



VYTYIS

1990

KNIGHTS OF LITHUANIA

GRUODIS - DECEMBER

VOL. 76: No. 10



Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

Linksmų Kalėdų ir Naujų Metų

VYTIS

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GRUODIS - DECEMBER
1990
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A CASE FOR GENEROSITY Lawyers get Surgery for a Lithuanian

by Sarah Bly

It was a chance meeting at a Moscow airport that brought Jane Sauliunas and her husband, Kestutis, to America.

Mrs. Sauliunas, an interpreter from Lithuania, noticed that an English speaking woman at a souvenir shop was about to pay an airport clerk 30 rubles for collector stamps priced only at three rubles. She told the woman she was paying too much. She confided to the woman — state District Judge Anne Packer of Dallas — that her 50 year old husband was ill and needed heart valve surgery. Judge Packer and a colleague, Stephen Malouf, a Dallas attorney, told her that they would try to help.

Mr. Malouf and Judge Packer were part of a 22-member delegation of Dallas lawyers and legal experts who traveled to Latvia, Moscow and surrounding areas to share their knowledge with the business and legal community.

When Mr. Malouf returned to Dallas, he contacted physicians at Parkland Memorial Hospital who donated their services but that still left a medical bill of \$26,000. He raised \$10,000 by soliciting money from area lawyers and others. Mr. Sauliunas underwent the surgery and recovered very well. A heart valve was replaced and he returned to Lithuania in three weeks. Judge Packer said Mrs. Sauliunas and her

husband were fortunate to connect with a non-Lithuanian group that could make things happen. "It's a fairy tale — people caring about people and making things happen for their fellow man", Judge Packer said.

Mr. Sauliunas, a mechanical engineer, had rheumatic fever as a child and was told five years ago that he had rheumatic heart disease. His heart valve tissues thickened and narrowed. His illness had progressed to the point that he couldn't work and was confined to his home. He refused to go to a Soviet hospital because he had no faith in the medical system there and feared he would contract an infection.

The couple arrived in Dallas in July and stayed with Steve Malouf's parents, Ed and Marie Malouf, in Dallas. Mr. Malouf was touched by how hard life was for the Sauliunas family in the Soviet Union and he wanted to help. "I wasn't ready for what I saw in the Soviet Union," Mr. Malouf said. "Unless you've been there, it's hard to describe. The system is in decay. It's really falling apart. People are slipping through the cracks."

After the Sauliunas return home, their contact with Steve Malouf had not ended. Marie Malouf took Mrs. Sauliunas shopping and realized that Americans take things for granted.

Mrs. Sauliunas was overwhelmed by the variety of food in the grocery store and was surprised to see an automated teller machine and also a dishwasher.

Near Šiauliai there is a "Hill of Crosses" where people place crosses as a gift of thanksgiving. The Sauliunas placed a cross on the hill for Mr. Malouf. Written in Lithuanian on the cross are the words: "We ask God to bless Stephen F. Malouf, Dallas, Texas, for his kindness and goodness."

In appreciation for the cross in Lithuania, Steve Malouf's father, Ed Malouf, arranged the music and lyrics for the following song entitled "Hill of Crosses", — the arrangement and singing was done by Mike McClain, now appearing in cassette form.

THE HILL OF CROSSES

There are crosses on a Lithuanian hill,
With prayers that God will hopefully
fulfill.

May there soon be a secession
Of tyrant's cruel oppression,



The Dallas Morning News: David Leeson

Jane Sauliunas of Lithuania and Steve Malouf of Dallas visit her husband, Kestutis, who had heart valve surgery.

And may mankind learn lessons from God's will.

Inhumanity to fellow man survives,
We deal with it throughout our daily lives,
While God's caring love embosses,
The wondrous Hill of Crosses,
May it spread with the spirit it implies.

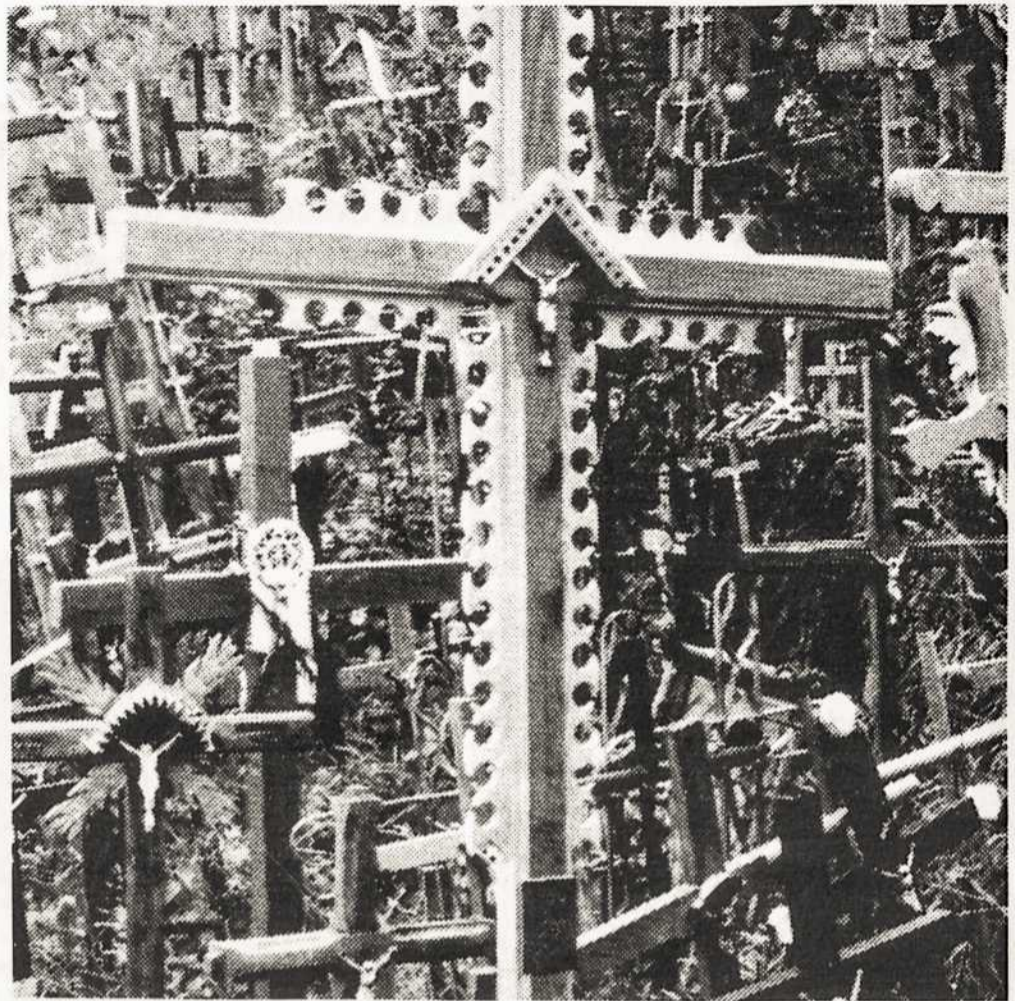
A spirit which the mass of crosses thrill,
May God into each one of us instill,
For the Lord has surely blessed us,
And loved ones who have left us.
For we all know the meaning of that HILL.

Believe in me and you shall never die,
These words of Christ should cause all tears to dry,
Hope and aspirations flourish,
On Hill where souls are nourished,
As those crosses reach their arms into the sky.

**THE STORY ABOUT THE SONG: THE HILL OF
CROSSES by Ed Malouf, composer.**

The first question asked me about my writing the song was, "What prompted an American of Lebanese descent to write a song about a hill in Lithuania?" My usual retort is, "Heck, I don't know. I guess God kicked me in the seat of my pants and said, "That's for nothing, now DO something". Or, maybe it was to punish the Lithuanians with my song writing ability, although God knows that they have suffered enough. Another reason could be that Lebanon, like Lithuania, has been constantly overrun by tyrannical bullies, and as such, it is easier to understand their feelings. I shall never forget my aunt's telling us about living in Lebanon in 1914 and 1915, when the Ottoman empire had control. She dug up roots of plants in order to cook them to feed her starving family. One might say that the predication of the writing of this song was a 27 ruble error at the Moscow Airport.

Indeed, were it not for the determined, unabated and uncompromising love of her husband, Kestutis, Jane Sauliunas may never have brought about the writing of this song. They were met at the Dulles-Washington airport upon their arrival, transferred to another flight to Dallas. They were met at the Dallas Airport by Judge Anne Packer, (the lady who Jane had approached at the Moscow airport), my wife Marie and myself. During the trip to our home, Jane brought out photos of her family. The family had placed a cross on the HILL OF CROSSES for our son, Stephen, who had been the moving force behind the arrangements for Kestutis' operation. This was the first time that religion was brought up.



A cross placed by the Sauliunas on the Hill of Crosses with Steve Malouf's name inscribed on it.

Since my wife is a Eucharistic Minister in the Catholic Church, it precipitated the feeling — I have known you all my life, but this is the first time I have met you. Myself, I'm a protestant (Mormon) who has been married to a Catholic and, who after 41 years and nine kids, can honestly say that we have NEVER had an argument about religion.

The actual writing of the song took place in four intense days. Kestutis was constantly on our minds during the critical days of the operation and the intensive care that followed. When the cassette was completed, the first tape recorded was given to the Sauliunas.

When returning from a morning walk, I called to Jane Sauliunas that breakfast was ready. She replied "OK". With that response I dashed upstairs where I had a June, 1990 copy of VYTIS. I remembered seeing an article written by John Chervokas on: VILNIUS TO MOSCOW. It taught me my first Lithuanian word "PASIŠVILPK". I told Jane "...don't just say OK, say what we Americans say". She asked me what that was. I responded in perfect Lithuanian, "Pasišvilpk" Jane and Kestutis became unglued with laughter.

The first church choir to sing the song was at St. Pius X Catholic Church in Dallas. Other very important groups are considering using the song. Anyone wishing a copy of the cassette, may write to the VYTIS Editor (address inside front cover). Since there is no charge for this cassette, a donation would be appreciated made out to the KNIGHTS OF LITHUANIA and to be used for the publication of the VYTIS magazine.



LITHUANIAN CASTLE IN PUTNAM

Few people could not imagine that in Connecticut, there is constructed a Lithuanian castle. Being of Lithuanian descent, one would probably know just where to locate it.

This castle is tucked away in the woods behind the Sisters of the Immaculate Conception Convent on Route 21 in Putnam, CT. This castle is much smaller in scope than those fortified strongholds that protected princes and nobles during feudal times. It has the typical rounded towers and crenelated battlements of castles of old and it's constructed mainly of rounded field stones. Why such a peculiar structure would lurk in Putnam's woods is a story in itself.

This castle was built almost solely by the late Rev. Stasys Yla in honor of King Mindaugas, a hero of Lithuanian history. Father began building the castle in 1961 and had hoped to complete the work for the 700th jubilee in 1963 of the great 13th century Lithuanian ruler who unified Lithuania and later introduced Christianity in that small Baltic country. Father Yla managed to complete most of the work before he died in 1983.

Some of the stones hauled to the site came from Lithuania. One monolith was set up inside the castle to serve as an altar. Several handsome stained glass windows and mosaic panels

were added along with other artifacts. The priest did the backbreaking work not only as a gesture of piety but in grateful thanks for having survived two years in a Nazi concentration camp.

Father Yla was also a poet, writer and artist. He worked very hard doing about 70% of the work on the castle. When he started building the castle in 1961, he had no plans. The castle sort of built itself. Some of the work on the castle were impossible for the priest to do by himself such as putting up huge ceiling beams and hauling in the rough-hewn altar stone which weighs many tons. It was necessary to contract the heavier jobs.

In addition to the convent, the order has the Matulaitis Nursing Home. Each year, more than a thousand Lithuanians converge on convent grounds for a "piknikas". The program usually starts with a morning Mass. In the afternoon, colorful folk dancers perform, along with an instrumental group. Meals are

also served.

Near the castle is the American Lithuanian Cultural Archives which contains the largest collection of Lithuanian artifacts in the Free World. It contains about 100,000 books, thousands of art works, tapestries, weavings, paintings and carvings reflecting Lithuanian culture.



Visitors touring the Lithuanian Castle in Putnam, CT

Wishing all a Blessed Christmas

and a

New Year filled with

Joy, Love and Peace



C #135 Ansonia, CT

Linksmų Šventų Kalėdų ir
Laimingų Naujų Metų
nuo Lietuvos Vyčių 72-tros kuopos
BINGHAMTON, NY



Amžiais pavergta kelias tėvynė;
Jos atgimimą jaučia dvasia.
Ginkim, ka mūsų proseniai gynė!
Zadinkim brolius meile drasia!

Maironis



THE MID-AMERICA DISTRICT

WISHES EVERYONE

A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS

AND A PROSPEROUS AND

HAPPY NEW YEAR



Labas! Maloniausia Jventu Kalėdu
ir

linksmu
Naugu
metu!

Dear
Knights
of
Lithuania
& readers -
Merry
Christmas
& Happy
New Year!

Thank You/Aciu
for your support.

From one proud Lithuanian
to you all!

I love
you
!

God Bless!

Ann Jillian

Frati

ANN JILLIAN



A Nun's Impression of Ann Jillian

Sister Virginia, C-74

An opportunity of a lifetime presented itself when I learned that the actress, Ann Jillian, would be featured at the F. M. Kirby Center in Wilkes Barre, PA on Thursday evening, Oct. 11 at 7:00 p.m. It was not primarily to seek information on a timely topic that I wanted to attend, but it was my desire to see and hear someone about whom I had formed a previous opinion, and also to invite her to our Villa Nursing Home.

Some time in the past I had written to her after "The Ann Jillian Story" was shown on TV. I had to let her know that after alerting all the Sisters at our Villa about the first showing, I actually missed seeing it by taking what I had hoped would be a short "shut-eye" before the 9 to 11 presentation. However, when I opened my eyes it was past midnight and all the Sisters had retired for the night.

To my surprise, Ann Jillian not only acknowledged my letter in a hand written note, but also let me know how much she enjoyed the humor of it all since every Sister saw the movie except the promoter! In her first note and in the ones that followed, I became aware of her sense of humor, an unfeigned love for people, an abiding faith in God.

That evening at the Kirby Center I had the opportunity to learn that Ann Jillian was "for real", and that my first impression was correct. She was an apostle of joy, of love for people, and of faith in God. Her God-given beauty was there for all to admire as she walked on the stage. Then, speaking in a clear, vibrant voice, her joy and exuberance were evident to all.

Imagine the response of the audience as Ann Jillian identified herself as Lithuanian and sang the opening line of the Lithuanian anthem, "Lietuva Tėvynė Mūsų." Amid prolonged applause, she was handed a yellow, green and red plastic umbrella, and Pittston's Knights of Lithuania expressed their love for her with a bouquet of flowers. She also satisfied a request to present a line from her "Mae West" movie before beginning the scheduled program for the evening.

Beginning the first of series of the *Celebrity Health Awareness Lectures* titled "Rainbow of Hope" sponsored by

the Nesbitt Memorial Hospital, Ann Jillian captured the attention of the audience marked with reverent silence, occasional bursts of laughter, and with hand-clapping affirmation of her views and trust in God as a source of strength and healing.



C-143 Pittston members with Ann Jillian: Nellie B. Romanas, Annamarie Sewatsky and Rosalie Kizis.

However, it was when members of the audience came forward to the microphones placed in two aisles to share their individual experiences in what was termed, "A Conversation with Ann Jillian" that her love for people and her sympathetic nature were given full expression. As each woman gave a tear-filled testimony of her own apprehensive and frightening experience, she was invited to come forward

to the stage where Ann Jillian stooped to reach her with a warm and tender hug. Nothing could have been more expressive!

Community education and awareness about breast cancer proved to be an exciting and informative evening as Ann Jillian shared with openness and humor her personal encounter with breast cancer and expressed a deep and abiding faith in God's healing power. However, the joy of the evening was crowned when the two Sisters from the Villa, along with their chauffeur, were invited backstage to meet Ann Jillian and to pose for a picture or two. Who could have asked for anything better?

On the return trip to the Villa that evening, the "trio" agreed that Ann Jillian's goodness was more visible because she was not acting a role but was her real self. To them (and it was said reverently), she was a mixture of Bob Hope in her flashes of humor, and something of Mother Theresa of Calcutta in her deep faith in God, in her love for the victims of cancer and especially in her desire to offer them hope and trust in God.

My first impression of Ann Jillian was not only accurate but it was deepened and affirmed after a personal encounter. She proved that people in any profession or walk in life can be a means of reaching out to people with God's love and unwavering faith in Him.

We love you, Ann Jillian, and we share your pride in being Lithuanian! God willing, the country of our ancestors will soon be free.

To Oslo, Via Vilnius

by John Budris

Few champagne corks popped in Lithuania at the news of Mikhail Gorbachev's Nobel Peace Prize.

Consider his record in the last six months: Lithuania declares a restoration of independence and the Soviet Army invades Vilnius with tanks and paratroops. The Russians seize printing presses and Government offices and drag frightened boys back into the Red Army.

There are MIG overflights, helicopters scatter more pro-Soviet propaganda leaflets than Vermont has maple leaves. Western journalists are expelled and the press blackout begins.

These are hardly things one would expect from Mother Teresa, Albert Schweitzer or Mohandas K. Gandhi.

When the Lithuanians still refuse to rescind their declaration of independence, Mr. Gorbachev orders a blockade that ruins the economy, and though he officially lifts it after his summit meeting with Pres. Bush, he continues it in subtle but paralyzing ways.

Even conservative estimates put the damage to Lithuania's economy as a result of the blockade in the billions of dollars and still counting. Simple good sportsmanship suggests that Mr. Gorbachev donate his \$700,000 prize to help offset what his embargo has created.

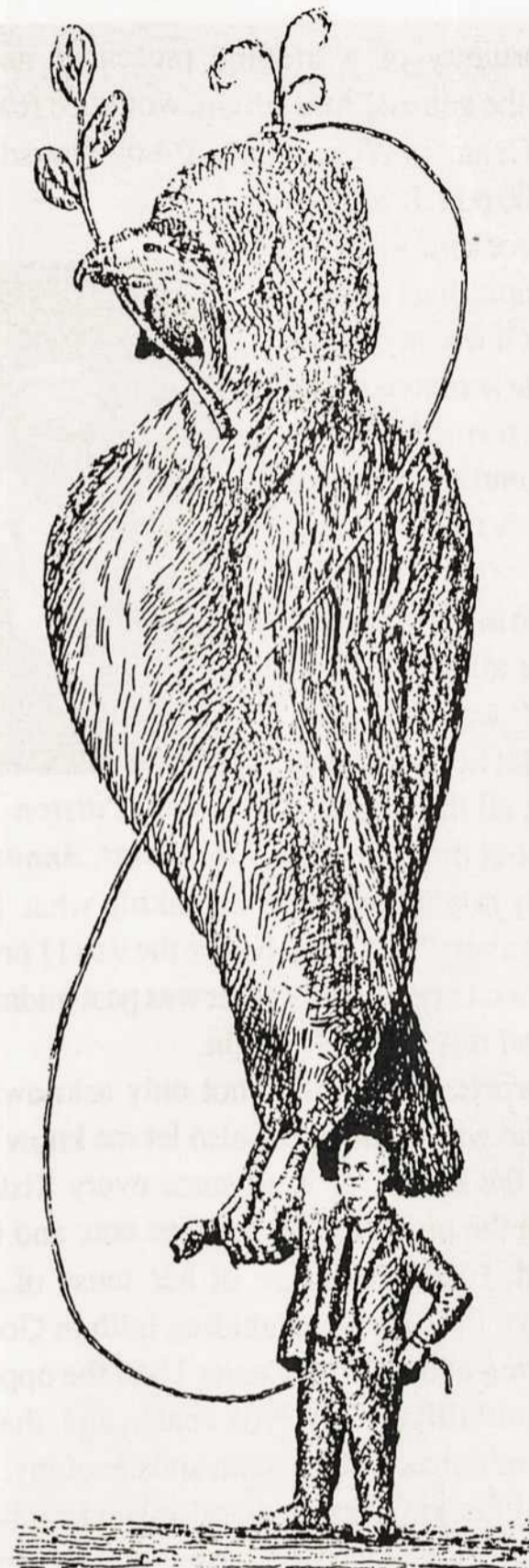
"If Moscow thinks that we owe them something for independence, our bill has already been paid in advance," said the Prime Minister, Kazimiera Prunskienė. Even today, Mr. Gorbachev keeps hacking away at Lithuania to join a federated Soviet Union.

A recent deal between Mr. Gorbachev and Boris Yeltsin, the president of the Russian Republic, has all the necessary ingredients to undermine trade agreements between Lithuania and the Federation — agreements that were intended to release Lithuania as Moscow's economic hostage.

Beginning in 1991, Moscow threatens hard currency payments from Lithuania for much commercial trade. The indispensable industrial triad of crude oil, natural gas and metals could be the first, and, coming in winter, would create conditions far worse than the spring blockade. Deliveries for the current quarter's goods, particularly medical supplies, are not guaranteed. These tactics are nothing short of blackmail.

Tanks still casually patrol downtown Vilnius each evening, and several key buildings seized by the Soviet Army in March have yet to be returned to the Lithuanians.

In southeastern Lithuania, the Lithuanian Communist



Thomas Kerr

Party, funded by Moscow, continues to provoke ethnic unrest among Poles and Russians under Mr. Gorbachev's direction. Contrary to the Lithuanian Constitution, local councils still controlled by the Communist old guard recently declared two districts as autonomous regions.

These stunts, encouraged by Mr. Gorbachev, are inconsistent with the Nobel Prize. In a telegram of congratulations, in which he addressed Mr. Gorbachev as "Your Majesty," Lithuania's President Vytautas Landsbergis, himself a nominee for the prize, expressed hope that the award would "widen neighborly relations between the Soviet Union and Lithuania and help restore Baltic independence."

So it is not too late for Mr. Gorbachev to deserve what he has already won.

Along with his power to dissolve republics' governments and install presidential rule comes great, if not exclusive, control over negotiations with Lithuania. Though it is the impression of the Western press that his power in the Soviet Union is slipping, his personal grip on Lithuania has not loosened.

The first round of talks between the Soviet Union and Lithuania ended with Moscow willing, in principle, to bar-

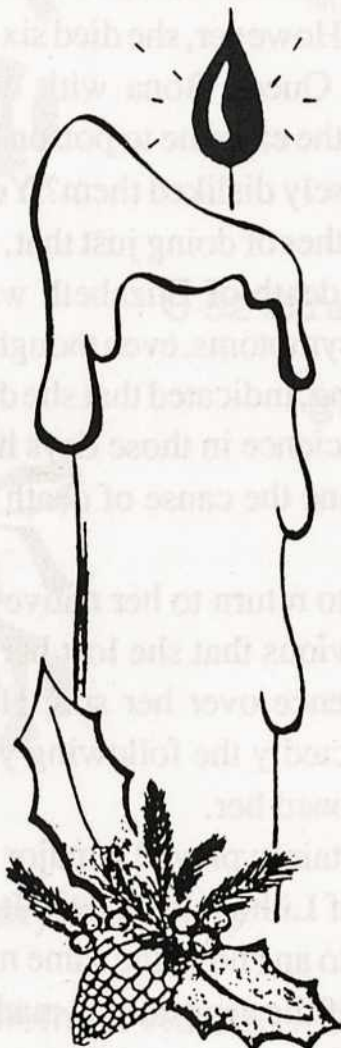
gain. But in private Mr. Gorbachev's position is quite the opposite. He views Lithuania as his colony, scoffs at its confidence in the influence of the West to help it during the negotiations and will let it go only when compelled to do so.

Few opportunities have been missed to pamper Mr. Gorbachev, the world's darling, and the Nobel Prize is yet another example. Unless he reverses his position and releases Lithuania with no strings attached and soon, this will be the year he rode a tank through Vilnius on his way to Oslo. 🍏

*Linksmų Kalėdų Švenčių
ir
Laimingų Naujų Metų
Visiems Vyčiams linki*

DETROITO 102 KUOPA

**Kalėdų šventės
teatneša tyro
džiaugsmo ir
Naujieji Metai
stiprybės ir vilties!**



**May warm memories
Brighten your Christmas day
and Happiness fill your
New Year**

C-25 Cleveland, OH

The Mother of King Sigismund II

by Edward Baranauskas

I wonder how many of us realize that being a member of a royal family does not mean a life of harmony, peace, love and happiness. The story of the mother of Sigismund II (Sigismund Augustus), King of Poland and Grand Prince of Lithuania, is an interesting one, and underscores these points.

King Sigismund's mother was born Bona Sforza in Italy on February 2, 1494; her father was the Duke of Milan and her mother was the daughter of the King of Naples. At the age of 24, she became the second wife of Sigismund I (Sigismund the Old), King of Poland and Grand Prince of Lithuania. The wedding and coronation took place in Cracow in 1518. She became a more capable administrator than her husband and increasingly dominated him.

She was the mother of six children; four of whom were daughters and two were sons. All of her daughters married into royal families: Isabella to the King of Hungary, Sophia to the Duke of Braunschweig, Catherine to the Prince of Finland who later became King John III of Sweden, Anne to Stephen Bathory of Hungary who became King of Poland and Grand Prince of Lithuania following their marriage. Her first son died after birth while her second, Sigismund Augustus, was to become his father's successor.

Queen Bona's ambition was to make the throne hereditary for in her native Italy, she witnessed the unlimited power of the monarchy and could not tolerate any other system. In Poland, the king was chosen by Polish nobility under a law of election rather than the principle of hereditary succession. After the birth of her second son, she was determined to secure the throne for him through Lithuania, where the nobility desired to have a separate ruler. According to the arrangements which Queen Bona made with the Chancellor of Lithuania, the Lithuanian Council of Lords announced that Sigismund Augustus would be elected Grand Prince of Lithuania following the death of his father. This was made without consulting Polish nobility as the previous acts of union required.

Queen Bona was certain that since the Poles would be unwilling to break the union with Lithuania, they would be forced to elect her son King of Poland. Bona's influence with the Lithuanians resulted in her son's election as the Grand Prince of Lithuania in 1529 and the Polish nobility hastily elected him King of Poland two months later. He was crowned a year later when he was only nine and a half years old. Thus, Bona was assured that her son would rule both Poland and Lithuania, succeeding her husband. With this victory, Queen

Bona's relations with the nobility of Lithuania came to an end. They demanded that she not interfere in Lithuanian state affairs anymore and that she should transfer all of her Lithuanian estates to her son. The magnates of Lithuania then pressured King Sigismund I to allow his son to assume the elder monarch's duties as Grand Prince and the King signed the document in 1544.

Sigismund Augustus not only acquired his mother's estates in Lithuania but he also freed himself from her influence. Relations between mother and son gradually worsened.


Queen Bona was extremely unhappy with her son's marriage to Elizabeth, daughter of the King of Austria. A year after the wedding, Sigismund Augustus was sent to Lithuania while his bride was left behind in Cracow. The Queen hated her daughter-in-law but later allowed her to join her husband in Vilnius where she died in 1545.

Two years after Elizabeth's passing, Sigismund Augustus secretly married Barbara Radvilas (Lith.: Barbora Radvilaitė) of a rising Lithuanian family of magnates. He hoped to gain the consent of his parents and the Polish lords but his mother was enraged by this marriage because her new daughter-in-law was not of royal blood. She and the Polish nobility tried to dissolve it by various means but they never succeeded.

When King Sigismund I died in 1548, Sigismund Augustus assumed power and was able to have Barbara crowned Queen of Poland in 1550. However, she died six months later.

Can anyone imagine Queen Bona with deliberate and malicious intent going to the extreme to poison both wives of her son because she intensely disliked them? Yet, Sigismund Augustus accused his mother of doing just that. According to historians, however, the death of Elizabeth was caused by epilepsy while Barbara's symptoms, even though some people had suspicions of poisoning, indicated that she died of cancer. Whether or not medical science in those days had the expertise to accurately determine the cause of death may be open to question.

Queen Bona decided to return to her native Italy in 1556 when it became quite obvious that she lost her power at the royal court and all influence over her son. Her life ended dramatically and unexpectedly the following year when her steward robbed and poisoned her.

Queen Bona most certainly played a major part not only in history of Poland but of Lithuania as well. It seems rather bizarre that her life came to an end in the same manner as that of her daughters-in-law, if the accusations made against her by her own son were really true. 



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Merry Christmas

Linksmų Švenčių

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If Kuwait must travel the road that Estonia did

The following appeared in the Aug. 17 issue of Eesti Ekspress, a weekly pro-independence newspaper in Estonia. The author is Mihkel Tarm, a Estonian-American journalist working in Tallinn, the capitol.

The article was translated into English by Hillar Puskar and Peeter Tammisto, Estonian-Americans who live in the New York area.

Dear Saddam:

I am worried about you. I fear that perhaps the scandal brought about by the Kuwaiti incident is causing you to lose sleep. Allow me as an Estonian (that is to say, as a representative of a country that has been occupied for the past 50 years) to dispel your fears. Take heart in the Soviet Union's experience with the Baltic states; you need not relax your grip on Kuwait. In time you will succeed regardless!

I admit that your march into Kuwait, like the Soviet Union's march into Estonia, was unacceptable, underhanded, barbaric and outside of all moral and legal boundaries. Naturally, it flies in the face of all international law. However, I can tell you that all this is of no importance.

Who should know this better than we Estonians? Half a century ago we endured the same iron fist as Kuwait endures today. Our leaders were deported and killed, the legally elected government was replaced by the invaders with a puppet government; in short, we were forcibly annexed. Similar declarations, like the ones President Bush is presently making, were made at that time: The aggression must be stopped. But look! We are still occupied, just as we were on the day that the Soviet tanks poured over our borders. So, Saddam, don't worry. The Estonians are certain that your achievements in Kuwait will last.

On the basis of the Estonian experience, I can predict what is in store for you from the international community. There will be strong denunciations from London, Paris and Washington. Freedom-loving leaders from around the world will speak eloquently of Kuwait's rights to self-determination and pledge with one voice to never ever recognize the illegal annexation of Kuwait. (However, some of these same nations will soon recognize the illegal annexation and occupation.)

You need not worry. World opinion loves to embark but it will not bite. And finally, it will no longer bother to bark. It is inevitable that all references to independent Kuwait will cease. A good sign is when journalists stop using words like *occupied* and *republic* and replace them with terms such as *constituent republic* or *Iraqi region*. They will say that the question of whether Kuwait is occupied or not is a matter of interpretation.

Briefly stated, Kuwait will become a forgotten nation and you may commence with the destruction of its economy, the rape of its land and the murder of its inhabitants if you so desire.

You can be certain that the United States, which you regard suspiciously, will publicly show strong indignation. For decades, American presidents will scold Iraq once a year for occupying Kuwait. That day will be declared "Kuwaiti Independence Day" by Congress. A representative from the White House will meet publicly with freedom-fighting Kuwaiti activists and Kuwaiti women in folk costume. Each year, the American president will give the same speech, the text of which will always be remarkably similar to the following:

"America which stands for the rights of each nation to freedom and independence, remembers today as the day on which Kuwait lost its freedom and independence. We reaffirm our duty to assist in the peaceful restoration of Kuwaiti independence and we repeat that we will never, ever forget our friends in Kuwait who are struggling for freedom."

Naturally, these friends that are referred to will have long since been assassinated, buried and forgotten.

Of one thing you can be certain — just as Americans are capable of giving the world's most moving speeches, it will not take long until they begin making statements such as "We must live in the real world, and Kuwait is a part of Iraq." Therefore, don't take their moving speeches so seriously. Keep in mind that for Americans speaking about freedom is like praying in church. You don't necessarily have to believe in your words, but they'll make you feel better.

A few words of advice, Saddam. It seems you have closely studied the Soviet occupation of the Baltic states. Perhaps you learned this in Moscow? In order to properly keep Kuwait under control, you need to weaken its people, sending in vast numbers of Iraqis while, at the same time, killing and deporting the local inhabitants. This will strengthen you politically.

Second, change Iraq's name, for example, to something like the Union of Iraqi Islamic Republics, and change Kuwait's name to something like the Iraqi Islamic Republic of Kuwait. Renaming will create a public perception that, in changing the name, the internal makeup of the country is changed as well.

Third, rewrite history. There are plenty of people who cannot find the Mideast on a map. It will be easy to convince these people that your lies are the truth.

A suggestion to tie this all together: The more terror and violence you employ, the better. This shows that you have the power to control this occupied land. It may be difficult to compete with the Soviet Union when it comes to terrorizing

occupied nations, but I've heard that you have shown amazing creativity in your use of inhumane force. I do not doubt in your capabilities. The world does not notice violence in small occupied countries. Don't hold back. The world will finally come around and accept you as its friend and even offer economic assistance. You have nothing to lose; you have a free and independent nation to gain.

Pleasant dreams!
Respectfully yours,
Mihkel Tarm

P.S. Perhaps you fear that in the future you will be replaced by a liberal reformer who will begin to forge a new direction. Do not worry, because your grip on Kuwait will not be weakened by it. First, even liberal reformers do not like to give away conquered territory. If necessary, they flex their military muscle the way Mikhail Gorbachev is doing in

Lithuania.

Second, if Kuwait should start to show its yearnings for freedom and begin demanding its independence, it doesn't necessarily mean that it will succeed. Truth and justice may indeed be on their side, but Iraq has the guns, and that's what counts.

Finally, believe it or not, if Iraq gets a liberal government, then the world will be on Iraq's side. The world will call Kuwait impatient, irresponsible and selfish and call for it to moderate its radical demands. Kuwait will be told that its aspirations are threatening the great reformer's survival.

The most magnificent absurdity is that Kuwait will be blamed as an offender, guilty of discrimination against the Iraqi occupiers, of destabilizing world peace, and so on. Then you, like Stalin today, can wryly smile in your grave. The victim, whom you devastated, will be turned into the aggressor.

Christmas & New Year Greeting to all
VYTIS readers



REGINA KOTT

National Cultural Chairlady and
Member C-100 Amsterdam, NY

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In this the year of our 75th
anniversary, the officers and
members of C-29 Newark, NJ
wish all our fellow Knights a
**Merry Christmas and may the
New Year bring
Peace — Good Health —
Happiness to All!**



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*Anthracite Council #144,
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Sveikiname Visus Vyčius

Linkime

Šventų ir Linksmų Kalėdų

ir

Sėkmingų Naujų Metų!

Happy Holidays, Fellow Knights

from

Members and Officers C-144

Life in Lithuania

Profile of a Soviet Exchange Student

By Audrius Bruzga

I am delighted to find out that Soviets at Union College are no longer a wonder. Last year the guys from Georgia and Armenia gave a good start in introducing the college community with the variety of languages, customs and cultures that make up the Soviet Union. At the same time they seem to have put an end to the stereotype of a "Russian". This year Yuriy and I represent two other national minorities, namely Belorussians and Lithuanians. I know darn well that these notions make little sense to a person who is not completely absorbed in politics. Therefore, today, I would like to skip the traditional topic of politics, which a Soviet is mostly expected to speak on (questions like, "What do you think of Gorbachev?" or "Will perestroika succeed? and the like). Instead, I would prefer to introduce the readers to our cultural background: "Who we are?", "What we are?" To be more specific, I will speak about Lithuania, my university, and its students.

If you happen to look at the *Atlas of the World*, you will hardly be impressed by the size of my country. Lithuania covers the territory of only 26,000 sq. miles; however, it is bigger than, say, Switzerland or West Virginia. You should look for Latvia, Belorussia and Poland and its western coast is washed by the Baltic Sea. The population for the last decade has remained approximately 3.5 million, 80% of which are Lithuanians. Recently, Lithuania was proclaimed the state language.

Now let us move from encyclopedic data to explore the rich history of Lithuania. Lithuanian tribes settled down on the eastern coast of the peaceful, laborious, a crop-growing nation. We link the foundation of a Lithuanian state with the Grand Duke Mindaugas who united several principalities into one centralized state in the early 13th century. In the 14th-16th centuries, Lithuania was very powerful, and its territories extended from the Baltic to the Black Sea. However, because of the severe attacks by the German Teutonic order, Lithuania was forced to unite with Poland, thus forming a new Polish-Lithuanian state. The state saw intermingled periods of prosperity and decline until in 1795 it was partitioned by Russia, Prussia and Austria. Lithuania was a part of Czarist Russia until World War I. In 1918, the National Liberation Movement reached its peak and an independent Lithuanian Republic was proclaimed.

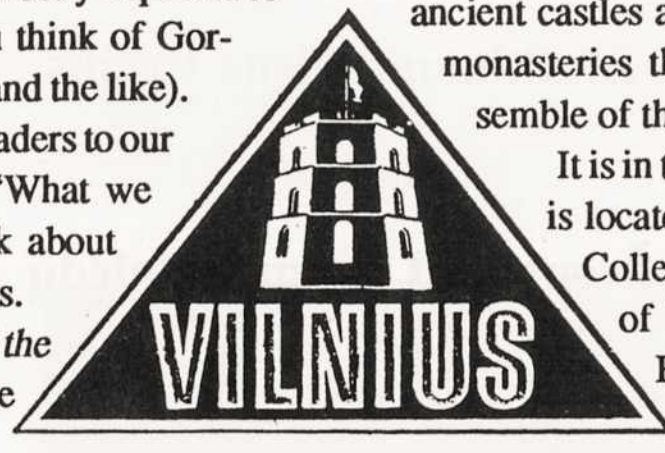
We had two decades of peaceful and laborious life which ended with Soviet occupation, as a result of the Molotov-Ribentrop Pact. Consequences were very painful for my nation and they still continue to be. I hope that having this overview in mind will make it easier to understand why our people are striving for independence.

Vilnius, the capital of Lithuania, played an enormous role in the development of our ethnic and cultural identity. The city with the population of 600,000 is still the administrative, cultural and industrial center. Modern constructions do not overwhelm the medieval character of Vilnius which the city has preserved since the 15th-17th century. As a matter of fact, Vilnius is mostly admired for its narrow, crooked streets, ancient castles and for a great number of churches and monasteries that still dominate the architectural ensemble of the old town.

It is in the old part of Vilnius that my university is located. Unlike the vast territory that Union College occupies in Schenectady, the campus of Vilnius University is a compact one. Buildings of different ages and styles adjoin each other, thus creating a system of courtyards of various sizes and configurations. Classrooms and auditoriums often lack some modern equipment and facilities, but certain inconveniences are compensated by a feeling of romanticism that students enjoy studying in medieval vaulted chambers. The students of the philological department are especially happy, asserting that dust, dim light and spiders' webs inspire imagination and creative thoughts.

The old campus houses only two departments (philosophy and history) and administrative offices. The other departments as well as dorms, laboratories, the sporting center, cafes and clubs are located on the new campus which is on the outskirts of the city. On the one hand it is great: the students can enjoy fresh air, beautiful surroundings of pine groves, and can make noise without disturbing sensitive neighbors. On the other hand, it takes a long time to reach the headquarters of the university. You have to drive in crowded buses or trolley buses for over half an hour. As a rule, you are always late for the first class. So here at Union, I enjoy living on campus and sometimes I am ashamed of being late for my classes.

All in all, there are 15 departments at Vilnius University which provide full time courses for 14,000 students. The



University emblem

Life in Lithuania (Cont'd)

basic difference between Union and my university is in the approach to the notion of education. Our higher education is based on a set curriculum. There is a certain schedule for every major and students cannot choose outside their courses. They are forced to study things which sometimes do not correspond to their needs and interests. This often causes hostility towards the subject you are being forced to study. One of the things I like best about an American college is its strong commitment to the liberal arts education. This is a challenge for a student.

Another distinctive feature of my university is the relatively large number of hours devoted to the lectures and classes. If a student spends 26 hours per week in class, he has no right to complain that he is busy. Of course, individual work time is cut into. Students have less time to study on their own or are often too tired to do so. There is one more important difference as far as curriculum is concerned. A student at Union has to take three courses a semester, while his colleague at Vilnius University is overwhelmed with courses amounting to eight or ten. The scope of credits and exams is also comparably bigger. By contrast, learning here at Union is more intensive.

I can only admire and envy the wonderful technical possibilities that Union provides its students with. The modern equipment used in the teaching process as well as brilliant sports facilities seem to be quite normal for a college in the U.S. but are certainly not in my country. Computers, for example, are still luxury at my university and are kept far beyond students' reach. We had a very big (4.5 min. units) and rich library, but it is still non-computerized; students and professors have to use card catalogues as their predecessors did centuries ago.

There are good things, though, that our students take for granted but might seem unusual for American students. First of all, education is free of charge. You have to pay neither for tuition nor for books. Living in the dorms requires only symbolic payment - 20 rubles (\$25). Board is not provided so the students have meals according to their budget. They can either eat at the student's dining room where the food is inexpensive but poor or they can have their meals off campus but that requires extra money, time and one more Soviet phenomenon, queues.

I probably am not exaggerating by saying that besides good grades at exams, students are most happy to receive stipends. This important event takes place every month and is followed by extra parties, visits to the movies or shopping excursions. Stipends are not donations to those who are in need. Students receive stipends according to their academic

performances. Although these stipends are usually not big in size, 60-70 rubles (\$100), they add substantially to students' budgets.

I see no major differences in the way students spend their free time. Sports, movies, clubs, beer bars are the most favorable activities. I have to admit that our beer parties cannot compete with those at Union, at least in range. The reason could be that we have no fraternities. We used to have some in the 18th century and earlier, but the tradition was lost through the years.

In 1979 Vilnius University celebrated its 400 year anniversary. Some old traditions were revived, and new established. There is one hymn that students have been singing for years which comes to my mind. The following old Latin verse of the hymn in the best way expresses the essence of student's life:

Gaudeamus igitur, jevenes dum sumus,
Post jucundam juventutem,
Post molestam senectutem,
Nos habebit humus.

Let's be merry, as long as we are young,
The youth will end,
Old years will come,
And we will have to die.

The Herald Angels sing out clear

Holy Christmas to all

and a

Blessed New Year

Linksmų Kalėdų ir Laimingų Naujų Metų

C #74 SCRANTON, PA





*Teišsipildo Aukščiausiojo valia
Šv. Kalėdose ir Naujuose Metuose*

*Visa širdimi su Jumis
ne tik Šv. Kalėdose
ir Naujuose Metuose,
bet ir gyvenimo kasdienybėje.*

*Kristaus atėjimo šviesa
tešviečia Jums visuomet.*

*Naujieji Metai težiba
nauja saule ir
naujomis žvaigždėmis.*

Linkime Visiems Vyčiams

Linksmų Šv. Kalėdų

ir

Laimingų Naujųjų Metų



**COUNCIL 36
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS**

OH AMERICA, AMERICA

A. Vaidotas, Varena, Lithuania
Published in "RESPUBLIKA" (Lithuania)
Translated by Loretta Stukas

For many years, dreaming about Lithuania's Independence, I believed in God and America. God would make that miracle happen and America would defend it. The miracle happened on March 11, 1990. For 50 years, Lithuania waited for this miracle. With the greatest hope, we looked to America, which replied "Yes, we will recognize your independence, but first show us that you are worthy of it."

Well, we started to make order, creating a nation, working with all our energies. God sent us some very beautiful days, perhaps as a sign of His approval. But suddenly our neighbor, the Soviet Union, began to band about, pointing knives at us. At first, she only threatened and belittled us. After all, she did promise the world not to use arms or force against us.

When, with the help of God and the light shining from the non-recognition lighthouse, through storms and disasters, our small boat reached the shores of Independence, we looked to the democratic nations and people of good will to help us morally. Clearly, we expected the most from America. How temperate and proud she is! I think that she gave herself away. She did not recognize our illegal incorporation, and now, she publicly and loudly does not recognize our freedom. I now understand that even America, being the most powerful

nation of the world, is not fully free. The only advice she could come up with for Lithuania and the Soviet Union is "Discuss this calmly, without the use of force."

Dear and kind America: Lithuania restored her statehood and shed bolshevism without bloodshed, without violence. For that, praise be to God!

But the state which is obsessed by the Devil, ever more impudently points the knife at us. Perhaps some gesture may come from an unarmed Lithuania. But that will not prevent the Soviet Union from reporting that we are plotting against her dignity and that she is entitled to protect her citizens and the USSR Constitution.

Now, I believe only in God. And you, Americans, please continue to live peacefully, in contentment and good fortune. When the Soviet peril pierces Lithuania's heart, the drops of our blood will drop on all the democratic and freedom-loving lands, to whom we appealed for recognition and moral support. Forgive us, if those drops of blood spoil your good appetites. Through the Iron Curtain, we foolishly appealed to free people, hoping to be understood. You see, we also wanted to be free.

GRUODIS - December

Paskutinis metų mėnuo
 Su sniegu atėjo,
 Ir su juomi šalta žiema
 Štai jau prasidėjo.

Gruodis mėnuo kaip ir kiti
 Pas mus paviešėjęs
 Vysis kitus amžinatvėn;
 Dings kaip žiemos vėjas.

Tarp mūsų būdams daug mums duoda,
 Ypač ant Kalėdų,
 Taip kad visi linksmi džiaugias
 Tarp vargų ir bėdų.

Gruodis nors pats šaltį kenčia,
 Visus gerai šildo;
 Nes visus gerai aprėdo,
 Salčių vargus dildo.

Žiemos mėnuo daug nuveikęs
 Paliks mus laimingus;
 Už visa ką tik įgysim,
 Dievui čia dėkingus.

Jeigu gruodyje paliksim
 Visi mes laimingi,
 Tai atminkim turim būti
 Dievui čia dėkingi.

Prel. M. J. Urbonas, LL.D.



Lithuanian Grandmother Honored

On July 16, 1990, Mrs. George Bush hosted White House reception in the State Dining Room honoring the Foster Grandparent Program on its twenty-fifth anniversary.

Twenty-seven volunteer Foster Grandparents representing various areas of the United States from Alaska to Florida and Massachusetts to Texas, as well as the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, were recognized for their contributions to the program for nurturing the special needs to youth of our nation. Wide-ranging assignments including working with at-risk youth, serving at Job Corps sites, juvenile detention centers, day care centers, hospitals, shelters, and schools enable the volunteers to utilize their talents for the benefit of their communities.

Representing Massachusetts was Nellie Ruggles who was sponsored by the Urban League of Springfield, one of the original 25 year Foster Grandparent Programs which began the day that President Johnson signed the legislation creating the program.

Mrs. Ruggles' involvement in the program spans the last decade. During this time she worked in the field of education with special need students in the public schools of Holyoke and with children of single parents in the Holyoke Day Nursery. Recognition of her talents and leadership abilities led to her appointment to the Advisory Board of the Foster Grandparent Program in Springfield where she has served for the last two years.

The Knights of Lithuania share in the pride of accomplishment of this versatile lady. Some Knights may be acquainted with Nellie because of her "labor of love" as the New England District Culture chairperson. She manages to keep the councils up-to-date with the latest publications about Lithuania and with those written by Lithuanians. A founding member of C-145 Holyoke, she served in various capacities and is currently President. Her major focus is the highlighting of Lithuanianism in the community through personal and coun-



Nellie Ruggles

cil activities. For example, the annual Christmas Boutique brings Lithuanian dancers to Holyoke and fosters exposure to Lithuanian artifacts and foods. Because of her craft skills, she is requested periodically to teach classes the technique of making Christmas ornaments from natural wheat straw as well as from soda straws. She also demonstrates and instructs groups in the art of creating the intricately colored Lithuanian Easter Eggs. Nellie continues to share her creativity with civic organizations like those which express interest in reviving the fading art of fashioning "May Baskets."

Loretta Starr, a director of the Grandparents Program says of Nellie, "She's very special" She truly exemplifies the motto of the Knights of Lithuania: "For God and Country."

YOU ARE CHRISTMAS.....

You are Christmas.....

every time you smile and help to
make the world a brighter place.

You are Christmas.....

every time you laugh and let the sound join with all
the happy music of the world.

You are Christmas.....

every time you speak a word of faith to some fearful
soul along an unpaved road.

You are Christmas.....

every time your loving hand goes out of the way to
give that extra special service.



The declaration of Lithuanian independence on March 11, 1990 and the ensuing struggle for freedom have been a headline event throughout the free world. While the struggle for freedom is long from over, the emerging independent Lithuania must have well educated and qualified people in vital areas. The best place to achieve such education is here in the United States.

Lithuanian Foundation, Inc., founded by American-Lithuanians, during its 28 years of existence has distributed \$2.8 million primarily for American-Lithuanian cultural and educational needs.

This year, 20.4% of the amount available for such distribution was given to outstanding post-graduate students from Lithuania, who through studies here, are increasing their knowledge to be better prepared to serve Lithuania's needs upon their return.

Please join our efforts to support Lithuanian cultural and educational needs throughout the world by becoming a member through your tax-deductible donation of \$100.00 or more.

*Wishing a very Merry Christmas and
happy, healthy and prosperous New Year*

*to "Vytis" and
all members of the Knights of Lithuania.*

LITHUANIAN FOUNDATION, INC.



COUNCIL 110, Maspeth, NY

Sveikinam Visus Vyčius, Šeimas ir Draugus

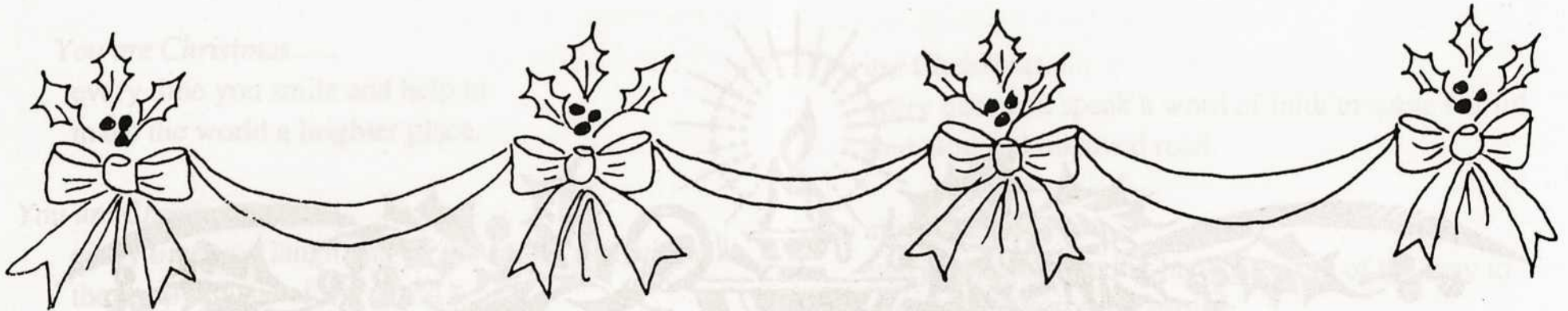
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Sėkmingų Naujų Metų!

HAPPY HEALTHY HOLIDAYS



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Lithuanians in the News



Vida Vaskys and her son, Andrius, join over a hundred Catholics at an all-night vigil at Our Lady of Victory Church in Baltimore to pray for an end to oppression in Lithuania. At the vigil, sponsored by the Blue Army, representatives from over seven different Lithuanian organizations, including Catholics devoted to the Immaculate Conception and the Sacred Heart, joined in prayer.

Catholic Review, Baltimore

RETIREMENT CEREMONY

Captain Ralph A. Zardeskas, USN, retired from the Naval Air Systems Command, Washington, DC on June 21 after serving 26 years with the Navy. He was born Sept. 18, 1943 in Boston, MA and attended Boston Technical High School. He received a BS in Engineering Science and an MS in Physics. His naval career has been extensive serving in many capacities. He has been



Capt. Ralph A. Zardeskas

awarded three Air Medals, Joint Service Commendation, Navy Commendation and various Service and Campaign medals. Capt. Zardeskas is married and has two children.

He is the son of Alfred and Frances (Dravinskas) Zardeskas. Alfred came from South Boston and his wife Frances is from Brockton. They are presently living in Clearwater, FL.

BROTHER, SISTER REUNITED AFTER 60 YEARS

Edvardas Maikauskas called his sister: "Terese" very tentatively. His hesitation was no surprise — after all, he hadn't seen her in 60 years. And until about 10 years ago, he thought she was dead. Recalling his childhood in Lithuania, after his mother was killed in a bizarre electrical accident, Terese was sent to an orphanage and Edvardas to distant relatives. It was not until years later, long after he followed the retreating Nazi armies out of Lithuania and landed in the West, that Edvardas learned his sister was alive. For several years, the two have been writing letters across the Atlantic. Champagne and tears flowed freely in So. Norwood, MA as the incredibly diverse paths of these two siblings crossed for the first time in six decades with Terese arriving in the States. She said she had feared that political upheaval in the Baltic states was going to keep her from seeing her brother. But the reunion was assured after a 14-hour flight from Moscow to New York — her first plane trip ever — and a quick hop to Boston.



Together Again: Reunited after 60 years, tearfully Terese and Edvardas hug each other in Norwood, MA

Lithuanians in the News (Cont'd)

Edvardas plans to satisfy his sister's every want and whim while she is with him. There will be trips to the supermarket, clothing stores and a fabric store to pack away the 50 pounds of goods Terese is allowed to take home.

At 35, Terese married and had her own family. She runs a small farm in the southwestern Lithuanian town of Paluobiai, not far from Poland. Norwood-Walpole

NAMED OUTSTANDING NURSING HOME VOLUNTEER



Stephanie Ramanauskas receiving Certificate from a member of the Extended Care Facility

Stephanie Ramanauskas, Kearny, NJ C-90 K of L member, a volunteer in the Extended Care Facility has been selected the Outstanding Nursing Home Volunteer. She was presented a certificate of achievement at a ceremony held at a local college. She walks from her home to the hospital at least twice a day, seven days a week, to feed patients. She has made this a regular practice for the past five years.

Mrs. Ramanauskas arrived in the States in 1949 from Lithuania where she had worked as a pharmacist. However, because her degree was not recognized in the United States and she had a small child to raise, she opted not to go back to school. She now volunteers because of the good feeling she

derives from taking care of patients. She hopes that if the time comes when she needs care, her good deeds will be repaid.

SHARING A LOVE OF PHOTOGRAPHY

Elaine & Eve Redmond, daughter and granddaughter of Clem and Helen Patocki of C-79 Southfield, MI are artists of camera photography. Their unique talents were on display at the Southfield, MI Civic Center Gallery. Elaine, with son, Jay, experimented with the negative developing process to produce unusual results.

Both mother and daughter have had extensive art educations. Elaine is a graduate of Mt. St. Joseph College in Ohio, Western University in Massachusetts, Wayne & Oakland Universities and Marygrove College in the Detroit area, with an art class in Positano, Italy. Eve received her education at Michigan State University. She has traveled in England, France, Greece and Spain studying and photographing their cultures and has had numerous exhibitions of her work.

We congratulate this very talented pair and wish them every success in the particular field of photography they have chosen. BeeJay



Elaine Redmond, left, and her daughter, Eve, share a love of photography, but each has a highly individual approach to it.



Merry Christmas

To all our friends at
 Christmas, the joy is ours
 to wish one and all a
 holiday blessed with
 peace, prosperity,
 health and joy.



C-143 PITTSTON, PA

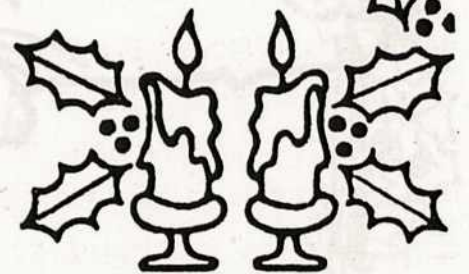


Džiaugsmas ir ramybė telydi jus per

Kalėdų Šventės ir

Naujuosius Metus!

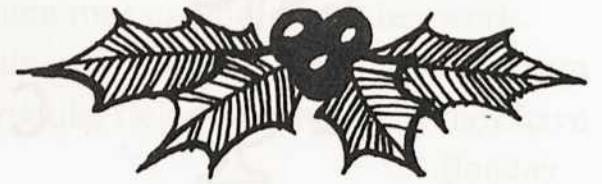
Ann Wargo & Helen Chesko



Merry Christmas from the Officers and members of
C-112 MARQUETTE PARK - CHICAGO



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**Newton's
Greetings**

Council 26
Worcester, Mass.

Linksmų Kalėdų ir Laimingų Naujų Metų!!!
Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all Knights
from Officers and Members of:

MID-CENTRAL DISTRICT



C-19 Pittsburgh, PA
 C-25 Cleveland, OH
 C-79 Detroit, MI
 C-86 DuBois, PA

C- 96 Dayton, OH
 C-102 Detroit, MI
 C-139 Detroit, MI
 C-149 Saginaw, MI

A Merry Christmas

and Happy New Year from Southfield, MI

Linkime Visiems Vyčiams

Linksmų Šv. Kalėdų

ir

Laimingų Naujųjų Metų

Council 79

Divine Providence Church

ST. CASIMIR'S CHURCH, PITTSTON, PA OBSERVES CENTENNIAL

Sunday, Sept. 16 was a very special day for St. Casimir's Church in Pittston, PA when parishioners and friends celebrated the Centennial of the church. This was one of the earliest Lithuanian parishes established in the United States.

The year 1869 marked the early arrival of Lithuanian immigrants in Pittston where they sought to earn a living for their families as miners of coal. A very religious people, they hoped to create a Lithuanian parish in order to fulfill their spiritual obligations. They were temporarily served by visiting Lithuanian priests.

In 1885, St. Casimir's Beneficial Society was formed and shortly after, three plots of land for a church and rectory were purchased for \$1,931. A fund drive commenced in 1886 whereby each family pledged \$25.00 which was a great sacrifice to the struggling miners and their families. Permission to establish a Lithuanian parish was granted, ground was broken and the cornerstone of the new church was blessed on June 30, 1889 and completed the same year. Rev. Burba, pastor of St. Casimir's in Plymouth was asked to be the celebrant of the first Mass. On his way, his carriage was overturned, seriously injuring him. In his place, Bishop O'Hara assisted by Rev. Varnagiris and Rev. Abromavicius carried out the blessing services. In 1891 a parish school was established. In 1895 land was purchased for the present cemetery and also that same year, the church was enlarged to accommodate some 800 people. An organ was also installed in the new addition.

On Feb. 3, 1909, a fire destroyed the church. In the interim while plans for a new church were being developed, parishioners were able to attend Mass at St. John the Baptist Slovak Parish. In 1909, the new \$44,000 St. Casimir's church was erected with Rev. Anthony Kaupas as pastor. He was well known in Lithuanian journalistic circles, became editor of Lithuanian newspaper "Draugas" and eventually he was transferred to Chicago.

Rev. John Kasakaitis was appointed pastor in 1912. He was to be remembered for his beautification of the church interior

with stained glass windows, stations, three altars, an \$18,000 organ, new confessionals and a complete painting and refurbishing of the interior. The parish cemetery grounds were improved, enclosed with an iron link fence, provided with a water system and cleared of undergrowth and brush. Father Kasakaitis served there for more than 50 years assisted by various other priests. He passed away in 1966, passing the pastoral mantle to Rev. Peter Alisauskas who has since served for a period of 24 years.

Under Father Alisauskas direction, parish societies were reformed and rejuvenated and a new Knights of Lithuania Council 143 was established in 1976. A new modern rectory was built across the street from the church. The old rectory and several adjacent properties were razed to provide parishioner parking space. The exterior of the church was repaired and cleaned and metal entrance doors installed. The church interior was redecorated throughout with a rearranged seating system and addition of comfortable kneelers. Church hall was also completely renovated with new carpeting, new lighting facilities, modern kitchen and a new heating system.

Ilgiausių metų linkimė Šv. Casmirio parapijai!

OUR APOLOGIES

In the November issue of VYTIS, on page 7, regarding Bishop Brizgys celebration, we inadvertently captioned the article as: "Exiled Bishop Celebrates Silver Jubilee". It should have read: "Exiled Bishop Celebrates Golden Jubilee."

The National Executive Board and VYTIS staff thank the Districts, Councils, members and patrons who supported our Christmas Ad Campaign this year. Širdingai Ačiū.



NOBEL PRIZE LAUREATE BLASTS U.S. POLICY ON LITHUANIA

(From a transcript of Joseph Brodsky's speech on April 16, 1990 at Yale University)

I regard the behavior of the American administration in this matter with revulsion. I think it is both immoral and stupid. As for the immoral aspect, I think it is obvious and it doesn't require any elaboration. As for stupidity, it is stupid as foreign policy and as policy in general. You don't hinge the foreign policy of a great country on the fortunes of one man. The other stupidity, the other miscalculation, is to think about one man being the architect of the policies. He is not an architect of the process that is taking place in the Soviet Union. He is the product of that process... Perestroika, reform or whatever you call it - is the result of 70 years of not solving the problems of the empire. Now it has simply acquired the critical mass and now you get the avalanche. That explains the speed, the diversity and the unpredictability of the changes.

The man simply presides over the situation. He doesn't create the situation, and this is the terribly erroneous premise that is behind the American administration's treatment of Gorbachev in the context of Lithuania. That is: we should not make his position uncomfortable. It is not we who make his position uncomfortable, or Lithuania which makes his position uncomfortable. It's simply the dynamics of things, the cumulative effect of 70 years of the idiotic political system in the Soviet Union. It doesn't really matter who is going to replace him. I don't think that he is going to be replaced, or that anybody is eager to replace him, because nobody in his right mind in the Soviet Union would be eager to have his job. Moreover, whoever is going to have that job is going to make the same mistakes, or is going to be an expert. At any rate, to sacrifice the cause of Lithuania to the fortunes of one political leader is - in my view - totally idiotic.

Our democracy stinks. When old democracies stink, it's

O.K. You expect that. We are used to that so much that we don't detect the stench. But when the new democracies, the so-called democracies of Eastern Europe (those countries that we are so elated about) practice Realpolitik, I really know why they are doing it. Either they are doing that because they are aping the old democracies - but then they are aping it simply in stench - or they are not really worth their names. I wonder why Poland hasn't recognize Lithuania, why Hungary and East Germany haven't. Why don't countries which know what Soviet oppression is and what an occupying force is; why don't all those enlightened people like Havel or Walesa - why don't they make a squeak?... The most enlightened people of the various national fronts in the Soviet Union are for independence of Lithuania. They have demonstrated to that effect. And if they demonstrate in the Soviet Union, it is a shame for the people in the West not to do the same.

The size of the Russian helicopters dropping leaflets over Lithuania brings to my memory a similar situation in Czechoslovakia and the Sudetenland in 1938.... Leaflets were dropped from the airplanes and the gist of those leaflets was exactly the same - the safety of the ethnic Germans in Sudetenland. We know what followed. It is understandable if the "President" of the Soviet Union doesn't know any better, but the President of the United States should at least know that there are other options than Munich.

Look what is happening right now. For all intentions and purposes there is nearly a total blockade. But it has disappeared from the pages of the major newspapers, as though some command had been issued. That tells something about the freedom of the press in this country.

Lithuanians, be obstinate!!!...

Knights of Lithuania *Council 141 Bridgeport, CT*

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Linksmų Šventų Kalėdų ir
Laimingų Naujų Metų



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Wishes
from
the
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Linksmų Šv. Kalėdų

ir

Laimingų Naujųjų Metų

Longinas Svelnis

Archyvių Vadas



**TO ALL OUR
KNIGHTS OF LITHUANIA FRIENDS**

We Wish

**Linksmų Šv. Kalėdų ir
Laimingų Naujųjų Metų**

**Merry Christmas and a
Happy and Healthy New Year**

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May Christmas

bring you every joy,

The New Year

every happiness!



Mohawk/Hudson, NY Council #136



Lithuanian Charitable Society, Inc.
— MAIRONIS PARK —
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Šventų Kalėdų ir Naujų Metų proga, mūsų valdyba, direktoriai ir visa narystė sveikiname ir linkime ramybės, džiaugsmo ir laimės per šventes ir per ateinančius metus.

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Manager	Kazys Adomavičius

There is no time quite like Christmas for remembering the treasured friendships of those we see often and those who are far away. From the executive committee, board of directors and the entire membership come very best wishes for a beautiful Christmas and a New Year of Peace and Happiness.



Lithuanian Kitchen

Lietuviška Virtuvė

Traditional Christmas Eve Table - Kučių Stalas

The table for the traditional Lithuanian Christmas Eve Supper, or Kučių Stalas, is first spread with a layer of hay and covered with a white tablecloth. Plates are then set out and the table is decorated with candles and branches of fir trees. Twelve dishes are served at this meal and they symbolize the 12 Apostles. All dishes are meatless, in accordance with tradition, and are usually prepared in advance. The ingredients should be typical of the native foods that were available to the Lithuanian housewife in the cold winter season of northern Europe many centuries ago.

The order of eating the various courses is not established. However, it is expected that every person at the table will taste every food. All assemble at the table after the first star has appeared in the sky. The meal begins as a solemn one with the saying of grace and the breaking and sharing of plotkėlių. As the meal progresses, the mood lightens, especially when predictions and forecasts are made about the coming year.

Each Lithuanian district has its own special Kučios dishes and this variety is still maintained by our Lithuanian-Americans who inherited and still carry out these traditional customs and foods of this holy Christmas season of the Lithuania of their forefathers. A menu of twelve dishes follows:

Christmas Wafers - Plotkėles

Cold Herring
Silkės

Fish Soup *
Zuvies Sriuba

Boiled Potato
Virtių Bulvės

Christmas Eve Biscuits * with Poppy Seed Milk *
Slizikai su Agonų Piena

Cranberry Pudding
Spanguolių Kiselis

Rye Bread
Ruginė Duona

Sauerkraut Salad *
Kopūstų Salotos

Baked Stuffed Fish
Kepta Zuvis

Mushroom Dumplings *
Grybių Virtinai

Dried Fruit Compote
Džovintų Vaisų Kompotas

Mushroom Cookies
Lithuanian Grybai

SAUERKRAUT SALAD - Kopūstų Salotas

2 lbs. sauerkraut 1 Tbsp. caraway seeds
3 Tbsp. vegetable oil Pepper to taste
2 chopped scallion or 1 onion

Drain sauerkraut; if too salty, rinse with cold water and drain again. Pour oil over kraut, add onion or scallion and caraway seeds. Mix well and chill.

Chopped red or green cabbage, carrot, or apple can be added for color.

CHRISTMAS EVE FISH SOUP

Žuvies Sriuba

2-3 lbs. boned fish pickling spices, bay leaf
3-4 qts. boiling water 3-4 Tbsp. butter
2-3 chopped carrots 2 large chopped onions
salt, pepper to taste

Saute onion in butter lightly; add carrots, spices, boiling water. Cook until carrots are tender. Add fish. When fish is done, remove spices and bay leaf. Serve with boiled potatoes.

* Recipe follows.



Lithuanian Kitchen (Cont'd)

MUSHROOM DUMPLINGS

Grybių Virtinai

1-1/2 cup flour 2 egg yolks
1/2 tsp. salt 1/4 cup water

Mix all ingredients to form a dough. Form into two balls, dust with flour; cover with plastic wrap. Allow dough to rest for 30 mins. while preparing filling.

Roll dough thinly on floured board and cut into 2-1/2" squares or circles.

FILLING

3/4 lb. cooked and chopped mushrooms or 4 oz. dried
1 chopped onion 3 Tbsp. bread crumbs
1 egg 3 Tbsp. melted butter
salt, pepper to taste 1 or more egg whites

Saute onion in butter, add crumbs, mushrooms, egg and season. Grind or coarsely blenderize all of the mixture. Place a spoonful of mixture on a square or round of rolled dough. Moisten edges with egg white, fold over opposite side edge and press tightly. Place in boiling water and boil for 5 mins. Remove and drain. Serve with garnish of sauteed onions in butter or sour cream.

CHRISTMAS EVE BISCUITS - Šližikai

1/2 cup warm water 1/2 cup warm milk
1 oz. yeast 1/4 tsp. salt
1 Tbsp. sugar 2-1/2 cups flour, or more if needed.

Add sugar to water, add yeast. Allow to proof. Slowly add milk to above. Mix salt and flour, add slowly to yeast mixture. Mix well, adding more flour if necessary. Lightly knead dough and allow it to rise in warm place. Punch dough down; add more flour if needed. Roll out on floured board and cut into strips about 1/2" wide. Cut each strip into 1/2" pieces; place on buttered cookie sheets. Let rise again for 5 to 10 mins. Bake in 350° oven for about 15 mins. or until golden brown. Makes about 7-8 dozen.

POPPY SEEDS WITH MILK

Aguonos su Pienų

1/2 lb. poppy seeds Sugar, to taste
2 cups boiling water 2 cups milk

Wash seeds in water and pound or blenderize seeds until fine. Cover with boiling water, add sugar to taste. When cool, add milk. When ready to serve, pour the poppy seed milk over Šližikai

MUSHROOM COOKIES

Lithuanian Grybai

1/2 cup honey	1/2 tsp. ground nutmeg
1/4 cup granulated sugar	1-1/2 tsp. grated lemon peel
2 Tsp. brown sugar (packed)	1/2 tsp. grated orange peel
2 Tsp. butter or margarine	2-3/4 cups all purpose flour
1 egg	3/4 tsp. baking soda
1-1/2 tsp. ground cardamon	1/4 tsp. salt
1-1/2 tsp. ground cinnamon	2 Tsp. dairy sour cream
1-1/2 tsp. ground ginger	Frosting (recipe below)
1/2 tsp. ground cloves	Poppy seeds

FROSTING

2 cups confectioners' sugar 3 Tbsp. water

Mix sugar and 1 Tbsp. water. Stir in remaining 2 Tbsp. water, 1 tsp. at a time, beating well after each addition.

DIRECTIONS:

- Heat honey in large saucepan over medium heat until it bubbles around side of pan. Remove from heat; stir in sugars, butter, egg, spices and peels.
- Measure flour, baking soda and salt into mixing bowl; stir in honey mixture alternately with sour cream. Turn onto lightly floured board; knead until dough is easy to handle and not sticky, about 5 mins. (Dough should be firm enough to hold impression of finger). Allow dough to rest 20 mins.
- Heat oven to 350°. Divide dough into 4 equal parts. Make mushroom "stems" from one part. Shape into 2 rolls, each 25" long and about 1/4"-1/2" in diameter. Cut into 1" lengths, reshaping ends of each "stem", if necessary. Place 1-1/2" apart on ungreased baking sheet. Bake until cookies are firm, about 7 mins. Cool on wire rack.
- Make same amount of "caps" as "stems". Form "caps" by shaping dough into 3/4" balls; make indentation about 1/2" deep on one side of each with handle of wooden spoon. Place indented side down 1-1/2" apart on ungreased baking sheet. Bake until cookies are light brown, about 12 mins. Cool on wire racks.
- Enlarge indentations in "caps" with small pointed knife. Dip one end of each "stem" into frosting and insert in "caps". Dry mushrooms cap sides down.
- Dip each mushroom into frosting, completely covering "cap" and underside of "cap", or covering "stem" and underside of "cap". Allow excess frosting to drip into bowl. Sprinkle frosted parts of cookies with poppy seeds. Lay on side on waxed paper to dry. Dry cookies completely before storing in airtight containers. Flavor mellows after 3-4 days. Store at room temperature no longer than 6 weeks or in freezer no longer than 3 months. 🍏



Linksmų Šv. Kalėdų

ir

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BRIEFS

ANOTHER MARCIULIONIS ON BOARD. After a rough shooting night, the Warriors' Sarunas Marciulionis might very well get some good advice at home. His wife, Inga, has been playing junior-college basketball this season and her coach calls her "the best pure shooter I've ever coached, male or female."

The 5-11 guard on the Merritt College women's team in Oakland made seven consecutive three-point shots in the opening preseason scrimmage. Inga Marciulionis, 25, played on Soviet National women's teams during the 1980s. Her husband, who began his NBA career last season, was a star of Soviet National men's teams. "Basketball here is easy for me. I play at a very high level before," Inga said. "But I don't play for about two years now, so . . . we'll see."

Inga said that during her husband's first NBA season, she became tired of sitting around the house with nothing to do.

She is taking mostly physical education and recreational classes at Merritt. Because she has never played college basketball, she's eligible for JC play under California guidelines. She's several years older than her teammates, but she

says, "I don't feel so old around them. If I can run with them, I'm OK." Newsday

WHATEVER HAPPENED TO ACTOR LAURENCE HARVEY? Harvey — born Mischa Skikne in Joniškis, Lithuania in 1928 — died of cancer in 1973. He was 45. Harvey was educated in South Africa where he had immigrated with his parents. He first gained attention in this country in 1955 with a role on Broadway in "The Island of Goats." He is perhaps best remembered for his role in the movie "Room at the Top".

WE ARE PREJUDICED.....In the November 1990 issue of Better Homes and Gardens, there appeared a recipe called Onion-Bacon Buns which are described as rolls similar to Lithuanian Lasinuočiai (La-SHEE-no-i-chay) but used with frozen bread dough. Bronė Feliss' recipe appearing in November 1990 issue of VYTIS titled Bacon Buns (Lasinuočia) is made from scratch with the more traditional homemade dough. Calling all cooks: try the recipe and give us your opinion!

MERRY CHRISTMAS CARDS

by Andy Rooney

A few Christmas cards are still drifting in from friends who didn't get at sending them out until it was too late. There's just so much you can expect from the post office. I understand these cards because that's when we send ours out.

I like sending and receiving Christmas cards but there are certain things about the tradition that make me uncomfortable. For example, I wish I had the names and addresses of all the good old friends I ever had so I could send them cards. Someone ought to devise a system that would make it easier for all of us to keep track of old friends when our paths diverge.

There are eight or ten categories of Christmas cards.

1. There are simple cards with almost nothing on them but the words MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR written in red or green. Maybe there's a small wreath or border of holly. They're the best. A Christmas card always should be basically red and green.
2. Lots of cards feature Christmas trees. Sometimes they look like real trees. Other times they're stylized trees from an artist's imagination, usually attractive.
3. Many people send religious cards with pictures of the Virgin Mary with Jesus Christ as a baby. These are often blue with silver, but I don't know why.

The religious people who send these cards don't like to hear it, but Christmas has become something more than Christ's birthday. Many people who are not interested in religion celebrate Christmas as a day to love their fellowman.

Another serious card is the one that simply says PEACE or PEACE ON EARTH. They're nice, although the cards don't seem to have any effect on world affairs.

4. We get two or three cards every year with family pictures on them. If you don't see your friends regularly, it's fun to identify family members you knew as children ten or twenty years ago.

5. One dear friend always sends us a Christmas card with a picture of a cat on it. It'll be a picture of a cat under a Christmas tree, out in the snow or with Santa Claus.

A cat, in my mind, has nothing whatsoever to do with Christmas.

6. Santa Claus cards are popular. Some of them are imaginative and clever, but a Christmas card can be too cute. Funny is not exactly the right mood for Christmas. I'm not enthusiastic about comic-strip characters on Christmas cards.

7. There were cards for sale this year that said MERRY CHRISTMAS TO MY WIFE or MERRY CHRISTMAS TO MY HUSBAND. Anyone who has to send a Christmas card to a spouse is in big trouble.

8. Everyone gets at least one card that says FROM JIM AND HELEN and has no idea who "Jim and Helen" are. In our house, Margie thinks they must be my friends and I'm sure they're hers.

9. Card manufacturers don't seem satisfied with the traditional Christmas cards. This year there were little windows in the front flap with Santa Claus looking out and when you opened the card you saw Santa sitting on his sled with all his reindeer. On others, Christmas trees popped out. They were made more like valentines than Christmas cards. Wrong.

10. Mimeographed Christmas letters have become a tradition with many families. They can be interesting but I'm not usually much impressed with the writing style or the reportorial skill of those who send them out. These Christmas letters are usually substantially rosier than real life.

Christmas cards are a wonderfully friendly tradition. I hope greeting card manufacturers don't ruin the idea. Anytime there's money involved, someone usually carries the idea too far.

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETS IN PHILADELPHIA

National Executive Board was graciously invited by Spiritual Advisor, Rev. Joseph Anderlonis, to hold their meeting in Philadelphia. After refreshments served by C-3, the meeting started at Noon in St. George's grammar school. About 30 members and guests attended. We met in grades 7 and 8 classrooms with a pleasant surprise on the blackboards welcoming the Knights of Lithuania with childrens' names and a large: LABAS CENTRO VALDYBA!

The meeting was opened by Rev. Anderlonis with a prayer and welcome. Pres. Victor Stepolavich of C-3 also welcomed everyone. Pres. Anne Wargo rendered her report. Much attention was given to Bob Boris' report regarding aid to Lithuania. Bob announced he received an amount close to \$20,000, almost enough for 2 medical relief containers to be shipped to Lithuania. It was agreed to make this an on-going

project and try to send a few containers each year. Means of gathering funds were discussed.

Secretary Robert Martin showed a video tape of the site of the next convention in St. Petersburg Beach, FL and read a very tentative schedule of activities to be held. From all indications it is going to be an excellent convention. Since the National Executive Board will host the convention, various aspects were discussed. Cardinal Vincentas Sladkevicius was invited to attend but since he is unable to be present, he will send a representative from Lithuania.

Loretta Stukas spoke briefly on the various resolutions and bills before Congress and the House, urging everyone to take part by writing letters to the politicians in their respective states.

Committee reports, both written and oral, were given. Vytis Editor, Mary Kober, announced that letters have been

sent to councils and individual members regarding the Christmas Ad campaign. If the campaign is not a success this year, there is a great possibility it will be necessary to increase membership dues. To avoid this, all were asked to place a Christmas greeting no later than Nov. 1st.

The session ended at 5:00 p.m. Since St. George's Church is presently being renovated, Mass was offered in the school hall. Prayers were offered for Honorary Member Marcella Alexis, wife of composer of Vycių Hymnas, who had recently passed away and also for the recovery of executive board members who are ill.

After mass, a delicious meal was served to all those attending in the school hall. "Ilgiausių metų" was sung to Msgr. Vito Martusevicius who celebrated his 85th birthday on Nov. 27. Members and guests thank C-3 and Rev. Andersonis for the warm hospitality shown in "City of Brotherly Love".

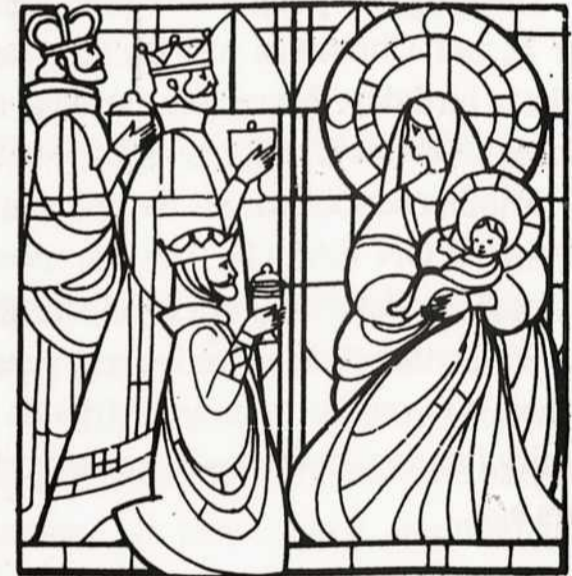


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Jums visuomet dėkingas, Kristuje
Msgr. Algimantas Bartkus, Rektorius



Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!!!
Buon Natale e Felice Anno Nuovo!!!

Pasinaudoju šia proga nuoširdžiai padėkoti visiems ir visoms kurie mus prisiminė 1990 metais savo maldomis ir medžiagine parama.

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(6)7025724 — (6)7024908

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00182 Rome - Italy

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year
to all members of the Knights of Lithuania
and to all readers of "VYTIS"

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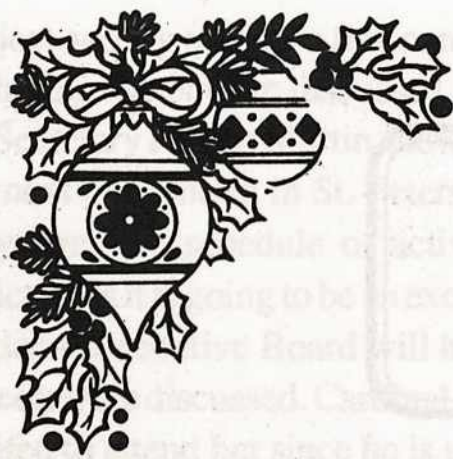
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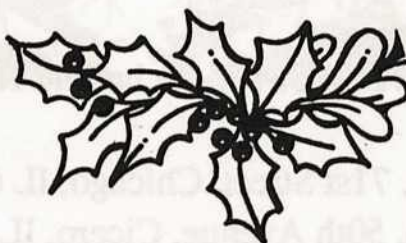




HOLIDAY GREETINGS

from

C-50 New Haven, CT

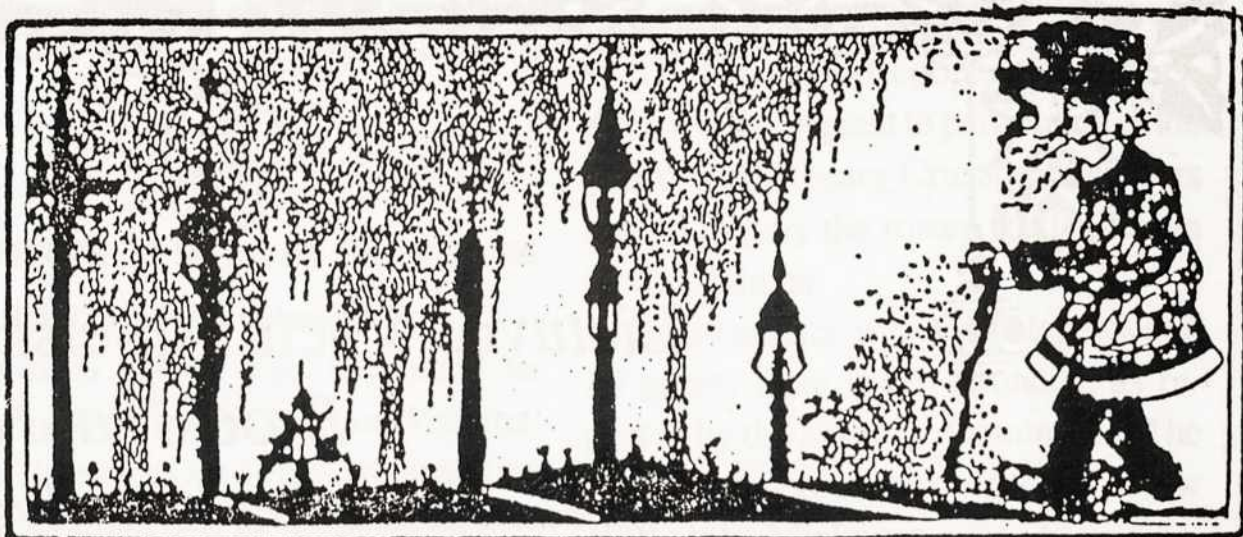


**Rev. Albert Karalis, Pastor
St. Casimir's Church**

**Officers and Members
Knights of Lithuania**



*Dede
Kastukas
Sako:....*



Dear Dede Kastukas:

My name is Rita Makauskas and I've lived in Lithuania all my life — fifty years. I have never lived in a free country so when I had the opportunity to visit my cousin in Melbourne, Australia for two months, I was overjoyed yet a bit apprehensive of what to expect when getting there. The first impression that amazed me most was that all the people in the city accepted their freedom with such casualness as if it belonged to them. With the abundance of food and goods, my heart beat faster and my thoughts were full of beautiful emotions with the sensation that I was in a free country. There were no KGB officers who would send me to prison because I was Lithuanian. That alone made me feel this was heaven on earth.

My cousin had a room prepared for me alone, completely furnished, with a bathroom, too. I asked if I could bathe immediately. The water was clear, there were two bars of soap and several towels. It wasn't necessary to boil the water before taking a bath. At dinner, my eyes stared in bewilderment at the choice of foods, many of which I had never seen in my lifetime.

When we went into the shopping district, I looked in awe at all the merchandise in the stores making me think of the empty clothing stores back home — no shoes, shirts, dresses, coats, etc. We wait in line to buy food whenever it comes to the store. I was taken on trips to other parts of Australia. The rivers and lakes were not polluted and the air had a cleanliness and freshness about it. I could find drinking water everywhere. Before I fell asleep at night, I would review the wonders that I had seen each day and I thought that if all this is Capitalism, then I'm for it. This is a cultured country, a beautiful country but most of all a free country.

This has been my only escape to taste freedom. I wish all Lithuanians in Lithuania would get such an opportunity. Now I return to my communist dominated country. I thank the Lord for this trip to the Garden of Eden and I wonder if America is the same.

Su pagarba, *Rituké*

HOW WILL IT BE DONE?...The only road block to Lithuania's freedom is Mike Gorbachev. So many leaders in the Communist Party died rather suddenly from colds. Gorbachev walks around, at times, without a hat in Russia and doesn't catch a fast cold. Don't you think it is time for him to go? Lithuania is our country, a land of renowned leaders. May the spirit and the love of Lithuania burn within our hearts to assure the future greatness of this country and its unity forever.

Season's Greetings
and all good wishes
for your happiness
in the New Year.



GREAT NECK, NY C-109





*Lietuvos Vyčių Apreiškimo Parapijos
Brooklyn, NY*

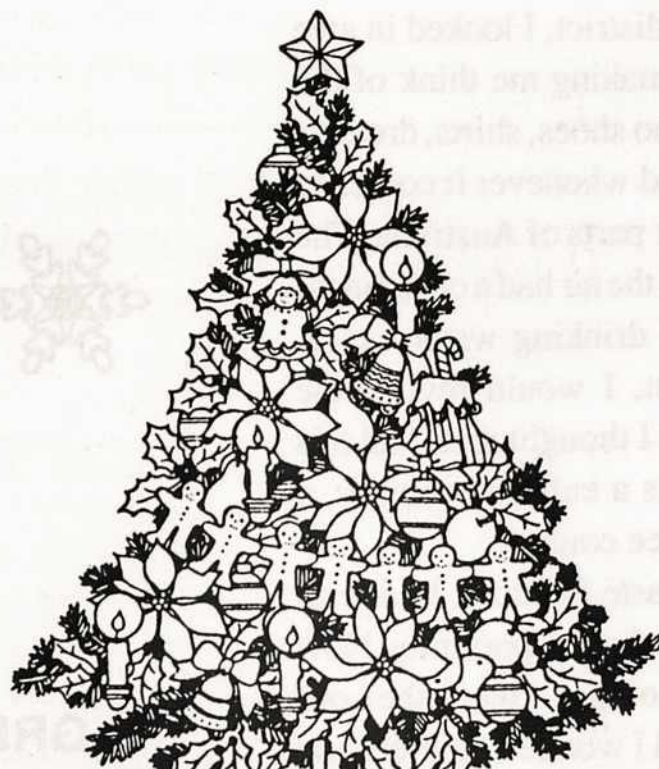
41-oji kuopa ir jų dvasios vadas

*Kun. Vytautas A. Palubinskas, S.T.L.
parapijos klebonas*

Nuoširdžiai sveikina "VYTIS" skaitytojus

Šv. Kalėdų proga ir linki gausių

Dievo palaima ateinantiems 1991 metams.



Council Activities

Vyčiai Veikia

AMBER DISTRICT

Amber District fall meeting was held on Oct. 14 in Easton. Rev. Ron Bowman celebrated Mass at St. Michael's Church. Helen Labadis of C-144 was installed in the Fourth Degree while Robert Klova, Edward Klova and Dora Lushis of C-63 received their Third Degree.

Jane Lutick, president of host council, welcomed members and guests. John Mickunas, district president, presided. He announced that \$500 was donated for medical relief at the National Convention, authorized by a caucus meeting of the delegates. John Mankus and Elsie Kosmisky rendered their reports

of the National Convention.

Cultural report was distributed to council presidents by Chairman Mankus. Anna Helen McDonald also reported on publicity mailed to newspapers on district activities. Lithuanian Affairs chairman Albert Klizas urged support of current human rights legislation and cooperation with Catholic Religious Aid in all programs. Delegates voted to sponsor a full page ad in the December issue of VYTIS.

The District banner was unveiled and will be blessed at St. Casimir's celebration in March. Ann Challan and Leo Butsavage of Pittston C-143 are chairing the district raffle. Books were distributed to council presidents. Draw-

ing will be held in March.

The District will cooperate with Rev. Anderlonis' request to participate in the world wide Rosary Crusade. Members signed to pray the rosary for Lithuania at stated times.

In attendance were 36 delegates and 30 guests from seven councils, as reported by the Mandate Committee. The following were re-elected to office for 1991: John Mickunas, pres.; Elsie Kosmisky, vice pres.; Edward Carlitus, treas.; Agnes Mickunas, sec.; Leo Butsavage and Charles Yuskavage, trustees. Rev. Matthew Jarasunas, pastor of Our Lady of Siluva, Maizeville, consented to serve as spiritual advisor.

Next district meeting will be held on March 11, 1991 with time and place to be announced. Frank Petrauskas of C-140 closed the meeting with prayer.

MID-ATLANTIC DISTRICT

On Sept. 30, about 150 delegates and



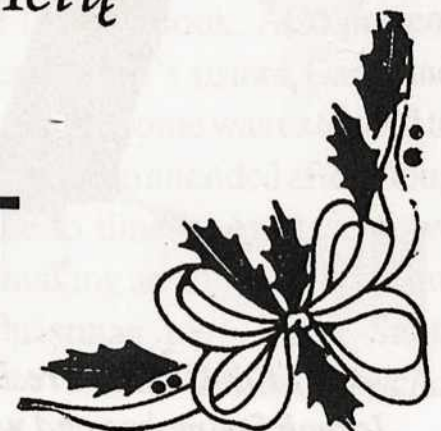
Tis the Season for remembering good

K of L friends, both old and new.....

And for hoping all the wishes for the coming year come true.

Linksmų Kalėdų ir Laimingų Naujų Metų

THE AMBER DISTRICT



guests converged upon Amsterdam, NY and were greeted by local C-100 members who hosted the fall District meeting. Mass was celebrated at St. Casimir's Church by pastor Rev. Robert Baltch. In his sermon, he spoke of the many changes that have taken place in Lithuania since his first visit in 1970. Since then he has been there 15 times. One of the pleasant changes — the crowded seminaries in Lithuania. When asked about seminaries in the States, his reply was that we are selling them.

After Mass, we went downstairs to the church hall where we were welcomed by a huge buffet lunch. We were warmly greeted by host council, Anthony Radzevich. District pres. John Adomenas, presided at the meeting. He introduced and extended thanks to Assemblyman Paul Tonko (member of C-100) who sponsored Resolution 635 proclaiming Lithuania's independence on March 11, 1990. Jovita Sleder and Rita Sussko, ritual committee, conferred 15 third degrees on the worthy recipients. District delegates to the National Convention, Helen Matulonis and Aldona Zaunis, gave their respective reports.

Election of officers followed. Recommendation was made to approach retired Rev. John Pakalniskis as spiritual advisor since our former spiritual



*Mid-Atlantic President
Joseph Stelmokas and wife, Mary*

director Rev. Bulovas has lost an assistant in the parish to retirement and cannot fully serve the district requirements. Joseph Stelmokas, pres.; John Sakal, 1st vice pres.; John Antanavicius, 2nd vice pres.; Jeanne Janonis, sec.; Mirga Bablin, treas.; Mary Stonis, Anne Tarmey, Millie Pietz, trustees; Bernice Aviza, Dalia Bulvicius, Adeline Raila, Irene Tice, Lithuanian Affairs; Dalia Bulvicius, Public Relations; Ed Burba Cook, cultural.

John Adomenas announced the death of former Congressman Samuel S. Stratton, who was a past recipient of the Friend of Lithuania Award presented to him at National Convention held in Syracuse, NY.

Ilgiausiu Metų was sung for C-100 pres. Anthony Radzevich and his wife Anne, who celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on that same day.

A special Ačiū labai is extended to C-100 for their warm hospitality making the long trip to Amsterdam worth while.

Dalia Bulvicius

MID-CENTRAL DISTRICT

Mid-Central District held their meeting on Oct. 6-7 at the Hampton Inn in Southfield, MI hosted by C-79 of Southfield. In attendance were 37 delegates on Oct. 6 and 31 delegates on Oct. 7 with 3 alternates and 3 guests. Among matters discussed was a letter received from VYTIS Editor with requesting support with this year's Christmas Ad Campaign. The District voted to take a half page ad.

Bob Boris, who visited Lithuania last summer, reaffirmed Lithuania's need for our support both financially and materially. The need is for medicine, hospital equipment, books of all types, etc. Bob reported that the donations given at the National Convention in Pittsburgh provided for a shipment of medical supplies to be sent out this year and there are almost enough donations

for another shipment. Sister Francesca mentioned the need for catechisms particularly those printed by the Sisters in Putnam. The need for this item is so great. Sister Alverna reminded us that with respect to the Rosary Crusade, if for some reason we fail to pray the rosary at the time signed up for, not to despair, but pray the rosary when convenient; just do it.

St. Casimir Guild is also asking for donations. The Guild helps support St. Casimir Pontifical College in Rome. The college needs extensive renovations and aid is needed to help support the seminarians coming from Lithuania. Council donations are \$25.00 annually but individuals are urged to donate as well.

With regard to the bill presently in Congress for \$10 million aid to Lithuania, it was suggested we all contact our congressmen seeking their support for this bill.

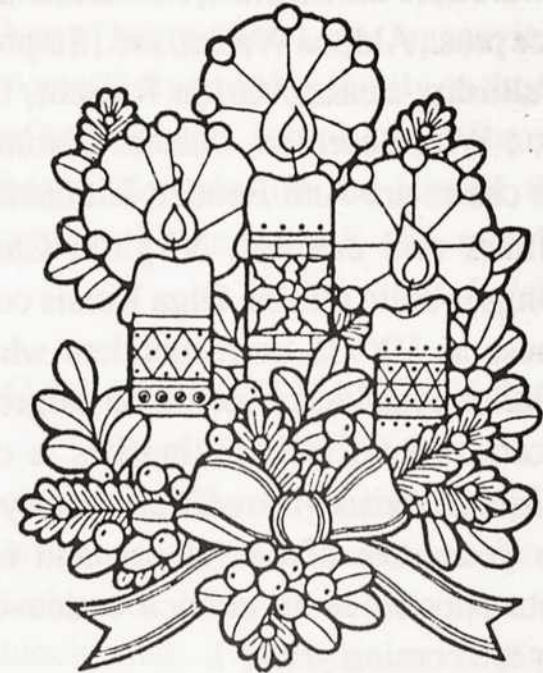
A resolution was presented requesting that, in some way, we honor those members who work tirelessly for the K of L and receive no recognition. This matter was tabled for the next District meeting.

On Saturday evening, we participated in a dinner-dance at Divine Providence Cultural Center. The conference was ended with Mass on Sunday morning at Divine Providence Church. Third and fourth degree medals were presented to three members. New officers were sworn in and the deceased members were remembered with prayer.

Election of officers took place resulting as follows: Rev. Gediminas Kijauskas, spiritual advisor; John Baltus, pres.; Jean Marks, sec.; Richard Marks, treas.; Donna Bunikas, 1st vice pres.; George Mikalauskas, 2nd vice pres.; Elena Mikalauskas, 3rd vice pres.; Andy Rodzger & Vincent Gray, sgt. at arms; Sr. M. Francesca, Lithuanian Affairs; Mary Vaglia, ritual; Eleanor

Šv. Kalėdų proga sveikiname Vyčius ir kviečiame stoti į bendrą darbą su atsikuriančia Lietuva, prašydami naujai atgimusio Kūdikėlio palaimos ir ištvėrmės — tad —

DIEVIU IR TĖVYNE!



19-ta VYČIŲ KUOPA PITTSBURGH, PA

Lewicki, cultural; Anna Uzdavinis, public relations/VYTIS; Violet Panavas and Catherine Kurpovic, trustees.

The next MCD meeting will be hosted by Cleveland C-25 on May 17-19, 1991 at the Travelodge in Mentor with bowling to also take place *A.U.*

C-7 WATERBURY, CT

C-7 lost a dear and beloved member Marcella Andrikas Aleksis, wife of the late Prof. Aleksis, composer of Vyčių Hymnas. She joined C-7 in 1935 and served the council in various capacities. She was also very active in the parish, not only in the choir but in many other organizations, as well.

Our pres. Anne Cheplick, Elinor Arnauskas and Pam Shortell recently relaxed in sunny Florida. Our spiritual advisor, Rev. Karvelis, also spent some time in Florida.

A day of prayer for Lithuania and all of Eastern Europe was held at St.

Joseph's Cathedral in Hartford with Archbishop Whelan presiding. The responsorial psalm was read by Suanne Kosa, daughter of Virginia and Alex Kosa. This special day was sponsored by the Lithuanian Priests League of Connecticut, Knights of Lithuania and Bendroumenė who invited people of all faiths thirsting for freedom and justice. After Mass, coffee and pastries were served by the Ladies Guild of Holy Trinity Church.

C-7 bowlers are back in action again for a good season of bowling. Good luck! *Virginia*

C-12 NEW YORK, NY

1990 was a very busy one for C-12. In October we had two important events — our annual parish get together and council elections. Our popular pres. Ed Burba Cook was re-elected president; 1st vice pres. Helen Cuprewich; 2nd vice pres. Alma Korengo; 3rd vice pres.

John Antanavicius; treas. Millie Pietz; rec. sec. Ed Senken; corres. sec. and public relations Dalia Bulvicius; Sgts. at arms Joe Kscenaitis and Al Malluck; trustees John Antanavicius and Al Malluck; ritual Helen Cuprewich and Alma Korengo; cultural Anthony Yakavonis and Irene Senken; historian Barbara Kartanowitz; Lithuanian Affairs Aldona Kepalaitė and Vida Kristolaitis.

Our parish banquet was special this year. Two special mothers attended — Pastor Eugene Savickis mother Julia from Florida and Al Malluck's mother who is our favorite cook. Also present were Father Eugene's sisters, Carol and Julie. A warm welcome was extended to Anna Lukscha who attended after a long absence due to illness. At present, we are busily making arrangements for our annual Christmas party with Santa attending. *Dalia Bulvicius*

C-26 WORCESTER, MA

"Sleigh bells ring, are you listening? Down the lane, snow is glistening!" Winter's 'nigh and with it Christmas quickly approaches. All of us wish our K of L friends everywhere a very Merry Christmas and a happy, healthy New Year!

The 1991 slate of officers is as follows: Rita Pinkus, pres.; Ann Leseman, vice pres.; Aldona Waska, sec.; Stephen Walinsky, treas.; Marion Racicot, fin. sec.; Wm. Leseman, trustee. Committee chairs are Ann Bender, Lithuanian Affairs and cultural; Virginia Cummings, public affairs. Olga Kersis continues as VYTIS correspondent while Charles Kulakusky serves as sergeant of arms. Rev. John Petrauskas is our spiritual advisor. The officers thank you for your vote of confidence and beg your support in all council endeavors for the coming year.

Leonard Ramsdell died in October. He was an active, hard worker for our council until serious illness befell him. God rest his soul. Sincere and prayerful sympathy to his widow Ruth and family.

The bowling season is but a few weeks old. Already Lewis Lloyd, Joey Howard, Ron Daucunas, Gedamin Troupes and Dorothy March have the highest scores. Our bowlers joined many others when Our Lady of Vilnius C-116 hosted a bowling tournament in Nov.

Our council will commemorate its 75th anniversary in 1991. Our spiritual advisor Rev. John Petrauskas has undertaken the huge task of writing our council's history for which we are truly grateful.

Marionis Park sets the scene for our Christmas party for Dec. 11. Good food, exchange of gifts, singing of carols and just plain comraderie make this annual gathering a huge success year after year.

The NED meeting held in Sept. in Brockton was most successful. However, the usual joy of meeting was diminished by the death of one of Brockton's most respected council members, Dr. Peter Bizinkauskas. All of us join in expressing sympathy to Dr. Peter's family and friends.

Paul Puris, resident artist, prepared the Xmas ad for our council in Christmas issue of VYTIS. Have you viewed the work of Victoria Augustine? She donated one of her art treasures for a district raffle.

Thanks to Mary Dugan who formed a telephone tree in order to announce to as many as

possible that the Frugal Gourmet was to present an evening of Lithuanian foods on public television on the evening of Oct. 24. Rev. Peter Alisauskas of St. Casimir's in Pittston, PA was host with Lithuanian gourmet cook Anne Challan sharing the wonderful recipes of our people.

New England councils did well for their annual cultural picnic at Maironis Park on Oct. 21. Westfield's dešros, Bridgeport's kapustai and Worcester's kugelis continue to be the hits of the menu.

Do you ever wonder what members do in their spare time? For years and years, Nell Mitchell has knit bandages which are sent to leper colonies. Each bandage is two yards long and six inches wide and takes 33 hours to complete. They are made of cotton and are knit so that air might flow through. Mary Lovett has a beautiful garden with flowers growing higher than high. Mary Anusauskas knits children's gloves in all sizes to be sold at the St. Vincent's Hospital Christmas Fair. Volunteering at St. Vincent Hospital are Anne Buchinskas, Ann & Steve Walinsky, Rita Pinkus, Rita Margosian, Vivian Rodgers and a few others. OLGA

C-29 NEWARK, NJ

This time of year has been both a busy and interesting time for C-29. Many of our members attended all three demonstrations held in Washington for the freedom of Lithuania.

We were saddened by the demise of three of our members: Mary Barrett, Christine Yakavonis and Anastasia Juskeviciene. May they rest in peace.

C-29 was represented by Marge & Walter Brazaitis, Rita & Michael Susko and Loretta Stukas at the National Convention in Pittsburgh and by Kazys Sipaila, Marge Brazaitis, Ann O'Neill and Rita Susko at the MAD meeting in Amsterdam on Sept. 30. We congratu-



Our Lady of Vilnius annual fall dinner. L to R: Rev. V. Palubinskas, Vinnie Cuprewich, Dalia Bulvicius, Anna Lukscha, Rev. Savicki, his mother Julia. Kneeling: Anthony Zaggarino, church accountant

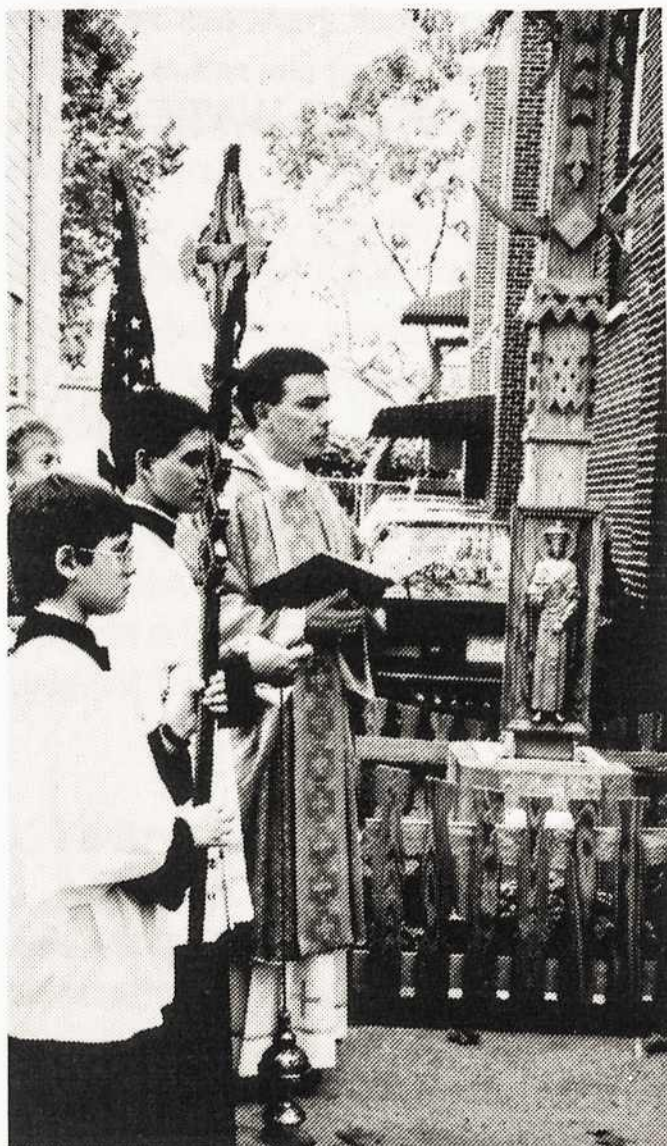
late our new district president, Joseph Stelmokas.

Our first meeting of the season was held on Sept. 9 at which time C-29 voted to send an additional contribution to Robert Boris, chairman for the Lithuanian Medical Relief project, bringing our total donation to \$1,300.

On Oct. 14 we celebrated the 75th anniversary of our council. The day began with Mass celebrated by Fr. Peter Stravinskas in memory of deceased and living members of C-29. Following Mass, our new Wayside Cross was blessed which was inspired by our Pres. Kazys Sipaila and built and donated by a future member of C-29, Vaclovas Kuikys. The veneration of a relic of Blessed George Matulaitis concluded the ceremony. The celebration continued in the church hall with a cocktail hour, dinner, open bar, venetian table and dancing to Joe Thomas Orchestra. The anniversary celebration was chaired by our ever capable Mary Stonis. She and her committee really did themselves proud this time. C-29 extends a big ačiū to all who made this affair the outstanding success that it was.

On Oct. 29 we held our elections with the following results: Kazys Sipaila, pres.; Bernard Skripata, 1st vice pres.; Emilia Sadonis, 2nd vice pres.; Margaret Brazaitis, rec. sec.; Rita Susko, fin. sec.; Elizabeth Didzbalis, cor. res. sec.; Betty Luciw, rec. sec.; Adele Urbanas, treas.; Elizabeth Didzbalis, Lithuanian Affairs; Emilia Sadonis, cultural; Nellie Krynicki, religious; Ann O'Neill, Helen Radisch, Rita Sussko, ritual committee; Viola Skripata, sunshine; Donna Rogers, Joseph Russell and Jenny Miklasavage, trustees; Walter Brazaitis and Adele Matthews, sgt. at arms; Mae Cullen, VYTIS correspondent.

Congratulations to Mary & John Stunis who were installed in the First Degree.
Mae Cullen



Rev. Peter Stravinskas blesses Wayside Shrine at Holy Trinity at C-29's 75th Anniversary

C-50 NEW HAVEN, CT

Catching up on 50th wedding anniversaries, we are happy that Sophie & Frank Radziunas, Nell & John Papeika and Joseph & Gertrude Zaremsky have all renewed their vows of commitment and devotion to one another for many, many more years. Congratulations!

On Oct. 7 we had an unusually special day in St. Casimir's Parish. First of all, Fr. Karalis surprised us when he entered the church with Fr. Karvelis who was celebrating the Lithuanian Mass with him. Secondly, the Šviesa Ensemble from Lithuania sang the liturgy portions of the Mass accompanied with their own instruments. They also sang along with the parish choir. Fr. Karalis thanked everyone for at-

tending this special occasion. After Mass, the K of L's went to the church hall for their regular meeting. At 3:00 p.m., we all met again at Wilbur Cross High School in New Haven to see the gala performance of the ensemble. It was magnificent. Joe Karmuza was in charge of the group who came from the Vilnius Teachers Institute.

Condolences and deepest sympathy go out to Betty Gybowski in the loss of her mother, Lucy Janusevicius; Anne Tiskus and her family on the loss of her husband, Joseph and to Sam and Mary Meshako on the loss of their mother, Catherine, a K of L member.

H. Balchus

C-63 LEHIGH VALLEY, PA

C-63 had a markedly different council meeting than any other on Sept. 16 in that we had 8 honored guest from Lithuania. They included a medical biochemist, a pediatrician, a physi-



Bronė Venckus of C-29 at newly blessed cross at Holy Trinity in Newark

FRIENDS OF C-7 WATERBURY, CT

WISH ALL VYTIS READERS A

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND

A HAPPY NEW YEAR

Elinor Arnauskas

George & Agnes Baltrush

Edward & Betty Bebrin

Walter & Doris Blinstrubas

Ann Y. Cheplick

Mary Fortier

John & Dolores Jonaitis

Alex, Virginia & Sue Ann Kosa

Peggy Linhard

Joseph Samoska

Alma Torre

Edmund & Toni White



cian, a biologist, two journalists, an English translator and a worker with handicapped people.

Activities began with a Mass in St. Michael's Church in Easton which was decorated with the Lithuanian tri-colors and at which the Lithuanian choir sang Lithuanian hymns and stirred every Lithuanian soul present. The celebrant, Rev. Nagy, extended a very warm welcome to our guests. His homily depicted Lithuania's struggle for re-independence. Our guests are members of Ateitis, founded in 1910, the oldest youth organization in Lithuania. The organization was banned in 1940 when the Soviets forcibly annexed Lithuania. Many of its members were deported to Siberia. However, Ateitis remained active as an underground movement working for the re-establishment of human rights and religious freedom. In 1989, Ateitis was publicly re-established and its current function is to provide the youth with the opportunity for spiritual, intellectual and cultural growth. It seeks to rebuild Lithuania and stabilize the principles and positive values which it feels have been driven from Lithuanian culture by 50 years of Communist domination. After Mass, council members and guests enjoyed a sumptuous luncheon in the beautifully decorated church hall followed by the council meeting during which our guests answered numerous questions about the current events and political situation in Lithuania. They left many of us with a tear in our eye and a lump in our throat.

During our guests stay, they were hosted by Joseph & Trudy Simmons, Gene & Ann Pettit, Regina Tragus and Jane Lutick. Dr. A. Butkys and Al Kli-zas rendered their technical assistance. Church and hall decorations as well as the luncheon were spearheaded by Valerie Smickle, Dora Lushis and Jane Lutick.

C-63 participated in Allentown's

Super Sunday on Sept. 23 by operating their highly popular potato pancake stand. We had many happy customers standing in line and paying us complements. Participants at this event included Andrew Keraga, Andrew Sabol, Robert Klova, Ed Klova, Charles Buzas, Joe Simmons and Joe Ogint. Paul Stefan also gave a helping hand.

Trudy Meshauk is recovering from a serious operation and is sorely missed at council activities. Trudy is the widow of Leo, C-63's charter member. Trudy is one of the several dedicated kitchen workers at our meetings. We hope and pray for her full recovery.

Joseph F. Ogint

C-72 BINGHAMTON, NY

At our Sept. meeting, the 5 members who attended the National Convention reported having a wonderful experience. They shared photos and information of events held. Irene & Casey Grikenis, Barbara Miller and Pamela Joksas Rich were C-72 delegates. John Mankus was a delegate for the Amber District. Our council was proud to be able to make a donation to the K of L Medical Relief for Lithuania and anxiously awaits a report on that project. Special recogni-

tion to Irene & Casey on their personal contribution for that worthy cause.

At our Oct. meeting John Mankus relayed information which he received when he attended the Amber District meeting hosted by Lehigh Valley C-63. Barbara Miller reported that seven K of L history books were made to SUNY Binghamton, Broome Community College and Library, Seton Catholic Central High School, Vestal Library, Johnson City and Endicott libraries. Elections of 1991 council officers were also held. They are: Rev. John Mikalajunas, spiritual advisor and VYTIS correspondent; John Mankus, pres. and cultural chairman; Charles Almanas, vice pres.; Arthur Stankevitz, rec. sec.; Mary Guokas, treas.; Barbara Miller, fin. sec.; Irene Grikenis, ritual chairlady.

On Oct. 21, C-72 was represented at an annual Heritage Mass held in Endicott for Lithuania. Anne Marie Distin and Marytė Redasius wore their Lithuanian costumes for the procession. From Nov. 23 to Jan. 8, 1991, the Roberson Museum, Front St., Binghamton will sponsor the annual Christmas Forest. The ethnic tree exhibit will include a Lithuanian tree decorated by C-72. On Dec. 15 at the Roberson International Cafe, there will be a Lithuanian-Latvian



Lehigh Valley C-63 members and guests from Lithuania at Sept. meeting in St. Michael's Hall, Easton.



**Maldaujame Aukščiausiojo, kad sumažintų
 Vargą ir Skausmą mūsų pavergtų Brolių Lietuvoje.
 Trokštame, kad užgimęs Dieviškasis Kūdykėlis
 atneštų pasauliui taiką ir ramybę,
 o mūsų tėvų žemei Lietuvai laisvę.**

**Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year
 Linksmų Kalėdų**

Council 118 - Hazleton, PA



**LINKSMŲ
 KALĖDŲ
 IR LAIMINGŲ
 NAUJŲJŲ METŲ**

**MERRY CHRISTMAS and
 HAPPY NEW YEAR**

**LITHUANIAN CATHOLIC ALLIANCE
 104 Years of Service
 Fraternal Benefit Society
 71-73 S. Washington Street
 Wilkes Barre, PA 18701**



**Msgr. Frank L. Yashkas Spiritual Advisor
 Thomas E. Mack, Esq..... President
 Charles A. LiscoskySecretary
 Mrs. Leocadia Donarovich Treasurer**

Day. From noon to 5 p.m., Lithuanian delicacies provided by C-72 will be available for purchase. Elena Muliolytė Greene will perform on the kankles from 3 to 4 p.m. These will be wonderful celebrations displaying our Lithuanianism. *Barbara Miller*

C-74 SCRANTON, PA

Our Knights sponsored the Lithuanian Rosary at St. Peter's Cathedral. Msgr. Ozalis was homilist and celebrant for the Benediction of the Most Blessed Sacrament. Marie Laske coordinated the event. Edward Romanauskas led the Glorious Mysteries of the rosary. Helen Cravath served as lector. Although many of our Knights left that Sunday for the National Convention, we had a good turnout.

The Little Sisters of the Poor had their annual bazaar. I am happy to report that several of our Knights volunteered for this worthy cause.

Msgr. Peter Madus celebrated his becoming a Monsignor with a party in the church hall for all parishioners, friends and neighbors. We had an excellent turnout. God Bless you, Msgr. Peter. *Ilgiausią Mėtų! Marie Laske*

C-141 BRIDGEPORT, CT

Our Oct. meeting was a lively and tasty event. The "Šeimininkės", Dorothy DeGennaro, Frances Marlin and Kathy Balcius did an outstanding job. The refreshment table was a picture of autumn colors and tempting snacks. We welcomed Peter Radzwillas, our newest member. We now number 71.

Our Vetra Dancers invited the award-winning "Šviesa" from Vilnius Teachers Institute who performed in New Haven in Oct. Visitors were house guests for four days with local families. The Marcinkauskas hosted two girls and the Millers hosted two young men. The Board of Directors met at Pres. Clem Miller's home to outline activities for the coming year.

First date on the calendar was Oct. 21 the NED Cultural Festival at Maironis Park. Our council was chosen for kitchen duty that day. Aldona & Pete Peters, Clem Miller, Lee & John Marcinka, Dot & Jack DeGennaro, Bob & Donna Marcavage were the loyal volunteers. Westfield made all the dešra, Worcester made their delicious kugel and Bridgeport brought all the sauerkraut, lovingly prepared by Bob & Donna Marcavage.

Agnes Lazdauskas recently had the pleasure of her nephew's month-long visit from Lithuania. Oct. 28 was a bright, shiny day for Victor Miller who celebrated his diamond birthday. His wife Clem arranged a surprise open house for him. And what a full house it was! The day also served as an opportunity to meet two guests from Lithuania, Clem's cousins who will be visiting for one month.

We extend our best wishes to Rose & Vladas Barius who celebrated their 45th wedding anniversary on Nov. 10.

In the church clubrooms on the afternoon of Nov. 10, the creative crafts people made straw ornaments for the church Christmas trees. Aldona Marcavage and Clem Miller co-chaired our annual Kučios on Dec. 9.

Aldona Marcavage

C-133 LOS ANGELES, CA

About 40 council members and guests met at the home of Mary Oberfield for our regular meeting. Election of officers was held with following results: Marytė Sepikas, pres.; Bronė Skirius, vice pres. and membership; Robert Novak, vice pres. and cultural; Martha Antanaitis, rec. sec.; Dennis Petras, treas.; Laima Baltrenis, fin. sec.; Jonas Sturas, VYTIS correspondent.

Robert Novak reminded members of the importance of Sept. 8. First, it was the birthday of Our Blessed Mother. In 1608, Mary demonstrated her love of the Lithuanian people by her apparitions in the town of Siluva. Thousands of the faithful would be praying to her at that shrine on this day. Second, in independent Lithuania, this time of the year marked the celebration of a national holiday in honor of Vytautas the Great. It is a day to remind Lithuanians of an impressive past which is re-awakening now before our eyes. Just as the ancient Lithuanian kings had sustained the nation often against great odds so, too, now that ancient courageous spirit is evident in recent events.

Mary Oberfield spoke about the current health care crisis in Lithuania. Medical supplies are desperately needed, even basic items and services that we take for granted in the USA. Health care is decades behind the level that we enjoy. Fifty years of communist management has taken its toll in many ways. With the dawning of a new era in Lithuania's history, there is hope for the future, but for now the suffering continues for many of our brothers and sisters.

On June 23, 24 members and guests met at the Lithuanian National House in Los Angeles. A raffle was held to supply Lithuania with medical supplies. The amount of \$76 was realized. Bronė Skirius donated a beautiful Lithuanian designed plate for the raffle.

Dennis Petras and Laima Baltrenis told of their experiences while protesting during Gorbachev's recent visit to San Francisco with other Lithuanian Americans from Los Angeles. The cold foggy weather at the Russian Consulate was contrasted to the hot boiling weather at Stanford University.

Another highlight of that afternoon, not to mention a lavish pot-luck luncheon supplied by the good hearted members, was a report by Laima Baltrenis. She participated in the Baltic American Freedom League's 9th Annual Human Rights Conference at the Sheraton in Los Angeles.

The meeting ended with a surprise

party for Bronė and Antanas Skirius. The renewal of the Knights of Lithuania in Los Angeles can be traced back to this wonderful couple who were a driving force behind it. For many years they have faithfully watched over this council, recruiting new members, advising and encouraging membership. Thanks to them for their efforts, we now have some 70 members on the membership roster. Nine new members have joined and many of them are younger people. Maryte Sepikas, Robert Novak and Stella Bajalis gave testimonials. A silver plate was presented by Marytė to the honored couple. In appreciation, cake was served to add to the good potluck meal we enjoyed earlier. It should also be noted that Antanas Skirius is the publisher of Lithuanian Days, a magazine focusing on Lithuanian current events, history and culture. You may wish to subscribe by writing to: Lithuanian Days, 4364 Sunset Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 30023.

Two final notes of appreciation: First, to Mary Oberfield for her very generous donation of \$1,000 to medical relief supplies to Lithuania and second, to Marytė Sepikas who presented the council officers with mugs at this meeting. *Ačiū labai. Jonas Sturas*

C-140 SYRACUSE, NY

1990 was a busy year for C-140. We held our annual Independence Day Mass and program in Feb. at St. Stephen's Church. John Stanley gave a nice talk on the history of Lithuania and Pres. Frank Petrauskas read the independence proclamation. Cassie Stanley then served delicious refreshments to all assembled.

March started off slowly with a St. Casimir's Mass and brunch. On March 11 the dam broke loose when Lithuania declared her independence. The news media descended upon us and it was one interview after another with newspa-

pers, radio and television. This continued until the end of June. The people of Syracuse and central New York are well aware of Lithuania and the local Lithuanians.

In April we had a big news conference with Senator Alphonse D'Amato after he returned from attempting to enter Lithuania. All of the media was present together with a large group of people. Frank Petrauskas was MC. He read a press release before introducing Senator D'Amato.

April was the birth of Robby Larson, our newest member and son of Mary Kay and Bob Larson, grandson of Catherine & Jack Brandt and the great grandson of Katherine Cravetts. Congratulations to all!

In June, delegates Frank & Irene Petrauskas and Veronica Sutkus attended the Amber District meeting in Binghamton. Our guest Arunas Juska from Lithuania also attended the meeting. Arunas is studying at Syracuse University. All were impressed with St. Joseph's Church and Fr. John Mikalajunas, the pastor, who really made us feel right at home.

The Pittsburgh convention was a very enjoyable one. All delegates and guests came away singing praises for the fine hospitality of the Pittsburgh people. Delegates Frank & Irene Petrauskas represented C-140 at the convention.

September saw our first fall meeting and our annual Mass for the oppressed church in Lithuania with a good turnout for both events.

Elections were on the agenda for Oct. Our members re-elected the present slate of officers and chairpersons. Also in October, five of our members attended the Amber District meeting in Easton. Those attending were Veronica Sutkus, Dawn Rudd, Norman Klimas and Frank & Irene Petrauskas. Thanks to the host council for their warm and welcomed hospitality.

Our prayers are with those members who are unable to get around as well as in the past, such as Paul Rudd, Della & Joe Marcaitis, George Vaikunas and Victor Diorio. Our prayers are also with our spiritual advisor Rev. Tom Kobuszewski who recently had surgery.

Pusbrolis

C-143 PITTSTON, PA

A group of our members traveled to Washington on June 1 to protest Gorbachev's refusal to grant freedom to Lithuania. They visited the Shrine of the Immaculate Conception and stopped at the Chapel of Our Lady of Siluva. On June 10 eight members attended the Amber District meeting in St. Joseph's in Binghamton. We thank C-72 for their warm hospitality.

Members traveled to the National Convention in Pittsburgh. Congratulations to Anne Walatkas and John Wisnosky on receiving their Fourth Degrees. Those attending the convention were Leo & Helen Butsavage, Ann & Steve Soha, Anne Challan, Nellie B. Romanas, Dorothy Banos, Annamarie Sewatsky, Anastasia Stanley, Mary Ann Cipolla, Mary Chorba and Charles Dajnowski. We enjoyed the tour of the city and the boat trip was fantastic. Thank you C-19. We will remember this convention as one of the best.

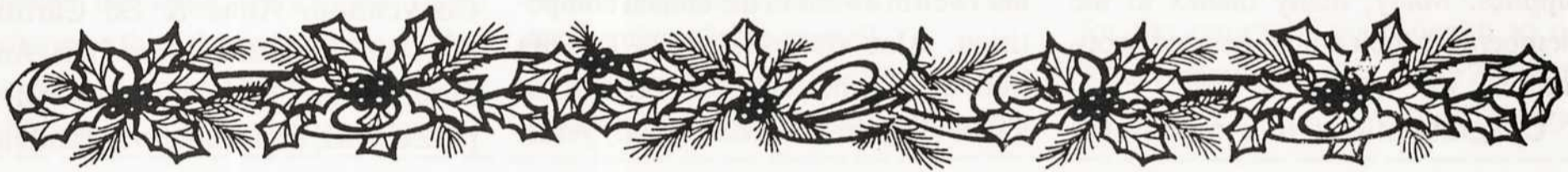
Our council participated in the Pittston tomato festival in August. We also had a stand and sold Lithuanian books, flags, pins and other items.

Election of officers took place during our Sept. meeting resulting as follows: Rev. Peter Alisauskas, spiritual advisor; Nellie B. Romanas, pres.; Annamarie Sewatsky, vice pres.; Mary Anne Cipolla, treas.; Dorothy Banos, fin. sec.; Eleanor Bellanco, rec. sec.; Anastasia Stanley, Mary Timek, Marcella Bartoli, trustees; Anna Walatkas, publicity; Dorothy Banos, Mary Chorba, Rev. Alisauskas, ritual; Rosalie Kizis,

Wishing all a Mery Christmas and a Happy New Year

Council 12 - New York, NY

Spiritual Advisor	Rev. Eugene Sawicki
President	Edmund Burba Cook
1st Vice President	Alma Korengo
2nd Vice President	John Antanavicius
Corresponding Secretary	Dalia Bulvicius
Recording Secretary	Edward Senken
Membership Secretary	Helen Cuprewich
Treasurer	Millie J. Pietz
Sgts. at Arms	Alfred Malluck, Joseph Kscenaitis
Trustees	Al Mallack, John Antanavicius, Irene Senken,
Public Relations	Dalia Bulvicius



cultural; Ann & Steve Soha, Lithuanian Affairs; Genevieve Dajnowski, historian; Charles Dajnowski, VYTIS correspondent; John Wisnosky, sgt. at Arms. Congratulations to our officers.

We also participated in the Luzerne County Folk Festival on Oct. 25 through 28 at Kingston Armory.

On a sad note, two of our members were called to their heavenly home. Paul Lauck, a third degree Knight and Filbert Bartoli passed away. Filbert and his wife Marcella own and operate Bartoli's Cafe and Catering Service. They catered all of our functions. Wake services were held for both members. May they rest in peace. We extend our deepest sympathy to both families.

Charles Dajnowski

C-144 ANTHRACITE, PA

Msgr. Al Bartkus, honorary member of the K of L and rector of St. Casimir's

pontifical College in Rome, celebrated his Silver Jubilee Mass in August at Annunciation BVM Church in Frackville, his last pastorate in the United States. Concelebrants were Revs. Gobitus, Jankaitis, Wassel, Baransky, Jarasunas and Yankevich. Bishop Welch of the Allentown Diocese presided. Msgr. Anthony Muntone, vicar general

of Allentown Diocese, was the homilist.

Following Mass, a reception was held in Annunciation Hall. Anne Wargo welcomed the assemblage. Rev. Jankaitis of St. Casimir's in St. Clair capably served as MC. Rev. Gobitas was the main speaker. More than 200 attended the affair. (Cont'd Pg. 52)



Rev. Peter Alisauskas, pastor of St. Casimir Church, Pittston, led the outdoor Stations of the Cross at St. Ann's Monastery, Scranton, on her Feast Day.

Our three day Lithuanian Days Festival at Schuylkill Mall in August was a financial and social success. A successful raffle, many pans of kugel baked by our devoted members, donations of baked goods and other food items, as well as the many pounds of "dešra" cooked by our gourmet cooks all went into many hours of hard work. Liepsna Dancers from New Jersey performed one afternoon. Friends of Siluva choir and the McDonalds also entertained the crowds.

From the three day event, donations of \$1,500 were made to St. Casimir's Guild, \$2,000 for medical relief for Lithuania and \$1,000 for C-144 adopted parish in Lithuania. An additional \$1,000 from the general treasury was forwarded to Catholic Religious Aid for medical supplies. Many, many thanks to the members for their whole-hearted cooperation.

Congratulations to Anna Helen



Anthracite C-144 delegates to Amber District June Meeting in Binghamton, hosted by C-72.

McDonald who won a first place ribbon in the Republican Cookoff. This was her twelfth award in the annual competition. Also congratulations to Rita Shevokas who became Mrs. John Tamalavage in June. Many happy years.

Twenty-three delegates and guests represented C-144 at the 77th National Convention. Anne & Ed Carlitus, Florence Kobluskie, Mary Pieri, Anna Supernavage, Eleanor Yancofski, Olympia Zelinski, Rita Tamalavage and Julia

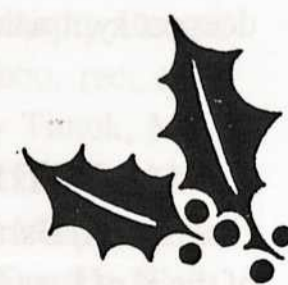
TO ALL OUR KNIGHTS OF LITHUANIA FRIENDS

We take this opportunity during this beautiful and Holy Season of Christmas to thank you for all your blessings, prayers, mass offerings, and get well cards for Al's recent illness.

Through all your prayers, we are confident Albert will be around for many Christmases.

A Blessed Christmas to All!

Zakarka Family - Chicago C-112



Norcross were installed in the Fourth Degree at the convention. Congratulations. Other delegates were Sister Angela, Esther Bartashus, Mary Bran-nan, Alma Linder, Helen Chesko, Anna Radzavage, Sister Teresa, Helen Ma-tunis, Frances Rauba, Stanley & Bar-bara Silkunas and Eleanor Vaicaitis. Elsie Kosmisky represented the Amber Dis-trict as delegate.

National pres. Anne Wargo installed the following officers for the ensuing year at our Oct. meeting: Olympia Zelinski, pres.; Eleanor Yancofski, vice pres.; Anna Helen McDonald, sec.; Anna Radzavage, treas.; Helen Chesko, fin. sec. Rev. M. Jarasunas graciously con-sented to continue as our spiritual advi-sor.

A representative group of Knights attended the wake services for Helen Ambrose, a third degree charter member who passed away after a long illness, and Violet Caper, an active second

degree member who was ill only a short time. Sincere sympathy to families of the deceased. May they rest in peace.

Eleanor Vaicaitis, Elsie Kosmisky and Anna Helen McDonald attended the district meeting in Easton. Helen Labadis was installed in the Fourth Degree.

We wish all a very Merry Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year!

Olympia

C-152 EASTERN LONG ISLAND, NY

On Oct. 14, C-152 was represented by six of our Knights at C-29's 75th anniversary celebration in Newark, NJ. This occasion was all the more mean-ingful for us Eastern Long Islanders since Bea Lucka and Emily Vigliarolo's father, Anthony Masandas, was a char-ter member of this council.

Council member Joe Latinis is back from an extended stay with relatives in

Lithuania, during which time he had occasion to travel by private car to many parts of the country. His experiences confirm the opinion of most recent visi-tors to the USSR and its captive Baltic States that their economies are rapidly disintegrating. The ruble, already with-out value in international trade, has now become so eroded in purchasing power that citizens without access to black market face a very real threat of malnu-trition, even in spite of long wait on food store lines. It is sad to note that for many who now must exist under Soviet rule, an economic oppression seems to be increasing, even as political and reli-gious terrorism appears to be lessening.

C-152 is saddened to report the death of our faithful Knight Alexander Zipkas. We ask all to spare a moment of prayer for the happy repose of his soul and also for the return of good health to our fellow council member, Tony Zambuto.

Tom Tarmey

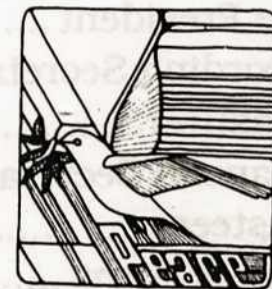
The Scholarship Committee wishes all the membership Peace, Joy, Hope and Prosperity for this Holy Season and the New Year.

Thank you for your generous

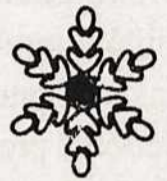
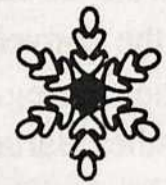
support of the youth of the Knights of Lithuania during 1990.



William Piacentini, Chairman
Clemencine Miller, Treasurer
John Baltrus
Paul Binkis, Jr.
John Contons
Nancy Kober
Rita Tamalavage



TO OUR
ST. CASIMIR'S PARISH
NOW CELEBRATING ITS 75th ANNIVERSARY
WE OFFER CONGRATULATIONS
AND BEST WISHES FOR



A LONG AND HEALTHY LIFE

AND TO ALL OUR K OF L FRIENDS

WE WISH

HAPPY HOLIDAYS

Council 30, Westfield, MA



SVEIKINAME SU ŠVENTĒMS VISUS VYČIUS

HOLIDAY GREETINGS TO ALL OUR FELLOW KNIGHTS

Members and Officers

C-152 Eastern Long Island, NY



- Spiritual AdvisorRev. William R. Scril
- PresidentMichael Zukas
- Vice PresidentFelix Zorskis
- Recording SecretaryAnne Tarmey
- TreasurerThomas Tarmey
- Financial SecretaryMary Zipkas
- TrusteesCharlene Abrahamsen, Felix Zorskis
- Sgts. at ArmsEvelyn Niksa, Peter Petrowski

LINKSMŲ KALĖDŲ ŠVENČIŲ IR LAIMINGŲ NAUJŲ METŲ!

VISIEMS LIETUVOS VYČIAMS

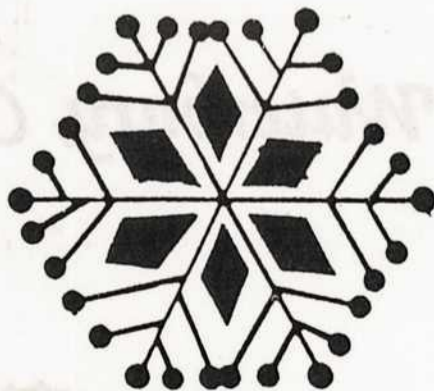
MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL!

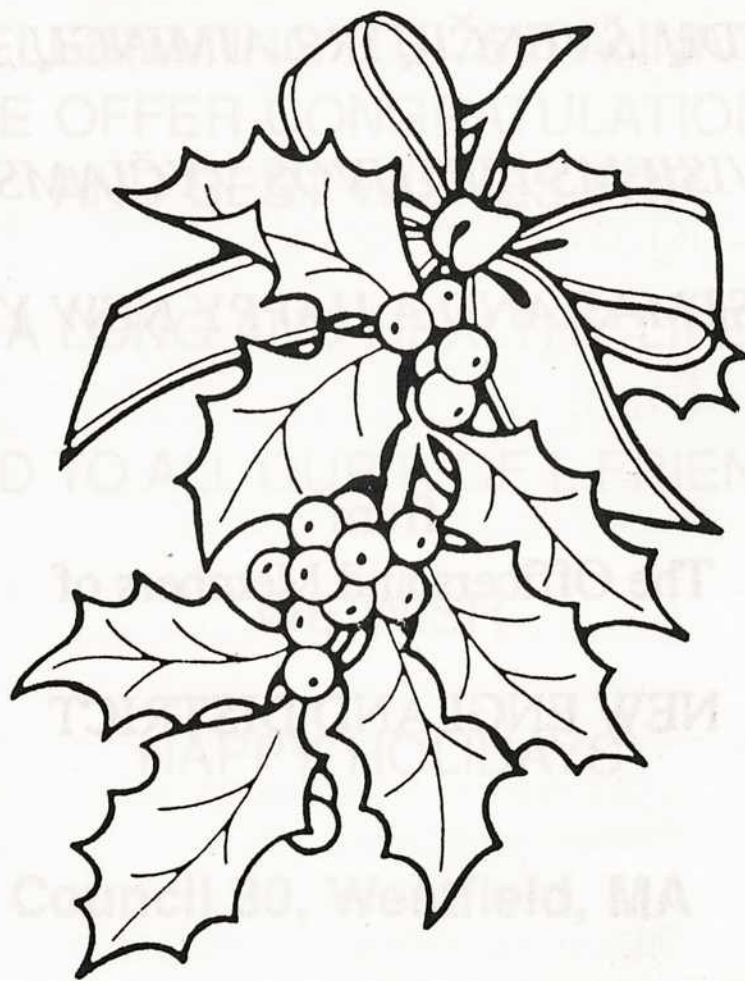
from

The Officers and Members of

NEW ENGLAND DISTRICT

- C 1 - Brockton, MA
- C 7 - Waterbury, CT
- C 10 - Athol-Gardner, MA
- C 17 - So. Boston, MA
- C 26 - Worcester, MA
- C 27 - Norwood, MA
- C- 30 - Westfield, MA
- C 50 - New Haven, CT
- C 78 - Lawrence, MA
- C 103 - Providence, RI
- C 116 - Worcester, MA
- C 135 - Ansonia, CT
- C 141 - Bridgeport, CT
- C 145 - Holyoke, MA





Wishing You Joy At Christmas

And

Throughout The New Year!

C-7 Waterbury, CT



May God's Peace be with you
during this Christmas Season
and throughout the New Year



C-140 SYRACUSE, NY



Amsterdam Vyčiai, 114 strong,

Wish one and all in song

*Linksmų Šventų Kalėdų
ir
Laimingiausių Naujųjų Metų !*



Council 24 - Chicago, IL

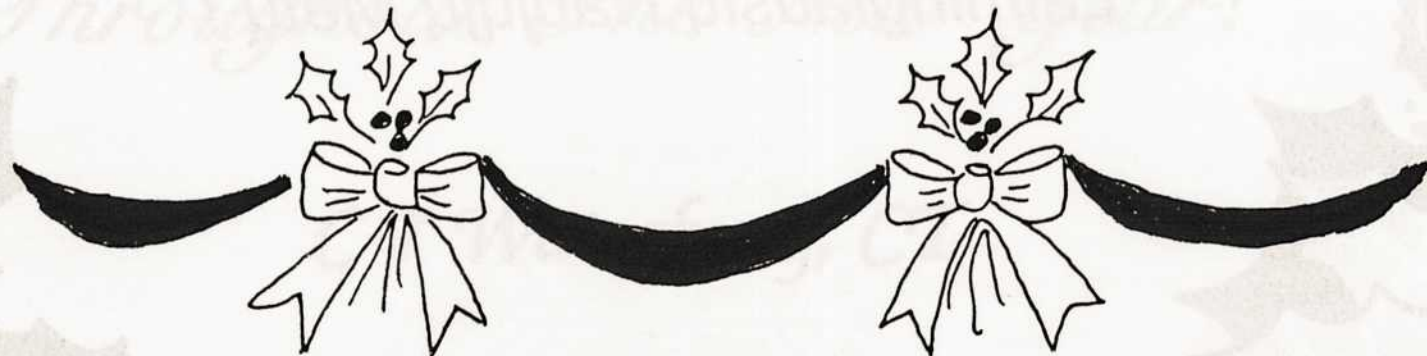
WISHES EVERYONE A BLESSED CHRISTMAS
AND A HAPPY AND HEALTHY NEW YEAR



Newly Elected Officers - Seated left to right:

Nijole Butts, Recording Secretary; Clare O'Dea, Treasurer; Rev. Peter A. Cibulskis, MIC, Spiritual Advisor; Stanley Mankus, President; Josephine Mankus, Financial Treasurer; Aušra Padalino, 3rd Vice President.

Standing: Frank Jurgaitis, 1st Vice President; Vincent Neberieza, Trustee; Bruce Neberieza, 2nd Vice President; Bernice Neberieza, Vytis Correspondent; Irene Murdock, Olga Eastman, Social Committee; Vytaut Abraitis, Sgt. at Arms; Loretta Simon, Corresponding Secretary.



MID-ATLANTIC DISTRICT

LINKSMŲ ŠV. KALĖDŲ IR LAIMINGŲ NAUJŲ METŲ

- Spiritual Advisor..... Rev. Msgr. Frank Bulovas
- President..... Joseph Stelmokas
- 1st Vice President..... John Sakal
- 2nd Vice President..... John Antanavicius
- Secretary..... Jeanne Janonis
- Treasurer..... Mirga Bablin
- Trustees..... Anne Tarmey, Millie Pietz, Edward Senken



LINKSMŲ ŠV. KALĖDŲ
ir
LAIMINGŲ NAUJŲ METŲ

Council 103 Providence, RI



Let's Pray for Lithuania's Independence





TO ALL OUR K. OF L. FRIENDS

**A WISH FOR
PEACE AND HAPPINESS
AT THIS CHRISTMAS SEASON
AND THROUGHOUT THE
NEW YEAR**



LINKSMŲ KALĖDŲ IR

LAIMINGŲ NAUJŲ METŲ

**ALL THE OFFICERS AND MEMBERS OF
COUNCIL 3 - PHILADELPHIA**



IN MEMORIAM

PAUL LAUCK
C-143 Pittston, PA
† January 14, 1990

FILBERT BARTOLI
C-143 Pittston, PA
† June 10, 1990

ALBINA KRIVEL
C-52 Elizabeth, NJ
† September 18, 1990

HM MARCELLA ALEKSIS
C-7 Waterbury, CT
† October 11, 1990

ALEXANDER ZIPKAS
C-152 Eastern Long Island, NY
† October 12, 1990

JOHN BERCELZY
C-96 Dayton, OH
† October 15, 1990

LUCY RAPKAUSKAS
C-110 Maspeth, NY
† October 21, 1990

JOHN WISNOSKY
C-143 Pittston, PA
† October 25, 1990

VALERIAN BARTKUS
C-110 Maspeth, NY
† November 2, 1990

JOHN BLINSTRUBAS
C-7 Waterbury, CT
† November 5, 1990

REV. VIKTORAS DABUSIS
C-147 St. Petersburg, FL
† November 8, 1990

HM HELEN SHIELDS
C-3 Philadelphia, PA
† November 9, 1990

K of L CALENDAR

Nov. 12, 1990 - Jan. 8, 1991 - Christmas Forest, Ethnic Trees, Lithuanian Tree decorated by C-72 Binghamton - Roberson Museum
December 15, 1990 - Lithuanian/Latvian Day, International Cafe, Roberson Museum, Lithuanian delicacies provided by C-72 Binghamton, NY
January 12, 1991 - MAMD K of L Choir - Annual Dinner-Dance
February 24, 1991 - MAD Communion Breakfast & Meeting - Host C-110 Maspeth, NY.
March 11, 1991 - Amber District meeting.

March 16, 1991 - National Executive Board Meeting, New Haven, CT - Host C-50.
May 17-19, 1991 - MCD Spring Convention & Bowling Tournament, Host C-25 Cleveland, OH.
May 26, 1991 - Song Festival, Dainų Šventė, Chicago, IL.
June 2, 1991 - C-26 Worcester, MA. Annual Picnic, Maironis Park.
August 1-4, 1991 - 78th National Convention, Trade Winds, St. Petersburg Beach, FL. Hosts: National Executive Board.

DID YOU KNOW

If you go out to buy a Christmas tree this year, you'll be participating in a ritual that probably owes more to the pagan Romans than to the early Christians. It seems that the Romans carried trees blazing with candles, reminders of the sun's return in the spring, during their mid-December Saturnalia celebrations. Other tree facts:

□ President Franklin Pierce put up the first White House Christmas tree in

1856.

□ The first hooks for Christmas tree ornaments were advertised in a wholesaler's catalog in 1892.

□ The first icicles — thin strips of silver foil — were sold in Nuremberg, Germany, in 1878. Spun glass angel hair followed two years later.

□ Edward Johnson, a colleague of Thomas Edison at Edison Electric Company, put up the first electrically lighted Christmas tree in 1882.

A NOTE TO ALL MEMBERS

Membership dues should be paid by January 1, 1991. If not received in the National Financial Secretary's office by March 30th, your VYTIS magazine will be cancelled. It takes approximately two months to reinstate your subscription thereby resulting in a loss of a few issues. If you enjoy reading VYTIS, get your dues paid to your council's financial secretary NOW!!!

National Financial Secretary

Anne Y. Cheplick

National Executive Board

and VYTIS Staff

extend a most

Joyous and Blessed Christmas

and a

Happy and Healthy New Year

to all VYTIS READERS.



325

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Chicago, IL 60636

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At last.....

GRAND TOUR OF LITHUANIA July 22 - August 13, 1991

Itinerary will include all main points of interest in Lithuania. In addition, it will include:

- Special performances of local folklore ensembles, song and dance groups;
- Picnics — gegužinės — with an opportunity to taste Lithuanian beer;
- Reserved seats at the opening ceremonies of the World Lithuanian Sports Festival in Kaunas and closing ceremonies of this Festival in Vilnius.

The caravan will include at least one bus for English speaking Lithuanians and one bus for Lithuanian speaking dypukai.

Price includes:

- Flights out of New York;
- All touring in modern, comfortable buses;
- Three meals daily;
- Soviet visa fees;
- Entrance fees to concerts, picnics, festivals;
- Baggage handling;
- English and Lithuanian speaking tour guides;
- "Vytis" agency representatives in Vilnius, Kaunas, Panevėžys and Klaipėda.

Price: \$2,130 per person double occupancy; single supplement \$210.

TO SECURE SEATS, SEND \$100 PER PERSON TO:

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2129 Knapp Street
Brooklyn, NY 11229

Telephone: (718) 769-3300
FAX: (718) 769-3302
Telex: 216 282

Independent (individual) travel can be arranged. Air only or full packages available.

Other "Vytis" groups to Lithuania in 1991:

May 20 - June 4	\$1,470
June 3 - 18	1,530
June 24 - July 9	1,680
July 22 - August 6	1,770
August 26 - September 10	1,530
September 16 - October 1	1,470

