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BRIDGES

LITHUANIAN-AMERICAN NEWS JOURNAL

PO. BOX 3050, WORCESTER, MA 01613-3050

Volume 14, No. 8

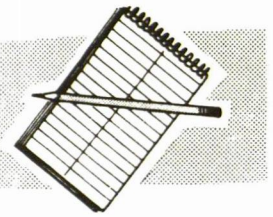
October 1990



Ann Jillian, after her triumph at the Trump Plaza in Atlantic City, in celebration of her 30th Anniversary in show business, wearing the juosta given her by the members of the Knights of Lithuania Council 26, Worcester, MA. Photo by Eduardas Meilus, Sr.

WITHDRAWN
DATE MAY 91 BY AL
Baizekas Museum of Lithuanian Culture
Chicago, IL 60629

From the Desk of the Managing Editor



Dear Readers:

Usually in this space, I discuss an event of the day or highlight the contents of the News Journal. This month in a departure from my usual mode, I feel compelled to share some critical issues with you, our loyal readers.

In our on-going attempt to provide you with a lively, dynamic news journal, we have made some innovations, increased our contributors' base and made *Bridges* a forum for the exchange of ideas. We brought back some features established 15 years ago when *Bridges* was first conceived by a group of us on the East Coast and authorized by the Executive Committee and the Board of Directors of the Lithuanian-American Community. We've run into a financial snag. The issue can be resolved quickly, if all of our readers lend a hand.

First of all, many readers do not pay for their subscriptions on time. (Your expiration date is noted on your mailing label). When the subscription fee is not received, this requires us to send out renewal notices that cost us 25 cents each. (15 cents postage — 10 cents for the pre-printed card). In the past 6 months, we've sent out 1500 such notices, that's nearly 1/2 of those listed as subscribers. Some were 2 years in arrears. Rather than sending a check for \$24.00 to bring their subscription up-to-date (if they respond) a check for \$12.00 is sent and in a note, the reader writes, "This is for one year starting now. What is past, is past." What are we to do? Many times we've been forced to take the loss giving the reader the benefit of the doubt. Another area of concern is address changes. In many cases we find out about a change from the U.S. Post Office when they send an undeliverable issue back to us. Each instance of this costs us 30 cents over and above the 50 cents in postage paid to send out the single issue — and the subscriber doesn't get his copy

of *Bridges*. Sometimes it takes the Post Office 3 months to return these undeliverable issues to us and we've continued to send out subsequent copies to the wrong address and the cycle continues. This puts a drain on our financial resources. Please inform us of any change in address as soon as you know it.

Until recently, *Bridges* used an outside computer firm to process additions, deletions and changes in addresses of our subscribers. This was a slow, tedious and costly process. Now, with the addition of our subscriptions director, the processes is accomplished quicker than the 6 months it used to take. Bear with us, please, on this one. We've still got some bugs to work out. Also please remember that members of the *Bridges* staff all have full time jobs and families. We work on *Bridges* in our "free" time, when the kids are asleep, because we love the journal, we want to see it grow and we all personify the goals and aspirations of the *Bridges* mission statement found below, and in each issue of the News Journal.

We understand that times are tough; they are for us too, but please consider a Christmas gift for *Bridges* in the form of a donation, over and above the subscription rate. Also, a *Bridges* subscription makes a good Christmas gift for a loved one. All contributions will be acknowledged in future issue of *Bridges*.

We're contemplating some more improvements to *Bridges* next year — our 15th Anniversary year, maintaining our current \$12.00 yearly subscription rate.

Please help us get over this hurdle so that we can continue to be your foremost source of news and views about Lithuania in the English language.

Your Managing Editor,

Eduardas V. Meilus, Jr.

BRIDGES

(ISSN 8750-8028) is published monthly except January and July, subscription rate \$12.00 per year by the Lithuanian-American Community, Inc., Auburn, MA 01501. Second class postage paid at

Auburn, MA and additional entry offices.

Articles, letters to the editor, comments, suggestions, new subscriptions, renewals, and Postmaster: send address changes to **Bridges: Lithuanian-American News Journal, P.O. Box 3050, Worcester, MA 01613-3050.**

Through the news journal, 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 goal that Lithuania must and will be an independent free nation again.

Managing Editor: Eduardas V. Meilus, Jr.

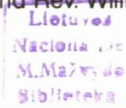
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“A Giant Oak Has Topped: A Reminiscence on the Death of Bronius Kviklys”

by Rev. William Wolkovich-Valkavičius

Perhaps *Bridges* readers scarcely know the extraordinary Bronius Kviklys (Nov. 10, 1913 — Aug. 28, 1990) of Chicago. Nevertheless, he was a rare person who deserves his place in Lithuanian history.

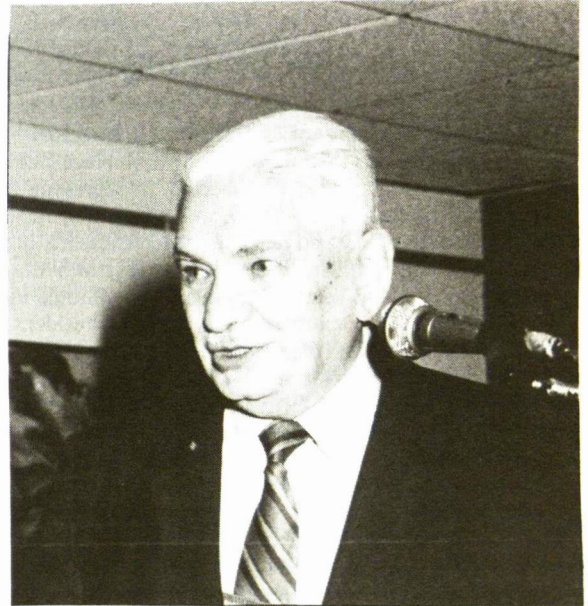
He was unusual on two counts. First of all, a compelling love of his homeland drove Kviklys relentlessly as a journalist, archival collector, chronicler, and historian. His cellar was overflowing with his lifetime delight — mounds of photos, pamphlets, books, letters, journals, including rarities. Invaluable, are his collections of the latter 19th century tsarist Press Ban era and the Lithuanian resistance movement from the 1940s. Items in numismatics, philately, and heraldry adorn his archives. On special anniversaries and other occasions, he arranged theme exhibits utilizing his trove.

What were his chief accomplishments? Among other achievements, he published two monumental series that forever enrich the literature on Lithuania. The four-volume geographical-historical *Mūsų Lietuva* (1964-68) records just about every nook and cranny, fully illumined with photos. He lived to know that at least the first book was recently reprinted in Lithuania. The Ohio Lithuanian Physicians Alliance gave him an award for this series.

Still more amazing is his collection in seven volumes, *Lietuvos Bažnyčios* (Church of Lithuania) diocese by diocese, even more profusely illustrated with photos. He sought to record every parish in Lithuania, with pictures of church interiors and exteriors, bell towers, cemeteries, courtyards, clergy, and processions.

His second unusual quality was his unmatched interest in the “old” immigrants, the parents and grandparents of so many *Bridges* readers. When he first arrived in the United States in 1951 as a Displaced Person, he was soon struck with the immense heritage of the first arrivals from tsarist days, who built 140 churches and formed innumerable associations in America. Accordingly, he seized every piece of documentary evidence on which he could lay his hands. He doggedly tracked archival data the way a suitor avidly pursues a beautiful maiden.

Kviklys' academic background shows a diploma in economics from the University of Vytautas the Great in 1937, supplemented by courses in law up to 1941. He had already launched his career in journalism, while a teenager, as contributor and editor of scout and sport publications. His credits include a lifetime role in the Lithuanian scouting movement. In literature, he collaborated with bibliographer Alexander Ruzancov, and wrote articles for a dozen journals in Lithuania, Germany, and in America. He eventually became a staff member of *Draugas* in 1968 until his pseudo retirement in 1980. (There is no real retirement for people of his ilk.) Still, he continued penning articles and guest editorials.

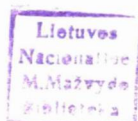


a.a. Bronius Kviklys. Photo by J. Tamulaitis.

In 1970, I first became acquainted with Kviklys through Vincas Maciunas, a scholar of Lithuanian literature. At the time, I was gathering data for a biography of Fr. Juozas Zebis, pioneer priest of New England. Four years later, I was searching for copies of Zebis' weekly newspaper, *Rytas*. I had discovered a bound volume for 1897 and 1898 at the library of Marianapolis Preparatory School in Thompson, Connecticut. The first year of 1896, though, seemed no where in sight. If anyone possessed this elusive publication, it would probably be the Chicago collector. To my astonishment, Kviklys lent me the missing issues of the original so I could microfilm them. By now I had become an inveterate admirer of Kviklys, especially because of the trust he showed me. My file includes over a dozen exchanges between us, swapping material or giving it outright. I welcomed his ever-encouraging letters. I once even spent two full days at his home-archives, taking notes and accepting gifts of duplicates.

The late writer forsook the joys of a social life and private leisure for the sake of “lietuvybė” — Lithuanianism. But that is an abstraction. Better put, Kviklys did what he did for love of people, present and future fellow Lithuanians in his native land and abroad. To the surprise of no one, Pope John Paul II awarded him the “Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice” medal in 1984 in recognition of his unselfish devotion.

My sympathy to his family and circle of colleagues, including a friend and collaborator, engineer-historian Jurgis Gimbutas, here in Massachusetts. I salute the fallen giant Bronius Kviklys. God grant him his amply deserved place in Heaven.



Community with a Capital "C"

Meeting of the Directors

The annual meeting of the Board of Directors of the Lithuanian-American Community, Inc., took place October 5-7th in Detroit. The Directors, elected to represent the 70 chapters of the Lithuanian-American Community, Inc., meet every year to set policy and make other recommendations.

At the session, the Directors voted on several matters and confirmed others. Dr. Tomas Remeikis was confirmed into the National Executive Committee. He is the new President of the Public Affairs Council. It is expected that members of a political committee formed several months ago at the request of the National Executive Committee will form the nucleus of the Council and will include the former President of the Council, Mr. Arvydas Barzdukas. However, the invitation of members of the Council will be left to the discretion of Dr. Remeikis.

The National Executive Committee, as required in the bylaws, declared that the next Directors' elections are to take place **May** 4-5 and 11-12, 1991. The new Directors would then meet in the fall of 1991 (location as yet to be determined, but possibly Philadelphia, PA; Grand Rapids, MI; or Lemont, IL).

The reports of the National Executive Committee had been mailed to the Directors before their arrival in Detroit. At the session, the National Executive Committee members attempted to clarify or expound on their written reports. There was some regret expressed that the Director of the Washington office, Ms. Asta Banionis, did not have an opportunity to present a longer report of current projects and activities of the office in person. However, the Public Affairs Council report did summarize some recent efforts and projects of that office, and several directors had attended the Lithuanian Freedom Forum in Washington, D.C., the weekend before.

The director of the Lithuanian-American Community, Inc., Communications Center, Mr. Vytas Maciunas, reminded the Directors of some immediate action needed to support proposed legislation for humanitarian aid for Lithuania. The Washington office has already sent letters to the chapters, but further action is needed as the proposed legislation wends its way through Congress.

COMMITTEES

A tradition at the Directors' meeting is the formation of various committees: for cultural, educational, financial, organizational, political, religious, human services, and youth affairs. The committees met for several hours, then made their reports which were subject to approval by all of the Directors. The reports included congratulations to be extended to Cardinal Bernardin on his visit to Lithuania and recommendations, including those expressing financial concerns and recommendations for political and other action to be accomplished by the National Executive Committee.

The Directors approved the submission of the name of World Lithuanian Community president, Dr. Vytautas Bieliauskas as the Board's preferred candidate for the Ellis Island Medal of Honor. A recommendation to the Cultural Council was made to work on keeping regions abreast of upcoming cultural events in Lithuanian-American community chapters through a calendar, so that other chapters, which want to, can also take advantage of visiting cultural groups from Lithuania, etc.

LITHUANIAN SONG FESTIVAL

At the 12th session of the meeting of the Directors of the Lithuanian-American Community, Inc., the chairman of the Lithuanian Music Festival, Mr. Stasys Baras, made his report. The Festival will be sponsored by the Lithuanian-American Community, Inc. and the Canadian-Lithuanian Community. It is scheduled to take place May 18-26th, 1991 in Chicago and will feature a number of cultural events, including the 7th Lithuanian Song Festival. Mr. Baras announced that invitations have been extended to various dignitaries, including President Bush, former President Reagan, Lithuania's President, Professor Vytautas Landsbergis and others. The "master of ceremonies" and program announcer will be actress Ann Jillian (who was born with the very Lithuanian name — Jurate Nausedas). As the registration of choirs begins, it is estimated that as many as 600-700 choirists from North America (and perhaps other countries) will participate. Regretfully, it was decided not to invite choirs from Lithuania to participate, that it would place too large financial burdens on the organizing committee. About 200 Lithuanian folk dancers from the Chicagoland area will participate in parts of the program. 81 members of Lithuania's Opera Company orchestra members, soloists, and ballet dancers will come under the sponsorship of the Music Festival Organizing Committee. At a meeting of the educational committee and the Directors' session in Detroit, Mr. Baras was also asked by some of the Lithuanian language school directors and teachers, to urge that the Song Festival committee send audiotapes to the schools so that the schools' choirs could quickly prepare their young singers for the Festival. (The Lithuanian Music Festival address is 3001 West 59th Street, Chicago, IL 60629; [312] 471-3900.)

PUBLICATIONS

The editors of two publications and the reports on the status of two others were read to the Directors. All of the publications are connected with the Lithuanian-American Community, Inc., in one way or another.

"Bridges" is published by the Lithuanian-American Community, Inc. The editor of "Bridges," Eduardas V. Meilus, Jr., read his report to the Directors in which he described the

challenges and difficulties of publishing the newsletter in a timely manner. In the last two years, the number of "Bridges" subscribers has grown by 900 to reach the present total of 3778. (More promptly paying subscribers are always welcome.)

"*Lituanus*" is a publication, half of whose Board of Directors are members invited to serve on the Board by the Lithuanian-American Community, Inc. National Executive Committee. The English-language scholarly journal, published since November 1954, is administered by Mr. Jonas Kucenas and has 3500 subscribers. Its' editors are Professor Violeta Kelertas (University of Illinois at Chicago); Professor Antanas Klimas (University of Rochester); and Professor Jonas Zdanys (Yale University). The articles from the journal are indexed and abstracted in *Modern Language Abstracts*; *Historical Abstracts* and other reference services.

"*Pasaulio lietuvis*" (World Lithuanian) has been edited by Mr. Bronius Nainys for over 13 years. The Lithuanian language publication features articles about activities in Lithuanian Communities in North America, South America, Europe and Australia. It includes articles about events in Lithuania and attempts have even been made to publish a version of the journal in Lithuania. At present, about 35 copies are sent air mail to Lithuania. The journal had 2643 subscribers as of December 1989.

The president of the Human Services Council, Mrs. Birute Jasaitis in her report to the Directors, also reported on the status of the Council's Lithuanian-language publication "*Pensininkas*" (Retired person.) The journal, edited by Mr. Karolis Milkovaitis of Yorba Linda, CA, includes information on health matters, cooking, the activities of the Human Services Council, etc. The committee for human services at the Directors' meeting also recommended that an issue be devoted to testaments, wills, and so on (since many older Lithuanian-Americans may want to leave something for their relatives in Lithuania upon their deaths.)

WORLD LITHUANIAN YOUTH CONGRESS

The President of the Association of Young Lithuanian-Americans, Ms. Sigutė Šnipas (a student at Boston College), made her report to the Directors. During the session, she also met with the president of the World Lithuanian Youth Association, Mr. Alvydas Saplys from Toronto, Canada, and the Chairman of the fundraising Committee for the World Lithuanian Youth Congress, Mr. Vytautas Kamantas from Grand Rapids, MI.

The Congress, scheduled to take place in South America December 1991 - January 1992, consists of the Congress of elected delegates, a camp for all participants at the Congress, excursions and various other events. Participants include young people of Lithuanian descent from around the world; it is hoped that the Congress organizing committee will be able to sponsor as many as 20 young Lithuanians as observers to the Congress. As a fundraiser for the Congress, an anthology of speeches by Lithuania's president, Professor Vytautas Landsbergis is being published.

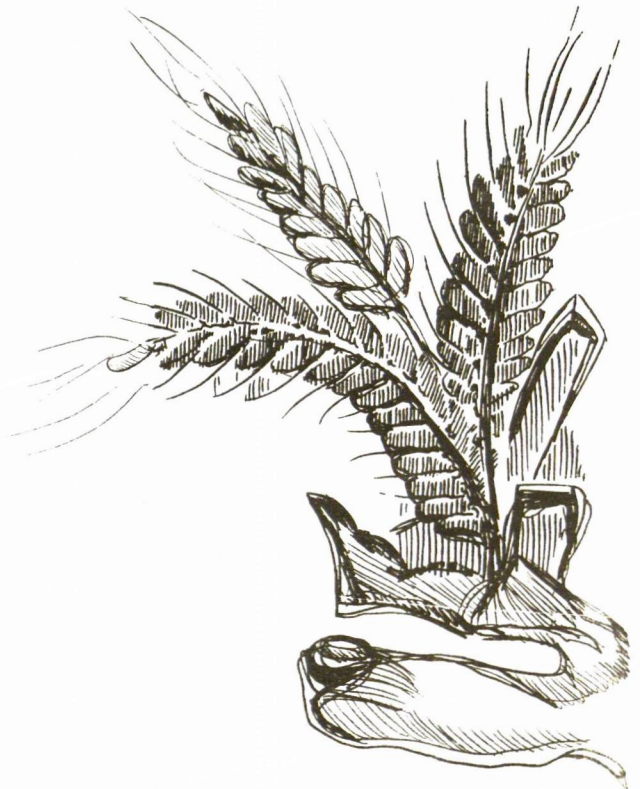
The Association of Young Lithuanian-Americans is also planning on involving college students of Lithuanian descent in projects informing other American college students about events in Lithuania. To receive more information about the Association and about Lithuanian-American participation in

the Youth Congress, please contact officer Ms. Gailė Rastonis, c/o Boston Lithuanian Information Center, 368 W. Broadway, P.O. Box 95, South Boston, MA 02127.

CHAPTER PRESIDENT IN THE NEWS

The president of the East Chicago (IN) chapter of the Lithuanian-American Community, Inc., and a member of the National Board of Directors, Birutė Vilutis was featured in a full page story in the September 1990 issue of the Saint Margaret Hospital and Health Centers' newspaper *Mission Alive*. Mrs. Vilutis, a long-time medical technologist at the hospital, gives the interviewer considerable information about her youth in Lithuania, about Lithuania's present hardships, and about the Lithuanian-American Community, Inc. The article is entitled "*Hematology's 'Bea' is Freedom Fighter for Lithuanian Homeland.*"

(Items were compiled by Ramunė Kubilius of the Lithuanian-American Community, Inc. National Executive Committee, 2713 West 71st Street, Chicago, IL 60629.)



At Last —



GRAND TOUR OF LITHUANIA

July 22 — August 13, 1991

Itinerary will include all main points of interest in Lithuania. In addition, it will include:

- ★ Special performances of local folkloric ensembles, song and dance groups;
- ★ Picnics — gegužinės — with an opportunity to taste Lithuanian beer;
- ★ Reserved seats at the opening ceremonies of the World Lithuanian Sports Festival in Kaunas, and closing ceremonies of this Festival in Vilnius.

The caravan will include at least one bus for English-speaking Lithuanians, and one bus for Lithuanian-speaking travellers.

Price includes:

- Flights out of New York;
- All touring in modern, comfortable buses;
- Three meals daily;
- Soviet visa fees;
- Entrance fees to concerts, picnics, festivals;
- Baggage handling;
- English and Lithuanian speaking tour guides;
- **"Vytis"** agency representatives in Vilnius, Kaunas, Panevėžys and Klaipėda.

Price \$2,130 per person double occupancy — single supplement \$210

To secure seats, send \$100 per person to:

Vytis Travel

2129 Knapp Street
Brooklyn, NY 11229

Telephone 718-769-3300

FAX 718-769-3302

Telex 216 282

Independent (individual) travel can be arranged. Air only or full packages available.

Other **"Vytis"** groups to Lithuania in 1991:

May 20 - June 4	\$1,470
June 3 - 18	1,530
June 24 - July 9	1,680
July 22 - August 6	1,770
August 26 - September 10	1,530
September 16 - October 1	1,470

A recently established computer based Bulletin Board System has the potential for becoming a single, comprehensive, easily accessible source for information pertaining to ongoing actions in support of The Republic of Lithuania.

This Bulletin Board System, is accessible by dialing (through a computer, while using common communications software): **804 693-6571**.

It is "on line" 24 hours per day, 7 days per week, 365 days per year (and operates on either 300, 1200 or 2400 baud - depending on how the user chooses to access it).

Of course, this Bulletin Board's potential for success, as a comprehensive source of information, is totally dependent on users of the System. The System cannot generate its own information. Users have to "post" information on, for example, upcoming activities/events; and on, for example, ongoing actions in the Congress - so that others can be aware of them/can respond, in their own way, to them. In effect, whatever some may think is of potential use/of potential interest to others, needs to be placed on the Bulletin Board System; so that others can retrieve that information. It is a facility through which information, of any kind, can be shared. And, because there is no requirement for human interaction/because it is "open" 24 hours a day, it is an extremely efficient system for such a purpose.

Yes, this System is "useless" to those who don't have a computer; there is no

way to access the information/or to post new information, without a computer. Yet, this is not nearly as much an obstacle as it would initially seem. For example, there is now at least one person, among virtually every group of Lithuanian Americans, who has the necessary computer - and that person could obtain the information/post new information for that group. Additionally, because it is computer based, this System is capable of storing vast amounts of information - far more information than would be easily accessible from, say, a human answered/operated "hotline" (most of which are accessible only during limited hours/during only part of the week). So, this System can, because of its nature, accomplish goals which are simply impossible to accomplish in any other way. As a result, the computer requirement "tradeoff" is really a small one; when compared to the capability being offered/capability impossible to obtain in any other way. (Furthermore, we all know that it is simply a matter of time - a short one - before more and more people obtain personal computers; and this capability becomes a common one.)

Only by sharing information will we have the ability to "change the world"!

If you'd like more information, without actually accessing the Bulletin Board, the address is in care of: Jozas Arlauskas • Village South Commons • Gloucester, Virginia 23061-0363; or call, on voice telephone: 804 693-3366

**Lithuania
advocate
Computer
Bulletin
Board
System
804 693-6571**

To The Editor

What a strange, tantrum-filled letter Theresa James sent to *Bridges* in the summer edition. In words dripping with scorn, she denounced American-Lithuanians of "Sickeningly sweet politeness" during the several months of Lithuania's confrontation with the Soviet Union earlier this year. To her mind, American-Lithuanian "intelligentsia" (whoever they may be) "blew it" since no one noticed Lithuania "even when she was on all the media."

That's a nice trick if you can do it, to be on all the media and not be noticed. But there is a darker side to Theresa's tirade than an emotional outpouring of frustration. I presume, for instance, that she was calling for American-Lithuanians to emulate Eldridge Cleaver and his Black Panthers when she said, "Action!!! People Power!!!" Make all the media see Lithuanians like the blacks made all the whole world see them. See how the Cleaver, Cleaver blacks...made the world and its giant corporations kneel in South Africa."

When Theresa said this, did she want American-Lithuanians to launch their own boycott of American corporations doing business with the Soviet Union? If so, has she any conception of how many American-Lithuanians there are in this country as compared with blacks? The 1980 census listed three-quarters of a million Lithuanians (including those with only one parent of Lithuanian heritage) as against 26 million blacks. Consumer boycotts would be counterproductive unless they had a reasonable chance of success. Boycotting by the relatively small number of American-Lithuanians would be, at best, just an embarrassingly slight blip on the sales charts. Or does she think we could convince other Americans to join us in not eating McDonald's hamburgers or drinking Pepsi?

There was, however, much more to Eldridge Cleaver than making American corporations "kneel" and this was his gospel of white hatred and revolutionary black nationalism. Does Theresa James want an American-Lithuanian to rabble-rouse his fellow Lithuanians to hate — whom? Blacks, Jews, Wasps, or maybe, the President? And instead of waving flags, would Theresa prefer to see American-Lithuanians burning flags, smashing windows of public buildings and chaining themselves to the White House fence to yell obscenities at the President?

Or maybe Theresa has something more sinister in mind. Perhaps she wants Lithuanians to follow Cleaver's Black Panthers more closely in bombing public buildings and engaging in other acts of bloody terrorism? If not, then incendiary calls for "Action!!! People Power!!!" (and...don't worry about being polite)" should not be made unless one understands their implications and condones their consequences.

Curiously, our agitated letter-writer equates Martin Luther King, Jr. and Bishop Tutu with Cleaver. The former two, however, espoused civil disobedience rather than the Black Panther creed of hatred and violence. Both Martin Luther King, Jr. and Bishop Tutu are indeed worthy of emulation, but their philosophy of non-violent resistance to evil is one that is already being pursued successfully in Lithuania. Even Nelson Mandela, also cited by Theresa, is primarily a pragmatic leader of his oppressed people and not the fanatical firebrand Theresa believes Lithuanians need to lead them out of the wilderness of Soviet domination.

Let's be clear about one thing; the real battle for Lithuanian independence is being waged not in this country but in Lithuania. Our parents' homeland is on the cutting edge of the dissolution of the Soviet empire, the first of the Soviet-controlled "republics" to lead the march out of the Kremlin. The whole world saw, heard and admired the courage of the "mouse that roared" and its people who practiced heroic restraint in not allowing themselves to be provoked by the menacing behavior of the Soviet Union. Violence then would have begotten violence and perhaps Lithuania today would be just another Kuwait but without an American military crusade to rescue it.

There are, however, things we in this country can do to advance the cause of Lithuanian independence other than foolish shows of bravado. One is financial support channeled through those official organizations today soliciting funds. Revolutions make headlines but don't come cheap. Another is access to elected representatives who, because of their bottomless appetite for the votes of constituents, can make a difference, and did the last time around. At the June summit meeting, the President was forced by the Congress to withhold his planned gift to Gorbachev of most-favored nation tariff treatment which would have provided timely benefits to an economically-exhausted Soviet Union. More than this, Congress' stand signified the American public's displeasure with the Soviet's bullying tactics against Lithuania.

Contrary to our agitated correspondent's belief that being "too darned polite" is a losing proposition, a considerable number of distinguished foreign "intelligentsia" interpret "People Power" in terms of democratic methods and rational discourse as a superior means of resolving disputes. A conference is scheduled at Oslo, Norway, on "The Anatomy of Hate: Resolving Conflict through Dialogue and Democracy," sponsored by the Nobel Committee and the Elie Wiesel Foundation for Humanity. Participants, among others, include Guenther Grass, Elena Bonner, Francois Mitterand, Vaclaw Havel and the Lithuanian President, Vytautas Landsbergis. These individuals know, from personal experience, something about the relative merits of democratic methods as opposed to violence. There are, of course, times when rational dialogue is impossible and recourse to force may be justified, but not when democracy functions, however imperfectly, as in our own country. Even in Lithuania, this has proved to be the case thus far.

For me, one of the remarkable aspects of the Lithuanian revolution has been the lack of individual "heroes." Instead, we have seen a unanimous outpouring of the national will ("People Power") in opposing Soviet tyranny through democratic and peaceful means.

Three and a half million Lithuanians can't be wrong. Each one was, and continues to be, part of the heroic whole of the nation. Violence along Black Panther lines would have been suicidal in Lithuania and just plain idiocy in America.

To paraphrase Martin Luther King, in God's good time, we too, shall overcome.

Sincerely yours,

Albert Cižauskas
Falls Church, VA

Building Bridges of Understanding Conference on Lithuanian Jewish Relations in New York City

On October 20 through October 22, the Jewish Research Institute in New York City co-sponsored a conference marking the 65th anniversary of the institute entitled "Vilnius, A Jewish Cultural Center."

Among the blue-ribbon panel of presenters were several guests from Lithuania. Among them were Professor Raimundas Rajackas, Vice-President of the Academy of Sciences of Lithuania. In his opening remarks to the conference, he apologized in the name of the Lithuanian people for those few who assisted in the Nazi persecution of Lithuanian Jews during the German occupation of Lithuania during World War II.

Papers were read by Egidijus Aleksandravicius, Alfonsas Eidintas, Julian Rages, Gintautas Surgailis, Izraelis Lempertas and Eliezaras Silberis who travelled from Vilnius to New York to participate in the conference at the invitation of the Jewish Research Institute, YIVO.

According to YIVO director, Dr. Sam Norich, "we (the Jews) look at this conference as the beginning of a scholarly dialogue between Lithuanian and Jewish scholars, or more precisely stated as the continuation of such a dialogue. We believe this dialogue will help to evoke a deeper understanding of each other in both the Lithuanian and Jewish communities, together with an appreciation of the historical ties which bind us both together."

In his opening remarks, Dr. Norich in response to the apology given by Academician Rajackas thanked Lithuania and specifically those Lithuanians who risked their lives to save the lives of their Lithuanian Jewish neighbors from the Nazi Germans during the German occupation of Lithuania.

Initially, due to the hurts experienced by the participants as a result of the Holocaust, the conference began in a rather subdued and even somber mood. Lithuanians and Jews did not know what to expect from one another. As the conference progressed, whatever ice there was, melted and the mostly Jewish audience at Temple Emanu-El, and YIVO, warmed and mellowed as each Lithuanian made his presentation.

Of great interest to all present were the poetic readings and songs in Yiddish translated into English about Vilnius, "The Jerusalem of Lithuania." Lithuanians and Jews alike were deeply moved by the bittersweet feelings of love expressed by Jewish authors and composers for Vilnius, the Lithuanian capital, the ancient city of Gediminas.

The conference, which was originally planned for Vilnius in August of this year, could not be held there due to the Soviet blockade of Lithuania. All the participants, both Lithuanian and Jewish expressed the hope that the conference would be continued in Vilnius, perhaps in 1991.

TAM

To The Editor

Thank you Theresa James! I, too, am a first-generation American and am fiercely proud of the Lithuania they loved. Like yourself, I have been very disturbed because of the demonstrations failure to measure up to criterion. Disappointed, also, in other attempts to draw attention to the plight of Lithuania. One area I believe, you have overstated... the "organize," "write letters," etc., really, there were not that many letters, calls or anything! It is no wonder that the world is not noticing Lithuania... it has been difficult to get the Lithuanians to even write letters, to make phone calls, let alone make a primary statement by a significant demonstration!

A woman spoke to me of her first day at the demonstration, expounding on the placard she created, going on in great lengths as to her love of Lithuania then telling me that she didn't attend any of the other events because she felt it would be "just a repeat" and she wanted to see the sights. So even a bit of demonstrating was too much, I just can't believe the attitude! Also, I had a person tell me that the fight for independence is premature, they should not be so foolhardy! This person has made a number of trips to Lithuania and considers himself pro-Lithuanian all the way!! You are correct... it is imponderable to understand our people and how this opportunity to make known the plight of Lithuania was thrown to the wind!!

I must speak of an incident that happened to me at the time of the census count which occurred during the time when Lithuania was in all the media. Ours was the short form, there were check points for ethnic backgrounds such as Afro-Americans, etc. I decided that since there was not any check off

for "us," I wrote in "Lithuanian." A week later, a phone call from the bureau... she wanted to know if this "Lithuanian" was an Hispanic sect!!! Then to add insult to injury, when I repeat this story to some Lithuanians, they interput it as "well, you know, the help at the bureau is not too swift." This may be true to some extent, but it is also true that because the Lithuanian community has not made any major "noise," the non-Lithuanians and politicians have paid little attention to "us." This has been affirmed by the fact that the media had almost no out-of-area coverage of the demonstration that was held in Washington.

In my area I have found it is... primarily go to a meeting, have a bit of a social to earn money for a "freebie" good time, wave the flag... all this to demonstrate love for being Lithuanian!

I have also found that cooperation on any endeavor between we, first-generation Lithuanians, and the second wave of immigrants is almost non-existent, to a point that it is painful. The fault, I am certain falls on both sides, but this rift does not help the Lithuanian community on either side of the ocean and should not continue. The change will not come with sortilege power, there must be an essential effort by each of us.

As you note, "Lithuania is still easily ignored by the world and its politicians," I add that this is caused by fear of speaking out because "people might not like me," and the disgraceful lack of cooperation amongst our culture that manifests lack of pride. Overall, I have not seen this in the Polish community within our area as well as the Polish culture as a whole. Pride is where they are at!!!

Very truly yours,
Alice Kauneckas Graff
Riverhead, NY



The tour group on the road to Atlantic City.

Ann Jillian (Jūratė Nausėda) is one of the entertainment world's brightest stars. She celebrated her 30th anniversary in show biz on October 26, 1990 at the Trump Plaza Theatre in Atlantic City, N.J. with a memorable concert/show. As many of *Bridges'* readers know, Ann Jillian is a Lithuanian-American and very close to her Lithuanian roots. She enjoys all things Lithuanian and is especially close to her Lithuanian-American admirers.

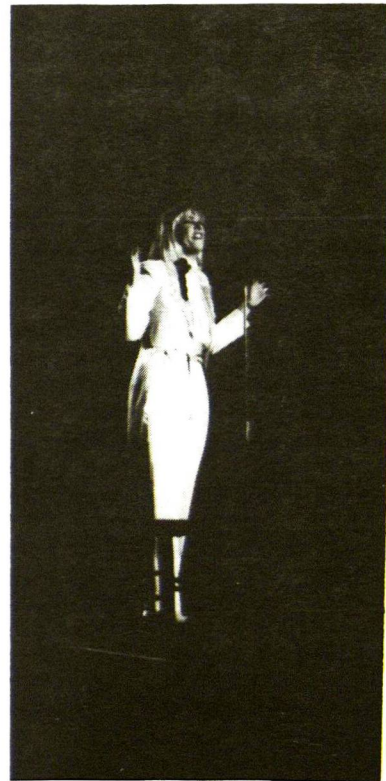
In order to celebrate Ann Jillian's 30th Anniversary, the Knights of Lithuania Council 26 of Worcester, Massachusetts organized a bus trip to Atlantic City, the highlight of which was Ann Jillian's Concert. Upon the tour group's return, I spoke with those who attended. There was nothing but raves over Ann Jillian's concert and all will remember for a long time, the fact that they had a chance to meet the performer in person. Organizers of the tour, Mildred Lapinskas and Charles Kulikauskas presented Ann Jillian with a traditional *juosta*, as a memento from the Council. (It is the *juosta* she is wearing in the picture on this month's cover of *Bridges*.)

While best known to millions as the vivacious and beautiful blonde who has starred in some of television's highest-rated movies and series, Ann Jillian's career actually began 30 years ago, when she landed the role of "Little Bo Peep" in the Walt Disney film classic — *Babes in Toyland* (1960). A year later, she won the coveted role of "Dainty June" in the film version of the classic stage musical *Gypsy*.

Since her days as a child protege, she has remained at the top of the entertainment world, her brilliant career spanning four decades. Although her life has been filled with both personal and professional ups and downs, she has managed to overcome her difficulties, remaining as beloved and respected today as she was in her early days as a child star.

The pictures accompanying this article are intended to give *Bridges'* readers a sense of the joy and happiness experienced by the tour group. *Bridges* salutes Ann Jillian on her 30th anniversary and all Lithuanian-Americans take pride in her achievements.

EVM

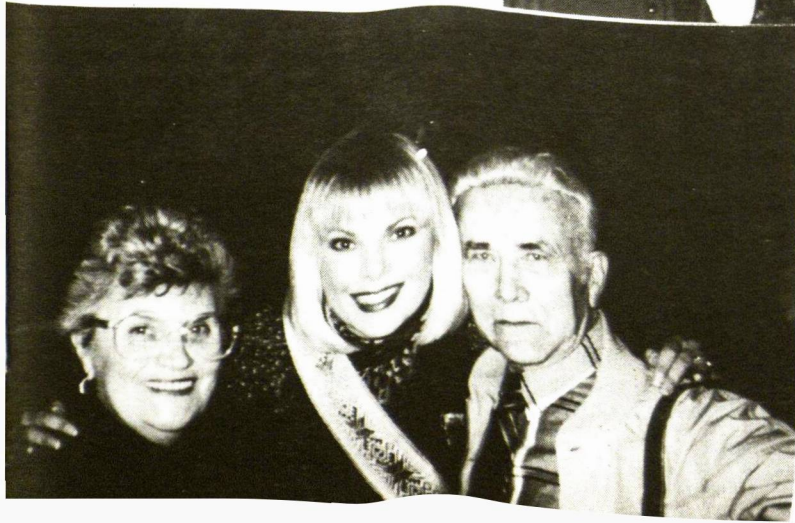




Ann Jillian and her husband/manager.



*Council 26 well-wishers with Ann Jillian
after her performance.*



*From left:
Mrs. Virginia Walent, Ann Jillian, and Eduardas Meilus, Sr.*

All photos by Eduardas Meilus, Sr.

Lithuania and the Jogailan Dynasty

(Condensed, edited and translated by Thomas A. Michalski, Ph.D., from "Lietuva ir jogailaičiu dinastija" by Rita Trimonienė and Edvardas Gudavičius in Gimtasis Kraštas, Nr. 41 (1230) Oct. 11-17, 1990, p. 7.)

In the year 1440, Kazimieras, the son of Jogaila became the Grand Duke of Lithuania. His descendants ruled Lithuania until 1572. The last Jogailan of Jagiellonian as the family is more popularly known in the west was Zygmantas Augustas. In 1447, Kazimieras was also elected King of Poland as were his successors with the exception of Aleksandras, 1492-1501, who ruled in Lithuania alone. As we know the Jogailan dynasty ended with the Union of Lublin in 1569.

In Polish historiography the Age of the Jogailans or Jagiellonians is referred to as the "Golden Age of Poland." It was during this period that the Jogailans established their relationships with Poland which seemed to many later Lithuanians as being at odds with the policies of Algirdas and Vytautas. As a result, the Jogailan dynasty has never been very popular among Lithuanians. The paradox is, however, that the Jogailans were generally considered as Lithuanians in Poland. Most Polish historians complain that the Jogailans pursued Lithuanian-oriented policies at the expense of Polish national interests. As a result, in the eyes of Lithuanians, the Jogailans are seen as Poles, while from a Polish perspective they are considered Lithuanians. Just what were they?

The Jogailans were the common rulers of two larger and significant European states. Together this bloc, consisting of Lithuania and Poland, was the strongest state in all of Europe far overshadowing its neighbors to the north, south, east and west. By the end of the XV century, Jogailans sat not only on the thrones of Lithuania and Poland, but also in the capitals of Bohemia and Hungary. The members of the dynasty formed a powerful union which influenced all of the nations between the Baltic and the Adriatic. In a very real sense, the Jogailans were neither Lithuanian nor Polish. They formed a dynasty, a family of rulers. The interests of the family were paramount to local or national interests of either the Poles, Lithuanians, Bohemians or Hungarians. The Jogailans ruled over a "system."

Just what role did Lithuania play in the system? Lithuania was the only state within the system that did not have the rank of a kingdom. Lithuania was a Grand Duchy, certainly equal to Moscow, but not considered to be of equal rank in the Roman Catholic west, with Poland, Hungary and Bohemia. In Poland, Hungary and Bohemia, the Jogailans owed their thrones to the parliaments of those kingdoms which elected them. Only in Lithuania were they rulers by birth and divine right. In some ways, Lithuania was behind the west economically and culturally naturally to her own disadvantage in her relationships with her western neighbors. Only Lithuania was viewed by the Jogailans as the cornerstone of their imperial system just the way Russia is considered the foundation of the Soviet Union today. In a sense, Lithuania was the launching pad or trampoline from which the Jogailans jumped from throne to throne in Europe and Russia.

Although their power base was in Lithuania, the Jogailans main residence was in Krakow, the capital of Poland. It was there that the Jogailans, the descendants of Geiminas became known as the Jagiellonians. Not only was the Wawel castle in which they lived in Krakow the more sumptuous of their residences particularly over the spartan "pilis" in Vilnius, but in Poland they were kings on an equal footing with other European monarchs. Poland was well-established as a Catholic Christian kingdom while Lithuania was the equivalent of the American "Wild West" to western Europe. It was a land still populated mostly by Roman Catholic neophytes, Samogitian heathens and Eastern Orthodox schismatics, not to mention the Jews and Moslem remnants of the Tartar Horde and the Karaim. At this time, Poland was beginning to consolidate itself as a Roman Catholic ethnic entity while Lithuania was just beginning to enter the western European Catholic family of nations. At the same time, Lithuanian influence was waning in the East among her Eastern Orthodox subjects who looked ever more often to Moscow as Lithuania proper became Roman Catholic. As kings in Poland, the Jogailans had more prestige in the eyes of the world than they did simply as Grand Dukes of Lithuania.

During the renaissance, Poland evolved into a national state unlike Lithuania which was a multi-national, multi-religious country. As king of Poland, each Jogailan became more and more Polish and less and less Lithuanian in the course of time. We need only to look at our own Lithuanian ancestors and our progress in America to appreciate how the Jogailans were polonized over the generations. The process was similar to americanization of Lithuanian immigrants here in the USA over the years. Soon the Jogailans became the propagators of the Polish language along with the "Polish faith" as Roman Catholicism was then known to the north and east of Poland proper. The more Roman Catholic Lithuania became, the weaker it became in the Russian Orthodox east. As the Eastern Orthodox Russians consolidated in the east, the Poles became more and more involved in supporting the interests of the Lithuanian dynasty to the detriment of Polish national interests at home. The Poles were forced to support Lithuania in many wars against Russia whether they liked it or not. They had no other choice. Lithuania on the other hand, was forced to support the interests of the dynasty in the west against German expansion into Poland proper. Neither country had much of a choice as Russian and Prussian power grew to the east and west.




Economically, politically, militarily and culturally, Poland gradually established hegemony over Lithuania. Because of the threat from the east, from the Russians, Lithuania was unable to shed her alliance with Poland. She was simply unequal to containing Russian power alone without Polish help. On the other hand, Poland was unable to contain German expansionism to the east without the wealth and reserves of Lithuania. Another paradox is that whereas the Jogailans promoted the expansion of Polishness in Lithuania, they also promoted Lithuanian statehood and separatism until the very

end of their dynasty. Only when the dynasty faced extinction, was Lithuania joined organically to Poland in the Union of Lublin and then only the Ukrainian lands of Lithuania. Byelorussia remained a part of Lithuania and considered itself as Lithuanian well into the nineteenth century.

Should the Jogailans or Jagiellonians be cursed either by Lithuanians and Poles? Probably not. After all, they sought only to further their dynastic ambitions in a world of other dynasties such as the Romanovs and Hapsburgs and Tudors. The idea of ethno-centric national states did not arrive in East Central Europe until the nineteenth century. In the long run, the Jogailans brought Lithuania into the western European family of nations and to the Roman Catholic faith. In a sense, at least from the point of view of the twentieth century, the national interests of both Poland and Lithuania suffered from Jogailan rule. Yet, from another viewpoint, if it were not for the Jogailans, today Lithuania would probably be a part of Byelorussia and Poland a part of German Austria or Slovakia. History is never what succeeding generations would want it to be. History just is.



SE expressway. Boston, MA. Photo by J. Rentelis.

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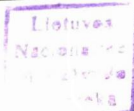
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Lithuania-Ellis Island- Bay Ridge

sync and

EDITOR'S NOTE: Bay Ridge resident Helen Kulber submitted this story about her good friend, Antoinette Binkins, the wife of Charles Binkins, the late photographer.

By HELEN KULBER

In the Spring of 1922, 15-year-old Antanina Zarskas and her mother, Marijona, arrived in America on the "Empress of India."

They came from war-ravished Lithuania via London, where Antanina had been hospitalized with measles for a month.

Then, at Ellis Island, it was discovered that she had glaucoma.

Due to the strenuous efforts of her family in Bay Ridge and influential friends, deportation was prevented. Her mother was released and Antanina received medical treatment on the island for 19 months.

She had a lovely voice and often entertained with other patients, also dressed in their national costumes.

Antanina spoke Russian and Polish as well as Lithuanian, and soon learned English. Later, she took English courses at the Y.W.C.A.

On August 27, 1922, one of the doctors took some snapshots of her and inscribed them "to my little patient Antoinette (the Americanized version of Antanina).



Detained on Ellis Island for 19 months, 15-year-old Antanina Zarskas joined other immigrants in their native costumes and entertained the people coming through. She is pictured in the center of the troupe. In the right photo below, Antanina is shown on the far right.



a nurse &

Antanina, on the left, is pictured with other immigrants on Ellis Island. In the photo above, she is standing in the back row of a group of immigrants. On the back of the photo, her doctor inscribed "To my little patient, Antoinette-August 27, 1922." Antoinette is the American translation of Antanina.



She and her mother lived in Bay Ridge with her sister Elena (who came from Lithuania in 1907), brother-in-law Joseph Vyzas-Wise (who came from Lithuania in 1904), and nieces Helen, Beatrice, and Aldona, until she and Charles Binkins (whose parents also emigrated from Lithuania) were married in 1929.

Both were active in community affairs and photography. Their pictures appeared in the Home Reporter and Sunset News and other publications.

Charles died on January 3, 1985. Antoinette Binkins, paralyzed for a year, is in the Sea Crest Health Care Center.

When the Bay Ridge Historical Society visited Ellis Island a few years ago, Antoinette added her personal remembrances to the guide's interesting remarks.

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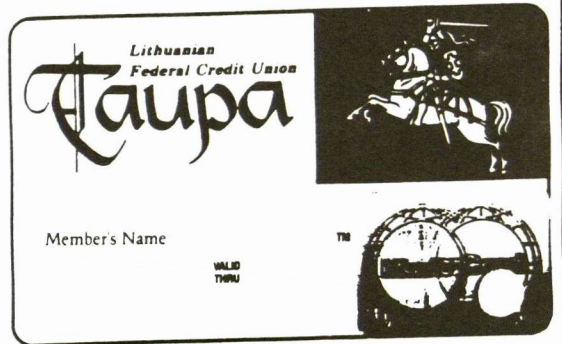
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BEEF BIRDS

Zrazai Vyniotiniai

2-3 lbs. beef
sliced bacon
1-2 onions
2-3 slices rye bread
mushrooms (optional)
bouillon
½ cup sour cream

Have beef sliced about ½ inch thick. Pound thin with edge of plate or rolling pin. Cut into uniform pieces. On each piece place in layers, a small piece of bread, thin slice of onion, piece of bacon, few slices of mushroom. Sprinkle with salt and dash of pepper. Roll up, tie with thread or fasten with toothpicks. Brown on all sides quickly in hot fat. Place in heavy cooking pot, pour on enough bouillon to barely cover. Cover pot tightly. Simmer 1 to 1½ hours. When meat is tender, add cream. Remove birds, thicken liquid with flour for gravy.

EGGS ON THE HALF-SHELL

Įdaryti Kiaušiniai

13 eggs
4 tbsps. butter
4 stalks green onion (scallions)
1 tbsps. chopped dill
3 tbsps. dry bread crumbs

Hard-boil 12 eggs. Cool in cold water. Do not peel. Using a large, sharp knife, cut or chop in half each egg lengthwise with a swift sharp stroke. Scoop whites and yolks out of shells. Chop fine. Saute chopped onion in 3 tbsps. butter. Add to chopped egg with dill, crumbs and raw egg. Mix. Season to taste. Fill the empty eggshells with mixture, smoothing tops to make them even with edges of shells. Dip tops into cracker crumbs. Melt 1 tbsps. butter in frying pan. Place eggs, stuffed side down in butter and drown very quickly. Then place eggs on baking sheet, shell side down. Bake in moderate oven 5 minutes. Serve hot or cold.

CABBAGE-MEAT PIE

Plaučių Kepsnys

Pastry for 9" pie
1 medium cabbage
1 onion
¼ lb. butter
1 cup leftover beef or veal — ground or
1 medium beef lung, boiled and ground
nutmeg
salt, pepper
1 small can mushrooms, drained and
chopped
2 hard-boiled eggs

Chop onion, saute in butter. Add shredded cabbage, salt to taste. Cook on low flame until cabbage is tender — about 20 minutes. Season ground meat with nutmeg, salt and pepper. Add meat, chopped eggs, and mushrooms to cabbage. Cook about 5 minutes. Line greased pie pan with pastry dough. Spoon in cabbage and meat mixture. Cover with pastry dough. Bake in 400° oven for 25 to 30 minutes, until top is brown.

HAM ROLL-UPS

Kumpio Vyniotiniai

Prepare dough according to meat or heart dumpling recipe. Roll out rather thick, in rectangular shape. Place thin slices of boiled or baked ham all over surface of dough. Roll up like a jelly roll. Place in clean napkin or dish towel, tie up like a salami. Place in rapidly boiling salted water. Boil one hour. Remove from cloth. Slice and serve hot with mushroom sauce.

DOUGH

2 cups flour
1 egg
salt
milk and water

Make dough of the flour, egg, salt, and enough milk and water (half and half) to make a soft dough which can be rolled.

RYE BREAD

Rugine Duona

2 lbs. dark rye flour
¼ cup vinegar
1 to 3 tps. salt
1 to 3 tps. caraway seed
¾ cake yeast
1 cup lukewarm water
½ cup sugar
all-purpose flour

Should be mixed in a wooden pail or bucket (oak, if possible). Season a new pail by rubbing it with salt, finely cut onions and caraway seeds. If pail is used rarely for mixing dough, season it freshly. When freshly seasoned pail is used, decrease amount of salt and caraway seeds for dough.



Dilute vinegar with equal amount of boiling water. Stir into rye flour. Add enough boiled water to make a thin paste. Add salt and caraway seed. Let cool. Dissolve ½ cake yeast and sugar in 1 cup lukewarm water. Stir into rye mixture while slightly warm. Cover with a cloth. Let stand overnight in warm, even temperature. In the morning add ¼ cake of yeast which has been dissolved in a little lukewarm water. Stir in enough all-purpose flour to make a stiff dough. Stir vigorously. Let rise 1 hour. Divide dough in half and place in large bread pans which have been greased and sprinkled with cracker meal or corn meal. Let rise again 15 to 30 minutes. Bake in very hot oven until top is brown. Then reduce temperature to 350°, continue baking about 2 hours, until bread sounds hollow when tapped with fingers.

MUSHROOMS*Grybai*

1 cup honey
 ½ cup sugar
 ¼ cup butter
 4 tbsps. burnt sugar
 2 eggs
 ¼ cup sour cream
 5½ cups sifted flour
 1½ tsp. baking soda
 ½ tsp. each, lemon rind, orange rind,
 cinnamon
 ¼ tsp. each, ginger, cloves
 ⅓ tsp. each nutmeg, cardamon

Heat honey. Add sugar, butter, eggs and cream, alternately with sifted flour and soda. Stir well. Add grated rind and spices. Knead until smooth. Divide dough in half. Form small pieces of half the dough into various sized mushroom caps, rounded on top, flat on bottom, making an indentation with fingertip in flat side for insertion of "stem." Place flat side down on cookie sheet. Form stems by making several rolls of various thicknesses to correspond to mushroom caps, cut about 1 to 1½ inches long. Wrap each stem in brown paper, leaving ends open. Place on cookie sheet, lapped side of paper down. Bake caps and stems at 350° for about 10 minutes or until brown. Cool. Enlarge mushroom cap indentation with knife tip. Dip one end of stem into icing, fit into indentation. Allow to set. Ice flat side of caps and stems with white icing. Sprinkle several poppy seeds around bottom of stem. Ice mushroom tops with chocolate icing.

ICING

2 cups confectioners' sugar
 5 teaspoons cold water
 4 to 6 teaspoons strained fresh lemon juice
 2 teaspoons unsweetened cocoa

Place confectioners' sugar in a bowl and with wire whisk or rotary or electric beater, beat in water a teaspoon at a time. Continue to beat until smooth, then beat in 4 teaspoons of lemon juice. Taste icing. If you prefer tarter flavor, beat in up to 2 more teaspoons lemon juice. Divide icing in half, stir in cocoa into one half.

BUTTER COOKIES*Sviesto Sausiniai*

½ lb. cream cheese
 ½ lb. butter
 (or ¼ lb. butter & ¼ lb. margarine)
 2 cups flour

Cream butter and cheese, sift in flour. Mix and chill overnight. Roll thin, cut into squares. Fill squares with pureed stewed apricots, prunes or jam. Bake in 450° oven until lightly browned. Remove from pan, sprinkle with confectioners' sugar.

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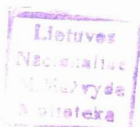
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1A. Title of Publication BRIDGES: LITHUANIAN AMERICAN NEWS JOURNAL		1B. PUBLICATION NO. 8 7 5 0 8 0 2 8
		2. Date of Filing 25 October 1990
3. Frequency of Issue MONTHLY EXCEPT JANUARY & JULY (10 issues/yr.)		3A. No. of Issues Published Annually 10
		3B. Annual Subscription Price \$ 12.00/ year
4. Complete Mailing Address of Known Office of Publication (Street, City, County, State and ZIP+4 Code) (Not printers) 70 Curtis Street Auburn, MA 01501-3149		
5. Complete Mailing Address of the Headquarters of General Business Offices of the Publisher (Not printer) 2713 West 71st Street, Chicago, IL 60629		
6. Full Names and Complete Mailing Address of Publisher, Editor, and Managing Editor (This item MUST NOT be blank)		
<i>Publisher (Name and Complete Mailing Address)</i> Lithuanian-American Community, Inc. 2713 West 71st Street, Chicago, IL 60629		
<i>Editor (Name and Complete Mailing Address)</i> Eduardas V. Meilus, Jr. 70 Curtis Street, Auburn, MA 01501-3149		
<i>Managing Editor (Name and Complete Mailing Address)</i> SAME AS EDITOR		
7. Owner (If owned by a corporation, its name and address must be stated and also immediately thereunder the names and addresses of stockholders owning or holding 1 percent or more of total amount of stock. If not owned by a corporation, the names and addresses of the individual owners must be given. If owned by a partnership or other unincorporated firm, its name and address, as well as that of each individual must be given. If the publication is published by a nonprofit organization, its name and address must be stated.) (Item must be completed.)		
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LITHUANIAN-AMERICAN COMMUNITY, INC.		2713 West 71st Street Chicago, IL 60629
8. Known Bondholders, Mortgagees, and Other Security Holders Owning or Holding 1 Percent or More of Total Amount of Bonds, Mortgages or Other Securities (If there are none, so state)		
Full Name		Complete Mailing Address
NONE		
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10. Extent and Nature of Circulation <small>(See instructions on reverse side)</small>	Average No. Copies Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months	Actual No. Copies of Single Issue Published Nearest to Filing Date
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B. Paid and/or Requested Circulation		
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2. Mail Subscription <small>(Paid and/or requested)</small>	3750	3778
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F. Copies Not Distributed		
1. Office use, left over, unaccounted, spoiled after printing	100	22
2. Returns from News Agents	0	0
G. TOTAL <small>(Sum of E, F1 and 2—should equal net press run shown in A)</small>	4150	4000
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GR. 260 20