

Moterų Dirva

SPECIAL
CONVENTION
ISSUE!

SEPTEMBER
1991
(RUGSĖJIS)

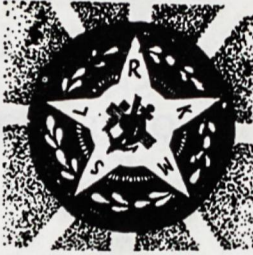
WOMEN'S FIELD

Published by Lithuanian-American R. C. Women's Alliance



DŽIUGU SEIMAUTI KARTU!

HAPPINESS IS—being together!



**MOTERŲ DIRVA (Women's Field) (USPS-364-100) official
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dedicated to Our Lady of Perpetual Help.
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Our 77th year

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Reflection:

A national Catholic daily in the works?

For the past several months I have been talking up an idea that has lay dormant in the back of my mind for many years—starting a national Catholic daily newspaper. Since it's gotten a good deal of media attention, I thought I might share some of my thinking on the topic with "my girls."

The first and most obvious question is: Why a national Catholic daily? 1) To present the news of the day, evaluated in the light of Gospel values and Catholic doctrine. 2) To unite Catholics in the United States by offering an intellectual grounding for Catholic positions, especially on matters of public policy. 3) To offer an articulate voice to American society-at-large, capitalizing on "the Catholic moment," to reflect on world and national events from the standpoints of Catholic theology, philosophy and political theory.

This paper would be unabashedly Catholic (but not more Catholic than the Pope!) and thoroughly American. In some sense, it would be modeled on **The Christian Science Monitor** and the Catholic dailies of other countries (like France and Italy). Such a paper would be a sign that the Catholic community of the United States has come of age and has begun to take seriously the challenges presented by *Gaudium et Spes*, *Apostolicam Actuositatem* and *Inter Mirifica* of Vatican II.

In addition to my own efforts, I have available to the project a prominent and competent lay journalist who is most interested in an active role in the task, should we get off the ground



Fr. Stravinskis

floor. What's holding up progress? As you might have guessed—finances. Therefore, let me ask you to do two things: First, pray for a wealthy, committed Catholic to step forward as the initial backer of the endeavor. Second, keep your ears open for potential benefactors, and be ready to share with such individuals news of all this.

So often we Catholics complain that we get the short end of the stick from the secular media, ranging from unfair coverage to complete black-out of our concerns. Maybe the time has come for us to provide an alternative. I submit that for your **reflection**.

Rev. Peter M. J. Stravinskis

Lithuanian Celebrations

FUNERALS

If you lived near a Lithuanian church as a child, you will remember hearing a church bell toll slowly and seeing your mother cross herself and say, "amžina atilsj." Then, all would wait for the answer to "who died?" Where did this custom come from? Read on . . .

„When death visited a Lithuanian village, the tolling of the parish church bell announced the news to neighbors near and far. People used to say that the bell accompanied the soul of the deceased to heaven and, without its tolling, he would wander a long time before finally finding the way to his place of eternal rest. But this belief became popular only in recent times. In the past, the country folk believed that the soul remained near the corpse until it was carried from the home and lowered into the grave at the cemetery. The soul sees the wake the living have prepared, hears their prayers, lamentations and hymns. Sometimes it shares food with the mourners (food was served in the room where the body was laid out), tasting favorite dishes from their plates or sipping a drink from their glasses. Of course, the living do not see the soul. The tolling of bells, singing of hymns and loud laments at the corpse were intended to dispel the evil spirits that sneak about trying to kidnap his soul.

“When a person died, his corpse was washed, dressed, shod and laid out. The clothing had to be clean and neat (not necessarily new), his socks pinned and not bunched up. After death, a person wears the clothes in which he is buried. Wearing these same garments, the soul returns to visit loved ones on All Souls’ Day and Christmas Eve. He will wear this same garb on the day of

Final Judgement. How disgraced would the family be if their loved one came rumped, disheveled or barefooted!

“At a time when no one had even heard of funeral directors or funeral homes, the deceased was laid out at home in the largest room so as to accommodate the assembled neighbors and leave enough room for the refreshment table. Vigil was kept at the corpse for three days (in the past even longer). This period, or wake, was called variously depending on the region: *budy-nė* in Samogitia, *apsėdai* or *pagrabas* in the Eastern Highlands, *šermenys* in Užnemunė (the Western Highlands or Sūduva).

“At a wake, the people sing hymns, pray, say or chant the rosary and the Litany of All Saints. It was customary to sing sad (sometimes even terrifying) hymns about death, the fate of sinners and punishment for sin. A specific farewell ceremony for the deceased was not held. The fact itself that neighbors, family, relatives by blood and marriage, had assembled for the wake was considered a tribute and farewell to the deceased. The old lamentations may be said to be most similar to today’s farewell speeches at the coffin. The laments enumerated the dead person’s good and noble deeds, the most important events of his life, they bemoaned the fact that he had left his family, friends, relatives, etc.

“The custom of lamenting the dead

is very old. The lamentations are sung by the family or even by hired mourners. The mourners' role is known in other Indo-European nations where they filled special containers with their tears. These containers were buried with the deceased so that in the next life he could boast and brag how much his family mourned him. Laments were also sung on the anniversary of the death at the cemetery or at a dinner.

"Many songs of lamentation have been handed down from ancient times for family members: father, mother, children, brothers, sisters. However, there exist laments in which the wife of a bad drunken husband mourns his death, listing the events of his life without forgetting what she found most difficult: his drinking, his harsh words, and all the hardship she endured while living with the man.

"When the body was carried from the home (now from the funeral parlor), it was first accompanied to the church. The entire village assembled for the funeral for it was considered a community matter, a final tribute for one of their neighbors. The very word „accompany" tells us that the deceased was driven or carried with a large retinue. An earmark of funeral processions was the singing of hymns.

"Following the funeral Mass, the coffin was taken to the cemetery. After it was lowered into the grave, those attending dropped three pinches or three handfuls of dirt on the casket. According to ancient belief, this was done so the living would not need to fear the soul, and in more recent times (as the Church explained it) to remind the living of death.

"Relatives, neighbors and others attending the funeral were invited to the burial dinner. In some Lithuanian places this was a potluck dinner...

usually held in the home of the deceased. Today it is usually prepared in a restaurant, consequently the family needs not worry about preparing the food.

"In the old days at the burial dinner, a chair was placed at the table for the deceased and a place was set (as for the Christmas Eve dinner). This helped the living remember why they were assembled. The soul was believed to participate at the meal and only later leave for its appointed place. This beautiful custom can be adopted outside Lithuania. When we leave an empty place in memory of a departed one, we can position a small lighted candle or a photograph on the plate. This would help to maintain a thoughtful atmosphere after the funeral because the burial dinner sometimes turns into a joyous affair. If the family is reluctant to leave a place at the table shared by the living, it can prepare a small table holding a candle and the deceased's photograph decorated with flowers.

"It is also recommended that the old custom of singing hymns and reciting prayers at the casket be incorporated into modern funeral rituals. In Lithuania, hymns were sung and prayers said almost without interruption. The hymns and prayers afforded comfort to the family in their hour of sorrow and forestalled any unnecessary conversation which tends to begin in a large assembly of people, especially those who have not seen one another for a long time. Wakes are not places for idle conversation and people do not attend them to share the latest news. If the singing of hymns at the funeral home cannot be arranged, music (even tapes, or an organ which is available at nearly every chapel) should be provided. But it is best to ask an acquaintance to lead the singing (this person may even be

hired. The parish organist would be most suitable). The hymns should be printed, duplicated and distributed to those attending the wake. Lithuanians love to sing songs as well as hymns and will gladly add their voices if someone starts. A person must also be found to lead the prayers at the casket. It is unnecessary to await the arrival of the parish priest to say prayers in unison with those in attendance. Prayers and hymns should resound at the casket of a Christian for that is what constitutes a Christian funeral."

* * *

"Lithuanians always remembered their departed ones not only on Church feasts (All Souls' Day), but at certain times set by tradition. It was customary to hold a commemoration ten days after

the death. Only family and relatives assembled in church at this time to pray together and attend Holy Mass. A larger commemoration was held after four weeks, once called *keturnedėlis* (although the word "*nedėlia*" is of Slavic origin). On this occasion, Holy Mass was followed by a repast for a larger group of persons. An even larger commemoration took place on the first anniversary with church services and a dinner. On this anniversary, a headstone was often erected and blessed. In Lithuania, a headstone or cross was erected soon after the funeral because an unmarked grave—without a cross—was the sign of disrespect for the deceased."

From: *Lithuanian Customs
and Traditions*
Danutė Brazytė-Bindokienė

FREE AT LAST!

At Kennebunkport, Maine during his press conference on Sept. 3, 1991, President Bush **finally** announced that the United States will establish diplomatic relations with Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia.



And, on Friday, September 6, 1991, the Kremlin's new leadership granted independence to the Baltic States, ending more than 50 years of Soviet rule.

The day-old State Council, executive body composed of President Mikhail Gorbachev, Russian President Boris Yeltsin and leaders of the other Soviet republics, recognized the Baltics at its first meeting.

HALLELUJAH!

VALIO!

HOME COOKING

by Vicky Leone

PLAN NOW FOR THE BEST HOLIDAY EVER

Thanksgiving and Christmas are two holidays when we indulge our food fancies and cast discretion regarding calories to the wind. The following is a representative selection of holiday goodies from which to choose:

HEARTY HOT APPETIZERS

Magic Mushrooms

36 medium size fresh mushrooms
1 clove garlic, minced
½ lb. margarine, divided
1 cup chicken bouillon
1 large onion, finely chopped
1 tps. grated Parmesan cheese
½ pkg. commercial stuffing mix
Salt and pepper, to taste

Clean mushrooms well. Remove the stems and chop into small pieces. Saute stems with onion, garlic and cheese in ¼ lb. of the butter until stems are tender. Add remaining ingredients and heat through. Stuff mushroom caps with the mixture. Melt remaining ¼ lb. margarine in a shallow pan and place mushrooms in it. Bake at 350 degrees for 10 minutes. If mushrooms are not to be eaten immediately, cool and wrap in freezer paper. Freeze. To serve, cover and bake unfrozen mushrooms at 350 degrees for 15 minutes. Remove foil and broil an additional 3 to 5 minutes.

Ham Pasties

Refrigerator Crescent Rolls
Chopped onion
Ground Ham
Prepared Mustard

Roll out crescent rolls in squares. Fill with ground ham mixed with a little chopped onion and a little prepared mustard. Bake at 350 degrees for 10 minutes or until golden brown.

DELUXE COOKIE ASSORTMENT

Walnut Clusters

2 cups walnuts, halves or lge. pcs.
¼ cup soft margarine
½ cup sugar
1 egg unbeaten
1½ tsp. vanilla
1½ squares unsweetened chocolate, melted
½ cup sifted flour
¼ tsp. baking powder
½ tsp. salt

Heat oven to 350 degrees. Put walnut halves or large pieces in a paper or plastic bag and crush slightly with rolling pin to break them up coarsely. Stir together butter, sugar, egg and vanilla. Beat with spoon just until smooth. Stir in melted chocolate, then flour sifted with baking powder and salt. Stir in walnut pieces. Drop by teaspoonfuls on greased baking sheet. Bake for 10 min. not longer. They should be still soft when taken from oven. Cool on rack. Makes about 30 unusual candy-like cookies.

Delectabites

½ cup butter
2 Tbl. sugar
1 tsp. vanilla
1 cup sifted flour
1 cup finely chopped walnuts
Powdered sugar

Mix well butter, sugar and vanilla. Gradually stir in sifted flour and chopped walnuts. Chill. Shape into marble-size balls. Bake on ungreased cookie sheet at 350 degrees for 15 to 17 minutes until firm but not brown. Roll gently in powdered sugar. Cool and roll in sugar again. Makes about 50.

Poinsettia Stars

½ cup margarine
 ½ cup sugar
 1 egg
 ¾ cup dark corn syrup
 1½ tspns. grated lemon rind
 1 tspn. lemon extract
 3 cups unsifted flour
 1 tspn. baking soda
 1 tspn. salt
 30 halved unbleached almonds

In large bowl with mixer at medium speed, beat margarine and sugar until well blended. Add egg, corn syrup, lemon rind and extract. Stir together flour, baking soda and salt. Add to margarine mixture, beat just until all ingredients are moistened. Cover and chill in refrigerator 1 hour. Roll out dough on lightly floured surface to 1/8 inch thickness. With a cookie cutter cut 3 inch stars. Place on greased cookie sheets. Position one star on top of another so that points are staggered. Cut a ½ inch circle from the center of the cookies. Decorate tops with almond halves. Bake at 350 degrees 10 to 12 minutes or until lightly brown. Makes about 2½ doz. cookies.

Patchwork Cookies

1 cup (2 sticks butter)
 1 cup firmly packed brown sugar
 1 egg
 1 tspn. vanilla extract
 2 cups all-purpose flour
 1 pkg. semi-sweet chocolate pieces

Cream butter, gradually add sugar, beating well until blended. Beat in egg and vanilla. Gradually blend in flour. Spread evenly in well-buttered 15x10½x1 inch jelly roll pan. Bake at 350 degrees 15 to 18 minutes until lightly browned. Remove from oven, quickly sprinkle chocolate pieces over baked cookie base. Mark off into large squares and top each square with one of the following: chopped nuts, crushed peppermint candy, shredded coconut, green gumdrop cut-outs, silver dragees, assorted sugar crystals and red cinnamon candies. Chill just until frosting is set. Cut into 1½ inch squares. Arrange

cookies onto a serving tray in patchwork quilt style. Makes 70 cookies.

DANDY CANDIES

Won't Fail Fudge

Just 5 minutes cooking makes this creamy fudge.
 1 small can evaporated milk
 1-½ cup sugar
 16 marshmallows
 ¼ tspn. salt
 ¼ cup butter
 1½ cups semi-sweet chocolate pieces
 1 tspn. vanilla
 1 cup coarsely chopped walnuts

Mix first 5 ingredients in saucepan. Stirring constantly, heat to boiling and boil 5 minutes. Remove from heat. Add chocolate and stir until melted. Stir in vanilla and walnuts. Spread in buttered 8" pan. Cool until firm. Makes about 2 lbs.

Rum Balls

3 cups vanilla wafer crumbs
 1 cup powdered sugar
 1½ Tbs. cocoa
 1½ cups finely chopped walnuts
 3 Tbs. corn syrup
 ½ cup rum (or bourbon)

Mix all ingredients together. Shape into 1 inch balls and roll in powdered sugar. Good to eat right away or later. Store in tight containers. Makes about 40. (Note: It takes two 7 oz. pkgs. of vanilla wafers to make 3 cups of crumbs.)

Tiny Tim Apples

1 cup pitted dates
 1 cup seedless raisins
 8 oz. dried figs
 1 cup walnuts
 1 tsp. grated orange rind
 1 Tbs. orange juice

Put fruits, walnuts and grated orange rind through food chopper, using coarse blade. Add juice and knead until well blended. Shape into "apples" about 1 inch thick. Roll in powdered sugar. Insert whole cloves for stems and citron pieces for leaves.

IN MEMORIAM

REMEMBERING A VERY EFFECTIVE, ENERGETIC HONORARY MEMBER



Marie Kase-Kasevičius

Marija Marcinkevičiūtė was born in Riga, Latvia and attended grade school there. She later moved to Kupiškis, Lithuania, where she attended what we would term junior high school.

She arrived in Detroit, MI, as a teenager to live with her mother's relatives and attended Cass Commerce High School. In 1932, she returned to Europe for a three months visit with her parents and relatives in Lithuania and Latvia.

In 1933 she was wed to George Kasevičius-Kase, a native of Detroit, and the union produced three sons, Richard, Michael and Roland.

Marie joined Chapter 54 in 1936 and never ceased to be an active interested member. She served as an officer in her chapter over ten different times and as Michigan state director for 4 years. She was a delegate to many conventions, willing to serve on any of its committees, as well as secretary or president. Marie was a member of the Scholarship Fund committee and the 50th anniversary jubilee book committee. She also

served two terms as national president.

Organizational work appealed to Marie and she became actively involved in the work of BALFas, instituted after World War II to aid Lithuanian refugees. She and her husband signed affidavits to assist 40 refugee families. As they arrived in Detroit, she spent countless hours in the railroad station to greet them personally, then assist them in finding lodgings and employment. Through her efforts, at least 100 displaced Lithuanians found employment.

Marie was also on the board of Camp Dainava and active in the Detroit Lithuanian Organizations Center.

She was also involved in the formation of the chapter chorus, which was successfully active for many years.

Marie was accorded honorary membership in our Alliance at the 31st biennial convention, held in Detroit in 1965.

She had been in failing health for the last year or so, and succumbed on July 9th.

Our deepest sympathy to George, her life's companion of 58 years, who chauffeured Marie to many of the conventions and enjoyed the company of other delegates. Also to her three sons and their families, relatives and friends and to the members of Ch. 54.

Rest in peace, Marie. *Amžina atils!*



In brief

Heartiest Congratulations!



Elizabeth Uzdavinis-Carlson, a member of Chapter 54 (Southfield, MI), earned her Doctorate degree from the U. of Michigan this spring. Her mother, **Ann Uzdavinis** (also a member of Ch. 54) is very proud of Elizabeth, who after 10 years of teaching at Plymouth Canton High School, decided to go back to school for a higher degree in education. Her thesis was entitled: "Teaching with Technology: It's just a tool."

An Exceptional Young Lady

Helen (Tucker) Santorum, member of Ch. 54, Southfield, MI, is another very proud mother. Her wheel-chair bound daughter, **Colleen Scullin**, who resides in Port St. Lucie, FL, is paralyzed from the waist down as a result of polio, afflicted as a child.

Last year, she started a campaign for a small holiday parade because her

Brownie troop wanted to march in a parade for their project.

On Saturday, Dec. 16, 1990, the **inaugural Christmas parade** of Port St. Lucie stepped off in high fashion, as 160 entries and as many as 3,000 participants marched down the main street.

It was a dream come true for Colleen and her 9-member Brownie troop. She had enlisted the aid of the ELKS Lodge, organizers of the city's successful 4th of July parade. When the local newspaper became aware of the project, the local float-makers went to work. Bands, businesses, community leaders and 30 floats streamed down the nearly mile-long route. As was only fitting, the largest contingent was the Girl Scouts with approximately 50 troops, all dressed in Christmas array.

The ELKS parade chairman said of Colleen: "She and her Brownies made it all happen, and we'll go bigger next year."

Unusual Fashions

Last June 23, the members of Chapter 5 (Worcester, MA) presented a most unusual "Fashion Show from Lithuania", designed by **Laima Kygaitė**, currently visiting the United States.

Her designs are very unusual, individually styled. Dominant color is violet, highlighted with bright ornamentations, which include leaves, flowers and Lithuanian designs. The fashion show was very well received.

Models included Chapter 5 members **T. Adomavičius**, **Bernadeta Harris** and **Mrs. I. Markevičius**; pianist **A. Walinsky** provided appropriate background music. **Mrs. O. Kildišius**, **Miss A. Jakniūnas** and **Mrs. J. Miliauskas** served as hostesses at the refreshment table. Chapter president, **Mrs. J. Spirauskas**, initiated the event.

Museum Is Expanding

Work is well under way for a branch of the **Balzekas Museum of Lithuanian Culture** in Lithuania. The Museum, which is currently celebrating its 25th anniversary, is conducting a fundraiser to help establish this branch in the 17th century Radvilas Palace in Vilnius.

Needs Cheering Up!

Honorary national president, **Julia Mack**, has been hospitalized for several months. There is no doubt that hearing from her "sister-sajungietės" would cheer her immensely. For quick and easy reference her address is 8 Hartford Rd., Worcester. MA 01606.

Special Thanks

...to **Emilie Prose**, retiring national president for stepping in to complete the term of office when a resignation occurred, despite serious health problems. It was a job well done!

Would You Like To Visit Lithuania?

We are hoping to promote a *Moterų sajungos* tour to Lithuania next summer. Are you interested in visiting the land of your roots? We will begin contacting several travel agencies for a specialized tour. It would help to know that there is **interest** out there in such an undertaking. Please let me know. There is no obligation of any kind.

This tour will **not** be restricted to members only.

Dale Murray



The Connecticut delegation: **Kay Urban**, Ch. 17; **Mary Geipel** and **Magdalin Cronin**, Ch. 33; **Alyce Gegesky**, Ch. 17. Kay was elected to the Board as II vice-pres.

NEWS FROM THE HOME OFFICE

Correction

In the March, 1991, issue of *Moterų Dirva*, the Home Office reported a donation of \$3.00 from Adele Kaspariūnas of Chapter 76 (St. Petersburg, FL). This amount is incorrect.

Mrs. Kaspariūnas made a donation of \$10.00 to the *Moterų Dirva*. Our sincerest apologies for the mistake.

Thank you, Adele, for your generous donation.

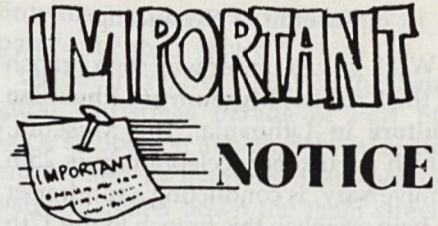
Donation

Many thanks to Chapter 8 (Baltimore, MD) for the donation to *Moterų Dirva* in the amount of \$20.00.

Rosaries Needed

We are repeating our request for old rosaries, broken or intact for **Rev. John Savukynas, MIC, 810 N. Center Avenue, Plano, IL 60545**. The mended-rejuvenated rosaries will be sent to Lithuania where they are **urgently** needed. Form a committee in your chapter to promote this worthwhile project. Involve your parish by providing receptacles where the rosaries can be deposited. This is **Catholic action** at its finest.

Roma Kuprys, secr.



Beginning **OCTOBER 1** all dues, and matters relating thereto, should be addressed to the new secretary as follows:

Mrs. Sabina Henson
45 Windsor Drive
Oak Brook, IL 60521
(708) 573-0066

* * *

In all other matters, contact your new national president:

Mrs. Dale Murray
3005 N. 124th St.
Brookfield, WI 53005
(414) 786-7359

* * *

ATTENTION CHAPTER PRESIDENTS!!!

It is very important that I have your name, address and phone number on file for direct contact when necessary. Please have this information to me **no later than 30 days**. Ačiū!

Dale

* * *

Congratulations to **Roma Kuprys**, retiring national secretary, on whom convention delegates bestowed **honorary membership**.

Roma will direct a new endeavor of our Alliance — Chairman of Special Projects. Best of luck!

SUPPORT OUR ALLIANCE'S SPECIAL FUND
Memorials accepted

Convention Highlights

WHAT A WEEK IT WAS !!

Not one of us could have imagined what world-shaking developments would be taking place during the week of our 44th biennial convention. Yet, there it was, on radio and TV the morning of August 19th—Gorbachev held captive in the Crimea where he was vacationing, being pressured to resign. In Moscow, Yeltsin stood atop a tank and rallied the masses gathered around the Parliament building to resist the coup. We wondered as we watched events unfold: after 74 years, could this **really** be the beginning of the end for Soviet communism? Would this poorly planned coup spring loose the Baltics once and for all?

With these questions unanswered, delegates began gathering at the Oak Lawn Holiday Inn, traveling from Connecticut, Massachusetts, Michigan, Illinois and Wisconsin.

On Thursday, August 22, the convention opened with a Mass at Nativity BVM church in the heart of Chicago's largest Lithuanian community, Marquette Park. Co-celebrants were Father John Kuzinskas, pastor, and Father Anthony Miciunas, MIC, who served as national spiritual director from 1975 to 1987. After Mass, the convention photo was taken and all present proceeded to the parish hall for the a continental breakfast and the opening session. National president, Emilie Prose, greeted all, extending a warm welcome from the Board. Vida Sakevičius, chairlady of the convention committee, welcomed all to her own parish, thanked the pastor for all his courtesies, the committee, and all who helped in any way.

Father Miciunas, now serving as assistant pastor at St. Mary's church in Plano, IL, recalled many happy memories working with Sajunga, particularly during his years as pastor in Worcester, MA. He brought greetings from past president Julia Mack, who is seriously ill and has been for several months. A card of get-



Speakers at the opening sessions included (from left) Mary Rudis, Rev. John Kuzinskas and Rev. A. Miciunas.

well wishes was signed and sent to Julia. Another card was signed and sent to George Kase, whose wife, hon. member Marie Kase, died in July.

Mary Rudis, president of BALF, chosen by the membership as Outstanding Lithuanian Woman in 1981, noted in her greeting that Sajunga has endured because "of you, the dedicated members, up-holding your Catholicity and love of Lithuania." She concluded, "Let us not forget the Lithuanian language, but speak it whenever and wherever we can."

Father Kuzinkas noted that our convention was beginning on a very special day, the Queenship of Mary, and what an important role she played for mankind. The role of woman has changed dramatically over the years. He mentioned his own mother and how much she wanted to go to school, but that was only afforded the males. She arrived in the U.S. at age 20, married, and became a homemaker, whose example and piety fostered his own vocation. A mother has always been the heart of her family, teaching her children during times of repression and danger. The Women's Alliance also played an important role by bringing women together and helping them financially.

Father remarked on his recent visit to Lithuania with Cardinal Bernardin and found it spiritually uplifting.

He congratulated the Alliance for all it has done through education, spiritually and culturally, and wished Mary's blessings on all its future endeavors.

After an honest-to-goodness Lithuanian lunch, which included bacon buns, sausage, sauerkraut, kugelis and a variety of desserts, reports from our representatives to various other organizations and chapters continued. The session adjourned so that delegates and guests could visit the Lithuanian Museum at the Sisters of St. Casimir motherhouse just a few blocks away.



Sister M. Perpetua, caretaker of the Lithuanian Museum and library at the Motherhouse of the Sisters of St. Casimir.

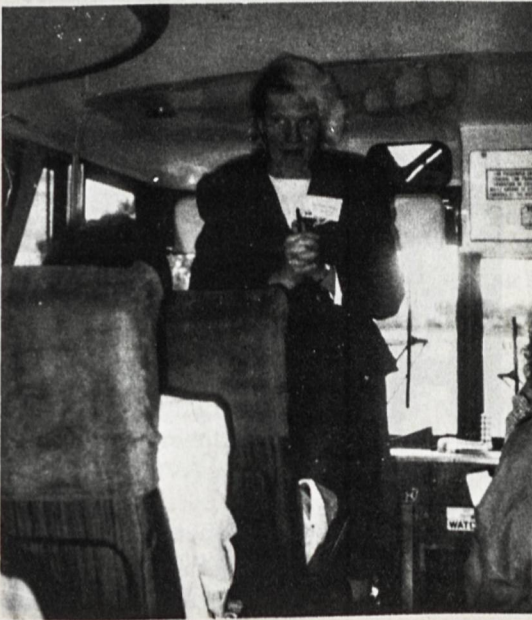
Friday's Special Events

As delegates gathered for the first session, each was pinned with a black ribbon as this day, Lithuanians would be gathering in Daley Plaza downtown, to hold a vigil and pray for the safety of those enduring, once again, the uncertainties brought on by the attempted coup in Moscow and how it would affect their fight for independence. At the time of the vigil, delegates joined in a circle, lights were dimmed, and all softly sang, "Marija, Marija". It was a touching moment.

It was announced that national secretary, Roma Kuprys, would be elevated to honorary membership. Also, the following chapters would be rewarded for their efforts in recruiting new members: 1) Ch. 76 St. Petersburg, FL—\$25; 2) Ch. 68 Kearny, NJ—\$15; 3) a tie between Ch. 3 Chicago and Ch. 20 Chicago—\$10 each.

Tour of Chicago

With the sessions completed for the day, delegates were joined by many local members for the bus tour of Chicago, Sabina Henson and her merry helpers provided everyone with a sack lunch, a refreshing drink and a souvenir copy of CHICAGO, with pictures and descriptions of all the places they would be seeing. It was a great deal of fun as we wove our way through the heart of the Windy City: State Street; Rush Street; Wacker Drive; Lake Shore Drive; the Merchandise Mart; the Wrigley Bldg., and then—all out at the Hancock Building, for a view of the city at night—95 stories up! What a magnificent sight it was in every direction! And, as we headed for home, a drive past the Water Tower, only survivor of the great Chicago fire and, last of all, the beautiful Buckingham Fountain, enhanced by colored lights. It was a lovely evening thanks to Sabina, our effervescent tour guide, who had, obviously, spent a great deal of time in preparing this special event.



Sabina Henson, announces what is in store for all the passengers as they leave for downtown Chicago.

Closing Session

President Emilie Prose announced the members' choice for Outstanding Lithuanian Woman—Anastazija Tamošaitienė of Kingston, Ont., Canada, author, lecturer, teacher. She was well-known for her design and weaving of material for Lithuanian costumes, 20 exhibitions of her works were held in Canada. Many of her works are on display in museums in Ottawa, Edmonton, the Vatican, Čiurlionis gallery in Chicago and several galleries in Canadian universities. (We were saddened to learn that Tamošaitienė, who had been in ill health of late, passed away on August 29. She had been informed by wire of the award and that plans for presentation would follow.)

The slate of officers for 1991–1993 was presented and accepted. Our Connecticut delegates will be looking into the possibility of having the next convention in their area.

Banquet

The successful convention was culminated in a banquet and program at Nativity parish hall. Janina Mikutaitienė of Chapter 20 was a most proficient mistress of ceremonies. A selection of Lithuanian songs was presented by a very lovely Linda Burba and her guitar. Dale Murray acquainted all with the more important accomplishments of our Alliance in recent years. Award winners were announced and 50 year and over members present this evening were honored, namely: Ann Paurazas, Josephine Kilkus, Peggy Zakaras, Anastasia Snarskis, all of Chicago, and Bertha Janus of Chapter 54, Southfield, MI.

On Sunday morning the delegates attended the Lithuanian Mass at Nativity church and were inspired by the lovely singing. Many of the choir members are members of the Chicago Lithuanian Opera Company, who left for the airport and Lithuania after the Mass. Reporters and TV cameramen hovered around the church for opinions on the current happenings in Lithuania, now that it was obvious that the attempted coup had failed. It certainly was a most exciting week—wish you had been there!

Dale Murray

Some of the 50-year and over members honored at the banquet. Seated: Josephine Kilkus, Ch. 20. Standing (from left): Bertha Janus, Ch. 54, Southfield, MI; Ann Paurazas, Ch. 20 Chicago; and Anastazija Snarskis of the former Ch. 21, Chicago.



Minutes of the Lithuanian-American Catholic Women's Alliance board meeting June 22, 1991.

The Board meeting of the Lithuanian American Catholic Women's Alliance took place on Saturday, June 22, 1991, at the home of Grasilia Meiluvienė in Chicago, IL. In attendance were Emilie Prose (President), Grasilia Meiluvienė (1st Vice-President), Roma Kuprys (Secretary), Vida Sakevičius (Treasurer), Juliana Rotsko (Trustee), Dale Murray (Editor), and Pam Breidenbach (Circulation Manager). The meeting was begun at 10:45 a.m. with a prayer.

The Secretary read the minutes of the previous Board meeting of October 27, 1990. There were no additions or corrections, and the minutes of the meeting were accepted as read.

For her report, the President presented the correspondence which had been sent to her. She had tried to keep in touch with each one of the Board members during the time since the last Board meeting.

The 1st Vice-President reported that she had participated in the welcome for President Vytautas Landsbergis upon his arrival to Chicago. She also had participated in the welcome for Cardinal Joseph Bernardin upon his return from Lithuania. She also helped plan the welcome and coffee for Bishop Juozas Žemaitis from Lithuania.

The Secretary's report followed. In addition to corresponding monthly with the President, Treasurer, Circulation Manager, and Editor, she was involved in several other activities. The Annual Statement of Ownership for MOTERŲ DIRVA was prepared and filed with the U. S. Post Office. Material was also prepared for a postal audit of the MOTERŲ DIRVA which took place at the offices of DRAUGAS. The book

and finances were found to be in acceptable order by the auditor. The Home Office financial records were also audited on Tuesday, April 23rd, by the Trustees, who found them to be in order. As part of our PR program, two full-page ads were prepared by the Home Office—one for the annual Montessori Children's Fashion Show which took place February 24th, and one for the Lithuanian Song Festival which took place May 26th. Preparation for the Convention has also been done; writing the ad book flyer, sending out Convention packets to each one of the Chapters, and preparing ads for the Convention ad book. The Secretary represented the Alliance at the annual meeting of the Pastoral Council of Bishop Baltakis on Saturday, May 25th. A report was prepared for publication in the MOTERŲ DIRVA. The Secretary also represented the President at the Serra Club luncheon in downtown Chicago on Friday, June, 7th. The luncheon speaker was our Spiritual Director Rev. Peter M. J. Stravinskas, who announced his plans to start a daily Catholic newspaper here in the United States.

The Treasurer's report was next. She reported that the District sponsored an Open House at Nativity B. V. M. parish on November 4, 1990. Holy Mass was offered for the intention of Alliance members. Because of the timing being so close to All Souls Day and people going to the cemetery that morning, attendance was very low. The Treasurer was the chairman of this event. In all, three new dues paying members joined. The anticipated Book Drive never materialized. According to the Treasurer, they had hoped to send any overflow to the Lithuanian Institute, but they were asked to suspend the book-giving until spring. Also, post office hours would have meant keeping the books

somewhere for a longer period, rather than just collecting them and shipping right away. A date of January 20th had been set, but the turn of events in Lithuania at that time would have made it absurd to collect books. The Treasurer represented the Alliance President at the Luncheon for visiting President Landsbergis. An audit of the books was done on April 23, 1991. The Treasurer also mentioned that work was being done on the Convention and that details would be announced as time went on.

The Editor reported on the research she had done on how best to preserve old MOTERŲ DIRVA issues. Photocopying seemed to be the most practical. The Editor had also researched the cost of binding all the photocopied issues.

The Circulation Manager reported on the number of MOTERŲ DIRVA issues distributed: paid members—717, exchanges—11, free copies to religious—14, Canada—4, Lithuania (Caritas)—1, England—1, and extras—16. There were a total of 764 issues distributed. There were 33 new members in 1991. There were 9 deaths.

Following the reports, there was a discussion about "Caritas" and what projects the Alliance should undertake to help the organization. The Secretary volunteered to prepare some information about possible Alliance activities for presentation to the Convention.

The Editor asked that checks be prepared on a monthly basis (not on a quarterly basis, as they have been up until now). For some members, the delayed payment has caused problems in the timely return of cancelled checks.

The Secretary presented some of the correspondence that she had received.

The Treasurer relayed the latest information on the Convention and various activities for the delegates.

There then followed a general discussion of By-laws. The status of the Alliance's name was discussed. A proposal to increase dues to \$10.00 was also considered. It was felt that State Directors should be reinstated. One meeting per year was to be mandatory for each Chapter. The Outstanding Woman of the Year Award should have a listing of requirements, and the work with nominations should be started early. The possibility of reinstating a Junior's section was also brought up. "Salaries" were reviewed, and it was recommended that the compensation for Vice-Presidents and Trustees be eliminated. There was also discussion of restructuring some of the Board members' duties.

The Treasurer, also a member of the "New By-laws" Committee, will be unable to attend the Committee's forthcoming meeting. The President asked Pam, the Circulation Manager, to attend this meeting.

It was also decided that the three Chapters with the most new members enrolled since the last Convention be awarded some sort of recognition at the Convention.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

*Emilie B. Prose, President
Roma Kuprys, Secretary*



Pre-Convention board meeting

The Board meeting began at 9:00 p.m. on Wednesday, August 21st at the Oak Lawn Holiday Inn. In attendance were Sabina Henson, Roma Kuprys (Secretary), Grasilia Meiluvienė (2nd Vice-president), Dale Murray (Editor), Emilie Prose (President), Juliana Rotsko (Trustee), Vida Sakevičius (Treasurer), and Anna Šliteris (Trustee).

The Secretary reported on the results of the OUTSTANDING LITHUANIAN WOMAN OF THE YEAR AWARD. The winner was Anastazija Tamošaitienė from Canada. The Secretary volunteered to put a notice about the winner in DRAUGAS. Tamošaitienė was to be notified by a phone call and a donation of \$100 was to be donated in her name to CARITAS.

There were three names submitted for Honorary Member. Dale Murray discussed the criteria to be used for Honorary member; 1) service on the National Board (or a National Committee or as State Director), and 2) active in Chapter and community. Honorary member for 1991 was selected as Roma Kuprys (Ch. 2, Cicero, IL).

The Nominating committee was not able to present a slate at this time, however, a list of possible candidates was compiled for presentation at the Convention.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:45 p.m.

*Emilie Prose, Pres.
Roma Kuprys, Secr.*

Retiring national president, **Emilie Prose**, with **Angela Balchunas, CSC**, who will begin editing our news letter next March.



Also honored with the 50 year-and-over members was **Peggy Zakaras** of Ch. 20, Chicago, who has been actively involved since her teen age years.



Official Minutes

44th Biennial Convention

The 44th Convention of the Lithuanian-American Roman Catholic Women's Alliance began on Thursday, August 22, at Nativity B.V.M. Church in Chicago, IL. Holy Mass was celebrated by Rev. John Kuzinskas and Rev. Anthony Miciunas, MIC.

First Session

The opening session of the Convention was called to order at 11:00 A.M. The presidium was comprised of the Alliance Board Emilie Prose, presiding.

Rev. Miciunas cordially greeted everyone present. He also extended greetings from Honorary President, Julia Mack, who is seriously ill and in need of everyone's prayers. Next, Mary Rudis, president of BALF and voted Outstanding Lithuanian Woman in 1981 by the membership, extended her greetings and well-wishes for the future. Grasilia Meilus, chairman of the Credentials committee, presented the names of the delegates and alternates. Accredited delegates present during the convention were:

Chapter 1, Home Office: Sabina Henson.

Chapter 2, Cicero, IL: Palmera Breidenbach (Board member), Roma Kuprys (Board member), Albina Nodus and Juliana Rotsko.

Chapter 3, Chicago, IL: Joana Danilevičius, Angelė Katelis and Vida Sakevičius (Board member).

Chapter 5, Worcester, MA: Ona Kildišas and Jadvyga Spirauskas.

Chapter 17, Hartford, CT: Alyce Gegesky and Kathryn Urban.

Chapter 20, Chicago, IL: Grasilia Meilus (Board member), Janina Mikutaitis, Elena Šniokas ir Jadvyga Tamasevičius.

Chapter 33, New Haven, CT: Magdalin Cronin and Mary Geipel.

Chapter 42, Grand Rapids, MI: Sofia Lastas and Alice Rock.

Chapter 46, Chicago, IL: Angela Balchunas, SSC, Mary Anna Gercius, Dale Murray (Board member), Emilie Prose (Board member), Anna Sliteris (Board member) and Helen Vilkelis.

Chapter 54, Southfield, MI: Bertha Janus and Anna Uzdavinis.

Chapter 75, Chicago, IL: Margaret Elaine Valentine.

Total: 29 delegates.

The president appointed Alyce Gegesky, Ch. 17, and Mary Geipel, Ch. 33, as the Resolutions committee. Sofia Lastas and Alice Rock of Ch. 42 were appointed as the Nominating committee.

Greetings were received and read from the Sisters of the Immaculate Conception Auxiliary and from Sr. Margaret Carney, OFM, General Superior of the Sisters of St. Francis of the Providence of God.

Rev. John Kuzinskas gave the keynote address. He discussed how motherhood and the role of women have changed throughout the last fifty years.

A condensed version of the 43rd Convention minutes was read by Roma Kuprys. Officers reports followed:

President, Emilie Prose:

This will encompass two phases of my report. Since reelection as First Vice-presi-

dent at the last Convention in August of 1989, as Vice-president I served for approximately one year. The Alliance at that time was heavily engaged in concluding the separation of the fraternal faction of the organization, while at the same time implementing the various ideas, resolution, and actions pertaining to the growth of the organization—particularly taking into consideration the need for Lithuanian and American-Lithuanian seminarians and Caritas in Lithuania. In this connection I was unable to fully participate because of my health, but did all I could by telephone with the Board and other members.

At an annual Board meeting of the Alliance on June 23, 1990 the president, Aldona Shumway, resigned, necessitating the First Vice-president's occupancy of the chair as president. Very reluctantly, because of my congestive heart failure condition, I accepted provided the other members would help. They did, and I am very grateful.

The very first move made by me was to call a regular Board meeting when it was necessary to officially fill in the gaps in the Board roster—First Vice-president and Secretary—and to continue the work started with the resolutions from the past convention. One of the important areas of my position as president was to let all in the Alliance know of the status quo of the organization. This was done by individual letter to all members of all Chapters on September 20, 1990, with a promise to them of future such letters. Unfortunately, this did not materialize timewise because of my personal move from one city to another which took up most of my being. In the meantime, however, I was constantly in touch with the Board members, especially with the chairman of the 44th convention, and other events taking place in and around the world, most of all in Lithuania. In the interim between my vice-presidency and presidency, three Board of Directors meetings were called

by me. The important events and affairs taking place at this time will be duly reported by other members of the Board at this Convention.

My sincere thanks to the Alliance for accepting me as President. My sincere wish to all of you is to keep up the good work of the Alliance for God and Country.

1 Vice-pres., Grasilia Meilus:

Visai netikėtai man teko pirmosios vicepirm. pareigos. Kai centro pirmininkė Aldona Shumway, dėl labai svarbių priežasčių, pasitraukė iš pareigų, tai jos vieton pateko esanti pirmoji vicepirm. Emilie Prose. Centro valdybos prašymu užimti pirmosios vicepirm. vietą, sutikau. Tai pareigai aš nebuvau pasiruošusi, todėl dabar mokausi. Ką man liepia, tą aš dirbu. Kai pasakė, kad reikia sutikti kardinolą Bernardin, grįžtantį iš Lietuvos, tai aš kiek galėjau padėjau Vidai Sakevičiūtei, nes tai buvo jos projektas. Aš pritariau ir padėjau. Tai pasisekė puikiai.

Nutarta, kad Chicago's apskritis ruoš 44-tą seimą. Darbas įpusėjęs. Esu rengimo komiteto išdininkė. Manau, kad ir tai pasiseks. Sėkmės užbaigti!

II Vice-pres. report, Albina Lipčius:

Not submitted due to her illness and hospitalization.

Secretary, Roma Kuprys:

During the past years, I was involved with the day to day activities of running the Home Office; receiving dues payments and correspondence from Chapter secretaries; monthly correspondence with the President, Treasurer, Editor, and Circulation manager; balancing the books; and preparing for audits by the Trustees.

In addition to the above, I prepared the records for an audit of MOTERŲ DIRVA by the Post Office. I also represented the Alliance at several gatherings: Bishop Baltakis' Pastoral Council annual meetings;

a meeting with Albina Pajarskaitė, President of Caritas; and a Serra Club luncheon which featured our Spiritual Director, Rev. Peter Stravinskas, as main speaker. I also helped organize the reception here in Chicago for Bishop Juozas Žemaitis from Lithuania.

Other activities included serving on the By-laws Committee, helping prepare for the Convention, putting together the Convention Ad Book, and contributing various articles to MOTERŲ DIRVA.

The Alliance participated in a variety of projects to aid Lithuania. I had a direct hand in some of them. The efforts of the Alliance's own PROJECT: SOAP netted 800 lbs. of soap for Lithuania. Through a joint effort with the American Lithuanian Roman Catholic Federation and Lithuanian Catholic Charities, the Alliance Fund donated \$500 towards the purchase of 600 pairs of new children's leather shoes. The actual retail value of these shoes was about \$20,000, but they were purchased for \$2,400. The American Girl Scouts of Riverside, IL also helped out by collecting 100 pairs of new socks to go with the shoe purchase. In a joint effort with Lithuanian Catholic Charities, a sweater drive was undertaken throughout several Lithuanian parishes and a vitamin drive throughout the Lithuanian Saturday Schools. In all, 700 sweaters and 100 bottles of vitamins were collected and delivered to Lithuania. In addition, St. Christina's Rosary Makers, through the efforts of Donna Zilis, have donated 100 rosaries to Lithuania. The Home Office has not been informed of any other projects or joint efforts on behalf of Lithuania that the Alliance undertook outside the Chicago-land area.

Presently in the Alliance there are 24 active Chapters, plus the Home Office Chapter, and a membership of about 800.

Treasurer, Vida Sakevičius:

Aside from my duties as treasurer during the past two years, I have had the opportu-

nity to actively participate in various events. I had the honor of being chairman of the 75th anniversary jubilee celebration, which was held at Nativity B. V. M. parish two years ago.

The Chicago District sponsored a soap drive in February, 1990. I headed that project at this parish. We were able to collect 351 pounds at our church.

In May, 1990, Mrs. Grasilia Meilus and I organized a procession in prayer for Lithuania. We had benediction in the church, followed by a procession to the Sisters of St. Casimir grotto, about two blocks away, where the litany was sung.

In September, 1990, our Cardinal Bernardin came back from a visit to Lithuania. Mrs. Meilus and I organized a bus to O'Hare airport to greet him. We presented him with a Lithuanian sash and flowers.

For my latest project, I have the honor and the big job of being your convention chairlady.



Father Miciunas helps out with "seconds" of coffee.

Trustees Anna Sliteris and Juliana Rotsko:

We made an audit August 21, 1991 of the Secretary's and Treasurer's books and found them in good order with all accounts balancing.

Receipts—

Jan. to June, 1991 \$4,792.50

Disbursements—

Jan. to June, 1991 \$4,414.89

Editor, Dale Murray:

As you already know, this year we are marking the 75th anniversary of our official publication, "Moterų Dirva." The very first issue of "Moterų Dirva" was published in October, 1916. I regret that I don't have a copy of that first issue, but I brought the next two along to show you. I have had them photocopied to preserve them for the future.

Those of you who heard my report at the last convention will remember that I brought along some of the old copies in my possession, yellowed with age and in some cases, quite brittle. When I became editor in 1955, I was shocked to learn that there are no "Moterų Dirva" archives. Since I knew very little about the history of our Alliance before I became a member, I issued a plea to the membership to donate their old copies back to the organization. The response was excellent, but not their condition. Most had been resurrected from damp basements or dry attics and the quality is very poor. The delegates were very supportive and voted that monies from the Special Fund be allocated to preserving past issues of "Moterų Dirva."

Photocopying about 50 years worth of magazines will be expensive, but I can't think of anything more worthwhile to spend our money on—the preservation of our history! Hopefully, some good-hearted people who have access to copiers could donate their use for some of this work. I would suggest

that rather than use money from the Special Fund, which was especially inaugurated for charitable and cultural projects, that this expense be covered by our regular income and, perhaps, voluntary donations. This will be a time-consuming project and it will take time, but I will undertake the task of seeing that it is done.

As of now, the most complete set is in ALKA American Lithuanian Cultural Archives) in Putnam, CT which was founded by our long-time spiritual director and supporter, the late Msgr. F. Juras. Balzekas Museum in Chicago has been on our mailing list since it was established 25 years ago. I'm not sure whether or not they have any of the older copies. The Research Institute in the Jesuit Center is very willing to accept our materials but, before anything is given away, **one complete set** must be photocopied and kept by the organization itself. This is history—OUR history! And, as long as we are a viable organization, our history must be part of us. Some day (in the far, far distant future, we hope!) these records will be available for researchers, who will glean much from their pages—not just about our organization, but about the life and times of the immigrant Lithuanian woman and her descendents.

I know there are many members who are concerned about the future without the "Moterų Dirva". I never dreamed when I first took on the job that it would last 36 years! I do think a newsletter will serve our organization quite well. I've seen quite a few published by other organizations that are attractive and informative with plenty of space for directives, chapter news and photos.

Since the last convention, I have also been checking into ways in which to bind the copies in the most inexpensive way. I have come upon a perfect solution, this simple plastic holder. You slip the magazine through the holder and place it in a 3-ring binder. There is no need to punch any holes as they are part of the holder and the ma-

gazine can be easily removed and replaced.

There will be two more issues of the "Motery Dirva" before it is officially retired. The September issue may be a bit late as I would like to include the convention minutes. The last one will be the December issue.

Many, many thanks to all who have contributed through the years, especially the chapter correspondents who also became friends. My thanks also to each and every member who took the time to read the "Motery Dirva" from cover to cover, for they are the ones who never need to ask: what is the purpose of Mot. Sąjunga and what are you all about?

Circulation manager's report was postponed until the next session.

The first session recessed for lunch at 12:30 P.M.

Second Session

The business of the Convention was resumed at 2:15 P.M.

American-Lithuanian Council report was given by Daina Dumbrys. She is the Alliance representative, as well as treasurer of the Council. Meetings are held once a month. She has had many requests for radio and television interviews about the situation in Lithuania. At the conclusion of her report, Daina answered a variety of questions concerning the status of the Baltic States in light of the most recent events in the USSR.

Camp Dainava report:

Sofia Lastas is the Alliance's representative on the Camp Dainava Board of Directors. Camp Dainava celebrates its 35 anniversary this year. She attended several Board meetings. The facilities will be rented out to non-Lithuanians, as well. The new president of the Board is Marius Gražulis. Total donations from the Alliance to Camp

Dainava amounts to \$955.00. Dale Murray moved to send another donation. Roma Kuprys seconded. Motion was carried. Alyce Gegesky moved that the amount be \$100; seconded by Anna Uzdavinis. Motion carried. The sum will come from Convention income.

Dale Murray discussed the format of the Alliance's publication, which will make its debut in March, 1992.

CHAPTER REPORTS

#3—Joana Danilevičius reported that the Chapter has two meetings per year and that many of its members work with the American-Lithuanian Council.

#5—Jadvyga Spirauskas reported that the Chapter organized a very successful fashion show. The designer and her clothes, were from Lithuania. There are 96 members in the Chapter.

#17—The report was prepared by sec. Birutė Šimanskis and pres. Helen Stumbers and read by Roma Kuprys. The chapter has two special fundraisers each year, a rummage sale, and home-made sausage sale before Easter. This enables them to donate to various charities, such as the Sisters of St. Francis; the Sisters of the Immaculate Conception; Medical Mercy Lift to Lithuania; „Caritas," BALF, Soap Drive, etc.

#20—Grasilia Meilus reported she has been president for 27 years; their Spiritual Director has been with them for 20 years. Nine meetings are held each year after the Sunday Lithuanian Mass. Their well-received Christmas Eve (Kūčios) celebration before Christmas is an annual celebration. A collection for the poor children is taken up. Christmas ornaments made from white straws also netted a nice profit. Other fundraisers during the year enabled them to send money to help the Siamese twins from Lithuania, separated here in the U.S.

They also donated to the religious books drive and conducted a successful soap drive. Members also participated in welcoming Chicago's Cardinal Bernardin back from his trip to Lithuania, as well as the reception for Bishop Juozas Žemaitis, visiting from Lithuania.

#33—Mary Geipel reported that the Chapter organizes a Mother's Day cake and coffee, spaghetti dinner, „Kūčios", a raffle, as well as an annual Mass for the deceased members of the Chapter.

#75—Elaine Valentine reported that the chapter is active, has fundraisers for charity and participates in the Chicago district. They will be hosting the fall meeting of the chapter.

The session ended at 3:20 P.M.

Third Session

The session was called to order at 9:50 A.M. at the Oak Lawn Holiday Inn. After the opening prayer, roll call, and introduction of a special guest, Irena Skuodis, reports were continued.

Circulation Manager, Palmera Breidenbach:

Paid Members	701
Exchange copies	11
Free copies to religious	14
Canada	4
Lithuania—Caritas	1
England	1
Breidenbach—extra copies	16
Total	748
New members in 1990	10
New members in 1991	34
Deaths in 1990	34
Deaths in 1991 to date	16

Charge from post office to give new forwarding address is 35¢

Last convention it was 30¢

#42—Alice Rock gave a very detailed report on membership, activities, charitable donations, etc. Meetings are held monthly. The chapter hosts the coffees after Masses the first weekends in July and August, featuring homemade baked goods. Their most popular events are the annual Christmas party and a very special Mother's Day celebration. All Souls Day is marked with Mass and a gathering at the cemetery for special services. Their biggest moneymaking venture is during the Christmas Festival, where they sell hundreds of „ausukės" (bow-knot cookies), baked goods, etc. There are many prizes and a raffle. This is the biggest money-making project. In February they take part in the Lithuanian Independence Day celebration, at Easter they have an egg decorating demonstration; and on St. George's feastday, they honor Bishop Matulaitis with a special memorial Mass. Many members attended the Lithuanian Opera in Chicago and also the festival in Brighton Park. Approximately \$1,000 was donated over the past two years; \$500 was presented to the delegates for convention expenses and a \$75 ad was taken in the convention program book. There were 5 deaths and 4 new members this year. Total 42 members.

#54—Bertha Janus reported that the Chapter has 65 members. The chapter sponsors an annual Mother's Day Mass, a picnic in August, a catered lunch and card party with the Knights of Lithuania in September. The first Sunday in October is for the intention of the deceased members. Members provide an occasional parish coffee and visit the sick members. Donations were made for the program book, Lith. Religious Aid, to the parish, BALF, etc. Meetings are held every other month after Mass on Sunday.

#46—Angela Balchunas, SSC, reported that the Chapter has 24 members. Its meetings are held every two months at the Marian Fathers Monastery with refreshments and prizes afterwards.

Connecticut District

The District director's report had been mailed and just received. Em. Šaulienė reported there are five chapters in the district. Ch. 17 Hartford is very active with a membership of 50. There are only 6 members left in Ch. 28, Manchester. They participate in the activities of other chapters. New Haven Chapter 33 has 35 members, some younger, which help keep it active. Ch. 38, New Britain, has 14 members, mostly elderly, and is unable to be active. The same applies to Ch. 57, Waterbury, which has 23 dues paying members. Total District membership 128.

By-Laws Committee

The By-Laws committee elected at the last convention (1989) includes Emilie Prose, Roma Kuprys, Vida Sakevičius and Aldona Shumway, the latter replaced by Dale Murray. Emilie Prose, chairman, reported that the aim of the committee was to have the By-Laws ready for this convention, but because of the pressure of time and non-availability of the full committee at all times, its presentation to the Board and to the Alliance will be presented at the next biennial meeting. Mrs. Roberta Giblin (daughter of Sophie Dirzius, Ch. 2) consented to review and help prepare the By-Laws.

Dale Murray indicated that the new name will be Lithuanian-American Roman Catholic Women's Alliance, enacting motion made and carried at the last convention.

Roma Kuprys moved that after the By-Laws are reviewed by the Parliamentary and Board, copies be sent to each chapter for comments and suggestions before the next Convention. Seconded by Elena Šniokas. Motion carried.

There followed discussions on 1) separating the present secretary's job into two parts, i.e., recording secretary and financial secretary; 2) dues, and 3) ideas for attracting new members. In answer to a question raised, it was agreed non-Lithuanians are also welcome to join the Alliance, as long as they understand its purpose and are willing to participate in its function.

The third session was recessed for lunch at 12 noon. The luncheon speaker was Irena Skuodienė, who spoke about the status of women in Lithuania.

Fourth Session

The session was called to order at 2:30 P.M. Views about the Alliance were exchanged. To the question, "How are the meetings?" the following answers were offered: one per month needed to maintain interest; every second month after the Saturday evening Mass; one per month on Sundays at 2:00 P.M.; sometimes chapters have meetings in each other's homes. It was determined that each chapter should do whatever is practical and convenient for them. Chapter 46 (Chicago) was formed primarily for non-Lithuanian speaking members. Meetings were held at homes, but because members are scattered throughout the city and suburbs, meetings are held at the Marian Fathers Monastery, which is centrally located.

Dale Murray had suggested to the Board that chapters which had enrolled the most new members during the past two years be acknowledged and

rewarded. She announced the winners: Chapter 76, St. Petersburg, FL, 15 members; Chapter 68, Kearney, NJ, 10 members; Chapter 3 and Chapter 20, Chicago, IL tied for third with 7 new members each. The chapters will be receiving \$25, \$15, \$10 and \$10, respectively.

The president announced that after reviewing the biographies submitted, the Board unanimously voted to bestow Honorary Membership to Roma Kuprys, Chapter 2, Chicago, IL as she fulfilled all requirements. It was once again stressed that it is very important that a member being recommended for Honorary Membership fulfill ALL requirements. It is particularly important that she be active on the national level and be recognized by her activities by the membership. Activity on the local level is one step; these same members should be encouraged to become active in their districts and on national committees, where good leadership is so very important and needed.

Dale Murray moved to phase out the Seminarian Fund. Seconded by Margaret Elaine Valentine. Motion carried. Anna Uzdavinis moved to send the money to Lithuanian Catholic Religious Aid. Seconded by Anna Šlitteris. Motion carried. The check will be earmarked for seminarians in Lithuania.

Roma Kuprys presented some possible projects for Lithuania that Alliance members might wish to contribute to:

1) In Chicago at Seklyčia Restaurant and at the Lithuanian World Center, school items and clothes for children up until 16 years of age are being collected for a container which will be delivered to Lithuania's orphans.

2) Funds are being solicited to help cure Lithuanian children with orthopedic problems, i.e., scoliosis. The children are brought together with their

mothers to the Shriners Children's Hospitals in the U.S. for free medical care. Funds collected are used for plane fare and living expenses, which amount to \$3,000 per patient. This project, established in Chicago in 1991 by a group of lay people, is called Lithuanian Children's Hope (Vaikų viltis). Fifteen children are awaiting the opportunity to benefit from this project. A 13-year old girl has already been completely cured; a 3-year old boy awaits his turn. This project is an investment in human dignity. More information about this project can be obtained by calling Julija Saulius (1-312-842-8291).

3) Plans for a retirement home are underway in Utena, Lithuania. A request has been made for new sheets (twin size), pillows, sweaters, flannel shirts (large size), slippers, and pajamas for the elderly residents. This home is taken care of by Panevėžys "Caritas," which has about 80 members. Items are being collected at Seklyčia in Chicago.

4) Funds are needed for surgery for the Lithuanian Siamese twins who were joined at the head. Donations can be sent to LITHUANIAN CATHOLIC CHARITIES, 2636 W. 71st St., Chicago, IL 60629.

5) Mercy Lift was organized in Lemont, IL to help send medicines and medical supplies to Lithuania. Funds are needed for transporting these supplies to Lithuania. Donations can be sent to MERCY LIFT, Lithuanian World Center, 511 E. 127th St., Lemont, IL 60439. Delegates were encouraged to promote these good works in their respective parishes and communities.

Irena Skuodienė added the need for warm children's clothing in Lithuania. She noted it would be advisable to ask for a receipt signed by the person accepting the delivery.

This session was concluded at 4:15 P.M.

Fifth Session

The meeting was begun at 10:00 A.M. with a prayer, followed by roll call. 23 members were present.

Convention president, Emilie Prose, expressed thanks to Sabina Henson for the fun-filled tour of Chicago by bus, for the souvenir brochures, and all the extras that went into it.

She announced further that by majority vote, the Outstanding Lithuanian Woman 1991 is Anastazija Tamošaitienė of Canada. Kay Urban moved that \$100 be given to the honoree with the plaque. Margaret Valentine seconded. Motion carried.

A list of donations to be sent from the Convention was compiled: "Draugas" (Lithuanian Catholic Press Society), Chicago; American Lithuanian Cultural Archives, Putnam, CT; and Rev. John Savukynas, M.I.C., Plano, IL for rosary materials and mailing expense. Dale Murray moved that \$50 be donated to each of the above-mentioned. Seconded by Alyce Gegesky. Motion carried.

The following Resolutions were presented to the Convention by The Resolutions Committee, read by Alyce Gegesky, and adopted unanimously:

RESOLUTIONS

1. Whereas, the delegates of this 44th convention were informed of the serious illness of Julia Mack, Honorary President, and Albina Lipčienė, 2nd Vice-president,
Be it resolved that an official letter of concern be sent to Julia Mack and to Albina Lipčienė, wishing them well with our prayers for a speedy recovery;
2. Whereas, the Lithuanian-American

Roman Catholic Women's Alliance applauds and admires the work of CARITAS in Lithuania,

Be it resolved that each Alliance Chapter further intensify its association with CARITAS groups in Lithuania and support them morally, spiritually, and monetarily;

3. Whereas, Lithuania is struggling in its pursuit of freedom,
Be it resolved that an official letter of concern be sent to President George Bush from the LARCWA, urging him to support the democratically elected government of Lithuania, and the restoration of Lithuania's independence, and not allow Lithuania's fight for democracy and human rights die as these are the same principles that America fought for. We urge you to act NOW to recognize the Landsbergis government;
Further, that a letter be sent to President Landsbergis of Lithuania in appreciation of this courage and determination in all his dealings with the USSR;
4. Whereas, the Alliance delegates have convened in Oak Lawn, IL,
Be it resolved that this 44th Convention is bestowing Honorary Membership to Roma Kuprys (Chapter 2, Cicero, IL);
Furthermore, the LARCWA has chosen Anastazija Tamošaitienė of Canada as 1991 Outstanding Lithuanian Woman of the Year.
5. Be it resolved that this 44th Convention express its thanks to the Alliance Board for all its concern and effort shown during their past two-year term, and to Editor Dale Murray, whose editorship for the past 36 years has provided the Alliance membership an informa-

tive MOTERŲ DIRVA; and to Rev. John Kuzinskas for sharing his views on the life role of motherhood; and to Rev. Anthony Miciūnas, past Spiritual Advisor, for his greetings and wishes of continued success to the LARCWA.

The Convention extends its deepest gratitude to Vida Sakevičius, chairman of the Convention Committee, to all its members, and the Chicago district for all their efforts and for making the delegates' stay in Chicago a memorable one.

The Nominating committee presented the following slate of officers:

President—Dale Murray, Ch. 46

I vice-pres.—Grasilia Meilus, Ch. 20

II Vice-pres.—Kathryn Urban, Ch. 17

Recording secretary—open

Financial secretary—Sabina Henson, Ch. 46

Treasurer—Vida Sakevičius, Ch. 3

Trustees—Juliana Rotsko, Ch. 2 and Anna Šlitteris, Ch. 46

Circulation manager—Palmera Briedenbach, Ch. 2

Newsletter editor—Angela Balchunas, SSC, Ch. 46

Projects Facilitator—Roma Kuprys, Ch. 2

There being no other nominations, Mary Geipel moved to accept the slate as the elected officers from October 1, 1991 to September 30, 1993. Helen Vilkelis seconded. Motion carried. Rev. Peter M. J. Stravinskas will be asked to remain as Spiritual Director.

Emilie Prose then asked for bids for the next Convention, which will be in 1993. The delegates from Chapter 17, Hartford, CT, will consult with their District members about the possibility of hosting the next Convention.

President-elect, Dale Murray, asked every member to help promote the

Alliance. It is imperative that we build up our membership to make up for the many insurance members who dropped out after the liquidation process. She asked that members not criticize the organization outside its own circles, but to contact her with any questions or problems.

The 44th Convention was adjourned with a prayer at 12:15 P.M.

Emilie Prose, Pres.

Roma Kuprys, Secretary

Post-Convention Board Meeting

The meeting was begun at 1:45 p.m. at the Oak Lawn Holiday Inn. Present were Palmera Breidenbach (Circulation Manager), Sabina Henson (Secretary-elect), Roma Kuprys (Secretary), Grasilia Meiluvienė (1st Vice-president), Dale Murray (Editor), Emilie Prose (President), Juliana Rotsko (Trustee), Anna Šlitteris (Trustee), and Kathryn Urban (2nd Vice-president-elect).

The President will write a letter to Rev. Peter M. J. Stravinskas, asking him to remain as Spiritual Director. The Secretary will write letters to President George Bush and President Vytautas Landsbergis concerning the situation of Lithuania. The Secretary was requested to send the names of all the members of Chapters 38 (New Britain, CT), 43 (Waterbury, CT), and 57 (Manchester, CT) who have recently dropped out of the Alliance.

The By-laws Committee will remain the same: Roma Kuprys, Dale Murray, Emilie Prose, and Vida Sakevičius.

Sabina Henson, elected Financial Secretary, volunteered to accept the duties of Recording Secretary, as well.

The tentative list of compensation for services rendered is as follows: President (\$50.00/month, office expenses,

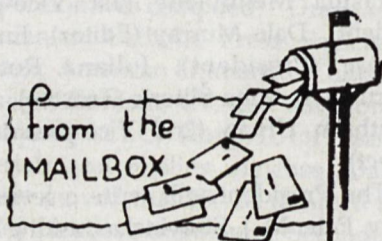
and Convention travel and hotel), Vice-presidents (office expenses), Secretary (\$25.00/month, office expenses, and Convention travel and hotel), Treasurer (\$25.00/month, office expenses), Trustees (office expenses), Editor (\$50.00/issue, \$200/year), and Circulation Manager (\$15.00/month, office and postal expenses).

The Secretary and Circulation Manager were asked to exchange members lists to make sure there were no MOTERŲ DIRVA copies being sent out unnecessarily.

It was decided that the President's address was to be considered Home office as of October 1, 1991.

The meeting ended at 3.00 p.m.

*Emilie Prose, Pres.
Roma Kuprys, Secr.*



Dear Mrs. Breidenbach:

I received your letter and publications "Moterų Dirva" and am very thankful for your kindness, to take the time to write to me.

The journals are very interesting as part of them are also written in English, which is of great help to me. I am German, born in Czechoslovakia and being married to a Lithuanian, my knowledge of Lithuanian is limited, just enough to get by. So, the section "Building Your Vocabulary" comes just right for me. Enclosed is a check for your paper . . .

*Adele Kaspariunas,
St. Petersburg, FL*



Pradedant su spalio 1 d., narių mokesčiai ir su jais susiję klausimai siunčiami naujai centro sekretorei:

Mrs. Sabina Henson
45 Windsor Drive
Oak Brook IL 60521
(708) 573-0066

* * *

Visais kitais reikalais kreipkitės į naują centro pirmininkę:

Mrs. Dale Murray
3005 N. 124th St.
Brookfield, WI 53005
(414) 786-7359

KUOPŲ PIRMININKIŲ ATYDAI

Labai svarbu, kad centro pirmininkė turėtų parankiai kiekvienos kuopos pirmininkės vardą, adresą ir telefono numerį. Ateityje visas susisiekimas su centrų bus per pirmininkes. Prašom šią informaciją atsiųsti ne vėliau, kaip 30 dienų bėgyje. Ačiū!

Centro pirm.

* * *

KELIONĖ Į LIETUVĄ?

Jei bus įdomaujančių, bandysime suorganizuoti Moterų sąjungos kelionę į Lietuvą ateinančią vasarą. Į kelionę galės įsijungti ir narių šeimos nariai ir draugės-ai. Prašau patarimų ir daugiau informacijų iš tų kurios jau esate važiavusios tokiu būdu ir kurios agentūros geriausiai patarnauja.

My Rosary Beads...

A little pair of Rosary Beads,
As plain as plain can be,
But only God in Heaven knows
How dear they are to me.

I have them always with me
At every step I take,
At evening when I slumber
At morn when I awake.

In bright and cloudy weather,
In sunshine or in rain,
In happiness or sorrow,
In pleasure or in pain.

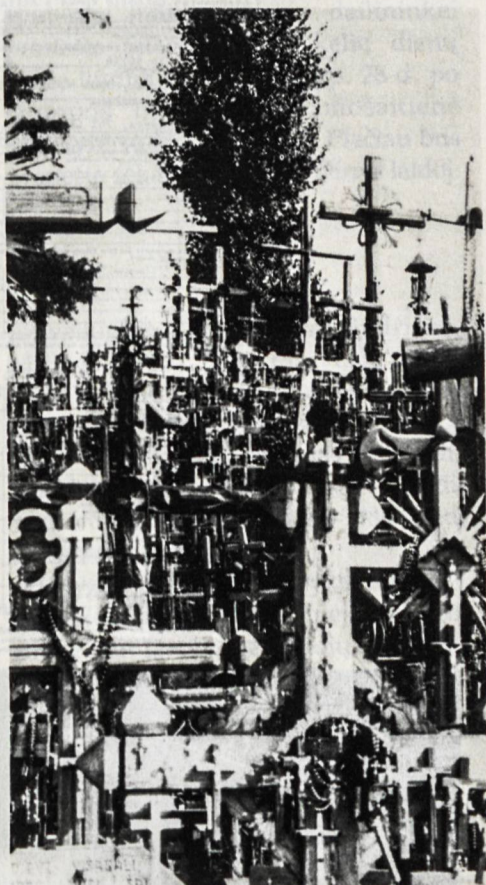
It helps me in my struggle,
It reproves me when in sin,
Its look of gentle patience
Rebukes the strife within.

In days of pain and anguish,
The greatest help I knew
Was to hold my Rosary Beads
Until I calmer grew.

So when the time approaches
When I will have to die,
I hope my little Rosary Beads
Will close beside me lie.

That the holy name of Jesus
May be the last I say,
And kissing my sweet
Rosary Beads,
My soul may pass away.

THE CATHOLIC CHURCH IN EASTERN EUROPE



A TIME TO BUILD

The Lithuanian Hill of Crosses stands as a dramatic symbol of the Catholic Church's endurance through decades of Soviet persecution. This story and the Church's situation under glasnost will be highlighted in „A Time to Build“, a one-hour documentary on Sunday, October 20, at 12:30 p.m. EDT on ABC-TV. (Check your local listings.) The program, a project of the Catholic Communication Campaign, focuses on the reemergence of the Catholic Church in Eastern Europe. (Photo: CNS)

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Signature and Title of Editor, Publisher, Business Manager, or Owner Roma Kuprys Business Manager		

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From left: Kathryn Urban; Anna Sliteris; Jadvyga Spirauskienė; Bertha Janus; Alice Rock; and, Anna Uždavinis at the Lithuanian museum, Sisters of St. Casimir motherhouse.

TRUMPAI...



Daina Dumbrienė išduoda pranešimą iš Amerikos Lietuvių Tarybos veiklos. Daina yra Moterų sąjungos atstovė ALT-je ir valdyboje eina išdininkės pareigas. Daina daug laiko pašventė pranešimais televizijos ir radijo programose aiškinant Lietuvos išsilaisvinimo reikalą.

* * *

Sveikiname **Roma Kuprienė**, 2-ros kp. Cicero, IL narę, kurią 44-to seimo delegatės pakėlė į garbės nares. Garbės narės ženklas buvo prisegtas seimo bankieto metu.

Garbės narystė yra suteikta ypatingai aktyviai ir pasižymėjusiai narei, netik savo kuopoj, bet apskrityje ir centre. Taipgi turi būti žinoma už veiklą kultūros ir labdarybės srityse.

M.S. 44-tas seimas paskyrė 1991 m. IŠKILIOSIOS LIETUVĖS MOTERS ŽYMENĮ dail. Anastazijai Tamošaitienėi, gyv. Toronto, Ont., Kanada. Apie žymenio įteikimą buvo dailininkei pranešta telegrama. Po kelių dienų gauta liūdną žinią, kad rugp. 28 d. po trumpos ligos dail. Tamošaitienė atsiskyrė su šiuo pasauliu. Plačiau bus pranešta sekančioji *Moterų Dirvos* laidoj.

nei, gyv. Toronto, Ont., Kanada. Apie žymenio įteikimą buvo dailininkei pranešta telegrama. Po kelių dienų gauta liūdną žinią, kad rugp. 28 d. po trumpos ligos dail. Tamošaitienė atsiskyrė su šiuo pasauliu. Plačiau bus pranešta sekančioji *Moterų Dirvos* laidoj.

* * *

Sveikiname **dr. Mildą Budrienę**, M.S. 46-tos kp. narę ir buvusią centro daktare-kvotėją savo naujos knygos pasirodymo proga. Knygą, „Amerikos Lietuvių gydytojų vardynas“, pati dr. Budrienė redagavo ir finansavo išleidimą. Vardynas apima 1884-1984 metų laikotarpį.

Knygos pristatymas įvyko rugp. 31 dieną Jaunimo centro kavinėje Chicago, pradedant Lietuvių gydytojų dvimetinį suvažiavimą.

* * *

Gruodžio mėn. *Moterų Dirvos* laida bus paskutinė. Sekančiais metais, pradedant su kovo mėnesiu, bus leidžiamas organizacijos žiniaraštis. Jį apsiėmė redaguoti kazimierietė seselė Angela Balchunas. Daugiau pranešime sekančioj M.D. laidoj.

Dėkojame seimo rengimo kom. pirmininkei **Vidai Sakevičiūtei** ir visoms padėjėjoms už puikiai su-ruoštą seimą.

Centro valdybos narės

Vyskupo Metinis Suvažiavimas

Vysk. Pauliaus Baltakio Sielovados Tarybos metinis suvažiavimas įvyko 1991 m. gegužės mėn. 25 d. Jaunimo centre, Chicagoje. Po to sekė malda ir vysk. Pauliaus Baltakio žodis.

Rytmečio programa susidarė iš simpoziumo „Išėjimą ir Lietuva — jų sielovados ryšiai“. Simpoziume dalyvavo J. E. vysk. Juozas Žemaitis iš Lietuvos; kun. Antanas Saulaitis, S.J., iš Chicago, ir Irena Lukoševičienė iš Kanados. Simpoziumą moderavo Aldona Zailskaitė.

Vysk. Žemaitis kalbėjo apie kai kuriuos sunkumus Lietuvoje. Yra trūkumas techninės ir vaizdinės medžiagos tikybos mokymui. Nėra popieriaus. Vilkaviškio vyskupijoje 25 parapijos yra be kunigų, o Telšių vyskupijoje 70 parapijų yra be kunigų. Taip pat reikalinga naujų pastatų. Vilkaviškio vyskupija net neturi savo katedros — ji buvo sugriauta. Tūkstančiai laukia evangelizacijos, o nėra kur suburti tokias dideles žmonių mases po vienu stogu. Vyskupas davė pavyzdį — Alytaus bažnyčios padėti. Jos apylinkėje gyvendavo apie 5,000 žmonių, o dabar gyventojų skaičius jau siekia 80,000. Nėra kur patalpinti tiek daug žmonių. Yra daug sunkumų, tačiau žmonės Lietuvoje yra pasiryžę jas nugalėti.

Kun. Saulaitis kalbėjo, kad problemos Lietuvoje yra panašios į problemas visuose atsigaujančiuose kraštuose. Taip pat juose atsiranda daug skirtingų nuomonių. Kun. Saulaitis išvardino ir apibendrino įvairias sritis, per kurias būtų galima padėti Lietuvai — pasaulinė kultūra, Vatikano II suvažiavimo vykdymas, ekumeninė sritis, švietimas ir auklėjimas, tikėjimo patirtis, parapijos ir pastoracinė sritis.

Irena Lukoševičienė kalbėjo apie tai,

ką ji patyrė būdama 10 savaičių Lietuvoje. Žmonėse yra daug baimės ir įtampos. Jie kombinuoja gauti ir jiems nedaug laiko belieka kitiems padėti. Jie taip pat gėdinasi psichinių ir fizinių nesugalavimų. Net nėra įmanoma gauti statistinių duomenų apie psichinius negalavimus Lietuvoje. Lietuvoje yra daug alkoholiškių moterų, ypač kaimuose. Tačiau organizacijos kaip „Alcoholics Anonymous“ sunkiai kuriasi, nes žmonės nepratę viešai kalbėtis ir išsikalbėti.

Kai kurie vienetai labai gražiai veikia — senelių namai Vilniuje, invalidų vaikų namai Kaune, Patrijos organizacija (medicinos studentai ieško pavienių, neturtingų žmonių ir jiems padeda). Tačiau yra kitų institucijų, kurių stovis yra apgailėtinas. Prelegentės nuomone, išėjimai ir Lietuvoje lietuviai yra tokie patys. Juose yra dvasinis badas — sprendžiama daug ką dolerio verte, specialistai dirba dėl spektaklių.

Po pietų įvyko prel. Juozo Prunskio Krikščioniškos kultūros fondo 1990 metų spaudos premijos įteikimas. Prel. Prunskis įteikė \$2,000 premiją *Aidų* žurnalui. Ją priėmė Kazys Bradūnas.

Po premijos įteikimo buvo tęsiama simpoziumo diskusijų dalis.

Po diskusijų šio rašinio autorei reikėjo išvykti. Pateiktoje dienotvarkėje dar buvo pramatyti vysk. Baltakio pranešimas apie išėjimosi sielovadą, praėjusių metų sielovados tarybos rajoninių suvažiavimų protokolai, sielovados tarybos komisijų pranešimai ir diskusijos, gairės ateičiai ir organizaciniai klausimai.

Roma Kuprienė,

Sajungos atstovė Sielovados Taryboje



Sąjungiečių veikla

Chapter and District Activity

New Members/Naujos Narės

WELCOME!

Home Office

Anelė Povilaitis
Great Neck, NY

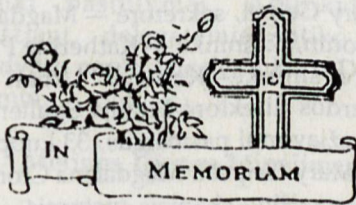
Illinois

Ch. 20, Chicago
Nijolė Genutis

Ch. 46, Chicago
Helen Vilkelis

Massachusetts

Ch. 5, Worcester
Rita Paluses



Mirusios Narės

Connecticut

Ch. 17, Hartford
Stephanie Monchun

Illinois

Ch. 2, Cicero
Bronė Vadopalas
Mary Genis

Ch. 20, Chicago
Rosalija Pranskuvienė

Massachusetts

Ch. 5, Worcester
Anne Garbauskas

Ch. 15, Brockton
Emilija Barauskienė

Michigan

Ch. 42, Grand Rapids
Benedikta Baniukaitis

Ch. 54, Southfield
Marie Kase

New Jersey

Ch. 66, Elizabeth
Josephine Martinkus

Pennsylvania

Ch. 59, Shenandoah
Helen Denchy
Anna Krause

CONNECTICUT

HARTFORD

17-ta kuopa

Turėjome susirinkimą gegužės 18 d. Pasimeldėm už mirusius, nutarėm turėti „rummage sale“ paremti delegates, vykstančias į seimą. Kuopą atstovaus Kay Urban ir Alyce Gegesky. Parėmėm su 100 dol. sąjungietę L. Karosienę jos studijom Lietuvoj. Nutarta prisidėti su auka ir mūsų parapijos bažnyčios taisymo darbams.

M. Maslauskienė paskaitė eilėrašį Marijos garbei. Po susirinkimo prie kavutės pabendraavom.

Užuojaautos

Mirė ilgametė sąjungietė Stephanie Monchun, buvusi Connecticut universiteto fakulteto narė ir plačiai žinoma darbuotoja savo apylinkėje. Ji buvo našlė Frank J. Monchun, kuris buvo

Aukščiausiojo Teismo teisėjas ir Connecticut valstijos senatorius.

Taip pat užjaučiame Agnes Dubin netekus mielos sesutės.

Už mirusiųjų sielas užprašėme šv. Mišias. Reiškiame gilią užuojautą likusiems šeimos nariams bei giminėms ir draugams. Ilsėkitės ramybėje.

Koresp. S. Špauksienė

NEW HAVEN

L. K. Moterų S-gos Connecticut apygardos suvažiavimas įvyko š.m. gegužės mėn. 25 d., New Havene, Šv. Kazimiero parapijos salėje. Jį globojo vietinė 33-čia kuopa. Apygardai priklauso 5 kuopos su apie 140 narių. Suvažiavime dalyvavo 19 atstovių ir viešnių tik iš dviejų kuopų—Hartfordo 17-tos ir New Haveno 33-čios.

New Haveno kuopos pirmininkė Izabelė Peterson pasveikino atvykusias delegates ir palinkėjo darbingo ir sėkmingo suvažiavimo.

Suvažiavimą pradėjo apygardos pirmininkė Albina Lipčienė pasiūlydama darbotvarkę, kuriai visos pritarė.

Šalia kitų einamųjų reikalų buvo ilgiau apsisotą svarstant besitartinančio Sąjungos Seimo klausimą. Paaiškėjo, kad jau ne visos šios Apygardos kuopos yra pajėgios siųsti delegates ne tik į Seimą, bet ir į šį suvažiavimą ir visa darbo našta tenka porai pajėgesnių kuopų. Galutinam rezultate nutarta, kad Connecticut apygardą Seime atstovaus 5 delegatės — iš Hartfordo 17-tos kuopos—Mrs. Alyce Gegesky ir Mrs. Kathryn Urban, o iš New Haveno 33-čios kuopos — Mrs. Albina Lipčienė, Mrs. Mary Geipel ir Mrs. Magdalena Cronin.

Daug kalbėta, svarstyta ir ieškota būdų kaip padėti toms kuopoms, kurių ir narių skaičius ir veikla sumažėjo, kaip Manchester, New Britain ir Waterburio

kuopos. Jos dar turi po kelias ar keliolika narių, dar sumoka nario mokesčius, bet dėl stokos sugebančių bei norinčių vadovauti, didesnės veiklos jau neparodo.

Suvažiavimas randa vienintelę išeitį, tai prašyti tas kuopas prisijungti prie didesnių, dar veiklių kuopų. Visoms ankščiau minėtoms trims kuopoms Hartfordas nėra toli ir nesunkiai pasiekiamas ir jos galėtų prisijungti prie 17-tos kuopos.

Kad šis klausimas nebūtų užmirštas ar užtęstas, suvažiavimas išrinko prie apygardos valdybos dar vieną narę — ryšininkę, kuri aplankys tas kuopas ir stengsis prikalbėti jungtis prie pajėgesnės kuopos, kaip suvažiavimas siūlo.

Suvažiavimo dalyvių prašoma, apygardos valdyba pasiliko dar vieniems metams. Dabartinę valdybą sudaro: pirmininkė — Albina Lipčienė, vicepirm. — Mary Geipel, sekretorė — Magdalena Cronin, išdininkė — Katherine Phillips, ryšininkė—Kathryn Urban ir apygardos direktorė Emilija Šaulienė.

Suvažiavimui pasibaigus, 33 kuopos narės Mary Geipel ir Magdalena Cronin visas pavaišino skaniais pietumis.

Ačiū šeimininkėms ir New Haveno kuopai už priėmimą.

B. Š.

33-čia kuopa

Kuopa turi 35 nares. Metų bėgyje dar ką nors surengiame, kaip tradicines Kūčias, Motinos Dienos minėjimą ar vakarienę. Jei pelno kiek palieka, tuoj ir išleidžiame geriems darbams, pvz. Lietuvos vaikučiams paskyrėme \$175.00, savos bažnyčios pataisymams \$100.00, Kunigų seminarijai Lietuvoje \$100.00, naujam kryžiui prie mūsų bažnyčios pastatyti davėme \$75.00 ir daug kitų mažesnių aukų, kai atsiranda reikalas.

Mirusias nares prisimename šv. Mišiomis. Susirinkimus šaukiame kas 2 ar 3 mėnesiai.

Jau keli metai iš eilės vis „išsirenkame“ tą pačią kuopos valdybą, kurios dėka kuopa dar yra skaitlinga ir gyva.
B. Š.

FLORIDA

ST. PETERSBURG

Nors vietinės 76-tos kuopos narės yra daugumoje vyresnio amžiaus, bet jos veikia visur kiek laikas leidžia. Pavasarinis susirinkimas buvo skaitlingas ir darbingas. Išklausius valdybos pranešimus, svarstyta organizacijos reikalai ir būsimas seimas rugpjūčio mėnesį Chicago priemiestyje. Po visų svarstymų ir minčių palikta kuopos valdybai suformuoti seimui pasiūlymus. Valdybos narėms rimtai apsvarsčius, pasiūsti seimui penki pasiūlymai. Aplinkybėms leidžiant, delegatėmis sutiko būti valdybos narės Angelė Šukis ir Donna Kamm.

Motinos Dienos Minėjimas

Laikantis tradicijos šv. Vardo bažnyčioje Gulfporte atlaikytos trejos šv. Mišios kuopos narių intencijai ir už a.a. kun. Tado Degučio, O.F.M., pirmojo mūsų šv. Kazimiero misijos klebono, sielą.

Amerikos Lietuvių klube narės ir jų šeimos dalyvavo bendruose pietuose, bet lyg privačiai, nes mūsų kuopos narės Zuzana Pupienė ir V. Pleskienė paruošė penkis stalus, papuošdamos su gyvomis rožėmis iš savo darželių. Baigiant pietus narės ir jų svečiai buvo pavaišinti Amilijos Mikalauskienės napoleonu ir Valerijos Lesčinskienės medaus tortu.

Po pietų klubo pirmininkas Antanas Gudonis gausiai susirinkusius pasvei-

kino ir pradėjo programą, kviesdamas kuopos pirmininkę Donna Kamm pasakyti kalbą. Pirmininkė Moterų sąjungos vardu visus pasveikino Motinos dienos proga ir trumpais bruožais paminėjo svarbiuosius įvykius katalikų moterų sąjungoje. Organizacija atšventusi 75 metų jubiliejų žengia į naują erą. Kalbėtoja taipgi prabilo anglų kalba, nes organizacijoje yra vartojama dvi kalbos ir žurnalas yra redaguojamas abiejom kalbom. Ragino visas moteris stoti į sąjungiečių eiles ir įsijungti į bendrą veikimą. Kalba užbaigta žodžiais — yra pasaulyje šimtai būdų pareikšti meilę, bet brangiausia iš visų yra motinos meilė.

Toliau, pristatyta kuopos finansų sekretorė, kuri labai gražiai paskaitė sukombinuotus tris eilėraščius. Po jos prot. sekretorė Angelė Šukis, labai susijaudinusi, skaitė savo draugės Marijos Černeckytės eilėraštį — *Motinos meilė*.

Mūsų kuopos Motinos dienos minėjimas praėjo iškilmingai ir pakilioje nuotaikoje.

Koresp.

ILLINOIS

CHICAGO

Šių metų kovo 11 dieną, 11 val. mes, 20-tos kp. narės, turėjome susirinkimą, tik neįprastoje vietoje, nes mokyklos salę užleidome Lietuvos Vyčiams. Jie tą dieną turėjo suvažiavimą. Buvo iškilmingos pamaldos ir pietūs.

Susirinkimą pradėjo pirmininkė Grašilija Meiluvienė malda ir kalba. Iš istorijos mes žinome, kad po Lietuvos kunigaikščių valdymo jau trečią kartą buvo paskelbta Lietuvos nepriklausomybė. Sudaryta vyriausybė, bet jai veikti trukdoma. Nors rusų kareiviai mindžioja mūsų žemę ir tankai gadina miestų gatves, ši kartą lietuviai nenori pasiduoti.

Mes linkime Lietuvai laisvės, ir kad parodyti mūsų rūpestį, mes važiuojame į miesto centrą su dviem vėliavomis: šio krašto ir trispalve.

Susirinkimas vyko įprasta tvarka. Buvo priimtas pereito susirinkimo gražiai parašytas protokolą. Protokolų sekretorė yra Stefanija Miliauskienė; jai priklauso padėka už jos rūpestingumą. Visos narės yra rūpestingos ir gerai lanko susirinkimus ir atlieka savo pareigas. Vėl gautas prašymas iš „Siamo“ dvynukių, prašant pagalbos ir šį kartą narės nusiuntė auką. Mes laikomės posakio: „Geriau daug kartų aukoti, negu vieną kartą prašyti aukos“. Nors, teisybę pasakius, dabar dažnai aukojame: aukas renkame Lietuvai, renkame Lietuvos našlaičiams, mokyklos vadovėliams. Džiaugiamės, kad turime ką paaukoti. Geros mūsų kuopos narės, jos darbščios, ruošia, dirba loterijai fantus, ir iš to mes gauname pinigų, kuriuos ir aukojame. Šių metų loterijų uždarbis parems atstoves, užmokant seimo mokesčių. Dar nežinome, kurios narės dalyvaus seime. Dėka darbščių ir sumanių narių mes turime pinigų ir kur reikia, juos aukojame.

Gr. M.

MASSACHUSETTS

WORCESTER

Madų paroda iš Lietuvos

Birželio 23 d. Lietuvių Katalikų Moterų Sąjungos 5-ta kuopa Maironio Parko patalpose suruošė „Madų parodą iš Lietuvos“, kurią suprojektavo Laima Kygaitė iš Lietuvos, kuri šiuo laiku vieši JAV ir yra apsistojusi New Yorke. Lietuvoje ji yra baigusi drabužių projektavimo mokslus. Jau daug kur dalyvavo su savo kūryba, parodomis, net ir premijų laimėjusi.

Laimos madų parodos nėra tokios,

kokias esame pripratę matyti. Ji naudoja naują metodą, stilių ir puošia sukneles įvairiais ornamentais. Labai tinka vakariniam puošniam priėmimui. Suknelės daugiausia ilgos, bet yra ir trumpesnės. Ilgą stalą nutiesė lininiais kostiumėliais, bliuskutėmis, su kuriais parodos pabigoje modeliuotojos supažindino publiką, kurios buvo prisirinkusi pilna salė.

Modeliavo R. Ambrozaitienė iš New Jersey, prieš kelis metus atvykusi iš Lietuvos. Kitos modeliuotojos — T. Adomavičienė, B. Miliauskaitė-Harris, I. Markevičienė — visos iš Worcesterio. Jos modeliavo 26 sukneles. Daugumoje jos ilgos. Jų ir spalva beveik panaši — dominuoja violetiniai tamsesni ir šviesesni tonai. Per krūtinę ir pečius eina tamsesnis drabužis, o ant jo uždėti šviesūs ornamentai. Suknelių apatinės dalys taip pat dažnai tamsios ir ten uždėti šviesūs ornamentai. Tai pačios Laimos surasta technika. Uždėtosios linijos plonos, su besikartojančia simetrija, ornamentų turtingumu. Dominuoja lapų, gėlių ornamentai. Kai kur buvo įvesti ir lietuviškų kryžių viršūnių ornamentai. Tie drabužiai nieko bendra neturi su lietuvišku stiliumi. Jie tinka visoms, kas pasisavins šią ornamentiką ir jų stilių. Tai nauja ir graži drabužių kūryba, į kurią Laima įdėjo daug širdies ir darbo visa tai projektuodama, tobulindama ir jai pavyko puikiai visa tai atsiekti, pagal jos gyvenimo sąlygas ir įvairius trūkumus Lietuvoje. Tikime, kad Laima su savo drabužių kūryba, stiliumi, ornamentais nueis modeliuoti ir į didžiuosius salonus.

Sekančiais metais Laima žada ir vėl mus iš Lietuvos aplankyti, jeigu sąlygos leis, su madų parodomis, bet jau su nauju stiliumi, naujomis tekstilės medžiagomis, su kuriomis ji šiuo laiku čia viešėdama susipažįsta, o taip pat ir įvairiais dažais, kuriuos įves į savo projektavimo kūrybą. Laimos žodžiais ta-

riant, visokiais būdais reikia garsinti pasauli mūsų Tėvynės Lietuvos vardą. Sėkmės, Laima!

Lietuvių ir anglų kalbomis komentatorė Gema Šermukšnytė labai sklandžiai paaiškino apie kiekvieną modeliuojamą drabužį. Šv. Kazimiero parapijos vargonininkė, kuri taip pat yra sąjungietė A. Walinsky, ne tik laike parodos, bet ir prieš ją, vikriai spaudė pianino klavišus, suteikdama visiems malonią nuotaiką ir sudarydama linksmą atmosferą, o per parodą kiekvieną modeliuotoją įlydėjo į salę ir iš jos išlydėjo aidint švelnios muzikos garsams.

O. Kildišienė, A. Jakniūnaitė ir J. Miliauskienė suorganizavo gražų viešnių ir svečių priėmimą. Vaišino vyneliu, sūriu, pyragaičiais ir kitais skanumynais, o ant baltomis staltiesėmis apdengtų

stalų kvepėjo išdėstytos vazutėsė rūtelės ir chrizentemos. Šios taip gražiai pavykusios madų parodos iniciatorė yra kuopos pirmininkė J. Spirauskienė. Tai trečioji madų paroda, suruošta jai esant pirmininke ir į tai ji įdėda daug darbo, triūso ir rūpesčių.

Buvo atvykusi ir LKM Sąjungos antroji vicepirm. A. Lipčienė su viešniomis iš Putnam, Conn. Taip pat dalyvavo viešnių iš Lietuvos, o viena net iš Australijos.

Janina M.

MICHIGAN

SOUTHFIELD

Chapter 54

Although the majority of our members refuse to attend meetings, perhaps



Mes ne tik sąjungietės, bet ir šaulės. Dešinėje Trakų šaulių rinktinės ir Dr. V. Kudirkos kp. Worcester, MA. sekretorė Janina Miliauskienė ir šaulė. J. Spirauskienė.

MS

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they would like to know what the officers (plus several faithful attendees) learn when we get together the second Sunday of nine months of the year.

We still belong to and pay our annual membership dues to BALF. We donate every year toward heat of parish buildings. Although our moneymaking projects are few and far between, we do not refuse charitable requests. Last fall we donated \$100 to the Special Fund, and another \$100 in spring to the Lithuanian Catholic Relief fund.

In the last few months we have lost three members through death. On April 23rd Antoinette Baron passed on. She was one of our 50-year honorees during our anniversary dinner in November, '89. This popular lady left us very suddenly. She was no meeting-attender, but served on countless committees never saying "no" when asked to help. Her cheery disposition will be missed at our chapter's Sunday "after mass coffees" and especially at our fall Luncheon and Card Party.

Just two weeks later we learned that Antoinette's sister, Malvina Janiunas, passed away in the nursing home she had lived in for several years.

Our third deceased member, Marie Kase, left us July 9th. She was also a 50-year member, and held the office of National President for several terms in the '60s. Through the years, she also held several chapter offices until a serious illness handicapped her. We recall her as the feisty lady, who did not hesitate to express her opinion, sometimes initiating spirited discussions at meetings.

We are sorry a member's name was inadvertently omitted in the obituary

column when she died in March of 1990. Helen Skratek was also a faithful worker when it was our chapter's turn to host the parish's coffee hour. Her cheerful attitude helped her family through her last months of life with a very painful illness.

Let us remember Helen, Antoinette, Malvina, Marie and all our deceased members in our prayers.

During the past month, two members celebrated their 50th wedding anniversaries. Monica (Peter) Banion and Alice (John) Banion were the fortunate couples—yes, they married brothers! Congratulations to all!

In a group of more than 80 people, member Albina Lingienė is visiting Lithuania with the Kovas Sports Club.

We are reminded that our annual Luncheon and Card Party (with the K. of L.) will be held Wednesday, Sept. 18 in the Cultural Center at noon.

Please remember chapter meetings are held the **second Sunday of the month**—beginning in September.

Bee Jay

GRAND RAPIDS

Užuojaautos

Gilią užuolautą reiškiamo mūsų 42-ros kuopos narei Marijonai Kušlikienėi ir jos šeimynai, amžinybėn iškeliavus jos vyrui bei tėvui Ignorui.

* * *

Taipgi gilią užuolautą reiškiamo kuopos narei Justinai Prelgauskienei, jos vyrui Kostui ir visai šeimai, amžinybėn iškeliavus jų sūnui, Bruce.

Sofija Lastienė, kp. pirm.