

2



Volume 14, No. 2

MARCH 1990

LITHUANIA DECLARES RESTORATION OF INDEPENDENCE



MARCH 11, 1990

From the Desk of the Managing Editor



The Lithuanian Nation has spoken!

As *Bridges* was getting typeset this month, Lithuanians chose a 141-member legislature in the first sanctioned multi-party elections held in over half a century. This elected body has been given the mission to lead Lithuania down the road to secession from the Soviet Union and rightful restored independence.

The popular movement leading Lithuania's drive toward independence, *SAJŪDIS*, has won a significant majority of the seats. Current information available says that 73 seats are in *SAJŪDIS* control outright, others must be decided by run-off elections since no one candidate received the required majority to be elected, but *SAJŪDIS* backed candidates are the clear favorites, 16 seats were won by candidates from the reformed Lithuanian Communist Party, that also took up calls for independence in an attempt to stay in power, while still others are controlled by minor parties that also sponsored candidates. The main contenders were the *SAJŪDIS* Popular Front and the reformed Lithuanian Communist Party.

These elections were history-making because the two-fold mandate to the emerging new government is clear: First — the government must design and implement an unprecedented parliamentary based plan for withdrawal from the Soviet Union, a union Lithuania never joined willingly, and Second — the government must determine how to fight back if Moscow, Gorbachev and Company resist.

This election and its results are a line of demarcation between the past and the future. The lines are drawn, the agenda is set, yet no one knows for sure if the Soviet leadership will allow Lithuania to continue down the road to eventual freedom. Some political observers predict that independence will be restored as early as this summer, others call for a slower pace. We must be vigilant and supportive.

The Lithuanian nation never reconciled itself to the loss of its national sovereignty. By various means, since 1940 Lithuania resisted all forms of genocide and manifestations of state colonialism. *SAJŪDIS* expresses the nation's determination to regain its rights through peaceful means and to live independent of any kind of dictate. It is appropriate here to reiterate the Goals of *SAJŪDIS* as the new Lithuanian Parliament is forming.

SAJŪDIS goals are to struggle against depression and degeneration, to build new foundations for Lithuania's well-being, to create the conditions for free and democratic national self-determination. *SAJŪDIS* stands for social justice, humaneness and democracy, for cultural autonomy for Lithuania's ethnic minorities, for Lithuania's traditional status of neutrality, for universally accepted human rights and civil freedoms from which flows the general right of Lithuania's citizens to independently choose and develop their own forms of state existence. *SAJŪDIS* invites all patriotic forces on both sides of the Atlantic to unite in raising up and fostering our native land.

This month's issue of *BRIDGES* also features articles detailing the traditional Celebration of Easter, the Art of Decorating Lithuanian Easter Eggs, traditional recipes for the Easter Sunday Meal, in addition to our *Readers Respond* and *Community with a Capital C* features. We have also decided to expand each monthly issue to 24 pages, because at times we feel as if a 20-page journal cannot provide all the news and information we want to in a timely fashion. Your letters of encouragement, though, are most heartwarming and supportive, in our quest to be your foremost source for news and views about Lithuania, in the English language. New subscribers are joining us at the rate of 16% per month which is very gratifying. Thank you for your support, keep those renewals coming in (on time please) and every donation in any amount is greatly appreciated.

Eduardas V. Meilus, Jr.

BRIDGES

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

Auburn, MA and additional entry offices.

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

Through the news journal, the publishers hope to re-establish ties between the detached mobile Lithuanian-Americans and their Lithuanian heritage by presenting items on Lithuanian culture, conditions in the homeland, events and personalities in America, and the aspirations of all who subscribe to the goal that Lithuania must and will be an independent free nation again.

Managing Editor: Eduardas V. Meilus, Jr.

Contributing Editors: Rita Likander, Thomas A. Michalski, Ph.D., and Rev. William Wolkovich-Valkavičius

Technical Editor: Terese I. Meilus

Featured Contributors: Ramutė Kemežė, Ramunė Kubilius

Subscriptions Director: Zina Dreslius

Financial Affairs Manager: Asta Karosas

Unsolicited manuscripts must be accompanied by stamped, self-addressed envelope if return is desired. Use of material from *Bridges* permissible only if credit is given to *Bridges* authors, artists, translators and photographers.



THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA IS REBORN

March 11, 1990 has taken its place in the history of the world. It was on that day that Lithuania declared the restoration of independence and the reestablishment of the Independent Republic of Lithuania, with its capital in Vilnius. Negotiations with the Soviet Union have begun, although all ties with the Soviet Union are severed, the illegal annexation and incorporation of Lithuania into the Soviet Union on June 15, 1940 as a result of the secret protocols of the Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact are null and void. Fifty years of foreign domination is enough! Lithuania is free, no longer one of the Constituent Republics of the Soviet Union.

This bold step taken by the 141-member Lithuanian Parliament elected on February 24, 1990 is a precursor to future actions, yet unspecified. A new President of the Republic of Lithuania and Chairman of the Lithuanian Parliament was also elected on this historical day. He is Vytautas Landsbergis, the president of the Popular Restructuring Movement SAJŪDIS.

The VYTIS has replaced the hammer and sickle as the symbol of the Lithuanian Nation, while the tricolor flag of yellow, green and red flies proudly over an again independent Lithuania. Lithuania has retaken its rightful place among the free nations of the world.

For all these many years, those of us in the free world, who worked on Lithuania's behalf, who at every appropriate occasion kept the Lithuanian cause in the forefront, can be proud of our sense of accomplishment. Lithuania is free at last.

We now must commit ourselves to be in solidarity with our Lithuanian brothers and sisters. Lithuania cannot go at it alone. The restoration of Lithuanian independence declared on March 11, 1990 must be recognized by the nations of the world. Let us all continue to do our part. The signals as to what is expected of us will come.

Vigilance must be our byword.

Edvardas V. Meilus, Jr.





**... AN EASTER MESSAGE
NO MATTER HOW DEEPLY THE EARTH IS FROZEN**

Though Lent is still with us, the winter is waning and a life-giving spring is stirring the hope of resurrection. Easter and spring proclaim one and the same mystery — resurrection to a new life. Nature, as experienced through our senses, helps us to understand the basic truth of our faith: Christ rose from the dead, so will we.

Because Easter bring the promise of eternal life, we celebrate it more joyfully than we do other religious holidays. This year's Easter joy will be even more profound for we will celebrate not only Christ's actual and our future resurrection, but also our whole nation's inspiring rebirth. A short year ago, at Eastertime, our hopes for Lithuania's resurrection were merely based on faith and natural phenomena which affirm that every winter, no matter how deeply the earth is frozen, is always followed by spring. Today we not only trust but see with our own eyes that young shoots proclaiming resurrection and joy are sprouting in our homeland which has endured the long paralyzing winter of occupation. The whole nation is experiencing an aura of Easter spring, though this spring it is still fraught with dangerous frost capable of destroying tender young life. These religious and national spouts breaking through the soil with the unleached force of spring need the warmth of God's grace and our involved concern. To our joyous Easter Alleluias, let us therefore add a fervent prayer that these fragile shoots grow strong roots and develop fully in living faith, Christian virtue and national awareness. Let us also pray that the religious, moral and national rebirth now flowering in our homeland may be experienced by those of us living outside her borders.

A joyous and hope-filled Easter!

+ Paulius A. Baltakis, OFM

+ Paulius A. Baltakis, OFM

BISHOP FOR THE SPIRITUAL ASSISTANCE OF
LITHUANIAN CATHOLICS LIVING OUTSIDE OF LITHUANIA



Vytis International Travel Service, Inc.

NEW TOURS TO LITHUANIA — 1990

Staying in small hotels and/or Private Homes,
bypassing Moscow, Aeroflot and Intourist.

Nights in Lithuania		Price per person Double occ. From New York*
May 2-16	13	\$1,590
May 21-31	9	\$1,420
June 5-19	13	\$1,695
July 1-20	18	\$1,940 (Special — Song Festival Tour)
August 6-20	13	\$1,795
September 10-24	13	\$1,580

*Add-ons from other cities
Single supplement — \$10 per person per day

- Price Includes:
- RT Airfare on Finnair
 - RT Transfers
 - Hotel room or private home
 - All taxes and service charges
 - Breakfast and dinner daily
 - Baggage handling
 - Sightseeing
 - Tour guides
 - Soviet visa fees

Now it is possible to book individual all inclusive tours.
Set your own dates. Call "Vytis" for information.

SPECIAL DISCOUNTS FOR GROUPS

Land programs for most tours will be granted by the
World Lithuanian Culture, Science and Education Center.

To reserve space, send \$100 deposit per person to:

VYTIS INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL SERVICE, INC.
2129 Knapp Street
Brooklyn, New York 11229
Telephone 718-769-3300

Preparations For — and the Traditional Celebration of a Lithuanian Easter

by Danute Brazyte-Bindokiene

The Sunday before Easter is called Palm Sunday. It commemorates Christ's entry into Jerusalem and is celebrated by all Christianity. That Sunday, plant branches (palms or others), called *verba* in Lithuania, are blessed in churches. In some countries (for example in the U.S.) everyone entering the church is given a blest palm frond or sprig of leaves. In Lithuania, the people brought the *verba* to church themselves.

These *verba* could be simple: bunches of juniper and pussy willows; or sometimes quite elaborate, plaited from dried plants, flowers and bent-grass (*Vilnius "verba"*). It was considered a disgrace to arrive at church without a *verba*. It was said that the devil himself gives such a person his tail to hold all through the services.

After these *verba* were blessed in church, they were brought home, dried and put away. When the dried juniper needles fell off, they were stored in a small box or bag and used to incense the house during a heavy storm or other occasions. The bare branches were placed under the roof as protection against lightning.

Lent was viewed with great solemnity in Lithuania. People fasted, prayed much, avoided holding or attending any form of entertainment. No one would have dared to hold a wedding during Lent or dance at a party.

As Lent drew to a close, especially after Palm Sunday, preparations for Easter began at full speed. The last three days before Easter were considered especially important and even called "great." These were Holy Thursday (*Didysis Ketvirtadienis*), Good Friday (*Didysis Penktadienis*) and Holy Saturday (*Didysis Šeštadienis*).

On Good Friday, people conduct themselves in a serious manner, even children are forbidden to make noise because they will then be restless and loud all year. All forms of house cleaning cease because the dust can get into Jesus' eyes and He is already suffering so much on Good Friday.

Next summer's weather can be predicted on Holy Saturday. If the wind blows from the West, the summer will be rainy; a Southern breeze means a warm summer; wind from the East brings a good harvest, while a North wind forecasts a cold, unpleasant summer.

People go to church on Holy Saturday to obtain blest fire and water. It is said that lighting a twig with blest fire and carrying it around the house will cause all the snakes to depart from the vicinity. The water was kept as protection against evil spirits, storms and fire.

Homemakers prepared the food for Easter on Holy Saturday, and later, the entire family decorated Easter eggs. (A separate article in this month's issue of *Bridges* deals with

the methods of decorating Easter eggs, while the *Cooking Lithuanian Style* section lists selected traditional Easter recipes.)

After completing Easter preparations on Holy Saturday, the people went to church and remained through the night until the Resurrections services. They sang hymns and prayed as they kept vigil. In Lithuania, it was a custom to recreate Christ's tomb, sometimes even posting guards dressed in ancient Roman military costumes to keep watch.

The word for Easter, *Velykos*, has been borrowed from Beylorussian and means "important day." The word is very accurate because Easter was the year's most solemn feast in Lithuania. Easter is not only the feast of Christ's Resurrection, but also nature's awakening from winter's sleep.

The early Eastern morn, just before dawn, abounds with magical power. Much of this magic is concentrated in flowing water. Bathing in such water before sunrise prevents all boils, sores, rashes and other skin ailments. If it rains on Easter morning, it is necessary to stand bare-headed in the rain to ensure good growth. Small children who wanted to grow quickly were reminded of this.

As the sun rises on Easter morning, it "dances" swaying from side to side and changing color: from green to blue, to red and then golden yellow. This phenomenon can be seen by rising before dawn and watching for the sun's first appearance on the horizon.

Everyone went to the Resurrection services. If on the way you passed a woman, you'll have an accident. To avoid calamity, it was necessary to turn around, return home and then take another road to church.

In Lithuania, the Easter morning procession was usually conducted around the church. It was very solemn: church flags were held high, girls strewed flowers, the choir and all the people sang, alternating with a brass band, and the church bells pealed loudly. Three turns were made while singing the Lithuanians' favorite Easter Hymn *Linksmadiena mums prašvito*. (A Happy Day Has Dawned for Us). After the services, a blessing was made over the Easter food which was arranged in baskets decorated with greens and placed on the altar-rails.

At the conclusion of the liturgy in church, the people hurried home. In fact, all large and small roads, every path was the scene of races: whoever arrived home first would be successful all year and would complete all work on time. Even persons walking tried to pass those ahead and reach home first. It is not surprising that accidents happened

during such races. Perhaps that is why it was said that a woman met on the road brings disaster (someone had to be blamed!).

At home, Easter breakfast was eaten. The meal began when the homemaker peeled a blest Easter egg, cut it, and gave a piece to every member of the family. This was done so that peace and love would always reign within the family and everyone would live in harmony.

Children hunted for hidden Easter eggs left them by the *Velyky Senelē* (Easter Granny) or *Velykē*. Bunnies who painted Easter eggs were also a familiar fixture, but they were only helpers for the *Velyky Senelē*. Very early Easter morning, they loaded Easter eggs into a beautiful little cart pulled by a tiny swift horse. The *Velyky Senelē* used a sunbeam as a whip. Sometimes the bunnies themselves pulled the cart laden with Easter eggs.

Velykē travels around the country, stopping in every child's yard to leave eggs in baskets placed or hung for that purpose. When they awake, good children find beautifully decorated Easter eggs (and in more recent times even sweets). Bad children only find a single plain completely white egg. If this happens, the child is disgraced. His friends and family laugh at him. Sometimes bunnies accompany *Velyke* and help her distribute the Easter eggs.

A variety of games were played with Easter eggs. The simplest is an egg-breaking contest. Two players face off, each holding an Easter egg and hit each other's egg. The one whose egg remains intact is the winner. The egg is held in the fist so that only its tip protrudes. The other player hits it with the tip of his egg. If the egg breaks on the side, the impact was wrong and the owner of the broken egg is not considered the loser. The winner claims the broken egg. After the game, the number of eggs won was tallied. It was a paramount importance to have a hard-shelled egg that withstands breaking. In selecting a strong egg, the contestant taps an unboiled egg against his teeth. If the sound is clear and sharp, the shell is hard: if dull and muffled, the egg will break quickly, it's not even worth coloring.

Another amusing Easter game was egg rolling. This was best done outdoors, but also could be played in a larger room. A trough is made from pieces of wood or bark to measure about 10 cm long and 15 cm wide (it can also be much longer). One end of the ramp is propped up to produce a downward incline, but not too steep. A small circle is drawn at the bottom of the slope for the playing field into which the eggs will roll. When the game is played outdoors, the trough must be placed on a smooth surface because the eggs will not roll in circle if there are pebbles, high grass, etc. When played indoors, the surface of the circle must not be too slippery for the eggs will roll out. A low wall or enclosure may be built around the circle. When all the preparations are completed, the players begin the contest. Four to eight persons play. Each uses an egg of a different color to tell them apart. Eggs may also be marked in different ways. The egg is let down the incline. After one contestant finishes, the next rolls his egg aiming to reach the other's egg and tap it. If the egg hits the first one, its owner wins and takes the first egg. The eggs are rolled down the slope in turn. A contestant who wins an egg rolls out of turn until his egg fails to hit another. Another player then takes his egg from the circle and rolls it.

Eggs used in the rolling contest may already be cracked (for instance, already used and won in an egg-breaking contest), but their sides should be intact because eggs with cracked sides do not roll well. The trough may be straight or curved in different ways to make the eggs roll longer. The slope may also be made of cardboard from an old box, plastic or any other material strong and rigid enough to support the weight of an egg.

A simpler egg-roll is done without a trough. A circle at least one meter in diameter is traced on a smooth surface. Barriers or enclosures are placed around the circle to keep the eggs from rolling out (crumpled newspaper may be used). A gate is kept open on one side through which the players push their eggs. The first player is chosen by lot. He rolls his egg into the circle. The second player attempts to roll his egg so that it will tap the first one. The game is played like the one using an incline, but in this case, the eggs are rolled into the circle by hand with the player kneeling or sitting on the ground. Because the egg does not roll down a ramp, the entire game depends on the contestant's skill, how he rolls his egg into the circle. If the egg is rolled so hard that it leaves the playing field, the contestant loses his turn.

The young who behaved with such solemnity all during Lent wanted to have fun on Easter. They assembled at a larger house to sing and dance. This usually was done in later afternoon or evening. During the day, it was popular to swing in swings and sing. If the Easter weather was warm and fair, the swings were hung from a tall tree so the young could swing higher. Given inclement weather, the swing ropes were tied from barn rafters. People swung not only for the fun of it, but to ensure a good harvest next summer, just as on Shrove Tuesday. While swinging, the girls and young men sang special songs.

A group of young men assembled to practice singing *Linksma diena mums prašvito* (a popular Easter hymn), some other songs and make the rounds. These are the so-called *lalauninkai* (from *lalauti* — to talk loudly and much). In many other countries, such as the United States or England, carolers make the rounds before Christmas singing Christmas carols and songs. They may be compared to Lithuania's Easter *lalauninkai*.

These singers are usually unmarried men sometimes accompanied by a fiddler or harmonica-player. Upon arriving at a house, they first sing an Easter hymn, convey their Easter wishes and then carol. The homemaker gives them cake, sausages, Easter eggs while her husband serves liquid refreshments. The Easter eggs are handed out by the young girls of the household. Although most homes were visited, it was predominantly those with unmarried girls. They were told before Easter that the singers would arrive and tried to make beautiful Easter eggs. This was a perfect opportunity to display their talents and show off before the other village girls.

On Easter, a person can learn the following summer's weather, about his personal happiness and gain protection against various pests if he knows what to do and what guesses to make.

- If he wishes to avoid seeing snakes all summer, he must avoid seeing a needle the first day of Easter.
- If an accident or calamity occurs on Easter, things will go wrong all year, the year will be unlucky.
- We've already mentioned the races home from church on Easter morning: anyone who arrives home first will be first to complete all work, everything will go well for him (especially work in the fields).
- Prayers are said to be really heard on Easter, it is therefore necessary to pray a great deal.
- If Easter morning is sunny and beautiful, the summer will be fair, the weather good; if it rains (or snows) bad weather is to be expected. The worst sign is to hear thunder on the first day of Easter, but even this evil may be found to have a "silver lining." If thunder rumbles before leaves have sprouted (trees very rarely had leaves in Lithuania at Eastertime), thieves will have a difficult time plying their trade that year.
- If the sunset is very red, dangerous thunderstorms may be expected that summer.

This year, let's all plan on celebrating Easter, the traditional Lithuanian way!



Lithuanian Language Course at Dainava, Michigan August 5-13 1990



Course is presented by specialists in the area.

For *Beginners* or *Advanced Students*, in a Vacation-like atmospheres.

Learn, refresh your language skills along with some rest and relaxation.

For more information, contact the course coordinator:

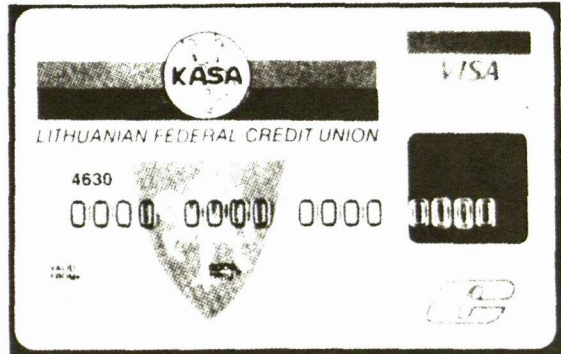
Mr. Bronius Krokys
1124 Hedgerow Lane
Philadelphia, PA 19115
Tel. (215) 671-0397

Register Now!

Lithuanian VISA Credit Card

KASA, the largest Lithuanian Credit Union in the world has come up with a Lithuanian first—a beautiful, authentic, genuine credit card. It is adorned with KASA logo, the stylized symbol of statehood—Vytis and the bold and beautiful tricolors of the Lithuanian flag. Furthermore, it is not just a display of Lithuanian symbols and colors—it is the real thing, a real VISA card that every Lithuanian can be proud of.

Most of us know how practical and useful credit cards are when shopping, traveling or renting a car. Many of us already own one or more credit cards that we frequently use. Why not add a Lithuanian Credit Union VISA card to our valued possessions? As you will find out, KASA credit card is less expensive to obtain and the credit rates are much lower than at most of the major banks. You can close your present VISA account and switch over to the KASA credit card service for the most practical display of smart financing and Lithuanian solidarity.



Call or write to the nearest KASA branch office listed in the BRIDGES ad below and request for information and an application for the one and only Lithuanian credit card in the world.

LITHUANIAN FEDERAL CREDIT UNION

KASA

LIETUVIŲ FEDERALINĖ KREDITO UNIJA

KASA Credit Union pays highest dividends for passbook accounts, gives the best interest rates for Share Certificates and IRA accounts, issues VISA Credit Cards and Money Orders, offers Checking Services and all types of loans at reasonable rates and convenient terms.

Visi lietuviai taupo lietuviškoje Kasoje

KASA Current Assets: 80 Million Dollars

Your savings insured to \$100,000

NCUA

National Credit Union Administration • U.S. Government Agency

FOR MORE INFORMATION, APPLY TO KASA HOME OFFICE OR TO ONE OF OUR OTHER BRANCHES

NEW YORK — Home Office

86-21 114th St.
Richmond Hill, NY
11418
718-441-6401

CONNECTICUT

6 Congress Ave.
Waterbury, CT
06708
203-756-5223

FLORIDA

400 70th Ave.
St. Petersburg
Beach, FL 33706
813-367-6304

MICHIGAN

24060 W. 9 Mile Rd.
Southfield, MI
48034
313-350-2350

ILLINOIS

2615 W. 71st St.
Chicago, IL
60629
312-737-2110

1445 S. 50th Ave.
Cicero, IL
60650
312-656-2201

9525 S. 79th Ave.
Suite 4A
Hickory Hills, IL
60457
312-598-1333

15
YEARS
OF
SERVICE
1975-1990



1990 TOURS TO LITHUANIA

WITH SOME FLIGHTS FROM BERLIN INTO VILNIUS BY PRIVATE CHARTER
10 - 19 DAY ESCORTED TOURS

with

6 - 14 DAYS IN LITHUANIA
DEPARTURES *from* BOSTON, CHICAGO & NEW YORK

LITHUANIA & GERMANY

DIRECT FLIGHT INTO VILNIUS BY PRIVATE CHARTER

12 day tour with 7 days in LITHUANIA, 9 nights VILNIUS, 2 nights WEST BERLIN
via KLM & AEROFLOT CHARTER

TOUR #507B \$1,699.00 from Boston & N.Y.
May 7-18 \$1,769.00 from Chicago
Single Supplement \$229.00

LITHUANIA & RUSSIA

13 day tour with 7 days in LITHUANIA, 7 nights VILNIUS, 2 nights MOSCOW, 2
nights LENINGRAD via FINNAIR

TOUR #515 \$2,159.00 from Boston & N.Y.
May 15-27 \$2,359.00 from Chicago
Single Supplement \$259.00

LITHUANIA & GERMANY

DIRECT FLIGHT INTO VILNIUS BY PRIVATE CHARTER

19 day tour with 14 days in LITHUANIA, 15 nights VILNIUS, 2 nights WEST
BERLIN via KLM & AEROFLOT CHARTER

TOUR #507A \$2,079.00 from Boston & N.Y.
May 7-25 \$2,149.00 from Chicago
Single Supplement \$399.00

LITHUANIA & FINLAND

14 days tour with 10 days in LITHUANIA, 11 nights VILNIUS, 1 night HELSINKI
via FINNAIR

TOUR #510 \$2,109.00 from Boston & N.Y.
May 10-23 \$2,309.00 from Chicago
Single Supplement \$279.00

LITHUANIA & GERMANY

15 day tour with 10 days in LITHUANIA, 11 nights VILNIUS, 2 nights HAMBURG
via LUFTHANSA

TOUR #522 \$2,299.00 from Boston & N.Y.
May 22-June 5 \$2,499.00 from Chicago

LITHUANIA & CZECHOSLOVAKIA

11 day tour with 6 days in LITHUANIA, 7 nights VILNIUS, 2 nights PRAGUE via
CZECHOSLOVAK AIRLINES

TOUR #608 \$2,099.00 from New York
June 8-18 \$2,299.00 from Chicago
Single Supplement \$279.00

LITHUANIA, FINLAND & ESTONIA

15 day tour with 9 days in LITHUANIA, Boat Cruise from HELSINKI to TALLINN
and return 10 nights VILNIUS, 2 nights HELSINKI, 1 night TALLINN via FINNAIR

TOUR #801 \$2,389.00 from Boston & N.Y.
August 1-15 \$2,589.00 from Chicago
Single Supplement \$319.00

LITHUANIA, RUSSIA & FINLAND

15 day tour with 7 days in LITHUANIA, 7 nights VILNIUS, 2 nights MOSCOW, 2
nights LENINGRAD, 2 nights HELSINKI via FINNAIR

TOUR #813 \$2,459.00 from Boston & N.Y.
August 13-27 \$2,659.00 from Chicago
Single Supplement \$349.00

LITHUANIA & SWITZERLAND

15 day tour with 10 days in LITHUANIA, 11 nights VILNIUS, 2 nights ZURICH
via SWISS AIR

TOUR #614 \$2,269.00 from Boston & N.Y.
June 14-28 \$2,469.00 from Chicago
Single Supplement \$299.00

LITHUANIA & AUSTRIA

15 day tour with 10 days in LITHUANIA, 11 nights VILNIUS, 2 nights VIENNA via
AUSTRIAN AIRLINES

TOUR #808 \$2,399.00 from Boston & N.Y.
AUGUST 8-22 \$2,599.00 from Chicago
Single Supplement \$299.00

LITHUANIA

10 day tour with 7 days in LITHUANIA, 8 nights VILNIUS via FINNAIR

TOUR #943 \$1,809.00 from Boston & N.Y.
SEPTEMBER 13-22 \$2,009.00 from Chicago
Single Supplement \$199.00

LITHUANIA & FINLAND

14 day tour with 10 days in LITHUANIA, 11 nights VILNIUS, 1 night HELSINKI
via FINNAIR

TOUR #913 \$2,209.00 from Boston & N.Y.
SEPTEMBER 13-26 \$2,409.00 from Chicago
Single Supplement \$299.00

LITHUANIA & CZECHOSLOVAKIA

12 day tour with 8 days in LITHUANIA, 9 nights VILNIUS, 1 night PRAGUE via
CZECHOSLOVAK AIRLINES

TOUR #106 \$1,699.00 from Boston & N.Y.
NOVEMBER 5-16 \$1,899.00 from Chicago
Single Supplement \$169.00

NEW YEAR'S IN LITHUANIA

15 day tour with 11 days in LITHUANIA, 2 nights VILNIUS, 1 night PRAGUE via
CZECHOSLOVAK AIRLINES

TOUR #1280 \$1,799.00 from Boston & N.Y.
DECEMBER 28-JANUARY 11 \$1,999.00 from Chicago
Single Supplement \$219.00

LITHUANIA & CZECHOSLOVAKIA

15 day tour with 10 days in LITHUANIA, 11 nights VILNIUS, 2 nights PRAGUE
via CZECHOSLOVAK AIRLINES

TOUR #105 \$2,159.00 from Boston & N.Y.
OCTOBER 1-15 \$2,359.00 from Chicago
Single Supplement \$199.00

CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR'S IN LITHUANIA

15 day tour with 11 days in LITHUANIA, 12 nights VILNIUS, 1 night PRAGUE via
CZECHOSLOVAK AIRLINES

TOUR #1225 \$1,799.00 from Boston & N.Y.
DECEMBER 21-JANUARY 4 \$1,999.00 from Chicago
Single Supplement \$219.00

FOR DETAILED INFORMATION AND BROCHURE,
PLEASE CONTACT:

BALTIC TOURS
77 Oak Street, Suite 4
Newton, MA 02164
(617) 965-8080
FAX (617) 332-7781



1990 Lithuanian Folk Song & Dance Festival Tours — July 5-8

BALTIC TOURS welcomes you to Lithuania's traditional Song & Dance Festival. Held every five years, the Festival focuses upon the rich and colorful folkloric traditions of the Lithuanians. The Country's best folk dance ensembles, choral groups, country music bands and professional musicians present a spectacular four-day program in Vilnius' outdoor parks.

BALTIC TOURS is offering six distinctive tours of 7, 10 and 13 days in Lithuania that will include the Festival programs. We hope you will join us and be one of the fortunate participants in the 1990 Song & Dance Festival.

Lithuania, Russia & Finland

15 day tour with 7 days in Lithuania

7 nights Vilnius, 2 Moscow, 2 Leningrad, 2 Helsinki

Tour #629	\$2,459.00 from Boston & N.Y.
June 29-July 13	\$2,659.00 from Chicago
Lietuva Hotel	Flight with Finnair

Lithuania & Germany

Direct flight into Vilnius by private charter from Berlin

18 day tour with 13 days in Lithuania

14 nights Vilnius, 2 West Berlin

	Lietuva Hotel
Tour #702L	\$2,269.00 from Boston & N.Y.
July 2-19	\$2,369.00 from Chicago

	Turistas Hotel
Tour #702T	\$2,049.00 from Boston & N.Y.
July 2-19	\$2,149.00 from Chicago
Flight with KLM	Charter with Aeroflot

Lithuania

11 nights Vilnius

13 day tour with 10 days in Lithuania

Tour #703A	\$2,049.00 from Boston & N.Y.
July 3-15	\$2,249.00 from Chicago
Lietuva Hotel	Flight with Pan American

Lithuania & Finland

14 day tour with 10 days in Lithuania

11 nights Vilnius, 1 Helsinki

Flight with Finnair

	Turistas Hotel
Tour #703B	\$1,949.00 from Boston & N.Y.
July 3-16	\$2,149.00 from Chicago

	Trinapolis
Tour #703C	\$1,749.00 from Boston & N.Y.
July 3-16	\$1,949.00 from Chicago

In a quiet wooded area in the Zirmunu section of Vilnius, Trinapolis contains a four-story hotel within a tourist complex with a restaurant and a bar. It is suitable for individuals or groups.

	Composers Apartments
Tour #703D	\$1,649.00 from Boston & N.Y.
July 3-16	\$1,849.00 from Chicago

For individuals wanting private accommodations, apartments can be rented in the Composers Apartment Complex, which is near Vingas Park. Apartment rentals are available for 14 individuals only.

This arrangement includes the rental only. Transfers, meals, sightseeing and the Festival programs are up to the individual.

All other tours include admission to the Festival programs, three meals daily, breakfast, dinners and sightseeing in West Berlin and Helsinki, transfers and personal assistance from a BALTIC TOURS escort throughout the tour.

For more information and brochures, please contact:

BALTIC TOURS
77 Oak Street, Suite 4
Newton, MA 02164
Telephone: 617-965-8080
Fax: 617-332-7781



GENÉ
TREINYS



BRIDGES wishes to thank Mrs. Gené Treinys of Hyannis, MA for providing us the photographs of decorated Easter Eggs that appear in this month's issue. Mrs. Treinys is active in a variety of Lithuanian organizations for many years, most notably the Lithuanian Scouts Association and the Lithuanian-American Community. She is also known for her woodburning skills which she has rendered into an art. The eggs in the pictures are examples of her woodburning art. She has travelled with her exhibition and her work is available for purchase.



Woodburned Lithuanian Easter Eggs

by Genovaitė Treinienė



Baltic Associates, Ltd.

is proud to announce
the opening of the largest Lithuanian Showroom
in North America

DOVANA

368 West Broadway, South Boston, Massachusetts 02127

Featuring an assortment of Lithuanian:

- * Woodcrafts, Ceramics, Crystal, Amber
- * Woven Towels, Sashes, Folk Costumes
 - * Original Dolls, Easter Eggs, Flags
- * Sweatshirts, T-shirts, Decals, Books
 - * Records, Greeting Cards, Posters
- * Audio and Video Cassettes and other various gifts!

- * Complete line of electronic equipment
for export to Lithuania and Europe
VCR's, Cassette Recorders, Camcorders, Computers
at wholesale prices!

- * Expanded research and translation service
 - * Tour services to Lithuania
 - * Subscription service
- * Always something new from Lithuania!

Please come visit our "**Dovana**" showroom, or send for our color catalog.
Please enclose \$2.00 to:

P.O. Box 1406 GMF, Boston, MA 02205

Telephone: 617-269-4455 or Fax: 617-268-8376

Store Hours: Open Daily 10 to 6

Lithuanian Federal Credit Union Taupa

All deposits federally insured up to \$100,000.

368 West Broadway • P.O. Box 95 • South Boston, Massachusetts 02127
Telephone (617) 269-1450

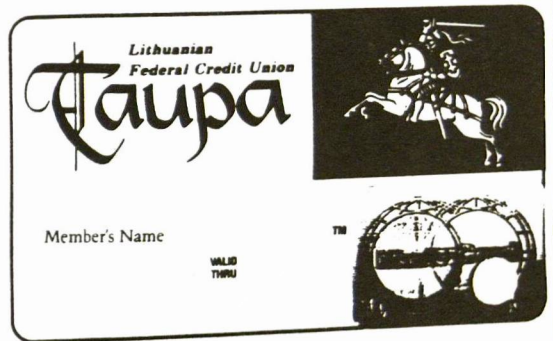
After eight years of serving all of New England
TAUPA has grown to over six million dollars
in assets and over 500 members.

TAUPA offers competitive rates
for savings accounts and loans.

TAUPA offers these services:

Regular Savings Accounts
Money Market Accounts
Certificates of Deposit
Now Accounts
Mastercard / 15%

Personal Loans
Auto Loans
Home Improvement Loans
Home Equity Loans
Mortgages



Member's Name _____
 Street _____
 City, State, Zip Code _____ 19 _____ 5-9193/2110

PAY TO THE ORDER OF _____ \$ _____

_____ DOLLARS

Taupa Lithuanian Federal Credit Union
 P.O. BOX 95
 SOUTH BOSTON, MA 02127

MEMO _____



A FESTIVE EASTER TABLE
(VELYKŲ STALAS)

VELYKŲ BOBA
(Easter Bread)

1 c. milk
3 c. flour
¼ c. lukewarm milk
2 yeast cakes
½ c. × 1 Tbsp. sugar
2 tsp. salt
15 egg yolks
1 tsp. vanilla
¼ tsp. almond extract
1 c. chopped almonds
1 c. chopped citron, orange and lemon peel
½ c. melted butter
bread crumbs

Scald milk. Slowly add ¾ cup flour to hot milk and beat thoroughly; cool. Dissolve yeast in quarter cup of milk and a tablespoon of sugar and add to cooled mixture. Beat well until thick and lemon colored. Add sugar and continue to beat. Add to sponge mixture with flavoring and remaining flour. Knead for 10 minutes. Add butter and continue kneading for 10 more minutes or until dough no longer sticks to hands or fingers. Add almonds and citron peels and mix well.

Let rise until dough doubles in bulk. Punch down and let rise again.

Butter a fluted bundt pan or tube pan; press blanched almonds around the sides and bottom. Sprinkle with fine bread crumbs. Punch down the dough again and put into the bundt pan to cover 1/3 of the pan. Let rise again for 1 hour.

Bake for 50 minutes at 350 degrees.

Decorate with your favorite white glaze. Sprinkle with colored sugar or baker's confetti.



VELYKŲ SALDUS PATIEKALAS
(Traditional Lithuanian Easter Dessert)

1 lb. dry cottage cheese
½ c. butter
1 c. sugar
2 egg yolks
½ c. thick cream
½ tsp. salt
2/3 c. blanched almonds, chopped fine
1 tsp. vanilla
1 c. currants

Press the cheese through a sieve. Cream the butter and sugar together until light. Beat in the egg yolks, 1 at a time. Add the remaining ingredients and mix thoroughly.

Take a plastic flower pot with a hole at the bottom. Line the pot with a dampened cheesecloth of double thickness and pour mixture into it. Cover with a damp cloth. Place a small plate on top of the cheese and weight it down with a suitable weight. The hole on the bottom of the pot allows the excess moisture to drain off. Let it stand in a cold place for 24 hours.

Unmond onto a plate. Decorate with fresh berries, or a sliced orange.

Serve in slices at the table.

ĮDARYTA PAUKŠČIO KAKLAS
(Stuffed Goose or Turkey Necks)

goose or turkey meat (uncooked scraps)
bread stuffing (packaged or made from scratch)
goose or turkey neck skins, removed whole
1 onion, sliced
1 c. hot water
½ tsp. salt
¼ tsp. pepper

Grind scraps of poultry meat fine and mix with stuffing. Salt and pepper to taste.

Tie one end of neck skin tight with clean string and stuff with mixture. Tie other end. Place in baking pan; add onion and water; bake at 350 degrees until brown and crisp, basting occasionally.

Variation:

Stuff with grated potato pudding (kugelis). Add a few slices of cooked bacon, crumbled, to the grated potato mixture.

LAŠINĖCIAI
(Bacon Buns)

1 pkg. active dry yeast
1 c. lukewarm milk
2 Tbsp. sugar
1 tsp. salt
3 c. all purpose flour
3 egg yolks
10 Tbsp. unsalted butter, softened
1 lb. lean bacon, finely shredded
1 c. finely chopped onions
1 egg yolk mixed with 1 Tbsp. cream

Sprinkle yeast into ½ cup of lukewarm milk. Add sugar and salt; stir until thoroughly dissolved. Place mixture in draft-free place until mixture bubbles and doubles its volume. Pour flour into mixing bowl; make well in the center.

Drop yeast mixture, egg yolks, remaining ½ cup milk and 8 tablespoons of butter. Slowly stir flour into liquid ingredients. Beat well until firm dough can be formed into a ball and leaves the sides of the bowl. Cover bowl with towel. Place in draft-free spot for an hour. Dough will double in bulk. Punch dough down; cover again and let rise another 45 minutes.

Prepare filling — fry bacon and chopped onions in large frying pan. When bacon is crisp and onions are lightly golden, drain on absorbent paper towel. Discard fat; set bacon and onions aside.

Coat two cookie sheets with 1 tablespoon of butter each. Cut dough in half.

On a lightly floured surface, roll each half into a circle about ½ inch thick. Cut out about 18 rounds of dough with a round cookie cutter. Place a teaspoon of bacon mixture in center of each; fold in sides of circle, making a neat egg-shaped package.

Set buns, seam-side down, on a cookie sheet, 1 inch apart. Roll and fill remaining dough the same way.

Place cookie sheets in draft-free spot for 20 to 30 minutes; buns will double in size.

Bake in a preheated 375 degree oven for 10 minutes. Coat each bun with egg yolk and cream mixture. Bake for another 10 minutes, or until golden brown.

Buns are best served hot, but still tasty after they have cooled.

DEŠROS*(Lithuanian Sausage)*

3 lb. boneless pork sausage
 1 lb. boneless beef
 1 lb. bacon
 4 cloves garlic - optional
 2-3 onions, chopped
 ¾ c. water
 1 small glass vodka or other spirits
 4 Tbsp. salt
 ½ tsp. white pepper
 ½ tsp. allspice
 hog casings

Coarsely grind meat and onions. Cut up bacon in very small pieces and add to ground meat and onions. Add salt, seasonings, finely crushed garlic, water and vodka. Mix all ingredients thoroughly with both hands.

Hog casings should be soaked overnight. Purchase over and above the amount of meat used in recipe. Just before using, wash casings by running water through under the sink faucet.

Stuff mixture into casings lightly, allowing about 2 inches per sausage. Tie ends. Prick casings with a needle to get rid of air inside. Put in a large pot; cover with cold water and cook for 45 minutes to an hour.

Delicious with hot sauerkraut and boiled potatoes.

**Going My Way?**

If you have a potential group interested in going to Lithuania, we will meet you more than half way.

In fact, we will travel to your city to help you present the tour to your group.

We will assist you in planning, organizing and supporting the tour.

FUNDRAISING FOR ORGANIZATIONS

With the increased freedom in Lithuania, which has eased internal travel restrictions to visit ancestral homelands, a trip to Lithuania for 7, 10 or 15 days can be used by an organization — social club, church group, special interest group, fraternal groups, etc. — to raise funds for its purposes or projects.

TOUR ORGANIZER

Whether your purpose may be raising funds or putting together a friendly group of co-workers, friends or relatives, a tour organizer can receive either tour or monetary consideration, based upon the number of persons in the group.

Since 1975, we have helped Lithuanian parishes societies of Lithuanian-American social clubs, special interest groups and individuals who have organized groups for that visit to the land of their ancestry.

If you should have an interest in organizing a group, please contact:

Mr. Algirdas Mitkus, President

BALTIC TOURS
 77 Oak Street, Suite 4
 Newton, MA 02164
 Telephone: 617-965-8080
 Fax: 617-332-7781

LAISVA LIETUVA

Sweatshirts designed by the
 "AUSRA" Folk Dance Group of Omaha, Nebraska

Made for a fundraiser to raise money to travel to perform.

Sweatshirts cost \$20.00 (Available sizes L - XL)

T-Shirt cost \$10.00 (Available sizes L - XL)

Same design — white shortsleeve

Allow 4 weeks for delivery and \$2.25 postage/handling per item ordered.

For more information concerning these items, please contact:

Gaile Reskevicius

Telephone: 1-402-733-7958

or write:

3390 "W" Street, Omaha, NE 68107





The Art of Lithuanian Easter Eggs

Easter eggs are decorated by two methods:

- 1) the eggs are dyed and various designs are scratched onto them, and
- 2) the design is produced with wax.

It was a distinction to color beautiful Easter eggs. Everyone did his best to display his or her talent. Young girls, who wished to give Easter eggs as gifts to their beaux, worked especially hard to produce beautiful eggs because this determined whether her talents, skill and ingenuity would be appreciated.

In the past, eggs were colored with homemade plant dyes. For example, onion skins give a pretty medium light brown color; dried corn-flower petals a blue grey; hay particles a green; beets a dark red; and alder bark a very dark brown, almost black tint. In more recent times, eggs were colored with store-bought dyes.

When an egg is decorated by the scratch method, it is first hard boiled, cooled and dunked in the dye (a warm egg may also be immersed in dye). When the desired color is achieved, the egg is removed and its surface carefully scratched with the tip of a sharp knife (a pocket knife works well for this purpose) until the color layer is removed and lines of white shell appear. These lines form various designs. Care must be taken not to pierce the shell. The patterns of scratched Easter eggs are more detailed, angular, sharper and rather intricate. No prior practice is necessary, the process is the same as drawing on paper with a pencil, only in this case, the pencil is the knife tip and the paper is the colored egg. The design may be carefully drawn with a regular pencil or white chalk on the egg and the lines etched with a knife. The pattern is more visible if the egg is dyed a darker color.

When using the wax method, you will need a metal container holding pieces of candle (preferably white); the container is placed on a stand over a lighted candle. The wax melts from the candle flame and must be heated to the point of almost smoking. The hotter the wax, the easier it is to draw the design on the egg. Certain tools are also needed to draw the pattern. They are easy to make: take several pencils and insert pins with different-size heads into the erasers. The larger heads are good for bigger patterns, thicker lines, while the smaller ones are used for fine lines and detailed designs.

Hard-boiled eggs must be thoroughly cooled. The dyes must also be cold. The pin head is dipped into the hot wax (keep it a little longer the first time, as the pin has to heat up) and used to draw part of the design on the egg. It is necessary to work rather quickly because the wax on the pinhead cools and hardens very rapidly. It then becomes impossible to transfer it evenly onto the egg surface. With a little practice, this task is easily accomplished. A beginner should make short strokes, dots and simple designs. As the hand becomes accustomed to the work, more intricate designs can be made. Working is more convenient if the hot wax container is positioned very near the dyer, making it easier to reach and preventing the wax from cooling as quickly as it is brought to the egg.

After the desired pattern has been applied, the egg is lowered into the dye. The wax-covered areas remain white thus producing a design. It is easy to make an Easter egg of several colors by starting with light dyes and adding darker ones. As an example: a portion of the design is applied to the white egg, it is immersed in yellow dye; after it is removed, more design is added and the egg is placed in green dye. When the egg is removed, we have a two-tone design, white and yellow, while the egg itself is green. If more wax is added to the green shell, it can then be dipped into purple or red dye, thus adding green to the design. With some experimentation, very interesting results can be attained. The wax-method design usually consists of shorter strokes because long strokes cannot be made as the wax cools or runs out on the pinhead.

If the Easter eggs are not intended for consumption, but only as decorations or gifts, fabric dyes may be used. They produce very vivid colors and thoroughly cover the shell.

We can also try using the old-fashioned method and color Easter eggs with onion skins. About two handfuls of dry yellow onion skins are placed in an enamel pot, a desired number of eggs added over the onion skins and covered with cold water. The pot is placed over a low flame, brought to a boil and slowly simmered until the eggs are hard boiled (about 10 min.). The eggs should be left in the brown liquid until cool. The light brown eggs may be decorated by the scratch method. They can also come out of the dyeing-pot with an interesting design! Before the white eggs are placed into the pot with the onion skins, a few sprigs of rue or even parsley can be placed around the egg shell and fastened with thread to they do not slip off during the boiling. After the eggs are taken out of the pot, the plant sprigs are carefully removed: we have a white (or very light tan) design where they covered the shell!



***American Travel Service Bureau
has taken over 10,000 people to
Lithuania since 1965.***

***We invite you to travel with one of
our groups or as an individual and be
a part of history as Lithuania
struggles to regain it's independence.***

1990 Tours to Lithuania

- 201. LITHUANIA TOUR* • May 15-27**
Vilnius 11 nights. From Chicago - \$1,795.00
From New York - \$1,695.00
- 204. DANCE AND SONG FESTIVAL TOUR**
June 29 - July 18
Moscow 1 night, Vilnius 15 nights, Moscow 2 nights.
From Chicago - \$2,350.00 From New York - \$2,250.00
- 205. DANCE AND SONG FESTIVAL TOUR**
June 30 - July 11
Vilnius 10 nights. From Cleveland - \$1,950.00
From Chicago - \$1,900.00 From New York - \$1,800.00
- 206. PHYSICIANS TOUR, DANCE AND SONG
FESTIVAL TOUR • July 01-19**
Vilnius 15 nights.
From Chicago - \$2,150.00 From New York - \$2,050.00
- 207. DANCE AND SONG FESTIVAL TOUR**
July 03-15
Vilnius 10 nights, Moscow 1 night.
From Chicago - \$1,995.00 From New York - \$1,895.00
- 208. DANCE AND SONG FESTIVAL TOUR**
From Tampa, Florida • July 3-14
Vilnius 10 nights.
From Tampa - \$2,100.00 From New York - \$2,000.00
- 209. LITHUANIA AND POLAND TOUR**
June 04-17
Vilnius 10 nights, Warsaw 2 nights.
From Chicago - \$2,095.00 From New York - \$1,995.00
- 210. LITHUANIA, RUSSIA, AND ENGLAND TOUR**
August 06-22
Moscow 2 nights, Vilnius 8 nights, Leningrad 2 nights,
and London 3 nights.
From Chicago - \$2,555.00 From New York - \$2,445.00
- 211. LITHUANIA AND ITALY TOUR • August 08-25**
Vilnius 10 nights, Rome 6 nights.
From Chicago - \$2,695.00 From New York \$2,595.00

In addition to the groups listed here, American Travel Service Bureau can customize trips for individuals or groups. We travel regularly to Lithuania to provide you with the most up-to-date services and information.

* This group coincides with an Arts and Literature Congress and also with a Physicians Convention sponsored by the Lithuanian Medical Association, both taking place in Vilnius.

For additional information and/or registration forms
please give us a call or send in this coupon. B1

American Travel Service Bureau
9727 S. Western Ave., Chicago, IL 60643
Ph. 312/238-9787 Fax 312/238-0935

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Community with a Capital "C"

The new year brings some firsts and some new beginnings. The **Lithuanian-American Community National Executive Committee** had its first meeting of the new calendar year January 13-14, 1990, in its headquarters office in Chicago. On February 16th, the Lithuanian-American Community began its annual fundraiser, and it will also mark a visit to Lithuania by **Lithuanian-American Community President Dr. Antanas Razma**. Also going is the "**Pasaulio Lietuvis**" (**World Lithuanian**) editor, **Bronius Nainys**, and **Algimantas Gureckas**, **World Lithuanian Community vice-president for relations with other nationalities** (*ryšiams su svetimtaučiais*) have all received official invitations from the Lithuanian Reform Movement *Sąjūdis* to visit Lithuania during the commemoration of Lithuanian Independence Day. The list of those going may change as the day approaches.

The new year also brought changes in the National Executive Committee. The vice-president for financial affairs, Bronius Juodelis stepped down from his duties in January. In his place is Kostas Dočkus, who is awaiting confirmation from the Taryba (Directors). The treasurer will continue to be Vldas Sinkus. The National Executive Committee president of the Human Services Council as of February will be Birute Jasaitis, who also will await confirmation by the Directors.

The National Executive Committee's **Human Services Council** operates the building from which the National Executive Committee rents office space. Also in the building is a restaurant *Seklyčia*, a few rooms rented out to Lithuanian senior citizens, and an administrative office of the Council's Lithuanian-language monthly journal *Pensininkas* (retired person's journal) whose editor Karolis Milkovaitis lives in California. Many of the Council's Chicago chapter services are impressive. The December issue of *Pensininkas* describes one month's (October 1989) activities of the Chicago chapter: 159 people were served meals-on-wheels, 19 calls were made to various government and other offices, 44 people were helped with Medicate forms, 6 people were taken to doctors and to the hospital, 24 people were offered letter translation assistance, 44 others were provided with various information (including 15 persons from Lithuania). The Human Services Council has an interest in services to other Lithuanian-American colonies in the areas of service to the elderly, visitors from Lithuania, etc.

The Government Affairs office in Washington, D.C., will be expanding to two paid staff members. Although the operation of this office is expensive for the National Executive Committee to maintain, it is felt that the existence of the office is essential for our visibility in Washington, D.C. **Asta Banionis** has already coordinated the activities of the office, so that they do not overlap, for

example, with those of the Lithuanian Information Center's Washington office. While the LIC serves an information role, keeps up press contacts, keeps in touch with journalists, etc., Asta Banionis establishes contact with various government offices and organizations to seek their legislative and grant support, and often coordinates meetings with these offices for Lithuanian Reform Movement "Sąjūdis" and other visitors from Lithuania. With an additional staff member, Asta hopes to expand to regional activities, be able to network with Lithuanian-Americans in other communities when coordinated effort is needed. She hopes that Lithuanian-Americans in other cities critically read their local newspapers for any articles or editorials about Lithuania and respond appropriately as the Washington office already does for newspapers such as *The New York Times* and the *Washington Post*.

The Washington D.C. office is planning on producing a newsletter, but of interest to *Bridges* readers would be the fact that Asta Banionis has been approached by *Bridges* editors to write of her projects, and views on upcoming events in columns for *Bridges*.

The 50th anniversary of the Soviet occupation of Lithuania is fast approaching in June. It is hoped that the **Government Affairs Council** will be able to serve a central role in the organization of a scholarly seminar or lecture series to mark this event. Details will become available as funding and a location are found. The February 16th Lithuanian-American Community, Inc. fundraising drive will especially be geared toward support of activities in that office. There now are two full-timers and one part-timer (in the Chicago office) who work for the Lithuanian-American Community, Inc. National Executive Committee. Otherwise, activities and projects of the National Executive Committee are carried out by volunteers.

The National Executive Committee **Cultural Council president Dalia Kučėnas** announced that the moving of the Lithuanian Song Festival from July 1, 1990 to May of 1991 represented a conscious decision by the organizing committee to take all facts into consideration. The Song and Dance Festival in Lithuania will take place at about that same time, and by some estimates several dozen groups from North American and elsewhere plan to congregate in Lithuania to participate: choirs, folk dancing groups as well as various tourist groups and individual visitors from various countries. This would certainly affect participation and attendance at the Chicago event.

The National Executive Committee **Cultural Council** has scheduled its 10th annual Awards for May 20-21, 1990 in St. Petersburg, Florida. Awards will honor achievement by Lithuanian-Americans in the areas of music, art, radio, drama (a literature award will not be awarded this year.) Honorees from previous years will be invited to attend and in some cases, to be part of the program.

The National Executive Committee **Educational Council president Regina Kučas** announced that in the 27 Lithuanian language schools overseen by the Council, there are 1,030 students enrolled for the 1989/90 school year. Some adult educational class enrollments are not yet known. Mrs. Kucas has already visited several schools: in Lemont, IL, in Baltimore, MD, there are visits scheduled for St. Petersburg, FL and Los Angeles, CA. The Educational Council believes strongly that such meetings with principals, teachers and parents are mutually beneficial.

The Educational Council's publication — the songbook *Grybs Grybs* now has an accompanying cassette which provides the melody for the first three stanzas of all of the children's songs in the songbook. The publication *Gintarinės Šaknys* (Amber roots) written by Bronius Krokys is now out of print and is scheduled for a second printing.

The Educational Council's annual week of seminars and studies for Lithuanian language teachers (Mokytoju Studiju Savaite) is scheduled to take place at Camp Dainava, Manchester, MI, August 1-8, 1990. Also scheduled for the week are the traditional Lithuanian language courses

offered by **Bronius Krokys** and other instructors.

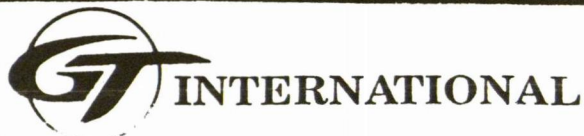
The Lithuanian-American Community, Inc. has now received about 150 letters from Lithuanians requesting penpals, assistance with cooperatives, help in finding long-lost relatives, and so on. *Bridges* readers have been most responsive for the English-language penpals. We've tried to find some potential penpals for all who wrote, but admittedly, there are many more letters awaiting Lithuanian-language penpals. Those who are interested in penpals may send a self-addressed, stamped envelope, and we will try to oblige.

Inquiries about activities and publications of the Lithuanian-American Community, Inc. (and donations, certainly) may be directed to the Lithuanian-American Community, Inc., National Executive Committee, 2713 71st Street, Chicago, IL 60629, telephone (312) 436-0197. Checks for purchase of various National Executive Committee publications, videotapes, and other materials of the Councils would be made out to them.

(News items summarized by Ramunė Kubilius of the Lithuanian-American Community's Executive Committee.)



Vilnius Ansamblis, having performed in many Lithuanian Communities throughout the United States. (right to left) Antanas Smolskus-director, Jolanta Čiurilaite, Antanas Valuckas, Lina Naikelis and Arūnas Malikėnas. Photo by A. Dzikas



1990 TOURS TO LITHUANIA

G.T. INTERNATIONAL wishes to thank everyone who contributed to the great success of our 1989 season. We invite everyone to travel with us in 1990.

MAY 15-31: — 17 DAYS — TOUR #9001. Lithuania 14 nights, West Berlin 1 night; both Chicago and New York departures. Direct flight from Berlin to Vilnius.
Chicago: \$1,875.00 New York: \$1,745.00

JUNE 7-22: — 16 DAYS — TOUR #9002. Lithuania 10 nights, Moscow 1 night; Germany 3 nights, including a Rhine River Cruise, wine-tasting tour of Heidelberg and more.
Chicago: \$2,475.00 New York: \$2,345.00

JUNE 29 - JULY 15: — 17 DAYS — TOUR #9003. SONG FESTIVAL. Lithuania 15 nights. Toronto departure for Helsinki, cruise to Tallinn, G.T. INTERNATIONAL motorcoach to Vilnius. Participate in all Song Festival activities.
Chicago: \$2,280.00 New York: \$2,165.00
(Join the group in Helsinki)

JULY 3-19: — 17 DAYS — TOUR #9005. SONG FESTIVAL. Lithuania 14 nights, West Berlin 1 night. Both Chicago and New York departures. Direct flight from Berlin to Vilnius. Participate in all Song Festival activities.
Chicago: \$2,095.00 New York: \$1,995.00

AUGUST 1-16: — 17 DAYS — TOUR #9006. Lithuania 10 nights, Vienna 2 nights, Budapest 2 nights, including a Danube River Cruise.
Chicago: \$2,762.00 New York: \$2,642.00

INDIVIDUAL TRAVEL

Let us customize a trip for you. You may choose your own length of stay in Lithuania. We have a variety of accommodations to offer in Vilnius, Kaunas and Palanga. We can offer car rental services and any combination of sightseeing through our Vilnius office (opening May 7, 1990).

In addition to travel services, G.T. INTERNATIONAL handles invitations of relatives, ticketing of relatives from Moscow, meet and assist services in New York and Washington, purchases at the Foreign Currency Stores in Lithuania and ŽAIBAS — our newest greeting service. The greeting package of your choice will be delivered to your relatives on the day of your choice.
All products in selections 6 - 9 are made in the U.S.A.

SIGN UPS WITH THIS AD WILL RECEIVE \$25.00 DISCOUNT.

For additional information on all above services, please contact our office:
9525 SOUTH 79TH AVENUE, HICKORY HILLS, IL 60457
TEL.: 708-430-7272 / FAX: 708-430-5783

Second Class to United States subscribers	\$12.00 yearly
Second Class to Canadian Subscribers	\$15.00 yearly (U.S. Funds)
Surface Mail to European, Australian and other Foreign Subscribers	\$20.00 yearly (U.S. Funds)
Air Mail	\$25.00 yearly (U.S. Funds)

Bridges # _____	Renewal Due Date _____
Name _____	
Street Address/Apt No./P. O. Box _____	
City, State and Zip Code _____	

Mail to:
Bridges, P. O. Box 3050, Worcester, MA 01613-3050
 (Please print or attach label)

If a new subscriber please indicate. Readers whose subscriptions have expired and who do not respond to our reminders to renew their subscriptions will no longer receive BRIDGES.

Who is Petras Cizikas?

Why would someone go on a hunger strike? Are hunger strikes successful? These are probably some of the questions which arose in people's minds when they went to hear Petras Cizikas from Lithuania speak at various Lithuanian-American communities. Petras Cizikas spoke at the Lithuanian Youth Center on January 21, 1990. This was only one point in his tour outside the United States, he had also visited France, West Germany, and Canada as well. His visit to the United States was arranged by the United Lithuanian Relief Fund (BALF) and its president, Marija Rudis. His presentation in Chicago at the Lithuanian Youth Center on January 21st was arranged by the Society of the Chronicle of the Catholic Church in Lithuania, Inc.

Petras Cizikas was born in 1944 in Lazdiju region, studied at the Kaunas Institute (Statybos Institutas), worked in Panevezis, did his mandatory army service, and began studies in law at Vilnius' University. Already in 1973, he was sentenced to be "cured" in a camp because he had a copy (manuscript) of the *Chronicle of the Catholic Church of Lithuania* (which documented the Soviets' transgressions against Roman Catholics). Although he didn't mention much about it at this presentation, an account of his activities in *Tėviškės Žiburiai* (1990 I. 16) mentioned that he frequently gave copies to contacts from the West, so it could be published. After his terms was up, he went back to the University.

September 28-29, 1988... nine people began a new hunger strike in Vilnius' Gediminas Square to press for release of political prisoners. Three busloads of militia beat and arrested the hunger strikers in a dawn raid on the square. The hunger strikers were acquitted of all charges as one of the original August hunger strikers, Petras Cizikas, resumes his fast in the square. October 31... Petras Cizikas, after 32 days without food, declared an end to his hunger strike after receiving assurances from the government that five political prisoners would be released. So chronicled the Lithuanian Information Center (Brooklyn, NY) in its *Chronology of Recent Events in Lithuania*. In three different hunger strike episodes, during 1988-89, adding up to 74 days, Petras Cizikas, it is said, was instrumental in facilitating the release of 15 Lithuanian political prisoners.

Some joined Petras Cizikas in his hunger strikes. Some called him insane. There were times when 150-200 people joined him in Gediminas Square. Lithuanian-American tourists brought back photographs. Wedding parties photographed themselves near the tiny hut (2.5 x 2.5 m.) he built during one of the fasts.

Psychological Abstracts comes up with several references to the literature on hunger striking prisoners, hunger striking as fanatical behavior, hunger striking psychiatric patients, and the like. The remarks of Petras Cizikas seemed to be those of a sane man who consciously made the decision to be hungry and raise issues which needed public attention. His first hunger strike, he says, achieved the government's willingness to even admit that there were political prisoners. Petras Cizikas became a member of the committee to save political prisoners. He stated that the major value should be spiritual. Spiritual rebirth has no boundaries. He feels that hunger striking is a different means when there are no others. Suffering is a different school, and for political prisoners who spent years in concentration camps, they graduated from life's university.

The comments of his motives and philosophies were interesting. They were made by someone who felt deeply that what he was doing was meaningful and effective. He says that his reasons were personal, and he did not seek to join forces with any groups (for example the Lithuanian Freedom League-Laisves Lyga of which he is a founding member).

Petras Cizikas stated that Moscow is known for permanently being in a state of flux, that today there are no guarantees for Lithuania. There are many problems for Lithuania to solve: alcoholism, other social and cultural problems. People either don't believe in anything, or they don't believe in the future. For his part, Petras Cizikas believes in the forecasts of a bishop back in 1942 — the Russian empire must disintegrate. That seemed to be his strong belief and motivation for accenting people-political prisoners, trying to revive Lithuania's youth to believe strongly in something. More than a dozen political prisoners seem to have him to thank for raising national attention to their plight, and for guaranteeing their releases from many years of imprisonment and life under extreme hardship conditions. The release of Balys Gajauskas and other longtime prisoners attest to the apparent success of this different political "weapon."

Ramunė Kubilius

Blp(LKA)1195
1990, Nr.2

90401*1 12/31/88
MILTON STARK
1642 OCEAN AVE.
SANTA MONICA, CA 90401

3

£

LITHUANIA FREE AT LAST!



February 16, 1990 demonstration participants in Manhattan, N.Y. The event was organized by the New York Lithuanian Youth Association. Photo by L. Tamošaitis