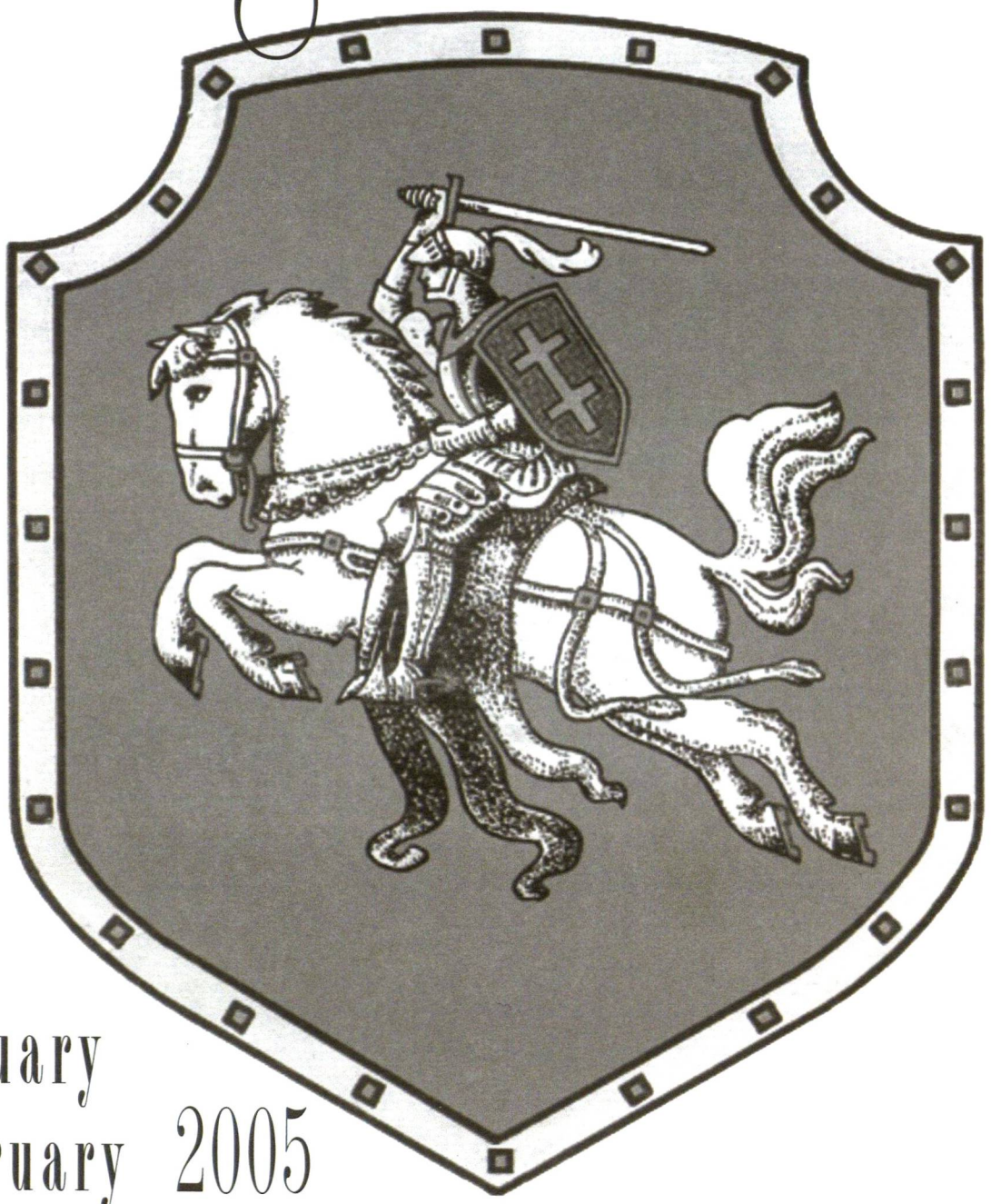


№. 1-10

art

1

# bridges



january  
february 2005

L I T H U A N I A N   A M E R I C A N   N E W S   J O U R N A L



### Letter from the Editor

Perhaps it's because I live on the East coast I think of January and February as the "dark" days. The hustle and bustle of the holidays has ended and there doesn't seem to be much ahead for us during these two months. But every so often we are given a "wake-up" call by the beauty of newly fallen snow blanketing the trees. That's when I realize that there is something to look forward to in the "dark" days. Thoughts of spring come into my mind, and with spring, come thoughts of hope. That hope is for a better world for all people. Many times we forget how fortunate we are and how many blessings we have received.

January and February have been mixed with joy and sorrow for the people of Lithuania. We can never forget January 13 when the "singing revolution" became the Vilnius Massacre. Yet we commemorate Feb. 16 with joy as Lithuania became an independent nation. Please look at the calendar of events and try to attend a local commemoration.

Gema has done an outstanding job researching the Vytis symbols as well as providing the information on independent Lithuania. One of Gema's mother's most prized possessions is the print of Vytis which is on this cover. For her the Vytis stood for hope and Ona Kreivenas took this print with her when she and her children fled Lithuania in 1944. She carried it with her during the years they spent in the Displaced Persons camps in Germany. Gema remembers where it hung prominently on the walls in their room. Her mother's treasure was always with them and it was proudly displayed in their American home. Between January 13 and February 16 we have our American Valentine's Day. I received the story of Wilhelm and Elisa from Henry Gaidis in the fall. I was like a teenager with money in my pocket. It was burning a hole to be published, but I had to hold this beautiful love story for Valentine's Day. Larry Misevicius has provided the press release for the magnificent organ story as well as the sports article on Arvydas Sabonis. I was thrilled when I was contacted by Professor Guntis Smidchens of the University of Washington asking if BRIDGES would be interested in his interview. We are not only interested, we are deeply honored to have been selected and we hope we will hear more from Professor Smidchens. I always try to have something for everyone in each issue, so if classical music is not your greatest pleasure meet Mark Adomaitis and the members of Steel Wolf, a hard rock band. Dr. Jonas Duncia writes of what is happening in the world of chemistry in the Baltics. Thanks to Zita Petkus and the "Tulpe Times" newsletter published by the Seattle Chapter of the Lithuanian American Community, you will read about women who have forged ahead in the business world. Sister Ann Mikaila wrote an article about saving our Lithuanian parishes. This issue needs our immediate attention and we can't leave it to "someone else". Each and every one of us is that "someone" else. I have no idea how many hours Terese Gecys spent on her article but there certainly is a wealth of information in it. All it took was one email to Gloria O'Brien and I had a folktale. So many of you have commented how much you enjoy Gloria's translations. Oh, the marvels of modern technology. Another email to Rimgaudas Vidziunas asking for a poem and I received this beautiful excerpt from his cousin's speech in Vilnius. I can't imagine how the early editions of BRIDGES were done without computers. Each and every one of the people who worked on the earlier editions deserves our never ending gratitude. Last, but not least, Akvile tells us of her feelings when her parents won the green card and their journey to American began.

Sit back, relax and enjoy this month's BRIDGES.

*Jeanne Shalna Dorr*  
Jeanne Shalna Dorr

**BRIDGES**

Lithuanian American News Journal  
USPS 017131 – Published 10 times per year  
(Jan./Feb. and Jul./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.**  
PO Box 33464

Washington, DC 20033 - 3464

LithuanianUSA@yahoo.com  
or  
info@lithuanian-american.org

**BRIDGES Consultants**

*Jeanne Dorr* Editor  
*Gema Kreivenas* Design & Production  
*Ramas Pliura* Treasurer,  
Lithuanian American Community, Inc.,  
and Subscription Manager.

THE INFORMATION CENTER FOR  
HOMECOMING LITHUANIANS.

Collects and provides information from  
Lithuania.

Copyright ©2005 Lithuanian American Community,  
Inc. All rights reserved. No part of the publication may  
be reproduced without written permission of the pub-  
lisher. All statements and opinions, including product  
claims, are those of the organization/advertiser mak-  
ing 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**

Jeanne Dorr  
4 Shrewsbury Yard  
Riverton, NJ 08077-1038  
E-Mail: Jeanneshalna@aol.com

For subscription and advertising  
information, please contact:

**LAC, Inc./BRIDGES,**  
Ramas Pliura  
1927 West Boulevard  
Racine, WI 53403

Subscription rate is \$18.00 annually  
(US Mail serviced subscribers).  
Subscriptions to other addresses are  
(US \$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 correction  
and/or changes to

**LAC, Inc./BRIDGES,**  
1927 West Boulevard  
Racine, WI 53403

**in this issue**

2

**editorial**  
Letter  
from the Editor  
*Jeanne Dorr*

4

**history**  
Vytyis\*

5

**history**  
The Long Road to  
Independence

6

**cultural**  
Steel Wolf  
Keeps the Train-A-Rollin  
*Mark Vytaas Adomaitis*

7

**akvile's corner**  
The Start of a Long  
Journey  
*Akvile Dudonyte*

8

**reflections**  
A Wake up Call for  
Lithuanian Parishes  
*Sr. Ann Mikaila*

10

**dance group**  
Zilvinas  
*Estera Bendziute-  
Washofsky*

11

**sports**  
Euroleague is Here  
*Laurynas Misevicius*

12

**science**  
Chemistry in the  
Baltics, BOS 2004  
*Dr. John Duncia*

13

**reflections**  
January 13, 1991  
*Jeanne Dorr*

14

**news and views**

16

**business**  
Across Cultures at  
the University of  
Washington  
*Irena Blekys*

18

**history**  
Wilhelm and Elisa  
*Henry Gaidis*

21

**baltic folklore**  
Truth and  
Falsehood  
*translated by  
Gloria O'Brien*

22

**cultural**  
A Never Ending  
Song Festival  
Professor  
*Guntis Smidchens*

24

**cultural**  
A Pipe Dream  
No Longer  
*Submitted by  
Laurynas Misevicius*

26

**business**  
US Companies  
Open their Doors to  
Lithuanian Women  
*Inga Smirnoviene*

27

**poetry**  
Excerpt of speech  
*submitted by  
Rimgaudas Vidzunas*

27

**bridges passages**

28

**cultural**  
Cultural Tidbits  
*Terese M. Gecys*

30

**calendar**

\* Cover "Vytyis" Illustrator is not known.

\*\* Throughout this issue Vytyis is a collection of different illustrations compiled from books: "Lietuva" (Mano Tevu Zeme), "Lithuania 700 Years", "Encyclopedia Lituonica" and "Lithuanian Roots."

# Vytis

Emblem of the Lithuanian state. The Lithuanian noun *vytis* “dis. patch rider, knight” is derived from the verb *vyti* “to pursue, to chase, to follow hastily in order to overtake”. The emblem of Lithuania depicts an armored medieval knight riding on a horse at gallop, with a sword in his right hand raised high above his head as if to strike a blow; the knight is heading from the right to the left (as seen from the viewer’s point), so that his left side is entirely in sight; the shield protecting his left arm shows a two-barred cross. The figure of the knight is silver white mounted on a red field trimmed in gold yellow.

Vytis, as the symbol of Lithuanian sovereignty, is attested from the 14th century onwards, but it may have been used earlier, in the time of King Mindaugas (ca 1236-1263). In their dealings with Western Europe the rulers of Lithuania doubtless followed the custom of the Middle Ages and took to using seals with an armored knight, who at first must have indicated the ruler himself. The earliest examples of such a symbol in Lithuania are found on surviving seals and coins. On the earliest known coins from the second half of the 14th century the Vytis appears on the one side and the Columns of Gediminas (q.v.) on the other. On some of these coins the rider is heading to the left, on others to the right. The designs of the rider and the horse after the fashion of silhouettes are rather primitive. More naturalistic designs of the Vytis are found in the seals of Jogaila (1379) and Vytautas (1385). On the seals of Vytautas the Great the breast of the rider is covered by a triangular shield with the Columns of Gediminas mounted on it. On most of these seals the horse faces heraldically to the left, sometimes the opposite direction occurs (on seals of 1386, 1390, 1404, 1409). On seals of King Jogaila the rider bears the shield on his left arm and a double cross is mounted on it; the horse usually faces heraldically to the right. If the rider rode in the opposite direction, his body would conceal the shield and its design. The stance of facing to the left (as seen from the viewer’s point) became constant in the second half of the 15th century and remained permanently with rare exceptions.

If on the emblem of Lithuania there is no doubt that the armored rider originated from the medieval west, on the other hand the origin of the double or six-pointed cross on the rider’s shield is

still obscure. It is not known when or by whom or for what reason this cross was brought into use. It is found for the first time on a seal of Jogaila of the year 1388. Some historians conjecture that this cross was designed to express the union of Lithuania and Poland under the rule of King Jogaila (1386); but there is no basis of proof for this explanation. It is known that Vytautas the Great (q.v.), who extorted from his cousin Jogaila the right to rule Lithuania independently, struck coins with the double cross. This would show that that sign was connected with independent rule of Lithuania. The six pointed cross is formed by a vertical bar and two horizontal bars; the transverse bars are of equal length, and each transom is equal to one half of the upright stem; the horizontal bars are parallel and cut the vertical beam in such a way that all six ends of the double cross are equal.

At the beginning of the 16th century under Renaissance influence decorative additions appeared on designs of the Vytis. They were: 1. a tuft of three long feathers waving from the tip of the knight’s helm; 2. a long saddle-cloth hanging down to the ground level and split in three tongues toward the bottom; 3.. the tail of the horse turned upwards and shaped in the form of a nosegay. The saddle-cloth is first observed on the seal of Lithuania in 1539; but this ornament was not kept constantly, as for example, on coins struck by King Sigismund Augustus about the same time. It was obvious that a saddlecloth reaching to the ground would impede the horse from galloping.

During the Lithuanian national revival in the second half of the 19th century the Vytis became the symbol of the striving for freedom. When Lithuania recovered independence in 1918, different variants designed by artists came into use. In 1918-19, during the reinstatement of the independent Lithuanian state, the Vytis again became the national symbol. It remained so until 1940 when Lithuania was forcibly occupied and incorporated into the Soviet Union. In 1933 a panel for the study of the Lithuanian national emblem was set up with a view to ascertaining the true historical and heraldic properties of the Vytis. The experts expressed their preference for the variant used on Lithuanian coins since 1925 (artist Juozas Zikaras). In this design, the Vytis did not have the ornate shape of the horse’s tail or the long saddle-cloth, but it had a scabbard

*continued on the back page*



# The Long Road to Independence

Sources: Lithuania 700 Years and  
Encyclopedia Lituanica

Excerpts from Independent Lithuania  
ALBERTAS GERUTIS

## THE GERMAN OCCUPATION

When World War I began, it was not possible to speculate how Lithuania would be affected; but based upon past experience; the prewar status of Lithuania would be altered. In the wake of the Crimean War, serfdom collapsed in Russia. The unsuccessful war with Japan shook the foundations of the Russian government, and brought certain easing of tensions not only in Russia, but also in Lithuania. Thus, it was believed that World War I would leave a marked imprint upon Lithuania. This was further testified to when Lithuania became a battlefield of the war. The eastern borders of Russia were separated from Germany's by Lithuania, and naturally any movements either army made were carried through Lithuania. This presented many problems to the Lithuanians, but it also focused the world's attention upon this small country.

At the beginning of the war, Russia invaded eastern Prussia. Among the Russian troops which began the attack in the German territory, there was a high percentage of Lithuanians.

As leader of the German eastern army, Hindenburg, with his chief of staff Ludendorff, lived in Kaunas (until the summer of 1916), from where they were better able to acquaint themselves with the problems of East Europe as a whole and with the problems of Lithuania in particular. As the so-called specialists from the German side of these matters, they, especially General Ludendorff, influenced the decisive policies of eastern Germany. In various places of Lithuania battles were furiously fought; the country was devastated, with many areas either destroyed or going up in flames. (The same doom overtook many single farms.) The Russian government evacuated the governmental offices and industries into the heart of Russia. Very often the inhabitants, either forced by the Russian government or by their own desire, left their homes and fled

west. The Russian agencies purposely spread rumors concerning the "furor teutonicus," which caused an increase in the number of refugees. High schools with their personnel and students were evacuated from the cities. Total mobilization was declared. The flight of the refugees from the war-scarred area resulted in farms losing their owners, crops being unharvested, and fields being left unsowed. Great numbers of the evacuees settled in the cities, especially in Vilnius since it was the largest center in eastern Lithuania. The people were poverty stricken. It was necessary to quickly organize aid for them.

The progressing war gave a chance to bring to light the injustices Lithuania had suffered. Even before the war, the Lithuanian representatives in the Russian Duma, on a few occasions, had demanded that they be given some cultural and political autonomy. The representatives in the Duma stipulated the desire that in the wake of the war the Lithuanian people would regain both Lithuania Minor and Major, joined by the boundaries of the Russian Empire. At the same time, the Russian government was given "the amber declaration," in which the Lithuanian activists of Vilnius formulated the injustices done their nation. Inspired by Lithuanians living in America, who had more favorable conditions for activities, they also led some political action. Even during the war, the American Lithuanians had organized parliaments (September and October of 1914, in Chicago and Brooklyn, New York) where they demanded political autonomy and the right of free choice for the Lithuanian people. They also demanded that Prussian Lithuania be connected to Lithuania Proper.

If the Lithuanians living in Russia and under German occupation were restricted to act freely, the Lithuanians living in the United States of America and in neutral Switzerland had no such problems. At the beginning of the war, in Chicago, Illinois and Brooklyn, N. Y., Lithuanian parliaments established the organization to aid refugees in the Lithuanian colonies and prepare them for political work. Money was provided for financing not only activity in the United States, but also in other countries, those in Switzerland being the

first to receive such aid. The work of those in Switzerland was invaluable in the field of information. This work was performed in association with the Lithuanian Bureau of Information, which the political em grant Juozas Gabrys - Parsaitis had founded in Paris in 1911, but which was transferred to Lausanne, Switzerland in 1915. Gabrys also worked with the Paris "Union des Nationalites," which prior to World War I convoked several so-called "congresses of nations," where suppressed countries' cries for freedom were heard.

In Lausanne that same year, on June 27-30, a "Conference of Nations" was held, attended by delegates from thirty countries, which passed a resolution demanding that each nation be given the right of free political choice. After the arrival of the Lithuanian delegates from Vilnius, a new Lithuanian conference of broader scope was held during which the ultimate ideal was proclaimed: the cry for independence.

## DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE

At the end of World War I, while Lithuania was occupied by Germany, independence was restored through the Declaration of Independence proclaimed by the Council of Lithuania (q.v.) on Feb. 16, 1918 in Vilnius. The text of the declaration read as follows: "The Council of Lithuania, during its meeting, February 16, 1918, unanimously decided to address the governments of Russia, Germany and other states with the following declaration:

The Council of Lithuania, as the only representative of the Lithuanian people, basing itself on the recognized principle of self-determination, and the decision of the Lithuanian Conference in Vilnius, September 18-23, 1917, proclaims restoration of an independent Lithuanian nation based on democratic foundations, with its capital in Vilnius; and furthermore, this nation is to be freed from any unions with other nations which previously had existed.

The Council of Lithuania also proclaims that the foundations of the Lithuanian nation and its relations with other states will be finally decided by a Constitutional Assembly to be convened as soon as possible, its delegates to be elected democratically by all the people.



STEEL  
WOLF

## KEEPS THE TRAIN-A-ROLLIN!

Long time Bridges readers should recall reading articles on the Lithuanian American music group Steel Wolf back in June 1983 (Vol.7, #6) and May 2000 (Vol. 24, #4). I have been drumming and singing for this band for over twenty years now. Although many other members have come and gone, Steel Wolf's mission remains the same: to write, perform and record entertaining heavy rock songs containing lyrics peppered with Lithuanian words and imagery so as to enlighten our audience to the country's rich culture and heritage. This can be heard in the lyrics of the title song of our most recent compact disc, Midnight Train to Siauliai.

*Algis Kezys (drums), Michael Jaillon (guitar), Mark Adomaitis (vocals), Ellis Spanos (bass)*

**Our name comes from Lithuanian folklore: the legend of the Duke Gediminas dreaming of an iron wolf (Gelezinis Vilkas) on the hill on which he was to build the capital, Vilnius. We knew we sounded heavier than other hard rock bands that used the adjective "iron" (i.e., Iron Maiden, Iron Butterfly) so we went with "steel." The latest album title (Midnight Train to Siauliai) was chosen due to this being my father's birthplace.**

Steel Wolf has never performed in Lithuania but we do have fans there. Many band members have made the journey and brought CDs. However, we have played many Lithuanian-American venues:

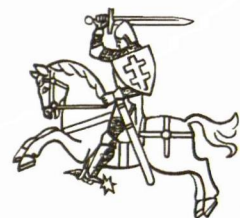
Camp Neringa (Vermont), Krezo 2 Lounge, Zidinys Cultural Center, Apreskime Church (all 3 in Brooklyn). We've been talked about on Laisves Ziburys radio (NY) and seen in Amerikos-Lietuvis (East Coast Edition). Other Lithuanian-American publications that Steel Wolf has been seen in besides Bridges and Amerikos-Lietuvis are Draugas (Chicago), Darbininkas (NY) and Morning Glory (Camp Neringa).

Currently our line-up is Algis Kezys, brother of former members Edvardas, Rimas and Vytas. Al plays drums and sings and has been in the band since 2001. Our guitarist, Michael Jaillon, has been active since 1987 and writes much of the music. On bass, we've Ellis Spanos, member since 1998, the youngest of the quartet. I play drums and sing. I have led and managed the band since 1982. Our future plans involve releasing an updated version of our documentary, Rhythm N Booze. Now it will be on DVD as a two-disc package in time for Christmas. (Go to

<http://www.filmthreat.com/> and check out a VHS review!) Our concerts are on hold due to two of us being blessed with children again (my third, Mike's second) and Ellis' wedding plans.

Come visit us at: [steelwolf.yourprivatespace.com](http://steelwolf.yourprivatespace.com) to learn more!

*However, my eldest son, Clark, is studying the piano, has an enthusiasm for rock music and loves Camp Neringa. Perhaps "Steel Wolf: The Next Generation" will be written about in a not-so-distant future issue of BRIDGES.*





## The Start of a Long Journey

Everything happened because of my mother, when she sent the letter to the USA. It was the last day that you could still send the letter for the Green Card Lottery. She sent it and we forgot about it on the same day. Three years passed, time after time my Dad was making jokes about how he is going to airport, gets in the plane, and comes to Philadelphia. To tell the truth, I didn't even believe that we would get an answer from the embassy, but one day something happened...

I remember it was November on an early fall morning. I always open the mailbox before I go to school, and there is nothing interesting but bills, magazines, etc. But this time, there was a big, thick letter. Thank God, my Dad was by my side. I was in such shock that he had to hold me for a while. The letter from the U.S.A. Embassy came. It was an invitation for the interview with the Embassy's consul. My mother was happy, but on the other hand sad, because if we leave, we leave all our relatives, friends, people that we love so much. Well, of course, we could just throw the letter out and regret this action for the rest of our lives. But we did the right thing. We took the challenge that life gave to us. We decided to go to Poland and try out our luck.

We packed our clothes and toothbrushes the evening before we had to go. And so, our stressful trip began on January 11th, at 6am, when we left our home. The weather was perfect: sun shining up in the sky, a lot of snow, not very cold. I was looking through the window and whispering to my mother, "Mom, look! Isn't it beautiful? Do you realize that..." I didn't finish my thought, because mother interrupted me. "This can be the last time we are going on these roads," she said. "I know Mom, this can be the last time I see beautiful white ground with a lots of snow, the blue sky, gorgeous trees with shiny silver tops," I

whispered. Then my father suddenly asked, "Why do you girls feel like that? You know, we have nothing to lose, so let's try. This opportunity comes only one time in a life! Come on!"

Those eight hours on the road felt like eight months. Finally, we made it! And so, the big city, Warsaw, was waiting for us. The weather became worse. It started to snow so hard that you could hardly see what was in front of you. Crowded streets, traffic, rushing people everywhere and I had to tell my Dad the directions to our hotel. My mother was very tired. Because I love her so much, I let her rest. She looked so exhausted. It's not strange that we got lost in such a big city. Honestly, when you're in a hurry, you just can't stand when somebody is ponderous in front of you. So, we had to make decisions on the spot and go really fast. After an hour of being hurry-scurry, we found our hotel.

That night, before the interview I had a dream. It was so real. I was dreaming about my best friend. I know her for so long, from the first grade we were best friends. We did everything together. I remember when we got suspended. Yes, both of us. We were like those three musketeers "All for one and one for all!" For 10 years she was always by my side. I was telling good-bye to her in the dream. No wonder woke up with tears in my eyes. It was really sad. I didn't want my Mom to see me like this, so I got up early and started to get ready. I was thinking, if we get the Green Card, we have a ticket to a totally new world. I tried to be strong, to inspire my parents and not to be worried. But somehow they noticed me being hesitant. My father told me not to worry, that this is not a big deal. My mother came from behind, held me and softly said "We are all together, if anything is going to happen, it's going to happen for all of us. Don't worry, you know we love you." I felt so calm at that moment.

It was almost time for our appointment. My Dad, my Mom, and I sat together and held each other with such great love. Then, a man in a uniform came in front of us and asked our family name. He asked us to go with him. We went to see the consul. Father was walking behind me, and he started to smile.

He was looking at my shaking legs. That was really funny. I can't actually tell what the consul was talking about, I didn't listen. To tell the truth, I didn't even care. My mind was far, far away from the Embassy. Only one person was in my mind-Brigita, my best friend. Then suddenly my parents started to hug me. I realized that we got the Green Card. "Oh my God!" I yelled. My parents were so happy, I wasn't, unfortunately. All the way home, I was silently crying in my heart. When you know the person for so long, she becomes a part of you and, when you have to leave her, somehow you lose a part of yourself and your heart. That was how I felt, something will be missing in my heart.

All that time I was singing one song, that really made me think about everything.

*My life has changed on a day in November,  
I've learned so many things about myself  
But sometimes I'm sad on a day in November  
Coz I feel with all my friends who were left behind"*

When we came back home I said to my mother "Next time, make sure that you really know what are you doing, and I think you know why I'm saying this. Well, I don't say that this was the most stupid thing that we did, but we should think more before we do something. We should pay more attention to the people who surround us- friends and the rest of our family." She understood me and she answered in such a calm voice. "You love them, right? They love you. No one is dying, yes? So, don't worry, just think, everybody will be so happy seeing you again when you'll be back! But I promise you, next time, we will think more and we will try to remember every little thing we do." She said it so quietly, that I could hardly hear her... "I promise you." she whispered.

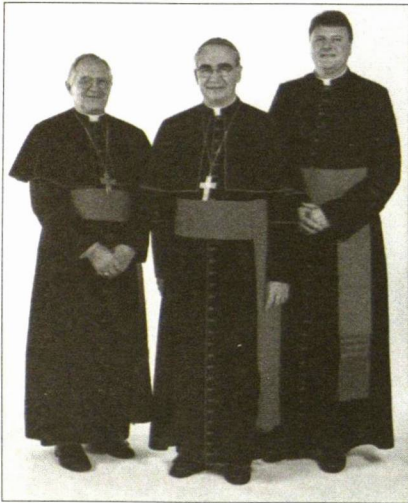
But still the song's words got stuck in my mind...

But sometimes I'm sad on a day in November...

*Akvile Dudonyte*

*Akvile Dudonyte lives in Philadelphia and is a high school sophomore. She is also a member of St. Andrew's Lithuanian choir, "Laisves".*

# A Wake-Up Call For Lithuanian Parishes



*Bishop Paulius Baltakis, Cardinal Audrys Backis and Msgr. Edmund Putrimas are most concerned with preserving Lithuanian parish ministry in the USA.*

On October 11, 2004 the American Lithuanian Priests' League had their annual convention in Putnam, CT at Immaculate Conception Convent followed by the Lithuanian priests various retreats. Among the twenty priests from various Lithuanian parishes in the USA was Bishop Paulius Baltakis, Msgr. Edmundas Putrimas, from Toronto and Fr. Stephen Zukas, pastor of St. Peter's Church in South Boston. The fate of St. Peter's was the hot topic under discussion. It has been placed in the second category of Boston churches to be closed on November 1 of this year. So far, however, the parish is alive and well and the parishioners are doing everything possible to keep it open. Within six weeks, the "Friends of St. Peter" have donated \$100,000 to the fund for saving the parish.

According to Msgr. E. Putrimas, the delegate appointed by the Bishops' Conference of Lithuania to manage matters relating to

Lithuanian parishes outside Lithuania, St. Peter's call for predicament is a wake-up call for all Lithuanian parishes in the USA and Canada. During the past 10-15 years the over all number of Lithuanians has risen due to immigration from Lithuania, but the number of "DP's" is steadily decreasing. The second and third generation of the post WW II immigrants often attend local churches and turn up at the Lithuanian parishes, which their parents loyally supported for 50 years, only on special occasions. The so-called "third wave" Lithuanian immigrants do not feel at home in these parishes as yet. And so, because of demographics and inevitable assimilation, attendance at Lithuanian churches is falling steadily. Boston's Archbishop Sean O'Malley is well within his rights in his decision to downsize the sprawling archdiocese of Boston encompassing some two million Catholics, concedes Msgr. Putrimas. The fate of St. Peter's, however, is a very emotional issue both for the Lithuanian clergy and especially for its parishioners. Having recently celebrated its 100th anniversary, the parish is now teetering on the brink of extinction. The Archbishop celebrated Mass there on September 8th, the feast of Our Lady of Siluva, but he made it clear that he would not discuss the closing. On September 12th, the official, previously planned jubilee celebration brought out some 500 Lithuanians from the Boston area as a demonstration of solidarity in support of their parish and their pastor.

Father Stephen P. Zukas (ordained in 1992) has been pastor of St. Peter's for the past six years

and is very personally involved in the on going campaign or "holy war" as one article in the Boston Globe put it, to save his parish. Father Zukas is a fourth generation Lithuanian who is very much aware of and who values his Lithuanian roots. When he learned that he was to be appointed pastor of St. Peter's, after Msgr. Albert Contons who had served the parish for many years, retired, Fr. Zukas felt a close kinship with his new parishioners — his own childhood parish having been St. George's in Norwood (also recently closed). To improve his language skills he lived and studied in Lithuania for a year at the invitation of Cardinal Audrys Backis of Vilnius. The young priest traveled the country of his ancestors visiting places connected with his grandparents and great grandparents. "I believe in genetic memory," he says.

His parish ministry in South Boston has been very successful until the blow fell this year. In February the South Boston Cluster met for the first time to discuss reconfiguration of parishes. Ten days later Father Zukas sent a fax to Vilnius, to Cardinal Audrys Backis, advising him of the likelihood that all four Lithuanian parishes may be closed and that there is no guarantee the Lithuanian ministry will finance them if this should happen. During the past five months all kinds of action had been taken. On May 14, 2004 Cardinal Backis faxed Archbishop O'Malley





a letter expressing his concerns over the future of pastoral ministry to Lithuanians in the Archdiocese of Boston. This letter was personally delivered by Msgr. Edmund Putrimas. On June 30, 2004 an appeal was made to the Vatican on behalf of the Lithuanian parishes slated for suppression.

With a sense of outrage the matter is being discussed in the Catholic press in Lithuania and also in Draugas, the Lithuanian daily, published in Chicago. The Boston Globe has printed several articles sympathizing with the plight of St. Peter's. In one of these, Peter Gelzinis, whose grandfather donated to a repair fund for St. Peter's in 1950, wrote of Fr. Zukas, "What this priest prays for is one more chance to make a case for a vibrant, 100-year-old church and the devoted community of people — a great many of them Lithuanian immigrants — who travel from some 40 different communities to give it life."

An eight-member review panel has now been appointed by Archbishop O'Malley to "help improve the reconfiguration process." Fr. Zukas hopes this will not turn out to be a two-edged sword. The question now looms: is the panel looking for a way to further legitimize what has already been done or will it attempt to re-evaluate some of its decisions and look for new solutions in the case of some of the parishes threatened with suppression?

It is truly unfortunate that some American bishops do not fully appreciate ethnic parishes. Several Lithuanian churches in New England have celebrated their 100th anniversaries and have had to close their doors. These old and venerable churches were established at the beginning of the 20th century by the first wave of Lithuanian immigrants, poor people seeking jobs and a



*Fr. Vytautas Gedvainis, chaplain at the provincial house of the Sisters of the Immaculate Conception in Putnam, is now serving two Lithuanian parishes on a weekly basis: St. Casimir's in Providence and St. Joseph's in Waterbury.*

livelihood in the land of opportunity. Not having much themselves, they generously contributed toward the building of Lithuanian churches so that they could have their own place of worship and a home in the parish community. Now these parishes are in crisis precisely at the moment when the third wave Lithuanian immigrants are in need of a parish ministry in their own language. These newcomers are different from the previous immigrants since they grew up during the soviet era without any religion whatever. Here in the USA, they are gradually realizing that Catholicism is very much a part of their Lithuanian heritage. Their return to the fold, however, is going to take time.

Just recently (October 15th) Bishop Baltakis and Msgr. Putrimas received permission from Archbishop Henry Mansell of Hartford to have Fr. Vytautas Gedvainis, chaplain to the Sisters of the Immaculate Conception in Putnam, travel to St. Joseph's Lithuanian Church in Waterbury to celebrate a weekly Mass in Lithuanian. Fr. Gedvainis

has also been offering Sunday Mass at St. Casimir's Church in Providence which lost its pastor more than a year ago. He is from Lithuania and has been living and working in the USA for two years.

What lies in store for the Lithuanian parishes? The fate of St. Peter's is certainly a wake-up call for all Lithuanians in the USA who value their Lithuanian heritage. Quite a lot depends on us: we must be prepared to attend and support our Lithuanian churches if we want them to continue.

*Sister Ann Mikaila*

*Sister Ann Mikaila belongs to the order of the Sisters of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, a Lithuanian order in Putnam, CT. and is a contributor to Bridges.*



# Zilvinas

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Director: Estera Bendziute-Washofsky  
 Accordionist: Lynne Cox



## DANCERS:

*Lisa Blanco  
 Ramune Cobb  
 Alex Cox  
 Daniel Cox  
 Jane Cox  
 Michael Dura  
 Stase Dura  
 Tomas Dura  
 Danute Gedeikiene  
 Aldona Kazlauskiene  
 Paulius Klemas  
 Alexa Krakauskiene  
 Paulius Krakauskas  
 Lori Malchione  
 Juozas Noone  
 Zita Pongoniene  
 Juozas Sears  
 Tomas Sears  
 Robertas Silbert  
 Danute VanSant  
 Veronika VanSant  
 Loreta Vainiene*

Philadelphia's Lithuanian Folk Dance Group Zilvinas was organized in 1963 through the efforts of Genovaite Maciuniene and Irena Bendziute. Zilvinas participated in the II, III and IV Lithuanian Folk Dance festivals as well as performing at local organizational functions, universities and on television.

Zilvinas reorganized in 1991 to a veterans' group. The dancers come from all walks of life and are of varying ages. We all dance for different reasons. Some want the exercise, others the socializing, and others just like to dance. However, our major goal is to keep Lithuanian Folk Dancing alive. The new Zilvinas first performed at the Lithuanian Music Hall in Philadelphia for the Annual Fair (Muge) held in 1993, and has entertained the participants ever since.

Since its reorganization Zilvinas performed in the IX, X, XI and XII Lithuanian Folk Dance festivals and traveled to Lithuania to participate in the Song Festival in Vilnius in 1998. Some of the dancers also participated in the Song Festival in Vilnius in 2003.

We were honored to dance for a Mennonite wedding in New Holland, Pennsylvania. The bride spent a few years as a missionary in Lithuania, mastered the Lithuanian language, found us and requested that we show a small part of our heritage to her family, relatives and friends. The bride and groom found the time to come to Philadelphia for several rehearsals as they participated in Rezginele, the Lithuanian wedding dance. In early December we danced at the University of Pennsylvania's family festival, "Peace around the World."

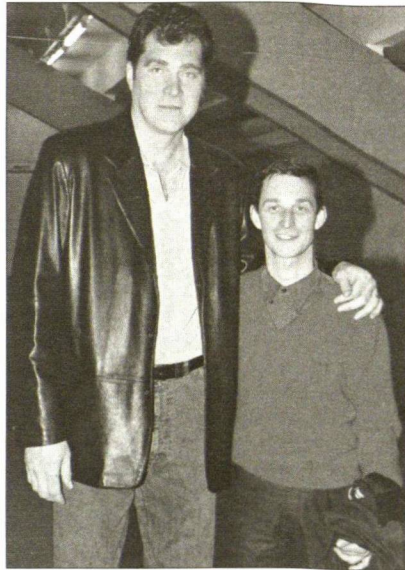
*Estera Bendziute-Washofsky*

# The 2004-2005 Euroleague is Here!!!

Based on  
[www.euroleague.net](http://www.euroleague.net)

Lithuanian basketball legend Arvydas Sabonis is poised to play for his hometown club for one final season. Sabonis, 39, spent eight successful years in the NBA with the Portland "Trail Blazers" but will represent "Zalgiris" Kaunas this year. This is major coup for the team as Sabonis also co-owns the club. Sabonis was a member of the Soviet Union team that won the gold medal in the 1988 Olympics in Seoul. "Zalgiris" Kaunas marketing director Gediminas Navikauskas on Monday confirmed that a deal had been reached with Sabonis, who once guided the club to three consecutive USSR league titles, also his homeland team of Lithuania to European basketball championship silver in 1995 and two consecutive bronze medals in the Olympics of 1992 and 1996. Later on, however, he decided not to compete for his native country anymore and has only played for Portland and Kaunas (last year) basketball clubs. "I can confirm that Sabonis will play one more year with "Zalgiris", Navikauskas told the press. "He will start training later this month with the team."

The festivities marking the start of the 2004-05 Euroleague



*Arvydas Sabonis and Lithuanian Basketball League referee, Arturas Gelvich.*

began on Oct. 31, 2004 – Halloween Sunday night in Kaunas, Lithuania with the help of two heroes of Lithuanian and European basketball. On the eve of the first game of the season between their teams, Arvydas Sabonis of "Zalgiris" and Sarunas Jasikevicius of defending champion Maccabi of Tel Aviv, Israel were on hand to present the Euroleague's Official Media Guide for 2004-05 at a press conference. The guide contains 415 pages of all the information, photographs and statistics necessary to follow the Euroleague to the smallest detail. The cover photograph of this season's guide features none other than Jasikevicius, who helped lead Maccabi to the title. "I want to thank the Euroleague for making such a nice picture of me," Jasikevicius joked. "I look calm and in control on the court, as always." Sabonis joined the presentation as owner-player of "Zalgiris", which

celebrates its 60th anniversary with festivities leading up to Monday night's (Nov. 1, 2004) first game of the season. "I am very happy to see a Lithuanian on the cover of the guide," Sabonis joked. "And I want to thank the Euroleague for bringing the opening game and the Euroleague assembly to Kaunas, the capital of basketball in Lithuania." Euroleague CEO Jordi Bertomeu told the assembled press that the events in Kaunas, which continued with a concert later Sunday night, were meant to launch a season dedicated to helping fans enjoy the Euroleague as never before. "With all these things, we have the same objective," Bertomeu said, "to get closer to our fans."

*Prepared by  
Laurynas R. Misevicius*

*Laurynas Misevicius lives in Connecticut and is an active member of the Lithuanian American Community. He is also a member of the Knights of Lithuania Supreme Council and is chair of the Lithuanian Language and Culture Committee. His many activities include being the first president elect of the re-established Connecticut Lithuanian Sports Club.*



*Vytis on the passports of Independent Lithuania, pre World war II.*

# Chemistry in the Baltics, BOS 2004

Every two years, organic chemists from around the world gather in one of the three Baltic States for a conference known as *Balticum Organicum Syntheticum* (BOS). The first two were held in Vilnius in 2000 and 2002. The most recent one in 2004 took place in Riga, Latvia. The organizing committee is already planning the 2006 meeting in Tallin, Estonia. The mission of the conference is to forge relations amongst professors and industry representatives in the West with chemists in the Baltic States. Fifty plus years of Soviet stagnation took its toll on the level of chemistry practiced in the Baltics. It is the aim of this conference to change all of that by bringing in the best practitioners in the field. For example, a speaker from each of the 2000 and 2002 conferences won the Nobel Prize in chemistry immediately after the conference: Professor Noyori from the University of Tokyo in 2000 and Professor Sharpless from the Scripps Institute in La Jolla, California in 2002. Unfortunately, none of the speakers at BOS 2004 won this year's Nobel Prize since the prize was not in the field of organic chemistry, but rather biological chemistry. Perhaps next year!



Professors Linas Labanauskas and Sigitas Tumkevicius in Vilnius University Chemistry Department's new NMR lab.

The BOS conference was the brain child of Prof. Victor Snieckus of Queens University, Kingston, Ontario. Prof. Snieckus is quite well known in chemistry circles and consults for most of the major pharmaceutical/chemical companies around the world. Prof. Snieckus' father was Lithuanian and his mother, Estonian. He is fluent in both languages as well as many others. While consulting for DuPont Pharmaceuticals, he met Drs. Jaan Pesti (Estonian) and John Duncia (Lithuanian) and all three decided it was time to do something for their ancestral



The BOS2004 Organizing Committee in Latvia visiting the ruins of a castle built by the Teutonic Knights: Dr. Jaan Pesti, Dr. John Duncia, Prof. Eugenijus Butkus, and Prof. Victor Snieckus.

countries--and so BOS was formed. They soon enlisted Prof. Butkus of Vilnius University and Dr. Janis Upešlacis (Latvian) of Wyeth Pharmaceuticals to complete the BOS organizing committee.

The first meeting in Vilnius was the most difficult to organize. However, Prof. Butkus through his relentless efforts managed to secure Trakai Castle for the conference's closing banquet (a banquet at Trakai was unheard of until then) and ever since then every BOS conference has had a final banquet in a castle: two at Trakai, and the last one in Birini castle in Latvia. The local organizing committees try their hardest in making the conferences memorable, with lavish spreads of ethnic delicacies and entertainment during the opening ceremonies and closing banquets highlighted by folk dance performances and concerts. During the folk dancing, the audience is always invited to join in and no one leaves the conference without being totally immersed in the local culture. In Riga, for example, the opening ceremonies included the country's top men's choir, a folk music performance followed by a traditional Janis Day celebration (very similar to the celebration of St. John's Eve in Lithuania). The organizers who were named "John" were greeted with large oak leaf wreaths that they had to wear on their heads. The conference participants with the folk dancers/singers then formed a huge spiral around them singing repetitive ancient Latvian Janis Day chants. Serious scientists aren't used to letting their hair down in such a manner, but with the

help of their friendly Baltic hosts, everyone participated into the late hours of the evening having a grand old time. Conferees universally agree that the BOS chemistry conferences are without a doubt the best in the world, both for their level of chemistry and their hospitality and entertainment.

Besides organizing biennial conferences, the BOS organizing committee was able to pay for the shipment of a Nuclear Magnetic Resonance (NMR) Spectrometer to Vilnius University in 2003. This machine, valued around \$400K is the work-horse of the organic chemist and is related to the MRI machine that hospitals use. It helps the chemist determine the structure of a molecule that he/she has created. It was donated by Bristol-Myers Squibb Pharmaceuticals Company after it assimilated the DuPont Pharmaceuticals Company in Wilmington, Delaware. After closure of the Wilmington site, one of the liquidated spectrometers went to Yale, and another was given to Vilnius University with the stipulation that it would be crated and shipped to Vilnius within a week. The NMR spectrometer including its large low-temperature superconducting magnet, robot arm, computers, and electronic console were carefully crated and shipped via air freight on Lufthansa. The machine with its delicate instruments survived the long trip and is now up and running at Vilnius University (V.U.). Professor Butkus at V.U. had to secure \$30,000 USD in Lithuanian government grants to remodel a lab and to start up the machine, the latter being a very involved and tedious process performed only by skilled technicians from Sweden. The machine requires liquid helium for the superconducting magnet, which is trucked in monthly all the way from Austria. Of course, the helium truck makes stops along the way. If the magnet ever warms up, the entire start-up process has to be repeated at a cost of \$26,000 USD. Thus Prof. Butkus and his students, who are now trained experts on the machine, keep close tabs on the helium levels. The organizing committee with the help of industry grants plans to provide future scholarships to Baltic students as well. Companies that have supported the BOS conferences are Pfizer, Merck, Bristol-Myers Squibb, Novartis, Wyeth, Lilly, Schering-Plough, Boehringer-Ingelheim, DuPont, and others.

For more information on Balticum Organicum  
Syntheticum please visit their website at  
[www.chem.queensu.ca/BOS04](http://www.chem.queensu.ca/BOS04)

*Jonas Vytautas Duncia*

## January 13, 1991

January 13, 1991 was the day the world could no longer ignore Lithuania or the plight of her people. While the television cameras rolled, so did the Soviet tanks. People all over the world watched in horror as the "singing revolution" turned into the Vilnius Massacre.

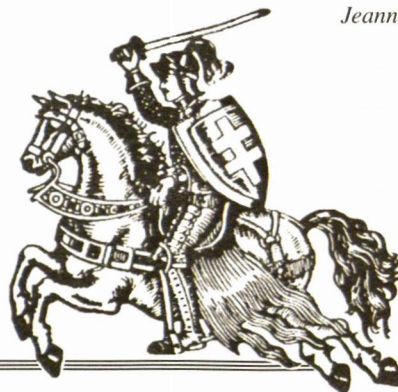
Unarmed protesters surrounded the Lithuanian radio and television center in Vilnius. They prayed, sang and tried to keep warm. Tanks began to move toward the crowd and did not stop. Soldiers smashed the windows of the building while the people looked on in disbelief.

A sound truck kept urging the protesters to go home. The message was spread that the people were deceived by their government and the National Committee for Salvation, a small pro Soviet faction of the Lithuanian Communist Party, was now in charge. The protesters refused to leave while gunfire continued. Minutes before the radio station disappeared from the air an announcer said, "We address all those who hear us. It is possible that (the army) can break us with force or close our mouths, but no one will make us renounce freedom and independence." With those words the television and radio stations were soon silenced. They were off the air.

Thirteen people died and one more died later. Six hundred were injured.

As Lithuanians buried their dead, there were tears and fears, but there was also determination and hope. The world mourned with us on January 13, but as with everything else, they quickly forgot. But we must never forget the price the Lithuanian people paid for freedom.

*Jeanne Dorr*



# News and Views

Please visit the website of  
St. Peter's parishioners at  
[www.savestpeter.org](http://www.savestpeter.org)

## *Zbigniew Brzezinski visiting Vilnius*

**Vilnius (ELTA)** - Zbigniew Brzezinski, a famous US policy expert, arrived in Lithuania on Friday to participate in the conference "Challenges to Transatlantic Cooperation and Opportunities in an Expanded and Free Europe". President Valdas Adamkus is the official patron of the forum.

This is the fourth trip of Brzezinski, former fierce critic of the Soviet Union, to Lithuania. The last time he came to Vilnius was in 2002, after a NATO summit in Prague during which Lithuania and six other eastern and central European countries received an invitation to join the alliance.

Since the restoration of Lithuanian independence, Brzezinski has been an advocate for the Baltic country in political and academic circles in the U.S.A. and other countries around the world. The analyst strongly supported Lithuania's NATO bid, having raised the issue before a 1997 summit in Madrid.

Brzezinski was earlier awarded the Order of Gediminas 1st Class and an honorary doctorate at Vilnius University in appreciation of his academic deeds and assistance to the Baltic country.

President Adamkus will also take part in the conference. Other participants are Antanas Valionis, foreign minister of Lithuania; Alcee Hastings, US congressman and chairman of the parliamentary assembly of the OSCE; lawmakers from Sweden and Latvia; diplomats from Slovakia, Denmark, France, Belgium, Germany, Latvia, Sweden, and Hungary; international policy experts from Poland, Slovakia, France, the U.S.A., and the EU; and NATO officials.

The participants of the forum are to talk about further co-operation between the U.S.A. and the EU with the Ukraine, Moldova, Belarus, and the states in the Southern Caucasus. They will also discuss how the EU and NATO could contribute to the reforms in eastern Europe and the southern Caucasus.

*Source: Information Center for Homecoming Lithuanians*

## **Of all former Soviet Union republics, only Baltic countries have a free press says The New York Times**

**New York/Vilnius (LETA-ELTA)** - As the Soviet Union crumbled over a dozen years ago, the world had reason to hope that any new order would provide the basic human freedoms denied millions of people for over 70 years.

The newspaper, the New York Times, reports that two of those fundamental rights are free speech and a free press. Apparently, this is not to be, as the right of a free press has slowly and steadily come under attack in all but three of the 15 republics that once made up the Soviet Union.

A recent analysis of press freedom in the former Soviet Union by the Committee to Protect Journalists in New York has determined that only the Baltic states of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania cultivated an independent media. The remaining 12 nations have found ways to thwart, control or even kill journalists who dare to investigate the powerful, the newspaper reports.

The worst is Turkmenistan, where dictatorial leader, Saparmurat Niyazov, appoints editors and throttles independent voices. The autocratic leader of Belarus, Alexander Lukashenko, has driven the last independent newspaper out of print and onto the Internet, to which few of his citizens have access. Ukraine also has a questionable record on press freedom.

By far the most disappointing of the former republics, however, is Russia. As Ann Cooper, executive director of the Committee to Protect Journalists, puts it, the message from the Kremlin is: "You can kill a journalist and get away with it."

Already, President Vladimir Putin's Russia has failed to solve the murders of 11 important journalists. The most recent was in July: Paul Klebnikov, an American editor at "Forbes Russia", was gunned down outside his office in Moscow. While arrests have been made in the case, U.S. President George W. Bush should keep pressuring Putin to find Klebnikov's killers - no matter who they are.

*Source: Information Center for Homecoming Lithuanians*

## **Lithuanian industries bid to supply NATO**

**Vilnius, (ELTA)** - Since Lithuania has joined the European Union and NATO, the national Confederation of

Industrialists is mulling a role in the industrial and scientific programs of the multinational defence system of the bloc.

"Integration into the provision of the defence system is a major line of development for Lithuanian industry. Economically, this line is very economically beneficial and, most importantly, long-term. For the time being, little has been accomplished in this sphere because of the intense competition. We will first struggle to integrate into the national defence system of Lithuania and through this to join international programs," Bronislovas Lubys, the confederation's president, told ELTA.

The confederation is thus set to found an integration committee by the end of 2004. The national organisation would have a committee representative attending discussions in Brussels concerning NATO defence matters related to industry.

Eugenijus Nazelskis, the representative of the confederation at the Seimas and government, has said that Lithuanian industries are pursuing three lines of integration into the defence system: national, bilateral, and multilateral.

Nazelskis today told a sitting of the organisation that individual national industries could have a role in NATO defence projects.

"NATO is switching to new kinds of fuel, which means a good opportunity for the chemical industry, the flagman of Lithuanian industry, to file offers... Textile companies could manufacture fabrics for seats of aircraft and vessels. Construction and food producers could take part in international programs," the representative said.

The Lubys-steered concern Achemos Grupe controls more than 30 companies in the chemical, food, construction and repair, logistic, transport, and stevedoring sectors.

Social Democrat Gediminas Kirkilas, a candidate for defence minister in the new Lithuanian government, expressed the opinion that, until now, the entrance to NATO for Lithuania was only a political accomplishment. The country now must use its knowledge and products to integrate into the vast market of the alliance, he said.

Nonetheless, more pessimistic feelings are observed in the nation's scientific community. Saulius Balevicius, the head of the laboratory at the Semi-Conductor Physics Institute, admits that, in the sphere of science, the Baltic state is not yet in a position to join international defence projects. The country, according to him, must upgrade its scientific base and revive its scientific technology program.

The Lithuanian Confederation of Industrialists is expected to announce its agenda and decisions regarding the aforementioned projects before an informal meeting for NATO defence ministers in Vilnius in April 2005

Source: *Information Center for Homecoming Lithuanians*



bridges

## Subscription Order Form

Mail to:  
LAC, Inc./BRIDGES,  
c/o Ramas Pliura  
1927 West Boulevard  
Racine, WI 53403

Name \_\_\_\_\_ (please print)

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Apt. No. \_\_\_\_\_

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

Please send a gift of 10 issues (1 full year) of Bridges to the persons listed above. I'll pay \$18.00 (US Mail serviced subscribers); (\$28.00 for subscriptions outside USA)

Send Gift To:

Name \_\_\_\_\_ (please print)

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Apt. No. \_\_\_\_\_

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

**\$18.00** For 10 Issues  
Subscription

Please enclose the subscription payment.

L I T H U A N I A N   A M E R I C A N   N E W S   J O U R N A L

## Across Cultures at the University of Washington

\* The following article appeared in the December 2004 issue of "Tulpe Times" - published by the Lithuanian American Community, Inc., Washington State Chapter.

In the last sunny days of October 2004 in Seattle, a delegation of 17 businesswomen from Estonia and Lithuania arrived for an intensive two-week business and cultural exchange between business leaders from the Baltic States and business leaders in Washington State.

The Across Cultures forum started as the brainchild of two young energetic business women, Christina Bruning in Seattle and Katrin Sulg in Tallinn, Estonia, who met each other in 2003 as participants in the University of Washington Center for Women & Democracy delegation's visit to Sweden and the Baltics.

Both Christina and Katrin are leaders in promoting women in business. Christina is the president of the Women's Business Exchange ([www.wbex.org](http://www.wbex.org)) in Seattle, and Katrin is president of Young Business and Professional Women in Estonia. Both organizations state that their goals are the promotion of women sharing business skills and resources in order to realize their potential for contributing to the economic and social development of their communities.

### The Lithuanian participants were:

**Aida Zigmantaviciene**, Managing Director and Member of the Board of SATRIJA, a Lithuanian high-quality garment producer.

**Indre Zajancauske-Bartulyte**, the head of the Nordic and International corporate customers unit within the Lithuanian branch of Nordea Bank.

**Inga Smirnoviene**, the Project Director and founding member of ID4, one of Lithuania's top public relations agencies.

**Jurate Stanisauskiene**, Human Resources Manager at UAB "Skubios Siuntos," the authorized contractor for UPS in Lithuania.

**Jurgita Slekyte**, Head of the Legal Department of Omnitel, the leading wireless mobile communications operator in the Baltics.



Left to right: Jurate Kazickas, Prof. Guntis Smidchens of the Baltic Studies Program of the University of Washington in Seattle, Ieva Butkute, TA for Lithuanian language courses at the University of Washington.

Furniture production division of JSC "Murena".

**Vitalija Sipaviciene**, Managing Director and founder of UAB TERMOLAIT, selling bathroom fixtures from Sweden, France, Spain and Poland.

In addition to a very full program centered on business, the delegates had opportunities to hear issues requiring socially responsible leadership. The University of Washington School of Law and the UW Center for Human Rights and Justice co-sponsored a Human Rights forum to discuss reproductive health, the trafficking of women, and HIV.

One of the special guests to the Human Rights conference, Ambassador John R. Miller, Director of the Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking, was delighted to get reacquainted with one of the Across Cultures delegates, Aida Zigmantaviciene. Ambassador Miller served in the US Congress from 1986-1993, and was a good friend of the Lithuanian American Community during the days of the collapse of the Soviet Union. Aida Zigmantaviciene at that time was an exchange-student studying in the Business School at Pacific Lutheran University in Tacoma, and met the Congressman when he observed Lithuanian elections in February of 1990. Ambassador Miller was very interested to hear about the progress of Lithuania's economy, and very pleased that such an exchange was occurring.

The Baltic delegation also spent several hours visiting the Baltic Studies Program at the University of Washington. While the women lunched on pizza, Prof. Guntis Smidchens gave a half hour presentation



and slide show about the progress and goals of the Baltic Studies Program. Though not yet completely funded, this program has already had hundreds of students take the language, history or culture classes over the past ten years. The delegates had an opportunity to meet with Ieva Butkute, the current Lithuanian teaching assistant in the Baltic program, and Daila Taurite, a visiting Latvian businesswoman. After lunch, Michael Biggins, the Head of the Slavic and East European Section of the UW library, gave a tour of the library's extensive Baltic book collection. He spoke in Lithuanian to the delegation and amazed them with the fact that he had only recently learned the language.

The Baltic communities of Seattle welcomed the delegation both at the beginning of their visit and at the end. Paul and Katre Raidna of the Estonian community and also the Lithuanian Community's president Rimas Miksys and his wife Donna hosted the delegations in their homes to meet various members of the Baltic community. On October 23, during the Baltic Fest 2004 fundraiser to support the UW Baltic Studies Program, the Across Cultures delegation was invited to celebrate folk songs and dances and food of all three Baltic communities. The delegation joined in the fun and had a chance to thank their American hosts as well get to know the Seattle-area Lithuanians, Latvians and Estonians. Each delegation showed the unity and cohesiveness not only of their own delegation that they got to know over the two weeks but it was clear that there were many new friendships that developed.

Initially, Across Cultures focused on bringing over Estonian women, but in May 2004, at the leaders for the 21st century gala honoring Christina Bruning in New York City, this exchange came to the attention of writer and philanthropist, Jurate Kazickas. She recommended expanding the delegation to include Lithuanian women. This was accomplished quickly through her efforts taking a personal interest in the success of this program, and due to the support given by the Kazickas Family Foundation. In October, Jurate Kazickas came to Seattle to meet with the Lithuanian women and to participate in some of the Across Culture events with them. During her visit to Seattle, Jurate Kazickas' enthusiasm for promoting women and Lithuania was very much in evidence at the Women's Business Exchange breakfast as she encouraged a Seattle business woman to explore her Lithuanian heritage. Later upon visiting the

Baltic Program at the University of Washington and hearing about its unique role for the study of Baltic languages and for spreading Baltic culture in the United States, she praised these accomplishments and voiced her strong support for the Program.

Everyone is looking forward to the next Across Cultures forum, which promises to include Latvian business women. More information about this year's exchange and the Lithuanian businesses mentioned can be found at the internet site:

<http://www.wbex.org/acrosscultures/about.htm>

*Courtesy of Zita Petkus and Tulpe Times*

*The author is a longtime member of the board of the Washington State Chapter of the Lithuanian American Community and served as its president in the early 90's. She currently serves on the Advisory Committee to the University of Washington Scandinavian Department.*



1224 year



1379 year



1386 year



1404 year

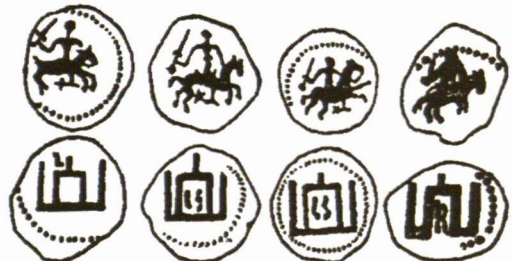


1413 year



1544 year

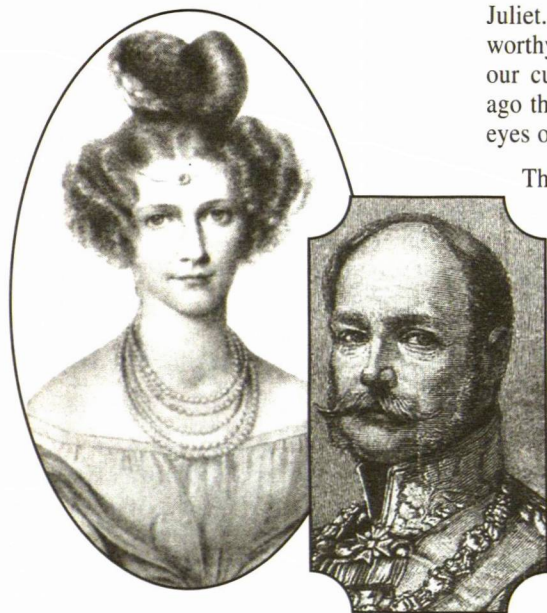
\*Vytis symbols.



\*\*Vytis on Lithuanian coins from the second half of the 14th century.

\*This Information is from "Lithuania 700 Years."

\*\*This Information is from "Encyclopedia Lituanica."



## Wilhelm and Elisa

During the twenty years of the Napoleonic Wars, Europe was torn asunder. Great armies crisscrossed the continent from Spain to Russia. Hundreds of thousands lost their lives and fortunes fighting for or against Napoleon. Yet during all the death and destruction several of the world's best known love stories took place. The most widely remembered is the romantic tale of Napoleon and Josephine. Still almost every country that took part in the Napoleonic Wars has a love story from the period that is held dear by its countrymen.

One of the most romantic, even if not the most well known, is the love story of Lithuanian Princess Elisa Radziwill and German Prince Wilhelm Hohenzollern. Only the lack of a William Shakespeare pen has kept their story from rivaling that of Romeo and

Juliet. Their bitter sweet love story is worthy of a movie, but is little known to our current generation. Two centuries ago their love story brought tears to the eyes of young lovers across Europe.

The nightmare of the Napoleonic Wars had brought about a renaissance of sentimentality and led to a great proficiency in love letter writing. It has been said that the early nineteenth century was the zenith of letter writing dealing with matters of the heart. Lovers were not only judged by ardor but by their skill in letter writing. It is from such letters written by Wilhelm and Elisa and their love story told and retold by members of the German royal court and common people that they are affectionately remembered.

Wilhelm was born in 1787, a Prince of the royal House of the Hohenzollern, and the son of Frederick Wilhelm III the ruling King of Prussia. He was destined to lead the German States in 1871 in forming the Imperial German Empire. Princess Elisa was a direct descendant of Lithuanian Grand Duke Gediminas and born into the noble Radziwill Family with estates in Lithuania, Poland, and Prussia. Though the Radziwill Family was not a current royal house its ancestry was as illustrious as any in Europe. She was destined to die at a very young age grieving for the loss of her true love.

Wilhelm and Elisa's love grew slowly during their childhood as the great struggles of the Napoleonic Wars took place around them. It blossomed in the post war period while they danced in royal palaces in Berlin, Vienna, Posnan and rich country estates in Prussia and Lithuania. Only the Prussian royal court and Wilhelm's love of country would prove greater than the love of this young couple. Yet the love that was denied them in life was carried by both into

death and would immortalize their love story forever.

Eliza was born in 1803 on one of her father's royal estates as Napoleon's forces were marching across Europe. Her father was Antoni Henry Radziwill, the Lord of Klezh, and the son of the last Voivode of Vilnius. Her mother was Princess Luise of Prussia and a niece of Frederick the Great and a cousin to King Frederick Wilhelm III. Being one of the wealthiest families in Europe, the Radziwill Family estates lay in territories divided by Russia, Prussia, and Austria during the 1795 final dismemberment of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth. In order to protect these divided estates, Antoni Radziwill sought to maintain good relationships in both Moscow and Berlin. Prince Radziwill followed the old adage that the family interest must come first above all other considerations. He sought to cement close ties with the Prussian and Russian rulers that occupied his country. Unlike his brother, Michael, who went into exile and served as a general with Napoleon and his cousin, Dominick, who's braver death leading his troops against the Russians was mentioned in Napoleon's dispatches, Antoni was not a patriot. Rather than fighting for the restoration of independence to his country, Antoni sought to become more Prussian than the Prussians. For this reason Antoni Radziwill was not loved by his countrymen.

As a close personal friend of King Frederick Wilhelm III, Antoni loyally followed the monarch into exile in Konigsberg and Memel after his military defeats by Napoleon at Jena and Auerstedt. For his loyalty, Antoni would accompany King Wilhelm to the Congress of Vienna where the victors would divide Europe after the fall of Napoleon. He would be made the Governor of Posnan and be given large estates confiscated from other Radziwill members that had supported Napoleon.

The Hohenzollern-Radziwill friendship was bonded while King Wilhelm and his family lived on the Radziwill estates in Lithuanian East Prussia after the French had occupied Berlin. The Radziwill estate in Memel resembled a kindergarten filled not only with their eight children, but Prussian Crown Prince Frederick, Prince Wilhelm, Prince Karl, and Princess Charlotte. With the death of the queen mother, the Prussian royal family came to look upon Princess Luise as their step-mother and the Radziwill estate as their second home. In this atmosphere the two families enjoyed a special relationship unequalled in the realm. Eventually the childhood friendship of young Prince Wilhelm and Princess Elisa would turn to ever lasting love. So close was the relationship between the two families it never occurred to anyone that "inequality of birth" would someday separate the two families.

From his early years Wilhelm was raised in the Prussian military tradition and had been commissioned a Second-Lieutenant at the age of ten. Though the Prussian military had regularly won great battles under Frederick the Great, their armies were now routinely defeated by the French forces under Napoleon. As a result, Wilhelm experienced great instability and humiliation as a youth. His early years in exile would have a profound effect on the prince. By the time of Napoleon's final defeat in 1814, Wilhelm had become a confirmed conservative and staunch supporter of the established order. Wilhelm expected his subjects to faithfully carry out their obligations without question and he swore to scrupulously discharge his duties in the same manner. This oath of duty without question would eventually cause Wilhelm to renounce his true love when she threatened the stability of the monarchy.

One can not be sure when Wilhelm and Elisa first fell in love, but one letter written at nineteen definitely documents the awakening of his romantic feelings

for Elisa. Though Elisa was scarcely fourteen years old, Wilhelm wrote a friend expressing how delighted he was in learning that the Radziwill family was moving from Posnan to Berlin. In this letter he expressed his desire to learn how the lovely Elisa with the big eyes would look after two years of separation. By the time he was twenty-four and Elisa eighteen their love was evident to all in the court.

Wilhelm had quickly matured from a callow adolescent into a serious young man. He had traveled to Saint Petersburg, Paris, and London and been decorated by his father and Czar Alexander for bravery in combat. He was in every way a dashing young man in the prime of his life. Elisa was his feminine match. From her early years, she had been described as one of the most charming creatures who ever trod this earth. Her smiles were said to be like rays of sunshine that brought pleasure to all who met her. Even King Frederick Wilhelm could not hide his emotions and commented that Elisa was an angel on earth. Wilhelm described Elisa with the words, "Her gentle disposition, her noble and sensitive character, her intellectual gifts and the indescribable grace in all the things she does, can only be the reflection of a beautiful soul and a splendid mind."

Sleeping beauty like castles in Berlin, Vienna, and Posnan were the perfect setting for their romance. They danced in candle lit ballrooms and took quiet walks along river banks in the moonlight. Wilhelm gave Elisa the code name "Eternal" in his letters to signify the everlasting nature of their love. Their future looked bright and without clouds. As they danced across Europe, there were few signs of the trouble that lay before them. Wilhelm and Elisa thought only of the time when they would be joined together forever, but the court gossip began to close in on them. The German palace clique moved slowly to terminate their pledge of eternal love. The Hohenzollerns were a staunch

Lutheran monarchy and raised to consider all others in serious danger of losing their immortal souls. The conversion of Wilhelm's sister, Princess Charlotte, to the Russian Orthodox faith prior to her marriage to Grand Duke Nicholas, had caused the court worry about her eternal salvation. Though Elisa had been raised a Lutheran in accordance to a premarital agreement, Prince Antoni Radziwill and his sons were devout Roman Catholics. This fact caused great resentment against the family in the Prussian court and many feared their young Prince could become a Catholic through such a marriage.

With the increased talk of a marriage between Wilhelm and Elisa emotions in the court rose to a fever pitch. Elisa's suitability for such a royal station was eventually questioned. "Equal birth" was a requirement of the court and marriage of their royal prince to Princess Radziwill was viewed with prejudice by the Royal House of Prussia. For eight years, King Wilhelm vacillated on an official proclamation while the young lovers were allowed to continue their romance. Ways were suggested that would allow the lovers to overcome the court's objections, such as having Elisa adopted by Czar Alexander of Russia. Through such an adoption Elisa would become a member of a ruling family, but the action would be considered a great insult to Prince Antoni and the Radziwill family. The lovers sought in vain for a solution to their dilemma.

Many reasons have been advanced for King Wilhelm's vacillation. One of the most interesting suppositions is that the fifty-four year old widowed monarch had eyes on Elisa himself. For this reason, many have speculated that he avoided making a decision hoping Wilhelm's passion would cool. The mysteries of the king's psyche are unknown, but he later married the twenty-four year old Countess Augusta van Harrach. Whether the king was behind the lover's dilemma will never be known, but the

gossip circulated in the court.

Finally, in 1826 King Wilhelm officially informed the Radziwill family that no marriage could take place. Though well born the family was not from a ruling house and therefore unsuitable for a royal marriage. The decision shocked the young lovers. Wilhelm immediately sought to see Elisa, but she fled with her family to Posnan and remained there in exile. Wilhelm accepted the king's decision, but still sought to see Elisa. They would meet one week before his arranged marriage to the seventeen year old Duchess Auguste von Weimar. History does not record their conversation and one can only guess at their reunion. After his marriage, Wilhelm wrote his sister Charlotte that one can only really love once, but that Augusta can not and ought not to be denied respect and affection. With his marriage Wilhelm turned to his three remaining passions, Prussia, absolutism, and the army. Through his efforts Prussia would become the central power in a unified German nation. Could Wilhelm and Elisa's union have changed the course of history can only be speculated. There is no speculation that the rise of modern German militarism can be traced to Wilhelm.

Elisa wept and fell into total despair. The proclamation of the king was like a death sentence. Wilhelm's willingness to accept the decision without question added to her grief. Sad years followed the Radziwill humiliation. In 1831, Poland and Lithuania rose up against the Russian and Prussian forces that occupied their country. Elisa's uncle, Michael Radziwill, led the insurrection. The ensuing struggle found this daughter of the Hohenzollern making bandages and praying for the success of the rebel forces. Elisa, like Wilhelm, found comfort with her people even as the insurrection failed. The Providence of Posnan was abolished and the Radziwill lost estates and prestige in both Berlin and Moscow. Her story became known through her suffering and she was bonded with her people.

Elisa's health thereafter turned poor and her last two years would be dominated by tuberculosis. Though she retained her beauty, Elisa's became progressively weaker. While suffering from this illness, her father and brother died. Antoni went to his grave never recovering from the humiliation caused to the Radziwill family by Elisa's rejection. Still she was a member of the Prussian nobility and her presence was required at various state functions. When her health permitted, Elisa was forced to suffer the pain of seeing Wilhelm at official



court functions. Their eyes would meet, but no words of their love passed between them.

On September 27, 1834, Charlotte, now Empress of Russia, returned home on an official state visit. The whole city of Berlin turned out in her honor and a great parade was ordered. Wilhelm in his full dress uniform waited with his troops at the reviewing stand. Impatiently he looked at the visitor stand hoping to catch a glimpse of Elisa. Not seeing her in the stands, Wilhelm asked an adjutant if Elisa was ill again. His silence announced Elisa's death. The adjutant had been instructed not to make her death known to the prince until after the ceremony. Elisa died never having had another affair or having renounced her love of Wilhelm. It is said she died with the name Wilhelm upon her lips.

Wilhelm was destined to live on for

years to come and led his nation to greatness. His official court biographers would describe the Elisa Radziwill love affair as the prince's victory over himself. This act of self denial gave him the steel needed for his character. Elisa's death in this way was not wasted and her suffering served a useful purpose. So this would have been a fitting place to end this sad tale of a failed love affair had it not been for an event that occurred some fifty years later.

On the morning of March 9, 1888, Wilhelm Hohenzollern, Kaiser of Germany, lay on his death bed surrounded by his wife, children, and members of the royal court. During his life time, Prussia had grown from being a small Germanic state to a strong empire on the continent. It has been said that such great men recount their past glories on their death beds. Such was not the case for Wilhelm. History documents at day-break Wilhelm whispered something to his daughter who immediately left the chamber. She hurried to an adjoining room and quickly returned clutching something that had stood on her father's desk for almost seventy years. Wilhelm grasped the object in his trembling fingers and held it until he died. When the old man died a miniature painting of Elisa Radziwill, the love of his youth, was only then removed from his cold hands. The love which was denied to both Wilhelm and Elisa was remembered by both during their last moments of life. So ends the tale of a Lithuanian Prussian love story that surely rivals Romeo and Juliet.

*For further reading on the Radziwill family the author recommends "The Radziwills" by Tadeusz Nowakowski, Delacorte Press, 1966.*

*Vytis on the tomb of King Sigismund the Old (died 1548)*



*Teisybė ir Netisybė*

# Truth and Falsehood

Syki susitiko Teisybe su Neteisybe ir pradejo kalbėtis.....

Once upon a time Truth met with Falsehood and they began talking. Truth said,  
"Truthful persons live well in this world."

Falsehood answered, "Not so. Cheaters live better."

And they began to argue. Falsehood said, "Let us place a bet on this. If I lose, I will pay you one hundred rubles. But if you lose, you will pay me one hundred rubles, and besides, I will pluck both your eyes out."

They arranged the bet, and went to see the magistrate that he should decide their case. Truth stated her case, while Falsehood, behind her back, waved a hundred-ruble note at the official, to let him know what he would receive if Falsehood won the case. The magistrate understood at once, and said:

"It is much easier to live with Falsehood in this world – the liar always gets a free ride."

Thus Truth lost the bet: Not only did she have to pay one hundred rubles, but she suffered the loss of both eyes.

One day, unhappy Truth sat blind and alone and unnoticed. Three little devils wandered over close to where she sat. One said, "Today, I had the good fortune to set a man and his wife against each other". The second said, "I taught some children to steal and disobey their parents". The third said: "Oh, I had a wonderful day – I set a whole tavernful of people to drunkenness and fighting".

Falsehood, passing by, heard them bragging and told them: "Your small deeds are nothing – But I won a hundred rubles from that foolish Truth, and besides that, I took out both her eyes. Now she is blind".

One little devil remarked, "Truth cannot be drowned in water, nor can she be burned by fire. And just the stroke of a certain leaf over her eyelids, and she would be whole again." "And just where would she get such a leaf?" asked belligerent Falsehood.

"Why, over on that hill", answered the imp, "and she would just have to reach up a little higher, pluck a few leaves, and hold them against both eyelids. And she would see again". And the group of little devils flew off laughing. No one knew that Truth had heard everything. She crept over to the little hill and began to pull various leaves and place them against her eyes. Somehow, she found a number of the correct ones, and

her eyes were healed. When she finally saw light, she thought:

"I must pluck a supply of these leaves, as perhaps they may be useful to others." And so she picked a good supply, tied them in a bundle, and went home.

Not long after, the king's daughter suffered an illness of the eyes. And though all sorts of treatments were tried, nothing helped, and finally, she lost her sight completely. The king issued a decree in his own country and those surrounding, that if anyone could heal his daughter, he would give him half his kingdom. And so they gathered: doctors, seers, wise men, witches, and anyone else who thought they could heal the princess. They all tried and applied their treatments, but nothing helped. The king, irritated, ordered that they all be swept out of his castle. He thought, and thought, but could not find a solution.

One day, a servant told the king that a strange woman had arrived, whose name was Truth, and who said she would heal the king's daughter, asking for no payment, except, perhaps, for the king's thanks. She did not want to receive half the kingdom. Astonished, the king sent his servant to bring the woman to the blind princess. No sooner had the woman approached the princess and rubbed an eye with one leaf, than the girl could see light, and as the other eye was treated, she was able to see again. She ran to her father, and he, seeing her well again, held his daughter in his arms and pressed a joyous kiss upon her cheek. When the wise woman, Truth, was brought to him, he asked her, "How can I pay you? If it would please you, take half my wealth. Take half my kingdom".

Truth bowed low before the king and answered, "I do not need your wealth, or your kingdom. But if you wish, you may please me by making me your superior judge, and decree that no case may be decided without me.

The king did everything as she asked. And ever since then, only Truth is allowed to rule in all cases tried in that country, and Falsehood may not even show his nose.

And that is how Truth won against Falsehood.

Gloria O'Brien is a frequent contributor to Bridges.

-----  
\* From "Lietuviskos Pasakos" — "Lithuanian Fairy-tales"  
Compiled by Dr. Jonas Balys  
Published in 1951 by the Lithuanian Book Club, Chicago  
Translated from Lithuanian by Gloria O'Brien  
-----

# A Never Ending Song Festival

*Interview with Professor Geoffrey Boers, Choral Director,  
University of Washington, Conductor, UW  
Chamber Singers*



*Geoffrey Boers conducting the UW Chamber Singers concert in St John's Cathedral, Vilnius, June 2000.*

The University of Washington Chamber Singers began their odyssey into the world of Baltic choral song back in 1997, when they first performed three Latvian songs at a celebration of the Baltic Studies Program. Since that time the choir has recorded a CD of Baltic music, gone on a concert tour of the Baltic, and helped organize concerts by visiting Baltic choirs. In September, I traveled to Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia with the choir's leader, Professor Geoffrey Boers, to lay foundations for a collection of published and unpublished Baltic choral music at the UW Library. We met with representatives of the National Libraries and the Music Information Centres to discuss steps toward this goal. During our return flight, I interviewed Dr Boers about the project. – Guntis Smidchens

**GS:** *Why create an American library of Baltic choral music?*

**Boers:** This project is important on several different levels. First of all – selfish reasons. The American choral community has much to learn from the Baltic choral communities: The richness of singing culture, the history of song traditions, and the importance of singing in their cultures today. We Americans have lost touch with those things. As we learn about these people and their deep desire to cling to history even as that heritage is

endangered, we choral musicians might be motivated to rediscover and renew our interest in our own heritage.

A second level is pragmatic. Only a very little taste of this huge body of music is known in the USA. When the choir and I first began to study this region, very little Baltic music was available, and we didn't know why. We knew there is a lot of choral music, but couldn't find it. We want to search for these materials in the Baltic, and to bring home a repertoire of Baltic music for American choral students, teachers and conductors to study and perform.

A third level – you can call it serendipity, intuition or providence: We had no idea how timely and necessary this project is even for the Baltic peoples. This level only became known during this trip. We had no idea of the challenges – historical, financial and political – that choral musicians continue to face today.

The most striking thing for me was hearing Lithuanians, Latvians and Estonians say, "My! You are attempting to do the very thing that we are attempting to do; you're asking for something that doesn't yet exist." So what began as a simple search to create our own library grew into a series of partnerships, where our vision, motivation and resources could actively help them – particularly in Lithuania and Latvia – achieve goals that have up to now been only a dream.

**GS:** *What are some of the materials you're planning to bring to Seattle, and what problems did you encounter?*

**Boers:** We plan to create a collection that represents the history of Baltic choral singing, from the mid-19th century to today and on into the future. There are major challenges to be surmounted for both us and our Estonian, Latvian and Lithuanian partners; these challenges differ for different historical periods:

1) Music of the pre-World War II period: Many of these publications were destroyed by the Soviet regime. It will be difficult to compile these publications, some of which exist only in a single copy at the National Library. But our Baltic partners had ideas, for example, copying rare publications, or soliciting bequests from individuals with private music libraries.

2) The Soviet period: Music that was published had to pass through censorship, and many works never saw the printed page. We hope to find great works in the music that was published, but also in the vast unpublished manuscripts collected by the Ministries of Culture, forgotten masterpieces yet to be discovered.

3) The post-Soviet era: From 1991 to the late 1990s, when independent publishing activities were only beginning, publishing was rare for financial reasons. Good records were not kept, and government institutions were not collecting manuscripts. Our contact at the Latvian Music Information Centre told us that these seven or eight years of unpublished repertoire are lost. The situation looks similar in Estonia and Lithuania. They, too, desire to collect manuscripts from living composers. This is where our relationship got exciting. Our financial resources can help provide them with motivation to create lists of works, to collate scores, and to make copies for libraries – both theirs and ours.

I want to stress that we are building a collection from the past into the future. It was most exciting to hear librarians say, “Now we will think of the UW Music Library as part of our daily work.” This means that as old pieces are discovered and new works are created, the gathering of Baltic music will continue forever. It will be a never-ending song festival!

In Baltic song festivals, there are stories of people who are recovering their history and roots, people who are on the verge of extinction, stories of people’s faith. But most of all, the song festivals gather together all of the people’s stories. In much the same way, we will gather these song stories together at the UW Library.

**GS:** *What were some of the memorable events on this trip to the Baltic?*

**Boers:** A sunset on the outdoor balcony of the Uzupis restaurant in Vilnius, where we had dinner with the Lithuanian composer Onute Narbutaite and her husband. There was a mystical, magical feel, when the cacophony of birdsongs in the park below blended with the voices of a choir rehearsal somewhere in town.

The outdoor Latvian song festival stage late at night. We were the only people there, exploring the stage and seats in the light of our car’s headlights. That one car parked on the edge lit up the huge space with its lights, just like those three voices filled the amphitheater with music. I stood in the back row, but I hear every word of “Put vejini” on stage.

Our road trip to the windy “Livonian Shore” on the Northwest coast of Latvia. The caretaker of the

Livonian House gave us a guided tour of the building and the nearby seashore and the former Soviet border watchtower. I was captivated by his stories about local history and the Livonians, one of the fast-disappearing Finno-Ugric peoples whose songs our choir will be studying this fall.

There were some startling moments, such as when we heard in a couple of places that Soviet times were good for choral music. This was because during that time of oppression, of course, their greatest freedom was in their music. And now, with growing freedom, the desire to sing isn’t quite as profound and singing tradition is becoming lost to a certain segment of young people. So they may someday face not only the dangers of disappearing language and culture, but also young people losing touch with historical culture that goes back thousands of years.

And then there was the car trip from Narva to Tallinn. There is a song for everything. Whatever thought or mood I was having in that car on that late ride back, I knew there was a song that could tell that story in words I didn’t know. I asked for a song about parting, and heard “Our life is like that of a bird on a branch – we don’t know if we’ll meet here again.” The sunset: “Veere, veere, päevakene”; singing in the evening: “Ohtu pealt on oed hellad, kaske...” This was not cliché-request-line radio. It was having that music do what that music will do.

**GS:** *Thank you for the interview!*

**Note:** Our September 2004 trip to the Baltic, and the Baltic music publications which began arriving in Seattle the following month were made possible by a grant from the UW Royalty Research Fund. Please stay tuned for information as the project develops over the coming winter and spring.

In a related project, the UW Chamber Singers are currently planning a concert tour to the Baltic in June of 2005, to meet and exchange musical experiences with Lithuanian, Latvian, Estonian and Finnish choirs. A few tickets in the group tour will be open to friends and supporters of the choir (no singing required!).

If you would like to come along, please write to [guntiss@u.washington.edu](mailto:guntiss@u.washington.edu).

*Professor Guntis Smidchens*



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
September 13, 2004

## A "PIPE DREAM" NO LONGER

EASTMAN'S LATEST ORGAN PROJECT LINKS CULTURES  
ACROSS THE OCEAN EROI

*Festival presents  
first global  
heritage project  
between the  
U.S. and Lithuania*

ROCHESTER, NY

As the Eastman School of Music prepares for its third annual Eastman Rochester Organ Initiative (EROI) Festival, so does an international contingent of influential organ builders, prominent organ scholars and researchers, and important Lithuanian dignitaries. A major highlight of this year's festival - October 21-24, is the first ever global cultural heritage project of its kind.



*Casparini Organ in Holy Spirit church in Vilnius.*

In collaboration with the Lithuanian Ministry of Culture, the Goteborg Organ Art Center (GOArt) in Sweden, and the Episcopal Diocese of Rochester, the Eastman School will present its most recent EROI organ project to the public: the building of a reproduction of an historic 1776 Lithuanian organ to be installed in Rochester's Christ Church (Episcopal) in 2008, and the simultaneous restoration of the original Adam Gottlob Casparini instrument in Vilnius. The new instrument, to be called the Craighead-Saunders Organ, is to be named in honor of two legendary Eastman faculty organists: Professor Emeritus David Craighead and the late Russell Saunders.

Considered to be one of the most valuable musical artifacts of its time in Europe today, the Casparini organ at the Church of the Dominicans (Holy Ghost Church) in Vilnius, Lithuania, was miraculously well preserved in a region afflicted by years of war and conflict.

The two-year technical documentation on the instrument will be included in the EROI presentation, and will act as a blueprint for its correct recreation.

"This project will provide both Eastman and the Rochester community with an organ suitable for the music of J.S. Bach, and at the same time, help give life to the largest, most well-preserved late Baroque organ in Northern Europe," according to Eastman Organ Professor Hans Davidsson.

In recognition of this rich cultural exchange between Vilnius and Rochester, the EROI festival's opening event (Thursday, Oct. 21) welcomes local dignitaries and guests Vygaudas Usackas, the Lithuanian Ambassador to the United States; Professor Kestutis Masiulis, deputy Mayor of Vilnius; Rimas Cesonis, the Lithuanian honorary consul of Upstate New York, and





From left to right:

Dr. David Higgs,  
Eastman School of Music  
organ department chair.

Bishop McKelvey  
of the Episcopal  
Diocese of Rochester.

Rimas Cesonis,  
Lithuanian honorary consul  
of Upstate New York.

Lithuanian Ambassador  
Vygaudas Usackas.

Professor Kestutis Masiulis,  
deputy Mayor of Vilnius.

Rochester Mayor  
William Johnson.

Dr. Hans Davidsson,  
Eastman School of Music  
professor of organ.

Ambassador Kjell Anneling,  
Consul General of Sweden.

members of the local Lithuanian American Association. Throughout the festival, demonstrations of Lithuanian cultural activities will take place in addition to a performance by Lithuanian choirs from the United States and Canada.

Additional festival highlights include Eastman organ faculty, guests, and students in numerous concerts -including the American premiere of Hans-Ola Ericson's Organ Mass for organ and tape - scholarly lectures, professional workshops, and presentations by nearly a dozen instrument builders. The festival will honor one of the most influential organ builders in North American organ culture during the second half of the 20th century, the late builder Dirk A. Flentrop.

For those with a particular interest in the pedal clavichord, there will be a Westfield Center sponsored symposium on this very special instrument. The pedal clavichord has been integrated fully in the Eastman organ curriculum - the first such integration in modern music education. Dr. Joel Speerstra (GOArt) will present his ground-breaking research on this topic.

"The EROI festival is fast becoming one of the most important and fruitful meetings for some of the organ world's most influential movers and shakers," says David Higgs, organ professor and chair of the

organ department. "It provides a fertile environment conducive to creativity and the sharing of important new ideas in the evolution of the pipe organ."

Many of the festival's concerts and events are free and open to the public. The complete schedule for the festival can be found at

[www.rochester.edu/Eastman/organ](http://www.rochester.edu/Eastman/organ).

*Submitted to Bridges by  
Laurynas Misevicius*



Held this past October, Across Cultures 2004 ([www.acrosscultures.org](http://www.acrosscultures.org)) was an intensive, two-week business and cultural exchange among business leaders from the Baltic States and Seattle, Washington. This unique, U.S. Embassy-endorsed event focused on cultivating partnerships to support business leaders and increase economic equity for a socially responsible, sustainable future beyond borders. The author of this article, Inga Smirnoviene is Project Director and founding member of ID4, one of

Lithuania's top PR agencies. She is a member of the board of Save the Children of Lithuania. Inga is eager for Baltic women to contribute to the development of human rights, business equity, and intercultural communication as a result of the expansion of NATO efforts. She is especially interested in marketing development, technology innovations, and intercultural communications. Translated from the Lithuanian by Zita Petkus, Inga's article first appeared in the December 2004 issue of "Tulpe Times."



## U.S. Companies Open Their Doors to Lithuanian Women

Inga Smirnoviene

Large American firms cordially welcome eager visitors from Lithuanian companies for building mentor relationships – this was the conclusion of seven Lithuanian women executives of diverse business backgrounds who recently spent two weeks in Washington State under the auspices of a Baltic-U.S. business exchange program called Across Cultures.

Participating in meetings and attending various seminars and other learning experiences were Aida Zigmantaviciene, general director of Satrija; Vitalija Sipaviciene, director of Termolait; Inga Smirnoviene director of public affairs projects for ID4; Indre Zajanciauske head of customer service for NORDEA; Jurate Stanislauskiene, head of HR and customer service for UPS; Orinta Jasudaite head of sales for Murena; Jurgita Slekyte head of the legal department at Omnitel.

Although Estonian women executives also participated in the Across Cultures program, this year the Baltic delegation did not have any representation from Latvia. The hope is that the Latvians will sign on for this program in the future. We Lithuanians had valuable discussions with the Estonian delegates about possibilities for developing longer-term relationships. It was apparent that these contacts made through Across Cultures will prove helpful to all.

Our itineraries provided us the opportunity of visiting companies generally related to our respective fields. Nordstrom, Boeing, Microsoft, Starbucks, Bank of America, Edelman, Costco, UPS – these are but a

few of the firms who received us and graciously familiarized us with their history, their core values and strategic goals. We were especially grateful for a day dedicated to mentorship; this was truly a unique experience allowing us to view the workings of an American business from the inside. Standouts in their respective fields, women executives from the most notable American businesses shared with us the wisdom of their experience and values

Thanks to the excellently organized program, we had many discussions and learning experiences, each meeting proving immeasurably valuable. Being in the United States, we felt the walls between our countries vanishing and, most importantly, were a part of the bilateral cultural familiarization process. During his remarks at a breakfast meeting at the University of Washington Business School, Nordstrom chair Bruce Nordstrom made a particularly memorable observation about cultural differences – that an understanding of differences is impossible to assimilate out of a book; rather, one needs to personally experience the culture in order to comprehend the differences.

Especially warm are our memories of the Lithuanian community in Seattle. It was deeply gratifying to hear Lithuanian spoken and to feel the Lithuanian spirit so far from our home.

October 24th will be another date that we'll long remember: this was run-off election day in Lithuania for Parliamentary candidates. Being away from home, we had the great honor of casting our votes at the

## Bridges Passages

Bridges  
January 1979  
Excerpt from Lithuania,  
In Silent Agony

Rimantas A. Stirbys

The Russian minions have followed a ruthless policy of forced assimilation in their captured lands. Immediately after the war, tens of thousands of Lithuanians were killed, imprisoned, or deported to Siberia. Others managed to find sanctuary in the forests and hills, for a time. A guerilla war carried on by Lithuanian patriots managed to last eight years, until 1952. It ground to a halt amid broken promises of amnesty and the bodies of 50, 000 partisans and innocents.

The intervening years have seen a lessening of that "blood- dimmed tide." The repression is less obvious now, but no less invidious.

Bridges

February 1979

### The Cause of Freedom

The Soviet government has closed the Vladimir prison camp, apparently because it was situated a little too close to the city of Vladimir which is frequented by Western tourists. Several Lithuanians have suffered in this prison – a strict regime camp for political prisoners. Among them were Bishop Mecislovas Reinys, who died there, and Viktoras Petkus. The political prisoners of Vladimir, including Petkus, have been moved to Christopol prison in the Tatar Republic, away from curious Western eyes.

home of Lithuania's Honorary Consul in Washington State.

We were often asked by the Across Cultures program organizer Christina Bruning, who is also the president of the Women's Business Exchange, what were our biggest impressions and most memorable experiences. One day, this was the visit to Microsoft and meeting Bill Gates, another day; it was Starbucks, the following day - again something new. However, by the end of our visit we all came to realize that the entire program was one huge event which imprinted indelible memories. Even now, a week later, there are so many feelings swimming around in my head! We are deeply grateful to the sponsors and the organizers of Across Cultures and we'll be making every effort to ensure that Across Cultures becomes an annual event – next year it is anticipated to take place in one of the Baltic countries.

*Courtesy of Zita Petkus and the Tulpe Times.*

## Know Thyself

*The following is an excerpt from a speech given by Arvydas Vidziunas, a member of the Lithuanian Seimas on the 10th anniversary of the restoration of Lithuanian independence. The author of the poem is unknown.*

But what is the 80th anniversary of the state to me, to my feelings and my heart? I must say it is not just a naked reality of daily politics, big luck or misfortune, not only efforts to slide towards normal Europe, efforts to manage the domestic matters on the basis of wit and conscience. Not only that.

Probably it is more like a short poem composed from simple questions and answers, a poem brought home by my six-year old daughter; a poem filled with the supreme categories, childish sincerity and big hopes for the future of the state and people:

Who are you? - a Lithuanian.

What is your sign? - a white knight, *Vytis*.

Where were you born? - in Lithuania.

What is it to you? - my native land.

Who are your parents? - they're hard-working people.

Then you are no stranger?

No, I am a citizen of Lithuania!"

Somehow I think that these words contain the entire honourable history of our land and the future of many more centuries.

*Speech by Arvydas Vidziunas.*

*Poem-Unknown.*

*Submitted by:*

*Rimgaudas Petras Vidziunas, Phoenix, AZ*



Vytis on the tomb of King Jogaila (died 1434)

# cultural (and other) tidbits



Vesta Jansonaite and Vaidas Sederavicius from "The Baltic Theatre, New York." in "Weekend Romance" or "Palangos Lion" by Kazys Sajas.

Photo by Jonas Kuprys

Last month we touched upon the XI Lithuanian Theater Festival which was organized by the Lithuanian-American Community, Inc. Cultural Council chaired by Marija Remiene during Thanksgiving Day weekend in Chicago. This month we can share with you the highlights of the festival. Friday evening, November 26, "The Baltic Theater" of New York presented a musical comedy adapted from a play by Kazys Saja "Savaigtalio romanas arba Palangos Liutas" (A Weekend Romance or the Lion of Palanga) directed by Gintautas Jaras. Saturday afternoon, November 27, "Zaltvyksle" Theater Group of Chicago, under the direction of Ilona Ciapaite, took the stage with an one act tragic-comedy "Kampelis" (A Little Corner) by Latvian playwright Uglis Seglis. Sunday afternoon, November 28 brought the Los Angeles Lithuanian Drama Group to the stage with a production of Anatolijus Kairys' award winning comedy "Pilietybe" (Citizenship) adapted and directed by Algimantas Zemaitaitis.

As at every past festival, the productions and the performances were judged and "Oscars" awarded. The three judges were Julija Dantiene, an actress, director and playwright, from Philadelphia, Egle Juodvalke, poet and journalist from Chicago, and Viktoras Valasinas, actor and director from Lithuania. And the "Oscar" winners were.....

**Ilona Ciapaite** director of "Kampelis" for **best directing.**

**Ilona Ciapaite** for **best stage set** for "Kampelis"

**Dalia Sidzikaite** in "Kampelis" - **best actress** in a leading role.

**Tomas Umbrasas** in "Kampelis" - **best actor** debut.

All four above awards went to "Zaltvyksle" Theater of Chicago.

**Vaidas Sederavicius** in "Savaigtalio Romanas" - **best actor** in a leading role.

**Vesta Jansonaite** in "Savaigtalio Romanas" - **best actress** debut. Both of the "Baltic Theater of New York".

**Raisa Urbaniene** in "Pilietybe" - **best actress** in supporting role.

**Juozas Pupius** in "Pilietybe" - **best actor** in supporting role.

Both of Los Angeles Drama Group

~~~~~

Lithuanian Young Performers Festival was the third and most successful such festival in what has now become an annual event. Held at the Lithuanian Youth Center (Lietuviu Jaunimo Centras) in Chicago on November 14, the festival drew over fifty performers from Chicago area, Minnesota, Florida and even Canada. The youngest performer was four years old, the oldest - twenty-three. The youngsters sang, danced and played various instruments. This was not a competition, but an opportunity to go on stage and perform having a good time before an enthusiastic audience. Every participant received flowers and a beautifully inscribed commendation. Each performer's teacher also received recognition and a floral tribute.

The festival is sponsored by the LAC Cultural Council and Lithuanian School of Fine Arts of Chicago whose founder and director as well as heart and soul is Ligija Tautkuvieni. After a slow start and facing much scepticism, L. Tautkuvieni did not give up her dream to showcase young talents. This, the III Lithuanian Young Performers Festival, attracted not only wider performer participation, but also many more enthusiastic helpers to the organizing committee. L. Tautkuvieni is convinced that Lithuanian cultural activities of young people are the strongest tools in preserving the Lithuanian heritage. Thus they deserve and must get the widest possible support from the Lithuanian community.

~~~~~

**Brigita and Dr. Joseph Kasinskaskas** are Lithuanian Community ambassadors to the world of music. December 4 they were featured on **Discoveries from the Fleisher Collection** radio show aired on WRTI 90.1 FM in Philadelphia. According to press release by Kile Smith, curator of the Fleisher Collection of Orchestral Music of Free Library of Philadelphia:

"**Joseph Kasinskaskas**, guitarist and early member of Relache, the groundbreaking Philadelphia new-music ensemble, has, in addition to his interest in the avant-garde, a love of music of his ancestral Lithuania. This inspired the writing of *Lithuanian Folk Dances*, played by his wife, violinist **Bridget Kasinskaskas**, who was herself born in Lithuania, and who chose the tunes. This is a well written and delightful, straight-ahead rendition of popular melodies for violin and orchestra, and while listening to this it is not difficult to imagine the swinging costumes worn by the village dancers."

During the radio interview Bridget (Brigita to her Lithuanian friends) and Joseph (Juozas) were asked about the origins of this and other compositions by J. Kasinskas as well as about Bridget's work as concertmistress of the orchestra. The radio audience was treated to a full orchestra recording of *Lithuanian Folk Dances* by the **Philharmonic of Southern New Jersey** with Bridget Kasinskas as the violin soloist.

It must be noted that besides very active musical endeavors both Brigita and Juozas are active members of the Philadelphia Chapter of Lithuanian-American Community. Juozas is President of the Lithuanian Music Hall Executive Committee and also a guitarist and co-director with Lynn Cox of the "Kaimo Kapela" (the Lithuanian Village Band). Since retiring as music, orchestra and band teacher from the school district of Cherry Hill, NJ, Brigita is busier than ever as private violin teacher and violinist with orchestras and as solo performer.

#### .....and cultural bits from Lithuania

The largest and oldest **Lithuanian boys' choir "Azuoliukas"** celebrated its 45th anniversary while **Prof. Vytautas Miskinis**, the choir's artistic director, marked the 25th anniversary of his creative musical career. "Azuoliukas" was founded in 1959 by choral director Hermanas Perelsteinas, who in 1979 was succeeded by his pupil, a singer in "Azuoliukas", **Vytautas Miskinis**. V. Miskinis not only is a choral director and headmaster of "Azuoliukas" Music School, but also a composer with 100 motets, 13 Masses and 300 songs to his credit.

In its 45 years, the choir has seen over 8000 boys and men in its ranks. Currently, "Azuoliukas" has eight separate choirs. The youngest singer is six years old, the oldest over 40 years old. The repertoire of "Azuoliukas" includes classical sacred and religious music, as well as contemporary compositions. It performs in Lithuania and abroad, alone and with symphony or chamber orchestras. "Azuoliukas" participates in international festivals and choral competitions bringing home countless awards and commendations. With over 30 records and 16 CD's to its credit, it is heard over the airwaves of the world.

During the anniversary concert on November 24 in Vilnius the featured composition was Benjamin Britten's cantata "The World of the Spirit" for soprano, alto, tenor, baritone, narrator, choir and orchestra. It was performed by the Lithuanian National Symphony, "Azuoliukas" choir, soloists Irena Zelenkauskaitė, Inesa Linaburgyte, Arunas Dingelis, Giedrius Zalys, actor Vladas Bagdonas under the direction of Prof. Vytautas Miskinis.

"Azuoliukas" with director Prof. Miskinis was in the United States in the fall of 2001, just one month after the fateful 9/11 tragedy. It was invited by an international Utah organization to a music festival in Salt Lake City in preparation for the 2002 Winter Olympic Games. Under the sponsorship of Lithuania's Ministry of Culture and the Cultural Council of Lithuanian-American Community, Inc., during its 2001 North American tour "Azuoliukas" gave eleven concerts in Salt Lake City, New York City, Washington, D.C., Cleveland, Toronto, and Ottawa. In

Chicago "Azuoliukas" concert was the highlight of the 50th anniversary celebration of the Lithuanian-American Community, Inc.

**S. Darius and S. Girenas airport** in Aleksotas section of Kaunas, one of the oldest airports in Europe, in November, 2004 celebrated its 90th anniversary. The occasion was marked by ceremonies at the Aviators Memorial, tour of original remnants of the 1914 airport and its museum. A special conference presented reports on its history, showed historical film footage of its past operations and considered its present and future possibilities.

**Libraries of Lithuania are in process of computerization.** The Ministry of Culture is in the process of executing its 2003-2013 library modernization program with a budget for this year of one million litai. In November the ministry equipped five regional and one library for the blind with 100,000 litai worth of computers with all needed technical equipment and software programs. Urban and regional libraries are in the process of applying for competitive grants to get needed computer technology to serve its populations according to western European standards. The government is setting aside close to one and one-half million litai to accomplish the computerization goals.

#### ..... finally January dates of historical events to remember.

**January 1, 1547** - the printing of Mazvydas Catechism, the first printed Lithuanian book.

**January 1, 1714** - the birth of writer Kristijonas Donelaitis, author of "Metai".

**January 6, 1880** - the birth of Maria Kaupaite, founder of Sisters of St. Casimir and candidate for beatification.

**January 9, 1944** - death of Antanas Smetona, third president of Lithuania, in Cleveland, OH in a house fire.

**January 13, 1991** - Bloody Sunday at the television tower in Vilnius. Now remembered as the Day of Defenders of Freedom.

**January 27, 1927** - the death of Blessed Archbishop Jurgis Matulaitis, founder of Lithuanian Marian Fathers and the Poor Sisters of the Immaculate Conception, popularly known in the United States as Putnam (Connecticut) Sisters.

#### ..... also February dates.

**February 16, 1801** - the birth of bishop Motiejus Valancius.

**February 16, 1918** - the re-establishment of Lithuania's independence.

**February 16, 1922** - the founding of Vytautas the Great University in Kaunas.

**February 16, 1927** - the death Jonas Basanavicius, Patriarch of Lithuania.

**February 26, 1885** - the birth of Aleksandras Stulginskis, the second president of Lithuania.

*Terese M. Gecys*

*Terese M. Gecys is Fourth term member of LAC Board of Directors, 2000-2003 secretary of LAC National Executive Committee and past as well as current president Philadelphia Chapter of LAC.*

# Calendar of Events for January - February - March

Please verify all dates, times, and places as events are subject to change.

## JANUARY, 2005

### January 9, 2005

Seattle Daughters of Lithuania  
Blanket Drive.  
The blankets are earmarked for  
the poor people of Lithuania and  
will be shipped on the next  
Providence Health System  
container of medical supplies  
early in 2005.  
Contact:  
seattledukterys@hotmail.com

### January 13, 2005 6:30 pm

Commemoration  
of January 13, Events  
Lithuanian Art Museum  
Lithuanian World Center  
14911 127 th Street  
Lemont, IL 60439  
Sponsor:  
LAC Cultural Affairs Council

### January 28, 2005 - 8 pm

WINTER CONCERT  
Gonzaga Theatre,  
19 Eye St. NW,  
Washington, DC  
Concert Pianist  
EDVINAS MINKSTIMAS  
Suggested donation \$10.00  
Reservations, though not  
required, may be made by  
calling the Lithuanian Embassy  
at (202) 234-5860 ext. 119  
E-mail:  
jurgita@ltembassyus.org  
Tickets also may be purchased  
at the door. There is free parking.  
Directions are available at the  
Gonzaga website <http://www.gonzaga.org/html/directions.html>  
For information:  
Jeremy Young at (202) 336-7143  
<http://www.minkstimas.com/>.

## FEBRUARY 2005

### February 6, 2005 - 5pm

Mid-America District 45th Annual  
"MEMORIES OF LITHUANIA"  
Banquet,  
Chateau Bu Sche Banquet Facility  
Alsip, IL.  
[www.knightsoflithuania.com](http://www.knightsoflithuania.com)

### February 12, 2005 - 4:30pm

Annual Lithuanian Independence  
Day Commemoration  
Latvian Hall  
11710 3rd NE, Seattle, WA  
The keynote address will be  
delivered by Danute Bindokas,  
editor-in-chief of "Draugas," the  
worldwide daily Lithuanian  
language paper published in  
Chicago.  
Entertainment provided by the

Lietutis (adults),  
Linus (teenagers), and  
Lankas (children) dance groups.  
The traditional potluck dinner will  
be followed by dancing to live  
music provided by the band of  
Vidas Svagzdys and friends.  
For information,  
[lithseattle@hotmail.com](mailto:lithseattle@hotmail.com)

### FEBRUARY 13, 2005 - 1pm

Lithuanian Independence  
Celebration, Arizona Chapter  
Lithuanian American Community  
St. Elizabeth Seton, Parish Hall  
9728 W. Palmeras Dr., Sun City, AZ  
Program will include a  
commemoration of the  
Independence declarations of  
1918 and 1990.  
[www.lithaz.org](http://www.lithaz.org)

### February 13, 2005

Lithuanian Independence Day  
Mass at 10am  
St. Mathew's Cathedral  
Washington, DC  
Main celebrant,  
Father Thomas Margevicius  
Cultural Program will be  
fulfilled by St. Andrew's Choir,  
"Laisve", of Phila.  
Location to be announced.  
Information:  
[www.dclac.org](http://www.dclac.org)

### FEBRUARY 13, 2005 - 2:30pm

SKIING  
Wilmont, WI  
For information:  
[www.waukegan-lakecountyil.org](http://www.waukegan-lakecountyil.org)

### February 13, 2005

Lithuanian Independence Day  
Celebration  
53 Capitol Ave., Hartford, CT  
Specifics to come later

### February 13, 2005

New York Vasario 16  
(February 16th)  
Independence Day  
Mass at 10am  
Annunciation Church,  
259 North 5th Street,  
Brooklyn, NY 11211  
After Mass, there will be an  
opportunity to purchase  
Lithuanian lunch.  
Commemoration and  
Program at 1:30 p.m.  
Transfiguration Church  
64-25 Perry Avenue  
Maspeth, NY 11378.  
Main speaker  
Ambassador from Lithuania,  
Vygaudas Usackas

### FEBRUARY 19, 2005 - 7:30pm

SPORTS EVENING  
Centre Club  
200 W. Golf Road, Libertyville, IL  
Sponsor: Lithuanian American  
Community Waukegan/Lake  
County Chapter  
For information:  
[www.waukegan-lakecountyil.org](http://www.waukegan-lakecountyil.org)

### February 20, 2005 - 2pm

LITHUANIAN  
INDEPENDENCE DAY and  
Family Celebration  
Libertyville Civic Center,  
135 W. Church, Libertyville, IL  
The main speaker:  
Arvydas Daunoravicius,  
General Consul of Lithuania  
Sponsor: Lithuanian American  
Community Waukegan/Lake  
County Chapter  
Information:  
[www.waukegan-lakecountyil.org](http://www.waukegan-lakecountyil.org)

### February 20, 2005

Lithuanian Independence Day  
Immediately following  
11:30 am Mass  
St. George Church  
443 Park Ave. Bridgeport, CT.  
Hosted by  
LAC Bridgeport Chapter and  
Knights of Lithuania Chapter 141  
For information:  
Tomas 860-965-5549  
Larry 203-452-5208

### February 27, 2005

Lithuanian Independence Day  
Celebration  
10:30 am Mass  
St. Casimir Church  
324 Wharton St.  
Philadelphia, Pa.  
Mass will be celebrated and  
homily delivered by  
Justin Cardinal Rigali  
Program 2:30 pm  
Lithuanian Music Hall  
2715 E. Allegheny Ave.  
Philadelphia, Pa.  
Keynote speaker will be  
Vygaudas Usackas,  
Ambassador of Lithuania,  
Cultural program:  
choir "Laisve",  
Folk Dance groups  
"Ausrine" and "Zilvinas",  
Lithuanian Village Band  
(Kaimo kapela).  
For information: 215-765-2322

## MARCH 2005

### March 4-7, 2005

Mid-America District Spring  
Meeting and St. Casimir's Day  
Hosted by Council 133  
Los Angeles, CA.  
More information to follow  
Information:  
[www.knightsoflithuania.com](http://www.knightsoflithuania.com)

### March 5, 2005 - 5pm

Lithuanian Independence Day  
Portland Lithuanian American  
Community  
Details to follow at a later date.  
Contact:  
Zalpai999@aol.com

### March 6, 2005

Lithuanian Independence Day  
and St. Casimir's Day celebration  
St. Cyril's Church and Hall.  
44 N Mill, Kansas City, KS  
For more information:  
[www.aidasdancers.org](http://www.aidasdancers.org)

### March 6, 2005

St. Casimir Feast Celebration,  
St. George Church, 11am Mass  
Salmon and Venango Sts.  
Philadelphia, Pa.  
followed by  
Knights of Lithuania Council 3  
meeting and social in parish hall  
Information: 215-426-6762

### March 6, 2005

Commemoration of  
Lithuania's Independence  
Our Lady of the Assumption  
Church, 12:00 Mass  
Osterville, MA  
Commemoration:  
Church Hall, 1:30 pm.  
Sponsors:  
LAC Cape Cod Chapter

### March 6, 2005

Tentative Date  
Lithuanian Independence  
Commemoration  
Lithuanian American Community  
of San Diego  
Information:  
[www.lithsd.org](http://www.lithsd.org)

### March 20, 2005

LITHUANIAN EASTER EGG  
WORKSHOP  
Seattle Daughters of Lithuania  
Hosted by artist  
Nomedas Lukoseviciene,  
[nomeda@msn.com](mailto:nomeda@msn.com)





PRESENTS  
**LITHUANIA 2005**

**VYTIS TOURS**

**\*35 Years in Business\***

**Offers the following prearranged tours in 2005**

Classical Baltic - 10 days  
Lithuanian Economy Tour - 9 days  
Grand Tour of Lithuania - 14 days  
Latvian Extravaganza - 8 days  
Estonian Extravaganza - 8 days  
The Baltic Capitals Plus - 10 days  
The New Baltic Explorer - 12 days

---

**Hotels, Car Rentals, Lowest Air Fares  
to Europe out of Chicago, New York and virtually all airports in the US  
on Finnair and other carriers**

**VYTIS TOURS**

40-24 235th St.

Douglaston, NY 11363

718-423-6161 800-77-VYTIS

Fax: 718-423-3979 e-mail: [vyttours@earthlink.net](mailto:vyttours@earthlink.net) Web site: [www.vytistours.com](http://www.vytistours.com)

**CHICAGO REPRESENTATIVES**

Rita Pencyliene..... tel: 708-923-0280 e-mail: [pencylar@comcast.net](mailto:pencylar@comcast.net)

Brone Barakauskiene.....tel: 708-403-5717 e-mail: [mamabar3@aol.com](mailto:mamabar3@aol.com)

---

**All VYTIS representatives speak English and Lithuanian!!**

*Vytis,*  
continued from page 4

hanging at the left side of the knight. In the project prepared by the experts a gold color was envisaged for the double cross and for the knight's spurs, but this project did not receive statutory confirmation. Officially the Vytis was ratified by law in the following clause of the constitution of 1938: "The symbol of the state is the white Vytis on a red field".

According to the claims of Belorussian nationalists, the Vytis (Bel. Pohonia) should be considered the national emblem of Belorussia as well. The reason for this is that the Vytis used to be the emblem of the early Lithuanian state, which included all Belorussia and many other East Slavic lands. When Lithuania was annexed to Russia at the end of the 18th century, its state emblem, the Vytis, was added to the Russian imperial coat-of-arms. On the other hand, when Soviet Russia annexed Lithuania (1941, 1944), the Vytis was strictly forbidden as a "symbol of feudalism", and an emblem of Soviet type was imposed instead. During the period of Soviet rule, displaying the Vytis was considered a protest against the new government and was brutally punishable.

After March 11 of 1990, the Vytis again became the official state emblem of the Republic of Lithuania.

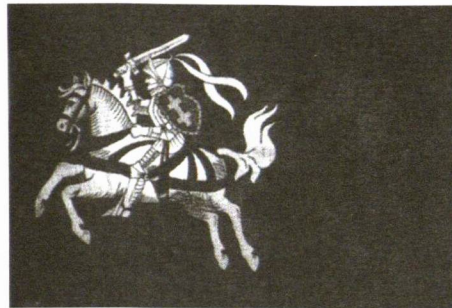
The Vytis is a very important symbol to Lithuanians both at home and abroad. The Lithuanians' love and admiration for the symbol is evident in the many monuments, coats of arms, military insignias, and logos

using this beloved symbol of strength and endurance.

The Knights of Lithuania, a Lithuanian American Catholic organization has shown its great respect for the Vytis by using it as their symbol and the title of their monthly magazine, Vytis-The Knight.

We can all be proud of this great symbol that has carried Lithuania through her greatest and strongest periods in history, remained with her through her dark days and occupations, and once again rose to its rightful place in Lithuanian history as the official state emblem of the Republic of Lithuania.

Sources: *Lituanica Encyclopedia*  
*Lithuanian Roots*



*The flag of the state.*  
Reliable testimony of Polish chronicler Jan Dlugosz (1415-1480) according to whom the Lithuanian flag had a red background and on one side which was superimposed a White Knight.

\*Silver coins of the Independent Lithuania,  
Vytis is on the reverse side of 5 and 10 Litas.



\*Vytis on back of  
1925 Litas



\*Vytis on back of  
1936 Litas



LITHUANIAN AMERICAN NEWS JOURNAL

**bridges**  
VOLUME 29 ISSUE 1

**AIR MAIL  
PAR AVION**

PERIODICALS  
POSTAGE

Subscriptions:  
1927 West Blvd.  
Racine, WI 53403

National Library of Lithuania  
12/1/2005  
Gedimino Prospektas 51  
LT-2600, VILNIUS  
LITHUANIA