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MARCH, 1980

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.

THE VIth LITHUANIAN FOLK DANCE FESTIVAL

The VIth Lithuanian Folk Dance Festival is fast approaching . . . the Festival will be held July 6th in the International Amphitheater in Chicago, Illinois. The anticipation for this major cultural event can be seen by the fact that it's already a sell-out. All 10,000 tickets were gobbled up by individuals and groups some time ago, which is unprecedented in the history of the festivals. The number of dancers who will be participating is also setting a record. There will be over 2,200 dancers including newcomers from Melbourne, Australia (Klumpakojis); Denver, Colorado (Rūta); St. Petersburg, Florida (Banga); Washington, D.C. (Ratelis); Vasario 16 Gimnazija (February 16 High School) from West Germany; and the Lithuanian Saturday School from Detroit, Michigan. Although the U.S. will supply most of the groups, other countries to be represented at the Festival will be Brazil, Great Britain, and Canada.

All age groups will be represented, starting with the youngest children's groups to folk dance festival seasoned veterans. Musical accompaniment will be provided by an orchestra made up of Lithuanian folk ensembles from Cleveland (Čiurlionis), Montreal, Toronto, and Chicago. An equally immense chorus will add voices from such vocal groups as Dainava, the Lithuanian Opera, and the men's chorus from Knights of Lithuania. Also, the festivals have traditionally been opened with greetings from a member of the First Family. For example, Betty Ford was the guest of honor at the Vth festival.



The task of planning, organizing, and implementing the festival is awesome. The Lithuanian American Community has undertaken the responsibility for this venture through its various organs and officers. Special mention should be made of the chairman of the festival's organizing committee, Jonas Talandis; the finance director, with his \$180,000 budget, Edvardas Lapas; Bronius Juodelis, president of Folk Dance Festivals, Inc.; art director Nijolė K. Jasėnaitė-Pupienė; Folk Dance Institute chairman Galina Gabienė, and music director Faustas Strolia. The names of all the other key people in this massive effort would fill the page. The names of all the committee members, workers, assistants, and supporters involved with the festival would fill the rest of this issue. Let it be said, however, that if the enthusiasm of this cast of thousands is any indication, the VIth Lithuanian Folk Dance Festival will truly be a spectacular success.

Rimantas A. Stirbys

THE CAUSE OF FREEDOM

JBANC (Joint Baltic American National Committee) reports that a bill has been introduced into the U.S. House of Representatives which seeks to improve the over-all effectiveness of **Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty** (RFE/RL) and the **Voice of America** (VOA), the two U.S.-controlled international broadcast radios. Both broadcast in native languages to the Baltic States, as well as to East Europe and the Soviet Union. **House Concurrent Resolution 308**, introduced by **Rep. E. Derwinski** (R-III.), calls attention to the threatening role of Soviet propaganda broadcasts and sets forth in broad outlines how VOA and RFE/RL should be strengthened. The resolution states that "... the U.S. should make full use of its technological potential to increase the power, number and performance of transmitters of the VOA and RFE/RL to extend their effective range and to overcome as much as possible interference by jamming." The resolution also declares that "... the U.S. should extend and improve the quality and quantity of programs in foreign languages of the VOA and RFE/RL to increase their coverage, impact and effectiveness."

This resolution reflects the growing awareness on the part of many Members of Congress that these radios have remained underutilized by the U.S. By strengthening the capability of VOA and RFE/RL to provide their listeners behind the Iron Curtain with factual news and information, the radios may be the most effective means of countering Soviet bloc propaganda. H. Con. Res. 308, if passed by Congress, could perhaps result in more broadcast hours in Lithuanian, Latvian, Estonian and other languages and increased audibility in the Baltic States and elsewhere.

★ ★ ★

In the March 10-11 session of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights, U.S. Representative **Jerome J. Shestack** made frequent references to the suppression of human rights in Lithuania. Among his several presentations, he noted that "the appeals of the Catholic Committee for the Defense of the Rights of Believers regarding religious suppression... are heart-rending. He gave the example of Angelė Ramanauskaitė who "was tried and imprisoned merely because she taught some children prayers." Shestack, during the two days of hearings, touched upon many other ethnic groups suffering religious and cultural persecution, including Ukrainians, Estonians, Latvians, Armenians, Georgians, Crimean Tartars, Jews, and Moslems. He also frequently brought up the names of prisoners of conscience, including the Lithuanians Viktoras Petkus, Balys Gajauskas, and Antanas Terleckas, among others. Mr. Shestack, a prominent Philadelphia attorney who has been president of the International League for Human Rights, is a member of the Honorary Committee to the **Coalition to Free Petkus and Gajauskas**.

COMMUNITY WITH CAPITAL "C"

On March 3rd, the White House sponsored a half-day conference for ethnic group representatives with **Dr. Stephen Aiello**, the newly appointed Special Assistant to the President for Ethnic Affairs. Many ethnic groups were represented. Participants were informed of U.S. foreign policy by National Security Advisor Zbigniew Brzezinski and were given talks on the Madrid Conference (being held later this year to review progress on the Helsinki Accords) and on the ongoing U.S. Census, among other topics. Representing the Lithuanians were Rimas Česonis (Bendruomenė Public Affairs Committee member) and Galina Sužiedelis, an

analyst for Catholic University in Washington, D.C. and a member of Bendruomenė's Social Affairs Committee.

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The widely-read American Catholic magazine *Commonweal*, in the February 15th issue, published **Dr. Richard J. Krickus'** study entitled "Lithuanian Human Rights and American Catholics — Hostages in their Own Country." In discussing human rights violations in occupied Lithuania, the study raised the problem of American Catholics paying too little attention to the fact that their brothers and sisters of the same faith suffer the denial of their rights. The article covers six pages of *Commonweal* and was prepared at the request of Bendruomenė, with Bendruomenė sources providing materials.

Dr. Krickus is a third-generation Lithuanian who teaches political science at the Mary Washington College in Virginia. A few years ago, an article he wrote on Lithuania was published in two parts in *The Washington Post*.

★ ★ ★

The **Lithuanian Community Conference** was held on March 22-23, 1980 at the Divine Providence Parish in Southfield, Michigan, a suburb of Detroit. The conference was hosted by the World Lithuanian Community (Pasaulio Lietuvių Bendruomenė — PLB) and drew 42 representatives from the Lithuanian Communities and youth organizations in the U.S. and Canada.

PLB's president, Vytautas Kamantas, officially welcomed the participants to the two-day working conference. Other greetings were offered by Vytautas Kutkus, pres. of the Lithuanian-American Community of U.S.A., Jonas Simanavičius, pres. of the Lithuanian-Canadian Community; Gintaras Aukštuolis, pres. of the

Lithuanian World Youth Association; Laima Beržinytė, pres. of the Lithuanian-Canadian Youth Association; and Rusnė Baltrušaitytė, acting vicepres. of the Lithuanian-American Youth Association.

Much of the conference's agenda was taken up with discussions of the upcoming Second World Lithuanian Days to be held in Chicago during the first weekend in July, 1983. Tentative plans call for the Vth World Lithuanian Youth Congress to be held at the same time as the World Lithuanian Community Council sessions. A variety of social, cultural and sporting events are also envisioned.

CULTURE

The **Lithuanian Folk Art Institute** was founded by Antanas and Anastasia Tamošaitis in order for them to not only collect Lithuanian folk art but to display and introduce it to a broader audience. The Institute was officially born on June 14, 1978. Its center is located at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Tamošaitis in Kingston, Ontario, Canada. Both of these celebrated artists are identified with their own unique paintings, graphics, handloom weavings, and spinnings.

The Institute expects to be able to create a home for the collection of various types of Lithuanian art, such as sculpture, wood carvings, weavings, tapestries, and ceramics. More than just cultivating the beauty of Lithuanian art, the Institute hopes to inform the general public about the many art forms through workshops, courses, lectures, and symposiums. For example, in the fall of 1979, a group of folk art lovers from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania rented a van and spent a memorable weekend at the home of the Tamošaičiai. They came away not only with a deeper appreciation of Lithuania's cultural heritage, but with evident



Participants at the Lithuanian Community Conference.

Photo: Jonas Urbonas



At the Lithuanian Folk Art Institute in Ontario, Canada. From the left: Antanas Tamošaitis, Genė Maciūnienė (leader of a group of folk art lovers from Philadelphia, Pa. who came for a weekend visit to the Institute), and Anastasia Tamošaitienė.

Photo: Aušra Bagdonavičiūtė

enthusiasm to participate in the activities of the Institute.

If *Bridges* readers are interested in learning more about the work of the Lithuanian Folk Art Institute, write c/o 243 South Kingsway, Ontario M6S 3V1, Canada.

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Camp Neringa has published its schedule of camps for the summer of 1980. Camp Neringa, nestled among the mountains of northern Vermont and located near Brattleboro, is operated by the Sisters of the Immaculate Conception Convent in Putnam, Connecticut. The following calendar shows the dates of the various camps and the population of youngsters each is intended for.

June 19 — July 12: for children of Lithuanian descent who do not speak Lithuanian.

July 13 — August 2: for young girls who speak Lithuanian.

August 3 — August 16: for young boys who speak Lithuanian.

August 17 — August 30: scheduled for *ateitininkai*, members of a youth organization, the Lithuanian Roman Catholic Federation Ateitis, Inc.

For more information on these camps, write to the sisters at the I. C. Convent, Putnam, CT 06260.

EDUCATION

The **Bronius Jonušas Stipend** was founded by Emilija Jonušas to commemorate the memory of her late musician husband. This annual grant of \$1,000 is given to a young student who, in addition to his or

her curriculum major, studies one or more Lithuanian subjects. The candidates must be active members of Lithuanian organizations and, by their participation, be working in the Lithuanian community. This will be the third stipend offered in as many years. The first award went to Robertas Saldys of Brazil; the second to Marytė Bizinkauskas of Brockton, Massachusetts.

Candidates for this year's award may be nominated by Lithuanian youth organizations, cultural groups, or other Lithuanian organizations from any continent. The deadline for recommendations is June 30, 1980. A committee of judges will be formed to evaluate the recommendations and a simple majority will decide on the recipient. Recommendations for candidates can be sent to Mrs. Emilija Jonušienė, 4006 S. 26th St., Omaha, NE 68107.

★ ★ ★

Elta Information Service reports that private monies have been donated by a fund from the **Volkswagen Company** to further research dealing with the Baltic nations. The research project started last October, 1979, and is a joint German-British venture to study the social and agricultural changes which have occurred in the Baltic states.

The research groups, based in Munster and Glasgow Universities, are headed respectively by Dr. Erik Boettcher and Alec Nove. The research is focusing on the social, agricultural, and political changes which took place in Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia before and during independence, and after the Soviet occupation and annexation. Boettcher and Nove are covering many topics: land reform, cooperative unions, the effect

of independent Baltic agricultural capabilities on the Soviet system, the cost of living, and the growth of nationalism in the Communist Party since 1945, among others.

ORGANIZATIONS

The **7th Conference on Baltic Studies**, co-sponsored by the Association for Advancement of Baltic Studies (AABS) and Georgetown University, will take place at Georgetown Univ. in Washington, D.C., June 5 through June 8, 1980. This conference will bring together scholars from many different countries and, according to the preliminary schedule, more than 100 papers are expected to be presented. The program has been coordinated by Jurgis Silenieks of Carnegie-Mellon University.

The conference will cover a broad spectrum of scholarly pursuits. The section in ancient history and archeology will focus on the important role of Baltic amber in the ancient world. In the history section, the topics will range from discussion of criminal procedures during the late middle ages to economic planning in the Soviet Baltic States in the 1970's. There will also be an emphasis on the attitudes of the Allied Powers toward the Baltic States immediately before the outbreak of World War II as well as the Communist take-over of Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia in 1940. Other sessions in the political and social sciences section will cover economic history, law and politics, ethnic identity of Balts in America, and contemporary Baltic-Soviet relations.

Papers on literature will be read in three sections: poetry, narrative prose, and literary criticism. These papers deal with authors both in exile and at home. The linguistics section will be in two parts: the first will summarize the "state of the art" in Baltic linguistics; the second is intended to introduce younger scholars to this topic. There will also be a session giving broad coverage to the section on Baltic folklore and mythology.

In the education section, papers will be presented that deal with the Baltic supplementary schools. Needed improvements in the Baltic supplementary education system will be discussed, and the use of audio-visual aids will be used to demonstrate new resources for the supplementary schools. The bibliography section will concentrate on cultural survival resources, devoting sessions to identity awareness resources, to schools and cultural activities, and to research bases. The research section will present a workshop dealing with grants for research projects in Baltic studies. In addition, a workshop on ecological and environmental problem will try to evaluate the desirability, directions, available resources, and aspects of current information

for the study of the ecological and environmental patterns in the Baltic area.

These are just some of the topics to be covered during the conference. For more information, or for a registration packet, write to Mr. J. Toots, 393 West Side Drive, Apt. 301, Gaithersburg, MD 20760. For those interested in attending who are not already AABS members, preregistration would be appreciated by the conference organizers.

* * *

Ethnic Community Services of Chicago, Illinois is emerging as a recognized leader in the affairs of the Lithuanian neighborhood of Marquette Park. ECS was founded four years ago to provide a variety of services such as legal counseling and assistance for Lithuanian organizations, professional training of qualified students in administration and community affairs, and publicity where Lithuania's plight is unknown.

After ethnic studies were conducted by ECS in the predominantly Lithuanian Marquette Park area of Chicago, executive vice-president Paul Žumbakis led an effort to secure matching funds for a redevelopment project to enhance the business area's viability. The project snared a \$300,000 investment from the City of Chicago and ensures that Marquette Park will be safeguarded and maintained as a Lithuanian cultural haven.

ECS has also pressed several political issues, including a boycott of the 1980 Moscow Olympics, a recommendation to members of the U.S. Congress that Lithuanian prisoners of conscience be considered for nomination to the Nobel Peace Prize, and, in general, ECS has issued press releases to the media to reinforce messages about the situation in Soviet-occupied Lithuania.

For more information about this non-profit organization, write to its chairman, Zenonas J. Petkus, Ethnic Community Services, Seven South Dearborn Suite 1524, Chicago, IL 60603.

PUBLICATIONS

When most people in the U.S. hear the word "Tasmania" they think of that small, ferocious, meat-eating marsupial, the Tasmanian Devil. But this small island, just south of Australia and one of the states of the Australian Commonwealth, has much more to offer than that. The population of 400,000 knows the island for its beautiful scenery, its torrential rivers, its impassable forests, and, more and more these days, its Baltic population.

For example, after World War II, 300 Lithuanians came to settle in Tasmania. They quickly organized themselves and became productive citizens. The Lithua-

nian Olegas Truchanas brought the beauty of the island to the rest of the world through his photographs and lyric prose. After his tragic death, a collection of his works, *The World of Olegas Truchanas* was published in English.

Today, the efforts of the Baltic Tasmanian community can be seen in the production of a bimonthly journal, *Baltic News*. Published by HELLP (Help the Estonian, Latvian, and Lithuanian Peoples Association) in Hobart, Australia, the eight-page illustrated journal is sent to Australia's senators and members of parliament as well as universities, public libraries, and individuals. According to the newsletter's standard, "HELLP is a non-denominational and non-party-political group of concerned Australians who (1) do not recognize Russian sovereignty over the three Baltic States; and (2) are working to publicize the Estonian, Latvian, and Lithuanian people's continuing struggle for survival and freedom." Now in its fifth year, the editor is Algis Taškūnas. For more information or for copies of *Baltic News*, write Baltic News, P.O. Box 272, Sandy Bay, Tasmania 7005, Australia. Although *Baltic News* is sent free of charge to anyone who requests it, we think it would be appropriate if you included a donation to defray mailing costs.

THE LITHUANIANS

A reading of history might indicate that the death of a young nation's first ruler would bring instability and chaos in its wake, if not disintegration. Such was not the case following the death of Lithuania's first king, **Mindaugas** (see *Bridges* Vol. 3, No. 4). It is true that his demise brought on a rapid succession of rulers, a revival of paganism, and renewed attacks by the Teutonic Knights. However, Mindaugas left behind a strengthened government and, more importantly, the Lithuanian clans had seen the advantage in uniting against the many enemies ringing Lithuania's border.

This fledgling state solidified, expanded beyond its ethnographic borders, and became a major voice in Eastern European affairs under the reign of Grand Duke **Gediminas** (ca. 1275 - 1341). One of a line of landowners and nobles who rose to eminence in the Aukštaitija region, Gediminas was successor to his brother Vytenis in 1316 and became well known to Western Europe through letters he had written in 1322-1325. The most prominent of these letters were sent to the Saxon province of the Dominicans and Franciscans as well as to several cities of the Hanseatic League. The letters offered special privileges and guarantees to all Christians, but especially to monks, soldiers, tradesmen, artisans, farmers, and craftsmen who would come to settle in Lithuania. His goal

was to populate empty regions in Lithuania with skilled citizens who would help to modernize, or "westernize" the country more rapidly. Other letters, including one to Pope John XXII, deplored the aggression of the Teutonic Order and sought diplomatic means of ending the attacks.

Gediminas was very much a diplomat. Although he resisted baptism himself, he did not forbid any Lithuanian from professing the faith of his own choosing. Gediminas used marriages, alliances, and trade agreements to secure peace with such neighbors as the Livonians, Poles, and Russians. Not all these overtures were successful or of long duration. The Teutonic Order was an especially implacable foe. By 1330, under the pretense of spreading Christianity, it had conquered Prussia and Livonia and was pressing Lithuania's border, attacking outposts, and even reaching into the heart of the country near Vilnius, where Gediminas had established the capital. The favorite path of the invaders was along the valley of the Nemunas River. After the Knights of the Order were joined by mercenaries and Western European crusaders, a succession of castles along the Nemunas fell after bloody battles. Only the well-documented bravery of the Lithuanians and their intense resistance kept the Order from penetrating completely.

While these campaigns were being waged in the west, Gediminas was extending Lithuania eastward and southward. The heavily wooded and thinly populated regions of the Ukraine, Byelorussia, and western Russia proved almost willing subjects for conquest. The many independent Russian principalities gladly exchanged subjugation and payments of tribute



Grand Duke Gediminas,
founder of the Gediminas Dynasty

to the Tatars who controlled much of Asia for simple loyalty to Lithuania. They maintained their own laws and often even their own rulers with little meddling from Vilnius. When governors were appointed, they adapted to local customs, language, and religion. In so doing, and again through arranged marriages, Gediminas developed dependable allies around the Lithuanian core in a territory historians still mistakenly claim was Western Russia.

Encyclopedia Lituanica, from which much of this material was taken, credits Gediminas with being "the true founder of the Lithuanian State." The tribes that he successfully united into a regional federation became part of a coherent and relatively stable political organization that he was able to pass on to his heirs. His efforts to bring Lithuanian culture up to Western European standards were hampered by constant warfare with the Teutonic Order, but they established a trend which later made Lithuania into one of the greatest powers in East Central Europe. As *E. L.* concludes, Lithuania's embrace of Christianity developed slowly and "it did not completely merge either with the Western or Eastern world, but became the arena where these two worlds met and are still meeting in determining the fate of the Lithuanian nation."

PERSONALITIES

The memory of **Kazimieras Žilionis-Zylonis** will live on for many years, not only in the hearts of those who knew him, but also in the minds of countless others who will encounter his generosity and his Lithuanian ideals throughout the years to come. Zylonis, who died on December 13, 1978, left a testament that will exist as long as the free exchange of ideas exists and as long as an individual's love for his mother country can last. In his will, Mr. Zylonis left an estate of \$110,000. The interest on this money is to be used to purchase flowers for his grave in the cemetery of the Lithuanian parish of Holy Cross Church, in Hudson, New Hampshire. The principle, however, is to be distributed among the libraries of Hudson, Nashua, Litchfield and other surrounding towns in increments ranging from \$10,000 to \$25,000. The only requirement is that the libraries spend the money on English-language books and periodicals "concerned with the Lithuanian people or the country."

While this may sound like a fantastic deal to Lithuanian-Americans starved for literature on their ethnic origins, not all the libraries have responded with enthusiasm. According to *The Sun*, a Lowell, Massachusetts newspaper, the trustees of the Pelham Library have been scratching their heads trying to find enough of the required material to spend their \$25,000 bequest on. William McDevitt, one of the library trustees, complains about "the very limited number of

such books and periodicals which are available," and that the terms of the will do not permit the money to be legally spent on programs, speakers, or artifacts, etc.

The Sun also reports that "trustees of those libraries which received Zylonis' contributions are seeking an opinion from the New Hampshire attorney general's office about the possibility of spending the money on something besides books concerning Lithuania. The Nashua library is taking a sounder approach and is requesting suggestions from the public about potential purchases. Any *Bridges* readers who have suggestions are asked to contact the executor of the will: Valerija Raudonis, 134 Main St., Nashua, NH 03061.

* * *

Ann Jillian, the 29-year-old show girl currently appearing in the Broadway his "Sugar Babies", is better known to her hometown friends as **Jūratė Nausėdaitė**. According to *Tėvynė*, the monthly newsletter of the Lithuanian Alliance of America, Miss Jillian is a native of Cambridge, Massachusetts who got her start in show business with Walt Disney Productions in 1961. Much of her present success is credited to the star of the New York musical, **Mickey Rooney**, who has gotten the tall blond several roles, particularly the one in "Sugar Babies." *Parade Magazine* even claims that she is called "Mickey Rooney's official protegee" in show business circles.

* * *

A Lithuanian-American from Springfield, Pennsylvania was among those nominated to receive one of that state's Governor's Awards for Excellence in the Arts

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GERA ŠEII

for 1980. **Al Petrusky-Petrauskas**, a self-taught artist, employs various forms — water colors, oils, and acrylics — and covers a broad range of themes, from nature scenes to portraits. A feature article about him in a paper published by the *News of Delaware Valley* relates that his work adorns the offices of local politicians from both sides of the party fence and hangs from the walls of Metropolitan Opera Singer Hilda Cruz Romo, as well. Exhibitions of his work have been staged throughout the greater Philadelphia area since "Petrusky doesn't travel," he is quoted as saying, "but his paintings do."

Credits

This month's contributors to *Bridges* include: A. Petrauskas, ECS, AABS, JBANC, and S. A. Gečys.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Gratitude is expressed to Laima P. Vanderstoep, at Chicago, Illinois, for her \$15.00 donation to the Coalition to free Petkus and Gajauskas. Ačiū!

MOVING? Don't forget to send in your new address at least two months in advance. Forms are available at your Post office.

**Beet Salad with Horseradish
(Burokėliai su krienais)**

This recipe is especially tasty for those Lithuanians who **love** horseradish.

Ingredients:

3 to 4 large, fresh beets
2 horseradish roots
9 oz. vinegar
1 bay leaf
5 peppercorns
1 teaspoon sugar
salt to taste

Boil the beets, skin them using a paring knife, then cut them into small cubes or slices. Place these in a glass bowl in layers, covering each layer with grated horseradish. Keep alternating these layers until the bowl is filled, then cover the beets with the prepared cold marinade (see below). Finally, cover the bowl tightly and place it in the refrigerator for 24 to 48 hours. This salad goes well with hot or cold beef and pork dishes.

Preparing the marinade: Combine the vinegar, bay leaf, peppercorns, sugar, and salt in a mixing bowl. Let the marinade stand in the refrigerator for at least one hour before pouring it over the beets.

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