

WYTIŚ 1992

KNIGHTS OF LITHUANIA

VOL. 78: No. 3

KOVAS / MARCH



VYTIS

KNIGHTS OF LITHUANIA

KOVAS / MARCH
1992
VOL. 78: No. 3

SUPREME COUNCIL
OFFICERS
1991-1992

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

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

1st VICE PRESIDENT
Evelyn Ozelis
2533 W. 45th Street
Chicago, IL 60632
(312) 254-7553

2nd VICE PRESIDENT
Anne Cheplick
28 Delwood Drive
Oakville, CT 06779
(203) 274-6487

3rd VICE PRESIDENT
Rita Zakarka
6958 S. Rockwell St.
Chicago, IL 60629
(312) 434-7785

RECORDING SECRETARY
Robert A. Martin, Jr.
929 W. 34th St.
Chicago, IL 60608
(312) 890-4607

TREASURER
Frank Peterson
256 Sea Hill Rd.
North Branford, CT 06471
(203) 481-0776

FINANCIAL SECRETARY
Mary Beth Slakis
3331 S. Union Ave. - 1st Fl.
Chicago, IL 60616
(312) 523-4502

TRUSTEES
Edward A. Barkowski
1226 Palma Ave.
Schenectady, NY 12306
(518) 355-7483

William Kolicus
9326 High Meadow Drive
Allison Park, PA 15101
(412) 364-1622 - 364-5462

VYTIS (663680) published monthly November thru June, bi-monthly July-August and September-October by the KNIGHTS OF LITHUANIA, a Not-For-Profit organization. Subscription \$10.00 per year. Single Copy \$2.00. Second class postage paid at Chicago, IL. POSTMASTER ONLY: Send address changes to VYTIS, Two Bayview Ave., Port Washington, NY 11050.

VYTIS STAFF:

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

Dalia Bulvicius
30 Montrose Ave. - #9-P
Brooklyn, NY 11206

Stella Matulonis
Food Editor
63 Dartmouth Road
Manhasset, NY 11030

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

AMBER DISTRICT
John Mickunas
333 Davis Ave.
Mt. Ephriam, NJ 08059
(609) 931-3306

MAMD PRESIDENT
Algerd Brazis
13438 Westview Drive
Palos Heights, IL 60463
(708) 361-5594

MAD PRESIDENT
John Sakal
P.O. Box 103
Nesconset, NY 11767
(516) 724-6998

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

NED PRESIDENT
Alex Akule
20 Summer Drive
Saugus, MA 01906
(617) 233-3734

LEGAL ADVISOR
Saulius V. Kuprys
Henchan, Donovan & Isaacson
150 S. Wacker Dr. - Room 1050
Chicago, IL 60606
(312) 346-5275

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

CULTURAL COMMITTEE
John R. Mankus
1110 Darlene Drive
Endicott, NY 13760
(607) 754-1241

HONORARY MEMBERSHIP
Eleanore H. Laurin, Chairlady
9257 S. Pulaski Rd. - #6
Evergreen Park, IL 60642
(708) 636-9444

Stanley J. Vaitkus, Hon. Chmn.
Phyllis Grendal, Sec.
Rev. Albert J. Contons
Rev. Anthony Jurgelaitis, OP
Loretta Stukas

LITHUANIAN AFFAIRS
Vincent Boris
5678 Vantage Point
Columbia, MD 21044
(301) 596-4203

LITHUANIAN LANGUAGE
Dalia Bulvicius
30 Montrose Ave. - #9-P
Brooklyn, NY 11206
(718) 782-1541

PUBLIC RELATIONS
Peter Paul Zansitis
6939 S. Crandon Ave.
Chicago, IL 60649
(312) 363-2023

RITUAL COMMITTEE
Nellie B. Romanas, Chairlady
160 Seneca St.
Pittston, PA 18640
(717) 654-0870

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

Helen Chesko
1000 E. Pine Street
Mahanoy City, PA 17948
(717) 773-3684

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

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

Paul Binkis, Jr.
John Baltrus
Nancy Kober
Maria Deksnis
Irene Gecas

AID TO LITHUANIA
Robert Boris
4970 Brookdale Drive
Bloomfield Hills, MI 48013
(313) 642-4970

ST. CASIMIR'S GUILD
Anne Klizas Wargo
125 So. Morris St.
St. Clair, PA 17970
(717) 429-0132

K of L FOUNDATION
Loretta Stukas
234 Sunlit Drive
Watchung, NJ 07060
(908) 753-5636



Table of Contents - Turinys

St. Casimir, Patron Saint of Lithuania	2
If God Should Go on Strike - <i>Walt Huntley</i>	3
Grand Prince Traidenis - <i>Edward Baranauskas</i>	4
St. Patrick, Bishop, Apostle of Ireland - March 17	5
On the Banks of the Neman - <i>Antonio Wackell</i>	5
A Date with Destiny - <i>Edward Baranauskas</i>	6
Ignalina Nuclear Power Plant - <i>Vincent Boris</i>	7
Joint Baltic American National Committee - Internship Program	8
Freedom for Lithuania - <i>Leonard T. Brazis</i>	9
Needed - Old Issues of VYTIS	10
My Hobby - <i>Rev. John Savukynas, MIC</i>	11
Slow Boat to Java - <i>Albert Cizauskas</i>	12
Will there ever be Peace on Earth - <i>Konstant J. Savickus</i>	15
Early Lithuanian Religious Writings - <i>John R. Mankus</i>	15
Book Reviews	16
Wall to Wall - <i>Vince Taškunas</i>	16
Lithuanian Language Course - 1992	16
Lithuanians in the News	17
K of L Foundation Essay	19
For You Dear Sister - <i>translation Antonio M. Wackell</i>	19
Let's Read Lithuanian - <i>Dalia Bulvicius</i>	20
Slow Me Down, Lord - <i>Wilfred Peterson</i>	20
Lithuanian Kitchen - <i>Lietuviška Virtuvė</i>	21
Official News - Oficialus Skyrius:	
Message from K of L President Frances Petkus	22
Membership Drive - <i>Anne Cheplick</i>	22
Classified Ad Section	23
Calendar of Events	23
In Memoriam	23
Letters	24
Council News - Vyčiai Veikia:	
C-1 Brockton - C-3 Philadelphia	25
C-7 Waterbury - C-17 So. Boston, MA	26
C-25 Cleveland - C-29 Newark	27
C-63 Lehigh Valley - C-79 Southfield	28
C-90 Kearny - C-96 Dayton	29
C-100 Amsterdam Juniors - C-102 Detroit	30
C-103 Providence - C-110 Maspeth	31
C-112 Chicago - C-140 Syracuse	32
C-141 Bridgeport - C-150 Kansas City	33
C-152 Eastern Long Island - C-154 Spring Hill, FL	34
Marija, Marija - Hymn	35
Baltic Tours	36
Vytis Travel, Inc.	Back Cover

All correspondence should reach the Editor by the FIRST OF THE MONTH, two months in advance of issue. The editors assume no responsibility for the statements or opinions made by contributors or no obligation to return any material or photos unsolicited. Use of material from VYTIS permissible only if credit is given to VYTIS, its authors, artists or photographers.

Saint Casimir

Patron Saint of Lithuania



March 4 marks the Anniversary of the death of St. Casimir who was born at the royal palace of Cracow on Oct. 3, 1458. His father was Casimir IV, King of Poland and Grand Prince of Lithuania. His mother, Elizabeth of Austria, was daughter of Emperor Albrecht II Hapsburg. They had six sons and five daughters. Casimir was their third child and second son. He and his brothers were educated at the royal court. The most influential teacher of the royal children was Canon John Dlugosz (Dlugosius), an outstanding Polish scholar, chronicler and later bishop. He described his student Casimir as "an excellent youth of rare talents and remarkable knowledge." His other teacher, a humanist from Italy, Callimachus Buonacorsi, who for a brief period taught Casimir the art of rhetoric, remembered him as "a holy youth". One contemporary Prussian chronicler referred to him as "very wise and virtuous, and all the people could only speak much good about him." In general, he impressed people as a gifted, well-educated and virtuous youth.

In the fall of 1471, when he was 13 years old, for reasons of dynastic policy, his parents sent him with an army of advisers to occupy the throne of Hungary, to which his mother Elizabeth claimed the right of succession. The throne of Hungary was held by the elected King Matthias Corvinus (1458-1490); Casimir succeeded in conquering only a few castles. In the spring of 1472, after his unsuccessful military campaign, Casimir returned to Cracow and for some time continued his education. At the same time his older brother Ladislas had obtained the throne of Bohemia. Prince Casimir

as second born became the successor to his father's throne. When Casimir was approximately 16 or 17 years old, he began traveling with his father through their realm, attending meetings of the State Council and receptions of representatives from foreign countries in order to gain experience in affairs of state. When he reached the age of 22, his father assigned him an active part in the government including administrative duties, responsibilities in the judicial system and in military and financial matters. In 1481-83, when his father remained in Lithuania, he represented him in Poland. While performing his difficult duties and leading a strict ascetic life, he impaired his health and contracted tuberculosis.

In the Spring of 1483, an ailing Casimir arrived in Lithuania, the land which he now visited for the sixth time and which belonged to his father, his grandfather King Jogaila and his great-grandfather Algirdas, the Grand Prince of Lithuania. When he was there on a visit in 1481 with his father and his brothers, there was a plot to assassinate them, but it was detected in time. He lived in Vilnius and Trakai in the summer of 1483 and was in charge of the Chancellery of the Grand Principality of Lithuania. When his father returned to Poland, Casimir and his mother remained in Gardinas in the winter of 1483-84 where he died on March 4, 1484. His body was brought for burial to the Cathedral of Vilnius.

The saintly life of Prince Casimir drew attention while he was still living. After his death, people began to pray at his tomb and steps were taken for his canonization. Pope Leo X on Nov. 4, 1517, appointed a commission for the process of canonization. Three years later, the papal nuncio Zacharias Ferrerri, arrived in Vilnius and began interviews with living witnesses and scrutinization of miracles. They related that St. Casimir used to wear a hair shirt under his royal robes, described his acts of mortification, his sleeping on the bare ground, his prayers at the door of a closed church, his alms to the poor, widows and orphans, and his meditations on the Passion of Christ. It was known that he was particularly determined to preserve perfect chastity by refusing to marry.


Traditionally, it is accepted that St. Casimir was canonized by Pope Leo X, who died in 1521. Permission had been granted to celebrate St. Casimir's feast with a solemn liturgy in Lithuania and Poland. In Vilnius, a colorful celebration lasting three days (May 10-12, 1604) took place with divine services and processions in the city and the opening of the tomb of the Saint.

St. Casimir's body was found miraculously preserved through the period of 120 years. A new and beautiful chapel

of St. Casimir was attached and incorporated into the Cathedral of Vilnius in 1636. The remains were placed in a silver coffin and elevated above the altar. At that time he was declared the Patron Saint of Lithuania.

Lithuanian Jesuit missions and colleges contributed considerably to the development of the cult of St. Casimir. He was chosen as an example of chastity and piety. The cult was also connected with Lithuania's struggles against the Muscovites. In 1518 a large army from Moscow threatened to occupy the Lithuanian fortress of Polotsk. A small group of Lithuanians who came to defend the city and the castle were unable to cross the swollen Dauguva River. Suddenly, there appeared a rider on a white horse, wearing a white cloak, with his sword held high, and he led the Lithuanian army across the swollen river. Since that time Lithuanians

regard St. Casimir as their patron in their fight against the Muscovites and Moscow as their enemy. The coffin of the Saint was kept hidden during the first Russian invasion in Vilnius (1655) and during the Great Northern War (1703).

When the Russians occupied Lithuania in 1795, the official celebration of the feast day was forbidden and the church bearing his name in Vilnius was converted into a Russian Orthodox church (1831-1915). After World War II during the Soviet occupation it was again confiscated and made into an atheist museum. The remains of the Saint in the silver coffin, which had been kept in the cathedral for 300 years, were transferred in 1953 to the church of Sts. Peter & Paul in the suburb of Antkalinis. When Lithuania regained its independence, the coffin was again returned to Vilnius Cathedral. 

MALDA Į ŠVENTA KAZIMIERA

*O, Kazimierai Šventasis,
Kai tauta pavojuj bus,
Ar išvesi kaip anąsyk
Pergalės kovon pulkus?*

*Ar tu leisi, kad baltoji
Mūsų žemės lelija
Po raudono žirgo kojom
Būtų amžiams sutrypta?*

*Ją tvirtai laikyki rankoj,
Dengdamas globos skydu,
Tepraūzia ją aplenkę*

.....

LIVE and LEARN

Two little girls were discussing their families. "Why does your grandmother read the bible so much lately?" asked one. "I don't know for sure, but I think she's cramming for her finals," came the reply.



IF GOD SHOULD GO ON STRIKE

How good it is that God above has never gone on strike,
Because He was not treated fair in things He didn't like.
If only once, He'd given up and said, "That's it, I'm through.
I've had enough of those on Earth,
So this is what I'll do: I'll give my orders to the sun, cut off
the heat supply!
And to the moon - give no more light, and run the oceans dry.
Then just to make things really tough and put the pressure on
- Turn off the vital oxygen 'til every breath is gone!"
You know He would be justified, if fairness was the game, for
no one has been more abused or met with more disdain
than God,
And yet He carries on, supplying you and me with all the
favors of His grace, and everything for free.
Men say they want a better deal, and so on strike they go, but
what a deal we've given God to whom all things we owe.
We don't care whom we hurt to gain the things we like; but
what a mess we'd all be in,
If God should go on strike!

Walt Huntley

MARCH

To you, rough, wild, inconstant month,
I shall no love song sing,
For you are wed to Winter
Yet are holding hands with Spring

Dorothy Moffatt

GRAND PRINCE TRADENIS

(1269-1282)



Grand Prince Traidenis was the fifth ruler of Lithuania and one of the best known rulers in the era between King Mindaugas and Grand Prince Gediminas. It is not known if, and how, he was related to the family of King Mindaugas. Some historians, however, believe that his father was Grand Prince Treniota, one of the king's nephews who became the second ruler of Lithuania. Because this could not be proven, it has become a matter of opinion by some and only a theory by others.

How Traidenis ascended the throne of Lithuania and to whom he passed it on, remains shrouded in mystery. There is very little information concerning the direct descendants. Historical sources make no mention of his wife, her name, or where she came from. He had a daughter named Gaudimante but did he have a son? Some historians believe that he did and that his name was Pukuveras (also referred to as Putaviras) but there are no historic sources to prove this. The possibility that Traidenis was the grandfather of Gediminas and thus the originator of the Gediminas dynasty that ruled Lithuania for over 200 years was discounted because of that. Pukuveras

had four sons and two of them, Vytenis and Gediminas, later became rulers of Lithuania.

Traidenis had four brothers: Borza, Svilkenis, Lesys and Sirputis. The first three were reported to have died in battle against the military forces of the principality of Volynia sometime prior to 1270.

Traidenis lived in southwestern Aukštaitija, one of the four regions of Lithuania. It is believed that he lived in one of the castles at Kernave and that he eventually moved to Vilnius, which was not far away.

Following the death of Grand Prince Švarnas, Traidenis took the throne of Lithuania in 1269. he was urged to follow in the footsteps of King Mindaugas and accept Christianity but he did not. He became famous as a good warrior. He defended and tried to unify the Baltic tribes who lived at the edges of the Lithuanian state, among them were the Yotvingians. A peace treaty with Volynia (now a part of Ukraine) was concluded in 1275 and the Yotvingian territory between the Nemunas River and the Pripit Marshes was joined to Lithuania. Because of the numerous Slavic settlements that existed there since the 9th century, it was called the "Land of the Black Rus" or Black Russia. This territory continued to

be under Lithuanian control until the 18th century and today it is a part of Belorussia.

Traidenis and his surviving brother Sirputis waged a number of campaigns against the Poles and Masurians. He made peace with Masuria, a territory that was then located between northern Poland and Prussia, in 1279. He allowed his daughter Gaudimante to marry Prince Boleslas II of Masuria.

Traidenis and Sirputis ceased to be mentioned in any historical sources from 1282 on, and it is presumed that this was the year that both of them died. Traidenis left his mark in Lithuanian history. He became its ruler during a very difficult period when internal strife followed the assassination of King Mindaugas. He improved its military prowess, expanded its boundaries and most important of all, he considerably strengthened the Lithuanian nation.

by Edward Baranauskas



ST. PATRICK , Bishop, Apostle of Ireland March 17 - Patron of Ireland



The date and place of St. Patrick's birth are uncertain. He was born about the year 389, the son of Calpurnius, a Roman-British deacon, and Conchessa. When he was sixteen, he was carried as a captive into Ireland and obliged to serve a heathen master as a herdsman. Despite the harshness of the life there, he not only held on to his Faith but also learned the science of prayer and contemplation.

After six years he effected a miraculous escape and returned home. In a dream, he was told to go back and Christianize Ireland. St. Patrick prepared for his task by studying in the monastery of Lerins from about 412-415 and was ordained at Auxerre by St. Amator about 417.

In 431, after a period during which his vocation to

Ireland was tested by the hesitancy of his superiors in entrusting such a mission to him, St. Patrick was sent to assist Bishop Paladius in Ireland. On the death of the latter, St. Patrick was consecrated Bishop by St. Germanus (432) after receiving the approbation of Pope Celestine I. He traveled the length and breadth of Ireland, planting the Faith everywhere despite the hostility of the Druids, and succeeded in converting several members of the royal family.

On a visit to Rome in 442, he was commissioned by Pope Leo the Great to organize the Church of Ireland and on his return made Armagh the primate See and established Bishops in various places.

In winning a pagan nation for Christ, St. Patrick established many monasteries for men and women and made it famous for its seats of piety and learning. In the ensuing centuries, Irish monks carried the Faith to England, France and Switzerland.

After living a completely apostolic life of labor and prayer, St. Patrick died on March 17, 461, in the monastery of Saul, in Down in Ulster, leaving behind his Confessions which give a vivid picture of a great man of God.

(PRAYER - God, You sent Patrick to preach Your glory to the Irish people. Through his merits and intercession, grant that we who have the honor of bearing the name of Christian, may constantly proclaim Your wonderful designs to men. Amen.)

ON THE BANKS OF THE NEMAN

(translated by Antonio M. Wackell)

On the banks of the Neman, on green meadows,
There on the ground lies a young fellow,
Surrounding blossoms of beautiful flowers,
Coiling and twining throughout his hair.
The risen moon surrounds him with radiance,
Caresses him and kisses his face,
Refreshed and washed by morning's cold dew,
But O, he is just scarcely breathing.
His young head lies twisted on the chilly ground,
Heaving slowly is the youthful chest,
Scarcely heard he utters: for you I suffer,
You, most beloved land of my birth.

And dropping his head upon the cold earth,
The bluest of eyes he closed;
And the leaves on the trees wept for him.
And the leaves of the trees wept for him.
And the Neman flows on its wide river bed,
Softly its waters are conversing,
Surging surf, the billow, quickly overtakes,
The unusual story to tell.

(Author Unknown)



A Date with Destiny

by Edward Baranauskas

Every nation has a date that cannot easily be forgotten. The people of Lithuania will always remember Jan. 13, 1991, the day that was to be called "Bloody Sunday." The events that took place that day in Vilnius, the capital of Lithuania, shocked freedom-loving people everywhere.

Pres. Mikhail Gorbachev and the Soviet military did not stand in the way as democratic movements in the former Warsaw Pact countries dismantled their Communist governments. However, there were limits to the political and economic reforms inside the Soviet Union that Gorbachev would tolerate before he showed his steel teeth.

Lithuania was the first Soviet republic to declare its independence from the central government in Moscow. Gorbachev, who vacillated between the democratic reformers and hard-liners, this time allied himself with those who pushed for a military crackdown in Lithuania.

Special Soviet military forces, complete with tanks, began arriving in Lithuania in great numbers at the start of 1991. The Lithuanian people looked upon this with grave concern and prepared for the worst. They began demonstrating by the thousands in support of their government.

During the early morning hours of Jan. 13, thousands of peaceful, unarmed demonstrators flocked to Vilnius from all parts of Lithuania when word was passed around that a military assault was imminent on the television station and parliament building. Their worst fears were realized when Soviet tanks and paratroopers armed with automatic weapons appeared on the scene and headed for the television station.

To the shock of foreign correspondents who watched in horror, the tanks plowed right into the crowd, with the paratroopers shooting wildly and swinging their rifle butts at the unarmed demonstrators. Thirteen people were killed and hundreds of others were severely injured as the paratroopers stormed and occupied the television station.

The Parliament building, with the President of Lithuania and its legislators inside, appeared to be next target. The Soviet commander probably had second thoughts when he saw thousands of people shaking their fists defiantly and standing in front of the building singing Lithuanian patriotic songs. Fearing an even more horrible blood bath, the tanks and paratroopers withdrew. The Lithuanian government was saved.

Pres. Gorbachev, in a press conference the day after, blamed the Lithuanian people for provoking the Soviet troops to attack. He did not condemn this action and he

showed no remorse for the loss of life. He refused to answer any questions.

The liberal English language newspaper, the Moscow News, devoted the front page to the attack, under the headline "Bloody Sunday." The paper condemned Gorbachev for allowing such an attack to take place for, after all, he was the Commander-in-Chief and must have approved the plan beforehand. They criticized him for not reprimanding those who were responsible for the operation.

Today, almost a year after Bloody Sunday, Pres. Gorbachev is now a part of history. His Soviet Union, which he vowed to preserve at all costs, is now dismembered. The Lithuanian look at him with contempt, for they feel that he left office with bloodied hands.

Lithuania is today a free and independent country, but they paid a terrible price to achieve it. Those patriots who died defending the television station are revered as heroes and fresh flowers are placed on their graves every day. They were a special kind of people, for they had the courage to stand before those tanks with nothing but their bare hands and love in their hearts for their beloved Lithuania.

GULK ANKSTI

Eik, gulk anksti ir kelk anksti
Nesnausk prie darbo diena,
Kai jau pradės rytuose švisti
Prie darbo stok iš vieno....

Po darbo nuoširdaus, naudingo
Nevakarosi tu ilgai,
Užmiksi miegelio laimingu
Ir kelsies kaip naujas žmogus.

Leonardas Šimutis - 1939 m.



IGNALINA NUCLEAR POWER PLANT

An Economic Boon or Impending Disaster

Vincent Boris, Lithuanian Language Chairman

On Sept. 18, 1991, the USSR Ministry for Nuclear Power and Industry, transferred the responsibility for the Ignalina Nuclear Power Plant (NPP) facility to the Lithuanian Ministry of Energy. The facility contains the two largest power reactors in the world. The designed thermal output of one unit is 4800MW, the electrical capacity is 1500MW. About 50% of the power is consumed by Lithuania, while the rest is furnished to Latvia and Byelorussia. Agreements have been reached with the newly-established Russian Republic for the replenishment of nuclear fuels as needed. As a source of exportable energy, the Ignalina facility is a major economic asset to the fledgling Republic of Lithuania and a potential source of much needed capital.

The Ignalina NPP is situated in eastern Lithuania, about 70 miles northeast of Vilnius. Built next to a national park known for its scenic forestland and lakes, the NPP was planned to be the largest nuclear power plant in the world with four reactors of the Chernobyl type. The Ignalina-1 unit was commissioned on Jan. 8, 1984 and Ignalina-2 was commissioned on Aug. 30, 1987.

As Soviet construction on the third unit began and plans for the fourth were underway, Lithuanian environmentalists organized public demonstrations to force Moscow to cancel further construction. They were more successful than they could have imagined. Faced with rallies, marches and the formation in 1988 of a 15,000 person human blockade around the site, the Moscow regime agreed to shut down all new construction. A 1991 article, initially appearing in the Los Angeles Times with a Vilnius dateline, credits this discovery that popular action could work against the Soviets as the root from which the rest of the independence movement sprang.

"The Ignalina problem is still here," says Janos Tamulis, a leader of the Greens who now serves as a deputy in the Lithuanian parliament. "But it's impossible to shut down now because the electricity it produces serves Latvia, Byelorussia and Kaliningrad. In 1988, that would have been Moscow's problem. Now it's a problem of the relationship between Lithuania and other countries."

The "Ignalina Problem" is described in a 1992 report written by Prof. Algirdas H. Marchertas, Dept. of Mechanical Engineering, Northern Illinois University. Dr. Marchertas, under the sponsorship of the United Nations Development

Program, traveled to Lithuania in Dec. 1991, spent much time with those responsible for the safety of the reactors, visited the Ignalina NPP and discussed related safety issues with the Lithuanian Ministry of Energy. In his report, Dr. Marchertas wrote:

* "Lithuania has the two world's largest operating power reactors, is responsible for their safety, yet does not possess any detailed drawings of the facility!" The original plant designers kept detailed drawings in Moscow. Lithuanian government attempts to get documentation have been unsuccessful. Some believe the reason may be the fact that final construction deviated considerably from the specified plans - the drawings could serve as proof of gross mismanagement. There may be truth to the rumors that the building industry of the surrounding communities flourished through diverted building materials at the expense of the resultant quality of the nuclear facility itself.

* "The Lithuanians did not have nuclear experience before and have not gained any since the imposition of the Ignalina Facility." The facility was designed, built and operated under strict Moscow control. Even at this time, most of the workforce is of Russian origin, only about 4% is Lithuanian.

* "... the reactors possess no confinement/containment system at all." It is generally accepted that the design involves two leak-tight high-pressure zones, called Accident Localization Zones (ALZ). This is not the case with the Ignalina reactors. The Ignalina-1 unit has, in effect, only one - the two zones are interconnected. Furthermore, test data available at the plant show that all the ALZ's have a serious lack of leak-tightness.

* "A small accident, let alone such as encountered at Chernobyl, could be devastating not only to Lithuania but also to the world community." With the lack of leak-tightness in the ALZ's, it can be presumed that in any accident, leakage would be rampant.

Lithuania does not have, at this time, financial or technical resources to conduct the necessary comprehensive safety evaluations of the Ignalina facility. It is reported that Pres. Landsbergis wrote Pres. Bush asking for help with the Ignalina problem; additionally, Lithuanian Minister of Energy Dr. Leonas Asmantas has requested the U.S. State Department for assistance. There are at least two Lithuanian-American

professors expert in the field who have offered to help. (Dr. A. Marchertas, referred to above, and Dr. K. Almenas, Materials and Nuclear Eng. Dept., University of Maryland). The Argonne National Laboratory has submitted a comprehensive proposal to analyze the facility to the U.S. Dept. of Energy. That proposal has not been greeted favorably, reportedly because there is no money in the budget.

WE NEED TO VOICE A DEMAND THAT OUR GOVERNMENT DO SOMETHING! Analyzing the Ignalina facility might take only about \$500,000, yet the U.S. plans to spend far more on a range of technical assistance projects for

the Baltics and the CIS. The U.S. can give Lithuania critically important computer analysis tools for nothing (we have already given these codes to the Soviets). We need State Dept. approval. \$100,000 in computers would suffice for hardware to run these programs. We must not lose or overlook any opportunity to raise this issue with our representatives and elected officials. We can ask that appropriate language and funding be written into the conference report on Foreign Assistance, as a minimum. **IT IS OUR NATIONAL INTEREST, NOT JUST LITHUANIA'S, THAT THIS THREAT TO WORLD SAFETY BE CORRECTED!**

JOINT BALTIC AMERICAN NATIONAL COMMITTEE Internship Program

The Joint Baltic American National Committee offers a 10-week unpaid internship program for college students year round. A limited number of stipends, awarded on a merit basis, are available from the Committee's parent organizations: the Estonian American National Council, the American Latvian Association and the Lithuanian American Council. Usually not more than three stipends in the amount of \$1,500 - \$2,000 are awarded per year.

Requirements: Applicants must be undergraduate students and possess excellent writing skills. Preference is given to students with a working knowledge of at least one of the Baltic languages. If selected, applicants will be responsible to provide for their own housing and transportation needs (access to the office is difficult without a car).

Responsibilities: Interns are required to complete at least one major project or research an assigned subject during their employment. In some instances this work may be used to complete a requirement for a class. Interns will also take part in the day to day activities of the Joint Baltic American

National Committee including reporting on hearings in Congress, tracking legislation, preparing information for grassroots activists, answering phone and written inquiries and maintaining databases of information. Interns should expect to be assigned clerical work and other office tasks as needed.

Applications: All applicants must submit a letter outlining their interest in the Joint Baltic Committee, resume, writing sample and two references from professors. Applicants with proficiency in Estonian, Latvian or Lithuanian should submit an additional writing sample (no more than five pages in length) demonstrating the level of their ability in the given language. Students applying for a stipend should forward an additional copy of their application materials specifying the organization they wish to request a stipend from.

Application materials should be sent to: Sandra Aistars, Director of Public Relations, Joint Baltic American National Committee, 400 Hurley Ave., P.O. Box 4578, Rockville, MD 20849.



SAY LIZZIE! Here's
a great idea.
Let's go to the
Convention this
summer in Allentown
on July 16 -19, 1992.
I'm getting my bags
packed NOW!
How about it?



Su kiekvienu žmogumi tauta
šviesėja arba tamsėja. - Vydūnas

LIETUVAITĖ

Dainužėles supama,
O vėjelio nešama
Bėga skuba į pievužę!
Tartum gulbė ji balta,
Ji šventa ir nekalta,
Lygu angelo širdužė!

L. Šimutis

FREEDOM FOR LITHUANIA

A Look at Why They Fought so Hard for Independence

by Leonard T. Brazis

FREEDOM, a word which too many of us take for granted. Here in the United States, the majority of us will wake up every day and go about our daily routines. Most never truly appreciate just what our forefathers did for us in breaking away from Great Britain and standing up for what they believed in. Yet there are many who will ask "*Why must Lithuania fight so diligently for FREEDOM?*"

Before we can answer this question, we must first look into the historical background of this small nation. Prior to *February 16, 1918*, Lithuania was ruled by the Czar Nicholai of Russia. Although life was moderately fair up to this point, the people of this small land formally declared their independence from Russian rule on February 16, 1918. The Czar Nicholai, having felt no economic or political obligation to hold onto this land, formally recognized this declaration and granted the Lithuanian people their independence. Lithuania had merged with Poland during this time to form a powerful political voice in Europe. Lithuania remained powerful and free until the Nazi and Russian invasions of World War II. Under secret pacts prior to the outbreak of war, *Joseph Stalin* and *Adolph Hitler* has masterminded the seizure of the Baltic nations along with Poland.

Shortly after World War II had ended, the Yalta agreements formally gave economic and political control of Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia to the Soviet government. Freedom for these nations ceased to exist and life would now be determined by the supreme Soviets. Unfortunately, the life that the Soviets would prescribe for these people turned out to be that of oppression, degradation and fear. Those people who were felt to be threats to the Kremlin were sent to work camps, relocated to different regions of the USSR to perform work for the government or even executed for treason in certain cases. Families were separated by military force, loved ones were sent quite frequently to the frozen wasteland known as Siberia. Those who were educated and would not agree to become loyal party members would be labeled a threat.

The new Soviet government which took control in the 1940's systematically reduced the lifestyles in Lithuania to that of poverty stricken farmers. Agriculture was Lithuania's primary means of their economy. Many people began to flee the country, leaving behind relatives and loved ones whom they would probably never see or hear from again. This once

powerful and proud nation was being reduced to nothing but farmlands by the Red Giants in the Kremlin. The Lithuanian people did not ask for this, they wished to remain a free country. The Soviets, however, needed the three Baltic nations for important strategic military locations. Although Stalingrad in Russia is a seaport on the Baltic Sea, the harbor there proves dangerous and frequently unnavigable to military ships in the winter. Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia are located further to the south along the western shore of the Baltic. These countries afforded safe harbors for the Soviet Navy and allowed direct access to the North Atlantic. Economically, Lithuania meant little to the Soviets, but as you can see the military advantages were just too good to pass up. But at what cost?

The people of Lithuania were fighting to regain their freedom from the Kremlin ever since World War II. And why shouldn't they? Their freedom was stripped away from them by force. Countless Lithuanians were killed during the invasions by Hitler and Stalin. They in no way instilled any provocation to bring these actions about. Their only faults were they were in a prime location for naval installations and they did not have the capabilities to defend themselves from military takeover by a larger nation. So where is the difference between what happened to the Lithuanian people and the people of Kuwait?

People are quick to ask "*Why Should Lithuania be free?*" Well, why shouldn't they be? When they were taken over by Stalin everything they worked for and believed in was stripped away from them. Even their religion was taken away. These people have never forgotten the horrors which were thrust upon them by the Soviets. Nor will they ever forget. History readily talks about the "*holocausts*" of the concentration camps run by Hitler and his "SS". History does not discuss in detail what really happened to the Baltic nations during the invasions. Innocent people were killed in the streets, on their farms and in their homes. Their God-given right to choose as they wish was taken away.

Imagine for a moment, if our government had the ability to walk into your home and separate your family by force, how would you feel about fighting for freedom. Many families suffered from this in Lithuania at the hands of Russian soldiers. A farmer's son is strong and healthy, the army comes in and takes him away and "drafts" him into the

Soviet army. If a daughter was educated she could very often be looked upon by the Soviets as a threat to the Kremlin and sent off to die a slow and certain death in a Siberian work camp. Actions such as these were regular occurrences in Lithuania since the Soviets had taken over after the war. This is one of the main reasons why the people of this small country have fought so hard to regain their freedom. The life that the Kremlin allowed a person to lead in this small country was no life to lead at all. It was an existence. These people did not want to exist, they wanted to live. So they fought for this right to live, the right to choose, the right to be free.

Whenever an attempt was made to let the world know what was really going on in this country, the Soviets would march the army in and quiet the situation through the use of brute force. Many have died in the fight for freedom in this small country. Many have continued to be killed by Soviet Stormtroopers even after the formal declaration of independence and democratically elected parliament on *March 11, 1990*. Most recently, fourteen innocent Lithuanians were killed either by gunshot wounds to the chest and head or by being crushed under the caterpillar tracks of Soviet tanks. In this same night over 500 were injured including 131 young women. I am speaking of the assault by Soviet Stormtroopers on the radio and TV tower in Vilnius, the capital of Lithuania, which began at 1:35 a.m. local time, Sunday night, *January 13, 1991*.

It is this type of abuse by the Soviets which has prevailed

since 1940 in Lithuania. It is this type of abuse that the Lithuanian people have been fighting. Lithuanians are a peaceful people who have been forced to put up with the Soviet military presence and their aggression. This is why they have fought for so long to be free again. Freedom to a Lithuanian means being free from the tanks, the Stormtroopers, the secret police, the oppression and senseless death within their beautiful country. It is all of this rebellion against the Soviet *monster* which was able to make news throughout the world. On *July 30, 1991* the monster struck again. Customs officers in Medininkai, Lithuania were executed by Soviet Stormtroopers. Lithuania continued to lash out at the Soviets for this. Then it happened. The aborted coup in the USSR, pressure from other world powers, pressure from the UN, and on *September 6, 1991* the Soviet Union Peoples Council voted to release the Baltics from the USSR. On *September 17, 1991* the tricolored flag of Lithuania was officially raised at the United Nations in New York. *Freedom at last!*

Celebrations are abound, not just in Lithuania but also in the Lithuanian communities here in the United States. Life is beginning to become pleasurable in Lithuania once again. The tanks are gone, the Stormtroopers are gone, the people can now choose as they please. They have fought the red giant and won. Yes, I am proud, very proud....

... I am proud to be a Lithuanian!

(The author is attending Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University in Daytona Beach, FL and majoring in Aviation Business Administration).

.....

NEEDED - OLD ISSUES OF VYTIS

Issues of VYTIS from the past are being prepared for binding so that they may be permanently used by the Vytis staff. Copies of the following issues are missing. If anyone has copies and is willing to donate them, Vytis staff would be most grateful. Please contact: VYTIS, Two Bayview Avenue, Port Washington, NY 11050.

August - September 1964

March 1960

August - September 1960

August - September 1959

February 1958

July - August - September 1958

January 1957

November 1957

January 1956

April 1956

December 1956

April 1955

March 1954

June 1954

September - October 1954

August 1953

June, July, August, September 1952

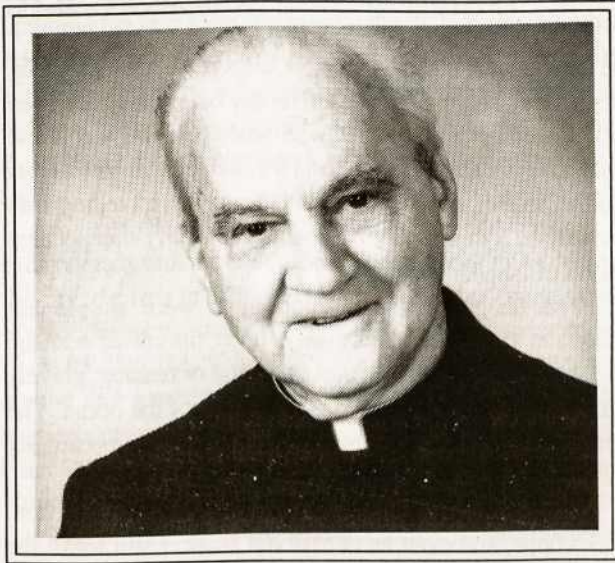
November 1951

Anything prior to 1948



MY HOBBY

by Rev. John Savukynas, MIC



Rev. John Savukynas, MIC

My hobby of making and restringing rosaries began in 1940. During my novitiate as a candidate for the Marian Fathers in Hinsdale, IL, we had a mission club. We would raise money for our missions in Argentina. People would send us cancelled stamps and old rosaries. The stamps were sold to stamp collectors and the rosaries were repaired or restrung.

It is difficult to surmise how many rosaries I made or restrung during the past fifty years. I began to keep a record in 1986. That year I made 316 rosaries and restrung 34. Most of the rosaries were sent to a bishop in India. Why do so many rosaries come apart? Most are made with fine wire and those sold in religious goods stores are usually made with fine wire which are not very durable. They are made fast and with little effort. Even the expensive rosaries that are made of fine wire come apart. I have restrung expensive crystal and sterling silver rosaries that were used only a few years.

I use four different gages of wire, depending on the size of the hole in the bead. Rosaries with both ends of the wire inserted into the beads will not come apart. Holes vary. A heavier wire is used when beads have fine or small holes.

A bishop from India who was my guest three times since 1959 stated that when in Rome, he wouldn't buy any rosaries. "They come apart". I have been corresponding with the Bishop since 1959. This bishop was elevated to the cardinalate by Pope Paul II. Since I now send rosaries to Lithuania, Cardinal Padiyara still requests me to send him rosaries. Last September I mailed him 60 restrung rosaries.

During 1990, I mailed 505 rosaries to Lithuania. An

Aurora, IL man has been making rosaries for me, averaging one a day. I supply him with material which cost me \$1,446.00. During 1991, 495 rosaries were sent to Lithuania with a total cost of \$1,390.00 for material.

Rosaries are not sent direct to Lithuania. I mail them to Rev. Donald Petraitis, our Marian Fathers general in Rome and also to Msgr. Al Bartkus, rector of the Lithuanian College and Seminary in Rome. They are then given to the clergy visiting Rome.

A rosary could be made in one hour. However, reassuring that the loops are even and there is a link between the beads, it takes about two hours. All rosaries sent to Lithuania have a link between the beads. Many of the women's rosaries cost about \$5.00 and men's about \$4.00 for material. Last year I received \$500.00 from our Holy Name Society and they plan to contribute about \$200.00 for rosaries, gifts to those in our parish's RCIA program. Some members will be confirmed, others will be baptized on Holy Saturday.

I receive hundreds of rosaries that people leave at Queen of Heaven Cemetery in Hillside, IL due to alleged apparitions. Very few are good ones. It was quite a task adding and repairing the beads. Many will have to be restrung since the beads are still good but the chains, wires and crucifixes are corroded. Last November, I mailed 200 rosaries to the Lithuanian Catholic Religious Aid office in Brooklyn, NY. Our school children have been assisting me in sorting the rosaries left at the cemetery.

I am in residence at St. Mary's Church in Plano, IL and as a result, dedicate a lot of time to my rosary project. It is an enjoyable and rewarding hobby. I make many rosaries for parishioners for the cost of material which is a bargain compared to what they would pay in a religious goods store.

Rosary material is expensive and continues to increase. I have paid \$5.00 per set for aurora borealis crystal beads. On sale, I purchased 80 sets at \$2.50 regardless of cut. Today they are \$15.70 and more depending on the cut. I have complained to two companies regarding price increases. One sent a new price list stating, "Because of the devaluation of the dollar in Austria where we purchase aurora borealis and sunburst beads, we had to increase our prices." I wrote back, "Was your entire stock depleted that you had to order beads at a higher price?" There was no response to my inquiry. With all of the rosaries procured from the cemetery, it won't be necessary for me to order beads for quite some time.

I am grateful to the people who sent me used rosaries and especially to those who helped financially. May God Bless You!

SLOW BOAT TO JAVA

© by Albert Cizauskas

An old adventure thriller starring John Wayne? Wrong. This adventure was for real. It started on the last day of 1949 when my wife, Gene, and I boarded a freighter to take us to Surabaya, Indonesia's second largest city on Java's east coast. There I was to help re-open the Consulate which had been closed with the blitzkrieg-like descent of the Japanese upon the rich island world of the Dutch East Indies.

As late as the end of the 40s, it was still possible to travel by ship half way round the globe before mandatory flights on cramped airliners took much of the Foreign out of the Service. The voyage was scheduled for one month but took twice that long. I can't honestly say that when something could go wrong, it always did. Only often enough to make our odyssey to the Orient one that would be difficult to duplicate today. We were not only "Innocents Abroad" in Mark Twain's celebrated phrase, but we went him one better. We were "Innocents Aboard" for 59 days and nights.

Relatives and friends crowded the rusty and tar-stained cargo carrier to see us off, thinking aloud that our departure bore scant resemblance to the tradition of gala farewells on luxurious transatlantic liners, as was befitting, in their untutored opinion, the exalted status of "vice consul and wife." Of course, I was acquainted with "diplomatic life" as it was lived far from the centers of pink cookiedom, having served in Karachi and Batavia (now Djakarta), but I thought it prudent not to shatter illusions just then.

Tearful goodbyes were made, mingled with reproachful glances from mother-in-law for taking daughter away to some God-forsaken jungle post on a tub reeking with sweat and stale cooking odors, with dirty longshoremen clambering all over the place, shouting and swearing as they filled the holds, accompanied by a constant creaking of winches and ear-splitting cargo-slamming. The champagne and corsage, appropriate at a stylish North River berth, were depressingly out of place at the Erie freighter basin in Brooklyn.

We sailed about midnight as the old year was giving way to a new decade. My wife and I huddled together, looking out of the porthole in our cabin, seeing the lights of Manhattan slipping by. A heavy mist lay over the East River, across which floated the muffled sounds of New Year's revelry. It was a lonely moment, made even lonelier by the mournful bleat of the ship's fog horn.

The next morning we woke to a heavy sea, white caps curling the top of the swells. While walking the rolling decks,

we met the only other passengers, a couple bound for Haifa, Israel, one of our ports of call. The day before they had been intimidated by the swarm of well-wishers seeing us off and stuck to their cabin. The husband was a Baptist minister from North Carolina, the Rev. Dr. Elmo Scoggins, travelling with his wife to a missionary outpost in the newly-independent nation of Israel.

The freighter's accommodations were simple but adequate. The kitchen was always open, the coffee perking, and the larder full. Recreation consisted of reading, playing cards, and gazing at the endless mystery of the ocean. The long voyage from home also provided a unique opportunity for a newly married couple to get to know each other.

Meals, like the accommodations, were basic. Chicken, pork chops, and even an occasional steak. I still recall the Puerto Rican waiter, calling out to the kitchen my daily breakfast order of "One soft boil-ed." To this day we still employ the more rhythmic Latin call for eggs this style.

The first of many departures from script was the rerouting of our freighter to Halifax, Nova Scotia, to pick up additional cargo. We went off to see the town, and ended up by seeing Danny Kaye in "The Inspector General." It gave us a comfortable feeling that if Danny Kaye was here, home couldn't be that far away.

We left at night in a cotton-thick fog, the freighter sounding its horn as the vessel pitched its way through heaving seas. It was well past midnight when a huge swell hit the freighter amidships so hard that it staggered to its side like a drunken sailor. The sudden pitch threw Gene from her lower bunk. She slid out the open door, propelled by gravity to the head of the companionway where she held on for dear life. The weary old freighter shuddered, as if in its death throes, and then, to our immense relief, slowly righted itself. The incident took less than a minute, but it seemed like a harrowing eternity. With no damage done, it furnished us with something to talk, and for Gene, to boast about, for the next several days.

The rest of the voyage across the wintry Atlantic and calmer Mediterranean was uneventful. We reached Haifa about two weeks out of Halifax where we learned the ship would have to wait its turn in the crowded roads of the harbor, with no indication of when that turn would come.

It was shortly after independence and the weather unusually bitter. The port's old, inadequate facilities were

hard pressed to handle the heavy run of freighter traffic. Jamming the port even further was the daily arrival of other ships that were given precedence. These were filled with human cargo, Jewish refugees anxious to reclaim their biblical heritage. We could see them crowding the decks and straining their heads out of the portholes, looking toward the promised land.

A totally unexpected act of nature now added its chaos to the already chaotic conditions in the harbor. A blizzard hit the city, the first in thirty years. The people of Haifa, many of whom had never seen snow, went delirious with excitement. They fondled the white flaky stuff, rolled in it, threw it around and jumped into its accumulating piles in a mass euphoria resembling the madness of a New Orleans Mardi Gras. The hospitals filled up with cases of frostbite and work virtually ceased throughout the city, including the harbor.

My wife and I were anxious to go ashore once the blizzard had passed, hoping to spend a night out on the town to celebrate an important anniversary, our fourth month of marriage. The weather, however, continued to conspire against us. The captain thought the sea too rough for us landlubbers to hazard climbing down a weaving Jacob's ladder to the launch. So, confined to the freighter, we amused ourselves by building a snowman on the deck of our ship in the middle of Haifa harbor, probably the first such phenomenon in its history. When evening came, the captain, sympathizing with our enforced confinement, gave us a bottle of scotch and sent us to our cabin to celebrate the anniversary in private.

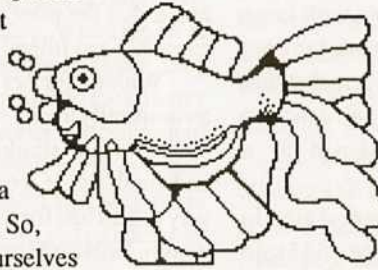
The sea subsided somewhat the following morning, and the captain relented. Dressed appropriately for the cold weather, we began to climb warily down the Jacob's ladder. The leap into the harbor launch had to be carefully timed with the pitching of the freighter. Still, my wife dropped easily into the launch, helped by a number of eager hands. When it came my turn, a heavy swell reared up as I was about to jump. The launch quickly moved aside to avoid pinning me against the side of the freighter. There I was, bundled in a winter overcoat and scarf and wearing a fedora hat, dangling from the end of the Jacob's ladder only a few feet above the choppy sea. The captain urged Gene to snap a picture, saying that she would never see me in a like position again. Anyway, he comforted her, the Rev. Dr. Elmo Scoggins would be available for spiritual consolation should the need arise.

As it turned out, the launch waited some distance away until it was able to maneuver below me. With shouts of

encouragement from above and below, I managed to drop safely into the bobbing launch. Gene and I were evens now in mishaps.

Bouncing over the waves in a foreign port was fun and we soon forgot the near accidents and delays. We finally reached shore, so welcome after weeks of a rough passage.

Once ashore, diplomatic passports speeded our way through the customary formalities, but we felt sympathy for the long lines of refugees patiently waiting their turn, reminding us of the immigrants being processed at Ellis Island in photos of the early 1900s. First on our list of things to do was a call upon the Consulate to reassure the Department that we hadn't simply vanished like the lady in Alfred Hitchcock's thriller. We were having too good a time and hoped Washington wouldn't suggest alternate means of reaching Surabaya. Happily for us, it didn't.



Our departing shipmate now did us a big favor. Rev. Scoggins asked a colleague to escort us around the biblical lands of the interior, realizing that it would take at least another week before our freighter would be ready to leave. The guide proved to be a most informative and pleasant companion. He began our journey by taking the winding road above the harbor to Mount Carmel which gave us a splendid view of the Bay of Haifa. From the Mount's summit, we could see the Mediterranean shore, curving to the distant ruins of Acre, enshrouding in mist and time the crusading zeal of Godfrey de Bouillon and Richard the Lion Hearted.

Driving a Land Rover, he tirelessly pointed out to us the many places of religious and historical significance, saying that here Abraham tended his sheep, Jacob dreamed his strange dream and there Joseph was betrayed by his brethren.

As evening drew near on our first day, we came to the Sea of Galilee, a brooding lake of quiet beauty. A transcendent stillness of another age seemed to lie on its waters and the arid, hilly land around it. Close by were the ruins of Capernaum, which, in New Testament days, had been a thriving lakeside community where much of Christ's ministry had taken place. Now it was chained and fenced to keep out vandals. Not too far away were the Golan Heights, then under Syrian control. Our guide said that Syrians would fire at Israeli fishermen who strayed too close, but it was hard to believe that this secluded corner of the Sea of Galilee, where Peter had fished with his friends and Christ had stilled its tempests, could be then, as it is now, a flash point of militant

nationalism.

From Capernaum, we drove up a hill on which tradition holds that Christ had preached the Sermon on the Mount. The hill was crowned with a large monastery tended by Italian Franciscan nuns who put us up in austere by spotless rooms overlooking the Sea.

At our request, we were awakened the next morning in the chill before dawn for Mass in a rustic, unheated chapel, celebrated by a hunch-backed old friar. His humbleness, the chanting of the nuns, and the lowing of nearby cattle evoked the memory of another morn, two thousand years ago, in a stable not too far away.

The next stop in our journey was an abrupt transition into the present, a kibbutz near the Jordanian border. The transformation was startling - from the age of Christ on the lonely shores of Galilee to a modern, bustling community. The kibbutz was one of the earliest communal experiments founded about thirty years before our visit. What had been tired, leached-out land, was now a fertile oasis with large groves of Mediterranean oranges, a dairy farm, truck gardens, and even a plywood factory, one of only two in Israel at that time. The kibbutz was a triumph of the human spirit, honed on physical hardship and danger and sustained by a determination to build a new nation.

When we returned to Haifa, our freighter had finally docked at a wharf to load and unload cargo. Gene and I said goodbye fondly and gratefully to our guide, a man to whom religion was more than a profession.

We had come back just in time to see a black sedan dangling over one of the ship's holds, about to be lowered to the dock. As we looked more carefully, we were horror-stricken to see that it was our beloved Studebaker, the first purchase we had made as a married couple in Washington before our departure. Employing sign language and excited English, I somehow managed to delay the execution until document could be rechecked. And so our previously-owned 1941 Studebaker, bought at a financial sacrifice and revered as our first piece of "real" property, was rescued to carry us over the pitted roads of Surabaya for more than two years.

As our freighter pulled out of Haifa, after some three weeks, Gene and I looked at a receding land we would always remember.

We soon reached Port Said, where we waited our turn to transit the Suez Canal. As at Haifa, we had run into rush hour traffic, causing further delay. We weren't bored, however, because the freighter was soon surrounded by a swarm of bumboats, moving in and out and around, like flies at a

picnic. It was a novel experience, a sort of mall-on-the-water. Shouting salesmen hawked their wares, the customary bazaar trivia, at probably twice their street value because of the American flag on our ship. Eventually we settled for a hassock which the salesman swore had "come" from one of King Farouk's palaces. It became a standard joke at our Surabaya home to invite a new guest to sit where Egypt's royal bottom might once have sat.

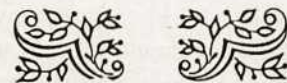
As we were steaming along the Canal some time later, the freighter suddenly stopped with a lurch and remained motionless. Few people can lay claim to running aground in the Canal, but we did on this never-to-be-forgotten voyage. Not far away, on the port side, we could see Arabs plodding laboriously across the Sinai desert with their heavily-laden camels. At one point, a group of several teams stopped to face toward Mecca and, kneeling, pray. For a short while, we felt part of an ancient and different world. We were sorry when the Canal pilot nudged us back into the mainstream. Scuttlebutt had it that the pilot's canalmanship had been diluted by our captain's too liberal hospitality.

Without further mishap, we steamed into the Red Sea on an unusually lovely morning. The sun sparkled on the waters, a light breeze rippled the surface, and sail boats, primitive and small, were weaving over the pure blue of the Sea, the way others had for thousands of years before. Looking at this picture-postcard scene, the first mate said to us, "It's for days like this that I follow the sea."

We docked at Surabaya on March first, two months after we had left the Erie Basin.

Two years later, the first mate, now the captain, added the final grace note to our odyssey when he returned a cookbook Gene had left behind on the freighter. The book had been a wedding present and had been sorely missed. When we looked at the flyleaf, we saw that the new captain had inscribed the names of every port of call the ship had made in the intervening years.

Whenever we look at the book now, we recall with considerable nostalgia that trip at the beginning of our married life aboard a rusty, tar-stained old tub as we read, "Halifax, Haifa, Port Said, Singapore, Djakarta, Cheribon, Semarang, Surabaya Finally delivered 4/3/52. Our Line always delivers, sometimes a trifle late."



Will There Ever be Peace on Earth?

by *Konstant J. Savickus*

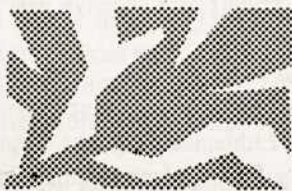
There were four people on this earth in the beginning, so the Good Book says and Cain slew Abel. They couldn't live together. The population increased into the millions, generation after generation, and the wars between people also increased up to the present time.

We had the first World War and the Second World War, each progressively more destructive. Hitler gave the world an example of how far humanity has progressed, slaughtering millions of people. This paranoid urge to rule more people and take more territory is the primary goal of rulers. They have the ability to convince mobs of people to follow them.

Look back at Alexander the Great, at Napoleon - were they heroes or butchers of men? Were they better than Hitler or Stalin? They may have been more reasonable and humane but basically they were killers of human beings, certainly not deserving of recognition as heroes in history. When we have armies of men trained to kill other men, sooner or later, they are used for that purpose by a leader who arises in the country and becomes their leader. A benevolent leader will be content to devote his life for the peaceful progress of his people and their happiness, whereas an ambitious leader will seek more power, more land and use a war machine to start a career of conquests and destruction.

We must get rid of armies, ammunitions and bombs before we can think of peace. If we don't have the weapons of war, the world will never go to war. Japan is a good example. After its defeat, it decided not to have an army or weapons. Its economic progress was amazing even after Hiroshima and Nagasaki. That nation has become a leader in the business world. Its people may be working like robots but they are happy and independent than they were before the war. We must remember, there is no heaven on earth.

At present, the United States is the "Big Uncle" or "Policeman" of the world. It is trying to sweep up all the atom bombs and get rid of them to protect everyone and at the same time give people enough food to survive. Let's hope it succeeds so we can breathe easily - if it doesn't succeed, we won't breathe at all - we'll be atomized!



EARLY LITHUANIAN RELIGIOUS WRITINGS

John R. Mankus, Cultural Committee Chairman

Earliest surviving Lithuanian writings are credited to two University of Karaliaučius Linguistic pioneers, Abromas Kulvietis and Svetkus Rapolionis. Both professors produced numerous books of religious translations into Lithuanian; however, only fragments of their original works exist.

The first Lithuanian book was written by University of Karaliaučius graduate, Martynas Mažvydas Vaitkūnas in 1547, known as Mažvydo Katekizmas. The full name of the title page reads like this: *Catechismusa Prasty Szadei, Makslas skaitima raschta yr giesmes del kriszczianistes bei del berneliu iaunu nauiey sugulditas Karaliauczui VIII, dena Meneses Sausia, Metu uszgimima Dieva M.D. XLVII.*

Martynas Mažvydas also wrote and published books of prayers, homilies, christenings and religious songs between the years of 1549 and 1563. After the death of Mažvydas, Baltramiejus Vilentas, a relative of Mažvydas, published the remainder of his works. Most noteworthy were Mažvydo Giesmes (Songs) published in 1570.

It should be noted that these early Lithuanian writers, although all born in Lithuania Major (Didžiojoje Lietuvoje) studied and published their writings in Lithuania Minor (Mažojoje Lietuvoje). At this time, the majority of the people living in this district spoke Lithuanian or old Prussian, a dialect of Lithuanian.

Vilentas also published his own works (Catechism, The Gospels and Religious Songs) between 1570 and 1579.

The first Lithuanian writer from Lithuania Minor was Jonas Bretkūnas. Between 1589 and 1591, he published numerous books of prayers and religious songs. His most significant work was the translation of the Holy Bible into Lithuanian. This monumental task took 12 years to complete. (*Biblia tatai esti Missas Schwentas Raschtas Lietuwischkai pergulditas per Jona Bretkūna*). Unfortunately, Bretkūno Bible translations was not published; however, his transcripts were used by many later writers in future religious Lithuanian writings.

Later writers from Lithuania Minor of note were two members of Simelpenigiai family, Zengstokas, Kleinas, Pilypas and Povilas Rubigai, Mielke, Jonas Riza and Liudvikas Riza. As previously noted, the great majority, if not all of early Lithuanian writings, were of religious nature.

In 1653, D. Klesmas published the first Lithuanian language grammar book and in 1666 two books on Lithuanian songs.

BOOK REVIEWS

MY LITHUANIA. Photographs and text by Aleksandras Macijauskas. Edited by Daniela Mrazkova and Vladimir Remes. 144 pp. (Thames and Hudson, \$35.) Glasnost and perestroika must have been on everyone's lips about the time publishers started planning their fall releases. "Portraits" of what used to be the Soviet Union seemed a sure bet. Again, the big ones lie heavily on the table while a small, deft study by a Lithuanian photographer, Aleksandras Macijauskas, celebrating the gray, stoic determination of his country, gets passed around from hand to hand. The pictures are surreal in the best sense; they transmit something of the fatalistic humor of the Iron Curtain survivor, and they are wildly original without seeming forced or unnatural. The book presents four of the obsessive photographer's subjects, each of which is meant to record the character of his country: village markets, summer, the veterinary clinic and parades. The photographer's words, too, are oddly compelling.

LITHUANIA AT THE CROSSROADS. Edited by A. P. Taškūnas and J. W. Doyle. 96 pp. (Published in Australia by a students' association known as the Lithuanian Studies Society of Tasmania University Union, \$10.00). Lithuania was the first republic to break away from the giant Soviet Union. On March 11, 1990, the newly elected Lithuanian Parliament restored the country's independence, and started off on the thorny road to freedom.

Many in the West believed that the new Lithuania — with 3-1/2 million people living in the same land area as Tasmania — would not be able to survive economically. But Lithuania has. By now, virtually all Western countries have recognized Lithuania as an independent state.

This book offers an excellent insight into present-day Lithuania: a fascinating country about which insufficient is known. A panel of experts from the University of Tasmania discuss the legal, economic and environmental challenges facing Lithuania now. There are also poems, a historical essay and a glimpse at the Lithuanian folk-art. The book may be ordered from Post Office Box 777, Sandy Bay, Tasmania 7005, Australia. (Will accept U.S., Canadian, New Zealand or Australian dollars).



WALL TO WALL

Dripping tap
Mind leaks.
Information sap —
Wall speaks
To another wall:
Tell me, are we here at all?

Falling over,
Getting up to talk
To the sea of ignorance; don't balk,
Sweet words of your lover
Who just walked out,
And you just pout.

And feel the sting;
Cringe in the shadow
Of your wedding ring,
Or run away; do your own thing
For awhile —
You've lost that smile.

An accusing frown,
Has taken its place,
And your long-sought peace, outgrown,
Has disappeared from your face.

Can you feel it?
Can you feel it grow?
Cover your face, but
Will the strain still show?

Vince Taškūnas

Lithuania at the Crossroads

**LITHUANIAN LANGUAGE COURSE -
1992**

PLACE: Lithuanian Youth Camp Dainava, near Manchester,
MI

DATES: August 2nd to 9th, 1992.

This course is for beginners, advanced and those who want to improve their Lithuanian language. Register early by writing to: B. Krokys, 1124 Hedgerow Ln, Philadelphia, PA 19115 or call (215) 671-0397 no later than June 15th.

Lithuanians in the News

SOCIAL CENTER RE-NAMED

The St. Casimir's Social Center in Amsterdam was renamed The Father Robert K. Baltch Social Center by the St. Casimir's Ladies Auxiliary. A bronze plaque dedicated to his memory was blessed by Rev. Joseph Grabys, pastor of St. Casimir's Church. The plaque has Fr. Baltch's likeness engraved as follows: *To Father Robert Baltch - For the 42 years of tireless dedication and through his faithful teachings, St. Casimir's has grown in Christian Love. His vibrant personality prevails, throughout the parish influencing both young and old. The Father Robert K. Baltch Social Center will never be without a song.*

Rev. Baltch died July 26, 1991. At the time of his death, he was serving as spiritual advisor for K of L C-100 which he helped reorganize 40 years ago.

GUARDIAN OF OUR ENVIRONMENT

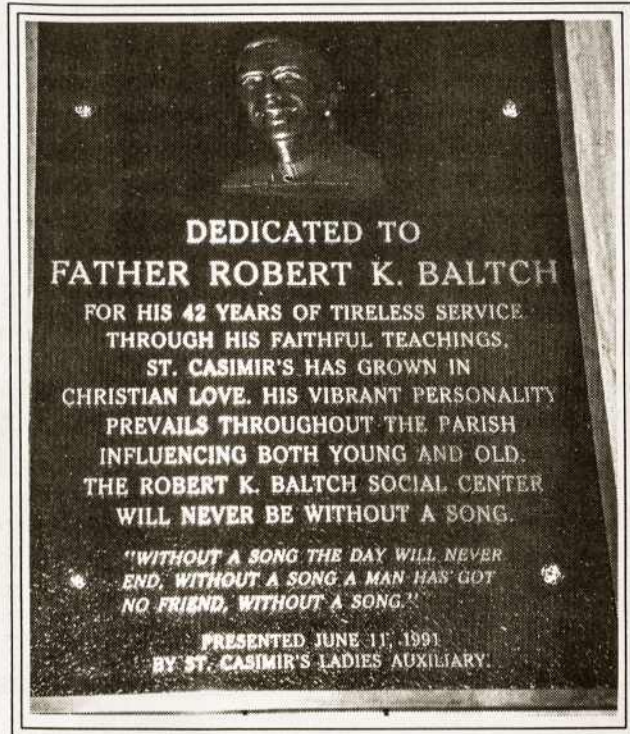


Jeanette M. Lloyd

Jeanette Monkaitis Lloyd of Beach Haven, NJ has been a teacher for 25 years. Under her guidance and influence, her third grade students have a better understanding of the environment and made a positive impact to the community.

Jeanette's classroom projects have ranged from, "Adopt a Whate" (34 whales adopted), collecting and selling aluminum cans for Marine Mammal Stranding Center to save dolphins, clean up Lake Manahawkin, finding and adopting the largest Pitch Pine in the nation, unearthing documented fossils that are 350 million years old. Her awards have come from the Township, Mayor Block, Gov. Florio and the United Nations for involvement in projects to heighten community awareness of danger facing the environment.

Jeanette is the niece of Nellie Pandza, member of C-3 Philadelphia.



Plaque placed at St. Casimir's Social Center in Amsterdam

MASTER GLASS BLOWER DIES

Many K of L's who attended the 60th National Convention in 1973 in Brockton, MA remember the artistic display of glass paper weights by Charles Kaziun of Brockton.

Mr. Kaziun died on January 13. He is survived by his wife, M. Louise (Macbeth); a son, Charles 3d and a daughter Mary, all of Brockton, MA.

Charles Kaziun rediscovered and improved upon the techniques that enabled the factories in many cities to produce the finest glass paper weights ever made. While making precision vacuum gauges at the University of Pennsylvania, Mr. Kaziun met James Graham, a biologist whom he called "the best blower of scientific instruments in the country."

Mostly self-taught, Kaziun relentlessly pursued the secrets of his unique art with occasional advice from masters. His paper weights, which include perfume bottles and buttons are in constant demand by dealers and collectors and range

LITHUANIANS IN THE NEWS (Cont'd)



Late Charles Kaziun, Master Glass Blower

in value from \$250 to several thousand dollars. Kaziun produced glassware of incredible beauty regarded by experts as at least equal to the renowned French paper weights of Baccarat, Clichy and St. Louis. By his ingenuity, he revived an apparently lost art of the 19th century wherein museums around the United States have acquired them. May he rest in peace.

Kinds of Workers - Variety of Bones

They say the body of every organization is structured from four kinds of bones. There are the wishbones, who spend all their time wishing someone else would do the work. Then there are the jawbones, who do all the talking, but little else. The knucklebones know everything anybody else tried to do. Fortunately, in every organization there are the backbones, who get under the load and do most of the work.

SAVANORIAI - Volunteers

Regina Kot

Savanoriai were people who of their own free will joined the Lithuanian army in 1918 - 1920 and formed the nucleus of the regular army to take up arms in defense of the independent state of Lithuania. According to the official records of general staff, there were about 12,000 volunteers, including about 100 American Lithuanians.

The first man to volunteer for the ranks was Stasys Butkus, and the first to volunteer as an officer was Kazys Skirpa. When the wars started, the first to die for liberation of Lithuania were Povilas Lukys near Kedainiai on Feb. 8, 1919, and the officer Antanas Juozapavicius at Alytus on Feb. 13. Both of them fell fighting against the Red Russian Army which had forced its way into Lithuania.

On Nov. 1, the first steps were taken to organize the first infantry regiment, which by Nov. 11 had thirty soldiers. On that day World War I came to an end with the armistice of Compiègne and the German capitulation, and on the same day in Vilnius the first cabinet of ministers of independent Lithuania was formed, under the leadership of Augustas Voldemaras. On Nov. 23, 1918, he signed the first order to the army of Lithuania; this was the formal founding of the Lithuanian army.

On Dec. 5 the establishment of the second infantry regiment had begun. By the end of 1918 there were in Vilnius only 200 volunteer officers and men.



LET'S READ LITHUANIAN

Dalia Bulvicius
Lithuanian Language Coordinator

LITHUANIAN SIMILES

The dictionary defines a simile as a figure of speech in which two unlike objects are explicitly compared as in "cheeks like roses". The word Like is always used. In Lithuanian, "like" is "kaip". Following are some similes chosen from V. Kreves "Lietuvių Patarles ir Priežodžiai".

Alkanas kaip šuo. - Hungry as a dog.
Balta kaip Kiaules Blakstiena - White as a pig's eyelash.
Girtas kaip Kiaulė. - Drunk as a pig.
Greitas kaip stirna. - Quick like a doe.
Išbales kaip drobė. - White as a sheet.
Išdailintas kaip Velykų Margutis. - As colorful as an Easter Egg.
Issišiepes kaip keptas paršas. - Openmouthed as a roasted piglet.
Mažas kaip aguonos grūdas. - As small as a poppy seed.
Apsiverkė kaip girtuoklis po trečio butelio. - Wept like a drunk after the third bottle.

BITĖS

Mūsų kieme auga daug gėlių. Jos visos kvepiančios ir gražios. Aš ir mama jas laistome ir prižiūrime.

Ant gėlių dažnai nutupia maži vabaliukai ir bitės. Man patinka žiūrėti kaip jos skraido nuo vienos gėlės prie kitos, nuo vieno žiedo ant kito. Ir taip jos dirba visą dieną.

Avilys yra bičių namai. Jis panašus į mažą su drelėmis namelį, tik be langų. Tame namelyje gyvena ir dirba daug daug bičių. Avilio viduje yra korai, į kuriuos bitės krauna medų.

Bitės yra geros darbininkės. Jos geria iš žiedų nektarą daro medų, valo avilį ir prižiūri mažas biteles. Bitės yra labai švarios ir tvarkingos.

Ieškoti gėlių bitės nuskrenda labai toli. Bet jos niekad nepaklysta ir suranda kelią atgal į savo avilį. Radosios daug kvepiančių gėlių, jos grįžta apie tai pranešti kitoms bitėms. Tada visas jų būrys skrenda prie tų gėlių.

Bitės ginasi nuo priešų. Jas palietus ar užmynus basa koja, bitės gelia.

Bitės mėgsta aplankyti ir mūsų gėles. Kaip gerai! Joms patinka kvepiančių gėlių nektaras, o mums patinka saldus ir skanus medus.

SLOW ME DOWN, LORD

Slow me down, Lord!
Ease the pounding of my heart
By the quieting of my mind.
Steady my harried pace
With a vision of the eternal reach of time.
Give me,
Amidst the confusion of my day,
The calmness of the everlasting hills.
Break the tension of my nerves
With the soothing music of the sighing streams
That live in my memory.
Help me to know
The magical power of sleep.
Teach me the art
Of taking minute vacations of slowing down to look
at a flower;
To chat with an old friend or to make a new one;

To pat a stray dog;
To watch a spider build a web;
To smile at a child;
Or to read a few lines from a good book.
Remind me each day
That the race is not always to the swift;
That there is more to life than increasing its
speed.

Let me look upward
Into the branches of the towering oak
And know that it grew slowly and well.
Slow me down, Lord,
And inspire me to send my roots deep
Into the soil of life's enduring values
That I may grow toward the stars
Of my greater destiny.

Wilfred Peterson

Lithuanian Kitchen - Lietuviška Virtuvė

SIUPINIS - Traditional Lithuanian Dish

2 lb. piece rib bacon, pig tails or fresh pork with bone	1/2 cup dried whole peas 2 cups grated, peeled potatoes
Bits of cooked smoked ham, if available	2 onions, chopped 1 carrot, 2 stalks celery, chopped
6 cups water, more if needed	1 bay leaf salt, pepper
1/2 cup barley	
1/2 cup lima beans	

Soak barley, beans, peas overnight. In large saucepan, place soaked drained grains, meat, one onion, bay leaf, carrot, celery and water. Bring to a boil, add salt and pepper; simmer until meat and grains are tender; add more water if necessary. Remove meat when done and set aside. Add grated potatoes and ham scraps to bean mixture, stirring gradually. Cook 1/2 hour longer, stirring often to prevent burning. Cut meat into small pieces and fry with the second onion until all is browned. The Siupinis can be served separately or with the meat.

DUCK BLOOD SOUP - Yūka

1 Duck, 3-4 lbs.	2 stalks celery, chopped
8 cup water or more	Duck blood
2 bay leaves	1/4 cup vinegar
8 peppercorns	2-3 Tbsp. sugar (optional)
Salt, as desired	1 slice dark rye bread crumbled
1 onion, chopped	6-8 prunes (optional)
2 carrots, chopped	

Hang a fresh killed duck by the feet and allow blood to collect into a glass or porcelain bowl. Add 1 Tbsp. vinegar to prevent blood from coagulating as soon as possible. Refrigerate blood. Place de-feathered and cleaned duck, whole or cut up, into a stainless steel or porcelain large saucepot and add water to cover. Add onion, carrot, celery and seasonings to taste. Cook about 2 hours or until duck meat is tender. Remove duck from pot and place into a pan and into oven to keep warm. Skim off all fat from broth; strain broth, if desired. Return broth to pot, add the crumbled bread, the collected duck blood, remainder of vinegar and prunes to the broth. Bring to a boil and simmer for about 15 mins., stirring often with a non-aluminum spoon. Serve hot.

POTATO PANCAKES - Bulviniai Blynai

7 medium potatoes, peeled and grated	1/4 cup flour 2-3 tsp. milk, if needed
1 onion grated	Salt, pepper to taste
3 eggs	

Mix grated potatoes, onion, eggs and seasonings in bowl; add flour and mix. If batter appears too thick, add some milk. Drop spoonfuls of batter into hot vegetable oil and fry until golden brown on both sides. Drain on paper towels. Serve with sour cream.

KUGELIS - No Egg Potato Pudding

8 large potatoes	1 cup scalded milk
1 large onion	Salt, pepper
1 stick margarine, melted	

Peel and grate potatoes and onion. Add salt and pepper to taste. Pour scalded milk and margarine over potato mixture. Pour into greased casserole that has been dusted with flour. Bake in 400° oven for 15 mins.; lower heat to 350° and bake for 45 mins. until browned and done.

Nancy L. Yakas
Amsterdam C-100

PEACH CAKE - Persika Tortas

1/2 cup butter/oleo	1 cup sour cream
2 cups flour	2 egg yolks, beaten
1/4 tsp. baking powder	2 tsp. sugar
1/4 tsp. salt	4-6 sliced peaches
1 cup sugar	1 tsp. cinnamon

Mix flour, baking powder, salt, 2 tsp. sugar into mixing bowl; cut in butter until mixture has texture of corn meal. Press mixture into bottom and sides of a greased 8 x 8 in. baking pan. Arrange peach slices on top of batter. Sprinkle mixture of sugar and cinnamon over peaches. Bake in 400° oven for 15 mins. Remove from oven and pour mixture of egg yolks and sour cream over peaches and bake for 30 mins. or until done.

Sadye Petraitis
C-154 Spring Hill, FL

CORRECTION: Jan. 1992 Recipe: Lithuanian Lima Bean Soup. Add 8 cups water, or more if needed to the list of ingredients in the recipe.

Official News - Oficialus Skyrius

MESSAGE FROM K of L PRESIDENT....

When the Knights of Lithuania was first organized, its intent was to bring Lithuanians together as they came to the United States from Lithuania. With Lithuanians joining in the mosaic design of the United States by international marriages, we moved into a new area with associate members now being an intricate part of the Knights.

In the beginning, the goal was to establish Lithuanian communities via church, newspapers, etc. When Lithuania was taken over by the Communists, we moved into letter writing to the Presidents, Congress, newspapers, etc. to keep Lithuania alive in the eyes of the American people and government. When we could see freedom ahead for Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia, our communication system went into full force not only increasing the intensity of letter writing but with telegrams and phone calls.

We have now been active in the new areas for our organization. As you know, not only on a national level but many of you locally have sent millions of dollars in value of medical supplies. Many have taken on the battle to see that the children of Lithuania are having their needs met. We are helping the Lithuanian College in Rome by being true godparents in monetary donations and adopting a seminarian. We continue our own growth through supporting the K of L Scholarship Fund. We assure our future via the K of L Foundation.

There is no question the Knights of Lithuania continues to do what is needed to help Lithuania. Our latest project to be added to our list is to support the Lithuanian Embassy. Material regarding this project has been sent to your district and council presidents. Many of you have already donated to the Embassy and you must be congratulated.

Through each and every one of us, we and the Lithuanian communities throughout the world will continue to grow by working for and with each other.

FrancesPetkus



MEMBERSHIP DRIVE - January 1 - June 30, 1992

As has been done every year, we again embark on another Membership Drive from January 1 to June 30, 1992. If each individual paid their dues NOW, this will help your Council get an AWARD. A membership drive is conducted for the purpose of increasing our numbers, not to replace those lost to the organization because of delinquent dues. Once your Council's dues are paid up 100%, you can then concentrate on NEW MEMBERS.

Awards this year will be given to those councils and individuals who have gained the most new members in the following categories:

COUNCIL AWARDS

- Councils under 50 members
- Councils with 51 to 100 members
- Councils with 101 to 200 members
- Councils with 201 to 300 members
- Councils over 300 members

INDIVIDUAL AWARDS

- Councils under 50 members
- Councils with 51 to 100 members
- Councils with 101 to 200 members
- Councils with 201 to 300 members
- Councils over 300 members

We call your attention that Awards will be based on net membership gains. You may have signed up many new members but if your council loses current members because of non-payment of dues, your council will not gain a thing. Those gains will be based on totals supplied by the national financial secretary according to her records on June 30, 1992.

The wise old owl keeps his eyes open when asleep. Perhaps we can take a tip from the owl and keep our eyes open - FOR NEW MEMBERS - at all times. Some of us have overlooked our former members who have married or have dropped out of activity a few years ago and may be ready for the K of L again. We should invite different people with whom we associate in different organizations. Are you certain that you have sought and attracted every possible K of L member in your parish or your community? We should encourage our children and grandchildren to keep the

OFFICIAL NEWS (Cont'd)

Lithuanian heritage and traditions alive by joining an American-Lithuanian organization - the K of L.

Finally, we should take another look at our present membership composition. Needless to say, we need the younger generation. Increasing membership must be every council's first priority this year.

AnneCheplick
2nd Vice President - Membership

CLASSIFIED AD SECTION

We are adding a new feature to VYTIS called "Classified Ad Section". If you have merchandise that you wish to either buy or sell, an ad can be placed in VYTIS. We have a total circulation of over 3,000 members and subscribers who will read your ad. Remember - your trash could be someone's treasure. Rate is \$8.00 for 15 words with 20 cents each additional word including name, address and phone number. Payment must accompany order. Checks are to be made to: Knights of Lithuania and mailed to VYTIS Editor, Two Bayview Ave., Port Washington, NY 11050.

CALENDAR of EVENTS

- March 14, 1992 - National Executive Board Meeting - Host: C-7, Waterbury, CT.
 March 29, 1992 - C-41 Brooklyn - Lietuvių Laudies Dainių Kvartetas, Bronius Krokys, Annunciation Church hall, Brooklyn, NY following 11 a.m. Mass.
 May 15-17, 1992 - MCD Meeting & Annual Bowling Tournament - Host: C-86, DuBois, PA
 April 26, 1992 - NED Meeting, St. Casimir's Church, New Haven, Host: C-50
 June 19-21, 1992 - New England District Annual Retreat, Franciscan Monastery, Kennebunkport, ME
 July 5, 1992 - Ninth Lithuanian Folk Dance Festival, Rosemont, IL
 July 16-19, 1992 - 79th National Convention, Allentown, PA. Hosts: C-144, Anthracite, PA
 October 10, 1992 - C-29 Newark - Annual Dinner/Dance at Holy Trinity Hall.

IN MEMORIAM

Sr. ANELE LINDZIUS, SSC
C-24 Chicago, IL
† July 21, 1991

STELLA KARALAITIS
C-24 Chicago, IL
† November 5, 1991

REV. ALEX ZIUBRYS
C-19 Pittsburgh, PA
† January 21, 1992

REGINA SIMOKAITIS
C-24 Chicago, IL
† September 21, 1991

STANLEY BAILEY
C-110 Maspeth, NY
† November 12, 1991

KATHERINE G. HASSETT
C-10 Athol-Gardner, MA
† January 24, 1992

EVA SAMUOLIS
C-152 Eastern Long Island, NY
† January 19, 1992



----- LETTERS -----

LIKES VYTIS

It's time for us readers (and writers) to raise imaginary glasses of the bubbly stuff (or better yet, *viritas*) during this past holiday season to toast Mary Kober, editor of VYTIS. She has done an excellent job in making VYTIS more than just a house organ while still providing publicity for the K of L's praiseworthy activities. VYTIS is now fun to read.

From a technical viewpoint, Mary Kober's VYTIS is carefully edited, a big plus. She has also accomplished something rare in Lithuanian English journalistic circles. VYTIS comes out on time, my January issue having been received in January. Readers of other Lithuanian English journals are not so fortunate. One of them, for instance, is now seven months late, and I'm still waiting.

So let's hear it for the editor of VYTIS.

Sincerely,
Albert Cizauskas

LITHUANIAN EMBASSY NEEDS YOUR HELP!

Dear Knights of Lithuania:

Since its establishment on Oct. 11, 1922, the Lithuanian Embassy in Washington has functioned continuously as the official representative of Lithuania in the United States.

The Embassy intensified its work after the occupation of Lithuania by the USSR in 1940. It endeavored to raise an awareness in the United States of persecutions by the occupier, and to ensure that Lithuania's annexation would not be recognized. These efforts, predicated on a hope for the re-establishment of independence and

strongly supported by Lithuanian-Americans, were pursued over fifty years by the Embassy and by the entire Lithuanian diplomatic service.

The Embassy's duties and responsibilities increased significantly since independence. It coordinates official visits by Lithuania's leaders and arranges meetings for them with various government officials. It informs the Dept. of State, federal agencies, the media, and other organizations of Lithuania's economic, social and cultural status. The Commercial Attache facilitates economic contacts which are critical in the arduous task of financial restructuring and growth. The Embassy also provides information about Lithuania to the public and serves as a strong cultural symbol to all Lithuanian-Americans.

Lithuania's gold reserves deposited in the United States were temporarily depleted five years ago and the Embassy was able to secure temporary financing from alternate sources. At the beginning of this year those funds were no longer available and the Embassy is now forced to make a public appeal for financial assistance. Our country does not have enough hard currency to finance the old and new diplomatic and consular missions.

I wish to thank most sincerely all the Knights who have already contributed to the Embassy's fund. I am deeply convinced that we will not only reach our goal, but also see the direct effects of our common efforts in Lithuania's rebirth as a democratic nation.

Stasys Lozoraitis
Ambassador of Lithuania

**WISE CRACKS**

Submitted by Fr. John

Among the things that seem to grow by leaps and bounds are the children in the apartment overhead.

"An Eskimo woman is old at forty," says an explorer. "An American woman is not old at forty. In fact, she's not even forty."

Another change the game of bridge needs is a cross-bar under the table.

American women are so beautiful they can wear anything. The trouble is they won't.

Problems in marriage often arise because a man too often shows his worst side to his better half.

What any government almost invariably needs is more pruning and less grafting.

A politician doesn't stand on his record; he jumps on the other fellow's.

The human race seems to have improved everything except people.

Every man is a hero in his own home - until the company leaves.

Contentment has one big advantage over wealth; friends don't try to borrow it from you.

Whenever everybody tends to his own business, news is scarce.

The man who saves money nowadays isn't a miser; he's a wizard.

Judging from the amount of the public debt, it is no longer much of a compliment to tell a lady she looks like a million dollars.

Council News

Vyčiai Veikia

C-1 BROCKTON, MA



Jonas Gedraitis of C-1 Brockton talked about Lithuanian Christmas traditions at Fuller Art Museum.

Already 1992 is upon us. What wonderful memories 1991 gave us, most important of which was Lithuania's independence. Whoever dreamed we could see this memorable event in our lifetime. Miracle of miracles!

In Dec. at the Fuller Art Museum in Brockton, many different nationalities were asked to share their Christmas traditions. On Saturday, C-1 members were there in full force. A typical Kučios table was set up displaying all the traditional foods. Jonas Gedraitis, in his native costume, explained to the children the symbols and traditions of our beautiful Christmas Eve supper. A Christmas tree decorated with authentic straw ornaments also added to the festivities. With the delicious touch of Chef Vytautas Ivanauskas of C-17 So. Boston, "krucikies" were available for

selling.

Meanwhile on Sunday at Our Lady of Sorrows Convent, preparations were in full swing for the annual Kučios supper. One hundred fifty eager, excited, devoted people filled the Sisters of Jesus Crucified dining room. A very solemn prayerful, joyful feast was celebrated. A special thank you to C-17 members who helped with all the preparations and the Sisters for the use of the convent.

Sr. Eugenia Glenckis, also of C-17, led us through the explanation of breaking the bread, the different foods and meaning of it all. She even had a woman at each table cut the apple and tempt the man to eat it, bringing our attention to the fall of man. Our attention was then drawn to the Crucifix on the center of the table laying on the hay. Can we really fathom the mystery of God becoming man, to redeem us just

because He loves us so much.

The meal ended with the lighting of the Christmas tree and the singing of Christmas carols. This celebration was truly beautiful in the fact that many children were present, the youngest being three years old, Vilya.

As I write this article, my heart beats with pride, proud to be Catholic, proud to be Lithuanian and proud to be a child of God and to be such an intimate part of His divine plan. *Ruta*

C-3 PHILADELPHIA, PA

Greetings to all of our K of L friends. May 1992 bring you peace and happiness. May each council and district succeed and accomplish all it sets out to do.

Welcome back to Stan & Anne Petraitis who rejoined the council. A special welcome to our first new member of 1992, Philip Bomblauskas Congratulations to Joe & Dianne Drumstas who are the proud grandparents of a beautiful baby girl, Katherine-Regina. Much happiness to you all! Our sincere sympathy to Julie Kowrak on the sudden death of her brother Boley. Our prayers are with you and your family.

This March our council will sponsor the 50th consecutive commemoration of St. Casimir's Feast Day in our home parish of St. Casimir. The celebrations have varied and this year's committee is hard at work planning a very special commemoration. In an effort to help St. Casimir's Parish meet its assessment by the Phila. Archdiocese Catholic Life 2000, our council pledged a \$600

donation.

An important social event was St. George's Parish Annual Pre-Lenten Banquet held on Feb. 29. Many Vyčiai joined Fr. Anderlonis and his parishioners for this festive evening.

Irene Svekla

C-7 WATERBURY, CT

The following were elected to serve as officers for 1992: Fr. F. Karvelis, spiritual advisor; Ann Cheplick, pres.; Joseph Sticklis, vice pres.; Virginia Kosa, sec.; Agnes Baltrush, treas.; Alma Torre, fin. sec.; Victor Vaitkus & Doris Blinstrubas, trustees; Ed Bebrin, sgt. at arms; Virginia Kosa, Vytis corres.; Ed White & Walter Blinstrubas will share the duties of housemen; Victor Vaitkas, Lithuanian Culture chairman. Board of directors: Joan Shukaitis, Eleanor Arnauskas, Theresa Shukaitis, Arlene Sticklis, Ann Kundrotas, Janine Nawarskas, Walter Blinstrubas, Ed White, Victor Vaitkas, Darryl Barkus & Alex Kosa.

C-7 sponsored a dinner-dance held at St. Joseph's Parish Hall. A delicious meal was prepared and served by Daryl Barkus assisted by our own K of L's. There was such an overwhelming gathering that everyone would like it held as an annual event. It was nice to see faces that we haven't seen for years. The band played enjoyable music for listening and dancing. Alma Torre was in charge of a very successful raffle. Many thanks to all who made this affair a success.

The annual Christmas party was held at the club rooms. Agnes Baltrush was chairlady assisted by Alma Torre, Ed & Tonie White, Eleanor Arnauskas, Joan Shukaitis, Doris Blinstrubas & Albert Baranauskas, Jr. A buffet was served with many home made goodies.

Tonie & Ed White celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary with a

surprise party given by their children. They were treated to a trip to Hawaii by their children. Best wishes for many more happy years of wedded bliss Alma Torre will chair a bus trip to Atlantic City. We hope they will return home winners Our president, Ann Cheplick, had foot surgery. Get well soon - we need you! C-7 Bowling team is doing well. Keep up the good work. Bowling banquet will be held May 17 at Quality Inn in Waterbury.

C-7 is interested in forming a Junior council. Please contact Anne Cheplick or Suanne Kosa. *Virginia Kosa*

C-17 SO. BOSTON, MA

First order of business after the summer break was the election of officers. The process of obtaining candidates and holding elections was efficiently accomplished by members of the nominating committee, Longinas Svelnis, Joseph Balaconas & Francis Savicke. The roster consists: Alexander Akule, pres.; Frank Markuns, 1st vice pres.; Longinas Svelnis, 2nd vice pres.; Emily Lehman, 3rd vice pres.; Joseph White, treas.; Virginia Markuns, rec. sec.; Adele Martus, corres. sec.; Eva Ball, fin. sec.; Patricia Akule, John Norinkavich, trustees; Patricia Akule, Anne Evans, Mary Kleponis, ritual; Joseph Balcunas, Albert Kropas, sgts. at arms; John Norinkavich, Lith. Affairs; Joseph White, Vytis corres. We thank the outgoing officers for their commitment and wish the new roster well.

Our council was well represented at the national convention with eleven members attending. Our spiritual director, Rev. Albert Contons, filled in for national spiritual director Rev. J. Anderlonis. Fr. was a member of the convention resolutions committee and was appointed to the honorary membership committee. Our president,

Al Akule and HM Larry Svelnis gave some highlights and impressions of the convention. A sincere thank you to the national executive board and C-147 for a successful convention.

Rev. Deacon Christopher Waitekus for the past five years attended St. John's Seminary in Brighton, MA studying for the priesthood. He is a member of our council. During the summer, he was assigned to a Springfield parish and will be ordained this fall. Best wishes and many fruitful years to you!

Member Sister Eugenia CJC was on the local committee that made arrangements for the 25th anniversary of Our Lady of Siluva Chapel in Washington. Two bus loads originated from the Boston-Worcester area. Although it was a long tiring trip, all enjoyed the concert on Saturday, the impressive ceremony at the chapel at the shrine on Sunday and a chance to do a little sightseeing.

Individual members and our council continue with donations for orphans and hospitals in Lithuania On Nov. 3, opera soloist Maryte Bizinkauskas and her sister soprano Veronica Bizinkauskas Cote gave a concert at Maironis Park for Lithuanian Children's Relief. All proceeds were donated to this charity. Thank you, ladies, for a labor of love In Sept., a group of members led by Pres. Al Akule visited Sofia Glineskas at the St. Joseph Rest Home in Brockton to celebrate her 100th birthday. She was president of the council in its early days. Also present were her three daughters, Regina Alexander, Leona Jarvis & Sister Eugenia CJC. Also at the Rest Home are HM Anthony Young and his wife, Mildred. He celebrated his 85th birthday recently. Many of the old-timers of the Knights will remember him as the national legal advisor for many years Al Akule was re-elected

pres. of the New England District at their meeting on Sept. 22. We are proud of this hard working K of L'r.

Our favorite Fall event is the New England District Festival held yearly at Maironis Park. The New England councils gather here to socialize and raise funds. Our council had a booth of delicious breads, rye and piragi, which sold out quickly. Several of our members won raffle prizes.

The proceeds of the Cathedral Liturgy for Lithuania held at the Holy Cross Cathedral in Boston were forwarded to Bishop Joseph Zemaitis of Vilkaviškis, Lithuania. Al Akule was co-chairman and Sr. Eugenia & Joseph White were on the committee.

St. Peter's Lithuanian Church organist, Prof. Jeronimas Kacinskas returned to Lithuania with his wife, Elena to be honored as Patriarch of Lithuanian music, the greatest living composer. His compositions were featured in a series of concerts in Klaipeda, Kaunas and Vilnius. In Klaipeda, he was honored by students of Stasys Shimkus Music School as the most illustrious alumnus. He was professor at the Berklee School of Music in Boston for many years until his retirement. Rev. Contons was the honored guest of Prof. at several concerts in Lithuania.

Fr. Contons while visiting in Lithuania had the opportunity to visit many churches and points of interest as guest of Msgr. A. Svarinskas, well known dissident priest and presently a member of the Lithuanian Parliament. Fr. Al brought back many slides of his trip and has shown them to parishioners in the church hall.

Our Kučios was held at the Sisters of Jesus Crucified Mother House in Brockton sponsored by C-1 & 17. The kitchen crew who prepared the delicious meal was led by John & Ann Statkus,

George & Francis Bumila. Over 100 guests enjoyed this traditional meal. It helped to remind us of our wonderful customs of our ancestors.

The Lithuanian Kitchen Function Room in the So. Boston Lithuanian Club was the site of our annual Christmas party on Jan. 3. Good friendship was the theme with over eighty members enjoying the fine food, drink and group singing led by our pastor emeritus, Rev. A. Baltrasunas. We thank the committee, Anne Evans, Adele Martus, Emily Lehman, Francis Savicke, Frank & Virginia Markuns and the Master of Ceremonies, Al Akule, for a memorable evening.

The council's annual St. Casimir's Day Communion Breakfast was held in the newly-renovated church hall after Mass on March 1.

We congratulate the Vytis staff on the fine quality of the magazine and wish them continued success. We close with a salutation for the new year with good luck and health to our fellow Vyčiai.

Joseph White

C-25 CLEVELAND, OH

On the second Friday of the month, our meetings are held at the Lithuanian Club unless specified otherwise. Our newly elected roster of officers was given the oath of office at our Christmas party in Dec. by our re-elected spiritual advisor, Fr. Kijauskas. Also, we were blessed by the presence of Msgr. K. Goldikovskis.

Newly elected president, Dick Marks, conducted our first meeting of the new year with finesse. He was assisted by his wife and secretary, Jean, treasurer Adele Tanner and his right-hand man Gene Kunsitis, first vice.

Vincent Apanius was our guest speaker. He appealed for support to renovate the Cultural Gardens of Cleveland. The ground plan of the

Lithuanian garden form the musical symbol of a lyre and occupies two levels. This was a project undertaken by the WPA in 1935. A bust of the great Lithuanian scholar and liberator, Dr. Jonas Basanavičius was presented to Cleveland by the Lithuanian government. Another bust, that of Dr. Vincas Kudirka, poet, author and composer of the Lithuanian National Anthem was erected in 1938. A third bust of priest-poet, Msgr. Marciulis-Maironis was unveiled in 1963. The pillars of Gediminas, an ancient national symbol used on the shields of the knights, dominates the lower level. A large stone fountain on the upper level is dedicated to Birutė, the vestal virgin of thunder God, Perkunas. Volunteers are needed for upkeep and we are looking forward to the time for a picnic in the park. A spontaneous donation was given by Albina Wallis to the organization, part of her raffle winnings. Ačiū!

Our first bowling season was hosted on Jan. 19 by the Marks' to establish averages for the DuBois tournament in May. Hosts for our Feb. soiree will be the Oberaitis'.

It was gratifying to see Adele Tanner and Bill Jakubs up and about after their hospital confinement.

Thanks to Vic & Ed Staskus for the enlightening article, Lithuanian Experience - Search for Your Roots, published in the January Vytis.

Dolly O

C-29 NEWARK, NJ

Members Anele & John Pitrenas celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary on January 4 Also, Walter & Eva Zilys shared their Golden Wedding Anniversary on Feb. 9 at Holy Trinity Church. God bless both couples and keep them for many years to come.

Luncheon and Mass for St.



Anele & John Pitrenas of C-29 Newark celebrating 50th Wedding Anniversary.

Casimir's celebration will be held on March 15 at Holy Trinity Church with 11 a.m. Mass Our annual cake sale will be held April 12 with Mary Honeyman acting as chairlady On Oct. 10 our annual dinner/dance will be held at Holy Trinity Hall in Newark. All are welcome to attend. *Mary Cullen*

C-63 LEHIGH VALLEY, PA

Council learned from Allentown Mayor Jos. Dadonne that the US Baltic Foundation is unable to finance the travel costs of a Lithuanian fireman from Panevyžys to attend an approximate 12-week course in fire-fighting techniques sponsored by the Allentown Fire Dept. The foundation suggested that the Mayor seek funds from the local Baltic community. As a result, the council decided to implement fund raising and ask for donations so the fireman can, at least, enter the course scheduled for mid-June. Members agreed that this was a very positive way to continue assisting Lithuania in her struggle to overcome years of the Communist blight. Approximately \$1,200 will be required and our work has been cut out for us.

Pres. Bob Klova, in a letter to the Editor of the Allentown Morning Call, thanked the Lehigh Valley community for all the help and encouragement our council received from them over the years in the struggle for the restoration of Lithuania's freedom. Our community relations have always been excellent. The news media was equally supportive. Our council will extend this relationship into the future.

Vice Pres. Joe Simmons has been negotiating with our brethren in the Quakertown Latvian community for our council

to use their excellent picnic facilities in the Spinnerstown area. If he is successful, we will have our picnic in September.

Council approved a \$340 donation to St. Michael's parish in Easton for use of their church hall as our monthly meeting place.

Valerie Smickle and Dora Lushis will co-chair a flea market in St. Michael's Church Hall on March 27, 28 & 29. Members were asked to scour every nook and cranny in their homes for items they can donate for the sale. The energy and experience of these two ladies insure a successful sale. They emphasized they will need the generosity and assistance of all council members.

Jane Lutick reported she had received a letter from Regina Valyte in Lithuania who was her house guest in Sept. 1990 during the visit of eight Lithuanian youths, all members of Ateitis. Miss Valyte is now teaching school and she cited the shortages of school supplies. They were primarily in need of ballpoint pens, ordinary wooden lead pencils, crayons, etc. Council responded to their needs by authorizing

Jane to buy \$100 worth of supplies plus the shipping costs.

Pres. Bob Klova reported that he submitted paperwork to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania requesting our council be exempt from paying the state sales tax of 6% as we feel we are a non-profit charitable organization. If successful, council could save from \$400 to \$600 annually and earmark this money toward our projects. 1992 appears to be a very busy year ahead. *Joseph Ogint*

C-79 SOUTHFIELD, MI

Although our council is going through a spell of inactivity after the holidays, a few members spent some time volunteering their services to help others.

On Jan. 19, Frank & Emma Povilaitis, with president, Maggie Smailis, helped with the inter-parish collection held for CARITAS Jan. 21 was the day designated for packing the third huge container for Lithuanian Relief. Again Maggie with Mary Keller were on the scene doing what they could to relieve Bob Boris and his committee Approximately a dozen council members attended the annual New Year's Eve party sponsored by Divine Providence Church Margaret Ann Nashlon from Florida surprised mother Maggie and sister Marianne Newberry by showing up on mom's doorstep a few days before Christmas and staying through the holidays Bertha Janus with daughter, Christine, spent Christmas with daughter Nancy in Wisconsin where she and family are now residing.

Our sick list, excluding flu victims, still has Joe Usoris convalescing after a second hospital stay since his quadruple by-pass heart surgery in Nov. Jerry Chaps is also recuperating after serious surgery. We wish them all a speedy recovery. *Bea Jay*



Margaret Dapkus, Bertha Janus and Maggie Smailus of C-79 Southfield with Pres. Landsbergis at a luncheon in his honor in the Detroit area.

C-90 KEARNY, NJ

Happy New Year to all our fellow K of Lrs!

As we start 1992, we reflect on all events that took place in 1991. Our council had a very busy year beginning with the celebrating of Lithuanian Independence Day on Feb. 10. We began the day with a Mass in Our Lady of Sorrows Lithuanian Church celebrated by our moderator, Rev. Pocius. There was a nice turn out of choir members who sang our beautiful Lithuanian hymns under the direction of Gen Mazur, our organist. After Mass, there was the Lithuanian flag raising at the Kearny Town Hall followed by brunch at the LCCC.

We watched the events unfolding in the Baltic States and were very proud of the Lithuanian people and their determination to be free.

On June 1, fifty members and friends attended the annual Lithuanian Festival in Baltimore. Everyone enjoyed the trip immensely.

In Sept. Lithuanian finally became "free" and a Mass of Thanksgiving was held. The church rang in song by the happy, emotional congregation. What a

joyful event. Our joy was short-lived that week because on Sept. 18 our beloved Deacon Jay O'Hara died of a heart attack. He served our parish for nineteen years and loved the Lithuanian people. Our council honored him the previous year at our brunch. He was given a Juostas which he treasured and wore when he assisted at the Lithuanian Mass. We will miss him.

On Sept. 21-22, our council hosted a Lithuanian Food Booth at the Annual Ethnic Festival at Liberty State Park in Jersey City. Chairpersons were Al & Terry Bilaitis, co-chairladies Ellie Nakrosis & Fran Grdina. Members helped prepare the food and also helped at the booth on the weekend. They also marched in the Parade of Nations and were given a rousing round of applause and cheers. Following members helped prepare the food: Al & Theresa Bilaitis, Eleanor & Len Rokas, John & Ellie Nakrosis, Ann Pringle, Tom & Lil Kulish, Cathy & Greg Cierpial, Barbara Dean, Fran Grdina, Nellie Stodolski, Helen Bachman, Helen Kasczyk, Jean Donato, Helen Lutkus, Alice Plikaitis, Millie Miola, Mary Przychocki, Adele & Pete Gibbas, Ann & Frank Sluzas

and Mary Gelcius. They did a fantastic job, as usual.

Member William (Bill) Shergalis traveled to Vilnius on Oct. 18 for a twelve day working visit. The trip was sponsored jointly by the National Association of Secondary School Principals in the U.S. and the Ministry of Culture and Education in Lithuania. Bill was the only Lithuanian-American in the group. He is very active in APPLE and has volunteered his services in continuing to build contacts between school administrators in Lithuania and the U.S. He had a wonderful experience in Lithuania and showed us the beautiful pictures he took. We are proud of you Bill and wish you much success in this endeavor.

In Dec., our annual Christmas gathering was held at Baltija Restaurant in Richmond Hill. A good time was had by all. Thanks to the committee for another job well done.

There was great joy for the Rokas family. On Dec. 6 their daughter Cathy and husband Greg Cerpial became parents of a baby boy. Best wishes to grandparents and to proud parents.

Plans are being made for the celebration of our council's 75th anniversary in the Fall. Mary Przychocki will be the chairlady and she has a good committee to assist her.

So you see, we have been busy and hope to continue to be very active in 1992. Su Diev. *Zmon"*

C-96 DAYTON, OH

As the Christmas holiday season approaches, our council was busy with many activities. In Oct., a group from Lithuania entertained us at the Lithuanian Club for our annual homecoming program. A good time was had by all and we are all grateful the group could make time in their schedule to visit Dayton. Also in Oct., our council

held its annual election of officers at our meeting. To add flair to this event, we enjoyed a catered dinner prepared by member Kitty Prasmantas with the council picking up the tab.

In Nov., we had a holiday Bake Sale and raffle chaired by Joe Fletcher. In addition to the usual baked goods, many handmade craft items were also available. Some terrific items were raffled. There were two wine and cheese baskets donated by council members and Amber Rose European Deli, a six pack of imported beer by Amber Rose, a bottle of wine by Lithuanian Social Club, a gift certificate to Amber Rose by Agnes Mikalauskas, a poinsettia plant by Furst the Florist, a Boston Fern by Oberer's Flowers and a large hand made ceramic nativity set donated by Mr. & Mrs. Himes, parents of Julie Mantz. Thanks to all who made this event a success.

To get in the Christmas spirit, C-96 sponsored a traditional Christmas caroling in Dec. This event was held on an unseasonably warm day. With the early winter sun out, the feeling was more of spring time than the second Sunday of Advent. In any event, everyone had a good time singing familiar carols to K of L members and Holy Cross Church parishioners, some in nursing homes. Afterwards, everyone met in the church basement for a delicious lasagna dinner prepared by Joe & Julie Mantz.

Finally, please remember in your prayers Jim Kavalauskas who has serious health problems. *Joe Fletcher*

C-100 AMSTERDAM, NY JUNIORS

We had a meeting on Jan. 27 and we were catching up on what we are doing. On Thanksgiving we had a raffle. The first prize was a turkey, 2nd prize platter, and 3rd prize, a fruit basket. We

have two new members, Justin & Brendy. We are planning on going to camp and the two new members are planning to join us. We are still planning on writing to our pen pals.

Becky Jasewicz

C-102 DETROIT, MI

Our Christmas Kučios was once again held at the beautiful home of HM Bob

Boris. Fr. Stan began the evening by saying Mass with Vince Boris as altar server. Vince also made the Missals for Mass. After Mass, with champagne and the singing of the Lithuanian Anthem, a toast was made to Lithuania's Freedom. A buffet dinner was served organized by chairmen Terry & Ray Medonis. After dinner, Mindy Lightman and her beautiful voice, accompanied by John Stanievich on violin, and Joe Aukstankis-Stark on accordion, sang some show tunes and later was joined by Mike Shea and Vince Klucens in

leading us with Christmas carols. The evening was very lively. Oneta Selenis prepared several fish dishes including salmon.

Regina Juskamade



Reception held for Rev. J. Grabys of C-100 Amsterdam. L to r: Ginny Kutchis, Bernice Aviza, Rev. Grabys, Frances DiBart & Algis Bagdonis.

the Lithuanian torte and Tim Baibak's first attempt at kugelis was delicious. Our council also welcomed new members Virginia & Nicole Antakli, Joe Raciukaitis, John Lacny and Regina & Richard Goebel.

We marvel at HM Bob Boris' energy. He flew to Wahington for the rededication of the Siluva Chapel. He made a trip to Florida returning to Pennsylvania for the National Executive Board meeting and then to the National Convention. Bob also made the society pages this year when he made kugelis



Good to Last Strike - C-102 Detroit: Top row: John Kolinske, Joe Guerriero, Ed Salas, Chuck Mykolaitis, George Kayganich & Norm Heim. Bottom row: Ruth Wagster, Maryanne Guerriero, Helen Mykolaitis & Rose Sawnick.

on two different nights for a Detroit Symphony Benefit Dinner. Bob also has patience in dealing with World Medical Relief shipments, SOS Vaikiai and St. Casimir's Guild. Regarding the Lithuanian Medical Relief shipments, our newest hard working volunteers are Donna & John Stanievich, Merri & Lory Hofner and Joe & Maryanne Guerriero.

Our Rev. Fr. W. Stanievich was one of four Detroit area priests who concelebrated Mass on Nov. 7 with Pope John Paul II in his private chapel and three days later in St. Peter's Basilica commemorating their 45th anniversary of ordination.

All good things must come to an end as did our bowling league after 45 years. League Pres. Ruth Wagster struggled along with Joe & Maryanne Guerriero to keep the league going but when it dwindled to six teams, it wasn't worth continuing. With three councils in the Detroit area, only ten members participated and the remainder were outsiders. We enjoyed the outsiders and had fun with them forming many friendships and they, in turn, joined our many activities. Every year went by begging for bowlers. It was a sad bowling banquet but when our members do not participate, all good things must come to an end.

Get well wishes are extended to Emil Podzius who was missed at our Kučios with his wife Marie. Also, get well wishes to our Florida member, Evelyn Galinas Barry. Our prayers are with you. It was nice to see Eve Aukstakalnis-Stark feeling better and joining us at the Kučios and meetings.

With eleven inches of Detroit snow this winter, twelve members traveled from afar to attend Mass and meeting at St. Anthony's. That's what we call true membership. Also attending were Merri & Lory Hofner who just returned from

sunny Florida where they visited with Donna & Frank Bunikis and Terry & Ray Medonis. That same Sunday the Tri-monthly collection for the World Medical Relief at all three Lithuanian churches was held. Regina Juska, volunteered to accept donations from St. Anthony's.

We wish all good health during this winter. *Meriutė*

C-103 PROVIDENCE, RI

Our Pres. Bertha Stoskus, was a volunteer in the gift shop at Christmas Angel during the holidays at Blithewald in Bristol Some of our member "Snowbirds" have already headed South. Bea & Victor Mathieu left for Marco Island for a couple of weeks. John & Theresa Jaknevich are going to Hillsboro for an extended stay.

We were glad to see Alice Grybas up and around after recovering from foot surgery Ruth Krecoch is a new grandmother. Her daughter Nancy had a little girl! . Ilgiausią metų! Bill Piacentini will be traveling with some students to Italy in April Tony & Helen Gudeczauskas had most of their clan together for the Christmas holidays. They found the house bulging at the seams Nell Grande's daughter moved to Arizona.

That's our news from C-103!

C-110 MASPETH, NY

Welcome Patricia Zenisek, C-110 Vytis correspondent.

Dec. was a busy month for our members. With the announcement from the US Postal Service that airmail to the



Petras & Anele Povilaitis of C-109 Great Neck, NY

Baltic States was no longer being routed through Moscow, our council undertook a humanitarian project. Ann Morrissey, public relations coordinator, together with the aid of Iggy & Evelyn Walles, Helen Matulonis, Mary Stungurys and Peter Zuyus, packed six containers of donated new and used clothing and accessories which were sent to our council's adopted orphanage in Lithuania. The 103 children residing there range in age from 8 to 16 years. The council intends to maintain contact with the orphanage and to continue the humanitarian aid project for as long as possible.

Our annual Kučios was held in Dec. A short program on the history of this traditional Lithuanian Christmas Eve meal was presented before the wonderful meal was served our members and guests. Our thanks go out to the many people involved in the planning, coordinating, cooking and serving of this special holiday meal.

On Dec. 29 our council enjoyed a Christmas/New Year's party complete with Santa Claus bearing gifts for all of the children. The holiday spirit touched us all.

Our members, including Rev. Wicks, attended a cultural event at the

Lithuanian Cultural Center in Brooklyn in Nov. We enjoyed the concert given by the Lithuanian Folk Music Ensemble from Klaipeda, Lithuania directed by Bronius Muras. The group of seven young men played many instruments, entertaining us with their light melodious ballads and polkas. They brought with them the old-time instrument known as "birbynė", a Lithuanian shepherd's version of the fife, hollowed out tubes or pipes made of wood. After the concert we danced and socialized with our Lithuanian friends. Also with Ann Morrissey's assistance, we were able to obtain over 120 signatures requesting the House Ways & means Committee to submit proposal HR 3313 to a vote before the Thanksgiving recess.

Forty-six of our members enjoyed a bus trip to Atlantic City during Nov. Unfortunately, there were no jackpot winners, but a good time was had by all.

Congratulations to Anna Balsis who was installed in the first degree and Sofie Ferone in the second degree.

C-112 CHICAGO, IL

Ellie Kasputis welcomed C-112 board members to her home for the Dec. meeting. She is a splendid hostess - the array of food and drink was boundless. A nice touch, a little grab-bag, everyone went away with a little gift.

Our Christmas party was held following an abbreviated meeting in Dec. in the school hall. Approximately 100 members and friends attended. Chairlady Julie Zakarka and helpers, Lorraine Svelnis & Dolores Wainauskas, did a super job of organizing the dinner menu with much thanks to all the talented "chefs" who contributed homemade items to the table. Everything was delicious! Al Mockus & Aldona Brazis outdid

themselves selling raffle tickets and rounding up donations. It seemed as though almost everyone went home with something tucked under their arm. A round of Christmas carols, to the piano accompaniment of Robert Mockus and led by Al Brazis, was enjoyed by all.

Before the festivities began, Canon Zakarauskas conferred First Degrees on Barbara Ann Wensel, Regina Endrukaitis, Arvydas Kazlauskas, Robert Mockus, David Roback, Kastytis Andrukaitis, Stephen Kolasa, Stella Raudis & Terese Kybartas.

Members welcomed guest speaker, Vladas Adamkus, Regional Director of the Environmental Protection Agency for the Great Lakes Area, to their Jan. meeting. Mr. Adamkus, in his agency role, makes at least two trips to the Baltic countries each year. He made a very informative and thought-provoking presentation to our membership. We were saddened to learn that the natural resources of Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia have so blatantly been abused - severe air and water pollution especially, and that it would take billions of dollars in aid to begin restoration.

Food production, however, is better



Vladas Adamkis & Rev. Anthony Zakarauskas. Mr. Adamkis spoke at C-112 Chicago Jan. meeting.

in Lithuania than in Latvia, Estonia or Russia and, at this point, there appears to be no shortage of food. The \$5,000 donated by the K of L will be used for education in the environmental field - they will need much, much more.

Gerrie

C-140 SYRACUSE, NY

"Freedom and Independence for Lithuania!" Those were joyful words to hear. Which one of us at the St.



C-112 Xmas Party. Juniors gathered around Santa "Matt Vilutis". Jasmina & Michael Pumputis, Andrea Deksnis, Ausra Pumputis.

Petersburg Convention could have even imagined that a month later we would be celebrating Lithuania's Independence. We all know that independence would eventually be ours but just a month away - no way.

Election of council officers came up with the following slate: Frank Petrauskas, pres.; Veronica Sutkus, vice pres.; Philip Fink, treas. & ritual; Irene Petrauskas, sec.; Catherine Brandt & John Stanley, trustees; Veronica Sutkus, cultural; Dawn Rudd, spiritual; Katherine Cravetts, Lithuanian affairs. Many thanks to Jack Brandt, our retiring treasurer, for a number of years of good service Our representatives to the Amber District meeting in Pittston and the following weekend at Our Lady of Siluva celebration in Washington were Frank & Irene Petrauskas.

Oct. 19 was the day of our big Lithuanian wedding. Anita Yuskauskas and Christopher Fink, both members of C-140, were joined together in a good old-fashioned Lithuanian wedding. Anita had her gown made in Lithuania. Members of the wedding party were dressed in traditional dress. Anita wore a wreath of ruta. There was plenty of ruta in all the flower arrangements. St. Anthony's Church in Cortland was nicely decorated for the beautiful wedding Mass celebrated by Rev. Carlo Stirpe. The reception held in Paduan Hall with plenty of food, drink and much good Lithuanian music played by our own Joe Thomas from New York. Joe Thomas and fiancée Gen Chrestian were the house guests of Frank & Irene Petrauskas. The weekend was a most beautiful and enjoyable one.

October was also the wedding of Brenda Wright and C-140 member, Ray Tamoshunas. They were married in Canton, PA. We welcome Brenda to our council as an associate member. May both couples have many years of

wedded bliss.

Nov. 17 was the day of the Captive Nations of Syracuse & Onondaga County Committee's "Day of Freedom" banquet at LeMoyne Manor. Main speaker was New York Senator Alfonse D'Amato. He gave a moving and inspirational talk on the former captive nations and their present day status. Senator D'Amato has been a true friend of the captive nations. Committee chairperson, Frank Petrauskas, also spoke. There was a nice turnout for the banquet with many dignitaries in attendance.

George Vaikness, one of our founding members, died on Dec. 6. We held a K of L Wake service. A number of members attended his funeral. George was a friendly well-liked person who always had a good word for those with whom he came in contact. He will be missed by all our members. May his soul rest in peace! Our condolences to daughter Joy and sons George, Jr., Jerry & Jim together with their families.

C-140's Christmas party was a Sunday brunch held at Ramada Inn with a nice attendance and a good time was had by all. Center of attention was little Bobbie Larson, son of Mary Kay & Bob, grandson of Catherine & Jack Brandt and great grandson of Katherine Kravetts, all members of C-140.

Pusbrolis

C-141 BRIDGEPORT, CT

The Jan. meeting, brought to order by Pres. Clemencine Miller, was opened with a Lithuanian prayer by Helen Janiunas. Helen is doing an outstanding job as lector and soloist at Mass on Sundays.

Dec. 15 we went back to our roots and observed the traditional Kučios. Sylvester Marcavage was program coordinator. Lee Marcinka could not be with us but made beautiful Christmas

aprons for all the gaspades to wear and remember her. Thanks Lee!

Anne Gecevich was welcomed back after an absence Sophie & Peter Putrimas celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on St. Valentine's Day. God grant them many more anniversaries.

For the first time in over fifty years, this year's Lithuanian Day celebration was a joyous one. Mass was celebrated by Msgr. Francis Prancus. Cultural program and refreshments followed in the church hall. Our guest speaker worked with APPLE Organization in Lithuania. The Vetra Dancers of New Haven also entertained. Sigita Liaukas, representing Bendroumene assisted with the program.

We had our tri-colors flying in Bridgeport on Feb. 17 with Mayor Ganim joining the K of L's at the Baldwin Plaza On March 15 we had our St. Casimir's Day brunch followed by our monthly meeting.

Many council members have made reservations for our annual retreat in Kennebunkport, ME June 19 through June 21. Please make reservations as soon as possible since space is limited.

January has seen much illness in our council. Ann Petrus spent more than one month in the hospital undergoing surgery Alphonse & Teresa Trainis were also hospitalized. Our prayers and get well wishes are with all of you. *ALDONA*

C-150 KANSAS CITY, KS

Members of C-150 met for lunch and an afternoon of looking at pictures and other Lithuania memorabilia dating from about 1900 through the 1930's at the home of Pres. Lou Ann Rayn on Sat., Jan. 16. A 1932 souvenir book published by the Sisters of St. Francis, pictures of first communion classes at the former St. Casimir Church of Kansas

City, KS and many wedding photos of the twenties and thirties were shared by members attempting to identify now deceased relatives and family friends. A tape recording was made as each member remembered some story told by parents or grandparents in conjunction with Lithuanians settling in Kansas City.

Attending were Charlotte Zemaitis Horvatic, Anita & Bill Strumillo, Frances & Charles Purduski, Dolores & Paul Purduski, Mary Gaydess, Anthony Granoski and Lou Ann & Bob Rayn. More heritage meetings will be held in the future. *Lou Ann Rayn*

C-152 EASTERN LONG ISLAND, NY

In Dec. our Council celebrated the joyous Yuletide Season with our annual Christmas party with a gratifying turnout of 146 Knights and guests. This event, upon which we look back with fond remembrance, was co-chaired with great competence by Joe Bealis and Del Vance. Our traditional Santa, Frank LoPiccolo, was sidelined by a temporary bout of illness and thereby unable to preside over the presentation of gifts from our grab-bag. Our long time former member, Felix Zorskis, providentially visiting us from his new home in Florida, was kind enough to step into Santa's ample suit and hand out the gifts with great aplomb.

The Christmas party was also the setting for the installation, by our member and District President, John Sakal, of the new team of officers who will guide the affairs of our council during 1992. These are: Muriel Lekstutis Zambuto, pres.; Delbert Vance, vice pres.; Agnes Marma, sec.; Thomas Tarmey, treas.; Mary Zipkas, fin. sec.; Charlene Abrahamsen & Joseph Bealis, trustees; Evelyn Niksa & Peter Petrowski, Sgts. at Arms.

There can be no doubt that our new leaders - as, indeed, all Knights everywhere - will discover that the recovery of Lithuania's independence, and its struggle to establish a market economy, will present new challenges to the role of the Knights of Lithuania in supporting the efforts of our ancestral kinsmen as they strive to rebuild their socially and economically shattered homeland.

Sun., March 1, was the date set for our council's annual Mass and luncheon in honor of our Patron, St. Casimir. Mass was celebrated at Noon at Our Lady of Ostrabrama Church, Cutchogue, with lunch following at the Southold Town Recreation Center in Peconic.

Our readers are asked for their kindness in sparing a prayer for God's mercy upon our long suffering friend and fellow Knight, Tony Zambuto. Finally, it is our sad duty to report the death on Jan. 19 of our sister Knight, Eva Samoulis. May she rest in peace.

Tom Tarmey

C-154 SPRING HILL, FL

The month of January was set aside as a month of novenas and prayers asking for God's help for the Blessed George Matulaitis canonization. Let's invoke his intercession in our everyday needs as he approaches sainthood. Monday, Jan. 27 we celebrated his feast day.

We enjoyed the concert presented by four young Lithuanian musicians, called "Medusa". Not only did they entertain us with music and song but they also brought with them jewelry, art work, carvings, all made by Lithuanian artisans in different areas of their country and offered them for sale.

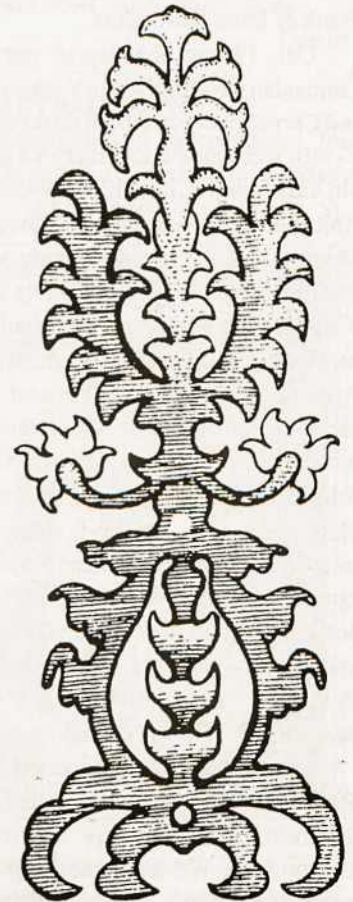
We attended Mass in St. Petersburg celebrating Lithuanian Independence Day. This event was of outstanding

significance for all of us. We do have much to celebrate. The latest step that insures the Lithuanian nation of separation from Russia is the declaration that former Soviet troops will be withdrawn from the basis in Lithuania - some weapons will be left behind to bolster the spirit of the people.

Our meeting this month featured a team of health providers. We were made aware of what we can do to insure a productive life that is possible even when some of the aging process deals us pain or limitations.

Finally, we ask for your prayers to join ours as we extend our sympathy to Anna Gribauskas who recently lost her brother-in-law Tony.

S. G. Petraitis



MARIJA, MARIJA

Maironis

Česlovas Sasnauskas

$\text{♩} = 80 - 88$

S
A

1. Ma-ri - ja, Ma-ri-ja, skaisčiausia le-li-ja, Tu švie-ti aukš-tai ant dan-gaus.
 2. Mes, klys-tantys žmonės, mal-daujam ma-lo-nės, Ma-ri-ja mal-dy ne-at-mesk.
 3. Ma-ri - ja, Ma-ri-ja, skaisčiausia le-li-ja, Dan-gaus Ka-ra-lie-ne švie-si.

T
B

10

Pa-leng-vink ver-gi-ją, pa-gel-bėk žmo-ni-ją, iš-gel-bėk nuo priešobaisaus.
 Tarp ver-kian-čių ma-rių, šių žė-miš-ky ka-rių nu-puolančius stiprink irvesk.
 Už-stok prieš Aukščiausią Tu žmo-gy men-kiau-sią nes vis-ką pas-Die-vą ga-li.



BOSTON/JFK - VILNIUS

\$801.00

Via Vienna



Welcome to
AUSTRIAN AIRLINES 

- All fares are round trip.
- Fares can be used by individuals and groups.
- Reservations must be made 21 days in advance of departure.
- Fares are based on a minimum stay of 7 days and a maximum stay of 21 days.
- BALTIC TOURS can make arrangements for those wishing bed and breakfast only in: Vilnius, Kaunas, Panevezys, Siauliai, Klaipeda and Palanga.
- BALTIC TOURS will assist K of L Councils wishing to organize a council tour to Lithuania and other countries.

1992 SPECIAL INTEREST TOURS TO LITHUANIA

TOUR #302 KAZIUKO MUGE

14 Day Tour March 2 - 15

11 Days Lithuania, 1 Copenhagen - \$1,229.00

TOUR #410 HOLY WEEK IN LITHUANIA

PALM SUNDAY, GOOD FRIDAY & EASTER

13 Day Tour April 10 - 22

10 Days Lithuania, 1 Copenhagen - \$1,209.00

Special interest Tours include round trip air fare, hotel accommodations and breakfasts.

For information and reservations, please contact:

Mrs. Albina Rudziunas, C-17 Member

BALTIC TOURS

77 Oak St., Suite 4

Newton, MA 02164

Telephone: (617) 965-8080

FAX: (617) 332-7781

KAZIMIERAI ŠVENTAS

KUN. F. B. SERAFINAS

A. ALEKSIS

Andante maestoso

1. Šven - tas Ka - zi - mie - rai, mū su Glo - bė - jau, Skai - stus kai
2. Nuo - dė - mės man pa - dėk re - gėt bai - sy - bę: Pa - bėg - ti

an - ge - las, šven - tas jau - ni - ai - ti, Di - dis Šven - čiau - sios
nuo pro - gų ka - me nu - si - dė - jau. Gun - di - nant iš - meisk

Pa - nos pa - se - kė - jau. Vesk prie Ma - ri - jos. Dan - gaus le -
tvir - ty - bės do - ry - bę: Gink nuo ža - ban - gų. Vesk mus į

li - jos, O Ka - ra - lai - ti! O Ka - ra - lai - ti!
dan - gų Šven - tas Glo - bė - jau! Šven - tas Glo - bė - jau!

Lithuanian Inf. Ctr.,
5620 S. Claremont
Chicago, IL 60636 *

POSTMASTER ONLY
Second Class Postage Paid
Returns & Address Corrections to:
VYTIS - THE KNIGHT
Two Bayview Avenue
Port Washington, NY 11050

TOURS TO LITHUANIA

1992

April 6 - 14	June 30 - July 20
May 4 - 19	July 6 - 21
May 26 - June 11	July 7 - 27
May 27 - June 12	July 13 - 28
May 28 - June 13	July 14 - August 3
June 1 - 16	August 3 - 18
June 22 - July 7	August 17 - September 1
June 23 - July 13	September 14 - 30

Travel individually or with a group.

Buy just the air ticket, or air and land arrangements.

Prices \$799 to \$2,000. Ask for details.

VYTIS TRAVEL, INC.
2129 Knapp Street
Brooklyn, NY 11229

Telephone:
(718) 769-3300 - 1-800-925-0119
FAX (718) 769-3302
TELEX 216 282