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# Year of the Family

## Protection for Every Family Member

This is the "Year of the Family," a year dedicated to family interests and concerns.

One of those concerns should be protection for each and every member of the family. The Lithuanian Catholic Alliance offers that protection to its members and we would like to see every member of your family a member in our family.

LCA offers a variety of insurance coverage to choose from. You can select the protection most suited to your individual needs.

Our most popular policy is the Single Premium Life (SPL). This is the latest addition to our family at LCA and should definitely be the choice for your latest addition to the family tree.

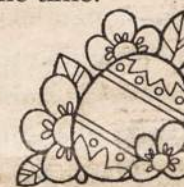
Grandma and Grandpa are finding the SPL the most worthwhile gift they can give that new grandchild.

For the unbelievable amount of just \$106 you can insure that new baby for life without his/her parents ever having to worry about monthly payments. From the day that policy is ap-

proved and paid for, that child receives full coverage for life.

We have something for everyone with coverage from \$2,000 to \$10,000.

If it's the child's education you're interested in, check out our Twenty Year Endowment Policy. You'll be saving for the child's college tuition and having full insurance coverage at the same time.



## Getting to Know Us

How do I become a member of the Lithuanian Catholic Alliance? This is a question we hear quite often when answering the phones at the Home Office.

Everyone is welcome at LCA and you can become a member from the day you are born and as late in life as age 70.

The Lithuanian Catholic Alliance was organized in 1886 and is primarily a fraternal benefit society. Our main objective is to provide members with the lowest possible rates for life and endowment insurance, mortgage loans, certificates loans, etc.

Our organization is non-discriminatory; enrollment is open from age 0 to 70 with coverage available from \$2,000 to \$10,000 depending on age at enrollment.

We operate on a Lodge system with a representative form of

government. A national convention with election of officers is held every three years. We have 133 lodges operating throughout the United States with members living in 43 states, a few in Canada and Australia.

The newspaper "GARSAS" is our official publication and is sent to all members free of charge. A subscription fee of \$5 is charged non-members for 10 issues annually. It is printed mostly in English with a few pages of Lithuanian.

Members have been receiving dividends since 1949. As a fraternal organization, we have provided financial aid to destitute members for medicine and other essentials; granted scholarships to students; and since 1973, we have exempted hundreds of members from paying

the life insurance portion of their dues upon reaching age 85. This age was gradually reduced to 82 in 1984, 80 in 1986, and 78 in 1989.

We also established the Lithuanian Catholic Alliance Foundation to sponsor educational, cultural and religious projects emphasizing Lithuanian Catholic traditions in American life.

Fraternalism at its best! Now that you got to know us better -- why not become a part of our family?

Just fill in the handy form on page 3 and an application will be sent to you.





# Florence Eckert -- If You Were There

Lent is coming to a close as Holy Week draws near. If you're an avowed atheist, it holds little meaning other than possibly bitterness due to your human nature longing to be a part of it and your self-made-you rebelling and causing turmoil within your whole being.

If you're a Christian, you'll attend special services this week depending on the tradition of your particular religion. If you're a Jew, there will be Passover with all its traditional ceremonies.

Let's look in on the Christian, the follower of Christ -- perhaps --YOU.

If you walked the earth at the time of Christ, where would you have been on the road to Calvary?

Would you have been as brave and compassionate as Veronica? Would you have had the courage to step forward in front of all the angered mob and offer Him a cloth on which to wipe His blood-stained face? Would your love for Him and your belief in

Him have been strong enough to withstand the ridicule from the angry mob and the possible danger from the soldiers?

Or would you, on the other hand, have been the modern-day complainer and walked among the group muttering how awful it was, what they were doing to this innocent man, yet taking no positive steps of action to stop them?

Perhaps Simon of Cyrene fits you better. Would you feel honored that they picked you out of the crowd to assist this weary, tormented man they spit upon and ridiculed but whom you believe to actually be the SON OF GOD? Would you carry the weight of His cross for Him because you wanted to, or only out of fear of the soldiers? Would you whisper words of comfort to Him along the way or would you pretend not to know Him or believe in Him?

Would you have been among the women who stepped forward to comfort Him while the angry mob and the soldiers pressed

forward anxiously, moving toward the hill for fear He might expire before He reached it? Would you have had the courage to let your compassion show?

Would you, like Peter, have denied ever even knowing Him, or, like Judas, betrayed Him?

If you were in a position of authority, would you have washed your hands of the matter as Pilate did, or would you be brave enough to have the courage of your conviction and order Him to be set free? Would the possible loss of your position of importance sway your decision?

Would you have been able to stand in the crowd and watch this Man whom you firmly believed to be the Son of God stripped of His garments, nailed to a cross and hung up to die, without making one move to save him?

Weren't there any of His faithful followers present who believed strongly enough to step forward and defend Him?

Don't you think He was looking for consolation in the form of LOVE somewhere out there among His people? Where were they? Didn't anyone care?

Search inside yourself during this coming Holy Week. Try to find out where you would have been at Calvary. Calvary is not a story about yesterday. It is a story of today, and whether you like it or not, you are one of the characters in that story.

This story, or play, is unique in one particular way. We are not auditioned for our parts. Each of us is free to choose his or her own part and act it out to the best of our ability.

The whole world is your stage and the play runs indefinitely for each character. The curtain call is not for the entire cast at the same time but rather for each individual who is given his or her own private curtain call.

When that final curtain comes down for you, your performance will be judged. There are no re-runs. Either you were a star or you failed miserably.

Were you happy with the part you chose or would you like to try another?

Lucky for you if you're reading this it means you still have time. Make it an old-fashioned Holy Week. Pick up your cross and follow Christ. One Judas was enough!!!!!!

### NEW INSURANCE PLANS

All plans available in following sums:  
\$2000 - \$3000 - \$4000 - \$5000 - \$7500 - \$10,000

Plan	Without Waiver of Premium	With Waiver of Premium
Life paid up at age 80	Ages 0-70	Ages 16-55
Twenty payment life	Ages 0-60	Ages 16-55
Twenty year endowment	Ages 0-60	Ages 16-55
Single Premium	No waiver of premium available Ages 0-70	

Non-Medical: Ages 0 to 55 - If under \$5,000

Over \$5,000 - medical application required

Medical: Ages 55 to 70 regardless of amount of coverage

### GARSAS

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### Classes of Policies

**Life Paid Up at Age 80:** This is low-cost life insurance which is fully paid up when the insured reaches the anniversary nearest age 80 years.

**20 Payment Life:** Premiums are paid for 20 full years after which further payment of premiums cease and policy is fully paid up. It is retained by the insured and the amount of life insurance is paid to the beneficiary at the time of death. If death occurs during the 20 year period, benefits are paid to the named beneficiary.

**20 Year Endowment:** This plan combines life insurance with savings. If the insured dies within 20 years of the date of issue of the policy the face amount is paid to the beneficiary named. If payment of premium is made on the policy for 20 full years the face amount is paid to the insured on the date of maturity after which time the life insurance benefits cease.

**Single Premium Life:** This policy does away with monthly premium payments. Pay only One Premium, receive full protection and your policy is Fully Paid Up.



# New! New! New! New!

## Single Premium Life A Good Buy Anytime

### \$2,000 Face Amount

Issue Age	Single Premium	Issue Age	Single Premium	Issue Age	Single Premium
0	\$ 106	25	\$ 220	50	\$ 566
1	106	26	228	51	588
2	108	27	236	52	610
3	110	28	244	53	632
4	114	29	254	54	654
5	116	30	264	55	678
6	120	31	274	56	702
7	124	32	284	57	726
8	128	33	296	58	752
9	132	34	306	59	778
10	136	35	320	60	804
11	140	36	332	61	832
12	144	37	346	62	860
13	150	38	360	63	888
14	154	39	374	64	918
15	160	40	388	65	948
16	164	41	404	66	978
17	170	42	420	67	1,006
18	176	43	436	68	1,038
19	180	44	452	69	1,068
20	186	45	470	70	1,100
21	192	46	488		
22	198	47	506		
23	206	48	526		
24	212	49	546		

Fill out and send coupon to:  
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I am interested. Send an application to:

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Check Policy:  20 Year Endowment  20 Payment Life  
 Life paid up at age 80  Single Premium Life

Amount of coverage  \$2,000  \$3,000  \$4,000  
 \$5,000  \$7,500  \$10,000

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### 20 Year Endowment

Premiums for \$10,000 Face Amount  
Without Waiver of Premium

Issue Age	Annual	Semi-Annual	Quarterly	Monthly
0	351.10	179.06	91.29	31.60
1	351.10	179.06	91.29	31.60
2	351.10	179.06	91.29	31.60
3	351.10	179.06	91.29	31.60
4	351.20	179.11	91.31	31.61
5	351.30	179.16	91.34	31.62
6	351.40	179.21	91.36	31.63
7	351.60	179.32	91.42	31.64
8	351.90	179.47	91.49	31.67
9	352.20	179.62	91.57	31.70
10	352.50	179.78	91.65	31.73
11	352.90	179.98	91.75	31.76
12	353.30	180.18	91.86	31.80
13	353.80	180.44	91.99	31.84
14	354.10	180.59	92.07	31.87
15	354.50	180.80	92.17	31.91
16	354.80	180.95	92.25	31.93
17	355.00	181.05	92.30	31.95
18	355.20	181.15	92.35	31.97
19	355.30	181.20	92.38	31.98
20	355.40	181.25	92.40	31.99
21	355.50	181.31	92.43	32.00
22	355.70	181.41	92.48	32.01
23	355.90	181.51	92.53	32.03
24	356.10	181.61	92.59	32.05
25	356.40	181.76	92.66	32.08
26	356.80	181.97	92.77	32.11
27	357.30	182.22	92.90	32.16
28	357.90	182.53	93.05	32.21
29	358.60	182.89	93.24	32.27
30	359.40	183.29	93.44	32.35
31	360.30	183.75	93.68	32.43
32	361.30	184.26	93.94	32.52
33	362.40	184.82	94.22	32.62
34	363.50	185.44	94.54	32.72
35	365.00	186.15	94.90	32.85
36	366.50	186.97	95.32	32.99
37	368.30	187.83	95.76	33.15
38	370.10	188.75	96.23	33.31
39	372.10	189.77	96.75	33.49
40	374.30	190.89	97.32	33.69
41	376.60	192.07	97.92	33.89
42	379.10	193.34	98.57	34.12
43	381.80	194.72	99.27	34.36
44	384.70	196.20	100.02	34.62
45	387.80	197.78	100.83	34.90
46	391.20	199.51	101.71	35.21
47	395.00	201.45	102.70	35.55
48	399.00	203.49	103.74	35.91
49	403.50	205.79	104.91	36.32
50	408.40	208.28	106.18	36.76
51	413.80	211.04	107.59	37.24
52	419.70	214.05	109.12	37.77
53	426.10	217.31	110.79	38.35
54	433.10	220.88	112.61	38.98
55	440.70	224.76	114.58	39.66
56	449.10	229.04	116.77	40.42
57	458.30	233.73	119.16	41.25
58	468.50	238.94	121.81	42.17
59	479.80	244.70	124.75	43.18
60	492.50	251.18	128.05	44.33



# First Lithuanian Arrives in America in 1659

The first fully authenticated Lithuanian in the United States was Alexander Carolus Curtis (q.v.). He arrived in New York (New Amsterdam) in 1659 to become the colony's first Latin schoolmaster, but two years later he resigned his position and returned to Holland.

Mass immigration of Lithuanians to the United States began in the second half of the 19th century. Prior to that time, immigration was limited to individuals or small groups, about whom there is little documented information. There may have been some Lithuanians among the "eight Dutch men and Polanders" recruited in the Baltic ports and brought over to Virginia in 1608 by Captain John Smith, who, a few years earlier, had escaped from Turkey to Lithuania and traveled westward through Poland.

Lithuanians are known to have fought in the American War of Independence (1775-83). One of these was Thaddeus Kosciuszko (q.v.), a military engineer, who described himself as "a native of Lithuania." Having earned the rank of brigadier general in Washington's Continental Army, he went back to his own country, headed the Polish and Lithuanian insurrection of 1794, and in 1797 revisited the United States with his aide-de-camp Julius Ursinus Niemciewicz, a former Lithuanian deputy in the Polish-Lithuanian Diet.

The first larger group of Lithuanians came to the United States in the first quarter of the 19th century by way of the British army in Canada. These were rank and file soldiers of Napoleon's Cisalpine or Polish Legion, who had been taken prisoners of war by the British, recruited into regiments of mercenaries, and sent to Canada to fight against the United States. As many as two hundred of these recruits were natives of

Lithuania. After the war of 1812, they were endowed with lands in the frontier areas of lower Canada, from where most of them migrated to the Dakotas. The subsequent fate of these early Lithuanian settlers has not been traced.

The next, somewhat smaller, contingent of Lithuanian immigrants reached the American shores in 1831-35. These were mostly members of the nobility, who had taken part in the anti-Russian insurrection of 1830-31. Among them was Alexander Bielaski who later served as a surveyor in Florida during the Seminole War (1835), and then in Mexico. From 1845 on, he worked as a draftsman at the Land Office in Washington. President Abraham Lincoln who personally knew Bielaski, commissioned him as a captain in August, 1861. Bielaski was killed storming the confederate positions at Belmont, Missouri, on November 7, 1861. Quite a few Lithuanians served in the Union ranks and in smaller numbers in the Confederate army during the Civil War (1861-65).

Voluntary emigration was given a big boost by the ban on serfdom in 1861, which enabled the villagers to move about freely in search of better jobs in burgeoning industrial centers. Since under Russian rule Lithuanian towns were small, many people began looking to the larger cities of Russia and abroad for employment. Thus in the period from 1897-1914 the industrial cities of neighboring Latvia attracted about 80,000 Lithuanians, while another 40,000 found their way to Russian industrial centers. Meanwhile about the middle of the 19th century, mass emigration from the Russian empire to the New World had already begun. This wave of Slavic emigration eventually swept along large numbers of Lithuanians, resulting in the first mass set-

tlements in the United States.

It was not until the eighth decade of the 19th century that Lithuanians began settling in the United States massively. There were many reasons for this mass emigration to the United States.

Young men wanted to avoid extremely long compulsory service in the Russian armed forces, there was persecution by Russian authorities for patriotic Lithuanian activities, serfdom was abolished and there was a belief that the United States was a veritable "land of gold."

The precise number of Lithuanians who had come to the United States by 1898 is not known, largely because at first they were registered as Russians, Poles and even Germans. Roughly though it is estimated that from 1869-98, 60,000-75,000 Lithuanians arrived. In 1899 the government began according them separate classification. Official statistics show that in the period from 1899-1914, annual immigration varied between 13,000 and 26,000, the total number being 252,594 (170,699 men and 81,895 women). After World War I, immigration from Lithuania was restricted to a yearly quota of 382. The 1930 census revealed 439,255 Lithuanians, among whom 245,589 were born in the United States. It is known from records of Lithuanian parishes, organizations, and other sources that at least a third of the Lithuanians did not indicate their national origin.

World War II caused a large and unusual exodus of Lithuanians from their homeland. When Soviet Russia occupied Lithuania for the second time in 1944, a mass of persons retreated to the West by all possible means. The advancing Red Army caught up with and stopped several thousand of them in Germany. Nevertheless, over 75,000 managed to reach

West Germany, Austria and other Western countries.

They cannot be regarded as genuine emigrants, because their original objective was not to settle away from the native land. They were refugees fleeing from the terror which they had known during the first Soviet occupation in 1940-41.

The overwhelming majority of Lithuanian emigrants (with the notable exception of the refugees of 1940-44) were peasants and unskilled laborers.

At first they were able to get only low-paying jobs involving hard physical labor. Almost all of the very first Lithuanian immigrants in the United States worked in coal mines. In 1904 about 75,000 Lithuanians lived in the coal-mining regions of Pennsylvania and West Virginia.

From there they moved to the industrial cities, where they took jobs in iron foundries, cotton and silk mills, shoe factories, sugar refineries, stockyards, packing houses, at the docks and on railroads.

Through diligence and honesty Lithuanians earned a reputation as good and demanded workers. Their sense of economy enabled many to acquire property.

Through joint efforts they created their own parishes and various organizations, erected churches, schools, halls, clubhouses. Until World War II they maintained vigorous ties with the native land.

During and especially after World War II, the Lithuanians of America and other countries aided the refugees and assisted them in securing papers necessary for immigration.

According to U.S. Census Figures for the period 1910-1960, the number of Foreign-born Lithuanians in the United States in 1910 was 140,963. There were 66,858 U.S. born Lithuanians

(Continued on page 6)



## American Catholic Journalists Visit Eastern Europe

Ten American Catholic journalists traveled through five countries throughout Eastern Europe on a journey of discovery and sharing.

The group was sponsored by the Eastern Europe committee of the Catholic Press Association of the United States and Canada.

The trip was financed by a grant from the Raskob foundation, with the expectation that the journalists would listen to the concerns of Catholic journalists in Lithuania, Poland, Slovakia and the Czech Republic, and from Slovenia; and that hearing their needs would determine specific ways that the Catholic Press of America and its Association could be of assistance to them.

Father Timothy P. Stein, one of the members of the group reported on the trip in The Catholic Register which also ran in the Catholic Journalist. Father Stein gave an interesting viewpoint of his trip to Lithuania.

"We flew to Vilnius, the capital city - a city I thought would

break my heart," he said. "Every preconceived notion of the Soviet bloc being gray, dull and depressing was reinforced as we walked through the cold, poorly-lit airport, and boarded a van for a ride through the cold, poorly-lit city."

Father Stein reported his hotel was a large, "western" type building, having been built by the Soviets to accommodate guests from the outside world. He noted that from its windows he could look out at "a city that seemed asleep."

Father Stein noted that even though lights seemed to be at a premium in most parts of town, they "blazed gloriously at the Shrine of the icon of Our Lady of Mercy." The shrine is housed in a chapel built above one of the city gates.

The group met with representatives of Catholic publications, and also had a meeting with Archbishop Audrys J. Backis of Vilnius, the president of the Lithuanian Episcopal Conference.

## Political Popularity Poll Shows Drop in Ratings

A poll of 1,198 people taken by the British-Lithuanian company Baltic Surveys showed a drop in the popularity ratings of all political figures except for opposition leader Vytautas Landsbergis.

The report on January 1-2 gave Landsbergis a rating increase of three points since the December poll placing him at 40%.

The three most popular figures were President Algirdas Brazauskas with a 58% rating (dropping four points), Seimas deputy chairman Egidijus Bickauskas with 53% (-5%), and Center Union chairman Romualdas Ozolas with 47% (-5%).

A majority of the respondents

(56%) were opposed to holding early presidential elections with 20% favoring them.

The desire for early parliament elections was greater, 28% in favor and 45% opposed. If parliament elections were held now, 22% said they would not participate in the elections, while 17% would vote for the Lithuanian Democratic Labor Party, 12% for the Christian Democratic Party, 6% for Sajudis, 5% for the Conservative Party, 4% for the Center Union, 3% for the Democratic Party, and 2% each for the Liberal Union and the Social Democratic Party.

RFE/RL Daily Report  
Saulius Girnius

## Lithuania Bans Casinos

Lithuania's Seimas adopted several amendments to the law on enterprises, on January 11, prohibiting gambling and casinos.

To become law, these amendments need to be signed by Lithuania's president.

The government had previously issued a decree authorizing the establishment and licensing of casinos, slot machines, and lotteries, expecting to receive \$3 million in revenues per year. The ban on gambling has been proposed by the right-wing opposition, whose leader Gediminas Vagnorius said that he was sure that casinos would be established in the future when legal institutions worked more effectively and then "only in certain territories."

Finance Minister Eduardas Vilkelis told a press conference that he hoped President Algirdas Brazauskas would not sign the amendment banning casinos, noting that an agreement with foreign investors to privatize the hotel Lietuva for \$12 million would take place only if the hotel had a casino.

RFE/RL

## Vote on Prime Minister

Lithuania's Social Democratic Party's (LSDP) Chairman Aloyzas Sakalas told a press conference on January 25 that the party's board had charged its parliament members to begin efforts to hold a no-confidence vote against Prime Minister Adolfas Slezevicius. Since the LSDP has only six deputies, it will have to support holding the vote in Seimas. The charges against the Slezevicius government include allowing illegally acquired money to be converted to the national currency, the litas, and non-fulfillment of government pledges to prepare programs designed to promote investments and the reconstruction of state industries.

RFE/RL

## Ukraine President Visits Lithuania

On February 7, Leonid Kravchuk, accompanied by acting Prime Minister Yukhim Zyvahilsky and other ministers, paid a one-day visit to Vilnius. After talks with his Lithuanian counterpart Algirdas Brazauskas, the two leaders signed a treaty of friendship and cooperation. In a speech to the Seimas and at a press conference, both broadcast live by Radio Lithuania, Kravchuk noted both countries wanted closer integration with NATO through the Partnership for Peace program and hoped that a Baltic-Black Sea alliance would be formed.

Lithuanian Foreign Minister Povilas Gylys and Ukrainian International Economic Relations Minister Oleh Slepichev signed an agreement on investment promotion and protection.

RFE/RL

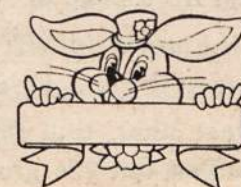
Saulius Girnius

## Cost of Living Up in Lithuania

The consumer price index, a measure of inflation, showed an overall increase of 6.2% in Lithuania during the month of December, 1993, according to the Lithuanian Statistics Department. Within the index, the greatest increase was in the price of food, which rose 9.2%, followed by an 8% rise in the cost of entertainment, education and leisure, a 4.4% increase in the cost of clothing and footwear, and a 3% rise in the cost of housing.

The rate of inflation in Lithuania was lower in December than in the two previous months (6.8% in November and 7.3% in October). The rate of inflation for all of 1993 was 188.6%.

ABN





## Lithuanian Traditions

March 4, is the feast day of Lithuania's only saint - St. Casimir. This day was also known as the day of the skylark - in Lithuanian *vyturelio diena*. On that day, the lark has returned and his happy singing melts the snow, so goes a Lithuanian saying.

In the old days, the unpaved roads would be almost impassable due to spring thaw. People nevertheless came in huge numbers to attend church and then the fair - *muge*.

Even now, in the age of the automobile, a late winter blizzard can dump enough snow to close many roadways.

The age old tradition of St. Casimir's fair - *Kaziuko muge* - has been kept throughout Lithuanian communities in the U.S., where not only handicrafts created by scout troops and other craftspeople can be bought and admired. Also available are Lithuanian books, and while the music plays in the background, one can satisfy one's craving for Lithuanian food.

At the Vilnius fair, which begins on March 4 and continues through the weekend, there is a sea of colorful palms - *verbos* - that will be taken to church on Palm Sunday. The popularity of *verbos* has grown so that they are used not only on Palm Sunday but have become winter bouquets that decorate homes and offices.

The sound of singing birds fills the air - these are clay bird whistles played by people trying to find the right key. After *verbos*, the birds are the most abundant item at the fair. If you limit yourself to only one purchase, it must be a *verba*. If there's no limit to your purchases, then try

### First Lithuanians

(Continued from page 4)

bringing the total to 207,823 Lithuanians in the U.S. in 1910.

By the year 1960, that figure almost doubled but the growth

the whistles of the many clay birds to see if it is in the C or E key, as the locals do.

Now that the traditional purchases are made, enjoy the fair. There will be temptations to buy angels, either wooden and clay; willow and straw baskets; woolen mittens; socks and shawls or one of the many colored sashes.

The folk art of wood carving is very popular and there usually are several versions of many saints - Anne, Veronica, John, Peter, Agatha, Anthony and others.

And, of course, there are the many faces of St. Casimir. Since there is no true picture of the saint, the godmakers - *dievdirbiai* - who carve him, have taken the liberty to portray St. Casimir in their own fashion. But he is always pictured holding a lily in his left hand. Again, there is the temptation to buy one of these beautiful statues, especially if he or she is your patron saint.

In place of the ever popular bagels - *riestainiai* - of yore, some tables are now laden with miniature twig cakes - *sakociai*, or *baumkuchens* in German.

There have been no gingerbread hearts - *muginnukai* - a traditional sweet at the fairs of many years ago. Hopefully the hearts will return to the fair as a renewal of this old tradition.

Two traditional St. Casimir's Fairs that have come to ABN's attention are the Detroit St. Casimir's Fair, held at the Church of Divine Providence, Southfield Michigan and the Chicago Fair held at the Lithuanian Youth Center Claremont Ave., Chicago, IL.

ABN

was in Lithuanians born in the U.S. rather than foreign-born immigrants. The 1960 figures showed a drop from 140,963 foreign-born Lithuanians to

## Vilnius Gets "Kosher" Restaurant

Ever since Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia regained their independence, many Balts who had fled the Soviets at the outset of World War II are now residing in the Baltics. Among those returning to their former homeland are also Baltic Jews who were born or had lived in the Baltics.

One of the returnees is Simon Kaplan, who was born in Kedainiai, Lithuania, and had studied in Kaunas. Despite sad memories - his parents were killed during the genocide of Jews - he did not forget the kindness shown to him and his family during this terrible period in history.

In the newly opened Center of Jewish Culture, on Pylimo Street in Vilnius, in a building that housed a Jewish high school before World War II, Simon Kaplan found room to open a restaurant named "Lietuvos Jeruzale" (Lithuania's Jerusalem). The restaurant has two parts: one, a tea room, seats some 20 people; the other, which is the main restaurant, serves 80.

Both parts are done in pale colors, lit by baroque light fixtures created by designers in Vilnius, and adorned with paintings by Lithuanian Jewish artists. Mr. Kaplan says proudly that nothing is Soviet in his restaurants; everything is either Lithuanian or has been brought in from France, France being his adopted country to which he fled from Russia in 1959.

When questioned how the restaurant will manage to prepare kosher food in Vilnius, Mr. Kaplan answers that Lithuanian Airlines fly in the needed kosher meats and wines from France. Other items are purchased locally. The kitchen equipment has been brought in from France and meets the rabbinical requirements for preparing and serving kosher food. The restaurant's chef is Jacques, who has cooked in Paris and Israel and is himself of Russian Jewish ancestry. Chef Jacques has personally instructed the helpers and waiters in the art of preparing and serving Jewish food.

The restaurant is owned by Mr. Kaplan in partnership with his son, Alexander. The reason why he opened the restaurant goes above and beyond the profit motive. Mr. Kaplan wishes to rebuild some of the Jewish culture that was lost during the war. It is also a way to thank the Lithuanians who helped him, his wife and young daughter, escape the holocaust.

Everyday before opening its doors to the public, the restaurant will use its profits to feed some 200 poor elderly, both Jewish and Lithuanian.

Dining in the restaurant runs about 40 litai (about US \$10), including wine.

"Lietuvos Jeruzale" is located at Pylimo 4, Vilnius.

ABN (Compiled from  
Lietuvos rytas & Lietuvos  
Aidas)

99,043. The number of U.S. born Lithuanians climbed from 66,858 in 1910 to 303,803 in 1960 for a total of 402,846 Lithuanians in the U.S. in the year 1960. Lithuanians constituted 1.2 percent of the entire U.S. population.

Census statistics were not completely accurate because the

census takers did not always pay attention to the original nationality.

The 1970 U.S. census did not register national origin.

Information compiled from  
Encyclopedia Lituanica



## Pro Basketball Player Shares Success with Lithuania's Less Fortunate Children

In difficult times, the innocent are often the ones who suffer the most. This is certainly true of many children in Lithuania. Those who have been orphaned, abandoned, impoverished and those with physical disabilities are truly among the most needy. The government is unable to provide adequate care for them and the public has little to give.

The Sarunas children's fund was established in 1993 for the purpose of helping the children of Lithuania. Its goal is to bring joy and hope into the lives of Lithuania's youth, to ease the hardships of physical limitations, to take away some of the burdens caused by economics, and to allow the children to grow into motivated, vibrant and productive individuals.

Sarunas Marciulionis, the heart and soul of the fund, grew up in Kaunas, Lithuania. He excelled both in school and sports. In his senior high school year, Sarunas transferred to a special sports school.

After high school, Sarunas attended Vilnius University majoring in journalism and excelling in basketball. In 1992, Sarunas organized and captained the Olympic Basketball Team for newly independent Lithuania, a team which went on to win the Bronze Medal.

Since becoming star player for the Golden State Warriors in

California (Sarunas was the first player from an Eastern Bloc nation to sign with the NBA), he has used his new-found wealth to help the people of his country rebuild the nation after it was left in shambles by years of Soviet occupation. His special goal is to help the needy children of Lithuania.

The Sarunas Children's Fund supports schools for children with visual impairments, providing much needed educational and recreational supplies and equipment; works closely with orphanages to upgrade their environments starting with the most basic needs; sponsors youth basketball schools which combine athletics with education including drug abuse prevention and self-improvement; and sponsors cooperation between health care workers in the U.S. and Lithuania to provide medical and dental care for Lithuania's children.

To pursue its goals, the fund needs donations of dental/medical equipment, supplies, as well as cash contributions. All donations are tax deductible and should be made to: Sarunas Children's Fund, P.O. Box 4173, Walnut Creek, CA 94596.

**American Baltic News**

## Facts on Widows and Widowers of America

The following facts about widowhood have been compiled by the American Association of Retired Persons:

The U.S. has about 11 million widows and two million widowers.

Half of all women over age 65 are widows.

80% percent of all retirement age women have no pension eligibility of their own.

21% of widows live in official poverty. That is well above the

12% poverty rate for the general population.

Widows tend to be poorer than widowers: median incomes of \$9,397 and \$12,307 respectively.

Widows 65-plus spend 42% of their income on housing costs.

Widows grieve longer than most people think - often for two or three years.

Widowers tend to remarry; widows don't. Statistics show widowers have more opportunity to find a new mate.

**Fraternal Monitor (DEC)**

## Clintons Hear Mother Theresa Condemn Abortion

Mother Theresa of Calcutta addressed an audience of 3,000 people at the National Prayer Breakfast in Washington held in February.

Included in the audience were President Clinton and his wife Hillary along with the Vice-President and his wife.

According to an article in The Wanderer reprinted from The Los Angeles Times syndicate, the 83-year old nun received a standing ovation when she spoke of abortion tying to growing violence and murder in the streets.

"If we accept that a mother can kill even her own child, how can we tell other people not to kill each other? Any country that

accepts abortion is not teaching its people to love, but to use any violence to get what they want."

It was reported that following that line something that rarely happens at these sedate events took place. Most of the people in attendance responded with a standing ovation. President Clinton is said to have reached for his water glass while Hillary and the Gores stared at Mother Theresa without expression.

At the close of her address, Mother Theresa is said to have pleaded to pregnant women who do not want their children to give them to her. She said she has already placed 3,000 children in adoptive homes.

## Lithuanians Lose Cars and Clothes in Moscow

Lithuania's embassy in Moscow reports that it is often visited by Lithuanians who have driven to the city to sell an automobile but were victims of car thieves. They seek help from the embassy in recovering their autos, as well as funds to buy clothing.

In a continuing transborder trader in Europe, most of the cars are purchased in Germany and the Netherlands and driven back to Lithuania. The autos are then resold to buyers in Lithuania, many of whom are from Russia.

Recently, however, the used car business in Lithuania has begun drying up. Buyers from Russia who fueled this trade see no need to travel to Lithuania as they can now buy cars in Moscow. With this shift, Lithuanian traders feel compelled to go to Moscow to sell their vehicles.

Moscow's criminals can easily spot the Lithuanians. On the pretense of test-driving the vehicle before buying it, the Russians

climb aboard but are soon stopped by armed accomplices at a prearranged spot. The Lithuanians are then robbed and left stranded in their underwear on the streets of Moscow, while the thieves drive away. The victims have no choice but to head for Lithuania's embassy in Moscow and seek money and advice from the staff.

To date, no Russian thieves have been arrested, nor any of the stolen autos recovered.

Brand new U.S., German or Japanese makes can now be purchased in Lithuania at local dealerships at prices that sometimes match those of used Mercedes-Benz or BMW's brought in by scalpers. Foreign makes are also more difficult to service, and their visibility makes them more vulnerable to theft. As a result, demand for high-priced used cars from the west has decreased in Lithuania, but continues to be strong in Russia.

**American Baltic News**



## — PRADEDANT 1994-TUOSIUS —

Advokato S. Povilo Žumbakio komentarai, transliuoti Chicagoje per Amerikos lietuvių radijo programą, kuriai vadovauja Anatolijus Šlutas.

-o-

Ekonominė, politinė ir karinė Jungtinių Amerikos Valstijų jėga daugiau ar mažiau dominavo pasaulyje trejetą kartų per paskutinius 200 metų: po Pirmojo Pasaulinio karo; po Antrojo Pasaulinio karo ir po šaltojo karo.

Šimtmečio pradžioje amerikiečiai bandė demokratizuoti Europą, skelbdami tautų teisę į savivaldybę — nepriklausomybę. Prezidento Wilsono idealizmas buvo atmetamas arba ignoruojamas beveik visur. Prasidėjus didžiajai depresijai, ekonomika pasidarė žmonėms svarbiausia tema, o politika ir žmogaus laisvės klausimai tapo antraeiliais dalykais. Atmetus idealizmą, pasaulio kraštai linko į vadovavimą, bet ne į demokratijos valdymo modelį.

Po Antrojo Pasaulinio Karo Amerika buvo vienintelis dominuojantis kraštas pasaulyje — bent trumpą laiką. Tik Amerika turėjo branduolinį ginklą ir panaudojo jį prieš savo priešus (dabar yra gana aišku, kad tai buvo padaryta, norint išbandyti jį ir, tuo pačiu atkeršyti japonams, nes jie jau buvo linkę pasiduoti). Amerikos ekonomika buvo galingiausia. Ji kontroliavo Europos ir Azijos kraštų verslą.

Amerikos Marshall Planas padėjo atstatyti Vakarų Europą. Amerikos karininkai perorganizavo pralaimėjusių kraštų teisingą ir ekonominę sistemą. Tai leido Vokietijai ir Japonijai atsigausti. Viena po kitos Europos didžiosios valstybės atsikratė savo imperijų. Tik komunistiniai kraštai, ypač Sovietų Sąjunga ir Kinija, ėjo savo keliu — tolyn į diktatūrą, į vis didėjantį imperializmą. Tai buvo kelias į neišvengiamą karštąjį bei šaltąjį karą su Vakarais.

Laimėjusios pasaulio karus ir užėmusios dominuojančią strateginę poziciją politikoje, Jungtinės Valstijos ryžosi sustabdyti komunizmo vergijos plitimą. Deja, po karo, kuomet JAV-jos

galėjo nuginkluoti Sovietų Sąjungą, gal net ir Kiniją, ir išvaduoti pavergtas tautas Europoje bei Azijoje, Amerikos vadai, ypač kairieji intelektualai nesuapratė, nematė ir nenorėjo matyti pavojaus iš buvusių ir esamų komunistinių imperijų.

Amerika padarė eilę nuolaidų sovietams ir kiniečiams. Net po karo įkurta Jungtinių Tautų organizacija buvo diplomatinis fasadas. Komunistai diktatoriai išnaudojo Jungtines Tautas nuo pat pradžios. Sovietai net įkalbėjo Amerikos diplomatus, kad jiems būtų suteikti trys balsai Asamblėjoje ir veto galia Saugumo Taryboje.

Pagal Jungtinių Tautų organizaciją, Ukraina ir Baltarusija buvo nepriklausomi kraštai, turintys teisę balsuoti lygiagrečiai su laisvais kraštais, tuo suteikdami Sovietų Sąjungai didesnę balsavimo galią. Net šiandien, po Sovietų Sąjungos sugriuvimo ir tų kraštų išsivadavimo, rusai labai nori tuos du kraštus sugrąžinti į Motinos Rusijos glėbį.

Ilgai netruko, kad sovietai pavogtų branduolinio ginklo paslaptis iš amerikiečių. Pagrobtų vokiečių mokslininkų pagalba bolševikai sugebėjo ne tik pasivyti Ameriką, bet ir pralenkti ją. Kai vokiečių suprojektuotos raketos iškėlė "Sputniką" į erdves, amerikiečiai staiga atsibudo ir pamatė, jog jie atsiliko nuo dvidešimto amžiaus barbarų iš Rytų.

Vietoje kruviniausių pasaulio komunistinių diktatūrų — Sovietų Sąjungos ir Kinijos panaikinimo, JAV-jos pradėjo šaltąjį karą su jomis. Tas karas amerikiečiams ir jų alijantams atėmė dešimtis tūkstančių gyvybių, o mažiems kraštams atnešė vergiją.

Šiandien toks Amerikos diplomatų ir politikų naivumas galėtų dominti tik istorikus. Bet taip galvoti būtų klaidinga. Istorijos pamiršti jokiū būdu negalime, kad nepakartotume tų pačių klaidų. Amerikos liberalai, ypač tarptautinėje politikoje pasimetusių Prezidento Bill Clinton administracija, vėl veda pasaulį į betvarkę.

Po Sovietų Sąjungos subyrėjimo, prie kurio Lietuva prisidėjo

savo drąsumu ir ištverme — ypač sausio 13-osios kraujo praliejimu — Amerika turėjo galimybę atvesti diktatūrinius kraštus į demokratišką kelią. Bet to Amerika ir toliau nedaro, net ir po Prezidento G. Bush naujos pasaulio tvarkos kilnių pareiškimų.

Pagrindinių principų trūkumas verčia JAV-bes bendradarbiauti su žiauriųjų diktatūrų valdžiomis. Amerika remia kai kuriuos kraštus, negeberbiančius savo gyventojų teisių valstybes, persekiojančias savo mažumas, valdžias, žudančias savo žmones dėl religinių įsitikinimų bei negeberbiančias savo kaimynų...

Ekonominiai ir specialūs politiniai motyvai sumaišo Amerikos tarptautinės politikos kryptį. Neturtingiems kraštams, jų tarpe beveik visiems iš komunizmo išsivadavusiems, Amerikos diplomatai duoda nurodymus, kaip elgtis, iš jų reikalaujant daug daugiau, nei patys iš savęs. O kitų valstybių, turinčių gamtos turtų ar dominančių Washingtono politinį elitą, amerikiečiai netik nekritikuoja, bet jiems padeda...

Šiais metais, manau, ši Amerikos "realpolitik" sąvoka prives prie pasaulio padalinimo į interesų zonas. Tas pasidalinimas nebus pagrįstas demokratiškais principais. Tai bus didžiųjų kraštų de facto pasiskirstymas įtakos zonomis.

Kaip ir visuomet, pasidalinimas yra pagrįstas ekonominiais, kariniais ir politiniais interesais. Tose sferose mažiesiems, ypač neturintiems reikšmingos įtakos Washingtonui ir Maskvai, vietos liks tikrai nedaug. Tarptautinės teisės vardan silpnesniems kraštams, jų tarpe net tokiems, kaip Ukraina ar Baltarusija, vietos nebus. Lietuvai drauge su kitais mažaisiais kraštais, jeigu kas ir liks — tai tik trupiniai.

Ši nuomonė nėra pagrįsta kokiu pesimizmu. Tai yra reali šių dienų tiesa. Amerika trečią kartą dominuodama pasaulyje, nusileidžia imperialistams ir diktatoriams, vėl leidžia dalintis pasaulio turtais ir žmonėmis prieš jų valią.

Bet nusiminti nereikia. Privilome stebėti ir atitinkamai reaguoti į Amerikos bei Lietuvos politikų veiklą. Mes negalime leisti valdžios pareigūnams, diplomatams, biurokratams ir net saviesiems vadams — kurių pareiga ir tikslas yra tarnauti mums, o tikrasis motyvas — išsaugoti savo pozicijas bei, dažnai, privilegijas — užliūliuoti mus savo gražiais žodžiais ir šūkiomis. Lietuvoje mūsų tautiečiai yra įpratę, kad valdžia sprestų visas jų problemas. Mes turime sau ir jiems priminti, jog valdžios ir biurokratai negali mūsų išgelbėti. Jie tegali mums tarnauti. Mes, ir tik mes galime apsisaugoti save ir savuosius.

-- **Kauno technologijos universitete vasario 1-4 dienomis vyko kasmetinė konferencija "Lietuvos mokslas ir pramonė".**

### Dar vienas rekordas...

Praėjusiais metais Lietuvoje buvo įvykdyta daugiau kaip 60 tūkstančių nusikaltimų, - daugiausiai per visą pokario istoriją. Antra vertus, nusikaltimų didėjimo lygis - 6,6% - pernai buvo mažiausias per pastaruosius ketverius metus. Šiuos duomenis sausio 25 d. Lietuvos prokuratūros kolegijos išplėtiniam posėdyje pateikė Generalinis prokuroras Artūras Paulauskas, kriminogeninę padėtį Lietuvoje pavadinęs "įtempta".

53% pernai padariusių nusikaltimus asmenų yra darbingo amžiaus žmonės. Prevencinio sulaukymo įstatymo dėka pavyko iššaukinti ir izoliuoti organizuotų grupuočių narius įvairiuose miestuose. Sustiprinti kovą padės ruošiamas Antimafijinis įstatymas.

Generalinis prokuroras pranešė, jog jau iš esmės baigtos garsiosios Sausio 13-osios ir žurnalisto Vito Lingio nužudymo bylos.

Kalbėjo ir Seimo vicepirmininkas Egidijus Bičkauskas. Jo nuomone, tai, kad pernai Lietuvoje įvyko daugiau kaip 400 žmogžudysčių, liudija, jog "nusikalstamumas stabilizavosi pačiame aukščiausiam taške". Argumentų tokiam optimizmui vicepirmininkas nepateikė.



## Nuvykimas į Lietuvą

Visi šventės dalyviai, kurie atvyksta iš užsienio, Lietuvoje privalo būti ne vėliau kaip liepos 5 d. Pirmom liepos mėnesio dienom skrydžiai bus ypatingai apkrauti. Aviabendrovių, skrendančių į Vilnių iš įvairių Europos miestų, yra kol kas ribotas skaičius.

Šiuo metu skrenda: Lufthansa, SAS, LOT, Malev, Vengrų Aviakompanija, Hamburg Air, Sterling Air, Finnair, Austrian ir Lietuvos Avialinijos.

Dėl Lietuvos aerouostų nusileidimo takų yra ribojami lėktuvų dydžiai. Reikia atsižvelgti ir į tai, kad minėtos linijos ne kiekvieną dieną skrenda į Vilnių. Tai reiškia, kad per vieną savaitę atskraidinamų žmonių skaičius yra ribojamas. Dar reikia prisiminti ir tai, kad pvz. Aviakompanijos Varšuva — Vilnius persėdimas įmanomas tik vieną kartą per savaitę, atvykus iš JAV. Lėktuvas mažas, propelerinis, tai irgi sumažina atgabenamų žmonių skaičių.

Protingiausia yra savo kelionę tvarkyti per kelionių biurą, per tokį biurą, kuris Lietuvoje turi didžiausią patirtį ir tinkamiausiai aptarnauja. Visos lietuvių kelionių agentūros šioje srityje turi didžiausią patirtį, tai ir būtų protingiausia į jas kreiptis. Konsoliduotos bendrovės veža daugiausia keleivių, tai tas pačias sąlygas taikys tom pačiom aviakompanijom.

### Dainų šventės renginių tvarkaraštis

Nors šis renginys vadinsis dainų šventė, bet prie jos prijungiam ir daugiau tradicinių renginių.

#### Liepos 6 d.

Tai bus pirmoji proga išėivijos chorams ir ansambliams pasirodyti. Tie, kurie norės, galės įvairiose Vilniaus salėse turėti savo grupių koncertus bei pasirodymus. Tai bus pirma proga Lietuvai susipažinti su atvykusiais.

#### Liepos 7 d.

Tą dieną atidaromos įvairios liaudies meno parodos Vilniaus

# PASAULIO LIETUVIŲ DAINŲ ŠVENTĖ LIETUVOJE

muziejuose ir galerijose. Tų galerijų yra įvairių ir gana daug. Vakare Vilniaus senamiesčio kiemuose prasidės folkloro vakaras. Ansambliai koncertuos regionais. Atstovaujant visą Lietuvą, saulei nusileidus, 9 v.v., įvyks ansamblių vakaro generalinė repeticija.

Ši repeticija dažnai laikoma pačiu spektakliu. Siūloma tiems, kurie galvoja liepos 8 d. važiuoti į Kauną, būtinai nueiti į šį ansamblių pasirodymą, nes tai bus tikrai nuostabus reginys.

#### Liepos 8 d.

Išvyka į Kauną. Ankstyvesnė šventė to nebuvo. Dabar yra įtraukta į šventės renginius, prisimenant pirmąją dainų šventę, kuri įvyko Kaune 1924 m.

Kaune įvyks šventės atidarymas. Dalyvaus geriausi Lietuvos chorai, prisijungiant ir išėivijos chorams. Vileišio aikštėje, kur įvyko pirmoji šventė, bus atidengtas memorialinis akmuo. Po iškilnių prie Laisvės paminklo bei Nežinomojo kareivio kapo bus visų dalyvių eitynės per Kauno miestą į dainų slėnį, kur vyks koncertas.

Tuo tarpu Vilniuje bus pučiamųjų orkestrų bei šokių grupių pasirodymai įvairiuose senamiesčio kiemuose. Vakara apvainikuos ansamblių vakaro pasirodymas, kur dalyvaus 2-3 tūkstančiai atlikėjų — Lietuvos stipriausios pajėgos. Ansamblių vakaro repeticija bei pasirodymas vyks Kalnų parke, pačiame Vilniaus centre.

#### Liepos 9 d.

Šokių diena. Koncertai įvyks Žalgirio stadijone. Kadangi stadijonas nėra pats didžiausias, o žiūrovų tikimasi daug, tai bus du koncertai. Trečią valandą po pietų dalis koncerto bus skiriama užsienio lietuvių pasirodymams. 7 v.v. įvyks antrasis šokių koncertas. Aišku, tebeveiks mugės, parodos ir koncertukai visame Vilniaus senamiestyje.

#### Liepos 10 d.

Ši diena prasidės iškilmingomis mišiomis Vilniaus arkikatedroje bazilikoje. Mišios įvyks 12:30 v. Tuoj po jų tradicinės eitynės iš Katedros aikštės Gedimino prospektu į Vingio parką, kur įvyks dainų diena. 6 v.v. įvyks ceremonijos dainų ir šokių

šventėms paminėti. Po to bus pati dainų diena, dalyvaujant visiems Lietuvos bei išėivijos chorams. Po to vakaras bus tęsiamas užsienio lietuvių vakarone Vingio parke.

#### Liepos 11 d.

Patys smagiausi renginiai jau baigti, tačiau įvyks aptariamoji konferencija šventės, kurios šūkis "Viena tauta — viena kultūra".

Nuo liepos 11 d. iki 18 d. atvykę užsieniečiai su savo šokių bei dainų vienetais turės progos pabendrauti atskirose Lietuvos vietovėse, būdami Lietuvos ansamblių svečiais.

#### Programos turistams

Turistams taip pat netrūks užsiėimimų. Daugelis agentūrų siūlo turistines keliones po Lietuvą. Tai bus gera proga, nes būsite dalyvavę šventės renginiuose. Dauguma šių firmų parūpina ir bilietus į šventės renginius.

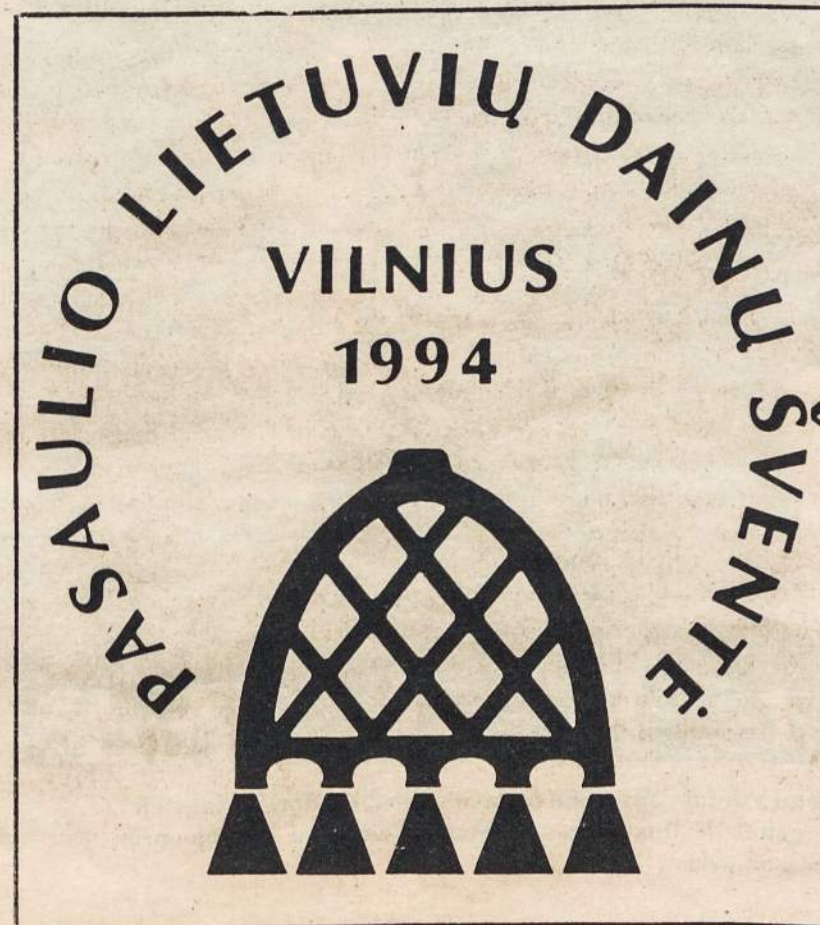
Tiems, kurie ne pirmą kartą bus Lietuvoje, siūloma aplankyti Baltijos respublikas. Kelionę baigti dainų švente Lietuvoje. Aišku, yra galimybė po šventės pabūti dar ir pas savo gimines.

Nežiūrint, kokį variantą pasirinksite, skambinkite savo kelionių agentūrai.

-- **Baltarusijos piliečiai** nuo kovo 1 d. į Lietuvą galės atvykti tik su galiojančiais savo valstybės užsienio pasais, kuriuose bus Lietuvos viza.

-- **Lietuvos demokratų** partijai vasario 5 d. sukako 5 metai. 1989 m. ji pirmoji pradėjo daugiapartinės sistemos kūrimą Lietuvoje. Vasario 6 d. Vilniuje įvyko iškilmingas minėjimas, skirtas šiai sukakčiai. Šiandien partija vienija apie 1200 narių ir ji turi Seime 4 mandatus.

-- **Vidutinis atlyginimas** Lietuvoje gruodžio mėnesį buvo 291 litas, Latvijoje - 71,46 lato (467,3 lito), Estijoje - 1,200 kronų (419 litų), Baltarusijoje - 164,973 Baltarusijos rubliai (88,8 lito), Kaliningrade - 115,312 rublių (364,4 lito).





## Vasario 16-osios dvasia

Vasario 16-oji kiekvienais metais tiek Lietuvoje, tiek Amerikoje pasitinkama su šventine nuotaika. Ši diena visada primena lietuvių tautai, kad tik nuosaikus, bet tvirtas ėjimas į valstybinę nepriklausomybę gali užtikrinti tautos laisvę.

Ir šiomet, pasitikdami šią vieną svarbiausių mūsų tautai dieną, prisimename ne tik praėjusios istorijos vingius, bet ir šiauriniuose nepriklausomos Lietuvos rūpesčius. Vasario 16-osios proga neverta kalbėti apie dabartinius ekonominius Lietuvos sunkumus. Šia proga reikia pažvelgti į žmogų - lietuvi, kuris prieš 76 metus gyveno Lietuvoje ir kuris šiandien joje gyvena, kad suprastumėm kodėl tada 1918 m. Lietuva pasuko nepriklausomybės keliu ir kodėl šiandien mes vėl atsigrežiame į tuos laikus, ieškodami atsakymo į patį svarbiausią Lietuvai klausimą - Lietuvos valstybingumą.

Ivairiai lietuviai skirtingais metais šventė Vasario 16-ąją. Iki 1940 m. - tai buvo ne tik kiekvieno lietuvi, bet, pirmiausia, visos tautos šventė. Buvo ypatingai prisimenami Lietuvos savanoriai, kurie apgynė Lietuvos nepriklausomybę, negailėdami savo gyvybių.

Tik laisvą Lietuvą jie išvaizdavo, kaip gyvą, augančią ir gražėjančią. Būtent tada lietuvių tauta suprato, kad valstybingumo paskelbimas yra tik ilgo kelio į nepriklausomybę pradžia. Kelio, kuris bus gausiai laistomas didvyrių krauju.

Dar ir šiandien Lietuvoje yra išlikusių Lietuvos savanorių kapų ir vienodų paminklų, skirtų krikščionims. Gal todėl šie kapai išliko per visus sovietinio režimo metus, kad paminklai buvo nedideli ir sovietams nepastebimi. Tačiau lietuviai ateidavo aplankyti šių kapų. Paminklėliai kiekvienam savanoriui kuklūs, bet prasmingi - kryžius, iš kurio trykšta saulės spinduliai. Kančia ir viltis. Pasiukojimas ir dėkingumas. Kovotojo dvasia ir nemirtingumas. Visa tai surasdavo lietuviai, išdrįsę ateiti ir pagerbti savanorių kapus.

Šiandien savanorių kapai dažnai aplankomi Lietuvos kareivių ar paprastų žmonių įvairiomis progomis. Ir šių metų Vasario 16-ąją čia tikriausiai stovės šiauriniai savanoriai, kurie turi perimti 20-ųjų metų savanorių drąsą ir ryžtą. Lietuvos kovas už laisvę įtvirtinimą po 1918 m. vasario 16-osios galima istorijoje palyginti tik su atkakliausiomis kovomis su kry-

žiuočiais. Nors ir tai būtų netikslu. Lietuvos priešai, norintys pasigriebti kuo riebesnį kąsnį 1918 m., buvo išsidėstę iš visų pusių. Lietuva neturėjo kur trauktis. Ji galėjo tik apginti savo žemę.

Situacija dabartinėje Lietuvoje labai panaši į 1918 m. Lietuva apsupta nelabai draugiškai nusiteikusių šalių, iš Vakarų pagalbos tikėtis nerealu. Taigi, istorija kartojasi. O Lietuva jau kartą išėjusi jos pamokas. Tik ryžtas ir tvirta užsienio politika, savos ekonomikos stiprinimas gali užtikrinti Vasario 16-osios idealų įgyvendini-

mą. Tačiau to tikrai nepakaktų, jeigu mes užmirštume žmogų. Ar lietuvių teberusena tas pats kovingumas, drąsa, vienybė, sugebėjimas aukotis vardan tautos laisvės?

Ilgims metams šios savybės buvo užmirštos. Tik pokario partizanų bei pavienių didvyrių dėka Lietuva šiandien vėl yra nepriklausoma.

Kad ją išsaugotume, turime susigrąžinti dvasią, tą pačią, su kuria tūkstančiai vyrų apgynė Vasario 16-ąją, nes tik ji lietuviams suteiks jėgų kelyje į nepriklausomybės įtvirtinimą.

## IŠ LIETUVOS IR APIE LIETUVĄ

— Vilniuje sausio 21 d. iškilmingai pasirašyta bendradarbiavimo sutartis tarp Lietuvos valstybinės geodezijos tarnybos ir JAV Gynybos departamento Gynybos kartografavimo agentūros. Beveik metus rengtą dokumentą savo parašais patvirtino Geodezijos tarnybos direktorius Zenonas Kumetaitis ir JAV agentūros vicedirektorius Charles D. Hall. Ši sutartis, kaip pasakė ELTOS korespondentui Z. Kumetaitis, turi didelę politinę reikšmę. Ji sudarys technines prielaidas Lietuvai greičiau integruotis į NATO saugumo sistemą —

NATO nariams privalomi griežti unifikuoti standartai. Nauji Lietuvos kartografiniai žemėlapiai bus rengiami nebe pagal sovietinę, o pagal NATO standartų sistemą. Z. Kumetaitis taip pat akcentavo, jog sutartis padės Lietuvos specialistams greičiau įsivairinti praktiškai naujas darbų rūšis: jūrinių ir aeronautinių žemėlapių sudarymą.

— Lietuvos jūrų laivininkystės motorlaivis "Šiauliai" į Švedijos Ahuso uostą nugabeno klaidėdžių dovaną bičiuliams — Karlskrūnos miesto gyventojams — 2,5 metro aukščio skulptūrą. Ją iš ažuolo išdrožė alytiškis tautodailininkas Vladas Krušna ir pavadino Birute, o švedai tikriausiai, ją vadins lietuvaitė. Skulptūra atidengta Karlskrūnoje sausio 22-23 dienomis rengiamo forumo "Lietuva-94" metu.

— Tik normalių tarnybos sąlygų sudarymas gali pagerinti Lietuvos kariuomenės padėtį, pasakė Lietuvos Respublikos krašto apsaugos ministras Linas Linkevičius sausio 19 d. radijo laidoje, skirtoje kariuomenės problemoms. Ministras sakė, kad svarbiausia priežastis, dėl kurios kenčia tiek kareiviai, tiek karininkai, yra lėšų trūkumas. Krašto apsaugai 1994 metais, kaip ir pernai, skiriama 4,4% biudžeto lėšų, o tai apie 130 milijoną litų. Atsakydamas į klausimą apie nestatutinius santykius Lietuvos kariuomenėje, ministras užtikrino, kad su šia blogybe kovojama. Iš 81-os iškeltos baudžiamosios bylos 72 jau perduotos teismui.



1993 m. Kalėdos ir Naujieji Metai Vilniuje pirmą kartą buvo švenčiami Rotušės aikštelėje. Anksčiau pagrindinė Kalėdų eglutė ir linksmybės vykdavo Gedimino aikštelėje prie arkikatedros. Viktoro Kapočiaus nuotrauka.



## IŠ LIETUVOS IR APIE LIETUVĄ

— **Baltijos taikos bataliono** mokymo centrą ketinama įkurti Alytuje, buvusioje rusų desantinio bataliono bazėje. Savo žodį turės tarti NATO ir Jungtinių Tautų ekspertai. Įkurti Baltijos batalioną 1993 m. lapkričio 20 d. nusprendė Taline susitikę Lietuvos, Latvijos ir Estijos kariuomenių vyriausieji vadai.

— **Švedijoje**, Karlskrūnoje, sausio 23 - 24 dienomis Švedijos-Lietuvos draugija ir Baltijos institutas surengė seminarą "Forum Litauen - 94". Buvo svarstytyos dvišalio bendradarbiavimo galimybes.

— **Rusijos užsienio reikalų ministerijos** spaudos departamento direktorius G. Krasinas pareiškė, kad "Lietuvoje pasigirdę nedraugiški pareiškimai dėl Kaliningrado srities stebina ir gali apsunkinti prasidėjusį Rusijos ir Lietuvos santykių normalizavimo procesą". Pasak jo, "teisės, istorijos ir moralės požiūriu Kaliningrado sritis yra neatskiriama Rusijos dalis, ir Rusija neleis peržiūrėti tarptautinių teisinių aktų, įtvirtinusių jos dabartinį statusą".

— **Numizmatikos paroda** "Pinigai Lietuvoje 1915-1940 metais" surengta Suomijoje, Joensu mieste. Ekspoziciją parengė Lietuvos nacionalinis muziejus.

— **Lietuvos Respublikos Ministras Pirmininkas Adolfas Šleževičius**, sausio 17 d. su neoficialiu vizitu, išvyko į Estijos Respubliką. Sausio 18 d. įvyko susitikimas su Estijos Respublikos Ministrų Pirmininku Martu

Laaru. Aptartos abiejų valstybių tolesnio bendradarbiavimo perspektyvos, plėtojant energetikos ūkį, vystant pramonę ir prekybą. Sausio 19 d. Jūrmaloje įvyko Lietuvos, Latvijos ir Estijos Respublikų Ministrų Pirmininkų bei juos lydinių delegacijų pasitarimas. Lietuvos ir Latvijos premjerų bei delegacijų susitikime tartasi dėl Lietuvos — Latvijos jūrų sienos bei Liepojos ir Būtingės terminalų statybos.

— "Lietuvos — Lenkijos laisvos prekybos zona bus įkurta iškart po to, kai Lietuva taps GATT-o narė", — pasakė Lenkijos ekonominio bendradarbiavi-

mo su užsieniu ministras Leslavas Potkanskis. Tokia nuostata Lenkijoje susiformavo po GATT-o eilinio raundo sutarties pasirašymo. Pasak ministro, jau dabar derėtų pradėti rengti tokios dvišalės sutarties projektą.

— **Latvijos, Lietuvos ir Estijos aukštųjų mokyklų** dėstytojai ketina įkurti tarptautinę nevyriausybinę organizaciją "Baltijos vienybė". Ši organizacija veiks Baltijos valstybių vienybės ir jos gynimo interesais. Baltijos valstybių inteligentijos atstovai įsitikinę, kad gyvybiškai būtinas glaudesnis Baltijos valstybių bendradarbiavimas politikos, ekonomikos ir kultūros srityje.

— **Sausio 16 d.** prie Seimo rūmų įvyko iškilminga savanorių rikiuotė, skirta savanoriškos krašto apsaugos tarnybos įkūrimo trečiosioms metinėms. Rikiuotėje dalyvavo visų aštuonių SKAT-o rinktinių būriai. Vilniaus arkikatedroje bazilikoje buvo aukojamos mišios už žuvusius savanorius.

— **Vilniuje** šiuo metu veikia dvi valgyklos, kurios kasdien nemokamai pamaitina 1,500 vargšų.

— **Kunigų seminarijos Lietuvoje** kandidatų pereinamais metais priimta: Kaune 42, Telšiuose 17, Vilniuje 22, Lietuviai pranciškoniškai šiais metais turi 15 klierikų noviciate Kennebunkporte, ME, ir 11 klierikų Kauno kunigų seminarijoje.

— **Jau trečią kartą** sausio 13-ąją Vilniaus gatvėmis surengiamas tradicinis devynių kilometrų bėgimas "Gyvybės ir mirties keliu" nuo Antakalnio kapinių iki televizijos bokšto. Šiemet jame dalyvavo rekordinis 700 bėgikų būrys — Karo mokyklos, Policijos akademijos, SKATo vyrai, daug moksleivių iš įvairių Lietuvos kampelių. Žmonės prie TV bokšto sveikino finišuojančius. Ypač šiltai buvo sutiktas pirmasis bėgimo dalyvis — užsienietis, JAV ambasados ryšių karininkas kapitonas James Voss. "Dalyvaudamas bėgime troškiau solidarizuotis su narsiais lietuviais", — pasakė James Voss. Bėgimo dalyviai prie TV bokšto padėjo vainiką.

— **Alytuje** pradedamas statyti naujas tiltas per Nemuną. Jis bus 252 m ilgio, 16 m pločio.



Dr. Alfonsas Eidintas, Lietuvos Respublikos nepaprastasis ir įgaliojasis ambasadorius Jungtinėse Amerikos Valstijose gruodžio 9 d., įteikė skiriamuosius raštus prezidentui W. J. Clinton.

— **Visuomenės apklausos duomenimis** populiariausiu 1993 m. Lietuvos politiku tapo A. Brazauskas — 34%, antras — opozicijos lyderis V. Landsbergis — 7%, trečias — Seimo vicepirmininkas E. Bičkauskas — 5%.

— "Pieno lašo" draugijos pirmasis suvažiavimas įvyko Vilniuje. Atsikūrusios draugijos svarbiausias tikslas — kovoti su vaikų mirtinumu, remti daugiavaikes šeimas, rinkti bei skleisti žinias apie tarptautinę vaikų teisių konvenciją, įgyvendinti šio dokumento principus Lietuvoje. Prieš karą Lietuvoje "Pieno lašo" draugija veikė nuo 1923 m. iki 1940 m.

### Neturtinga Lietuva tik liaudžiai...

Pirmasis Lietuvos Seimas teturėjo 78 narius ir jų užteko, dabar - 141 narį. 1994 m. išlaidos Seimo išlaikymu numatytos 4,6 karto didesnės negu kad 1993 m.

Prezidentas A. Smetona teturėjo adjutantą ir asmeninį vairuotoją, kuriam atlyginimą mokėjo iš savo algos, o dabartinis Lietuvos Prezidentas turi 30 įvairių patarėjų ir referentų, bei kita tiek kanceliarijos darbuotojų. Prezidentūros išlaikymui išlaidos 1994 m. padidintos 18 kartų lyginant su 1993 m.

Lietuvos prezidentas skuba statyti sau valstybinę vilą ant Urbo kalno Nidoje, kurios pirminė sąmatinė vertė 2,7 milijono litų. Buvusi vadinamoji "Kosyginio vila" jam pasirodė per prasta - nugriovė ligi pamatų net be Kultūros paveldo inspekcijos žinios. Kai kam įstatymai vis dar negalioja...

Prieškarinėje Lietuvoje buvo 8 ministerijos, dabar Lietuvoje - 16, be to premjeras reikalauja dar ir septynioliktosios - Bendrųjų reikalų ministerijos.

LDDP "rinkimų į Seimą programoje" rašė: "taupiai naudoti išdo lėšas, krašto išteklius, sumažinti valdymo aparatą, panaikinti bet kokio rango valdininkų privilegijas".

Taigi, neturtinga Lietuva šandien yra tik liaudžiai, bet ne jos "tarnams"...



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**Birthday Greetings**

Birthday greetings go out to Mrs. Julia Bendock who was 99 years young on Valentine's Day.

Proof again that "Lithuanians live longer."

Julia lives at Park Towers Apts., Green Street, in Nanticoke and is more chipper than some 50 and 60 year olds.

Julia and her friends are looking forward to the Big 100 in 1995.

**Correction**

On our recipe page in the February issue, the Meat Loaf and Vegetables recipe and the Rice Pudding were two specials of our Lithuanian Cook Fran Shoppel. The Tuna Bean Salad was credited to her by mistake. Sorry, Fran.



**Attention Poets**

The National Library of Poetry has announced that \$12,000 in prizes will be awarded this year to over 250 poets in the North American Open Poetry Contest.

The deadline for the contest is March 31, 1994. The contest is open to everyone and entry is FREE.

Any poet, whether previously published or not, can be a winner. Every poem entered also has a chance to be published in a deluxe, hardbound anthology.

To enter, send ONE original poem, any subject and any style, to The National Library of Poetry, 11419 Croncridge Dr., P.O. Box 704-YF, Owings Mills, MD 21117.

The poem should be no more than 20 lines, and the poet's name and address should appear on the top of the page. Entries must be postmarked by March 31, 1994. A new contest opens April 1, 1994.

**Obituaries**

**CHERNESKY, John** .....

298 Ward Rd. **Lodge 170**

N. Towanda, NY 14120

Died: 1/22/94

Buried: 1/28/94

St. Michael's Cemetery

Dubois, PA

**DAIDYNAS, Anthony** .....

**Lodges 111, 222**

Last address:

C/O T. Koehler

101 W. Broadway #1110

San Diego, CA 92101-8212

Died: 12/25/91

**MACHINIST, Anna** .....

**Lodge 28**

(Adele Melesky)

Last address:

1621 Church St.

Scranton, PA 18508

Died: 1/19/94

Buried: 1/22/94

St. Catherine Cemetery

Moscow, PA

**STRAVINSKY, Albert** .....

**Lodge 28**

486 Walnut St.

Luzerne, PA 18709

Died: 2/5/94

Buried: 2/8/94

St. Ignatius Cemetery

Pringle, PA

Sincere sympathy is extended to Mr. Stravinsky's widow, Helen, his brother Joseph, sisters Florence Stravinsky, Albina Bolsar, Mary Sternick, and nieces and nephews who are members of Lodge 28 in Luzerne.

**MALASAUSKAS, Adele** .....

**Lodge 30**

216 Lawdon St.

N. Syracuse, NY 13212

Died: 1/17/94

Buried: Lake Lehman Cemetery

Dallas, PA

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