

VYTIS

KNIGHTS OF LITHUANIA

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Photo: Vadas Bacevicius



Happy Easter
Linksmų Velykų Švenčių

VYTIS

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EASTER

THE HOLIDAY of HOLIDAYS

Easter is the holiest of holidays. It is a symbol of hope that death is not the ultimate end, that after death follows the brightness of joy of the Resurrection. Let us recall how festivities were at one time, in Lithuania, in the past.

A Lithuanian MARDI GRAS introduced the Lenten season. Young people dressed in costumes representing various characters: Bacon-man (signifying that of plenty) dueling with the Gruel-man (the fast and diet symbol); also were on scene the skeleton, stork, goat and various other masked characters. People were frolicsome, full of gaiety, food abounding, and continuous dancing and singing. Then at the stroke of midnight, the festivities would abruptly come to a halt - now it was ASH WEDNESDAY. Heads were bowed, ashes fell on them. Purple colors predominant in churches.

The long weeks of the LENTEN season begun. In the old days austerity, especially among the village population of Lithuania, was strictly adhered to. This was a time of meditation and self-denial, weeks of spiritual preparation.

Easter drew closer. PALM SUNDAY arrived, heralding the coming of Easter Sunday. A humorous Palm Sunday custom was to go waking others, especially children, from the early morning sleep. The sleepy-head was waken with a traditional lashing meted out with a willow-branch to the accompanying chant: "It's the willow branch lashing, not me, it's the willow branch..."

Similar to that first Palm Sunday centuries ago, people from all over proceeded to church carrying sprays of juniper and willow. These sprays, after being blessed in church, were carried back home and placed in various parts of the house: the blessed greenery was to protect the home from all evil spirits, from lightening and fire hazard; also, used as incense, it was to be beneficial in case illness struck a member of the family.

The week before Easter the town and village population was enthusiastically preparing for the Feast Day, both spiritually and physically - Easter duty had to be done, homes would undergo thorough spring cleaning inside and out. Even though at this time of the year the weather in Lithuania is usually chilly, yet storm windows were re-

moved to allow more brightness into the home. Delightful nostalgic Easter odors were everywhere: floor wax, starched curtains, hyacinths starting to bloom, appetizing smells of food cooking.

THURSDAY before Easter the daily visits to the Altar of Repose in the churches began. On this day, until Easter morning, the bells ceased to toll and the hand bells of altar boys were replaced by wooden rattles. Holy Thursday was also the day to color the Easter eggs. With unbelievable precision and delicacy, the thick fingers of the farmer and his wife decorated the eggs with graceful twigs of the symbolic ruta (rue) and starlets and birds and so many other designs. There seemed to be no end to imagination and artistic inspiration. The favorite method was tracing designs with hot wax and then dipping the already hard-boiled eggs into dyes. Also scraping fine and intricate designs on the already colored egg is widely known. And what choice of natural colors! Perhaps commercial dyes are easier and more simple to use. Yet no store bought hue could equal the variety of home invented processes, such as the warm rust color derived from cooking the onion peel, or fine straw, using tree bark, metal rust and many others. All these methods were used by our ancestors who, it would seem, not only were artists but also true alchemists!

GOOD FRIDAY. Whoever had not done so already, hurried to visit the Altar of Repose, to give honor to our Lord in church. People listened solemnly and with enchantment to the sorrowful liturgies and Lenten hymns. The housewives were busy as beavers trying to catch up with their work and to finish all the chores. On this day the meat dishes were prepared, and how difficult it was to resist the temptation to try but one little morsel... But this would have spoiled the well kept long abstinence!

HOLY SATURDAY. People congregated in church where a traditional ceremony of water blessing took place, later to be carried back home. Another custom was the blessing of fire and getting it home. Usually the young men would follow through with this responsibility, arriving to church on horseback. In the churchyard a long-fire was lit and blessed. Dried *kempinés* (sponges) were placed around

the glowing embers; they would start smoldering, filling the air with a peculiar pleasing odor. Located not too far away was the wooden barrel filled with water already blessed by the priest. Bottles were dipped and filled with gurgling water; a smoldering *kempinė* arranged (often in an earthenware pot) to be safely carried home. Then the young fellows would race in an attempt to be first to reach home, where the women were anxiously waiting for the blessed fire with which to start the oven fire and now proceed with the important Easter baking. An attempt would be made to keep the *kempinė* smoldering until the week after Easter Sunday - symbolic of maintaining peace and welfare at home.

The farmers made provisions of choice fodder for animals as well, so that they, too, would feel the solemn occasion of the Easter Day.

Every member of the family had to visit the *pirtis* (a steam bath house). First men, because the initial hot steam was easier for them to endure. After that followed women and children. What pleasure it was to go to this *pirtis* with its delightful odor of birch twigs and fresh straw in the air.

And then - EASTER and RESURRECTION were here. In the country, celebration of the Resurrection began early at dawn, with sun rising. From distant villages people set out for this festive event in the night hours to make certain they reached church on time. The wagons and horses were spruced up. Everyone was decked out in their very best, everyone in a festive mood; wagon passing wagon, racing, trying to get to church first.

And finally - ALLELUIA! Church bells were ringing, the solemn and majestic procession went around the church three times with everyone participating. Fluttering banners, sometimes brass band, and all present joining in the touching hymn of "Alleluia". All of this would be a life long experience for many a person. After the service, friends met and embraced wishing one another a Happy Easter, then hurrying home. The festive Easter breakfast table was waiting. What a thing of beauty to behold! The snow white linen tablecloth was decorated with club moss (lycopodium) or lingonberry leaves. For a centerpiece there was the traditional pot of sprouting velvety green oats, and in the midst of it, a Lamb with a small red banner. Sometimes another lamb would be seen, more or less artistically sculptured out of butter. Dishes heaped with multi-colored Easter eggs hypnotized one with their beauty - how could one dare to peal and eat them? But this was part of the anticipated pleasure - each one selecting one's egg against the other's to see which was the stronger. If the

other's egg cracked and mine remained intact, his egg belonged to me!

The table looked a true "nature morte" picture and what a variety it offered. Here one found the obligatory ham, cooked, baked in bread dough, and smoked ham to be eaten with hot freshly ground horse radish. There was leg of veal with red lingonberries and turkey stuffed with prunes, duck with red cabbage, suckling pig browned to golden perfection served whole, and more pork, rolled and jellied, jellied pig knuckles, sausages, and an assortment of cold cuts. Further still, lined up for Easter parade, were baked goods and cakes. When housewives were preparing their *babkas*, it was strictly forbidden to slam doors, even to speak loudly, lest the goods in the oven collapse. Removed from the oven, they were tenderly, like babies, placed on soft pillows to cool. Now they stood there, proudly raising their heads decorated with white glaze strewn with colored poppy seeds and sugar flowers. Flat cakes were called *mazurkas*, and there were many kinds of them: the "royal", the "gypsy", the "honeycomb", etc. Various tortes adorned the table - chocolate, mocha, bread-crumbs, Napoleon, and others. Occasionally one would see the foreign "Baumkuchen", the "tree cake", a culinary highlight. The popular poppy seed roll and yeast baked goods never failed to make their appearance.

To wash all this down, *degtinė* (Lithuanian rye or potato brandy) and home made wines were served. In the liqueur group, first place went to a honey liqueur called a "bear trap" by the Lithuanian Minor population. Also, various kinds of *antpilas* - alcohol poured over different berries with time allowed for fermentation. The most popular was cherry *antpilas*. The country folk brewed beer and rye-bread-cider, *gira*, which, when served, would bubble and pop much like champagne, pleasantly tickling the nose. By now, erected swings were in full use by the young, the Easter egg hunt was on and lively competition in the "roll-the-egg" game was in progress.

The Second Day of Easter was traditionally a day for visiting. The dining room table was continuously replenished and rearranged. A welcome treat on that day was a bowl of steaming bouillon or red beet broth served with hot stuffed pastries.

Years ago, even the Third Day of Easter was celebrated. All in all, the whole week was lived in the spirit of Easter. The holiday season would end with LOW SUNDAY, referred to in some areas affectionately as LITTLE EASTER.

(March 1967 VYTIS)

Old World

Try something different this year.
Decorate your eggs the Lithuanian way.
The effects are unusual, beautiful and charming.

Eggs

Materials:

Eggs, several handfuls of onion skins, salt, Easter egg dyes or food coloring, a craft knife or paring knife, clear nail polish (optional).

Dyeing the Eggs:

Soak several handfuls of onion skins in cold water overnight. Remove onion skins from water. Add some salt and the desired number of eggs to the water. Bring water to a boil and simmer the eggs for 10 to 15 minutes.

The longer the heating period or the greater the amount of onion skins, the darker the color will be. If you remove eggs at different intervals of time, the color varies from a tan to a rich chestnut brown. Small size eggs are stronger; larger eggs, while more fragile, lend themselves better to a more elaborate design.

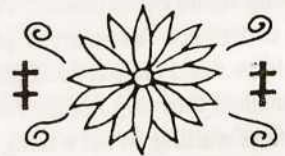
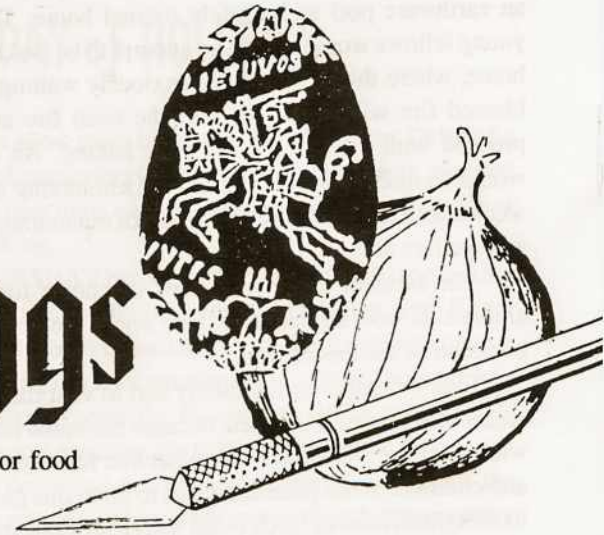
To obtain various dark colors, place the onion-dyed eggs in packaged Easter egg dyes or food coloring. Green and purple dyes give very interesting effects.

When each egg has dried thoroughly, place a dab of shortening on a soft cloth or paper towel, and rub each egg to add luster and to protect the color.

Decorating the Eggs

When the egg has cooled, it is best to begin by partitioning the egg vertically, horizontally and diagonally with a pencil or knife. The design may then be drawn in these areas and scratched away with a knife. By scratching away the dye, a graceful and delicate design appears on the exposed eggshell.

To add extra luster and protection, the egg may be coated with clear nail polish.



(Crafts & Things Magazine)

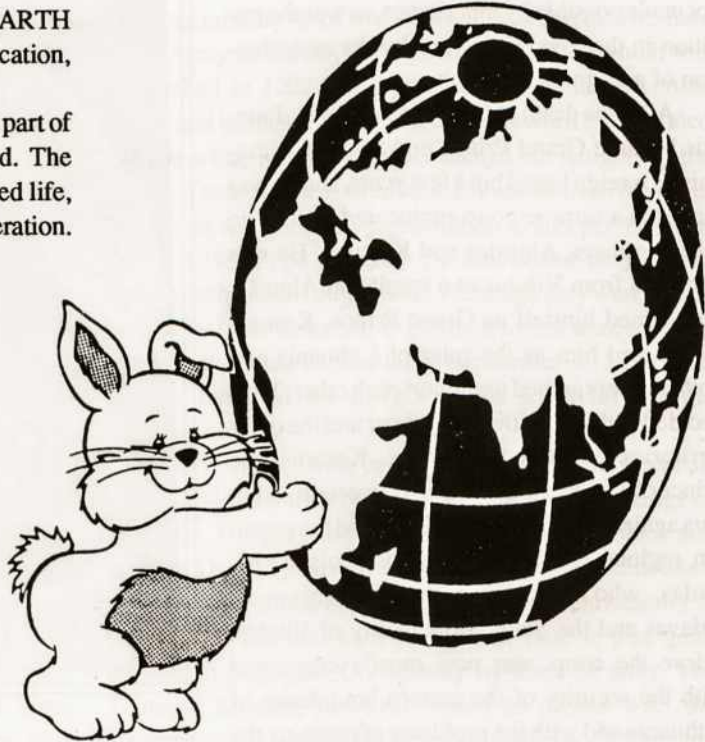
CELEBRATING THE ES OF LIFE

EASTER, ENVIRONMENT, ECOLOGY, EARTH DAY — the greening of the Earth, joy, hope, rededication, renewal.

Of all the season changes we experience in this part of the world, spring is probably the most welcomed. The symbols of its impending presence speak of renewed life, growth, verdant promises and hope for a new generation. It is the season of life.

From the celebration of Christ's resurrection on this Easter Sunday and the observance of Earth Day through the next few weeks when the sights of grass greening, forsythia in bloom, spring flowers and warmer temperatures evoke a continuing presence of life, we'll be emotionally sensitized to the concept of regeneration.

While evolution guarantees the life cycle, the responsibility of caretaker — the one who ensures its preservation — has fallen on humankind and it is only through education and action that we will continue to experience the Easter of life.



FEELING OF ETHNIC PRIDE ON THE RISE

by Bruce Nelson

In cities from St. Louis, Chicago and Milwaukee east through New York and Boston, there are substantial groups who identify by the nationality of their forefathers.

In such cities, there are still numbers of ethnic neighborhoods, areas that attracted a particular nationality group during the height of its immigration to this country and that retain an ethnic flavor and composition.

In the last decade, there has been a rising feeling of "ethnicity" among the descendants of southeastern European immigrant groups.

"This melting pot idea — that you went in the pot and came out an American with your culture and language

blanked out — that idea was a great failure and a fiasco. It never worked," said Luba V. Holoczko-Markewycz, a Chicago teacher from the Ukraine.

"We never melted," Rakove said as he looked at a salad on the table in the Italian restaurant where he was eating lunch. "It's like putting tomatoes in with lettuce. They don't melt. A salad bowl — that's what we've had in the city — a salad bowl."

The great thing now is that it's legitimate for me to say I'm a Polish-American," Prof. Edward Marcinak of Loyola University said. "The hyphenated American has become respectable again."

Rulers of Lithuania

GRAND PRINCE ALGIRDAS (1345-1377)

by Edward Baranauskas

Algirdas became the Grand Prince and ruler in one of the most unusual and bizarre circumstances in Lithuanian history. This was not made possible by inheritance, as was the tradition in the royal family, or by the assassination of a reigning monarch.

After the death of Gediminas in 1341, Jaunutis became Grand Prince and ruler of Lithuania. His reign lasted but a few years, and he was ousted in a surprise coup engineered by his two older brothers, Algirdas and Kestutis. He was banished from Vilnius as a result and Algirdas proclaimed himself as Grand Prince. Kestutis recognized him as the ruler of Lithuania and both brothers agreed to support each other. They decided to divide Lithuania proper and the other territories between themselves. Kestutis, the Prince of Trakai, agreed to defend western Lithuania against the Teutonic Knights and the southern regions of Lithuania against Poland. Algirdas, who ruled the Lithuanian region of Kriavas and the Slavic principality of Vitebsk before the coup, was now mostly concerned with the security of the eastern boundaries of Lithuania and with the problems of resisting the Muscovites and the Tatars.

They became virtual partners in government; in effect, Lithuania became a dyarchy, a nation in which power is held jointly by two authorities. The chronicles of the Teutonic Order sometimes referred to them as "both kings" (*ambo reges*). Kestutis enjoyed almost as much authority as the Grand Prince.

Some students of history may be at a loss to understand why Jaunutis was overthrown by his own two brothers. This was not done because either of them personally wanted the power of the throne, but rather because the political situation of that time dictated such action.

Their father, Gediminas, was a skillful diplomat, and it was because of him that Lithuania was able to annex as much territory as it did. With such a vast expanse of land to govern, he must have felt that it was too much for one man to effectively control. As patriarch, he assigned six of



his sons to rule certain regions and principalities, while he lived in Vilnius, the capital, and governed its environs as the central authority of Lithuania. His seventh and youngest son, Jaunutis, lived with him in the castle. That may have been the primary reason why he became the Grand Prince following his father's death, and inherited his domain.

Jaunutis, however, did not have the diplomatic skills nor was he the kind of leader his father was. The nation that Gediminas created was in danger of breaking apart. The regional princes governed independently of any central authority. This dissension and the military threats from Lithuania's hostile neighbors placed the survival of the Lithuanian nation in jeopardy.

A year after he was deposed, Jaunutis returned to Vilnius where he made peace with Algirdas and Kestutis. This reconciliation resulted in his being assigned to rule the Slavic principality of Zaslavl, which is today a part of

Belorussia.

Algirdas was born about 1296, the third son of Gediminas. In 1318, he married a Russian princess named Maria (Lith: Marija), the only daughter of Prince Yaroslav of Vitebsk. Two years later his father-in-law died and he succeeded him as the ruler of that principality. (Note: Vitebsk is located in the northeastern part of Belorussia, near the Russian city of Smolensk). They were the parents of five sons and four daughters. Two of his sons achieved prominence. Andrew became the Prince of Pskov and subsequently of Polotsk. Vladimir became the prince of the Ukrainian region of Kiev. His children were brought up in the Eastern Orthodox faith.

Algirdas and Maria moved to Vilnius after he became the ruler of Lithuania. A year later, in 1346, she died. After twenty-eight years of marriage and at the age of fifty, Algirdas was a widower. Historians are not sure of the exact year but in 1350 or 1351, he remarried. His bride was another Russian princess, Julianna (Lith: Julijona), the daughter of Alexander, the Prince of Tver. This marriage strengthened the friendly relations with the principality of Tver, whose rulers were allies of Lithuania against the Muscovites and who were Moscow's rivals for power in Russia.

Algirdas and Julianna were the parents of seven sons and three daughters. Now that he was residing in Vilnius, he gave his sons Lithuanian names and raised them as pagans, according to the Lithuanian tradition, even though his wife was of the Orthodox faith.

If the year of his birth is correct (1296), then he must have been about 54 years of age when he remarried. Since he and Julianna were the parents of ten children, then Algirdas must have been about 65 years of age, or perhaps even older, when he fathered his last child. Julianna, obviously, had to be much younger than he was. Algirdas died at the age of 81 in 1377 and she passed away in 1392 outliving him by fifteen years. With his two marriages, he was the father of nineteen children, twelve sons and seven daughters. Only after Algirdas died, did Julianna become involved in politics and in the family discord which arose between her son, Jogaila and his uncle Kestutis.

A much more significant role in the history of Lithuania was played by a number of his sons born to his second wife. Two of them eventually became rulers of Lithuania (Jogaila and Švitrigaila) while another one, Skirgaila, also played a very important part. His other sons were Kaributas, Lengvenis, Karigaila and Vygantas.

The Lithuanians never really enjoyed a period of

peace in their early history. Their most dangerous enemies were the Crusaders who vowed to fight against the "enemies of Christ's name", the non-Christians. The Germans in the west organized a militant, religious organization named the Teutonic Order. They were also known as the Teutonic Knights and because they wore a white robe with a black cross, they were also called the Knights of the Cross.

Livonia, the historic name of modern Latvia and Estonia, entered the holy war against Lithuania, too. Its strongest military force was a crusading order, the Brothers of the Army of Christ (Fratres Militiae Christi) which was established in 1202-03. It was also called the Livonian Order, and because of the red cross and sword emblazoned on their white robes, they were named the Knights of the Sword. Their plan was to subdue Lithuania from the north and in that way force his pagan nation to accept Christianity. In 1236, Pope Gregory IX sanctioned the crusade against the heathen Lithuanians. Although they were joined by knights from western Europe, their forces were severely beaten at the battle of Šiauliai on September 22, 1236. This disaster hastened the merger of the Livonian and the Teutonic Orders.

The Teutonic Order organized a large military expedition in 1344 and they received support from the kings of Bohemia, Hungary and a multitude of other nobles and princes. Their objective was to crush Lithuanian resistance with one well-timed blow and to introduce Christianity to them "with fire and sword." At that time it was quite popular to propagate Christianity by force of arms. The Teutonic Knights, however, failed to reckon with the cleverness of Algirdas. He never avoided a good fight and was described in the Russian Chronicles as a smart warrior who used more of his wits than his strength.

While Kestutis was assembling his army in the pretext of launching an attack on Sambia (Lith: Semba), an ancient Prussian district that stretched along the southeastern coastline of the Baltic Sea, the German forces withdrew from their positions on the Lithuanian frontier to defend that area. Algirdas then led his army into Livonia in a surprise attack, destroying many castles in his march to the outskirts of Riga and pillaging several areas on his return home. Kestutis, in the meantime, caught the Teutonic Order off guard and attacked the stronghold of Rastenberg near the Pregel River, southeast of Sambia. The Knights found themselves out-manuevered and were unable to proceed effectively with their original plans after returning to the Lithuanian frontier from Sambia.

The Livonian defeats demoralized the Teutonic Knights and it was some fourteen years before the Knights of the Sword recovered from their losses to cooperate with the Germans. Instead of planning massive invasions, they changed their tactics and conducted a frequent series of raids. They burned, pillaged, destroyed crops, stole domestic animals and took people into captivity before quickly retreating. To defend themselves, the Lithuanians built fortresses and made incursions into Livonia and Prussia themselves.

This warfare increased in intensity during the last years of Algirdas' reign and Kestutis' life. It only served to make the Lithuanians more bitter towards Roman Catholicism. The wars with the Crusaders were not the only problems facing Algirdas. Poland, once an ally of Gediminas, went to war with Lithuania over the principalities of Galicia and Volynia. Why this was done may be difficult to believe.

Liubartas, one of the brothers of Algirdas and Kestutis, married the daughter of Andrew, the Prince of Volynia, about 1322. He was baptized according to the rites of the Eastern Orthodox Church and was given the city of Lutsk in northeastern Volynia to govern. When Prince Andrew and his brother Lev were killed in battle against the Tatars a year later, the male line to the succession of the throne ended. Maria, their sister, was married to a Masurian prince, and she was the last member of the family. This left her son, Boleslav, as the only legal heir. Since Liubartas was already governing Lutsk, he was given dominion over eastern Volynia, while Boleslav, who took the name of George II, ruled Galicia and western Volynia. Matters stood that way until rebellious nobles poisoned Boleslav in 1340 and offered the throne to Liubartas. Casimir the Great, King of Poland, did not approve of this arrangement and declared war on Volynia. He sought to establish himself as the successor to Boleslav George, and to gain a Polish foothold in lands to the east. Liubartas received the support of his brothers and the battle for the control of these fertile lands began. A compromise was reached and a peace treaty was signed in 1366 by Algirdas, Kestutis, Jaunutis and Liubartas. Poland acquired Galicia and western Volynia, while the Lithuanians retained eastern Volynia with the city of Lutsk.

It is interesting to note that Casimir the Great, the King of Poland, was married to Aldona, the daughter of Gediminas and Euphemia Anka, another daughter of Gediminas, was married to Boleslav, the Prince of Masuria, the successor to the throne of Volynia whose poisoning started the

fighting. The treaty did not last very long, for when Casimir the Great died in 1370, the fighting resumed. The struggle for possession of Ukrainian lands lasted for more than a hundred years. Liubartas ruled in Volynia for sixty years and he died about 1385.

Galicia today is a region located in the southeastern part of Poland and borders with the southwestern part of Ukraine. The principality of Halich (Halicz) was the predecessor of Galicia. Volynia is today a part of western Ukraine, with Lutsk the regional capital.

While Kestutis was fighting the Teutonic Knights and defending Lithuania in the west, Algirdas was engaged in battle with the Slavic rulers and Tatars in the east. He was successful in extending Lithuanian influence far into Slavic territories because these people, as well as the Church authorities, learned that Lithuanian rule was far more preferable to life under the Tatars. Algirdas married into the Orthodox ruling family and through the influence of his wife, the Orthodox Church was given much freedom and this strengthened his hands in dealings with the Christians.

Algirdas had many Russian relatives and they were extremely devoted to him as allies. His second wife came from the principality of Tver, and three of his daughters married into Slavic nobility. He always came to the aid of those who were threatened by the militant Muscovites. He expressed his political goals clearly in his own words, as recorded by a chronicler of the Teutonic Order: "All Rus' ought simply belong to the Lithuanians" (*Omnis Russia ad Letwinos deberet simpliciter pertinere*).

Algirdas tried to take advantage of the turmoil between Prince Dimitrii of Moscow and Prince Michael of Tver in order to further his ambitions in the annexation of Slavic lands. The rulers of these principalities were engaged in a never-ending power struggle to decide which one had the right to unite and dominate the Russian lands.

Three times the Muscovites attacked Tver (1368, 1370, 1372) and in each instance, Algirdas came to the aid of Prince Michael, his brother-in-law. He defeated the Muscovite army during those three struggles and reached the gates of Moscow every time. However, he was never able to take the city. The campaign of 1372 came to an end when Algirdas signed a peace treaty with the princes of Moscow.

Lithuanian chronicles state that in making peace, Algirdas declared: "Even though we have made peace, I cannot behave otherwise. I must thrust my spear into the wall of the city of Moscow and in the name of my honor, leave a mark that the Lithuanian, Russian and Žemaičiu

Prince Algirdas thrust his spear into Moscow's wall." Having said these words, he mounted his horse, approached the city wall and thrust his spear. Going away, he exclaimed: "Remember, Moscow's Grand Prince, that Lithuania's spear was in Moscow!"

While it may come as a surprise to learn that Algirdas referred to himself as a Russian prince, this became a fact, not by birth, but because of his marriage to Princess Maria of Vitebsk, his first wife. He was the ruler of that principality before he became the Grand Prince of Lithuania and, so, technically, he was "Russian prince" in that sense.

The questions concerning the conversion of Lithuania to Christianity and the baptism of Algirdas and Kestutis, kept coming up from time to time. The Roman Pontiffs Clement VI, Innocent VI and Gregory XI had each endeavored to convert Lithuania but without success. Algirdas, like his father Gediminas, always respected other religions, even though he regarded them with indifference. He refused to accept Christianity because of his dislike of the Teutonic Knights and their brutal and cruel methods of propagating Christianity.

Emperor Charles IV of Bohemia sent a letter to both brothers in 1358 in which he urged them to accept Christianity. They agreed, but only if their demands were met. They insisted that the Teutonic Knights return all that portion of Prussia which formerly belonged to Lithuania, that the Lithuanians be allowed to have the Livonian lands up to the Daugava River and that the Order leave the Baltic area and move to southern Russia and attempt the conversion of the Tatars. Since the emperor was not in any

position to meet these conditions, there was no further discussion on the Christianity issue. The Teutonic Order stayed where they were and the Lithuanians remained pagans.

Another attempt was made in 1373 to convince the Lithuanians to change their pagan ways. Pope Gregory XI wrote a letter to Algirdas in which he mentioned his two other brothers Kestutis and Liubartas by name and advised them that there could only be peace if they became Christians. His correspondence was of no avail, however, even though he mentioned the cruelty of the war with the Teutonic Order.

Algirdas was a pagan until his death in March 1377 at the age of 81. He was cremated, according to pagan custom, together with eighteen horses and a lot of his personal belongings and was buried in Vilnius. Algirdas left his mark in the history of the Lithuanian nation. He dedicated his life for the security and well-being of his people; he fought the enemies of his homeland and defended her freedom with every bit of skill and energy that he could muster. Who knows what could have happened to the Lithuanian people in those perilous times if it were not for him and his devoted brother Kestutis? They worked together in harmony as a brilliant team, willing to give their last measure of life in battle for their nation's best interests.

Is it any wonder, then, that in some Lithuanian families, there is a son named Algirdas, Kestutis, Gediminas or Vytautas? This was just one way that some parents felt they could honor the loving memory of some of their homeland's beloved leaders and heroes.

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CAMP AUSRA Elmhurst, PA

Camp - July 11- 24, 1993

Camp Ausra is located in the beautiful Pocono Mountains in Elmhurst, PA, approximately ten miles north of Scranton.

This camp is special because the Lithuanian language and culture become a living reality. Traditions and language are taught along with songs and dances. Folk tales are dramatized, arts and crafts are a daily experience. Sports, swimming and hiking are great outdoor activities and evenings are spent being entertained by the various groups or campers.

Basketball Camp - July 25 - 31, 1993

Help your child discover his or her talents and develop their self esteem by attending basketball camp. A time to enjoy healthy outdoor fun in the mountains. Swimming, sports, arts and crafts will also be offered.

Both camps are open to all children 8-16 years of age, regardless of race or religion.

For further information, contact Sister M. Angela at (717) 874-0351 after 5:00 p.m.

EARLY LITHUANIAN IMMIGRANTS

by Leo Venckus

Who doesn't know the saying: "... one word leads to another ...?" It often happens like that. Having read an article, "Early Lithuanian Newspapers" by John R. Mankus in the May 1992 issue of VYTIS, I began to browse through my book shelves and drawers and stacks of old newspapers and magazines looking for something old and interesting. The result was a 64-page booklet entitled "Lietuviškoji Išeivija Jungtinėse Amerikos Valstybėse" edited by the late Bronius Kviklys and printed by Draugas on the occasion of an exhibition dedicated to the history, the life and activity of early Lithuanian immigrants to the United States. This exhibition, organized and sponsored by

DRAUGAS was held in Chicago, April 2 to 4, 1976.

Although this booklet is printed in Lithuanian, it also contains an article in English, covering pages 19 to 26. Its author is the prominent Lithuanian activist Stasys or Stanley Pieža of North Judson, IN. He was an outstanding reporter, editor and Vatican correspondent of the Chicago American and Chicago Today until his retirement in 1970. Stanley Pieža is an honorary member of C-36 of the Knights of Lithuania thus no stranger to VYTIS readers.

Although Pieža wrote this essay in 1976, many names he mentioned are no longer with us, the information he compiled is still of great interest to all of us. I now present to you:

THE LITHUANIANS: THEIR CONTRIBUTION TO AMERICA

by Stanley Pieža

In the Bicentennial of the United States, observed in 1976, stands out the sweeping saga of America's immigrants, who came from many distant lands and built the greatest nation in the world — the United States of America.

A vanguard in the army of the immigrants are the Lithuanians who arrived from the amber shores of the Baltic. Although some came here as early as the Colonial period, the mass immigration of the Lithuanians to the United States began in 1876. Thus as the United States celebrates its bicentennial, the Americans of Lithuanian ancestry are proudly marking the centennial of Lithuanian immigration to the land of Uncle Sam.

In the chronicle of America's immigrants, the Lithuanians have added a most impressive chapter. Imbued with deep Christian faith, dedicated to the principles of freedom, humble in spirit, the Lithuanians bestowed upon the altar of America's democracy their talents, their work, their art, their traditions, their life.

They came from Lithuanian cities, villages and farms and from all walks of life: the educated which included church and national leaders; and peasants with rudimentary learning, and the illiterate. They suffered weeks of travel by ship at sea and came to an alien land where they soon discovered that America's streets were not "lined with gold," as they had heard, but instead years of arduous labor lay before them. These people were not adventurers, but seekers of work and peace; they came to build a home. They were fugitives from political injustice, poverty and

serfdom. Some of them escaped to avoid conscription into the Czarist army.

They worked at the lowest jobs upon arrival in America, receiving a barely life-sustaining wage. (See Upton Sinclair's THE JUNGLE). They congregated in neighborhoods and set up Lithuanian Catholic parishes and named them after their favorite patron saints, such as St. Casimir, Sts. Peter and Paul, St. Anne, etc. The Lithuanian immigrants, however, marked a quality that they had in common — their determination to rise from their impoverishment; to take the fullest advantage of the opportunities America had to offer.

Although unable to speak the language of the country they came to, they soon learned English and at the same time made great efforts to preserve the ancient language of their motherland, Lithuanian, a language akin to Sanscrit and acclaimed by philologists as the mother tongue of all Indo-European people. The great philologist, Schleicher, wrote: "If the value of a nation in the whole of humanity were to be measured by the beauty of the language, the Lithuanians should rank first among the inhabitants of Europe."

The Lithuanians joined their fellow immigrants of all nations to help pave the way for the future cultural, economic, religious and social development of the new and growing United States. They worked in order to maintain their families in good society. They soon found jobs in the mines, steel mills, stock yards, tailor shops, in the woods clearing away forests for farms and cities, and in the

professions.

Meanwhile, the Lithuanians, deeply religious people, built here churches, convents, monasteries, schools, public places, and established businesses, such as shoe repair shops, bakeries, meat markets, taverns, building and loan associations, banks and print shops. They also established newspapers, among them the Lithuanian Daily Draugas which continues as an intellectual haven of American Lithuanians since 1909.

They also added to the music culture of their new country by their music organizations and their choirs which produced sacred concerts, operettas and operas. They also became soldiers fighting for their adopted country ... and making the supreme sacrifice on the field of battle. Also outstanding is the Lithuanian contribution to sports, with stars in baseball, football, basketball, golf, boxing and bowling.

It is recorded that Lithuanians ventured to the shores of America as early as 1608, when some daring ones landed in Jamestown, Virginia. They made the treacherous voyage from England with a group of Poles. Historians report that some Lithuanians arrived in America with the Dutch settlers of New Amsterdam. One of the earliest recorded Lithuanians to arrive on American shores was Dr. Alexander Karolis Kurczius. He came with the Dutch to New Amsterdam in 1659 and founded an academy, the first institution of higher learning is now New York. In the history of American education, he is known as Dr. Alexander Curtius.

An early American patriot was Gen. Thaddeus Kosciuszko (1746-1817). Of Lithuanian birth, he was a hero of both Poland and America. Among the great early missionaries of America was Prince Demetrius Gallitzin, a descendant of the royal Lithuanian Gediminas family, who was ordained a Catholic priest at Baltimore in 1795 — the first to be ordained in the United States. His frontier missionary was known as "Father Smith." Gallitzin, Pennsylvania is named after him. Above his burial tomb is an escutcheon with a traditional Lithuanian knight.

All Russian documents pertaining to the purchase of Alaska in 1867 were translated for the American government by Henry Kalusauskas of Ukmerge, Lithuania. He was born in 1806 and died in 1895. There is also mention of some Lithuanians who fought in the Civil War for President Abraham Lincoln's principles to emancipate the Negroes and to help sustain the unity of the north and south thus preserving the United States.

Following the unsuccessful revolution of 1863 to free

Lithuania from Czarist Russia, some Lithuanian political leaders escaped to the United States. One such was Prince Dzialinskis, the great flag bearer of Lithuania, who is buried in Chicago's Oak Woods cemetery.

By the end of 1876, it is estimated that there were some 50,000 Lithuanians in the United States. They worked in shoe factories, railroads, textile mills, foundries, tailor shops and mines. They and those who came after them in this century became an integral part of American life yet maintaining their customs and language, thus adding to the colorful heritage of America.

During the Spanish-American war and World Wars I and II, many Lithuanians joined the U.S. military forces, and those remaining home joined in nationwide sales of U.S. War bonds which exceeded millions of dollars.

Presently contributing to the life of America are the new Lithuanian immigrants — the displaced persons from Lithuania which was forcibly incorporated into the Soviet Union. The displaced persons have been admitted to the United States under the Displaced Persons Law. The new Lithuanians of this country are carrying on the traditions of the earlier Lithuanian immigrants in America.

In Chicago, the largest Lithuanian city outside of Lithuania, is the Lithuanian Plaza, named officially by the City Council, which dramatizes the patriotic, religious and cultural contributions of Lithuanians to their adopted country. The monument in stone of a broken wing of a plane, situated in the plaza's Marquette Park, is dedicated to two intrepid Lithuanians, Darius and Girenas, who crashed in a transatlantic flight only 400 miles from their goal, Kaunas, July 17, 1933. Also, in the plaza are the Holy Cross Hospital, the Nativity B.V.M. church, the Maria high school and the St. Casimir convent and infirmary all erected by Lithuanians. Today the plaza is a mecca for Lithuanians world over.

A few miles away from the plaza is the Marian Father's center, at 63rd and Kilbourn Streets, with the Draugas Lithuanian Daily publishing house, chapel and monastery.

In the panorama of American life, prominent are such greats of Lithuanian ancestry as: Jack Sharkey, world's boxing champion 1932-33; Johnny Unitas, Dick Butkus, Ed "Moose" Krause of Notre Dame and Bill Osmanski, now a Chicago dentist, an all-American half-back of football fame; Johnny Podres and Eddie Miksis, baseball stars; Johnny Goodman and Bill Burke of the world of golf, and Albina Osipavitch, swimming champion of 1928 Olympic in Amsterdam — in the world of sports. Anna Kaskas,

Polyna Stoskas, Lillian Sukis and Algerd Brazis of the Metropolitan Opera — in music.

Ruta (Kilmonty) Lee, described as “one of the most talented movie stars and richest in Hollywood;” Kaz Garas, Jacques Sernas, Joanna Shimkus, and Terry Murphy (Chellis), co-anchor-person of ABC’s Chicago Channel 7 — in cinema and TV.

Bishop Charles Salatka of Marquette, first Lithuanian in the United States to be elevated to the hierarchy; Bishop Paul Marcinkus of Cicero, IL, high Vatican official; Bishop Vincent Brizgys, who spearheaded the financial drive in the American Lithuanian community to erect Lithuanian chapels in the Immaculate Conception National Shrine, Washington, DC and in St. Peter’s basilica, Vatican City; Mother Maria (Kaupas), first mother-general of the Sisters of St. Casimir and after whom Maria High School is named, and Father Richard T. Saudis of Chicago, apostolic administrator of the Archdiocese of Anchorage, Alaska — in the church.

Judges John T. Zuris and Alfonse Wells, John Brenza, Frank Mast-Mastauskas, and Anthony Olis, whose name appears on the cornerstone of the Metropolitan Sanitary District building, Chicago — in politics.

Dr. Peter Dauzvardis and his wife Josephine of the consulate-general of Lithuania in Chicago and Povilas Zadeikis and Juozas Kajeckas of the Lithuanian legation in Washington, DC — in the diplomatic corps.

Vytas Varlaitis, famed photographer of NEWSWEEK; Jurate Kazickas of the Associated Press; Peter Kumpa, director of the Washington Bureau of the Baltimore Sun; Bob Kudzma, TV weatherman of Pittsburgh and Dr. Jack J. Stukas, the first to introduce Lithuanian programs on TV in New York — in the communications media.

Birute Galdikas-Brindamour, zoologist, who appears on the Oct. 1975 front cover of the National Geographic and writes a personal scientific study of orangutans — in the field of science.

Anthony Rudis of Chicago and others — in the field of industry and manufacturing.

Dr. George Wiltrakis, who served as chief surgeon of U.S. military hospitals; Lieutenant Ann Bernatitus, heroic nurse of Bataan and Corregidor, who received both Legion of Merit and a Presidential unit citation; Bernadette Pieza-Shaner, a Peace Corps nurse, who helped to introduce modern methods of patient care to Tunisian nurses and whose picture with a Tunisian mother and child was selected by Pres. Johnson for promoting the Peace Corps and which appears in the 1966 World Topics Year Book

and as a cover for geography books of the Pennsylvania School system, and Stanley Bender of Chicago’s Brighton Park, acclaimed as a “One-Man-Army” who is the first Lithuanian to receive the Congressional Medal of Honor and after whom is named a bridge on West Virginia super highway — in U.S. service.

Famous marriages: Patrick John Nugent of Waukegan, IL became the husband of Luci Baines Johnson, daughter of Pres. Johnson, married in 1966 by Father John Kuzinskis, presently pastor of St. Bartholomew’s parish, of which Patrick’s Lithuanian mother was a parishioner, and Jievute Paulekiute (Miss Lithuania of 1933) became the wife of Winthrop Rockefeller on Feb. 14, 1948. Their son Winthrop Rockefeller, Jr. is the great grandson of John D. Rockefeller, one of the world’s greatest businessmen and philanthropists.

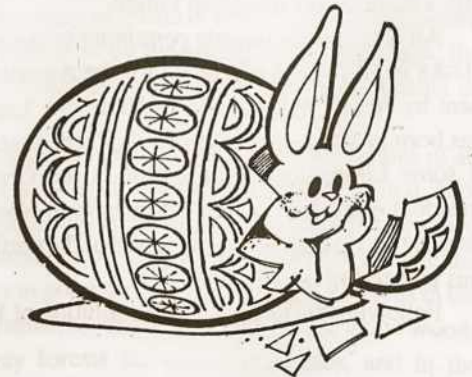
You’ll find Lithuanians today in all fields of endeavor in this country: communications media, science, invention, research centers, libraries, universities, automotive engineering, bridge building and house construction, architecture, plastics, banks, computer systems, air pilots, foundries, aviation, the church, education, politics and agriculture.

Lithuanians are a race whose struggle for freedom has never been quenched. The struggle has been dimmed many times, since the days when proud Lithuania ruled its Eastern European empire from the Baltic to the Black Sea. Independence, hard won again after World War I, was lost when Soviet legations took over the country in the aftermath of World War II.

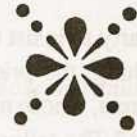
The Lithuanians will not rest until freedom and independence are restored to their motherland — Lithuania.

The Lithuanians of America bless America and they are proud of their American citizenship and their integral part in the life of the United States!

(Mr. Pieza has been reporter, editor, Vatican correspondent of The Chicago American and Chicago Today and International News Service correspondent from 1934 to 1970.)



Beyond the Old Church



Ethnic diversity in Brooklyn showed us a universe beyond the world of the Old Church

by Albert Cizauskas

A half century ago, the Lithuanians in Williamsburg, were a closely-knit community coping with the sometimes-puzzling ways of their adopted country. No less puzzling were the ways of their neighbors, carrying on the customs of their own former homelands. The old church in Williamsburg, in fact, was a small island surrounded by Little Italy on one side, and a Middle East bazaar on the other.

The core of the Italian colony was the church of Our Lady of Mount Carmel. What shocked the more sedate Lithuanians was the uninhibited manner in which their neighbors celebrated holy days, especially that of the church's feast. The drab old area around the church was then transformed into a colorful Neapolitan fair. The crowds were noisy and light-hearted, and even occasional flashes of Latin temper failed to dampen the holiday spirit. Gaily-bedecked stands sold spicy Italian food, ice-cold lemonade, and shaved ice saturated with rainbow-colored syrups. A few lonely stands even displayed rosaries and icons of the church's patroness.

The climax of the feast was a gaudy procession led by a New Orleans-style marching band that blared out the wild rhythms of southern Italy. People shouted, clapped, and spilled out onto the streets, dancing behind the band. Then, suddenly, a hush fell over the crowd, followed by cries of "Bellissima," as a huge statue of Our Lady, adorned with dollar bills, moved slowly along the streets, carried on a swaying platform. Old women, in shapeless black garments, knelt down with great fervor on the rough sidewalks when the statue approached them, while most of the other onlookers made a hasty sign-of-the-cross, then aimed a juicy kiss on their finger-tips toward the moving statue, all done in one unbroken and half-embarrassed gesture.

This behavior was alien, even unsettling, to the Lithuanians. In guarded tones, they alluded to their Latin neighbors as "God's children" ("Dievo vaikai"), probably an oblique reference to the Pope's being Italian, and these, in a sense, being his children. With time, however, such prejudice gradually gave way to an acceptance of ethnic differences. The American melting pot had much to do with the process. So did the pizza.

Jewish neighbors were more understandable and acceptable, perhaps because they performed essential serv-

ices. Nowhere was this more evident than in the open-air market on Havemeyer Street. Here guttural Yiddish and heavily-accented English rose like a babel of sounds over several blocks that looked and smelled like something out of a Middle East bazaar. Pushcarts lined up on both sides of the street, nose-to-nose, packed high with the fruits and vegetables of the season. Fuzzy peaches, dark-red cherries, apples, oranges, even watermelons, cut open and bleeding, were there to be seen, sampled and haggled over. Stores were thick with pungent smells from barrels of garlic pickles swimming in brine and spice, next to other barrels of pickled herring; from kosher chickens, killed and dressed on the spot; and from mounds of creamy halvah made of sesame flour and honey. Then there were the delicatessens with their steaming hot corned beef and pastrami, served on rye bread or on long, crunchy rolls, smothered in spicy yellow mustard, and washed down with root beer or celery soda.

Another service provided by the Jewish community was the sale of clothing. Squeezed together side-by-side on Manhattan Avenue were shops selling mens' and boys' clothing, some even tailored on the premises. Whenever it was time for a new suit, my mother and a sister, who was a professional dressmaker, took me there, but not willingly. It was an outing I loathed because of the time consumed in the elaborate Byzantine ritual of bargaining between customer and salesman, in contrast to the simple give-and-take on Havemeyer Street.

I remember one of the last of these expeditions. The first act of the melodrama opened with the three of us sauntering past the many shops without stopping but obviously in the market for a suit. Rows of salesmen, sitting in front of their shops, called out the opening lines in the play when they assured us their prices were the lowest, and the quality of their merchandise the finest to be found on the street. The script, however, required us to ignore these solicitations. We continued to the end of the district and then returned, proceeding more slowly.

Act two began when mother and sister selected one shop, by what process of reasoning I don't know to this day. The pleased salesman then showed us various suits, to try us out, and when we expressed interest in one or two, he immediately beckoned for the tailor. This was the signal for

our party to insist that we were far from ready to buy; for one thing, the price had not even been mentioned. The salesman, whose name was Harry, countered with "Not to worry." The tailor then made his entrance and measured me, all the while nodding his head and clicking his tongue as he said, "What a fine figure the boy has, God bless him. I should live so long but I have never seen a boy and suit match so good."

The third and last act commenced when Harry finally came to the crucial point. "I can see the two of you are women who know about clothing. So, only for you, I will make a price that will bankrupt me." And here Harry quoted a figure. At this, mother and sister ordered me to take the suit off. I did, and we marched out stiffly as if we had been insulted.

Act three scene two. Harry pursued us as we were about to enter a competitor's shop. He cried out with mock emotion, "You will be yet my death. I give you a rock-bottom price, and you treat me like this. I don't believe it. Come back, and I tell you what I'll do. I'll talk to my brother." Of course we returned, not willing to cause the death of a salesman. Harry went into the back room and emerged some time later, triumphantly waving another suit. "Look, here's a fine suit, better even than the other. For you, I give it away for XX." He whispered, in a conspiratorial tone, a figure close to what mother and sister had quoted earlier as the highest we were prepared to pay. But we said no, we wanted the other suit, not a damaged one,

as my sister pointed out some imperfections in the tailoring. The haggling went on for a long time, until a price for the first suit was agreed upon, somewhere between what Harry had quoted as his rock-bottom offer and our lower figure.

Several hours after we had started on our buying mission, both parties finally appeared to be satisfied with the results. Harry bade us goodbye, saying that if all customers were as good bargainers, he and his brother Jake would have to close the shop. We understood what he meant. It was the last line in the play.

Ethnic diversity in Brooklyn showed us a universe beyond the world of the old church. In addition to enriching our lives, it taught us that every person had to be judged on his own merits and not because of race, nationality, or some other essential trait. Almost without being aware of it, the members of the old church, and especially their children, began to understand that knowing a person was to give the lie to generalized prejudice. Today, after fifty years of travel in many countries, I still remember, with much warmth, my favorite peddler in that open-air market on Havemeyer Street. She was a red-cheeked, roly-poly, hearty woman. In winter she wore layers of sweaters which puffed up her already ample bosom, over which she draped a long, white apron. She usually gave me a red MacIntosh apple, her stock in trade, saying, "For you, young man. May you marry a good healthy girl some day and have many children. Eat and enjoy." I still remember her broad smile, her raucous voice, and the slight moustache on her upper lip.

Travel by Rainbow

Many generous families in Lithuania have taken in orphans and abandoned children from institutions. Sometimes a grandparent or other family member will accept children to raise as their own. Life is difficult for such families, and the children don't receive any help from charitable organizations, which seek to benefit those still in orphanages.

The Lithuanian Embassy in Washington has a list of Vilnius families caring for over 400 orphaned or abandoned children. Most of the children are aged 10-18 (about a quarter are younger). Their nationalities are diverse: Lithuanian, Russian, Polish.

Any of these children would be overjoyed to receive a birthday or holiday greeting. The "Vaivorykštė" (Rain-

bow) project at the Lithuanian Embassy is designed to put you in touch with a child in difficult straits, a child who needs a kind word. Contact: Vaivorykštė, c/o Lithuanian Embassy, 2622 - 16th St. NW, Washington, DC 20009. Telephone (202) 234-2639.



MONTH OF APRIL

Joseph Yanulaitis

"When a nation goes down ... (or) a society perishes, one condition may always be found. They forgot where they came from."

Carl Sandberg

Practically all of the nations in Europe have adopted the Latin names for the days of the week and the months of the year because they had been occupied by the Roman legions who brought law and order to the once disorganized tribal kingdoms. The Old English name for March was Hlyd-Monath, that is, "boisterous month," because of the winds. However, with the Roman occupation of England, the name was changed to that of March which honors the God of War (the red planet Mars is also named after him). The Roman New Year began with the month of March and with the coming of warm weather, the Romans used to launch their campaigns of conquest.

April was the month when the first flowers appeared in Italy so it was only natural that the Latin word *Aperio* which means "open" and suggests the opening of the Spring buds was applied to it. The early Britons lacked the poetry of the Mediterranean and they called April, Easter-Monath, or "Easter Month", which comes down to us from the German *Ostern*, Goddess of Spring who was worshipped on a special day near the Vernal Equinox, since she came from the East where the sun rose.

April also brings us April Fool's Day which recalls the festivities held by all ancient peoples at the Vernal Equinox, beginning of their New Year's Day, March 25 and ending April 1. The theory about this day can be traced back to the tradition of the Medieval Miracle plays held during Lent during which Christ was sent on a fool's errand from the High Priest, Caiphas, to Herod, to Pilate.

Since the Baltic and Slavic nations were not occupied by the Romans, they have retained their own peculiar names to designate the days of the week and months of the year. Those that do use the Latin names, adopted them with the advent of Christianity in their respective nations. The Baltic and Slavic names for the months of the year reflect agricultural pursuits or natural phenomena occurring at that particular time as in the case of April above. Thus, April in Lithuania is *Balandis* or Dove, which follows March which we call *Kovas*, a small black bird akin to the crow.

The days of Holy Week are all BIG days for both the Baltics and the Slavs. The Slavs call them *Veliki* and we

call them *Didysis Ketvirtadienis*, *Penktadienis*, *Šeštadienis*. However, we refer to Easter with the Slavic *Velykos*. To the Poles, it's *Velikanoc*, to the Ukrainians, *Velik Dien*. On Easter morn the priest unveils the symbolically entombed Monstrance by intoning an ancient hymn, "*Linksmą Dieną Mūms Nušvito*" - A happy day has dawned for us.

Our more Southern neighbors, the Germans, refer to Good Friday as *Kar Freitag* or *Sad Friday* which is easily explainable and so is the *Venerdi Santo* and *Sabbatto Santo* of the Italians. Now then, who can tell us what is so good about our Good Friday? Hint: the word good-bye is a contraction of the farewell utterance, "God be with you." Or can it be a contraction of God's Friday as Christmas is a contraction of Christ's Mass? Or is it akin to the present day expression which we use when we say, "Today was a good day for me." Or perhaps, as little Johnnie in Sunday School class said that it was gooder than any other Friday because God saved us on that day. Children are sometimes brighter than we adults!

From the above, we can figure out where our English word Easter comes from, but it is the Russians who call the day by its real significance. To the Russians, not only Easter but every Sunday is called "*Voskresennia*" - Resurrection Day, which is as it should be because every Sunday is a little Easter and the early Christians transferred the Sabbath from Saturday to Sunday to commemorate this fact. That is why there is never a fast on a Sunday.

Well, forty days after Easter is Ascension Day and here are the translations for the following:

<i>English</i>	<i>Lithuanian</i>
Ascension Day	<i>Šeštinės</i>
Pentecost	<i>Sekminės</i>
Corpus Christi	<i>Devintinės</i>



Faith, Hope and Love

by Jurgis Pekarskis

"There are three essential things in every person's life: faith, hope and love. They symbolize the cross, the anchor and the heart," says Richard Jakutis, dean of the Nemenčinė parish near Vilnius.

Dean Jakutis is 40 years old. A stout and lively man, he holds modern views of life. "I am the child of Kalanta times (Romas Kalanta died in 1972 by setting himself on fire in the center of Kaunas in protest against the Soviet occupation regime). And it was not accidentally that I decided to become a priest: in my own personal way I also challenged the communist rule."

After graduating from high school, Jakutis studied at Kaunas Agriculture Academy. He even worked as a specialist in land reclamation for some time. During his studies, Jakutis roomed with the secretary of the Academy's Komsomol organization. When he entered the Priest Seminary, his roommate was severely reprimanded by the KGB for allowing this to happen. Later on, it was Priest Jakutis who christened his friend's children.

In 1983 Jakutis was ordained a priest and was sent to the Tbilisi parish in Georgia. However, he stayed there for several months only, until the return of the old dean.

Rev. Jakutis is happy to head the multi-national Nemenčinė parish. He loves the people and respects the deep-rooted traditions. The Nemenčinė church has recently regained its pre-war parish house, which housed a children's music school during the Soviet rule. Rev. Jakutis managed to turn the parish house into a small culture center of Nemenčinė where concerts are given by famous Lithuanian singers. People come here to listen to music and poetry and to forget their every day troubles and anxieties, at least for a short time. They always leave in a happy and serene mood.

The parish house of Nemenčinė reminds one of an art gallery. Rev. Jakutis is also an art collector, who loves to stage mini exhibitions of paintings, black-and-whites, sculptures and photos. In 1990 Rev. Jakutis translated into Lithuanian the internationally acclaimed book about John Paul II: "I Have a Calling" by Rev. M. Malinski. He also made some translations of the Pope's plays, and one of them will be staged by theater director Rimas Tuminas during the visit of John Paul II to Lithuania in September.

"The church must change along with the times," notes Rev. Jakutis. "I now have a dream of holding jazz concerts at the parish house, since music is one of the forms of prayer."

KUN. STASYS RAILA ŠVENČIA 60 metų Deimantinį Kunigystės Jubiliejų

Balandžio 1 d., 1993 Kun. Raila šves 60 m. kunigystes. 1933-1939 metais apaštalavo Lietuvoje. Porą metų dirbo Vilkijos parapijoje vikaru ir tikybės mokytoju mokyklose. Ten išugdė Pavasarininku ir Angelaičių veikla įsteigė prieglaudą. 1935-1939 Kaune studijavo Vytauto Didžiojo Universitete Teologiją ir įsigijo mokslinį Teologijos Licencijato laipsnį S.T.L. Po to mokytojavo Kauno Aušro Berniukų, Kauno IV gimnazijose ir Prekybos Mokykloje. Šalia to plačiai veikė su Ateitininkais ir Pavasarininkais bei Angelalciais. Tuo metu parašė ir išleido knyga, "Monstrancijos Spindulusą" Išleido pamokslėlių knyga, "Žodis Vaikams".

1939 m. Liepos 21 atvyko į USA dviem mėnesiams atostogu, aplankyti Pasauline Paroda, savo seseris ir broli, arčiau susipažinti su amerikiečių gyvenimu, o ypač su Lietuvų išeivių veikla. Prasidėjęs II Pasaulinis karas sutrukdė grįžti į Lietuvą. Taip po 2 mėnesių viešnagė Amerikoje tapo 54 metų "atostogomis". Jis buvo paskirtas apaštalauti Lietuvos parapijose: Šv. Kazimiero, Šv. Jurgio, Philadelphijoj, Šv. Jurgio, Shenandoah ir Šv. Petro ir Povilo parapijoje Tamaqua. Šalia savo tiesioginio darbo parapijose, jis isijunge į visuomeninę darbą. Ilgiausiai ir daugiausiai darbavose Philadelphijoj. Karo metu dirbo Amerikos Raudonojo Kryžiaus komitetuose. Vyčiai Philadelphijoj gerai atsimeina kaip jis su Vyčiais surengdavo lietuviškus vaidinimus teatrus. Keilus metus buvo dvasios vadu 3-ios kuopos.

Kun. Stasys Raila į Brooklyną atvyko 1960 m. Čia irgi dirba su Vyčiais kiek aplinkybes leido. Keiloka metų buvo Vyčių 110 kuopos nariu, užsitarnaves IV laipsni. Nuo 1990 m. Liepos 1 d. jau pensijoje bet vis dalyvauja Vyčių susirinkimuose. Vid. Atlanto Apskritis Vyčiai ir Atsimainymo parapija surenge jam 85 metų minejimą rugsėjo 25 d, 1991. Dabar gerosio sąlygose gyvena pensijoje Brooklyno Vyskupijos įrengtoje buveinėje netoli Brooklyna.

Balandžio 25 d., Apreiškimo baznyčioje, Brooklyne, bus jo 60 metų kunigystės pagerbimas. Iškilmingos padėkos Šv. Mišios bus aukojamos 11 val. rytą Linkimė jam Ad Multos Annos!



PROFILE OF . . .

HONORARY MEMBERSHIP CANDIDATE ALGERD BRAZIS

C-112 and the Mid America District have many members who have dedicated 20 - 30 - 40 years working for the K of L. But we are also fortunate enough to have one member who is truly outstanding among all the others, because he has been the cohesive force in keeping the K of L in our area constantly prominent.

The K of L through the Mid America District enjoys an enviable status of prestige and respect in this part of the country which has such a heavy concentration of a multitude of Lithuanian organizations. And, we have sustained this position over the past 30 - 35 years through our District leaders who devote so much of their personal efforts to maintain this level of recognition.

One such leader is Algerd Brazis, who has dedicated years and years of service since joining the Knights of Lithuania January 9, 1941, fifty-one years ago.

Anyone who has held any office on the Council, District or National levels knows what a special person it takes to be President

to energize members - to mediate fellow officers - to coordinate and guide projects and events to a successful conclusion - to spend endless hours for the K of L instead of personal leisure. A few have done this for two or three terms in office. But how many have dedicated twenty years to the office of District President or Board President? Al Brazis has - from 1970 to 1992.

Besides this outstanding accomplishment, there's about 25 years of commitment to our annual Memories of Lithuania banquets, which began in 1961. Whether as chairman, co-chairman or just committee member, Al has been a vital force in making this prestigious event in Lithuanian circles a stellar success year after year. Going back to the 60's and on through 1992, Al has been a "roll up your sleeves and work" member for the District's annual traditional July 4th picnics, for which he was often chairman or co-chairman. He applied the same work ethic to the many of Building Fund events over the years.

Algerd was General Chair when the District hosted the national convention in 1970 and 1989 and an important committee member for the 1950, 1956 and 1964 conventions.

For his C-112, Al makes time to attend meetings and participate on committees, whenever asked. He is especially effective in fund raising projects which are so vital to sustaining the council's operating budgets.

In addition, over the last 30 to 40 years, Algerd Brazis has participated and so unselfishly has donated his vocal talents for many National Conventions, District Memories



of Lithuania banquets, St. Casimir Day commemorations, Religious Community functions, Chicago area Captive Nations rallies, Memorial Day cemetery services and Darius Girenas American Legion memorial events.

Beyond these, Algerd Brazis, a highly respected and admired professional, who formerly sang with the Metropolitan Opera and continues to appear with the Lithuanian Opera, has so many times contributed his soloist talents to the K of L choir in their many appearances from the Illinois State Fairs to a myriad of Lithuanian and civic events and the productions of our choir records. Whenever he can do so, Al so proudly bears the K of L banner and his name and talents to enhance the K of L and Lithuanian music and culture that we are equally proud of him.

Al is a working Knight who has devoted so many years in the service of God and Country, Lithuania and the K of L. Recognition for his dynamic, outstanding contributions is long overdue.

As is stated in a part of the council's and district's resolution "... AND WHEREAS ALGERD BRAZIS has been a cohesive force in keeping the organization thriving, has kept the name and presence of the Knights of Lithuania so prominent in the Mid America area and has done this with honor, dedication and distinction for many years."

Honorary Membership will be bestowed upon Algerd Brazis at the 80th National Convention in Worcester, MA. This outstanding Knight truly has earned and deserves this honor.

My Impressions of City and Villages in Lithuania

by Sarah Marino

Before moving to Kaunas for an academic year this past August, I had spent the summer researching my new home. I read over and over about the importance of Kaunas as an industrial center in Lithuania. With that brief background, I envisioned a large, grimy city, filled with smoke, garbage and unappealing high rises. On arriving, I discovered a certain element of truth to my preconceptions, but, the other night when I tried to sleep in my nine-story flat, I was kept awake by a donkey braying. A donkey in the city! And that donkey - who has verbalized on succeeding nights - symbolizes the preservation of the country. The safeguarding of Lithuania's agricultural past in these small strongholds of country life reflects the power of Lithuanians' attachment to the land and demonstrates the mixed nature of Kaunas as an industrial city. I have learned to delight in the little villages that I have found cuddled in the corners of Kaunas.

In the neighborhood overlooking the railroad station in which I was living, I could see the mixed character of the city. At the top of the hill, there are plenty of high-rise soviet-style apartment buildings, impersonally ugly. But, intermixed among those, are the private homes with luxurious gardens, chickens, dogs, and that very loud donkey. Looking over those homes from the balcony, I was able to view a small village from above - the men and women working on the garden or house, the chickens pecking in the yard, the small children playing in the street, and older men and women, supported by their canes, walking down the sidewalks and chatting idly.

I have learned during my four months stay in Kaunas about the importance of a garden plot in the economy and morale of Lithuania. I have met people in this city who proudly show me their storeroom of bottled vegetables and fruit juices, created from the product of a plot located outside the city. I am learning myself in looking at the barren vegetable shops how necessary such a stockpile is because of the scarcity of vegetables in the winter. The additional factor of small spots within the city, preserved from industrialization, further illustrates the importance of this agricultural legacy.

In exploring the city during the past four months, I have certainly walked through sections of apartment buildings without end, intersected by large highways filled with pollutant cars. But, quite frequently, I have turned from

those large streets and found, hidden away, a neighborhood that remains inviolate from the hustle and bustle pace of the industrial city of Kaunas. On those small streets, with their narrow sidewalks, neatly fenced-in yards, and cozy houses, I have discovered the spirit of a small village: reclusive and sleepy, offering a peaceful retreat to a visitor who can cheerfully wander down the street offering a friendly "laba diena" to its inhabitants.

SENIOR CITIZEN'S LAMENT

*Thought I'd better see the doctor
'Cause I didn't feel just right,
All those aches and pains annoyed me
And I couldn't sleep at night.
Doctor could find no real disorder
But he wouldn't let it rest.
What, with Medicare and Blue Cross
It wouldn't hurt to have some tests.
To the hospital he sent me,
Tho I didn't feel that bad,
And arranged for them to give me
Every test that could be had!*

*I was fluoscoped and cysticeroids,
My aging frame displayed,
Stripped - upon an ice-cold table
While my innards were x-rayed.
Doctors came to check me over,
Probed and pushed and poked around,
And to make sure I was living,
They wired me up for sound.
They pierced me with long needles,
Taking samples of my blood.
They have finally concluded,
(Their results have filled a page)
What I have will someday kill me,
My affliction is OLD AGE.*

Author Unknown

"PROJECT ORBIS" to Lithuania

by Bruno Rutkunas

Knights of Lithuania C-110 received information from the President & Executive Director, Hon. Oliver Foot, advising that a three-week training program in Vilnius will be held from May 29 thru June 19, 1993.

The eye hospital airplane, "Orbis", will be stationed at Vilnius airport. Project Orbis has a program where there is a surgical exchange between visiting and host ophthalmologists, upgrading their skills. Patients treated on board Orbis are selected during the screening at the beginning of each week of the program. These screenings provide valuable opportunities for visiting and host doctors to discuss examination techniques, diagnosis, pathology and treatment alternatives. Three to five surgical operations take place each day on the aircraft. Laser treatment, a non-surgical procedure, takes place throughout the day. In the operating room, the visiting surgeon and a host ophthalmologist perform the surgery together. Eleven cameras situated throughout the aircraft, transmit the live surgery to the 18-seat classroom on the plane. Also, during the program, visiting faculty assist the host doctors in local hospitals. Likewise, the nurses work together, exchanging their skills. Orbis nurses stress the need for effective infection control, since infection before and after can lead to blindness.

Lithuania will be the first country in the Baltics to be visited by this charitable organization. Since 42 million people in the world are blind and millions more will lose their sight before the year 2000, Project Orbis continues to expand their services. Surveys indicate that two-thirds of the blindness in the world can be cured or prevented.

Last year, Dr. Steven Laukaitis and Orbis volunteers spent a week (without the airplane), in Kaunas, teaching and donating medical supplies. Dr. Jašinskas of the Kaunas Eye Clinic has requested medical equipment and a Laser for their use. At an Ophthalmology Convention in Dallas, TX, Dr. Laukaitis discussed the needs of the people in Lithuania and a serious attempt will be made to obtain a Laser at the time Project Orbis aircraft will be going to Lithuania.



VYTIS tai Lietuvos valstybinis ženklas, vaizduojas baltąjį raitelį raudonam dugne; raitelis — riteris, karžygis — skrieja užsimojęs kalaviju, jo skyde dvigubas kryžius. Vytis tai išlikusi iš senosios Lietuvos laikų, randama piniguose ir antspauduose, vėliau imta vartoti ir vėliavose. Vytis simbolizuoja fizinę jėgą, dvasinį didvyriškumą ir kurybinę galią — skridimą iš praeties pro dabartį į ateitį.

valstybės ženklas: national emblem
vaizduojas: depicting, representing, picturing
raitelis (riteris): horseman, knight, cavalryman
raudonam dugne: in a red background
karžygis: warrior, hero
užsimojęs kalaviju: hand lifted up with sword
skydas: shield
dvigubas kryžius: double cross
antspauda: seal
vėliava: flag
simbolizuoja: symbolizes
fizinė jėga: physical strength
dvasinis didvyriškumas: spiritual heroism
kurybinė galia: creative power
skridimas: flight
iš praeties: out of the past
pro dabartį: through the present
į ateitį: into the future

Lithuanian Language Course at CAMP DAINAVA Manchester, MI August 15 - 22, 1993

For beginners, intermediate and advanced students or those just wishing to refresh their Lithuanian language.

No limitations regarding age or formal education. Experienced instructors with vacation-like surroundings and atmosphere. For information and application: Bronius Krokys, 1124 Hedgerow Lane, Philadelphia, PA 19115-4835. Telephone: (215) 671-0397.

KNIGHTS OF LITHUANIA FOUNDATION, INC.

1993 Essay Contest

In Lithuania as in the rest of the world, Lithuanians celebrate this year as the 75th Anniversary of the Resurrection of the Lithuanian State. And just three years ago this March, Lithuania REdeclared its independence of its brutal occupation by the Soviet Union, a declaration that was acknowledged by the rest of the world in September of 1991. These events led some uninformed people and nations to consider Lithuania as a 'NEW' nation, a fledging republic, looking for a national identity.

But are you aware that this year also marks 740 years since the establishment of Lithuania's Nationhood? On July 6, 1243, Lithuania became a nation, when King Mindaugas, after uniting Lithuanian tribes into a nation, was crowned King of Lithuania by the Holy Father. With all the oppression and "slings and arrows" Lithuania suffered over the centuries, she never lost her sense of "nationhood". It is important that the rest of the world be informed that Lithuania is one of the oldest nations of Europe, and existed even before the Russian Empire.

The K of L Foundation, Inc. is providing you an opportunity to research this history of Lithuania and to share the facts that your research uncovers, through its annual essay contest. This year, interested members are asked to write an essay using the format of a "Letter to the Editor" describing the establishment of the Lithuanian Nation in 1243, and commenting on its meaning to Lithuanians and the rest of the world. Use your imagination and research to tell "readers" about Lithuania's grand 740 year

history, in 450 to 500 words.

Other details follow:

DEADLINE: July 6, 1993. Essays received after this date will not be considered.

ELIGIBILITY: A contestant must be a Knights of Lithuania member (Honorary, Regular or Associate) in good standing, OR a member of a Junior Council which is duly registered with the Supreme Council.

CRITERIA: Essays will be judged on content, originality, and Attention to Contest Topic. Correct grammar and neatness will also be considered.

MANUSCRIPT: Must be typed or written legibly, double spaced. The first page should contain only your name, address, council number and the essay title. Succeeding pages should contain the essay contents but not your name. This is to assure anonymity in judging.

PRIZES: 1st Prize - \$300; 2nd Prize, \$200; 3rd Prize, \$100.

JUDGES: Adolf Klova (AMD), Clemencine Miller (NED), Evelyn Ozelis (MAMD), Aldona Ryan (MCD), Loretta Stukas (MAD), Anna Helen McDonald (1992 contest winner).

MAIL TO: Aldona Ryan, 6591 McEwen Rd., Centerville, OH 45459

WINNERS: Will be announced August 14, 1993 during the 80th National Convention in Worcester, MA. Winning entries will be published in VYTIS.

SPONSOR: Knights of Lithuania Foundation, Inc., via a grant from Msgr. Juozas Prunskis.

IN MEMORIAM

DAVID WENSLOVAS
C-19 Pittsburgh, PA
† February 4, 1993

BRUNO GRAMONT
C-36 Chicago, IL
† February 14, 1993

JOSEPH MARTIKONIS
C-36 Chicago, IL
† February 5, 1993

MARY VAGLIA
C-19 Pittsburgh, PA
† February 17, 1993



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HOLY FATHER IN LITHUANIA



Pope John Paul II is coming to Lithuania September 4 - 8. He will visit Vilnius, Kaunas, Šiluva and Hill of Crosses. A special tour is being organized to meet and greet the Holy Father. The tour itinerary is shown below. If there are any changes in the Pope's itinerary, the tour itinerary will be adjusted accordingly. The tour will also include Mass in various churches, according to schedule.

This tour is sponsored by three New York/New Jersey parishes - Annunciation, Brooklyn, NY, Our Lady of Sorrows, Kearny, NJ and Transfiguration, Maspeth, NY. Flights and land reservations have been arranged by Vytis Travel, Inc. Everybody is invited to join the tour. Tour Cost: \$1,940.00 per person, double occupancy. The price includes:

- Air transportation from New York (add-on from other cities available).
- Hotel accommodations.
- Three meals daily.
- Sightseeing as per itinerary.
- English and Lithuanian speaking guides.
- All transportation.
- Entrance fees.
- Luggage handling.
- Tax and service charges.

ITINERARY

- | | |
|-----------|---|
| August | 30 Departing Newark International Airport on SAS. |
| | 31 Arriving Vilnius. Transfer to Kaunas by motorcoach. |
| September | 1 Half day tour of Kaunas, including the Cathedral, Catholic Seminary, Vytautas' Church. |
| | 2 Visit to Čiurlionis' Picture Gallery, Devils' Museum. |
| | 3 Half day tour to Pažaislis Convent. |
| | 4 Tour to Šiluva and the monastery of Tytuvėnai. Transfer to Panevėžys. |
| | 5 City tour of Panevėžys, including the Cathedral, St. Anne's Church. Transfer to Vilnius by motorcoach. |
| | 6 City tour of Vilnius, including the Cathedral, St. Anne's Church, the Gates of Dawn, St. John's Church. |
| | 7 Half day trip to Trakai - castle of the 14th century, including Vytautas' Church. |
| | 8 Visit the church of St. Peter & Paul, the Hill of Three Crosses. |
| | 9 Transfer to Palanga. Lunch in Klaipėda. |
| | 10 Visit the Amber Museum and Count Tiškevičius' Park of the 19th century. |
| | 11 Full day trip to Nida. |
| | 12 Half day tour of Klaipėda. |
| | 13 Transfer to Vilnius by motorcoach. Visit the Hill of Crosses on the way. Lunch in Panevėžys. |
| | 14 Transfer to Airport. Have a nice trip home. |

To secure reservation, send \$100. deposit per person to Vytis Travel, Inc. or to one of the three pastors of the sponsoring parishes. Final payment due on or before July 15, 1993.

VYTIS TRAVEL, INC.
2129 Knapp Street
Brooklyn, NY 11229
 Tel. 718-769-3300; 1-800-952-0119
 FAX 718-769-3302
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Lithuanians in the News

IT'S NOT OVER TILL THE SLIM LADY SINGS

Carol Vaness (Vysnauskas) sat at her neighborhood hamburger place, unapologetically eating a cheeseburger and enjoying her day off from the gym.

Gone was the woman who, four months and 43 pounds earlier, had delivered a series of self-deprecating fat-lady jokes ("Do I look tubercular to you?") as she prepared for a highlight of her career: the opening-night performance of the Metropolitan Opera's season. In her place was someone who talked about finding balance between professional acclaim and personal happiness, who could now walk in a store and actually buy a pair of jeans marked "slim".

She is back at the Met singing all three female leads in "The Tales of Hoffmann." Last season, she opened LaScala; last month, she sang Verdi's Requiem in Munich; this spring, she will give a solo recital at Carnegie Hall.

For Ms. Vaness, shedding pounds was part of a process that began after her divorce three years ago. She said she always felt uncomfortable about her weight (though she would not say exactly what it was). So this has been a time of re-evaluation. If she is thin now, she has spent much of her life trying to shake the feeling of being 13 years old, 5-foot-10 and overweight. In a way, that very lack of confidence, that need for attention and acceptance, is what drew her into opera in the first place. She did not grow up hearing opera; her parents didn't even like it then. She was born in San Diego and raised in Pomona, CA. Her father was a security guard and her mother worked in a munitions plant and in a retirement-home laundry. In college she majored in piano and English. After college, she won an audition to become a fellow at the San Francisco Opera and moved on to New York City Opera and later to the Met. For 16 years she studied with the same teacher.

She bubbled about how people she had known for years no longer recognized her. The Met had to take her costume in seven inches. She has a new boyfriend, a physical therapist she met in San Francisco. Although she lives alone in New York, she said she was on the road so much it didn't matter where her boyfriend lived.



Carol Vaness and 43 pounds lighter.

DRAMA ABOUT KIMBERLY BERGALIS

Signature Theater Co. expects to present the world premiere of "Patient A," a play based on Lithuanian Kimberly Bergalis who died of AIDS in late 1991 in Florida. She had been infected by her dentist during dental work. Lee Blessing was approached by Robert Montgomery, the Bergalis' lawyer who was familiar with Blessing's plays. Blessing said, "The family was interested in finding someone willing to tackle a dramatization of Kim's illness." The three actor play will touch on "all aspects of the case - personal, political, esthetic, whatever," he said.

Because of its subject matter and the fact that the Bergalis family commissioned it, the play promises to bring more attention to the company than anything else it's done in its two-year existence. It also has the potential for attracting more controversy than previous plays on the subject of AIDS.

A STAR TWINKLING IN OUR GOVERNMENT'S GALAXY

There is a new star twinkling in our government's galaxy. She is bright, blond and sparkling Lithuanian American Jurate Kazickas. Reportedly in much demand

LITHUANIANS IN THE NEWS (Cont'd)

for the elite dinners, Kazickas arrives on the "Washington scene with her husband Roger Altman, deputy to Treasury Secretary Lloyd Bentsen."

One of Jurate's careers is in the writing/journalism from which she carries a wound received while recovering the Vietnam War. But more visible is her movie, *Running High*. Current works include arranging for a return to Vietnam and collaborating with ABC's Lynn Scherr on a book. The other career: Jurate and Roger have three children, ages three to nine.

BREAST CANCER RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP

Over the course of a long and distinguished career, Lithuanian Dr. Jerome A Urban's impact on the treatment of breast cancer was profound and his reputation worldwide.

Dr. Urban graduated from the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Columbia University in 1938, joining the faculty of Cornell University Medical College in 1946. Subsequently, he became Clinical Professor of Surgery and Senior Surgeon at Memorial Hospital. Over the course of his career, Dr. Urban made major contributions to the field of breast cancer treatment, contributing to the training of surgeons in many countries and publishing extensively



Jerome A. Urban, MD, DSC

on the treatment of new operations for both cancer and non-malignant diseases of the breast.

The Jerome A. Urban Breast Cancer Research Fellowship has been created by Cornell University Medical College as a tribute to Dr. Urban's life and work. The Fellowship will continue Dr. Urban's efforts in breast cancer research through the training of young surgeons who will be appointed for a two year period. During this time, they will experience both laboratory and clinical research.

LETTERS

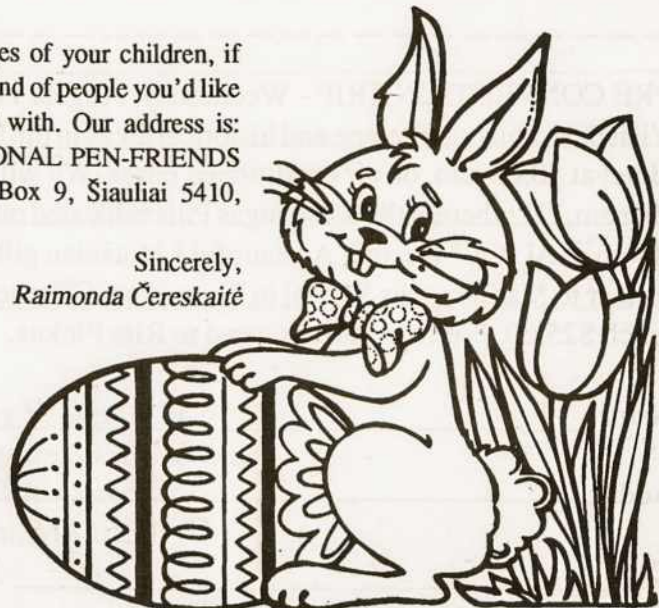
SEEKING PEN-PALS

Dear Editor:

I am writing from Šiauliai, Lithuania. My name is Raimonda Čereskaitė and I am president of INTERNATIONAL PEN FRIENDS CLUB. My friends and I think our people need the above mentioned club. However, we have problems. We have no communication with the USA. We ask for your help. The club wants to increase its activities. We know there are many people in the USA who wish to become pen pals with Lithuanians living in Lithuania. If interested, please write to us giving us your name, address, age, education, occupation, languages

you speak, ages of your children, if any, and the kind of people you'd like to correspond with. Our address is: INTERNATIONAL PEN-FRIENDS CLUB, P.O. Box 9, Šiauliai 5410, Lithuania.

Sincerely,
Raimonda Čereskaitė



CONVENTION REGISTRATION FORM

Make all checks payable to: KNIGHTS OF LITHUANIA C-26

Send check and form to:

Rita Pinkus
76 Providence St.
Worcester, MA 01604
(508) 757-1439

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

PLEASE GIVE THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION:

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Hotel Reservations at Worcester Marriott, call (800) 628-4240 or (508) 791-1600

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

PRE CONVENTION TRIP - Wednesday, August 11, 1993

Visit the Lithuanian serene and historical areas in the New England States. Trip leaves from Marriott Hotel at 10:00 a.m. on air conditioned buses. We will visit the Immaculate Conception Convent in Putnam, CT wherein the Mindaugas Pilis is located on the grounds and also visit the K of L Archives Room at ALKA Museum. A beautiful Lithuanian gift shop is located in the convent. We will travel further to Marianapolis School in Thompson, CT wherein lunch will be served. Total cost including lunch \$25.00. For reservations, send to Rita Pinkus.

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JOURNAL AD CONTRACT FORM

Please publish the following advertisement in the Knights of Lithuania 80th National Convention Souvenir Program Book.

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Official News

Oficialus Skyrius

KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK

by Clemencine Miller, Scholarship Committee

Our Junior Councils are doing many interesting projects. It is heart warming to hear about them.

There is one group that periodically remembers the Scholarship Fund. This is the Juniors of C-100 Amsterdam. This Junior council consists of eight members, ranging from six to eighteen years of age. They have several money making projects. One such project is a turkey raffle. Part of the money earned is used to pay for their members attending Camp Neringa in Vermont. A part of the money goes to the Scholarship Fund. Their officers are: Daniel Jasewicz, president and Robert Tambasco, treasurer.

Scholarship Committee thanks C-100 Juniors for their \$25 donation to the Fund.

CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR GREETINGS FROM LITHUANIA

Robert S. Boris

During the recent Christmas season and well into January, greetings were received from most of the hospitals and organizations to which AID TO LITHUANIA has sent medicine and supplies. To reprint every letter and greeting would require a full issue of VYTIS. Along with holiday greetings, the following expressed sincere gratitude for the assistance received:

Lithuanian Ministry of Health

Česlovas Norkus, Vilnius

Caritas Federation of Lithuania, Kaunas

Sister Albina Pajarskaite

Caritas Diagnostic Center

Dr. Elva Marčiulioniene, Kaunas

Caritas of Vilkaviškis

Dr. E. Montviliene

Lietuvos Invalidų Draugija

(Handicapped Society of Lithuania)

Vlada Gribėniėne, Molėtų rajonas

Jonas Tertelis, Druskininkai

Marcijonas Urmonas, Joniškis

Lietuvos Aklųjų Sąjunga

(Society for the Blind of Lithuania)

O. Petrauskas, Vilnius

Šv. Jokūbo (St. James Hospital), Vilnius

Kazys Paltanavičius, MD

Rože Bakienė, MD

Nephro-urology Dept. Vilnius University

Prof. Balys Dainys, MD

Kaunas Medical Academy Hospital

Jonas Mickevičius, MD

Dr. Saulius Jarašius

Childrens Hospital of Šiauliai

Regina Ulkštinienė

Red Cross Hospital

Dr. Mykolas Biliūnas, Kaunas

Nesakykimė: "Valgykime ir gerkime, nes rytoj mirsime," bet sakykime: "Dirbkime ir padėkime viens kitam, nes šiandien esame gyvi kartu."

Mokytojas mokinio motinai:

— Tamstos vaikas vis labiau pasileidžia. Vakar jo aš paklausiau, kas parašė "Orleano Mergelę", o jis man gana nachališkai atrėžė: "Ne aš!"

— Žinote, pone mokytojau, padauža jis yra tai yra, bet viena galiu tamstą užtikrinti, kad jis nemeluoja. Galbūt, tikrai jis "Orleano Mergelės" neparašė, atsakė motina.

Teacher: "What is the chemical formula for water?"

Student: "H, i, j, k, l, m, n, o."

Teacher: "May I ask what that is?"

Student: "That's what you said it was last week — H to O."

Highly distressed over her son's poor grades, his mother tried scolding, coaxing and finally bribing the small boy with a \$1 bill.

The next day, he ran in excitedly. "Hey Mom," he shouted. "I got a hundred!"

"And what did you get a hundred in?" she asked.

"In two things," the little boy replied without hesitation. "I got 40 in math and 60 in spelling."

Lithuanian Kitchen

— Lietuviška Virtuvė

C-109 BRUNCH EGG BAKE

1 lb. smoked kielbasi cooked, sliced	2 cups sliced mushrooms
1/4 lb. Monterey Jack cheese, grated	1 cup chopped onion
1/4 lb. sharp Cheddar, grated	10 eggs
10-12 slices white bread	3 cups milk
	Salt, pepper
	Butter, softened

Saute onion and mushrooms. Set aside. Cut crusts from bread; butter both sides, cut in quarters. Place bread on bottom of buttered 9" x 12" pan so that bottom is completely covered with bread. Evenly spoon mushrooms, onion, kielbasi and grated cheeses over bread. Repeat layering until ingredients are used up; ending with the cheese. In a bowl beat well the eggs, milk and seasonings. Pour egg mixture over the casserole. Cover and refrigerate overnight. Bake at 350° for 60 mins. or until center is set. Cut into squares and serve hot.

Mary Wesey

EASTER POTATO CASSEROLE

6-8 medium potatoes	1 can cream of chicken soup
4 Tbs. butter/oleo	1 cup shredded sharp Cheddar cheese
1 pint sour cream	1 chopped onion
Salt/pepper to taste	

Boil potatoes the day before and refrigerate overnight. Peel potatoes, shred into a buttered 9" x 12" casserole. In saucepan melt butter and saute onion; add soup to pan; add cheese. When cheese is melted add sour cream and heat. Remove from heat. Spread mixture over potatoes and mix well. Sprinkle with paprika. Bake at 350° for about 45 mins. until bubbly and brown on top. Garnish with chopped parsley.

EASTER ROAST DUCKLING

1 duck, 4-5 lbs.	3 apples or oranges, quartered
2 Garlic cloves	1 onion in chunks
Salt, pepper	
1/2 cup water	

Remove giblets from duck cavity. Rinse duck well. Dry. Remove excess fat. Prick skin with fork all over to allow fat to drain while roasting. Season duck. Place garlic cloves and fruit into cavity. Place into roasting pan, add

onion and water. Roast at 350° for 1-1/2 to 2 hours or until done. Allow to rest in pan for about 10 mins. Remove to serving dish, taking out the fruit. If oranges are used, squeeze out juice into roasting pan. Remove fat from drippings which can be used to make gravy.

POTATO PIEROGIES

Dough

1/2 cup butter/oleo
1 cup cottage cheese,
small curd
2 eggs
2 cups flour, or more
1/2 tsp. salt

Filling

6-8 potatoes, cooked and
mashed
Salt, pepper
2 Tbsp. butter
1/2 cup cottage cheese

Mix dough ingredients to form dough. Mix all filling ingredients in another bowl. Roll out dough on floured board until thin. Use a round cutter or glass to cut circles of dough. Spoon a teaspoon of filling on circle; fold in half and dampen edges with water. Press edges securely together. Boil 1-1/2 qts. of water. add 1/2 tsp. salt, if desired. Drop pierogies into boiling water. Allow to rise to top and cook for about 3 mins. Saute onions in butter until browned. Place pierogies in serving dish and cover with sauteed onion. Serve with sour cream.

HEAVENLY AMBROSIA WITH FRUIT

1 cup heavy cream, whipped	1 cup grated coconut
1/2 cup sour cream	1 cup mini marshmallows
2 Tbsp. orange liquer	Fruit

Fold sour cream into whipped cream; add liquer and mix. Add grated coconut and mini marshmallows. Pour into serving bowl and chill 4-6 hours or overnight. Use as a dip or dessert sauce with an arrangement of orange, grapefruit sections, pineapple, pears, strawberries or other fruits which could be fresh, canned or frozen.



Council News

Vyčiai Veikia

C-7 WATERBURY, CT

Our Valentine's Day Polka Fest was recently held at St. Joseph School Hall, with music provided by the German band, Alpine Echo. It was enjoyed by all, especially the visit made by Augustine, the Pig. It was chaired by Alma Torre & Joseph Stiklius. Thanks go to all who helped with making it a success: Ed & Toni White, Ann Kundrotas, Victor Machokis, Alma Torre, Virginia & Alex Kosa, Elise Mauriello, Doc & Theresa Shukaitis, Joan & Edmond Shukaitis, Doris Snirpunas, Marge Philbrin, Julia Pochukaitis, Marcela Lorenkas, Ed Bebrin, Ed Karvelis, Joe & Arlene Stiklius. Special thanks go to Mary Bartkus for the floral arrangements and to Victor Vaitkus for his great job of decorating the hall. We are very grateful for the great job John Veturis did in preparing and serving the food.

Our spiritual advisor, Rev. Karvelis was honored as Lithuanian Mayor for the day on Feb. 16, 1993. A ceremony was held at City Hall which included a flag raising and other activities. The Lithuanian American Community of Waterbury helped to make the events of the day very pleasant and successful.

On March 1, the K of L celebrated St. Casimir's Day with a Mass at St. Joseph's Church celebrated by Rev. Karvelis. A social pot luck supper followed chaired by Diane Gay at the K of L club.

Congratulations to: Christina (Stiklius) DeRinzo for becoming a new member; and to Vincent Kacerguis & Ann Kundrotas who both

bowled a 150 high game in the K of L Bowling League. *Frances Stiklius*

C-10 ATHOL-GARDNER, MA

It was "Savulis" Sunday at Sacred Heart Church, Greenfield, on Jan. 31 as family and friends joined parishioners in thanking and honoring Bruno & Blanche Savulis for 30 years of service and dedication to their parish. "For some 30 years you have worked tirelessly for Sacred Heart Church, keeping our church and property under watchful loving eyes", wrote Pastor Rev. Stanley Akasamit in a letter and sermon to the Savulis was read at Mass at which the couple were guests of honor. Bruno, a native of Lithuania and his wife a native of Poland, came to the States in 1961. Following Mass, they were honored at a reception in the parish hall with more than a hundred persons attending. The Greenfield, Springfield and Diocesan Observer wrote at length with pictures of the event. Bruno is a member of C-10 and brother to Brone Wisniauskas of Gardner. The K of L was represented at the observance and we extend them best wishes.

Condolences are extended to David Lucas on the death of his uncle, John Hakkenen, and the fiancée of his brother, Lawrence Blanche Genaitis spent a month in the State of Washington visiting with daughter and family and Joanne Chastney spent a month in Florida Best wishes for a return to health are extended to Lennie Davidonis, Marge Senk and Ann Ambrose. *"Vincukas"*

C-26 WORCESTER, MA

The skies during the month of Feb. were gray with snow and freezing temperatures, but Ruth Sarafinas announced, "It is only six months to the National Convention in Worcester." Plans for this event are progressing. She hopes that K of L's are starting to think about the convention and reserving the August 12-15 dates Members have been enjoying their mini language lessons with Ed Meilus, Jr. The words with pictures help in learning the Lithuanian language. Ed thanks Ernie Pantos of Tully Ins. Agency for supplying copies for our council Rita Margosian is back from Atlantic City. Did you win? Many council members bowled off in the NED Bowling Tournament held on Feb. 28.

Roland Walent was appointed Nurse Educator of the San Francisco General Hospital. He is the son of Virginia Walent Capt. Ralph Seilius, son of Al and the late Dorothy Seilius, recently graduated from the US Air Force Fighter Weapons School in Nevada. Only 100 officers are selected and graduates are considered the PHD's of Air weaponry. Our future K of L's!

Joseph Salkus is recovering from surgery Tilly Zelesky is at St. Francis Home We express our sympathy to Adele Ulevich and John & Vitty Gadilauskas on the death of their mother, Adele Witt, who died six days before her 93rd birthday Also, condolences to Mary Anusauskas on the death of her husband, Alexander. May they rest in peace.

Lithuanian Independence Day

was celebrated on Feb. 14 with a Mass at St. Casimir's Church. The Lithuanian flag flew over Worcester City Hall all week. An afternoon program and dinner commemorated Lithuanian freedom at Maironis Park, with various organizations represented. Anne Walinsky directed the choir of St. Casimir's with a medley of Lithuanian songs. Red, green and yellow ribbons were worn on lapels. Teresa Meilus read a proclamation received from the Gov. of Massachusetts, William Weld. Guest speaker was Vaiva Vebraitė-Gust from APPLE, which supplies aid for education in Lithuania Our council observed the Feast of St. Casimir by attending Mass on March 7 followed by annual St. Casimir's parish dinner at Maironis Park This council member is off to the Philadelphia Flower Show with warm thoughts of Spring.

Barb Pantos

C-36 CHICAGO, IL

Our meeting of Feb. 15 was held at Immaculate Conception school hall starting at 7:30 p.m. Many were in attendance. Leading us with the beau-

tiful words of the prayer, "Lord, make me an instrument of thy peace," treasurer Mary Kincius memorialized our deceased: Joseph Martikonis, 2nd Vice Pres.; Rev. Pranas Garsva, Editor of "Draugas"; Frank Svelnis, former President & Treasurer; and Bruno Gramont.

We were proud of our members Vytautas Dijokas (Sgt. at arms) who carried our Lithuanian Mid America District flag with Johanna Johnston as honor guard on Feb. 16 at ALTA Lithuanian Independence Day celebration at Nativity BVM Church and at Maria High School. Vince Samaska, our cultural chair, showed a tape of Lithuania. It was so moving and interesting to see the history and the culture depicted there. For those of us who have visited Lithuania, the tape relived many of our memories. We celebrated Independence Day with love and showing our concern.

Victor Utara chaired our booth at Immaculate Conception Mardi Gras, "Western Fling." Thanks to him and to all our workers. We showed our love to our church and our pastor and member, Rev. A. Puchenski To our sick members: we are praying for all of you.

Lent started on Ash Wednesday - a time to reflect on our own lives and to grow in our faith Our March meeting was held on March 15 with a good attendance.

Sabina Henson

C-46 FOREST CITY, PA

As planned at our Nov. meeting, our Christmas Party took shape in the capable hands of Alice Punter, as chair, assisted by Joan Opeka. The result was an exciting and an effortlessly run affair held at a beautifully decorated restaurant whose tables were adorned with poinsettias which were later given away as door prizes. In addition to bringing gifts for exchanging, most members also brought extra gifts to be used as door prizes. The food was excellent. Christmas favors, made by our very artistic new young president, Stasia Wallis, adorned each plate. Stasia presented a small personal gift to our spiritual advisor, Fr. Sitko; she then presented gifts from the council to past president Michael Yavorosky and past ritual committee member, Frances Yavorosky. Everyone left the party in a holiday mood!

Due to inclement weather, our January meeting was cancelled; but our February meeting was well attended.

Our St. Casimir Mass was celebrated on March 7 with members dressed in national costume and participating as a group. After Mass, Alice Punter arranged for us to enjoy a hearty breakfast.

Finally, we ask our members and our readers to pray for those of our fellow Knights who have been seriously ill.

Blanche Motsko

C-74 SCRANTON, PA

It was gratifying to see so many K of L's at the Ecumenical Service for Christian Unity at Holy Rosary Church. Rev. Paul Green, of Trinity Baptist Church and Msgr. Peter Madus of St. Joseph's Church served as co-moderators of the Green Ridge-North Scranton Ministerium.

We attended the Pro-Life break-



C-36 Valdyba: Rev. F. Kireilis, Evelyn Ozelis, Raymond Wertelka, the late Joseph Martikonis, Frances Urnazus, Vince Samaska, Sabina Henson, Victor Utara, Frank Grigaliunas, Vytautas Dijokas.



fast at Marywood College. Mary Oswald from New Jersey was guest speaker. She was born with deformed arms and legs and a brilliant intelligence. She reminded her audience about how prayer and education are vital to carrying on the cause of Pro-Life. Although she was very small, she had a beautiful vibrant voice and is a vocational career counselor for disabled persons.

St. Peter's Cathedral conducted the 14th annual Diocesan Ethnic Rosary. The rosary was recited in Gaelic, Lithuanian, Slovak, Italian, German & Polish. Nell Romanas did the spiritual reading Our flag raising was held in Scranton City Hall. The Mayor presented the proclamation. John Pocius, city council member, delivered his greeting in Lithuanian. Richard Laske, chair, gave the greetings. John Romoska recited the prayer. Ed Romanauska, Dr. Romas Dovidaitis, George Sadauskas & Regina Petrauskas gave history and updates on Lithuania. Peg Romanauskas, Jule Krutlus & Marie Laske served refreshments. In spite of the inclement weather, we had a good turnout.

M. Laske

C-90 KEARNY, NJ

Happy New Year to all of our fellow K of L's. We are happy to begin our New Year with the following elected officers: Spir. Adv., Msgr. Dominick Pocus; Pres., Theresa Bilaitis; 1st V.P., Catherine Cierpial; 2nd V.P., Elizabeth Nakrosis; 3rd V.P., John Nakrosis; Sec., Ann Pringle; Treas., Eleanor Gelenitis; Fin. Sec., Mary Przychocki; Trustees, Eleanor Rokas & Paul Gelenitis; Lith. Affairs, Ann Sluzis; Cultural, Irene Belza; Vytis Corres., Gen Mazur; Public Relations, Fran Grdina. Congratulations to all.

Our council was host to the Mid Atlantic District meeting last June and we were pleased to see so many of our fellow KofL's attend. All attended Mass at Our Lady of Sorrows Church and the church resounded with many beautiful voices joining in the singing of our beautiful hymns. A brunch and meeting followed at the LCCC Also in June, some of our members traveled to Baltimore for the Lithuanian Festival and a wonderful time was had by all.

After a restful summer, Sept. came and our meetings resumed with many plans for projects and events Our Christmas Social was held on Dec. 4 at the LCCC. It was a covered dish supper with members bringing their homemade specialty - needless to say, the food was scrumptious. Joe Thomas supplied the music and a good time was had by all. Many thanks to the committee.

At our recent meeting, it was decided to donate \$600 to Srs. Dolrita Butkus & Michele Garas, Sisters of St. Francis in Pittsburgh who are now on a mission to Lithuania. The money was used to purchase a refrigerator. We are also happy to announce the adoption of a child by C-90. Irene Belza is in charge of this project. She is also in charge of having masses said at the Lithuanian Pontifical College in Rome. Anyone wishing to have a mass said for a loved one at the College, just has to contact Irene and she will handle the request. What a wonderful way to



Rev. Valkavicius and Sr. Helen Ivanauskas, CJC, at NED Fall meeting in Norwood, MA

help our Lithuanian Seminary.

Our Spiritual Advisor, Rev. Pocus celebrated his 75 birthday on Feb. 15. A party was held in his honor at the LCCC with 240 relatives, friends and parishioners in attendance. He has served Our Lady of Sorrows Church for over 43 of his 47 years in God's service. We have been so fortunate to have Msgr. Dom and we wish him "Ilgiausią Metų."

Our annual Lithuanian Independence Day celebration was held on a beautiful, cold wintry Sunday. The celebration began with Mass. It was nice to see the young ladies in their native costumes processing into church with the clergy. After mass, all attended the Lithuanian flag raising at the Kearny Town Hall Park. A brunch followed with over 100 people in attendance. Dr. Virginia Vaitekoniš was the guest speaker and very interesting. Roland Buchholz and his family have a guest visiting with them from Lithuania and they brought Aušra Mackevičienė with them. Aušra studied at the Kaunas Conservatory for five years having taken a class with the former president of Lithuania, Vytautas Landsbergis. She graciously enter-

tained all with the playing of beautiful Lithuanian songs on the kankles, an ancient Lithuanian instrument. Thanks to Mary Przychocki & Ellie Nakrosis, chairs, for an enjoyable afternoon.

Our annual Family Pancake Dance was held in March. Everyone had a good time, especially the children. Chairs are Frances Grdina & Ann Pringle who are working hard to make this event another success May we all have a very successful and fruitful 1993. *ZMON*

C-96 DAYTON, OH

The 75th anniversary of Lithuanian Independence was celebrated on Feb. 21 with Mass at Holy Cross Church. Following the celebration, a covered dish lunch was served in the church basement. Member Dr. Sarunas Lazdinis was the guest speaker. Over fifty people were in attendance.

A wide variety of topics were discussed at the Feb. meeting. We are planning the St. Casimir Day Mass and breakfast, the Bowling Tournament and Palm Sunday Bake Sale The Juniors are on their way! Marion's Pizzeria played host to ten people enjoying each other's company and sharing comradery Get well wishes are extended to Annadel Miller who fell and hurt her leg and hand. We also send our best to Anna Marie Sluzas Berger.

"Elinor's Amber Rose" had a grand opening of her upstairs saloon. The second floor is available for gathering and enjoying refreshments after work, before eating dinner, or for special parties. The opening event was enjoyed by many including Dayton's Mayor Dixon. Elinor Sluzas is the proprietor.

Congratulations to Irena Gecas for completing her Master's in International Management from the Uni-

versity of Denver. She is on her way to work in the Washington, DC area Elena Mikalauskas & Irena Gecas made a road trip to Michigan to assist in the mailing of packages and supplies to Lithuania. It is good to see our young people involved. Please keep Lithuania in your prayers.

Mary Agnes Mikalauskas

C-110 MASPETH, NY

C-110's Lithuanian Independence Day was celebrated with a special Mass on Feb. 14 followed by coffee, cake and singing. About 100 members and guests attended the event, some dressed in the beautiful traditional Lithuanian costumes. Msgr. Frank Bulovas gave the blessing before the continental breakfast and Council President Rutkunas spoke of the significance of the event and read a letter written to Pres. Bill Clinton asking him to wear the Lithuanian T-shirt on Feb. 16. The members had voted to send the popular shirt as a gesture for the president to make our presence known.

Food and clothing were collected by Ann Morrissey for shipment to the

orphanages in Jieznas and Vilnius, Lithuania. *Mary Abbott*

C-112 CHICAGO, IL

Thanks to Leonas Narbutis, Cultural Chair, our meetings have had very interesting guest speakers. In January, Valdas Adamkus spoke to us about the current political situation and upcoming elections in Lithuania. In Feb., our guest speaker was Consul General Vaclovas Kleiza, who also spoke about current political conditions in Lithuania. We were fortunate to have two such distinguished gentlemen giving us current updates.

First and Second degrees were presented during our Feb. meeting. First degree recipient was Antanas Beleska; Second degree recipients were Sr. Theresa Papsis, Sr. Tarcisia Stuglis and Bruno Shotas. Congratulations to you all Al Brazis, Estelle Rogers & Eleanor Kasputis did a super job of selling tickets to the Memories of Lithuania banquet held in the Grand Ballroom of the Martinique Restaurant. We all enjoyed the program honoring Bob Boris, the good food, and lively entertainment. It's a once-



Rev. S. Raila celebrating his 85th birthday at MAD meeting with Revs. K. Wicks, J. Pakalniskis and F. Bulovas looking on.

a-year affair that we all look forward to.

Let me share with you my deep sorrow at the loss of my good friend and fellow council member, Frank Svelnis. I served on many committees with Frank over the years and also was a member of a pinochle club with Frank as my partner many times. It was a toss-up as to which of us was the worst pinochle player - but it sure made for a lot of laughs. Frank always had the latest jokes, mostly poking fun at current politicians. We always seemed to run into each other at the local supermarkets and compared notes on sales and what's for dinner, always parting with a "well, see you at the Jewel tomorrow!" I will miss him. Deepest sympathy to Lorraine, Kathy & John.

Gerrie

C-136 JUNIORS, HUDSON-MOHAWK, NY

We would like to introduce ourselves. We are Jr. C-136 from Schenectady, NY. Although we had our beginning several months ago, this is our first time to have our activities printed. Our Jr. Council has sixteen members at present. Each month we receive a letter concerning what the plans are going to be. Some members are very young so a color sheet or activity project is enclosed for them.

For several months we concentrated on collecting games and toys that were sent to Lithuania for the Christmas holidays. Our advisor, Lynn McCafferty, obtained pen pal names through Sister Inge of the Immaculate Conception convent in Putnam, CT. Letters are now being received in English from Lithuania. Everyone is so excited when they receive a letter We also started a Newsletter which reports in brief various topics like health issues, environmental news, Did



C-136 Juniors sending a package to Lithuania and showing off the official Lithuanian T-shirt: John & Anna Butwell, Eva Rogers, Cailin & Sean McCafferty.

You Know items, history bits. In addition to those topics, we also have included a section called "The Way It Was In My Day." In this section, we interview an adult member of the council who tells us what it was like growing up. Our first interview was with Mrs. Helen Hayner of Troy. We learned a great deal about her life on a farm.

Recently, we participated in the Festival of Nations in Troy by parading in the Opening Ceremonies, assisting in selling food and crafts and helping at the Information Booth. It was a lot of fun and the food was delicious. At the Jan. meeting, we learned about "Bloody Sunday" in January 1991 in Lithuania. We discussed what was happening at that time and tried to place ourselves in their places as the Soviet troops gunned down and crushed unarmed citizens with tanks. We realized that many citizens were very young. Due to the urgent need of medical supplies, we are now working on having some sent to Lithuania. We're very happy to join the Junior Council and would love hearing from anyone who would like to correspond, or just share ideas.

C-141 BRIDGEPORT, CT

Our council together with Ben-duomene celebrated the 75th anniversary of Lithuania's Independence with a Mass of Thanksgiving at St. George Church. Msgr. Prankus was celebrant. The procession into church was led by Stephen Wilcinskas & Sigita Liaukus, carrying the American and Lithuanian flags followed by ladies in native costume and the officers. During the Offering, gifts were brought up by Barbara Schmidt, Sylvester Marcavage & Clemencine Miller. Reader and soloist was Helen Janiunas. The church was filled with members, neighbors and friends, not only local but from other nearby areas. After Mass, in the parish hall, varied refreshments were served under the chair of Pat Silk and our council's many fine cooks and bakers. We were fortunate to have Joseph Arlauskas, current editor of "Bridges" as our guest speaker. He spoke of Lithuania's current problems, struggles and progress on the difficult road to democracy. The "Vetra" folk dance ensemble were the featured entertainers. They are always a pleasure to watch, especially



C-141 Bridgeport, Ann Petrus, Sophie Putrimas, Aldona Peters



C-141 Bridgeport. J. Arlauskas, guest speaker on Feb. 14 celebration of Lithuania's Independence.

since our recording secretary, Barbara Schmidt, is one of the talented dancers. Last July, they performed in Chicago and, in 1994, they are planning to travel to Vilnius to take part in the gigantic Song & Dance Festival there.

For our cultural display, an interesting table revealed Lithuanian crafts, books, dolls, linens, amber and straw ornaments. It attracted much attention and many favorable comments.

We celebrated St. Casimir's Feast Day on March 14 with our annual Communion Breakfast after Mass. This event is always well attended not only for its religious aspect but for the pleasant social hour and, of course,

our delicious breakfast.

Just around the corner is the Spring NED meeting at Providence, RI on April 25. This year will be special because the annual Holy Hour will be included in the day's activities. One more opportunity to spend some time in the company of our friendly fellow Knights from our surrounding states.

Linkimė visiems

The Feb. 16 Minejimas was held on Feb. 20 at the Lithuanian Club. Antanas Grabauskas carried our K of L flag. Ona Semolevičienė and Valeria Lesčinskiene were flag attendants. Also on Feb. 21 at the 1:00 p.m. Lithuanian Mass at Holy Name Church, our same three members participated with the K of L flag.

We have a new member, Kristina Strazdis, a student and is the granddaughter of Susanna Mazeika. Welcome!
Dolores Jonaitis

C-150 KANSAS CITY, KS

The Kansas City Lithuanian Independence Day celebration was held on Feb. 14 with Mass at St. Cyril & Methodius Church, a brunch and program. The Lithuanian choir from Omaha, NE traveled to Kansas City to sing with the Knights of Lithuania Choir for the Mass and to perform later at the celebration.

Also in celebration of Lithuania's 75th Independence Day, the Strawberry Hill museum in Kansas City, KS featured an exhibit of Lithuanian costumes, dolls, crafts and other artifacts. Cooking classes were offered. The Knights assisting with these activities included Charlotte Horvatic, pres. of C-150, husband, Dick, Anita & Bill Strumillo, Delores Purduski, Lou Ann Rayn, Frances & Charles Purduski and Mary Lucas. *Lou Ann Rayn*

C-152 EASTERN LONG ISLAND, NY

On Feb. 17, some 16 council members attended a Memorial Mass at St. Isidore's Church, Riverhead, NY to honor the memory of, and pray for eternal repose of the soul of, Robert Graff, a founding member of our council and late husband of our first president, Alice Kauneckas Graff. May Bob rest in eternal peace!

Vyčiams linksmų Šv. Velykų!

Aldona Marcavage

C-147 ST. PETERSBURG, FL

At a meeting held Jan. 13, plans were formulated for St. Casimir's Day Mass and dinner held on Sunday, March 7. Discussed also were plans for a picnic to be held Oct. 13, 1993 at Veteran's Park. Coffee and pyragų were donated by Elena Bačeviciene, Petrutė Kasparavičius, Brone Urbonas, Victoria Kleiviene and Ona Miniatiene. Rev. Cyvas explained about a new Bible being printed for all cultures and will be available in all languages.

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Two Bayview Avenue
Port Washington, NY 11050

Our Knights gave honor to St. Casimir at a Mass on March 7 at St. Patrick's Church, Southold. Luncheon followed at Southold Town Recreation Center in Peconic. We had an enjoyable day.

C-152's commemoration of the 80th anniversary of the founding of the Knights of Lithuania will take the form of a Pilgrimage to Our Lady of the Island Shrine at Eastport, Long Island, NY on Sunday, May 23, 1993 at 12:30 p.m. We cordially assure all who would wish to join us on this occasion that they will be most welcome. Bea Lucka will chair the Pilgrimage Committee, and may be reached for information and travel directions at (516) 298-8077.

Our readers are requested in their kindness and Christian compassion to spare a moment of prayer for our ailing fellow Knight, Marianna Bealis.

Tom Tarmey

C-154 SPRING HILL, FL

In February we met at the home of Helen & George Mayer. The Nominating Committee presented a slate of officers for 1993. The membership unanimously accepted the following slate: Pres., George Mayer; 1st Vice Pres., Ray Kentra; 2nd Vice Pres., Rita Natalino; Sec. & Entertainment Chair, Virginia Kentra; Treas., Helen Mayer; Trustees, Arthur Konewich, John Narmantas, Ed Laconis; Sgt. at Arms, John Petraitis; Spiritual Director, Helen Konewich; Ritual, Annette Gnezevich; Lith. Affairs, Bridget Walluk; Public Relations & VYTIS Correspondent, Sadye Petraitis; Sunshine, Albina Narmantas; Cultural, Tillie Laconis.

The genius of our Entertainment Committee secured tickets for us to attend a super production called "Sounds of Harry James and the

Andrew Sisters" at the K of C hall in Holiday. We all went home humming, "Don't Sit under the Apple Tree" The Laconis' celebrated their 57th Wedding Anniversary at the A.P. Club in Hudson. We were privileged to join them as they danced to the Anniversary Waltz The new officers were installed at the home of Helen & Anthony Konewich. Helen delighted our sweet tooth with an array of homemade bake shop goodies Our next social is to the Showboat Theatre for a buffet lunch and a presentation of "Phantom of the Opera."

We continue to enjoy all of the good things God has allotted us.

S. G. Petraitis



CALENDAR of EVENTS

- April 4, 1993 - Annual Palm Sunday Cake Sale, Holy Trinity Church after 11 a.m. Mass. - C-29 Newark, NJ
- April 25, 1993 - NED Spring meeting, Host C-103, Providence, RI.
- May 8, 1993 - Dumpling Dinner/Dance, All Saints/St. Anthony Parish Hall. 6:30 p.m. Hosts C-16 Chicago.
- May 21-23, 1993 - MCD Meeting and Bowling Tournament - Host: C-102 Detroit, MI.
- May 23, 1993 - Pilgrimage to Our Lady of Island Shrine, Eastport, LI. Hosts: C-152 Eastern Long Island - 1:00 p.m. Mass.
- June 13, 1993 - MAD Meeting, Holy Trinity Church, 11 a.m. Mass. Hosts: C-29 Newark, NJ.
- 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.
- October 9, 1993 - C-29 Newark, NJ Dinner & Dance.
- October 24, 1993 - C-29 Newark, NJ Chinese Auction.