



WYTIS

KNIGHTS OF LITHUANIA

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Kovas / March 1994



Saint Casimir detail

V. Ignas

VYTIS

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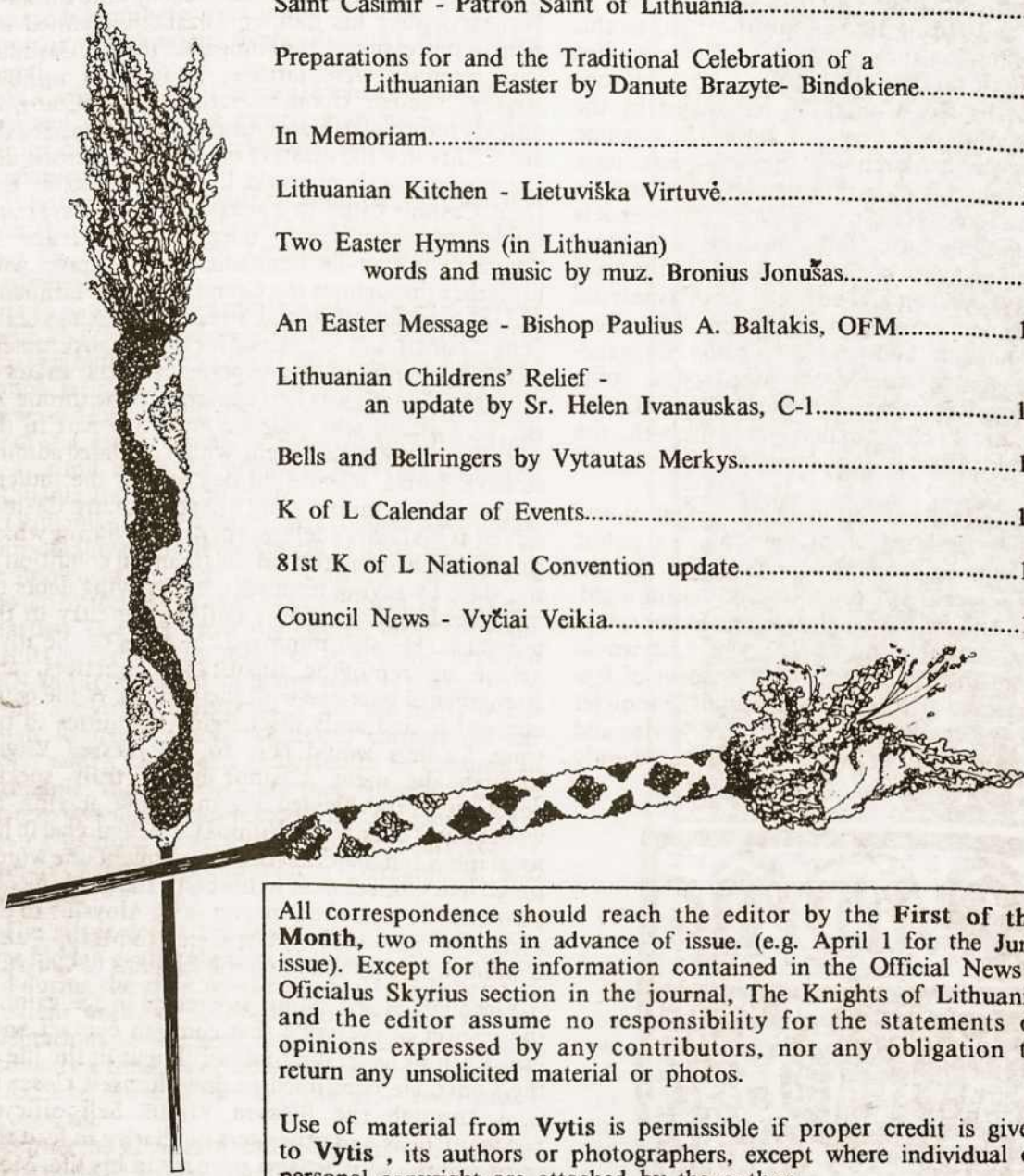
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Saint Casimir - Patron Saint of Lithuania

Lithuania is the land of silent martyrs and saints. Even though Christianity is over 600 years old in Lithuania, and during those centuries past, to this very day, countless thousands of martyrs have died for the sake of the Gospel, Lithuania has only one person who has been officially recognized by the Roman Catholic Church as a Saint. He is St. Casimir, whose feast day is March 4th. It is this personage upon whom we reflect in this article. (This month's *Vytis* has a likeness of St. Casimir on the cover. It is a detail from a graphic by Lithuanian artist V. Ignas.)

St. Casimir was born on October 3, 1458 in the royal palace of Krakow. It should be noted that Casimir did not have one drop of Polish blood flowing within him. He is descended of the lineage of Jogaila. His grandfather and grandmother were Jogaila and Sofija Alsėniske, Jogaila's fourth wife. His father was Grand Duke Casimir I. His mother was Elizabeth, the daughter of the Austrian Habsburg Emperor Albrecht II.

Casimir's formal education began at age 9 and included the classics: Latin, Greek, history, public speaking, theology, religious doctrine, and the importance of prayer and virtuous living. Visiting dignitaries to the Lithuanian Court were quite impressed with young Casimir's knowledge, when he would appear before them and speak in a number of languages on a variety of topics. One Prussian Chronicler of the time referred to Casimir as a "very wise and virtuous young man, of which people could only speak well."



At 13, Casimir was given the command of a 12,000-man army and was dispatched to occupy the throne of Hungary, since his mother, Elizabeth, claimed the right of succession to the Hungarian throne. Casimir's true interests were farthest away from military strategy, though. Upon his return to the Court, he quickly returned to his studies which emphasized the art of Chivalry, the mastery of the art of rhetoric and the fundamentals of world literature. Also, at this time, Casimir came to a deeper love of prayer and tended toward a deeply religious life. At age 16, Casimir, the ever-obedient son, began to travel with his father throughout the Grand Duchy of Lithuania and the Kingdom of Poland, attending meetings of the State Council, and receptions for foreign government officials, in order to gain experience in the affairs of the state. Casimir was heir apparent to the throne. At age 22, Casimir was assigned an active part in the workings of the government, which included administrative duties, responsibilities within the judicial system, also in military and financial affairs. Casimir served as his father's delegate in Krakow during which time Casimir strengthened the financial condition of the state by saving resources, by repaying debts on mortgaged estates, and by curbing banditry in the provinces. He also improved the tone of the royal palace by removing unsuitable courtiers, and strengthened relations with the Vatican. While being engaged in and aptly discharging his duties to the state, Casimir would pray to the Blessed Virgin, through the night. Casimir had a truly special devotion to the Blessed Virgin. While praying, he would kneel outside the Vilnius Cathedral, clad in his royal robes, but underneath these garments, he wore a rough hair cloth closest to his body, the clothing of a penitent. He recited the prayer of St. Aloysius to the Blessed Virgin — Daily, Daily sing to Mary — also, Casimir would meditate on the Passions of Christ.

Although, as St. Casimir progressed in age, gaining the respect of everyone that came in contact with him, Casimir never did find fulfillment in the life of the Court. He continued to draw himself closer to God, through the Blessed Virgin. Self-inflicted penances, fasts and other acts of charity to feed the spirit and the soul became primary in his life. More often than not, Casimir declined the use of his bed, preferring rather to sleep on the bare earthen floor, with his arms outstretched in the form of a cross.

continued on next page

In late 1483, Casimir's health began to fail in a rapid decline. It is believed that because of Casimir's harsh treatment of himself, he contracted tuberculosis. The disease took its toll quickly and on the morning of March 4, 1484, the 25-year-old Casimir died of tuberculosis in his mother's arms, in the city of Gardinas. His remains were brought to the Vilnius Cathedral for burial.

St. Casimir died, not having reached his 26th birthday and also not yet having manifested his true genius, his Solomon-like wisdom and fairness and his humanity to all.

Pope Leo X canonized St. Casimir in 1521, and it is from that date that March 4th has been set aside each year in the Church's Liturgical calendar as St. Casimir's feast day.

In 1636, St. Casimir's remains were placed in a silver coffin and elevated above the altar of a special chapel that was built in the Vilnius Cathedral in St. Casimir's honor. It is said that his body was miraculously preserved for 120 years. In connection with the transfer of St. Casimir's remains, Pope Urban VIII declared St. Casimir to be the principal heavenly patron of Lithuania and all Lithuanians.

Lithuanian Jesuit missions and colleges contributed considerably to the development of what has come to be known as the cult of St. Casimir. Casimir was chosen by the Jesuits as an example for all of piety and chastity. The large baroque church erected by the Jesuits in Vilnius in honor of St. Casimir between 1604 and 1609 served for many years as the center of Jesuit activity in Lithuania. There are many Lithuanian Roman Catholic churches throughout the world which have been dedicated to St. Casimir. In Lithuania, the churches are most plentiful in the eastern provinces. Four historically Lithuanian cities have a likeness of St. Casimir in their city seal — namely Kretinga, Nemunaitis, Darsuniškis, and Kvedarna.

The silver coffin bearing Casimir's remains was kept hidden during the first Russian invasion (1655) and during the great northern war (1703). When the Russians occupied Lithuania in 1795, the official celebrations of the feast day of St. Casimir — traditionally a three-day celebration with a fair known as Kaziuko Mugė or Kaziuko Turgus — was banned by the Czar.

During the 22 years of restored Lithuanian independence in this century, March 4th was an official state holiday as well as a religious feast day with many of the century-old traditions being revived.

During World War II, the Vilnius Cathedral, which for centuries was the center for the veneration of St. Casimir was desecrated by the Soviets and converted into an art gallery. Numerous churches which contained likenesses of St. Casimir have been axed and



torched by the Soviets, who seem to realize the significance of St. Casimir to the Lithuanians. The remains of St. Casimir contained in the silver coffin and kept in the Vilnius Cathedral for three centuries, have been plundered and desecrated. That which remained was transferred to the Church of St. Peter and Paul in the outskirts of Antakalnis during 1953. St. Casimir can then also be regarded as one who is exiled from his homeland as many Lithuanians are today. Maybe that is why St. Casimir is so real a personage to us all.

Five centuries separate us from the days when St. Casimir walked this earth, yet one can never say that the ideals he espoused are old fashioned. He is an example we should all strive to follow.

[Compiled, translated and expanded upon from the Lietuvių Encyclopedija (Lithuanian language), by Eduardas V. Meilus, Jr.]

Preparations For — and the Traditional Celebration of a Lithuanian Easter

by Danutė Brazyte-Bindokienė



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.

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

Velykë 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.

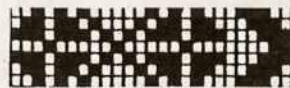
Eggs used in the rolling contest may already be cracked (for instance, already used and won in an egg-breaking contest), but their sides should be intact because eggs with cracked sides do not roll well. The trough may be straight or curved in different ways to make the eggs roll longer. The slope may 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!

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Preparing for KUČIOS in Worcester, MA



In Memoriam

a. † a.
Joanna Shigo
C-25
January 16, 1994

a. † a.
George Tatoris
C-29
January 23, 1994

a. † a.
Michael Keras
C-110
January 27, 1994

*Amžinajį Atilsį duok mirusiems, Viešpatie
ir amžinoji šviesa jiems tešviečia.
Tegu ilsis ramybėje. Amen.*

LITHUANIAN KITCHEN — LIETUVIŠKA VIRTUVĖ

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.

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

Serve in slices at the table.

IDARYTA 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
 ½ 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.

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 ¼ 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.

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.

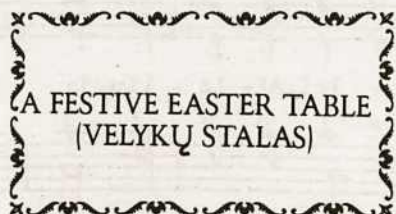
On a lightly floured surface, roll each half into a circle about ½ inch thick. Cut out about 18 rounds of dough with a round cookie cutter. Place a teaspoon of bacon mixture in center of each; fold in sides of circle, making a neat egg-shaped package.

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.



JAU KRISTUS KĖLĖS

Iškilingai

Jau Kristus kė - lės gar - bės di - dy - bėj, džiaugsmu ple - ve - na - džiaugsmu Ple -

ve - na mu - sų šir - dys. Ver - gi - jos pan - čius Jis su - nai - ki - no,
ve - na šir - dys.

var - tus į lai - me mums at - ra - ki - no. Al - le - liu - ja, al - le - liu - ja, al - le

liu - ja! Gar - bė tau Kris - tau, kurs prisi - kė - lei ir mum į dan - gų
ir munda - ir munda -

var - tus at - gaus var - tus at - kė - lei. Al - le - liu - ja, a - - le - liu - ja!
gaus var - tus - kė - lei.

Mišriam chorui

SVEIKI, SULAUKĘ ŠV. VELYKŲ
 PASVEIKINIMAS
 (Mišioms pasibaigus)

Bronius Jonušas

Nuotaikingai (♩=108)

S.
A.
T.
B.

Svei - ki, su - lau - kę šven - tų Ve - ly - kų, gar-

bin - gos Kris - taus Pri - si - kė - li - mo Šven - tės!

Pagreitinant ir kirčiuojant

Kris - tus pri - si - kė - lė. gie - do - kim a - le - liu - ja, gie -

I-mas tempos *cresc.* rit. molto (kartojant)

do - kim a - le - liu - ja, a - le - liu - ja! Ja!

f gie - do - kim a - le - liu - ja. ff *

Omaš. Adm.
10.11.73
Br. Jonušas

* (kartojimas) = ad libitum.



... 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**

Lithuanian Children's Relief : An update.....

by Sr. Helen Ivanauskas , C-1 Brockton

Lithuanian Children's Relief, Inc. (LCR), ended 1993 with a bang and already the new year 1994 promises to hold more.

LCR is happy to report that in January of 1993 a team of surgeons, nurses and pediatric anesthesiologists travelled to Lithuania and performed facial surgery on nearly 30 children. June found the core group returning to Lithuania to examine the children and complete phase two for 3 of the children, i.e. implanting a prosthetic ear. No one can fully explain in but a few words the gratitude and happiness these children express and the transformation that took place in their lives. Dr. Dunn and his team are truly "miracle workers".

October saw Dr. Audra Deveikis , a pediatrician from California, Irena Alksninis, RN from Connecticut and Nijole Balciunas, medical data person from Ohio embark on a mission. Nearly 800 institutionalized children were vaccinated from measles, mumps and Rubella. This was the first time Lithuania received mumps vaccine. A special thanks to Merck and Company for donating the vaccine.

In October LCR sent two containers to Lithuania. One through the efforts of the Catholic Medical Mission Board and Rev. Yannarrell, left New York filled with over \$ 350,000 of non-prescription cough and cold medications. The second container left from Boston and carried over 20,000 bottles of Vitamins ,donated by Copley Pharmacy, in addition to clothes, soup, milk and the like.

As in the past the containers were met by LCR representatives Reda Veitas and Birute Skabeikis. Over 8,000 children benefitted. Just maybe they were a little warmer, a little happier, and a little healthier this Christmas. None of this would have been possible without LCR's generous benefactors. We thank you --- one and all !!!!!

LCR began the new year on the right foot. On one of the coldest days, many brave souls assembled for a Charity Basketball Game- South Shore Doctors vs. South Boston Lithuanian Citizen's Club. No basketball game would be complete without cheerleaders. Ours were great. Everyone came out winners, especially the children.

Aciu labai visiems from
Lithuanian Children's Relief

VACATION IN SUNNY FLORIDA.

Room with private bath \$200 per week. Room with semi-private bath \$150.00 per week. Includes continental breakfast, heated pool, air conditioning. Near shopping malls and beach. A. Zupko, 5886 Guest Court, North Fort Myers, FL 33903. Tel. (813) 656-5886.



BELLS AND BELLRINGERS — VARPAS & THE VARPININKAI

by Vytautas Merkys

In January, 1889, the first issue of "Varpas" (The Bell) appeared. With it began a new stage in the history of the development of the Lithuanian press. "Varpas" lasted until 1905, much longer than any other periodical in Lithuania proper.

With the ceasing of the publication of the newspaper "Auszra" (1883-1886), the Lithuanian national movement lost a consolidating voice. In both portions of Lithuania, that is to say Russian and German Lithuania, as well as in the emigration, a need was felt for a nationally-oriented publication.

At that time, V. Kudirka represented a new generation of Lithuanian intellectuals. He was one of 22 members of the Lithuanian student society "Lietuva" in Warsaw, Poland. The purposes of the society were: (1) Spreading enlightenment. (2) The resuscitation and raising of the national spirit, literacy and art. (3) The improvement of the farm economy. (4) The expansion of the borders of Lithuanianism. Books and newspapers were seen as the most important means of propagating such ideas and consolidating national feelings.

On June 29, 1888, the members of the "Lietuva" Society conferred with the members of Lithuanian student organizations in Moscow in the Lithuanian town of Mariampole. This date is held as the founding date of the "Varpininkai" (Bellringers) Association. The Moscow students, however, were of no practical help and the Warsaw Lithuanian students alone found the means to publish "Varpas." The first editor of the periodical was Vincas Kudirka.

Most Lithuanian intellectuals were attracted to "Varpas." Over the years it had more than 150 contributors who generally met annually in various places in Suvalkija. The periodical ordinarily did not appear in more than 1,500 copies but was widely read.

"Varpas" was given direction by liberal, secular intellectuals. "Varpas" was tolerant in religious matters and sought to unite all Lithuanians no matter their separate religious beliefs. The periodical often teased those of strong sectarian convictions who in turn accused it of religious indifferentism and "free-thinking." It was also criticized by some of the polonizing clergy and conservatives. In time, many of the Lithuanian clergy separated themselves from the "Varpininkai" movement and began publishing their own periodicals, the Catholic "Zemaičių ir Lietuvos apžvalga" (Samogithian and Lithuanian Observer) in 1890 and the "Tevynės sargas" (Guardian of the Fatherland), in 1896, which consolidated the Lithuanian Catholic intellectual movement. In 1894, the aliena-



VINCAS
KUDIRKA

1858 • 1899

"Our ideal is a free, independent Lithuania, freed from foreign and native despots, in which ignorance is trampled underfoot, which, together with other nationalities, is interested in economic betterment and is moving forward."

continued on next page

tion of the secular and confessional intellectuals was completed by V. Kudirka's criticism of an encyclical written by Pope Leo XIII to the faithful of Poland, in which he praised Czar Alexander III, and in which the Pope glossed over the persecution of Polish Catholics and the massacre of Lithuanian Catholics by the Cossacks at Kraziai.

At the end of the 19th and beginning of the 20th century, the Lithuanian nation suffered from a dual national oppression — russification and polonization, which came from the top of society. The social structure was typified by the remains of feudalism, then being shaken by gradual industrialization. The greater number of "bajorai" or gentry, the clergy and city dwellers had become polonized. The new industrializing strata were in the process of formation in the villages. The "Varpininkai" were aware of social inequality. They believed however, that it was necessary to subordinate social and economic issues to that of the national issue.

Although "Varpas" began to publish more and more controversial articles and seemed to move to the left on social and economic questions, it was most concerned with the national question. The primary concern of each contributor was the strengthening of the national cause, the spread and use of the Lithuanian language in all spheres of life and the defense of the nation against the polonizers and russifiers. The periodical insisted on equal rights for the Lithuanian language with all other languages spoken in the country.


"Varpas" wrote much about the efforts of the tsarist administration and the measures it took against the national press, schools, the freedom of religion as well as tsarist economic exploitation. Yet "Varpas" was not chauvinistic nor jingoistic. Although it criticized foreign landlords and oppressors, it was open to the cultural values of other nations. Since there was little yet written in Lithuanian, it looked to the examples of others in the development of a national literature, particularly those of the Czechs, Hungarians, Norwegians and Armenians. It published works of other and neighboring European classical authors. It led its readers to the treasures of world literature heretofore beyond their reach in their own Lithuanian language.

Above all, "Varpas" and the "Varpininkai" agitated for sovereignty. In 1901, P. Višinskis wrote, "Our ideal is a free, independent Lithuania, freed from foreign and native despots, in which ignorance is trampled underfoot, which, together with other nationalities, is interested in economic betterment and is moving forward." These and other words written by V. Kudirka are valuable memorials from the past because they encouraged and strengthened Lithuanian culture and the winds of freedom.

*Translated, edited and condensed from **Kulturos Barai**, 1/89, (Vilnius), pp. 32-37 by Thomas A. Michalski, Ph.D.*



K of L Calendar of Events

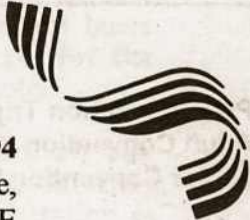


March 26, 1994
Supreme Council Meeting
Detroit, MI

May 20-22, 1994
MCD Spring Meeting,
Pittsburgh, PA, C-19 Hosts

June 4, 1994
Supreme Council Meeting
Chicago, IL

June 17-20, 1994
AMD Meeting and Pilgrimage,
Kennebunkport, ME



August 4-7, 1994
K of L 81st National Convention,
C-16 Hosts, Chicago, IL

September 11-14, 1994
C-136 Annual Pilgrimage,
Kennebunkport, ME



Knights of Lithuania
81st NATIONAL CONVENTION
AUGUST 4-7, 1994

Headquarters: CHICAGO MARRIOTT HOTEL
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

Host: COUNCIL 16



Please join us for the **Knights of Lithuania 81st National Convention** this August 4-7, 1994, at the beautiful **Chicago Marriott Hotel**, located on Chicago's famous Magnificent Mile. We look forward to welcoming you.

For **Hotel Reservations** please call the **Chicago Marriott Hotel** direct at (312) 836-0100. **Please specify Knights of Lithuania** when making your reservations to insure the convention rate of \$95.00 single or \$105.00 Double/Triple/Quad. per room. Room reservations **must be made by July 1, 1994.**

Convention Registration: Pre-Convention Trip: \$30.00 per person (must be 21 years old)
 Adult Convention: \$100.00 per person
 Junior Convention: \$ 70.00 per person

PRE-CONVENTION TRIP, Wednesday, August 3, 1994: Luncheon and Riverboat Gambling Cruise.

Leave the Chicago Marriott at 11:00 a.m., by bus, for the Hickory Pit Restaurant, one of Bridgeport's Finest, for a buffet luncheon. After lunch be taken by deluxe motor coach to Joliet, IL, where you'll board "The Empress" Riverboat Casino for a two hour river gambling cruise. After you've broke the bank you will return to the Marriott around 7:00 p.m. Included in the trip are: Round trip bus transportation, Hickory Pit Luncheon and "Empress" Riverboat entrance ticket. (Gambling is on your own.)

ADULT CONVENTION REGISTRATION: Includes all required bus transportation, Get-together Dinner/Dance, Cultural Night Concert, Convention Banquet and Farewell Breakfast. (Please see the Official News section of this issue and future issues for more Convention Information.)

JUNIOR CONVENTION REGISTRATION: Includes all of the above and Junior activities being planned.

CONVENTION REGISTRATION FORM

- Pre-Convention Trip (\$30.00 per person)
 Adult Convention Registration (\$100.00 per person)
 Junior Convention Registration (\$ 70.00 per person)

MAIL TO: Mrs. Diann Martin
3420 South Lituanica Avenue
Chicago, IL 60608

(Please Print)

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____ **COUNCIL #:** _____

ARRIVING ON: _____ **DEPARTING ON:** _____

81ST NATIONAL CONVENTION UPDATE

The 81st National Knights of Lithuania Convention will be held in Chicago, ILL from August 4-7, 1994 at the beautiful **Chicago Marriott Hotel**, located on Chicago's famous North Michigan Avenue. Council 16 will be our hosts.

Hotel Rooms are \$ 95.00 for a single or \$ 105.00 for Dbl./Trip./Quad. Please make your reservations by calling the Chicago Marriott directly at (312) 836-0100. Room reservations must be made by **July 1, 1994**.

A wonderful convention is being planned by the host committee.

The pre-convention trip, for those who arrive a day early is a **Luncheon and Riverboat Gambling Cruise**. The trip costs \$ 30.00 per person for those who would like to try their luck aboard *The Empress* riverboat. You must be 21 years old to attend.

The 81st National Convention will open with Mass at Chicago's **Holy Name Cathedral**. Located a few blocks from our hotel headquarters, the Cathedral is within walking distance from the hotel. Shuttle buses for Mass will also be available. After Mass, the First Plenary Session of the Convention will begin at the Marriott. That evening participants will board busses for Polonia Banquets for a **Get Together Dinner/Dance**.

Friday begins with Mass at the hotel followed by the Second and Third Plenary Sessions of the Convention. After the business of the day is done, all will be treated to a wonderful **Cultural Night Concert**, the plans for which are still being finalized at this writing.

Saturday begins with Mass at the hotel followed by the Fourth and Fifth Plenary Sessions of the Convention. After all Convention business is complete, we will assemble for the **Convention Banquet** in the Hotel Ballroom.

On Sunday as we begin to say *iki pasimatymo* to all our friends, we will share a **Farewell Breakfast**, at the hotel. After breakfast and hotel checkout, all will board buses for the short trip to **All Saints/St. Anthony Church, home of Council 16**, for the Closing Mass and our Official Convention Photo. All will then return to the hotel.

Adult Convention Registration is \$ 100.00 per person. This includes all bus transportation, Thursday Get-Together Dinner/Dance, Friday Cultural Concert, Saturday Convention Banquet and Sunday Farewell Breakfast. Junior Convention Registration is \$ 70.00 per person. This includes all of the above and special junior activities.

The officers and members of Council 16 and especially the 81st National Convention Committee, look forward to welcoming you to Chicago in August.

Knights of Lithuania
81st NATIONAL CONVENTION
AUGUST 4-7, 1994

Headquarters: CHICAGO MARRIOTT HOTEL
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

Host: COUNCIL 16



Dear Member,

This August 4-7, 1994, Council 16 will welcome you to Chicago when we gather for our 81st National Convention, being held at the Chicago Marriott, on lovely Michigan Avenue. As we do each year we will once again have an annual Convention Program Book. The Convention Program Book allows all of us a chance to greet our fellow K of L'ers in a lasting yearly remembrance.

If you would like to place an ad in this year's book please use the space provided below or, if you prefer, a separate piece of paper for you message and return it to the address below by Wednesday, June 1, 1994.

Prices for ads are as follows:

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$200.00 - Back Cover | <input type="checkbox"/> \$150.00 - Inside Cover (Front and Back) | <input type="checkbox"/> \$125.00 - V.I.P. Full Page |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$100.00 - Full Page | <input type="checkbox"/> \$ 60.00 - Half Page | <input type="checkbox"/> \$ 30.00 - Quarter Page |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$ 10.00 - 2 Line Greeting | <input type="checkbox"/> \$ 5.00 - 1 Line Well Wisher | |

I look forward to seeing you in Chicago this August.

Vytiskai,

Kenneth D. Rudmin
Program Book Chairman

(Ad Space)

Send to: **Knights of Lithuania Program Book**
c/o Kenneth D. Rudmin, Chairman
929 West 34th Place
Chicago, IL 60608

COUNCIL NEWS — VYČIAI VEIKIA

NEW ENGLAND DISTRICT

NED President Bertha Stoskus called a Board Meeting November 27 in Putnam, CT at the Immaculate Conception Convent. Nine councils with 28 members had representation. After a pleasant social hour and a delicious lunch, we settled down to business. The opening prayers was led by Albie Jarvis of Norwood. Irene Tamulevich reported on the Cultural Festival in Shrewsbury, Massachusetts and suggested more newspaper coverage prior to the date. She prompted discussion and exchange of ideas on how to make it "more cultural" to help Cultural Chairperson Hobitz.

This year Scott Kelly was the only \$1,000 scholarship recipient. Eva Ball, the new chairperson of the Scholarship Committee, said there was a problem with presenting it to him since he could not be reached. Perhaps it should be mailed to him.

Bertha Stoskus sent out questionnaires to recipients of scholarships dating back to 1979 for updates of their lives. Results should be interesting.

The prizes announced for next year's raffle should spark great sales of tickets.

Dates to remember:

- March 20 Bowling Roll-off
- April 10 NED Board Meeting
at Maironis Park
- April 24 NED Spring Convention
C-116 So. Worcester Hosts

We are considering the possibility of reviving an Ecumenical Day of Prayer at the Cathedral in the Pines - Rindge, NH either in May or June --if enough people are interested. This day of prayer was established by former NED President, Al Jaritis. Bill Wisnauskas checked out the available dates. This could be made a Baltic Day of Prayer by inviting the Latvians and Estonians as was done in the past. Let President Stoskus know your feelings regarding this event.

So - until we meet again -
Su Vytiška Meilė---

Aldona Marcavage

C-27 Norwood

The icy blasts of winter did not keep the hardy souls from the K of L C-27 Ham and Bean Supper in January. Head chef, Albie Jarvis, and his kitchen elves provided a hearty meal and a warm congenial atmosphere for the friends and parishioners of St. George Parish. He was ably assisted by fellow Knights : K. Perednia, Sandy Melish, John & Betty Skricki. Lenore Jarvis, George Barton, Paul Zukas,

Terry Wasil, Mary Ann Tamasanis and her fiance Ed. Good job everyone!

A flute concert of Sacred Music sponsored by the family of John Perednia also eased the winter doldrums. In February, a Mass was celebrated by Lithuanian Jesuit priest, Rev. Gudaitis. It was in honor of Lithuanian Independence. This was followed by a social in the church hall.

ŽAIBAS

C-30 Westfield

In August 1993, our National Convention delegates, Benny and Cooky Coach, returned with glowing reports of the very efficient, interesting and entertaining program prepared by Worcester Council 26 Committee and members for the conventioners. It was truly a memorable convention - our only regret was that more of our C-30 members could not be there. CONGRATULATIONS Council 26!!!! In September Helen Alexik, Jim Kules, Jim Rogers and Benny and Cooky Coach went to So. Boston for the Fall NED Convention hosted by C-17. It was a very cordial affair and well prepared. NED president, Bertha Stoskus, may have been swaying on her feet, having just returned from the Lithuania tour, happy but exhausted and conducted the meeting in her usual fine style.

Another time when we trek to S. Boston, we will make sure the drivers are equipped with compass and radar to counteract that magnetic pull that caused us to go around in circles trying to get out of Boston and into S. Boston. Aciu Dievui that it was a beautiful day weather wise. We were dismayed to hear of the resignation of the VYTIS staff. Our correspondence relation had been very efficient and cooperation, and we congratulate Mary Kober and the Council News Editor on a job well done. We offer the new staff our very best wishes for now and the future in their new venture.

Our Council's election returned into office the 1993 slate -

President - Benny Coach
Vice President - Joseph Buckities
Treasurer -- Jim Rogers
Secretary - Jim Kules
Lithuanian Affairs Chairperson - Louise Renaud

Cultural Chairperson - Helen Alexik

Ritualperson & Vytis Scribe - Kunigunda Coach

Congratulations, it made for a very smooth transition. This past fall quite a change took place in our St. Casimir's Parish. Bishop Marshall accepted the resignation of our pastor, Father Bill Hamilton. At about the same time, St. Peter's Slovak Church was left without a pastor due to the death of their beloved pastor. After meetings and deliberations, Bishop Marshall opted to "yoke" these two parishes with Father John Brennan serving both parishes as pastor. It is a monumental task for Father, and we wish him God's blessings of good health and perseverance in fulfilling his heavy assignment. Father is working with both parish councils and both parishes are striving to preserve their identities. St. Casimir's now has two weekend Masses -- Saturday at 5:30 P.M. and Sunday at 9:30 A.M. The mailing address for our church or for Father Brennan is --

St. Peter and St. Casimir Parish Communities

Rectory Office - 22 State Street

Westfield, MA 01085-3814

The NED Scholarship Festival at Maironis Park was the usual success. At least half of C-30 membership was there and we had a successful raffle for the benefit of this fund raiser. Our shut-in, Anne Sabonis, lovingly knitted the afghan that was one of the prizes won by a Worcester friend. The Good Lord called to eternal rest family members of several of our C-30 family -- Connie Martin's father, John; Joe Sabonis' brother, Joe (Maple) Gates; Peg Carbonneau's sister, Linda Atkins; Joe Buckities' brother, Bennie; and Jim Kules' sister, Millie Paske. Our prayers go out to all the families.

Nellie Lord is recovering nicely from eye surgery and says things look much brighter now. We wish you continuing improvement, Nell. Best wishes to all for a happy, HEALTHY 1994.

Cooky

C-63 Lehigh Valley, PA

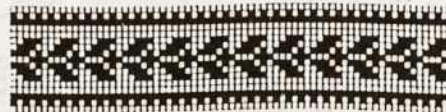
Our council's Kucios portrayal was a huge success. Chaired by Evelyn Harryn and her able crew, guests were treated with a seafood main course dinner and there was a table of the traditional Lithuanian foods. The program opened with a candle light procession and prayer. Joseph Ogint delivered a dissertation on how the Kucios was celebrated in Lithuania and explained the meaning of the traditional foods. The desserts table included a very large chocolate cherry cake donated by Betty Griskus. Guests Joseph and Lillian Russell donated all the door prizes. After the closing prayer, members of St. Michael's

Lithuanian choir, led by maestro Benjamin Aponavicius Jr., sang Lithuanian Christmas carols. English Christmas carols were added to the repertoire and a good time was had by all. Among our guests was Bill Fleming, manager of public radio station WDVR, FM 89.7 in Sergeantsville, NJ who hosted several of our council members on a 2-1/2 hour radio program back on March 20, 1993. Featured was Lithuanian music and a commentary about Lithuania's customs, language, culture and history. Bill invited our council to do so again in the near future.

President Robert Klova reported to the council that he had recently been promoting the Lithuanian identity in an address to the Allentown Lions Club. He said that he briefly outlined Lithuania's history and present world status. He also mentioned to them that, by nature, Lithuanians are a very poetic people and read to them a Lithuanian poem. It was very well received as were the sample pieces of amber he passed out as mementos. He then taught them how to say thanks in Lithuanian, "Ačiu". He said that never before had he witnessed so many Pennsylvania Dutchmen discussing Lithuania as he did then! Constant promotion of "Lithuanianism" is a major goal of the Knights of Lithuania, and this was an excellent example.

Our council again had an ethnic Christmas tree on display in the annual exhibit at the Comfort Suites Hotel in South Bethlehem, PA from November 29, 1993 thru January 7, 1994. One word describes it.....beautiful! It took quite a bit of effort and ingenuity to do it. The tree contained quite a few of the traditional straw ornaments in a mix with the contemporary which struck the fancy of hotel guest, tourists, college and university guests and many of the local populace. It even had doves with live ruta in their bills! Credit for this terrific job is given to Evelyn Harryn, Al and Jeanette Klizas, Andy and Adele Keraga, Lillian Klinowsky and Jane Lutick. This was their second successful year.

Plans were laid for celebration of the annual Lithuanian Independence Day luncheon which was scheduled for Sunday, February 13, at the Glass Slipper Restaurant in Bethlehem, PA and for Lithuanian flag raisings with the mayors in Allentown, Bethlehem and Easton, PA on Wednesday, February 16. These events have become a tradition with our council and provide an



excellent opportunity for access to the news media. We try to keep the public focus on Lithuania and recent events as much as possible.

Members on our ailing list include Sophia Pfeiffer, Trudy Meshauk, Margaret Schwartz, Sue Kovacs, Louise Stefan., Margaret Turner, Nora Barkousky, Lenke Ulba and Jeanette Klizas. They'll be remembered in our prayers.

Our Council will celebrate St. Casimir's Day on Sunday, March 6, in St. Michael's Church in Easton, PA. Arrangements have been made for the choir to sing Lithuanian hymns under the direction of Ben Aponavicius at the 10:30 A.M. Mass. A luncheon, to be prepared by Jane Lutick, Valeria Smickle and Evelyn Harryn, will be served in the church hall after the Mass.

Vytiskai, Joseph F. Ogint

C-74 Scranton

We attended a pro-life Mass at St. Peter's Cathedral celebrated by Bishop James Timlin and concelebrated by several other priest including Msg. Peter Madus, our Spiritual Advisor. After Mass, we had a rosary procession through the streets of the City of Scranton.

Some of our Knights attended a Christian Unity Service at the Asbury Methodist Church. Father Joseph Bambara was guests speaker. Despite the inclement weather, we had a good turn out of Lithuanians.

We are having our annual Mass and Communion Breakfast March 20 at 8:00 A.M. All are invited - call in reservations to Marie Laske. Sister Paraclete is having her C.C. class cater the breakfast.

Our January meeting was cancelled because of the huge snowstorm. All of our members would like to thank John Ramoska for a job well done as President. John had served for 2 years He was always there and was a hard worker. Aciu, John! All our other officers remain the same.

A hardy welcome to our newest member, Regina Yetkowski, who recently joined. Regina is a hard worker and will be an asset to our Knights.

M. Laske

C-102 Detroit, MI

Greetings from 20 degrees below zero Detroit, Michigan. The coldest temperature on record.

Our Christmas Kucios was once again held at the beautiful home of HM Bob Boris. The evening started with Mass by Fr. Stan with Samantha Stark, granddaughter of Joe and Eve Stark, as altar girl assisting Vince Boris. The petitions were read



C-25 Adelle Tanner (with Agatha Bender) and Lillian Yurkovic receiving Third Degrees.

by K of L members. Vince Boris was home for the holidays and printed individual Missalets with the whole Mass, Lithuanian hymns, and Christmas carols. Beautiful work Vince, and a nice souvenir for our last Kucios at Bob's home. HM Bob Boris informed us he sold his home and isn't sure where he'll be going. Hope it's somewhere just as nice. After Mass, with the breaking of the plotkales, the socializing began. A beautiful buffet dinner was enjoyed by all. Ona Seidelis prepared beautiful caviar hors d'oeuvres with the caviar she brought from Lithuania. Onita Seilinas prepared several tempting fish dishes, Bill Zager and the Starks brought cheese bundukies topped with bacon and butter. The Stanievich' made vinaigrette, Helen Smolik made a delicious fruit compote. Hofners' and Guerriero's, and Medonis made kugelis, Terry also made the honey milk and biscuits. The Cramblets' made a baked bean dish. Ruth Wagster brought salad and ausukies. Bob made his sauerkraut salad. The Shays' brought their famous mushroom cookies. Along with desert, the Kucens' brought Edna's baked fish. Bill and Edna were not able to attend because of Bill's illness. The dinner was topped off with Regina Juskus' Napoleon baked by her mother. Music was provided by John Stanievich and Joe Stark with singing by Mendie. This whole evening was hosted by Terry and Ray Medonis, good job! A lonesome phone call came during the evening from Donna and Frank Bunkis, who left for Florida in November. Along with our council elections in November, second degrees were bestowed on Ona Seilinas, Regina Juskus, Richard Starksys, Ona Seidelis and Lou Bogart. Congratulations! Also, we welcomed new members Carol and Michael Vichinsky. In

January, we welcomed new member, Dr. Michael Acromite, a GYN. Our new council President, Lori Hofner, did a great job, first in office, in January, right to the point and short.

December was a busy month for the Guerriero's, they worked on the Food Committee in their parish church. They helped prepare and served 800 hungry people for Thanksgiving in Detroit, prepared 100 food baskets, and sorted Christmas gifts for 5 different parishes in the inner city, a volunteering job that gives them much satisfaction.

HM Bob Boris reported on a Golf Tournament to aid Lithuania is to be June 14, 1994, at the Western Golf and Country Club in Redford, Michigan. Anyone interested can call Bob for more details and reservations.

Get well wishes are extended to Bill Klucens (and congratulations on their new home), also to C-79 member Maggie Smailis and Sophie Zager, and Helen Patocki. Get well wishes also are extended to David Peterson C-140 Syracuse for a speedy recovery from heart surgery.

Looking forward to the Mid-Central Meeting and Bowling Tournament in Pittsburgh in May. Hope we are defrosted by then.

Meriute



C-103 Providence

Our council members have been busy traveling, especially President William Piacentini who was in London and Paris on one of his school breaks, then in Moscow on a study grant in late July and August. Also because of his support for "Cable in the Classroom" program, Bill was one of six sixty teachers nationwide invited to participate in the making of an instructional video aboard the aircraft carrier USS John F. Kennedy. This video was shown at a teleconference featuring students from around the nation. Bill is a social studies teacher at Park View Jr. High School in

Cranston, RI. His most recent trip was to Greece over the Thanksgiving Holiday.

Agnes Waitonis took in all the sights on her Las Vegas vacation. Irene and Jim Quinn visited Lithuania and Ireland in July. Bertha Stoskus traveled with the K of L Pilgrimage Tour to Lithuania. The highlight for her was the Popes Mass at the Hill of Crosses. Members Betty Ciuryla and Edward Garauskas were in Las Vegas, didn't hear if they hit the jackpot?

Congratulations to members Elizabeth Tribiusis and Veronica Kiela who received their 3rd degrees at the NED convention in Providence. Also, congratulations to Victor Mathieu for receiving the 4th degree at the National Convention in Worcester.

Sad to say we laid to rest two members, Peter Kuprevich and Josephine Piacentini. Lord grant them peace!

With all the snow and freezing weather Veronica and Joe Kiela were happy to fly south to Argentina to visit her family and enjoy the summer season down there. Liudi and Regina Jagminas will be in Colorado for a medical conference and take in some skiing while there. Adding a bit of Spring to the winter scene, Bert Cunningham was involved with the RI Federation of Garden Clubs planning of the RI Flower Show at the new Convention Center in February.

As I sit and write my column with freezing temperatures and more snow than I can appreciate, I'm looking forward to Spring!

Bertha R. Stoskus

C-112 Chicago

We all agreed -- everyone had a great time at the Christmas Party that followed our monthly meeting in December. It was co-chaired by Julie Zakarka and Gerrie Chaplin. More than a hundred members, their families, and friends gathered to enjoy the festivities. Don sharko provided us with all the delicious entrees and trimmings for our buffet table. We are grateful to him for the extra special service he gave us; it added immeasurably to the evening's enjoyment. Thanks to all the ladies who baked treats for our dessert table. They must have been magical because everything vanished --- not even a crumb was left. Rita Zakarka, Karen Ramanousky, and Peter Jasaitis served the refreshments and kept everyone well-satisfied and well-supplied. A trio of young ladies from the Juniors, accompanied by Faustas Strolia and helped by Maria Deksnis, entertained us with a selection of songs. Robert Mockus played the piano and led us all in a rousing Christmas carols sing-along. Four lucky people located yellow slips on their

chairs and took home very nice door prizes. Anele and Ed Pocius manned the sign-in table and collected tickets. There are so many people to thank for contributing to the success of the evening:

Terry Vaitkus (for her famous vinaigrettes); Aldona Brazis (for the delicious Lithuanian cheese); Ellie Kasputis (for the door prizes); everyone who donated, helped set-up and take down --- we couldn't have done it without you!

Following our December board meeting, Ellie Kasputis treated us all to a wonderful buffet. Old friends dropped in later for a little socializing and Christmas good cheer. Thanks again, Ellie, for a very nice evening.

Rita Zakarka and Phyllis Pellatier spent a recent weekend in Detroit packing boxes for Aid to Lithuania. Hard work for a very worthy cause.

Sophie Nieminski, don't you ever stay home. She traveled to Oslo, Norway; Helsinki, Finland; ST. Petersburg, Russia; and then on to Lithuania where she visited with her 92 year old aunt. What's next? Welcome to new members: Andrius Nemickas, Karen Ramanousky, Ray and Emily Christian, Allyson Ippolito, Al Sasnauskas, and Val and Walter Waisnoras. We're glad to have you with us and hope you are able to make our meetings and join in our many social activities. Our hard-working financial secretary, Val Stanaitis, is busy signing up new members and collecting dues. She deserves all the help we can give her. Let's get those dues in as quickly as possible.

Gerrie

C-136 Hudson-Mohawk, NY

A brand new year and brand new hopes and prayers for health, peace, prosperity and happiness for all members of Knights of Lithuania and our friends and relatives in Lithuania.

In December our council celebrated Christmas at a local restaurant with dinner and everyone enjoying the festivities. Guests included Fr. Bernard Gustas (who is recovering from recent surgery, Donald Penta, Dr. Valentelis (visiting from Lithuania), Betty Aviza, Polly and Ed Ziausys (of C-100 Amsterdam), Rita Harve and Mary Lou Stahr. The latter two ladies joined our group on the pilgrimage to Kennebunkport and expressed an interest in our council. A good time was had by all.

Our first meeting of 1994 was very well attended, and three first-time guests chose to join our council while at the meeting. We welcomed Charles Rupsis, Robert Nevulis and Josefa Sasinowski (who is member Frank Zebuda's younger sister).

Tentative plans are in the works for the upcoming annual celebrations of Lithuanian

Independence and St. Casimir's Day. God Bless --
Dorothy Richmire

C-140 Syracuse, NY

Four of our members attended the Worcester convention and reported a very enjoyable time. It was one of the best in recent years thanks to a hard-working committee. Those attending were June Johnson, Dawn Rudd, and Frank and Irene Petrauskas.

On October 10, our member, Ann Marie Brandt, married Charles Lawton in a lovely ceremony at Sacred Heart Church. Proud parents are Jack and Catherine Brandt. The reception was held in the Knights of Columbus Hall with a number of K of L'ers in attendance and all reporting a good time. Many happy years for the newlyweds.

Frank and Irene Petrauskas attended the Amber District meeting in October in Easton, PA taking part in the session and visiting with old friends. Later they drove to the Amish country and spent a few days.

Our October meeting found Trustees John Stanley and Catherine Brandt working hard to come up with a slate of officers to be voted upon. The end result, after all of their efforts, is that they submitted the same names of the 1993 officers. So 1994 will be more of the same.

Three nice letters were read at our November meeting. They were letters of thanks and appreciation. The first was from the Sisters of St. Catherine in Panevezys for the three boxes of food and personal items which our council sent. The second was from Dr. Kazys Paltanavicius of St. Jacob's Hospital in Vilnius for the many boxes of medicine which Frank Petrauskas and Father Tom Kobuszewski have sent. The last was from five people who Frank Petrauskas sponsored at the APPLE seminar last summer in Lithuania.

In December, our council attended Mass at St. Stephen's and then participated in a nice relaxing brunch at the Ramada Inn. We ate, drank and extended good wishes to each other for the Christmas Season.

Irene Petrauskas had surgery in December. She is recovering nicely. Our Spiritual Director Father Tom Kobuszewski also had surgery in December. His recovery is slow but steady. He should be back to full speed shortly. Mary Zutant spent the Christmas holidays in the Washington, DC area with son, Dennis, and his family. Dawn Rudd reports a new grandson who had some early problems but now has recovered nicely.

A warm welcome to our newest member Julie Sliwa from Oswego. Julie--a nice young lady--is an Operator/Engineer at the Fitzpatrick Power Plant in

Oswego, New York.

It is always good to hear from one of our members from Lithuania -- Arunas Juska who is studying for his Phd Degree at Michigan State University. Arunas should receive his degree by the end of the summer.

Belated greetings to members, Bob and Mary Kay Larson, on their new son, Matthew, who was born last summer. Proud grandparents are Jack and Catherine Brandt and great grandmother is Katherine Cravetts. Belated greetings to Joe and Della Marcaitis who celebrated their golden wedding anniversary. A fine couple who are loved by all.. A belated welcome to John Tankalavage who joined our council last spring. John, a handsome young man, is a mailman who makes his appointed rounds daily come 4 feet of snow, hell or high water.

Pusbrolis

C-141 Bridgeport, CT

In spite of Winter's cold grip on New England, it is time to turn our thoughts to the approaching events on the busy K of L calendar for 1994. First, though, a brief backward glance at December and our annual celebration of Kucios. The Plotkeles and food were blessed by our Spiritual Director, Msgr. Pranckus.. A welcoming word from President Clemencine Miller, and then Armundas Zakarauskas took over and did a fine job as Master of Ceremonies. Juniors, Sarah Miller and Inga Seliga, did a Christmas reading for our pleasure. Helen Janiunas led the singing of Christmas hymns in Lithuanian and carols in English. We had as guests nine University of Bridgeport students from Lithuania, who seemed to enjoy the old traditions as much as we did.

A brief, but productive meeting in January led us first to the Lithuanian Independence Day celebration, which will be February 13 this year. Clemencine Miller has invited Loretta Stukas to be our honored guest speaker. Loretta will be a house guest of Stella and Mitch Miller, after her long trip.

A letter from Robert Boris was read, thanking us for the \$200 donation to Aid to Lithuania.

March 13 has been chosen as the date for our St. Cashmere breakfast. March 25 has already been set aside for Msgr. Pranchus' 75th "birthday bash" - the diamond jubilee. Details in the next Vytis.

Armundas Zakarauskas reported that there is still a great need for the basic requirements and comforts of Lithuania's many orphans and poor elderly. He urged all to collect warm clothing, blankets, toys, Vitamins, and food staples. Money donations

will be needed for shipping. Ilona Zakarauskas and Violeta Seliga are in charge.

NED President, Bertha Stoskus' letter regarding an Ecumenical Day of Prayer at the Cathedral-in-the-Pines, Rindge, NH, in either May or June, was read by Clemencine Miller; but negative responses were received. Members felt it was too far away for a one-day trip. Also, announced was the K of L cruise to Bermuda with Joe Thomas, May 7-14. Set aside April 24 for the NED Spring Convention in Worcester, MA, hosted by C-116.

Your opportunity to sponsor a teacher for next summer's seminar in Lithuania for only \$20.00 -- this takes complete care of one teacher's needs for the seminar. It is our opportunity to help Lithuanian children to a better education--with better informed teachers.

Time to contact our Senators and Congressmen regarding Lithuania's desire to join NATO.

Three members of our council accepted positions on the district level to serve in 1994:

Clemencine Miller - 3rd Vice President

Sylvester Marcavage - Trustee

Aldona Marcavage - Public Relations

Our meeting came to a close with Lithuanian Dainos - led by Helen Janiunas and Ilona Zakarauskas, making it a very pleasant afternoon.

When John Marcinka of our council left this world for a better one on November 9, 1993, he left a space in his circle of friends and relatives. When our council had an event, John was always among the first to lend a helping hand. Making good coffee was his specialty. Then, when we had a rash of car thefts from the church yard, John would sit in the window during the meetings and keep an eye on our vehicles. He had a good sense of humor and never an unkind word about anybody. Two of his grandchildren gave touching eulogies in church about "grandpa's" loving interaction with his family, his noticeable love of "grandma", and the little children. He will be missed by many. May he rest in peace. Our heartfelt sympathies to Lee, his wife of more than 55 years.

Aldona Marcavage

C-142 Washington, DC

Our council celebrated its annual Christmas party on December 5 at the home of President Julia Burlen. The get-together provided an opportunity for those members who had not made the pilgrimage to Lithuania last September to learn first-hand from photographs and conversations about the papal visit, the first in Lithuania's history. Those who had partaken of this one-in-a-

lifetime event were also able to confirm that, despite the countries economic hardships, proverbial Lithuanian hospitality was much in evidence.

The party's highlight was the bestowing upon John Waylonis a unique "Tower of Gediminas" award, devised by Al Cizauskas, Jr. The award was conferred in recognition of John's efforts during the past year in collecting clothing, shoes and other items for Lithuanians in their hour of need. Days before the delivery for shipment, John's home resembled a warehouse, countless pairs of shoes all over the floors and boxes wherever one looked.

But what happened to John during the course of delivery was proof of the old adage that if something can go wrong, it will. He had reserved a U-Haul-It van but the renters had not kept their end of the bargain and John's van had been rented to others with none to spare.

He was not to be deterred, however. He drove to a relative in nearby Maryland who had a van which he proceeded to borrow. On the way out, however, he had noticed the other side of the Washington Beltway paralyzed by a tie-up of several miles because of a threatened suicide. John, therefore, took a detour on the way back to his home in suburban Virginia but was unacquainted with the area, and it took him some time before he found his bearings. Meanwhile, it was getting late, and John still had to load 60 crates for delivery to Baltimore from his Virginia home. But, he made it all, just in the nick of time!

Julia Burlen also donated many items transported by John. She received an official letter from the Vilnius office of Orphans and Homeless Youths acknowledging the receipt of several cartons of clothing, toys and candy including bubble gum. These unfortunate youths are placed for adoption with families in the Vilnius area and receive no financial support from the government, thus making donated goods all the more welcome.

Another letter from the southwestern city of Vilkaviskis referred to the virtual destruction of the city's cathedral by the Communists and its ongoing reconstruction. Once the cathedral is full restored, which is expected shortly, the bishop and agencies like CARITAS will leave Mariampole, where they had been temporarily quartered, for relocation to Vilkaviskis. Future donations intended for the latter city, therefore, need no longer be routed via Mariampole.

In this interesting letter, the writer deplored the wide-spread incidence of diabetes in the area for which a glucometer would be most helpful. Such equipment, however, cost about two hundred dollars which is beyond the reach of the inhabitants. The writer subtly hinted that it might cost less in the States. She concluded by saying that it would take

too long to list all the things generally needed, but she wished to mention, in particular, shoes, boots, and blouses.

John also received letters of acknowledgment, about a dozen or so. What is notable about all the letters received by John and Julia is they are more than expressions of gratitude; they document in human terms the grim realities of life in newly-independent Lithuania of which C-142 is doing its share to alleviate.

Al Cizauskas

C-152 Eastern Long Island, NY

The highpoint of our council's winter season is our annual Christmas party, which this year took place on December 12. Despite unusually harsh weather and correspondingly difficult driving conditions, some 120 council members and friends enjoyed the ample culinary delights of the Miller Place Inn and danced to the music of Joe Thomas.

Our regular monthly meeting in January had to be called off because of the persistent cold and icy conditions which have made this winter so perilous for even local travel.

We are planning our own observance of St. Casimir's place in our cultural heritage with a Noon-day Mass to be celebrated in his honor on March 13, 1994 at the Church of Our Lady of Ostrabrama in Cutchogue, NY to be followed by a catered luncheon in the church hall.

Our readers are kindly asked to spare a prayer for our ailing Knights: Bill Newalis, Loretta Rhinow and John Kuchinskis. Also, we are grieved to note the death on January 13 of our sister Knight, Valerie Masones, as well as the passing, on January 9, of Julia DePetris Brandi, sister of our fellow Knight and Council Past President, Michael Zukas. Finally, we take saddened note of the recent death of Brother Cyprian, O.F.M., a Franciscan teaching brother, who taught in a number of area schools. Brother Cyprian is the brother of our fellow Knight and former council member, Felix Zorskis, who presently resides in Florida.

Tom Tarmey

C-153 Treasure Coast, FL

At our June 6, it was announced by Ritual Chairperson, Felix Zorskis, that the following members received their 2nd degrees. They were: Rev. V. Pikturna, Frances Daniels, Aldona Biliunas, Michael Yudiskas, Florence Morris, James Marcinkus and Florence Miskinis. A delicious covered-dish luncheon followed.

During our October meeting, President Frances Daniels gave a complete report about the 80th

K of L Convention in Worcester, MA. Frances Daniels and Florence Miskinis were delegates. It was great to see old and make new friends at the convention.

Bishop Paul Baltakis O.F.M. surprised us all with an unexpected visit and opened our November 7 meeting with a prayer. Rev. V. Pikturna received his belated 2nd degree card at the meeting. Plans were made for our Christmas party. Aldona Biliunas gave a very informative talk about her trip to Lithuania this past summer. John Tamashauskas gave us a report on his trip as a delegate to the Mid-Atlantic Convention in Amsterdam, NY. Jack and Loretta Stukas sent us a cassette tape on Lithuanian history.

The results of our November elections was as follows:

President - Frances Daniels, re-elected for a 3rd term
Vice President - James Marcinkus

Secretary - Aldona Biliunas

Treasurer - Michael Yudiskas

Culture and Historian - John Tamashauskas

Sergeant at Arms and Ritual - Felix Zorskis

Vytis Correspondent - Florence Miskinis

Trustees - Mr. & Mrs. Donald Ryan

On December 5, our Christmas part was held at the St. Paul of the Cross Kaffehaus. The festivities began with Rev. V. Pikturna blessing the Christmas wafers and Charlene Zorskis distributed them to all present. Over 50 members and guests attended. Distinguished guests were Dr. and Mrs. Kudis of Chicago. Mary is the National BALF President. We also had the pleasure of entertaining a young D.V.M. from Vilnius, Lithuania. Lou Stukas gave the oath of office to our new Board Members. As a token of appreciation, Florence Morris was presented with a lovely poinsettia plant in gratitude for her loyal 5 years as Secretary and Treasurer.

Decorations were a variety of Christmas trees for the tables and a manger scene for the piano. Favors were clothespin Christmas angels made by Florence Miskinis. The variety of goods was unbelievable. They ranged from Aldona Biliunas - Kugeli, our new member Jim Plungis - seafood casserole, Albina Wiggins and Lou Stukas - desros, and Nellie Balbotas - mushroom cookies. Of course, the punch was great! The raffle was a huge success due to all the lovely gifts and the beautiful wayside cross painting donated by Aldona Biliunas. It was won by Ann Aukstikalnis.

Chairperson was Felix Zorskis. The Committee included Frances Daniels, Jim Marcinkus, John Tamashauskas, Michael Yudiskas, Lou Stukas, Florence Miskinis and Mr. & Mrs. Walter Lubinski. Plans are being formulated for our St. Casimirs Day celebration.

FLORENCIJA MISKINIS

C-154 Spring Hill, FL

We ushered in the New Year with a resounding bang! Our nominating committee presented us with a slate of officers that we unanimously accepted. The new officers promised us a stellar year. They will be installed at our February meeting which will be at the Forum Restaurant in New Port Richey.

Our new President comes to us from Long Island, NY. He is Joseph Kuchinskas. He was an active dedicated member of the Maspeth Council. He distinguished himself as a respected auto mechanic of many years experience. His leadership will help us fulfill our goals of making ours a super council. George Nail, who has been such a great example of true Knights of Lithuanian spirit as our President for several terms, will now serve as Vice President. Our Secretary will be Helen Kuchinskas, wife of our President.

The Treasurer is to be Mrs. George Mayer.

Ritual Chairperson is Annette Grezevich of Holiday. Bridget Walluk will assume the role of Lithuanian Affairs Chairperson.

Spiritual Adviser is Helen Konewitch

Sergeant-at-Arms is John Pertains .

Trustee is Anthony Konewitch.

We were sorry to hear that Mary Kober resigned as Editor of Vytis. We wish to go on record with our honoring her with high marks for the pleasure and information she shared with us for so many years. Thanks a million, Mary (Rusas) Kober. God speed!

Our correspondent sent a card of congratulations to Jack Sharkey. He will be inducted into the International Hall of Fame for Boxers. Jack, our Lithuanian athlete of many winning years is the oldest living former heavyweight champion. Who can ever forget his championship fights of over 50 years ago? How proud we are of his accomplishments. God Bless him and may he enjoy good health.

The Ritual Committee is busy compiling a list of points to ensure that a number of Knights are deserving of degrees. The appropriate ceremony will be scheduled in the near future.

Our sincere sympathies to Anna Gribauskas on the loss of her nephew Richard Maleski of Maspeth, NY.

Please God, continue to protect us with your love.

S.G. Petraitis

To be a Knight means to be of service ...

In supporting priestly vocations

- The St. Casimir's Guild is a semi-autonomous activity dedicated to the support of the Lithuanian Pontifical College of St. Casimir in Rome. The Guild sponsors three programs: collection of donations for a general endowment fund administered by the Rector, obtaining Mass stipends for the support of Lithuanian priests studying in Rome, and coordinating a program of "adopting" seminarians from Lithuania by providing regular contributions for their non-academic needs. Checks should be made payable to: **The St. Casimir's Guild** and mailed to:

Anna Klizas Wargo 125 So. Morris Street St. Clair, PA 17970

In Humanitarian Aid

- Aid to Lithuania, Inc. is a semi-autonomous organization under the aegis of the Knights of Lithuania, that provides medical supplies, equipment and medicines to Lithuania during this crucial transition period from a Soviet-occupied and suppressed nation to a free and self-sufficient democracy. At least one 40-foot container of donated materials is shipped each calendar quarter. Administrative costs are covered by the K of L so that 100% of donated monies are applied to humanitarian aid. Checks should be made payable to **Aid to Lithuania, Inc.** and mailed to:

Aid to Lithuania, Inc. 4970 Brookdale Drive Bloomfield Hills, MI 48304

In Education

- K of L Scholarship Awards are presented each year to deserving members who are pursuing studies at the college level. The Scholarship Fund is totally dependent upon donations and bequests from members payable to the **Knights of Lithuania - Scholarship Fund**. Point of contact is:

Florence Zaleskas 264 Bowen Street So. Boston, MA 02127

In Cultural Advancement

- The K of L Foundation is an endowment fund which supports and funds projects to further the cultural, religious or humanitarian objectives of the Knights of Lithuania. Donations are tax deductible. Checks should be payable to the **Knights of Lithuania Foundation** and sent to:

Loretta Stukas 234 Sunlit Drive Watchung, NJ 07060

In Upkeep of the National Shrine

- The development of an endowment fund to support the upkeep of the Chapel of Our Lady of Siluva at the Basilica Shrine of the Immaculate Conception located in Washington, D.C. was adopted at the 75th Knights of Lithuania Anniversary Convention. Donations are tax deductible. Checks should be payable to the **Basilica Shrine of the Immaculate Conception** and mailed to:

Julia Burlen 2403 Belair Drive Bowie, MD 20715

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THE KNIGHTS OF LITHUANIA SUPREME COUNCIL
 INVITES YOU TO
VISIT LITHUANIA
 SPEND 13 DAYS IN LITHUANIA AND EXPERIENCE THE
1994 SONG FESTIVAL
 JUNE 29TH - JULY 13TH 1994



Two itineraries have been arranged for your pleasure:

GROUP A will include day trips for "first time visitors" to Lithuania. This group will have guided tours while in Vilnius, Kaunas, Palanga plus trips to Trakai, Kernave, Rumsiskes, Pazaislis and other major tourist attractions in Lithuania already visited by the people in Group B.

GROUP B will have more time to leisurely explore the old towns of Vilnius and Kaunas, enjoy the beach at Palanga, shop or visit relatives etc..

GROUP A & GROUP B will Cruise down the beautiful Nemunas from Kaunas to Nida by HYDRAFOIL • Explore the Courland Split • Visit Witches' Mountain • A "Fourth of July Picnic" in Palanga • Visit the Hill of Crosses and see the K of L Memorial Cross erected in 1993 • Lunch at the famous Seduva Mill • Stroll through Old Town Vilnius and listen to the numerous Folk Ensembles performing in the street • An evening performance of folk groups at Kalnu Parkas • Orchestra performances throughout Vilnius for several days • A Folk Dance Concert at Zalgiris Stadium • A Grand Parade to Vingio Parkas for the Major Song Festival Performance • A day trip through beautiful Dzūkija to Druskininkai via the Ciurlionis Road.

TOTAL COST \$ 2,175.00

Tour includes: Round trip (coach) air fare via Lufthansa from Chicago, JFK, Newark, Boston or Washington.
 Hotels (double occupancy) - 6 nights in Vilnius, 3 nights in Kaunas, 3 nights in Palanga, plus one night layover in Frankfurt, Germany;
 Three meals daily in Lithuania;
 All transfers and sightseeing in modern comfortable buses, services of G.T. personnel and English speaking guides, tickets to all performances of the Song Festival. Gratuities for G.T. staff (guides, drivers, porters, security personnel) Baggage handling and transfers.

Due to the very large number of anticipated visitors from overseas, hotel space will be very limited. Because of the expected size of OUR tour, we may be assigned to several different hotels, so please register, as soon as possible. **REGISTRATION & DEPOSIT - DEADLINE FEBRUARY 15th, 1994.** The K of L tour will be limited to the first 100 persons to register, so act now and avoid disappointment.

Please note! Sightseeing in Lithuania is strenuous - you should be in good physical condition to fully enjoy this trip. Hotels do not always have hot water or elevators.

For a detailed tour information and registration packet please contact:

K of L Tour Coordinator:

ROBERT S. BORIS • 4970 Brookdale Dr. • Bloomfield Hills, MI 48304 • Phone (313) 642-4970

Travel Agent:

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