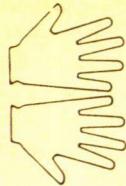


Lithuanian-American
Community
of U.S.A., Inc.



BRIDGES

BLP (LKA) 1195
1977-1978
Lithuanian-American
NEWSLETTER

P.O. Box 9061 Boston, MA 02114

VOL. I. No. 1

APRIL 1977

DEAR FRIENDS AND READERS:

Yes, it has finally come about — an English-language newsletter on Lithuanian topics and events. BRIDGES is dedicated to the goal of familiarizing Lithuanian-Americans, who have forgotten the native tongue or who have moved away from the old ethnic neighborhood, with up-to-date, condensed information about group activities, accomplishments of former neighbors and friends, and with timely tips about upcoming cultural events. A periodic focus will be made on conditions in Lithuania. Brief reviews about books in English about Lithuania and Lithuanian topics will be presented.

BRIDGES will strive to re-establish the link between the Lithuanian heritage and the uprooted, mobile Lithuanian-American. BRIDGES wishes to reach each and every Lithuanian-American, who is proud of his culture and who subscribes to the idea that Lithuania should become a free and independent nation again.

BRIDGES was conceived by the National Executive Board of the Lithuanian American Community of the U.S.A., Inc. (*Lietuvių Bendruomenė*) as a cultural service for the ethnic community of Lithuanian stock. It is not the intent of BRIDGES to compete with other excellent Lithuanian periodicals. Far from it. BRIDGES will serve as a supplementary informational source.

BRIDGES is ushered in under an auspicious occasion, namely, during the 50th anniversary of the demise of Dr. Jonas Basanavičius. This virtual patriarch of the Lithuanian National Renaissance reawakened a nation with his newspaper AUŠRA (THE DAWN). It is the purpose of BRIDGES to keep alive the ethnic heritage bequeathed to Lithuanians everywhere by Dr. Basanavičius.

The Editorial Board of BRIDGES

On January 8, 1977 representatives of the **Supreme Committee for Liberation of Lithuania** (VLIK) and the **Lithuanian American Community of the USA, Inc.** (JAV Lietuvių Bendruomenė) met in South Orange, N.J. to discuss means of improving **coordination of activities**. Topics discussed included violation of human rights in Lithuania, exploitation of Lithuanians in East Prussia (Kaliningrad Oblast') and the improvement of Lithuanian affairs information. Algimantas Gečys, Aušra Zerr, Rimas Česonis, Balys Raugas, Algimantas Gureckas, Juozas Gaila and Kazys Jankūnas represented the Lithuanian American Community during the conference. The Supreme Committee was represented by Dr. Bronius Nemickas, Jurgis Valaitis, Bronius Bieliukas, Antanas Sabalis, and Algis Vedeckas.

During 1976 **representatives** of the National Executive Board of the Lithuanian American Community (Lietuvių Bendruomenė) attended **conferences** and **symposia** sponsored by the following scientific, cultural and civic organizations: the National Institute of Education, Baltch Institute, the Polish American Congress, "Perspectives" Magazine and the American Hellenic Educational Association. Bendruomenė leaders also conferred with officials of the **Department of Defense** and the **U.S. State Department** about Lithuanian matters.

For the sixth year the Lithuanian American Community has published the exhaustive report "**Violation of**

Human Rights in Soviet Occupied Lithuania — A Report for 1976² on the occasion of Lithuanian Independence Day. This volume, edited by Prof. Thomas Remeikis, is based on dissident sources from Lithuania. It is distributed to members of the United Nations, members of the U.S. Congress, institutions of higher learning and religious leaders.

Tomas Venclova, born in 1937 and hailed in the **New York Review of Books** as the greatest living poet in the Soviet Empire, has recently been allowed to emigrate to the U.S. The son of a high-ranking literary figure notoriously loyal to the Soviet regime, Tomas Venclova showed signs rather early of striking out on a dissident path. Shortly before being let out of the USSR, he and four others formed a public group in Lithuania to monitor Soviet compliance with the **Helsinki Agreements**. Continuing to press these concerns here, Mr. Venclova testified before the U.S. House of Representatives Helsinki Committee and lectured at a number of campuses. Besides writing his own poetry, he has translated world literature into Lithuanian and has contributed to general literary theory and semantics. His scholarly reputation earned him an invitation to teach at Berkeley, a post which he assumed in March. **Mykolas Drunga**.

The budget of the Supreme Committee for Liberation of Lithuania (VLIK) for 1977 is \$67,500. The Supreme Committee recently revived the publication of **Elta Information Bulletin in Portuguese**.

During the period 1970-1976 one hundred thirty two **Catholic priests** died in Lithuania. Only fifty were consecrated. The Catholic Church in present-day Lithuania is organized into the Vilnius archdiocese, Kaunas archdiocese and consists of the dioceses of Telšiai, Panevėžys, Vilkaviškis and Kaišiadoriai.

According to the Soviet **Vestnik statistiki** (No 11, 1976), 6,962 persons were born in Vilnius, 2,734 died (a natural increase of 4,228). There were 5,284 marriages and 1,756 divorces.

There are **climatrical similarities** between Chicago and Lithuania. Yes! Last December there was from three to fifteen inches of snow in Lithuania: by the seacoast and in Suvalkai for the most part. Chicago experienced similar conditions. January, 1977 was the same in Lithuania and Chicago — extremely cold. Would you believe 13 degrees below zero Fahrenheit on December 18, 1976 in Ukmergė? So what's new in Chicago? **Joe Apuokas**.

On February 26 - 27th the Franciscan Cultural Center in Brooklyn was host to a **political seminar for young people** co-sponsored by the **Supreme Committee for Liberation of Lithuania** (VLIK) and the **World Lithuanian Youth Association** (PLJS). Its purpose was to exchange views and information between the leading liberation organization, still firmly rooted in European political conceptions, and a group of young activists, who with a few exceptions were born and raised in North America. Participants discussed the upcoming Belgrade Conference, help for Soviet political prisoners, relations with the homeland, and the need to press beyond human rights for genuine independence for Lithuania. The caliber of deliberations shows that young people are attuned to the Lithuanian question. **Mykolas Drunga**.

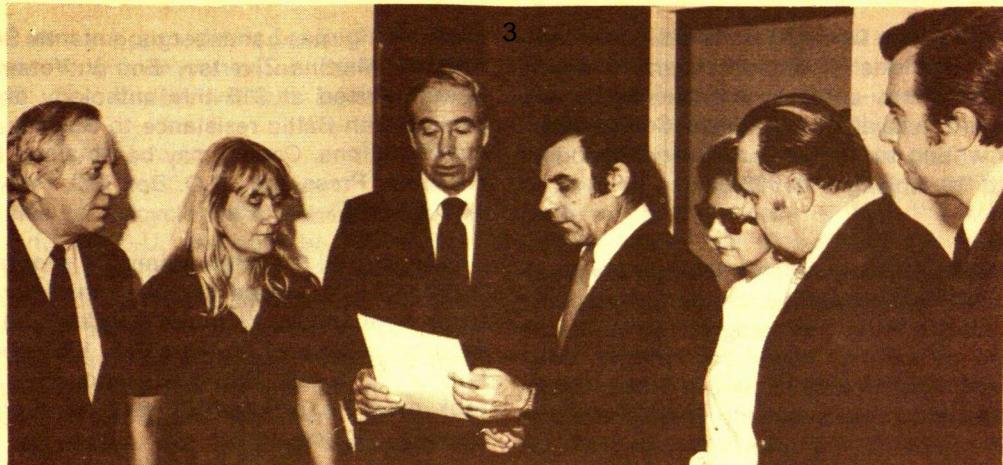
Various groups in the U.S. are seeking the release of the Lithuanian Catholic dissident Miss **Nijolė Sadūnaitė** from Soviet prison. The **Washington Chapter of Amnesty International** tried to submit a 5000-signature petition on her behalf to Soviet Ambassador Dobrinin, but the latter refused the document. Copies of the petition were distributed to members of the U.S. Congress. Miss Sadūnaitė was recently transferred from a concentration camp in Mordovia to one closer to Moscow.

The 24th issue of the **Chronicle of the Lithuanian Roman Catholic Church**, an underground Samizdat publication, reached the West recently. This issue criticizes statements in the Soviet press by the rector of the Kaunas seminary Dr. V. Butkus for praising "religious freedom" in the USSR. The Chronicle also gives information about Nijolė Sadūnaitė's transfer to another prison camp. **Peter Sands**.

The **Cultural Council** of the Lithuanian American Community, Inc. voted to award the Chicago artist **Kazys Varnelis** the **Art Award for 1977**. The thousand dollar prize was presented on March 12 during the 25th Anniversary Commemoration of Bendruomenė in Hartford. Mr. Bronius Nainys accepted the award in the artist's stead. The prize was donated by the Lithuanian Foundation (Lietuvių Fondas).

Airplanes depart from Vilnius to seven other Lithuanian cities and to 53 Soviet airports. Short distanced flights are made by Soviet AN-2, AN-24 and JAK-40 type planes.

Longer distances are undertaken by TU 123 and TU-134 jets. There are five daily flights to Moscow, taking 70 minutes, at a one-way fare of 16 rubles. Vilnius airport has lines to Biržai, Druskininkai, Kaunas, Kupiškis, Palanga, Panevėžys and Rokiškis. Most



William Scranton, U.S. Ambassador to the U.N., received a memorandum fighting violations to the human rights in Soviet-occupied Lithuania from the Delegation of the Lithuanian American Community, Inc.

Lithuanian departures go to Palanga-Klaipėda airport. One can fly from Vilnius to Kaunas for 2 rubles. The trip lasts 40 minutes. It should be noted that there are no departures from Vilnius airports to foreign destinations outside of the USSR. "**Juožukas K.**"

The results of the poll conducted by **Sportas** magazine in Lithuania disclosed the best Lithuanian athletes of 1976. The basketball player Mrs. **Angelė Rupšys** was recognized as athlete of the year. She won a gold medal during the Montreal Olympics. Another star was the swimmer Arvydas Juozaitis who received the Olympic bronze award. The best Lithuanian team was the women's Žalgiris rowing team.

There are a dozen periodicals published in Lithuania with circulations of over 100,000. These periodicals are: **Tarybinė Moteris** (Soviet Woman) — 471,155, **Valstiečių laikraštis** (Peasant Newspaper) — 291,276, **Tiesa** (The Truth) — 257,400, **Kalba Vilnius** (Vilnius Speaking) — 216,041, **Komjaunimo tiesa** (Komsomol Truth) — 205,817, **Moksłas ir gyvenimas** (Science and Life) — 189,189, **Genys** (The Woodpecker) — 187,040, **Lietuvos pionierius** (Lithuanian Pioneer) — 174,724, **Jaunimo Švyturys** (Beacon of Youth) — 114,865, **Šluota** (The Broom) — 105,140, and **Socialistinė teisė** (Socialist Right) — 100,985. **A. Budreckis.**

Due to physical incapacitation Mr. **Juozas Kajeckas** resigned from the post of Charge d'affairs of the Republic of Lithuania. He was replaced by the former first secretary of the Lithuanian Legation, Dr. Stasys Bačkis.

In conjunction with the change in National administration, **Baltic diplomats** met on January 14 in Washingt-

ton. Participants in the deliberations included Dr. A. Dinbergs and Vilis Tomsonas for the Latvians, Dr. Stasys A. Bačkis for the Lithuanians, and the Estonian diplomat E. Jaakson. The Baltic diplomats exchanged information and views concerning relations with the new Carter administration.

The new executive board of the **North American Lithuanian Youth Association** returned to New England. Following the December 29-31, 1976 convention in Detroit, the new national officers are: President — Birutė Zdanytė of Hartford, Conn.; Linas Kojelis — coordinator of Political Affairs; Danutė Šliogeris — vice-president; Virga Valančiūnas — treasurer; Ramunė Bernotas — secretary. Other national officers include Liucija Zdanytė, Sigitas Banevičius and Paulius Bernotas. The national chairman's address is Miss B. Zdanys, 16 Westmoreland Dr., West Hartford, Conn. 06117. **G.V.K.**

Fifty eight members of the **Lithuanian Writers Association** (Lietuvių Rašytojų Draugija) recently cast their votes for a new executive board. The following Lithuanian literati, residing in the US, were elected: Rev. Leonardas Andriekus, OFM; Paulius Jurkus, Algirdas Landsbergis, Antanas Vaičiulaitis, and Leonardas Žitkevičius. **A.B.**

Prominent Illinois Lithuanian Republicans attended the inauguration of Governor Thompson on January 10th. Heading the **Lithuanian American Republican League** Delegation to Springfield were Chairman Casimir Oksas, Don Adams (chairman of the Illinois Republican State Central Committee) and State Representative Junie Bartulis.

The Lithuanian American Council published its second edition of Rev. J. Prunskis' illustrated brochure about Lithuania. The brochure contains a bibliography of books on Lithuania available in English. Copies may be obtained by writing to: Lithuanian American Council, 2606 W. 63rd St., Chicago, Ill. 60629.

The Lithuanian folk dance ensemble Grandinėlė performed during the Nationalities Festival of Cleveland on February 20th. Liudas Sagys, choreographer of Grandinėlė, was also director of stage decorations. The Nationalities Festival is sponsored by the Ethnic desk editor of the **Cleveland Press** and the Cleveland Folk Arts Association.

A special TV program dealing with the violation of human rights in Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia was broadcast over New York City Television Channel C on January 22. Kęstutis Miklas, President of BATUN, was responsible for the special program. Among the panelists were Rev. Casimir Pugevičius of the Lithuanian Catholic Relief Service and Ints Rupners, Latvian vice-chairman of BATUN. **K. Miklas**

The Third Conference on Baltic Literature will take place on April 29-30 at the University of Wisconsin. Its sponsors are the officers of the Association for Advancement of Baltic Studies (AABS). Among Lithuanian participants, the most prominent will be Birutė Cipliauskas (University of Wisconsin), Algirdas Landsbergis (Farleigh Dickinson University) and Rimvydas Šilbajoris (Ohio State University).

The Worcester Area Council of Lithuanian Organizations is sponsoring Lithuanian Week at the Auburn Mall, a suburban shopping center, at the Outlet Company. During Easter Week, April 11-16, the Outlet Store will display Lithuanian folkart, mannequins with folk costumes, amber jewelry, and the Lithuanian tricolor will be visible everywhere. There will also be Lithuanian cooking demonstrations, Easter egg decorating demonstration. On sale will be Lithuanian books, records, and food. Free literature on Lithuania will be distributed. Each evening a cultural program will be presented. "Žaibas", the folk dance ensemble of Bendruomenės Worcester Chapter, the Ratelis Penketukas quintet and the children from St. Casimir's school will perform. There will be a live-remote broadcast of the Lithuanian Radio Hour of Worcester. **EVM.**

At the beginning of 1977 the first Baltic drama anthology in English made its appearance. Edited by Dr. A. Straumanis, "Confrontations with Tyranny" includes six

plays by Algirdas Landsbergis, Antanas Škėma, Gunars Priedes, Martins Zivertso, Enn V. Vetemaa and Paul Beerik. Priced at \$15 this anthology depicts dramas dealing with Baltic resistance to Sovietization in all its manifestations. Copies may be obtained by writing to: Waveland Press, Inc., P.O. Box 400, Prospect Heights, Ill. 60070.

On January 8 the Lithuanian TV program "Lietuviai Televizijoje" observed its 10th anniversary with a gala banquet at Chicago's plush Condesa del Mar. The TV program originated on March 26, 1966 under the direction of T. Šlutas. Two years ago Rev. A. Kezys, SJ, took over the program. It may be seen every other Sunday in Chicago.

Algirdas and Pranas Brazinskis, Lithuanian activists who successfully diverted a Soviet airliner to freedom in 1970, are now in the United States and have asked the U.S. Immigration authorities for political asylum. Their cases are now at a standstill. Various Lithuanian civic groups urge all to write to the President, congressmen and senators, to U.N. Ambassador Young and to the Secretary of State for intervention in a speedy resolution of the Brazinskis' cases. **EVM.**

The Lithuanian daily "Draugas" awarded its thousand dollar prize for the best literary work in Lithuanian to Kazys Alménas. Of the eight manuscripts submitted for review the judges committee chose Mr. Alménas' work "Sauja skatikų" ("Fistful of Pennies") as the best novel of the year. The 42-year old author is a professor at the University of Maryland. The "Draugas" literary awards were instituted in 1951.

Bowdoin College of Brunswick, Maine, each year grants a scholarship to a student of Lithuanian descent. The Antanina Kunigonis - Marcinkevičius - Bachulus Fund was established by Dr. Bachulus in 1966 in honor of his mother and her brother. Dr. Bachulus was a Navy doctor who retired in 1955. This year's scholarship went to J. Brozovski of Concord, Mass.

The North American Lithuanian Youth Association, a member of the World Lithuanian Youth Association (PLJS), is inviting all young people between the ages of 16 and 30 to join the Association. For more information about the organization contact the Liaison Officer with Lithuanian non-speaking youth, Edvardas V. Meilus, Jr., 23 Shirley Rd., Shrewsbury, Ma. 01545. **EVM.**

The University of Wisconsin at Madison is holding a display of Lithuanian books, entitled "430 years of Lithuanian Books: The Development of a National

Culture." Most of the books were donated by Prof. Alfred Senn, who taught linguistics at the University back in 1931-38. The exhibit will run from January 27 to June 30.

The fifth volume of **Encyclopedia Lituanica**, encompassing the letters S-U, was sent to the binders. It will be sent to subscribers at the end of March. Juozas Kapočius, publisher of the 36-volume Lithuanian Encyclopedia in the native language, began the compilation of a six-volume Lituanistic encyclopedia in English back in 1969. The last volume will cover the letter V-Ž as well as complimentary and addendum material. The six-volume set may be obtained by writing to Lithuanian Encyclopedia Press, 395 West Broadway, So. Boston, Ma. 02127.

March 4 is the Feast Day of St. Casimir, Patron Saint of Lithuania. Most councils of the Knights of Lithuania use the occasion for Communion Mass and Breakfast, followed by a talk on the Lithuanian Saint.

The Lithuanian Boy Scout and Girl Guide Association take the occasion to hold a traditional bazaar, the Kaziuko Mugė (Fair of Casimir), with displays, skits and sale of Lithuanian handicrafts and foods. Kaziuko Mugės are held in Boston, Worcester, Brooklyn, Elizabeth, N.J., Philadelphia, Cleveland, Detroit and Chicago.

A coalition has been formed by representatives of the **Jewish, Lithuanian and Ukrainian communities** in the **New Haven** area to work together for Human rights, especially within the Soviet Union. Mrs. Albina Lip-

čius, chairperson of the New Haven Chapter of Benuromenė, represents the Lithuanians. A joint statement was issued, declaring: "The Jewish, Lithuanian and Ukrainian communities of Greater New Haven affirm their dedication to working for the human rights of all people, especially at this time for those of their brethren in the Soviet Union. We intend to work together here and throughout the world for these rights as declared in the United Nations Declaration of Human Rights and affirmed by the Helsinki Act."

In speaking to ethnic Americans during the 1976 election campaign, **Jimmy Carter** went on record with the following comment on the Balts: "Today, when we look at the list of countries in an atlas or an almanac, the name of Lithuania is generally missing. But no atlas or almanac can wipe out the memory of the illegal way in which the Soviet Union occupied Lithuania and the other Baltic states in 1940. The Lithuanian people have endured much suffering during the twentieth century. I will not forget them. I would continue the long-standing bi-partisan policy of non-recognition of the Soviet annexation of Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia."

The Lithuanian Radio Hour of Worcester can be heard over a five-state area: Massachusetts, Vermont, Rhode Island, New Hampshire, and Connecticut. It covers a 75-mile radius. The program is broadcast twice weekly on Wednesdays from 8-9 P.M. and Saturdays from 5-6 P.M. live, without commercial interruptions over Public Radio WICN (90.0 FM) in Worcester. The Program Committee declares as its purpose: "... the keeping alive of a sense of Lithuanianism in the hearts of those of Lithuanian extraction, ... even more critical-



Representatives of Lithuanian American Community, Inc. met with James Carter on October 2, 1976 in Pittsburgh.

ly to inform non-Lithuanians about Lithuania and the continued violation of Lithuanian rights by the Soviet Union." To achieve this purpose the program is broadcast in both English and Lithuanian. The program director is 22-year old Eduardas Meilus, Jr. **EVM.**

On February 15th, Dr. S. A. Bačkis, Charge d'Affaires of Lithuania, received the following **communiqué** from the **U.S. Department of State**: "On behalf of the Government and People of the United States, I am pleased to send you greetings and best wishes on the occasion of the fifty-ninth anniversary of Lithuanian independence. Our nation has benefited greatly from the many contributions of its citizens of Lithuanian origin. We are all made richer by the undaunted spirit of liberty and self-determination of the Lithuanian people and by their continuing efforts to maintain their proud national heritage." The letter was signed by Arthur A. Hartman, Acting Secretary.

The U.S. still views the Baltic States as independent accords limited diplomatic status to Baltic legation and consulates. In practice, however, diplomats here say the United States recognizes Soviet "control" over the republics. Officials of the American consulate in Leningrad make regular trips to the Baltic States in connection with American cultural events. Yet the American government does not go all the way in treating the three republics as parts of the Soviet Union. The U.S. ambassador to the Soviet Union, Walter J. Stoessel, Jr., has instructions from Washington not to visit any of the three countries. When other American officials go there, they may not meet with top officials of the so-called Soviet republics. While private American cultural groups tour the three states without restrictions, American government exhibits do not go there. The presence of the ambassador or a presidential representative in one of the Baltic states could be construed as recognition and the opening of a show without the officials required by protocol would attract undesirable attention to the unusual diplomatic situation, diplomats say.

American Broadcasting System TV recently aired a movie "Ordeal at Entebbe". The three hour feature enacted the daring Israeli rescue raid on Uganda's Entebbe airport to free hijacked travelers. The Lithuanian American actor **Charles Bronson** (Kazimieras Bušinskis) played the role of the Israeli brigades leading the commandoes.

Chicago Lithuanian radio listeners will be pleased to learn that "Lietuvos aidai" radio program after January 21st will extend radio time to one and a half

hours. The program will be heard from 9:30 P.M. to 11:00 P.M. on Fridays over Station WOPA (1490 AM). "Lietuvos aidai" will also be heard on Sundays from 9:30 to 10:00 A.M. on 1230 AM over Station WHOB. This up-dated program is directed by Miss Kazė Brazdžionis. The latter radio station will reach Cicero, Lemont, Gary, Michigan City and other Chicago suburbs.

The **persistence of illegal radio broadcasts** in the **USSR** has often puzzled foreign observers. As long ago as in 1966 the Soviet Supreme Court, alarmed by the growing number of pirate radios, announced that their operators could be prosecuted as political offenders. The Supreme Court ruled that radio pirates could also be tried for "anti-Soviet agitation and propaganda," under the dreaded Article 70 of the Penal Code. As far as the evidence in the Soviet press goes, the transmitters, which are usually home-made, are mostly operated by youngsters who broadcast the kind of foreign music that is not available from official radio stations. They obtain on the black market tapes of songs by the Beatles, Rolling Stones, and other rock groups. Last September, a radio pirate in Vilnius was sentenced to three years for taping Western newscasts and re-transmitting them for local listeners.

The **National Center for Urban Ethnic Affairs** is developing a Resource Center which aims to provide a wide range of sources and materials on neighborhoods and ethnicity. The Research Center will try to cover a multitude of subjects which will include such areas as housing, urban planning, drug abuse, social class, demographics, women's issues, health employment, education, and neighborhood newspapers. **Violeta Kuncaitis** is the director of the Resource Center. She has been with the MCUEA staff since July, 1975. She has previously worked with the Department of Revenue in Florida and has done volunteer work with the Kent, Ohio Day Care Center. She received a B.A. in Sociology from Kent State University in Ohio.

The **newest informative book** about Lithuania's age-long struggles for nationhood and freedom is Dr. Constantine R. Jurgéla's "**Lithuania: The Outpost of Freedom**." Dr. Jurgéla's study traces Lithuania's struggles against Russian aggression since 1563 when tsar Ivan the Terrible began his expansion westward. The book analyzes the 1941 Revolt against the Soviets, the postwar Partisan struggle and contemporary dissent and resistance against Sovietization and Russification. This 386 page volume, replete with bibliographies and an index, was published by the Lithuanian National Guard in Exile. The book costs \$15 and may be ob-

tained from Lithuanian newspaper offices and local Lithuanian book distributors, or by writing directly to: S. Bernatavičius, 1513 So. 48th Court, Cicero, Ill. 60650. A. B.

The Lithuanian American Community of the U.S., Inc. celebrated its 25th anniversary with a gala affair in Hartford, Conn. on March 12th. Over three hundred fifty guests, Lithuanian civic and cultural leaders, and Bendruomenė activists attended the Saturday evening commemoration in Hartford's Hotel Sonesta. Balyš Raugas, National Executive Vice President, opened the public meeting. Rev. Joseph J. Matutis read a patriotic invocation. Alfonsas Dzikas, member of the Commemorative Committee, introduced the Honorable George A. Athanson, Mayor of Hartford. Raymond Kudukis, Chairman of the National Council of Bendruomenė, gave the keynote address.

The cultural part of the commemoration was performed by accomplished artists of the younger generation — pianist Saulius E. Cibas, soloist Genė Ugianskas and violinist Brigita Pumpolys. At the close of the concert, Algimantas S. Gečys, National President of the Lithuanian American Community of the US, reflected on the many cultural, educational, artistic,

Chase. The commemoration was concluded Sunday morning, March 13th, with a Mass of Thanksgiving at the Holy Trinity Lithuanian R.C. Church. Msgr. Balkunas, first President of Bendruomenė, delivered a spirited sermon.

The ad hoc Lithuanian committee to observe violations of the human rights provisions of the Helsinki Agreement recently made public its bold manifesto. The text of this document declared the following: "We, Tomas Venclova, Rev. Karolis Garuckas, Ona Lukauskaitė-Poškienė, Viktoras Petkus and Eitanas Finkelsteinas, declare that a group has been formed in Lithuania to enforce the implementation of the Helsinki Agreement. This group will devote its greatest attention to the humanitarian provision of the Helsinki Agreement, dealing with the freedom of conscience, religion, thought and belief, as well as freedom of personal contact (reunion of families, visiting with relatives, etc.). We are prepared to accept the declarations of individuals, their groups and organizations, regarding the violation of the Helsinki Accord in the territory of Lithuania, especially violations involving Lithuanian or specifically Lithuanian problems. We believe that the signatory nations will heed the fact that the present petition of Lithuania was determined



Betty Ford at the opening of the 5th Folk Dance Festival in Chicago

social, and public accomplishments of Bendruomenė during the past 25 years.

Rimas Česonis National Vice President, acted as master of ceremonies during the banquet. Among the prominent guests who addressed the gathering were Mayor Athanson; Deputy Commissioner Dubn, representing Governor E. Grasso; the Honorable Anicetas Simutis, General Consul of Lithuania; Bronius Nainys, President of the World Lithuanian Community, Dr. Kęstutis Valiūnas, President of VLIK; and Jonas Simanavičius, President of the Lithuanian Community Inc. of Canada. Mrs. Aušra Zerr, National Vice President, read the personal congratulatory telegram dispatched by President James Carter. The assemblage feted the founders of the Lithuanian American Community Msgr. Jonas Balkūnas, judge Frank J. Monchun, Dr. Petras Vileišis and Antanas Saulaitis. Proper homage was paid to the deceased founders Dr. Colney and Walter

by the entry of the Army of the USSR into her territory on June 15, 1940. We believe that the signatories of the Helsinki Agreements will see to it that humanitarian rights are not violated in Lithuania. Vilnius, November 25, 1976."

On March 19-20, an art exhibit was held at the Franciscan Lithuanian Cultural Center, Brooklyn, N.Y., showing over 80 works by Kazimieras Žoromskis. The occasion was the thirtieth anniversary of the first individual exhibit by Mr. Žoromskis in Madrid. Artist and noted art lecturer, Mr. Žoromskis is a leading modern Lithuanian painter in the free world.

The Baltic Women's Council held its 30th anniversary celebration at the Hungarian House, New York City on March 27th. Barry Farber, famous radio commentator of Radio WOR, was guest speaker.

The biography of the Lithuanian artist Romas Viesulas appears in Marquis' "Who's Who in the World, 1976-77."

In order to defray part of the \$15,000 annual expense of running the Mairomis Lithuanian-language Saturday School of Brooklyn, the parents committee is sponsoring a Spring Ball (Pavasario balius) on April 23 at the Franciscan Lithuanian Cultural Center, Highland Blvd., Brooklyn, N.Y. The Edward Radionovas Band of Hartford will play.

Louis Kishkunas is the superintendent of the Denver, Colorado public schools system. He is an avid fan of aviation and model plane flying.

Some 500 young Lithuanian American sportsmen will take part in the 27th North American Lithuanian Sports Games on April 29 through May 1, 1977 at 361 Highland Blvd., B'klyn, N.Y. The host of the Sports Games is the Lithuanian Athletic Club of New York. The organizational chairman is Mr. Ignas Gasiliūnas.

The former Metropolitan Opera tenor Algirdas Brazis was recently appointed director by the Board of the Midland Savings and Loan Association of Chicago. The Midland Savings was organized by Chicago Lithuanians in 1914. Its current president is Frank Zogas.

Ann Jillian (Jūratė Nausėdaitė), Lithuanian American film star, is currently performing in "Words and Music" at Chicago's Civic Theater.

The Lithuanian World Youth Association (PLJS) through its Liaison Center is planning a Lithuanian studies seminar on August 14-26, near Rochester, N.Y. Additional information may be obtained by writing to PLJS Ryšių centras, 2422 West Marquette Road, Chicago, Ill. 60629.

The Lithuanian Foundation (Lietuvių Fondas) enrolled 275 new members during 1976 and its capital increased by \$103,738.28. During 1976 the Lithuanian Foundation had an income of \$70,597, or a profit of

\$49,070 for use on Lithuanian cultural projects. On January 22, \$40,000 was designated for cultural and educational matters.

Victor Cizanckas was recently designated Stamford chief of police. Born in Buffalo, N.Y., 39 years ago Mr. Cizanckas had served in the Marine Corps. After his tour of duty he enrolled in school and became a policeman in Menlo Park, near San Francisco. He rose to the ranks and became an authority on police matters. His international fame as an innovator in police procedures drew the attention of the Connecticut city faced with the need for police reform.

Lithuanian fraternal insurance societies held their own in calendar 1976, according to the annual statements submitted to the state insurance departments. As of December 31, 1976, the Lithuanian Alliance of America (SLA) had \$3,495,914 in assets and a membership of 6,880; the Lithuanian Roman Catholic Alliance of America (LRKSA) — \$2,665,902 and 4,357 members; the Association of Lithuanian Workers (LDS) — \$1,496,646 and 2,750 members. The smallest Lithuanian society is the American Lithuanian Roman Catholic Women's Alliance which has 711 members and totals assets of \$225,083.

The Knights of Lithuania, a Lithuanian American Catholic Youth organization, is currently organized into 48 active councils (skyriai). Recently the Supreme Council has undertaken the updating of council addresses. As a public service the Public Relations Committee of the Supreme Council will provide Lithuanian cultural groups and organizations with mailing lists. The chairman of the Public Relations Committee is Daniel Averka, 14 Codman Hill Ave., Dorchester, Mass. 02124. Information about the membership drives and instructions on forming new councils may be obtained from the National Vice President, Philip Skaibikis, 102-26 93rd Ave., Richmond Hill, N.Y.

New York Lithuanian tennis superstar Vitas Gerulaitis defeated Davis Cup winner R. Lutz at the Ocean City International Tournament. During the semi-finals Vitas Gerulaitis defeated the third champion of world tennis, I. Nastazie of Rumania.

BRIDGES — LITHUANIAN AMERICAN NEWSLETTER is published monthly by the Lithuanian American Community of the USA, Inc. Managing Editor: Algirdas Budreckis; Members of the Editorial Board: Mykolas Drunga, Algirdas Dumčius, Vytautas Jurgėla, Gintaras Karosas, Edward Meilus, Jr., Algirdas Mitkus, Viktoras Stankus, and Jonas Stundza, Jr. Entered as Third Class Matter at the Post Office in Boston, Mass. Subscription rates: \$3.00 for one year. Editorial and Subscriptions Address: P. O. Box 9061, Boston, MA. 02114.