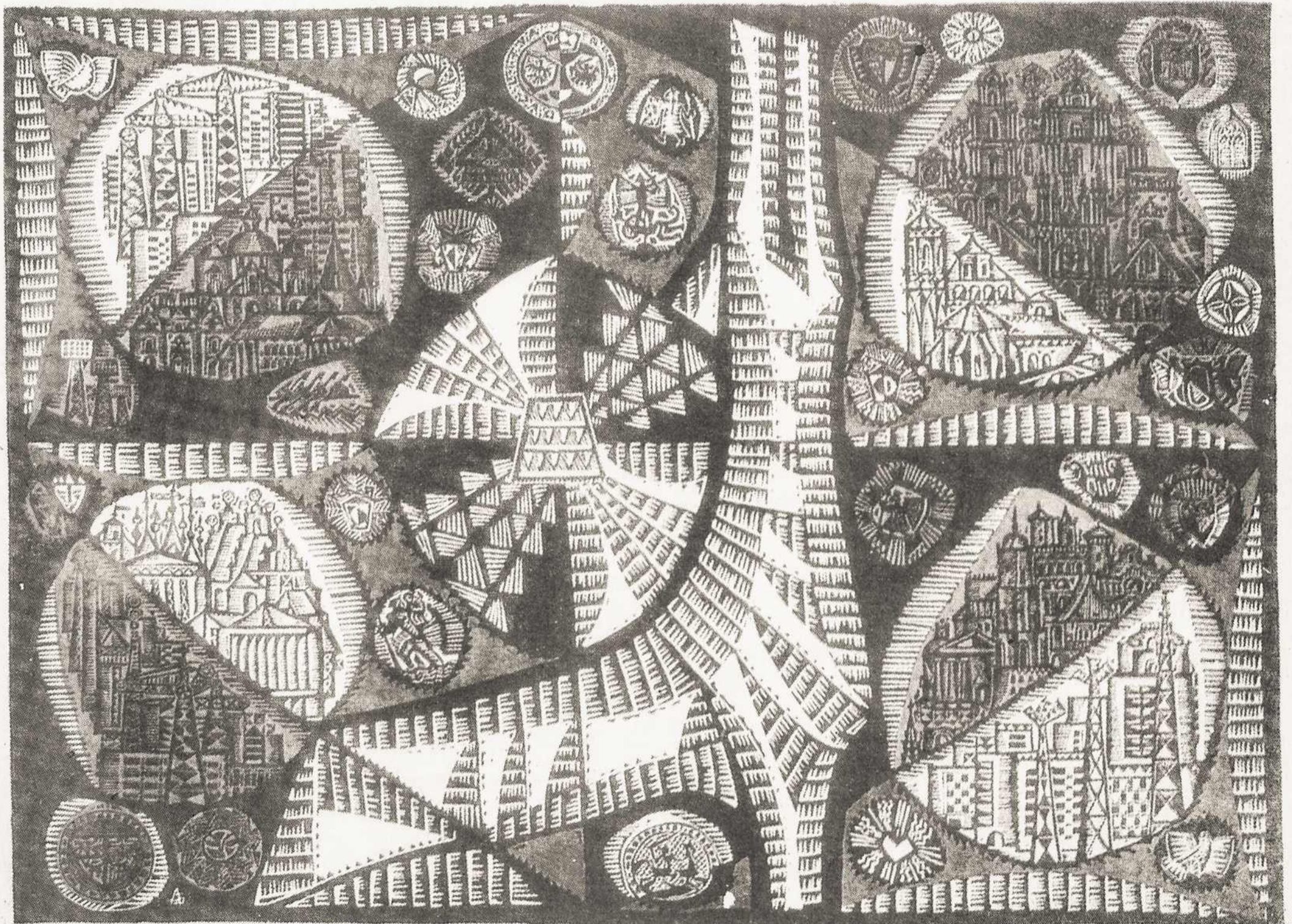


the KNIGHT
VYTYIS

1989

KNIGHTS OF LITHUANIA



**Geležinis Vilkas - artist Aldona Skirutyte
February 16, 1918 - 1989
Lietuvos Nepriklausomybės šventės minėjimas.**

V Y T I S

VASARIS / FEBRUARY

1989

KNIGHTS OF LITHUANIA

SUPREME COUNCIL
OFFICERS
1988-1989

SPIRITUAL ADVISOR
Rev. Joseph Anderlonis
St. George's Rectory
3580 Salmon St.
Philadelphia, PA 19134
(215) 739-3102

PRESIDENT
Anne (Klizas) Wargo
125 So. Morris St.
St. Clair, PA 17970
(717) 429-0132

1st VICE PRESIDENT
Frances R. Petkus
800 Haldeman Ave.
Dayton, OH 45404
(513) 236-0395

2nd VICE PRESIDENT
Frank Peterson
256 Sea Hill Road
North Branford, CT 06471
(203) 481-0776

3rd VICE PRESIDENT
Sabina Henson
45 Windsor Drive
Oak Brook, IL 60521
(312) 573-0066

RECORDING SECRETARY
Mary Kincius
2461 West 45th Place
Chicago, IL 60632
(312) 927-4990

TREASURER
Theresa Trainis
111 Old Towne Road
Cheshire, CT 06410
(203) 271-2876

FINANCIAL SECRETARY
Anne Cheplick
28 Delwood Drive
Oakville, CT 06779
(203) 274-6487

TRUSTEES
Mary Juzenas
4613 West 102nd St.
Oak Lawn, IL 60453
(312) 425-6014

Eugene Ashley
2219 Orville Ave.
Kansas City, KS 66102
(913) 342-5065

VYTIS is published monthly October thru June, bi-monthly July-August and September-October by the KNIGHTS OF LITHUANIA. Subscription \$10.00 per year. Second class postage paid at Chicago, IL. Business address: 5112 Mayfield Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. All correspondence should reach the Editors by the FIRST OF THE MONTH, two months in advance of issue. The editors assume no obligation to return any material or photos solicited or unsolicited.

Publication No. 663680

VYTIS STAFF:

Mary (Rusas) Kober, Editor-in-Chief
Two Bayview Avenue
Port Washington, NY 11050
(516) 767-1517

Dalia Bulvicius
Feature Writer
30 Montrose Avenue
Brooklyn, NY 11206

Helen Chesko
Council News Editor
1000 E. Pine Street
Mahanoy City, PA 17948

AMBER DISTRICT PRESIDENT
Joseph E. Simmons
1645 Hillside Drive
Quakertown, PA 18951
(215) 536-6320

MAMD PRESIDENT
Algerd Brazis
8022 W. 85th Place
Justice, IL 60458
(312) 598-6193

MAD PRESIDENT
Jonas Adomenas
69 Irving Ave.
Brooklyn, NY 11237
(718) 497-5212

MCD PRESIDENT
John P. Baltrus
5325 Orchard Hill Drive
Pittsburgh, PA 15236
(412) 881-1716

NED PRESIDENT
Albert Jaritis
75 Gates St.
So. Boston, MA 02127
(617) 269-1513

LEGAL ADVISOR
Saulius V. Kuprys
Henchan, Donovan & Isaacson
135 So. LaSalle St., Room 3905
Chicago, IL 60603
(312) 346-5275

ARCHIVES COMMITTEE
Longinas Svelnis
43 Gage Street
Needham, MA 02192
(617) 444-7499

CULTURAL COMMITTEE
Maryte Lepera
117 Boulder Rd.
Plymouth Meeting, PA 19462
(215) 825-2740

HONORARY MEMBERSHIP
Stanley Vaitkus, Chairman
518 Hialeah Court
Vandalia, OH 45377
(513) 898-3030

LITHUANIAN AFFAIRS
Bernice Aviza
6 Tremont St.
Albany, NY 12205
(518) 459-5256

LITHUANIAN LANGUAGE
Apolonija Ziausys
4 Bartlett St.
Amsterdam, NY 12010
(518) 842-7208

PUBLIC RELATIONS
Dalia Bulvicius
30 Montrose Ave. Apt. 9-P
Brooklyn, NY 11206
(718) 782-1541

RITUAL COMMITTEE
Albert Zakarka, Chairman
6958 So. Rockwell
Chicago, IL 60629
(312) 434-7785

Sophia Zukas
5112 So. Mayfield Ave.
Chicago, IL 60638
(312) 582-3820

Rita Pinkus
76 Providence St.
Worcester, MA 01604
(508) 756-1439

LCR COORDINATOR
Florence Zalaskas
264 Bowen St.
So. Boston, MA 02127
(617) 269-1873

ST. CASIMIR'S COLLEGE
— ROME
Dr. Jack Stukas
234 Sunlit Drive
Watchung, NJ 07060
(201) 753-5636

SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE
William J. Piacentini, Jr.,
Chairman
362 Webster Ave.
Cranston, RI 02920
(401) 943-3495

Clemencine Miller
Secretary & Treasurer
80 Cottage St.
Trumbull, CT 06611
(203) 268-2350

Paul Binkis, Jr.
7126 S. Fairfield Ave.
Chicago, IL 60629
(312) 471-4804

Gloria Dauchess
516 Greenwood Ave.
Pottsville, PA 17901
(717) 628-5700

Rita Shevokas
87 Water St.
New Philadelphia, PA 17959
(717) 277-6913

Sr. Alvernia Walls, O.S.F.
Grove & McRoberts St.
Pittsburgh, PA 15234

John Contons
25 Sherwood Forest Drive
Gilford, NH 03246
(603) 528-2272

K OF L FOUNDATION
Loretta Stukas
234 Sunlit Drive
Watchung, NJ 07060
(201) 753-5636

EDITORIAL

On February 16th Lithuanians in the free world will commemorate the 71st anniversary of the restoration of independence to the Republic of Lithuania, in 1918, and the 738th anniversary of the establishment of the Lithuanian state in 1251. Lithuania will not perish as long as ideals of freedom and justice prevail. There will always be a Lithuania; a Lithuania in the hearts of men; a Lithuania in the culture of peoples, and a Lithuania in the history of the world's struggle for freedom.

ABOUT OUR COVER: It features a print from the cycle "Lithuania, the Land of Peace" 1967. Entitled - Vilnius by artist Aldona Skirutyte. The artist was born in Lithuania and has won numerous awards for her exhibits of Lithuanian graphic art. At the center of the artist's prints there is always Man. Whatever the object of the artist's representation - fisherman, woodcutters or legendary heroes - her images are always romantically raised above the trivial round and common task of everyday life. Sometimes the artist's fantasy penetrates into the distant past of her country bringing back the poetical images of ancient legends as in this month's cover, the Gelezinis Vilkas about which the Grand Duke Gediminas had a dream and later founded the city of Vilnius.

THE FOUR REGIONS OF LITHUANIA

Every nation, regardless of its size, has its own regional dialects and different linguistic and cultural characteristics. One does not have to look beyond the borders of the United States to prove this point; just by watching the evening news on television serves as a good example. Interviews with residents of the south and southwest disclose an English language spoken with a "southern drawl". Those from the New England area have their own mannerisms of speech, too. Many jokes have been said about the language known as "Brooklynese", spoken by some of those who live in one of the five boroughs of the City of New York called Brooklyn. We are all American, we speak the same English language, but depending upon which part of the United States we live in, our dialects are different in some ways, are they not?

Lithuania, as small as it is, is no different from any other country. I learned this during one of my visits to Lithuania when I toured the Lithuanian Country Life Museum, which is located by the Vilnius-Kaunas highway, and borders the Kaunas Sea not far from the Village of Rumšiškės. The four regions of Lithuania are beautifully reconstructed

here as they existed during the period between the second half of the 18th and the first half of the 20th centuries; they are Dzukija, Aukštaitija, Žemaitija and Suvalkija, which is also known as Suduva. Each of them contains buildings, homesteads, and works of art characteristic of their respective regions, and each of them has their own place in the history of Lithuania.

It is interesting to note that there are no boundary lines to clearly define where one region



begins or where it ends.

Let's discuss the region of Dzukija. This name itself has been known since the 19th century and it comprises the southern and southeastern part of Lithuania. The Dzukai vernacular, a peculiar dialect used in the Grand Duchy of Lithuania, was first mentioned in the 16th century. The nucleus of this area, on both sides of the Nemunas and Merkys Rivers, is defined by the towns of Alytus, Lazdijai, Varena and Druskininkai.

The inhabitants of Dzukija have their own peculiar dialect. In some of the words, instead of pronouncing the letter "d", the letters "dz" are used. For example, instead of saying Dievas (meaning God), they say dzievas; instead of saying dvylika (meaning twelve), they say dzvylika. Because of this, those speaking this dialect were called dzukai

and the land inhabited by them was called Dzukija. The Dzukai are known to be sincere and hospitable people.

The land of Dzukija is the birthplace of Mikalojus Konstantinas Čiurlionis, the world famous Lithuanian painter and composer, and Vincas Krevė-Mickevičius, the prominent Lithuanian writer.

To me, the construction of this Museum seemed as if it was dedicated to the memory of those hard working, ordinary Lithuanians who worked their beloved land from dawn till dusk, raising and taking care of their families with little time for themselves to enjoy the luxuries of life, which in those times seemed non-existent. Life was just one big struggle for survival.

Ed Baranauskas

(To be Continued)



K of L MEMBERSHIP ID CARD
OPENS GATES TO
RESTRICTED AREA!

During Mikhail Gorbachev's most recent visit to New York City, several ethnic groups gathered to demonstrate outside of the United Nations where he appeared.

It seems that everyone who wished to demonstrate was gathered in one area. However, C-110 Maspeth's Public Relations chairman, Joe Dugan arrived a bit late but also wanted to be amongst the demonstrators. Yes,

he had somewhat of a difficulty in convincing the police that he, too, belonged with the demonstrators across the street. No way could he convince the police until he withdrew from his wallet his K of L ID Membership Card and showed it to the officer. VALIO, the barricade was removed and Joe was able to join the 200 assembled Lithuanians. One never knows when this Membership Card can pull one out of dire straits. Good thinking, Joe!

OPEN LETTER TO PRESIDENT REAGAN

On this occasion, Mr. President, we wish to thank you for your eight years of dedicated service to the people of this country. Many times you were confronted with national and international problems. Without flinching you faced the issues, and your achievements have been outstanding. For all that, we are most grateful to you.

Now, Mr. President, allow me to make an observation and analysis of an all-important point that Mr. Gorbachev brought out in his speech of December 7th before the U.N. Assembly. In his speech, Mr. Gorbachev said that it doesn't matter what ideologies are the driving force behind nations; that we can have flexibility in our ideologies and nations can still be compatible and live peacefully with one another, respecting one another.

Let me say, Mr. Gorbachev, it matters very much what the ideology of a nation is. If an ideology is "per se", that is intrinsically evil, then it cannot be recognized as a legitimate driving force of a nation and should not be accepted by the people. But the ideology of Communism is "per se" evil.

Now why do I make this strong statement?

Allow me to prove the point with this simple but effective logic.

Any ideology that denies the people of any nation its basic human rights is "per se", that is intrinsically evil.

But Communism has enslaved many nations and denies the people of these nations their basic human rights and particularly the most basic of all human rights, namely FREEDOM. Therefore, Communism is intrinsically evil and should not be imposed upon the people of any nation.

In conclusion, Mr. President, let us alert the people of our nation just what is changing as regards Communism. We must make it clear that only the tactics and technique of Communism are changing. What is most important is to realize that the ideology of Communism is NOT changing. They still seek world domination.

Let us hope and pray that some day in the near future the Communists will realize how unjust and evil it is for them to enslave nations and that Mr. Gorbachev or some future leader of Russia would stand up and say "How unjust our ideology has been. We now realize that every individual, every nation is entitled to certain basic human rights and particularly to the most basic human right of all, namely FREEDOM and to enjoy all the privileges that go with freedom. Now we retreat from all those nations we enslaved and allow them to be free and work out their own destiny."

When and if we see the dawn of this grand and glorious day then and then only will we be able to cheer and applaud. In the meanwhile, let us Beware and be Cautious! Let us not be deceived and misguided by the changes in tactics and technique while the ideology of Communism does NOT change.

A Merry Christmas to you, Mr. President and Nancy, and wishing both of you a happy life on your ranch in California.

With prayer and gratitude,
Rev. Albert C. Abracinkas

BOOK REVIEW

THE SWORD AND THE CROSS: A History of the Church in Lithuania by Dr. Saulius Suziedelis with an introduction by Bishop Paul Baltakis, OFM

For 600 years, Lithuanian Catholics have successfully maintained their faith and culture despite persecution and repression by such forces as the Communist Soviet Union. Now, readers can discover the importance of the Catholic Church to those under Soviet domination by reading Dr. Suziedelis' popular history **THE SWORD AND THE CROSS**.

Dr. Suziedelis uses a friendly, easy to understand style to describe the Catholic Church's role in the institutional, political and cultural life of the Lithuanian

people. He begins with a brief account of pre-Christian times and takes the reader through the twentieth century, detailing the struggles of Lithuanian Catholics in their own country and the contributions of Lithuanian Catholics around the world.

Given the changes currently taking place in the Soviet Union, the information, illustrations, and maps in **THE SWORD AND THE CROSS** will give readers a better understanding of both Lithuania's past and today's headlines. The book can be obtained from: Our Sunday Visitor, 200 Noll Plaza, P.O. Box 920, Huntington, IN 46750 at a cost of \$9.95 - 164 pages - 5-1/4" x 8".

Realities of Gorbachev's Russia

America's Future

When it comes to *real* reforms in Mikhail Gorbachev's Russia, it seems to be a case of, "the more things change, the more they stay the same." Despite all the loud arguments and public criticism during the extraordinary four-day Communist Party conference in Moscow last summer, the Soviet Union is still a long way from democracy as we know it. On paper, the conference called for shifting some administrative power from the Communist Party to a nationwide network of 52,000 elected state councils, with no one but several candidates vying for each elective post. Also, the voting is to be by secret ballot, and the elected officials are restricted to no more than two five-year terms. Heading up the new system will be an elected body called the "Congress of People's Deputies." Its 2,250 members, in turn, vote for a two-chamber legislature and a president.

All of this *sounds* great. But on examining the fine print of the conference's resolutions, there are some catches. For example, while the Communist Party is to relinquish *formal* responsibility for running state affairs, it still will control the new system itself. From the smallest district council to the new national parliament, the top spots will be held by the "appropriate" party chiefs. This means that Gorbachev will control both the Party and the new state bodies, giving him greater authority than ever. As one Western analyst told the *Wall Street Journal's* Moscow cor-

respondent, Peter Gumbel, "This isn't 'we the people,' it's 'I the General Secretary.' "

What Gorbachev is clearly trying to do is to break the hold of the entrenched bureaucracy that for years has stifled the Soviet economy under layers of red tape and inertia. He and his supporters in the so-called reform movement know that the U.S.S.R. no longer can compete as a world power unless there's a major shakeup of the moribund communist society. Consumers are grumbling more loudly than ever over the shortage of goods, caused mostly by the gross inefficiency and mismanagement of state controls and the heavy drain of the Soviet military machine and Moscow's satellite empire. And within that empire, captive peoples are rattling their chains as never before.

While attempting to inject life and vitality into the Soviet system, Gorbachev by no means contemplates loosening the Communist Party's overall control. The new *glasnost*, or openness, has strict limits. The diversity of ideas, freedom of assembly and criticism in the press will be tolerated only as long as they don't cross the Party Line. For example, none of the 5,000 delegates at the above mentioned conference questioned the objectives of Gorbachev's political reforms; the quibbling was over details. And nobody even hinted that genuine political opposition to the Communist Party will be tolerated. It remains Russia's one and only party.

JEST KIDDING; Caller, to a little boy at door: "Is your mother engaged?" Little boy replies: "I think she's married".

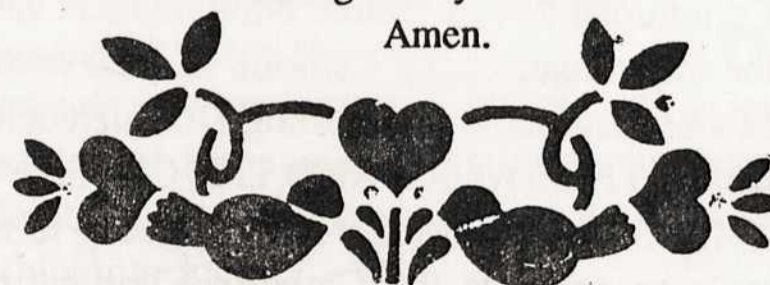
At the end of a wedding service we recently attended, the minister smiled at the nervous bridegroom and said, "You may now kiss Mrs. Cunningham". The bride watched in amazement as her new husband walked bashfully over to the front pew and gave his mother a hurried kiss on the cheek.

Two students from a local school were walking in front of me. Both of them wore paisley-punk garb and one had a unique coiffure - most of her hair was shaved off and the remainder was worn in a multi-colored ponytail. Said one to the other as she pointed across the street: "Check out the lady with the curlers in her hair. That is SO tacky!"

A Marriage Prayer

Lord, help us remember when we first met and the strong love that grew between us. To work that love into practical things so nothing can divide us. We ask for words both kind and loving, and for hearts always ready to ask forgiveness as well as to forgive. Dear Lord, we put our marriage into your hands.

Amen.



THE OPERA "TOSCA", A REFLECTION OF TODAY'S POLITICAL REALITY

The Greater New Britain Opera in collaboration with the New Britain Symphony presented Puccini's *Tosca* at the Vincent Sala Hall in New Britain, CT during November 1988. Diana Lucille Vytell of New Haven performed the part of the opera diva, Floria Tosca, about whom the drama revolves.

As the daughter of Lithuanian parents and grandparents, Diana Vytell accomplished her tragic role with deep feeling and artistic skill. Caught between the love of two men - one who represented truth and beauty, the other a master of power and oppression - Floria Tosca chooses to sacrifice herself of the inevitable.

A political drama of 1800 Rome, *Tosca* emphasizes the growing belief in democracy, freedom and goodness, the ideals sown throughout Europe by Napoleon Bonaparte. The enemies of the growing trend are personified in the evil Baron Scarpia, Rome's Chief-of-Police, who tried to quench the growing flame.

Puccini's Opera, *Tosca*, made a deep impression on many who equated today's political reality in many parts of the world as unchanged from that of early 19th century Rome, with the existing struggle between the lust for power and the need for freedom.

The words of Floria Tosca in the exquisite aria of Part II is a lament of Christian faith and love:

I have lived for art.
I have lived for love.
I have never harmed a living soul.
Whenever I heard of any misfortune
I quietly gave help.

I was always sincere in my faith.
I offered prayers before the tabernacle.
I placed flowers on the altar
And now this is my hour of pain.
Why, Lord, do you reward me like this?

I gave my jewels for the Madonna's cape.
I offered my songs to heaven.
I sang to the stars
That they shine more brightly.

Now this is my hour of pain.
Why, Lord, do you reward me like this?

As the drama unfolds, Floria Tosca proves herself equal to the cunning Baron Scarpia. Pretending to accept his advances, she plunges a knife into his body. As he falls lifeless, she exclaims, "This is the man before whom all Rome trembles". Although her lover was executed and she herself plunged to her death from the prison parapet, all was not lost. Goodness continues its struggle with evil.

Diana Vytell had acquired her love for music from her mother, Valerie Kaunietis Vytell, also an accomplished singer. Her paternal aunts, Sisters Lidwina, Virginia and Marie Celine, are members of the Community of the Poor Sisters of Jesus Crucified and the Sorrowful Mother, a Congregation founded by a Lithuanian Passionist, Rev. Alphonsus Marie Urbanavicius.

Diana confided to her aunt, Sister Virginia Vytell, that she deeply regrets not having learned more Lithuanian from her grandmother when she had the opportunity as a child. Finding it possible to sing in Italian, with luck and more coaching, Diana Vytell could be persuaded to bring to life the majestic operas presented in Lithuanian, a musical and ancient language equal to Italian in beauty and expression. Much would be learned of Lithuania's great past and her continuing struggle for goodness and freedom.



It Seems Like Yesterday

By Joseph Boley, HM

Jack Juozaitis, new K of L President in a letter dated 10/1/49: "I have a problem - the Lithuanians in our councils and district I've visited several councils now and I find the situation the same. Lithuanian is something taken for granted but not used in the meetings, activities or programs of most of the councils because they find it easier to just speak English."

Norkunas, laiške Sadauskui kalbant apie Juniors: "Be jaunimo ir senių nebus. Taigi nenustosių jieškojės galimybių kol protas ir širdis tvaksės."



CHICAGO! CHICAGO! That Toddling Town!

CHICAGO! CHICAGO! We'll Show You Around!

Chicago has an endless variety of wonderful things to see and do. We'll show you some of them August 2, 1989.

The Loop is more than just the business district. LaSalle Street's canyons are the Midwest's financial focus, and Clark and Dearborn Streets boast a congress of local, state and Federal government buildings. Right next to them is State Street - "That Great Street" - lined with department stores and specialty shops. Just a few steps away is Michigan Avenue, the heart of culture in the Loop. On top of this, the entire downtown is shot through the architectural masterpieces that chronicle Chicago's seminal role in the development of the modern high-rise.

Chicago will always be proud of its lakefront. Grant Park stretches the length of the Loop and is dotted with sculpture and flower gardens. The most spectacular of these is Buckingham Fountain, with its amazing light show every summer night.

There is an abundance of culture to be found here. The Art Institute of Chicago is renowned for its

collections of the masters. The Field Museum of Natural History houses extensive botanical and zoological exhibits, including our famous African elephants. Live specimens abound at the John G. Shedd Aquarium. For the science-minded there is the Adler Planetarium, with its amazing exhibits and spectacular Sky Show, or the Museum of Science and Industry, where you can push buttons, pull cranks and flip levers to see "how it works".

Marquette Park is the largest of Chicago's Lithuanian neighborhoods. Central to the neighborhood is Nativity B.V.M. Parish, home of your host council, and the Sisters of St. Casimir Motherhouse, which maintains a Lithuanian museum rivalling the nearby Balzekas Museum of Lithuanian culture. The streets of Marquette Park are lined with Lithuanian restaurants, delicatessens and taverns, as well as a variety of shops featuring Lithuanian art and collectibles.

Details of the Preconvention Tours will be included in the Convention mailing everyone will receive in February.

*76th K of L National Convention
August 2 - 6, 1989*

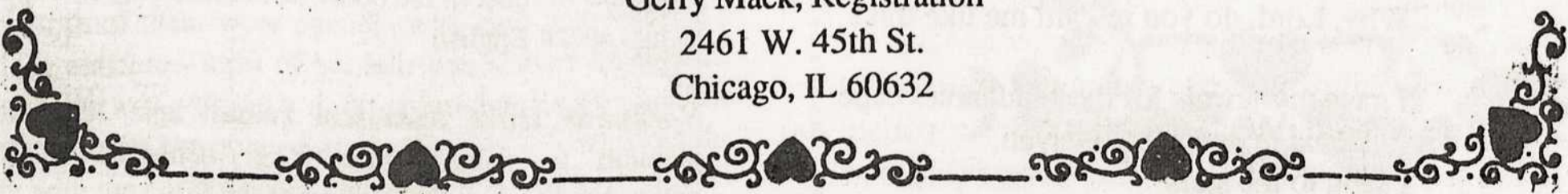
Holiday Inn Countryside, LaGrange, IL

Convention Registration Fee Only
\$75.00 per person



Low, Low Special Rates
Call Toll-Free
1-800-HOLIDAY
Specify GROUP CODE KOL

Gerry Mack, Registration
2461 W. 45th St.
Chicago, IL 60632



St. Francis, Athol, MA celebrates its 75th

On Oct. 23, 1988 with 75 rings of the tower bell, St. Francis of Assisi parish, Athol, MA celebrated its 75th year of founding. The first Lithuanians began arriving in Athol during late 1880's and attended the "Irish Church" on the hill. They longed for a church of their own where they could pray, worship and sing their native hymns.

A polarized Lithuanian priest, Rev. Dr. Joseph Radzevich arrived in Gardner in 1908 from St. Casimir's in Worcester, MA to establish a Polish-Lithuanian Church. This never materialized because the Lithuanian minority were denied equal language rights. Rev. Radzevich traveled to Athol for several years and ministered to their needs, however, the Lithuanians were dissatisfied with him. Finally, they rejoiced as Rev. Joseph Montvila was to arrive and become their first pastor. Their joy was short lived as Rev. Montvila drowned on the ill-fated "Titanic" in 1912. Finally, on Nov. 13, 1913, Rev. Francis Meskauskas arrived from Lithuania to become the first pastor. Services were held in Our Lady of Vilna hall on Jones St. until 1921 when the current brick church was erected.

The Lithuanians loved their new church and the parish became a beehive of activity with card parties, picnics, suppers, concerts and bazaars which helped to pay off the large debt incurred. Dedicated pastors thru the years included Revs. Meskauskas, Petraitis, Juraitis, Daugis, Jutt, Tamulevicius, Yankauskas, Steponaitis and the present pastor, Rev. Joseph Jurgelonis.

Bishop George E. Rueger blessed a bronze plaque on the corner of the church facade containing the prayer of St. Francis, commissioned for the observance prior to Mass. Leading the procession into church were fourth degree members of Knights of Lithuania, altar boys and visiting clergy. Approximately 350 persons packed the beautifully decorated church for the con-celebrated Mass.

In his homily, Bishop Rueger outlines three generations who made up the life of a parish: the "memory generation", the "founders and leaders" in the early years, the "executor generation" who now

serve the parish including priests and all who assisted him and the "hope generation" consisting of present youth whose task is "to pass on the torch of faith". A banquet for 350 followed at the Elks Lodge. Several K of L's were on the committee. The local press gave the long to be remembered affair excellent coverage.

Founded by immigrant Lithuanians and built through their faith and dedication, parishioners now include other ethnic groups that have added to the strength and vigor of the parish. Over the years, the parishioners loved and supported their priests and parish and have been served by devoted and caring priests. There certainly is reason to rejoice.

Lai parapija sulaukė 100 metų jubilėjaus.

Bill Wisniausk

St. Francis Church, Athol, MA



WHAT ABOUT HAWAII For Vacations Only

Konnie J. Savickus

Our newest state of the United States is fast surpassing Florida and California as a vacation spot. It's a new attraction and has many natural places of interest, most important of which are the volcanoes. Some of them are presently active, spouting lava into the ocean, such as the one near Hilo, Hawaii. Vapor clouds form high above the island, lava hits the water and a spectacular scene is the result. Visitors are permitted to walk close to the shore, but autos are not, for fear of blocking the road in case of an emergency.

The volcanoes, most of which are dormant, with huge craters, measuring eleven miles or more around the rim, have horse, auto and walking trails. If you're on horseback inside a crater trail and an eruption occurs, be ready for one helluva ride out of it. The climate is excellent - no poison ivy or oak is found there, or snakes, and the atmosphere is free of pollution. The islands comprising Hawaii are Kauai, Oahu, Molokai, Lanai, Maui and Hawaii, plus many smaller ones. With hot days and cool nights, this section of the earth is a wonderful spot to forget winter and snow.

As for scenery, this state is the garden spot of all our states with black, gold or white beaches, secluded caves, soaring visitors along ocean shores of clear green-blue water. There are water falls, jungle grottos, groves of fruit trees, mangoes and colorful flowers growing everywhere. There are 30,000 species of orchids to be found. What more can one ask for to keep them interested? At night there are Hula dancers and spectators are warned to "keep off the grass".

The Polynesians, first inhabitants of these islands worshipped various Gods, spirits and demi-Gods such as "Maui", the God who legend states captured the sun and held it to give the people more sunlight hours. "Pele" was the Goddess of Fire - she created volcanoes which destroyed land and created it. She was unpredictable and wanted most of all respect, not love. After Capt. Cook discovered these islands in 1719, missionaries and Whalers followed. The first Congregational Church was built in 1837.

There are many highlights of special interest in Hawaii, such as:

1. PEARL HARBOR - a monument in Honolulu to our sailors and soldiers entombed in water in the

battleship Arizona when it was sunk by the Japanese on Dec. 7, 1941 in a sneak attack. Should there be any guilt on our part for using the atom bomb in Hiroshima or Nagasaki to save more of our men from dying and to stop the war? Definitely "No".

2. VOLCANO NATIONAL PARK is a "must" to see.

3. Near Koni, is the PARKER RANCH, a one family owned enterprise for six generations, with 300,000 acres of land and some 100,000 animals such as cattle, sheep, horses and buffalo. It's the largest in the world with only eighty employees!

4. POLYNESIAN VILLAGE: A Mormon controlled project comprising of theaters and buildings presenting a saga of Polynesian life in Hawaii, Tahiti, Fiji, Samoa and it also stages dances, melodious songs and exhibition of village life in Waikiki.

5. WAIKIKI BEACH: In the heart of downtown Honolulu where everyone goes to swim, surf or watch the tourists go by.

6. WINSTON HOTEL is a lavish structure built in movie production style - elaborate as can be with prices to match. It is situated on Kauai Island.

With sugar prices at a new low, the Islands are growing more pineapples and inviting more tourists to bolster their economy. "Welcome to Hawaii!" In addition, if you're lucky, a quake can make you shake, rattle and roll.

Smile — Nusišypsok!

Lietuviai maiše

Sukišo visus lietuvius į vieną maišą prigumdė ir numetė.

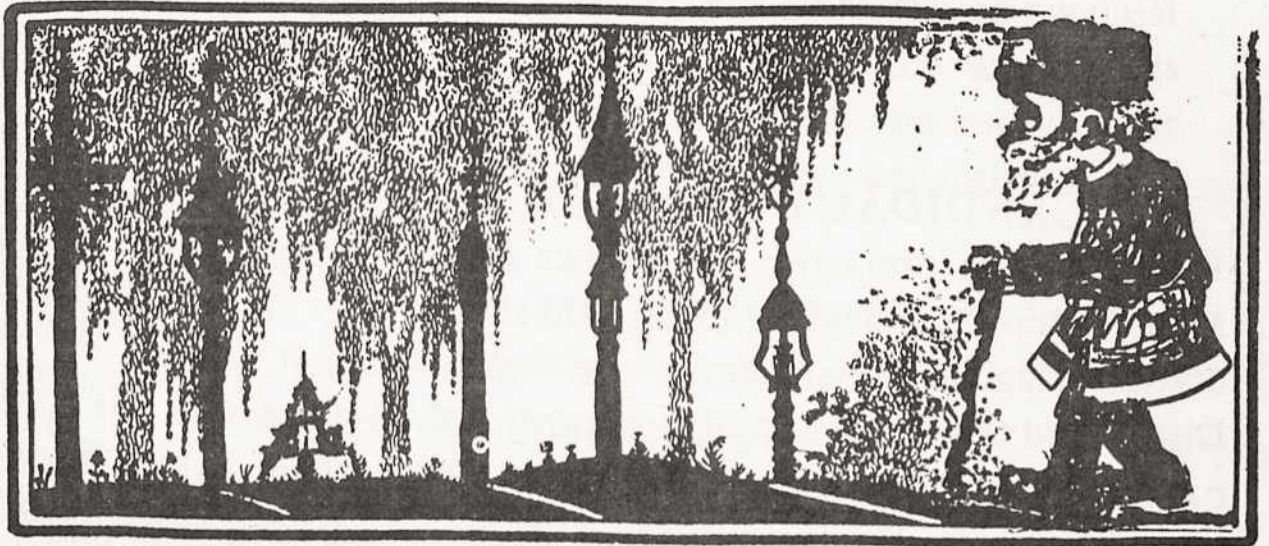
Pirmas išlenda iš maišo aukštaitis, bėga kiek kojos neša ir pabėga.

Antras išlipa dzūkas ir laukia. Prieina velnias ir klausia: "O ko tu lauki"? Dzūkas atsako: "Laukiu draugų — vienam liūdna"!

Paskui išlipa suvalkietis. Velnias jo klausia: "Ką lauki"? Suvalkietis ir sako: "Laukiu kol visi išlips pasiimsiu maišą, žmonai sijonas bus".

Paskiausiai lieka žemaitis ir nelenda iš maišo. Priėjo velnias ir klausia: "Kodėl nelipi iš maišo"? O žemaitis sako: "Kas įkišo — tas tegul ir ištraukia"! ir toliau užsispyrs sėdi maiše.

"Dede Kastukas Sako"i



The Johnstown Flood

Perhaps you don't remember it, since it happened in May some 99 years ago in a steel town 90 miles west of Pittsburgh. It killed 2,200 people out of the 10,000 that lived there. The city was situated in a valley where Stoney Creek River and the Conemough River meet. The Dam burst after ten inches of rain fell there in 24 hours. They've had minor floods recently but the residents aren't too concerned since the population is 30,000 at present.

I'm a pessimist so I wouldn't feel safe in that city. The idea of waking up at night in my bed as it floats down the river, would be too much of a surprise for me. The same type of Dam bursting and killing of 2,500 people happened in Italy a few years ago. I wouldn't live there, "Not by a Dam site!"

It's Oman - Not Amen

Remember the three Wise Men who were riding their camels on the way to visit the Christ Child? They had to stop at the gas station for directions to Bethlehem. They used the washroom, too, and they were told to follow the vivid path of the big Bright Star. They were bringing frankincense and myrrh as a gift.

Do you know what frankincense is? It's a gum extracted from a desert shrub, named *Boswellia Carterii*, while myrrh is the resin of a small cactus. Mix the two of them with jasmine and other ingredients to make perfume. At present a perfumery in Oman has revived production and sale of this ancient fragrance at about \$375 per ounce. A Frenchman was hired to develop this exotic commodity. At that cost per ounce, even the price smells.

The plants are found in the Dhofari province on the slopes of mountains in the state of Oman. Another large income producing product of that country is oil. If the sale of "Amouage", the name of the perfume, doesn't go well - you might get some in Oman to mix with gas when you buy a tankful, so your car can smell ritzy even if you don't.

Empty Promises - Promises

'Tis said that a Belgian waffle is more solid than a Commie Treaty - so Mr. Sputnik "If you're giving me the business, give me the license, too".

Two words of present day Communists are heard continuously all over the world - Glosnost and Perstroika, in effect new progress. Top Commie Komisar Gorbachev is trying to advance his country's failing economy to better financial achievements by introducing capitalistic and socialistic ideas of reform in the retarded Russian government. He advises more freedom of religious and individual rights, and condemns Stalin's past killing of innocent people. In fact, he proposes a monument to those victims who died or were imprisoned from 1940 to 1953 under the rule of "Stalin The Butcher Man". Commie Krushchev continued that reign of terror from 1953 to 1964. The dead cannot be brought back to life.

It would be a more convincing show of sincerity by Commie Gorbachev of his intentions if he released the remaining prisoners of innocence of that era who are still alive in the slave labor and political tombs of SIBERIA. Let them all come home. Give us concrete proof of Communist intent - instead of hand shakes and empty speeches. Those prisoners are entitled to their freedom and to reparation for the time they spent in jail. "Kharasho?"

"Oink.....Oink!"

A family in Washington State is raising and selling China pigs as house pets. They cost over \$200 each and are supposed to be clean, friendly and play with the cat or dog. They don't even mind if the wife calls the husband a pig. They're sensitive, too, so please don't discuss pork chops or pork sausages in their presence. Bet you 100 to 1 they won't be a popular pet in Israel.

I Heard This:

If Noah had been truly wise -
He'd have swatted those two big flies!

THE TRUTH

ABOUT HONORARY MEMBERSHIP

CANDIDACY PROCEDURES

1. Before proposing a member for Honorary Membership Candidacy, work up a detailed history of activities and accomplishments with the Council, District and Supreme Council. Add other activities and participation with parish, religious, civic or other organizations, if any, which have resulted in recognition of the K of L or Lithuanian causes.

2. Considering that the Honorary Membership is NOT a Degree and that there are probably several hundred members who have also been awarded the Fourth Degree, The Distinguished Order of St. Casimir, for their years of dedicated, untiring service in the K of L, pick out and make a separate list of those accomplishments which are extraordinary.

3. Review with several fellow officers and members, and if you feel that the Honorary membership Committee and National Convention delegates will agree that this member has distinguished himself or herself by intensive, sustained, outstanding services for the K of L and the Lithuanian causes, then prepare and present a resolution at your Council and District meeting.

4. Upon approval by the members, send the history and the resolution to the Honorary Membership Chairman. The resolution must be signed by the Council and District President, Secretary and Spiritual Advisor. If one of these signatories is the candidate, the officer next in line of authority is to sign. The resolution must be recorded in the meeting minutes.

5. The Honorary Membership Committee will review the history and ask for more data, if necessary. If the Committee sees that the candidate still has not reached the standards, the Council and District presenting the resolution will be so advised.

6. If the candidate is found acceptable by the majority of the Committee, the originating resolution

body will be advised of the possible date of presentation of the resolution to the National Convention delegates for final approval.

7. If several approved candidates are pending, the order of procedure will be weighed not only on the basis of date the resolution was received but also on the basis of qualification.

8. If there are two candidates a Council and District want to propose, it is urged that they be submitted in separate years, so as not to detract from the distinctiveness of this honor, for rarely is their eligibility so completely equal.

9. Members on the Honorary Membership Committee are selected to represent the various active District areas and are members who are aware of the performance of the more active members. It is not often, but where the candidate's accomplishments are not known as extensively by the other committee members they are accordingly appraised by the area representative.

REQUISITES

1. The candidate must be a Fourth Degree member.

2. The Honorary Membership Committee must present the resolution for Honorary Membership to the National Convention for approval by the Convention Delegates.

3. The history of the recipient must be published in "VYTIS" prior to the convention when the Honorary Membership is conferred.

QUALIFICATION EXAMPLES

1. Though not an absolute prerequisite, most of the present Honorary Members have held office in the Supreme Council.

2. Though not an absolute prerequisite, most of the present Honorary Members were continuously active for at least twenty-five years.

3. There are and have been great numbers of great presidents and vice-presidents. These higher offices were justly earned and were acknowledgements of the trust in these leaders to keep the K of L activities and goals alive and growing.

Then there have been the extraordinary ones whose dynamic leadership and fervor reached out, electrified and inspired officers at all levels and members to greater heights of intensive work, membership enrollments, establishment and reorganization of Councils and Junior groups.

4. There are many committees; each one an integral part of the K of L. There are those committed to maintaining and furthering the cultural and the Lithuanian political causes. Most members who have assumed the responsibility of these committee offices did so because they felt that personal belief in its importance.

Then there are those who brought that importance to the foreground and attention of all K of L's by imagination. They made culture and customs interesting with exciting presentations. They made it living through choral and drama groups. They made every active member an ardent participant in the data gathering and letter writing, resulting in tremendous impact and impressions on journalists and political leaders.

5. There is no doubt that those rare special people who have assumed the gigantic responsibility as Editors, secretaries, financial secretaries, treasurers and members of various committees deserve preferred recognition.

Then there are those who brought efficiency and economical procedural innovations to these offices. There are those who have enhanced the K of L image by successfully promoting the K of L role in the religious or scholarship fields.

6. The capabilities and scope of each K of L activity are without limitation. The extraordinary

member finds and uses his or her talents and potential to their fullest, expels complacency and injects attention, enthusiasm and participation to spur everybody to their maximum capabilities and performance.

EXCEPTIONS

Occasionally a very special person is proposed for Honorary Membership, calling for special procedures. Some of the previous special people included two Bishops and an internationally renowned freedom seeker defector.

In such cases, the basic requirements of the Fourth Degree and publication of a history of accomplishments in "VYTIS" prior to the National Convention are suspended.

The Honorary Membership Committee and the Supreme Council Board must both approve the suspension and the National Convention delegates must approve the suspension as well as the resolution to confer the Honorary Membership.

The publication of the Honorary Member's history must then be included in "VYTIS" as soon as possible.

ABOUT HONORARY MEMBERSHIP

The Honorary Membership is NOT another Degree to be received after the Fourth Degree is earned. It is a distinctive honor bestowed upon a member for "outstanding" services. This kind of member may come up in a Council or District perhaps once in a generation and most candidates who have had this honor bestowed upon them have been "Outstanding" for an average of twenty-five years. If there are two or even three such candidates, it is urged that the Council and District submit them one at a time so as not to detract from the distinctiveness of this honor, for rarely is their eligibility so completely equal.

There is no formal application form for the Honorary Membership. If a District or a Council feels that on occasion, they have a fellow member who has, over the years, distinguished himself or herself, by intensive, sustained, outstanding services to the Knights of Lithuania and the Lithuanian cause, they may apply for candidacy for this member as follows:

Pass a resolution, properly signed by the District President, Secretary and Spiritual Advisor and send it on to the Honorary Membership Committee Chairman.

Include a detailed history of the candidates activities with the Council, the District, the Supreme

Council, as well as any other activities, civic or religious which have resulted in recognition for the K of L and the Lithuanian causes.

The Chairman of the Honorary Membership Committee address is listed in "VYTIS" for correspondence.

K OF L SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

What Can One or Two People Do?

The expression "It is better to light one small candle than to curse the darkness" most appropriately applies to Charles and Frances Kulakusky of C-26 Worcester, MA. Throughout their long involvement in the Knights of Lithuania, they have never been to say, "Let the other guy do it." Their work on behalf of the Knights of Lithuania has been generous over the years and recently the National Scholarship Fund has been fortunate to become an additional recipient of their concern.

Frances joined the Knights of Lithuania in Worcester when she was sixteen years old; at that time one had to be sixteen to join and youngsters could hardly wait to join. One of the most popular Knights of Lithuania activities was the dramatic club. This is where she met her husband, Charles. Without giving away ages, that was over fifty years ago. Frances served as secretary and remembers it was difficult to keep the Council together during World War II. Frances and Charles raised two daughters, Mary (Mitchell) and Margaret (Elie). Frances stayed home to raise the family and Charles worked for the Worcester Fire Dept. Charles is now retired and is a familiar face at Marionis Park where he is now on the Executive Board.

The Kulakuskys are noted for their work in recruiting new members for the Knights of Lithuania. Frances won an award for her work during the 1986-87 Membership Drive. However, it is the recent endeavor of the Kulakuskys that gladdens the Scholarship Committee. The endeavor is very characteristic of the devotion they have to the Knights of Lithuania and sets an example of how any and all Vyciai can make a small, but meaningful, contribution

to an important Knights of Lithuania program.

How about those rebate offers? What's so great about fifty cents or one dollar back? Sometimes it's more bother to fill out the coupon and mail it than to receive fifty cents. But, wait a minute. Think small to think big! That's what Frances and Charles have done. It may not be easy to come up with a donation of \$25.00, \$30.00 or \$50.00 to the Scholarship Fund all at once. Why not let someone else supply you with the money? That's what the Kulakuskys do. They use rebate coupons and collect the monies returned until they have \$25.00 or \$30.00 and then send in that amount as their donation to the Scholarship Fund. These donations have been arriving regularly since they began the practice a few years ago. The Scholarship Committee thanks them for their loyalty and

What a simple lesson for the 4,000 strong membership of the Knights of Lithuania. If this practice was adopted by a few hundred more couples, the



Frances & Charles Kulakusky, C-26 Worcester, Ma members.

Scholarship Fund could benefit by hundreds or thousands of dollars more each year - dollars that will be distributed to members' children or grandchildren, nieces or nephews, in the form of financial aid for the ever increasing cost of a college education.

The Scholarship Committee urges every member to "light one small candle". Start using those rebate

coupons to collect that fifty cents or one dollar. Save the money and make a sizeable donation to the Scholarship Fund next year. It will be a brighter day for our Knights of Lithuania youth who will have assistance in financing their college education.

Thank you, Charles and Frances, for your example. Keep up the great work. You are an inspiration to all.

PRESENT DAY RELIGIOUS CONDITIONS IN LITHUANIA

Soviet policies of *glasnost* and *perestroika* have provided more opportunities for outspokenness, and hopefully will improve the conditions of overall Soviet life. However, they have not yet changed the day-to-day conditions faced by the Catholics of Soviet-occupied Lithuania. Short of a few public relations gestures, believers face the same problems that have existed for some forty years:

- A Lithuanian Cardinal, His Eminence Vincentas Sladkevicius, has been appointed (against the wishes of the Soviet government). However, another Lithuanian Bishop, Julijonas Steponavicius, continues his quarter-century of exile, under virtual house arrest, for refusing to accede to government constraints;

- Despite official visits of Catholic Church hierarchy to the Soviet Union for the Centennial of the Christianization of the Rus', the number of Catholic seminaries in the Soviet Union is held to two (one in Latvia and one in Kaunas), and the number of seminarians ordained each year is well below the number of priests who die. The average age of a priest in Lithuania is over 60 years, and increasing each year;

- Despite the promise of the return of the Church of Queen of Peace in Klaipeda, which was confiscated and converted to a concert hall in the Krushchev Era (cost of the new restoration to be borne by the faithful, as was the original building), there is a threat that the sole existing church there will be closed. However, just recently the Soviet government has returned the Cathedral of Vilnius (converted to an art gallery). Renovations of churches, some centuries old, meet with frustrating red tape.

- While the atheistic Soviet government allows an occasional Church dignitary to visit Lithuania, Fr. Sigitas

Tamkevicius remains in Siberia. Fr. Alfonsas Svarinskas, released from labor camp, has been forced to emigrate to the West. Their crimes: practicing their ministry while reminding the faithful and government officials that under the Soviet Constitution, religious believers have the same rights as non-believers.

- The Church still operates in Soviet-occupied Lithuania with religious orders outlawed, priests forbidden to teach children religion, believing children and parents harassed, and government interference at every level of Church life. While waiting for life to improve for religious believers in Lithuania, the Lithuanian Catholic Religious Aid continues to give them spiritual, material and moral support.

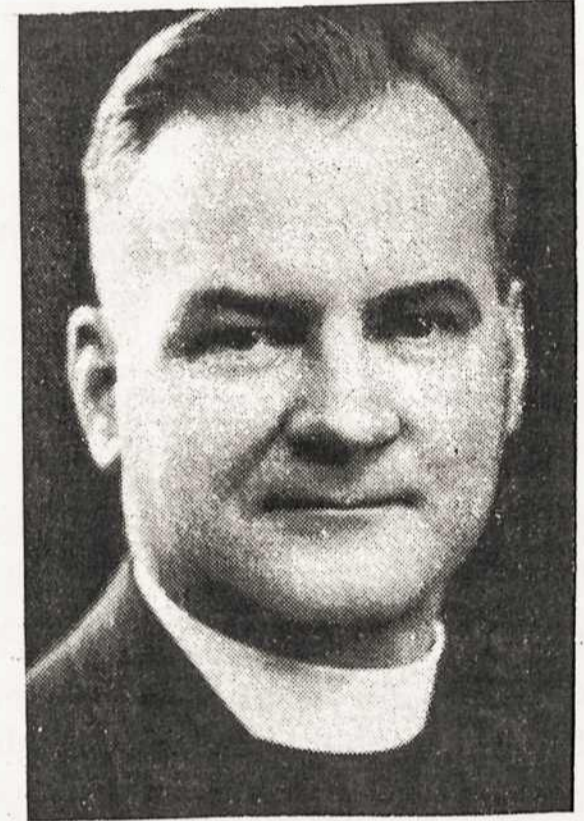
ST. CASIMIR'S CHURCH IN VILNIUS



Lithuanians in the News

Plano, IL Priest Rescues Two from Fire

Rev. John Savukynas, member of C-112 Chicago, proved to be a hero when leisurely walking to say 8:30 a.m. Mass at St. Mary's Church, when an unidentified woman interrupted his impromptu walk to tell him a nearby house was burning. He immediately ran to the rectory and instructed the secretary to call the Fire Dept. He then rushed to the burning house to see what could be done. He saw a young screaming hysterical woman break the bedroom window and push her 3-year-old son through to safety in Father's arms. The mother could not get through the window and Father noticed the kitchen was filled with smoke, preventing him to enter the house. Finally, when other help arrived, they managed to rescue the mother with difficulty through the bedroom window. She was badly cut by the glass. After the mother was pulled to safety, she informed them there were two other children inside. By that time, firefighters had arrived and attempts were made to rescue the children. One 6-year old was rescued while the 3-year old twin died inside from smoke and heat. The fire had apparently started while one of the children was playing with a cigarette lighter. Local papers reported that fire officials said a \$5. smoke detector could have prevented the tragedy. Things could have been worse had Fr. Savukynas not made the call when he did since other members of the family could have died. *New Catholic Explorer*



Fr. Savukynas



Her Life is the Dream of every Tennis Fan

The *Courier-News in New Jersey* reports that Lori Stukes has the job of traveling to tennis tournaments world-wide and has lots of contacts with players. And, to top it off, she gets paid. Lori is a media liaison for the Men's International Professional Tennis Council. She travels to tournaments around the world organizing player interviews, news conferences, television interviews and disseminating information to the press. Some of the places her job has taken her: Australia, Japan, Korea, France, Greece, Italy and Switzerland.

Lori graduated from University of Massachusetts with a degree in sports marketing. She also acts as a walking encyclopedia of tennis. The constant traveling - 30 weeks a year - can take its toll. While at a tournament, Stukes works 10-to-14 hours a day, 7 days a week with little time to see the sights. However, she does not mind the hard work. When she tires of the constant traveling, she wants to do sports marketing for a company such as Nike, Anheuser-Busch or BMW. Lori Stukes is the niece and goddaughter of HM Jack Stukas.



Lithuanians in the News

NEW YORK POST

THE YEAR THAT WAS



SEOUL SEARCHER:

U.S. Olympic coach John Thompson and his hoopsters couldn't stop Soviets and NBA-bound center Arvydas Sabonis.

Peoples Weekly informs that John Kennedy, Jr, has been spotted a few times with Click model Audra Avizienis, 22. "We've been on a few dates, but I'm not seeing him," says Avizienis. "I'm not a girlfriend. He has a girlfriend. Or have they broken up."

Did she find young Kennedy sexy?

"Oh, yes," she says. "He has this quiet sadness. There's something pensive and sad about him." So how does she explain all the partying? "Well," she says, "there's that side to him, too."



For domestic use only. In an apparent effort to help remedy severe consumer shortages, the Soviet Union announced that it would ban the export of goods ranging from caviar to children's shoes. The official news agency Tass also said foreign visitors, specifically tourists, would be limited to 100 rubles, or \$166 worth of souvenirs. The changes, effective Feb. 1, will last until the end of 1990.

Newsday

75 75

75th Anniversary Spotlight on Council 143, Pittston, PA

Twelve Years Old and Going Strong

Knights of Lithuania C-143, St. Casimir's Church, Pittston, PA was chartered Nov. 6, 1976. The following officers were elected: Pres. Peter Menchinsky, Vice-Pres. Charles Dojnowski, Rec. Sec. Dorothy Banas, Fin. Sec. Nellie Bayoras, Treasurer John Wisnosky.

Phil Skabeikis, Nat'l Vice Pres. notified Pres. Menchinsky that Anne Challan was awarded a prize of a wayside cross for obtaining most members and on Nov. 4, 1977 Eva Kazokas and Gertrude from C-74, Scranton, PA made the presentation at the council meeting.

The council is active in civic, cultural and religious activities including Proclamation and flag raising for Lithuania's Independence Day in the state, county and city. Cultural displays are shown at Luzerne County Court House, the Armory in Kingston, PA, Rocky Glen Park, Moosic, PA and the Tomato Festival Parade in Pittston, PA. Participation in procession with native costumes on the Feast of St. Joseph at the Oblates of St. Joseph Seminary, Feast of St. Anne, with Lithuanian stations and benediction at St. Anne's Monastery, Scranton, PA with Lithuanians far and wide joining us. Co-sponsor with C-144 on Lithuanian Day at Rocky Glen, proceeds were forwarded to Pontifical College in Rome. Despite inclement weather many times, C-143's Communion Breakfast and Kucios are well attended. The 68th Nat'l Convention held at Scranton University, Scranton, PA was co-sponsored with C-46, Forest City and C-143 Pittston, PA.

C-143 has hosted several district meetings and on Sun., March 11, 1984, honored our patron saint, St. Casimir, on the 500th anniversary of his death and glorification at a Pontifical co-celebrated Mass with Bishop James Timlin of Scranton and other priests in attendance. A dinner was served to 350 delegates and guests.

On March 3, 1985 the Mayors Award for out-

standing achievement was presented to the then Pres. Anne Challan on behalf of C-143 by Mayor Thomas A. Walsh in recognition of our contribution to the pride and future of our community.

On Sun., Oct. 12, 1986, Bishop Baltakis celebrated a Mass of Thanksgiving for the Council's 10th Anniversary at St. Casimir's Church, Pittston, PA followed by a banquet at convention hall.

The council meets the first Tuesday bi-monthly and after council business, our Spiritual Advisor discusses and distributes topics of most importance concerning Lithuania.

The present day officers, serving their last three years according to the bylaws are: Pres. Leo Butsavage, Vice-Pres. Dorothy Banos, Rec. Sec. Peter Dutter, Jr., Fin. Sec. Anne Challan and Treas. William Daileda. Rev. Peter Alisauskas, pastor, is spiritual advisor.

This year 1989, we are twelve years old and going strong! *Ilgiausią Metų mielieji!*

Leo Butsavage



A happy wedding day for a couple 50 years ago. Hint: Members of C-143. Can you guess who they are?

75 75

Council Activities

Vyčiai Veikia

MID-AMERICA DISTRICT

On Oct. 30, approximately 25 Mid-America members traveled to Kenosha, WI for a Mass and degree presentation. Mass was concelebrated by Fr. Macienius, C-38 spiritual advisor, and Fr. Anthony "Zak" Zakarauskas, district spiritual advisor. After delicious lunch at a local restaurant, first and second degrees were awarded to several members.

Many thanks to C-16 for sponsoring the annual Mass for deceased Mid-America K of L members. Fr. Zak concelebrated the Mass at beautiful St. George Church, the oldest Lithuanian Church in Chicago. In four years, that parish will celebrate its 100th anniversary. We were impressed with the performance of C-16. There was a champagne buffet complete with ice sculptures, Vytis placemats and a 60-item buffet. Many thanks to Glen Perutis, council



Mid-America District members protesting. "Admit it and free innocent Lithuanians from Siberia. Is that too much to ask? Stop Genocide!"

president, and Debbie Martin, who headed the affair.

On Jan. 19, 1989, the K of L Choir had a full house as usual at their very successful choir dance. Choir president, HM Estelle Rogers, and dance chairperson, Sabina Henson, wish to thank all the choir supporters. On Nov. 18, the choir assisted the K of L dancers in presenting a Lithuanian Wedding at Daley College Auditorium. Congratulations to Frank Zapolis and his dance group for their continued efforts in our behalf. Both the choir and dance group do a wonderful job in representing the organization to the outside community.

On Feb 5, the Mid-America District held the annual Memories of Lithuania Banquet at the lovely Martinique Restaurant. The North Ballroom was filled with K of L members and friends who gathered to honor the Lithuanian

Freedom League in America. This group, newly organized in America, is one of the most ardent supporters of independence in Lithuania. Special thanks were extended to activists Dr. Statkevicius, Dr. Eringas and Vytautas Skuodis.

On March 13, Chicago members of Mid-America District will board buses for another trip to Kenosha. C-38 will host our St. Casimir Day celebration. Estelle Rogers, bus transportation organizer, will accept names of those interested in attending by bus. After C-38's renowned brunch, Al Brazis will conduct the Mid-America District Convention Meeting.

Rita Zakarka is making arrangements for our annual Prisoner of Conscience Mass to be held in April. Information from the Soviet Union gives us hope that 200 prisoners of conscience will be released. If this is so, we will surely have a reason to give thanks for their release.

A sincere get-well wish is sent to recuperating Fr. Dodaro, C-16 spiritual advisor. We look forward to seeing you active again in the near future.

Congratulations to our recent 1st and 2nd Degree recipients. 1st Degree: Al Blazavier, Charles & Judy Krusa, Birute Stanley and Anita Gedville of C-38. 2nd Degree: Theresa & Vito & Aldona Balciunas, Marie Pelanis of C-38 and Susan Binkis of C-112.

A special note to our out of state councils: Your council news could be mentioned in our Mid-America article. Please send items of interest to A. Zakarka, 6958 So. Rockwell St., Chicago, IL 60629.

Rita Zakarka, Lith. Affairs chairperson, is urging all Mid-America District council officers to ask their members to write letters in behalf of Lithuania. Rita is asking all district members to be re-inspired by the

originator of Lith. Affairs, Fr. Jutt. Fr. Jutt met an untimely death many years ago and our letter writing as a group has been slipping since his death. Fr. Jutt also inspired many of our K of L members to join the 100-per-year club; that is, writing 100 letters per year on behalf of Lithuania. May Fr. Jutt re-inspire many of us to write hundreds of letters as we did in the past. Rita is also asking all presidents to give her a total count at the end of the year for total letters written.

A note to all council membership chairpersons: Elly Kasputis, 2nd V.P., has many prizes for the Mid-America membership drive which began July 1, 1988 and ends June 30, 1989. She is asking all councils to go out and sign up new members. Let's make it the best in the Mid-America West in '89.

To all Mid-America District members: Susan Binkis is in charge of distributing our K of L history books and is looking for a little help! Susan has too many books in her home and wants to sell or distribute these books. Cost: soft cover \$20. and hard cover \$35.

The K of L Dancers and K of L Choir are very active and always performing somewhere. A treat for the 1989 convention delegates is now being planned by the dancers and choir for cultural night. This should be a great evening of good entertainment.

Al Zakarka

C-5 CHICAGO, IL

Lietuvos- Vyčių 5-toji kuopa Chicagoje savo susirinkime išrinko kuopos valdybą: Konnie Savickus - pirmininkas, Cathy Leppa - vicepirm. Al Planch - antras vicepirm.; Ernestas Sutkus - sekretorius, Loretta Grigaliūnas - finansų sekretorė ir Peter

MID-CENTRAL DISTRICT



MCD Pilgrimage Convention & K of L 75th Diamond Jubilee. Anne Wargo, Nat'l President, guest speaker at banquet. L to r: Fran Petkus & Aldona Ryan, C-96, Rev. G. Kijauskas, MCD Spiritual Advisor.



Barskis - tvarkdarys. Mūsų mylimas kun. Antanas Švedas, MIC, sutiko ir toliau būti kuopos dvasios vadu.

Svarstant įvairius einamuosius reikalus, nutarta paremti "Draugo" dienraštį metine \$67.00 auka, kuri nedelsiant ir buvo pasiūsta.

Kuopos nariai patenkinti veikla, todėl kuopa vis auga nariais. Siekiant dar padidinti narių skaičių, buvo siūloma, kad nariai vietoje daiktinės dovonas savo draugams, užmokėtų už juos metinį nario mokesį ir tuo būdu įtrauktų juos į kuopos veikla.

Gospel according to Luke. He then distributed the blessed plotkeles to all.

The breaking and sharing represents the Last Supper, now symbolizing family unity, forgiveness and expressing best wishes for the New Year. By comparison, Kucios is in a class all its own. More than a festive meal, it is a frame of mind, a mood of love, good will, heightened by symbolic customary age old rituals and once a year delicacies, all tied to the season's theme, the Nativity.

Lithuanian traditions and superstitions were enacted under the supervision of Brone & Bill Wisniauskas. One custom enacted was reaching in a bowl of nuts, with an even number indicating marriage to the singles during the coming year, and an odd number, another year alone. Straws were drawn, the length determining length of life - or to the youngsters, the length of their single life.

Prayers were offered for Chas.

C10 ATHOL-GARDNER, MA

An old fashioned Kucios, the Christmas Eve supper was observed on Sun., Dec. 18 in St. Francis Church Hall, Athol. When the first star appeared, the lights were dimmed, our K of L family seated and the candles lit, Fr. Jurgelonis began Kucios with prayer and reading of the Christmas

Genaitis & Barbara Eacmen who died during the year and for Alice Perekslis and Kathryn Paliulis who were ill.

Following the ceremonies, Alec Kuzmeskas at the piano led in the singing of traditional English and Lithuanian carols. A beautiful Lithuanian Christmas tree graced the hall.

Our K of L is concerned about preserving their Lithuanian Christmas heritage. We complain that the younger set is not interested. The only way to pass our traditions and customs is to start them young, get them involved in family craft project, the making of home made straw ornaments, a crib, Advent wreath, help in the Kucios food preparation, teach them a traditional Lithuanian carol and above all: Keep Christ in Christmas. Kucios could be described as everything a Lithuanian holds dear - God, family and country, all wrapped up into one. No other event contains such rich symbolism, honored customs, love and legend. In a real

sense, Kucios is what being Lithuanian is all about.

Bill Wisniauskas

C-25 CLEVELAND, OH

Our Christmas Party was held at the Lithuanian Club on Dec. 4 and was a huge success. Some fifty members attended and had a white elephant exchange of gifts. There was dancing, singing and delicious dishes of Lithuanian kilbasi, chicken, pork chops and all the trimmings with dessert and an open bar.

C-25 made the usual annual gift to the Lithuanian Seminary in Rome and donations to the two Lith. churches in Cleveland for Christmas flowers. Donation was also made to the local Lithuanian Radio program.

Our prayers and wishes for a speedy recovery to members on the

sick list - Marion Grey, Joann Shigo and Alvina Luiza. Vic August passed away on Dec. 21. May his soul rest in peace.

Tony Oberaitis, Dick Marks and Charley Machutas really hit it big on the slot machines by proxy in Atlantic City with Ivoska pulling the handle at Trump Plaza.

Lithuanian Culture and Civilization, a series of lectures and workshops is being presented by Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish in Cleveland. Topics to be included are: Christmas in Lithuania with straw ornament workshop and Christmas Eve food; Current Events in Lithuania; Lithuanian composers; Easter in Lithuania with scratch and wax patterned Easter egg techniques, elements, motifs and symbols in two part workshop; Lithuanian Literature; Lith-



C-10 Lithuanian Christmas tree decorated by Brone Wisniauskas at the Gardner Museum

C-25 Cleveland Christmas Party.

uanian Folklore. Programs feature prominent professional Lithuanian speakers and artists. Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish presents this series in an effort to acquaint the English speaking public with our Lithuanian heritage which is rich in music, literature, history, traditions and customs. Thus far, it is a complete success.

Best wishes to Helen DiRenzo on her retirement. *Joe Ivoska*

C-26 WORCESTER, MA

Nominations and election of officers for the coming year were held in Nov. Our spiritual advisor, Rev. John Petrauskas, MIC, installed the following slate: Rita Pinkus, pres.; Anne Leseman, vice-pres.; Aldona Waska, rec. sec.; Marion Racicot, fin. sec.; Olga Kersis, treas.; Wm. Leseman, auditor; Charles Kulakusky, sgt. at arms; Virginia Cummings, pub. relations; Stephen Walinsky, Sr., Vytis corres.; Ann Bender, cultural and Lith. Affairs chairperson. Rita and her board are planning a super 1989 and sincerely solicit the cooperation and participation of each and every member.

Ten weeks of bowling have passed with Francis Tagman's team in first place. Richard Godek and Ginny Ivaska hold high single scores, Louis & Sharon Gouin hold high triple and Richard Godek and Sharon Gouin hold high average. This sport continues to be highly competitive!

Helen Gillus and her tenants were awakened from deep sleep one night to the shouts of "Fire". Thanks to a passerby, they escaped unharmed. The house is unlivable at this time. Helen is staying with her daughter.

Did you know that our council boasts of five Honorary Members in the Knights of Lithuania? They are: Ann Bender, Rita Pinkus, Joseph

Sakaitis and the late Mary Jankowski and Edward Daniels.

Our ever-popular Maironis Park has several C-26 members on its board: Kazys Adomavicius, pres.; Algis F. Glodas, vice pres.; Ann Bender, rec. sec.; Stephen Walinsky Sr., auditor. Directors include Withold Ivaska and Charles Kulakusky.

At the Nov. meeting, Fr. John Petrauskas MIC, enlightened us on the present-day happenings in Lithuania. He made several pertinent observations, each pointing to the power of prayer. Fr. also gave us a mini book report on the History of Lithuanians in the USA. Fr. John urged us to obtain a copy of this ambitious and highly successful endeavor by Fr. Wolkovich, pastor of St. George Church, Norwood.

This is my "swan song" as I complete my term as correspondent and hand these duties over to my successor, Steve Walinsky, Sr. I take this opportunity to express thanks and appreciation to Helen Chesko, Council News Editor, for her assistance to myself and our council during my term of office. It is with sincere regret that Council News Editor accepts your resignation and joins you in closing with "Iki malonaus pasimatymo, su Diev ir aciui!" *Olga Kersis*

To begin my first article to the publication, C-26 extends to Olga Kersis many thanks for her numerous articles about the activities and personalities of our council. Her commentaries were informative and excellently prepared. Her interest did not cease. She assumed the office of treasurer, keeping close watch on the wealth of the organization. Wishes of good go to her for her faithful services. The shadow left by her as a contributor will be difficult to envelop.

Most of our 1988 officers were re-elected to serve again for another term.

Congratulations to the new board. May your wit and wisdom lead us to a year of good fortune.

The activities of the Lithuanian populace of Worcester during the Christmas season started with dinner, dancing and imbibing with St. Casimir's Mens Club at Maironis Park. K of L members attended with Al Seilius chairing the affair. Next came the Christmas party of C-26, also utilizing the fabulous facilities of Marionis Park. Again filling ourselves with goodies and gratification!

Many K of L'ers also attended functions sponsored by the Lithuanian War Vets, Women's Alliance and Women's Social Club.

To culminate the year 1988 and to bring in 1989, a New Year Party sponsored by Marionis Park in its lavishly decorated main hall, attracted a lot of enthusiastic celebrators. Arrangements and procedures were handled by Kazys Adomavicius and Algis Glodas, executives of the park, also Knights members. As you can see, the month was filled with food, frolic and frivolities, resulting in resolutions to slow down and to try to get our shapes back, the ones we had in November.

Have a good year everyone.

S.V.W. Sr.

C-29 NEWARK, NJ

On Nov. 6 we held our Chinese Auction. It was a successful Sunday afternoon. Beautiful prizes were displayed and ready to be won. The lucky winners went home happy and to those who did not, there is always next time. Financially, it was a huge success.

Margie Brazaitis, our chairlady, is to be congratulated together with her committee. A big thank you is extended the donors of the gifts and those who attended and worked.

Our Christmas party was held after our 11 a.m. Mass. Before we went to

our beautifully decorated parish hall, Fr. Stravinskis, our pastor, blessed the outdoor nativity scene in front of the rectory. To all who contributed to this cause, we thank you. The K of L donated \$100. After the blessing, we gathered in the hall where Father opened our afternoon with a prayer of thanksgiving.

How can anyone do justice to the beautifully decorated hall, tables and the cocktail table so richly filled with hors d'oeuvres. Thank you Ann O'Neill. Our chairlady Mary Stonis and her committee made our buffet dinner so great you had to find food for any diet or taste in food. Sincere thanks to Mary and her committee.

We thank all donors of raffle prizes and last but not least, the food the K of L members collected and took to the needy of St. John's Church in Newark. That alone fills us with a good feeling in sharing our good luck.

We have two new members, Chester & Consuella Karchefsky. Welcome from all of us. *Mary Cullen*

C-46 FOREST CITY, PA

Our annual covered dish picnic was held in Sept. Delicious ethnic food, good music and games were enjoyed by all present. Mr. & Mrs. Ed Clark from Albany, NY were our guests. Ed told some jokes and stories. Stasia Wallace was in charge of fun and games. Anthony Yavorsky provided the music.

We participated in a Living Rosary held in Sacred Heart Church. The ceremony was most impressive and spiritually uplifting. Thanks to Fr. Sitko.

Randy Kritkauskas showed interesting slides from his trip to Lithuania. A question and answer period followed. Blanche Motsko plans to visit Lithuania this summer.

Fr. Sitko will continue to serve as our spiritual advisor for the current

term. Other officers are: Michael Yavorsky, pres.; Bea Stanis, vice pres.; Margaret Cyzeski, sec. and Bob Trusky, treas. Trustees are John Gudaitis, Albert Kazekevich and Ed Yesktalis; Frances Yavorsky, ritual committee; Bea Stanis, Vytis correspondent; Stasia Wallace, sunshine committee.

Terri Trusky made a ceramic Santa and his reindeer which she donated to the council for a special drawing. We are grateful for her generosity.

C-46 joined the newly formed Amber District. All the best to the new officers.

Our Christmas party held in the Dew Drop Inn was well attended. Door prizes were awarded and many lovely gifts exchanged. *Bea*

C-50 NEW HAVEN CT

At our Nov. meeting, our nominating committee presented us with a slate of officers and committee chairpersons which were accepted, as follows: Frank Peterson, pres.; Al Gutauskas, first vice pres.; Mary Geipel, second vice pres.; Al Gedrim, fin. sec.; Audrey Toole, rec. sec.; Ann Meskins, treas.; Chas. Dekas, Helen Medley and Joan Augustine, trustees; Isabel Peterson and Anthony Kardosky, sgts. at arms. Fr. Karalis will serve as spiritual advisor. Chairpersons: Bernice Barile, ritual; Eleanor Gutauskas, sunshine; Geo. Kisielius, Lith. affairs; Jonas Saulys, Lith. culture; Betty Gybowski, publicity. Helen Balchus continues as Vytis correspondent.

On Nov. 19 our annual Turkey Shoot and Christmas Boutique were held in our parish hall and it was another mark-up for 1988. Ann Kordorsky was in complete command of this very responsible and significant event to ring in Thanksgiving, Advent, Christmas and on to a

prosperous New Year. Thanks to you and all who assisted her. However, it was one heck of a busy day! As usual, the kitchen is always the most popular spot. It was evident that those crispy potato pancakes, either separately or combined with sauerkraut and sausage, were real good. Frank Antin, Al Gedrim, Al Gutauskas, Mike Meizies, Tony Kordorsky and Frank Peterson were the swingers in this deal. We are proud of you. Eleanor Gutauskas sold the tickets for the food and drinks. Don Capelli and John Prishwalko were busy at the bar. Ann Gedrim took care of the Lithuanian kilbasi sales. In the hall, Helen Case, Betty Gybowski and Maryann Capelli were behind the white elephant booth; Helen McDonald, jewelry; Joan Augustine, crafts; Rose Kisielius, raffle; Isabel Peterson, Lith. culture; Mary Geipel and Magdalen Cronin, Lith. straw ornaments; Ann Meskins and Bernice Barile, baked goodies; Helen Medley and Helen Bohan, snack and coffee bar; Audrey Toole, religious articles; Leo Gaysunas, lighting and video; Pat Tamulis, candy raffle. Irene & Mike Meizies were in complete charge of the Turkey Shoot raffle tickets and prizes. They are also commended for doing a great job.

Al Gedrim received his Fourth Degree at the Nat'l Convention in Washington. Congratulations! Ann Romano and Catherine Mott attended the convention.

Prayers and get well wishes go to our recovering members Frances Prishwalko and Al Martinenas.

Our Christmas party for members only was held on Dec. 10 in our parish hall. Frank Peterson was chairman. It was a good turnout and everyone joined in the Christmas spirit. We were pleased to have Marion & Bob Morcus pay us a visit. They are living in Puerto Rico and attended their son's

wedding.

Henry & Matilda Delella were installed as our newest members at our Dec. meeting. Our membership totals 247 which makes C-50 one of the top councils in national membership.

Our prayers and sympathy go out to Al Gedrim, his family, sister and brother in the loss of their father, Sylvester Gedrimas; to Eleanor Gutauskas, her family and brother in the loss of her brother Anthony Zikis. May they rest in peace.

The bus trip to Radio City proved to be a very favorable endeavor. They had a great time. The 1989 agenda is filled with more good times to come.

Helen Balchus

C-63 LEHIGH VALLEY, PA

Our Council conducted their sixth annual portrayal of a traditional Lithuanian Kucios on Sunday, Dec. 11 in St. Michael's Hall, Easton. The program opened with prayers by Fr. Hulko, associate pastor of St. Michael and St. Bernard churches.

Adolf Kleva and Chas. Buzas described the manner in which Kucios is celebrated in Lithuania, a spiritual tradition spanning six centuries. Kucios begins with the sighting of the first

star on Christmas Eve. The empty place setting at the table symbolizes the expectation of Christ's arrival in the home. The crucifix and plate of "plotkele" are placed in the center of the table. The opening thanksgiving prayer by the head of the family is followed by the breaking and sharing of holy wafers among family members with wishes for good health, a merry Christmas and a prosperous new year. Their dissertation also included what the different dishes signified and some of the Lithuanian folk lore of the Christmas season.

Fr. Stephen Flynn, pastor of St. Michael and St. Bernard Churches, delivered the closing prayer after which all 51 people present were invited to share their plotkele with one another. A candlelight dinner was served consisting of traditional food. The program concluded with the singing of Lithuanian and English Christmas

carols led by Ben Aponavicius and members of St. Michael's Lithuanian Choir. Refreshments followed.

The Kucios committee was chaired by Florence Buzas and included Mary & Andrew Sabol, Charles Buzas and Joseph Ogint.

C-74 SCRANTON, PA

C-74 celebrated their annual Christmas Kucios with Msgr. Michael Ozalas and Rev. Ed Fundalawicz blessing the holy wafers. Mary & Jerry Costello chaired the event. Ann Lesouski and Rose Stanches were in charge of the prizes. Peg & Edward Romanauskas handled the liquid refreshments with Margaret Laiginis and Ann Patelunas as servers. Patsy Simms sold tickets. Marie Laske was in charge of the program. Sr. Virginia led the singing with the assistance of Ann Lesouski, Mary Costello and Frank Katulis. Sr. Joan Yaduga



Trudy Meshauk, Florence Buzas, Dora Lushis and Valeria Smickle served on the Lehigh Valley C-63 Kucios committee.



Lehigh Valley C-63 Christmas tree decorated with Lithuanian ornaments made by Trudi Simmons and Ann Pettit is admired by Agnes Gackenbach.



C-74 SCRANTON KUCIOS



received her Second Degree. Leo Zewicki, John Romoska, Richard Laske and Jerry Costello were ticket sellers for the raffle. Ona Matulevich handled the greetings.

A traditional Kucios meal was served by Gourmet Catering.

Marie Laske

C-103 PROVIDENCE, RI

Every month this correspondent, following directives of the editors of Vytis, attempts to hurry and send news of interesting activities that we have experienced as quickly as possible prior to the editor's deadline. We are late this month and pleased that we procrastinated for as you read on, you will find that we have great news to report.

Regular meeting was held on Nov.

13. Raining very heavily yet twenty-two are present. NED Cultural Festival was a huge success. Council officers and Rhode Island Lithuanian Heritage Commission will distribute to libraries in the state Fr. Valkevicius book on the K of L history. The NED Bowling roll-off with Providence as host was scheduled for Nov. 20 which was enjoyed by members who braved the rain and learned to bowl on alleys that had duck pins rather than candlesticks.

On Nov. 6 the annual parish banquet was held in the church hall. Agnes Waitonis and Sophie Sakalys headed the delegation of members of C-103 who worked on this affair. A capacity audience saw the film on the demonstrations in Vilnius last July. Our pastor, Fr. Izidorius Gedvila, who is leaving us at the end of the year,

introduced to the parishioners his replacement, Rev. Adolph Klimanskis of New London, CT. We pray for both of them.

We are indebted to a non-Lithuanian, Sally Zelonis, spouse of Mark Zelonis, for being "Jane on the Spot". Sally in her capacity as research and development analyst for Town of Lincoln, learned that Town Administrator Burton Stallwood was attending a meeting of representatives of various cities and towns in Rhode Island. She heard that Cranston was hosting six mayors from Soviet Union. The purpose of the visit is to arrange student exchange between Cranston and the six cities.

Sally contacted Mayor Michael A. Traficante's office and was granted permission to have Lithuanian representation at the luncheon in the



C-103 Providence - Victor Mathieu, Antanas & Konstance Valiuskis were privileged to personally meet Alexander Vileikis, Mayor of Vilnius, at a reception in the office of Mayor Michael A. Traficante of Cranston, when a group of Soviet Mayors were arranging for a student exchange program.



Mayor's office on Nov. 22. Providence Journal carried story naming Mayors of Vilnius, Tallinn, Kishinv, Rostov on Don, Belgrod and Khakov. Asked to get someone at ten a.m. to attend luncheon reception at noon, Antanas & Konstance Valiuskis and yours truly were greeted by the mayor who introduced us to Algirdas Vileikis, mayor of Vilnius. Press and photographers swarmed around us seeking details of our conversation. We were the only ethnic group in attendance. Thanks to Sally!

Following traditional toasts, gifts were presented to the six mayors by Mayor Traficante. Not to be outdone, the Mayor of Vilnius dug into his bag and presented gifts to Mr. & Mrs. Valiuskis and one for my "zmona". To me he presented his calling card and invited me to contact him on my visit to Lithuania this summer.

Our council, the K of L, Lithuanians every where are starting to reap what, for many years, has been sown. Our council is proud to have

placed Lithuania in the hearts, minds, sight and lips of many Rhode Islanders. When people see Lithuania, they think of St. Casimir's on Smith Hill and the Knights of Lithuania.

Un qui pri pour Lituanie



HM Joseph Boley, C-41 Brooklyn, NY at new Lithuanian Center in Lemont, IL last summer.

C-110 MASPETH, NY

On Oct. 9 a bus load of members took off to attend the Mid-Atlantic District meeting hosted by C-90 Kearny, NJ. We attended Holy Mass celebrated at Our Lady of Sorrows Church, prior to the district meeting. Our council president, John Adomenas was re-elected to presidency of the District. Congratulations!

To usher in the fall season with its October moon and crisp air, the council sponsored the traditional fall dinner dance. It is such affairs that put sparkle in our eyes and a tilt in our steps.

Our Oct. monthly meeting was held after the 11 a.m. Mass in the parish hall. Again, we had a large turnout. It shows that our members possess the spirit to make themselves available for council functions for which the officers are grateful.

As a source of revenue, a bus left for Atlantic City, shepherded by Helen Matulonis.

A Memorial Mass for deceased members was celebrated at Transfiguration on Nov. 29. Delicious brunch was served to the large assemblage before the regular monthly meeting.

It's party time again! A Christmas party was hosted on Dec. 7 with 130 members accepting the invitation and participating in the merriment. It was chaired by Frances Migliori, ably assisted by John Adomenas, Peter Zuyus and Mary Johnson.

The 14th annual Lithuanian Kucios took place on Dec. 18. By hosting the Kucios, officers attempt to instill some spiritual meaning of Christmas and to refresh our memories of Kucios past. Pres. Adomenas chaired the Kucios. Its success was largely due to the following committee: John & Amy Girdauskas with their daughter Linda Kalinowski and grandson John Kalinowski, John & Sophie Waluk,

Roman & Sophie Wensk, Peter Zuyus, Mary Johnson, Ann Kakoszko and Joseph & Anne Dugan.

In closing, our wishes, somewhat belated, are extended for health, happiness and prosperity throughout 1989.

Joseph C. Dugan

C-112 CHICAGO, IL

Members of C-112 extend their wishes to all Knights for a healthy and prosperous New Year.

Our convention committee is working overtime to make the 76th Nat'l Convention one of the best. It is never too early to make your reservation.

Belated congratulations to Susan Binkis on receiving her second degree in Kenosha on Oct. 30 of last year. Point-wise, Susan is well on her way to her third degree.

We are encouraged to see more of our younger council members helping out in running the council. Four notable members are Joe Brundza, first vice-pres.; Donna Juraitis, sec.; Vitas Daulys, sgt. at arms and Rita Zakarka, chairperson for Lithuanian affairs and St. Casimir's College in Rome. We "older" members are glad for the help, and we will all be on hand to welcome you to Chicago in 1989.

Our Nov. meeting featured Al Svirmickas who generously brought his personal archives on K of L and other Lithuanian events. It brought back a lot of memories and we were glad to have a large turn out to make him welcome.

Our Dec. Christmas buffet meeting was, as always, a great success. Many thanks to Chairperson Julie Zakarka and her generous food and drink contributors. We are looking forward to the March St. Joseph's table and meeting. There is a special fund raiser in the making. Ticket sellers are in a race to be crowned special events king

or queen. So far it looks like a race between Al Brazis and Ellie Kasputis. Good luck!

Also, in March, we look forward to boarding the buses to attend our St. Casimir celebration with the District in Kenosha.

Rita Zakarka, Lithuanian Affairs chairperson, is again urging all members to write letters in behalf of Lithuania. Our continued support and letters are more important now than ever, so that they know they do not stand alone. Rita has received 12 replies from our Council's "Prisoner of Conscience" Viktoras Petkus.

As chairperson of St. Casimir's College in Rome, Rita is also urging all members to support the resolution passed at the nat'l convention, calling for moral and financial support of that institution. At our Nov. 50/50 raffle, Rita was the winner and started the ball rolling by donating her winnings to the St. Casimir Fund in Rome.

Congratulations to the new members: Nativity BVM Pastor, Rev. John Kuzinskas, Sr. Angela Balchunas, John & Geraldine Chaplin, David Damasauskas, Benedict Jasinskas, Emma Petraitis, John & Ramune Rackauskas. Transfers from 112 Juniors are: John & Cathy Svelnis and Denise Zakarka.

Our very special congratulations to Arvydas Zygas who received his Doctoral Degree in Bio-Chemistry from Univ. of Illinois at Chicago. Arvydas worked on his degree for some time but also generously worked in the Lithuanian Community, organizing ethnographic programs, teaching folk history and much more. He is a frequent speaker at our C-112 meetings. To crown his achievements, Arvydas received a Fullbright Scholarship for post-doctoral work which he will pursue in Vilnius. This is the first time a Fullbright Scholar

has gone to Lithuania. Our sincere good wishes go with you, Dr. Zygas.

Now that you read this article, don't forget to pass on council information to your Vytis correspondent. Thank you.

Members of C-112 extend their sympathy to Al Dagus and Lucille Shotas on the death of their sister, Constance Gorski. Our members also extend their deepest sympathy to Mary Mathes on the death of her husband Alexander.

Our Dec. meeting was one of the most successful in our council's history. There were approximately 120 members and guests who took advantage of the spring-like weather and filled the Nativity BVM Hall. Pres. Juzenas opened the meeting and quickly followed through the business portion in order to allow more time for the party. Our K of L Juniors under the leadership of Maria Deksnis presented a short caroling program prior to our Christmas feast.

Thanks to Julie Zakarka and her donors, a buffet table 30 ft. long was filled with every imaginable type of food. After the blessing of the food by spiritual advisor, Rev. Canon Zakaruskas, members began the evening celebration of food and wine. A Christmas party without carols would be inappropriate. Many thanks to Tom Strolia who provided the music.

To everyone's amazement, Santa Claus, Matt Vilutis, dressed in his finery made an appearance and distributed gifts of soap, apples and facial tissues. An added program was Fr. John Savukynas' short program of joke telling.

On March 21 our members will know who is King or Queen of our Special Events Fund Raiser. Our out of town Chicago friends who are reading this article will have to wait for the June issue of Vytis.

LITHUANIAN INFORMATION
CENTER
5620 S CLAREMONT
CHICAGO, IL 60636

VYTIS

5112 So. Mayfield Ave.
Chicago, IL 60638

Return Requested
Address Correction Requested



Our council members are active in supporting other councils in our district by attending their special events. C-112 membership chairlady, Eleanore Kasputis, has been busy collecting prizes for the Mid-America membership drive. Let us make this a big year for C-112 to celebrate our 65th anniversary year.

This year our K of L members are in for a big treat if they sign up as a delegate and/or alternate to the 76th Nat'l Convention hosted by C-112 on Aug. 3 - 6, 1989. The Thursday opening Mass will be in Nativity

BVM Church followed by a light lunch in the school hall. After Thursday's session, we have plans for a "vakaruska" or get acquainted party at Mary & Anthony Rudis' special grounds in Monee, IL. On Friday, lunch will be served at the Wm. Tell Restaurant. On Friday evening we will be treated to a delightful evening of songs and dances. Al Brazis and Mary Juzenas will be featured soloists and the K of L Dancers will perform "A Lithuanian Wedding" assisted by the choir. This is the Show of Shows for 1989.

Saturday evening, the convention banquet will be held at the Martinique Grand Ballroom with dinner, program, dancing and unlimited cocktails served by the famous Martinique waitresses.

The closing Mass will once again be in beautiful Nativity BVM Church and the closing luncheon in the beautiful William Tell Restaurant. All this for an incredible low price of \$75. for early registration. Chairman Al Brazis and co-chairpersons Mary Juzenas and Al Zakarka hope all our K of L members come to the convention in full force and make this one of the biggest events. *Al Zakarka*



IN MEMORIAM

Alexander Mathes
C#112 - Chicago, IL
† December 1988

Victor August
C#25 - Cleveland, OH
† December 21, 1988

DATES TO REMEMBER

- March 12, 1989 - MAMD St. Casimir's celebration - Host C-38 Kenosha, WI
- March 12, 1989 - Amber District Communion Breakfast - St. Casimir's Church, Pittston, PA
- March 18, 1989- Supreme Council Meeting, Chicago, IL
- April 2, 1989 - C-12 New York, NY - 75th Anniversary Celebration
- May 21, 1989 - C-41 Brooklyn, NY - 75th Anniversary Annunciation Church
- May , 1989 - C-63 - Lehigh Valley, PA Ruta Ball
- August 3-6, 1989 - 76th National Convention. Hosts: C-112 Chicago, IL

HAPPY ST. VALENTINE'S DAY

