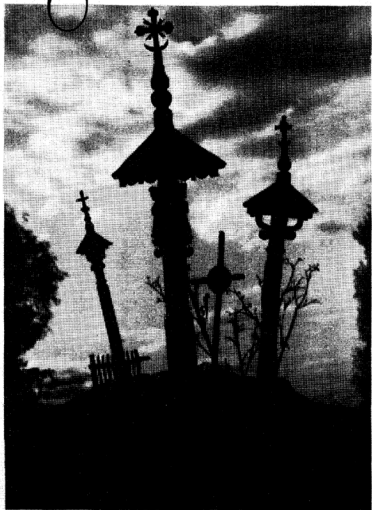


# bridges



*Kryžiai*

june 2006

LITHUANIAN AMERICAN NEWS JOURNAL

## BRIDGES

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\*Cover: This art work is a Photo by B. Buracas, printed in Lithuania by "Spindulys" as a Post Card before World War II. Looking at this post card, you can see the foresight of the future, the dark days for Lithuania. Mailed from Kaunas on July 25, 1940 by Levonas Peczukewicz (Seminarian Peck) to his brother in Philadelphia, PA. Received on September 18, 1940.

# ROYAL PALACE RESTORATION COMMITTEE FOR U.S.A

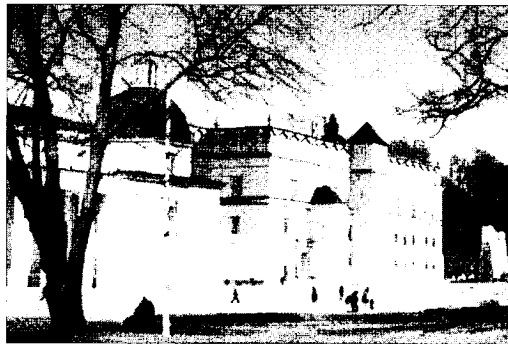
The Royal Palace Restoration Committee for U.S.A. was formed in mid summer 2003. The Committee is an affiliate of the Royal Palace Restoration Foundation in Vilnius, Lithuania. The mission of the Committee is to educate the Lithuanian Americans regarding the history and greatness of the Royal Palace in Vilnius and to raise funds to aid in the restoration and the furnishing of the Palace.

The Royal Palace ground breaking ceremonies took place in Vilnius on May 10, 2002. The reconstruction work has been proceeding carefully and expeditiously. The construction of the large south wing is now almost completed. It is expected that the stucco overlay of the exterior walls of the south wing of the Royal Palace will be done this summer. The west wing, which borders the back of the Cathedral, is also well along to being completed. The east wing will incorporate the still standing building walls of the old Palace. The north wing, which will house the large hall for theatrical and concert presentations, will be the last to be constructed, because of the need to have access to the courtyard. It is planned that a visitor reception center, including a cloakroom, souvenir shop and auditorium will be located under the interior courtyard of the Royal Palace, where visitors will also be able to see original parts of the Palace basement.

The interior work began in the east wing last year. The impressive gothic arches in four of the halls on the first and second floors have been completed. Plans are under way to determine the interior details of the Palace. Historians and archeologists are continuing to research from the archeological artifacts recovered at the Palace site what kind of window, door, ceiling, floor and fireplace styles were in each Palace area in order to duplicate them as much as possible.

It is expected that the construction of the Royal Palace building will be completed in 2008, whereupon the interior work will commence. The Palace is scheduled to be totally completed and opened to the public on July 6, 2009, in time for Lithuania's millennium celebration.

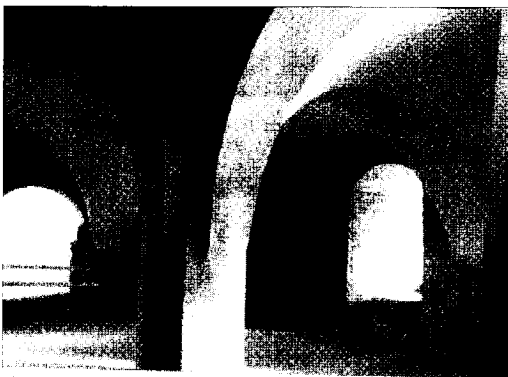
The Royal Palace Restoration U.S. Committee has prepared projects for the Lithuanian Saturday morning schools; written in the Lithuanian press, including "Bridges", about the history



The south wing of the Palace on which the stucco will be applied this summer.



Construction site from Gedimino Hill.



Gothic arches on the first floor of the east wing.

and occupants of the Palace and work of the U.S. Committee and the Lithuanian Foundation in Vilnius; has prepared and handed out flyers about the Royal Palace and distributed them at various Lithuanian events; and has secured some advertising. The U.S. Committee has formed a subcommittee to prepare a plan for a Lithuanian American hall in the Royal Palace, with which it is hoped to persuade the Lithuanian government to allow Lithuanian Americans to show to the world their contribution to the statehood of Lithuania. Such a plan has been created and published in the Lithuanian daily "Draugas" and the weekly newspaper "Amerikos Lietuvis". It is this Committee's hope to present the contributions of all three Lithuanian immigrant waves, Czars time, soviet times and present times.

Needless to say, the U.S. Committee has worked hard to raise funds. As of December 30, 2005, the Committee has in its treasury the sum of \$139,592.00. All of the funds are held here in the United States on deposit at a bank or invested in Certificates of Deposit. The only funds the Committee has spent so far have been for stationary, postage stamps, expenses in connection with bank and investment expenditures and an advertisement in the "Song Festival" program in Chicago on July 2, 2006. Most expenses, particularly such as for travel and tele- paid personally by the Committee members.

phone calls, have been

Last fall the U.S. Committee was advised that a Lithuanian American named Ona White of Florida had died and left her entire estate to the Royal Palace Restoration Committee for the U.S. A. Her estate is now in probate in Florida. It is hoped that distribution of Ona's estate to the U.S. Committee will be made by the summer of this year. These additional funds will be a good beginning to furnishing a Royal Palace hall in the name of the Lithuanian Americans.

Persons desiring to make a donation for the restoration of the Royal Palace, may do so by making out a check payable to the Lithuanian American Community. "Valdovu Rumu" account

# With a Song in His Heart

Audrius Polikaitis is the Chairman of the Eighth Lithuanian Song Festival. Audrius grew up and currently resides in the Chicago area where he has been an active member of the Lithuanian community since his early years. Audrius has organized numerous summer camps, seminars, and retreats for the high school group of the "Ateitis" Catholic Youth Association, has served on the Board of Directors for "Ateitis", as well as currently serves on the Board of Directors for Camp Dainava. He is a member of the Dainava Choir in Chicago as well as the Dainava Men's Ensemble. Formerly, he was a dancer and musician in the Grandis Folk Dancing Ensemble.

Audrius has a PhD in electrical engineering having performed research in the automated analysis of cardiac signals. Currently, Audrius is employed at the University of Illinois Medical Center in Chicago directing the Project Management Office of the Information Services organization.



Audrius Polikaitis, Chairman of the Eighth Lithuanian Song Festival.

## The Ellis Island Oral History Program

The Ellis Island Oral History Program is a 25 year old project that records the memories of people who came to the US through Ellis Island in the years it was the premier federal immigration processing center from 1892-1954. It also interviews people who worked for the various federal agencies that functioned on the island as well as the US Coast Guard and Army, which had a presence on both Liberty and Ellis Islands over the years.

The Program would be interested in interviewing people from Lithuania and other Baltic Republics about their lives in the old country, the trip to America and their becoming Americans, adjusting to a new language, culture and, in many cases, a new political system. We are also interested in how

the immigrants kept up with their roots in the old country by celebrating their religion, home culture and family traditions.

Interviewees can be of any age when they entered the US. We have interviewed people who were just babies when they entered. In cases like this we talk about things the child may have heard growing up and their personal stories of having one foot in the old country and one in the new, so to speak.

*Kevin Daley*

### Transfiguration Parish Bulletin:

*Kevin Daley, an official with the National Park Service at Ellis Island, wants desperately to interview Lithuanian people who came to the US via Ellis Island. His archive has a BIG gap where the words of Lithuanian immigrants belong. Can you help? Do you know someone whose memories should be preserved for posterity?*

Contact him at 212-363-3206 x152 or  
by e-mail at [Kevin\\_daley@nps.gov](mailto:Kevin_daley@nps.gov).

*Sources: Transfiguration Parish Bulletin and Kevin Daley*

### ROYAL PALACE

and sending it addressed to the Lithuanian American Community, Valdovu Rumai, at 5600 Claremont Ave. Chicago, Illinois 60636. The donation is tax deductible. Our Committee treasurer, Gediminas Damasius will send each donor a receipt for the donation and in time the Royal Palace Restoration Foundation in Lithuania will post the donor's name and gift on its web-site, which is [www.lvr.lt](http://www.lvr.lt). For every gift of \$380.00 the donor will

receive a testimonial certificate as Builder from the Royal Palace Restoration Foundation in Lithuania, however any donation is welcome.

*Regina F. Narusis, J.D.,  
Chairman of the Royal Palace  
Restoration Committee for the U.S.A.*

*Regina Narusis is Chairman of the National Executive Board of Directors of the Lithuanian American Community, Inc. and former President of the National Executive Board of LAC. She is an attorney at law.*

bridges

### New Subscription Prices

*Bridges has held the line on subscription rates for the past fourteen years. During that time both printing costs and postage have increased several times.*

*As of JUNE 1, 2006 the cost of a subscription will increase by \$2. The new rate will be \$20 per year for domestic mail. Subscriptions to other addresses will be \$30 per year.*

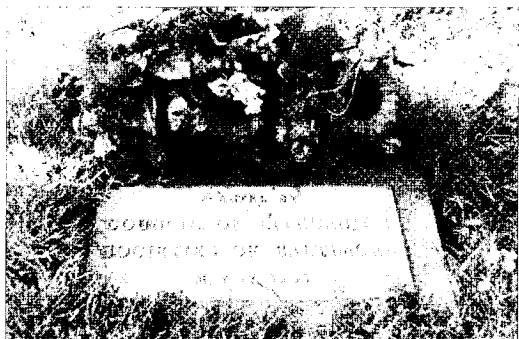
# Tragic June - 2005

June is the month of mass deportations which subsequently would lead to hundreds of thousands of Lithuanians being deported to Siberia. Below are examples of how communities in two cities commemorated this event.

## Annapolis, MD

June 14th, the Black Day of our Nation, A Remembrance Day, was held at the Lithuanian Oak in Annapolis, MD.

A group of Lithuanians from the Baltimore area met a group of the Washington Lithuanian Embassy representatives to lay a bouquet of flowers at the foot of a "Lietuviskas" oak which was planted by the Council of Lithuanian Societies of Baltimore on May 17, 1936, on the grounds of the state house in Annapolis, MD. This was done to commemorate the 1940 June 14th deportations of Lithuanians by the Soviets to Siberia.



Marker donated by Council of Lithuanian Societies of Baltimore on May 17, 1936.



Parishioners and friends of St. Joseph's Lithuanian Church, Waterbury, CT, pay homage. From left: flag bearer Albinas Zelvis, center Eugenija Fedosejeva-Misevicius and flag bearer Leonas Savickas is on the right. Both men are members of the Lithuanian American Community of Waterbury, CT. Photo by Laurynas Misevicius



The beautiful Lithuanian Oak stands proudly on the grounds of the State House in Annapolis. The Lithuanian Oak now commemorates the deportees.

## Waterbury, CT

Parishioners and friends of St. Joseph's Lithuanian Church, Waterbury, CT celebrated Mass and paid homage to the thousands of Lithuanian people who were torn from their homeland and sent to live in exile in Siberia.

The program was organized by the Waterbury Chapter of the Lithuanian American Community in conjunction with Lithuanian American Roman Catholic Women's Alliance.

Submitted by Laurynas Misevicius

### TRIVIA QUESTION

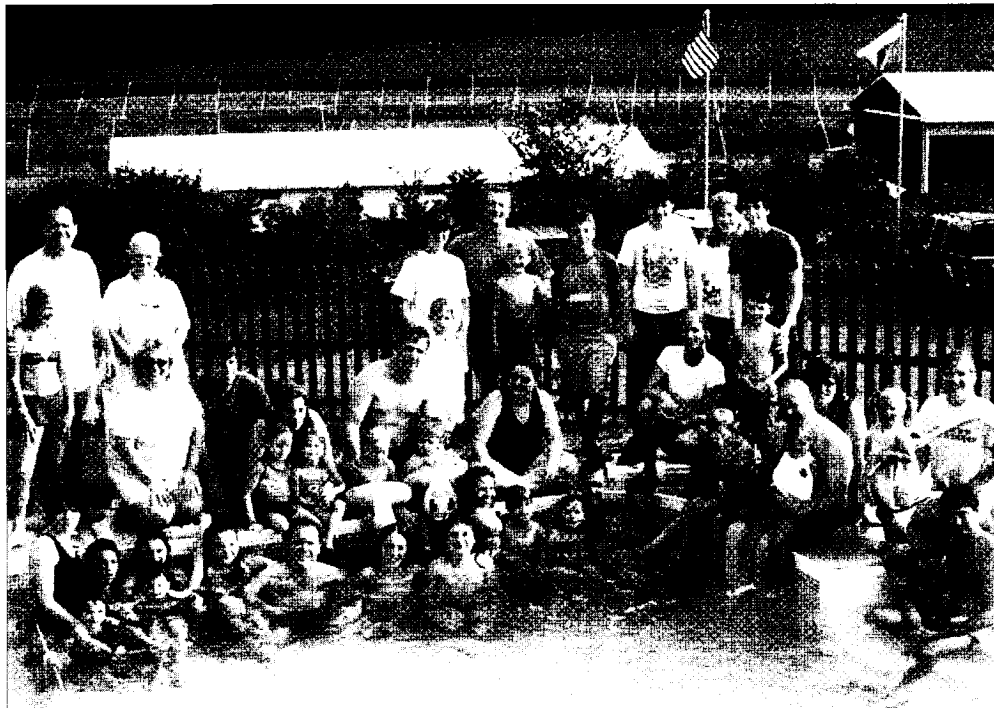
(No. 4)

In the early Lithuanian religion (before Christianity), who was known as the god of the underworld and protector of the dead?

(a) Bangpūtys (b) Vėjopatis (c) Velnias

Answer to Trivia Quiz  
on page 18

## "Families at the 2005 Lithuanian Adoption Picnic."



"Families at the 2005 Lithuanian Adoption Picnic."

## 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Lithuanian Adoption Picnic!

This summer, we will be holding the third annual reunion picnic for families who have adopted children from Lithuania, are thinking of adopting or are in the planning stages. Come meet other adoptive families, make new friends and enjoy a beautiful weekend in Central Pennsylvania!

The picnic will take place at a farm owned by one of the adoptive families in Mill Hall, PA on Saturday, August 5, 2005.

For further information, please contact:

Gina Pollock (717) 399-9288  
rmprrp@yahoo.com,  
James Tomalonis  
cedar@suscom.net,  
Ruta Skucas (301) 987-0322  
RutaKS@aol.com.

## Answer to Trivia Quiz

TRIVIA QUESTION ARE ON PAGE 17

In the book, OF GODS & HOLIDAYS, edited by Jonas Trinkunas, he wrote:

"In early Lithuanian and Latvian religion, Vėliaris is the god of the underworld and protector of the dead. In historical sources he is also associated with agriculture, hunting, trade and crafts. Sometimes he acts as protector of righteousness. But not infrequent are cases when Vėliaris harms people in various ways - he mocks them, misleads and pesters them, makes attempt on their lives, tempts them to commit sin, enters into their souls and tries to seduce them.

The root of the name Vėliaris, that is Vel-, is the same as Vėlė, the spirit of the departed. Vėliaris is the most popular god in Lithuanian folklore.

The partial transformation of Vėliaris to the antipode of God, that is, to the Devil or Satan, took place after the introduction of Christianity".

By the way: (b) Bangpūtys - Lithuanian and Prussian god of winds (kin to Vėjopatis)

(c) Vėjopatis - Lithuanian god of wind

*Submitted by Edward Shakalis  
Edward Shakalis is a retired Electrical Engineer and  
a ham radio operator. He enjoys playing golf.*

## SPORTS

### Graham Wicas, Epee Fencing World Champion

Congratulations to Graham Wicas who won the Cadet Men's Epee (age 17 and under). This is the first time a U.S. man has won an epee World Championships in any age group.

Graham is sixteen years old and is a junior at the Shipley School in Bryn Mawr, PA.

U.S. cadet fencers won both of the day's gold medals plus silver & bronze at the 2006 Junior & Cadet World Championships in South Korea.

# The Lithuanian Partisan War

1944-1960's(?)

For some, watching a foreign hoard calling itself an army enter their homeland, rape their women, murder their community leaders, and destroy their property — for some, a feeling stirs that could only be satisfied by clutching a gun, raising it to the heavens and crying out a solemn vow “Over my dead body!” Such were the feelings that rose in the hearts of many Lithuanian men and women when the Russians again reoccupied Lithuania in 1944.

Having already experienced Russian bestiality during their first occupation 1940-1941 and having resisted German enslavement 1941-1944, Lithuanian men and women were more than willing to fight for a free and an independent Lithuania. However, Lithuanians were not the only ones who knew of Russian barbarity and blood lust. Ukrainians, Byelorussians, Latvians and Estonians also experienced Russian blood baths, but it was only the Ukrainians and the Lithuanians who had the resources to mount and sustain an effective Partisan War against the Russians.

While WWII was still in progress, some American and British leaders felt that once the Nazis were defeated the Russian communists would have to be dealt with in short order. Even some Nazi generals thought that Hitler should be deposed, that peace be made with the British and the Americans and that a united war against the Russian communists be undertaken. It was in such a political climate that Lithuanian men and women took up arms against the Russians. And for every Lithuanian partisan who took up arms, at least ten other Lithuanians remained in civilian life providing the partisans with food, shelter, intelligence and acted as couriers between partisan units. Lithuanian partisans eliminated communist operatives and disrupted Russian pillaging and the abuse of farmers and villagers. They raided communist jails and party offices freeing political prisoners and destroying hit-lists of Lithuanians selected for arrest, torture and deportation.

Lithuanian partisans had every hope for a timely end to this Russian occupation. ‘Voice of America’ and ‘BBC’ broadcasts urged the partisans to continue their struggle. American and British intelligence services trained some of the partisans and parachuted them back into Lithuania. L. Beria, Chief of the Russian Secret Service, in his May 8, 1953 top secret report says that between 1949 and early 1953, the Americans and British had made 13 parachute drops of partisans back into Lithuania. Finding similar Russian reports of the partisan situation in Latvia, Estonia, Byelorussia and Ukraine would be most valuable. War finally did come between the West and communists in the form of the Korean War. It is possible/probable that Stalin instigated this war to preoccupy the West and deflect their attention from the cries for freedom from the peoples of Eastern Europe and their Partisan Wars.

But no matter how outrageous the Russian bestiality was that drove so many Lithuanians to seek vengeance by joining the partisans, and no matter how morally justified these Lithuanians felt, they innately knew that a higher social structure than the individual's

own feelings had to be served - they understood that vigilante action would be of limited value in the long run. Consequently, the Lithuanian partisans quickly organized themselves into a military command structures with former Lithuanian military officers assuming leadership responsibilities. They defined their areas of operation. There were three Districts (*Litb. pl.* Sritis) each having its own autonomous central command headquarters. Each District was further subdivided into Departments (*Litb. pl.* Apygardos) and in each Department, a number of Detachments (*Litb. pl.* Rinktinės) operated. Lithuanian partisans began to organize themselves as early as 1945. Still, a need for a centralized unified command and co-ordination structure was sought. Simultaneously, a number of efforts were initiated.

Jonas Degsnys, an anti-Nazi activist during the German occupation, retreated to Sweden at the start of the second Russian occupation and appointed himself liaison with the West for all anti-Russian resistance in Lithuania. Most unfortunately, during one of his clandestine trips back into Lithuania he was captured by the Russians and compromised\*. He was permitted to return to Sweden and acted as a double agent simultaneously for Lithuanian partisans, Russian, Swedish, British and American intelligence services. How much good and how much damage he did for the partisan cause is still being assessed. Concurrently, University of Vilnius anatomy professor Juozas Albinas Markulis (Ažuolas, Ereliš) appointed himself central coordinator for the unification of the partisan movement in Lithuania. In fact, Markulis was working for the Russians. Markulis's many betrayals caused great harm to the partisans of eastern Lithuania. Fortunately, the partisans quickly unmasked his treachery and the Russians had to hide Markulis in St. Petersburg (Leningrad) to protect him from the partisans.

At the same time, former Lithuanian Army Artillery Captain Jonas Žemaitis (Vytautas) began organizing partisans in western Lithuania. The result of his work was a Congress of partisan commanders convened on February 2, 1949 in the Radviliškis District where a provisional government was formed. Jonas Žemaitis (Vytautas) was elected Chairman of the Congress and elevated to the rank of General. Adolfas Ramanauskas (Vanagas) was elected First Deputy and promoted to the rank of Colonel. Juozas Šibaila (Merainis) was elected Second Deputy and also promoted to the rank of Colonel. Leonas Grigonis (Užpalis) was elected Third Deputy and was promoted to the rank of Major. Petras Bartkus (Žadgaila) was elected Secretary of the Presidium and promoted to the rank of Major. Vytautas Šniuolis (Svajūnas) was elected Chief of Publicity and was promoted to rank of Captain. Antanas Liesis (Žiedas) was elected Chief of the Civilian Political Section and was promoted to the rank of Captain. Viktoras Šniuolis (Vytytis) was elected adjutant to Juozas Šibailis (Merainis) and promoted to rank of Senior Lieutenant. The Congress laid down and documented a unified Code of Conduct for all partisans in Lithuania and the partisan movement was given the name ‘Lietuvos Laisvės Kovos Sąjūdis (LLKS)’ - ‘Union of Lithuanian Freedom Fighters’. Finally on February 16, 1949 a Declaration of Independence was issued stipulating that the Partisan Congress and the LLKS are the only legitimate inheritors of the Government of the Republic of Lithuania and that until a freely elected legislature of Lithuania is

seated, the Chairman of the LLKS Congress is the Provisional President of the Republic of Lithuania and his staff will assume the various governmental posts.

Though the Lithuanian emigres in the west were attempting to set up a provisional Lithuanian government in exile, Lithuanian partisans successfully convinced the emigre activists to recognise the partisan provisional government as the only Lithuanian 'government in exile'. The political shrewdness of the partisans is clear. It becomes much harder for the Russians to slander the partisan movement by claiming that it is directed from abroad if the 'government in exile' is in-country and the Partisan War is indeed a 'peoples' movement.

Meanwhile, the elected President of the Partisan Congress and head of the Lithuanian Provisional Government, General Jonas Žemaitis successfully commanded the partisan movement till 1951 when he was wounded and partially paralyzed. Žemaitis was forced to relinquish his command responsibilities to Colonel Adolfas Ramanauskas. Although Colonel Ramanauskas in 1952 ordered the cessation of an armed resistance in favor of passive resistance, to what degree this order was disseminated is not known. Colonel Ramanauskas and many partisans could not, or would not, return to civilian life. Ramanauskas remained in hiding till 1956 when he was captured, tortured and murdered. Many partisans continued fighting on as long as they could get the support from the Lithuanian population.



*Partisan award ceremony, Dainava Department. Partisan Colonel Adolfas Ramanauskas (Vanagas) is standing next to the table with his back toward the camera.*



*Photograph taken October 3, 1950, after Juozas Lukša with two other partisans were parachuted back into Lithuania. From left to right: Juozas Lukša (Skirmantas, Skrajūnas, Daumantas), V. Vitkauskas (Saidokas), P. Naujokas (Kietis) and the other two partisans who returned to Lithuania with Juozas Lukša, B. Trumpys (Rytis) and K. Širvyys (Sakalas).*



*Partisan General Jonas Žemaitis Partisan Colonel Adolfas (Vytautas), Chairman of the Ramanauskas (Vanagas), First Partisan Congress convened in Deputy of the Provisional February 1949. President of the Lithuanian Government 1949-Provisional Lithuanian Government 1956. Commander-in-Chief of and Commander-in-Chief of Lithuanian partisans 1951-1956 Lithuanian partisans 1949-1951.*

As already alluded to above, an integral aspect of the Lithuanian Partisan movement and the formation a centralized command structure were the continuing contacts with the West across the Iron Curtain. Since contacts with the West did produce real military aid, Juozas Luška (Skirmantas, Skrajūnas, Daumantas) crossed the Iron Curtain a second time in 1948 and traveled to Sweden, Germany and France to meet with members of the pre-war Lithuanian diplomatic corps stranded abroad, Jonas Degsnys as well as with Swedish, American, British and French intelligence officers desperately asking them for military assistance. Lithuanian

partisans distrusted the British intelligence service. Later, their suspicions proved correct in the person of Kim Philby and his gang. Luška also sent a message to the Pope to inform him of the Partisan War. During his second crossing of the Iron Curtain, Luška stayed in the west for two years during which time he documented the partisan struggle in his book 'Partizanai' and married Nijole Bražėnaitė. 'Partizanai' was translated into English under the title 'Fighters for Freedom, Lithuanian Partisans against the Soviet Union'. Extracts of his accounts were also published under the title 'Guerrilla Warfare on the Amber Coast'. All three books have appeared on e-bay. The partisans left a good record of their war, and now with Lithuania again free, many books about them are being published in Lithuanian as well as in English.

Meanwhile, after spending two years in a bunker and having partially recovered from his wounds, General Jonas Žemaitis in 1953 tried to resume command and make contacts with the leaders of the various partisan departments. But once contact with the outside was attempted, he was betrayed\*, captured and tortured. Not able to extract information from him, the Russians took General Žemaitis to Moscow for additional torture and interrogation. Not being any more successful in Moscow, the Russians shot General

Žemaitis in 1954 at Butyrk Prison. In view of General Žemaitis's capture in 1953 and Colonel Ramanauskas's order to cease armed resistance, most Lithuanians consider 1953 to be the end of the Partisan War. However, the Genocide and Resistance Research Institute of Lithuania is studying all material that is available related to the Lithuanian Partisan War. It is possible that a later date for the end of the Partisan War will be determined. On reading personal accounts of partisans, but especially L. Beria's May 8, 1953 Top Secret report, it seems that a 1953 date for the end of the Lithuanian Partisan War is premature. Further, since the start of the Partisan War is taken to be when Lithuanians took up arms against the Russians, not when the first groups of partisans organised themselves, it follows that the end of the struggle should be considered when the last partisan hid his machine gun for future use, and not when the formal unified command structure became ineffective.

The Lithuanian Partisan War is but another example of Lithuanians taking on a seemingly invincible aggressor. The first was the Teutonic Order, the greatest military power in medieval Europe. After 200 years of genocide against the Prussian, Lithuanian, Latvian and Estonian peoples, the Teutonic Order was soundly defeated militarily during the 1410 Battle of Tannenberg and politically broken during the 1414-1417 Church Council of Constance and with the 1420 Treaty of Melno. Later, Lithuanians revolted in 1831 and again in 1860 against their Czarist occupiers. In the 20th century, Lithuanians were the first people oppressed by the Czarist Empire to declare their independence after WWI. Later during WWII, Lithuanians formed a provisional government and chased the Russians out just as the Germans attacked in 1941. Thus, the Germans found Lithuania in Lithuanian hands, not in Russian hands, when they started their second front in the east. Though the Nazi Germans disbanded the Lithuanian Provisional Government and subjected Lithuania to martial law, Lithuanians were not

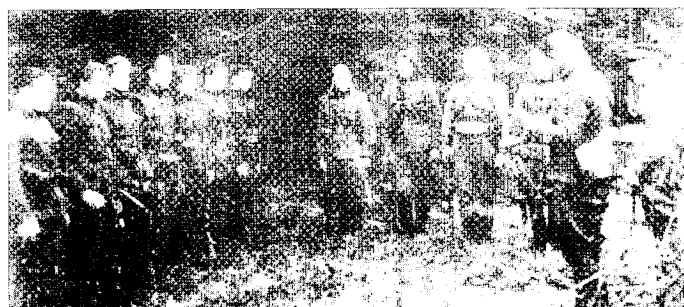


*Squad of partisans commanded by Juozas. Gegužis (Diemedis), standing in the center. Šarūnas Detachment, Dainava Department, later Juozas Gegužis (Diemedis) will command all of the Dainava Department.*

intimidated and categorically refused to form a Waffen SS Legion for the Nazis. And in 1990, Lithuania pulled out of the Soviet Union months before any other captive nation did. To this day the Russians blame the Lithuanians for breaking up their Soviet Union. Yes, Lithuanians are forever taking on seemingly undefeatable oppressors regardless of the consequences!

With the US having repaid Russia for defeating Hitler, Russia had no choice but to live up its side of the agreement, Russia had to let its captive nations go free! As a result, Lithuania is once more free.

The government of the current Lithuanian Republic has formally promoted Partisan General Jonas Žemaitis posthumously to the rank of General and a Lithuanian military college has been named in his honor. A high school has been named in honor of Juozas Lukša. Many partisans are being awarded



*Orders of the day being read to partisans of the Maironis detail, Prisikelimo (Resurrection) Department under the command of Juozas Paliūnas (Rytas), first from the right. Later Juozas Paliūnas (Rytas) became the commander of all of the Prisikelimo (Resurrection) Department partisans.*

posthumously the Cross of Vytiis, the highest Lithuanian military decoration for combat valor. Monuments to partisans are going up all over Lithuania. The partisans were the Lithuanian people's heroes against Russian criminality, colonialism and genocide then, and partisans are the heroes of the Lithuanian people now! Their names and memories of their deeds will live forever in Lithuanian hearts!

\* The methods Russians used to compromise people and produce collaborators need to be studied and documented not only for their own historic value but also as studies into individual and collective pathological/sadistic/criminal aspects of human psychology.

*Aleksandras Radžius*

*Aleksandras Radžius is Director of The Knight, the official publication of the Lithuanian Numismatic Association. He is also the founder of the Lithuanian Partisans Living History Group and is a member of the 1812 Living History Group of Fort McHenry.*



*A platoon of partisans led by Jonas Stoškus (Eimutis), seated second from the left.*

# Lithuania Rejected for Euro Monetary Conversion

Excerpts from M & C News from Google Alerts:

Lithuania has been rejected on the grounds that consumer prices in the small Baltic state have overshot the strict inflation target for nations seeking to join the euro.

But while the ECB stepped back from making a formal recommendation on euro membership, the Commission was more forthcoming.

EU monetary affairs chief Joaquin Almunia said Lithuania's high

inflation rate meant it could not enter the eurozone next January.

Lithuania's bid to join the eurozone made in March this year could not have a 'positive' answer, Almunia told reporters, adding: 'We consider all criteria have not been fulfilled.'

The real impact of rejection, however, might be felt by the Lithuanian Government in Vilnius.

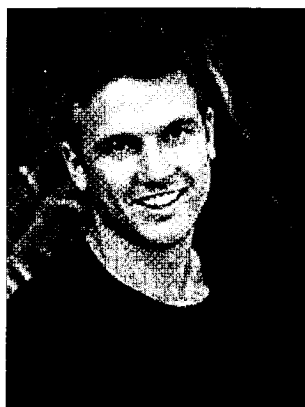
'The political effects could be more of a problem than the economic ones,' said Vidmantas Saferis, head of

economic research at Hansabank Lithuania. 'The government has claimed it is expecting the introduction of the euro.'

While the ECB acknowledged that Lithuania's deficit and debt ratios fell within the fiscal parameters for euro membership, Lithuania's inflation averaged 2.7 per cent during the 12th-month review period. This is just a tad above the 2.6 per cent benchmark rate used by both commission and the ECB.

## Aras Baskauskas, Santa Monica, California, is the latest winner of the CBS television series "Survivor".

Aras was selected by  
a jury of his peers and won the  
\$1 million prize.



Aras Baskauskas Winner of  
CBS Television's Survivor  
05/14/06

New 'Survivor' Castaways:

Excerpts from the official  
CBS website:

Aras is a former professional basketball player, having played briefly in Lithuania. After leaving the court he moved to Capetown, South Africa where he opened a donation based yoga studio.

He completed his undergraduate studies in three years and he has an MBA from UC Irvine Graduate School of Management. In 2003 he was named UC Irvine's Most Eligible Bachelor. He is a yoga instructor in Santa Monica, CA and his hobbies/interests include meditation, golf and surfing. Aras believes he is outgoing, compassionate and genuine.

Aras is 6' 4" and is twenty four years old.



**Sunday, July 23rd**

at

**Immaculate Conception Convent**

600 Liberty Highway

**PUTNAM, Connecticut**

## **ANNUAL PICNIC**

### **Lithuanian Friendship Day**

**11:00** **Concelebrated Holy MASS**

- Main celebrant:

Monsignor Edmundas J. Putrimas

**12:00** **LUNCH, activities, sports**

**3:00** **PROGRAM by Neringa CAMPERS**

**4:00** **DRAWING of Gifts**

**Spent an enjoyable day with us -  
bring along your neighbors and friends!**