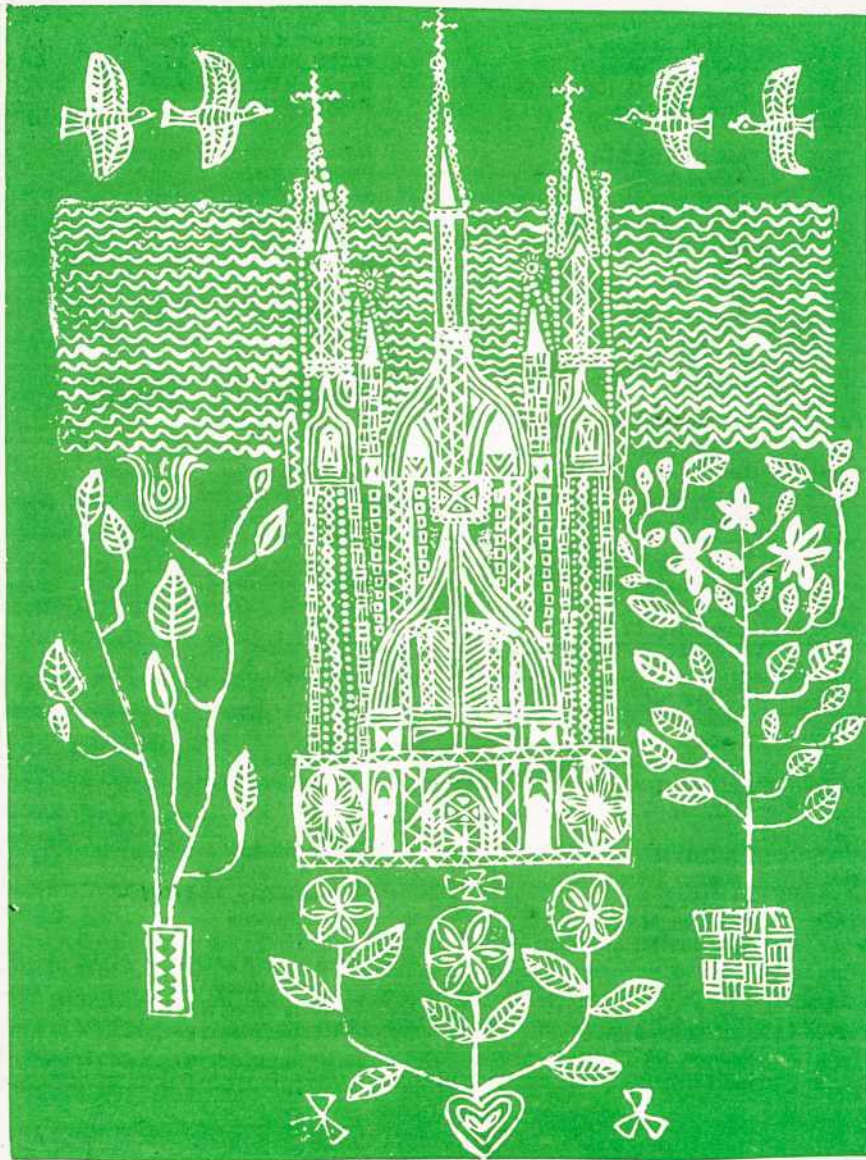


# VYTIS

KNIGHTS OF LITHUANIA

VOL. 79: No. 6

BIRŽELIS / JUNE 1993



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KNIGHTS OF LITHUANIA

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**TABLE OF CONTENTS - TURINYS**

Religion in Pre-Christian Lithuania - <i>John R. Mankus</i> .....	2
Tragic June Days .....	2
Lithuanian Art - <i>Stella Matulonis</i> .....	3
Amazing Grace - Malonė Nuostabi - <i>Leo Venckus</i> .....	4
Alma Mater Vilnensis - <i>Jurate Sprindziūnaitė</i> .....	5
Prayer to be a Good Listener - <i>Albert Cizauskas</i> .....	6
One Nation Under God — Or Not? - <i>Leo Venckus</i> .....	7
St. John's University, New York Broadens Lithuanian Involvement .....	9
Christian Children's Fund provides Toys, Books, Food, Medicine and more to Children in Baltic States .....	10
Birželis - June in Lithuania - <i>Joseph Yanulaitis</i> .....	11
Did You Ever Wonder .... Why We Celebrate Birthdays .....	12
My Visit to Lithuania with APPLE - <i>Charlotte Adomaitis</i> .....	12
Customs Play a Big Part in Wedding Ceremonies .....	13
Alice Stephens Memorial Vocal Scholarship .....	14
Augo Kieme Klevelis .....	14
Lithuanian Kitchen - <i>Lietuviška Virtuvė</i> .....	15
The Third Official K of L Excursion to Lithuania - <i>Robert Boris</i> .....	16
K of L Tour to Lithuania - GT International .....	17
Official News - <i>Oficialus Skyrius</i> :	
Knights of Lithuania Constitution .....	18
National Executive Board Meeting - <i>Bernice Aviza</i> .....	23
Vacation in Sunny Florida - Classified Ad .....	23
Convention Registration Form - <i>Revised</i> .....	24
Journal Ad Contract Form - <i>Revised</i> .....	25
In Memoriam .....	27
Council News - <i>Vyčiai Veikia</i> :	
New England District - C-1 Brockton .....	26
C-10 Athol-Gardner .....	27
C-12 New York - C-26 Worcester .....	28
C-27 Norwood - C-36 Chicago .....	29
C-52 Elizabeth - C-63 Lehigh Valley .....	30
C-90 Kearny - C-98 Dayton .....	31
C-103 Providence - C-110 Maspeth - C-140 Syracuse .....	32
C-141 Bridgeport .....	33
C-142 Washington - C-146 Harrisburg - C-152 Eastern Long Island .....	34
C-147 St. Petersburg - C-153 Treasure Coast .....	35
C-154 Spring Hill .....	36
American Trans Air Ad .....	37
Just a Piece of Cloth .....	Back Cover
Calendar of Events .....	Back Cover

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## RELIGION IN PRE-CHRISTIAN LITHUANIA

by John R. Mankus

Lithuanians, as well as the other two Aiscian peoples, Prussians and Latvians, had very similar religious beliefs during the pre-Christian era. They worshipped a variety of Gods, deities and spirits, all of them being part of nature that could not be understood or explained by people of that age.

As all pre-Christian peoples, the heavens were considered the focal point of their religious life. The sun, moon, stars, sunrise, sunset and rainbow were part of their deities.

However, unlike other pre-Christian religions, the Lithuanians did not have a dominant God and lesser Gods connected through various groupings. Some scholars maintain that the God thunder was the supreme deity, this view is not universally accepted by many of the Lithuanian cultural and historical scholars.

In reality, each deity had its own particular place and function to whom people could turn to for a special favor. However, the Lithuanian word *Dievas* to the Aiscian people most likely meant the maker of the heavens and its ruler and, thereby, could be considered the supreme deity.

Lithuanian peasants, for instance, worshipped a great variety of Gods and spirits which they believed protected the farmer's fields, livestock, buildings, orchards, etc. Even lakes, rivers, woods and mountains were part of their religious environment. For instance, they would pray for a favorable flax crop to one God and to another for abundant livestock. It was not unusual for individual trees and animals to be watched over by individual spirits. To the pre-Christian Lithuanians, all nature was full of deities and spirits.

Certainly, fire had an important place in their religious life. It was not only worshipped as a deity but provided an entry to other spirits through burning sacrifice of goods. In special locations, altars were built and the "eternal flame" burned constantly attended by devout persons known as "*vaidilomis, kriviais and žyniais*." Quite often these holy places were established deep within oak forests with admittance for worship strictly reserved to those of the ancient beliefs. Enforcement of these rules was strict. Unfortunate Christian missionaries were put to death for entering these "consecrated" locations in their attempts to destroy these places of worship.

Fire was also important within the homestead, "*šventoji namų ugnelė*" or "*gabija*" was often burning in one's home. In certain localities, it was considered a sin to put out the fire by other than natural means.

Not only did the Aiscians believed that deities and spirits lived in nature but they also believed that they lived within the dwelling to protect and guard the home and its inhabitants. Certain animals were also considered sacred and guardians of homes. Within deep forest dwellings, often grass snakes (*žalčiai*) were considered the protectors of the home.

Aiscians believed in life after death. Essentially, in like manner as on earth, a servant would continue in the after-life as a servant and a noble man as a noble. The body of a deceased common person would generally be buried while the body of a noble would be burned with specific belongings to be used in the after-life. The ashes would then be gathered and buried at a chosen site.

Kestutis was the last great Lithuanian ruler buried by the ancient custom, huge funeral fires consumed his body along with his war horses, weapons and other possessions.

The Aiscians also believed that the spirits of the dead were never far from the families left behind and special days were prescribed to honor those souls.

## TRAGIC JUNE DAYS

We have heard so much about the Holocaust. Well, in the month of June, Lithuanians throughout the country observe the tragic events that happened 52 years ago in Lithuania. About 700,000 of our people were deported to Siberia. The first mass arrests were executed on June 14-15, 1941, and continued until war started between Soviet Russia and Germany. The deportees came from all walks of life. Lithuanian deportees were transported to Northern Russia and confined into forced labor camps. Due to the arduous work, the extreme climate, and enforced hunger, most of those deported to Siberia died before their time.

It is difficult to tally the losses during the tragic days of June. Our observance of this event should represent a challenge to us to support the struggle of our brothers and sisters living in Lithuania today.



# LITHUANIAN ART

by Stella Matulonis

Ethnicity in art is that element in the creative process of an individual of a group which shows the influences of past tradition. The authentic elements in this tradition, which are deeply rooted in the people, are considered to be those which originated with the practitioners of folk art. These intuitive folk artists were unspoiled by exposure to foreign influences or higher education; but relied for their inspiration on natural talent and belief systems, which in this case go back to Lithuanian pagan beliefs and themes.

The artists mentioned herein are of Lithuanian ancestry and they possess a definite connection with their ancestral background. Their art is influenced by tradition and it also incorporates its best elements into a universal art. Ethnicity is not a must for artistic impression, but where it is an important element and is well executed, it is fascinating to discover what it is and how it works. The use of deep rooted tradition for the art theme gives the viewer a sense of history and elevates the art above everyday fads.

Mikalojus Ciurlonis (1875-1911) is an important Lithuanian artist and musical composer. His art is noted for its spontaneity, originality and symbolism. He was an influence on Kandinsky. Because of his early death at 36 years of age, he is not well known in the western world. Almost none of his works were sold. As a result, his works are not scattered and are concentrated in one museum in Kaunas.

His art works consist chiefly of 400 pictures, executed in pastel and tempura on pasteboard, which is a very fragile material. Ciurlonis' work is filled with symbolic ex-

pression, rhythmic order, and subtlety of color. For example, planets come to life, pine trees become demons with hypnotizing eyes. His paintings suggest a mood of musical harmony. Ciurlonis stated that folk art and traditions were the primary expression of creation and he returned to folk art traditions for assurance and inspiration.

In the Lithuanian Nationality Room in the Cathedral of Learning at the University of Pittsburgh, the fresco on the back wall is a copy of Ciurlonis' painting, "The Two Kings". This famous painting depicts the two kings holding a village in their hands as a treasure to be protected.

Victor Petravicius was born in Lithuania but lived in Minnesota is known not only a graphic artist and painter but also as a sculptor. He is the leader of a whole generation of Lithuanian artists who take folk art and tradition as their leading motif. His works, especially his black and white graphics have a distinct and elusive Lithuanian character. His images of old Lithuanian fairy tales, gods and goddesses in ancient castles and woods have an aura that a Lithuanian can easily identify with. He combines both Lithuanian pagan and Christian symbols into universal issues, such as birth, death, after-life, love, man's inhumanity to man and man's kinship to the earth and living things. His works have been exhibited all over the world.

Magdalena Stankunas - a student of Victor Petravicius is known for her oils and hand colored woodcuts about very distinctive Lithuanian subjects, some of which are entitled, "Women at Work on the Lithuanian Farm," "The Months in My Homeland" and "The Legend of Jurate and Kastytis."

Her more recent series concern the ancient Goddesses of Lithuanian mythology. Stankunas is trying to revive ancient values which are all but lost to this new generation. She is also aware of the subconscious and supernatural and strives to elevate art and humanity to a higher spiritual place.

But the source of her inspiration is mundane - memories of a happy childhood in her homeland amid tales, legends and customary family rites. Her works are loving meditations and sweet remembrances of the folklore which told of the Goddesses



"Lithuania" Woodcut

Vytautas Ignas

## Lithuanian Art (Cont'd)

of hard work, love of the land, the mystery of the cosmic spirits and the wisdom of the ancient Gods.

Antanas and Anastasia Tamosaitis - a husband and wife team spent a lifetime researching and exploring the route of Lithuanian authentic art forms. They have incorporated their findings into a series of books on topics of the Lithuanian national costume, the art of decorating Easter eggs, weaving of sashes and tapestries. Even their abstract art shows the influence of folk traditions in their choices of colors, subject matters and design. Antanas Tamosaitis is currently living and working in Canada; his wife Anastasia

died two years ago.

Vytautas Ignas is a contemporary Lithuanian artist whose paintings and lino cuts adhere to the original form of Lithuanian folk art. His artistic approach is individual and unique; it is readily identifiable if one is familiar with his works. The imagery in Ignas' works is based on Lithuanian mythology or Lithuanian scenery which is then surrounded by typical Lithuanian ornamentation and decoration.

These above named artists are just a few of the many talented artists who have contributed to the artistic and cultural heritage of Lithuania.

### AMAZING GRACE

*John Newton, alt.*

*Unknown*

Amazing grace!  
How sweet the sound that saved and set me free!  
I once was lost but now am found,  
Was blind but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,  
And grace my fears relieved.  
How precious did that grace appear  
The hour I first believed.

The Lord has promised good to me,  
His word my hope secures.  
He will my shield and portion be  
As long as life endures.

Thru many dangers, toils and snares,  
I have already come.  
'Tis grace hath brought me safe thus far,  
And grace will lead me home.



### MALONĖ NUOSTABI

*Iš anglų kalbos laisvai vertė Leo Venckus*

Dievo malonė nuostabi  
Išgelbėjo mane  
Buvau nuklydęs, bet grįžau,  
Apakęs - vėl matau.

Dievo baimingas nebuvo  
Ir baimės nejutau,  
Koks džiaugsmas apėmė mane  
Kai klaidą supratau!

Saugot mane žadėjo Jis  
Jo pažado pakaks;  
Jis prieglauda ir skydas bus  
Kol mano širdis plaks.

Pavoju, vargų daug mačiau  
Kol čia atkeliavau,  
Dievo malonė nuostabi  
Parves namo mane.

Kai širdis plakti man sustos,  
Gyvybė kai užgęs,  
Dievas maloniai man pamos -  
Ir pas savę parves.

Ten būdami visi giedos  
Su saule - amžinai,  
Nes Dievo garbint nepabos -  
Praėję bus vargai ....

# ALMA MATER VILNENSIS

by Jūrate Sprindžiūnaite

In 1570, a Jesuit College was established in Vilnius, which seven years later was transformed into a university by King Stephen Bathory and Pope Gregory XIII. Vilnius University, officially known as Alma Academia et Universitas Vilnensis Societatis Jesu, enjoyed the same rights as those of Krakow University and conferred the degree of bachelor, master and doctor in humanities, philosophy and theology, with the exception of law and medicine. In those times, many Western European universities were under the influence of the Jesuit Order.

The newly established university had a college and two faculties, those of philosophy and theology. Among its famous professors were Osvald Kruger known as "the grand old professor of mathematics", Jean Jacques Marquart who lectured on philosophy, Maciej Kazimierz Sarbievius known for his Latin poetry even in Europe. In 1761, Jean Fleuret and Jean Rossegnole arrived from France to teach mathematics and experimental physics. The University had a splendid library supported generously by King Žygimantas Augustas (Sigismund August) who bequeathed it a collection of some 4,000 volumes. It was a very precious gift, since a sizeable ox equaled in its value to two books.

With the abolishment of the Jesuit Order in 1773, the University was reorganized into the Principal School of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania. Throughout this period, medicine and natural sciences made great advances. Frenchman Michel Regnier was appointed to the chairs of Theoretical Medicine and Obstetrics at Vilnius University. He invited another Frenchman, Jacob Antoine Briotet, who soon became Professor of Practical Surgery. Natural sciences were developed by Jean Emanuel Gilibert, who started a rich center of mineralogy and botanical gardens in Vilnius, astronomer Marcin Poczobutt-Odlanicki and Johann Georg Forster, who together with his father had taken part in Capt. James Cook's expedition to Oceania in 1772.

Following the fall of the united state of Lithuania and Poland in 1795, Lithuanian territories were annexed to Russia. By a decree of 1803 Russian Tsar Alexander I effected further reform of Vilnius University. It was given the title of "the Imperial University". The University contained four faculties: 1) physics and mathematics; 2) medicine; 3) moral and political sciences; 4) literature and the liberal arts. Quite a few specialists were asked to come and work as professors at Vilnius University, among them Johann Peter Frank and his son Joseph Frank, two famous medical men from Vienna, historian Joachim Lelewel,



*Vilnius University Science Museum*

who had a tremendous influence on the development of the enlightenment ideas in Lithuania, and professor of rhetoric and poetry Leon Borowski, the University teacher of Adam Mickiewicz.

The ruling circles of the Russian Empire had always regarded Vilnius University with suspicion. After the uprising of 1830-31, Tsar Nicholas I closed the University dealing a terrible blow to Lithuanian national culture. The country was deprived of its intellectual and educational center.

After the occupation of Vilnius in 1919 by Marshal Pilsudski's troops, the Polish authorities reopened the University naming it the Stephen Bathory University. The University did not maintain close ties with intellectuals of Lithuania. With the return of the Vilnius region to Lithuania in 1939, the faculties of law and arts of Kaunas University were transferred to Vilnius. In the immediate post-war period the majority of the staff at Vilnius University were former professors or graduates of Kaunas University. New faculties were established and, along with the full-time department, correspondence and evening departments started to function.

*(Cont'd page 6)*

## PRAYER TO BE A GOOD LISTENER

© by Albert Cizauskas

I came across a most unusual prayer in the missal of St. Matthew's Cathedral in Washington, DC, where I was attending the mass on Sunday, February 14, commemorating the 75th anniversary of Lithuanian independence. Prior to the mass, I looked at the prayers in the back of the missal and for one moment, I thought I was seeing things. One of the supplications was entitled, "Prayer to be a Good Listener," saying in part:

*"We do not really listen to each other .... Instead of true dialogue, we carry on parallel monologues .... Teach us to be still, Lord, that we may truly hear our brothers and sisters and in them you."*

A prayer of this nature had to be composed by a social critic of wit and compassion, raising a cry against the hypocrisy and selfish cant that pass for conversation today. Such a prayer is especially appropriate in our nation's

capital where the hot air of self-interested speech-making is so thick it has become an environmental hazard. The full prayer is quoted below:

*We do not really listen to each other, God, at least not all the time. Instead of true dialogue, we carry on two parallel monologues. I talk. My companion talks. But what we are really concentrating on is how to sound good, how to make our points strongly, how to outshine the person with whom we are talking. Teach us to listen as your Son listened to everyone who spoke with him. Remind us that, somehow, you are trying to reach us through our partner in conversation. Your truth, your love, your goodness are seeking us out in the truth, love and goodness being communicated. When our words are harsh, hostile, angry, we convey the very opposite of those qualities. Teach us to be still, Lord, that we may truly hear our brothers and sisters — and in them, you. Amen.*

### VILNIUS UNIVERSITY (Cont'd)

In June 1991, following the reestablishment of Lithuania's independence, Lithuanian Parliament adopted the Statute of Vilnius University providing for the University's autonomous status. Throughout the history of Lithuanian schools of higher learning only two institutions, Stephen Bathory and Kaunas University, had their own statutes.

Vilnius University is financed by the state budget. The University Council, elected for a three-year period, is the highest executive body with 60%-80% of its members being professors and doctors of various sciences. The Council elects the Rector of the University for a term of five years. No person can be elected to the office of Rector more than twice. In the course of its development, the

University has established 13 faculties, 136 departments, an observatory, botanical gardens, a computer center, and a library. The library contains 4.7 million volumes and serves 23,000 readers annually. There are 8,208 full-time, 1,327 part-time and 3,951 external students.

Foreign students are also accepted in the University. At the present moment, there are seven from Germany learning the Lithuanian language and a Jordanian citizen studying heart surgery. The tuition fee for two semesters amounts to \$2,000. This year, 300 young people from China expressed a wish to learn at the University, but they did not know that the studies were conducted in Lithuanian. Full-time students who pass exams with good grades receive scholarships but because of financial difficulties, the tuition assistance may be stopped in the near future. In that case, students will be able to apply for loans repayable after graduation.

### SPEAKING ABOUT FLOODS!

It had been raining heavily for days. At last the people in the town began to leave. As a car was driving out of town, the driver saw a man standing outside his house. The driver told him he had better leave and he would give him a ride. But the man said, "No, I've led a good life, gone to church on Sundays and supported it. God will take care of me."

The next day a man in a boat came by and saw the man. He said, "You'd better leave with me. The river is rising rapidly." But the man said, "I've led a good life, gone to

church on Sundays and supported it. God will take care of me." By the next day the water covered much of the house. A pilot in a helicopter spotted the man on his roof. He flew down and offered to fly the man out. But the man said again, "I've led a good life, gone to church on Sundays and supported it. God will take care of me."

Well, the floods came and the man drowned. When he got to heaven, he said to the Lord, "Lord, I led a good life, went to church on Sundays and supported the church. Why didn't you take care of me?" The Lord said, "I did. I sent you a car, a boat and a helicopter, but you didn't use them."



## ONE NATION UNDER GOD — OR NOT?

by Leo Venckus

When I was just a boy attending elementary school, our teacher always began the day in class with the Lord's prayer (Tėve Mūsų) and a Hail Mary (Sveika Marija). School day ended with a hymn we usually sang in church. The latest I remember learning in school was the closing hymn after Mass which one can hear even today in our Lithuanian churches in Chicago:

*Štai užbaigėm auką gausią,  
Laimink, Dieve, mus visus;  
Ir Tėvynę mūsų brangiausią  
Ir senuosius tėvelius  
Ir Tėvynę mūsų brangiausią  
Ir senuosius tėvelius .....*

Many years later, when serving in the Lithuanian Army, our 2nd Engineering Battalion used to march in formation every Sunday from the garrison barracks to church along the cobble stone streets of Radviliškis. Attracted by the sound of a military brass band, the local people, especially teenage boys and girls, would come out and line the sidewalks, watching us smilingly. As soon as the band stopped playing, we men would immediately start a song and march singing all the way to church, with the crowd of young people following us. We used to pick one or two of those very popular folk songs every Lithuanian knows like: *Ant kalno mūrai, koja lietuviai* or *Tau sesutė puikios gėlės, o man kardas prie šalies*. But more likely we would sing:

*Augo kieme klevelis,  
Augo kieme žaliasis;  
Po tuo klevu po žaliuju  
Gul bernelis jaunasis.  
Viens, du, graži Lietuva,  
Kaip gėlė žydi visada.  
Viens ir du ir graži Lietuva  
Kaip gėlė žydi visada .....*

That was a long, long time ago, back in the "olde Country" - Lithuania.

Then came the Soviets of whom we, the younger generation, did not know much at that time and had to learn the hard way. Therefore, when in June 1941 Germany attacked the Soviets, many of us considered it a liberation. But the German occupation that soon followed was not much better.

Towards the end of WWII, my wife Josephine and I also became refugees, joining the thousands of people

streaming westward hoping to stay alive. After three years in various camps in Germany, we reached England in 1947. Our two children, Vilboras then eight, Elytė five years old, attended Catholic schools in England. Here they received their education, including religion. They already knew their daily prayers (poterius) in Lithuanian from Mom and Dad, who did not know much English then. England's Catholic schools teach their pupils everything a Catholic needs to know. The Sisters prepared the children for First Holy Communion and Confirmation. Just like your children were taught here in the United States until a few years ago.

How about your grandchildren today? Do they receive the Christian education as you and your children once did? No, they don't!

According to Jerry Falwell, America has lost its vision of being "One Nation under God." He asks: "Will the traditional family soon become 'a thing of the past' as predicted? Are we about to become a hedonistic nation of unrestrained sexuality, abortion, immorality and lawlessness?"

The liberals and the New Agers, says Falwell, have very powerful allies in the White House, especially now, as well as in Congress. Unfortunately, America has listened to these people before and therefore "... we are paying a terrible price today. Among their dubious 'achievements' are:

Removal of prayers from schools in the 1960s,  
Legalized abortions in the 1970s, and  
Gay rights in the 1980s.

Their goal for the 1990s is the complete elimination of GOD from American society - with the help of our own government."

Sometimes I wonder if I, like many of you Lietuvos Vyčiai, have become too old to understand the drastic changes in today's society? What used to be wrong in our younger days is now considered right. What was once considered evil, is now being promoted as good:

- \* Drugs and alcohol abuse are destroying youths; suicides increase.
- \* Pre-marital and extra-marital sex is being practiced openly without shame among both adults and youths.
- \* Free distribution of condoms to young boys and girls in public schools plus a demonstration how to use them. ("Try it, you'll like it!")

\* Divorce rate is increasing, tearing families apart, causing innocent children to suffer.

\* Abortion kills over 1.6 million babies every year in the USA.

\* Homosexuality is taught as "acceptable behavior" in public schools and Pres. Clinton intends to repeal the ban on homosexuals in the military, despite the fear of high ranking military leaders that decent young men and women will hesitate to join the Armed Forces in the future.

\* What used to be entertainment on TV has now become to our children a school of violent crime, profanity, blasphemy and immorality, unfit for any half-way decent Christian to watch.

Don't you sometimes feel uncomfortable, ashamed and yes - almost guilty of sin when seeing such filth on TV? I know I do. If you, too, feel that way, let me assure you that we are not alone. Let's see what other people have to say about it.

A friend of mine, a retired Polish general and Knight of the Order of Malta, recently sent me a copy of his letter to the Holland Sentinel (MI) where it was published on Feb. 7, 1993 (and yes, I have his permission to quote him):

**"HOMOSEXUALS RUN COUNTER TO NATURE**

All life in this world was created with one orientation: reproduction. That is the unchangeable law of nature, which applies to the tallest tree and the smallest blade of grass, the big elephant and the tiny ladybug. Therefore, there are only two alternatives: according to the law, or against it.

To be a gay man or lesbian is against the law of nature; it is at best an abnormality, degeneration, or sickness, and even the Supreme Court's decision that it is "a way of life" will not change that.

The reproduction process dictated by the law of nature is the fundamental seed of life on Earth. The rape of this law is death for life and under no circumstances "a way of life."

Society must accept the fact that this abnormality exists and must fight it, just as we search for cures for any other sickness. However, if society elevates homosexuality to the level of 'choice', this makes society, in an indirect way, an accomplice - and also sick. With all the effort that is being made to accept their 'way of life', one cannot win against the principles of the law of nature!

If all the trees and the grass, the elephants, and ladybugs, and the entire human race, chose the 'way of life' of gays and lesbians, by the end of the next generation the Earth would be a dead planet.

*Signed: Stefan Zachartowicz, Holland Sentinel"*

Another reader, J. Prins of Holland, writes as follows (Holland Sentinel):

"What a strange society we live in. We cannot hand out Bibles in school classrooms, but many schools in America are handing out condoms.

Because we believe in the sanctity of life, we grieve over possible execution of some convicted murderers, yet we actively promote the termination of millions of unborn children every year.

In our society we often hear from those who are demanding their gay rights, feminine rights, civil rights and constitutional rights, but these same people contend that it is illegal to have a Nativity scene on government property (note the part of the First Amendment that is usually ignored: ... 'or forbidding the free exercise thereof').

We lament the outbreak of AIDS, but then encourage people to be sexually active through television programming and advertising. Looks like we should be trying to discourage promiscuous behavior that spreads the disease. If history teaches us anything, it certainly teaches, that no society has ever survived when the moral standards of that nation disintegrate.

A lot of attention is given to sports. Isn't it a strange society indeed when we will pay a man to play a game for millions of dollars for a few months of his time, yet by contrast, pay very little to those who teach, care for and protect us?

We pledge allegiance to the flag and say ... 'one nation under God' and then don't live under God's rule. Our coins say 'In God We Trust' and we trust everything else but God.

Wake up, America. We're too young to die!"

Laikas ir mums, Vyčiams, pabusti: LET US FIGHT, LIKE A KNIGHT, FOR CHRISTIAN RIGHT!!!

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## ST. JOHN'S UNIVERSITY, NEW YORK BROADENS LITHUANIAN INVOLVEMENT

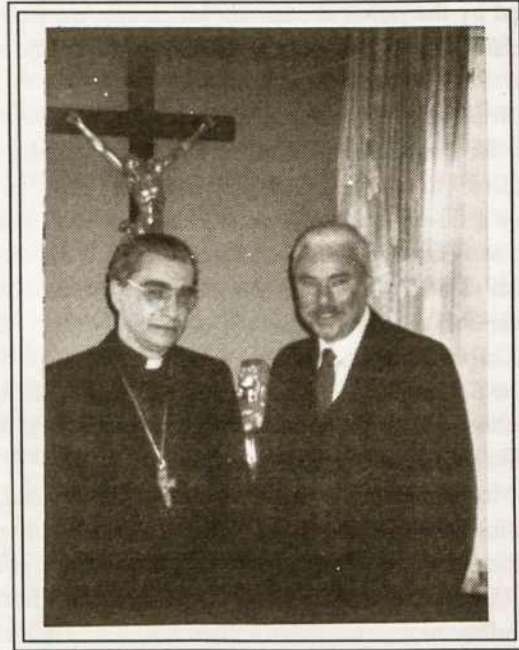
Since March of 1992, St. John's University in conjunction with Archbishop Audrys J. Backis, Archbishop of Vilnius, has had distinguished Board members and faculty on site in Vilnius assessing the needs of the people. They determined that there was a need to educate and train the next generation of managers in dealing with a market economy. They proposed to create a Business and Education Resource Center to serve as a center to channel volunteers, coordinate and direct business and educational programs and services, and to work with the people of Lithuania on strategic decision making.

Since the 1992 Fall Semester, St. John's has been sponsoring visiting faculty members to teach and lecture at the University of Vilnius. The course content has covered International Marketing, Business Ethics, Economics and Management. Recently, a group of the management students volunteered their time to work in a soup kitchen which was established by Archbishop Backis.

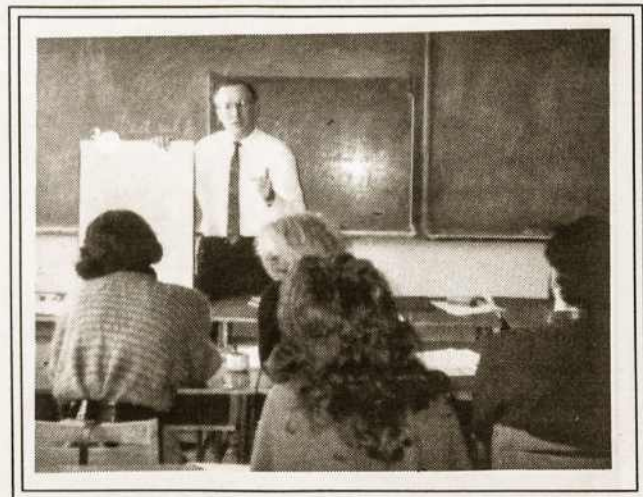
In addition to education, a team visited hospitals and medical centers to begin to assess the health care system. As a result of this assessment, St. John's reports that in conjunction with Americares and the Daughters of Charity, under the guidance of Archbishop Backis, a shipment of medical supplies is en route to Lithuania.

St. John's University which was founded in 1870 by the Vincentian Community is the largest Catholic University in the United States. The University strives to provide excellent education for all people. St. John's devotes its intellectual and physical resources to search out the causes of poverty and social injustice and to encourage solutions which are adaptable, effective, and concrete. In the Vincentian tradition, the University seeks to foster a world view and to further efforts toward global harmony and development.

Presently, we are working toward acquiring funds and donations for the establishment of the Center. We are enthusiastic with the present results of this project and are looking forward to continuous success. If you would like more information or to share your ideas or make contributions to the Center, please contact: Dr. Margaret M. Fitzpatrick, S.C., Senior Vice President, St. John's University, Grand Central & Utopia Parkways, Jamaica, NY 11439.



*Archbishop Audrys Bačkis, Bishop of Vilnius with Dean John Dobbins from St. John's University.*



*Dr. Paul Poppler from St. John's University teaching at Vilnius University.*



## CHRISTIAN CHILDREN'S FUND PROVIDES TOYS, BOOKS, FOOD, MEDICINE AND MORE TO CHILDREN IN BALTIC STATES

While the lives of those living in the Baltics have been ripped by the political changes which brought freedom, there are many positive efforts underway to provide assistance to families and their children.

In Lithuania, Christian Children's Fund is working with the Lithuanian Children's Fund to expand a new initiative which pairs orphaned or unwanted children with a loving family. In the former Soviet Union, institutions were seen as a cure-all for any child with a physical or mental disability or without a home. Unfortunately, the institutions were overcrowded, understaffed and inadequate in providing education and social services. Throughout the Baltic States, this organization is working to return institutionalized children to their families and find foster families for them.

Meet the Radnikas family of Uzventis, Lithuania. The Radnikas have two daughters of their own but because Ms. Radnikas had seen such misery and lack of love in children's institutions, she decided to assist a child from an institution through Christian Children's Fund. That simple decision brought such joy that the Radnikas have now expanded their family to include nine more children.

Many of the children come from extremely difficult circumstances. Among them one child whose institution records incorrectly indicated that he was retarded. With



*Children in Lithuania receive toys and books from Christian Children's Fund.*



*The Radnikas family in Užventis, Lithuania have assisted nine children destined to state institutions.*

time and attention from the Radnikas family, this young man is attending regular school and has almost developed to a normal skills level.

The latest three arrivals came from a disastrous home situation. The father had been sentenced to death for murder and the mother was an alcoholic who was unable to care for the children. The children, ranging from 18 months to four years, were malnourished, sick and in a state of depression. The Radnikas could not bear the thought of the children going to an institution so they welcomed them into their homes. The Radnikas feed, clothe and care for the 11 growing children. The family has a large vegetable garden, two cows, pigs and chickens which

enables them to be nearly self sufficient in providing food for the children. Despite some financial support from the state, the present economic situation and spiraling inflation make everyday life in Lithuania quite difficult. The financial assistance provided through Christian Children's Fund and the Lithuanian Children's Fund has enabled these special people to enlarge their family and spread their love.

Millions of dollars worth of critically needed material goods have been sent in recent months by the Christian Children's Fund. Recognizing that toys are important to a child's development, in addition to providing for basic needs such as food and medical care, a cargo container of children's books and toys to needy children have been sent. The shipment arrived in December, just in time to brighten the holidays for hundreds of children!

Medical professionals in Lithuania are struggling to provide quality care to families but they are faced with the realities of outdated equipment and vast shortages of medicines. The Fund recently shipped medical equipment, pharmaceuticals and over-the-counter medicines to Lithuania. Shipments included such needed items as syringes, bandages, alcohol swabs, braces, laboratory supplies, gowns, children's cough syrup, throat spray and lozenges,

and prescription drugs. These supplies are put to immediate use bringing relief to sick children who are suffering. The supplies will be distributed to families with the greatest needs and to children's hospitals and clinics.

Throughout the Baltics, families are suffering from vast shortages of food. Not only is food extremely expensive, but the entire food distribution system has fallen apart making it very difficult to get even the basics. Shipments of 720,000 packets of donated vegetable seeds were made to Lithuania for distribution to needy families. These seeds will allow many families to become self-sufficient and prevent hunger and malnutrition. The shipment of vegetable seeds is valued at \$369,000. Seeds will be distributed to the families with the greatest need. In addition to providing material goods, an active role is being taken to set up social service agencies that can function in a capitalist, democratic society. Training for child care workers are also provided.

As the world's first and oldest child sponsoring agency, Christian Children's Fund brings years of experience and expertise to the Baltics. If you would like more information on Christian Children's Fund's activities in Europe, call 1-800-776-6767.

## *Birželis - June In Lithuania*

by Joseph Yanulaitis

A favorite tree among the Lithuanian peasants is the birch - *beržas* from which we get the word "birželis" or "birch tree month." It is in the sixth month of the year that the birch trees sprout their tender yellow leaves. Young birches are cut down and fastened to door posts, lintels, eaves and beams of the peasant cottages and of the churches on Pentecost Sunday, *kad Šventoji Dvasia turėtų kur nutūpti*. (So that the Holy Ghost, the dove, would have someplace to rest). Birch trees were also used to frame the Corpus Christi altars. The dried leaves were used to obtain a yellow dye for egg dyeing at Easter. The wood is used for carving wooden spoons and other kitchen utensils.

Pentecost, derived from the Greek "Pente", meaning 50th. The 50th day after Easter in Lithuanian is called *Sekminės*, which means seventh, derived from the ordinal number *Sekmas* - the seventh week after Easter. In Christian Europe, Pentecost ranks third in the calendar of feasts after Easter and Christmas. Contrary to the American merchandisers and many a Catholic-American, Easter is the

greatest feast on the calendar and not Christmas, because as St. Paul said, "If Christ be not risen, then our faith is in vain". If He had not risen, our religion would have ended with His burial. Pentecost was the great Spring festival in Europe and was celebrated for three days.

On Corpus Christi, *Devintinės*, the faithful joined in the outdoor processions during which the Blessed Sacrament was brought out from the village church in solemn procession and visited four altars at various places in the village. They were usually at the crossroads where the highway met the village road, the parish cemetery and the town's square. At each of these places, appropriate prayers were offered for the protection, sustenance and thanksgivings of the inhabitants.

On June 15, Lithuanians recall a tragic episode in their history - the occupation of Lithuania by the Soviets in 1940 and the mass deportation of thousands of Lithuanians to Siberia. A year later, in June 1941, when the Nazis attacked

(Continued on Page 36)

Did You Ever Wonder .....

## WHY WE CELEBRATE BIRTHDAYS?

It is customary today to celebrate a living person's birthday. But if one Western tradition had prevailed, we'd be observing annual postmortem celebrations of the *death* day, once a more significant event.

Many of our birthday customs have switched 180 degrees from what they were in the past. Children's birthdays were never observed, nor were those of women. And the decorated birthday cake, briefly a Greek tradition, went unbaked for centuries — though it reappeared to be topped with candles and greeted with a rousing chorus of "Happy Birthday to You." How did we come by our many birthday customs?

The first birthday celebrations in recorded history, around 3000 BC, were those of the early pharaohs, kings of Egypt. The practice began after Menes united the Upper and Lower Kingdoms. Celebrations were elaborate household feasts in which servants, slaves, and freedmen took part; often prisoners were released from the royal jails.

The Greeks adopted the Egyptian idea of birthday celebrations, and from the Persians, renowned among ancient confectioners, they added the custom of a sweet birthday cake as hallmark of the occasion.

The Romans added a new twist to birthday celebrations. Before the dawn of the Christian era, the Roman senate inaugurated the custom (still practiced today) of making the birthdays of important statesmen national holidays. With the rise of Christianity, the tradition of celebrating birthdays ceased altogether.

To the early followers of Christ, who were oppressed, persecuted, and martyred by the Jews and the pagans — and who believed that infants entered this world with the original sin of Adam condemning their souls — the world was a harsh, cruel place. There was no reason to celebrate one's birth. But since death was the true deliverance, the passage to eternal paradise, every person's death day merited prayerful observance.

Contrary to popular belief, it was the death days and not the birthdays of saints that were celebrated and became their "feast days." Church historians interpret many early Christian references to "birthdays" as passage or birth into the afterlife.

There was a further reason why early church fathers preached against celebrating birthdays. They considered the festivities, borrowed from the Egyptians and the Greeks, as relics of pagan practices. In the fourth century, though, the Church began to alter its attitude toward birthday celebrations — and it also commenced serious discussions to settle the date of Christ's birth. It was with the celebration of Christ's nativity that the Western world returned to the celebration of birthdays.

By the 12th century, parish churches throughout Europe were recording the birth dates of women and children, and families were observing the dates with annual celebrations.

*(This is an excerpt from "Extraordinary Origins of Everyday Things," by Charles Panati.)*



## MY VISIT TO LITHUANIA WITH APPLE

*Charlotte Adomaitis*

American educators, under the sponsorship of the American Professional Partnership for Lithuanian Education, worked for five weeks this past summer in Šiauliai and Klaipėda to bring the English language and American methods to Lithuanian teachers.

The American Professional Partnership for Lithuanian Education (A.P.P.L.E.) under the directorship of Vaiva Vebris, organized more than seventy high school teachers, college professors, principals, etc., who agreed to share their expertise with the Lithuanian teachers who attended these seminars. This is the second year of such work for A.P.P.L.E., which during its first year held seminars only in Vilnius. The Vilnius workshops were so

well received that this year the program was expanded to two additional cities, Šiauliai and Klaipėda.

The goals for Šiauliai, a four-week program, were to explain the methods of teaching English as a second language that are currently in use in the United States. English language courses were also available for those teachers who were not teachers of English, but wanted to enhance their own facility in speaking the language. A resource library for teachers was created to house the materials that were brought over by the visiting professionals to make them available to as many Lithuanian teachers as possible.

In Klaipėda, a one-week program, the goals were

somewhat different. This center was created as a site for advanced Lithuanian teachers who had attended the Vilnius seminar last year. However, in addition to the repeaters, many first time participants arrived because news of the seminars had reached them and they were anxious to participate. Advanced methodology was the main purpose of the work in this seaport city, but classes were also run for those who wanted to begin learning English or to perfect their current ability.

In both cities, the local ministry of education arranged opening and closing ceremonies for the visiting professionals. Along with the Lithuanian teachers, the ministry expressed gratitude that American teachers, many of whom had no roots in Lithuania, would volunteer their vacation time to help this new democracy. In both cities, the hope was stated that this work would continue next summer.

Some of the professional topics that were especially popular during some of the general sessions were: "New Teachers and their Mentors," "The Student-Centered Classrooms," "Communications between Administrators and Teachers," "Problem-Solving Techniques," "Motivating the Reluctant Student," "How to Utilize Cooperative Learning Techniques," "Brainstorming and other Graphic Organizers," "Different Learning Styles," and "Controlling Stress."

At the end of the sessions, the Lithuanian teachers wrote evaluations of their experience. Typical of the responses was one by Marija Jurgelevičienė of Šiauliai, who wrote, "I want you to know, it was the most important help for us."

Many of the American educators returned to their home schools with a plethora of letters from the students of the teachers that they had met in Lithuania. For example, Charlotte Adomaitis, English teacher at Paul Robeson High School, Brooklyn, NY has involved her Advanced Placement English class with writing letters to Lithuanian students in Klaipėda, a seaport city. Hearing of the scarcity of textbooks in Lithuania, Principal Marcia Lyles supported Ms. Adomaitis in her efforts to ship 1,700 pounds of outdated textbooks with shipping costs absorbed by the Lithuanian Catholic Religious Relief Fund.

Plans are being formulated now for a Summer '93 A.P.P.L.E. session. Many of the previous participants are looking forward to returning to the Lithuanian teachers with more materials and innovations from the educational process in the United States.

## Customs play big part in Wedding Ceremonies

In many cultures, the wedding is the occasion to garner the couple's first nest egg or to exchange symbolic gifts.

An old ITALIAN custom is to cut up the groom's tie and auction the pieces to the guests.

A SWISS custom along the same lines has the bridesmaids "sell" colored handkerchiefs to the guests, the proceeds going to the bride and groom.

A GERMAN tradition is for the guests to break special plates provided for the purpose. While the groom sweeps up the shards, guests buy dances with the bride.

A JAPANESE groom gives his bride a kimono to wear on a ceremonial visit to his parents' home on the third day of marriage.

The JEWISH groom is expected to give his bride something of value. Usually it's an unadorned gold wedding band.

In the PHILIPPINES, the groom's family gives the couple old coins for prosperity.

SCOTTISH grooms give the bride a silver teaspoon engraved with their initials and the wedding date.

The AMISH give the couple a wedding quilt in the bridal or double wedding ring pattern.

FRENCH couples are given a two-handled cup known as the "coupe de mariage" in which to drink toasts.

LITHUANIAN parents serve the bride and groom a symbolic meal of wine for joy, bread for work and salt for tears.

*(Long Island Catholic)*

.....

God has editing rights over our prayers. He will receive them as a teacher does a term paper. He will edit them, correct them, bring them in line with His will and then hand them back to us to be resubmitted.

\*\*\*\*\*

Education is a funny thing. At eighteen we knew all the answers ..... fifty years later even the questions confuse us.

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Two heads are better than one when making a tough decision. The problem lies in selecting the two best heads for the mission.



## ALICE STEPHENS MEMORIAL VOCAL SCHOLARSHIP 1993 ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS AND RULES

The Alice Stephens Memorial Vocal Scholarship honors the memory of Chicago voice teacher/conductor Alice Stephens, who died in August of 1984. Alice Stephens was a long-time voice teacher at the now closed Chicago Conservatory College and at Maria High School in Chicago.

She was very active in the Lithuanian-American community as founder and conductor of the Alice Stephens Singers and choral conductor of the Lithuanian Opera of Chicago. She was president of the committee which organized the First Lithuanian Song Festival of America and was choral director for the first and subsequent festivals. She was also co-founder of the Lira Singers, a professional ensemble which specializes in Polish music.

The 1993 Scholarship Award is \$1,000.00 which the winner may use for college or university tuition or for payment of voice lessons or vocal coaching sessions.

The scholarship competition is open to singers, ages 16 to 40, who are of Lithuanian or Polish descent and/or have demonstrated a commitment to Lithuanian or Polish music.

There are no geographical limitations or citizenship requirements, but competition finalists must appear at auditions held at Maria High School, 6727 South California Ave. in Chicago on Saturday, September 11, 1993.

Finalists are to arrive at the auditions at their own expense and are to bring sheet music of piano accompaniments for the compositions they will sing. A piano accompanist will be provided, however, finalists may bring their own accompanists.

The auditions will be judged by a panel of judges chosen by the Alice Stephens Scholarship Fund Committee. Auditions are closed to the public. Only judges and committee members may attend.

Finalists should prepare three works for performance at the auditions. The judges will choose two of the works to be performed. All pieces performed must be memorized. One art song or aria is required.

Finalists will be notified by telephone and letter that they have qualified for the scholarship finals and will be heard by the jury. The scholarship winner will be announced and the \$1,000.00 awarded by the end of September, 1993. The winner may be asked to perform gratis at a future event to raise funds for scholarships.

TO APPLY FOR THE 1993 ALICE STEPHENS MEMORIAL VOCAL SCHOLARSHIP, SINGERS SHOULD WRITE FOR AN APPLICATION TO: Alice Stephens Memorial Scholarship, c/o The Lira Singers, 3750 West Peterson Ave., Chicago, IL 60659. Tel. (312) 539-4900.

### AUGO KIEME KLEVELIS

Au — go kie — me kle — ve — lis,  
la — bai dai — lus me — de — lis.  
Po tuo kle — vu, po ža — liuo — ju,  
gu — li jau — nas ber — ne — lis.

Nepakilki vėjeli,  
Nepajudink klevelio;  
Nepajudink klevo šakų )  
Nepabudink bernelio. ) 2  
Ir pakilo vėjelis,  
Ir papūtė šiaurasai,  
Pajudino klevo šakas, )  
Pabudino bernelį. ) 2  
Oi mergele, mergele,  
ar nematei žirgelio?  
Mčiau, mačiau bėrą žirgą )  
Savo tėvo dvarely. ) 2  
Oi tėveli, tėveli,  
Atiduok mano žirgelį.  
Atiduok man bėrą žirgą )  
Reiks man į karužę jot. ) 2



*Lithuanian Kitchen**Lietuviška Virtuvė***HERRING SALAD PLATTER**

- |                                     |  |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| 8 med. new potatoes                 | 1 head lettuce, separated                    |
| 4 eggs, hard boiled,<br>quartered   | 1 jar pickled herring                        |
| 1 cup sour cream or<br>plain yogurt | 2 cans (1 lb. each) sliced<br>beets, drained |
| 2 Tbsp. horse radish                | 1 red onion thinly sliced                    |
| 1 tsp. chopped fresh dill           | 1 cucumber, sliced                           |
|                                     | Salt/pepper                                  |

Cook potatoes and eggs uncovered for 10 mins. Remove eggs, place in cold water to cool. Continue to cook potatoes until done. Drain, slice and place into a bowl. Combine sour cream, horse radish, dill and seasonings. Pour half of the dressing over potatoes. Stir until coated. Arrange lettuce on a large serving platter, arrange potatoes, herring, eggs, beets and cucumber over lettuce. Separate onion into rings and place over the salad. Pour remaining sauce over the dish in an attractive design.

**PORK CHOPS AND LIMA BEANS**

- |                          |  |
|--------------------------|--|
| 4 thick pork chops       | 2 Tbsp. brown sugar                        |
| 1 cup chopped onion      | 2 Tbs. oil                                 |
| 2 garlic cloves, chopped | 1 pkg. 10-oz. frozen lima beans,<br>thawed |
| 3-4 carrots sliced       |  |
| 1 - 16 oz. can tomatoes  | Salt/pepper                                |

Heat oil in saute pan. Brown pork chops on both sides; remove from pan and set aside. Skim off excess fat; add onion and garlic to pan and saute until lightly browned; add carrots, cook for a few minutes. Stir in rest of ingredients and bring to a simmer; return chops to pan; add limas. Simmer until meat and limas are tender; about 25 mins.

**KASHA VARNISHKAS**

- |  |                     |
|--|---------------------|
| 2 cups bow shaped<br>noodles, uncooked | 2 tsp. butter/oleo  |
| 1 cup kasha (groats)                   | 2 tsp. oil          |
| 1 egg                                  | 1 cup chopped onion |
| 2 cups broth (beef or chicken)         | Salt/pepper         |

In a small saucepan, heat the broth and set aside. In small bowl, beat the egg, add kasha and mix well. Heat a dry skillet or saute pan with a cover. When pan is hot, add the kasha mixture and stir well; allow kasha to toast and dry out but do not burn. Slowly add the broth, stir well. Cover and cook for about 10 mins. or until the kasha is tender. When done, remove from heat and set aside. In a large pot of boiling water, add the bow noodles. Cook, when done, drain. Heat butter

and oil in the saute pan, add onion and cook until soft and light brown. Combine onion, kasha and noodles in large bowl. Season and serve.

**SOUR MILK**

The use of unpasteurized milk is best for this recipe. But since it is almost impossible to obtain, use pasteurized milk - NOT homogenized milk. Homogenized milk will not work. Rinse a large earthenware bowl in hot water to warm the bowl. Pour out the hot water and dry bowl. Add 3-4 tablespoons of buttermilk or sour cream. Pour in pasteurized milk slowly, while mixing well the milk and sour cream. Fill the bowl with milk, cover and place in a warm spot for 24 hours. Check the milk with a spoon to see if curds have formed; the milk will appear solid-like. Place the soured milk into the refrigerator. Serve the milk chilled in a bowl as an accompaniment to hot potatoes which have been boiled in their skins.

**NO BAKE PIE**

- 2 baked or graham cracker pie crusts
- 1 14-oz. cans condensed milk
- 1 8-oz. can undrained, crushed pineapple
- 1-1/2 cups miniature marshmallows
- 1/2 cup flaked coconut
- 1/2 cup chopped nuts (optional)
- 1 21-oz. can pie filling (cherry, blueberry, etc.)
- 1 12-oz. container frozen whipped topping, thawed

Combine condensed milk, pineapple, marshmallows, coconut, nuts in large mixing bowl. Stir in pie filling. Fold in whipped topping and blend. Pour into pie shells. Refrigerate for 1-2 hours before serving.

**CHOCOLATE SOUR CREAM FROSTING**

- 18 oz. semi-sweet chocolate morsels
- 2 1/4 cups sour cream at room temperature

**IMPORTANT:** Measure sour cream into bowl and allow to come to room temperature. (Warm chocolate will harden into pieces if cream is cold).

Place water into bottom of double boiler and heat water but do NOT boil. In top of double boiler, melt the chocolate - when melted, remove top of double boiler out of water, stir in the sour cream slowly until it is blended. Let stand at room temperature until thick enough to spread.

## THE THIRD OFFICIAL K OF L EXCURSION TO LITHUANIA

Robert Boris

The "History of the Knights of Lithuania," written by Ignas Sakalas, provides a number of interesting facts regarding K of L excursions to Lithuania.

In 1927, the first "official" K of L excursion to Lithuania took place, during the Jubilee celebration of the Pavasarininkai, our sister organization in Lithuania. A golden sword, costing over a thousand dollars, was presented to General Zukauskas by the K of L. The symbolism of the golden sword remains shrouded in history. This sword was hidden in the archives of the Kaunas War Museum during the fifty years of occupation and is now again on exhibit. Additional details of this excursion are not given. Since only a few names of participants are shown, it appears the excursion consisted of a few Supreme Council members.

During the second "official" excursion in 1928, one hundred and thirty K of L members participated. Since no other excursions are mentioned, one could safely assume that sixty-five years later, in 1993, the K of L is sponsoring its "Third Official Excursion." Based on registrations as of this writing, it appears, we may surpass the one hundred and thirty participants of the 1928 excursion.

To see the "golden sword" in Kaunas will be sentimentally interesting, but it will be overshadowed by participating in the historical visit of Pope John Paul II. We have been assured of places in Vingis Park for the Papal Mass. All the street-side rooms in the Neringa Hotel overlooking Gedimino Prospectas, the route of the Papal motorcade, have been reserved for our tour. Thus we will be able to view the motorcade in the relative comfort of our rooms.

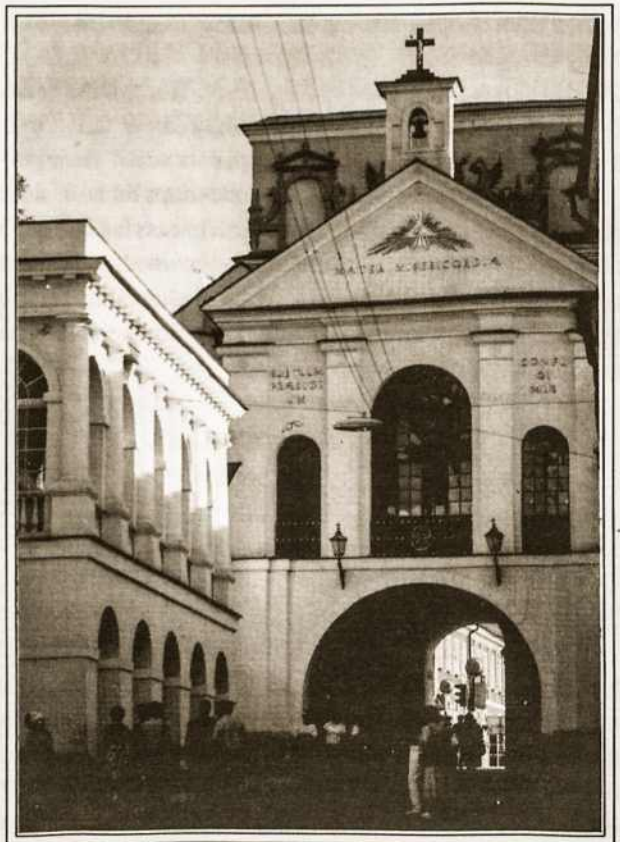
It has been suggested that the only way to participate in the Pope's visit to Kryžių Kalnas (the Hill of Crosses) would be to wear a suit of armor and camp out for a couple of days to secure a visual vantage point. Therefore, we will visit this most impressive place at a time when we can safely and comfortably enjoy its unique breathtaking beauty.

Per our request, Al Grigas, President and owner of GT International has invited three of Lithuania's best wood carvers to participate in a contest by submitting a miniature model of a proposed "K of L Memorial Cross." We will then choose the winning entry and proceed to commission the erection of a ten-foot reproduction of the winning model, which will be dedicated during our visit. Efforts are being made to have our cross blessed by the Pope during his

visit to Kryžių Kalnas.

Every effort is being exerted by GT International and the tour coordinators to assure you a most memorable trip. In addition to Chicago and JFK, direct flights to Frankfurt are now available from Newark, Detroit, Washington and Boston. A private showing of Lithuanian handicraft, wood carvings, amber, etc. will be arranged to save time and avoid frantically searching for souvenirs. Both Al Grigas and Ruta Puperas, Vice Pres. of GT, will accompany our tour to assure that everything goes smoothly. Several other pleasant surprises are being planned.

There may be a few reservations yet available, but please don't wait. Act now and avoid disappointment once the tour is filled. Call your local tour "coordinator" for more information or send your deposit to: GT International, 9525 So. 79 Ave., Hickory Hills, IL 60457-2259, Phone (708) 430-7272.



Vilnius - Aušros Vartai



THE KNIGHTS OF LITHUANIA SUPREME COUNCIL  
INVITES YOU TO

## VISIT LITHUANIA WITH THE HOLY FATHER

SPEND 14 DAYS IN LITHUANIA DURING THE HISTORIC VISIT OF  
POPE JOHN PAUL II

September 2nd ....September 17, 1993

Celebrate your Lithuanian Catholic heritage!

Attend Mass: At the tombs of St. Casimir in Vilnius and Blessed Jurgis Matulaitis in Marijampolė, • Shrine of Our Lady of Šiluva, • Shrine of Aušros Vartiai, • Kernavė (site of Mindaugas' Baptism) • and other historical sites.

Visit: The Cathedral of Vilnius and explore the underground excavations while savoring the 15th & 16th century • Trakiai (the restored fortress of Vytautas) • Skiemonys (alleged site of Marian apparitions in 1968) • Kryžių Kalnas (where we will erect and dedicate a K of L Memorial Cross), • An Opera performance in Vilnius • Kražiai (site of Cossack massacre of villagers in 1893) • The Vilnius TV Tower • Antakalnis Cemetery where we will lay a wreath on the graves of the patriots killed at the TV Tower • Orvydių Sodyba (a garden where Franciscan Brother Gabriel, his family and associates have established a memorial to the infamy of communism) • Rumšiškės (an outdoor museum where the various ethnic regions of Lithuania have been reconstructed). • Visit Sisters Michele & Dolorita at the Franciscan Mission in Utena • Plus MANY other points of national, historical and religious significance.

Tour includes: Round trip Air fare via Lufthansa from Chicago or New York;  
Hotels (double occupancy) - 7 nights in Vilnius, 3 nights in Kaunas, 2 nights in Palanga,  
1 night in Šiauliai & Panevėžys, plus one night layover in Frankfurt, Germany;  
Three meals daily in Lithuania;  
All transfers between airport, hotels and sightseeing in modern comfortable buses;  
Baggage handling;  
Transportation to all public Papal functions;  
Transportation to all points of interests;  
Services of English speaking tour guides.

**Total cost \$1,995.00**

Due to the Papal Visit, accommodations will be very limited, so please register as soon as possible and avoid possible disappointment. Please contact any of the persons listed below for a complete tour packet.

**National Coordinator:**

ROBERT S. BORIS • 4970 Brookdale Dr. • Bloomfield Hills, MI 48304 • Phone (313) 642-4970

**Regional Coordinators:**

REV. JOSEPH ANDERLONIS • 3580 Salmon St. • Philadelphia, PA 19134 • Phone (215) 739-3102

EVELYN OZELIS • 2533 W. 45th Street • Chicago, IL 60632 • Phone (312) 254-7553

FRANCES R. PETKUS • 800 Haldeman Ave. • Dayton, OH 45404 • Phone (513) 236-0395

BERTHA STOKUS • 165 Holden St. • Providence, RI 02908 • Phone (410) 331-2605

LORETTA STUKAS • 234 Sunlit Drive • Watchung, NJ 07063 • Phone (908) 753-5636

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U.S.A

## KNIGHTS OF LITHUANIA CONSTITUTION Revision Committee Report

Following is a proposed revised Knights of Lithuania Constitution. The revision project was initiated by the Supreme Council two years ago, with the intent of updating the Constitution to include all changes made to date, to reorganize it to improve its clarity, to move procedural items from the Constitution to the Knights of Lithuania Manual, and to make minor modifications to bring it into line with modern day practices and procedures.

The project was headed by First Vice-Pres. Evelyn Ozelis. Input was solicited and received from representatives of all Districts and the Supreme Council. All suggestions were considered and where appropriate, incorporated by active committee members Evelyn Ozelis, Peter Zansitis and Loretta Stukas. At several stages, proposed modifications were presented to the Supreme Council and discussed at length at meetings.

The resulting proposed Constitution is printed here in its entirety, as the Board felt it would be easier to review in this way. This printing satisfies the constitutional directive that all proposed changes to the Constitution be printed in VYTIS at least one issue before the National Convention. It will be presented, discussed and voted on at a session of the National Convention.

The Supreme Council and the committee recommend that members and delegates to the National Convention prepare to discuss the modified constitution by reading the existing constitution and comparing it to the modified version. The proposal is presented in English. If it is accepted at the national convention, it will be translated into Lithuanian, and a bilingual version will be printed and distributed to all members.

The committee, Supreme Council members and district representatives spent a lot of time preparing this document. We sincerely hope that the membership will devote time to reviewing it and sharing their ideas on the document at the National Convention.

*The Constitution Revision Committee: Evelyn Ozelis, Peter Zansitis, Loretta Stukas.*

## KNIGHTS OF LITHUANIA CONSTITUTION Proposed modifications, August 1993

### ARTICLE I NAME AND INSIGNIA

1. The organization's name is Knights of Lithuania.
2. The Knights of Lithuania patron is St. Casimir.
3. The Knights of Lithuania operates under a charter granted by the State of Illinois.
4. The motto of the Knights of Lithuania is "For God and Country."
5. The Knights of Lithuania has its own banner picturing a Lithuanian Knight, an official seal and other emblems depicting a Lithuanian Knight and Cross.

### ARTICLE II PURPOSE

1. The Knights of Lithuania adheres to Catholic philosophy and precepts, furthering among its members a deeper understanding and more zealous practice of the Catholic faith, and morals.
2. The Knights of Lithuania urges its members to participate

in public affairs at all levels and to exercise their rights of American citizenship at election time; likewise, it fosters growth in Lithuanian ethnic community awareness and encourages active participation in Lithuanian community affairs.

3. The Knights of Lithuania endeavors to instill in its members an attachment to Lithuania, the land of their ancestors, and a knowledge, appreciation, and love of the Lithuanian language, customs and culture.

### ARTICLE III ACTIVITIES

1. The Knights of Lithuania promotes educational and cultural advancement and activity among its members and all Lithuanians.
2. The Knights of Lithuania encourages sports activities in councils and districts.
3. The Knights of Lithuania offers moral and financial support to Lithuanian institutions.

#### ARTICLE IV RELATIONS WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

1. The Knights of Lithuania organization is a member of the Lithuanian American Roman Catholic Federation and of the Lithuanian American Council.
2. The Knights of Lithuania maintains relations with Lithuanian and non-Lithuanian institutions whose aims do not oppose those of the Knights of Lithuania.

#### ARTICLE V MEMBERS

1. To be a member of the Knights of Lithuania, one must:
  - a. be a Catholic,
  - b. be of Lithuanian extraction or the spouse of a Lithuanian, and
  - c. have taken the prescribed oath of membership, as defined in Article XVII.
2. Organization members are honorary, regular, associate, junior.
  - a. Honorary membership may be conferred on:
    1. members for their outstanding accomplishments for the welfare of the organization and its ideals, or
    2. outstanding Catholic Lithuanians whose achievements for God and Country have been preeminently outstanding and exemplary of the ideals of the organization.

Honorary members are named by the national convention upon presentation by the honorary membership committee.
  - b. Regular members must be at least sixteen (16) years of age.
  - c. An associate member may be a non-Lithuanian Catholic spouse of a person of Lithuanian extraction. Upon the death of a spouse of an associate member, the member retains his/her membership status as long as other requirements of the Knights of Lithuania Constitution are upheld.
  - d. Junior members may be those who have not yet reached eighteen (18) years of age.
3. There are four membership degrees: First, Second, Third and Fourth. Membership degrees are tendered according to rituals prescribed by the organization and under the supervision of the ritual committee.

#### ARTICLE VI MEMBERSHIP DUES

1. Membership dues are set by the national convention.
2. Dues may be paid annually or by a one payment lifetime fee.
3. The lifetime fee of the spouse of a member who has paid the regular life time fee shall be one-half of the lifetime fee.
4. The following members are exempt from dues payment:
  - a. members of religious orders,
  - b. active members of the Armed Forces,
  - c. honorary members,
  - d. spouses of members paying full annual dues except as follows:
 

When the spouse of a member paying full annual dues first joins the organization, he/she pays half dues for one year, but thereafter is exempt from dues payment.
  - e. junior members.

5. The following members pay half dues:
  - a. spouse of an honorary member,
  - b. spouse of a member who has paid lifetime dues,
  - c. members of families living at the same address with a full dues paying or honorary member.
6. The following members receive VYTIS official organ of the organization:
  - a. full dues paying member (annual or life-time fee),
  - b. members who are members of religious orders,
  - c. members who are active members of the Armed Forces,
  - d. honorary members.
7. Dues are payable in January of each year. A member whose dues are not paid by March 31 shall cease to receive VYTIS. A member whose dues are not paid by June 30 shall cease to be a member.
8. Each junior council must pay an annual fee to the Supreme Council. Each junior council receives up to five (5) copies of VYTIS.

#### ARTICLE VII DUTIES OF MEMBERS

1. Organization members must acquaint themselves with, and follow, the Knights of Lithuania Constitution.
2. Members must strive to improve their knowledge of the Catholic faith and obey its precepts.
3. Members should promote Lithuanian culture and write about the Lithuanian nation and its affairs in non-Lithuanian publications.
4. Members should be concerned about the organization's reputation and, therefore, should avoid circumstances which may bring it dishonor, and should strive to engage in activities which will bring it honor.
5. Every member should attend council meetings and help to recruit new members.

#### ARTICLE VIII MEMBERS' RIGHTS

1. All members are privileged to wear the organization's emblems.
2. Honorary members may:
  - a. be delegates to any district or national convention without mandate,
  - b. vote at Supreme Council meetings and at meetings of any district or council,
  - c. be elected to national office and/or to offices in their respective district or council.
3. Regular and associate members may:
  - a. vote at their respective council meetings,
  - b. hold any office in the council.
4. Regular members may:
  - a. be elected delegates to district and national conventions,
  - b. be elected to district office, if in keeping with district bylaws.
  - c. be elected to national office or chair of a national committee, in keeping with Article X of the Knights of Lithuania Constitution.
5. Associate members who hold at least the Second Degree may:

- a. be elected delegates to district or national conventions,
  - b. hold any office or be head of a committee on the district level, in keeping with the district bylaws.
  - c. be a member, not chair of a committee on the national level.
6. A junior member may vote only in his or her junior council. Junior members may attend council meetings, district meetings and conventions, and national conventions as non-voting members.

#### ARTICLE IX NATIONAL CONVENTION

1. The national convention is the highest Knights of Lithuania tribunal. It has power to amend the Constitution, elect Supreme Council officers and committees, and make decisions in all matters pertaining to the organization.
2. The national convention chooses the site and host for the next convention. The national convention may be hosted by a Knights of Lithuania council, a group of councils, a district or the Supreme Council.
3. The national convention date is selected by the host council with the approval of the Supreme Council and announced by the Supreme Council president at least six months in advance.
4. The national convention committee plans must be approved by the Supreme Council.
5. The national convention is called to order by the Supreme Council president. The invocation is delivered by a national spiritual director or his proxy. The national convention is conducted by a convention-selected presidium, which should consist of at least a chair, two co-chairs, two secretaries, a parliamentarian, and other officers and committees, as deemed necessary.
6. Once elected, the national convention presidium assumes leadership of the national convention and the organization until a new Supreme Council is elected and installed.
7. Council and district delegates must present to the national convention an official mandate with signatures of their president, secretary, and, if possible, spiritual advisor.
8. The number of national convention delegates allowed a council depends on the number of fully paid members in the council, as determined by the financial secretary of the Supreme Council. Each council shall be allowed one delegate for the first five members, and one delegate for each additional ten members.
9. A district may be represented by not more than two delegates.
10. The Supreme Council spiritual advisor, officers, district presidents and standing committee chairs may vote as delegates at the national convention.
11. No delegate can represent more than one council, district, or Supreme Council. Each delegate has but one vote.
12. A national convention may grant guests permission to address the assembly.
13. All resolutions dealing with changes or amendments to the constitution must be submitted to the Supreme Council at least three months before the national convention and published in VYTIS at least one month before the national convention. Such resolutions may be introduced by councils, districts, and the Supreme Council.

14. Changes of the constitution require the votes of two-thirds of the national convention delegates.

15. A resolution which affects or changes any fundamental principle on which the Knights of Lithuania organization was founded, in order to be presented to the national convention for action, must first have the approval of at least two-thirds of the active councils, then be submitted to the Supreme Council in writing prior to the opening session of the national convention at which such resolution is to be presented. The term "fundamental principle" as used here, shall include: a) change of motto; b) change of name of the organization; c) granting of membership to non-Lithuanians; d) granting of membership to non-Catholics; e) affiliation or merger with another organization.

16. The national spiritual advisor or his designee shall administer the oath of office to newly elected Supreme Council members.

#### ARTICLE X SUPREME COUNCIL

1. The Supreme Council shall consist of a spiritual advisor; officers, namely, president, three vice-presidents, recording secretary, treasurer, financial secretary, two trustees, standing committee chairs; district presidents; VYTIS editor; legal adviser.
2. The spiritual adviser is appointed by the Lithuanian Priests' League, upon recommendation of the national convention or the Supreme Council. The officers are elected by the national convention. Not more than two members of any council at one time can serve as Supreme Council officers. The standing committee chairs are elected at the national convention except as noted in Article XII. The district presidents are elected by their respective districts. The editor and the legal adviser are appointed by the Supreme Council and are non-voting members of the Supreme Council.
3. A member who is not present at the national convention may be elected to Supreme Council office or a standing committee only if he or she has presented a written notification of his or her candidacy for a particular position to the Supreme Council before the election begins.
4. A Supreme Council officer is elected for a one year term and can succeed himself or herself for only two additional successive years.
5. The president and the first vice-president must be at least Third Degree members.
6. The Supreme Council, on finding one of its members remiss in his/her duties, may discharge him/her from office by a two-thirds majority vote. When a vacancy in the office of President occurs, the first Vice President becomes president to complete the term. When a vacancy in an office or chair other than President occurs for any reason, the Supreme Council may appoint a replacement to complete the term.
7. The Supreme Council has no authority to introduce changes which are contrary to the Constitution without a unanimous vote, and these changes are subject to approval or rejection by the national organization.
8. The fiscal year of the Supreme Council ends on June 30.

## ARTICLE XI

### SUPREME COUNCIL OFFICERS' DUTIES

1. The Supreme Council spiritual adviser shall be concerned with the religious development of the members and shall contribute religious articles to VYTIS. He opens and concludes with prayer the national conventions and Supreme Council meetings. He administers the oath of office to the Supreme Council officers and standing committee chairs.
2. The president enforces observance of the constitution; convokes conventions and opens them; calls Supreme Council meetings and presides over them; supervises the organization's books and funds; keeps in his/her custody the treasurer's bond; signs various orders and documents; prepares the Supreme Council annual report for the convention, summarizing the reports (except financial) of all the officers and standing committee chairs.
3. The first vice president is the special assistant to the president, assisting the president in organizing and implementing special projects and events. The second vice-president directs the membership drive, strives to strengthen existing councils and organize new ones. The third vice-president is in charge of the juniors, works to expand their activities and organize new junior councils.
4. The recording secretary records the minutes of the Supreme Council meetings, sending a copy thereof to each Supreme Council officer and standing committee chair and to each Honorary Member; invites Supreme Council members, and Honorary Members to board meetings; handles correspondence on organization matters.
5. The financial secretary receives and records all membership dues; transmits all money received to the Supreme Council treasurer; through VYTIS and by letters, reminds the councils and members of their financial standing; notifies each council of the number of national convention delegates to which they are entitled; prepares a summary report of the membership standing for the national convention.
6. The treasurer supervises the organization's finances; pays all bills approved by the national convention or the Supreme Council and signed by the president and secretary; records in the books all income and expenditures; receipts all money received.
7. The trustees audit the treasurer's books and the books of all other national funds of the Knights of Lithuania and its ancillary organizations at least once a year, preferably before the convention, verify the funds and submit their findings to the convention. They also ascertain the location and condition of other organization property, such as convention minute books, financial secretary's records and office equipment, archives, libraries, banner, seal, etc. and report on these things to the convention.
8. The appointed members of the Supreme Council are the VYTIS editor and the legal adviser.
  - a. The editor edits the magazine VYTIS, in accordance with the directions of the convention and the Supreme Council.
  - b. The legal adviser advises and assists in the organization's legal matters.
9. The Supreme Council authorizes the complimentary subscription to VYTIS. The Supreme Council president shall designate a member who will maintain the VYTIS mailing list, which includes members, subscribers and complimentary subscriptions.

nate a member who will maintain the VYTIS mailing list, which includes members, subscribers and complimentary subscriptions.

10. All out-going Supreme Council members shall hand over all necessary records and materials pertaining to their successors within thirty days. The outgoing Supreme Council members will provide instructions and guidance, so that the new members can execute their duties efficiently.

## ARTICLE XII

### SUPREME COUNCIL STANDING COMMITTEES

1. The Supreme Council standing committee chairs are elected at the national convention for a one year term, except as noted elsewhere in Article XII.
2. The Ritual Committee consists of three Fourth Degree members who are elected one at each convention, for a three year term. This is a rotating committee, hence the committee member with longest seniority assumes the chair's position.
 

The Ritual Committee determines the form and the rules for all degrees and the ceremony, after consultation with the Supreme Council and approval of the national convention.
3. The Honorary Membership Committee consists of at least five (5) elected Honorary Members, including one from each district where possible. One member of the committee is elected each year for a five year term. This is a rotating committee, hence the committee member with longest seniority assumes the chair's position. The committee itself selects a committee secretary.
 

The committee investigates and weighs the qualifications of candidates for Honorary Membership. The committee presents candidates for elevation to Honorary Membership to the national convention.
4. The Lithuanian Affairs Committee defends and champions the name and rights of Lithuania and the Lithuanian people in non-Lithuanian communities and government circles and keeps the membership informed.
5. The Lithuanian Culture Committee works to preserve and propagate Lithuanian culture by providing brochures, articles, recordings and other appropriate means and cooperates with other groups which are concerned with Lithuanian culture.
6. The Scholarship Committee assists qualified and needy members seeking a higher education with scholarship grants. The committee consists of one member from each District in the organization. Committee members must be college graduates. The membership of the Scholarship Committee will increase only with the addition of a new District to the Knights of Lithuania organization. The term of office upon election is three years. If a person is elected to fill a vacancy caused by resignation or death, then the term of office of the newly elected member will be the unexpired term of the previous committee member.
 

The Committee elects its own chair and secretary-treasurer annually. The committee determines the standards and conditions for eligibility to scholarship grants, distributes the awards, and manages other matters connected with this activity. Both the chair and Secretary-Treasurer are authorized to request and issue funds on behalf of the National Scholarship Committee.
7. The Public Relations Committee publicizes the activities of the Knights of Lithuania on a nation-wide basis and handles the national convention publicity in cooperation with the host council.

8. The Archives Committee maintains the Knights of Lithuania documents, bound VYTIS issues, photos, seals, and other historical information of the organization.
9. The heads of the following ancillary organizations of the Knights of Lithuania have the status of chair of standing committee of the Supreme Council:
  - a. Knights of Lithuania Foundation, Inc., an endowment fund whose proceeds are used to foster the religious, charitable and educational purposes of the Knights of Lithuania,
  - b. St. Casimir Guild, Inc., which supports the Lithuanian Pontifical College of St. Casimir in Rome;
  - c. Aid to Lithuania, Inc., which works to provide medical assistance to Lithuania through donations of members and friends.
10. The national convention shall create additional standing and ad-hoc committees as needed.

### ARTICLE XIII COUNCIL OFFICERS

1. In those councils associated with a Catholic parish, the Spiritual Advisor is the parish pastor or his appointed assistant. If a council is not associated with a parish, the Spiritual Advisor may be a Roman Catholic priest or ordained deacon, with the approval of the National Spiritual Advisor. He serves the council members in fulfilling their religious duties and cooperates with the Supreme Council Spiritual Advisor in spiritual and religious programs. He acts as arbitrator in the case of misunderstandings. He supervises the work of the council's spiritual committee.
2. The president calls the council meetings and presides over them. He/she keeps the council seal, signs documents and supervises committee and council activities.
3. The vice president substitutes for the president when necessary, and assumes other responsibilities as determined by the president.
4. The recording secretary records the minutes of the council meetings and sends notices to council members.
5. The financial secretary handles the membership applications, submits to the financial secretary of the Supreme Council the names of new, suspended and dropped members and punctually forwards all membership dues.
6. The treasurer keeps record of all receipts and expenditures; manages all the council's finances.
7. Other officers and committees are selected when deemed necessary.

### ARTICLE XIV COUNCIL ACTIVITY

1. An active council shall:
  - a. have at least five (5) members;
  - b. have at least a president and secretary, and
  - c. hold at least four (4) meetings per year.
2. Meetings are conducted in the following order:
  - a. prayer,
  - b. roll call,
  - c. reading of minutes,
  - d. admission of new members,
  - e. officers' reports,
  - f. committee reports,

- g. unfinished business,
- h. new business,
- i. prayer.

3. Councils may arrange socials, plays, concerts, expositions and games. Councils may establish a library and organize sports activities.
4. Council officers must find a suitable place where all council groups may hold their meetings.
5. Councils should attempt to organize junior Knights' councils, in accordance with the junior Knights' bylaws.
6. Councils should support their parish affairs.
7. In organizing a new council in a parish, it is necessary to consult the parish priest.
8. Councils are required to observe the national feast day of St. Casimir, the patron saint of Lithuania and the Knights, March 4.
9. Through their activities and by their support, local councils implement the decisions of the national convention and assist the Supreme Council financially in executing the programs of the Knights of Lithuania.

### ARTICLE XV DISTRICTS

1. Neighboring councils of one state or several states may unite into a district, with the approval of the Supreme Council.
2. Districts shall hold at least two meetings or conventions per year.
3. District officers are chosen at the district's September or October meeting or convention by the councils' appointed delegates.
4. District officers' duties are set by the district convention and shall conform with those of the Supreme Council.
5. District activities give support to its councils, the VYTIS and the Supreme Council. Districts should give high priority to the establishment and maintenance of new regular and junior councils.

### ARTICLE XVI ASSETS

1. The Knights of Lithuania real assets are buildings and land owned by the Supreme Council, district and councils.
2. The Knights of Lithuania liquid assets consist of membership dues, contributions and bequests. These assets are kept in the Knights of Lithuania name in federally insured banking institutions.
3. Other assets of the Knights of Lithuania include printed material and office equipment purchased by the Knights of Lithuania for use by its national officers and standing committees.
4. Upon liquidation of a council or a district, its assets are to be transferred to the Knights of Lithuania national treasury or one or more of the ancillary organizations of the Knights of Lithuania.

### ARTICLE XVII ADMISSION OF MEMBERS

When a prospective member has become familiar with the Knights of Lithuania constitution and has been accepted for membership by the council, he/she takes the following oath, administered at a council meeting, according to established ritual.



### MEMBERSHIP OATH

I, ....., having read and studied the constitution of the Knights of Lithuania, in the name of God, St. Casimir and all the other saints, willingly join this organization and pledge myself to be faithful to and abide by its rules. I also pledge myself, ever and everywhere, courageously to uphold my religion, the constitution of the United States of America and the needs of my Lithuanian people.

### SUPREME COUNCIL OATH

In the name of God, St. Casimir, and all the other Saints and in the presence of the convention participants, I formally vow as a member of the Knights of Lithuania Supreme Council to faithfully uphold the Knights of Lithuania constitution, to lead the organization in keeping with the principles of our Catholic faith and our Lithuanian ancestry, and to foster among the Knights of Lithuania members strength of body and soul and a firm commitment to their American citizenship. God help me in these goals.

### NATIONAL EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING - MARCH 27, 1993 - Chicago, IL

The meeting convened in Chicago with C-16 acting as hosts.

Items discussed included the Amended Constitution, Junior Committee Camp Report, ALTA's annual meeting, estates of Joseph Boley and Marcella Aleksis, Tax ID status, "Wish List" project and ritual committee suggestion for file maintenance.

First Vice Pres. Evelyn Ozelis presented the Constitution report which was discussed in great length which will be voted upon at next national convention. Third Vice-Pres. Rita Zakarka reported that sending two youths to Lithuania to work at summer camp would not be feasible to take place this year. John Baltrus and Robert Martin presented a report on the "Wish List" project. The purpose of this project was to determine how our organization could feasibly be brought into the modern age of communications. It was recommended and approved that two word processors be purchased; one for the Supreme Council President and the other for the Financial Secretary, plus a fax machine. This equipment could be used at national conventions by the Greetings and Resolutions Committees.

Lithuanian Affairs Chair Vincent Boris discussed the need to do something on July 6th to observe the 740th anniversary of the coronation of Mindaugas. He urged each K of L council to sponsor a Lithuanian-American Birthday party on that date. Chair Bill Piacentini reported that the Scholarship Committee was in good shape. He recommended that membership on the committee be reduced to one member from each District.

1993 marks the 80th anniversary of the Knights of Lithuania. A short commemorative service at the convention will be held for this occasion. Topics for panels at the convention were also discussed.

The next National Executive Board meeting is scheduled for Saturday, June 19 in Worcester, MA with C-26 acting as hosts.

*Bernice Aviza, Public Relations Committee*

### FATHER'S DAY - JUNE 20, 1993

Always a Father - Always a friend,  
A wonderful someone on whom we depend  
Sometimes a comforter quieting fears,  
Sometime a Banker when we're in arrears,  
Sometimes a mender of buffies and bikes,  
Sometimes a vigorous leader of hikes.  
A teacher, gardner, a plumber of sorts,  
A barber, a chauffeur, an expert on sports  
A "Jack-of-all-Trades" as the old saying goes,  
And loved and admired much more than he knows,  
Just a wonderful someone on whom we depend  
Always a Father - And always a Friend.

*Happy Father's Day to  
all Fathers*

### VACATION IN SUNNY FLORIDA.

Room with private bath \$200 per week. Room with semi-private bath \$150.00 per week. Includes continental breakfast, heated pool, air conditioning. Near shopping malls and beach. A. Zupko, 5886 Guest Court, North Fort Myers, FL 33903. Tel. (813) 656-5886.



## CONVENTION REGISTRATION FORM

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

Send check and form to:

<p style="text-align: center;">Rita Pinkus 76 Providence Street Worcester, MA 01604 (508) 757-1439</p>	<p>Early Registration (deadline June 20)      \$85.00 Late Registration                                      90.00 Youth Registration                                      60.00</p>	
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Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

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

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**HOTEL:** Worcester Marriott, call (800) 628-4240 or (508) 791-1600.

**RATES:** Single/Double - \$65.00 per night plus tax. Guaranteed room block thru July 25. Make reservations on or before this date. Afterwards, rooms released back to hotel and it might be more difficult to obtain a room. Make VAN PICKUP arrangements: from Worcester Airport to Marriott with the hotel (free); from Boston, you pay, call either Knights Limousine (800) 222-5456 (outside MA) or (508) 839-6252; or Worcester Airport Limousine (800) 343-1369 (outside MA) or (508) 756-4834. Cost goes down with more people in your party.

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**PRE CONVENTION TRIP** - Wednesday, August 11, 1993

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

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Council No. \_\_\_\_\_

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Revised Announcement

## JOURNAL AD CONTRACT FORM

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

<u>Full Page</u>	<u>Half Page</u>	<u>Quarter Page</u>	<u>Well Wisher with One Line Greeting</u>	<u>Patron with Name and Council No.</u>
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Eduardas V. Meilus, Jr.  
*Souvenir Program Book Chairman*  
 70 Curtis Street  
 Auburn, MA 01501

**Deadline: June 25, 1993**

Revised Announcement

## Council News —

## Vyčiai Veikia

### NEW ENGLAND DISTRICT

Many greetings were exchanged as the New England Knights began arriving at St. Casimir Church in Providence, RI on April 25 for the spring meeting and Holy Hour hosted by C-103. Due to illness of Pastor Rev. Adolph Klimanskis, our spiritual director, Rev. Peter Shakalis from Brockton celebrated the Mass. He was assisted by Eucharistic Minister Albin Jarvis from Norwood. A prayer was said for the speedy recovery of the pastor and for all the Knights attending. The music provided by the choir and Anne Marie McDonald, organist, was a real pleasure, especially the touching of "Lietuva Brangi" at the conclusion of the Mass.

With Pres. Bertha Stoskus' greeting, Fr. Shakalis' opening prayer, the fine rendition of the two National Anthems and the Pledge of Allegiance, the official business of the day unfolded. Thirteen of our fourteen councils were represented with over 100 people present; 22 of whom were guests and four clergy. After the reports of officers and committee chairs, Pres. Stoskus announced she is seeking a list of past scholarship winners in order to invite them to take part in the Cultural Festival activities, as a way of keeping in touch. The next Cultural Festival will be Oct. 17 at Maironis Park in Shrewsbury. Co-hosts will be So. Boston and So. Worcester. Blanche Genaitis urged increased sale of raffle tickets. The prizes alone should entice purchasers. Irene Tamulevich reported on the "Bowl Off" and trophy recipients. Congratulations folks! Larry Svelnis is waiting for a larger room

and computer for the Archives in Putnam, CT. It was nice to see our Retreat Coordinator, Helen Dallalis, in our midst again after her ordeal with her shoulder. Good nursing care, Stan!

Rev. Albin Janiunas of Lawrence C-78 was Founder's Day speaker. How could the goals of the founder, Mykolas Norkunas be paralleled with the youth in Lithuania today? Is Lithuania really Catholic? There seems to be a vast spiritual emptiness there. Though his manner of speech was light-hearted, Fr. Janiunas revealed his heartfelt concern for all Lithuanian youth, here and abroad. Did you know only 33% worship in the Boston area? We need missionary work. Let us support our councils and our parishes.

Congratulations to the following 3rd degree recipients who were presented with the medal by Ritual chair HMRita Pinkus: Rev. John Petrauskas, MIC, C-26; Rita Margosian, C-26; John Stundza, C-78; Matilda Stundza, C-78; Elizabeth Tribiusis, C-103; Veronica Kiela, C-103; Joseph Janiunas, C-141. Members who achieved the 3rd degree but were unable to attend due to illness: Beatrice Anton, C-26; Anthony Anton, C-26; Adele Ulevich, C-26; Teresa Adomavicius, C-26; Kazys Adomavicius, C-26; Milda Traskauskas, C-103.

Best wishes for an abundance of God's Blessings to Rev. John Petrauskas, MIC of C-26 who will be celebrating his 50th Anniversary in the Priesthood. Also celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary are Cookie & Ben Coach of C-30. Ilgiausiq Mėtu! .... C-26 Worcester will host the 80th National Convention Aug. 12-15,

1993. Delegates representing NED will be Ignatius Hobitz, C-78 and Aldona Marcavage, C-141. Alternates will be Lee Marcinka, C-141 and Alexander Akule, C-17.

Bits and pieces of human interest: Joseph Janiunas, C-141 attended his first NED meeting, received his 3rd degree and met someone who was his nurse when he and his family were in a DP camp in Bavaria in 1949: Eugenia Duda, C-30. Small world! He also was favorably impressed to see so many people happy to spend the day in a comfortably open show of reverence with prayer and brotherly love. We need more of that.

The next NED meeting will be in So. Boston on Sept. 26, 1993. Our appreciation and thanks to the fine hostesses of C-103 for treating us so royally with delicious and nutritious food.

*Aldona Marcavage*

### C-1 BROCKTON, MA

It seems as if the New Year just started, but already we are well into May. January found us cheering and encouraging. Sr. Helen, our member as she busily packed and stuffed half of America into her suitcase, she was blessed to go with the medical team sponsored by Lithuanian Children's Relief, Inc. Its mission is to operate on, and to teach surgeons the art of corrective surgery on 28 facially deformed Lithuanian children. This unique group, selected by Dr. Martin Dunn of Brockton, included surgeons, anesthesiologists, recovery and operating room nurses, photographers and Sr. Helen. The medical mission brought everything with them including teddy bears. Can any child go to the hospital without a teddy bear? The send-off at the airport was splendid. K of Lrs from So. Boston & Brockton were well represented.

February rallied in with its usual



*C-1 Easter Egg Decorating: Florence Carnilla, Doris Fralick & Pastor Rev. Peter Shakelis*

## IN MEMORIAM R.I.P.

ANDREW KURTINAITIS  
C-17 So. Boston, MA  
† January 21, 1993

MAX KELECHAVA  
C-144 Anthracite, PA  
† April 3, 1993

IRENE BELZA  
C-90 Kearny, NJ  
† April 9, 1993

JOHN MELLAS  
C-36 Chicago, IL  
† April 15, 1993

GERALDINE PALILIUNAS  
C-26 Worcester, MA  
† April 20, 1993

BARTHOLOMEW MARCH  
C-26 Worcester, MA  
† April 21, 1993

MARY CHORBA  
C-143 Pittston, PA  
† April 22, 1993

snow storm, creating the perfect setting for the Snow Flake Ball - the 49th! Next year is the "big" one - the 50th year. Plan to attend!

Our youngest member, Scott Kelley, has become a star. His acting was great as he joined his senior classmates in the performance of

"Brigadoon" at Cardinal Spellman High School. Is acting in Scott's future? We shall see and cheer him on. Good luck, Scott!

The celebration of Lithuanian Independence Day brought us together in heart and spirit with our loved ones in Lithuania. We gathered for Mass at St. Casimir's followed the motorcade to City Hall where we proudly hung the tricolor flag to fly for the week. To close the week of celebration, a banquet was held at the Sandara Club, with a delicious Lithuanian dinner. Many of our members participated.

March came in like a lamb. At our monthly meeting, Sr. Helen gave a detailed explanation of her trip to Lithuania with the Medical Mission team. Sister stressed how now more than ever we need to help Lithuania, just to bolster their hope.

A wonderful organ concert was arranged by our Pastor, Fr. Peter Shakelis. He invited Vytenis Vasyliunas of Germany to perform on our unique church organ. The organ was purchased from the Brockton theater. It was built in 1922 and consists of 1495 pipes plus the chimes and fourteen miles of wire. Truly a masterpiece! Our council supported Father's idea of having a special collection to benefit Lithuanian Children's Relief, Inc.

A generous donation was given for this wonderful cause. The day ended with Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. All gathered for coffee, cake, friendship, and hearts full of love. We are grateful to all who participate in our many activities.

A new tradition has taken root! To help foster some Lithuanian traditions, our council sponsored egg decoration classes. It was a wonderful success - even our Pastor took part in the classes. Some of the creations were magnificent - three to four colors and the designs were great.

We wish all a very pleasant and safe summer!  
*Daisey Ruta*

## C-10 ATHOL-GARDNER, MA

At our April meeting, an Easter brunch was served by the Gardner members. The table setting was in the Easter motif: Easter lilies and tulips and many fancy colored and decorated Easter eggs Lithuanian style. Lithuanian Easter customs were discussed including rolling Easter eggs, using a gently sloping wooden trough. The egg that rolled the farthest was the winner. The winner was Sophie Fiorentino. The strongest egg contest was also won by Sophie. I wonder if her egg was wooden! Cultural chair Brone Wisniauskas was in charge of the contests.

The welcoming mat is extended to new member, Jennie Gatautis Poskus .... Former council spiritual advisor Rev. Albin Yankauskas is a patient in Shrewsbury Nursing Home and Rev. Justin Steponaitis is in the Providence Nursing Home, Millbury. We wish a speedy recovery to both priests.

Howie Beaudette, Helen Simkunas, Blanche Genaitis and Bill & Brone Wisniauskas were our council's delegates to the Spring

meeting in Providence, RI. Thanks Providence for the nice hospitality .... Council members are looking forward to the Supreme Council National Convention to take place in Worcester in August .... Happy Father's Day is extended to all our Rev. Fathers and K of L fathers.

This writer urges all persons with known relatives in Lithuania to send them relief packages, which are now duty-free and are delivered quickly and safely. Please also support the various relief funds which aid orphans and the destitute. Lithuania's economy is a shambles, with a high rate of inflation. 80% of the population reportedly live below the poverty level, subsisting on potatoes, carrots and cabbage, which are available and relatively cheap. While soup cooked with meat bones is also in demand, procuring the bones is difficult. The dismal results of the years of Russian rule are plainly evident!

We extend congratulations to Benny & Cooky Coach of Westfield on the occasion of their 50 wedding anniversary. May they have many more joyful years .... The Gardner Museum recently displayed a collection of handcrafted wooden carvings, including some beautiful ones done by the late Mr. Jodaitis of Gardner and Peter Jodaitis, Jr., father and nephew of Beatrice Jodaitis Richard. *Vincukas*

#### C-12 NEW YORK, NY

The summer months are here and we look forward to a slower pace in regard to future activities. C-12 had no meeting in May due to the wedding of Walter Yurkas, Jr. This fine young man is the son of Helen & Walter Yurkas, long time members of C-12. We wish Walter and his bride, Loretta, many years of happiness .... Heard through the grapevine that Joe Kcenaitis left for Africa to do a little lion

hunting. Joe and his army buddies from the 9th Infantry Division will be visiting locations that were full of action during the 2nd World War. As a matter of fact, Joe was wounded at one of the locations .... Lee Waskiewicz of Bronxville was elevated to President of "Catholic Institute of Food Industry." Lee is the son of Betty Waskiewicz C-12 Stella Marcinauskas receiving her 3rd degree from Betty Waskiewicz and Jovita Sleder.



C-12 Stella Marcinauskas receiving her 3rd degree from Betty Waskiewicz and Jovita Sleder.

time member of C-12. A dinner and dance was held in his honor with approximately 200 people in attendance. The affair took place at the Terrace on the Park at the World's Fair site .... Betty Janonis is back from a fabulous cruise and has only accolades of praise for this venture .... Word has it that Peter & Annie Garbinskas were in Chicago in Dec. visiting their son Peter and family.

Happy birthday to the following members: April, Dalia Bulvicius, Alma Korengo & Anna Luksha; May, Evelyn Bell, Nancy Belskis, Ann Montvidas & Joseph Zalis; June, Anne Garbevičius & Helen Matthews .... With pleasure, we welcome two new members to C-12: Dorothy & Alfred Sczcesmy from Jersey City! *Irene*

#### C-26 WORCESTER, MA

The April meeting opened with a hot meal prepared by some of the council members under the directorship of Head Chef, HM Rita Pinkus. Ačiū to all who did KP duty. After a short business meeting, Howard Beaudette, C-10, demonstrated his talent of making straw ornaments.

Howie made it look so easy as members attempted working on their own creations.

Welcome to new members, Annie Holm & Teresa Meilus .... A special thank you to all members who contributed clothing, medicines and food for the Aid to Lithuania Fund. Rita will pack and ship the boxes off .... Ruth Serafinas & Rita Pinkus are busily awaiting convention reservations. Check the April issue of VYTIS or with your council president for registration forms. Teresa Meilus designed the logo in honor of the 80th National Convention. A large delegation of C-26 members were at the NED Spring meeting held in Providence on March 25. Six members received their 3rd degree awards. Congratulations to Fr. John Petrauskas, Anthony & Beatrice Anton, Rita Margosian, Adele Ulevich & Teresa Adomavicius .... Member Olga Kersis, former VYTIS correspondent, accompanied soloist Daiva Mongirdaite Richardson in concert on May 16 for the Women's Club of St. Casimir's Parish Building Fund .... A handcraft



*The '93 Snowbird Convention in Florida: John Antanaitis, Joe Ksenaitis, Helen Cuperwich, Agnes Mickunas, Millie Greg, Alice Zupko, John Mickunas & Vinny Cuperwich (Members C-3, 12 & 110).)*

table has been added to sale items at the June picnic. Judy Maleckas & Barb Pantos are encouraging members to bring in their donations.

With sadness we report the loss of two members of C-26, Gerry Palilunas & Bart March. Our condolences to their families. We share an Easter season of Christian joy, not sadness, for they now have received their eternal inheritance. *Barbara Pantos*

#### **C-27 NORWOOD, MA**

C-27 has had a busy spring season. Our Vice-Pres. Sonia Betty Skricki is also the NED Corres. Sec. This keeps her hopping to Worcester or Providence to attend meetings. Yet, Betty and her husband John still find time for their favorite fun activity, polka-dancing. Sandy Melish is also a polka fan, as are Dorothy Ausevich & Mary Ann Tamasnis; but Sandy is now happily helping her young niece plan a summer wedding .... George Barton and his wife spend a great deal

of their time showing their relatives from Lithuania the scenic beauty of New England .... Parish members and fellow knights enjoy the Lithuanian hymns at church, so capably managed by the choir director, our own Katherine Perednia.

Leonora & Albie Jarvis had quite a roller-coaster month with death of mother, Frances Jarvis, the birth of their fifth grandchild, Miles Christian, and the wonderful wedding of son Christopher to Diana Foster .... Stanley Wasil is once again inviting parish and council members to take part in Norwood's parade on July 5, 1993 at 4:30 p.m. It is FUN .... We are happy that, with the wonderful help of her husband, Stan, Helen Dallalis is mending. We all wish her well.

Our spiritual director, Rev. William Wolkovich, will be celebrating the 40th anniversary of his ordination this year. *Ilgiausiu metų, tėvelė.*

*ŽAIBAS*

#### **C-36 CHICAGO, IL**

Spring has finally arrived. It is a most welcome relief after a cold and long winter.

Our meeting of April 19 was so informative. Our program director, David Gaidas, introduced our guest speaker, Bill Macaitis. Bill is the Assistant Chief Engineer with the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago. He has been with the District's Collection Facilities Division and the Division's 75 professional, technical and clerical employees. It was so interesting to find out that the Division is responsible for the planning,

design associated with the Sanitary District's Waterway, Interceptor, Tunnel & Reservoir project and Flood Control Facilities. Bill earned his Bachelor of Science Degree in Civil Engineering & Master's Degree in Environmental Engineering from the Illinois Institute of Technology. Being involved with many professional and civic activities which included lecturing for the University of Illinois, School of Public Health from 1975 through 1990. Bill has received many awards. We all enjoyed the lecture and thank Mr. Macaitis for being with us. Also a great big thanks to David Gaidas for contacting and asking Mr. Macaitis to be at our meeting.

Congratulations are in order for: Vytautas Dijokas for being elected Sgr. at Arms for the District and to Gerry Mack, corresponding secretary. At our council's meeting, Victor Utara was elected Second Vice President.

The Sisters of St. Francis annual

banquet at which deceased member, Joseph Martikonis was honored, was well attended. Our member, Sr. M. Felice, who is the public relations director, was with us and was happy to see quite a number of council members attending. Our member Rev. Anthony Puchinski was MC and everyone thought that he was great. The program featured our own K of L choir directed by Faustas Strolia. Thanks to everyone from all the Sisters, Sabina Henson, Auxiliary President, and all board members.

We're looking forward to seeing everyone at our next meeting. Don't forget the third Monday of the month.

*Sabina Ručaitė Henson*

#### C-52 ELIZABETH, NJ

The K of L National Board is sponsoring a trip to visit Lithuania with the Holy Father during the historic visit of Pope John Paul II, Sept. 2-17, 1993. Also a trip is being sponsored by three New York/New Jersey parishes - Annunciation, Brooklyn, Our Lady of Sorrows, Kearny and Transfiguration in Maspeth. Make your plans now!

Lithuanian classes are conducted by Virginia Vaitekoniš at Sts. Peter & Paul School in Elizabeth and are held every Tuesday evening at 7 p.m. Members are attending these classes to improve their knowledge of the Lithuanian language.

Commemoration of the 75 Anniversary of Lithuanian Independence was held on Feb. 14 in the parish hall following the 11 a.m. Mass. Featured speaker was Dr. Linas Kucinskas, Lithuanian Consul General of New York .... Helen Balandis made arrangements for a Senior Citizen's bus ride to Virginia Beach, May 16-20 .... Fr. Al Zemeikis, pastor, thanked the parishioners for supporting the Archbishop's

Annual Appeal for funds. We have exceeded our goal with pledges of \$5,442 .... In Lithuania, rather than palms, arrangements of dried flowers on a branch are used in processions, though they are still called *Verbai*, the Lithuanian word for palms. The pieces, carried in the Easter procession and on display in the sanctuary were brought from Lithuania by Joan Salus .... Fr. Al Zemeikis, pastor, thanked all for their prayers, good wishes and greetings for his recovery. He said his recuperation will be lengthy but, hopefully, successful. *William Senkus*

#### C-63 LEHIGH VALLEY, PA

The fierce winds and snow did not deter our council's Lithuanian flag raising in Allentown, Bethlehem & Easton, PA in February. Not only did the flags fly, we also received excellent media coverage. Our 11th annual Independence Day luncheon followed on Feb. 21 at the Glass Slipper Restaurant in Bethlehem. State Rep. Robert Freeman was our special guest; he brought a proclamation from Gov. Robt. P. Casey citing the Lithuanian community's contributions to the betterment of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. The first of two speakers was Joseph Russell of Newark C-29 who gave us "insider information" on the dangers of faulty atomic reactor in Ignalina. Joe's professional field is in nuclear energy. He was followed by our own council member, Adolf P. Klova whose topic was "Lithuania, a Country in Search of its Future." Both gentlemen did a great job as a result of putting in a lot of time and effort in preparing their presentations. This, plus, plenty of heart, makes them the Lithuanians they are!

To keep the momentum rolling, Council Pres. Robert Klova, a former Allentown School District educator, arranged to teach a course on Lithu-

ania at Cedar Crest College in Allentown. It consisted of five 50-minute weekly sessions from March 3 thru 31 and covered the history, culture and language of the Lithuanian nation. The first session, dealing with Lithuanian people in America, was presented by Klova himself. The second and third sessions covered the Early History of Lithuania and Lithuania after World War II and were presented by Joseph Ogint. The fourth session, on the Lithuanian language, was presented by Rimas Zinas, a native-born Lithuanian. The last session covered Lithuania today and was presented by Albert Klizas. Mark up another one for C-63.

Four members were elevated to the third degree at the Amber District meeting on March 21. Congratulations to Adele & Andrew Keraga, Jane Lutick and Walter Bálchunas .... Members Joseph & Blanche Kohanski, Jane Lutick, Al & Jeanette Klizas and Evelyn Harryn appeared on a 2-1/2 hour radio show featuring Lithuanian history, culture and music on March 20. The show was arranged through members John & Elizabeth Griskos, who are friends of the station owners, Bill & Linda Fleming. The program was directed by none other than Joe Russell, our guest speaker at the Independence Day luncheon. Joe & Blanche Kohanski chose the music and Joe presented a commentary on ancient Lithuanian history. Al Klizas commented on present-day events in Lithuania and appealed to listeners to support Lithuania's cause in her struggle for parity in the free world. Jane Lutick, Jeanette Klizas & Evelyn Harryn spoke about Lithuanian culture and customs. The participants all agreed that this was really an adventure for them and that, although Betty Griskos is ethnically Irish, she has a Lithuanian heart. Thank you Betty and



husband Joe for your arrangements and to all the participants on the program.

Council held a flea market on April 23 & 24 in St. Michael's Parish Hall in Easton, PA. Dora Lushis & Valerie Smickle co-chaired the event. These two ladies and their helpers have generated considerable revenue for the council during past events and their efforts are deeply appreciated.

Our ailing list still includes Margaret Turner, Sophie Pfeifer, Mary Good & Louise Stefan. An addition is Nora Barcoucky, who has suffered two heart attacks and is presently recuperating in a nursing home. She is the mother of Len Barcoucky, past president of our council, who is now a member of Pittsburgh C-19. Council prays for their swift recovery.

We were again fortunate to have a young Lithuanian guest at our April meeting. She is Dyana Skarnutė who hails from Alytus, Lithuania and is an exchange student temporarily residing in Dublin, PA. Dyana related many of her experiences, including how she was chosen to go to the United States, her impressions of American students and society, in general. She is presently a graduating senior and is extending her stay in America for another two years so that she can attend the Pottstown School of Business. She gave us all a lot of food for thought. Dyana's credentials are quite impressive. She has had 8 years of English, 11 years of Russian, 2 years of Latin, is presently learning Spanish and can speak Polish. Council hopes to have her visit us again during her stay in America. With the calibre of students such as Dyana, Lithuania's future may not be as bleak as we think, especially when measured against our latest two student guests.

*Joseph F. Ogint*



### C-90 KEARNY, NJ

Our Family Pancake Dance was held on March 7 and it was a wonderful success. The LCCC Hall was filled to capacity. Joe Thomas provided the music, which included songs the children could sing and dance to. Fran Grdina & Ann Pringle chaired this event and, as usual, did a great job. They had a group of hard working people to help them, especially Al Bilaitis, Greg & Cathy Cierpal, Carol Couch, Len Rokas (who prepared the delicious pancakes), Adele Gibbas, Helen Bachman, Jean Donato, Helen Kaszyn, Terry Bilaitis, El Rokas. Mary Przychocki helped sell the pancakes, cake and coffee. Our thanks to Stan Przychocki and all the members who baked or helped in any way to make this such a success. We are all looking forward to next year and the Pancake Dance.

Our traditional Easter Resurrection Mass at Our Lady of Sorrows Church was well attended by many of the members. As usual, our Lithuanian Easter hymns were most stirring as Msgr. Pocus led the procession around the church. This tradition awakens many memories for some of our members who, as children, processed around our tiny Lithuanian church in Harrison at the 6 a.m. Mass. There was also much sadness that morning because one of our members, Irene Belza, died suddenly on Good Friday evening. Irene was at the Holy Thursday Mass and many people spoke to her outside church. She was our Cultural Chair and worked very diligently for any Lithuanian cause. She belonged to other organizations at Our Lady of Sorrows Church and will be sorely missed. We wonder why these things happen, but God knows what he is doing and he probably had an assignment for Irene in Heaven. Our

sincere condolences to her daughter Maria and cousin Paul Shukis. Rest in peace, Irene, we will miss you .... We also extend our sincere condolences to C-90 member Eleanor Rapsas on the death of her father, John Matulaitis, who also died over the Easter holidays. May his soul rest in peace!

And now for some happy news. Ruth & Wally Hryszko will be traveling to Brussels, Belgium for Christmas 1993 to visit their son Walt and his family who are leaving for Brussels in July. Walt, who is a lawyer for Exxon, has been promoted and assigned to Brussels for 3 to 5 years. Their second child is due in June, so we hope his wife Julie is on time to make July 1st in Brussels. Good luck to them all!

Another one of our C-90 families was busy getting their son Stephan ready to leave for Lithuania on April 19. Stephan, the son of Ellie & John Nakrosis, assumes the position of Bureau Chief of the new office of the "Baltic Observer" in Vilnius. Stephan is a graduate of Emerson College in Boston with a degree in Journalism, and has been working towards his master's degree. Mom and Stephan were busy shopping for many of the necessities he took with him. We are proud of our member Stephan and wish him much success and anxiously wait to hear from him in the future.

A few of our members are ill and we pray they will be well soon and back attending our future meetings. Until the next time, Su Diev! Zmon

### C-98 DAYTON, OH

The council's Palm Sunday Bake Sale was a great success! Special thanks to chair Anna Marie Berger and all who baked and donated items. There were many lucky raffle winners .... Let's welcome back Kitty Prasmantas as the council's recording

secretary. We have been without a volunteer for this position for a few months. Thanks to Kitty for holding this position.

Thanks to all who turned out for the Juniors' Bumper Bowling. A fun time was had by all considering that it took an hour to bowl one game. The future bowling convention participants (average ages range from 5-9 years old) included: Alex Fletcher, Joey Berger, Robert Petkus & Erin Petkus.

If you are interested in supporting the Cross Raffle, contact your council president. The hand made crosses, donated by George Mikalauskas, are being raffled with all proceeds to benefit the Lithuanian Sisters.... Please keep these members in your prayers: Annabel Miller, Ada Sinkwitz & Mike Petkus, Sr. *Mary Agnes Mikalauskas*

#### C-103 PROVIDENCE, RI

Providence has been busy, busy, busy. The Feb. 16 commemoration was observed through the efforts of Sophie Sakalys, who is also on the Heritage Committee, at the State House. Sec. of State Barbara M. Leonard presented the Lithuanian delegation with the Rhode Island proclamation. It proved to be an enlightening occasion for the State House staff, with Victor Mathieu providing interesting facts about Lithuania.

St. Casimir's Day was commemorated with Mass; then in the church hall parishioners joined the K of L for brunch. Dr. Luidvikas Jagminas, currently with the Trauma Center at Rhode Island Hospital, was our guest speaker. He spoke about his trip with Americare to Lithuania to deliver polio vaccine for the children.

Providence hosted the NED meeting in April. Thirteen councils were represented. Spiritual Advisor, Rev. Peter Shakalis of Brockton celebrated Mass. It was hectic but we

combined the meeting with the Holy Hour. As is the custom, we remembered founder Mykolas Norkunas. Fr. Albin Janiunas of Lawrence spoke about Mr. Norkunas and the problems of Lithuanian youth today who have grown up under atheist teachings and are looking for direction.

Welcome back to Julia Menciunas, who has rejoined and has gladly offered her help on our various functions. We need more like you .... A Mass was offered by the K of L for Vytautas Kiela, Joe Kiela's brother, who passed away in Lithuania. Veronica Kiela's daughter arrived from Argentina in April for a visit that included a trip to Lithuania with Joe & Veronica in May .... Some of our other traveling members include Agnes Waitonis who was down in Orlando, FL for a week in January .... Ruth Krecioch traveled to New Hampshire for a couple of ski weekends with Reggie & Liudi Jagminas and baby Liudas, who is destined to be a ski whiz .... Marcy Krecioch Couit presented grandma Ruth with another grandson .... Bert Stoskus was in Ft. Meyers, FL and visited with Alice Zupko at her Bed & Breakfast, then spent time with niece Arlene Woike at her condo in Ft. Meyers Beach.

We are all looking forward to summer, the national convention in Worcester and, for some of us, the Knights of Lithuania pilgrimage to Lithuania. *Bertha R. Stoskus*

#### C-110 MASPETH, NY

Our springtime activities included a dinner dance on April 25. Over 150 members and guests danced to the music of Joe Thomas and feasted on a delicious turkey dinner with all the trimmings. Baskets of cheer and numerous prizes were raffled at the dance. Chairs Ed Sirgedas & Violet Zvirblis did a great job organizing the

event. We'd like to host more cultural events which bring members together for such festive and joyous occasions.

Other spring events included a winery tour on May 5, a trip to Atlantic City on May 13 and the joining of the Maspeth Veterans on May 30 Memorial Day Parade marching in memory of our fallen Lithuanian soldiers. At our monthly meeting, our Council was thanked for our food donations to Panevezys, and for contributing to the support of Dr. Ruta Zuklytė, an ophthalmologist studying new medical techniques here in New York.

Our Lithuanian language class is being held on Sundays after the 11:15 a.m. Mass and has been gradually expanding. Another shipment of food and clothing will be made to the Lithuanian orphanages and is being organized by Ann Morrissey. She has also received donations from the Council to purchase cloth baby diapers needed by the Vilnius orphanages.

Member Helen Cummins recently retired from 26 years of nursing service at Creedmore Psychiatric Center. We wish her well in her new endeavors .... On a sad note, our council lost member Jonas Penikas, husband of Marytė Penikas, president of the Transfiguration choir. Julia Matulevich lost her daughter, Patricia Turchuk, and Kazimieras Vainius lost his son, Peter Paul. We pray that they rest in peace.

*Mary Abbott*

#### C-140 SYRACUSE, NY

We has a nice Christmas brunch at the Ramada Inn on Dec. 13. A nice turnout of members and guests enjoyed good food, good conversation and a very pleasant get together .... C-140 was saddened by the passing of Paul Rudd on Jan. 7. Paul and his wife Dawn were active with us. He was a former Vice Pres. and a native of Chicago in the Brighton Park neigh-

borhood. We held the K of L Wake service and a number of members attended the funeral. Our condolences to Dawn and her family. May his soul rest in peace.

Our 75 Anniversary of Lithuanian Independence was an impressive affair. We all attended Mass at St. Stephen's and after Mass we retired to the church hall for a program, short meeting and refreshments. Catherine Brandt read the proclamation for 1993 and Frank Petrauskas read the original proclamation of 1918. He then elaborated on the meaning and reasoning of the actions taken by those delegates who signed that original proclamation. We concluded the program with the singing of the Lithuanian National Anthem. After a short meeting, our members and guests were treated to refreshments served by Cassie Stanley & Ruth Hare. A nice ending to an enjoyable morning!

Our St. Casimir's celebration was another enjoyable affair. We started off with Mass at St. Stephen's followed by a program, short meeting and refreshments in the church hall. Frank Petrauskas read about the life of St. Casimir and we had a discussion on his life. We enjoyed refreshments served by Catherine & Jack Brandt, assisted by Catherine's sister Sally and husband Bob Cummings. The two sisters then brought out a birthday cake in honor of their mother, Katherine Cravetts, our long time member who turned 85 on March 6. We sang Happy Birthday to Katherine and wished her well. Katherine Cravetts is an interesting person. She has been widowed a number of years. She raised and married off her two daughters to two fine gentlemen while working as a waitress in Edwards Tea Room. She enjoys good health and does her own housekeeping and cleaning. At Christ-

mas she decorates her apartment extensively, climbing up and down a stepladder as well as a person half her age. On many a holiday she has cooked dinner for all of her relatives. Katherine is very proud of her Lithuanian heritage. She has her fourth degree and until recent years attended a number of national conventions. Good luck and good health from all of us at C-140.

We would like to welcome a nice young fellow as a new member - John Tankalavage. John is a mailman in Syracuse. Welcome .... Arunas Juska is doing well at Michigan State University working toward his doctorate degree. He corresponds with us monthly. He will take a trip to Lithuania this summer to visit his parents and attend his sister's wedding .... Ray & Brenda Tamoshunas are doing well in Princeton, NJ. Brenda is working on her master's degree and Ray is working at Bristol Meyers Squibb .... Barb Petrauskas has been transferred from the Hilton Hotel in NYC to the Hilton in Orlando, FL. Barb is with the Human Resources Dept. .... Anita & Chris Fink are doing well at the University of New Hampshire where Anita teaches. Anita will go to Lithuania this summer and teach in the APPLE program .... Frank Petrauskas & Fr. Tom Kobuszewski are still sending out medicines to Lithuania. They have already sent out 37 boxes and are continuing to search for more .... Mary Zutant spent the Christmas season in Arizona with daughter Lorraine and family .... Veronica Sutkus spent January and February in Florida and reports enjoying every moment .... Dawn Rudd spent two weeks in Florida .... Kathy Petrauskas, who is a soloist with the Albany Pro Musica choral ensemble, participated with her group in a choral competition in San Anto-

nio, TX in March. She was also able to spend a few days with her brother Matt and his wife Jean in Dallas. She said it was nice to get away from all of the snow .... "Stormin" Norman Klimas spent a long weekend with friends in fun and games at Delta Lake in Rome, NY. *Pusbrolis*

#### C-141 BRIDGEPORT, CT

In February we prepared and successfully hosted Lithuania's 75th Independence Day celebration. In March we celebrated St. Casimir. On April 18 we met for official business which began after Mass with lunch served by our hostesses Stella Witkavich, Stefa Vaikutis & Barbara Schmidt. Our guest from Stamford, Janina Valiusaitis treated us with wine, cheese and crackers. How nice!

We discovered that, with enthusiastic generosity, we gave away so much for worthy causes that now we must make concrete plans to replenish "the till". For starters, a cake sale is planned for the near future. We are trying to increase our membership, which is up to 79, as reported by Lee Marcinka. Violeta Seliga was welcomed as our latest member.

Joseph Janiunas & Mitch Marcinauskas gave very informative reports on the latest conditions in Lithuania. Hopefully all Russian troops will be withdrawn prior to the Pope's visit in Sept. The economic situation is unbelievable. Inflation is 600%; unemployment 30%. American dollars are needed to make most purchases and they are scarce. The cost of necessities is like a nightmare!

Two new books are recommended to us: "The Night of the Hawk" by Dale Brown which takes place in Vilnius and "The New Russian" by Heinrich Smith. The first book is available in the library .... Attending the NED meeting in Providence were:

Lee Marcinka, Clemencine Miller, Ann Petrus, Evelyn Christian, Sophie & Peter Putrimas, Aldona & Peter Peters, Joseph Janiunas and Aldona & Sylvester Marcavage .... Get well wishes to Msgr. Francis Prancus who recently suffered a severe attack of laryngitis .... May the more pleasant weather of Spring bring good health to all.  
*Aldona Marcavage*

#### C-142 WASHINGTON, DC

The council celebrated in an unusual but appropriate manner on March 7 the 75th anniversary of the restoration of Lithuanian statehood and the 740th anniversary of the foundation of the Lithuanian nation by King Mindaugas.

Vincent Boris, Supreme Council chair for Lithuanian Affairs Committee addressed the council by reciting line by line the beautiful Lithuanian national anthem, relating each line to current historical, religious and cultural developments of the Lithuanian nation over the centuries. For those of us privileged to hear it, Vincent's rendition was a moving experience which strengthened the bonds uniting and identifying Lithuanians wherever they may be as a unique people, few in number but large in achievement.

The same presentation was given earlier at the Lithuanian Independence Day celebration in Baltimore, and Congresswoman Bentley of Maryland had the text reprinted verbatim in the Congressional Record of March 11, a singular honor for Vincent Boris and the Lithuanian people.

After the much appreciated talk, members discussed current developments in Lithuania, including the unexpected electoral results and the severe economic difficulties which the country is experiencing.

*Al Cizauskas*

#### C-146 HARRISBURG, PA

C-146 will be celebrating its 15th Anniversary into the Knights of Lithuania. Preparations are underway and everyone is looking forward to a grand reunion. Hopefully, we'll be able to locate many of the original members who moved from our area and invite them to attend.

Our Lithuanian language study group, which meets weekly, is progressing nicely under the direction and expertise of Stanley Brazinskas. Born and raised in Mariampole, Stanley is doing a superb job of conveying his knowledge of a very refined yet ancient language. Ačiū Stasys.

In response to ads placed in Lithuanian newspapers, for the purpose of

locating any known relatives of Jonas Zemaitis (my grandfather) who migrated to the USA in 1890, a letter was received from a 17-year old girl living in Kaunas. She is no relative of the Zemaitis family; however, because of the depressed conditions in Lithuania, she is looking for a Pen-Pal in this country to correspond with. Anyone between the ages of 15 to 20 looking for an opportunity to become a Pen-Pal, please write in Lithuanian or English to: Miss Vilma Balnytė, V. Krėvės 77-68, Kaunas, 30451, Lithuania. It is our moral obligation to help our fellow citizens in Lithuania. Your letter will be appreciated more than you realize. This is an excellent opportunity to encourage Lithuania's youth to help rebuild a culture that has been oppressed and rejected for the last 50 years. *Eduardas Zemaitis*

#### C-152 EASTERN LONG ISLAND, NY

C-152 has made its own contribution to a practice which seems to be taking hold among many K of L coun-



C-142: Seated: Julia Burlen, Mary Semel, Jean Lutwin, Irene Redecke, Mary Cosgrove, Vincent Boris. Standing: Kay Yankoski, Joe Chaplick, Al Cizauskas, John Waylonis, Claire Saponis, Leonard Redecke, Helen Szapkowski & Eleanor Depenbrock.



*C-146 Lithuanian Language Study Group: Jean Hallam, Rita Vaiksnoriene (visitor from Kaunas), Stella Graci, Gene Rusatsky. Back row: Eleanor Rusatsky*

cils: educating members in at least a rudimentary acquaintance with our Lithuanian language. For us, Fred Lucka, as Cultural Chair, introduced our Knights to the language of their forebears by conducting a series of lessons aimed at beginners.

Bertha Laukaitis has returned to us after a long sojourn in Florida, resuming her service to C-152 by taking on the important duties of Lithuanian Affairs Chair. We are also proud to note that Bertha's son, Daniel, has decided to join the Peace Corps, an organization whose volunteers are being welcomed more than ever for the range and depth of their skills. Even formerly Communist countries are eagerly seeking Peace Corps volunteers, particularly those competent to instruct their citizens in business and entrepreneurial skills and practices. Good luck, Daniel, and all success when you start your assignment, particularly in Lithuania.

*Tom Tarmey*

#### **C-147 ST. PETERSBURG, FL**

Easter Sunday dinner at the Lithuanian American Club was well at-

ended by many of our members. Easter eggs were very colorful and the meal and pyraga were especially good.

Balčiunas, OFM of St. Casimir Mission in St. Petersburg Beach on Dec. 2, 1992. He had been with us only since March (9 months). He came to us from St. Louis. A funeral Mass was held at Holy Name Church in Gulfport on Dec. 3 by the Provincial Rev. Barius Placidus.

Genovaite Bakas and her daughter have left for a trip to Australia .... A speedy recovery to Angela Shukis on her surgery in March. Also get well wishes to Vladas Gelažius who had open-heart surgery in April.

*Dolores Jonaitis*

#### **C-153 TREASURE COAST, FL**

A very large group of K of L members and other Lithuanians from Miami, Juno Beach, Lake Worth, Tequesta and the entire Gold and Treasure Coasts thoroughly enjoyed Ann Jillian's concert in

Ft. Lauderdale on Jan. 30. What talent! What personality! Ann's husband, Andy Murcia, presented her on stage as "our lovely red rose" enhanced with the Lithuanian colored ribbons for her 43rd birthday (Jan. 28). They graciously announced that the rose was from the Knights of Lithuania C-153. She received a standing ovation by all. Her son, Andy Joe, as she calls him, was one year old on Feb. 3. It was a wonderful afternoon!

Guests for the winter months were Irene & Kestutis Grikenis of C-72 Binghamton, NY. We enjoyed their company and hope they will join us again next winter.

On March 7, our annual St. Casimir's Day celebration was glorious! The sun was shining and the palm trees were swaying on an ideal Florida day. Preceding Mass, Rev. Pikturna explained the symbolism of the lilies, crown of thorns and the regal crown pertaining to St. Casimir. Mass was preceded by a procession into St. Paul of the Cross Church in No. Palm Beach by the following: John Tomasauskas, who carried the cross; Felix Zorskis



*C-147 Msgr. Juozas Antanavičius from Lithuania. Bernice Weber, Angela Shukis & Irena Diktanas at St. Casimir Day celebration.*

who carried our new Lithuanian flag made by Aldona Bilunas; Jim Marcinkus, who carried the American flag; Frances Daniels who carried the crown of thorns; Nellie Balbota, who carried the spray of white lilies.

Next, Rev. Pikturna, our spiritual advisor, presented the 4th degree medal and certificate to our first president of C-153, Constance Scheibelhut. Following this, John Tomasauskas received his 3rd degree medal and certificate. John is always there to help us with everything. Congratulations to both Connie & John!

Mass was offered by Rev. Pikturna. Lector was Aldona Bilunas and Eucharistic Minister was Charlene Zorskis. Soloist was Ona Jameikis of the Palm Beach Opera Co. The "Dainos" choras was directed by Irena Manomaitiene. Organist was Luidas Stukas. It is so gratifying to hear our Lithuanian hymns again. Immediately following Mass, we all congregated at the new oceanfront hotel, the Embassy Suites ballroom on Singer Island for our banquet. Chair was Frances Daniels. Food was excellent and ample

for our Lithuanian appetites. Speaker was Birute Pautenas of Pompano Beach who recently returned from Lithuania. She spoke about marketing and business in Lithuania. She asked that anyone with professional skills in marketing, business, medical, etc. would consider going to Lithuania to help guide the people there with their knowledge and expertise. The raffle consisted of 25 gifts and was a huge success. It included a beautiful painting of the Lithuanian Wayside Cross painted by Aldona Bilunas, our talented artist of C-153. The picture was won by John Marcinka of C-152 Eastern Long Island, NY. The entire day was enjoyed by all present. Committee consisted of: Frances Daniels, chair; James Marcinkus; Felix Zorskis; Mike Yudiskas & Florence Miskinis.

We hope to see all of you at the convention in Worcester!

*Florencija Miskinis*

#### C-154 SPRING HILL, FL

For this issue I ask for your indulgence as I ignore the editorial "We"

and make this report a somewhat personal one.

In order to allow my cousin, Dovelie Usas of Kaunas a taste of Florida and its glorious weather, my brother Fr. Bernard Gustas, pastor of St. Joseph's Church and administrator of Holy Cross Lithuanian Church in Schenectady came to visit us. Many K of L members joined my husband and me at the AP Club to demonstrate our style of life as retirees. You can't imagine her reaction. She could not believe that we smiled, laughed, danced and seemed to enjoy every minute with high spirits. She loved shopping in our malls. The generous outpouring of instant affection and gifts left Dovelie, an operating room nurse, speechless. Incidentally, because she is very tall, she played basketball as a student and had flown to Russia for a tournament.

We now embark on a summer regimen because many of our members leave for the north for the season of greening. Stay well and above all happy!

*S. G. Petraitis*

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#### BIRZELIS (Cont'd from Page 11)

the Soviet Union, the news of the war was greeted with unconcealed joy. The nation was electrified by the Kaunas radio broadcast a day later proclaiming the revolt against the Soviets, the restoration of Lithuanian independence and the formation of a provisional government. All this took place while uniformed Russian soldiers were still walking the streets of Kaunas and Red Army units were still close to the radio tower. The same day, partisans took over police stations and several arsenals in Kaunas. They saved the city's telephone exchange from demolition by the Soviets and freed political

prisoners. From Kaunas the revolt swiftly spread into the country. Many cities and villages were cleaned of Bolshevik troops days before the Germans occupied them. The Nazis would hear nothing of Independence and the mighty German army crushed the uprising. When the Nazis were crushed, Russia again took over Lithuania and continued mass killing and deportation to Siberia. Lithuania has finally regained her Independence but is still struggling and yearning for a democratic Lithuania.

#### BROTHER JUNIPER



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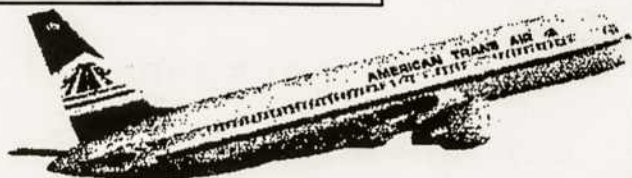
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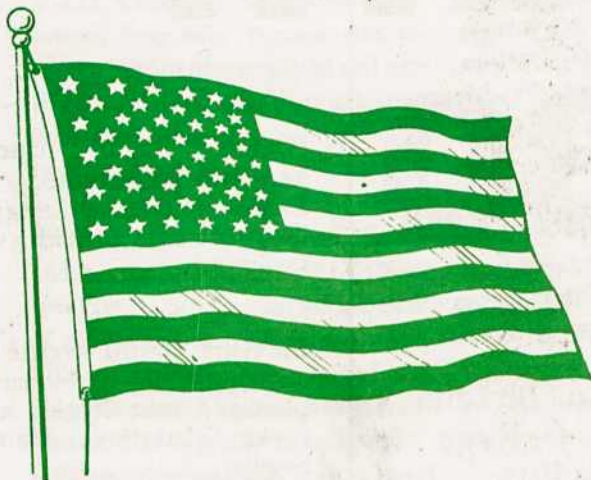
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 VYTIS - THE KNIGHT  
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FLAG DAY - JUNE 14, 1993 . . . . .

## JUST A PIECE OF CLOTH



That is all it is — just a piece of cloth. But when a little breeze comes along, it stirs and comes to life and flutters and snaps in the wind, all RED, AND WHITE, AND BLUE! And then you realize that no other piece of cloth could be like it!

It has your whole life wrapped up in it — the meals you eat; the time you spend with your family; the kind of things your boy and girl learn at school; the strange and wonderful thoughts you get in church on Sunday.

Those stars in it - they make you feel just as free as the stars in the wide deep night. And those stripes - they are bars of blood to any dictator who would try to change this way of life.

Just a piece of cloth, that is all - until you put your soul into it, and give it meaning. Then it is a symbol of liberty, and decency, and fair-dealing for everyone. It is just a piece of cloth until we breathe life into it; until we make it stand for everything we believe in, and refuse to live without it.

*Author Unknown*

### CALENDAR of EVENTS

- 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.
- September 26, 1993 - NED Meeting. Hosts C-17 So. Boston, MA.
- October 1-2-3, 1993 - MCD Meeting & Pilgrimage, Cleveland, OH. Hosts: C-25
- October 9, 1993 - C-29 Newark, NJ Dinner & Dance.
- October 17, 1993 - NED Cultural Festival, Maironis Park, Shrewsbury, Hosts C-17 So. Boston and C-116 Worcester, MA.
- October 24, 1993 - C-29 Newark, NJ Chinese Auction.
- November 14, 1993 - C-79 Southfield, MI - Fall Festival.