April 30-May 1, representatives of the national leadership for the Lithuanian Communities of the United States and Canada met at a conference in Southfield, Michigan to discuss relevant and pressing issues facing their organizations both internally and in relation to the Republic of Lithuania. This is the first of a two-part article which covers that conference.

Vytas Maciunas, president of the LAC's National Executive Committee opened the weekend conference by challenging all the participants to rethink relationships: among the member nations of the World Lithuanian Community, between those members and the WLC itself, and, most importantly, between the Lithuanian Diaspora and the Republic of Lithuania. He pointed out that the weekend's agenda was not necessarily intended to find answers, but to focus on defining the questions.

Dr. Vytautas Bieliauskas, past-president of the WLC, was the first speaker and pointed out that we were at the second crossroads of modern Lithuanian history. The first occurred at the end of World War II, when control of Lithuania changed hands between Nazis and Communists, prompting a wave of refugees who propagated throughout Europe, the Americas and Australia. The current crossroads were reached when the dissolution of the Soviet Union restored Lithuanian independence. In both cases, relations were changed between Lithuanians living abroad and those within that nation's borders. Also in both cases, many Lithuanians outside those borders initially anticipated a quick return.

Dr. Bieliauskas went on to discuss the evolution of the modern Lithuanian emigre organizations, from the Lithuanian Alliance to the Supreme Committee for the Liberation of Lithuania (VLIKAS) to the creation of the

World Lithuanian Community and its national members. Although institutionally, the political struggle for Lithuania's freedom was intended to remain the prerogative of VLIKAS, over the decades the Lithuanian Community found it could not stay out of the fray and found means of providing aid that VLIKAS could not pursue, including financial support for newspapers and radio



*Paulius Mickus (WLYA), Vytas Maciunas (LAC), Ramune Jonaitiene (CLC), S. Algimantas Gecys (LAC), Regina Narusiene (LAC), Algis Vaiciunas (CLC), Joana Kuraite Lasiene (CLC).*

stations in or serving Lithuania. (Documentation of the role that the Lithuanian Community played in the road to independence is historically invaluable; it is a task with which the NEC has been charged by its Directors Council and which will take another year or more to reach print - ed.)

Since independence, relations between the Diaspora and Lithuania have been cooling. Dr. Bieliauskas cited examples such as the split fee structure (one hotel or restaurant rate for Lithuanian citizens; another, higher rate for Lithuanian "foreigners"), and the visa requirement (we can go to Estonia with an American passport,



but we still need a visa to travel to Lithuania). Admittedly, Lithuania has many urgent problems related to the re-creation of its national infrastructure, and government or party officials don't have the time or resources to cater to the demands of Lithuanians out-of-country (whether they are the more affluent types from the west, or the poorer relations typically found scattered throughout the former USSR). So, Dr. Bieliauskas asked, do we stay away and let our "Lithuanianism" atrophy? Do we admit to our friends in the west that we're not wanted there or that, seeing as how it's only a third-world country, we don't really want to go there anyway?

What it boils down to, according to Dr. Bieliauskas, is that we in the west have to stop whining for special recognition. Give Lithuania time to settle down and mature, and eventually the government will recognize the valuable role played by Lithuanians "in exile". In the meantime, a new migration wave is developing; not refugees this time but voluntary emigrants from Lithuania. They become members of the Lithuanian Communities of the nations they settle in by the organizational charter, but what is the most effective means of actively drawing them into the LC's culture of organizations, associations and schools? In an effort at focusing on these and other questions, Dr. Bieliauskas come up with a series of suggestions:

1. Lithuanians out-of-country must maintain their Lithuanian identity and can continue to do so (as they have for half a century) without direct help from Lithuania. (The new Lithuanian emigrants would be an invaluable resource in this regard.)

2. With homes in the west, Lithuanians should not hurry to move to Lithuania. Take advantage of "local" cultural groups and ethnic organizations, even if the "native" counterparts in Lithuania are better.
3. Strengthen the network of World Lithuanian Community member nations.
4. Give Lithuania at least ten years to get on its feet. Prepare two 5-year plans to deal with development. Direct help for Lithuania should shift from the Lithuanian Community to individual, specialized organizations or experienced groups.
5. Develop 5 and 10-year plans for activities within the WLC and with regards to its member nations.
6. The LC should maintain its apolitical stance, especially as regards Lithuania, but within the limits of an anti-Communist and anti-authoritarian philosophy.
7. While it is appropriate and necessary for the LC to draw attention to Lithuania's problems and mistakes, there have also been significant achievements and success stories: highlight them and praise them both within the Lithuanian language media and via the native language of the member nations.
8. Bring more emphasis on local chapters within the member nations (this applies almost exclusively to North America and Australia - ed.) since this is where the work gets done.

Dr. Bieliauskas' keynote address was followed by a symposium devoted to examining the role the LC should play within the Diaspora's need for social welfare and the maintenance of Lithuanian national identity. The first speaker was Birute Jasaitiene, Chairwoman of the LAC-NEC's Social Services Council. She immediately focused on the need for Lithuanian youth groups to look in their own backyards for those elderly Lithuanians without other family support who are too proud to ask for help. Many of these elderly lack adequate English-language skills and are confounded not only by the infirmities of age, but the requirements of dealing with state or federal bureaucracies. While the Social Services Council maintains offices and provides extensive assistance in



*Symposium speakers at the joint US-Canadian Lithuanian Community Conference. From the left, Birute Jasaitiene (LAC), Ramune Jonaitiene (CLC), Dr. Vitolis E. Vengris (LAC).*



Chicago, Mrs. Jasaitis noted calls for help come from across the United States. In response, she is attempting to establish a network of satellite agencies within the framework of existing LAC chapters. Although each local chapter council needs, and many have, a "social affairs" officer, most lack formal or even informal training. Mrs. Jasaitis summed up by noting plans to provide such training are being contemplated but, in the absence of suitably qualified volunteers, training would involve inordinate time and expense.

Ramune Jonaitiene (Director of the Education Commission of the Canadian Lithuanian Community and co-editor of the Toronto-based Lithuanian-language weekly *Teviskes Ziburiai*, *The Lights of Homeland*) also participated in the symposium. She noted concern with money bleeding to Lithuania that should be used for those families who send their children to Lithuanian schools, attend Mass at Lithuanian parishes, and participate in Lithuanian cultural events. Mrs. Jonaitis recalled a speech by Vytautas Landsbergis in which he described Lithuania as a shabbily dressed princess in poor health; in those terms, the Lithuanian Community was expected to play the role of the fairy godmother who restored Cinderella to respectability. However, from the perspective of Lithuanians born on North American soil, the Community lacked adequate teachers, cultural experts and, especially, an effective distribution of funds. According to Mrs. Jonaitis, more emphasis should be placed on fund raising, ways of approaching granting organizations, and managing the few available dollars. In her view, viable leadership is waning and the romance of activism fueled by the struggle for Lithuania's liberation is fading. Since the current crop of leaders is getting old (or just weary from the constant effort), it is now time to reevaluate priorities and reorganize. She ended on a more positive note, describing plans currently being implemented in Canada for a children's festival. The festival, to be held in the fall of 1994, would be for all ages, would involve talent competitions, concerts and cultural exhibitions featuring the works of children.

Paulius Mickus, President of the World Lithuanian Youth Association, accented a growing disillusionment among youth of Lithuanian descent who fall in the 18 to 35 year old bracket. By their perception, they are too old for Lithuanian schools and too young to be taken seri-



*During a break between panels at the joint US-Canadian Lithuanian Community Conference. From the left, Daina Krivickas (LAC), Gint Taoras (LAC), Gintaras Cepas (LAC), Paulius Mickus (WLYA), and Vytautas Volertas (LAC).*

ously by the current generation of leaders. Lithuanian Scouts, the Catholic youth group Ateitis, and folk dancing keep them active for a while, but their energies soon turn to pursuing academics, managing careers and starting families. According to Mickus, while the LC's educational agencies do look at youth as an investment in Lithuania's future, the mainstream LC groups fail to monitor that investment as the children come of age. On the one hand, Mickus summed up the attitude of that middle group as "Why should I get involve?" On the other hand, the sources for motivating these young people continues to elude them and us. According to Mickus, the issue is to be raised for more analysis during the Eighth World Lithuanian Youth Congress in July.

Dr. Vitolis E. Vengris, NEC Vice-President for Academic Affairs, closed the first symposium by reinforcing the principle that there are aid-giving and assistance organizations with a proven track record (A.P.P.L.E. for educational issues, Mercy Lift for medical issues, U.S. Baltic Foundation in such areas as municipal government training). He reasserted that groups such as these should continue to receive the LC's endorsement and assistance and that LC should actively avoid either duplicating their efforts or diluting their focus. The LC's role should be limited to filling the gaps in assistance to Lithuania until such time as independent groups arise (or are created) and can carry on independently.

*To be continued.*



# Lithuanian-American Community Election Results

Elections for the LAC Board of Directors were held during the weeks of April 30-May 8, 1994. The following is an excerpt from the minutes of the meeting of the National Election Committee on May 23, 1994. (Translated from Lithuanian)

The National Election Committee, having received all ballots and other election related documents from the Regional Election Committees, has concluded that elections took place as prescribed by LAC Election rules and guidelines.

60 members were elected to the Board of Directors. 5,815 members cast their ballots. 5,815 divided by 60 = 96.917. Therefore, each 96.917 members in a voting district are entitled to be represented by one elected member of the Board.

The calculated number of representatives from each voting district is as follows:

Boston -	5	Southeast -	6
Connecticut -	4	Western -	4
Florida -	6	Midwest:	
Michigan -	6	Sub-district I-	11
New Jersey -	2	Sub-district II-	2
New York -	5	Sub-district III-	3
Ohio -	4	Sub-district IV-	2
		TOTAL -	60

Votes cast were distributed as follows:	<b>MICHIGAN:</b> 551 voters elected 6 members: Kamantas, V. 390 Kamantiene, G. 353 Kutkus, V. 243 Rugienius, A. 337 Udriene, J. 342 Urbonas, J. 278 No other candidates.	<b>SOUTHEAST:</b> 550 voters elected 6 members: Dantiene, J. 268 Geciene, T. 351 Gulbiniene, A. 284 Kondratas, R. 331 Maciunas, V. 348 Skucas, D. 306 Candidates: Kronkaitis, J. 262 Buivyis, G. 261 Jakiene, D. 236 Pakstiene, A. 222	Razma, A. 721 Susinskas, K. 474 Vindasiene, B. 471 Candidates: Kerelyte, S. 469 Remeikis, T. 449 Vitkus, A. 367 Norusis, L. 360 Slenys, L. 307
<b>BOSTON:</b> 473 voters elected 5 members: Cepas, G. 421 Kairiene, A. 344 Kalvaityte, R. 380 Kupcinskas, A. 386 Suziedelis, V. 396 No other candidates	<b>NEW JERSEY:</b> 162 voters elected 2 members: Bitenas, R. 129 Veblaitis, J. 143 Candidate: Juskiene, R. 129	<b>WEST:</b> 392 voters elected 4 members: Brinkis, Z. 233 Gedgaudiene, V. 263 Nelsiene, A. 203 Polikaitis, A. 254 Candidates: Vidugiris, V. 165 Pupius, J. 164 Zygas, K. 142 Viskanta, Z. 137 Blekyte, I. 132 Simoliuniene, S. 86 Morkunas, G. 79	Note: G. Liautaud and L. Gylys withdrew their candidacy after the list of candidates was published.
<b>CONNECTICUT:</b> 381 voters elected 4 members: Balsys, L. 316 Dzikas, A. 294 Gust-Vebraite, V. 308 Karosiene, L. 240 Candidates: DiBenedetto- Bernotaite, J. 191 Treciokas, V. 184 Urban- Alsenaitė, S. 177	<b>NEW YORK:</b> 456 voters elected 5 members: Bileris, K. 355 Cesnaviciene, R. 385 Keziene, D. 321 Miklas, K. 243 Vaicaitis, R. 348 No other candidates.	<b>MIDWEST:</b> <b>SUB-DISTRICT I:</b> 1,074 voters elected 11 members: Budriene, J. 568 Dauliene, S. 662 Gylys, L. 229 Jasaitiene, B. 770 Kisielius, P. 796 Narutis, V. 577 Polikaitis, J. 712 Rackauskas, J. 491 Ragas, L. 532	<b>SUB-DISTRICT II:</b> 299 voters elected 2 members: Karnius, A. 141 Vilutiene, B. 153 No other candidates
<b>FLORIDA:</b> 544 voters elected 6 members: Dubauskas, V. 347 Petruilis, A. 235 Ramanauskiene, S. 379 Savaitiene, L. 233 Silkaitis, M. 332 Zunde, P. 325 Candidate: Bagdoniė, V. 218	<b>OHIO:</b> 372 voters elected 4 members: Ardys, J. 222 Bubliene, I. 201 Cepulis, A. 260 Puskoriene, D. 203 Candidates: Joga, P. 176 Sukiene, S. 171 Staskus, V. 118		<b>SUB-DISTRICT III:</b> 290 voters elected 3 members: Binder, R. 107 Pliuriene, R. 84 Narusiene, R. 200 Candidate: Grybinas, Z. 55
			<b>SUB-DISTRICT IV:</b> 271 voters elected 2 members: Jarasius, A. 236 Sakalaite, A. 207 No other candidates
			All elected members are listed in alphabetical order; candidates are listed in order ranked by the number of votes received.



Dana Mikuzis

# Antras Kaimas Starts 31st Season

Antras Kaimas is a Lithuanian emigre theater group of humor and satire that was formed in Chicago in 1963. The small group patterned itself after the well known Second City theater group. Even the name, Antras Kaimas was inspired by Second City, Antras Kaimas meaning "Second Village". The name also reflected the fact that Chicago had the largest concentration of Lithuanians outside of the Homeland.

Antras Kaimas was founded by a group of students who enjoyed performing in various school and social activities. Well known Lithuanian writer Kazys Almenas was among this group. The group got together and wrote a few skits to try out on some friends. They were overwhelmingly received and staged their first full length, 2 hour show in the fall of 1963. The show ran for a few weekends. Reviews were mixed, as most are where acting and humor are concerned, but the group was not to be stopped. Other Lithuanian communities heard about the group and invited them to perform for them. The group traveled and successfully performed in Detroit and Cleveland.

Antras Kaimas was an instant hit. More students joined the group and actor Leonas Barauskas was invited to direct the group. In 1965 a Latvian acting group very similar to Antras Kaimas asked the group to join them and they did a joint show. A caricature drawn by one of

the Latvian actors became Antras Kaimas' poster and program cover. Every year since, the group has come up with a new poster and program cover often reflecting the general theme of that season's show.

Over the next few years actors came and went. Kazys Almenas left to further his studies in Europe. He left most of his written material which was used for the third season's show, but coming by material was becoming harder and harder. Gradually, a few more members departed and the group didn't perform until the fall of 1968 when Algirdas Titus Antanaitis was asked to join the group. A few former members returned and new ones were added. Material was still being sent by Kazys Almenas who had decided not to return back to Chicago, and other well known writers, such as Antanas Gustaitis and Algirdas Landsbergis, among others, contributed material that the group used and performed. In March of 1973 the group celebrated their 10th year anniversary by inviting past members to return



*Members of the 1994 Antras Kaimas cast.*

to Chicago for a full blown show.

Antras Kaimas staged an annual show at Chicago's Playhouse — these shows became very popular with Lithuanian residents of Chicago. Skits became better written and the production became more and more professional. Material consisted of the uniquely humorous to the politically humorous covering Lithuanian politics in the United States as well as Soviet occupied Lithuania. Many skits covered daily topics of parents

*Dana Mikuzis, our Human Interest editor was a member of Antras Kaimas - from Nov. 1976 until 1980 and played an active role in the 25th Anniversary show in Nov. 1988.*



and children, love stories and visits to the doctor. Many of the actors contributed material as well as to the quality of the staging. Talented writers from Lithuania contributed material that the group frequently used. Even the critics mellowed, showing a new respect for the group. Antras Kaimas was frequently invited to perform at local organizational functions and became a popular and frequent sight all over the Lithuanian community in Chicago. Along with their gained popularity, invitations to travel to other Lithuanian communities all over the United States and Canada poured in. New York, Los Angeles, Detroit, Toronto and Montreal among other smaller communities were frequently hosting evenings with the group performing. In addition, the group performed at special shows for the Second and Fifth Lithuanian World Youth Congresses and for the Second World Lithuanian Days. Frequently, the group could be heard over the local Lithuanian radio shows and occasionally would perform at Lithuanian Saturday schools, gearing their material for the young.

1988 commemorated the group's silver anniversary. All former and current members were invited to return for a full scale blow-out performing old skits as well as new ones. Many flew in from other parts of the United States and staged a truly memorable show in Chicago. By this time the group had performed twenty-three different productions that were at least two hours or more in length. Over one hundred performances were done in

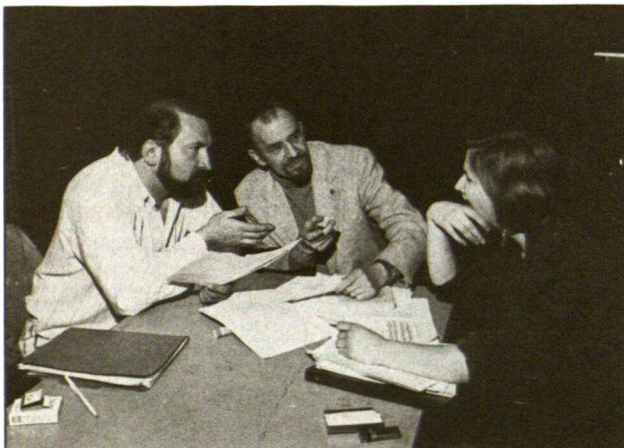


*Antras Kaimas actors on tour in New York, 1992.*

Chicago alone and more than 50 in other Lithuanian communities. Over 50 performers participated over the years.

However, the group will overwhelmingly agree that all of the shows and all of the trips could not compare to what the group calls "The Ultimate Trip and Performance". This came the year after the silver anniversary when an invitation to perform in Lithuania was received. 13 group members, among them Algirdas Titus Antanaitis as director, Juozas Ulevicius working lights and Vincas Lukas doing sound left for Lithuania in November 1989. This trip was to be the last performance with Antanaitis being directly associated with the group as director. Both nervous and excited, the group arrived in Lithuania. Their schedule was grueling, performing 19 shows in 11 cities in 21 days. Advertising for their shows was overwhelming. Their show in the 1,800 capacity theater in Klaipeda was sold out in 45 minutes. Over the 21 days, the group performed for over 12,000 people. What amazed the group was the incredibly warm welcome they received from everyone and what stunned them was the critic reviews. All of the reviews raved not only about the shows, but more about the actors themselves, their incredibly pure command of the Lithuanian language, the diction as well as the vocabulary. Many said that the actors' spoken language was more pure than their own, not having the Russian influence that theirs had. Upon returning to the U.S., the group rode the glory of the Lithuanian trip and took a hiatus from acting. Eventually, some members started to miss the audience and applause, and a new group formed in late fall of 1992. Only three members remained from the group that had traveled to Lithuania. A full scaled

*Continued on p. 20*



*Actors Eugenijus Butenas, Romas Stakauskas and Alida Vitaitė discussing the new 1994 show.*



Asta Banionis

# U.S. Foreign Assistance Comes To The Seimas

Over the last few months this column has been reviewing U.S. technical assistance to Lithuania. One of the most important of these programs both in scale and potential long-term impact is the U.S. Congress' Special Task Force on the Development of Parliamentary Institutions in Eastern Europe chaired by Congressman Martin Frost (popularly referred to as the Frost Task Force).

The Frost Task Force began its work in Lithuania in 1992 when the U.S. Congress appropriated \$1,000,000 to spend on equipment, reference materials and training programs for the Lithuanian parliament and designated the Library of Congress as the agency charged with administering the technical assistance. This was to be a program comparable to those already launched by the Frost Task Force in Poland, Hungary, Czechoslovakia, and Bulgaria. The Library of Congress has developed its own team of technical experts mainly drawing on its staff within the Congressional Research Service (CRS). There is also assistance from the House Information System staff concerning office automation questions.

The initial assessment teams dealt only with questions of library resources and computerization of information within the Lithuanian parliament. Algimantas Pavilionis, Chief of Staff of the Lithuanian parliament, with responsibility for everything from maintenance to research staff, was the first employee of Lithuania's parliament (Seimas) to come to the United States in Spring, 1993 for a two-week training program in Washington, DC under the sponsorship of the Frost Task Force. Mr. Pavilionis acquainted himself with the range of training that was available for his staff under the

auspices of the task force program.

We should note here that Mr. Pavilionis is not the first staff member of independent Lithuania's parliament to train in Washington, DC. Two years earlier, in Novem-



Photo: Asta Banionis

*Staff members of the Congressional Research Service, Library of Congress who planned and conducted the recent workshop for members of Lithuania's parliament (April 18-20). Seated left to right: Mary Ellen Callahan, Nancy Davenport, and Jill Roberts.*

ber, 1990, while President Bush was still refusing to recognize the Landsbergis government, a young staffer of the parliament's information bureau, Haris Subacius, interned in the offices of Congressman Richard Durbin (D-IL) under the sponsorship of the Lithuanian-American Community, Inc. Public Affairs Office. During his three weeks in Washington, DC, Congressman Frost's staff was kind enough to arrange a number of briefings for Mr. Subacius about the work of the Rules Committee of the House of Representatives — the committee of which Congressman Frost is a senior member. The LAC, Inc. also takes pride in being one of the early voices in Washington, DC urging Members of Congress to provide technical assistance to Lithuania's parliament and specifically encouraging that aid to be more than just computers and library materials, but real information about

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



effective parliamentary procedures.

Since the visit of Mr. Pavilonis, Lithuania's current parliament has sent 14 additional staff for training at the Library of Congress facilities in various areas. For example, Albertas Valys, Head of the Secretariat of the Seimas has trained in Washington, DC, Marija Prokopcik, formerly of the Mazvydas National Library came for three months of training first at the Congressional Research Service and later at the library of the University of Illinois in Champaign-Urbana, Valdas Ziemys came for computer training, and Mindaugas Navikas came to Washington, DC for computer training at the Oracle Corporation.

The office automation equipment given to the parliament through the task force funds was delivered late last year. It totals: 58 microcomputers, 4 notebook computers, 41 printers, 5 copiers and assorted software. All of the members of parliament are supposed to have access to this equipment. The computers are supposed to be distributed, one to each parliamentary committee and one to each political faction (caucus) within the parliament.

In Spring, 1993, Tunne Kelam, Vice President of the Estonian parliament, the Riigikogu, requested that the Frost Task Force provide a conference for members of parliament to discuss ways of improving the work of the parliament and specific substantive issues before the parliament. With the help of the Congressional Research Service staff under authority of the task force, the conference was held in Tallinn in June, 1993 with at least half of the members of the Estonian parliament attending the sessions.

Having heard of the successful Estonian parliamentary conference, Mr. Pavilonis in December, 1993 officially requested that a similar conference be held for the Lithuanian Seimas. Planning began in earnest in mid-January when Nancy Davenport, Associate Director for Special Programs, CRS; Jill Roberts, Management Specialist, CRS; and Mary Ellen Callahan, Public Affairs Consultant, CRS traveled to Vilnius to determine the program of the proposed conference. Over the course of a week the CRS planning team met with over 70 parliamentary members and staff looking for a consensus on issues to be addressed. Suggestions came from the following political party factions: Democratic Labor Party (LDDP), Social Democratic Party (LSDP), Christian Democratic Party (LKDP), Polish faction, Homeland Coalition (TS), and the Democratic Party (LDP). Standing committees of the parliament which contributed ideas were the Environmental, Human and Civil Rights, Foreign Affairs, State and Local Affairs, Health, Social Issues and Labor, Budget and Finance, National Security, and the Economic Committee. And of course the charming Chairman of the Seimas, Ceslovas Juršenas, who has been the most prominent sponsor of the last two annual May Day celebrations in Lithuania, made his own suggestions for the conference program.

There was exceptional attendance at the conference when it began on April 18, 1994 within the conference hall of the parliament's building complex. Chairman Juršenas had canceled plenary sessions of the Seimas to allow maximum participation. Rarely has the parliament seen all of its members in one place — 137 of the 140 sitting members attended sometime over the 3-day conference. The 141st seat, the seat left vacant with Brazauskas' ascendancy to the Lithuanian presidency, remains unfilled even after a third round of elections in the Kaišiadorys district (see update below). The program consisted of both plenary and concurrent small group discussions using American and European experts as resource people.

The first day was spent discussing the nature and inner workings of parliaments with the plenary session addressing, "The Role of a Member of a Legislative Body" followed by concurrent small group discussions dealing with "Ethics and Lobbying", "The Role of the Majority and Minority", and "Rules of Procedure and the Work of Committees". For readers who may be concerned that the conference could have been advocating the adoption of an American model of government, rest assured. If anything, as an American citizen you probably would have wanted to see more open promotion of American values like public accountability, consent of the governed, the importance of local government decision-making, and finally for all of you unabashed Reaganites — less government, less bureaucracy.

The American and European experts who served as panelists did offer honest and helpful answers. The CRS staff reports that a theme which kept recurring throughout the day was the need for perfecting legislation, i.e., that the lawmakers don't necessarily get the public policy effect they want from merely passing legislation the first time. Laws may need to be rewritten — amended. Lawmakers need to keep track of how the law is being implemented and most importantly, they need to keep in contact with their constituents to see how the law is impacting them. This is in fact the oversight function of the legislature. Examples were given of mechanisms that various legislatures have to get information from the executive branch. For instance, in the United States the Congress has the right to subpoena the executive agencies if information is not forthcoming, and ultimately it is the Congress' "power of the purse" that can discipline an agency. The CRS staff does report that there was spirited discussion about the financial disclosure for government officials law which had been vetoed by President Brazauskas a few months back.

The second and third days dealt with substantive public policy questions facing the Lithuanian parliament. Tuesday's plenary session discussed, "The Seimas' Role in Economic Development" with the concurrent small group discussions concentrating on, "Tax Reform", "Trade Relations and Foreign Investment", "The Role of the Legislature in Budget Planning", and "Agriculture



Policy". As you can see, it would be difficult to provide a simple summary of Tuesday's discussions, but the CRS staff reports that they found that clashes over public policy inevitably led to the question of the "loyal opposition", or more precisely, "if you disagree with me, you are disloyal". This is not unique to Lithuanian parliamentarians, it is a concept which the CRS staff reports they have encountered throughout the parliaments of Eastern Europe. So, although Chairman Jursenas asserted in his welcoming statement to the conference that Lithuanians are unique, i.e., that we're not like anyone else, the Lithuanian parliamentarians proved themselves all too similar to other Eastern Europeans at least on this fundamental issue.

Wednesday's plenary session dealt with "International and Regional Security Issues". And as could be expected, the major concern of the Lithuanian parliamentarians was the question of security guarantees for Lithuania and other new democracies from powerful nations like the United States. Unfortunately, we know as Americans that the United States has yet to extend any security guarantees anywhere in Eastern Europe and it is a situation we should be trying to change. The second major concern was the huge Russian military enclave in what the Russians call their Kaliningrad region and the need to demilitarize this territory. The small group sessions during the afternoon focused on, "Civilian Control and Management of the Military", "Monetary Stabilization, the Central Bank and the Commercial Banking System", "European Security Issues and Relations with NATO", and "Combating Organized Crime". The most memorable moment during these discussions came when Mr. Doornbusch, Commander of Criminal Intelligence, The Hague told the Lithuanian parliamentarians that if they were dissatisfied with events in their country they should look into the mirror — because ultimately they bear responsibility, they are accountable.

All too soon, the conference was over. Unfortunately, the entire Frost Task Force program is scheduled to end in Lithuania by December, 1994. There is much more that could and should be done, but it is questionable whether the funds will be available.

Meanwhile, members of Lithuania's parliament struggle to make it an effective democratic institution. Basic tasks remain undone. For instance, despite the fact that independent Lithuania's parliament has been passing laws for the last 4+ years, the laws are yet to be codified. A member of LAC, Inc.'s national executive board witnessed a phone call to the parliament's legal counsel's office a few months ago when a judge called the office asking what the relevant law was in a case he was deciding — he had no idea where to begin looking. Unlike the United States, where any lawyer, legislator, judge, and ordinary citizen can go to the index of the U.S. Code and find all the relevant laws organized by subject matter, Lithuania's laws continue to be pub-

lished in chronological order without any kind of an index — wreaking havoc on the judicial system, government ministries, government policies, and undermining the public trust. The parliament's lack of public accountability is reflected in the public opinion polls. Public approval of the parliament has swung as low as 9% recently and even today reaches only a 30% positive rating. Few recorded votes are taken, voting records of individual members not available, thereby, making it impossible for constituents to hold their elected representatives accountable for their votes.

Recently, public opinion polls asked Lithuanians who they would vote for if national elections were held. 49% of the respondents said they would vote for "no one". This astoundingly high level of public apathy is the single greatest threat to Lithuanian democracy today. It is not the Russian army, it is not the homegrown mafia, it is not even the corrupt government officials. It is the failure of Lithuanians to take responsibility for their society and to hold their elected representatives accountable for decisions made in their name — or the lack of decision-making. As you will recall, one of the conference panelists urged members of Lithuania's parliament to look into the mirror when griping about problems, but more to the point, every Lithuanian should look long and hard in his or her own mirror. In a democracy — we're all responsible.

## Kaišiadorys Election Update

For the third time in a row, the voters of the Kaišiadorys parliamentary electoral district have failed to elect a successor to Algirdas Brazauskas who represented the district in the parliament from March, 1990 to February 14, 1993. Mr. Brazauskas gave up his parliamentary seat when he ascended to Lithuania's presidency. In the previous two rounds, more than 38% of the registered voters turned out and by ever increasing margins elected the opposition candidate Liudvikas Sabutis. But the elections were ruled not valid because they failed to pass the threshold of total voter turnout, i.e. 40% of the total number of registered voters need to cast their ballots in any single election to make an electoral victory valid.

In the most recent election held Sunday, May 15, 1994 the total voter turnout was only 5%. What happened? Voter apathy or voter protest? You can be the judge. Here are the facts. By the April 14, 1994 filing date, two candidates had registered with the local election commission: Liudvikas Sabutis running as a Homeland Union candidate (TS) and a previously unseen candidate, Albinas Visockas running as an independent because the party which he chairs, the Socialist Party of Lithuania, had not yet completed its registration with the Justice Ministry. However, on April 14, 1994 the Chief Election Commission of Lithuania disallowed Mr. Sabutis' candidacy on the grounds that his party, the Homeland Union (TS) failed to register for this specific



election. This registration requirement had not been enforced in the previous two elections for the Kaišiadorys seat. Therefore, when the voters of the Kaišiadorys district went to the polls on May 15, 1994 there was only one name on the ballot.

Since Lithuanian election laws do not allow write-in candidates, the voters of Kaišiadorys had few choices that Sunday morning. It appears that at least 33-34% of the registered voters of the district made a conscious choice to not vote for the listed candidate Visockas. They voted with their feet, choosing not to participate in a single candidate election.

There must now be a fourth election scheduled sometime over the next six months to fill the Kaišiadorys seat. Let's hope that the relevant government institutions and political parties have all learned an important lesson in democracy. Jim Crow laws only weaken democracy. The big question is whether the citizens of Kaišiadorys will come the fourth time?

## Beware of Russian Propaganda

The results of an extensive survey of the views of Russians living in Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania was released on April 25, 1994. The survey reveals that Russians living in the Baltic states do not share the views of nationalists in Russia, nor the Russian government who have charged that the Baltic governments have been discriminating against ethnic Russians.

The survey was conducted by three different Baltic research institutes under the direction of the Centre for the Study of Public Policy, University of Strathclyde in Glasgow, Scotland. 6,136 persons were interviewed, asking the same questions in four different languages. This is a myth-shattering survey because it directly contradicts the accusations which the Russian government and Russian nationalists like Zhirinovskiy have bandied about — that the Balts practice "apartheid" against the ethnic Russians, that there is even "ethnic cleansing" in Estonia.

The propaganda campaign has been so intense that even Lithuanian-Americans have been heard to remark on occasion, "Well, of course, there's no discrimination in Lithuania, but the Latvians and Estonians have their problems, you know ..." Before you're tempted to give an inch to Russian propaganda, take a close look at these survey results:

A total of 74% of Russians living in all three Baltic countries describe current relations between themselves and Balts as good or very good. Ironically, 8% fewer respondents viewed relations among the Baltic peoples as good. 69% of the Russians living in the Baltics felt they had a fair amount in common with the native Balts. Professor Richard Rose, the director of the survey has said, "A striking feature of the survey is that Russian-speakers in Estonia and Latvia tend to be as positive in

their views as in Lithuania, where they are a small minority".

76% of the Russians see better economic prospects for themselves in the Baltic states rather than in Russia today. In fact, they already enjoy a higher standard of living than native Russians. For instance, 33% of Russians living in the Baltics have a car, compared to 21% in Russia.

The survey also reveals that, "whatever a person's nationality—Estonian, Latvian, Lithuanian or Russian—people living in the Baltics agree that they have far more freedom than in the former Soviet Union. An absolute majority feel that they are more free to say what they think, join any organization they want, travel abroad, practice a religion and decide for themselves whether or not to take an interest in politics. On these five measures of freedom, an average of 72% of Russians say they are better off than before; 4% say they are worse off; the remainder believe things haven't changed."

The Russian nationalists and the Russian government have based most of their claims concerning discrimination in the Baltics on the issue of citizenship. But again, the views of Russians living in these Baltic countries do not support the claims. 49% of the Russians living in all three Baltic states approve of the current political system in those countries, while only 26% express approval for the political system in the Russian Federation itself. Only a third of the Russians living in Estonia and Latvia agree that simply living in the Baltics at the time of independence justifies a claim to citizenship in those countries. Another third think residents of more than 10 years should qualify for citizenship. A little more than 20% of these same Russian respondents think that citizenship should only be given to Russian-speakers who have been born in the Baltics.

Because of the survey results, Professor Rose concludes that, "The undoubted ethnic tensions in the Baltics appear manageable because both Baltic nationalities and Russian speakers tend to disagree among themselves about many political issues, and to divide in similar proportions. Moreover, on the issue of citizenship, most people do not hold strong views. More Estonians, Latvians and Russian-speakers in the two countries say they see arguments for different points of view than hold very strong views."

The study was funded by a grant from the European Community's (now European Union's) Copernicus program for Cooperation in Science and Technology. Russian survey results which were used for comparison are from the second New Russia Barometer organized by the Centre for the Study of Public Policy, University of Strathclyde. The survey was conducted in Estonia between Sept. 7-20, 1993, in Latvia Sept. 16- Oct.16, 1993, in Lithuania Sept.27-Oct.12, 1993, and in Russia between June 26-July 22, 1993.



Antanas Dambriunas

# Business News

## Value Added Tax (VAT) introduced May 1

Continuing in its attempts to move towards Western European standards in the area of taxation, the law implementing the Value Added Tax (VAT) on all forms of goods and services went into effect on May 1st. The standard VAT rate applied on goods and services is 18% and it effectively replaces the previous sales tax which had existed at the retail level. Due to the different application of the VAT (compared to the old sales tax), there is likely to be an increase in the rate of inflation (in April it had dropped to 1.6% for the month), although economists appear to differ in their forecasts on the extent.

## New Ferry Line Opens

### KLAIPEDA - ROSTOCK, GERMANY

Deutfracht Berlin GmbH has opened a new ferry line Klaipeda - Rostock, a city on the northern German coast. The freight ferry is called the "Senator" and will make runs every two days, with each trip being 23 hours in duration.

## "VAIRAS": Rich Man, Poor Man

Several months ago the Šiauliai "Vairas" bicycle plant was split into two separate operating units, which have since gone their own way in opposite directions. "Baltik Vairas" was privatized thanks to a capital injection of 2,500,000 German Marks and avoiding stock give-away via the voucher system. The result is that the plant is able to assemble 12,000-20,000 units per month, 90% of which are for export to Germany and other Western European markets. The plant presently employs 750. The "Šiaulių Vairas", employing 780, specializes in production of mopeds. It has had difficulty attracting foreign capital, and so far it has only been able to attract investment vouchers from its workforce for 11.5% of its share capital. The result is that this plant is producing goods which are difficult to sell, operates at 25% capacity and keeps hoping that the government will forgive certain debts and provide sufficient tax breaks to keep it afloat for awhile.

## Jonava's "AZOTAS" Sold to Local Investors for LT. 30,929,000

In what is likely to become the largest sale of an

individual state enterprise to local Lithuanian investors, the "Azotas" fertilizer and ammonium plant at Jonava is set to be sold to a group of local investors for Litai 30,929,000. The facility is one of the largest mineral fertilizer producers in the region, and is currently headed by former Lithuanian prime minister Bronislavas Lubys.

Having won the right to privatize this large enterprise, the new owners have stated that they will seek further equity capital from both Russia and distributors in Western Europe. They have already approached a Russian company Gazprom to acquire up to 40% of the 3,000,000 common shares. The plant has succeeded in developing western markets for its output, selling nearly 80% of its output to customers in Sweden, United Kingdom, and France.

## Lithuanian Furniture Production exceeds US \$45 Million

Design and assembly of furniture is one of Lithuania's major industries, employing over 19,000 and sales exceeding Lit. 180,000,000 in 1993. Exports to western markets accounted for approximately 25% of the total, while exports to Russia alone came to 49% of the total. It is expected that 1994 the exports to western markets will continue to follow recent trends and increase in volume, while those to Russia and other CIS countries are likely to continue decline. The recently held "Furniture, Wood, Technology '94" held at the Litexpo palace in Vilnius was a tremendous success from the point of view of participating exhibitors and visiting guests. The Lithuanian furniture industry as a whole has greatly benefitted from investments from Europe's public funding programs as well from the European private sector.

## Privatization for Investment Vouchers Set to Expire in December

The continued sell-off of various state-owned properties will continue until the end of December, 1994 rather than July 1st as was planned. The main reason appears to be that as of May 12th investment vouchers issued to Lithuanian citizens valued at approximately Lit. 425,000,000 were still uninvested in any state enterprise, and that without an extension of the deadline, some Lit. 150,000,000 would expire unused. Meanwhile, privatization of state property for hard currency has

*Continued on p. 15*



## Bits and Pieces...

### Knights of Lithuania Supreme Council Members Meet with Lithuanian Ambassador

Dr. Alfonsas Eidintas met with some Knights of Lithuania Supreme Council members at the Lithuanian Chamber of Commerce of America Annual Award Banquet naming Consul General Vaclovas Kleiza as the Chamber's "Man of the Year."

Ambassador Eidintas met with Supreme Council First Vice-President Evelyn Ozelis, Mid-America district president Algerd Brazis, Supreme Council public relations chair Glenn Perutis and Supreme Council trustee Peter Zansitis. At this meeting, the ambassador revealed that

Chamber of Commerce banquet. In spite of his busy schedule, Dr. Eidintas stated that he really enjoys meeting Lithuanian-Americans.

*From a press release from K of L Supreme Council*

### Johnson & Johnson Opens Baltic Office

A new Baltic head office, located in Vilnius, Lithuania, has been opened by Johnson & Johnson AB in Sweden to facilitate the marketing of professional products in the Baltic states. The office also is assisting another company, Johnson & Johnson Switzerland AG, with selling consumer products to the Baltic market.

*From Johnson & Johnson's Worldwide News Digest Vol. 23, No.5 April 26, 1994*



*Knights of Lithuania Supreme Council members meet with Lithuanian Ambassador. L to r: P. Zansitis, A. Brazis, E. Ozelis, Dr. A. Eidintas, and G. Perutis*

he was invited to address the Knights of Lithuania 81st National Convention which will be held at the Marriott Hotel in Chicago from Aug. 4 to Aug. 8, 1994. He indicated that he will be happy to accept the invitation and looks forward to meeting with the Knights of Lithuania delegates in Chicago.

Dr. Eidintas had met with the foreign minister of Lithuania in Washington after a treaty signing and then accompanied the foreign minister to former President Nixon's funeral before accompanying him to New York City to open the new Lithuanian Embassy to the United Nations. These events all occurred the week before the

### Helsinki Commission welcomes Latvian-Russian Accord on Troop Withdrawal

"A welcome step toward finally removing the last traces of the Cold War," said Sen. Dennis DeConcini (D-AZ), Chairman of the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe (Helsinki Commission), describing the April 30 signing by President Ulmanis of Latvia and President Yeltsin of Russia of an agreement calling for withdrawal of Russian troops from Latvia by August 31, 1994.

"The withdrawal of foreign troops from the territory of the Baltic states has been a major issue in the CSCE and for the

US Congress," said Commission Co-Chairman Steny Hoyer (D-MD). "Russian troops have been in the Baltic states for too long, and the negotiations have been lengthy and arduous. This agreement should be a major step toward reducing tensions in the Baltic area."

The Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe was created by law in 1976 to monitor and encourage compliance with the 1975 Helsinki Accords and subsequent CSCE documents. In July 1992, the CSCE called for the "early, orderly, and complete" withdrawal of foreign troops from the Baltic states. In September 1993, Russian troops left Lithuania. Negotiations

Photo: Jonas Tamulaitis



over the withdrawal of Russian soldiers from Estonia have stalled over Moscow's demand for "social guarantees" for retired Russian military officers remaining in Estonia.

*From a CSCE news release May 3, 1994*

## **The Lithuanian World Center in Lemont, IL**

The Lithuanian World Center recently celebrated its sixth birthday. Guess what, we've run out of room! Over 126,000 square feet, on 15 acres and in the rapidly growing southwest suburb of Lemont, Chicago's Lithuanian community has flocked to the center since it was purchased in 1988.

Remarkably, the Center's opening and growth coincided with the rebirth of freedom in Lithuania. By 1990, the Maironis Lithuanian School (with over 200 students), Žiburėlis Montessori School, and the Blessed George Matulaitis mission were fully established at LWC. The younger, largely American-educated users of the Center responded to Lithuania's brave re-declaration of independence (March 11, 1990), and formed the Lithuanian Hotline.

Over the months, the LWC became a hotbed of activity. Its conference room, turned over to Lithuanian Hotline featured seven phones, sometimes 20-30 volunteers, and the latest news about Lithuania's fight for freedom. Demonstrations were organized. Television and radio stations, newspapers and national magazines were bombarded with phone calls from Hotline volunteers, seeking more coverage of Lithuanian events.

In April of 1990, Hotline volunteers formed Lithuanian Mercy Lift, as a response to the Soviet blockade. Initially started as a means of getting support to the brave people of Lithuania, LML has collected and shipped over

\$30 million dollars worth of medicine and medical supplies. 80 containers, and more on the way. In addition, LML has been instrumental in setting up exchange programs between Lithuania and the University of Illinois. LML's TB drive has brought life-saving medicine to orphans suffering from the horrible effects of TB. LML volunteers continue to meet at the Lithuanian World Center and store medicine and supplies in every available nook and cranny there.

Through the roller-coaster ride that culminated in the collapse of the Soviet Union in late 1991, the Lithuanian World Center proved itself invaluable as the headquarters for Lithuanian-Americans efforts to help. Everyone came together here. Three and four year old Montessori students joined elderly occupants of the LWC's 11 apartments and 17 condominiums in making posters for demonstrations. High school and college students joined young mothers and retired grandmothers as Hotline volunteers. Grade school children participated in walk-a-thons.

The Lithuanian World Center has settled into taking an ever-increasing role in helping preserve the Lithuanian culture here in the US. Activities continue to grow, as more and more Lithuanian-Americans move into the area. The Lithuanian Museum of Art is the LWC's best kept secret. Constantly changing exhibits and ever-increasing permanent collections, make it a wonderful and fascinating place to visit.

The Lithuanian World Center has shown what Lithuanian-Americans, working together, can accomplish. If you come to the Chicago area, please make it a point to visit the Center.

*George Riskus, President of LWC.*

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## **BUSINESS NEWS Continued from p. 13**

come to virtual halt. In 1994 only two state-owned properties have been sold: 70.5% of Kaunas Food Service "Žaliakalnis" for US \$600,000 and a retail store in Kaunas "Tauras" for US\$ 257,000.

## **Solomon Bros. Executives: "Lithuania has Investment Possibilities"**

Two senior level Solomon Bros executives, William Browder and Tim Helms recently concluded a brief visit to Russia and the three Baltic countries. At the end of the visit they stated that in several areas Lithuania has actually progressed further than its neighbors. They noted that the recently formed stock exchange in Vilnius already has an infrastructure and operating mechanism far better organized and structured than anything they have seen in Russia, Estonia, and Latvia. Despite difficulties, they were also impressed with Lithuania's method of privatization, in that the Lithuanian version was creating a larger number of shareholders in the market-

place than in the other two Baltic States. They also stated that the most important thing for newly emerging economies was to maintain a stable exchange rate and to avoid measures which increase inflation such as national budget deficits or unrealistic interest rates which would destabilize the local currency.

## **Foreign Firms Enthusiastic Buyers at "AGROBALT'94" Expo in Vilnius**

The four day "AGROBALT'94" expo held in Vilnius proved to be quite lucrative to both Lithuanian and foreign exhibitors. Many of the participants from Austria, Italy, France, Germany, and the UK were able to sell the machinery they brought for exhibition purposes and also received orders for additional units. Many of the large buyers were from Latvia as well as various Lithuanian farming regions. The only exhibitor expressing disappointment was the representative from the Polish company "Ursus" whose tractors and related equipment did not generate as much interest as hoped for.



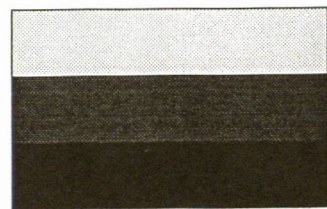
Aukse Trojanas

# The New York Scene

The life of Marija Gimbutas was celebrated in a moving memorial service on May 7th at the Friends Meeting House in New York City. The world renowned archaeologist died on February 2, 1994. Ancient artifacts and flowering plants decorated the simple Quaker interior as friends and colleagues remembered Professor Gimbutas and her work. Marija Gimbutas formulated an important theory about the neolithic peoples of Europe. Findings in archaeological digs persuaded her of the existence of a peaceful agrarian society from about 3500 to 6500 B.C. Sculptures and terracotta figures were found which depicted a female deity, the Mother Goddess, the venerated source of the regenerative powers of woman in the cycle of "birth and death and the renewal of life, not only human but all life on earth and indeed in the whole cosmos." The Goddess centered society was a matrilineal one in which women headed clans and priestesses were empowered. Agricultural people appeared to have lived in harmony with the creative energies of nature. There was little evidence of fortifications or of weapons of war. By 3500 B.C. "Old Europe" was overrun by the Indo-European Kurgans, a warlike people who brought horses and imposed a patriarchal way of life. These were the principal ancestors of modern Europe. Their language is most authentically preserved in modern Lithuanian and Latvian. The theory of the Goddess is controversial but respected in academic archaeology. It is very much embraced by feminists and those who lament the unending cycles of war and genocide throughout the world. Gimbutas felt that the positive history of woman had been forgotten. She wanted to restore that memory and to give hope, based on physical evidence, that a peaceful society is possible. Her "Kurgan theory" was recently confirmed by a geneticist, Luigi Cavalli-Sforza, who found a mixing of the genetic DNA of the vanquished and their conquerors around the fourth millennium B.C. Marija Gimbutas, the daughter of two physicians, was born in Vilnius in 1921. She studied at the University of Vilnius, earned her Ph.D. at the University of Tubingen in 1946 and did research at Harvard University after emigrating to America in 1949. Within ten years she published her revolutionary book, *Bronze Age Cultures of Central and Eastern Europe*, which established her as a formidable authority in archaeology. On the basis of this work she was granted full professorship at UCLA. Her most cherished degree was an honorary Doctorate from her alma mater, the University of Vilnius, awarded in a newly independent Lithuania. An author of numerous books and articles, Professor

Gimbutas was highly regarded by colleagues, academicians, and a variety of other admirers. Both Joseph Campbell, the mythologist, and the anthropologist Ashley Montagu described her work as key or Rosetta Stone to archaeology and anthropology. Rutgers Professor of Philosophy Bruce Wilshire pronounced her to be a heroine to question the most prevailing, august opinion that patriarchy is the accepted order of society. She accepted the longterm skepticism of some colleagues: "they don't understand yet." She felt the most important feature of her contribution was creating the groundwork for exploration of her theories so that future generations could find a way to influence society to live peacefully. She was beloved by many friends as a uniquely grounded and unpretentious human being. When already ill, she received the gift of an ancient piece of pottery, which she recognized to be a funerary urn. The gift-giver was chagrined to learn this, but Marija was amused and delighted. For her, the past and the present were one, and death was a gift, so that one could experience renewal. During the last summer of her life, in 1993, Marija stayed with old friends in Palanga. She was especially fond of three piano pieces composed by her host, Balys Dvarionas. These lovely and haunting works were performed by his daughter, the pianist Aldona Dvarionaite, at the memorial service.

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Jeanne Dorr

# S.O.S. Lithuania, Inc. - Florida

There will be times when this humanitarian aid column may seem to be repetitious. Many of the articles will focus on children. But aren't the children the future of Lithuania? Who will help those least able to help themselves? To some readers it may seem that one organization overlaps another. Believe me, it doesn't. We need each and everyone of you dedicated volunteers and the work that you do. You may feel you have a small group and that your work is insignificant. After all, how important can you be, when you read about containers worth millions of dollars being shipped to Lithuania? This is *your* column! I want to hear from the smaller groups and individuals. Don't worry if your activities aren't enough to fill an entire column. There may be some readers in another part of the country who share your interest and would like to join forces with you but don't know who to contact or where to start. Also, please don't hesitate to write a few words and let these people know their work is appreciated. There is usually a name and address included in each article. Everyone needs an occasional pat on the back and there's nothing like a few kind words to keep you going.

This month's column focuses on S.O.S. Lithuania, Inc., a group you will be hearing more about in future issues. They are a very small team of dedicated volunteers whose love for the children of Lithuania can be seen through their many accomplishments. Their first project was to help the hearing impaired children. In 1991, they sent sixty hearing aids to the Audiological Department of Kaunas University Polyclinic. These hearing aids were distributed to children with severe hearing losses throughout Lithuania. Along with the hearing aids, the group sent thirty six cartons of hearing aid batteries, one Audiometer (Maico MA-27), one noise

stick (portable hearing screener for infants), special material for starting to make ear molds for hearing aids, and information and educational material for professionals in the auditory field.

During the same year, they sent two crates of pharmaceutical and medical supplies to the Vilnius Children's University Hospital. Included in that shipment, were the same supplies for the Kaunas Polyclinic. Each hospital received approximately 250 pounds of medical donations.

In July of 1993, a 20 ft. container filled with boxes of sheets, pillows, pillowcases, blankets, comforters, bath mats, new clothes, a television set, a VCR, and toys arrived in Lithuania. These items were distributed to several TB and children's hospitals. A similar container was sent in February of 1994. By the time this issue reaches our readers a third container should be on its way, shipping was scheduled for May. The second container went not only to hospitals, but also to convents to be used in their schools. The members are grateful to a Miami country club for donations to these contain-



*At "Lingua" - school for hearing impaired children in Kaunas. One of the audiologists working with children 3-4 years of age with serious hearing impairments.*

ers.

S.O.S. Lithuania, Inc. participated in the organization and shipping of a container of hospital pediatric equipment to various hospitals in Lithuania, most of it being forwarded to Vilnius. Included in this container, were ventilators, respirators, examining tables, hospital stretchers, laboratory equipment, and items too numerous to mention. This donation was excess inventory from the Veterans Hospital in Houston, TX and was handled by Direct Relief International in California. The approximate value of the donation was \$516,000.

This group still has, as a primary concern, hearing



impaired children. They try to acquire as much equipment as possible through gifts and donations. The rest must be purchased. Many hours are spent on these purchases, because the best equipment must be bought by spending the least amount of money.

Anyone who has put their heart and soul into a cause such as this one, knows you not only give of yourself and your time. You actually end up spending your own money while you pursue your dreams for others. It takes a lot of money to keep these projects alive. If you have mailed packages to Lithuania, you understand the money involved. Can you imagine the cost of packing these items

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*S.O.S. Lithuania, Inc. members Ruth Meyer and Ariana Kumpis marking and counting boxes for shipment of medical supplies to Lithuania.*

and sending one of these containers? The group has had several successful fund-raisers. They held two casino nights, one was a Las Vegas night at the St. Lucie Parish Hall in Highland Beach, Florida. They also sponsored a luncheon with a cooking demonstration given by an author. In conjunction with S.O.S. Vaikai in Boston, the Miami group undertook the printing and selling of note cards. In 1991, children in Lithuania were invited to join in a drawing contest by submitting drawings to S.O.S. Vaikai. Twenty one of the drawings were sent to Boston, where five were selected to be printed on the cards. The cards are colorful and can be used for any occasion, since they are blank inside. On the back of each card is printed the title of the picture, name, age, and city of the artist. This is truly a project of children in Lithuania helping other children in Lithuania by way of America and the cards. **All proceeds from the sale of these cards benefit children in need, living in Lithuania.** Each package contains ten cards, two each of the winning designs. The cost is \$8 plus \$2 for postage. Where can you buy "designer" cards for \$1 each and at the same time know you are benefiting a needy child? If you live in the Boston area, you might wish to contact S.O.S. Vaikai for the cards. If you are interested in sending a tax deductible donation to aid the Florida group with their work or would like to order note cards, or obtain more information about S.O.S. Lithuania, Inc. please write to: Ruth Meyer

1601 S.W. 116 Ave

Davie, FL 33325

I would like to thank Ariana Kumpis and Ruth Meyer for the time they took from their busy schedules to provide me with the information for this article.



Pranas Gvildys

# Sports News

## Basketball

The Lithuanian National Junior Basketball team participated in the International Albert Schweizer Tournament in Germany. The Lithuanian team finished fourth, behind the USA, Spain and Australia.

The European Junior Championships are to be held in Israel in mid July. It is expected that the Lithuanian team will be reinforced with Andrius Jurkunas, Sarunas Jasaikevicius and Marius Janulis who are attending schools in the United States.

The Lithuanian Junior girls basketball championships have been completed. The winner was the Alytus team. They defeated Panevežys 51:38.

Some statistics from the Lithuanian Professional Basketball League:

Most rebounds - 429 by Z. Ilgauskas from Kauno Atletas. Second - with 277 rebounds was V. Praskevicius from Kauno Lavera.

Most assists - 120 by A. Stanciauskas from Šilute. Second with - 119 assists was G. Meiliunas from Lavera.

Most steals - 85 by S. Raziulis from Lietkabelis. Second with - 78 steals was M. Pranckevicius from Olimpas.

Most blocks - 144 by Z. Ilgauskas from Atletas. Second with - 79 blocks was S. Tribe from Lavera.

The league playoffs did not have any surprises until now. In the semifinals Kauno "Žalgiris" defeated Vilniaus "Statyba" 79:74 and 68:52; and Kauno "Atletas" defeated Kauno "Lavera" 90:69 and 64:60. The result from the final between Žalgiris and Atletas, will be announced in the next issue of BRIDGES.

## Table Tennis

Lithuanian table tennis players participated in the European Championships held in Birmingham, England. The best results were achieved in womens doubles, where Ruta Garkauskaite and Jolanda Prusiene lost in the semifinals to a Russian pair J. Timina and I. Palina 24:22, 21:14, thereby earning the bronze medal.

## Soccer

After winter recess, the Lithuanian soccer league resumed their play. Twelve teams participate in the league. The present standings after 16 rounds are:

TEAM	games	wins	ties	losses	points
Romar (Mažeikiai)	16	13	2	1	28
Žalgiris EBSW (Vilnius)	16	12	2	2	26
Ekranas (Panevėžys)	16	11	3	2	25
Panerys (Vilnius)	16	9	5	2	23
FBK (Kaunas)	16	7	4	5	18
Sirijus (Klaipėda)	16	6	5	5	17
Aras (Klaipėda)	16	5	6	5	16
Inkaras (Kaunas)	16	2	6	8	10
Taurus-Karsuva (Tauragė)	16	2	4	10	8
Šiauliai-Sakalas	16	3	2	11	8
Žydrius (Marijampolė)	16	1	5	10	7
Geležinis Vilkas (Vilnius)	15	1	4	11	6

The top scorers are: V. Slekys from Ekranas with 13 goals, and V. Doncenka from Romar with 11 goals.

The Lithuanian National teams, junior and mens, played against Israel. The juniors lost 1:0 and the men tied 1:1.

## Lithuanian Sports News from the US

### Chess

The Lithuanian Chess championship was held in Chicago on April 16-17, 1994. The tournament was held under the four round Swiss system. For first place A. Jasaitis from Chicago and J. Chrolavicius from Hamilton tied with 3-1/2 points each. Three players shared third place: A. Simonaitis from New York, V. Balciauskas and Vylutis both from Chicago. Sixteen players participated in the tournament.

### Basketball

The 1994 junior basketball championships were held in Cleveland on April 23rd and 24th. 23 teams participated.

In the 16 year old age group the winners was Hamilton "Kovas" defeating Detroit "Kovas" 63:57. 5 teams participated in this age group.

In the 14 year old group the winner was London "Taurus" defeating Cleveland "Žaibas" 61:52. 7 teams participated in this age group.

In the 12 year old age group 6 teams participated. The winner was Hamilton "Kovas" defeating Toronto "Vytis" 56:29.

In the 10 year old age group there were 5 teams and



the winner was again Hamilton "Kovas" defeating Cleveland "Žaibas" 22:15.

## Marius Janulis in Prattsburg

*Paulius Klimas*

A small town in New York State has learned to love a young man from Klaipėda, Lithuania. Marius Janulis is a Rotary Club senior exchange student who will graduate from Prattsburg High School with an A average, a bas-



*Marius Janulis pictured with Paulius Klimas and Mrs. Klimas*

ketball scholarship to a division one school, and the love of the people of Prattsburg.

Janulis, a 6'6 guard, led Prattsburg High to the state finals. A recent article in the Democrat & Chronicle, a Rochester newspaper, explained that Janulis could be "elected mayor of Prattsburg". Prattsburg basketball coach

Jim Burke explained: "Marius always gives, he never takes."

Janulis' parent are both physicians. According to Janulis' history teacher Mr. Cook, they must have instilled in their son a great deal of dedication and enthusiasm. "He is so modest," said Cook, "if he had been at all cocky he would not have been accepted."

The people of Prattsburg have raised enough money to bring the Janulises from Lithuania to the small town of Prattsburg which is located sixty miles southeast of Rochester in Steuben County. They will have the opportunity to meet their son's foster parents, the Putnams, and attend their son's graduation.

Bob Putnam said that "Marius is simply a joy" to have in his home. Janulis found the transition to life in the United States difficult at first. The abundance of everything, especially food, was exasperating. Although his English was not great at first, Janulis has no trouble communicating now.

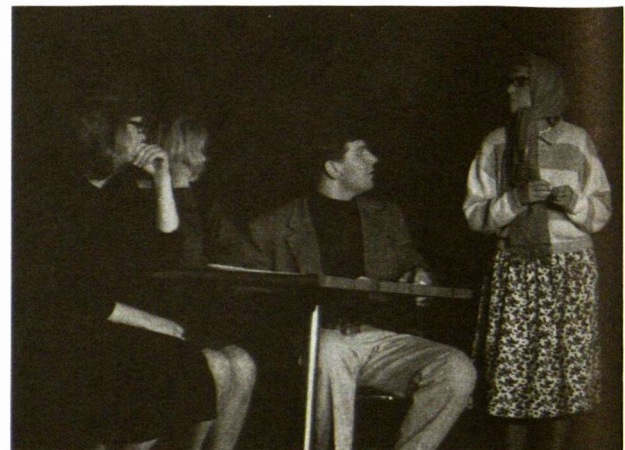
He will attend Syracuse University this fall on a full basketball scholarship and study Computer Science. First, however, he must catch up with the Lithuanian National Youth team in Spain this summer to prepare for a tournament in Israel.

Presently, Janulis is playing left-field and batting .300 for the Prattsburg High baseball team.

The Rochester Lithuanian community will salute Janulis and his parents on June 19 when they visit St. George's parish. Marius Janulis is an excellent ambassador for Lithuania and the people of Prattsburg deserve him.

## **ANTRAS KAIMAS** *Continued from p. 8*

search for "new blood" was successfully conducted, and the group was back in business. The directing and writing was taken over by veterans Romas Stakauskas and Eugenijus Butenas. Two more road trips, one to New York in 1992 and one to Los Angeles in 1993, were taken after which the two veteran females, Indre Toliusyte and Vida Gilvydiene decided to retire. A new recruiting drive was conducted. This year's group is made up of veterans Eugenijus Butenas and Alida Vitaite along with Tauras Bublys, Aidas Palubinskas, Jonas Variakojis, Karolis Zukauskas and Audra Mockaityte. Veteran Romas Stakauskas is the director and Juozas "Sid" Ulevicius directs sound and lights. The 1994 season was kicked off on May 21st and 22nd on the Playhouse stage in Chicago and June 11th and 12th at the Lithuanian World Center in Lemont, IL. The group tells me that they are wide open to invitations to entertain in any city in any hemisphere! The best of luck to them all!



*A scene from one Antras Kaimas skit - l to r; A. Vitaite, V. Gilvydiene, A. Palubinskas, I. Toliusyte.*



Ramune Kubilius

# From the Lithuanian Press...

Selected excerpt from the Lithuanian Press in America.

## Lithuanian imports and exports

Lithuania at this time trades with 160 countries; in mid-1993, it traded with 134 countries; in 1992- with 99 countries. Lithuania's primary importer is Germany from whom 14.3% of Lithuania's imported goods originated. 6.8% of Lithuania's exports went to Germany. 35.4% of Lithuania's imports came from the Russian Federation- mostly raw materials. 33.1% of Lithuania's exports go to the Russian Federation. Trade is up from 4.1 billion litai in 1992 to 15.3 litai (exports from 2.5 to 8.7 bil, imports from 1.6 to 6.6 bil). Specialists say that international agreements (favored nation, etc.) and the introduction of the litas play a part.

(DRAUGAS, 4/23/94)

## AIDS in Lithuania

Lithuania's 21st registered HIV positive patient has been diagnosed at the AIDS Center in Vilnius. The wife and child of the man, a 20 year old sailor, have tested negative thus far. Of the 21 HIV positive patients, 5 currently have AIDS. 2 have fathered children since the diagnosis. 4 of the HIV positive patients have already died- 2 were killed, 2 of AIDS-related complications. According to experts, there is a circle of up to 50-100 persons who may be infected around each person with AIDS. Therefore, the official registration HIV statistics in Lithuania should be higher.

(DRAUGAS, 4/23/94)

## "Utena" to provide beverages

The World Lithuanian Song Festival will take place in Vilnius July 6-10. The Utena Drink Cooperative (Utenos gėrimu akcinė bendrovė) General Director Eugenijus Saltis and World Lithuanian Song Festival Director Juozas Mikutavicius signed an agreement of exclusivity whereby the Utena cooperative would have the rights of being the only vendors of beer and nonalcoholic drinks to festival participants and guests. The firm is not only the largest beverage manufacturer in Lithuania, but also a distributor of well-known beverages from German, Sweden, the United States and other countries. Therefore, the selection will include 40 name brand beers, non-alcoholic drinks, mineral drinks, and various fruit and berry juices. E. Saltis said that he understands that there will no great profits from the festival, but also there will be no great losses. Already the cooperative has begun ordering automated drink dis-

pensing machines and dishes, and inventory is being prepared.

(DRAUGAS, 4/26/94)

## Radio Ads in Lithuania

According to statistics, about 80-86% of Lithuania's inhabitants listen to radio. Last year, Lithuanian radio advertising revenues were 300,000. Some firms advertise only via radio spots. Worldwide, radio advertisement is only in fourth place- after television, the press and advertising brochures. As of May 1st, advertising costs will go up-during the most expensive time slots one minute will cost 118 litai, the cheapest- 47.20 litai.

(DRAUGAS, 4/26/94)

## Students attacked and beaten

On March 19th, the Lithuanian Catholic Federation Ateitis' Student Division president Vytautas Magnus University theology and philosophy student, Vygantas Malinauskas was attacked and beaten into unconsciousness. On March 25th Vytautas Magnus University Arts student Zivile Krivickaite was beat up. Neither student provoked the attacks, nor did they know the motives. Both students required medics' attention and could not attend lectures for an extended periods. Earlier in March, both Vygantas and Zivile, together with other Catholic Youth Federation members helped organize a spring seminar in Varniai.

(DRAUGAS from information in NAUJASIS DIENOVIDIS from Lithuania, 4/27/94)

## "Pensininkas" Celebrates 10th Anniversary

The Lithuanian-American Community Human Services Council journal PENSININKAS ("The Retired Person") celebrates its 10th anniversary. We congratulate a group of people who are responsible for a job well done. 10 years is not a long time, but looking at how many journals have moved their editorial staffs to Lithuania in recent years (or publications which ceased to exist completely), it is truly amazing to see a Lithuanian language journal whose subscription list grows each year. In the past 10 years, a newsletter has grown into a serious journal. We thank the capable and innovative editor, Karolis Milkovaitis, who continues to succeed in collecting information that is interesting to all, not just to retirees. News items remain newsworthy well after the journal's initial publication date. Readers can be found



all over the Lithuanian world, from the U.S. to Lithuania itself. The monthly journal is published at Morkunas Publishing Company. It has been capably administered since 1988 by Elena Sirutis who retired from the office staff of the Lithuanian language newspaper DRAUGAS, and who has been working with K. Milkovaitis ever since. The editor lives in California, the administration, publishing, and distribution take place in Chicago. A number of irreplaceable longtime volunteers drive between printer and Seklycia, others gather to sort and address the journal for mailing. (Who said that retired persons lead slowly paced lives? PENSININKAS contains articles of Lithuanian activities, including those of the Human Services Council. A number of translated excerpts from American consumer health publications make the journal especially popular and readable. Photographs, recipes and other articles are also popular. Recently, subscriptions have been ordered by Lithuanian Americans for relatives in Lithuania. The administrative office of PENSININKAS is the same as that of the Human Services Council, 2711 West 71st Street, Chicago, IL 60629.-rk)

(DRAUGAS, from an article by Birute Jasaitis, 4/23/94)

### “Laiškai Lietuviams”

The 35th anniversary dinner of the Lithuanian language Catholic journal LAIŠKAI LIETUVIAMS took place at the Lithuanian Catholic Youth Center in Chicago May 1st. (The editors and publishers are the Lithuanian Jesuit Fathers in Chicago.) Editor Juozas Vaisnys, S.J. described the recently conducted writing contest as

successful beyond the editorial board's hopes. In the past, 30-50 persons participated in the contests- each year different essays were offered, different prizes (usually checks) were awarded. This year, more than 100 persons sent in themes describing their feelings about the Ten Commandments. Only a handful of the essay authors were from the United States, one from Rome, Italy. All of the others were from Lithuania. What commandment did most of the themes cover? “Do not kill”, selecting in particular the topic of the high incidence of abortions in Lithuania.

(from the program itself)

### Grand Rapids Activities

For the last several years, Grand Rapids, MI Lithuanian American Vytautas Jonaitis has been teaching Lithuanian language evening classes. The classes are attended by persons of Lithuanian descent as well as by others who wish to learn about the language. (V. Jonaitis has served as co-teacher of the Lithuanian language classes taught at Camp Dainava, MI each summer, with Bronius Krokys of Philadelphia.) Now the Grand Rapids high school teacher also tutors an 8 year old young Lithuanian boy who is living in Grand Rapids while he is being treated at Ann Arbor and Detroit, MI hospitals through the Healing the Children, Michigan program. Stasys and Kim Jonaitis are taking care of Tadas Baravykas who underwent two complicated eye operations which helped him regain sight- he awaits a third operation. The local Grand Rapids Press daily paper recently wrote about the young boy and his guardians, and it described

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his classes at the St. Peter and Paul Parish School. His classmates are helping him learn English and V. Jonaitis helps review his classwork in Lithuanian in the evenings. Lithuanian-American Community Grand Rapids Chapter president Grazina Kamantas is presently working with the Healing the Children program to bring another sick child from Lithuania to Grand Rapids; local Lithuanian Americans have donated almost \$4000 to help support the children. Grand Rapids, through the intercession of World Lithuanian Community officer Rimas Cesonis, is paired with Utena, Lithuania. Grand Rapids inhabitants send packages to orphans and pensioners in Utena. St. Peter and Paul Parish schoolchildren are writing and sending small packages to children at the Catholic school in Utena. Last year, St. Peter and Paul Parish School principal, Nancy Kryger spent the summer in Utena, and plans to spend the summer of 1994 there as well. At the Lithuanian Independence Day celebration of 1993, Nancy Kryger was honored for her work teaching the school children of St. Peter and Paul School about Lithuania and the people of Lithuania.

(DRAUGAS, 4/29/94)

### **Kaunas folk dance group awaits invitation to Chicago**

Our collective has been invited to participate in two folklore festivals in July and August. July 28-August 7th we will be in Rexburg, Utah, and August 8-15th in Bountiful, Utah. However, what would a visit to the United States be without having the opportunity of visiting one of the cities where so many Lithuanians live in one place- Chicago. We are looking for a Lithuanian organization or dance group which might undertake to serve as hosts and organizers of some concerts or shows which we could perform for Chicago's Lithuanians. Our folk dance group, "Suktinis" is very active in Kaunas. We have even drawn the attention of the Americans who invited us to Utah. We hope that Lithuanians might also want to meet us. We await good news from Chicago! (Signed by the dance group instructors, Audrius Sumauskas and Juozas Belickas, writing from Kauno Kulturos Rumai, Vytauto pr., 79/1, 3000 Kaunas.)

(DRAUGAS, letters to the editor section, 4/29/94)

### **Society of "Bajorai" re-established**

Last weekend marked the rebirth of the pre-war "Lietuvos bajoru draugija" (the society of the great families of Lithuania-the grand dukes, etc.-rk). Over 300 persons gathered to reorganize the group which was active 1928-1940. One of the attendees at the meeting was a descendent of the famous Giedraitis family, Romanas Demskis, a priest from Australia who has his doctorate in natural science. It was decided that persons wanting to attain membership would have to document their relationship to one of the families of Lithuania's royalty or the Lithuanian Grand Dukes. Some attendees

## **IMPORTANT NOTICE PHYSICIANS...NURSES...MEDICAL LAB TECHNICIANS**

In August of this year, a private medical clinic owned by an American-Lithuanian joint venture will open in Vilnius. The clinic, which will have its facilities in rented space within an existing hospital, will be the first of its kind and will be furnished, equipped and operated at American hospital standards. One of the objectives for the clinic is to have at least one American physician, nurse and medical laboratory technician available to the clinic during the first 12-18 months of its operations. In addition to treating patients on a fee-for-services basis, the clinic will provide certain amounts of free care to Lithuanians who could not otherwise afford it and will assist in training Lithuanian physicians, nurses and laboratory technicians. The clinic is seeking persons interested in being part of this exciting and pioneering effort to help improve the quality of healthcare in Lithuania.

- Minimum commitment of two months preferred. Clinic will attempt to obtain a Lithuanian medical license for physician participants.
- Only 30-35 hours required each week.
- Clinic will provide roundtrip air travel for participant and spouse and free use of a two-bedroom apartment in Vilnius (utilities included).
- Clinic will pay modest living stipend (in the case of physicians, to the extent that earned fee income from patients is less than \$400 per month).

Persons interested in further information should contact:

Dr. Kenneth M. Leavitt  
(licensed in Lithuania)  
11 Middlesex Avenue  
Wilmington, MA 01887  
Phone: (508) 658-9774  
FAX: (508) 658-2919



described the society as one which would have a cultural-educational frame of reference, others felt that members should be active in Lithuania's spiritual and political life. An exhibit of heraldry, organized by famous sculptor Kostas Bogdanas, took place during the meeting. The shields of families such as: Cidzikas, Laucevicius, Sapiega, Stankus, Geda, Stasinkas, Polukordas, Eitminavicius...were exhibited.

(DRAUGAS, from AGEF, 4/30/94)

### Illegal aliens transported through Lithuania

Well-organized Polish, Lithuanian, Ukrainian, Russian groups are transporting runaways/illegal aliens from Asia and Africa through Lithuania to the West. One person's transport costs \$2000. It is rumored that in addition to people, narcotics are transported as well. Near Augustavas, Poland, a small van was stopped. Inside were ten Chinese, two Pakistanis, one citizen of Sri Lanka, and two Lithuanians. The law requires their return to the country from which they travelled to Poland, (Kaliningrad), but they return to Lithuania. It is thought that the Estonian example should be followed, whereby a special camp should be set up for the illegals.

(DRAUGAS, from AGEF, 4/30/94)

### French establish agricultural center

In Varlaukis, near Plunge, an agricultural equipment center is being established by France. Groups of farmers will be able to use the equipment, helping each other. This effort is in response to former Lithuanian President Vytautas Landsbergis' request to the French president for help to Lithuania's farmers. The French chose Plunge

since after Šilale, it has the highest concentration of farmers in Lithuania.

(DRAUGAS, 4/30/94)

### U of Kansas presents "Displaced Persons"

The University of Kansas at Lawrence was the site of a performance entitled "Displaced Persons", written and directed by Liudvika and Ron Popenhagen. The play touches upon the lives of three women; one, Nijole, from Paris to Vilnius in 1991. Her relative Aldona talks about her youth, the romantic past. The audience learns about the history of Vilnius. The third woman, Rachel is a dreamer and a poet who died during the Second World War in Vilnius...Liudvika (Apinyte) and Ron Popenhagen used a variety of theatrical styles and props to achieve their purposes - pantomime, dance, original "devil masks" (velniu kaukes). They successfully depicted a real street in Vilnius and a true Siberian forest scene. The poetry of Baudelaire, Chagall, Salomeja Neris, Czeslaw Milosc were featured. Ron and Liudvika have taught in various places throughout the world including Paris, the University of California at Santa Barbara, State University at Stony Brook, England and at the Vilnius Conservatory in Lithuania, in 1991 and 1993. The play "Displaced Persons" (Išvietintieji asmenys) was begun in 1986. The pictures of Chagall provide the symbols of Eastern Europe for the play. It would be very fitting if the play would be brought to and performed in Vilnius.

(DRAUGAS, from an article by Mikas Kalinauskas, 4/30/94)

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