

# Bridges

341 HIGHLAND BLVD., BROOKLYN, N.Y. 11207

LITHUANIAN - AMERICAN  
NEWSLETTER

THE YEAR OF AUŠRA (DAWN)

Vol. 7, No. 10, October, 1983



*Mikėnas' sculpture "Lietuva" symbolizes the strength and determination of long oppressed Lithuania*

## A LETTER

THAT WAS SMUGGLED  
OUT OF LITHUANIA

Dear World Lithuanian Youth:

We, the youth of occupied Lithuania, salute all of you assembled in the 5th World Lithuanian Congress in Chicago, young or adult, free or imprisoned, from Lithuania or exiled outside its borders. We all send our greetings to you. Although we are far apart, separated by oceans and barbed wire fences, in spirit we are and we shall be together with you, because we are all linked by powerful ties of blood, we are united by common ideas, faith, and shared goals of struggle. We may be dispersed across the whole wide world, but we all are children of the same Lithuanian mother. Our fervent love of Lithuania and our concern about the fate of the entire fatherland binds us all together. We all are one nation, one potent force, which will yet astound the world.

We are constantly watching you. We feel your thoughts, we admire your campaigns and deeds. You are our voice in the world. May this voice go on ringing. May your activities be crowned with success. Let your days at camp be filled with enthusiasm and significance. During the study sessions, may your representatives deliberate on where we came from, who we are, and what road we should follow; may they result in important decisions. May God bless you and help you to give meaning to your existence as you strive to shorten Lithuania's road of suffering.

Look at Lithuania as we look at you. Assist us spiritually and physically, so that our united struggle leads us all to a free and independent Lithuania!

Let us close ranks even more, let us intensify our activity, strengthen our national consciousness, improve our Lithuanian language and proclaim Lithuania's name to the whole world. Let us hear the peal of Kudirka's bell: arise, arise, arise!

It is up to us to give meaning to the sacrifices of blood and tears of our parents, grandparents and forefathers for our beloved country.

To a bright future, together with you!

**Youth of Occupied Lithuania**



# GLOBALLY YOURS

**Algis Klimaitis**, editor of *East European News* published in Vienna, advises, "Resentment against the Soviets is on the rise in Lithuania. The people I talked with said they would be willing to cooperate with Soviet dissidents . . . The desire to build an opposition that works goes beyond national interests."

**Rene Laurentin** writes in *France Catholique-Ecclesia*, "The goals of the USSR—the extinction of the Lithuanian identity and of their religion—still remain unchanged. France has never recognized the annexation of Lithuania by the USSR."

The West German daily *Stuttgarter Zeitung* does not like President Reagan's Baltic Freedom Day speech, June 13. The newspaper, which is close to the opposition Social Democratic Party, objects to the President's promise to the Balts not to recognize their subjugation as a permanent condition. The writers adhere to the present *status quo*: oppressed nations must remain oppressed and the free powers must accept the enslavement of a part of Europe because a mere mention of it might irritate USSR. They believe that by abandoning entire nations to the mercies of the Kremlin, they will insure their own well being and freedoms, just as the appeasers in 1938 thought that, by throwing Czechoslovakia to the wolves, they would insure peace for Europe.

Moscow's anti-semitic campaign is now being faithfully echoed by the communist establishment in Lithuania. Although the ostensible target is "international Zionism", the reasoning and verbiage come straight out of old Nazi propaganda, echoing the style of such anti-semitic periodicals as *Die Sturmer*.

## EDITORIAL

# Cultivating Our Garden

The month of October belongs to Columbus, discoverer of the New World. It is such constant discoveries that propel the human race forwards. . . .

Throughout the history of the world, every once in a while, there appears a person who, like a meteor, shoots across the sky illuminating for the rest of us a brief bright moment in the dark night. For example the Italian astronomer and physicist Galileo for many years faced the wrath of the Church when he insisted in pursuing his theories. And then there was Albert Einstein who, understanding very well the grave consequences, opened for us the door into the atomic age. Both had to break out from their "mind-forged-manacles" to pursue their dreams. They and countless other brave souls believed that their actions have long-termed consequences in the evolvement of the human mind.

Let us apply this question of discovery and search for knowledge to our own Lithuania. For hundreds of years, Lithuanians saw meteors like Mindaugas, Kęstutis, Vytautas and, more recently, Basanavičius and Kudirka illuminating Lithuania's sky.

Man, by his very nature is the most restless of creatures, some more restless than others, and it is those who leave their mark on history. Man is constantly striving, challenging reason and intellect throughout his brief existence on this earth. Again we must think of present-day Lithuania and her brave populace which every day faces insurmountable odds to challenge their *status quo* condition. Many believe that man was not given a complete universe (natural and social orders divinely ordained for all times) but is charged with the responsibility of forming this order for himself. He is engaged in an on-going process of creation, in which improvements take place as a result of enhanced awareness of needs, both material and strictly human, which have to be fulfilled.

Occasionally it is possible to bring about the needed change through existing structures, but usually established interests exert every possible pressure to prevent the accomplishment of the newly perceived task.

We will not be able to change Lithuania's present condition overnight by either accepting or revolting against established situations. But our existence upon this earth will be justified (like that of the brave priest Rev. Alfonsas Svarinkas) if we depart this earth of ours leaving it somewhat better than when we found it. Or, as Voltaire puts it so well in *Candide*: we each must cultivate our garden.

Dalia Bulvičius

### Time for Laughter

A man is sitting in a park in Vilnius, studying a Hebrew book. A K.G.B. official tells him he can't go to Israel. The man responds "I know that, but they speak Hebrew in heaven." The K.G.B. agent says: "Heaven? Maybe you'll go to hell!" The man answers: "In that case, I already know Russian."

In Lithuania, when you dial for information, you'd better have some.

In Lithuania when you are being asked embarrassing questions you are being interviewed by the K.G.B.; in America you are being interviewed by Barbara Walters.





**Ambassador Kirkpatrick delivers to the United Nations the reaffirmation of policy by**

## PRESIDENT REAGAN

On July 26, 1983, we mark the sixty-first anniversary of the *de jure* recognition of the three Baltic Republics of Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia by the United States. Each of these states was a full member of the League of Nations and had signed non-aggression treaties with the Soviet Union. Yet all three countries were forcibly incorporated into the Soviet Union more than forty years ago.

By continuing the illegal occupation of the Baltic States under the provisions of the Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact, the Soviet Union violates international law, particularly the right to self-determination as set forth in the United Nations Charter and in subsequent resolutions of the General Assembly. Resolution 1541 of the General Assembly, dealing with self-determination, stipulates that the decision to incorporate into another state "should be the result of the freely expressed wishes of the territories' peoples acting with full knowledge of the change in status, their wishes having been expressed through informed and democratic processes, impartially conducted and based on universal adult suffrage."

In 1940, the Soviet Union invaded, occupied, and annexed the Baltic States, after which it embarked upon a policy of ruthless Sovietization. Then, on a single night of terror, June 14, 1941, the Soviets deported huge numbers of Baltic peoples to the Gulags where many of them perished.

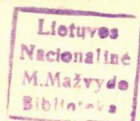
Following the Nazi occupation of the Baltic States, the Soviets again invaded the Baltic States and reconsolidated their control through killings, repression, and new mass deportations. Between 1944 and 1949, some 600,000 Baltic people, out of a population of just a little over 4,000,000, were deported to Siberia. The resistance to Soviet occupation continued until 1952, eight years after the re-entry of the Red Army.

Today, the Baltic peoples continue to struggle to attain their freedom and their right to self-determination. Broadly based dissent movements have emerged demanding national, political, and religious rights. In Lithuania, for example, where 15 unofficial journals are circulated regularly, some 148,000 people recently submitted a protest petition to Moscow, a figure unprecedented in any place under Soviet control.

Americans share the just aspirations of the people of the Baltic nations for national independence. We cannot remain silent in the face of the continued refusal of the government of the USSR to allow these people to be free. We uphold their right to determine their own national destiny, a right contained in the Helsinki Declaration which affirms that "all people always have the right, in full freedom, to determine, when and as they wish, their internal and external political status, without external interference, and to pursue as they wish their political, economic, social, and cultural development."

For this reason, the government of the United States has never recognized the forced incorporation of the Baltic States into the Soviet Union and will not do so in the future.

On this occasion, we wish to reaffirm this policy as we note the anniversary of the 1922 recognition by the United States of the three Baltic Republics. In so doing, we demonstrate our continuing commitment to the principles and purposes of the United Nations Charter and to the cause of peace and liberty in the world.



## BALTIC COIN COLLECTORS AT WAR

*The Knight*, publication of the Lithuanian Numismatic Association, continues its cold war with USSR. Its editor Frank Passic informs us that in a recent issue of *World Coin News*, several dealers listed Baltic coins under USSR in their advertisements and he points out:

It appears the consequences of the *Standard Catalog of World Coins'* dumping the coinage listings of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania under the USSR umbrella are now beginning to be felt in the marketplace. Unaware dealers begin to routinely list Baltic coins according to the catalog which is used almost universally.

The result is two-fold: Baltic collectors for patriotic and logical reasons look under E or L to find the coins in ads they are looking for; if they're not listed there, the dealer won't make a sale. Thus the catalog is creating confusion in the marketplace.

The second effect is upon dealers caught in the struggle. Those who list Baltic coins under USSR are likely to lose sales — and be given a lecture on Baltic political history as well. Listing Baltic coins under USSR is definitely not good public relations for a dealer.

We at the Lithuanian Numismatic Association take the position that the SCWC should move the Baltic States' coins back where logically they should be, and that collectors should not buy Baltic coins in ads where they're listed 'under the USSR. Since Krause Publications has received many protest letters, it would seem the appropriate thing to do is bow to collector interests rather than engage in stonewalling.

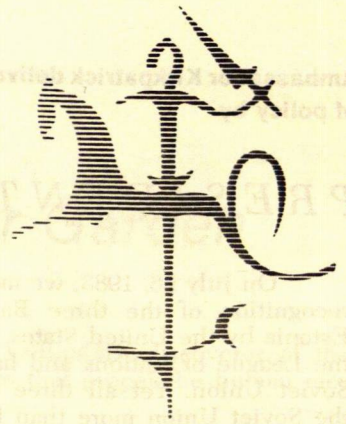
(For more information about *The Knight*, write to The Lithuanian Numismatic Association, P.O. Box 612, Columbia, Maryland, 21045).



**DISCOVER**

## THE POSSIBILITIES

### of an Endowed Chair of Lithuanian Studies at the University of Illinois



The Lithuanian World Community Foundation, representing free-world Lithuanians, invites you to participate in the establishment of an Endowed Chair of Lithuanian Studies at the University of Illinois in Chicago. With your support, this will become the first institution of its kind in the history of American education, a communally successful venture of which you will be proud.

Lithuania, after all, is one of the world's oldest nations. Our history goes back to the Middle Ages, when the Lithuanian Grand Duchy was one of the largest and most powerful states in Europe. Our culture is even older, reaching back to early prehistoric times. The Lithuanian language was spoken along the shores of the Baltic long before the first word of English was ever formed. Now it is up to us in the free world to foster research and promote knowledge about the heritage that is precious to us.

The first step has been taken. After years of investigation, the Lithuanian World Community Foundation has signed a contract with the University of Illinois, providing the creation of an Endowed Chair of Lithuanian studies. The Chair is scheduled to begin work in Fall, 1984. Lithuanian subjects are already being taught at UIC by an assistant professor. The establishment of the Chair will mean that, in addition, there will be at least one internationally recognized scholar of associate or full-professor rank devoted to full time teaching and doing research in Lithuanian Studies. This professor will be supported by teaching and research assistants as well as by the Chair's own office staff. The Chair will serve both undergraduate students taking Lithuanian as an elective, minor, or major subject for their B.A., and graduate and post-graduate students working towards their advanced degrees. The Lithuanian Studies Program will have the full prestige and resources of the university behind it.

How will the Chair be financed? Very simple: by the interest and dividends from a \$750,000 principal, or endowment. Who will provide this endowment? According to the contract, UIC is responsible for \$150,000. The rest, or \$600,000, must be scratched up by us, the Lithuanian-American community.

As our part of the bargain, that \$600,000 must be raised in the following installments: \$200,000 by November 1, 1983; \$100,000 by September 1, 1984; \$100,000 by September 1, 1985; \$100,000 by September 1, 1986; and \$100,000 by September 1, 1987.

How much do we have so far? Only about \$130,000 in actual contributions and pledges. That means we must raise at least \$70,000 by the end of summer as our immediate goal.

Once established, the Chair of Lithuanian Studies will spread knowledge about Lithuania and its people from one of the largest campuses in America. Its scholars — both teachers and students — will over the years produce scores of articles and books on Lithuanian subjects in English for the enlightenment of anyone who cares to learn about them. Because they will be part of a great and prestigious university, the Chair's staff will draw private and government foundation grants for the pursuit of new research topics in as yet unexplored areas of Lithuanian studies.

Most important of all, because the Chair will run on an endowment, it will never run out of funds. That means it will operate for an indefinite period of time, for as long as there is anyone at all interested in teaching and learning about things Lithuanian. Remember: the Sanskrit language is still being taught today even though the ancient Brahmins who spoke it have long since vanished from the scene! So, should the day come when we as an ethnic community in this country no longer exist (though we hope not!), the Chair will still stand as a living and working memorial to what one of the world's oldest and most beautiful cultures our Lithuanian culture—is all about.

In short: the Chair will bring to us a return, in on-going Lithuanian scholarship, worth many times over what we put into it now. And it will help establish for us a reputation as a community known not only for our folk dances and kugelis—but for our interest in advancing the values of the mind as well.

Won't you please lend your hand in making this come true? Send your check (tax-deductible!) to the Lithuanian World Community Chair-Endowment Fund 5620 S. Claremont Ave., Chicago, ILL. 60636.

P.S. May we also remind you that many companies have Matching Gift Programs for precisely the kind of educational project we're talking about here. This means that if you contribute, say, \$500 and let your employer know about it, he will pitch in another \$500 (sometimes even more) to the same cause.



## DISCOVER

# MARIANAPOLIS

When October's blue skies fire up with the crimson and orange foliage of fall, treat yourself to pleasure: take a drive to Thompson, Conn. and discover the riches of Marianapolis Preparatory School. It will be more impressive than the fall foliage.

Fifty years ago, all the students enrolled at Marianapolis were of Lithuanian extraction. The administration looks back with pride on the hundreds of its alumni who have gone on to distinguish themselves in major colleges and universities.

Today Marianapolis, appreciating the value of diversity in its student population, attempts to bring together students from all parts of the country and from many other nations. The curriculum which offers programs in classical, scientific and academic studies also provides the students with the opportunity to travel during the Easter vacation in Europe where they practise the foreign language they have been studying, acquaint themselves with great culture, and visit historic places. Each student learns to appreciate the attitudes and mores of those from different geographical, economic, cultural and ethnic backgrounds. Marianapolis admits students of any race, color, national or ethnic origin. Admission is by examination.

The priests and brothers who administer, teach and work in the school belong to the Congregation of Marians of the Immaculate Conception, whose history dates back to 1673 in Europe. In 1913 three Marian priests responded to a call from the United States to work among the growing community of struggling Lithuanian immigrants in Chicago. They devoted themselves for the spiritual good of the Lithuanians for whom it was a joy

## An Unusual College Preparatory School

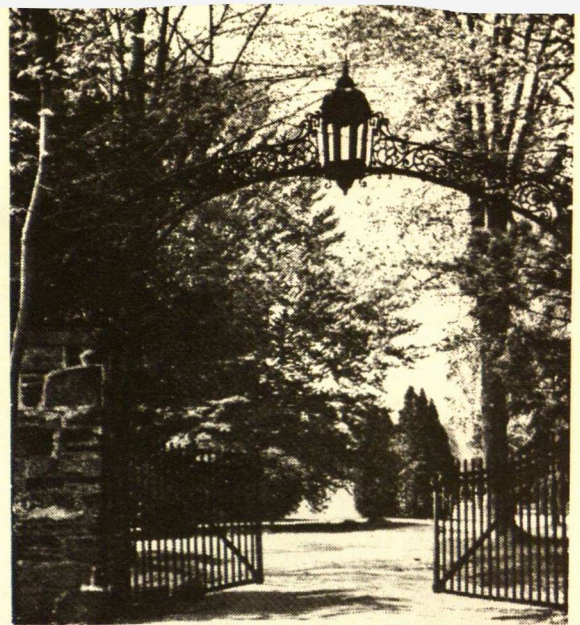
to hear the word of God in their native tongue. Today the Marians serve in various dioceses of the United States and in South America.

These years are critical formative years for our youngsters. The wrong kind of school and companions can do immeasurable harm. If you compare what happens in a regular public school with what happens in Marianapolis in terms of discipline, dress code, classroom conduct, drugs, drink, weapons, and training for personal responsibility in relationship with others, you will be impressed. Extend the comparison to curriculum and standards of achievement and you will recognize the value of such a school. The young people will appreciate the attractiveness of the courses offered. And they will respond with enthusiasm at the prospect of being associated with the quality of students who attend Marianapolis.

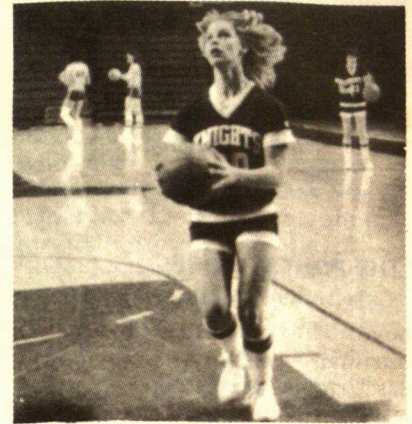
Although some scholarships are available, it is advantageous to plan and save with foresight to that day when your children will want to enroll in Marianapolis.

Visit Marianapolis and talk with the headmaster Rev. John Petrauskas, MIC. Tell your friends with school age youngsters about this extraordinary school that educates for a good full life.

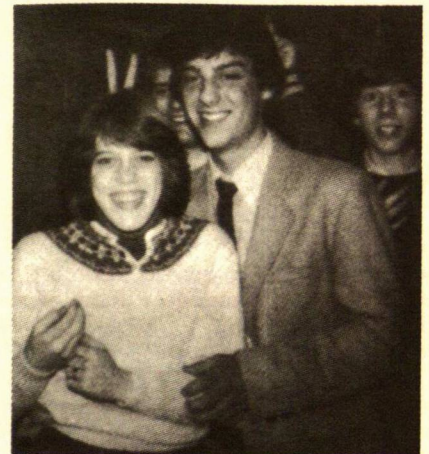
**Demie Jonaitis**



*Gates to becoming happy, fulfilled people*

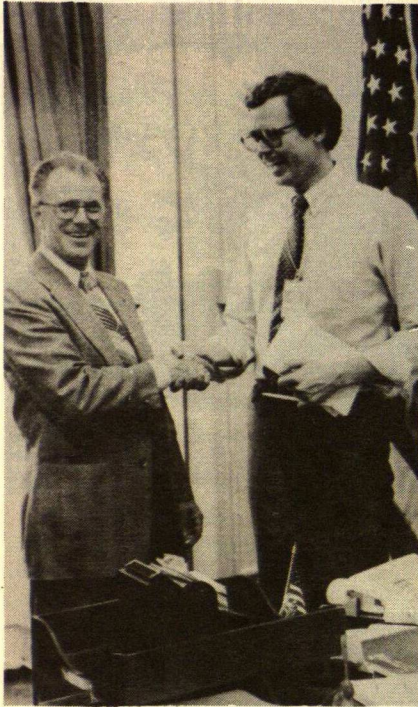


*A respite from intensive study*



*Clubs provide comraderie and fun*





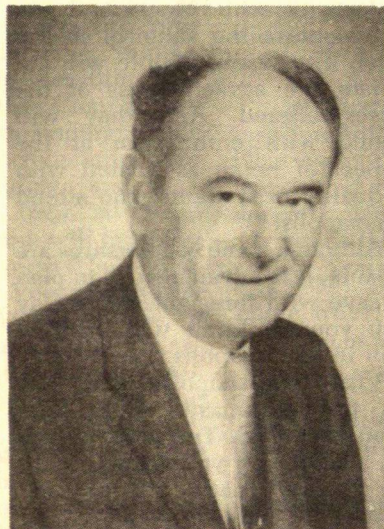
*J. Urbonas and L. Kojelis  
join in action*

## IN THE WHITE HOUSE

(Above) The vice president of the Lithuanian American Community Jonas Urbonas greets Linas Kojelis, recently appointed Aide in the Office of Public Liaison at the White House in Washington, D.C. Linas' responsibilities include liaison with ethnic and Catholic groups. His father escaped from Lithuania when the Soviets took over during World War II. Linas spoke at the recent Knights of Lithuania Convention.

## DYNAMIC LEADERSHIP

(Right) Paul Dargis, who is a lawyer speaking seven languages, is the national president of the Lithuanian Alliance of America, the largest Lithuanian fraternal organization in the world. He is also national president of the Lithuanian National League of America, Sandara, and national vice president of the Lithuanian American Council



*Paul Dargis*



*Loretta Stukas*

# CENTERS THAT GENERATE ACTION

which includes almost every Lithuanian organization in the United States. This year he celebrates the 50th anniversary of his tri-state Lithuanian Hour Radio Program in Pittsburgh. The Pittsburgh City Council passed a resolution honoring him as the Lithuanian Man of the Year and he was given testimonial banquets in Pittsburgh and Chicago. Our readers, whatever their age may be, with Lithuanian roots, might consider the rewarding pleasure of following the footsteps of Paul Dargis and join the Lithuanian Alliance of America. For more information, write to the Alliance at 307 West 30 St., N.Y., N.Y. 10001. and ask for details.

## OUR UNDAUNTED KNIGHTS

(Below) Loretta Stukas is the national president of the Knights of Lithuania, the unconquerable Vyčiai, a cultural social and religious organization whose activities are known throughout the United States. You won't find livelier and more warm hearted and interesting people. In *Bridges'* editorial, Dalia Bulvičius urges we try to leave this world a better place than we found it. One way to do it is — join the Knights of Lithuania. For information, write to. Mrs. Loretta Stukas, 234 Sunlit Dr., Watchung, NJ 07060. You'll enjoy them!



## CENTRIFUGAL FORCE

(Right) The World Lithuanian Community is led by a board of individuals who are distinguished by their substantial contribution to the cultural and political progress of Lithuanians in the free world. Seated are Milda Lenkauskienė, Dr. Thomas Remeikis, Vytautas Kamantas—president, and Birutė Jaisaitienė. Standing: Raimundas Kudikis Mykolas Drunga, Gintaras Grusas—the chairman of World Lithuanian Youth, and Algimantas Gečys. (See page 8 for action.)



Kaprio photo

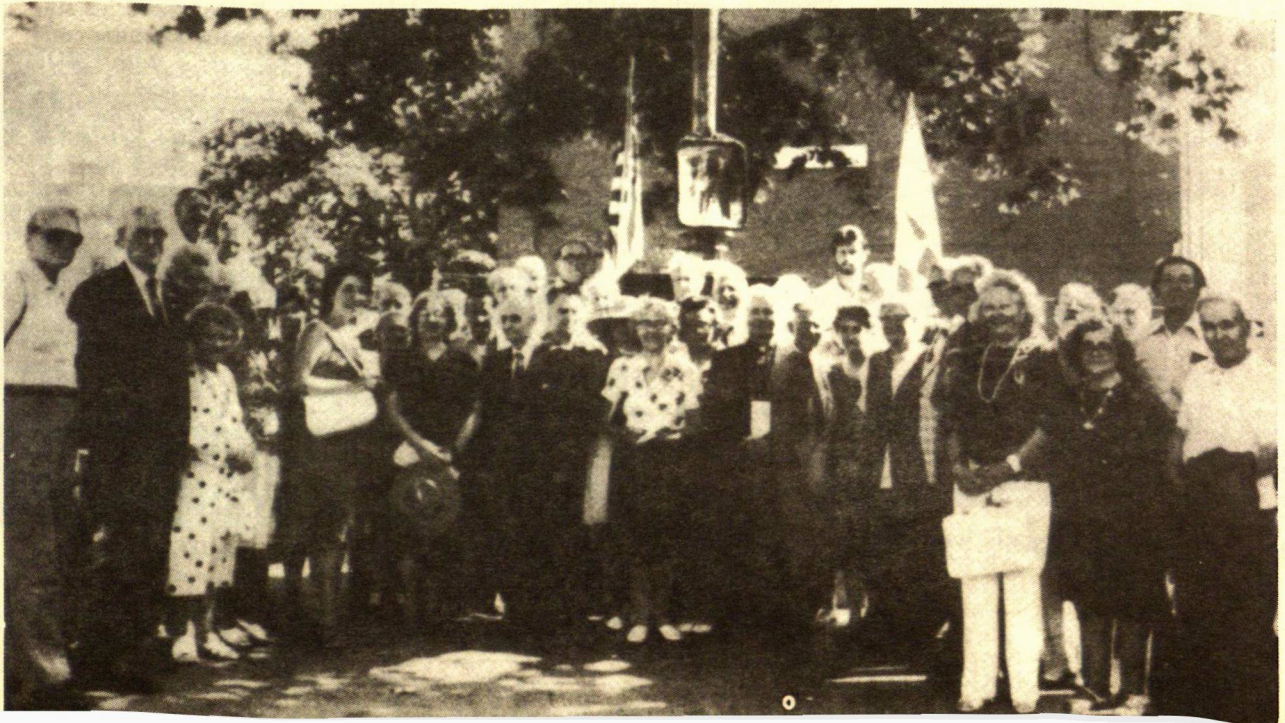
*Lithuanian World Community Officers*

## SMALL BUT TOUGH

(Below) We get but a glimpse of the July commemoration of Darius and Girėnas in front of their monument on Lituanica Square in Brooklyn's Williamsburg area. Such commemorations transpired worldwide, even in occupied Lithuania, but this was especially poignant because its perennial sponsor Bronė Spudienė (standing in the center) worked, despite illness, to make the event a success. Her devotion to the memory of the flyers has been

complete. She was instrumental in financing the erection of the monument, then annually rallied people to the commemorations, even after Williamsburg became subject to violence and conflagration. The monument was desecrated with graffiti and the Square became a haven for drug addicts. Year after year, Bronė and her assistants cleaned up the Square, scoured off the graffiti, and invited the ever diminishing numbers of Lithuanians

to the commemoration. We see her surrounded by well known individuals who give her their support: Rev. Peter Baniūnas, Dr. Jack Stukas, Dr. Jonas Lenktaitis, Stephen Briedis and devotees like Marcelynas, Ralys, Sateika, Venis, Kulber, Wytenis etc. Such dedication attests that it is the individual, not necessarily the big name and strong voice, that carries on — person to person — the flame of survival of brotherhood. . . . into the future.



Narkelinaites photo



# TREACHERY of JOGAILA



*Jogaila (1377 - 1392)*



*Grand Duke Kęstutis  
murdered by Jogaila*

## **Dr. Joseph B. Končius**

Despite his superior forces, Grand Duke Kęstutis was eager to cooperate with his nephew, Jogaila, to achieve their respective national goals and greater material good for the provinces and peoples under their rule. However, Kęstutis' old enemies the Teutonic Knights, looking forward to an alliance with Jogaila, used every possible means to influence him against his uncle.

At the instigation of his brother Skirgaila and his mother Juliana, Jogaila readily joined in the plans of the Teutonic Order against Kęstutis. In 1380 Jogaila and several influential knights pretended to go on a hunting trip to Dovydiškės to which Vytautas, Kęstutis' son, was also invited. The real purpose of this trip was to draw up a secret treaty between Jogaila and Grand Master Winrick von Kniprode against Kęstutis. The secret agreement made there between Jogaila and the Teutonic Knights provided that:

- 1) There would be peace for four years;
- 2) After four years Jogaila was

to accept Catholicism and baptize his nation;

3) Jogaila would concede Žemaitija province as far as the Dubysa River;

4) Jogaila would not start any war without the consent of the Teutonic Knights.

The Teutonic Knights then invaded the provinces ruled by Kęstutis but did not bother Jogaila's territory. Kęstutis began to suspect an illicit alliance between Jogaila and the Teutons, and he was soon to have confirmation of his suspicions when he learned from his brother-in-law Duke Janusz of Masovia, that Jogaila and the Teutonic Knights planned to deprive him of his duchy.

With a powerful military force Jogaila, in 1382, began an expedition against Polotsk, leaving his brother Skirgaila to defend Vilnius. Kęstutis then invaded Jogaila's territory and occupied Vilnius. There he discovered actual proof of Jogaila's duplicity in a document which set forth the facts of the conspiracy with the Teutonic Knights.

As Grand Duke of Vilnius as well as of Trakai, Kęstutis immediately set about to get revenge against all those who had joined Jogaila in the cabal against him. But while Kęstutis was engaged in a foray against Duke Kaributas of Novgorod-Sieversk, Jogaila invaded Vilnius and Trakai and occupied both provinces. The success of this foray was due in large measure to

the connivance of a number of Livonian merchants who had been secretly plotting against Kęstutis. Grand Duke Kęstutis immediately sent for his son Vytautas and together they formed a new plan for the recapture of the territory.

Vytautas organized powerful military forces in the district of Gardinas, and Kęstutis did the same in Žemaitija; together they marched on Trakai. This time the Livonian Order from the north and the Teutonic Knights from the west came to Jogaila's assistance. The opposing forces were in readiness for one of the biggest engagements in this series of battles.

Before the actual hostilities were to begin, however, Jogaila sent a delegation to Kęstutis and his son with peace proposals. Kęstutis considered the proposals with great skepticism; but, influenced by his son Vytautas and being none too sure that he could win the battle, he agreed to meet Jogaila. With his son he journeyed to Vilnius to negotiate, but both were taken prisoner upon their arrival. Kęstutis was taken to the fortress at Kreva, while Vytautas was detained at Vilnius.

One of Jogaila's first acts after his treacherous deed was to order the execution of Kęstutis, his wife Birutė, her brother Vydimantas, and other relatives of Kęstutis' family. Kęstutis was murdered on August 15, 1382. This great warrior perished ingloriously at the hands of his own close relative.



# HORSEMANSHIP IN LITHUANIA

*Since pagan times, horses have been Lithuanians beloved companions in waging war, laboring in fields and forests, and courting. Our folk song daina and poets through centuries have celebrated the role horses played in our history. Today, horsemanship draws thousands of spectators.*

## WAGON

Juozas Tysliava  
(1902 - 1961)

Four gray wheels and two bay horses  
Hasten up the hill;  
A man's years are not accustomed  
Ever to stand still.

Sunshine gilds the beasts and wagon,  
Wheels and hoof cut weeds;  
Through the world speed on fleeting  
A man and his steeds.

Whirling winds whine, wail and whistle  
From a mountain bare:  
Is that you, O Fortune, Fortune,  
Standing headless there?

Four gray wheels and two bay horses  
Speed the human load,  
Up and down the all-observant,  
Silent serpent-road.

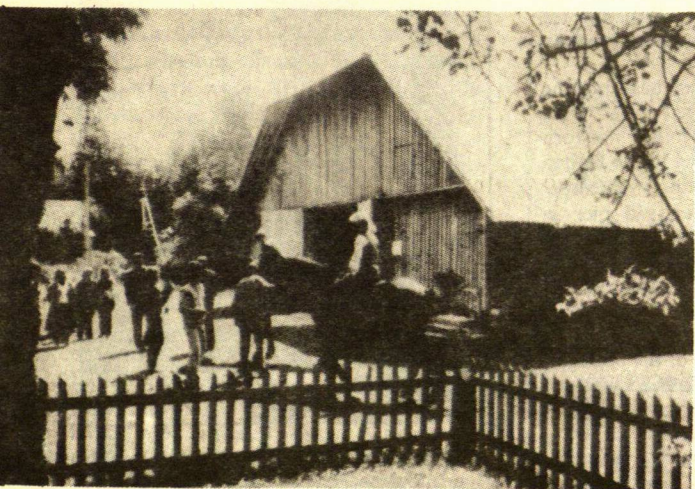
(Nadas Rastenis trans.)

9



Fligelio photo

*Equestrienne prize winner, Rūta Sidabraitė*



*Popular Anykščiu Museum of the Horse*

Lietuvos  
Nacionalinė  
M. Mažvydo  
Biblioteka



Dilio photo

*Sigmars Sarka, international champion*





*Sister M. Urban, OSF, who wrote this story, visits the Cultural Center in Brooklyn with Brother Daniel Yenkevich, OFM, the author of "St. Casimir, Patron of Lithuania", which appeared in our March issue.*

## "My God, Sisters! Are you two still here?"

by Sister M. Urban, OSF

Dr. Owen Norem, the U.S. Envoy Extraordinary Minister to Lithuania, whose story appeared in February *Bridges* is a man Sister Virginia and I will remember to the end of our lives. We had been sent to Lithuania in 1939. He met us early in June 1940 and exclaimed, "My God, Sisters! Are you two still here?"

Sister Virginia and I were trapped in Communist-overrun Lithuania. Terror and confusion abounded everywhere. We were stranded and surrounded by enemies on all sides. We prayed to the Blessed Virgin to help us get German visas so that we could eventually get back to the United States.

"Sisters," he said, "pray tonight as you have never prayed before. I am being honored with a farewell diplomatic banquet at which I hope to get a 'group visa' for eight of you inexperienced young people."

He managed to sit beside the German diplomat who had the authority to sign an ordinary slip of paper with eight names of American students, seminarians, and us two Sisters. He managed to get the required signatures and became personally responsible for us down through war-torn Europe as far as Madrid, Spain. There, he embraced us and, putting us in God's care, took a plane to the best place in the world—the United States.

We felt like orphans abandoned by everyone except the Blessed Mother. Getting through to Lisbon, Portugal, was

not an easy journey. We still had some precious American dollars padded away in our big, umbrella-type veils. The refugees and children in Spain followed us around as if we were the Pied Piper and they begged for help and American coins of which we had very little to spare.

The only ship still crossing the Atlantic was a cargo boat carrying hundreds of refugees and the more fortunate people who had money and visas for the United States. We had an American passport, but no money. It felt like a miracle when, two hours before sailing time, our money for passage arrived through the American Express.

We didn't mind the sea-sickness, nor the inconvenience of a crowded cargo boat because, after that trip through war-torn Europe, the thought of going to the United States was most precious. I don't remember if we knelt and kissed the old pier in Hoboken, N.J., but with tears of joy and thanksgiving we kissed the many Sisters who came to greet us and took us to the Convent in Elizabeth, N.J. It was here that I had received some of my first lessons in Lithuanian and heard some of the beautiful hymns and songs in my father's beloved language. I am grateful to God that Providence led me to a Community of Sisters of St. Francis, who gave me the opportunity to travel and learn more about my roots, language, culture and people.

## 75 YEARS FOR GOD AND COUNTRY

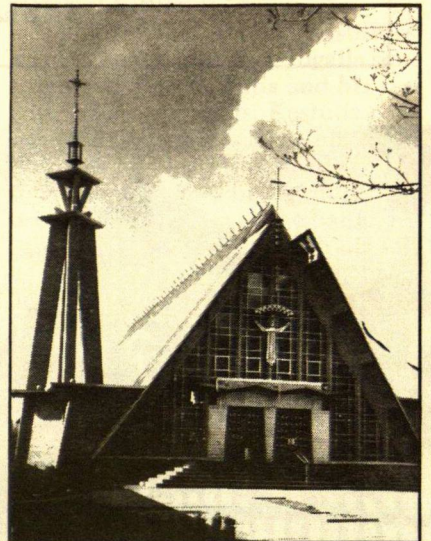
The month of October is very special for the priests and parishioners of Transfiguration parish in Maspeth, New York. This month, the parish celebrates its 75th Birthday.

We would not be amiss in stating that perhaps Transfiguration Church is one of the most beautiful churches in the Diocese of Brooklyn. It was mainly through the efforts of Monsignor John Balkūnas, the third pastor of the parish, that this edifice came into being. This church was built by Lithuanians (architect Mulokas and artist Jonynas) for Lithuanians (the generous parishioners of Transfiguration).

Presently, under the able leadership of its pastor Rev. Frank Bulovas, the parish is thriving. It is truly a monument for God and Country. It is the base for numerous organizations, not the least of which is the Knights of Lithuania, Council 110, one of the largest councils in the organization.

In recognition for his achievements, His Holiness, Pope John Paul II, on July 3, 1982 granted Rev. Bulovas the Monsignorate.

Transfiguration parish is truly worth a visit — as a work of art and as a place where to pray and meditate. And while you are there, wish *Ilgiausiy Metų* to Monsignor. In August he celebrated 40 years in the Holy Priesthood!



Transfiguration Church, 64-14 56th Road, Maspeth, N.Y. 11378. Telephone 212 - 326 - 2236.



# LITHUANIANS CHANTING THEIR WAY TOWARDS HEAVEN

by Rev. Timothy Burkauskas, O.S.P.

Characterized by a deep respect for past traditions, a love for music, and a strong devotion to their Catholic faith, it was not surprising to find Lithuanians participating in a recent international symposium on Gregorian Chant. The lovely and spacious campus of The Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C. was the June site for a gathering of music scholars from around the world. Eager to generate a renewed interest in the ancient and treasured chants of the Catholic Church, participants devoted themselves to a three day symposium of lectures, chant study and spiritual enrichment.

During the symposium one of the keynote addresses was given by an American born priest of Lithuanian parentage, the Rev. Dr. Robert Skeris. An outstanding scholar in the area of liturgical music, Father Skeris is the Executive Secretary of the prestigious Consociato Internationalis Musicae Sacrae which is headquartered in Rome. Originally from Wisconsin, he now resides at Maria Laach Abbey in Germany which is an outstanding center of monastic and liturgical study. Father Skeris presented a lecture at the international symposium entitled "Gregorian Chant and Vernacular Hymnody" which was enthusiastically received by the several hundred participants.

Representing the Lithuanian Sisters of St. Casimir from Chicago at the symposium were Sister M. Bernarda Venskus and Sister Theresa Papsis. Sister M. Bernarda, arriving in the United States shortly after her Lithuanian birth, has devoted most of her convent life to music and composition. With her extraordinary skills as a composer she has delighted music lovers with her Symphonietta, Lithuanian Folk Dances I and II, two Masses, and a Rhapsody on Lithuanian themes which was performed as recently as 1979 by the Chicago Symphony. Her untiring dedication has done much to bring Lithuanian hymns and folk melodies into the musical foreground. Sister Theresa, also a Sister of St. Casimir, is on the faculty

of Maria High School in Chicago and is an accomplished organist. Her diligent study and work with "the King of the instruments" has led her to become the organist at the Motherhouse of the Sisters of St. Casimir where she enjoys the responsibilities and challenges of such a position.

Among the priests attending the historic gathering was Rev. Peter Stravinskis, Ph.D. from Trenton, NJ. Serving as the East Coast Director of Development for the Catholic League for Religious and Civil Rights, Father Stravinskis recognizes the need to faithfully preserve that chant which Saint Pius X called "the supreme model of Church Music", and which Pope Paul VI said "should be given pride of place in liturgical services."

The participants for the unique symposium on Gregorian Chant arrived from such distant countries as: France, Germany, Holland, Brazil, United Kingdom, Spain, Malawi, Switzerland, Portugal, Uruguay and Italy. The absence of any participants from the homeland of Lithuania is but another indication of how Soviet-occupied Lithuania is cut-off from the rest of the world and the universal Church. It would seem unlikely that those within the borders of Lithuania were even aware of such an important symposium taking place. In their absence, however, they were represented by dedicated priests and sisters who take pride in their Lithuanian background, cultivate a devotion to their rich Catholic heritage, and like all Lithuanians — love music!

## TO THE EDITOR

I am not Lithuanian in origin, but I came across a sample of your magazine and I particularly enjoy the articles on Lithuanian history, culture and language. I am a former newspaperman, now studying for a master's degree in languages.

Kenyon J. Roberts  
Sylmar, CA

Reading about Darius and Girėnas in *Bridges* brought back memories about a Sunday afternoon when my host took me to a picnic on a farm outside of Philadelphia. There I had the honor to meet these two brave men. The great thrill was the ride in the very plane they

were to use for their ill-fated flight to Lithuania with Captain Darius at the controls. The rides were one way they used to get contributions for their flight. He took four persons on each short flight also showed what happens when you get a little air turbulence. I now wonder how many Lithuanians in the Philadelphia area and other parts of the country remember such a ride.

Peter Mardosa  
Flushing, N.Y.

**Sample copies of BRIDGES are available for organizations interested in acquainting their members with our publication.**

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**GERA ŠEIMININKĖ****COOKING LITHUANIAN STYLE****DILL PICKLES****RAUGINTI AGURKAI**

5 lbs small cucumbers  
fresh dill stalks

5-6 qts. boiling water  
cherry or grape leaves

3/4 cup salt

1/2 cup vinegar

5 peppercorns

1 clove garlic — (optional)

1/4 onion

5-6 whole allspice

Scrub and wash cucumbers. Cut off both ends of each cuke. Soak cucumbers in ice water at least an hour. Tie spices, onion and garlic in a clean cloth, place in water, salt, and vinegar, and bring to a boil. Rinse cherry or grape leaves and dill. In a clean crock, place the leaves, cucumbers and dill in alternating layers. Pour the boiling water and vinegar over them, making sure that the water more than covers the cucumbers. Put the spice bag in crock. Place a plate with a weight on it on top of cucumbers to keep them under brine. Cover crock with cloth. Place in warm spot. Ready to eat in 3-4 days. Chill pickles before

serving. If preferred, spices may be omitted.

**SAUERKRAUT****RAUGINTI KOPŪSTAI**

15 - 16 lbs cabbage

2/3 cup plain or pickling salt

1 cup raw cranberries

1/3 cup caraway seeds

1/3 cup shredded raw carrot.

Lithuanians usually make sauerkraut in a wooden barrel kept for that purpose. A 5 gallon clay crock will serve as well. Trim cabbage, quarter, remove cores and shred finely. Place a layer of about 1/4 of the shredded cabbage into the crock. Sprinkle with about 2 tbsps. salt. Tamp down firmly with a wooden pestle or thick, smooth board, to extract juices. Repeat layering cabbage and salt, tamping down each layer.

If using caraway, cranberries or carrots, sprinkle about a tablespoon of caraway seeds or shredded carrot over each layer of cabbage, or scatter about 1/3 cup of cranberries over layers.

Place a large plate or clean round board over cabbage. Cover with clean white cloth and weigh down with a clean rock or bottle of water placed on top of plate or board. Set in warm place,

about 60 to 70 degree: Every other day, remove skum that forms on top of cabbage, wash and replace cloth and weight. When fermentation starts, poke long stick down through cabbage to bottom of crock five or six places. When fermenting is done in about 10 to 20 days, remove crock to cool place.

**SHOPPING****FOR CHRISTMAS**

*The U.S.S.R-German Aggression against Lithuania.* By Bronius Kaslas. \$15.00.

*Vytautas the Great. Grand Duke of Lithuania.* By Dr. J. Končius. \$4.00.

Subscription to *Bridges*. \$5.00.

St. Casimir's Calendar for 1984. \$2.00



St. Casimir's 500 years of death commemorative medals available in silver and in bronze. Bronze — \$10.00, silver \$35.00. Enclose \$1.00 for postage and mailing. *Bridges*, 341 Highland Blvd., Brooklyn, NY 11207

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