



VOL. 3, No. 10

OCTOBER, 1979

BRIDGES IS PUBLISHED BY THE LITHUANIAN-AMERICAN COMMUNITY OF THE U.S.A., INC. THROUGH THIS NEWSLETTER, THE PUBLISHERS HOPE TO RE-ESTABLISH TIES BETWEEN THE DETACHED, MOBILE LITHUANIAN-AMERICANS AND THEIR LITHUANIAN HERITAGE BY PRESENTING ITEMS ON LITHUANIAN CULTURE, CONDITIONS IN THE HOMELAND, EVENTS AND PERSONALITIES IN AMERICA, AND THE ASPIRATIONS OF ALL WHO SUBSCRIBE TO THE IDEA THAT LITHUANIA DESIRES TO BE AN INDEPENDENT AND FREE NATION AGAIN.

HELP FOR A FINANCIALLY TROUBLED LEGATION

Some help seems to be on the way for the financially troubled **Lithuanian Legation** in Washington, D.C. With operating and maintenance costs soaring and cash reserves dwindling, the Lithuanian diplomatic corps is devoting more of its time just in making ends meet. Backed by the official accreditation of the United States and other western nations, the Lithuanian Legation functions as a representative of independent Lithuania, a Baltic Republic whose occupation and annexation by the Soviet Union has never been recognized by the free world. The charge d'affairs of the Legation is the Hon. Dr. Stasys Bačkis.

In response to the Legation's approaching financial crisis, freshman Congressman **Charles F. Dougherty**, of Pennsylvania's fourth district, has introduced **legislation that would authorize continuing appropriations of \$250,000 for the Lithuanian Legation.** As indicated in the draft of this bill, House Resolution 5407, the funds would be used only for the maintenance of operations of the legation, including the payment of compensation to legation personnel.

The bill's cosponsors include Representatives Edward J. Derwinski (R-Ill.), John P. Murtha (D-Pa.), Joe Moakley (D-Mass.), William F. Clinger (R-Pa.), Robert J. Lagomarsino (R-Calif.), William Carney (R-N.Y.), Daniel J. Flood (D-Pa.), Philip M. Crane (R-Ill.), Robert A. Roe (D-N.J.), Adam Benjamin, Jr. (D-Ind.), Frank Horton (R-N.Y.), Larry McDonald (D-Ga.), and Raymond F. Lederer (D-Pa.). If *Bridges* readers find their Congressman on this list, send him a note thanking him for his support. If your Congressman is **not** on this list, please send him a letter urging him to cosponsor Cong. Dougherty's H. R. 5407. Enclosing a copy of the bill would be a good idea . . . copies can be obtained by writing to the Honorable Charles F. Dougherty, U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, D.C. 20515. A note of thanks to Cong. Dougherty for his initiative would also be appreciated. Since the bill is still "in committee," and if you're still in a letter-writing mood, a note should be sent to the chairman, Clement J. Zablocki (D-Wisc.), expressing your concern and advocating some action.

In writing to Cong. Zablocki, correspondence should be addressed to The Honorable Clement J. Zablocki, Chairman, Committee on Foreign Affairs, U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, D.C. 20510. Act now so that the bill can be moved through the House and on to the Senate during this legislative session, and you'll be helping to keep the struggle for Lithuanian human rights and national rights alive.

Rimantas A. Stirbys

COMMUNITY WITH A CAPITAL "C"

For many years, the Lithuanian American Community of U.S.A., Inc. (Bendruomenė) has been working earnestly to correct inaccuracies in U.S. government printed maps pertaining to Lithuania. A great deal of correspondence was issued, but few gains were noted. Finally, on July 18th, 1979, instructions issued by **U.S. Geographer Robert D. Hodgson** to the Departments of Defense, Internal Affairs, Commerce, and Agriculture, bespoke a victory for Bendruomenė's efforts. The instructions emphasized the unchanging position of the U.S. in regard to the non-recognition of the annexation of Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia by the U.S.S.R. The instructions also pointed out that the U.S. government continues to maintain diplomatic ties with the representatives from these nations (Independent Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia); that, over the years, the various bureaus of the government have become careless in their designation of the

Baltic States and have ignored or changed State Department regulations; and that the non-recognition policy should be so indicated in U.S. government maps, thus signifying that America's policy has not changed.

The instructions specified the following:

1. Any map showing part or all of the Baltic States should also include the following text — "The U.S. government does not recognize the incorporation of Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania into the U.S.S.R."

2. The State Department's foreign office and jurisdiction maps should indicate the borders of Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania as they were during their independence, before the Soviet occupation. In other maps which indicate factual borders, the de facto incorporation of the Baltic States may be shown.

3. The Baltic States must be indicated by the names of Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania, except in those cases where maps indicate the de facto administrative areas of the Soviet Union.

The Lithuanian American Community of U.S.A., Inc. has a new National Executive Committee (Valdyba), following elections held during Bendruomenė's Ninth Council Session (Taryba) in Cleveland this past September. The new president is **Vytautas Kutkus**, who hails from Dearborn, Michigan. Other officers of the new administrative body are: S. Algimantas Gečys — Chairman, Public Affairs Committee; Jonas Kazaliūnas — Chairman, Education Committee; Ingrida Bublienė — Chairman, Cultural Committee; Jonas Urbonas — Acting Vicepresident, Organizational Affairs; Aušra Mačiulaitytė-Zerr — First Vicepresident, Political Affairs; Violeta Abariūtė — Vicepresident, Special Affairs; Dr. Antanas Butkus — Vicepresident, Social Affairs; Robertas Selenis — Vicepresident, Legal Affairs; Algis Rugienius — Vicepresident, Athletic Affairs; Alfonsas Vėlavičius — Vicepresident, Financial Affairs; Albertas Misiūnas — Protocol Secretary; Karolis Balys — Administrative Assistant; and Irena Dainorienė — English-language Secretary.



Members of Philadelphia's Lithuanian-American community in a meeting with Cong. Charles F. Dougherty. From the left: Charles Zerr (Chrm. of Coalition to Free Petkus and Gajauskas), Cong. Dougherty, S.A. Gečys (Chrm. of Bendruomenė's Public Affairs Committee), and R. A. Stirbys (editor of Bridges).

Bridges photo

Duties were officially transferred to the new Executive Committee during ceremonies which took place in Detroit on December 15-16, 1979. The staff at *Bridges* wishes the new administration a successful and industrious term in office and a fruitful New Year.



Newly elected National Executive Committee of the Lithuanian American Community of U.S.A., Inc. Seated, from the left: Violeta Abariūtė, S. Algimantas Gečys, Ingrida Bublienė, Vytautas Kutkus (Pres.), Aušra Mačiulaitytė-Zerr, Jonas Kavallūnas. Standing from the left: Jonas Urbonas, Dr. Antanas Butkus, Algis Rugienius, Albertas Misūnas, Robertas Selenis, Karolis Balys, and Alfonsas Vėlavičius. Not in photo: Irena Dainorienė. Photo by J. Urbonas

THE CAUSE OF FREEDOM

Soviet dissident **Alexandr Ginzburg** has called on the American Federation of Teachers (AFT) to increase its efforts to obtain the release of political prisoners in the U.S.S.R. — including a number of imprisoned teachers — as part of the union's continuing campaign for human rights around the world. His speech before the AFT convention on July 3rd in San Francisco was covered in September's edition of "American Teacher," the official publication of the AFT.

Ginzburg mentioned that dozens of teachers are now in prison in the Soviet Union. Among those he gave details of was **Viktoras Petkus**, a teacher of Lithuanian literature and a member of the Lithuanian Helsinki Monitoring Group. The convention delegates were informed that Petkus received a 15-year prison term "simply because he was a member of the watch group." Ginzburg, who is an honorary member of the **Coalition to Free Petkus and Gajauskas**, went on to state that prison conditions for political prisoners

are "even worse than that described in the supposedly anti-Soviet and slanderous documents" which were used to incriminate him as well as Orlov and Scharansky. AFT President **Albert Shanker**, also a member of the Honorary Committee for the Coalition, promised that "we teachers who understand the anguish of the Ginzburgs will speak out in a voice loud and clear."

In the October 17th edition of *The New York Times*, journalist John Vincour reported West German authorities were virtually certain that Soviet agents had abducted a former Soviet-Lithuanian gold medalist after he defected to the West. The West German Government's press office revealed that Moscow had confirmed that the canoeist, **Vladislovas Česiūnas**, 39, was back in the Soviet Union, without saying how he got there. The West German Embassy in Moscow had information that Česiūnas was being held in a police hospital in Vilnius, being treated for head injuries. Česiūnas, who has won three world championships in canoeing, arrived in West Germany in mid-August to participate in international competition in Duisburg as a spectator. In a September 4th interview that appeared in *Draugas*, the Lithuanian world-wide daily, he is quoted as reporting he planned to write "memoirs exposing the true facts of Soviet sports." Mr. Česiūnas never asked for police protection after his defection, but began to take German lessons before disappearing on September 13th.

In a later article appearing on October 21st in *The New York Times*' "Week in Review" section, Mr. Vincour reported that the West German government is apparently reluctant to confront or antagonize the Soviet Union in any way. While the West German federal prosecutor's office is credited with the revelation that the athlete was indeed abducted, the official Government spokesman "refused to support the federal prosecutor's statement, or even to refute a Soviet allegation that the canoeist had been held in West Germany against his will."

In later developments, the West German *Die Welt* reported that Česiūnas had attempted suicide after his return to Lithuania; another West German publication reported that Česiūnas' brother in Vilnius had confirmed that the canoeist had indeed been returned by force. A member of West Germany's parliament, Karl Miltner, has criticized his government for having forgotten about the incident and for being indifferent to Česiūnas' fate while serious questions remained about his alleged abduction. To date, Česiūnas' whereabouts are unknown, but according to ELTA Information Bulletin, persistent rumors have placed him in the psychiatric hospital Naujoji Vilnia (New Vilnius).

COALITION

Tomas Venclova, a founding member of the Lithuanian Helsinki Monitoring Group, testified at the **International Sakharov Hearings** in Washington, D.C. on September 29, 1979 on behalf of Viktoras Petkus and Balys Gajauskas, Lithuanian Prisoners of conscience and fellow members of the Lithuanian Helsinki Monitoring Group. Venclova's testimony indicated that Gajauskas was in an extremely poor state of health and probably would not survive his imprisonment. He pointed out that while Petkus was tried at the same time as Russian dissidents Anatoly Scharansky and Alexandr Ginzburg, and on similar charges, Petkus, the least known in the West, received by far the harshest penalty.

During his testimony, Mr. Venclova took the opportunity to formally announce the formation of the "Coalition to Free Petkus and Gajauskas." The Coalition's purpose, as has been described in earlier issues of this newsletter, is to initiate and direct actions which will result in the release of these two men from Soviet prisons. Mr. Venclova, internationally known poet, writer, and a member of P.E.N. International, arrived in the United States in 1977 and is now lecturing at the University of California.

This was the third biannual session of the Sakharov hearings, named for Andrei D. Sakharov, the recently exiled elder statesman of Soviet dissidents and the Nobel laureate who once helped develop the U.S.S.R.'s hydrogen bomb. The hearings are financed by private donors and the AFL-CIO. This year's session was held in a hearing room of the Dirksen Senate Office Building and, like previous sessions, was intended to draw public attention to specific dissidents as well as general conditions in the Soviet Union.

The first of the four days of testimony was opened by Sen. Daniel P. Moynihan. Introductory remarks were made by Albert Shanker, President of the American Federation of Teachers, Spokesman for the Executive Committee of the U.S. Sakharov Hearings, and now a member of the Honorary Committee for the Coalition to Free Petkus and Gajauskas. Included among the many emigrees, dissidents, and human rights activists who testified were Ludmilla Alexeyeva (Western Representative of the Moscow Helsinki Watch Group and also a member of the Coalition), Ambartsum Khlagatyan (former member of the Armenian Helsinki Watch Group), Jakob Manthey (a former carpenter from East Germany), Aishe Seytmuratova (who testified on the fate of Crimean Tatars), Alexandr Ginzburg (one of the five Soviet dissidents who came to the U.S. in 1979 in exchange for two Soviet spies, Ginzburg is also a member of the Coalition), and Nadia Svitlychna (foreign representative of the Ukrainian Helsinki Watch Group).

For more information about the International Sakharov Hearings, write to the executive offices at 20 West 40th St., New York, NY 10018. For more information about the Coalition to Free Petkus and Gajauskas, write to the Coalition at 708 Custis Road, Glenside, PA 19038.



Tomas Venclova, dissident poet and founding member of Lithuanian Helsinki Watch Group, during testimony in Washington, D.C. at the International Sakharov Hearings. Venclova testified on behalf of Petkus and Gajauskas.

Bridges photo

CULTURE

We are accustomed to hearing choirs sing songs in Italian, Latin, and German during public concerts sponsored by academic or professional groups — but what a surprise when they sing in Lithuanian! It's no surprise to the members of the **Berklee Music College of Boston Choir** who have in their repertoire several Lithuanian songs. The initiator of this interesting offering is **Jeronimas Kačinskas**, professor of composi-

tion and conducting at Berklee College. Prof. Kačinskas is a composer himself and many of the songs that the choir sings are of his own creation. Mr. Kačinskas stated in an interview with a correspondent from *Draugas, Lithuanian World-Wide Daily*, that the choir members do not have too much difficulty learning the Lithuanian words since they must also tackle Latin, Spanish, French, and the like. The Berklee College Choir has given concerts in Boston as well as in New York, most recently on December 12, 1979.

Volungė means "oriole," a bird much revered by Lithuanians for its beautiful song. The *Volungė* women's choral ensemble of Toronto, Canada, has certainly lived up to its name. The thirteen-member group, including musical director Dalia Viskontas and accompanist Silvija Freimanas, was formed in 1976. The group's repertoire includes traditional and folk songs with musical forms unique to Lithuania, and contemporary ballads written by post-World War II composers living in Lithuania and in the West. *Volungė* has toured throughout the United States and Canada as well as Lithuanian centers in Europe. It was one of the featured groups at the IVth Lithuanian World Youth Congress held in England and West Germany in the summer of 1979.



"Volungė" women's choral ensemble from Toronto, Canada
Photo by J. Kuprys (Garsas)

PUBLICATIONS

Lietuvių Žinios (Lithuanian News) is a bulletin of the Florida Lithuanian American Club. This publication's editorial staff consists of Julija Adienas, Kęstutis Grigaitis, and Bronius Kliorė. For more information, write *Lietuvių Žinios*, 4880 46th Avenue North, St. Petersburg, FL 33714.

The Violations of Human Rights in Soviet Occupied Lithuania — A Report for 1978, edited by Dr. Tomas Remeikis and Bronius Nainys, published by the Lithuanian American Community of U.S.A., Inc.

This book, the eighth in a series published annually since 1971 by the Lithuanian American Community, includes photographs, copies of documents, and studies dealing with the violations of human rights in Lithuania. The documented sources are underground "samizdat-type" publications smuggled out of Lithuania. *Violations* "presents the authentic voices of the Lithuanian people." This 199-page book is presented in five parts: I — Human Rights and Dissent in 1978, An Overview (featuring conversations with two dissidents who have recently been allowed to emigrate to the United States, Alexandr Ginzburg and Romas Giedra); II — Documents on National and Political Rights; III — Documents on Cultural Rights; IV — Documents on Religious Rights; and V — Documents on the Suppression of Dissenters.

This valuable and excellently prepared book is available for \$5.00 and can be ordered by writing to "Violations — 1978", Lithuanian American Community, Inc., 708 Custis Road, Glenside, PA 19038. Make checks payable to the Lithuanian American Community, Inc.

In the Shadow of Freedom recounts the experiences that the Latvian author, Egils Kalme, and other Balts underwent as prisoners of war during and after World War II. Kalme and his copatriots had fought the Russians until the very end, when they sought haven in the West. Upon reaching the Allied zones, they were placed in "camps" with other Balts. In 1945 when most German prisoners of war were released, 11,700 Latvians, 1,200 Estonians, and 700 Lithuanians were sent to a British camp near the Belgian city of Bruges, where they suffered from cold and hunger throughout the winter. The story of what they experienced is told in this book. Available in paperback for \$1.95. *In the Shadow of Freedom* can be ordered from the publisher, Manor Books, Inc., 432 Park Ave. South, New York, N.Y. 10016.

As mentioned in a previous issue, Michael Bordeaux's *Land of Crosses* is the newest release from Keston College's Centre for the Study of Religion and Communism. *Land of Crosses* is based on *The Chronicles of the Catholic Church in Lithuania* and can be obtained for \$8.00 plus postage through **Lithuanian Catholic Religious Aid, 351 Highland Blvd., Brooklyn, NY 11207.**

EDUCATION

Is some high school senior you know looking around for a small, liberal arts college to attend this fall? If a bracing, northern New England climate is to their liking, perhaps they should look into Bowdoin College, in Brunswick, Maine. And if they're of Lithuanian blood, their financial burden may be lightened considerably thanks to an endowed scholarship which gives "preference to a student of American citizenship and Lithuanian descent, or a foreign student of Lithuanian Origin." The *Antanina Kunigonis-Marcinkevičius Bachulus Fund*, established in 1963 by Dr. John M. Bachulus (Bračiulis), now totals approximately \$32,000. Dr. Bachulus, class of 1922, adds \$1,000 to the scholarship fund each year. The current recipient is Chris Zarbetski, Class of 1980.

For more information about the college and the scholarship aid, write to the **Director of Admissions, Bowdoin College, Brunswick, ME 04011**. The telephone number is (207) 725-8731. Incidentally, the good doctor has also provided for the college's Hawthorne - Longfellow Library with a \$1,000 contribution to the Library Fund and with the inclusion of a \$25,000 gift in his will.

PERSONALITIES

The new editor of *The Little Trib*, a newspaper published by *The Chicago Tribune* for its employees and retirees, is Lithuanian **Angela Sinickas**. Ms. Sinickas graduated from Illinois University with a degree in journalism and has been working at *The Little Trib* since June, 1979. In an August editorial, she introduced herself by writing: "My parents were immigrants from Lithuania by way of Germany."

Apparently, Ms. Sinickas has already made a good impression on her employers. Ron Musil, personnel manager at *The Chicago Tribune* stated in an article in *The Little Trib* that "Angela brings a wealth of experience with her to her new position. All of us who have met her feel she is delightful, and we are very fortunate to have her as a member of our staff."

During August and September of 1979, an exhibition entitles "Inside Our Homes, Outside Our Windows: Photographs of Chicago's Ethnic Communities," was presented at the Museum of Contemporary Art in Chicago. One hundred eighteen photographs taken by **Jonas Dovydenas** during the spring and summer of 1977 were displayed. The photographic series was part of the Chicago Ethnic Arts Project, a team effort for which Dovydenas served as project photographer. The project was organized by the American Folklife Center,

a division of the Library of Congress. Details of the exhibit were published in *Folklife Center News*, the Center's monthly newsletter. Incidentally, of the three photographs used to illustrate the article in the newsletter, one was of the wedding of Emilija and Romas Sakadolskis. The couple is active in the World Lithuanian Youth Association but they are perhaps better known as editors of *Pasaulio Lietuvis (World Lithuanian)*, a publication of the World Lithuanian Community.

LANGUAGE CORNER

by Grigas Ardys

As was mentioned in a previous article, the only living language directly related to Lithuanian is Latvian. To a lesser degree than Lithuanian, the Latvian language is also one of the oldest members of the Indo-European family of languages. The common tongue of the ancestors of modern Lithuanians and Latvians began to diverge during the 8th century, A.D. In the 13th century, the split was well enough defined to identify Lithuanian as distinct from Latvian, or Lettish as the language is called. Lithuanian and Latvian still share a number of morphological and phonetic features. (Morphology deals with word endings and prefixes.) However, the differences are great enough to inhibit any mutual understanding between speakers of the two languages to a significant degree. In most cases, Lithuanian can be said to be more archaic. That is, many Latvian sounds can be traced back to older forms and sounds which still functionally exist in modern Lithuanian.

Another great difference is that in Latvian words, the main stress usually falls on the first syllable, while the stress pattern is variable in Lithuanian. Because of this tendency, the reduction of vowels in final syllables went much farther in Latvian than it did in Lithuanian. For example, the "k" and "g" sounds before front vowels in Lithuanian appear as "c" and "dz" in Latvian. Also, Lithuanian "š" and "ž" become "s" and "z" in Latvian. Finally, as a result of German, Scandinavian, Livonian, and Russian influences, the Latvian vocabulary contains a greater number of loan words from these languages than appear in Lithuanian.

The following is the next installment of our "technical" language lexicon:

| English loan word: | Lithuanian equivalent: |
|--------------------|------------------------|
| 16. stream | upelis |
| 17. valley | slėnys, klonys |
| 18. pond | kūdra |
| 19. forest | miškas |
| 20. hill | kalnėlis |

GERA ŠEIMININKĖ

STUFFED CABBAGE (Balandėliai)

Ingredients:

- 1 large head green cabbage (3 to 4 lbs.)
- 2 large onions, chopped
- 2 lbs. ground beef
- 1 cup cooked rice
- 1 egg
- 3 tablespoons ketchup
- 2 tablespoons dried parsley
- 1 can tomato soup
- 2-3 tablespoons water
- 1 bay leaf
- 1/4 teaspoons thyme
- salt and pepper to taste

Preparing the cabbage leaves: Discard the outer leaves of the cabbage. Cut out and discard the cabbage heart while keeping the cabbage whole. Place the cabbage in simmering salted water, with the hole made by the discarded heart face down. One-third of the cabbage should be immersed. Cover and allow to simmer until the cabbage leaves begin to wilt. As the outer leaves soften they become easy to remove. Do this every few minutes, using a wooden fork and spoon to remove the two or three outermost leaves. Place the leaves in a bowl, taking care not to damage them. Keep the simmering cabbage covered during this procedure, lifting the lid only long enough to remove the leaves. Continue until all the larger leaves have been removed. The fist-sized center should be retained and can be used for salads.

Preparing meat for the stuffing: Chop the onions and saute in butter until soft and transparent. Reserve half of the onions for sauce in the same pan in which they were sauteed. In a large mixing bowl, combine the other half with the ground beef and add the rice, egg, ketchup, parsley, salt, and pepper. Mix well and set aside.

Preparing the sauce: Add the tomato soup to the frying pan with the sauteed onions. Add the 2-3 tablespoons water, bay leaf, and thyme. Mix well and simmer for about five minutes.

Stuffing the cabbage: To stuff the cabbage, hold a leaf in the palm of one hand so that it forms a bowl. Add 1-2 heaping tablespoons of meat (depending on the size of the leaf) to the center of the leaf. Fold over the two shorter sides (the leaves should be roughly oval shaped) so that they overlap, then fold over the remaining two sides and secure with a round toothpick. Continue this procedure until the leaves and the meat are used up. If you should run out of cabbage leaves, use the center leaves left over from the

core. Two of these smaller leaves should be used, overlapping them along one edge and then following the same procedure as with the larger leaves. After all the cabbage is stuffed, you can gently fry the balandėliai on all sides in butter or margarine. This step is not absolutely necessary, but it does help "set" the stuffed cabbage form. Only fry until very lightly browned.

Cooking instructions: Place the balandėliai in a casserole dish and cover with sauce. Cover the casserole dish and place it in an oven preheated to 350 degrees. Bake for one hour.

This recipe should serve 7 or 8. Balandėliai can be accompanied with boiled potatoes and pickles or mixed vegetables. This dish also freezes very well.

Credits

This month's contributors to *Bridges* include: V. Vaitkus, V. Radzivanas, G. Ardys, S. A. Gečys, V. Kutkus, J. M. Bachulus.

Acknowledgements

A belated thanks to the Palm Beach, Florida district of Bendruomenė for their \$25.00 donation to *Bridges*, submitted by A. Salkauskas.

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Woodhaven, N.Y. 11421

Please be sure to enclose payment. We can't afford to bill you and keep subscription rates this low at the same time.

A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR:

Well, we did it again . . . we're late. We extend our sincerest apologies to our faithful, and we hope for patient readers and subscribers. We plead guilty to what Vytautas Širvydas, from Maine, our most reliable contributor, has often accused us of — being "asleep at the ethnic switch." The end is in sight though. You should be receiving the next copies of *Bridges* within weeks of receiving this one. Depending on where you are and how well the mail is working, some of you will be receiving the next issue within a few days. However, we are announcing some minor changes. To give credit where its dues, a new feature will be a boxed "credits" section, acknowledging the individuals who contributed to the contents of that particular issue. Also, *Bridges* bids a fond *iki pasi-matymo* to Assistant Editor Craig Hardy (Grigas Ardys) who had other pressing duties and was forced to withdraw from our editorial collective. Grigas won't be out of the picture entirely, though. He'll still supply a Language Corner and other articles whenever he can. In the meantime, we're going to put our Lithuanian noses to the grindstone and fulfill our responsibilities to you, our readers, by providing you with informative and entertaining material about your cultural past, present, and future in as timely a manner as we possibly can.

A NOTE FROM OUR PUBLISHER:

A large number of subscriptions to *Bridges* have recently expired. In order to clarify and improve the renewal process, address labels will now contain the month and year of the last issue covered by your subscription or renewal. Subscription renewal payments should be sent two months in advance of this date in order to insure uninterrupted service. New subscribers, please allow two months for your order to be processed. Occasional production delays may cause a longer wait. If you plan on moving, please be sure to send a change-of-address form, available at your local post office, at least two months before you move to make sure that you continue receiving *Bridges*.

We at *Bridges* and at the Lithuanian American Community of U.S.A., Inc. are concerned with your satisfaction as subscribers. However, *Bridges* is not operated as a commercial venture or sold at commercial subscription rates, and we cannot guarantee normal commercial standards of scheduling reliability. We thank you for your patience and hope you feel our production shortcomings are outweighed by the contents of the newsletter and the immeasurable benefits that closer ties bring as we share our common heritage.

BRIDGES — LITHUANIAN-AMERICAN NEWSLETTER is published monthly by the Lithuanian-American Community of the USA, Inc. Editor: Rimantas A. Stirbys. Assistant Editor: Jūratė Krokytė-Stirbienė. Entered as Third Class Matter at the Post Office in Brooklyn, New York. Subscription rates: \$3.00 for one year. Editorial address: P.O. Box 2158, Jenkintown, PA 19046. Subscription address: BRIDGES — Lithuanian-American Newsletter, c/o J. Jankus, 84-55 86th Ave., Woodhaven, NY 11421

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