

# WYTIIS

1992

KNIGHTS OF LITHUANIA

VOL. 78: No. 1

SAUSIS / JANUARY



# VYTIS

KNIGHTS OF LITHUANIA

SAUSIS / JANUARY  
1992  
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Rulers of Lithuania...

## GRAND PRINCE TRENIOTA (1263-1264)

Edward Baranauskas

Prince Treniota became the supreme ruler of Lithuania following the assassination of King Mindaugas in 1263. He was one of the nephews of the murdered king. His father was Prince Vykintas of Samogitia and his mother was the sister (name unknown) of King Mindaugas. His father's sister was married to the king's brother Dausprangas.

Treniota married the daughter of Prince Conrad of Masuria, but this did not prevent him from leading military operations against the Masurians, or from helping the Prussians in their uprising against the Teutonic Knights, who had a peace agreement with King Mindaugas. Treniota, backed by powerful Samogitian princes, was able to force Mindaugas to reverse his position towards the knights. However, Treniota's military failures, particularly in Livonia (present day Latvia and Estonia) turned relations between himself and the king completely bitter.

Treniota objected to Mindaugas' preoccupation with conquering the lands to the east, and to his relations with the Christians. He emerged, in this way, as the leader of the pagan opposition in Lithuania. He was confident that he had sufficient power to take the Lithuanian throne.

With the help of Prince Daumantas of Nalsishe assassinated King Mindaugas and his two younger sons, Ruklys and Rupeikis in 1263. The oldest and only surviving son, Vaisvilkas, fled to Pinsk for safety.

Prince Tautvilas, who ruled as viceroy in Polotsk, returned to Lithuania for he believed that he had a right to assume the vacant throne. His father was the king's brother Dausprangas.

A struggle for power in Lithuania followed between the deceased king's two nephews, Tautvilas and Treniota, as each sought the opportunity to kill the other. Treniota proved to be more clever, however, as he was able to dispose of Tautvilas first. He now became the supreme ruler of Lithuania.



Grand Prince of Lithuania TRENIOTA (1263-1264). (Picture Inset) Murder of Mindaugas.

He held power for only one year as he was assassinated himself by those who were loyal to Mindaugas and acting, perhaps, in collusion with Vaisvilkas. With his father's murder avenged, he then took immediate steps to gain the throne with the help of his allies. He became the third supreme ruler of Lithuania.

Prince Daumantas, fearing for his own life, withdrew from Lithuania and fled to the Russian city of Pskov. The old proverb, "He who lives by the sword, shall perish by the sword," certainly proved to come true in Treniota's case.



## FIFTY YEARS AGO

*John C. Petrauskas, MIC*

On Monday, Sept. 8, 1941 with 160 priests and a large crowd of religious and lay people from all parts of the United States in attendance, with Auxiliary Bishop Henry J. O'Brien of Hartford as the celebrant, a funeral Mass for Rev. Dr. John M. Navickas was celebrated on the front portico of his beloved Marianapolis College in Thompson, CT.

After the Mass, a procession took place to the burial spot - a gazebo near the twelfth Station of the Cross, on the outskirts of the formal Italian garden. At the grave site, John Budrys, General Consul of Lithuania, representing the President of Lithuania, paid tribute to Father Navickas as an outstanding Lithuanian patriot. A farewell sermon was preached by Father John Balkunas of Maspeth, NY. Several hundred mourners then filed by the casket and ceremoniously sprinkled dirt over the coffin.

Who was this Father John Navickas to be so gloriously honored on the occasion of his death?

Jonas Navickas was born on January 2, 1895 in Virbalis which is located in southwestern Lithuania. After attending the Virbalis elementary school and the Seinai middle school, he graduated from the Vilkaviskis secondary school in 1911. At the age of 16, he enrolled as a cleric at the Seinai Seminary. Two years later, because of nationality conflicts, he withdrew from the seminary and in the fall of 1913 he arrived in the United States. For one year, under the guardianship of Father J. Sestokas, he resided in the Lady of Dawn (Ausros Vartu) rectory in New York City.

In 1914 he graduated from Cathedral College and in December of that same year he joined the Congregation of LaSalette Fathers. He professed his first vows on February 2, 1916 and for the next three years he pursued seminary studies at St. Mary's Seminary in Baltimore and at Catholic University. During these years, he became notably active in the newly emerging organization - the Knights of Lithuania.

At the first formal convention of the Knights of Lithuania which took place at Brockton, MA on July 7-9, 1914, Jonas Navickas and Alexander Rackus, both college students, served as secretaries for the convention. Navickas was one of the two formal delegates representing New York City C-12 at the convention.

During the fifth National K of L Convention which took place in July of 1917 at Brooklyn, NY, Jonas Navickas was elected National Vice-President of the organization and listed his address as 85 New Park Ave., Hartford, CT. He became embroiled in controversies during his term as vice-president. Quoting the K of L constitution (III, 3) that the K of L members should strive to preserve the good name of the organization and to repudiate any false allegations that are harmful to the organization, he published an animated reply to the allegations of a maverick immigrant, Dr. Andrew



*Rev. Dr. Jonas Navickas, M.I.C.*

Graiciunas, who accused the Pope of pro-German sentiments and questioned the suitability of the fealty of the Lithuanian priests to the Pope. At the same time, he challenged the Knights of Lithuania to respond to his charges. And Jonas Navickas accepted the challenge (Vytis, Jan. 15, 1918).

As vice-president, Jonas Navickas visited ten of the K of L councils, some of them several times, in the New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania area, with the intention of establishing a closer relationship between them and the National Office. Reporting on his visitations in an article which appeared in the March 10, 1918 issue of VYTIS, his critical evaluation of some of the councils which he visited, resulted in a request from them for a public apology.

John Navickas was a very active participant in the Sixth National Convention which met in Cleveland in September of 1918. He was the subdeacon for the traditional opening Mass. As a member of the publicity committee, his suggestion was accepted that telegrams (which he probably composed) be sent to the Holy Father in Rome, the Diocesan Bishop and President Woodrow Wilson - for a total cost of \$9.42.

In his vice-presidential report he mentioned that he had revised, as directed by a resolution of the previous National Convention, the Constitution of the Knights of Lithuania and that it was translated into English by the current National President, Jonas Bucnis. Approval of the revised Constitution, however, was postponed until the next year's convention. Navickas, also strongly advocated that the K of L establish their own printing press.

In the listing of Honorary Members, Father Jonas Navickas

## FIFTY YEARS AGO (Cont'd)

(ordained only in 1920) is listed as having been granted this prestigious honor in 1918 but there is no mention of this in the official minutes of the 1918 convention.

On February 2, 1919, Jonas Navickas pronounced his perpetual vows as a member of the LaSalette Fathers. As a student of academic promise, his Superiors assigned him for further theological studies to Fribourg University in Switzerland. It was here that he was ordained to the priesthood on August 15, 1920. A week later, he celebrated his first Solemn High Mass in the parish of his birth, Virbalis, Lithuania, now an independent nation. He then returned to Fribourg University to continue his theological studies. On July 25, 1922, for his doctoral thesis, "The Doctrine of Saint Cyprian on the Sacraments", the University granted him a Doctorate of Theology degree (ST.D.).

On his return to the United States, we find Rev. Dr. John Navickas at the 1923 National Convention in Springfield, IL. He was the celebrant of the opening Mass of the convention, assisted by Frs. Kemezis and Virmauskis. The Mass was celebrated at the local Lithuanian parish of St. Vincent and the business sessions were conducted in the Senate Hall Chambers of the State House.

Having been appointed as the National Spiritual Advisor at the 1925 convention in Boston, Fr. Navickas dutifully fulfilled his spiritual obligations by producing an article on a religious theme in each issue of VYTIS which then was being published twice a month. His articles bore the title: "From My Pulpit." His last article, a Mothers' Day theme, appeared in the April 30, 1926 issue of VYTIS.

As Rev. Dr. John Navickas, MIC, he appeared at the 1926 National Convention in Waterbury, CT with Archbishop George Matulaitis in attendance. It was Fr. Navickas who opened the business session of the convention which convened in the St. Joseph School auditorium and he was also the toastmaster for the concluding banquet.

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Father Navickas' life ambition was to establish a college in the United States for young men of Lithuanian ancestry. By fortunate coincidence, the Marian Fathers were considering a similar proposal. In August of 1922, the Marian Fathers purchased a 220 acre farm in Hinsdale, IL and designed it as Marian Hills. The long enduring aspirations of the Lithuanian immigrants to establish an institution of higher learning where their sons could study in a Catholic-Lithuanian atmosphere was about to be realized.

Having gone through the proper ecclesiastical procedure for transferring from one religious congregation to another, Fr. Navickas arrived at Marian Hills in August of 1925. Upon completing a year of novitiate, Fr. Navickas pronounced his perpetual vows as a member of the Congregation of Marian

Fathers.

In early July of 1926, the Superior General of the Marian Fathers, Archbishop (now Blessed) George Matulaitis, together with the Provincial of the newly formed American Province, Father Felix Kudirka, paid a visit to George Cardinal Mundelein to request his permission to establish a college for young men in Hinsdale. Cardinal Mundelein readily granted the permission.

The newly elected Provincial officers appointed Fr. John Navickas as the first Rector of Marian Hills Junior College. Soon added to his burdens were the offices of House Superior and Novice Master.

By 1929 Marian Hills Junior College had outgrown its physical facilities and a decision was made to relocate the school. After a wide-ranging search for a new site, it was the Reams Estate, a 305 acre property in Thompson, CT which proved to be the most acceptable of the locations under consideration. A major transaction, such as the purchase of the Norman B. Reame Estate, also known as Carolyn Hall, is



a complicated procedure for any religious community. The formalities were finally completed on May 19, 1931 and Fr. John Navickas arrived on September 3 and began to administer what, for a brief period, was known as St. Mary's College.

The first graduation exercises took place on June 8, 1932. Nine students completed the first year of college and a like number completed the fourth year of high school.

On June 9, 1933 the new school was incorporated by a Special Act of the General Assembly of the State of Connecticut under the name of Marianapolis College. Another significant date is May 2, 1939 when the General Assembly of the State of Connecticut, by Special Act No. 200, authorized Marianapolis College to confer the degrees of Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Science. The first class to receive Bachelor of Arts Degrees was the fifteen member class of 1939.

A layman, a contemporary and fellow activist, and an admirer of Fr. Navickas, described him as a very stubborn individual who insisted on having his recommendations accepted and expected cooperation in fulfilling them. It took courage and determination, he continues, to leave one religious congregation and join another. But it was his stubbornness, courage and determination that brought about the establishment of a Lithuanian college.

As a Marian Father, Fr. Navickas was elected as a delegate to the General Chapters of 1927, 1933 and 1939. At the 1939 Chapter in Rome, he was elected to a six year term as Provincial of the American Province and until June 8, 1941 he retained the office of Rector of Marianapolis College.

Father Navickas was a man of two hearts. One was spiritual - noble, warm, full of love. The other was physical - weak,

overworked and ill functioning. He suffered his first of a series of heart attacks in 1935 and thereafter was periodically incapacitated. The physical heart was incapable of containing the spiritual heart. The pressure was too great and finally on September 2, 1941, almost ten years to the day of his arrival at Marianapolis, the delicate vessel burst.

It is commonly accepted that "Doc" Navickas, as he was affectionately known by his students, was a prime leader of the Lithuanian Catholics in the United States and some of his admirers have conferred on him the title of "The Lithuanian Don Bosco".

Ten years after the death of Fr. John Navickas, a former student of his penned this tribute:

*"For Father John, there never did exist such a person as*

*a 'bad boy'. Consequently, hundreds of boys from the cities, villages and farms of America came to him every year. Many were untalented, backward, shy, lacking in spiritual training. Nevertheless, under his paternal solicitude, skilled touch and influence, the untalented became scholastic marvels, the shy and backward became confident, aggressive leaders and speakers; the irreligious became paragons of piety.*

*"His sacrifices for the well-being of his boys knew no bounds. His one and only concern and anxiety was to see his boys grow into fine, sturdy, clean Catholic manhood. This quality of human and spiritual greatness made him outstanding among leaders and merited for Father John a niche, not in the halls of fame, but in the hearts of those who knew and loved him."*

## LITHUANIAN EMBASSY

By Loretta Stukas

Ambassador and Mrs. Stasys Lozoraitis hosted a reception on Oct. 30 for visiting representatives of the Government of the Republic of Lithuania led by Gediminas Vagnorius, Prime Minister, and Mrs. Vagnorius, and Ceslovas Stankevicius, Vice President of the Supreme Council. The reception was held at the Lithuanian Embassy in Washington.

A special ceremony during the evening, Frances Petkus, National President of the Knights of Lithuania, on behalf of all the Knights, presented Mr. Lozoraitis a check for \$5,000 for the upkeep of the Embassy, stating that this is a "down payment" and that he can expect more donations from individual councils and districts. Also at this time, members of New Jersey's Americans for an Independent Lithuania, through President Stukas, presented Messrs. Lozoraitis, Vagnorius and Stankevicius each with a specially designed watch bearing the Lithuanian VYTIS on its face.

The event was attended by 100 or more leaders of Lithuanian standing and ad-hoc organizations from various cities, Ambassadors of other countries, journalists, and others who have in one way or another aided the Lithuanian campaign for independence. Light refreshments were served and guests were able to mingle and meet the Lithuanian government representatives and discuss how Americans can further help Lithuania, as she begins her independence.

Vice President Stankevicius was emphatic in stating that the most im-

portant task is the removal of Soviet troops from the Baltic Republics. He asked that we tell the world that Lithuania cannot be fully free until these troops leave. Only pressure from the free world to the Soviet Union can get this done.

Many leaders and members of the Knights of Lithuania were present. Besides Pres. Frances Petkus, other officers included Lithuanian Affairs Chairman Vincent Boris, Mid Central District President John Baltrus, Amber District President and Secretary John & Agnes Mickunas, C-29 Lithuanian Affairs Chairlady Danguole Didzbalis, K of L Foundation President Loretta Stukas, and several members of the Washington K of L council.

The event was made possible through the generosity of Clayton Potter of Chicago.



*Pres. Fran Petkus making presentation of check to Amb. Stasys Lozoraitis at Embassy in Washington. HM Juozas & Isabelle Laucka, Albert Cizauskas, Stasys & Mrs. Lozoraitis, John Mickunas (in background), Agnes Mickunas, Fran Petkus, Vincent Boris, HM Loretta Stukas & Danguole Didzbalis.*

## PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT INAUGURATES NEW ERA FOR LITHUANIAN AMERICANS

by Albert Cizauskas

Washington's C-142 has been on the firing line of Lithuanian activities in the nation's capital for many years. In the recent past, a good number of these had been marches and demonstrations protesting Lithuania's forced imprisonment behind the Iron Curtain. Today, all this has changed.

The Lithuanian Legation has been elevated to Embassy rank and there are no less than two Ambassadors in the United States, Stasys Lozoraitis accredited to Washington and Anicetas Simutis to the United Nations in New York. Lithuanian officials are now greeted with the honor and deference that international protocol mandates are due to representatives of sovereign countries. No waiting outside the gates of the White House any more.

Two recent events are especially worth mention as illustrative of this new era.

One was the emotional outpouring of thousands of Lithuanians from across the United States and Canada during the October 12-13 weekend as they celebrated the 25th anniversary of the Siluva Chapel in Washington's National Shrine, an event which coincided with the rebirth of Lithuanian independence a few months earlier (VYTIS Dec. 1991).

The other occasion was the visit of Lithuania's Prime Minister, Gediminas Vagnorius, accompanied by a large number of high-ranking officials. Ambassador Lozoraitis and his wife were the genial hosts at a reception held in a packed Embassy on the evening of Oct. 30. It was, indeed, unusual to see a stretch limousine parked in front of the Embassy and a liveried footman greeting guests at the door. The Lithuanian Mission, for so many years a Legation, was now the latest kid on Washington's Embassy row.

The evening's highlight was the presentation, amid flashing bulbs, of a five thousand dollar check to Ambassador Lozoraitis by the newly-elected President of the Knights of Lithuania, Frances R. Petkus, on behalf of the Supreme Council of the Knights of Lithuania, as a contribution to the campaign to help defray mounting Embassy expenses. The Ambassador expressed his deep gratitude for this generous show of support and, at the same time, his admiration for the constructive work of the Knights.

The evening's reception marked the re-emergence of Lithuania as a member of the community of free nations. At the same time, it served to recognize a half century of patriotic efforts by Lithuanian American organizations

in providing extensive material and moral support for Lithuanian independence. Representatives of major Lithuanian organizations throughout the United States were present, among them the Knights of Lithuania, VLIKAS, the Lithuanian American Community, Lietuvos Fondas, Pasaulio Lietuvos Bendruomene, SOS Vaikai and Lietuvos Jaunimo Sajunga. These representatives were a mirror image of the American people: doctors, lawyers, university professors, businessmen, engineers, government officials and elected politicians, all living proof of the successful integration of Lithuanian immigrants and their children into the society of their adopted land.

Among the many other guests were Maryland's Governor Schaeffer, who is known for his friendly relations with the Lithuanian community in his state; Congressman Sarpalius from Texas (of Lithuanian heritage); the renowned N.Y. Times columnist and linguistic savant, William Safire; New York entrepreneur Juozas Kazickas; and Assistant Secretary for Community Planning and Development in the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Skirma Kondratas.

Also present were officials from the World Bank; the State Department; and Ambassadors from France, Germany, Austria, Latvia, Estonia, Israel, Ireland, Greece, Uruguay and Malta, among others. Special mention should be made of the presence of the Soviet Ambassador, which signaled, in a dramatic manner, the altered relations between the two nations. One need only recall an amusing but revealing incident when President Truman re-established the tradition of the annual diplomatic dinner after World War II. By some mischance, Soviet Ambassador Novikov was to be seated next to



At the Embassy in Washington: John Baltrus, MCD president, Pres. Frances R. Petkus, Amb. & Mrs. Lozoraitis, John Mickunas, Amber District president.



Lithuania's Minister Zadeikis. When the Soviet Embassy learned of this, it sent an excuse that the Soviet emissary could not attend due to "ill health." President Truman's short fuse crackled because of the snub. He instructed the State Department never again to invite Novikov to White House functions. With help from Bess Truman, Secretary Acheson

finally talked the President out of this foolish tit-for-tatism but Truman had the last word, saying, "Tell old Novocaine we didn't miss him."

The Soviet Ambassador's presence Oct. 30 was a way of making amends for the past. It helped make the Lithuanian Embassy's reception a brilliant social and diplomatic success.



## LITHUANIAN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

*Vincent Boris, Chairman*

Shortly after Pres. Bush announced renewed recognition of independent Lithuania and his intention to establish diplomatic ties with the reborn Republic, letters of appreciation from the Knights of Lithuania were sent to all Senators and many of the members of House of Representatives for all their support and efforts on behalf of Lithuania. Several responses have now been received and should be shared with VYTIS readers:

"Thank you for your letter ... I share your joy ... The United States supported the drive of Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia to achieve freedom from the USSR. I expect Lithuania to receive a small amount of direct assistance this fiscal year ... Additional U.S. assistance will be based on the requests of the Lithuanian government. I do not expect the requests from Lithuania to face much resistance in Congress."

*Sen. Paul Simon (D-IL)*

"I have always supported the right of self-determination for the Baltics and am pleased that the United States has recognized their independence ... The Baltic States continue to face many challenges to establish just, fair and prosperous democracies. It is essential that the United States make every effort to assure the continued progress of democracy in these countries ... thank you for your letter and you may be assured of my continuing commitment to freedom and democracy for the Baltic States."

*Sen. Edward Kennedy (D-MA)*

"... The United States must be prepared to provide technical assistance and humanitarian aid to the newly recognized government of Lithuania. To fulfill its commitment to democracy and a free market economy, Lithuania must be able to rely on the support of the United States and the world community ... I look forward to working with you in the upcoming months to assure the stability and strength of Lithuania and its Baltic neighbors as independent nations..."

*Rep. Ben L. Cardin (D-MD)*

We certainly share with your joy that Lithuania and the other Baltic nations are now enjoying their free and

independent status..."

*Rep. Guy Vander Jagt (R-MI)*

"... As I have been an active supporter of Lithuania and the other Baltic states in their struggle for independence from the Soviet Union, I applaud the President's long-delayed decision ... If I can be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me..."

*Rep. Dennis E. Eckert (D-OH)*

"... We now have not only the opportunity but the obligation to work hand in hand with the leaders and citizens of each free republic to ensure the stability and integrity of their new democracies..."

*Rep. Tom McMillan (D-MD)*

.....

## BROTHER JUNIPER



"It must be nice to feel wanted."

# LITHUANIAN EXPERIENCE

## SEARCH FOR YOUR ROOTS

by Edward K. Staskus

In the past year-and-a-half, as history has been in the making in Lithuania, a large number of Lithuanian-Americans and Canadians, have become keenly aware of how little they know about their own ethnic history.

Although they all, to one degree or another, have some knowledge of Lithuania, it is often only in broad outline. They can point the country out on a world map, recognize the Baltic Sea, know Vilnius is the capital, and may even have some inkling of Lithuania's long and rich past.

If they have followed the media attention devoted to Lithuania's strikingly successful struggle for independence, Lithuanian-Americans have learned a great deal recently about their ancestral land. They have read about day-to-day events in their local papers, studied background articles in *TIME* magazine, and seen dramatic images of their kinfolk on CNN.

For all that, as time separates second, third and fourth generation Lithuanian-Americans from the men and women who actually came to the America from Lithuania, an inevitable loss occurs. Many Lithuanian-American families, culturally, if not physically, distant from their parents and grandparents, no longer speak Lithuanian as a second language among themselves.

Affluence and the spread of suburbia have dispersed once tightly-knit communities, and many Lithuanian-Americans no longer congregate - culturally and socially - as much as they once did. The influence of organized religion has waned among the baby-boom generation and consequently, the role of the church as a social center has declined, further weakening the ties that once bound Lithuanian-Americans together.

Given the forces - cultural, social and physical - at work that separate Lithuanian-Americans from their heritage, it is remarkable that the Lithuanian community has survived and prospered as well as it has. Nevertheless, many active Lithuanian-Americans have grown concerned about the erosion of ethnic identity and the loss of appreciation of things Lithuanian.

With the stunning liberation of Lithuania from over fifty years of dark Soviet hegemony, the opportunities for Lithuanian-Americans to rediscover their heritage and thereby themselves, have suddenly become virtually unlimited. Where once communication with and travel to Lithuania were torturous, if not impossible, with the advent of Lithuania's restored independence, most artificial restrictions have been lifted. Lithuanian-Americans can travel freely to Lithuania and discover for themselves the land they are sprung from.

They can stand under a Lithuanian sky, in a Lithuanian city

and breath in the air of their ancestors. They can walk the roads Lithuanian kings once trod, and feel the joy of Lithuanian earth beneath their feet. Standing atop the Hill of Crosses, on ground consecrated to the Virgin Mary, they can look upon the myriad of churches that fill the Lithuanian nation.

In this seminal time many Lithuanian-Americans are rediscovering their heritage by rediscovering themselves. Every Lithuanian who has ever lived has made a contribution to the history of Lithuania. In their adopted land most have made an even more significant contribution to their own family's history.

Without a knowledge of your family's past, you can never hope to completely understand yourself. The physical ties to past generations may have been cut at birth, but the psychological ties to the past are eternal. The first step for many Lithuanian-Americans, excited and liberated by recent events, in the process of rediscovering Lithuania, their ethnic identity and contribution to history, has been to write and record their family history and genealogy. Creating a family genealogy can be rewarding for many reasons: understanding our ancestors, including the land and times in which they lived, and their influence upon us; recalling our own lives and understanding ourselves; and teaching our children.

The Irish novelist Kathleen Coyle said, "It is absurd to think that life for us begins at birth. The pattern is set far back; we merely step into the process." What we are is a product of our genes, parents and environment. But it didn't begin with them. It began much farther back. Creating a genealogy is a search for how far back one's pedigree can be traced.

Genealogies consist of charts and forms that help organize familial information into a format that is easy to understand. There are two kinds: pedigree charts and family group charts. Both kinds with blank charts can be gotten at local bookstores.

Pedigree charts show where everyone came from in one's family. They resemble a tree, with each generation branching out into the past.

Family group charts include information relevant to individual families, such as children, birth, marriage, death dates, and names of spouses. Family group sheets are meant to be created for each couple on a pedigree chart, with as much information as one is able to gather.

After completing both charts, the next step, and often the most rewarding step, is to let everyone in your extended family know that you are researching your family's genealogy. In this way, you will soon discover who in your extended family knows the most about your ancestors.

Once your charts and forms have been updated by those

you have found who are most knowledgeable, make copies of your pedigree charts for all of your relatives. Get them involved. They will be excited to learn more about their heritage; keep everyone regularly informed of your progress. Over time, missing information that you have been searching for will begin to come to you. Remember, you have four grandparents, eight great-grandparents, and sixteen great-great-grandparents. All told, there might be more than one hundred distant cousins you and your close relatives have never even heard of. Perhaps one of them has taken an interest in their families' genealogy - and yours.

Genealogy research can be very rewarding for Lithuanian-Americans now that history is literally flowing from them all. As the actions of today become history, it has become increasingly important to have a knowledge of the past. If Lithuanian-Americans are to understand their time, their heritage, and themselves, the best first step could well be the writing of a genealogy.

The best second step would be an actual trip to Lithuania. After five decades of virtually closed borders, with the advent of its liberation, the gates to Lithuania have been thrown open. Lithuanian-Americans are now free to visit the land of their forefathers, and discover the land from which they sprung.

Whether it is by writing a genealogy, or an actual return to Lithuania, the times now are the most exciting that many Lithuanian-Americans have known in the past fifty years. It is like a dream come true.

*(For more information on "SEARCH FOR YOUR ROOTS" project, write to MUSU SODYBA, c/o Mr. V. A. Staskus, 17511 Neff Rd., Cleveland, OH 44119-1969)*

## What do you give a country that just got its independence?

This will be the most joyous New Year in Lithuania in two generations. We all have much to be thankful for; we all have much to be proud of. That Lithuanians around the world kept the faith and refused to submit to communism, that after fifty years of near-genocidal repression Lithuania became independent again is a story that will long be remembered as among the most remarkable of this century.

But now the really hard work of building a free society that values democratic traditions begins. At the American Professional Partnership for Lithuanian Education we believe that encouraging regular, broad-based contacts with the West is one essential step. To facilitate those contacts, we have undertaken a major project to get materials for teaching English as a second language to Lithuania high schools and colleges.

We need your help. Our goal is to send 1000 sets of materials. A set of books costs \$20, or a set of books with cassettes costs \$55. Each donor will receive an acknowledgement of his gift from the Ministry of Culture and Education of the Republic of Lithuania, as well as A.P.P.L.E.'s heartfelt thanks. You may make a gift in your own name, or in the name of a friend or relative, who would then be the one to receive an acknowledgement.

This beautiful winter, please remember Lithuania and give a gift that will benefit coming generations. With our help Lithuania can and will become a beacon of culture and democracy, shining for us all. *Please send a check, together with the name and address for an acknowledgement to A.P.P.L.E., P.O. Box 1370, West Hartford, CT 06107.*

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## THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD January 6 or Sunday after January 1

The feast of the Epiphany, celebrated on January 6, is one of the oldest in the Church and one of the greatest in ecclesiastical year. The word *Epiphany* is a Greek word which signifies a manifestation or revelation. During the first three centuries the manifestation of Christ to the chosen people, and His manifestation as the Savior of all races and nations, were celebrated on the same day, but since the 4th century, December 25 has been the feast of the Nativity, or Christmas, and January 6 the feast of the Epiphany, or the feast of the Three Wise Men. It is so-called because the Gospel of the day tells us that *Magi* (now considered to be astrologers) came from the East to Jerusalem saying: "Where is the newborn King of the Jews? We saw His star at its rising

and have come pay Him homage."

They may have come from Arabia, Chaldea or Persia. Tradition says that there were three, Gaspar, Melchior and Balthasar. The prophecy that "a star shall rise out of Jacob," and the teaching of the prophet Daniel at Babylon had spread throughout the East. When the mysterious star appeared, learned men recognized it as a sign that the coming of the Messiah was at hand and that He would be born in Judea. Following the star they reached Bethlehem. On entering the house, they found the child with Mary, His Mother. They prostrated themselves and did Him homage. Then they opened their coffers and presented Him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.

## A Successful Completion to the....

# KNIGHTS OF LITHUANIA FOUNDATION 1991 ESSAY CONTEST

*Loretta Stukas*

Preparing a topic for the annual K of L Foundation Essay Contest is never taken lightly. The Directors look at the events of the year, in Lithuania and among U.S. Lithuanians and Knights. This year, we were struck by the many contributions of the youth in Lithuania's fight for independence. So many of the Lithuanian ministers and Members of Parliament are under age 30, as are most of those who protected their TV Tower, Press Building, Parliament and other institutions. Most of those who gave their lives for Lithuania on Bloody Sunday were also very young.

In the United States, the youth have also distinguished themselves in the fight of Lithuanian Independence by assuming leadership roles in the many Ad-Hoc Lithuanian Independence Committees that have sprung up around the country. They organized letter-writing campaigns and rallies, staffed sophisticated information centers and kept in touch with representatives of other Captive Nations.

Yet why do the younger people shy away from taking on responsible positions in the Knights of Lithuania? Should our activities and goals be modified to make them more appealing to the youth? Are they too shy to run for offices? Or have the older members failed to encourage, or perhaps even DIScourage participation by members under age thirty? What can we do on the local, district or national levels to inspire the younger members to become leaders in the organization?

The K of L Foundation, Inc. provided each member a chance to share his or her ideas on how to respond to these questions, through its annual essay contest. The contest, made possible by the generosity of Msgr. Juozas Prunskis, selected as its theme, "How Can the Knights of Lithuania inspire its younger members to assume the organization's leadership roles?"

Essay writers were to respond to the topic in 450 to 500 words. The contest was open to all regular and associate members in good standing and also to Junior members. Tom Bruzga, Aldona Ryan and Loretta Stukas, plus last year's winner Walter Svekla were designated judges.

Entries were received from regular and associate members as well as Juniors. Five Districts were represented, as were nine regular councils. Essays were judged on the basis of content, style, grammar, creativity, general appearance and adherence to the stated topic. Some essays strayed from the designated topic, but presented good suggestions nonetheless. Winners were announced during the 78th National Convention

and the winning entries will be published in Vytis. It is our pleasure to congratulate the winners, as follows:

First prize - \$300.00

Bruno Rutkunas, C-110 Maspeth, NY

Second prize - \$200.00

Anne Sikora, C-144 Anthracite, PA

Third Prize - \$100.00

Gene Gobis, C-100 Amsterdam, NY

Hon. Mention - \$25.00

Marian Gray, C-25 Cleveland, OH

Hon. Mention - \$25.00

Stephen Walinsky, C-26 Worcester, MA

An essay contest sponsored by the K of L Foundation, Inc. is an annual event. The prizes will be approximately the same each year; only the topic will change. The 1992 contest will be announced shortly. Judges will include directors of the Foundation and the 1991 winner, Bruno Rutkunas.

The Knights of Lithuania is most grateful to Rev. Msgr. Juozas Prunskis for his generosity in donating a special grant to the Foundation, with the specification that the interest from the grant be used for an essay contest, encouraging members to think and write about the betterment of the Knights of Lithuania.

We thank all those who participated in the 1991 contest and urge all members to give serious thought to the next contest's topic, to express those thoughts in writing, and enter the contest. Suggestions for a 1992 topic are also welcome.

### First Prize Winner.....

## LET'S GET OUR YOUTH INVOLVED IN KNIGHTS OF LITHUANIA ACTIVITIES

*By Bruno Rutkunas*

Thank God for our youth! How do we older Knights of Lithuania members understand them? They have grown up with different backgrounds and have socialized with many nationalities. To inspire their interests, many new and additional younger members must be stimulated to join our K of L organizations. Our present senior officers in the various K of L councils must start youth programs, sports like bowling, social dances, picnics and even radical "pop" concerts, etc. We have to initiate interesting meetings to highlight our Lithuanian culture and the common heritage all Lithuanian and mixed Lithuanian persons share together. There is a strong bond between all of us with some scrt of

*K of L FOUNDATION ESSAY (Cont'd)*

Lithuanian background; it just has to be brought out.

The "generation gap" is a difficult condition to overcome not only for our organization but for many others. The younger K of L members can not possibly lead and supervise any affair, unless we let them originate new ideas, which may be unique and out of the ordinary. Neither can they be active without the presence of many fellow young members in the K of L. We must invest in free picnics, dances and up-to-date affairs to attract new members. It may be necessary to recruit non-Lithuanian entertainers who sympathize with our Lithuanian heritage and the terrific thirst for freedom that our people have.

Additional meaningful rewards are important to instill in our younger members the need of continuing their dedication of keeping the K of L alive when the seniors have gone. Recognition and the proper publicity accorded to their efforts must be shown and given. Too often it seems the youth are not encouraged enthusiastically to participate in organizational leadership actions. They must be assured that we do want them to do their own thing and contribute to the future of "their" organization. Do not discourage their suggestions but listen attentively and try to understand their reasons for

change; let's not turn our backs to modern revisions which may be drastic to some of us, but not so to the younger Lithuanian-Americans.

Our K of L organization should allow the younger members to change old standing and antiquated rules and regulations which do not represent our modern times or their thinking. These suggestions are not intended to drastically revise the make-up or the traditional K of L procedures, but to brighten and make our affairs more palatable and enjoyable.

This challenge of change is not an easy task. It will take a lot of dedication and time from all senior active members to set up all the items discussed and mentioned. We must support their efforts and help them become our future replacements.

Also, we should not forget our Lithuanian language, which is a difficult one to learn, but at the proper time and place, those with the knowledge of conversation, song and the like, should break in the language at a simple level for our younger members when they become part of the executive board.

Finally, it would follow that the Supreme Council must centralize and guide our councils in this endeavor by preparing outlines, suggestions and constantly keeping moral high,

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## Pennsylvania Profiles

### The Lithuanians

One group of immigrants that came to America and worked hard to improve themselves and Pennsylvania were the people from a small country in Northeast Europe, Lithuania.

In 1795 Demetrius Augustine Gallitzan, a Lithuanian nobleman, gave up his inheritance, came to the United States and became the first Catholic priest to have completed his studies and taken his Holy Orders in the country. He established a Christian colony of over 20,000 acres in Cambria County and founded the Town of Loretto. Prince Gallitzan State Park near Patton, PA is named in his honor.

Most of the Lithuanians who settled in the Keystone State came here after the 1863 revolt against oppression by the Czar of Russia. The most famous of these rebels was an Army Chaplain named Father Andrius Strupinkas. He fled to the U.S. in 1866 and was appointed the first Pastor of Lithuanians in Pennsylvania, serving from Mahanoy City to Mt. Carmel.

St. George's Church in Shenandoah was the first Lithuanian parish in the United States, having started in 1872.

The University of Pennsylvania Library has the largest collection of Lithuanian studies in America.

Some noted Lithuanian descendants included Alexander

Bialaski, 1st Director of Federal Bureau of Investigation - 1912 to 1919; and Johnny Unitas of Bloomfield - all-time great quarterback of Baltimore Colts; Casimir Businskis of Ehrenfield - millionaire movie star, better known as Charles Bronson.

The largest settlement of Lithuanians in the country is in the Anthracite coal region of Pennsylvania between Minersville and Forest City with courage, determination and hard work they overcame language barriers and mining hazards and rose to positions of authority in law, medicine, business, politics, education, sports, military and the arts.

*(DuBois Courier-Express)*

Belated  
Blessed & Healthy & Prosperous  
Christmas & Happy  
New Year - 1992



HM Annie Mitchell Matalavich  
C-52 Elizabeth, NJ



## DID YOU KNOW?

That the late *Lt. Al Blozis*, Georgetown U immortal, lost twenty pounds while working in a brewery laboratory during the summer of 1940 .... That *Jack Sharkey*, former World's heavyweight boxing champion, took-off a total of 1,200 pounds when he was campaigning as a fighter. And that on the 21st of July, sixty-three years ago, Jack Sharkey and Jack Dempsey, drew a record gate of \$1,083,529.00. Jack was ninety-one years old on October 6 of last year. That the 23rd anniversary of Sharkey's winnings of the Heavy-weight Boxing Championship of the World fell on the 21st of June. That sixty-one years ago, Jack Sharkey and Young Stribling, drew in their fight over \$400,000.00 at Miami, FL..... That the late *Joe Platak*, was National A.A.U. handball champion for seven consecutive years (1935-1941).... That in 1952 *Eddie Waitkus*, a player of the Philadelphia Phillies, was named the "come back player of the year." .... That there is located in the Frankfurt Military Post in Germany, a gymnasium named Blozis Hall in honor of the late *Lt. "Al" Blozis*. .... That *Jack Karwales*, former Michigan U. tackle and also a former outstanding end on the Chicago Bears professional football team, purchased a tavern in Chicago in the 50's, located on So. Western Ave.....That *Al Macionis*, former Olympic swimmer broke all of John Weismuller's American records while a freshman at Yale U. That before World War II, brothers *Al* and *Leo Macionis* (Philadelphia) aquatic stars, used to make mermaids blush when they hit the blue-green playground of King Neptune .... That *Joe Norris* (Detroit) one of the nations leading bowlers, underwent an emergency operation for appendicitis on his birthday, Feb. 10, 1942.... That *Peter Kisloski* (Wilkes Barre) won the ABC medal for bowling, the highest series in the calendar year of 1940.... That *Ed "Moose" Krause*, one of Notre Dame's favorite sons, an All-American football and basketball star in 1931-32-33 set Notre Dame basketball scoring records while playing for his Alma Mater .... That while competing in the 1942 National ABC bowling tournament, *John Skiptunas*, well known Lithuanian bowler from Wilkes Barre, PA and his partner *Alex Pitel*, another Lithuanian, placed 12th in the doubles event .... That *John Miljus*, who threw the so-called wild pitch that ended the 1926 World Series between the Pirates and Yankees, was a director of athletics at the Northrup

Aviation plant in Hawthorne, CA during World War II. Miljus was one of the first Lithuanians to enter organized baseball and was injured in the First World War .... That the largest contingent from one Lithuanian athletic family to enter the Armed Forces in World War II, were the six-members from *Goodman family* of Omaha, NB. The nationally known *Johnny Goodman*, the golfer, by the way, was one of the clans.

## RULES FOR LIVING

Lyle Stuart

1. Expend as little time as possible on trivia, detail, routine — and no energy at all on superstitions, and people whom you don't really want to be with.
2. Spend some time by yourself thinking ... and don't be afraid to allow your imagination to work its wonders.
3. Reputation is important but don't compromise real feelings on things important to you in order to "preserve" anyone's "good opinion" of you.
4. Practice patience. Learn how to sit tight and allow time to work in your favor.
5. Be candid and honest with people. Risk offense and alienation if necessary. Have people know that when you say something, you usually mean it and when you feel something strongly you will speak out.
6. We are all walking dust and ashes ... so don't try to elevate yourself by downing others ... and keep a check on your ego because we are all clowns in a vast three-ring circus, and fame and victory are your natural enemies.
7. Be gentle with people weaker than yourself. Be understanding. Be sympathetic. Be loyal to those you like. But show no quarter, no understanding, no mercy to those you are convinced are your natural enemies.
8. Be a show-off if it gives you pleasure ... but always be aware of how foolish ostentation really is.
9. Never forget that everything is a state of mind and alternatives and solutions are available to almost any problem.
10. Life is for having fun. Have as much fun as you possibly can without willfully hurting other people.

(Newsday)

## LITHUANIAN RELIGIOUS LIFE IN AMERICA

*Rev. William Wolkovich - Valkavicius*

Mid-January 1992 is the target date for the publication of **LITHUANIAN RELIGIOUS LIFE IN AMERICA: A Compendium of 150 Roman Catholic Parishes and Institutions - Vol. 1, Eastern United States.** This reference book is the first in a projected 3-volume series by William Wolkovich - Valkavicius. The second volume covers Pennsylvania alone with its 50 parishes and institutions, while the last in the series includes the midwest and beyond. This study was commissioned by Bishop Paulius Baltakis, O.F.M.

Volume 1 has entries on 40 parishes in New England, New York, New Jersey and Baltimore, plus ten miscellaneous entries on religious communities and other centers. There are brief biographical notices on nearly every priest of Lithuanian roots from the earliest days to the present. The book carries a preface by noted History Professor Victor Greene of the University of Wisconsin, and a guest essay of Thomas A. Michalski, on the European background of Lithuanian immigrants. The author's lengthy essay provides a prelude and key to understanding the entries.

The work contains thorough indices by subject matter, parishes, names, places and institutions, as well as dozens of church and shrine photos, bibliographical essay, bibliography

and glossary terms and abbreviations. There are numerous references to Poles, Irish and other ethnic groups.

The compendium of some 700 pages (printing, 1,000 copies) on acid-free paper with hard cover is a first in U.S. Catholic history since it furnishes a rare, complete picture of an entire ethnic community. Additionally, some data appears on independent parishes, socialists, free thinkers and communists. One of the surprises is a description of a little-known pair of Lithuanian Methodist parishes in Boston and Brockton, Massachusetts. The volume will be an unusual addition to reference departments of cities, research centers and academic libraries.

Publication was made possible by a modest number of acknowledged donors and a private loan. The exclusive distributor is CFS (Corporate Fulfillment Systems, 1 Bert Drive, W. Bridgewater, MA 02379-9979. Tel. 1 + 800-344-4501). The cost is \$79.50 (including postage and handling) on orders received before April 30, 1992, or \$89.50 afterwards. For additional information on this publication, contact Rev. William Wolkovich-Valkavicius, 36 St. George Ave., Norwood, MA 02062-4420, Tel. (617) 762-0979.

## AGRICULTURE

*Regina Kot*

The first recorded information about beekeeping in Lithuania dates from the 13th century. Information indicates that the finder of a hollow tree inhabited by wild bees became its owner upon marking the tree with his identification.

The owner of the forest or field where the tree was located could not claim it once it was marked. The obliteration of marks signifying ownership and the destruction of bees were punishable offenses. The beekeeper not only gathered honey, but also took care of his bees, making certain that they did not lack food. When the bees were ready to swarm, hives were

settled in other trees. Such hives are still found throughout Lithuania. Their use was most widespread dating back to the 16th century. The bees were not only left in the trees but also placed in boxes on the ground near farmsteads.

In ancient times, the bee was considered a sacred insect. The trees which the bees favored as a living place were also deemed holy. Certain Gods were protectors of bees. They were venerated so much that they were neither bought or sold but were given or acquired as a present, inheritance or dowry. The donor or receiver became *biciuliai* (friends).

### Life in these United States

One of the first of the 1200 displaced Europeans to get through customs when the transport *General Hersey* docked was a Lithuanian lad. He spotted a soft-drink machine, tried a bottle, then put in more nickels and went back aboard the ship with as many bottles as he could carry. He made four such trips, selling the drinks for twice what they cost him. And when a friend arrived to meet him, he proudly displayed \$1.60 profit for his first hour in the United States.

A customs officer who had been watching grinned broadly and remarked, "Still the land of opportunity."

### THE WAY

If you would learn  
The best way to live,  
Be slow to accuse,  
Quick to forgive,  
Seldom in speech,  
Often prayed,  
The last to hurt,  
The first to aid.



## RESOLUTIONS DON'T WORK

Andy Rooney

At the start of the New Year, when resolutions are so popular, it's disappointing to consider how infrequently resolving to do something really works. Breaking New Year's resolutions is as much a tradition as making them.

In my lifetime I've resolved to do a thousand things I have not done. I have been determined, on countless occasions, to stop doing the things I do badly. I've promised myself to think things through more carefully, not to be so careless with money, not to eat so much, not to make so many cutting remarks either in writing or in conversation and to finish every project I start. These are my weaknesses, and I must add to those my inability to correct them by resolving to do so.

Resolve simply doesn't seem to help anyone to be a better person. Alcoholics who are determined not to drink again are unable to maintain their pledge without outside help; cigarette smokers are unable to stop smoking even as they lie dying of emphysema or lung cancer. Gamblers can't stop buying lottery tickets or playing the horses even though they know that in the long run they'll lose.

I'm sympathetic to everyone with a shortcoming who tries to correct it by determination. "Me too," I say.

We are led to put faith in resolutions because on rare occasions they do actually help. More than two years ago I noticed my arms were getting flabby and I decided to lift weights to rebuild my biceps. For what reason I cannot say but I've stuck at curling a ten-pound weight every day for about five minutes an arm. I'm now up to doing it one hundred times with each arm and my biceps are noticeably firmer. I don't know why I've been able to do this exercise every day when I can't stick to a resolution not to eat so much ice cream. Whatever leads me to lift those weights also gives me false hope that someday I'll be thin through resolve. It's a mirage but I see it every day.

The news, recently announced, that there is scientific evidence that heredity has a great deal more to do with what we're like than the circumstances under which we live while we're growing up is seriously bad news for all of us. I hate to believe it's true. It means I'm hopelessly trapped being exactly the way I am for the rest of my life, and that isn't good enough. It means that all the people who are poor because they've been born without much ability to succeed are having babies born with the same natural inclination to failure.

The idea that our destiny is largely determined by the genes we inherit is a discouraging thought for many reasons. For example, it diminishes the importance of education. As much as I dislike accepting the theory, my failure at self-improvement has made me so skeptical of the power of resolution to improve me that I've all but given up many resolutions.

The only hard thing I've ever decided to do and then consistently done in my adult life is to get out of bed early every morning. I've stuck at rising before the crowd through light and dark, warm and cold. Getting going early seems to be responsible for most of any success I've had. I was congratulating myself on this just now as I thought it over but I couldn't help wondering how it fit into my belief that resolutions are almost never kept.

It suddenly occurred to me that the chances are that determination and strength of character have nothing whatsoever to do with getting up in the morning. I can stop congratulating myself on having followed through on a resolution. It's simpler than that. I get up because I can't sleep.

So, Happy New Year, but for better or worse, you might as well resign yourself to being about the same this year as you were last. Chances are, those resolutions aren't going to improve your personality or lose you a pound.

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### Nutty Laws from around the globe.....

In Italy, it's illegal for women to play drums in public.... In Belgium, you need a license for goldfish .... In Holland, if you leave a bicycle in the same place for more than a day, it becomes public property!

Those are just a few of the oddball laws on the books in other countries. Here are some other wacky rules from around the world:

- ➔ In Spain, if you mail a letter to a government office, it has to be in a brown envelope.
- ➔ Taking the Lord's name in vain in Greece is punishable by up to two years in prison.

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➔ In Germany, residents of most neighborhoods are banned from having more than one party a month.

➔ Belgian children can be fined for swearing at anyone over 50.

➔ In Denmark, police can enter and search your home without a warrant — except on weekends!

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### MAKE A DIFFERENCE

We could make this world of ours better;  
We have it at our command,  
If instead of pointing a finger,  
We would just hold out a hand.



# Lithuanians in the News

## LITHUANIAN LEADER TELLS OF UNIONS' FIGHTS

The Communists haven't give up the battle for political power in the liberated Eastern Bloc countries, a Lithuanian union organizer told labor leaders in Detroit. Kazimieras Uoka described how Communist governments for years fought the independent labor movement, which has been a force for freedom.

Communist unions are trying to "take control over the economy through illegitimate but legal means, to destroy the people's trust in the newly elected governments and to heighten fear for the future in people's minds," Uoka told delegates to the national AFL-CIO convention.

Uoka, a former bulldozer operator who founded the independent Lithuanian Workers Union in 1988, received the AFL-CIO's annual Award for 1991 in Detroit. At age 40, he now is an official of Lithuania's government, and is credited

with a key role in forming free trade unions inside Russia and the Ukraine. A compatriot of Lithuanian Pres. Landsbergis, Uoka was appointed to regulate privatization of state property. He said it is now his job "to battle with the former Communist directors and farm managers." He has the authority to remove directors and take them to court when found that government money has been misused.

As a bulldozer operator at age 20, he was forced to join the state-controlled union because "if I didn't belong, I could not get assistance if I got sick. The union controlled housing and decided who could buy a car." He is a graduate of Vilnius University but was removed as a middle school teacher for political reasons in his hometown of Kaunas after one year.

## NAMED CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

Noted for pumping life into local tourism, Mark Zelonis of Bristol, RI was named the 1991 Citizen of the Year by the Chamber of Commerce. He is the executive director of the Blithewold Gardens & Arboretum and the Heritage Trust of Rhode Island and has significantly contributed to tourism industry in just eight short years. A dinner for this occasion was held last October wherein many members of C-103 Providence attended.

Mr. Zelonis graduated magna cum laude with a bachelor's degree from Univ. of New Hampshire. He then spent one year with the Peace Corps in Liberia, W. Africa. He later received a master's degree from Univ. of Delaware in public horticulture administration. While employed with Blithewold Gardens, he took a break from Blithewold to attend West Dean College in England studying the protection and conservation of historic landscapes, parks and gardens.

To name a few of Mark Zelonis' extra-curricular activities, he is a member of American Association of Museums, the Horticultural Club of Boston, the National Trust for Historic Preservation and the Royal Horticultural Society. He was recently elected to the board of directors and was also appointed chairman of the Roger Williams College Student Affairs Advisory Board.

Marks' wife, Sally, a non-Lithuanian was very instrumental in getting the Town Administrator of Lincoln, RI to participate in a seminar on municipalities held in Vilnius and sponsored by the U.S. Baltic Foundation.

It was interesting to note that when the K of L members attended the banquet, tables were decorated with the usual floral pieces. At the K of L table, the floral arrangement was



*Kazimieras Uoka received AFL-CIO's annual Human Rights Award in Detroit.*

## LITHUANIANS IN THE NEWS (Cont'd)



**Mark Zelonis**

replaced with an American & Lithuanian flag, and the Knight in the center adorned with red, green and yellow decorations.

### KIMBERLY BERGALIS REMEMBERED

Kimberly Bergalis, the young Lithuanian woman who contracted AIDS from her dentist and made it her mission to push for laws requiring health workers to be tested for AIDS, died of the disease at age 23.

Kimberly drew national media attention when she mustered her strength to testify before Congress in favor of mandatory testing of health care workers and patients before invasive medical procedures are performed. However, the "Bergalis Bill" never made it out of congressional committee. Ms. Bergalis' parents said their Catholic faith had given them the fortitude to help their daughter in her crusade to fight for mandatory testing of health workers.

Kimberly was born in Tamaqua, PA and later moved to Florida with her family. She is survived by her parents; two sisters and her grandparents, Bernard & Helen Bergalis of Tamaqua. She was buried in a Lithuanian-American cemetery in Tamaqua. May she rest in peace.

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## ATTENTION KNIGHTS

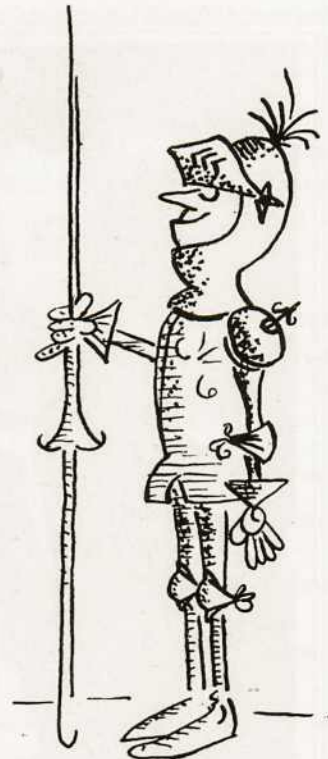
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# Lithuanian Kitchen

## LITHUANIAN LASAGNE

|                                       |  |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| 1-1/2 lbs. fresh kielbasi,<br>sliced  | 2 onions chopped                       |
| 1-1/2 lbs. smoked<br>kielbasi, sliced | 1 red apple, chopped                   |
| 1/2 lb. bacon/salt pork,<br>chopped   | 1-1/2 lbs. potatoes,<br>cooked, sliced |
| 1 lb. red cabbage, thinly<br>sliced   | 1 lb. sauerkraut,<br>washed, drained   |
| 1 lb. green cabbage, thinly chopped   | salt, pepper, paprika<br>to taste      |

Boil the kielbasi according to directions until done. Cool; reserve cooking liquid. Fry salt pork/bacon pieces until crisp; remove fat and reserve for another use. To one half of bacon pieces, add one onion and saute; add red cabbage, chopped apple, some reserved kielbasi broth and cook for about 10 mins. In another pan, saute the second onion with remaining bacon pieces, add green cabbage, sauerkraut, some reserved broth and cook for about 30 mins.

### LAYERING THE LASAGNE:

First layer: Place sliced smoked kielbasi on bottom of lightly greased lasagna pan.

Second layer: Red cabbage with apple, onion mix with cooking liquid as needed.

Third layer: Cover with sliced, cooked potatoes.

Fourth layer: Layer of sliced fresh cooked kielbasi.

Fifth layer: Green cabbage - sauerkraut saute mix use remaining liquid, if needed.

Cover the lasagne pan and place into 350° oven. Bake until bubbly about 50-60 mins. or as needed. Sprinkle with paprika. Serve with black bread and sliced farmer cheese. Serves 12.

Alfred Malluck, C-12 New York

## LITHUANIAN POTATO SAUSAGE

### Bulvines Desros

|  |                                   |
|--|-----------------------------------|
| 1/2 lb. bacon/salt pork<br>chopped     | Salt, pepper to taste             |
| 1 onion, chopped                       | Hog casings, soaked and<br>washed |
| 2 eggs                                 | Allspice (optional)               |
| 2-3 Tbsp. flour                        | Melted butter/margarine           |
| 6-8 medium potatoes, peeled and grated |                                   |

Cook bacon/salt pork until fat is cooked out (remove fat if desired); add onion and cook until lightly brown. Set aside. In mixing bowl, add eggs and flour to grated potatoes and mix well. Add onion mixture and season as desired. Stuff hog casings with the potato mixture; leave room for expansion. Tie ends of sausage in desired lengths. Prick sausage with a

needle every 2-3 inches to prevent splitting. Place on greased baking pan and brush with melted butter/margarine. Bake at 350° for 15-20 mins. Remove from oven - turn sausages over, prick again and baste with butter. Bake 30-40 mins. or until well browned and done. Serve with sour cream.

## LITHUANIAN LIMA BEAN SOUP

### Rukyτος Kumpis Sriuba su Pupos

|                   |                       |
|-------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 lb. lima beans  | 2 carrots, chopped    |
| 1 ham hock        | 1 cup celery, chopped |
| 2 onions, chopped | salt, pepper to taste |

Wash lima beans. In large saucepan add all ingredients and cook until lima beans and ham are cooked. Add seasonings.

## KRAUT & APPLE SALAD

### Kapustu ir Obeliu Salotas

|                                      |                                   |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1 qt. chopped sauerkraut,<br>drained | 1 cup green/red pepper<br>chopped |
| 1 large apple, chopped               | 1 cup sugar                       |
| 1 cup celery, chopped                | 1/2 cup vinegar                   |
| 1 cup onion, chopped                 |                                   |

Combine all ingredients and mix well. Keep refrigerated at least 4 hours. Keeps well.

Sue Raudonis

## PUMPKIN CHEESECAKE

### CRUST:

|                                  |                        |
|----------------------------------|------------------------|
| 2-1/2 cups graham cracker crumbs |                        |
| 1/2 cup ground pecans            | 1/2 cup sugar, divided |
| 2/3 cup butter, melted           |                        |

### CAKE:

|                                      |                                  |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 3 pkgs. (8 oz. each)<br>cream cheese | 1-1/2 cups packed<br>brown sugar |
| 1 can (16 oz.) pumpkin               | 3 eggs                           |
| 1/2 tsp. cinnamon                    | 1-1/2 cup sour cream             |
| dash salt                            | 1-1/2 tsp. maple<br>flavoring    |
| 1-1/2 tsp. vanilla, divided          |                                  |

Preheat oven to 350°. Lightly butter a 9" springform pan. Combine all crust ingredients and bake for 5 mins. Cool crust. Combine cream cheese, sugar, pumpkin, cinnamon, salt; mix on medium speed until well blended. Add eggs one at a time; mixing well after each. Blend in flavorings. Pour over crust. Bake 1 hour 20 mins. Combine sour cream, 1/4 cup sugar and 1/2 tsp. vanilla and carefully spread over cheesecake. Bake 5 mins. Cool slightly; loosen cake from rim of pan. When cooled, remove rim of pan and chill several hours or overnight. Garnish with pecans.

Sue Raudenis

# Official K of L News

## NATIONAL EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETS

On Oct. 26, 1991 the National Executive Board met at St. George's Parish, Philadelphia, PA with Rev. J. Anderlonis and C-3 acting as hosts.

National Executive Board has been busy with various important projects. Evelyn Ozelis, 1st Vice-President in charge of Special Projects has put her committee together in reviewing the revision of the National K of L constitution. This updating will be a major project that may take several years to complete. The Committee is mainly comprised of district presidents. If you have any suggestions regarding the revision, please send them to Ms. Ozelis.

First Vice President Anne Cheplick is looking into the possibility of (re)organizing four new councils. Third Vice President-Juniors Rita Zakarka has been in contact with Junior councils. Waterbury, C-7 have recently started a new Junior Council. Recording Secretary Rob Martin has been anxiously waiting for updated addresses of newly elected officers from all councils. This is important information for the Executive Board in order that material can be mailed to the proper person in each council.

National Financial Secretary Mary Beth Slakis has been receiving 1992 dues. Remember that dues must be sent in by January 1 with a deadline of March 30 at which time VYTIS will be cancelled for non-payment. Trustees Bill Kolicius and Ed Barkowski continue to give excellent detailed reports of all funds involved. Vincent Boris, chairman of Lithuanian Affairs Committee has sent excellent material to all councils. Bob Boris, chairman of Aid to Lithuania stated that the fourth container of medical supplies has been shipped to Lithuania. Bob Boris, Vince Boris and Loretta Stukas have attended White House briefings. K of L goals from these sessions have been to receive financial aid in shipping the medical supplies to Lithuania since donations have been greatly reduced.

The National Executive Board were invited to the Lithuanian Embassy in Washington to attend a reception honoring Prime Minister and Vice President of the Supreme Council of Lithuania. Since the Embassy is conducting a fund-raising drive, Pres. Petkus, on behalf of all K of L members, presented a check for \$5,000.00 to the Ambassador, Stasys Lozoraitis.

On Dec. 7, John Baltrus, President of Mid Central District and William Kolicius, member of C-19 Pittsburgh, represented

*Frances Petkus, President* the K of L at a dinner sponsored by the Franciscan University of Steubenville, OH wherein Sister Nijole Sadunaite was presented the distinguished Poverello Medal at the banquet.

Special thanks are extended to wonderful hosts in Philadelphia - Fr. Anderlonis and C-3 who served a delicious lunch, dinner, and provided necessary transportation. We are ever grateful.

## ADOPT A SEMINARIAN

At the 78th National Convention, it was decided that members or councils would adopt a Seminarian presently at the Lithuanian Pontifical College in Rome.

These Seminarians, who are now studying in Rome, have no means of support. In adopting one, it does not require a great deal of money. All that is asked for is an occasional card or letter, with a small donation for their personal needs. It will be a great help to each one and will certainly help in the future of the church of Lithuania.

The Lithuanian Seminary in Rome needs your help now more than ever. The college offers the Seminarians the opportunity to study as liturgists, chancellors, canon lawyers, teachers and any other field that was not open to them.

There are still ten names that have not been adopted. If anyone is interested, names and addresses will be supplied. Please contact Anna (Klizas) Wargo, 125 So. Morris Ave., St. Clair, PA 17970.

## CALENDAR of EVENTS

- February 2, 1992 - MAMD 32nd Annual "Memories of Lithuania" banquet. Martinique Restaurant, Chicago, IL
- March 8, 1992 - MAD Annual Communion Breakfast and meeting. Host C-41, Brooklyn, NY
- March 8, 1992 - Amber District Meeting & St. Casimir Celebration, Host C-118 Hazleton, PA.
- March 11, 1992 - St. Casimir's Day commemoration and Spring MAMD meeting. Host: C-24, Nativity B.V.M.
- March 14, 1992 - National Executive Board Meeting - Host: C-7 Waterbury, CT.

## IN MEMORIAM

**ARTURAS ANDRULIS**  
C-5 Chicago, IL  
† May 19, 1991

**WM. PIACENTINI, SR.**  
C-103 Providence, RI  
October 23, 1991

**ANNA KERSIS**  
C-26 Worcester, MA  
† November 15, 1991

**HELEN ATKOCIUS**  
C-110 Maspeth, NY  
† November 30, 1991

**JULIE SALINER**  
C-5 Chicago, IL  
† May 24, 1991

**PHIL RUTHA**  
C-109 Great Neck, NY  
† October 29, 1991

**FRANK WILINSKY**  
C-144 Anthracite, PA  
† November 15, 1991

**ANNA LASKY**  
C-110 Maspeth, NY  
November 30, 1991

**CHARLES LAPINSKAS**  
C-26 Worcester, MA  
† October 3, 1991

**ANTHONY SAVAGE**  
C-116 Worcester, MA  
October 29, 1991

**VINCENT ZALIS**  
C-12 New York, NY  
† November 23, 1991

**JOSEPH LOVEIKAS**  
C-29 Newark, NJ  
† December 2, 1991

**ADELE BROOKS**  
C-143 Scranton, PA  
† October 6, 1991

**PETER GAGLE**  
C-112 Chicago, IL  
October 31, 1991

**HELEN MUZIKEVICIUS**  
C-29 Newark, NJ  
† November 25, 1991

**GEORGE VAIKNES**  
C-140 Syracuse, NY  
† December 6, 1991

**MARY YORK**  
C-12 New York, NY  
† October 20, 1991

**VIOLET A. PRICE**  
C-63 Lehigh Valley, PA  
† November 1, 1991

**THEODORE PINKUS**  
C-26 Worcester, MA  
† November 26, 1991

**JOHN BITTNER**  
C-29 Newark, NJ  
† December 2, 1991

## LETTERS

Dear K of L Foundation:

Forgive the late date of my thanks and acknowledgement of your selection of my entry for second prize.

I hope my ideas will help our organization gain some insights for increasing our pursuit of younger members.

Sincerely yours,  
*Anne Sikora*

Dear Vyciai:

Garbe Jezui Kristui!

There are no words suitable to thank you for the magnificent response to "SOS Vaikai." Yes, there are miracles. Yes, there are wonderful people in the world. Every day is a new revelation of God's unbounding love poured out through you. Your response is superb,

be it monetary, gifts, support, encouragement - everything is well appreciated.

On behalf of the many children in Lithuania and "SOS Vaikai", again I thank you and commend you to our good God for His Blessings. "For whatever you do to the least, you do unto Me."

Gratefully,  
*Sister Helen Ivanauskas, CJC*  
*Member of SOS Vaikai*



# Council News

## NEW ENGLAND DISTRICT

The New England District Scholarship's very successful Festival was held in Oct. at Maironis Park in Shrewsbury. We wish to thank all those who purchased tickets or to the following who so generously gave donations: New England District - \$200; Larry Svelnis C-17 - \$100; C-17 So. Boston - \$50; Nellie Piragis in memory of Frank Anoris C-10 - \$50; C-70 Lawrence - \$25; Howard Beaudette C-10 - Christmas decorations; C-30 Westfield - Straw painting by A Saiminkas; Lennie Davidonis C-10 - Misc. items. Winners of these gifts were: Alfred Wechak, Iggy Hobitz, C. Kulakusky, Sharon Gaun, Nell Grande, B. Lukason, Greg Sokol. Many thanks also to the dance group from Hartford who added to the enjoyment of the day.

Officers elected for the 1991-92 term are as follows: Alex Akule, Pres.; Benedict Coach, 1st vice pres.; Frank Peterson, 2nd vice pres.; Eva Ball, 3rd vice pres.; John Grenda-Lukas, sec.; Marion Hobitz, treas.; Bertha Stoskus, corres. sec.; Helen Dallalis & Irene Tamulevich, trustees; Rev. Peter Shakalis, spiritual advisor; Longinas Svelnis & Audrey Toole, archives; Marion Racicot, Rita Pinkus, George Barton, ritual; Aldona Marcavage, public relations; Andrew Akstin, Lith. affairs; Ignatius Hobitz, cultural; Irene Tamulevich & Dorothy March, sports; Blanche Genaitis, Eva Ball & Veronica Bizinkauskas Cote, scholarship; Aldona Keaney, LCRA.

## C-1 BROCKTON, MA

The day was perfect as only Mother Nature could arrange in beautiful New England in the Fall. Nov. 3 found many enthusiastic supporters of "SOS Vaikai" heading to Maironis Park in Shrewsbury.

C-1 was proud to present the concert featuring Maryte Bizinkauskas, opera soloist and her talented sister Veronica Bizinkauskas Cote, soprano. The audience was not disappointed, in fact, very elated. Cheers of "bravo", "valio" filled the hall followed by a standing ovation. Many selections from different operas as well as folk songs were presented. The echo of their songs still resound in our hearts.

Not only was the audience of more than 200 delighted with song but also with special pastries. Nijole Ivanauskas Potts and other volunteers outdid themselves in providing delicious treats. Not even a bakery could compare.

Money raised from the concert will go toward sending a container of food provided by Gerber Food Co.

"SOS Vaikai" is grateful to all who participated in making this such a tremendous success. Shall we do it again? Let's! God bless you for all your efforts and know "whatever you do to the least, you do for Him."

*Sister Helen Ivanauskas, CJC*

## C-3 PHILADELPHIA, PA

A reception was held at the Lithuanian Embassy in Washington in honor of vice president of the Supreme Council and the Prime Minister of the Republic of Lithuania in Oct. John Mickunas received an invitation from the Lithuanian Ambassador and attended with wife Agnes representing both Amber District & C-3. Many K of L's were present as well as representatives of other organizations.

Fran Petkus, national K of L president took this opportunity to present the Ambassador with a \$5,000 donation toward the renovation of the Embassy.

A round of applause is extended to Leonard Kapocius, Lithuanian Affairs chairman and Julia Kowrak, cultural chairlady. Leonard brought the council up-to-date on present day and future economics in Lithuania and resolutions before the Senate and the House of Representatives. Julie led the members in singing the Lithuanian National Anthem and also gave a line-by-line translation. C-3 thanks both of you for the great presentations.

John Mickunas & Walter Svekla represented C-3 during November at a reception hosted by Temple University to welcome the men's and women's



*Concert to Benefit SOS Vaikai: L to R: Sr. Helen Ivanauskas, CJC, Maryte Bizinkauskas, Bradley Pennington, pianist, Veronica Bizinkauskas Cote and Veronica Bizinkauskas*

national Lithuanian Basketball team, Statyba, who were playing the Temple teams in an exhibition double-header that evening. Temple provided a delicious buffet to local Lithuanian guests. The Lithuanian women's team was victorious but Temple prevailed over the Lithuanian men who were inexperienced and overmatched. Both Lithuanian teams must have felt very welcome because Lithuanian flags, banners and bilingual signs were displayed all over the Temple Field House. John & Walt thoroughly enjoyed the evening but were somewhat disappointed that the reception did not include meeting the Lithuanian athletes.

*Irene Svekla*

#### C-26 WORCESTER, MA

Executive board and chairpersons for 1992 are as follows: Rita Pinkus, pres.; Anna Leseman, vice pres.; Aldona Waska, rec. sec.; Marion Racicot, fin. sec.; Stephen Walinsky, Jr., treas.; William Leseman, auditor; Charles Kulakusky, sgt. at arms; Virginia Cummings, public relations; Olga Kersis, Vytis correspondent; Marion Racicot, ritual; Eduardas Meilus, Jr., Lithuanian Affairs & cultural; Fr. John Petrauskas, spiritual advisor.

Our council is surely growing. We welcome the following new members: Guy Glodis, Dorothy Spokis, Judith Maleckas, Josephine & Benny Ambrose, Anne DeLaurier, Casimir & Ellen Vallon and Anthony & Adelle Dailida.

Our sincere sympathies are extended to Mildred Lapinskas on the death of her husband Charles; to HMRita Pinkus on the death of her husband Ted; to Olga Kersis & Alex Anusauskas on the death of her mother and his sister, Anna. Anna was a member of our council and also financial secretary for the Lithuanian Charitable Society, Maironis Park, for more than sixty years. Sympathies are also extended to Nell Mitchell on the death of her brother William Galvich and to Frank Kondrotas on the death of his sister Ann Volent. May they all rest in peace.

Get well wishes are extended to George Sopozak who had by-pass heart surgery.

Our Christmas party was held at Maironis Park in Dec. A great time was had by all.

*Anne Leseman*

#### C-29 NEWARK, NJ

Since our last column in Vytis, several events took place that are worth mentioning.

On Oct. 6, members Jean & George Tatoris celebrated their 50th Golden Wedding Anniversary. Fr. Peter Stravinskis officiated at their renewal vows. We wish this couple much good health and happiness in the many more years ahead.

A belated thank you and gratitude is extended to Ann O'Neill who so grandly ran the 90th Anniversary affair of Holy Trinity Church. Only Ann with her finesse and capable committee could make our "brunch" so elegant. The music furnished by Joe Thomas helped to digest our food with polkas, waltzes and other music.

We also attended the celebration of Our Lady of Siluva in Washington. Everyone attending was not sorry they were there.

*Mary Cullen*



#### C-36 CHICAGO, IL

A delightful and memorable meeting was held in Oct. in Immaculate Conception school hall. New officers were installed by Rev. Fabian Kireilis, our spiritual advisor. Special congratulations to the following committee chairpersons who will serve during the current year: Sophia Zukas, ritual; Evelyn Ozelis, Lith. affairs; Elena Sirutiene & William Liauba, culture; Dave Gaidas, English program; Elena Dirutiene, Lithuanian program; Helen Meizis, Irene Noruskis, Val Vilunas, cheer up; Helen Meizis, Irene Norushis, Frank Grigalis, Vytautas Dijokas, Al Zukas, public relations; Sabina Henson, Vytis corres.; Steve Rudokas, Sgt. at arms.

C-36 hosted the Mid-America District Memorial Mass in Nov. at Immaculate Conception Church. Mass was celebrated by Revs. Fabian Kirielis, Anthony Zakarauskas & John Savukynas. Evelyn Ozelis was chairlady of this event. Again in Nov. we remembered the following deceased members who passed away during 1991: Tekla Ruchas, John Henson, Albina Kodis, Lorraine Boese, Henry Klatt.

A speedy get well to Lorraine Baginski & Anthony Urbonas who are recovering from recent surgery. Our prayers are



*C-29 Newark - New Executive Board - 1991-92*

with you.

Special congratulations extended to Evelyn Ozelis who was elected 1st vice pres. of National Executive Board as well as Mid-America District. Sabina Henson was elected 3rd vice pres. of Mid-America District.

Harriet & Thomas Apke's son Tom received an invitation from Vilnius University asking him to consider teaching business law in March and April of 1992.

Our December meeting featured a traditional Lithuanian kucios.

*Sabina Henson*

### C-50 NEW HAVEN, CT

Elections took place at the Nov. meeting of C-50. Our new slate of officers and committee chairpersons is as follows: Pres., Frank Peterson; 1st vice pres., Albert Gutauskas; 2nd vice pres., Anna Kordosky; sec., Audrey Toole; treas., Anne Meskins; fin. sec., Alex Gedrim; spiritual advisor, Fr. Albert Karalis; ritual, Frank Antin; Sgts at Arms, Alice Dekas & Anthony Kordosky; trustees, Joan Augustine, Charles Dekas & Helen Medley; Lith. affairs & culture, Joseph Karmuza; sunshine, Eleanor Gutauskas; publicity, Elizabeth Gybowski. Congratulations to all.

Several members attended the New England District Cultural Festival at Maironis Park in Shrewsbury. They enjoyed the good companionship and good food. All Knights are encouraged to keep our Lithuanian culture alive.

We continue to pray for recuperating members: Anthony Adams, Mary Bachinski, Betty Macknis & Ed Toole as well as the rest of our family members during the New Year. *Audrey Toole*

### C-63 LEHIGH VALLEY, PA

A Mass commemorating Lithuania's newly restored freedom was celebrated by parishioners and council members alike on Nov. 17 at St. Michael's Church in Easton, PA after which the council members met in the church hall for a luncheon and the monthly meeting.

Our council's annual Kucios portrayal was held on Dec. 8. Ed Klova narrated the meaning of Kucios, explained the significance of the traditional foods and described Lithuanian folk customs on Christmas Eve. This was to acquaint our guests and even those family members who are unaware of our rich, beautiful and religious Lithuanian heritage. Evelyn Harryn & Valerie Smickle co-chaired the event.

Initial plans were laid to celebrate Lithuanian Independence Day on Feb. 16. We also decided to make this an even more gala event since we will be celebrating the 10th anniversary of our founding and the restoration of Lithuania's freedom. The celebration will begin with Lithuanian flag-raising in Allentown, Easton & Bethlehem with their mayors in attendance. Hopefully, Allentown's guest fireman from Panevezys, Lithuania, will be the special guest of honor. This will be followed by an independence day dinner at the Glass Slipper in Bethlehem. Al Klizas was appointed chairman of this event.

A \$100 donation was sent to Lithuanian Catholic Religious Aid to assist in the restoration of the Cathedral in Vilkaviskis. This is the second of three equal increments budgeted by the members.

Adele & Andy Keraga and Al & Jeanette Klizas represented the Lithuanian community in celebrating the City of Bethlehem's 250th anniversary called "Bethlehem Sings." The program featured a choir of 1200 voices accompanied by a young people's philharmonic orchestra consisting of 75 youths and an internationally famous soloist. C-63 members were in Lithuanian costume, proudly carrying the Lithuanian flag and were an integral part of the grand finale along with eleven other ethnic groups in costume. The two performances were viewed by over 5000 spectators in Lehigh University's Stabler Arena the weekend of Nov. 9 and 10. They were spectacular and received hearty applause. *Joseph Ogint*

### C-79 SOUTHFIELD, MI

Our Nov. project was the Fall Festival. Diligent workers began gathering early in the morning and stayed at their posts until mid-afternoon. Kugelis and bratwurst were dispensed by Mary Keller and her crew of Richard Danielak, Carol Marzolf, Marianne Newberry, Joe Panavas & Betty Petroski. Helen Santorum was in charge of the bake sale. Her helpers were: Margaret Dapkus, Sylvia Jarosz & Ann Valetka. Pres. Maggie Smailis had a corner of the hall for her popular Straw Game. She was aided by Bill Dapkus, Beth Ann Marzolf & Frank Povilaitis. Ann Uzdevinis took charge of the White Elephant Table in place of ailing Bertha Janus. The bartender was Edward Sackle. Basket of Cheer and other beautifully wrapped items in the raffle were well taken care of by Emma Povilaitis with Julia Janson, Stella Hotra & Tina Bulota. Probably, because Maggie Smailis worked so hard to put together this annual affair, she was the winner of the 50/50 raffle. We realized a welcome profit to augment our council treasury.

On the sick list we have Gerry Chaps who is very seriously ill and Joe Usoris, convalescing after quadruple by-pass heart surgery. Once active Sophie Zager is now confined in a nursing home. It would cheer her if we remembered her at: American Home, Bldg. #11, 2251 W. Auburn Rd., Rochester Hills, MI 48309.

We were very privileged to have Pres. Landsbergis of Lithuania make a stop at Divine Providence Church on Nov. 11 and 12. Many of our members were among some 400 people gathered to greet him in the reception line. The next day an elegant luncheon was held in his honor. Six members attended: Bill & Marge Dapkus, Bertha Janus, Frank & Emma Povilaitis & Maggie Smailis. Our council's offering was presented to the president by Maggie Smailis.

It is very sad that more members do not attend our council sponsored affairs. We hope they appreciate the efforts



others put forth to arrange and work at them.

Bee Jay

### C-100 AMSTERDAM, NY

On Veteran's Day, Nov. 11, members of C-100 attended a Mass held by Rev. Joseph Grabys in memory of our deceased members. Meeting followed in Fr. Baltch's Social Center with Pres. Irene Tice presiding. Lithuanian Affairs co-chairlady, Adeline Raila, showed us the New York Times full page ad inviting the public to visit Lithuania. Lithuanian language chairlady, Polly Ziausys, recited a number of new Lithuanian words. A few examples are: fat - apkunis; funeral parlor - sarvojimo sale; to taste - paskanauti; ethnic - etnosas.

Stanley & Joan Rimkunas, Bill & Bea Jasewicz traveled to Brockton, MA with two carloads of clothing, medicine, etc. which they gave to Sister Helen Ivanauskas. Stan & Joan are planning to adopt three Lithuanian orphans. Members were asked to bring donations to the Nov. meeting. The response was great. Ann Beleckas brought in two cartons of goods donated by the Almor Co. where Ann works. Again they delivered the cash and various items to Sister in Brockton.

Cultural chairlady, Mirga Bablin, spoke on the accomplishments of Antanas Vanagaitis who settled in Chicago. He was the editor of "Margutis" and an excellent entertainer who traveled with our deceased member, Prof. Joseph Olsauskas, to various Lithuanian communities performing their comedy routine and singing their songs.

Pres. Tice chaired the yearly Christmas party held in Dec. Her husband, Harold, Walt & Sophie Malkowicz were on the committee. Polly Ziausys will chair the Lithuanian Day dinner and program on Feb. 15. Entertainment will be by the Samburys Lithuanian Dancers from Boston. Main speaker will be Rasa Razgaitis, director of special projects with the LCRA, Brooklyn, NY.

At the close of business, our refreshment committee consisting of Ann Beleckas, Edna Stokna, Ann Czerw & Helen Radzevich provided an array of delicious goodies. Buvo labai skanu.

Smile & Sparkle

### C-102 DETROIT, MI

Congratulations to the newly elected National Executive Board, especially Fran Petkus. She was the former president of our MC District. Also to two of our council members, HM Bob Boris on the Aid to Lithuania committee and Vince Boris, who is on the Lithuanian Affairs committee.

Our council elections maintain the same officers. Our Oct. meeting was held at St. Anthony's to coincide with the annual parish "Piknikas po Stogu". We enjoyed the Lithuanian food and games that were run by member Josie Jonulate, who is presently recuperating from a fall accident. It was nice having Helen Smolak and Vince Klucens in attendance.

In Nov. local Lithuanians were honored by the visit of Lithuania's Pres. Landsbergis. He was guest of the UAW-CIO convention held at the Westin Hotel in Detroit. After a three day convention, the Lithuanian Society hosted a champagne reception for the president at the Lithuanian Cultural Center in Southfield. Our council was particularly honored that HM Bob Boris was invited to sit on the dais and greeted the President

on behalf of the Knights of Lithuania. Bob was introduced as a third generation American of Lithuanian heritage, who has worked diligently on behalf of Lithuania. A few guests attending were a representative of Pres. Bush, Michigan Senator, Sander Levin, who visited Lithuania last year, Viktoras Nakas of the Lithuanian Embassy in Washington and Saulius Anuzis, representing Michigan Governor, John Engler. Pres. Landsbergis spoke of Lithuania's determination to remain free, as were the other Baltic States. A priority is to have the Russian troops leave Lithuania.

The following weekend at Divine Providence, a slide presentation was made by Dr. Waring of Ann Arbor. He is a non-Lithuanian who works with the handicapped and has traveled to Lithuania observing and advising on the care of the handicapped. His group was in Lithuania during the Coup and he showed us many interesting scenes of his trip. His group traveled 2000 miles and have plans to bring a group to this country next year; among them a young boy whose leg was run over by a Russian tank and had to be amputated.

Get well wishes are extended to Eve Aukstikalnis-Stark after spending two weeks in the hospital.

Deepest sympathies are extended to the relatives of Carl Gobis, who passed away. Carl was an active member in his time, attending the National convention each year, but lately he was just a paying



C-102 Detroit at the reception for Pres. Landsbergis: Donna Stanievich, Donna Bunikis & Edna Klucens.

member.

We wish all a very healthy, happy and prosperous New Year. *Meriute*

#### C-141 BRIDGEPORT, CT

Barbara & Paul Schmidt celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary on Oct. 27 with a lovely party at the Harugart German Hall. Entertainment was provided by the Lithuanian Vetra and the Bavarian Folk Dancers. Alice Wilinskas, Barbara's creative mom, made little candy baskets for each guest. Lithuanian tri-colors and a small German flag were attached to the baskets. *Ilgiausiu metu, Barbara & Paul.*

Answering the call to Sr. Helen Ivanauskas plea for SOS Vaikai, donations of children's clothing and toys were made by Aldona & Bob Marcavage, Agnes Lezdauskas, Aldona Peters and Sarah Miller.

Rose & Wally Barius left for Florida to escape the harsh New England winter. Helen Janiunas & Stefe Vaikutis will be the lector's at Mass during Wally's absence.

Officers for 1992 are: Msgr. Francis Prankus, spiritual advisor; Clemencine Miller, pres.; Sylvester Marcavage, 1st vice pres.; George Radzwillas, 2nd vice pres.; Barbara Schmidt, sec.; Alphonse Trainis, treas.; Lee Marcinka, fin. sec.; Peter Putrimas & Stephen Wilinskas, trustees; John Marcinka & Pete Peters, sgts. at arms; Aldona Peters, cultural; Joseph Janiunas, Mitch Marcinauskas, Vladas Barius, Lith. affairs; Stefa Vaikutis, Lith. language; Pat Silk, public relations; Lee Marcinka, Clemencine Miller, ritual; Stella Marcinauskas, hospitality; Aldona Marcavage, Vytis correspondent.

#### C-150 KANSAS CITY, KS

Members of the K of L met with the Lithuanians of America for a pot luck dinner in Nov. Tony Granosky reported on the current situation in Lithuania from the information he received talking with his relatives as well as members of the Transpack Co. in Chicago.

Our members are forming a Lithuanian choir and invited singers to join with them. Their first performance will be at Lithuania's Independence Day Mass on Feb. 16 at St. Cyril's Church in Kansas City, KS. Our council has been unable to secure a spiritual advisor from the Kansas City Religious Community, however, Charles Purduski agreed to continue in this capacity.

Other new appointments to the roster include: Edward Gaydees, trustee; Rose Joyce, sgt. at arms; Anita Strumillo, cultural; Charlotte Horvatic, Lithuanian affairs. These are in addition to the previously elected officers.

*Lou Ann Rayn*

#### C-144 ANTHRACITE, PA

In the festive atmosphere of a Christmas Bazaar sponsored by Friends of Our Lady of Siluva Choir for the benefit of the parish, Pres. Olympia Zelinski conducted the Nov. meeting after the Lithuanian Mass. Members enjoyed refreshments, purchased crafts and baked goods to make the bazaar a financial success.

Golden wedding anniversaries were celebrated by Florence & John Kobluskie of Minersville; Evelyn & Victor Prep of Frackville; Tessie & Alphonse Balulis of Minersville; Marion & Joseph Wydra of Mt. Carmel. Sec. Ann Helen McDonald and husband Tom celebrated 40 years of wedded bliss while Marcella & Joseph Kaselonis celebrated their 59th wedding anniversary. Best wishes for many more happy and healthful years.

Our council participated in the American Lung Association Christmas Tree by manning the booth in Fairlane Village Hall soliciting donations by placing snowmen on the tree on Dec. 5.

Sincere sympathy is extended to Pres. Olympia on the death of her brother, Walter, and to the family of Frank Wilinsky. May they rest in peace.

Under the capable chairmanship of Helen Matunis, assisted by Al Kokus and her efficient, energetic committee,

members enjoyed the annual traditional Kucios in St. George Parish Hall, Shenandoah on Dec. 1. Fr. Matthew Jarasunas, spiritual advisor, read the Gospel and prayed in Lithuanian for our deceased members. Fr. Robert Potts said grace while Fr. Gerald Gobitas gave the benediction. Fr. Kweder and Fr. Yanushesky were our guests. Pres. Zelinski gave a brief talk on Christmas in Lithuania. Vice pres. Eleanor Yancofski gave the plotkele greeting. A raffle with many happy winners concluded the day's events.

Kudos to the Shenandoah members for a super Kucios. Many thanks for your hospitality.

#### C-152 EASTERN LONG ISLAND, NY

C-152's deliberations and activities will be guided in the coming year by the capable hands of our newly elected officers: Pres., Muriel Lekstutis Zambuto; vice pres., Delbert Vance; sec., Agnes Marma; treas., Tom Tarmey; fin. sec., Mary Zipkas; trustees, Charlene Abrahamsen & Joe Bealis; sgts at arms, Evelyn Niksa & Peter Petrowski. Upon the shoulders of this team - as will be true of every Knight - will rest the formidable challenge of responding adequately to the needs of a Lithuania which is new to all of us: an independent Motherland, whose existence is no longer prescribed by Moscow. Certainly none of us believe that with its freedom has come the solution of all problems for the Lithuanian people. Indeed, for a nation so long out of practice in developing and operating the manifold institutions of a free society a painful period of trial and error cannot be avoided. It is, therefore, incumbent upon the Knights of Lithuania, nationally and locally, to give much thought as to how best to develop programs aimed at easing Lithuania's rocky path to a free society within the newly emerging post-Soviet Europe.

Florida's gain is Eastern Long Island's loss, as our fellow-Knight Bertha

Laukaitis has relocated to the Sunshine State. We here remaining in the Snow Belt wish her all happiness!

Our council's annual Christmas party held on Dec. 14 showed signs of being a joyous and well attended occasion.

Planning has already begun to firm up all the details of our St. Casimir's Mass and Luncheon which is scheduled for March 1, 1992.

Lastly, we report, with deep sadness, the loss of Mary & Peter Petrowski's son, Peter, who departed this life on Nov. 25. The prayers of our readers are asked, both for the repose of Peter's soul and for the consolation of the Petrowski family. Again, we cannot close this column without asking all who read it to spare a prayer for our long suffering Knight Tony Zambuto, who continues to lie gravely ill.

*Tom Tarmey*

#### C-154 SPRING HILL, FL

With our newly elected president, George Mayer, we look forward to

another productive year. The goal of our council this year is to double our membership. A worthy challenge and one we can look forward to achieving with Helen Mayer as our recruiter. She has outlined a plan that will include the use of radio time on the local stations as well as announcements in the newspapers and commercial bulletins to seek out and lure prospective Knights to join us.

At the annual Ethnic Food and Arts & Crafts Festival in the Gulf View Mall in Port Richey, our ladies, Annette Gnezevich, Mary Sarka, Albina Normantas, Helen Konewitch, Virginia Kentra, Tillie Laconis and Bridget Walluk contributed cakes, cookies, arts and crafts objects that were snatched up in record time by the visitors who really appreciate our Lithuanian food and crafts. This endeavor was a huge success.

Thanksgiving time gave our members an opportunity to further display their talents as culinary experts by cooking

their specialties to add to the turkey at the American Lithuanian Social Club dinner. Julia Childs would have turned in her "Chef's Hat" if she had the good fortune to taste all that gourmet Lithuanian cooking. Not only did everyone enjoy the food, but Adolf Sarka entertained us with his music and Helen Mayer supplied her sparkling beverage for our enjoyment.

On Thanksgiving Day, many of us traveled to St. Petersburg to the American Lithuanian Club for a traditional Thanksgiving Day celebration. The cliché "a good time was had by all" was not adequate enough to say what a really great time we had.

The Snow Birds who spend summers in the Mid-Atlantic District area would like to thank the Great Neck council for making us welcome at some of their exciting and entertaining activities. This reflects that Lithuanian spirit is our legacy. Thank you and Aciu!

May this New Year bring us many blessings. *Sadye G. Petraitis*

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## Lithuanian National Symbol (Coat of Arms) VYTIS



Try to remember what this Lithuanian symbol represents. Someday some non-Lithuanian may ask you and you will be well prepared to inform him.

VYTIS—Lithuania's coat-of-arms portrays a white knight on a red background. The Knight, a cavalryman or warrior is galloping away with an uplifted sword. On his shield there is a double cross. Vytis has come down to us from the early ages of Lithuania. It is found on coins and seals. Later, it was used

on flags. Vytis stands for physical strength, spiritual heroism and creative power, a transition from the past, through the present, into the future.

The Knights of Lithuania can glory in their historical name. Ever since XI Century, the writers of an ancient history mention the Vytis as a brave horseman—knight who with the upraised sword drives away the enemy of the fatherland.

The American Vytis pursues a noble aim—to serve God and Country. This is written in their anthem and should be preserved in their hearts. Vytis is always faithful to God, Church and Country. Having before it a lofty example of St. Casimir, its Patron, the Vytis is well equipped to endure a hardest struggle for its ideals. Having survived through long and dark ages of history, the Vytis is fit to live. It should be an honorable duty of every Lithuanian to join this noble organization, the Knights of Lithuania.

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#### OOPS WE GOOFED!

December issue, Vol. 77, No. 10 - Page 69. Spelling of MAIRONIS PARK and address of 52 So. Quinsigamond Ave. were misspelled and incorrect. Sorry!

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