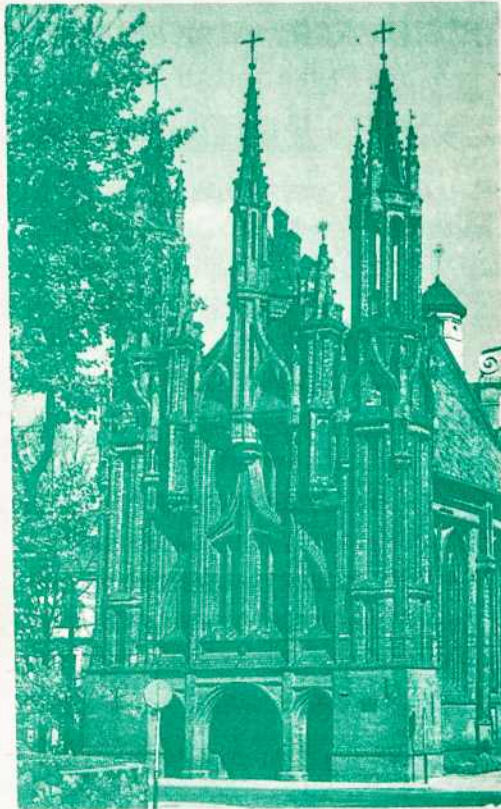


WYTIŚ

KNIGHTS OF LITHUANIA

Volume 80 Number 6 Birželis/June 1994



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 issue. (e.g. July 1 for the September issue). Except for the information contained in the Official News - Oficialus Skyrius section in 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.

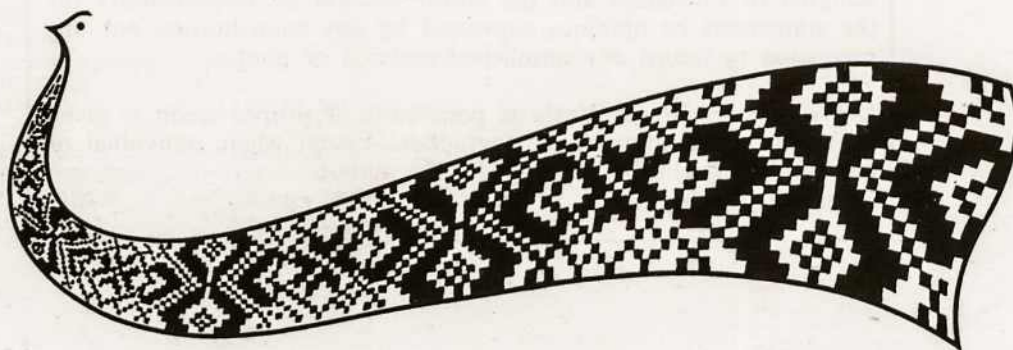
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ALMANAC LIETUVIŠKAS ALMANACHAS 1994 BIRŽELIS - JUNE

Wednesday June 1 : Justinas
 Thursday June 2 : Marcellius, Ažuolas
 Friday June 3 : Karolis, Develta
 Saturday June 4 : Vendra, Vilma, Biržis
 Sunday June 5 : Alvyra, Kantvydas
 Monday June 6 : Norbertas, Mėta
 Tuesday June 7 : Robertas, Milda
 Wednesday June 8 : Germinė, Žostautas
 Thursday June 9 : Gintas, Mažvyda
 Friday June 10 : Vainius, Vijųė
 Saturday June 11 : Aluona, Tvirmantas
 Sunday June 12 : Rūta, Ramūnas
 Monday June 13 : Minkantė, Antanas
 Tuesday June 14 : Alka, Butrimas
 Wednesday June 15 : Vitas, Jolanta
 (Vilties Diena - Day of Hope remind us
 of 50 years of Soviet Domination from
 1940 - 1990)

Thursday June 16 : Jūra, Kautigirdas
 Friday June 17 : Adolfas, Liudgailė
 Saturday June 18 : Elzbieta
 Sunday June 19 : Ramunė, Romualdas
 (Fathers' Day)
 Monday June 20 : Alva, Genulis
 Tuesday June 21 : Vasarė, Novaldas
 Wednesday June 22 : Tomas , Paulinas
 Thursday June 23 : Vanda, Vaiva, Arvydas
 Friday June 24 : Jonas (Joninės)
 Saturday June 25 : Gaudizadas, Mantminas
 Sunday June 26 : Virkantas , Jaunius
 Monday June 27 : Leonas, Ladas, Gediminas
 Tuesday June 28 : Gandrė, Tulantas
 Wednesday June 29 : Petras ir Paulius
 Thursday June 30 : Emilija, Aidas

BIRŽELIS - JUNE derives its name from the newly budded birch trees (*beržas*) which is a symbol of a miraculously restored nature, youth and fertility. Homes, farms and animals are decorated with birch branches not only at Pentecost (*Sekminės*) but for other occasions as well. This custom survives from Lithuania's pre-Christian era.



SU DIEV, JOKŪBAI!

Vincent B. Boris

We note the passing of HM Jokūbas "Jack" Stukas not so much with a fond farewell as with a fervent prayer, "Be with God, Jack." Our Faith assures us that death is but a transition to eternal life. Thus we pray with confidence "Lord accept our brother, Jack, into the everlasting light of Your Presence."

Before Jack was even born, a visiting priest from Lithuania was so impressed with the Knights of Lithuania that, upon his return home, he penned a poem extolling the Knights and sent it back to America as his gift. It became our anthem, the *Vyčių Himnas*. I'm sure that Fr. Gustaitis could only imagine those virtues by which he defined the Knights. Had he but known Jack Stukas, he would also have known an apt model for his depicted knight. How well he defined the attributes that were to mark life and work of Jack Stukas.

for him a life mission. He was among the first non-Communist Americans allowed to visit post-war occupied and Sovietized Lithuania. That was in 1960. The words and insights, he brought back, were uncompromising and harsh. He toured the various Lithuanian communities in the U.S. and confirmed the stories of unspeakable depredations wrought by the Soviets on Lithuania, this land of happy memories for so many. He also brought back a collection of folk/popular Lithuanian music. From these he produced two LP's entitled "Music From Oppressed Lithuania." After a second visit during which he had the audacity to give voice to the proscribed Lithuanian National Anthem, "*Lietuva Tėvyne Mūsų*," in a public restaurant, Jack became persona-non-grata to the Soviet authorities and was not again given an entry visa for another visit.



HM Jack Stukas

Jack was 69 when he died, but to his final days he never failed to display the "*jauna Vyčių dvasia*" evoked in our anthem. Young at heart, young in mind and young in spirit. Always exerting his youthful energies as the champion of just causes. He started a "career" in radio broadcasting at age 16.

Focusing on his Lithuanian heritage, his broadcasts provided an insightful link into Lithuanian culture, language, politics and religiosity. His radio broadcasting provided a consistent thread throughout his life lasting a remarkable 53 years.

"*Mes už tėsybe stosim drasiai*" are words that were more than mere lyrics of the anthem to Jack. A valiant defense of truth, especially as it related to the plight of his ancestral homeland, Lithuania, was

"*Tėvyne ginti kuo narsiaus*" - to unfailingly promote our heritage. Youthful listeners of Jack's radio broadcasts were encouraged and persuaded to participate in their heritage through song and dance. He founded the "Lithuanian Echoes" choral ensemble in 1941. The group evolved into a women's ensemble and then into a folk dance and song group, named "Ruta." Within the Knights of Lithuania, Jack revived the Lithuanian Cultural Committee and served as its Chairman from 1956 through 1963.

"*Gyvenam Tautai ir Bažnyčiai*" (We are dedicated in service to the Nation and to the Church) is the motto emblazoned on our organizational banner. These simple words form the essence of Jack's life. I have mentioned his work in radio and touched a part of his activity with the Knights of Lithuania. But these just scratch the surface. In the Knights, Jack began a leadership role in the Cultural Committee which he revitalized in 1956 and continued to head for 8 consecutive years. He then founded the Scholarship Committee in 1964 and served as its chair from 1964 through 1972. While Jack remained Scholarship Chair from 1968, he also took on the job of Supreme Council President for four terms. Finally, he served as Lithuanian Affairs Committee chairman for six years, from 1981 through 1987. To each of these positions, he brought new vigor and vitality indelibly stamping each with his own personality and reshaping them with zeal and determination. His truly outstanding accomplishments within this organization were recognized by raising him to the status of an Honorary Member in 1966.

But Jack Stukas was not just a Knight of Lithuania, he was engaged in many areas of Lithuanian activism. In each he reached positions of leadership. He joined with the Supreme Committee for the Liberation of Lithuania (VLIK-as) and soon rose to the position of a vice-President. As a member of the Lithuanian American Council, Inc, the oldest and most effective Lithuanian political action group, he served on their central Board of Directors and was president of the New York chapter. He also served for a time as the National Treasurer of the Lithuanian Alliance of America.

These accomplishments were, however, only avocations. His career, his life, was that of an educator. Jack Stukas joined the faculty of Seton Hall University in 1963 and attained a full professorship in marketing and international Business after earning his Doctorate (PhD) from New York University in 1965. Jack started his academic life under the guidance of the Lithuanian Sisters of St. Francis (Pittsburgh Province) who instilled not only a love of learning but a deep appreciation of his Catholicism and full awareness of his Lithuanian ethnicity. He earned a Bachelor of Science Degree from the School of Commerce at the City of New

York University in 1949. A degree of Master of Science was earned through the Graduate School of Business of Columbia University (New York) in 1951. He also studied European Economic Problems on a special scholarship at Oxford University in England.

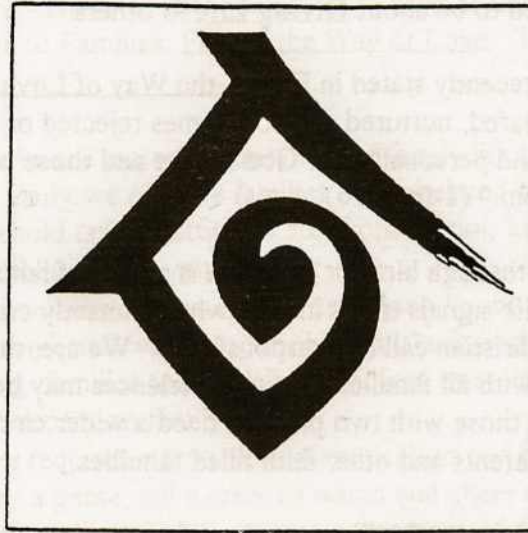
Twenty-nine years ago, Jack married Loretta Kassel. Being as deeply devoted to the Catholic Faith and proud of a Lithuanian heritage as Jack, Loretta proved to be a true soul-mate. Both Knights of Lithuania, they met at a National Convention; Jack from New Jersey; Loretta from Chicago. It was also at a National Convention that Jack proposed marriage. Both had individually achieved a significant record of accomplishments for God and Country; together their achievements were monumental. Perhaps none were as significant or enduring as their support and sponsoring of the Lithuanian Project of the Deborah Pediatric Heart and Lung Foundation. Numerous children have already been restored to good health and countless more will live productive lives because of the skills taught to Lithuanian surgeons and health providers through the Deborah facilities.

In 1985, Jack was the recipient of a Papal award being received into the Order of the Knights of St. Silvester. This honor was conferred by His Holiness Pope John Paul II in recognition of Jack Stukas' lifelong dedication and work for the Church and for Free Lithuania.

Jack died on April 29th after a long bout with cancer. He is survived by his wife, Loretta, three brothers, and a multitude of relatives and friends. His fellow Knights of Lithuania from Council 29, gathered on Sunday May 1 with several visiting Knights for the traditional K of L Wake Service, conducted by National Spiritual Advisor Fr. Anderlonis and past-President Anne Wargo. The funeral Mass, offered at Our Lady of Sorrows Church in Kearney on May 3, was concelebrated by Bishop Baltakis, Msgr. Balčiūnas of Putnam, CT, the chancellor of Seton Hall and five local pastors. Twelve Knights of Lithuania, led by National President, Frances Petkus, formed an Honor Guard to escort Jack from the Funeral Home to the Church.

Priimk, Viešpatie, į amžinąjį džiaugsmą mūsų brolių, Jokūbų!

1994 International Year of the Family



The Emblem

The emblem depicts a heart linked to another heart and both sheltered by a roof. The symbolism is life and love present in a home where one finds caring, warmth, security, togetherness, tolerance and acceptance.

Giving Life

"Get a Life" -Often when we are consumed with our own problems and overwhelmed by minute details we suddenly realize that we need to "Get a Life". Just as we need to be life giving to ourselves we need to be about Giving Life to others.

The U.S. Bishops recently stated in Follow the Way of Love, "the story of family life is a story about love shared, nurtured and sometimes rejected or lost. In every family God is revealed uniquely and personally, for God is love and those who live in love, live in God and God dwells in them." (1 Jn. 4:16)

Welcoming a child through birth or adoption is an act of faith as well as an act of love. Being open to new life signals trusts in God who ultimately creates and sustains all life. Parenting is indeed a Christian call and responsibility. We are, through our baptism called to share God's love with all families. Your experiences may benefit other parents. Likewise, all families, even those with two parents, need a wider circle of aunts and uncles, grandparents, godparents and other faith filled families.

There are many other ways families can give life: opposing whatever destroys life such as abortion, euthanasia, unjust war, capital punishment, neighborhood and domestic violence, poverty and racism. Within your family, when you shun violent words and actions and look for peaceful ways to resolve conflict, you become a voice for life, forming peacemakers for the next generation.

Suggestions:

- Reflect on the values and beliefs you want to hand on to future generations.
- Share traditions and rituals that enrich your family life with other families.
- Take a grandparent out of a nursing home for a ride.
- Help the community recycling effort.
- Work to improve the schools in your community.
- Join political action on behalf of others treated unjustly.

Giving Life is a responsibility of all who are part of God's family and wish to promote His love and peace in the world today.

Taking Time

"Mom's Taxi"-a bumper sticker many of us have seen. It speaks volumes about the busyness of family life. The U.S. Bishops ask us to look at the value of **Taking time** in their pastoral message to Families: Follow the Way of Love. Their words to us are worth our reflection . . .

We are struck by the incredible busyness of family life that can take its toll on loving relationships. Daily we observe families overwhelmed by the demands of work, business travel, household tasks, getting to and from school, keeping appointments with doctors, civic responsibilities and volunteering.

Both men and women can get caught up in long hours and weekends at their place of work. Balancing home and work responsibilities is a shared obligation for spouses. It is a critical issue facing families today. Where choices exist, hours on the job need to be weighed against their impact on family life.

To thrive, love requires attention, communication and time-to share a story or confide a need, to play a game, tell a joke, to watch and cheer on-time to be present to another's failure or success, confusion, despair or moment of decision.

Spending time together builds intimacy, increases understanding and creates memories between husband and wife, parent and child, brothers and sisters, grandparents and younger family members. It is hard to imagine how a family can live faithfully, be life-giving and grow in maturity without deliberately choosing to spend time together.

We are urged to take time to be together, to make relationships with family members a priority. **Taking time**, can begin with small adjustments to our busy schedules.

Here are some of their suggestions:

- Making shared meals a priority (even if you gather at a fast-food restaurant).
- Praying and worshipping together at Sunday Eucharist, prayer meetings and in family prayers such as the rosary.
- Building family traditions and rituals.
- Taking part in retreats and family education programs.
- Watching television together and discussing the values being promoted on programs can be time well spent as a family.

There are many ways we can begin **Taking Time**, first we must start with ourselves and then extend this value to the rest of our relationships.

Living Faithfully

Promise them anything . . .

Where do we go to find out how to live faithfully? Just the term alone seems so ominous. And the time that we live in doesn't lend itself too well to find a lot of role models that stand out as good supports. The very supports that we counted on in the past have shown us that because our institutions are made up of people, there are limitations and clay feet.

We have several examples of how we've been touched by unfaithfulness: large industry needing to down size, arbitrarily selects people to let go - no matter how faithful the employee has been. People in relationship decide that they no longer want to be in relationships. Parents abandon children - the responsibilities are too great. Couples become bored with what is and seek the excitement of what could be, and look elsewhere. Church leaders have been found to be human and subject to the same limitations.

And so, where can we go? Scripture tells us: "Love is patient, love is kind....love never fails." (I Cor. 13:4-8). Now, before you dismiss this as only meant for "weddings" (isn't this where you hear this read the most) or only for married people, we are all called to be faithful. And sometimes it's as simple as saying when I promise to do something, then I just need to do it - even if I'm not terribly excited about it; like taking out the trash or doing homework or taking care of my brother or sitting up with a sick child.

In the ordinariness of life, this is where this value is lived out in particular. It's not easy to live faithfully. Even though we may have chosen a particular path, like being married or being a student or being a part of a team in sports for example, each member is counting on the other to do their part. And when it doesn't happen, that's when trouble begins.

We need to be assured that living faithfully is possible. There is no perfect family. there is no perfect marriage. We need the witness that families have to offer as they struggle in their every day ordinariness and remain faithful to one another. These families we speak of have their own burdens that they carry. They may be two parent families or single parent families or extended families (grandparents, aunts or uncles living with other family members) and they are working out their issues.

You know all too well what your living out of faithfulness means.

To think about and discuss:

- When have you had to renew a decision to love your spouse, child or another family member? What made it difficult or easy?
- Would you be willing to share with another family what this meant for you?

Growing in Mutuality

"Men submit to your wives: share your tears - as well as the laundry."

"At the basis of all relationships in a family is our fundamental equality as persons created in God's image. These words are taken from the U.S. Bishops Message to Families in the pastoral: Follow the Way of Love. The challenge in family life of **Growing in Mutuality** is a significant one in that it focuses particular attention on the equality of the husband-wife relationship.

"True equality understood as mutuality, is about sharing power and exercising responsibility for a purpose larger than ourselves. Both of you are co-creators of your relationship. Agreeing that you are equal might be easier than changing your behavior or accepting joint responsibility for your relationship. It takes hard work to really understand another's feelings or to practice shared decision making on important matters.

Flexible roles may appear difficult if your families of origin did not model them.

**What we live with we learn
What we learn we practice
What we practice we become.**

When children are born, both mother and father are important in nurturing and forming them. More and more fathers are actually involved in parenting and finding it to be an enriching experience for all. This is a hopeful development."

Some suggestions:

- Urge men to interpret their traditional role as "provider" for a family in more than an economic sense
- Place children at the center of family life. Treat with respect. Give responsibility, listen to their thoughts and feelings
- Cherish our elders for they are a witness to the past and a source of wisdom for the young and for the future
- Reflect on your families of origin to learn how it has influenced your understanding of the roles of men and women

A Prayer of Responsibility for Children

by Ina J. Hughs

We pray for children who put chocolate
fingers everywhere,
Who liked to be tickled,
Who stomp in puddles and ruin their new
pants,
Who sneak popsicles before supper,
Who erase holes in math workbooks,
Who can never find their shoes.

And we pray for those who stare at photo-
graphers from behind barbed wire,
Who can't bound down the street in a new
pair of sneakers,
Who never "counted potatoes",
Who were born in places in which we
wouldn't be caught dead,
Who never go to the circus,
Who live in a X-rated world.

We pray for children who bring us sticky
kisses and fistfuls of dandelions,
Who sleep with the dog and bury goldfish,
Who hug us in a hurry and forget their
lunch money,
Who cover themselves with band-aids and
sing off-key,
Who squeeze toothpaste all over the sink,
Who slurp their soup.

And we pray for those who never get dessert,
Who have no safe blanket to drag behind
them,
Who watch their parents watch them die,
Who don't have any rooms to clean up,
Whose pictures aren't on anybody's dresser,
Whose monsters are real.

We pray for children who spend all their
allowance before Tuesday,
Who throw tantrums in the grocery store
and pick at their food,
Who like ghost stories.



We pray for children who shove dirty clothes
under the bed,
And never rinse out the tub,
Who love visits from the tooth fairy,
Who don't like to be kissed in front of the
school bus,
Who squirm in church and scream in the
phone.....

And we pray for those whose nightmares
come in the daytime,
Who will eat anything,
Who have never seen a dentist,
Who aren't spoiled by anybody,
Who go to bed hungry,
And cry themselves to sleep,
Who live and move and have no being.

We pray for children who want to be carried,
And for those who must,
For those we never give up on,
And for those who will grab the hand of
anyone kind enough to offer it.

Hear our cries, God and listen to our prayers.
Amen.

**K of L Foundation
1993 Essay Contest
Honorable Mention Winner
Joseph Kohanski C-63
Lehigh Valley, PA**

Lithuania will soon celebrate 750 years of historical nationhood. She is over 500 years older than the United States and 250 years older than Russia. Who are the Lithuanians and where is their country?

Lithuanians are an Indo-European people who migrated from the Caspian Sea to the Baltic Sea, settling in the present area almost 5,000 years ago. Valued and studied by linguists because of the purity of its ancient form, the Lithuanian language is unique, rooted in primeval Sanskrit.

Unless one is a serious scholar, unbiased historian or a geo-political scientist, one may not be aware of the impact and contributions of Lithuania and its people to the European Saga. In the 14th and 15th Centuries, via adroit diplomacy and defense-influenced consolidations, they ruled the area from the Baltic to the Black Sea. During this interval, Lithuania subdued the Teutonic Knights, stopped Tartar hoards in Muscovi and later thwarted Turkish-Ottoman Expansionism on Vienna's threshold.

Grand Duke Mindaugas established centralized Lithuanian government over seven centuries ago. By custom, national acceptance into the European community of nation's required papal approval. Mindaugas agreed and was crowned the first and only King of Lithuania. As political fortunes ebbed, the Lithuanian spirit was never extinguished, though devices of brutality and inhumanity were brought to bear. After years of persecution by the czars, independence was restored on February 16, 1918.

Lithuania became a member of the League of Nations in 1921. Halcyon days of innovation and industriousness followed, along with international trade and blossoming of the arts. Then came World War II, initial occupation by the Soviet Union in 1940, later occupation by the Nazis and



final forcible enslavement by the Communists into the USSR.

Sensing propitious timing, after 50 years of Soviet oppression, Lithuania declared the Restoration of Independence on March 11, 1990. Courageous Lithuanian leadership showed the world, the Lithuanian nation was alive and would not be intimidated by the power of the USSR. Again, in January of 1991, determination for recognition of the restored independence and a true thirst for freedom were demonstrated when unarmed citizens were martyred defending the nation against tanks with their bodies. Boris Yeltsin was impressed, and in dealing with a hard-liner coup, leapt onto a tank and exhorted his countrymen to follow the example of the Lithuanian nation.

The accepted tests which characterize a nation are:

- a people organized as a body politic for a common purpose.
- association over time with a particular and specific territory.
- possession of a distinctive culture
- a common language
- a common origin

Lithuania conforms to all these criteria, not only for the past 750 years, but many hundreds of years prior.

If one seeks to discover a single pervasive trait which drives Lithuanian nationalism it is tenacity. Propagation of the Lithuanian Spirit is synonymous with life. It is sparked by love of the land, freedom, culture, language, religion, tolerance and overwhelming endurance.

LIETUVA will continue her renaissance and like the fabled phoenix, rise from the ashes to take her rightful place in the community of nations.

Hope Street Then.... and the South Bronx Today c by Albert Cizauskas

A letter from a reader of another journal about Hope Street, Brooklyn, NY as it was fifty years ago, prompted some thinking about the street where I was born and lived for the first half-dozen of the years of my life.

The letter writer and I differed on a number of details, but we did agree on one very important point. This was that the people on Hope Street had self-respect. Like the name of their street, they also had hope that eventually, they, or more likely their children, would be able to rise above the street's limitations.

Recently, the Washington Post ran a series of articles on the South Bronx. One observation in particular sticks in my mind. In the Post reporter's opinion, "the cumulative demoralizing effect of generations on welfare" was cited as one of the chief reasons for the wretched condition of the South Bronx today.

On Hope Street there was no welfare, even in the depths of the Great Depression when jobs were at least as scarce as they are said to be in the South Bronx today. Yet we did not trash, did not burn, did not loot, did not terrorize, did not buy and sell drugs. WHY ??? Perhaps sociologists have attempted to explain the phenomenon of the different reactions to adversity by earlier slum dwellers and those of today's ghetto inhabitants, but I haven't seen it.

I have my own explanation.

Our parents were immigrants from Lithuania, where they also had to struggle as virtual serfs for a living under the harshness of the Czarist regime. Perhaps, some might say, they knew no better than to accept the hardships they encountered in their adopted country. But I think otherwise. I believe that, underlying the hardness of their lives in this country, was the sure knowledge that their children could do better, because they trusted in the promises implicit in the

welcoming arms of the Statue of Liberty. One of the most important of these promises, which was abundantly fulfilled was the right to a good education for their children.

We the children of these immigrants, were brought up in two-parent families and in an atmosphere of hope, hard work and hard core religion. In school, we were given old-fashioned education in which factual knowledge and discipline were classroom staples. In the words of Lynn Cheney, formerly the chairman of the National Endowment for the Humanities, we were taught to understand the world in which we lived by studying the events (including dates) and ideas that had brought it into existence. We learned about the Magna Carta, its significance and its relation to other European events. We knew about the history of the American Republic and its profound meaning to Western Civilization. We grew up with the knowledge of where we, in the United States stood in relation to the past and to other countries. In short, we learned about the physical and political shape of our universe (geography) and the infinitely varied story of mankind (history). In literature, we read the classics, rather than current favorites. In Catholic Schools, we were immersed in the lucidity of the old question-and-answer catechism; in public schools, students began their day unashamedly with public prayer.

But if the increasing flood of reports from concerned sociologists are correct, today's children are floating in a void of "how-to" courses that attempt to teach them to think without first teaching them anything worth thinking about. Parental guidance is disappearing because both parents are either working or living apart. Prayer is outlawed in the morally-neutered schools. Churches are losing their spiritual compass, wandering in a wasteland of permissiveness. In politics, principle has given way to expediency, and integrity in government to institutionalized dishonesty. The minds, bodies and morals of today's children are shaped instead by a superficial education, trivialized and commercialized television, "R-rated" movies, fast food and ear-splitting, mind-demolishing rock music.

No wonder the difference between the kids on Hope Street a half-century ago and the kids in South Bronx today is so wide that it is virtually impossible to imagine that both groups were born in the same century and country. But if the Post reporter is right, that the moral fibre of the people of the South Bronx has in fact been undermined by generations on state-financed welfare, then our society must bear a big part of the blame for the difference.

In casting about for a way to make up for this failure, it is useful to remember one of the most constructive measures of Roosevelt's New Deal. This was the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC), which gave jobs to unemployed young men to build national parks, bridges, highways, etc. Why could not the government today reestablish a similar public works program, including an Urban Redevelopment Corps, and pay the men and women the money they now receive on welfare, to rebuild the homes they have vandalized in their welfare-induced apathy and despair. We've done everything else, except to try restoring the basic humanity and self-respect of the unemployed now living in sub-human conditions like those in the South Bronx, even if much of this is their own fault. Let's give them work, instead of welfare. It's worth a try.

This, at least, can be a first step on the long journey back to the hope and self-respect of the kind that sustained the Lithuanian immigrants on Hope Street a long time ago. Much more is needed, like educational reform and moral renewal, but let's tackle one thing at a time.



EDITOR'S NOTE:

We apologize for the delay in the June issue of VYTIS reaching the membership. We experienced a massive failure of the computer system that generates the copy to be layed out for each issue. It took nearly one month for the problem to be localized and solved. We regret any inconvenience and now have established protective measures that this particular problem with the system would not occur again.

It is our goal to publish a timely and interesting journal. Please write to us and let us know what you think or else we could speak on the phone or at the upcoming convention. Feedback from the Knights of Lithuania membership is vital. Please let us know. Ačiu Labai.

Eduardas V. Meilus, Jr.

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U.S. Policy in Central and Eastern Europe A Statement by U.S. Senator Mitch McConnell (R-KY)

The following statement was made on the floor of the U. S. Senate to introduce Amendment 1586 to the 1995 Budget Resolution. This amendment jointly sponsored by Senators McConnell (R-KY) and Mikulski (D-MD) expresses a Sense of the Senate regarding U.S foreign policy which is seen as reflecting a bias toward Russia. In the statement, Sen. McConnell expresses his rationale for supporting the Baltics, former Soviet Republics and Eastern Europe. We applaud his thinking and are gratified to know that the amendment was passed immediately without objection by voice vote.

(Washington D.C., March 24, 1994) On Tuesday, the New York Times carried a story that represents the latest example of Russian intentions in the Baltics, the New Independent States and Central and Eastern Europe. Let me read key portions of the article so my colleagues get a clear picture of just what is happening.

"More than a thousand tons of wheat seed purchased by the U.S. for ...(Armenia). where there are lines for rationed bread, are being held up by Russia which is demanding payment of a 30% export duty...Under an agreement signed by the U.S. and Russia two years ago, no duties are to be imposed on the import or export of relief assistance...The wheat seed, purchased from Russia, have been in the warehouse ready to be loaded on planes since early February... Last fall, as part of an \$18million relief package for Armenia, Congress designated \$3 million for wheat seed. It was to have been used for winter wheat, but the U.S. Agency for International Development was unable to arrange the purchase before the beginning of winter planting."

... The story notes that American Embassy officials confirmed these general details but declined comment after noting that it was "extremely sensitive." I also confirmed the story's accuracy and was told that a cable went out Tuesday urging Ambassador Pickering to raise the matter at the highest levels of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The last word I heard on the issue was the solution was imminent.

I wonder if the solution would be imminent but for the New York Times interest. I thought the fact that we were buying seed from Russia rather than the U.S. obviously needs to be investigated, but there is another issue which I want to pursue today, and which I address in my amendment. Unfortunately, this case of starving Armenia is not an isolated example of bureaucratic bungling. I believe this is consistent with an emerging policy in which the Russian



Senator Mitch McConnell

Federation is attempting to dominate the Baltics, the former Republics of the Soviet Union and Warsaw Pact through economic coercion, political intimidation and in some cases military intervention. Virtually every leader in Central and Eastern Europe and in Central Asia has privately and publicly expressed serious concern about Russian neo-imperial ambitions.

In fact, the only government that does not seem alarmed by

the trends is our own. Given an opportunity to explain our policy the State Department generally explains Russian concerns. Just a few weeks ago in the foreign operations subcommittee, I questioned Secretary Christopher about President Yeltsin's State of the Union address in which he asserted Russia's right to intervene throughout the region to protect Russian minorities and guarantee stability. The State of the Union speech was understandably unsettling to Russia's neighbors. Instead of responding to Russia's neo-imperialist rhetoric, Secretary Christopher pointed out that Russia has legitimate interests in suppressing violence on her borders and protecting Russian minorities.

Senator Mitch McConnell

Affiliation: Republican
 State: Kentucky
 Term: 2nd term expires 1996
 Committees: Agriculture
 Foreign Relations
 Rules / Administration
 Residence: Louisville, KY
 Profession: Attorney
 Education: U. of Louisville - B.A.
 U. of Kentucky - JD

He made no mention of the rights of minorities from other republics living in Russia. He did not address their rights of sovereignty or national integrity. Secretary Christopher chose instead to argue Russia's case that their minorities were disenfranchised and should be treated -- in his words -- "with generosity."

Within hours, I heard from the leadership of a number of organizations with strong cultural, ethnic and political ties to the region. Everyone shared a sense of frustration and outrage with this persistent and absolute policy bias toward Russia.

This week the Russians are starving the Armenians. Two weeks ago, they suspended Ukrainian energy shipments. As Secretary of Defense Perry learned yesterday, the energy crisis has been compounded by the Russian's failure to fulfill their Trilateral Agreement obligations to supply Ukraine with nuclear fuel rods in return for nuclear warheads. In Georgia, Russian troops provided training and equipment to rebels engaged in war against the democratically elected government of Mr. Shevardnadze. In the Baltics, the on-again off-again talks for troop withdrawal

have been conditioned upon Russian requirements for continued access to military installations.

I could go on and on, republic by republic, nation by nation, elaborating on Russia's pattern of intervention. But it is not just actions that worry me. We should listen carefully to policy statements from Moscow. Let me cite just a few examples.

In an op-ed in the Financial Times on Monday, a senior policy advisor to President Yeltsin said, "Now it seems there is a growing consensus. Most feasible regimes in Moscow would probably adopt a modality under which the CIS countries would remain independent politically but be dominated economically (by Russia)... in this model Russia would be first among equals... Russia will also have to continue to be a local peacekeeper or peace enforcer." Mr. Karaganov goes on to note that the only reason the nations will be offered a measure of political independence is so "local leadership" can be blamed for any problems.

I have already drawn attention to the veiled threats in President Yeltsin's State of the Union - views which are consistent with dozens of other comments he and his advisors have made on Russia's emerging role. In December, Yeltsin told a news agency "Russia considers itself a great power and a successor to the Soviet Union in all its might." Foreign Minister Kozyrev has clarified Russia's right to assert this might in what he calls the "Near Abroad." In an interview, he noted, "Russia would strive to create effective peacekeeping forces as a means of dealing with regional conflicts in the former Soviet Union... such forces in the near abroad would prevent the danger of losing geopolitical positions that took centuries to conquer."

What is surprising is these are the views of the so-called moderates in the Russian government. Hardliners associated with the Defense Ministry take the position one step further. Not only has there been an emerging pattern of economic and political domination in the new republics, but Russia's extended reach has effectively subverted U.S. policy and security interests in the Baltics and former Warsaw Pact nations.

In obvious response to Russian concerns, the U.S. recently rejected requests from European Nations to expand NATO. Declaring a reluctance to draw new lines in Europe, the Administration offered an ambiguous alternative framework paper called the Partnership for Peace. The reluctance to draw lines, in truth, was a reluctance to make hard choices. The proposal in essence yielded Russia veto authority over U.S. policy. Russian opposition to NATO's expansion had

been repeatedly spelled out, including by President Yeltsin in his State of the Union address. He said, "Russia is against widening of NATO by admitting more countries of the European continent without Russia. This is the path toward new threats for Europe and the world."

Sadly, the Partnership seems more press opportunity than tough policy or practice. I was not surprised to learn this morning that the Polish Defense Minister is having a difficult time nailing down precise American expectations and the exact benefits of partnership. Although he was appropriately diplomatic, it seemed to me as being waylaid by procedural matters such as how to present information to NATO rather than being advised of the concrete steps Poland should take to expand cooperation.

... The ambiguities of the Partnership reflect our overbearing regard for Russian sensitivities. While I do not accept Russia's policies and plans for the new republics, the Baltics, and the former Warsaw Pact nations, at least I can understand their ambition to re-establish their sphere of economic, military and political influence. What I cannot understand is why the Administration has not clarified American opposition to this creeping imperialism. There is a profound imbalance in our approach at the expense of the independence and territorial integrity of dozens of nations.

This bias presents an obvious question - why should we care? What difference does it make if Russia attempts to dominate the region? The answer is simple. After decades of communism and occupation, after centuries of subjugation, not one of these nations will willingly give up their hard won independence without a fight. Prospects of aggression and the resurgence of imperialism will only bear a painful price as we have seen in Bosnia. We now have early warnings of crisis in Crimea and may still see Georgia reignite. It is in our political and economic interests to help these struggling democracies navigate a course of free markets and political liberty, not fall victim to explosive ethnic conflicts of regional civil wars.

... I would like to turn for a moment to a remarkable statement made by my friend from Maryland, Senator

Mikulski. In what can only be described as a fiery statement of support for the first bill authorizing foreign assistance to former Warsaw Pact nations, her emotional reaction to Hungarians taking to the streets, in her words, "to sing their beloved national anthem and pluck the red star from their flag," 30 years after Soviet tanks rolled through the streets of Budapest.

As she spoke of her Polish heritage, my colleague from Maryland cautioned us all. Let me quote further from her speech: "We must remember history. These countries (of Eastern Europe) have been buffeted on the east and west by Russia and Germany. At the end of World War II along came two agreements called Potsdam and Yalta, which led to the demise of countries which are now called captive nations. Hungary, Poland, Latvia, Estonia, Lithuania, Ukraine, to name just a few. Through Potsdam and Yalta, night fell on Eastern Europe and the Iron Curtain was drawn shut. It meant the end of democracy. It meant the end of the free market system. The communist leaders tried to squelch the religious fervor of the people, but the people refused to yield and now 40 years later they have been able to seize the opportunity to move toward democracy. We need to be there to help them during this transitional period, to essentially provide phase two of the Marshall Plan."

... I think Senator Mikulski was right in 1989 and she is right now. We now have an opportunity to take one more step along the road to democracy and stability in Europe. We can choose more balance in our foreign policy now - or we can pay a very high price later. This amendment simply states the U.S. will use all appropriate means to oppose Russian efforts to dominate the Baltic States, the former members of the Warsaw Pact or the new republics through economic coercion, intimidation or use of force. It obviously does not rule out any cooperative arrangements a nation may voluntarily enter into with Russia - and it certainly does not rule out U. S. cooperation with Russia. But it makes clear that our terms of cooperation depend upon Russian respect for their neighbors' independence and territorial integrity. This amendment sends a clear signal that the Senate supports, not bias, as we secure and advance the vital interests of the United States.

Amendment Number 1586, offered by Senators McCONNELL and MIKULSKI,

Purpose: To express the Sense of the Senate regarding U. S. policy in Eastern and Central Europe.

It is the Sense of the Senate that, the assumption underlying the levels of spending set forth in this resolution regarding the national defense (050) and international affairs (160) budget categories include an assumption that the United States will oppose through appropriate means attempts by the Russian Federation to intimidate, use military force or engage in economic coercion to establish a sphere of influence over the former republics of the Soviet Union, the Baltics, or Central and Eastern European nations, consistent with the provisions contained in the Freedom Support Act and the Foreign Assistance Appropriations Act of 1994.

EAT LITHUANIAN - VALGOME LIETUVIŠKAI

Cold Beet Soup Saltibarščiai

3 bouillon cubes
4 cups boiling water
1 can of shoe string beets
2-3 blossoms of fresh dill
1 stalk green onion
1 small cucumber
1 hard boiled egg
1/2 pt. sour cream

Dissolve cubes in boiling water. Add beets. Cool slightly. Add finely cut onions, diced peeled cucumber, finely chopped dill and salt to taste. Blend in cream. Add diced egg. Chill several hours. Serve in chilled soup bowls, with hot potatoes boiled in jackets. Buttermilk may be substituted for cream. Instead of using bouillon cubes a stock may be made of either beef, smoked ham or shoulder or lamb as a base for the cold soup.



Stuffed Cucumbers Įdaryti Agurkai

4 large cucumbers
1 hard boiled egg
1 onion
1 tbsp. chopped celery
1/4 tsp. pepper
1/3 tsp. salt
1/2 lb. boiled or baked ham
2-3 tbsp. mayonnaise

Peel cucumbers lengthwise. Slice two inches thick. Remove seeds with a spoon. Combine other ingredients. Chop fine. Stuff cucumber slices. Chill. Garnish with more mayonnaise, parsley and egg slices.

For meatless meals, use the following stuffing:

2 tbsp. boiled white beans
1 small boiled beet
1 tsp. chopped onion
2 boiled carrots
2-3 tbsp. mayonnaise
1 small tomato
1 boiled potato
2 hard-boiled eggs
1/3 tsp. salt
1 small pickle

Cut or chop the vegetables fine. Add salt and mayonnaise. Chopped celery or herring may be added for variety.

Sauerkraut Rauginti Kopūstai

15-16 lbs of cabbage
2/3 cup plain or pickling salt
1 cup raw cranberries
1/3 cup caraway seeds
1/3 cup shredded raw carrot

Lithuanians usually make kopustai in a wooden barrel kept for that purpose. A 5 gallon clay crock will serve as well.

Trim cabbage, quarter, remove cores and shred finely. Place a layer of about 1/4 of the shredded cabbage into the crock. Sprinkle with about 2 tbsps. of salt. Sprinkle about a tablespoon of the caraway seeds some shredded carrot, and about 1/3 cup of cranberries over the layer of cabbage. Tamp down firmly with a pestle or thick smooth board, to extract the juices. Repeat layering with remaining ingredients, tamping down each layer. Place in a warm place, about 60 to 70 after covering and weighing down. Every other day remove scum that forms on top. When fermentation starts poke a long clean stick through cabbage to bottom in several places. After 10 to 20 days remove crock to a cool place.

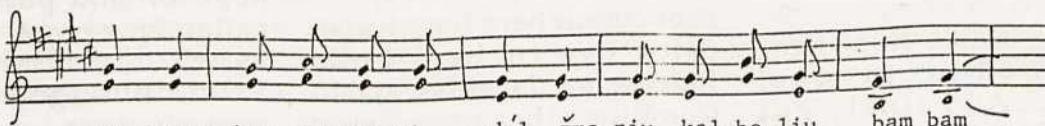
SING LITHUANIAN - DAINUOKIME LIETUVIŠKAI

MYLĖJAU MERGELE

L. D.



1. My- lė- jau mer-ge- lė pus-ant- rų me- te- lių
2. Ver-čiau ak-me- nė- li- prieš- kal- ne- li- neš- ti
3. Ei- nū per kie- me- li- žiū- riu- p̄r̄o- l̄an- ge- li-
4. Man- laiš- ke- li- ra- šo- per- laiš- ke- li- pra- šo-



- tu- re- jau pa- mes- ti d̄el žmo- nių kal- be- lių bam bam
- ne- gu mer- gu- žė- lė my- lė- jus pa- mes- ti.
- ma- no mer- gu- žė- lė ra- šo- man- laiš- ke- li-
- at- eik ber- nu- žė- li- šian- dien va- ka- re- li-



ta ri ra bam bam ta ri ra bam bam



ta ri ra bam bam bam.

NEGERKI BROLELI

M. JUOZAPAIČIO

1. Ne - ger - ki bro - le - li, ne - gerk tre - čios, pa - skui ne - pa -
 2. Ne - ger - ki bro - le - li, tu ket - vir - tos jau krin - ta ra -
 3. Ne - ger - ki bro - li - li, ne - gerk penk - tos ta - ve su - si -

žin - si sa - vos žno - nos Pa - kė - lei tau - re - lę ir bus ga -
 se - lė tau nuo kak - tos Kai sto - si kai ei - si tau reiks - tvo
 ti - kė vi - si kva - tos Slei - vo - si bro - le - li lau - kais lau -

na i - rau - do vei - de - liai ir bus dai - na.
 ros, pik - tie - ji su - ne - liai ap - los ap - los Už - ten - ka bro -
 lais reiks verž - ti gal ve lę lan - kais lan - kais.

le - li vien - os vie - nos tai bū - si pa - gir - tas žno - nos, žno - nos pa -
 kė - lei tau - re - lę ir bus ga - na gra - ži 'bus sve -
 te - lių dai - na.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR — MEMBERS SPEAK UP

LETTER TO THE EDITOR:

I read with much interest the well-researched piece by Brazytė-Bindokienė on Lithuanian Easter customs which appeared in the March issue of VYTIS, drawn from a book by the same author entitled *Lithuanian Customs and Traditions*.

The VYTIS piece, however, left me somewhat puzzled. While bringing the reader's attention to the religious and social customs observed by Lithuanians at the end of Lent, only those for Holy Thursday had been excised for the VYTIS article.

I find it hard to believe that Lithuanians actually observed such bizarre practices as described in the book. I know for a fact that my parents never mentioned any such customs and would have probably attributed them to Polish propaganda to demean the Lithuanian people. Let the reader judge for himself. Here is the relevant section found on pages 162 and 164.

" On Holy Thursday.... if a person rises early, sweeps the rooms and pours the sweepings over her neighbor's fence, all uncleanness will pass to the neighbor. Pests (fleas, cockroaches) may be exterminated in a similar fashion: after sweeping the house, pour the dirt on the neighbor's property line and return home without looking back. All pests will disappear from the house."

The whole idea, if not a poor attempt at barnyard humor, smacks of Halloween rather than Holy Thursday. Imagine Lithuanian housewives scuttling along to pollute their neighbor's property by dumping dirt and pests thereon. But what if neighbors met while going about their unholy deeds on Holy Thursday morning ?

Little wonder that the VYTIS editor refused to publish such childish nonsense.

Albert Cizauskas
Falls Church, VA

Lithuanian Ethnic Camp
AUŠRA
Elmhurst, PA.

Some of the Best memories of Childhood are those days spent at camp learning new things and making new friends.

Camp Aušra is located in the beautiful Pocono Mountains of Pennsylvania, in Elmhurst, approximately 10 miles north of Scranton.

This camp is special because the Lithuanian language and culture become a living reality. Traditions and language are taught, along with songs and dances. Folk tales are dramatized, arts and crafts are a daily experience. Sports

swimming and hiking are great outdoor activities and evenings are spent being entertained by various groups of campers. Our resources are the talents of the individual campers. All are given the opportunity to live together within their respective age groups in a Christian environment. Mass is celebrated 3 days per week. Religion and personal growth are interwoven in all activities.

Costs: \$ 100.00/ week plus \$ 15.00
Registration Fee.

Session I : July 10-23, 1994
Session II or Week 3 : July 24-30

For more information contact:

Sister M. Angela, C.J.C.
25 So. Broad Mountain Avenue
Frackville, PA 17931

From the Supreme Council President

Dear Fellow Knights,

There has been some question as to the Knights of Lithuania Manual. The manual was updated and assembled into a 3-holed adjustable folder. The manual was put together in this manner to make it easy to add updated material as necessary. The manuals were distributed to all Supreme Council officers, District and Council Presidents at the National Convention in St. Petersburg Beach, Florida.

As new officers take on new positions, the Manual is to be passed on to the new leaders. Therefore, if you are currently a Supreme Council Officer, District or Council president and do not have a copy of the Knights of Lithuania Manual (in a red cover) please check with the person who held the position before you for the copy of the manual.

If additional Manuals are needed, it is the responsibility of the councils to make additional copies. The manual was assembled to make it easy to take apart and run copies for the various offices and committees. The Supreme Council 1st Vice President and Trustees are responsible for updating the manual each year as applicable. If there are any questions, please contact the 1st Vice President.

Questions ?? Do not hesitate to write !

Applications for VYTIS Business Manager / Associate Editor are still being accepted. Send the application and resume to the Supreme Council President.

Frances R. Petkus

Supreme Council President

Knights of Lithuania Supreme Council Invites Lithuanian Ambassador to Address the 81st National Convention

Supreme Council President Frances Petkus announced that Dr. Alfonsas Eidintas, Ambassador of the Republic of Lithuania to the United States, has been invited to participate in and address the 81st National Convention to be held August 4-7, 1994 in Chicago, Illinois. This action was taken by the unanimous vote of the Knights of Lithuania Supreme Council meeting at Saint Anthony Parish Hall in Detroit, Michigan at its most recent meeting.

"This is the first such invitation that the organization has extended to the current ambassador, " stated Vincent Boris, Supreme Council member and chairman of the Lithuanian Affairs Committee. At last year's convention in Worcester, Massachusetts, the former Lithuanian Ambassador to the United States, Stasys Lozoraitis, was awarded Honorary Membership in the Knights of Lithuania. Amb. Lozoraitis is now the Lithuanian Republic's ambassador to the Holy See in Italy.

VYTIS Editor, Eduardas V. Meilus, Jr. stated that the September issue of VYTIS will have extended coverage of the National Convention in Chicago. Elinor Sluzas, Aid to Lithuania representative and a committee of Supreme Council members met with Editor Meilus to discuss format and layout of VYTIS which has been the national publication of the organization for 79 years. The Knights of Lithuania is a national organization of Catholics of Lithuanian descent. The approximately 5,000 members are located in councils throughout the United States. The Knights of Lithuania motto is "For God and Country."

Glenn E. Perutis

Public Relations Chairman
Supreme Council

ACT LITHUANIAN - VEIKIME LIETUVIŠKAI

AMBER District

This year's St. Casimir Day celebration was hosted by C-143 Pittston. There was a fine turn out for this important occasion. After Mass in St. Casimir's Church the members met in the Church Hall and enjoyed a sumptuous repast. The Amber District was honored to have Supreme Council President Frances Petkus as Main Speaker. We thoroughly enjoyed having Fran spend the day with us.

It is with great pride and pleasure that we announce our District's newest recipients of the Third Degree. Congratulations to:

Ausra Maknys C-3 Philadelphia
Casey P. Grikenis C-72 Binghampton
John Mankus C-72 Binghampton
Arthur Stankevitz C-72 Binghampton
John Ramoska C-74 Scranton
Helen Hagelgans C-118 Hazleton
Eleanor Kassick C-118 Hazleton
Nellie Masyada C-118 Hazleton
George Norris C-118 Hazleton
Irene Norris C-118 Hazleton
Thomas F. McDonald C-144 Anthracite

The next District meeting will be held in Kennebunkport, ME the weekend of June 17, 18, 19 and 20. There is great anticipation for the event. It should prove to be both successful and thoroughly enjoyable.

Lithuanian Days will again be held at the Schuylkill Mall on August 13 and 14. Hope to see everyone there.

Congratulations to Anna Helen McDonald who will receive the Diamond Award in Washington, DC on August 19. This will make her an Honorary Lifetime Member of the International Poets' Association.

See you in Chicago on August 4, 5, 6, and 7 at the 81st National Convention. Happy and safe travelling to all !!

Agnes

NEW ENGLAND DISTRICT

The NED spring convention was held on Sunday, April 24. There were 159 attendees. The meeting was very productive. Council -116 hosted the convention, and they are to be congratulated for a fine job in helping to make this meeting successful.



Statue of St. Casimir, hand carved of one piece of wood at its place of honor in St. Peter's Church, So. Boston, MA. The Statue was dedicated on March 6, 1994 by Bishop Boles of the Boston Archdiocese during Council 17's St. Casimir Day Celebration.

Retreat Coordinator, Helen Dallalis, wants to remind members that the annual NED Retreat in Kennebunkport, Maine is June 24-26. Knights are welcome to come a day or two earlier. However, they must contact and make their arrangements with Father Gabriel. Cost will be only \$15.00 more per night. Did you know that NED was the first to start the tradition of annual retreats in Maine? It all began 8 years ago with 30 members participating. This has increased to

104 people in 1993. This year's cost for the standard week-end will be \$104.00 - which includes six sumptuous Lithuanian meals. Next year's retreat is already reserved for June 23-25, 1995. Mark your calendars and do not lose Father Gabriel's phone number and address. Remember the guest house fills to capacity very quickly!

Aldona Marcavage

C-1 Brockton, MA

Alleluia! Happy Easter! Happy Spring!

With the coming of Spring, we celebrate new life; and with that thought, sincere congratulations are extended to one of our newest members, Paula Maneikis Brennen, who gave birth to triplets. Yes, triplets, 2 girls and a boy! By the way, she is the mother of a very healthy three year old. Blessings to you Paula and Patrick, may you all be healthy and happy.

It seems like the other day we were battling all those snowstorms and counting the days to Spring.

On one of the coldest days of the year, our Council attended a basketball game to benefit the Lithuanian Children's Relief Inc. The South Boston Lithuanian Club played the South Shore Doctors. It was great fun. There were cheerleaders, who provided the entertainment including one of our members, Sister Helen. Everyone was a winner, especially the children of Lithuania.

On one of the snowiest days, some of our members drove through the storm to listen to the Virgo Choir of Vilnius University perform (too bad a dog sled was not available). The choir has traveled to many countries and has won many awards for their outstanding performance. After listening to the concert, you could understand why they are so highly acclaimed. Because of the treacherous driving, our fearless leader, Ronnie, Madam President, opened her home--rather pushed out the walls--and gave lodging to three of the members. For her gracious hospitality, her home is known as "Nan's-tuck-Inn", her motto could be "we'll leave the light on".

To bring winter to a close, our Council had its last snowflake ball. A fifty year tradition came to an end. What a wonderful night it was. So many came and renewed friendships and remembered fond memories. Many of the past kings and queens were present. Proudly, we added this year's king and queen, Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Wasil of Norwood, to the list of reigning royalty. Thank you to all who, over the

past fifty year, have been part of this tradition. Maybe, just maybe, we can come up with another Snowflake Ball!

As one tradition ended another one began, namely, the Lithuanian Supper sponsored by C-1 for the residents at St. Joseph's Manor Nursing Home. The tables were decorated with yellow, green and red table cloths and Lithuanian flags. The supper featured the triple "K" menu - kielbasa, kopustai and kugelis. Delicious! Three cheers to the chefs. We ended with a sing-a-long of many of the "golden oldie" songs.

To bring us to full cycle as we began with Easter, we end this happy Council newsletter with our 3rd Annual Easter Egg Decorating Class. This proved to be very interesting and informative. Our President, Ronnie, and her youngest daughter, Veronica, were the teachers. Some masterpieces were created, some cracked eggs were found, but heart and enthusiasm were at the core of each participant. Maybe someday some of these eggs will be considered "collector's items".

Once again, we wish you the Alleluias and the Easter Blessings from our Council!

Daisey Rūta

C-3 Philadelphia, PA

Our council observed St. Casimir's feast day on Sunday, March 6, at the 10:30 A.M. Mass at St. Casimir's Church. A luncheon followed at Arena's Restaurant. The highlight of the day was the conferring of degrees. Agnes Mitchunas, Ritual Committee Chairperson, presented the First Degree to Phillip Bomblauskas and 2nd Degrees to Marilyn and Leonard Kapochus and Raymond Pandza. At the Amber District St. Casimir's day meeting held on March 13 in Pittson, PA, C-3 member Ausra Maknys was presented with the Third Degree. Our hearty congratulations to our degree recipients on the honor the K of L has bestowed on them. We are very proud of each of them and all they have done to merit their degrees.

Several C-3 members attended two important celebrations hosted by the Lithuanian American Community of Philadelphia. On Sunday, March 13, Lithuanian Independence Day (postponed from February) was celebrated including a keynote address by Lithuania's newly appointed Ambassador to the United States, Alfonsas Eidintas. Two days later, on Tuesday, March 15, this same group sponsored a visit to Philadelphia by Vytautas Landsbergis who heads President Brazauskas' opposition.



C-3 Members receiving degrees: (l to r) Leonard Kapochus -2nd, Marilyn Kapochus - 2nd, Phillip Bombauskas - 1st, Ray Pandza -2nd, Ausra Maknys - 3rd..

Members were invited to attend St. Casimir's Church Lenten Mission, March 19 to 23, and a retreat at St. Anne's Church, March 28 to 30 where Father Anderlonis preached the homily.

Best wishes for a lifetime of happiness and dreams come true are sent to Daina Kapochus and Mark Miller who were married on April 16.

Congratulations to Father Timothy Burkauskas who celebrated the 15th Anniversary of his ordination on April 17.

Irene Svekla



Sr. Barbara Valucks

C-7 Waterbury, CT

During the month of January, we regretted the passing of two of our members, Theresa Pocius and Edwin (Shoes) Lipkis. Edwin was a very generous person who always supported the K of L. A memorial Mass will be held on April 23 for him. All donations collected will be given to St. Joseph's Church in his memory.

Congratulations go to Toni and Ed White for celebrating their 52nd Anniversary in January. Ed and Toni met at the K of L and have been active members in the organization for over 50 years.

Saint Casimir's Day was celebrated on Friday, March 4. A Mass was celebrated at night followed by a potluck dinner served at the club. It was chaired by Diane Gay and was very enjoyable.

We were very fortunate to have Sister Barbara Valucks, former provincial of the School Sisters of Notre Dame located in Connecticut. Sister Barbara is on a sabbatical-year leave from the convent. She has received permission to work in Lithuania. Since she has had experience in television production, she has created a program on television to teach English to the people of Lithuania. She told us that there are not any books available in Lithuania to teach English. Therefore, the creation of this program on television will allow more people to speak, read, and write English. Sister spoke of the poor

living conditions and the devotion of the Lithuanian people who are very religious. Many of the churches in Lithuania were boarded up by the Russians and are now in the process of being restored. She showed us many interesting slides regarding Lithuania and its people. She will be returning to Lithuania in May to continue the work she has started.

Our Council has been busy with planning and holding events at least once a month. So far, we have held a dance, pancake breakfast, and spaghetti dinner. All have been a success, and we hope to continue a monthly event. Thanks to all who work, attend, and support our fund raisers.

Frances Stiklus

C-10 Athol-Gardner

On Saturday, March 12, our K of L commemorated the feast of St. Casimir, our patron and Lithuania's, by attending the 5:30 P.M. Mass at St. Francis Church, Athol. The gifts were brought to the altar by Brone and Bill Wisniauskas, dressed in traditional Lithuanian costumes. Mass was celebrated by Pastor, Rev. Messier. The newly formed choir sang. One of our members, Natalie Breghenti is a member. Following Mass, a meeting was held with the Gardner group hosting the lunch. The next day our K of L enjoyed dinner at the Too Shay's. It was good to see our 90 year old Tina Shatos with her daughter, Ann Marie, from Burlington, Vermont. Both daily newspapers wrote up the event.

Our newest member, Betty Penney, recently received her final vows in the 3rd Order of St. Francis, following in the footsteps of her late mother and both grandmothers. We are proud of you, Betty!

Our section of New England was hit with the worst Winter in 100 years, as to snow fall and cold weather. It is sometimes rightly called "North Country".

Many of our members have been sending relief packages to most deserving and needed relatives in Lithuania, but several have experienced costly mistakes by the service-owner counterparts in Lithuania. Some people are now rightly scared.

Six Gardner K of L'ers and two others attended the excellent Lithuanian Independence Day celebration in Nashua, NH. Council members, Al and Frances Mueller, now residing in Nashua were also there in attendance. It was good to see them.

Best wishes for a Happy Mothers Day are extended to all the K of L mothers. God Bless!

Vincukas



C-26 Worcester, MA

Lithuanian Independence Day was celebrated with a Mass at Our Lady of Vilna Church in Worcester. Bishop George Rueger adorned in his Juosta spoke on the family. A reception followed the service in the church hall. Later in the afternoon a program commemorated Lithuania's history with many members of the Lithuanian community in attendance at Maironis Park. The main speaker was the Lithuanian Consul General, Mr. Kućinskas, of New York.

Our expression of sorrow is extended to Dorothy Virbašius on the death of her brother, Donald Zalauskas; Helen Banis on the death of her brother, Peter Daniels; and Virginia Ivaska on the death of her sister, Mildred Houston.

Welcome to Father Anthony Nockunas the new assistant pastor of St. Casimir's Church, Worcester. A Sacred Concert was held at St. Casimir's Church on April 17 as one of the many programs for the 100th Year Celebration of the church.

Jennie and Paul Puris' daughter, Karen, was married on April 23 to Charles Shearns. Kazys and Teresa Adomavicius enjoyed three weeks in Aruba. Rita Margosians son, Lt. Col. Michael Kapecus (former Junior K of L'er) retired from the Air Force and is now teaching learning disabled children in Falls Church, Virginia. Dwight and Virginia Cummings have an 8th grandchild, Michael-Dwight Kelley.

Also, they have a second great grandchild, Sean Cummings. Mary and Bob Lovett celebrated their 33rd Anniversary. Congratulations to you all!

Barbara Pantos





C-52 Elizabeth, NJ

Sts. Peter and Paul (Lithuanian) Church sponsored the second Winter Gala-Dinner Dance on Saturday, February 26, 1994, in the parish hall. Music was furnished by Jordan Thomas' 18 piece orchestra. Dinner and dancing began at 7:00 P.M. Attendees enjoyed an evening of music, good food and refreshments.

Fr. Alfred Zemeikis, Pastor, thanked the parishioners, K of L members and guests for attending this successful catered affair.

Our Council commemorated the Feast of St. Casimir on Sunday, March 6, with Father Al Zemeikis, as celebrant at the 11:00 A.M. Mass. Luncheon was provided at the Caravella restaurant. The committee in charge of arrangements were: Ruth Brazinski, chairperson, with her able assistants: Annie Mitchell Matalavich, Anne Baronas, Mary Mackelis and Frances Milewski.

Fr. Peter Aquino, an Associate Pastor at Sts. Peter and Paul Church, celebrated his Silver Jubilee of his ordination to the Holy Priesthood on May 1 with a Mass of Thanksgiving at 12 Noon with a dinner that followed in the parish hall.

William Senkus

C-63 Lehigh Valley

After a four month's hiatus, Lehigh Valley Council 63 finally managed to convene on Sunday, March 20, in St. Michael's Church Hall in Easton, PA. An exceptionally snow laden winter caused cancellation of prescheduled events and tested most members' patience. While our Kucios portrayal was on schedule, it also served as our December Council meeting. Then, all the Sundays in January were snow blitzed as was February 13, the scheduled date of our annual Lithuanian Independence Day Luncheon. On February 16, the flag raising was canceled in Easton and very limited in Allentown.

Only Bethlehem had a sizable contingent of people. However, some success was salvaged in Allentown in that 11 politicians were present from federal, state, county and municipal levels, and the event was televised. A speech vilifying Russia's recent posturing with her threatening "near abroad" policy was delivered by Joseph

Ogint. He also questioned the wisdom of the Clinton administration's refusal to support Lithuania's request for membership in NATO. He flatly stated that it was Yeltsin's will, not Clinton's will, which prevailed and asked if this was the forerunner of another Yalta Agreement disaster. At least the message had been delivered.

The March Council meeting was integrated with the previously canceled St. Casimir's Day Mass and the Independence Day Luncheon, which spoke well of Lithuanian resourcefulness. Ben Aponavicius Jr. led the Lithuanian Choir during the mass and afterward everyone indulged in the sumptuous Independence Day Luncheon prepared by our dedicated ladies. A very spirited business-like council session followed.

The membership approved our Council's participation in the Bethlehem Christmas City Fair to be held on July 15, 16, and 17, 1994. A *otroika* consisting of Jack Lushis, Dora Lushis and Valeria Smickle was appointed by Prez Bob Klova to co-chair the affair which is our Council's biggest money-raising event. We would also like to take this opportunity to invite you, dear readers, to visit our potato pancake stand and taste the best pancakes ever, second only to mother's. If you are visiting Lithuania, we promise you a priority serving so you need not stand in the consistently long serving lines. Come visit us!

Prez Klova proposed a Council bus trip to the Ellis Island Museum in New York during the month of May. He gave a short dissertation on the Lithuanian exhibit which elicited quite a bit of interest from the members. Preparations for the trip will be made during the April Council meeting.

After Prez Klova announced that BALFAS was planning to ship packages to Lithuania again during the month of May, Council approved that we have a Flea Market Sale again during the month of May. The exact date will be decided at our April Council meeting. All members were asked to bring boxes of clothing, tableware, pots, pans, dishes and glasses. We already have ten boxes of clothing on hand and another ten boxes would maximize the shipment. All remaining items will be sold. Dora Lushis and Valeria Smickle were appointed to co-chair the event.

The membership decided to participate in a parade of ethnic costumes during the American Independence Day extravaganza being sponsored by the Police Athletic League of Allentown. The event is scheduled for 6:00 P.M., Sunday, July 3, at J. Birney Crum Stadium in Allentown. The

rain date will be on Monday, July 4. Participants in native costumes with banners and flags, will march around the oval track in the stadium at the beginning of the celebration. They will be followed by the Allentown Marine Band, Parkette Olympic gymnasts, colorfully dressed skydivers performing aerial stunts and who will parachute onto the field at the 50-yard line. Even Hannah, the frisbee catching dog who entertains at many of the National Football League games, will be there. A breathtaking display of fireworks will begin at dark. There will be no admission fee, but a donation will be taken to defray the costs of next year's fireworks display. Delores Connolly and Valeria Smickle volunteered to co-chair our participation.

Congratulations are in order for member Joseph Kohanski who won \$20 prize money as Honorable Mention in the K of L Foundation's 1993 Essay Contest. Joe generously donated the prize to the Council's treasury. Thank you, Joe, for your contribution to Lithuanianism and your donation. Your participation serves as a good example of what more of us should be doing.

In closing, this correspondent's oversight must be rectified. I forgot to mention that member, Lillian Klinosky, contributed substantially in purchasing the prizes at our Kucios portrayal, as she does at most of our events. Lillian was gracious enough not to mention my oversight to me. An anonymous third party informed me. Thank you Lillian for your understanding and "Anonymous" for your help. Vytiskai,

Joseph F. Ogint (Uogintas)

C-74 Scranton, PA

Finally, the sun was shining as we attended Mass and a communion breakfast at the Amber District Meeting at St. Casimir's in Pittston. The Lithuanian Mass was very impressive, celebrated by Father Pete Aliauskas, a true Lithuanian priest. The church reminded one of those churches in Lithuania: beautiful statues, lots of gold trim that gleamed as the sun shone through the stained glass windows.

The choir, joined by the people, sang beautiful Lithuanian Hymns such as: Pulkim ant Keliu, Jesus Atieniu Pas Tave, Pas Mane Atieki, Sventas Kazimierai, and finally the Lietuvos Himnas. The women dressed in their colorful costumes carrying the gifts added much to the service. Father Aliauskas was thanked for servicing us, and his comment was, "We are priests to serve the people - not the people to

the priests."

Dorothy Baynos, President of Pittston, introduced Supreme Council President, Fran Petkus, who did an excellent job along with the other officers. President Petkus, whose mother was Irish and father was Lithuanian, said Lithuanian was not spoken in her home, but she loves the Lithuanian Customs and Lithuanian Mass although she does not understand all the words. She certainly is an asset to the Knights of Lithuania. A special thanks to our handsome waiter, Steve Soha, who served us so well. Last, but not least, Nellie Bayoras Romanas, who organized the procession and was lector, did her very best again.

Congratulations to our Past President, John Ramoska, who received his third degree, which he certainly deserved. This was an impressive day reminding us not to lose our Lithuanian heritage.

A happy birthday greeting to Casimir Yanish, who was born on St. Casimir's Day, March 4th.

Casimir was given a surprise party at Coopers by his lovely wife, Ruth, and his 3 daughters. The meal was elegant.

Msgr. Peter Madus celebrated our Lithuanian Mass at St. Joseph's Church. The Lithuanian music was beautiful. Gift bearers were Rose Stanches, Ann Patelunas, Peg and Ed Romanauskas, Marie, Richard and Nancy Laska. Monsignor. wore his Juosta from Lithuania and spoke his Lithuanian beautifully.

John Ramoska served as Eucharistic Minister for the first time. Breakfast was served in our newly remodeled church hall. It was prepared by Sister Paraclete and the C.C.D. The food was plentiful and delicious!

Ačiū už gerą darbą.

M. Laske

C-79 Southfield, MI

Since we are now holding meetings in the morning on the first Wednesday of the month, attendance has increased. Officers are gratified.

Our President, Magdalena Smailis, has been ailing and not able to preside at meetings. Recording Secretary, Margaret Dapkus, has been replacing her. Correspondence Secretary, Bertha Janus, has been taking on Margaret's duties. Sylvia Jarosz came back from a month in Florida and agreed to become our new Ritual Chairperson.

Sunday, March 6, we commemorated St. Casimir's Day by attending Mass in a body. Approximately 30 attended, with a number from Councils 102 and 139 participating. A classroom

in the Cultural Center was reserved for us for our typical Lithuanian dinner from our cooks in the kitchen.

St. Casimir's Day is always celebrated by first Sunday in March by the Lithuanian Boy and Girl Scout groups holding a Fair. Our K of L members helped their cause by playing the various games of chance and purchasing articles made by them.

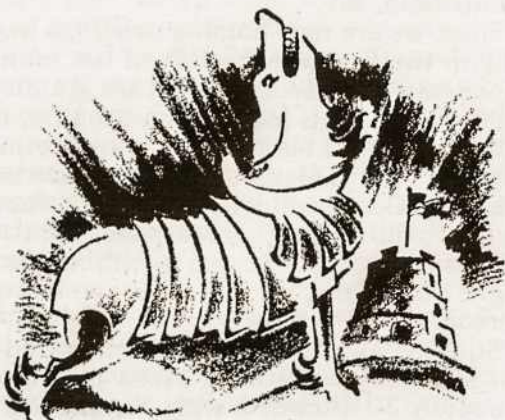
Sunday, March 13, we (16 of us) drove across town to St. Anthony's Church for our sister Council 102's St. Casimir observance -- an en corpore Mass and a catered dinner later in the Church hall, where a considerable crowd gathered. Many lucky attendees went home with raffle prizes of mainly spirits and potted plants. All profits from the affair went to Aid to Lithuania.

We lost a member on January 11. Valerija Kundrat died in Sand Point, MI where she lived since 1976. Emigrating from Lithuania in 1951, she married Constantine (deceased), brother of Fr. Michael Kundrat (retired), ex-Spiritual Advisor of our Council. Survivors are a son, John, of Elgin, IL and two grandchildren. Let us remember Valerija and all our deceased members regularly in our prayers.

Leonard Salas and Maggie Smailis were recently discharged from the hospital and are convalescing at their homes. Our President is being given very good care by her daughter, Margaret Ann Nashlon, who lives in Florida and came to be with her mother. Marianne Newberry, another daughter, is also very attentive while her mother is seriously ill. (Both girls are Council members.)

With Spring just around the corner, we are anticipating better weather and better health.

Bee Jay



C-90 Kearny, NJ

Well, we are into the New Year of 1994 and the winter has been full of snow, sleet and ice. These conditions caused the cancellation of meetings and events. Our Annual Lithuanian Independence Day celebration consisting of flag raising and a brunch had to be canceled. We were all very saddened by the deaths of two of our members - Ann White and Helen Gaglio. They were ill for a long time, and we extend our condolences to their families. May they rest in peace.

There is some happy news to report. Ken and Ann Pringle plus Steffie and Vince Gelcius became grandparents of baby boys. Their sons and daughter-in laws presented them with their bundles of joy Good luck to all!

Our Spiritual Advisor, Msgr. Dominick Pocus, Pastor of Our Lady of Sorrows Lithuanian Church, has also taken on the task of being Pastor of the Holy Trinity Lithuanian Church in Newark. The parishioners of our Lady of Sorrows wanted to show their appreciation to Msgr. Dominick for all the years (47) of faithful service to them and their church, so they installed a bronze plaque in the church in his honor. Msgr. Dom blessed this plaque on March 5 followed by Mass. Next year, on May 5, 1995, Msgr. Pocus will celebrate his 50th Anniversary to the Priesthood. We pray God will bless and keep him well so that we can all join with him in this celebration.

On Sunday, March 6, our Annual Pancake Dance was held and the L.C.C.C. Hall was filled to capacity. What a wonderful sight to see all the members, their children, and grandchildren enjoying the music of Joe Thomas. There was also a clown-magician for the children's enjoyment. The pancakes were delicious, and the kitchen crew did a fantastic job filling the orders so quickly. The chairpersons, Fran Grdina and Ann Pringle, did a great job as usual. Their committee and helpers are to be commended also.

A great time was had by all. Aciu !!

Our Easter Resurrection Mass at our Lady of Sorrows was well attended. With the time change taking place, it was difficult getting up so early in the morning, but once one heard the bells ringing and the singing of ôLinksma Dienaö, it was worth the effort. The choir, which many of our members belong to, was in wonderful voice and sang most joyfully.

We are happy to hear Mary (Grinewich) Przychocki is home from the hospital and doing well. We miss Mary, and hope she will be back in the swing of things real soon.

To all of our members that are ill and cannot attend our meetings, we wish them God's blessings and speedy recoveries. Until next time, Su Diev.

Zmon

C-102 Detroit, MI

On March 13, Council 102 and 139 hosted the St. Casimir Mass and dinner at St. Anthony's church with our Spiritual Advisor, Fr. Babonis, celebrating the Mass. Council 79 joined us at Mass and Dinner. Regina Juskus and Lillian Petravicius co-chaired the event. Entrance music was provided by our members, Joe Stark and John Stanievich. We are so honored by their music donations for our socials.

Selling raffle tickets were our super saleslady, Josie Jonulate, with the help from Ona Seidakis, Katherine Kurpowic and Oneta Selienas. HM Bob Boris received another citation for his work with Aid to Lithuania. Fr. Stan, named Bob, St. Boris, in his speech. Fr. Stan is retired and is very busy now, busier than ever, filling in for vacationing and ill priests in the Diocese. After dinner, a Lithuanian sing-a-long was conducted by Maestro Stasys Slizys, St. Anthony's organist and choir director. Regina worked so hard on this event but had to miss the dinner to take her mother to the hospital for an emergency. Happy to hear all is well. On March 26, Council 102 hosted the Supreme Council Meeting. The same committee worked to welcome the Supreme Council Members. We senior C-102 members are happy to have all these young members to relieve us of this hard work. The profits from St. Casimir's Day went to Aid. to Lithuania.

While President Lori Hofner and wife, Merri, were vacationing in Florida, our new Vice President, Richard Straksys, conducted the February meeting and did a good job. Richard, along with Joe Raciukaitis, are our bachelor

breadmen at our potluck dinners. They donate a variety of Lithuanian breads from the local Lithuanian bakery.

HM Bob Boris is working with George Perles on the Golf Tournament, with a lot of local celebrities, to be held June 14, 1994 at Western Golf Club. The proceeds going to Aid to Lithuania. Anyone interested can contact Bob, who just moved into his new Condo. Congratulations, Bob!

Slowly our snowbirds are returning from Florida, the Medonis, Hofners and Helen Smolek. On their way home, Terry and Ray Medonis lunched at Eleanor Sluzis' Amber Rose Restaurant in Dayton, Ohio while there they ran into a lot of the old K of L's from Dayton and enjoyed the short visit. Still enjoying Florida, but missed here, are Frank and Donna Bunikis. We were glad to hear that Bunikis' daughter, Marjoire, survived the California earthquake with very little damage.



From Julia Burlen's Collection

Get well wishes are extended to Eve Stark, who is recuperating nicely, and to Len Salas, C-79, who is recuperating at his brother's home - Ed and Ann Salas.

Deepest sympathies to Al Shigo, C-25 Cleveland, on the passing of wife, Joanna. We all enjoyed her company and will miss her smiling face and happy comments. Along with Al, we always looked forward to their presence at all the District doings. May her soul rest in peace.

Wishing everyone a Happy Easter, and looking forward to seeing you all in Pittsburgh for the District Meeting and Bowling Tournament.

Meriute

C-110 Maspeth, NY

Palm Sunday and a special celebration in honor of St. Casimir were both celebrated by C-110 at their annual St. Casimir Buffet held on March 27. Msg. Frank Bulovas and Father S. Raila celebrated a special Lithuanian Mass. K of L members of our council and our neighbors in Manhattan, Brooklyn, and Long Island wore traditional costumes and presented special ritual gifts in honor of St. Casimir - such as the crown, a cross and a picture of our Patron Saint - at the offering.

Our program included additional singing led by the Transfiguration Choir accompanied by Asata Barkauskas on the kanklis. A summary of the life of St. Casimir was presented by Ed Jakatt, and a special prayer was led by Msgr. Bulovas. Close to 150 people enjoyed a delicious hot buffet featuring a variety of favorite Lithuanian foods. Council members and sisters, Jean Rutkunas and Ann Ackolaitis, must be praised for all the work done in chairing the event, and nobody cried *õunfairõ* when Jean won 3 of the 32 raffle prizes offered. She deserved more!



Receiving Fourth Degrees at the 80th National Convention in Worcester, MA Igni and Evelyn Wallis of C-110.

In other news, about 40 members and friends attended the Mid Atlantic District (MAD) meeting held in Albany earlier this month. Along with the great food and company, third degree recipients were given a special blessing at the Mass by Bishop Howard J. Hubbard of Albany. Included was our member, Mary Stelmokas, who received this honor for her third degree and a job well done.

Twenty containers of items from our late beloved Father Ken Wicks were packed and shipped to Lithuania by Ann Morressey with the help of Ed Siredas and Violet Zurbilis. Ann and her volunteers have been instrumental in sorting, packing and shipping goods to orphanages in Lithuania. In her zeal during the last packing, member Joe Thomas's new shoes were almost sent along. He had put them near the packing boxes and Ann thought they were a fine donation. Fortunately, they were not sent, but the incident brought a few chuckles and reminders of where not to put personal belongings.

Upcoming events include an Amish Country, two-day adventure, on April 27 sponsored by our Council and entertainment chairperson, Joe Thomas; our annual Veteran's Memorial march in Maspeth on May 29; and a plan with other Lithuanians for an annual picnic in honor of Lithuanian-American pilots, Darius and Girenas, slated for July 16 at Floyd Bennett Field.

Maryte Abbott

C-136 Hudson-Mohawk

On February 20, 1994, our Council commemorated Lithuanian Independence Day with a Mass celebrated at Holy Cross Church in Schenectady, NY by Father Joseph Biondino with Deacon, Frank Yankowski, assisting. Following Mass, we hosted a reception featuring pastries and finger foods accompanied by coffee and tea. The entire occasion was well attended and enjoyed by all.

March 13 saw our Council hosting the Mid-Atlantic District Meeting in Albany, NY at the Blessed Sacrament Church and School. Members representing seven Councils were



Third Degree Ceremony where 13 members of C-136 and 1 member of C-110 from Bishop Howard Hubbard.

present, and the good Lord granted us a lovely day. Bishop Howard Hubbard of the Albany Diocese celebrated Mass and Deacon Frank Yankowski, who assisted, delivered the homily.

Following Mass, eleven members of our Council and one member of Council 110 were awarded the third degree: Edward Barkowski, Genevieve Deery, Nell Freer, Helen Hayner, Lynn McCafferty, Betty Parker, Joan Parker, Dorothy Richmire, Clare Tulio, Stella White, Frank Zebuda all from C-136 and Mary Stelmokas of C-110. Bishop Hubbard personally presented the third degree medal to the following recipients, thereby setting a precedent. We were informed that never before in the history of the Knights had a bishop participated in the conferring of a degree. Congratulations to all!

The luncheon consisted of traditional Lithuanian offerings such as pickled herrings,

desros, sauerkraut, balandeles and mashed potatoes with mushroom gravy accompanied by cooked carrots and a vegetable salad. A beautifully decorated cake topped off the meal. Following the meeting and the awarding of prizes, our guests were sent home with sandwiches and our good wishes for a safe trip home.

At our March meeting, we started to gather items to be sent to the sisters in Lithuania once more. We hope to be able to prepare the package after our next meeting.

Dot Richmire



Mary Stelmokas receives 3rd Degree and a blessing from Bishop Hubbard of Albany.

C-141 Bridgeport, CT

The winter wonderland of 1994 is gone but will not be forgotten because of the many changes it brought to our plans. The Independence Day Celebration was rescheduled to February 27. It was the 76th Anniversary of Lithuanian statehood. The Mass was celebrated by Msgr. Francis J. Pranckus in memory of the many martyrs and our currently suffering brethren. Flag bearers were Stephen Wilcinskas and Peter Peters. They were followed in procession by officers and members wearing ōjuostasö. Barbara Schmidt and one other Vetra dancers was in national costumes. Chairing the refreshment committee was "gera gaspadine" Pat Silk. Vetra Dancers from New Haven performed several lively dances and included audience participation for one dance, much to everyone's delight.

Vaiva-Vebraite Gust missed that day. She and her family had brought her father to his eternal resting place in his beloved Lithuania. May he rest in peace. Our sympathy, Vaiva.

Our invited guest speaker could not be with us, so President Clemencine Miller, took the opportunity to acquaint the audience with our part in the K of L by highlighting our activities and accomplishments during the 20 years since our beginning in August 1974. At that time, Alphonse and Teresa Trainis started the Council.

We were a bit younger then and enjoyed arranging the many dinner/dances like "Subatele" and "The Amber Ball" gigantic cultural productions - such as having the Ciulionis Ensemble from Ohio, who performed to a filled auditorium at Sacred Heart University. C-141 served refreshments to all that day! We had a Lithuanian artists' Art Exhibit at SHU - also a reception for Simas Kudirka. We worked with the International Institute and had cultural booths displaying Lithuanian treasures at both Fairfield and Sacred Heart University. We donated books to the SHU Library.

Knights of Lithuania Calendar of Events

August 4-7, 1994
K of L 81st National Convention,
C-16 Hosts, Chicago, IL

September 11-14, 1994
C-136 Annual Pilgrimage,
Kennebunkport, ME

We gave our all for Lithuania's Independence over the years with newspaper articles, letters, telegrams, and phone calls; later adopting the Pontifical College and contributing support there plus to other Religious--and Lithuania's needy.

Although we party less nowadays, our heritage and parents "Tevyne" are never forgotten or neglected. Our help is taking a different form, but nonetheless, vital, with financial assistance and care packages.

The delayed St. Casimir Champagne Brunch which followed the Holy Mass on March 13 was a gratifying success and will enable us to send our annual gift to the Pontifical College in Rome. The St. Casimir committee must be commended for the outstanding job of making the hall beautiful and for food deliciously prepared and served. Chairperson Clemencine Miller was assisted by Alice and Stephen Wilcinskas, Barbara Schmidt, Sophie and Peter Putrimas, Aldona and Peter Peters, Evelyn Christian, plus Aldona and Sylvester Marcavage. Armundas Zakarauskas, M.D., with his accordian, led community singing of some popular Lithuanian songs. This even brought on a spontaneous ring dance "Noriu Miego". This type of fund raiser is total enjoyment.

Inspired by Armundas Zakarauskas' report on the great need in Lithuania of U.S. assistance to the institutionalized orphans, the geriatrics, and some very poor families--living well below the poverty level, we have just successfully completed a drive. Through the VILTIS Agency, we sent out 47 boxes -- 1001 pounds for the gift of HOPE. When all the boxes were ready to go, it might have seemed that we were going to celebrate a job well done, but NO, the wine, cake and song were in honor of popular Stella Marcinauski's March birthday. Ilgiausiy Metu!!!

Ray and Carol Buzak became proud grandparents on March 2, 1994 of a sweet baby girl, Margaret Victoria, their first grandchild, presented to them by son, James, and his lovely wife, Mary. God Bless you All!

After spending the winter months in California with their daughters, Stefa and Vytautas Vaikutis came home on St. Patrick's Day just in time for one more snowstorn. Good timing! Welcome back!!

On March 18, around midnight, Msgr. Pranckus answered his doorbell only to be viciously attacked and injured requiring 14 stitches on his arm. Our sympathies Monsignor for the needless suffering. Adopt a big dog!

Aldona Marcavage

C-142 Washington, DC

Our meeting on March 6 was a mixture of business, art and history, hosted by Julia Burlen, President of the Council, at her home in suburban Maryland. Following a review of Council finances and other matters, members voted to inaugurate a semi-annual series of talks by prominent Lithuanians on Lithuanian themes, all tailored to attract not only Council members but also to reach out to the broader Washington Lithuanian community. Plans for this undertaking are being worked out by Joe Chaplick, a former Council President.

Also, present at the meeting were Craig Lockaitis who is working on a fax system to link Lithuania's medical community with its counterparts in the United States and thereby assist in the modernization of Lithuanian medical practice. He was accompanied by Egle Zemaitiete from Vilnius who is researching American medical library science as one of the means to make accessible to Lithuania the latest medical knowledge.

- After the meeting, those present were treated to a display of President Burlen's extensive and unique collection of Lithuanian amber in its many varieties and colors, such as, honey-colored, cherry, red and black. Among the many individual pieces was a very old necklace of amber, various pins and pendants, including one pear-shaped pendant judged by an amber expert as of museum quality. The collection had its origin when an uncle brought back to this country a number of amber pieces in the 1930's. These so fascinated Julia that she began to collect precious amber pieces on her own during many trips to Lithuania starting in 1982.

Other arts and crafts on display were dolls from Vilnius, several traditional Sorrowing Jesus sculptures, a notebook in hand-tooled leather and, as contrast, four little ceramic devils from Palanga. These are but a few out of many pieces to give the reader some small notion of a collection that, especially in its amber artifacts, is among the finest in America owned by a private individual.

Another treat for Council 142 members was provided by Vincent Boris, Chairperson of the National K of L's Lithuanian Affairs Committee when he showed the professionally-produced video tape of the Pope's historic visit to Lithuania last fall. There were impressive scenes of the religious ceremonies with the Pope's addresses in near-flawless Lithuanian, and

the tens of thousands of Lithuanians from around the world listening to him with evident fervor. Especially touching were scenes of the Pope kissing the soil of Lithuania upon his arrival, followed by the official greeting of Christendom's head by a former Communist, now President of an independent Lithuania. Interspersed with these moving scenes were lighter ones of strolling musicians and bands with the every-popular Lithuanian accordion playing well-known folk songs from pre-independent year, as well as dance groups in native costumes.

Council members were indeed grateful to Vincent for providing them with the opportunity to view this pictorial account of an immortal moment in Lithuanian history.

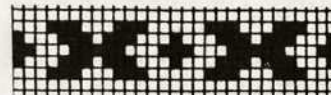
Al Cizauskas

C-144 Anthracite, PA

Our fall season was finished with a wonderful concert presented by SODAUTO of Boston, MA. Their theme was the early Lithuanian settlers in the Anthracite Coal Region, and the performance was excellent. There was not a dry eye in the house as we reminisced with the group of the hardships and good times of our forefathers, and we remembered with much love the old Lithuanian folk songs they sang. Our thanks to chairperson, Anne Wargo, for bringing this group to us. It was truly a memorable afternoon. Following the program, we visited with the group. Refreshments, all home baked, by our ladies were served.

Kūčios was hosted by Evelyn and Vic Prep and their committee who served a typical Kucios Meal. The tables were beautifully decorated. A program of Lithuanian Christmas customs was presented, and Father Matt read the Lithuanian Kucios prayers. Lithuanian Christmas Carols were sung. Frackville members served on the committee.

Following the December Meeting, a Christmas Party was held with cooks Helen Chesko and Anne Wargo hosting. Serving were Helen and Mary Labadis, Al and Anna Yockachonis, Jack and Leona Joseph. A typical New Year's meal of roast pork and cabbage was served.



The January meeting had to be cancelled due to weather conditions. This was a snowy winter with 19 snowstorms from Christmas to March.

Our Council was saddened by the death of Barbara Silkunas. Our condolences to her husband, Stanley, and her family. Barbara and Stanley were always ready to help when needed.

In January, we got word that our member, Father Gerald Gobitas, Pastor of Annunciation Blessed Virging Mary Church in Frackville was elevated to Monsignor. We congratulated Msgr. Gobitas, who has always supported the Knights of Lithuania and wish him *Ilgiausią ir Laimingą Metų*. Msgr. Gerry was honored February 27 at a banquet at which there were 350 guests. M.C. was our newly elected Judge John Domalakes, the first Lithuanian Judge in Schuylkill County and an active member of the K of L. We are also proud of Judge Domalakes and wish him well.



Even though we had more snow in February, we had a special Lithuanian Mass commemorating Lithuanian Independence Day celebrated by Father Matthew Jarasunas and Father Francis Baransky.

The St. Casimir Breakfast was again hosted by the cooks of the Christmas Party with the addition of Sister Angela, C.J.C. Thanks to Tom McDonald who made a beautiful wooden tulip for each member attending. The tulips were red and yellow with green leaves. They made the tables very festive. The following week members journeyed to Pittston for the Amber District's St. Casimir celebration and meeting. Tome McDonald received the Third Degree. Tom is the Council Photographer and right-hand man of President Anna Helen. Bernie Zilaitis drove the bus which was rented, and everyone enjoyed the



A part of Julia Burlen's Amber Collection.

ride there and home. Bernie is an A-1 bus driver.

We congratulate him and his lovely Irena. Bernie was married in Lithuania in February and will bring his wife home to Pennsylvania in April. We wish them both happiness, much love and long life.

On March 26, Elsie Kosmisky, Helen Chesko and Anne Wargo attended the Supreme Council Meeting in Detroit.

Many of our members were on the sick list this past winter, and we wish them all well. Two very active members who have been ill for some time are Anne Panchari and Anne Radzevich. Our prayers are with them, and we hope that they will soon be back with us. For all those who are ill, not only in C-144 but in all the K of L, we pray for your recovery and future good health.

A letter was received by the Council for the English books we sent to an elementary school in Kaunas. The teachers were most thankful as they would help the students learn English. We are still also paying for the shipment of medical supplies sent by Sister Marilyn Perkins to Lithuania. Sister Marilyn is not Lithuanian but has done much for Lithuanian these past two years. We are grateful for her interest.

Taradeikiene

C-146 Harrisburg, PA

The following is the latest news from C-146 Harrisburg, PA.

Our March meeting started with a Mass celebrated by Fr. John Smith at St. Mary's Church in Wrightsville, PA overlooking the beautiful Susquehanna River. After all the snow we had, it was a welcomed sight to see a sunny day for our Mass and luncheon meeting. The beautiful weather enhanced the joyous spirit of the membership. At the Roadside Restaurant in York, PA, Joanna Gilbert, our new president, conducted the business end of the meeting, after which Fr. Smith swore in the new officers for 1994. They are:

Spiritual Advisor - Fr. John F. Smith
 President - Joanna Gilbert
 Vice President - Lorraine Grabauskas
 Recording Secretary - John Povilaitis
 Treasurer - Nell Berulis
 Trustee - Vitty Grabauskas
 Trustee - Eduardas Zemaitis
 Ritual - Eileen West
 Lithuanian Culture - Francis Boyle
 Public Relations - Eduardas Zemaitis
 Spiritual Programs - Helen Grabauskas
 VYTIS Correspondent - Eduardas Zemaitis
 Lithuanian language - Jean Hallam

Stella Graci entertained relatives from Kaunas in December - Zigmantas Rinkevicius, his wife, Ilona, and their daughter, Greta. Their stay was very eventful, especially since the Christmas Holiday season was in full swing. Shopping seemed to be their number one priority and was an experience beyond their comprehension.

The Lithuanian Language Study Group had postponed several sessions because of the record-breaking snowfall in January and February. Parking turned out to be the major problem.

Stanley Brazinskas and Ed Zemaitis are booked for a month's stay in Lithuania this June. For Stanley, born in Mariampole, it will be his first trip back since he left 50 years ago. As for Ed, this will be his second trip back to find his roots. Kaunas will be their base of activities. Both Stanley and Ed are looking forward to a reward and memorable visit.

Eduardas Zemaitis



*Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Wasil of Norwood, MA
 King and Queen of the 50th Snowflake Ball
 February 1994 Sponsored by C-1*

C-147 St. Petersburg, FL

St. Casimir's Day was a joyous day for all of us. On March 6 in Holy Name Church, Gulfport, our guest, Rev. Saulius Filipavičius from Troškunai, Lithuania celebrated a Lithuanian Mass with seven other priests. It was a beautiful Mass with a fantastic choir. Later our Knights assembled for dinner at the Lithuanian American Club. Elena Bacevicius baked and donated two large delicious tortes for all in attendance.

Father Gasiunas, our spiritual advisor, celebrated his 65th Jubilee and upcoming 90th birthday. Many of our members attended his testimonial and wished him many more years of good health and happiness.

Jonas Valauskas was again hospitalized this month, but he is recovering. We wish you good health Jonai !

Dolores Jonaitis



*Council 16 Members
81st National Convention Committee
Waiting for all to come to Chicago
August 4-7, 1994.*

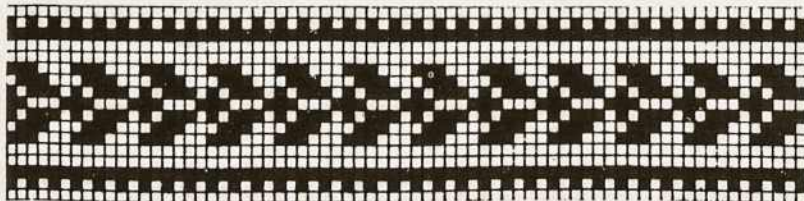
C-154 Spring Hill, FL

Our March meeting was publicized in the local newspaper. We extended an invitation to all those who claim Lithuanian ancestry to come and join us at a get-acquainted luncheon at the Forum Restaurant in Holiday. The response was beyond all expectations. We had over forty people at our meeting. Our president, Joseph Kuchinskas greeted our guests. Each was invited to introduce himself and tell where he lived before retiring to Florida. Applications were passed out by secretary Helen Kuchinskas. We are looking forward to a record turn out of new members at our next meeting in September.

George and Helen Mayer are in Garden City, NY visiting their daughter, Christine Gehrig and her family. Annette and Bill Gnezevich are in Houston, TX to see their new great-grandson, Edward. We are all looking forward to a concert of the Medus couple who are from Lithuania and will entertain us with music and songs from their homeland. A picnic was held at Crews' Park in April that gave us an opportunity to wish our "snowbirds" a fond *bon voyage* as they leave our sunshine to head north.

Drive carefully and enjoy the beauty of summer.

Sadye G. Petraitis





To be a Knight means to be of service ...

In supporting priestly vocations

- The St. Casimir's Guild is a semi-autonomous activity dedicated to the support of the Lithuanian Pontifical College of St. Casimir in Rome. The Guild sponsors three programs: collection of donations for a general endowment fund administered by the Rector, obtaining Mass stipends for the support of Lithuanian priests studying in Rome, and coordinating a program of "adopting" seminarians from Lithuania by providing regular contributions for their non-academic needs. Checks should be made payable to: **The St. Casimir's Guild** and mailed to:

Anna Klizas Wargo 125 So. Morris Street St. Clair, PA 17970

In Humanitarian Aid

- Aid to Lithuania, Inc. is a semi-autonomous organization under the aegis of the Knights of Lithuania, that provides medical supplies, equipment and medicines to Lithuania during this crucial transition period from a Soviet-occupied and suppressed nation to a free and self-sufficient democracy. At least one 40-foot container of donated materials is shipped each calendar quarter. Administrative costs are covered by the K of L so that 100% of donated monies are applied to humanitarian aid. Checks should be made payable to **Aid to Lithuania, Inc.** and mailed to:

Aid to Lithuania, Inc. 4557 Fairway Court, Waterford, MI 48328-3483

In Education

- K of L Scholarship Awards are presented each year to deserving members who are pursuing studies at the college level. The Scholarship Fund is totally dependent upon donations and bequests from members payable to the **Knights of Lithuania - Scholarship Fund**. Point of contact is:

Florence Zaleskas 264 Bowen Street So. Boston, MA 02127

In Cultural Advancement

- The K of L Foundation is an endowment fund which supports and funds projects to further the cultural, religious or humanitarian objectives of the Knights of Lithuania. Donations are tax deductible. Checks should be payable to the **Knights of Lithuania Foundation** and sent to:

Loretta Stukas 234 Sunlit Drive Watchung, NJ 07060

In Upkeep of the National Shrine

- The development of an endowment fund to support the upkeep of the Chapel of Our Lady of Siluva at the Basilica Shrine of the Immaculate Conception located in Washington, D.C. was adopted at the 75th Knights of Lithuania Anniversary Convention. Donations are tax deductible. Checks should be payable to the **Basilica Shrine of the Immaculate Conception** and mailed to:

Julia Burlen 2403 Belair Drive

Bowie, MD 20715



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5620 South Claremont
Chicago IL 60636

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P.O. Box 81615
Chicago, IL 60681-0615

I am a Lithuanian

Aš Esu Lietuvis

Only an oak sprouts from an achorn.
Only a pine spreads its greenery from a cone.

My parents are Lithuanians.
That's why I am a Lithuanian.

I cherish the Lithuanian language and love my parent's land.
That's my forefathers' testament,
which I must protect as a treasure entrusted to me.
The Lithuanian language is one of the oldest in Europe
and one of the most melodious.
The Lithuanian landscape is the most beautiful in the world.
In the past Lithuania was a large and powerful
European nation.

A Lithuanian cherishes his past and from it
gets strength.

A Lithuanian loves freedom and will sacrifice all for it.

A Lithuanian respects other opinions,
but staunchly defends his own.

A Lithuanian in victory is restrained
and noble to his foe;

in defeat - undaunted and continues to fight
with increased fervor.

A Lithuanian speaks little, but sensibly.
That's why I'm proud,
that I am a Lithuanian.

- unsigned