

WYTYTIS

KNIGHTS OF LITHUANIA

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VYTIS

KNIGHTS OF LITHUANIA

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5,000 Years up to the Present

(The following talk was given by K of L member Vytautas Adomaitis, in Glendale, AZ on the 74th Commemoration of the Independence of the Republic of Lithuania).

Honored guest and representatives of the Estonians, Latvians, Ukrainians, Poles and all of the dear friends of Lithuania.

About 5,000 years ago, the Baltic Indo-Europeans reached the Baltic geographic region. Archaeological research indicates that they peacefully traded with the Romans and perhaps even the Phoenicians. The most important product was Baltic gold or amber. As time passed, the nations of Lithuania, Latvia, Prussia and Sudavia developed their own culture; but a great tragedy occurred in the 13th century. The Teutonic Knights landed on the Baltic shores. These knights were originally established to protect Christian pilgrims in Palestine. However, with the end of the Crusades in the Middle East, they were transferred to other areas of Europe. Here, unfortunately they lost their original idealism and became so greedy and power-hungry that they were even thrown out of the Christian Kingdom of Hungary. Eventually, they ended up as invaders of the peaceful non-Christian Baltic nations. Using a perverted form of conversion to Christianity, they tragically exterminated the Old Prussians. Next, the Sudavians were destroyed in a ruthless war of annihilation by both Western (German) and Southern (Poles) invaders. Also, the Latvians and Estonians were conquered after a valiant struggle defending their freedom. They were relentlessly enslaved under the yoke of foreign servitude in their own ancestral homelands. Meanwhile the principalities of Lithuania saw what was happening to their neighbors and just had enough time to unite for a common defense under their leading Prince Mindaugas.

In order to strengthen Lithuania's diplomatic and military position in Europe, Mindaugas and many of the nobles officially accepted Western Christianity. This was a form of Christianity quite different from that of the so-called "converters-invaders". It was introduced by the Franciscans who taught the true principles of Christ and even their religious order had been persecuted by temporal and ecclesiastical lords.

Hence, on July 6, 1253, Mindaugas was crowned King of Lithuania and his wife Morta, Queen. This date has the same significance as July 4, 1776 in our American history with the emergence of the U.S.A. and President George Washington.

This independent kingdom fought successfully on four

fronts. The royal armies marched out of Lithuania with the sound of trumpets and Lithuanian harps (zithers - kankles). They decisively defeated the invading Teutonic Knights from the West and North; the penetrating forces from the South (Polish); and the attacking Russians and Tartars from the East. This independent monarchical state existed for 316 years plus another 226 years as a partner in the Polish and Lithuanian Commonwealth which was destroyed in 1795 by the Russian Czar. Therefore, we see that a united free Lithuania formally existed for 542 years in Europe. With the collapse of the Commonwealth, a great darkness descended upon this Western European nation.

Czarist Russian oppression increased in intensity causing bloody revolts in the 19th century. The Lithuanian alphabet was forbidden and thousands upon thousands of people were killed or exiled to Siberia. Forced Russianization became evident everywhere. Lithuanian castles, libraries, churches and all other works of Lithuanian culture were either deliberately destroyed, confiscated or stolen to adorn the Russian nobilities palaces.

The great splendor of the Lithuanian capital of Vilnius was destroyed. This metropolitan medieval/renaissance city that had seen the reign of such great rulers as Gediminas, Algirdas, Kestutis, Vytautas and St. Casimir sank to the filthy level of a Czarist provincial town. How did the nation survive? The children were taught their language, religion and culture by their mothers as they worked at the spinning wheel. Men smuggled Lithuanian books and distributed them secretly under the pain of death or exile, if captured. Many of our grandparents and parents emigrated to America in those years of persecution. Here they sought freedom for cultural, religious, economic, social and political expression.

With World War I and the resulting collapse of the German and Russian empires, the nation proclaimed its renewal of an independent state as the Republic of Lithuania on Feb. 16, 1918. It was not easy to defend this reborn national state. Its destruction was intended by the invasion of Soviet Russians, southern Polish extremists and the Bermondists who were renegade remnants of repressive German and Russian imperialism. Nevertheless, Lithuania, after fighting a three front war, obtained peace in 1920. All the Baltic nations were fortunate to achieve their independence. Not all the enslaved nations of the Czarist empire were able to do this. Lithuania's traditional allies

and friends, the Ukrainians, were ruthlessly invaded by Soviet Russia upon the declaration of their independent republic. Thereafter, a dark and bloody night enveloped the gallant Ukrainian nation.

Upon the rebirth of Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia as independent states, a remarkable renaissance occurred among their people. All categories of spiritual, cultural and material civilization advanced rapidly. Schools, libraries, museums and churches were established for the benefit of all of the people and not only for the ruling nobility as in the past. But just as in the 1200's, another tragedy occurred again on the eastern Baltic shores in the 1940's. The two evil empires of Nazi Germany and Soviet Russia crushed the independent Baltic republics. Their people were killed or exiled. Millions died in concentration camps or in forced labor. Both Nazis and Soviets did everything they could to destroy the national identity of the conquered people and they were forced to bow in homage to the so-called ruling "Master Races".

The Western world deliberately forgot about the struggle of these nations and other nations that had been betrayed at hypocritical Yalta. Even in recent times, no encouragement was given in menial Malta and "Chicken Kiev" proclamations!! Many of us who worked tirelessly for Baltic and Ukrainian freedom were laughed at; friends and

idealists were few indeed!! Even some of our own people lost their sacred idealism and degraded to crass materialism. But providentially, miraculous changes recently occurred; the great idol of Soviet imperialism could not continue standing on the bloody bodies of its innocent victims. Last year we saw the great historical events that led to the re-establishment of deserving independent national states. Let us rejoice, and thank God for the mercy shown to the newly freed nations!

In conclusion, let me mention three Lithuanian American heroes. First, there was Professor Kursius, a Lithuanian nobleman, who established the first Latin School in America in 1659. Then there was General Kosciusko, also a Lithuanian nobleman, who fought for America in 1776 and later in Lithuania and Poland. Last, but not least, we have Lt. Samuel Harris, a U.S. Army WW 1 veteran. He was the first American to die from fighting the Communists in 1920 defending Lithuania. He is buried in the Arlington National Cemetery near Washington, DC and his grave is well worth a visit by all who respect practical idealism.

So friends, let us all march with the people of all the reborn nations toward the year 2,000 with the green banner of hope encribed with the medieval Latin motto: AD ASTRA PER ASPERA! (To the stars through hardship).

Thank you for your kind attention.

Science and Philosophy in Medieval Lithuania

by Vytautas Adomaitis

References: Library of Congress, Washington, DC

This brief overview highlights events that influenced science, philosophy and technology in medieval Lithuania.

CENTURY

- | | | | |
|---------|---|------|--|
| I-III | — Roman historian Tacitus describes <u>Aestiorum Gentes</u> , the ancestors of the Lithuanians. Amber, furs and agricultural products traded for pottery and weapons. Exposure to Roman and Greek science and philosophy. District unification. | | |
| IV-VIII | — Well developed local crafts for tools, weaponry and jewelry. Development of castles and villages. Wars with the Vikings. Agriculture based on empirical science. | XI | Exposure to Byzantine civilization.
— First records of Lithuania in Latin Western and Slavonic Eastern chronicles. Growing interest in wealth of Baltic nations leads to trade and warfare. |
| IX | — English traveler Wulfstan describes some aspects of Baltic science and philosophy: mead production, embalming. Regional unification. | XII | — Well developed native pagan civilization based on empirical science and naturistic philosophy. Use of honey and medicinal plants widely practiced by populace. Spirits of nature symbolized as sources of natural and philosophical knowledge. Vaidilos as educators in arts and sciences. |
| X | — Trade and familiarity with E. Slavs, especially the Grand Principality of Kiev. | XIII | — Foundation of the Kingdom of Lithuania (July 6, 1253) with Mindaugas as W. Christian king. Absorption of Latin science, philosophy |

- and W. European customs by the court and upper nobility. Wars with Teutonic orders and Tartars.
- XIV — Chaucer mentions English participation in Teutonic raids into Lithuania. Grand Prince Gediminas sponsors immigration of W. European intelligentsia to help in building a permanent capital at Vilnius. Algirdas defeats Tartars and Moscovy. Introduces E. Slav culture to court. Kestutis preserves pagan traditions. Wars with Teutonic Knights. Eastern/Western technology adapted. Numerous new castles built and secret underwater systems expanded. Coins minted. Schools established. Jogaila allies with Poland. Civil wars. Coexistence of practical/speculative science and philosophy.
- XV — French traveler DeLannoy records court culture under Vytautas. Describes Trakai Zoo. Integration of selected aspects of West/East European civilization into independent national character. Teutonic aggression forces cooperation between the former enemies of Lithuania and Poland. Allied armies defeat Teutonic Knights (1410). War with Poland upon Vytautas death. Moscovy's aggression renews previous alliance of both nations. Western technology integrated to help stop Russian invasions. Libraries established.
- XVI — Continuous wars with Moscovy force federation with Poland. Expansion of trade with England: timber, lime, honey, mead and tar. Students attend Western European Universities. Establishment of local industries: metal tools, armaments, ornaments and coinage. Medieval age gradually fades with the dawn of Renaissance. Iatrochemist Paracelsus flees from the Tartars to Lithuania. Debates scholars in Vilnius and is exiled. Scholars in the arts, sciences and technologies immigrate to Lithuania from Western Europe especially Renaissance Italy. Academy/University of Vilnius established (1579). Natural sciences taught in Latin as part of the Faculty of Philosophy. Books and maps published. Sanitary laws issued.

MY LAST DAYS IN LITHUANIA

by Dr. Peter Iron Jokubka

When hordes of red army were invading Lithuania the second time during autumn of 1944, I left my judge's post in Ashmena and headed to my native home. My brother John who was a teacher in a commercial school in Kaunas also came back home. There was no question that we both could not remain safely in Lithuania. Our former activities foretold clearly that this time we will not be able to avoid arrest and deportation to Siberia. I was a reserve officer, active in the military organization of Shauliai and I had organized a platoon of Shauliai in Vilnius University.

Our neighbor, Paul Peckus, a cadet from the Lithuanian military school visited us. He was organizing a platoon of partisans who were planning to move to the big forests of Shimonis, which was two miles from our community. He invited me to take the leadership of the group. It was very difficult for me to reject this honorable duty. However, I was not built like Peckus who was husky, six foot giant. I am of medium built, sensitive to cold weather and had chronic bronchitis which started to torment me. With tears in our eyes, we embraced each other by saying good-bye forever.

The next day we heard on the radio that Vilnius was being occupied and the columns of Red Army were heading towards central Lithuania. We had to leave. Our farmer brother, Bruno, was captured by the German Army to deliver material for fortification. From a family of six children consisting of three brothers and three sisters, only my brother, John, and myself were at home now. Besides the two of us, there were our 62 year old mother Paulina, the farm worker, Paul, and farm girl, Anna. We asked Paul to take us to the nearest train station. We had our belongings packed. My mother gave us something to eat but we had no appetite for food. No one was talking. We felt like we were at a funeral. The horse was harnessed and we started on our way. My mother took a rosary from her neck and placed it around my neck. Her lips trembled. On my brother she pinned a St. Mary's medal. We embraced our mother and without saying a word, we climbed into the wagon and departed.

Presently I am receiving letters from my sisters. Most of the young men in our community were killed. Paul Peckus kept his word. He succeeded in organizing a military

unit from the neighborhood and had fought several successive battles against the Russian army and their Lithuanian helpers called "sribai". Paul Peckus, his two

brothers and many of his neighbors died in Shimonis forest as heroes of Lithuania. I do hope Lithuanian patriots will uncover details about the death of the three Peckus' brothers.

TIGRESS IN NUN'S CLOTHING

The Power of a Smile

by Ed Malouf

This month people in Dallas had the chance to meet a person who has been a nemesis for the Soviet KGB for 25 years. The KGB called her "the most dangerous criminal in Lithuania."

Many of you will remember when, during the attempted coup in Russia, the CNN commentator remarked that the crowd in Moscow took their cue from the Lithuanian demonstrations. The mass of humanity successfully defended their white house. Pres. Boris Yeltsin climbed on a tank and made an address to the assembled thousands. The original mass demonstration in the Soviet Union was organized by an underground Catholic nun named Nijole Sadunaite and three of her friends.

For a quarter of a century Sister Nijole has defied the KGB and survived every dignity they would throw at her. She spent six years in exile and in a slave labor camp in Siberia. It wasn't so much the fact that she defied them, but the manner in which she conducted herself in court, in prison and in exile. She was always cheerful and smiling. It drove the KGB nuts.

On Aug. 23, 1987, the KGB was amazed that Nijole and her friends would hold a demonstration in broad daylight, in the middle of the Lithuanian capital city of Vilnius. The more they would vilify her in the newspapers and on TV, the bigger the crowds would be at the next demonstration. This remarkable nun led the way for Lithuania, and eventually for the whole Soviet Union, to gain freedom and democracy.

In 1988 three KGB thugs caught up with Nijole on a street in Vilnius. These hooligans beat her severely, breaking several ribs and leaving her for dead — but she survived.

In a book called *Radiance in the Gulag*, which was written about Sister Nijole, there is a passage concerning her exile to Siberia. The KGB had difficulty getting the administrator of a hospital to discharge Nijole from her job as a nurse, so they resorted to intimidating underlings to start rumors about her: how she was poisoning people and giving "little angels" to newborn babies, etc. No one would even associate with her for fear of reprisal from the KGB. That was until still some 50 Baptist women, who also were

prisoners of conscience, heard about her. They befriended the nun. They prayed together.

"They accepted me as a sister," she said. "May the good God reward them! They joked about the fact that if it were not for the stories originated by the KGB, they would never have found me. Thus, for those who love God, all things work for good."

On April 5, Sister Nijole attended mass at St. Pius X Catholic Church in Dallas, serving as a eucharistic minister. A group within the parish was given permission by the pastor, Msgr. Thomas Weinzapfel, to establish a "sister church" relationship with the oldest Catholic church in Lithuania. It happens to be the same parish of which Sister Nijole is a member. The group (Christian Living, headed by Mr. & Mrs. Dean Perkins) is now active in gathering very badly needed medical supplies to send there.

Last year, before beginning her U.S. tour, Sister Nijole aggravated the KGB again. This time she destroyed pornographic books which reputedly have been sponsored by the KGB in its own bid for survival during the lean times of the new economic order. As a result, she faces trial when she returns to Vilnius.

She is sure to face up to it with a smile on her face.

(The Dallas Morning News)

(Ed Malouf is a Dallas businessman who is active in the Dallas-Riga, Latvia, Sister City program.)



Lithuania's new independence gives surviving family members much reason to finally rejoice

Laima Rastikis, C-96

Only a part of my family survived the Soviet dominance of our homeland of Lithuania. Only a few of us have lived to revel in the joy of its rebirth as an independent nation.

My family was torn apart in 1941, when the Soviets illegally occupied Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia.

Some, like my parents, managed to escape. The others became victims of the Soviet policy of "purging" populations in occupied areas. Deportation to Siberia was the fate of any person who posed the slightest threat by virtue of their learnedness, position, background or associations. That person's family members were "liquidated" as well.

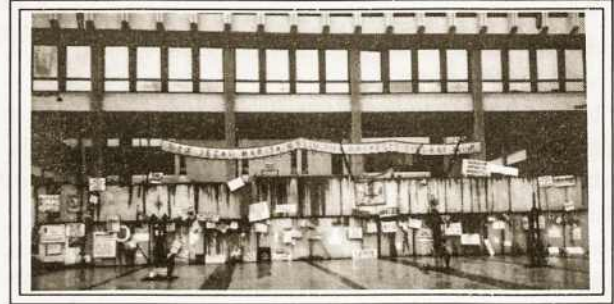
My family was targeted because my uncle was a popular leader of independent Lithuania's military forces. Since he was considered a threat, so too were all the members of his family. His three young daughters, all under the age of 10, were snatched from their parents and deported to Siberia. My father's parents and brothers and sister were also taken. An estimated 700,000 Lithuanians were deported in 1941. By 1950, Lithuania had lost a quarter of its 4 million people through mass deportations.

My one surviving uncle and his wife were permitted to return to Lithuania in 1989, after being forced to spend 49 years, more than half a lifetime, in Siberia. My aunt returned just two months ago and brought with her the remains of my grandparents who were appropriately laid to rest in their beloved homeland.

During the last 50 years of Soviet domination, the Lithuanians have suffered countless humiliations. If, for example, three of four Lithuanians were engaged in conversation in their native Lithuanian language, and were joined by a Russian, it was an unwritten rule that they immediately had to switch to speaking Russian, as if to



Laima Rastikis at Trakai, the medieval capital of Lithuania, a recently restored 14th century castle.



Lithuanian Parliament Building - Site of the bloody showdown between Red Army and independence-minded Lithuanian nationals, in which thirteen were killed.

acknowledge some pseudo-superiority. They've also tolerated shortages of virtually everything from housing to food to medicines - this, in a country that in 1939 enjoyed a standard of living higher than nearby Finland's. In an atmosphere of fear and suspicion, every utterance was potentially monitored, if not by a KGB electronic device, then by a Communist informant. The children were Communism's great hope. Indoctrination began at an early age. Lenin was made a hero, and for a time, Stalin was a saviour.

Just a few months ago I had the good fortune to participate in an historic trip to the Baltic states. Co-sponsored by the U.S.-Baltic Foundation and the National League of Cities, the trip took a delegation of 20 American city officials with expertise in diverse areas of municipal government, to Vilnius, the capital of Lithuania, to conduct seminars for nearly 300 newly and democratically elected city officials from all three Baltic states.

The trip was a roller coaster of emotions for me. I was deeply saddened that my people had to struggle so hard just to earn the bare necessities, no frills. I was heartbroken that so many innocent people had died to defend freedoms that we as Americans so casually take for granted. Too, I was energized by the commitment of those involved with the Lithuanian independence movement; they were ready to become martyrs to defend their cause. Many of us in the American delegation were inspired by their passion. Several observances caused me to believe that independence for Lithuania was just a matter of time. Signs of re-emerging nationalism were evident; the traditional yellow, green and red flag of independent Lithuania flew atop government

buildings and monuments; young girls came to Sunday Mass dressed in folk costume; street names and signs had been changed from Russian to Lithuanian; a much freer press was emerging. Just the fact that the municipal seminar could take place was a good sign. The leadership of the country acted as though independence was theirs, knowing, in the backs of their minds, that Soviet tanks could roll through the streets at any moment.

World events have come and gone, but the news from Moscow announcing Baltic independence was the greatest thing that's happened to us in the last 50 years. It seems that what is right and just happily has come to pass in my lifetime, but more important, in my parents'. As the initial euphoria fades, and the shock of history's whirlwind events wears off, Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia will face new problems. They have a lot of catching up to do, having been forced to operate in the centrally planned Soviet system, which focused 50 year's worth of advancement on its military rather than its people.

The Balts have operated in a vacuum, trying to invent technologies, already existing in the West, to solve everyday human problems. They have to go about the business of bringing order out of chaos. Dismantling labyrinthine Communist bureaucracies that have controlled virtually every facet of life will be a pleasure, thank you.

Nearly a generation has been lost to the mind-numbing and initiative-squelching of socialism. Reinvigorating the work force is a priority. Putting free markets and democracy to work will be challenges of the greatest order. There is no doubt in my mind that these people are destined to succeed. Determination, tenacity, and dedication to cause are an integral facet of their national psyche and have been as constant through history as the influence of the Baltic Sea. To be sure, their monumental challenges will be met. And my family and I can celebrate our bittersweet victory, for sometime soon, life will once again be good in the homeland of my parents and the country of my roots.

(Dayton Daily News)

NINTH FOLK DANCE FESTIVAL July 5, 1992



DO THE "DEMOCRACY DANCE" AT FOLK DANCE FESTIVAL

Go beyond the usual barbecue party this Independence Day weekend by kicking up your heels with a country that now tastes freedom. More than 2,000 colorfully dressed folk dancers from Lithuania and five other countries will perform - the largest ethnic dance concert in North America. The dancers will perform from Lithuania, United States, Canada, Argentina, Brazil and Germany. Dancers will perform 20 dances.

After 50 years of working for freedom, Lithuanians are definitely in the mood to celebrate. Spectators will sing along with the choir as dancers swirl across the floor.

Sponsored by the American and Canadian Lithuanian

communities, and choreographed by the Lithuanian Folk Dance Institute, the dance festival is held every four or five years; the first festival was held in 1957 in Chicago, which has the largest concentration of Lithuanians outside of the small country.

The Ninth Lithuanian Folk Dance Festival will be held at 2 p.m. at the Rosemont Horizon, 5920 N. Mannheim Rd., Rosemont, IL. For tickets or more information, call the DanceLine at (312) 436-0197 or Ticket Master at (312) 559-1212. Tickets are \$10 to \$20.

The Rosemont Horizon is located just off the Kennedy Expressway (I-90) one and a half miles from Chicago's O'Hare Airport. Ample parking is available for \$6 per car and \$15 per bus.

THE POWER OF SPEECH

Rev. William R. Scrymgeour, C-152

Several weeks after my father died, I had the job of closing down the family house. My parents saved many objects from my and my brother's younger days. Among the items were my grammar school report cards. In the fifth grade, I received a "C" in conduct with the note: "William is very talkative." How accurate that observation was, and probably is, still true!

The ability to communicate what is in our heads and hearts is one of God's greatest gifts to us. And it is a *powerful* gift. Speech, words can convey power and move people very deeply. Think of President Kennedy's inaugural speech "Ask not what your country can do for you but ask what you can do for your country." Or think - if in the midst of a religious service someone were to yell an obscenity - or the classic example of someone yelling "Fire" in a crowded theater. And what about those two little words "I Do" on the day people marry?

How we talk tells us much about each other. Often an accent indicates where we come from. It indicates how educated or not educated we are. Speech can show how thoughtful or not thoughtless we are. Speech can show how generous or selfish we are.

St. Paul tells us "Speech discloses the beat of a person's mind...." As Christians we ought to evaluate how you and I use the great power of speech.

First, I think most of us would have to agree that we talk too much, too long — and that is all I'll say about that. Another aspect we have to attend to is the whole matter of

whether we think before we speak. Do we reflect on the effect our words can have on an individual or several people again, yelling "Fire" in a crowded place. I recall a good Nun who often said, "You will never regret what you don't say." A good thought to keep in mind.

We get upset when we hear of property being destroyed or stolen - but do we get equally or more upset when we hear of a person's good name or reputation being destroyed, stolen or demeaned by the words of someone? The spreading of scandal and gossip can be far worse than the destroying of physical property!

As regards how we talk, we might ask ourselves when we meet with people, do we maintain a calm, or do we usually stir up controversy or trouble? In conversation with others, do we listen - *really* listen? Conversation is a two way street. If we cut people short, if we put words into their mouths, this is NOT conversation. Too often, there is too much talk and not enough listening. Also, there is tendency in our part to engage in fault-finding and criticism much too much. Some people suffer from poor *Self-Esteem* because you and I fail to compliment them when it is due them. And lastly, it goes beyond saying that we should not be using ethnic, racial or cultural slurs. The bottom line: DOES OUR TALK REFLECT THE GOODNESS OF GOD or THE DISORDER OF SIN?

(Rev. William R. Scrymgeour is the spiritual advisor of C-152 Eastern Long Island, NY and is associated with the Prison Ministry of the Diocese of Rockville Centre on Long Island).

RELIEF GROUP SENDS FOOD TO LITHUANIAN BABIES

Thousands of ill and hungry children in Lithuania will be eating better, thanks to the efforts of Lithuanian Children's Relief organization. A ship loaded with 44,000 lbs. of baby food is scheduled to dock in Klaipeda.

Maria Tovares-Ashmanskas, vice president of the organization flew to Lithuania to meet the shipment and oversee distribution of the food to six "infants' institutions" housing 2,000 children. The group plans additional shipments every six weeks. The plan is to continue helping the babies and to spread the relief effort to thousands of older children housed in squalid institutions known as "internatas." Tovares-Ashmanskas said there are 8,000 to 10,000 children in these institutions and their situation is desperate. About 300 of the children are orphans. Soviet

policy was to place all "defective" children in institutions. When the Soviet Union collapsed, so did Soviet financial support for the institutions. Malnourished and ill-clothed children locked up, 20 and 30 in a bare room without caretakers or even toys. Children with cerebral palsy, polio, fetal alcohol syndrome, vision and hearing problems have gone without treatment.

In Nov. 1990 after visitors to Lithuania brought back disturbing reports about "childrens' homes". Tovares-Ashmanskas, a lawyer, went on a fact-finding mission to Lithuania. She said conditions were awful at the institutions she visited.

The relief organization's core membership has swelled to 18 women, including three lawyers, a Catholic nun, a



Maria Tovares Ashmanskas readies supplies that will be sent to Lithuania.

social worker, an insurance executive, artists and mothers. International Aid, a Michigan-based, non-profit humanitarian organization, which gets donations from Gerber, made \$40,000 worth of it available to the organization for about \$2,000 - the cost of picking up and storing the food. The organization had to truck the food from Michigan to Boston, and arrange shipping from Boston to Lithuania. Total cost of the shipment to Children's Relief was about \$10,000. If the mission is successful, Lithuanian Children's Relief may be able to get 80% reimbursement from the U.S. government on future shipments. Money is available now that Pres. Bush has signed a humanitarian aid package for eastern European countries. Tovares-Ashmanskas is confident her organization can get the food to the children who need it most. Ashmanskas is not fluent in Lithuanian, is a Mexican-American and speaks Spanish. She was told that the organization with three lawyers and one nun, it's impossible for "you guys" to fail in helping the children of Lithuania.

Patriot Ledger



"Goodbye" to the little Girl who touched so many hearts

Sr. Helen Ivanauskas

On Easter Monday, Aušra Stroputė entertained in a piano concert as her way of saying "Thank You" and "Su Diev" to the countless people who ministered to her in her needs. The scene was one to behold. Over 100 people gathered in Our Lady of Sorrows Convent auditorium. They came from all walks of life - her classmates, her adopted family, doctors, lawyers, engineers, priests, nuns, employed and unemployed, young and old, Lithuanians and non-Lithuanians, those who knew her and those who heard about her wonderful story. However, the most honored guest was a little eight month old girl who was born with the same deformity as Aušra, missing her right ear and part of her jaw bone. Her mother and grandmother sobbed through the entire evening. They were truly tears of joy for in seeing the many miracles worked through Aušra, they knew that miracles await their little loved one.

Sometimes we muddle through life taking things for granted - our health, our talents, our loved ones, even God and then something as wonderful as a child getting an ear

and the gift of hearing wherein suddenly the world becomes alive with new life.

No, it was not by "accident". Aušra arrived in the USA before Christmas seeking a new life, as Jesus did in His coming to earth in human life. She returned to Lithuania immediately after Easter having truly received new life only after she had gone through her agony of surgery, mouth wired for six weeks with fluid as



Aušra Stropute holding an 8-month old girl with the same deformity.

her only nourishment. Of course, this came after she developed a love for McDonald's and Pizza. Aušra truly lived the Paschal mystery during this time. If the sun is out when she arrives in Lithuania, we can bet, she will be wearing the sunglasses she has donned at every opportunity

since her operation made it possible for her to wear such things - not only sunglasses, but earrings, including the pair the surgeon placed on her ears after the operation.

We met Aušra with tears at the airport when she arrived in the USA. We cried through her agony and again we cried as she returned to her loved ones in Lithuania, so changed,

so beautiful. How we wished we could be there with her at homecoming and hear the great VALIO! Truly, this moment was but a glimpse of eternity. We say Su Diev Aušra - you have touched many hearts.



ANCIENT LITHUANIAN WEDDING CUSTOMS

A wedding is a great event in the life of the village community. Not only do the two families about to enter into marriage ties take an active part, but also the neighbors take part. In other words, the entire village, young and old, including children are part of the festivities. In former times, weddings lasted for a whole week. Wedding ceremonies were rather complicated with much feasting and merrymaking. This, of course, depended a great deal on the financial standing of the young pair and of their respective families.

The manifold and varied wedding ceremonies are practiced not only for amusement, but also because they have a deeper meaning. They attempt to show that the bride is leaving the parental family group and is entering the groom's family and that both bride and groom are entering the married state; therefore, an important change in their lives is taking place. This is a critical period of transition in human life, similar to birth and death. Such transitory periods are always celebrated by special ceremonies.

After the period of matchmaking and a get-acquainted meeting, where both parties agree upon marriage, the betrothal takes place. Prior to this, the matchmaker asks the girl or her mother for a sign that the future bride is really resolved to marry the young man. A bunch of rue is wrapped in a handkerchief and is presented to the matchmaker which he takes to the young man. Then the young man and the matchmaker arrive for the betrothal ceremonies. On the wedding day, gifts are exchanged. The groom generally gives the bride a pair of shoes and she gives to the groom a shirt which she has made herself, and

sometimes a "juosta" (woven sash). Before going to church, the bride and groom, each one in his own house, walk around the table followed by his or her attendants. That is a ceremony signifying separation from the parental roof. The groom and his party, arriving at the bride's home on the morning of the wedding, are often met in a supposedly unfriendly manner. They are held to be strangers, unknown

persons and are not allowed through the gates and into the house. They are asked all sorts of questions to which witty answers must be given. The same thing occurs when the bride with her attendants later reaches the groom's house. This is a ceremony associated with the acceptance of a strange member into the family community.

When returning from the church after the wedding ceremony, they are often met with obstacles in the road. The wedding party must pay their way through, giving

money, drink and food to those who have set the obstacles. Often, straw is scattered in the road and set afire. Although the horses shy at it, the pair must drive through since fire supposedly protects the newly married couple from evil spells. This is called "witch-burning". At the reception, the young pair is ceremoniously met with bread, salt and drink - either beer or mead. The young couple sing, "Give bread and salt, so that she will be a good housewife." Upon entering, the pair is either covered with furs (usually sheepskin) or the furs are laid on the threshold, as "furs" mean prosperity. The newlyweds are also showered with grain so that their harvest may always be a good one. The parents rub honey on the lips of the pair, in order that their life may be sweet. They are seated at the head of the table



usually on a pillow as a mark of special honor.

On the morning after the wedding, a series of important ceremonies take place. The most important one is the "veiling" of the bride - her acceptance into the married state. The wreath of rue worn by her is removed and a "nuometas" (headdress of the married woman) is put on her head. The young couple are usually also made the heads of the household and entrusted with the management of the farm.

In the wedding ceremony, the bride and groom do not show much activity. The role of their respective parents is small. The chief actors are the matchmaker (piršlys), the svotas (the best man who acts as master of ceremonies), the chief bridesmaid and the svočia (matron of honor). Other active members are the kvieslys (the messenger who summons guests to the wedding), the maršalka (marshal of honor) and the persons who bring the kraitis (the trousseau). Many customs dating from ancient times remain in the wedding ceremony, some of which were known to the

ancient Aryans, which proves their antiquity. Some of them are (1) the important role of the matchmaker; (2) exchange of gifts at the betrothal, clasping of hands and the public embrace; (3) attempting at the wedding to tread upon each other's foot; (4) the placing of a cap or married woman's headdress on the head at the time of the veiling.

The greater part of the wedding customs, in more or less similar forms, are to be found among nearly all European nations. However, the Lithuanians have often retained very ancient forms. Later some customs were borrowed from neighboring nations; for example, the kvieslys (herald) from the Germans; the pyragas (fine wheaten cake) from the Slavs, who in turn, borrowed it from the Greeks. However, every nation gives its own specific form to the customs. In this way, every nation expresses its individuality in its customs which reflect the historic destiny of the nation as well as its relations with its neighbors.

(Translated from Lithuanian: Dr. J. Balys, Lithuanian Folk-Lore Readings).

Affirmed Love is Dad's Reward

by Louise Cassano

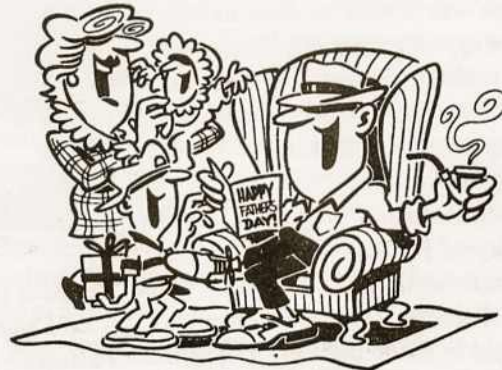
It's probably safe to say the role of the father has changed since 1910 when the idea of setting aside a day to honor fathers became a reality. The initiative was Senora Smart Dodd's of Spokane, WA, who, with her five brothers, was raised by her father John Smart, a Civil War veteran, after their mother's death. Senora married John Dodd and, began efforts to establish the first Father's Day. Unofficially recognized throughout the country for years, it was proclaimed a national holiday in 1972. Always the third Sunday in June, this year it is celebrated June 21.

A rapidly changing society has altered expectations and spurred a social curiosity about the role of today's fathers. A recent poll of 17,000 members of the Prodigy computer network found marked differences of opinion between men and women on appropriate gender roles. Men showed more desire to return to the traditional values of marriage and fidelity.

The standards of fatherhood have become well established. Fairness, predictability and dependability, a sense of humor, listening and accessibility are just some of the qualities established by experts as winning fatherly qualities.

Responding to their urge to be closer to family and with 75% of mothers with children under 18 in the work force, dads take a more active role in household chores, diapering babies and tutoring children.

And, while the realities of parenthood were rated more pleasing than the fantasies, a Liz Claiborne survey of 100 fathers showed the most memorable experience of fatherhood, preceding even first words, first steps and a winning game ball, is being told "I love you, Daddy."



A Very Moving and Precious Experience

by Victor G. Mathieu

A native Rhode Islander, Ann (Gregelicutė) Johnson, married to a non-Lithuanian Albert R. Johnson, retired city editor of *The Providence Journal*, was informed by his colleague, a retired chief editorial writer of the *Providence Journal*, John Hackett, that judiciary members of the three Baltic Nations were coming to Rhode Island to meet with the Mayor of Providence and were to attend a conference at the State House to visit and hear remarks at the Family Court and then to be briefed by the Chief Justice and an Associate Justice of the Rhode Island Supreme Court.

This information was given to the Knights of Lithuania C-103. Pres. Bertha Stoskus passed it on to me informing me that the Rhode Island Coordinator of this visit was a Leonard J. Cohen of Cranston. Mr. Cohen is retired editorial writer of the *Providence Journal*. Contact was made with Mr. Cohen and the following is an attempt to report on a memorable three-day experience.

On Thursday, March 5, 1992, a meeting was scheduled with the Mayor of Providence in his office. The Baltic group arrived and were escorted to the Aldermanic Chamber where Charles Mansollilo from the Mayor's staff greeted the visitors. Who were these visitors? They represented the Judiciary Systems of all three Baltic nations: Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania. The Estonians were represented by three members, Latvia with three members and Lithuania with three members, one being a Supreme Court Justice for 12 years, a Supreme Court Justice for 11 years, a procurator General of Lithuanian Republic - Attorney General (*Lietuvos Respublikos Generalinis Prokuroras*). There was a total of nine Judiciary members with two Russian interpreters, one from Moscow and the other from San Francisco. The coordinator of the group was an American who spoke Russian fluently.

Mr. Mansollilo briefed them on the history of Providence, the City Hall, Council meetings and Municipal Offices. Attorney Irving Brodsky explained to them the Law Dept., the Municipal and Probate Courts of the

city. They were then escorted to the Mayor's office.

This trip was sponsored by USIA (United States Information Agency), an adjunct of the U.S. Dept. of State.

Three K of L C-103 members attended the ceremonies at City Hall - Juozas Kiela, A. Beatrice Mathieu and Victor G. Mathieu. There was no representation from the Estonians or the Latvians. The Mathieu's had yellow, green and red ribbons on their lapels. Juozas Kiela was the first to confront the Lithuanians in the Alderman's Chamber. The visitors was amazed when Juozas spoke to them in Lithuanian. When they saw the Mathieu's, their faces lit up when they saw the tri-colored ribbons.

The Mayor's staff never interfered as Vic Mathieu, pad in hand, discreetly approached the oval conference table and asked the Lithuanian blonde lady, "parašyk varda". They all thought I was the news reporter. She spoke in English to me and she wrote "Janina Išdonaitė, Supreme Court (Civil) Justice, 12 years, Anatoli J. Baranov (Baranovas?) Supreme Court (Civil) Justice 11 years and Procurator (Attorney General) Arturas Paulauskas."

The most touching, moving, precious moment for me was when meeting was adjourned to the Mayor's office,



Seated at table (l to r): Gundras Cers, Latvia Attorney member & Ex-Officio Vice-Chairman of Supreme Court; Janina Išdonaitė, Judge, Lithuania; Arturas Palauskas, Prosecutor General, Lithuania. Behind Jurists, Vic & Bea Mathieu. Note: K of L Banner in background.

Janina rushed over to my wife, Bea, and hugged. They walked arm in arm, old friends, two sėselės. Juozas and I greeted and walked with the two men who seemed pleased and moved by the sudden turn of events. They later informed us that they had been in the United States for three weeks traveling from San Francisco to Denver, to the Carolinas, to Washington, DC, to Miami and that no American of any of the Baltic nations had greeted them. We were the first. When they arrived in Providence, they were freezing. They left Florida with 85° weather and the temperature at Newark Airport and in Providence was 30°. They are all young, pleasant, outgoing and vivacious. They all spoke English very hesitantly, except Janina who spoke the best of them all.

Following the pleasant reception in the Mayor's office, Leonard Cohen informed us the group were free during that evening but would have a hectic schedule the next day. Juozas, Bea and I took Janina, Antatolis and Arturas out for dinner, first showing them St. Casimir's Lithuanian Church and rectory and the American-Lithuanian Club. We enjoyed their company immensely. It was a long dinner and we were especially ecstatic to have all of them to ourselves. We shared them with no one else. After dinner we all went to Bertha Stoskus' home and there unforgettable exchanges took place on so many subjects.

On Friday, March 6 panel discussion on "Judicial Selection Process" took place in the State House. The panelists included Prof. Elmer Cornwell from Brown University, renowned Providence Attorney Melvin L. Surier whose grandmother emigrated with ten children from Lithuania to America, John Hackett, retired State House Political reporter and Chief Editorial writer of Providence Journal. Interested spectators attending were Brown University professor (Estonian) Eric M. Suuberg and his Latvian wife, Ina, who is a Providence Attorney with their young daughter. Lithuanians attending this session were Ann Johnson, Bertha Stoskus, Attorney Benjamin Chester (Chestakauskas), his son Attorney Ben C. Chester, Donatas Satas, Juozas Kiela, Ken Svengalis, State Supreme Court staff member (Library), Bea & Vic Mathieu. The entire group lunched at Brown University. After lunch everyone was bussed to Gov. Garrahy's Judicial complex in downtown Providence to be addressed by Chief Family Court Judge Jerimiah S. Jerimiah, Jr. The court deals in human relations, divorce and juvenile litigations. Later in the afternoon, the group was escorted to the Providence County Courthouse. Chief Justice of the R.I. State Supreme Court Thomas C.



L to r: Marina Kaljurand, Estonia; Anatoli Baranov, Lithuania; Brown University Prof. Eric Suuberg, Estonian & wife Ina, Latvian and another Jurist.

Fay greeted the Judicial Group in the very ornate Supreme Court, followed by Associate Supreme Court Justice Joseph Weisberger who spoke for one hour and fifteen minutes describing the judicial system and fielding numerous questions from the visiting Jurists. The Judge then escorted the entire group, including the local Lithuanians, on a tour where the five Supreme Court Justices meet and then to his office.

At the end of this session, Bea and I said our tearful goodbyes to our three new friends. The Jurist group were then headed to Boston for two days, then to New York and to continue back to their respective countries.

On Sunday, March 8 at conclusion of Mass at St. Casimir's, Juozas Kiela, president of American-Lithuanian Club informed us that Janina Iždonaitė called him from Boston and said that the group of twelve had decided to return to Providence and would fly out of Providence to New York on Monday. Juozas invited the group, three from each Baltic nation plus two interpreters and the coordinator from USIA to get together at the Club in the evening. Calls were immediately made to the Lithuanians who had attended the State House Conference on Friday and other family members. Food was prepared, cars were dispatched to bring guests from hotel to the club, gifts were brought for them to bring home to their spouses, children and relatives and friends, business cards were exchanged. After the dinner, everyone was mixing very well. The evening was in full swing when Janina was surprised with a birthday cake and singing of *Ilgiausiu Metų*. The Estonians and Latvians attending were also pleased at the reception extended to them. The Suuberg's were also present. At the end of the evening, the group was driven back to the hotel with their thirst quenched, stomachs filled with traditional Lithuanian fare and duffel bags filled with many gifts. We

did our best to make them feel welcomed. We only hope they get through customs and have a safe trip back home.

God willing, when we again travel to Lithuania, besides visiting our relatives, we now have many new friends that we hope to visit with. We have promised to correspond with each other.

After fifty years beating the drum for Lithuania in Rhode Island - at National K of L conventions, in Vienna, London, Rome and Lithuania, God has rewarded me a hundredfold in having me meet and speak to young, bright, energetic young Lithuanians searching for democratic examples in my State as they seek to write the Constitution in Lithuania. They were reminded by the panelists that since this is the end of their educational tour in America, no better place for it to end than in the land of Roger Williams who founded Providence who spoke of freedom expressing his religious beliefs in the State of Rhode Island and in Providence Plantations.

Members of the K of L C-103 who visited Lithuania in 1989 shepherded by Loretta Stukas will remember our tour guide "Little Loretta" Raulinaite. We have been corresponding and she has informed me that she has gone back to study law at the University of Vilnius. Janina Iždonaitė, Lithuanian Supreme Court Justice in Vilnius, promised that she will contact her and attempt to counsel her in her career.

The United States Dept. of State, Office of Language Services, is in dire need for "part time" work in this country, not abroad, of Lithuanians who speak Lithuanian and English. They would be examined and trained to translate and interpret for Lithuanian groups that USIA (United States Information Agency) plans to invite to come to the USA to see democracy in action. The coordinator of Jurist Group from Lithuania is requesting Lithuanians to help our State Dept. Call Collect (202) 647-3492 for an application.



Providence Square

We used to wait for Saturday night,
And pile all the kids in the car.
We'd drive down to Providence Square,
Which wasn't very far.

For Saturday night at the square
Was a meeting place for all.
Whether you were a grownup or
Very, very small.

We always shopped at Murphy's
Or Woolworth's Five and Dime.
We didn't have much money
But we had a lot of time.

And in the back of Woolworth's
They had broken cookies by the case.
For fifty cents, a big brown bag,
Your arms could hardly embrace.

Dad would shop at Furman's
To buy some pants or shoes.
He would bargain for a lower price
While the ladies talked the blues.

My Dad would sneak to Stirna's
For a quick shot and a beer,
He and John would speak Lithuanian
For everyone to hear.

They were very proud of their heritage.
Both came from across the sea.
They settled in North Scranton
And Americans — they came to be.

Donis's was the ladies shop
Where all the gals thought
Their good dress and clothes they needed
Was the best that could be bought.

Stahler's was on top of the hill,
They sold some great cream cheese,
Cracker Barrels, meat and herring
They threw in a good measure to please.

We were seldom in a hurry
Not on a Saturday night,
We could see a 5-cent movie
Or buy something that was just right.

We met so many people
Cause everyone was there.
There were no shopping centers
Only shopping at Providence Square.

Marie Laske, C-74

Lithuanians in the News

HELP SOUGHT FOR LITHUANIAN CLINIC

While in Detroit, Drs. Marciulioniene and Dzidolikas visited the World Medical Relief headquarters to inspect a load of equipment and supplies being prepared for shipment to Lithuania. Donated equipment and supplies are consolidated at World Medical Relief and packed in sea containers (metal boxes the size of semi-trailers). Lithuanians raised money to pay the \$7,000 per container cost of shipping them to Lithuania.

In Lithuania, Caritas takes charge of the shipments, sending the Kaunas Clinic the equipment and supplies it can use and distributing the rest to other health care facilities in Lithuania. Drs. Marciulioniene and Dzidolikas said conditions are very poor in Lithuania today, as the nation tries to adjust to a whole new way of life after a half-century of Soviet rule. Shipments of supplies from Russia have dried up and while goods are now getting in from the West, Lithuanians are still using Russian rubles which are not convertible into western currencies. The inflation that has robbed the ruble of most of its purchasing power over the past year has reduced Dr. Marciulioniene's income to the equivalent of \$10 a month in U.S. money and Dr. Dzidolikas' to \$13 a month. Their trip to the U.S. was made possible by grants.

Michigan Catholic

TO TRAIN EDUCATORS IN LITHUANIA

Upon the invitation of the Lithuanian Ministry of Education, Stephanie Thompson will be in Vilnius with 50 educators to train teachers during a four-week program from July 12 - Aug. 7. Stephanie is the daughter of Louise & Valentinas Kleabonas, members of Amsterdam C-100. She has taught at all grade school levels in Connecticut and New York State since 1973.



Inspecting medical supplies packed for Lithuania are Drs. Elva Marciulioniene and Giedrius Dzidolikas from Kaunas with director Carolyn George.

The program is held in cooperation with the American Professional Partnership for Lithuanian Education and is designed to enhance the teaching methods of Lithuanian educators in several subject areas.

The K of L C-100 and parishioners of St. Casimir's Church are accepting donations of supplies such as paper, carbon paper, pens, pencils, paper clips and other school supplies. Cash donations are also being accepted at the church rectory.



Stephanie Thompson

The Bass Who Came Early for Dinner

by Antonia M. Wackell

One summer, as in many past summers, we drove 250 misty, beautiful green twisting miles to our favorite northern fishing waters.

The bay welcomed us with a smooth, clear reflection of the hanging blue sky, and a soft breeze. While I organized the living quarters, the senior fisherman assembled the tackle box, motor and boat. We decided to try the creek before sundown where we rarely failed to get our limit of black bass. We canvassed the pools among the lily pads and rushes. Three hours of casting did not produce a single strike.

During the night the southwest wind monopolized the waters, and controlled them all day long, discouraging every boat in the area, but it did not prevent us from entering the creek where the waters would not be so roily and the fish would surely be waiting. Up the long creek I guided the boat, to the scalloped shoreline, where deep pools circled by lily pads and pickerel grass were hidden - to uprooted tree trunks - to the smooth coves - to the submerged logs with their mossy sides exposed - all productive spots for the plunk of a plug, the plink of a spoon, and the pop of a cork. But again, all efforts bore no fish - not even a rise.

"Now it couldn't be," we said, "that after all these years the waters have been fished out!" It just wasn't logical. Why, fish are known to live as long as twenty years; and the longer they live, the larger they grow, the more schools of junior fish are always cruising about.

It was most perplexing. Up this river just the day before, an angler sank his hook into a 30 lb. muskie. But here, not even an undersized bass would jerk the line. Many reasons and excuses were exchanged later, the moon in last quarter, the pikes teeth were soft, and the numerous other causes were reviewed as to why fishing was below par. Yet none surrendered to defeat, for a fisherman is a patient being. He never blames the fish for ignoring his lure. He will sooner attribute his unsuccess to the moon, the wind, the murky waters, the abundance of insects hovering over the water, the rain, the heat, and even his "off casting", but the fish are never at fault.

Patience and a certain amount of baffled doggedness sent all the boats out again before the sun went down. This time the unexpected happened. The trollers caught a pike or

two apiece. We hooked into a 28 inch pike.

The senior fisherman, who was also the official bisecter-dresser-cleaner, slashed the pike and removed the entrails. We were burning with curiosity to learn, or, at least get a hint from the half digested remains in the stomach, as to what the fish were feeding upon. Four heads bent closer, four pairs of eyes strained harder, and four sets of lungs suspended all activity to see the contents. It was empty, absolutely empty. One more day of our bass-less week remained, in which to settle the frustrating question as to whether the anglers have forgotten all that they have ever known about bass fishing.

Early the next morning before the sun scaled into the horizon, motors hummed, chugged and roared into the bay, and we steered into the creek. We drifted, we idled, we anchored, we plugged. We cast for bass, caught pike and other fish instead. The senior angler, as usual, performed bisections on the catch and found them all empty.

Half-heartedly, we made plans to enter the creek for the last time at 1:30 in the afternoon. The evening would be spent in packing for the return trip. At the designated time,

our boat slipped into the creek. This time there were changes of lures. When the favored plugs dropped into holes, or pools, it seemed as though the bass were on a rampage. The lures went down instantly and hard. The water churned and the reels sang. Bass were caught, and bass were lost. There was no time to ask each other what happened. There was fishing to be done.

While the official cleaner was dressing this last string of handsome but empty fish, we were discussing the unexpected turn of circumstances, when suddenly it hit us! Why, of course, the fish had changed their dinner time. For many years we always caught them between four in the afternoon until eight in the evening. Now they began to feed earlier in the afternoon and stopped at 4:30 - right on the dot. We left camp in a very happy mood, and if fishing was not plenteous during the week, it was through no fault of the bass. The bass were there, but the fault was ours. We never dreamt that the wily old bass would resort to underwater tactics; changing their old habits and dinner hours, thereby outwitting the ardent but sometimes too confident fisherman.

Worcester Telegram



Lithuanian Kitchen - Lietuviška Virtuvė

SMOKED KIELBASA CASSEROLE

Rūkytos Dešra Apkėpimas

5-6 potatoes, peeled, sliced 1/4" thick
 2 onions, peeled sliced
 3 ribs celery, cut in 1/2" pieces
 2 lbs. smoked kielbasa, cut in 3/4" slices
 Milk Salt, pepper

Layer ingredients in order listed above into a 9" x 13" greased casserole. Pour milk over ingredients to cover. Bake at 350° for 50-60 mins. until potatoes are done and top is lightly browned. Can be served lukewarm.

ONION PIE - Svogūnų Pajus

1 store purchased 9" frozen pie crust
 4-5 onions, peeled, sliced
 3 Tbsp. flour 1/2 cup milk
 1 cup sour cream Salt, pepper to taste

Line a 9" greased pie plate with pie crust. Place sliced onions into pie crust until about one-half full. Sprinkle with flour, salt, pepper. Thin the sour cream with milk and pour over onions. Dot with butter. Bake at 350° for 35-40 mins. or until onions are done and top is browned. Serve warm.

PEPPER CABBAGE SLAW

1 med. head cabbage 1 cup cider vinegar
 1/2 green pepper 1 cup water
 1/2 red pepper 1 cup sugar
 1 carrot 1 tsp. celery or caraway
 1 onion seed
 Salt, pepper Chopped parsley

In saucepan, mix vinegar, water, sugar and bring to boil; cool for 3 mins. Remove from flame and add seeds. Cool. Chop and mix all vegetables in large bowl and pour dressing over all. Served garnished with parsley.

STRING BEANS WITH SOUR CREAM

Šparaginės Pupelės su Grietinė

1 lb. string beans 1/2 cup sour cream
 1 onion chopped 4 Tbsp. butter

Cook cleaned and cut up string beans until crisp; drain. Saute onion in butter until lightly browned; add sour cream and mix. Heat sauce, but do not boil. Pour sauce over beans and serve.

BRAIDED BREAD - Supintas Pyragas

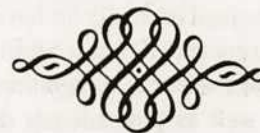
2 pkgs. yeast 2 egg yolks
 1 cup warm milk 1/2 cup sugar
 2 tsp. sugar 6+ cups flour
 4 Tbsp. butter 1 tsp. salt
 1 large can evaporated milk, warmed 1 cup scalded milk

Dissolve yeast in warm water; add 2 tsp. sugar. Set aside to proof. In large mixing bowl, add warm evaporated milk, scalded milk, butter, sugar and salt. Cool to lukewarm. Add beaten yolks, yeast mixture and mix. Add flour, one cup at a time until a dough forms that is not sticky and can be kneaded. Knead very well. Place dough in buttered pan, cover and let rise for about 2 hrs. Roll dough out on a floured board; divide into 6 portions. Roll each portion into lengths of baking pan. Place on floured board, cover and allow to set for 15 mins. Braid 2 loaves and place into buttered pans. Allow to rise until double in size. Brush tops with melted butter. Bake at 375° for 10 mins., lower temperature to 350° and bake for 30-35 mins. or until done. Yields 2 loaves.

PLUM KUCHEN - Slyvų Tortas

1 cup sugar 1 stick butter/oleo
 2 cups flour 1 large egg, beaten
 1/2 tsp. salt 10 fresh plums,
 1 tsp. baking powder halved, pitted
 1/2 cup sugar

Sift all dry ingredients into large mixing bowl. Add butter/oleo and blend until mixture looks like coarse meal. Add milk and egg, stir just enough to mix all ingredients thoroughly. Spread dough evenly into a well buttered 9" pie plate. Top with plum halves and sprinkle with sugar. Bake at 350° for about 30-40 mins. or until done.



EXERCISE AND EXCELLENCE: THE GOOD LIFE

by George A. Antonelli

David Shirley, a great runner, once said that, "the running track was his confessional, his wailing wall, his psychiatric couch, and his revival meeting." I guess running in particular and exercise in general are that and more to me, and I find a new meaning every day I run and exercise. Indeed, I have learned a great many lessons since my rebirth from a 300-lb. three-and-a-half pack a day smoker who could not even walk a mile for a Camel. Now, I think I could give a real camel a good run, for I have come to realize what Socrates meant when he said: "how singular is the thing called pleasure, and how curiously related to pain." I journeyed through a great deal of pain to achieve my objectives: physical fitness, personal health, and individual development.

What amazes me most in my seminars, clinics, and discussions with people on how to kick the habit, or how to be a better student, is that most individuals desire an easy solution. There Is None. The formula instead goes something like this. Pain is the price one pays for passivity; practice is the preparation one performs for penance; patience is the personality principle one prescribes for a predicament; and pleasure is the physical, psychological, and philosophical property one pyramids into power.

Physical Fitness for the nation might metaphorically reflect what is needed in other areas of American life, where instant success is demanded and immediate gratification considered a necessity. Americans need to lose weight, regain the competitive edge, develop a concept of self-sacrifice, and strive for individual as well as national excellence. Thoreau's analogy might be more to the point: "Every person is a builder of a temple, called the body We are all sculptors and painters, and our material is our flesh and blood and bone." The same can be said for a nation, a people or an individual.

If this goal is accomplished, then the spirit of Phidippides will traverse America. I hope all of us will be able to enjoy the unity of body-mind-spirit and experience the essence of exercise as described by Johan Huizinga's *Homo Ludens*: "Contests in skill, strength, and perseverance have always occupied an important place in every culture either in connection with ritual or simply for fun and festivity." It is within this latter context of "fun and festivity" that we must work the hardest to achieve recognition for our efforts as individuals as well as professionals dedicated to those values. We must win back what a technological culture has

taken away from us: Our bodies, minds, and souls.

Winning for oneself is a matter of accepting responsibility and pushing yourself against your own best effort. That idea is what you often see put into action when you watch a runner on the dirt roads of the rural South, the concrete streets of the urban North or the running trails of the rugged West. Indeed, the reason that I became a 300-lb., three-and-a-half pack a day smoker might have something to do with the fact that I had not incor-



George Cizauskas Antonelli

porated living into my concept of exercise and winning.

Winning for living is not a new religion or a positive addiction (there is no such thing as some athletic advocates would have us believe), nor is it a mystical trip to never-never land. It is a simple idea taken from ancient Greece. The Greeks strove for a harmonious intellectual, physical, and emotional development. Exercise was part of most Greek's daily lives. To them winning was an individual accomplishment; they kept no official records, nor were race distances consistent. Even the weight of the discus and javelin varied from game to game. Harvesting gold medals would have seemed barbaric to the participants in the original Olympic games. The classical Greek competitor would have found equally debasing the advocates of competition for the glory of triumph.

TOO FREQUENTLY, many of us view our efforts at exercise as the graphic visual of Vinko Bogatej, ABC's "Wide World of Sports" symbol for "The Agony of Defeat." Within this context, is it any wonder many of us do not know or have forgotten how to win for ourselves? Now, I realize that these remarks might be classified by Erma Bombeck's axiom: "If there is anything more sanctimonious than a person who runs, I don't know what it is." Yet, I would be tempted to counter with Bruce Dern's comment: "The reason I ran, more than any other, is because it is the purest form of honesty that there is."

I hope all of us will be able to enjoy the unity of body-spirit-mind and experience the essence of life, whether we participate on an *intuitive level*, feeling the thrill of unity on a philosophical and psychological plane, a *rational level*, measuring norms, numbers, participants, and competition; an *experiential level* of enjoying to the fullest extent the inner and outer elements of physical activity; an *existential level* of reflecting on the touching of earth-air-sun-wind on one's being; or an *eclectic level*, which is a combination of all the above.

Given these five levels of interacting, each participant will determine his or her reality, truth, and beauty, which

reach up through the ages from the Olympic, Pythian, Newman, and Isthmian games as well as from Thermopylae, places where individuals gathered to display the best of what the human being had to offer.

Exercise and the pursuit of excellence symbolize an endless effort to live a better existence. I think the 1990's will find us stronger, swifter, and smarter.

(George Anthony (Cizauskas) Antonelli, Ph.D is an Associate Vice President in the General Administration of The University of North Carolina and a Clinical Professor at UNC-Chapel Hill).

HM MOST REV. VINCENT BRIZGYS

Bishop Vincent Brizgys, a resident of Chicago died April 23 in Holy Cross Hospital after suffering a heart attack there. He was 88.

Born in Lithuania, he graduated from the theological seminary and was ordained on June 5, 1927. After acquiring his doctorates in philosophy and Canon Law, he taught at the Seminary at Vilkaviškis and worked in the diocesan chancery.

He was consecrated bishop on June 29, 1940. During the German occupation of Lithuania, Bishop Brizgys was sent to Germany where he ministered to Lithuanian refugees. From 1947 to 1951 he ministered to Lithuanians in France, Spain and Portugal. He came to Chicago in 1951 upon the direction of Pope Pius XII. In addition to ministering to Lithuanians, he administered the sacraments of Holy Orders and confirmation in the Archdioceses of Chicago and Joliet.

Bishop Brizgys played a major role in the construction of the Immaculate Conception Shrine in Washington and a Lithuanian Martyrs Chapel in St. Peter's Basilica in Rome. He assisted in the



Bishop Vincentas Brizgys

Pastoral Care Dept. of Holy Cross Hospital in Chicago for 29 years.

Mass of Christian Burial was held at Nativity BVM Church and burial was in the Lithuanian St. Casimir Cemetery.

The Bishop was granted the Honorary Membership of the Knights of Lithuania organization in 1958. He was a member of C-112 in Chicago and had great admiration for the Lietuvos Vyčius.

RIP

CANDIDATE FOR HONORARY MEMBERSHIP - Aldona Ryan

Aldona Latovaitė Ryan has been a very active member of the Knights of Lithuania for more than forty years. She became well known nationally in the late 1970's when she accepted the position as National Cultural Chairman. At that time, she wrote and mailed out thirty-six monthly issues of the "Amber Web" to fifty-six cities in the United States over a period of three years. She also wrote monthly articles and short stories for VYTIS as part of her duties in that office.

Aldona attended her first National Convention in Boston as a delegate from C-96, Dayton, OH in 1942. Since then she has attended numerous National Conventions and has served as co-chairman of the presidium with Larry Janonis, chairman of convention panels, as a member of the press committee, the greetings committee and as a member of the "Revise the K of L Manual" committee with Fr. A. Jurgelaitis.

The circulation of VYTIS increased and the work became very time-consuming during the early 1980's so Loretta Stukas appointed her as Associate Editor. When Loretta became our National President, Aldona took over the reins as Editor in chief. She has been writing for over five years for the Dayton Daily News and she gave up this position in order to have time for her work with VYTIS.

In 1984, in conjunction with the 500th anniversary of St. Casimir's death, Aldona appointed Fr. Jurgelaitis, Dr. Jack Stukas, Loretta Stukas, Dr. Algirdas Budreckas and Stefanija Rastikis to help edit a commemorative issue of VYTIS to honor St. Casimir which was published in March of that year. Ill health forced her to give up her work with VYTIS in 1985. She appointed Bernice Aviza as her Associate Editor and then the National Executive Board gave the job of Editor-in-Chief to Bernice.

When the Knights of Lithuania Foundation was established, Aldona was appointed Trustee from Mid Central District. She still holds this position. Five years ago she helped start an annual essay contest and this is an on-going project with her.

Her work with the Mid Central District has been significant. She attended many District conventions and has worked on numerous committees. As President of the Mid Central District, she established the use of voting cards, she gave speeches, she attended meetings of the District's councils, and endeavored to form new councils in Michigan and Ohio. She worked as an MCD Trustee for four years.

Aldona and her husband, Joe, seldom miss a meeting of C-96 in Dayton even though it is a long drive from their home in Centerville. Over the years, she has held almost every position in the council. Aldona



has served as President, First Vice President, Secretary, Cultural Chairman, Lithuanian Affairs Chairman and on committees such as Bake Sale, Decorate the Christmas Tree, Sell District Raffle Tickets, etc. As a writer for the Dayton Daily News, she made it a point to write stories about C-96 members. She wrote hundreds of letters to newspapers and politicians regarding freedom for Lithuania. She instigated sending 500 telegrams to Washington, DC from her council and then from her parish as well. Her interest in the Lithuanian youth of the Dayton area has led her to take on the task of teaching basic Lithuanian at the regular meetings of the council as her share of the duties as co-chairman of culture and Lithuanian affairs.

In 1972, when things looked very dark for Lithuania, she founded Dayton's International Festival as an outlet for showing off Lithuanian culture in the area. She organized the "Vejeliai Dancers" so that Lithuanian entertainment could be exhibited at this festival. 50,000 people attended this "World A'Fair" annually and it is now in its 19 year. A cultural council was formed at Holy Cross Church to continue the work of this festival and Aldona served as the president of this organization for five years.

She has taken our motto, "For God and Country" very seriously. Her work for her church has been outstanding. When Dr. Algirdas Budreckis was the Editor-in-Chief of BRIDGES, she worked with him as a contributing editor. She won a writing award from Bendroumene in the 1980's. She has appeared on radio and television on behalf of Lithuanian affairs many times.

Recently, the Honorary Membership Committee received the following from Aldona: "My life has been very exciting. I was never able to sleep much more than four to six hours per night because the prospect of another work-

fun day loomed ahead of me. I grew up in a Lithuanian neighborhood with many friends and activities. My Catholic instructions from the Notre Dame De Namur Sisters gave me the kind of background that helped me lead an industrious, fruitful life. My close contacts with Lithuanians and my interest in their stories and life situations instilled in me a great love for Lithuania. I have been able to channel

this love through the Knights of Lithuania - a magnificent organization."

Aldona has been very active in her community and has had leadership roles working for the local opera company, the Girl Scouts of America, Right to Life, and Optimists International. Aldona is married to Joseph Ryan and they have three daughters and seven grandchildren.

A YOUNG BOY'S DREAM

When I look at God's creation,
At a mountain or a stream,
I also see beyond these sights
A young boy with a dream.

While most lads dream of baseball,
Or, maybe, fishing with a rod,
This boy's thoughts are elsewhere, saying
"I'd rather serve my God."

And, so the Lord takes notice
When He sees his child at prayer,
"I'll help him with his calling.
I'll keep him in my care."

Now we see this young boy
Grow into a man
And become a Seminarian
According to God's plan.

Although the work is arduous,
He studies hard and long -
And, is not this what makes a man's
Both mind and body strong?

He completes his education
And as a result of this endeavor,
He hears the Bishop say to him
"You are a priest forever."

Of the many careers you may have chosen
That would put you to the test.
Of all the professions you might have had,
You chose the very best!

Now, when I thank God for each mountain,
Every valley and each rippling stream,
I thank Him more for the help He gave
To fulfill this young boy's dreams.

Frances DiBart, C-100 Amsterdam

The National Library of Poetry

PRESS RELEASE

ATTENTION POETS:

The National Library of Poetry has announced that \$12,000 in prizes will be awarded this year to over 250 poets in the North American Open Poetry Contest. The deadline for the contest is June 30, 1992. The contest is open to everyone and entry is FREE.

Any poet, whether previously published or not, can be a winner. Every poem entered also has a chance to be published in a deluxe, hardbound anthology.

To enter, send ONE original poem, any subject and any style, to the National Library of Poetry, 11419 Cronridge Dr., P.O. Box 704-ZB, Owings Mills, MD 21117. Contact: Caroline Sullivan, phone: (410) 356-2000. The poem should be no more than 20 lines, and the poet's name and address should appear on the top of the page. Entries must be postmarked by June 30, 1992. A new contest opens July 1, 1992.

DISCRIMINATION

When skies are bright on balmy days
And clouds light as a feather,
It's our Heavenly Father we're told to praise
And thank for our beautiful weather.

But for cyclone, hail or monsoon rain,
Tornado or thunderclap;
For blizzard, quake or hurricane
Mother Nature takes the rap!

CONVENTION Now is the Time

In a very short time, many of us will be packing our bags and heading towards Allentown to the National Convention. Phones will be ringing and arrangements being made, how to go, when to leave, what to take, etc.

How many of us are preparing to attend the Convention and bring plans, suggestions and ideas to better the K of L, further its ideals and purposes? Or are we just planning the good time we'll have, the friends we'll meet, the places we'll go, when to skip a session or two? We do hope this will not be the case.

It is true that National Conventions provide the opportunity to renew old acquaintances, meet new ones and enjoy each other's company. But that is only secondary. Our first and most important reason for attending the convention should be because we love the KNIGHTS OF LITHUANIA! We are interested to know what was accomplished during the past year and are willing to seek methods to improve our activities that will strengthen the organization. We should be ready to serve on some Convention committee so that we would get a better idea of how the Knights of Lithuania operates as a national organization.

What an ideal convention it would be if every delegate attended every session wholeheartedly. How sad, indeed, it is to hear some of the delegates delighting in the fact that they skipped an entire session. Such people cannot be considered "real K of L's." They are not interested in furthering the ideals and purposes of the organization.

To those of you, who will be attending the convention as delegates, resolve to attend with your heart and mind, not just your body. Remember, that you only get out of any organization what you contribute towards it. If you make a contribution, suggest an idea or plan, then you will find it interesting. It won't be a case of sitting and listening to what THEY said.

If every K of L member will resolve to do his share, we will not only have an ideal convention, but will also strengthen our organization and we will return to our councils ready to transplant the idealism of the K of L into the less interested members. Here is an opportunity to be of service to your organization, the Knights of Lithuania - to do something "FOR GOD AND COUNTRY." See you in Allentown, PA on July 16-19, 1992.

Tentative Convention Schedule

Wednesday, July 15, 1992:

Registration	9:00 a.m. - 12:00 Noon
	5:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.

Thursday, July 16, 1992:

Registration	9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.
	4:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.

National Executive Board Meeting - Time to be announced.

Shuttle buses begin to Cathedral	11:00 a.m.
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Mass - Cathedral of St. Catherine of Sienna	12:00 noon
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1st Plenary Session	2:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.
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Buses to Northampton Community Center begin at Vakaruška at Center	6:00 p.m.
	7:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m.

Friday, July 17, 1992:

Registration	8:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.
	5:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.

Mass at Hotel	8:30 a.m.
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2nd Plenary Session	9:30 a.m. - 12:00 Noon
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Luncheon at Hotel	12:30 p.m.
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3rd Plenary Session	2:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.
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Cultural Evening at Hotel	8:30 p.m.
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Saturday, July 18, 1992:

Registration	8:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.
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Mass at Hotel	8:30 a.m.
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4th Plenary Session	9:30 a.m. - 12:00 Noon
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5th Plenary Session	1:30 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.
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Convention Banquet - Hotel	6:00 p.m.
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Sunday, July 19, 1992:

Breakfast Buffet	8:30 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.
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Buses for Mass leave at	10:30 a.m.
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Mass - Packer Memorial Chapel - Lehigh University	12:00 Noon
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Convention Photo	Immediately after Mass
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CONVENTION MEMORIES - WERE YOU THERE?



Delegates in Attendance at one of the Sessions.

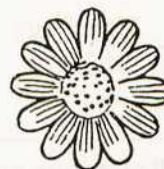


Table 20 at the banquet in St. Petersburg, FL



Rev. J. Anderlonis with Julia Kowrak of C-3 and Sister Nijole Sadunaite in Pittsburgh.

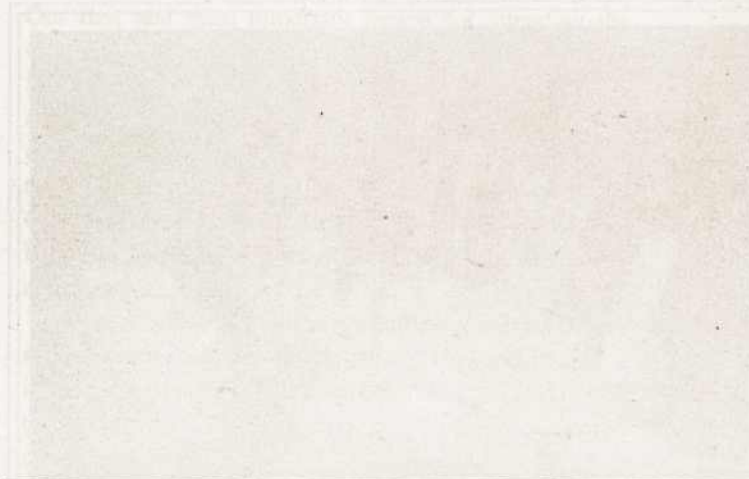


79th ANNUAL CONVENTION
JOURNAL AD CONTRACT FORM

Please publish the following advertisement in the Knights of Lithuania 79th National Convention Souvenir Program Book.

<u>Full Page</u>	<u>Half Page</u>	<u>Quarter Page</u>	<u>Well Wisher with One Line Greeting</u>	<u>Patron with Name & Council No.</u>
\$75.00	\$40.00	\$20.00	\$10.00	\$5.00

(Ad Copy - Please type or print your message)



Make checks payable to: KNIGHTS OF LITHUANIA, C-144

Advertiser's Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

 Please mail to:

Anna Klizas Wargo, Chairperson
 125 S. Morris Street
 St. Clair, PA 17970

Deadline: June 15, 1992

CONVENTION REGISTRATION FORM

Make all checks payable to: KNIGHTS OF LITHUANIA C-144.

Send check and form to:

Beatrice Wasley
25 N. West Street
Shenandoah, PA 17976
(717) 462-0083

Early Registration (deadline June 20)	\$85.00
Late Registration	90.00
Youth Registration	60.00

PLEASE GIVE THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION:

Name: _____ Council No.: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ Phone No. _____

Enclosed is check in total amount of \$ _____ for _____ registrations.

Hotel Reservations at Allentown Hilton, call (800) 999-7784 or (215) 433-2221

Room Rates: Single or double - \$65.00 per night, plus tax

Junior Suites - \$140.00, plus tax

PRE CONVENTION TRIP - Wednesday, July 15

Visit the beautiful Anthracite Coal region. Trip includes a visit to a coal mine, several Lithuanian churches, a typical coal region Lithuanian meal, and a visit to Jim Thorpe, PA known as the Switzerland of America. Cost of trip \$40.00. From 9:00 a.m. to ????????

For reservations, send to Beatrice Wasley.

Name: _____ Council No. _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

TOURS TO LITHUANIA

1992

July 7 - 27

August 17 - September 1

August 3 - 18

September 14 - 30



Travel individually or with a group.

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

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FAX (718) 769-3302

TELEX 216 282

LAISVA DAINA

Jau baigės puota kruvina
Pirmyn teisybė eina.
Todėl skambėk, laisva daina,
Laisva nelaisvės kaina.
 Dar vakar kentėm mes visi
 retežiais surakinti,
 dabar plienu ir ugnimi
 mes laisvei sugražinti.
O laisve, mylima, brangi!
Tu — mūsų kelias naujas,
tu mus srove didžia neši,
širdyse verda kraujas.
 Draugai, sušaudyti nakčia,
 mus sveikina iš kapo:
 kas vakar niekas buvo čia,
 viskuo tas šiandie tapo.
Pirmyn, laisvoji Lietuva!
Atgal nėra jau kelio!
Te mūs raudona vėliava
i plačia žemę veda.

Vytautas Montvilia

FREEDOM SONG

Here ends the bloody feast of wrong
And justice comes unbound!
Ring out with joy, our freedom song,
Released from underground!
 We who all suffered yesterday
 Locked up in prison chains
 By fire and steel are freed today
 To stand for freedom's gains.
O freedom, cherished as a dream,
We hail you with full voice!
You move us like a mighty stream
And make our hearts rejoice!
 Our comrades who faced death at night
 Salute us from the grave.
 People once shorn of every right
 The way ahead now pave.
Lithuania, you are free
To see your brighter day!
Now shall the crimson banner be
Your guide upon the way.

Submitted by Julie Kowrak, C-3

BERNARD BORIS
C-116 Worcester, MA
† March 12, 1992

ANNA ABROMAITIS
C-29 Newark, NJ
† April 10, 1992

LEO BUTSAVAGE
C-143 Pittston, PA
† April 10, 1992

VERONICA DANISAVICH
C-144 Anthracite, PA
† April 10, 1992

ANN G. SCHERZER
C-150 Kansas City, KS
† April 18, 1992

JOSEPH WAITONIS
C-103 Providence, RI
† April 19, 1992

SOPHIE KAMAGE
C-110 Maspeth, NY
† April 20, 1992

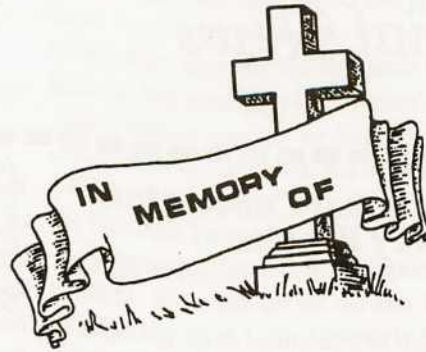
MOST REV. V. BRIZGYS
C-112 Chicago, IL
† April 23, 1992

RIP

PAUL PURDUSKI
C-150 Kansas City, KS
† April 25, 1992

EVA SHARON
C-29 Newark, NJ
† April 28, 1992

ANTHONY ZAMBUTO
C-152 Eastern Long Island, NY
† April 28, 1992



CONVENTION HIGHLIGHTS ST. PETERSBURG, FL



*New York State and
Pennsylvania Members at
breakfast in the hotel*

Official News

Oficialus Skyrius

K of L National Convention Survey Results

John P. Baltrus

This is the second part of a summary of the results of a survey completed by delegates attending one of the sessions at the last Knights of Lithuania National Convention in St. Petersburg Beach, Florida. This particular section dealt with questions about National Convention, in general, and with questions particularly relating to the 1991 convention. The results are presented now so that they may be used to stimulate discussion on future conventions at the upcoming National Convention in Allentown, PA.

Approximately 50% of those attending the 1991 convention had attended five or less conventions. A quarter of the respondents had attended six to ten conventions. The remaining quarter had attended more than ten.

Some of the items on which it was believed that too much time was spent were bickering, nitpicking on resolutions, explanation of resolutions, financial affairs, people asking for financial contributions, discussion of laws already in the constitution and old business. An overwhelming consensus was that too much time was spent on greetings and it was recommended that they be posted instead.

It was noted that more time should have been spent on culture, political issues, recruitment of new members, new business, fun and casual activities, improvements for the organization, interesting panels and items usually reserved for the executive board.

The panels at the 1991 convention were viewed favorably as evidenced by an over 80% approval rate on the topics discussed, number and length of the panels. However, only approximately half of those responded had attended a panel. Suggested topics for future panels include a discussion of Lithuanian customs and culture, current events, status of the church in Lithuania, officers' duties, foundations, youth, Siberia and the lives of exiles, and how to write to Congressmen.

Approximately a third of those responding believed that the convention schedule was too busy. Among the things

they would like to see less of were cultural night, wasting of time, resolutions, reading greetings and donations, full day meetings and planned events. Others hoped they could see more of youth participation, discussion on Lithuania, hospitality get-togethers with singing and dancing, and awards for people who have served the K of L.

Those surveyed were asked where they would most like to have future conventions. The top five responses in decreasing order of preference were Los Angeles, Allentown, Anywhere, New York State and Boston. Those responding were evenly divided in their desire to stay in luxury hotels or low cost hotels. College dorms and other facilities were least favorable. The cost of attending a National Convention was perceived as being too high by 42% of those responding. It was proposed that costs be lowered by obtaining group travel rates, lower hotel and registration fees, having lower cost meals included in registration or elimination of some or all meals except for the banquet. Some favored that their councils pay part of their expenses, choosing locations with cheap air fares, fewer hospitality nights, and finally publishing registration forms in VYTIS to cut mailing expenses.

A final section of the survey was available for general comments. Some of those comments were to set time limits for speakers, condense reports, pick convention sites where there are other activities available, do whatever is necessary to attract youth to conventions, have a written financial report available for everyone, make the last day less hectic, explore Canada for new members and convention sites, make associates full members, have an evening meeting to allow more free time in the afternoon, upgrade the point system and finally, to shorten the questionnaire.

As one person who was surveyed said, "You can't please everyone." However, we can take what we have learned from this survey and make positive changes that will make our organization and conventions more attractive to others, especially our youth.



(Official News - Oficialus Skyrius)

National Executive Board Meeting - March 14, 1992

Sharing thoughts with you from the National Executive Board meeting of March 14, 1992: It was an extremely busy meeting that went very well due to the cooperation and participation of everyone in attendance. The Board was warmly greeted by C-7 Waterbury Spiritual Advisor, Rev. F. Karvelis. The members of C-7 were the perfect hosts and we thank them for their warmth and hospitality.

First Vice Pres. Evelyn Ozelis and her committee are still upgrading the K of L National Constitution. This project will take a couple of years before the suggested changes can be presented to the delegates at a national convention. Second Vice Pres. Anne Cheplick announced there is a new Junior Council formed in Waterbury, CT. VYTIS Editor Mary Kober announced we have a new council started in Burlington, NC - #155. Third Vice-Pres. Rita Zakarka has been sending material to Junior Councils. She suggested establishing a pen pal in Lithuania and sending children's toys, etc. to Lithuania. Sec. Rob Martin has worked hard getting together an updated listing of council presidents along with his other duties. Treas. Frank Peterson shared the good news that the Knights have been blessed with a generous donation from the Estate of HM Marcella Aleksis. Fin. Sec. Mary Beth Slakis has pretty much recovered from her recent hand surgery and has stated her mail and membership cards have been brought up to date. District presidents have a special project ahead. They will be at work setting up nominations for the national convention presidium and slate of officers for next term. The balance of the Board have been fulfilling their duties.

There are a few areas that attention is required. The AID TO LIHUANIA project chaired by Bob Boris have shipped six

40' containers filled with approximately 5+ millions in dollar value. We have raised and spent \$60,000 shipping these supplies to Lithuania. We have opportunity to ship many more supplies but the funds have been almost exhausted. We need your help. Please see what you can do in your District, council or individually to replenish this desperately needed fund. All donations go to the AID TO LITHUANIA project. Any expenses incurred come from the National Treasury.

We also need your help in supporting the ST. CASIMIR GUILD. We must do all we can by sending donations through the K of L St. Casimir's Guild Committee. All monies will then be filtered to the college. There is still a need to sponsor a Seminarian. Write to Anne Wargo, 125 S. Morris Ave., St. Clair, PA 17970 for further information.

If your council is not on Vince Boris' Lithuanian Affairs mailing list, take time now and be sure you are. Vince's living in DC has been a plus for the Knights. He is certainly on top of what is going on in Lithuania with Congress, etc. If you wish to be on his mailing list as an individual, a small donation for mailing expenses would be most appreciated.

Please do what you can to support the Lithuanian Embassy in Washington. Forms have been mailed to your council president. Ask for a copy and be sure to make note you are a member of the K of L when donating. Any donation, no matter how great or small would be most appreciated.

Encourage your members to participate and donate to



C-7 Waterbury Hosts at National Executive Board meeting: Anne Cheplick, Mary Bartkus, Ann Kundrotas, Daryl Bartkus, Eleanor Arnauskas, Doris Snirpunas, Toni White, Alma Torre.

(Official News - Oficialus Skyrius)

the K of L Scholarship Program.

The Knights were represented at a dinner and ceremony honoring Sr. Nijole Sadunaite at the Franciscan University in Steubenville, OH. K of L'ers were also represented at a White House briefing with Vice-Pres. Quayle upon his return from a visit to the Baltic States.

The Knights have much to do in continuing our work to help Lithuania. Please do not be a 'do nothing' member. We need each and every one of you to make everything work. You can make the difference.

We look forward to seeing all of you at the national convention in Allentown, PA on July 16-19, 1992.

Frances Petkus, National President

AID TO LITHUANIA COMMITTEE

Robert S. Boris, Chairman

In Dec. of 1991 an American visiting Lithuania found himself in a clinic in Panevežys. Much to his surprise, he observed a patient undergoing "dialysis" with an American-made dialysis machine of fairly recent vintage. Upon inquiring, he found that indeed the equipment had been recently received from the USA. More significantly, he was told that the gift from the USA was providing life-sustaining therapy, without which, the man would have died of renal failure.

The Knights of Lithuania and LCRA can be justifiably proud that \$3,100,000 collected for the "Dialysis Project" during the 1991 convention in St. Petersburg, FL provided that machine and was saving lives just a few months later. Similar stories exist, but are known to God alone.

During the 1990 convention in Pittsburgh, who would have dreamt that in a year and a half over \$70,000 would be

donated to the K of L Container Fund? Did anyone imagine that this \$70,000 would result in shipping six forty-foot containers with medicine, medical supplies and equipment valued at over Five Million Dollars and weighing over fifty tons? Is there any way to measure or place a value on the lives saved, the suffering relieved and the healing experienced by the children, the aged and the needy of Lithuania?

Since 1913, our organization has achieved many wonderful goals and objectives, surely this project surpasses and overshadows any of our past accomplishments.

The "container fund" is, however, nearly depleted. The balance is less than the amount necessary to finance another container. Surely, we cannot stop now! World Medical Relief is willing to provide Lithuania with as much supplies as we are able to finance. Other gifts are also available, such as a \$170,000 used X-ray machine from the Sisters of Mercy, for which transportation will cost around \$5,000.

Dear Knights, the suffering people of Lithuania deserve our support. Our Christian faith reminds us that "whatever we do for the least of our sisters and brothers, we do unto Him." Continued donations to the "container fund" will mean greater sacrifices from all of us. While even the smallest donation is greatly appreciated, to be truly effective we need some very large donors.

Is someone willing to underwrite an entire container (around \$8,000)? Perhaps your council or district can think of ways to help raise the needed funds. Thank you for giving this matter your serious consideration.

Please make checks payable to: Lithuanian Catholic Religious Aid. Send them to: Knights of Lithuania Aid to Lithuania Committee, c/o Robert Boris, 4970 Brookdale Dr., Bloomfield Hills, MI 48304. For more information, call: (313) 642-4970.

UŽSAKYMAI

Sužinoję apie malonaus žmogaus mirtį, draugai iš kito miesto pasiuntė telegramą gėlininkui ir davė instrukcijas, kokia turėtų būti juosta prie vainiko. Jouston turinti būti plati su įrašų "Ilsėkis ramybėje" abiejose pusėse ir, jei liks vietos, "Mes susitiksimė danguje."

Gėlininkas atostogavo. Užsakymą atliko jaunas pavaduotojas.

Į laidojimą įstaigą pristatytas vainikas visus nustebino. Ant plataus kaspino didelėmis raidėmis buvo užrašyta: "Ilsėkis ramybėje abiejose pusėse, ir, jei liks vietos, mes susitiksimė danguje".

BLOGI REZULTATAI

Vienas studentas nusiskundžia kitam:

- Rašydavau laiškus savo merginai beveik kas dieną. Iš viso jų būsiu parašęs iki 130. O ar atspėsi, ką ji padarė?
- Turbūt nustojo atsakinėti į tavo laiškus?
- Daug blogiau! Ji ištekėjo už laiškanėšio!

PASLAPTIS

- Klausyk, kaip tu drįsti pavadinti manė kvailiu? ... Ir dargi viešai!
- Labai atsiprašau. Nežinojau, kad šį dalyką tu nori laikyti paslaptį.

Council News

Vyčiai Veikia

C-1 BROCKTON, MA

A few weeks ago, the radio, TV and newspapers kept announcing daylight saving time. Turn your clock one hour forward. I believe somehow that info got mixed up and I turned the calendar one month forward. How else can we explain the passing of time so quickly.

We, Vyčiai of C-1, have been very busy for "God and Country". Over 10,000 lbs. of clothing were packed and sent to the orphaned and poor children of Lithuania on behalf of Lithuanian Children's Relief Inc. Even the marines could not have handled it as did our Knights and volunteers. Ačiu to everyone.

Our talented Easter egg decorators, Veronica Bizinkauskas and Veronica Cote were eager to share their talents

and know-how with others and sponsored an Easter egg decoration class on April 12 after each Mass at St. Casimir's Church. The response was wonderful. Many came, young and old, and enjoyed revealing their hidden talents. Yes, we will repeat it again next year.

So many times we long for the good old days and a delicious home cooked meal. This became a reality for some of the residents of St. Joseph's Manor Nursing Home in Brockton when the chefs of C-1 came together to prepare the famous Lithuanian Dinner with dešros, kugel and kapustas. Everyone enjoyed it, especially the Lithuanian residents.

Four of our members are presently in Lithuania. Maryte Bizinkauskas is on an opera tour. Her mother and sister are visiting relatives. Frances Bumila and other members of Lithuanian Children's Relief, Inc. are distributing 44,000 lbs. of baby food to six orphanages. We are eagerly awaiting their return and hearing the wonderful stories they will share.

A new project was tried this year, the selling of Easter plants after Mass. Results were not bad! Brockton saved a little energy

with the glowing halos from the retreatants at the Palm Sunday retreat held at Our Lady of Sorrows Convent We are looking forward to a concert on June 28 at So. Boston Lithuanian Club presenting the singing sisters, Maryte and Veronica to help the Scholarship Fund. See you there! Su Diev, Alleluia! *Daisey Ruta*

C-10 ATHOL-GARDNER, MA

The Mayor of Gardner, Charles Manca, issued a proclamation on the occasion of Lithuanian Independence Day. He attended and spoke at the observance. The area press gave the event excellent coverage before and after the event Nine members attended the Spring Meeting held at St. Casimir's in New Haven. Blanche Genaitis was elected Festival Raffle Chairlady. Howie Beaudette and Bill Wisniauskas are members of the nominating committee Brone Wisniauskas gave a demonstration class in the traditional method and patterns of Lithuanian Easter egg decorating at the Petersham Craft Center before Easter. The Worcester Telegram featured an article along with photos of the event Our May meeting was held at the home of Bob Paliulis in Orange. He showed a video of our Lithuanian Independence Day program.

Sincere condolences are extended to members Minnie Hakkinen and David Lucas on the sudden death of Helen Lucas Hakkinen, sister and aunt. May she rest in peace.

Vincukas



Christine Bizinkauskas and her group of students in egg decorating sponsored by C-11, Brockton.



C-1 Brockton Dinner Committee which prepared and served the special K of L dinner for residents of St. Joseph Nursing Home.

C-29 NEWARK, NJ

Our council held its annual St. Casimir's Mass on March 15 at Holy Trinity Church. During the Mass, our two members, Mary Cullen and John Pitrenas received their Third Degree medals. Rev. Andreikas officiated at the Mass. During the Offertory, the following took part in the procession: Kazys Sipaila carried the picture of St.



Third degree recipients C-29 Newark: Mary Cullen and John Pitrenas.

Casimir; Mary Cullen, the lilies; John Pitrenas, the crucifix; Mary Stonis, the crown of gold; Joseph Russell, the crown of thorns. Rita Sussko and Bernard Skripata carried the offerings. After Mass, luncheon was served in the parish hall. Rita Sussko was chairlady of the day doing a superb job with her committee. After the luncheon, the following members received their First Degrees: Virginia Kaminskas, Vaclovas Kuikys, Genevieve Podgalsky. Second Degree recipients were: Anna & Leo Golmanavich, Matthew Krynicki, Paula Paskas & Casimir Yakavonis. Congratulations to all.

At the luncheon, Loretta Stukas spoke on the activities of Deborah Hospital in New Jersey. Our council took up a collection and donated \$360 to Deborah Hospital, \$110 to the Supreme Council, \$100 to the Elizabeth Dancers to help them get to Chicago for the Ninth Dance Festival, and \$125 to the Scholarship Fund. Old eyeglasses were collected to give to the Lion's Club for distribution to the less fortunate.

Our annual cake sale of April 12 was a huge success this year with the

chairmanship of Mary Honeyamar. A substantial donation was given to our Holy Trinity Church We welcome new member Eva Richkus Delegates attending the MAD meeting in Brooklyn were Rita Sussko, Kazys Sipaila, Helen Radisch and Ann O'Neill.

C-36 CHICAGO, IL

We had a very busy year with good attendance at the Memories of Lithuania Dinner-Dance in Feb. Lithuanian Independence Day celebrations ran through the month. Evelyn Ozelis & Sabina Henson were interviewed on the Len Petrusis Radio Program March 8 was the St. Casimir Mass at Nativity Church. After Mass at brunch, Frances Urnazus, our secretary, received her Third Degree And of course, we must mention our Užgavėnių Blynų Balius, truly a Lithuanian Mardi Gras with prizes for the masqueraders Al Zukas had a few of his paintings displayed at Daley College's Art Exhibit. We are proud of you At our April meeting, we not only celebrated the second day of Easter but David Gaidas, our English program chairman, introduced Russ Pontali who showed a video of a religious nature. Later, he spoke on Medgiogoria and answered questions To Vytautas Ramonis who was recently hospitalized and to those who had surgery, Joe Martikonis, Genevieve Maluska, we wish a speedy recovery. *Sabina Henson*

C-50 NEW HAVEN, CT

Many C-50 members, both parishioners and non-parishioners, donated their time and talents to the Palm Sunday food fair at St. Casimir's church hall. Theresa Strimaitis and her committee served Lithuanian foods from the kitchen. Mary Geipel and her

helpers guided the children in their search for candy eggs. Elizabeth Gybowski donated many festively trimmed baked goods as well as beautifully decorated sweat shirts for raffle prizes. Edith Kazlauskas baked many loaves of bread as well as delicious treats for the coffee table. Anthony Cappelli helped children (and adults) to create and decorate "Lietuva" pins.

We pray for the soul of deceased member Edward Dowett. Our sympathy is extended to his wife Gladys and his sister Ella Medley.

C-50 hosted the New England District meeting and worked hard to extend our hospitality while enjoying renewed friendships with fellow K of L's Third degrees were awarded to Frank Antin, Edith Kazlauskas and Helen Maculaitis.

We congratulate Mary & William George who celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary on June 6. May they have many happy and healthy years ahead of them. *Audrey Toole*

C-52 ELIZABETH, NJ

Monica Labanauskas Barcas was born in Lithuania 78 years ago died March 28, 1992 at home in Union, NJ. She was the beloved wife of the late John G. Barcas who died in 1977, mother of two sons and a daughter. A funeral Mass was held by Fr. Alfred Zemeikis, pastor of Sts. Peter & Paul on March 31. Son John, executive director of the Bureau of Economic & Business Affairs of the Dept. of State gave the eulogy. Monica was active in



C-74 Scranton with Msgr. Peter Madus & Msgr. Michael Ozalis. Rose Stanches, Ann Lisowski, Marie Laske, Peg Romanauskas & Ann Patelunas.

parish affairs, Lithuanian Women's Alliance, Knights of Lithuania and church societies. May she rest in peace.

William Senkus

C-74 SCRANTON, PA

We had a combined Lithuanian Independence and St. Casimir's Mass concelebrated by Fr. Peter Alisauskas and Msgr. Peter Madus. The lectors were Pranas Shimkus, Edward Romanauskas & Helen Cravath. Refreshments were served after Mass.

We had the Stations of the Cross and Graudius Verksmai at St. Joseph's Church. John Romoska, Helen Troupe, Ann Lisowski, Marie & Richard Laske made and served clam chowder to all who attended in the church hall. We also sold chowder and donated the money to the Pantry Kitchen.

Get well wishes are extended to Josephine Profka, Helen Restis and Mary & Jerome Costello.

We are inviting all to come to St. Ann's Monastery on July 26 for a

Lithuanian Mass to be celebrated by Fr. Clement Kasinskas assisted by Msgr. Peter Madus, Fr. Peter Alisauskas and Msgr. Michael Ozalis. This is the final day of the historic novena. Please come. *Marie Laske*

C-103 PROVIDENCE, RI

We attended our May breakfast which was held at the church hall after Mass We also attended services on Holy Thursday, gathering later in the church hall for refreshments.

Congratulations to Dr. Liudas & Regina Jagminas on the birth of a baby boy on March 17 Belatedly we welcome Stephanie Covitt who was born on Dec. 30 to her proud parents It was nice to see John Walaska at our regular meetings again after an ankle injury On April 10 we lost a long time member, Joseph Waitonis, a past president and a faithful Knight. May he rest in peace Victor & Beatrice Mathieu planned a visit to their relatives in Montreal Bertha

Stoskus attended the wedding of her niece in Chicago.

Our Cultural Chairman had an interesting & attractive Easter display in the church hall. *Tony Sidla*

C-109 GREAT NECK, NY

At the March Mid-Atlantic District meeting, Mary Kober suggested a bus trip to Atlantic City, NJ to raise needed funds for the District. The May 14 trip proved to be successful, with participants from Great Neck and Maspeth C-110. We regret representatives from other New York councils did not join us. The snacks on the bus (prepared by the Kober's) were served periodically, and prizes were won by most. The Lithuanian cheese donated by Peter & Sophie Zuyus was a great hit, too! The television entertained us on the ride home with the movie "Home Alone," Ann Jillian's appearance with husband Andy and their new-born son on the Regis Philbin show, and the Lithuanian dancers taken during the Kansas City National K of L convention held in 1987. We thank Al Wesey for being able to recruit passengers to fill the bus, even at the very last minute when we thought we might not be that lucky. Thank you, Al!

A few of our members were enjoying the warm ocean breezes in Florida. Jack Malis spent three weeks in May at his condo in Boynton Beach, visiting sister Amelia Budris. Mary Ann & Stanley Sosaris, after celebrating his birthday with family, also left for Florida to spend time with her sister, Rose.

Mary Pelkus had an eye operation in May, and her surgeon was Lithuanian Dr. Paul P. Svitra who is affiliated with North Shore University Hospital in Manhasset, NY and has an office in Great Neck. Mary is

recuperating nicely.

We are pleased to learn that through the radio request of Dr. Rimas Vaicaitis, professor of Columbia University which was made on the Romas Kezys Lithuanian Radio Hour, our President Al Wesey, donated \$1,000 for Scholarships of five college students in Lithuania. We are certain these selected students will be most grateful Our council was able to donate \$250 to the Lithuanian Embassy in Washington, DC.

Our council was fortunate to reserve a picnic area in the Kings Point Park, off Steamboat Road, in Great Neck, for a get-together on Sunday, July 12. Since we do not hold meetings during the summer months, this is a time for keeping in touch, for relaxation and fun - and especially, delicious homemade food that is donated by our members - a time for sharing! Members invite guests who have during the year supported and attended various council functions. We hope for a sunny, clear day.

We extend good wishes to the Anthracite C-144 who have undertaken the responsibility of hosting the upcoming National K of L Convention in July. There will be delegate representatives from our council who look forward to visiting Allentown, PA, meeting new K of L friends, and taking part in the meetings and planned activities during the convention. We anticipate a great time! *JoZ.*

C-110 MASPETH, NY

Thanks to the generosity of Fr. Bruno Kruzas and the clergy of Annunciation Church, our council was able to obtain the life-like, vivid painting of St. Casimir which originally was located in St.

George's Parish in Brooklyn. It is now located in St. Jude's Chapel at Maspeth Transfiguration Church.

At our special meeting on April 25, council members helped set up for our dinner/dance. After a closed ballot, the majority agreed to sponsor a Lithuanian student for one year of lodging and studies at the cost of \$200. We will be advised on the student's performance and status in the university.

Helen Matulonis reported that she was not able to obtain sufficient interested members to attend the Allentown Convention with our proposed bus excursion. Our council will have a chartered bus available for all interested members wishing to attend the MAD meeting in June in Kearny, NJ We are pleased to report that our council will host the MAD meeting on Sept. 27. All MAD K of L councils are invited to attend Again as in the past, we authorized a generous donation to our local Lithuanian radio programs hosted by Jack Stukas and Romas Kezys.

Birthday greetings are extended to Kazimeras Vainius, Amelia Sable, John Cummins, Sophie Ferrone, Iggy



C-109 Great Neck - Social Committee: Anthony Kober, Martha Krug & Joseph Zukas.

Walles and Walter Klosis Mary DiBaggio is now eligible for the first degree and John Mattina & Peter Petrok for the second degree. Congratulations.

We performed the K of L Wake Service at the funeral parlor very sadly for our departed member, Sophie Kamage, who died April 20. May she rest in peace.

Our semi-annual dinner-dance on April 26 was an unusually smooth and trouble-free event. Past president of the National Board Frank Petrauskas from Syracuse, along with his daughter, joined members of C-12 New York to dine and dance to Joe Thomas music. It was a pleasure to have our neighboring council's president Ed Cook and also Jean Janonis, sec. of MAD, and others who shared the afternoon with us. Also, our new pastor, Rev. Kenneth Wicks and our moderator, Msgr. Frank Bulovas, made the affair a memorable one.

Bruno Rutkunas

C-112 CHICAGO, IL

C-112 extends a big "thank you" to Ritual Chairlady, Eleanore Laurin, for the magnificent job she is doing bringing our council ritual records up to date. She is making certain no one is overlooked when it comes to receiving a degree, making sure new members are made to feel welcome, and trying to get fallen-away members back into the fold. We'll try to give her all the help she needs.

A large number of K of L's traveled to St. George Church in Tinley Park for the organ recital presented by Robert Mockus. A wide variety of musical selections was offered by Robert, and all met with a great deal of approval by those present. It was a pleasure to listen to him.

Welcome back to roving C-112 member, Sophie Nieminski. Since this lady retired, she is never at home. She

just got back from California, Las Vegas and Arizona. Sit still, Sophie, we need you for committee work!

We had a treat for our April meeting in the person of a very charming lady, Danute Bindokiene, who was invited to speak to us about Lithuanian customs, by our Cultural Chairman Leonas Norbutis. Since it was the season, she concentrated on Easter customs which have been practiced in Lithuania. She offered an explanation for the different customs that have been handed down by our parents but which we didn't quite understand. We hope she will pay us a return visit.

Thanks to all who contribute to our monthly 50/50 raffle for Lithuanian Aid. It has now grossed \$196.

Gerrie

C-144 ANTHRACITE, PA

Plans for the National Convention are moving along very smoothly according to Anna Wargo, our energetic chairlady. Beatrice Wasley is busy counting registrations. Anna Radzavage is guarding the money. Convention souvenirs were selected but remain a secret. Wednesday's tour of the Anthracite Region promises to be a real treat with a visit to a safe, clean coal mine on a genuine "locie", a typical Anthracite special luncheon and a stop at Jim Thorpe, the Switzerland of the USA. And we will also visit our outstanding Lithuanian churches. All aboard the Anthracite Express on Wednesday! Comfortable accommodations, palatable menus, ideal Pennsylvania weather await you as a delegate or guest in July. Robert Klova of C-63 is arranging your bus transportation. Al Klizas, also of C-63, is guaranteeing a good game of golf for interested Knights.

Veronica Danisavich of Mahanoy City passed away on April 10. She was

an active second degree member and a member of Friends of Siluva Choir. Knights gathered at the funeral home for the Wake Service. Our sympathy is extended to her brother, sister, three sons, one daughter and their families The death of Leo Butsavage of C-143 Pittston saddened members of our council who knew him from district and national conventions. Leo was instrumental in organizing the Amber District. Our heartfelt sympathy is extended to Helen, his wife of over 50 years, and his family.

Elsie Kosmisky, Eleanor Vaicaitis & Helen Chesko attended the meeting of the Executive Board of the Amber District in Easton on April 25. C-63 hosted the meeting with Al Klizas and Victoria Smickel catering to our needs On June 14 our loyal Knights have signed up to go by charter bus to Binghamton for the Amber District meeting. Members from C-118 Hazleton will join us for the journey. We are still thankful for the tri-colored rosaries.

C-147 ST. PETERSBURG, FL

An invitation was extended by Victoria Jacobson of our council to all the Lithuanians and non-Lithuanians to attend the Lithuanian Day ceremonies at St. John's Church held in Feb. This is the 14th year that Victoria has sponsored this gala event. Flag raising ceremonies were also held each year in St. Petersburg, St. Petersburg Beach, Pasadena, Treasure Island and Gulfport. In 1980, she presented Florida Governor Bob Graham and Congressman Bill Young in Washington with the tri-colored flag of Lithuania. She was very proud of this flag and always recited the true meaning of the red, green and yellow colors to non-Lithuanians. Through her influence, she got Non-Lithuanians

to pray for peace and freedom in Lithuania that is enjoyed today.

Mass held at St John's Church, a non-Lithuanian parish, this year was no exception. The church accommodates some 2,500 people and every pew was filled with both non-Lithuanians and Lithuanians. There were nine priests concelebrating the Mass with Rev. Albert Contons of Boston, assisted by Revs. Steponas Rapolas, OFM, Matas Cyvas, Joseph Grabys, Mykolas Kirkilas, Joseph Kluonis, Jonas Gasiunas. Lutheran Bishop H. Dumpys and Rev. Eugenijus Gerulis were in attendance. Rev. Contons gave the homily reciting Lithuania's history and past struggles. Bishop Dumpys, in his homily, asked that all unite in one prayer for the freedom of Lithuania. The Lithuanian Choir under direction of Prof. Armonas helped to make the celebration more meaningful with their beautiful voices.

After Mass, Victoria invited some 130 people at her expense to the Scandia Restaurant for a further celebration of the event. Guests were seen from Chicago, Boston, Washington, Pittsburgh, Tampa and other distant locations. Harry Petraitis acted as MC. There were many speakers who all thanked Victoria for her many years of untiring energy and her gracious hospitality shown at this and past luncheons. With the singing of "Ilgiausiu metų" to Victoria, the attendees left with the feeling that Lithuania's freedom is greatly attributed to Victoria's unceasing demonstrations and prayers in the St. Petersburg area. We, of C-147, are very proud to have her as a member of our council. May God grant her health for many years to come.

C-150 KANSAS CITY, KS

Members of Kansas City C-150 were

deeply saddened at the loss of two members during April. Ann Gaydess Scherzer, our oldest member and mother of President Lou Ann Rayn, went to her eternal reward on April 18, two weeks after her 90th birthday.

Then one week later on April 25, our Treasurer Paul Purduski was suddenly called home by his Heavenly Father while attending a polka dance with his wife Dolores, Vice-Pres. of our council and several Lithuanian and other friends. Paul's sudden death was a great loss to our community as he was a true Knight and gentlemen in every sense of the word - kindly, considerate, courageous, chivalrous and always ready to lend a helping hand with every project, large or small. Many Knights will remember meeting Paul and Dolores at the convention in Kansas City and in Washington, DC. At our May meeting, members of C-150 voted a Memorial contribution to the Lithuanian College in Rome in honor of both deceased, Ann & Paul.

Lou Ann Rayn

C-154 SPRING HILL, FL

We continue to monitor the activities in Lithuania. The newspapers here in Florida play up the unrest in many of the other countries who were part of the now defunct USSR but ignore the fact that Lithuania seems to be regaining some momentum peacefully with apparent dignity. Of course, there are numerous shortages and other difficulties. Our prayers and material contributions are being received and thoroughly appreciated. Reliable sources are assuring us that the medical supplies, food, books and blankets that we are sending to Lithuania are actually reaching those in need. The money is distributed wisely by concerned people. The children and the elderly are given

priority. All these observations were relayed to us by way of the priests, sisters and people in authority who were instrumental in the distribution.

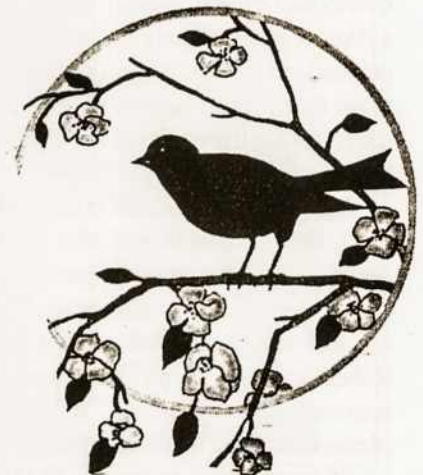
Our program chairlady, Virginia Kentra and her able assistant Ray, continue to find really unique and most enjoyable attractions that we all find very worth while. On Mother's Day, a bus trip to Howey-in-Hills with a brunch at the Mission Inn was especially spectacular. The scenery was just awe-inspiring, words cannot adequately describe the beauty of the surroundings.

Our barbecue chefs, Terry Konewitch and Ray Kentra filled our plates with their specialties at our spring outing at Crew's Lake in Port Richey.

Helen & George Mayer drove to Garden City to visit family and found themselves at a delayed but gala 50th wedding anniversary party. As a special added gift - a new granddaughter! Talk about frosting on the cake.

Make this a memorable summer - above all drive carefully - but live life to its fullest!

Sadye G. Petraitis





LITHUANIA & NORWAY

15 Day Tour with 4 Days in Vilnius,
2 Days in Kaunas, 1 Day in Šiauliai,
3 Days in Palanga, 3 Days in Bergen.

TOUR #622	June 22 - July 6	\$2,489.00
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Single Supplement \$299.00
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The tour includes in addition to round trip air fare and hotel accommodations three meals throughout the entire tour and daily sightseeing including a fjord cruise.



BALTIC TOURS will assist K of L Councils wishing to organize a council tour to Lithuania and other countries.

For information and reservations, please contact:

Mrs. Albina Rudziunas, C-17 Member
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CALENDAR of EVENTS

- June 14, 1992 - Amber District Meeting. Hosts: C-72, St. Joseph's Church, Binghamton, NY, 10:30 a.m. Mass.
- June 14, 1992 - MAD Meeting. Hosts: C-90, Our Lady of Sorrows Church, Kearny, NJ, 10:00 a.m. Mass.
- June 19-21, 1992 - New England District Annual Retreat, Franciscan Monastery, Kennebunkport, ME
- July 4, 1992 - MAMD Annual Picnic at Pines Restaurant, Pines, IN.
- July 5, 1992 - Ninth Lithuanian Folk Dance Festival, Rosemont, IL
- July 16-19, 1992 - 79th National Convention, Allentown, PA. Hosts: C-144, Anthracite, PA
- September 25-28, 1992 - C-136 Hudson-Mohawk, Pilgrimage, Franciscan Monastery, Kennebunkport, ME
- September 27, 1992 - MAD Meeting. Hosts: C-110 Maspeth, NY
- October 4, 1992 - C-90 Kearny, NJ, 75th Anniversary, LCC Center, Kearny, NJ
- October 10, 1992 - C-29 Newark - Annual Dinner/Dance at Holy Trinity Hall.
- October 18, 1992 - NED Annual Cultural Festival, Maironis Park. 12 Noon.
- October 25, 1992 - C-110 Maspeth, NY - Dinner-Dance, Transfiguration Hall immediately following 11:30 a.m. Mass.
- October 25, 1992 - "The Singing Priest", benefit Lithuanian Children's Relief, Inc., Cardinal Spellman High School, Brockton, MA