

WYTIŚ

KNIGHTS OF LITHUANIA

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Paulius Augius

The First Christmas

VYTIS

KNIGHTS OF LITHUANIA

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All correspondence should reach the Editor by the **FIRST OF THE MONTH**, two months in advance of the issue, (e.g., January 1 for the March issue). Except for the information contained in the **Official News** section of the journal, The Knights of Lithuania and the Editor assume no responsibility for the statements or opinions expressed by any contributors nor any obligation to return any unsolicited material or photos.

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In the Spirit of Giving ...

DR. MICHAEL YUDD

LITHUANIAN AMERICAN HUMANITARIAN

by Loretta I. Stukas

To some, the Christmas Season means a month or so of shopping, partying, attending special church services, and meeting family members and old friends. To Dr. Michael Yudd, Christmas and the spirit of giving lasts year round. Through his connections in the Knights of Lithuania, Americans for Independent Lithuania (AIL), and the medical profession, Dr. Yudd has found the means to aid countless Lithuanians, including orphans, those suffering with kidney disease, and medics wanting to learn the "American Way" of treating patients.

Dr. Yudd, (whose family's Lithuanian surname was Judzevicius), learned an appreciation of his Lithuanian heritage from his four Lithuanian-born grandparents and his early membership in Sts. Peter and Paul Lithuanian parish in Elizabeth, NJ. After graduating from St. Benedict High School in Newark, NJ and St. Joseph College in Philadelphia, PA, Mike Yudd completed medical school in Italy.

He did his resident training at the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey (UMDNJ) and at Boston University. His specialty is Internal Medicine, with emphasis on Kidney Disease. Dr. Yudd is currently the President the the NJ Nephrology Society, Medical Director of the Dialysis Unit of the East Orange, NJ Veterans' Administration Hospital, and an Assistant Professor of Medicine at UMDNJ.

Michael has a brother and sister also in the medical profession. His brother is in Nuclear Medicine and Radiology, his sister is a Podiatrist. Michael married Kathleen Tarento 8 years ago. They have a son Paul, age 6, and recently, they adopted a son Andrew, now age 2 1/2, from Lithuania.

From the beginning of his medical practice, Dr. Yudd has been drawn to volunteer work in Medical Charities. Through the Catholic Mission Hospital, Mike did short term volunteer work over several years in Ghana, West Africa for two months, in Bolivia for one month, and in the South Caribbean for one month.

In 1991, his neighbors Emilia and Bert Sadonis invited him to a meeting of the NJ-based "Americans for an Independent Lithuania", a meeting during which Mike learned of the medical and other needs of Lithuania and decided to redirect his energies toward helping Lithuania.



He and Mrs. Yudd also decided, after an unsuccessful attempt to adopt a child from South America (an attempt which cost them \$2,500), to try to adopt a child from Lithuania. Mike wrote to then Pres. Landsbergis expressing interest in a child. Then Minister of Health Olekas invited Mike to Lithuania to select a child. In Lithuania (his first trip there), Dr. Yudd met little Andrew, then 8 months old, but learned that a moratorium had been placed on Lithuanian adoptions. A few months after returning home without Andrew, Mike and Kathleen received a call from Lithuania, inviting them back to proceed with the adoption. Andrew is now two and a half years old, their legal son, an American citizen, and a joy to the family. Mike later helped his friends the Sadonis' to also adopt a Lithuanian child.

Dr. Yudd's interest in Lithuania was only enhanced by the adoption. During his first trip, Yudd became acquainted with Dr. Balys Dainys, head of Lithuania's Kidney Foundation and with Dr. Danguole Jankauskiene, Lithuania's Associate Minister of Health, especially for Women and Children. Through these two people and others, Yudd learned of many specific health needs in Lithuania, and proceeded to find the means to fill these needs, at least in part. Last April, Mike made his third trip to Lithuania, for two weeks, during which he gave lectures on the treatment of kidney disease, visited and evaluated all dialysis centers in Lithuania, and discussed new projects with

his friends in the medical profession there. He was accompanied by Steve Livanavage, who owns a company which manufactures kidney dialysis equipment, and who has been most generous in providing Lithuanian physicians with some of this equipment.

In the past two years, Mike Yudd has succeeded in sending to the Vilnius University's Kidney Clinic 7 dialysis machines donated by the Veterans' Hospital, as well as many laboratory supplies and medications. He obtained donations of urological equipment and a variety of expensive transplant medications from American firms for various dialysis centers in Lithuania. When Dr. Dainys reported dire shortages of specific medications, Dr. Yudd appealed to the K of L or AIL for emergency donations of the needed medications.

Through Dr. Jankauskiene, he learned of other medical needs of mothers and children and contacted various organizations to donate funds and supplies. When he learned that school children of Vilnius were suffering from head lice because of the shortage of hot water, he asked AIL to donate and send several gallons of medicated shampoo to the schools.

With Steve Livanavage, Dr. Yudd filled a 40 foot container with dialysis supplies and machines, wheelchairs and other equipment for handicapped children, medications donated by the Catholic Mission Board, equipment and medications donated by the Deborah Heart and Lung Center, text books, optometry equipment, and other supplies. The container was sent to Dr. Dainys and others in Lithuania by the Knights of Lithuania's "Aid to Lithuania" Committee.

Dr. Yudd's current project involves Rita, a 2 1/2 year old girl in Lithuania, who was born with arms ending at the elbow. Mike met her in the Children's Home in Vilnius during his last trip there. When he returned, he arranged for the "Healing the Children"/New Jersey organization to bring Rita to New Jersey for corrective surgery and fitting of prostheses to provide her with arms and hands. He also arranged for foster families to care for Rita and her care-taker companion during her stay here. AIL has volunteered to finance transportation for Rita and her companion.

Dr. Yudd's philosophy in providing help to Lithuania is one of "plugging holes" or "filling gaps." He recognizes that no one person can provide a cure for all of Lithuania's ills, but each person should do whatever he/she can to help individual cases, and encourage others to do likewise. Michael Yudd prefers to work through organizations, and to that end, he belongs to K of L, Council 29, Newark, NJ, is on the Advisory Board of the K of L's "Aid to Lithuania" Committee, and is active in the Americans for an

Independent Lithuania. He regrets that he is not fluent in Lithuanian, but is taking courses to correct that situation.

Lithuanian doctors and hospitals depend on donations from the West for about 95% of their needed medications and equipment. But Dr. Yudd is optimistic about the future. In his trips to Lithuania, he found the medical personnel to be competent, enthusiastic, and eager to cure. He only visited one orphanage, in Vilnius, but found it to be providing good care to its children. Vaccines to prevent severe diseases are practically non-existent, as are vitamins, pain medicine, and many antibiotics.

When asked what American Lithuanian organizations and individuals can do to help, Mike's first suggestion was to contribute to the "Aid to Lithuania" committee, which sends millions of dollars worth of medications and equipment for just the cost of shipping the containers. Smaller donations of vital medicines to respond to individual needs are also important. Dr. Yudd also suggested that medical specialists in the US should get involved in visiting and helping Lithuania. They would find this very rewarding.



Michael & Kathleen Yudd with sons Paul and Andrew.

On behalf of the members of the Knights of Lithuania, we thank Dr. Michael Yudd for his many and continuous contributions to Lithuania's needy, and for being such a fine role model for all of us. We wish Dr. Yudd and his beautiful family many years of happiness, and fitting rewards for their outstanding generosity.

A WEEKEND WITH A CAUSE A TRIP TO MICHIGAN TO PACK MEDICAL SUPPLIES (AID TO LITHUANIA INC. PROJECT)

Arrangements were made so people from Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Ohio, and Tennessee would gather for a weekend in Detroit, Michigan. The first group to arrive was from Dayton. Eric Geiger, Elena Mikalauskas, and Rob Pant, C-96, Dayton, were soon greeted by Regina Juska, C-102, Detroit. Lillian Petravicus Mid-Central District President, C-139, Detroit, then arrived at the Hampton Inn to join in the welcoming. After a quick hello, we were off to the Detroit Metro to pick up Mark Bell, C-3, Philadelphia, a new K of L member who was flying in from Nashville. An unexpected flat tire detained us at the airport, but the guys had the tire fixed in no time and we headed back to the hotel to await the arrival of the final group. When Rob Martin, Phyllis Pelletier, and Rita Zakarka, C-112, Chicago, arrived from the Chicago area, the weekend officially began. The excitement of the reunion made it difficult to relax enough to sleep, so the group stayed up into the early morning hours reminiscing from the recent trip to Lithuania. We looked at many photo albums filled with memories from the trip and sang from those famous song sheets that were so often used during the tour of Lithuania.

The Saturday sun was up before we knew it, and the group was off to complete a mission. Bob Boris and Lillian met us at the hotel and drove us to World Medical Relief. We met local K of L members, Donna Bunikis, Frank Bunikis, Albert Cerekas, Niojle Cerekas, Regina Pikunas and Ona Sadeikiene, C-1, and other volunteers that were there to pack medical supplies during the morning hours. After the packing was completed, we were off to Canada for lunch. As odd as it may sound, we drove to Canada to eat at a Chinese

restaurant called *Shin Shin's*. We had an opportunity to tour the river front admiring the views of the Detroit skyline. Upon returning to the hotel, we once again viewed pictures from the Lithuanian trip and made requests so all albums would be complete. Some group members then chose to relax while others went to an area mall. We reunited that evening for dinner and continued talking, singing, and dancing. We even called Father Joe Anderlonis for some spiritual guidance.

Sunday morning, we ventured to St. Anthony's Church. Upon realizing that there was not an organist, we elected Regina to inform the priest that we wanted to sing. Rob Martin lead the group in song. Following Mass, we had an appetizing brunch including cepelinai, and enjoyed playing the raffles during the parish picnic. Before we knew it, the weekend was over and the time had arrived when we needed to say our goodbyes. We made plans to keep in touch and meet again.

Eric Geiger, Elena Mikalauskas, and Rob Pant



Sitting — Phyllis Pelletier, Rita Zakarka, Mark Bell, Rob Pant, Eric Geiger, Regina Juska, Rob Martin, Lillian Petravicus (that's a hero sandwich on the table).



Selected Lithuanian Christmas Traditions

compiled by
Danutė Brazytė Bindokienė

Christmas Eve

Preparations for Christmas Eve take all day. The house is cleaned, food prepared not only for the special supper (*Kūčios*) but also for the first day of Christmas. People fast and abstain from meat.

Although official fasting no longer exists, we should refrain from meat on Christmas Eve so as to preserve Lithuanian tradition. It is vitally important that the Christmas Eve dinner (or supper) include no meat dishes because it could then no longer be called *Kūčios* but an ordinary meal prepared for any other evening.

On Christmas Eve, the house must be thoroughly cleaned, all the bed linens changed and all family members must bathe and don clean clothes before the evening meal. For the Christmas Eve dinner, the table is prepared as follows: a handful of fine hay is spread evenly on the table. This is a reminder that Jesus was born in a stable and laid in a manger on hay. The table is then covered with a pure white tablecloth, set with plates and decorated with candles and fir boughs. Live flowers are inappropriate for the table, in particular, red or white poinsettias which are so popular in some countries at Christmastime. A small plate with as many Christmas wafers as there are persons present is placed in the center of the table. In some Lithuanian regions these wafers were called God's cakes (*Dievo pyragai*) for they were obtained from the parish and were imprinted with Biblical scenes of Jesus' birth. Although *plotkelė* was the popular and better known term, the word is borrowed from the Slavic. It is better to say *paplotėlis*, *plokstainėlis* or even *Dievo pyragas*.

All family members make an effort to come home for the Christmas Eve supper, even from a distance. Perhaps not so much for the meal as for the sacred family ritual which draws the family members closer, banding everyone and strengthening warm family ties. If a family member has died that year or cannot attend the meal (only for very serious reasons) an empty place is left at the table.

A plate is still placed on the table and a chair is drawn up, but no spoons, knives or forks are set. A small candle is placed on the plate and lit during the meal. It is believed that the spirit of the deceased family member participated in the *Kūčios* along with everyone.

Long ago, the principal dish was a mixture of various cooked grains: wheat, barley, oats, peas and beans. This mixture was called *kūčia*. It was eaten with honey diluted with warm boiled water. The word *kūčia* itself comes from the Belyorussian and means a porridge of dried grain.

Twelve different dishes are served on the table because Jesus had twelve apostles. All the dishes are strictly meatless: fish, herring, *slizikai* with poppy seed milk, *kisielius* (cranberry pudding), a dried fruit soup or compote, a salad of winter and dried vegetables, mushrooms, boiled or baked potatoes, sauerkraut (cooked, of course, without meat) and bread. In keeping with Lithuanian Christmas tradition, only the dishes as they were prepared in Lithuania for this meal should be eaten and fresh fruit, fresh vegetables, exotic seafood should be left for another meal. It must not be forgotten that Lithuania is a northern European country where cucumbers, tomatoes, grapes, etc., do not grow in winter. The people whose lifestyle produced the *Kūčios* traditions made do with foodstuffs prepared in the summer and fall: dried, pickled and otherwise preserved for the winter.

In certain Lithuanian regions, apples were placed on the table because December 24th is the feast day of Adam and Eve. The apples recalled our first parents through whose sin mankind fell and that the world was saved through the submissiveness of the New Eve — Mary, the Mother of God — to God's will.

Everyone gathers at the dinner table as soon as the first star appears in the sky. If the night is cloudy, the meal begins when the father or grandfather announces it is time to eat. When everyone is assembled at the table, a prayer is said. The father then takes a wafer and offers it to the mother wishing her a Happy Christmas. "God grant that we are all together again next year," the mother responds and breaks off a piece of wafer. She offers the father her wafer in return. The father then offers his wafer to every family member or guest at the table. The mother does likewise. After them, all the diners exchange greetings and morsels of wafer. Care is taken not to skip anyone for that means terrible misfortune or even death the following year. In breaking a piece of wafer, each tries to get a piece larger than that remaining in the other's hand for it

means his year will be better. The person holding the wafer tries to prevent a large piece being taken for this will "break his luck."

If apples are placed on the table, the mother takes an apple after the wafers have been shared, cuts it into as many pieces as there are diners and gives the father the first piece. This symbolized the fall of the first parents when Eve gave Adam the apple which he took and ate. Then, the apple pieces are distributed to those at the table.

The order of eating the other dishes is not established, everyone eats what he wishes, but it is essential to at least taste every food. Whoever skips a *Kūčios* dish will not survive until the next Christmas Eve.

The meal is eaten solemnly, there is little conversation or joking and alcoholic beverages are not served. If anyone needs to drink, water, homemade cider or fruit juice is served. After the meal is consumed, no one hurries to leave the table: the first to rise while another is still eating will die first. The family remains seated, the mood lightens, predictions and forecasts are done about next year, health, happiness, love and etc. Christmas Eve is rich in prognostications.

Here is but a small sampling of prophecies and divinations:

- While seated at the table, look at the walls where the candlelight casts the shadows of those dining. If your shadow is large, wide and of the whole person, the year will be good, there will be no illness, everything will go well. If the shadow lacks a head a terrible calamity will occur; if it is skinny, unclear and wavering, the year will be difficult.

- A stem of hay is pulled from under the tablecloth. It cannot be picked, the first one the fingers encounter must be drawn. If a long slender stalk is withdrawn the girl can expect a tall slender husband (or at least beau), while a short, fat, bent stalk means a short, fat crooked husband. If this happens to a man, his future wife will be slender and tall or fat and short like the straw drawn. Married persons can also guess next year's happiness from the kind of stalk pulled. A thin stem indicates a flat, empty wallet, a "lean" year, while a fat one means a prosperous year, a full wallet. If a married woman pulls a straw thicker in the middle, she will have a baby that year.

- Other predictions may be made while still at table. Three plates are used, a key is placed under one, a ring under the second and a coin under the third. The plates are mixed and one is chosen. The ring signifies love, marriage; the key means owning an apartment or house; while the coin indicates a prosperous year. A piece of paper is crumpled, placed on a plate or cutting board and its shadow examined. The first impression is decisive. If a form of transportation is seen, the person will travel a great deal next year; if a house or building, a move will be made to a new

place; if a flower or other plant, a wedding will be held; if a cradle, a new family member will arrive; if a coffin or burning candle, death. Similar prognostications are performed by pouring melted wax into cold water and examining its shadow.

After everyone leaves the table, the food is left to stand overnight. The spirits of deceased relatives or loved ones will visit the home during the night and eat. It was believed that the baby Jesus allows the souls of all the departed to return to earth to visit their families. It would be disgraceful to have the visiting spirits return without taking refreshments.

The country people believed that Christmas Eve night was miraculous: various omens and rituals could not only be used to predict the future, but all of nature felt the significance of the night. At exactly midnight all animals were able to speak like humans. But, to listen to their conversation was extremely dangerous because you could learn the day of your death. At precisely midnight all water turns into wine, you must simply hit the correct moment which is of very short duration. If the sky is clear on Christmas Eve night and full of stars, the year will be good. That night you must also pray before retiring else nightmares will trouble you all year.

- After dinner a girl sweeps the floor, pours the sweepings into her apron, takes them to a crossroads and tosses them out. Then she stands and listens from which side dogs are barking, from there she will get a husband.

- Sitting with her back to the door, a girl throws a shoe over her head: if the shoe lands with the toe toward the door she will leave home that year (marry, go to a distant school; a man will leave for the army, a faraway job, etc.). If the shoe heel faces the door, he or she will remain at home.

- All the shoes in the house are gathered together and placed in a pile, they are then lined up one behind the other to the door. The person whose shoe touches the door will be the first to leave home (some say, the first to die).

- To see the future, go into an empty room after the Christmas Eve supper, prop a mirror against the door, bend down and look at the mirror through your legs: you will see your future husband or wife.

- Take a full glass of water, a gold wedding band, a mirror and two candles. Place all the items on a white tablecloth. The wedding band is dropped into the glass, the candles are lit and placed on either side of the mirror. Sit in front of the mirror, take the ring out of the glass with your fingers and then drop it back in. Do this three times. The third time you remove the ring from the water, look through it into the mirror: you will see your future or the man you will marry.

- Drip several drops of wax from a blessed candle into a cold glass of water. Place the glass by your bed. That night you will dream about your future spouse.

• Take a bowlful of water and twelve pieces of paper written with men's names. Fold the papers over the bowl's rim so that one half hangs over the water. Place a piece of candle into a sliver of potato or turnip, light it and float it on the water. Stir the water with a finger to cause the candle to float around. The paper at which it stops or which it sets on fire indicates your husband's name. Questions about the coming year can also be written on the pieces of paper, but the answer can only be "yes" or "no." The paper which the candle lights or at which it stops means that those things will come true.

• The simplest form of fortunetelling is to count in twos. Dry *sližikai*, matches, peas, firewood by the hearth, candy or anything else can be counted. If it comes out in pairs, a wedding will take place next year.

After the *burtai* are done, the family gathers around the Christmas tree. A beautiful tradition is singing Christmas carols in unison and reading Bible excerpts about Christ's birth. The reading is usually done by the oldest family member. If you still have grandparents (or parents) who were born and lived in Lithuania, ask them to relate how they celebrated Christmas when they were little. It would be good to tape the entire family program, later include the date and put it away. It will become very precious when the children are grown and the grandparents no longer living.

Christmas presents and Santa Claus (*Kalėdų senelis*) were relatively new things in Lithuania during the period of independence. Earlier, people celebrated Christmas not for the presents but because it was the birthday of God's Son. The *Kūčios* meal, prayers said in unison and an opportunity to spend time with loved ones were quite sufficient to create a festive atmosphere. In more recent times, however, things we are accustomed to see in other, non-Christian countries were added: Christmas trees, gifts, tinsel, Santa Claus.



Even when Christmas trees were decorated and gifts expected in Lithuania, the children had to "earn" those gifts. When he arrived, Santa Claus required the children to perform. Every child did what he could: some recited poems, others sang, danced or played an instrument. If Santa Claus did not come in person, the children still had to perform, because Santa "sees all" and will see them also. After presents were exchanged, the children usually went to bed while the adults went to Midnight Mass (which is still called *Bernelių* — Shepherds' Mass).

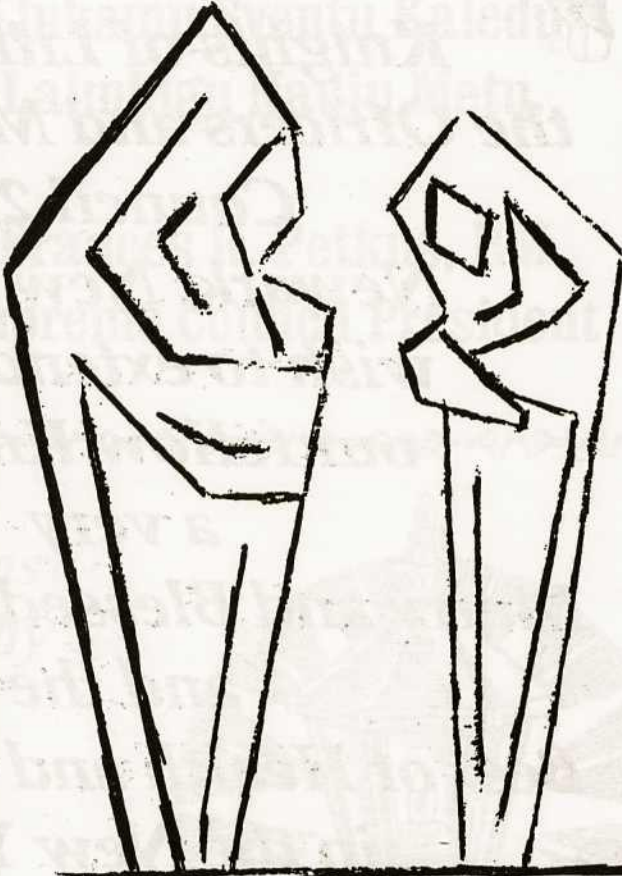
It should be mentioned here that at Christmastime, Lithuania is already in the grip of winter. The fields are covered with sparkling snow, streams, rivers and lakes are under ice. Country roads were also snow-covered and the people usually travelled in sleighs. On Christmas Eve night, bells were attached to the horses' harnesses: sometimes one or two or an entire string of bells. Sometimes small, high-pitched hand-bells or a good-sized bell. From all sides on Christmas Eve night resounded with the chiming and tinkling of bells: near and far, soft and loud... The mysterious, quiet night air of Christ's Birth resonated with endless ringing, the murmur of sliding sleighs and Christmas joy.

From: "Lithuanian Customs and Traditions by Danutė Brazytė Bindokienė, published by the Lithuanian World Community, Inc., 1989, Chicago, Illinois. Translated from the Lithuanian by Vita Matusaitis. Used by permission,



**The Warmest Of Greetings
For A Merry Christmas
And The Best Of
New Years
To All Our Fellow
Members And Friends.**

**The Members
Of The
Supreme Council**



Come
let us
adore Him

Linkime Visiems Vyčiams

Linksmų Šv. Kalėdų

ir

Laimingų Naujųjų Metų

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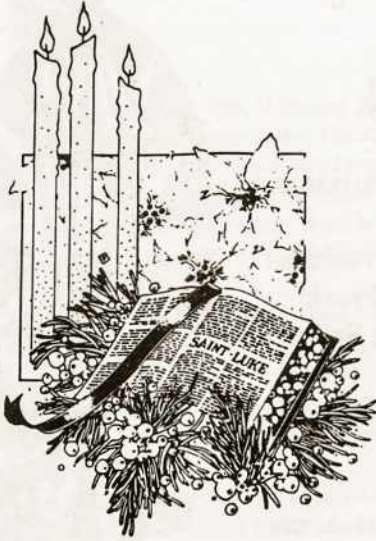


***In this the
80th Anniversary
of the
Knights of Lithuania
the Officers and Members of
Council 29,
Newark, New Jersey
wish to extend to all
our fellow Knights
a very
Merry and Blessed Christmas
and the
Best of Health and Happiness
in the New Year.***



***Linksmų Kalėdų
ir
Laimingų Naujų Metų***

**May the Joy and Peace
of Christmas be with you
throughout the year.**



**Linksmų Šventų Kalėdų
Laimingų Naujų Metų.**

**Frances R. Petkus, HM
Supreme Council President**



*A Blessed Christmas
and a Happy, Healthy
New Year.*

*From the Officers,
Members and Juniors
of
Council 136
Hudson-Mohawk,
New York*



**LINKSMŲ ŠVENTŲ KALĖDŲ
IR
LAIMINGŲ NAUJŲ METŲ.**

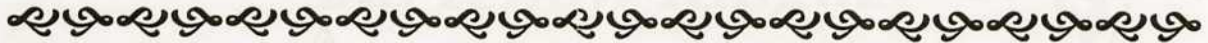


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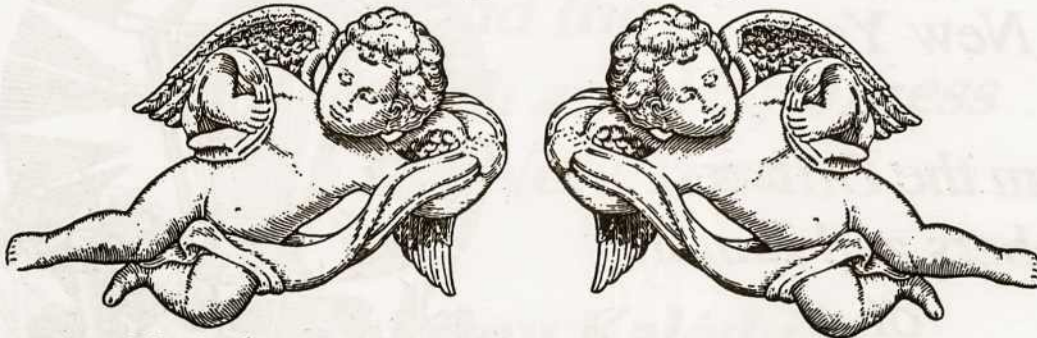
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Sergeant-at-Arms



Council 141, Bridgeport, CT



**Visiems Vyčiams ir Draugams Širdingausi Linkėjimai
Šv. Kalėdų Švenčių Proga.**



**Knights of Lithuania Council 103
Providence, RI**

Holiday Greetings to all Knights of Lithuania.



THE LEGACY

By John M. Grenda-Lukas

"It's still snowing out Ona. If Gramps doesn't get here soon, there'll be so much snow he won't be able to make it."

"Don't worry Jonas, a little snow won't stop Gramps from getting here. Don't you remember the stories he used to tell us about the old country; especially about how much snow there used to be and how he always got to Grandma's house?"

"Yes, but somehow I feel that this time there will be too much snow, and he won't make it to our *Kucios* dinner. What would Christmas be like without Gramps?"

"Not a happy one I'm sure, but we'd manage. There'll always be another Christmas next year. Maybe it won't snow as much then."

"I wish it would stop snowing! I've been looking out this window at the snow falling for it seems so long. I'm completely bored."

"It'll stop soon. Don't worry Jonas."

The two children, Ona and Jonas, continued to watch the snow fall for what seemed like a long time. At any moment they hoped to see the familiar figure of Grandpa Pranciskas coming up the snow-bound driveway to the farmhouse on a soon approaching Christmas Eve meal. Soon they were interrupted by their mother, Adela Pranciskiene, who was busy in the kitchen preparing all the fixings and trimmings for the seven course fish dinner and the pastries for the holiday season. Gramps had explained what *Kucios* was all about — a symbolical meal patterned after the "Last Supper" which helped Lithuanians to remember the birth of Christ by observing a day of fast before the Christmas celebration in which they would give thanks for their good fortune in the past year and hope for its continuance in the new year. But would Gramps make the celebration? This is what kept going through Jonas' mind until he was interrupted by his mother calling him from the kitchen:

"Jonas, have you seen any sign of your grandpa yet?"

"No, Ma, I'm getting worried that he won't make it."

"Instead of worrying and wasting your time sitting there, why don't you and Ona go up into the attic and look at the trunk full of things your Grandma saved from the old country? Maybe that will keep you from worrying and help to pass the time away."

"That's a great idea Mom. This time Ona and I will remember to put everything away."

"Okay, don't forget that you still have to bring in some hay for the dinner table."

"Yeah Ma, I won't forget. Come on Ona, let's get out the pile of letters Gramps wrote to Grandma before she came to America to marry him. I still haven't read all of them."

"Okay, Jonas, we can also keep an eye on the driveway from the attic window while we read those letters."

*** *** *** ***

A few moments later, the two teenagers had climbed the attic stairs and had made their way over to the trunk in which Grandma Pranciskiene had stored all her important remembrances. By now, they had sorted through the pile of letters from relatives, and the endless number of pictures of relatives they had never seen, and had been puzzled by the writing in Lithuanian and Russian which their mother had translated for them. They were unable to read or write the old language and could hardly speak it except for a few words. They could understand only a few basic words. Both were sorry they could not speak, read, or write their own national language. The process of Americanization of immigrant families had deprived the third generation of the legacy of their grandparents' language, but not of their customs and stories of the old country. The children hoped that someday they could relearn their language and also speak English and be bilingual. It was a cruel custom of Americanization that they had to be deprived of their birthright. Maybe future waves of immigrant grandchildren would be more fortunate.

*** *** *** ***

"Hey, Jonas, look at this letter tied in a red ribbon with the Russian postmark! There's both a letter from Gramps and Gram. Ma has translated both of them into English."

"Wow! I've never seen these before. Where did you find them?"

"They were in this envelope with the birth certificates which we were told not to open because they were very fragile."

"I hope Ma won't be angry with you Ona. You know we were not supposed to handle those papers in that envelope. Ma had been saving them for special reasons unknown to us."

"Well, now that I've opened the packet, I might as well read them. Which do you want first? Gramp's or Gram's?"

"Read Gramp's first? His letters are better, I think!"

"Okay Jonas, here goes..."



December 25, 1911

My Dearest Juoze,

It is the morning of Christmas Day, and I have just returned from Midnight Mass. Everything in this country is wonderful, but I miss you and my parents, friends, and all the familiar places and things of my homeland. At times, such as now, I remember back to the times before I left home and wish that I were back home with you, doing the things that I had always done, going to the old familiar places, and meeting all my friends. I have been fortunate in making new friends in America, but I miss you Juoze and wait for the day when you will join me in America as my wife and we can have that large family of children and work a farm as we had planned before I came to America to escape conscription into the Czar's army.

When I left home and those I held most dear, especially you Juoze, I was lucky to find a farmer heading towards Vilnius, the capital city. Whenever any soldiers or governmental officials were in sight, I would hide under the straw in the back of the wagon among all the vegetables. I was even luckier when the farmer decided to help me escape from the Czar's soldiers by taking me all the way to the seacoast, to our country's only port — Klaipeda. You remember it probably from your geography lessons as Memel, the name given to it by the Prussian Knights in their crusade to make all Lithuanians followers of the Roman Catholic religion. At Klaipeda, I was able to stowaway on a cattle boat which I had heard was sailing directly for America. As a stowaway, I had to be careful not to be caught and thrown overboard, or worse of all, be turned over to the nearest Russian consulate whenever we stopped in a port, and sent back to face the punishment I had incurred by trying to disobey the Czar's orders.

The passage was very difficult and rough, and I soon became very seasick. After a few days, I was okay and had gained my sealegs, but I had to find some food. I was caught by the cook trying to steal some of the Blynai he had left to keep warm one night on the back of the stove. But I was lucky he didn't turn me in. In return for helping him, I was fed and given a warm place to hide. Whenever the Captain or the others were about, he kept an eye out for me so I would not be caught.

Eventually, the day arrived when the boat sailed up the Hudson River into the harbor of New York City. I was happy, but yet sad to leave the last vestiges of contact with my homeland. But I was in America to make a new life for myself. It was my second chance — a chance to be free to do what I wanted with my life. America is a place of freedom and a place

where everyone is equal. Everyone who wants to, can work at a well-paying job of his choice depending upon his educational background. Everyone who saves his money can buy his own home — our home for you Juoze, and I, and our children. Everyone has the right to vote for governmental leaders, to voice his own opinions even if critical of authority, and to give his children an education which is not just for the children of the rich. Everyone has the right to improve himself. Everyone is, according to the Constitution, entitled to many rights and has the equal protection of the laws. Here there is the same justice for everyone. Here everyone has the right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness as long as he works hard, earns his own way, and does not break the law.

As we sailed into New York Harbor, I couldn't help but be awed by the skyline — so many tall buildings. Such a big city New York is. So many people of so many different nationalities and with so many different customs all welcomed into America, the melting pot which accepted all and gave all a chance to a new life away from oppression of all kinds. Also, I couldn't help but notice the Statue of Liberty — a woman in classical garb, holding a torch of liberty in her hand — commemorating the freedom attained by the American and French Revolutions. It was a gift, I was told by the cook, of the French government in 1884, and paid for by popular subscription of one half million dollars. It was the idea of Edouard Laboulaye and sculpted by Frederick Auguste Bartholde. Eventually, it was placed on Bedloe's Island near the entrance to New York Harbor.

When we left the boat which docked at Ellis Island, the cook helped me to get through immigration. I was lucky that the cook could speak English and helped me get into the country by having his cousin, who was a citizen, sponsor me. Without the sponsorship of a citizen, I would be sent back as I did not have a legal permit of entry. From Ellis Island, after being checked for contagious diseases and employment and a myriad of beauracatic, red tape details, I was finally allowed to set foot on American soil as a legal alien with the right to become a citizen in a few year's time.

The cook and I soon went to join his cousin in Lawrence, Massachusetts, where I was told I could get a job in one of the woolen mills. Lawrence is a very small, but wonderful community. It is not very large as New York. It does not have as many cultural attractions, but after working long hours six days a week there are the taverns and movie houses and other places of entertainment. The people here are very friendly, and one can soon make many friends and find people willing to help one learn English and become a member of the community.

I got a job in the Wood Mill soon after I arrived, but the labor union, the I.W.W., is threatening to pull us all out on strike if the management does not give us a raise. I hope everything will straighten out, for I don't want to lose my job. I am also living in a boarding house run by a Lithuanian woman named Aniele Balciene. She is a wonderful woman who has a large family, and her husband and I often go out to the tavern and places of amusement in the community. He has also showed me where the Lithuanian Churches are. One is St. Francis on Bradford Street which is the church I attended tonight, and the other is the Sacred Heart of Jesus on Garden Street which is a National Catholic Church not recognizing papal authority. I had to decide which to attend after listening to the advice of my friend Vincentas. I chose the Roman Catholic St. Francis where I attended Midnight Mass just a few hours ago. Soon I hope to have saved enough money to buy a house of our own where we can raise our own family in this wonderful land.

Juoze, I must bring this letter to a close now. In future letters, I will try to tell you more about my experiences in America. I cannot wait for the day to come when you will be able to join me here in America. Enclosed you will find some money to help you in paying your passage fee to America. If you need more, write to me and let me know. Maybe you could bring your sister along with you or any of your other family members.

Before closing, I hope you will visit my mother's grave and leave some flowers on it as a remembrance from me. I am so sorry to have left without saying proper goodbyes. Even though life in America is so wonderful, I do miss my family and friends that I have left behind. Give my best wishes to my father and brothers, and tell them I will write to them soon. Hoping to hear from you soon and waiting for the day when we shall be married in America I remain . . .

*Your future husband,
Motiejus Pranciskas*

*** *** *** ***

"Ona, that was really beautiful."

"Yes, Jonas, I never knew that Gramps could write so well."

"I will look forward to reading the rest of them Ona. I wonder why mother kept them from us Ona."

"Do you really want me to read Grandma's reply Jonas?"

"I'd like you to, but I think we'd better put the stuff back in the trunk and see what has been keeping us from having *Kucios* dinner."

"Okay, Jonas, I'll put these letters away while you go get the hay for the table. I wonder why we haven't started eating yet."



*** *** *** ***

Before Jonas and Ona could do anything else, they were interrupted by their mother calling for them.

"Ona, Jonas!"

"Yes mother!" said Ona.

Jonas queried, "What is it?"

"Could you children come down right now? I have something to tell you. Jonas, go get your father in the barn. I want all of you here to hear what I have to say at the same time."

"Okay, ma. Will do."

"Jonas, what do you think could have happened? Mom sounds so strange!"

"I don't know Ona, but I bet it has something to do with the phone ringing a few minutes ago. I hope nothing has happened to Gramps. Without him it won't be Christmas."

"Well, Jonas, we better get downstairs to the kitchen and find out what Ma has to tell us."

*** *** *** ***

"Casimir, Jonas, and Ona, I have some sad news to tell you." Mrs. Pranciskiene blurted out. Her eyes were red from crying, but she had somehow pulled herself together to tell them the news.

"What is it Adela?" Casimir questioned.

"The phone rang a few minutes ago and . . . it was the hospital calling . . . they called to tell me that on his way to our house, Dad had a heart attack and died. Dad won't be with us for *Kucios*. He won't be with us anymore physically, but only in our memories."

"Well, Adela, what are we going to do about dinner and Christmas? We can't celebrate now can we?"

"Yes, we can Casimir. We can celebrate the legacy Juoze and Motiejus and all the immigrants just like them gave us. We can celebrate the chance he gave us to live in a free America and to lead a good life and to be happy constantly. Yes, we can celebrate our *Kucios* in his memory. Okay children, Casimir, let's all sit down."

"Okay, dear, I know Motiejus would have wanted it that way. We can honor his memory by celebrating *Kucios*."

"Yes, Casimir, would you say grace now? . . . Jonas would you pass the *Plotkeles* — the communion wafers?"

"Okay, Ma . . ."

"Ona, would you pass the herrings . . ."

"Yes, Ma . . ."

"Casimir, do you think Pa would mind our reading some of his letters to the children which Ma had saved and brought with her to this country?"

"No, Adela, I think it would be a wonderful thing to do right now. After all, those letters are his legacy to the children. They will be a reminder to them of their heritage and a springboard for them to begin their own lives built on the customs from the past."

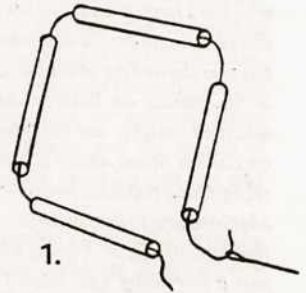
"Yes, those letters are Jonas' and Ona's legacy from their Grandpa, Casimir . . . Yes, they are a legacy which can be passed on to many future generations . . ."

HOW TO MAKE LITHUANIAN STRAW CHRISTMAS TREE ORNAMENTS

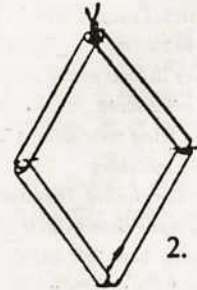
The materials necessary are: a box of white paper or plastic drinking straws; a spool or ball of strong white thread; several long needles with eyes large enough to accommodate the thread selected; a ruler; sharp scissors and imagination.

To begin: cut 8 equal lengths of straw, about 2-3 inches long. Thread the needle with an average length of thread (the end need not be knotted), a long piece is useless for it tangles, wraps around the straws and interferes with the work. Thread four pieces of straw one after another like a necklace by inserting the needle lengthwise. Tie the thread ends and you have a straw "wreath." Do not cut the thread but pull it through two more straws, tie to the opposite end. (see figs. 1 and 2); thread the last two straw pieces and again secure to the opposite end (fig. 3). Cut 4 pieces of straw, shorter than the first 8 (all of which are of equal length), for example, if the first were 3 inches long, these 4 can be 2 inches long (of course, pieces equal to the first may also be used. When shorter pieces are used the ornament will be more elongated, when equal lengths are used, the result will be square, shorter.) At this point the needle and thread are at the end of the ornament (fig. 4). Reinsert it through one straw piece (any piece) so the needle ends in the middle (fig. 5). Thread one of the newly cut pieces and attach it to the second joint, in the middle (fig. 6). Do this until all 4 straw pieces are secured. We now have an elongated or square "box." Everything done subsequently is but a variation or elaboration on this basic figure. If the thread ends while working, cut another piece from the spool, thread it into the needle and tie the end to the thread remaining in the ornament. Place the knot so it remains hidden inside a straw piece and cannot be seen.

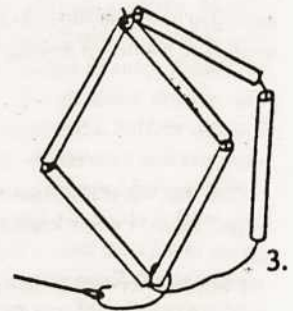
Cut 8 more pieces of straw, about the length of the other 4. The needle and thread are still in the middle of the ornament where the last 4 pieces were secured. Thread two new pieces and tie them to the other connecting point; thread 2 more and tie again; thread the fifth and sixth and tie; thread the seventh and eighth and tie. Seen from the end, the ornament looks like fig. 7. This already resembles a star for the points made with the last straw pieces look like rays. If longer straw pieces are used, these points will be longer and sharper. But these "rays" are hanging loose, they swing from side to side. They must be secured. Cut another 4 pieces longer than any before. Determine the length by holding one of the "rays" horizontal, neither up nor down. The new straw pieces must be able



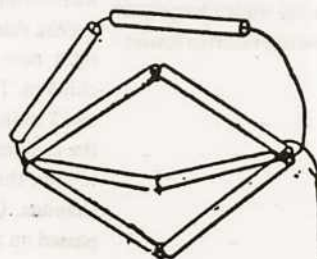
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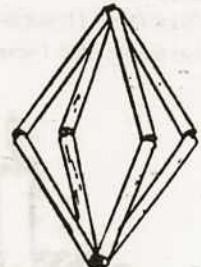
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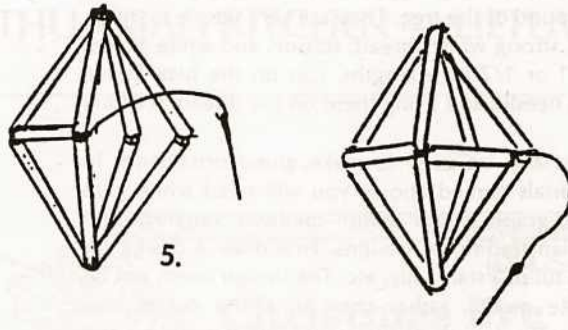


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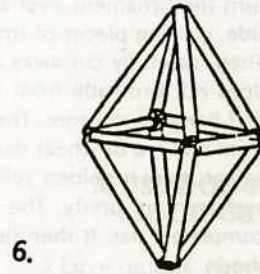


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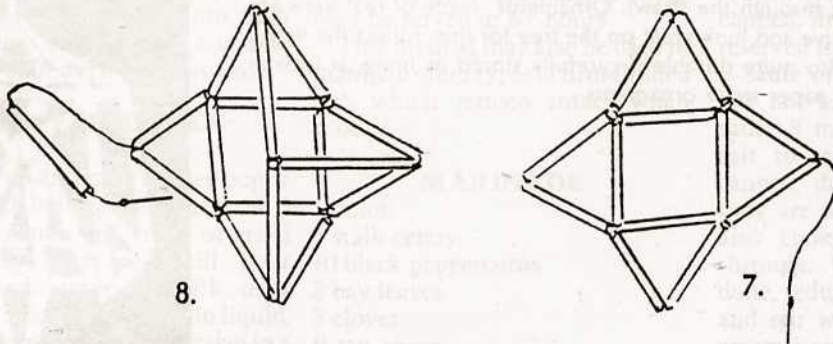




to hold the "ray" in that position. All 4 straws must be equal (otherwise the ornament will be crooked). Thread the needle through one straw piece so it comes out at the point. Add the new (longer) piece and secure to the top of the ornament (fig. 8). Thread another straw, bring it to the middle of another point and attach. Draw the needle through the straws that form the point so that it arrives at the end of the point (through 2 straws). Add the third straw, pull it to the top of the ornament and tie off. Do likewise with the last (fourth) straw section. If desired, cut 4 more straws of the same length and perform the same process, securing them to the bottom of the ornament. We now have a very complicated ornament. It can be left as such and hung on the tree or we can continue working and adding more points, attaching small four pointed figures to the bottom and at the end of every point. Such stars may be fashioned with 5, 6 or 8 points. To do this, at the very beginning, instead of 8 straws, cut 10 or 12 or 16; in between add 5, 6 or 8 straw sections and work as above.



6.



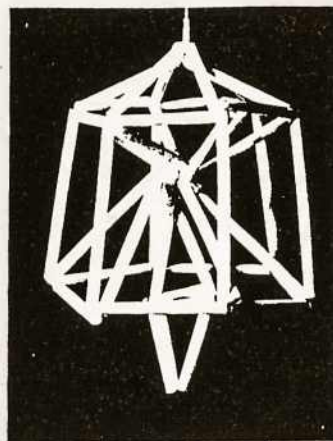
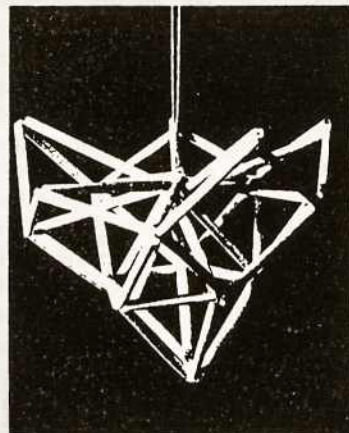
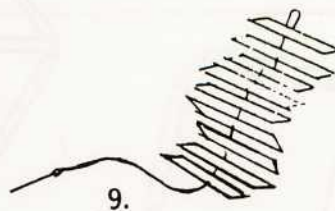
8.

7.

Some people like to make chains from straws and wrap them around the tree like necklaces. These chains are very attractive against green background of the tree. They are very simple to make. Take a sharp needle, strong white thread, scissors and white straws. Cut the straws into 1 or 1/2 inch lengths. Cut on the bias. Pierce straw pieces with the needle and string them on the thread in a long chain (fig. 9).

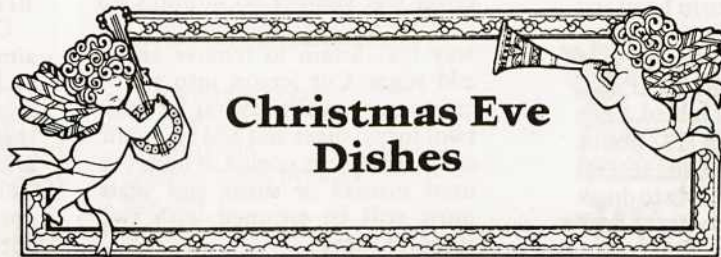
White straws can also be used to make glued ornaments. In addition to the materials named above, you will need white glue that dries invisible, graph paper (with medium squares) and examples of Lithuanian traditional designs. First draw a design on the graph paper — a tulip, a star, a lily, etc. The design needs not be complicated. Separate motifs, rather than an entire design, are better suited for this. The length of the straws will depend on the length of the design parts. Cut them accordingly. Apply glue to the straw, press it into the appropriate spots on the paper. Use this method to cover the entire design drawn. It takes time for the glue to dry sufficiently (it may be left overnight). After the glue hardens, turn the ornament over and repeat the entire process on the other side, glueing pieces of straw in the appropriate places. Leave to dry. Then, carefully cut away all the paper not covered with straw so it does not protrude from the ornament. Attach a string to one end and hang on the tree. These glued ornaments are also easy to make from real rye or wheat straw. Rye straw is more silvery in color while wheat straw is golden yellow. Such ornaments reflect the tree lights and are very pretty. The straw may be split lengthwise and ironed completely flat. It then lies even flatter on the paper and has more sheen.

Three-dimensional straw ornaments can also be fashioned from real straw. The method is quite similar to the one described above. To prevent the straw from splitting when it is cut (it is very brittle), it must be soaked at least one hour in very hot water (leave the straw in water even if it cools). The soaked straw is flexible — almost rubbery — and is easily cut. If the cut pieces dry out while working, drop them back into the water to soak. The straw must be smooth, uniform in thickness and without bumps (or joints which every wheat and rye stalk has — a joint will prevent the needle and thread from going through the straw). Ornaments made of real straw are very attractive and look great on the tree for they reflect the lights. They are also quite durable if carefully stored or hung, at least as durable as paper straw ornaments.



Lithuanian Christmas straw ornament.

LITHUANIAN KITCHEN — LIETUVIŠKA VIRTUVĖ



SLIZIKAI WITH POPPY SEED MILK (Christmas Eve Biscuits)

1 cup self-rising flour
2 cups ordinary flour
2 tbsps. powdered sugar
1 egg
½ lb. margarine (two sticks)
1 cup cold water (approx.)

Mix all ingredients (margarine should be room temperature — soft), knead dough, cool in refrigerator 2-3 hours or overnight, roll into finger-width strips, cut into inch long pieces and bake on a cookie sheet at 350° oven until brown.

POPPY SEED MILK

Cover about 2 cups of dried poppy seeds with boiling water, let stand 5 minutes, drain and crush or grind the seeds in a food mill. Pour sweetened water or milk over crushed seeds to make a thin liquid. Place desired amount of *slizikai* in a bowl, cover with poppy seed milk and eat like cereal.

FRIED SMELTS (Marinated)

2 lbs. smelts
Salt and flour
Oil for frying

Clean smelts, remove heads (they may be purchased cleaned and frozen) and the insides. Mix flour with salt, place in a paper bag, drop the smelts in the flour mixture and shake until covered. Fry in hot oil until done. Cool. Prepare marinade, cool and pour over smelts to cover. May be served in 6-7 hours.

This method may also be used to marinate other types of firm-fleshed fish which remain intact when cooked.

MARINADE

1 onion
1 stalk celery
10 black peppercorns
3 bay leaves
3 cloves
½ tsp. sugar
1 cup white vinegar
2 cups water

Pinch of salt (the fish was already seasoned when fried. The salt may completely omitted).

Mix ingredients in saucepan and simmer 10-15 minutes until onion and celery is tender. Cool and use.

MUSHROOMS WITH SOUR CREAM

2 large onions, chopped fine
2 tbsps. oil
½ cup sour cream
2 lbs. mushrooms, fresh or canned.
(Dried mushrooms may also be used, but they must be washed well and soaked in hot water at least 1 hour. Drain and wash again.)

Clean fresh mushrooms, cut lengthwise, if mushrooms are canned, drain well (liquid may be reserved for other uses).

Saute onions in oil until tender but not brown. Add mushrooms, saute 5 minutes until done. Add salt to taste. If mushrooms are canned, do not add salt because they are already salted. They are also cooked, simply heat them through. When mushrooms are done, reduce heat, add sour cream and stir while heating until sour cream liquifies. Do not bring to a boil. Serve hot, with potatoes or black rye bread.

BLACK BREAD CIDER*(juodos duonos gira)*

- 1 to 1½ lb. dried black rye bread
- 2 gallons boiling water
- 1 lb. honey
- 1 tbsp. fresh yeast (not dried)
- 1 tbsp. flour
- 10 to 12 raisins

Crumble bread, place in bowl and cover with boiling water. Cover tightly. When cooled, strain, add honey, yeast mixed with flour; mix well until honey is dissolved. Keep at room temperature 12 hours. Strain, pour into bottles, add several raisins to each, cork. Ready to drink in 2 to 3 days. Afterwards, keep refrigerated.

Note: The cider is strained through a very fine strainer lined with several thicknesses of cheesecloth. If properly strained, the cider has no sediment, is clean and clear.

HERRING ROLLS

- 2 herrings
- 2 onions (medium size)
- 1 carrot
- 1 tbsp. oil
- 4 cloves
- 2 cups water
- 6 peppercorns
- 2 bay leaves
- 2/3 cup white vinegar
- 2 dill pickles, cut in quarters lengthwise

Soak herring for 48 hours; place in glass bowl, cover with cold water, keep in cool place (not refrigerator) changing water at least once in 12 hours. Fillet and skin herring. Chop vegetables, add seasonings, simmer 15 minutes. Add vinegar and ½ tsp. sugar, continue simmering for about 5 more minutes, cool thoroughly. Roll each pickle quarter into one herring fillet and secure with toothpick, place herring in a glass dish and pour marinade to cover. Keep cold and covered. May be served in 24 hours.

Other version: herring is not rolled, but cut into small pieces (pickle is not used at all), placed in a glass container and covered with marinade.

CARAWAY CIDER

- 2 gallons water
- ¾ to 1 cup caraway seeds
- 1 lb. sugar (honey may also be used)
- 2 tbsps. fresh yeast
- 1 lemon

Rinse caraway seeds, add water, cover and simmer 30 minutes (to produce a very strong fragrant caraway tea). Strain to remove seeds, add sugar. Cut lemon into slices, cream yeast with several (at least two) tbsps. sugar and add to liquid, only after it has cooled. If honey is used instead of sugar, the yeast must still be creamed with two tbsps. of sugar.

Cover container with cloth or cheesecloth. Ferment 2 to 3 days at room temperature. Remove foam which forms on top, strain, pour into bottles and cork. Keep in cool place like a cellar. Ready to drink in 2 to 3 days (then keep refrigerated).

General note about ciders. When cider is poured into bottles, at least 1 to 1½ inches must be left at the top because the fermentation process continues and the cider sometimes pops the cork (occasionally, the bottle itself may explode, especially if the cider is kept in a warm place). Glass bottles are the most suitable for cider.

**CRANBERRY CIDER**

- 2 gallons water
- 2 lbs. cranberries (fresh or frozen, with no additives or preservatives)
- 1 lb. sugar
- 2 tbsp. fresh yeast
- 10 to 20 raisins

Cover cranberries with water and simmer until berries burst. Crush and strain to remove skins and seeds, add sugar. Cream yeast with 2 tbsp. sugar and add to berry liquid after it is completely cooled, mix well. Allow to ferment 24 hours in open container or covered with cheesecloth. Remove foam from top and strain cider. Pour into bottles, adding several raisins to each. Place in a cool spot, like the cellar. Ready to drink in 3 days. Then keep refrigerated.

Note: Prepared frozen or bottled cranberry juice is not suitable for cranberry cider because the juice contains preservatives which prevent fermentation. Cider cannot be made without fermentation.

DRIED FRUIT COMPOTE

- 1 cup prunes (preferably with pits because they stay intact)
- 1 cup raisins, half dark, half light (or golden)
- 1 cup dried apples, chopped
- 1 cup equal amounts of dried peaches and pears, chopped
- 2 to 3 cinnamon sticks
- Peel of 1 orange and 1 lemon
- 2/3 cup sugar

Rinse fruit, chop, place in pot and cover with cold water (do not chop prunes). Bring to boil, cover, reduce heat and simmer 5 minutes until all the fruit is tender. Do not overcook (fruit will dissolve). Add sugar and cold water to thin into a soup. Bring to boil and remove from heat. Add sugar to taste (if more is needed). Remove orange and lemon peels also cinnamon at this point; allow to cool. Serve completely cold.

STUFFED FISH FILLETS

4 to 5 fillets
 5 tbsp. oil
 ¾ cup mushrooms (canned, fresh or dried)
 1 large onion
 ½ dry white wine
 ½ tbsp. white pepper
 1 tbsp. chopped parsley
 Salt to taste
 ½ cup fish broth
 ¾ cup bread crumbs (dry)

To make fish broth: boil fish bones (head may also be used) with seasonings: onion, parsley, celery, pepper. Strain.

Saute mushrooms and onion in oil until soft, add salt, seasonings and about ½ cup of bread crumbs. Add 3 to 4 tbsps. fish broth, mix well. Place fillets on cutting board or wax paper, spread 1 tbsp. of mixture on each fillet, roll, tie and dredge in remaining bread crumbs. Oil pan, add fish and bake at 325° for 20 to 25 minutes. Before finishing cooking, add wine with remaining fish broth. Cook 10 more minutes at 350°. Cool slightly, carefully remove string and serve while still warm.

MARINATED MUSHROOMS

About 2 lbs. small white fresh mushrooms
 3 tbsps. lemon juice
 1 tsp. salt (or less, to taste)
 6 cups boiling water
 1 medium onion
 1 clove garlic

MARINADE

¾ cup white vinegar
 2/3 cup liquid from cooked mushrooms
 7 crushed black peppers
 1 bay leaf
 1 tsp. sugar
 2 to 3 tbsps. oil (olive)

Bring water to boil, add salt, lemon juice and cleaned mushrooms (if small, leave uncut). Simmer 5 minutes. Drain well. Cut onion crosswise and separate into rings, chop garlic fine. In a glass container, place alternating layers of mushrooms and onion with garlic. Meanwhile, bring 2/3 cup mushroom liquid to boil, add all remaining ingredients, bring to boil and simmer about 5 minutes. Cool liquid and pour over mushrooms. Add oil on top (do not mix with mushrooms and marinade). Keep refrigerated overnight and serve the following day.



LINKSMŲ ŠVENTŲ KALĖDŲ

IR

LAIMINGŲ NAUJŲJŲ METŲ

A Blessed Christmas Season

and a

Happy and Prosperous 1994

To all Knights and my friends

Honorary Member Annie Mitchell-Matalavich

Council 52

Elizabeth, New Jersey



Christmas Greetings

Siunčiame Visiems Vyčiams draugiškus sveikinimus Kalėdų švenčių proga.
Council 27 — Norwood, MA

The Best Holiday Season Ever.
Lee & Paul Moore — Council 86

Linksmų Kalėdų ir Laimingų Naujųjų Metu.
Koupa 78 — Laurence, MA

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.
John M. Grenda-Lukas, President Council 78

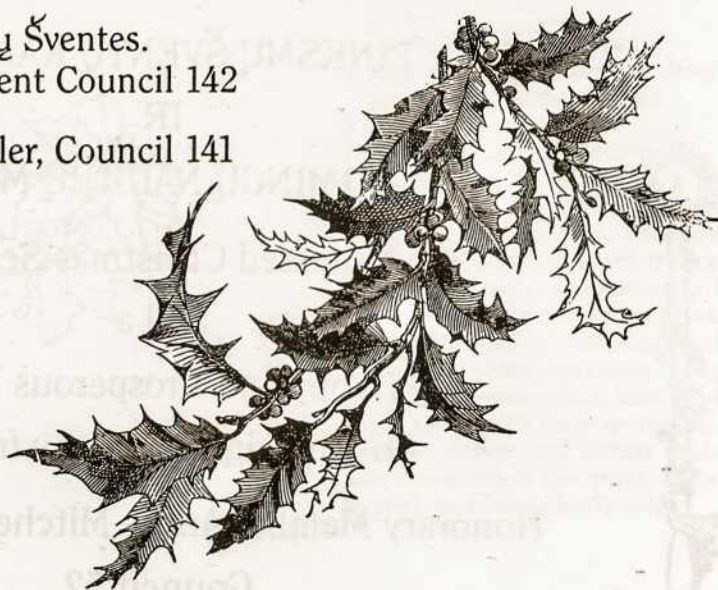
Holiday Greetings to all!
Gene Gobis, Vice-President Council 100

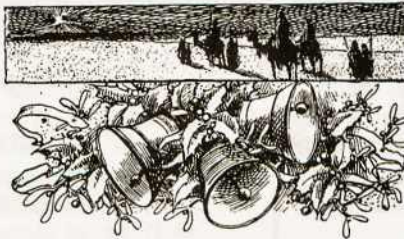
Linksmu Kalėdų
Harold & Irene Tice (President Council 100)

Linksmų Šventų Kalėdų!
Edvardas ir Apolonija Ziausys, Council 100

Viso Geriausio per Kalėdų Šventes.
Julia T. Burlen, President Council 142

Victor & Clemencene Miller, Council 141





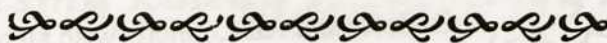
**LIAIKSMŲ KALĖDŲ ŠVENČIŲ IR LAIMINGŲ NAUJŲJŲ METŲ
VISIEMS LIETUVOS VYČIAMS**

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL

from

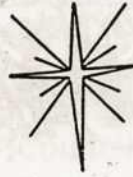
**THE OFFICERS AND MEMBERS OF THE
NEW ENGLAND DISTRICT**

**Council 1, Brockton, MA
Council 7, Waterbury, CT
Council 10, Athol-Gardner, MA
Council 17, So. Boston, MA
Council 26, Worcester, MA
Council 27, Norwood, MA
Council 30, Westfield, MA
Council 50, New Haven, CT
Council 78, Lawrence, MA
Council 103, Providence, RI
Council 116, So. Worcester, MA
Council 135, Ansonia, CT
Council 141, Bridgeport, CT
Council 145, Holyoke, MA**



*Kristaus atėjimo šviesa
tešviečia Jums visuomet.*

*Naujieji Metai težiba
nauja saule ir
naujomis žvaigždėmis.*



*Wise men
still seek Him*

MID AMERICA DISTRICT

Officers and All Councils wish all of its friends a
Holy Merry Christmas and a Fruitful New Year

A Successful Completion to the

KNIGHTS OF LITHUANIA FOUNDATION 1993 ESSAY CONTEST

The exciting events of the past few years, in which Lithuania finally regained her independence from the Soviet Union, led some uninformed people and nations to consider Lithuania as a "NEW" nation, a fledging republic, looking for a national identity. However, the year 1993 also marked 740 years since the establishment of Lithuania's Nationhood? On July 6, 1243, Lithuania became a nation, when King Mindaugas, after uniting Lithuanian tribes into a nation, was crowned King of Lithuania by the Holy Father.

With all the oppression and "slings and arrows" Lithuania suffered over the centuries, she never lost her sense of "nationhood." It is important that the rest of the world be informed that Lithuania is one of the oldest nations of Europe, and existed even before the Russian Empire.

The Knights of Lithuania Foundation, Inc. provided each member a chance to share his or her ideas on Lithuania's 740 year nationhood, through its annual essay contest. The contest, made possible by the generosity of Msgr. Juozas Prunskis, asked entrants to write an essay using the format of a "Letter to the Editor", describing the establishment of the Lithuanian Nation by King Mindaugas in 1243, and commenting on its meaning to Lithuanians and the rest of the world.

Essays were judged on the basis of content, style, grammar, creativity, general appearance, and adherence to the stated topic. Judging was anonymous -- judges did not know the identity of any of the entrants until the judging was over. Winners were announced during the 80th National Convention in Worcester, MA, and in the November VYTIS. The winning entries will be published in this and subsequent issues of VYTIS.

The Knights of Lithuania is most grateful to Rev. Msgr. Juozas Prunskis for his generosity in donating a special grant to the Foundation, with the specification that the interest from the grant be used for an Essay Contest, encouraging members to think about and write about the betterment of the Knights of Lithuania. We are also grateful to him for adding \$500.00 to his earlier grant of \$10,000, to augment the interest used as prize money, now that interest rates have fallen.

We thank all those who participated in the 1993 contest, and encourage all members to give serious thought to the next contest's topic, to express those thoughts in writing, and enter the contest. Suggestions for a 1994 topic are welcome also.

Loretta I. Stukas, President,
Knights of Lithuania Foundation, Inc.



*One of the joys of Christmas is wishing
everyone a happy Holiday Season and a
wonderful New Year.*

Linksmų Kalėdų ir Laimingų Naujų Metų.

Council 3 Philadelphia



KNIGHTS OF LITHUANIA 1993 ESSAY CONTEST — FIRST PRIZE WINNER

Letter to the Editor

Even though recent world news has underscored the search for freedom by many oppressed countries of the world, little is actually known about the individual countries involved. This letter will acquaint Americans to the history of Lithuania and its struggle to maintain its integrity among nations. Too often we fail to realize that a country exists because of its history; a history that involves sacrifice, intrigue, war, power against weakness. What follows is a miniscule, but very important part of the history which gave Lithuania its life.

Centuries ago, the people of north central Europe were made up of independent tribal communities, not yet fused together as a nation. It was not until the 11th century that those tribes, which would eventually become the state of Lithuania, emerged from their isolationist status and began to make contact with neighboring countries.

In the early 13th century, the Teutonic Knights began their conquest of Prussia. At that time, Lithuanian territories were divided and ruled by about twenty powerful dukes. Duke Mindaugas, one of the most important and powerful of these dukes, for the first time organized the greater part of the Lithuanian territories into one state. Soon his dominance had grown to such an extent that he was recognized unofficially as the ruler of Lithuania.

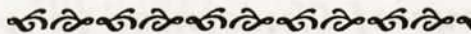
The Teutonic Knights, meanwhile, after defeating Prussia, proclaimed a crusade against the Baltic region pagans. They invaded Lithuania, and in 1236 at Saule, were crushed by Mindaugas' forces. Years later, about 1248, a large coalition of forces united with the Crusaders, and threatened Lithuania to such an extent that Mindaugas agreed to accept Christianity to save his country. He and his wife were baptized along with a large number of Lithuanian nobles in 1251. His coronation as king took place in 1253, two years later. Unfortunately, after molding together the independent tribes and defeating many of his enemies in battle, he was treacherously assassinated in 1263 by Daumantas, a Lithuanian duke, during one of his campaigns.

King Mindaugas brought world recognition to Lithuania as a nation after uniting the various dukedoms into one great power. He brought a prominence to Lithuania such that it is still in existence today, even after hundreds of years of oppression. Lithuanians of every nation by and large have been loyal Roman Catholics to this day.

He is also important to the rest of the world. Without him, we would not be able to claim the existence of past Lithuanian greats such as St. Casimir, Donelaitis, Mickiewicz, Kosciusko and Baronas. We would not have known such famous Lithuanian personalities as Benny, Jilian, Unitas, Gerulaitis, Lee and Sharkey.

Yes, King Mindaugas was the catalyst which made Lithuania what it is today; a free, democratic, equal member of the United Nations striving to become a first-world nation!!

By Thomas Bruzga
C-86, DuBois



LINKSMŲ KALĖDU
IR
LAIMINGŲ NAUJU METŲ
SALDUSIS KUDIKĖLĖ PALAIMINK



MUS VISUS

COUNCIL 74

Kalėdų giesmės/Christmas Carols

TYLIAJĄ NAKTĮ

J. Naujalis

$\text{♩} = 72$ *Vivo*

Ty-lią-ją nak-tį bal-sas su-gau-dė. Grei-tai ren-ki-
pie-me-nys, kel-kit. Die-vas už-gi-mė

pp

Tempo I

tės ir bė-kit, į Bet-lie-jų pa-sku-bė-kit svei-kint Vieš-pa-ties.

In the stillness of the night a voice was heard, "Arise, shepherds, God is born! Rise quickly and hasten to Bethlehem, hasten to greet your Lord." They went and found Jesus laying in the manger — as the prophets foretold long ago. They paid homage to God as the angel instructed them to do.

ŠVENTOJI NAKTIS

Muz. J. Bertulio
Žodžiai K. Grigaitytės

Per bal-to snie-go pū-ką švie-siais žvaigž-džių ke-liais

Sven-ta-sis Kū-di-kė-lis į že-mę nu-si-leis.

Through the white fluffy snowflakes, over the bright highways of the stars, the Holy Infant will descend to earth tonight. He will wipe every tear, he will console the poor. We will bring Him the suffering of our homeland and carry away hope that the sunshine of freedom will soon shine over our native land.



Nuėję rado Jėzų edžiose,
Kaip pranašauta Dievo knygoje:
Įj Dievu jie pripažino,
Kaip juos angelas mokino,
Ir pasveikino:

„Išganytojau seniai geidžiamas,
Tūkstančius metų žmonių laukiamas,
Tavęs pranašai, karaliai
Laukė, o Tu šią naktelę
Mums pasirodei“.

Mes irgi laukiam, Viešpatie, Tavęs,
O kaip ateisi pas mus per Mišias,
Pulsim prieš Tave ant kelių
Gyvą kiekvienoj dalelėj
Šventos Ostijos.

Nubraukti ašarėlių,
Paguodos rast varge
Į Betliejaus tvartelį
Mes skubam pas Tave.

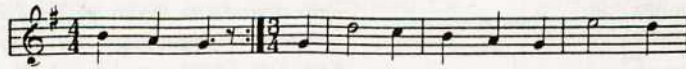
Gimtinės kančią nešam
Širdelėje mažoj —
Įžiebk saulutę skaisčią
Tėvynėj mylimoj.

KNIGHTS OF
CHRISTMAS CONTEST
BETLIEJAUS PRAKARTĒLĒJ

J. Švedas



Bet-lie-jaus pra-kar-tē-lēj pra- gy-do
l-vy-ko tas ste-buk-las, kņ skel-bē



an- ge-lai. Var-gin-gam skur-de tarp gy- vu-
pra- na-šai.



lē-lių Pa-sau-lio val-do-vas už-gi-mē.

Subēgē piemenēliai, pirmi lji sveikino,
Žmonijos Atpirkējā kukļi pagarbino.
Nežinoma žvaigždē užtekėjus,
Išminčiams keliā ji nušvietē.

At the manger in Bethlehem the angels are singing. The miracle foretold by the prophets came to pass: in a humble stable among farm animals the King of kings was born. The shepherds were first to greet Him and give homage to the Savior of mankind. A new star shone in the sky pointing the way to the manger for the three Wise men.

O NAKTIE, O ŠVENTA

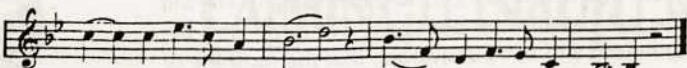
F. Gruber



O nak-tie, o šven-ta, iš dan-gaus at-siųs-ta!



Tik mei-li šven-to-ji šei-ma bu-di, Jė-zų mig-dy-dama:



su dan-gaus mik šyps-niu. su dan-gaus mik šyps-niu!

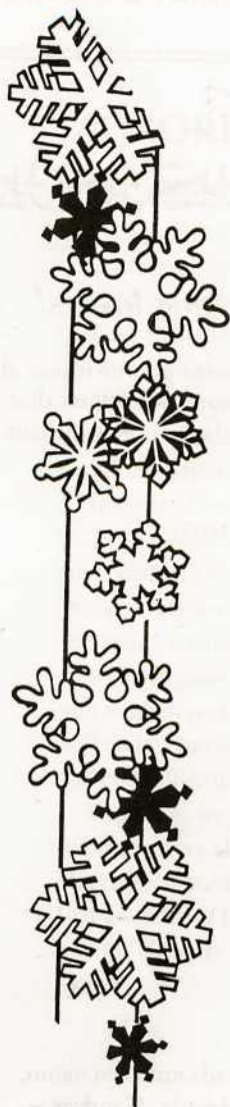
O naktie, o šventa,
Piemenims apreikšta,
Angelų šventom giesmėmis
Iš dangaus išgirstomis,
Kristus gimė šiānakt,
Kristus gimė šiānakt!

O naktie, o šventa,
O brangi valanda!
Iš atverto aukšto dangaus
Sau malonēs žmonēs sulauks,
Dievui užgimus žmogum,
Dievui užgimus žmogum!



SVEIKAS JĖZAU GIMUSIS

J. Naujalis



♩ = 76

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

Bran-già die-nà šveš-da-mi Už-gi-mi-mo Vieš-pa-ties, Links-min-ki-mės

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

Kanklėmis kankliuokime,
Sutartinę leiskime
Brangią dieną švęsdami
Užgimimo Viešpaties,
Linksminkimės ir džiaukimės,
Dievui garbę duodami giedokime!

Dangus mums jau artinas,
Žemėj žmonės linksminas.

Brangią dieną švęsdami
Užgimimo Viešpaties,
Linksminkimės ir džiaukimės,
Dievui garbę duodami giedokime!

Hail Jesus, Holy Infant of God, born to us tonight! Celebrating this precious Christmas day let us be joyful and happy; let us sing praises to God.

LET'S TALK LITHUANIAN — KALBĖKIME LIETUVIŠKAI

Dalia Bulvičiūtė-Bulvičius
LITHUANIAN LANGUAGE COORDINATOR

*Brisius verkia dreba lūpos,
byra ašaros kaip pupos...*



Colorful and “deep meaning” words

Nevisi namie — not everybody is at home. It means that someone does not have everything upstairs. Does not play with a full deck.

Pusdurnis — Pusė (half), durnas — dumb — a half brain.

Trenktas — Dropped at birth. — not all there in the noggin.

Padlaišys — Padas — sole, laišyti — to lick, — A “Yes” man.

Pienburnis — Pienas — milk, burna — mouth. One with milk on his mouth — someone who knows it all.

Užsienis — už — beyond, siena — wall — abroad.

Eilėraštis — Eilė — line, rašyti — to write — Poetry (write in lines).

Ištrauka — Iš — from, traukti — pull — excerpt (from a book, etc)

Maždaug — Mažai — less, daug — more, More or less.

Tarptautinis — Tarp — among, Tauta — Nation — among nations — International

Something for dog lovers!

One of my favorite Lithuanian poems is one about a Dog fight. See if you can figure out which dog is the winner: Margis plačiažandis (big mouth), Brisius (Poor slob) or Juodis (Blackie)

Peštynės

*Lėkė Margis plačiažandis,
nešė kaulą įsikandęs.*

*Brisius puolė Margį vyti,
ir susipešė, brolyti.*

*Tai peštynės smarkios ėjo,
gaurai rūko ir dulkėjo.*

*Pešės, lojo, smarkiai niršo
ir tą kaulą jie užmiršo.*

*Bėgo Juodis, bukanosis,
griebė kaulą iš panosės.*

*Dulka Juodis, kaip pašėlęs,
lekia uodegą, pakėles.*

*Margis nosį nukabino
ir kas veikti nebežino*

Some birds of Lithuania

Gandras — Turbūt Lietuvos populiariausias paukštis. Jei gandras susuka lizda ant tavo namo, turėsi laimės. Pora būna per visą gyvenimą. Ir vis atskrenda pavasari į tą pati lizdą. Gandras — tai didžiausias ir nekantriai laukiamas Lietuvos paukštis. Ūkininkai jam užkelia ant stogo ar į medžius ratus, akėčias, kad jis galėtų patogiau lizdą susikrauti. Jis yra laikomas lyg šeimos nariu.

Proverb: Gandras į balą, varlėms galas.

Kregždė — po gandro, yra mėgstamiausias Lietuvos paukštelis. Kregždė gyvena prie žmogaus, sukdama savo lizdą namų pastogėse. Ji yra vienintelis paukštelis, kuris moka iš molio lizdelį lipdyti. Jos prižiūri namus ir gyvulius. Jos garsus balsas išbaido visus plėšrius gyvulius ar paukščius, todėl yra vadinama namu sargas.

Šarka — labai gražus ir judrus paukštelis. Ji nuolat juda, šokinėja, striksi, šneka. Šarka žinō apie kiekvieną miške įvykį ir tuojau visiems apie tai išplepa. Ypač ji akylai seka pamiškėje lapę ir savo riksmu ją išduoda.

Genys — yra nedidelis maždaug žvirblio dydžio, juodai ir baltai margos spalvos, gražus paukštelis. Jis visą laiką dirba skuba, nuo ryto iki vakaro kopinėja medžiais. Tur būt esate girdėję, kaip aukštai medyje genys kažin ką kalą. Tai jis arba lizdą sau ruošia, arba ieško maisto. Jo snapas ilgas, smailiu galu ir yra labai tvirtas. Juo genys išsikala medžiuose sau lizdą.



OFFICIAL NEWS — OFICIALUS SKYRIUS

A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT

On behalf of the Supreme Council, may I extend our appreciation to H.M. Mary Kober, Editor-in-Chief, and the entire VYTIS staff; Tom Tarmey, Council News Editor; Stella Matulonis, Food Editor, for all their hard work in producing the VYTIS over the past several years. During their tenure, the VYTIS was maintained at a very professional and timely level. Their dedication to the Knights of Lithuania is greatly appreciated. May we also express our thanks to a very dedicated, but behind-the-scenes, individual — Anthony Kober.

We are pleased to announce that Eduardas V. Meilus, Jr., C-26, Worcester, Massachusetts has agreed to complete this term as VYTIS Editor. We look forward to working with Ed as he steps into this difficult task. We trust that the membership will give Ed the same level of cooperation that they gave Mary by mailing material before the specified deadline and by continuing to submit articles for publication in VYTIS.

Important notice:

As you all know, we have undertaken a complete review of the VYTIS mailing with the intent of updating the address list and ensuring its accuracy. The errors which were detected in the course of this review were not attributable to one factor or problem. Rather, it appears that all involved share in the responsibility for past inaccuracies. We all will have to work together to avoid a similar situation from developing again.

We have gone back to the old system of having just one person in charge of maintaining the mailing list. **But any changes you might have for the VYTIS mailing, must be sent to the Supreme Council Financial Secretary.** The SC Financial Secretary will update her records and pass the information to the VYTIS Mailing List Controller. Likewise, if any VYTIS is returned by the Post Office due to an inaccurate or out-dated address, the Mailing List Controller will inform the SC Financial Secretary.

Therefore, we need the cooperation of the Council Financial Secretary who should keep the SC Financial Secretary informed. Also, all Council Presidents are urged to inform their membership that if there are changes (in name, street address, etc.) they should bring these to the attention of the Council/SC Financial Secretary. Also, if any member becomes aware that an issue of the VYTIS has not been received, the member should complain as soon as possible.

With all of us working together, we can keep the mailing list current and ensure that our members are informed and happy!!

— Frances R. Petkus
Supreme Council President

IN MEMORIAM



Stanley Gapsis C-16
October 22, 1993

Elena Rimkus C-112
September 13, 1993

George Rudman C-16
June 1, 1993

Julia Sacauskas C-112
August 9, 1993

John Marcinka C-141
November 9, 1993

COUNCIL NEWS — VYČIAI VEIKIA

New England District

The NED fall convention, September 19, 1993, was hosted by C-17 So. Boston, Massachusetts. More than 100 delegates and guests from eleven Councils marched into St. Peter's Church to begin with Holy Mass. Beautiful music filled the church, thanks to Jeronimas Kucinskas, organist, Soloist Benediktas Povilavicius and the harmonious choir. Rev. Albert Contons was Celebrant assisted by Rev. Algis Gudaitis from Lithuania. Father Gudaitis will be studying at Boston College for one year. He was ordained a Jesuit Priest just a year ago. We wish him a long, happy and productive life in God's service.

Receiving the Third Degree Medals at the Altar were: Marie Antin, Leo Tamulis, Patricia Tamulis, John Statkus, and Frances Bumila. Eligible but absent were: Florence Carnilla, George Bumila, and Susan Grautman.

A perfect example of loyalty and dedication — Bertha Stoskus, NED president, returned from Lithuania at 7:00 p.m. the night before and in spite of jet lag was in Boston to preside at the convention. Host council president Alexander Akule extended greetings, as did Father Contons and Father Janiunas. After Secretary's and Treasurer's reports, Trustees Helen Dallalis and Sylvester Marcavage reported that the books were in good order. Reporting on the 1993 Retreat at Kennebunkport, Maine, Helen Dallalis said 101 participated and that 102 were booked for June 24-26, 1994 with 10 on the waiting list. Father Gabriel wants reservations confirmed with a \$30.00 deposit by January first, 1994. Checks are to be mailed directly to Fr. Gabriel in Maine.

The October 17th Cultural Festival in Shrewsbury was discussed. Irene Tamulevich suggested Ed Meilus for music and entertainment. His sing-along during Cultural Night at the National Convention was a great hit and could serve our October Festival well.

Eva Ball filled in for Blanche Genaitis, reporting that Scott Kelly from Brockton was a candidate for scholarship. If he is approved, he will be the only recipient this year. Blanche Genaitis had just returned from the K of L Pilgrimage to Lithuania the night before and could not attend.

Delegates to the National Convention, Ignatius Hobitz C-78 and Aldona Marcavage C-141 gave satisfactory reports of the event.

A resolution was accepted to recognize Attorney Maria Tovaresh Asmanskas who was awarded "Friend of Lithuania" during the National Convention. Maria was one of the founders of "SOS VAIKAI" now called "The Lithuanian Children's Relief, Inc." She is currently its Vice President and Director. She has been and still is a tireless worker performing unbelievable humanitarian acts to benefit Lithuanians — especially the children in greatest need.

Bill Wisnauskas took over the business of election of officers and committees for the coming term. With the exception of the Third Vice President, which Clemencine Miller of C-141 accepted, the rest of the slate remained the same.

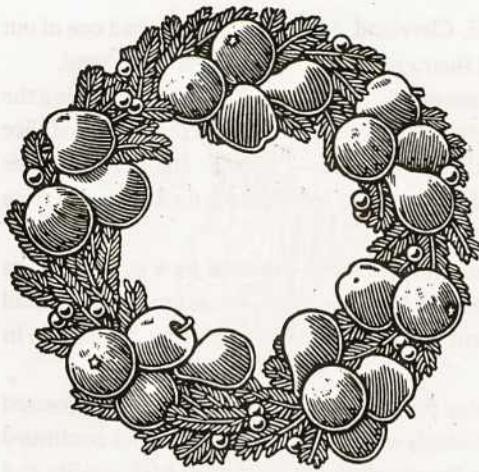
Cards of Congratulations and Best Wishes will be sent to Brockton to St. Casimir Church and Parish — Rev. Peter Shakalis, Pastor, celebrating its 95th Anniversary. Also to St. Francis Church and Parish in Lawrence — Rev. Albin Janiunas, Pastor, celebrating its 90th anniversary. Ad Multos Annos!

— Aldona Marcavage

A special thanks to:

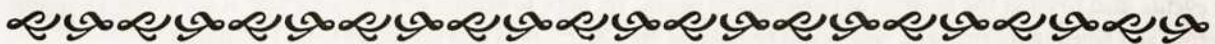
- * Robert A. Martin, Jr.
- * HM Loretta Stukas
- * Vince Boris
- * HM Fran Petkus of the Supreme Council for their kind assistance in helping us with this December 1993 issue — our first.





*Wishing all Vyčiai
and thier families
a Most Holy Christmas
and a Healthy and
Prosperous New Year.*

*The Executive Board and all Members of
Council 12 - New York City
Spiritual Advisor - Rev. Eugene R. Sawicki
President - Edmund Burba-Cook*



*Linksmų Kalėdų ir
Laimingų Naujų Metų*

*A very Merry Christmas and a
Happy and Healthy New Year*



The Members of Knights of Lithuania Council 118, Hazelton

Spiritual Advisor - Father Czachor
President - Joseph Dancho
Vice-President - Nellie Masyjada
Secretary - Eleanor Kassick
Treasurer - Ruth Alansky
Financial Secretary - Marie Alansky
Trustee - Helen Hagelgaus
Trustee - Dolores Skitzski
Sergeant-at-Arms - George Norris
Cultural Chairperson - Val Dancho
Vytis Correspondent - Ann Kaschak
Publicity Chairperson - Irene Norris
Ritual Chairperson - Marie Alansky



Mid-Central District

The Mid-Central District's fall meeting and pilgrimage was hosted by C-25, Cleveland, on October 1-3. We had one of our larger turnouts in many years for the fall pilgrimage, a tribute to C-25 and their excellent program for the weekend.

The business meeting on Saturday morning was highlighted by the election of officers for the '93-94 term, including the election of a new president for the District, Lillian Petravicius of C-139, Detroit. Other new officers elected were First Vice President — Regina Juska, Second Vice President — Eloise Berczelly, Lithuanian Affairs — Eleanor Mantz and Trustee — Tony Oberaitis. The remaining officers were re-elected for another term. Many thanks to John Baltrus for 5 years of service as District President. John is moving on to be a Trustee on the Supreme Council.

Following an afternoon of rest and relaxation, our members were treated to a banquet followed by a concert by an internationally famous, Northern Ohio-based group of young performers, the Singing Angels. Their songs brought back fond memories for many of our members. C-25 went all out publicizing this event and were rewarded with over 350 people in attendance.

Our first District Award medals were presented to 17 members on Sunday prior to our memorial service for deceased members. Before presenting the awards, John Baltrus noted that these individuals were being acknowledged for continued dedicated service to the K of L, that may not be rewarded with Honorary Membership, but is of such high quality and duration that it should be recognized in some way. These members have either continued to serve diligently beyond the 4th Degree, or because of their own choosing, have not aspired to the various degrees by recording points for all of their activities. Medals were awarded to Nellie Arunski, Joanna Shigo, Vince Grey, Ursula Kunsitis, Charles Machutas, Stella Sankal, Andy Rozger, Bill Kolicius, Magdalena Smailis, Bertha Janus, Mary Keller, Eleanor Sluzas, Eloise Berczelly, Frances Petkus, Eleanor Mantz, Frances Mikalauskas, and George Mikalauskas, who initiated the District's Award.

All deceased members of the District were remembered at a special candle-lighting ceremony and benediction, led by our District's spiritual advisor, Rev. Gediminas Kijauskas, who had many kind words throughout the weekend about the K of L and its 80 years of service.

Thanks again to C-25 for being such good hosts. We were disappointed that Joanna Shigo, who had helped to plan many of the events, had to enter the hospital as our weekend began. We hope to see her and everyone else at the District's spring meeting and bowling tournament, which will be held on May 20-22, 1994 and hosted by C-19, Pittsburgh.

— Andrea Baltrus



Merry Christmas

And A

Happy New Year

From all of us at Council 96

Dayton, Ohio



*The Happiest of
Holiday Greetings
to All the
Members of
The Knights of Lithuania.*

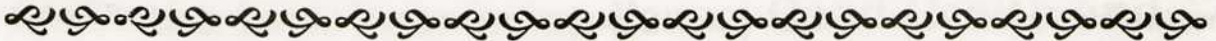
*Robert A. Martin, Jr.
3rd Vice-President - Supreme Council
Member Council 16, Chicago*



A Blessed Christmas
to All
and
A Happy,
Healthy New Year
from the members of
Council 109
Great Neck, L.I., NY

Spiritual Advisor
President
Vice President
Recording Secretary
Treasurer
Financial Secretary
Sergeant-at-Arms

Rev. Msgr. Frank Bulovas
Alexander Wesey, HM
Mary R. Kober, HM
Gladys Banks
Josephine Zukas
Joseph J. Zukas
Jack E. Malis



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

*Council 140
Syracuse, NY*



Sveikiname visus vyčius ir linkime
gražių Šv. Kalėdų švenčių ir Dievo
palaimos.

Lietuvos Vyčių 147-tos Kuopos
St. Petersburg, FL

Valdyba ir nariai



May Your
 Christmas be
 a Happy One
And may the
 New Year bring
 You Contentment
 and Prosperity
 in overflowing
 measure.



VACATION
IN SUNNY FLORIDA.

Room with private bath \$200 per week. Room
 with semi-private bath \$150.00 per week. In-
 cludes 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.

Amber District

The Amber District convened on Sunday, October 10 with C-63 Lehigh Valley the congenial hosts for the day. Reverend Peter Alisauskas, District Spiritual Advisor, celebrated Mass at 12:00 noon. C-63 served a delicious luncheon to all the delegates assembled.

President Elsie Kosmisky conducted the meeting. We thank Eleanor Vaicaitis and Dorothy Banos who served as the Amber District Delegates in Worcester, Massachusetts.

The Amber District was well represented on many committees at the National Convention. John Mickunas (C-3) served as Presidium Co-Chairman; Dorothy Banos (C-143) on the Resolutions Committee, Agnes Mickunas and Irene Svekla (both of C-3) on the Mandate Committee, Eleanore Vaicaitis (C-144) on the Minutes Committee, and Anna Helen McDonald (C-144) on the Greetings Committee.

On the Supreme Council level, Reverend Joseph Anderlonis (C-3) is the National Spiritual Advisor; Agnes Mickunas (C-3) was elected as Recording Secretary; Helen Chesko (C-144) is Ritual Chair; Anne Wargo (C-144) heads St. Casimir's Guild; Dorothy Banos (C-143) is Scholarship Chair; and John Mankus (C-72) is Cultural Chair.

The Amber District Officers for 1993-1994 are:

Spiritual Advisor — Rev. Peter J. Alisauskas
 President — Elsie Kosmisky
 Vice-President — Dorothy Banos
 Secretary — Anna Helen McDonald
 Treasurer — Eleanor Vaicaitis
 Trustee — Nellie Bayoras Romanas
 Trustee — Charles Yuskavage

Cultural Committee: John Mankus
 Lithuanian Affairs Committee: Leonard Kapochus
 Ritual Chair Committee: Dianne Drumstas
 Ritual Chair Committee: Anne Challan (2 yrs.)
 Ritual Chair Committee: Helen Chesko (3 yrs.)
 Public Relations: Thomas McDonald
 Vytis Correspondent: Agnes Mickunas

The Amber District St. Casimir's Celebration will be held on Sunday, March 13, 1994, with C-143 Pittston hosting this important occasion.

The Amber District will hold their June meeting in Kennebunkport the weekend of June 17, 18 and 19, 1994. This should prove to be a successful weekend as there is great interest on the part of the District members.

The Christmas Season is fast approaching and many Councils are already making plans for Kucios dinners. Our best wishes to all for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year 1994.

— Agnes Mickunas

*Linksmų Kalėdų ir Laimingų Naujų Metų
Linkime Visiems Vyčiams ir Jų Šeimoms.*



The Officers and Members of the Amber District
wish all our fellow Knights a Merry Christmas, May
the New Year bring Peace, Good Health and
Happiness to all.

- | | |
|-------------|---------------------|
| Council 3 | - Philadelphia, PA |
| Council 46 | - Forest City, PA |
| Council 63 | - Lehigh Valley, PA |
| Council 72 | - Binghamton, NY |
| Council 74 | - Scranton, PA |
| Council 118 | - Hazleton, PA |
| Council 140 | - Syracuse, NY |
| Council 142 | - Washington, DC |
| Council 143 | - Pittston, PA |
| Council 144 | - Anthracite, PA |
| Council 146 | - Harrisburg, PA |

C-3, Philadelphia, PA

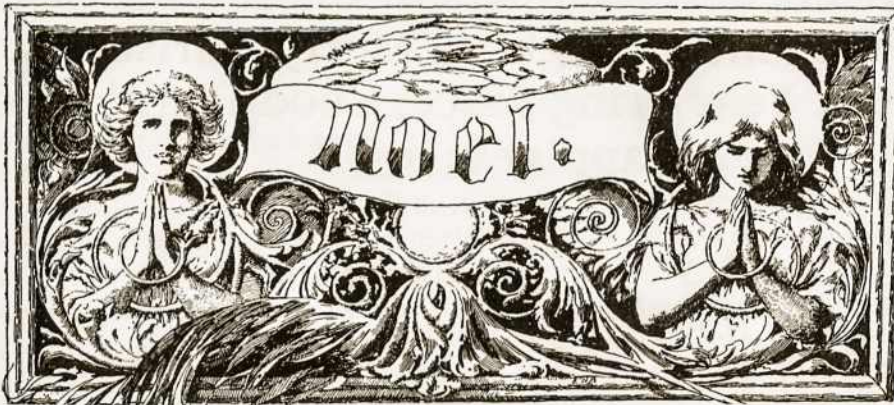
Council 3 is proud to announce its newly elected officers for 1993-94: President — Joseph Drumstas, Vice President — Margaret Petronis, Recording Secretary — Ausra Maknys, Financial Secretary — Alice Bacon, Treasurer — Walter Svekla, Trustees — Dorothy Machonis and Marilyn Kapochus, Ritual Committee — Agnes Mickunas, Chairman, Lillian, 2 year, Irene Ozalis, 3 years, Lithuanian Affairs — Leonard Kapochus, Cultural Committee — Julie Kowrak, Sunshine — Nellie Pandza, Vytis Correspondent — Irene Svekla and Lithuanian New Correspondent — Edmund Binkis. A rousing round of applause and appreciation was given to Victor Stepalovitch for his terrific job as Council President for the last several years.

Our council is also very proud of those members who have accepted jobs on the Amber District Level: Lithuanian Affairs — Leonard Kapochus, Ritual Committee Chairman — Dianne Drumstas, and District Vytis Correspondent — Agnes Mickunas.

Julie Kowrak picked an interesting topic for her cultural report at the October meeting — the Lithuanian names of the months of the year. Julie told us that the names of the months are unique and original. Lithuania, an agricultural nation, named the months after natural phenomena or tasks performed at a particular time of year. Commonly, in many countries the names of the months are derived from the names of ancient gods or Roman emperors. Julie covered the first 6 months of the year and will conclude her presentation next month.

John Mickunas reported that the council Christmas Party will be held at the Gloucester Inn on Sunday, December 5, dinner to be served at 1:30. Irene Ozalis has accepted to be chairman of our annual Kucios with Victor Stepalovitch serving as co-chairman. As usual, the Kucios will follow the 5:00 p.m. Mass at St. George's Church on Saturday, December 11th. Many members have offered to serve on the committee and to help the night before and at the dinner.

A wish from the members of our council to you for a Christmas filled with Joy and Peace, enough to last through the New Year!



— Irene Svekla

C-27, Norwood

Our fall meetings were filled with celebrations. The Rev. William Wolkovich celebrated his 40th Anniversary in the priesthood with a solemn Mass in the Cathedral at Kaunas, Lietuva. The angelic voices of the Pastoral choir sang at his Mass. Later that month, they came to Norwood for a most wonderful concert. Father Bill shared his celebration with the Parish of St. George with an afternoon of sacred music and reception on October third. *Ilgiausiu metu, Teveli.*

Elections were held in October. Albie Jarvis was elected president. First Vice President, S. Betty Shricki. She is currently attending a six-week seminar for her firm, in Rochester. Recording Secretary is Leonora G. Jarvis. Treasurer, Katherine Perednia was the lucky winner of the first prize at the N.E. Scholarship Fair. It was a straw portrait of a Lithuanian maiden. Sergeant-at-Arms — Stan Wasil. Ritual Committee — George Barton. Spiritual Director, Reverend William Wolkovich. Our Second Vice President is also in charge of membership. She is encouraging all to join our council. Sandy Melish is the person to see.

Seen enjoying themselves at the Maironis Park festivities were Stan and Helen Dallalis, their lovely daughter, Nancy, Mary Ann Tamasanis and Ed, and Lenore and Albie Jarvis. We look forward to a wonderful holiday season *ir sveikinam visus.*

— Žaibas

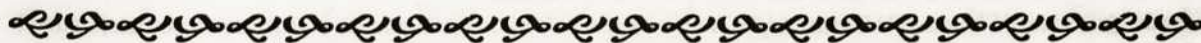
WE ALL WISH YOU A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS

Rev. Gediminas Rijauskas
 John Andrulis
 Nellie Arunski
 Betty August
 Bruno and Agnes Bartkus
 Al and Eleanor Bendokas
 Paul and Irene Chalko
 Grace Derus
 Helen DiRenzo
 Al Dumchus
 Jim and Laura Farrell
 John and Helen Garnis
 Vince and Marion Gray
 Ruth Guzauskas
 Joe and Ann Ivoska
 Bill and Helen Jakubs
 Ben and Akvila Karklius
 Virginia Kohl
 Mike Krivinskas
 Gene and Ursula Kunsitis
 Frank Lucas
 Charles and Nelda Machutas
 Richard and Jean Marks
 Tony and Dolly Oberaitis



Joan Susin Ortman
 Andrew Palzes
 Helen Puhger
 Angela Perko
 Edward and Josephine Prancus
 Frances Pranskevich
 Isabel Reedick
 Rose Rew
 Frank Rozgaitis
 Al and Nellie Samas
 Al and Joanna Shigo
 Vi Skarnus
 Victor Stankus
 Vytautas Staskus
 Stella Sankal
 Adele Svet
 Lucy Montville Tabbert
 Adelle Zupka Tanner
 Jim and Joan Thompson
 Mary Trainy
 Jack and Helen Valley
 Ray Vanagas
 Al and Albina Wallis
 John and Elizabeth Yeckley
 Steve and Lillian Yurkovic

COUNCIL 25 - CLEVELAND, OHIO



COUNCIL 26 - WORCESTER, MA

*Wishing
 All A
 Blessed
 Christmas
 and A
 Happy
 and
 Healthy
 New Year.*



*Linkime
 Visiems
 Linksmų
 Kalėdų
 Ir
 Laimingų
 Sveikų
 Naujų
 Metų.*

VYTIŠKAI

C-63, Lehigh Valley

Lehigh Valley Council 63 wound up a very busy and productive summer which exemplified our camaraderie and dedication to purpose.

The gamut of events are as follows:

In July, council operated a potato pancake stand for a very profitable three days at the Bethlehem Christmas City Fair. President Bob Klova "honchoed" this project.

Seventeen boxes of clothing were collected, packed and shipped to the needy in Lithuania in August. Dora Lushis and Bob Klova, assisted by a very capable crew, did a fantastic job!

Walter Balchunas, Nellie Shirock and Jane Lutick attended the K of L National Convention in Worcester, Massachusetts. Walt did the driving and said that it was a very enjoyable trip. This trio are steady convention visitors and dedicated members.

Again in August, members John and Betty Griskus hosted fourteen other council members at their annual Lithuanian picnic in Frenchtown, New Jersey. There was an open invitation to all council members and the attendees were overwhelmed by the generosity extended to them.

Valeria Smickle and Andy and Adele Kerage visited Lithuania in August. While in Lithuania, Andy crafted a wooden wayside cross and tagged it with a metal plaque identifying it as from the Knights of Lithuania, Council 63 of Lehigh Valley, Pennsylvania. He then planted it among the hundreds of others on the famed Hill of Crosses. This was an extremely thoughtful act on Andy's part to whom council extended their heartfelt thanks when all three related their experiences at the September meeting.

Council also honored the September birthdays of Lillian Klinosky, Walter Balchunas, Adele Keraga and twin sisters Betty Carey and Valeria Smickle.

Evelyn Harryn "honchoed" the operation of council's potato pancake stand at Allentown's Super Sunday on September 19th. She and her hard working crew generated a tidy profit for the treasury.

Under the guidance of Chairman Al Klizas and his crew consisting of wife Jeanette and Jane Lutick among others, Council 63 hosted the Amber District meeting on October 10th. Al and Co. did a grand job.

Council's treasury began to burgeon from many personal donations from the members and friends, proceeds of our potato pancake sales, our flea market sales, and from our cash drawing. Aside from our direct donations to the church and orphanages in Lithuania, these monies (as of the end of October) enabled Council 63 to donate \$1,000 to Aid to Lithuania, \$400 to BALFAS, \$300 to the Lithuanian Embassy in Washington, \$250 to the Papal Foundation, \$150 to the Lithuanian College/Seminary in Rome and \$150 to the St. Casimir's Guild. We hope our fortunes will remain good for the remainder of this year and in 1994 so we can maintain this momentum.

At our October meeting council reelected all the incumbent officers who are: President Robert Klova, Vice President Delores Connolly, Treasurer Walter Balchunas, Financial Secretary Jane Lutick, Recording Secretary Evelyn Harryn, Trustees Jacob Zansitis, Valeria Smickle and Jack Lushis, Sergeant-at-Arms Andrew Keraga, Sunshine Lady Anne Wonsock and Vytis Correspondent Joseph Ogint. They will serve in the 1994 term.

It was reported that members Louise Stefan and Nora Barcoucky are still on the ailing list. Our prayers are for Louise and Nora to get well soon. Our prayers were answered when Margaret Turner's health improved to the point where she could attend our October council meeting. Everyone was delighted to see her again! We are looking forward to seeing Louise and Nora as well.

Evelyn Harryn was again appointed to chair the 1993 Kucios portrayal. She did such a grand job last year that she again was the logical choice.

Al Klizas was appointed to chair the Christmas Tree Decorating Committee. Council will again have an entry in an ethnic Christmas Tree display in the lobby of the Comfort Suites in South Bethlehem, Pennsylvania from late November to early January. Last year's entry was very popular with tourists who swarm into Bethlehem during the holidays and particularly with Lehigh University's art director, who after viewing the Lithuanian tree, returned several times with students to study the handmade straw geometrics on it. What better endorsement can one get?

Christmas Blessings



*Tyliau, tyliau giedokit,
serafimai,
Ir švaigždės, jūs,
plakdenkite tyliu,-
Ir aš be atdūsio prie Jų,
prie mano džiaugsmo kymau,
Kol rytnečio
siviesi žara isauš.*

*Bernardas Brazdėionis
„Dienos Motinos lopsinė“*

**May the Joys of this season
remain in your hearts
throughout the happiest
of New Years.**

Anthracite, Council 144

Schuylkill County, Pennsylvania

C-96 Dayton, Ohio

We are pleased to announce a special update on the Lithuanian Cross Raffle which occurred in September. As you remember, it was reported that \$900 was received for the Sisters in Lithuania. The final count of total \$1400 was shared between Sr. Michele Garas, Utena and Sr. Dolorita Butkus, Kretinga, during the recent Knights of Lithuania trip to Lithuania. A sincere ACIU to all who donate towards the worthy cause.

The MCD Pilgrimage took place October 1-3, 1993, in Cleveland, Ohio. Our members who attended reported that they had an excellent time. Council #25 showed a good time as usual. The MCD granted 17 of the newly installed MCD Recognition Awards. We are proud to say Dayton had six of our members receive the acclaimed honor: Eloise Berczelly, Frances Petkus, Eleanor Mantz, Frances Mikalauskas, George Mikalauskas, and Elinor Sluzas. Congratulations and thanks for devoting the time and energy to promoting the Knights!

Council #96 held the 1994 elections after 6:00 Mass at Holy Cross Roman Catholic Lithuanian Church. Please welcome our new officers:

President: Elena Mikalauskas
 1st Vice President: MaryAgnes Mikalauskas
 3rd Vice President: Annamarie Sluzas-Berger
 Recording Secretary: Catherine Prasmantas
 Treasurer: Barbara Goecke
 Financial Secretary: Frances Mikalauskas
 Trustees: Joe E. Mantz & George Mikalauskas
 Sergeant-at-Arms: Joe Fletcher & Rob Pant
 Ritual: Frances Petkus
 Lithuanian Culture: Judy Sluzas
 Public Relations: MaryAgnes Mikalauskas
 Spiritual Programs: Connie & Jim Geiger

VYTIS: MaryAgnes Mikalauskas
 Bulletin Editor: Julie Goecke
 Historians: Michael F. Petkus & Elena Mikalauskas
 Social: Elaine Pocovsky & Kitty Prasmantas
 Ways & Means: Judy Sluzas & Eleanor Mantz
 Sports: Joe Fletcher
 Condolence: Chris Fletcher
 By-Laws: Joe E. & Eleanor Mantz & Michael F. Petkus
 Telephone: Joyce Berczelly
 SARYSIS: Sally Milaskavitz & Stefanija Rastikis
 Photographers: Jim Geiger & Elena Mikalauskas
 Librarian: Stefanija Rastikis

— MaryAgnes Mikalauskas



George Mikalauskas presenting gift to Sr. Michele Garas. The Childrens' Choir at Saules School, Utena, Lithuania.



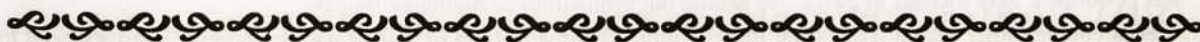
**Kalėdų Šventės Teatneša
Tyro Džiaugsmo Ir
Naujieji Metai Stiprybes
Ir Vilties!**



Amsterdamo Vyčiai Kuopa 100

Christmas Joy To One And All!

Members of Council 100, Amsterdam



Linksmų Šv. Kalėdų

Laimingų Naujų Metų

Council 142



**Telaimina Jus Dangus
Šventose Kaledose
Ir
Naujuose Metuose!**

**Helen A. Chesko
National Ritual Chairperson**

And

**Anne Klizas Wargo
St. Casimir's Guild**



C-141, Bridgeport, Connecticut

As usual, our council had a very enjoyable time at the annual picnic hosted by Victor and Clemencine Miller on August 7th. John and Kathy Balcius had just returned from a lengthy visit with John's relatives in Lithuania and entertained us with a very interesting movie he made with his camcorder.

We were represented by 9 adults and 3 juniors at the 80th National Convention in Worcester, Massachusetts. The Juniors — Sarah Miller, Bonnie Gulas, and Inga Talalaite must have had a great time — they smiled as they slept all the way home that Sunday afternoon.

Our president, Clemencine Miller, presented the Scholarship winners with their awards during the Convention Banquet, and retired, from the National Scholarship Committee where she served as secretary and treasurer.

Among the 30 recipients of the 4th Degree were two from our council — Aldona and Sylvester Marcavage. It was such a special day to receive that special award — The Feast of the Assumption of the BVM!

August 29th, Mr. and Mrs. Victor Miller celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary with a garden party given by their sons and spouses, and their grandchildren. Effervescent Joe Thomas entertained with his music — and there was plenty of singing and dancing. Ilgiausiu Metu!

While our president and vice president were attending the NED Convention in South Boston, Second Vice President, Joseph Janiunas conducted the September meeting. One of our newest members displayed his talents (with a supportive committee — of course) by serving refreshments worthy of notice. It seems Richard Haux was a former caterer and plans to go back into the business. Welcome, Richard. We wish you success in your endeavors.

October 10th, Msgr. Pranckus swore in two new members: Marie and Bill Brilvitch. Barbara Estok has also joined us. Welcome aboard, folks! In memory of Teresa Trainis, founder of C-141, Msgr. Pranckus led us in prayer. Holy Mass was offered for her October 17th, and beautiful flowers were sent for the funeral. At the funeral home, the K of L Christian Wake Ritual was performed. May she rest in peace. We extend our sympathies to Alphonse Trainis.

Clemencine Miller read a letter from Robert Boris, chairman of Aid to Lithuania, stressing Lithuania's need for our support. The tri-color can for collecting money was shown and turned down. Members voted to donate \$200.00 from our treasury instead of soliciting funds from strangers. We will also support *Vytis* with a half page ad for Christmas. A motion was made and passed to congratulate the Sisters of the Immaculate Conception of BVM in Putnam on their Diamond Anniversary with a card and \$75.00 donation to be presented to them during their October 31st celebration in Putnam.

Next question in need of a hurried answer — What is the best way to enrich our rapidly depleting treasury???

The NED constitution revision was read and explained — as was the K of L Foundation. Very knowledgeable Joe Janiunas and Mitch Marcinauskis have kept us well informed throughout the year on the latest happenings in Lithuania. Did you know you can send money to your relatives in Lithuania via the US Post Office? For only \$3.00 you may send up to \$700.00 — duty-free on both sides of the ocean. If your Post Office is not up-to-date, refer them to Postal Bulletin #21840 dated April 29th, 1993 — Page 6.

Aldona Peters reported she discovered a good article on Baltic Amber in the *Smithsonian* Magazine dated January, 1993.

Note, the annual Day of Prayer for Lithuania, organized by the CLC, October 24th at the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Hartford, Connecticut, Mass at 3:00 p.m. with Most Reverend Daniel A. Cronin as Celebrant and Homilist.

Msgr. Pranckus announced that November 7th at 3:00 p.m., there will be three priests at St. George Church in Bridgeport to offer Mass for all deceased Lithuanian priests.

Nominating committee consisting of Msgr. Pranckus and Peter Putrimas conducted the election of Officers for the next year. Only one change took place. Dr. Armundas Zakaruskas is the new First Vice President, replacing Sylvester Marcavage who resigned after many years of service. We wish the 1994 slate a year of great success. Before the next meeting on November 21st, there will be the installation of Officers at the 11:00 a.m. Mass.

On October 16th, a huge, black furry gorilla delivered a singing telegram and a big bunch of balloons to Recording Secretary, Barbara Schmidt, who was pleasingly surprised by her husband, family and friends with a birthday party. Many happy returns, Barbara!

On the current sick list are Anne Petrus and John Marcinka. Please remember them in your prayers.

C-141 will be hosting the next NED Board Meeting on October 24th at the home of Clemencine Miller, Bridgeport President.

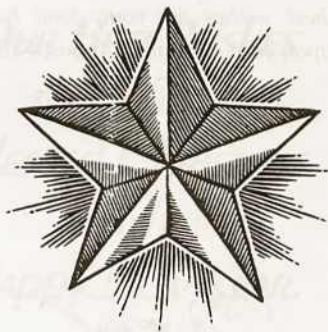
Wishing all K of L'ers happy and healthy holidays!

— Aldona Marcavage

*Linksmų Kalėdų
ir
Laimingų Naujų Metu.*



*Merry Christmas
and a
Happy New Year
to All.*

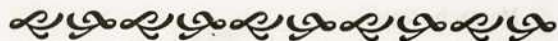


*Council 79
Southfield, MI
Divine Providence Church*



*Sveikiname Visus Vyčius
Šventų ir Linksmų
Kalėdinių Švenčių.*

*Happiest of Christmas
Holiday Greetings from
Detroit Council 102.*



*Council 86
wishes everyone
a joyous
Christmas
and a
Happy,
Healthy
New Year.*

REV. JOHN C. PETRAUSKAS, M.I.C. GOLDEN JUBILEE

By Olga Kersis, C-26



The happiest time in the life of a priest whose only aim in life is to serve the Lord and the Lord's people must certainly be the occasion of his golden jubilee in the Holy Priesthood. The golden privilege has just recently been granted to Rev. John C. Petrauskas, M.I.C., spiritual director of Council 26 and associate pastor of St. Casimir's Church in Worcester, Massachusetts.

Father John was born in Gardner, Massachusetts on May 13, 1916. He attended public schools in Gardner and graduated from Gardner High School in 1934. (The *Gardner News* in a write-up on their native son reported that Father John began working for them as a newsboy when he was about 10 years old and when papers sold at a mere penny apiece!!) While in high school, he worked for the former Florence Stove Company to help support his family in the difficult depression years. He enrolled at Marianapolis College in Thompson, Connecticut in the fall of 1935 and graduated as president of his class in June of 1939. He then entered the novitiate of the Congregation of Marians at Marian Hills Seminary in Hinsdale, Illinois and was ordained to the priesthood on August 8, 1943 at Marianapolis. In August of 1944, he was assigned as an instructor at Marianapolis Preparatory School. For two years, 1946 to 1948, he was enrolled in the graduate school of Marquette University and was awarded a Master of Arts degree in Latin. He returned to Marianapolis and in October of 1950, was named Headmaster of Marianapolis. He served as Headmaster until September of 1969, and again from September of 1975 to September of 1987.

During his tenure, Marianapolis achieved record enrollments and saw the expansion of the school with the addition of St. John's Hall in 1962, the academic complex in 1966 and the gymnasium in 1968. Father John was reassigned on September 1, 1987 as associate pastor at St. Casimir Church in Worcester.

Father John's parents are the late Michael and Apolonia (Grigaliunas) Petrauskas. He is the lone survivor of their five children including, besides Father John, Stanley, Frances, Elizabeth, and Father Joseph C. Petrauskas of the Boston Archdiocese who was pastor of St. Casimir's Church in Brockton, Massachusetts at the time of his death in 1973.

Father John was main celebrant in the concelebrated Mass of Thanksgiving on August 22 in St. Casimir's Church, Worcester. Among brother-priests, friends and relatives in attendance was Bishop Bernard Flanagan, retired Bishop of Worcester who is also the former Bishop of Norwich in which Diocese Marianapolis is located.

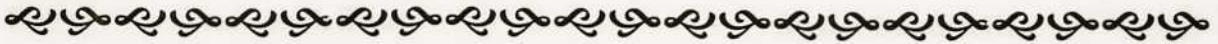
Following Mass, Father John was honored at a dinner-testimonial at Maironis Park, Shrewsbury, Massachusetts, hosted by Council 26.

This brief biography hardly does justice to our esteemed spiritual director. There is much more that could be written. For now, may we simply say: *thank you, Father, from the bottom of our hearts. It is our hope that we might be associated with you for many, many years to come and offer prayerful best wishes for your good health and God's blessings upon you. Ad Multos Annos, Father John!*





*The Officers and Members of
Council 16,
your '94 Convention Host,
would like to wish all our
fellow Knights
a Merry Christmas
and a
Happy New Year.*



*OUR BEST WISHES
TO ALL FOR A
BLESSED CHRISTMAS
AND A
HAPPY NEW YEAR.*

*COUNCIL 52
ELIZABETH, NEW JERSEY*



*MAY THE SPIRIT OF THE SEASON TOUCH
YOUR WORLD BY A MIRACLE OF LOVE
AND PEACE AND MAY THE SONG OF AN
ANGEL BE YOURS EVERY DAY
OF THE YEAR.*

*LINKSMU KALĚDY
FROM
COUNCIL #24, CHICAGO*



WARMEST GREETINGS

From all of our dedicated members and officers of Knights of Lithuania, Council 110, Maspeth, Queens, New York.

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First Vice-President
Second Vice-President
Secretary
Treasurer
Financial Secretary
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Amylia Girdauskas
Maryte Abbott
Ann Morrissey
Kazimieras Vainius
Alphonse Marcel
Donatas Uzas
Ann Ackalitis**

We all wish our fellow Knights good health and happiness not only for the new year, but for always!



DŽIAUGSMAS
IR
RAMYBĖ
TEL YDI JUS
PER



KALĖDŲ ŠVENTES IR NAUJUOSIUS METUS

Sister M. Angela, C.J.C.
Frances Brillius
Edmund Carlitus
Barbara & Joe Deriskavich
Ginner Kazlauskas
Helen Labadis
Pauline Martunas
Josephine Manikas
Anna Milbut Nardini
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Anna Supernavage
Eleanor Vaicaitis
Joseph & Marian Wydra
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Olympia Zelinski

Catherine Bernatonis
Susan Banditelli
Ann Carlitus
Emma Delinsky
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Helen Mackavage
Anna Helen & Tom McDonald
Mary Narcavage
Marge Rozmerski
Betty Tumas
Beatrice Wasley
Albert Yockachonis
Bernard Zilaitis
Lucy Zelonis

Rev. Matthew Jarasunas, Spiritual Advisor

Members and Friends of Anthracite Council 144

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THE KNIGHTS OF LITHUANIA SUPREME COUNCIL
 INVITES YOU TO
VISIT LITHUANIA
 SPEND 13 DAYS IN LITHUANIA AND EXPERIENCE THE
1994 SONG FESTIVAL
 JUNE 29TH ---- JULY 13TH 1994



Two itineraries have been arranged for your pleasure:

GROUP A will include day trips for "first time visitors" to Lithuania.

This group will have guided tours while in Vilnius, Kaunas, Palanga plus trips to Trakai, Kernave, Rumsiskes, Pazaislis and other major tourist attractions in Lithuania already visited by the people in Group B.

GROUP B will have more time to leisurely explore the old towns of Vilnius and Kaunas, enjoy the beach at Palanga, shop or visit relatives etc..

GROUP A & GROUP B will Cruise down the beautiful Nemunas from Kaunas to Nida by HYDRAFOIL • Explore the Courland Split • Visit Witches' Mountain • A "Fourth of July Picnic" in Palanga • Visit the Hill of Crosses and see the K of L Memorial Cross erected in 1993 • Lunch at the famous Seduva Mill • Stroll through Old Town Vilnius and listen to the numerous Folk Ensembles performing in the street • An evening performance of folk groups at Kalnu Parkas • Orchestra performances throughout Vilnius for several days • A Folk Dance Concert at Zalgiris Stadium • A Grand Parade to Vingio Parkas for the Major Song Festival Performance • A day trip through beautiful Dzukija to Druskininkai via the Ciurlionis Road.

TOTAL COST \$ 2,175.00

Tour includes: Round trip (coach) air fare via Lufthansa from Chicago, JFK, Newark, Boston or Washington.
 Hotels (double occupancy) - 6 nights in Vilnius, 3 nights in Kaunas, 3 nights in Palanga, plus one night layover in Frankfurt, Germany;
 Three meals daily in Lithuania;
 All transfers and sightseeing in modern comfortable buses, services of G.T. personnel and English speaking guides, tickets to all performances of the Song Festival. Gratuities for G.T. staff (guides, drivers, porters, security personnel) Baggage handling and transfers.

Due to the very large number of anticipated visitors from overseas, hotel space will be very limited. Because of the expected size of OUR tour, we may be assigned to several different hotels, so please register, as soon as possible. **REGISTRATION & DEPOSIT - DEADLINE FEBRUARY 15th, 1994.** The K of L tour will be limited to the first 100 persons to register, so act now and avoid disappointment.
 Please note! Sightseeing in Lithuania is strenuous - you should be in good physical condition to fully enjoy this trip. Hotels do not always have hot water or elevators.

For a detailed tour information and registration packet please contact:

K of L Tour Coordinator:

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

Travel Agent:

GT INTERNATIONAL • AL GRIGAS & RUTA PAUPERAS •



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