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# BRIDGES

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Foto supplied by S. Barzda

*Soviet tank on Jan. 14, 1991 after running over Lithuanians at TV Station*

## Jan 13 - Bloody Sunday

*Soviet vehicles preparing to parade through streets of Vilnius Jan 13, 1991. Protesters hold Lithuanian flags.*



Foto supplied by S. Barzda

## To Our Readers:

In January, we remember the tragic losses of January 13, 1991. The young men and woman who gave their lives that fateful night would be proud today to see the fruits of their sacrifice - a free and independent Lithuania. Yet, we cannot become complacent - the threat of Russian imperialism is evidenced through Russian actions in Chechnya. Asta discusses the importance of political awareness and involvement in the Politics section this month.

While January brings with it memories of losses, February is the month for jubilation. As we celebrate the 77th anniversary of Lithuanian independence, let us not forget the importance of keeping our cultural heritage alive here in the US. February is the perfect time to show your support for the various programs in place, by supporting your local LAC chapter through a donation. Our needs are indeed different, than those of our beloved Lithuania. We have a need to maintain a sense of community through language, cultural programs, sports and activism resulting in direct aid to Lithuania - be it humanitarian or political. The LAC and its chapters nationwide are indispensable when it comes to achieving these goals.

With this issue, we welcome Algirdas Rimas as the new Business Editor, replacing Antanas Dambriunas. Al is the newly appointed chairman of the LAC Economic Affairs Council and has agreed to make a regular contribution to BRIDGES in this area. I know you will find the section both interesting and informative. We thank Antanas for his past contribution and wish him well in his business ventures abroad.

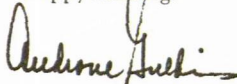
Pranas Gvildys has been called back to China for an extended period, but we were lucky to have Vytas Grybauskas agree to fill in as Sports Editor during Pranas' absence. With the upcoming Fifth Lithuanian World Games this July, and the Olympics in Atlanta in 1996, this is definitely worthwhile reading, whether you're a participant or a "spectator".

Jeanne brings the third in a series of articles about Lithuania's "Forgotten Children". On behalf of all these children and the organizations helping them, I thank BRIDGES readers for their generous response to the appeal for donations. You are making a difference!

A.P.P.L.E. has already begun preparation for this summer's Teacher Inservice Seminar in Lithuania. You'll find vital information in this issue as to how you can become an important element of this successful program.

Please continue to inform this office of upcoming events in your area. We'd like to publish a calendar of events of interest to our readers, but we need your help in compiling it. Please don't forget to let BRIDGES know...

Happy reading!



Audrone Gulbinas  
Editor, BRIDGES

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

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Audrone Gulbinas

# “Bloody Sunday” Remembered

The terror and memory of Bloody Sunday have been imprinted in the minds of all Lithuanians, including those living abroad. The concept of passive resistance, and the images of that day, are so graphic that they are even the topic of academic and artistic dissertations. Below are excerpts from Banguole Raugas' description of

her own Masters of Art thesis video project, where she chose “Bloody Sunday” as the subject.

Banguole Raugas earned her Master of Arts Degree from California State University in Dec., 1994. Banguole (who signs her canvases as Mara Wave Raugas) was born in post-war Germany. She grew up in Philadelphia, where she earned her

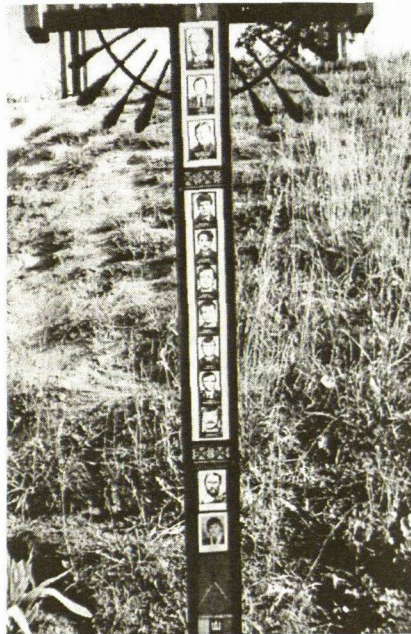


Foto: M. Raugas

January 13th Memorial cross near the Vilnius TV Tower

Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from the Philadelphia College of Arts. She continued her studies at the Taylor School of Art and then later at the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts. Her artistic expression was first manifested in abstracts, and later included portraits and computer graphics. Banguole's works have been featured in many art exhibits.

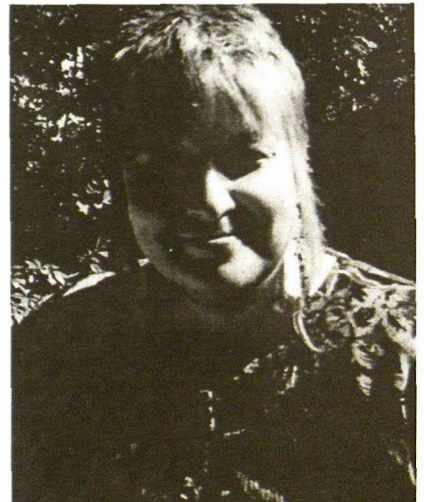
“At the same time as I began my studies at CSULA, the TV newscasts began to be filled with news of imminent independence in Lithuania. The fate of Lithuania along with her rich culture had been of the utmost importance in my early years at home. As a childhood friend recently put it:

“My heart like the hearts of other immigrant Lithuanian children who came to America after World War II was molded to love Lithuania with a vehemence grounded in sadness, in the dread that if we did not love it, it might stop existing.”

As a child, when I tried to explain where I came from, I found that my geography books at school did not have a place called Lithuania on their maps, nor had anyone heard of this place that seemed so important within our home. No one could pronounce our lyrical poetic names. Some said we were “like” Germans, or Poles, or even Russians. I had learned to live with this dichotomy and the obscurity of my roots. So it was with great surprise and ethnic pride that nearly 40 years later, I began to hear about Lithuania on the prime time news broadcasts as one of the smallest yet bravest countries of the Soviet Union, the first to take formal steps to declare its independence from that union. It was a dream that my parents had believed in, but that I had looked upon with a detached skepticism. What's more, it was a “singing” revolution, with peaceful demonstrations led by songs filled with hope. Its leader was a music professor, Vytautas Landsbergis, who would become the new nation's president.

This peaceful revolution seemed to be working until the eve of the Gulf War; as attention was focused on the Middle East, Soviet tanks took it upon themselves to mow down 14 young Lithuanians. The demonstrators, who were protecting the TV/Radio tower in Vilnius, were crushed by Soviet tanks. Gorbachev was called but could not be roused from sleep. All communications to the outside world had been cut off but for private Fax transmittals and radio communications from Kaunas and the neighboring Baltic states. The events of January 13, 1991 became known as

“Bloody Sunday”. This is the focus of my thesis video project, with computer altered scanned images to document this event, and commemorate the dead. It is for me an historical/geo-political/poetical look at a country “lost” and “found”.



Artist Banguole Maria Raugas

Edward Baranauskas

# A Memorial for the Partisans of Lithuania

I visited Lithuania for the tenth time this summer, and I returned home with many lasting memories. I was honored to meet, once again, with Monsignor Alfonsas Svarinskas.

He invited me to accompany him on a ride to Ukmerge, and to observe the progress being made in the construction of a park to honor the memory of the partisans who gave their lives for the freedom of Lithuania. He was very kind to discuss some of the details about this park as we toured the area, and what his plans were for the future.

His idea of having this park was discussed with the city authorities of Ukmerge last year and they had no objections. Laima Vilimiene, one of the region's officials, was very helpful in getting the project started.

The park which will primarily serve the people of Ukmerge is about six kilometers (or a little more than three and one half miles) from the center of the city. An area people use for swimming will be incorporated into the park. The planned park will occupy 76 hectares which will eventually be expanded to 80 (or 197 acres).

The partisans, who numbered into the thousands, were scattered throughout the dense forests of Lithuania. They eventually were grouped into nine partisan dis-

tricts (Lithuanian: apygardas), which were given such code names as Algimantas, Algirdas, Vytautas and so on. One region of Aukštaitija (of which Ukmerge is a part) was named "Didžiosios Kovos", which means "The Great Battle". The name of the park will be Didžiosios Kovos Apygardos Partizanų Parkas.

A very tall, wooden wayside shrine bearing the name of the park, was put in place the morning we arrived. It faces a highway leading past Ukmerge, and anyone driving by will easily notice it. Because it is near the edge of a slope, steps will be dug out of the incline to enable people to walk up and get a closer look at it.

The wayside shrine was carved by the nephew of Professor Zigmaz Zinkevicius. The father and his two sons worked here and helped set the shrine in the ground. This was done first, so that everyone will know what the place will be used for. Later, signs displaying the rules of behavior to be observed in the park will be erected. People will be made aware of the fact that the property is to be respected. All these plans will take time to complete.

There will be four kilometers (or about two and one half miles) of trails made. Busts of the leaders of the eleven battalions will be erected along the trails. Since some leaders died in battle and others came to their places, there will be more than 11 busts/monuments built.

This "apygarda" was led by the famous partisan leader Jonas Misiunas, who was also known as "Žalias Velnias" or the Green Devil. He held the rank of Sergeant Major in the Lithuanian Security Battalion. Misiunas grew up in the Kašiadorys region of Lithuania, more specifically the Žaslių Parish. As the Red Army advanced during the German retreat in 1944, the Security Battalion fled westward. Misiunas stayed behind and was one of the first to organize the partisan movement. He was a very tall man - 192 centimeters (or about 6'3") in height and it became extremely difficult to hide his identity. The Soviets offered large rewards for information and assistance in his capture. By 1950, Misiunas could not make appear-



*L to r: E. Baranauskas, Msgr. Svarinskas, L. Vilimiene, K. Ceginskas and the four people who helped erect the shrine.*

ances even in the villages - his identity too easily betrayed by his height. Dr. Markulis, a traitor, lured the Green Devil into a trap and he was captured alive. His fate is unknown, although speculations are that he committed suicide. A partisan leader such as Jonas Misiunas certainly deserves an appropriate monument.

Once all the names of the partisans are compiled, they will be inscribed on plaques throughout the park. Through them, today's youth and future generations strolling through the park will know the names of the men who fought for and sacrificed so much for their beloved homeland.

The park includes an area which was once a pasture.



*Ukmerge, Aug., 1994 - putting the Wayside Shrine in place.*

The area used to be flooded in the spring, as a result the park has two ponds. Since they are not very deep and were never cleaned, they were overcome by vegetation. Plans include cleaning of these two ponds.

Plans for the Partisan Park in Ukmerge are in place. All the other former partisan districts will be urged to initiate projects similar to this one. Work has already begun in some areas; a memorial for partisans already exists near the city of Marijampole.

The Monsignor has plans for many projects, most of which are memorials to partisans. Gediminas Jurkenas, a wood carver from Kavarskas, has completed a wayside cross that will be erected where the Vilnius-Panevėžys highway crosses the old Ukmerge-Panevėžys road about 75 kilometers from Vilnius. It is about seven meters (23 feet) in height and will be dedicated to the memory of six people, five of whom were partisans and the other a farmer. Their names will be inscribed on a plaque that will be at the base of the cross; Bronius Jakubonis, the leader of the Fifth Battalion who used the code name of "Stiklas" (glass), Kazys Tušas, also known as "Nemunas" (the river), his brother Alfonsas "Papuošalas" (adornment), Juozas Petroška from the village of Kadrenai and Zalagierius Ripka from Šilai. Povilas Matuškevičius, the farmer, built a bunker where the partisans could hide. He was arrested for helping them and was sent to a concentration camp in Siberia where he died.

Another project being discussed is the dedication of a monument in Vilnius, to all those who fought for Lithuania's freedom. However, the government shows little interest in this cause. The Monsignor would like this idea publicized, so that Lithuanians living abroad may become involved in the project's planning and implementation.

Monsignor Svarinskas is a very busy and active man. Much of his time is spent as Chief Chaplain of the Lithuanian Army and visiting parishes. He hopes to go to Raseiniai in the very near future to discuss the possibility of acquiring land in Vidukle for the purpose of having one cemetery in Lithuania where all the partisans could be buried. At the present time, their remains are scattered throughout the country. For example, some 200 partisans are buried in the new cemetery in Ukmerge; the graves are cared for by relatives, some of whom have to travel great distances. Who will care for these sites when the families pass away? A national cemetery where partisan graves would be maintained by the government would solve this dilemma. The cemetery would be located near the highway. It would be about three kilometers long and about 200 meters wide. There would be separate areas for each of the nine partisan districts. The high price of Lithuanian freedom would become strikingly obvious to all observers, when 25,000 crosses in memory of Lithuanian partisans would be located in one national cemetery.

Today's young generation, and those of the future, must be made aware of the meaning of freedom and the fact that their forefathers sacrificed their lives to win that freedom.

Monsignor Svarinskas expressed his feelings with these words: "We must do this because there is a tendency to forget the past."

Asta Banionis

# “Lithuanian Security Bought with Chechen Blood”

A dirty little war in a far away place called Chechnya is propelling Western political leaders to finally think seriously about their noble promises of “consolidating democratic gains” and “a Europe whole and free”. As Russian helicopter gunships, T-72

of protestors in Moscow holding up signs saying “Vilnius - 1991; Chechnya - Right Now”. The question we would ask U.S. reporters four years ago was, “How many Lithuanians is Gorbachev prepared to kill?” And the question we asked Bush Adminis-

ten up throughout 1990 and amplified their voice in 1991, there would have been far more victims than the 13 civilians deaths at the TV tower in Vilnius and the six young civil servants executed by OMON troops at Medininkai. Yes, hundreds of



Protestors in Moscow. The signs read “Vilnius - 1991” “Grozny Right Now.” Reprinted from: *The Washington Post*, January 4, 1995

tanks, and aerial bombing level the Chechen capital of Grozny killing thousands of civilians, the call for NATO expansion to protect the fledgling democracies of Central and Eastern Europe takes on a new sense of reality and urgency.

Bridges readers can remember back four short years ago when Soviet paratroopers commanded from Moscow stormed the public buildings of Vilnius and maimed and killed innocent civilians. It is not at all surprising that *The Washington Post* and other U.S. newspapers have carried the picture

of protestors in Moscow holding up signs saying “Vilnius - 1991; Chechnya - Right Now”. The question we would ask U.S. reporters four years ago was, “How many Lithuanians are you prepared to see killed by the Soviets before you speak out?”

Clinton Administration officials have been quite candid in recent days admitting that one reason why the U.S. hasn't been very interested in the assault on Grozny is because, “there aren't many Chechen-Americans”. As a Lithuanian-American your blood may be running cold at this moment, but you know that every word of that statement is true. If Lithuanian-Americans had not spo-

ken up throughout 1990 and amplified their voice in 1991, there would have been far more victims than the 13 civilians deaths at the TV tower in Vilnius and the six young civil servants executed by OMON troops at Medininkai. Yes, hundreds of Lithuanian civilians were injured, some maimed on Bloody Sunday. But there could have been thousands, if you, the American supporters of Lithuania, had not spoken up.

Your voice counts. That one phone call you make to your newspaper, or your congressman; that letter you write to your senators makes a **BIG** difference. And any time you're tempted to dismiss the idea, or hesitate to get involved in the public debate, remember the Chechens. Children have been orphaned, teenagers crippled and

the women of Chechnya widowed because no one in the West would stay Yeltsin's hand.

During 1995, the situation in the Russian Federation can only grow worse. If Yeltsin is not deposed and replaced in a coup by the Russian army, there will certainly be more instability as the Chechens begin a guerrilla war based on the Afghan model. And if the army, or worse, the security forces, become the rulers of Russia, it is doubtful that any democrats or their reforms will survive. This is not the time to gamble with

the security of Central and Eastern Europe. 1995 must be the year that the Western democracies extend NATO membership to the nations of Central and Eastern Europe. But for Western political leaders to have the political will and courage to make that commitment, you will need to speak up once again.

The 104th Congress is beginning to take shape. Under Republican control, the House Foreign Affairs Committee has been renamed, the Committee on International Relations. Congressman Benjamin Gilman (NY) has been generous concerning the ratio of Democrats to Republicans on the committee. There are 20 Democrats and only 24 Republicans assigned to the committee. The biggest change for us is that the Subcommittee on Europe and Mid-East has been eliminated. The full committee will automatically assume jurisdiction on questions dealing with European security, East European aid, Russian expansionism, etc., etc. So if your Congressman/Congresswoman is in the following list, he will always have an important voice on what happens to Lithuania — if you encourage him to do so.

The order of names also reflects the rank of the member on the full committee.

Republicans: Chairman Benjamin Gilman (NY), Bill Goodling (PA), Jim Leach (IA), Toby Roth (WI), Henry Hyde (IL), Doug Bereuter (NE), Chris Smith (NJ), Dan Burton (IN), Mrs. Jan Meyers (KS), Elton Gallegly (CA), Porter Goss (FL), Mrs. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (FL), Cass Ballenger (NC), Dana Rohrabacher (CA), Don Manzullo (IL), Lincoln Diaz-Balart (FL), Ed Royce (CA), Peter King (NY), Jay Kim (CA), Sam Brownback (KS), David Funderburk (NC), Steve Chabot (OH), Mark Sanford (SC), Matt Salmon (AZ).

Democrats: Ranking Minority Member Lee Hamilton (IN), Sam Gejdenson (CT), Tom Lantos (CA), Robert Torricelli (NJ), Howard Berman (CA), Gary Ackerman (NY), Harry Johnston (FL), Eliot Engel (NY), F.H. Faleomavaega (del. American Samoa), Matthew Martinez (CA), Donald Payne (NJ), Robert Andrews (NJ), Robert

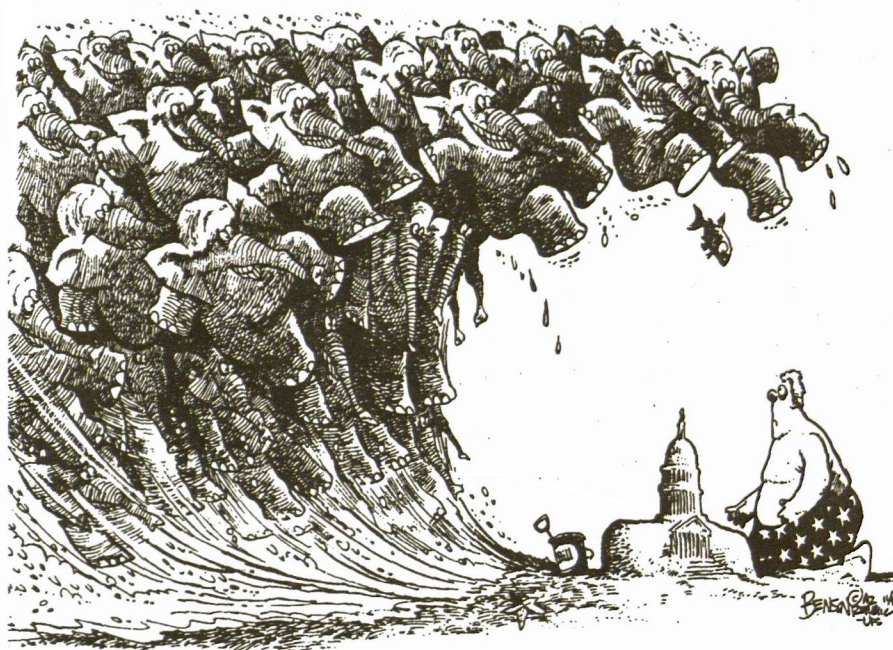
Menendez (NJ), Sherrod Prown (OH), Cynthia McKinney (GA), Alcee Hastings (FL), Albert Wynn (MD), Michael McNulty (NY), James Moran (VA) and one open seat.

The Senate Foreign Relations Committee under the Chairmanship of Jesse Helms (NC) has already put the Clinton Administration on notice that they are not afraid of conditioning aid to Russia.

There's been a re-shuffling of members between the Senate Foreign Relations Committee (SFR) and the Senate Appropriations Committee on both sides of the aisle. The SFR has retained a Subcommittee on Europe and all we know at this moment is that Senator Richard Lugar of Indiana will chair this subcommittee.

The Republican members of the SFR committee will be: Chairman Jesse Helms (NC), Richard Lugar (IN), Nancy Kassebaum (KS), Hank Brown (CO), Paul Coverdell (GA), Olympia Snowe (ME), Fred Thompson (TN), Rod Grams (MN), Craig Thomas (WY), and John Ashcroft (MO). The Democrats: Claiborne Pell (RI), Joseph Biden (DE), Paul Sarbanes (MD), Christopher Dodd (CT), John Kerry (MA), Charles Robb (VA), Russell Feingold (WI), and Dianne Feinstein (CA).

It appears that the House Appropriations Committee will still maintain a tradition of decentralized decision-making. Therefore, the Subcommittee on Foreign Operations will be one of the committees that shapes foreign aid. As we went to press, the Democrats had not yet



Reprinted from: *The Washington Times*, January 5, 1995 / *Benson Az Republic* 11/9/94

settled the issue of committee assignments.

The Republican members of the Subcommittee on Foreign Operations will be: Chairman Sonny Callahan (AL), Bob Livingston (LA), John Porter (IL), Frank Wolfe (VA), Ron Packard (CA), Joseph Knollenberg (MI), Jim Bunn (OR), and Michael Forbes (NY).

We've written before about the major changes about to take place in the Senate Subcommittee on Foreign Operations with Senator Mitch McConnell of Kentucky assuming that subcommittee's chairmanship. Senator McConnell has already drafted a legislative proposal for the reform of foreign aid as well as the abolishment of the Agency for International Development. We now know which Senators will join him on this subcommittee:

Republicans: Chairman Mitch McConnell (KY), Arlen Specter (PA), Connie Mack (FL), Phil Gramm (TX) Jim Jeffords (VT), Judd Gregg (NH), and Richard Shelby (AL).

Democrats: Ranking Minority Member Patrick Leahy (VT), Daniel Inouye (HI), Frank Lautenberg (NJ), Tom Harkin (IA), Barbara Mikulski (MD) and Patty Murray (WA).

Now a word about the new House and Senate Leadership. The registered Republicans amongst our *Bridges* readers shouldn't get too complacent. You yourselves know of the strong isolationist tradition that runs through the Republican Party's ranks. Despite the fact that Mr. Gingrich, the new Speaker of the House, throughout the 1980s gave numerous speeches in defense of President Reagan's strong anti-Soviet foreign policy, he rarely signed on to initiatives to help Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia. There's better news reviewing the record of Congressman Dick Armey (the new Majority Leader) and Congressman Tom Delay (the new Majority Whip). These two gentlemen signed numerous initiatives of the Baltic Freedom Caucus members and co-sponsored numerous bills to help Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia.

Senator Bob Dole (the new Senate Majority Leader) has fought many battles to help Soviet-occupied Lithuania over the years, but we can't forget that in mid-1991 he was leading the effort for President Bush to grant agricultural credits for Gorbachev's Soviet Union, when it was politically detrimental to the Landsbergis government. By the way, the debt on those billions of dollars worth of agricultural credits has had to be re-scheduled as Mr. Yeltsin's Russia failed to make payments for the grain that kept Gorbachev afloat.

We approach the 104th Congress with a sense of optimism for the boundless opportunities it presents to advance the cause of Lithuania's security and partnership with the United States. We hope that you will join us. Besides, it makes for great stories to tell your grandchildren, someday.

## ISSUE UPDATE

### HEADCOUNT UPDATE:

One of the casualties of the 1994 elections, was Congressman Bill Sarpalius (D-TX). *Bridges* readers may remember that Congressman Sarpalius is a fellow Lithuanian-American. He, along with Congressmen Dick Durbin (D-IL), Christopher Cox (R-CA) and former Congressman John Miller (R-WA) fought their way through the Soviet bureaucracy to get to Lithuania in February, 1990 to help Sajudis candidates. Congressman Sarpalius also took on President Bush (very vocally) on the House floor for his continuing intransigence in not recognizing the Landsbergis government. That leaves only three Congressmen of Lithuanian ancestry: Dick Durbin (D-IL), Sam Gejdenson (D-CT) and Norman Sisisky (D-VA).

### MILITARY TRANSIT UPDATE:

The military and hazardous materials transit regulations which were passed by Lithuania's parliament and were supposed to go into effect on January 1, 1995 have gone into effect conditionally. According to Prime Minister Slezevicius of Lithuania, they went into effect for everyone, but Russia, "because the Lithuanian Foreign Ministry failed to send a (diplomatic) note to the Russian Foreign Ministry." But the Prime Minister went on to assure reporters on January 5, 1995 that his government was further negotiating with the Russian government and that they soon hoped to have a separate transit agreement for Russia. *Bridges* readers may also want to take note that according to press reports in Lithuania, the Russians have been shipping aerial bombs and other military hardware for their assault against the Chechens from the Kaliningrad territory through Lithuania.

### BALTIC PEACEKEEPING BATTALION:

The first tranche of money for the Baltic Peacekeeping Battalion (US \$2.8 million) has already purchased cold weather gear for this unique military unit which combines Lithuanian, Latvian and Estonian armed forces personnel.



Algirdas Rimas

# Business News

## Prime Minister Adolfo Slezevicius Visits Washington

Lithuania's Prime Minister Adolfo Slezevicius visited Washington, D.C. November 21-24 on what was described as an "unofficial" visit. Accompanied by Lithuania's Ambassador in Washington, Alfonsas Eidintas, the Prime Minister met with Deputy Secretary of State, Strobe Talbott, FBI Director, Louis Freeh, Chairman of the Export-Import (Ex-Im) Bank, Kenneth Brody and other ranking officials in the U.S. Agency for International Development, the U.S. Trade Representative's office and the State Department. Meetings were also held with Michael Camdessus, head of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and Lewis Preston, president of the World Bank. Among the private sector appointments with Mr. Slezevicius was one with Mr. Linas Kojelis, president of the U.S.-Baltic Foundation.

Mr. Slezevicius' agenda covered economic and business issues. In an interview broadcast by the Lithuanian State TV, the Prime Minister said he was pleased to hear of possible Ex-Im Bank long-term financing for future purchases of passenger aircraft. The Bank currently offers only limited short-term credits for buying U.S. made products. One condition is that the Lithuanian government guarantee repayment. Mr. Slezevicius expressed interest in Ex-Im loans being made directly to Lithuanian banks and individual companies without the requirement of a government guarantee.

In his talks with the IMF, the World Bank and USAID, Mr. Slezevicius reviewed how the Lithuanian economy is being reformed and discussed joint projects with those agencies. Priorities include improvements in banking, budget planning and tax reform. The IMF officials expressed satisfaction that the Lithuanian government is living-up to its commitments on economic policy as agreed with that international organization.

Organized crime and its effect on business was also a topic of discussion with the FBI and USAID. They discussed mutual cooperation in law enforcement.

Mr. Slezevicius also addressed a proposal to produce a TV documentary film on the Baltic States by the veteran newscaster, Walter Cronkite. Funding is being sought for the project which is supported by the U.S.-Baltic Foundation and other interest groups.

## Baltic Enterprise Fund Director Named

Brewster Campbell, a banking and finance expert and a

former U.S. Treasury Department adviser to the Baltics, has been named to be the Executive Director of the Baltic Enterprise Fund. Having filled this key position, the Fund is expected to start operations soon.

The \$50 million fund was established by Congress in 1992. Ambassador Rozanne Ridgway, a former assistant secretary for European Affairs at the State Department was appointed earlier to chair the Board of Directors. The aim of the fund is to leverage the \$50 million of public funds with additional resources obtained from private capital markets. The Enterprise Fund intends to lend and invest in private business projects in all three Baltic States for the purpose of encouraging private sector development. Details on how the fund will select projects have yet to be established. Watch this space for an early update.

## LAC-Economic Affairs Council Reshuffled

With the election of a new LAC Board chaired by Chicago area attorney, Regina Narusis, the LAC Economic Affairs Council was also reshuffled. Algirdas Rimas, a recently retired U.S. Foreign Service officer who last served at the U.S. Embassy at Vilnius, was appointed chairman. He succeeded Antanas Dambriunas who recently departed for Lithuania on a work assignment. Edmundas Kulikauskas, an active member of the previous council also relocated to Lithuania.

The new council will include the following members: Antanas Grina, an international banker and financial adviser residing in the Chicago area; Drasutis Gudelis, a Florida based entrepreneur and investor (Ford and Hyundai dealerships) in Lithuania; Skirma Kondratas, Washington D.C. researcher with the Hudson Institute and former Assistant Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services; Algis Rukenas, local government and business development expert from Cleveland; John Zerr, a Philadelphia lawyer with expert knowledge of the Lithuanian legal system; Romas Brickus, a Boston area businessman experienced in the Lithuanian import-export trade and investment; Vytas Daugirdas, a New York area high-tech manager and investor in Lithuania; Marius Marijosius, a New York trust banker and investment funds manager; Milda Napjus, a Los Angeles business development activist; and Vytautas Cernius, also a Los Angeles area businessman specializing in high-tech industries.

The council will be considering how best to assist Lithuania's private sector at the grass-roots level. Possible projects include the compilation of a business directory of

American companies interested in trading with or investing in Lithuania and otherwise promoting trade and investment. The council also intends to play an active role in supporting effective American government policies and assistance to develop Lithuania's economy and to encourage the rule of law and free market principles.

Any comments and suggestions on how the LAC Economic Affairs Council could improve its work are welcomed. Please write or call Algirdas Rimas at 1711 Wainwright Dr., Reston, VA 22090, tel (703) 471-1711.

## Economic and Business News From Lithuania

News correspondent Rima Jakutyte, reporting from Vilnius, recently sent us a summary of business news being featured in the Lithuanian media. The leading items include the following:

- **What happened to the interest earned on Lithuania's hard currency reserves?**

The question has been raised by the parliamentary opposition and the newspaper, "Lietuvos Aidas" after noticing that the government's 1995 budget projects only token interest revenues accruing from the \$ 500 million in Lithuania's hard currency reserves that are held in foreign banks. According to "Lietuvos Aidas", government officials have explained that according to the Lithuanian law, earnings on the reserves are paid not to the government but to the Central Bank. The revenues are therefore off-budget. Annual yield on the reserves is estimated at around five percent. Critics, including former Prime Minister, Gediminas Vagnorius, have called on the government to appropriate this revenue stream and use it to finance public spending. Others, are more cautious. Gintaras Nauseda, an economist writing in "Lietuvos Rytas", expressed alarm that a major injection of foreign currency to stimulate the Lithuanian economy, as proposed, would fuel inflation and undermine the 4 to 1 fixed rate of exchange of the Litas to the U.S. dollar.

- **Lithuanian Savings Bank Investigated**

Two Lithuanian dailies, the "Respublika" and "Lietuvos Rytas" have been reporting allegations of fraudulent activities and mis-management among some officials at the country's third largest bank, the Lithuanian Savings Bank. A full scale audit has been undertaken and several of the officials have already resigned. The bank's chairman, Robertas Preikstas, reportedly is cooperating with the investigation. He has asserted that that there is evidence of corruption going beyond the activities of the bank. The economic investigations committee of Parliament has also launched its own enquiry, focusing on aspects of how the savings bank was privatized and who benefited. Preikstas has assured the Bank's customers that the despite the investigation, the bank is sound and there is no threat to deposits.

- **Update on Lithuania's banks**

There are currently 21 banks operating in Lithuania and many of them are expanding rapidly. However, audits that meet international standards are only now being completed. Deposit insurance generally is unavailable at this time. The three former state banks hold the majority of the market share. The largest is the Lithuanian Agricultural Bank, followed by the Lithuanian State Commercial Bank and the Lithuanian Savings Bank. Among the most dynamic and prominent private banks are the following: Akcinis Inavacinis, Vilniaus, Vakaru, Litimpex, Ukio, Aurabankas and Hermis. According to the central bank, average interest rates in 1994 for 6 month deposits were 21 percent for litas and 10 percent for hard currency. Average short term lending rates were 46 percent for litas and 43 percent for hard currency.

- **Port of Klaipeda is booming from transit trade to points east**

"Lietuvos Rytas" recently interviewed Benediktas Petrauskas, the manager of Klaipeda's freight handling operations. He reportedly said the volume of freight shipments between western Europe and Russia, Kazakstan, Ukraine and other points east has been increasing. Leading commodities are metals, peat, lumber, agricultural products and fertilizer. Petrauskas sees excellent prospects in the future development of such transit trade. One of Klaipeda's leading advantages is that it is ice-free all winter. Klaipeda faces keen competition from other Baltic ports. Petrauskas said that the Finnish government is especially eager to develop Helsinki as the leading Baltic gateway into Russia.

## White House Business Conference to Promote Business with Eastern and Central Europe

Top Lithuanian government and business leaders will attend a White House sponsored blue-ribbon conference on investment and trade with Eastern and Central Europe. Delegations from other countries of the region will also participate in this event which is to be held January 12 and 13 in Cleveland. Pres. Clinton is featured as a speaker. Commerce Secretary Ron Brown will also be on hand. Several hundred American corporate executives and bankers have been invited to hear presentations from visitors on business opportunities in their respective countries and to discuss possible projects.

## Lithuanian Imports of Russian Fuel Oil Blocked Again

According to Lithuanian press reports, the country again faces a fuel oil shortage. Deliveries from Russia, the sole source of imported fuel, have been interrupted since early December for undisclosed reasons. Stored supplies are

at less than half of full capacity; there is not enough to last through winter. In Vilnius, Kaunas, Klaipeda and other larger cities, central heating furnaces have been switched to use more expensive natural gas which continues to be available. A spokesman for the heating authority reportedly said that Russia is having domestic problems in meeting its own heating needs and that the timing of future imports is uncertain. He added that Lithuania is developing alternative sources of supplies.

## Big Slice of Vilnius Pizza Business Eaten-up By Theft and Taxes

Rita Dapkus, a young Lithuanian-American from Chicago, moved to Vilnius in the heady days of Lithuania's struggle for independence. Working as a volunteer press spokeswoman under Dr. Vytautas Landsbergis, she played in the historical drama that saw the restoration of democracy. Free enterprise was also high in her scale of values. In 1992, Rita, the entrepreneur, left politics and launched a pizza delivery service called "Rita's Kitchen". The Lithuanian dailies "Respublika" and "Lietuvos Aidas" recently updated Rita's story.

Business grew and Rita expanded by opening a trendy Vilnius restaurant, "Rita's Hideaway". It was justifiably famous for its pasta dishes. The city's leading English language guidebook, "Vilnius in Your Pocket", in 1994 named Rita's Hideaway the best eatery in the capital, beating out the previously top billed "Stikliai". The Hideaway clientele included resident foreign diplomats, businessmen, and politicians. But despite crowded tables and hefty prices, Rita complained that she could hardly make ends meet. She blamed high taxes, uncomprehending bureaucrats, problems in securing bank credits, and thieving customers. Glassware and tableware kept disappearing. She went so far as to place notices in her menus pleading "Please do not steal", but this only led to increased theft of menus.

Fed up with the hard work and low profit margins, Rita spearheaded a strike in mid-December by Vilnius restaurant operators and grocery shopkeepers to protest what they see as governmental anti-business policies. Despite her new-found notoriety, Rita appears committed to her life as an enterprising businesswoman. She reportedly works harder than ever. Frequently, she works around the clock, sleeping-over on her office couch in her well-earned Hideaway.

## Yellow Arches over the Amber Coast

McDonald's has opened its first fast-food restaurant in the Baltic States, in Riga. Another franchise is to open this March in Tallinn. There is no word yet on any plans for Lithuania. McDonald's gained world-wide attention when it opened its first restaurant in Moscow. The chain now has five restaurants in the region, in addition to the newly opened one in Riga. There are three in Moscow and one each in St. Petersburg and Kiev.

## Vilnius lathe manufacturer privatized

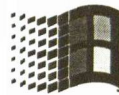
Baltic News Service (BNS) has reported that the formerly state owned Vilnius Lathe Manufacturing Company, a significant regional producer of machine tools and parts, has been sold to private owners. Unlike previous privatization deals transacted with government issued "investment vouchers", this sale reportedly required cash payment. An investment group associated with a private commercial bank, Hermis, and including Norwegian investors, reportedly purchased the plant for 15.5 million litas (\$3.8 million). The new owners indicated they will spend

Continued on p. 14

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Jeanne Dorr

# Lithuania's Forgotten Children - Part III

The first two parts of my journey took me traveling with Countryside Children's Fund. The third article will describe the time I spent with Mrs. Grazina Landsbergis. Mrs. Landsbergis is in charge of a foster child program and has several people to help her administer the day to day activities of the fund. I have to admit I was quite nervous at the prospect of spending time with the wife of a famous man who is also well known in her own right. She is a professional concert pianist who has played in many countries of the world. Perhaps some BRIDGES readers have had the opportunity to hear Mrs. Landsbergis in concert when she performed in the United States. So it was with apprehension and butterflies in my stomach that I approached the rented mini-van which picked me up in Vilnius. I was immediately put at ease when Mrs. Landsbergis and her assistant, Irena, greeted me. The van was packed to the brim with a charity shipment that had been received from Germany. There was clothing, a large supply of vitamins, small toys and candy. We sat on stacks of clothing as we started sorting the items into bags according to age and need. Our destination was the area of Anykščiai. From time to time we would hit a bump on some of the unpaved roads and everything would go flying out of the bags and boxes.

Our first stop was at the home of a young woman and her husband who have two children. They are also raising the wife's three siblings. These seven people were living in three rooms. The children's mother was dead and the father was an alcoholic in prison. The children impressed me because they were so pleasant. Lithuanian children still do not have the fear of strangers American children have. They may be shy for the first few minutes, but the shyness quickly melts away and before long they are chattering away as if they knew you all their lives. We left them with clothing, directions for using boxes of rice dinners, and

vitamins.

At our next stop we met with a 30 year old widow. She had 4 of the most beautiful children I have ever seen. The father had been an alcoholic who had become depressed and hung himself. The last child was born several months after his death. The family lived in one room and shared a communal kitchen and bathroom with other families who lived on the same floor. What struck me was the total

despair and hopelessness in the voice and the eyes of this young mother. In most cases, the people were down and out but they had hope for their children's futures. This young woman had no skills and therefore had no job. Even if she could find a low paying job, she could not afford to pay for child care. Only the oldest girl, who is seven years old, attended school. To pay for day care for 3 children was out of the question. We



*The grandfather left when their grandmother took in these 3 abandoned children. The oldest girl is an excellent student. Mrs. G. Landsbergis is pictured in the center.*

promised to try to find her children sponsors as soon as possible, which would alleviate some of the financial burden for her. This was the "family of the month" in the October issue of BRIDGES. While Irena and the mother were doing the paper work which is required before a family qualifies for sponsors, Mrs. Landsbergis and I played with the children. We dug into our "charity" bag and found some small, fluffy stuffed animals. It was like Christmas in July for those youngsters. We gave out the usual clothing, explained the vitamins, and read the directions for the boxed rice dinners which were shipped from Germany. The dinner was meant to be a side dish for chicken, but I had the feeling this was going to be the main meal without the chicken. The stove in the communal kitchen was broken and no one seemed to have any idea when it would be repaired. The cooking was being done on a gas ring. When we arrived, the children were eating raw peas. As we got ready to leave, our new little friends hugged and kissed us. I held the young widow's hand, but there was nothing I

could say. I couldn't promise her that tomorrow would be better - all I could ask her was to try to hold on for the sake of the children. I felt so helpless.

At another house, we met with a grandmother who was



*This young boy is being raised by his grandmother. Mrs. Landsbergis' (pictured) Foster child program helps families with severe problems.*

raising her three grandchildren, all in their teens. The grandson has visual and hearing problems. All the children are excellent students and will probably qualify for student stipends if they continue their education after they are 18 years of age. Mrs. Landsbergis encouraged them to go on to higher education not only for themselves and their family, but also for the future of Lithuania. As the grandmother continued to talk about her grandson's health problems, she broke down into tears. Her biggest fear is that she will not live long enough to see her grandchildren live independent lives. When the children were abandoned and she wanted to bring them home, her husband had given her an ultimatum: either they were placed in an orphanage or he would leave. He had raised one family and was not willing to start all over again. Since the grandmother could not leave the children in an orphanage, the grandfather had left. It seemed there was enough love in this little family to keep them going, but the elderly grandmother does need financial help.

Because many of our families lived in small villages, we had a town employee travel with us. It is almost impossible to find your way around the unmarked roads without help. In addition, the town employee can provide insight into how the community is dealing with the problems of its people.

Our travels took us to another grandmother who is raising a grandson who is 13 and an 11 year old granddaughter. The living quarters were small but spotless. Here, as everywhere

we went, people had their own gardens, not as a hobby, but out of necessity. In this particular case, both the parents had a drinking problem. After a night of heavy drinking the children's mother had picked up an axe and killed their father. The children were in the house at the time. She served her prison sentence, but has had nothing to do with her children since. The grandmother is both mother and father to these children. Once more, the grandmother's fear was evident that she might not live to see her grandchildren reach adulthood. There is no one else to take care of them.

Over and over we met children and teenagers who had very little interest in education. They were doing poorly in school and couldn't wait until they could legally get out. The families were having difficulty making ends meet and school was not a priority in their lives. Many of the teenagers talked of dropping out and making money. Mrs. Landsbergis did not lecture them, but instead spoke to them as a grandmother might speak to her grandchildren. She told them about the nine years she spent in Siberia. When she returned to

Lithuania, everything she possessed was in one small suitcase. She tried to explain to them that with hard work they could live a better life and that a strong Lithuania needed educated young people. They were Lithuania's future.

One of the children we visited had great difficulty in school, but was talented in music. She tried to talk the foster mother into taking the child into town for music lessons. The foster mother insisted it was too far to go for something as unimportant as music. Mrs. Landsbergis urged her to make the sacrifice once a week. Perhaps then the child would do better in his school work.



*The young woman pictured on the left, is raising her three siblings, pictured, as well as her own two children. Mrs. Landsbergis is on the right.*

It had been a full day and was getting late. Our final stop was at a house of a grandmother and her grandchild. They were such pleasant people. The young girl was in fifth grade and sang a song for us. She had a beautiful voice and music was her favorite subject in school. The child's mother abandoned her and her father. They moved in with the father's mother. It was shortly after that an automobile accident had taken the father's life. So many of these children suffer from circumstances that are beyond their control. As I looked around the shabby but clean house, I noticed there were no beds. The grandmother told us that the electricity had been turned off. But she and her granddaughter loved each other and that was all they needed. The little girl tried on the clothes we brought her. She was thrilled with them. How very little it takes to make these children happy - they don't need \$100 toys or designer label clothing. They only need to know that someone, somewhere, cares what happens to them. As we are in the throes of winter, I often wonder how this little family is keeping warm. I worry about all the families I visited, because in a very short time they became an important part of my life.

We visited other families that day, but space does not permit me to write any more. In this particular program, the sponsor's money is deposited each month in an account. The care giver has a little book similar to a bank book, they do not receive cash, but withdraw money from their account as they need it. The older people, especially the grandmothers, were very scrupulous about showing us how every cent was used. They insisted on displaying everything that was purchased for the children from coats to underwear.

Aside from money there is one thing that is desperately needed by all these groups and that is footwear. If any BRIDGES reader has connections with shoe manufacturers or shoe retailers, please contact either Orphan Care in Chicago or me in Philadelphia. The groups have clothing donated but shoe donations are difficult to come by. We ask only that the shoes be of a practical nature. If you or your organization are planning to send a "charity" box please remember to put in a few "fun" things - candy, picture books or small toys.

My heartfelt thanks to Mrs. Grazina Landsbergis for the many hours we spent together. We shared some laughs and we shared a few tears as we left "our" children in the Anykšćiai area. But mostly, we shared our love for the "Forgotten Children" of Lithuania.

If you wish to sponsor a child for a year the cost is \$150. If you cannot sponsor a child, any donation would be gratefully appreciated. Please send your tax deductible checks to: Lithuanian Orphan Care 2711 West 71st Street, Chicago, IL 60629

If you want your donation to be used for the families mentioned in this article or children cared for by this fund, please mark your check "Anykšćiai" or make a notation that this money is for Mrs. Landsbergis' children.

## BUSINESS NEWS

*Continued from p. 11*

an additional litas equivalent of 1.75 million for improvements.

A second Vilnius machine tool manufacturer "Vista", is also on the block for privatization. The initial asking price is reportedly 9.2 million litas (\$2.3 million). Vista's specialties include milling machines for cutting gears and wood-working machine tools. Although the company exports most of its production to the countries of the former Soviet Union, its exports to Western Europe have been increasing. The privatization of Vista is being managed under rules of open bidding.

## U.S. Ambassador to Lithuania challenged over investment remarks

The American Ambassador to Lithuania, James Swihart, drew fire from the Lithuanian daily, "Lietuvos Rytas", over his comments in November at the Kaunas Technological University. Speaking on U.S.-Lithuanian economic relations, Ambassador Swihart was quoted as saying that he would not recommend investing in Lithuanian industry. When the press picked-up on this, the Ambassador reportedly complained that he was quoted out of context. "Lietuvos Rytas" insisted that its reporting was accurate.

So what happened? Looking at the coverage of Ambassador Swihart's remarks as reported in the December 7 issue of the daily, "Kauno Diena", the Ambassador tried to be constructive by sharing some words of wisdom on economic development. The Ambassador's points were consistent with current mainstream theories on the subject. He spoke of the American experience and reviewed some recent history, citing the economic success stories of the past few decades in East Asia. He spoke of the down-side of blind reliance on the future of heavy smoke-stack industries and lauded the success of economic development models based on knowledge-based service industries and open trade. Comparative advantage in heavy industry was described as probably being with large emerging countries that have cheap, skilled labor, specialized state-of-the-art know-how and flexibility to adapt quickly to changing conditions.

According to "Kauno Diena", Ambassador Swihart indicated that Lithuania did not have such advantages and concluded that its interests would be best served by turning the country into an effective commercial bridge between the East and the West. He recommended training specialists in the areas of financial services, management, tourism and other high-value added services. In this regard, Ambassador Swihart praised the recently concluded cooperation agreement between Kaunas Technical and the University of Texas.

Therefore, in no way could the Ambassador's remarks be construed as a blanket warning to potential investors in Lithuania. To the contrary, by entering into a public dialogue, he offered some well-meant, constructive views on future directions and expressed an abiding American commitment to the future of Lithuania's economic development.

Aukse Trojanas

# The Chicago Scene

The 9th Lithuanian language Theater Festival took place in Chicago's Youth Center during Thanksgiving Day weekend, November 25 to 27. The four participating theater companies were from Los Angeles, Chicago,

Toronto and Hamilton, Ontario.

Juozas Ivanauskas of Klaipeda was invited to direct Chicago's "Vaidilute" company. He imaginatively created two plays from short stories by Chekov. "Bad Work" dealt with the bizarre adventure of a cemetery guard who encounters a stranger wishing to pass through the cemetery grounds late one night. The good natured guard is horri-

fied to learn that the stranger is a man who died and was buried in the same cemetery the week before. It soon becomes clear that the "dead man" has two accomplices who have stripped the chapel of its valuables while the guard was being distracted. In the second play, "A Good Ending," a 52 year old man engages a matchmaker to find him a wife who will respect and admire him as well as provide him with children. As he proceeds to describe his requirements for a spouse, he begins to appreciate the 40 year-old matchmaker's full figure and profitable business. He asks her to marry him and she agrees. It is indeed a good match. The opera singer Dalia Kuceniene made her acting debut as the saucy matchmaker. Aidas Palubinskas effectively played the guard and the matchmaker's client. Teodoras Dobrovolskis performed the role of the wily, not quite dead thief.

Hamilton's "Aukuras" company presented Garcia Lorca's "The House of Bernarda Alba," a tragedy in which a rigid and powerful mother prevents her five daughters from creating lives and families for themselves. Despite the sensible and compassionate intervention of Ponsia, the family maid, Bernarda ultimately drives one of her daughters to suicide. The acting of this

large cast of twelve women was very fine, especially Marija Kalvaitiene as Bernarda and Elena Dauguvietyte as Ponsia. Bernarda's enchantingly loony mother was played by Darija Jankuniene. Elena Dauguvietyte directed the play and received an award as the best supporting actress. She also received a Lifetime Achievement award for her contribution to Lithuanian theatre, notably the founding and direction of the 45 year old Aukuras Company.

An original play, "The Last to Leave Varlyne" by Feliksas Jakubauskas, was presented by Toronto's "Aitvaras" company. Algirdas Kynas directed this delightful comedy. Mykolas learns that his brother Jurgis, who fled Lithuania 45 years before, will come from America to visit him. He wants Jurgis to be able to return to the family homestead, an old-fashioned wooden cottage. It is a time, however, when old houses are being pulled down to be replaced by modern, Soviet era cinder block homes. Mykolas resists "progress" and barricades himself into the old homestead to keep it from being torn



Foto: A. Trojanas

The 9th Theatrical Festival Chicago, 1994



Foto: J. Tamulaitis

Bernarda and Ponsia "The House of Bernarda Alba"

down. His patient wife Marijona climbs through a window to visit him and to bring him food. A neighbor also climbs in to bring some schnaps. The two men drink and pass out while lying in the two halves of a coffin, which happens to be in the cottage. The walls of the cottage are torn down around them as they sleep. Mykolas' wife covers them with blankets and puts lilies in their hands so that when the men awaken they are not sure if they are dead or alive. When Jurgis finally arrives, houses and possessions become irrelevant in the presence of the joy of the reunion of the two brothers. Vytautas Stukys as Mykolas and Aldona Siksnienė as Marijona won awards as the best actor and actress of the Festival.

Edvardas Uldukis' historical play, "Klajojanti Peda," was performed by the Los Angeles Drama Ensemble. Superb scenery and costumes transported the action of the play to 13th century Lithuania. The Klajojanti Peda (the wandering foot) was a mythical castle thought by some to have preceded modern Klaipėda. Historical individuals figure in this play which is about a kind of



Foto: J. Tamulaitis

Skaidre (Ema Dovydaitytė) and Tautginas (Amandas Ragauskas) the ill-fated lovers in "Klajojanti Peda".

The play's director, Petras Mazelis, received the Festival's award for best director as did Amandas Ragauskas for best supporting actor. The wonderful costumes and set for the play were also recognized with an award.

Laima Sileikyte-Hood, Chairperson of the National LAC Cultural Council, closed the 9th Theatrical Festival which was deemed to be a great success. The 10th Festival will take place in 1998.

Lithuanian Camelot. King Mindaugas negotiates with the Teutonic knights for the Christianization of Lithuania. His nobles quarrel, battle and finally murder Mindaugas and other of his supporters. Too late, his opponents and competitors realize that only Mindaugas could have pulled together the warring factions in medieval Lithuania. The rest is history...

## Lithuanian Educational Council Publications

The following publications are available through the Council at

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Algirdas Landsbergis

# Lithuanians at P.E.N. Congress in Prague

The post-totalitarian transition problems in Central-Eastern Europe, including Lithuania, held the spotlight at the 61st International P.E.N. Congress in Prague (November 7-12, 1994).

P.E.N., the international association of Poets, Play-



Z. Plateliene, A. Landsbergis, A. Nesso (Norway), unidentified delegate, German delegate and B. Barazetti (Int'l P.E.N. Treasurer).

wrights, Essayists and Novelists, was founded in 1921 to promote world peace and literary cooperation. Today it has some 40,000 members in 80 centers across the world.

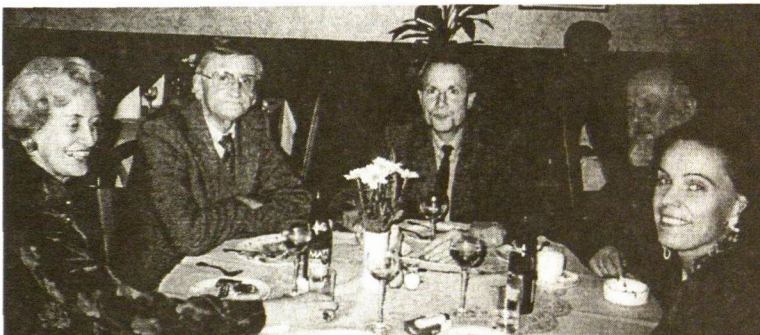
Lithuania had just missed joining international P.E.N. before the Soviet occupation in 1940. Latvia and Estonia, which managed to enter, maintained their P.E.N. centers in exile. For decades, Lithuania's membership in the global writers' organization was blocked by the backstage pressure of the Soviet Union (barred from entering P.E.N. because of human rights violations) and by vociferous opposition of some of Moscow's satellite centers within P.E.N., notably East Germany. A Lithuanian P.E.N. center was finally admitted in 1969, the first independent Lithuanian association to leave the empire and rejoin the world.

At the Prague Congress, Lithuania was represented by Kornelijus Platelis (chairman), Almis Grybauskas, Eugenijus Ignatavicius, and Algirdas Landsbergis (from the U.S.) As they took part in the international dialogue, they sought to establish or renew contacts and inform the world's authors and opinion-

makers about Lithuania. They worked hand in hand with the Latvian P.E.N. delegate Knuts Skujenieks (a fluent Lithuanian speaker) and the Estonian representative Andres Ehin. Balto-Scandian solidarity was evident in close teamwork with the Finnish and the Norwegian delegations. The Lithuanian delegates discovered that while their country's successful struggle for freedom had put it on the map again, that map is not yet complete nor always accurate.

The P.E.N. Congress brought together a large number of Central-Eastern European writers. They had felt very close to each other during the decades of captivity, when they had to communicate by tapping messages against prison walls. Now they have begun to drift apart. P.E.N. is an ideal organization to keep at least part of that former network alive. (In a political parallel, Prague abounded in signs that the "Vyšehrad spirit" is on the wane - a new pecking order is replacing the former spirit of unity, as if Central-Eastern Europeans had already forgotten the lessons of the 1930's).

The Czech P.E.N. center paid a moving tribute to international P.E.N. for its support during the years of oppression. The best known imprisoned Czech writer in those days was Vaclav Havel, who is now the very popular president of the Czech Republic. The Lithuanian P.E.N. center wholeheartedly joined in this tribute,



Participants of the P.E.N. Congress in Prague: (l to r) A. Nesso (Norway), A. Landsbergis (Lithuanian P.E.N.), Mr. Anderson (Norway), K. Skujenieks (Latvia) and Z. Plateliene.

recalling their compatriots who were active in the underground press and who benefitted from P.E.N. Writers-in-Prison Committee's moral and material support. (That Committee has never been busier than in 1994,

*Continued on p. 19*

Vytas Grybauskas

# Sports

## 1995 North American-Lithuanian Downhill Skiing Championships

The 1995 North American Lithuanian Downhill skiing championships sponsored by ŠALFASS will be held on February 25 at the Loretto Ski Resort in Loretto, Ontario in Canada (905) 729-2385, which is 40 miles north of Toronto. Registration will take place from 8:30-9:30 AM.

### Program:

#### Slalom and Giant Slalom

- for boys and girls ages 9 and under
- for boys and girls ages 10 through 12
- for boys and girls ages 13 through 16

#### Slalom and Giant Slalom

- for men and women ages 18 through 34

#### Slalom and Giant Slalom

- for Senior Men - ages 35-49
- for Senior Women - ages 35 and over
- for Veteran Men I - ages 50-64
- for Veteran Men II - ages 65 and over

Participation is open to all Lithuanian skiers from North America and abroad, since this event is being coordinated with the Alpine skiing event of the Fifth Lithuanian World Games taking place February 23-24 at the Blue Mountain Ski Resort in Collingwood, Ontario.

Registration deadline is February 18th. To register call Rimas Kuliavas, 297 Kennedy Ave. Toronto, ONT., M6P 3C4, CANADA. (416) 766-2996 Fax (416) 760-9843

## Lithuanian National Olympic Committee Delegation in Atlanta

The 26th Olympic Games will take place in Atlanta, GA during the summer of 1996. The Olympic Organizing Committee of Atlanta invited all international members/participating countries to Atlanta to discuss and finalize plans; as well as tour the facilities. 196 member nations sent delegations to the meetings, among them Lithuania. Representing Lithuania were: Lithuanian Olympic Committee President Arturas Poviliunas, Gen-

eral Secretary Petras Statuta and Olympic Fund President Petras Vozbutas.

The Lithuanian delegation had an opportunity to participate in discussions, tour existing stadiums and those still under construction, take part in important meetings, as well as meet with Lithuanian-Americans living in Atlanta. Dr. Rimas Gaska, a Lithuanian-American,

acted as advisor and translator for the delegation.

One of the most important decisions announced during the meetings was the fact that the number of Lithuanian participants would be limited to 35; this includes coaches, medical personnel, and trainers. There are over 60 athletes training for the summer Olympics back in Lithuania; and all are confident about qualifying and becoming members of the Lithuanian Olympic Team. Clearly, the selection process for both the athletes and coaches will be very difficult. Fortunately, the number does not include basketball or



Arturas Poviliunas - President of the Lithuanian Olympic Committee

handball players; and if the Lithuanian basketball team qualifies, it will be able to participate with 15 men's team members and 12 women's team members.

In addition to official Olympic conferences, the Lithuanian delegation had an opportunity to discuss business deals as well. A preliminary contract has been drawn up with Reebok, the athletic apparel manufacturer. The deal has been agreed upon with a "handshake" and if finalized, will provide the Lithuanian athletes and trainers with sporting and dress apparel from "head to toe".

The city of Waycross, Georgia has extended an invitation to the Lithuanian Olympic Team that seems too good to be true. Waycross is several hundred miles from Atlanta. At the invitation of the city's mayor; Mr. Statuta, Mr. Vozbutas, and Dr. Gaska travelled to

*Editor's note: Last month's issue erroneously listed Hypatia Ycas Petkus as the author of the Sports section - we apologize for the error - the article was compiled from information provided by Mr. Algis Rugienius.*

Waycross and were met at the city limits by the sheriff and the mayor himself. The hospitality exhibited was exceptional and while there, the city extended an exceptional offer of support for the summer of '96: Two weeks prior to the start of the Olympics, the Lithuanian Olympic Team will arrive in Waycross, where they will be the guests of the city and given access to full training facilities. This will be especially useful to the Lithuanian athletes, who will have a chance to get accustomed to the climate while they continue training. For Waycross - the publicity of our free world team is tremendous and it would facilitate remodeling, improvement, or construction of some new sports facilities. The Lithuanian Team would be brought to Atlanta's Olympic Village the day before the Opening Ceremonies. It seems like a win-win situation for everyone.

Another offer came from the International Olympic Committee which offered to host 6 Lithuanian athletes for summer training somewhere in Europe. Similar arrangements have already been made for three Olympic swimmers to train in the US.

Other discussions also included ways Lithuanian-Americans in Atlanta and elsewhere can contribute to the success of the Lithuanian Olympic Team. Lithuanian Committee President Arturas Poviliunas answered this question in his own words: "The

Lithuanian National Committee is an independent organization, not maintained by federal funds. The government has granted the Committee the right to organize a Lottery in Lithuania. Proceeds from this Lottery fund the Olympic Committee, its facilities, and all activities required in organizing Olympic sports. Obviously, this funding alone, would be inadequate to support Olympic athletes and their trainers, their preparations for trips to competitions, or the Olympic Games, themselves. Therefore, we have created the Olympic Fund, whose President is Petras Vozbutas, the president of "Karolinos" Hotel, Tennis Club and Health Center. Mr. Vozbutas is personally very committed to the Olympic cause. Through his campaigning efforts each of the following Lithuanian businesses have contributed 100,000 litas to the Fund:

"Vakarų Bankas", "Barta ir Partneriai", "Klaipėdos naftos įmonė," and a host of others, as well as some foreign businesses. By Mr. Vozbutas' estimates preparation for



*Petras Statuta - General Secretary of the Lithuanian Olympic Committee*

the Atlanta Olympics will require about \$2 million dollars.

"In conclusion, donations from Lithuanian-Americans would only defray a small part of potential expenses. Rather, we would be very grateful if arrangements could be made to have a place, some type of "Lithuanian House" where the Lithuanian athletes, during their free time could relax and enjoy meeting and talking to Lithuanian-Americans. This would be the most appreciated contribution Lithuanian-Americans could make to the Lithuanian athletes and other team members."

This idea has already been embraced by the Atlanta Olympic Organization Committee, who have already contacted and invited Daiva Tautvydas (who lives in Atlanta) to act as the Lithuanian Team's guide and representative in the Olympic Village. Her salary and training is being paid for by the Atlanta Olympic Organizational Committee.

The days spent in Atlanta by the Lithuanian Olympic Committee delegation were fruitful in many aspects. In addition, members of the delegation spent two days in New York, hosted by Roland Grybauskas, and several days in Florida - the guests of Joana and Vytas Grybauskas. They returned to Lithuania content, that they had successfully accomplished their mission.

#### **P.E.N. CONGRESS**

*Continued from p. 17*

with the number of imprisoned writers constantly on the rise).

A couple of symposia in Prague were dedicated to the specific Central-Eastern European questions. Several references to "our small nations" provoked a tongue-in-cheek suggestion that the word "small" be replaced by "territorially disadvantaged," in the spirit of US "politically correct" speech. However, most of the exchanges were very serious. While deploring the disruption of contacts and cultural decline, several speakers scoffed at the manifestations of nostalgia for the vanished "golden era" in the totalitarian velvet cage. It was pointed out that most of the nostalgic literati were former aparatchiks.

The Lithuanian delegates discussed closer cooperation with the Czech Republic's Minister of Culture Pavel Tigrid, who had spent the past several decades in the West as a political refugee. There were also warm exchanges with the circle of friends of Lithuanian culture in Prague: the linguists and translators Tomas Hoskovec, Janoslav Kabicek, Pavel Stoll, Alena Vickova, the writer Jan Benes, and others.

The Prague Congress was unique because for the first time in P.E.N.'s history it confronted the questions of the very survival of literature, of "book culture" itself. Such doomsday voices have a special resonance for the nations and cultures of Central-Eastern Europe whose survival and rebirth is inextricably linked with the power of the word.

Ramune Kubilius

# A.P.P.L.E. seeks Programs, Workshops, Lectures for Lithuania 1995

The American Professional Partnership for Lithuanian Education (A.P.P.L.E.) seeks program proposals, workshop plans and detailed lecture outlines or completed papers for presentation at its Teacher Inservice Seminar, to be held in various Lithuanian cities early July to early August, 1995.

Proposals in the areas of educational administration, early childhood and elementary education, teaching ethics and teaching democracy, vocational and special education, school psychology, counseling, educational media, librarianship, educational reform and teaching methods in all subject specialties are welcome. At this time, one overriding concern for Lithuanian educators is the mainstreaming of disabled students as well as students formerly housed and taught in institutional settings. This year's A.P.P.L.E. program will reflect this

concern. A.P.P.L.E. is also interested in proposals that would create a two-step program: basic and advanced (or more narrowly focused) approaches in a particular field. Selected participants must be able to make a minimum two-week commitment to the seminar program.

Please send two copies of detailed proposals or complete papers as soon as possible to Seminar Registrar Shirley Sabo, 118 Cook Road, Prospect, CT 06712.

Everyone is also greatly encouraged to call Shirley Sabo at (203) 758-4600 for developing details of the 1995 Summer Seminar. A.P.P.L.E. needs to know of your potential interest right away, even before a proposal is submitted. This allows us to match specialists with similar interests for potential team teaching and to keep our Lithuanian colleagues abreast of what courses we might be able to offer in each city.

## CHANGE A LITHUANIAN TEACHER'S LIFE FOR ONLY \$25!!!

The objective of the A.P.P.L.E. Teacher Seminars has been to assist in the reformation of Lithuania's education infrastructure, as she rejoins the community of nations and is reborn in democracy and freedom. The unfortunate reality is that the cost of transportation and lodging for the Seminar becomes a real-but unnecessary- obstacle to participation. In the past, we have asked our members to sponsor Lithuanian teachers. In return, those who received scholarships wrote personal letters to their sponsors, providing a first-hand account of the influence the seminar experience had on their lives and professional development.

These letters confirmed our hopes-and the promise of our headline.

We are hoping to provide a scholarship to every participant this year, and we believe that we can cover most

of their costs for \$25 each. If you sponsored a teacher last year, you know the value that was received; if you didn't, this is your chance to find out. Consider commemorating a special day - February 16, March 11, St. Valentine's Day or St. Patrick's Day - with this special gift. You will be making a difference! Please send scholarship donations to:

A.P.P.L.E. at Box 617, Durham, CT 06422 Use the coupon below and make copies for all your friends and colleagues. We can reach so many more people with your help.

### A.P.P.L.E. Teacher Seminars

\_\_\_\_\_ Scholarships for 1995 @ \$25 each

\_\_\_\_\_ Total

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

YES! I want to support Lithuanian teachers participating in the 1995 Seminar. Enclosed is my donation for the scholarship pool.

Ramune Kubilius

# LAC, Inc. Educational Council

Lithuanian language education in the United States began its 45th year at the beginning of the 1994-95 school year. Two new schools opened in Seattle, WA and Littleton, CO near Denver. Three schools have new principals (in Hartford, CT, Detroit, MI and New York, NY) and two celebrate their 45th anniversaries in Boston, MA and Los Angeles, CA.

Lithuanian language schools now operate in California, Colorado, Connecticut, District of Columbia, Florida, Illinois, Indiana, Maryland, Michigan, Massachusetts, Nebraska, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Washington.

The new Lithuanian-American Community, Inc. president, Regina Narusis has invited Regina Kucas to serve another term as Educational Council president. Several former Educational Council members continue on-Rima Binder, Alicija Brazaitis, Vida Brazaitis, Antanas Jarunas and Ramune Kubilius. Others are new to their duties-Aldona Rauchas and Irena Vilimas.

The Lithuanian language schools are encouraged to correspond with the Educational Council, communicate their needs, and share write-ups of their school events. The Educational Council is conducting its annual student art and essay writing contests.

Educational Council president Regina Kucas, member

Ramune Kubilius, and visiting Vilnius Pedagogical University professor Kestutis Peckus visited the Boston Lithuanian Language School and participated in the Eastern Seaboard's Lithuanian Educational Conference seminar in Putnam, CT. About a dozen Lithuanian language instructors gathered to hear lectures and talk about encouraging creative thinking, how to teach Lithuanian history and literature, what is the true Lithuanian language, and how children learn to appreciate their parents' and grandparents' language whether or not they learn to speak it perfectly.

The Educational Council is distributing some new materials obtained from Lithuania- a Lithuanian-English pocket-size dictionary (A SHORT ENGLISH-LITHUANIAN AND LITHUANIAN-ENGLISH) and a textbook for learning Lithuanian (MODERN LITHUANIAN-A TEXTBOOK FOR FOREIGN STUDENTS). A new videotape is also now available, a tape of the Chicago performance of the Lithuanian folk ensemble "Gintaras" from Toronto, ONT singing and dancing for its program "Iš Močiūtės skrynios" (From grandmother's (memory/treasure) chest). Persons who are interested in purchasing these items should contact the Educational Council president, Regina Kucas, 13648 Kickapoo Trail, Lockport, IL 60441.

**The Lithuanian Educational Council** would like to thank the Lithuanian Citizens' Society of Western Pennsylvania (based in Pittsburgh) for its generous donation of \$1000. The Society wrote: "We are very much aware of the commendable work you are doing in helping to support the Lithuanian schools and language classes throughout the country and also in printing and preparation of educational material. We ourselves have benefitted from this program and are very grateful." The Lithuanian language classes are still meeting in Pittsburgh, and the Educational Council sends best wishes to the Society's President, Vyto A. Yucius for an educational New Year. The Educational Council has sent the Lithuanian language classes in Pittsburgh some educational materials and will strive to continue providing materials and support to all Lithuanian language classes throughout the US. It appreciates hearing from any person, young or old, who is trying to learn about Lithuania's language and culture, and will do everything within its power to help promote and support those goals.

Ramune Kubilius - Educational Council

Albert Cizauskas

# A Japanese Schindler in Lithuania

Because of the movie, most of us are aware that a man named Oskar Schindler rescued more than a thousand Jews from certain death at the hands of the Nazis. Yet virtually unknown is a story even more dramatic and remarkable, that of a Japanese diplomat in Lithuania during the grim days of 1940. Acting on his own initiative, he risked his career, and possibly even death, by issuing documents called transit visas which enabled holders to escape the genocidal madness of the Nazis.

The man was Chiune Sugihara, serving as Japanese Consul General at Kaunas. In defiance of his own authorities in Tokyo, he granted more than six thousand visas to Jews in Lithuania, their numbers swollen by the exodus from Poland over-run by Hitler's Germany.

In June of 1940, the Soviet Union, anticipating the resumption of the German push to the east, occupied Lithuania and expelled all foreign diplomats. Consul General Sugihara knew what was in store for the quarter million Jews then resident in Lithuania. (The Nazis in fact slaughtered almost all of the Jews in Lithuania when they in turn occupied the country the very next year.) He requested, and surprisingly was granted, permission to remain a few days longer at his post, frantically writing out by hand, transit visas for the multitudes besieging the Japanese Consulate General. He worked day and night, his wife massaging his aching hands and feeding him sandwiches to lose no time in the race against death.

The time finally arrived when this driven man had to leave, yet even as he walked the platform of the Kaunas railway station, he was surrounded by near-hysterical throngs whose pleading he was unable to resist. He wrote out more transit visas and then, leaning out the window

of his railway car, continued so long as the applicants were able to keep up with the accelerating speed of the train. Finally he shouted to the unfortunate ones left behind, "Forgive me, I cannot write any more. I pray for your good fortune." Someone in the crowd shouted out, "We shall never forget you."

The man who followed his conscience rather than his instructions was dismissed from the Japanese diplomatic service and some terrible years ensued for the family. The wife became so sick with worry that she lost the ability to produce enough breast milk to feed a recently born third child, who subsequently died of leukemia.

What happened next is like the good hand of Providence rewarding one who gambled all to help the oppressed. Fittingly, another diplomat, no less than a Lithuanian Jew who was one of Sugihara's survivors, tracked down his benefactor and publicly thanked him for saving his life and those of thousands more. The Israeli government then bestowed various honors on Sugihara. Even his own government "rehabilitated" his memory, although five years after his death. A Sugihara cult had in the meantime arisen among his fellow countrymen, abetted in no small measure by his widow's best-seller, *Visas for 6,000 Lives*.

Here in the United States, a group called the "Holocaust Oral History Project" recently sponsored a meeting in Tokyo of "Sugihara Survivors" at which the American Ambassador, Walter Mondale, noted, "Schindler got into saving lives for the wrong reasons, namely the profit he could make by using Jewish workers in his factory. By contrast, Sugihara and his wife acted altruistically, and what is more, they knew they were risking their lives and their futures."

The sight of those left behind on the Kaunas railway station must have wrenched Sugihara to the breaking point, their cries haunting the humanitarian in later years. These nightmares, however, were assuaged by the knowledge that, when hope appeared futile, his actions saved thousands because he loved his fellow human beings more than himself.

The dramatic saga of what one man can do when confronted by seemingly overwhelming evil was featured in the Washington Post on October 3 under these headlines, "Sugihara's List/Lithuanians Honor Japanese Diplomat Who Saved Thousands."



The late Chiune Sugihara.

**Glenn Nelson**  
**Seattle Times staff reporter**

# A Nation's Go-To Guy

*This article appeared in the Seattle Times, Sunday, November 13, 1994 and is being reprinted with permission.*

**Sonic Guard Sarunas Marciulionis is obsessive, hyperactive, guilt-ridden and stubborn. And the children of Lithuania are lucky he is.**

Stick a guy on a basketball court, plant a hand on his hip and put some money on the line. Then watch all the facades melt away. Inevitably, a man's true nature will be revealed.

For Sarunas Marciulionis, this doesn't take long. Starting on the wing, he will make a run toward the basket, like a World War I commando advancing upon a foxhole, undaunted by any mass of humanity in his path.

In doing so, Marciulionis will endure all sorts of physical abuse. And repeat it time and time again. His sense of responsibility prods him. That, and his perfectionist disposition.

A guard, Marciulionis could sit outside launching sweetly backspinning shots, and no one would think badly of it. Except him. Miss one unguarded hoist, and the guilt would be too much.

In his mind, he must improve his odds - score, get fouled or pass to an open teammate, instead of just hit or miss. So he drives, and he only drives hard. Some have called this a weakness, and an injury waiting to happen.

"I can get hurt, sure," the SuperSonic guard counters. "But I'd rather get injured than be some intelligent-looking guy who stands out on the court, trying to figure everything out. I'd rather just be there in the middle of everything. I don't want to think; I want to do."

Thinking, a luxury to some, is a nightmare to others. Sarunas Marciulionis had time to think once, back in his native Lithuania. He was only 13 years old then.

Rooney, as he is now known around the NBA, was whiling away a winter's day in his hometown of Kaunas, stuffing gunpowder into matchboxes, then setting them on fire. One of the explosions, premature, singed off his hair and seared his skin, disfiguring his face. He arrived in the emergency room blind.

Though a couple of surgeries eventually restored his vision, Marciulionis spent 17 days in the hospital. Early in his stay, he strolled through the corridors, but was such a horrific sight that the other children began to have nightmares about him. The nurses suggested he stay in his room.

"There, I had a lot of time to think," he recalls. "I told myself, 'You're ugly; nobody wants to look at you. Nobody wants to touch you. Except for your parents, nobody cares about you.'"

Those disquieting thoughts stayed with him. And many years later, when Ligita Nasickaite was born in Lithuania without a jaw, her parents weren't the only ones who cared. Fortunately for her, Marciulionis also did.



*Sarunas Marciulionis has given his all for Lithuania*

With his help, Nasickaite and her mother, Regina, flew to Boston. Regina Nasickiene was weary from nights lost carrying the 3-year-old over her shoulder so she would not suffocate in her sleep. The ensuing surgery changed her life, and saved her daughter's.

When Marciulionis came to visit the next morning, young Ligita presented him with a teddy bear. She also demonstrated her new-found ability to sip a can of cola, the first of her life, through a straw. Her benefactor melted with

euphoria.

"Mmmmm," Marciulionis sighs, relishing the memory. "To help a child like that, it's a very, very great feeling."

This kind of feedback, Marciulionis gets on a fairly constant basis. He's made it his life's mission to salvage and support Lithuania's younger generation. And, of course, he attacks this mission like he attacks the hoop - relentlessly, without hesitation or rumination.

"He is like Santa Claus for his people," says Golden State assistant coach Donnie Nelson, Marciulionis' closest friend. "He just keeps giving and fighting until he's too tired to go on. Then he'll take a second to recharge and start all over again."

There are two main pipelines for Marciulionis' aid. One is the Sarunas Lithuanian Children's Fund, an organization that concentrates on delivering the kind of minor miracles that saved Ligita Nasickaite. Through this organization, Marciulionis also has worked with Healing the Children of Michigan to fund missions to Lithuania for two teams of doctors.

The other is the Sarunas Marciulionis Basketball Foundation, which has a more ambitious calling. The centerpiece of the foundation is the basketball school, a 45,000-square-foot complex in Vilnius, the capital of Marciulionis' native country. The converted warehouse includes three indoor courts, six locker rooms, offices, a cafeteria, and, most important to Marciulionis, several classrooms. One of the latter is a computer lab donated by Apple co-founder Steve Wozniak, whom Marciulionis befriended during his days with the Golden State Warriors.

After school each day, some 4,500 kids, aged 9-16, attend the basketball school for two to three hours. In addition to the sporting aspect, they all are required to attend classes in English and computer skills, as well as a class Marciulionis calls etiquette, but really is a catch-all course on living that he and his sister Zita developed.

Phillip Morris recently donated a Mercedes bus so the school's teams can travel to various tournaments. All are under instructions to bring home as many trophies as possible. "That's why I pay extra to the coaches," Marciulionis explains, "for victories."

But basketball, Marciulionis stresses, is not the first priority.

"I want to change the opinion of society that athletes are limited, not bright or impolite," he says. "Maybe that is the way we used to be because we dedicated our whole lives to sports. I want to change that. Maybe none of the children at my school will become NBA players, but at least they can be good, educated citizens."

Just as important to Marciulionis is that his school helps keep kids off the streets. As in other newly independent Eastern European countries, street crime is rampant.

"He is the greatest promoter of looking to the future," says Valdas Adamkus, the US representative to the Lithuanian Olympic Committee. "Economic conditions are difficult and everybody fights every day to improve their

living conditions, so the youth aspect is being neglected. The crime rate is very high because there is no supervision. Parents are preoccupied with providing for their families.

"I am overwhelmed by what Marciulionis is doing."

Marciulionis first went off the charts for his country in 1992. Four years before that, he and countrymen Arvidas Sabonis, Rimas Kurtinaitis and Valdemaras Khomicius formed the heart of the Soviet team that shocked the United States and went on to win the Olympic gold medal in Seoul. In the aftermath, the four sneaked away to have a "Lithuanian team picture" snapped, and it was then that talk began of some day assembling the real thing.

It was Marciulionis, of course, who took up the cause when the 1992 Barcelona Games appeared on the horizon. By then, the U.S.S.R. had splintered, resulting in an independent Lithuania. So Marciulionis toured and faxed Bay Area companies and sports bars to raise money to equip the team, got Nike to donate gear, convinced the Grateful Dead to donate warmups and T-shirt licenses, organized the players and even the coaching staff, convincing his buddy Nelson, the son of Warrior head coach Don Nelson, to serve as an assistant.

In the process, Marciulionis turned his quest into a cause celebre in the United States, particularly among Lithuanian Americans.

"In every nook and cranny of America, somebody was supporting him," says Ina Bray, whose Seattle based Lithuanian-American Community chapter helped sell more than a thousand dollars worth of Grateful Dead T-shirts.

Countries have entire federations to do what Marciulionis did from scratch. And they don't share the additional burdens. Through it all, Marciulionis played for the Warriors, enjoying his best NBA season. He was the league's highest scoring reserve (18.9 points a game) and its most accurate shooter among guards (53.8 percent), and he finished second to current Sonic teammate Detlef Schrempf in Sixth Man of the Year balloting.

On a typical day Marciulionis would play basketball at the highest level, then return to his apartment and stay on the phone or fax machine until the wee hours of the morning, working on building the Lithuanian basketball team.

"He has tremendous energy and is hyperactive," says Curt Schoeppler, Marciulionis' financial handler at International Management Group (IMG). "In their free time, it's enough for some people to watch TV, collect cars or CDs. Not him. He's got to be doing something he feels is constructive and purposeful all the time. He's not one for leisure time or inactivity."

So the year fit perfectly to his lifestyle. After the NBA season ended, Marciulionis and the Lithuanians had to play in a qualifying tournament to make the Olympics. Qualifying would be a breeze.

Basketball has been integral in Lithuania since it won European championships in 1937 and 1939, shortly before being forcibly annexed by the Soviet Union. For the tiny



Baltic state, the sport became a source of immense pride, and it is such a hoops hotbed that it is known as the Indiana of Europe.

If not for the presence of the NBA-dominated U.S. team, Lithuania, as hastily assembled as it was, would have had a legitimate shot at a gold medal. Then again, if it hadn't been for Marciulionis and the Lithuanians in 1988, the U.S. might not have resorted to the Dream Team.

Still, the pressure for the Lithuanians to succeed was unimaginable. And they could not have found a worse opponent to suffer their Olympic-opening defeat against. After tumbling 92-80 to a team representing the rest of the former Soviet Union, the Lithuanians were told that dependent countrymen were committing suicide back home.

But that only made it sweeter when the Lithuanians won the rematch 82-78 for the bronze medal. The leading scorer in the Olympic tournament, Marciulionis hit 29 points in the final, exhilarating contest.

"After it was over, I felt relieved" Marciulionis says. "There was a huge psychological pressure on us. People in Lithuania looked at it like the good guys against the bad guys. I didn't see it that way because those guys on the (CIS) used to be my teammates and my friends. Still, people in Lithuania were looking at it as payback for 50 years of oppression."

Which instantly made Marciulionis a national hero of almost unparalleled stature. Former President Vytautas Landsbergis faced down Soviet tanks on the streets of Vilnius to help Lithuania win back its independence. Marciulionis provided a ray of hope during

the dark, post-independence period, when the adrenaline had long worn off and his country, like a rebellious child during the first months after leaving home, was finding it a struggle to be on its own.

That, really, is a short-term fix compared with what Marciulionis now is undertaking. To ensure the future of his country, he has focused on a generation relatively untainted by Soviet oppression. These children do not have to mistrust literally everyone out of fear that an indiscretion will be weaseled or beaten out of a loved one or confidant by the state.

The tendrils of this paranoia have been difficult even for Marciulionis to shake. Midway through a recent lunch, he realized he had chosen a table in a corner and a seat with a sweeping view of the entire restaurant.

"I have to see everything and never sit with my back to

the door," he said. "I do this without thinking."

And so in a land, the U.S., where he finds the people exceedingly, almost unsettlingly, friendly, Marciulionis does whatever he can for Lithuania. That, also, without thinking.

Marciulionis and Schoeppler argue constantly over Marciulionis' greater interest in investing in Lithuania's future than in his own.

"He is the most philanthropic guy in the NBA," Schoeppler says. "It's not even close."

Marciulionis and Donnie Nelson solidified their friendship over an incident that has since become typical in Marciulionis' life. A man bearing nothing but a loaf of bread one day came knocking on Marciulionis' door, pleading for help in locating an artificial heart valve for his dying son. Enlisting Nelson's help, Marciulionis located the valve, circumvented any number of laws and regulations to acquire it, and then had the boy flown to the United States, where a heart specialist performed the operation.

Years of seeing this scenario repeated have convinced Nelson that Marciulionis feels the burden of trying to

single-handedly save his native land. To illustrate, Nelson tells a fable about an old man who cares for a beach upon which countless starfish are washed up daily. Every morning, the man starts chucking the starfish back into the ocean, saving them from certain death.

One morning, a passer-by stops and asks the old man, "What are you doing? You can't throw them all back and the ones you do will be washed ashore the next

day. They'll all die anyway. To whom does it matter?"

Looking at the starfish in his hand, the old man replies, "It matters to this one," and tosses it into the water.

How Marciulionis came to embrace his starfish is a source of wonderment to his countrymen, some of whom have viewed his benevolence with suspicion.

"If somebody on this side of the Iron Curtain does something for others, it is because of Judeo-Christian beliefs or upbringing," Bray said. "On the other side, all you did was survive. You didn't share. You didn't help. It was not something inbred in you."

Marciulionis also has had to expend as much effort, or more, in convincing his country to accept his assistance as he does organizing the assistance itself. In a burst of pride, Lithuanian officials will tell him, "We are not a Third World country." Yet, in the end, Marciulionis will prevail.



Zita Petkus, Sarunas Marciulionis and Irena Kinderis

And then, he will persist.

"What Sarunas has done is totally a miracle," Bray said.

For this miracle, Lithuania, in a way, has the Soviet Union to thank. The Soviet system treasured people with unique skills, such as athletes, and often plied them with special privileges. The most sought-after privilege of all was the ability to travel out of the country.

The son of Juozas, a landscaping engineer, and Laimute, a teacher, Marciulionis demonstrated an early proficiency in athletics. Until he was 13, he was an ambidextrous tennis player who never hit a backhand. Later the state switched him to basketball, which eventually became his ticket out.

"Most of the time, I see an airport, a hotel and a gymnasium," Marciulionis says. "Once we went to Disneyland and I felt sad for all the children in Lithuania because they couldn't even dream of such a thing. Most of the time, however, we were like prisoners. But, even so, you could always breathe the fresh air of freedom."

In 1989, Marciulionis made his most perilous run - for permanent freedom. At the time, the Soviet Union allowed its athletes to play professionally in other countries, but only after they passed 30 and their prime. Also, the athletes were not allowed to make more than the Soviet consul (about \$600 a month) in the country in question. Of course, all the athletes signed more lucrative contracts, with the difference going back to Soviet sports ministry, Goskomsport.

Looking to circumvent the prevailing standards, Marciulionis was put in touch with chess champion Gary Kasparov, who'd become an expert on Soviet law. According to the letter of Soviet law, Kasparov advised Marciulionis, if freed of his Soviet obligations an athlete could, in essence, become an international free agent. So Marciulionis resigned from the Soviet national team, then from his club team in Vilnius, and signed a \$1.3 million-a-year contract with Golden State.

So, not only did Marciulionis become the first Soviet citizen to sign with the NBA, but he was also the first Soviet professional athlete that did not have to kick back any of his salary. Goskomsport, like the rest of the Soviet government, already was in too much disarray to put up a fight. His club team put up most of the resistance, demanding a third of his Warrior salary.

Telling club officials that, "Nobody can take from me, but I can give," Marciulionis offered a settlement that included paying the salary of his replacement for two years and the purchase of equipment for his team, as well as for the University of Vilnius, his alma mater.

A free man in the United States, Marciulionis was inundated with choices and possibilities. Quickly, he decided to build Hotel Sarunas and the sports bar Rooney in Vilnius, a project that helped boost the local economy and started an influx of Western know-how into Lithuania.

Marciulionis chose a hotel because, having spent much

of his life in one or another, he knew exactly how the rooms should be. From the nails to the wood to the linen and curtains, Marciulionis personally chose, and often bartered for, every inch of the place. He used the same painstaking methodology in the construction of his basketball school, a project hindered by the runaway inflation that soon gripped post-independence Lithuania.

"There have been so many opportunities," Marciulionis says. "Living in the U.S. is like going ahead in time. When I go back to Lithuania it is like I have looked 40 years into its future."

His quest to shape that future has not come without a personal price. His Olympic efforts cost him his family - his ex-wife Inga and daughter Krista live in the Bay Area. And it can be argued that another cosmic expense of his NBA and Olympic successes was his health.

In the afterglow of Barcelona, on Sept. 19, 1992, Marciulionis was certain that "this was my time" and training hard to maximize the opportunity when, jogging through some woods in Lithuania, he tripped on a rock and suffered a broken right fibula and dislocated right ankle. He managed to return for 30 games, but missed the final 27 of the season with tendinitis in his right Achilles.

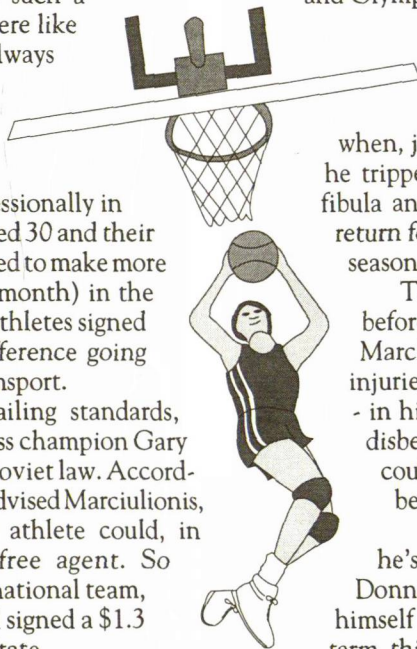
Then, during an informal workout just days before Golden State's 1993-94 training camp, Marciulionis suffered one of sports' most dreaded injuries - a tear in the anterior cruciate ligament - in his right knee. His immediate reaction was disbelief. He refused crutches and, certain he could will himself back to health, refused to believe that his was a season-ending injury.

"His frame of mind was that if he believes he's going to be OK, he's going to be OK," Donnie Nelson recalls. "He almost brainwashed himself into thinking it was going to be a short-term thing. He definitely is a mind-over-matter kind of guy."

Marciulionis has now come to believe that suffering somehow forecasts jubilation. This has been, after all, the pattern of his life. He lived in a cockroach-infested dormitory and was the final cut in tryouts for three years before he finally made the Soviet national team. He'd endured rigorous training camps because he knew that waiting at the end, like a guiding light, were trips - one of which eventually brought him to this station in life.

Even his latest hardships have led to good things. To keep his mind off the pain and depression, Marciulionis poured himself into the construction of his basketball school. Now, he can't wait for the next payoff.

"We have a saying that the strongest is not one who never falls," Marciulionis says. "The strongest is one who can get up after falling."



# LAC, Inc. Adopts New Logo

At its first meeting on December 3-4, 1994, the recently-elected National Executive Committee of the Lithuanian-American Community, Inc. voted to adopt a new logo for the organization: a stylized "Vytytis" (the Lithuanian horseman-knight) designed by the late Lithuanian-Canadian artist Telesforas Valius. This design will replace the logo used by the national board and most of our local chapters for the last twenty years. The new symbol isn't really "new", but a return to the organization's original logo.

The main reason cited by the board members in their unanimous vote was the fact that the more traditional looking Vytytis was almost identical to the pre-WW II national seal of Lithuania. During the soviet-occupation of Lithuania when the use of the seal was banned, there was a certain justification for a private, voluntary organization like the LAC, Inc. to use a facsimile of the seal as part of the effort to keep Lithuania's case before the court of American public opinion. However, Lithuania today is free to adopt any national seal it wishes, and although it did not return to an exact replica of the pre-WW II Vytytis, the LAC, Inc. board members decided that the time had come for LAC, Inc. to go back to its own roots.

In 1960, the first board of the World Lithuanian Community (the coordinating body for the multi-country organization) declared a competition for "a symbol for the World's Lithuanians" (pasaulio lietuvio zenkliukas). The winning design came from the graphic artist Mr. Telesforas Valius who resided in Montreal, Canada.

Mr. Valius had been born in Riga, Latvia in 1914, but grew up in Telsiai, Lithuania. He was a graduate of the Art Academy of Kaunas and spent the first years of his profession as a designer for the Kaunas Textiles company. During the war, with the return of Vilnius to Lithuania, the Vilnius Art Academy reopened and he became the head of the graphics department, where he had an opportunity to influence a whole generation of Lithuanian artists who were later forced into exile. Immediately after the war Mr. Valius headed the graphics department at the Ecole des arts et metiers in Freiburg, West Germany. In 1949, he emigrated to Montreal, Canada where he was acknowledged as an accomplished artist. Over the years he won both the C.W. Jefferys Award (the highest award given in graphic arts in Canada) as well as the Sterling Trust Award.

But Mr. Valius was very committed to the development

of exiled Lithuanian artists. He organized numerous exhibits of his fellow artists in Austria, Germany, Canada and the United States. He was a teacher and friend to Viesulas, Salkauskas, Ignas, Kurauskas, Simkunas and others. He also volunteered countless hours to providing designs for the publications of numerous Lithuanian organizations. His sense of community may have come from his love of sports, particularly soccer. From 1930-39 he played for the Dziugas soccer team of Telsiai, Lithuania and during the early years of exile for Lithuanian teams in Bregenz, Austria and Freiburg, West Germany. Lithuanians living throughout the World are fortunate to have had such a talented and generous man in their midst.

So we return to the logo that he created for us: the symbol of the World's Lithuanians. Although the board of directors of the World Lithuanian Community, the Lithuanian Canadian Community and the Lithuanian-American Community, Inc. adopted this symbol as their logo, it was slow to take hold in the chapters - until 1965. In preparation for the first youth congress hosted by the World Lithuanian Community in 1966, Mr. Vytautas Kamantas and his fellow volunteer organizers hit upon a fundraising idea to help finance their youth congress. Mr. Kamantas, with his friend Algis Muliolis, printed Mr. Valius' design of the stylized "Vytytis" on a small adhesive (a variation on a bumper sticker) strip and sold 94,000 of the stickers. Lithuanian-Americans and Lithuanian-Canadians snatched them up, placing them in their car windows, on school notebooks, sometimes, on their jackets and briefcases. You may still have one of them on your automobile and know the pleasure of a friendly wave or beep from a fellow-Lithuanian when he passes you on the highway. With copies of the symbol readily available, LAC, Inc. chapters widely adopted the logo and passed it along to all kinds of ad hoc groups and short-term projects.

But styles change, and by the late 1970s some members of the LAC, Inc. felt that the symbol was too modern. Some were unhappy about the distorted features of the "Vytytis" (particularly the horse, as some members remember the debate). The decision was made to use a more traditional "Vytytis". As the organization changes back to Mr. Valius' design we hope that members will be patient and positive about the change. Mr. Valius' design may seem strikingly modern but it is based on examples of the knight-horseman drawn from medieval coins of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania.



# Bits and Pieces...

## Marija Aukstaite Bursary Established

The University of Toronto has established the Marija Aukstaite Bursary in the School of Graduate Studies. The Bursary will be awarded to graduate students or other qualified researchers meeting the Selection Panel's criteria. The selected candidate must have demonstrated fluency in the Lithuanian language. The award will be made based on the merits of a research proposal, judged by the Selection Panel, which will contribute to the understanding and evaluation of the works of Poet Marija Aukstaite, with the aim of placing the poet's works into the context of Lithuanian literature and intellectual history. Applications can be made any time and should be submitted in writing to: Director of Russian and East European Studies, Marija Aukstaite Bursary, 315 Bloor St. W., Toronto, Ontario, CANADA M5S 1A3. Persons interested in the establishment of a scholarly sound, objective account of Lithuanian intellectual history, who wish to contribute to the Marija Aukstaite Bursary, are asked to send their donations or testamentary gifts to: The University of Toronto, Marija Aukstaite Bursary (Expendable acct # 9-401-019-5011; Appropriation # 3-497-019-50, 315 Bloor St. W., Toronto, Ontario, Canada M5S 1A3.

## JBANC to Host Baltic Affairs Conference

The Joint Baltic American National Committee will host a Baltic Affairs Conference on March 24-26th, 1995 in Washington, D.C. This conference will explore the recent changes in the US Congress and explain how these changes, coupled with the rebirth of independence in the Baltic nations, have affected US Foreign policy and the role of Baltic American political activists.

JBANC has scheduled visits for the conference participants to their congressional representatives' offices, as well as briefings by Administration and State Department officials on the current status of US foreign policy towards the Baltic states and the Russian Federation. There will also be discussion groups focusing on business and investment opportunities in the Baltics, as well as available internship opportunities for college-level students.

The JBANC Baltic Affairs Conference will be held at the Hyatt Regency in Crystal City, VA. For further information contact JBANC at (301) 340-1954.

## Sts. Peter and Paul Centennial

In 1995, Sts. Peter and Paul R.C. Church in Elizabeth, New Jersey celebrates its Centennial. Upcoming events include:

Feb. 19 1995 -

Wreath laying at the wayside cross before 11 AM Mass commemorating Lithuanian Independence Day

Feb. 25 - Cen-

tennial reunion Big Band dinner-dance

March 12 - Mass commemorating Feast of St. Casimir and Knights of Lithuania Brunch

April 2 - Lithuanian Food Festival

We congratulate the parish and its pastor Fr. Alfred T. Zemeikis.

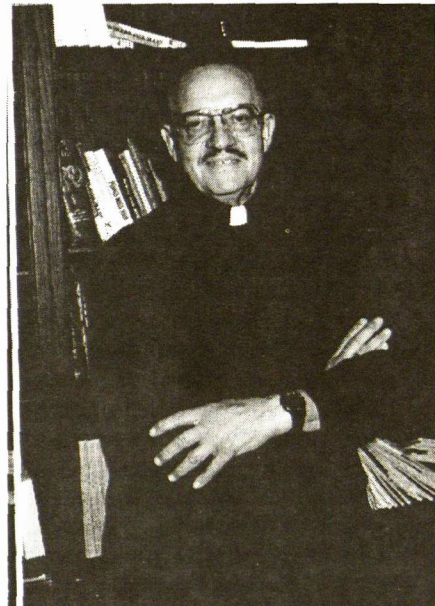
## Lithuanian-Americans plan to Commemorate Independence Day - February 16th

Lithuanian-American communities throughout the US are planning commemorative celebrations to mark the 77th anniversary of Lithuanian Independence. Among them are:

**Los Angeles** - February 19th, 12:30 at St. Casimir's Parish hall

**Philadelphia** - February 12th - 10:30 Mass at St. Andrew's followed by program at the Lithuanian Music Hall

Please let BRIDGES know your planned activities so that they may be published...



*Fr. Alfred T. Zemeikis, Pastor of Sts. Peter & Paul Church in Elizabeth, NJ*

Ramune Kubilius

# From the Lithuanian Press...

Selected excerpt from the Lithuanian Press in America.

## Mr. Chicken is Lithuania Bound

Cleveland PLAIN DEALER journalist Mary Strassmeyer in her column "Mary, Mary" of November 30th writes that "Mr. Chicken is Lithuania bound". The Cleveland-based "Mr. Chicken" has given the rights to a group of partners to open "American Chicken of Vilnius". The partners include Clevelanders Algis Petkus, Raimundas Kudukis and Grazina Kudukis, along with Algis Macinskas, who has been living in the U.S. the past 3 years. The franchise is scheduled to open in March near the Neringa Hotel in March 1994. Mrs. Kudukis and her college aged children Raimundas and Aleksandra are scheduled to move to Vilnius at the end of December where they will continue their studies and run the restaurant. Talks are underway to open restaurants in Kaunas, Klaipeda, Palanga and Druskininkai. A restaurant opening in Latvia is also a possibility.

(DRAUGAS, from an article by V.R. [Vacys Rociunas], 12/15/94)

## Siemens Pulling Out Of Lithuania

The Siemens company is pulling out of Lithuania. It had a branch in Klaipeda called BALTIC AUTOMOBILE TECHNOLOGY. The firm had taken over a building in Klaipeda from "Serija". Ever since then, new cars worth over 120,000 German marks have been stolen from the building's yard. In an interview in "Lietuvos Aidas", the General Director of the firm indicated that experts had found the location 1 1/2 years ago, as being one of the best in the Baltics- Lithuania statistically figured higher than Estonia or Latvia. Now, for privatization and investment opportunities in Eastern and Middle Europe, Lithuania is in 10th place. The firm feels the high inflation yet it does not feel that the government is doing anything to encourage foreign investments. The police have not been helpful at all in helping catch the thieves of the model cars. Therefore, the company's German directors feel that now is the time to pull out of Lithuania. The shareholders in Germany are horrified at the recent events in Lithuania. Siemens has firms in 180 countries of the world.

(DRAUGAS, from the economics column edited by Algirdas Rimas, 12/10/94)

## Women in Lithuanian American life.

In 1994, Regina Narusis began her three year term as the new president of the Lithuanian-American Community, Inc. She has been active in Lithuanian American life for a number of years. Regina Gyte Firantas-Narusis was born in Kaunas October 12, 1936. She left Lithuania in the World War II years with her parents and lived in Augsburg, Germany where she finished grade school and began high school. She completed high school in Chicago, and her bachelor's degree in policial science and later her J.D. at the University of Illinois (in Champaign-Urbana). At first she worked as a prosecuting attorney for the state of Illinois. For the last 35 years, she and her husband have had their own law firm Narusis & Narusis. She has danced in the Lithuanian folk dance group "Klumpe" for many years and travelled with the group to participate in the Lithuanian Song and Dance Festival in 1994. She has been active in Lithuanian-

American Community, Inc. in the Waukegan-Lake County Chapter, became involved in the LAC Public Affairs Council during Dr. Antanas Razma's term of office, and during Vytautas Maciunas' term of office was a vice-president.

Marija Remys has worked as a volunteer in various Lithuanian American organizations and humanitarian groups. She has been a scout since 1946 and was troop leader of the "Ausros Vartai" troop from 1950-52.. She served for 25 years as president of the Sisters of Immaculate Conception auxiliary. She has been an officer in the American Lithuanian Catholic Federation, the Lithuanian Catholic Press Society and other groups. Since 1974, she has been chair of cultural events in support of the Lithuanian language newspaper DRAUGAS and has held various offices in the Lithuanian Foundation. She presently is the president of the Foundation.

Maria Rudis is a longtime volunteer and officer in various Lithuanian American organizations. Since 1942, she has worked in administration of Rockwell Engineering Co., and since 1965, she has taught in a school for exceptional children. She is active in the Chicago Lithuanian Women's Club, was a director in the Lithuanian Roman Catholic Federation, and since 1960 has been the president of BALFas, the relief organization. She has been a longtime chair of the Sisters of St. Casimir auxiliary. Her charity work has extended to

projects to help Lithuanian Catholic work in Poland, esp. the Suvalkai region and also in Lithuania and Siberia.

Evelyn Ozelis is a parish auxiliary member of Chicago's Immaculate Conception Parish, and was active in the parents' committee of the Lithuanian language school in the parish. She has been an officer in the St. Therese Society and has worked on various committees, including the Montessori Society and the DRAUGAS support committee. She sang in the "Pirmyn" choir, organized the Alice Stephens women's ensemble and was its chair for 7 years. She has sung in the Lithuanian opera off and on since 1957. She has been an officer in the American Lithuanian Council and since 1982 an officer of the Knights of Lithuania Council. In 1994 she was elected the president of the Knights of Lithuania.

(PASAULIO LIETUVIS, from an article by Marija Remys and Bronius Nainys, 11/94)

### **DARBININKAS On Compuserve**

DARBININKAS will now accept letters and information, in Lithuanian and in English via electronic mail on Compuserve: 71712,107. (DARBININKAS, a Lithuanian language weekly, is published by the Franciscan Fathers of Brooklyn, NY. The newspaper has accepted articles and news items via FAX transmission for some time.-rk)

(DARBININKAS, 12/23/94)

### **Art Society Returns**

The Lithuanian American Art Society was founded in 1978. The Society's founding members in Chicago were Viktorija Matranga, Jonas Dovydenas and Algimantas Kezys. The work of the Society reached a peak in 1984 when it organized an art exhibit at the University of Illinois at Chicago, featuring emigre artists' work, created 1945-50. Now the Society has enjoyed a rebirth. Directors are Juozas Mieliulis, Algimantas Kezys and Arvydas Reneckis. Society president is Nora Ausra. The Society featured an artists' auction Dec. 2 - 11th in Chicago.

(DARBININKAS, 12/23/94)

### **Baltic Food Prices**

Of all the Baltic countries, the highest food prices are now found in Ryga markets and stores. One kilogram of pork chops in the Ryga market costs 21.2 litai (4 litai-\$1), in Talinn 12.58, in Vilnius 12.83 litai. One kilogram of potatoes in Ryga costs 87 cents, in Vilnius 73 cents, in Talinn 66 cents. One kilogram of bread in Ryga costs 2.03 litai, in Talinn 2.01, in Vilnius 1.01 litas. Milk and butter is most expensive in Estonia's capital- a liter of milk is 1.03 litas, 1 kilogram of butter 7.665 litai. In Vilnius, these products would cost 75 cents and 7.20 litai.

(DARBININKAS, 12/23/94)

### **Scranton Parish celebrates 100th anniversary**

Over 500 guests attended a luncheon which ended the 100th anniversary celebration of the founding of St. Joseph's Parish in Scranton, PA. 23 priests concelebrated Mass- the chief concelebrants were Bishop James C. Timlin, D.D. and Bishop Paulius Baltakis, OFM of Brooklyn, NY. The Church was full of parishioners, including schoolchildren and sisters who taught in the school. Three flags stood the large doors- that of the Church, of the United States and of Lithuania.

(DARBININKAS, 12/23/94)

### **Kaunas State Chorus Travels**

On its 25th anniversary, the Kaunas State Chorus, led by conductor Petras Bingelis, travelled to Buenos Aires, Argentina and Chile. In Argentina, the chorus performed a program of Lithuanian songs at the Lithuanian hall and at the "Colon" theater, the chorus performed two oratories - that of Mendelsohn and Handel. The chorus has performed at festivals in France, Spain, Germany, Finland, Italy over the last five years.

(DRAUGAS, from an article by K.A.S., 12/23/94)

### **Olympian trainer in the US**

Five years ago, the U.S. Ski Federation invited Algimantas Salna to demonstrate the sport of biathlon here in the US. The Olympic champion and former trainer of the Soviet women's biathlon team was asked to stay in the US as trainer of the US team. Salna and his family settled in the Lake Placid, NY area. Although his salary is not large, the family has its own home and his wife stays home as a homemaker. The Salna family has learned to speak English. Algimantas' daughter enjoys figure skating while his eight year old son, Tautvydas, skis. Algimantas' job has taken him throughout the United States, including Alaska and most of Europe. Although the US team did not perform too well at the Lillhammer Olympics, Salna's work seems to be appreciated by the Ski Federation. Algimantas says he doesn't plan on remaining in the United States permanently, but he doesn't have great enthusiasm to work with Lithuania's skiers. In his opinion, the U.S. skiers who buy their own guns and ammunition (needed for that portion of the of the biathlon-rk) and travel to the tournaments using their own funds, receiving little financial support, are easier to work with. Meanwhile, the Lithuanian athletes are spoiled- they are not happy with anything and make all sorts of demands.

(DRAUGAS, from an article by V.G., 12/23/94)

### **Historian completes doctoral studies**

We can't complain about the level of education reached by children of post-World War II emigrees— many have university degrees. Quite a few work as

educators and researchers. However, not too many attain doctorates in their specialties. It's nice to have a number of historians both here and in Lithuania. It is a pleasure to hear that Vejas Liulevicius completed his dissertation this past summer at the University of Pennsylvania. He defended his thesis: "War Land: Peoples, Lands, and National Identity on the Eastern Front in World War I". Vejas knows several languages- English, Russian, German, Danish and Lithuanian. His research took him to the Jurgis Saulys Archives at the University of Pennsylvania as well as archives in Germany and Lithuania. Vejas, a graduate of the University of Chicago and now of the University of Pennsylvania, is spending a year at the well-known Hoover Institute associated with Stanford University as a Visiting Scholar. Vejas' interest in history began in grade school when his grandfather, historian Vincentas Liulevicius, told him of Greek myths, Lithuanian legends and events from Lithuania's history. Vejas is the son of DRAUGAS cultural page editor Austra Liulevicius and University of Chicago Mathematics Professor Arunas Liulevicius. Vejas doesn't want to reveal his plans for the future. After all, he says, history has been known to turn people's plans upside down.

(DRAUGAS, from an article by J.P., 12/10/94)

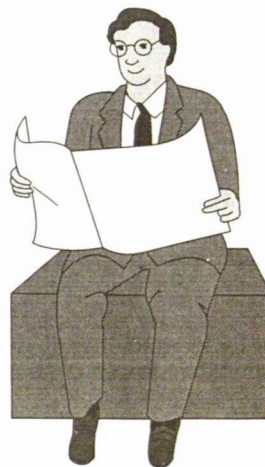
### Colorado News:

- Lithuanian folk dance instructor extraordinaire, Vytautas F. Beliajus, died September 20th in Denver, just a few days before the 50th anniversary celebration of the "Viltis" journal, which he established and edited. Vytautas was born February 20, 1908 in the village of Pakumpis in the Marijampole region of Lithuania. He arrived in Chicago in 1923. He began his life's work, popularizing ethnic folk dances in the Chicago Park District system and at the University of Chicago's International House. In 1932, he established the Lithuanian Youth Society in Chicago, which organized art fairs, sports activities and folk dances. In 1945, he founded the "Ateitis" folk dancing group—the group's membership was increased when the newly arriving immigrants from post-World War II Lithuania joined. He taught folk dances of many ethnic groups at 200 colleges and universities around America. When many of his former dancers left their groups to begin military service during World War II, he tried to correspond with them, but later began putting out a newsletter, which in 1944 evolved in the folklore and folk dancing journal "Viltis" (which means "Hope"-rk). Today, subscribers to "Viltis" can be found in all of the continents. V. Beliajus published ten books in English on folklore and customs of Lithuanian and other ethnic groups. He published a novella, "Ona", about life in a Lithuanian village. September 24th was declared "Vytautas F. Beliajus Day in Denver" by Mayor Wellington Webb. More than 10 folk dancing groups from around the U.S. participated in the "Viltis" 50th

anniversary program, which Vyts himself had set. One of the most impressive groups was the Brigham Young University International Folk Dance Ensemble which performed songs and dances from the Lithuanian wedding program Vyts had taught the ensemble twenty years ago. The concert was opened by L. DeWayne Young, Assistant Editor of "Viltis", and words of farewell were said on behalf of the Lithuanian-American Community's Colorado Chapter by Arvidas Jarasius.

- Colorado Lithuanians have reached an agreement with the Colorado Latvian Cultural Center to use its facility on Sunday afternoons. Located in the basement of the Latvian E.E. Lutheran Church, the facility includes a hall and kitchen as well as other amenities. As of October, the "Ruta" dancing group (with its teacher Lione Kazlauskas) practices there. The children's kindergarden, with its teacher Roma Milusauskas meets there. The adult Lithuanian language class, with teacher Darius Daubaras meets there. The rent of the facility is shared by the Colorado Chapter of the Lithuanian-American Community, Inc. and the "Ruta" Folk Dancing Group. The tuition of the language classes also helps. The Colorado Lithuanians still have to look for larger facilities for events such as Lithuanian Independence Day celebration festivities. Also, ideas are being sought to avoid asking the "Ruta" dancing group to pay half the cost of the the hall when we ask them to dance for free at meetings...The Lithuanians were permitted to set up a table at the Latvian's annual Christmas bazaar December 9th. The Latvians sell Christmas trees, handmade items, baked goods suitable for the season, and other food products. The Lithuanians hope to use this opportunity to increase their treasury.

(DRAUGAS, 12/9/94)



## ADVERTISEMENT

## Modern Medical Care for Family and Friends in the Baltics

With the opening of the Baltic-American Medical & Surgical Clinic in Vilnius, Lithuania, people in America can now arrange for high quality medical care for their family or friends living in Lithuania or any nearby country. The cost is up to 50 percent less than the cost of the same care rendered in the United State, and major travel expenses are eliminated or sharply reduced.

- Joint venture private clinic employing Western medical and surgical standards. Multi-lingual Lithuanian and American staff.
- Through February, 1995, American staff includes a general surgeon and a nurse fluent in Lithuanian. Other American physicians and nurses to follow.
- Specialties available with American physicians will vary with rotations of physicians. Top Lithuanian specialists are availbale under contract with the clinic.
- Arrangements made in the United States. Payments delivered into Clinic's account ay BayBank Boston, N.A.
- Payments not released until care has been rendered and a written report has been delivered.

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

\* Licensed in Lithuania, Member, Christian Medical & Dental Society

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