

VYTIS

KNIGHTS OF LITHUANIA

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Table of Contents - Turinys

Jogaila - <i>Edward Baranauskas</i>	2
Broken Dreams - Poem	3
Vytautas Jonynas	4
How Old am I? - <i>Al Gedrim</i>	5
Life with Mama - <i>Albert Cizauskas</i>	6
A Mother's Day Prayer - <i>Helen M. Young</i>	8
All about Mother's Day	9
A Lithuanian Forest in Summer - <i>translation by Antonia M. Wackell</i>	10
Camp Neringa	10
Lithuania: An Opening for Illegal Migration to the West? - <i>Ainis Gurevičius</i>	11
Reminisce - <i>Frank Petrauskas</i>	12
Month of May - <i>Joseph Yanulaitis</i>	13
How Great Thou Art - <i>Koks Didis Tu - Leonas Venckus</i>	14
Language Intolerable - <i>Rev. John Savukynas, MIC</i>	15
These Changing Times	15
Lithuanians in the News	16
Honorary Membership Candidate, Hon. Stasys Lozoraitis, Jr.	17
Lithuanian Kitchen - <i>Lietuviška Virtuvė</i>	18
Confusion Besets Mapmaker - <i>Anthony V. Snieckus</i>	19
Invocation commemorating Lithuania's Independence - <i>Rev. Clement Kasinskas, C.P.</i>	20
In Memoriam	20
Official News - <i>Oficialus Skyrius</i> :	
Aid to Lithuania Donations	21
Time Well Spent - <i>Irene Gecas, Elena Mikalauskas</i>	21
80th National Convention - Tentative Schedule	22
Vytis Travel, Inc.	23
Let's talk Lithuanian - <i>Dalia Bulvicius</i>	24
Council News - <i>Vyčiai Veikia</i> :	
Amber District - Mid-America District	25
C-3 Philadelphia	26
C-10 Athol-Gardner - C-12 New York	27
C-17 So. Boston - C-25 Cleveland	28
C-29 Newark - C-30 Westfield	29
C-36 Chicago - C-50 New Haven - C-52 Elizabeth	30
C-72 Binghamton	31
C-74 Scranton - C-79 Southfield - C-96 Dayton	32
C-100 Amsterdam	33
C-102 Detroit - C-110 Maspeth - C-141 Bridgeport	34
C-143 Pittston - C-144 Anthracite	35
C-147 St. Petersburg - C-152 Eastern Long Island	36
C-154 Spring Hill	37
Classified Ad	37
Calendar of Events	Back Cover

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Rulers of Lithuania

JOGAILA

Grand Prince (1377-1381 & 1382-1392)

King of Poland (1386-1434)

by Edward Baranauskas

The above dates show the profound impact he had on the history of the Lithuanian nation. To the students of history who may not be familiar with Lithuania's past, those dates may create some confusion and raise a lot of questions, but they will all be cleared up as his story unfolds.

To a lot of Lithuanians, Jogaila is a symbol of the enemy of the nation, a traitor, a murderer, and a weak man who sacrificed his country's independence for the sake of a foreign crown. Some historians feel that these statements are somewhat exaggerated, while there are others who believe that they are accurately stated.

Jogaila became the Grand Prince on two separate occasions, as difficult as it may seem to believe, and later was crowned the King of Poland. His biography will be divided into three parts. The first one will be devoted to his initial tenure on the Lithuanian throne, and how it came to a surprising and unexpected end.

Grand Prince Algirdas, his father, died in 1377 at the age of 81. Jogaila was his favorite and most beloved of all his sons, and he became the Grand Prince because it was his father's wish. At the age of 26, he was one of the youngest rulers that Lithuania ever had. He inherited not only a huge country, but also many of its complicated problems. One of the biggest issues to confront him was the relations with the Teutonic Order. Medieval Europe recognized Christianity as the only culture, and looked upon pagan Lithuania as a country of barbarians. Their thinking was that the Lithuanians must either be destroyed, or else be made civilized. The Order followed this policy for almost 150 years, and their mission had the support of the military and diplomatic forces from Western Europe.

Algirdas and Kestutis were brothers, sons of one of Lithuania's most beloved and honored rulers, Gediminas. Even though they agreed to be equal partners in governing Lithuania, Algirdas was recognized as the Grand Prince by his brother during his reign. They respected and supported each other. Kestutis was devoted to his brother's family,



and hoped that Jogaila would continue the same policy and cooperation that existed during the years of joint rule with his father. Kestutis remained, as before, the ruler and Prince of Trakai. He was now 77 years old and planned to turn over his power to his son, Vytautas, after his death. However, this once friendly relationship became impossible because Jogaila did not want to listen to his advice, and did not want to share power with anyone. Kestutis and Algirdas, as recorded in the Lithuanian Chronicles, had agreed that their sons should continue the policy of joint rule.

Jogaila's mother, Juliana, became very active in politics after the death of her husband, and her influence at the palace increased. Vaidyla, a former servant in the family household, was Jogaila's closest adviser. Kestutis had no use for him and regarded him as a scheming upstart. Vaidyla knew this, and there was no love lost between them. This meddling disrupted the satisfactory relationship

that existed between her sons and their uncle.

The choice of Jogaila for the throne was greeted with open hostility by his relatives in the east. To get a better understanding of why this bitterness arose, we should know more of the family background.

Algirdas was married twice and, in reality, became the father of two separate and distinct families, with each one raised in a different environment and culture. His first wife was the daughter of the Prince of Vitebsk. After the death of his father-in-law, he became the ruler of that Slavic principality and lived there for many years. His nine children were given Slavic names, and were brought up in the Eastern Orthodox faith. Maria died a year after she and Algirdas moved to Vilnius when he became the Grand Prince.

His second wife, Juliana, was also a Russian princess. All of their ten children were born and raised in Vilnius and were given Lithuanian names. They were brought up according to the pagan tradition, even though his wife was a Christian. Their first child and son, Jogaila, was born about 1351. Actually, he was the sixth son of Algirdas who had five from his previous marriage.

The eastern part of Lithuania was composed of Slavic principalities and the sons of Algirdas and his first wife were raised to rule over these lands. The most prominent and influential of them was Prince Andrew of Polotsk, his oldest son. When his father died, he considered himself to be the legitimate heir to the Lithuanian throne on the grounds of seniority. When he learned that he was not the successor, he refused to recognize Jogaila as the Grand Prince. He rebelled and demanded that he be overthrown. He was joined by his brother, Prince Dimitrii of Briansk. When his efforts failed, he then turned to the Muscovite Grand Prince Dimitrii Donskoi for help but he refused to fight Jogaila.

Jogaila realized that he had to secure his western borders first before he could fight the rebellion of his step-brothers Andrew and Dimitrii. Without the knowledge of Kestutis, and under a cloak of secrecy, Jogaila concluded the infamous treaty of Dovydiškiai with the Teutonic Order on May 31, 1380. Under the terms of this agreement, he ceded the lands of Kestutis to the German Knights and promised them that he would not give any help to his uncle should they invade his domain. In return, the Germans would not molest any of Jogaila's lands. Soon after, he made a similar pact with the Livonian Order.

In the early summer of 1381, Kestutis learned of this treacherous treaty's existence from none other than the

Germans themselves. In November, Jogaila led a military force against Polotsk, leaving Vilnius under the protection of his brother, Skirgaila. Kestutis took advantage of his absence and was successful in occupying Vilnius. He discovered a document in Jogaila's quarters which gave the details of the agreement. He immediately sent for Vytautas, who was in Gardinas at the time, and showed him the proof of his cousin's treason. On his return to Vilnius, Jogaila and his family were placed under arrest. His adviser, Vaidyla, and several others who were responsible for Jogaila's treasonable acts, were put to death. Jogaila signed a writ of abdication and promised not to raise arms against his uncle. Kestutis, in this manner, formally became the Grand Prince of Lithuania.

A close relationship existed between Vytautas and Jogaila in their earlier years. Perhaps that may have been one of the reasons why Vytautas pleaded with his father to set his cousin free, and to give his personal property back to him. Kestutis relented and assigned Jogaila to the provinces of Kreva and Vitebsk. Prince Andrew, in the meantime, was restored to Polotsk.

How the course of Lithuanian history would have been changed if Kestutis committed Jogaila to prison, or even worse, had him put to death. Kestutis did not seek revenge but his show of mercy and forgiveness was something he would later regret, as the events that followed will show.

BROKEN DREAMS

As children bring their broken toys
with tears for us to mend,
I brought my broken dreams to God
because He was my friend.
But then, instead of leaving Him
in peace to work alone,
I hung around and tried to help
with ways that were my own.
At last I snatched them back and cried,
"How could you be so slow?"
"My child," he said, "What could I do?
You never did let go."

Author Unknown

VYTAUTAS JONYNAS

Designer of Vatican Stamps



Vytautas Jonynas

Vytautas Kazys Jonynas was born March 16, 1907 at Udrija, Province of Dzukija in southeastern Lithuania. He graduated from public school in Kaunas in 1927 and in 1931 went to Paris to study at the Conservatories des Arts et Metiers and then at the Ecole Bouille in 1935. Returning to Kaunas, he taught graphic arts at the Art College and eventually became headmaster. In 1936 he was made chairman of the National Service Bureau for the Preservation of Cultural Monuments. At the Paris World Fair in 1937 he won gold medals for woodcuts and posters, as well as diplomas for interior design. He received the Lithuanian State Prize in 1940 for his illustrations of the "Seasons" by K. Donelaitas. Riga saw an extensive exhibition of his

works in 1944.

After World War II he went to the American Zone of Occupied Germany as a displaced person. Here he volunteered to open an arts center to occupy the minds of idle displaced persons, but was turned down. In the French Occupied Zone, he found a friend from his Paris days, who held an official position in the French Zone. With his assistance, Jonynas opened an arts center at Freiburg in Breisgau - the Foreign Institute of Fine Arts. Here in 1946 another exhibition of his works was a success.

His works of art on stamp designs, have received high praise from German philatelists pointing out that the stamps designed by Jonynas far surpass anything that had appeared in the German field of philately for some time.

In 1951 he came to the United States where he has become a citizen. His teaching experience in Germany, at the Art College of Kaunas and at the Superior Art Institute of Lithuania qualified him to teach at Fordham University from 1957 to 1973. With one of his students, he established the Jonynas & Shepherd Studio of Art on Long Island. The Studio actually began when Jonynas was asked to work on some stained glass windows for a church. He has decorated more than fifty churches and chapels in the United States.

When Pope Pius XII planned to commemorate the birth of St. Casimir on a postage stamp in 1958 to call world attention to the Communist persecution of the Church in Lithuania, Bishop Padolskis, a Lithuanian exile living in Rome, wrote to Jonynas asking him to submit a design for the stamp and to have it in Rome within a week. Within the time limit, the design for the stamp was in Rome. The stamp was issued on Dec. 14, 1959. He was the first American artist to have done a stamp for the Vatican. Mr. Jonynas refused to submit a bill for the St. Casimir design since the honor of designing the stamp was enough reward for him.

When the Vatican Pavilion for the New York World Fair of 1964-65 was under contemplation, his designs were chosen to decorate the exterior walls. The main work on the wall near the entrance measured 21' x 27' with estimated weight of 18-20 tons. The architects and engineers felt that because of such a weight, it would have slowly sunk the Vatican Pavilion into the swampy land called Flushing Meadows. The architects asked for a new concept. Rather than abandon the design, Jonynas turned to styrofoam.



Models of Lithuanian Churches sculpted by Vytautas Jonynas and presented to Lithuania for future construction.

This resulted in a bas-relief weighing 3,000 pounds.

Mr. Jonynas has been represented in "Who's Who in American Art" since 1959. He has had his works represented in museums in Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia, Germany, Belgium, Holland, the Vatican and the United States. He has also received many honors and awards, too numerous to mention, for his wood engravings, sculpture, posters, furniture designs, and color lithography. Between 1953 and 1973, Vytautas Jonynas was commissioned by the Book of the Month Club in New York to design Christmas cards for them which were printed in color.

Following is just a small listing of Mr. Jonynas works: Church of Immaculate Conception, Marquette Park, Chicago, IL; Our Lady of Siluva, Maizeville, PA; Mater Misericordia, Lithuanian Martyr Chapel, St. Peter's Basilica, Rome, Italy; Church of Transfiguration, Maspeth, NY; St. Joseph's Church, Waterbury, CT; Franciscan Monastery, Greene, ME; Franciscan Monastery, Kennebunkport, ME; Divine Providence Church, Southfield, MI; St. Casimir's Cemetery Chapel, Amsterdam, NY; Matulaitis Nursing Home, Putnam, CT; Sts. Peter & Paul Church, Tamaqua, PA; St. Casimir's Church, Worcester, MA and many other locations.

HOW OLD AM I?

The answer to such a question,
 Old enough to accept life's trails and turns
 Young enough to tap my feet to music.
 Old enough to cherish memories
 Young enough to promote new experiences.
 Old enough to value traditions
 Young enough to sponsor change.

Old enough to savor quiet hours
 Young enough to seek laughs.
 Old enough to have a few regrets
 Young enough to use stepping stones.
 Old enough to respect accomplishments
 Yet always young enough to accept
 The simplicity of God's love.

Al Gedrim

LIFE WITH MAMA

A Reminiscence

© by Albert Cizauskas

Rummaging through family documents recently, I came across an old marriage photo of my parents. Looking at it, I saw my mother before time and a hard life had left their marks on her face. I saw too a woman of aristocratic bearing but with a sadness in her eyes as if she were seeing her future.

Peasant life had been harsh under the Czar so that scores of Lithuanians were leaving their homeland in the early years of this century for a new life in the "brave new world" across the Atlantic. Mama was part of this immigrant wave, travelling steerage on a German liner while still in her teens. She was alone, grandpa having preceded her while grandma stayed behind in Mariampole until grandpa could prepare the way for her.

Mama arrived at Ellis Island but was refused entry because grandpa wasn't there to claim her. During the long voyage, she had become acquainted with a young Polish girl in the same predicament. They had kept close on the ship and then on Ellis Island too. But after two days, the Polish girl left when her family showed up. As night fell, Mama, now truly friendless and alone, became frightened, especially by the attentions of a man who kept trying to snuggle up to her on the long, wooden benches detainees slept on. Somehow, Mama fended him off but it was a sleepless night.

When grandpa finally came the following day, the relieved teenager ran to her father, embraced and kissed him, crying over and over again, "Ačiū Dievui, ačiū Dievui" (Thank God, thank God). Grandpa's tardiness was not unusual. Loveable as he was, he had the trying habit of treating time as if it didn't matter, the one habit grandma wasn't able to cure him of.

Mama's claim she arrived at "Kaslegarne" and not at Ellis Island puzzled us because we knew from school it had to be Ellis Island. It took some time before one of us was clever enough to solve the riddle. "Kaslegarne" in fact was the Lithuanian version of "Castle Garden" which had been the entry point for immigrants in New York until 1892. Ellis Island, however, continued to be known to her and other Lithuanian immigrants as "Kaslegarne", sounding like some exotic vegetable.

WORK

Mama's earliest jobs in this country were as "maid-of-

all-work" for families a generation or two out of Ellis Island, starting their climb up the social ladder. She had to scrub floors, make beds, do the dishes, wash the laundry, iron it, clean the toilet and, in general, do whatever needed to be done and do it without today's labor-saving devices. There were no labor laws and if there were, they were not observed. Her days were long and the pay a pittance. But she remembered this unhappy period with little bitterness, even the kids of the families she worked for who would make it difficult for her in different ways. One of these was taunting her and calling her a "Polock."

Mama worked at a variety of jobs, one of which was a mattress factory. The work was tiring, but paid relatively well. There she made friends with a Latino woman, a round tub of fat with a bubbly, happy temperament. Despite their friendship, they observed a sort of formality and never called one another by their first names. Neither, however, could master the other's family name so they solved the linguistic difficulty by a simple expedient, Mama becoming "Mrs." and the Latino woman "Senora."

A BIT OF LITHUANIAN IN WILLIAMSBURG

After about a year, grandma followed her daughter to Williamsburg, Brooklyn, where grandpa rented the upper floor of a small house situated behind another and larger one that fronted the street. This curious arrangement was common in the neighborhood. The rent of the rear house was cheap but it shut the inhabitants off from the life of the street. Fortunately, a stray tree had taken root in the cement cracks which relieved the monotony of looking only at the back side of the bigger house. The overall effect, however, was as if society had abandoned its older people here. Even the kids from the front house shunned the place.

On the other hand, for me as a very young child, going there Sunday afternoons with mother was an exciting time. Stepping into the small kitchen/living room was like stepping into a Lithuanian cottage. Inside were pictures on the wall of the countryside and savory smells of tea and pipe tobacco. Best of all, when it grew dark, and grandpa lit the kerosene lamp with its smoky fumes, was the scary fun I had listening to grandma's tales of olden times and evil witches when dragons roamed the land.

What I didn't like was having to go outside to the smelly outhouse, especially after I had been frightened by

grandma's fairy tales.

MARRIAGE BY BROKER

Mama lived in these cramped quarters for a while. Grandma constantly needed her to get married, which Mama suspected was due at least in part to grandma's coveting the extra space Mama's departure would open up. After waiting impatiently for a short time, grandma went into action and found a husband for her daughter the old fashioned Lithuanian way, through the good offices of a piršlys, a marriage broker. A small fee on either side was part of the deal.

Mama wasn't unhappy to get away from grandma's petty tyranny. Besides, she thought that one man was as much of a chance as another in the marital sweepstakes. At that time, for an immigrant young woman without a dowry, romance had little to do with marriage.

Papa was much older (by some 20 years) and shorter than his bride, as was the case with many Lithuanian couples of that earlier day. He had been an itinerant tailor in Lithuania, moving about the countryside, staying with one family at a time for room, board and a few rubles in return for doing the family's tailoring chores. In this country, he worked for a men's coat factory.

BED BUGS AND CHICKENS

One of Mama's biggest problems as a housewife was battling the creatures that invaded our tenement apartment on Hope Street (there actually was a street of that name). We lived, after all, in a semi-slum neighborhood whose other inhabitants were less concerned about hygiene.

So Mama waged a relentless war against insects of many varieties, especially bed bugs and big, brown cockroaches with their long feelers. These latter would have the discourteous habit of joining us uninvited at the table. In that pre-Orkin age, we used whatever instrument was at hand, including the hand, to dispose of them. Bed bugs were another matter and required heavier artillery. We could always tell when the seasons changed because four times a year, regular as income tax, Mama disassembled the beds and coated the springs and mattresses with a strong foul-smelling liquid, brushing the bed bugs and other insects into instant oblivion. While she didn't win the war, which was impossible where we lived, at least the result was a decided draw.

Mama was a good cook. Our favorite Sunday entree was chicken a la mama. Preparations for this feast began in a local kosher market. A merchant would pull screeching

birds out of overcrowded crates, Mama pinching the hapless creatures to find one with sufficient meat on its bones. When she found an acceptably plump chicken, she haggled over the price. This might take several minutes with the chicken hanging head down on an old-fashioned scale and protesting loudly. After a compromise on the price, a man in a black smock and black skull cap would slit the bird's throat and toss it into a barrel where it thrashed about and bled. The final step in the ritual took place as a woman scalded the limp chicken, plucked its feathers and eviscerated it. The end result, smelling of steamed feathers, Mama somehow skillfully transformed it into a tasty Sunday chicken dinner with delicious stuffing.

COURAGE

At the age of 50, papa suffered a severe heart attack which blinded him in one eye so that Mama had to support the family while papa in his clumsy way kept house. The arrangement didn't make for family harmony but it was through Mama's courage that the family survived economic hardship, serious illness and death (the eldest child of diphtheria).

When papa died, Mama looked for a long time at the man in the coffin who had been her husband for almost half a century, all the while clutching a rosary tightly under her knuckles went white, saying after each Hail Mary, "Sudiev, Mikolai, sudiev" (Farewell, Michael, farewell).

CHURCH

When Mama wasn't working, she was in church. She seldom missed an opportunity to go to our Lithuanian parish even after working hard all day. There were frequent evening services to accommodate her in those pre-Vatican Council II days, such as Forty Hours, First Fridays of the month, May and October devotions in honor of the Blessed Virgin, and many of the other saints on the old church's crowded liturgical calendar.

On Sundays, she had more time to pray. After mass, she would make the rounds with me of the many statues in the church, ending up at the feet of a large crucifix. Her extra curricular piety would take a lot of time, leaving me restless and wondering in my childish naivete if praying longer guaranteed one a higher place in heaven.

Praying longer had its temporal benefit, Mama once smiled and said as we emerged from church, because most of the gossips, whom she detested, had long since departed to resume their malicious pastime elsewhere. It was at such times, walking back to Hope Street a mile or so distant that

Mama would talk about a lot of things, like telling me that it wasn't who but what a person was that really mattered.

A small black enclave had taken root in Williamsburg in those days, centered around a store-front church with the unlikely name of "The Mt. Pisgah Baptist Church of Christ." Many of the white people we knew looked down on the blacks but Mama was firm in telling me not to join the local kids, who, encouraged by their parents, would jeer the blacks going to their make-shift church. She would say that the same God who created white people also created black people, maybe to test white people's tolerance. The important thing to remember, she insisted, was Our Lord's injunction to love our neighbor as we loved ourselves regardless of the color of his skin.

SCHOOL

Mama went to school for the first time when she was in her late 50s. She decided to become a citizen and had to learn to read and write in English. Since she was virtually illiterate in Lithuanian too, it made her decision a heroic one. In Czarist Lithuania, women were denied even more than the men the rudimentary elements of education.

At school, Mama met other people like herself, immigrants from many lands who desired to become part of the political network of their adopted country as they already

were in spirit. They were wisely encouraged by their instructor to talk about their immigrant experiences. It was a lesson in civics to hear Mama recount these stories, microcosms of the American dream which sometimes turned into a nightmare but often enough had a good ending, like hers.

It was both sad and unintentionally funny to hear about the children of some of these citizens-to-be who attempted to hide their foreign heritage by ethnically cleansing family names and adopting Anglo veneers, a "Moskowitz" coming out of the melting pot as "Mason", much to their parents' chagrin.

Mama wasn't perfect but she came close. Her marriage was not a happy one but brokered marriages seldom are. Instead she lavished her love upon us, teaching courage in the face of adversity, faith in a Supreme Being, and tolerance for those different from us. Above all, it was Mama's moral compass that guided us whenever the way ahead was dark and uncertain.

This year marks the 30th anniversary of her death as I remember, with gratitude, life with Mama.

Amžina atilsi duok jiai, Viešpatie (Grant her eternal rest, O Lord).

A Mother's Day Prayer

God, give me wisdom to see that today is my day with
my children,
That there is no unimportant moment in their lives.
May I know no other career is as precious,
No other works so rewarding,
No other task so urgent.
May I not defer it nor neglect it,
But by thy Spirit accept it gladly, joyously, and by thy
grace realize
That the time is short and my time is now,
For children won't wait!

Helen M. Young

*Special blessing to all Mothers
on her day.*



All about Mother's Day

While you may be among the thousands of Americans who will be sending flowers to honor Mom on her day, you might be surprised to learn how far back in history the custom of observing the occasion with flowers extends.

Ancient Greeks and Romans paid tribute to a universal mother - Mother Earth, by wearing leafy garlands as they danced in the streets on the Ides of March. According to information compiled by researchers, some historians contend that the germ of Mother's Day was sown thousands of years ago when the people of the Near East and Mediterranean regions worshipped an Earth Mother by decking themselves with flower garlands at woodland festivals.

During early celebrations of Mother's Day in the U.S., sons and daughters wore flowers instead of giving them as gifts to Mom. Ms. Anna Jarvis, who sponsored a church service in 1907 to honor her late mother and other mothers of the community, requested those who attended to wear a white carnation. However, as the custom spread throughout the country, with Mother's Day being officially proclaimed a national holiday in 1914, celebrants stopped wearing flowers themselves and started giving them in the form of corsages and bouquets.

Setting a special day aside to honor "real life" mothers isn't new, however. A similar custom existed in England centuries ago. The day, which fell each year on the fourth Sunday in Lent, was called "Mothering Sunday" and began as a festival honoring "Mother Church."

It wasn't long, though, before people seized the same occasion to honor their own mothers with a gift of flowers and a rich cake baked specially for the day. It was also customary for many churches to hold services for children on this day, and these observances were marked by the bringing of flowers to the altar for a blessing.

The carnation - white, red or pink - is the official Mother's Day flower in the United States, because that was Anne Jarvis' mother's favorite flower. But while carnations are still a popular flower to give on Mother's Day, any seasonal flower is considered appropriate in a Mother's Day corsage or floral arrangement.

Is Mother's Day strictly an American holiday? Hardly! The more up-to-date version of the occasion is celebrated, according to the National Committee for the Observance of Mother's Day, in such far-flung places as Mexico, Canada, South America, China, Japan and Africa!

A Mother's Day Rose

The original Mother's Day flower was a carnation: red to be worn in honor of one's Mother while she is alive and celebrating her Special Day; white to be worn in memory of one's Mother if deceased. This beautiful custom was begun in 1872 through the influence of Julia Ward Howell. In our own time, the Rose, either red or white, has become the special flower of choice.

The combination of the single Rose with a national observance of Mother's Day owes its inspiration to Anna Jarvis of Philadelphia. Her tireless efforts culminated with the official proclamation of Mother's Day by President Woodrow Wilson in 1914.

Over the years, various ways of observing this day have arisen, including family gatherings with mother and grandmother, presents of flowers and greeting cards, and especially remembrances in prayers.

Mothers are Mothers 365 days a year

More than a 9 to 5 work day ... No overtime pay ... No legal holidays, sick days or vacation ... A mother needs the skills of a nurse, teacher, nutritionist, psychologist, efficiency expert and money manager Plus great physical stamina, tenderness, humor, patience, consistency and flexibility. Here is a life commitment - no quitting after 3 years because she doesn't like the working conditions.

We think dedication like that deserves recognition. So, on May 9 Mom's Special Day, we wish all the best to our Favorite people Mothers!



Happy Mother's Day!

A Lithuanian Forest in Summer

Written by Bishop A. Baranauskas

Translated into English by

ANTONIA M. WACKELL

WHAT THE FOREST MEANS:

Wherever you gaze, there is always beauty: green, marshes, purifying!

Wherever you inhale, it is always pleasing: forest scents, nostril teasing!

Wherever you listen, there is always delight: rustles, murmurs, gamboling!

However you feel, there is always calm: heart caressing, gnawing!

Beds of soft, green, tender moss are spread throughout,

And when they draw their heads into themselves, then lullabies drop out.

The berry shrubs, like rue, grow stump on stump, Bearing black, red berries, ripe and plump.

THE FOREST'S MUSHROOM FAMILY:

On a green, red, timbered bottom mushrooms show Their many colors among the trees where they grow. The mushroom funnel, here and there, through the crevice carefully,

Thrusts itself from under the mossy covers bashfully. Here in the forest the mushrooms saucers lead,

Here the hog mushroom puffs, look as though they're full of mead.

Here under the firs, the families' orange mushrooms grow,

Here under the pines, out of the earth, green mushrooms show.

Here on the trees, reddish, bluish, grayish nomad mushrooms sit,

Gay little mushrooms, growing nicely, worried not a bit.

Here are the butter mushrooms along the path the shepherds tread,

They look like upturned cups around the bushes, as Mickevičius said.

Here, out of the clumps, 'nemunes' mushrooms grow, and the 'lepšias' among the alders peeps,

Here in dried tree trunks 'šalponiai' are found and in shrubby heaps.

Here are leprous flybanes, and slimmy mushrooms too,

Here are mushrooms and toadstools, names of which, no one knew.

Yonder mushrooms people gather, and animals the others chew.

And cattle trample still the others as they storm through, Or else, they become limp with age in time, and then finally decay.

The vegetation around becomes lush with the mushrooms cast away.

Ah! but supreme above them all is the mushroom 'baravykas',

Or in the bard's own words - the 'Colonel of mushrooms' is Boletus.

Broad, corpulent, bulging as if it were the cover Of a hard, strong stem topped by a polished platter.

Rapidly growing, long eating, with a host of relatives, Found among the oaks, and the reds and other spots the forest gives.

CAMP NERINGA

With deep concern the enrollment for the American-Lithuanian English session at Camp NERINGA decreasing. Is it due to the recession? Is it difficult for parents to pay the weekly fee? Or, has the acquired independence of Lithuania have us believe that democracy is already achieved in our homeland and that all the history lessons have been learned?

Almost all children who spend two weeks at NERINGA speak of not only having a wonderful time, but also of having learned so much about themselves, their national heritage. Their parents speak of their children's expanded personal experience and new social habits, not to mention that often they get quizzed after camp and find their

(Continued on Page 13)

Lithuania: An Opening for Illegal Migration to the West?

by *Ainis Gurevičius*

Quite recently, Lithuania was engulfed by a wave of illegal African immigrants who believed that this country was a gateway to the Western states. However, even when this belief proved to be wrong, various adventurers still nurture hope to immigrate to the West via Lithuania.

Migrants are coming to Lithuania by planes, trains, buses, etc. A special caste of taxi drivers has emerged, who bring passengers into the Baltic States. However, charter flights from Beirut cause the greatest concern to Lithuanian custom officials. Lithuanian Airlines made 27 journeys of this kind in 1992, receiving \$11,000 per trip. Officially, the planes carry students and tourists to Vilnius, but most of the passengers are actually adventurers seeking to make an illegal entrance into a Western country. Besides, the Beirut-Vilnius flight is one of the cheapest in Europe.

Most of the illegal travelers come from Lebanon; next on the emigrant-country list are Pakistan, Iraq, Syria and Vietnam. At the present time it is practically impossible for Lebanese nationals to get to the West. Such countries as Denmark, Sweden and Finland have stopped issuing visas to them, while Poland does not allow them entry even with a Polish visa.

These persons come to Lithuania expecting to squeeze their way into the West with counterfeit passports and entrance permits. Some of them acquire false documents at home; others manage to buy a passport with a visa in Lithuania for \$2,500. Customs officers find on them identification cards stolen in other countries. When a group of 19 Lebanese with false British visas was deported from Lithuania, one of the detainees swore to blow up the firm in Beirut which had sold him the entry permit for \$500.

Most of the illegal travelers are naive enough to come with the so-called World Citizen passports which are sold for \$55 as souvenirs in the United States. These passports grant the "right" to enter any country of the world. Smart people buy them in large quantities and resell them to gullible nationals from developing countries. The Lithuanian Interpol Bureau has confiscated nearly 20 passports of this kind.

If illegal travelers managed to enter a Western country via Vilnius, heavy monetary penalties would be imposed on Lithuania. For example, Poland had to pay the United States a fine of \$86,000 for letting 12 "tourists" through its

territory. Great Britain has already threatened Lithuania with a penalty sum of 32,000 pounds for allowing an illegal group of Lebanese out of the Vilnius airport.

Meanwhile, the Lebanese side does not bother about counterfeit documents. Lithuania could also demand that Beirut pay a fine for every false passport carrier, but international law is very intricate and the Lithuanian Foreign Ministry is most probably unable to cope with everything at once. Some officials suggest that Lithuanian customs and migration officers fly to Beirut to sift out the adventurers there, but this would be a costly procedure.

Lithuania demands that all Lebanese nationals have visas; however, many of them fly to Vilnius and are issued an entry permit at the Vilnius airport. This kind of practice seems to be losing sense. The Migration Service has stopped granting visas to travelers from Lebanon if they fail to give a serious reason for coming to Lithuania.

Illegal immigrants have nothing to fear in Lithuania; though they may be sued for carrying counterfeit passports, nobody wants to get too much involved. The identification procedure takes up a lot of time; the lawsuit would drag on for six months and would be very costly since there are few interpreters from Arabic in Lithuania. The result would be a suspended sentence and deportation. It is much simpler to deport illegal immigrants at once. As many as several of them are cast out from Lithuania every day.

At the present moment there are nearly 200 travelers from developing countries in Lithuania with valid entry visas. However, nobody knows how many of them have entered Lithuania without an official permit. Most of them are staying in Trakai, near Vilnius, where they rent a room for \$5 to \$10 from local dwellers. Vilnius and Kaunas are also among their favorite places of residence.

While in Lithuania, illegal immigrants lead a very quiet way of life. There are some painful exceptions though. The police has information that some of them are involved in fire-arms and narcotics trade, while others maintain close links with terrorist organizations. Those, who are legal residence of Lithuania (last year, ten Afghans married Lithuanian women and eight Lebanese are currently planning to take marriage vows) are usually engaged in unlawful transiting of foreign nationals to the West. According to the Lithuanian police, drug

Illegal Migration to the West (Cont'd)

trafficking via Lithuania has become a regular practice. Cannabis and heroin are taken from the East to the West, while from the West synthetic narcotics, such as the Polish amphetamine, are brought to the Eastern drug market. These narcotics are not sold in Lithuania since they are too expensive for local drug addicts. The Lithuanian border control service does not have the necessary equipment and trained dogs to conduct an effective search for narcotics. The drugs are camouflaged as dental powder, soft-drink concentrates, cement, putty, etc. Meanwhile the Lithuanian state cannot afford even the most elementary testers.

Last year a group of Sikh terrorists traveling from Moscow was detained in Lithuania. All of them were

deported back to Russia. The Interpol Bureau is now keeping a close watch on several dark-skinned persons, who are suspected of being well-known terrorists who are wanted by several countries of the world.

Illegal immigrants consider the Baltic States to be an ideal place for transiting to the West because of insufficient border control measures. However, they prefer Latvia and Estonia to Lithuania: the Asians have set up a colony near Riga with almost 2,000 persons residing there.

According to the Lithuanian Interpol Bureau, the problem of illegal migration should be dealt with by security or migration services. The latter is now understaffed, having only 14 instead of the needed 80 officers.



REMINISCE

Playing Marbles

by Frank Petrauskas

Spring was a favorite time of the year for a young boy. The days grew longer, the temperature began to get warm, the buds began to swell and the urge to play outdoors took a strong hold on a young boy. One of our favorite games was marbles. After we got our chores done, we would play marbles for hours.

The old Brick Plant, which was no longer in operation, was an ideal place to play. There was a long shed which had a roof, open sides and a brick floor with just a light amount of soil presented us with the utopia in playing areas. We could play there come rain or shine. There were three types of marbles. First, there were the tinted clay marbles which we called *commies*. Then there were the varied colored glass marbles which we called *shooters*. These were the mainstream of the marble players. When you won these, they were your wealth. Last were the big glass marbles which we called *plunkers*.

The game we played most was called "Bull in the Ring." You would take a stick and draw a small circle about a foot in diameter. Next, draw a large circle about 12' to 15' in diameter around the small circle. Each boy would then place an equal number of *commies* or *shooters* in the small ring. Each boy would stand outside of the big ring, take his *plunker* and shoot at the marbles. Whatever marbles were knocked outside of the big ring, the player kept. Each time one or more marbles were knocked out, you would keep shooting until you missed or failed to knock a marble out. Then, the next player would have his turn. The game would continue until all of the marbles were knocked out of the big

ring.

As more accuracy was developed, we would just shoot with the *shooters*. It became more of a finesse game. We wouldn't use the *plunkers*. Some boys became very accurate shooters. They could hit another marble from a good distance. My brother Paul was such a person. He was always a winner. He kept his winnings in some of my mother's one and two-quart glass canning jars. He would set them on a shelf so he could admire all of the beautiful colors of the glass marbles.

Another marble game we played was called "Szaba." We would make three small holes (6" across x 2" deep) in a straight line, each hole about 10' apart. A fourth hole was off to the right about 15' away. This was called the Szaba hole. We would start the game from a line 5' from the first hole. Each boy would roll his marble to the first hole. After making the first hole, he would roll to the second hole and then onto the third hole. He would then roll to the Szaba hole. Upon making the Szaba hole, you could shoot at the other boys' marbles and if you hit it, it was yours. The game ended when there was only one boy left.

We even played marbles going to and from school. We would shoot at each other's marbles as we walked along.

Those were some of the happiest days and years of my life. We would play marbles for hours and hours at a time. When we tired of one game, we would play another game. I have a bunch of games we played which required no investment. I'll write about them at another time.

MONTH OF MAY.....

Lithuania is "Our Lady's" Land.....

by Joseph Yanulaitis

Lithuania, the last European nation to accept Christianity, did so whole-heartedly and without reserve. During the Protestant reformation, the Lithuanian people stood firm in their faith although all her neighbors to the North and West became Lutherans. After four hundred years, the Holy Father spoke with paternal fondness and pride of Lithuania as "the Northern-most outpost of Catholicism in Europe." An especial honor and devotion to the Mother of God soon manifested itself and became the refuge and strength of the Lithuanian peasant.

Soon after the country's "baptism", Vytautas the Great erected 26 churches for his subjects to worship in and 14 of these parishes chose Mary as their patroness. In independent Lithuania during 1918-1940, 21% of the churches were under her protection. The cult of Mary did not restrict itself to the erection of churches only, but had a deep effect upon the souls and inner life of the people through public manifestations also. Every Sunday, many churches had devotions to the Blessed Virgin before or after the main services, when the early arrivals for Mass would sing the Blessed Virgin Mary Litany or the Little Hours of the BVM. Often after Mass, a *Karunka* (Crown of Prayers) devoted to the sorrows and joys were sung.

During the month of May, the beloved May devotions were held consisting of the Litany and hymns in her honor. Since many lived far from the churches, they would gather around the village wayside shrines and crosses each evening for their May devotions. The rosary was no stranger to the Lithuanian which he recited during the month of October after singing the Litany to a different tune than that used in May. Who else can boast of the numerous hymns to Mary so much that "Marija, Marija" is often called our second national anthem.

During the course of history, the Lithuanians have experienced many disasters such as foreign occupations, atrocities, enforced serfdom, all of which they patiently bore and associated themselves with the Sorrowful Mother and the Pensive Christ in their wood carvings and shrines. Lithuania was dedicated to Mary on two different occasions. The first time Lithuania was dedicated to Mary together with Poland. This took place under the reign of King John Kazimier in the city of Lvov on April 1, 1656.

The second time was in Rome on May 13, 1951 when the Lithuanian bishops gathered there to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the establishment of the Lithuanian Province. Together they offered the country up and put it under the protection of the Immaculate Heart of Mary. This dedication was repeated in almost all of the Lithuanian parishes of the free world when a "traveling Madonna" visited them and which was eventually taken back to Lithuania.

The devotion to Mary was recognized by Pope Pius XI who called it the Land of Mary (Terra Mariana).

During the course of time, Our Blessed Lady has shown her people that she appreciates their unswerving devotion. She has showered them with gifts and miraculous cures at the shrines of Žemaičių, Kalavarija and thru the miraculous picture at the Monastery of Pažaisles. Her miraculous picture above the Eastern Gate at Vilnius is still venerated as late as this Spring. This symbol of faith has nurtured the Christian souls thru all foreign occupations. And in Siberia, she is a constant source of hope as was attested by the now famous Siberian Prayer Book which was smuggled out to the free world under the title of "Marija, Gelbek Mus" (Mary Save Us) and was publicly displayed in the United States. To date, it has been translated into eight different languages.

CAMP NERINGA (Cont'd from Page 10)

children teaching them what they should know about their Lithuanian culture.

This is the only Lithuanian American summer camp for children in the East Coast. Also, this summer the NERINGA Alumni are planning to get together on the annual picnic day in Putnam July 25.

Would perhaps a VYTIS reader like to sponsor a child and help a family send a child to summer camp? \$125.00 weekly fee.

For more camp information, write: CAMP NERINGA, 600 Liberty Hwy., Putnam, CT 06260.



HOW GREAT THOU ART

by Stuart K. Hine

O Lord my God! When I in awesome wonder
Consider all the worlds thy hands have made,
I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder,
Thy power throughout the universe displayed.

Then sings my soul, my Savior God to thee;
How great thou art, how great thou art!
Then sings my soul, my Savior God to thee;
How great thou art, how great thou art!

When through the woods and forest glades I wander
And hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees;
When I look down from lofty mountain grandeur
And hear the brook and feel the gentle breeze.

Then sings my soul, my Savior God to thee;
How great thou art, how great thou art!
Then sings my soul, my Savior God to thee;
How great thou art, how great thou art!

And when I think that God, his Son not sparing,
Sent him to die, I scarce can take it in;
That on the cross my burden gladly bearing,
He bled and died to take away my sin.

Then sings my soul, my Savior God to thee;
How great thou art, how great thou art!
Then sings my soul, my Savior God to thee;
How great thou art, how great thou art!

When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation
And take me home, what joy shall fill my heart!
Then I shall bow in humble adoration
And there proclaim, my God, how great thou art!

Then sings my soul, my Savior God to thee;
How great thou art, how great thou art!
Then sings my soul, my Savior God to thee;
How great thou art, how great thou art!

KOKS DIDIS TU

Iš anglų kalbos laisvai vertė Leonas Venckus

O Viešpatie, pasaulio sutvėrėjau,
Mes stebimės Tavo rankų darbais.
Matom žvaigždes, žaibus audringus vėjus,,
Tavo galybę niekad neprais.

Mano siela tad liaupsina Tave,
Koks didis Tu, koks didis Tu.
Mano siela tad liaupsina Tave:
Koks didis Tu, koks didis Tu!

Kai per miškus ir pievas mes keliaujam,
Paukšteliai čiułba, gėlės puošia mus.
Aukšti kalnai, o jūra nerimauja,
Saulė ir tamsa gaubia mus visus.

Mano siela tad liaupsina Tave
Koks didis Tu, koks didis Tu.
Mano siela tad liaupsina Tave:
Koks didis Tu, Koks Didis Tu!

Atmink kad Viešpats sūnų vienatinį,
Leido numirt už nuodėmės mūsų;
Ant kryžiaus Jis kentėjo už mus kaltus,
Ir Atpirkėju tapo mūsų visų.

Mano siela tad liaupsina Tave
Koks didis Tu, koks Didis Tu.
Mano siela tad liaupsina Tave,
Koks didis Tu, koks didis Tu!

Kuomet ateis mums diena paskutinė.
Kristus sugriš, pakvies mus pas save.
Tada suklaupę garbinsim Jo vardą,
Su šventaisiais ir dangaus angelais.

Mano siela ims liaupsinti Tave:
Koks didis Tu, koks didis Tu.
Mano siela ims liaupsinti Tave;
Koks didis Tu, Koks didis Tu!



Language Intolerable

Rev. John Savukynas, MIC

I ventured to go to a movie. "A Few Good MEN" was playing at a local theatre.

It was an interesting story, however, the vulgar language was intolerable. Offensive language isn't necessary to emphasize a point. If it is the language of the Army, should the public be subjected to such crudeness. It's blasphemy to revile the name of Jesus Christ. Any Christian should consider it appalling.

After thirty-five minutes of uncouth entertainment, I left the theatre.

American top military officers met recently with Pres. Clinton in the White House concerning the 50-year ban on gays in the armed services. Did the Joint Chiefs of Staffs use such vulgar language to put across a point?

A New York radio station was fined \$600,000 because of Stern's vulgar language. The station's license may not be renewed.

Some people were shocked when in "Gone With the Wind" Clark Gable said, "I don't give a damn."

We are living in a sex-saturated society. Pornography is no longer pornography. Where do we draw the line?

Public morality is essential to the success of popular government. In the words of James Madison: "We have staked our future on the ability of each of us to govern ourselves according to the Ten Commandments of God." The fate of free government ultimately depends on the ability of the people to maintain moral order. The framers'

great experience in self-government has gone on for over 200 years. We have been sustained by our commitment to our great moral heritage.

For the past 30 years a moral crisis has been brewing with a steady assault on traditional values. We have lived through permissiveness and a sexual revolution. We don't seem to have any objective standard of what is right and what is wrong. What is made legal, even though contrary to natural law, will ultimately become viewed by people as "moral".

Consider the fruits of our present society. The harvest is grim. Violence up 500 percent in the last 30 years. Soaring juvenile crime. A drastic increase in venereal disease. 1.5 million children aborted each year; one third performed on teenagers. Teenage suicide has nearly tripled in just 20 years.

The breakdown of the traditional moral order has resulted in the disintegration of the family. Our country has the highest divorce rate in the world. Divorce is as common as marriage. As a result we have a high percentage of children living in single-parent households.

There must be serious and rigorous emphasis on the moral education of our children. It is imperative that we succeed in passing to the next generation our faith and moral values.

I don't see any children in the theatre. I wonder about the reaction of the teenager and adults.

THESE CHANGING TIMES

Latin's gone - peace is, too
 Singin' and shoutin' from every pew
 Altar's turned around
 Priest is, too
 Commentator's yellin' page twenty-two.
 Communion rails goin' - Stand up straight
 Kneelin'/suddenly went outta date.
 Processions are formin' in every aisle
 Salvation organized
 Single file.
 Rosary' out - Psalms are in
 Hardly ever hear
 A word against sin.

Listen to the lector, hear how he reads
 Please stop rattlin'
 Them rosary beads!
 Padre's looking puzzled
 Doesn't know his part
 Used to know the whole deal in Latin by heart.
 I hope all changes are just about done
 That they don't drop Bingo
 Before I've won!



Lithuanians in the News

FORMER DISHWASHER PLAYS BIG PART IN RESTAURANT'S REVIVAL



Max Klimavicius, left, and Vincent Sardi, Jr.

Mr. Klimavicius oversees 150 employees. He said revenue increased 32% in 1992. Operations are once again in the black. He also said he hoped to increase business for Sardi's banquet rooms on the third and fourth floors of the building.

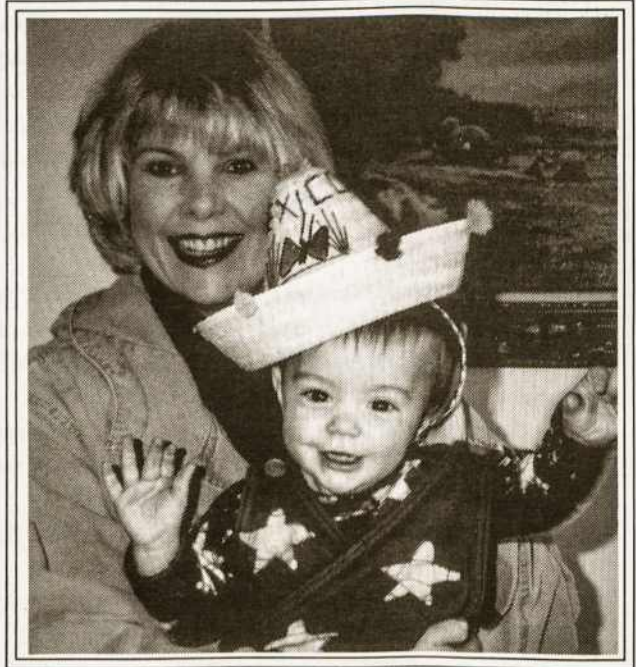
Part Lithuanian and part Colombian, Mr. Klimavicius grew up in Colombia and came to New York after high school to learn English. He also obtained a degree in business administration from Queens College.

OUR LITHUANIAN STAR ANN JILLIAN'S SCHEDULE

TV MOVIE: Ann Jillian - she is back in action! Ann just finished a TV movie titled, "Labor of Love, The Arlette Schweitzer Story" for CBS-TV. It will air this Mother's Day, May 9, 1993 on CBS-TV. The movie is the true life story of a lady who had her daughter's twins. Yes, the daughter was unable to have children and the mother (Arlette played by Jillian) carried her daughter's egg to term and gave birth to twins. Mother's Day is the perfect air date. Every mother should watch this film.

The venerable Sardi's (a well known prestigious restaurant in NYC) which was down and out in 1990, seems to be alive and well in 1993. The man behind the scenes, however, is Max Klimavicius.

Mr. Klimavicius, 38, has worked half his life at Sardi's, starting as a dishwasher. Mr. Sardi made him general manager when he reopened in 1990 after a four-month shut-down.



Ann Jillian with son, Andy, Jr.

MUSIC CONCERTS: Ann will be back in Atlantic City, NJ come May 14-15-16 at the Claridge Hotel & Casino. She will be performing a new show, concert style.

TV VARIETY: Ann can be seen on Bob Hope's next TV Special titled, "The First Ninety Years". She will sing and discuss her USO Christmas tours that she made with Bob. This airs the first week in May on NBC-TV. Watch your TV Guide for time.

ATTENDS LITHUANIAN CONFERENCE

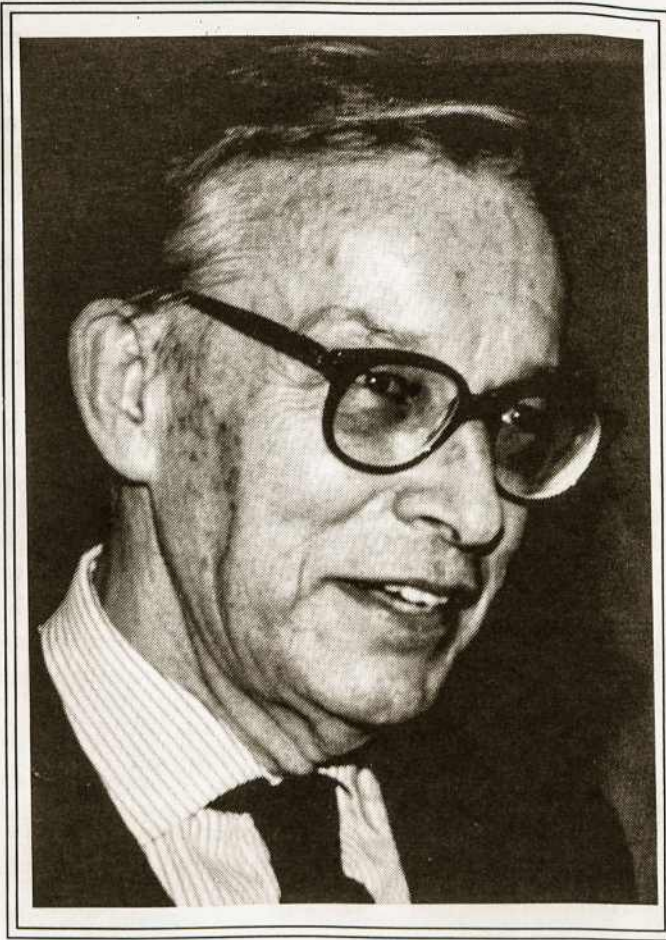
Anthony Kiselis of Amsterdam, NY attended the First World Conference of Lithuanian Lawyers in Vilnius and Palanga. The meeting, which included about 75 lawyers from the United States, Great Britain, Canada and Australia, was held over an eight-day period. There were all day sessions held in Vilnius and in Palanga.

Kiselis was recently elected to membership in the Society of Trial Lawyers in Illinois. Membership is restricted to 250 lawyers in the state. Consequently, a new member may not be elected until one of the current members retires outside the state of Illinois or otherwise severs his or her membership in the Society.

(The Reporter, Amsterdam)

Honorable Stasys Lozoraitis, Jr.

Candidate for Honorary Membership



For the first time in Knights of Lithuania history, a member of the government of a free and independent Lithuania has been nominated to receive the highest award the Knights can bestow - the Honorary Membership. Ambassador of the Republic of Lithuania to the United States, the Honorable Stasys Lozoraitis was selected for this honor for his achievements for God and Country in his official and personal life, outstanding and exemplary of the ideals of the organization.

Stasys Lozoraitis was born in Berlin, where his father was posted as a Lithuanian diplomat. He studied international law at the University of Rome. In addition, he was a member of the executive bodies of various Lithuanian organizations in Europe and of the International Association of Catholic intellectuals, as well as serving as managing editor of a Lithuanian newspaper.

Mr. Lozoraitis was asked by the Lithuanian Diplo-

matic Service to participate in the Vatican Mission, which was sent by the Holy Father to attend to the spiritual needs of Lithuanian refugees. He then joined the Lithuanian Diplomatic Service and became Secretary at the Lithuanian Legation to the Holy See. After the death of the Chief of the Mission, Stasys Lozoraitis became free Lithuania's representative to the Holy See.

In 1987, Mr. Lozoraitis was also appointed Counselor at the Lithuanian Legation in Washington, DC and became Ambassador in 1992 after the United States' recognition of Lithuania's independence.

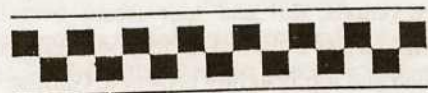
In 1990, the Lithuanian Parliament granted him full power to represent Lithuania in the Western Hemisphere, in case a Soviet invasion would attempt to suffocate Lithuania's newly-found independence.

As a young man, Stasys Lozoraitis was a member of the Lithuanian resistance movement with the task of informing Lithuanian partisans on political developments in the West. He was also active as a journalist for an American magazine and maintained a strong involvement with the Lithuanian communities of the diaspora in public affairs and as a lecturer and writer. He has authored and co-authored many articles and books on foreign policy problems and on Lithuania.

He is married to Daniela D'Ercole from Rome.

In his many years in the service of his beloved Lithuania, Mr. Lozoraitis never faltered in his conviction that Lithuania would shake the yoke of its Soviet oppressors, and supported all those who helped Lithuania fight that battle. As a representative of the pre-war, once free Lithuania, he always kept the doors of the Lithuanian Legation in Washington open to representatives of the Knights of Lithuania and supported their many projects aimed at bringing Lithuania back into the fold of free nations.

Stasys Lozoraitis, Jr. attended several Knights of Lithuania National Conventions as an honored guest. We look forward to his attendance this year to receive his most deserved reward of Honorary Membership in the Knights of Lithuania.



Lithuanian Kitchen

Lietuviška Virtuvė

GRYBŲ MIŠRAINĖ

1 stiklinė virtų grybų, 1 stiklinė žirnelių, 2 rauginti agurkai, 4 virtos morkos, 2 svogunai, 6 šaukštai majonezo, druskos.

Supjaustytus agurkus, morkas ir svogūnus sumaišyti su grybais, žirneliais ir majonezu, papuošti žalumynais.

BUROKELIŲ SALOTOS SU KRIENAIS

200 g. burokėlių, 200 g. obuolių, 3 šaukštai krienu, grietinės, druskos ir cukraus pagal skonį.

Burokėliai sutarkuojami smulkiai, obuoliai, stambiai, įberiama druskos ir cukraus, įdedama krienu, sumaišoma ir užpilama grietine.

KIELBASA STIR FRY

1 lb. cooked kielbasa, sliced
1 pkg. frozen vegetables or 2 cups fresh vegetables
(string beans, peas, broccoli, mushrooms)
3 onions, sliced
1/2 cup cold water
1/2 cup sherry
1 Tbsp. corn starch
2 cloves garlic, chopped
2 Tbsp. soy sauce
Pepper, salt

Cooked noodles, rice or barley

In small bowl, mix together water, sherry, soy sauce, cornstarch and set aside. Heat a large saute pan or wok; add oil. Stir fry onions and garlic for 2-3 mins.; push to one side and add vegetables. Stir fry until desired tenderness. Remove vegetables to a bowl. Add kielbasa to pan and stir fry for 2 mins. or until heated through. Add cornstarch mixture and cook until sauce is thick and bubbly. Stir in vegetables and reheat. Serve over noodles, rice or barley.

BAKED FISH FILLETS

4 large fish fillets
1 cup sour cream
1/2 cup chopped fresh dill
3/4 cup bread crumbs
Salt & pepper
2 onions thinly sliced
Chopped parsley for garnish

Lightly butter or oil a large baking pan. Sprinkle it with bread crumbs. Place a layer of fish fillets over crumbs. Place onions, dill and sour cream over fish. Sprinkle crumbs on top. Bake at 375° for about 25 mins. or until fish is done and top is lightly browned. Garnish with parsley.

BARLEY AND VEGETABLE SALAD

1 cup cooked sliced carrots
1 cup cooked peas
1 cup cooked lima beans
1 cup cooked diced potatoes
1 cup sliced celery
1/2 cup chopped onion
1 cup cooked barley
1 cup mayonnaise (to taste)
1/2 cup sour cream
3 Tbsp. vinegar (to taste)
1/2 cup chopped sweet pickles & juice
Salt & pepper to taste

Combine all vegetables and barley in a large bowl. In smaller bowl, blend remaining ingredients and add to vegetables mixing well. Arrange on serving platter lined with lettuce leaves. Chill. Garnish with parsley when ready to serve.

STRAWBERRY BREAD

2 - 10-oz. pkgs. frozen strawberries, thawed
4 eggs
1-1/4 cup oil
3 cups flour
2 cups sugar
3 tsp. cinnamon
1 tsp. baking soda
1 tsp. salt

Butter and flour 2 loaf pans. Heat oven to 350°. Stir all ingredients in a large bowl until blended. Pour into loaf pans and bake 1 hr. or until done.

APPLE BAKE

1 loaf old Lithuanian or pumpernickel bread broken into large crumbs.
5-6 apples, peeled and sliced
Rind of 1 lemon, grated
4 Tbsp. orange liqueur (optional)
1 stick oleo/butter
1 cup sugar
1 tsp. cinnamon

Butter a baking pan. Cook bread crumbs in butter/oleo and place a layer in buttered baking pan. Add layer of apples and sprinkle with sugar, rind, cinnamon and liqueur. Repeat layering until all ingredients used; ending with crumbs. Dot crumbs with butter. Bake for 1 hour or until apples and done and top is brown. Serve with ice cream or whipped cream.



CONFUSION BESETS MAPMAKER

Anthony V. Snieckus

As if mesmerized by a time-lapse, the Rand McNally Company fumbles in search of an excuse for arbitrarily renaming one of Lithuania's largest cities, KLAIPEDA, in exchange for "Memel" in Rand McNally's maps of 'Eastern Europe', 'Europe', and 'Northern Europe'.

Save for a spurious Nazi occupation in 1939, the contemporary name of KLAIPEDA, acknowledged since the first quarter of the 20th century, has been the recognized name of the seaport — that is, until Rand McNally took matters into its hands. In an Nov. 24, 1992 communication, the mapmaker's chief cartographer stresses, "We do attempt to portray the world in its 'de facto' sense and we realize that some of these portrayals reflect unhappy situations." Unhappy indeed, when the mapmaker renames a major European seaport, refusing to state the reason. In evident resolve to retain the temerity, the communication of Dec. 3 postulates: "We are cartographers, not politicians and do not espouse a particular point of view in our selection of geographic content."

Unable to divert attention from an issue the company itself introduced Rand McNally's December 14 communication entreats: "Could you please specifically suggest what you believe is the correct representation?" Could anything have been more specific than the earlier query, "How does KLAIPEDA lose out to "Memel" on Rand McNally's maps of Europe, Northern Europe and Eastern Europe?" Despite the stonewalling, the cartographer's letter was answered: "Have all Rand McNally maps return to the contemporary names for both seaports; KLAIPEDA in Lithuania, Gdansk in Poland, an acknowledgement of the 'de facto' condition you express concern for."

Following a month, a letter soliciting response, received Jan. 18, 1993 arrogant reply: ".... Rand McNally will decide this issue, not you" followed by enumerated terms entirely redundant. After yet another letter to the company, their cartographer "appears" to relent, writing, "You should note that this will be a phased effort and the deletion of historical names on our wall and sheet maps will occur as they are scheduled for revision." The fudging is too tedious!

Sheet maps by Rand McNally already changed the name of KLAIPEDA to "Memel" and only "Memel." How can you change the "historic" name when that is the only name provided?

The ad hoc American Friends of the Baltics, draws a

parallel conclusion to one expressed by United Parcel Service — one of dissatisfaction at ".... the world's premier cartographer: Rand McNally." When Rand McNally provided maps with Lithuania under Russian occupation, the company was content to utilize KLAIPEDA as the seaport's name, with only a Cyrillic transliteration added. As Lithuania charged toward restoring her lost independence, "Memel" appeared in parenthesis (Cosmopolitan World Map) and finally, with world diplomatic recognition of Lithuania, "Memel" replaced KLAIPEDA altogether, while Poland's Gdansk, remained Gdansk despite the parenthetical inclusion of "Danzig" on the Cosmopolitan World Map.

It's with apprehension, when one member of the American Friends of the Baltics, succinctly wrote Rand McNally: "You might just as well rename Istanbul and call it 'Constantinople' ", concluding, "I do not believe it is the cartographer's job to impose his personal political viewpoint in charting a map or in assigning place names, but it appears to me that this is exactly what Rand McNally has done. It calls into question the source of your information and the motivation for your decision to use that name (Memel)...."

Letters of complaint may be addressed to either of the following two individuals: Mr. Andrew W. McNally, IV, President; or Dr. Michael W. Dobsen, Chief Cartographer, Rand McNally Company, 8255 Central Park Ave., Skokie, IL 60076.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

In the latter half of the 13th century, Teutons invaded territory belonging to the Balts, the region long named by the indigenous populace, as KLAIPEDA. These invaders originally provided the name of Neu-Dortmund for the settlement they were colonizing, providing clue of Rhenish origin. During this period, Pope Innocent III, in a document dated 1253, warned the stronghold was being built in Lithuanian territory. With Europe's support, the Baltic Crusade against the pagan Lithuanians continued and the Teutonic Order's Bishop Henry, constructed a separate church for the Lithuanian populace (Saint John), even though they had yet to be christened and the Lithuanians remaining steadfast in resisting the colonizers.

Neu-Dortmund was subsequently replaced by the name "Memel", deriving from the German phonetic variant of

Confusion Besets Mapmaker (Cont'd)

the Lithuanian river, NEMUNAS, whose delta lay to the south of the growing stronghold. History provides evidence of Lithuania's contesting the seizure over succeeding centuries and as a result of WWI and the 1919 Treaty of Versailles, Lithuania regained her gateway to the sea by supporting the region's Lithuanian populace and utilizing

force (1923), to take physical possession. Europe appeared incapable of acting courageously in support of implementing the Versailles Treaty (the same lack of will, illustrated over pre-WWII Nazi aggression and at present, floundering over Bosnia's entry on the European scene.)

**INVOCATION COMMEMORATING LITHUANIA'S
SECOND DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE
AT CAMBRIDGE PUBLIC LIBRARY**

March 10, 1992

Friends, rejoice with us! Lithuania is free and independent! Lithuania's people have been released from the psychological chains that repressed their personal initiative, their spiritual growth, their intellectual endeavors, Lithuania is independent and her national flag again waves freely over the lands.

Lithuania, grateful for restored independence, may you hold dear your tri-color flag: yellow, green and red - that tri-color banner which is a reflection of your country and the sturdy character of your people. Yellow: your sun-caressed fields of wheat and rye; green: your forests, meadows and gently rolling hills; red: the blood of your heroes who struggled, suffered, sacrificed and died for patriotic love of you.

Now that your tri-color is entered among the flags of the United Nations, show your European neighbors, show the people of the world, to what heights you can soar culturally, religiously, socially, politically and economically. May you use your reclaimed freedom doing good and pursuing truth. May you aspire to ever higher and nobler goals continually enhancing your Lithuanian national image.

These are our heartfelt hopes and sincerest wishes for you, free Lithuania.

Rev. Clement Kasinskas, C.P.

IN MEMORIAM

EDWARD WOLIN
C-100 Amsterdam, NY
† March 19, 1993

EVELYN KASPUTIS
C-144 Anthracite, PA
† March 28, 1993

MARY NEVERESKY
C-78 Lawrence, MA
† March 29, 1993

MARGARET FUERST
C-136 Hudson-Mohawk, NY
† March 30, 1993

EMILIJAS SANDANAVICIUS
C-41 Brooklyn, NY
† March 30, 1993

NANCY KAZLAUSKAS
C-100 Amsterdam, NY
† March 31, 1993

Aid to Lithuania, Inc.

NOTE: The list of donations appearing in the March 1993 issue of VYTIS DID NOT include the donations made at the National Convention in Allentown, PA. These donations were included in the September/October 1992 Convention issue. We are sorry if this has caused some confusion in finding your name in one or the other donors' lists.

TIME WELL SPENT - A SATURDAY MORNING WITH WORLD MEDICAL RELIEF

*Irene Gecas
Elena Mikalauskas*

K of L members from Chicago, Dayton, Detroit and Pittsburgh converged for the last weekend in February to support Lithuania. As part of the Aid to Lithuania committee's ongoing efforts, these Knights donated their time to pack medical supplies and equipment in conjunction with the World Medical Relief Organization (WMR).

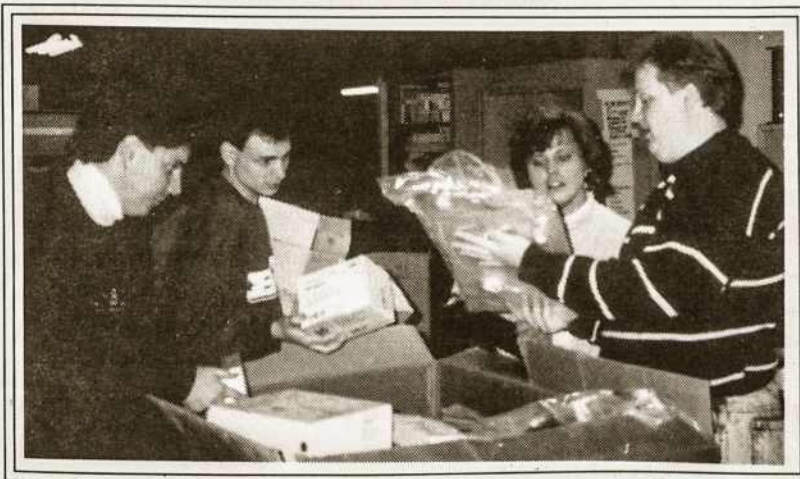
The weekend began Friday, Feb. 26 with everyone travelling from different directions to the Dearborn Hampton Inn. Early Saturday morning the group officially gathered and were met by local Lithuanians to begin the relief effort. At the WMR organization's headquarters, the Lithuanians were warmly greeted with enthusiasm by WMR's

Executive Director, Carolyn George, and other volunteer groups. Despite experiencing some initial awkwardness in appropriate packing methods, the combined groups became quite competent reaching a "packing record" of 28 boxes for the day. The final package became known as the "marathon box" uniting the efforts of the individuals from all four cities.

After completing the morning's work, the group spent the afternoon either relaxing, participating in committee meetings, or returning home. Detroit Lithuanians rewarded the out-of-towner's hard work and dedication, with a fun filled evening including a potluck dinner and socialization.

The WMR organization has assisted the K of L in organizing shipments of medical supplies to Lithuania since 1990. To date, donated supplies have totalled over \$5.5 million in value. As Executive Director Carolyn George has stated, "we help everyone that we can in need." Those in need have included not only Lithuanians, but also over 100 countries around the world.

With further shipments scheduled to Lithuania, continued support is vital. If monetary donations are not feasible, please consider the option of volunteering your time. Individuals represented from the following cities were: Chicago: Robert Martin, Rita Zakarka, Mary Beth Slakis & Janine Perutis; Dayton: Irena Gecas, Elena Mikalauskas & Rob Pant; Detroit: Bob Boris, Regina Juska, Tim Baibak & Lillian Petravicius; Pittsburgh: Andrea & John Baltrus.



K of L members packaging supplies at World Medical Relief in Detroit, MI for shipment to Lithuania.

80th NATIONAL CONVENTION**MARRIOTT HOTEL - WORCESTER, MA****AUGUST 12 - 15, 1993****TENTATIVE SCHEDULE****WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 11, 1993**

Registration	9:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.
Pre-convention trip - assemble in Lobby	9:30 a.m.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 12, 1993

Registration & Information Table	9:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.
National Executive Board Meeting	9:00 a.m.
Walk to City Hall - Assemble in Lobby	10:45 a.m.
Shuttle Buses to Cathedral	11:30 a.m.
Mass - St. Paul's Cathedral	12:10 p.m.
1st Plenary Session	2:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Buses to Maironis Park	6:30 p.m.
Get-together Dinner	7:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 13, 1993

Registration & Information Table	9:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.
2nd Plenary Session	9:30 a.m. - 12:00 Noon
Mass at Hotel	12:00 Noon
Luncheon at Hotel	1:00 p.m.
3rd Plenary Session	2:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Cultural Evening at Hotel	8:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 14, 1993

Registration & Information Table	9:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.
Junior K of L Convention Session	9:30 a.m.
4th Plenary Session	9:30 a.m. - 12:00 Noon
Mass at Hotel	12:00 Noon
5th Plenary Session	2:30 p.m.
Convention Banquet & Dance at Hotel	6:00 p.m.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 15, 1993

Breakfast Buffet	8:30 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.
Hotel Checkout	8:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.
(There will be a holding area for luggage)	
Assemble for Buses for Mass	10:30 a.m.
Mass - St. Casimir's Church	11:15 a.m.
Convention Photo	Immediately after Mass
Buses return to hotel	Immediately after Photo

If you have any questions, contact Stephen Walinsky, Jr. via FAX at (508) 865-4000 or write to Ruth Sarafinas, 134 Stonleigh Rd., Holden, MA 01520.

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

Telex 216 282

Let's talk Lithuanian — Kalbėkime lietuviškai!

Dalia Bulvičiūtė-Bulvičius
LITHUANIAN LANGUAGE COORDINATOR

LITHUANIA'S FAVORITE CONTEMPORARY POET

There were not many kids, growing up in independent Lithuania, who were not familiar with the narrative poem "Meškiukas Rudnosiukas / Little Brown-nosed bear. (Really!) Many of us in those days knew this poem by heart. Even, now in "our old age" we are able to recite much of it. Meškiukas Rudnosiukas was and still is the Mickey Mouse of Lithuania. Its author is Bernardas Brazdžionis, one of Lithuania's greatest contemporary poets.



Bernardas Brazdžionis was born on February 2, in Stebejkėliai, near Pumpėnai, county of Biržai. From 1944-1949 he lived in Ravensburg, Germany. Since 1949 he resides in Los Angeles, CA.

Brazdžionis is well known for his poetry for children, among the best in Lithuanian literature. Between 1931 - 52 he published 12 books of children's verses under the pseudonym of Vytė Nemunėlis. The poet shows a good understanding of what appeals to children and uses an uncomplicated vocabulary in writing for them.

In 1987, the Franciscan Press reprinted one of his books of verses for children. The great poet came to Brooklyn, to see the finished product. We, the staff, at the printery, were thrilled to meet him. Of course, to get his autograph, was a must. I offered him my copy, and he did not return it for quite a while. The next day, I was beginning to get nervous. Will I or will I not get the autograph of my childhood hero!? Never fear,

Brazdžionis arrived, and presented me with the book. And not just with an autographed copy. On it he had composed a poem, which he dedicated to guess who. I almost fainted with pleasure!:

Maloniai p. Daliai Bulvičiūtei,

Tik-tik-tik — jau po šešių,
Tik-tik-tk, Dalytė,
Kelkis, skubink rink raidžių,
Gal jau greitai ims lyti...

Niekam nesiskusdama
Visa dieną kala —
Renka raideles linksma
Knygų ar žurnalų.

Tik-tik-tik, — per visą dien
Laikrodis netyli...
Ta Dalytė, juk visvien
Pranciškonus myli.

Tik-tik-tik, — be pabaigos
Laikrodis tikseno
O Dalytė tos kalbos,
Tartum dvigumos algos,
Klauso kaip išmano.

Vytė Nemunėlis
1987.11.3

Pranciškonų spaustuvė, NY

To what do I owe the great honor to have received such a precious gift? Perhaps, because I recited parts of "Meškiukas Rudnosiukas" for him when he came to visit.

Here is the last part of the popular work:

Vakare, kai tėtis miega,
Kai vėsa šeima namuos,
Eina gult ir Rudnosiukas —
Ir šiltoji, minkštoji lovelė
Klauso pasakų mamos.

Klauso pasakų ausytės,
Mato akys pro miegus;
Skrenda skrenda angelėliai,
Nešdami vaikam sapnus...

Council News

Vyčiai Veikia

AMBER DISTRICT

The great blizzard of '93 forced the Amber District to cancel our St. Casimir's celebration on March 14 at St. George's Church in Shenandoah, PA and move it to the next week on March 21 at Our Lady of Siluva in Maizeville, PA. We all got a good scare on the morning of the 21st because the weather man began to throw some more snowflakes around as everyone was preparing to leave for Maizeville. However, God was good to us and made it a decent day for our annual St. Casimir's Day celebration.

Rev. Matthew Jarasunas and Rev. Peter Alisaukas, District Spiritual Advisor concelebrated the Mass. The choir blended their voices together to sing the praises of God. The Amber District ladies created a wonderful sight attired in their beautiful Lithuanian costumes. Rev. Jarasunas was honored with his Fourth Degree, an honor well deserved. Congratulations!

Helen Chesko in her warm and amiable manner awarded the Third Degree to the following deserving recipients: C-144 Anthracite: William Labadis, John Joseph, Victor Prep, Bernard Zilaitis; C-63 Lehigh Valley: Walter Balchunas, Adele & Andrew Keraga, Jane Lutick; C-74 Scranton: Msgr. Peter Madus; C-3 Philadelphia: Alice Bacon; C-118 Hazleton: Nellie Prokopas; C-146 Harrisburg: John Povilaitis, Joan Suders. In her presentation of the degrees, Helen gave a brief resume of each candidate's accomplishments and activities in the Knights of Lithuania. Dianne Drumstas, C-3 Phila. and Anne Challan, C-

143 Pittston, in their capacity as members of Amber District Ritual Committee, ceremoniously pinned the recipients with their new Third Degree medals and gave them their certificates.

Elsie Kosmisky presided over her first meeting as the new president. It was a fruitful and informative meeting. Frank Petrauskas presided over the annual raffle drawing. We sincerely thank all those who diligently participated in this undertaking.

Members of C-144 Anthracite outdid themselves in preparing a fine and delicious dinner. There was certainly enough to satisfy everyone's appetite. Thanks to Anna Helen & Tom McDonald for the favors they made for each attendee All members of Amber District join together in wishing the very best of God's blessings to Rev. Peter Alisaukas who will be celebrating his 50th year in the priesthood on June 6.

Amber District was well represented at the Supreme Council meeting held on March 27 in Chicago. Our president, Elsie Kosmisky, Anne Wargo, Nellie Romanas and John Mankus hold positions on the Executive Board. Helen Chesko attended also as a member of the National Ritual Committee. Dorothy Banos serves on the Scholarship Committee and she made the trek to Chicago also.

We know that by now all those who will be attending the convention in Worcester are seriously involved in making their plans. We hope many will be able to attend and join in the working of the convention. Conven-

tion time is a fine time to renew old friendships and make new ones The next District meeting will be hosted by C-3 Philadelphia on June 13. See you then! *Agnes*

MID-AMERICA DISTRICT

The MAMD has been very busy this past winter and the events show no sign of stopping for the spring.

In Nov. we held our annual Memorial Mass for deceased members at Immaculate Conception Church, home of C-36. Around 50 members gathered for the 10:00 a.m. Mass to remember our dearly departed members. In Dec., we held our winter meeting at All Saints / St. Anthony Parish, home of C-16. At this meeting we were able to make several donations to various organizations such as Draugas & Sandara newspapers and Slutas Radio, to name a few.

In Jan. we were off to a good start with the MAMD Choir's annual dinner-dance. Around 200 Knights and friends turned out for what proved to be an enjoyable evening. Congratulations to Dance Chair Theresa Vaitkus, choir president Sabina Henson and choir director Faustas Strolia for providing us with such a wonderful event The end of Jan. was saddened for all of us with the sudden death of our treasurer and long-time member Frank Svelnis of C-112. Frank passed away after undergoing surgery. Our deepest sympathy to his wife Lorraine and family.

Feb. also was saddened by the unexpected death of our long-time sergeant-at-arms, Joseph Martikonis, C-

36. Our sincerest sympathy to his family on his passing On Feb. 7 we held our 33rd annual "Memories of Lithuania" banquet at the Martinique Restaurant. We were pleased to present our annual "Award of Distinction" to HM Robert Boris for all his efforts in coordinating Aid to Lithuania, Inc. The end of Feb. saw district members Rita Zakarka, C-112; Mary Beth Slakis, C-16; Janeen Perutis, C-16; and Rob Martin, C-16 travel to Detroit to pack medical supplies at World Medical Relief,

along with several members of the MCD. We are told this was a very rewarding experience for all and they hope to be able to do it again On Feb. 28 the district gathered at St. Anthony's Parish in Cicero, home of C-14 for an early St. Casimir's Day Mass and luncheon along with an early Spring District meeting. We elected three new officers to fill vacancies on our board. We welcome Debbie Rudmin, C-16, treasurer; Gerry Mack, C-36, corres. sec.; Vytautas Diaukas, C-36 sergeant of arms. Best of luck to them all.

Our Choir had a busy schedule ahead of it this spring. On March 28 it combined with several other area choirs to perform "The Seven Last Words of Christ" in Calumet City, IL. On April 15 the choir performed at the Fairmont Hotel during the opening ceremonies of the ASTA (American Society of Travel Agents). ASTA represents 154 countries of the world. In May the choir will sing during the



Algerd Brazis, Robert Boris, recipient of Award of Distinction & Evelyn Ozelis at Mid-America's banquet.

Memorial Day Field Mass at St. Casimir's Lithuanian Cemetery,

The district will meet again this June at Nativity B.V.M. Parish, home of C-112, for our summer meeting. We look forward to, and hope to send many members to, this year's national convention in Worcester, MA hosted by C-26, this summer.

Ellie Kasputis



C-3 PHILADELPHIA, PA

C-3 participated in the commemoration of the 75th Anniversary of Lithuanian Independence by attending the Mass of Thanksgiving at St. Andrew's Church and the program held at Lithuanian Music Hall on the same afternoon.

A nice representation of our Council Vyčiai attended St. George's 57th annual Pre-Lenten Banquet and

joined Fr. Anderlonis for a festive evening of good food, dancing and fun. A highlight of the evening was the presentation of a plaque to Stanley Petraitis, recognizing his many years of dedicated service to St. George's Parish. This indeed was a special evening for Stanley as it was also his birthday.

Our St. Casimir's Day commemoration was held on March 7 at St. Casimir's Church. We attended Mass and hosted a catered brunch for family and friends. Our formal program was short and sweet and most memorable because of the presentation of the 2nd degree to Julie Kowrak and the presentation of a Vyti's plaque from C-3 to Victor Stepalovitch, in honor of his receiving the 4th degree at the Allentown National Convention in 1992. Our special thanks to Ann Vasiconis and Nellie & Ray Pandza for their donations of lovely hand-crafted gifts for our raffle.

Because of the blizzard of '93, the

Amber District meeting was postponed one week and held at Our Lady of Siluva Church in Maizeville, PA. Nine of our council members attended the meeting. Alice Bacon was to have received the 3rd degree at this convention but because of health problems was unable to attend the meeting. Alice should be home from the hospital soon, so we wish her a speedy recovery and look forward to having her with us soon.

In preparation for Easter, our members participated in the Stations of the Cross, Benediction and Holy Mass on the last Friday in March at St. Casimir's Church. This is the second year we are joining Fr. Wassel for special Lenten prayers.

Edmund Binkus was admitted to the hospital during the blizzard of '93 and we send our prayers and best wishes for a speedy recovery to him.

C-3 invites all Amber District members to Philadelphia on June 13 for the next District Meeting.

Irene Svekla

C-10 ATHOL-GARDNER, MA

On March 7 our council celebrated the feast of our patron St. Casimir by attending Mass in St. Francis Church in Athol and receiving communion in a body. Gifts were brought to the altar by Sophie Fiorentino and Dr. Henry Gailiunas. Following Mass, a short meeting was held to finalize our Lithuanian Independence Day program. Dinner was enjoyed at Tov Shea's in Westminster. Jennie Poskus was admitted as a new member; welcome! Both local dailies covered the event.

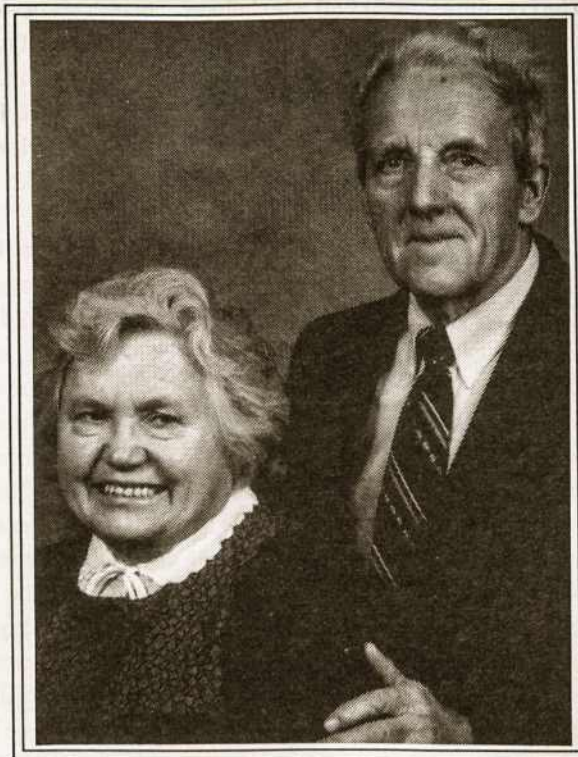
Our restoration of Lithuania's Independence Day program scheduled for March 14, because of the blizzard of '93, was rescheduled to March 21 only to be belted by another storm. But

by noon, the worst was over and we held our observance. Pres. Wisniauskas opened the program with an invocation in absence of our spiritual advisor, Rev. Joseph Jurgelonis, who also acted as MC for the day. American and Lithuanian hymns were sung. The Sodauto Lithuanian Folk Ensemble of greater Boston rendered an excellent program of Lithuanian immigrant music and dance from the Pennsylvania mining region of Shenandoah during the late 1800's and early 1900's under

the direction of founder and director, Gita Kupsinskas. It was a superb performance and worthy of great praise! Sophie Fiorentino read the proclamation issued by Mayor Charles Manca of Gardner, who attended with wife, Marie. Following the program, refreshments were served by our ladies, Both local dailies carried good writeups before and after with pictures. The following committee deserves much credit: General Chair, Bill Wisniauskas; coffee, Sophie Fiorentino; supper, Nel Melaika & Marie Colo; set up and clean up, Robert Paliulis & David Lukas; program, Kathryn Paliulis; greetings, Blanche Genaitis; directions, Brone Wisniauskas & Helen Simkunas.

Welcome is extended to new member, Jennie Gatautis Paskus. Valarie Smith has reached the big 80. Congratulations and good health, too.

Vincukas



C-10 Bronius & Brone Savulis honored for their many years of dedicated service to the church.

C-12 NEW YORK, NY

The blizzard of March 1993 is behind us and we can thank the good Lord that the damage was not as extensive as predicted.

We did not have a meeting in March due to our annual Communion Brunch. Before the commencement of festivities, a short program ensued with the reading of poems in exaltation of St. Casimir. The talented readers were Dalia Bulvicius & Vida Gendvilas. This communion breakfast was most significant in that Stella Marcinauskas received her 3rd degree after a good number of years. Mitch, her husband, and four sons with friends from Connecticut were at this event to help celebrate this occasion. The visitors were from C-141 Bridgeport and C-110 Maspeth. We thank Stella for the champagne. A good time was had by all with tasty food and desserts galore.

The committee thanks all who helped and especially Helen Yurkus who did a yeoman job in the kitchen.

Helen Matthews is presently working with cancer patients when she is not wood-sculpturing Birthday greetings are in order for the following members: John Bell, Jean Janonis, Barbara Kartanowicz, Edmund Meskys, Connie Nehwadowich & Peter Garbincius for February; Alma Karengo, Stella Marcinauskas, Joe Sleder & Kazimieras Guioderis for March. Happy birthday to all!

We received word that John Bell was ill over the Christmas holidays and we are happy to relate that he has recovered The Yurkus household are looking forward to their son's wedding in May. Our best wishes for happiness go to the couple. *Irene*

C-17 SO. BOSTON, MA

C-17 celebrated Kučios at the Mother House of the Sisters of Jesus Crucified, sponsored by C-1 of Brockton. A large group of members enjoyed the fine traditional food, recitation of the ancient custom of Kučios, singing of the beautiful songs of the season, socializing with members of other councils and the fine performance of MC Sister Eugenia, CJC. May this wonderful Christmas tradition continue!

The council's Christmas Party was held at the So. Boston Lithuanian Club's large third floor hall in January. It was filled with happy K of L's enjoying the good fellowship of the season.

A few days later, many members participated in the annual tribute to the senior parishioner of St. Peter's. This annual event was instituted by Rev. Anthony Baltrasunas, pastor emeritus of St. Peter's; and has been held for

many years. Members prepared the delicious Lithuanian food and served it to a full house in the newly renovated church hall. We thank all our members who worked so long and hard to make this holiday event so successful.

New England is known for its vigorous winters and, usually, Feb. 16 is snowy, cold or windy. A sizeable group from the Lithuanian community showed up at the State House and City Hall to raise the Lithuanian flag, sing the national anthem, make a few speeches and take a few pictures. This year was special in that Lithuania's 75th Anniversary of Independence was celebrated and she is free. On the following Sunday, a special Mass was held at St. Peter's Church in So. Boston and at 1:30 p.m. commemorative exercises were held at the So. Boston Lithuanian Club with Gintė Damušis as main speaker. She is a consultant working for the Lithuanian Mission to the United Nations.

We honored St. Casimir with a communion breakfast on the first Sunday in March in the church hall after Mass at St. Peter's with Rev. Contons officiating. Gintaras Čepas, president of the Lithuanian-American Community of Boston, was the main speaker and spoke about his recent trip to Lithuania during the national elections. He had some interesting insights.

History repeats itself. Following in the tradition of her parents as well as both sets of grandparents, on Aug. 1, Laura Kniupis of W. Roxbury became the bride of Capt. Jay Graser, USAF in St. Peter's Church. Laura, a former member of So. Boston C-17 Juniors, is a nurse. Laura's parents, Albert & Elaine, are long-time members of C-17. Congratulations!

Looking into the crystal ball indicates a busy future events schedule for

the council, starting with the parish reunion held at Lantman, April 18; NED Spring meeting held in Providence, RI on April 25; NED Annual Retreat Weekend at Franciscan Monastery in Kennebunk, ME on June 25-27; the 80th National Convention Aug. 12-15 in Worcester; and, in Sept., a group travel to Lithuania for Pope John Paul II's historic visit sponsored by the Lithuanian RC Priests' League under the leadership of Rev. John Rikteraitis and our pastor, Rev. Contons - enough activities to keep members busy and involved with things Lithuanian. *Joseph White*

C-25 CLEVELAND, OH

After a quiet month of January, the wheel of activity is starting to spin. Feb. 14 was the occasion for celebrating Lithuania's independence. Cold breezes blew as a flag-raising ceremony was held at the outdoor shrine of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church. All parish organizations were represented. A dedication speech was given and homage was paid to the freedom fighters of Lithuania. C-25 hosted the coffee hour that day after the 10 a.m. Mass. Ačiū to all the members "doing their thing", for the donations, baked goods and help. Chairs, T&D Obe & Fr. K., appreciate your efforts.

Starting on Feb. 28, our members had their first bowling session to establish averages for the District tournament to be held in Detroit in May. Hosts for the social immediately after were Pres. Dick and his Sec'y wife, Jean Marks. Models of the new traveling trophy were discussed. The council winning it three times retains it permanently and a new one is put into competition. Lucky us, neh?

On St. Casimir's Day, March 7, in spite of the cold weather, 31 members marched into church for the 10 a.m.

Mass and joined the parishioners in praise and thanksgiving for the day. Fr. Kijauskas officiated. A short meeting was held at the Lithuanian Club at noon. An inside raffle, prize donated by Adella Tanner, and our 50/50 raffle sparked our game of chance. A delicious meal was then served. Msgr. Goldikovskis ended the festivities by enlightening us a little more on the life of St. Casimir, patron of Lithuania.

Our gracious, youthful hosts for the March 21 bowling social were Jim & Laura Farrell. Good bowling, good food, and good people Our condolences to Fran Pranskevich and Joan Thompson on the death of their husband and father. May he rest in peace Get well wishes to all those who had "Brand X" virus and are now recuperating, slowly but surely Congratulations to our new members, Angela Perko and "Lucky" Al Dumchus. Incidentally, belated Dec. 8 birthday to Vince Grey.

We're looking forward to the District Fall Pilgrimage Oct. 1-2-3, sponsored by C-25 featuring the "Singing Angels" in concert on Saturday. Mark your calendars; everyone's invited - Wanna come?

Enjoy a safe, sane, sober, scintillating summer!
Dolly-O

C-29 NEWARK, NJ

On Feb. 16 members of the Lithuanian Community of NJ were invited to Trenton, NJ to witness Gov. James Florio's signing of a proclamation designating this day as the 75th anniversary of Lithuania's Independence. Members of C-29 who attended were Kazys Sipaila, Viola & Bernie Skripata, Charles Douches, Jr., Vaclovas Kiukys, Loretta Stukas and Rita Susko. The three doctors from Lithuania who are at the Deborah Hospital taking extensive training were also pres-

ent. Gov. Florio impressed everyone with his remarks about Lithuania to which he referred as the Land of Crosses. He was very pleasantly surprised when Loretta Stukas presented him with a Wayside Cross, which was handmade by our very talented Vaclovas Kiukys. This was a day which will be long remembered.

On March 7 we held our annual St. Casimir's Communion breakfast. Rita Susko was chairperson and along with an excellent committee, the affair was successful. We were honored with three doctors from Lithuania as they train at Deborah for three months. Loretta Stukas gave a brief account of the Deborah Hospital program and with the members attending an amount of over \$300 was donated to the hospital. Thank you.

M.C.

C-30 WESTFIELD, MA

Just before the holiday season, some of our members were saddened by the loss of loved ones. Nellie Lord's sister, Arthur's aunt, Mary Grudis, passed away. Anna Sabonis' brother,

Frank Jonaitis of Arlington, TX, also passed away. Frank and wife Gladys were members of our council when they lived in Westfield and more recently rejoined until his work took him to Indonesia. Our sympathy and



NJ Gov. Florio & Vaclovas Kiukys who designed and made the Wayside Cross presented to the Governor.



C-29 Pres. Kazys Sipaila congratulates V.P. Harold Kaminkas on receiving the Melvin Jones Fellowship Award for Dedicated Humanitarian Services, the highest award given to a member of Lions International Clubs.

prayers go out to the Grudis families and the Jonaitis family and Ann & Corky Sabonis.

As the holidays are full of preparations for the celebration of the birth of Christ, our council opted to have a post-holiday dinner instead of a Christmas party. We got together at the Harvest Valley Restaurant, high on a mountain in Holyoke, enjoying a view of the valley while enjoying a delicious, relaxed dinner. Rita Adamaitis was the lucky winner of the door prize. Cooky Coach & Sophie Kucharski were in charge of arrangements and did a lot of praying that the January weather would allow us to drive up to our destination; it did.

Fr. Hamilton announced a change in the schedule of Masses at St. Casimir's. There will no longer be two Sunday Masses, just one at 9:30 a.m. and the 5:30 p.m. Mass on Saturday Theresa Atkocaitis' son Rob was married recently in St. Casimir's. A beautiful wedding and reception and a beautiful bride, named (what else) Theresa Jim & Marcia Rogers made out work and order schedules for our annual Lithuanian sausage (mésiniu dešrų) project held on Palm Sunday weekend. Lou Buckities spent many hours on the phone taking orders. Council and choir members looked forward to that weekend: a lot of work, a lot of accomplishment and a lot of fun and delicious food for the Easter table.

Cooky

C-36 CHICAGO, IL

Volunteering is a reaction, for it is an expression of a self that's full and wants to enrich others and do good. We had that special volunteering at our March meeting. Mary Kincius presided at our meeting, also helping the social committee: V. Dijokas, F. Grigaliunas & J. Johnston. Evelyn

Ozelis & Scottie Zukas helped out too. Thanks to everyone who came to our meeting.

Our Juniors showed up again on Feb. 28 when they helped with the Independence of Lithuania celebration at Immaculate

Conception Church. They marched in so proudly with the Lithuanian flag and the K of L banner. We were so proud of them! It was nice that we had some representation, as many of our members participated.

On March 7 we had our celebration of St. Casimir. Quite a number of members were present at the Lithuanian Mass at Immaculate Conception On March 28, under the direction of Faustas Strolia, the K of L choir participated in the "Seven Last Words of Christ." It was held at St. Andrew the Apostle Church in Calumet City, IL. It was so moving and is a traditional must during Lent. Our Faustas Strolia has been directing it for 24 years. The church was filled with appreciative people.

To all our sick members we are asking God to restore you to good health.

Sabina Henson

C-50 NEW HAVEN, CT

Our council celebrated St. Casimir's Day with a corned beef and cabbage dinner at St. Casimir's Church Hall. The meal combined the ethnicity of two of our Saints honored in March.



C-36 Allen Cius, carrying flag & Sabina Henson, honor guard at Lithuanian Independence Day services at Immaculate Conception Church-

The delicious dinner was prepared by Mary Geipel along with Theresa Strimaitis and Magdalen Cronin. Other workers who helped were Mary Ann Capelli, Elizabeth Gybowski, Ann Gedrim, Albert Gutauskas, Anna Kordorsky, Helen Medley & Isabel Peterson.

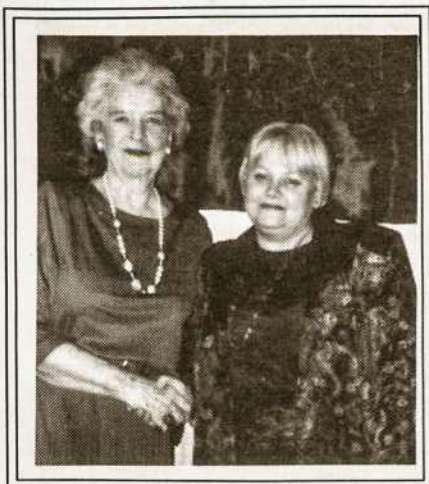
To members, Bill Bachinski & Al Papeika, not only work to support council activities, but have also served as ushers at St. Casimir's for several years. Ačiū labai! Eleanor Gutauskas & Magdalen Cronin are still recuperating from their surgeries. We hope to see them both well on the road to recovery.

We welcome new members, Robert Brown, Joseph & Marianne Case, Donald & Patricia Wright. They were all sworn in at a recent meeting.

Audrey Toole

C-52 ELIZABETH, NJ

On March 7, C-52 commemorated St. Casimir's Day at Mass in Sts. Peter & Paul Church. Pastor, Rev. Alfred Zemeikis, celebrated the Mass and the choir sang traditional Lithuanian hymns. Gina Liana was the soloist at Mass. After Mass, members



C-52 Pres. Anne Matalavich welcoming guest speaker, Dr. Virginia Vaitekoniš-Obando at their celebration.

and guests adjourned to the parish hall for a buffet dinner. Dr. Virginia Vaitekoniš Obando, a former professor of linguistics at Vilnius University was the guest speaker. She left us enlightened not only with the cultural and historical aspects of our heritage,

but also the cultural shock faced by Lithuanian immigrants in the U.S.

C-52 received information that Sister Dolorita and Sister Michelle, stationed in Lithuania, were facing hardships due to shortages and rationing. A call was placed to Utena and a list of needed items was obtained. C-52 members and friends responded with love and care. Eight "Loving Care Packages" were sent to the Sisters containing multiple vitamins, aspirin, Tylenol, Motrin, band aids, cold remedies, antacids, anti-bacterial soap, face soap, cream for dry skin, coffee, tea, dry soup, lemon juice, sugar, oatmeal, tuna fish, canned meat, erasers, notebooks, various school supplies and other food products.

Sister Dolorita & Sister Michelle are teaching 200 students English and religion at Saules Mokykla and they reside with two Caritas Sisters at the old folks home in Utena. Please keep

them in your prayers, that God bless them and their Lithuanian Mission.

Julianna Liana

C-72 BINGHAMTON, NY

Elections were held at our Nov. meeting. Officers for 1993 are: Fr. John Mikalajunas - Spiritual advisor, Spiritual programs & VYTIS corres., John Mankus - Pres., Lith. Affairs, public relations & Lithuanian language, Thomas Staniulis - V.P., Irene Grikenis - Ritual Chair, Arthur Stankevitz - Sec., Mary Guokas - treas., Robert Skiba - fin. sec., trustee & Sgt. at arms, Carla Wilson - culture, Barbara Miller & Sgt. at Arms - Mary Ann Skiba.

Our council, under the direction of Irene Grikenis participated in the Robertson Center International Christmas Tree Forest and the International Cafe programs during the Christmas season. Casey Grikenis baked his specialty, Lithuanian bacon buns as part of the International Cafe Program. Traditional Lithuanian straw ornaments were used to decorate the Lithuanian Christmas tree and displays of traditional Lithuanian Christmas and cultural items were exhibited, including a replica of a wayside cross, linens and juostas and the Lithuanian flag.

Our Lithuanian Independence Day flag raising celebration in Binghamton was quite an occasion. Feb. 16 was a very snowy day, all schools in the Binghamton area were closed. However, twenty-five of our members and guests braved the storm and participated in the celebration. Binghamton Mayor J. Crabb declared Feb. 16 as Lithuanian Independence Day in the City of Binghamton and presented a proclamation to Fr. Mikalajunas and John Mankus. Carla Wilson, Jolita Butkevičienė and her daughter Domilė



C-52 members Julianna Liana, Ruth Brazinski, Ann Baronas & Mary Mackelis checking items donated for Srs. Dolorita & Michelle in Lithuania.

& Marytė Rekašius wore traditional Lithuanian costumes. We were very pleased to have a special guest from Lithuania, Jolita's mother participate in the celebration. All three Binghamton television stations were present along with two radio stations. Jolita Butkevičienė & John Mankus were interviewed on the present condition in Lithuania and the aspiration of the Lithuanian people for the future.

Twenty-two of our members and guests participated in St. Casimir's Day luncheon Plans are under way for the Two Rivers Ethnic Festival to be held on May 8. As a result of our participation in last year's festival, we are planning for an even greater measure of success in selling of ethnic Lithuanian food and an even larger cultural display Fr. John Mikalajunas in 1992 went on a pilgrimage to the Holy Land which he shared with us at our council's Nov. meeting. At all our council meetings, Lithuanian language classes are being taught with essentially all members participating in the Lithuanian readings. Carla Wilson, our new Cultural chair has started Lithuanian sing-alongs, a new and enjoyable activity in our council.

John R. Mankus

C-74 SCRANTON, PA

Our St. Casimir's Mass was cancelled because of the blizzard of '93. Everyone's family had lots of cake even though we were unable to attend. Next year, we hope to have a Lithuanian Mass at 12 Noon on a Sunday for the convenience of the elderly.

We had the "Rice Bowl" after stations and, although many were on the sick list, Pres. John Ramoska and Dick Laske shopped and John's sister Aldona, along with Peg & Ed Ro-

manauskas, Stella Zvirblis and daughter Marie did a great job serving the people. Ačiū!

We traveled over the snowy roads to the Amber District meeting at Our Lady of Siluva. The Mass was beautiful and the vibrant choir voices reminded me of our trip to Lithuania only, in Lithuania, there was standing room only. The food was very delicious and plentiful, thanks to the good people on kitchen duty. My only disappointment was that Frank Petrauskas promised to call my number for the \$300 and he didn't.

Congratulations to all our new third and fourth degree recipients and especially to our own Msgr. Peter Madus on his 3rd degree Father Alisauskas discussed Lithuanian Day at Big Boulder. The cost would be a guarantee of 2000 people and \$5 a ticket for two days. Big Boulder would prepare and sell ethnic food and drinks and the K of L wouldn't take in any profit. This idea, of course, was discarded.

Msgr. Peter Madus conducted Graudūs Verksmai and Al Bulavich accompanied him on the organ; the service was beautiful but we had a small turnout. We had a rice bowl meal afterwards served by the Romeika children and grandchildren Helen Cravath will not forget the Blizzard of '93. She fell and got a bump on her forehead, a black eye and hurt her wrist.

M. Laske

C-79 SOUTHFIELD, MI

Our council celebrated St. Casimir's Day on March 7. We participated at Mass, all (approx.) forty of us, marching in behind our council's flag.

After Mass, we congregated in a separate room, away from the "wall-to-wall" crowd in Divine Providence's

huge auditorium. "Kaziukio Mugė" was the occasion sponsored by Scouts of the parish. There was Lithuanian food galore, from kugelio to zepelinų, to tasty desserts from the Bake Sale table. Bob Boris, Michigan coordinator for World Medical Relief, told us of continued medical need in Lithuania and asked for help in packaging the donated material. He also spoke on the scheduled trip to Lithuania in September. After our repast and socializing, many of us explored the games area in the auditorium.

For those who are reluctant to drive at night, and are not aware of it, we now hold meetings at 11:00 a.m. on the first Wednesday of the month. There should be no excuses for not attending meetings.

Please copy and keep this information handy: Saturday, July 17: Family Day Picnic; Wednesday, Sept. 22: Annual Luncheon & Card Party; Sunday, Nov. 14: Fall Festival. Officers and committees for the above affairs would appreciate your participation.

Bee Jay

C-96 DAYTON, OH

St. Casimir's Day was celebrated with Mass at Holy Cross Church. Our group marched proudly into church and said prayers for the living and deceased members of the K of L. Following church services, the monthly meeting was held at the Dayton Radisson Inn. We dined on the delicious brunch buffet. Special thanks to HM Stan Vaitkus for making all the necessary arrangements for this special event.

Congratulations to the 50/50 March raffle winners - Pat Anthony won \$10.00 Please keep Annadel Miller and Ada Sinkwitz in your prayers. Annadel is recuperating from her fall, injuring her foot and wrist.

Ada is recovering from heart difficulties Detroit, MI better look out for C-96 bowling teams! Dayton has been practicing for the May tournament. Hope to see you all there Annamarie Sluzas Berger chaired the Palm Sunday bake sale. This activity is a money maker for the council.

Many members are planning a trip to Lithuania in Sept. C-96, along with the Lithuanian Anglers and Lithuanian Social Club, is sponsoring a raffle to benefit the Lithuanian convent in Vilnius. George Mikalauskas has handcrafted and donated these beautiful crosses to be raffled off. All proceeds will go to the Sisters in Vilnius. Monies will be presented during the K of L trip in Sept. Please watch your mail or ask your council for tickets to this worthy cause. For additional information contact Frances Mikalauskas, 104 E. Bruce Ave., Dayton, OH 45404, (513) 275-8235.

The Ways & Means Committee chaired by Judy Sluzas is continuing to accept Lithuanian recipes and stories. Material may be sent to Judy Sluzas, 4100 Wolf Rd., Dayton, OH 45416, (513) 274-5342.

Last month it was reported that Elena Mikalauskas & Irena Gecas went to Michigan to assist in the Aid to Lithuania shipment. Robert Pant was also an important member of the team from Dayton. Thanks Rob.

Mary Agnes Mikalauskas

C-100 AMSTERDAM, NY

On Feb. 13, C-100 commemorated Lithuania's 75th anniversary with a Mass. Our juniors brought up the offerings and Dan Jasewicz & Bobby Tambasco served as acolytes. A dinner and program followed in the church hall. Inclement weather: snow, snow and more snow kept some of our guests from attending. However, we still had a nice group present. Chair Polly

Ziausys aided by Betty Kuzmich, Mirga & Ed Bablin, Beatrice & Bill Jasewicz, Bill Burmauskas & Walter Sargalis made up the committee. VP Gene Gobis made her first appearance since she was laid up on Feb. 4. Mirga Bablin served as MC.

Prof. Vytautas Straizys, Union College, Schenectady, was our guest speaker. His field is astronomy. He mentioned that Pres. Landsbergis was the main reason that Lithuania regained her freedom. However, he attributed the unrest in Lithuania to the bad economical situation. They've had blockades, unemployment, lack of metals and the absence of a market for its exports. Rev. Isadorius Sadauskas of the Salesian Order of St. John Bosco was then introduced. His family escaped to Poland during the communist regime and has been living in Montreal, Canada for the last 8 years. He told us that a new church, St. John Bosco, is being built in Lithuania, near the suburbs of Vilnius. The entertainment was by the Albany Latvian Folk Group, Sudmilinis.

On Feb. 15, members attended a Lithuanian Mass at St. Casimir's church with member Billie Ossenfort at the organ. The meeting followed. VP Gene Gobis conducted the meeting. Fr. Grabys brought a guest, Rev. I. Sadauskas, who had also spoken at our Lithuanian Day commemoration program We welcomed back our secretary, Beatrice Jasewicz, who had been on our sick list.

Gene Gobis commended Polly Ziausys and the committee for a most enjoyable program on Feb. 13. She advised that the money collected at the affair would be sent to Aid to Lithuania project. A motion was made to donate \$200 to Fr. Sadauskas towards the building fund for his new church of St. John Bosco. Walter Sargalis won the evening's drawing. A group of our

male members, chaired by Gerry Drenzek, took care of the evening's snacks (pizza).

We express our sympathy to member Frances Wolan on the unexpected passing of her husband, Edward, who died on March 19. Bill & Beatrice Jasewicz made the preparations for the K of L Ritual which was conducted on the morning of the funeral. Again, on March 31, our council lost another member, Nancy Kazlauskas. We will miss her. We extend our sympathy to her family. A K of L Ritual was also conducted on Friday, April 1. May Ed and Nancy rest in peace.

C-100 members attended a Mass at St. Casimir's on March 7 for the annual corporate communion. A luncheon followed at Valentino's Restaurant. Genevieve Gobis acted as MC. Rev. Grabys gave the invocation. Mirga Bablin, cultural chair, spoke on the life of St. Casimir, patron saint of Lithuania and the K of L. She concluded by saying that St. Casimir is a role model for our youth. The article appearing in the "Recorder" entitled "Mission of Mercy - Nuns gather Supplies for Lithuanian relief" was discussed. Edward Baranauskas stated that Sister Mavis Jewell, of the DePaul Provincial House, wished to attend our meeting and show slides of her visit to Lithuania. Ritual chair, Elizabeth Kuzmich, with Rev. Grabys, conducted the installation ceremonies for the first degree. During the candlelight service, Victor & Gerry Rimkus and Louise & Valentinas Kleabonis were installed in the first degree. Door prizes were won by Geraldine Rimkus, Ruth Ralys and Phyllis Alexander. Elizabeth Kuzmich thanked her committee, Helen Wojcik & Judy Kastraveckas. *Smile & Sparkle*



C-102 DETROIT, MI

On Feb 7, HM Bob Boris received the Distinguished Lithuanian Award at the 33rd Memories of Lithuania banquet in Chicago. The award is given annually to anyone who has done outstanding work for Lithuania. Locals attending the banquet were Regina Juska of C-102 and Lillian Petrovicias of C-139. C-102 sent a congratulatory wire.

The weekend of Feb. 27 brought K of L members from Chicago, Dayton and Pittsburgh to work at the World Medical Relief. Our District president John Baltrus and wife were among those attending. They helped pack 20 boxes to be shipped the following week to Lithuania. All enjoyed the experience and are eager to return. In the evening, C-139 President Lillian Petrovicias hosted a dinner for them at her home.

Our St. Casimir Day Mass and celebration was hosted by C-79 at Divine Providence Church in Southfield. C-102 President Joe Stark and C-139 President Lillian Petrovicias brought the offering to the altar. After Mass, all participated in the Scout's festival where all enjoyed the Lithuanian food and games. C-79 President Maggie Smailis reserved a room for K of L's so they could enjoy eating together.

At our March meeting, our cultural chair, Donna Stanievich gave an interesting report on the 60th anniversary flight of Lithuanian flyers, Darius & Girenas, both born in Lithuania but served in the U.S. Army. Detroit Lithuanians honored them in March.

It appears our members are finding winter more intriguing for vacations than summer. Joe & Maryanne Guerriero enjoyed two weeks in Florida and a short visit with Donna & Frank Bunikis. Also visiting the Buni-

kis were the Hofners and Medonis. The Medonis also traveled to Texas & New Orleans. On the way home they were stranded by the snowstorm in Georgia and spent the night in a shopping mall. Bill Klucens & wife Edna also vacationed in Florida. Ray Klucens and wife enjoyed a trip to Australia. Fr. Stan relaxed in Kat Key Islands. Regina Juska enjoyed a business trip to England. The Bunikis' and Guerriero's dropped in for lunch at Amber Rose in Dayton on their way to Florida. Elinor Sluzas' hospitality was super and the food and restaurant is highly recommended. Ruth Wagster enjoyed a month's visit with her granddaughter, husband and two great grandsons in January from Hawaii.

Regina Juska has already sold 400 raffle tickets for a trip to Lithuania. Helen Smolak & Lisa Pluto have already made plans for the trip even if they don't win Get well wishes are extended to our social member, Josephine Ramirez We hope to see everyone at the Mid-Central District meeting and bowling tournament.

Meriūtė

C-110 MASPETH, NY

C-110's Spring activities began with our annual St. Casimir's Communion Mass and meeting. Over 200 members and guests enjoyed delicious food. Msgr. Bulovas celebrated the Lithuanian Mass. Gifts were presented by members dressed in traditional costume to symbolize the Saint's purity (lilies) and his suffering (crown of thorns). Six members were presented their third degree: Ed & Fran Jackett, William & Zina Budris, Kazimeiras Vainius and Dorothy Sakal.

Our meeting featured special guest, Dr. Ruta Zuklyte, an ophthalmologist from Vilnius who is studying new medical techniques at Colum-

bia Presbyterian Hospital. The young doctor said she missed her homeland, but valued the opportunity. Our council is helping to support her five month stay in New York.

Ann Morrissey reported that all 10 boxes filled with food and clothing for two Lithuanian orphanages were received. She is seeking assistance in obtaining cloth baby diapers for the orphans, an item desperately needed A Lithuanian language class is available to all members. Classes are being held at 10 a.m. each Sunday at the Transfiguration convent The council's other Spring recreational activities included a dinner dance held in April, a winery tour on May 5 and a golf outing on May 12.

A special blessing and renewal of marriage vows were performed by Msgr. Bulovas for Ann & Paul Morrissey. The Morrissey's recently celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary and had been married at Transfiguration by then Father Bulovas. Congratulations with many more happy years to come.

Mary Abbott

C-141 BRIDGEPORT, CT

Although we are located on Long Island's shoreline, the blizzard of the century left its calling card in Bridgeport and surrounding communities. We were really snowbound for awhile but the beauty of the deep, white landscape and the swirling of a myriad of snowflakes in the howling wind was unforgettable. We thanked God for our safe, warm homes and hoped that not many would suffer losses.

Our St. Casimir champagne brunch, postponed to March 21 was a gratifying success. It will enable us to send our annual donation for the support of the Pontifical College in Rome. Two of our Juniors, Bonnie Gulas & Sarah Miller entertained us with a



C-112 Chicago, guest speaker at March meeting Consul General Vaclovas Kleiza, V.P. Al Mockus & Cultural Chair Leonas Narbutis.

brief reading about our Patron Saint. These lovely girls truly were contenders for the "Good Housekeeping Seal of Approval". They pitched in with the cleanup details and were speedy and thorough, earning our gratitude.

On March 25, a group of Knights and friends invited Msgr. Prancus out to celebrate his birthday. Celebrate we did, with fine food and song. Mary Grosso, organist and pianist, led the group in community singing. *Ilgiausią Mėtų to Monsignor and God Bless!*
Aldona Marcavage

C-143 PITTSTON, PA

Our council observed the 75th Anniversary of Lithuania's Independence, with flag raising ceremonies at Pittston City Hall on Feb. 15. After the ceremony, a luncheon of soup, baked ham, kielbasa, cheeses, relish dishes, various breads and Viritos, prepared and donated by Ann & Steve Soha, was served in St. Casimir's Parish hall. A cake decorated with Lithuanian colors was donated by Julia Atmonavage & Frances Evans. Guests, members and their families had an enjoyable time On Feb. 16 we went to Luzerne County Courthouse, Wilkes-Barre; but, due to inclement weather, there was only minimal at-

tendance. Nellie Romanas chaired the ceremonies. We had excellent newspaper and TV coverage.

On March 7 we had our St. Casimir's Day Mass, with Fr. Peter Alisauskas, pastor emeritus, officiating. Before Mass, first degrees were presented to Rosemary Durling, Helen Karpovich & Jean Mihalick. Ann & Steve Soha and Martha Warnagiris received their second degrees. Breakfast followed the Mass. It was co-chaired by Rosalie Kizis &

Anna Walatka. Honored guests were Rev. Alisauskas; our pastor Msgr. Gerald Burns; Fr. Edward Barrett, Spiritual Advisor and Rev. Julio Serra, OSJ. Dr. Reynold Crane, who visited Lithuania for two weeks, was the guest speaker. He showed slides and spoke about conditions in Lithuania. He and his American team operated on a number of children with facial deformities and conducted seminars to educate doctors and nurses in modern medical procedures. They also donated medical equipment to Lithuania.

Fr. Pete made a few remarks; everyone greeted him warmly and lovingly. We were pleased that he was with us. We will never forget his dedication to St. Casimir's Parish for so many years Our prayers and a speedy recovery to Mary Chorba, one of our dear members. *Steve*

C-144 ANTHRACITE, PA

The blizzard of '93 was responsible for the postponement of the Amber District St. Casimir celebration originally scheduled for St. George Parish in Shenandoah on March 14. With the cooperation of Spiritual Advisor Fr. Jarasunas, Chair Helen Matunis and Pres. Anne Helen McDonald arranged to host the cele-

bration at Our Lady of Siluva on March 21. Joseph & Florence Yanell handled the arrangements for the Lithuanian Mass which was celebrated by Fr. Jarasunas with Fr. Peter Alisauskas, Amber District spiritual advisor, as concelebrant. Mary Koons did the readings. The friends of Our Lady of Siluva choir sang at the Mass. Florence Yanell narrated the presentation of the special offertory gifts honoring St. Casimir by Helen Chesko, Olympia Zelinski, Eve Yurkewicz, Pat Roberts, Anne Sikora, Marcella Kaselonis, Sr. Angela, Anna Helen McDonald & Elsie Kosmisky. Fr. Alisauskas with special sanction by the Supreme Council Ritual Committee installed Fr. Jarasunas to the fourth degree. Congratulations Fr. Jarasunas! Special congratulations to our new third degree members, John Joseph, William Labadis, Victor Prep & Bernard Zilaitis.

In the social quarters of Our Lady of Siluva, Shenandoah members and energetic volunteers served the buffet luncheon as well as the breakfast and supper snacks. Anna H. & Thomas McDonald made the floral decorations and the favors. Our most sincere thanks go to members who contributed to the dessert table so generously. We thank the 120 delegates, guests and our members who added to the success of the St. Casimir celebration.

Our prayerful sympathy is extended to Bernice Mikatavage and her family on the death of her mother, Evelyn Kasputis, who passed away on March 28 after a lengthy illness. Mrs. Kasputis was a charter member and gave generously of her time in the early days of C-144. Fr. Jarasunas conducted the Wake Service with council Knights in attendance. May she rest in peace.

We are proud of Karen Doma-

lakes, our scholarship recipient, who is attending Elmira College in New York State. From what we hear, the tri-colors of Lithuania and banners are displayed in her dormitory. Her classmates are well informed on events in Lithuania. Karen also serves as counselor at Camp Ausra and demonstrates egg etchings at our Lithuanian Days at the Mall.

Anne Wargo, Elsie Kosmisky & Helen Chesko attended the Supreme Council meeting in Chicago the last weekend of March. Many, many thanks to Estelle Rogers, the Zakarka family, the Martins & Peter Zansitis for their generous hospitality. Congratulations to Faustas Strolia for a superb performance of "The Last Seven Words of Christ." Orchids to the K of L choir and soloists, Algerd Brazis and Ann Marie Kassel.

Elena

C-147 ST. PETERSBURG, FL

Our St. Casimir Day celebration was held on March 7 with a Lithuanian High Mass at 1:00 p.m. at Most Holy Name of Jesus Church. Msgr. Juozas Antanavičius from Panevezio Katedros in Lithuania was our celebrant assisted by Rev. Jonas Gasiunas, our spiritual advisor, Rev. Mykolas Kirklas, Rev. Steponas Rapolas, OFM and Rev. Peter Baniunas, OFM. Dinner followed in the Lithuanian-American Club chaired by Aldona Valis, MD. Victoria Kleiviene read "Stebuklas prie Dauguvos", a passage from the life of St. Casimir. Dalila Mackialiene beautifully read "A Prayer to St. Casimir".

Get well wishes are extended to Rev. Mathew Čyvas who recently had surgery. Also on our sick list and recuperating are Elena Bačevičiene, Marija Punkris, Julija Rodowk, Juozas Linartas & Emila Grušas. We are happy

to see Jonas Valauskas up and about from his illness. We wish all of you a speedy recovery. *Dolores Jonaitis*

C-152 EASTERN LONG ISLAND, NY

Our Council's tribute to St. Casimir took place on March 7 with a special 1 p.m. Mass at St. Patrick's Church, Southold, celebrated by our spiritual advisor, Fr. William R. Scroll. Immediately prior to commencing Mass, Fr. Scroll administered first degrees to John Kuchinskas, Gertrude Lenahan, Mary Malinauskas & Anne Marciunas. Stanley Peters received his second degree.

Following Mass, some 85 Knights and guests sat down to a fraternal lunch at the Southold Town Recreation Center in nearby Peconic. In a

winter which has been notorious for its unpredictably harsh weather, our selection of this splendid day on which to honor St. Casimir was most fortunate, and undoubtedly also reflects our Saint's own intercession in the matter. We were further pleased to



C-152 Ritual Chair Anne Tarmey, 1st degree recipients, Gertrude Lenahan, John Kuchinskas, Mary Malinauskas & Ritual Committee members, Agnes Marma & Tom Tarmey.

note that two of our area's local weeklies were kind enough to give advance notice of the occasion in their calendars of community events.

Our planning is now concentrated on bringing to fruition our Pilgrimage to Our Lady of the Island Shrine in Eastport, NY on Sunday, May 23,



C-147 St. Petersburg, Fl. Valerie Lesčinskiene, John & Dolores Jonaitis, Antanas Grabauskas & Ona Semolevičiene at Feb. 16 Minejimas.

1993 as our way of observing the 80th Anniversary of the founding of the Knights of Lithuania.

The prayers of our readers are asked in order that God may quickly restore to good health our seriously ill members, Marian Bealis and Loretta Rhinow. *Tom Tarmey*

C-154 SPRING HILL, FL

The no-name storm of the century wreaked havoc on four of our wonderful members: Alvina & John Norman-tas and Ed & Tillie Laconis of Hudson Beach. Friends, relatives, neighbors all turned to and did what little they could do to help these people to accept the loss of their homes, their furniture and personal possessions including their cars. It is impossible to imagine the destruction. Only if you see it first hand can you appreciate the total devastation. What courage these people displayed in coping and making the best of this monumental blow dealt by nature!

Turning to the light side, many of us drove to St. Petersburg to view the International Folk Festival. The Lithuanian booth displayed posters depicting life in Lithuania for as far back as photos were made available. What a history! The food booth was hard pressed to keep up with the demand

for kugelio. Talented Lithuanian ladies demonstrated the art of making Christmas decorations using plain drinking straws. What unique patterns formed these one-of-a-kind ornaments. The Audra Dance Ensemble from St. Petersburg entertained us with an enchanting program of ethnic dances.

Virginia & Ray Kentra are the proud grandparents of

"Miss Lithuania" of Carrollwood Montessori School. An ethnic festival was sponsored by the school district and "Miss Lithuania" emerged as the star of the pageant.

We were privileged to obtain tickets for the new version of "Phantom of the Opera" at the theater in Clearwater - a memorable show Helen Mayer was pleasantly surprised by family and a score of friends. The occasion was the birthday celebrated in New



C-154 Spring Hill - Virginia Kentra, son and granddaughter, "Miss Lithuania".

York Muriel Lekstutis, president of C-152 Eastern Long Island met with Annette & Bill Gnezevich. The results of this meeting will be discussed at our next council meeting. We appreciate input from other councils who so generously share their ideas on how to make our organization achieve the goals of a great council of the K of L.

Please God, bestow on us the gift of "Peace of Mind." *S. G. Petraitis*

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God's Masterpiece is Mother

*God took the fragrance of a flower.....
The majesty of a tree.....
The gentleness of morning dew.....
The calm of a quiet sea.....
The beauty of the twilight hour.....
The soul of a starry night.....
The laughter of a rippling brook.....
The grace of a bird in flight.....
Then God fashioned from these things a creation like no other.....
And when his masterpiece was through,
He called it simply — MOTHER.*



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MOČIUTE MOTINĖLE

Lietuvių liaudies daina

Pamažu

Mo-čiu-te mo-ti-nė-le, mo-čiu-te
sen-gal-vė-le, ga-na-pa-il-sai,
ga-na-nu-var-gai, kol ma-ne už-au-ginai.

2. Kol mane užauginai,
Kol mane išauklėjai,
Tu prarymojai
Baltas rankeles
Ant baltų priegalvėlių.

3. Dienelę ant rankelių,
Naktelę prie lopšelio,
Tu pražiūrėjai
Šviesias akeles,
Į mane žiūrėdama.

CALENDAR of EVENTS

- 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 13, 1993 - Amber District Meeting, Philadelphia, PA. Hosts: C-3.
June 19, 1993 - National Executive Board Meeting, Worcester, MA - Hosts: C-26.
June 25-27, 1993 - NED Annual Retreat - Franciscan Monastery, Kennebunk, ME.
July 17, 1993 - C-79 Southfield, MI - Family Day Picnic.
August 12 - 15, 1993 - 80th National Convention, Marriott Hotel, Worcester, MA - hosted by C-26.
September 2 - 17, 1993 - K of L Tour to Lithuania.
September 22, 1993 - C-79 Southfield, MI - Annual Luncheon & Card Party.
October 1-2-3, 1993 - MCD meeting & Pilgrimage, Cleveland, OH. Hosts: C-25.
October 9, 1993 - C-29 Newark, NJ Dinner & Dance.
October 24, 1993 - C-29 Newark, NJ Chinese Auction.
November 14, 1993 - C-79 Southfield, MI - Fall Festival.