

dey

# BRIDGES

LITHUANIAN AMERICAN NEWS JOURNAL

Volume 18, No. 7

SEPTEMBER 1994

\$2.50 per Copy

## CONTENTS:

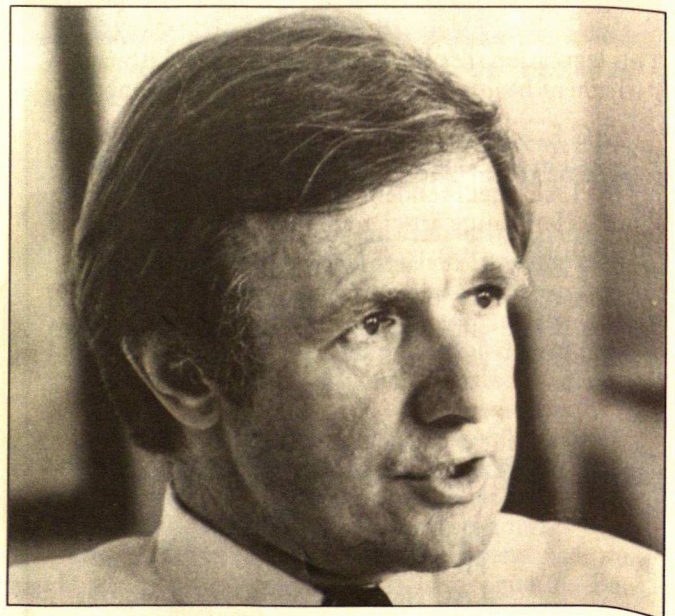
- 3 **Feature**.....Two Unforgettable Friends of Lithuania ..... *Asta Banionis*
- 6 **Feature** ... .. President Clinton's Trip to Riga ..... *Regina Narusis*
- 8 **Politics** .....1994 Legislative Wrap-Up ..... *Asta Banionis*
- 11 **Humanitarian Aid**.....Aid to Lithuania, Inc. .... *Jeanne Dorr*
- 13 **Cultural Arts**.....The New York Scene ..... *Aukse Trojanas*
- 15 **Opinion** ... .. A Rich Heritage ..... *Albert Cizauskas*
- 16 **Business News**...*Antanas Dambrionas*
- 19 **Cultural Arts**.....Ancient Religion in Art ..... *Victor Liaukus*
- 21 **Update**.....Lithuanian Television Programs Direct to You .. *Audrone Gulbinas*
- 22 **News Briefs**.....Bits and Pieces
- 23 **Events**.....Lithuanian World Song Festival ..... *Regina Narusis*
- 25 **News Briefs**.....From the Lithuanian Press ..... *Ramune Kubilius*
- 27 **Sports** ..... *Pranas Gvildys*



*Sen Dennis DeConcini*

## Friends of Lithuania

*Sen Donald Riegle*





## To Our Readers:

As an old Billy Joel song that I heard on the radio this week intoned albeit in a different context, for Lithuanian-Americans: "These are the times to remember..."

Many, many people visited Lithuania this summer.

My wife and I also decided, that this was the summer to take our daughters (Daina, age 9 and Lina, age 6) to see the mysterious place called "Lietuva".

This was the year of the long awaited Song and Dance Festival in Lithuania. For the first time, groups from the United States and other countries would participate with the native Lithuanians.

The 8th World Lithuanian Youth Congress and a number of other conferences would take place in Lithuania for the very first time.

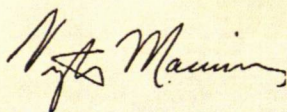
We crisscrossed the country. We climbed the dunes in Neringa. We found amber in the Baltic Sea at Palanga. We swam in the lakes surrounding Rokiskis. We rode paddle boats in the Nemunas at the city of Birstonas. We saw the panorama of Vilnius from the restaurant atop the infamous TV tower. And there was so much more.

Our children established ties to a country and to a part of their family they had never met before.

In Vilnius, I met up with LAC National Committee members, Regina Narusis and Algimantas Gecys. The three of us went to meet with the leaders of Lithuania's political parties to craft legislation establishing a joint Lithuanian commission of US/Canadian diaspora representatives and Lithuanian parliamentarians that would serve as a much needed forum for dialogue and collaboration between Lithuania and its diaspora community. This legislation should be enacted when the Lithuanian Parliament begins its fall session in early September.

LAC Executive Vice-President Regina Narusis participated in the song and dance festival and, representing the LAC, met President and Mrs. Clinton in Riga on July 6. Her feature articles are included in this issue of BRIDGES.

More than ever, this summer I felt, that the future is ours to define and I believe "These are the times to remember..."



Vytas Maciunas,  
Publisher, BRIDGES  
President,  
LAC National Executive Committee

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

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

Subscription rate is \$18.00 annually (US Mail serviced subscribers; subscriptions to other addresses are \$32.00), payable in advance (US funds). Second Class Postage paid at Auburn, MA 01501; and additional locations. Copyright ©1994 Lithuanian-American Community, Inc. All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced without written permission of the publisher. All statements and opinions, including product claims, are those of the organization/advertiser making those statements or claims. The publisher does not adopt, or put forth, any such statement or claim as his own, and any such statement or claim does not necessarily reflect the opinion of the publisher. Unsolicited manuscripts must be accompanied by a stamped, self-addressed envelope if return is desired.

**Executive Editor** ..... Rimantas A. Stirbys  
**Managing Editor** ..... Audrone Gulbinas  
**Layout & Design** ..... Kazys Razgaitis  
**Business** ..... Antanas Dambriunas  
**Cultural Arts** ..... Aukse Trojanas  
**Human Interest** ..... Dana Mikuzis  
**Humanitarian Aid** ..... Jeanne Dorr  
**Political News** ..... Asta Banionis  
**Sports Editor** ..... Pranas Gvildys  
**Youth Association** ..... Gaile Radvenis  
**Contributing Editor** ..... Ramune Kubilius  
**Contributing Editor** ..... Joseph Arlauskas

**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.

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



Asta Banionis

# Two Unforgettable Friends of Lithuania

Lietuvos  
nacionalinė  
M. Mažvydo  
biblioteka

The end of the 103rd Congress will see the departure of two United States Senators who have been stalwart and extraordinary friends of Lithuania for many years. Both men have made the decision to retire from the Congress after several decades of public service and their leaving could have major consequences for U.S. - Lithuania relations. Both Senator Donald Riegle of Michigan and Senator Dennis DeConcini of Arizona have been leaders on the "Baltic question" within the Congress and supported Lithuania's struggle for independence long before it became politically popular. Both Senators deserve to be called defenders of the faith by Lithuanian-Americans for they shared our vision that the Soviet occupation would end and that the people of Lithuania would have a chance to create a prosperous and true democracy for themselves and their children.

The fact that these two men come from very different backgrounds, have represented vastly different states and have served on different committees within the Congress, made them exceptional allies for Lithuanian-Americans working over their decades to keep United States policy favorable towards Lithuania.

U.S. Senator Donald W. Riegle, Jr. is Michigan's senior Senator and has served in the U.S. Congress for 28 years. He is now in his third term in the Senate, after serving from 1967 to 1976 in the House of Representatives. Senator Riegle specializes in economic and financial policy issues and is a leading voice on trade issues, industrial policy and U.S. competitiveness. In January, 1989 he became Chairman of the Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs Committee while continuing to serve on two other major Senate committees: the Finance Committee and the Budget Committee.

The Senator was born and raised in Flint, Michigan. He earned a B.A. in Business Administration and Economics from the University of Michigan, and his M.B.A. in Finance and Marketing from Michigan State University. He continued his doctoral studies at Harvard's School of Business in the field of Business and Government Relations. Before running for elective office he

worked for the IBM Corporation.

Senator Riegle is married to Lori Hansen who is also from Michigan and is the father of five children.

How did Senator Riegle come to be the primary leader of Baltic issues in the U.S. Senate? Latvian-Americans will take credit that the Senator's first encounter with the Baltic cause came when he was an undergraduate at Western Michigan University - a veritable hothouse of Latvian-American culture and activ-



*Senator Riegle met with President Landsbergis when Landsbergis came on an official visit to Washington, DC in May 1991.*

ism. While there he signed up as a member of the Latvian American Student Association and has been a dues paying member ever since.

Members of the Lithuanian-American Community, Inc. first turned to the Senator when 18 young Lithuanian-Americans chained themselves to the gates of the Soviet Embassy on the eve of the Moscow Olympics in July, 1980 and got arrested for protesting the continuing Soviet occupation of Lithuania. Senator Riegle organized a letter of support for the arrestees signed by five other Senators. Soon after he began to take on the role of leader of the Baltic cause in the United States Senate. His staff tracked Baltic issues, kept other Senate offices informed, and regularly organized letters from the United States Senate in support of Baltic independence issues. He was the sponsor of resolutions designating Baltic



Freedom Day for eleven years in a row. His work was so thorough and consistent that by the late 1980's when Lithuania's democratic movement, Sajudis, came to the



*Senator Riegle had a long discussion on Sept. 18, 1992 about the problems of Lithuania's private commercial banks with Mr. Balkauskas, president of Kaunas Stock Innovation Bank. Mr. Balkauskas was visiting Washington, DC to attend the World Bank-IMF annual meeting.*

front pages of the New York Times, there was a reliable block of 33 United States Senators who could be counted on as bedrock allies.

Senator Riegle's personal commitment to the cause of Baltic independence was also reflected in the amount of time he allowed and encouraged his staff to spend on advancing the Baltic cause. I can't think of a single instance where Senator Riegle's staff refused to help during the last 14 years. Quite the contrary, they always sought out innovative and thoughtful ways to protect and advance the cause of Baltic independence. Most Lithuanian-Americans don't know that the Reduction in Conventional Forces in Europe Treaty (CFE Treaty) negotiated and signed by President Bush has special congressionally-mandated reservations attached to the treaty because Senator Riegle's staff was worried that the treaty not give any appearance of U.S. approval of the Soviet-occupation of Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia.

Senator Dennis DeConcini, the senior Senator from Arizona, was first elected to the United States Senate in 1976. He is a senior member of the most powerful committee in the Senate, the Appropriations Committee where he serves as a Chairman of the Subcommittee on Treasury, Postal Service and General Government Affairs. He also serves on the Judiciary Committee chairing the Subcommittee on Patents, Copyrights and Trademarks. Two years ago he became the Chairman of the prestigious Select Committee on Intelligence which now must sort through and correct the terrible intelligence debacle of the CIA-agent turned KGB-spy Richard Ames case.

Senator DeConcini was born in Tucson, Arizona and grew up in a family which was long active and prominent in Arizona government, law and business. He attended public schools in Tuscon and Phoenix and graduated from the University of Arizona in 1959. He went on to study law at the University of Arizona's College of Law earning his law degree in 1963. From 1959 through 1967 he served in the U.S. Army and Army Reserve.

Senator DeConcini was a founder of the Tucson law firm of DeConcini and McDonald. And in 1972 was elected in his first run for public office — Pima County Attorney. As the county's chief prosecutor, Senator DeConcini earned a reputation as a tireless public servant. His staff successfully prosecuted a number of upper level criminal cases. One investigation begun under his tenure ultimately led to the arrest and conviction of a nationally-known organized crime boss. He introduced innovative drug enforcement and consumer protection programs which brought national recognition to Pima County, Arizona.

The Senator is married to the former Susan Margaret Hurley, member of a pioneer Phoenix family. The DeConcinis have three children and he and his wife belong to the Catholic Church. In 1976, Senator DeConcini served as head of the Arizona Bishops Pastoral Council.

Senator Dennis DeConcini came to be intimately familiar with the Baltic cause through his work on the U.S. Congress's Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE). Popularly known as the Helsinki Commission, this joint House-Senate committee was created as a way for the U.S. Congress to oversee the U.S. government's commitment to the Helsinki Act signed



*Senator DeConcini and Congressman Steny Hoyer led a delegation of 12 US congressional leaders to Lithuania under the auspices of the Helsinki Commission. Here the delegation pauses in front of some of the sandbags that helped to protect various offices within the parliament building.*





*President Landsbergis welcoming Senator DeConcini and his Helsinki Commission delegation to Lithuania on Sept. 6, 1991.*

by President Ford. Senator DeConcini sought an early appointment to the Commission and has served as its Co-Chairman for many years. The Helsinki Commission of the Congress was an innovative addition to what became known as the "Helsinki process". It helped broaden policy discussions within the U.S. government and is probably the primary reason why the human rights provisions (the Basket Three provisions) became such an influential and important part of the international meetings which grew out of the original document. Since 1976, many countries who are original signatories to the Helsinki Act have followed the lead of the U.S. Congress and formed their own parliamentary commissions to oversee compliance with the Helsinki Act.

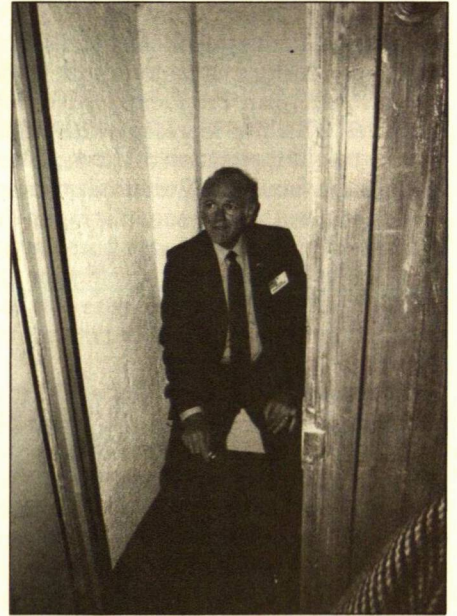
The Helsinki Commission of the U.S. Congress often took the lead in publicizing the case of a religious or political dissident and gently nudged the executive branch to do more within the Helsinki process. Senator



*Balys Gajauskas receiving an American flag from Senator DeConcini in front of the former Lithuanian KGB.*

DeConcini always fought for the rights of ordinary citizens to be involved in the discussions which took place at international conferences. Many a non-governmental organization (NGO) owes its participation at a Helsinki Conference to the efforts of Senator DeConcini and the Helsinki Commission. Senator DeConcini has understood from the beginning that human rights around the world could be advanced if respect for human rights was strengthened in the court of public opinion. For this to succeed you needed as many citizens as possible to get involved in the process.

The reason that the Foreign Ministers of Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia were able to attend the Helsinki Conference in New York City October 1-2, 1990 as observers and were given wide latitude to talk with the delegations present is directly due to the influence of Sena-



*Senator DeConcini while on a visit to the former KGB headquarters in Vilnius tried out one of the infamous isolation cells that was used to hold political prisoners. Sept. 6, 1991*

tor DeConcini and the Helsinki Commission of the U.S. Congress. Remember that this was still a time when not a single country recognized the new governments of these countries.

Little did the leaders of the Soviet Union know that when they initiated the idea of a meeting of European countries to meet in Helsinki, Finland back in 1974 in hopes that the Western allies would recognize Soviet borders, that there would be visionaries like Senator DeConcini waiting in the wings to turn the process around. Ultimately the advancement of human rights identified in the Helsinki document, gave courage to the democrats of Eastern Europe and the Soviet Empire and helped bring down the repressive Soviet system.

Senator DeConcini fought for countless Lithuanian dissidents and also for the right

*Continued on p. 10*



Regina Narusis

# President Clinton's Trip to Riga

President Clinton's July trip to Riga was of immense importance, both symbolically and substantively. After all, it was a historic mission in that it was the first time that an American President visited any of the Baltic countries. This trip represents the United States commitment to the integration of Latvia, Estonia, and Lithuania into the family of Western democracies.

The trip was well planned at a time when the withdrawal of Russian troops from Latvia and Estonia was at issue and was an effort on the part of the United States to contribute to the international effort to move this foreign army of occupation out of all the Baltics.

The security needs of all three Baltic countries were discussed during his visit. This included the dismantlement of the former Soviet bases in Estonia and Latvia and the threat to Lithuania from the "armed encampment" in Kaliningrad. This continued concentration of military forces of an estimated 200,000 Russian military personnel in Kaliningrad poses a threat to the stability and security of the international community and may well be in violation of the treaty on conventional forces in Europe by mid-1995. The Presidents of Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia were given the opportunity to express their security concerns and needs. President Clinton was made aware of the depth of their concerns and was attentive and responsive to their comments.

During this trip, the President finally announced the names of the Board of Directors of the Baltic/American Enterprise Fund. A fund designed to promote private sector development in Latvia, Lithuania, and Estonia, is based on a model already successfully applied in Poland, Hungary, the Czech and Slovakia. The Board of Directors will be Rozanne Ridgway, as Chairman, Kim Davis, Hughlyn Pierce, Paul Elicker, Juris Padegs, of Latvian descent, and Daniel Rose, all well credentialed individuals. The Fund will be capitalized at \$50 million in foreign assistance appropriations over three to four years. This Fund is designed to make equity investments and loans, offer technical assistance to promote private initiatives, entrepreneurs and privatization, particularly for small and medium sized businesses. It may support joint ventures between United States and Baltic partners. How beneficial this

Fund will be for Lithuanian businessmen will depend on how well they present themselves and respond to this opportunity.

Last, but not least, Acknowledging the unique position of the Lithuanian-American Community, Inc., in understanding the needs of the region and sentiments of



*President Clinton addresses the public at Freedom Monument in Riga, Latvia on July 6, 1994*

Lithuanian-Americans, the White House solicited input from the LAC to better prepare President Clinton for his trip. That input was provided by the LAC Public Affairs Council through its Washington office. LAC urged Lithuania's full participation in NATO, withdrawal of



all foreign troops from all the Baltics by August 31, 1994, the implementation of the Baltic American Enterprise Fund, and technical assistance programs that strengthen local government, decentralized decision making, promote public accountability and free press and media. Then came the invitation for LAC leadership to meet with the presidential party in Riga. LAC was represented by Regina F. Narusis, Executive Vice President (and author of this feature article). The Lithuanian-American Community, Inc. was the sole Lithuanian American organization represented at that meeting. In attendance among other Latvians and Estonians was also Linas Kojelis representing the US-Baltic Foundation. It was a pleasure to spend a few minutes with the President and Mrs. Clinton and to talk a little longer with Secretary of State Warren Christopher. I was able to reiterate LAC concerns and stress the security problems created by Kaliningrad.

It should be remembered that United States foreign policy has paid less attention to the Baltic countries focusing instead its policy on the strategic threat posed by Russia's nuclear weapons. During this trip, Latvia, Lithuania, and Estonia were the center of attention. This visit clearly demonstrated to the whole world, including Russia and the Baltics, that the United States wants to see the Baltic States succeed and to have them fully integrated into the West. Though Lithuanian-Americans will probably always feel that whatever the United States does is not enough, this trip was a real step forward in recognizing the importance of Latvia, Lithuania, and Estonia in United States foreign policy.

However, a few weeks after the President's trip to Riga, his Administration began to backtrack on the promises the President made during this historic trip. Before and during the trip, President Clinton insisted that he was committed to an August 31, 1994 withdrawal date for all Russian troops from Latvia and Estonia. That appears to no longer be the case because with the White House urging, in a straight party vote, a handful of Democratic Congressmen appear to have eliminated restrictions which had earlier applied to United States aid to Russia. Thus, Russia can cancel its announced August 31, 1994 withdrawal date and present a new timetable for withdrawal which could end in 1998 or 2000, and still qualify for United States aid.

This new policy has serious implications for Lithuania's negotiations with Russia over Russian military transit rights through Lithuanian territory. The Russians have been demanding unrestricted, surface transit for their troops moving between Kaliningrad and Russia. Now, the Lithuanian government may feel that they lack United States support to hold out against Russian demands.

Ironically, August 31, 1994 may see the final withdrawal of Russian troops from Latvia and Estonia, only to see the reentry of Russian troops into Lithuania.

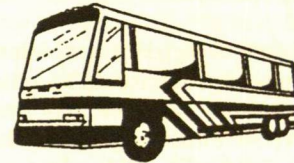
## IX Lithuanian Theater Festival

This year during the Thanksgiving Day weekend (Nov. 24-27) the LAC and Canadian Cultural Councils are sponsoring the IX Theater Festival at the Youth Center in Chicago. Five different theater groups from Canada and the US will be performing during the entire weekend.

In conjunction with the festival, a photo exhibit spanning 50 years of theatrical activity of Lithuanian-Americans and Canadians will be on display.

Why not plan on spending Thanksgiving in Chicago while you support American and Canadian artistic endeavors by attending the Festival?

See you in Chicago in November! (Performances will be in the Lithuanian language)



## Lithuanian Heritage Tour

Saturday, December 3,

10:00 AM - 4:00 PM

"From the Nemunas to the  
Monongahela"

**BUS TOUR**

*Lithuanian immigrants left their Nemunas River region to live, work, and worship in the many neighborhoods that developed as Pittsburgh's industries attracted thousands of workers from Eastern Europe. Join us on a bus tour of Pittsburgh's Lithuanian heritage as we explore its neighborhoods including Whitehall, the South Side, and Sotro. Highlights of the tour will be visits to St. Casimir's Cemetery and the convent of the Sisters of St. Francis of the Providence of God in Whitehall, and lunch at the Lithuanian Hall on the South Side. Co-sponsored by the Knights of Lithuania.*

*\$33 for HSWP members, \$38 for non-members*

*For more information please call or write Andrea Keller at the Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania, 4338 Bigelow Boulevard, Pittsburgh, PA 15213. Telephone (412) 281-2465*



Asta Banionis

# 1994 Legislative Wrap-up: Technical Gains and Principle Losses

The members of the 103rd Congress gave up their vacation and stayed in a sweltering Washington, DC during August to continue to debate the merits and defects of national health care reform while wondering if they were ever going to get home in time to campaign for reelection. Although there are many more weeks to come before this Congress adjourns "sine die", supporters of Lithuania can already begin to evaluate the performance of this Congress. Did the 103rd Congress help Lithuania's chances to remain an independent country? Did they strengthen U.S. - Lithuania relations? The record is mixed.

The major piece of legislation which will help guide U.S. - Lithuania relations for the coming year is the foreign aid bill for fiscal year 1995, known as the Foreign Operations, Export Financing and Related Programs Appropriations Bill for FY 1995. As this bill was taking shape within the House of Representatives and later in the Senate, it appeared that U.S. support for the Baltic states was on track particularly on the issue of Russian troop withdrawal from Latvia and Estonia. In May, Congressman David Obey, Chairman of the Appropriations Committee within the committee discussions ("markup" of the bill) agreed to language sponsored by Congressman Dick Durbin, a senior member of the Appropriations Committee and Chairman of the Baltic Freedom Caucus, that would continue restrictions on U.S. aid to Russia if Russian troops failed to withdraw from Latvia and Estonia this year. In past years, Chairman Obey had always opposed including such restrictions.

Congressman Durbin had wanted 1995 foreign aid to Russia cutoff on October 1, 1994 (the beginning of the 1995 fiscal year) if Russian troops had not withdrawn from Latvia and Estonia by August 31, 1994. The negotiations on this issue are instructive because they reveal the "softness" of the Clinton Administration's support for Baltic independence. Despite the fact that President Clinton had begun to publicly support an August 31, 1994 Russian withdrawal date from the Baltics, his State Department was saying something else behind closed doors. Secretary of State Christopher was willing

to accept the restrictions on aid to Russia, but only if the Committee wrote in a December 31, 1994 cut-off date for aid.

In other words, the Clinton Administration was willing to give the Russians at least five more months to delay their withdrawal of troops from Latvia and Estonia. And, an additional signal, although inadvertent, was being sent to the Russians that if President Clinton was willing to wink at an August 31 date, he might also wink at a December 31 date. There is indication that Yeltsin and his advisors thought so and they tested this signal at the G-7 summit in Naples, Italy on July 10.

The foreign aid bill continued through its appropriations cycle uneventfully until mid-July. By this time, it had gained the approval of the full House of Representatives, and the Senate Appropriations Committee in its

version of the foreign aid bill had included the House language calling for a December 31 cutoff date for aid if the Russians had failed to withdraw by August 31, 1994.

President Clinton included a stop-over in the Baltics during his trip to Europe for the G-7 summit in Naples. His advisors were very pleased to tell representatives of Baltic-American

organizations (among them the Lithuanian-American Community, Inc.) before and after the trip that President Clinton wanted to demonstrate his commitment to help reintegrate the Baltic nations into Western structures as quickly as possible. This is why the President supported, even insisted, on an August 31, 1994 withdrawal date for the Russian army. That's why he would go to Riga on July 6, 1994. It appeared that President Clinton had tied his personal prestige to the issue of accomplishing an unconditional and complete Russian withdrawal from the Baltics by August 31, 1994.

President Clinton spent most of his 90-minute one-on-one with Yeltsin at Naples discussing troop withdrawal from the Baltics. He hoped that the Russians would quickly conclude an agreement with Estonia which would also guarantee an August 31, 1994 withdrawal date, just as the Russians had agreed to earlier with Latvia. Yeltsin stunned the President's team and the foreign press corps during a joint press conference when

---

***Yeltsin ... answered ...  
"Nyet", the Russians  
would not withdraw by  
August 31, 1994.***

---



he answered a question posed by Helen Thomas of UPI. "Nyet", the Russians would not withdraw by August 31, 1994. President Clinton's personal diplomacy appeared to be in shambles.

The following week, back in Washington, DC, as the full Senate took up the foreign aid bill, Senator Mitch McConnell, a Republican senator from Kentucky, became President Clinton's white knight. To help save the President's diplomatic initiative on the Baltics, Senator McConnell offered an amendment calling for U.S. aid to Russia to be cut-off on August 31, 1994, if Russian troops were not gone from Latvia and Estonia by August 31, 1994. This amendment was adopted by the Senate on a 89 to 8 vote demonstrating to Yeltsin that there was broad-based, bi-partisan support for President Clinton's public policy that Russian troops must be withdrawn from the Baltics.

What happened next is baffling, even by Clinton standards. President Clinton is often criticized for an ad hoc foreign policy which lacks any coherent overall strategy. Republicans go so far as to call it a fickle foreign policy because the President frequently reverses himself on foreign policy. There is considerable unease among foreign policy observers that this young, former Governor and his team lack the depth of knowledge and breadth of experience to lead foreign policy initiatives or to consolidate democratic gains in Eastern Europe and the countries freed from the former Soviet Empire.

As the House and Senate conferees prepared to iron out the differences between the two versions of the foreign aid bill, State Department and U.S. Agency for International Development lobbyists (they're called the Office of Legislative and Congressional Affairs) swung into action pressuring House and Senate Democratic conferees to vote against the Senate (McConnell) language calling for the August 31, 1994 cut-off of aid to Russia. On Thursday, July 28 at 3:30 pm a handful of Senators and 12 Representatives sat down in the conference committee room to begin their work. As the evening progressed it became apparent that the Clinton Administration through its legislative teams had consistently lobbied against every Senate amendment which would have strengthened the nations of East and Central Europe. The Clinton Administration appeared again wedded to a "Russia-first policy".

The McConnell amendment on Russian troop withdrawals came up for consideration a few minutes before midnight. Senator McConnell argued that if the Russians did really withdraw by August 31, 1994 as President Clinton wanted them to, the sanctions provided by this amendment would never have to be invoked. What this Senate amendment provided President Clinton was an "insurance policy". It demonstrated to the Russian government that both the legislative and executive branch, as well as both Democrats and Republicans, were united in the view that Russian troop withdrawals had to be completed from the Baltics by August 31, 1994.

A similar measure in last year's appropriations bill sponsored by Senator Byrd had helped President Clinton get the troop withdrawal done in Lithuania last August after the Russians had halted and threatened to postpone final withdrawal from that country.

Congressman David Obey addressed his House colleagues, since it was only the House members who would vote whether to accept the Senate (McConnell) amendment. Congressman Obey urged his 11 colleagues to reject the amendment as unnecessary, since Estonia and Russia had reached an agreement on withdrawal just a few days earlier and "that we didn't want to hurt Russia's well-known pride". On a disciplined party vote, all 7 Democrats present voted against the Senate (McConnell) amendment, joined by the ranking Republican. They are: David Obey (WI-7), Charles Wilson (TX-2), John Olver (MA-1), Nancy Pelosi (CA-8), Esteban Torres (CA-34), Nita Lowey (NY-18), Jose Serrano (NY-16), and Bob Livingston (LA-1). The three Republicans who voted for the Senate Amendment are: John Porter (IL-10), Jim Lightfoot (IA-3), Sonny Callahan (AL-1).

It is amazing what Congressmen will do when they think no one is watching. John Olver, Nancy Pelosi and Nita Lowey had joined Congressman Durbin and 40 other Congressmen in signing a letter to Yeltsin on July 22 which said, "The failure to remove Russia's troops from the independent Republic of Estonia by the promised deadline would be a serious setback to relations between the United States and Russia." And yet, in conference, **where their votes are not officially recorded**, these three Representatives were unwilling to give real meaning to the sentiments of that letter by voting to include a sanction in the foreign aid bill. Their actions came as a great disappointment to Baltic-Americans.

With the Senate (McConnell) amendment defeated on a 8-3 vote, the House members would normally have offered the language in their own bill for the Senate conferees to accept or reject. This would have been the Durbin language calling for a December 31, 1994 aid cut-off date. But Chairman Obey didn't do this. Instead he offered his own language which eliminated the August 31, 1994 withdrawal date; in fact, it eliminated any requirement for a date certain for Russian troop withdrawal. All that the Russians would have to do is present a timetable for withdrawal and this would qualify them for continued aid. Technically, the Russians could tear up their agreements with the Latvians and Estonians and offer a new timetable for withdrawal even setting a 1999 end-date, and under Congressman Obey's proposal the Russians would be in compliance for U.S. aid to continue.

Since this article is being written well before August 31, 1994, the readers will be able to judge for themselves if the House and Senate conferees did any real damage to the effort to get Russian troops out of Latvia and Estonia. But, under the Obey amendment which was adopted by



Senator Leahy voting his Democratic proxies over the protest of Senators McConnell (R-KY) and Lautenberg (D-NJ), it may be that the Russians will feel free enough to stop the withdrawal. It is important to remember that last year, the Russians did stop troop withdrawals from Lithuania two weeks before the August 31, 1993 deadline and President Clinton was able to threaten to invoke the sanction of an aid cut-off contained in last year's foreign aid bill (known as the Byrd amendment). This year, the President, at his own request has no such tool.

Though the position of Baltic-American communities lost out on this issue of principle, the current legislative session did consider the views of the Lithuanian-American Community, Inc.

and other members of the East European Coalition and enacted some technical amendments to reform/improve the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID). These three amendments should help to open the grant process to ethnic or country-specific organizations. The first amendment requires USAID to report to the Appropriations Committees of the Congress on "each grant and contract" awarded for work in Central and Eastern Europe with information including "a description of its purpose, its amount, and the country where the grant or contract funds are to be expended. Currently, there is no such central registry of aid projects funded by USAID available.

The second amendment requires that the Administrator of USAID report to the Committees within sixty days "on steps being taken to include individuals and organizations with language or regional expertise in the provision of assistance," thereby making it easier for Central and East European-American organizations to receive USAID contracts.

The third amendment requires that "no less than 50 percent" of the assistance to that part of the world be made available to country specific activities. Currently, USAID awards grants for all the nations of Central and Eastern Europe or the former Soviet Empire in a "one size fits all" approach. They award regional contracts requiring the grantee to work in 5-9 countries at once. This amendment will require USAID to place greater emphasis on the specific needs of individual countries.

Under the 1995 foreign aid bill the level of U.S. technical assistance to Lithuania will remain at the levels it's been the last three years - about \$11 million per year. There are two exceptions to that guideline: a \$10 million grant in an international peacekeeping account to help train the "Baltic Battalion"; a joint Estonian-Latvian-Lithuanian military force which will participate in United Nations peacekeeping missions. The hope is

that some of this training will re-orient the officers of the Baltic armies away from a Soviet outlook. The second account which should begin to function is the Baltic American Enterprise Fund. As much as \$10 million should become available this coming year for loans to small and medium-sized businesses in Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia. Lithuanian-Americans should remember that it took the Clinton Administration an unreasonably long time - over 12 months - to name the Board of Directors of that fund, thereby losing another valuable year to help Lithuania's private sector.

When the 104th Congress convenes in January, 1995 there will be many new faces. Many long time supporters of Baltic independence have retired over the last two years

and some have lost their elections. The concern and involvement in the American political process of Americans who support a free and democratic Lithuania will most certainly be as vital today as it was twenty years ago if the United States is to become a reliable ally of Lithuania.

---

***As much as \$10 million should become available this coming year for loans to small and medium-sized businesses in Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia.***

---



---

**FRIENDS**

*Continued from p. 5*

of the people of Lithuania to reestablish their own independent country. He was an early supporter of Sajudis and fought with the Bush Administration to give early recognition to the Landsbergis government. He approved and encouraged Helsinki Commission members to travel to Lithuania as soon as possible to investigate the events of Bloody Sunday (January 13, 1991), and he led the first joint Senate-House delegation to Lithuania under the auspices of the Helsinki Commission in early September, 1991. He and his fellow members of Congress were the first Americans to greet the people and leaders of Lithuania after President Bush finally extended recognition to the Landsbergis government.

Both Senator Riegle and Senator DeConcini will be sorely missed when the Congress reassembles in January, 1995. The cause of Lithuanian democracy will be a little weaker without them and it will be difficult to find such effective and influential voices to fill the void created by their retirement. The LAC will honor both Senators at a farewell breakfast this September 16 which will also open the LAC Public Affairs Conference in Washington, DC for Lithuanian-American activists and members of the LAC Board of Directors. Those interested in attending should contact the Washington LAC office at 703-524-0698.



Jeanne Dorr

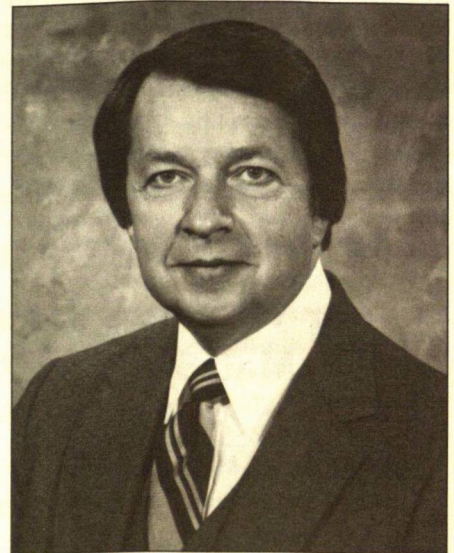
## Aid to Lithuania, Inc.

As I write this column each month, I am amazed and overwhelmed at the number of organizations working to help the Lithuanian people, and yet I feel there are many groups from which I have not heard. These organizations are made of ordinary people, most are unsung heroes. They are not looking for praise or headlines, all they want to do is to help the people in Lithuania in the way they know best. The organizations take many different roads with their aid, but all roads narrow into one, the road that leads to Lithuania. The various organizations need financial support, but as importantly, volunteered assistance in form of experience, expertise and dedicated time. We need each and every one of you! Every reader is important, but reading about humanitarian aid is not enough. The humanitarian aid groups have only scratched the surface. There is so much more to do and we need everyone!

Aid to Lithuania, Inc. is affiliated with the Knights of Lithuania. It is a non-profit organization dedicated to providing medicine, medical supplies and medical equipment to charitable, medical, and public welfare institutions in Lithuania. Humanitarian aid is distributed under the auspices of charitable organizations to the poor and indigent in the spirit of compassion and justice, regard-

less of creed or ethnic origin.

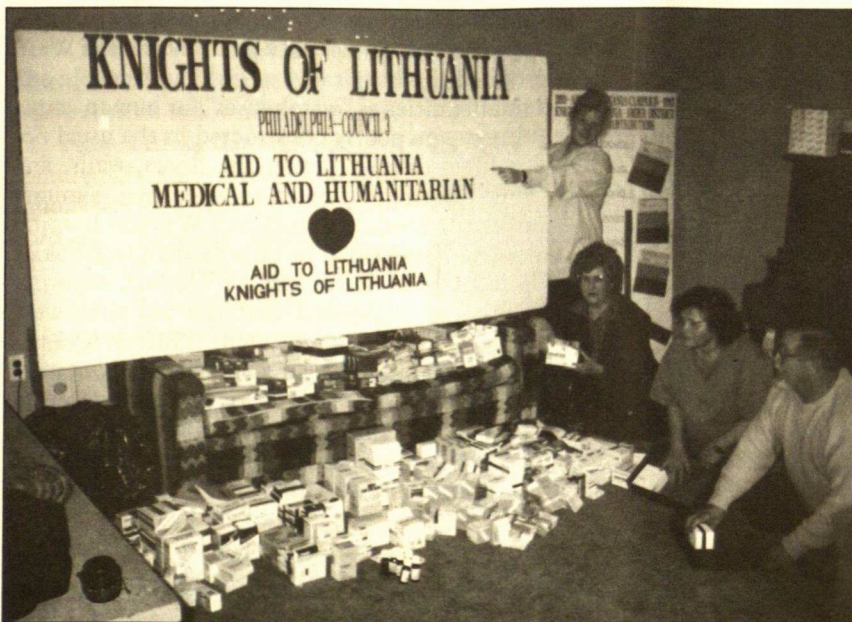
The first forty foot container of medical supplies was shipped from World Relief, Detroit on December 4, 1990 and arrived at Caritas, Kaunas on January 15, 1991, two days after "Bloody Sunday". Most of the supplies



*Robert S. Boris, President, Aid to Lithuania, Inc.*

were rushed to Vilnius to help victims of the vicious attack on unarmed civilians. Additional supplies of antibiotics, sutures, bandages, and pain killers were badly needed. Aid to Lithuania (ALT) was able to secure more of the needed supplies from World Medical Relief and Providence Hospital, Southfield, MI. They were rushed by "air cargo" to Caritas. A second forty foot container of medical supplies was shipped in April of the same year.

When the container fund began in 1990, there were doubts that the \$10,000 necessary to send one container of medical supplies could be raised. Two years later, the seventh container was loaded and shipped to Lithuania. At that time, over \$76,000 had been donated to this project. As of May, 1992, ATL sent 105,741 pounds of drugs and medical supplies worth over \$5,000,000. This did not come about without sacrifice and dedication of K of L members. The project is a success



*K of L Council 3 members; (l to r) D. Kapuchus, S. Ascher Shoemaker, M. and L. Kapuchus sorting packaged medicines for shipment.*



because of the districts, councils, and individuals who worked so hard to make it happen. The councils put all their efforts into the medical aid drive. Council 72 of Binghamton, New York, received medicines and other supplies from doctors. They shipped a total of ten packages of medical and personal items to five convents in Kaunas with a value of about \$2,000. Council 140 of Syracuse, New York sent three boxes of food, personal items, and medicines to a convent in Panevezys. To date, they have sent seventy two boxes of supplies which they have obtained from various doctors and medical centers. Philadelphia/South Jersey's Council 3 contributed more

than \$4,000 to the Amber District's campaign which brought in almost \$8,000 last year. The work involved in this particular campaign was astonishing. Members were asked to distribute large juice cans which were painstakingly painted yellow, green and red. The cans had holes punched into the tops for bills and coins. Can you imagine the time required to prepare this project? This surely is what is meant by a "labor of love". Individual contributors and organizations were given beautiful certificates as an acknowledgement of their donations. Personally, I felt a surge of pride when I received my certificate. But again, how many hours went into the preparation of the certificates? Once more a project motivated by love and concern for other people. Most of the individuals who work on these projects will never meet the people they have helped. But they certainly must have been moved when they heard of two young girls whose lives were saved by the dialysis machines provided by ATL or the man who was "clinically" dead until revived by the defibrillator sent in Container #3, or the critically ill cardiac patients being observed on the fifteen monitors sent in Container #4.

K of L sponsored a trip to Lithuania as required by World Relief, Inc. to determine if the medical supplies provided by them were being properly used and distributed. Meetings were held in Lithuania to determine if there was a need or interest in establishing an American type Catholic hospital. Thirteen hospitals, clinics, pharmacies, orphanages, old folks homes, and hospices were visited. During the tours and meetings it was evident that the hospital project would be most welcome.

Some of the findings of the committee concerning Lithuanian health care were quite startling. Even the best hospitals, those formerly used for high "Party" officials, equipment was at least fifty years behind the West. They described the hospitals for "ordinary" people and those in smaller cities as "warehouses" for human cargo. The buildings were poorly constructed in the usual Soviet style. There were holes in the floors, walls, and ceilings. The lighting left much to be desired. Sanitary conditions that we would expect in a Western hospital were almost non-existent. The only modern technology the group saw had been donated by Western organizations. They were convinced that the aid they were sending was needed and appreciated. While in Kaunas, they had the pleasure of seeing their sixth container arrive. The original seal was intact and the cargo was in excellent condition. The medical supplies had a fifty-six day trip by ship, truck and rail. The committee was amazed to see 1,179 pounds of medical supplies valued at over \$500,000 being unloaded by hand by a group of students from the nearby Seminary in less than four hours.

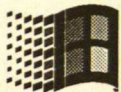
Lithuania was featured in the March, 1994 issue of Mercy International Health Services Newsletter. The article discussed building a bridge of caring and sharing.

*Continued on p. 14*

ADVERTISEMENT

## Lithuanian Fonts

for Windows 3.1 and  
Mac Sys 6 or 7



Available in  
TrueType or



PostScript Type 1 formats

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

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

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

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

My system is a:

Mac  Win/PC - 3.5" disk  Win/PC - 5.25"

Desired format:

PostScript  
 TrueType

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Yes I want to order:

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

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_

Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

add \$5 shipping and handling for total order



Make check payable to  
**Litnet**; mail order to:  
litnet Typographics  
7 Arthur Rd.  
Rosemont, PA 19010



Aukse Trojanas

# The New York Scene

Laima Sileikyte Hood spoke recently to the American Folk Art Institute in New York City on the material culture of Lithuanian-Americans. The concept of material culture concerns the transformation of traditional customs and objects by immigrants to another country. For example, the Hmong of Vietnam became quilt makers using their native designs even though quilts did not exist in their tradition. In a similar way Lithuanians have adapted to America and other lands by incorporating aspects of their original culture into the customs and materials/objects of daily life. Nostalgia plays an important role in these transformations.

In order to give her audience perspective on the Lithuanian culture, Laima began her presentation by speaking about the origins of our nation, its unique language, rich pagan traditions, late entry into Christianity, history and dramatic re-establishment of independence in 1990. The Lithuanians came to the United States in three waves: in the latter 1800's due to repression by the Czarist Russia, the early 20th century for economic reasons and after World War II. Each of these migrations contributed uniquely to the grafting of Lithuanian customs onto American ones. The first group settled in the Northeast and Midwest, concentrating in New York, Pennsylvania and Chicago. They established the churches and organizations which provided the basic framework for following migrations.

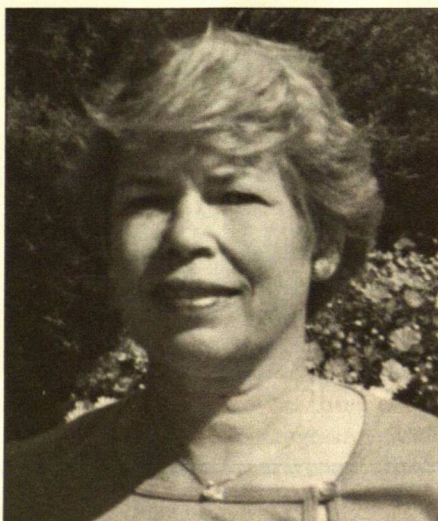
New Lithuanian immigrants found anchorage in traditional religious services and community activities. Singing, folkdancing, theatre and sharing of good traditional food brought people together. Laima noted that language is probably the most difficult feature of a culture to transfer to future generations while food may be the easiest because it becomes a part of the culinary repertoire of a family where no one may speak the original language any more. The young are the most important conveyers of a culture hence scouting, *ateitininkai* (a Catholic youth group) and summer camps continue to be impor-

tant for the vitality of a Lithuanian identity.

Each aspect of tradition in a new country is transformed in some way, especially in the material culture. Folk costumes worn here for dancing and special holidays were made of finer wool and may have had silver threads. Woven sashes became translated into runners for furniture. Folk patterns were fire-burnished onto wooden dishes and napkin holders. Miniature roadside shrines, *rupintojelai*, were carved for the home. Straw ornaments for the decoration of Christmas trees were made of drinking straws instead of the natural material. Many of these smaller objects were made by scouts and students for church sales.

Another distinctly Lithuanian cultural object is the *verba*. Since pagan times Lithuanians have used the *verba* during spring equinox rituals as a symbol of life and rebirth. It is a short staff of juniper, willow and birch twigs woven together with flowers, herbs and colored paper. Friends and family wish each other well by switching each other with the *verba* and exchanging *marguciai*, colorful Easter eggs. The *verba* is also used instead of palm leaves on Palm Sunday. It is not often seen in the United States. Laima brought examples of these many traditional objects to her lecture to acquaint the audience with our unique culture.

Laima Sileikyte Hood is a important activist in the Lithuanian community. She continues in the footsteps of her father to help preserve the Lithuanian culture in America. Laima was raised in Brooklyn after she and her family arrived in 1949. She reports having had a wonderful youth as a folk dancer, scout, and member of *Ateitininkai*, the intellectual group *Santara* and the fraternity, *Korp! Neo-Lithuania*. Trained as a social worker and counselor, Laima is the current president of the Manhattan Lithuanian American Community and Chairperson of the National LAC Cultural Council. She is an indefatigable activist and we are fortunate to have her.



*Laima Sileikyte Hood*



## AID

Continued from p. 12

MIHS presented a proposal to a six member delegation from Lithuania aimed at restoring Catholic healthcare in Lithuania by renovating an existing hospital. Mercy would manage the hospital and train Lithuanian personnel. The hospital would accept private pay and charity patients. This would encourage private medical practice. The hospital would serve as a model for other Baltic and Eastern European countries.

MIHS has encouraged the Lithuanians to look at other healthcare systems to learn from their failures as well as their successes. At the end of the Lithuanian delegation's visit a Memorandum of Agreement was signed. It stated that the Lithuanian Health Reform Management Body and MIHS would cooperate in evaluating Lithuania's healthcare reform projects and the Health Ministry would agree to support all endeavors by MIHS and the Lithuanian Health Reform Management Body.

The people at MIHS understand that there is much to be done before healthcare reform is realized in Lithuania, but they feel the Lithuanians have taken the first important step through their interest in exploring the healthcare systems of other countries. They feel the Health Reform Management Body has shown vision and that vision along with the help of and support of Mercy will lead to state-of-the-art healthcare for Lithuania.

ATL cannot function without your help. This organization delivers \$78.97 worth of medical supplies and equipment to Lithuania for every dollar you donate! It has no paid staff. Telephone, fax, and other office costs are paid by the Supreme Council of the Knights of Lithuania. Contributions go directly to the people of

Lithuania. There is total accountability and each shipment is followed from departure to distribution. Every effort is made so that the supplies reach those who need them most.

Lithuania purchases much of its medical supplies from the West. Considering the economic conditions in the country this is a monumental task. ATL is the only hope for some medical care facilities and individuals. There are many Lithuanian children who are in pain and suffering because the medicines they need are not available to them. Most people will never know how many children they have helped, how much pain they have relieved or how many lives they have saved with their donation.

ATL is grateful for any donation that is received. Checks should be sent to:

Aid to Lithuania  
4557 Fairway Court  
Waterford, MI  
48328-3483

Contributions can be doubled through company matching gift programs whereby employers will match your gift dollar per dollar. Human Resources or Public Relations Departments can provide more information. ATL is a federally recognized 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.

To get involved or help in any way, please call Robert S. Boris, (810) 682-0098.

*My special thanks to Bob Boris, ATL president, and Len Kapochus, Lithuanian Affairs Chairman of the Amber District, for providing me not only with information, but also giving their valuable time. One of the "perks" of writing this column is meeting and talking to*

*so many generous, warm-hearted people. Bob and Len and the people who work with ATL are among the finest. May your love and work for the people of Lithuania never cease.*

## Child of the Month

Robertas Ledovskis was born January 14, 1980. He has completed the seventh grade and enjoys school. Robertas spends his leisure time reading. When he has the opportunity he takes great pleasure in playing computer games. Robertas and his sixteen year old sister are fortunate to be together with the same foster family in Kaunas. His sister has a Lithuanian-American family as a sponsor. The cost of sponsoring Robertas for one year is \$150. If you are unable to sponsor him with the full amount, any contribution toward his care will be gratefully appreciated. Please send you tax deductible checks to:

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

(Please note Robertas' name on the check)





Albert Cizauskas

# A Rich Heritage

A remarkable speech was delivered by one Povilas Zumbakis on the occasion of the celebration of Lithuanian Independence Day in New York. The unusual speech was published by the Lithuanian weekly *Darbininkas* in its issue of March 11 under the intriguing title of "When Will 'We' and 'They' Speak a Common Language?" Zumbakis is identified as an "advocate" whose perceptive remarks have frequently appeared in *Darbininkas*.

Before quoting from the speech, some explanatory remarks are in order. My parents emigrated to this country at the turn of the century. At home, we children, spoke Lithuanian with our parents and English among ourselves. Our parents imbued us with a love of their homeland and imparted a knowledge of Lithuanian history. We belonged to a Lithuanian parish (that of the Annunciation in Brooklyn) and attended its elementary school, where our "Lithuanianism" was further nourished. As a result, I refused to alter my family name and melt into the common Anglo-Saxon pot of Smiths and Chases.

The end of WWII once again saw an influx of immigrants. I and others like me looked forward to establishing a common bond with the newcomers. However, with few exceptions, these "New" Lithuanians distanced themselves from us and formed their own institutions, spurning those already in place. It was like a shock of cold water to experience a sense of being "looked down" upon as somehow "inferior". True, our knowledge of the Lithuanian language was imperfect, but this need not have been an insuperable obstacle to a common relationship.

In the speech alluded to, I have for the first time seen this supercilious attitude acknowledged and soundly excoriated by one of their own number. With considerable emotion, Zumbakis chastised his audience as follows (freely translated):

"In America, there have been three immigrant waves. The first consisted of those who had come to these shores before the turn of the century and especially, those who had emigrated from 1905 to 1925...These Lithuanians left a rich heritage for us in this country: parishes, churches, journals, radio programs, choruses and so forth. They supported and loved Lithuania. I had the opportunity to see documents chronicling the activities of women's groups in the Cicero area (near Chicago) dur-

ing the year of 1925. That year these women earned about one dollar weekly and yet each week they contributed ten cents for Lithuanian causes. These early immigrants played a crucial role in the winning of Lithuanian independence. The whole world, especially America, got to know that Lithuanians were a strongly unified people. These Lithuanians from the first wave also helped those of us in Soviet prison camps, they helped their brothers and sisters suffering in Siberia, they prepared the way for us in this country.

"We are the second immigrant wave. We came, looked about, and concluded that we were culturally superior, better educated, even more intelligent. On the contrary, I believe that it is we, who owe much to these earlier Lithuanians. We have not adequately thanked them for what they have given us, nor have we sufficiently valued their immense achievements.

"We separated ourselves from them...We organized VLIKas, attended Saturday schools, we had our own choruses, athletic clubs, we had our own press. We were better than 'they'."

Advocate Zumbakis had much more to say in his unprecedented address. But at least one more of his trenchant observations may be of interest:

"Now we are witnessing the arrival of the third immigrant wave. And we don't know how to co-exist with these newcomers. As a result, many of these latter day immigrants are doing what we did, they are distancing themselves from us. They have, for example, elected to observe Lithuanian Independence Day by themselves, unwilling to associate with us. And we can't blame them since we gave them a cold welcome.

"We did not follow the example of the earlier Lithuanians who warmly welcomed us fifty years ago."

A speech of this nature should be must reading for all Lithuanians, not only for its belated recognition of what earlier immigrants accomplished here with their blood, sweat and tears, but also for its call for social unity at a critical juncture in Lithuanian history.

So three cheers for Povilas Zumbakis who had the courage and candor to indict his fellow Lithuanians of the second wave. He spoke the unspeakable, that all three waves of Lithuanian immigrants are equally Lithuanian with their own unique attainments aimed at the same goal, the survival of Lithuania as a free nation.



**Antanas Dambriunas**

# Business News

## Most popular candy in Kaunas.

Kauno Konditerijos Fabrikas whose controlling shareholder is Kraft General Foods, a subsidiary of Phillip Morris, organized a lottery seeking to make its production more popular. Of the 32 thousand responses, 38% contained wrappers from candy "Tiko", the most popular. Runners up were "Dar 2" and "Ralis".

The company is working with German, Swiss and Norwegian confectioners on new candy formulas and world standard packaging. Much new Western equipment has been ordered this year as part of a three year upgrading program. "Kraft Jacobs Suchard Lietuva" has sales representatives who supply the production to buyers and are researching product demand in Lithuania. The company is increasing allocation of funds to advertising. The plant operates four shifts, including weekends. During a recent three-week shutdown for plant repairs the inventory was depleted.

## "Dvarčionių keramika" to increase exports to the West.

Approximately 60% of ceramic wall tiles produced by Lithuanian-Italian joint venture "Dvarčionių keramika" will be exported to Italy, Germany, Poland, France and Sweden after it introduces a new production line. The new line is financed by \$7.5 million credit provided by a British source. The loan is guaranteed by the Lithuanian Government for a fee of 3%. The new production will provide 60 new jobs and reduce gas utilization by a factor of 1.8.

## July inflation rate is stable at 2.1%.

After a 6.2% price increase in May which was a result of the institution of the Value Added Tax price increase has stabilized at 2.1% both in June and July according to the Statistics Department. Greatest increase occurred in heating and energy supplies - 13.5% and the least increase occurred in food items. Over the first seven months of 1994 inflation totaled 25.5%. Lowest inflation of 1.6% occurred in April.

## Interest rates for Litas deposits fall.

Interest rates (see table) paid for certificates of deposit for Litas accounts are still high, but have dropped approximately 5% from last month. However interest rates for hard currency accounts are essentially unchanged from values reported in July.

### SELECTED COMMERCIAL BANK INTEREST RATES FOR CERTIFICATES OF DEPOSIT August 9, 1994

Bank	Deposits	ANNUAL PERCENTAGE RATE (%)		
		Term (months):	3	6
<b>Akcinis Inovacinis Bankas</b>				
A. Jakšto 6, Vilnius tel 616 022				
	\$100 to \$100,000	15	18	24
	100 Lt to 1,000 Lt	35		
	over 1,000 Lt	40-45		
<b>Litimpex Bankas</b>				
Verkių 37, Vilnius tel 352 461				
	over \$1,000	18	28	25
	1,000 Lt to 10,000 Lt	35		
	over 10,000 Lt	40		
<b>Taupomasis Bankas</b>				
Vilniaus 16, Vilnius tel 220 508				
	\$100 to \$1,000	10	10	8
	\$1,000 to \$5,000	14	14	12
	\$5,000 to \$10,000	18	18	14
	over \$10,000	24	24	20
	250 Lt to 10,000 Lt	35	35	
	over 10,000 Lt	40-50	40-50	
<b>Vilniaus Bankas</b>				
Gedimino 12, Vilnius				
	\$500 to \$5,000	5	5.2	6
	\$5,000 to \$10,000	7	12	14
	over \$10,000	16	18	20
	1,000 to 100,000 Lt	30		
	over 100,000 Lt	35		

Notes: Deposits are not insured. Rates are subject to change. Bank rates are provided for information and not as an endorsement.

## Short-term Government bonds offered.

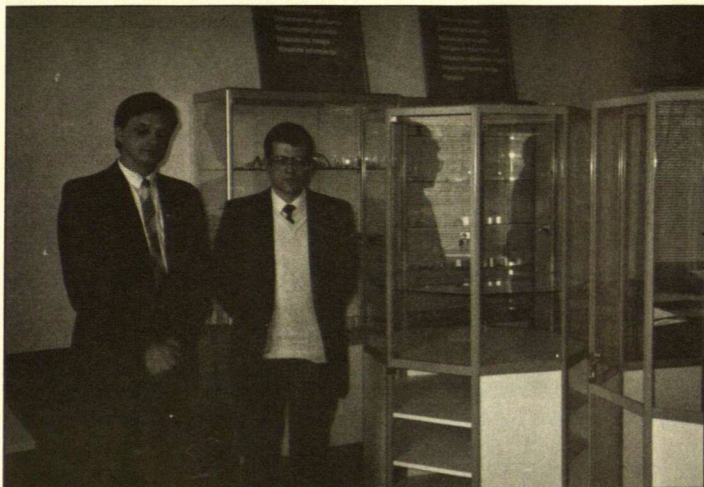
A second offering of Government obligations was made August 8. The entire offering of a total of Lt 30,000,000 in 100 Lt denomination and 45 day maturity was auctioned off at a nominal annual interest rate of 30.98% in 23 bids. Nineteen commercial banks and 30 brokers were qualified to make the purchases. During the first offering which occurred on July 19, only Lt 13.36 million were sold of the Lt 50 million offered; interest rate at that time was 35% and the maturity was 3 months. Success is attributed to the shorter maturity and increased publicity of the second auction.



## LAC-Economic Affairs Council Activities

### Investment Fund Feasibility Study

The Economic Affairs Council (EAC) is investigating the feasibility of establishing a Lithuanian American Investment Fund or other investment structure which would provide a convenient means for Lithuanian Americans to invest and participate in Lithuania's economic development. There is significant need for investment capital in Lithuania and potential for profit, but of course, there are risks. We share some of our findings and



*These display cases and many attractive lighted shop signs are fabricated by ETT (Elektronika, Technologija ir Tyrimai - Electronics, Technology and Research) in Vilnius from materials imported from Denmark.*

thoughts at this time and solicit comments from Bridges' readers.

Several approaches are being reviewed: open US corporation, open Lithuanian corporation, closed corporations/partnerships/clubs in the US. Analysis shows that the fund could accumulate from a few million to twenty million dollars and possibly more. Participation of the Lithuanian Foundation (Lietuvių Fondas) or the Lithuanian National Foundation (Tautos Fondas) with 10 or 20% of its capital would assure a successful startup of this fund.

The fund would be an independent institution (not part of LAC) which would sell shares of stock. Accumulated funds would be invested in Lithuanian companies and bank certificates of deposit, used to provide loans and for special projects, e.g., provide seed money to encourage US companies to participate in Lithuania's economy. The objectives of the fund would not only be short term profit and development of promising Lithuanian companies, but also to the extent possible, to help Lithuanian business and economy integrate with the West, so that it is less dependent on the East. We believe

the fund should reflect the community interests although it would be run by professionals and be profit-seeking; i.e., the board of directors, in addition to the elected US and Lithuanian successful businessmen, should include LAC representatives and in the event the Lithuanian Foundation and Lithuanian National Foundation participate, their representatives. The fund would pay normal rather than high dividends. It would re-invest the remaining profit in Lithuania's economy, thereby increasing the value of the stock.

An open corporation in the US investing funds in Lithuania would be the most effective approach since it could operate openly, solicit investors and advertise in the US. This would be a substantial enterprise which would be run by professionals in the US and Lithuania. They would gather information on investment opportunities, select the investments according to established criteria, provide accounting, distribute dividends and pay taxes. The cost of establishing such a corporation is approximately \$200,000. This cost is principally for payment of fees for legal and accounting services to prepare the public disclosure documents required by the US Securities Exchange Commission (SEC).

There are companies which establish investment or mutual funds as turnkey operations. They service the established fund. In this case the startup costs are significantly less, but they generally want the client to have accumulated \$5 million of capital so that there would be sufficient income to pay for the annual operating expenses.

The second approach considered was an investment fund established in Lithuania. It was thought that the startup costs could be eliminated by establishing a fund in Lithuania and mailing advertisements from Lithuania. However, review of this approach revealed that to solicit a US investor, the corporation must be registered in the US and appropriate disclosures provided. Thus, the cost of establishing a fund in Lithuania which would operate openly in the US is as high as that of a fund established in the US.

The third approach is encouragement of Lithuanian Americans to establish many small closed corporations, partnerships and investment clubs in the US. These are relatively inexpensive to establish and therefore, this approach is attractive. However, its development to reach all Lithuanian Americans is more difficult since advertising is also restricted. Another problem which arises with this approach is where to invest? Every investment club or closed corporation will have to answer this difficult question. There will be insufficient funds to hire professionals. Collaboration between the entities may also be illegal and it is questionable whether they would cooperate to jointly fund larger projects.

Foto: E. Kulikauskas



EAC will consult with business lawyers and continue to investigate the options and their merits. We look forward to comments from Bridges' readers and responses from individuals interested in establishing the investment fund. Contact the LAC-Economic Affairs Council, 7311 Douglas Circle, La Palma, CA 90623 Tel:(714) 521-8694 or FAX: (714) 521-1210 or the BRIDGES editorial office at 2715 E. Allegheny Ave., Philadelphia, PA 19134.

### Presentation of Lithuanian Companies.

EAC has done some groundwork in organizing the presentation of promising Lithuanian companies to Lithuanian American communities and businessmen in the US. Such presentations would help Lithuanian companies establish ties, acquaint them with the US market and would give much information to individuals interested in participating in Lithuania's economy. Presentations are being considered in New York, Cleveland, Chicago and



*"Vetru Ainiai" meat processing plant near Radviliskis. 50% of the investment was provided by Chicago Lithuanian corporation IPSA.*

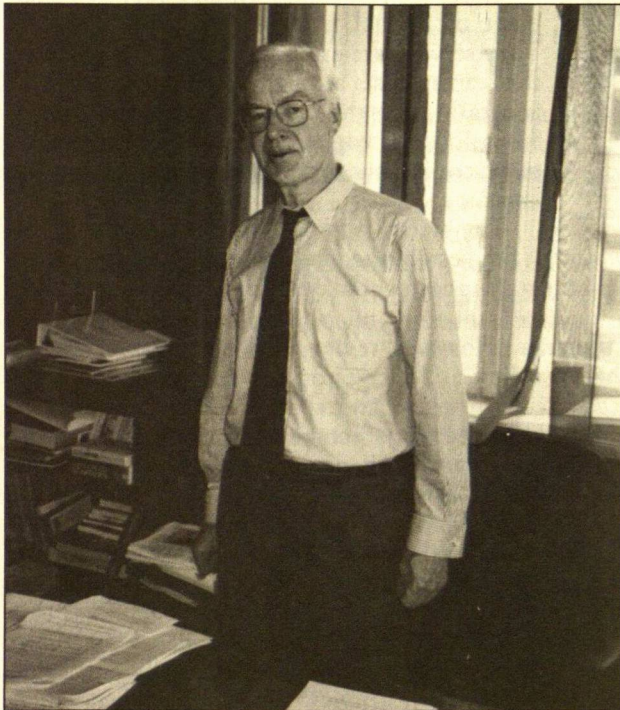
Foto: E. Kulikauskas

Los Angeles. EAC council member Vytautas Cernius, businesswoman Ingrida Bublys of Cleveland, LAC New York Region President Kestutis Miklas and businessman Jonas Pabedinskas of Chicago met with representatives of two companies - "Invalda" and "East Baltic States West" in Lithuania in July to discuss possible presentations. The current plan is for the companies to determine and communicate their specific interests in the US. Then appropriate US companies will be contacted and if they show interest, specific plans will be developed for the presentations to US businesses and the Lithuanian American communities.

### US-Baltic Chamber of Commerce Activities.

EAC has helped the Scandinavian Airlines System (SAS) organize two Baltic Business Mixers this year. Each event drew more than 100 company representatives and businessmen showing a great interest in business and trade in the Baltics. This led to the founding of the US-Baltic Chamber of Commerce with many of the attendees signing up to be members. The purpose of the Chamber is to provide an opportunity for businessmen to meet and network, to organize conferences, to develop a database and publish a quarterly newsletter "The Baltic Window".

The next Business Mixer and Chamber of Commerce meeting will be on October 6 in Los Angeles. Department of Commerce representative William Volner will provide information on the latest US import and export regulations and opportunities for the Baltics. Those interested in participating in the Business Mixer or the Chamber of Commerce should contact SAS representative Annette Haraldsted (310) 615-2750 or EAC President Antanas Dambriunas (310) 859-9668.



*Vytas Gruodis, director of Atviros Lietuvos Fondas (Open Society of Lithuania-a Soros foundation) is seeking programs for Lithuania involving emigre Lithuanians. The Fund covers a variety of fields - cultural, educational and social and its 1994 budget is \$4.5 million.*



Victor Liaukus

# Ancient Religion in Art

There are many, very talented Lithuanian artists in and outside of Lithuania. Many of these artists are professionals, some better known than others. In addition, there are those artists who create simply for the pleasure of creating, the quiet heroes of the Lithuanian arts. BRIDGES was lucky enough to receive an article from one of these "unsung heroes", Victor Liaukus of Wethersfield, CT with photos of his work. We're proud to feature his autobiography along with his explanation and interpretation of his works.....

All of my adult life I have made a living in areas of work other than art. I spent 22 years as an official in the



*The importance of Christianity expressed in a wood sculpture "Madonna of Lithuania" - Victor Liaukus*

Ministry of Finance in Lithuania. Of the 30 years of employment in the USA, my last job was working for the State of Connecticut, Department of Transportation, Division of Highway Design. I retired on December 1, 1974 at the age of 70.

During my leisure time I found enjoyment in art. I derived themes for my art from Lithuanian folklore: historic events, legends, fairy tales and words from Lithuanian songs. I represented these themes in wood carvings

and sculptures and also in paintings and mosaic.

Throughout my long life I have created over 300 pieces of art. I have never wanted to sell any of my works. I intended them to stay in our family as a legacy to my sons and their children. However, I have often shown my art work and have participated in exhibits sponsored by others.

Photographs of my works have appeared in numerous newspapers, journals and Lithuanian language periodicals. The last major exhibit of my work took place in 1987. It was sponsored by the Lithuanian-American Community of Hartford during the celebration of the 600 year anniversary of Lithuania's conversion to Roman Catholicism. The exhibit was held at the Old State House in Hartford, Connecticut. As a result of the interest generated by this exhibit, TV station reporters took videos of my works which were later broadcast on the local TV network.

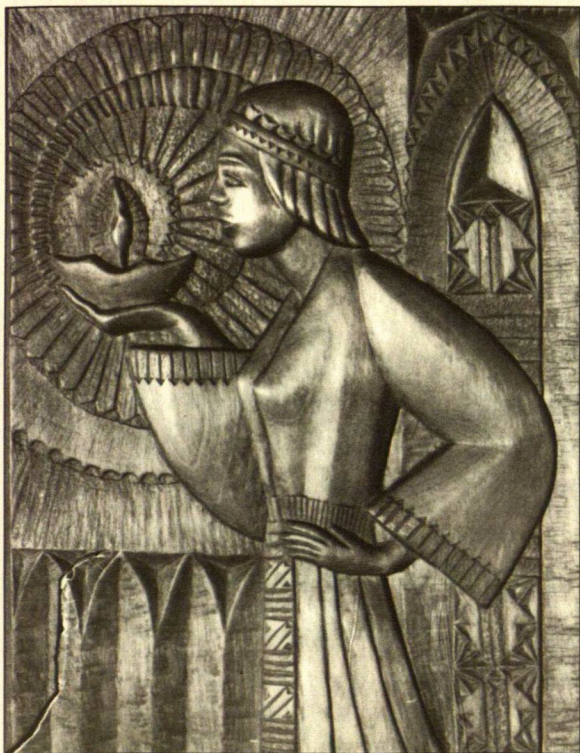
My works of art contain many representations of the sun.

In the faith of ancient Lithuanians the Sun was the greatest of all gods. They believed that millions of years ago the light and warmth of its rays affected the air and waters of Earth making it possible for the creation of first life, which eventually brought about grasses, trees, fish, birds, animals and humans.



*Wood sculpture "Sunrise"*





Woodcarving "Gabija" - The Sacred Fire of the Home by Victor Liaukus

The Sun is the people's closest, the most tangible and the most visible of all the gods.

The Sun glides across the sky like a beautiful queen - and with her warm golden rays brings daytime to the earth and joy to people's hearts. The light and the warmth of the Sun is welcomed and cherished by all.

In the spring the Sun awakens the earth from its deep sleep, coloring it in all shades of green and decorating it with a myriad of colors of blooming flowers.

Through the summer the Sun grows and ripens grains, fruits and vegetables.

And in the fall it presents the gifts of harvest and bountiful food to all its worshippers.

In the winter the Sun lets the earth rest.

Even after the Lithuanians accepted Christianity, they continued to use ornamental and stylized rays of the sun to adorn crosses on the steeples of churches, on private chapels, and on wooden crosses near homes and in cemeteries.

The sun is prominently mentioned in the Lithuanian National Anthem:

"Let the sun of Lithuania  
Banish all darkness  
Let light and truth  
Guide our steps."

In the ancient religion of the Lithuanians, Fire was worshipped as a deity. Fire was a gift to the Lithuanians from Perkunas (the god Thunder). Through his thunder and lighting, Perkunas taught them how to use and appreciate all the qualities of fire.

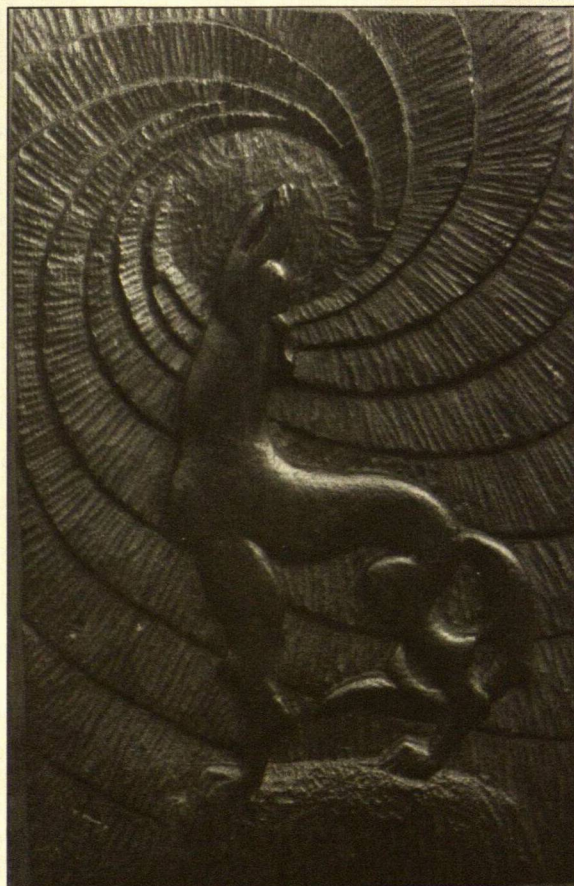
Fire was a messenger between the people and their gods. It took offerings that were placed on the altars and sent them by way of its flame to the gods.

Fire warmed Lithuanians, protected them from cold and gave light in the darkness of the night. They used fire to prepare their food. With the aid of fire, Lithuanians melted metals and shaped them into tools for work, into weapons to defend, and into ornaments to adorn. Fire itself was a weapon when at war. The bodies of those who died at war or at home were burned on pyres. It was believed that the flames and smoke of the fire would transport the soul into paradise, where the person would continue to live as before.

Fire was a symbol of creativity and progress.

Words from the National Anthem of Lithuania urge us to:

"Let the love of Lithuania  
Burn in our hearts"



"The legendary Iron Wolf" - V. Liaukus



Audrone Gulbinas

# Lithuanian Television Programs

## Direct To You

In this age of technology and global communication, among the many wonders available to people throughout

the US, is the ability to view foreign television programs in the comfort of their own homes. Of particular interest to BRIDGES readers is the fact that SCOLA, a foremost leader of educational programming through cable television has included Lithuania among the 40 countries in its list of sources. SCOLA (Satellite Communications for Learning) is a non-profit consortium that receives television signals from countries around the world and transmits foreign newscasts, in their original languages, to over 400 colleges and universities, 9,000 primary and secondary schools, and several institutions 24 hours a day. Subscribers to SCOLA include Harvard, Stanford, Duke Universities, as well as the Department of Defense, the CIA, and State Department language training centers. Some programs are broadcast live, while others are taped and airmailed to SCOLA, so that most programs are no more than 36 hours old. SCOLA broadcasts are in their original form. No editing or censoring is done, either by SCOLA or by the originating country.

SCOLA chose to transmit foreign news programs because of their many uses in the classroom. The Lithua-

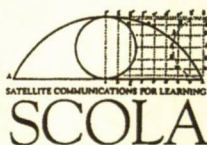
nian news program Panorama is currently broadcast daily. Plans are in place to expand SCOLA transmis-

sions from one channel to four by Spring of 1995. Starting in January, 1995, in addition to the news programs available on Channel 1, Channel 2 will offer variety programming from the same 40 countries. By Spring, 1995 Channels 3 will be added to include courses in math, science, and humanities in the language of the country of origin while Channel 4 will offer language study courses in the language of origin.

Initially, SCOLA was intended to serve schools as an educational resource. Lee Lubbers, president of SCOLA, first realized the possibilities of using foreign language broadcasts as a resource in the study of foreign languages while attending a trade show in Omaha. Father Lubbers built a satellite dish out of wood, wire, window screen and galvanized pipe and mounted it on the roof of Creighton University's (Omaha) sculpture lab, where he held a position in the Fine Arts Department. In a short time, interest among students grew and Father Lubbers knew that he should share the telecasts with everyone interested; SCOLA was born in 1981.

After SCOLA became established as an educational resource, interest grew among the various ethnic groups.

Large numbers of ethnic people contacted their cable companies with requests for SCOLA programming. In



<b>Arizona:</b>	Phoenix - Post-Newsweek Cable
<b>California:</b>	Palo Alto - Cable Co-op Riverside - Cross Country Cable San Francisco - Viacom Cablevision
<b>Colorado:</b>	Boulder - TCI Cablevision Ft. Collins - Columbine Cable Television
<b>Georgia:</b>	Peachtree City - Historic Communications
<b>Illinois:</b>	Countryside - Preferred Entertainment Urbana - Cablevision
<b>Indiana:</b>	Bloomington - Community Access TV Indianapolis - Com-Cast Cable
<b>Massachusetts:</b>	Cambridge - Continental Cablevision
<b>Michigan:</b>	East Lansing - TCI Cablevision of MI Lansing - United Cable Kalamazoo - Cablevision of MI
<b>Nebraska:</b>	Omaha - Cox Cable
<b>New Jersey:</b>	Princeton University - C-TEC Cable System Wyckoff - Microwave Satellite Technologies
<b>New York:</b>	Brooklyn - Brooklyn Queens Cable (Time Warner) Cornell & Ithaca - American Community Cablevision
<b>Ohio:</b>	Cleveland - North Coast Cable Oberlin - Oberlin Cable Co-op Parma - Cox Cable Cleveland
<b>Virginia:</b>	Lexington - Adelpia Cable Communications Fairfax County - Media General Fairfax - Media General Cable CH 25
<b>Washington, D.C.:</b>	Dist Cablevision CH 56
<b>Wisconsin:</b>	Cedarburg - Jones Intercable Greenfield - Viacom Cable Menomonee Falls - Metrovision Cable Milwaukee - People's Choice Milwaukee - Warner Cable Waukesha - GE Medical Systems Wauwatosa - Paragon Cable



today's highly competitive arena of Cable television, networks react to subscribers' and potential subscribers' requests. As a result, in addition to a long list of educational institutions, SCOLA is now available to many home viewers through their cable networks. Listed below are the cities and respective Cable companies (or educational access) through which subscribers can access SCOLA and view Lithuania's Panorama news program among the many other foreign news programs.

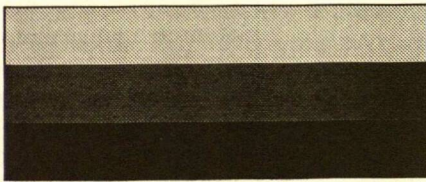
If your city and cable company are listed above, all you need to do to receive SCOLA programming in your home is to subscribe to that cable television network.

If your city and/or cable company is not listed above and you are interested in viewing foreign programming, call or write to your cable company and request SCOLA programming. A letter writing campaign or petitions to cable companies can be effective ways to make them aware of the interest level and number of potential subscribers. Again, in today's competitive market, cable companies will often comply with customers' requests to maintain their market share.

Since many commercial cable companies do not know of SCOLA, here's the information you may need to provide them with:

SCOLA  
P.O. Box 619  
McClelland, Iowa 51548-0619  
Phone - 712-566-2202  
FAX - 712-566-2502  
Contact: Sybil Ramey - Marketing

ADVERTISEMENT



## Display your heritage!!

Lithuanian Flags  
- all sizes -

Write for price list:

The Flag Center  
954 Beechwood Dr  
Lansdale, PA 19446-1730  
(215) 855-7788

# Bits and Pieces...

## Worcester Parish celebrates 100th Anniversary

St. Casimir's Roman Catholic Church in Worcester, MA is observing its 100th jubilee year.

The church was the first Lithuanian Roman Catholic Church in Central Massachusetts, founded in 1894 by immigrants that began arriving in Worcester in 1869. The first church was a wooden structure built in 1903 on the site of the school on Waverly Street. The first pastor was Rev. Joseph Jakstys. The present church was built on the corner of Providence and Waverly Streets in 1916 followed by the school in 1924. During the pastorship of Rev. Augustine Petraitis, 1929-1957, new immigrants, the displaced persons from WWII joined the parish. Today St. Casimir's is one of the few churches in the Worcester Diocese that holds Mass each Sunday in the native language of its founders.

The 100th Jubilee Celebration began with the Annual Parish dinner at Maironis Park in Shrewsbury which was held on March 6, and a concert of Lithuanian music at the church on April 17. The pastor Rev. Vincent J. Parulis, who is celebrating his 50th anniversary of priesthood, will be honored on August 28 with a Mass at 10:00 AM and a dinner at Maironis Park at 1:30 PM. The commemorative events continue with the upcoming picnic at Maironis Park on September 11th and will conclude on November 20 with a Concelebrated Mass at 10:00 AM on followed by a dinner at Maironis Park at 1:00 PM.

## Lithuanian Language Tapes Available

A BRIDGES reader has sent us information regarding Lithuanian language tapes available through AudioForum in Guilford, CT for \$135. We'd like to remind our readers that Easy Way to Lithuanian the Lithuanian language learning program consisting of 6 cassette tapes and a text for \$50 plus shipping and handling is available through the Lithuanian Educational Council of the USA, Inc. 13648 Kickapoo Trail, Lockport, IL 60441.

## Lithuanian Research and Studies Center

The mission of the LRSC is to promote, organize and sponsor research, as well as to collect, archive and publish materials pertaining to Lithuania and its people; its language, history, culture. Among the many collections managed by LRSC are the Lithuanian World Archives which contain documents, manuscripts, memorabilia, and organizational files. The Archives also administer the main library which contains approximately 100,000 volumes and the periodical division, which contains 1,600 titles. In addition, LRSC includes a

*Continued on p. 26*



Regina F. Narusis

# Lithuanian World Song Festival - 1994

The richest cultural heritage of the Lithuanian people is our folk songs (liaudies dainos) and dances (liaudies šokiai). Variations of today's songs were sung hundreds and even a thousand years ago. The songs express the love of the homeland, the joys and hardships of life, love, youth, old age and death. At least 60,000 folk songs have

been collected and published. No wonder the Lithuanians fought and achieved freedom through their "singing revolution".



l to r I. Jakimcius, S. Milasius, R. Narusis, Gov. J. Edgar (Illinois), R. Suziedelis and Consul Gen. V. Kleiza

been collected and published. No wonder the Lithuanians fought and achieved freedom through their "singing revolution".

The earliest record of our folk dances can be found in the 17th and 18th century writings. These dances were passed on from one generation to another. There are at least two thousand collected folk dances recorded in the Lithuanian archives.

The first official Song Festival was held on July 23rd and 24th, 1924 in Kaunas, seventy years ago, where 2,800 singers and 87 choruses performed forty four songs. Lithuania organized three national Song Festivals before the outbreak of World War II. During the Soviet occupation, starting 1946, festivals were organized in Vilnius but were severely limited in content. The 1994 Song Festival is the first since the forced and unlawful incorporation of Lithuania into the Soviet Union and subse-

quent recognition of the reestablishment of independence by the free world. To this 1994 Festival were invited Lithuanians from all over the world to sing, dance and participate.

That call was taken up by thirty dance groups from outside of Lithuania. They came from Wisconsin, five from Chicago, two from Detroit, Los Angeles, Rochester, Berwyn, Denver, Cleveland, two from Philadelphia, Hartford, two from St. Petersburg Beach, Boston, Omaha, New York, Lemont, New Jersey, New Haven, all from the United States and Toronto, Ottawa, and Hamilton of Canada, Memmingen, Germany, Buenos Aires, Argentina, Australia and Punkskas. The theme of the festival was "We were, we are, we shall be." The Lithuanian is a proud and determined person who has not only survived but intends to succeed.

It was a pleasure for me to be a dancer with a group from Wisconsin, "Klumpe". Our teachers are from Wisconsin - Stasys and Giedre Milasius. The rest of my group consists of couples from Wisconsin, Northern Illinois and

Chicago. We range in age from 18 to 60. We have been dancing together some fifteen years and performing at many dance festivals and events in the United States and Canada. Our thanks go to our leaders - Stasys and Giedre Milasius for their commitment and dedication.

On June 30th, 1994 we all left together on a Lufthansa flight for Lithuania. We had a wonderful send off by "Draugas", our daily Lithuanian newspaper, and by the Governors of the States of Wisconsin and Illinois, who gave us gifts to bring and present to the people of Lithuania to commemorate the event. These gifts we personally delivered to President Brazauskas shortly after our arrival.

For some of us it was the first trip to our country of birth, for others it was the first time we ever stepped on the soil of Lithuania, to others it was a trip for the whole family and a time to meet our relatives, but for all of us



it was a time and the first time we could dance on the free soil of Lithuania with our brothers and sisters in Lithuania. We were all one family of a common heritage yearning for freedom, democracy, unity with love in our hearts for Lithuania.

We arrived early for our rehearsals, knowing full well that it would take time to adjust to the time change and circumstances. To our delight, we felt at home as soon as we landed. We were met by relatives, friends, and many, many flowers. Our group was transported by bus to a dormitory where we stayed until the end of the Festival. Rehearsals were long and the weather was unusually hot. As a matter of fact, record high temperatures were set that week. Because of the rain, we had only one general rehearsal. We, the guests, rehearsed alone, so we missed the camaraderie of the local dancers. The one general rehearsal gave us our first opportunity to know and enjoy each other. During the performance, while we were waiting outside the stadium to perform, the local dancers began to dance and invited us to join their circles and their Festival which really began outside the stadium. We at last joined hands and hearts together.

The program was a four part program. The beat of the drums opened the Festival with an ancient ritual dance around the sacred bonfire. A whole segment was de-



*R. Narusis with "Linelis" dancers*

voted to the "Family will Dance", consisting of children, parents and grandparents dancing together as a family. We danced in the segment called "In the Shelter of the Homeland". We danced a set of nine dances, the first few in the rain. The rain was warm and gentle and as one of our dancers put it "this was our christening". I thought our dances were more complex and in the spirit of such Festivals. We all were proud of ourselves for we did well.

The finale was more for us than the spectators. We all came out, some eight thousand of us, and danced the traditional "Suktinis", which after the entrance and a few beats, became a dance of our own creation and joy. We cheered, we hugged, we took pictures and we partied together.

All our groups were assigned a local dance group to host us. Our hosts were the "Linelis", a children's dance collective from Panevezys. That group and their leaders took care of us, entertained us, showered us with gifts and made us feel at home. We celebrated and broke bread together and even by their invitation visited in their homes after the Festival.

The opening ceremonies for the Song Festival were held in Kaunas. We marched in a parade that morning. The local citizenry presented us with flowers while we treated the children with candy. We carried our banner and the United States flag. The program in Kaunas was absolutely outstanding. Needless to say, a good and strong contingent came from the

*Continued on p. 27*



*"Klumpe" dance group members R. Narusis and V. Suziedelis at rehearsal*



Ramune Kubilius

# From the Lithuanian Press...

Selected excerpt from the Lithuanian Press in America.

## Lithuania's Catholic women meet

Representatives of eight Lithuanian Catholic women's groups met June 15th to discuss the possibility of establishing a branch of the World Lithuanian Catholic Women's Association in Lithuania. The women met with a representative from the U.S., elected Prof. Dr. Aldona Slepetyte-Janaciene president, voted on bylaws and established work guidelines until the first annual meeting, scheduled for Fall 1994.

(DRAUGAS-ELTA, 6/29/94)

## Vytautas Magnus University graduates

The second class of (the post WW II, re-established) Vytautas Magnus University graduated on June 17th in Kaunas. 233 persons received bachelor's degrees from all 18 colleges of the University; 75 persons finished business administration, 54 humanities, 18 social sciences. University rector Bronius Vaskelis told the audience that the graduating class should have no problems with obtaining employment – their working knowledge of English, their familiarity with computers, and a decent educational preparation for working life in government offices and private firms. Prof. V. Kaminskas informed the audience that as of Fall, 1994, two colleges would be reorganized- those of Theology-Philosophy and Physics-Mathematics. Vytautas Magnus University is the first in Lithuania to guarantee tenure to the faculty members, guaranteeing their positions reached through the university's tenure track, a job until age 65.

(DRAUGAS, 6/30/94)

## Japanese linguist visits V-16 High School

Vasario 16 (February 16th Lithuanian Independence Day) High School (in Lampertheim, Germany) is visited by many persons, those of Lithuanian descent and other persons as well. Everyone is interested in the school and especially in how it differs from other high schools. Therefore, I was not particularly amazed when one day, a man of Japanese descent stopped by my office. However, I was amazed when he began speaking in Lithuanian. He spoke Lithuanian very fluently. He said he was Keiichi Nakao from Tokyo who wanted to familiarize himself with our school. I had to ask him whether he really was speaking Lithuanian, since I thought I was daydreaming. After that, I began asking how he had learned Lithuanian. He said that two years earlier, he

had visited Lithuania for three weeks, wanting to learn Lithuanian. It soon became apparent to him, that three weeks was not enough to learn the difficult language. He purchased INTRODUCTION TO MODERN LITHUANIAN and some cassettes, studied for a year, and returned to Lithuania, this time for two months. During that time, he learned to speak more fluently. He visited the Lithuanian high school in Punkskas, Poland, and his travels then took him to Vasario 16 High School.

I asked him if he was a language specialist, a historian or a journalist. He said he would like to be a language specialist, but felt he is too old for a new career- he's over 30 years of age. University studies in Japan are expensive, and besides that, one needs a place to live. He is an electrical engineer. In high school, like all young Japanese students, he learned English. In college, he learned French and lived in Montreal, Canada for some time. He liked the French language, and decided to become a teacher, learning Italian and Spanish in the process. He learned German by listening to language lessons on Japanese radio. He learned Dutch from books and by visiting Holland. He didn't have much luck with Finnish, but speaks Swedish freely. He befriended a Polish girl in Japan and thus grew his interest in Slavic languages. After Polish, he learned Russian and noticed that all of the Slavic languages were similar. While studying the history of Poland, he learned much about Lithuania and decided to learn the language. Before that, he learned Hungarian. He decided that Hungarian and Japanese grammar is similar. He has spent more than one summer in Greece, and speaks Greek.

I asked if aside from his professional life, he translates or does similar work. He said no, that sometimes he writes short articles about the countries he sees during his travels and about their cultures. He hasn't written anything about Lithuania yet. He reminded me, that the Japanese scholar who writes most about Lithuania is Ikuo Murata, who has translated Donelaitis' "Metai" (Years) and who has published a 2000 word Japanese-Lithuanian dictionary.

Keiichi Nakao stayed in Huttenfeld a few days, varying the class plans of more than one class with his visit. He visited with teachers and students, and spent quite a bit of time in the high school's library where he found many interesting newspapers and books. This summer he plans to visit Lithuania, and if there's enough time - Latvia, where he would like to study Latvian at the



University of Riga.

When we counted he freely speaks 12 languages, and he is familiar with a few others, but doesn't speak them fluently.

(DRAUGAS, 6/11/94 from an article by Vasario 16 High School principal Andrius Smitas)

### Permanent Mission of Lithuania changes address

The Permanent Mission of Lithuania has a new address. As of August 1st, the Mission's address is: 420 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10018. Anicetas Simutis will remain with the Mission until August 15th, after that he will be a Special Advisor. August 1st, Advisor Algimantas Gureckas will leave those duties.

(DRAUGAS, 7/19/94)

### German firm does well in Vilnius

The German firm "Thomas Philipps" has 72 stores in Germany, but only one outside of Germany- it's in Vilnius. Company representative Franc von Doorn told the newspaper LIETUVOS AIDAS that he can't speak of the revenue, but he confirmed that each week 4-5 truckloads of merchandise reach Vilnius from Germany.

The most popular items are plastic lawn chairs, umbrellas and shirts. The firm doesn't want to have empty trucks returning to Germany, so a search is now out for Lithuanian-made products which may sell well in Germany. Revenues are so much higher in Lithuania than the company estimated, so the prices of a number of products have been reduced 10-20%. Some Lithuanian customers are buying the products to resell them in their kiosks for twice the price. Those customers are recognized and often are not permitted to buy any one product in large quantities.

(DRAUGAS, 7/23/94 from an article by Rima Jakutyte)

### BITS AND PIECES Continued from p. 22

musicology archive, museum of medicine, cartography division, phot archive, Lithuanian Museum with displays of every aspect of Lithuanian history and culture among others.

The Lithuanian Research and Studies Center exists through the support of the Lithuanian community. Individuals and organizations can become members with a \$100 donation. For further information contact the LRSC at 5620 South Claremont Str, Chicago, IL 60636 or call (312) 434-4545 Fax (312) 434-9363.

### ADVERTISEMENTS

# TRANSPAK

2638 W 69th Str. Chicago, IL 60629 (312) 436-7772

## Shipping

Now you can ship:

Clothing (new, used), food, medicine - to Lithuania  
No weight limit, no customs duty, no forms, no hassles.

We will handle all your shipping needs to Lithuania.....

We'll ship your packages for less than postal rates, including home delivery.

Air freight shipments available for faster delivery.

We bar code and track your packages to their final destinations in our computers.

(Insurance may be purchased for \$5.00 per \$100.00 of insurance.)

Discounts available for packages totalling 100 lbs. or more going to one address.

## Other services

Money transfer service  
in US dollars.

Food Packages Available



Pranas Gvildys

# Sports News in Lithuania

## Basketball

The European junior basketball championships were held in Israel. The teams were divided into two groups: A and B. The Lithuanians were in group B together with Germany, Israel, Greece, Italy and Slovenia. The Lithuanians lost the first game to Slovenia 79:74 and then defeated Germany, Greece 98:95, Israel 86:68. In the final and deciding game Lithuania defeated Italy 79:73 to win their group. The top Lithuanian scorer in this deciding game with 21 points and 15 rebounds was Sarunas Jasaikevicius. He is presently attending school in the United States. The second place winner in the B group was Italy. Croatia was the winner of the group A. The second place went to Spain. Thus, in the semifinals Lithuania will meet Spain and Croatia will play Italy.

## Cycling

K. Stakenas won the difficult 156.6 km race of the Lithuanian championships in 4:07:02 and S. Ruskys was second with 4:07:40. Both cyclists represent the "Vakaru Bankas" from Klaipeda. The third place went to Latvian R. Wanstein.

## Soccer

The international junior soccer championships were held in the Lithuanian coastal cities Klaipeda, Kretinga and Palanga. Eight teams participated. Teams from Azerbaijan and Moldova were not able to come, and were replaced by the teams from Klaipeda and Kaunas. The winner was the Lithuanian National team. It defeated the Belarus team in the finals by the penalty kicks 4:2. For third place Georgia defeated Baltus 4:1.

## Swimming

In the Grand Prix swimming tournament in Bratislava A. Savickas came first in 100 m. and 200 m. backstroke events at 58.54 sec. and 2:05.4 respectively. Other notable results were:

Name	Event	Time	Placement
Dita Zelviene	50 m free style	27.22	2nd
	100 m free style	59.90	4th
Nerijus Beiga	200 m breaststroke	2:25.24	2nd
M. Bruzas	200 m butterfly	2:10.29	2nd
	100 m	59.6	5th

## Tennis

The surprise winner of the Lithuanian women tennis championship held in Vilnius was 17 year old Ruta Dauderyte from Kaunas. In the finals she defeated the perennial champion Galina Masiurova 2:6; 6:0 and 6:4. The men's championship was won by Romas Karpavicius from Electrenai against Edvidas Zukas from Vilnius 6:2 and 6:1.

## SONG FESTIVAL *Continued from p. 25*

United States, Canada and other countries.

The Song Festival program in Vilnius was on a much grander scale both in terms of numbers performing, attending and even the number of bands. We were told that some 12,000 men, women and children performed at the Vilnius Song Festival. You could always tell a non-native performer from his or her costume. The costumes of the non-native performers were individually unique, that is no two were alike. While the local Lithuanian groups wore the same style costumes. The songs brought pride and tears to our eyes, remembering and appreciating the beautiful melodies, words and feelings they evoked, as we held hands, swayed and stood. We were especially proud of our conductors from afar, the experienced and the young. What a treasure and talent we have in our people!

On our return flight, though all of us were exhausted, we shared our thoughts and feelings. Larisa, who visited her father's place of birth for the first time and who spoke no Lithuanian, vowed to learn the Lithuanian language within a year and return to teach Lithuanians the English language. Larisa has a degree in English. Linas, who has an MBA, is looking to live in Lithuania for a while as soon as he can make arrangements. Victoras, who stayed a few weeks longer, because he liked it so much, is talking about returning to live there. As Giedre said with tears in her eyes "we all have changed". Everyone of us are looking for ways we could participate in the rebirth of the Lithuanian soul and future. Fate disbursed us all over this earth, the love of our heritage brought us together to sing and dance in unity as one people. The Festival ended with the slogan "One nation - one culture." That theme lives on.



## Important Notice

### Physicians...Nurses...Medical Lab Technicians

The Baltic-American Medical and Surgical Clinic, a private medical clinic owned by a joint venture of American and Lithuanian physicians, has opened in Vilnius. The clinic, which has its facilities in rented space within an existing hospital, is the first of its kind and has been renovated, furnished and equipped at American hospital standards. It operates on a fee-for-service basis, but the mission of the clinic includes a significant effort to assist in promoting better health care throughout the region. Beginning next year, in conjunction with International Medassist, Inc. (a non-profit corporation), the clinic hopes to be able to provide certain amounts of free care to people who could not otherwise afford it. There will also be assistance in training physicians and nurses from public hospitals. One of the objectives for the clinic is to have at least one American physician and nurse available to the clinic, on a rotating basis, during the first two years of its operations. The clinic is seeking physicians and nurses interested in being a part of this exciting and pioneering effort.

- Minimum stay of two months preferred. Some times periods during 1994-95 have already been committed. 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 furnished apartment in Vilnius (utilities included).
- Clinic will pay modest living stipend. Additional fee income for physicians.

Persons interested in further information should contact:

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

or

Timothy D. Jaroch, Pres.  
International Medassist  
40 Hillcrest Road  
Belmont, MA 02178  
Fax: (617) 345-5077

\* licensed in Lithuania  
Member, Christian Medical and Dental Society

# BRIDGES

LITHUANIAN AMERICAN NEWS JOURNAL

Volume 18, No. 7    SEPTEMBER 1994    \$2.50 per Copy

V16	03/31/95
Dr. J.A. Rackauskas	
10425 S Kenton Ave	
Oak Lawn	IL 60453