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Christmas Eve, Lithuanian style, is a warm and strong reaffirmation of our Lithuanianism. Kūčios (Christmas Eve) is the gathering of the family around a table laden with the sweet incense of holiday cooking. But also it is an ongoing and flowing continuation of our religious and cultural traditions.

The dining room table will be covered with a layer of straw, symbolic of the manger, over which will be a hand woven linen tablecloth. The Christmas tree will be decorated with the delicate straw geometrics, uniquely Lithuanian. Twelve foods to correspond to the 12 Apostles will be served. No meat is to be eaten. Fish and mushrooms will be served in various versions. There will be a plate of holy waffers (plotkelės) on the table.

Before eating, the head of the family offers a prayer and then takes a bite of a waffer, making a good wish for his table neighbor and passing the waffer to his neighbor. The passing on of the waffer is repeated around the table.

Menus will vary according to each hostess. Usually, there is beet soup with little "ears", a pastry with mushroom filling; winter salad; one or two herring dishes, whole fish stuffed with mushrooms; smoked eels; cooked whole wheat to be served with honey; slišikai, a small biscuit traditional on Christmas Eve to be eaten with poppy seed milk; potatoe dishes, vegetables; cranberry pudding; a dried fruit compote and **labai daug** homemade cakes and cookies, especially **grybai**, a cookie made with honey and shaped into a mushroom.

A tradition is for each one to pull out a piece of straw. Legend has it that the one who draws the longest straw will have the longest life. With the gathering of the family on Christmas Eve, our family ties are strenghtened and our centuries of Lithuanian heritage and cultural traditions are passed on to our children and their children.

Šventų ir Linksmų Kalėdų Jums ir Jūsų Šeimai — A Holy and Merry Christmas to You and Your Family is the sincere and warm wish of the editors of BRIDGES to our readers during the approaching Christmas season.

Algirdas Mitkus

LITHUANIAN CULTURE

The **Lithuanian Celebration of Christmas** begins on Christmas Eve, known in Lithuanian as **KUČIOS**. **Kučios** is the solemn festive meal eaten on Christmas Eve. Thus, the origin of the day's name. Kučios is a day when only one meal is eaten. It is meatless and free of dairy products. The only work done on this day is that directly related to the preparations for Kučios where 12 dishes are served, each one symbolic of one of the Twelve Apostles. The Kučios table is first covered with hay and then a hand-woven white linen tablecloth is placed over; this is because the Christ Child was born on hay. The family sits at the table according to age, the oldest at the table's head, the youngest at its foot. A place is set up for a

missing family member, either because he has died or unsurmountable distance makes it impossible to participate. All family members make their best effort to be together for the celebration.

The meal is begun (only when the stars shine) with the breaking of **plotkelės** (blessed unleavened waffers) which is led by the family head. All wish each other good luck, good health, a Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year... After this ceremony the twelve meatless dishes are eaten in a pre-determined order. Traditional is a variety of baked fish dishes, mushroom dishes, **barščiai** (beet soup), **kisielius** (a jellied cranberry dish), **mišrainė** (a salad of diced beets, potatoes, and other vegetables), **šlišikai su aguonų pienu** (small hard bisquits with "milk" made from honey mixed with poppy seeds), **kompotas** (a

“soup” of cooked dried fruits) among others. After the meal, the leftover food is left on the table. The meal ends with the singing of Christmas carols. Nearby is an evergreen decorated with handmade ornaments of straw and lit candles. Underneath is a Nativity scene and finely wrapped packages. The tree symbolizes Christ and the hope for heaven in all men, the candles — Christ, the light of the world, who dispells all darkness and gloom, the gifts — the spiritual favors Christ bestows on Christmas.

An important tradition is the symbolic “**feeding of the dead.**” Bread and salt are placed under the table for cissing souls. Following the meal there are **burtai** (games of chance) to guess the future — about such topics as one’s life, one’s career, a possible marriage, about next year’s harvest. The stars are counted and wishes are made. Melted wax is poured into a cup of water. The figure which results indicates one’s future career. Straw from under the tablecloth is drawn by all the family. The one who draws the longest straw will have a long life. The shortest will have a short life.

The females of the family are always concerned about marriage (this is, by the way, typical of all females). The girls listen from which compass direction dogs bark, because it is from there that the girls’ suitors will come. In another **burtas**, the girl runs outside barefoot and grabs a pile of firewood. She brings the wood inside and counts it. If an even number is brought in, she will marry soon, if an odd number results, she will remain single; well, anyway until next Kučios. The šližikai are counted. Again an even number means marriage, an odd number means staying single. A game in which all participate needs three cups. Under the first is placed a piece of bread, under the second — a rosary, and under the third — a ring. The girls choose. If the cup hiding the bread is chosen, it means that she will work hard for her bread her entire life. If the rosary is chosen, she will join the convent. If the ring is chosen, she will be married. These traditions are passed down from generation to generation for centuries. Each family celebrates Kučios in its own way.

It is believed that at midnight on Christmas all the water in the rivers, streams, lakes and wells would change to wine, but only for a second. Also, the belief is that at midnight the animals would begin to speak. It was cautioned though, that those who would make it a point to listen to the speaking animals would hear the details of their own death.

Some of the hay that was placed on the Kučios table is given to the animals to eat, but none to the horses, because as tradition has it, the horse did not warm the infant Christ in the stable at Bethlehem as did the other animals.

With the traditions completed, the entire family from the youngest to the oldest goes together to **Bernelių Mišios** (literally The Shepherd Boys’ Mass — the first Mass of Christmas at midnight) with the entire village to greet the Newborn Christ. After this joyous celebration, all return home to share a lavish breakfast.

Then all go to rest full of happiness that Christmas brings to all men. **Linksmų Kalėdų Visiems! A Merry Christmas to All! Eduardas V. Meilus**

The People of the Woods. When you purchase your Christmas tree this year, think about your cousins in Lithuania. Chances are they will not have a Christmas tree. Although the custom arrived in Lithuania about 1908 and became quite popular by the 1920’s, other circumstances have changed the habits of the people. First of all, the Christmas tree is a symbol of Christianity, and atheism rules the countries dominated by the Soviet Union. Another important factor remains. Only 21% of Lithuania is covered with forest land. The vast forests of Eastern Europe have disappeared. Woodlands never remain the same anywhere and Lithuania is no exception. For example, English yew has completely disappeared there. According to the Encyclopedia Lituanica, the forests of Lithuania are 61% coniferous but this is limited to three species. Forty one per cent of the coniferous trees are the long-needled Scotch pine — as we know them. Another 20% are Norway spruce and these grow quite large there. The other species found in Lithuania is the common juniper. The ancient Lithuanians believed that trees had a spirit. (The spirit of a coniferous tree was always a female.) During one period, they thought that trees and humans grew as a life force together — one tree per person. How wise they were! Ecologists now tell us that trees and humans **do** grow as a life force together. A tree is an oxygen factory and a human is an oxygen breather. It now takes two large trees to support every human. Where an imbalance occurs, the air becomes polluted. Are you doing your part in raising your quota of two large trees? **Aldona Ryan**

My Lithuanian is rusty (or non-existent): where can I find someone to help me write a letter to Lithuania? And who could help me translate into English the one I just got? Where can I find out more about my family name: what (if anything) it means, where it came from, how old it is? Who could enlighten me about the little town or village my grandfather was born in? Questions like these — who hasn’t heard them, or even asked them himself! But where can one go for answers? As you might already know, four Bostonians have decided to come to grips with the problem by forming BALTIC ENTERPRISES, a central research and translation service with access to important scholars and archives, including those of the Kelevis Publishing Co. (est. 1905), the oldest still extant Lithuanian cultural concern in Boston. Besides information, the new firm also handles products, retailing as well as wholesaling any and all items conceivably of appeal to the Lithuanian imagination. A full-color catalog delineating their services and products may be obtained by sending a dollar (to cover costs) to BALTIC ENTERPRISES, P. O. Box 8241, Boston, MA. 02114. M. DR.

THE CAUSE OF LIBERTY

Thousands of Lithuanians shouted anti-Soviet and nationalist slogans at a recent soccer match and then went on a rampage through the streets of Vilnius, the capital of Lithuania, Russian dissident Alexander Podrabinek told western reporters and Russian dissidents, including Sakharov. Riots began during an evening soccer match in Vilnius on October 10 between a Vilnius team and a Russian team from Smolensk. Lithuanians in the grandstands shouted "Russians go home" and "Katsapy", a derogatory term for Russians. Some of the shouting was heard during a live television broadcast of the game before it was cut off "for technical reasons". When the game ended, about 15,000 spectators streamed out into the streets, and some of them began overturning police and official cars and ripping down propaganda banners that had been put up to mark the upcoming 60th anniversary of the Bolshevik Revolution. Militiamen, Soviet security police and auxiliary policemen tried to control the rioting, but when they tried to make arrests, the crowd prevented them. A number of people were finally taken to police stations. The next day Soviet troops patrolled the streets of Vilnius. The city saw high ranking military and security officers, according to witnesses. A spokesman for the Internal Affairs Ministry at Vilnius confirmed the disturbance took place after the soccer match, but said it was not serious. Soviet authorities in Moscow had no comment on the incident. On the 14th a Russian language newspaper in Vilnius carried an account of the rioting, saying it was started by "drunken hooligans." It is still unconfirmed whether further disturbances occurred on October 14th. This anti-Soviet riot is the largest to date in Lithuania. In 1956 after the Hungarian revolt there was a major Lithuanian disturbance. In May 1972, following the self-immolation of Romas Kalanta, thousands of people rioted in Kaunas shouting, "Freedom for Lithuania!".

Four issues of **Varpas** (The Bell), a samizdat journal, were received in the West this summer. The clandestine periodical is published by the "Revolutionary Liberation Front of Lithuania," which is said to consist of the National Revolutionary Council of Lithuania, the Committee of Human Rights, the Chapter of Amnesty International in Lithuania, the Lithuanian Freedom Fighters Movement, and the Free Communist Party of Lithuania. (The existence of these organizations or the extent of their activity are still to be established — Ed.). The first issue of **Varpas** outlines the genocidal wartime and postwar Soviet Policies in Lithuania. Mikhail Suslov's leading role is exposed with crimes against the Lithuanian people. In the second issue, Lithuanians are urged to join the "global movement for human rights" to "prevent "nuclear death." A "general amnesty for all political prisoners in the Soviet Union" is urged in the third issue. The fourth issue of **Varpas** outlines the demands of the "Revolutionary Liberation Front" above all the withdrawal

of Soviet armed forces from Lithuania and restoration of Lithuania's independence. ELTA

A number of documents issued by the **Lithuanian Group for Furthering the Implementation of the Helsinki Accords**, were signed by all five members of the Group: Eithan Finkelstein, Rev. Karolis Garuckas, Ona Poškiene, Viktoras Petkus (arrested in August) and Tomas Venclova (now living in the U.S.A.). The documents deal with political persecution, prevention of emigration, arrest for possession of literature harassment and discrimination against Volga Germans in Lithuania.

THE HOMELAND

Tomas Venclova, member of the Lithuanian Helsinki Group, was deprived of Soviet citizenship on June 14, 1977 "for action blackening the name of the Soviet citizen." In a public statement, dated August 31, 1977 from Berkeley, Cal., Mr. Venclova retorted: "By the way, I am not a man without a citizenship. I have a Lithuanian foreign passport. For a Lithuanian, this is a much more natural thing than a USSR passport."

Kęstutis Jokubynas, a political prisoner who was recently permitted to emigrate to the West, provides us with a profile on his friend **Antanas Terleckas**, arrested on August 24 in Vilnius. "Terleckas was noted for his civic candor. He was highly valued by Andrei Sakharov who often spoke warmly about him. His disdain for compromise and his unflagging energy in the struggle against injustice, flattery, and cowardice have earned him the special hatred of the KGB. That is why he was constantly followed and persecuted. He holds a university diploma in economics and has also majored in history, but has been without constant employment. He earned his bread by working as a watchman, baker, and warehouse worker. The courageous letter of Antanas Terleckas to Andropov, Chief of the Soviet KGB, was widely circulated in Lithuania and, in a translation abroad. This summer he was active in assisting the family of Sergei Kovalev and other Moscow dissidents.. Antanas Terleckas is 49 years old. His health has been severely impaired in prisons and camps. The recent years, full of nervous tensions as well as constant persecution and threats, were not much easier. His wife Ale also suffers from poor health. She has to shoulder the heavy burden of family care, including an old mother and the youngest son who is barely eight years old."

A telegram of praise to President Jimmy Carter, signed by four Soviet prisoners and published by an illegal Catholic periodical in Lithuania reached the West. A translation released by Lithuanian Catholic Religious Aid (LCRA) in Brooklyn reads ("Dear Man of the Land!

With wonder and astonishment we have traced the course of your star. We rejoice that for once in the arcane realm of politics, a personality has appeared who believes in God, and who respects human dignity and supreme duty. We salute a nation which is personified in such a president. May God assist you." The message, said LCRA director Rev. Casimir Puzevičius, was forwarded to Carter by the LCRA. He said that he did not know if the original dated last March ever reached Carter. The telegram bore the signatures of E. Sverstiuk, a Ukrainian; Sergei Kovalev, a Russian, Petras Plumpa, a Lithuanian, and K. Mendeleev, a Jew. Beneath the signatures was the designation: "political prisoners at Perm, USSR." It was published in the 27th issue of "Chronicle of the Catholic Church in Lithuania". The same issue of the "Chronicle", dated April 28, 1977, warned readers not to be deceived by recent signs of relaxation in the persecution of religious believers by Soviet authorities, calling this "merely a tactical maneuver by the Communist party."

Seven former **political prisoners**, who served time for politically related offenses, have appealed to President Carter and Leonid Brezhnev to let them move to the United States. Three of the seven, Romas J. Giedra of Palanga, Birutė Pašilienė of Kaunas, and Aleksas Pašilis of Klaipėda are Lithuanians. Romas Giedra, 33, has served five years in jail for planning to hijack a plane to the West. Birutė Pašilienė, 48, served three years after World War II for her involvement in the Lithuanian nationalist underground. Aleksas Pašilis, 27, spent four years in prison for anti-Soviet propaganda. Former political prisoners are subjected to periods of surveillance, and must report their activities to the police. Some are forbidden to return to their old homes. **K. P.**

POLITICAL ACTION

On August 26, Dr. Stasys A. Bačkis, Lithuanian Charge d'Affairs in Washington, informed the Secretary of State in writing that Mr. **Vytautas Čekanauskas** is appointed **Honorary Consul General of Lithuania in Los Angeles** and requested that he be accorded recognition in that capacity. On October 6, 1977 the U.S. Department of State informed the Lithuanian diplomat that Mr. Čekanauskas is hereby recognized as Honorary Consul General of Lithuania and that the proper letter of accreditation has been sent to him.

Over 150 participated in the **annual meeting** of the **Lithuanian American Council (ALT)** on October 8 at Sheraton Tower Hotel, Chicago. The sessions went smoothly chaired by Dr. K. Bobelis, T. Blinstrubas, Dr. J. Valaitis, Dr. K. Šidlauskas, and P. P. Dargis. The general secretary, Rev. A. Stašys, reported that during the past year ALT held 7 board meetings, received 415 communiques and sent out over 11,100 pieces of mail. Since the last annual meeting, the Council, received an income of \$53,113.00. The balance as of October 8, 1977 was \$26,444.00. Stephen Bredes, a national trustee of the Council for the past 25 years, was elevated to honorary membership. A new executive board was elected consisting of the following activists: Dr. K. Bobelis, Rev. Stašys (Catholic Federation); T. Blinštrubas and P. Bučas (National Society), Dr. V. Šimaitis (Lith. R. C. Alliance), E. Smilgys (Renaissance Movement), J. Pakalka (Vilnius Lith. Association), J. Talandis (Republicans), S. Balzeka (Democrats), J. Skorubskas, Dr. J. Valaitis (Social Democra.), Gr. Lazauskas, Dr. K. Šidlauskas (National League-Sandara), P. Dargis (SLA), E. Vilimaitė (Cath. Women's Alliance), Dr. L. Kriaučeliūnas (Knights of Lithuania), and O. Barškėtytė (Students). Formed in 1940 The Lithuanian American Council (Amerikos



The Philadelphia Folk Dancers perform during the Baltic Freedom Rally at the foot of the Lincoln Memorial, Washington, D.C. Photo by Jonas Urbonas

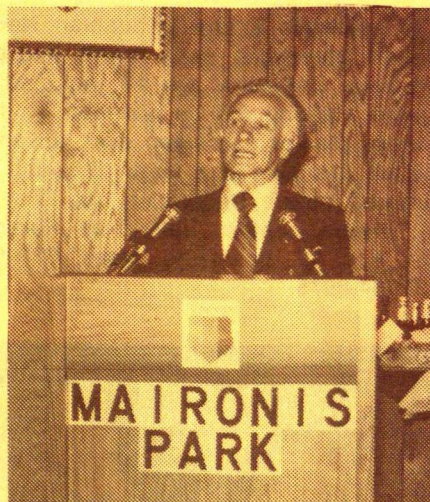
Lietuvių Taryba) has been a major Lithuanian political action organization dedicated to the restoration of Lithuania's independence.

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COMMUNITY WITH A CAPITAL "C"

When news of the October 10th riot in Vilnius reached the United States on October 30-31, the Executive Board of the Lithuanian Community of the US, Inc. reacted by issuing a special bulletin calling upon all cultural and civic groups of Lithuanians to inform the American media and politically active groups about the events in Lithuania. The Public Affairs Committee, headed by Aušra Zerr, calls upon all Lithuanians to contact their congressmen and senators to vote on **House Concurrent Resolution No. 278**. Resolution 278, introduced by Rep. Robert K. Dornan (R. Cal.), would call upon the President and the Secretary of State to take all steps to bring the Baltic States question before the United Nations and to urge that the United Nations request that the Soviet Union withdraw from the Republics of Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia, and return all Baltic exiles from the USSR.

The **Worcester Chapter of Bendruomenė** celebrated its 25th anniversary with a gala concert - banquet on Sunday, November 6, 1977 at Maironis Park, Shrewsbury. The Chapter President Vladas Židžiūnas opened the celebration, greeting the gathering which thronged the main ballroom. The National Anthems were sung. Rev. Antanas Maciunas, pastor of Worcester's St. Casimir's Church, delivered the invocation remembering the organization's founders and deceased members. The concert followed with classical and folk music by mezzo-soprano Nerija Linkeviciūtė and baritone Bernardas Prapuolenis, both of Chicago. Piano accompaniment was by Saulius Cibas of Boston. These young Lithuanian-American musicians were a delight to hear. In attendance and greeting the celebration were Povilas Jančiauskas, Boston District President of Bendruomenė, Thomas J. Early, Mayor of Worcester, Mass. Antanas Matijoska, Boston, greeted the assemblage in the name of the National Organization. Other greetings were from Julia Mack, National President of the American Lithuanian Roman Catholic Women's Alliance, Kazys Adomavicius, President of the Lithuanian Charitable Society — Maironis Park, and Algirdas Zenkus, head of the Dr. Vincas Kudirka post of the Lithuanian National Guard (Šauliai). House Concurrent Resolution No. 278 was read by Eduardas V. Meilus, Jr., upon recommendation by the national organization, and unanimously adopted by the assemblage. A toast was raised for the continued success of Bendruomenė and especially the Worcester Chapter. "Ilgiausių metų, laimingų metų" sang out spontaneously. The guests from throughout New England were treated to a lavish banquet. Dancing followed. By all accounts this 25th anniversary celebration was a memorable one — a day spent in a true Lithuanian community spirit. A commemorative booklet was published and given to all participants as a gift of the Worcester Chapter.



Mr. Povilas Jančiauskas, Boston District President of Bendruomenė, addresses the Worcester Celebration. Photo E. Meilus

The anniversary committee consisted of the following veikėjai — activists: Vladas Židžiūnas, chairman, Petras Molis, Algis Glodas, Teresė Jakubauskas, Aldona Shumway, Povilas Babickas, Jonas Baškys, Eduardas Meilus, Jr., Irene Markevičius and Nijolė Pranckevičius. The spirit of "Community" with a capital "C" is truly on strong footing in the Worcester area. EVM

The Omaha Chapter of Bendruomenė publishes a newsletter entitled **Biuletėnis** (The Bulletin). It is prepared by Vytautas Arnauskas. To date there have been thirteen issues.

On November 19-20 the **Eastern regional conference of Lithuanistic School teachers** was held at the Lithuanian Cultural Center, Brooklyn, N.Y. The conference was called by Mr. Antanas Masionis, regional school inspector. Saturday school teachers of Lithuanian were invited from Massachusetts, Connecticut, New Jersey, eastern Pennsylvania, New York State and Maryland. The Chairman of the Bendruomenė Educational Council (Švietimo Taryba), Bronius Juodelis, flew in from Chicago to attend. The conference discussed current teaching problems, curriculum and duration of schooling.

On October 13-15, 1977 a Lithuanian folk art display was exhibited during the Second "European Studies Conference" organized by the University of Nebraska at the Hilton Hotel, Omaha, Nebraska. The Lithuanian exhibit was assembled by Mrs. D. Sulkis and V. Gaidelis, both active Bendruomenė members.

Pirmoji Naktis, 1978 (or First Night 1978) is the first annual all-Lithuanian New Year's Celebration to be held in Boston at the grand ballroom of the Park Plaza Hotel. The Youth Section of the Boston Chapter of Bendruomenė are organizing this event to bring to-

gether all to celebrate a real Lithuanian New Year⁶
 A formal dinner, beverages, party favors, and dancing to an eight-piece orchestra are all included in the \$26 ticket price. Parking will be provided by the Park Plaza. For those planning to sleep over, advance sale hotel rooms are available at a large discount. Tickets must be ordered before December 10th. For further information, please contact Valentinas Kurapka, 36 Bellvista Rd. Apt. 12, Brookline, Mass. 02146. Telephone: (617) 734-8975.

"Detente with Monsters" was the subject of a lecture delivered by Vilius Bražėnas, prominent Lithuanian activist and Right Wing spokesman, in the Duluth, Minnesota YMCA. Mr. Bražėnas described conditions he and his family encountered through Soviet dictatorship and pointed out the dangers of detente with the forces of Communism.

Businessman **Jacob L. Barowsky**, who developed the liquid household cleaner **Lestoil**, died on October 25th



Performers and Organizers of 25th Anniversary Celebration of Bendruomenė in Worcester, I. to r.: Petras Molis, Saulius Cibas, Nerija Lenkevičius, Bernardas Prapuolenis, Aldona Shumway, and Vladas Židžiūnas. Photo E. Meilus

EVENTS

At the recent annual convention of the Mid-Atlantic District of the Knights of Lithuania in Kearny, N.J., Rev. K. Pugevičius conducted a workshop on "Human Rights." He urged all in attendance to participate in their own way to further the goal of Human Rights for all. The convention was attended by representatives from 13 councils: Philadelphia, New York, Newark, Brooklyn, Bayonne, Scranton, Harrison-Kearny, Amsterdam, Maspeth, Syracuse, Washington, D.C., Pittston, Pa. and St. Clair, Pa. New district officers were elected.

They included: Spiritual advisor — Rev. Bulavas; president — Larry Janonis; 1st vicepres. — William Sidtis; 2nd vicepres. — Eva Migonis; secretary — Mrs. Jeanne Janonis; membership secretary — John Adomenas; treasurer — Millie Pietz; trustees — Ann Wargo, Helen Shields. Isabelle R. McKinley was chosen as public relations officer. **Isabelle McKinley**

at 85. Barowsky came to Holyoke, Massachusetts from Vilnius, Lithuania, in 1897, at the age of 5. During the next half century his life became a story of immigrant success. After graduation from Harvard in 1915, Barowsky worked for a firm that produced cleansers. In 1933 he founded his own manufacturing firm. After extensive use of television advertising helped make Lestoil a top seller, Barowsky sold his firm, Adell Chemical Co., for \$12 million in 1960.

On September 15th **Rapolas Ugintas**, 85, died in Philadelphia. The former Lithuanian forester bequeathed five thousand dollars to the February Sixteenth Lithuanian High School in Germany.

! sveikata! Cheers! Both drinking toasts are acceptable at the **Lithuanian House** in London, England. Located at Ladbroke Gardens in the West End, the Lithuanian

House is one of two Lithuanian clubs in the capital of Great Britain. The first floor of the Lithuanian House includes a community room and, of course, a bar. The upper storeys contain apartments for single men. The basement houses **Nida Press**, which published a weekly in Lithuanian, **The European Lithuanian** (Europos Lietuvis). The House was initially purchased after World War II to house refugee families who had settled in the metropolitan London area. If you should be in London, you will be welcomed in true heart-warming Lithuanian style at the Lithuanian House. Its telephone number is 01-7272470 and is also listed in the London telephone book. **A.M.**



The Student Ensemble **NERIJA** of Cleveland led by Miss **Rita Čyvaitė**. Photo by Jonas Urbonas

Ethnic Community Service, a non-profit corporation was set up to conduct urban research and provide legal services to Lithuanian service or charitable groups in the Chicago area. BCS does tax work and legal assistance related to non-profit ventures. The organization has been concentrating on the Marquette Park area this past year in the hopes of cooling the community off. As most Lithuanians know, Marquette Park is a solidly Lithuanian community in Chicago. It stands for all Lithuanian communities, and the preservation of its cultural and historical flavor is close to the hearts of all Lithuanians. Raymond Rimkus is the corporate president. For additional information write or telephone: Ethnic Community Services, 7 So. Dearborn Suite 1524, Chicago, Ill. 60603, tel. (312) 436-8151. **Tomas Petkus**

The **Lithuanian National Catholic Church**, Providence of God Parish, Oak and N. Summer Ave., Scranton, Pa., observed its 64th anniversary in October. Special services were celebrated by Rev. Edward Ratajack, pastor, assisted by visiting clergy. The third Sunday of October is set aside each year to honor the church founders. Traditional Lithuanian hymns were sung by the Birutė Choir under the direction of Mrs. Doris Hartley, organist. The church was founded by the late

Rev. Stanley Mishkevich in 1913. After a charter was granted a chapel was erected on the present site under the pastorate of the late Rev. John Gritenas, who later became a bishop. The present edifice was completed in 1930 through the efforts of the parishioners and the late Rev. Michael Valadka, then pastor. The church was dedicated in May, 1931, by the late Prime Bishop Francis Hodur of the Polish National Catholic Church. In 1947 the church celebrated a mortgage burning ceremony. Stanley Neskauskas is the president of the church committee.

The **Grandinėlė**, folk dance ensemble of Cleveland, participated in the "International Mining and Manufacturing Festival" at Cadiz, Ohio on October 22nd. Thirty-seven groups participated in the "Parade of Nations" ethnic concert in the Lakeland College Music Auditorium. Grandinėlė won the first prize.

The annual meeting of the **Directors of the United Lithuanian Relief Fund of America (BALF)** was held on October 22 at the Lithuanian Cultural Center, Brooklyn, N.Y. Seventeen directors attended, thirteen sent proxies. Mr. Andrius Keturakis of Boston chaired the meeting. Mrs. Marija Rudys, National President, gave a detailed report on the charitable and philanthropic activities of the organization. Much charitable aid has been sent to destitute Lithuanians in the so-called Suvalkai triangle, the southwest corner of Lithuania presently under Polish rule. For the fiscal period September 16, 1976 to October 18, 1977 BALF had an income of \$129,642.93, and disbursements totalling \$101,445.29.



Miss Valerie Lagauskas of New York is the parade manager of Macy's Department Store's "Annual Thanksgiving Day Parade", the Easter Flower Show, and Fourth of July Fireworks. Miss Lagauskas is seated at her desk (above) during an interview with **BRIDGES** reader Helen Johnson.

A class in Lithuanian began at Shenandoah Valley High School, Shenandoah, Pa., beginning the evening of October 17. The instructors are Monsignor Joseph Neverauskas, the Rev. Al Bartkus, and the Rev. Matthew Jarusunas.

LITHUANIAN KITCHEN

GERA GASPADINÉ RAŠO: With the Christmas season in full swing, an appropria te finale to any Christmas dinner is the famed **NAPOLEONAS**. Here is one of the tastiest recipes: **Napoleonas — Napoleon Torte.** Ingredients: 1 lb. lightly salted butter, 4 cups of flour, 1 pt. of sour cream. Filling: 1 1/2 lbs of unsalted butter, 2 cups of confectionary sugar, 1 pkg. of vanilla pudding mix, 2 cups of milk, 1/2 cup medium cream, 8 egg yolks, 1 tsp. of vanilla, 2-3 tbs. of lemon juice. With pastry blender, or two knives, cut softened butter into flour until crumbly. Blend in sour cream. Form dough into 11 - 12 egg-sized round balls. Refrigerate in covered bowl overnight. Roll each ball almost waffer-thin on lightly floured board. Roughly fit into 12-inch pizza pan. Prick all over with fork. Bake at 350 degrees for 5 to 8 minutes or until entirely browned. Cool. Stack layers atop each other and trim with very sharp knife. Save crumbs for trimming. Put layers together with filling. To make filling: creme butter with sugar. Add eggs and beat well. Prepare pudding as directed, except use 1 cup of milk. Cool well. Scald 1 cup of milk and cool. Add pudding to butter and yolks. Slowly

add scalded milk, cream and vanilla. Add lemon juice which has been heaten and cooled. Allow to cool and set aside slightly. Frost entire cake with this filling, spreading generously between each layer. Sprinkle with finely crumbled layer trimming. Refrigerate. (Note: one or two layers may be spread with preserves or marmalade.). **Skanaus apetito! MOB**

IN APPRECIATION

The Editors of **BRIDGES** take this opportunity to thank our readers for the many favorable comments about the newsletter. We take a singular honor in thanking the following readers for their generous financial support of our efforts:

- John J. Patrick, Jr., Elizabeth, N.J. \$25.00
- Don Banaitis, Woodhaven, N.Y. \$10.00
- East St. Louis Chapter, Bendruomenė,
East St. Louis, Ill. \$25.00
- Genevieve & Vincas Meiliūnas, Brooklyn, N.Y.... \$10.00
- William Unakis, Morton, Ill. \$10.00

Suggestion for the extra stocking stuffer Christmas gift: a subscription of BRIDGES for your neighbors, friends, relatives (near or far), co-workers, bosses, girl friend, boy friend, and club or organization members. Some Lithuanian organizations, like the South Boston Lithuanian Citizens Association, subscribe to ten issue of BRIDGES for its members. We are hoping that each and every Lithuanian organization will enter a subscription or subscriptions for its membership. A.M.

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