

# BRIDGES

LITHUANIAN AMERICAN NEWS JOURNAL

Volume 22

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Brangis sesute,  
 Vin rois daug šedus groius.  
 O ai, tiktai dykling raidius.  
 Prisiminkite

Kacbonas

byjinas

Remember...



The Black Days of June...NATO Update...Business and Finance Outlook



## PERSPECTIVES

*There is a phrase that identifies the "phenomenon" where two strangers, upon meeting, find they have something or somebody in common. This automatically connects them and provides a basis for further communication. This phrase is called "six degrees of separation".*

*Sociologists have found that strangers can connect with each other because they know someone who knows someone who knows someone – up to six times this occurrence or "six degrees of separation". For example, after meeting my future husband, we ascertained that although we had never met before, we had several friends in common. This instantly created a bond between us and helped our relationship progress. In our circumstances, only about two degrees of separation had been between us.*

*Interesting...but, relevant? I suppose as a bit of trivia we can experiment with this unique idea for a while. We can disprove or prove that we are not all strangers. We can observe that we live in a more unified world than we believed it to be. Or we can just laugh a bit and move on to the next page in the journal.*

*On the other hand, we can choose a time period in history and observe if we are in any way linked to it by way of another person. Consider the Black Days of June during the early 40s in Lithuania. Then consider a young, say, 12 year-old American-born child of Lithuanian descent living in the present. Can we find something in common within those six degrees? Surprisingly, yes.*

*The connection began with the child whose grandfather has a brother, mother, and father who had been exiled to Siberia during the Soviet purges of June. This one degree of separation binds this child to an event in history, which will be guaranteed not to be forgotten because of this connection. The memories will be retained and presented to the next generation or "degree". The facts will be used to warn the future against such heinous crimes against a nation of people.*

*It only goes to show that we can't ever totally remove ourselves from each other, our heritage, or our country's sufferings. We can only start to include others within these "degrees of separation" to allow Lithuania's people to be remembered.*

*Rasa Ardys-Juška*

Editor

## BRIDGES

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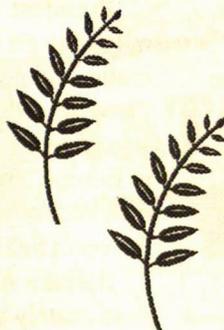
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An excerpt from the book, **An  
Infant in Bondage**, (see page  
18) and a picture of a Lithuanian  
soldier (circa 1940s) drawn by  
Kovas Juška in honor of **The  
Black Days of June**.*



IN TIME FOR JONINĖS  
(ST. JOHN'S DAY!)

Don't forget the Smithsonian  
Institute's Folklife Festival featuring  
the Baltic States at the National  
Mall on June 24th to 28th and July  
1st to July 5th. It promises to be a  
great event!

*Regina Narušis*

# United States Senate Approves NATO Expansion

**T**he United States Senate, by an overwhelming majority, voted 80 to 19 to expand the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) to admit Poland, Hungary, and the Czech Republic on April 10, 1998.

Voting for that majority were 45 Republicans and 35 Democrats; thus, providing more voters than were needed for the two-thirds majority to ratify the expansion. Only ten Democrats and nine Republicans voted in opposition. The Republicans who voted against NATO expansion were:

- John Ashcroft, Missouri,
- Larry E. Craig, Idaho,
- Tim Hutchinson, Arkansas,
- James M. Inhofe, Oklahoma,
- James M. Jeffords, Vermont,
- Dirk Kempthorne, Idaho,
- Robert C. Smith, New Hampshire,
- Arlen Specter, Pennsylvania,
- John Warner, Virginia.

The Democrats who opposed the expansion with their votes were:

- Richard Bryan, Nebraska,
- Dale Bumpers, Arkansas,
- Kent Conrad, North Dakota,
- Byron L. Dorgan, North Dakota,
- Tom Harkin, Iowa,

- Patrick J. Leahy, Vermont,
- Daniel P. Moynihan, New York,
- Harry Reid, Nevada,
- Paul Wellstone, Minnesota,
- Ron Wyden, Oregon.

✂

It was our own, Senator Richard Durbin (D.-IL), who not only voted for NATO expansion but spoke so eloquently in favor, who said during the debate, that the opponents seem to be actually arguing against the existence of NATO, not just expansion.

Senator Joseph J. Biden, Jr. (Del.), ranking Democrat on the Foreign Relations Committee and one of the key players in addition to Majority Leader Trent Lott (R.-Miss.) and Slade Gorton (R.-WA), remarked that "in a larger sense, we'll be righting a historical injustice forced upon the Poles, Czechs, and Hungarians by Joseph Stalin."

President Clinton hailed the vote as "a major milestone on the road to an undivided, democratic, and peaceful Europe. The addition of these three democracies to our alliances will strengthen NATO, expand the zone of stability in Europe, and reduce the chances American men and women will ever again be called into Europe's fields of battle."

Barbara A. Mikulski (D.-MD), speaking passionately of her Polish heritage, expressed her beliefs that the new democracies of Central and Eastern Europe will share the burden of

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*REGINA NARUŠIS, a practicing attorney in Illinois, is the President of the Lithuanian-American Community, Inc.*

European security.

The opposition argued that the costs would be huge to the American taxpayer, that the relations with Russia would be negatively affected, and that the expansion could lead to dangerous new operations. There were a number of amendments brought to the floor of the Senate to delay and to limit further expansions, all of which were soundly defeated.



This NATO expansion is the Congress's major achievement this year and, also, the largest increase in American commitment overseas since the end of World War II and the Cold War.

Nevertheless, all 16 existing members of NATO must approve of such an expansion before the three new members are admitted. It is expected that all countries will ratify the expansion by the end of 1998, and that the three countries will formally become members in April of 1999, during NATO's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The 1999 NATO Summit will be hosted by the United States in Washington, D.C. on April 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>, 1999.

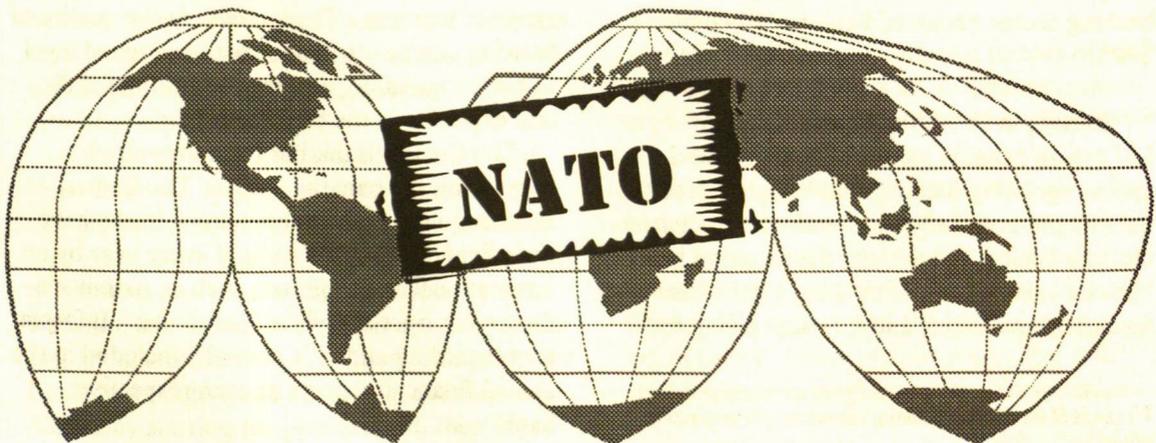
President Clinton promised that "the first new members should not and will not be the last." Nine more countries are already pushing for the invitation. Lithuania, Slovenia, Latvia, Estonia, and Romania are serious contenders. Stopping the expansion now would seriously endanger the security and stability of much of

Central and Eastern Europe, and encourage Russia to pursue their sphere of influence over them.

Professor Landsbergis, the President of Seimas (Parliament) of the Lithuanian Republic, declared that Lithuania and Latvia are the key to Europe's security. Lithuania is making steady progress in meeting the military standards of NATO and it is hoped, it will be invited next. Ron Asmus, of the U.S. State Department, supported Prof. Landsbergis's position when he confirmed that history has shown us that events in the three Baltic nations have effects well beyond their borders.



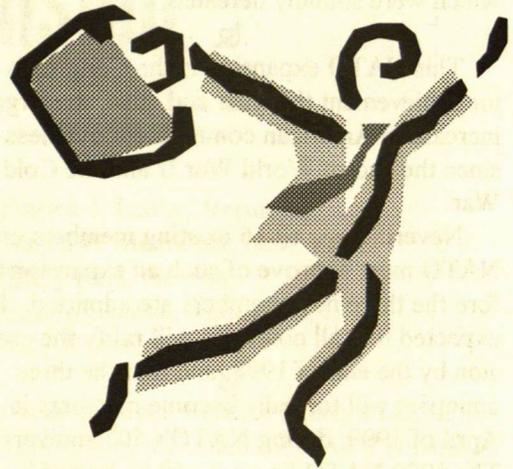
In his remarks to the Senate during the debate, Senator Durbin said that NATO expansions to other countries, such as Lithuania, should not be a source of concern to us but one of great hope and optimism. Durbin continued with a point well made -- if you look at the map of the world and see the huge expanse of Russia, and then see the three small nations of Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania, it is almost laughable that the Russians could look to them as any threat to their future or security.



*Vytenis Rasutis*

# Lithuanian Banking:

## *On Its Way To The European Community*



**A**s in many emerging economies, banking is a volatile sector. Lithuania has gone through a turbulent period of political, economic, and social change, and nowhere is this better reflected than in the banking sector. This sector grew faster than anyone could imagine; with banks emerging overnight and growing by many multiples in a short period. Failures also occurred at a rapid pace sinking the savings of many Lithuanians. This "wild west" in the banking sector occurred between 1991 and 1995.

Starting in 1994, the Central Bank of Lithuanian became increasingly concerned about regulating banking and bringing order to the system, especially the standards for chartering new banks. Since then, the situation has become calmer and the banking sector has tended to normalize, and it is now trying to

adapt to European Community standards of operation. Interest rates for deposits on loans are more in line with international levels.

Since 1994, the number of banks in Lithuania have decreased from 27 banks to ten banks, today. As compared to the past, these remaining banks are much better managed and supervised. They are also much better able to service the needs of their market with a wide range of services. The increase in the quality of banking can be attributed to a heightened level of bank regulation, and the elevation of skills and expertise in the banking sector.

The Central Bank has been very strict in overseeing the banking sector. The Central Bank requires that all commercial banks have their financial records audited every year by an international auditing firm, such as Arthur Andersen, Cooper & Lybrand or similar. Information regarding audits is normally included in the annual financial reports of each respective bank.

*VYTENIS RASUTIS is a banking consultant for projects in Lithuania.*

The quality of banking has risen dramatically by the rapid introduction and integration of Western banking principles. Many bankers have attended numerous seminars and courses, while some banks have partnership or "twining" arrangements with western banks that result in the transfer of important knowledge. These "twining" projects are partially sponsored by international aid projects for Lithuania which identify banking and capital markets as a priority sector.

The selection of banking services often matches those available in many western banks. Besides deposits and loans, services commonly available include currency exchange for most major currencies, travelers checks, debit cards, wire transfers, brokerage services, letters of credit, bank guarantees, and bill payments. The cost of most of these services is generally in line with western standards. Loans tend to be more expensive with interest rates for secured loans averaging 12 to 14 percent. Deposits tend to pay a higher rate as common in a capital deficient country. Deposits for three, six or 12 month time deposits pay six to nine percent. Lending tends to be short term: one to three years, and there is a very limited mortgage market because of some deficiencies in the public registration of property titles and ownership.

The services of Lithuanian banks are also open and used by non-residents including individuals and companies. One actively used service is the wire transfer of funds. This service is efficient, low cost, and can be done in either direction and in multiple currencies. For example, an individual in North America could wire funds to a relative in Lithuania in the form of dollars by starting the process with their local

U.S. banker by providing the relative's bank coordinates (name of bank, account number, etc.). These funds would be deposited in the relative's account usually in several days. Funds could be wired out of Lithuania, as in the example of a Lithuanian business making payment for North American imports.

There are few restrictions in the movement of funds into and out of Lithuania. Since Lithuania is a small country and there is little demand for the litas outside of Lithuania, the banking system denominates many transactions

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*"The increase in the quality of banking can be attributed to a heightened level of bank regulation, and the elevation of skills and expertise in the banking sector."*

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in foreign currency such as US dollars. In fact, many deposits are kept in dollars. Dollars can be exchanged for litas: the fixed rate being four litas to one US dollar. This rate has been stable for several years and is one of the most stable aspects of the Lithuanian economy.

A non-Lithuanian resident can also open up a savings account with the presentation of a passport. One service that is not available in Lithuania to anybody is personal checking. There is no national clearing system for checks. Many payments are made by wire transfer. People pay their utilities and many other bills by going to a bank and ordering a wire transfer at a teller

window.

Safety and trust are integral factors of banking. These two factors are constantly considered by the Lithuanian public when dealing with the banks. The past image of unstable banks consumed by insider dealings within an inflationary and erratic economy is an image that many in the general public find hard to forget. The result has been distrust by many of the entire banking system and the lack of savings going in banks. Many people simply feel safer stashing their savings at home. This is an im-

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(con't from BANKING)

age that banks will need to overcome.

One bank that the general public has trusted more than others is *Taupomasis Bankas* (The Savings Bank). *Taupomasis* may not be the most efficient bank, but it is the largest of the state-owned banks, and there is a perception that the state will always support this bank. *Taupomasis* is slated for privatization which will drastically change its character.

One development that is helping build confidence in the banking system is deposit insurance. Deposit insurance is a major confidence-builder of banking worldwide. Currently, small deposits are insured. Over the next several years, as reserve funds are accumulated, the scope and coverage of deposit insurance will increase. Currently, deposits up to 5,000 litai are 100% insured. By the year 2000, it is anticipated that deposits up to 25,000 litai will be 100% insured. As the public becomes more familiar with deposit insurance, a wider amount of funds will come out of hiding and will be more evenly spread throughout the banking sector. This will be a healthy and stabilizing boost to the entire banking sector and a capital deficient economy.

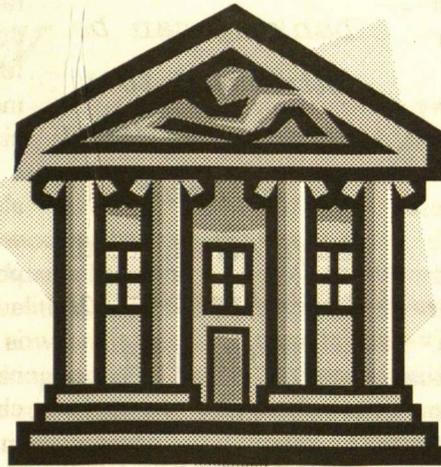
Credit unions have also appeared in Lithuania, with over 20 in operation. Most of these credit unions are small and focused around a specific group or region, and tend to be based outside major cities where banks are strong. All the credit unions were formed under the direct guidance of the international credit union movement and have completely avoided the turbulence that once affected the banking sys-

tem. Credit unions tend to have a smaller scope of services but they also serve the needs of the individual, a group that the banking sector has not focused on very much. Non-Lithuania residents are generally not able to join credit unions since they would need to be part of an affiliation and Lithuanian citizenship is required.

The future for banks in Lithuania calls for a fewer number of banks and those will be of a larger size. This will be achieved mainly through mergers and consolidations, a trend that has gripped banking across the globe, as banking searches out even more efficient economies of scale. *Vilniaus Bankas* and *Hermis* have already entered into talks about merging, and there is a growing possibility of a pan-Baltic merger.

Estonian banks are interested in getting a firmer foothold in Lithuania. Foreign banks are also searching for partners or footholds in Lithuania. Already *Kredyt Bank* from Poland has registered a branch office, and the French-based bank, *Société Generale* has opened a representative office. There will be a much closer affiliation with European and other international banks. There will be more foreign bank branches in Lithuania as European integration comes closer.

Lithuanian banks will expand their foreign scope by establishing a larger presence mainly in the eastern markets of Russia and the Ukraine, still major trading partners for Lithuanian. If current trends continue, the Lithuanian banking sector will evolve into an effective capital-raising market based on traditional banking principles.



*Lina Kudirkaitė*

# Striving for a Future in Business and Industry

*Foreword by Dr. Stasys Bačkaitis*

**P**rior to June 1997, Lina Kudirkaitė, young, Kaunas University of Technology Faculty of Administration (KTUFA) student, viewed the business world through what she learned from classroom lectures and reading textbooks. Today she sees the world through a much broader and richer lens.

This new perspective was provided for her by attending one of the most prestigious summer scholarship programs for business students in the world, "The Global Village for Future Leaders in Business and Industry", sponsored by the Lee Iacocca Institute at the Lehigh University in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania.

Professor Judith Lederer, Chair of Communications at California State University in Fullerton, California, nominated Lina for acceptance to this program. Prof. Lederer came to KTUFA as a visiting professor to teach during the spring semester in 1996. She thought so highly of Lina, both as a student and an individual, that upon her return, Prof. Lederer wrote a letter to me saying that in her many years of teaching she had not met a more outstanding student and deserving person to attend the Global Village program.

Prof. Lederer urged me to help find assistance for Lina's travel expenses through the Lithuanian-American community. Through the generosity of Albinas Markevičius, the president of the Lithuanian Assistance League in Los Angeles, California, Lina received travel funding.

In the following article, Lina Kudirkaitė narrates her experiences at the Lehigh University.

"Global Village for Future Leaders in Business and Industry", at the Iacocca Institute in Lehigh University, was provided for students and future leaders who came from around the world to introduce them to changes in the business world, technology, and the main leadership concepts in the coming century. For eight weeks we lived in the United States, but it was not an American environment. We lived in our own special environment created by 26 different cultures.

We were like a family: the participants, organizers, and other employees of the Iacocca Institute. This environment was extremely tolerant of cultural differences and encouraged the development of every participant. Throughout the program, the participants shared in its management. The participants created the Constitution and the Anthem. The flag was not only created but sewn as well. The process helped us to realize how important it was to generate, express, and execute different ideas. It also brought us closer to the program. Everybody was calling it "our program".

I believe that such shared participation helped us to understand that the program was not just for one year. I am sure everyone was very proud to be a part of the first generation of the "Global Village".

Throughout the program the participants provided the organizers with feedback. I was

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*DR. STASYS BAČKAITIS is the Chairman of the KTUFA Advisory Council.*

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surprised by the quick response of the organizers to our feedback. The organizers were very flexible, and the program was continuously adjusted to meet the needs of the participants.

The daily schedule was very intensive:

- ◆ 7:30 a.m. – breakfast, where we met guests and business executives every morning.
- ◆ From 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., we were involved in three learning experiences and a cluster hour, where we met and talked with Roger Nagel, the CEO, the main initiator and the soul of the “Global Village”.
- ◆ During lunch, we had Town Hall meetings with business executives.
- ◆ After lunch – two more learning experiences.
- ◆ 5:00 to 6:30 p.m., we had time for sports activities where not only the Lehigh sports facilities were open, but professional instructors were available as well.

- ◆ After dinner we were exposed to a variety of activities, for example; the week’s review, public speaking, guided group meetings, cinema time, and more.

This schedule kept us busy until around 10:00 p.m. Coming from all over the world, we wanted to get acquainted with each other as much as possible. So, after 10:00 p.m., we spent out time socializing, discussing different issues, singing, and dancing. We also became acquainted with one aspect of American culture: watching a baseball game.

The intellectual and educational levels of the “Global Village” interns impressed me. During the program, we enjoyed the display of talents and abilities of each participant. Each intern had her/his “Global Village” birthday when his/her background, hobbies, talents, future plans, and even dreams were presented and celebrated. In addition, everybody had a “buddy” with whom one could share the “Global Vil-

## Inside the Global Village

*This eight-week integrated program called the “Global Village for Future Leaders in Business and Industry takes place at the Iacocca Institute in Lehigh University, Pennsylvania. It was established through partnerships with companies, schools, government agencies, and other universities to pursue its mission of advancing the global competitiveness of U.S. industry. Together with its partners, the Institute developed four competitiveness program areas: Manufacturing Competitiveness, Educational Competitiveness, Technology Transfer, and Policy Studies. Within these areas, the Institute seeks to enhance the knowledge and leadership capabilities of U.S. corporate management, entrepreneurs, and students.*

*The “Global Village” program, with its 53 students from four continents (representatives from the Australian continent were missed) and 26 countries, differed from other programs because it offered real-life, business-oriented experience learning.*

*According to the needs, each participant in the 1997 program was able to create his/her own unique program, choosing areas and topics from the learning experiences and meetings. In such a way, each was able to concentrate on developing new and needed abilities. On the first day, each participant chose five goals (development areas) which she/he wanted to pursue. All participants were divided into three groups with a guide who aided them to define, shape, and encourage him/her in pursuing their goals, helping to find a way to implement new perspectives.*

*Lina Kudirkaite’s attendance in the “Global Village” program helped to generate interest not only in Lithuania as a potential global business partner but, also in Lithuania’s constructive, intelligent citizens.*

lage" experience, obtain advice, and help each other from the very first day.

On weekends, we went sightseeing around the Lehigh Valley region. We visited the resort town of New Hope, and celebrated July 4<sup>th</sup> in Hershey Park. We also visited Eastern Industries, Boeing, and the Ford Motor Company. Using Westinghouse Company's invitation, we spent a whole weekend in Pittsburgh. We not only visited the company's plant, but also had a chance to see Pittsburgh by taking a cruise excursion.

Additionally, we had the opportunity to spend a day at Chase Manhattan Bank headquarters and meet several of its managers. An unforgettable visit was to Harrah's Casino in Atlantic City. We had a chance to see not only the gaming place, but also how the casino was managed. Last but not least, it was extremely interesting to see the multimedia teaching program for employees of the Marriott Hotel.

Of the business executives I met, the ones who impressed me with their knowledge and expertise the most were: Ed Petrozelli (Worldwide Gen. Man. of IBM), Dave Sullivan (Pres. of CDFMC—WEST, Inc.), Jeff Jurbank (Pres. of VASCA, Inc.), Peter DeLuca (Vice-presi. of Chase Manhattan), Tsuneo Nakahara (Exe. Advisor to the CEO of Sumitomo Electric, Ind. Ltd.), Alfonso Hall (Plant Man. of GM Corp.), George Fisher (Pres. of Eastman Kodak Co.), Carlos Bolona (Pres. of Organization, San Ignaco DeLoyola), and Bill Valentine (Vice-pres. of Xerox).

It was very interesting and useful to learn of their leadership concepts. I like the way they treat their employees and the way they lead their companies. I would like to relate to people in the way they relate to them. In general, meetings with these people helped me to formulate my future plans, and make my own action plan. They helped me to create my own vision, and gave me the strength to establish my own goals.

My meeting with Kostas Kologeropoulus, General Manager of Meyer Jabara Hotels, was

extremely interesting. He made a huge impression on me. It was very unusual to see a very powerful man talking about kindness, and helping the poor and sick people. Mr. Kologeropoulus showed me that to achieve something significant, one has to work very hard and be very committed to one's goals.



Then we had the opportunity to meet with Lee Iacocca. Though we didn't have much time to talk with him personally, his speech inspired and encouraged us to have and pursue career and life goals. The famous former Chrysler president also said that we have to love our work, not just like it. Only then can success be yours. I will always remember his prized words of wisdom; "No matter how much you love your work, be sure to love your family first." Though it takes a lot of your time, this relationship enriches your life. Life without family and close friends means nothing.

Our meeting with Lee Iacocca was not one way communication. Every intern told him where we were from, who we are, and what we learned during the program. This meeting was like a festival to us because the day ended with cultural performances and shows. I will never forget the Greek War, African dances, Mexican songs, and my fascinating new friends.

The last two weeks of the "Global Village" experience took place in Washington, D.C., where we visited several government institutions. We had a great opportunity to visit the Pentagon, the Capitol Building, the White House, and a few embassies. We met Tom Houlihan, the Presidential Advisor on environ-

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mental issues; and Rick Hauk, a former astronaut who went into space on the flight that followed the "Challenger" catastrophe.

During those two months, we made many new friends. One could notice that we Lithuanians, because of American influence, became more active; and the South Americans – more expressive in showing their friendliness and positive emotions. It was a great pleasure to hear some participants from other continents thank us for teaching them modesty, maturity, and other positive attributes.

I have traveled and visited a number of countries in Europe and met quite a few different people. Since most of them were Europeans, we shared European culture and values. I treasure this summer's experience because it exposed me to a totally different world, and I began to realize the meaning of different cultures. Being among people from four continents showed me the real differences.

I value this opportunity a lot not only because I made friends from different places in the world, but also because I had the chance to work with them on a variety of projects and assignments. One can notice the American willingness to be actively involved, the modesty of Oriental cultures, and the expressiveness of South Americans. This was a unique and irreplaceable experience.

Only in the "Global Village" did I realize the extent of the globalization process that is going on around the world. In Lithuania, we can see international business coming to our country, but I think one can hardly imagine the extent of this process and the immense role it will have in the future. Because of the "Global Village", I formed my views and understanding about globalization. Even my career plans were adjusted due to the knowledge I gained in the program.

These two months gave me a unique and impressive experience. I am sure that what we saw, what we learned, and who we met, changed the life of every intern. We all re-

turned to our normal lives with a wish and intention to use everything we learned, to spread the knowledge we gained in the program, and to prepare ourselves for new challenges in our lives.

I would like to express my thanks and respect to the Lithuanian Assistance League and particularly to Albinas "Mark" Markevičius, the Consul General of Lithuania Vytautas Čekanauskas, Dr. Stasys Bačkaitis, Prof. Judy Lederer, and many others who helped me to make this dream possible. Without the help of these wonderful people, I would not have been able to make this special and extremely useful trip. There are so many good-hearted and helpful people wishing to help Lithuanians. God bless all of you, let Him give you energy and strength. I hope someday in the future I will be able to show my respect, thankfulness, and appreciation.



*Rasa Ardys-Juška*

# THE LEGACY

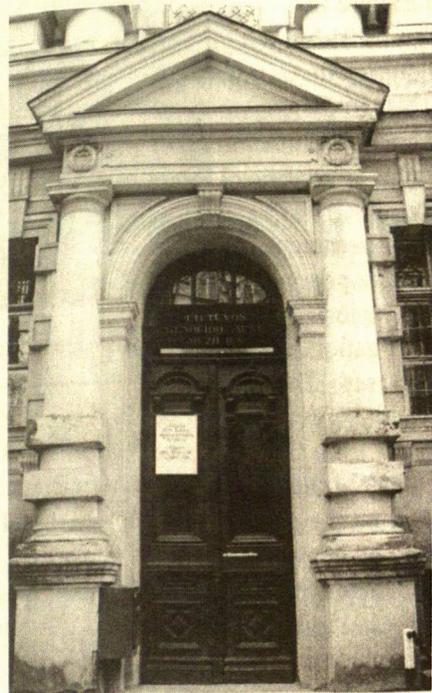
## *of the Black Days of June*

### *Lithuania's Genocide Victims Museum*

**A**s children, many have heard what life was like when their parents were little: the standard "I walked ten miles through two foot snows to school each day". Yet many Lithuanian-American children heard different types of stories. Those stories were filled with pain, dark visions of train rides to Siberia, perpetual hunger, disappearance of relatives or best friends, and letters that were sent and never answered for years on end.

These were memories and remembrances of "Baisiŝis Birželis" or "The Black Days of June". Moscow instructed its occupying forces to begin purging Lithuania of its people to make room for its own during the night of June 14<sup>th</sup> 1941. People were awakened between one and four a.m., given about an hour to pack a few belongings, and transported by train to Siberia. From June 14<sup>th</sup> to June 22<sup>nd</sup>, the Lithuanian Red Cross reported that nearly 35,000 people had been deported. Many more were to follow.

Thirteen waves of purging were carried out between 1945 to 1950. Over 100,000 Lithua-



*Entrance to the Lithuanian Genocide Victims Museum.*

*Photo courtesy of Lithuania's Genocide Victims Museum*

nians had been relocated to barren and frigid work camps in Siberia. In the years to follow many deportees succumbed to the lifeless area or were returned many years later to Lithuania after successful "rehabilitation". Other Lithuanians were arrested, imprisoned, tortured, and murdered. Their lives and stories were hushed under the Soviet system...until now.

*RASA ARDYS-JUŠKA, Editor of BRIDGES, involved in the Lithuanian-American Community, Inc (LAC) as a past member of the Board of Directors, and as a member of the LAC of New Jersey.*

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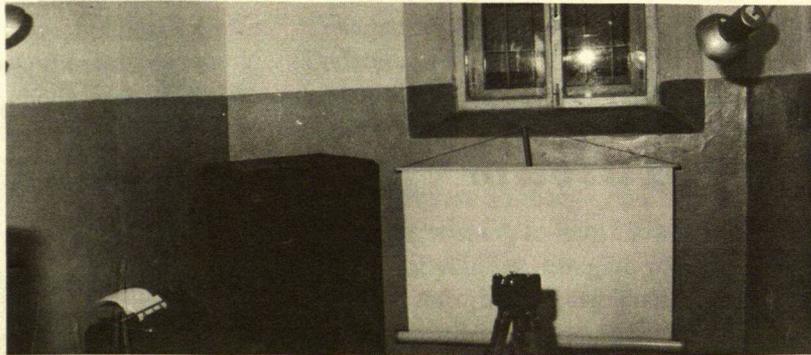
Lithuania's Genocide Victims Museum was founded in October of 1992. The Museum is located in the former KGB headquarters/prison in Vilnius, Lithuania. In this building, repressive authorities – as the NKVD and NKGB – planned and carried out acts of genocide and repression against the Lithuanian people from as early as the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century by the Russian Empire to September 1991 by the Soviet government. This building stands as a symbol of these crimes against humanity.

Many governments have used the prison for Soviet-style justice, interrogation, and penal purposes. The primary building was built in 1899, while the addition on Aukų Gatvė was built around 1914. The building's other additions were finished in 1929. During the periods between 1899 and 1991, the building was used for a variety of governmental intentions.

- 1899 – 1915: The Russian Imperial Vilnius District Judicial Chambers.
- 1915 – 1918: The German Occupation Governmental Offices.
- 1919, January to April: The Bolshevik V. Kapsuko Commissariat and Revolutionary Tribunal Quarters (CK).
- 1920 – 1939: The Polish-Occupation's Government Judicial Chambers.
- 1940 – 1941: The Soviet Repression Quarters – NKVD Vilnius Committee, NKGB, and NKVD prison.
- 1941 – 1944: Gestapo Police Headquarters and SD Offices, and the Sonderkommando Quarters.
- 1944: After the second Soviet occupation, the NKGB – later the MGB, KGB – took permanent residency; the lower area

(basement) interrogation and prison quarters were installed.

Since 1940, the Internal Prison (Central Interrogation Division) operated in the basement of the building. The conditions of the prison were inhuman. The so-called “enemies” of the state were kept in cold, damp basement cells. As a rule, they were the ex-members of



The interrogation room preserved as it had been used by the KGB.

Photo courtesy of Lithuania's Genocide Victims Museum

non-communist organizations, civil servants, police officers and military officers of independent Lithuania, post-war freedom fighters, and other innocent people. A net of new prisons, with certain administrative bodies, was established all over Lithuania for the primary purpose of persecution and eventual annihilation. This Vilnius-centered prison was one of many evacuated when Lithuania reestablished her independence.

The number of victims of this genocide and terror during 1940 and 1958 alone was staggering -- one of every three Lithuanian citizens. More specifically, 131,000 were deported; 200,100 were imprisoned; 20,000 partisans perished; some 5,000 civilians were murdered; and about 1,000 were formally sentenced to death. Due to this Soviet terror and repression, 490,000 people chose the fate of exiles. The total human loss to Lithuania, including the Nazi occupation and World War II, reached well over 1,091,000 out of the nearly four million population count at that time.

In 1964, the larger part of the prison was

redesigned to accommodate the Secret KGB archives. By this time, inmates housed in the 19 basement cells were those hostile to Soviet ideology and fighters for human rights. On March 11<sup>th</sup>, 1990 Lithuania proclaimed restoration of its statehood, and, in August 1991, KGB activities were officially stopped. To cover up their actions, the KGB authorities rushed to spruce up the prison, and shred or burn some documents. Several bags of shredded documents were left behind and are part of the permanent exhibit at the museum today.

When Lithuania's Genocide Victims Museum was founded, the prison's interior was left as it had been during the times of the KGB for a reason. Visitors can view and experience the prison cells, interrogation room, officers' and guards' rooms, bathrooms, fingerprinting and documentation room, and the exercise yard area. It was the goal of the exhibits to reflect the history of anti-Soviet and anti-Nazi resistance in Lithuania and its consequences in a "real" sense.

The Museum also collects, preserves, and archives important historical documents which highlight the actions of the repressors. It is presently in the process of preparing several special exhibitions emphasizing different historical periods and events in Lithuanian history, such as:

- the NKGB-NKVD years of Soviet repression and terror (1940-1941);
- the reign and results of the Nazi government during 1941-1944;
- the physical and spiritual genocide of the Lithuanian people by the Soviet regime from 1944 to 1990;
- Lithuania's anti-Soviet and anti-Nazi ac-

tions, and individual portraits of Lithuania's freedom fighters;

- the largest deportation of Lithuanian people which occurred in 1948 – a 50<sup>th</sup> year commemoration;
- and, the victims of the Genocide.

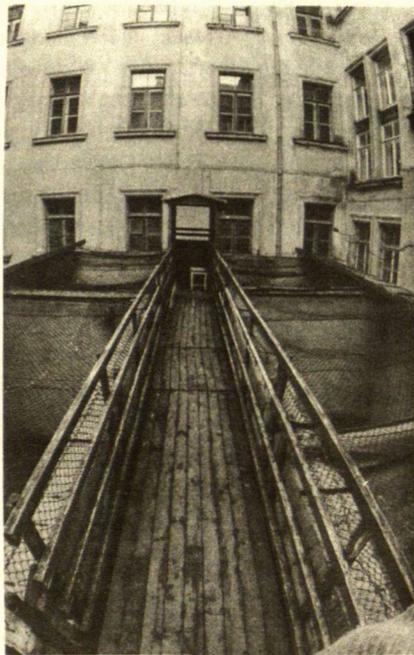
Future plans also include the restoration of the building's area of torture and execution. This will house a special memorial to Lithuania's freedom fighters with photographs and biographical information.

This documentation, the exhibits, and maintenance of the prison's gruesome attributes serve to educate and remind visitors that one quarter of Lithuania's population was sacrificed by the Soviet system. In addition, the genocide was hidden by the Soviets from the western world in an attempt to portray a positive image of the now defunct Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

Presently, visitors include not only tourists from other countries, but most importantly Lithuania's school children whose history education until 1990 had been dictated by the Soviet system with alterations to Lithuania's history. The extent to which deportations, persecution, arrests, and terrorization of Lithuanian and other Baltic human rights activists were perpetrated were kept hidden from the general population.

Lithuania's Genocide Victims Museum provides Lithuania's future with vital knowledge of her true past – one that

can arm her to prevent genocide from occurring again.



*Exercise yards surrounded by barbed wire.*  
Photo courtesy of Lithuania's Genocide Victims Museum

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## Fighting For Lithuania's Freedom

### Four Bishops Martyred for Their Work in the Catholic Church

**Bishop Vincentas Borisevičius**  
(Nov. 23, 1887 to Nov. 18, 1946)

**Crime:** Continuing his work as bishop and priest to his parishioners contrary to Communist rule.

During his trial, he stated, "Your victory is only for today. The future belongs to me. Christ will win and my country, Lithuania, will win."

**Punishment:** Tortured and shot to death. Buried in a mass grave outside Vilnius.

**Archbishop Teofilius  
Matulionis**

(June 22, 1873 to Aug. 8, 1920)

**Crime:** Protested the expropriation of his church.

**Punishment:** Arrested in 1923 and sentenced to three years in a Moscow Prison. Arrested for a second time in 1929, interrogated for a year, sentenced to 10 years of hard labor in the Solovetskie Islands in the White Sea. Allowed to return to Lithuania in 1933. Arrested for the third time in 1946 and deported to Siberia. Allowed to return in 1956 and died in 1962.

**Archbishop Metislovas Reinys**  
(Feb. 2, 1903 to Nov. 8, 1953)

**Crime:** Participated in Catholic political and cultural organizations, and in the general effort to regain Lithuania's independence.

**Punishment:** Imprisoned in 1919 for five months. Arrested in 1922 and soon released. In 1947, Reinys was arrested, sentenced to 10 years, and removed to Vladimir Prison near Moscow. There he died and his grave is unknown.

**Bishop Pranas Ramanauskas**  
(Nov. 21, 1893 to Oct. 15, 1959)

**Crime:** In charge of the diocesan synodal court and exercised episcopal duties.

**Punishment:** Arrested in 1946 and exiled to Siberia. Allowed to return after "successful rehabilitation" in 1956. He died in 1959 and buried in the Telšiai Cathedral.

### Sons and Daughters of Lithuania's Cause

**Adolfas Ramanauskas**  
(1918 to Nov. 29, 1957)

**Crime:** Leader of partisan units against the German and Communist invaders. In his journal, he wrote, "We have but one desire;

to win the fight for Lithuania's independence, and if God allows, to celebrate this event with the whole country..."

**Punishment:** Arrested in 1956 and shot without a trial in Vilnius. Burial place unknown.

**Jonas Žemaitis**  
(March 15, 1909 to Nov. 26, 1953)

**Crime:** Captain of the General Staff of the Lithuanian Army, partisan leader, and chairman of the Council of the Association of Lithuanian Freedom Fighters.

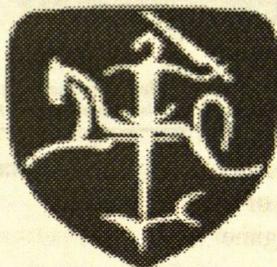
**Punishment:** Arrested in 1953 along with his wife. Shot to death in 1954. Burial place unknown.

**Nijole Sadūnaitė**  
(born 1938)

**Crime:** Helped to publish and distribute the *Chronicle of the Catholic Church in Lithuania*. Upon hearing her sentence, was quoted as saying, "Why is the sentence so light?"

**Punishment:** Three years compulsory labor in Siberia and three years in exile. During her exile, she took vows to become a nun. Presently she lives in Lithuania continuing her work for those in need.

These courageous warriors for Lithuania's freedom were only a handful who sacrificed their lives for a country's thirst for independence.



## The Legacy Continues

**M**ost eighth grade students study American history, from the pre-Revolutionary period to the present, to be able to understand how people affect others with their actions and beliefs. When discussions of World War II begin, the generalities are studied with only a glimpse into the war's effects on Eastern Europe. The three Baltic nations disappear between the importance of the Holocaust and the devastation of Hiroshima. It is only the rare classroom that enhances its curriculum with an in-depth look at Joseph Stalin's war machine and crimes on humanity.

Lithuanian-American students have always had the advantage when attending Lithuanian language and culture classes. These schools not only introduce and support the language's usage, but also present the students with an in-depth study of Lithuania's history in relation to world history. Here, Stalin's purges, the KGB's atrocities, and the fate of suppressed Lithuanians are examined and scrutinized. Children come away better prepared with an acute awareness of the way Lithuania was portrayed to the rest of the world, and how the Soviet powers were able to squelch not only the country and its people but, also the truth behind their actions.

Philadelphia's Lithuanian language and culture school, Vinco Krévé's Lietuviška Mokykla, recently graduated its four eighth grade students. Their courses of study included grammar, literature, geography, current events, and history. Great pains were taken to introduce these students to history chronicles and deported victims' journals, as well as time given to discuss these writings during their classroom periods. Why would such focused lessons and studies be necessary or needed for the average teenager?

The four students, Daina Maciūnas, Gintautas Stirbys, Aidas Gedeika and Kovas Juška expressed their thoughts regarding their Lithuanian studies. Gintautas Stirbys stated that "mass slaughtering committed against people of the world should be broadcast to every ear so that all would know or

## With Our Youth

should know" the truth in history.

Daina Maciūnas explained, "Everyone has heard of the Jewish Holocaust, the Tiananmen Square massacre, and other massacres against nations or societies who fought for freedom. Even 50 years after these massacres occurred, people are trying to bring 90 year-old people to justice. Not many people are educated about the communists, and what harm they have done to the Baltic countries. These communists have killed as many people as the Nazis have, yet these same communists that sent Lithuanians to Siberia or to death live in their [the victims'] houses and claim their property." Justice should be for all, not for some.

A lesson most often taught yet, not always successfully, is the one about "imagine yourself in another person's shoes". These Lithuanian School classes bring the lives of the sufferers, the partisans, and even the torturers to life for its students. The children see themselves in the Lithuanians of the past with the power of American freedom and assertiveness in the way they react to events that unfold in their daily lives, or in response to horrific events occurring in other nations. They see themselves not as helpless individuals but as empowered people prepared to deal with the unpleasant and the tragic.

Aidas Gedeika wrote, "Would you want to risk your life for someone else? Probably not. Those people that did were farmers, builders, and simple folk. If the partisans hadn't been there for Lithuanians, Lithuania would have been totally stomped on by the Communists."

What can a handful of children do to aid Lithuania heal her wounds and help the rest of the world acknowledge that Soviets committed grave atrocities within the Baltic Nations? Kovas Juška states, "I truly believe that during the Soviet occupation, what

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happened to the Lithuanian people was utterly, totally stupid. There was no worthy reason to commit these crimes. What gets me is that they [the Soviet system] got away with it. Now we have to speak up and make them face the truth by letting them know we know, and so will the rest of the world. Hopefully we can do it."

## Words To Remember

As the numbers of Lithuanian resistance fighters and condemned individuals increased in the Siberian labor camps, the need to communicate with the outside world was overwhelming. The epigram on the right was one sent to Lithuanian women, "sesės", on the occasion of February 16th. The letter, along with many others and the example on the cover of BRIDGES, was placed in a handmade wooden box and secreted out of the camp. The translation of this poignant piece follows;

Mieļos seses!  
 Nēr nieko amžino pasaulē,  
 nēr ko, kas nēfurefē golo.  
 nēišloktys ir kraugery grāndins,  
 kundm jic buuo lietuvg aptalē.  
 God isfuermas, lēkimo sesēs-  
 nēilgos mūsy vargo tērias.  
 J lietuvg visi kaip vienas grāim,  
 J laisvg. Brangig boēis sālē.  
 1955-11.16  
 Balys

Dear Sisters!

There is nothing eternal under the sun,  
 there is nothing which does not end;  
 nor shall the chains of the bloodthirsty,  
 with which they bound Lithuania, last.  
 So courage, sisters of our common fate,  
 our road of suffering is short.

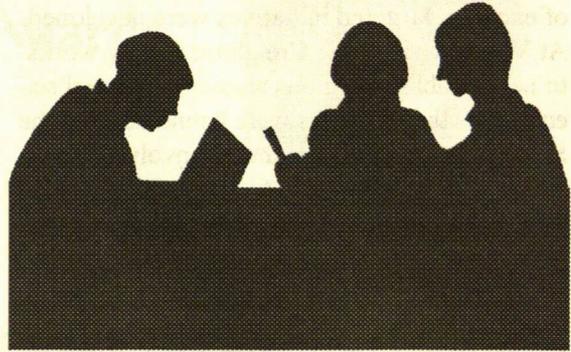
We will all return to Lithuania as one,  
 to freedom in the dear land of our forefathers.

### Sources used:

- *An Infant Born in Bondage*, pub. by The Lithuanian Catholic Religious Aid, Inc.; Brooklyn, N.Y.; 1982.
- *Encyclopedia Lituanica*, pub. by Juozas Kapočius; Boston, Mass.; 1978.
- Information received from Lietuvos Genocido Aukų Muziejus (Lithuania's Genocide Victims Museum).
- Information received from The Sisters of the Immaculate Conception, Putnam, Conn.

*Claire Sychowski*

# A Recipe For Success



**W**hat do you get when you put together a Catholic Jesuit university with a proactive Lithuanian-American community and add in a healthy dose of serendipity? An exciting and vibrant Lithuanian Exchange(s) Program!

Since its beginning in 1994, Creighton University's Lithuanian Exchange(s) Program has offered students and faculty from Lithuania and the United States the chance to expand and share their knowledge with each other. It has also helped to energize and enrich both the Omaha Lithuanian-American Community (OLAC) and Omaha itself.

The program traces its origins to OLAC's approaching Creighton University in the spring of 1993 with a request to start an exchange with an institution of higher education in Lithuania. As luck (fate?) would have it, the Department of Political Science had just hired a new professor whose specialty was Lithuanian politics! While not due to arrive at Creighton until August of 1993, Professor Terry D. Clark quickly agreed to visit with officials at Vilnius University that summer. The rest is history! In the fall of 1994, Creighton sent five students to study for a semester each at Vilnius Univer-

sity and Vytautas Magnus. In exchange, five students from each of these universities studied at Creighton for a semester. Since then, over 30 Creighton students have studied in Lithuanian and 20 Lithuanian students have taken courses at Creighton.

Among the majors represented are accounting, atmospheric science, biology, business, chemistry, classics, economics, english, environmental science, history, marketing, mathematics, modern languages, philosophy, physics, psychology, sociology, and theology. Opportunities thus far available to Creighton students in Lithuania are summer study abroad, semester abroad, and internship abroad.

The most important element of the program however, has been the faculty exchange. Thus far nine Creighton faculty members have taught at Lithuanian universities, and five Lithuanian faculty have taught at Creighton. Father Michael J. Proterra, SJ, Dean of Creighton's College of Arts and Sciences, from the very beginning directed that Creighton would place first priority on faculty development.

In particular, the Dean was intent that

*CLAIRE SYCHOWSKI is Dr. Terry Clark's student at Creighton University in Omaha, Nebraska.*

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Creighton faculty members have an opportunity to be challenged by a rich culture engaged in a rapid and dynamic transition. Even more importantly, in the Jesuit tradition, he insisted that Creighton give something of value to its Lithuanian partners in return. From that, a set of exciting, targeted initiatives were developed. At Vilnius University, Creighton faculty works to help establish religious studies and social sciences. Both disciplines were banned during the Soviet occupation. Creighton's involvement means that the university will be leaving its imprint on future scholars in these disciplines for generations to come.

Even more exciting has been the opportunity afforded by Creighton's newest exchange partner. During the summer of 1997, Creighton signed an exchange agreement with a second Lithuanian university, Šiauliai University (located in Omaha's sister city). This in turn helped launch a project to build an American Studies program with the new partner. Given Šiauliai University's primary mission of training primary and secondary school teachers, Creighton will be helping to form the image Lithuanians have of America for the century to come!

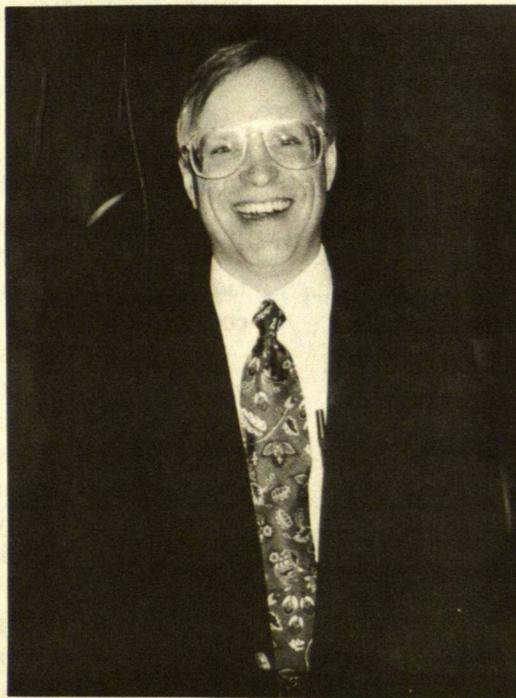
Professor Clark has been providing much of the energy to keep the program going at Creighton University. Dr. Clark reads Lithuanian; which, he studied while a graduate stu-

dent at the University of Illinois under the then endowed chair of Baltic Studies (later to be Rector of Vytautas Magnus), Dr. Bronius Vaškėlis. He has spent a month or more in Lithuania each year since 1990. In 1996, his wife Marnie and their daughter Jessica spent six months living in Šiauliai -- thanks to an IREX research grant.

There are many other key players as well at Creighton University without whom the program could not have taken its current shape. Among them are: Dr. David Higginson, Director of International Programs; Dr. Kathryn Thomas, College Director for Internationalization Efforts; Dr. Mike Lawler and Dr. Rusty

Reno, Department of Theology; Dr. Roger Aikin, Department of Fine and Performing Arts; and Dr. Byran LeBeau, Department of History.

The most critical element has been the OLAC. None of Creighton's success in initiating and developing its Lithuanian Exchange(s) Program would have been possible without the strong support of the OLAC. Community members have supported the exchange program in countless tangible ways -- from opening their homes to organizing special events to providing entertainment and transportation. OLAC and Creighton look forward to many years together helping to rebuild Lithuanian higher education and enrich the greater Omaha area!



**Dr. Terry Clark, professor of Political Science at Creighton University.**

*Photo: Aušrelė Sakalaikė*

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\*\*\*\*CAMEOS highlights people who are in your community and have made a difference in other people's lives by their Lithuanian-American spirit, work, or accomplishments. If you know someone who you would like to introduce to BRIDGES readers, please send your manuscript, with or without pictures, to the BRIDGES editor, c/o Rasa Ardys-Juška, 1212 Mohegan Road, Manasquan, NJ 08736

## CURRENT EVENTS

## Lithuanian Banknote Displays Garner Best of Show Awards



**Frank Passic**

Lithuanian numismatics won big at the Michigan State Numismatic Society Spring Convention held in Lansing, Michigan on May 1<sup>st</sup> to the 3<sup>rd</sup>. A six-case display in the educational exhibits section entitled, "Pre-World War II Litas Banknotes of the Bank of Lithuania" featured a complete set of the Pick 1-28 (catalog identification numbers) litas and centas banknotes, used in Lithuania in the 1920s and 1930s. This included the rare 1922 50 and 100 litu notes, the seldom seen 1924 500 and 1,000 litu denominations, and the 1938 10 litu banknote, which is only known as a "pavyzdys" specimen.

This display was awarded "Best of Show" award, and was assembled by Frank Passic, of Albion, Michigan, founder of the Lithuanian Numismatic Association and editor of its publication *The Knight*. Viewers were impressed with not only the rare never-seen-before complete collection of high-grade Lithuanian banknotes, but also with the colorful Lithuanian flag colors used in the display. The exhibit was amply filled with Lithuanian history, and concluded with 1938 newspaper headlines illustrating when Poland threatened Lithuania with invasion. Additionally, a photograph from a year later (1939) showed Lithuanian troops entering Vilnius following the defeat of Poland at the start of World War II.

"This collection took me 20 years to assemble, and several months to put together in a display," said Passic, who ironically won the award on the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the Lithuanian Numismatic Association

(1978). Passic has written *The Knight* since its beginning 20 years ago. This publication is filled with information about Lithuanian coins, banknotes, medals, tokens, bonds, military orders and decorations, and similar collectibles.

Passic serves as numismatic curator at the Balzekas Museum of Lithuanian Culture in Chicago, and assembled its numismatic room, which is a popular feature at the museum. He also serves on the board of directors of the Lithuanian-American Genealogical Society at the Museum, and is a member of the Society of Lithuanian Nobles in the United States. In the numismatic world, Passic serves on the board of governors of the Michigan State Numismatic Society, is a member of the American Numismatic Association, and is a certified ANA exhibits judge.

He has written numerous articles about Lithuanian numismatics for over 20 years which, have appeared in the national press. He has also displayed Lithuanian money at numerous coin conventions across the U.S., and has contributed information to Lithuanian listings in numerous numismatic catalogs.

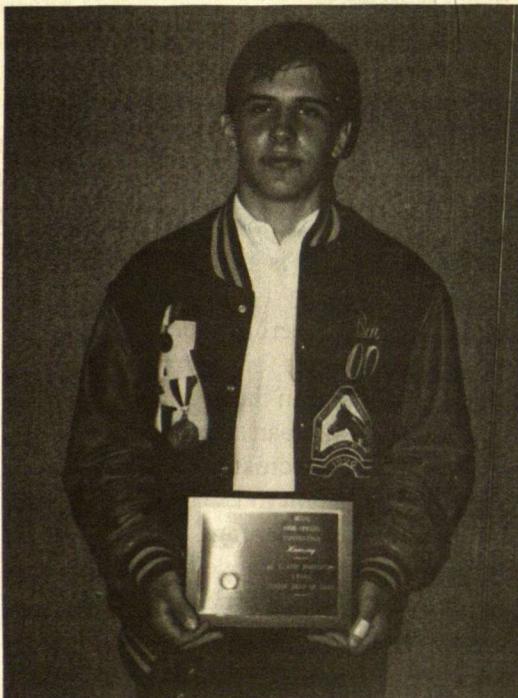
During Lithuania's struggle for freedom in the late 1980s, Passic kept the numismatic press well informed about new Lithuanian coin and banknote designs, and the intentions to re-establish the litas. Passic has regularly exhibited Lithuanian numismatic material over the past 20 years to promote awareness of Lithua-

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nian, and has won several top honors with his displays of Lithuanian coins and banknotes.

Passic's Lithuanian heritage is through his maternal grandparents. His grandfather, Nikodemas Kulakauskas (1890-1975), came to the United States in 1911 from his home village of Nevardenai, located south of Varniai, Lithuania. This particular Kulakauskas family is recorded in the nobility records in the Lithuanian National Archives, and dates back to the 17<sup>th</sup> century when family ancestors lived and owned land in the Šilalė area. "My grandfather's mother, Julijona Scholastika (Vazgirda/Vosgird -- Mrs. Juozas Kulakauskas) was also from a noble family which lived south of the Varniai area. I am currently researching that aspect," says Passic, who has learned much about Lithuanian history and genealogy through the science of numismatics over the years.

Another exhibit at the same Michigan Con-



**Benjamin Bearman, age 15, won the Junior Best of Show at the Michigan State Numismatic Society Spring Convention, May 3rd.**

*Photo by Frank Passic*



**A section of the winning banknote display by Frank Passic.**

*Photo by Frank Passic*

vention entitled "1991 Šiauliai Olympic Banknotes" featured a two-case display of a complete set of the controversial but colorful banknotes. These were issued by the Šiauliai Branch of the Bank of Lithuania and the Lithuanian National Olympic Committee held just prior to the coup in Moscow which toppled the Soviet government. Benjamin Bearman won the Junior Best of Show Award for this display. He is 15 years old and Frank Passic's nephew. Both Passic and Ben have been awarded an expense-paid scholarship to the American Numismatic Association Summer School of Numismatics in Colorado Springs, Colorado to be held in July.

This "double whammy" of Lithuanian exhibits winning both the Senior and Junior Best of Show Awards was a highlight to the science of Lithuanian numismatics. The Michigan State Numismatic Society is well-known for its reputation of high-quality numismatic displays in the numismatic world.

Frank Passic is an active numismatic serving numismatic societies and the Balzekas Museum. He is also the editor of The Lithuanian Numismatic Association's publication since 1978. Anyone interested in collecting Lithuanian numismatic items may write to Passic at: Frank Passic, 900 S. Eaton St. Albion, Michigan 49224. A subscription to *The Knight* is \$15.00 for five bimonthly issues by writing: Lithuanian Numismatic Association, P.O. Box 22696, Baltimore, Maryland 21203.

## CURRENT EVENTS

Source: ELTA News Agency at [www.elta.lt](http://www.elta.lt)

### POST-WAR PARTISANS AWARDED FOR ANTI-SOVIET RESISTANCE STRUGGLE

As Lithuania was marking a somber 50th Anniversary of the Great Deportation on Friday, President Valdas Adamkus decorated Vyty Cross Orders to a group of resistance participants, and those who had been awarded with the Freedom Struggle Crosses in 1949-1950, on May 22nd.

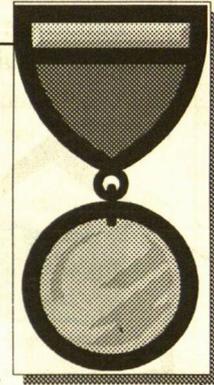
At the ceremony, Pres. Adamkus said the partisan struggle for Lithuanian independence, which broke out in 1944, could not be compared to any other event in terms of both scale and duration.

"Unsupported by anybody, the Lithuanian resistance fighters started a fight-to-the-death struggle for the freedom of their homeland which shows determination of the Lithuanian nation," Pres. Adamkus spoke thanking all partisans for their determination and sacrifice.

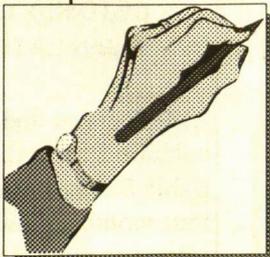
Vyty Cross 1st grade and 2nd grade orders were granted to nine partisans postmortem. The awards were handed to their relatives.

Vyty Cross 3rd grade orders were awarded to five freedom fighters, and eight orders were granted to partisans postmortem. One more, the 4th grade order, was given to Kazys Varkala.

During this session, The Chairman of Lithuania's Seimas Vytautas Landsbergis proposed a draft resolution to announce mass deportations from Lithuania to the ex-Soviet Union as a "war crime". Landsbergis expressed belief that the Parliament (Seimas) would pass the resolution.



### NEW LAW TO PROVIDE EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR LOCAL AND FOREIGN INVESTORS



The Lithuanian Economy Ministry College approved a new Investments Law draft, and plans to submit it to the government.

Up to now Lithuania had only a Foreign Investments Law, while a separate law did not regulate local investments. An Investments Law should provide equal opportunities for all investors despite origin of their capital, according to Virginijus Pašakarnis, Economy Ministry -- Economy Strategy Department. This draft retains the government's position on state investment regulation and would have the right to define priority fields to promote investments into them.

The law draft also proposes to increase total investments to no less than two percent of Gross Domestic Product.

## LITHUANIA'S URBAN RESIDENTS MORE SATISFIED WITH THEIR LIVING CONDITIONS

Lithuanian residents living in major cities said they could manage to live well if their revenues would reach 732.6 litas (\$183.15) per family member a month. Rural residents said that 534.1 litas (\$133.5) per person a month would be enough for them, this according to a Lithuanian Statistics Department survey.



The survey showed that 2.1% of urban residents consider themselves rich; while, among rural residents only 1.2% thought they are rich enough.

More than 70% of Lithuanians living both in cities and in the country consider themselves as middle class, while 24% of urban, and 25% of rural residents think they are poor. Twelve point five (12.5) percent of urban residents and 8.8% of those living in the country felt certain improvements in their living conditions during the year. On the other hand, more than 50% of town-

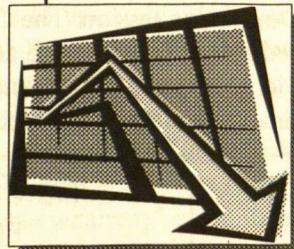
dwellers, and almost 60% of rural residents stated their living conditions had not changed.

To make ends meet, a Lithuanian living in a major city needs at least 360.5 litas (about \$90) per month. An individual living in the country needs 256.9 litas (about \$64.2) per month.

## FOOD PRODUCTS ACCOUNT FOR HALF OF LITHUANIAN EXPENDITURES

The Lithuanian Statistics Department survey of the first quarter household expenditures revealed that food still took the largest share of Lithuanians' household expenditures. According to the survey, food expenditures in the first quarter of this year accounted for a half of the total average expenditures per family member. Accommodation and utilities took about 15%; while transport, clothes, and footwear made up six percent of the total family expenditures.

Lithuanians living in urban areas in the first quarter of this year spent 45.6% of their family budget for food; those living in rural areas accounted for 60.8% of the total family expenditures. Accommodation, water, electricity, natural gas, and fuel expenditures accounted for 17.4% of the total family budget in towns, and for about 9.4% in rural areas. Other expenses included clothes, footwear, alcoholic drinks, tobacco, and leisure activities.



## ESTONIA LEADS INFLATION

Estonia posted the largest inflation among the three Baltic States during the first four months of this year amounting to 5.2 percent. Lithuania and Latvia registered 2.5 percent inflation during January to April.

## PRINCE ANDREW VISITS LITHUANIA

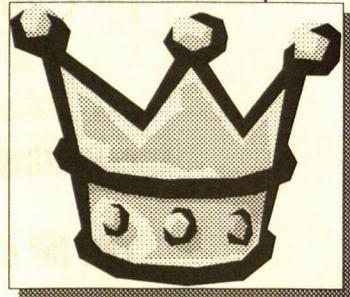
Prince Andrew, Duke of York, toured Lithuania's Genocide Victims Museum and Britain's supported Language Center on June 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1998.

The Museum's employees told ELTA that Prince Andrew saw cells of the former prison, cellars, and the walking courtyards: reminders of the Lithuanian people's sufferings in this building. The guest took a special interest in the outhouse of the former prison, and the cell in which people were jailed prior to interrogation.

Prince Andrew signed the Museum's visitor's book before leaving the Museum. Walking from the Genocide Victims Museum towards his car, the Duke of York waved to the more than hundred people flocking nearby.

Later, the Prince visited the state institution's Languages Center, housed by a Vilnius-based educational house. The Center's director, Eglė Sleinotienė described the Center's activities. Set up in late 1993, the institution was the result of a common program, which included the British embassy, the British Council and the UNDP. It is targeted at teaching the English language to officials of state institutions; providing training to nearly 7,000 civil servants.

After talking with the Center's students and teachers for a while, Prince Andrew gave as a gift a computer-disc version of The Encyclopaedia Britannica --the disc was tested by the Duke himself as he searched for information about Lithuania. The Royal Family member also signed the Center's honorary guest book.



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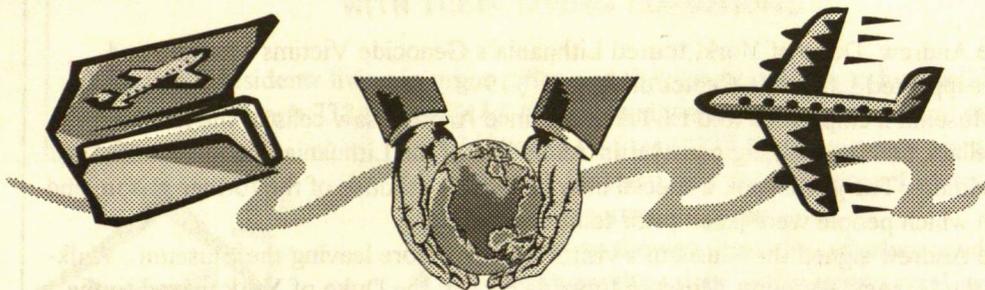
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