

# BRIDGES

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# TO OUR READERS:

I am very grateful to all of those **BRIDGES** readers who are helping us get the word out about our publication. New subscriptions are coming in like the long-awaited warmth of Spring. I am getting encouraging signs from Los Angeles and Houston, Florida and New Jersey.

When I say "our publication," I really mean yours and ours. "Ours" encompasses all of the current writers for **BRIDGES**, and all of the contributors who came before, particularly former editors. I have received some very heartwarming letters of support from them. It seems that once you become involved with **BRIDGES**, it gets into your blood. You remain committed to its success no matter whose name is on the masthead.

"Yours" includes our entire readership, for the magazine really belongs to them. They buy it, they share it, they send it on to friends and relatives. It is an outreach publication, and the greater its reach, the better we've done our job.

Some people have remarked that being the editor of **BRIDGES** must be a lot of work. Well, perhaps it is, but it's more a labor of love. And my responsibilities are much easier than those of former editors such as Joe Arlauskas, who did all of the layout and graphics and much of the writing himself, while handling the subscriptions and the advertising, too! I may be the editor, but the hardest work is done by our writers, and it is a privilege to work with them. When one's colleagues are so forthcoming about producing thought-provoking and quality material, one feels compelled to do make sure the fruits of their labor reach as many readers as possible.

So I am beating the bushes for new subscribers — a thousand new subscribers. Sound impossible? I don't think so.

I am particularly thinking about those of us born and raised in the US, as well as those who left Lithuania as young children. Lithuanian may have been our first language, but English is our native tongue (the one you count in). Many grew up outside Lithuanian enclaves. Others found the Lithuanian community did not fulfill their personal and social needs. Many married non-Lithuanians. Many focused on their professional lives. **BRIDGES** is for them.

**BRIDGES** is also a valuable source of information, news and commentary for those individuals who are very involved in things Lithuanian, who married Lithuanian spouses and are raising Lithuanian families in the US. I can honestly say that **BRIDGES** is for everybody. I hope you will join me in spreading the word.

Su viltim,

Diana Vidutis  
Editor

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P.S. Congratulations to Paul Goble, who was made Assistant Director of Radio Free Europe and Radio Liberty in Washington, DC in March. **BRIDGES** readers will have to wait an issue or two for Paul to return to our pages as he settles into his new responsibilities.

**Victor Nakas**

## At the Water's Edge

A few months from now, in the waning days of August, major U.S. Newspapers will publish articles commemorating the fifth anniversary of an event that altered the course of history and, in so doing, happily deprived the Lithuanian-American community of its most important rationale for existence. When a hapless crew of thuggish plotters bungled an attempt to overthrow their ineffectual leader, Mikhail Gorbachev, not only were they ushered out the door but the stage onto which they had briefly stormed, and which the father of perestroika hastened to reclaim, collapsed in a cloud of dust. The U.S.S.R. was no more and Lithuania, free at last, from that moment onward no longer needed the diaspora to be its eyes and ears, and most important of all, its voice in the Western world.

### The Long and Winding Road

At that instant, the diaspora's fifty year mission — to support and defend the Lithuanian nation's struggle for survival and its ultimate goal of restoring independent statehood — was realized. For five decades, the better part of Lithuanian-American life was grounded in this mission. Children went to Lithuanian Saturday schools and danced Lithuanian folk dances because, as they were told over and over again, it was their solemn duty to preserve a culture that was in danger of being eradicated. Countless funds were raised to support humanitarian and religious relief as well as political activity; Congressmen and Senators were called, telegraphed, and harangued or wined and dined, as appropriate; books were smuggled into Lithuania and dissident literature secreted out of the country, to be quickly translated and disseminated; Olympic games were boycotted and sitting U.S. Presidents were picketed; proponents and opponents of opening cultural ties with occupied Lithuania waged intense verbal warfare, with each side straining to show how its position advanced the cause of Lithuania's survival; February 16 commemorations became solemn ritualistic quasi-religious affairs while on any given Sunday worshipers at many a Lithuanian-American Catholic Church could be treated to a sermon on their suffering brothers and sisters in Lithuania; and, to ensure that the mission would be transmitted from generation to generation, parents pressured their sons and daughters to find Lithuanian mates.

Always and everywhere the mantra was the same: remember, speak out and preserve. Remember that Lithuania is being held captive, speak out in its defense, and preserve the Lithuanian language and culture by prac-

ticating it freely in a way that your cousins cannot. The mission was crystal clear, the message quite powerful because it was based on the grim, undeniable reality of Lithuania's subjugation, yet held out the promise of redemption at the end of a long, hard road.

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Lithuania] is due to a number of  
factors. Lithuanian-Americans do not  
feel particularly welcome there

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And suddenly, five years ago, the end of that road was reached. The last few miles, from 1989 to 1991, were covered in breathtaking speed, making for an exciting ride but one during which there was almost no time to contemplate "what next." More than four years have passed and Lithuanian-Americans are still groping for the answer.

### Reality Check

For few, a very few, the answer has been to move to Lithuania to live. The reluctance to return is due to a number of factors. Lithuanian-Americans do not feel particularly welcome there: they sense hostility from some in Lithuania who are jealous of their relative affluence, fearful that diaspora Lithuanians will seek to reclaim property nationalized by the Communists or to buy up the country, and resentful that the returnees stayed out of harm's way for decades while they had to bear the brunt of the Soviet occupation. Residents of Lithuania sense arrogance among some returnees who presume to lecture them without understanding the local conditions; this arrogance is particularly hard to swallow when local Lithuanians perceive some of the worst offenders as professional failures who have come home, as it were, not to share genuine expertise but because they couldn't succeed elsewhere. The sense of discomfort (some might even call it alienation) that diaspora Lithuanians feel with present-day Lithuania is heightened by the Lithuanian Democratic Labor Party's control of the country's parliament and presidency and the knowledge that the voters freely chose this group which, no matter what names it chooses for itself, in most Lithuanian-Americans' minds remains simply "Communists."

Members of the diaspora are also disinclined to return to Lithuania because of the deepness of familial roots which have grown over five decades in the welcoming soil of their adopted countries. Lithuanian-Americans with parents and grandparents, brothers and sisters, aunts and uncles, and lifelong friends living in the United States are loathe to move across the Atlantic Ocean where they will be so far apart from their loved ones. For some, going to Lithuania would be a homecoming, but for others it would mean tearing a family apart for the second time in a lifetime. It would also entail leaving behind a life affording considerable material comfort even to those of modest means.

Some Lithuanians in the diaspora have seized on the latter point and moved it to the top of the list of reasons for their reluctance to return. But in so doing, they have used it not as a convincing argument against going back to Lithuania, but as a means to flagellate themselves for their weakness and hypocrisy. According to them, for decades they promised themselves that they would return to Lithuania if it were liberated. But now, so they believe, at the moment of truth, the allure of 30 pieces of silver has caused them to betray that promise.

I do not doubt that this anguish is genuine, but it is by no means universal, nor does it cut across generational lines. Those most likely to undergo this remorse were born in Lithuania and spent their early years there or in refugee camps. As for my generation — those born and raised in the United States — I can say that among the hundreds I have met in my lifetime, I can think of only a handful who might have pledged publicly or to themselves to live in an independent Lithuania, were that happy day ever to arrive. The end goal which members of my generation had drummed into their heads by their parents, teachers, priests and community leaders, was NOT to return to an independent Lithuania (by the time we were growing up, that goal seemed too distant) but to assist occupied Lithuania in every way possible to reclaim its lost independence. The commitment ended at the water's edge. Once that was reached, in August 1991, I felt (as I believe others of my generation did) a sense of jubilation mixed with profound relief that we had fulfilled our obligation and done it well. There was not then, there is not now, a sense of duty to cross the river and stay on the other side.

## **Bowling Alone**

Now that the euphoria has receded into memory, the Lithuanian-American community struggles, without success, to identify a mission for itself as compelling as the one which served it for 50 years. Some have advocated that the community now turn its attention from helping Lithuania to preserving Lithuanian language and culture, as well as all the institutions associated with them, here in

the United States. This cause lacks the simple logic, moral urgency and romanticism of the former mission. Moreover, it is not a cause that meshes well with the former mission: why would those who were brought up in the belief that they must preserve the language and culture of their forefathers only or primarily because Lithuania's ethnic survival was at risk be expected to accept a new mission of which the central premise was that Lithuania's liberation now afforded them the luxury of turning all their attention to preserving that heritage?

And yet, though the debt to Lithuania has been paid, I suspect that many in the Lithuanian diaspora are not ready or able to store away part of their heritage, as one would put a hat in a box atop a closet shelf, and move on with life. The heritage looms large over us, for our parents have done their jobs too well, perhaps better than they realized. Many of us learned the language and some of us are passing it on to our children. Most of us feel an inexorable link to Lithuanian culture, even if only in a superficial or idealized form. There is no logic to it, nor is logic even necessary. We are Lithuanians because we are Lithuanians.

It is not a rationale that can be sustained from generation to generation but it will last a while. It gives us a strong sense of identity and, over the short term, is fed by two phenomena, one in the United States, and the other in Lithuania. Clinging to our Lithuanian roots gives us a sense of "rootedness" and belonging to a community (an ethnic though not necessarily local one) in a country that is undergoing a much discussed breakdown in civil society neatly captured by the expression "bowling alone." But preserving Lithuanian language and culture in this environment has not meant that Lithuanian-Americans have melded psychologically with their now liberated cousins in Lithuania. In fact, the psychological differences are more apparent than the similarities. Far from encouraging Lithuanian-Americans to abandon their heritage, this sense of psychological distance has led them to preserve what they consider to be a unique form of Lithuanian culture, unquestionably diluted by American influence but untouched by the poisonous virus of "homo sovieticus."

Thus, though seismic changes have occurred in the geopolitical situation in Central and Eastern Europe over the last seven years and though the Lithuanian-American community has been profoundly changed in numerous ways by these events, one constant has remained: before the revolution we were somewhat different both from our American neighbors next door and our cousins in Lithuania, and we remain apart from them in important ways yet. It is this uniqueness which will continue to define us for some time to come. But the sense of purpose which drove us is gone and there is no similarly powerful substitute on the horizon.

Asta Banionis

# Lithuanian-Americans as the First Line of Defense for Lithuania

On February 12, 1996, Mrs. Regina Narušis, President of the Lithuanian-American Community, Inc., participated in a 45-minute discussion with President Clinton. Mrs. Narušis, along with her colleagues (the presidents of 18 national grassroots organizations representing over 22 million Americans of Central and East European heritage), asked for the meeting with President Clinton to discuss two issues which are vital for the national security interests of the United States: 1) the need for rapid NATO enlargement, and 2) the threat of a cut-off of U.S. foreign aid to the nations of Central and Eastern Europe.

It was a candid and productive meeting. The President assured the Coalition members that he would not delay or abandon the timetable for NATO enlargement, and agreed

On behalf of the Coalition, Mrs. Narušis asked the second of a series of five questions important to the Coalition's members. The Coalition understood that the President had a timetable for NATO enlargement, but Mrs. Narušis pressed the President, saying, "it is evident that the Russians are probing through various means of verbal threats, economic pressure and subversion to regain influence and even control of Central and Eastern Europe. When will you warn the Russian Government that the use of these measures will not be tolerated by your Administration and will be resisted by means adequate to ensure peace and stability in Europe?"

To this question, President Clinton didn't have a ready answer. He first responded that "he was sure that the Russians were not under any illusions that if they reverted to aggressive behavior, the United States will respond in an appropriate way." But as he went on to elaborate, it seemed clear that he understood the concerns of the Coalition that had led to the question. The President related that he was well aware of Russian arguments that Russia had been invaded by Napoleon and Hitler, but he also knew that no one was about to invade Russia today. He also shared his concern that Russia needed to learn to define its greatness in ways other than pushing other nations around, or controlling other nations. The President then conceded that Russian rhetoric had gotten irresponsible, but quickly added that his Administration would judge the Russians not by their rhetoric, but by their actions.



*Mrs. Regina Narušis, President, Lithuanian-American Community, Inc. (seated in center).*

with Coalition members that Russian rhetoric had gotten irresponsible on the question of NATO. The President insisted that his policy was clear and firm without being provocative. "We have a fine line to walk while maintaining a climate which is secure for Central and Eastern Europe," said the President.

The President must understand that rhetoric sometimes leads to action. Trained as a lawyer, President Clinton knows that words can have consequences; and that one can be held liable for unintended consequences. The Russian leadership, by appealing to the basest of instincts among their countrymen, can find themselves in a dangerous position of provoking Russian public

opinion to demand actions against a neighboring country. The world has enough examples of this phenomenon, whether it be Milosovic's Serbia, Saddam Hussein's Iraq, or a dozen other regimes around the world. (More on the continuing debate over NATO, later in this article.)

The Coalition is also concerned about the ever decreasing levels of foreign aid to the emerging democracies of Central and Eastern Europe. Because of deep cuts by the Republican-controlled U.S. Congress, the nations of Central and Eastern Europe will be receiving only \$324 million of technical assistance this fiscal year (1996) and, unless the Congress changes its mind, the assistance level for next year (FY 1997) will only be \$275 million. The aid is to be entirely phased out by FY 1999. During these last two years of the program, little Lithuania will be competing with Poland and nine other nations for help (Estonia and the Czech Republic have been phased out of the program this year). With the Administration needing \$500 million over three years for reconstruction aid in Bosnia, it is clear that the U.S. presence in Lithuania will shrivel, unless Lithuanian-Americans become more active in their congressional districts.

President Clinton understands this. During the meeting with the Coalition, he urged the members to get more involved in the public policy debate over U.S. leadership in the world. He reminded the participants that a little bit of foreign aid can be a very helpful tool in convincing foreign governments to go forward with a reform proposal or better international relations. He cited the example of the governments of Azerbaijan and Armenia agreeing to allow the building of a second oil pipeline in the region with help from the United States.

President Clinton thanked the members of the Coalition for defending the continued involvement of the United States in international issues and lauded the Coalition saying, "You are a symbol of the long struggle against Communism, and for freedom." The President said that he feels that the members of the Coalition have a great deal of credibility with fellow Americans and that they need to speak up to counter the forces of isolationism in the United States.

## Foreign Aid in the U.S. Congress

As BRIDGES was going to press, the U.S. Congress was attempting to resurrect H.R. 1561, the authorization bill for State Department funding and foreign aid levels for both fiscal years 1996 and 1997. Although much of the public debate on this bill has focused on the struggle between Senator Helms and the White House as to whether one of the four foreign policy agencies of the U.S. government will be eliminated, the bill greatly reduces foreign aid for Central and Eastern Europe in fiscal year 1997 (which begins October 1, 1996). We can only hope that the President will veto the bill. With a veto, the appropriations committees of the House and Senate will have a slightly

freer hand to shift resources and allow aid to Central and Eastern Europe to continue. But this won't happen unless you get involved in letting your Congressman and Senators know how you feel on this issue.

Your voice is important. Not only on the foreign aid issue, but on the NATO enlargement issue. You need to make sure your Congressman and Senators understand that you want the United States to help ensure the security of Lithuania, even in this period of uncertainty over NATO enlargement. As Dr. Paul Goble has said, "the Balts live in a dangerous neighborhood." And the Russians have stepped up their campaign to scare countries like the United States out of the neighborhood, so they can take over effective control of the territory. And it's working!

## NATO Enlargement—Lithuania's Membership Not Likely

Since last month when we reported on the Munich conference, the NATO enlargement debate has been heating up in Washington, D.C. thanks to the efforts of Senators Roth (R-DE) and Lieberman (D-CT) who were part of the U.S. delegation at Munich. These Senators have hosted two conferences on NATO's future. The first conference was held on February 23, 1996 in conjunction with NATO itself and the Center for Strategic and International Studies. The second, on March 7, 1996 was held with the Hudson Institute and the Progressive Policy Institute.

At the first conference, Sergei Karaganov, a member of Yeltsin's Presidential Council, continued the Russian tradition of issuing threats against its neighbors. Karaganov, who is author of the "Karaganov doctrine," defines Russia's role as an "active post-imperial power," a role which he believes history forces on Russia. He views the Russian-speaking population residing in the former USSR not simply as a debt (burden), but a powerful asset for Russia... "to preserve our leverage in order to have influence in the future." Karaganov charged at the February 23rd conference that the Baltic States were a threat to Russia and that Russia would never allow them to join NATO. Unfortunately, no one disputed Mr. Karaganov at the conference.

At the March 7 conference, Michael Mandelbaum, of the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies, presented the case against expanding NATO sounding much like a high school debater assigned the topic. He mustered a shot-gun approach against NATO enlargement, including the contradictory arguments that there is no threat from Russia, but that we would provoke an attack on the Baltic States and Ukraine if we allowed NATO to expand. Senator Sam Nunn (D-GA), former chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, seemed to team up with Mr. Mandelbaum even though he claimed to be a supporter of a "two-track approach to NATO enlargement". He kept insisting that we shouldn't "rush" into NATO enlargement



And for a wedding present, Sweetheart,  
I'm giving you Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia.

because there is no threat from Russia. While insistently repeating the phrase, "what's the rush?" we in the audience could only wonder if he was trying to convince himself. Senator Nunn also insisted that if we enlarged NATO then we would provoke the Russians. But if the Russians are not a threat now, why should the enlargement of a defensive alliance cause them to become a threat? NATO is not sending troops to Russian soil; NATO is not forcing NATO membership on Russia. Neither the Senator, nor Mr. Mandelbaum could explain this leap in logic.

The fact is that Russia is a threat. It threatens its neighbors with increasing frequency these days. Granted, these are verbal threats and economic pressure for now. But when will their rhetoric sweep them along into military action? Although the Russian army seems to be having its problems in controlling the Chechens, they are systematically leveling that nation. It was a mere 800 Russian troops who managed to take effective control of Shevardnadze's Georgia two years ago forcing that country into the Commonwealth of Independent States. With the Russian presidential elections a mere three months away, there is a real threat that Western leaders may be tempted to cut some deals to preserve at least a portion of Eastern Europe.

And the Russians have shown that they are not insensitive to such a proposal. On Monday, March 11, 1996 Russian Foreign Minister Yevgeny Primakov suggested at a Moscow press conference that a compromise could be found over Moscow's opposition to enlarging NATO membership. "I would have thought that one criterion for a possible compromise would be not advancing the military structure of NATO to our borders," said Primakov. That would mean that the Czech Republic and Hungary get in, while the Baltic States certainly do not. Poland may be up for grabs depending on the status of the Kaliningrad terri-

tory. Are Russian Foreign Ministry staff hard at work on a new draft of the Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact of 1939? A Primakov-(fill in the blank) Pact of 1996? But even the Czechs are worried.

Associated Press reported that on March 12, while addressing the Czech parliament, Czech President Vaclav Havel, recovering from recent cancer surgery, delivered an impassioned plea for the West to reject Russian threats and expand NATO, warning of "a new Munich". "Nationalism, appeasement and isolationism all threaten a continent which has a rare chance to unite in the pursuit of democracy and human rights." President Havel recalled how Czechoslovakia was sold out by Western allies at Munich in 1938, when Britain and France allowed Adolf Hitler to annex border lands mostly inhabited by ethnic Germans. "Once we have bitterly tasted the constraints of European democracy, which chose the policy of concessions to evil. The danger of a new Munich again hovers over Europe." He continued, "The internal transformation of NATO, and its expansion, are matters which concern us as much as Europe as a whole and indirectly the whole world".

Now, where do we fit in? What can Lithuanian-Americans do to help protect Lithuania? A Rand Corporation report published in late January, 1996, with its blunt analysis should bring home the message that the Lithuanian-American Community, Inc. has been trying to impress on its membership for the last year.

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The Rand report goes on to say that  
"it is only the vocal, well-organized  
Baltic American communities which  
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The Rand report calls on NATO to develop a "Baltic strategy", since it is "unlikely that NATO will accept the Balts in the first expansion effort." The purpose for the separate strategy is as follows, "How do we ensure that there is no East-West confrontation over the Baltic states, while we're enlarging NATO?" Note that the standard is not how do we preserve Baltic independence and territorial integrity, but the desire of the United States to avoid conflict.

The Rand report goes on to say that "it is only the vocal, well-organized Baltic American communities which make Baltic security and continued independence an item for U.S. policy makers to be concerned about." Otherwise,

Baltic independence is merely a problem for the United States, because it complicates our relations with Russia and it poses a threat to Northern European security by endangering the current balance. The Rand analysts also point out that, "The Baltic issue has always had a disproportionate impact in U.S. political life."

It is up to you, **BRIDGES** readers, to make sure that political fact of life continues, especially in this presidential election year. You are the first line of defense for Lithuania. If you don't speak up for Lithuania and its security, no one else will.

## Update on Lithuania: A Caretaker Government Attempts a Salvage Campaign

On February 8, 1996 Lithuania's President Brazauskas managed to round up enough votes to remove Prime Minister Šleževičius from office. Of the 139 members of the parliament (2 LDLP members have died while in office and have not been replaced), 123 came to vote that day—a record number for the Lithuanian parliament, since most laws from Spring, 1993 have been adopted with fewer than 60 members showing up to vote.

The opposition members of the parliament and most independent members of the parliament were solidly in favor of the prime minister's removal. But, the Lithuanian Democratic Labor Party's (LDLP) national council as well as its presidium had voted to support its leader, Šleževičius, on the previous weekend, so Brazauskas needed to convince a critical number of his "former" LDLP colleagues in the parliament to defect from the party's position. (Under Lithuania's 1992 Constitution, the President must give up any individual party leadership role based on the notion that the President will thereby be non-partisan.) The final vote in parliament was 93 to remove, 26 supported Šleževičius to stay, 4 abstained, and 12 simply didn't show up to vote. More importantly, with that vote, Brazauskas reestablished his pre-eminence in the party.

Brazauskas moved quickly appointing Mindaugas Stankevičius acting Prime Minister the same day. He then proceeded to line up the needed votes to make his candidate the permanent Prime Minister. The parliament voted on Thursday, February 15, to confirm Stankevičius. Brazauskas then approved the cabinet, most of whom are holdovers from the Šleževičius regime. Only six are new—four have moved up from within the bureaucracies of their ministries and two are LDLP members of parliament.

Mindaugas Stankevičius is himself a former Brazauskas-Šleževičius appointee. Since June, 1994 he had served as Minister of Administrative Reforms and Municipal Government following a long career as a loyal Soviet bureaucrat. Much of his ministry's time was taken up trying to prevent the decentralization of government authority in Lithuania.

On the same day that he won the parliament's approval for his new government, Brazauskas delivered his annual address on the state of the nation. Reuters reported that President Brazauskas said it was too early to say whether the country's banking problems constituted a real economic crisis. If the people of Lithuania thought they were electing "competent communists" in the October, 1992 parliamentary elections and February, 1993 presidential elections, subsequent events have proved those wishful sentiments wrong.

Now that tens of thousands of Lithuanian families and small businessmen have lost their assets in the government's closure of two of the country's largest private banks, it is not surprising that production is down and inflation has accelerated. Inflation in January, 1996 was 3.2 percent and in February 2.4 percent with the greatest price increases registered in food products (8.1 percent). As much as the Brazauskas-Šleževičius government has wanted to take credit for an improved economy, their performance after the litas was introduced, has been marginal. Prices have risen 108 percent since December, 1993.

And the country is still unable to pay its energy bills. **BRIDGES** readers will remember that the triggering event for the closure of two private banks in December was the attempted purchase of \$14 million worth of nuclear fuel rods for the Ignalina power plant. After the Lithuanian Stock-Innovation Bank filled a purchase order for its client, the Ignalina Power Plant (read: Lithuania's Energy Ministry), the "promised" \$14 million loan from abroad never materialized, triggering the closure of the bank by the central bank of Lithuania. On Thursday, March 7, the new Energy Minister, Saulius Kutas, had to reduce the Ignalina nuclear power plant's electricity production to 1,700 megawatts (down from its full capacity of 2,400 megawatts) because of a shortage of nuclear fuel. As **BRIDGES** was going to print, it was not clear whether the nuclear fuel rods would arrive in time or whether Ignalina might close because of a lack of fuel.

By the week of March 11 natural gas supplies had been cut to 2.9 million cubic meters per day (down from 12 million cubic meters) by GAZPROM, the Russian natural gas supplier, because of the supposed failure of Lithuania to pay at least \$36 million for past usage. The new government has ordered oil, coal and other energy reserves to be used as a substitute for the dwindling natural gas supply.

And the Mažeikiai oil refinery has been idle much of the last five months. It received some crude oil in late January from the Russian oil company, Lukoil, but it sufficed for only 10 days of round-the-clock production. For the last few years Lukoil has leased 80 percent of the refinery's capacity, but has failed to deliver the crude oil which has left Mažeikiai underutilized or idle on many occasions.

*continued on page 20*



**Algis Rimas**

## Business and Investment News

### Lithuania's Collapsing Banks Topple the Prime Minister

Lithuania's banking crisis claimed more victims in early February: the leading one being Prime Minister Adolfas Šleževičius. Acting upon the recommendation of President Brazauskas, the Seimas balloted across party lines to fire Mr. Šleževičius for his conduct related to the bank closures. Mindaugas Stankevičius, formerly the Minister of Local Government Affairs, was later voted-in as Lithuania's seventh post-independence prime minister.

Opposition to Mr. Šleževičius had been growing in the aftermath of the banking crisis. His critics charged that, even if the banks that had been targeted in the government's crack-down were as shaky as they appeared, others, including the major public sector banks, would have been in no better shape. Bad loans appeared to be the rule, not the exception, throughout the poorly capitalized banking system. Indeed, representatives of the World Bank had been talking of the apparent lack of liquidity at the state commercial bank and the savings bank, just as they had earlier warned of problems in the Joint-Stock Innovation and Litimpeks banks.

Why then did the central bank go after only the Joint-Stock Innovation and Litimpeks banks? Was it a coincidence that the two were closed shortly after announcing a merger which would have given them a huge 30 percent share of Lithuania's deposits? Accusations flew that there was more to these bank closures than effective policing of bad banks. Cynics and the merely suspicious saw in the move a deliberate act of official collusion to benefit shadowy business interests at the expense of the closed banks and their many depositors.

In the end, Mr. Šleževičius was forced out over the handling of his own personal bank account. The Lithuanian media revealed that Mr. Šleževičius, along with the Minister of the Interior and other high officials, had been maintaining substantial savings deposits in the Joint Stock Innovation Bank at far above market rates of interest. They then apparently used their insiders' knowledge to withdraw the funds just before the bank was shut down. Needless to

*Algis Rimas is a business consultant living in Reston, Virginia. Before retiring from the U.S. Foreign Service, he served from 1992 to 1994 at the American Embassy in Vilnius as its deputy principal officer.*

say, this did not endear Mr. Šleževičius to angry bank depositors who had lost their savings or to his political foes.

Mr. Šleževičius may still land another government job. Rumors were flying in Vilnius that Mr. Šleževičius was in the running to become the next Ambassador to Great Britain. If named, he would succeed former Ambassador Rajeckas, who was recalled home from London after publicly lambasting Mr. Šleževičius and even offering to testify against him in court in the event of any future litigation.

As for the new prime minister, Mr. Stankevičius indicated that economic recovery would rank high in his priorities and that he would seek to continue the economic policies of the previous government. He said that small business would be encouraged, foreign banks would be welcomed to set up shop, and the rate of privatization of state-owned companies would increase. In other statements, assurances were given that the local currency, the litas, would remain tied to the U.S. dollar at the current exchange rate of four to one.

To calm the atmosphere of suspicion and recrimination swirling in the wake of his predecessor's departure, Mr. Stankevičius surprisingly saw fit to announce that he was not linked to any shadowy business groups.

With a new prime minister, other cabinet changes are expected. Among the first will be a new Finance Minister to succeed Mr. Reinoldijus Šarkinas who was named to head the Bank of Lithuania, the country's central bank. Although not a professional banker, Mr. Šarkinas is highly regarded for his integrity and expertise in financial affairs. The Finance Ministry had earned high marks for efficiency under his stewardship. Other vacancies to be filled now include the posts of Interior Minister and the Communications Minister.

### What next in the Banking Crisis?

Following a review of the banking system, an international team of IMF and World Bank experts issued a report with their recommendations. Among them was the establishment of an agency to recover bad bank loans and reimburse depositors and the merger of three closed commercial banks (Joint-Stock Innovation, Litimpeks and Vakarų banks) The total cost of the rescue package was estimated at \$325 million to be financed partly from government borrowings.

The idea of setting up a special agency to recover bad loans has been warmly received. According to some observers, up to one-third of the bad loans may be collected with a minimum of effort as borrowers are defaulted holding companies in possession of viable subsidiaries. Less warmly received was the recommendation to merge illiquid banks with state owned banks. Neither the government nor the opposition politicians appear sold on this approach. In fact, the managements of the closed banks appear to be working on separate plans to restructure their banks.

In the meantime, arrangements have been made to pay bank depositors a maximum of 1000 litas per account under the terms of the deposit insurance law passed by the Seimas. Companies whose accounts were frozen have also been granted a reprieve from penalties on delayed tax payments. Such companies, caught short of cash, are yet far from happy.

February also marked the failure of yet another commercial bank. The small Commerce and Credit Bank, owned by the conglomerate, EBSW company of Kaunas, closed its doors. The bank had registered deposits of 3.5 million litas.

## Foreign Investors Grumble about the Business Climate in Lithuania

The American Chamber of Commerce recently hosted a meeting of 50 foreign-based firms to present complaints to Algis Avižienis, the head of the Lithuanian Investment Agency. The companies were not pleased with the apparent deterioration in the business climate faced by foreign investors and their frozen funds in the closed banks. The companies demanded that steps be taken to recover their cash accounts from the collapsed banks. They charged that government officials have been focusing most of their concern on satisfying household depositors and ignoring business interests.

The views of those foreign investors appear to have been echoed to some extent by the U.S. Heritage Foundation. It has issued a report ranking 140 countries on the degree of their economic freedom. The countries were ranked according to such measures as open trade policies, transparent and equitable tax laws, the share of the national product attributed to government activity, fiscal policy, openness to foreign investment, degree of government regulation, effectiveness of the banking system and the extent to which an informal shadow economy dominates the national economy. Lithuania placed 100th in the rankings, far behind Estonia in 26th place and behind Latvia in 71st place. Lithuania barely edged out Russia which came next in the rankings.

## Update on the Lithuanian economy

Not all the news is bad. To the contrary, according to data released by the Lithuania's Statistics Department, in 1995, the country's decline in output has been reversed: following several years of diminishing production and stagnation, the GNP rose in real terms by 3.1 percent. Before the banking crisis hit, projections were for a further 4.2 percent growth in 1996. Inflation in 1995 dropped to an annual rate of 35 percent (prices soared over 1,000 percent in 1992), and it may go down to 20 percent this year. The price index was buoyed by high utilities bills to cover higher costs of imported energy.

Less encouraging were statistics on joblessness. The unemployment rate is rising: it went up to 7.3 percent at the close of 1995 and climbed to 7.9 percent in January. January turned out to be a bad month in general: in the wake of the banking crisis, consumer sales nose-dived by over 20 percent, and prices jumped by 3.2 percent for the month. Later, the Russian natural gas exporter, Gazprom, complaining of an unpaid Lithuanian gas debt for \$36 million, cut the flow of natural gas to Lithuania by one-third, from 12 to 9 million cubic meters per day. This generated one of the first crises to be confronted by Prime Minister Stankevičius. He is negotiating with Gazprom to work out repayments and restore supplies.

Lithuania's overall foreign debt peaked at over one billion dollars in January. It is expected to reach \$1.4 billion in 1996. The largest creditor is the International Monetary Fund. It is owed over \$420 million. Much of this money is being used to form a stabilization fund to maintain the exchange rate of the litas. The European Union is the second key creditor, having loaned over \$13 million. It is followed by the World Bank (over \$9 million), The European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (close to \$7 million), the U.S. Department of Agriculture-run Commodity Credit Corporation, which is to be paid back \$50 million for feed-grain shipped, and the Japanese Export Import Bank (about \$45 million).

In 1996, the Lithuanian government anticipates borrowing an additional \$200 million, mostly for development projects and industrial expansion. Some \$50 million may be sought from the World Bank to fix the banking system. In contrast to current borrowing plans aimed to pay for capital expenditures, much of the previous foreign debt was incurred to maintain consumption by subsidizing imported energy and food. President Brazauskas answered concerns over Lithuania's growing indebtedness by pointing out that its per capita foreign debt is a paltry \$220 compared to the \$1100 owed by the Poles or the \$900 owed foreign creditors by the Czechs.

The government's budget is doing better than expected. With collected revenues of 5.75 billion litas in 1995, the 490 million litas deficit was smaller than anticipated. The value added tax (VAT) is the country's main source of tax income, contributing over two billion litas to the treasury. Personal income taxes are second in importance. The deficit was financed through bond floatations.

In 1996, government borrowing costs may become more expensive. Following the banking crisis, yields on one-month maturity government bills rose to a 29 percent annual rate in January and those on three-month instruments rose to 32 percent. This was a reversal of the declining interest rates being paid on government paper in 1995. Curiously, interest rates on term deposits in commercial banks declined in January, presumably because commercial banks were leary of attracting too many volatile depositors who would pull their accounts at the first rumors of renewed bank troubles. For example, Vilnius Bank was offering only an annual rate of 12 percent on litas deposits and eight percent on hard currency deposits. Former prime minister Abišala, currently in business as a management consultant, questioned the lower rates as being unsustainable and thought that banks would soon need to resumé competing for deposits in order to survive.

## Update on Major Investment Projects

According to the Lithuanian government's public sector investment program for the years 1996-1998, priority will be given to fund energy, transportation and environmental protection projects. Almost two billion dollars, much of it to be borrowed, have been earmarked to carry out some 250 specific projects.

A leading project is the construction of the Butingė offshore oil handling terminal and associated facilities. The U.S. company, Fluor Daniel, has been awarded a five million dollar loan from the U.S. Export Import Bank for design work. Up to \$80 million in loans may be considered for subsequent stages. The Lithuanian government has spent some 30 million litas on ground preparation and it is reportedly considering a special bond issue to fund further work.

Improvements of the Mažeikiai oil refinery are also pending the acquisition of adequate funds. A U.S. company, Public Resources Infrastructure (PRI) reportedly is seeking to come up with \$30 million to fund improvements. These would be the first stage of an \$120 million expansion program prepared by another U.S. engineering company, Foster Wheeler.

The Klaipėda oil handling facility formed a joint venture with a Colombia, S.A. based company, Lancaster Distral Inc., owned by Colombian-Lithuanians, Algis and Vytautas Didžiuliai, to build a new terminal in the port city for the handling of oil products. The joint venture expects to secure \$40-50 million for the project which is already under construction. Reportedly, the ABN AMRO Bank N.V., a Dutch bank, has offered loan commitments which have been guaranteed by the Lithuanian government. Work on the project reportedly had suffered delays when the joint venture lost the use of its cash balances frozen in the now defunct Vakarų Bank.

The banking crisis also slowed down progress in developing a planned aircraft overhaul project at the Šiauliai airport. Baltic International USA, a Houston based investment company, reportedly is reviewing the project's feasibility after its Lithuanian partner, Šiaulių aviacija, had its bank accounts frozen in one of the closed banks.

## Business Success Stories

Despite all obstacles, there are Lithuanian companies that are innovating, selling and making profits. Here is a sampling.

Body Shop, move over. Five entrepreneurs from left the Vilnius biochemical research institute and started to manufacture cosmetics, body cremes and lotions. They use only natural products, like Lithuanian daisies. Sales reportedly are booming. The company, **Biok**, now exports to western Europe and Canada. It has reportedly displaced Russian cosmetics from the domestic market.

**Skalmantas**, another small upstart Vilnius company, is breaking through in the niche market for riding saddles and equipment. It produces quality but low-cost leather saddles and other riding equipment for the western European market. The management reports expanding sales in the face of low cost competition from India and Mexico.

Some old line manufacturing companies are also rising from the ashes. The **Panevėžys Glass Company** is one. It has overcome past problems and started to operate profitably. The company produces plate glass and other products, mainly for the export markets. A U.S. company, Owens-Corning, may be interested in acquiring a controlling share of the Panevėžys firm.

Vytautas Butrimas

# At the C-Kukis, enter...

Feeling computer illiterate in Lithuanian? Here's some help from Vytautas Butrimas, our man in Vilnius. Actually, Vytautas is an American-Lithuanian from Rochester, New York who moved to Lithuania to marry Dr. Irena Padleckaitė and now works in the Ministry of Information in Vilnius.

Computer technology has been used in Lithuania for a long time. **BRIDGES** readers might be interested to know that Lithuania during the Soviet Period was part of the Soviet Military Industrial Complex. Lithuania wrote software for military applications in addition to making "clones" of IBM 360/370 and DEC PDP-11 to VAX main-

frame computers. Examples of these can be found at the old SIGMANTA main factory site in Vilnius (Sigmanta Computer Museum). Many of these old Lithuanian made systems have since disappeared (very valuable as scrap since a lot of gold was used in the components) or have been replaced by smaller and more modern systems. In 1993/1994 Lithuania gained access to IBM's new Power PC technology. The SIGMANTA company in Vilnius now assembles personal computers and specialised work stations based upon the PowerPC RISC microprocessor. I am working with 3 of these Lithuanian "made" (assembled) computers here at work: they all bear the Sigmanta logo and have IBM certified parts inside.

bit ..... bitas  
 boot ..... pradinė keltis  
 bootstrap ..... pradinė kelties programa  
 break key ..... pertraukimo klavišas  
 bus ..... magistralė  
 byte ..... baitas  
 cache memory ..... greitoji atmintis  
 CPU ..... centrinis procesorius  
 chip ..... integrinė schema  
 communication link ..... ryšio linija  
 communication port ..... ryšio prievadas  
 computer ..... kompiūteris  
 controller ..... valdiklis  
 cursor ..... žymėklis  
 data ..... duomenys  
 data base ..... duomenų bazė  
 debugging ..... derinimas  
 directory ..... katalogas  
 disk ..... diskas arba winchesteris (see Winchester disk)  
 dot-matrix printer ..... adatinis spausdintuvas  
 driver ..... tvarkyklė  
 editing ..... redagavimas  
 E-Mail ..... kompiūterinis paštas  
 EMS ..... papildomoji atmintis  
 enter key ..... įvesties klavišas  
 escape key ..... išvesties klavišas  
 extended memory (XMS) ..... pratęstoji atmintis  
 field ..... laukas  
 file ..... byla, rinkmena  
 file extension ..... bylos (vardo) pletinys  
 file server ..... bylų aptarnavimo stotis  
 font ..... šriftas  
 format ..... formatas, ženklinti  
 function key ..... funkcinis klavišas  
 hardware ..... kompiūterinė įranga  
 printer ..... spausdintuvas  
 programming ..... programavimas  
 programming language ..... programavimo kalba  
 prompt ..... kukis  
 query ..... užklausa  
 keyboard ..... klaviatūra  
 RAM ..... tiesioginė kreipties atmintis  
 raster ..... taškinė matrica

ROM ..... pastovioji atmintis  
 record ..... įrašas  
 register ..... registras  
 restart ..... pakartotinis paleidimas  
 return key ..... eilutės baigties klavišas  
 root directory ..... pagrindinis katalogas  
 routing ..... kelio parinkimas  
 saving ..... išimimas  
 scanner ..... skaitlys  
 screen management ..... vaizdo valdymas  
 search ..... paieška  
 search key ..... paieškos raktas  
 segment and offset ..... segmentas ir poslinkis  
 sequential access ..... nuosekloji kreiptis  
 server ..... tarnybinė stotis  
 session (layer) protocol ..... protokolas  
 shift (lock) key ..... registro (perjungimo) klavišas  
 simulation ..... modeliavimas  
 software ..... programinė įranga  
 sort ..... rūšiavimas  
 spreadsheet ..... skaičiuoklė, dinaminė lentelė  
 stack ..... deklas  
 statement ..... sakinys  
 stop bit ..... stabdos bitas  
 storage ..... atmintis  
 string type ..... eilutės tipas  
 style sheet ..... budinys  
 subdirectory ..... pakatalogas  
 system programmer ..... sistemų programuotojas  
 template ..... maketas  
 text formatting ..... teksto tvarkymas  
 text processing ..... teksto ruošimas  
 token ..... specialusis signalas, specialusis ženklas  
 unauthorized access ..... neleistinoji kreiptis  
 user interface ..... vartotojo saveikos priemonės  
 variable ..... kintamasis  
 Winchester disk ..... išorinis diskų atminties įrenginys  
 (from IBM hard disk drive factory in Winchester England.  
 Vincesterio diskas synonymous with hard disk drive)  
 word processing ..... teksto apdorojimas  
 work station ..... (kompiūterizuota) darbo vieta  
 XMS ..... pratęstoji atmintis

**Palmira and Robertas Jucevičiai**

# A View of Two Fulbright Scholars From Lithuania to America and From America to Lithuania

A decade ago it would have been unimaginable for two Lithuanian scholars in the social sciences who were married to each other to spend half a year in the US conducting university research. After Lithuania restored its independence, however, this possibility became a reality. And these two scholars will be celebrating their Silver Wedding anniversary this year.

The two Lithuanian scholars are Palmira Jucevičienė, Doctor of Education, Professor and Head of the Department of Management Social Systems in the Faculty of Administration at Kaunas University of Technology, and Robertas Jucevičius, Doctor of Management and Associate Professor in the School of Business and Management at Vytautas Magnus University in Kaunas. Palmira conducted research at Purdue University at Calumet on the problems of human resource development in the context of organizational behavior and on the development of higher education. Robertas investigated aspects of strategic management in the Krannert Graduate School of Management at Purdue University in West Lafayette.

Robertas has prepared a monograph for publication entitled "Strategic Management of Organizations." Palmira presented a report on "Contemporary Higher Education" to the Science Council of Lithuania and prepared the second edition of her book, *Organizational Behavior*, at Kaunas University of Technology. The following are excerpts from their final report.

**What is most important.** We came back having made many friends and academic contacts in America, having seen the overseas life of Lithuanian people who had left their country forced by different circumstances many years ago and who never forgot their native land, and having met their children and grandchildren.

**Briefly, where we have been and what we have seen in America.** We lived in Hammond, Indiana, in the home of two wonderful people — Judy and Ed Perkinson. Their impressive house is next to Purdue University, Calumet. Thus, for Palmira it was very convenient to reach her

workplace while Robertas had to drive quite a long distance to West Lafayette.

We came to the United States in the beginning of February 1995. In late March, we participated in the Midwest Association of Business Administration conference in Chicago. In April we took part in the International Academy of Business Disciplines Conference in Los Angeles, California. Invited by Dr. Irena Lange, we visited California State University at Fullerton. Dr. Lange is a department chair at this university and also served as a member of the Advisory Board of the Faculty of Administration of Kaunas University of Technology. Dr. Irena helped us meet other scholars at California State University and to visit some places of interest in the region.

We managed to work at Purdue University very intensively and efficiently. In addition, we took part in some professional seminars and meetings of various associations and organizations (mostly through the efforts of Professor Gideon Falk). In the summer our son, Giedrius, came to visit us and we traveled around. We visited New York, Washington and Florida. In New York, invited by Professor Charles Wankel, we visited St. John's University. In Washington, we had the pleasure of being the guests of Dr. Stasys Bačkaitis. Dr. Bačkaitis, in addition to his work for the U.S. government, does a great deal for Kaunas University of Technology in his role as Chairman of the Advisory Board of the Faculty of Administration.

So we had a chance to visit many places in America and to meet many people both in the academic environment and in our free time. At the end of July, after a successful work period and full of new impressions, we came back to Lithuania.

Some time passed, and half a year after our return, we can more seriously reflect on what we had experienced in America as Lithuanian people, and what thoughts about Lithuania this experience inspired.

## Our Impressions about America

**American People.** The most striking impression was the benevolence of Americans, although they tried to convince us that "in America we also have different people." However, we succeeded in meeting those people who were willing to give a hand to others; those who, talking about other people, praised them instead of blaming. When we had some problems (for example, going to the conference in California), many of these people were happy to help us. We still remember the phrase which we used to hear so often in the academic environment: "no problem..."

It seemed that work problems were solved without any efforts in both branches of Purdue University. We wish to mention those colleagues who contributed a great deal to enriching and deepening our spiritual and academic experience. They are professors James B. Dvorkin, Gideon Falk, J. Hussain, I. Kamalipour, Pat Obi, Dan Schendel, and Sandra Singer.

Wonderful Judy and Ed Perkinson, our hosts who later became our close friends, also revealed to us some new values. We used to call Mrs. Perkinson "little great Judy." The first adjective describes her height, and the second — her achievements. With her energy and resolution, she can be a good example for Lithuanian women, who should realize that they also can do great things in life and that the surrounding world is much wider than a housewife's kitchen. The female students of the Faculty of Administration at Kaunas University of Technology listened with interest to Judy's lecture about women in the business world and about their career opportunities.

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Before coming to the U.S., we had  
read a lot about American families  
falling to pieces, about unstable  
human relationships, etc. We had to  
change our views radically.

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One more thing. Judy and Ed were a convincing example that happy family life does not necessarily start early. People of mature age can also find their great love and happiness.

Now we would like to say some words about American families in general. Before coming to the U.S., we had read a lot about American families falling to pieces, about unstable human relationships, etc. We had to change our views radically. In our environment, we met people who highly valued family life and marriage, who discovered

their happiness and meaning of life in a family. We were happy to observe this.

Dear reader, please don't think that we are extreme idealists and that we do not notice the problems. We observed them in America, too, even in family life. For example, we met a family with one of the partners being such a tyrant that we never heard about a similar case in Lithuania. But, of course, it is an episodic impression which does not allow us to draw conclusions...One more thing. It is positive that American children are independent. However, sometimes this independence weakens spiritual ties between parents and their children....

**American Nature.** was something wonderful and very unexpected for us. In our dreams we saw America as a country of skyscrapers. But we discovered that one-story America is much larger, although some skyscrapers are really very impressive. However, we never expected to find such a wonderful, diverse and well-protected environment in the country of high technology.

**Lithuanians in America.** They are really very close to our hearts. We met a number of our compatriots, but the people we knew before coming to the U.S. and those we met in America really impressed us and remain in our memories.

Always in our thoughts about the Lithuanians in America, right since the restoring of independence in Lithuania, was Mr. Jonas Kavaliūnas. He was the man who came to cold, suffering-from-the-blockade Lithuania and asked, "How can I help you?" Present Bachelors of Business Administration still remember his German classes; our family, the cultured and highly educated Mr. Jonas and Mrs. Onutė. It was a big sorrow for us to find out that last summer was the last time we would meet Mrs. O. Kavaliuniene.

We knew that the Lithuanian community in America is very strong and has long traditions. We knew not only Mr. Kavaliūnas, but also other people who were devoted to the renewal of Lithuania. They are the above-mentioned Dr. S. Bačkaitis, Dr. I. Lange, Prof. E. Jasaitis. Professor Jasaitis still lives in Lithuania and has a position as the Head of the Department of Public Administration at Kaunas University of Technology. He initiated the Master of Public Administration Program in Lithuania. Thus, we knew all these people before our visit and they helped us to form the best impressions about our compatriots in America.

New contacts in the USA strengthened these impressions. Here we met the honorable prelate Ignas Urbonas. We listened to his deep sermons in the Church of the Gary parish. We also met there many other people from the Lithuanian parish. We owe our visit to this parish to Mrs. Birutė and Mr. Antanas Vilučiai. It is impossible to forget these people who house is full of Lithuanian spirit and feeling of Lithuanian reality.

**Lithuanian Reality.** Most of the Lithuanians in America perceive this reality. However, we met some optimists and pessimists among these people. We respect both types. In reality, we can name people of both of these types realists. They understand that the current situation in Lithuania is very controversial and complicated, particularly in an economic sense.

The optimists are realists who not only believe in the bright future of Lithuania but also contribute a great deal to achieving this future. Among them are all of the above-mentioned people and, of course, many others. We would like to say many warm words, particularly about the family of Dr. S. Bačkaitis, about his wife and daughters, whose patriotism and professionalism are really appreciated in Lithuania; also about the daughter of Dr. Kavaliūnas — Sigutė, her family and friends, and about many other people. Their spiritual ties to Lithuania inspire optimism in us.

We also met some pessimists — realists who are so worried about current difficulties in Lithuania, and particularly about the moral decadence of the people, that they can hardly see the light at the end of the tunnel. Such a view is characteristic among older people, and this is not surprising. The main factor of such a view is TIME. These people, who want so much to see THE PROSPERING LITHUANIA, may be short of it.

We can tell to these patriarchs, “Life continues in our children.” Our young people will surely see THE NEW LITHUANIA.

We would like to say to our gray-haired compatriots, who suffered so much: thank you for YOUR BEING WITH US. Thank you for the possibility to visit the Lithuanian Chapel in the Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, for being in the Lithuanian Church in Chicago, to feel like in the Kaunas Cathedral. Thank you for the strength of the Lithuanian Community and Lithuanian families, and for telling people of different nationalities about Lithuania. Thank you for bringing up your children and grandchildren in the Lithuanian spirit. They are those optimists-realists who do so much for Lithuania.

### **What are our Impressions about Lithuania After Coming Back from America?**

Clearly, it is too difficult a task to compare these two countries. Not only because many areas of life in America are much more developed, but also because many things are just **different**. It is not realistic to find America in Lithuania. The crucial thing is the initiative in solving the problems in our country.

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It is very important to overcome the feeling of inferiority. ... In the first year of independence, we used to treat every foreign professor or professional coming to Lithuania almost like a prophet. We used to accept their views and information as the unique truth.

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The future of Lithuania is really bright, although we have to go a long and difficult way. Lithuanians are hard-working people and creative people. Therefore, it is very important to create conditions for initiative for these people. The Lithuanian government should encourage this initiative instead of hindering it. The U.S. could serve as a good example of real democracy.

Lithuanian universities have many young people who can compete by their intelligence, skills and knowledge with the students of any other country. Their education should be the first priority for the country, since we do not have any other strategically important resources. Unfortunately, the number of state-financed students in Lithuania is decreasing, and most of the families cannot afford to pay for education. This problem is a kind of syndrome of a “beggar economy,” but the Lithuanian state should not scrimp on this area.

It is very important to overcome the feeling of inferiority. Fortunately, more and more Lithuanian people are getting rid of this feeling. In the first year of independence, we used to treat every foreign professor or professional coming to Lithuania almost like a prophet. We used to accept their views and information as the unique truth. Now, we realize that Lithuanian professionals also can do a lot in the current situation. If our professionals got support from young Lithuanian people and their Western colleagues, particularly from the Lithuanian community in America, they could do great things for the future of Lithuania.

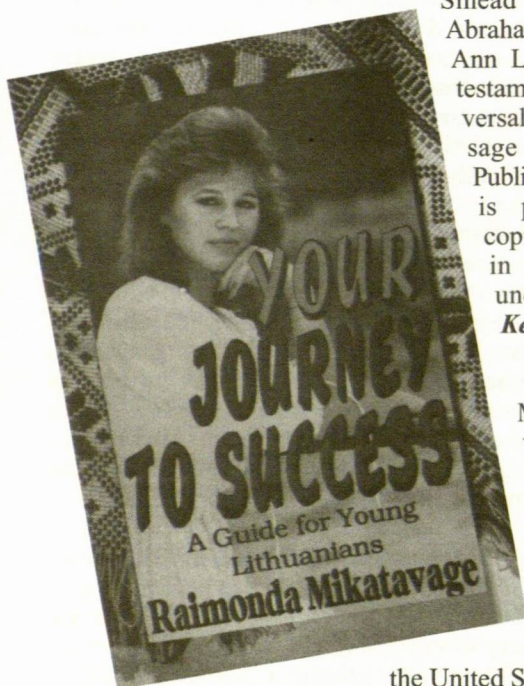
Diana Vidutis

## Here's ... Raimonda!

The decisions we make before we turn 30 quite often influence the rest of our lives. *Your Journey to Success: A Guide for Young Lithuanians* by Raimonda Mikatavage offers strategies for young people to achieve success and happiness.

Written in a popular self-help style, the author draws from the teachings of M. Scott Peck, Brian Tracy, and many others and applies them to the situation of Lithuanian-Americans. Quotes abound from such varied sources as

Sinead O'Connor, Abraham Lincoln and Ann Landers. It is a testament to the universality of her message that Šviesa Publishers in Vilnius is printing 5000 copies of her book in Lithuanian under the title, *Kelionė į Sėkmę*.



Raimonda Mikatavage was born and lived in Kaunas, Lithuania for ten years until her family's defection to

the United States during the

Cold War in 1972. Her book is a culmination of seven years of research in the area of personal development.

"As young Lithuanians, no matter where we live, our happiness and success depend on the life choices and decisions we make — the relationships we invite, the work we pursue, the spiritual growth we seek." Raimonda Mikatavage addresses the emotional, spiritual and economic injury suffered by the Lithuanian people under communism. "On top of that, the regained freedom was sudden. People were caught unprepared. In making important life decisions, many have tried to apply the same old thoughts, the same attitudes, the same behaviors. They no longer work. Many Lithuanians are scampering to rebuild eco-

nomically, often forgetting to first rebuild emotionally and spiritually."

There will be readers who scoff at the style of *Journey To Success*, but I suspect it is these same readers who themselves were raised on heavy-duty negative reinforcement and would scoff at anyone's genuine attempt at self-examination, self-improvement and self-acceptance. The power of positive thinking has yet to enter the mainstream of Lithuanian culture, in Lithuania or among most Lithuanian-Americans. Raimonda's book is a foray into the world of personal empowerment and responsibility, and I, for one, am happy to see a Lithuanian finally take that first step.

Here is what some readers are saying about the book:

"...*Your Journey to Success* is a warm, creative and enlightening guide book for young Lithuanians, teaching them how they can find the strength, creativity and perseverance to create a wonderful world for themselves and their community."

— Linas Kojelis, President,  
The U.S. Baltic Foundation

"As a long-time social worker, I find the author's insight on today's problems valuable not only to Lithuanian youth, but to Americans as well. Extremely well-written."

—Anna Klizas Wargo, National President,  
Knights of Lithuania, 1988-1991

"Those who make the investment of time and treasure in buying and reading this book will be rewarded with dividends that enhance both their search for career success as well as their search for meaning."

—George Allen Ward, recipient of the  
"Friend of Lithuania" award

"A remarkably personal and articulate analysis of the importance of our values, beliefs and choices. A diary that is too good to be kept secret."

—Svajūnas Nekrašas, Fulbright Scholar,  
American University

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Jeanne Dorr

## The Youngsters of Linelis

It has often been said that charity begins at home. For those of us lucky enough to live in cities where the Lithuanian children's dance group, *LINELIS*, performed, we were able to provide them with a combination of Lithuanian and American hospitality. No, we didn't give them care packages, medical supplies, or educational gifts. Instead, we gave them our hearts.

Although I attended the dance festival in Lithuania in 1994, I cannot honestly say that I remember *LINELIS*. All the groups were so talented that I didn't know where to look while they were performing.

But it was at the dance festival in Vilnius that their plans for the journey to America would take root. The dance groups visiting from abroad were paired with Lithuanian groups. *KLUMPĖS* from Illinois was teamed with *LINELIS*, a group from Panevėžys. The friendship grew and became cemented. When *KLUMPĖS* returned to America, they learned that the International Institute program for 1995 would feature children. They arranged for *LINELIS* to receive an invitation to the festival which is held in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

The big day finally arrived and *LINELIS* flew to Chicago. They were met by local Lithuanians who also acted as their hosts. They spent their first night in America with their Chicago hosts and the next day a caravan of cars drove the sixteen children and eight adults to Milwaukee. There *LINELIS* joined children from all over the world and performed 17 dances a day at the festival. When free time occurred, the group was hosted by Milwaukee's Lithuanians. They were treated to sightseeing, shopping trips, but most importantly, they were invited to be part of Milwaukee's Lithuanian families. They told me they cried when they left Milwaukee, and I'm sure their hosts also shed a few tears.

Who and what is *LINELIS*? *LINELIS* has several different dance groups. In some families, there are three generations dancing in three different groups. The age differs, the groups differ, and the dances differ. What remains constant is their enthusiasm and their love for dance. The company is led by Irena Rutkauskienė who is an accomplished ballerina. This group is quite a family affair. Irena's husband is a musician with the group and her daughter, Ingrida, is also a dance instructor. Ingrida is a primary teacher who is beautiful enough to be a professional model. She turned many heads as we were touring the city of Philadelphia.

### Thanksgiving in Philadelphia

Our role in Philadelphia was a rather small part of their trip. Details of *LINELIS*'s arrival and the length of their stay were rather sketchy. They received an invitation to march in the Philadelphia Thanksgiving Day Parade which



was hosted by the local ABC affiliate, Channel 6. This is a very large parade and thousands of people line the parade route early in the morning. There are many thousands more who view the three-hour parade on television. Several people in the Philadelphia Chapter of the Lithuanian-American Community were in charge of arrangements which seemed to be changing every day. I have to admit

that when I was asked to help, for the first time ever, I said, "No." I am having an extremely difficult school year and there was no way I was going to spend my Thanksgiving weekend with children, any children, even if they were from Lithuania. But things began to get desperate and we couldn't find people to take the group. It was a holiday weekend and many families were away while others had a house full of relatives. Having a conscience that works overtime, I caved in and said I would take of couple of children. "A couple" turned into three children and two adults.

Channel 6 paid for the group to stay in a downtown Holiday Inn as well as their meals. But we really did not want them eating Thanksgiving Day dinner at a hotel. Most of the host families arrived at the same time to pick up their guests. Since we all knew each other there were Thanksgiving Day greetings and the entire hotel lobby was taken over by Lithuanians. My group consisted of three beautiful young girls who were all twelve years old and in the sixth grade. I was also entertaining Ingrida and the translator whose name was Regina; both were teachers. We crossed the bridge and were soon in New Jersey.

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I put all three of them in my  
grandmother's big brass bed. I  
couldn't help wondering what this  
grandmother who came from Kaunas  
a hundred years earlier would say at  
this scene. I'm sure she was looking  
down and smiling.

---

The children were delighted to be greeted at the front door by Ralph, our cocker spaniel. Needless to say, he was basking in the limelight. The two kittens were still shy and had to check out the situation before they would make their entrance. The children were excited but a little tired. They had risen at 5:00 am for breakfast as they had to line up on the parade route at 7:00 am although the parade did not start until 9:00 am. They had snacks, hot chocolate, and settled down to watch the video we had made of the parade. The only thing they had seen at the parade was the group in front of them and the ones directly behind them. They were thrilled to see themselves performing in front of the reviewing stand. Every local Lithuanian-American's heart was bursting with pride as they watched these youngsters from Panevėžys perform in the city which was so important to America's independence.

We had other dinner guests as well as our Lithuanian visitors, so our table numbered nine people. I served the usual Thanksgiving dinner but I confess I deviated slightly from the traditional fare for the sake of the children. Along with the turkey was kielbasi and along with the pumpkin pie were chocolate brownies. Although I pretended not to notice, I know that Ralph was well fed under the table. The conversation was stimulating and we learned about everyone's families, jobs, and their little bits of homesickness. After dinner, the girls were really tired; it had been a long day for them. Ralph was tired from overeating. I asked the girls if they would like to rest and they jumped at the chance. I put all three of them in my grandmother's big brass bed. I couldn't help wondering what this grandmother who came from Kaunas a hundred years earlier would say at this scene. I'm sure she was looking down and smiling. Being typical twelve-year olds, they laughed and giggled and then everything was quiet. The only noise coming from upstairs was Ralph's snoring.

As the evening wore on, one of the young ladies came downstairs. I was cleaning up the kitchen and she was sampling three kinds of ice cream. The choices seemed to overwhelm her. She told me how much she missed her family and how worried she was about her parents trying to make ends meet at home. She also told me how much she missed her small kitten.

At that precise moment, one of my very shy kittens appeared out of nowhere and jumped into her lap. The child's smile lit up the room, and that is one of the most memorable photographs I have ever taken. The kitten was the right medicine to soothe her worries. Not long afterward, the other two dancers and Ralph came to life again. As coats were being found, there were many hugs and kisses for Ralph; they would not be seeing him again. Maybe it was the wind, but it looked like there was a tear in the corner of Ralph's eye. On the way back to Philadelphia, the bridge, with its red and green lights, looked like a Christmas scene. Hugs and kisses were exchanged in the lobby with promises to meet the next day.

## A Wide Embrace

The next morning we picked up our guests at the hotel and headed to St.. Andrew's rectory which is also in Philadelphia. When Father Petras Burkauskas heard of our plight of where to put such a large group, he graciously threw open the doors of the rectory. Anyone who knows Father Burkauskas will agree that he is a priest who practices what he preaches. The rectory doors are open to anyone who needs help. As we began to saunter into the rectory carload by carload, greetings and hugs were again exchanged and platters of food appeared on the table.

The beautiful manners of these children still remain in my mind. If they needed something, they came into the kitchen and waited until the adults were finished talking before they asked. The visitors were taken on a tour of the church and the Saturday School classrooms. Three of the children were quite ill and, thanks to a Lithuanian-American doctor, they were examined and given medicine. After their visit to the doctor, they rested in the rectory while the rest of us prepared to take on Philadelphia and — of all days — Black Friday.

I don't have to tell those of you who are of Lithuanian descent what it is like trying to get a group of Lithuanians to agree on something as simple as whether we should walk or drive into the city. After a 30-minute discussion and getting nowhere, we ended up driving. We had our same group as the day before and by this time we were like long-lost relatives. The group was delighted as we passed through Chinatown and then marveled at the colorful buildings, signs and large pagoda.

The city was busy and we ended up parking on the fourth floor of a large garage. Our visitors were in awe of the many cars and the different levels of the garage. Everyone had to take turns looking over the railing as I hung on to their jackets. I was scared out of my wits that they would lean over too far and fall.

We took the usual Philadelphia tour which included the Liberty Bell and Independence Hall. We visited the Christmas light show at the old Wanamaker's store and stood in a long line to see and hear the life-like animated characters of "A Christmas Carol" at the Stawbridge and Clothier store. We did some quick window shopping where the children marveled at the prices — some of the holiday dresses cost more than their families earned in an entire year.

But the two biggest treats were yet to come. The first was the 99¢ store (I thought I'd never get them out of there!). Most of what they were buying was not for themselves but for other people back in Lithuania. They cranked up every toy, cuddled every stuffed animal, and huddled together as they made decisions as to what they would buy. I think that in some cases giant U.S. mergers took less time than these important decisions on how they would spend their few precious dollars.

Their next surprise was the perfume counters in the stores. Because it was on of the biggest shopping days of the year, everyone was eager to show their wares. When the first free spray of perfume came their way, their faces lit up like Christmas trees. After that, they tried every atomizer on the counter; they sprayed themselves, each other, my husband and me — all with different brands and different scents. By the time the seven of us got into the car, I thought we would all be asphyxiated by the different smells.

We returned to the rectory where pizza and hot dogs had been prepared by those not brave enough to face the city that day. After a quick dinner, we headed to the Lithuanian Music Hall in another part of the city. That was no easy task — costumes, musical instruments, and wooden shoes had to be transported.

It was well worth it because it was a night to remember. These cute, smiling children suddenly were transformed into professional dancers. They were incredible! After the performance, children and adults met and socialized with the local guests. And, like Cinderella, it was midnight and the ball was over. It was time for us to take the group back to their hotel, only this time it was the final good-bye. Just as in Milwaukee, there were tears on both sides.



*Resting after participating in Philadelphia Thanksgiving Day Parade.*

The next day, the group boarded a bus and headed for Connecticut. Once again, they were hosted by Bridgeport's Lithuanians. Their schedule was arranged by the International Institute of Bridgeport, and social activities were hosted by members of the Lithuanian-American Community and the Knights of Lithuania, Co. #144. The Knights of Lithuania prepared a festive meal and gave each child a gift bag containing school supplies. In addition to performing, the children visited schools where they danced at a multi-cultural magnet school. They were treated to a trip to the Discovery Museum Planetaria exhibit as well as a visit to a mall. The day they were to leave Bridgeport to return to Lithuania, New England had one of its infamous snowstorms. The story does have a happy ending, however. *LINELIS* made it to the airport and safely returned to Lithuania. They brought home with them a piece of the hearts of all who came into contact with them, and memories that will live forever in their hearts and minds. As for all who came into contact with *LINELIS*, we lost our hearts to them but we have those wonderful memories.

Thank you to the International Institute, Channel 6 (ABC) in Philadelphia, and to all the people here and in Lithuania who made it all possible.

### First Line of Defense, *continued from page 8*

At the same time, this leasing arrangement has prevented the plant from seeking other contracts which would allow the refinery to become a real economic asset for Lithuania's economy.

Not surprisingly, the Bank of Lithuania (the central bank) reported that the country's foreign currency reserves went down by \$87.4 million (U.S.\$) or 11.8 percent in January. As of the end of January, 1996 the reserves stood at \$728.1 million. Prime Minister Stankevičius has begun slashing the government's 1996 budget by suspending purchases of equipment and stopping construction projects. The projected government deficit for 1996 currently stands at 650 million litas (approx. \$160 million) and on February 27, 1996 the Lithuanian government granted the Lithuanian Finance Ministry the right to borrow the short-fall either on the internal or foreign securities market. The government has had difficulty selling its 3-month treasury securities even with interest hovering at 39 percent, although the crisis seemed to have eased by mid-March with yield spreads between 33.93 and 37.37 percent.

### Now That the Dust Has Settled...

President Brazauskas has salvaged his popularity ratings. Before he flew off with his entourage for a 12-day tour of Latin American countries on March 12, the public opinion polls were showing a 9 percent jump to 48 percent. He's now the fourth most popular politician in the country. Former Prime Minister Šleževičius has officially declined the President's offer to become Lithuania's Ambassador to Great Britain and chosen instead to go back to the private sector. Former Interior Minister Vaitiekunas was given a big send-off by his colleagues on February 6, 1996. Regional and town police commissioners from around the country came to Vilnius and, together with department heads and staff of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, gave him the highest decoration the ministry awards — a sword with his name inscribed on it. He has been transferred into the reserves. Former Central Bank Director Ratkevičius has been given a high-ranking position at the government's commercial bank called the Lithuanian State Commercial Bank. This is the immediate fate of the four officials most directly responsible for Lithuania's most recent banking and government crisis.

## News Flash about The Baltic Independent

As of March 21, 1996, *The Baltic Independent*, published in Tallinn, merged with *The Baltic Observer*, published in Riga, to form *The Baltic Times*. This new publication promises to "provide the most comprehensive and in-depth coverage of Baltic news and business events available in the English language." "In addition, *The Baltic Times* will devote coverage to culture, human interest stories and sports, and will retain a number of columns familiar to readers of the existing papers. "Its offices will be based in Riga. Subscribers to both former publications will automatically have their subscriptions extended.

From *The Baltic Independent*, March 8-14, 1996

## Baltic Studies Conference

Waltham, Massachusetts

June 27-29, 1996

The 15th Conference on Baltic Studies will take place at Bentley College in Waltham, Massachusetts, June 27-29, 1996. Panels will discuss various aspects of the history, politics, business and economics, linguistics, and literature of Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania.

Registration fee is \$60 for members of the AABS (Association for the Advancement of Baltic Studies) (\$50 if paid before April 30) and \$70 for non-members (\$60 before April 30).

For further information, contact:

AABS Conference  
c/o Andrejs Plakans  
20015 Cessna Street  
Ames, IA 50014

Ramunė Kubilius

## Excerpts from Lithuanian Sources in the U.S.

### Fifthe Anniversary of Klaipėda University



Klaipėda University celebrated its 5th anniversary January 1st. The University united two institutes of higher learning — the business institute, founded October 1934, and the Pedagogical Institute, founded September 18, 1935. Klaipėda University now has six faculties: sea technology, humanitarian and earth sciences, pedagogy, social sciences, and the arts. Ten centers and

other special departments specialize in Scandinavian cultures and languages, Comparative Civilization....The University has 404 instructors, including 11 instructors from overseas—in all the faculty has published 30 monographs, dictionaries, textbooks and 300 scholarly articles. The University Senate has 39 members, among them 16 are from institutions of higher learning in Vilnius and Kaunas. The variety helps the University formalize structures, discuss curriculum questions, etc. There are 3952 students. The University participates in 10 international programs, has obtained 3 million litai for the renovation of its property, although parts of the facility still need renovation. The University earns additional funds for professors' university-related trips by renting office space to companies on a yearly lease. The rector is Prof. Dr. Stasys Vaitiekunas.

Sometimes it is hard to imagine why the founding of the Klaipėda University took so long. Some say it was because of the existence of Karaliaučius University, which already in the 19th century had many Lithuanian speakers...The University was founded at the Baltic coast as a necessary integration of that region into Lithuania's general economy. The University has taken up studies in areas other Lithuanian universities do not encompass such as sea ecology and underwater archeology.

(TEVIŠKĖS ŽIBURIAI, 2/20/96, in part from an article by rector Dr. Stasys Vaitiekunas)

### Treasures of Judaica from Vilnius

On January 31st, 1996, the 68th Street Synagogue in New York celebrated the arrival of valuable pre-World War II historical archives from Lithuania. The YIVO Institute, founded in 1925 in Vilnius, now operates its research facility in Manhattan. The archives have been sent to New York for preservation and microfilming.

Fira Bramson, Director of the Judaica Section of the Lithuanian State Library, spoke in Yiddish at the commemoration. She stated that the archives are not so much documents as a part of Lithuanian Jewish culture, of Vilnius' Jerusalem. That life was killed by the brown and red plagues. Fira Bramson was credited with first beginning to organize the collection of documents, and she served as liaison between YIVO and Vilnius.

YIVO Center Director Alan Nadler indicated that the return of the documents is a miracle of modern Jewish history, and that their return to YIVO should be credited to many people, among them Lithuanian President Algirdas Brazauskas and Premier Adolfas Šleževičius. The Director of the Lithuanian State Archives, Dr. Alfonsas Piliponas, spoke in New York stating that ten years ago the transfer of YIVO archives to New York would have been inconceivable. Now that Lithuania is democratic, the restrictions on cultural ties have been lifted. The documents brought represent just the tip of the iceberg.

Archives in Lithuania still have many Judaic treasures. The Director ensured that cooperation with YIVO has not yet ended, and he invited American Jewish scholars to visit Vilnius to study the "litvak" culture.

(DRAUGAS, 2/17/96, from an article by Algirdas Landsbergis)

## Baltic University in Pinneberg, Germany

On March 17, 1996, former students and faculty of the Baltic University in Pinneberg gathered on the fiftieth anniversary of its founding to celebrate its achievements at Chicago's Lithuanian Youth Center. Some of the guest speakers included alumni who later continued in the academic field in the United States.

The Baltic University (Pabaltijo universitetas) was founded in post-World War II Germany. It allowed Lithuanian, Estonian and Latvian student refugees from the war-torn Baltic the opportunity to attend university-level classes and earn credit. The university operated from 1946-49, first in Hamburg's historic museum; later 25 km away in Pinneberg, Germany. There were eight faculties representing humanities and scientific disciplines, including mathematics, Lithuanian studies, and dentistry. Students wore UNRRA and BALF-as donated clothes. Although studies in the fall were pleasant, that first winter students sat in the cold auditorium, writing with their gloves on. Their large wooden dormitory rooms were heated by a small wood stove.

The quarters in Pinneberg were better, since that was a university town. Students and faculty organized societies, folk dance and singing ensembles and athletic clubs. There were many concerts and dances. As emigration from Germany began, the number of faculty and students began to diminish. Some went to Australia. Some women students signed contracts to work in Canadian cities (in families as nannies, etc.—this paid for their trips there-rk), the men signed on to work in the forests of northern Ontario. Others were able to find guarantors among family and friends to come to the United States.

The university finished its work on September 30, 1949. The credits awarded at the university were accepted at other colleges, so some students were able to complete their studies. The student life of the Baltic University remained a happy light memory in the kaleidoscope of post-war displaced-person camp life.

(in part from a DRAUGAS 2/1/7/96 article by Eugenija Barskėtis)

## Lithuanian World Youth Congress Being Planned

A meeting of the Lithuanian American Youth Association took place at the end of November in Chicago. Although attendance was not high, the highly motivated group has already begun plans for the IX World Lithuanian Youth Congress, scheduled to take place in North America in 1997. The site was voted on during the VIII Congress, which took place in Great Britain and Lithuania.

It is hoped that the Congress will draw young people of Lithuanian descent, as it has in the past, from ages 18-35, representing countries where they live: Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada...to countries of the former Soviet Union, and now Lithuania. The Congress allows young people to gather, socialize, share news of the country of their forefathers, and discuss actual issues. The Organizational Committee will be setting the exact times and place of the Congress.

(DARBININKAS, 3/2/96)

## Libraries, Books, and Ideology During the Second World War

An international conference organized by the National Library of Latvia, Riga, Latvia, October 8-12, 1996 (Official languages: Latvian, English, German)

Half a century has now passed since the end of the Second World War, which involved more than 70 states and over 110 million people. During the six years of the war, millions of people lost their lives, state borders were violently changed, countries were split and nations subjugated, material and intellectual values destroyed. Even though there have been many popular books and research publications about the Second World War, there are still many blank pages in the history of this period, especially regarding East Europe. Also, very little research has been carried out on publishing and the book trade and library activities during this period. Therefore, the aim of this conference is to acquaint society with the following:

- the course of history and ideological statements;
- publication and distribution of books, their censorship and destruction, and the fate of books taken as war booty;
- library activities, lists of undesirable and recommended books, the fate of national military literature, and of Jewish and other publications;
- librarians and publishers under pressure of war;
- recollections.

The National Library of Latvia (NLL) invites you to participate in the conference, present a paper, or share reminiscences on the above mentioned or related topics. If you wish to join us, please contact Anna Maulina at the address given below by May 1, 1996, giving the following information:

first name, surname; institution, position, degree(s) and title; office and home addresses, telephone, fax, e-mail; dates of arrival and departure; title and language of your paper; abstract of your paper (not to exceed 400 words)

Anticipated registration fee: 200 USD (by May 1, 1996), 250 USD (after May 1, 1996). Hotel costs (in the centre of Riga) — from 49 USD per night, hostel costs — from 7 USD per night.

Anna Maulina  
Research Department  
National Library of Latvia  
R.Vagnera iela 4  
Riga, LV-1050  
Latvia  
Tel: (371) 7210064 or 7225582  
Fax: (371) 7280851  
E-mail: Inbpn@lnbpn.org.lv

## Recent Dissertations on Lithuanian Themes

Several dissertations of recent years written at U.S. universities have Lithuanian themes. They include the following:

*Polish and Byelorussian Dialects in Contact: A Study in Linguistic Convergence*  
(Lithuania, Poland, Cognate Languages)  
Woolister, Curt Frederic, Indiana University, 1995, 503 pages

*Minority Rights and Democracy: The Transitions of Post-Soviet Russia, Ukraine and Lithuania* (National Identity)  
Resler, Tamara Jane, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, 1995, 213 pages

*German/Lithuanian Collaboration in the Final Solution, 1941-1944*  
(Germany, Lithuania, Holocaust, Anti-Semitism)  
Friedman, Karen Ehrlich, University of Illinois at Chicago, 1994, 339 pages

*Dynamics of Being, Space and Time in the Poetry of Czeslaw Milosz and John Ashbery*  
(Milosz Czeslaw, Lithuania, Ashbery John)  
Malinowska, Barbara, University of South Florida, 1994, 241 pages

*Žemaitė in America*  
(Lithuanian Text)  
Noreikaitė-Kučėnas, Dalia Maria, University of Illinois at Chicago, 1994, 338 pages

*Humor, Care, and Well-Being of Lithuanian Americans: An Ethnonursing Study Using Leininger's Study of Culture Care*  
(Diversity and Universality)  
Gelažis, Rauda, Wayne State University, 1994, 245 pages

## Lithuanian Museum in Florida

The idea for a Lithuanian cultural museum in Lake Worth, FL was conceived on February 13, 1982. The local Lithuanian club elected Kazys Tuskenis as chair, and Jonas Staras and Ona Dovydaitis as members of the club's special section. In 1994, when Kazys Tuskenis retired from his duties, artist Rimgaile Zotovas was invited to join the group which now numbers six members.

The collection emphasizes cultural and historical achievements of Lithuanian Americans and of Lithuania and is part of the Museum of the City of Fort Worth whose curator and historian is Beverly Mustaine. The collection includes a Lithuanian wayside cross and displays of Lithuanian ethnic costumes, pre-World War II monetary units and stamps, and albums. The museum celebrates its Lithuanian collection with a special open house yearly.

The museum is located in the City Hall Annex, 414 Lake Avenue on the second floor of the Museum of the City of Fort Worth of which it is a part. It is about 15 miles southeast of Palm Beach International Airport.

(DRAUGAS, 2/16/96, from an article by Jonas Šalna)

## A NEW BOOK

*Autopsy of an Empire: The American Ambassador's Account of the Collapse of the Soviet Union*  
Jack F. Matclok, Jr.  
New York: Random House  
1995, 836 pages

Please submit news items of interest to:

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Head of Reference and Research Services  
Galter Health Sciences Library  
Northwestern University  
303 E. Chicago Avenue  
Chicago, IL 60611  
e-mail: r-kubilius@nwu.edu  
phone: 312-503-8109  
FAX: 312-503-8028  
e-mail: r-kubilius@nwu.edu

# Calendar of Upcoming Events

## Invitation to Help Pass the Olympic Torch in LA, April 27, 1996

The Los Angeles-Kaunas Sister Cities Committee has been invited by the Mayor of City of Los Angeles to participate in the Olympic Torch Relay celebration along the relay route. Lithuanian-Americans are to gather at the William Mulholland Memorial Fountain at the intersection of Los Feliz Boulevard and Riverside Drive at 1:30 pm on Saturday, April 27th. The Relay will be filmed by NBC. This is a city-wide intercultural celebration at which Lithuanian-Americans have an opportunity to support the Olympics, namely Lithuania's Olympic Team. For further information call Živilė Tomkutė at (818) 340-6151.

The Los Angeles-Kaunas Sister Cities Committee volunteered at the Los Angeles Marathon's fourteenth mile water station during the Los Angeles Marathon on March 3, 1996, handing out water to marathoners.

## 12th Annual Lithuanian Language Course at Camp Dainava, Manchester, MI, August 4 - 11, 1996

This language-learning program, operating under the auspices of the Lithuanian Educational Council of the Lithuanian-American Community, Inc., is designed for beginners, intermediate and advanced students or those just wishing to refresh their Lithuanian language. Learn from experienced instructors in vacation-like surroundings and a nurturing atmosphere.

For information and application, call or write:  
Mr. Vytautas Jonaitis  
1516 Quarry N.W.  
Grand Rapids, MI 49504  
(616) 458-6378

## 1996 Pittsburgh Folk Festival, David L. Lawrence Convention Center, Pittsburgh, PA, May 24-26, 1996

Lithuanians will once again participate in the annual Pittsburgh Folk Festival, which celebrates its 40th anniversary this year. The Festival will be held in the David L. Lawrence Convention Center, located in downtown Pittsburgh, over Memorial Day weekend. Ticket prices at the event are \$5 for adults and \$3 for children 12 and under; tickets ordered in advance from the Lithuanian Festival Committee are \$4 for adults and \$2 for children.

The Lithuanian display booth will feature Joninės (the Feast of St. John) and its accompanying celebrations. There will also be a food booth offering pork sausage, sauerkraut, kugelis, rye bread, farmers cheese, beet soup, fried chicken, and ausukės. The marketplace vendor this year will be Edward Sakalauskas of Ellicott City, Maryland, who will be selling wood carvings, including Lithuanian crosses.

The *Neris* Lithuanian Dancers will perform on Saturday, May 25. The adult group is scheduled to appear twice, once at 6 pm and at another time yet to be announced, dancing Malūnas, Žekelis, Putinėlis, and Kubilas. The children's group performance has yet to be scheduled but will include Pasėjau Kanapę, Du Gaideliai, and Kalatinis.

### Mark Your Calendars!

Friday	May 24	5 - 11 pm
Saturday	May 25	12 - 11 pm
Sunday	May 26	12 - 8 pm

For more information, call John Baltrus at (412) 881-1716. Hope to see you there!

## Container Shipment To Lithuania

On April 20 and April 27, the last two Saturdays of the month, the Lithuanian Hall in Baltimore, Maryland, will once again be accepting packages for shipment to Lithuania. In order to take advantage of this relatively low-cost (\$25/box, no weight limit but a strict size limit) opportunity to send items to Lithuania, please note the following:

Packages accepted at: Lithuanian Hall  
851 Hollins Street  
Baltimore, Maryland 21201  
(410-685-5787)

Time: 9:00 am to 6:00 pm Saturday  
April 20 and 27, 1996

Dimensions: Only two box sizes are acceptable:  
20" x 16" x 16" and 18" x 12" x 12"

Addressing: Box must have addressee's name, street, city and region (including telephone number) in Lithuania marked clearly and in large bold letters on outside of Box must also include sender's address on outside.

Payment: Payment of \$25 per box in check (made out to Lithuanian Hall, Baltimore), money order, or cash must accompany shipment.





žiema/winter: 600 Liberty Hwy, Putnam CT 06260 • tel. 203/928-7955  
 vasara/summer: RFD 4, Box 155, W Brattleboro VT 05301 • 802/254-9819

## Camp Neringa, Vermont

Camp Neringa in beautiful Vermont offers several weeks of programs for campers ages 8-16 years old. The Neringa value system is based on Christian living, Lithuanian culture and character development. Activities include nature study, hikes, sports, swimming, games, drama, discussions, etc. as well as participation in liturgy, various prayer forms and faith value discussions. Sessions are offered in English (June 30 - July 13) and Lithuanian (July 14 - August 3). Children live ten to a cabin, grouped according to age, supervised by one or two counselors.

June 30 - July 13 **Lithuanian-American Session.** Neringa's main program focus in this *English-language* session is Lithuanian culture: folk art, songs, dances, history, geography, literature, current events and basic language skills.

July 13 - July 28 **Maža Lietuva - Stovykla Lietuvių Kalba.** This is a *Lithuanian-language* program focusing on the same as above.

Sunday July 28 **Piknikas.** Picnic for all Neringa participants at the Convent of the Sisters of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Putnam, Connecticut. Come dressed in Lithuanian costume.

July 28 - August 3 **Maža Lietuva - Stovykla Lietuvių Kalba.** Third week continuation of *Lithuanian-language* program for 13-17 year-olds.

July 28 - August 3 **Naujoji Sesija.** One-week *Lithuanian-language* session for 6-9 year-olds who have never camped before, as well as an opportunity for those of all ages wishing only a one-week *Lithuanian-language* session.

August 4 - 11 **Šeimų Stovykla.** Lithuanian language family camp (filled).

August 14 - 18 **Lithuanian-American Family Camp.** For families with children from infancy to 10 year of age.

### REGISTER YOUR CHILD TODAY! SESSIONS FILL UP FAST!

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Registration: Send 1) registration form (obtain from above address in Putnam); 2) registration fee of \$20, and 3) a downpayment of \$80.

Fees: Weekly fee is \$150 (\$130 if three or more children); nonrefundable registration fee of \$20; camp newspaper \$2 and a soda/ice cream for .50 daily. The downpayment of \$80 is refunded if a cancellation is made two weeks prior to the beginning of camp.

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