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THE BALTIC HUMAN RIGHTS RALLY

Close to five thousand Lithuanians, Latvians, Estonians and sympathizers descended upon Washington on September 24th to attend the Baltic Human Rights Rally. Organized by Viktoras Nakas and young Lithuanian activists the Rally sought to dramatize the plight of the Baltic peoples on the eve of the Belgrade Conference. Five thousand assembled at the Lincoln Memorial. The program was presided over by Uldis Sipols (Latvian.). Following Bishop Vincentas Brizgys' invocation, Mark L. Schneider, Coordinator of the Human Rights Section of the US State Department, Senator Peter V. Domenici (R.-N.Mex), Senator Robert Dole (R.-Kansas), Senator Howard M. Metzenbaum (D.-Ohio), Sen. Jack Schmitt (R.-N.Mex.), Rep. James J. Blanchard (D.-Mich.) and others addressed the throng. Representatives of Latvian and Estonian Church dignitaries as well as the spokesmen of the Prelate of Washington were present. Among the Lithuanians who comprised the honorary presidium were Dr. K.J. Valiunas (VLIK), J.R. Simanavičius (Lithuanian Community of Canada), K. Jakubynas, A. Jurašas and S. Kudirka (Lithuanian dissidents). The demonstration witnessed the attendance of all of the members of the VLIK Executive Board, a majority of the executive of the Lithuanian Community of the USA, as well as Dr. J. Genys who represented the Lithuanian American Council (ALT). Greetings were read from A. Solzhenicin, the American Jewish Committee, Senator P. Moynihan (D.-N.Y.), George Meany and others.

Following the official ceremony, the Lithuanian folk dance group "Aušrinė" of Philadelphia and the Latvian soloist Rūta Svilpe performed a cultural program. During the cultural program some 200 Baltic youths detached themselves from the Rally and coming within a block of the Soviet Embassy before the capital police blocked them, burned the Soviet flag and sang Baltic patriotic songs. Four of these demonstrators were arrested for burning the Soviet flag.



On September 9th, the **State Department** held a **meeting for ethnic organization leaders** and other interested groups on the Belgrade Conference. Attendance at the meeting was approximately 100, with the State Department being represented by 10 panelists. Among numerous Baltic participants at the meeting were Dr. Kazys Bobelis, President of the Lithuanian American Council, Mr. Ilmar Ploor, President of the Estonian American National Council, Mr. Janis Riekštīns, President of the American Latvian Association, with the Joint Baltic American National Committee represented by Dr. John Genys, Chairman; Mr. Gunars Meierovics and Mr. John Bolsteins. Following the meeting, Dr. Bobelis, Mr. Ploor, Mr. Riekštīns and Mr. Meierovics had a private meeting in Matthew Nimetz' (Department Counselor on International Issues) office with his special assistant, Robert Hopper and Thomas Gerth, the State Department Baltic Desk Officer, to discuss specific Estonian, Latvian, and Lithuanian questions.

THE Catholic Free Press, the official organ of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Worcester, saw the importance to inform its readers throughout this sprawling central New England Diocese and elsewhere about the state of the suffering Catholic Church in Lithuania today. An article entitled "Nijolė: A Modern Joan of Arc?" authorized by Rev. **Casimir Pugevičius** appeared in the October 7, 1977 issue of the journal. The article dealt with **Nijolė Sadūnaitė**, a 38 year old Lithuanian woman who was arrested for being part of the clandestine collective which writes and publishes the "Chronicle of the Suffering Catholic Church in Lithuania." Rev. Pugevičius, using excerpts from the translated transcript of Miss Sadūnaitė's trial, where she was convicted and sentenced to three years hard labor followed by 3 years of exile, brought to the forefront what Lithuanians must endure for their faith. This in-depth article opened the eyes of many. **EVM**

The head of the Soviet Union KGB (Security Police) on September 9th subjected political dissidents to one of the most scathing public condemnations ever heard in Moscow, alleging that they were close to being paid agents of the West. **Yuri Andropov**, who is also a member of the ruling Politburo, said in a speech that "Disidence has become a kind of profession which is generously paid with foreign currency and other tips, which in essence is little different from the way imperialist services pay their agents." Dissidents could not have come into existence if for the role played by the Western press and diplomatic and intelligence services, he said. Andropov alleged that dissidents are motivated by religious fanaticism, nationalism and personal failure and, "finally, in a number of cases, mental instability."

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Initiated by Rep. Robert K. Dornan (R.-Calif.) 25 members of the U.S. House of Representatives endorsed House Concurrent Resolution 319 calling for full freedom and independence for the Baltic States. Instrumental in this Congressional Action was the **Americans for Congressional Action to Free the Baltic States**. The National chairman of this committee and prime activist is **Leonard Valiukas** of Los Angeles.

Senator **Robert Dole** (R.-Kansas) sent a letter to Party Secretary Leonid Brezhnev protesting the arrests of Felix Serebrov, Viktoras Petkus, and Antanas Terleckas. Petkus and Terleckas were working with the Lithuanian branch of the unofficial Organization to Monitor Soviet Compliance with the Helsinki Accords on Human Rights in Vilnius. In his letter to Brezhnev, Dole pointed out that these men "were doing no more than monitoring compliance with the Helsinki Accords on human rights. He further indicated that these arrests appear to be an "indication of the emergence in the Soviet Union of a policy of increasing harassment of dissidents." The Senator urged Brezhnev to reconsider these arrest in light of the Soviet Commitment to the Helsinki Final Act and expedite the release of these men.

THE HOMELAND

According to the **Vestnik Statistikai 1977**, the official Soviet statistical record, Lithuania had a population of 3,300,000 at the start of 1976. There were 1,755,000 women (53% of the population). In 1975 and 1976 women comprised 51% of the total work force. Indeed the number of **working women** has steadily risen under the Soviet regime: in 1940 — 30%, 1950 — 38%, 1960 — 43% and 1970 — 49%. However, Woman libers should take little joy in this fact, for women in Soviet Occupied Lithuania are also engaged in ditch-digging, garbage disposal, construction, and other physically strenuous tasks, especially on the kolkhozes (collective farms).

Many are aware how poorly our brothers in Lithuania fare. From their letter and the visits of our tourists, we learn that they are short of many everyday items. Many Lithuanians who go to visit their relatives, go there with suitcases loaded with goods, and they return home empty-handed, usually leaving their own belongings there and spending all their money. In that way, Lithuanian Americans have been able to help less fortunate brothers in the homeland. Here in the United States, since we can buy everything with ease, we used to mail Lithuanians various gift parcels. One had to send them through special agencies (Cosmos, Podarogift, etc.), which had permits from the Soviet government. The agencies would charge an amount for the handling, insurance, postage and especially, the advanced duty, so that the receiver wouldn't have to pay anything. These agencies made a lot of hard cash

for the Soviet regime. But that was not enough. In recent years, the customs fees have tripled; the imposed duty exceeded many times the value of the contents. Some people found a way to help their relatives by using the American Postal Service, by sending small air mail parcels. If the receiver agreed to pay the imposed duty, it was a most practical way to help them. In the beginning the duties were reasonable, and the people were able to pay, and soon enough, the little packages began to flow; woolen and synthetic scarves, hankies, stockings, cosmetics, dresses, toys, even child pacifiers. Lately, the most popular items to mail were blue jeans, bubble gum and electronic calculators. The Lithuanian kin were overjoyed to receive something from America, be it a razor blade or a pack of chewing gum. Seemingly, the Soviet regime is not pleased with such traffic since it is trying to stop packages by imposing a very heavy duty on these small items to discourage the receivers. **A. V.**

"The consulate-general has also given us a second window on Soviet society, and this has been a very worthwhile purpose," Joseph Neubert, the outgoing chief of the 26-member **U.S. Consulate in Leningrad**, said in an AP interview. The consulate lets American officials keep a closer eye on Leningrad, whose population is 4,3 million, and outlying areas including the Baltic States of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania. Consulate officials travel regularly to the three states' capitals although the United States does not formally recognize their incorporation into the Soviet Union.

POLITICAL ACTION

Dr. K. J. Valiūnas, President of VLIK (Supreme Committee for Liberation of Lithuania) met with Leonard Valiukas, Americans for Congressional Action to Free the Baltic States. Mr. Valiukas pledged total support for VLIK. On Behalf of VLIK Mr. Valiūnas declared that his organization is satisfied with the efforts of Congressional Action in Lithuania's struggle for free-



dom and that there is no misunderstanding between the movements as far as Lithuania's interest are concerned. Dr. Valiūnas approved of Mr. Valiukas' action in Congress. **ELTA**

Ethnic votes may be a key to elections in New Jersey. In 1960 Raymond H. Bateman, then state senator, wrote in the New York Times magazine about political campaigns: "This is the middle of the 20th century. Appeal to voters as Americans." Today as Republican candidate for governor of the Garden State, Mr. Bateman of Somerville is aware of the newly emerged ethnic blocs. Sociologist Janos Gotsch, extracting demographic studies made by the U.S. Bureau of Census and several political scientists, concludes that there are some 600,000 Polish-Americans in the state as well as some 507,000 New Jerseyans with other Eastern European ancestry. Dr. Gotsch gives the following ethnic breakdown on the other Eastern Europeans: Hungarians, 145,000; Slovaks, 105,000; Ukrainians, 69,000; Russians, 68,000; **Lithuanians, 40,000**, and all others — Czechs, Croats, Serbians, Belorussians, Slovenes, Latvians, Albanians, Estonians, Bulgarians, and Rumanians — totaling 80,000. This would make the Eastern Europeans one of the biggest "ethnic" blocs in the state. Other large blocs include Italo-Americans, 1,055,000; blacks, 900,000, and Hispanic people, 560,000. Dr. Gotsch says that the Eastern European ethnic blocs are well worth wooing by politicians. Unlike such blocs as blacks and Hispanics — where the majority of the members are not of voting age — more than 70% of the Eastern Europeans are adults, Dr. Gotsch says, and all of them vote. (Bridges concurs with Dr. Gotsch. However, a correction is in order, Lithuanian Americans total some 60,000 persons in New Jersey).

LITH MEDIA

After thirty-three years of broadcasting and producing the Sunday afternoon "**Lithuanian Radio Party**" in Waterbury, Conn., **John D. Adams-Adomaitis** is retiring. With his exit from the microphone, the directorship of the Lithuanian Radio in Waterbury passes to **Viktoras Vaitkus**. Mr. Vaitkus is the proprietor of SPAUDA Bookstore, a source of Lithuanian books, records, art crafts, and amber for Connecticut Lithuanians. Mr. Vaitkus is also the president of the Waterbury Chapter of Bendruomenė.

Representatives of the Joint Baltic American Committee meet with the White House Public Liaison Office Ethnic Affairs representative Ms. Jan Peterson. Dr. Jonas Genys, current president of the JBANC, presented the Baltic case concerning the Belgrade Conference. From l. to r.: John Bolšteins (Information officer), Maida Kari (Estonian spokesman), Ms. Peterson of the White House Staff, Dr. Jonas Genys (Lithuanian spokesman and chairman), and Gunars Meierovics (Latvian representative).

COMMUNITY WITH A CAPITAL "C"

On September 24-25 the **Western Region** of the Lithuanian American Community of the US, Inc. observed the organization's **25th anniversary** in **Los Angeles**. The two-day observance included a concert featuring a six-part suite for soloists and instruments by Bruno Markaitis, SJ. The composer conducted the concert. Dr. Petras Vileišis of Waterbury, a founder of Bendruomenė, was keynote speaker during the public meeting on Sunday. Soloist Ričardas Daunoras, recently from Lithuania, gave a recital that same afternoon. Another attraction was Mrs. Zita Sodeika's art exhibit. The Bendruomenė Šventė was organized by the Los Angeles and Santa Monica Chapters. Vytautas P. Vidugiris is president of the Western Region.

Baltic Friendship Holiday, Deerfield, Ill., from left to right: Olafs Pikats (Estonian), Congressman Phillip Crane, Enno Toomasalu (Estonian), Senator Robert Dole, Ilmars Bergmanis (Latvian), Modestas Jakaitis (National Vice-Pres. Lithuania American Community), and Kazys Laukaitis (President, Midwest Region, Lithuanian American Community).



The **Baltic Friendship Holiday** took place on September 3rd at the Estonian Home in Deerfield, Ill. Its motto was: Human Rights for the Baltic Nations. Remarks were made by Senator Robert Dole (R.-Kansas), Congressmen P. Crane and J. McClory as well as by state and local dignitaries. Over 800 Lithuanians, Latvians and Estonians from the Chicago, Milwaukee and other Illinois areas took part in the observance. The Friendship Holiday was a great success. Mr. Modestas Jakaitis, National Vice President of the Lithuanian American Community of the U.S., and Kazys Laukaitis, President of the Midwest Region of the same organization, represented the Lithuanians on the committee.

Kazys Laukaitis

THE SCIENCES

Ilse Cirtautas of the University of Washington has been awarded a financial grant by the U.S. Office of

4 Education to study (of all languages for a Lithuanian!) and write an Introduction to Modern Literary Uzbek, a Turkic language spoken in Soviet Uzbekistan. **V.Š.**

Dr. Alfred E. Senn, professor of history at the University of Wisconsin and author of "The Emergence of Modern Lithuania" and "Vilna and the Great Powers" has been elected to the Board of Directors of the American Association for the Advancement of Slavic Studies which has 20 Lithuanian Americans among its members. It published a quarterly **Slavic Review**, whose assistant editor is **Birutė Lanys**. Prof. Senn also heads the program committee for the 1978 National Convention of the Association scheduled for Columbus, Ohio in October, 1978. **V. Š.**

The **National Endowment for the Humanities**, Division of Research Grants, has awarded to the Board of Trustees of Southern Illinois University \$60,495 to be used by **Alfred Straumanis** for preparation of an **annotated Baltic drama bibliography**. In addition to the above grant, the University is helping the project with release-time from teaching for Professor Straumanis plus fringe benefits in the amount of \$17,497. The major portion of the grant is for graduate assistantships, consultants, secretarial help, and travel to major depositories of Baltic plays. The following individuals agreed to serve as consultants to the project: for the Lithuanian portion — Jonas Daubėnas, Avila College, Kansas City, Mo.; for the Estonian portion — Merike Lepasaar-Beecher, Hilja Kukk, Hoover Institute, and Felix J. Oinas, Indiana State University, Bloomington, Ind. At present a M. A. candidate in theatre of Lithuanian descent, **Kristina Sabalis**, is working on the project as a research assistant. Individuals who are fluent in at least one of the Baltic languages and

are interested in graduate studies at Southern Illinois University while working as research assistants with the Baltic Drama Project should contact Dr. Alfreds Straumanis, Dept. of Theatre, SIU, Carbondale, Ill. 62901.

Not long ago **Stanford R. Ovshinsky** announced that he could convert solar energy into electricity at two-tenths of a cent per kilowatt-hour. Part of Ovshinsky's problem is that he has the ability but not the credentials, so that it's been hard for scholars to accept the thought that someone who has never been to college has made an important contribution to science. Ovshinsky's contribution is the invention of a material that can do what semi-conductors in computers and calculators can do and much more and at a lower price. Some scientists at places like the University of Chicago have always taken the work of this 54-year old son of a Lithuanian immigrant seriously. But most businesses dismissed Ovshinsky's announcement in 1968 that his "Ovonic" materials were on hand and ready to replace the huge, new semi-conducted industry. Since then his claims have tested out so well that the **Wall Street Journal** recently quoted David Adler, professor of Technology at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, as saying, "On every point of controversy it is now clear that Ovshinsky has been correct from the very beginning, and it is about time that the scientific community acknowledges this explicitly." Minnesota Mining and Manufacturing has used Ovshinsky's work to develop the "Microvonic File," which can replace microfilm. The Burroughs Corporation is at work developing a new computer on the basis of Ovshinsky's accomplishments. Ovshinsky's real difficulty is that he is a throwback to the one man-inventor-genius manufacturer of a century ago.

Berrien Springs, Michigan, Michigan. Dr. **John Valantiejus**, a physician from New Buffalo known as "Dr. Val," was awarded an honorary doctoral degree on August 7th at Andrews University's summer commencement. Dr. Valantiejus was honored for his long-standing commitment to humanitarian causes and his contributions to southwestern Michigan through his medical practice. Dr. Valantiejus has sent many tons of medical equipment and supplies as well as agricultural supplies to Haiti, in an effort to help people there.

Frank A. Dubinskas of Stamford University has been granted a fellowship by the American Committee on Eastern Europe of the **American Council of Learned Societies** to undertake a study of Serbo-Croatian. Fifteen grants were to with language areas but Lithuanian was not among them this time. **V. Š.**

The Seventh Annual Meeting of the International Society for the Comparative Study of Civilizations is being organized at the University of Wisconsin April 13-16, 1978. The program committee is headed

by a Lithuanian, Professor **Vytautas Kavolis** of Dickinson College, Carlisle, Pa., who is also the editor of the liberal-existentialist quarterly in Lithuanian, **Metmenys**. **V. Š.**

EVENTS

Despite poor weather, about 15,000 people attended the 63rd annual **Lithuanian Day program at Lakewood Park** in Barnesville, Pa. The sponsoring organization, Knights of Lithuania Antrazite Council 144, through its spokeswoman Ann Klizas Wargo of St. Clair, said that the turnout was "tremendous", considering the rain which was heavy at times. Bernice Mikatavege was co-chairman with Mrs. Wargo, with Nell Klizas of St. Clair — secretary treasurer, and Msgr. Joseph Neverauskas of Shenandoah and Rev. Al Bartkus, St. Clair spiritual advisors. Highlighting the well-received program was the presentation of a proclamation by Schuylkill County Commissioner Albert Matunis, Shenandoah, declaring Monday, August 15 as Lithuanian Day in the county. Msgr. Joseph Neverauskas, rector of St. George's Catholic Church, Shenandoah, the oldest Lithuanian church in the U.S., received a carving from anthracite coal to represent "Ziggy Zilch", a character from his book "The Adventures of Ziggy Zilch". The program was dedicated to Msgr. Neverauskas for his 39 years of service to the annual Lithuanian Day activities. Included in the program were Lithuanian folk dances performed by the Aušrinė Dancers of Philadelphia, and folk songs by the Vilija Quartet of New Jersey. The main address was given by Rev. Kazimieras Pugevičius, director of the Lithuanian Catholic Religious Aid. The Marijos Varpeliai choral group of 60 Schuylkill County Lithuanian schoolchildren, directed by Rita Shevokas, also performed. Joseph Yanulaitis of Philadelphia led the assembly in a Lithuanian sing-along prior to the official program.

The 37th Biennial Convention of the American-Lithuanian R.C. Women's Alliance took place in Worcester, Mass. on August 17-21, 1977. The delegates went on record as being concerned women for our country and for human rights of all people, not forgetting the Lithuanians behind the Iron Curtain. President Carter was thanked for his stand on human rights and for this reminder to the world of the right of Captive Nations to be free and independent. The Convention applauded Congressman Derwinski for his ongoing interest in the human rights questions involved in the Belgrade Conference. The Convention also informed Senator Dole that it was encouraged, that as a Helsinki Commission member, he met with Lithuanians in Vienna to discuss recent developments in their homeland, discussing all violations of the Helsinki Act. The National Secretary, Mrs. M. Panavas reported to the convention that the Expense Fund was \$21,351.78 Membership stood at 670 insurance members and 931 social members. There are some changes on the National Board for the next term, namely: President

— Julia Mack; 1st Vicepres. — Genevieve Kanetis; 2nd Vice-pres. — Albina Baškauskas; trustee — Mary Kase. Returned to office are Mary Druktanis, treasurer, and Mary Ann Mineiko, trustee. The Secretary, Marie Panavas, tendered her resignation and it was left to the Board to find a replacement.

LITHUANIAN CULTURE

All Saints Day (Visų Šventųjų šventė), which is celebrated on November 1st, was proclaimed a holy day of obligation by Pope Gregory in 855 A.D. Most people think that it is a day set aside to honor the canonized saints. Actually, "to honor all of the faithful who died in the state of grace" is the true purpose of this religious event. It was the custom in Lithuania — a few hundred years ago — to make an annual payment to the village church before this date. It was also the custom — even as late as the 19th century — to slaughter a fat goose or a male lamb on this day. Sometimes farmers would give live lambs, geese, grain or flax to their impoverished neighbors on All Saints' Day. The Lithuanians, who were most proficient in honoring their dead, associated this day with the harvest feasts. An ancient saying states "St. George brings out the plough, the Saints hand it up." On this day, the farmers considered the season to be finished and would lay off any herders or field hands who had been hired for the summer. It was believed that the weather on All Saints' Day could foretell the weather of the following spring. If all Saints' Day was cold, then an early spring could be expected. If the day was warm and autumn weather was late in coming, then spring would be late in coming. A great harvest of honey could be expected the following year if All Saints' Day was cloudy. **Aldona Ryan.**

A check with Pranas Naujokaitis recently published four-volume *Lietuvių literatūros istorija* (History of Lithuanian Literature) reveals that at least 60 poets (not including fledglings or other types of writers) are living in the West today, publishing in the Lithuanian language. Of this impressive number, only a few will be destined by the Muses to earn lasting significance. The following survey of poets whom contemporary critics consider important are: **Kazys Bradūnas** (b. 1917) is one of the most productive, with 12 published volumes to his credit since 1943. In deceptively simple verses that are stylistically and lexically akin to Lithuanian folk songs, he integrates symbols central to the Lithuanian rustic consciousness, such as earth, blood, bread and wayside chapels, into a sacred view of life, a view of life as a holy offering to God, who is experienced through the eyes of the tradition-bound Lithuanian peasant. Superficially even more simple in his collection "Pavieniai žodžiai" (Separate Words), which features a single word, or sometimes just a syllable, to a line, **Jonas Mekas** (b. 1922) is noted for his idyllic lyricism. He speaks of "the special magic present in the texture of rural life, in the colors and sounds of summer

rain, in the clear, cold silence of winter, in the pain in workers' muscles, and in the rough and loving surface pine bark presents to the hand of a baby" (R. Šilbajoris). Incidentally, this is the same Mekas whom film aficionados know as one of the fathers of the American underground cinema, publisher (with his brother Adolfas) of the magazine "Film Culture", and regular contributor to the "Greenwich Village Voice". **Henrikas Nagys** (b. 1920) and **Liūnė Sutema** (b. 1927) are brother and sister. "Nagys is a poet of exile not because he was forced to leave a home and a country, but because the central themes on his poetry — the search for self in others, the presence of death and the threatening unknown in the commonplaces of everyday existence, the transformation of reality into a "laterna magica" of poetic moods — make him a wanderer in existence, a searcher for identity in the transience of time. He has enriched the traditional lyrical, graceful and light-colored Lithuanian romanticism with darker, richer colors, with a dramatic tone emptied of romantic self-pity, and with the tragic dimensions of human destiny facing inescapable death" (See *Encyclopedia Lituanica*). The theme of exile is even more crucial to Liūnė Sutema, who achieves a remarkable fusion of despair and peace, alienation and intimacy, numbness and warmth, a fusion through which everything alien suddenly becomes humanly familiar (and vice versa). **Alfonsas Nyka-Niliūnas** (b. 1919) is a more Western European in flavor, as can be judged from the great formal diversity of his work, the content of his abundant allusions, and his heavily metaphysical orientation. He is one of the best Lithuanian translators of Western literature (Eliot, Shakespeare, Hölderlin, Dante, Baudelaire) into Lithuanian and, like Bradūnas, a significant critic. Other poets, residing in the US or Canada, whose work has excited attention include **Leonardas Andriekus** (b. 1914), **Jurgis Blekaitis** (b. 1917), **Ju-lija Švabaitė** (b. 1921), **Danguolė Sadūnaitė - Sealy** (b. 1931), and **Vitalija Bogutaitė** (b. 1934). Three great poets of the older generation, **Stasys Santvaras** (b. 1902), **Bernardas Brazdžionis** (b. 1907) and **Antanas Gustaitis** (b. 1907) have been covered in previous issues of BRIDGES. **M. DR.**

The "Vilija" Lithuanian Women's Quartet of New Jersey and their director **Louis Stukas** recently announced their new stereo, longplay record "Vilija". The record includes melodic folk songs and modern-day Lithuanian composition by such musicians as J. Stankūnas, Vyt. Bložė, A. Bražinskas, S. Žilbinis and others. Along with renditions by the entire group, the record is sparked by solos by tenor Louis Stukas and by soprano Edna Ryncavage, and a duet by Edna Ryncavage and Aldona Pitkunigis. Combinations of piano, organ, violin, clarinet, flute and light percussion instruments provide the accompaniment. The records retail for \$6.00 and can be obtained from: Vilija, 1467 Force Drive, Mountainside, N.J. 07091. A 50 cent charge will be added to mail orders, to cover

postage and handling. The "Vilija" Women's Quartet, consisting of Loretta Stukas, Edna Ryncavage, Aldona Pitkunigis, and Regina Malakas have performed at various cultural gatherings in the New York - New Jersey - Pennsylvania area.



"Vilija" Lithuanian Women's Quartet of New Jersey. L. to r.: Regina Malakas, Aldona Pitkunigis, Director Louis Stukas, Edna Ryncavage, and Loretta Stukas

The Worcester, Mass. Dr. Vincas Kudirka Chapter of the Lithuanian National Guard (Šauliai), acting upon the suggestion of the pastor of St. Casimir's Parish, Rev. A. Miciūnas, has taken the initiative in erecting a monument dedicated to all who have sacrificed their lives fighting for Lithuania's freedom. The site of the monument will be the churchyard of St. Casimir's Church. The Committee for the Construction of the Lithuanian Memorial urges all interested organizations and individuals to join them in this task with donations. All contributions are tax deductible. Donations should be sent to: Lithuanian Memorial Fund, c/o St. Casimir's Church Rectory, 41 Providence St., Worcester, Mass. 01604.

For our readers who find themselves far removed from Lithuanian parishes and neighborhood, but wish to keep alive the age-old Lithuanian Christmas Eve (Kūčios) tradition, BRIDGES takes the opportunity to inform you that you may obtain Christmas wafers or **plotkeliai** by mail from Darbininkas, 341 Highland Blvd., Brooklyn, N.Y. 11207

BOOKS

In the September 1977 issue of **Reader's Digest**, noted humorist and Author **Leo Rosten** notes in his

article "The Astonishing Talmud": "In 1887, the small town of Krože, Poland (now Kražiai, Lithuania), sheltered 200 Jewish families; yet these families formed nine permanent study groups, employed ten male and two female teachers and could boast two full-time book-binders and repairers". Mr. Rosten is partly mistaken, Kražiai (in Yiddish — Krože) was never in Poland, it is situated in Kaunas province (Kovenska gubernija to the old Litvaks). The official Lithuanian census of 1923 found there were only 224 houses and a population of 1590. So that it is highly improbable that in 1887 THERE COULD HAVE BEEN 200 Jewish families. The town is known in history for the infamous Kražiai Massacre of Catholics. However, Mr. Rosten's inferences are correct, the Jews of Lithuania have always had a very high reputation for scholarship and Talmudic studies.

Mr. **Algirdas Gustaitis** presents the Lithuanian case in a concise manner in his booklet "**200,000,000 and Lithuania**". Now in its third renewed edition, Mr. Gustaitis' handy booklet consists of 16 pages by which the reader is given concise information about Lithuania and the Lithuanians, beginning with pre-historic times and extending up to the present plight under the Soviets. The inside cover contains a general map which shows that Lithuania's capital Vilnius is the geographic center of Europe. The booklet may be obtained from Lithuanian Days, 436 Sunset Blvd., Los Angeles, Cal. 90029. (No price indicated).

Author of ten novels and scores of novelettes, **Jurgis Gliuda** has recently written a novella about the trial and persecution of **Nijolė Sadūnaitė**. Entitled "Teismas Biržely" (Trial in June), this realistic novella attempts to depict the bravery and sacrifice of the martyred Lithuanian Catholic dissident. Copies may be obtained by writing to the publisher, Lithuanian Days Magazine, 436 Sunset Blvd., Los Angeles, Cal. 90029. The price was not indicated.

Of interest to Lithuanian researchers are the following facts. Adam and Filomena Kontautas of the University of Alberta, Canada, have prepared a 745 page **Lithuanian Bibliography** which the University has published. It is an immense check-list of books and articles on Lithuania and the Lithuanians held by the major libraries in the United States and Canada. Another **Selected Bibliography** had been published in 1961 by the Lithuanian Research Institute in New York. It was compiled by an employee of the Library of Congress, Dr. Jonas Balys. The Youth Center of the Lithuanian Jesuit Fathers in Chicago houses the immense collection of Lithuanian American musical activities since the beginning of their immigration to the U.S. This musicological treasure was collected and catalogued by composer, Prof. Juozas Žilevičius. **Vytautas Širvydas**

The National Jewish Book Award for 1976 was given to a three volume anthology, **Jerusalem of Lithuania**, an illustrated and annotated picture album and thematic guidebook for 500 years of Jewish life and creativity in Vilnius. Compiled by Leyzar Ran, the three volumes contain 3,000 pictures and documents with explanations in English, Yiddish, Hebrew and Russian. **Vytis**

LITHUANIAN KITCHEN

Julia Bičiūnas and her family, assisted by Mr. Remigijus, manager, run one of the most outstanding Lithuanian restaurants in Chicago, Healthy Foods, 3236 South Halsted St. Situated in Bridgeport, one of the city's oldest Lithuanian communities, the restaurant combines outstanding American and Lithuanian cuisines in a warm family atmosphere. The restaurant is filled with Lithuanian art objects, including wood carvings, textiles, ceramics and amber. Hours are 6:30 A.M. to 8:00 P.M. seven days a week.

GERA GASPADINĖ With Christmas being just weeks away, several of the Christmas Eve or **Kūčios** recipes would be in order. Here are two:

Šlikės Pomidorų Sose or Herring in Tomato Sauce. The ingredients are: 4 herrings, 3 onions, cooking oil, 1/2 bottle catsup, 2 bay leaves, 1/2 tsp. sugar. Soak the herring in cold water for two days. Remove bones, cut each herring into four pieces. Dip in

flour and fry lightly in oil. (If herring is NOT fried, flour is not used). Slice onions, fry in oil until tender) add catsup, bay leaves and sugar. Boil 5 minutes. When cool, pour over herring. Set in cool place overnight. Other fish may be prepared in the same fashion. **Šližikai — Christmas Eve Biscuits.** The ingredients are: 1 cup of milk, 1 ounce yeast, 1 tbsp. sugar, 1/2 tsp. salt, 1 1/2 cup of all purpose flour. Cream yeast with sugar. Add warm milk and salt. Sift in flour. Stir thoroughly. Put in warm spot to rise. If necessary, add more flour and roll out to sausage width. Slice into 1/2 bits and bake at 350 F till light brown. Serve with aguony pienas — poppy seed milk (1/2 lb. poppy seeds, 10 almonds, 2 cups each boiling water and milk. Pound the seeds fine and add boiling water. Blanche, peel and chop almonds, stir into seeds. Add sugar to taste, cool, pour in milk. Serve with šližikai). **MOB**

IN APPRECIATION

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Romas Sakadolskis
2532 W. 46 Pl.
Chicago, IL 60632