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VYTYTIS

KNIGHTS OF LITHUANIA

VOL. 78: No. 10

GRUODIS / DECEMBER 1992



*Merry Christmas
and
Happy New Year*

VYTIS

KNIGHTS OF LITHUANIA

GRUODIS / DECEMBER
1992
VOL. 78: No. 10

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Christmas in Lithuania



by V. F. Bellajus

Every holiday has its special attractions, particularly to us youngsters. In fact, we awaited the holidays with greater anticipation than did our parents or elders. I and my two younger brothers, considered ourselves especially fortunate because we lived next door to Auntie Skrupskas. Auntie was to us the symbol of all that is fine in womanhood. She loved the fields and the flower garden. She loved the cows, horses, pigs, sheep and the fowl; she loved humanity. She sheltered the wandering and fed the beggars and she loved us children. She loved every season and day of the week and the holidays, too. She somehow found time for the fields, the flower garden and her animals, to visit the sick and needy and amid all this busy activity, she also had time to make elaborate preparations for the forthcoming holidays in accordance with the required ritual and never failed to hear Mass even though the nearest church was eight miles away in the town of Prienai, whereto, as a special precept, she walked to church to serve her Lord. For all of these reasons, we considered ourselves fortunate in living next door to Auntie Skrupskas.

Auntie's home was humble. It was a pleasant home, to be sure, with a thatched and moss grown roof and the cracks of the log walls were stuffed with moss to keep out cold drafts. The windows were small, and because of the winter, were doubly secured with storm windows. The main part of the house, occupying half of the cabin, contained very little furniture. A table, benches along the wall and a few chairs, very primitive in appearance were all made by Uncle Skrupskas. Hearth, loom and spinning wheel took up practically two-thirds of all the available space. On the walls hung a beautifully hand carved dish rack, a towel rack, pictures of Saints, the Virgin and various episodes of the life of Christ and a crucifix. The floor was not of wooden boards but of beaten clay, which naturally will not withstand continuous wear, so dents were frequent but everything was immaculately clean.

Wandering beggars found a generous hearth in the home of Aunt Skrupskas. Throughout the long cold winter months, they lingered in the warmth of her shelter, partaking of the food she had to offer and sung hymns and recited the rosary while their haggard bodies rested.

In Lithuania, we do not anticipate the Christmas Day so much as we do Christmas Eve, which we call *Kučios*. This is the day of days and eve of eves. In our district, we

never heard of Santa Claus, never received any Christmas gifts nor dressed Christmas trees. The latter was considered a Lutheran invention, so Catholics did not adorn their homes with them. Besides, the Lithuanians love the forest and to cut an evergreen tree was unnecessary destruction. Nevertheless, there was still a great deal of color to *Kučios*.

Way before sunset, we three brothers dashed over to Auntie's house. Shaking the snow from our *klumpes* (wooden shoes), we entered, reciting the customary prayer, "Lai būna pagarbintas Jėzus Kristus" (Glory be to Jesus Christ). With much gusto, Auntie responded "Ant amžiu amžiuju" (for ever and ever) with a half hidden smile and without interruption her work about the stove. She had a good reason for smiling for she knew well our intentions. We sat down on a bench near the wall to be out of her way and, at the same time, observe closely her every move in the preparation of the meal for *Kučios*.

With the rising of the evening star, the table was prepared with a pure white linen table cloth, whereupon hay was strewn. A sacred picture of the Nativity or the Madonna and Child, predominated in the center of the table with figures of cows and donkeys surrounding it so that we might be brought closer to the understanding of the conditions at the birth of Christ. Now the family gathered about the table - Uncle Skrupskas and his two sons, Jonas & Antanas, Grandma, cousin Agota and her daughter our mother and we three youngsters. The dishes were set on the hay and a twelve-course dinner was served, commemorating the twelve apostles - a festive meal that only *Kučios* could offer.

First, we prayed. Then, a big square wafer bearing the image of Christ was broken into as many pieces as there were persons at the table. Each member kissed the wafer and ate their allotted piece. Then followed chopped herring mixed with seasoning, herring cutlets rolled in flour and fried in linseed oil, fried fish, boiled potatoes, biscuits of "baravyku" - the king of Lithuanian mushrooms, "sliziukai" - a batter biscuit, some plain, others mixed with poppy seeds, cut into diced size pieces, to be eaten dry or in the milk of ground poppy seeds thinned with sweetened water or diluted milk. There also included a hot porridge, "Kisielius" of oat flour, mixed with water and some times the crust of rye bread leavened for about twelve hours, cooked and eaten with the poppy-seed milk, which gives a sharp but pleasant flavor, a fruit compote and "midus"

(mead - a sweet drink made of hops and honey) which completed the *Kūčios* meal.

According to custom, the meal lasts for three hours and to make certain that it did, stories concerning the Nativity and kindred subjects, as well as of all the miracles, were told. Many were the wonders related and we listened with open mouths and reverential awe. In relating a legend, Auntie Skrupskas, for proof, would point to one of the many "Abrozai" (sacred pictures) that hung about the walls. The hours never pass more rapidly than the three hours on *Kūčios* night.

Carols were sung, "Šiandien Betliejū" (today in Bethlehem) being the favorite. Since *Kūčios* falls on the day of Adam and Eve, "Adomas ir Ieva" was one of the proper hymns to be sung. Because an apple is connected with the lives of Adam and Eve, a game of prediction is played with an apple. It is cut and divided among the members of the

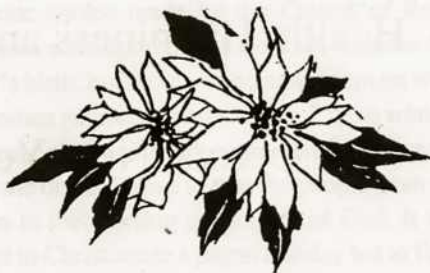
Kūčios party. If the apple was cut into an even number, all will be well until the coming *Kūčios*, but if the apple was cut and an odd number resulted, then one of the guests will be missing during the coming *Kūčios*. Another prediction game is also played with the sheafs of hay. Sheafs are pulled from under the plate and the one whose sheaf is the longest, will live the longest.

After the dishes were cleared away, the hay was gathered from the table and taken to the stalls and stys to be fed to the cattle, so that they might share in the feast activities sanctified through the holy presence of His spirit.

I can remember how reluctantly we would go home turning our eye skyward in search of the marvelous star of Bethlehem. Nor did we soon fall asleep either for we were thinking, while lying on our beds, only of the Christ-God who brought so much joy to the world; until we finally fell asleep in "heavenly peace."



Best wishes for a
Healthy and Happy
Christmas Season to all



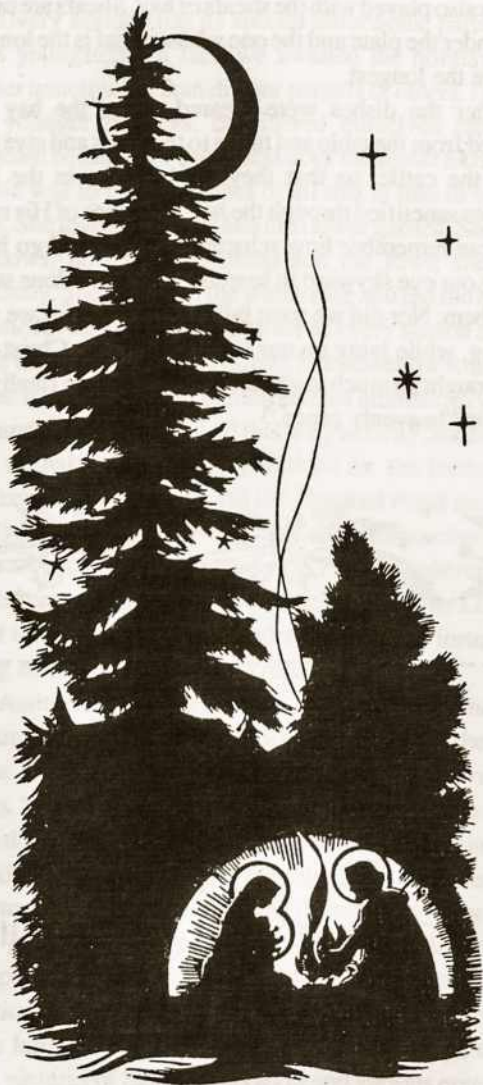
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GLORY TO GOD
IN THE HIGHEST
AND
PEACE TO ALL ON EARTH

MERRY CHRISTMAS
AND
HAPPY NEW YEAR



C-96 DAYTON, OH



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**Linksmų Šv. Kalėdų ir
Laimingų Naujų Metų
Visiems Lietuvos Vyčiams**

**May the Prince of Peace
and his Blessed Mother
bestow on all our fellow
Knights both near and far
Health, Happiness and a
Prosperous New Year!**

WAS CHRIST BORN ON



Millions of Christians throughout the world observe Dec. 25 as the birthday of Jesus Christ. However, there has been some confusion about the actual date of the birth of Jesus and modern scholars point out the date is quite inaccurate. In fact, historical research has not been able to fix the exact date.

The confusion grew, it is said, from an arithmetic miscalculation by a monk of Rome and the worship of the sun by pagans. The monk was Dionysius Exiguus, who created the first Christian calendar. He marked the birth of Jesus as the year 754 after the founding of Rome. However, historians now agree that King Herod died 750 years after Rome was founded. Since Joseph and Mary were in Egypt with the boy Jesus when Herod died, Jesus must have been born anywhere from four and one-half to seven years before the year chosen by the monk as His birthday.

The choice of Dec. 25 as Christ's birth date was a deliberate choice made by the Church of Rome. Early Christians were agreed that the 25th was the date of the Savior's birth, but there was no agreement on what month.

Roman pagans celebrated Dec. 25, the winter solstice, as a great holiday and early popes deliberately selected this day as the birth of Jesus to turn the people from worship of the sun to the worship of the Son of God. It was not an attempt to Christianize a pagan holiday but to fight against it.

Today the Christian world celebrates Christmas on Dec. 25 and have been doing so since 400 A.D., except some of the Eastern Orthodox and Roman Catholic Byzan-

tine churches, which use the Julian calendar rather than the Gregorian calendar and thus are thirteen days behind the date used by the rest of the Christendom. The Roman Catholic church adopted the Gregorian calendar after Pope Gregory XIII adjusted the Julian calendar in 1582. The Eastern church, however, adhered to the old calendar and many of its segments continue to follow it. The Greek Orthodox church has been celebrating Christmas according to the Gregorian calendar only since 1924. It still observes Easter according to the old calendar.

Many authorities claim that Christmas was not observed in the first centuries of the Christian church, because Christian custom then was to commemorate deaths of persons rather than their births. The date of the martyr Stephen, and the massacre of the innocents at Bethlehem had long been celebrated before the birthday of Christ became a feast day.

And in the Eastern church, the custom for centuries has been to celebrate the Epiphany on Jan. 6 rather than the birthday of Jesus. (VYTIS Dec. 1963)



The Rulers of Lithuania

GRAND PRINCE GEDIMINAS (1316-1341)

by Edward Baranauskas



He became the ruler of Lithuania following the death of his brother, Vytenis. He was mentioned as being a king in the chronicles of the Teutonic Order and in his correspondence with western leaders. Under his rule, Lithuania became one of the most powerful states in eastern Europe. He started the dynasty of rulers who governed Lithuania for almost 300 years.

Historians disagree on the year of his birth. Some say that he was born about 1270 while others say it was 1275. In any event, he was at least sixty-six years old at the time of his death. There is very little information about his wife, Jaune. No one knows of her origin or when they were married. She must have been a strong and healthy woman for she became the mother of seven sons and five daughters. She died in 1344, three years after Gediminas' death. Of his seven sons, three of them eventually became Grand Princes

and rulers of Lithuania. They were Jaunutis, Algirdas and Kestutis. His five daughters all married into royal families of eastern Europe.

Recent historical research disclosed that the Gediminians came from the east central part of Lithuania known as the Highlands (Aukštaitija), where the royal estates were located. This entire region became known as "The Land of the Lithuanian King" and formed the core of the Lithuanian nation.

For centuries, Lithuanians had no religious beliefs and, for that, they were called pagans. They worshipped all of creation and even fire was considered as a holy object. The names of the first few Lithuanian gods that were mentioned in the 13th century chronicles were Perkunas, the god of thunder, and Medeine, the goddess of the forest. King Mindaugas tried to have the Lithuanians accept Christianity but was assassinated by pagan princes who refused to accept change. This delayed the eventual Christianization of the Lithuanian people for another century.

With the spread of Christianity in western Europe, the Teutonic Knights believed in the crusade ideology, according to which a war of Christians against the pagans was con-

sidered honorable and holy. The Prussians and Lithuanians were viewed as children of the devil and those Christian Knights who perished in battle were considered holy martyrs.

When Gediminas came into power, the Teutonic Order was in position to begin direct attacks on Lithuania. One part of the invading army reached outskirts of Vilnius while another one stormed the western areas of Lithuania. The center of defense for the entire lower Nemunas region was the castle of Veliuona. Located about 50 miles west of Kaunas, it was subjected to frequent attacks. Gediminas not only stopped the enemy but his army led by the famous Commander David launched a counter-attack that reached the internal regions of Prussia. While fighting the other enemy, the Livonian Order, the Lithuanians reached the eastern region of Estonia with the help of its ally, the Russian city of Pskov.

Gediminas did not always lead his army into battle. He selected Prince David as the Commander-in-Chief of the Lithuanian forces instead of his brothers or sons. Very little is known about him. The fact that he was entrusted with such a responsibility could mean that he was a close relative of Gediminas, or perhaps a descendant of the same ruling family. Prior to David's appointment, he was in charge of the important and strategic castle of Gardinas on the Nemunas River, which bordered with Prussia. In addition, he was also the governor of the Gardinas region. (This city is now called Grodno and is a part of the Belorussia today). David became famous as a distinguished and renowned military leader.

Peaceful relations with Masuria, the northern principality of Poland which bordered on Lithuania and Prussia, existed since the time of Traidenis when his daughter, Gaudimante, married Prince Boleslas II in 1279. Gediminas strengthened his alliance even further when he gave his daughter Danutė in marriage to Prince Waclaw around 1321. The Teutonic Order was the common enemy of Lithuania and Poland. This tended to unite both countries as allies. Ties with Poland were strengthened when Aldona, the second daughter of Gediminas, married Prince Casimir, the son of King Ladislas Lokietek in 1325. She was baptized and took the name of Anne before her marriage. Following the death of her father-in-law in 1333, her husband became King Casimir III and she became the Queen of Poland. She died in 1339.

The Lithuanians and Poles participated in two major battles against the Order. The alliance turned sour when the Polish Army did not appear in a pre-planned, joint attack against the Germans in 1330. Gediminas felt betrayed and the relations between the two countries deteriorated. They were resumed only by Jogaila, the grandson of Gediminas, when he became the King of Poland in 1386. Gediminas was very concerned about the welfare of his country. He invited foreigners to settle in Lithuania. Soldiers, tradesmen, various craftsmen and artisans, peasants and farmers all were assured of extensive protection and the right to return to their own country whenever they wished. Bishops, priests and monks were also asked to come. They were promised the right to Christianize pagans. Monks were also used to handle their office matters in Latin and other languages.

In 1317, Gediminas received a letter from Pope John XXII urging him to accept baptism in the Catholic rite. Five years later, he sent a long letter in reply. He explained that the Lithuanians would have accepted Christianity a long

time ago if it were not for the German crusaders. Gediminas informed the Pope that Lithuania was not against Christianity but was fighting for its freedom and very survival. In reality, he felt that even if he accepted baptism, this would not stop the Teutonic Order from attacking the Lithuanians. He also informed the Pope that Catholic missionaries, including bishops and priests, were already living in Lithuania and were not restricted in any way in their activities. He did not forbid anyone to worship God in the manner of their faith, or according to their customs. He built two churches, one in Vilnius and the other in Novogrudok (Naugardukas, a city in the Grodno region of western Belorussia).

At the time when the Lithuanians were fighting the Teutonic Knights in the west, some of the vast lands of Russia, Belorussia and Ukraine were annexed to Lithuania as a result of skillful diplomacy on the part of Gediminas. The annexation of these territories in the east and south far extended beyond the heart of Lithuania. At that time, many principalities of these Slavic territories were threatened and being subjugated by the invading Tartars from the east. They willingly joined with Lithuania and even swore loyalty to Gediminas in order to escape from this subjugation. Gediminas was famous for his tolerance to other religions and traditions even though the Lithuanians held their pagan beliefs. The Slavs had embraced Christianity and belonged to the Eastern Orthodox Church. Gediminas permitted them to keep their customs, language, religion, their old internal rule and often their rulers.

When a new Lithuanian ruler was appointed, usually a relative or a member of the Gediminas family, he adjusted himself to the local customs, converted to the Greek Orthodox Church and chose a bride from the local aristocracy. Gediminas relied on a policy of matrimonial alliances by marrying off his sons and daughters to the rulers of occupied and neighboring lands. Gediminas called himself "the King of Lithuanians and many Ruthenians" (*Rex lithuanorum et multorum ruthenorum*). His two brothers held important posts in two of these lands. Teodoras ruled the principality of Kiev (now a part of Ukraine) and Vainys was the ruler of the principality of Polotsik (now a part of Russia).

Three of Gediminas' daughters married Slavic princes. Euphemia (Ofka) became the bride of George II, the last Volynian prince who kept in close touch with his father-in-law. Maria married Dimitri II, the Prince of Tver. (Tver is now called Kalinin, a part of Russia, about 600 miles east from today's Lithuanian border and about 300

miles southeast of St. Petersburg). Aiguste Anastazija was the last of his daughters to marry and she became the wife of the Grand Prince of Moscow, Semionas, in 1333. Four of his sons played a vital role in governing these annexed territories. Algirdas, who later became the Grand Prince of Lithuania, married Maria, the only daughter of the Prince of Vitebsk. Two years later he became its ruler, succeeding his father-in-law Yaroslav. Liubartas married the daughter of Prince Andrew of Volynia, inherited its northern lands and resided in Lutsk. Norimantas ruled the principalities of Pskov and Novgorod (located east of Estonia), succeeding David, the Commander-in-Chief of the Lithuanian army, who governed for only one year there. Karijos Mykolas governed Naugardukas (Novogrudok).

Gediminas decided that it was best to divide the vast territory under his control into seven regions. He entrusted his oldest sons to govern six of them. The seventh one included Vilnius, the capital of Lithuania and its surrounding areas, which remained under the control of Gediminas. After his death, his seventh and youngest son, Jaunutis, inherited his father's region and became the next Grand Prince and ruler of Lithuania.

Historians agree that Gediminas died about 1341 but

it is not clear where and how he died. The Russian Chronicle of Novgorod notes that he died during the winter of 1341-42 but does not give any details. Other sources state that he perished during the siege of the castle at Veliuona while fighting the Teutonic Crusaders. The latest historical information published in Kaunas in 1988 by the noted historian Alvydas Nikžentaitis, has the latest version. He quoted a noted Czech chronicler who was close to the Czech king at that time, that Gediminas invited ten priests and other Christians from Czechia intending to accept the Christian faith. The people close to him, after discussing the matter, poisoned the Grand Prince. That is how, according to Nikžentaitis, one of the greatest Lithuanian men perished.

Though Vilnius had already developed into a town about the 10th-12th centuries, it was first mentioned in 1323 when Gediminas came into power. Under his rule, it became a famous city of a powerful state and the permanent capital of Lithuania. He is considered to be the founder of Vilnius because of that.

Gediminas has also been called the founder of the Lithuanian nation. He united, expanded and defended the country and it became one of the greatest powers in East Central Europe.



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Great Neck, NY

KALĒDŪ DŽIAUGSMAS

Prakartēlēja žmogaus
 Gimē Kūdikis dangaus
 Šviečia vēl zvaigždē šviesi,
 Žemēj džiaugiasi visi

Išdabinkite namus,
 Jau Kalēdos vēl pas mus
 ir Kalēdinē dvasia
 Meile spindi širdyse



**Best Wishes for a Healthy and
 Happy Christmas Season to all.**



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THE DEBORAH LITHUANIAN PROJECT

An Eye-Witness Account

by Loretta Stukas

This year I was privileged to finally visit the land I long dreamed of - an independent Lithuania, free at last of the heavy arm of the Soviet Union and working to make it on its own. What I saw during the two and 1/2 weeks in Lithuania was both joyous and sad. Joyous, because, despite the many hardships, the Lithuanian people are part of an independent Lithuania, they are working to improve their lot and that of their nation. Sad, because they are still faced with so many problems, thanks to the destruction, pollution, devastation left behind after fifty years of Soviet occupation.

It was no accident that my visit overlapped the working visit to Lithuania of fifty-one members of New Jersey's Deborah Heart and Lung Center. Because Dr. Jack Stukas and I originally suggested the project and then spearheaded the fund raising to pay for the medical team's transportation to Lithuania, I chose this time to visit Lithuania and to volunteer my services as a translator, PR aid, or whatever was needed.

For background, Deborah Heart and Lung Center of Browns Mills, NJ sent a team of 52 medical, administrative and public relations personnel from the institution to Vilnius, Lithuania, to perform surgery on Lithuanian children in

September as part of the Hospital Foundation's "Children of the World Program". While there, the team also presented a symposium on congenital heart disease with Deborah's physicians and nurses as speakers, and arranged to invite Lithuanian medical personnel to Deborah for further study. An advanced team of nine people traveled to Vilnius in May to evaluate the hospital, the operating rooms, the equipment available, and the level of nursing skills available, and to consult with Dr. Vytautas Sirvydis, head of cardiac surgery at the University of Vilnius Hospital, to make plans for the September trip. Stanley Frycznski, President of Deborah Hospital Foundation said that their goal was to expose as many as possible of Lithuania's medical professionals to American techniques in open heart surgery, post operative care and USA level of nursing skills.

Help for Lithuania by Deborah began in winter, 1991, when six month old infant Migle Grigutis was brought from Lithuania for major heart surgery at Deborah as part of their "Children of the World" program. Lithuania lacked the proper equipment to perform this delicate surgery on an infant, and Migle probably would not have lived to her first birthday without the surgery. Her surgery, which cost the

hospital an estimated \$65,000 lasted about four hours and included insertion of a donor valve, closing of several holes in her heart, and other corrections. Besides providing Migle the surgery and post-surgical care, the hospital also provided room and board for Migle's mother for the duration of the baby's confinement at the hospital.

Migle's doctor, Dr. Vytautas Sirvydis, chief cardiac surgeon at University of Vilnius Hospital was invited for a three month stay at Deborah, at their expense, to observe surgeries and take part in associated consultations. Dr. Sirvydis returned to Vilnius with many new ideas on improving health care in Lithuania, and donations of medication and medical



Mothers of some of the children operated on by the Deborah Team at University of Vilnius Hospital, with Loretta Stukas (center) and head nurse Petre Palaitiene (far right).

equipment, provided by Deborah and American Lithuanians. This trip of fifty-two Deborah people was a direct outgrowth of Mige's surgery and Dr. Sirvydis' visit. Because the bylaws of the Deborah Hospital Foundation prohibit the use of Foundation funds for travel, Deborah asked Jack & Loretta Stukas to seek help from American Lithuanians to finance the air fare for the team trips in May and September. Over \$50,000 was collected for this cause. Funds in excess of that required for the transportation costs were used by Deborah to obtain additional equipment for the

Vilnius hospital. Surgery and consultation costs were covered by the Deborah Hospital Foundation. Lithuania provided room and board for the team.

During my visit to Lithuania, it was my privilege to spend the better part of a week with the Deborah and the Lithuanian physician teams at the University of Vilnius Hospital while the nineteen surgeries were under way, and I can honestly report that the many donations of Lithuanian Americans to fund the Deborah Team's travel to Lithuania did not go astray. Nineteen children suffering from serious heart defects and ranging in age from 3 to 8, from all parts of Lithuania, were operated on during the week of Sept. 21 by the world-famous Dr. Lynn McGrath. All operations were successful and by now, I believe all children are recovering in their own homes.

Great care was given by the Deborah Team in planning the operations, overseeing the recovery, and following up until the patients' dismissal from the hospital. Before the operations, Dr. McGrath explained to a parent of each child the operation details, the perils and the survival chances. Deborah nurses helped the Lithuanian nurses and the children's mothers care for the children after surgery and taught them good care procedures.



Stanley Frczynski, Jr., Pres. of Deborah Foundation (foreground) and other members of the Deborah Team being honored by mothers of the children operated on, after all surgeries were completed.

Two complete operating rooms were equipped and used by Deborah for these operations and most of the equipment as well as medications, sutures, needles, blood testing equipment and other important equipment were donated to the hospital after the Deborah team left. Deborah also donated a medical van, a transformer to repair and upgrade the catheterization machine, an ice-machine, and much more. An estimated \$1,250,000 worth of equipment and apparatus and about \$600,000 worth of medications were left behind for Lithuania's use by Deborah. During each operation, one Lithuanian surgeon and one Lithuanian nurse were allowed to observe the operation directly in the operating room. Others were allowed to observe from the glass cupola observatory above the operation room. For the first time in my life, I was also able to observe one operation from start to finish, with several doctors and nurses at my side describing how much better the operations were because of the improved equipment and methods.

I found the Deborah team to be a very cohesive unit. Each team member knew his/her duties and did them without problems. Besides all the medical personnel, the team also included administrators, a lawyer, and a PR team. The PR team filmed the children before, during and after the surgeries, interviewed their families, shot scenes of



A happy and active Migle Grigutis, 1-1/2 years after her surgery at Deborah.

Vilnius life, and spoke to various people involved in the whole operation. I was privileged to assist with the translations of conversations with parents, the media and with some of the medical people. I was also happy to set up and participate in a filming session with Migle Grigutis and her family in her home. Migle was the first Lithuanian child operated on at Deborah when she was six months old. Deborah saved her life and as a result of her operation, the rest of the Lithuanian program was started. Today, Migle is two years old, is a happy, intelligent and very active child. While she still has some problems and will need some further surgery, the physicians were astounded at her energy and health.

The Lithuanian media paid great attention to this project, as it is considered the greatest gift to Lithuania to date. The program was widely covered by Lithuanian TV, radio and press as well as by Radio Free Europe, Voice of America, and Vilnius Radio. The event was also covered by Cable TV organizations - "Orbis" of Chicago, IL and "Life Choices" of Columbus, OH. Both organizations cover medical projects from all over the world, and their programs will be seen on various Cable news stations around the country. Deborah's own Public Relations Dept. also put together a 90-minute video about the project, to be shown to the press and to Deborah's benefactors.

After all the surgeries were completed, the mothers of the children thanked the Deborah Team for their efforts by treating them to champagne, coffee, traditional raguolis

and roses. They especially thanked Stanley Frczynski, Dr. McGrath, Dr. Bali, Cheryl Bell, Dr. Sirvydis and yours truly, Loretta Stukas, for their efforts to "return their children's beating hearts and their families' joy." Not a dry eye was to be seen in the room after the mothers' tribute.

As a show of appreciation, the Vilnius University Hospital Cardiological team hosted a gala farewell to the Deborah team at the Draugyste Hotel in Vilnius, during which appreciation was expressed and gifts were presented. Here too, Dr. Stukas (in absentia) and I were also presented flowers and an oil painting from the Lithuanian physicians, and commemorative watches from Deborah for our efforts in collecting the needed travel funds for the project. An appearance by the "Ratilio" ensemble enlivened the evening and brought all participants to their feet, dancing Lithuanian dances and singing her songs.

The Deborah team left Lithuania with warm, friendly feelings about the country and its people, and prepared to continue helping Lithuania over at least the next two years. At least three more young patients are scheduled to travel to Deborah from Lithuania for serious heart surgery in the next few months. Two Lithuanian anesthetists, Kestutis Versockas and Stasys Stankievich are now guests of Deborah to observe surgery and overall operations until mid-December. For the next two years, additional teams of physicians, nurses and other medical personnel from Lithuania - three at a time for three month stays - will also take part in this observing program as guests of the Deborah center, and Dr. McGrath and other medical people will make additional trips to Lithuania to operate and help train surgeons in American surgical techniques.

We are indeed grateful to the staff of the Deborah Hospital's "Children of the World" Program for their outstanding contributions to Lithuania's children. And of course, we are sincerely grateful to all who contributed to this project, especially to the Knights of Lithuania and its various members, councils, districts and the Knights of Lithuania Foundation for their generosity. This was indeed a giant step forward for the state of Lithuania's medical situation.



LINKSMŲ KALĖDŲ IR LAIMINGŲ NAUJŲ METŲ

The officers and Members of C-29 Newark, NJ wish to extend to all our FellowKnights a Very Merry Christmas and the best of Health and Much Happiness in the New Year.



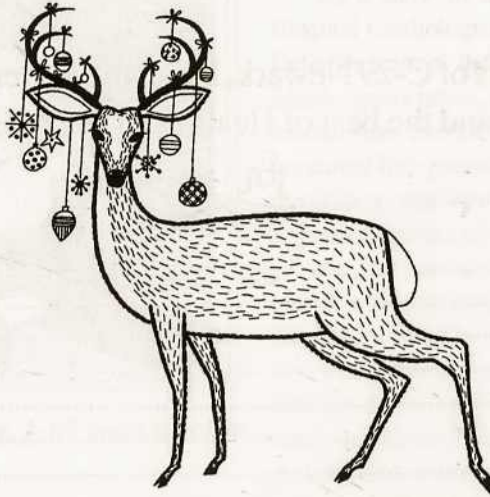
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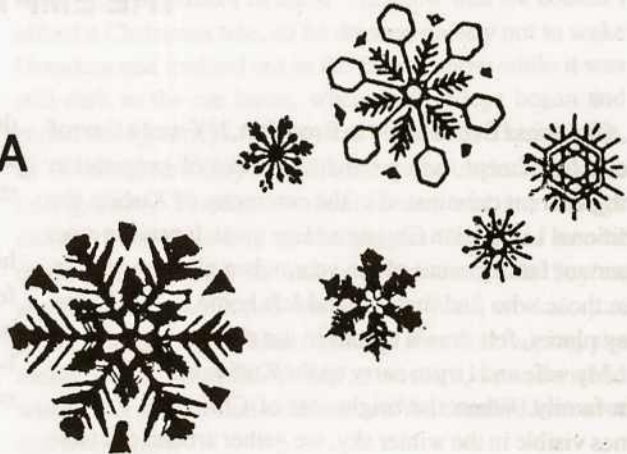
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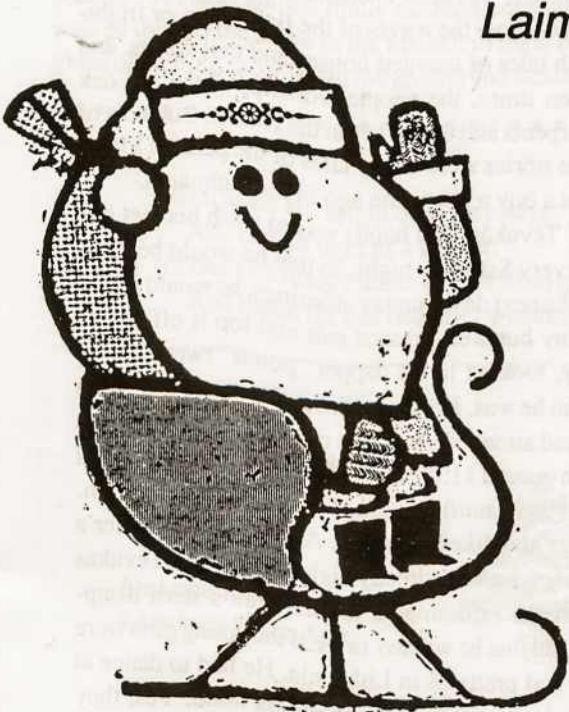
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*Happy Healthy Holidays
from*

Members and Officers of C-144

*Christmas Reminiscence***THE EMPTY CHAIR**by *Albert Cizauskas*

Christmas Eve at home in Brooklyn, NY was a time of joyous fulfillment, when the four weeks of preparation during Advent culminated in the ceremony of *Kučios*, the traditional Lithuanian Christmas Eve meal. It was the most important family event of the year, when all its members, even those who had married and left home to live in far-away places, felt drawn to join in the ritual.

My wife and I try to carry on the *Kučios* tradition in our own family. When the bright star of Christmas Eve becomes visible in the winter sky, we gather around our table for family prayers. Then we kiss the family crucifix, share our Christmas wafers (*plotkelios*) and one large apple.

As years pass, I repeat the stories that accompany these old customs, just as my father used to do: of Adam and Eve eating the forbidden fruit, an act whose disobedience involved us all and required the birth of the Savior to redeem, and of the sharing the wafers and the apple, which symbolized the family's unity and its spiritual kinship with the rest of mankind through Adam.

One year, not too long ago, a chair at our *Kučios* table was empty for the first time. Our daughter, who was then studying at the University of Innsbruck, planned to visit St. Peter's in Rome on Christmas Eve for the midnight mass. She had asked that we keep open a place at the table for her.

Since the family *Kučios* began at 6 p.m., it would coincide with the ceremonial opening of the Christmas Eve mass at St. Peter's celebrated by the Pope himself.

Looking at the empty chair, I remembered another in my parent's home on a Christmas Eve many years ago. The chair was intended for my grandfather who, for some unexplained reason, was missing. Grandmother couldn't be consoled and thought that some tragic accident had befallen her husband. Grandpa was our favorite. We called him "Tėvukas" and always spoke with him in Lithuanian, as we did with our parents. He was tall, thin, and had a large gray mustache which curled up the side of his mouth. He had the irrepressible spirit of a young child deep within him, and would often come to our flat (on Hope Street) in Brooklyn to play "Radutai", a kind of "horsing around" that Tėvukas had indulged in as a youngster himself in Lithuania. It wasn't that he did so much with us, besides lifting us high into the air and catching us before we could hit the ground, but his infectious spirit of fun filled us with childish

delight. By contrast, other grown-up folks usually treated us as if somehow we were adults who hadn't grown up through our own fault.

Sometimes Tėvukas told us stories of the old country: how he watched over the sheep as a little boy, of the fearsome wolves who prowled nearby, of the proud lord on whose land his family lived and worked, of the lord's beautiful manor house and of his pretty daughter who spoke only Polish and taunted Tėvukas for being poor.

He told us he had once to go through a deep forest late at night to get home. On the way, he heard voices through the trees which warned him, "Vincai, Vincai, take the other way home." Tėvukas did. When he finally reached home, his mother embraced him and told him that one of the workers on a neighboring estate, who had gone berserk and had killed several people, was believed to be hiding in that very forest.

Other times, Tėvukas enchanted us with stories of amber castles below the waves of the Baltic Sea, or frightened us with tales of haunted houses and evil spirits, and how in olden times, the people worshipped the tall oak trees, the serpents and the stones in the forests. But most of the time, the stories were happy tales of the peasant life he had lived as a boy a long time ago in old Lithuania.

One of Tėvukas' odd habits was to wash his feet in a tin bucket every Saturday night, so that he would be clean for church the next day. Sunday mornings, he would put on his old, shiny but well-pressed suit and top it off with a black derby, looking like a dapper "ponas" twenty years younger than he was. He always sat in the same pew, at the aisle-end, and attended what was called the "sunma", the solemn high mass at 11:00 a.m. when the choir filled the old church with its beautiful singing in Lithuanian and Latin.

Tėvukas also liked to dance. At his granddaughter's wedding, when he was already eighty years old, Tėvukas danced with the bridesmaids to Grandma's stern disapproval. He said that he wanted to see if the young girls were as graceful and pretty as in Lithuania. He had to dance at least a half dozen times to make up his mind. Yes, they were, he finally admitted, but there was none that could compare with his little "Katukė", his affectionate name for Grandma.

We were all worried about Tėvukas that Christmas

Eve but Grandma was beside herself. "Kur mano Vincas? Kur mano Vincas?" she wailed over and over again through the Kučios meal. We youngsters stole glances at one another and prayed all the harder in our hearts that nothing bad had happened to Tėvukas. At that point, we wanted nothing more than to see him again. It was the depth of the Great Depression, jobs were scarce and we couldn't even afford a Christmas tree that year. We knew presents would be few but all we cared about was Tėvukas' safe return. What made his mysterious disappearance even worse was that snow had started to fall the night before and had continued all during the day. Normally we would have been tickled pink with snow for Christmas but now we worried that Tėvukas was out in the blizzard.

Kučios came to a melancholy close when father gave thanks for God's gift of food for us, and inserted a quick prayer for Tėvukas' safety. Suddenly, we heard a strange noise on the stairs leading to our flat. It had a peculiar swishing sound which grew louder as it approached our door. Then it stopped, and a loud banging ensued. Father opened the door. There stood a huge Christmas tree, full of snow and behind it, Tėvukas, all white too like a living snow man, his moustache frozen stiff. "Tėvukai, Tėvukai," we all shouted at once. "Where were you? What happened?" Tėvukas smiled thinly through cracked lips and walked over to the stove in the kitchen to thaw out. Great globs of melting snow fell to the ground and mother rushed

to wipe them up.

After some time, Tėvukas took a shot of "viritos." Then he told us that when he had awakened that morning, he saw the big flakes of snow. He knew that we couldn't afford a Christmas tree, so he dressed quietly not to wake Grandma and trudged out in the falling snow while it was still dark to the car barns, where the trolleys began and ended their journeys. Trolley car bosses were hiring men, as Tėvukas knew they would, to keep the tracks free of the falling snow. Tėvukas worked all day and got enough money, he said, to buy us the biggest Christmas tree he could find. He said he had no more money to buy us anything else and hoped we liked it. Well, we kids just jumped all over Tėvukas, kissing him and wiping the melting snow from him. Young as we were, we understood what a sacrifice he had made for us. We thanked him over and over again.

We stood the Christmas tree in a bucket in the parlor. We were overjoyed with the evergreen, the largest we had ever come across. It was a wonderful Christmas present from Tėvukas. But the best present of all was that he was safe and with us. Christmas wouldn't have been Christmas without him.

So we all stood around Tėvukas as he sat in the no-longer empty chair, eating his share of the Kučios meal which we had saved for him, winking and promising to play "Radutai" with us later in the parlor.

.....

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!

To One and All
a Very Blessed Christmas
with an exciting 1993 in store
for all of us.

Linksmų Kalėdų ir
Laimingų Naujų Metų



HM Frances Petkus
Supreme Council President

Šventų Kalėdų
ir
Linksmų Naujų Metų visiems Vyčiams
Linkė



C-146 HARRISBURG, PA

And the feast goes on ...

As the joy of Christmas fades slowly into the happy side of our memory after Dec. 25, the holiday continues for some people beyond that day.

In England, for instance, general gift-giving occurs Dec. 26, known as Boxing Day. It's on this day that servants and the poor receive monetary gifts in little boxes.

Jan. 6 marks the Feast of Epiphany, the observance that commemorates the date the Magi arrived at the manger in Bethlehem and presented their gifts to the infant Jesus.

In Puerto Rico some people celebrate Three Kings' Day on Jan. 6 with open house until Jan. 8. Four days later, on Bethlehem Day, three children dressed as the Wise Men and riding horses or ponies, lead a procession of children through the local towns. It is a very festive time with lots of eating and merriment.

For members of the Greek Orthodox Church, the Christmas season concludes on Jan. 6. On this day a priest throws a small cross in the water and the village inhabitants rush home and await the arrival of the prelate, who goes from house to house sprinkling holy water to bless each home.

For Scandinavians, the Christmas celebration begins Dec. 13 (St. Lucia's Day). The traditional holiday meal and exchange of gifts take place Dec. 24 and the following day is devoted to rest and religious observance. But then, the celebration continues until Jan. 13 (St. Knut's Day).

Christmas in Abyssinia (Ethiopia) dates back to the year 330 or before. The Coptic Church there observes Christmas on Jan. 7, centering the festivities around the church. Lalibela is known as the Jerusalem of Ethiopia and is usually crowded with pilgrims from all parts of Africa during the Christmas season.

Armenians probably celebrate Christmas later than others on Jan. 18. They prepare for their observance by not eating animal food for one week prior to that day, and on the last day, they eat no food at all. On Christmas Eve, Armenians attend Communion after which they return home and break the fast with a feast of traditional pilav, shredded chicken, cakes, eggs and sweet meats.

But no matter where or how Christmas is celebrated, it is a time for all people to share with family and friends.

SNAIGĖS

Tyliai skraido baltos snaigės —

Rudenėlis baigės, baigės

Baltos snaigės sidabrinės,

Tyliai krinta ant krūtinės ...

Dengia pievą, dengia lauką —

Snaigių jūroj viskas plauko.



Laimingų Švenčių

STONES OF GOD AND SUN

By Daiva Rinkevičius

I spoke with Veronica Mockuvienė, a folk crafts woman from Klaipėda, in the unique Lithuanian resort town of Nida. Dressed in beautiful folk clothes of the seacoast region, Veronica Mockuvienė was standing behind an open market counter and selling her manufactured articles: amber jewelry. At first, admits Mockuvienė, she was afraid of being called a "black marketeer" and felt extremely nervous in the market place. However, the process of economic reform, currently under way in Lithuania, has changed the Soviet-instilled scornful attitude toward many things, including trade.

Three years ago, Veronika Mockuvienė decided to take initiative into her own hands. She looked through the numerous pieces of her-own-made amber jewelry, picked the best ones and set out to Nida, which is situated between Kuršių Marios (Courtland Lagoon) and the Baltic Sea at a distance of 45 kilometers from Klaipėda. In the summer time, Nida is full of foreign tourists and holiday makers, especially elderly Germans who feel nostalgic for Eastern Prussia. Veronika Mockuvienė is perfectly aware that foreigners are interested in amber jewelry of the very best quality but the price must be reasonable. She sells hand-made honey-colored beads for 300-500 German marks and bracelets for 65 marks. The price depends on the uniqueness of amber. Germans like transparent amber, while Americans prefer white pieces.

This time I did not see non-polished amber, used for curing thyroid disorders, on the counter. Mockuvienė sells them very rarely. Most often she gives them to her friends and those suffering from hypo- or hyper-thyroidism.

Veronika Mockuvienė buys amber from traders who come to Klaipėda from the Kalliningrad amber mines. She has to look through hundreds of Stones of God and Sun, as amber is lovingly called in Lithuania, to pick the right piece for making jewelry.

There are more than 1,200 folk artists in Klaipėda who have set up an association of their own. They sell their hand-made articles in two art salons. At the seaside, amber is not so expensive as in the rest of Lithuania. Still, the price differs greatly in various art shops and galleries. Clever resellers make huge profits out of these price disparities by buying up large quantities of amber jewelry. In summer, amber is very popular among tourists, especially foreigners who are eager to take the Stone of God and Sun back home with them. Until now, the price for amber was improperly low at art salons, ranging from 120 to 4,000 rubles. Folk

artists have decided to sell their work for hard currency, but this is rather problematic because there are few currency exchange points and the service structure of state-run banks is not flexible enough.

Folk artists have difficulties in learning the rigid rules of free marketing. Making beautiful amber jewelry is not enough to start cash flowing into their pockets.

In Vilnius, amber is much more expensive. You can buy almost everything that your heart desires at folk art salons, private art shops and numerous galleries; amber buttons, jewelry, and even amber inlaid works. The prices range from 40 to 10,000 rubles. Street vendors sell amber for hard currency only. Meanwhile, art salons continue to be tormented by ranging economic confusion.

Salon managers say that tourists from Europe usually buy dark honey-colored amber jewelry. Scandinavians love foam-white amber while Lithuanian Americans prefer transparent sun-ray pieces. And everybody adores amber inlaid with silver or bronze. Sales girls are quick to notice the needs and tastes of their customers. They may offer you expensive jewelry or fine dainty articles.

Specialists maintain that amber will be sold for world-market prices in the near future. Private firms must have a license for exporting amber. But individuals have no problem in taking amber jewelry out of Lithuania. However, special permits are necessary for large pieces or valuable works of art. And this is how the Stone of God and Sun leaves Lithuania to spread its warm glow all over the world.

FOLK ART SALONS:

In Vilnius, Gaono 10, Stiklių 2, Vytenio 13.

In Kaunas: Daukanto 15.

In Klaipėda: Aukštoji 5, Sukilėlių 3.

In Palanga: Rąžės 5.

ŽIEMUŽELĖ

Su šalnoms ir šiaurės vėjais -
Žiemužėlė šyai atėjo.

Ilgos naktys trumpos dienos,
Mirga žvaigždės mėnesienoj.

Sniego senis nulipdytas

Juodos akys išrašytos.

Laidom gniūžtėm, čiupžiam baloj,

Linksma, nors ir nosys šla.



Balę Voveraitė

Farewell to the Lithuanian Auditorium

By Gediminas Indreika

They tore down the Lithuanian Auditorium in May of this year and not a voice was raised in dissent. It was the cultural and social center for two or more generations of Chicago Lithuanians, so it deserves a brief mention in the press.

The idea to build the Lietuvių Auditorija was proposed by Benediktas Butkus, of the Alliance of Catholic Societies. After several years of fund raising, the Lithuanian Auditorium was built and opened on February 14, 1925. The grand opening program stated: "This will be the finest building for Lithuanian societies, all are invited to participate, regardless of religious or political views." The program began with the Birutė choir singing the anthems, and a vocal concert followed. The consul of Lithuania, P. Žadeikis, addressed the assembly.

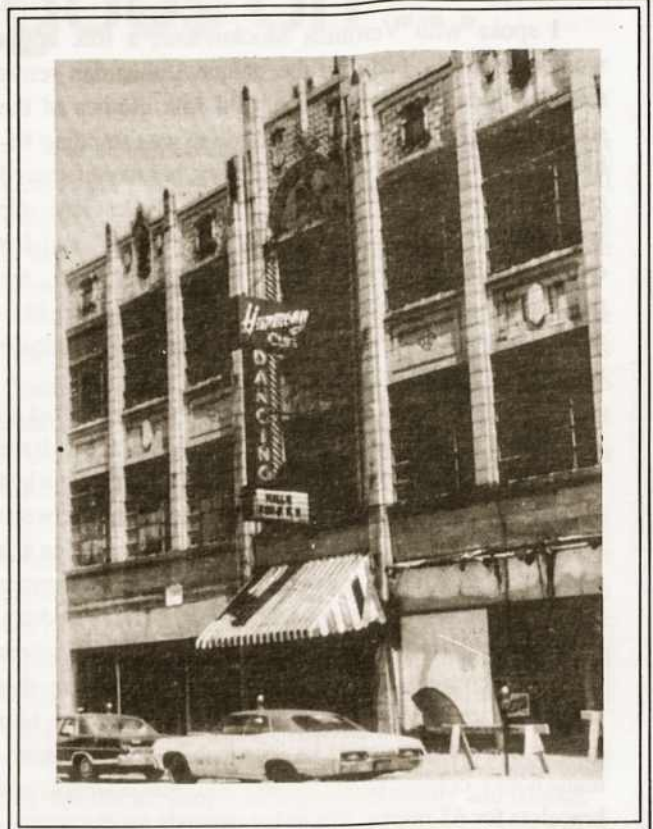
There were many plays staged at the Lithuanian Auditorium. The ten year anniversary of Lithuania's independence was observed here, and the speaker was Captain Steponas Darius, who five years later would embark on the trans-Atlantic flight.

On Feb. 5, 1933, *Draugas* sponsored a concert that was filled to standing room only. The Knights of Lithuania "Daina" choir sang, directed by Juozas Sauris. Also performing were the St. Casimir Academy orchestra, and Lithuanian folk dancers from that school.

The major Chicago choral groups, the Birutė choir directed by J. Byanskas, the K of L "Daina" choir, and the Pirmyn chorus directed by K. Steponavičius, often performed at the Auditorium. After the concerts, there would be socializing and dancing to the tune of popular bands. Remember that prohibition lasted until 1933, so there was no liquor served. On Jan. 28, 1934, the premiere of Žilevičius' *Cantata of Vytautas* was presented by the K of L "Daina" choir, directed by J. Sauris. On April 14, 1934 an operetta composed by Sauris, "Gražuolė" was performed by the K of L choir. The lead roles were sung by Ona Juozaitis and Kazys Pažerskis.

During the *Draugas* 25th Anniversary concert in 1934, the K of L "Daina" choir sang again, the director was Antanas Pocius. There were other operettas performed by the K of L, "Oi Daktare" and Gilbert & Sullivan's "H.M.S. Pinafore".

With the arrival of the postwar immigrants, new choral ensembles were being organized and the Birutė choir ceased to exist. The Lithuanian Auditorium was refurbished, and composer Balys Pakštas became the resident



The Chicago Lithuanian Auditorium at 31 and Halsted Sts.

program director. In 1953, Pakštas organized a youth choir, the "Moksleivių Tautinis Ansamblis". He introduced the ancient folk instruments "kanklės" to the Chicago audience. The ensemble performed on Mother's Day and before each Christmas.

Since 1951, the Balys Pakštas Band played at the Auditorium each Saturday, and soon became the most popular Lithuanian band in the United States. There were weddings and New Years' parties. But the success of the Lithuanian Auditorium was short lived, as Lithuanians moved away from the neighborhood. In 1966, the new Knights of Lithuania choir and soloist Algerd Brazis sang at the Auditorium. The last concert at the Auditorium, to my knowledge, was on Nov. 26, 1967. Presented by the *Sandara* newspaper, the concert featured the K of L dancers and choir, directed by Faustas Strolia.

Although it was not an architectural landmark, the facade of the Lithuanian Auditorium was attractive. The exterior was terra-cotta, and a beautiful sculptured Vytis on a blue field was above the third floor. The main theater was

on the second floor, and there was a balcony. Above the stage, over the proscenium, was an impressive frieze, which had the names of these composers: Mozart, Naujalis, Beethoven, Sasnauskas and Wagner. Imagine, Sasnauskas, the composer of "Marija, Marija" listed among the great classics! But all of this beautiful plaster work was neglected as the Auditorium became a warehouse in the 1970's. Forlorn and water damaged, the Auditorium fell to the wreckers in 1992. Sudiev, Lietuvių Auditorija, mes tavęs pasigesime. (Farewell, Lithuanian Auditorium, we will miss you).

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year 1993
to all the
Knights of Lithuania



John, Agnes & Barbara Mickunas
Philadelphia, PA

Linksmų Kalėdų

Vytiškai

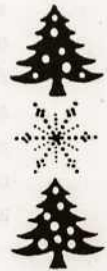
C-153 Treasure Coast, FL



Merry Christmas from

C-78 Lawrence, MA

75 Years and Still Going!



Seasons Greetings

and Best Wishes from



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Council 143 – Pittston, PA
 Wish all the Knights



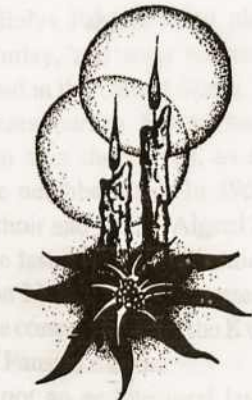
**Linksmų Kalėdų
 ir
 Laimingų Naujų Metų**

Merry Christmas and Healthy New Year

I.M.O. HM KONNIE SAVICKUS

who introduced Basketball

to Lithuania



C-5 CHICAGO, IL

**Loretta Grigaliunas,
 President**

*Linksmų Šventų Kalėdų ir Laimingų Naujų Metų
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Junior Counselor	Christine Tambasco
Sgts-at-Arms	William Jasewicz & William Burimaukas

Paul & Aldona Abeling	Valentinas & Louise Kleabonas
Ann Beleckas	Regina Kot
Frances Bobines	Sadie LaTorre
Jennie Burimaukas	Ann Radzevich
Ann Czerw	Birute Ralys
Frances DiBart	Vincent Rossi
Gerard Drenzek	Walter Sargalis
Virginia Gardinier	Tim Tambasco, Jr.
Regina Hartvigas	Harold Tice
Helen Hugo	Assemblyman Paul Tonko
Charles & Sadie Karbocius	Mildred Whelly
Jennie Kensell	Nancy Yakas
Helen Kiuber	Edward Ziausys
.....	Helen Zytkowski



KALĖDOS LIETUVOJE ŠIO AMŽIAUS PRADŽIOJE

Antonia M. Wackell

Mano atmintyje geriausiai išliko Kalėdų šventės, praleistos senelio šeimoje, mažame kaimelyje netoli Vilniaus. Kalėdos Lietuvoje visada buvo švenčiamos šeimos aplinkoje. Atlikus dienos ūkio darbus, vakarai buvo skiriami maldom, giesmėm ir susitikimais su kaimynais.

Pasiruošimas šventėm prasidėjo Kūčių dieną. Jau nuo trečios valandos ryto vyko darbai. Visi padėjo, visi dirbo su entuziazmu. Gryčioje sklido maloni šiluma, kvepėjo skanumynai. Kampė buvo didelė, iš molio sudirbtos krosnis, kurioje močiutė kepė didelius duonos kepalus, o ant ugnies virė įvairūs puodai. Tuo tarpu, kada suaugusieji dirbo namų darbus, jaunieji puošė altorėlį. Marijos statulėle pastate ant paaukštinto ir padabino eglėšakem, džiovintom gėlėm ir iš margo popierius iškarpytom žvaigždėm. Ant sienos buvo padabinto pintos iš eglių ir visokių kitokių zalimynų girliandos. Apie Kalėdines egles tada dar niekas nebuvo girdejes.

Kai žiemos danguje pasirodė pirmosios žvaigždės ir menulis apšvietė sniegų padengtus šiaudinius triobų stogus, visi baigė darbus. Kampe stovintis didelis valgomasis stalas buvo apdetas šienų, ant viršaus užklota sunki lininė staltiesė, o ant jos dar viena plonesnė. Visa tai buvo daroma prisiminti Kristaus gimimas: siena ant stalo reiškė pragartėlę, o sunki staltiesė - užklojima. Ant stalo buvo sudėti indai, maistas, o pačiame viduryje padeta gražiausia lėkštė su plotkėlem. Senelis, atsisėdęs gale stalo, persižegnojo ir pasimėlde, prašydamas Dievo palaimos namams ir šeimynai. Tada jis sulaužė plotkėlę, persižegnojo ir davė kitiem. Kiekvienas šeimos narys, paėmęs plotkėlę, persižegnojo ir pasidalindavo su kitais. Po to prasidėjo Kūčių valgymas.

Pirmausia buvo duodama burokėlių ir baravykų sriuba. Toliau seke: silkes, žuvis, miežinė koše, avižinis kisielis, džiovintų vaisių kompotai ir kiti patiekalai. Pabaigai visi užsigardžiavo sližikais su aguonių pienų, kuriam pagaminti reikėjo daug stiprių rankų. Šį darbą atlikdavo jaunesnieji trindami, perduodami viens kitam. Kai aguonų grūdėliai susitrindavo ir parvirsdavo skyčių, tada buvo įdedamas mėdus ir praskiedžiama vandeniu. Skonis buvo puikas!

Diena buvo ilga, po darbų ir pasninkų visi norejo pasigardžiuoti. Visi valgė kiek galejo, niekas neskubejo. Kada visi prisistotino, atėjo eilė ir pramogom. Iš po staltiesės buvo traukiami šiaudai. Pagal ištraukto šiaudo ilgumą buvo sprendžiama, koks bus linų derliaus gerumas. Linai turejo labai didelę reikšmę, nes iš jų verpe siūlus audimui - aprangai, paklodem, rankšluosčiam ir t.t. Po vakarienes

visos lėkštės ir šaukštai buvo pakeisti švariais ir vel su maistų padėti ant sunkiosios staltiesės, o plonesnė užkloti. Visa tai buvo palikta nakčiai, kad atėjusios vėles turetų ką valgyti. Švarūs indai reiškė, kad pavalgisius vėles undus paliko tvarkingus ir švarius. Jaunimas išėjo į lauką ir jų balsai skambėjo visame kaime. Pasiemę pakulų pluoštus, jie apraišioje prieš menėsį įskiepytas vaisinių mėdžių šakeles. Iš kur toks paprotys atsirado Kūčių vakarą, niekas negalejo prisiminti, bet visiems tai suteikdavo daug džiaugsmo. Po to visi ėjo skačiuoti tvorų lentų. Jei suskaičiavus poriniai likdavo viena lenta, tai reiškė, kad susituoks su nevedusiais, jei dvi - su našliais. Del to vaikinam būdavo daug juoko, or mergaitėm, nusiminimo.

Kalėdų rytas prasidedavo irgi trečią valandą ryto. Visi šiltai apsiredę susėdo į šieno prikištas rogės, apsikloje skaromis ir vyko į bažnyčią kuri buvo už keliolikos kilometrų. Pamaldos prasidedavo šeštą valandą ryto. Rogės lėke per sniego pusnis, bet kai kur reikėjo stiprių rankų išsikasti iš sniego. Aplinkui matedi ir vilkų bet jie nėjo artyn nes bijojo arklių žvangučių kurie važiuojant skambėjo monotoniškai. Bažnyčioje švietė daugybe žvakių ir lėmpų. Altoriai buvo išpuošti eglėšakem ir kitokiais žalumynais. Visur matedi daug vaškinių žvakių kurias padarydavo apylinkių moterys ir dovanodavo bažnyčiai. Laikė advento buvo susilaikoma nuo ryškių spalvų ir papuošalų. Bet dabar švenčių metų matedi daugiau moterų, devinčių margas skaras. Mėrgaitės buvo pasipuošusios spalvingais drabuželiais, kaspinais ir koralų bei gintarų karoliais. Po iškilmingų pamaldų visi sustojo į eilę, kad galėtų prieti prie altoriaus, kur buvo įrengta prakartėlė. Prie lopšėlio buvo pririštos juostos, kurias kiekvienas priėjes pasupo ir įmete porą pinigėlių į aukų dėžutę.

Kelione atgal irgi buvo šalta, bet namuose jau lauke šiltas gerimas, kurį močiutė padarė išvažiuojant ir paliko ant karštos plytos. Šilta metų ramunėlių ir kitų žolėlių arbata maloniai nuteike visus atvykusius.

Kalėdų valgymai jau buvo padėti ant stalo, ir visi susėdo vaišintis. Garavo kėpta žasiena, aviena ir dešros, bet daugiausia visi lauke kėpto paršo. Koks gardumynas! Visa tai pajvairino raudonų burokėlių daržoves, rauginti kopūstai ir agurkai, virti žirniai, krienai, rūkyti lašiniai ir vosokiausiu sūriai. Visi gerė arbatą, bet daugiausia naminių alų, kuri padarė senėlis. Jaunimas nekantriai laukė kalėdinio pyrago su daug razinų, pabarstyto cukrum ir aguonom. Kam neužtekdavo, tuos senėlis dar pavaišino džiovintais vais-

iais ir riešutais. Tais laikais dar nebuvo papročio pasikeisti dovanomis. Namų samdiniai buvo paklausiami ar liks dirbti sekančiais metais. Už teigiama atsakymą gaudavo sidabrinį pinigą, kuri veliau išleisdavo savo reikalą.

Visa šeimyna laikė Kalėdų giedojo daug giesmių, taip pat lankė kaimynus ir gimines, neaplankdavo nei vieno

namo. Vaikai ir jaunimas važinėjo rogutem ir čiuože naminio darbo pačiužom. Senesnieji sueje mēldesi, ilsejose arba šnekučiavosi. Pavakaryje jaunimas susirinko pažaišti ir pašokti. Apie vidur naktį visi išsiskirstė į namus, linkėdami "Linksmų Kalėdų!"

(Sulietuvino G.E.)

"MOTERIS"

BACK TO MY HERITAGE

Last month to Europe, Lithuania, I flew
The country and my heritage to view.
Many and varied surprises there were,
Making me feel like a foreigner.

After nine hours we stepped from the plane,
Glad to be rid of the long flight's strain.
Dozens of relatives waited for us
While we went through customs and all that fuss.

Then with flowers we all were presented,
And "How nice you look," our greeters commented.
Their land they were eager to show us,
Their lives and their heroes so valorous.

The next twelve days were a maze
Of trips, visits and sights to appraise.
There were parks and churches galore,
And old castles and ruins to explore.

There was much sadness at the neglect
Fifty years of Communist rule did project.
Splendid buildings and churches were bereft
Of grand organs and marble statuary in the theft.

This country dates back to century thirteen,
And many tragic changes it has seen.
In shaping its destiny, Crusaders had a part,
Teutons and Napoleon marched through its heart.

Hitler's hordes also did damage,
And their actions imitated brigandage.
We saw Renaissance artifacts,
And how knights and ladies made contacts.

We bought amber again and again,
Rings, necklaces, pendants and then
Visited the "Amber Museum"
To see where it came from.

Then we were off on a three-hour boat ride,
Down the long Nemunas River we did glide.
It was a smooth, fast hydro-foil boat,
We hardly knew that we were afloat.

Some Netherlanders came in 1825
To build a town by the sea and survive.
We saw a forest they planted by hand,
Because there were dunes and too much sand.

Much more history of this country there is,
Which we were very sorry to miss;
But what we saw we'll remember,
And know these horrible events did occur.

The dreaded Communist armies did persecute
And their ruthless rule was absolute.
But when 38,000 Red soldiers will leave,
The happy natives will rebuild and not grieve.

Bertha Janus
Southfield C-79



Amber in the Holy Land

By Shalom Yossman

The sand is just the same here as in Palanga. And my friends that I'm sitting with on the beach are also the same. And the language we speak is the same, Lithuanian. The only difference is the sea. It's the Mediterranean, not the Baltic. Besides, the people around us speak Hebrew, not Lithuanian. Otherwise ... yet how much more for me their lies behind it: the lakes and pitch trees of Trakai and Ignalina; the beauty of Kaunas and Vilnius; the laughter in their famous cafes, the "Neringa" and "Tulpe".

That was our earliest youth in Lithuania. Yet even now, being in Israel, one remains Lithuanian all the same, for that is where our roots are. And it's hard to replant them into a new place, even the new place you consider to be your own. You are still not alone. Just a few hours after saying, "Iki pasimatymo" to your friends at Vilnius airport, you may be welcomed with a "Labas" at the Ben-Gurion Airport in Israel. This is because there are quite a few Lithuanian Jews working at the Ministry of Immigration here. And later, you will get to see more of your old country folk at the different Kaunas, Panevezys, Vilnius and many other Lithuanian committees which are offering help to us newcomers. It's either financial or social support but mostly you feel it's spiritual. And so you start planting your Baltic roots into the Promised Land.

Lithuanian committees often help you find an apartment in the vicinity of other Lithuanian families. There are already whole blocks in every major Israeli city where people speak Lithuanian to each other, to the grocer, or the postman. To be from Lithuania means a lot in Israel. The Litvaks (popular name for Lithuanians in Israel) are widely respected. You can find an Israeli Army Colonel who speaks Lithuanian to his wife and gives orders in Hebrew. It may be easier for you to speak Lithuanian to a lawyer, many of whom are from Lithuania. And even the law itself speaks Lithuanian because the Attorney General of the State of Israel was Aron Barak, who came to Israel from Kaunas at the age of 15. Gaon me Vilna - the genius from Vilnius — that's the greatest compliment you can hear in Israel, because once Vilnius was the center of the world's Jewish culture.

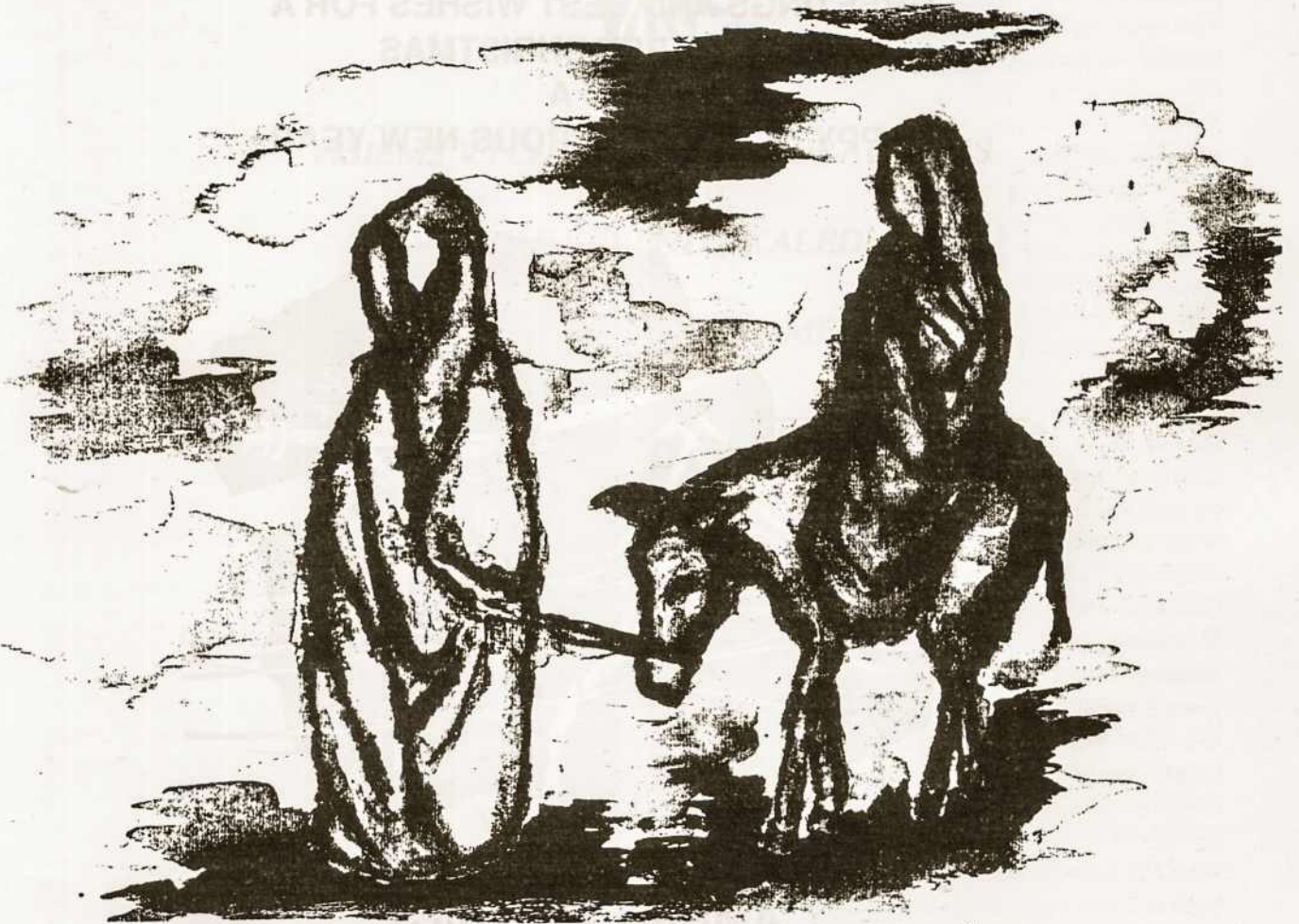
But in Israel, the Jewish state, you quite often feel the influence of Lithuanian culture on the whole. In the book stores you can find Maironis or Donelaitis' poetry books. In many of the Lithuanian clubs in Tel-Aviv, Bat Yam or Haifa, you will see pictures of Ciurlionis or Krasauskas. Many reporters of the Kol Israel, Israeli Radio, will quote

you passages from books by Lithuanian writers, because as a joke, the Israeli Radio is often called the Lithuanian Mafia, as they say - you don't have to be a genius, it's enough you are from Vilnius to be able to work at the radio.

And once a year the radio will tell the Israelis about the mass meeting of Lithuanian Jewry which takes place in Ber Yakov every September. It's always an important meeting because the chief speaker is the Prime Minister of Israel. In the past, the former Prime Minister Rabin even called Lithuanian Jews the elite of Israel. But being a politician, Rabin in his speeches, always referred to politics. And the world press quoting Rabin stressed that this was said at a meeting of Israeli Lithuanians. Well, apart from speeches, the said meeting in Ber Yakov is always a long awaited event for meeting friends. You can meet somebody there that you hadn't seen for ages, because this person, an old friend of yours has just arrived from Lithuania. And in Ber Yakov, you will try real Lithuanian zeppelins and real Lithuanian bread baked for this occasion. And even Lithuanian vodka, *Neringa* or *Kristalina* which somehow makes its way from Kaunas to Ber Yakov. Late at night you will hear Lithuanian songs and sitting around a bonfire baking potatoes, you will remember your youth in Lithuania. Often you will see a tear-drop on your friend's face, a tear-drop crystal clear — like the Lithuanian amber. And the night, when no war is going on, is as peaceful in Israel as it was in Lithuania. The night passes away, however, and with the early sun you say to your friend, "Einam" (the Lithuanian for "let's be going"). It is morning again and you have to be ready to face life anew - the life you are now living in Israel. You are an Israeli; a Jew; and a Lithuanian!



*Greetings and Blessings
of the
Season*



from
Officers and Members of

**KNIGHTS OF LITHUANIA
COUNCIL 36
CHICAGO, IL**

**LINKSMŲ KALĖDŲ ŠVENČIŲ
IR
LAIMINGŲ NAUJŲ METŲ!
LINKIME VISIEMS VYČIAMS IR JŲ ŠEIMOMS**

**-----
GREETINGS AND BEST WISHES FOR A
VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS
AND A
HAPPY AND PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR**



AMBER DISTRICT

- | | |
|------------------------|----------------------|
| C-3 Philadelphia, PA | C-140 Syracuse, NY |
| C-46 Forest City, PA | C-142 Washington, DC |
| C-63 Lehigh Valley, PA | C-143 Pittston, PA |
| C-72 Binghamton, NY | C-144 Anthracite, PA |
| C-118 Hazleton, PA | |



*VISIEMS VYČIAMS IR MŪSŲ DRAUGAMS
 LINKIMĖ
 LINKSMŲ ŠVENTŲ KALĖDŲ
 IR
 LAIMINGŲ NAUJŲJŲ METŲ*

**CHRISTMAS GREETINGS
 FROM
 ALL MEMBERS AND OFFICERS OF
 COUNCIL 110 MASPETH, NY**

**WE WISH YOU ALL A
 HAPPY AND HEALTHY NEW YEAR**



Lithuanians in the News

PUBLIC LIFE

Joseph Papp who died in 1991 founded the New York Shakespeare Festival and ran it autocratically for 37 years. Before he shuffled off the coil, he groomed a successor. He chose someone who was certain to tweak the nose of critics: director Lithuanian JoAnne Akalaitis. Groans went up among some of the playgoing elite when Papp announced the Akalaitis event. This woman was a leading member of Mabou Mines, an experimental theater that wrote, produced and directed its own



JoAnne Akalaitis of New York Shakespeare Festival

shows by democratic consensus and never compromised its artistic views.

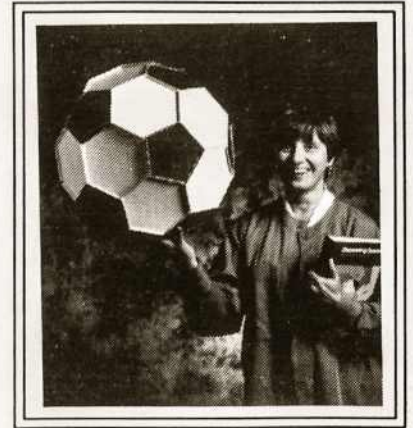
So what would Akalaitis do at the Festival? In the view of many, she was going to ruin it. A theater complex producing many Tonys, Critics Circle Awards, Pulitzer and Obies would now be in the hands of a woman who was an Off-Off Broadway cultural leftist. However, Akalaitis shares many attributes: courage in the face of sneers; a firm grasp of what she wants to do and a fierce commitment to the public theater as a home to all the performing arts. Akalaitis, at age 54 has a huge responsibility. She controls, with others, millions of dollars that determine what and

how many shows will appear.

October marked her first year as head of the N.Y. Shakespeare Festival. Akalaitis seems resigned to criticism, of which she has had plenty. She has big plans for the future and invokes Papp by saying: "This theater was his home. I feel the same way. This is where I belong."

RECEIVES GREEN AWARD

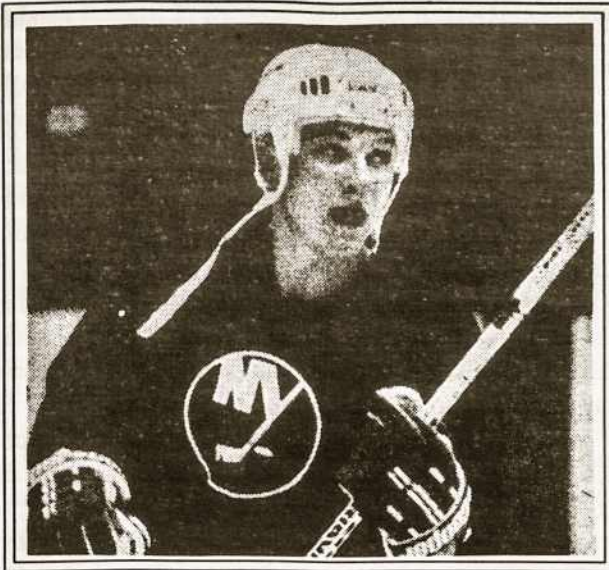
Janet Ginkus Allen, a 22-year employee of the School Dept. in Worcester, MA received the annual Green Award for outstanding service as math/science coordinator at City View School. Previously she was a PEAK (Providing Enrichment for Able Kids) teacher and coordinator for more than a decade. She was responsible for identifying and scheduling PEAK students, grades 4-6, first in her own school and then for all 41 elementary schools. The award was based on 1) exceptional competence and efficient handling of all assigned responsibilities; 2) willing performance of tasks above and beyond the call of duty; 3) friendly, helpful and cooperative attitudes toward the public and fellow employees, and 4) outside activities and community services bringing credit to the city.



Janet Ginkus Allen

WELCOME TO AMERICA

Darius Kasparaitis traveled all day to get to New York from Lithuania. He then went through his first practice with the Islanders Hockey Team at the Coliseum on Long Island. He was winded at the end of practice and while trying to catch his breath, he got a laugh out of team captain, "He said something in Russian that I think means 'When is practice over?'" He came across the world and then went



Darius Kasparaitis with the Islander's Ice Hockey Team

through one of the toughest practices we've had." One thing for certain, Kasparaitis likes to play in front of crowds. "No people in the Soviet Union watch hockey, maybe 1,000, 2,000. I want to play in the National Hockey League," he said.

The Lithuanian defenseman fits the profile of what general manager Maloney wants in his players. Kasparaitis is young (20), big enough (5-11, 187) and feisty.

Lithuanian Darius Kasparaitis expected to be nervous in his first game in an Islander's (National Hockey League) uniform. "Before the first game, every guy is worried," he said. He had only two practices under his belt before playing his first game. He does not understand much English but endeared himself immediately to his teammates by shaking hands and introducing himself. There was not much time for Kasparaitis to get acquainted with his new teammates.

The Islanders are happy with their new Lithuanian defenseman and Kasparaitis is happy to be in the NHL.

Regarding contract terms, a source has revealed that an agreement was reached for a three year deal of \$1.35 million. He was asked why he

wanted to play in the NHL, he said, "Money, money, money." Five years ago in the Soviet Union, one buck equalled one ruble. Now, one buck is 309 rubles. And people think it will be 1,000 by the end of the year. Of his bubbly personality, Kasparaitis said, "I'm not a robot". His agent said, "He's probably the opposite. He has a personality. He's outspoken. He's a very nice person, a friendly person - off the ice. He takes his responsibilities very seriously. He's respectful to his coaches and is always in good standing with management."

In the locker room, Kasparaitis was explaining why he might want to buy a pickup truck instead of a car. He said, "Family has farm. We have pickup. Cows, pigs. We have pickup". Soon, he must battle the Dept. of Motor Vehicles. If he wants a pickup, he needs a license. "License big problem in America," he said. "In Russia, no big problem. You drive without license, police stop you, 50 rubles, okay." Before one of the games, he talked of playing in the NHL. In staccato English, he described his play and how the game is different here from that in Russia: "No relax in NHL ... Play 60 minutes every game. My job is not to score, understand? Here, smaller rink, big players, more body, more physical."

MED SUPPLIES TO LITHUANIA

Members of Anthracite Council 144 packed medical supplies and books donated by doctors in the area for shipment to Lithuania. Regional physicians have answered a call to donate medical supplies to Lithuania. The supplies will be forwarded to Caritas in Kaunas. Items for shipment were prepared by volunteers from throughout the county in



Members of Anthracite Council packing medical supplies and books for shipment to Lithuania: Frackville: Eleanor Vacaitis, Bernard Zilaitis & Elsie Kosmisky; Kaska: Anna Helen & Tom McDonald; Minersville: Bernice Mikatavage & Joseph Martunas; St. Clair: Anna Klizas Wargo.

the former Kaska schoolhouse, residence of Tom and Anna Helen McDonald.

(Evening Herald)



Durbin Votes Against Russian Aid Bill — Baltic Amendment Not Allowed

WASHINGTON - U.S. Rep. Richard J. Durbin (D-IL) announced that he voted against the Russian aid package because "it is not consistent with the principles of freedom and democracy." Durbin explained that he proposed an amendment to the bill to restrict economic assistance to Russia until significant progress has been made to remove Russian troops from the Baltic states.

"I am disappointed that the House Rules Committee adopted a closed rule for consideration of the Russian aid bill which precluded any amendments to the bill," Durbin said. "If Congress is going to provide aid to Russia, it is vital that such aid is conditioned on significant progress toward ending their Cold War policy of military occupation of the Baltics. It is outrageous that more than 120,000 Russian troops continue to march on the independent soil of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania. The Baltic States have continually expressed their willingness to negotiate the withdrawal of Russian troops, but to date withdrawal has been symbolic at best," said Durbin.

The amendment which Durbin sought to offer to the Freedom Support Act would have conditioned aid to Russia on certification by the President that:

- Significant progress has been made toward removal of Russian armed forces from Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania;
- Additional Russian armed forces have not been brought into Estonia, Latvia or Lithuania without the permission of the government of that country;
- Artillery exercises or similar training operations are not being conducted by Russian armed forces on the territory of Estonia, Latvia or Lithuania without the permission of the government of that country;
- Russian military installations in Estonia, Latvia or Lithuania are open to inspection by the government of that country;
- Russian air and naval forces are not interfering with traffic in the air space or territorial waters of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania; and
- The government of Russia is keeping the governments of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania informed regarding the number and location of Russian armed forces in such country.

"I will not support aid to Russia while that country clearly violates the sovereignty of its neighbors," Durbin said. "As long as Russian troops remain in the Baltics, the prospects for peace and stability will be threatened."

FAMOUS ORAL AND MAXILLOFACIAL SURGEON TRAVELS TO LITHUANIA

by Sister Helen Ivanauskas, C-1 Brockton, MA

September 1, 1992 found Dr. Martin Dunn of Boston at Logan Airport heading for Lithuania. His purpose was to examine children with various facial deformities, to evaluate the hospitals and to set up a return visit to Lithuania with a team of surgeons and nurses to share information, teach surgical procedures and initiate post operative care. The trip was "sobbering" as Dr. Dunn described it "and most successful". "Sobbering" in the lack of and outdated equipment and supplies. During the three days of Dr. Dunn's visit, he examined 190 children, giving each child two candy bars. Part of his "equipment" was a trunk full of candy bars.

While in Vilnius and Kaunas, Dr. Dunn met with the Minister of Health and various surgeons. He met with the Vice President of the Baltic States Association of Stomatology and invited representatives from Latvia and Estonia

to join in the forthcoming seminar involving surgery, teaching and sharing information. Dr. Dunn finally selected Vilnius University's Children's Hospital as the hospital of choice, recommending that thirty-three children needed immediate surgery. These included fused jaws, cleft lips and palates, correction of jaw deformities, placement of titanium implants for ear reconstruction and many other procedures. He also recommended the development of a post surgical recovery room which, possibly, was the first one in Lithuania. Much needed nursing care in the intensive care unit, pediatric, newborn and in the surgical wards were needed.

To implement all of the above recommendations, the team would consist of 1) Dr. Martin J. Dunn, Director of Craniofacial Rehabilitation Center of Braintree Hospital in

Massachusetts; 2) Dr. Jerald Goldberg, professor and director of Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery at Case Western Reserve, Cleveland, OH; 3) Dr. Reynold Crane, former director of Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery, Case Western Reserve, Cleveland, OH; 4) three pediatric anesthesiologists; 5) two post operative recovery and intensive care nurses, and 6) three operating room nurses.

The need is great. We are greatly indebted to the wonderful and dedicated health care professionals who are willing to share their talent, knowledge and time to teach surgeons, nurses and care givers in Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia.

Dr. Dunn operated on Aušra Stroputė, a twelve year old girl, born without an ear this past March 1992. Lithuanian Children's Relief sponsored Aušra from Lithuania

for the surgery. Through this meeting, Dr. Dunn became interested in helping the children in the Baltics. He is also the founder of the "Por Christi" organization. It's primary purpose is to help children in Equador with various facial deformities. A heart-warming story is written about him in the March 1992 issue of Reader's Digest, "Luckiest Girl in the World."

However, funds are needed to sponsor the trip for the above mentioned team, together with necessary supplies and equipment. We, American Lithuanians need to help and must not fail in this wonderful project. The children recovering from surgeries will be most grateful and God will bless you. Contributions earmarked for Children's Facial Deformities Fund can be made to: Lithuanian Children's Relief, Inc., c/o Sister Helen Ivanauskas, 261 Thatcher St., Brockton, MA 02402.

LITHUANIA NEWSLINE

TRANSITIONAL CURRENCY

From October 1, the ruble has been taken out from circulation in Lithuania and replaced by coupons issued in 1991 and 1992. This is regarded as the first step toward the introduction of national currency.

Earlier, the coupons were used on the domestic market on an equal basis with the ruble. Until Oct. 1, Lithuanian residents could deposit rubles into their savings accounts. But many organizations and individuals engaged in trade with the former Soviet republics did not hurry to get rid of the ruble.

Lithuanian banks will exchange rubles for transitional coupons at a free-market rate.

NO MORE SNIČKUS ON THE LITHUANIAN MAP

The Lithuanian Parliament approved the decision of the Ignalina region council to change the name of the Sniečkus settlement, situated near the Ignalina nuclear power plant, to that of Visagino. Visagino was the name of a former village located on the site of the present town which was founded in 1977 as a residential area for the employees of nuclear power plant. It was named after Antanas Sniečkus who led the Lithuanian Communist Party for many years under the Soviet rule.

At the present moment, only 6% of the settlement's population is Lithuanian. Nevertheless, 90% of its residents have already received the citizenship of the Lithuanian Republic.

ATTACKING A CLAY QUARRY

The Lithuanian Defense Ministry reports that the Russian paratroopers' division No. 7 conducted a shooting exercise on the territory of its firing grounds near Kaunas on Sept. 21 without informing the Defense Ministry Commandant's Headquarters beforehand. For unknown reasons, 1986-made dummy rockets fell outside the firing grounds, shelling the Rokai clay quarry. Sixteen missiles plunged into the open-cast working area, some of them sinking 2-3 meters into the ground. One rocket hit high-voltage electricity installations cutting off power transmission to the quarry and near-by construction sites and incurring heavy material damage.

NEW LICENSE PLATES

From Oct. 1, Lithuanian drivers started to receive international-standard car license plates which cost 2,600 rubles. All vehicle plates must be replaced by the end of 1995.

RUSSIA SUSPENDS EXIT

Russia said it was suspending withdrawal of some soldiers from the Baltic because it lacked proper housing for them and because of concerns for the rights of Russians living there. Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia won their independence and have made it clear Russian troops are not welcome. A Lithuanian official said this move was another

LITHUANIAN NEWS LINE (Cont'd)

example of Russia's breaking its word on troop withdrawal. Russia has said it's estimated 150,000 troops will be out of the Baltics by the end of 1994. However, Russia has stated its pullout would resume only after the signing of agreements that covered "rights of the Russian-speaking population in the states."

DEPORTED FOR WAR ROLE

The Justice Dept. advised that 72-year old Florida man has been deported to Lithuania for entering the United States illegally by hiding his wartime service in a Nazi-sponsored unit that killed civilians. It said Antanas Mineikis, a former motel owner who lived in Gulfport, FL had admitted taking part in Nazi-sponsored acts of persecution.

Mineikis, who arrived in Vilnius had been ordered deported by a U.S. Immigration Court. They said he was a member of the notorious 12th Lithuanian Auxiliary Police Service Battalion and that he admitted driving a truck that transported the victims, including women and children, to the killing sites.

IT AIN'T JUST STAMPS

Elvis stamps. New currency for Estonia and Lithuania. Holograms for Visa cards and Food stamps. Manhattan based U.S. Banknote prints them all. The largest security printer in the United States and second biggest in the world, is counting on holography for future growth. In addition to Estonia's Kron, the company also prints the Lithuanian Litas. It is claimed that countries like Lithuania are looking to private companies because they don't have the printing equipment.

U.S. Banknote has printed certificates for the Central Moscow Stock Market Exchange and the Kazakhstan Stock Exchange. They anticipate doing some work in Yugoslavia, once fighting there ceases.

We understand some of our K of L members on the east coast presently work for this company.



48.5 Hours With Their Majesties

by Robertas Jankus

The recent visit of the Swedish royal couple - King Carl XVI Gustaf and Queen Silvia - to Lithuania brought the relations between the two countries to a culmination point. Besides having talks with Lithuanian parliamentary leader Vytautas Landsbergis and Prime Minister Alexander Abišala, and holding several news conferences, Their Majesties went on a sightseeing tour to Trakai and Kaunas. King Carl XVI Gustaf presented a check of one million Swedish kronas to Vilnius University. The royal couple visited Roman Catholic, Russian Orthodox and Lutheran churches in Vilnius.

Few people know that the royal visit to Lithuania could have been called off because of a radioactive leak at the Ignalina nuclear power plant. The Norwegian news agency reported that only after special consultations with Swedish nuclear energy specialists were held, it was decided to go

on with the visit. It was also announced during the royal stay in Vilnius that the Swedish Government had allotted the sum of 60 million kronas for improving the safety of the plant.

Sweden is providing Lithuania with great assistance, noted Vytautas Landsbergis. Among other things, he mentioned the construction of water purification system in Kaunas, financed by Sweden, the deliveries of agricultural equipment to private farmers and the Klaipėda-Kariskrona ferry project. This help amounts to hundreds of millions of Swedish kronas.

Sweden has supported the Baltic states in the demand to remove the Russian military forces from their soil. It is also concerned about the problem of neutralizing poisonous chemical substances sea-buried near the Lithuanian and Latvian borders.



LINKSMŲ KALĖDŲ ŠVENČIŲ IR LAIMINGŲ NAUJŲ METŲ!

VISIEMS LIETUVOS VYČIAMS

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL!

from
The Officers and Members of
NEW ENGLAND DISTRICT

C-1 - Brockton, MA

C-7 - Waterbury, CT

C-10 - Athol-Gardner, MA

C-17 - So. Boston, MA

C-26 - Worcester, MA

C-27 - Norwood, MA

C-30 - Westfield, MA

C-50 - New Haven, CT

C-78 - Lawrence, MA

C-103 - Providence, RI

C-116 Worcester, MA

C-135 Ansonia, CT

C-141 Bridgeport, CT

C-145 Holyoke, MA



Christian Children's Fund Assists Children and Families in Lithuania

When World II ended in Europe, Christian Children's Fund was on hand to provide food, shelter and medical assistance to the youngest victims of the conflict. Christian Children's Fund is once again providing assistance to children in Europe - this time in response to the Cold War.

Working with the Lithuanian Children's Fund, Christian Children's Fund became the first international child care agency to provide ongoing help to Lithuania's suffering children. Since May of this year, Christian Children's Fund has shipped over one million dollars worth of vaccines, medical supplies, food, clothing, books and toys to Central and Eastern Europe. In June, Christian Children's Fund shipped 1,300 pounds of mumps, measles and rubella virus vaccines to children's hospitals in the Baltic States.

In addition to providing material goods, the organization is taking an active role in helping to set up social service agencies that can function in a capitalist, democratic society. They will also provide training for child care workers. Dr. Paul McCleary, executive director of Christian Children's Fund, recently met with President Landsbergis to discuss in detail the needs of Lithuanian children and the opportunities for providing assistance.

According to McCleary, funnelling money into Eastern Europe would do more harm than good, exacerbating the staggering inflation in the region. "If we simply send money, that will only reinforce the inflation cycle," he said. "We can have a greater impact by working in direct partnership with existing groups in Lithuania and providing the supplies that they need to assist the children," said McCleary.

As the world's largest independent child care agency, Christian Children's Fund brings years of experience and expertise to Lithuania. As an international not-for-profit, nonsectarian agency, free of political associations, Christian Children's Fund provides education, medical care, food, clothing and shelter to children in over 40 countries.

The Christian Children's Fund is primarily supported by sponsorship dollars provided by people who want to help children develop into productive, self-sufficient citizens. The hall mark program of child sponsorship links and sustains sponsors in one-to-one relationships with children enrolled in Christian Children's Fund programs.

In bringing together people who genuinely care about helping those in need, a personal relationship between the

sponsor and child is ripe to develop. The child not only benefits from the services provided but from the knowledge that someone cares and from the encouragement received through sponsor correspondence.

It takes only \$21 a month to provide sponsorship to a needy child. Each sponsored child receives the assistance he or she needs including food, clothing, medical care and school supplies. Each sponsor receives a photograph of the sponsored child and details about the child's life, family and community.

Christian Children's Fund is deeply committed to the efficient and effective use of funds. To ensure that contributor's funds reach the children effectively and efficiently, we constantly examine and evaluate the work of our programs. Christian Children's Fund is committed to making sure that 80 cents or more out of every dollar contributed goes directly into benefits and services for children and their families.

Christian Children's Fund has made a commitment to the children of Lithuania, and we believe that sponsorship offers the most effective way to help. Currently there are 500 Lithuanian children waiting for sponsors. If you would like to sponsor a Lithuanian child or make a donation to assist children in need, call 1-800-776-6767. For more information contact: Nancy J. Hein, Manager Volunteers, Christian Children's Fund, 2821 Emerywood Parkway, P.O. Box 26484, Richmond, VA 23261-6484.

KALĖDŲ KRISTUI

*Kalėdų Kūdikėli,
Dangaus žvaigždė skaisti,
Užgimk juodam pasauly,
Užgimk žmogaus širdy.*



*Kalėdų Kūdikėli
Ant ėdžių svetimų,
Ir mes toli nuo savo
Tėvynės ir namų.*

*Gal tau tenai užgimus
Tik šaltas vėjas siaus,
Ir vilkas staugis atėjęs
Iš miško, iš tamsaus . . .*



*Gal piemenėliai naktį
Pasveikint negalės,
Kalėdų šventą rytą
Visi varpai tylės . . .*

Lithuanian Kitchen

— Lietuviška Virtuvė

SARDINE SPREAD

1 can sardines, drained	1 Tbsp. mayonnaise
1 - 3 oz. pkg. cream, softened	1 tsp. grated onion
1 Tbsp. vinegar	salt, pepper to taste

Mix all ingredients and chill in serving bowl. Serve with thin slices of Lithuanian bread.

BEET & CABBAGE SALAD

1-1/2 cups chopped cooked beets	3 apples, cored and chopped
3 - 6 cups finely shredded cabbage (can be red)	2 - 3 Tbsp. lemon juice or cider vinegar
Sugar, salt to taste	

In large bowl, combine apples, beets, cabbage. Sprinkle with lemon juice. Add sugar, salt to taste. Toss until well blended. Serve chilled.

VEGETABLE SALAD

2 - 3 hard boiled eggs, chopped	1 Tbsp. onion, chopped
6 large potatoes, cooked, peeled, chopped	salt, pepper to taste
1 cup peas, cooked	Mayonnais, 1/2 cup or more if needed
1 cup carrots, chopped, cooked	Chopped parsley

Place all vegetables into mixing bowl and season to taste. Add sufficient mayonnaise to bind all vegetables. (If needed, thin mixture with 1 or 2 Tbsp. milk). Mix well. Place into serving bowl and chill. Garnish with parsley.

BAKED FISH IN SOUR CREAM

3 lbs. fish filets	1 bay leaf
1/2 tsp. salt	1 cup sour cream
1/8 tsp. pepper	1 Tbsp. chopped parsley
3 onions, thinly sliced, separated into rings.	

Place fish in buttered flat baking dish. Sprinkle with seasonings; cover fish with onion rings; spoon sour cream over onions. Bake uncovered at 350° until fish flakes easily. Baste fish with cream. Garnish with parsley. Serve from baking dish.

BAKED CHICKEN WITH TOMATOES

8-10 pieces chicken, or as desired	2 Tbsp. flour
1 clove garlic	2 cups canned tomatoes
salt, pepper to taste	1 cup sour cream
1/2 cup sliced onions	

Brown chicken in saute pan and place into baking pan. Add onions and garlic into browning pan and cook until golden; blend in flour and then add tomatoes. Heat until boiling; remove from heat and blend in sour cream, stirring well. Pour sauce over browned chicken. Cover and bake in 350° oven until chicken is fork tender, about 45 mins.

APPLE CAKE

4 apples, peeled, sliced	1 stick margarine, (melted, cooled)
4 eggs, separated	1 tsp. vanilla
3/4 cup sugar	1 tsp. baking soda
1 cup flour	

Place yolks into bowl and beat well; add sugar slowly and beat until eggs are lemon colored. Add cooled margarine, baking soda, flour and mix until blended. Beat egg whites until they hold their shape and add to the batter.

Butter a 9 x 12 in. baking pan; add sliced apples. Pour batter over apples; bake at 350° for 35 mins. or until done.

ŽEMAITIŠKAS KRUPNIKAS

200 g. medaus, 200 g. cukraus, šaukštelis cinamono, stiklinė vandens, imbiero, muškato riešuto, rožių žiedų, rūtų šakelių, kadagio uogų, gvazdikėlių, 2l. stiprios degtinės.

Medų, cukrų, vandenį ir nurodytus prieskonius virti 10 min. Po to nukelti nuo ugnies, supilti degtinę, indą uždengti ir dar pakaitinti, bet neužvirinti.

Krupniką apie 8 val. palaikyti šaltai, paskui perkošti pro tankią medžiagą, supilti į butelius ir pastatyti šaltai.

from Žemaičių Valgiai by J. Uginčienė



LETTERS

MASS STIPENDS

St. Casimir Guild has now obtained Mass cards from the Lithuanian Pontifical College in Rome. The Mass stipend is \$10. If your council wishes to have some of these cards on hand, please write to me and I will send them to you. We will assign someone in each District to handle these cards. Payment and the name of the deceased will be sent to the St. Casimir Guild. These will be forwarded to Rome each month along with the funds for the Masses. If anyone has questions, please contact me.

*Anne Klizas Wargo, Pres.
St. Casimir Guild*

TEACHERS OF ENGLISH AND GERMAN NEEDED

The College of Languages at Klaipeda Teacher Training College is requesting assistance to fill several new positions. Compensation includes salary and quarters. The College prepares teachers for primary and nursery schools as well as teachers of English and German. We need your help. For additional information, please write to me and I will be happy to supply further information - Dr. Joanna Lileikiene, Director of The College of Languages, Klaipeda Teacher Training College, Darius IR, Gineno 8, Klaipeda 5018, Lithuania.

THANK YOU

I have received the notice that during convention in Allentown \$2,500 was collected for the St. Casimir Guild and a donation of another \$2,000 to the college from the proceeds of the convention. In the name of all of us, superiors and students, I wish to express our deepest Lithuanian and Vytiška Ačiū to each and everyone who in any way contributed to the above donations. They are important to us also as spiritual and moral support and expression of solidarity. Our youngsters from Lithuania, witnessing not only your generosity, but especially your concern and good heart, feel accepted into a much larger Lithuanian family. God knows, maybe some day, one of them will work in your Diocese in the future and be one of our priests.

God bless each and everyone of you for everything, especially for your good hearts.

*Msgr. Al Bartkus, Rector
Pontifical College in Rome*

VACATION IN SUNNY FLORIDA.

Room and bath, air condition, pool, breakfast - \$200 per week. Without breakfast \$150. Near shopping malls and beach. A. Zupko, 5886 Guest Court, North Fort Myers, FL 33903. Tel. (813) 656-5886.

Three Views

Reputation: How others see us.

Delusion: How we see ourselves.

Reality: What we're actually like.

If "it's so good to be back home" after a trip, why go away in the first place?

In Sympathy

VICTORIA WASHUNAS
C-136 Hudson-Mohawk, NY
† May 24, 1992

MILDRED LAPINSKAS
C-26 Worcester, MA
† September 22, 1992

ELENA STEMPUZIS
C-25 Cleveland, OH
† October 18, 1992

PATRICIA BANDZA
C-79 Southfield, MI
† October 19, 1992

JOHN MORGALIS
C-144 Anthracite, PA
† October 26, 1992

ANDREW SKARNUS
C-25 Cleveland, OH
† October 27, 1992

EUGENIA KARPUS
C-41 Brooklyn, NY
† November 5, 1992

Mid-Atlantic District

Linksmų Šv. Kalėdų ir Laimingų Naujų Metų



- Spiritual Advisor Rev. Msgr. Frank Bulovas
- President Bernice Aviza
- 1st Vice President Edward Senken
- 2nd Vice President Christine Tambasco
- Secretary Jeanne Janonis
- Treasurer Josephine Zukas
- Trustees Frances Jakatt, Joseph Stelmokas, Ann O'Neill

LINKIMĖ VISIEMS VYČIAMS

**LINKSMŲ ŠVENTŲ KALĖDŲ
IR
LAIMINGŲ NAUJŲJŲ METŲ!**



WE WISH YOU ALL A

MERRY CHRISTMAS

AND A

HAPPY AND HEALTHY NEW YEAR

COUNCIL 103 - PROVIDENCE, RI

'SVEIKAS JĖZAU GIMUSIS'

Sing out loud and clear

**A BLESSED CHRISTMAS TO ALL
and
A HAPPY AND HEALTHY NEW YEAR**



COUNCIL 74 - SCRANTON, PA

TO ALL THE KNIGHTS OF LITHUANIA

**WE WISH YOU THE BLESSINGS OF PEACE AND HAPPINESS
AT CHRISTMAS TIME AND ALWAYS.**

A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR!

COUNCIL 3 - PHILADELPHIA, PA



A Joyous and Blessed Christmas

and a

Prosperous and Healthy New Year



from
Officers and Members of
Council 17
South Boston, MA

As the birth of the Christ Child lights the way to a New Year, may our thoughts and actions be centered on serving "Dievui ir Tėvynėi"

The Scholarship Committee thank you for lighting the way to the future of our Knights of Lithuania youth through your donations to the Scholarship Committee.

William Piacentini, Jr., *Chair*..... John Gozjack
Clemencine Miller, *Secretary/Treasurer*..... Maria Deksnis
Dorothy Banos..... Irene Gecas
Paul Binkis, Jr..... Barbara Mickunas
Edward Senken



Linkime Visiems Vyčiams

Linksmų Šv. Kalėdų

ir

Laimingų Naujųjų Metų

A MERRY CHRISTMAS
and a
HAPPY NEW YEAR



from Council 118 - Hazleton, PA

MIELI VYČIAI, VYTĖS IR VYČIUKAI:

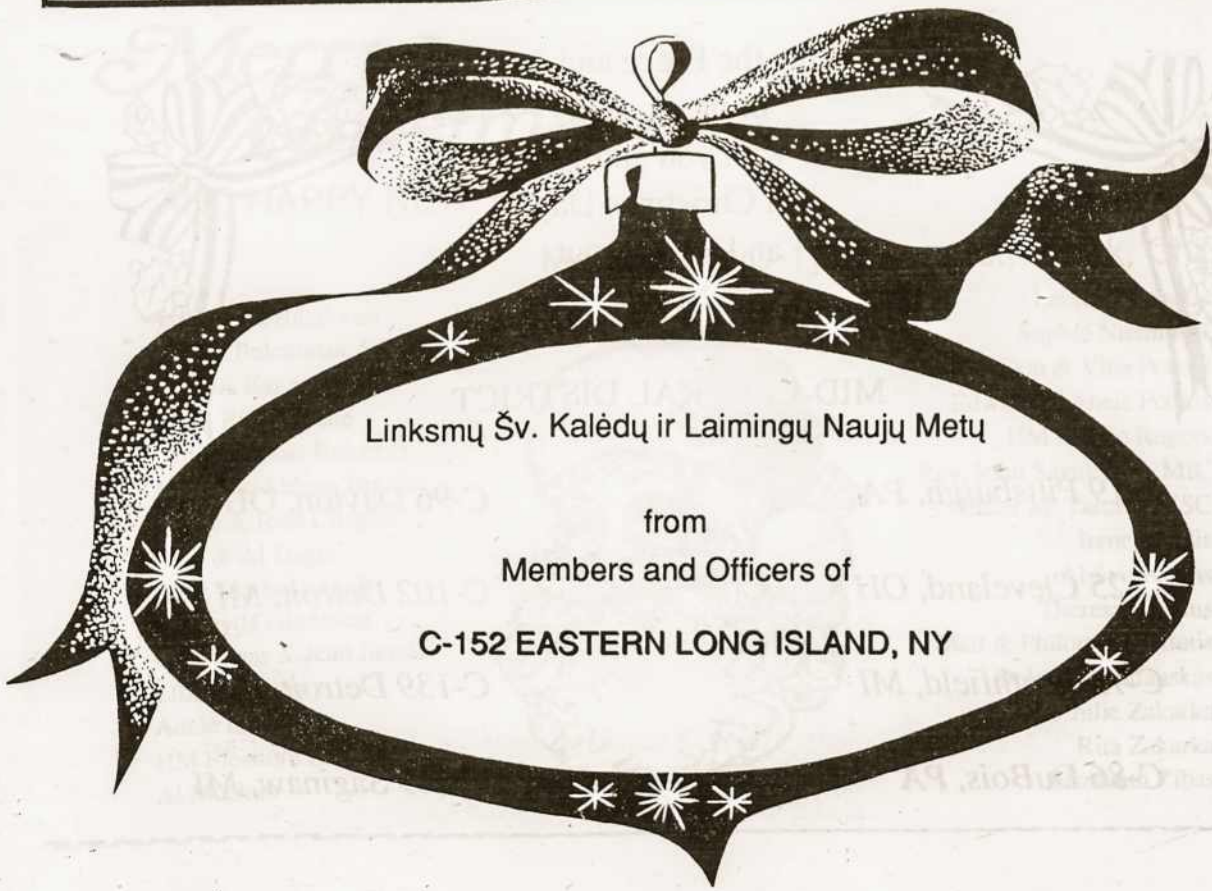
Lietuvių Švento Kazimiero Kolegija (Jūsų Adopted "Godson"), Vadovybė ir Studentai iš Lietuvos, nuoširdžiai dėkokami visiems savo geradariams "God-parents" Vyčiams, Kuopoms ir privatiems nariams už visokeriopą paramą sveikina su Šventom Kalėdom ir linki gausios Dievo palaimos, ilgiausių, laimingų ir darbingų metų žengiant į garbingus 80-sius savo egzistencijos metus!

Prel. Algimantas A. Bartkus, Rektorius



MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW - 80th - YEAR!

P.S. A very special Lithuanian and "Vytiška" thanks to St. Casimir's Guild past and present committee members.



Brangūs Vyčiai

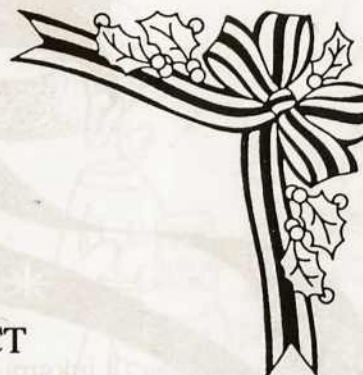
Linksmų šventų Kalėdų ir Laimingų NaujųjųMetų!

**Officer, Members and Juniors
of**

HUDSON-MOHAWK C-136



**May the Peace and Joy
of the Season
be with you and yours
on Christmas Day
and throughout
The New Year**



MID-CENTRAL DISTRICT

C-19 Pittsburgh, PA

C-96 Dayton, OH

C-25 Cleveland, OH

C-102 Detroit, MI

C-79 Southfield, MI

C-139 Detroit, MI

C-86 DuBois, PA

C-149 Saginaw, MI



Tegul Dievas kuris taiklai išvadavo mūsų Lietuva iš vergijos, palengvina Jūsų gyvenimą, tepripildo Jūsų širdis ramybės, grožio ir meilės! Gerų linksmų taikių Šventų Kalėdų ir laimingų Naujų Metų.

May God who peacefully liberated our Lithuania from slavery, ease your life's cares and fill your heart with peace, beauty and love
May the Holy Spirit inspire in you a great desire to help those who are living in freedom but still are facing some difficult years of re-birth.

A Happy and peaceful Christmas and a prosperous New Year!

C-1 BROCKTON, MA

Merry Christmas

AND HAPPY NEW YEAR

from

Members of C-112, Marquette Park, Chicago

Apolinaras Bagdonas
Angela Balchunas, SSC
Andrius Baltrusaitis
Lydia Barneskiene
Carl & Sophie Beinoras
Algerd & Aldona Brazis
Gerrie & John Chaplin
Ruth & Al Dagus
Ed & Maria Deksnis
Grozyda Giedraitis
Gediminas & Jean Janula
Ellie Kasputis
Adele Latonas
HM Eleanore H. Laurin
Al Mockus



Leonas Narbutis
Sophie Nieminski
Don & Vina Petkus
Edward & Anele Pocius
HM Estelle Rogers
Rev. John Savukynas, MIC
Sister M. Tarcisia, SSC
Irene Skudis
Al Svirmickas
Theresa Vaitkus
Matt & Philomena Vilitis
Dolores Wainauskas
Julie Zakarka
Rita Zakarka
Elizabeth Zibas

Council News

Vyčiai Veikia

AMBER DISTRICT

Amber District meeting was held on Oct. 18 with C-74 Scranton serving as hosts. Delegates attended the 10:30 a.m. Mass in St. Joseph's Church and immediately after enjoyed a delicious luncheon in the church hall. The highlights of the meeting included in-depth reports of the National Convention presented by our delegates, Eleanor Vaicaitis & Agnes Mickunas. Elections were held and the results for 1992-93 are as follows: Spiritual Advisor, Rev. Peter Alisauskas; Pres., Elsie Kosmisky; V.P., Dorothy Banos; Rec. Sec., Anna Helen McDonald; Treas., Eleanor Vaicaitis; Trustees, Charles Yuscavage & Nellie Romanas; Cultural, John Mankus; Lith. Affairs, Leonard Kapochus; Pub. Relations, Tom McDonald; Ritual, Chair Helen Chesko, 2 yrs. Dianne Drumstas; 3 yrs. Anne Challan; Lith. Medical Aid Liaison, Anna Helen McDonald; Vytis Corres., Agnes Mickunas.

Amber District congratulates and thanks John Mickunas for all the fervor, enthusiasm and hard work he put into three year tenure as District president. He always had the well being of the District delegates and members at heart and did his very best to serve his District well. Our sincere congratulations to Elsie Kosmisky and the new Board. We know that the District will continue to thrive under their leadership.

Our thanks to Rev. M. Jarasunas who served as Spiritual Advisor since the District's inception. We are grateful for the support he has given the District. We welcome Fr. Alisauskas as Spiritual Advisor. We know that he will guide us well.

A thousand "Valios" to Anne Wargo and all the members of C-144 Anthracite who hosted the National Convention in Allentown. We all appreciate the effort that was put into making this a super convention.

The next District meeting will be held on March 14 in Shenandoah, PA. This will be the District's annual St. Casimir Day celebration.

The holidays are fast approaching. We wish everybody had a Happy Thanksgiving and hope all the Knights everywhere have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. We thank God for all the blessings He has given us and we thank Him also for all the friendships He has given us through the Knights of Lithuania.

Agnes Mickunas



NEW ENGLAND DISTRICT

The New England District wishes to thank councils, members and friends for their support and help in making the Cultural Festival a social and financial success. We are especially grateful to the following people for their generous donations: Straw Painting, Aldona Saimininkas; \$100 NED; \$100, Anne Miller, C-116; \$50, Veronica Bizinkauskas IMO of husband Peter, C-1; \$25, Lawrence C-78; Painting, L. Davidonis, C-10; Pair of Lithuanian Dolls, Westfield C-30; Box of Lithuanian Christmas ornaments, Howard Beaudette, C-10. Winners were as follows: Straw painting won by HM Rita Pinkus; Anne Kyllis; Anne Gailunas; Corky Sabonis; Ruth Sarafinas; Rev. Janiunas won several prizes.

The Festival was well attended. We were able to give two scholarships to the following: Jennifer Laukaitis-Vazques, Bridgeport C-141 and Linda March, Worcester C-116.

C-30 of Westfield, MA made 250 lbs. of Lithuanian dešra which was enjoyed by all partaking of the lunch-



NED Cultural Festival Dešrių Makers: Jim & Marcia Rogers, Helen Alexik, Westfield; Victor Mathieu, Providence; Ben Coach, Westfield; Bill Leseman, Worcester, Jim Kules, Westfield & Andy Akstin, So. Worcester

eon. There were also many interesting tables set up along the wall wherein Lithuanian artifacts, Olympic shirts, Christmas ornaments and the like were either sold or raffled off. The overwhelming crowd enjoyed every bit of the festivities. We look forward to a very successful Festival next year.

*Blanche Genaitis, Chair
Scholarship Committee*

C-3 PHILADELPHIA, PA

At its Oct. meeting, C-3 elected the following members to be its leaders during the coming year: Pres., Victor Stepalovitch; Vice Pres., Marge Petronis; Treas., Walt Svekla; Fin. Sec., Alice Bacon; Rec. Sec., Aušra Maknys; Trustee, Dorothy Machonis; Ritual, Lillian Greymas; Cultural, Julie Kowrak; Lith. Affairs, Leonard Kapochus; Sunshine, Nellie Pandza; Vytis Corres., Irene Svekla. Many thanks to the outgoing officers for a job well done and good luck to the new board.

Julie Kowrak & Victor Stepalovitch represented Lithuania and C-3 in the Ethnic Procession at the Catholic Charities, USA Liturgy held on

Oct. 10 at the Cathedral Basilica of Sts. Peter & Paul. In addition to Lithuania, 41 other countries were represented.

C-3 made a \$100 donation to Deborah Hospital to help the hospital cover expenses as its medical team traveled to Lithuania Our members are again supporting the Amber District Annual Raffle by buying and selling raffle tickets. Winners will be picked at the District St. Casimir's Day Commemoration on March 14, 1993.

St. Casimir's Parish opened a year-long celebration of its 100th Anniversary on Oct. 3. The festivities began with a liturgy and the unfurling of a banner. A social followed with the serving of a delicious Lithuanian buffet and wonderful music for dancing A good number of C-3 members participated in the 90th Anniversary celebration of St. George's Parish. Attending the liturgy and banquet were Lillian Greymas, Irene Ozalis, Aušra Maknys, Victor Stepalovitch, Julie Kowrak, Phillip Bomblauskas, Walt & Irene Svekla and John & Agnes

Mickunas. Ed Antanaitis from Los Angeles was here for the occasion. Ed is Julie Kowrak's brother and he grew up in the parish. The celebrant of the liturgy was the Most Rev. Bishop P. Baltakis. The pastor of St. George's is our very own Fr. Joe Anderlonis, National Spiritual Advisor of the K of L. During the program, Fr. Joe presented a \$200 check to Victor Stepalovitch, Pres. of C-3, to acknowledge the council's work in the cause of Lithuanian heritage in the Philadelphia area. Širdingai ačiū, Father Joe.

The date for the 8th annual Kučios is Dec. 12 at St. George's Parish Hall Best wishes to all of our K of L friends for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. *Irene Svekla*

C-10 ATHOL-GARDNER, MA

Our council sponsored a highly successful Lithuanian-style supper on Oct. 24 following the 5:30 p.m. Mass at St. Francis Church, Athol. The hall was filled to capacity and at pre-war ticket price of \$6.00, we were able to raise \$1,000 that benefits the current building fund. Chairs were: Food, Bill & Brone Wisniauskas; ticket, Nellie Melaika & Natalie Brighenti; Chinese auction, Kathryn Paliulis; set up, Bob Paliulis; clean up, Lennie Davidonis & Dave Lucas. The entire council did a super job in all the chores. People are waiting for an encore. Ačiū labai visiems.

Our council members were among the hundreds that attended the NED Festival held at Maironis Park on Oct. 18. Bill & Brone Wisniauskas had a table of artifacts and Blanche Genaitis was chair for the district raffle that netted \$1,300 to benefit the District's scholarship fund It was a pleasure and a surprise to meet our VYTIS Editor, Mary Kober, and husband Anthony at the affair.



C-3 members attending St. George's 90th anniversary celebration: Lillian Greymas, Irene Svekla, Edward Antanaitis (C-133), Julie Kowrak, Bishop Baltakis, Walter Svekla, Agnes & John Mickunas, Victor Stepolavitch, Irene Ozalis.

Joanne Chastney spent some time in California visiting with family Condolences are extended to the family of Millie Lapinskas of C-26 Worcester Mickey Lapinskas March of Gardner, is now a Eucharistic Minister at Sacred Heart in Gardner.

"Vincukas"

C-26 WORCESTER, MA

Our Oct. meeting began with a pot luck supper. Sixty-seven gourmet chefs created a variety of delectables. Six members received their 1st degrees and 2nd degrees were awarded to: Victoria Augustine, Mary Anusauskas, Nel Mitchell & Ed Meilus, Jr. "Duodantieji yra linksmiausi žmonys šiame pasaulije." Fr. John spoke about elections in Lithuania from 1918-1940 and present day.

Our 1993 elected slate of officers are: Pres., HMRita Pinkus; V.P., Anne Leseman; Rec. Sec., Aldona Waska; Rituals/Fin. Sec., Marion Racicot; Treas., Steve Walinsky, Jr.; Auditor, Bill Leseman; Sgt. at Arms, Charles Kulakusky; PR, Virginia Cummings; Lith. Affairs & Culture, Ed Meilus, Jr.; Spir. Advisor, Rev. John Petrauskas.

Congratulations to the 46th Wedding Anniversary couples Anne & Bill Leseman and Anne & John Bender. Marion & Arthur Racicot also celebrated their 40th Best wishes to Lynn Walinsky upon her marriage to Michael Jalbert New grandparents Sharon & Louis Gouin share their blessings with Gerri & Ed Paliliunas, the great grandparents Dwight & Virginia Cummings are also proud grandparents Speedy recovery to Walter Grimala Aldona Waska retired from G. F. Wright Steel after 24 years.

Many thanks to all C-26 workers at the NED Cultural Festival held in Worcester. It was nice to meet our

VYTIS Editor, Mary Kober and husband Anthony there Special thanks to C-30 Westfield for the dešrelės. We visited their church, St. Casimir's of Westfield. The church has a mosaic of Our Lady of Vilnius, and their priest, Fr. Hamilton (former Worcesterite) sang the Mass. His beautiful voice resounded with scents of incense.

Barb Pantos

C-29 NEWARK, NJ

Our very first meeting for this year was held on Sept. 13 at which time nominations for various positions were held. The rest of the meeting was largely devoted to making final preparations for our annual dinner & dance held Oct. 10. It was a grand affair; the church hall was filled and, due to the efforts of our chair Marie Guoba and her committee, nothing was spared in food, drink and dancing. Joe Thomas and his two accompanists kept things lively. Thank you Marie and your committee for all the long and hard work which resulted in a most beautiful evening. Honoring Mary Stonis & Ann O'Neill for their years in undertaking any job was a thrilling moment for all who attended the dinner. Ačiū labai to two fine ladies Bernie Skripata stepped down as our vice president after serving C-29 for ten years. We thank him very kindly Harold Kaminskas is our new vice president. Congratulations from us all; I know we elected a good man. Joe Russell is our new Lithuanian Affairs person and gave us a run down as to what was going on in Lithuania Ann O'Neill is the new Mid-Atlantic Trustee. Good luck, Ann Amelia Sadonis is head of our cultural affairs and gave a report on the Amber stone found in the Baltic Sea which is so much used for various jewelry so beloved by Lithuanians.

Our highway cross was painted

by our lifetime member Vaclovas Kuikys and his grandson. Ačiū labai Loretta Stukas went to Lithuania with the Deborah Hospital medical group of NJ to see how many seriously ill children they could help Our Christmas Party will be held on Dec. 27 and is a reminder for all to bring in foodstuffs to be donated to St. John's Church as has been done in the past Our Chinese Auction was held on Nov. 15 chaired by Margie Brazaitis.

Mary Cullen

C-36 CHICAGO, IL

At our May meeting we were honored to have Rev. Paul Miskejunas from Lithuania. He gave a very nice talk and we were happy to have him with us. Our Juniors had their traditional annual May Crowning at Immaculate Conception Church. May devotion prayers were said and songs were sung. Many C-36 members also joined in the services Many Juniors and K of L Choir members participated in the Dance Festival which was held at the Rosemont Theater Many members have gone to Lithuania for a visit. They have so many beautiful memories. At one of our meetings in the future, we will have some highlights of their trips. Everyone who visited our homeland, get your thoughts together and get ready for an evening of remembering your Lithuanian trip.

At our first meeting of the new season on Sept. 21, we resumed council activity. We are proud of our delegates who went to the 79th convention in Allentown, PA: Evelyn Ozelis, Ann Marie Kassel, Theresa & Faustas Strolija, Joan Cius, Sabina Henson and our Juniors Christine, Allen, Mary & Anna Marie Cius. We congratulate Evelyn Ozelis for being elected 1st Vice Pres. and Ann Marie Kassel on the Ritual Committee. Evelyn Ozelis helped to Co-chair the sessions, Anna Marie

Kassel worked on the Mandate Committee, Theresa Strolia, Resolutions Committee and Faustas Strolia who played the piano for Mass and at the Cultural evening. Faustas Strolia received the 4th Degree. Christine Cuis, our Junior, received a \$750 scholarship.

Anna Marie Kassel presented the 1st degree to the worthy members: Eva Otrós, Carol Jacob, Stase Kaslas & Al Zukas. Helping with the beautiful services was Theresa Strolia & Sophia Zukas. Ann Marie led us all with the singing of the Vyčių hymnas after the ceremony, while Faustas Strolia played the piano. After mutual congratulations, we proceeded with the meeting ending with coffee and cake.

Our prayers go out to all of our sick members We ask all members to please make it a point to attend meetings. You are all so important to us!

Sabina

C-46 FOREST CITY, PA

We are still a "much alive" organization holding meetings once a month with a social hour concluding and everyone gets a chance to visit. Although Feb. 16 is a very cold, snowy day, flag raising ceremony is held after Mass. We gather outside and sing a few Lithuanian songs.

On March 1 we celebrated our St. Casimir's Mass. Members attended dressed in Lithuanian costumes. We participate in the carrying of the offertory gifts. We had a breakfast in one of the local restaurants with a lot of socializing Our council donated \$50 to the Scholarship Fund.

Our annual K of L July picnic arrangements were made by chairs Josephine Opeka & Alice Puntar. This is a covered dish affair. We always have more food than we can consume. The picnic was held at Kennedy Park

on a beautiful sunny day with a lot of fun and games enjoyed by all.

First degrees were installed on John Morris & Frances Yavorosky, while second degrees were installed on Josephine Marshall, Magdaline Robinson and Frank Cyzeski. At our Oct. meeting, following new officers were installed: Pres., Stasia Wallace; Vice Pres., Bea Stanis; Treas., Josephine Opeka; Sec., Frank Cyzeski, Ritual, John Morris; Sunshine, Amy Morris, VYTIS corres., Blanche Motsko; trustees, Albert Kuzakavich, John Gudaitis, Alice Puntar.

We extend our prayers and sympathy to the families of William Yavorosky, Anthony Yankauskas and Edward Yeskatalis who recently passed away. Edward was a trustee of our council for many years.

We thank our past president, Michael Yavorosky and all officers for a job well done during the past year. A special thanks to Frances Yavorosky who has been on our Ritual Committee for the past seventeen years.

Blanche Motsko

C-50 NEW HAVEN, CT

We have lost another good friend. Al Gedrim, who had to resign as our financial secretary, has lost his battle with cancer and is now free from the pain and suffering he had to endure these past months. We pray that he is at peace with the Lord and extend our condolences to Ann and her family. Al worked very hard to build up the membership in C-50. He always had a membership application handy to enroll a new member.

On a personal note - I have lost a long time friend. I shall cherish memories of shared family gatherings with Al and my dad leading the singing of Lithuanian songs. I can imagine them together in the hereafter singing, "Kai Aš Turėjau" - or perhaps Al and Frank

Peterson have organized a new K of L council in heaven. C-50 members are working hard in trying to fill the void left by Frank and Al who are greatly missed.

Our new slate of officers: Spiritual Advisor, Rev. Albert Karalis; Pres., Albert Gutauskas; 1st Vice Pres., William Bachinski; Rec. Sec., Audrey Toole; Fin. Sec., Mary Geipel; Treas., Anne Meskins; Ritual, Frank Antin; Sunshine, Eleanor Gutauskas; Sgt. at Arms, Alice Dekas & Anthony Kordosky; Lith. Affairs, Joseph Karmuza; Trustees, Joan Augustine, Charles Dekus, Helen Medley; VYTIS Corres., Audrey Toole; Publicity, Elizabeth Gybowski.

Several members were able to attend the New England District Cultural Festival at Maironis Park. They enjoyed the good food and companionship.

Audrey Toole

C-52 ELIZABETH, NJ

Rev. Alfred Zemeikis, pastor of Sts. Peter & Paul Church, Elizabeth agreed to continue as Spiritual Adviser of our council for 1992-93. HM Annie Matalavich was re-elected president; Anne Baronas, vice president; Annie Matalavich, rec. sec.; Frances Milewski, fin. sec.; Mary Mackelis, treas.; Ruth Brazinski, Social; William Senkus & Juliana Liana, VYTIS Corres.; Helen Karalis, bus trips.

Elizabeth council's annual St. Casimir Feast Day celebration will be held on Sunday, March 7, 1993 at 11 a.m. Mass in Sts. Peter & Paul Church. Following church services, luncheon will be served in the parish hall.

Treas. Mary Mackelis contacted various organizations asking each for a contribution to St. Francis Lithuanian Mission in Lithuania. A total of \$1,100 was collected and this sum was forwarded to St. Francis Convent in Pittsburgh, PA.

William Senkus

*WELL WISHERS EXTENDING
A JOYOUS HOLIDAY SEASON
TO ALL READERS OF VYTIS*

C-16 Chicago, IL

C-46 Forest City, PA

C-52 Elizabeth, NJ

C-133 Los Angeles, CA

C-135 Ansonia, CT

Amelia Budris, Boynton Beach, FL

Julia T. Burlen, Bowie, MD

Anthony & Mary Gelcius, Kearny, NJ

Olga Gray, Ansonia, CT

John M. Grenda-Lukas, Lawrence, MA

John & Dolores Jonaitis, Gulfport, FL

Patrick & Nancy Leddy, New York, NY

Jack Malis, Great Neck, NY

HM Annie Mitchell Matalavich, Elizabeth, NJ

George & Helen Mayer, Spring Hill, FL

Lee & Paul Moore, Clearfield, PA

Victor & Clemencine Miller, Trumbull, CT

Bernice Pingel, Aurora, CO

Brian Rutkunas, Bayville, NY

Jean & Bruno Rutkunas, Bayville, NY

William Senkus, Linden, NJ

Mary Beth Yanek, DuBois, PA

Jane Marie Zukas, Hastings-on-Hudson, NY



C-63 ALLENTOWN, PA

C-63 welcomed our five newest members, all of whom hail from our neighboring Garden State (New Jersey). They are John & Betty Griskus from Frenchtown, Joseph & Blanche Kohanski from Flemington and Helene Shaulis from Somerville. Helene also is related to our charter members, Jack Lushis and sister, Nellie McGary.

At our last meeting, Pres. Robert Klova introduced a guest of members Joe & Trudi Simmons, 20-yr. old

Gediminas Vaikasas who arrived in the U.S. in August as a pen pal and guest of a non-Lithuanian family residing near the Simmons. In order to finance his attendance at Vytautas the Great in his home town of Kaunas, Gediminas worked at a children's camp in the Poconos, teaching them photography and did numerous other odd jobs such as painting, yard work, etc. As our guest, he assisted Joe & Trudi and Jane Lutick in their dissertations about their recent trip to Lithuania. He

clarified some misconceptions about the present political situation in Lithuania and its economics. Gediminas is fluent in Russian, Polish, Italian and English and proved to be a very interesting and well informed individual. If Lithuania can produce such high calibre youth under today's trying conditions, she can be assured of a bright and prosperous future.

The Simmons planned their vacation to Lithuania to coincide with the return of Rimantas Sankauskas, the

fire chief of Panevežys who had been undergoing an 8-week training course as a guest of the Allentown fire department. Together with Jane Lutick, they provided council members with a most interesting account of their trip.

Our council picnic was held in the Latvian Grove in Spinnerstown, PA on Sept. 19. It began with hoisting the Lithuanian tri-color alongside Old Glory, a singing of the national anthems and then graduating to feasting on every imaginable dish the ladies had prepared. The facilities were great. There was an indoor kitchen with gas stoves and refrigerator just like home! After repeated trips to the desert table, the calories were burned off with people pitching horseshoes, shooting darts and playing croquet. Thanks to Evelyn Harryn and daughter, Denise, the campgrounds were decorated with Lithuanian tri-color streamers and balloons. About thirty members attended and the event was chaired by Vice Pres. Joseph Simmons.

In a wind-up of council's outdoor events for this summer, we operated our now famous blynai stand at Allentown's Super Sunday celebration on the 20th of Sept. Sales were terrific and thanks to Chair Evelyn Harryn and her dedicated crew. Council earned a tidy sum for our charities Dora Lushis & Valeria Smickle were appointed chairs to organize a flea market sale on Friday & Saturday, Oct. 23 & 24 in St. Michael's Church Hall in Easton, PA. They made last year's sale a success and are looking forward to a repeat performance.

Council approved donations of \$1,000 to Lithuanian Catholic Religious Aid, \$400 to St. Casimir Pontifical College, \$100 to the Scholarship Fund and \$60 for an ad in the Christmas issue of VYTIS. Donations to Deborah Children's Hospital and

toward the upkeep of the Lithuanian Embassy, among others, will be considered at future meetings.

Member Sue Kovacs was hospitalized in Muhlenburg Hospital Center in Bethlehem during the last week in July. She has since been transferred to Good Shepherd Home in Allentown. We pray for her recovery.

C-74 SCRANTON, PA

Members from C-74 and 143 Pittston hosted our 13th annual Lithuanian Rosary. We had a wonderful turnout. Under the guidance of culinary chair Jean Kavelinas, the food was both delicious and plentiful. Many wonderful prizes were won by our members and friends.

Pennsylvania State Police Michael Huffstetler, member of C-74, was recently featured in local press articles on a new campaign by State and local police departments aimed at promoting the use of seat belts.

Marie Laske

C-100 AMSTERDAM, NY

Greetings from C-100. We give you a fast review of our meetings during the past few months. Pres. Irene Tice was back from Florida and she presided over the April meeting. Ritual chairlady Elizabeth Kuzmich chaired the St. Casimir's Day luncheon. She presented her report and thanked her committee consisting of Judy Kastreveckas & Helen Wojcik. Vice Pres. Gene Gobis chaired the May meeting as our president, Irene Tice, underwent surgery. Sec. Beatrice Jasewicz read the minutes. Mirga Bablin, Cultural chair and Polly Ziausys, Lithuanian language chair, both gave us interesting facts. Back at the helm at our June meeting, was Irene Tice. Bill (Dubickas) Ossenfort, our newest member, was introduced. Billie was tutored by our late member Prof. Joseph Olsauskas. We've been very fortunate to have Billie play during our Lithuanian Mass prior to our meetings. Delegates for the 79th national convention were Betty Kuzmich,



C-100 Lithuanian Day at Shrine of Martyrs at Auriesville, NY - Gene Gobis, Billie Ossenfort, organist, Bernice Aviza & Betty Kuzmich.

Regina Kot, Polly Ziausys & Gene Gobis.

Lithuanian Day in Auriesville at the Shrine of the Martyrs was held on Aug. 30. Rev. Albert Contons from So. Boston, president of the Lithuanian Priests League was the celebrant and homilist with C-100 members Rev. Bernard Gustas and Rev. Joseph Grabys assisting. St. Casimir's choir, together with K of L members from Schenectady, sang under the direction of Billie Ossenfort. *Smile & Sparkle*



C-102 Detroit, Fr. Stan saying Mass at K of L meeting at Stark's home.

C-102 DETROIT, MI

Our July meeting was held at the home of Eve & Joe Aukstakalnis-Stark. Fr. Stan opened the meeting by celebrating Mass with Stark's granddaughter Michelle as altar girl. We appreciate Fr. Stan's retirement since he opens our meetings with Mass when held in private homes. Otherwise, our meetings are held after Mass celebrated by

Fr. Babonis at St. Anthony's.

Congratulations to the newly elected National Executive Board officers. Our delegates to the convention, Bunikis, Starks and Stanevich, all gave us interesting reports. After the meeting we enjoyed a corn and hot dog roast. The weather was beautiful

and so was the atmosphere.

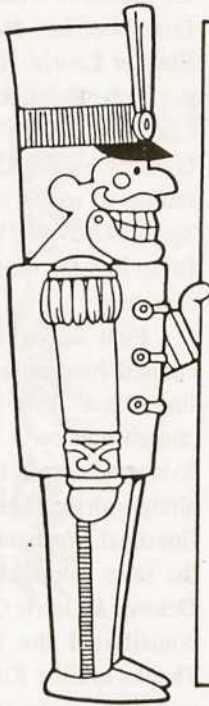
On Sept. 20, our council co-hosted a shower/reception for two Lithuanian Franciscan nuns who have volunteered to go to Lithuania for three years to serve the people of Lithuania. Sr. Michelle Garlauskas grew up in St. Anthony's Parish and is traveling with

ŠVENTŲ KALĖDŲ ŠVENTĖS TEATNEŠA MUMS TYRO
DŽIAUGSMO IR NAUJŲJŲ METŲ SEKMĖS DĖL PASAULIO RAMYBĖS,
YPAČ LIETUVAI

HAPPIEST OF HOLIDAYS TO ALL KNIGHTS
from

DETROIT C-102





LINKSMŲ ŠVENTŲ KALĖDŲ IR
LAIMINGŲ NAUJŲ METŲ

nuo Lietuvos Vyčių 72-tros kuopos

BINGHAMTON, NY

Ginkime kalbą, žemę, jos būdą!
Stokim i darbą, kaip milžinai!
Laimina Dievas sėjimą grūdą!
Laimina vaisių: gema šimtai!

Maironis

Sr. Dolorita to work with Caritas. Mrs. Kaunelis of the choir, introduced Sr. Michelle's parents and other guests of honor. A surprise attendee was Dr. Waring and his family from Ann Arbor, MI, National Pres. Fran Petkus presented Sisters with a check for \$2,000 from the National Convention to cover cost of their travel and to help with other needs. HM Bob Boris presented them with a check for \$500 from the K of L Foundation to purchase a washer and dryer. Both Sisters spoke on their backgrounds and their hopes for their future in Lithuania. Our little hall was standing room only and we were pleased to see the gifts they received. The choir provided many trays of lovely open-faced sandwiches in a wonderful variety. Our council contributed an outstanding array of desserts. Onyte Selenis together with Eve Aukstakalnis-Stark, saw to it that the

buffet was beautifully arranged. Our thanks to Ona Sadiakas for flowers and Regina Juska for doing a great job as donations chair. The men were not to be outdone. Mike Shay was very nimble carrying the coffee trays and Richard Straksys was invaluable in the clean up crew. Best of all, we had John Stanievich & Joe Aukstakalnis-Stark creating a festive mood with their music.

Congratulations to Maryanne & Joe Guerriero on the marriage of their son, Joe, Jr., who took Cathy Hoaft for his bride. Attending the wedding were David & Holly Peterson and daughter Chris from C-140 Syracuse Deepest sympathies are extended to our Florida member, Evelyn Barry, on the passing of her brother, Richard Domako. May his soul rest in peace.

May all of you enjoy the coming holidays.
Meriutė

C-110 MASPETH, NY

The fall MAD meeting was hosted by C-110. Many thanks to chairs Frances Migliore & Anthony Yakaitis and all their volunteers for a successful event. Congratulations to Mary Abbott & Ann Morrissey for being elected on the District's Executive board. Both of these members together with Helen Matulonis, Kazimieras Vainius, Helen Venis attended the reception given Pres. Landsbergis at the cultural center in Brooklyn.

At our Sept. meeting, the following officers were elected: Pres., Bruno Rutkunas; 1st Vice Pres., Iggy Wallis; 2nd Vice Pres., Peter Zuyus; 3rd Vice Pres., Joe Stelmokas; Rec. Sec., Helen Matulonis; Treas., Roman Wensek; Fin. Sec., William Budris; Ritual, Amy Girdauskas; Public Rel., Ann Morrissey; VYTIS Corres., Mary Abbott, Cultural, Alphonse Marcel; Trustees,

Helen Venis, Evelyn Walles; Lith. Affairs, Kazimieras Vainius; Sgt. of Arms, Fran Migliore, Helen & Tony Yakaitis; Archives, Ann Ackalitis. The following donations were approved: \$100 to the Annual Bishop's Appeal; a monetary gift to Transfiguration church for hall use; \$100 for shipping 88 lbs. of childrens clothes to an orphanage near Vilnius. Both Mary DiBaggio & Ann Morrissey volunteered to pack and ship the clothing via SAS airlines.

Our council is indebted to and we thank "Carls" Shoe Store in Maspeth for their donation of over 500 pairs of all types of shoes and sneakers during the last few months. Unfortunately, the store is going out of business. The LCRA made final shipping plans.

Olga Sinkewicz, Paul Morrissey & Madeline Dreitlein became eligible for their 1st degree. Beatrice Young & Genevieve Chrestian are now eligible for the 2nd degree ... Ed & Fran Jakatt showed slides taken during their recent visit to Lithuania ... Our annual Kučios celebration will be held on Dec. 20. Thanks to Fran & Ed Jakatt for accepting to chair this event and also to Genevieve Chrestian who volunteered to assist.

Our meeting was closed by Msgr. Frank Bulovas who led us in prayer for all deceased members and those recovering from illness: Emily Greiner, Helen Cummins, Anthony Slye and Helen Yakaitis.

The fall dinner-dance held on Oct. 25 was a joyous one. Over 200 guests enjoyed the food and drink while dancing to the music of Joe Thomas. Chairs Joe & Mary Stelmokas with help from Jim Greiner, Peter Zuyus, Jean & Brian Rutkunas, Ann Ackalitis, Roman Wensek, were all instrumental in the success of this affair. Also thanks to all who sold multiple

amount of tickets for this event.

Bruno Rutkunas

C-112 CHICAGO, IL

It was good to see everyone back at the first council meeting after a long, busy summer. After we held the election of officers, the outgoing board of directors hosted the after-meeting refreshments. The assortment of goodies was fantastic and absolutely delicious. They certainly outdid themselves. Thanks so much to all of you!

We are fortunate to have a number of officers returning for a second term, namely: Pres., Don Petkus; 1st Vice Pres., Al Mockus; 2nd Vice Pres., Ellie Kasputis; Rec. Sec., Theresa Vaitkus; Treas., Al Dagis; Fin. Sec., Mary Juzenas; Corres. Sec., Dolores Wainauskas; Trustee, Lorraine Svelnis; Sgts. at Arms, Peter Juzenas & Matt Vilutis. We welcome to the board for their first term 3rd Vice Pres., Denise Zakarka; Trustee, Leonas Norbutis, and Sgts. at Arms, Carl Beinoras & Edward Pocius. Also re-

turning for a second term are committee members Rita Zakarka, Lith Affairs; Leonas Norbutis, Cultural; Eleanor Laurin, Ritual; Aldona Brazis, Pub. Relations; Estelle Rogers, Courtesy; and VYTIS correspondent, Gerrie Chaplin. Canon Zakarauskas returns to us for another year as our Spiritual Advisor. We are deeply grateful to him for more than 30 years of service.

First activity of the year was a council fund-raiser entitled "Dumping Blast" held in Nativity BVM church hall on a Sunday afternoon. Everyone agreed that the dumplings, along with the kugelis, made for a very fine meal. We thank the ladies who ran the bake sale: Julie Zakarka, Maria Deksnis & Gerrie Chaplin and all who contributed the fine bake goods. Thanks to Ellie Kasputis for working so hard to make the raffle a success and to Al Mockus & Aldona Brazis for manning the refreshment stand. Terry Vaitkus contributed the beautiful flowers that adorned our tables and also



C-112 at National Convention: Aldona Kirstuk, Emily & Harry Petraitis, Ellie Kasputis, Dolores Wainauskas, Adella Zunas, HM Estelle Rogers & Aldona Brazis.

**Knights of Lithuania
LEHIGH VALLEY COUNCIL 63**



**Wishes everyone
A Blessed Christmas
and a
Happy New Year!**

**Linkime Visiems
Linksmų Šventų Kalėdų
ir
Laimingų Naujų Metų!**



made large trays of vegetables and dip to go along with the meal as well as baking cakes for the sale. She is one hard-working lady! Thank you, Don Petkus, for your help in arranging for the food, as well as for the many prizes you donated to the raffle. All-in-all, we worked hard, we had fun, and it was a success! It really was a blast!

Gerrie

C-133 LOS ANGELES, CA

Glasses of champagne were enjoyed as 57 members of our council celebrated receiving their first degrees at a meeting held on Feb. 15 at the home of Stase Bajalis in Hancock Park. The afternoon was truly special as this was the first time degrees had been presented to council members in over 25 years. The conferring of degrees was celebrated with spirits, singing and a fabulous luncheon of Lithuanian

foods.

Our council was honored to have Dr. Peter Zansitis, Mid-America District's designee, confer the cherished first degrees. Dr. Zansitis was also our guest speaker for the meeting wherein he related the highlights of his recent trip to Lithuania during world recognition of her freedom. Dr. Zansitis also honored our council by presenting the Offertory Gifts during the K of L Mass held on Feb. 9 at St. Casimir's Church. In appreciation for his numerous efforts, our council bestowed Dr. Zansitis with a honorary membership to our council.

In January, we celebrated Msgr. Algirdas Olsauskas, our spiritual advisor and pastor's (St. Casimir's) 40th anniversary in the priesthood. Our council members' participation was most instrumental in the success of the reception for our beloved pastor. We

are honored to have Sister Nijole Sadunaitė join our council. As you will recall, Sr. Sadunaite is the author of the book, "Radiance in the Gulag" and she also was a guest speaker at the K of L convention held in Pittsburgh in 1990.

On Feb. 19, over forty members celebrated Blynių Baliaus (Potato Pancake Ball). The celebration (similar to a Lithuanian Mardi Gras) is a yearly pre-Lenten event which celebrates our youth and features our very fine Lithuanian folk dancers and singers. On Palm Sunday, several members played an active role in a presentation of "The Seven Last Words of Christ".

On May 9, a meeting was held honoring Mother's Day at the home of Mary & Jack Bruzas in Sherman Oaks. Stase Bajalis was named "Mother of the Year". Our program included Julija Slapelis, Los Angeles foremost

national costume maker, who displayed her beautiful woven talents, national costumes and costumed dolls. She described the various parts of the national costume as well as the evolution of our national costume from every day wear to a place of respect to be worn as an honor and on special occasions.

Council members and attorneys, Robert Kerr & Joseph Sepikas, were active participants at the May, 1992 Lithuanian Attorney Convention in Lithuania. Several members of our council visited Lithuania this past summer. They returned with full of interesting stories and adventures Sixteen members danced with the Los Angeles Dance Troup "Spindulys" at the 9th Lithuanian Dance Festival held in Chicago on July 5, 1992 It is with great sadness that we announce the death of Julius Kiskis, a long time member and beloved past president of the Los Angeles Council.

Four members, Martha & Edward Antanaitis, Josephine Barzda & Maryte Sepikas attended the K of L convention in Allentown. All had a marvelous time. Everyone knows how



Peter Zansaitis, C-16 Chicago, guest at C-133 Los Angeles Ritual Degree ceremony.

much Martha and Ed love the convention as they are usually the first to lead the singing at all functions. Josephine was thrilled to attend her first convention and run into a few friends from her home town of Detroit.

Our council is continuing to raise money to help Lithuania in her rebuilding efforts. *Maryté Sepikas*

C-135 ANSONIA, CT

Now that summer is over, we can start planning some activities. We lost one of our members, Alphonse Barauskas on Aug. 5. He held the office of Ritual Chair for many terms and was a wonderful person and friend. He will be greatly missed. We also lost another member, John Ellis, who passed away in April.

Our president, Olga Gray, was re-elected for another term. She has done a wonderful job of running our council ... A Christmas party is being planned. Where does the time go? It seems we were just putting away our Christmas ornaments.

Bill Winkus is on our sick list. Our sympathy to him on the loss of his father this summer.

Until next time, God be with you!
Sophie Thomas

C-136 HUDSON-MOHAWK, NY

Our council mourns the loss of member Victoria Wachunas who died on May 24. Several members of the council attended and participated in the memorial services in her honor. She will be missed.

The last weekend of Sept. turned out to be a beautiful one for those members of C-100 and 136 who spent four days at Kennebunkport Retreat. Although some of us brought extra

blankets in anticipation of really cool nights, we didn't need them at all. The food was excellent and bountiful as ever and we walked, walked and enjoyed the exercise. We were treated to the wonderful sounds of the handsome young novices' songs and wished them well in their vocations. Fr. Joseph Grabys, pastor of St. Casimir's in Amsterdam and spiritual advisor to C-100, entertained us one evening after dinner by sharing many interesting tales of his childhood in Lithuania. We all agreed that the feeling of spiritual renewal, the ever-changing magnificence of the area, the beauty and serenity of the grounds and the quaintness of the village, drew us back every year. We look forward to next year, God willing.

Our first meeting in Oct. at St. Michael the Archangel Church Hall in Troy, resulted in the re-election of all officers for another year. Congratulations to all We participated in the annual festival of nations on Nov. 8 at Hudson Valley Community College. We had food and artifacts to sell We extend get well wishes to Frances Max, our member, and hope she heals from her surgery soon.

Our president, Ed Barkowski who wears two hats, currently also serving as National K of L treasurer, recently attended the National Executive Board meeting in Dayton, OH. He was accompanied by his brother-in-law, Sim Richmire. While in Ohio, they made a special side trip to Canton and visited the Football Hall of Fame and later in Dayton, the Wright-Patterson Air Force Base Museum. Both are avid football and aviation fans, so the museums were of great interest. Bernice Aviza, recently elected president of MAD, also attended the meeting. They all enjoyed the warm hospitality, good food and friendship offered by the host council.



C-100 & C-136 at combined outing: Walter Malkowicz, Helen Hugo, Sophie Malkowicz, Annacetta Guzielek, Mildred Whelley, Ann Radzevich & Jennie Kensell.

Merry Christmas to every one.

Dorothy Richmire

C-140 SYRACUSE, NY

A quick update on C-140 news for the past year. Our members from Niagara Falls, Mary & Chester Nowak celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. Congratulations and best wishes to two lovely people Our member from Lithuania, student Arunas Juska, has transferred to Michigan State University. He is working toward his doctorate and is doing very well. He writes that he misses all his friends in Syracuse.

We had a nice turnout for our Independence Day Mass and celebration. Mass was celebrated at St. Stephen's Church by Fr. Tom. Talks were given by John Stanley on the history of Lithuania, and by Raymond Tamoshunas on his visit to Lithuania and his feelings for Lithuania. Both talks were very informative. Refreshments were served by Cassie Stanley & Ruth Hare St. Casimir's Mass was celebrated at St. Stephen's by Fr. Tom. Afterwards, a short program and meeting were held in the

church hall Our newlywed members, Chris & Anita Fink, have moved to New Hampshire. Anita has accepted a teaching position at the University of New Hampshire. Good luck to both of you Treas. Jack Brandt and wife, Trustee Catherine, have been elected to high positions in the Seabee organization. Jack is Pres. of the retired New York State Sea-

bees and Catherine is First Vice Pres. of the Auxiliary. Congratulations to both of you and good luck. Their duties keep them away from some of our K of L meetings and we miss them.

May 3 was a sad day for C-140 members. One of our founding members, Jack Zutant, died on that day. Jack loved the K of L, he loved Lithuania and he loved all Lithuanian activity. He and wife Mary were deeply involved over the years. They were two hard working stalwarts of our council. He is missed. May God rest his soul Another sad day for our council was when we learned that Frank Peterson, a former member, died at the National Convention in July. Frank and Isabel joined our council in 1976, two years after we organized in 1974. A few years later, they re-organized C-50 New Haven and have been very active since. Frank, too, will be missed by all. May his soul rest in peace.

C-144 did a good job with the convention. Chair Anna Wargo and her hard working assistants are to be congratulated. Congratulations also to Frances Petkus and the new Supreme

Council for the coming year We were sorry to see Ray & Brenda Tamoshunas move to Princeton, NJ, but they are continuing their membership in C-140. Brenda is studying for her Masters Degree in music. Good luck to both of you! You were good workers for C-140 John & Joan Chace are the happy parents of a baby daughter, Jacklyn. Big sister Jessica is happy also. Proud grandparents are Frank & Irene Petrauskas Member Ann Petrauskas is studying nursing at SUNY Binghamton Joe & Della Marcaitis celebrated their Golden Wedding anniversary in October. They renewed their vows at Mass and afterwards their children put on a nice party. Congratulations to Joe & Della — good luck and good health.

Pusbrolis

C-144 ANTHRACITE, PA

Anna Helen McDonald assumed the presidency of our council at the Oct. meeting. Other officers, as proposed by the Nominating Committee Eva Yurkewicz, chair, and elected are: Helen Matunis, vic pres.; Anne Sikora, rec. sec.; Helen Chesko, fin. sec.; Anne Wargo, treas. Many thanks to Olympia Zelinski and her staff of officers and chairs for a wonderful year!

Anthracite council takes pride in announcing the installation of Elsie Kosmisky as president of the Amber District at the fall meeting hosted by C-74 Scranton. Anna Helen McDonald and Eleanor Vaicaitis are serving as secretary and treasurer, respectively. Thomas McDonald will cover publicity. Anna Helen McDonald & Evelyn Prep served on the mandate committee. Frances Rauba, Sister Angela & Victor Prep were delegates. Congratulations Elsie. Thank you, C-74, for your generous hospitality.

Members gathered at the home of

Anna Helen & Thomas McDonald to pack medical supplies and books donated by the doctors of the area for Lithuania. Bernard Zilaitis transported seven boxes for shipment via Chicago by the UPS at the expense of the council.

Anne Wargo & Helen Chesko attended the Supreme Council meeting hosted by Dayton C-96 and returned with pleasant memories of dinner at the Amber Rose, a visit to the Air Force Museum and Mass at Holy Cross Church Fr. Jarasunas, Joseph Martunas, Bernard Zilaitis & Anna Panchari recently returned from Lithuania with some good news and some not so good We were saddened by the death of John Morgalis of Minersville on Oct. 26. Fr. Jarasunas conducted the wake service which was well attended by members as well as the Mass of Christian Burial at St.

Francis of Assisi. Our most sincere sympathy is extended to his wife, Annie and his family. May he rest in peace!

Anthracite Council will host the Amber District St. Casimir's celebration on Sunday, March 14 in St. George Church, Shenandoah. *Elena*

C-146 HARRISBURG, PA

Our Sept. meeting was held in the back room of Lukes Family Restaurant in Mechanicsburg. After a delicious buffet dinner, the meeting was called to order by Pres. Lorraine Grabauskas. She told about the phone calls notifying our K of L that a woman and her disabled eight-year old son from Lithuania would be coming to the Hershey Medical Center. We later learned that the mother, Regina Skinkiene and her son, Aldis Skinkys, would be staying there while he underwent certain medical procedures and evalu-

ation and was fitted for a certain type of wheelchair. They will return to Lithuania for further treatment to aid the boy in communicating. Our council members expressed great interest and desire to help. Many hospital visits were made and, through the generous contribution of our members, we were able to help with some of their needs. Our Lithuanian-speaking Knights translated and interpreted, as required. Regina graciously thanked us for our help and understanding, promising to keep us informed regarding her son's progress.

Our best wishes to our fellow Knights for a Happy, Holy and Healthy Christmas and New Year. We hope the news from Lithuania continues to be good and that the Soviets and their troops will soon leave.

Helen Grabauskas



*Linksmų Šventų Kalėdų
ir
Laimingų Naujų Metų
from
Members of C-141 Bridgeport, CT*



Rev. Msgr. Francis J. Pranckus	Spiritual Advisor
Clemencine Miller	President
Sylvester Marcavage	1st Vice President
Joseph Janiunas	2nd Vice President
Pat Silk	Treasurer
Barbara Schmidt	Recording Secretary
Lee Marcinka	Financial Secretary
Peter Putrimas & Stephen Wilcinskas	Trustees
John Marcinka & Peter Peters	Sgts. at Arms

Linkime Visiems Vyčiams

Linksmų Šv. Kalėdų

ir

Laimingų Naujųjų Metų



Lietuvos Vyčių Apreiškimo Parapijos

Brooklyn, NY

41 kuopa ir jų dvasios vadas

Kun. Vytautas Palubinskas

Parapijos Klebonas

C-41 Brooklyn, NY

MERRY CHRISTMAS

and

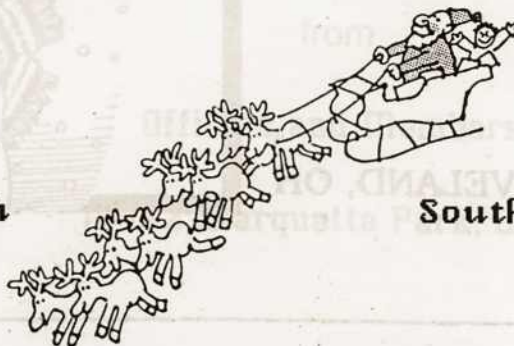
A HAPPY NEW YEAR

from the OFFICERS and MEMBERS of

COUNCIL 79

Divine Providence Church

Southfield, MI





Our Lady of Siluva Choir members at Opening Mass in Allentown at 79th National Convention.

C-150 KANSAS CITY, KS

Mary Lucas was the big winner at the second annual "Day at the Races" held Sept. 11 at Kansas City's Wood-

Jim & Anne Scherzer. We were also pleased to have Bernard & Judy Slevinskas attending.

Several members of the K of L

lands Race Track. A delicious buffet was enjoyed by all, including Mary and her guest, Ann Burdick, Rosemarie & Edward Gaydessa, Dorothy Purduski and son Mike, Rose & Bill Joyce with a party of four, Bob & Lou Ann Rayn with Dolly Cigich,

Choir participated in the Ethnic Mass at noon Sunday, Oct. 11, singing with the KCK Polka Mass Choir (representing many ethnic groups) which is directed by Ed Grisnik. They included Anita Strumillo, Marion Koia & Dave Tollefsen performing, as well as Lou Ann Rayn & Gail Varnum, assisting with rehearsals.

C-152 EASTERN LONG ISLAND, NY

On Oct. 10, as our contribution to the celebration of the 200th Anniversary of the Incorporation of the Town of Riverhead, some 20 of our Knights marched in a group along the town's Main Street. Carrying the Lithuanian flag at the head of the marching Knights was our young visitor from Lithuania, Zalvynis Karalis. A tip of our hat is due to our fellow Knight, Peter Dykovitz, for his efforts at placing our council among the participating groups

**PEACE ON EARTH
WITH GOOD WISHES
FOR THE HOLIDAYS
AND THE COMING YEAR.**

C-25 CLEVELAND, OH



Dykovitz, for his efforts at placing our council among the participating groups recognizing Riverhead's Bi-Centennial.

C-152 Christmas Party is scheduled for Dec. 13 at Miller Place Inn. Visiting Knights and their guests will be cordially welcomed.

Looking to the year ahead, our council has set May 23, 1993 as the date for a Pilgrimage at Our Lady of the Island Shrine in Eastport, NY. All who can do so are urged to set aside this date, so that they may join us in giving praise to God at this lovely 65-acre shrine operated by the Montfort Missionaries. *Tom Tarmey*

C-154 SPRING HILL, FL

Our concerns center on the results of the recent election in our beloved Republic of Lithuania. We feel sure that the whole world is studying the vote and the reason for the embracing

of the party that has Communist in its title. What happened to "Sajudas"? Are we missing a chapter that explains the rift in the Republic of Lithuania? Where is the "fight to death" to insure freedom? Only time can reveal the answers. Our concern, however, has reached a high level of disbelief and wonder. We do not wish to pontificate or dogmatize the situation. However, we are seeking help in understanding what is happening.

Our council wishes to go on record for initiating a resolution to recognize the vital role of Mary Kober, Editor of VYTIS in keeping the entire membership in the K of L organization united. The monthly journal keeps us in touch with all the councils. This is especially great for us who left councils all over the U.S. to live in Florida. We also find the selection of articles informative, instructive and interesting. They reflect a very sensitive, all

encompassing knowledge of what we need to know to fulfill our roles as proud American-Lithuanians.

Ed Laconis is the picture of health following open heart surgery. Anne Gribauskas is off the sick list. The Gnezevich's are back from the housewarming party for their grand children in Houston, TX. Then, it is on to Maryland for them as they act as bearers of the bread, salt and wine ritual at the wedding of a cousin. The Walluks are on their way to Binghamton to attend the wedding of Bridget's granddaughter, Sheila Skrebes. The Petraitis welcomed a new grandson, Benjamin Gregory.

Happy Birthday, Baby Jesus.

Sadye G. Petraitis



MERRY CHRISTMAS

from

Officers and Members of

C-112 Marquette Park, Chicago

KALĒDŪ GIESMĒS

GUL ŠIANDIENĀ

J. NAUJĀLIS

♩ = 72

Gul šian-die-nā jau ant šie - no At-pir-kē-jas žmo-ni-jos. Pie-me-nē-liai,
Šiam Ka-ra-liui vi-sa-ga-liui nēr vie-te-lēs tin-ka-mos.

pa-sku-bē-kit, do-va-nas Jam sa-vo dē-kit, kaip pa-sau-lio Vieš-pa-čiui.

2. I menkutj Jo staldutj
Ir mes draug skubēkime,
Tam Karaliui Visagaliui
Džiaugsmingai giedokime.
Savo širdis Jam aukokim;
Draug su angelais giedokim:
"Garbē Tau augštybēse!"

3. Kristau Pone, imk maloniai
Tu kiekvienu už rankos!
Prie ugninēs glausk krūtīnēs,
Duoki meilēs mums šventos!
Teikis gimi nūn mūmyse,
Vienas karaliauk širdyse,
Vesk j laimē amžinā.

CALENDAR of EVENTS

December 6, 1992 - MAMD Winter Meeting - All Saints/
St. Anthony Parish hosted by Chicago C-16.

December 13, 1992 - Great Neck C-109 Christmas Party,
Plattduetsche Park Restaurant, Franklin Square, NY
- 12 Noon - 4 p.m. - \$23.00 per person.

January 16, 1993 - MAMD Choir Dinner/Dance. Šaulai
Hall, 7:00 p.m.

February 7, 1993 - MAMD "Memories of Lithuania"
Banquet. Martinique Restaurant Grand Ballroom
North, 4:30 p.m.

February 28, 1993 - MAMD St. Casimir's Day Mass,
Luncheon, Meeting. St. Anthony's Church, Cicero,
IL. Hosts: C-14.

March 7, 1993 - C-52 Elizabeth, NJ Annual St. Casimir's
celebration, Sts. Peter & Paul Church, 11 a.m. Mass.

March 14, 1993 - Amber District meeting & St. Casimir's
Day celebration, Shenandoah, PA.

March 14, 1993 - MAD Meeting, Immaculate Conception
Center (Seminary), Douglaston, NY. Mass: 10:15
a.m.

April 25, 1993 - NED Spring meeting, Host C-102, Provi-
dence, RI.

May 14-16, 1993 - MCD convention and Bowling Tourna-
ment - Host: C-102 Detroit.

May 23, 1993 - Pilgrimage to Our Lady of Island Shrine,
Eastport, LI. Hosts: C-152 Eastern Long Island.

June 25-27, 1993 - NED annual Retreat - Franciscan
Monastery, Kennebunk, ME.

August 12 - 15, 1993 - 80th National Convention, Marriott
Hotel, Worcester, MA - hosted by C-26.



SVEIKAS, JĖZAU GIMUSIS

J. NAUJALIS

$\text{♩} = 76$

Svei-kas, Jė - zau gi - mu - sis, Šven-tas Die - vo Kū - di-ki!

Bran-gią die - ną švęs-da-mi Už-gi - mi - mo Vieš-pa-ties, links-min - ki - mės

ir džiau - ki-mės, Die - vui gar-bę duo-da - mi gie - do - ki - me!

2. Kanklėmis kankliuokime,
Sutartinę leiskime

3. Dangus mums jau artinas,
Žemėj žmonės linksminas.

CHORAS:

Brangią dieną švęsdami
Užgimimo Viešpaties
Linksminkimės ir džiauokimės
Dievui garbę duodami giedokimė!

KALĖDŲ GIESMĖ

Žodžiai Vytės Nemunėlio,
muz. J. Čiurlionytės

Bė - kim, bė - kim, pa - sku - bė - kim pas dan - gaus Vai - ke - li!
Do - va - nė - lių Jam pri - dė - kim pil - nu - tį lop - še - li.

Kad per nak - tį ne - su - šal - tų, kad ry - te - li linksmas kel - tų.

Pas lop - še - li at - si - klaup - kim, švar - ke - liu ap - gaub - ki - me.

1. Bėkim, bėkim, paskubėkim
Pas Dangaus Vaikelį.
Dovanėlių Jam pridėkim
Pilnutį lopšeli.
Kad per naktį nesusaltų,
Kad rytelį linksmas keltų,
Pas lopšeli atsiklaupkim,
Švarkeliu apgaubkim.
2. Bėkim, bėkim, paskubėkim
Pas dangaus vaikelį.
Dovanėlių Jam pridėkim
Pilnutį lopšeli.
Liūlia liūlia, kūdikėli,
Žaliam šieno patalėly,
Giesmeles giedokim,
Su rankutėm plokim.

325

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**LINKSMŲ KALĖDŲ IR
LAIMINGŲ NAUJŲ METŲ
VIENYBĖJE-GALYBĖ!**



**...ir skambink
per amžius
vaikams Lietuvos**

Knights of Lithuania

SUPREME COUNCIL