

BRIDGES

LITHUANIAN AMERICAN NEWS JOURNAL

Volume 19, No. 3

APRIL 1995

\$2.50 per Copy

CONTENTS:

- 3 **Political News** ... The First Victory In A Year Long War *Asta Banionis*
- 7 **Business News** *Algirdas Rimas*
- 9 **Humanitarian Aid** You Can Make a Difference *Jeanne Dorr*
- 13 **Education**.....Lithuanian Language Teachers Meet at Conference *Ramune Kubilius*
- 14 **Cultural Arts**.....Lithuanian Cultural Performers *Audrone Gulbinas*
- 17 **Technology**.....Lithuanian Computer Software Developments *Vytas Maciunas*
- 18 **Cultural Arts** The New York Scene *Aukse Trojanas*
- 20 **Events** Calendar of Events
- 21 **From the Lithuanian Press**..... *Ramune Kubilius*
- 24 **Cultural Arts**.....The Xth Lithuanian Folk Dance Festival of the USA and Canada *Dalia Dzikas*
- 25 **Bits and Pieces** *Various sources*
- 26 **Sports News** *Vytas Grybauskas*



Foto: J. Tamulaitis

"Grandis" - Folk dancers with Violeta Smieliauskas-Fabianovich, the artistic director of the X-th Lithuanian Folk Dance Festival

To Our Readers:

Spring is always a busy time of year. We all feel a fresh, new surge of energy as we observe nature's reawakening.

Congress is busy trying to implement the many changes they promised us in their "Contract with America". Asta provides us with some insight into the behind-the-scenes political workings regarding NATO expansion and HR7, as well as two Congressional friends of Lithuania: Dick Durbin (D-IL) and Joseph Knollenberg (R-MI). In addition, she gives us some background info about local elections taking place in Lithuania in late March.

On the cultural front, we're pleased to provide a listing of Lithuanian-American cultural groups and ensembles that never tire performing the Lithuanian arts for you. I urge BRIDGES readers to take advantage of this opportunity to plan a spring performance or concert by one or more of these groups. In addition to these performances, many of the groups have already begun plans to participate in the Tenth Lithuanian Folk Dance Festival in Chicago during the summer of 1996 - details will follow, but DO plan to attend for the performance of a lifetime.

On the diplomatic front, Aukse takes us to the Independence Day Celebration hosted by the UN Ambassador for Lithuania and attended by a number of foreign dignitaries.

Business in Lithuania is moving forward, as Algis Rimas describes new developments including the formation of the US-Baltic Chamber of Commerce.

While Lithuanian athletes everywhere prepare for a myriad of events; the North American Lithuanian Sports Federation annual championship tournaments to be held in Cleveland in May, the Lithuanian World Games to be held in Lithuania this summer, and of course the 1996 Summer Olympics to be held in Atlanta next summer, Vytas gives us a "close-up" of Lithuanian swimmers headed for the Olympics, along with other sports notes.

Jeanne writes about the efforts of two smaller groups of Americans helping Lithuanians in the area of humanitarian aid.

Vytas Maciunas describes some developments in software technology in Lithuania which can and will prove beneficial to Lithuanian-Americans in their quest for state-of-the-art educational materials.

Everyone is busy and that's great! I hope our readers will be busy reading the many interesting pieces in this issue of BRIDGES!

'Til next month...

Audrone Gulbinas, Editor

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

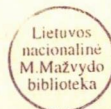
BRIDGES Journal
Editorial / Subscription Offices
2715 E. Allegheny Ave.
Philadelphia, PA 19134
Fax 609-234-8782

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

- Editor **Audrone Gulbinas**
- Layout & Design **Kazys Razgaitis**
- Business **Algirdas Rimas**
- Cultural Arts **Aukse Trojanas**
- Human Interest **Dana Mikuzis**
- Humanitarian Aid **Jeanne Dorr**
- Political News **Asta Banionis**
- Sports Editor **Pranas Gvildys**
- Contributing Editor **Ramune Kubilius**

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

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



The First Victory In A Year Long War

As reported in last month's *Bridges*, the U.S. House of Representatives was about to make a serious mistake in voting for H.R. 7, the National Security Revitalization Act. But the good work of *Bridges* readers and other members of the Lithuanian-American Community, Inc. turned around key members of the Congress. H.R. 7 passed, but only after it had been amended by the Durbin-Knollenberg amendment.

H.R. 7, part of Newt Gingrich's "Contract with America", had left the House Committee on International Relations with some serious flaws engineered by the committee's Democrats. The infamous Torricelli amendment, sponsored by Congressman Robert Torricelli (D-NJ) within the committee, had struck countries such as Lithuania from the pool of candidates for NATO membership and had added language to H.R. 7 which could have given Russia a veto over NATO expansion.

We asked the question last month why Congressman Torricelli would sponsor an amendment which weakened the security of countries such as Lithuania? It turns out that the White House through its National Security Council staff is responsible for the language of the Torricelli amendment, as well as the Russian government which had engaged in a full-court press to undermine the expansion of NATO. The Russian government with its Soviet trained diplomats is a formidable lobby when it comes to defending its interests in the backrooms of the Congress. But this time, thanks to *Bridges* readers like yourself, the Russian Embassy found its match.

Yes, while you and other members of the Lithuanian-American Community, Inc. were making those phone calls to your congressional Representative to make sure that he or she understood the threat to Central & Eastern Europe's security caused by the Torricelli amendment, you were really reversing the lobbying efforts of Russian diplomats, legislators and other government officials. As my late father used to say, "Rusai, tai nesnaudzia" (The Russians don't snooze; or doze-off). But this time, we beat them, and here in Washington, DC we could see the tide of congressional opinion turning 24 hours after you began to make phone calls.

There are two congressional heroes who we want to acknowledge as leaders in the campaign to change H.R. 7: Congressman Richard Durbin (D-IL) and Congressman Joseph Knollenberg (R-MI). A few days after the Torricelli amendment was added to H.R. 7, the

Lithuanian-American Community, Inc. went to Congressman Durbin to explain its concerns for the negative impact H.R. 7 would have for NATO expansion.

Congressman Durbin has been a leader on Baltic issues since 1990 when he led the first U.S. Congressional delegation to then Soviet occupied-Lithuania, to show American support for Lithuania's democratic reform movement, Sajudis. He went on to form the Baltic Freedom Caucus in the U.S. House of Representatives and has worked tirelessly to help the people of Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia to rebuild. He continues to be well versed in the problems of the region as well as the nuances of the complex diplomacy which must be exercised to secure the peace and independence of these nations. The Congressman agreed that the Torricelli amendment had gone too far and was reversing what had been Clinton Administration policy to expand NATO in a non-threatening manner. Somewhere, someone had not given enough thought to the implications of the Torricelli language.

Congressman Durbin agreed to sponsor an amendment to correct the problems when H.R. 7 came to the floor of the House for debate and final passage. We set to work with the Congressman and other members of the Central and East European Coalition to find the proper formula for the amendment. The discussions, one might even say negotiations, within the Central and East European Coalition over the language of a Durbin amendment were interesting in themselves. But we knew we were on solid ground when we, Lithuanian-Americans, were able to find common language with the Polish-Americans, who are also members of the coalition. Our Ukrainian, Slovak, Latvian and Hungarian colleagues could all have a chuckle at our expense, but it points up the gravity of the common threat which everyone in the region understands: Russian expansionism and Russian chauvinism.

With language in hand, we had a second major hurdle, i.e., finding a Republican member of Congress to co-sponsor the Durbin amendment. In the highly polarized atmosphere of the Gingrich-led House, many freshmen Republicans were automatically suspect of a Democrat's amendment. We were greatly disappointed when a senior Republican member of the House (who has a great many Lithuanian-American constituents and has long been a leader on issues of Lithuania's freedom) declined

to co-sponsor the amendment. (You'll have to call the LAC Public Affairs office to find out who it was.)

That's when Congressman Joe Knollenberg came to our rescue. Mr. Knollenberg is a Republican from Michigan elected in 1994 to a second term in the House of Representatives. Congressman Knollenberg was willing to look at the merits of the issue, and to rise above the partisanship of the moment to help correct a serious flaw in H.R. 7.

As soon as Congressman Knollenberg signed on as the first Republican co-sponsor of the Durbin amendment, dozens of other Republicans made it known that they also supported the fine-tuning of H.R.7. Soon, it became possible for Congressman Benjamin Gilman (R-NY), Chairman of the International Relations Committee to endorse the amendment. His endorsement, paved the way for the amendment to be accepted by voice vote, i.e., there are no objections to the amendment from the House leadership, nor from the minority.

But, before the amendment was finally accepted during floor consideration on February 16, 1995, some tough negotiations took place over the amendment with a few of the Democrats from the Committee on International Relations. They insisted that the Durbin-Knollenberg amendment not touch the language in H.R.7 (inserted by Cong. Torricelli) which guaranteed, "that NATO and its member nations should cooperate closely with Russia on security issues and work to strengthen other structures of security cooperation in Europe, including the Organization on Security and Cooperation in Europe;". We believed then, as we believe now, that that language if allowed to stand would have given the "Russia-first" advocates within the Clinton Administration the opportunity to delay the expansion of NATO, and certainly, to prevent the admission of Lithuania into NATO.

Congressman Durbin held firm, as did the Central & East European Coalition, and those few Democrats from the committee finally gave in. They saw that they didn't have the votes to keep the paragraph.

What comes next? H.R. 7 may never see the light of day in the United States Senate. But the issue of NATO expansion is already brewing in the United States Senate. Senator Mitch McConnell (R-KY), as Bridges readers know, has already taken an active role in pushing the Administration towards NATO expansion. Senator Brown (R-CO), a member of Senator Helms' Foreign Relations Committee appears to be taking responsibility within that committee for raising the issue of NATO expansion. To get this issue on the floor of the Senate, however, Lithuanian-Americans are going to have to start contacting their Senators. If you are not yet involved, call or write our office for information and copies of issue briefs.

Early in March, Assistant Secretary of State for Europe Richard Holbrooke testified on NATO expansion

before the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Foreign Operations chaired by Senator Mitch McConnell. During that session, Secretary Holbrooke said that the NATO allies had agreed in Brussels a few months ago that NATO should expand and that the allies were now working on the process for expansion. The planning timetable calls for NATO teams to visit all of the current members of the Partnership for Peace program plus Russia (Russia has still not formally signed up for the PFP program) during this summer (Summer, 1995). During these meetings with government officials, the NATO teams will explain the rights and responsibilities of NATO members and also the 1,400 separate agreements which must be signed to establish NATO membership. Secretary Holbrooke editorialized a bit during his testimony, pointing out that he expects a number of nations to decline to pursue NATO membership once they become acquainted with all of these responsibilities.

Before Lithuania's current officials grow faint of heart, I will point out that those 1,400 documents cover everything from refueling procedures to the sharing of intelligence data. Therefore, the number of these agreements shouldn't be an impediment to NATO membership since the great bulk of them are agreements on procedure. If the Lithuanian government is committed to enhancing Lithuania's security, in principle, then these agreements shouldn't be a problem. They are in essence the procedures manual which govern NATO members' daily cooperation.

MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS - March 25, 1995

On the last Saturday in March, Lithuanians went to the polls and elected local government councils, i.e. city councils and county (rural) councils. We look forward to an opportunity to give you some in-depth analysis of these elections in the May issue of Bridges. These are very important elections for the future of democracy in Lithuania.

Currently, local government in Lithuania is very weak. The central government has denied Lithuanians the ability to solve local problems and provide effective local services by refusing local government a tax base. Local government doesn't have authority to create local taxes, nor issue local bonds. Yet, the central government has attempted to shift the provision of health, education and police services to the local municipalities - all with inadequate funding. How do localities get financial resources currently? They receive 20 percent of all income tax revenues collected by the central government. There is a formula to provide additional resources to "poor" localities which don't have enough income generating entities. Local authorities can quickly become subject to the subtle, or in some cases not-so-subtle, blackmail of central government bureaucrats and politicians, because they are totally dependent on the good

will of these authorities for their financial resources.

The failure of decision-making to be decentralized in Lithuania over the last five years of independence is a significant factor contributing to the poor investment climate in Lithuania. It is not just the lack of affordable capital that can stifle local initiative and entrepreneurship, but a lack of a building permit, clean drinking water, the lack of street lighting or police protection. That's why these elections are so critical for Lithuania's future. The newly elected local officials are going to have to fight the central government for authority and the tools to solve local problems.

There were 19 political parties fielding candidates in the local elections. A party needed to get at least 4% of the total vote in order to seat one of their candidates. So, if a citizen voted for a party that didn't get at least 4% of the total vote, that citizen was throwing away his or her vote. This election law designed by the central government is written to favor the interests of the political party with the biggest and most effective party machine - the one that can generate the best "Get out the vote" campaign.

Congressman Richard J. Durbin (D-IL).

First elected to the United States Congress in 1982, Dick Durbin represents the 20th district of Illinois. It is a rural district which includes a portion of the state capital, Springfield, and stretches all the way to the state's border with Missouri. Born in 1944 in East St. Louis, IL, Dick Durbin graduated from Assumption High School in East St. Louis. He earned a B.S. in Economics from Georgetown University and later a J.D. from Georgetown's Law School in 1969.

Within the House of Representatives he has served on the powerful Appropriations Committee, rising to be Chairman of its Agriculture Subcommittee (one of the 13 cardinals of the House). Of course with the turnover of the House to Republican Party control, Mr. Durbin had to give up his chairmanship, but continues as ranking minority member of the subcommittee. He's also on the Transportation and District of Columbia subcommittees of the House Appropriations Committee.

Lithuanian-Americans know Congressman Durbin as a great defender of Lithuania's liberty and freedom. But he is also known for landmark legislation such as the ban on smoking on commercial, domestic airline flights. He has worked to expand the use of ethanol, a clean-burning alcohol fuel made from corn. As chairman of the Agriculture Subcommittee, Congressman Durbin worked to enhance the funding and the effectiveness of a variety of health, nutrition and prenatal care programs for mothers, infants and young children, as well as vital health research at the National Institutes of Health.

In 1991, Congressman Durbin and former Congressman Charles Bennett (D-FL) introduced a historic resolution in the House of Representatives which declared



Congressman Richard J. Durbin (D-IL)

that Congress must approve any offensive military action taken in the Persian Gulf before such action is initiated. The measure, which was approved 302-131, set a precedent by marking the first time Congress had gone on record affirming the Constitutional principle that Congress and Congress alone has the right to declare war.

Within the Democratic Caucus of the House Mr. Durbin is an At-Large Whip, a member of the Steering and Policy Committee.

Congressman Joseph Knollenberg (R-MI).

Mr. Knollenberg was first elected to represent the people of the 11th Congressional District of Michigan in November, 1992. During his first term in Congress, Joe Knollenberg fought for reductions in government spending, significant welfare reform and changes in the operations of Congress. Knollenberg's efforts to control spending earned the respect of his colleagues and a seat on the Committee on Appropriations once the House Republicans took over the majority this year.

He serves on the following subcommittees of the House Appropriations Committee: Subcommittee on



Congressman Joseph Knollenberg (R-MI)

VA, HUD and Independent Agencies, the Subcommittee on Energy and Water, and the Subcommittee on Foreign Operations, Export Financing and Related Programs.

Congressman Knollenberg has also made it a priority to serve on the House Republican Policy Committee.

Joe Knollenberg is the fifth of thirteen children, born in 1933 to a farm family in Central Illinois. He worked his way through college at Eastern Illinois University, earning a B.S. and joined the U.S. Army. After completing his tour of duty, Mr. Knollenberg began to work in the insurance industry, where he quickly rose into the ranks of management. He relocated to Michigan in 1959 and made Oakland County his home. He involved himself in the community becoming a member of a number of local civic groups: St. Bede's Parish Council, the Evergreen School PTA, the Southfield Ad Hoc Park and Recreational Development Committee, the Cranbrook Homeowners' Association, the Birmingham Cable TV Community Advisory Board and the Republican Party's county and state committee structures.

With his extensive involvement in local, community affairs, it was only natural for Republican Party leaders to approach Joe Knollenberg to run for Congress in 1992

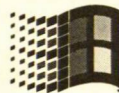
when redistricting had created a brand new 11th District largely based in Oakland County. By 1994, he won his second term in the House with 68% of the vote.

Although Congressman Knollenberg is not a Lithuanian-American, we are proud to call him one of our new friends. He and Congressman Durbin are two public servants that are thoughtful, articulate, and hardworking. They are real leaders that you can depend on. We hope that they will find other occasions to bridge the partisan gap and work together for the interest of the American people.

ADVERTISEMENT

Lithuanian Fonts

for Windows 3.1 and
Mac Sys 6 or 7



Available in
TrueType or



PostScript Type 1 formats

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

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

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

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

My system is a:

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

Desired format:

PostScript

TrueType

Name _____

Yes I want to order:

Palanga \$40

Address _____

Udraliai \$40

Skuodas \$30

City _____

State _____

Zip _____

Telsiai \$30

All 4 fonts \$125

Phone _____

add \$5 shipping and handling for total order



IV

Make check payable to

Litnet; mail order to:

litnet Typographics

7 Arthur Rd.

Rosemont, PA 19010

Algirdas Rimas

Business News

The U.S.- Baltic Chamber of Commerce shakes up California

Annette Haraldsted, a California entrepreneur active in the travel business, has organized a US-Baltic Chamber of Commerce which is branching out across the country. The chamber's latest initiative is a business seminar on trade and investment in the Baltic states. The day-long event will be held on March 2 in Long Beach, California. Speakers are to include Darius Pranckevicius, an economics expert from the Lithuanian Embassy in Washington and Mikas Kalinauskas, representative of Klaipėda based Vakaru Bankas (Western Bank). Vakaru Bankas has grown to become one of the principal private commercial banks in Lithuania.

The Lithuanian Embassy and the US-Baltic Chamber of Commerce are also hosting a business reception for potential investors. The invitational event will take place on March 16 at the Embassy in Washington.

For more information on the chamber and its activities please contact Annette Haraldsted at the following address: US-Baltic Chamber of Commerce, 13902 Fiji Way, Ste. 324, Marina del Rey, CA 90292. Telephone and FAX: (310) 827-9590.

Update on the Lithuanian economy

Dr. Edvardas Vilkelis, a noted Lithuanian economist and former member of the Parliament, gave one thumb-up to the Lithuanian economy. In an interview with the country's largest daily, "Lietuvos Rytas", Vilkelis said that current growth in national output would show significant gains if the contribution of the private sector were fully captured in official statistics. Private activity already dominates the economy but is not adequately reported. Official output figures show no growth. Vilkelis added that despite early pessimism, Lithuania has developed a viable commercial banking system as well as a modest financial services industry. Local food processing and wood working industries have also recovered, according to the University of Vilnius economist.

On the down-side, Vilkelis said that economic reform is proceeding more slowly than anyone had foreseen. However, the market has been restructured sufficiently and it is now time to concentrate on growth, he said. Other points made by Vilkelis included a warning not to raise taxes as further increases would be detrimental to production, and a warning against re-emergence of monopolies in the Lithuanian economy.

Prominent among the critics of current Lithuanian economic policies is the Lithuanian Business Owners

Association. Its Vice President, Romanas Urniezius, writing in the business weekly "Litas", called for lowering the fixed rate of exchange of the litas to the dollar from Litas 4 = \$1. Urniezius claimed that Lithuanian manufacturers are unable to compete effectively for export markets because the Litas is overvalued.

Other economic developments included a January jump in monthly inflation to a rate of 5.7 percent. Basic food items led in the price increases with dairy products rising by some 18 percent. A spokesman for the Statistics Department said that price increases should level-off in the spring. Turning to company profitability, the Statistics Department reported that most firms submitting data report being barely solvent. At the top of the official profits pyramid were the state owned post and telecommunications monopolies.

Investment Developments

Off-shore oil handling terminal project: Energy Minister Algimantas Stasiukynas announced in January the creation of a Lithuanian stock corporation to construct and operate the long-proposed terminal that would make possible the importation of crude oil from sources other than Russia. Subscribers to the initial stock flotation values at Litas 10 million (\$2.5 million) included the Mažeikiai oil refinery with 87 percent of the stock, the Biržai pipeline company and the Klaipėda oil products terminal with five percent each, the Lithuanian Joint-Stock Innovation Bank with two percent and the city government of Palanga, with one percent. Except for the privately owned bank, the shareholders are all public sector entities. Stasiukynas said that a further share offering will be made in the spring to bring additional investors. The goal is to raise an estimated \$240 million to build the terminal in Butinge on the Latvian border. The initial members of the consortium plan to retain a controlling portion of the outstanding shares. Stasiukynas also would not rule out the need for loans from international lending institutions to complete the terminal. He also would not rule out purchases by Russian oil companies of some of the shares. Algirdas Semeta, Chairman of the Lithuanian Stock Exchange, said in a press interview that a public share offering would tap some of the convertible currency cash deposits held by Lithuanian households and corporations. He estimates the value of such deposits to be in the range of \$500 million.

Philip Morris expansion project: Philip Morris has announced the construction of a new cigarette manufacturing plant in Klaipėda. Construction is to begin soon with completion planned in 1996. The plant will pro-

duce Marlboro brand cigarettes for local and export markets. The US based tobacco company, now considered to be the largest American investor in Lithuania, first arrived in Klaipėda in 1993 with an estimated investment of \$12 million. It has been manufacturing local brand cigarettes in Klaipėda since late 1994. The company also boasts having established the first private pension plan in Lithuania at compensation levels well above those prevailing in the country.

Klaipėda plywood project: According to Lithuanian press reports, a Klaipėda based wood products manufacturer is close to closing on a \$34 million deal with the International Finance Corporation, an international agency, to finance construction of a plywood factory in Klaipėda. Negotiations reportedly have been continuing over the past two years. The plant would use domestically produced veneer.

Trade opportunity

The countries of the European Union (EU) have introduced new and tougher emissions controls on long distance trucks. Old Soviet built trucks will not meet the grade. Lithuania is affected by this ruling. Of the over 6500 Lithuanian trucks licensed to carry freight to and from territories of the EU only some 2000 are western built and meet the more stringent environmental standards. There is a temporary exemption for Lithuania and the other newly independent countries from the EU rules. However, the exemption is to be short-lived. According to the Lithuanian truckers association, Lithuanian trucking companies must obtain 300-400

new long-haul trucks annually to remain in the western European business. In 1994 only 235 were purchased, mainly Renaults, by the Kaunas company EBSW. If anyone out there is selling environmentally-sound truck rigs and trailers, there may be a market for you in Lithuania.

ANNOUNCEMENT

The Lithuanian Human Services Council of the USA, Inc. invites all Lithuanian-American U.S. organizations, groups and individuals that provide humanitarian assistance to residents of the Republic of Lithuania to the

Conference on

Humanitarian Aid To Lithuania

to be held in

Chicago, Illinois

on

May 13-14, 1995

The major purpose of this Conference is to acquaint participants with currently active providers of humanitarian assistance to Lithuanian and more importantly to seek and find various methods and means for inter-organizational cooperation and efficiencies.

The Conference program will consist of plenary sessions during which, using lecture and symposium formats, topics of general interest will be presented; as well as break-out sessions where specific applications of presented ideas will be discussed.

The publication of a special directory listing all of the Lithuanian-American organizations providing humanitarian aid to Lithuania is planned.

The Conference Organizing Committee requests that all organizations and groups providing humanitarian aid to Lithuania provide the following information for the directory:

- 1) official name/title of the organization
- 2) name of the organization's president, contact or representative
- 3) organization's official address, telephone and FAX number

Upon receipt of this information, organizations will be provided with further information regarding the conference (details will also be available in the press).

The Conference Organizing Committee consists of members: Jurate Budrys, Birute Jasaitis, Saulius Kuprys, Jurgis Lendraitis, Dr. Vytautas Narutis, Ausra Perry, Dr. Linas Sidrys and Apolonija Steponavicius. The Committee can be reached at:

Conference on Humanitarian Aid to Lithuania
2711 West 71st Street
Chicago, IL 60629
TEL: (312) 476-0664, (312) 476-2655,
or (312) 436-0197
FAX: (312) 436-6909

Bank interest rates

Following is a sampling of annual interest rates paid on deposits by selected banks in Lithuania. The rates were current in mid-February:

BANK	Minimum Amount of deposit	Term		
		3 mos	6 mos	12 mos
Joint-Stock Innovation	\$100	14	17	15
	Lit.100	18	-	-
Litimpex	\$1000	14	14	-
	Lit.1000	18	-	-
Hermis	\$500	10	10	-
	Lit. 1000	15	-	-
Savings	\$100	10	14	12
	Lit.100-10,000	18	18	-
	Lit. 10,000+	20	20	-
Vilnius	\$1,000- 5,000	4	5	6
	5,000-10,000	7	8	9
	Lit. 1,000-100,000	14	-	-
	Lit. 100,000+	15	-	-
Aurabank	\$100	15	-	-
	Lit. 500	18	-	-
State Commercial	\$100	14	14	-
	Lit. 100	18	-	-
Western	\$500-\$10,000	12	13	14
	\$10,000+	13	14	15
	Lit. 1000	20	-	-

Deposit insurance is available only in limited circumstances.

Jeanne Dorr

You Can Make a Difference

My first humanitarian aid article appeared in BRIDGES approximately one year ago. At that time, I asked BRIDGES readers to make this column their column. I have received letters from some of you, but I know there are many more I have not heard from. Some people

may feel their organizations have not done enough to help Lithuania. Every dollar and every box you send to Lithuania has helped someone in need. Some feel they can never compete with the organizations that send millions of dollars in aid. Yes, the large groups are truly wonderful and humanitarian aid could not survive without them, but each and every one of you is just as important. You are helping smaller groups in Lithuania that might not be getting any help if it were not for you. So please, don't be shy, even if you

feel you have not done a lot, drop me a line. If you know of an individual who has done outstanding work, let me hear from you. I am especially interested in places where there may not be a large population of Lithuanians. This is a period of growth for Lithuania and it should also be a time for Lithuanians in America to think about the future. There is no right way or wrong way to help

Lithuania. We are all going in the same direction but we are taking different roads. Diversity is good and should be encouraged. I can be reached through the BRIDGES office in Philadelphia or Lithuanian Orphan Care in Chicago. The most direct route is: 4 Shrewsbury Yard,



FAMILY OF THE MONTH

This group home in Raseiniai is run by the "Countryside Children's Fund". The home consists of house parents and 15 children. Group homes are always in need of support. Please send your donation to: Lithuanian Orphan Care, 2711 West 71st Str., Chicago, IL 60629.

Riverton, NJ 08077. Phone or FAX - (609) 829-1297.

I wish I could tell you how often people have written and asked me for the address of a Lithuanian organization close to them. Some have recently moved to a new area or have become interested after reading BRIDGES. At times I've had to apologize because I simply didn't know what to tell them. Let's face it - you can't open the

yellow pages and find something under "Lithuanian organizations". In fact, a single directory of individuals and organizations providing humanitarian aid is exactly what the Conference on Humanitarian Aid to Lithuania is hoping to compile in the very near future. I strongly encourage anyone - individuals and organizations alike to send their name (or that of a contact person), address and telephone number to: Conference on Humanitarian Aid to Lithuania, 2711 West 71st Str. Chicago, IL 60629 FAX:(312) 436-6909.

I receive all the letters you send to me through Orphan Care in Chicago. Just keep those letters coming - I love hearing from each and everyone of you. I appreciate the time you have taken to send your comments to me. I am also overwhelmed by the kindness and generosity of BRIDGES readers in their response to my requests.

I received a letter from Anna Helen McDonald of the Knights of Lithuania, Anthracite Council 144, in Pennsylvania. She asked if I was familiar with the work of



Two \$2,000 checks presented to the Sisters of St. Francis for their work in Lithuania. l to r: M. Turner, Sr.A.Pukel, J. McCloskey, V. Yucius, Sr.V. Puishes, J. McCloskey, A. Kuzin, M.Milauskas.

Sister Marilyn Perkins. Sister is a non-Lithuanian who has taken the Lithuanian people to heart and has worked with great zeal to help Lithuania with medical supplies. I contacted Sister Marilyn and although she has a busy schedule she responded to my letter very quickly. As you can read in her letter she refuses to take any credit for a job well done.

I also received a phone call from Mathilda Milauskas

who is with the Lithuanian Citizen's Society of Western Pennsylvania. This fine group of people is currently supporting 11 orphans through Lithuanian Orphan Care. I am also proud that they use BRIDGES as one of their sources for humanitarian aid. If you would like to contact any of the people involved, either to help their work financially or to join their organizations, please write, phone or fax me and I will put you in touch with them.

Help in Healthcare from the Northeast

Dear Jeanne,

Thank you for your letter of 11/7/94 and your interest in telling the story of our involvement with aide to Lithuania. It is very easy to talk about our relationship with the people of Lithuania since our contact with them in 1992 made such a profound impact on us.

Although my name was given to you for recognition, in reality there are many people who join me in this effort to provide assistance to Lithuania, particularly in our efforts to assist with medical supplies and equipment. My involvement with Lithuania began in November, 1992 when I and another Daughter of Charity, Sister Mavis Jewell, was asked by our Community to respond to a request to work in conjunction with the project for Lithuania of the Board of Trustees of St. John's University in New York. St. John's University has had an ongoing relationship with Lithuania in the area of Education over the past several years and through their professors who had been teaching in Vilnius, had recognized the great needs that were apparent in the areas of health and social welfare. Because of our education and experience in healthcare, we were asked to assess the status of existing services and to explore opportunities for assisting in these areas.

Sister Mavis and I spent five weeks in Lithuania in November, December, 1992. Our days there were enlightening and very enriching. We believe we gained good insight into existing services as well as the culture and current environment in which the people of Lithuania were striving to reconstruct their lives within the context of their newly acquired national independence. Our journey through Lithuania introduced us to many people of diverse background who helped us to experience and learn about life as it exists today after 50 years of communist domination. We visited several municipal and republican hospitals and outpatient facilities in Vilnius and the Caritas Clinic in Kaunas. We also had the opportunity to visit a psychiatric facility, an orphanage, the Ministry of Health, the

Ministry of Social Affairs, the Regional Oncology Center and several social service facilities. We also met several times with Archbishop Backis and with the Apostolic Nuncio, Archbishop Garcia, who shared his insights regarding the Church in Lithuania.

Our visit to Lithuania as Daughters of Charity was also meaningful for us since the history of our religious Community reveals that our sisters served in Lithuania as far back as the mid 1600's, shortly after our founding by St. Vincent dePaul in Paris, France in 1633. The Community maintained a presence there during many periods of history until as late as 1948 when expelled by the Soviets. We had the joy of visiting the remaining sites where our sisters served and even succeeded in locating the only remaining Vincentian priest (a member of our brother community) who was able to recall for us the actual events of the Soviet invasion.

All aspects of life in Lithuania reflect the ravages of decades of Soviet occupation and repression with its impact on the material, psychological and spiritual welfare of persons, institutions and the environment in which they live. It was obvious, however, that the human spirit has been sustained by a deeply rooted faith which survived total destruction by the forces of evil.

As healthcare professionals, we were particularly affected by the conditions we found in the hospitals which in many ways appeared fixed in time since the 1940's. The extreme lack of medical supplies, pharmaceuticals and technology severely handicap the physicians and healthcare workers in their efforts to provide medical care to the people. We met many wonderful, dedicated and knowledgeable professionals who were deeply frustrated by the lack of means to provide care.

After our return from Lithuania, we developed an extensive report, containing our findings and recommendations for the St. John's University Committee for Lithuania. The involvement of St. John's University with Lithuania continues today. At the time of my visit to Lithuania, I was serving at Good Samaritan Regional Medical Center in Pottsville, PA and it was there that I was introduced to the local Knights of Lithuania. Before my trip, they were very helpful in providing information about Lithuania both from an historical as well as contemporary perspective. (some of this information came through your magazine BRIDGES.)

Our primary involvement with Lithuania since 1992 has been in obtaining, packing and shipping of medical supplies/

equipment and pharmaceutical. This effort has involved many organizations and many dedicated individuals. Last year, we were able to send supplies worth an estimated \$145,000 and this current year we should exceed that figure.



Sr. M. Perkins, ambulance driver, and Sr. M. Jewell.

Three hospitals in particular have been most helpful in assisting us to obtain supplies: St. Vincent's in Bridgeport, CT, St. Peter's Hospital in Albany, NY and Good Samaritan Regional Medical Center in Pottsville, PA. The Knights of Lithuania in Pottsville have been most supportive in assisting us with shipping costs which have exceeded \$3,000 to date. We continue to receive letters from the hospital administrators and physicians in Lithuania, expressing their gratitude for the medical supplies and equipment we have sent to them.

I hope that this letter will assist you in motivating others to become involved in the effort to assist the wonderful people of Lithuania. We feel privileged to be able to contribute in this small way to making their lives just a little easier.

Sincerely,
Sister Marilyn Perkins

The Lithuanian Citizens' Society of Western Pennsylvania answers appeals for Humanitarian Aid!

The Lithuanian Citizens' Society of Western Pennsylvania is located in the South Side of Pittsburgh, PA. The hall and its ballroom are the home and center of

various Lithuanian activities in the Pittsburgh area. The Society is a social club established in 1912 whose 200 members are of Lithuanian descent and who are very concerned about Lithuania and their Lithuanian heritage. It is the home of the Lithuanian Language classes which meet on Saturday mornings. The members are also active in other Lithuanian organizations in the area - the Lithuanian Nationality Room Committee of the University of Pittsburgh, the Knights of Lithuania, Neris Dancers and participation in the annual Pittsburgh Folk Festival.

The Society meets monthly to conduct its business and plan for future events and socials. A "Charity Committee" was established in June, 1994 whose objective is to "help Lithuanians in Lithuania".



The Charity Committee of the Lithuanian Citizen's Society of Western Pennsylvania. l to r: M. Turner, J. McCloskey, M. Milauskas, A. Kuzin.

The first project of this committee was a donation of \$4,000 to the Lithuanian Mission Caritas Federation renewing faith after decades of Communist suppression. It is especially meaningful to us because Sisters Michele Garas, Dolorita Butkus and Marianne Walters are members of the Sisters of St. Francis of the Providence of God community or the Whitehall Franciscan Sisters, here in Pittsburgh. They are now in Lithuania dedicated to serving the oppressed and rooted in ministry to the Lithuanian people. They are ministering to the elderly, needy, children and orphans. Sr. Michele is teaching English and religion in Utena, while Srs. Dolorita and Marianne are in campus ministry at St. Anthony College in Kretinga. These three members of the Sisters of St. Francis of the Providence of God community have committed themselves to serving the people of Lithuania.

The Humanitarian Aid articles in BRIDGES have

been a great source of information in helping us decide on other worthy causes. We have made donations to ADAAL, Lithuanian Mercy Lift, International Medassist, S.O.S. Lithuania Inc., Orphan Care (11 orphans), and we are proud to have provided two scholarships to two Lithuanian students to complete their graduate studies at Vytautas Magnus University and Kaunas Technological University. Each of these students will receive scholarships for two years.

We are also sending regular packages of clothing, medicine and monetary donations to the Specializuoti Kudikiu Namai, an orphanage in Kaunas.

Mathilda Milauskas
Pittsburgh, PA

Our heartfelt thanks to Sister Marilyn Perkins and the Daughters of Charity for showing such great love for the people of Lithuania. May God continue to give you the strength to carry on your work to aid the sick. Thank you to Anna Helen McDonald for informing me of this wonderful medical project and to the Knights of Lithuania, Council 144, for helping to make the project possible by their assistance in funding the shipping costs.

Thank you to Mathilda Milauskas for taking the time to track me down. To the members of the Lithuanian Citizen's Society of Western Pennsylvania, I have

no other words except thank you, thank you! You will never know how many lives you have touched or the impact your generosity has on the lives of these people you will never meet. God bless you for all your support, but especially for caring about the children of Lithuania.

The Lithuanian Citizens' Society of Western Pennsylvania supports many efforts. In addition to their generosity toward various humanitarian aid efforts in Lithuania, they recently sent BRIDGES a donation of \$500. We express our heartfelt thanks to the group for their support.

Ramune Kubilius

Lithuanian Language Teachers Meet at Conference

The Lithuanian-American Community's Educational Council organized its annual one day conference February 26th. Over 40 Lithuanian language educators gathered at the Lithuanian World Center in Lemont, IL for the event. Speakers were invited by Educational Council President Regina Kucas to present new information or new perspectives. Most of the teachers were from the Chicago and Lemont Lithuanian schools. Directors of the Chicago, Lemont as well as Los Angeles, Detroit and East Chicago, IN Lithuanian language schools came to the conference as did the director of Chicago's Lithuanian language Montessori school, the President of the World Lithuanian Community, its coordinator for educational affairs.

Doctoral student Jurate Stirbys from Philadelphia spoke on the topic of what should be taught in Lithuanian language schools. She feels that learning a language is like going over a well-worn ski trail or nurturing tree roots-children must be nurtured in the process. The process of learning another language should not produce feelings of inadequacy in students, something they will feel if they are constantly corrected. They also must feel a part of the larger community and feel the purpose of learning Lithuanian.

Syte Reitz from Madison, WI, a biochemist by training, spoke of her work as Midwest Regional Director of the voluntary organization-The Feingold Association, which researches and provides information about the effects of chemicals found in food and the environment on behavior. Dr. Reitz mentioned documentation from the scientific literature which shows that certain chemicals commonly found in some modern processed foods and sweets directly impact brain function. She feels that from personal experience in her own family, that a modified diet can increase a child's attention span and decrease symptoms of hyperactivity, moodiness and other undesired behaviors.

Longtime French and Spanish teacher Rita Venclova shared some of her experiences from teaching those languages to northern Illinois suburban middle and high school students (in many cases those languages have been the students' second and third languages). She feels that some of those techniques can be used in Lithuanian language schools as well. Grammar is less important than the fact the students are energized, immersed and involved, she told conference attendees. Her school has been involved in "student initiated curriculum" experiments, and those, too, may have applications in

Lithuanian language schools.

Rima Kasuba Binder shared her experience as a consultant and coordinator of gifted programs. When the Educational Council was approached by the Peace Corps to prepare a Lithuanian workbook for its World Wise Schools program, Rima Binder was the one "recruited" by Regina Kucas to work on this project. In six months, she gathered material and prepared exercises which could be used to familiarize American students with Lithuania, its history, geography and culture. A videotape filmed in Lithuania features interviews with Lithuanian students speaking in English about their lives in three cities: Jurbarkas, Silute and Klaipeda where Peace Corps workers are working. The World Wise Schools program allows American students to learn about a country and later even to meet the American Peace Corps volunteer who lived in the country. Rima Binder expressed the feeling that Lithuanian language schools can also use similar techniques. Children can be involved in learning about the world around them, they can be motivated through small group learning projects to become "expert" in a certain aspect about a country and share the information with classmates. Children aren't afraid to ask each other "do you understand this" or to admit to each other that something is not quite clear to them.

The teachers also gathered for a roundtable discussion and expressed concerns and hopes for the future. As one language teacher indicated, there are predictions that in about five years, there will be no need for textbooks, that other teaching tools will be utilized. It will be a challenge to see how Lithuanian language and culture lessons will have to be planned in order to keep up with current teaching trends and technologies.

The Educational Council invites teachers and directors from all Lithuanian language schools to attend the annual camp/conference August 6-13th at Camp Dainava. The traditional Lithuanian language seminars will run concurrently. More information on this will be printed at a later date.

- Syte Reitz, Regional Director, Midwest, The Feingold Association of the United States, 3983 Plymouth Circle, Madison, WI 53705, 608-238-7027

- Rima Binder, preparer of "Destination: Lithuania" Study Guide for the Peace Corps Office of World Wise Schools, 708- 639-4703

- Regina Kucas, Educational Council, 13648 Kickapoo Trail, Lockport, IL 60441; 708-301-6410

Audrone Gulbinas

Lithuanian Cultural Performers

What better way to enjoy our Lithuanian heritage than to view a performance of Lithuanian folk songs or dances? Many groups and individuals throughout the country dedicate hours of their time to perform the Lithuanian arts. The following list of Lithuanian-American performers was compiled by the LAC Cultural Affairs Council during the summer of 1994. These groups perform in their local areas, and are willing to travel to

other locations as well. We've listed a contact for each group as well as the minimum cost involved in having these groups perform for you. There may be other groups, but these are the groups that responded to the LAC survey. We certainly hope BRIDGES readers will take advantage of this opportunity to invite these fine performers to their communities and enjoy their performances first-hand.

LAC, Inc. List of Lithuanian Cultural Performers

Boston: "Sodautas" - Ethnographic ensemble

Between 25-30 performers, who perform Lithuanian folk songs and dances. The group has created a show "Miners of Pennsylvania" (in Lithuanian). Request travel expenses, and where possible overnight accommodations. Contact:

Gita Kupčinskas
19 Old Farm Road
Walpole, MA 02081
Tel: (508) 668-2167

Boston: "Sambūris" - Folk dance troupe

Sambūris consists of two groups (32 dancers): veterans- (directed by Naida Šnipas). Request travel expenses. Arrangements made through group director:

Rūta Mickūniene
24 Mitchell Rd
Holliston, MA 01746
Tel: (508) 429-7567

Boston: Lithuanian theatre troupe

Director: Mirga Girniuvienė
11 Sycamore Lane
Westford, MA 01886
Tel: (508) 692-4625

Troupe consists of 15 performers, who perform comedy skits. Request travel expenses.

Boston: Men's Sextet

Six performers specializing in "light" music and songs. All arrangements should be made through the group president regarding programs and expenses:

Bronius Banaitis
84 Margaret Rd
Abington, MA 02351
Tel: (617) 871-1517

The group has recorded a cassette of their songs.

Connecticut: Hartford's "Berželis" - Folk dance troupe

Director: Dalia Dzikas
43 Mildred Rd
W. Hartford, CT 06107
Tel: (203) 521-6028

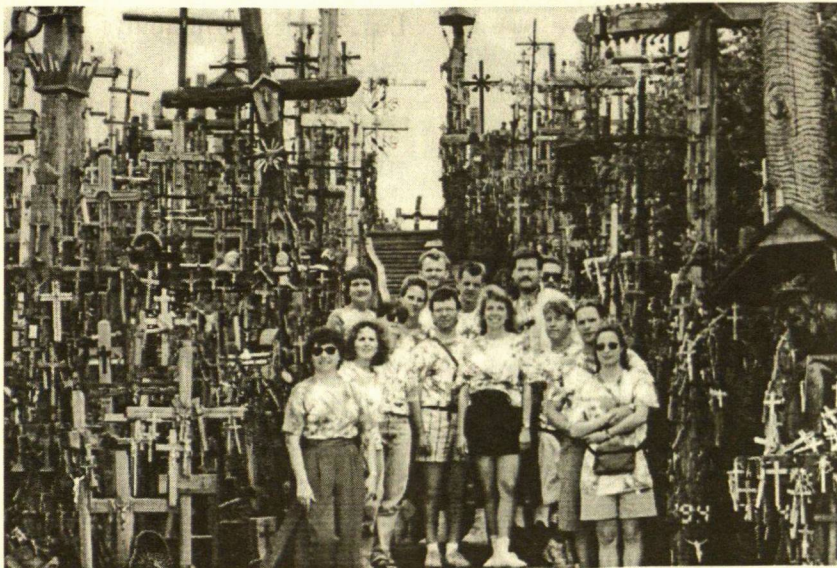
Twenty dancers. Request travel expenses.

Florida: Juno Beach "Dainos" chorus

Director: Irena Manomaitis
1919 Ridge Rd
Juno Beach, FL 33409



Boston's "Sodautas" - in period attire from a program about Lithuanian coal miners in Pennsylvania.



"Berželis" members in Lithuania, summer '94.

Tel: (407) 626-6071

28 voice chorus which performs folk and religious programs. Travel through Florida.

Florida: St. Petersburg "Women's Quartet"

Director: Dalia Mackialien_
6075 Shore Blvd. So. #515
Gulfport, FL 33707
Tel: (813) 345-7772

Request travel expenses for five individuals

Michigan: Jackson, MI, "Dainavos aidai" - Lithuanian folklore

Director: Darius Udrys
1718 Maunta Lane
Jackson, MI 49201
Tel: (517) 784-7834

Request travel expenses and honorarium for study expenses for four.

New Jersey: Union, NJ, "Liepsna" - Folk dance troupe

Director: Monika Šernas
273 Candlewick Lane
Bridgewater, NJ 08807
Tel: (908) 526-9396

Group consists of 16-20 dancers, who request reimbursement for travel expenses.

Chicago: "Vaidilutė" Lithuanian theatre troupe

Director: Edvardas Šulaitis
1330 So 51 Ave
Cicero, IL 60650
Tel: (708) 652-6825

10 person troupe performing Lithuanian plays. Request reimbursement for travel expenses.

Lemont, IL: "Knights of Lithuania" - Folk dance troupe

Directors: Frank Zapolis/Lidija Ringus
3208 1/2 W 95th Str
Tel: (708) 361-2557
Evergreen Park, IL 60642

Tel: (708) 423-8361
40 person group which performs folk dances and various Lithuanian folk programs, often with the Knights of Lithuania chorus.

Chicago: "Dainava" - Lithuanian art ensemble

Director: Darius Polikaitis
7318 Ticonderoga Rd
Downers Grove, IL 60516
Tel: (708) 241-0074

Ensemble consists of 55-60 performers. Request reimbursement for expenses.

Chicago: "Letūnas" - Folk dance troupe

Director: Nijolė Pupius
7355 S. Whipple
Chicago, IL 60629
Tel: (312) 436-7343

Group consists of 32 dancers. Request reimbursement of travel expenses.

Chicago: "Grandis" - Folk dance troupe

Director: Violeta Smieliauskas-
Fabianovich
4043 Dean Dr
Oak Lawn, IL 60453
Tel: (708) 425-4549

Group consists of 70 dancers. Request reimbursement of travel expenses.

Chicago: "Lithuanian School Children Dancers"



Knights of Lithuania dancers at Chicago's Museum of Science and Industry - Dec. '94

Foto: J. Ringus



Chicago Lithuanian Theatre Group Vaidilut, 1993-1994

Foto: J. Tamulaitis

Director: Jūratė Dovilas
5620 S. Claremont
Chicago, IL 60636
(708) 832-6331

Would like to provide its young dancers the opportunity to travel to other Lithuanian communities, where they could perform Lithuanian Folk dances. Request reimbursement for travel expenses.

Seattle: "Lietutis" - Folk dance troupe

Director: Zita Petkus
6216 105th Ave NE
Kirkland, WA 98033
Tel: (206) 827-0378

Between 25-30 dancers, who request reimbursement for travel expenses.

Denver: "Rūta" - Folk dance troupe

Director:
Lionė Kazlauskas
2050 Grape Str.
Denver, CO 80207
Tel: (303) 388-7740 Performer number varies. Request reimbursement for travel expenses.

Los Angeles: Drama Ensemble

Ensemble consists of 27 performers. The group performs Lithuanian theatre and poetry readings. Request reimbursement for travel expenses and overnight accommodations where necessary.

Director: Vincas Dovydaitis
4741 Cromwell
Los Angeles, CA 90027
Tel - (213) 663-6103

Los Angeles: "Spindulys" - Folk dance troupe

Student folk dance group with much travel experience and a variety of programs. Arrangements should be made through Group director: Danguole Varnas
4113 Tracy Str
Los Angeles, CA 90027
Tel-(213) 663-1366

Los Angeles: Men's Quartet

Five performers (four singers accompanied by pianist Raimonda Apeikis. Arrangements should be made through group administrator:

Emanuelis Jarasunas
1011 19th St Apt. 3
Santa Monica, CA 90403
Tel - (310) 315-2606

Los Angeles: St. Casimir's Parish Choir

Perform hymns and longer religious compositions with soloists.
Contact: Viktoras Ralys
2708 St. George St
Los Angeles, CA 90027
Tel - (213) 664-2723



L.A. Men's Quartet and accompanist after concert in Detroit Oct., 1994

Foto: J. Urbonas

Vytautas Maciunas

Lithuanian Computer Software Developments

The Educational Council of the Lithuanian-American Community, Inc. is supporting an ambitious effort to utilize computer software to facilitate the learning of the Lithuanian language, customs, folklore and history.

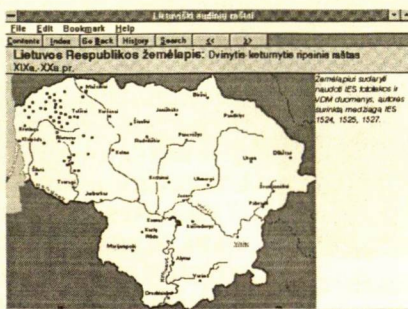
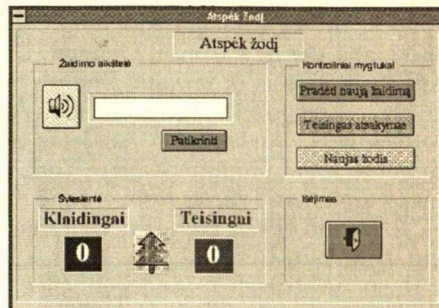
On behalf of the LAC Educational Council, this writer went to Lithuania in January of this year to learn first hand about the state of the art in application of computer technology to Lithuanian education and to discuss the development of suitable programs for Lithuanian-Americans, in particular, for children 8-12 years of age.

The trip was sponsored by the Lithuanian Foundation, Inc., the Chicago based non-profit sister organization of the Lithuanian-American Community, Inc., which provides grants for Lithuanian scholarship projects and for projects whose goal is the preservation of Lithuanian heritage in the diaspora community. My host in Lithuania was Mr. Vytautas Gruodis, the executive director of the Open Society Fund for Lithuania. The Open Society Fund for Lithuania (OSL) is one of the non-profit organizations set up by billionaire investor George Soros in countries of Eastern Europe to provide assistance in the transition to democracy and free enterprise by promoting the importance of an open society and supporting the development of its required structures. Mr. Gruodis is a Canadian-Lithuanian who moved from Montreal, Canada to live in Vilnius and take part in the "adventure" of participating in the rebuilding of a country that he left many years ago as a young boy. The idea of developing a joint project where Lithuania's educators and computer professionals

could help the changing diaspora community stay connected to Lithuania through the medium of computer technology began to take shape when Mr. Gruodis visited United States and Canada in the Fall of 1994 and met with the leadership of the diaspora organizations and foundations.

The itinerary of my tour in Vilnius, through the educational technology "flower garden" was planned by the computer "guru" of the OSL, Oleg Smertin. Oleg is a 25 year old ethnic Russian, who speaks perfect Lithuanian. He provided me with the opportunity to meet with and review the software developed by professionals at the Lithuanian Ministry of Education, at Baltic Amadeus (a joint Lithuanian-German software development company), at the history department of Vilnius pedagogical institute and at the institute of Mathematics and Informatics.

The software ranged from DOS based queries to interactive CD-ROM based information compendiums. It was truly exhilarating to see that Lithuanians most definitely have a particular aptitude and awareness of how to harness computer technology. The programs developed by the Education ministry use the computer and the keyboard like an exercise book and a pencil to provide practice in Lithuanian grammar exercises and pronunciation. However, the programs presume a good working knowledge of the language. There were exercises in declension of nouns and exercises in the form of a game to identify the accented syllable in a word. The accent marks would "fall down" from the top of the screen and



Aukse Trojanas

The New York Scene

The 77th Anniversary of Lithuanian independence was observed in New York at the United Nations on February 16th and at the Zidinys Cultural Center on February 19th. These were our first official opportunities to meet the new Ambassador to the U.N., Dr. Oskaras Jusys, and the new Consul General, Dr. Petras Anusas, former professors of law and English literature, respectively. Ambassador Jusys and Dr. Anusas welcomed former U.N. Ambassador Ancietas Simutis and Mrs. Simutis, some prominent New York Lithuanians and many diplomatic guests from around the world.

A Danish guest, Eigil Pedersen, recounted some fascinating but little known facts about the recent Lithuanian struggle for independence. Mr. Pedersen is the Director of the Office of the Permanent Observer for the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies to the United Nations. In 1990, the Danish Red Cross became concerned that the Baltic States might be medically undersupplied in the face of increasing aggression by the Soviet army. The U.S.S.R. would not allow Red Cross officials to enter the Baltic states until the Vice-President of the International Red Cross, a Russian, was persuaded that he, by virtue of his position, had an obligation to permit Red Cross observers to evaluate the medical needs of Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia. The three countries were found to be in reasonably good supply, except for essential medications such as insulin. The Danish government gave a grant to

their pharmaceutical companies to provide the necessary drugs to the Baltic States. In 1991, the International



l to r: Aleksandras Vakselis, Estonian U.N. Ambassador Ernst Jaakson, Janina Simutis, Anicetas Simutis

Red Cross encouraged the Baltic States to apply to the Geneva Convention for membership. Their acceptance into this organization was the first international recognition of Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia as independent countries!

The Independence Day celebration at the Zidinys was observed with a fine and varied program. Ambassador Jusys was introduced to the audience and welcomed them to the day's events. Arvydas Paulauskas, the Prosecutor General of Lithuania, gave an excellent speech in which he was frank about the many problems which face Lithuania in its transition to democracy and capitalism. He is renowned for successfully prosecuting the four murderers of the Respublika journalist Vitas Lingys who died in 1993. But he did not speak of this. He concentrated on the pervasive and disruptive influence of the mafia in the economic life of Lithuanians and how it affects the quality of their lives. He has come to the United States to study methods of dealing with organized crime. He is optimistic that the situation can be improved and that crime



Consul General Petras Anusas, Ginte Damusis, U.N. Ambassador Oskaras Jusys and Milda Sperauskas (being greeted).

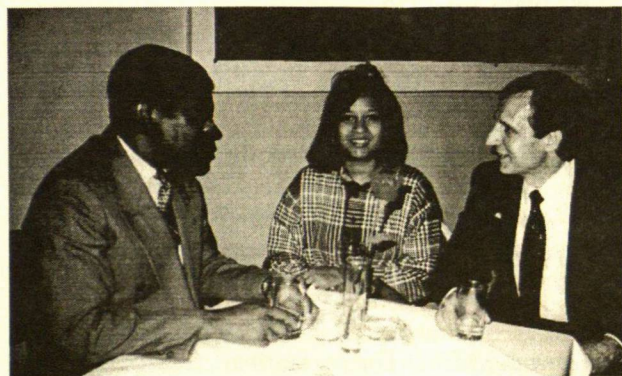


Song and Kankles Music by Asta, Petras and Gabija

will diminish with the increasing strength of the Lithuanian economy as the country enters the international mainstream.



Prosecutor General of Lithuania, Arvydas Paulauskas



l to r: Teodoro Biyogo, First Secretary of Equatorial Guinea Mission to the U.N., Justina Biyogo, his wife, and Consul General Petras Anusas

Computer Developments *continued from p.17*

the user, by manipulating the arrow keys on the keyboard, would try to land the accent mark on the right syllable.

The program developed by Baltic Amadeus was a spell checker to be used in conjunction with WORD 6.0 for WINDOWS. An on-line dictionary was available to assist in making corrections. However, the program was not a learning tool or a game, but something that the local Lithuanian businessman or newspaper editor would use to send out a "clean" copy, similarly as we do in the United States with our documents.

The history department at the Vilnius Pedagogical Institute had developed an "Electronic Book", which contained in depth documentation of various archeological discoveries in Lithuania. The "Electronic Book" was a CD rom program with a standard WINDOWS interface enabling the user to use the point and click approach on a map of Lithuania to in effect "start his own digging". Thus, unlike a written book, where the writer takes the reader on a sequential path, that he has determined, the "Electronic Book" enables the reader to define his own path.

The Mathematics and Informatics Institute has developed a generic "shell" to facilitate the CD-ROM archival storage and retrieval through a WINDOWS interface of multi-media information for future research study and other applications in the field of the humanities. Using this shell, a program named "RAŠTAI" was being developed to catalogue the various weaving styles found in different parts of Lithuania and allow for point and click exploration. Another program named "DAINOS" was a multi-media catalogue of song recordings provided by local residents in villages throughout Lithuania that were unique to the area and illustrated the local accent. This program was particularly fascinating not only for its content, but also for the level of accessibility it could offer the interested researcher or explorer.

The project for developing a CD-rom based program for Lithuanian-Americans was formulated with the help of the OSL staff and leadership. The program will provide a number of interactive multi media stories, with a hot-key sight and sound dictionary to help the user

The project for developing a CD-rom based program for Lithuanian-Americans was formulated with the help of the OSL staff and leadership. The program will provide a number of interactive multi media stories, with a hot-key sight and sound dictionary to help the user



continued on p.27

Calendar of Events

- April 8-9, 1995** - The 30th anniversary fair/exhibit of the Toronto Lithuanian Philatelist Society in Toronto, ONT, Canada. INFORMATION: A. Supronas, 1700 Bloor St. W. Apt. 508, Toronto, ONT M60 4C3, Canada.
- April 15, 1995** - Deadline for Lithuanian Foundation student scholarship applications. Contact: Lithuanian Foundation, 14911 127th Street, Lemont, IL 60439, tel. 708-257-1616.
- April 23, 1995** - (2 PM), Dainava Chorus 50th Anniversary Concert and banquet. Concert at Maria High School Auditorium, Chicago, IL. Banquet at Condessa del Mar Banquet Hall.
- May 1, 1995** - Deadline for applications to the Dr. Kazys Martinkus Memorial Scholarship Fund, 7120 S. Richmond, Chicago, IL 60629. (The scholarship was established in 1985 by family members of biochemist Dr. Kazys Martinkus who died in 1984. The scholarship is awarded to Lithuanian students who plan on studying at the master's or doctoral level in the hard sciences—cancer research, pharmacology, biochemistry, etc.)
- May 6, 1995** - First Annual Northwest Regional Conference on Russia, East Europe and Central Asia at University of Washington, Seattle for scholars, students educators and all those specializing, working or interested in the region. Information: Kurt Engelmann E-mail - kengel@u.washington.edu or FAX: (206) 685-0668
- May 13-14, 1995** - Conference on Humanitarian Aid to Lithuania sponsored by the Lithuanian-American Community, Inc., Human Services Council. For: All organizations and groups providing humanitarian aid to Lithuania. Lectures and discussions geared to familiarize participants with each other's efforts & with U.S. organizations and foundations which can be contacted for possible assistance in efforts. Information: Conference on Humanitarian Aid to Lithuania, 2711 West 71st Street, Chicago, IL 60629, Tel. (312)476-0664; (312)476-2655; (312)436-0196; FAX (312)436-6909.
- May 14** - Lithuanian Opera Company's presentation at Morton auditorium in Cicero, IL. More info later.
- May 19-21, 1995** - The 45th North American Lithuanian Sports games, featuring competitions in basketball (men's and women's), volleyball (men's and women's), table tennis and chess in Cleveland, Ohio. Deadline for registration - April 1, 1995. Contact: Vidas Tatarunas, 18202 Windward Rd., Cleveland, Ohio 44119, tel. (216) 486-7916, FAX (216) 486-5881
- Youth basketball - April 29-30th in Hamilton, ONT. Contact: Arvydas Sestokas (905) 829-2289
- Racquetball - April, 1995 in Cleveland, OH. Contact: Algis Nagevicius, (216) 845-4954
- June 14-15, 1995** - VIIth CONFERENCE ON BALTIC LINGUISTICS (Baltistica VII), Lielupe (in the vicinity of Riga, Latvia)
- June 16-18, 1995** - FIRST CONFERENCE ON BALTIC STUDIES IN EUROPE, Riga Latvia Theme: "Small Nations and States", Languages: English and German. Contact: c/o Prof. A. Varslavans, University of Latvia, Raina bulv. 19, LV-1586 Riga, Latvia, FAX: (371)-8820113, (301)-2-225039; Telex: 161172 Tema SU
- August 6-13, 1995** - Lithuanian-American Community, Inc. Educational Council sponsored Lithuanian language course and Lithuanian language teachers' camp at Camp Dainava near Manchester, MI. Information: Educational Council President, Regina Kucas, 13648 Kickapoo Trail, Lockport, IL 60441, tel. 708-301-6410, FAX (same number).
- August 13-20, 1995** - COURSES FOR LITHUANIAN FOLK DANCE TEACHERS/LEADERS WHOSE GROUPS ARE PLANNING TO PARTICIPATE IN THE 10th FOLK DANCE FESTIVAL (planned for July 1996, Chicago, IL) Place: Camp Dainava, MI. Information: Lithuanian Folk Dance Institute, Dalia Dzikas, Pres., 43 Mildred Road, West Hartford, CT 06107

Make plans for 1996

June 1996

15th CONFERENCE ON BALTIC STUDIES, Boston, MA Contact: Advancement for the Advancement of Baltic Studies, 111 Knob Hill Rd, Hackettstown, NJ07840-4222; Tel.: (908)852-5258; FAX (908)852-3233; e-mail: 70762.640@COMPUSERVE.COM

July 1996

10th LITHUANIAN FOLK DANCE FESTIVAL, Chicago, IL Information for group teachers: Dalia Dzikas, Lithuanian Folk Dance Festival, Inc., 43 Mildred Road, West Hartford, CT 06107

Ramune Kubilius

From the Lithuanian Press...

Selected excerpts from the Lithuanian Press in America.

Wayne State University Board

Wayne State University's new Board of Governors members were sworn in January 24th in the University's MacGregor Hall in Detroit. Among them was Diane Dunaskiss, wife of Lithuanian American Senator Matt Dunaskiss.

(DRAUGAS, 2/2/95)

Lithuanians in France

As of October, the newspaper LIETUVOS AIDAS may be purchased for 5 francs in the press kiosk near Paris' Louvre Museum...The "Lithuanie Porte de l'Aurore" Society sent the 10,000th catechism to Lithuania at the beginning of July. In October, Society representatives went to Vilnius and turned over 100 kilograms of children's clothing, school supplies and Christmas presents to the "Versme" young invalids' school. Lithuanian Airlines flew the humanitarian donations at no cost from Paris to Vilnius...On October 17th the new school year began at the Parisian Eastern Languages and Civilizations Institute. 12 students are now taking Lithuanian. They are taking not only Lithuanian language lessons, but also learn about Lithuania's geography, history and literature. Teachers are L. Skupas and prof. M. Chiconas.

(PASAULIO LIETUVIS, 1/95, from the French Lithuanian Community's Bulletin)

New admissions policy at VU

Vilnius University recently announced new admissions policies in "Lietuvos aidas". According to administrator I. Regelis, students wanting to be admitted into certain programs will be required to take additional exams. For example, prospective Economics Department students will be required to take a foreign language exam in addition to the currently required mathematics exam; potential law students will be required to take a political science exam, a logics ("loginio mastymo") exam and a foreign language exam. Admissions policies have been redrafted regarding gender quotas as well: until now 50% of the students admitted were male. (Female students and their parents had protested the earlier policy.) Journalism students will no longer be able to attend the remote campus/correspondence program.

Tuition will be based on entrance exam scores; each department determining tuition which is confirmed by the Senate. Students will not be required to pay tuition if their exam's total is no lower than 7 points. (Apparently in the case of tuition, there remain some differences between Lithuania's and America's universities.-rk)

(DRAUGAS, reprinting an article by Darius Babickas in LIETUVOS AIDAS of Jan.5, 1995, 1/31/95)

"Saulute" volunteers

Every two weeks men and women volunteers gather at the Lithuanian World Center in Lemont, IL to pack the "Saulute" (Sunshine) group's "care packages" destined for Lithuania's orphans and orphanages. In a recent package, two volunteers packed warm clothing, toys, vitamins, shoes and blankets donated by three donor sites: the St. Patrick's Catholic Parish of St. Charles, IL; the Kolmar School of Oak Lawn, IL and the Lithuanian Language "Maironis" School of Lemont, IL. Donations were organized through the initiative of teacher Silvija Radvilas.

(DRAUGAS, from a photo caption by I. Tijunelis, 2/4/95)

Composer Banaitis' works published

In late spring of 1994, a new 133 page book was published—KAZYS VIKTORAS BANAITIS. 88 LIAUDIES DAINOS/LITHUANIAN FOLK SONGS. CHANSONS POPULAIRES LITHUANIENES. LITAUISCHE VOLKSLIEDER, Chicago, 1993. This book contains a collection of traditional Lithuanian folk songs harmonized by K. Banaitis. An indifference to the publication of music has resulted in a shortage of published Lithuanian musical compositions. During the post-World War II years, the publishers "Patria" and "Pasvaiste" in Germany did some musical note publishing as did "Muzikos ziniuos" (Music news) later. Soviet Lithuania did not publish songs of emigre composers. Some young Lithuanian Americans have not learned to appreciate the value of music in Lithuanian group socialization. Others did not fully appreciate the quality of the music composed by emigre composers. Audiences at Lithuanian Opera performances (in Chicago) consist mostly of representatives of older generations, but even they do not realize the importance of published musical

compositions as an intellectual expressions of nationality. That is what makes this latest collection so valuable. K.V. Banaitis, who lived 1896-1963, was a composer who successfully added his personal interpretation into the harmonization of Lithuanian folk songs, enhancing their Lithuanian melodies. The latest collection lay unpublished since 1947 until the financial and editorial support of Salomeja and Vytautas Valiukas made it possible. Manigirdas Motekaitis added commentary, deciphering the almost illegible handwriting. Salomeja Nasvytis-Valiukas summarized the composer's life and mentioned his musical beliefs in the English and Lithuanian foreword. Computers enabled the more cost-effective printing of the 500 copies of these musical notes—this is the seventh collection of Banaitis' work, which was published in paperback by Morkunas Press. During his career, Banaitis harmonized about 500 traditional Lithuanian folk songs, he composed two cantatas, wrote "Jurate and Kastytis" opera and sonata music, and other works for the piano, cello... In 1996, we will celebrate the 100th anniversary of Banaitis' birth. This latest publication honors Banaitis—let us hope that resources and energy will be found to publish the collected works of other emigre composers: Vladas Jakubenas, Vytautas Bacevicius, Julius Gaidelis, Jonas Svedas, Jeronimas Kacinskas, Darius Lapinskas, Petras Aglinskas. (DRAUGAS, from an article by musicologist Loreta Venclauskas, who earned her PhD from the Tchaikovsky Conservatory in Moscow in 1984. 2/4/95)

Language usage in Lithuania

Regulations in Lithuania require that all documents, government and organization logos, and signs be in Lithuanian. The size of the letters on a sign in another language, for example, cannot exceed the size of the Lithuanian language letters on the sign. The regulations do not apply to items coming from other countries. The norms, according to D. Mikulenas who is acting chair of the State Lithuanian Language Commission, do not go against the spirit of the 1883 Paris Convention. A product's logo, eg. Coca Cola, never changes, according to D. Mikulenas, since the logo is used for worldwide advertising. Names of foreign firms need only have additional signage indicating "Representative in Lithuania" ("igaliotasis atstovas"). The rulings on signs are straightforward, according to D. Mikulenas, but the problem the Commission is now addressing is the one of "hotdogai", "pampersai", "bardacioku" and other invasions into the Lithuanian language. She indicated that a "borrowed terms" list (of words which should not be used) met with some reaction. Until the official language law is voted in, language matters are interpreted in a variety of ways.

(DRAUGAS, excerpting a "Lietuvos Rytas" article of Jan. 27th, 2/15/95)

Auto theft

A Volkswagen Passat belonging to the daughter of President Brazauskas was stolen in the middle of the day near a department store in the downtown area of Vilnius. Even the special alarm system could not prevent the theft. According to statistics, Russian made VAZ cars, Audis and Fords are the most popular among thieves. Not popular for theft are French, Italian, and Japanese-made cars. During the last year, over 4000 cars were stolen in Lithuania. Most often, counterfeit automobile registration documents enable the thieves to bring the stolen cars to Russia, where they are sold. It is hoped that the new computer system being installed as of February 1st at Lithuania's border stations will help detect stolen cars. It is suspected, says Senior Police Inspector Jurijus Saninas, that large, well-organized groups rather than individuals are responsible for the majority of the car thefts. Once they target a car and determine how to circumvent alarm systems, the theft is usually successful, indicated Saninas.

(DRAUGAS, 1/19/95)

(Mrs. Mertiniene's (Brazauskas' daughter's) car was recovered on Feb. 2 - after an anonymous caller tipped police. All efforts to recover President Brazauskas' stolen Nissan jeep have failed. His car was stolen in 1993. ED.)

Newspaper ceases publication

"AMERICAN BALTIC NEWS" edited by Darius and Giedre Ambrozaitis and published by ABN Publishing of Kalamazoo, MI was an informative English language monthly newspaper published from May 1991 to December 1994. It has ceased publication.

(DARBININKAS, 2/10/95)

Catholic education in Lithuania

In 1989 when Lithuania was enjoying rebirth, the Lithuanian Catholic Church became especially concerned about the spiritual upbringing of Lithuania's young people. At that time, not many people dared admit that one of the biggest post-World War II mistakes was the massive forced infusion of atheism in Lithuania's young people. Father Sigitas Tamkevicius openly addressed the issue in an article published by CARITAS in November 1989, soon after his return from forced exile in Siberia... We in the West were gratified to read in the Chronicles of the Catholic Church of Lithuania, about the brave young people who stood up to their teachers and professed their religious beliefs. Those young people had the faith introduced in their families to thank for their bravery, but especially the grandmothers. Today, writes Rev. Tamkevicius, we have parents who don't know the elementary facts about the Catholic religion. During the 1993-94 school year 330,304 children attended religion classes in Lithuania's schools. 1827 teach-

ers taught the classes, of them-383 of the teachers were priests and clerics, 1444 were nuns and lay people. In 1994 there were 10 Catholic middle schools, 2 grade schools and 11 kindergartens. In Panevezys, a Catholic School has opened for hearing impaired children, and in the Marian Fathers facilities, there is a Catholic children's art program. One of the better known Catholic schools is the one run by the Jesuits in Kaunas. One school in Rietavas was opened under the initiative of parents and teachers- the school has 37 teachers and 152 pupils and is supported by area manufacturing plants.

(DRAUGAS, from an article by Sister O. Mikaila, 2/4/95)

Lithuanian Children's Hope

To date, the Lithuanian Children's Hope Committee (Lietuvos Vaiku Viltis) has brought 60 children from Lithuania to the U.S. for treatment in Shriners Hospitals in Chicago, Los Angeles, San Francisco, and Philadelphia. The children have orthopedic problems (curved spine, hip problems from birth) or burn injuries which could not be treated at Lithuanian facilities. Of those 60 children, 50 have been successfully cured or operated (others may have not passed the stringent pre-operative checks for good prognosis performed by the Shriners Hospitals-rk). The children and one of their parents or guardians are flown from Lithuania for evaluations and treatments which may last from 3 months to 1 1/2 years. The cost of caring for one child is \$1000 per month-airfare, food, housing, misc. expenses. There is no charge by Shriners Hospital for surgery on children accepted into the program. The Lithuanian Children's Hope Committee, chaired by Grazina Liautaud, raises all of the necessary funds for the miscellaneous expenses. Transportation, translation and companionship are provided by a cadre of volunteers. The chief surgeon of the Chicago Shriners Hospital, Dr. J. Lubicki, has worked with the American Committee in helping establish a Lithuanian Children's Hope Committee in Vilnius which is administered by parents of children who had travelled to and been treated in America. Every 6 months, Dr. Lubicki and a group of doctors visit Lithuania to check on the progress of the children who had been operated on in the U.S. In addition, the doctors train their colleagues in Lithuania on the latest orthopedic techniques so that more operations could be performed in Lithuania. The U.S. Committee has successfully obtained donated equipment worth millions of dollars for the Lithuanian hospital. Lithuanian Children's Hope Committee administrator Jurate Budrys explained the purposes and achievements of the Lithuanian Children's Hope Committee to attendees at a recent weekly gathering at the "Seklycia" Restaurant. The weekly gatherings, featuring songs, lectures, and performances for a largely retiree audience are organized by the Lithuanian-American Community's Human Services Council. (The Lithuanian Children's Hope Committee is part of the Council. The

"Seklycia" Restaurant, the Committee, the Council, and many of the children from Lithuania and their parents all share the same building on Chicago's Southwest Side.-rk) On this occasion, several of the children's parents from Lithuania sang a few Lithuanian folk songs for the audience. Jurate Budrys said that Lithuania's children are the future of Lithuania. Every effort to help their physical well-being is worth it. The brotherly love we demonstrate towards the physically challenged Lithuania will hopefully show these children and their parents examples of self-help and volunteerism which they can bring back to Lithuania.

(DRAUGAS, 2/16/95, from an article by A. Pauzuolis)

Irish American for Šilute's basketball team

Irish American Bill Sheridan, 52 years old, born in Brooklyn, NY has been in Lithuania since late last year training the Šilute basketball team. For eight years prior to that, Bill worked in Holland and for three years he was in England. Before his trip, Bill visited the DARBININKAS editorial offices where he purchased a few books to help him learn Lithuanian. He gave the editors and newspaper staff some "Šilute" stickers. He promised to write from Lithuania. Soon after he arrived in Lithuania, he wrote. Only the "labas" was in Lithuanian, but the entire letter showed Bill's interest in understanding Lithuania's people and customs...My life revolves around basketball. The team is young, and I spend 5-6 hours at the hall, after that I analyze our game by watching videos. Our trips to games are spent in old, uncomfortable buses...My Lithuanian is getting better. I can understand words heard in conversation, but I have a long way to go...People don't earn a lot—they have enough for food, clothing, and rent. Their favorite pastime is TV. The young people manage to buy "walkmen" and baseball caps, but their clothing is old and worn...Šilute has many small stores, but they have few products and they are the same from store to store. There aren't many American, German and Russian products. If you put together all of the consumer products found in Šilute, you could barely fill a large size American supermarket...People get up early here. The street cleaners, mostly women, clean sidewalks and streets armed with brooms which look like tree branches tied together...Don't understand be uncorrectly. There is a lack of many products here, which we Americans take for granted. However, people are people no matter where they are - they laugh, they cry, they eat, they raise families. They are the same - people with emotions... Basketball is king in Lithuania. I try to understand the level of basketball here. I think I am seen as important here. I was shown on national TV. I am recognized when I walk along the street. I am asked for autographs. It is pleasant, but I miss my children in New Jersey...

Bill Sheridan not only shared impressions with DARBININKAS editors. He asked readers to help him:

1) Perhaps they know of a basketball player who wants to play in "Šilute" which is now ranked #5 among basketball clubs in Lithuania; 2) Maybe a Lithuanian-American organization or individual would like to financially help "Šilute" go to a prestigious European basketball championship; 3) Perhaps someone can be found to help two Lithuanian basketball players come to New Jersey for 6 weeks this summer to participate in the summer league? Contact DARBININKAS, if interested. Let's hope Bill Sheridan stays in touch. (DARBININKAS, 341 Highland Blvd, Brooklyn, NY 11207; Editorial office 718-827-1352; Business Office 718-827-1351).

(DARBININKAS, 2/17/95)

Lithuanian partisans to perform in US

On March 8th, a special group from Kaunas will be arriving in Chicago, IL. The group, comprised of 8 persons is a chorus of former Lithuanian underground members/partisans (persons who participated in anti-communist activities during Lithuania's years of Soviet occupation, including some who spent time in exile in Siberia-rk). They are Antanina Garmute - correspon-

dent; Ona Grazuliene - chorus director; Ona Dailidienė, Brone Galinaitienė, Juozas Skarziņskas, Juozas Sarkauskas, Vytautas Balsys and Klemensas Tamaliūnas. They will be in Chicago for fourteen days and their stays with Chicago area families are being coordinated by the Lithuanian-American Community, Inc. Human Services Council, 312-476-2655. The choir will perform for Chicago's Lithuanian Americans at some concerts.

(Antanina Garmute is the author of one of the touching stories in the "Amzino Isalo Zemeje" (Land of the Permafrost/Eternal Freeze) collection published in Lithuania by "Vyturys" in 1989. Many readers of the collection stories said they were moved to tears upon reading of the hardships of Lithuania's partisans and those who were exiled to and spent long, hard years working in labor camps and forests in the cold, isolated regions of Siberia. Miss Garmute's story depicts her life in Siberia after being exiled there in 1948 when she was 13 years old. Her stay in Irkutsk, fortunately, was less than a year, while others spent many years in Siberia. Some died there, others decided to stay since the greater part of their lives was spent there and they felt established there.-rk) (DRAUGAS, 2/22/95)

CULTURAL ARTS

Dalia Dzikas

The Xth Lithuanian Folk Dance Festival of the USA and Canada

While still reliving the warm memories of the Lithuanian World Song Festival of this past summer, the Lithuanian folk dance groups of the United States and Canada are beginning to focus on the Xth Lithuanian Folk Dance Festival to be held in Chicago in July of 1996. The coordinator of the program, for the festival, is the Lithuanian Folk Dance Institute. The Institute encompasses the Lithuanian folk dance teachers and Lithuanian folk dance groups of North America, maintains contact with groups in South America and with choreographers and teachers in Lithuania.

The Lithuanian Folk Dance Institute's executive committee consists of: Dalia Dzikas, president; Juozas Karasiejus, vice-president; Rasa Poskocimas, secretary; Ruta Mickunas, treasurer; and Juozas Karmuza, member-at-large.

The executive committee of the LFD Institute has invited Violeta Smieliauskas-Fabianovich to be the artistic director of the Xth Lithuanian Folk Dance Festival. The love of Lithuanian folk dancing was instilled in Mrs. Smieliauskas-Fabianovich's heart by her mother Mrs. Irena Smieliauskas, the director of Chicago's Grandis, for 30 years. Violeta has participated in several dance Festivals as director of the Vytis folk dance group,

she teaches folk dancing at Lithuanian Saturday school in Chicago, and now has taken over directorship of Grandis. Violeta's interest in Lithuanian folk art has not stopped with dancing, she has mastered the intricate art of Lithuanian weaving. With Violeta at the loom we look forward to a very special tapestry of dances for the Xth Festival.

The LFDI executive committee and Ms. Smieliauskas-Fabianovich have selected the dances for the Xth Festival. This summer, August 13-20, the Institute will sponsor a dance workshop in preparation for the Festival. The workshop will take place at Camp Dainava, in Manchester, MI. All Lithuanian folk dance teachers of dance groups intending to participate in the Festival are encouraged to attend the workshop. Registration for the workshop will start in June. Members of the Institute will receive registration forms in the LFD Institute's June newsletter. Registration for participation in the festival will begin at the workshop.

Lithuanian folk dance teachers, residing in the United States and Canada, who are interested in becoming members of the Lithuanian Folk Dance Institute should contact: Dalia Dzikas, 43 Mildred Road, West Hartford, CT 06107.

Bits and Pieces

New dictionary of idioms

If you're fascinated by words, take a look at a marvelous new English-Lithuanian dictionary of idioms, "It Ain't Exactly So" assembled, edited and prepared by Bronius Masiokas and the late Evelyn Kolupaila-Masiokas. The dictionary has about 10,000 idiomatic expressions such as "to be old hat," and "on the house." It's a companion to the authors' earlier volume, "Words," and equally encyclopedic Lithuanian-English dictionary. For information contact: B. Masiokas, 13902 East Marina Drive #404, Aurora, CO 80014-5522.

From Internet Balt-L, A. Bernotas.

London "Guardian" recognizes Birute Galdikas' achievements

Birute Galdikas, noted Canadian-Lithuanian was featured in a full page article in the London "Guardian" on February 15. Galdikas is one of the world's foremost authorities on orangutans. Birute lives in the forests of Borneo much of the year, making observations. She is one of the trio of formidable women who have transformed our knowledge of primates - the others being Jane Goodall on chimpanzees (in Tanzania) and the late Dian Fossey on the mountain gorillas of Rwanda. Galdikas has a book forthcoming, *My Life with the Orang-Utans of Borneo*, published in Britain by Gollancz, and her aim is to give some sense of what it is like to live in a tropical rain forest. She hopes her book will provide a better understanding of eco-systems in the rain forest. "If people learned about orangutans, I hope they will begin to care about them and the forest..."

From Internet Balt-L, E. Bevan.

Gorbachev's Failure in Lithuania

Al Senn, Professor of History at the University of Wisconsin in Madison, has been elected as a foreign member of the Lithuanian Academy of Sciences - History section. Prof. Senn's new book, entitled *Gorbachev's Failure in Lithuania* is due out in May, 1995. The book updates his work *Lithuania Awakens* which was published in 1990. Cost of the book will be \$35, but it can be ordered from the publisher, prepaid for \$28 + \$2.50 postage and handling (higher outside the US). Send orders to St. Martin's Press, Scholarly and Reference Division, 257 Park Avenue South, New York, NY 10010

Lithuanian President's State of the Nation Address

In his hour-long annual address to the parliament on Feb. 21, Lithuanian President Algirdas Brazauskas noted that Lithuania's Gross Domestic Product increased in 1994, for the first time in five years. He added that inflation was less than 5% of what it was in 1992, and said that trade with the West was greater than with the CIS, although Russia remained Lithuania's main trading partner. Brazauskas said exports must be increased to diminish the existing foreign trade deficit. Implementation of laws and resolutions was the weakest part of the government, he noted. Speaking on foreign policy strategy, he said that the primary focus will be greater integration into European political, economic, and defense systems.

From Internet Balt-L, S. Girnius, OMRI, Inc.



American Travel Service

**America's #1 Travel Agency
to the Baltics.**

Specializing in travel to and from Lithuania,
Latvia & Estonia for over 30 years.
Call for our latest discount fares and
all your travel arrangements. Call to request
our new 1995 brochure.

9439 S. Kedzie Ave. Evergreen Park IL 60642
TEL. 708 422-3000 or 1 800 422-3190
FAX. 708-422-3163

Vyta Grybauskas

Sports News

Over 50 Lithuanian athletes are preparing for the 1996 Olympic Games to be held in Atlanta, GA. Perhaps the athletes training with the most vigor and intensity are the swimmers; they are serious medal contenders. Three of the Lithuanian swimmers are currently living and training in the US under excellent conditions and



Mindaugas Spokas - victor in Finland

coaching. They are: Raimundas Mazuolis, Laura Petrutyte and Arunas Savickas. This is the third year for Mazuolis at the Fort Lauderdale Club, where he's managed not only to win second and third place in international competition, but to marry as well. Currently, he is preparing to participate in several international competitions and has high hopes to break the world record in the 50 meter freestyle. Laura Petrutyte is being sponsored by Mr. and Mrs. Dubauskas until the Atlanta Olympics. Laura has hopes of being accepted at Miami University, where she has been promised a scholarship. Laura is also a freestyle specialist. The young Arunas Javickas prefers the backstroke, in which he holds a series of records in Lithuania. During the European Championships in London, American swimming coach M. Taylor took an interest in Arunas and invited him to his club near Phoenix, AZ. Here he trains, is learning English and will be staying right up until the Olympics. Mr. Taylor plans on inviting several other Lithuanian swimmers to train at his club. Fate has smiled upon these three athletes.

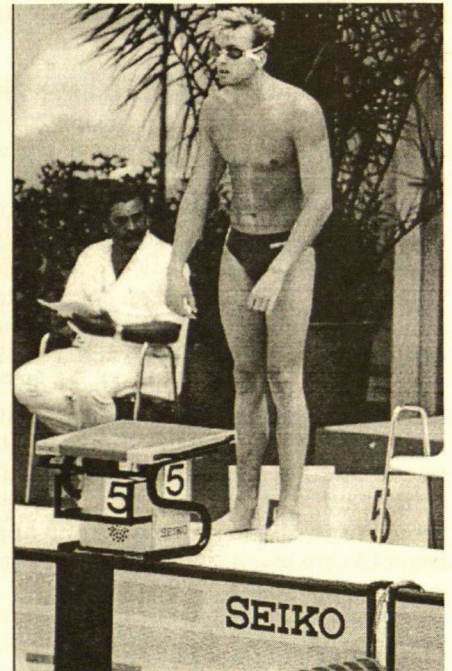
On the other hand, the rest of the Lithuanian swimmers are training with no less enthusiasm, with the support of the Lithuanian International Olympic Committee! Their enthusiasm is reflected in their accomplishments, which brings high hopes for medals at the Olympics. There are already 9 contenders for the Olympics, while the door still remains open from the perspective sense. At the end of last year these swimmers competed for the Lithuanian Cup in Anyksiai, this

February in the World Cup Competition in Finland, and in Vilnius at the Lithuanian Championship Meet at the end of February. Here are some of the promising results from the World Cup in Finland: Nerijus Beiga takes second place in the 50 meter breaststroke with a time of 29.09 seconds - he was beaten by only 1/8 second by a Canadian, in the 100 meter backstroke a third place victory was taken by Mindaugas Spokas, just barely behind an American and German, 200 meter butterfly Mindaugas Bruzas came in fourth. The following day's results were even better; 100 meter freestyle - Dita Zelviene came in fourth, 100 meter breaststroke Nerijus Beiga - third, and the crowning glory - Mindaugas Spokas taking first place in the 50 meter backstroke with a great time of 25.58 sec - passing the German, American, and Canadian swimmers. In addition, Darius Grigalionis took fourth in this event.

Congratulations go out to the Lithuanian swimmers for their achievements thus far - we wish them further determination training, so that hopes for Atlanta could become firm.

Algirdas Socikas Honored

The International Olympic Committee hosted a special ceremony this February in the Opera House of Stuttgart, Germany. Here the Committee honored the 1994 laureates for sportsmanship and noble deeds in the sports arena. 36 representatives from various nations were awarded prizes including the Pierre de Coubertin



Raimundas Mazuolis starting in Barcelona.

prize, named for the French Baron responsible for the rebirth of the modern Olympic Games and the formation of the first International Olympic Committee. Honorary diplomas and certificates of gratitude were awarded as well. For the first time, a Lithuanian, Algirdas Socikas was among the recipients.

Algirdas Socikas is currently the dean of Lithuania's Physical Education Institute and a member of the Lithuanian Olympic Committee. In 1953 and 1955, Algirdas was Europe's heavyweight boxing Champion and held the Championship title for Heavyweight boxing for the entire Soviet Union for six years. During his 11 year boxing career, Algirdas has won 118 matches, 30 of which were in the international arena. On the award presented to him, Socikas is referred to as a "gentleman of the ring with the most noble character, having achieved the title of European Champion twice as well as contributing much to Lithuanian sports and sports education."

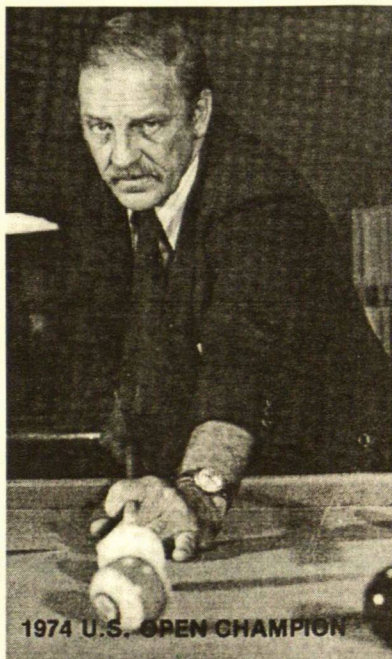
Similar awards were presented to Latvian basketball star Semeniovā (who is over 2 meters in height), as well as the entire Norwegian nation for donating over \$6 million dollars, collected during the Olympic Games in Lillehammer, to nations suffering the aftermath of war.

Joe Balsis, World's Champion Billiards player dies Jan. 2, 1995.

Lithuanian Joe Balsis, noted billiards player died in Pottsville, PA at the age of 73.

Mr. Balsis' career in billiards competition began at the tender age of 11, when he won the Philadelphia Boys' Championship. Mr. Balsis, a graduate of the St. Francis Lithuanian parochial school and member of St. Francis

Lithuanian Church grew up in Minersville, PA. Joe exhibited his abilities in billiards by winning two US Opens (1968, 1974), two world titles (World's Champion 1965-1966 and the Billiard Room Proprietors Assn. tournament in 1965) as well as many other tournaments. "He was one of the greatest players of all time," said John H. Lewis, league and program director of the Billiard Congress of America.



Joe Balsis - 1974 U.S. Open Champion

Fifth World Lithuanian Sports Games - Match Fishing

Al Cereckas

Match Fishing will be one of the competitions during the Fifth World Lithuanian Sports Games this summer. Match Fishing will follow rules set by CIPS (Confederación Internacional de la Peche Sportive), popular in Europe. The following information is provided for those intending to participate in the Match Fishing Competition.

The site of the competition will be a canal in Elektrėnai, near Vilnius. The width of the canal is 20 meters (66 feet) and it is 3 meters (10 ft) deep. With the exception of minnows and artificials - all types of bait will be allowed. Fishing will be done from a predetermined shoreline (normally approximately 30 ft or less is assigned for each angler), with one fishing pole and one hook in the water. There is no limit to the number of fish one hooks and lands. Size and length does not matter, quantity during a given time period is the only measured factor. Usually, the fishing time in Match Fishing is one (1) hour, preparation time is extra.

Basic Match Fishing tackle is uncomplicated. Fishing poles/rods are long; at least 16 feet (5 meters), hooks smaller than number 12, fishing line (monofilament) very flexible and 2-6 pound strength, floats - light and sensitive.

For additional information about CIPS Match Fishing in the Fifth Lithuanian World Games, contact Al Cereckas, 11036 Guy Ct., Warren, MI 48093. Wishing you luck in the Match Fishing Competition!

Computer Developments *continued from p.19*

understand the story and participate in the games, learning exercises and puzzles presented by the program. From the cultural and linguistic side of this project, the leadership will be provided by Darius Kuolys, who was the minister of education and culture during the government of Vytautas Landsbergis and is now a member of the Board of Directors of the Open Society Fund of Lithuania. The OSL computer science manager and my "tour guide", Oleg Smertin, will be responsible for the technology implementation. A demo diskette has already been prepared in conjunction with further funding requests made to the Lithuanian Foundation.

A number of screen captures have been included with this article from the programs reviewed on my trip to Lithuania. I believe this partnership of language, culture and technology has powerful implications on how cultural appreciation and even a cultural identity can be reinforced and even transmitted to others who may have long ago become separated from their heritage.

BRIDGES readers are invited to send in their comments and suggestions to assist in the successful implementation of this project.

ADVERTISEMENT

**INTERNATIONAL OPPORTUNITY
PHYSICIANS...NURSES**

The Baltic-American Medical & Surgical Clinic, a private medical clinic owned by a joint venture of American and Lithuanian physicians, opened in Vilnius in September. The clinic, which has its facilities in rented space within an existing hospital, is the first of its kind and has been renovated, furnished, equipped American medical standards. It operates on a fee-for-services basis, but the mission of the clinic includes a significant effort to assist in promoting better health care throughout the region. Beginning next year, in conjunction with International Medassist, Inc. (a non-profit corporation), the clinic hopes to be able to provide certain amounts of free care to people who could not otherwise afford it. There will also be assistance in training physicians and nurses from public hospitals. One of the objectives for the clinic is to have at least one American physician and nurse available to the clinic, on a rotating basis, during the first two years of its operations. An American nurse from New Jersey and an American physician's assistant from Washington each began a six-month stay at the clinic on October 1. A board certified general surgeon from Ohio began a 3 1/2 month stay on November 7, and a surgeon from Massachusetts will joined him for the month of January. The clinic is seeking other physicians and nurses interested in being part of this exciting and pioneering effort.

- Minimum commitment of two months preferred, but shorter stay will be considered. Clinic will seek to obtain a Lithuanian medical license for physician participants.
- No need for participants to speak or understand Lithuanian. Lithuanian staff is experienced and multi-lingual. Charting and recordkeeping in English.
- Only 30-35 hours required each week.
- Clinic will provide roundtrip air travel for participant and spouse and free use of a furnished apartment in Vilnius (utilities included).
- Clinic will pay modest living stipend. Additional fee income for physicians.

Persons interested in further information should contact:

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

Timothy D. Jaroch, Pres.
International Medassist, Inc.
40 Hillcrest Road
Belmont, MA 02178
Phone: (617) 345-5060
FAX: (617) 345-5077

* Licensed in Lithuania
Member, Christian Medical & Dental Society

BRIDGES

LITHUANIAN AMERICAN NEWS JOURNAL

Volume 19, No. 3 APRIL 1995 \$2.50 per Copy

V16-2 03/31/96
Dr J.A. Rackauskas
10425 S Kenton Ave
Oak Lawn IL 60453