

Bridges

LITHUANIAN - AMERICAN
NEWSLETTER

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Vol. 6 No. 5 May - June, 1982

EDITORIAL

Silent No More

The horrors of the holocaust are known to all. Hitler's "Final Solution" was an atrocity, and its perpetrations have justifiably received world-wide condemnation.

Unfortunately, genocide is not strictly a Nazi phenomenon, others have practiced it—some still do. Monstrous policies of genocide have been carried out in Camerouge, Ethiopia, Afghanistan, Lithuania and throughout the Soviet Union. In Camerouge, while the Vietnamese conducted their policy of genocide, its grisly consequences were vividly displayed on the television sets of America, and the world was appalled.

In Lithuania, when, in June 1941, Stalin ordered the deportation of tens of thousands of Lithuanians to the wastelands of Siberia, there were no cameramen to record the horrible aftermath. Frozen corpses, innocent victims dead from hunger, disease, exhaustion and cold. The dead more fortunate than those still suffering.

Lithuania's fate was shared by many, but especially by Latvia, Estonia and Ukraina. How many millions endured this agony, the world may never know, indeed, these barbaric acts have been all but ignored by the West. Why? There are many reasons.

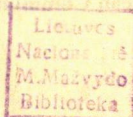
At the end of World War II, Russia was not a vanquished enemy, but a war-time ally, and the true nature and extent of Russian communist activities was only slowly brought to light. More recently, the signing of the Helsinki accords in 1975 which accepted the military map of 1945 as legitimate gave birth to the so-called Sonnenfeldt doctrine which advocated United States aid to the Soviet Union to make its base in Eastern Europe more natural and organic, and espoused the notion that if Communist nations become more dependent on Western economies, they will grow more cooperative and less adventurous. The folly of this policy is shown by examining the activities of the Soviet Union since 1945, which has been its most adventurous since World War II, with direct military involvement in Angola, Ethiopia, Afghanistan, and the orchestration of the current unrest in Central America. Finally, the Western World's industries have been eager to capture the Communist world's markets for their goods. The wisdom of this policy is best expressed by Lenin's own prophecy, "The imperialists are so hungry for profits that they will sell us the rope with which to hang them."

We here in America have an opportunity to reverse these historical trends. We can help focus world-wide attention on the Soviet Union and their oppression of the Baltic people, by joining in the national campaign, initiated by the Baltic American Freedom League, to establish June 14th as Baltic Freedom Day, the anniversary of the mass deportations to Siberia. Write to your members of Congress and ask them to become co-sponsors of Baltic Freedom Day.

Let's serve notice on the Soviet Union that the world will no longer ignore their past crimes, nor tolerate their continued oppression of the Baltic People in silence.

Speak for those who are not able.

Charles H. Zerr



You may do so my contacting

**JANE FOGARTY IN CONGRESSMAN HYDE'S OFFICE AT (202) 225-4561
KATHY STONER IN SENATOR HELM'S OFFICE AT (202) 224-6342**

Lithuanian - American Community News

THE LITHUANIAN — AMERICAN COMMUNITY'S COUNCIL PRESIDIUM CHAIRMEN

Jonas Šlepetys, 1955 - 1961; Stasys Barzdukas, 1961-1964; Vytautas Volertas, 1964 - 1967; Juozas Kapočius, 1967 - 1969; dr. Petras Vileišis, 1969 - 1970; Vytautas Kamantas, 1970 - 1973; Algis Ruginius, 1973 - 1976; Raimundas Kudukis, 1976 - 1979; Vytautas Izbickas, 1979 - 1982.

THE NATIONAL COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN OF THE LITHUANIAN — AMERICAN COMMUNITY

Stasys Barzdukas, 1955-1961; Jonas Jasaitis, 1961 - 1967; Juozas Gaila, 1973 - 1976; Algimantas Gečys, 1976 - 1979, Vytautas Kutkus, 1979 — 1982.



Jonas Šlepetys
Presidium Chairman of the 1st and
2nd Council of the Lithuanian
American Community



Stasys Barzdukas
1st and 2nd National Committee
President and Presidium Chairman of
the 3rd Council of the Lithuanian
American Community



Jonas Jasaitis
President of the 4th National
Committee of the Lithuanian
American Community



Vytautas Volertas
4th Council President and President
of the 6th National Committee of the
Lithuanian American Community



Bronius Nainys
5th National Committee President
of the Lithuanian American
Community



Dr. Petras Vileišis
Presidium Chairman of the 5th
Council of the Lithuanian National
Community



Vytautas Kamantas
Presidium Chairman of the 6th
Council of the Lithuanian
American Community



Juozas Kapočius
Presidium Chairman of the 5th
Council of the Lithuanian
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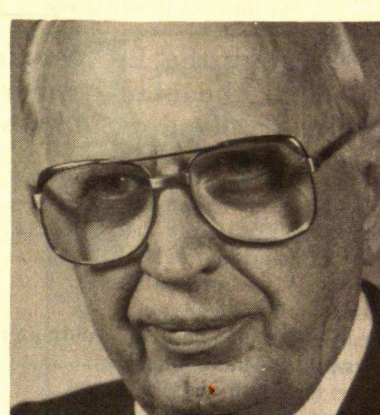
Raimundas Kudukis
Presidium Chairman of the 8th
Council of the Lithuanian American
Community



Algimantas Rugienius
Presidium Chairman of the 7th
Council of the Lithuanian American
Community



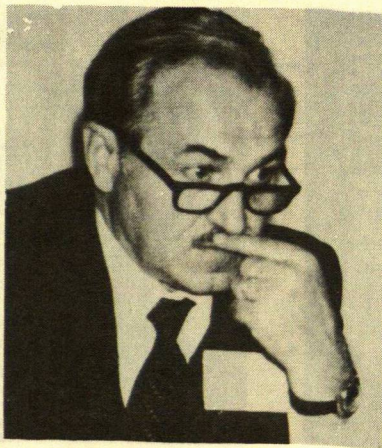
Juozas Gaila
4th National Council president



Vytautas Kutkus
Present National Council
President



8th National Council president
Algimantas Gečys (with President
Gerald Ford)



Vytautas Izbickas
Chairman of the 9th Council of the
Lithuanian American Community

MAIRONIS

This year we celebrate two important anniversaries of the great Lithuanian bard Maironis (actual name Jonas Mačiulis). It is 120 years since his birth (1862) and 50 years since his death (1932).

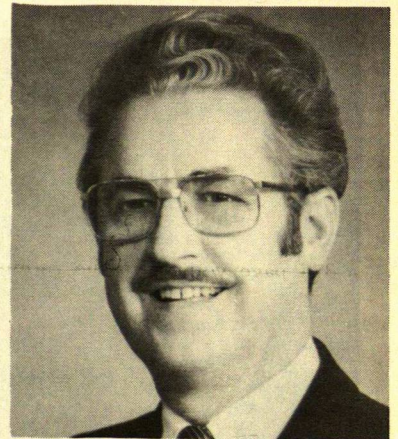
During the years of national reawakening, the poetry of Maironis won universal recognition and enthusiastic acceptance among the Lithuanian public.



Msgr. Jonas Balkunas
Honorary President of the
Lithuanian American Community



Aušra Zerr
President of the Public Affairs
Council of the Lithuanian
American Community



Dr. Antanas Razma
Founder of the
Lithuanian Foundation

Although the Lithuaniana Foundation works independently, it is closely connected with the Lithuanian - American Community. We present here some of its contributions to the cultural and social lives of the Lithuanian - Americans:

Lithuanian American Community's		Support for Lithuanian organizations	130,777.27
Cultural Council awards for 1981	\$ 6,500.00	Scholarships for Lithuanian Studies	
Publications	168,489.00	at universities	11,175.00
Higher Lithuanistic Studies	64,057.00	Pedagogic Lithuanistic Institute grand of	
Educational aids and textbooks	112,875.00	Algis Stankus	11,356.00
Grants to cultural activities	58,860.00	Publication of Lithuania's history	27,325.00
Educational publications and Youth literature	30,850.00	Music Awards	5,000.00
Grants to Lithuanian schools	105,625.15	Jonas Krukonis grand for scholarships	48,704.00
Support for Youth Activities	23,555.00	Drama awards	2,000.00
Awards for Literature	20,150.00	Theatre awards	1,000.00
Awards for Art	8,600.00	Awards for Lithuanian Studies	1,000.00
Awards for Lithuanian Schools	580.00	The total dispersed for Lithuanian activities in 20	
Support for Lithuanian Publications	31,685.00	YEARS — 876,562.77	

LITHUANIA IN THE NEWS

THE THEMES FOR THE YEAR OF THE LITHUANIAN PARISHES

To facilitate local and individual planning of the Year of the Lithuanian Parish, the Coordinating Committee suggests the following themes.

Theme of the Year: Lithuanian Parish — a Celebration of Our Heritage and Faith.

Monthly themes:

1. May: Lithuanian Parish in the Universal Church.
2. June: Lithuanian Priest — Our Spiritual Father.
3. July-August: Our Parishes in Lithuania.
4. September: Our Youth — a Gift to Parish Vitality.
5. October: Lithuanian Parish as a Center of Spiritual Growth.
6. November: Rooted in the Past —

Growing into the Future.

7. December: Lithuanian Family and the Lithuanian Parish.

8. January: Lithuanian Parish and the Caring God.

9. February: Loving Our Parish — Loving Our Fatherland.

10. March: Lithuanian Parish — My Responsibility.

The Feast of Saint Casimir, March 4, 1983 has been suggested as the most appropriate date for the Solemn Closure of the Year.

The Year of the Lithuanian Parish Coordinating Committee

"BILINGUALISM", RUSSIFICATION AND RESISTANCE

The term of "bilingualism" in the USSR is actually an euphemism for Russification through the imposition of the Russian language in education,

beginning with the kindergarten, and all spheres of public life. This sensitive subject is given the official treatment in the theoretical monthly of the Lithuanian CP, *Komunistas* (1981, No. 12).

TSARIST MISTAKES IN RUSSIFICATION ADMITTED

The monthly recalls that "bilingualism" was already spreading in the Russian Empire, but that the "compulsory introduction of the Russian language and the tsarist assimilation policy" contributed to the slowing down of this "objective process", because it provoked a "wave of reaction in the form of local nationalism", which was marked by "distrust of anything Russian" and by "antagonism towards the Russian language". (The monthly omits the mention of similar distrust and antagonism today).

SOME STATISTICS:

The Lithuanian - American Community in its 30th anniversary, published a 374 page volume in the Lithuanian language in which appears the histories of the various Lithuanian Communities' Districts and Regions. It is edited by Balys Raugas and printed by Franciscan Press. Here we present some statistics about Lithuanian schools. The statistics for the schools have been kept only since 1962 and are revealing:

School year	No. of schools	No. of Teachers	No. of Pupils
1962-63	42	163	2689
1963-64	50	210	3050
1963			
1965-66	52		
1966-67	53	319	2959
1967-68	43	307	3113
1968-69	44	325	3217
1969-70	42	316	3025
1970-71	42	316	2986
1971-72	42	315	2824
1972-73	43	313	2718
1973-74	36	315	2554
1974-75	34	305	2442
1975-76	35	317	2332
1976-77	35	299	2045
1977-78	29		2000
1978-79	28	247	1925
1979-80	28	264	1708
1980-81	32	267	1601
1981-82			

THE ASSOCIATION OF YOUNG LITHUANIAN—AMERICANS

Founded in 1973. Open to all Americans of Lithuanian descent between the ages of 16 and 30. Established to foster the development of Lithuania's language and culture, and to help its Lithuanian-American members reap the benefits of their rich ethnic heritage. Works for the restoration of all basic human and national rights in Soviet-occupied Lithuania. Has chapters in major cities throughout the United States. Is governed by a National Executive Committee elected every two years by delegates to the National Council (Council delegates are elected from their chapters every three years). It is a member of the World Lithuanian Youth Association, which has member-nations in North and South America, Western Europe and Australia. Is an associate of the Lithuanian American Community of U.S.A., Inc.

For more information: Virgus Volertas, 405 Leon Ave., Delran, N.J. 08075

DAMAGE IN BALTIC OIL SPILL

In its issue of January 31, 1982, *The New York Times* reported that: "A Moscow insurance executive has disclosed that a little-publicized oil spill on the Soviet Union's Baltic coast two months ago has caused as much as \$900 million in damage...."

"...the British tanker *Glove Asimi*, with 4.8 million gallons of boiler fuel aboard, ran aground and broke up in a storm outside the port of Klaipeda in Lithuania."



Map by New York Times

Lithuanian Life - Styles

THE FOLK COSTUME OF KAPSAI

Kapsai is primarily an area of wide, flat, fertile fields noted for large farms and prosperous people. Private farms had been in existence for countless generations, each homestead fenced off and planted with trees and orchards, the farmers grew flax and kept sheep; as a result, there was always sufficient linen and wool for spinning and weaving.

Skilled and diligent weavers, the women of Kapsai would spin year in the winter and would weave bolts of cloth and sew clothes for everyday wear and holiday attire in the early spring. Thinly spun quality thread was used not only for linen web but also for wide, coloured, patterned cloth.

Since Kapsai is located between Dzūkija and Zanavykija, its clothes reflect many of the neighbouring designs. But the Kapsai patterns — the star and cat's paw for example, are larger than those of the Dzūkai, and their tulips are much more delicate than those of the Zanavykai.

Eighteenth-century clothes were light-coloured while those of the following century were darker in shade. Clothes were characterized by their

colours, stripes, and pattern combinations.

The Kapsai women exhibited skill not only in weaving and embroidery but also in sewing. Tiny eyelets, delicate patterns, white on white drawn thread embroidery, and intricate pick-up designs adorned the sleeves and other parts of the holiday shirts. In general, the homeweaven, harmoniously coloured holiday clothes of the Kapsai people were very festive.

The women of Kapsai strung and wore flat graduated amber beads. Delicately beaded chokers were often worn in place of, or together with a longer strand. Being very valuable, amber was a highly prized heirloom, and a sign of wealth. Most countrywomen only owned one strand.

"From a moral point of view, the fate of Eastern Europe, with that of the overrun of the Baltic States, remains World War II's most monstrous legacy".

Jacob Beam, U.S. Ambassador to the Soviet Union (1969-1973), *The Wall Street Journal*, July 24, 1974



Amber mosaic of scenes from Vilnius, the capital of Lithuania. Miraculous Mother of the Gate of Dawn. (AMBER, The Gem of the Ages by Patty C. Rice, Ph.D.)

HER COMFORT IN A COMMUNIST LAND

One of the Most beautiful tributes in Lithuania to our Blessed Mother is in Vilnius, the capital city. It serves as a continual reminder to the faithful that their heavenly mother remains with them in times of oppression and suffering.

The chapel is known as *Aušros Vartai* — the Gate of Dawn. It is located directly over a street in the old section of the city. Over the altar in the chapel is a large painting of Our Lady, who looks down on all those who pass through the street below. It is said that the hands of the Virgin are delicately crossed on Her breast because it captures Her humble submission to the Will of God at the moment of Annunciation. The Christ Child is conspicuously absent in the painting because He is dwelling in the tabernacle of Her womb. The head of the Madonna is inclined toward the right and wearing two crowns which represent Her titles as Queen of Heaven and Earth.

(Excerpt from an article in *SOUL* by Timothy Burkuskas, O.S.P.)



Kapsai region national costumes. From the left. Girl's national costume Prienai, county of Marijampolė; Man's autumn dress Pilviškiai county of Vilkauskis; Girl's festive dress, Šaltininkai near Krosna. Girl's wedding dress Pilviškiai, county of Vilkauskis.

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Lithuanians in the News



Antanas Vanagas —

A LITHUANIAN - AMERICAN COLONEL

Antanas Vanagas, a colonel in the U.S. Air Force, arrived in the United States as a child in 1949. He graduated from the New Jersey Institute of Technology and in 1960 received his "wings" as a pilot. At first he served as a pilot in the Redar Early Warning unit. Between 1963-64 he participated in the Vietnam conflict. Among his awards are the: Bravery award, Distinguished Flying Cross, Purple Heart, Air Medal (7 oak clusters) and the Meritorious Service Medal (3 oak clusters). After serving at the McGuire Air Base in New Jersey, Colonel Vanagas was assigned to the Aerospace Rescue and Recovery Service unit in Hawaii, where he flew the HC 130 jets which aided in the Apollo Space Program's rescue missions. Later on, he worked at the Andrews Air Base in Washington, D.C. and was Squadron Commander at the Norton Aviation Base in California. In 1981 he was promoted to the rank of colonel.

Colonel Vanagas is the father of 3 children. He speaks fluent Lithuanian and loves to read Lithuanian publications which he also generously supports.

DICTIONARIES AVAILABLE

English - Lithuanian Dictionary, edited by V. Baravykas. About 30,000 entries. \$8.00.

Lithuanian - English Dictionary. Edited by Piesarskas. About 30,000 entries. \$8.00.

English - Lithuanian Dictionary of Economic Terms, edited by A. Buračas. \$6.00.

FOR THE CHILDREN

Mano Žodynas / My Dictionary, a picture-book dictionary with color illustrations, over 1500 terms in both Lithuanian and English. Recommended also for adult beginners in Lithuanian.

ABOUT LITHUANIAN GOLD

AMBER The Golden Gem of the Ages by Patty C. Rice, Ph. D. Published by Van Nostrand Reinhold Co., New York. \$26.95. (We will review this book in a future issue of *Bridges*).

All of the above books are available. Write to: Bridges, c/o Darbininkas, 341 Highland Blvd., Brooklyn, New York 11207. Enclose \$1 for postage and handling.



Linas Kojelis, master of ceremonies at the February 16th reception on Capitol Hill, thanks Senator John Heinz (R-Pa.) for sponsoring a reception in the Capitol. The reception was co-sponsored by the Washington D.C. Chapter of the Lithuanian-American Community, Inc. Photo by D. Bieliauskas

AČIŪ LABAI

The following readers have send in donations toward the further publication of *Bridges*:

- \$100.00 Rev. Msgn. J. Kučingis, Los Angeles, CA.
- \$15.00 Anthony J. Granosky, Kansas City, KS.
- \$5.00: Francis T. Zebal, Huntsville, Ala., Dr. Irene Suboczewski, Silver Spring, MD., H. Schanel, Wooddale, IL., St. Vidmantas, Chicago, IL., M. Prackaila and Dr. F. Kaunas, Cicero, IL.

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GERA ŠEIMININKĖ COOKING LITHUANIAN STYLE

With the hot weather approaching, here are two versions of a marvelous summer soup. For those preferring "something hot" — the beer soup.

COLD BEET SOUP ŠALTIBARŠČIAI

Ingredients:

3 bouillon cubes
4 cups boiling water
1 No. 2 can shoe-string beets
2-3 blossoms fresh dill
1 stalk green onion
1 small cucumber
1 hard boiled egg
1/2 pt. sour cream

Dissolve cubes in boiling water. Add beets. Cool slightly. Add finely cut onion, diced peeled cucumber, finely chopped dill, and salt to taste. Blend in cream. Add diced egg. Chill several hours. Serve in chilled soupbowls, with hot potatoes boiled in jackets. Butter-milk may be substituted for cream.

For variation add small can de-

veined shrimp (well-rinsed) before chilling soup.

COLD BEET SOUP II

Ingredients:

2 qts sour milk
4 tbsps. sour cream
2 boiled beets, peeled
6 stalks beet tops
2 small cucumbers
1/2 cup chopped green onion
3-4 blossoms fresh dill
4 hard-boiled eggs

Beat together milk, cream and finely grated beets. Add peeled, diced cucumbers, diced egg and chopped dill. Chop beet-tops, boil in salted water. Cool. add to first mixture. Salt to taste. Chill thoroughly.

BEER SOUP ALAUŠ SRIUBA

Ingredients:

1 qt. beer
1/4 stick cinnamon
1 slice white toast

4 egg yolks
1 tbsp. sugar
1 cup thin cream

Bring beer to boil with cinnamon and toast. Beat egg yolks till light, adding sugar and cream. Slowly pour warm beer into eggs, stirring constantly. Heat, do not boil. Serve with croutons.

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The Lithuanian Franciscans cordially invite you to spend your summer vacation at their summer resort, Kennebunkport, Maine. The season begins July 3 and closes September 7. The Guest House is located on a scenic spot right on the Atlantic coast. The prices for room and board are reasonable. For information: Franciscan Guest House, Kennebunkport, Maine 04046, Phone (207) 967-2011.

FELLOW LITHUANIANS. Do you want to GET INVOLVED? The KNIGHTS OF LITHUANIA is a nation-wide organization of Catholic men and women of Lithuanian ancestry and their spouses, who have joined together to preserve their heritage, customs and language..... For information contact MRS. ELSIE KOSMISKY, 140 S. Wylan St. Frackville, PA 17931, Phone 717 874-1181

Bridges 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.

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