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the KNIGHT

VYTYTIS

1991

KNIGHTS OF LITHUANIA

BALANDIS - APRIL

VOL. 77: No.4



Vytautas Landsbergis at Dulles Airport, Washington, DC

Photo: A. Cizauskas, Jr.

VYTIS

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS - Įvykių Raida

Kellogg Co. acknowledged it was close to sealing a "possible joint venture" with the Baltic republics.

Twenty-eight U.S. Senators urged President Bush to formally raise the issue of Baltic participation in the Helsinki process at the CSCE Conference in Paris held last November.

Members of the U.S. House of Representatives rejected two provisions that would have granted 25 million dollars in aid to the Baltic States.

The Latvian Supreme Council declared invalid a Soviet government decision of Oct. 19 concerning the transformation of All-Union enterprises in Latvia that are under Moscow's jurisdiction into stock companies that are run by a USSR agency.

Sweden's Deputy Secretary for Foreign Trade, Michael Sohlman, said that Lithuania will receive Swedish economic aid.

Latvian leaders met USSR Foreign Minister Edward Shevardnadze in Moscow and declined his offer of a "special status" within the new USSR Federation.

Lithuanian President Vytautas Landsbergis went to Budapest for talks on expanding Lithuanian-Hungarian cooperation.

Hungarian Foreign Minister Geza Jeszensky said in Bonn that Hungary wants to expand links with the Baltic States.

The "Party of March 11" concluded its constituent meeting in Vilnius and voted to change its name to "Independence Party."

The first combined meeting of the Baltic and Nordic (Iceland, Sweden, Denmark, Finland and Norway) Councils was held in Tallinn.

Thirty chess grandmasters from various countries support

Baltic groups re-admission to the International Olympic Committee as Baltics not Soviet.

The Lithuanian Supreme Council adopted a law on alternative service for those objecting to military service.

Canadian Foreign Minister Joe Clark told Andrejs Krastins, Deputy Chairman of the Latvian Supreme Council that the Baltic question should be resolved internationally, possibly through the CSCE.

Baltic leaders declined Gorbachev's invitation to join in a discussion of the Soviet economic reform plan.

President George Bush received Estonian Prime Minister Edgar Savisaar and Foreign Minister Lennart Meri in what was described as "a real working session."

Lithuanian President Vytautas Landsbergis met in Paris with French President Francois Mitterrand, who told him that France was willing to return Lithuanian gold it has kept since 1939.

U.S. Senate adopted a Resolution stating that U.S. ratification of the Treaty on German Reunification did not imply any change of U.S. policy of non-recognition of the incorporation of the Baltic states into the USSR.

Socialist International readmitted the Lithuanian and Estonian Social Democratic Parties as full members.

President Vytautas Landsbergis met in Reykjavik with Iceland's leaders who reaffirmed their non-recognition of Lithuania's incorporation.

Lithuanian Deputy Prime Minister Romualdas Ozolas predicted that the USSR would recognize Lithuania's independence "no later than the first half of 1991".

Lithuania opened an information office in Oslo, its first one in Europe.

BLOODY SUNDAY FILM AT BROWN UNIVERSITY

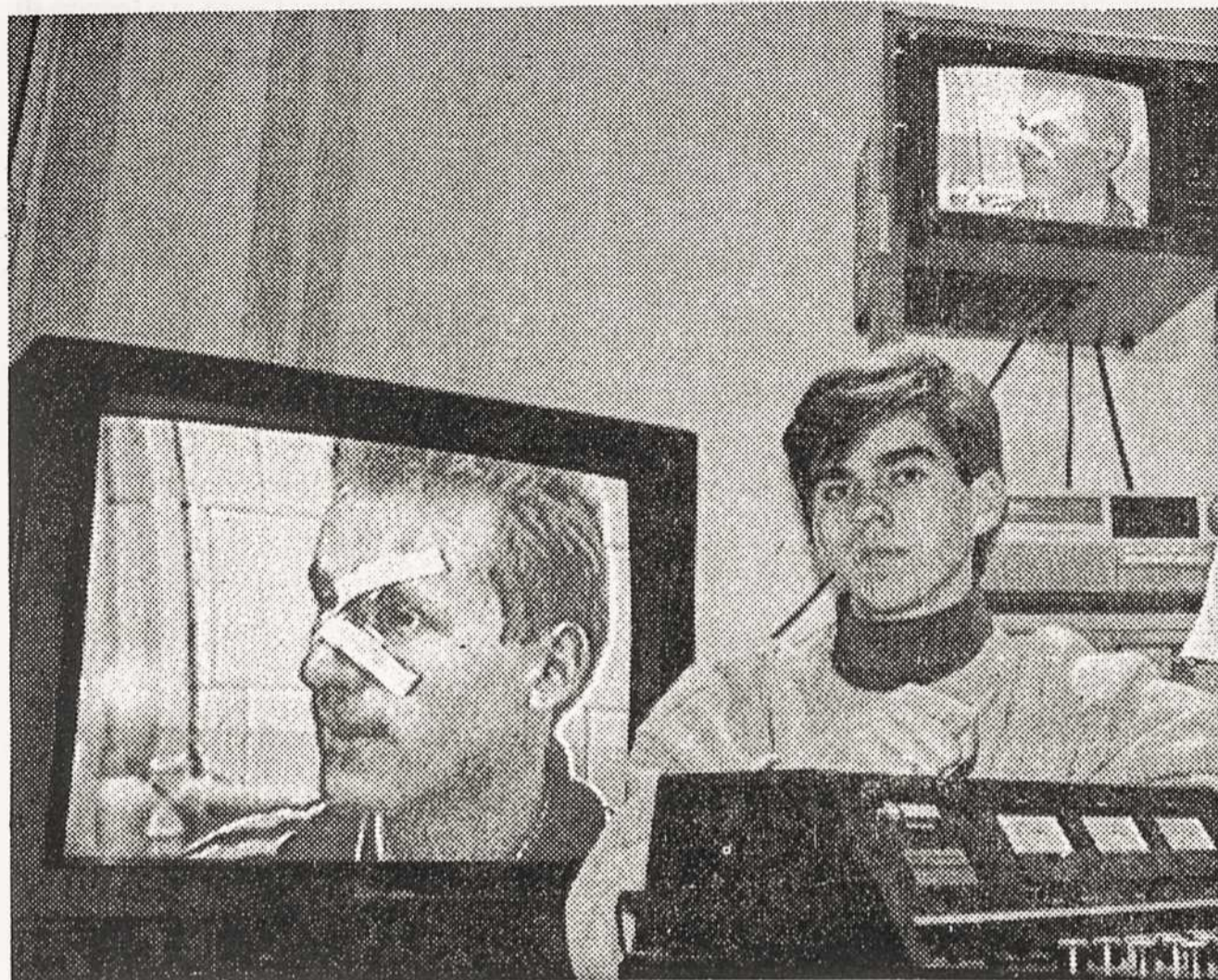
A smuggled videotape of the January 14 Soviet crackdown in Lithuania was shown at Brown University in Providence, RI.


Antanas Vainius, a student of Lithuanian descent was given the videotape by a family friend who left Lithuania after the turmoil. The tape was smuggled into the U.S. by a journalist in Lithuania. The tape was edited into a 15-minute production and dubbed with English translations. The documentary was presented to about 150 students at Brown University, at several Lithuanian churches, both on the East and West coasts and also at the University of Chicago. A viewing is planned for Cornell University plus other col-

leges.


The title of the documentary is "Nepriklausomybe" or "Independence" and subtitled, "The Soviet Crackdown". The film actually depicts people lying and imbedded in the ground and crushed by treads of a Soviet tank. The pictures also show Soviet tanks rolling into Vilnius, the Soviet troops taking over television and press buildings and hospitals treating the injured and the morgues.

The documentary also includes excerpts from an interview with the President of Lithuania, Vytautas Landsbergis, who along with members of his government was in the Parliament Building in Vilnius. Mr. Landsbergis is asked,





Antanas Vainius of Brown University worked on student documentary about Lithuania from a videotape smuggled into the United States from Vilnius, who is of Lithuanian descent, was given videotape by a friend who left the country after a crackdown in January.



“What should Bush do?” He replied, “He must call Gorbachev on the red line and tell him that regardless of the situation in the Persian Gulf, the murder of Lithuanians is still a murder. If Gorbachev doesn’t stop this, then no one will protect him from his own murderers. When he becomes a zero in the West, he will become a zero to his colonels.”

In an effort to support the Baltics, some Brown University students have formed a group called “Baltika” whose principle is that “the Soviet ship is sinking, so if you get off now, you won’t go down with it.” The next step that the students wish to get involved with is to work on a second longer documentary and use it to muster public support for

the nationalists since it’s rather easy to take a side - people are being killed.”

Of all the footage, the final scene - without blood or guns - is the most moving. It is of a boy who is interviewed outside a morgue in Vilnius. His father went out to stand in the human barricade at the press building and forbade his son to come with him. The father was shot in the face and never returned home. A reporter asked the son whether his father was ever found. His reply was “Yes - run over by a tank.”

If this film is ever shown in your vicinity, be sure to bring your friends, Lithuanian and non-Lithuanians, to see the brutality caused by the Soviet Union.

SELLING OUT THE BALTIC STATES?

Tunne Kellam, chairman of the Congress of Estonia and MariAnn Rikken, vice president of the Estonian-American National Council Inc., are the authors of the following comment, published in The New York Times, Jan. 8, 1991.

George Bush has drawn a line in the sand in the Middle East but is putting his head in the sand in Europe. While America rushes to war in the Middle East, allegedly to defend the sovereignty of a small nation against aggression by a larger neighbor, the Administration has expressed only its

“concern” about the Soviet Union sending troops into the Baltic states.

Mr. Bush must make it clear to Mikhail Gorbachev that even a creeping crackdown by the Soviets would mean an end to U.S. aid — including the recent food credits.

This is all familiar terrain for the Soviet leadership, which historically has sought to synchronize power grabs with dramatic world events. Thus, as President Bush seeks a worldwide consensus — seemingly at any price — to support U.S. military action against Iraq, the Soviet Union, hypocriti-

cally bemoaning Saddam Hussein's moves in Kuwait, is preparing for a vicious crackdown against three small nations.

Once again — as the Soviet Union flies in tens of thousands of troops to round up a few thousand young boys who refuse to serve in the Red Army, closes down independent publications and prepares an economic blockade — Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania seem destined to end up a tragic footnote to larger events of history. This is precisely what happened in June 1940, when Moscow invaded the Baltic states while the world's attention was riveted on the collapse of France.

The same principle should apply to the Baltics as to Kuwait. The West has never recognized the Soviet takeover of the Baltics. Fifty years of supportive messages from Washington to Baltic diplomatic representatives have sustained Baltic hopes for the restoration of freedom.

Now that there are real chances as well as legal grounds for regaining freedom, however, the U.S. is not living up to its promises. Instead of supporting peaceful, democratic movements in the Soviet Union, the Bush Administration seems committed to saving the last colonial empire, placing its hopes on democratizing a Soviet system led by a dictator.

It is truly ominous and ironic that the U.S. appears ready to support a new Soviet dictatorship in the hopes of promising freedom, rule of law and free competition. Wishfully thinking that a dictatorship may be able and willing to reform itself, the world's leading democracy seems ready to sanction Soviet use of martial law and terror to save perestroika.

The U.S. should stick to its principles. There is a lesson in the events of 1917 to 1920, a period when the superpowers first tried to save the Russian empire, ignoring the national democratic movements. When it became clear that the Czar's empire couldn't be saved, the West finally changed its policies and recognized the states that had liberated themselves.

If Western support consists only of lip service at the crucial moment, the West will have to take responsibility for any desperate moves on the part of the Baltic peoples who are not only being pushed toward extinction by Soviet imperialistic policies but are now being pressured by Soviet paratroopers and economic collapse.

The development of new Lebanons in Eastern Europe can still be prevented by restraining the terror apparatus of the Soviet Union and reaffirming unequivocally the rights of the Baltic nations to independence.

We are facing a crucial test not only for the survival of the Baltic nations but also for the principles of American foreign policy. Lasting world peace and stability cannot be achieved by applying principles of justice and law unequally. Safeguarding the vital interests of the Baltic nations does not require 350,000 U.S. troops. It requires only a firm stand on a principle held for 50 years.

While President Bush is ready to spill the blood of American boys to free Kuwait, his message to the Baltic nations occupied by 300,000 Soviet troops is to help themselves. Does 50 years of occupation by the Soviet Union make such a difference? If so, how long will Kuwait have to be occupied before its sovereignty becomes an internal Iraqi matter?

DURBIN MEETS WITH ILLINOIS NATIVE IN LITHUANIA



During his recent trip to the Baltic nation of Lithuania, U.S. Rep. Richard J. Durbin (D-Ill.) met with Rita Dapkus, Director of the Supreme Council of the Republic of Lithuania Bureau of Information, who is originally from Chicago, IL.

"As an American of Lithuanian decent, I was very interested in Ms. Dapkus' perspective on the situation in Lithuania," Durbin said. "We discussed the progress of the independence movement in Lithuania and their need for medical supplies."

They also discussed the Lithuanian Mercy Lift program and the prospect of using project HOPE to secure humanitarian assistance in the future.

Durbin traveled to the Baltic nations of Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia with the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe — better known as the Helsinki Commission — where he met with Baltic leaders to discuss their struggle for freedom and the recent Soviet crackdown. He was part of a 14 Member congressional delegation (code) that left Washington Feb. 10, 1991 and returned Feb. 15, 1991.

The delegation was there to show the United States'

support for freedom and democracy in the Baltic states.

Durbin first met Dapkus one year ago when he led a congressional delegation to Lithuania in Feb, 1990 which attempted to observe the first democratic, multi-party elections in Lithuania in fifty years. Because their visas were denied by the Soviet government, they were not admitted to Lithuania until the day after the elections.

Durbin's mother immigrated as a child to the United States from Jurbarkas, Lithuania, settling in East St. Louis, Illinois.



U.S. Senator Alfonse M. D'Amato (R-NY) is joined by Lithuanian community leader Victoria Garbauskas at the Lithuanian 72nd Independence Day Commemoration rally at Lithuanian Cultural Center in Brooklyn. D'Amato discussed his recent trip to the Soviet Union and the Baltic nations, where he met with Vytautas Landsbergis and other Baltic leaders to express his strong support for their democratic independence movements.

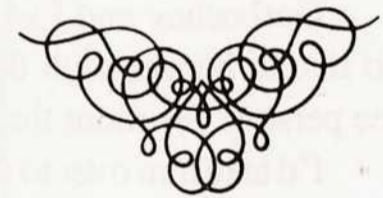


Photo Credit: Ronald L. Glassman

ANN JILLIAN'S SCHEDULE

May 15-19, 1991 - Drury Lane Oakbrook Theater, Chicago, IL. Ann will do eight (8) shows with a seventeen (17) piece orchestra including her two female singers and dancers. Tickets may be obtained by calling the theater at (708) 530-4269

May 26, 1991 - Lithuanian Music Festival at University of Illinois at Chicago Pavilion, 1150 West Harrison St., Chicago, IL. Tickets: (312) 471-3900. Ann Jillian will be the MC for this event. She will NOT perform but will

introduce the acts, singers and speakers. This will be a benefit attendance to the Festival.

It is hoped that as many as possible K of L members and friends will attend both of the above events. As we all know, Ann resided in Chicago at one time where she met her husband Andy Murcia. To be part of the above affairs in Chicago is like coming home for her. Those of you who have seen Ann perform at Trump Plaza in Atlantic City will not want to miss seeing her in Chicago at the above events.



My Guest, Mr. Gorbachev

Andy Rooney

Next time Mikhail Gorbachev of the Soviet Union comes to the United States, I'd like to show him around. A visit here would be a college education for him and I'm not sure he'd want to go back.

It would be fun to show Gorbachev around. I think a visit here would change any Russian's attitude toward the United States. We'll never do it by arguing with them. Most Russians are better informed about communism than the average American is about democracy and capitalism, but if every Soviet citizen spent just one day in the United States, it would be more effective than all the talking that has ever been done.

I'd like to have Mr. Gorbachev as my guest if he comes here. He seems like a pretty good guy.

First thing I'd do is I'd bring him home. I'd put him in Ellen's old room next to the bathroom and tell him he's welcome to anything he wants in the refrigerator in case he feels like a beer or some cheese between meals. We're a little short on borscht but the average American refrigerator would look pretty good to a Russian from what I've seen of food in the Soviet Union.

After getting Gorbachev settled, I'd suggest we take a drive around our small town in Connecticut.

"You want to drive?" I'd say to Gorbachev. I figure he might enjoy that because, as an important official, he always gets taken in a chauffeur-driven limousine. He'd probably love to get his hands on an American car, anyway.

Gorbachev and I would drop in to visit with friends who live in houses with three rooms per person instead of three persons per room the way they do in Soviet Union.

I'd take him over to the supermarket and show him the shelves full of loaves of bread, the refrigerated cabinets full of milk, cream, butter and eggs, and no lines anywhere but at the checkout counter.

After the supermarket, we'd head for the fancy new mall. I hate it myself but it would surely impress a Russian.

If there was time, I'd take him over to the Giants' training camp to watch practice.

That night we'd have dinner, watch television, argue until eleven and go to bed after the late news.

Next morning we'd give Gorbachev fresh-squeezed orange juice, bacon and eggs, and pancakes with maple syrup, just as if that's what we ate every morning for breakfast. The fact is, of course, I grab a piece of toast and a cup of coffee, but he doesn't have to know that.

The next morning we'd drive into New York City. We'd

go at rush hour to make sure we got trapped in a traffic jam. The Soviet president isn't going to believe there are that many cars in the whole world.

Cars are hard to buy in the Soviet Union. One of President Reagan's favorite jokes is about a Russian trying to buy a new car. He goes to the official government car dealer, puts his money down and the dealer says he can deliver the car in ten years. "Morning or afternoon?" the man asks. "In ten years," the dealer says, "what's the difference?" "Because," the man says, "the plumber's coming in the morning."

In New York we'd park the car and go over to Crazy Eddie or 47 St. Photo to look at electronic gadgets, television sets, kitchen appliances and computers. We'll walk or take a cab. I wouldn't let Gorbachev on the subway because the subways are better, cleaner and safer in Moscow. I don't want him to get one up on me.

For lunch, we'll go to the Russian Tea Room, a fancy restaurant near Carnegie Hall that specializes in celebrities and pretends to be Russian. We'll see what Gorbachev thinks of an American restaurant that thinks it's Russian.

This is only twenty-four hours but I'll bet I'm beginning to get to Gorbachev already and I haven't even taken him to the Empire State Building, Texas, Maine, California or Disney World.



*Council 90 Kearny, NJ
wishes all our members, their families
and
all readers of VYTIS
a very happy and healthy belated
Easter
and a pleasant summer.*

*Vyčių Koupa 90 Kearny, NJ
linkė visiems Vyčiams, jų šeimoms
ir visų VYTIS skaitytojais
linksmų Šventų Velykų.
ir džiaukšmingą pavasarį.*

C-90 KEARNY, NJ

A Philatelic declaration of independence proclaimed in issues from Lithuania

The political upheaval in the Soviet Union which is spinning has thrown off strident nationalist movements in many of the republics that make up the Union of Soviet Socialist Republic. One republic that seems to have landed very far from the center is Lithuania, which has been most active in proclaiming its freedom philatelically.

Since Lithuania declared its independence on March 11, 1990, it has issued a postal envelope with a printed 5-kopeck stamp and four stamps. It has also issued a label to raise funds to combat the effects of a Soviet blockade. The Lithuanian post office has also dropped from its cancelling machines the letters C.C.C.P., the Cyrillic equivalent of U.S.S.R.

The four stamps and the envelope, which has been printed with five different stamps, are for use only within Lithuania and the other Baltic republics, Latvia and Estonia. All three have agreed to recognize one another's stamps. However, it has been noted that some of the stamps have also reached the United States.

The design of the Lithuanian stamps and the printed envelope are identical: An angel holding a lamp is silhouetted against a map of Lithuania. The map seems to include parts of the country that have long been under Polish control, a sort of Greater Lithuania, but this seems to have been inadvertent and not a claim on that territory.

There is no question of the intent of the Lithuanian postal authorities in issuing the stamps. The first stamps on



The first cachet on the Lithuanian stamped envelope issued last year.

the stamped envelope which was issued May 17, 1990 shows an oak tree, the symbol of Lithuania, and the inscription "Restoration of the Independent Republic of Lithuania" with the date given as 1990 III.11.

Lithuania, like Latvia and Estonia issued hundreds of universally recognized stamps from the end of World War I until the Baltics became an arena of war between Germany and the Soviet Union in 1940.

Rigastamps (Box 326, Eaton, OH 45320-0326) has a small supply of Lithuanian material. The Herrick Stamp Company (Box 219, Lawrence, NY 11559) is offering new Baltic issues on a subscription basis.

K of L CALENDAR

April 28, 1991 - Dinner & Dance, Transfiguration Hall, C-110 Maspeth, NY

May 17-19 1991 - MCD Spring Convention & Bowling Tournament, Host C-25 Cleveland, OH.

May 15-28, 1991 -Lithuanian Music Festival, Muzikos Šventė, Chicago, IL.

June 2, 1991 - C-26 Worcester, MA. Annual Picnic, Maironis Park.

June 2, 1991 - MAD Meeting - C-109 Great Neck, Hosts.

August 1-4, 1991 - 78th National Convention, Trade Winds, St. Petersburg Beach, FL. Hosts: National Executive Board.

October 13, 1991 - Annual dinner-dance, Holy Trinity Hall, Newark, NJ C-29 Newark Hosts



Lithuanian doctor seeks help for Clinic in Lithuania

Robert Delaney, Michigan Catholic

Health care in Lithuania is very poor and help is needed to establish a Church-run clinic there, according to a Lithuanian doctor who visited Detroit recently. Fifty years of Soviet occupation have left the Baltic country's health care system in shambles, but a Catholic Church agency is trying to rebuild it, said Dr. Sigitas Dumcius, who will head an outpatient diagnostic clinic planned for Kaunas, Lithuania's second largest city.

Especially at risk are Lithuania's children, said Dumcius, a pediatrician. "We ran a survey on a large number of Lithuanian children, and we cannot find healthy children in Lithuania. The majority of the children have some kind of pathological condition," he said. Malnutrition, anemia, respiratory infections and allergies are the most common, but leukemia is also on the rise. Health care facilities for ordinary Lithuanians are out-of-date, ill-equipped and poorly supplied. "In Lithuania, there are some hospitals with very sophisticated equipment, but for the poor man it is very hard to go to them - they are special hospitals only for the very privileged level of our society. We know how to treat, how to diagnose, but we need drugs, we need equipment - especially diagnostic equipment," he said.

Dumcius visited hospitals in New York, Pennsylvania and Maryland before coming to Michigan. In addition to checking out the operation of modern American facilities, Dumcius is trying to line up donations of funds or equipment.

One success he pointed out to was a pledge from Detroit-based World Medical Relief to send four 40-foot trailer-loads of medical supplies by the end of the year. Another important contribution is a commitment of personal assistance by Dr. Wm. Waring of the University of Michigan Hospital. Waring will go to Lithuania later this year to help start the clinic's rehabilitation program. The clinic planned for Kaunas is part of a two-phase plan to make modern medical facilities available to ordinary people. The second phase would see an entire Catholic hospital established, according to Dumcius. The Lithuanian branch of CARITAS, a European organization of women religious, is the project's sponsor.

Dumcius said he is uncertain about Lithuania's future, in view of the Soviet crackdown that took place after he left for the United States. Lithuanians are hoping the crackdown doesn't signal a return to the oppression experienced before glasnost and perestroika. Dumcius said there had been many positive changes in recent years, including the return of some Church property and an atmosphere in which members of religious orders could once again acknowledge their affiliations. But Lithuania is still saddled with Soviet rule and the conditions of daily living are getting worse, he said. "The economy is still in shambles, and the economic level is going down."

The answer, according to Dumcius is, "freedom and independence and help and support from the West."

TID BITS

JOYFUL NOISES FOR NEW YORK

New York is many things, not all admirable, likable or even bearable. A lot of places can beat it for livability; almost any place can beat it for civility; and as for affordability — don't ask. Even so, New York City still puts on the greatest shows on earth. Nowhere in the world is there more "live" theater than in this complex, cacophonous city.

From June 8 through June 23, hundreds more joyful noises will be added to the din. For those two weeks, performers from 22 foreign countries and the United States will participate in the New York International Festival of the Arts. This year, the festival will be shorter and on a smaller scale than its 1988 predecessor, but it may well have a bigger impact. None of the events will have tall ticket prices, a lot of them will be free and they'll be playing all over town.

The State Theater of Lithuania will do Chekhov's "Uncle

Vanya" at the Joyce Theater in Chelsea. To all of the performances, eight million welcomes!

BALTIC ALERT

The State Department has eased travel warnings on Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia. But Americans are advised to exercise caution, avoid crowds and areas of unrest in the Baltic states.

LAI GYVUOJA MŪS TAUTA

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

Lai gyvuoja mūsų tauta

Vienybėj veikdamą

Broliškąją ranką

Saviemsiems tiesdama.

Lai žydi tarp tautų

Kaip pavyzdingiausia,

Ir laimi nuo visų

Pagarbą didžiausią.

Lithuanians in the News

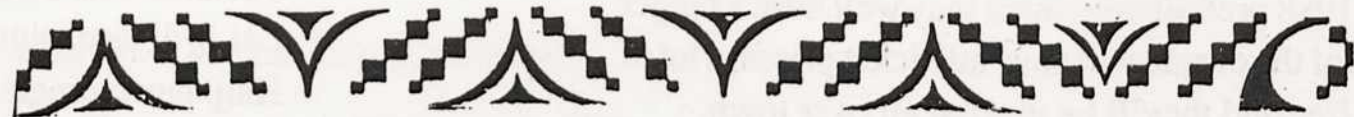


A Love for Liberty

Ed Baranauskas of Schenectady and member of C-100 holds an American flag while singing the national anthem during a demonstration in support of independence for Lithuania. Lithuania has been agitating for freedom from Soviet domination since March 1990 when it declared the "restoration" of its independence from the Soviet Union. Pres. Bush designated Feb. 16 as Lithuanian Independence Day and said, "On this 73rd anniversary of Lithuanian independence, we reaffirm our support for the just aspirations of the Lithuanian people."

Miss Connecticut

Valerie Abate, a member of C-50 New Haven, daughter of Ci & Donna Abate and granddaughter of Al & Viola Plant was recently crowned Miss Connecticut, USA 1991. She competed in the National Televised Competition for "Miss U.S.A." held in February in Wichita, KS. Unfortunately, she did not win the Miss U.S.A. title. Best of luck and congratulations in all her future endeavors.



Lithuanians in the News (Cont'd)

Joined a Lithuanian effort to stop the Soviets

Many families are worried about loved ones in the Persian Gulf but one couple is praying for their son that he will emerge safely from a potential "suicide" mission in Lithuania. Stasys & Irena Eiva's son is helping lead a group defending the parliament building in Lithuania.

Andrew Eiva, 42, who grew up in Brockton, MA is one of 250 Lithuanian freedom fighters who barricaded the building against the Soviet troops that moved into Vilnius. He knew that their mission stands no chance of military success but they hope to achieve other goals.

From an early age, Andrew fought against bullies and dreamed of a military life. And as a boy listening to his parents' tales of Soviet repression against Lithuania, he developed a strong hatred of communism. What he heard at home were tales of Soviet atrocities against his parents' families and neighbors. He heard how his maternal grandfather, a general in the Lithuanian army, was arrested by the Soviets in 1940, jailed and executed a year later. He heard how the communists stole his mother's farm in northern Lithuania; how the Soviets forcibly deported 40,000 to 50,000 people to Siberia; how thousands of Lithuanians died after their exile and how the frozen bodies were stacked like fire wood because it was too cold and there were too many to bury. The seed of resistance grew as Andrew grew. He devoured books and articles about the Lithuanian resistance.

Andrew attended St. Casimir's school in Brockton and graduated from Boston College High School in 1966. He began his college education at the University of Massachusetts, but after 2 years, decided he wanted to pursue studies at U.S. Military Academy at West Point. At West Point, he pursued training in guerrilla warfare. He graduated from West Point in 1972 and went into the Green Berets becoming a specialist in Soviet army tactics. He left the Army and joined the Afghan resistance and supported their struggle against Soviet Union. By the end of 1980, Eiva gave up the Afghan resistance and began supporting the Lithuanian independence movement. He has traveled twice to Lithuania, the last visit beginning when he became embroiled in the Lithuanian independence movement.

The parliament defenders carry iron pipes, knives, hunting rifles, shotguns and some automatic weapons. With Eiva's help, they have dug tank traps, distributed gas masks



Andrew Eiva, attends a rally in Washington last summer during which Lithuanians sought to convince President Bush to recognize the independent government of Lithuania.

and weapons, prepared fire bombs and built a giant concrete barricade around the building. He has taught them how to use Molotov cocktails and how to shoot out the tail blades of Soviet helicopters landing on the building's roof during an attack.

Andrew's mother, Irena, said she is "frustrated" at not being able to help the Lithuanians more directly. "We can do nothing here, except prayer alone."

But Andrew Eiva has jumped right into the fray, sometimes to the consternation of his parents. And after he returns home from Lithuania, he plans to join a Peace Corps-type organization in Italy. He doesn't bother with small things. The quiet life is not for him," sighed his father. "...But he must be happy. Communism is dead now and that was his objective."

Professor Nominated to Lecture in Lithuania

Dr. John B. Genys, a professor at the University of Maryland's Appalachian Environmental Laboratory was recently informed by the Council of International Exchange of Scholars that he has been nominated for a lecturing award with the Soviet Union under the 1990-91 Fulbright Program.

A native of Lithuania, Genys will teach a course in genetics of woody plants at the University of Vilnius as well as the University of Vytautas the Great in Kaunas. He also speaks German and Russian and holds diplomas from Lithuania and Germany in addition to his doctorate from Michigan State University.



THE WEDDING PARTY

by Albert Cizauskas

I was barely six years old at my brother's wedding. The reception was great fun for me because of all the unusual going-ons, but it ended with a little lesson in growing up.

When my brother and his lovely bride entered the large parish hall where the reception was held, they were greeted by their godparents who gave them a small piece of black bread and some salt in which to dip the bread before they ate it. This ritual at Lithuanian weddings symbolized the basic necessities of life and the hope that the newly-married couple would never be without them. When I learned that the white granules were salt rather than sugar, I decided not to get married when I grew up.

The wedding feast, with plentiful and tasty food, made a big impression on me since at home we had only one main dish at meal-time. But here, I saw a half dozen or so women cooking at the back of the hall. The women, with perspiration running down their red faces, worked with a hearty enthusiasm over the huge pots and pans boiling and hissing on the gas stoves. Somehow, they always managed to replenish in time the food on the two long guest tables, one on either side of the hall, with great platters of chicken, ham and other delicious food. I was puzzled, however, when the men, before they ate, passed among themselves a bag from whose contents each took a long swallow. Mama said it was something to make the men feel better. When I asked why women didn't do the same, mama said women didn't need anything to make them feel good.

My favorite dish was the long strands of Lithuanian sausage, spicy and aromatic, still steaming when brought to the tables. Everyone made a grab for the sausages, eating them quickly with black bread and mounds of sauerkraut. On top of the sausages, the guests heaped thick layers of horseradish. I followed their example, and dumped a huge glob of the stuff on top of my sausage. When I bit into it, a stinging sensation overwhelmed me. For the next minute, tears ran down my eyes, not from crying, but from the sharpness of the horseradish which penetrated my nose like a prolonged whiff of ammonia. Fortunately, mama saw this, and gave me a hunk of bread to chew which eventually dampened the fire in my mouth.

The strangest thing to me about the wedding party was the breaking of dishes. I was confused because I had learned through painful experience that breaking a dish was a very big no-no at home. But here the men who broke the dishes (and I thought it interesting that no women did) were treated

like heroes and even got to kiss the bride. I watched the whole affair through the wooden railings of a small balcony at the rear of the hall, next to the cooking area. One by one, the male guests went up to the wedding table, at the front center of the hall between the two guest tables, took one of the dishes from a special pile, and then broke it by throwing it into a tin bucket. I learned later that this act symbolized the ending of the couple's single life. The money which the dish-breaker then tossed into the derby placed on the table for that purpose was meant not only to help the couple start off their new life together but also to remind them that everything they had from then on was to be commonly shared. After this, the male guest got his reward, kissing the bride to the clapping and hooting of the other guests.



When I finally got enough courage to run down from the balcony and join the line of iconoclasts, mama caught me just in time and said firmly the game was not for little people. I thought this was very unfair, the game being all right for big people but not for us kids. I said to myself that, someday when I was big, I would break all the dishes I wanted to and no one would stop me.

Another first experience was seeing and hearing a live band. There was a stage at the front of the hall where a small band now played the music of the late '20's and polkas, lots of polkas. The fat accordionist especially fascinated me, twisting the shiny instrument like a living and breathing thing that had such happy tunes inside of it, just waiting to be squeezed out. No one could resist the lively dance music he and his band members played, loud enough to be heard and enjoyed, but not loud enough to be a distraction.

Even grandpa, who was 80 years old, surprised us all by getting up to dance. He said that he wanted to see if the young girls were as graceful and pretty as he remembered them in Lithuania. He had to dance with at least a half dozen before he could make up his mind. Yes, they were, he finally admitted, but there was none that could compare with his *Katuke*, his little kitten, as he affectionately called grandma. He then took her out on the floor and danced a slow waltz to everyone's applause, stealing the show.

The evening finally came to an end. When it was my turn to say good-bye to my brother, I suddenly realized that he would not be coming home with me. I remembered all the good times we had enjoyed the previous summer, the times he had played ball with me, or taken me to Coney Island, out into the deepest surf, where his sure hand had held me up and

where he had taught me to swim by the end of the summer. I also recalled the times he had taken me on the Coney Island roller-coasters and had held me tight as we plunged down and then up again.

This period of my life was ending and I now understood that when he would come to see me, it would be as a visitor and not as part of the live-in family. Despite all my efforts, tears welled in my eyes and I hugged my big brother. Losing him, in a way, was like a small death, and not worth the fun I had enjoyed up to that point during the wedding party, not even the whole dollar bill that the bride's father gave me to soften the pain of loss. *Lithuanian Days*

LITHUANIANS IN SCRANTON, PA

Sister Virginia Vytell, CJC

The students at Penn State University at Dunmore in Scranton, Pennsylvania realized that the war with Iraq overshadowed Lithuania's heroic struggle for independence. The president of the Public Affairs Club, Karen Novak, invited Sister Virginia CJC from St. Mary's Villa to participate in a panel discussion with three other invited guests. It took place January 9 from 12 Noon to 1 P.M.

The panel included Dr. J. Harmstone, a professor on Soviet Economics, a representative of the local Ukranian Federation and a member of Russian Liturgical practices. It was a pleasure for Sister Virginia to represent the Lithuanians, to bring before the audience an update of the Lithuanian situation as presented in *Elta*, the *Observer* and the Lithuanian *Darbininkas*. The audience consisted of students, staff and faculty members and interested visitors.

A question and answer period helped to instill truth and dispel any misconceptions about *Glasnost* and *Perestroika* as experienced in Lithuania. It was a profitable discussion and Sister promised to accept any invitations in the future from those seeking enlightenment on Lithuania's problems and the determination to attain a chosen goal.

Since the 73rd anniversary of Lithuania's Declaration of Independence occurs in February, Rev. Peter Grace, CP, a Passionist in charge of the weekly Mass for shut-ins, chose to offer the Mass for Lithuania which was televised February 17. Rev. Clement Kasinkas accepted to come from Cambridge, MA to be celebrant and offer the homily; Helen Morgan, organist at St. Michael's Lithuanian Church agreed to sing in Lithuanian during the Mass. Young parishioners from St. Ann's Monastery Church did the reading.

Marie Laske of C-74 alerted all available Knights of Lithuania to come dressed in national costume for the filming

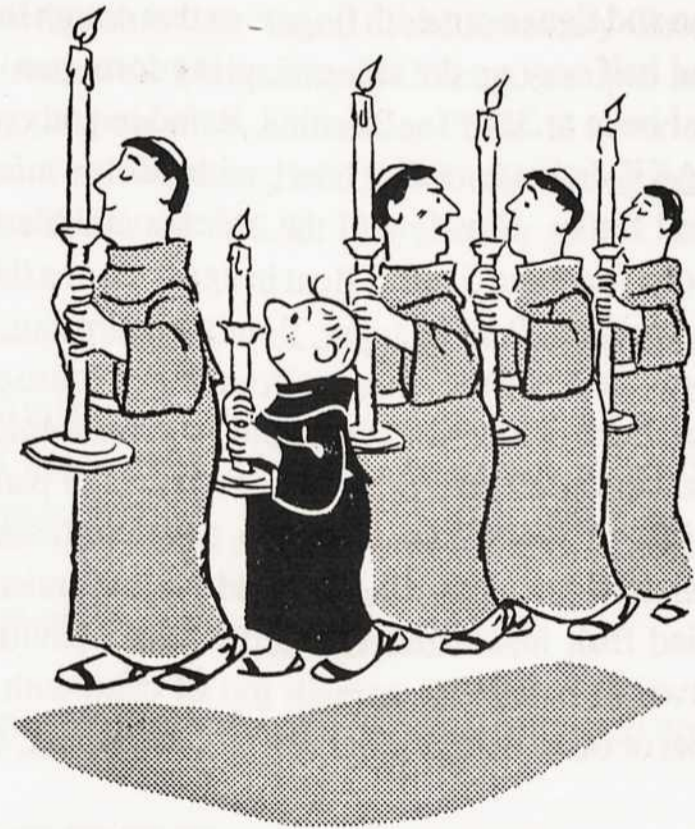
of the Mass. Also parishioners from St. Joseph's Lithuanian Church, prodded by their pastor, Rev. Msgr. Peter Madus, came along with him for the inspiring event. Nowhere could anyone have witnessed a more impressive ceremony!

One of the attendants after the Mass remarked, "We Lithuanians no longer have to seek recognition in Scranton; rather, people come seeking us for information." How true! "Del Dievo ir Tevynės."

One of the Knights of Lithuania members, Mrs. Grudis of C-74, when asked if she viewed the Mass for shut-ins that Sunday, answered, "Of course! I saw it three times, once at 8:30 a.m. and again at 11:00 a.m. and then at 7:30 in the evening. It was great." We all had the same reaction, "Ad majorem Dei gloriam."



BROTHER JUNIPER



"For Pete's sake, get him a taller candle. He's ruining the formation."

Lithuanian Kitchen

Lietuviška Virtuvė

LITHUANIAN CHEESECAKE

Lietuviška Surė Tortas

FOR CAKE

1 stick sweet butter
2 lbs. farmer cheese
1 lb. pot cheese (or large
curd cottage cheese)
6 eggs
1/2 cup heavy cream
3 tbsp. flour
3 tbsp. cornstarch
1-1/2 cup sugar
1 tbsp. vanilla
2 tbsp. orange extract

FOR CRUST

1-1/2 cups flour
1 tsp. salt
2 tbsp. sugar
1 tbsp. cinnamon
1/2 tsp. ground
allspice
1 stick sweet butter
1/2 cup water

Remove dairy ingredients and eggs from refrigerator and allow to stand at room temperature (about 2 hrs.). Butter an 8" or 9" spring form pan. Cover outside of pan with double layer of aluminum foil to prevent leakage. Line bottom of oven with aluminum foil in case of overspill or leakage. Heat oven to 350°.

CRUST: Combine all dry ingredients for crust. Cut in butter with pastry blender and blend until well mixed. Sprinkle water over mixture and with flat part of wooden spoon work the ingredients until a ball of dough forms. Place dough into pan and flatten out with fingers so that dough lines the bottom and half way up the sides of spring form pan. Place in oven and bake at 350° for 30 mins. Remove and cool for 1 hour.
CAKE: In large mixing bowl, with electric mixer, beat butter until fluffy. Slowly add the cheeses and blend on medium speed for about 5 mins. Beat in eggs one at a time; add cream and mix all. Beat in sugar, flour and cornstarch. When all is combined, add the extracts. Pour mixture into cooled crust in pan. Bake at 350° for 1 hour and 30 mins. Remove from oven and cool. Before serving, remove sides of pan.

VARIATIONS: Blend in 2 tbsp. powdered cocoa in batter for marbled chocolate effect OR add 3-4 tbsp. raisins or chopped dried fruit into batter OR add 2 tbsp. Kimmel for cordial flavor in batter OR garnish top of cake with strawberries, kiwi or other fruit. Enjoy!

Al Malluck, C-12 New York

WALNUT BUTTERMILK POUND CAKE

Riešutų Tortas

3 cups sifted flour	1 cup sweet butter or margarine
1 tsp. baking powder	2 cups sugar
1/2 tsp. baking soda	1 cup buttermilk
2 tsp. cinnamon	1 tsp. vanilla
1/2 tsp. ground cloves	1 cup finely chopped walnuts
1/4 tsp. salt	
4 eggs	

Heat oven to 350°. Butter and flour a 10" tube pan. Sift flour, spices, baking powder, baking soda and salt. Set aside. In a large mixing bowl, beat butter on medium speed with electric mixer until softened. Slowly add sugar and beat until light and creamy. Add eggs one at a time; beat well; add vanilla. At low speed, beat in 1/4 of flour mixture; alternate with buttermilk in thirds; begin and end with flour mixture. Do not overbeat. Add nuts. Pour batter in prepared tube pan and bake 60-65 mins. or until done. Remove from oven, cool and remove from pan. Before serving, dust with confectioners sugar.

LIMA BEANS AND MUSHROOMS

Pupos ir Grybai

1 pkg. frozen lima beans	salt, pepper to taste
1 3-oz. can mushrooms	1/2 tsp. sugar
1 onion, chopped	1/2 cup sour cream

Place frozen limas, onion, sugar and 1/2 cup of liquid in saucepan (use mushroom liquid with water added). Simmer for 20 mins. or until limas are tender. Uncover and cook until most of liquid is gone. Add mushrooms, seasoning and sour cream. Garnish with parsley.

BLEENIES

12 oz. softened cream cheese	1 32-oz. firm textured loaf of white bread
2 egg yolks	1-1/2 cup sugar, mixed with 1 Tbsp cinnamon
1/2 cup sugar, or more to taste	
1/4 lb. melted butter/oleo	

Mix first 3 ingredients until smooth and creamy using electric mixer. Cut crusts off bread; roll each slice flat with a rolling pin. Spread cream cheese mixture on each slice and roll slice up. Dip roll ups into melted butter and then into sugar/cinnamon mix. Place roll ups cut side down onto a buttered cookie sheet; refrigerate or freeze until ready to serve. Bake roll ups at 350° for 15-20 mins. Can be used as appetizer or finger-tip dessert.

P.S. How do you chop an onion without tears? Freeze the onion, peel it under cold water before chopping it, and put a small piece of bread in your mouth. Sounds strange.....but it works!

Book Review.....

AUTHOR COMPARES NATIONAL IDEAS

by Jack Murray

When the Soviet Union invaded and occupied Lithuania in 1940 thousands of families who were part of its educated, professional and governing classes fled for their lives.

They knew they were marked for execution or the slower death of Siberian labor camps. Stalin sought to liquidate them because of the threat their devotion to Lithuanian independence posed to Soviet rule.

So they became refugees trying to find safety in a war-torn continent. Thousands travelled through East Prussia to Germany, and finally emigrated to the United States after living in displaced persons camps operated by the Allies in Germany.

A young boy who grew up in such a camp is now a historian who lives in Oak Lawn and recently published his first book. Antanas VanReenan spent 10 years researching and writing "Lithuanian Diaspora: Konigsberg to Chicago." Having earned his Ph.D in history in 1986 from the University of Chicago, VanReenan often teaches there as an instructor in the adult education program. Before he moved to Oak Lawn eight years ago, he lived in Massachusetts where he taught high school history.

In his book, VanReenan compares Lithuanian concepts of national identity with the first principles of American nationality. It is a work primarily of intellectual history and comparative thought, but also contains social and political history as they relate to the Lithuanian experience in America. The book will appeal to scholars and general readers interested in American and European history, alike, says VanReenan.

The author also examines the non-violent confrontation between the two opposing concepts of nationality that arose as Lithuanian emigres coming to United States struggled to retain their own cultural nationalism in the face of the abstract, non-ethnic, inclusive principles of American nationality.

This book deals with the people I first came to know as a child in various displaced persons camps, and the invisible configuration of values which define Lithuanianism — a set body of beliefs," said VanReenan. "Most books on Lithuania deal with its history or aspects of its culture." said VanReenan. "This is a pioneer work because it's the first book that defines what Lithuanianism is."

But the scope of the work is important beyond what it says about Lithuanian-Americans, and the institutions they created in the Chicago area. "After reading this book, you not only learn what is a Lithuanian, but what is an American,"

says VanReenan. His contrast between Lithuanian and American concepts of nationality provide interesting insights into just how unique is the American sense of national identification.

VanReenan also distinguished between the Lithuanian immigrants who came to America before World War I and the "emigres" who came after World War II. The first group were economic immigrants, peasants without a defined sense of Lithuanian nationhood who left their native land before it achieved statehood in 1918. They assimilated into the American "melting pot." "For them becoming an American was a step up," said VanReenan. "For the emigres who were forced to flee Lithuania during WWII, however, becoming an American was a step down. They were the educated classes, many of them descendents of the people who founded and ran the state. They wanted to pass on to their children their identification as Lithuanians." The book tells the story how they fared.

Local institutions that keep Lithuanianism alive include the Balzekas Museum of Lithuanian Culture in Chicago, the Lithuanian Chamber of Commerce of Illinois and the Lithuanian World Center in Lemont, said VanReenan. Three Saturday schools are run in the Chicago area to teach children the Lithuanian language, culture, history and literature.

The book can be purchased at the Seminary Cooperative Bookstore on the University of Chicago campus and also by writing the publisher, University Press of America, 4720-A Boston Way, Lanham, MD 20706. The book contains 356 pages and costs \$46.75. To order by phone, call (301) 459-3366.

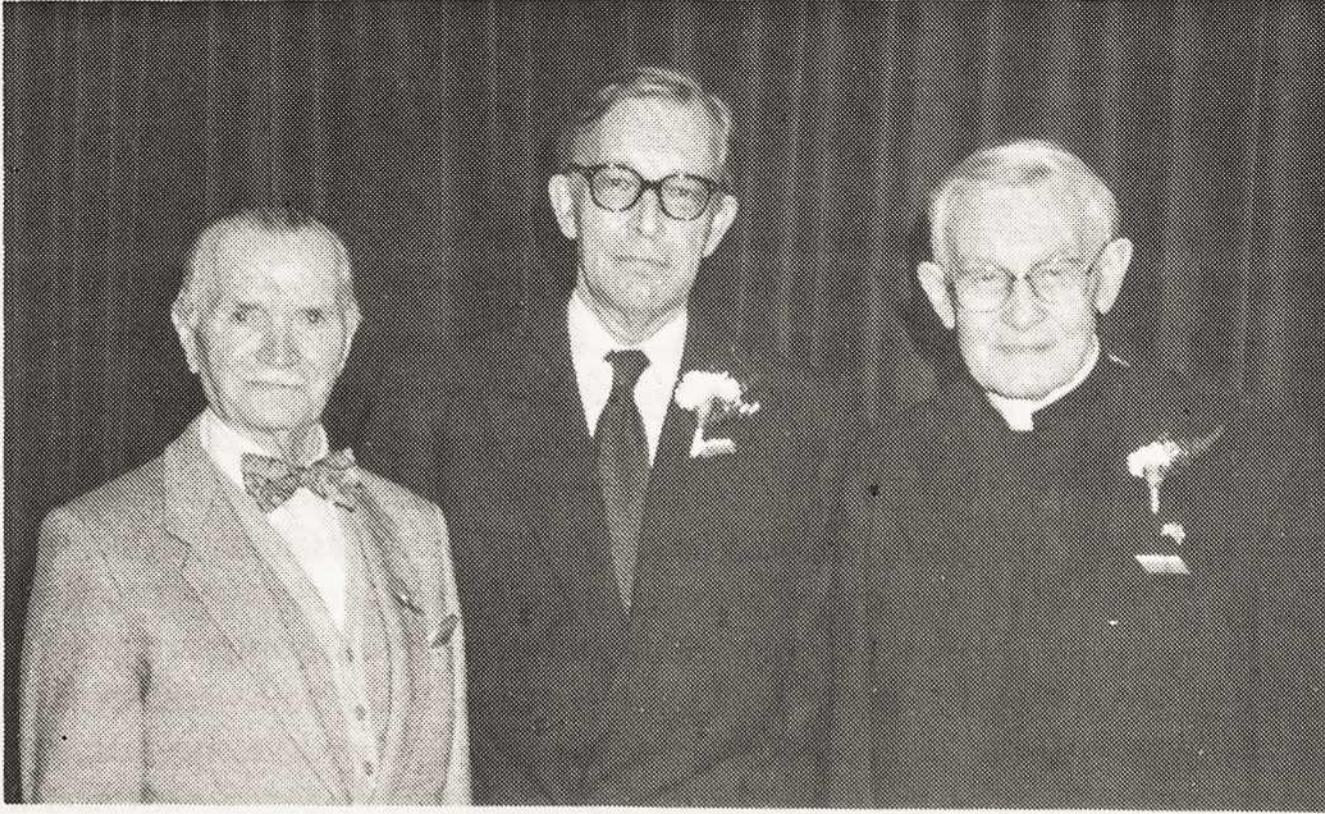
The only detail many of us fail to remember about our past is the number of times we've told the same person about the details of our past.

A tyrant is nothing but a slave turned inside out.

Nothing is impossible for the man who doesn't have to do it himself.

The great thing in the world is not so much where we stand, as in what direction we are moving.

**Personalities at Memories of Lithuania Banquet
February 3, 1991**



*Left to right:
Attorney Konstant J. Savickus,
Charge d'Affaires Stasys Lozoraitis
and Msgr. Joseph Prunskis*

Charge d'Affaires Stasys Lozoraitis of Washington was honored by the Knights of Lithuania Mid America District as the "Man of the Year" for 1990. For many years in the United States, he distinguished himself at diplomatic functions with his experience in the office and his ability to present his thoughts in English and Lithuanian. He expresses Lithuania's position in the present crisis in a sincere and concise manner. We are proud to have him as our representative working so diligently for all Lithuanians.

At the celebration, Stasys Lozoraitis extolled the K of L organization for its Lithuanian spirit. Most of its members may not speak the language but their total support of the present fight of Vilnius citizens defying being killed by communist tanks makes him proud of the Knights of Lithuania organization. He urged the members to keep protesting and continue to send food and medical supplies to Lithuania. Working together we will win our freedom from the communists.

Msgr. Joseph Prunskis, a dedicated writer and humanitarian, received an Honorary Membership Award in the Knights of Lithuania organization. He was visibly impressed upon receiving this expression of appreciation by his fellow Lithuanians. He endured many years of sadness when his father, mother and four uncles were sent to Siberia in 1940. Within a year and a half, all died there except his mother who escaped at age 89 after six years of imprisonment.

The good Monsignor outwitted Khrushchev when he was in Washington at a press conference. Monsignor obtained a commitment from Khrushchev to permit his mother,

Ona Prunskiene, to come to the United States. This was an amazing confrontation between a Roman Catholic priest and a Communist Commissar. His mother did get to Chicago, lived until 96 years of age and is presently buried in St. Casimir's Cemetery in Chicago.

Msgr. Prunskis is a member of C-5 Chicago. He is known for his articles and books on Communism. He has donated many prizes to young students who aspire to continue their education and are interested in Lithuania. His royalties from the books are donated to organizations who are fighting for Lithuania Freedom. A very exceptional man.

Attorney Konstant J. Savickus has been a K of L member for 62 years. He is the first Life Member and to date, has contributed over \$34,000 to the K of L organization - mostly to the Mid America District. This past year he established a fund of \$7,777.00 as a gift to C-5 members, paying their dues for at least ten years. In 1988 he assisted VYTIS with a fund of \$11,999.33.

For benefit of recent enrolled K of L members, Black October of 1933 was the time when the K of L was on the verge of dying. At a National Executive Board meeting in Chicago, Pres. Lapinskas stated, "VYTIS can no longer be published. There is no money - rent, gas, electric and salaries are two months overdue. Membership has been reduced from 5,000 to 600 - all due to the depression. Our only solution is bankruptcy". There was a depressed silence. Attorney Savickus said, "Give me complete control of the press, VYTIS and the debts, I think I can help." For 18 months he worked afternoons and evenings at the press without any assistance.

He appointed Rev. Valancius editor. In a short time, all debts and salaries were paid, VYTIS was published on time and membership rose to 1,500.

In June 1936, Attorney Savickus left for Kaunas to participate in their Olympics. He decided to remain there for one year to teach basketball and swimming. He had the premonition that he could win the European championship for

little Lithuania in 1937 — which was won. To this day, basketball is the top sport in Lithuania and in 1980 at Seoul, Korea, a Lithuanian team under the Russian title, beat the U.S. and won the world championship. We now only hope that the depression in the Soviet Union will help Lithuania get our freedom from communism.

MAM KNIGHTS OF LITHUANIA CHOIR 30th ANNIVERSARY BANQUET -



MAM District Choir President Estelle Rogers, Director Faustas Strolia and MC Eleanore H. Laurin

The following program and presentation was given by Honorary Member Eleanore H. Laurin as Mistress of Ceremonies at Banquet held at Martinique in Chicago.

Lietuviškai sveikinių visus šio vakaro garbingus svečius. Kadangi mūsų tarpe yra ilgamečių ištikimų choro remėjų kurie nekalba lietuviškai, aš pravesiu programą angliškai.

The Vyčiu Choras has a long creditable history of presenting to Lithuanians and other music lovers, a diamond in Lithuanian culture — her music, her songs. Songs expressing every range of Life, Love, God, Nature, Heroes, of Strife and Sorrow, of Faith, Hope and Courage, of Jubilation and Romance. Thousands of songs which have been passed on from generation to generation and are now being replenished by today's talented composers.

The original Vyčiu Choras was formed 75 years ago in 1916 by Messrs. Baltutis, Jonca, Kazanauskas and Leonard Šimutis, Sr, whose many deeds crowd many of the pages of our K of L history. The first concert was performed

Dec. 10, 1916 and directed by A. Pocius. Other directors included J. Sauris and Prof. Alexander Aleksis,

Beginning 50 years ago, our renowned Leonard Šimutis, Jr., now holding a Doctorate in Music, directed and presented the Choir from 1941 to 1951. Because of the various factors at that time, the choir disbanded in 1951 and there was an appreciable cultural void in our K of L Illinois-Indiana District, which is now expanded to many states and is known as Mid America District. In 1960, when I was elected District President, I had a dream - an intense desire to see the choir reorganized and to initiate some new visibility for our K of L District. To accomplish this would take the energy and efforts of an eager team of members and officers in the District and councils. But this team needed a qualified inspiring leader. Someone like my dear friend, Estelle Rogers.

MAMD Choir (Cont'd)

Yes, 30 years ago, Estelle and I got together for a most fruitful session. For several hours we fueled and fired one another's insatiable wish to get the reorganization off the ground. Estelle was the catalyst in setting this project in motion - dynamic motion! Starting with getting a Director, she contacted Leonard Šimutis, Jr., who due to the heavy load of his musical studies and thesis, was not available for this type of commitment at that time. Other prospects for Directors were also not feasible.

But God works in mysterious ways. He worked through Honorary Member Robert Boris of Detroit who put us in touch with Faustas Strolia. It was Bob who saw the magic Faustas perform at the K of L Juniors Camp at Camp Dainava in Manchester, MI. In a matter of weeks, young Mr. Strolia had children singing Lithuanian folk songs and performing native dances. Some of these children were second, third and fourth generation Lithuanian Americans who knew little or no Lithuanian at all. Yes, Faustas Strolia with his accordion, spontaneous rapport with young and old alike and a master of Lithuanian culture and music began his association with the K of L Choir 30 years ago and we hope will last another 30 years more.

With a director in place, Estelle then had the task of contacting and enrolling the vocal talents. She tirelessly approached former choir members and all prospects suggested by Faustas and anyone else who wanted to contribute in some way. Estelle had not only the tenacity but even more - a certain persuasive personality which evoked a desire to be included in and be a part of this new cultural venture. We again discussed my desire to initiate our own District Annual Banquet and honor our own local persons and organizations who deserve recognition for their work in behalf of Lithuanian causes. Well, it did not take long for Estelle's keen insight to realize everything could be accomplished in ONE BIG BOLD event — a concert appearance for our new Choir and the first Annual Memories Banquet. For two months from Dec. 5, 1960 when the Choir was officially re-established, the air was electrified with enthusiasm and action, rehearsals, committee meetings, ticket sales, banquet and program details, etc., etc.

So, with the experience and talents of our District officers and so many of our members, it all culminated Feb. 11, 1961 at the Morrison Hotel and it was a smashing success. In the early years, much of the tremendous fruition included, in no small measure, the support of our Lithuanian business community. To mention just a few — Stanley Balzekas, John Evans, Joseph Gribauskas, John Kazanauskas, Stephen Lackawich, Anthony Petkus and Anthony & Mary Rudis. Those who are still with us or their families are still much

appreciated benefactors and supporters. Thirty years later, the Lithuanian and non-Lithuanian audiences still enjoy the Choir performances. The District Knights of Lithuania still enjoy that bond between Lithuanians of American descent and our Lithuanian born kinsmen, all sharing a love for Lithuanian music and songs.

Tonight, we are gathered here to honor our artists who have spent 30 years or close to that number rehearsing, travelling locally and in other states to perform and supporting the functions which have kept the K of L Choir self-supporting all these years. 30 Years: Ann Marie Kassel, Raymond Samoška, Terry Strolia, Albert Zakarka. 28 Years: Albert Matulis. 25 Years: Joseph Juška. A special work of literature is presented to each, inscribed with an expression of appreciation, some in English and some in Lithuanian. A presentation is also made to our star soloist Algerd Brazis. Choir director Faustas Strolia is the recipient of a beautifully designed juosta and heartfelt sentiments. And now, a very special tribute to Estelle Rogers. A singular lady in this 30th anniversary commemoration, for her 30 years of selfless, untiring leadership, including 18 years as Choir President, we present our expression of recognition.

We would like to recognize and thank some important guests in our audience this evening. Anatolius & Frances Shlutas of Patria and their radio program, who are ardent supporters of the Knights of Lithuania. Balys Brazdžionis of C-112 who through his radio program "Aidas" has continually publicized our K of L activities and has been a long time staunch supporter of the K of L. A table of members of the St. Andrews Choir which Faustas Strolia directs. Our own Konnie Savickus, Honorary Member and President of C-5, a benevolent, generous Knight.

In conclusion, may I stress that the Vyčių Choras must always be the standard bearer for spreading of our Lithuanian causes among all ethnic groups, by sharing our musical culture with everybody who will listen. We cannot let Lithuania down - ever. The future of the Vyčių Choras is in the hands and hearts of every one of you choir members and in the continued support of the many friends such as you in the audience who patronize our concerts, banquets and various events. Each and every one of us in the Knights of Lithuania express our sincere Vytišką Ačiū.



LETTERS

Vytautas Landsbergis in Washington

Thanks to Andy Akstin, the Knights of Lithuania were represented in the small group selected to honor President Landsbergis last December at the Legation prior to his meeting with U.S. President Bush (see VYTIS, Feb. issue). Apparently, Andy's Chicago friend was privy to information which was not disclosed to Washington's own K of L Council. Andy is to be congratulated for his persistence in ferreting out the secret and doing such a good job at representing all of us. It does seem anomalous, however, that someone would have to travel all the way from Worcester, Massachusetts when the K of L has members in the Washington area willing and able to represent the organization as it has done on many other occasions.

Our Council may be small but we have participated in the many functions arranged over the years for visiting Lithuanian dignitaries and for other public relations work promoting the Lithuanian cause in the nation's capital. Just to mention a few, members of the Council recently were able to persuade the Vicar General of the Arlington, VA diocese to invite all the pastors to insert a special petition in the Prayers of the Faithful for the welfare of their fellow Catholics in Lithuania. This prayer was repeated every Sunday throughout Lent. Members of the council also regularly write letters to and visit with their Senators and Congressmen, as well as letters to the editors of Washington's two prestigious newspapers, the *Post* and the *Times*, all to keep alive in this nation's capital the plight of our parents' country. On top of all this, the Council's president, Julia Burlen, does volunteer work regularly at the Legation.

Yes, Andy, there is a local Council in Washington that would have been happy to relieve you of the burden of your long trip to Washington. The irony is that Council members were asked to greet Landsbergis upon his arrival at Dulles Airport but were not informed about the subsequent reception that had been planned at the Legation.

However the mix-up occurred, our hats are off to Andy for his superlative job in representing the national K of L. Let's hope that in the future, however, the words of Lithuania's national anthem will not be forgotten: "Vienybė težydi."

Sincerely,
Albert Cizauskas



OUR AMBER DISTRICT

Our District chose the name AMBER
representing our homeland gem.
Our ancestors wore it proudly
it meant so much to them.
Some the color of spring wheat
others of dark ambers
Speaking of the "old days"
A Lithuanian fondly remembers.
A young girl dressed for a holiday
a sprig of ruta in her hair.
A necklace of amber beads
circles her neck with care.
A family heirloom handed down
with loving hands
Tying one generation to another
with an amber band.
I remember "granny" praying on her
amber beads in silent prayer
Sitting in her rocker - fingering
the beads - one by one with care
Amber - sometimes called Lithuanian gold
Holds many secrets yet to unfold
It's a ray of hope held in our grasp
Each bead a prayer for freedom - closed with a clasp
Someday the circle of freedom will be cast
The final words can be uttered - "free at last".

Anna Helen McDonald

IN MEMORIAM

JOHN STANKAVICH, JR
C-86 DuBois, PA
† February 19, 1991

ALBERT ZAKARKA
C-112 Chicago, IL
† February 22, 1991

TEKLA RUCHAS
C-36 Chicago, IL
† February 27, 1991

JOSEPH GUZAUSKAS
C-25 Cleveland, OH
† March 8, 1991

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9525 So. 79th Ave., Hickory Hills, IL 60457 - (708) 598-1333

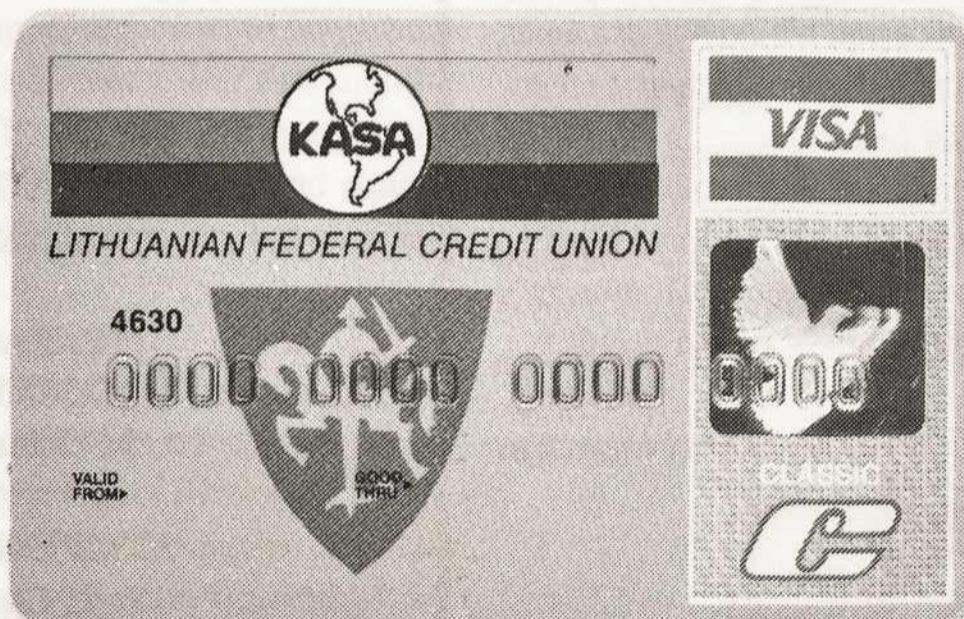
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**78th National Convention
Trade Winds, St. Petersburg, FL
August 1 - 4, 1991**

The 78th National Convention Souvenir Program Book is looking for your greeting.

Rates are as follows:

Back Cover (first come-first served basis)	\$200.00
Inside Cover (first come-first served basis)	150.00
Full Page	100.00
Half Page	60.00
Quarter Page	35.00
Patron	10.00
Well Wishers	5.00

Greetings with check made payable to KNIGHTS OF LITHUANIA should be mailed to:

Loretta Stukas
234 Sunlit Drive
Watchung, NJ 07060

Deadline date for ads is June 15, 1991.

Convention registration fee is \$85.00 per person up to and including June 15, 1991. Fee after June 15, 1991 is \$90.00.

Childrens' registration fee is \$60.00 at all times.

Check should be made payable to
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Anne Marie Kassel
7336-2 Winthrop Way
Downers Grove, IL 60515

Council Activities

Vyčiai Veikia

C-7 WATERBURY, CT

Victor Vaitkus, C-7 member and chairman of Lithuanian-American community reported that a group of 25 demonstrators from Waterbury went to New Haven to protest the brutalities occurring in Lithuania. It was perfect timing; the Moscow Circus was performing. About 200 people participated in the peaceful demonstration.

At our Jan. meeting, Victor Vaitkus brought a guest from Watertown who expressed his views concerning Lithuania. Henry Kacergis also brought two young men who were visiting from Lithuania. They spoke on the hardships and the difficulties they have at home compared to our American way of life. Lithuania needs all our help and prayers.

Rev. Karvelis received a message from member Vickie Silliman who is spending some time with relatives in Lithuania. She mentioned that Lithuania needs all the help we can give them. They are in need of clothing and medical supplies not only for the elderly and the ill but for families as well.

St. Casimir's Day was celebrated with Fr. Karvelis holding evening Mass at St. Joseph's Church followed by a buffet at the Knight's club rooms. Alma Torre assisted by Tonie White and the ladies prepared and served refreshments.

The K of L bowlers are doing exceptionally well. Hope they keep up with their scores. Ed White, president of the bowlers, is home after a serious operation. We wish him the best of health. Hurry back, we need you!

Virginia Kosa

C-12 NEW YORK, NY

On Feb. 3, Rev. Eugene Savicki, pastor of Our Lady of Vilnius Church celebrated Mass wearing a red stole to

symbolize the bloodshed of the young Lithuanians who lost their lives in Vilnius. Names were read from a list prepared by Aldona Zaunis and a candle was lit for each name by Pres. Ed Cook. One could feel the tense atmosphere among the people attending this Mass. Immediately following Mass, throats were blessed for the Feast of St. Blaise. Most of the worshippers were council members.

Immediately following services, everyone went to the church hall for the scheduled meeting. A short program in commemoration of Lithuanian Independence Day preceded the meeting. Participants were: Aldona Zaunis, Dalia Bulvicius, Pres. Ed Cook. The program was brief but interesting.

We welcome back John Antanavicius after his recent surgery. HM Joseph Boley and MAD Pres. Joseph Stelmokas and his wife, Mary, paid us a visit. Joseph Stelmokas distributed pertinent literature regarding Lithuania. In his remarks, Joe Boley was dismayed at the scarcity of the Lithuanian language being spoken. He also stated that many members are not aware of the significance of the Knights of Lithuania. Suggestions were offered and hopefully this problem will be resolved.

C-12 was saddened by the passing of former member Stanley Boris and Glen Genis, son of former member Nell Genis. May the blessings of the Good Lord shine down upon them. *IDS*

C-26 WORCESTER, MA

The unsung heroes of a parish are the ones who work long and hard and ultimately get the jobs done. In this case, its our pastor, Fr. Vincent Parulis, MIC, and his parish council who paved the way to begin renovations at St.

Casimir's parish hall. Parishioners, in general, and our council, in particular, can hardly await completion date which is tentatively set for late summer.

HM Joseph Sakaitis celebrated his birthday on Jan. 23 by undergoing major surgery. Happily, all went well and he's now at home in Auburn for several weeks of convalescence. Stephen Walinsky, Sr. was discharged from the hospital on Christmas day and is well enough to be back in the swing of things. Joe Virbasius died in January. God rest his soul. Prayerful sympathy to his wife, Dorothy. We were grieved to hear of the passing of young John Drumstas in Philadelphia. God rest his soul. John's parents, Joseph & Diane, were very active members of our council some years ago when living in Worcester. We are so sorry. Anne Businskis' brother Vincent, a popular television repairman, died in January. Joan Salkaus, daughter of Nell & Joe, died in Feb. following an illness of but a few days. There is little we can say to ease the heartache of the grievers except to tell them they are in our thoughts and prayers.

Marion & Arthur Racicot and Virginia & Dwight Cummings were the super chefs for the council chicken dinner recently. Servers and tidy-uppers were Nell Salkhaus and Virginia Walant. Bravo to a perfect team!

Mark Walinsky worked in Vail, CO for awhile. Several K of L's as well as his family, all skiers, visited him.

HM Rita Pinkus and her executive board have planned a super agenda for 1991. Watch for HM Ann Bender's council newsletter. The Feb.'s meeting potluck supper makes one wonder why someone hasn't yet suggested compiling a council cookbook. Committees are being formed for the formal celebration of our council's 75th Diamond Anniversary planned for later this year.



St. Casimir Day Mass celebration at Marian Fathers Monastery hosted by C-24 Chicago.

Co-chairpersons for this auspicious event are Stephen & Eleanor Walinsky.

Commemoration of Lithuanian Independence Day and St. Casimir's Feast Day were held in a spiritual and civic fashion. One of the events initiated by Eduardas Meilus, Jr. and his wife Terese, merits special mention. A peaceful vigil of four hours duration was held on Feb. 16 in the Worcester Common next to City Hall. Participants carried lighted candles and held American and Lithuanian flags. "Help Lithuania and the Baltic countries" was the fervent plea in addresses given by Rev. John Petrauskas, MIC of St. Casimir's, Peter Molis of C-116, State Rep. William Glodas, Eduardas Meilus, Jr. of C-26 and host of the weekly Lithuanian Radio Hour "Ausra" and others.

Spiritual advisor, Rev. John Petrauskas, MIC, was headmaster for many years at Marianapolis Preparatory School in Thompson, CT just 20 minutes from Worcester. You can just imagine his delight reading newspaper articles boasting of the perfect season of the basketball team, The Golden Knights. They won all 20 games. Congratulations! "Olga"

C-29 NEWARK, NJ

Our successful Christmas party on Dec. 30 was hosted by Emilia Sardonis. Members brought in their favorite casseroles and various gourmet foods. What a delicious variety! Proceeds from the party were donated to Rev. Miao who now is in Taiwan serving his priestly duties. May our donation of \$125 be of some help.

Congratulations to Emilia Sardonis who placed second in the K of L

Foundation Essay contest. Also congratulations and a \$50 gift was sent to Rev. Klem Zalelis of Brooklyn who celebrated his 50th year as a priest.

Our Holy Trinity Church is refurbishing vessels used in the Church. It is a very expensive process. In memory of Msgr. John Sharnus, our late pastor and spiritual advisor, our council donated \$500 to help defray the cost. Surely they will look beautiful when put out for use. We are now in the process of discussing our church's 90th anniversary.

Our annual Mass and luncheon for St. Casimir was held at Holy Trinity. Rita Sussko, our very capable chairlady, was in charge of the event. On Palm Sunday we held our annual cake sale for the benefit of Holy Trinity. Mary Honey-mar was our hostess. All types of goodies, arts and crafts could be purchased.

Three new members were sworn in; Joseph & Nijole Mikevicius and Frank Rogers. Welcome to C-29. Rita Sussko, Ann O'Neill and Kazys Sipaila attended the recent District meeting in Maspeth.

Please reserve Oct. 13 for our



On the 75th anniversary of St. Casimir's Church, Mayor of Westfield presented proclamation designating Sept. 16-22 as Lithuanian Independence Week to Rev. Wm. Hamilton, pastor, Eugenia Duda and Joseph Bukitis of C-30

annual dinner dance. *Mary Cullen*

C-30 WESTFIELD, MA

Some of C-30 members were co-workers once again at the Scholarship Drive held at Marionis Park in Worcester. The work force from the council consisted of Bennie & Cookie Coach, Louise & Joe Buckities, Marsha & Jim Rogers, Eugenia Duda, Helen Alexis and Nellie Lord. Our co-workers from Bridgeport were very capable and helpful. Once more our gratitude and a big "ačiū" go to Rita Pinkus for her expertise. A large crowd came to the park for a pleasant afternoon to eat, drink and be merry. There were many tables filled with beautiful Lithuanian artifacts and many people were buying some form of remembrance of their heritage.

During 1990, many activities were held to celebrate the 75th anniversary of St. Casimir's Church of Westfield. C-30 is practicing their motto "For God and Country" with their plans for celebrations. A special dinner was held at the Shaker Farm Country Club. Our main guest was the Most Rev. Paulius Baltakis, bishop of free Lithuania. Part of the entertainment was performed by the Lithuanian dance group from Hartford. Their dances gave the audience great pleasure, especially was noticed the tapping of many feet which gave proof of their enjoyment.

The council held its Christmas party at a lovely restaurant. It felt good to get dressed up and eat out. It was heavenly to be waited on, enjoy a scrumptious meal one did not have to cook, the table cleared and best of all, no dishes to wash.

The council's annual making of dešros for the Easter holiday was another successful event. Because of the many volunteers, the work seems lighter and the atmosphere is so pleasant. It is getting to feel like an annual social gathering instead of a workshop. No

matter what it is called, the work gets done.

Nellie Lord

C-36 CHICAGO, IL

Memories of our Dec. meeting still linger. Our Kučios was successful. Fr. Fabian Kireilis led us in prayer. "Plotkeles" were passed out while we greeted each other with much love and good luck, health and happiness. We all shared the food as one big family. It was interesting to hear the traditions and customs of Lithuania as related by Elena Sirutis. S Liauba recited a few Lithuanian poems that touched our hearts. The raffle was handled by Frank Grigaliunas and many were happy winners. Eva Otros won the Christmas tree that was decorated by all members. After the meal, old time Christmas songs were sung in Lithuanian.

Jan. meeting opened the new year with many plans and talk of future events. K of L choir's dinner dance was over. Those who attended the choir's 75th anniversary enjoyed a great eve-



C-36 75th Anniversary at Martinique - Aldona Brazis and Rev. Fabionas Kireilis

ning. Congratulations to Faustas & Theresa Strolia and Ann Marie Kassel, C-36 members who belonged to the choir for 30 years.

Feb. was the K of L Memories Banquet. Many of our members attended. Congratulations to Evelyn Ozelis, chairlady, for a job well done. Immaculate Conception's Church Mardi Gras was on Feb. 9 and 10. Many members helped by working. Thanks to all. On Feb. 24 we were invited to participate in the Lithuanian Independence celebration with Bendruomene. Many members were dressed in native costumes. At our Feb. meeting we had a special independence celebration.



C-36 Anniversary at Martinique. L to r: Revs. A. Zakarauskas; Fabionas Kireilis, Anne Wargo, Nat'l Pres.; Anthony Puchenski, Evelyn Ozelis, Council Pres. and Algerd Brazis singing National Anthem.



C-36 Juniors who participated in procession at 75th Anniversary.

Thanks to Elena Sirutis and William Liauba. It was interesting to listen to Birutė Vindasiene speak about Lithuania's independence. Together with Aldona Grinevicius, they recited poems with so much feeling.

Sabina Henson

C-52 ELIZABETH, NJ

Deacon Anthony Samalonis, a K of L member, died in Jan. He was a retired electrical engineer for a railroad company. He was ordained in 1981 and dedicated 10 years of service to Sts. Peter & Paul Church. He entered his vocation with enthusiasm and commitment. C-52 extends deepest sympathy to his family. May he rest in peace.

William Senkus

C-63 LEHIGH VALLEY, PA

C-63's Jan. meeting was conducted after attendance at Mass in St. Michael's Church in Easton. Members enjoyed a light luncheon and got down to business.

We welcome the return and good health to Trudy Meshauk who had undergone open heart surgery. Despite

her recent operation, Trudy insisted on giving a hand in the kitchen. God love you Trudy! More good news was that Susan Kovacs was nicely recuperating from a stroke. Get well soon.

Lithuanian Affairs chairman Al Klizas has been doing a superb job during the recent Lithuanian crisis. He has been heavily involved in coordinating local publicity and advising people regarding demonstrations, etc. The same must be said of Joseph Simmons. He was spotted on TV with wife Trudi and sister Ann Pettit in a Philadelphia demonstration, despite wind, rain and very short notification. These are the makers and shakers of the Knights of Lithuania.

The free flag of the Republic of Lithuania was raised with ceremony in Easton, Bethlehem and Allentown. Pres. Jane Lutick headed the Easton contingent with Al Klizas likewise in Bethlehem. Joseph Ogint officiated in Allentown. All three events were covered by the newspapers and television. After the flag-raising ceremonies, C-63 hosted an Independence Day luncheon at the Glass Slipper Restaurant in Bethlehem.

Main speaker was Rep. Don Ritter who had just returned from a visit to Latvia, Lithuania and Russia as a member of the Helsinki Commission monitoring human rights abuses within the USSR. He outlined how the Helsinki Commission would strongly recommend to the administration that the Baltic States should be given more moral support and that all material aid be sent direct to the republics and not to Soviet Union. State Rep. Robert Freeman briefly spoke on behalf of Gov. Casey outlining our ethnic contributions to the state and supporting our national aspirations.

Albert Klizas acted as master of ceremonies. Luncheon committee consisted of Jane Lutick, Lenke Ulba, Jeanette Klizas and Adolph Klova.

Joseph Ogint

C-74 SCRANTON, PA

Our council members attended the 11th annual Ethnic Rosary for Peace at St. Peter's Cathedral in Scranton. The five decades of the Rosary were prayed in Polish, Slovak, Italian, Gaelic and, of course, Lithuanian. We were well represented. Ann Matulevich who was recuperating joined us. We were glad to see Nell Bayoras Romanas, Ann Marie Sewatsky, Mildred Walsh, Fran Shappel and Ann Davala from Pittston.

C-74 spearheaded "Graudus Verksmai" with people from Pittston, Wilkes Barre and Luzerne. Refreshments were served in the church hall. Jean Kavelinas was chief cook.

Casimir Yanish and Ruth were treated to a vacation in Las Vegas by their son, Dr. Mike. Brian Benson, son of Amy & Dan, is serving in Saudi Arabia. We pray God will watch over him.

Rev. Clement Kasinskas celebrated Mass for Lithuania at St. Peter's Cathedral. Participants wore their Lithuanian costumes. The Mass was televised the following Sunday.



C-74 Scranton at Luzerne Flag Raising Ceremony. Msgr. Norkunas, Ann Lisowski, Marie Laske, Nellie Bayoras Romanas and Rev. Laske.

Richard Laske, John Ramoska and Casimir Yanish were responsible for our flag-raising ceremony despite inclement weather. Dr. Romas Dovidaitis spoke on Lithuania. Pres. Helen Cravath read the proclamation from Gov. Casey. We were happy to see members from Pittston join us. *Marie Laske*

C-79 SOUTHFIELD, MI

After no scheduled meetings in Dec. and Jan., our Feb. meeting was prolonged and productive. The following members volunteered at least one day to help sort and pack medical supplies to be sent to Kaunas, Lithuania where a clinic would be receiving the articles from eyeglasses to surgical instruments: Bill & Margaret Dapkus, Julia Janson, Mary Keller, Helen Mykolaitis, Joe & Violet Panavas, Betty Petroski, Maggie Smailis and Ann Uzdavinis.

Approximately 20 council members attended the Divine Providence Parish New Year's Eve party in the Cultural Center. This year the "young" people were in charge of the affair, making it a beautiful success.

Our donations this month went to the Pontifical Lithuanian College in Rome as well as a supplement to the

parish heating expenses.

At this writing, Vincent Bridgevaitis was awaiting a surgery date. Others on the sick list are Jadze Rukstele and Marie Kase. Peter Stanulis, one of the first members of our reactivated council in 1959 passed away in Dec. Let us remember him and all our deceased members frequently in our prayers.

Some of our "Snow birds" have fled - some have returned. Alice & Tony Repshas, who always spend half the year in Florida, have been gone for some time. Mary Kaller and Virginia Kirsh are on the way to Florida. Maggie Smailis spent the Christmas holidays with daughter, Marge Nashlon, in North Ft. Myers.

We celebrated St. Casimir's Day at the Cultural Center.

Just a reminder that our meetings are held on the first Wednesday of each month. Please attend. *Bee Jay*

C-90 KEARNY, NJ

LABAS from C-90. This past year we have been very busily occupied doing the following:

On Feb. 11, 1990 Lithuanian Independence Day was commemorated with a flag-raising followed by brunch

and Friend of Lithuania Award given to Deacon Jay O'Hara.

In March 1990, newspaper reporters attended our meeting, interviewing members regarding Lithuania's Independence declaration. A candlelight vigil was held at Our Lady of Sorrows Lithuanian Church which was televised by national TV. Many members attended and assisted in organizing buses to attend a demonstration at the Russian Embassy and White House in Washington. We also ran a successful Spring Dance.

In June 1990, our members assisted and attended a demonstration held on the Capitol steps in Washington and were being interviewed on national TV. We also assisted and attended the 49th Anniversary of the Baltic Holocaust (Forgotten Holocaust) organized by our Spiritual Advisor, Rt. Rev. Msgr. D. Pocius.

During September, we hosted the food booth at New Jersey Ethnic Festival at Liberty State Park. Unfortunately, we were the only K of L council to participate.

In Nov., a few of the members met with Gov. Florio of New Jersey to receive a proclamation declaring Lithuania a free and independent country as recognized by the State of New Jersey.

Our annual Christmas Covered Dish Social was held in Dec.

In 1991, we have been just as active. Gov. Florio came to the Lithuanian Catholic Community Center to discuss Baltic freedom. In Jan. we attended a demonstration and vigil at the New York City Russian Embassy.

Again this Feb. 10, we held our Lithuanian Independence commemoration with a flag-raising ceremony followed with brunch. Over 130 members and guests attended and viewed Bloody Sunday videotape which was smuggled out of Lithuania.

C-90 has also bagged and sent books to Lithuania. We donated \$1,000

toward the K of L Medical Relief for Lithuania. Individual members donated over \$650. for this cause.

Finally, our council presently has a total of 156 members.

Catherine Nakrosis

C-96 DAYTON, OH

God has blessed us with a mild winter here in Dayton. Because of this, our members were busy with all sorts of Lithuanian activities. As the war in the Persian Gulf came to an end, we continue to fight and show support for our Lithuanian brothers and sisters. This war has been battling since the brutal and violent Soviet domination of War War II. Let all of us continue to pray for peace.

Our council is working to aid those in Lithuania in many ways. Irene Gecas is collecting books to send to Lithuania. Fran Petkus is chairlady of collection of money for Lithuanian Catholic Religious Aid in Dayton. Many send packages of food and supplies. Still others write Pres. Bush, congressmen and senators. Just because Lithuania is not in the headline news every day does not mean peace has come to our Baltic nation. Pray for peace!

A special meeting was held recently to discuss ways to renew the vitalization of our council. Many interesting ideas were discussed. We all look forward to a growing council.

On Feb. 17 in the Holy Cross Church Hall we celebrated Lithuanian Independence Day. Celebration began with Mass followed by a covered dish dinner. Kitty Prasmantas prepared the meat dish and served as hostess. Amber Rose owners Elinor Sluzas and Judy Petrockas donated the Kugelis. Guest speaker of the day was Dennis Paskauskas with musical entertainment provided by the Udry's Family from Jackson, MI. Informing us of the latest events from Lithuania was Horace

Zibas. Thanks to Social Chairlady Elaine Pacovsky who prepared the luncheon for the February meeting.

Congratulations to James Pacovsky who graduated from the University of Dayton with a bachelor degree in Business Administration with a major in Marketing.

Special get well wishes are extended to Sally Miller who had a three by-pass surgery. Sally holds a fourth degree in our council and is our treasurer. Please also pray for Ada Sinkwitz who has been in the hospital. Frances Mikalauskas twisted her foot and is recovering nicely.

Cultural chairlady Irene Gecas compiled ten resolutions for our members to follow in 1991. We hope all members will follow the resolutions very carefully. *Mary A. Mikalauskas*

C-100 AMSTERDAM, NY

On Feb. 11, council members attended evening Mass for the intention of Lithuania. Our prayers were for the people in their trials on their way to freedom and independence. Rev. Baltch named the 13 Lithuanians who sacrificed their lives on Bloody Sunday, Jan. 13. Fifty members attended the meeting immediately following Mass. Pres. Irene Tice welcomed back Sadie LaTorre who had heart surgery in Boston.

Polly Ziausys showed a Lithuanian calendar given to her by Dr. Sigitas Dumcius who recently visited with her from Lithuania.

At the conclusion of the meeting, lights were dimmed and the committee headed by Fran DiBart brought out a huge cake honoring Fr. Baltch on his birthday. We wished Father a happy, healthy future with "Ilgiausiq Metq". The committee served a tantalizing array of delicacies.

Lithuanian flag-raising ceremonies were held at Amsterdam's City Hall. Mayor Parillo read the city's proc-

lamation designating Feb. 16 as Lithuanian Day in Amsterdam.

Betty Kuzmich, ritual chairlady, presented degrees at the annual brunch at Valentino's Restaurant on March 3 following Mass. The 73rd anniversary of Lithuania's restoration of independence was commemorated on Feb. 16 with Mass at St. Casimir's Church. Rev. Baltch's homily dealt with the situation in Lithuania. A dinner and program followed at the Social Center. Over 100 were in attendance. MC was Mirga Bablin who welcomed the guests, council members and the Ukranian delegation. Guests from Amsterdam Memorial Hospital also attended. This hospital has been and is continuing to be instrumental in donating medical supplies and equipment for Lithuania. A plaque in recognition of the hospital's humanitarianism was presented to Charles Rice. He was very pleased with the recognition and gave credit to Edward Ziausys and Alan Cunningham who initiated this aid. Assemblyman Paul Tonko gave a few remarks. The Ukranian group also addressed the audience very briefly. Rasa Krokys spoke of the changes in land ownership in Lithuania and other pertinent matters. Bronius Krokys of Philadelphia praised the media for giving excellent coverage on the activities in Lithuania. Val & Louise Kleabonas and son Matthew had a display of Lithuanian artifacts brought from Lithuania.

The Folk Music Quartet with Bronius Krokys, director; Rasa Krokys, soloist; Joseph Kaminskas, composer and guitarist; Bridget Kaminskas, violinist, presented a program of variety of folk songs. The quartet concluded their program with audience participation. Pres. Tice thanked the members who provided the hors d'oeuvres, Regina Kot, program book, Polly Ziausys, general chairlady, Sophie Olbie, dinner chairlady; and members who contrib-

uted to the success of the event.

Smile & Sparkle

C-102 DETROIT, MI

Our Christmas Kučios was, once again, celebrated at the home of HM Robert Boris. Rev. W. Stanievich opened the evening with Mass and singing of Lithuanian hymn. A Lithuanian buffet was served after Mass. During the evening, Bob and Vince Boris and Rev. Stanievich showed videos of their trip to Lithuania this past summer. Vince showed us a beautiful album purchased in Lithuania which was filled with snapshots. Donna Stanievich remembered many of the scenes from her village in Lithuania.

Bob and Vince were especially elated with their trip to Lithuania since they were privileged to visit their father's homeland. Relatives built a Wayside Shrine in their honor, Rev. Stanievich blessed it and it was placed on the Hill of Crosses.

We were also honored to have a guest from Lithuania, Svajunas Mekrasius who is studying in the U.S. The evening also introduced us to the fiances of Bob and Ray Klucens. Also welcomed were Chris Stanievich, Chris & Tim Baibak. We missed Donna & Frank Bunikas who hosted this event but left for Florida. Terry & Ray Medonis took over the chairmanship and did an excellent job.

Our deepest sympathies are extended to Angela Buksnis on the death of her husband, Peter. He was a good worker around St. Anthony's Church and a very devout choir member. We also missed him at Kučios since he and Frank Bunikas always led us in the singing. Deepest sympathies to Joe & Eve Aukstakalnis-Stark at the passing of Joe's mother at the age of 91. Deepest condolences to Katherine Kurpowicz of C-139 on the passing of her daughter, Cecelia Berlin. Cecelia was president

of C-139. May all their souls rest in peace.

Meriūtė

C-109 GREAT NECK, NY

Our Executive Board this year had a few changes: Pres. Al Wesley, Vice Pres. Bertha Fuchs, Sec. Mary Wesley, Membership Mailings Martha Krug, Fin. Sec. Jack Malis, Treas. Josephine Zukas, Sgt-at-Arms Howard Fuchs. We look for new ideas and activities.

A very warm welcome is extended to new members: Gladys Banks, Louis Bogart, Rosemary (Glowacki) Kokis, Patricia Early, Teresa & Anthony Mastroianni, Stella & Vito Matulonis, Liz Kurtin Taff and Blanche Zukas. We hope you will share with us your thoughts in making our council even better.

Belated congratulations to Fr. John Gorman who was transferred to St. Aloysius Church in Great Neck and is now the new pastor. We were saddened by the retirement of Fr. Joseph Dunn, who was so supportive of our K of L council, but now we are very pleased to

have another who supports our Lithuanian causes, as well. We assure him of our prayers, love and support. Welcome, Father!

We congratulate hale and hearty Paul Wasoleck who was honored by his family and friends on his 80th birthday. Our very best, too, to Nancy Kober on her Dec. 1 marriage to a fellow attorney, Patrick Leddy. Much happiness together!

We've had some illness in our membership: Stacia Wain with a broken hip; Walter Mordes, by-pass heart surgery; Bill Bernatovich, a detached retina; and hospitalization as well by Amelia Mileskie, Anne Miklas, Phil Rutha and Anne Reardon. Oh Yes, Mary Kober, too, had a problem with her toe surgery. We wish them all a future of good health.

Our St. Casimir's commemoration was a complete success, due to the untiring efforts of chairpeople Martha Krug, Bertha & Howie Fuchs. Mass at St. Aloysius Church, and lunch at Lauraine Murphy's Restaurant, were both well attended. Romas Kezys, Director



C-109 Great Neck. Romas & Daiva Kezys, main speakers at annual communion breakfast with Al Wesley, Council president looking on.



C-109 Great Neck AA Annual Communion Breakfast Committee: Martha Krug, Bertha & Howard Fuchs.

of the Lithuanian Radio Hour in Queens, NY was our honored guest - who was asked to speak on the life of St. Casimir. While we've heard the subject matter many times, he managed to make it interesting. His wife, Daiva, an articulate speaker, brought us up-to-date on happenings in Lithuania, especially the atrocities of the "Bloody Sunday" on Jan. 13. She urged all to become involved in letting our government officials know just how we feel. Our people desperately yearn for an independent Lithuania, free of Soviet dictatorship. (Our Pres. Al Wesey had already introduced a resolution at our Jan. meeting, which was sent to Pres. Bush, condemning these horrible tragic events). We were pleased to have a delegation of members attending from Maspeth C-110 with Pres. Rutkunas and family. Mary & Joseph Stelmokas, Mid-Atlantic Dist. President were also present. A contingent of St. Aloysius Church Rosarians, who attend many of our functions, were there in full force. We thank everyone for their camaraderie

on this important "Lithuanian Day" dedicated to the Patron Saint of Lithuania.

While our council is a small one with very limited finances, our membership voted to donate \$500 to the K of L sponsored Medical Relief for Lithuania. In the generosity of our members, a total of \$1,290 was collected for this purpose. This is a very much needed ongoing effort and we encourage all who have not donated, to do so at their earliest convenience. Lithuanians need your help now! We commend the splendid job being done by the project's chairman, Michigan Bob Boris, who acknowledged each and every donation, no matter how small the contribution may have been. We thank him for his energy and thoughtfulness.

In closing our column, we are reminded to Praise the Lord in thanksgiving for the end of the war in the Persian Gulf, the safe return, eventually, of most of our military troops, and the brand new beginning of a world at peace. How good it is....

Jo Z.

C-110 MASPETH, NY

The first half of February was relatively quiet for our council but we made up for it during the latter part.

On Feb. 15, about 24 members joined a few other council members at City Hall in New York City where Mayor David Dinkins proclaimed Lithuanian Independence Day at a very touching ceremony. At the Lithuanian Mass in Transfiguration Church, council officers were installed with brunch following the ceremony. On Feb. 21, Helen Matulonis again arranged a bus trip to Atlantic City for approximately 40 unlucky members.

Our greatest activity for February was the hosting of MAD Meeting on Feb. 24. Approximately 200 council members and guests attended Mass at Transfiguration Church followed by a blessing outdoors at the Wayside Shrine. Msgr. Bulovas held a prayerful ceremony asking God to protect our American service people and to help Lithuania in her battle for freedom. With the supervision of Arthur Nelson, his wife Adele and the help of many members, this Shrine was erected and placed in front of the church in 1983. Following this short ceremony, a beautiful sit down lunch took place in the church hall. Minus a lot of speeches, the District meeting started on time. Several resolutions were accepted which were presented to the National Executive Board. Chairladies at this event were Frances Migliore and Millie Gregotovicz assisted by the working volunteers who are all to be congratulated for a job well done.

Highlight of the afternoon was the raffling of the District's fund raising project. First prize of \$100. was won by no other than our District president, Joseph Stelmokas. The council also conducted a raffle with 70 prizes. This was a very memorable event for our council and with the help of God, the weather



C-110 Maspeth with guest Knights at New York City Hall after receiving proclomation from Mayro David Dinkins.

cooperated beautifully.

Bruno Rutkunas

C-118 HAZLETON, PA

We had a very busy year in 1990. In June we participated in Patch Town Days in Eckley. The sale of our "famous bleenies", halupki, halushi and bean soup was a huge success.

In Oct. there was a carnival at the Laurel Mall. Again the Knights were busy. All ethnic food was prepared by Val & Joe Dancho and Dolores Yuskavage. We also had a raffle with Andy Soloniski as chairman. In addition to the above mentioned, Irene & George Norris, Julia Solonoski, Ann Kaschak, Ed Chipevich and Charles Yuskavage did their share at the carnival.

In Nov. a successful Chinese auction was held due to the hard work of chairlady Ceil Wittig assisted by Ruth Alansky, Dolores Skitzki and George Norris and all mem-

bers who participated.

In Dec. we had our Kučios. Our new Spiritual Director Rev. Carmen Perry celebrated Mass and did the readings at the dinner to which all responded. We were deeply moved by his prayers. The hall was decorated through the efforts of Ceil & Dale Wittig, Ruth Alansky, Dolores Skitzki and George Norris.



Val Dancho of C-118 Hazleton exhibits her Lithuanian artifacts at Ethnic Days in Laurel Mall.

C-118 has a very busy and productive year. We hope that 1991 will be as productive. God's Blessing to all!

Julia Solonoski

C-141 BRIDGEPORT, CT

We are happy to announce a new Junior K of L council which was created by the diligence of Clemencine Miller, president of C-141. At present there are 6 charter members ranging in age from 8 to 17. They are Sarah & Ryan Miller, Michael Koch, Bonnie Gulas and Jennifer Laukaitis Vasquez. For their first project, they met with Clem Miller to learn the ancient art of Easter egg coloring, Lithuanian style. Ryan, Michael and Jennifer are also enrolled in a Lithuanian language class which is taught by Prof. Vitalis Zukauskas of New York. The adult language class resumed in March. New members are always welcomed.

A special Memorial Mass was celebrated in Jan. by Msgr. Pranckus for the 13 martyrs in Lithuania who lost their lives during the Soviet military invasion of Vilnius on Jan. 13.

On Feb. 16 Lithuanians the world over paused to commemorate the 73rd



C-118 Hazleton members Rev. Skitski, Dolores Yuscavage, Mayor Skopowski, State Rep. Thos. Stish, Charles Yuscavage and Mayor Quigley participating in flag-raising ceremonies.

anniversary of Lithuania's Independence Day. In Bridgeport, Mayor Mary Moran presided over the annual flag-raising ceremony on Feb. 16. Feb. 24 was set aside as a day to celebrate hope while remembering the past. Our program began with Mass. It continued in the afternoon in the church hall. We were honored to have Rep. Christopher Shays as guest speaker. The Vetra Folk Dance Group performed. Co-chairpeople for the refreshments were Pat

Silk and Bob Marcavage.

Our annual St. Casimir's Day breakfast was chaired by Clem Miller, assisted by Al Peters and Lee Marcinka on March 10. Mitch Marcinauskas reported on two demonstration trips; one being in New Haven and the other in New York City in front of the Russian Embassy. Timely articles to help Lithuania's cause by Aldona Marcavage were published in the Milford Citizen, Bridgeport Post, Milford Mirror and New Haven Register.

Thanks to George Radzwillas who initiated the move for our immediate aid to Lithuania. The Young Men's Club donated \$600 for medical needs. Walt Barius suggested that the remaining \$500 at present dormant in the Heritage Foundation be used for the same purpose. Added to the \$500 our council previously donated, this \$1,600 makes a modest contribution from Bridgeport. The money was sent to Fr. Pugevicius for a container to be sent to Lithuania. So happy we could help.

Rose & Vldas Barius are vacationing in Florida. Stefa & Vytautas Vaikutis are visiting their daughter and her family in California. We welcomed Helen Simanis into membership. Peter Putrimas and Stephen Wilcinskas were sworn in as trustees.

Our annual dinner dance is scheduled for June 2 with Joe Thomas Orchestra from New York playing. Barbara Schmidt announced that on June 15 from 11 a.m. to 12 noon, the Vetra Dancers will perform at Ellis Island on Lithuanian Day. We wish speedy recovery to Lee Marcinka who had surgery on her foot. On Nov. 1 we lost Josephine Wolkowski. May she rest in peace. *Aldona Marcavage*



C-136 Hudson-Mohawk at Lithuanian Independence commemoration: Deacon Frank Yatkowski, Jolanta Bagepalli, Dorothy Richmire, Bernice Aviza, Mayor Karen Johnson, Rev. Michael Clementi, pastor Holy Cross Church, Betty Parker, Genutė Baranauskas and Peggy Furst.

C-144 ANTHRACITE, PA

At the Feb. meeting, our council voted to donate \$1,000 for medical aid to Lithuania. This brings the total donations to \$4,000.

Joseph Martunas, Lithuanian affairs chairman, asked members to call Senators Heinze and Specter, as well as Cong. Yatron in Washington to support the Dole-Bird resolution to stop aid to the Soviets for violation of human rights in Lithu-

ania.

Anna Helen McDonald and Pat Roberts co-chaired the council's "Prayer for Peace in Lithuania and the World". Mass was celebrated at Our Lady of Siluva, Maizeville. After Mass, program followed in the social quarters with welcome by Anna Helen McDonald and the recitation of pledge of allegiance and singing of national anthem. Rep. Lucyk and Sen. Rhoades presented proclamations concerning Lithuania's freedom from the House of Representatives and the Senate where Feb. 16 is officially recognized as Lithuanian Independence Day. Bernard Zilaitis was presented a plaque in recognition of his performance on behalf of the Lithuanian cause. Congratulations!

Father Ronald Jankaitis, pastor of St. Casimir's in St. Clair, delighted the audience with his humorous as well as serious presentation of our ethnic heritage and the plight of Lithuania in her struggle for freedom. We were especially happy to have Fr. Bowler of Mt. Carmel and Fr. Wassel of Mahanoy City with us on this occasion. The program ended with the singing of the Lithuanian anthem and God Bless America. The following committee were in charge: Tom McDonald, Bernard Zilaitis, Anna & Albert Yochachonis, Esther Bartashus, Josephine Manikas, Anna Radzavage, Eleanor Yancofski, Anna Supernavage, Beatrice Wasley, Joseph & Pauline Martunas, Betty Tumas and Bill, Helen and Mary Labadis.

Anna Wargo and brother Albert Klizas, at the invitation of Cong. Don Ritter attended Senate hearings of the Helsinki Commission monitoring human rights when the vice presidents of Lithuania and Latvia testified.

The council extends sincere sympathy to Anna Panchari on the loss of her mother; Ann Carlitus on the death of



State Sen. James Rhoades (left) and Rep. Edward Lucyk (right) present proclamations to Anna Helen McDonald and Pat Robert, co-chairladies for a prayer for peace and Lithuanian independence.

her sister; and Julie Zakarka and daughters from Chicago on the death of husband and father, Al Zakarka, national Lithuanian Affairs chairman and 1991 national convention co-chairman. May they rest in peace.

While vacationing in Florida, Anne Wargo and Helen Chesko were guests of Victoria Jacobson at the celebration of Lithuanian Independence Day in St. Petersburg Beach. Mass was held at St. John's, reception at her condo, luncheon at Brown Derby and Uzgavenes dinner and dance at Lithuanian Club. Many thanks to Victoria.

C-147 ST. PETERSBURG, FL

Once again, Victoria Jacobson hosted the commemoration of the anniversary of

Lithuania's Independence. A capacity attendance of 2,000 was present at Mass at St. John's Church. Rev. John Kuzinskas, pastor of Nativity BVM Church in Chicago concelebrated Mass with Revs. Stabinis, Gasiunas, Cyvas and Murphy. The Lithuanian Club choir sang the Mass. Algerd Brazis of Chi-



C-144 Anthracite Anna Helen McDonald and Franklin Shollenberger after the proclamation ceremonies.

cago gave a superb rendition of Panis Angelicus during communion. Among the snowbirds invited to Victoria Jacobson's condo were Estelle Rogers, Ellie Kasputis, Aldona & Algerd Brazis of C-112 Chicago; Anna Wargo and Helen Chesko of C-144 Anthracite, Penna.

Harry Petraitis, formerly of Chicago, now residing in Florida served as MC at the luncheon hosted by Victoria at the Brown Derby. Among the 150 attending were representatives of Lithuanian organizations.

Anthony Gudonis, president of C-147 responded with a few words of greeting and invitation to participate at the national convention at Trade Winds on Aug. 1. Pres. Gudonis, steward at the Lithuanian Club, will cooperate with convention committee in hosting the Thursday evening program at the club. Also, Anne Wargo, extended an invitation to everyone to participate in the 78th National Convention.

Birthdays were celebrated by Estelle Rogers, Algerd Brazis and Aldona Kirstuk. *Ilgiausiu Metu!*

C-152 EASTERN LONG ISLAND, NY

Sunday, Feb. 24, saw 17 members of our council present as delegates to the Mid Atlantic District meeting held in Maspeth. Our hosts, C-110, demonstrated graciousness, hospitality and efficiency in welcoming their many guests, amply and deliciously feeding them and, finally, transacting in a timely manner the business before the delegates. Our thanks to Msgr. Bulovas, pastor of Transfiguration church, and to the officers and members of C-110.

The District meeting will be specially remembered by C-152 as the occasion on which five of our Knights were formally awarded their third degree: Bea & Fred Lucka, Agnes Marma, John Sakal and Felix Zorskis. With a surely pardonable pride we say to all the

degree recipients, "Well done!"

It is with a sense of substantial loss to our council that we report the moving to a new residence in Florida of two of our Knights, Charlene & Felix Zorskis. While we will greatly miss these valued members and friends, Treasure Coast C-153 is acquiring two new delightful and energetic Knights.

Readers' prayers are earnestly requested for Tony Zambuto, who is gravely ill, and for John Kuchinskas, who is convalescing from serious surgery.

Tom Tarmey

C-153 TREASURE COAST, FL

We have been writing letters to our legislators on state and federal levels with special emphasis to Pres. Bush. We have had copies of letters and pertinent addresses made and distributed at various Catholic churches averaging 800 letters distributed per church. Members of C-153 have participated enthusiastically with letters, phone calls to Washington and prayers for Lithuania's plight.

Konstancija

C-154 SPRING HILL, FL

On Feb. 10 under a warm Florida sun, most of our council members boarded a bus for St. Petersburg to attend a Mass commemorating Lithuanian Independence Day. Although St. John's church is not primarily a Lithuanian church, we were warmly greeted by the pastor who offered prayers of his whole parish for our people in Lithuania wishing to regain their independence.

The celebrant of the Mass was Rev. John Kuzinskas of Chicago. The Lithuanian choir of St. Petersburg provided the music during the liturgy of the Mass. A stirring rendition of Panis Angelicus (in Lithuanian) was rendered by the former Lithuanian opera singer, Algerd Brazis. At the conclusion of the Mass, we all raised our voices singing the Lithuanian National Anthem.

After the church services, we all headed for the Lithuanian-American Club for dinner. Here, we learned of the overwhelming "Yes" vote on the referendum for independence in Lithuania. All the lies and intimidation did not sway this dedicated nation of Lithuania.

Individually, we sent telegrams to Pres. Bush revealing our concerns as to what stand the United States is taking in regard to the struggles of the Baltic people. It was gratifying to hear the President's State of the Union message at which time he did address the concerns he was facing in all the Baltic nation activities.

Some time before Yelina Bonner asked that her husband's name, Dr. Sakharov, be removed from a list of Nobel Peace Prize laureates which included Gorbachev's name, our Political Action Committee sent a letter to the Nobel Peace Prize Committee in Norway registering our displeasure at the selection of Gorbachev.

Our membership committee, Helen & George Mayer have launched an all out effort to recruit new members. Last year's award for the most new members is their incentive to reach a second award.

The Program Committee is finalizing plans for our trip to the St. Petersburg International Folk Festival. Sixty nations are represented in this Coliseum. Each country is assigned a booth. The Lithuanian booth serves delicious Lithuanian food. The arts and crafts of the talented artisans are also displayed by Lithuanian-garbed ladies. A song and dance program is performed by a Lithuanian choir and some young dancers.

Let us all continue to pray for those wonderful people of Lithuania - God Bless them abundantly!

S. G. Petraitis

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THE FATHERLAND

"Lietuva, Tėvyne Mūsų"
Words so strong and proud
The anthem of a country
The voices singing loud
I stood between my parents
As they held me, by each hand
I was too small to understand
That they sang of their fatherland
I remember their tear-stained faces
As I looked from Mom to Dad
It seemed like such a pretty song
Why did they look so sad?
Well, now the years have added up
And gone now is the child
And gone now are my Mom and Dad
Who held my hand awhile
Their little girls is old now
But still she hears the song
"Lietuva, Tėvyne Mūsų"
It still rings loud and strong
It's sung now, all around us
Be it picnic, dance or fair
How beautiful this sound to hear
But how sad the news from there
Thank God, for God and Country
And many things as well
For the ethnic pride and friendship
Of our Lithuanian K of L
Now as we end each meeting
You councils, through our land
When you rise to sing the anthem
Of Lithuania — the fatherland
Just join hands with a member
Who stands to left or right
And sing it as your parents did
As we think of Lithuania's plight.

*Helen Klimaszewski,
C-50 New Haven, CT*

DON'T BE AFRAID TO FALL

You've failed many times,
although you may not remember,
You fell down the first time you tried to walk.
You almost drowned the first time
you tried to swim, didn't you?
Did you hit the ball the first time you swung a bat?
Heavy hitters, the ones who hit the most home runs,
also strike out a lot.
R. H. Macy failed seven times before his store
in New York caught on.
English novelist John Creasey got 753 rejection slips
before he published 564 books.
Babe Ruth struck out 1,330 times,
but he also hit 714 home runs.
Don't worry about failure.
Worry about the chances you miss
when you don't even try.



A CLOWN'S PRAYER

Dear Lord, as I stumble through this life, help me to create more laughter than tears, dispense more happiness than gloom, spread more cheer than despair. Never let me become so blase that I will fail to see the wonder in the eyes of a child or the twinkle in the eyes of the aged. Never let me forget that my work is to cheer people, make them happy, and make them laugh, make them forget at least momentarily the unpleasantness in their lives. Never let me acquire success to the point where I will discontinue calling on my Creator in the hour of need, and acknowledging and thanking Him in hour of plenty. And, in my final moment, may I hear You whisper, "When you make My people smile, you made Me smile."