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BRIDGES IS A NEWSLETTER, PUBLISHED BY THE LITHUANIAN-AMERICAN COMMUNITY OF THE U.S. INC., TO RE-ESTABLISH TIES BETWEEN THE LITHUANIAN HERITAGE AND THE DETACHED, MOBILE LITHUANIAN-AMERICAN. IT FOCUSES UPON TIMELY ITEMS DEALING WITH LITHUANIAN CULTURE, CONDITIONS IN THE HOMELAND, AND THE ASPIRATIONS OF ALL WHO SUBSCRIBE TO THE IDEA THAT LITHUANIA DESIRES TO BE AN INDEPENDENT AND FREE NATION AGAIN.

### HOPE REGAINED?

"Will the USSR survive until 1984?", asked Soviet dissident historian Andrei Amalrik in the title of famous book written just a decade ago. At that time he had both the hope and what he thought were good reasons for a "no" answer. Today, as the critical date draws ever more close, he has pushed his estimate of when the Russian empire should collapse well into the future.

Still, don't bet on a "yes" answer yet either, warns Aleksandras Shtromas, a former high-level Lithuanian jurist who left his country four years ago and now teaches political science at Bradford University in England. Like his colleague at the **London Times**, Bernard Levin, Shtromas believes that "the fuse has been laid" for a new revolution in the Soviet empire, and that the explosion may well catch the world off guard.

But who — or what — will put a match to that fuse?

Rather than constituting an isolated little handful, the active dissidents are "the tip of an iceberg," according to Shtromas. Furthermore, he and others claim, no one in the Soviet Union today takes Communism seriously anymore, in the sense of sincerely believing in its vision of a better world and in the methods it prescribes for achieving it. A hollow object of lip-service, Communist dogma and the trance-like incantations it requires are nothing but a cover to justify the power and depredations of a hardened, cynical and old ruling elite.

As long as this elite can deliver a minimum of sustenance and security for its subjects, its power is relatively safe from challenge. But just how long can it continue to deliver — in the face of a stagnant and steadily deteriorating economy and of an ever widening chasm between promise and performance? In fact, Shtromas sees the entire Soviet social system, forcibly misdirected as it is by dead theory and irrational practice, as heading towards breakdown. Only radical reforms in the direction of political and economic sanity can save it. But either breakdown or reform would both mean the end of Communist dictatorship as we know it.

To those who reply that entrenched dictatorships don't fall so easily, Shtromas and the like-minded point out the recent examples of Portugal and Spain. In one case, a tough-minded military (never permanently committed to ideology anyway) toppled a ludicrous and overripe autocracy. In the other, the same was accomplished merely by the replacement of a senescent Fascist leadership by a younger, more flexible one. Similar forces — a potentially revolutionary military, and a younger, less rigid generation of leaders waiting in the wings — are seen to be at work in the Soviet Union today.

Finally, there is the example of Czechoslovakia, where a more liberal and progressive group of Communists took over<sup>2</sup> in 1968. Of course, they were quickly crushed by Soviet tanks rolling into Prague. But whose tanks, Shtromas asks, will roll into Moscow if and when a more enlightened leadership takes hold of the reins there?

Whether or not, or to what extent, we accept such decidedly optimistic views, we cannot but admit they are heartening. And because the resuscitation of Lithuania's statehood is intimately tied to whatever happens inside the Soviet Union, it is surely better for us to be working on the assumption that in the future things may look up rather than on the assumption that they'll stay rotten more or less permanently.

At any rate, should we put more stock in the survival of the Soviet empire than our grandparents did sixty, seventy, eighty years ago in that of the Czar's?

**Mykolas Drunga**

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## CAUSE OF FREEDOM

The December 27, 1977 edition of the **Chicago Tribune** carried an article by the Lithuanian journalist, Rev. **Joseph Prunskis**. He noted that the American delegation at Belgrade strongly emphasized the importance of self-determination for all nations. U.S. delegate Robert Dole (R.-Kan.) reminded the representatives of the signatory nations that the Baltic States were occupied by force, to which Soviet Ambassador Yuri Vorontsov asserted that Lithuania had joined the Soviet Union by "free choice". Ambassador Goldberg refuted this lie, reminding delegates of the forcible occupation of the Baltic States. **K. of L. Lithuanian Affairs.**

A decade ago, dispatches from the Baltic States rarely appeared in the **New York Times**. Although the number of articles on Baltic themes has been on the increase, particularly those subjects dealing with aspects of Lithuanian life, these articles present a picture of Lithuania today which is at variance with reports received from the **Chronicle of the Catholic Church in Lithuania**, similar underground publications and reports from Lithuanian dissidents. It is indeed unfortunate that a publication which commands such worldwide respect as the **Times** is willing to present such simplistic views which fail to touch the real problems of those living in Soviet-occupied Lithuania today. **C. P.**

**Radio Free Europe and Radio Liberty** (RFE-RL) merged in an economy move in October 1976. This organization, financed by the U.S. government, is America's principal means of reaching directly, by short-wave radio, the peoples of the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe. From its operational headquarters in Munich, every day of the year, RFE-RL broadcasts news and features through the Iron Curtain over 46 transmitters in Germany, Spain, and Portugal. On 65 to 75 frequencies, with a combined power of five million watts, the truth goes East: 24 hours a day in Russian, 20 in Czech and Slovak, 19.9 in Polish, 18.6 in Hungarian, 12.9 in Rumanian, 8.1 in Bulgarian, 7 in Ukrainian, 3.5 each in Armenian and Georgian, 3 hours each in Estonian, Latvian, Lithuanian, and Tartar Bashkir, as well as lesser schedules in Uzbek, Kazakh, Tajik, Uigur, Kirghiz and Turkmen. RFE-RL estimates that its broadcasts

are heard every day by about 4 million people in the USSR, and another 13 million in the satellite countries. What these broadcasts mean to them is hard for free people to imagine, but such world famous exiles as Alexander Solzhenitsyn have testified to their value and importance.

Working for the Connecticut Human Rights Commission Miss Jūratė Vaitkus, assisted by the Waterbury Chapter of Bendruomenė, contacted Congressman Christopher J. Dodd concerning the case of Pranas and Algirdas Brazinskas. Establishing contact with the Congressman's staff Miss Vaitkus wrote: "As the daughter of a Lithuanian political refugee I am educated to give my all to the realization of human rights." Miss Vaitkus pointed out that the State Department's stand not to grant the Brazinskases political asylum does not harmonize with President Carter's human rights position.

**Nijolė Sadūnaitė**, a Lithuanian dissident arrested in 1974 for involvement in distribution of the clandestine **Chronicle of the Catholic Church in Lithuania**, has been released from a strict-regime labor camp and banished for three years to a remote city in Krasnoyarsk region, according to **Lithuanian Catholic Religious Aid**, the Brooklyn-based agency that assists Lithuanians and publicizes cases of religious and human rights violations in Lithuania, said it received word that Miss Sadūnaitė, 39, has been living since September 19, 1977 in the town of Boguchani, on the Angara River. Though she is a practical nurse, she is employed there as a custodial worker at a school. Three years of banishment following imprisonment was part of her original sentence. Miss Sadūnaitė is reliably reported to be a nun. She was arrested along with several others in a crackdown by Soviet authorities trying to halt publication of the **Chronicle**. Despite the crackdown, issues of the **Chronicle** have continued to appear. So far 27 issues have been smuggled out to the West.

On December 27, 1977 Mahlon Henderson of the Office of Soviet Union Affairs, **U.S. Department of State**, replied to the inquiries of Dr. John B. Genys, Chairman, Joint Baltic American National Committee, re-

garding the U.S. position in the United Nations on the Baltic countries. Mr. Henderson answered in part:<sup>3</sup> "... the United States has never recognized the forcible annexation of the Baltic States into the Soviet Union. Our attitudes and actions have been consistent with this policy... Quite frankly, we do not believe that taking the question of the Baltic States to the United Nations would be productive. Most members of the United Nations do not share our views on the status of the Baltic nations, and raising this question would be likely to result in an adverse vote and thus would not be in the best interest of the United States or of the Baltic peoples". **J. Bolsteins**

## THE HOMELAND

Feature writer **David Shipler** in his article "Dateline Moscow" (**New York Times**, December 30, 1977) reported that the "Small Soviet human-rights movement, which has attracted so much attention around the world though it is probably unrepresentative of any broadly held opinion, is at its lowest point in years after a campaign of arrests, threats and forced exile directed against most of its prominent leaders." The Shipler article noted that one line of dissent is made up of religious believers, and another is made up of "ethnic minorities" such as the Lithuanians who struggle for the preservation of their culture, language and tradition in the face of Russian dominance. The **Times** writer obviously has never been in touch with the Nationalities. **D. Skabeikis**

In the Catholic Review of December 16, 1977 Lithuanian dissident Tomas Venclova reported that **Catholic dissent** in Lithuania resulted in some liberalization of a still very bad situation. Despite the work of the underground newspapers and the minor liberalizations, most Lithuanian Catholics have not had access to the documents of the Second Vatican Council. The underground **Chronicle** casts suspicion on such "liberalization", as a possible deception. **K. of L. Lithuanian Affairs**

In an interview with the **Brooklyn Tablet** reporter Jim Greene, Rev. **Casimir Pugevičius** shed light on Soviet persecution in Lithuania. "They're doing their best to strangle the Church but they want to do it quietly. They will invite visitors overseas and let them see the churches that are crowded for Mass. Why not? There are three million people and 85% are Catholic. With half the churches closed, why shouldn't the remaining half be jammed? They (the Soviets) will let Lithuanian bishops out to attend the Eucharistic Congress. It makes them look good."

We talk to tourists who have come back, said Father Casimir, and they tell us "we didn't see anybody shot". Of course not, he declared. "The method of killing is bloodless, usually. Anybody who wants o

needs a decent job doesn't go to church. The kid who plays the organ for Mass is told he'll never get into music school. The youngster who serves Mass is pointed out to his classmates and bullied. How many fifth graders can take that for long?" "Sure, the Soviets cite the freedom of conscience clause in their constitution, Rev. Pugevičius pointed out. "They won't persecute you for what you believe. Just for trying to put it into practice."

People say to us, "Take the soft approach, don't ruffle the waters and you get more done". There is merit to that, observed Father C Casimir, "but look at the Jewish community. The plight of those wishing to emigrate from Russia to Israel is well publicized at Belgrade and elsewhere. As a result there has been a definite easing of travel restrictions on the part of the Communists who don't like world opinion complaining about them. What, really, have we got to lose?"

## COMMUNITY WITH A CAPITAL "C"

The **Public Affairs Committee** of the Lithuanian American Community, Inc. contacted all the members of the U.S. Congress urging them to support Congressman R. K. Dornan's House Concurrent Resolution Nr. 278 dealing with the Baltic States. Committee chairman, Mrs. Aušra Zerr provided members of Congress with a memorandum on the October 10th riots in Vilnius. Another Committee member, Anthony B. Mažeika contacted Senators Williams, Moynihan, Case, and Kennedy, pointing out the erroneous position taken by the U.S. State Department in the Brazinskas' case. Committee liaison officer Algimantas Gureckas established closer relations with Manfred Kaireit, President of the United Prussian Council.

As in the past the Public Affairs Committee prepared two 27 minute tapes in English for use by local committees in observing Lithuanian Independence Day over local radio stations. Aušra Zerr, Daiva Kezys, Anthony Mažeika, Birtutė and Juozas Gaila, Rasa Ardys and Kęstutis Pliuškonis helped prepare the radio tapes this year. The Public Affairs Committee also distributed written materials, brochures, and models for resolutions in English to be used by local committees in observing Lithuanian Independence Day. Organizations and individuals interested in informative materials in English on Lithuania may write to: Mrs. Aušra Zerr, 708 Custis Rd., Gleiside, Pa. 19038.

Vytautas Eringis was elected chairman of the **Baltimore Chapter** of Baltimore. Other members of the Chapter executive board are Kęstutis Česonis, Vincas Dulys, Antanas Gudonis, Jonas Kazlauskas, Aldona Marcinkus, Vytautas Mildažis, Algis Veliuona and Egidijus Žilionis.

At the beginning of each year the **U.S. Department of State** updates its publication "Background Notes on the USSR". The publication makes reference to the Soviet occupation of Lithuania and the other Baltic Republics. During the last few years the Baltic States are not

delineated on the map and Vilnius is spelled in the Russian transliteration "Vil'nyus". On January 3rd, **Algimantas Gureckas**, Bendruomenė Public Affairs liaison officer, approached the State Department with a memorandum, requesting that: 1) the maps show the borders of the Baltic States, 2) the spelling of capitals (Vilnius and Tallin) be corrected, and 3) that maps contain a disclaimer to the effect that the U.S. does not recognize the incorporation of the Baltic States into the USSR.

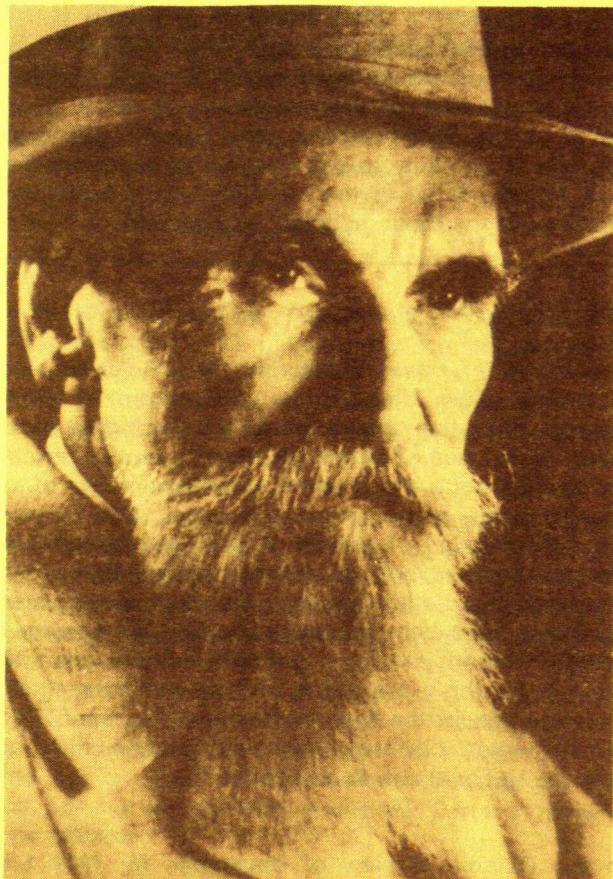
The **Lithuanian World Games** (Pasaulio Lietuvių Sporto Žaidynės) will be held from June 28 to July 3, 1978 in Toronto, Canada. Sponsored by the Lithuanian Athletic Union of North America (ŠALFASS) the games will encompass the following sports: track and field, swimming, basketball, volleyball, table tennis, lawn tennis, soccer, golf, chess, marksmanship and skiing (in January - March, 1978). The competition is open to all sportsmen of Lithuanian descent, regardless of whether they use Lithuanian or not. Applications and games registration forms may be obtained by writing to the Lithuanian World Games Committee chairman, Mr. Pranas Berneckas, 32 Rivercrest Road, Toronto, Ontario, Canada (Tel. (416) 763-4429).



A segment of the convention of the Lithuanian Athletic Union of North America (ŠALFASS) which met in Cleveland, Ohio last year and decided to join the World Lithuanian Community (PLB). — Photo by Jonas Urbonas

On January 1, 1978 Prof. **Adomas Varnas** observed his 99th birthday in his Marquette Park, Chicago home. Prof. Varnas together with Mikalojus Konstantinas Čiurlionis (1875 - 1911) and Antanas Žmuidzinavičius (1875 - 1966) was considered one of the "Three Giants" in Lithuanian art. Studying art in St. Petersburg, Russia, Cracow, Poland, Geneva, Switzerland, Adomas Varnas emerged as the leading Lithuanian artist versed in realism, moderate impressionism, and later expressionism. He has executed more than 1200 oil paintings, not to mention countless sketches and illustrations. At 99 years Prof. Varnas is still deftly

using his brushes. He has retained a remarkable agility and sense of humor for one approaching the centenarian's mark.



Prof. Adomas Varnas at 99



Members of the National Executive Board of Bendruomenė meet with Jerome Shestack, President of the International League for Human Rights. Mr. Shestack (center) was urged by Mrs. Aušra Zerr, vice-president, and Mr. S. A. Gečys, national president, to take necessary steps to raise the issue of Lithuanian dissident Viktoras Petkus' arrest by Soviets before international forums. Photo by K. Čikotas

Mrs. Teresė Gečys, member of the **Philadelphia Chapter** of Bendruomenė, once again obtained a half-hour of **radio time** on the popular WFLN Station (95.7 FM). This was the tenth year that Philadelphia area Lithuanians heard a special Lithuanian Independence Day observance on WFLN.

## EVENTS

The 2 hour CBS TV film "The Defection of Simas Kudirka" was well received all over the U.S., according to reports. It was used in many localities in connection with a broadening Reading program becoming established in high schools. **The Atlanta Journal and Constitution** (January 21st, Atlanta, Georgia) had a full page article entitled "Television in the Role of Reading Teacher", capped by a large-sized picture of Alan Arkin who played the role of Simas Kudirka and Shirley Knight who played his wife Gena.

Another Atlanta daily, **Gwinnet News and Life** had an article entitled "A Reading Program Comes to the Tube" which stated: "Many Gwinnet High School students will view the film and will feel they are part of the act. The plot concerns the real story of a man who tried to escape Communist controlled Lithuania and leaped from a Russian ship to the deck of an American Coast Guard Cutter in 1970. Neil Nichols, a teacher in the course "U.S. Decision Makers" said: 'The students became involved in the story and wanted to know more about Lithuania, where she is, what the KGB is, and other historical facts they might not be interested in otherwise' ". V. Š.



Seaman Simas Kudirka with actor Alan Arkin

**Dr. Andrew Schalley** of New Orleans, La. was a Nobel prize winner in 1977. He was born in Vilnius, Lithuania. V. Š.

A group of younger generation Lithuanians in West Germany discussed the book of their resident philosopher, **Antanas Maceina**, entitled "Asmuo ir istorija" ("The Individual and History"), during a seminar arranged by the Lithuanian-German Cultural Society. Mrs. Lipšys pointed out that the passing moment in history has no staying value in itself, but an individual's creativeness during that moment may leave something permanent. A thing of beauty is a joy forever — said Keats. A Lucas stressed that each nation in its history acquires some sort of a national character which influences and acts through each individual. The Lithuanian character has expressed itself in creating its language, customs, traditions and general "Lithuanian-ness". R. Tenzegolskis noted that the younger generation of Lithuanians born in countries other than the homeland of their parents lose the intimate contact with their nation, and remain Lithuanians only to the degree they retain their mother tongue. Therefore, such a Lithuanian may express himself in history only to the extent he uses his native language. R. Daunoras discussed the plight of the Lithuanian who is separated from his nation and cannot return to the homeland of his parents. He is in danger of becoming a rootless wanderer. He may try to anchor himself either by clinging to his ethnic heritage, to the extent he is cognizant of it, or simply join the stream of life of his new "native" country. A Lithuanian-Canadian, Miss R. Šilėnaitė stated that the culture of a new country does not necessarily squeeze out the old. She feels perfectly comfortable in being both an "English" Canadian and a Lithuanian. She is at home in both cultures. She reads and talks good Lithuanian and is happy when in Canadian surroundings. She recalls that the poet Adomas Mickevičius (Mickiewicz), though saying that Lithuania was his native land, wrote masterpieces of Polish literature, by the way, many of these gems dealt with Lithuanian themes.

What Boston area Lithuanian does not know the Home of the Boston Chapter of the National Lithuanian Society? Located at 484 East 4th Street at the foot of Thomas Park this cultural haven is decorated with Lithuanian motifs in paintings, weavings, carved beams and pillars. It houses the 7-foot statue of Vytautas the Great which was displayed during the 1939-40 World's Fair in New York. Busts of Mindaugas, President Smetona, and Rev. Maironis stand guard in the lecture hall. The "Tautininkų Namai" as the home is called was opened in 1952. During the past 25 years 28 cultural programs and concerts, 130 soirees of the Subatvakariai (Cultural Saturday Nites), 59 youth events, Joninės and New Year's parties, 16 art exhibits as well as two conventions were held at the Home. The Lithuanian Boy and Girl Scouts, Neolithuania students, the Lithuanian Student Association, and the Boston Chapter of Bendruomenė have utilized the two halls for meetings and events. At this time the Home is seeking donations for necessary repairs. Donations should be sent to the treasurer J. Rentelis, 10 E. Druid Hill Ave., Randolph, MA.

The **Neringa Children's Camp**, run by the Sisters of the Immaculate Conception, published a camp newspaper called "Neringa's Morning Glory 1977". In its twenty mimeographed pages the children registered their thoughts and impressions experienced between July 31 and August 12. Some interesting comments were recorded by the campers in the Section "Being Lithuanian". Two views are given below. "Although I am only half Lithuanian, I feel proud that it is my heritage. Lithuania is a great and beautiful country and someday I would like to go there. My grandparents were born in Lithuania and told me many stories about what it's like there. I feel I have a special privilege to go to a camp like Neringa to learn the language, make crafts, do dances, and meet Lithuanian people. I find them all very friendly and kind."  
— Dianne O'Brian (age 13).

"I really don't hear much about Lithuania but when I see the flag, hear the anthem and hear people speaking it, I know I am a part of it. Not many people ever heard of Lithuania so when they ask my nationality, I tell them and they ask "What's that?" I came to this Camp hoping to find out a little bit more of Lithuania. We learn about different songs, dances and certain activities of Lithuania. So now when my friends ask me about my nationality, I know what to tell them".  
Carolyn Peter (age 15)

Fifty years ago, in 1926-27, a group of young athletes brought fame to the Knights of Lithuania in Hartford, Connecticut. In that season the **K. of L. Basketball Team of Council 6**, playing under the banner of the K. of L. and Holy Trinity School, won the City Basketball Championship. Their reputation as a formidable adversary would spread throughout the Church and State Basketball Leagues. This fine team that celebrated its Golden Jubilee last year was made up of Walter "Red" Mazotas, John and Bill Shages, Charles and Stan Shimkus, Anthony Mazotas (captain), John Malin, Anthony Kearshe, Walter Giraitis, Frank Barasky (assistant manager) and Anthony Labesky (manager). Their 1976 - 77 Jubilee Year was highlighted by the admission of their 1926 Championship Team photo and their 1976 Reunion photo to the Basketball Hall of Fame at Springfield, Massachusetts. **Vytis**

### (Cont)

The waves of Americanism are sweeping us into oblivion, but the tide can turn and sweep us back gradually. We are glad that we are Americans and can count our blessings, but we must recognize the importance of all the Lithuanian women coming together in one group which means strength nationally, keeping up the cultural background, knowing your own roots better, and above all, **experiencing the pride that comes** with knowing about your very own grass roots. Think of the power that strength in unity can bring. Let us not underestimate the power of women.

We do not have to start with a beginning. The

American Lithuanian Roman Catholic Women's Alliance is an established national women's organization for 63 years. The organization publishes the **Women's Field** and has its own insurance protection plan. Yes, indeed we have an inheritance here. The importance lies in the fact that united, all our voices will rise in unity and only then will we be heard. We will be heard as women who can proudly state: "We have been established for 63 years, and our cause remains the same — for God and Country". We invite all the women to join hands with and help us towards the fulfilment of what may be an impossible dream. Consider this as the stepping stone towards the preservation of your Lithuanian roots. We ask you to lend your heart to the work. All women with even part Lithuanian heritage are eligible. All persons seeking further information about the Women's Alliance may contact Mrs. Julia Mack, the national president, 8 Hartford Rd., Worcester, Ma. 06106. The options open to a woman for personal fulfillment and for service to others seem limited only by her willingness to explore them. **Julia Mack.**

### PERSONALITIES



**Simas Kudirka and Congressman James Blanchard during the Baltic Human Rights Rally in Washington.** Photo by Jonas Urbonas

In San Jose, Costa Rica, scientists believe that they may have found new evidence linking three ancient civilizations in Mexico, Guatemala, and Costa Rica. The key is a pre-Columbian jade amulet estimated to be about 2,500 years old found in a northern San Jose suburb in October, 1977. **Michael Snarskis**, a Columbia University doctoral student who headed the excavation team, said the discovery in a small burial place marks the first time in Costa Rica that evidence of links between the three cultures has been found in its original site. Archeologists have known that the cultures of the Olmecs in Mexico, the Mayas of Guatemala, and the unnamed inhabitants of Costa Rica had intermingled between 1 A.D. and 400 A.D., Snarskis said. He added that preliminary studies of the amulet, or charm, indicate it was originally the work of the Olmecs

between 600 B.C. and 300 B.C. The polished long pendant is possible a badge of office for the powerful priests of rain-gods (Chac of the Mayas and Tlaloc of the Olmecs — A. B.). "I suspect the jade made its way to Costa Rica as an heirloom through priests of the rain gods," said Snarskis. What is important about the charm is that it is the first known "scientifically" dug archeological evidence of a direct cultural tie, said Michael Snarskis, 32, a Lithuanian American of Cedar Rapids, Iowa, and head of the National Anthropological Center at Costa Rica's National Museum.

The Foreign Language Program at the School of Continuing Education, **New York University**, offers courses in 32 languages, among them Lithuanian. One can select the type of course that suits one's needs. A certificate of proficiency is offered when a student completes all the course requirements. Two Lithuanian language courses are offered by Vitalis Žukauskas: Lithuanian I/X27.9301 (Thursdays, 8-9:50 p.m. Feb 2 — May 11) and Lithuanian II/X27.9302 (Thursdays, 6 - 7:50 p.m. Feb. 2 — May 11). For further information write to: New York University, School of Continuing Education, 126 Shimkin Hall, New York, N.Y. 10003 (teleph. 212-598-3993).

**THE SCIENCES**

Some 115 lecturers and over 1,000 listeners gathered in the Lithuanian Jesuit Youth Center, Chicago, on the weekend of November 24-27, 1977. Factory workers, housewives, and academic colleagues listened raptly to Lithuanian-American scholars. The **Third Lithuanian Symposium on Arts and Sciences (Mokslo ir kūrybos simpoziumas)** was a four-day cultural and academic exchange between scholars and Chicago's Lithuanian community. There were speeches during the days, and informal discussions in the evenings. For those in an adopted country, "this is our second life," said Dr. Kazys Ambrozaitis, symposium committee chairman. Lithuanian-language seminars like the one in Chicago bring literary and scientific thought to Chicago's hundreds of thousands of persons of Lithuanian descent.

**LITHUANIAN KITCHEN**

**Gera Gaspadinė rašo:** With March winds blowing so hard, a delicious recipe like "kugelis" will make any day seem like spring. **Kugelis — potatoe pudding.** Ingredients: 5 lbs. of peeled and grated potatoes; 4 eggs; half pound melted butter; 2 cups of hot milk; 3/4 to 1 cup of flour (approximately); salt to taste, dash or two of pepper. After potatoes have been peeled and grated, place in colander and allow most of the water to drain from them. Place grated, drained potatoes in large mixing bowl. Add eggs and mix with spoon until well combined. Add butter, milk, and flour, mixing well after each. Add salt and pepper to taste (You may have to add a seemingly large amount of salt, since potatoes absorb it readily). Pour into well greased, oblong pan. Batter should be about 2 - 2 1/2 inches thick. Bake at 450 degrees for 15 minutes. Reduce heat to 350 degrees and continue baking for 45 - 60 minutes. Test for being "done" by taking a forkful from the center, and tasting to see if the potatoes are cooked. The **kugelis** will be a dark brown color. When finished baking, allow **kugelis** to stand 15 minutes (if you can wait!). Cut into large squares and serve with a dollop of sour cream. Delicious!!!

**MOB**

According to **Chicago Tribune** writer Elizabeth Brenner, "old men argued politics in the hallways while professors from across the country debated the humanities and technical topics. Many of the formal papers presented originally were written in English, then redone in Lithuanian. Povilas Žumbakis, Chicago lawyer who worked on the symposium, said the most enthusiastic supporters of Lithuanian cultural activities are second-generation adults, whose parents immigrated to America.

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**Connecticut Republican Nationalities Council** elected George A. Aretakis of Greek heritage once again as their President at the annual meeting in Hartford. Mrs. Birutė Zabulis was elected secretary. Mrs. Sabulis is the wife of Stephen Zabulis, who is the Connecticut District Chairman of Bendruomenė.

At the start of January, 1978 BRIDGES received a letter from San Francisco with the following introduction: "Many thanks for your complimentary copies of "Bridges". They were very informative and enjoyable reading. It was a long-awaited type of publication for the people of Lithuanian origin. Not reading or speaking Lithuanian I journeyed to Lithuania this past year and truly became a better nationalist for it. I am going to subscribe to your paper for myself and several other people..." The letter was signed by **Joseph Roland**. Mr. Roland enclosed a check for fifty dollars together with thirteen subscribers. Our hats go off to Mr. Roland for his generosity and understanding. **Editors.**

**Dr. Vytautas Peter Vygantas**, Vice President of American Airlines, wrote to the editors of BRIDGES, offering concrete suggestions for improvement, and he concluded with a concrete gesture of support, namely, a check for \$40 covering his own and his immediate acquaintances subscriptions for two years. Dr. Vygantas is the initiator of the Lithuanian scholarly journal in English, **Litanus**. He is also a past president of **Pax Romana**, a worldwide organization of Catholic students. A heartfelt thanks to Dr. Vygantas who fully understands the aims and growing pains of BRIDGES! **Editors.**

**Po naujų metų vilkai kaukia prie durų!** (After New Year's the wolves howl at the doors) — so states the Lithuanian farmers' folksaw. BRIDGES, like other non-profit endeavors, must pay the piper (in this case, the printers) after the New Year. Like our sponsors, **Bendruomenė**, we exist through the gracious intercession of Lithuanians of good will. Now, as you probably know, Lithuanians have proprietary habits (**gaspadoriškus įpročius**), they take their leisure in sizing up any situation and when they are dead sure, they act. Woe to the Lithuanian enterprise or periodical that must hold its breath before the "Lithuanian cavalry" (**pagalbos kavalerija**) rides to the rescue.

BRIDGES was fortunate this year. In addition to a spurt of new subscribers, we were pleasantly surprised by unexpected support. In all seriousness, our Meccenas came from unexpected quarters. A Lithuanian American architect in Waukegon, Ill. Mr. **Edward Skališius** sent a hundred dollar donation with a modest note in Lithuanian stating how he ran across BRIDGES and believed it merited support. It is doubtful if Mr. Skališius ever met any of the editors. For this reason, we take pride and inspiration in his trust and openly declare: **Mielas Mecenate, dėsimė pastangas, kad nenusiviltumėt savo pasitikėjimu!** The Editorial Staff.

**IN APPRECIATION**

**Balys Kondratas, Quaker Hill, Ct. — 10.00; Msgr. Vytautas Balčiūnas, Vilal Maria, Thompson, Ct. — \$10.00; A. Dagys, Orland Park, I.LL. — \$7.00.**

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