

BRIDGES

• LITHUANIAN AMERICAN NEWS JOURNAL •

Volume 26

Issue 8 October 2002

Our 25th Year!



Pres. Adamkus speaks in NY...NATO summit draws closer...Lithuanian parishes

P E R S P E C T I V E S

BRIDGES' first issue came out during my first year in college under the initiative of then Lithuanian-American community chairperson, and after many years recently re-elected, Algimantas Gecys. I remember it quite well because, as a very Lithuanian and very American student, I felt that it was time to introduce our "hidden" ethnic group and bring it out into the open. Why didn't anyone know about Lithuanians as they did about the other ethnic groups?

Being Lithuanian was always mysterious in the American society because it didn't have known icons attached to it as other groups had. The Italians had their Christopher Columbus and varied pasta dishes; the Germans had their sauerbraten and sauerkraut; and the Irish had four-leaf clovers, St. Patrick's Day and leprechauns. What Lithuanians could boast was their thorough anonymity.

With BRIDGES, Lithuanians were able to come out of hiding and finally introduce themselves to the rest of America as a culturally rich and determined ethnic group constantly struggling for self-determination for their homeland in a language understood by all Americans.

Each new editor brought a different slant to the way the magazine was published, but the message was constant and unwavering.

At first, the subscribers were those Lithuanian-Americans who did not read Lithuanian language media. This slowly changed to encompass subscribers interested in Lithuanian affairs because of genuine concern for our homeland. As time goes on, our readers are becoming writers for the journal and helping to chronicle the history of Lithuanian-Americans.

What icons can Lithuanians be known for here in America? I imagine they may include golden amber jewelry and a basketball team that shook up the dream team.. Hopefully, BRIDGES will stand out as the vehicle which helped Lithuanian-Americans to establish for themselves an equal, solid place among the many ethnic groups calling the United States home.

Rasa Ardyš-Juška

Editor

BRIDGES

Lithuanian American News Journal

USPS 017131 — Published 10 times per year (Jan/Feb. and July/Aug. combined). Address of publication is LAC, Inc./BRIDGES, 1927 West Blvd., Racine, WI 53403. BRIDGES is the official publication of the Lithuanian-American Community, Inc., 11876 Sunrise Valley Drive, Suite 200C, Reston, VA 20191. Tel. (703) 390-0498. E-mail: lacinc@erols.com

BRIDGES Consultants

ALGIMANTAS GEČYS, President,
Lithuanian-American Community, Inc.
TERESĖ GEČYS, Information Services.
RASA ARDYS-JUŠKA, Editor
RAMAS PLIŪRA, Treasurer, Lithuanian-American Community, Inc., and
Subscriptions Manager.

THE INFORMATION CENTER FOR
HOMECOMING LITHUANIANS. Collects
and provides information from Lithuania.

Copyright ©1999 Lithuanian-American Community, Inc. All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced without written permission of the publisher. All statements and opinions, including product claims, are those of the organization/advertiser making those statements or claims. The publisher does not adopt, or put forth, any such statement or claim as his own, and any such statement or claim does not necessarily reflect the opinion of the publisher.

Address all editorial correspondence to:
BRIDGES, P.O. BOX 606, Manasquan,
New Jersey 08736.

Unsolicited manuscripts must be accompanied by a stamped, self-addressed envelope if return is desired.

For subscription and advertising information, please contact:

LAC, Inc./BRIDGES,
c/o Ramas Pliūra,
1927 West Boulevard,
Racine, WI 53403.

Subscription rate is \$18.00 annually (US Mail serviced subscribers; subscriptions to other addresses are \$28.00), payable in advance (US funds). Periodicals postage paid at Racine, WI, and additional locations.

Contact us on the Internet at:
www.javlb.org

Postmaster: Send any address corrections and/or changes to LAC, Inc./BRIDGES, 1927 West Boulevard, Racine, WI 53403

BRIDGES

- 4** "A Positive Contribution to International Security and Stability
President Valdas Adamkus
Lithuania's president expresses his country's views regarding international concerns.

- 6** Gallegly and Shimkus NATO Resolutions Pass by Wide Margins
The Joint Baltic American National Committee
One step closer to NATO.

- 7** NATO Updates...
The latest news about Lithuania and NATO.

- 11** What is happening to our Lithuanian parishes?
Sr. Margarita Bareikaitė and Sr. Ona Mikailaitė
Time and cultural changes take a toll on Lithuanian parishes.

- 13** "The Best There Ever Was..."
Tony Mažeika
Johnny (John Constantine Jonaitis) Unitas is remembered.

Where IS Lithuania?... technically speaking, that is.

Technically, Lithuania's coordinates are 56 00 N, 24 00 E. Other geographic facts include:

Area: land: 65,200 sq km.

Area—comparative: slightly larger than West Virginia.

Land boundaries: total: 1,273 km.

Border countries: Belarus 502 km, Latvia 453 km, Poland 91 km, Russia (Kaliningrad) 227 km.

By the way, the coordinates alone locate Lithuania in the CENTER of Europe, not in Eastern Europe!

- 15** ... As I was visiting Lithuania
Gloria Kivytaite O'Brien
A travel journal highlights memories shared by many who visit Lithuania.

- 18** A final salute to a dedicated Lithuanian-American
The LAC
The Lithuanian-American Community loses a n irreplaceable member.

DEPARTMENTS. . .

- 2** PERSPECTIVES

- 17** REFLECTIONS
Who is Mary?
Sr. Margarita Bareikaitė

- 19** CURRENT EVENTS



On the cover:
Johnny Unitas is pictured talking with Lithuanian-Americans when the New Haven, Connecticut Knights of Lithuania (Lietuvos Vyčiai) chose him as "Man of the Year".

President Valdas Adamkus

“A Positive Contribution to International Security and Stability”

His Excellency Mr. Valdas Adamkus, President of the Republic of Lithuania spoke during the 57th session of the General Assembly of the United Nations General Debate on September 12th, 2002 in New York. Mr. Adamkus highlighted the need and necessity for the world to be united in the cause against terrorism and in support of international security and stability.

Mr. Chairman,
Ladies and Gentlemen.

First of all, I would like to join all those words of thanks that have been expressed to President Han Seung-soo of the previous General Assembly. Mr. President, we do appreciate your skillful guidance and leadership. We wish the incoming President, Mr. Jan Kavan of the Czech Republic, a year of constructive dialogue and fruitful cooperation.

I also take this opportunity to welcome Switzerland and East Timor, who are joining the United Nations family. This expansion of United Nations membership is important in many ways. It takes place at a time when the need for global solidarity and partnership is as great as never before. Terrorism threatens global stability and the very basis of our lives. Our countries must stand united and act to-

gether in order to avert threats to our existence and to secure the future of our children.

My country knows from her own experience how powerful and instrumental solidarity can be. Some years ago, Lithuania and eight other countries from Central and Eastern Europe formed an informal Vilnius Group, which has now grown to ten, to facilitate their accession to NATO. Solidarity and mutual support is helping us to make these aspirations a reality within our grasp. We do hope that our countries will soon join the European Union and NATO, thus reinforcing common values in the region, as well as our common positions and actions in the face of future challenges and threats.

But political solidarity is not enough. Our countries have also launched regional initiatives and taken other concrete steps to increase contributions to the global campaign against terrorism. In particular, I would like to men-

PRESIDENT VALDAS ADAMKUS is the president of the republic of Lithuania. He was also an active member of the Lithuanian-American Community.

tion the conference against terrorism, which took place under the Polish initiative in Warsaw last November. Our countries are determined to act and cooperate further, thus strengthening European and global security.

In the face of common threats, solidarity must emerge as a consolidating driving force in global diplomacy.

The tragedy of September 11th is an experience that reinforces and strengthens our common resolve to combat and counter terrorism. It should give us the courage and determination to work together as an international community: in addressing the root causes of terrorism; in responding

resolutely to non-compliance with Security Council resolutions and gross violations of internationally recognized norms of behavior; in fighting terror worldwide and keeping the weapons of mass destruction out of the hands of terrorists.

Therefore, it is regrettable that a member of this great body of the United Nations does not uphold its commitments and the underlying principles of this Organization. The Iraqi regime must allow unrestricted access for the UN inspectors to resume their work. We should exert all the pressure to insure this. Indeed, this is a test case of our solidarity and unity as an international community.

Last but not least, I would like to underscore the importance of international and regional cooperation in non-proliferation and arms control. It has always been Lithuania's firm policy to take part in all relevant, effective, and functional multilateral arms control and confidence building regimes that are open

to us and correspond to our national security interests. This year, Lithuania has applied for membership in the Open Skies Treaty. We will also seek to join the adapted CFE treaty after it comes into force and is open to all European democracies.

Each and every member state of the United

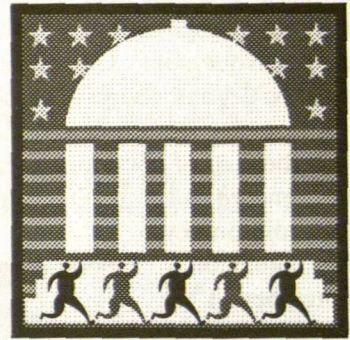
Nations should make a positive contribution to international security and stability, first and foremost, by respecting the rule of law and the human rights of its citizens. Good governance is a good starting point for all of us, irrespective of our cultural diversity and fundamental differences of history and geography.

Franklin Delano Roosevelt, who devoted much time to the planning of this multilateral institution known as the United Nations, once said: "We have learned that we cannot live alone, at peace; that our own well-being is dependent on the well-being of other nations, far away." Thus, the real strength in our power as an international community continues to lie in the power of our resolve to deal with the critical issues.

Yesterday, in this great City of New York, we paid respect to the victims of September 11th, 2001. We admire the way the American people have gone through this tragedy. And we support the United States of America in her efforts to eliminate threats to international security and human freedom. We must debate, talk things out, and make full use of diplomatic measures – but we must be ready to act decisively when strategic realities demand defense of freedom and democracy. ♦



Gallegly and Shimkus NATO Resolutions Pass by Wide Margins



The U.S. House of Representatives passed resolutions on October 7th reaffirming continued American commitment to NATO, and supporting the candidacies of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania to join the Alliance.

The resolution introduced by Rep. Elton Gallegly (R-CA) passed by the wide margin of 358-9, while the resolution introduced by Rep. John Shimkus (R-IL) passed by voice vote, which is by at least a two-thirds margin.

The Gallegly resolution, H.Res.468, was recently amended to endorse member candidacies of seven aspirant countries, including Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania. The margin of support of those who voted was nearly 98%, which is even more than the highly successful passage of the Solomon Freedom Consolidation Act. One representative voted "present" and 63 members did not vote. Gallegly, who recently spent a week visiting the Baltics, is the Chairman of the Subcommittee on Europe in the International Relations Committee.

Final vote results on H.Res.468 are available at: <http://jbanc.org/vote02.html>

Additional supporting comments on the House floor were given by Rep. Diane Watson (D-CA), Rep. Tom Lantos (D-CA), and Rep. Doug Bereuter (R-NE), all members of the House International Relations Committee. Credit was given to both the Committee chairman, Rep. Henry Hyde (R-IL) and Ranking Member Lantos for helping move the debate

and vote on the measure. There were 20 co-sponsors of the Gallegly bill, with Lantos, Bereuter and Rep. Christopher Cox (R-CA) as original co-sponsors.

The Shimkus resolution, HCR116, supporting membership of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania was originally introduced in April 2001 and eventually garnered 56 co-sponsors. Supporting voices on the House floor were Rep. Chris Smith (R-NJ), Rep. Diane Watson (D-CA), Rep. Dennis Kucinich (D-OH), Rep. Gallegly, Rep. Lee Terry (R-NE) and Shimkus, who added that it is "important for the House of Representatives to send a message to NATO leaders before the 2002 summit that the United States stands firmly behind the Baltics' candidacy."

Shimkus and Kucinich are co-chairs of the House Baltic Caucus, currently with over 75 members.

Dear Readers,

Many people deserve credit and thanks for working diligently on this important legislation since early 2001. The next step for us is to send faxes, telegrams and make phone calls to President George Bush to ask him that the United States of America nominate the Baltic nations for membership in NATO at the Prague Summit. Again, thank you for your persistence! ♦

THE JOINT BALTIC AMERICAN NATIONAL COMMITTEE (JBANC) represents the Estonian American National Council, Inc., the American Latvian Association, Inc. and the Lithuanian American Council, Inc. Contact person is Karl Altau.

NATO Updates...

Russia's demands won't decide date for Lithuanian entry to EU

Baltic News Service

The Kaliningrad transit issue shall not be treated as a specific problem of Lithuania, Interior Minister Juozas Bernatonis said at a meeting of justice and interior leaders of EU member and candidate countries in Luxembourg on Oct. 14th.

The Luxembourg forum deals with issues vital for the building of freedom, security, and a justice environment in Europe.

Bernatonis told his counterparts from the European states that, in spite of Russia-raised demands, this issue should decide neither the date of Lithuanian membership in the EU nor its accession to the Schengen space on basis of objective assessment.

Bernatonis pointed out support by Vilnius to efforts in the EU-Russia talks on finding flexible solutions to the Kaliningrad transit problem within the framework of Schengen acquis. He added that Lithuania appreciated the posture of EU nations that a possible compromise must be harmonized with the interests of candidate states concerned.

"Lithuania is developing consistently good neighbourhood ties with Russia and its Kaliningrad region and will seek that decisions on (Kaliningrad) residents' travel would lay grounds for further development of relations and for bettering of economic cooperation and human contacts," he said. ♦

Latvian President underlines EU and NATO enlargement's role in Baltics

ELTA/The Information Center for Homecoming Lithuanians

President Vaira Vike-Freiberga told the 4th annual Baltic Development Forum Summit in Copenhagen on Oct. 14th that the European Union and NATO enlargement would have a great effect on the Baltic Sea region, the President's Press Department reported to the LETA news agency.

The president said that EU enlargement will become the last step in erasing, once and for all, the aftermath of the Second World War. The Baltic Sea, which for decades had divided the East and the West of Europe, will now become a gateway of understanding and cooperation, she said.

Vike-Freiberga stated that from a military standpoint, the accession of the three Baltic States and Poland to the EU and NATO will vastly increase Europe's area of security and stability.

The president also thanked Denmark for its consistent support for EU and NATO candidate countries. Danish Prime Minister Anders Fogh Rasmussen said in addressing the summit that it was

held at a historic period in the development of the Baltic Sea region. Denmark, who has set the EU enlargement its priority during its presidency at EU, hopes that the ten EU candidate countries, including the Baltic states, will be invited to join the union this December.

Russia's involvement in the region's development is very important, but it must not hinder Baltic countries' integration in EU, stressed Rasmussen.

The forum's organizers announced that the next, 5th annual forum, would be held in Riga. As reported, organizers of the Baltic Development Forum underline the need for entering new markets and building new "bridges" with the goal of making the Baltic region the center of Europe's development, and boost the region's competitiveness in the global market. The previous forum took place in St. Petersburg. ♦

Pres. Bush affirms U.S. will not share influence zones with other superpowers

ELTA/The Information Center for Homecoming Lithuanians

U.S. President George W. Bush responded on Oct. 10th to Lithuanian ex-Premier and MP Rolandas Paksas concerning a possible dividing of influence zones between two superpowers – US and Russia. Pres. Bush said that his administration did not contribute in any way to Williams Co. withdrawal from the Lithuanian oil sector.

The U.S. administration always backed and promoted investments of American companies, the letter reads. The letter also contains a commitment of the American government to further cooperate with Lithuania in the promotion of U.S. investments in this Baltic state.

Over the recent decade, Lithuania has consolidated impressive reforms which makes it both attractive to foreign investments and has pushed the country toward becoming a strong candidate in its NATO and EU bids, Bush wrote in his reply.

The letter implies that the US is not set to share zones of influence with other superpowers in Europe. It says that all new democracies in Europe, from the Baltic Sea to the Black Sea,

and those between them must enjoy equal security, freedom, and European integration opportunities as old democracies of Europe do.

The U.S. president wrote that Washington would not trade in the fates of free European citizens, saying that there would be neither more "Munichs", nor more "Yaltas".

The American Williams oil group, which privatized a 26 percent interest in Lithuanian Mažeikių Nafta oil company a few years ago, had acted as the operator of the local enterprise. Against the backdrop of financial hardships, in August 2002 Williams announced that it would wind up its business abroad, including Mažeikių Nafta. Williams Co. sold its stake to the Russian second largest oil concern, YUKOS, which consequently widened its share in the Lithuanian company to almost 54 percent.

Mažeikių Nafta's authorized capital constitutes 707 million litas (205 million euros). The national government owns a 40 percent share portfolio. ♦

EU gives positive assessment of the Lithuanian economy

Baltic News Service

Prime Minister Algirdas Brazauskas, commenting on the European Commission's progress report on candidate countries released Oct. 9th, said that the European Commission commended the harmonization of Lithuanian legislation with the EU law.

"The Lithuanian economy and its growth pace, also many other economic factors at macroeconomic level, have markedly reinforced our position," according to Brazauskas.

Brazauskas hailed the recognition of Lithuania's market economy functioning according to free market rules.

"Of course, there are fields where we should

work and we will. For example, each section pinpoints administrative capacity – the readiness of Lithuania to administer funds coming to Lithuania," he said.

The Lithuanian premier stressed that the EU report for the first time confirmed preparedness to provide additional adequate assistance to the decommissioning of Ignalina's nuclear plant in a post-accession period. He added that the chapter on the n-plant was one of the toughest in negotiations with Brussels. ♦

U.S. and Lithuania sign accord on mass destruction weapon prevention

Baltic News Service

Lithuanian Defense Minister Linas Linkevičius and visiting U.S. Deputy Defense Secretary for Europe and NATO Ian Brzezinski signed an inter-governmental agreement on the prevention of mass destruction weapon proliferation and on the development of defense and military relations in Vilnius on Oct. 10th.

Under this agreement, Lithuania will employ both domestic and international legal instruments to halt the spread of nuclear, biological, and chemical weapons in the world. Being a party to such an agreement will add to the image of Lithuania as a safe state.

After the signing ceremony, Brzezinski said this agreement was also important in that it would deepen and enable US-Lithuanian cooperation.

Linkevičius provided a commentary that Lithuania would manage to join the non-proliferation process of mass destruction weapons, and the accord would allow the U.S. to supply required equipment.

"By combating international evil, Lithuania will benefit itself because no trafficking of mass

destruction weapons will be done in its territory," Linkevičius said.

The U.S. deputy defense secretary arrived in Vilnius with a delegation headed by American Ambassador to NATO Nick Burns. The group also included officials of the U.S. State and Defense Departments and of the American mission at the Alliance.

On Oct. 10th, high-ranking U.S. officials attended meetings with Prime Minister Algirdas Brazauskas and Seimas' Speaker Artūras Paulauskas. The visit reportedly was aimed to present to the Lithuanian government the U.S. line on NATO enlargement, which is currently under debate within the Alliance and may decide the posture of the whole bloc.

The U.S. government team, which had made a series of visits to Lithuania before, was in the process of drafting the last assessment of NATO candidate countries before the Alliance summit due in Prague next month. The summit will hear an official standpoint of the American administration on the enlargement process. Vilnius is the seventh capital city of applicant states toured by this group of U.S. officials. ♦

New Jersey supports Baltic countries' NATO membership

Baltic News Service

The General Assembly of New Jersey State in the U.S. on Sept 24 gave strong unanimous support to the resolution on Lithuania's, Latvia's and Estonia's NATO membership. The resolution urges the U.S. President George Bush and members of the U.S. Congress to provide support to the three Baltic states' NATO membership.

According to the Lithuanian Foreign Ministry, an Assembly member John Wisniewski initiated the resolution at the New Jersey State General Assembly. The resolution recognized the Baltic states' achievements in creating democ-

cratic systems and consolidating free market economies. The resolution points out that the Baltic states meet NATO military criteria and are ready to share the benefits and responsibility of NATO membership.

Lithuanian Ambassador to the U.S., Vygaudas Ušackas, on behalf of the three ambassadors of the Baltic states expressed his appreciation to the General Assembly of the State of New Jersey for the adoption of the resolution. Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia hope to get an invitation to join NATO this November in the Prague summit. ♦

U.S. and Lithuanian army chiefs hold first meeting in Washington

[www.itebassyus.org/Embassy of the Republic of Lithuania](http://www.itebassyus.org/Embassy%20of%20the%20Republic%20of%20Lithuania)

Chief Commander of U.S. armed forces, General Richard Myers thanked visiting army leader of Lithuania, Major General Jonas Kronkaitis for solidarity in peace-building in Europe and preparedness of Lithuanian servicemen to support US and other NATO countries in anti-terror campaign, ELTA reported. The meeting of both army commanders took place in Pentagon on Sept 27.

Lithuanian Defense Attache to U.S., Colonel Lieutenant Gediminas Grina said that General Myers inquired how the Baltic state was doing in fulfilling the NATO integration program and about the servicemen training system.

Gen. Myers also promised to accelerate the delivery of the anti-tank weapon Javelin to Lithuania. In late 2001, the defense ministry of Lithuania signed an agreement on the Javelin acquisition — Lithuania will be the first country in Europe possessing this type of a weapon.

The needs of Lithuania's anti-aircraft defense and possible US assistance in this field figured on the agenda as well.

On the front of international action, the Lithua-

nian army chief Kronkaitis informed his American counterpart about the preparedness of the country's medical officers to go to Afghanistan as part of a Czech field hospital on a peacekeeping mission. He said the Lithuanian parliament is deliberating a draft law on sending a group of servicemen to Afghanistan, too.

General Myers was cited as saying that the US armed forces would back the Lithuanian army in meeting its needs if the parliament adopted a positive decision.

Following this interview, Mr. Kronkaitis attended a conference on national security in Washington. General Erick Shinseki, chief of staff of U.S. land forces, said NATO-seeking Lithuania made an enormous progress in building up their national defense system and in NATO integration.

Dr. Daniel Gore, organizer of the conference, told Mr. Kronkaitis that "given 15 years ago one had said that U.S. and Lithuanian generals could meet in Washington, he or she would have been called insane, but interviews held today showed how much the world had changed and keeps changing". ♦

Seimas marks 10th anniversary of national Constitution

The Baltic News Service

On Oct. 25th, Lithuania marked the 10th anniversary of the national Constitution which was adopted through a nationwide referendum.

This year, the Baltic state also celebrates the 80th anniversary of the first permanent Lithuanian Constitution which was passed on August 1st, 1922. Law specialists treated this as most democratic of that-time in Europe.

During a solemn session of the Seimas, Speaker Arturas Paulauskas said "at the beginning of 20th century Lithuania was restored not only as an independent state — its residents elected the extraordinary parliament, Constituent Seimas, for the first time in history".

"The link between these two basic laws of

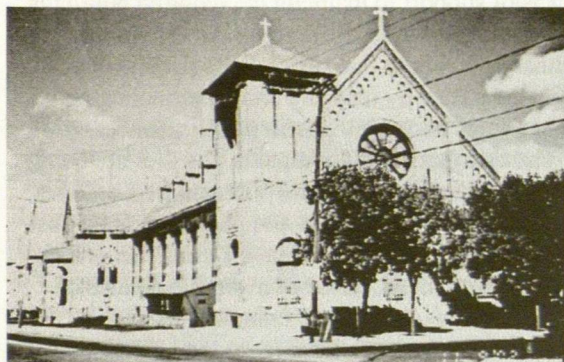
Lithuania is the founding of an independent state grounded on democratic values... The current Constitution of Lithuania is rather perfected which, with modification of a few articles, could take us to the European Union..." Paulauskas said.

Kestutis Lapinskas, a judge of the Constitutional Court, said the Lithuanian Constitution of 1992 is the longest-lasting basic law of the country which had passed the test of time. Over a decade, the Lithuanian parliament has amended only two articles in this document.

Juozas Žilys, Dean of Law Faculty under the Lithuanian Law University, said the Constitutional Court "was the phenomenon without which the present-day constitutionality of Lithuania was impossible at all." ♦

Sr. Margarita Bareikaitė and Sr. Ona Mikailaitė

What is happening to our Lithuanian parishes?



Within the last decade or so quite a few Lithuanian parishes in various parts of the USA have been closed or turned over to other ethnic groups. A few, like St. George's in Chicago, were demolished. Some parishes, once very active, now have a Lithuanian Mass only occasionally. Many people are upset by this and are wondering what is happening and why.

Lithuanians have been building churches and getting permission, often with a great deal of struggle, to establish ethnic parishes since the end of the 19th century. The oldest Lithuanian church in the USA was built in 1887 in Hazelton, Pennsylvania, which was the home of many Lithuanian coal miners.

From the beginning, ethnic Lithuanian parishes were somewhat different from neighboring parishes. As immigrants, Lithuanians lived in two distinct worlds: the American world of work and daily life and the social and spiritual world that they created for themselves. The Lithuanian parish was the place where they could be themselves: nourish their sense of family, their feeling of belonging to a like-minded community whose values they shared, and also express their uniquely Lithuanian spirituality

and faith with its deep roots in the homeland. The Lithuanian parishes helped preserve the people's sense of identity in the confusing American melting pot. Lithuanians did not want to be "melted".

The rhythms of Lithuanian parish life followed established patterns. Along with traditional religious services and the liturgical cycle were interwoven the special Lithuanian feasts and holidays with their outings, picnics, and also gatherings of particular societies, which Lithuanians love.

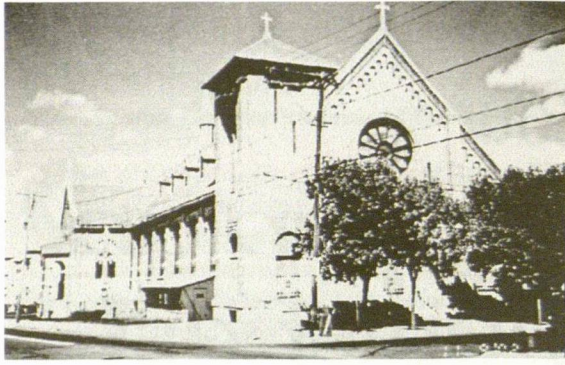
During the first seven decades of the 20th century – 1900 to 1970 – Lithuanians had enough priestly and religious vocations to foster the vigorous growth of the Lithuanian immigrant church.

However, from 1960 to 1980, there developed a period of dramatic economic change affecting Lithuanians in both cities and towns. The massive Lithuanian exodus into the suburbs and away from urban centers and also out of the small industrial towns into other parts of the USA dramatically affected urban Lithuanian parishes.

The slow decline of parishioners shows the many elements of social change at work. A certain percentage of Lithuanian immigrants, especially of the second generation, became Americanized and stopped going to the ethnic parishes. Some second generation Lithuanians worked hard to establish new parishes in the suburbs of the cities where their parents had lived, but the old city parishes were attended mostly by the elderly.

When Lithuania became independent in 1991, these newer Lithuanian parishes were revitalized by a new sense of purpose: to help in the rebirth of

*SR. MARGARITA BAREIKAITĖ and SR. ONA MIKAILA belong to the order of the Sisters of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, a Lithuanian order in Putnam, CT. Sr. Margarita is the Chairperson of the Religious Affairs Council for the Lithuanian-American Community, Inc. Sr. Ona is a writer and editor of *Bendradarbis*. The photo is of St. Andrews Lithuanian Church in New Britain, CT — celebrating its 100th anniversary.*



their parents' and grandparents' homeland.

In the 1980's, the Lithuanian-American Catholic Services organization in New York published an essay asking and answering a crucial question: "What makes a Lithuanian parish?" The essay listed some of the elements that make up an ethnic parish: a common language, the integration of traditional customs into the worship of the universal Church, an active social concern for the plight of Catholics in Lithuania (during the soviet religious persecution and after regaining independence).

Gradual assimilation has also been taking place – no matter how strongly the original immigrants resisted it. Mixed marriages and a number of other factors have changed the immigrant identity to a multi-cultural identity. Present day people of Lithuanian descent consider themselves to be Lithuanian-Americans. And so, the ethnic profile of the Lithuanian parish has also changed and is still changing.

Some urban parishes have been revitalized by the influx of the new immigrants from Lithuania, while others have declined rapidly. Many Lithuanian-Americans have not been able to preserve the Lithuanian language, and hence the need for an ethnic parish has declined.

Recording the rise and fall of Lithuanian parishes in the USA in his three-volume work Lithuanian Religious Life in America, (1991-1998), Fr. William Wolkowich-Valkavičius has painstakingly gathered together a great deal of information. He says: "Every effort is made to extend the life of a parish. A genuine effort to understand the past as it really unfolded among the members of a particular ethnic community can provide many lessons for the present..."

The sociological changes going on in our Lithuanian parishes are really not so tragic as they

might appear at first glance. We know that the responsibility for the care of souls in any diocese belongs to the bishop with the cooperation of his priests. In general, a parish is a territorial division of a diocese. Parishes are established with the approval of the bishop when they have sufficient means of support to maintain the required buildings and the livelihood of the assigned priest with the ordinary powers of that office. The parish council helps the pastor by unifying and coordinating parish activities and helping with parish finances.

The fact that some Lithuanian parishes are being turned over to Hispanics and Vietnamese Catholics who have their own priests and parish councils, just as Lithuanians struggled to have Lithuanian priests and parish councils, does not mean the demise of the Lithuanian-American community as such. Lithuanian-Americans have regrouped and are able to maintain a good number of parishes, but they now also have other organizations, buildings, and resources for their social, cultural, and charitable activities.

Catholic parishes in the USA are ethnically diverse and will continue to be so. The 38 million Catholic Hispanics need parishes. The sociological study of ethnic parishes is an extremely interesting field, where the parish is defined not simply as an area for socio-graphic study but as a partial social system amenable to analysis in structural and functional terms. The values, attitudes, and interactive behavior within the parish with the roles of pastors, curates, religious and lay members constitute the vital center of the sociology of the parish.

Parish research has been pursued by the Catholic University of America, Fordham University, and the University of Notre Dame. Hopefully, some of our well-educated Lithuanian-Americans will also make use of the material gathered by Fr. Valkavičius for further studies in the sociology of the Lithuanian parishes in the USA. ♦



Tony Mažeika

"The Best There Ever Was..."

Johnny (John Constantine Jonaitis) Unitas,
Son of Lithuanian Immigrants, Father of Modern American Football
1933-2002

I have to start by apologizing. In my younger years I knew of Johnny Unitas (John Constantine Jonaitis), but because of my focus on Lithuanian public affairs and an obsession with baseball (especially the Brooklyn Dodgers), I didn't grasp that history was being made by the Pittsburgh-born Lithuanian-American.

I was very thrilled with the historic performance of another Lithuanian American, Johnny Podres, baseball pitcher, who over-powered the unbeatable New York Yankees in 1955, and led the Brooklyn Dodgers to their first World Series championship. In the 1960's, I was committed to activities that centered around Baltic resistance to Soviet occupation including the November 13, 1965 Madison Square Garden rally and March to the United Nations.

With the exception of now deceased Father Casimir Pugevičius, I knew no Lithuanian who was close to Unitas. But I am happy that Father Pugevičius, while associate pastor of a Baltimore Catholic parish, did meet with him and knew him. His meetings however have never been documented.

The timeframe of the late 1950's through 1973 proved to be Unitas' period of historic glory as the greatest NFL (National Football League) quarterback of all time. Only in time, as each record and statistic was broken, did I realize what was happening for this unassuming American of Lithuanian ancestry. Not only was he becoming the greatest football player of all time, but because of his unquestioned leadership (called "Field General" by Sports Illustrated's Peter King), Unitas reinvented professional football into today's most popular, almost fanatical fall sport.

During his leadership as quarterback for the Baltimore Colts, as "field general", he exercised absolute game play control and player discipline. Because of his personal introduction of the "two

minute" drill during the final clock ticking moments of the game, football has been transformed into a billion dollar spectator and television spectacular. Those final two intense minutes of play have created some of the greatest upsets in history.

Johnny was born May 7, 1933 to a Lithuanian immigrant family. His father, who owned a local coal delivery company, died of pneumonia when he was five, and his mother raised four children by herself, supporting them by working two jobs. There was a sizable Lithuanian community in Pittsburgh those days. The men either worked in the steel mills or neighboring coal mines.

At St. Justin's, a small Catholic high school, Unitas played halfback and end until he replaced the injured starting quarterback in his junior year. As a senior, he drew interest from colleges. However, both Notre Dame and Indiana University turned him down because he was too small. He finally accepted a scholarship from Louisville where he became a starter and led his university to four wins and threw 21 touchdowns.

Unitas' remarkable feat began during his rookie campaign in a game against the Los Angeles Rams in 1956. Four years later and 11 games into the 1960 season, the streak finally ended against the same Rams' team that the streak had begun.

By completing 697 passes for 10,645 yards and 102 touchdowns during the 47-game string, Unitas quickly became recognized as one of the greatest quarterbacks to play the game. Seven different Colts were on the receiving end of his scoring passes, but Hall of Famer's Raymond Berry with 38 TD catches, and Lenny Moore with 27, were Unitas' favorite targets.

After a record-filled 18-year career, and three championships, Unitas himself was inducted into

TONY MAŽEIKA is a Lithuanian-American activist from California. He has always kept the LAC informed about many Lithuanian-oriented stories.

the Hall of Fame in 1979. His full uniform is on display at the Hall as well as the football he threw to surpass 40,000 passing yards.

It is important to understand that Unitas was not just another Lithuanian-American football sports figure (there have been many players on the rosters of professional football in the 1930's to 1960's, some of whom have become Hall of Fame members like Dick Butkus, Chicago Bears).

He was America's most successful and popular quarterback. Described as an icon by many, Sports Illustrated's Frank Deford called Johnny Unitas "an inspiration for the entire city" of Baltimore and "the greatest ever". He also described him this way, "Unitas didn't even have a quarterback's name. All by himself he rewrote the profile... Unitas was some hardscrabble Lithuanian, so what he did made a difference, because even if we'd never met a Lithuanian before, we knew he was a smart sonuvabitch as he was tough. Dammit, he was our Lithuanian."

Bill Curry, ESPN.Com, all-pro-center with Unitas for the Colts in 1971-1972, commented, "the thing that makes him so hard to describe, even for those of us who spent years in the trenches, is that despite his natural humility, his stoic mien, and his simplicity, he really was larger than life... He would always say the same thing. 'Talk is cheap... let's play'." Finally, with respect, "he was just John Unitas, real man, real winner, and real American hero. God bless you, John. We will never forget you".

Because of his outstanding achievements, leadership, attitude, dedications, and perseverance, he has become the measure and standard of how quar-



terbacks are rated.

Currently a petition drive has been undertaken by the Baltimore Ravens team to rename Ravens Stadium in Baltimore to Unitas Stadium.

It is sad that Lithuanian-American organizations and communities have never publicly recognized or awarded Johnny (Jonaitis) Unitas during his playing or retirement years. He was never approached to sign on to public efforts at restoration of Baltic or Lithuanian independence. His personal endorsements could have brought enormous weight and support to that struggle during his lifetime.

Of course, it is never too late to give a memorial or dedication to his great efforts and sacrifice to excellence. Who could have asked for a better American role model. He indeed serves as a true role model for young Americans and Lithuanians everywhere. My greatest hope is that his memory and achievements may inspire sports advocates to bring American football to Lithuania.

He will remain the most well-known Lithuanian American sports figure of all time. His premature death at 69 on the first anniversary of 9/11 is in its own way symbolic and will not be forgotten. ♦

For additional facts and stories, read Sports Illustrated special issue, September 23, 2002. Also look up: online: www.cnnsi.com/football, www.nfl.com/news/story/5704369, http://msn.espn.go.com/nfl/columns/curry_bill/1430697.html, www.sunspot.net/sports/football/bal-johnnyunitas.special

Note from Paul Jasiukonis:

About 42 years ago, around 1960, I was fortunate to be given a chance to meet the great quarterback from the Baltimore Colts Johnny Unitas. At that time I was living in New Haven and worked at Yale university producing educational films for the Ivy League schools. New Haven had and still has a sizable Lithuanian community with many organizations. Among them was an active chapter of the Lithuanian Knights (Lietuvos Vyčiai). That year they chose to present Johnny Unitas with an award for being the most famous Lithuanian "Man-of-the-Year". I was invited to be at the presentation and take some photos for the Lithuanian papers.

I found Mr. Unitas to be very pleasant and proud of his Lithuanian heritage. All the Knights of Lithuania wanted to have a picture with him.

Gloria Kivytaitė O'Brien

...as I was visiting Lithuania...

There are so many memorable events and experiences that a person can take home with them after a visit to Lithuania. Gloria O'Brien writes to us about several of those events that many may recognize having experienced themselves. Here is her first installment.

My cousin Ellie

We have visited Ellie and her mother, our Teta Stasė, many times since Independence was restored, and on each occasion we have been met with open arms, hugs, kisses, good wishes and lots of food. Ellie's farmhouse is quite large (ten rooms), and she always makes us comfortable in separate rooms, where we are entreated to make ourselves at home. Other relatives gather from the surrounding areas, in traditional Lithuanian fashion having been invited to stay for a few days.

Two "šeimininkės" (hostesses), Ellie's friends from Kudirkos Naumištis, the nearby town, come to help Ellie take care of the crowd. They bustle around the kitchen in their stocking feet, having removed their shoes upon entering the house from the backyard, where they are cooking up a storm in the "summer

kitchen" just across the yard and next to the barn.

This removal of shoes appears to be a universal custom in the "kaimas" (countryside). A long bench sits in the entrance to Ellie's house, its attached skirt concealing an array of shoes and slippers. Everyone entering exchanges their shoes for a pair of slippers or just walks around barefoot.

Each meal is served in a dining room set with a long table, groaning with abundance and variety, always topped off with a "raguolis" (Lithuanian torte which is large and spiked).

Breakfast on a Lithuanian farm is nothing like what we know in the States; they serve quantities of meat, potatoes, pickles, herring, and fried fish. They have the same type of

GLORIA KIVYTAITĖ O'BRIEN is a first-generation Lithuanian-American, one of three children of Anthony and Mary Kiveta. Born and educated in Brooklyn, NY, Annunciation parish, she sang in the church choir from childhood until she married and moved to New Jersey, where she now lives in contented retirement, and annually visits her many relatives in Lithuania.

food at other meals – and they also drink vodka and Teta’s delicious cherry wine and other homemade liqueurs. It’s very hard to get used to – and they just won’t accept a “no”. They keep on urging and offering and pouring and insisting. It wears you down, and it’s disconcerting. You don’t want to offend, and so eventually you give in.

They are showing you “pagarba” (honor) and it would be discourteous to refuse them. “When in Rome...”

And they keep on bringing in one course after another, adding dishes but never taking any away. The table gets more and more crowded, and you learn to do your utmost to quickly set down a dish after helping yourself from it, because if you wait too long, you’ll be left holding it with no place to put it, until one of the šeiminkės notices and takes pity on you. Apart from the generosity of Lithuanian meals, this is the strongest impression I have taken away with me, year after year.

One year, we were honored with a special party that I still remember in detail.

My brother and I were visiting and on that occasion were joined by our friends Tony and Ray. The room was crowded with our relatives and some of Tony’s cousins as well. The food was marvelous, such variety and imagination and tastiness, and the presentation was exquisite.

Halfway through the meal, Ellie’s daughter Rūta called for attention, and we were offered a variety of gifts, including beautiful presentation folders. I later learned that Ellie had ordered them from an artist in Naumiestis. The padded covers were decorated with the Vytis seal, and inside are parchment pages inscribed with poetic sentiments. Rūta read mine aloud:

“Mano kraštas – laukai ir beržynai ir kalvos.
Lyg pražydę linai – ten padangė gili.

Neužmirštamą Tėviškės kvapas ir spalvos, kai užminga diena – ir skaišti, ir tyli.” “Mielai Glorijai – Prisiminimui iš Tėviškės Lietuvos – 1992 VII 26 – Giminės.” (My homeland - the fields and birch tree groves and valleys. Like the blossoming linen - the deep horizon is there. The unforgettable smells and colors of

the homeland, when day falls asleep - and pure, and quiet. Dear Gloria - a keepsake from your homeland Lithuania - July 26, 1992.)

When she began to read, I began to cry. How generous – folders for all four of us, each with a different quotation – then other gifts – juostas (sashes – a big ceremonial thing with Lithuanians) tied across our shoulders and at our waists,

plaques, pictures, wooden carvings. They popped champagne, made toasts, then to top it all off, everyone stood and sang “Lietuva Brangi”.

My brother Tony answered the toasts as well as he could, and we all yelled “Valio!”, and sang “Ilgiausių Metų” at the top of our lungs. So unexpected – we felt overwhelmed – we certainly didn’t deserve such ceremony – that was among the most unforgettable experiences of my life.

When the meal was three-quarters over, the accordionists came in, and we started the singing – what a pleasure. We then all trooped to the outside and ate, drank, sang and danced all night! Some people didn’t leave until dawn.◆



R E F L E C T I O N S

Sr. Margarita Bareikaitė

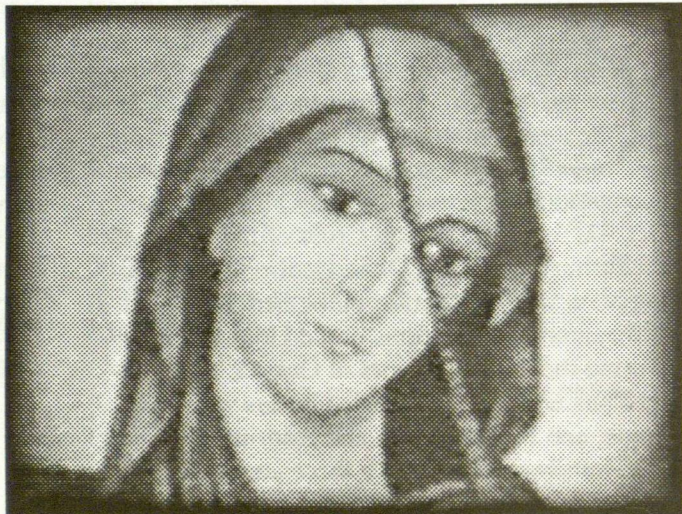
Who is Mary?

S In the Gospel of St John, we read that the “Word was made flesh.” (1:14). That is the second Person of the Most Blessed Trinity; God the Son, was incarnated, was made man.

To provide the human nature of the Redeemer, God chose a young Hebrew maiden named Mary, a descendant of king David. She was living quietly with her parents in the village of Nazareth. Mary had vowed her virginity to God, which was part of God’s plan for her. Mary was given by God the heritage that Adam had lost. From the first moment of her beginning, her soul was united to God.

It was by her own free consent that Mary chose to be the mother of the Redeemer. How then could anyone profess to have a genuine love for Jesus Christ without also having a love for His Mother – Mary. Jesus loved Mary with the perfect human love, which one could have for the perfect Mother.

The month of October is dedicated to honor Mary. She is the most revered of all saints. Our Marian spirituality must be rooted in Mary’s connection to Jesus. From the earliest days of liturgical celebrations, Mary has been included in the main prayer of the Mass. She is mentioned during the Mass, too. “In union with the whole Church, we honor Mary the ever-virgin mother of Jesus Christ, our Lord and God”.



When we look at Mary in the gospels, we know that she is connected with the life and mission of Jesus. Her presence and her words in the New Testament are enough to provide reflection, “Blessed is the womb which bore you,” (Luke 11:27-28).

Mary shared the Good News with her cousin, Elizabeth (Luke 1:39-56). Like a faithful Jew, Mary is convinced that all good things come from the Lord and she pours out her heart “My soul magnifies the Lord.” (Luke 1:47). The Acts of the Apostles mention Mary at Pentecost (1:14).

Through Mary, the Son of God came to proclaim the Good News. Through Mary’s life and example, the people of God continue her mission. Mary has something to offer us – Her own life, example, and attitude. ♦

SR. MARGARITA BAREIKAITĖ belongs to the order of the Sisters of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, a Lithuanian order in Putnam, CT. She is also the Chairperson of the Religious Affairs Council for the Lithuanian-American Community, Inc.

A final salute to a dedicated Lithuanian-American

Chairman of the Public Affairs Council of the Lithuanian-American Community, Inc. and JBANC Board member Algirdas Rimas was decorated at his home in Reston, Virginia on Oct. 16th with the Knight Cross of the Order of the Lithuanian Grand Duke Gediminas, honoring his active contribution to American-Lithuanian organizations in the United States. During the morning hours of Oct. 19th, Mr. Rimas passed away surrounded by his wife Raimune, and sons Algirdas and Andrius.

Rimas was the uniting force among several different American-Baltic organizations. He understood that only by common efforts Lithuanians could achieve their goals.

Algirdas J. Rimas was Chairman of the LAC Economical Affairs Council from 1994 to 1997. He became the Representative of the Lithuanian American Council in Washington, DC and a Member to the Joint Baltic American National Committee (JBANC) in 1998. He served as a Chairman of Lithuanian American Community Public Affairs Council and ran the Office of LAC Public Affairs Council in Reston from 2000.

The decree to honor Rimas with the Knight Cross award was signed on Oct. 7th by Valdas Adamkus, President of the Republic of Lithuania. The award was presented by Lithuanian Ambassador Vygaudas Ušackas.

Rimas's last wishes were to be cremated

and buried in Lithuania, and that donations in his name would be given to Lithuanian education. He will be remembered as a brilliant leader, an honest and thorough colleague, and a beloved family member and friend. ♦

This article is a compilation of information received from JBANC and the Lithuanian-American Community's Public Affairs office.



C U R R E N T E V E N T S

Sen. Robert Bennett (R-UT) joins Senate Baltic Freedom Caucus

Sen. Robert Bennett, Utah Republican, announced on October 1 that he has joined the Senate Baltic Freedom Caucus.

Senator Bennett recently visited Riga, Latvia, in July during the Summit of NATO aspirant countries. He was accompanied by Senators Trent Lott (R-MS), Craig Thomas (R-WY), Jim Bunning (R-KY) and Ben Nelson (D-NE). Senator Nelson joined the Caucus in August.

Sen. Bennett is a member of the Senate Appropriations Committee Foreign Operations subcommittee. That subcommittee oversees Foreign Military Financing funding and International Military Education Training funding to Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and other countries, including other NATO aspirant countries.

The Senate Baltic Freedom Caucus is made up of Members of the Senate with an interest in promoting good U.S. relations with Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania. The Caucus is co-chaired by Sen. Richard Durbin (D-IL) and Sen. Gordon Smith (R-OR). There are currently twelve members of the Caucus, evenly divided between Republicans and Democrats. Other members of the Senate Baltic Freedom Caucus are: Joseph Lieberman (D-CT), Charles Grassley (R-IA), Barbara Mikulski (D-MD), George Voinovich (R-OH), Dianne Feinstein (D-CA), Peter Fitzgerald (R-IL), George Allen (R-VA) and Debbie Stabenow (D-MI). ♦

—A JBANC Press Release

Lithuanian citizens in U.S. urged to vote in upcoming presidential elections

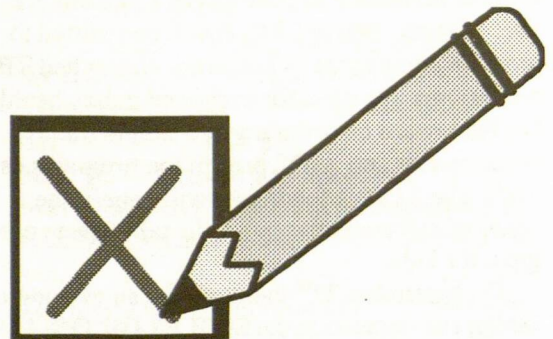
The Lithuanian embassy has called on Lithuanian citizens residing in the U.S. to vote during the forthcoming presidential election at the end of this year.

Lithuanian citizens will be able to vote in the national embassy and consulate generals in Chicago and New York. Elections for the next president of Lithuania will be held on Dec. 22nd, 2002. Lithuanian citizens who are not residing in Lithuania or will be outside it during this period, may also vote by mail (17 to 22 December 2002) or may cast their vote either in the diplomatic missions or in consulates.

Although in Lithuania the presidential election was merged with local polls on December 22, the national Constitution allows only residents of municipalities concerned to elect local councils. Therefore, diplomatic missions outside

Lithuania will not organize voting in local elections. For more information on how to register and vote see www.ltembassyus.org. ♦

—Baltic News Service



BRIDGES readers come through!

Responding to Jeanne Dorr's articles in BRIDGES, many American Lithuanians sent in generous donations for Christmas presents to be given to needy Lithuanian children.

We would like to thank the following donors:

- Ellinora and Philip Vinson, McMinnville, TN -- \$500 for three children's sponsor money,
- Ronald Yoncha, Malvern, PA is sponsoring two children and donated \$200,
- Barbara Plikaitis, Arlington Hts., IL sent \$150 for a child's sponsorship and \$200 for Christmas presents,
- The following sent \$150 yearly child sponsorship support: The Kruels, Pottsville, PA; Margaret Towers, Wilmington, DE; Julia Skurdenis, Bronxville, NY; Karin Marie Kirsch, Evansville, IN; Joseph and Frances Yuknas, Denver, CO; Christopher and Tracy Dorr, Paul Raymunt, Washington, CT; Vytautas Jankus, Delran, NJ.

For Christmas presents, a merry thank-you to:

- \$200 – Peter Pajunas, Jr., Westlake, OH; Dr. and Mrs. Mary Jablonskis, Westchester, IL.
- \$150 – Irene and George Suboczewski, Bethesda, MD; Albert and Henrietta Mikutis,

Philadelphia, PA, Edward Leugoud, San Francisco, CA.

- \$125 – Julia Skurdenis, Bronxville, NY.
- \$100 – Charles Busanovich, Princeton, NJ; Ken and Joyce Kachinski, Peabody, MA; Margaret and Ernest Towers, Wilmington, DE; Rita J. Pugliese, Medford, NJ; Frank and Patricia Bobbin, Springfield, MA.
- \$85 – Edward V. Zunaris, Wollaston, MA.
- \$50 – Lee O'Donnell, Brea, CA; Gil Girdauskas, Wautoma, WI; Mary Mitchell, Livonia, MI.
- \$25 – Elizabeth Didžbalis, Linden, NJ; Milda Vaivada, Albuquerque, NM; Dave Chesson, Bridgeport, CT.
- \$20 – Grand Rapids Dominicans (Sr. Helen Jude); Raymond G. Kazlas, Queens Village, NY; Frank and Yvonne Faran, Rockville, MD.
- Peace Garden Community – c/o Maxe Milery, Doylestown, PA collected \$55 during their third multicultural forum.

On behalf of Lithuania's children, we thank you for your generosity! Lithuanian Orphan Care, 2711 West 71st Street, Chicago, IL 60629. Donations are tax-deductible – tax ID No. 36-4124191. ♦

Smiles of the Future 2 ☺ ☺ 2

Lithuanian Mercy Lift, (LML), together with supporters like you, has been providing medical assistance to post-Soviet Lithuania for twelve years. While LML is still committed to providing assistance to hospitals, clinics and TB sanitariums, the need for improved public health has led toward contributing to mammogram/breast cancer and AIDS prevention programs as well. The 2 ☺ ☺ 2 fundraiser will benefit the youth of Lithuania through a dental hygiene program for kids.

On November 23rd there will be an evening of dining and dancing at the SMILES OF THE FUTURE 2 ☺ ☺ 2 benefit in the Westin Hotel, overlooking Chicago's Magnificent Mile. For additional information, view our website at www.lithuanianmercy.org.

lithuanianmercy.org, e-mail lithuanianmercy@lithuanianmercy.org and for reservations contact Laima at 708-354-4835.

There will also be a raffle drawing that night. Raffle tickets from LML offer five chances to win: one Grand Prize – round trip tickets for two to Lithuania, one \$1,000 cash prize, one \$500 cash prize, and two \$250 cash prizes. If you would like to buy raffle tickets, contact LML at: P.O. Box 88, Palos Heights, IL 60463 or call 708-448-6173.

We are grateful for your continuing generosity and concern. ♦

—Smiles of the Future 2 ☺ ☺ 2,
Organizing Committee

"Our Home is the World"

The Lithuanian Folk Dance Group "Klumpė" has a home base in Lake County, Illinois. Every year they participate and perform at the International Fair "Holiday Folk Fair" in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. This year's Fair will be held from November 22nd to the 24th.

The 2002 Fair's theme is "Our Home is the World". In connection with the theme, the Fair's coordinators ask the participants to show how ethnic cultures are kept alive in the home and their community. The "Klumpė" group asks you to join in with your photos showing your connection to Lithuanian culture – in your folk costumes, with Lithuanian musical instruments, at your own Fairs.

Please send your photos by mail or e-mail to: Bronė Milašienė, 11 So. Highview Circle, Hawthorn Woods, IL 60047, or Joseebro@aol.com.

—*Bronė Milašienė* ◆



Upcoming Connecticut events

The Federation of Lithuanian Women, Greenwich CT Chapter, will host a benefit featuring two very talented young artists Dainius Puodžiukas, violinist, and his brother Aidas Puodžiukas, pianist, on Sunday, November 3rd, at a stately home on the shores of Long Island Sound.

Our next benefit will feature the well-known opera star, guest artist of the Metropolitan Opera, Violeta Urmanvičiūtė-Urmana, on March 30, 2003, in New York City at the Danny Kaye Playhouse of Hunter College.

The proceeds of both events, as are all the proceeds of this Chapter, are earmarked for the reading program at the infants' homes in Lithuania. For further information please call Marijona Dymšaitė-Ogden at (203)323-3472. ◆

—*Giedrė Stankunas*

Fall Festival in Pennsylvania

A Lithuanian Fall Festival (Rudens Šventė) is being planned by the Society at the Lithuanian Country Club for Saturday, November 2nd starting at 1 p.m. after the Saturday Lithuanian Classes are over.

Those attending are asked to bring their own food and beverages and to dress in comfortable clothes for the outdoors. This will be the last opportunity you have for an outside picnic scheduled at the barn. If it is too cold, the event will be held inside the Club House.

It is reported that wild turkeys are abundant at the Country Club. There are deer there, also.

This free event is a chance for you to see the Fall leaves, do a little hiking in the woods, maybe do a little raking, but generally just to have a good social time.

The Country Club is a lovely place located south of Century III Mall on Coal Valley Rd., south of the Saturn dealer. For information call Vytas Miselis at 412-373-7008. ◆

—*From the Lithuanian Citizens' Society Newsletter, Oct. 2002 issue*



Philadelphia Lithuanians gather in November

The Philadelphia area Lithuanian-American Community and Lithuanian Music Hall Association are presenting a plethora of celebrations and special events.

- ◆ Nov. 2 and 3 — Lithuanian Fair or Mugė at the Hall (2715 E. Allegheny Ave., Phila.) Saturday — Noon to 7:00 pm, and Sunday — Noon to 6:00 pm.
- ◆ Nov. 10 — Musical Ensemble from Lithuanian — Kanklės Concert at St. Andrews Lith. Church (19th and Wallace St., Phila.) at 1:30 pm.
- ◆ The Community and Music Hall's anniversaries — 50th and 95th respectively. A Jubilee Banquet at the Music Hall at 2:00 pm. Reservations required — 610-544-2851. ◆

LITHUANIA 2002

- * *Lowest air fares to Vilnius from many cities in the U.S. on Finnair and other carriers*
- * *Wide selection of hotels in Lithuania*
- * *Escorted bus tours throughout Lithuania including hotels, sightseeing, food, etc.. English and Lithuanian speaking guides*
- * *Car rentals in Vilnius*

All Vytis agents speak English and Lithuanian

VYTIS TOURS



Largest Tour Operator to Lithuania

VYTIS TOURS

40-24 235th St. Douglaston, N.Y. 11363

Tel. 718-423-6161

1-800-77-VYTIS

Fax. 718-423-3979

E-MAIL: vyttours@earthlink.net

WEB SITE: www.vytistours.com

BLp(LK)1195-8
BLp(LK)1195
2002, Iss. 8

BRIDGES

• LITHUANIAN AMERICAN NEWS JOURNAL •

Volume 26

Issue 8, October 2002

PERIODICALS
POSTAGE

Subscriptions:
1927 West Blvd.
Racine, WI 53403

