



ERATO

Stockholm

www.ilgcn.tupilak.se



April, 2007

ILGCN (*International Lesbian & Gay Cultural Network*) **Information Secretariat**

“Iran in Exile in June in Toronto, “Algeria in Exile” in October in Paris/Marseille:

VILNIUS TO LAUNCH 2007 WORLD CONFERENCE STAGES



Guest Speakers from Belarus, Finland

Vilnius – The Lithuanian capital will be the first “stop” for this year’s ILGCN (*International Lesbian & Gay Cultural Network*) world rainbow cultural conference stages – followed by the Toronto-based “Iran in Exile” (ashram@irgo.net) stage in June, and the Paris/Marseille-based “Algeria in Exile” (amineh.kouider@btinternet.com) stage in October .

“We invite all interested in international solidarity and rainbow culture to join us in Vilnius on May 24-25 at the *Lithuanian Gay League* offices as part of Rainbow Days,” says ILGCN Lithuanian co-ordinator, Arvydas Vogilis (avo@takas.lt)

Plans are also to give prominent space to a “Belarus in Exile” event -at the conference – following last year’s arrests and the *Belarus, Swedish delegates in Minsk 2006*, KGB torpedoing the planned ILGCN stage in Minsk last also travelling to Vilnius in 2007 November. “We’re also pleased that the (continued on page 3)

Special Emphasis on Culture vs. Homophobia, Poland, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania:

NORDIC RAINBOW COUNCIL to VILNIUS, GOTHENBERG

Stockholm The 7th session of the Nordic Rainbow Council will be shared this year by Vilnius May 25 (during the first stage of the 10th ILGCN world cultural conference and on September 29 at the giant Gothenberg international book fair – the largest annual cultural event in the Nordic region.

“We hope that especially-invited guests from Poland and Latvia facing increasing waves of homophobia will discuss co-ordinating solidarity efforts over Nordic and Baltic borders,” says Bill Schiller, international secretary of the council. (The Latvian rainbow struggle received special notice at the book fair’s International Square last year.) (Continued on page 3)



ORFEO MUSICA at MOONBOW

Stockholm -- 2006 ILGCN ‘Orfeo Musica’ award winners , Swedish folk singer Gudren Engberg and Canadian musician and composer Michael Gfroerer will be performing at Stockholm’s international rainbow cultural festival in early August, when they will receive their award diplomas at a festival ceremony.





Tupilak/ILGCN Travelling Rainbow Art & Photo Exhibition



(Nordic rainbow cultural workers)



Oyvind Rauset, Norway



Andrius Privetas, Lithuania



Willi Reichhold, Sweden

Timo Saarelma, Finland

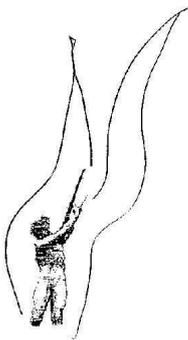


Sales: at IDAHO and Pride

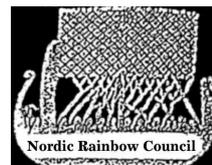
events in Stockholm,

ILGCN world cultural conference (stage 1) - Vilnius, May 24-25, 2007

...in support of ILGCN work on Eastern European rainbow barricades.



supported by



ILGCN Annual Awards: *(Proposals welcomed at all Secretariats)*

Rainbow Iceberg -- (international work) Clio's Silver Cup (LGBT history)

Orfeo Iris (research in Nazi 6 neo nazi persecution of homosexuals)

Grizzly Bear (work in ferocious homophobic situations)

Orfeo Musica (international musical co-operation)

Arco Nordica (Nordic co-operation)

Sappho in Paradise (libraries, publishing)

Orfeo Imago (graphic art & photography)



VILNIUS to LAUNCH 2007 WORLD CONFERENCE STAGES..

(continued from page1) Vilnius event will include this year's sessions of the Nordic Rainbow Council (promoting co-operation over Nordic borders and beyond), and the annual Nordic Rainbow Humanists gathering – especially discussing the ugly outburst of the Lithuanian church against homosexuality and the many members of parliament giving open support for this medieval, homophobic intolerance -- a threat to all our human rights and rainbow cultural identity," says Bill Schiller, international secretary of the Council and secretary general of the ILGCN Information Secretariat in Stockholm.

"We also plan to give a special Nordic tribute to our LGBT humanist colleagues in Nigeria who are courageously publically condemning the Nigerian parliament's draconian proposal to ban homosexual relations and even social contact between lesbians and gays," Schiller adds.



Tribade Festival
Participants in Helsinki

"We're also pleased that a seminar will describe the 7 year history of the outstanding 'Nights and Days of Tribades' cultural festival in Helsinki and their international activities."

Mauritius stage postponed, New Applicants for 2008

While the Mauritius stage originally planned for 2007 will be postponed for a future date, applications are already coming in for 2008 world rainbow cultural conference from Eastern Europe and North America. This is in keeping with our desires to see stages shared by both East and West -- and to share with different cities on a large geographic scale knowing that many do not have the ability to organize a mega event on their own or travel long distances to join other ILGCN colleagues in other cities.

"Unlike some international prestige events such as EuroPride, World Pride, and Gay Games which sell their titles for high prices without offering any financial support whatsoever, we will continue to hand out ILGCN world conference stage titles without any charge -- and we always make efforts to provide performers, films, art and photography, and conference seminar hosts," Schiller concludes.

NORDIC RAINBOW COUNCIL to VILNIUS, GOTHENBURG..

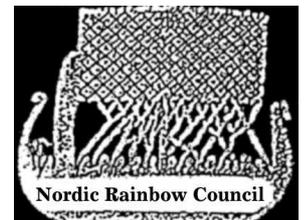
(cont. from p. 1) "We also hope that Lithuanian colleagues will be able to give a positive description of the ILGCN conference stage in Vilnius and Rainbow Days in May and on preparations for the ILGA European conference in October. And that colleagues from Estonia -- a "highlighted nation" at this year's book fair -- will report on its Pride in August," Schiller adds.

Nordic Focus on Rainbow Culture

Tupilak and the ILGCN will renew calls for the use of rainbow culture to combat homophobia, invisibility and silence. "The focus on art, films, music, drama and literature as powerful weapons to combat prejudice and intolerance is usually well understood in Eastern circles -- in contrast to the West where many regard culture as harmless entertainment without any role on the political battle field," he adds.

Sweden's prize-winning RFSL-initiated Pol-Baltic Network linking many Swedish organizations together in solidarity work across the Baltic will be invited to report on its activities -- with hopes this will spark the creation of similar networks in other Nordic nations. "We hope to make accessibility easier for local activists and rainbow cultural workers by once again sharing an annual session between different Nordic cities. We also urge Nordic organizations unable to attend in person to submit any proposals or suggestions for Nordic-Baltic co-operation. Especially valued will be reports on any Nordic or other international projects over the last year," Schiller concludes.

The Nordic Rainbow Council is open to organizations and individuals in the Nordic region on both sides of the Baltic Sea -- from Iceland to Lithuania. A member of the ILGA and the ILGCN, the council is a solidarity network with no bureaucracy and no membership fee, operating on voluntary grants.





*HOSI-Linz ceremony
at homo monument
in Mauthausen*

Monuments in the Poland, in the Nordic region?

Stockholm Supports Homo Monument in Warsaw



The ILGCN Information Secretariat in Stockholm has expressed strong support for the ILGCN Eastern European Secretariat and its initiative to launch a campaign to set up a homo monument at the Warsaw site where Nazi troops rounded up Polish gays during WWII to send them to the Auschwitz death camp.

The Stockholm secretariat sees this as an excellent way to show solidarity with persecuted, imprisoned and executed lesbians, gays and trans people over the millenniums and all over the globe. Although some voices outside and within the rainbow community in Poland have rejected the Warsaw project as too provocative, the Auschwitz Museum has expressed support for the idea. The museum has received several official rainbow delegations after the first one from the ILGCN world cultural conference in Warsaw.

Nordic Homo Monument "Still on Ice"

The secretariat has written to all Nordic governments, requesting support for the Warsaw project and for the erection of a homo monument in the Nordic area – similar to other monuments in Amsterdam, Berlin, Den Haag, Bolgna and at a number of Nazi concentration camps.

So far, only the Swedish conservative Prime Minister Reinfeldt has answered, saying that while he supports all aspects of gay rights, he lacks the "time" to support the Polish or the Nordic projects.

ILGCN World Cultural Conferences 2007



Vilnius – May 24-25

"Iran in Exile" (Toronto) – June

"Algeria in Exile" (Paris/Marseille) – October



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News from the
International Lesbian &
Gay Cultural Network

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