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Global peace and stability Common responsibility of all countries



President Dalia Grybauskaitė addresses the UN General Assembly

Friday, September 26, New York – President Dalia Grybauskaitė delivered a speech at the general debate of the 69th session of the United Nations (UN) General Assembly. The President stressed that global peace was not self-evident – it was a common responsibility of all countries. A silent consent to aggression is not the answer of the international community which will help keep stability in the world, she noted.

“Keeping peace throughout the world requires collective responsibility, efforts and determination as well as fulfilment of obligations. The security of all countries is indivisible – we all are responsible for peace and a sustainable future. We have to act together to stop armed conflicts, redrawing borders of sovereign states and creating frozen conflicts. And we must do it immediately,” the President said. – 3



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Love— The fulfillment of the Law

(Rom 13, 10)

ARCHBISHOP SIGITAS TAMKEVIČIUS

Jesus said, “For where two or three are gathered together for my sake, there am I in the midst of them.” (Mt 18:20) Here today at Šiluva not merely two or three have gathered, but thousands, so Jesus is truly among us. In the presence of our Lord Jesus and Our Lady of Šiluva, let us consider the most practical topic in a person’s life about which the apostle Paul writes, “Brothers!... Owe no man anything except to love one another; for he who loves his neighbor has fulfilled the Law.” (Rom. 13:8).

With all of our human nature we seek to love and be loved. If we love and are loved, we feel fortunate. If we feel unloved, dark clouds gather overshadowing our souls. If a child does not have the benefit of parental love, his life is wounded. At an early age we begin to seek friendships, the love of friends, not just parents. Gradually, we begin to dream of a person with whom we can be the happiest person in the world.

God wrote the law of love not only on stone tablets, but also in our hearts. His greatest commandment proclaims: “Love the Lord God with your whole heart, with your whole mind..., love your neighbor as yourself.” Jesus confirmed this commandment of love to the man who asked which one is the most important commandment: “Do this and you will live.” (Lk 10:28).

It should be so simple and clear: do what is inscribed in your heart and you will attain true happiness. However, love undergoes many trials. Sometimes we lose our way and think love is something that is not true love. In the worst case, we come to love only ourselves. Then instead of love, we have only self-love.

The greatest lie about love is when inordinate attention is given to sex. This topic is covered in magazines aimed at youth, on the internet and social networks. Schools have educational programs, which already in kindergarten, begin to teach children how to experience sexual enjoyment. The Church teaches that responsible and open-to-life sex is God’s gift to foster and maintain love. Irresponsible sex, however, is not a manifestation of love, but of self-love and nothing more.

God is the one who loves most, because He embodies love. He creates man and bestows on him precious traits: wisdom, ability to create, love, and freedom. Out of love for man, Jesus Christ gave His life and left the Eucharist to strengthen us. To love is to give to another that which is most dear. The highest expression of love is to give one’s life for the beloved. If a person merely seeks pleasure with a utilitarian outlook, not considering what state the “loved” one is left in, he does not exhibit love, but self-love and egotism.

God has called us to love. Firstly, to love those who are closest to us: parents, children, fellow students and colleagues at work. We are called to love the people with whom our future is intertwined – our countrymen. And these are not all. For the Christian there can’t be strangers or distant people. When tragedies come to the people in Asia or Africa, we have to remember that they are our brothers. The most beautiful face of love is our extended hand to a weak and suffering person. When in 1990 Lithuania declared its independence from the Soviet Union and an economic blockade was declared, an organization TFP (Tradition, Family, Property) presented to USSR President Mikhail Gorbachev a petition with 5 million signatures requesting Lithuania’s independence. With my own eyes I saw people gathering signatures in Washington D.C. That’s a beautiful example of Christian love.

Where there is true love, there is no room for indifference. Then we don’t think: let others suffer, wail and cry just as long as I’ve got everything I need. This kind of egoism is further from true love than the earth is from the sun.

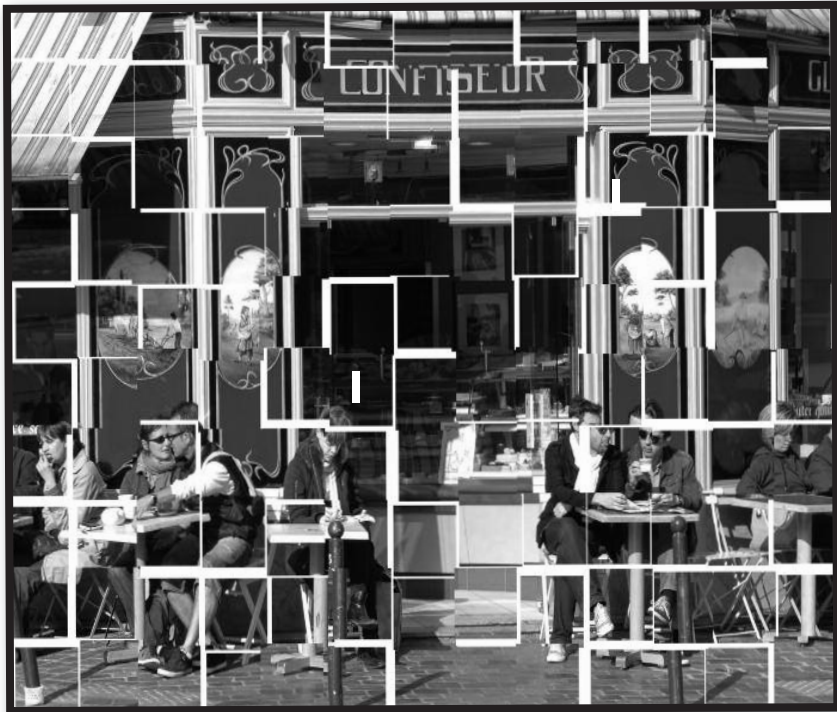
Today we pray for our countrymen who do not live in Lithuania. Some are far from their native land due to war, others – because of hardship, and still others – because of their desire to live better or more comfortably. The homeland isn’t always like a good mother. Sometimes she is unable to provide for her children, other times her children traumatize her by their actions. Sometimes we expect too much from her and refuse to consider that she needs our help. Nonetheless, many of our countrymen, though they live far away, have not forgotten her. This was especially evident during Lithuania’s occupation. Many sent material and spiritual aid, and worked tirelessly so that the major world powers would not forget Lithuania’s fate.

This year we are focusing on marriage and the family: what is a family, what are the characteristics of a family and how should we prepare for family life.(translator’s note: Lithuania’s Catholic bishops have declared 2014 the Year of the Family.) I want to encourage those preparing for family life to be alert and not be fooled by talk that any kind of life together, especially the most irresponsible arrangement, is a family. Family is a measured decision, confirmed by wedding vows, to live together in friendship and cultivate love between one another, to raise children as given by God and share everything until death. Such a marriage blossoms when purity of heart is safeguarded.

Homily given during the annual Šiluva devotions on September 7, 2014, honoring St. John Paul II, and dedicated to Lithuanian youth and Lithuanians of the world.

Comfortable, complacent and self-indulgent Save Our Souls

DR. LINAS SIDRYS



The European Union formed a colossus: 507 million strong in 2014! Finally, a common border and a common currency. Total military protection by NATO and the U.S. Nuclear Umbrella. Four to six weeks of paid vacation! A strong social services and pension program, – no worries! Forget religion, why bother? – few Europeans attend Sunday services. Forget the role of Christianity in the formation of Europe, the EU Charter refused to include this item

Forget kids – every single country in the EU has negative population growth. Free time is to be enjoyed at an outdoor cafe with croissants, cappuccino and wine, shopping or relaxing on the Riviera.

Now what happened? Our Eastern neighbor is ruled by a blood-thirsty, power hungry madman? He is threatening nuclear war? He declared his army could take Kiev, Vilnius, Warsaw in two days? Has he gone crazy? We thought he would be happy riding half-naked on horses, demonstrating his muscles in Judo photo ops and flirting with the ladies. We thought he would be content with the billions of dollars he stole from the oil-trade. But, Obama laughed at him and called Russia a regional power. Sen. McCain called Russia “a gas station run by gangsters.” So, now Putin will show them that he is the powerful macho man! After the Ukraine, the Baltic nations may be the next target. After all, some areas in Latvia are 80% Russian. Putin claims they are being oppressed. An Estonian security agent was kidnapped by the Russians at gunpoint and taken to Russia, just two days after Obama’s visit. The Russians threatened Lithuania, to return a Soviet Army deserter, from 24 years ago! Russia declared a boycott of European products, and turned down the gas supplies.

Is this a European “wake-up” call from above?

The transatlantic ship, the Titanic, was also the biggest, the best, the unsinkable – until it ran full speed into the hidden ice mountain. The SOS was sent out – Save Our Souls! On board the Titanic, a young, 27-year-old Lithuanian priest, Juozas Montvila, led Catholics in final prayers. When the ship sank, 1512 passengers died. God has a way of unexpectedly shaking up the comfortable, complacent and self-indulgent. Unfortunately, the innocent also suffer. The Old Testament relates that when Israel went astray, the Babylonians and Egyptians invaded and took them into captivity and slavery.

For decades, American parishes prayed for “the conversion of Russia.” We thought our prayers were answered with the dismantling of the USSR and freedom for Lithuania. Putin now wants to return the borders of the old USSR, and control the rest of Europe with nuclear blackmail. Europe needs to send out an SOS – and start praying hard.

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Lithuania on the World Stage

September 2014, was a busy month for the President of Lithuania. It began with a meeting with US President Barack Obama in Tallinn, Estonia. Then to Wales, for the NATO Summit, followed by the NATO Military Committee Conference in Vilnius, Lithuania. The month ended in New York

City, where Lithuanian president Grybauskaitė sat in on National Security Council briefings, spoke at the Climate Change Summit, addressed the UN National Assembly, and met with former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton.

Tallinn, Estonia. September 3, 2014.

President Barack Obama meets with the Presidents of the three Baltic countries and addresses the Estonian people



Secretary General of NATO Anders Fogh Rasmussen and US President Barack Obama meets with President Dalia Grybauskaitė at the NATO Summit in Wales.

Wales September 4, 2014. NATO Summit, Vilnius, Lithuania. September 19-21, 2014.

NATO Military Committee Conference

At the Wales Summit, NATO Allies agreed to a Readiness Action Plan that will strengthen NATO’s collective defense and ensure the Alliance is ready to respond to any future security challenge. Lithuania’s President Dalia Grybauskaitė, spoke in a CNN interview: “Today it is a test of leadership for European leaders and for NATO leaders, and Putin knows how long and how much he can go and we need to show that he can not go too far.” It was decided to upgrade NATO’s defense plans in line with the actual threats and to create command and control elements in the Baltic States in order to facilitate the reception of reinforcements, bolster collective defense and conduct regular allied military exercises in the Baltic region.

Fifteen days later, the NATO Military Committee convened in Vilnius, Lithuania. The Allied Chiefs of Defense discussed the implementation of the necessary security and defense measures agreed upon at the recent NATO Summit in Wales. Allied leaders also decided to create a very high readiness response force to be deployed at short notice in case of aggression as well as to develop the necessary infrastructure for the pre-positioning of troops and equipment.

President Dalia Grybauskaitė, in her address to the Conference, stressed that NATO was and would remain the principal source of transatlantic security. It was therefore necessary to transform as swiftly as possible the decisions taken in Wales into real defense plans and concrete actions.

On his way to the NATO summit in Wales, President Barack Obama spent the day in Estonia, reassuring Baltic countries the alliance won’t let them become Vladimir Putin’s next target. He delivered a speech in Estonia touting the importance of the military alliance. At the same time, he took Russia to task for its role in the Ukraine conflict. (See the entire speech at <http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2014/09/03/remarks-president-obama-people-estonia>). He spoke hearteningly to the Estonian people:

“You never gave up when the Red Army came in from the east, or when the Nazis came in from the west. You never gave up when the Soviets came back or when they sent your best and brightest to the gulag, never to return. You never gave up through a long occupation that tried to break your spirit and crush your culture. Their tanks were no equal to the moral power of your voices, united in song. Their walls were no match for the strength of your people, united in that unbreakable chain. Like the Poles and Hungarians, the Czechs and the Slovaks, and the East Germans on top of that wall, you were stronger and you always believed, “one day, no matter what, we will win.”



President Dalia Grybauskaitė addressed NATO military leaders in Vilnius.

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Dalia Grybauskaitė addresses the UN General Assembly

According to the President, the nature of global security has changed dramatically over the past years. International agreements are not complied with and new forms of terrorism have emerged aimed at frightening people and countries by forces attempting to impose their own rules and order on the world. We cannot make any concessions to terrorists or to instigators of war. We cannot close our eyes and think that problems and conflicts will disappear. Every country must assume responsibility for maintaining peace in the world.

“If we fail and violence, aggression and terror win, we are at risk to wake up on the doorstep of everyone fighting each other and with chaos prevailing. Everything we worked on, everything we created, the world we live in will be destroyed. A silent consent to such brutal forms of aggression should not be the answer of the international community. We must go back to the main purposes of the United Nations: to keep peace throughout the world. Our undivided attention for the undivided security should be our main focus,” the President said.

The President called on all countries of the world never to abandon the values that hold us together and to take immediate concrete action to counter challenges to global security.

New York. September 23-26. United Nations General Assembly

Dalia Grybauskaitė and Hillary Clinton Meet



Friday, September 23 – President Dalia Grybauskaitė met with former U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton in New York. The meeting focused on new challenges to European and global security, further development of transatlantic relations, and bilateral cooperation between Lithuania and the United States of America.

According to the President, the situation in Ukraine poses a threat to the security of the whole world. Lithuania appreciates U.S. leading efforts to strengthen the security of the Baltic region. When Russia’s military aggression began in Ukraine, the United States was the first to reinforce the Baltic air policing mission and to send its troops for joint military exercises.

The President thanked Hillary Clinton for her personal contribution to promoting Lithuania-U.S. relationship. As a U.S. secretary of state, she had consistently voiced her strong support to Lithuania’s energy security aspirations and actively backed Lithuania’s objective to ensure the security in the Baltic region and the extension of the NATO air policing mission in the Baltics for indefinite term.

Photos by R. Dačkus

GREATER DANGERS LIE AHEAD

The following is testimony given by **Edward Lucas** to the House of Commons Foreign Affairs Committee in the U.K. on Sept. 3, 2014. He has been dealing with European security for more than thirty years, as an activist during the Cold War, as a journalist, and at think-tanks.



Edward Lucas, Senior Editor at The Economist, gives testimony on Putin and the Baltic Countries at the UK House of Commons

Conventional thinking about Russia is stubbornly rooted. Many policymakers still believe that containing and confronting Vladimir Putin's Russia is dangerous and that seeking a diplomatic accommodation, though difficult, is far more desirable. They blame the West for provoking the crisis in Ukraine by ignoring Russia's interests.

I disagree profoundly. My views are based on my experiences over many years in Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, and other countries in the region. Our friends there have long been warning us of the dangerous direction of events. We have not listened to them. Instead, we have systematically patronized, belittled and ignored people who understand the problem better than we do. Now they have been proved right. I hope that my voice may be heard, where theirs, still, is not.

Russia is a revisionist power

Russia wants to rewrite the rules in three ways. First, it does not believe that its neighbors should make their own decisions about their geopolitical future. Russia's security, in short, depends on these countries' insecurity. Russia particularly begrudges the former captive nations of the Soviet empire their freedom, their prosperity, and their independence. These pose an existential challenge to the stagnant and autocratic model of government pioneered by the Putin regime.

The Kremlin also wants to end the two big institutional threats to its interests. One is the Atlantic alliance.

Russia also wants to end the European Union's role as a rule-setter, especially in energy policy.

A year ago, we faced the prospect of Ukraine, one of the largest countries in Europe, embarking

on reforms which would have made a bigger market, better neighbor, and happier country. Now it faces dismemberment into a Russian-run puppet state, and a resentful unviable rump.

That is an appalling prospect for Ukrainians, and for us. For both moral and practical reasons, we should not consign allies such as the Baltic countries and Poland to such a fate.

The Atlantic alliance, for all its current woes, is the cornerstone of our security. Without the United States' military and economic weight, Europe would be far more vulnerable to Russian pressure.

Russia now has **the means to pursue its revisionist approach.**

It ruthlessly uses its energy weapon against European countries, particularly in pipeline-delivered gas, where it has a substantial monopoly in the eastern half of the continent... which directly challenges EU rules, but is supported by Austria, Bulgaria, Croatia, Hungary, Italy, Serbia and Slovenia.

It uses money. It bolsters a self-interested commercial and financial lobby which profits from doing business with Russia. Austrian banks, German industrial exporters, French defense contractors, and a slew of companies in the United Kingdom exemplify this. These energy and financial ties constrain the Western response to Russian revisionism.

It practises information warfare (propaganda) with a level of sophistication and intensity not seen even during the Cold War. This confuses and corrodes Western decision-making abilities.

Fourthly, as we have seen in Ukraine, it is prepared to threaten and use force.

Russia is winning. Russia has not only challenged the European security order and seized another country's territory – Crimea: it is now in the process of seizing more, creating a puppet state called Novorossiya (New Russia). It has already crippled the Ukrainian economy and threatens to turn Ukraine into a failed state. The response from the West has been weak, late and disunited.

Many European countries have no appetite for confrontation with Russia. They take an essentially pacifist stance, that military solutions never solve problems, and that dialogue is under all circumstances better than confrontation. The United States is distracted by multiple urgent problems elsewhere and many Americans wonder why they should be borrowing money to pay for security in bigger, richer Europe.

That gives Russia, with its bold decision-making and high tolerance for risk and pain, free rein. Our feeble response has allowed Russia to wage war in Ukraine with disastrous effect.

Even greater dangers lie ahead. The Ukrainian adventure has given a big boost to the Putin regime, which showed some signs of declining popularity last year, amid eco-

nomie failure and growing discontent about corruption and poor public services. Those who said that Russia would be content with Crimea have been proved dramatically wrong.

Worse, our weakness over Ukraine (and before that, Georgia) has set the stage for another, probably more serious challenge to European security, possibly in Kazakhstan, Azerbaijan, Georgia or Moldova, but most likely in the Baltic countries. Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania are loyal American allies and NATO members. These are our frontline states: the future of the world we have taken for granted since 1991 hangs on their fate. If they are successfully attacked or humiliated, NATO will lose its credibility overnight: a huge victory for Russia.

Geography is against them: the Baltic countries form a thin, flat strip of land, lightly populated and with no natural frontier and little strategic depth. Their economies are liable to Russian pressure, especially in natural gas, where they are largely dependent on Russian supplies (though Lithuania will have an independent gas import terminal by the year-end). Estonia and Latvia are also vulnerable to Russian interference because of their ethnic make-up (between a quarter and a third of their populations self-identify as 'Russian' in some sense). Lithuania is vulnerable to demands from Russia for a corridor across its territory to the Kaliningrad exclave.

The military defense of the Baltic countries is difficult, especially against 'hybrid warfare' of the kind seen in Ukraine, which uses a deliberately ambiguous mix of military and unconventional means. Russia knows that. NATO has only a token presence in the region. We have no hardened infrastructure, no pre-positioned armed forces, weapons or munitions. We do not have proper plans to defend them. Russia knows that too. If we try to remedy these gaps in our defense – as NATO is now proposing to do, belatedly and partially, Russia will denounce these steps as a provocation, and threaten countermeasures. On current form, we will quail and back down.

What can we do?

The first task is to see clearly what has happened. European security will not be fixed with a few deft diplomatic touches and clever compromises. Coping with a revisionist Russia requires a fundamental overhaul. Policymakers need to explain to the public that the war in Ukraine was a game-changer. We have moved into a new costly and uncomfortable era, but we will never go back to business as usual. Anything else sends a message that the kleptocratic regime in the Kremlin understands all too well: crime pays.

We need to rebut the phoney *Realpolitik* arguments, which advise us to make the best of a bad job. We should accept the loss of Crimea, so the argument goes, do a deal with Russia over the future of Ukraine, and get used to the new realities.

Such an approach would be morally wrong and strategically stupid. Securing a Europe whole and free after 1991 has been a magnificent achievement in which Britain has played a huge part.

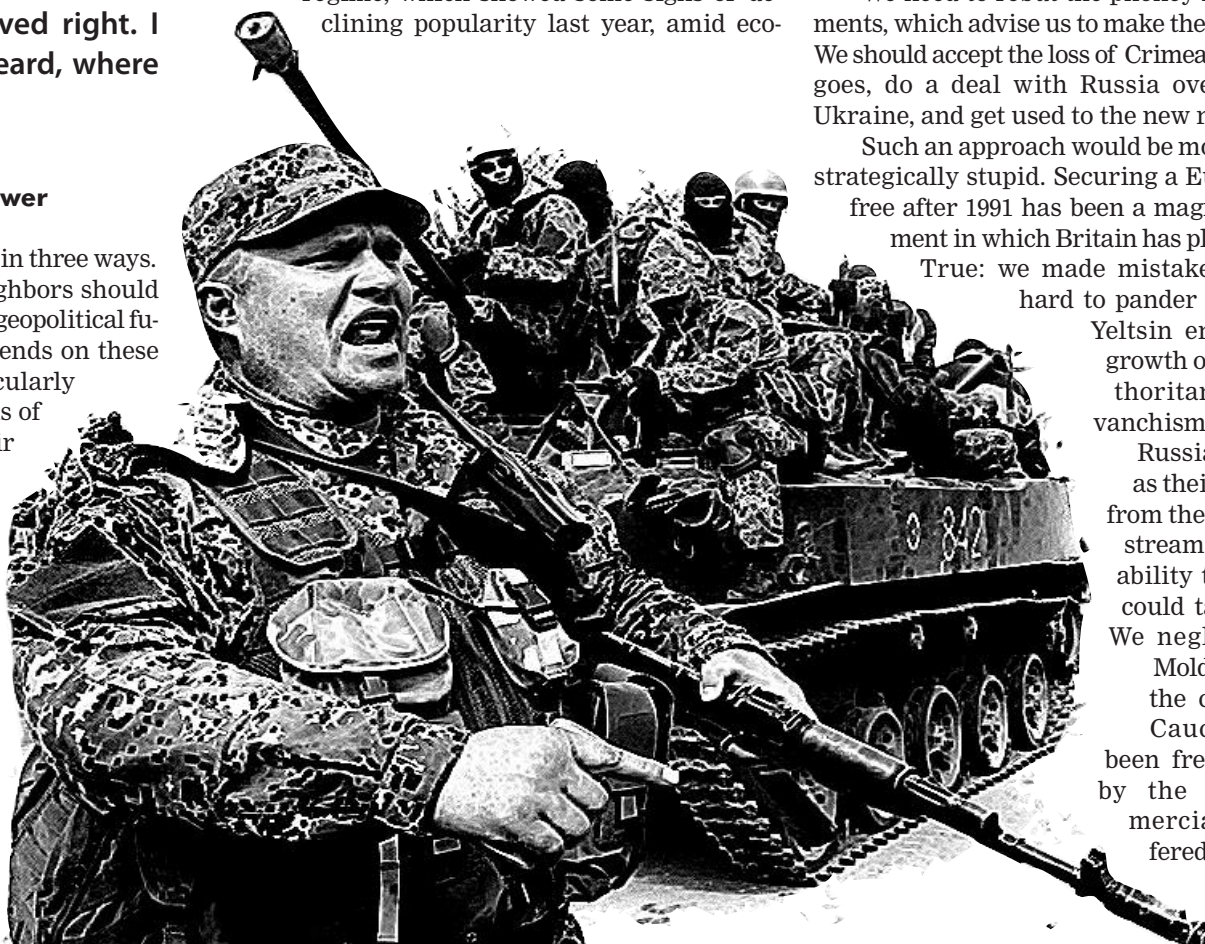
True: we made mistakes. We tried too hard to pander to Russia in the

Yeltsin era, ignoring the growth of corruption, authoritarianism and revanchism. We overlooked

Russians' resentment as their country drifted from the European mainstream and our vulnerability to the steps they could take in response. We neglected Ukraine,

Moldova, Belarus and the countries of the Caucasus. We have been frequently dazzled by the spurious commercial prospects offered by Russia – in

particular BP's decision to



form an alliance with Rosneft, the main Russian oil company, was a shameful example of greed and short-sightedness.

But having made these mistakes is no reason to compound them now, by retreating into a grubby defeatism.

Legitimizing Russia's land-grab in Ukraine, and its attempted power-grab in the neighborhood, would fly in the face of historical justice.

We should make it clear that our aim is simple. We will boost our security and that of allies, and weaken our opponents. We do not want to be enemies with Russia. But if the Putin regime treats us as an enemy, we help nobody by pretending otherwise.

Russia is far too weak to mount a conventional military attack on the West. But it does not need to. It has more potent weapons, of the kind already seen in Ukraine – the confusing and fast-changing combination of regular and irregular forces, economic sanctions, energy blockades, political destabilization, information warfare, financial panics, and cyber-attacks. Neither we nor our allies have effective means of countering Russian propaganda. We need new, sophisticated and resilient means of defending ourselves against the Russian chimera, which blends military, criminal, intelligence, business, diplomatic, media, cyber and political elements.

The immediate priority is military. A security crisis in the Baltic region is the single most dangerous threat facing the Atlantic alliance. Reckless behavior by Russia could face us with a choice between a full-scale military confrontation (including the potential use of nuclear weapons), or surrender, with the collapse of our most fundamental security arrangements. We must make every effort to ensure that this does not happen.

That means NATO allies must preposition military equipment and supplies in the Baltic countries. It means NATO creating a standing defense plan—one which assumes that there is a real and present danger of attack. We need to put a major NATO base in Poland, to reassure that country that it can safely deploy its forces to the Baltics as reinforcements in the event of a crisis. We need to boost the NATO presence in the Baltic countries with rotating visits by naval vessels, extended air-policing, and ground forces—initially on persistent rotation, but as soon as possible on permanent deployment.

Russia will complain vigorously about this. But the fact that the Kremlin is unhappy when its neighbors are well-defended is telling. We should explain to the Russian authorities and to our own public that when NATO expanded in 2004, we did not even draw up contingency plans for the military defense of the new members, because we assumed that Russia was a friend, not a threat. It is Russia's behavior which has changed that. Russia attacked Georgia in 2008. It rehearsed the invasion and occupation of the Baltic countries a year later, in the Zapad-09 exercise (which concluded with a dummy nuclear strike on Warsaw). It has continued to menace the Baltic countries ever since, with air-space violations, propaganda and economic warfare, and state-sponsored subversion.

A further vital military component of security in north-eastern Europe is the closest possible integration of Sweden and Finland into NATO planning and capabilities. These countries are not members of the alliance, so they cannot formally be part of its command structure. But we should make every effort to maximize cooperation in every respect. We cannot defend the Baltic countries or Poland without their help. Rich, well-run countries with serious military capabilities, excellent intelligence services and strong strategic cultures are in short supply in modern Europe. We should make the most of what we have.

We also need to consider how to help countries hit by Russian economic sanctions. I commend Polish apples and Lithuanian cheese. Poland is one of the world's largest apple exporters. Half its production goes to Russia and has been halted at the stroke of a pen, on arbitrary grounds.

Making it clear that we are serious about helping our allies will make our attempts to help our friends more credible. The top priority here is stabilizing Ukraine. It is hard to overstate how parlous the situation is. Ukraine is suffering a world-class economic and financial crisis, which even in a stable and secure country would be far worse than anything experienced elsewhere in Europe. Even if

A security crisis in the Baltic region is the single most dangerous threat facing the Atlantic alliance.



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everything else goes well, simply fixing Ukraine's economy will take five years. A defeated Ukraine – embittered, traumatized and dismembered – will be even harder to help.

The outside world must respond generously and imaginatively. A new Marshall Plan for Ukraine should involve not only direct financial support, but also the widest possible relaxation of tariffs and quotas on Ukrainian products such as steel, grain, textiles and agricultural products. The European Union has led the way with the newly signed deep and comprehensive free trade agreement, but much more remains to be done. In particular, European countries should accelerate efforts to supply Ukraine with natural gas by reversing the flow of existing pipelines.

Second, Ukraine faces a political and constitutional crisis of a kind unseen since the end of the wars in ex-Yugoslavia. Every political institution was degraded and discredited under the previous Yanukovich regime. Decades of bad government, corruption and abysmal public services have corroded public confidence in the state—one reason for the initial public support enjoyed by the insurgents in the poorest parts of eastern Ukraine. We should give the strongest possible support to the upcoming parliamentary elections.

Third, Ukraine faces defeat in its undeclared war with Russia. We need to offer Ukraine military training, assistance, arms and equipment in order to defeat or at least stall the separatist insurgents. We also – for Ukraine's sake and for our own – need to deter the Kremlin.

This is the hardest part of the task ahead.

Russia is an integrated part of the world economy and of international decision-making on everything from space to sub-sea minerals. It cannot be simply isolated and ignored. But that does not mean that we cannot raise the cost of doing business for the Putin regime.

In particular, we should greatly extend the use of sanctions against individuals. The furious Russian reaction to the American imposition of even a

handful of visa bans and asset freezes on those responsible for the death of the whistle-blowing auditor Sergei Magnitsky shows the effectiveness of this approach. Other countries have shamefully failed to follow suit. They should. The initiative of Bill Browder, the London-based financier and activist who employed Mr Magnitsky and has championed his cause, deserves special mention and credit.

The scope of such sanctions should be widened to include hundreds or even thousands of Russian decision-makers and policy-makers. It could include all members of the legislature (Duma and Federation Council), all members of the General Staff, military intelligence (GRU) domestic security (FSB), foreign intelligence (SVR), the interior ministry (MVD) and other 'power agencies', the presidential administration, and presidential property administration (and companies which represent it abroad), companies run by personalities linked to the Putin regime, and any banks or other commercial institutions involved in doing business in occupied Crimea. Such visa bans and asset freezes could also be extended to the parents, children and siblings of those involved.

This would send a direct and powerful message to the Russian elite that their own personal business in the West – where they and their families shop, study, save and socialize – will not continue as usual. The more countries that adopt sanctions, and the longer the list of those affected, the more pressure we are putting on the Putin regime to back off and change course.

Here in Britain we have another powerful weapon. We can also apply much tougher money-laundering laws to keep corrupt Russian officials out of the Western payments system and capital markets. We should intensify investigations of Russian energy companies which have mysterious origins, shareholders or business models. We can tighten rules on trust and company formation agents to make it harder for corrupt Russian entities to exploit and abuse our system. It is often said that offshore financial centers are beloved by the Russian elite. But the shameful truth is that it is Britain and the United States which make life easiest for them.

We also need to improve the West's resilience and solidarity in the face of Russian pressure. Lithuania has built its own floating Liquid Natural Gas (LNG) terminal, which will become operational in December of this year, with the arrival of the aptly named "Independence" a vessel constructed in South Korea. Already, Gazprom's grip on Lithuania's natural gas market has slackened, and Lithuania has been able to negotiate a discount from the extortionate price – the highest in Europe – which the Russian gas giant had been charging.

Europe can do much more. It can build more gas storage, and liberalize the rules governing it, so that all parties have access to the facilities. It can complete the north-south gas grid, making it impossible for Russia to use supply interruptions on its four east-west export pipelines as a political weapon.

European, British and American regulators are rightly concerned about the way in which Russian companies operate in the world energy market. There are grave suspicions of price-fixing, insider trading, money-laundering and other abusive and illegal behavior. My own researches suggest that these suspicions are amply justified, though writing about them is hampered by the costs and risks imposed by English libel law. In the course of researching the defense case in a libel case involving a prominent Russian active in the energy sector, I met several potential witnesses who were frightened for their physical safety if they cooperated with us. The more that the our criminal justice systems can do, through prosecution, witness protection and plea bargains, to deal with the Russian gangster state, the safer the world will be.

Finally, we need to reboot the Atlantic Alliance. As memories fade of the Normandy beaches, of the Berlin airlift and wall, and the sacrifice and loyalty of past generations, our reservoir of shared sentiment is running dry. Without economic, political and cultural commonality, the Kremlin's games of divide and rule will succeed. This will require renewed and extraordinary efforts on both sides of the Atlantic.

Edward Lucas is Senior Fellow at the Centre for European Policy Analysis (Washington, D.C.), and a Senior Editor at The Economist.

A new exhibit at the Balzekas Museum

THE BALTIC DISPLACED PERSON EXPERIENCE

No Home to Go Home To The Balzekas Museum of Lithuanian Culture

6500 S Pulaski Rd, Chicago, IL 60629



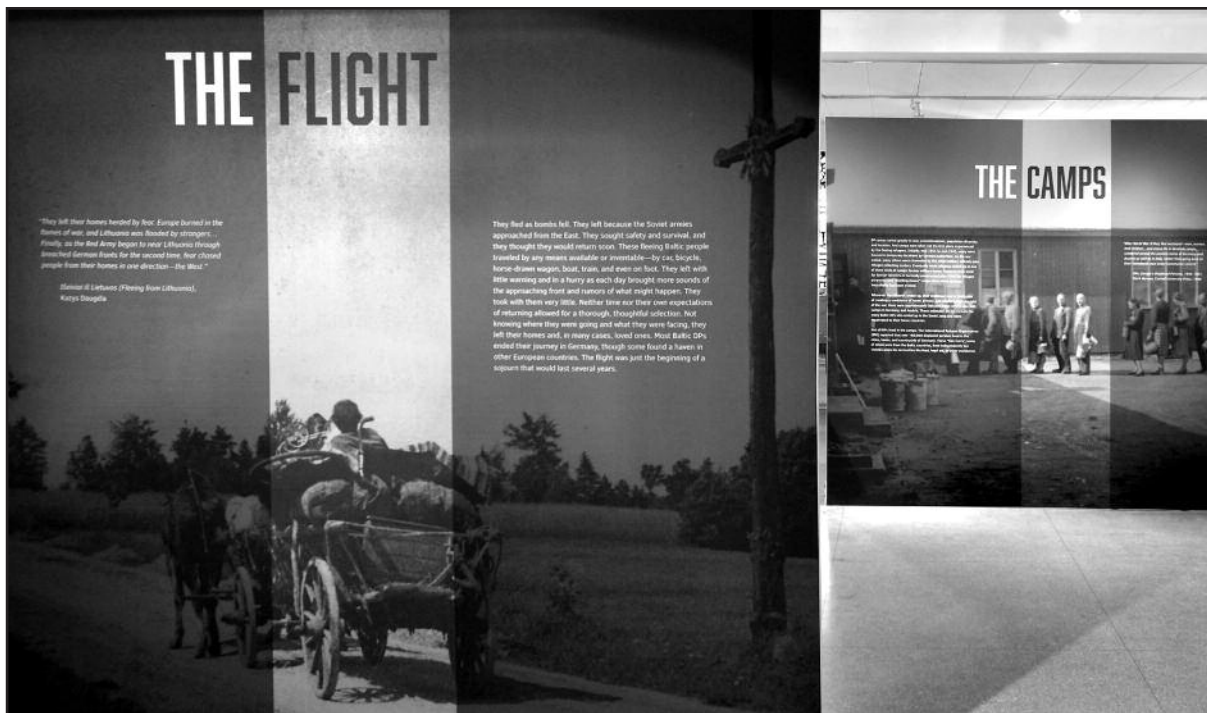
The Jasiulevičius family left Lithuania in 1941 and spent the war as displaced persons in Thuringia before emigrating to the US.

RIMAS ČERNIUS

“No Home To Go To” was developed by the Balzekas Museum of Lithuanian Culture in collaboration with the Chicago Estonian House, the Latvian Folk Art Museum, and the Lithuanian Emigration Institute of Vytautas Magnus University in Kaunas, Lithuania.

On August 24, 2014, the Balzekas Museum of Lithuanian Culture opened a new exhibit entitled “No Home to Go To – The Story of Baltic Displaced Persons, 1944-1952.” The exhibit calls attention to a segment of 20th century history that is often forgotten or suppressed – the story of thousands of refugees from the Baltic countries who fled to the West as Russian Communists occupied their homelands in the waning days of the Second World War.

President Franklin Roosevelt once referred to the United States of America as a nation of immigrants. Those of us Americans who trace our heritage to the Baltic countries of Lithuania, Latvia or Estonia, know that the path to America was a hard one for our immigrant parents and grandparents. However, many of us are not aware of the details of daily life of Baltic refugees in German refugee camps after the Second World War. The exhibit at the Balzekas Museum gives us a vivid picture of what our parents or grandparents went through after the war. Perhaps it is even more important as a documented testimonial to the desire for freedom that motivated thousands to flee from Russian Communism. For many this was a risky flight into the unknown,



The DP Exhibit at the Balzekas Museum of Lithuanian Culture.

Photos by J. R. Kuprys

but it was a risk that thousands of Baltic people were willing to take in the hope of finding a place where they could live in freedom.

As you walk into the exhibit, you are greeted with a pile of suitcases and trunks – a symbol of the refugee experience. Each refugee family which succeeded in getting permission to emigrate to the United States took with them what few possessions they were able to obtain and pack into containers. In many cases, the “displaced persons” who came to the United States had to start from scratch, with just a few possessions, but they tried to preserve some mementos of their homelands. Blankets and tablecloths embroidered in beautiful Latvian or Lithuanian designs cover some of the trunks and suitcases in the opening display.

The exhibit opens with a large map of Central and Eastern Europe at the outset of the Second World War. Near the map is a quote from Timothy Snyder’s book “Bloodlands: Europe Between Hitler and Stalin.” It is frightening to consider how Central and Eastern Europe did indeed become “bloodlands” as a result of the Molotov-Ribbentrop pact of 1939.

The first major portion of the exhibit is called “Flight.” It uses photographs and personal objects to

describe the flight of Lithuanians, Latvians and Estonians from their homelands as the Russian Communists pushed westward. The reasons for the flight are sometimes much easier to understand when you consider individual examples. For example, the exhibit contains a dismissal letter for a teacher, Ona Burneikis. Dated February 18, 1941, it specifies that Ona Burneikis is fired because she is found to be unqualified to educate youth in a Communist spirit. Not surprisingly, the Burneikis family was

one of the thousands Lithuanian families that fled the second Russian

Communist occupation of their country. Later photographs in the exhibit show the Burneikis family after their arrival at the Rebdorf-Eichstatt DP camp.

Some of the photographs demonstrate the primitive conditions under which the refugees fled. We see a photograph of the Gimbutas family fleeing in a horse-drawn cart with suitcases and a baby tram piled on it. One of the persons on the cart is Marija Gimbutas, who later became a famous archeologist, anthropologist, and professor of Indo-European studies at the University of California at Los Angeles. Another photograph shows Latvian refugees making their way through a forest in a caravan of horse-drawn carts.

The “Flight” section contains examples of items



The DPs’ constant companions – trunks and suitcases – carried all of their worldly goods. Above: a box of Lithuanian sugar cubes made its way untouched from Lithuania to the US. Pure energy being saved in case of dire hunger.



Scenes from the exhibit opening.

that refugees took with them when they left their homelands. Many refugees wanted to take a part of their homeland with them. For example, the Kviklys family took a package of Lithuanian sugar with the Lithuanian words “Gabalinis cukrus” printed on it. The Bakšys family took with them two pieces of Lithuanian soap. And descendants of both families have preserved these mementos, which can be viewed in the exhibit.

Another map opens the second section of the exhibit, entitled “The Camps.” The map shows the many cities in Germany where refugee camps were located, as well as the division of Western Germany into the British, French and American zones. Photographs document the arrival of Baltic “displaced persons” at the various camps. One photograph shows a room with simple wooden beds. The small room housed four refugee families. However, even under very trying conditions, Baltic “displaced persons” did their best to preserve a sense of order, dignity, and in some cases artistic

creativity. The name plate which Vytautas Kašuba, a Lithuanian artist, designed for the six members of his family is a beautiful work of art, which not only lists the names of each family member in elegant calligraphy but also adds patriotic colors and designs to the background.

The exhibit provides a detailed glimpse into the daily life in the DP camps. It is remarkable how the Baltic displaced persons were able to organize their lives, despite the very trying and primitive conditions in which they found themselves. An example of this is an organizational chart which the Lithuanians in Wiesbaden drew up. The chart covers all aspects of life, and resembles a managerial flow chart of a major American corporation. The food situation in the camps is made concrete: the exhibit contains a sheet of food tickets, which the DPs were issued in order to get daily food rations. Photographs show the DPs waiting in line for food, as well as a classroom where the children, with smiles on their faces, receive food items and



clothes delivered by CARE packages.

Children find a way to have fun even under the most difficult circumstances. The exhibit shows a photograph of children playing on a make-shift merry-go-round, which appears to have been constructed from railroad beams. In another photograph, Nijolė Lipčius Voketaitis and Emilija Jurevičius dress up their pets in hand-knitted sweaters. The exhibit also contains a homemade toy rabbit, which Dalia Stakys-Anysas named “Bukutis.”

The reality of camp life for adults, however, was not as cheerful. One photograph shows a well-known Lithuanian professor, Steponas Kolupaila, doing manual labor by carrying a large wooden beam. Another photograph, made by Kazys Daugėla and entitled “Loneliness”, shows a middle-aged woman sitting at a table in a simple room. She is wiping her face with a towel. The title suggests that she is wiping some tears as well.

An important part of the exhibit

is entitled “Resistance.” This part of the exhibit shows that the Baltic DPs were well-aware of what was going on in the world around them, and especially in their homelands. We see a photograph of a hunger strike in 1947, which demanded independence for Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania. We see a photograph of a DPs protesting Soviet deportations of their countrymen to Siberia. This protest took place in Munich in 1949. But perhaps the most striking photograph is one of an automobile which has been completely torched. The accompanying text explains that a Soviet official had come to the Munich-Freimann DP camp for the purpose of organizing the “repatriation” of DPs to their Soviet-occupied homelands. The DPs reacted to this “repatriation” effort by burning the Soviet official’s automobile and setting alight his “repatriation” propaganda materials.



At the Munich-Freimann camp, DPs burned the car of a Soviet official who arrived to encourage DPs to return to their Soviet-occupied countries. From the Lithuanian Research and Studies Center Collection, Chicago.

Continued on page 15

A CONVERSATION WITH THE DP EXHIBIT CURATOR: PUTTING IT ALL TOGETHER

IRENA CHAMBERS on NO HOME TO GO TO



Curator Irena Chambers at the DP exhibit opening.

Born in Alvitas, Lithuania, Irena Brokas Chambers has administered museum programs and curated exhibitions for over three decades. She has directed major exhibitions for regional, national, and international audiences exploring the nature of world civilizations as well as American history and culture. Past exhibitions include “Valley Forge: The Reality and the Symbol”, “Sigmund Freud: Conflict and Culture”, “Revelations from the Soviet Archives”, “Scrolls from the Dead Sea: The Ancient Library of Qumran and Modern Scholarship”, “Beginnings: World Treasures of the Library of Congress”, “The Work of Charles and Ray Eames”, “Thomas Jefferson”, and “Winston Churchill”. In 2006-2008, she planned and developed a new visitor experience, using emerging technologies, at the Library of Congress. Irena Brokas Chambers lives in the Washington, D.C. area where she writes, paints, and works with cultural institutions on development, programs, and exhibitions.

How did the idea for an exhibition on the Displaced Person experience originate?

I was in high school when the head of our “Ateitininkai” group asked me to do a presentation on my family’s experiences. I talked with my parents and wrote up the basic story of our flight, life in the camps, and the arrival in the U.S. From that time on, my mother believed and would remind me that I needed to do the complete history of the family. I was not really convinced, but, after I started my museum and exhibition career, I did make sure that my parents kept the artifacts related to the DP experience. I also had many conversations with both my parents about the family tree, the war experiences, and their lives. I even videotaped them on several occasions.

The idea for an exhibition occurred to me while I was still working in the Library of Congress’s exhibition office. I was concerned that the materials and the memories of those who had lived through the experience would be lost if some effort was not made to collect both. I knew, by this time, that what my parents had and the stories they told were both interesting and important. I even spoke once to Senator Durbin about it. I was, therefore, very pleased when I read in the Balzekas Museum journal that the Museum was planning on just such an exhibition. Stanley Balzekas was an old acquaintance of mine, so I called him to tell him that I had some great material and to volunteer to help in any way that he might find useful. His response was very enthusi-

astic! He put me in touch with program director, Rita Janz, and, we soon began working in earnest on the exhibition. My earliest contributions were to move the opening by several months and to find the name for the exhibition. “No Home To Go To” seemed absolutely fitting to me, since it addressed both the longing for home that underscored the DP experience and emphasized the fact that for many months, after fleeing from their homes, no one offered the refugees a haven.

You, yourself, were a displaced person. What was your family’s experience fleeing from Lithuania?

My family (my parents, two older sisters, and myself) left our home in Alvitas in the summer of 1944. I was just two years old, but my sisters were fourteen and ten. The decision to leave was made as the bombing sounds grew closer and the news confirmed that the Soviets were returning. My family fled in partnership with my godparents, the Surma family. Both families had barely escaped the Soviet deportations of 1941. My father, however, was the least eager to go and urged my mother not to take too much, as we were going to be back home very soon. The flight went through Kybartai and Eitkunai. Several other families joined the caravan, and all were eventually put on a train and sent to an assembly point in Germany. At least once during the train journey, the Germans came looking for able-bodied men. My father and godfather hid effectively and were not found. We made it eventually to the Bavarian area of Germany.

My mother spoke often of how hard the times were under German authorities and before the war ended. I have an ID photograph of my mother during this time. She looks thin, sad and haunted but clear-eyed. We were in the American sector, and things got better as the American authorities and related agencies handled the administration of the camps.

We came to the United States fairly early in the resettlement process. My father was born here, because his parents had come in the early years of the twentieth century but returned to Lithuania by around 1910 when my grandfather inherited his ancestral land. The fact that my father was a citizen made my sisters citizens as well, and the three of them were entitled to come to this country regardless of regulations concerning refugees. But, my mother, my little brother (who was born in a DP camp hospital in 1946), and I were not citizens, and my family decided to wait until our papers came through rather than risk separation. There was a wait, but we came here in July, 1948 on the Marine Flasher, landing and living for the first few years in New York.

Our arrival was marred by the reception we received, or, put more accurately, the reception we did not receive. Our “sponsors” were my father’s second cousins, and they were supposed to meet us at the ship. All other families were greeted and whisked away, but we were left standing with the Lithuanian Catholic Refugee Committee representatives. No one came for us. Finally, the Committee members put us up in a hotel. They must have reached the cousins, because one cousin, Vincas, did show up in a day or so and the cousin’s wife then berated my family for coming all at once and expecting to be taken care of.

Despite this harsh start, amends were made eventually. My family worked very hard from the very beginning and saved as much as possible. I love adding that, before we moved to Michigan in 1953, the same cousin borrowed money from my parents to finance a down payment on a home.

What I found interesting is that the exhibit unfolds like a book in a three dimensional space. There is a very strong narrative. Where did the artifacts and personal stories come from and did they dictate to the structure of the exhibit?

The underlying structure of the exhibition is very simple. There are only three major parts to the story: The Flight, The Camps, and The Journey to a New Home. Those three portions of the exhibition are presented within a historical framework and a thematic explanation. The framework and explanation are largely written statements. In other words, the exhibition proper is devoted to the three major elements of the DP experience, but to understand the experiences on display, those three elements (the flight, the camps, and the journey) are framed by statements that give a historical context and explain the goals of the exhibition.

One major thing that sets this exhibition apart is the impetus for doing it. Usually, exhibitions are mounted because a collecting institution (a museum, historical society, or even an individual) has materials (art work, historical artifacts, valuable documents for example) that warrant a public presentation. In the case of “No Home To Go To”, the

Balzekas Museum and its collaborating Latvian and Estonian partners had some materials, but, in fact, most of the documents, photographs, and artifacts were (and still are) in private collections. Not only are the materials in the hands of DPs and their families, many stories and memories of the experiences have also not been recorded or presented. Thus, this exhibition was mounted to show how significant the DP experience was and how important it is to save the materials and record the memories.

Doing this kind of “community-based” exhibition, requires new approaches, expectations, and presentations. First of all, the organizers have to publicize to DPs and their families that the project is taking place and



Artifacts from the DPs’ life: spoons, sugar, embroidery...

then ask them to join in it by contributing their stories, experiences, and materials. The Museum and its partners used on-line, print, and other outreach (programs, events) to do this for well over a year. The response was good and elicited inspiring stories and riveting materials. But the interest in the exhibition increased significantly as the time for the exhibition opening neared. This, in my experience, is how it usually goes: as the reality of the exhibition grows nearer, as word of mouth excitement spreads, as the organizers share what is happening, members of the community engage and relate to the upcoming exhibition. Luckily, we were prepared for this happening. The Museum received some stunning materials in the last three weeks before the opening. Just to give three examples, the family of a dentist brought in the whole kit of implements, medicines, and vials used by the dentist as she took care of DP camp residents. Another family brought in the national costume made by a Latvian woman who had lost her parents (in Siberia), her husband (killed by Communists) and her child to illness. The lovely costume was made of materials, like blankets, she could find in the DP camp. Finally, a wonderful hand-

sewn rabbit is on display that was once a treasured possession for a little girl who left Lithuania holding on to her favorite friend, the delicate, and now fragile, stuffed “Bukutis”

In the end, we received more materials than we could exhibit for the opening. Many things were scanned and reproduced for the traveling portion of the exhibition. In addition the display at the Museum has about 120 artifacts. The exhibition will be up for a year, and the Museum plans on changing out some of the material after the first several weeks. In doing this we will be able to display additional items, and it will protect artifacts from over exposure. For these upcoming changes, the Museum could still use additional artifacts.

One final comment. Early on, I recommended that the families and the individuals whose stories we were telling be featured as much as possible. This was an exhibition in which the institutional voice (that of the Museum or even the curator) was secondary to the voices of the DPs themselves.

In your remarks during the exhibit's opening you mentioned that this is an exhibit in progress. What did you mean by that?

I did state at the opening that this is an unfinished exhibition. Certainly, it is unfinished in the sense that there are still many stories and memories out in the community. We want to encourage all DPs who have stories to tell to do so by contributing their stories to the on-line collection (on the Balzekas Museum website); by contacting the Museum directly; or by recording within the family structure the information and the memories that can inspire and be preserved by new generations. But there are a couple of other ways that this exhibition is not finished. Many families were separated during the closing years of the war. Some sisters, brothers, parents, and children did not make it to the West. On some level, the full story might one day reunite both the story of the DPs and those who ended up living under the Soviet yoke. And, finally, once the DP story is fully fleshed out, accurately recorded, it may be time to deal with other DPs who lived in those same lands but whose ethnicity or backgrounds, for example, Baltic Jewish families, have been handled separately and are not represented in this exhibition.

What difficulties did you encounter?

Rather than difficulties I prefer to use the word “challenges”. There were some—after all, it was a human endeavor. And here are just some that I have thought about and still come to mind.

As might be expected, we had challenges dealing with the timeframe and obtaining needed funding. From the time I joined the project, we knew that the exhibition would receive some support from the Lithuanian government but that support required that the money be spent in Lithuania. This meant that some of the fabrication of the exhibition was in the hands of a contractor who spoke no English, but, here in the U.S., we had hired a wonderful, talented and thrifty designer who spoke no Lithuanian. Things turned out fine, but it did result in a couple of sleepless nights and harried, worried conversations and imaginative solutions. The fact that one copy of the exhibition opened in Daley Plaza the day before the Museum open-

ing on August 23rd, and that the Lithuanian version opened three weeks later in Kaunas added some very big challenges!

Finally, it was a bit of a surprise to learn that both fear and language also caused challenges. On several occasions, as we spoke with people (DPs or their children), we were told that some material should not be used or would not be given because the person most involved with the experience was still afraid or unable to share comfortably the life experience and the memorabilia or artifacts that were a part of that experience. At other times, we were told that a parent had forbid any discussion of what had happened in the times before coming to the U.S. or that a now deceased parent never told his offspring about the DP past. I suspect that there are many more such cases than the ones we have identified during the exhibition planning process.

I was most surprised by the language issue. The exhibition was written and presented in English, though we did use several Lithuanian quotes

and the stories had to come from those who had the DP experience or their children. We would not accept items or stories told about others. In each instance, we asked for information on when the flight took place, the camps that were involved, and where the person or persons ended up. The selection was made on the basis of how clearly the story and the materials connected. Of course, we did also follow a general chronology and needed materials to illustrate what was happening. For example, in showing what was taken by those who fled, we included documents, photos of the homes left behind, as well as unexpected selections (spoons, tablecloths, toys, certificates of dismissal from a government job). Or in “The Journey” section, we made use of dull-looking documents to show the dominant role played by the bureaucracy that aspiring immigrants encountered.

Do you feel there is anything missing from the exhibit that you would have liked to have included?

time and experience. I have had people tell me things like “You know I remember a photograph of my whole family taken right before we left”. And that usually came from someone who started out saying that they unfortunately did not have anything from the DP experience.

The second piece of advice is connected. Don’t judge what you have as being of no interest, not in good enough shape, or some other reason not to value a historic artifact. Save it, document it, and let someone know that it exists. Who knows some humble piece of paper could prove an important historical fact. For example, I held on to a form, filled out by my father during our time in Brooklyn. It did not look imposing, and, since I still had it, the form was never even submitted. But, since it was a form from the Consul General of Lithuania, asking that all Lithuanian citizens overseas register with the office, it proves that in the late 1940’s and early 1950’s the Lithuanian government in exile was in operation. This form is in the “No



Some of the DP Exhibition staff and team at the exhibit opening, from left: Consul General of the Republic of Lithuania in Chicago, Marijus Gudynas, Balzekas Museum president Stanley Balzekas, Jr., Curatorial Assistants Karilė Vaitkutė and Rita Janz, author of *DPs: Europe's Displaced Persons, 1945-1951*, Prof. Mark Wyman, Exhibit curator Irena Chambers, and Dace Kezbers of the Latvian Folk Art Museum.

and passages that had to be translated. The first language issue came up through one of the scholars who reviewed the text I had written and asked why the word “exile” was not used, a word, he said, that was central and present in the DP experience vocabulary of all three Baltic nations: tremtis (Lithuanian), trimda (Latvian), and ekiil (Estonian). When I discussed this with my colleagues, however, it turned out that this same term is used, at least in Lithuania, to refer to those who were sent to Siberia during and after the war, not the refugees who fled west. Similarly, we ran into issues in finding the right word in Lithuanian for the term “Displaced Person”. Words proposed by our colleagues in Lithuania (pabegeliai, for example) were not acceptable to DPs in this country, and the term “DP” was not used in Lithuania. For the Lithuanian version, we finally compromised by asking that the term “DP” be explained as one that became acceptable even within the Baltic vocabularies of the DPs—but it was presented in quotes, reflecting the fact that it was not an integrated term in Lithuania.

What criteria did you use for selecting materials in the show?

We had some clear and some implied criteria. For example, the mate-

I would say that what is missing is a full array of stories. We learned in working with various families and individuals that, though the broad strokes were the same, the actual details and descriptions were incredibly different. To make this a more comprehensive exhibition, I would like to see more stories and greater detail on the motivations, the emotions, and conflicts that the DPs faced. In documenting more stories and delving deeper into them, we are apt to learn a great deal that is, as yet, barely broached.

Do you have any advice for our readers, who may have relatives who were DPs. What objects should they save? What questions should they ask? How can they get involved in furthering the exhibit?

In some ways, the advice is stated or implied by all I have written in the above paragraphs. But I will add just two more pieces. First of all, start with recording the story. If the story is yours, put it down in whatever form you are comfortable with. If you are recording a parent’s, relative’s, or friend’s story, just have them tell you what happened. (The Museum’s on-line survey is a very good resource for putting the story together.) The recorded story often yields ideas or recollections of “things” that still exist from that

Home To Go To” exhibition.

What has been the response to exhibit so far?

I am very pleased to say that the exhibition—during its three week stay in Daley Plaza, on exhibition at the Balzekas Museum (now through most of 2015), and at the Lithuanian Emigration Institute in Kaunas, Lithuania—has been very well received. Comments range from how very pleased people are to see this topic addressed, how moved they are to see the many images and documents and to learn the fuller story of what happened. I am especially glad that those who have seen the exhibition realize that it is their story, that they too have materials and experiences that they can add. It is my hope that this is a beginning of documenting not only the DP era but the saga of how these refugees found a home and contributed in singular ways to both their native land and their adopted one.

We look forward to having the exhibition travel to other cities in the U.S., Canada, Lithuania and other European cities over the next two years.

The exhibit, “No Home to Go To,” will open at the Lithuanian Embassy in Washington, D.C. on October 6



Commemorating 100 years of Immaculate Conception Parish. Worshipers at the jubilee mass on September 21, 2014.
Insert: The parish in 1917.

Photos by J. R. Kuprys

Immaculate Conception Parish in Brighton Park Celebrates Its One Hundred Year Anniversary

The Early Days

The history of Immaculate Conception Parish began in 1914. The major powers of Europe were then fighting the first bloody battles of World War I, Woodrow Wilson was spending his first term in the White House, and Carter H. Harrison was presiding in Chicago's City Hall. Chicago was just 81 years old, still growing and spreading, new communities were springing up almost overnight. One of these rapidly rising areas was Brighton Park.

In 1914, Brighton Park was a neighborhood of prairies and swamp land. People of all nationalities were settling here, building homes and establishing businesses, churches and schools. Among these were 60 Catholic Lithuanian families. Recent immigrants, they wanted to preserve their Lithuanian language and customs, and as staunch Catholics, they longed for worship in their own church. For this purpose a committee was selected to purchase land. By the end of 1914, twenty lots, extending along 44th

Street from California Avenue to Fairfield Avenue, had been purchased. On September 10, 1914, Archbishop Quigley appointed Father Anthony Briszko to found a parish for Lithuanians.

The pastor of a neighboring parish, St. Joseph and Anne church allowed Father Briszko and his small group of Lithuanian parishioners to hold services in the basement chapel of his church. The first Mass was offered there on September 13, 1914 at 8:00 a.m. Records show that the collection amounted to \$2.50.

Although there were still no parish buildings, parish life began immediately. The first child baptized in the parish was Stanley Deringis on September 12, 1914. The first funeral on September 17 was for a two day old child, Marijona Gecas. The first wedding was that of John Kazakauskas and Emily Mickeliunas on September 27.

Soon the number of families increased to 260 and in the spring of 1915 work on the first part of the combination church and school building commenced.

The sounds of construction filled the summer air, while, just a few block away, gypsies pitched their camp and played their lively music.

A building spree began. In 1916 Immaculate Conception School was opened. A dance pavilion was built. The number of parishioners increased to 1000 families. The three most active organizations were the Knights of Lithuania, the Temperance Society and the Parish Choir. In 1922 the parish school was placed under the direction of the Sisters of St. Casimir. The parish grew and prospered even through the Great Depression. The parish debt was paid off in 1931 and mortgage papers were burned.

A Modern Church in an Old Parish

On November 5, 1953, Monsignor Damasus Mozis was appointed pastor of Immaculate conception. Recognizing the need for more classrooms, he began the construction of a two story addition to the school. That complete in January of 1962, Monsignor



The Lithuanian flag and Our Lady of Šilva banner make an entrance at the Jubilee Mass.



Lithuanian parishioners and the Sisters of St. Casimir at the Jubilee Mass. The Sisters of St. Casimir taught at Imaculate Conception school from 1922 till its closing.

500 YEARS AGO



Five hundred years ago, on September 8, 1514 the armies of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania defeated the Grand Duchy of Moscow at Orsha, a fortress town established by Vytautas the Great in what is now NE Belarus. The battle was a major defeat for the Muscovite army, who had its sites set on expanding west and south to Kyiv which were then Lithuanian occupied lands. This crushing blow to Russian aggression ushered in 40 years of relative calm into the the Grand Duchy of Lithuania and created conditions for significant cultural development: the introduction of Renaissance thought, the publication of the first book in Lithuania (1522) and the first book in the Lithuanian language (in 1547), the Lithuanian Statutes of 1529, 1566, and 1588 and the establishment by the Jesuits of Vilnius University in 1579.

Painting: the Battle of Orsha painted 1524-1530, National Museum of Warsaw.

Mozeris initiated the campaign for building a new, permanent church. It was the first Lithuanian Church in the United States built in the spirit of Vatican Council II. Its open plan, elevated altar, and modern appeal emphasized the need of the active participation of the faithful in the Mass.

Lithuanians made up a majority of the parish-ioners until the 1980’s when a marked shift towards

a mainly Mexican demographic took place not only in the parish, but also in the surrounding community. The first Mass in Spanish at Immaculate Conception was offered in 1995.

Today, its pastor, Father Robert Coleman, characterizes Immaculate Conception as “a busy, active city parish with 2,500 registered families – most of them Hispanic – and twenty-six groups and organi-

zations.” The Lithuanian community, although small, is vibrant. Mass in the Lithuanian language is celebrated every Sunday at 10:00 a.m.

The Centennial was celebrated with an alumni mass in the spring and a Mass closing the jubilee year on September 21, 2014.



Offertory: Lithuanian bread and cheese, sheaves of wheat and honey in remembrance of the parish’s Lithuanian roots.



The Lithuanian choir. Algis Barniškis – musical director.



Bishop Alberto Rojas, celebrant of the Jubilee Mass, blesses the new Divine Mercy chapel in Immaculate Conception Church.



The Jubilee Mass, Immaculate Conception Church.

A Trip of Lifetime to the Bottom of the Earth

Lithuanians claim to have gone global. They now live in all corners of the world, bar one – that vast stretch of earth that is beyond everyone's grasp – Antarctica. Except for an odd research station or temporary expedition hut, Antarctica has no permanent structures, no towns, no Lithuanian settlements, no inhabitants; it's an icy unpredictable wilderness. You can't live there, but it doesn't stop Lithuanians from visiting. Draugas columnist Alex Vitkus, relates how he and his wife Dana travelled to the bottom of the world some 15 years ago.

ALEX VITKUS

Today, December 19, finds us beginning a new adventure, a trip to the seventh continent – Antarctica. My wife Dana has long dreamt of this trip. She had read all of the adventure stories from the early explorers such as James Cook, who in 1773 circumnavigated Antarctica but failed to sight land, to Estonian Fabian Gottlieb von Bellingshausen, a captain in the Imperial Russian Navy, who in 1820 became the first person to come upon the Antarctic continent, to the heroic Norwegian Roald Amundsen, first to reach the South Pole in 1911, and Englishman Robert Scott, who was just 33 days behind. Scott's disappointment turned tragic. His return trip was fraught with frostbite, scurvy, starvation and ultimately death; he and his crew were overtaken by a raging blizzard and they all perished in a tent just 11 miles from a supply depot. These tales of exploration, triumph and woe, as well as an appreciation of natural wonders and arctic fauna bolstered Dana's resolve to explore this forbidding continent for herself. I agreed to come along.

This Can't Possibly be Earth!

Imagine a place as big as the U.S. and Europe combined, sunnier than California, yet colder than the freezer compartment of a refrigerator, drier than Arabia, higher than the mountains Switzerland, and emptier than the Sahara. That is Antarctica, the strange but beautiful continent at the foot of the



On the Zodiacs enroute to shore.

globe.

Antarctica belongs to no one. It is governed by the 1959 Antarctica Treaty System to

which 50 countries have signed. Despite its neutrality, Antarctica is hardly crawling with tourists. The lucky ones who first sighted the icy continent and, while gasping for air, were heard exclaiming: "This can't possibly be Earth!"

Antarctica has arguably the most prolific marine life on the planet. Creatures here live, breed and migrate in staggering numbers. Walking among, say, half a million penguins is an experience no visitor will likely forget. But, contrary to a popular thinking, Antarctica has no mammalian predators, such as bears, wolves, fox, or humans. What does survive in Antarctica lives mainly on the coast and sustains itself with food from the sea. Antarctica is like no other land: there are no trees, no indigenous populations, and despite an abundance of coastal life, there are few species.

Although global warming prognosticators predict that this great white continent of snow will eventually melt, in all seriousness we knew that it would not affect our travel plans. Nonetheless we didn't delay; we wanted to do it while we were still in reasonable shape. We signed up for the expedition, fully understanding that this was not to be a typical leisurely resort-style tourist cruise on a glitzy ocean megaliner with formal dinners, heaping piles of food, midnight buffets, music, dancing, and gambling. Loveboat it wasn't. We decided on nature sailing and

selected a company that ran a small unpretentious 122-passenger expedition vessel with an ice-strengthened hull, small enough to approach the shore and explore secluded waterways that were beyond the reach of bigger ships. No tuxedos, just T-shirts... and parkas.

The vessel included a fleet of specially designed inflatable landing craft called Zodiacs that would allow us to land on deserted beaches, explore narrow iceberg-clad waterways, and step ashore to see wildlife. The ship's staff included a naturalist, a wildlife biologist, a geologist and an historian, who would give on-board lectures. That was exactly what Dana and I were looking for.

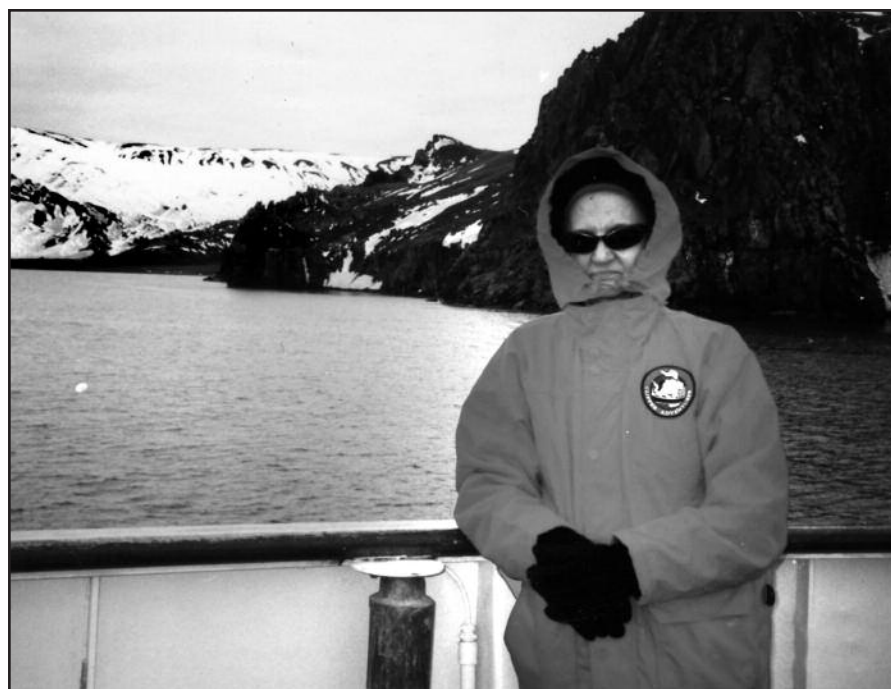
We flew from Chicago to Miami and then boarded a plane to Buenos Aires, reputedly South America's most elegant capital. We had been there before, about 20 years ago, and found this city immensely grown, and yet still full of European charm.

After a two-night respite, we continued our trip to the southernmost town in the world, Ushuaia, the capital of Tierra del Fuego, flying over snow-covered mountains and deep blue waters. The weather was overcast and drizzly, but it didn't dampen our spirits. We boarded coaches and passed through the grim but wildly scenic Lapataia National Park down to the southernmost point of the Pan American Highway to our ship.

Our cruise and expedition staff greeted us and we had a drink in the main lounge before being led to our sleeping quarters. It was great to finally be in our cozy cabin that we would call home for the next 11 nights.



Author Alex Vitkus in Antarctica.



Dana Vitkus: Visiting the frigid south – a dream come true.

Our ship was built in Yugoslavia in 1975 for the Soviets to serve as a research station. The life jackets still bore the original “Leningrad” label. With the collapse of the USSR, an American company purchased the ship and refurbished it in Denmark as a cruise ship, naming it “Clipper Adventurer.” It now had a German Captain and officers, American and Filipino support staff, and a crew of 78. The ship itself was rather small, only 328 feet long, 4,376 tons, with a 14.5 knot cruising speed. With a draft of only 15 feet it could maneuver in and out of small bays where big and faster cruise liners would not fit. And yet, we had a lounge with an adjacent bar, a dining room, a gift shop, a small gym, a library and even a beauty salon. The dining areas were window-lined so that the outside world was always in view. There was an observation platform directly below the bridge for a view of the passing scenery. If that wasn’t enough, the Captain and his officers maintained an open bridge policy to give passengers an opportunity to observe their actions and ask questions. Life on board was casual and completely unregimented. In between the three daily meals there was always available complimentary hot coffee, tea, soft drinks, and snacks. Cocktails and beer were priced very reasonably.

After an excellent first dinner, we enjoyed the calm seas in the Beagle Channel and were treated to a glorious sunset over the spectacular snow-clad peaks of Cordillera Darwin. Argentina’s Tierra del Fuego could be seen on the port side.

We sailed along the channel towards the Antarctic peninsula – the 700-mile long finger that points to South America – passing several low-lying islands where sea lions played. Albatross and gulls shadowed us in the fading light. Occasionally we would spot a humpback or fin whale coming up for air and spouting water. You can identify them by the shape of their spout, fins and flukes. In summer they feed in the



On deck, viewing the Antarctic continent.

search Center biologist Frank Todd related some of the funny questions passengers have asked in the past, such as: “Why are the birds always sitting on the white rocks?”

As the trip progressed we began to encounter ever increasing numbers of sea birds and mammals. This was a clear sign that we had entered the Antarctic convergence, an area where the warm trop-

ical waters flowing southward mixed with the cold antarctic currents. This created a perfect breeding ground for plankton and shrimp-like organisms, about four inches long, called krill. They, in turn, provided a bountiful feast for whales, seals, squid and penguins.

it was still too unwieldily to approach the shore. Besides, there are no docks on Antarctica. We had to depend on our Zodiacs, to bring us close enough to disembark into the shallow swell and surf of the shore. To keep the cold water from penetrating, we donned elaborate outfits starting with numerous layers of thermal underwear, waterproof rain pants, rubber knee-high boots, mittens, sun protection. On top of everything we wore heavy red arctic parkas. Life jackets were de rigueur while in the Zodiacs. Waterproof backpacks protected our binoculars, camera gear and all-important extra pair of dry socks. Before each excursion we received a briefing on what we were about to see. Then we would separate into small groups and climb down the stairwell outside the ship into the inflatable rafts. This trip to shore took some five to 10 minutes, depending on the weather. Roaming around the Antarctic in an open Zodiac was exhilarating, especially when a 30-degree spray of water would hit your face, but climbing out of the inflatable boat, bundled in all that gear, was a little tricky, especially in high surf. It reminded me of the D-day beaches in June 1944, except that here nobody was shooting at us.

Once ashore we were free to explore. We took long walks and saw four different species of penguins: Chinstrap, Gentoo, Macaroni and Adélie. These were not just a few penguins, mind you, but vast rookeries of several thousand. Penguins are flightless birds, better adapted to life in the water than on land. Many of the penguins had hatchlings and their plaintive cries demanding food could be heard.

We were instructed to stay at least 15 feet away from the birds, but apparently the penguins missed that memo, because they often approached us and sometimes even brushed against our legs. The harsh realities of Antarctica were not hidden from our view.

Continued on page 17



Thousands of penguins.

plankton-rich Antarctic waters, while in the winter they travel to lower latitudes to breed. They grow to a length of 80 feet. Fin whales are fast swimmers, and easily outdistanced our ship. The sun finally set, but the sky never got much darker than a confusing pale blue.

Around midnight the ship began to pitch. This was a tell-tale warning that we were entering the rough and dangerous 600-mile long Drake Passage separating South America from Antarctica. The winds increased to over 40 knots, and all through the night our possessions were tossed about our cabin. We could hardly sleep.

The next morning the dining room was deserted; nobody wanted to think about food due to rough seas. Winds increased to over 50 knots. By 11:00 a.m. we were told to keep to our cabins, as it was dangerous to climb the stairs. The crew delivered sandwiches and drinks to our rooms, while the ship doctor made “house” calls. Later in the afternoon I tried to have a bite and relax in the lounge, but not for long. Just a few minutes of the ship’s pitching and rolling, had me rushing to the nearest bathroom.

Gradually the seas calmed down and by December 24, we were not only enjoying our regular meals again but also attending some of the lecturers’ talks. To keep us amused, San Diego Marine Re-

Land!

Christmas Day the seas were calm. In the early morning we made our very first landing on Livingston Island. Although our ship was not very large,



Baltic University – An Adventure and a Struggle

A film project by Helga Merits



Filmmaker Helga Merits.



Grand entrance to the Baltic University, Hamburg.



Professor Vladas Stanka, one of the university's founding fathers.

Helga Merits, a documentary filmmaker living in Holland, is well-known in the Estonian community, especially for her recent film: "Class of 1943 – Remember Us When We are Gone" about the fates of five Estonian high-school students drafted into the German army during World War II. She now embarks on a new project – a personal journey of discovery regarding the Baltic University, an institution of higher learning founded just 10 months after the end of World War II by Baltic refugees living in German DP camps.

In March 1946, refugee academics from Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia, aided by UNRRA (United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration) and the Lutheran World Federation, organized a university in Hamburg in the British Zone of Occupation. The university employed 168 former university teachers – 33 Estonians, 70 Latvians, and 65 Lithuanians. The founding fathers were president prof. Frīdrihs Gulbis, and rectors Estonian Ernst Opik, Latvian Edgar Dunsdorfs and Lithuanian Vladas Stanka. In early 1947, the university was moved to a former Luftwaffe school in Pinneberg. By the end of 1947 300 courses had been offered. It consisted of eight faculties with 17 departments. Considering the times, the number of students that passed through the corridors of this post-secondary institution were remarkable – at its peak, 1200 students were attending lectures. After three years, in September 1949, the university closed, when most of the academic staff and students left Germany, finding permanent homes in other countries.

Helga Merits describes her progress collecting materials and eye-witness accounts for the Baltic University documentary.

I learned about the Baltic University when I found my father's study book amongst his papers. My father was Estonian and had fled his country in September 1944.

In 1946, when he was living in a refugee camp in Germany, he heard about the existence of the Baltic University. He had been rather depressed in the camp because his future was uncertain and often appeared grim. He wrote in a small diary how much it would mean to him to have a chance to study and make something of himself. He travelled to Hamburg to apply to the Baltic University and then waited for an answer. Weeks passed. His hope dwindled. And then an acceptance letter came that changed his entire future.

I couldn't ask my father about the Baltic Uni-

versity because he passed away when I was still very young. I searched for other sources. One of the first texts I read was by Robert Riggall, an American UNRRA staffer who was put in charge of the Baltic University project. He wrote how impressed he was by the academics of the three Baltic countries, by their courage, determination and willingness to work together. Another document characterized the Baltic University as "one of the most successful and promising examples of international co-operation." In 1996, at a 50 year anniversary commemoration of the Baltic University, the then German Minister of Education, Gisela Böhmk, stated that she thought of the Baltic University as an example for "the House of Europe."

The creation of the university was an adventure, but it also was a struggle. Though the British were very much in favour of the university at first, the Soviets thought otherwise: Baltic refugees should go home.

Soon after the University opened its doors, the name had to be changed to Hamburg DP University. The name of the university changed 11 times in an attempt to describe it or diminish it, although among Baltic refugees it always remained Baltic University.

Other challenges arose: the number of students admitted was reduced, students above 25 years could no longer study, fewer professors were allowed to teach. However, the academic staff worked together, shared their incomes and food in order to retain all of the professors and not reduce the number of students accepted.

The academic staff knew the university had no future in Germany. Not only was the economic situation grim, but students and staff began to emigrate to Australia, Canada and the United States. On September 30, 1949 the university had to close its doors. There were attempts to transfer this institution to the United States or Canada. The United Lithuanian Relief Fund of America wanted to purchase Quoddy Village in Maine for the university. "It is our plan to transplant the Baltic University to the United States" wrote Father Koncius in the Observer, August 24, 1947. Unfortunately the plan failed.

For some years I was thinking about what to do with this subject. The university was unique, it was something from which we could learn so much. One of the information bulletins of the Baltic University wrote that the university would be remembered forever, however, it now seems it is almost forgotten.

Only the former students still remember this great enterprise.

My research encompasses tracing as many former students as possible. I have interviewed Estonian Reinhold Martin. Darius Jonas Semaska, the Lithuanian ambassador in Holland put me in contact with Lithuanian Pranas

Jurkus, who helped me get in touch with other students. He told me the surprising fact that each year the Lithuanian students celebrate March 14 – opening day of the Baltic University.

It is too late to interview professors and other academics of the Baltic University. They have all passed away. But I have been able to trace the archive of the Baltic University in Uppsala University Library – a gold mine of information on the academic staff of the Baltic University. Some private archives are scattered around the world. I found the documents of professor Stanka in the library of the University of Amsterdam. No one could tell me how these documents came to be there.

I started this project without any funding. There was no other way: if I waited I would be too late to gather eye-witness testimony. I am fortunate that two Estonian foundations and now a Latvian fund are supporting the project. I hope to receive support from Lithuanians as well.

I have some specific requests from Lithuanians, and would appreciate any information regarding the following:

- Where can I find the correspondence of Dr. Joseph Koncius, president of the United Lithuanian Relief Fund of America?

- Does anyone have photographs of Lithuanian students in the Zoo-camp and Pinneberg?

- A composer and pianist Jonas Svedas (born in 1927) was a student at Baltic University (not to be confused with the composer Jonas Svedas, who was born in 1908 and remained in Lithuania). Are his compositions, especially piano pieces, available, which could be used in the film?

If you have any information please write to hmerits@xs4all.nl or

Helga Merits
Tollensstraat 62
1053 RW Amsterdam
Holland.



DISPLACED PERSON EXPERIENCE

Continued on page 15

The part of the exhibit entitled “Maintaining Customs and Traditions” shows that the Baltic DPs carried on a vibrant cultural life in the camps. We see photographs of Estonian folk dancers dressed in traditional folk costumes at the Estonian DP camp in Gottingen. We see a Latvian choral group from Munich as well as the Lithuanian chorus “Dainava” giving a concert in Hanau, Germany, in 1946. Two mannequins tell an interesting story. One is a man dressed in a tuxedo. We learn that this is the tuxedo that Lithuanian tenor Stasys Baras wore at all the concerts he gave in Germany after the war. The other mannequin is a woman dressed in a traditional Latvian folk costume. We learn that the folk costume was made by Rita Treija, a Latvian displaced person in the Esslingen DP camp. She used an army blanket for the skirt. She dyed the blanket and then embroidered it with a traditional Latvian design.

The customs and traditions section includes photographs which show a Lithuanian wedding, a christening in a Latvian family, and the participants of an Estonian-Lutheran confirmation. We learn from the accompanying explanation that the beautiful white dresses the young Estonian girls are wearing were actually made out of parachute cloth. And there is a photograph of a Lithuanian Christmas celebration, which took place in Kempten in 1946 and was complete with a Lithuanian version of Santa Claus. Unfortunately, the exhibit does not give much information about the role of religion in the DP camps. It seems to me that an entire section named “Religion” could have been included.

A significant part of the exhibit is devoted to “Literature and Publishing” and to “Education.” The exhibit contains examples of the many books and magazines that Baltic DPs published in Germany after the war. These include a Latvian kindergarten teacher’s handbook, an illustrated Estonian book and a Lithuanian prayerbook “Apsaugok Aukščiausias.” The education section of the exhibit shows that the Baltic DPs organized all levels of education for their children, starting with kindergartens and going all the way to a Baltic University. Some of the accompanying photographs contain very interesting details. For example, the exhibit contains a photograph of the graduating class of the Lithuanian high school in Eichstatt, Germany, in 1946. Among the graduates is a young man identified as Valdas Adamkevičius. He later changed his name to Valdas Adamkus and became President of Lithuania.

The exhibit portrays the efforts Baltic DPs made to prepare for a new life. We see photographs of young women training to become seamstresses, young men learning the craft of brick-laying. One poignant photograph shows two blind Lithuanian



A Latvian national costume hand sewn from tablecloths. A poignant remembrance.

DPs in the Neustadt Camp. They are somehow able to work a loom. The Baltic DPs eventually realized that they would not be able to return to their homelands and that they had to prepare themselves for a new life in a new country. For many that new country was the United States of America.

The exhibit gives a very clear picture of how difficult it was to get permission to enter the United States. The required paperwork was staggering. It is revealing to look at all these forms now, when immigration “reform” is so much in the news, and American politicians seem to be scratching their heads to find a way to grant amnesty to illegal aliens without calling it amnesty. The Baltic DPs, in contrast, had to jump through hoops in order to enter the United States legally. There were registration forms, there were forms to prove that you were vaccinated against smallpox, there were required affidavits of support, letters from sponsors etc. Examples of these forms are on display in the exhibit. But for thousands of Baltic DPs, the result was a good one – they got the chance to start a new life in America. It was poignant to see on display

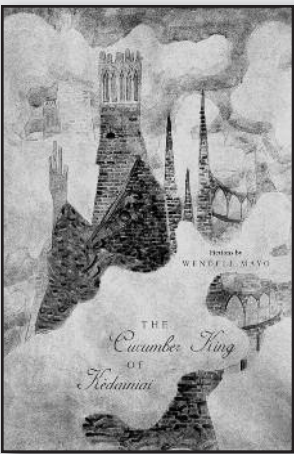
an article from Life magazine, dated November 22, 1948. The article described the feelings of new emigrants to the United States with the slogan “Now they are on the warm side of the stove.” It is interesting to read a welcoming letter written in 1949 by Adlai Stevenson, who then was Governor of Illinois. He welcomes the new immigrants to Illinois and says that he prefers to think of them as “delayed pilgrims” rather than “displaced persons.”

The exhibit concludes with photographs of three Baltic presidents. We see a photograph of Vaira Vike-Freiberga, the former President of Latvia. Next to it is a picture of a group of children in the Lubeck DP camp. There is a smiling little girl, Vaira Vike-Freiberga, in the first row. We see a photograph of Toomas Hendrik Ilves, the current President of Estonia, and we learn that his parents were displaced persons who fled Estonia in 1944. And finally we see a photograph of a grey-haired Valdas Adamkus, President of Lithuania, and next to it, a photograph of a young Valdas Adamkus, arriving in the United States in 1949. A fitting close to the exhibit. These three examples show that the Baltic DPs never lost their love for their homelands and were able to rise above adversity and make their mark on history.

For those wishing to have a deeper understanding of the DP experience, read *DPs: Europe’s Displaced Persons, 1945-1951* by Mark Wyman (Cornell University Press, 1998).



TWO BOOKS BY WENDELL MAYO



THE CUCUMBER KING OF KĖDAINIAI

Fiction. Characters in Wendell Mayo's collection, THE CUCUMBER KING OF KĖDAINIAI, are one of a kind. A Lithuanian mafia boss strives to achieve world domination with black market cucumbers. A starving Russian artist discovers he can profit by selling paint-by-numbers portraits of former General Secretary Leonid Brezhnev. Two spiders re-enact the Cold War years in the bathtub of an abandoned Soviet sanatorium. A woman is interrogated by former-KGB police about the whereabouts of an American she's never met. A man trades a bag of cold fried pike for clues about his Lithuanian ancestors. The concluding narrative, "The Universal Store," assembles all in a kind of marketplace of the heart, where the new realities of an Eastern Europe adapting to change since the fall of the Berlin Wall emerge. These stories by turn are not only dark, comical, surreal—but feel terribly true. **Paper \$15.**

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Bruno's Bakery in Bridgeport – still baking after 65 years.



Joyce Macianskis, mans the register and serves fresh-baked Lithuanian bread.

Bruno's Bakery Sparkles in Bridgeport

GEDIMINAS INDREIKA

Chicago's Lithuanians have never lacked for good bakeries. Over the years, there have been several outstanding bakeries throughout the Chicago area - Baltic Bakery in the Back of the Yards neighborhood, Brighton Bakery in the Brighton Park neighborhood, Cicero Bakery in the adjacent suburb of Cicero, Lithuanian Plaza Bakery in the Marquette Park neighborhood and Racine Bakery in the Garfield Ridge neighborhood.

But there is a Lithuanian-owned bakery in Chicago that was in business longer than any of these other bakeries. And it's still open even after 65 years.

Let me share with you one of Chicago's best kept secrets, a living link to a bygone era when small family-owned businesses dotted the neighborhood. At 3339-41 S. Lituanica Avenue, Bruno's Bakery still sells the finest breads in town. It is not surprising that most suburbanites are not familiar with Bruno's Bakery. It is located on a residential street, a block South of where St. George's Lithuanian church once stood. In the 1950's, a stop at Bruno's after the Sunday Mass at St. George's was almost obligatory. People would wait in line to buy the savory bacon buns, apple slice buns, cookies and fresh bread. The bakery was so busy that its retail store was open seven days a week.

A relic of the early days of the bakery sits on the counter – a wonderful 1950's era NCR cash register (the manual push-lever type), ready to ring up a sale.



Business today is not as brisk as it was in its heyday, when Bridgeport was a Lithuanian stronghold. However, the store is still open for business Monday through Friday.

The bakery was founded in 1949 by Bruno Macianskis, who came to Chicago from Lithuania that same year along with other post-World War II immigrants. Bruno's daughter-in-law Joyce Macianskis said that Bruno had an enterprising spirit, and considered opening a tav-



ern, but his wife Mary's opinion prevailed, and he started a bakery instead. He was fluent in several languages, but not in English. When learning English, Bruno would often confuse similar sounding words, such as "cabbage" and "garbage," but eventually he spoke it well. Bruno's Bakery grew to become one of the four largest Lithuanian-owned bread bakeries in Chicago, delivering to grocery stores throughout the city and suburbs.

The bakery's longevity is remarkable, as competitors such as Cicero Bakery and Baltic Bakery have come and gone. After Bruno Macianskis retired in 1976, his son Anthony and daughter-in-law Joyce took over the business. Joyce tends to the store, and will gladly answer any questions about Bruno Bakery's line of products, as they offer a wonderful array of popular and artisan breads.

Bruno's ads in the Lithuanian press had the tagline "kas valgo Bruno's duona auga kaip aguona" (whoever eats Bruno's bread flourishes like a poppy). It might be fun to try and see if this has a bit of truth to it.

Bruno's offers a Health Bread (hearty bread containing chopped rye berries similar to the former Baltic Bakery's brick bread), Famous Sour Rye (traditional Lithuanian style rye bread), Pumpernickel, Polish Style Rye, Whole Wheat Bread, Nine Grain Bread, Hunza Bread (farm style hearth-baked rye) and Bacon Buns (filled with chopped bacon bits).

For more information on Bruno's Bakery products and store hours call the bakery at (773) 254-6376.



A Trip of Lifetime

Continued frim page 13

We witnessed a skua bird attacking a penguin chick and further down a large Elephant seal lying dead in the surf. He was being worked over by a number of giant petrels, sometimes known as vultures of the sea. I could see tears rolling down Dana’s face – part emotion, part wind-chill – and I myself felt a tingle going down my spine.

After lunch we anchored at Deception Island, where we visited an abandoned whaling station. Deception Island is on a rim of an active volcano which last erupted in 1971. Hot springs still pour through the beach into the chilly Antarctic waters. Some brave (or dare I say foolish?) fellow travelers crossed the black cinder beach and ventured into the water for an Antarctic swim. As we left the island, a pair of humpback whales surfaced in our wake as if to say “farewell.” After dinner, the ship crew presented us with a warm, if amateurish, Christmas show called “Celebration of Joy.”

More landings

Over the next few days we were making landings at various islands, but only twice did we have a chance to actually plant our feet firmly on the Antarctic continent. At the Waterboat Point in Paradise Bay we visited a Chilean research station Gonzalez Videla. There we spotted a Weddell seal on an ice floe. These seals can grow to 10 feet; they are fat and are considered to be archetypical animals of the far south.

At the scenic Neko Harbor we saw a few hundred pairs of Gentoo penguins resting on the steep slopes. Like most of the other species, they were black and white but they have striking orange bills. We had to climb through deep snow to reach their high rookery site, and we had significantly more trouble than the shorted footed feathered friends. Perhaps most intriguing was the sight of penguins bustling about as if with a great sense of purpose. Especially the Chinstrap penguins scurried urgently about on what looked like a small, penguin interstate highway.

We were especially glad to land at Neko Harbor because it was on the Antarctic continent itself. Cruises mostly sail only the Antarctic peninsula, which has a basically fjord-like coast and islands. So we could officially “bag” this immense rugged seventh continent with its 18,500-mile long coastline. The views were spectacular: we saw glaciers with ice cliffs formed of blue ice and deep cracks and crevasses.

Port Lockroy, is a former British military base, established in 1944 and reopened as a museum and visitor center in 1996. Here we mailed a few postcards to our grandchildren, which they should receive in only a few months, as the cards first travel to the Falkland Islands, then to England, and only then on to the United States.

At Port Lockroy the captain hoped to drop anchor and enjoy a calm night. The harbor, however, was still partly covered with fast ice. So, instead of anchoring, the Captain drove the ship bow first into the ice! Two Britons from a nearby research station walked across the ice to the ship. Watching their progress, we knew we would not dare repeat their performance as they were sinking down to their knees in several soft spots. A flimsy gangway was dropped, and they climbed the ship to join our outdoor barbecue party on the boat deck. The air temperature was an unbelievably balmy 40F. We were told that the highest temperature in Antarctica ever recorded was 59F, while at the South Pole it never got any higher than 7F. The lowest temperature ever recorded in the world was at the Russian Antarctica station Vostok – minus 127F, while in the Northern Hemisphere the lowest temperature ever recorded was minus 90F in some upper reaches of Siberia.

The next morning we went ashore again and inspected whale bones strewn across the rocks. Most of the Gentoo penguins were sitting on eggs. We observed a Leopard seal catch a penguin just off shore. Leopard seals grow to 12 feet and weigh up to 1,000 pounds. They are fearsome predators feeding on smaller seals and penguins. There is much folklore about the dangers of Leopard seals perhaps mostly untrue, however, given their size and formidable jaws, caution was recommended.

By December 30 we were again in the open sea, heading for the dreaded Drake Passage. Fortunately, this time the Drake was more like a “Drake lake” rather than a “Drake shake,” with light easterly winds giving uncharacteristically calm conditions for these latitudes. By the second day the winds increased to 22 knots. On December 31, with the Falkland Islands looming just over the horizon, we awoke to a strong breeze and a slight ocean swell – conditions more usual for the Drake Passage.

Before dark we were able to fit in a brief landing at New Island, one of the 200-odd islands of the Falklands archipelago, called the Islas Malvinas in Argentina. Those who went ashore were treated to a fantastic golden sunset, behind the towering bird cliffs. Some of the locals joined us, to bring in the New Year in style. With free drinks flowing, most of the passengers joined in the boisterous chicken dance that looked more like penguins flapping their flippers.

The next morning, still feeling a bit groggy after our noisy New Year’s celebration, we went ashore for a long walk in the drizzling rain to explore Albatross and Rockhopper penguin colonies. Rockhoppers are small and have yellow tassels. After lunch, the ship sailed to Carcass Island just seven miles away, where a school of playful dolphins quickly joined us. Walking to a distant settlement through the rain we were greeted by a myriad of wildlife including Magellanic and Gentoo penguins, Kelp geese and Patagonian ducks. Returning to the ship from our last landing we were again escorted by a pair of acrobatic Peale’s dolphins. The captain’s farewell speech and final dinner followed.

On January 2, we finally docked in the Port Stanley harbor. With the wind blowing at 28 knots, our Captain had trouble maneuvering the ship into a narrow gap alongside another ship. It took well over an hour to tie up the ship to the short wharf.

So ended our memorable Antarctic expedition. We thought Antarctica was one of the most beautiful places on earth. We spent nearly two weeks in gripping attention and awe observing its gigantic icebergs and ice shelves, penguins, seals and whales, and



also its vast emptiness. We checked off one more destination on our roster of obscure places we have visited, but, as one tour leader put it, Antarctica is “highly addictive.” So much so that Dana has already started dreaming about flying in and going deep into the huge antarctic continental polar plateau and possibly experiencing at least one overnight stay at the South geographic pole!

Because of the long time it took to dock, there was hardly any time left for the ladies of the group to shop. A quick glimpse at a strikingly large cathedral dating from 1892, and a photo of a nearby arch made of whalebones, was all we could fit in and we were on our way again. En route to the airport, we viewed the streets and pubs which looked as if they were transported from Victorian England. We arrived at the somewhat grim and uninviting military base (there is no civilian airport), full of military restrictions, for the three-hour flight to Santiago, Chile, beautifully situated in the shadow of the majestic Andean mountains.

In Santiago, we stayed at the sumptuous Hyatt Regency hotel to rest and relax and enjoy an outdoor swimming pool in long forgotten 90F weather!

The same evening we left for the airport for a late evening flight to Miami, FL. Even before boarding we learned that a blizzard in Chicago was causing havoc. Here we go again! Fortunately, the flight was uneventful, and we landed in Chicago with much less delay than we expected.

Planning on running in the Chicago Marathon on October 12? Run with the Lithuanian American team!



The Consulate General of the Republic of Lithuania in Chicago invites you to run the Chicago Marathon with the Lithuanian American team. You will get a free T-shirt! Although you will run at your own pace, just by wearing the T-shirt you can be sure to be cheered on by Lithuanian American marathon fans. Afterwards, team members will be feted at a post-race celebration at Grand Duke’s Lithuanian Restaurant. Register at the Consulate by writing or calling Agnė Vertelkaitė agne.vertelkaite@urm.lt or 312-397-0382 (in English or Lithuanian). If you can’t run, consider volunteering. Dainius Ruževičius dainius75@yahoo.com is coordinating fans to cheer on our runners along the 26 mile route. This year team members will be running in remembrance of the Baltic Way.

Photo: Lithuanian American team members with Gen. Consul Marijus Gudynas after the 2013 Chicago Marathon.



Calendar

For updates and more current event information, visit the Draugas News calendar online: draugokalendorius.org

CHICAGO AREA ILLINOIS, WISCONSIN, INDIANA

Ongoing

IL - Baltic Displaced Persons exhibit
At Balzekas Museum of Lithuanian Culture, an exhibit will open dedicated to the Displaced Persons from the Baltic Countries during WWII. This is a joint project along with the Latvian Folk Art Museum, the United Latvian Associations of Chicago, and the Chicago Estonian House. A yearlong series of exhibits is planned, with events and programs commemorating 70 years since the mass westward flight of Baltic Displaced Persons who were refugees from the war-torn Baltic republics. The Baltic DP Exposition includes exhibits, programs and events, documenting the experiences of DP Estonian, Latvian and Lithuanians in European DP Camps; their subsequent immigration to, and contributions to, the United States, Canada, Australia, and other host countries, as well as to the Baltic homelands they left behind.
Event address: Balzekas Museum, 6500 S Pulaski Rd., Chicago, IL

October 4, Saturday

IL - "Soul" Exhibit Opening
Saturday, October 4th, at 6 PM, in the Lithuanian Art Museum at the LWC in Lemont, the exhibit titled "Siela" or "Soul" will open. Please come and meet the Art Museum Board and members. You'll be able to purchase original artwork, listen to music, and enjoy some refreshments.
Event address: Lithuanian World Center, 14911 127th St., Lemont, IL

October 5, Sunday

IL - Fundraiser "Harvest Lunch"
Please join us for the annual fundraiser "Harvest Lunch" sponsored by the nonprofit organization, "Child's Gate to Learning". You'll be served a traditional Lithuanian lunch, will be entertained by a short music program. Most importantly, attendees help "Child's Gate to Learning" supports 11 after school centers in Lithuania that work with children from at risk families.
Contact: Rūta Šmulkstienė, r.lsmulkstys@sbcbglobal.net, 630-243-1089
Event address: Lithuanian World Center, 14911 127th St., Lemont, IL

October 11, Saturday

IL - Babilonas Concert
On Saturday, October 11th, at 8 PM, at the Athenaeum Theater, the art project "Babilonas" (Babylon) will take place. Performers include Arina, Aldegunda, K. Stanciasukas, G. Zujus, and others, including a Gospel choir, a string quartet, and various dancers. Tickets are available through www.athenaeumtheatre.org. For more info contact: 708-574-3992.
Event address: Athenaeum Theater, 2936 N. Southport, Chicago, IL

October 10-12

IL - 13th LT Theater Festival
October 10-12, Friday - Sunday, the 13th Lithuanian Theater Festival. 3 days of plays will be acted, and the actors will have an opportunity for seeing old and making new friends. Program (in Lithuanian)
Event address: Lithuanian Youth Center - JC, 5620 S. Claremont Ave., Chicago, IL

October 18, Saturday

OH - Lithuanian Days
October 18th and 19th; Saturday evening - banquet (6 PM) and concert (7 PM) at the Lithuanian Club. Sunday Holy Mass at St. Casimir parish and, in the afternoon - the play "Rimas pas Kęstutį" at Lithuanian Club.
Contact: Zita Maščinskienė, lb.cleveland@yahoo.com, 216-235-5212
Event address: Cleveland Lithuanian Village, 877 E. 185th St, Cleveland, OH

October 24, Friday

IL - Lake County / Draugas concert
Friday evening, October 24th at 8 PM, the Waukegan/Lake County Lithuanian American Community and "Draugas" are organizing a concert. The renowned "Retro" duo, "Elle G" will perform and entertain us with songs from the 1920s up to the 1980s. Ticket price is \$20; \$10 for students. Tickets are available through Lake County LAC leadership as well as at the Matulaitis Mission office in Lemont.
Event address: Family Piano Studio, 114 S Genesee St, Waukegan, IL

October 24, Saturday

IL - Lemont / Draugas concert
On Saturday, October 25th, at 7 PM, "Draugas" is organizing a concert at the Lithuanian World Center in the Lithuanian Museum of Art. Performing at the concert will be the "Retro" duo, "Elle G". Ticket price is \$30. New subscribers will get a short-term introductory subscription to "Draugas" or "Draugas News" as part of their ticket price.
Event address: Lithuanian World Center, 14911 127th St., Lemont, IL

October 25, Sunday

IL - DRAUGAS banquet and concert
October 26th, Sunday, at 1 PM, at the Willowbrook Ballroom, the Annual "Draugas" newspaper dinner and concert will be held. Please save the date and plan to attend and bring all of your friends!
Contact: Marija Remienė, mremiene@aol.com
Event address: Willowbrook Ballroom, 8900 Archer Ave, Willow Springs, IL

November 1 - 2

IL - Living Folk Art
On Saturday and Sunday, from 10 AM to 4 PM, the Lemont Lithuanian Art Museum will host an exhibit organized by the Chicago Lithuanian Folk Art Institute, "Living Folk Art"
Event address: Lithuanian World Center, 14911 127th St., Lemont, IL

November 8

IL - Lith. Foundation Annual Fall Gala
Saturday, November 8, 2014 at 6 PM, The Lithuanian Foundation will be hosting its Annual Fall Gala at the Lithuanian World Center in Lemont.
Contact: admin@lithfund.org, (630)257-1616
Event address: Lithuanian World Center, 14911 127th St., Lemont, IL

November 9

IL - Saulute Orphan Aid Concert
A benefit concert for "Saulute" Lithuanian Orphan Aid will be held on Sunday, November 9th, at 12:30 PM, at the Lithuanian Museum of Art at the Lithuanian World Center. Pianist Edvinas Minkstimas will perform. All are invited to come and support the important work of our charity.
Event address: Lithuanian World Center, 14911 127th St., Lemont, IL

November 9

IL - Fashion Show
On Sunday, Novemer 9th, at 1 PM at the Palos Country Club, the Chicago Lithuanian Women's Club is hosting a Fashion Show.
Event address: Palos Country Club, 13100 Southwest Hwy, Orland Park, IL

November 22

IL - Fall Concert LT Opera
On Saturday, November 22nd, at 7 PM, the Lithuanian Opera Company invites all to a fall Concert at JC. After the concert there will be an evening banquet and dancing. All proceeds will go to support the production of our next opera.
Event address: Lithuanian Youth Center - JC, 5620 S. Claremont Ave., Chicago, IL

November 30

IL - Under an Angel's Wing Concert
On Sunday, November 30th, at 3 PM, at the BMV Nativity Parish Hall, there will be a concert "Under an Angel's Wing", aimed at supporting the parish. The concert will feature renowned pianist Ieva Jokubaviciute. The concert is being organized by the Rotary Club of Chicagoland Lithuanians. Tickets are available at the Old Vilnius cafe, Smilga, Lithuanian Plaza Deli, and at the offices of the Maironis and Chicago LT schools. One can also call 773-578-0182. Ticket price is \$25 in advance or \$30 at the door. During the concert, children ages 3 years and up will be supervised in the parish hall. They will be kept occupied by a drawing contest and various games. Please register in advance for this service at 773-578-0182. The price is \$5.
Event address: Nativity BVM Church, 6812 S. Washtenaw, Chicago, IL

WEST COAST CALIFORNIA, ARIZONA, COLORADO

October 4 and 5

CA-LA - Lithuanian Fair
On October 4th and 5th, Saturday and Sunday, beginning at 11 AM at St. Casimir's Church, the LA Lithuanians invite all to our annual Lithuanian Fair. Please come and enjoy Lithuanian culture, art, entertainment, refreshments and history. Each year new Lithuanian artisans working in various media are featured, including: folk art, weaving, oils, woods, ceramics and sculpture. Lithuanian fashion, books, music, stamps, coins, medals and souvenirs are available for purchase. All sorts of Lithuanian activities and pleasures can be found at the fair.
Contact: Vytautas Juskys, president@lithuanianfair.com
Event address: St. Casimir's Church LA, 2718 St. George St., Los Angeles, CA

November 8

CA*Sf - Fall Ball
On Saturday, November 8th, at the San Mateo Marriott, beginning at 6:30 PM; this year's biggest Lithuanian-American fall event is almost here. Join us for a magical evening including an unforgettable opportunity to see live ballroom dancing by Lithuanian Eglė Straleckaitė "Dancing with the Stars" finalist and her partner Nikolai Tarasov. Reception: 6:30 pm; Dinner: 8:00 pm; Dress code: 50's retro \$75 Individual ticket (\$100 after October 20th) \$140 Couple's ticket (\$200 after October 20th) Contact: lauratomdunn@gmail.com
Event address: Marriott San Mateo, 1770 South Amphlett Boulevard, San Mateo, CA

EAST COAST NEW YORK, BOSTON, WASHINGTON, DC, FLORIDA

October 4, Saturday

NY - Teachers' Day Long Island
On Saturday, October 4th, at 6 PM, will be an event to honor our LT school teachers. The East Long Island chapter of the Lithuanian American Community promises that this will be an interesting time for all, young and old, with no time to be bored. We'll play games, participate in question and answer contests, and do a lot of singing and dancing! The hostesses are rolling up their sleeves and invite all to try their cepelinai, kugelis, and, to keep everybody's lips from parching from all the singing we'll be doing, to try some Lithuanian beer. Hope to see everyone there! Rasa Mitruleviciene
Event address: John Wesley Village I, 1 Aldersgate, Riverhead, NY

October 5, Sunday

NY/NJ - Song Fest choir practice
We're organizing a NY/NJ choir to sing at the 10th North American Lithuanian Song Festival. All are invited, especially students. First practice will take place on

October 5th at 12 noon at the Elizabeth NJ parish hall. Please contact Birute Mockiene at 908-656-2550 or by email: mockiene@gmail.com. For more information about the 2015 NA LT Song Festival, see <http://www.dainusvente.org>. Event address: St. Peter & Paul Church NJ, 211 Ripley Pl., Elizabeth, NJ

October 5, Sunday

NY - National Foundation Charity Event
On Sunday, October 5th, at 3 PM, you are cordially invited to attend a Charity Event at the home of Dr. Nijole Brazenaite-Paronetto, to support the work of the Lithuanian National Foundation (dba Tautos Fonas, Inc.). Proceeds will go towards improving education at schools in Lithuania and towards scholarships for needy students. The musical program will be carried out by pianist Golda Vainberg-Tatz. After the concert refreshments will be served, and socializing with wine tasting. Donations: \$50, 100, or \$150. All donations are tax deductible. Those who cannot be present but who would like to support the Tautos Fondas, please send a check to the following address: Lithuanian National Foundation, Inc. (Tautos Fondas) 307 W 30th Street New York, NY 10001-2703. Please RSVP to: Debbie Pileikiene: (860) 668-6324 arba Aldonai Kulpiene: (516) 785-0170. Lithuanian National Foundation (Tautos Fondas) Board of Directors. Event address: Residence of Dr. N. Brazenaite-Paronetto, 65 Rockland Rd., Sparkill, NY

October 5, Sunday

NY - Jazz vocals
On Sunday, October 5th, at 8 PM, at the Shape Shifter Lab, a concert will take place featuring jazz vocalist ALDEGUNDA and Lithuania's "queen of the blues", ARINA, as well as composer/bass player Kestutis Stanciauskas, and composer / producer Gediminas Zujus. Admission price \$15.00. Part of the expenses of this concert tour is financed by the Lithuanian Foundation, Inc. Event address: Shape Shifter Lab, 18 Whitwell Pl, Brooklyn, NY

October 5, Sunday

FL - Palm Beach picnic
On Sunday, October 5th, at 12 noon, at Buttonwood Park in Lake Worth, FL, the Palm Beach Lithuanian Community invites all to a picnic marking the season opening of our Lithuanian school. Entry ticket price of \$12 for adults includes kugelis, sauerkraut, and a dessert table. Children entry is \$5 which includes pizza and juice. Wine, beer and mixed drinks will be available for purchase. Bringing one's own food is not allowed by the park. The musical program will be performed by "Dainele". The LT school opening will be on Sept. 6th at 11 AM. The school address is: 2929 South Seacrest Blvd. Boynton Beach, FL 33410. We need teachers! If you can help or for more info please contact: Ingrida Bridikyte at 954-993-4364. See you at the picnic! Palm Beach Lithuanian Community
Event address: Buttonwood Park, 5300 Lantana Rd., Lake Worth, FL

October 10-12

VT - Camp Neringa fundraiser and retreat
Friday - Sunday, October 10 - 12th, starting at 6 PM on Friday, the annual weekend retreat to support Camp Neringa will be held on the camp grounds. Event address: Camp Neringa, 147 Neringa Road, Brattleboro, VT

October 26

NJ - Folk theater for kids
On Sunday, October 26th, at 1:30 PM, at the St. Peter and Paul parish hall, the Elizabeth Lithuanian American Community is hosting the K. Glinskis Theater Group from Jurbarkas, that will put on a play for children (in Lithuanian): "Rimas pas Kestuti", written by B. Pukeleviciute. Before the play you will be able to partake of a hot lunch served with coffee and desserts. All proceeds will be used to benefit the parish operating expenses. For more information please call: 908-918-0441. Tickets for adults and children are \$10.00, children under 2 years of age admitted free. Event address: St. Peter & Paul Church NJ, 211 Ripley Pl., Elizabeth, NJ

OUR READERS WRITE

The Four Pillars of Marriage

RIMA SIDRYS

Take a close look at marriages that are strong, dynamic and long-lasting. They are based on solid principles, like the four legs of a solid table. When the “weight of life” comes down, this marriage has strong supports. It holds up. But if a table has even one weak support, it will tilt, and everything on the table will slide off. The table may topple over...

Put these principles to the test, before you get married. A missing or wobbly table leg is guaranteed to cause problems. Align your marriage supports before the weight of life: children, jobs, extended family, health issues, and the burdens of time and routine, is placed on the table. If your marriage table is wobbly, you will constantly be dealing with chronic problems. At worst, they may pull your marriage down.

Here is a test. Find couples that are truly happy, and have been married at least 20 years. Find a family that is flourishing, dynamic, full of purpose and joy. See if each of the following four supports are in place in their married life. Then find couples who are miserable, strained, perhaps on the verge of divorce. I think you will find one or more of these pillars is missing.

If couples do not reconcile important differences in the following four areas before marriage, it will be much harder for them to reconcile after marriage, after they have made a COMMITMENT to love and be married to each other for life, “for better or for worse”. After the vows, they must then make do even with the “worse.” Before marriage, there is, hopefully, that great desire to know the beloved, to discuss issues and to resolve possible problems. The be-

trothed are ready to open up their hearts to each other in a special way and to make changes.

FAITH: Do both share the same or similar religious faith, same moral values, same outlook on life, common ideals, same vision of where their marriage and family life is headed? Do both of you want to live virtuous lives, or is someone living a life of excuses? Are you both mature enough to be able to give yourself as a “gift” to the other? Do you attend Sunday Mass regularly? Are you pro-life?

FAMILY & FRIENDS: Is there a similar upbringing, culture, level of education, ethnicity, support? Are there many divorces in the family? Do you like each other’s family and friends? Can you become good friends with them? Have you identified the differences in strongly held personal opinions, and how to deal with that? Is there a sense of humor?

FITNESS: Are you both physically healthy? What is the level of physical and emotional health, strength and grit, commitment to regular exercise? Are there unhealthy habits or obsessions, addictions of any kind: drugs, drinking, pornography, gambling, excessive smoking, workaholism, sports, video gaming, hanging out with the buddies? If there are, has there been any progress in controlling and resolving the addiction?

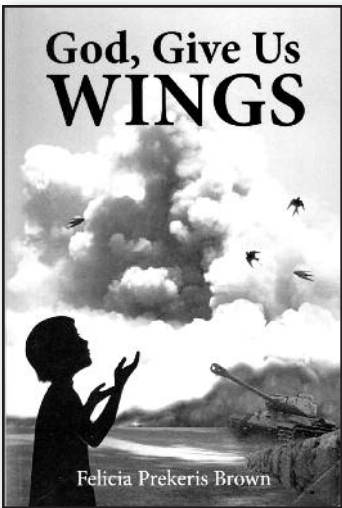
Rima Sidrys, together with her husband, Draugas News columnist Dr. Linas Sidrys, conduct Marriage Preparation classes at Nativity BVM parish in Chicago and provide seminars on maintaining a good marriage throughout the Chicago metropolitan area.

A remarkable story of survival
God, Give Us Wings

Felicia Prekeris Brown gives a riveting account of how she and her family fled their war-torn Lithuanian homeland to save their lives.

Readers’ reactions:

“A study in the indomitable human spirit”
“A must-read for any age!”
“Should be required reading in all world history classes”
“Beautifully written, incredibly detailed, historically fascinating, an AMAZING book.”



Just \$13.00 per book Please add shipping and handling charges: \$5.00 for the first book ordered and \$2.50 for each additional book. IL residents must add 9.25% sales tax.
Available at Draugas 4545 W 63rd Street, Chicago, IL 60629

Wondering about your Estate Plan?

Remember the Draugas Foundation and Assure the Future of Our Lithuanian American Press

With the surge of the internet, many newspapers are downsizing or ceasing publication altogether. The one exception is the ethnic press, which continues to serve its community and in some cases has the altogether audacity to start new ventures as we have with the Draugas News. The production of quality publications is fraught with financial challenges – rising postal rates for ever-slower and unreliable service, increasing production costs, and the need to update computers and software.

Since 1992, the Draugas Foundation has served to sustain the Lithuanian language Draugas, and now comes to the aid of the Draugas News as well. Conceived by Rev. Viktoras Rimšelis, MIC, the Draugas Foundation was generously supported by Lithuanian Americans from across the country. Over the years it has supported capital improvements, invested in printing hardware, computers, and, when times were especially rough, helped pay operating expenses. In other words, the Draugas Foundation is our lifeline and guarantor of the future of our unique publication.

In order for the Draugas Foundation to fulfill its mission, it needs your support and involvement. Currently its capital account is some 600 thousand dollars. Given our current economy, it is a nominal amount. One or two large legacy gifts would greatly enhance the capital balance of the Draugas Foundation and ensure publication of both newspapers for many years to come. Please consider us as you plan your affairs.

Please consider:

- Bequests by will or trusts
- Life income gifts
- Charitable gift annuities
- Charitable remainder annuity trusts
- Charitable remainder unitrusts
- Lead trusts
- Gifts of retirement assets
- Gifts of life insurance

Any charitable gift to the Foundation, regardless of its size is greatly appreciated. Gifts to the Draugas Foundation are fully tax deductible.

If you have already chosen to remember the Foundation in your will, please let us know so we can acknowledge your foresight and commitment.

Maria Remienė
President
Draugas Foundation

The Draugas Foundation is a 501(c)3 charity (EIN 36-3916303)

Draugas Foundation
4545 W 63rd Street,
Chicago, IL 60629



Russian SU-27 Flanker with RAF Typhoon MOD 45157730



Senior Airman Yazmine Esquivel, 48th Air Expeditionary Group maintenance supply journeyman, passes out toys to children at the Šiauliai Babies' Orphanage . Airmen volunteered during the NATO Baltic Air Policing mission to give back to the host community. Photo: U.S. Air Force by Airman 1st Class Dana J. Butler

RAF putting their skills to good use

NOT JUST POLICING LITHUANIA'S AIRSPACE

Since March 2004, when the Baltic countries joined NATO, its airspace has been guarded 24 hours a day and 365 days a year. The 24/7 task of policing the airspace of Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia is conducted on a three-month rotation from Lithuania's First Air Base in Zokniai/ Šiauliai International Airport, by various NATO member states. Usual deployments consist of four fighter aircraft with between 50 and 100 support personnel.

The Royal Air Force just completed their tour of duty in Lithuania, but left behind a peaceful legacy: UK forces created a fun and stimulating place to play for Lithuania's orphans.

Members of 135 EAW, who were operating out of the Šiauliai Air Base used their skills and labor in their free time to create the facility featuring a ball pool for children. They also completed a project to replace the roof and flooring of a sun shelter. The project started when personnel wanted to donate money raised from collecting plastic water bottles to a good cause. They heard about the Šiaulių kūdikių namai (Šiauliai Babies' Orphanage), which houses children whose parents are unable to look after

them for reasons ranging from extreme financial hardship to substance abuse.

A visit to the orphanage revealed the poor condition of a sun shelter, so the volunteers put the skills of the Army's Royal Engineers to good use. Materials for the construction were funded through various activities including fitness challenges, a long distance run, bacon sale and even sales of bracelets and keyrings made from paracord.

Flt. Lt. Sarah Alderton, who usually serves as an Operations Officer at RAF Leeming, said "It was great to see the whole DOB pulling together for such a brilliant cause – everyone got involved in helping raise the money initially and then making the project happen on site. Due to everyone's efforts we smashed our original fundraising targets!"

The team raised so much money that the shelter was refitted with a brand new roof, and a floor customized to contain several smaller play areas – all completed under the supervision of the Royal Engineers. Wing Com-

mander Simon Hulme, Commanding Officer 135 EAW said "I'm really pleased that my team have taken it upon themselves to use their spare time to put something back into the community that has supported us so well during our stay here in Šiauliai."



RAF fighter pilots at the Šiauliai Babies' Orphanage.

We welcome your contributions!

The Draugas News welcomes your articles, stories, photographs, short fiction, Letters to the Editor, and submissions to the Calendar of Events.

Please write to:
DRAUGAS NEWS
4545 W 63rd Street, Chicago, IL 60629
or email to: Draugasnews@gmail.com

For the most up-to-date Lithuanian events, check out the new *Draugas News* Online Calendar at

<http://draugokalendorius.org>

You'll be amazed at how much is happening in your community and elsewhere around the US. Follow the simple instructions and you can enter your own organization's events for everyone to read. The *Draugas News* Online Calendar is available in English and in Lithuanian.



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