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LIEPĀ-RUGPJŪTIS/ JULY-AUGUST 1994



ANTANAS TAMOSAITIS.

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In this issue...../ Šiame Numeryje

Almanac - Lietuviškas Almanachas.....	2
Aspiring to the Priesthood by Vincent B. Boris	3
We honor our Heroes by Dalia Bulvičius.....	10
Sing Lithuanian - Dainuokime Lietuviškai.....	12
Let's Reminisce by Frank Petrauskas.....	14
In Memoriam.....	16
Members Speak Up- Letters to the Editor.....	17
A Vytis Salute to - Rev. Msgr. Francis J. Pranckus.....	20
Eat Lithuanian - Valgome Lietuviškai.....	21
Act Lithuanian - Veikime Lietuviškai - Council Activities.....	22
In the good old summertime.. by Albert Cizauskas.....	45

All correspondence should reach the editor by the **First of the Month**, two months in advance of issue. (e.g. September 1 for the November 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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LIETUVIŠKAS ALMANACHAS

LITHUANIAN ALMANAC JULY/AUGUST 1994

LIEPA (JULY) In the heat of the summer, the air is redolent with linden or *liepa* blossoms and resounds with the buzzing of bees as they gayher clear golden honey. Lithuanians are known as beekeepers and the linden is a decorative tree favored in villages and forests. The name of this month, therefore, is very significant and appropriate.

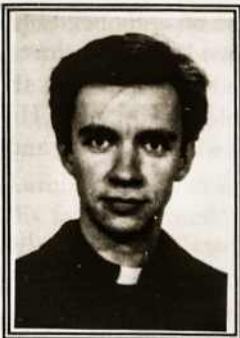


RUGPJŪTIS (AUGUST) is a time of toil. Because the rye - *rugiai* was Lithuania's major grain crop and life without daily rye bread was inconceivable, the harvest month is named after the cutting- *pjauti* of the rye. In years gone by, rye was cut with sickles, therefore the name of the month came to be *rugpjūtis* - month for cutting the rye.

ASPIRING TO THE PRIESTHOOD

The ten seminarians at the Pontifical Lithuanian College of St. Casimir, Rome.

A call to priesthood is a gift from God; it is at His initiative. One, himself, does not choose this road; but, God invites him. One can but listen, hear and respond. It should be understood that often when God speaks, He calls through people, their surroundings, their doings. I think that my calling developed while living in simple, although occasionally dramatic circumstances, associating with familiar people, who seemed "tired and dejected, like sheep without a shepherd" [Matthew 9,36]. They were lost and misled often by false prophets, of which there was no shortage during Soviet times. They were searching for the Way, thirsting for Truth and hoping for something sturdy, steady and true. Those who searched and did not find, perhaps could not find, strayed aimlessly exhausted and disappointed. How could they find the strength to go on find spiritual revival? Out of this experience, arose my desire to be of service to these people; to help them find the true Faith, the true Way. The desire became a yearning to not only accompany these people on their life's journey, but also to be able to lead them to Christ; to steady the wavering; to support the bowed down. The yearning became a need to be the hands of Christ - the Good Shepherd, who seeks to embrace all. I felt an imperative to lift up and revive my weary brothers. *(Based on a statement by Rimas Skinaitis.)*



Rimas Skinaitis

Rimas Skinaitis was born on September 29, 1969 in the small village of Dabitis which is in the Gelgaudiškis district, Šakiai region. His father worked on a collective farm for over 40 years in animal husbandry; he is today, however, a pensioner with limited medical disability. His mother is a mail-carrier in the Gelgaudiškis area.

Rimas attended The Exaltation of the Holy Cross Parish in Gelgaudiškis, which is under the administration of Fr. Gintautas Skučas. He began his education in the primary school in his home village, then attended the Gelgaudiškis middle school which he completed in 1987.

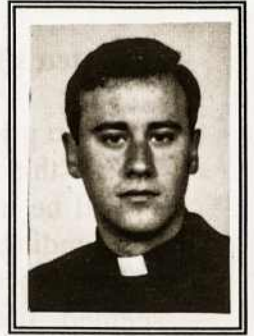
Although he had dreams of studying for the priesthood, entry was not simple. Immediately after finishing school, he was drafted into the Soviet Army and spent two years in the Koma region of Siberia, to where, by the way, many Lithuanians had been deported in the post World War II period. Rimas, however, was assigned to a helicopter maintenance group. Soon after returning from the Army, he was accepted into the Interdiocesan Seminary in Kaunas where he studied for one year prior to being given the opportunity to study in Rome. While at St. Casimir's Pontifical Lithuanian College in Rome, Rimas receives further theological training at the Pontifical Gregorian Univ. (the Gregorianum).

From a early age, Rimas fell in love with books and reading. His favorites are history and literature. He prefers classical music and in his free time he finds both tennis and basketball relaxing. In his current studies, he is focusing on liturgy, parish organization and catechesis.



Rolandas Makrickas was born on January 31, 1972 in Biržai, Lithuania, and belongs to St. John the Baptist parish in Biržai, in the Diocese of Panevėžys. He attended school in Biržai and developed an interest in folk art, particularly ceramics, while in Secondary school. At this time, he also was quite active in sports, especially basketball, and for a short while participated in the Biržai Aviation Sports Club.

While attending Middle School, he began to feel the calling to priesthood and in response joined the then reorganizing "Ateitinkai." Having finished Middle School in 1990, he enrolled in the Interdiocesan Seminary in Kaunas. After one year at the Kaunas Seminary, Rolandas was selected by his Bishop to pursue further studies in Rome. In his current studies, he has focused on Church History and Scriptural Studies along with advanced theology at the Grigorianum as well as his preparation for pastoral ministry. He is very interested in Youth Ministry.



**Rolandas
Makrickas**

Rolandas continues to participate in sports during his free time and enjoys modern religious music and plays guitar. In addition to his native Lithuanian, Rolandas has learned to speak Italian, English and Russian.

† † †

Alvydas Paulius Vaitkūnas was born on February 26, 1972 in Širvintos. His home parish is St. Michael, the Archangel, Church where Fr. Juozapas Dabravolskis is pastor. He lost contact with his father 12 years ago. His mother continues to live in Širvintos and is a knitted-wear pattern designer at the local knitting factory.



**Alvydas
Vaitkūnas**

His schooling was completed within the Širvintos area; but in addition to his academic work, he studied piano. By age 15 he began to serve as church organist as well as direct the adult and children choirs. This continued past finishing secondary school and was his primary occupation until entering the seminary. It was this close association with church work and the parental guidance of the pastor which led to his first consideration of becoming a priest. Thus, in 1990, having finished Middle School, and with the recommendation of Fr. Dabravolskis, Alvydas applied to the Interdiocesan seminary in Kaunas. After the first year of study there he was given the opportunity to study in Rome, where he is receiving advanced theology at the Holy Cross University.

Alvydas prefers classical music (an outgrowth of his own playing). He is able to speak Italian, Russian and Polish while continuing to study German and English. He has recently begun to use a personal computer and wants very much to expand his technical knowledge. He loves to drive and even enjoys the challenge of auto repair. His current studies in addition to theology are focused on pastoral psychology and various dogma and theology problems. He evaluates his vocation as a challenge to delve into the essence of spirituality while watching and evaluating recent world events; to live the Mystical Body of Christ - the soul of the Church.

His experiences in Rome allow him to mature his vocation. Spiritually, academically and pastorally prepared, he hopes to then serve his newly reborn Homeland as it returns to union with the Triune God. Specifically, he looks toward service to the Lithuanian Church and Nation and aid in the resolution of their many problems. All is possible, under the aegis of what he has taken as his personal motto: Through Him, With Him, In Him!

† † †

Arvydas Ramonas was born on December 19, 1968, in Salantai in the region of Kretinga. He belonged to Assumption Parish where Fr. Julijonas Miškinis is pastor. His father is a life-long wood-worker/cabinet maker. Even having been deported to Siberia, he was able to earn his daily bread as a carpenter. Arvydas' mother was a secretary but having reached retirement age, she has reverted to homemaker.

He completed his elementary and middle schooling in Salantai and then served his two years of required military duty with the Soviet Air Force. After returning from military service he entered the newly reopened Seminary in Telšiai.

While he finds it difficult to recall the specifics of his calling to the priesthood, he does remember a time when he was about 8 years old, in his second year of schooling. A friend,



**Arvydas
Ramonas**

who also happened to be an altar boy at the local church, invited Arvydas to come see the church and its altar. He went - and something inside him happened. He felt this strong conviction (despite his youth) that no longer could he be separated from these things. And so, this conviction has propelled him onward even now to Rome, the center of Christianity. He summarizes his current life, "I am here to develop my faith - that little flame of truth, of life - then to take it back to my countrymen. I know that when the flame of my candle is used to light the candle of another, the flame does not diminish - the room becomes brighter..."



Renaldas Resvytis was born on April 5, 1968 in the Kretinga Region. At age 7, he was brought to Palanga for schooling and now considers that city his home. He attends Assumption Church in Palanga. He comes from a working level background. His father had, in his youth, served on a sea-going fishing vessel; but more recently had worked in a meat processing plant in Klaipėda and is now retired. His mother completed medical training and for the first few years served as a medic on a fishing vessel (where, in fact, she met her husband, Renaldas' father.) Since then, she has worked as a nurse at one of the Palanga rest homes and continues to do so even though she has reached retirement age.

His first eight years of school were spent in Palanga. Having completed middle school (eighth grade) in Palanga, Renaldas was transferred to a technical trade school in Klaipėda for an additional three years. Along with the required technical training, he learned decorative woodworking. In 1986, he was drafted into the Soviet army and assigned to an aviation division at Ryazan, near Moscow. Upon returning to Lithuania, he took a carpentry job at one of the rest homes in Palanga. In 1989, he entered the newly opened seminary in Telšiai.



**Renaldas
Resvytis**

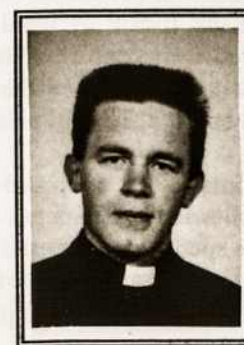
Renaldas is most interested in Holy Scriptures and related writings particularly Jewish religious literature. He is attempting to develop a basic familiarity with the varying European languages although his favorite language in English. He would like to undertake a serious study of modern Hebrew.

Apart from his studies, Renaldas loves music and has picked up a minimal capability with guitar. In his younger years, he entertained the thought of becoming a professional soccer player but has become somewhat indifferent to sports. He sees himself as ever the optimist and, when not optimistic, at least a believer.



Aurelijus Žukauskas was born on June 7, 1971, in Lygumai and belongs to Holy Trinity Parish. His father worked for many years on a collective farm in the livestock division as a cattle breeder, more recently he was a full time driver/equipment operator but is now on a medical retirement. His mother served as director of the Collective's fire brigade, which included oversight of fire prevention on the collective.

He feels exceptionally fortunate to have been raised in a Catholic family where he, the eldest, together with two sisters were brought up to fully adhere to both religious and national traditions. From his very youngest years, he began to serve at Mass in the local parish church. Here he frequently encountered loving and sincere people who provided the inspiration to enter religious life. Under the guidance of his beloved pastor, he came to recognize his calling and develop the desire to become a priest.



**Aurelijus
Žukauskas**

In 1989, he entered the Interdiocesan Seminary in Kaunas. He studied there for two years before receiving the invitation to attend St. Casimir's College in Rome. Now in Rome, he is truly learning what it means to serve Church and Nation. It is his fondest hope that training at the Gregorianum in Rome will afford him a solid adult formation with knowledge of God and the world backed up with philosophic and theologic knowledge to master the apostolic technique and responsibly develop spiritual foundations. He welcomes the opportunity to prepare to witness the Good News brought by Christ.



**Remigijus
Kuprys**

Remigijus Kuprys began life in a beautiful Lithuanian traditional environment on April 27, 1965 in a small village, Lažai, near Surviliškis in the Kedainiai region. The Surviliškis church of St. Rocco served as his home parish. His father, A.†A. Jonas Kuprys, had been a life-long forester. In his youth, he had joined with the "partizanai" and is still remembered by friends and family as a patriotic, conscientious and loving guard of the Sosiai forest. His mother, having survived the rigors of Siberian exile, returned to Lithuania, fell in love and gave her all to raising a family, Remigijus, the eldest, Eligijus and Nerija. With the children all grown, she continues to live near her younger son and share in the work of forestry.

His spiritual formation was under the guidance of a noble monk, who had survived Siberian deportation and never lost his love of his fellow human beings. Remigijus finished middle school in 1983 and moved to Kaunas for further education. While living the carefree student's life in Kaunas, he felt himself drawn to national-religious youth activities and encountered many people dedicated to both Lithuania and the Church. During this period, he became of interest to the KGB who from time to time would call him in for questioning and in the hope of recruiting him into their service. Since he did not cooperate and play the Judas role, his application to enter the seminary in Kaunas was denied; his hope to become a priest was left as an unfulfilled dream.

In the fall of 1984, he was drafted for a two year tour of duty in the Soviet military forces. Most of the two years were spent in the Latvian bogs in an anti-aircraft defense system emplacement. Upon his return, he started training as a forester and had just about completed the course, when he discovered that the Seminary doors were opening to him. After two years of study in Kaunas, he was offered the possibility of studying abroad. Suddenly, the Moscow putsch affair in August 1991 broke down the state imposed barriers seemingly all the way to Rome.

His greatest joy is in opening a book of poetry although from time to time he enjoys prose. He takes the greatest interest in Baltic, Lithuanian cultural and historical works. Remigijus loves to travel and meet new people; he speaks English and Italian in addition to Lithuanian and Russian. Before he embarked on his academic work he enjoyed the sport of long distance running.

He views his calling to be a lifelong challenge to perfect love of humanity and service to the Church. He understands his vocation as an all encompassing personal opening to share self with others.



Rimantas Meškėnas was born on August 5, 1969 in a village in northeastern Lithuania, Dūkštai in the region of Ignalina. He attended church at St. Stansilav Kostkos, which serves as a Deaconry center for the Vilnius Archdiocese. His father, now retired, was a tailor at a state-owned enterprise. His mother also had worked as a seamstress at the same factory but has been on a medical retirement for the past five years.

Rimantas grew up and completed his education through high school in his home town. While following his academic courses, he also attended the Ignalina Children's Music Schools, where he spent five years studying saxophone. Having received his diploma in 1987, he was drafted into the Soviet Army for two years. These two years he spend in the military band in the Russian far north Republic of Komya near a town named Uchta.



**Rimantas
Meškėnas**

He returned to Lithuania on March 11, 1990 to find a greatly changed homeland animated with the hope of regained independence. For the first year, he worked as a sacristan at the parish church in Kaltanėnai, while studying languages, introductory philosophy and theology. He was prepared to do whatever seemed most necessary for Lithuania. The priesthood seemed to him to be the most logical means for contributing to the spiritual and intellectual rebirth of Lithuania. Thus, he entered the seminary in Kaunas in 1990 and was among the first of the clerics sent to Rome to continue their studies. Rimantas enjoys music, poetry and folklore. He speaks German, French and English. His current studies focus on Holy Scriptures, theology and religious history. He, too, studies at the Gregorianum.



**Vladas
Gedgaudas**

Vladas Gedgaudas was born in 1962 in small village, Laiviai, near Salantai and considers the Salantai church as his home parish. Both parents have now retired and are living on their pensions.

He attended school in Salantai; after which, he was drafted into the Soviet Army for two years. After returning from his military service he worked for a short time as a plumber.

He feels that he became aware of his calling to the priesthood slowly through daily living and not through a single dramatic event.

He is somewhat of a skeptic. He looks at the future both soberly and critically yet with a true but measured optimism. Vladas feels that there is great untapped and unused spiritual energy among the people, it appears to him this will spread in a positive direction. But he is far from being a Utopian.

He has not acquired any specific hobbies being fully occupied by his studies, particularly since he stated studying English. He does, however, enjoy sports as well as reading. His reading focus now is on philosophy and fundamentalist theology.



Gintaras Grušas was born on September 23, 1961, in Washington, D.C.; but, his family relocated to California, so he grew up in Los Angeles. His father, now retired, had been a mathematician for IBM. His mother devoted her life in the United States to being a homemaker. In Lithuania, she had been a teacher and governess in a children's home. He is a member of St. Casimir's Church, the Lithuanian parish in Los Angeles, California.



**Gintaras
Grušas**

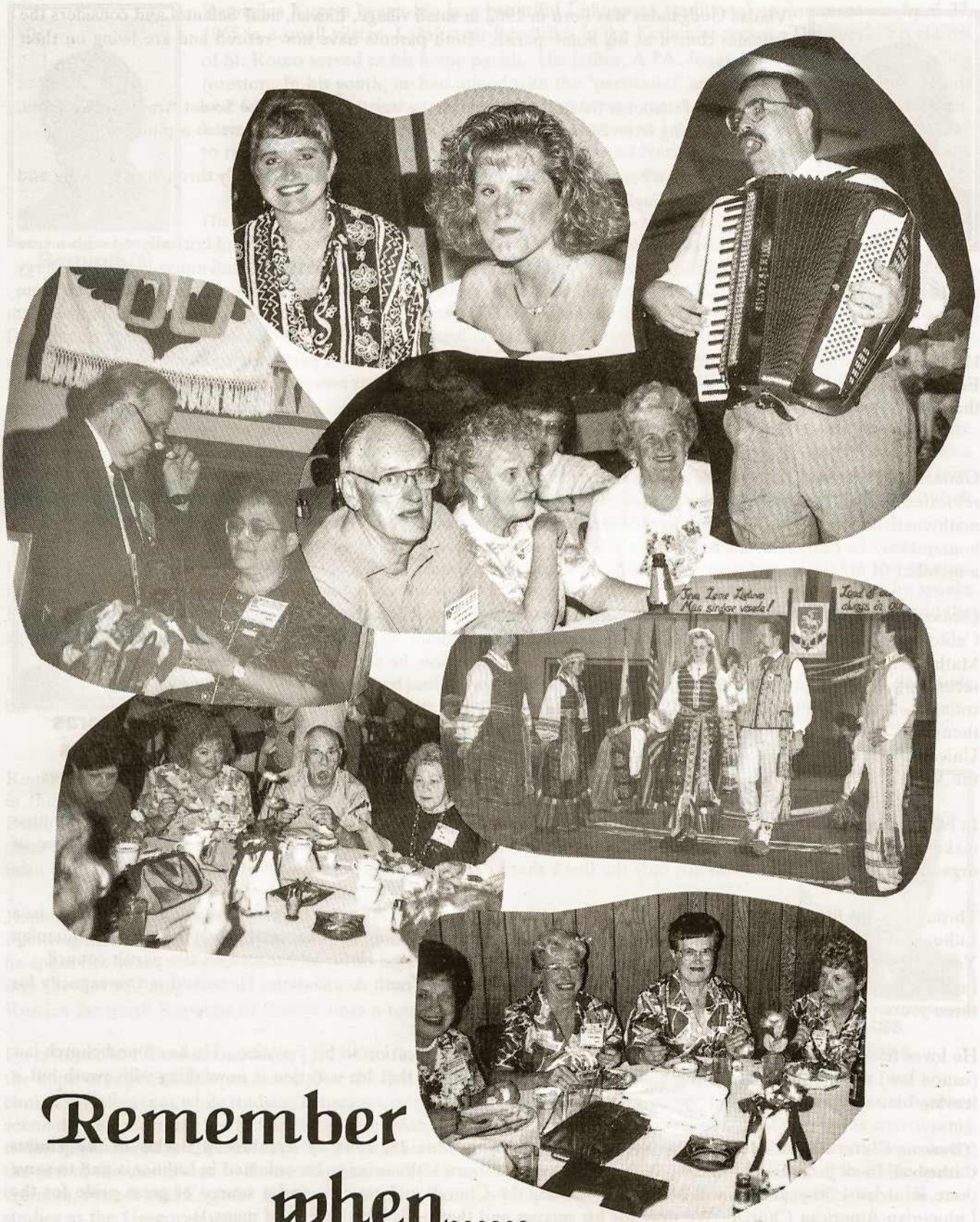
Gintaras attended Agoura High School in Los Angeles and then went on to the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) where he achieved a Bachelor of Science Degree in Mathematics and Computer Science. For six years after graduation, he worked for IBM as a technical consultant. In 1989, Gintaras responded to his vocation and began to pursue further training in philosophy and theology, first at the Franciscan University in Steubenville, Ohio, then in Rome. A baccalaureate degree in philosophy was granted through the Pontifical University of St. Thomas, popularly known as the Angelicum, in Rome. He is incardinated into the Vilnius Archdiocese and will serve there before returning to Rome to study for advanced academic degrees.

In 1992 and 1993, Gintaras spent two years away from his ecclesiastical training to serve as secretary to the committee making arrangements for the Pope's 1993 visit to Lithuania. His initiative and drive as well as innate sense of organization, enabled him to do not only the lion's share of the planning but to do it magnificently.

Throughout his life, Gintaras has been active in Lithuanian activities. As a youth in Los Angeles, he belonged to a Lithuanian Folk Song and Dance Ensemble, a Lithuanian volley-ball team, the Ateitininkai and the World Lithuanian Youth Association. At St. Casimir's parish he was a lector, sang in the choir, and served on the parish council. In 1983, he was elected as the President of the World Lithuanian Youth Association. He served in this capacity for three years.

He loves travel and seeks fulfillment in his life through a deep dedication to his vocation. He has found church law (canon law) most interesting among his studies. Gintaras believes that his vocation is in working with youth but is leaving himself open to do whatever or go wherever God calls.

((Deacon Gintaras Grušas is scheduled to be ordained on June 25, 1994 by Archbishop Bačkis in the Vilnius Cathedral. In all probability, Gintaras is the first American-born Lithuanian to be ordained in Lithuania and to serve there in at least 50 years. It will be a milestone for the Church in Lithuania and a source of great pride for the Lithuanian-American Church. We pray for his success and that he is but the first of many.))



Remember
when.....



We Honor Our Heroes by Dalia Bulvičius

It is difficult to imagine that a year has gone by since we honored our heroes Stasys Darius and Steponas Girėnas, on the 60th Anniversary of their historic flight across the Atlantic Ocean and on to Lithuania. It is with pleasure that we recall that day when the local New York Knights of Lithuania councils : C-12 Manhattan, C-41 Brooklyn and C-110 Maspeth worked together to make this important commemoration such a great success. The event was the brainchild of Connie Nehwadowich, C-12, who with the able assistance of Helen Matulionis, C-110 and Ann Morrissey, C-110, did a terrific job.

The commemoration took place on July 17, 1993, the 60th Anniversary of the exact day that the historic flight began. The place was Floyd Bennett Field in Brooklyn, NY, the spot from where our heroes rose into the sky beginning their odyssey into history. The festivities took place on the high steps of the field's main building, the same building that will be converted in the near future to an aviation museum.

On one side Old Glory reigned in all its splendor and with her stood a wreath of red white and blue flowers. On the other side was our *Trispalvė* and with her stood a wreath of yellow, green, and red. Newspapers were displayed proclaiming the sad news. It was eerie to see photos of Nazi stormtroopers saluting the coffins of our fallen heroes with a salute more reminiscent of a Heil Hitler! The date of the Lithuanian Newspaper *DARBININKAS* was July 18, 1933. Helen Matulionis had preserved this newspaper for 60 years. Floyd Bennett Field administration have requested that these mementoes be placed in the museum.

The program, much like *LITUANICA-Darius' and Girėnas'* airplane that was overloaded with fuel, got off to a slow start. It seems that not many people knew where this "unknown place" was. Only when the Lithuanian Flag was raised and yellow, green and red balloons appeared did cars start

rolling through the gates.

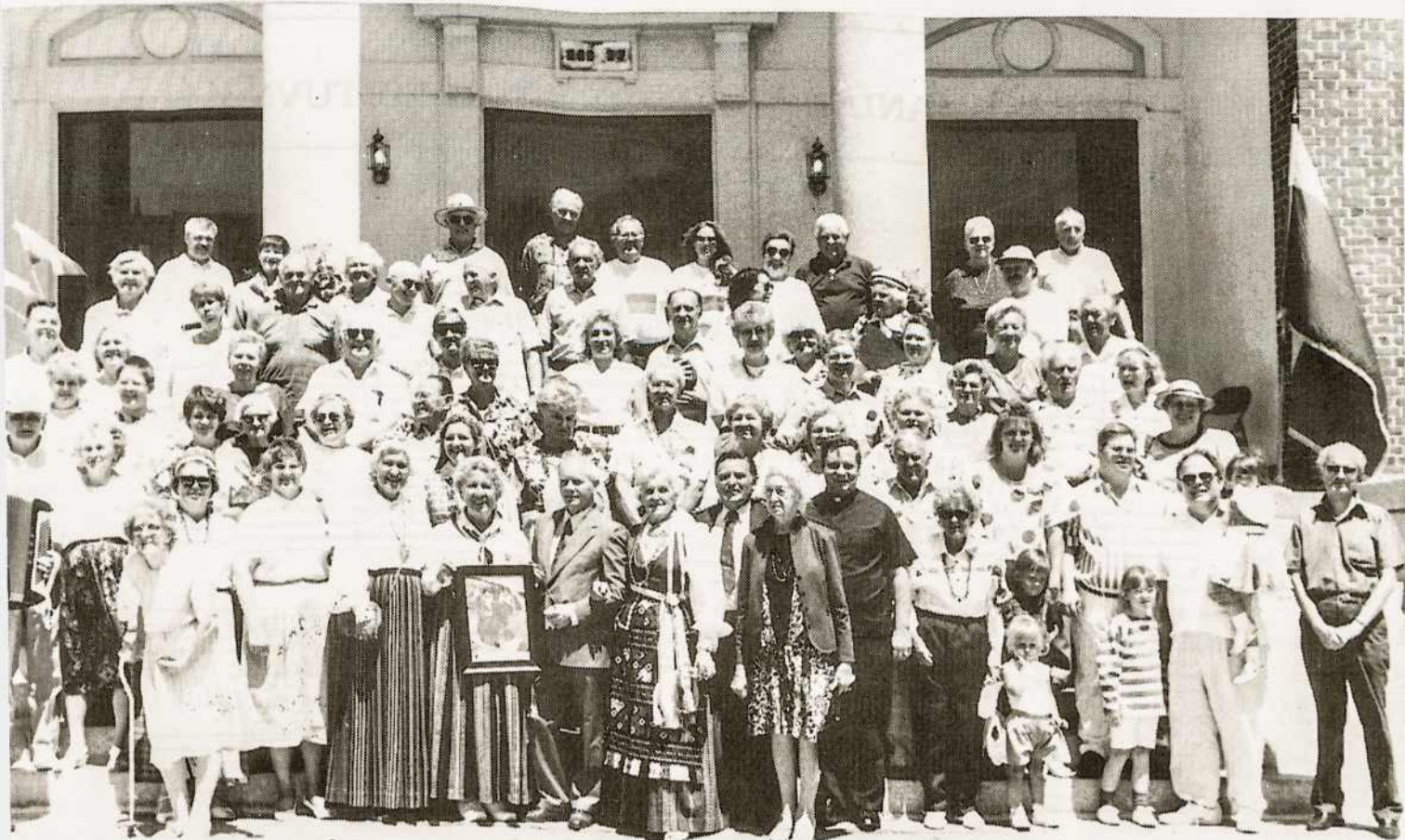
"Was it difficult to get here?" we asked one elderly man who was entering the gates. He responded angrily, "Difficult, nothing! How about their difficulty?" as he pointed to the picture of Darius and Girenas.

Connie Nehwadowich opened the program by introducing Rev. Eugene Sawicki, who offered the opening prayer. In his short speech, Rev. Sawicki, who is pastor of Ausros Vartu parish in Manhattan, spoke about humanity and its striving for higher goals. We spend nearly our entire lives seeking and striving to reach new horizons. No moment on earth must stay the same forever. We are constantly discovering new goals for ourselves. God did not give us a complete universe, but rather a fertile field in which we work to better ourselves. This is truly what Darius & Girenas and their legacy is all about.

Masters of Ceremonies for the event were Helen Matulionis, C-110 and Bill Kumeta, C-41. Greetings read included those from Lithuania's Ambassador to the United Nations hon. Anicetas Simutis, Sen. Alphonse D'Amato (D-NY) and the president of the Supreme Council of the Knights of Lithuania Frances Petkus.

Helen Matulionis recalled the events of six decades ago vividly. As a child in her native Maspeth, she remembers hearing the newsboy's cry in the streets "Extra, Extra, Read all about it. Lithuanian Pilots Killed in Plane Crash". Linas Kučinskis, Consul General of Lithuania in New York, reminisced about his childhood. "Ever since Kindergarten, even in a Soviet-occupied Lithuania, my favorite heroes were Darius and Girėnas. I am pleased that the Knights of Lithuania remembered this historic event. Darius and Girenas took off from this field 60 years ago on an odyssey to Kaunas. But instead they went into eternity and landed on the golden pages of Lithuania's history."

Soprano Angela Kiaušas entertained the crowd with her beautiful voice. Her accompanist was our own Joe Thomas. One song - *My Prayer* by Liudas Stukas - was dedicated to our fallen heroes. Always a crowdpleaser - *Summertime* from *Porgy and Bess* by George Gershwin - painted a



beautiful picture of this perfect day. After a long wait , the K of L Juniors arrived from Amsterdam, NY. It seems that they had a few mishaps along the way to Brooklyn. One of the youngsters lost his shoes. But as the Old Bard says, "All's well that ends well." They gave us a wonderful performance, even the shoeless one. He got the loudest round of applause. Under the leadership of our "workaholic" Bernice Aviza, president of the Mid-Atlantic District, the dancers did a marvelous job. Yet, Bernice always has publicizing Lithuania on her mind. Here she distributed literature about Darius and Girenas and their homeland ,Lithuania.

As the program was winding down, Consul General Kučinskas announced that he was just in touch with Lithuania and

LITUANICA II had just landed. The crowd roared its approval and champagne corks were popping everywhere. This was truly a labor of love. Connie Nehwadowich, Helen Matulionis and Ann Morrisey -the K of L is proud of your efforts.


After the commemoration ,we heard single engine planes taking off. With closed eyes one could imagine Darius and Girenas rising to the sun. A hand on my shoulder interrupted my meditation. It was a park attendant who said: " You know lady? You people sure work well together". As I thanked him, words from the Lithuanian National Anthen came to mind:

**VARDANŲ TOS, LIETUVOS,
VIENYBĖ TEŽYDI.**

SING LITHUANIAN - DAINUOKIME LIETUVIŠKAI

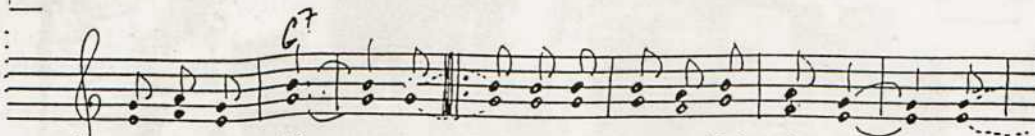
TYLUS ARMONIKOS TONAI

C



1. Ty-lūs ar - mo - ni - kos to - nai pri - me - na
 2. Bu - vo pa - va - sa - ris ši - čia a - ly - vos žy -
 3. Bet so - dus vis ny - ko ir ba - lo laks - tin - ga - los
 4. Ta - ciau aš pri - si - me - nu vis - ką iš - vy - dus šia

G7

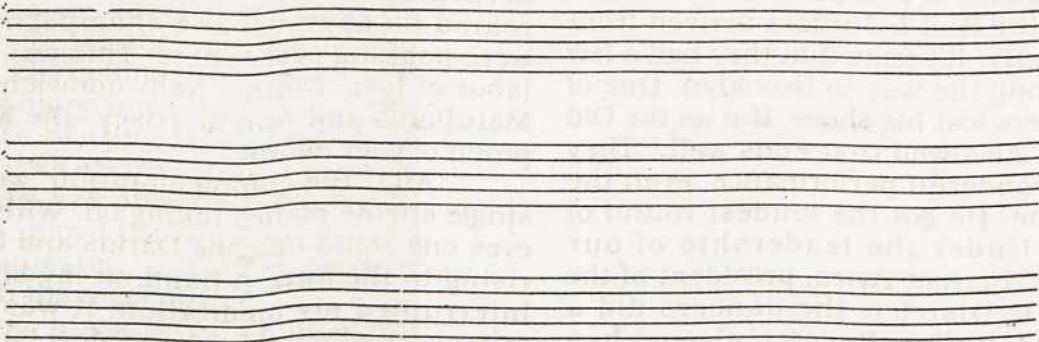


ta - vo a - kis pri - me - na ta - vo blaks - tie - nas
 dè - jo bal - tai pra - žy - do mūs mei - lè ne - ty - cia pra -
 suo - ke nak - ty tos die - nos auk - si - nės ap - sa - lo ty -
 puokė te - gė liū ta - va - sa - ra sien - ka a - ky - se bet

F *C*



ty - lias ir juo - das nak - tis pra -
 žy - do vi - sai ne - kal - tai tos
 lia - jam dai - nu su - kū - ry ta
 jos su - gra - žint ne - ga - liu



O ATSIMENU NAMELI



1. O at - si - me - nu na - me - li ta gim - ti - ni sa - vo
 2. Čiū - čia liū - lia ma - žu - tē - li auk grei - čiau už - au - ki
 3. Kai i - sau - lę pa - si - žiū - riu - va - ka - ro sau - lu - tę



kur mo - čiu - tē prie ra - te - lio sup - da - ma liū - lia - vo ir dai - ne - lė
 ir tē - vy - nė ir Die - vu - lis ta - vęs jau - no lau - kia kai iš - klys - tu
 ji man pri - mena kaip gy - vą my - lima mo - tu - lę ir kas - dien re -



ta lop - ši - nė ta dai - na mo - tu - lės ir šian - die - na
 i pa - sau - li pla - tu be - ga li ni tē viš - kė - lės
 glu ta kai - ma ta na - me - li sa - vo kur gy - ve - ni -



man au - sy - se skam - ba čiū - čia liū - lia
 at - mi - ni - mai man lai - mu - zė mi - ni.
 mo pa - lai - ma man lop - ši liū - lia - vo.

Let's Reminisce By Frank Petruskas

Our neighborhood was a mixture of nationalities - Lithuanian, Polish, Ukrainian, Slovak, German and Italian. Most families were immigrants and of course they were dirt poor. The fathers made a living at coal mining and farming. Money was scarce as hens' teeth. The children had to make do with what they had so we played games that required no investment or in a few isolated cases, very little investment. Here are some of those games.

Kick the Rickett. All this game required was a thin piece of kindling wood about 12 to 15 inches long. The game was played on the same principle as baseball or softball. There were two sides, four bases and three outs. Home plate was the telephone pole. First base was the Kramers' corner fence post. Second base was Boboiges' corner fence post. Third base was the fire hydrant. The boy at bat would lean the stick against the telephone pole, back up to take a good running start and then give the stick a good kick. The fielders had to touch the baserunner with the stick to get him out. A caught stick on the fly was an out. Many an hour was spent playing this game. There was a street light on the pole so we were able to play at night also.

Kick the Can. All that was needed for this game was an empty milk can or vegetable can and one-half pieces of brick. A starting line was drawn and the can was placed about 15 to 20 feet inside the line. The person who was "it" would place his brick on top of the can and stand a short distance away. The others would toe the line and throw their brick at the can. If you miss, you stand by your brick. If you hit the can, the person who is "it" has to pick up the can immediately along with his brick and set his brick upon the can. When the can is hit, each person can pick up his brick and run home across the line providing the "it" person doesn't tag him. Once the can is covered "it" can tag anybody who is carrying or touching his brick. If "it" strays too far from the can anybody in the field can kick

the can, pick up the brick and run home. This game required a lot of coordination.

Mumble-Le-Peg. Back in those days, every young country boy had a pocket knife. All this game required was a knife and a stick about the size of a pencil. Players would open the main blade, place the point on a finger and give the knife a flip. The knife has to make a complete revolution and stick in the ground. This was done with each finger on both hands. Then you would open another blade and do the same thing. The peg was placed slightly in the ground. Each time a player completes one hand, he gives the peg a hit with the handle of his knife. This goes on until the last person completes his sticks. Then he must pull the peg out of the ground with his teeth. It could be difficult if the peg was driven into the ground entirely. Many a mouthful of soil was spit out until the peg was pulled out of the ground.

Snipe Hunting. This game we played with kids who were visitors from the city. We would take them into the woods, give one a chop sack and the others two sticks each. We told them snipe were little round furry animals. All they had to do was hit the two sticks together and yell "snipe, here snipe" and the snipe would run into the sack. We would go further into the woods and drive the snipe to them. After we got out of their sight, we could hear them yelling "snipe, snipe" and we would roar with laughter. We would roll on the ground laughing until our sides felt like splitting. When we had our fun, we would go to them and tell them the truth - there is no such thing as a snipe.

There were many games we played which gave us great enjoyment. These included: **Hide and Seek, Red Light-Green Light, Tag, King of the Mountain, High Buckety Buck, War, Cowboys and Indians Cops and Robbers.** All these games could be played without any investment. To play baseball of course, you needed a ball, a bat and a glove. When the cover came off the ball we would tape the ball with black friction tape and play on and on. We also played softball which we called "mushball".

(continued on next page)

To play mushball, all that was needed was a ball and a bat and you could play for hours. We played football with an empty Carnation or Pet milk can. It surprised us all how well and how accurately you could throw that can.

We were children of the Depression. We made do with what we had and we had fun doing it. Being poor was no barrier to us. It was a way of life which we accepted and we learned to live with it. It doesn't take much for kids to have fun.



Antanas Tamošaitis.

In Memoriam

a.†a.

Edmund Binkus
C-3
February 4, 1994

a.†a.

Gabriel Baksys
C-152
April 19, 1994

a.†a.

Rev. Bernardinas Grauslys, OFM
C-17
January 25, 1994

a.†a.

Frank Andrews
C-3
February 23, 1993

a.†a.

Alexander Maciulaitis
C-50
April 20, 1994

a.†a.

Laverne Woperis
C-112
1994

a.†a.

HM Stanley Pieza
C-36
March 9, 1994

a.†a.

HM Dr. Jokubas Stukas
C-29
April 29, 1994

a.†a.

Leona Putis
C-26
March 28, 1994

a.†a.

Frances Mueller
C-10
May 20, 1994

a.†a.

Rev. Clement Zalalis
C-29
April 27, 1994

*Amžinajī Atilsī duok mirusiems, Viešpatie
ir amžinojī Sviesa jiems tešviečia.
Tegu ilsis ramybėje. Amen.*

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR — MEMBERS SPEAK UP

LOOK BEFORE YOU LEAP

by Leo Venckus

The recent publication of a book *Lietuvos Kovų ir Kančių Istorija*, that was supposed to be historical proof of Soviet atrocities and hostilities in their attempt to decimate and destroy the Lithuanian nation, could, if accepted to remain in its present form, prove just the opposite. According to three editors, all of them communist historians who selected documents from the KGB files as they saw fit, there were no arrests, killings and mass deportations of innocent men, women and children into Siberia, suffering hardships death by starvation and inhuman conditions. No such thing happened. What did happen (according to this book) was merely a resettlement of undesirables like capitalists, fascists, prostitutes and other criminals opposed to the Soviet regime from Lithuania into, for them, more suitable areas. This "transportation" took place under very "human conditions". They were allowed to take along hundreds of kilograms of food, clothing and other belongings. They received all medical help they needed, warm food at railroad stations, even warm milk for their children enroute to their new destinations.

This blatant and impudent lie immediately caused an uproar among the survivors of the Baltic Holocaust at home and abroad. Lithuanian activists, politicians, professionals, family members of this holocaust and their organizations have strongly condemned this book as well as the unexcusable mistake of the Lithuanian World Community (*Pasaulio Lietuvių Bendruomenė*) which initiated and paid for this publication from funds donated by thousands of Lithuanians who honestly believed they were supporting a worthy cause. Now, however, they feel betrayed by the leaders of the PLB, because Mr. Bronius Nainys honored this hurriedly published book with his introduction apparently without having

read its contents. *Errare humanum est.*

A strong reaction against this book was and is being felt even in the Lithuanian government. Dr. Kazys Bobelis, formerly the head of VLIK - *Vyriausias Lietuvos Išlaisvinimo Komitetas* (The Supreme Council for the Liberation of Lithuania) and now chairing the Lithuanian Foreign Relations Committee addressed the members of the *Seimas* - Lithuanian Parliament on May 9, 1994, asking them to condemn and stop the printing and distribution of further issues of this book which is a "distortion of the sufferings of our nation". This case could and should serve as a warning to the Knights of Lithuania who are about to engage in a similar, stupid adventure as did the Lithuanian World Community.

According to the information by Glenn Perutis published in DRAUGAS (May 9, 1994) the Supreme Council during its recent meeting in Detroit decided unanimously to invite Lithuania's Ambassador Alfonsas Eidintas to address the upcoming 81st National Convention in Chicago. This raises some questions in the mind of many of us. It could easily turn into a similar fiasco like the publication of the book I mentioned before. I don't know the name of the person who made the motion, but I'm sure that he or she did it on the spur of the moment, not being aware of the serious consequences like undermining the good reputation of our noble fraternity and harming the unity among the *Lietuvos Vyčiai*.

The fact that Ambassador Stasys Lozoraitis was invited to last years' convention is no excuse to invite his successor, too. No one in his right mind can compare as equal the opposing past of these two men, nor their lifestyle, political and religious activities, which are as far apart as the East is from the West. Dr. Eidintas will, no doubt, deliver a patriotic and pleasing speech during the convention. After that, many of us, especially our ladies will exclaim - Isn't he a nice fellow? and before you know it someone will make a motion

proposing the ambassador for Honorary²⁰ Membership in the Knights of Lithuania. If this happens - and it easily could - because not many would find the courage to openly oppose such as "nice" suggestion, especially seeing that more than one member is seconding it, then it would be more than a tragic mistake. Those really deserving Honorary Members - past, present and future - ,who dedicated many years of their life in the service of God and Country as well as in the fraternity of the Knights of Lithuania, would be deeply insulted and disappointed. We cannot put practicing Catholics with former Communist Activists on the same level without lowering ourselves. Therefore -

LOOK BEFORE YOU LEAP !

XXXXXXXXXX

Editor's Note: Mr. Venckus forwarded a copy of this article to Mr. Vince Boris, Supreme Council Lithuanian Affairs Chairman" for your attention and perusal just in case Mr. Ed Meilus decides not to publish it in *VYTIS*." As you can see we decided to publish Mr. Venckus' article in its entirety as submitted. What follows is a response by Mr. Boris.

.... A response by Vincent B. Boris

Dear Leo,

Thank you for sharing your thoughts with me. I don't completely agree with you; but I am open to discussion.....

As the senior representative of the Republic of Lithuania in the United States, it is appropriate that the Ambassador Plenipotentiary, ex officio, be invited to our convention to speak on the current situation in Lithuania. Dr. Eidintas is the Accredited Representative of the Republic of Lithuania. His credentials have been accepted by our President and by the Department of State. We should consider it an honor that he accepts our invitation and will attend. This has nothing to do with our or his political beliefs. We are Lithuanian-Americans and he is the official spokesman for Lithuania. We may not agree with all he says, that is our prerogative; but, we cannot deny that he has

the authority to speak for the current leadership of Lithuania. We should be interested.

You suggest that an invitation to Prof. Landsbergis would have been more appropriate. (Ed. Note: This suggestion appeared in Mr. Venckus cover letter to Mr. Boris) I could not disagree more. First, his prominence at present is as leader of the opposition (i.e. the minority grouping in the *Seimas*) It is totally political. To invite (and pay) for his visit and to ignore President Brazauskas (or to invite both) would put us in the middle of Lithuanian politics which is not in the best interests of the K of L. As you say, Mr. Landsbergis is no stranger to us, Lithuanian-Americans. Could this be because of his past several visits to the United States ? Perhaps it is time that we get to know the popularly elected current majority leadership as well. How better than through their appointed representative ?

You continue that Mr. Landsbergis is "so close" to our organizational ideals whereas Dr. Eidintas is a stranger (indicating that he may not be as close to K of L ideals.) That is certainly a rash prejudgement. If i may paraphrase the title of your article - THINK BEFORE YOU SPEAK. If not totally prejudiced, you are at best misinformed. Our ideals are embodied in the motto: *Dievui ir Tėvynei*. Both men profess a religious faith. Who are we to judge the depth of their conviction ? Landsbergis is Lutheran; Eidintas - Roman Catholic. On this basis, who would be closer to K of L ideals ? Further, who are we to judge their patriotism ? Both put their professional lives on hold to go into service to their country. Who are we to judge what both may have done in speech or written word while under Soviet Domination ?

The Knights of Lithuania annual convention is, I think, unique among Lithuanian- American organizational activities. It is open to all members, and some guests. Being mostly second and third generation Americans, we are all highly imbued with American ideals - one of which is freedom of speech. We do not, and will not, restrict speakers on the basis of their political conformity. We are not simpletons nor are we naive. Therefore, your comments relative to the reaction of "our ladies" to a "nice speech" are demeaning and insulting

as well as being inaccurate. I suspect that you have never been to a K of L convention. Otherwise, you could not express such an unsubstantiated, low appraisal of our membership or convention delegations. **THINK BEFORE YOU SPEAK !!!**

You say that you don't know the name of the person who made the motion (to invite the Ambassador) I find that hard to believe. Why else would you address your comments or grievance with a Supreme Council decision to me, rather than the Supreme Council President, who would have been the logical addressee. (I have advised Mrs. Petkus of your letter and my response) There is no mystery. It was I. Further, I can assure you that it was not " on the spur of the moment". It was a well reasoned action that I consider to be to the benefit of the organization. One need only look at the experience of almost all other post-communist countries in Eastern Europe. Each has done as Lithuania did. Previous communist-era leaders have been freely re-elected to government. Most recent examples are Poland and Hungary. Obviously, the people most directly affected have opted to

disregard, to some extent, past histories or biographies. The people of these countries are the ones who survived the communist domination. They survived and engineered their own liberation when the potential arose. They are now working on the present and looking to the future.

I have been a member of the Knights of Lithuania for over 40 years and have every concern for its continued good reputation and image. I see no seriously adverse consequences nor loss of reputation and image. I see no seriously adverse consequences nor loss of reputation in keeping an open mind and talking and listening to a representative of Lithuania's freely elected leadership. I see a closed mind, immured in the past, unforgiving, even obsessed with extracting retribution against all who ever carried a "party card" as far more dangerous and deliterious. As the psalmist said: *Lord, remeber not the sins of my youth. And we say : Father, forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us.*

Leo, I say again -
THINK BEFORE YOU SPEAK !!!

A Vytis Salute to: Rev. Msgr. Francis J. Pranckus



Rev. Msgr. Francis J. Pranckus retired from St. George's R.C. Church on May 30, 1994. He was born in Lawrence, MA on March 25, 1919 to Lithuanian Immigrant parents. He attended St. Joseph Elementary School in New Britain, Ct, Marianapolis Preparatory School and Junior College in Thompson, CT, St. Procopius College and seminaries in Hinsdale, IL, Isle, IL, Rochester, NY and Baltimore, MD.

He was ordained into the priesthood in Hartford, CT on December 22, 1945. Before coming to St. George's parish in Bridgeport, CT, he served as assistant at churches in Waterbury, CT, Hartford, CT and St. Ambrose Church in Bridgeport. Msgr. Pranckus came to St. George's in 1952 was appointed pastor on August 8, 1964 by the Most Rev. Walter W. Curtis, Bishop of Bridgeport and was elevated to Monsignor on March 11, 1983. He served as honorary chairman of the Greater Bridgeport Area Lithuanian-American Community in 1965. He spoke on the Voice of America many times, denouncing the Soviet Union's relentless occupation of Lithuania. For this reason the USSR had him blacklisted and he was never given permission to visit Lithuania in the era of illegal Soviet occupation. Msgr. Pranckus takes pride in his roots and is fluent in the language of his forefathers.

He has truly left his mark as a result of his activity For God and Country. He is leaving his "footprints" in Literature having translated several short stories into English in the book - *Lithuanian Legends and Stories*

Since August 1974 when Council 141 of the Knights of Lithuania was established in Bridgeport, Ct. Msgr. Pranckus has served as the council's spiritual advisor. He has also earned his Fourth Degree.

In 1987, he was honored by the Lithuanian Young Mens' Society on the occasion of their 75th Anniversary with a special award which stated in part "Lithuanians are proud of your achievements".

A celebration took place on May 15, 1994 in honor of Msgr. Pranckus' 75th Birthday and his retirement with a 10:00 AM Mass of Thanksgiving and a reception.

ILGIAUSIU METU

SVEIKIAUSIU METU

DZIAUGSMINGU METU

material for this article was submitted by Vytis correspondent Aldona Marcavage of C-141. Some material is also found in the Council Activities section of this issue of VYTIS.



EAT LITHUANIAN - VALGOME LIETUVIŠKAI

Dešros

Fresh Sausage

Hog Casings
 10 lbs Fresh Pork Shoulder
 2 largw onions
 1 tbsp. pepper
 1 tbsp. all spice
 1/3 cup salt
 2 cloves garlic (optional)

Chop onions. Cook in small amount of fat until transparent. Instead of frying in fat, onions may be simmered in about two cups of water. Cut meat in very small pieces or put through a very coarse grinder. Add onions with fat or water in which they were cooked, pepper, allspice and salt. If garlic is used chop it fine. Combine thoroughly. Stuff into washed hog casings.

Boil in water about one hour. To reheat, brown in skillet or in the oven (the preferred method) Water in which the sausages were boiled makes a good soup stock. Refrigerate and remove the stock.

Marinuotos Stintos Marinated Smelts

2 cups vinegar
 2 cups water
 2 tsps. salt
 10-15 peppercorns
 10 whole allspice
 5 bay leaves
 1/2 tsp. sugar
 2 lbs smelts
 1 small onion

Boil first seven ingredients for 30 minutes. Clean and remove heads of smelts. Place in hot liquid and boil until tender, for about one minute. Layer in bowl with very thinly sliced onion. Pour strained marinade over fish. Chill, Serve cold.



Varškėčiai

Cottage Cheese
 Dumplings

1/2 lb dry cottage cheese
 1 egg yolk
 1/2 chopped onion
 1 tsp. butter
 1 1/2 cup sifted flour
 1 egg
 1 tsp. salt
 about 1 tbsp. water

Saute onion in butter. Combine with cottage cheese and egg yolk. Make a dough of flour, egg, salt and water. Roll thin on a floured board. About three inches from edge of dough, place spoonfulls of the cheese mixture. Fold over dough, cut each mound with the rim of a glass which has been dipped in flour. Press edges tother tightly. Boil a few at a time in salt water for about 7 minutes. Remove from water, serve with melted butter and sour cream.

Chopped mint or a dash of cinnamon can be substituted for the sauteed onion.

ACT LITHUANIAN - VEIKIME LIETUVIŠKAI

NEW ENGLAND DISTRICT

The New England District K of L Board Meeting April 10 at Maironis Park in Shrewsbury, MA was an action-filled affair. Ignatius Hobitz said the opening prayer, followed by Sylvia Shukis' Secretary's report, and Marion Hobitz's Treasurer's report. A letter from the scholarship recipient, Scott Kelly (Brockton), was read. He expressed his gratitude for the money and his desire to work hard to prove his worthiness. Another letter brought us additional information regarding the Maine Retreat. The cost this year was \$104. For anyone wishing to arrive earlier or stay later, the cost was \$15 per day per person. However, Father Gabriel must be notified. He can be reached after 8:00 P.M.

A discussion on the October 23, 1994 Cultural Festival with the membership's desire to help I. Hobitz make it "more cultural", and still keep expenditures in line. A suggestion was made to contact the Vetra Dance Group of New Haven to check their availability. The one-man band will again be playing for dancing. Victor Mathieu put in a strong suggestion that the kitchen help for that day, conscientiously, come in at 8:00 a.m. to help peel onions and potatoes and begin preparations for the lunch. "Many hands make light work," he said. For many Festivals, Rita Pinkus deserves a gold medal for her active participation.

The Ecumenical Day of prayer at the Cathedral of the Pines, Rindge, New Hampshire will not be revived this year due to lack of interest.

The Annual Bowl-off, March 20 was at the Thunderbird Bowling Alley. It was on one of the few snowless Sundays. St. Casimir must have spoken to the weather person. It was a great turnout. Dotti March and Irene Tamulevich, C-116, did a commendable job of arranging this fun-filled afternoon. The awarding of prizes took place at the nearby York Steakhouse.

Winners were:

HI TRIPLE - John Gadiliauskas C-26 and
Jenny Puris C-26.

HI SINGLE - Louie Gouin C-26 and
Ellie Gadiliauskas C-26

CONGENIALITY - Paul Puris C-26 and
Bertha Stoskus C-103

The updated NED By-Law Books were not ready for printing, the contents need finalization. It will cost \$200 for 500 books. NED also needs stationery and envelopes costing \$71.

Did you know that the NED has about 1,000 members and 14 Councils? For the April Meeting, nine Councils were represented with 22 member and one honorary member.

An impressive number of Knights marched into Our Lady of Vilna Church in S. Worcester, MA on Sunday, April 24, 1994 for the beginning of the NED Spring Convention. The choir, from friendly neighbor, St. Casimir's, sounded great in the choir loft - thus releasing the host choir members for kitchen duty that day. Co-celebrants of the Mass were Fr. Volungis, Pastor, and Father Jankauskas, who gave a brief history of the church, before the Homily. He said that he and Fr. Volungis were parishioners and Altar Boys there - going a few years. He also remembered playing basketball where the present church is - because then the church was in the basement. This well-cared for church is truly rich in beauty and time. For the business session the parade of cars wound their way to Maironis Park in Shrewsbury, where a tasty hot brunch awaited us.

A total of 159 people assembled - 1-9 delegates, 10 alternates, 31 guests, 4 clergy, 2 nuns, and 3 honorary members. Twelve councils out of 14 were present.

Host Council President, Irene Tamulevich, extended welcoming greetings, as did Pastor Volungis and Fr. Shakalis, NED Spiritual Director. Fr. Shakalis will be going to Lithuania for about one year. We know he will be an inspiration to the youth there, and we wish him an abundance of God's blessings and much success. Fr. Janiunas thanked us for voting for him for Honorary Membership.

The guest speaker was State Rep. William J. Glodis, Jr.

Minutes of the Fall Convention were read by Secretary Sylvia Shukis and accepted as was the Treasurer's report read by Marian Hobitz. Books were checked by Sylvester Marcavage and William Wisniauskas (due to Helen Dallalis' absence) and found to be in order.

Ignatius Hobitz reported progress with plans for the Cultural Festival at Maironis Park on October 23, 1994. Co-hosts will be C-17 S. Boston and C-103 Providence. Contact was made with Vetra dancers of New Haven, and they will be available to perform. The same one-man band will play from 12:00 N to 4:00 P.M. Eva Ball announced that she received only one application for scholarship - from Ryan Miller of C-141 Bridgeport, CT. The Scholarship Raffle tickets were sent home with the Council Presidents or Representatives.

Supreme Council informs that the Ritual Point System is being updated, and the new K of L Constitutions with revisions are being printed. A special plaque from NED honoring Maria T. Ashmanskas was presented to her, and she graciously accepted it. This was in recognition of her work with Lithuanian Children's relief.

Sr. Helen of C-1 Brockton, reported that the medical missionary project with Dr. Dunn has been completed. Dr. Dunn has planted the seed. Now, many doctors have taken an interest, and hopefully, more help will be extended to the needy children. Several doctors are leaving in May for special surgeries - some for very needed vaccinations. Much help has already been supplied - 10 containers of medicines have already been sent. Also sent were 2 tons of vegetable seeds. Some were given to farmers with the understanding that a portion of the vegetables be given back to the kids. Also, sent were one container of baby food and two tons of carrots (good for the eyes). They are now planning to send 7,000 cloth diapers to the 6 homes and a washer and dryer for each home. Help is needed to accomplish all this. Save cancelled stamps of all kinds --and send to Sr. Helen at the Brockton Convent. There also is a drive on for vestments for new priests in Lithuania. For starters NED has donated \$300 for one complete set for a priest. Mass cards, available from Anne Wargo, will also help the new priests. Our nuns in Lithuania also need what help they can get. Lithuanian Misselets are much needed now.

Two delegates to the National Convention in Chicago August 4-7, 1994 were chosen: Marian Hobitz of C-78, Lawrence and Joseph Stiklius C-7, Waterbury. Alternate will be Larry Svelnis C-17, Boston. A vote increased the amount to be given delegates for the Chicago trip from \$150 to \$200.

Rita Pinkus presented 3rd Degree medals to: Irene Tamulevich, C-116, Worcester; Rita Palugis, C-116, Worcester; and Florence Carnilla, C-78, Lawrence. President Bertha Stoskus presented NED gift and card to Fr. Peter Shakalis, honoring his 75th birthday and his

retirement. *Ilgiausiu Metu* rang out spontaneously. Our prayers and best wishes for good health, and a long and happy life go with you, Father!! May 4, Father A. Janiunas celebrated his 70th birthday. A loud and heartfelt "Happy Birthday" was sung - to which Father quipped, "I love you, too!"

On October 2, 1994, C-7, Waterbury, CT will be hosting the NED Fall Convention. The District Flag was transferred to Waterbury. Father Volungis said, "God Bless you all" - and closed with a prayer. Then, the *Vyčių Hymnas* ended the meeting.

A big Lithuanian *Ačiu* for the delicious food and your warm hospitality, C-116, So. Worcester. Your efforts were appreciated.

Su Vytiška Meile,

Aldona Marcavage

MID CENTRAL DISTRICT

The Mid-Central District held its annual Spring Meeting and Bowling Tournament on May 20-22 in Bridgeville, PA, just south of Pittsburgh. The weekend was hosted by C-19, Pittsburgh at St. Anthony's Church and CCD Center. It was a beautiful warm and sunny weekend, almost too nice to be indoors.

The weekend began with a reception for our guests on Friday evening. Members were able to socialize while munching on the many tasty dishes prepared by C-19 members. On Saturday morning, our new District President, Lillian Petravicius, held her first meeting. It was well attended and proceeded very smoothly. Several donations to worthy K of L projects were approved. Tim Baibak C-102 and Agatha Bender C-19 were elected to represent the MCD at our National Convention.

On Saturday afternoon, 65 members put on their bowling shoes, dusted off their bowling balls and tried their luck during our annual tournament. Everyone reported to have a good time despite the blisters and sore backs that were incurred. In a complete turn around from last year, when Pittsburgh fielded the last place team, the C-19 team, captained by Bill Kolicius, rolled to victory. Bill was joined by Ann Sloka, Helen Bernardi, Nelson Gram, and Frank Bernardi on the winning team. George Kayganich of Detroit was by far the best bowler of the weekend, rolling scratch games of 235, 231, and 208.

Saturday evening was an evening of local Lithuanian entertainment. The evening started with a performance by the local Lithuanian Folk Dance Group - Neris. They performed a set of dances they had practiced for the Annual Pittsburgh Folk Festival, the following weekend. Next the group was entertained with numerous

Lithuanian songs led by local Lithuanian radio personality, Vito Yucius. He was accompanied on the accordion by Birute Mockus, who moved to Pittsburgh from Lithuania recently so her husband could attend graduate school. There was much reveling and celebrating.

Everyone had to rise early on Sunday to attend the closing Mass at 8:30 A.M. The early hour was necessary because of St. Anthony's Parish was being dissolved following the other Mass later that morning and large crowds were expected. We were all saddened to hear of another Lithuanian parish falling to the recent parish consolidations. A hopeful sign was that the beautiful church and shrine erected by the Lithuanians were being closed, but being made part of a larger parish for the time being.

The weekend ended with an awards banquet, where all of the bowling trophies and prizes were awarded. The annual District Raffle was also held and the winners were Bertha Kuzma (1st), Ann Ivoska (2nd), and Randy O'Daniel (3rd). C-19 also raffled off a basket of cheer, which was won by Jean Marks of C-25. We all hope she will invite us to party at the National Convention. Many thanks to C-19 members for arranging the festivities and for all of their tireless efforts to insure that everyone had a memorable weekend. We hope to see everyone in Detroit for the District's Fall Pilgrimage on October 7-9.

Andrea Baltrus

C-3 Philadelphia, PA

C-3 marked the 70th Birthday of Fr. Eugene Wassel, long-time council Spiritual Advisor, after a recent meeting. Fr. Wassel, long-time Council Spiritual Advisor, after a recent meeting. Fr. Wassel was surprised and seemed to fully enjoy the celebration in his honor. Victor Stepalovitch made the birthday cake which was delicious and beautifully decorated in Lithuanian colors.

Agnes and John Mickunas traveled to Detroit in March to attend the Supreme Council Meeting. They enjoyed the hospitality of the local Knights plus meeting and working with the other Supreme Council Officers.

We send get well wishes to Alice Bacon and Catherine Briscoe and wish each of them a speedy recovery. Hope to have both of you well and back with us soon.

Congratulations and best wishes to Alberta and Chuck Weigand on their 25th Wedding Anniversary---many, many, many more years together!

Victor Stepalovitch will be making his second trip to Lithuania this summer when he attends the 1994 Song Festival. He promises to



Rev. Eugene Wassel, Spiritual Advisor of Council 3 celebrates his 70th birthday with council members after a recent meeting

be home in enough time to go to the National Convention. After spending the last several summers in Lithuania, Phillip Bomblauskas will stay home this year to host his Lithuanian relatives here in America.

The Council voted to take a 1/2 page add in the National Convention Program Book. Excitement is growing as our members are talking about attending the 81st National Convention in Chicago. This should be a great convention in the culturally alive city of Chicago.

At the May meeting, it was announced that C-3 had two new members, Isabelle and Gediminas Naujokaitis, who joined the K of L at the invitation of Catherine Briscoe. On Saturday, May 14, several C-3 members attended the first visit to Philadelphia of Gintaras, the Lithuanian Folk Ensemble of Toronto who presented an original musical "Palangos Juze" based on tales by Bishop Motiejus Valancius about life in the villages of 19th Century Lithuania. The next weekend, May 21 and 22, C-3 was an active participant in the BALFAS "Container to Lithuania Drive" donating clothing, food and medicine to the Political Prisoner Organization in Kaunas as well as their relatives in Lithuania.

The June meeting-picnic was held at Len and Marilyn Kapochus' "Dorothy Park". At this meeting we selected our delegates to the Chicago National Convention, and the picnic celebrated the end of a successful year for C-3 until we resume our activities again in September.

Two events eagerly awaited by C-3 members are: the Amber District Meeting and Pilgrimage, June 17-20 to Kennebunkport, Maine; and the National Convention in Chicago, August 4-7, hosted by C-16. Those who will be attending are sure the Chicago Convention will be a huge success.

C-3 expresses its deepest sympathy to Loretta Stukas on the loss of Jack and to the entire Knights of Lithuania on the loss of one of its greatest members. May his soul and all the souls of the faithful departed rest in peace. Amen.

Irene Svekla

C-7 Waterbury, CT

Members from our council recently attended the K of L Spring New England District Convention in Shrewsbury, MA. They were President Joe Stiklius, his wife-Arlene, Fran and Phil Stiklus. President Joe was elected to represent the New England District at the National Convention in Chicago. During the NED Convention, the District Flag was transferred to President Joe because C-7 will be hosting the New England District Convention on October 2, 1994.

Our pancake breakfast on Sunday, April 24, was a huge success. This was due in part to all those who donated cakes, attended, and the workers - Doris Blinn, Anne Kundrotas, Joan and Theresa Shukaitis, Marge Philibin, Ann Vicas, Marcella Laurekis, Doris Shirpunas, and Arlene Stiklius.

The K of L Bowling League held their bowling banquet on Saturday, May 14, at the Curtis House in Woodbury. The members and their guests had a great time. The food and music were excellent. Congratulations go to Treasurer Ann Cheplik, Secretary Virginia Kosa, and President Doc Shukaitis for a job well done. They not only planned the banquet but also did a great job keeping the league going during the bowling season.

The following is a list of the prizes that were awarded:

First Place Champs - Jermy Bernaitis,
Virginia Kosa, Dot Baril, and James Kacerguis
High Average - Theresa Shukaitis (107.49)
A; Baranauskas Jr. (117.25)
High Three - Ann Kundrotas (362)
Vinnie Kacerguis Jr. (410)
High Single - Dot Baril (141)
Ralph Baril (163)
Perfect Attendance - Ann Kundrotas
- Alex Kosa, III

Father Karvelis, our Spiritual Advisor, left for a trip to Lithuania on Tuesday, May 24. He took a group of about 15 people on the trip. During his visit, he plans to visit our Sister parish which St. Joseph Church has adopted. We all hope and pray that his visit be very rewarding.

Congratulations to: Betty Bebrin on her retirement; Ed Karvelis on becoming a grandfather for the 1st time; Ann Vicas becoming a great-grandmother for the 1st time; Mr. & Mrs. Peter Kukanskas who celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary in April; and get well wishes go out to Joe Samoska.

Fran Stiklus

C-10 Athol-Gardner, MA

Blanche Genaitis' grandsons, Philip and Paul Erickson of Bothell, WA, have bought a plane and are giving aerial tours of spectacular Puget Sound, Mt. Helens, the Cascade, Olympic Mountains and Seattle. The scenic flights depart daily, and they are located 7 miles from Seattle and is called-The Erickson Aviation's Scenic Air. Good luck PJ and Paul in your new endeavor.

Natalie Brighenti of C-10 is a member of the newly formed choir of St. Francis Parish. Brone Wisniauskas spent 23 days visiting relatives in Lithuania. Bea Jodaitis' Richard has had two eye operations recently but has mended nicely. Anne Zilinski is back in circulation after undergoing a successful quadruple heart bypass.

We all miss Ann Ambrose, Millie Vaitkunas, Jennie Poskus, and the Kuzmeskus's at our Council functions. Condolences are sent to Sophie Liorentino and family on the recent death of her sister-in-law, Genevieve Purzalauski of Webster, MA. Bernice Wisniauskas recently lost her sister-in-law, Vera Savulis of Lynnhurst, NJ. Our prayers go out for the soul of Lennie Davidonis on the occasion of his first anniversary of his death. Lennie, you are missed by all of us, and your humor will be long remembered. Condolences are extended to the family of the late Jack Stukas. May he rest in peace!

It is with deep sorrow that we report the death of Frances Milosh Mueller. Fran joined our Council as a young woman, 38 years ago. After her marriage to Albert, they moved to Nashua, NH. It was out of the question to travel to our meetings, but she and Albert would attend our various functions several times a year, such as our Lithuanian Independence Day or St. Casimir's Day observance, etc. Fran was quite an unassuming person, kind, and friendly. As a long-time telephone company supervisor, she was highly respected by those under her supervision. Ever proud of her Lithuanian heritage, she sought out and joined the Lithuanian parish of Nashua and attended meetings and functions. A group of our K of L's attended her Mass and conducted its ritual for her. Husband, Albert, gave a beautiful funeral

oration - eulogy. Burial was in the parish cemetery. Our sincere condolences go out to Albert and her sister, Barbara Gibbons, and family Farewell, Frances, is iki pasimatymo anace gyvinime.

Our Council Members held its Lithuanian Easter Brunch and games at the April Meeting. Our Lithuanian Easter customs were discussed and played out, including rolling Easter eggs, using a gently sloping wooden trough. The egg that rolled the farthest was the winner, that was won by Knell Melissa. There was also testing of the strongest egg that was won by Alder Robichaud. Brone Wisniauskas was in charge of the games.

Mr. & Mrs. Cheslovas Dimsa and Aldona Miklasiene, guests from Lithuania were special guests that evening. Cheslovas gave an informative talk on the economic conditions in Lithuania today. The two women entertained the group with the latest folk songs from Lithuania. The Athol members served lunch. Both dailies wrote up the event. The Lithuanian guests were visiting the Vaitukus and Robichaud families in Gardner.

It was good to see Father Albert Contons, Pastor of St. Peter's in S. Boston, on the front page of the "Boston Herald" distributing palms to young parishioners. Our members attended the religious concert at St. Casimir's Worcester as part of the 100th celebration of the parish. A group from our Council were in attendance at the Spring Convention of the K of L held at Our Lady Vilna Church, Worcester, and Maironis Park in Shrewsbury. Thanks C-116 for the fine hospitality.

Vincukas

C-12 Manhattan, NY

Well, we finally managed to dig ourselves out. Seventeen snowstorms roared over Manhattan, and the gang at Our Lady of Vilnius C-12 was also affected. Even our January meeting blew away in a gust of snowflakes. But, we New Yorkers and also Lithuanians are a hardy lot; we are not easily deterred.

In February, we commemorated Lithuania's 76th Independence Day. Our President, Ed Cook, discussed Lithuania now and then in 1918. Ed reminded us that Lithuania still needs our help. We must be vigilant to keep the flickering flame of freedom alive. The program was concluded by the reading of two poems by Dalia Bulgaris. The poet Jonas Aistis paints for us a beautiful picture of Lithuania, in colors that we will not easily forget.

In March (no snow, thank you Lord!), our Spiritual Advisor, Father Eugene, blessed our candles and our throats and led us into our St. Casimir Day Breakfast. He also bestowed a Knight of Lithuania 3rd Degree Medal to our favorite cook, Al Malluck, as his proud mother, Helen Malluck, looked on. Our favorite secretary, Donna Driscoll, was awarded her second degree. Once again Dalia Bulgaris (who by the way was voted the best high school chemistry teacher in the New York School System) read a poem, *AŠ PAŽINAU KARALIŲ TAVYJĘ* by Antanas Mačernis, who was killed at a tender age in WW II - which is a perfect picture of our St. Casimir.

To escape this Siberian weather, some of us escaped to sunny Florida, to visit our member Alice Zupko who hospitality is well-known. Irene and Ed Sunken opted for a cruise on the Mississippi. They brought us regards from Tom Sawyer and Hulk Finn.

Have a lovely summer one and all!
Dalia Bulvičius for Irene Senken

Now that spring is here, and a long winter behind us, we had our April meeting. The meetings are always interesting and educational due to the amount of work that is put into them. A great big welcome to our *Ųvyciuš* who are returning from their vacations. Welcome back!

Dalia Bulvičius, a journalist, who has a way with words wrote three interesting articles about our own Fr. Eugene Sawicki. The articles appeared in the Lithuanian Weekly, *DARBININKAS*. Dalia explained the contents of each article to our members who are not versed in the Lithuanian language. All of her material made reference to Our Lady of Vilnius. Well done Dalia!

It is with heavy heart we learned of the untimely death of Robert Waskiewicz, son of Betty our dear member and nephew of Millie Pietz and Joe Kscenaitis. He was a volunteer fireman in Wisconsin and fought a ravaging fire on Easter Sunday sustaining 60% of burns to his body and died several days later. Our prayers go to Robert. May the Good Lord take him into his fold.

Condolences and prayers go to Fr. Daniel Staniskas on the loss of his beloved father. May eternal light shine upon him. Connie Siatsis who resides in Denver Colorado has been ill. We wish her a speedy return to good health.

On the brighter side of things, Vincent and Vida Gendvilas are making plans for a trip to Saipan in the Mariana Islands. Have a wonderful trip! Congratulations to Ed and Irene Senken on

becoming grandparents to their 4th grandchild, Natasha Lee. The bundle of joy came into this world on April 24 at North Shore Hospital, L.I.

Birthday Greetings are in order to the following members, Dalia Bulevicius, Alma Korengo, Ann Beard, Anna Lukscha and Ona Yurkus. A very happy birthday to these members and *Ilgiausiu metu visiems*.

Irene Senken

C-17 South Boston, MA

On January 31, 1904, Rev. Jonas Zilinskas held the first Mass of St. Peter's Lithuanian Parish in the new brick church located at West Fifth Street, now Flaherty Way. Much of the construction labor was done by recently arrived Lithuanian immigrants. Now 90 years later, we are celebrating the jubilee year and completion of major renovation and refurbishing of parish buildings.

Much of the credit must be given to Rev. Albert Contons, Pastor and Spiritual Director of C-17, and honorary member of the Knights of Lithuania. During his 15 year tenure as Pastor much of his energy was directed towards this task which is now completed.

The Parish Jubilee Committee led by Gloria Adomkaitis, Aldona Lingertaitis and others put together three main events to celebrate the jubilee:



Cardinal Law of Boston prepares to celebrate the 90th Jubilee Mass of St. Peter's Church. Rev. A. Contons and altar boys surround him.

The first event was held on Sunday, January 30, 1994 when Bishop Paulius Baltakis conferred confirmation on 19 young people and paved tribute to the First Mass held in St. Peter Church on January 31, 1904.

The second event was the St. Casimir Day Communion-Breakfast on Sunday, March 6, when the local ordinary, Bishop John Boles, dedicated the new altar and blessed the newly sculptured statue of St. Casimir donated by C-17.

The third event and highlight of the series was the coming of Bernard Cardinal Law, Archbishop of the Boston Archdiocese, who concelebrated the 90th Jubilee Mass on Sunday, April 17, and attended our Jubilee Parish Reunion Banquet.

We the parishioners and K of L members wish to thank Rev. Albert Contons for his dedication and tenacity to bring St. Peter Parish to this proud time.

The holiday season brought on a rush of events, the first being the Annual Kucius held at the mother house of the Sisters of Jesus Crucified, Brockton, and hosted by C-1 of Brockton. Our Council was well represented and enjoyed the event with friends and other Council members. We thank the sisters and host C-1 for another memorable Kucius.

Due to inclement weather, for which New England winters are noted, the Annual Council Christmas Party to be held on January 7, 1994

was canceled. We hope for better luck next year. Two days later, on January 9, in spite of snow and cold, the parish held their Annual Seniors Christmas Party and much to our amazement a good sized crowd showed up for the festivities. A lot of people had cabin fever and had to get out.

The Lithuanian Independence Day celebration was observed on February 13, with a memorial Mass at St. Peter's followed by a program in the afternoon at the South Boston Lithuanian Club. The following Wednesday, many K of L's and members of the Boston Lithuanian community gathered at the State House for a brief ceremony and flag raising and immediately went to the Boston City Hall Plaza for a similar ceremony.

On January 30, 1994, Bishop Paulius Baltakis conferred the Sacrament of Confirmation on 19 young people and paid tribute to the first Mass at St. Peter's Church held on January 31, 1904. The church and later the church hall was filled with well-wishers. It was a time of joy and thanksgiving for the many years Boston Lithuanians have had the Church as a focal point for religious, cultural, educational and social events.

At the St. Casimir's Day Communion Breakfast, Sunday, March 6, our local Ordinary, Bishop Boles, dedicated our new altar and blessed the newly carved statue of St. Casimir. The sculptor is Mr. Doherty. His mother is Lithuanian and taught him to love his heritage,



Local Ordinary Bishop John Boles with Rev. Contons.

and it is reflected in the beautiful statue. The new marble altar with its richly carved base was donated by the Bumila/Balukonis families who are K of L'ers.

The highlight of the 90th Jubilee Celebration was the coming of Bernard Cardinal Laws to concelebrate the Jubilee Mass on Sunday, April 17, at 3:00 P.M. The music was provided by our parish choir under the direction of Professor Geronimo Kacinskas and the St. Peter's School Choral Group led by Sister Celestine Stakutis and Alice Ruseikas. Several priests who had served as curates at St. Peter's were concelebrants. There was good turnout of clergy and religious not only from local parishes but our Lithuanian religious communities located in Brockton, MA, Putnam, CT, and Kennebunkport, ME.

After Mass, all traveled to Lombardo's in Randolph for a festive banquet. The Jubilee Committee led by Gloria Adomkaitis did an outstanding job of providing a fine program of Lithuanian folk dancing by the ōSamburisö of Boston. The Cardinal was impressed by their intricate dance patterns. The hall was festively decorated with colored balloons and along the wall were arranged a collection of photographs depicting the life and times of the

parish. I'm sure our pastor, Rev. Contons, and all the parishioners will long remember this memorable day.

A large group of C-17 members traveled to South Worcester, Sunday, April 24, to attend the New England District Convention hosted by C-116, President Irene Tamulevich. Rev. Alphonse Volungis, Pastor of Our Lady of Vilna Parish, conducted Mass. The business session was held at Maironis Park. The only Lithuanian Representative in the Massachusetts State Legislature, William J. Glodis, Jr., was the guest speaker. He is from Worcester. After the business session conducted by NED President Bertha Stoskus, all sat down to a sumptuous meal. We thank the Host Council (C-116) and President Irene Tamulevich for their hospitality and also the kitchen crew who worked so hard to provide all 160 of us such fine food.

Congratulations are in order for several of our esteemed Knights of Lithuania members:

Rev. Albert Contons, Pastor of St. Peter's Parish, on his 70th Birthday on May 11.

Rev. Peter Sakalys, Pastor of St. Casimirs Parish, Brockton, who will retire in June after many years of service to both his parish and the Knights of Lithuania.

Rev. Anthony Jurgelaitis on his 50th Anniversary as a priest on May 29. Also his many years of service to the K of L as its National Spiritual advisor. He is a native son.

Sister Celestine Stakutis on her election as Superior General of the Sisters of Jesus Crucified She has completed eight years as principal of St. Peter's School.

Sister Eugenia Glineckis elevated to fourth councillor of the Sisters of Jesus Crucified She is a member of C-17 and a native of So. Boston.

Sister Christine Kleponis elevated to third councillor of the Sisters of Jesus Crucified. She is presently principal of St. Peter's School in Dorchester. She is a member of C-17 and a native of So. Boston.

Commander Roy J. Balaconis, USN, son of Joseph and Betty Balaconis and members of C-17, will assume command of the ship Mitscher (DDG) a guided missile destroyer in December when it should be completed and commissioned at Pensacola, Florida. This is Roy's first command and the family is looking forward to this memorable event. All of us wish Roy good luck in this challenging assignment.

Roland Bishop, a long-time member, passed on March 9 after a lengthy illness. He is survived by his wife, Anne and four daughters.

Several members will be heading to the National Convention in Chicago.

Vytiškai,
Joseph White



C-25 Cleveland, OH

Holy Name High School inducted 13 people into their Athletic Hall of Fame. One worthy person of note was our Lithuanian Affairs Chairperson, Al Dumchus ('44). Congratulations!

At the height of the winter season, C-25 bid a fond farewell to our "Polish Leader", Joanna Shigo. She succumbed to the Lord's Will on Sunday, January 16, after 101 days of hospitalization. It was cold. The degrees were 14 below zero at All Souls Cemetery. She was our friend. Thank you, for all your prayers.

In preparation to establishing averages for the May bowling tournament in Pittsburgh, J. & D. Marks hosted the February bowling and D. & T. Oberaitis entertained in March. Everyone appeared orevvedö up and ready to roll.

St. Casimir's Day was observed on March 6 starting with 10:00 A.M. Mass at Our Lady of Perpetual Help, luncheon at Kristy's and concluded with a short meeting.

Vytautas Lansbergis, former President of Lithuania, visited the Cleveland area. On March 16, one of his appearances was at our home parish. C-25 President, Dick Marks, led the procession into church carrying the American flag. Stella Sankel and Betty August, in Lithuanian dress, walked beside him. Other organizations of the parish also participated. After Mass, President Lansbergis spoke to a packed auditorium, followed by a question and answer period. A reception was held later to meet the President personally. Few of the K of L members baked for the occasion. A labor of love.

A big *Aciu* from chairpersons, T. & D. Oberaitis to the bakers, helpers, and supporters, for their assistance at the Koffee-Klutch held on Sunday, March 27, for the parish. All donated proceeds were given to the parish fund. Being Palm Sunday, the turnout was marvelous.

We miss Vince and Marian Gray, who moved to Lancaster, PA. Thankfully, N. Arunski, R. Guzauskas, B. August, A. Wallace and hopefully L. Tabbert and F. Lucas will be blessed with lasting good health again.

Gem of the Day:

*When the tide of life turns against you,
and the current upsets your boat.
Don't waste tears on what might have been,
just lie on your back and float.*

P.S. Have you Listened to the Lithuanian Hour lately ?

Fondly,

Dolly O.



Frances and George Mikalauskas C-96 Dayton, with Prof. Vytautas Landsbergis during the reception in Cleveland, OH.

C-26 Worcester, MA

The results of the March 20 NED Bowling Roll-off winners were: Paul Puris, Mister Congeniality; Jenny Puris, High Triple; Elenore Gadilauskas, High Single; John Gadilauskas, High Triple; and Lou Gauin, High Single. We have a bunch of high rollers at C-26. Great bowling!

Anna Leseman, Stephen Walinsky, Sr., and Teresa Adomavicius are all home recovering from surgery. Keep them in your prayers.

Mary Akstin, C-116, died, she was the mother of Andy Akstin our former NED Lithuanian Affairs Chairperson. Also, Adele Dailida and Annie Holm's mother, Stella Kulunas, age 96. Member Leona Putis, wife of John Putis, and sister of Alfred Rogers died on March 28. Another member, Stanley Kamendulis, died April 15. These members will be truly missed, and our condolences to all the families of these dedicated Knights.

During our April meeting, Baltic Tours of Newton and Lithuania invited us to join them on their many tours to Lithuania and a cruise to Alaska. After our regular business meeting, Ed Meilus, Jr. gave us a quiz in Lithuanian in the form of a Crossword Puzzle he made in the Lithuania Language. What's the Lithuanian word for #11 across, "necktie" and #17 down, "exercise"? Welcome to new member, Joan Wojciak.

Claire Grigaitis C-26 and Dorothy Sinkavitch C-116 are getting ready to join the K of L group on the 1994 Song Festival Tour of Lithuania in June. Stephen Walinsky, Jr. has been elected Vice President and Chairman of the Board of PERNET (family health services of Worcester) which is run by the Little Sisters of the Assumption serving the poor in Worcester. St. Vincent's Hospital honored their volunteers with an Award Luncheon at the Marriott Hotel in Worcester. Pins were awarded to Annie Bacinskas for 600 volunteer hours, and Rita Pinkus, H.M. for 10,000 hours (wow!). Olga Kersis retired after 40 years of working at a Lumber Brokerage firm. Her retirement benefits included an upcoming trip to England, Ireland, and Scotland. And, she also has begun volunteering at the business office of St. Vincent's Hospital. These zealous members of C-26 are most certainly dedicated community volunteers.

On April 24, thirty-six members of our Council attended the NED Spring Convention held at Maironis Park hosted by C-116 South Worcester. It was a beautiful day for renewing old acquaintances, and sharing delicious food with our charming hostess, Irene Tamulevich. "Aciu, C-116"

Welcome to new members, Jessica Waska, the granddaughter of Aldona Waska, and Christine Delonis rejoined the K of L.

Withhold and Virginia Ivaska celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary going on a cruise and visited Disney World. Joe, Nellie and Elaine Salkaus are back from a vacation in Fort Myers, Florida. Rita Karrytais is back from Greece where she cruised the Greek Islands and visited Turkey.

Ruth Sarafinas, our Convention Chairperson, is at it again! She is busily preparing a reunion for ex-employees and retirees from Wright Line in Worcester. So far about 150 are planning to attend. People are coming in from as far away as Germany. Also, she and Chuck recently celebrated their 40th Wedding Anniversary at a surprise party held at the Sturbridge Public House Restaurant.

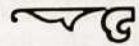
Judy Maleckas received a State Certification where she now is at her new job as a Restorative P.T. Assistant. It is good to see Terese Meilus up and about after her surgery. Nell Dailida's granddaughter, Denise Houle, was married to Mack Young on May 14 at St. Catherine of Sweden Church by Father George Ridick. Congratulations to you all!

Our condolences to Lenny Matulis and his family on the death of his brother, Constantine Matulis, and our sympathy is extended to Vivian Rodgers on the death of her sister-in-law, Carol Perry.

There is another upcoming celebration at St. Casimir's Church on August 28. Fr. Vincent Parulis, M.I.C. will be celebrating his 50th Anniversary of the Priesthood. Mass will be held at 10:00 A.M. at St. Casimir's Church, Worcester with a dinner at Maironis Park, Shrewsbury. Tickets will be available from Tony Miner, C-116, and from C-26 members: H.M. Ann Bender, Vivian Rodgers, and Dorothy Virbasius.

Our K of L Annual Picnic was held on June 5 at Maironis Park. The event was chaired by Anna and Bill Lessen with head cooks, Marion and Al Racicot. The delicious Lithuanian dinner menu included svezos desros, kopustai, and kugelis. Thanks to all the dedicated workers who made the day a success. Our kitchen staff, baked goods table, craft table, raffle table, fish pond, white elephant table, and Claire's elegant junk table. I also spotted a few non-members lending a hand, Leo Misunas, Ernie Pantos, and Maureen Maleckas. Aciu Labai! Lillian Kondrotas didn't mind doing the pots and pans. Her new title is Cinderella, she kept hoping Prince Charming would show up at the picnic.

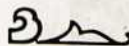
Our Spiritual Advisor, Fr. John Petrauskas, will discuss portions of the new Catechism. It is the official teaching of the



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



Catholic church. In September we will begin with the Ten Commandments.

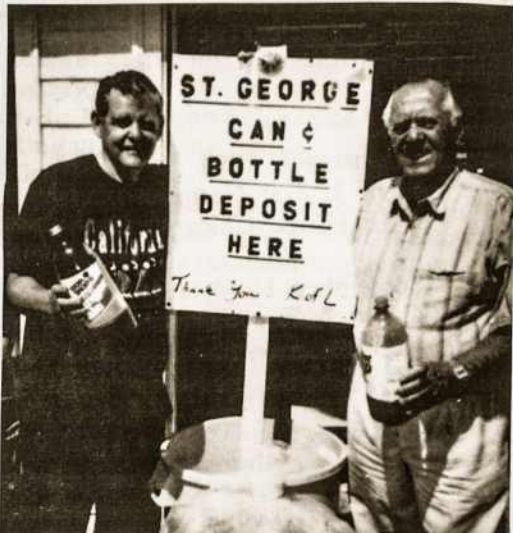
President Rita Pinkus turned over the June 14 meeting to Vice President, Anna Leseman, who led our membership in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. Ann Walinsky and a few members of the St. Casimir's Choir led us in a rendition of God Bless America and You're a Grand Old Flag in celebration of Flag Day. Afterwards, we all enjoyed an ice cream sundae treat. Charlie Kulakusky had to leave because of another commitment so Fran Degutis and Bill Leseman completed his chores and raffled off a few convention tee shirts and a doll.

It was voted that we keep the Picnic in June. C-26 delegates to the 81st National Convention are Eduardas Meilus, Jr. and H.M. Rita Pinkus. Helen Banis spoke about a bus trip to Foxwood, the Indian Reservation Casino.

We ended the tropical month of June with our Annual NED Retreat in Kennebunkport, Maine. Victoria Augustine, Lillian Kondrotas, and Aldona Waska extended their stay at the Franciscan Guest House. We left them as they were planning their next year's outfits. Each day they came to dinner in matching bright colored wardrobes. Everyone enjoyed their stay. We shopped, went sightseeing, and even learned a new game, and of course, the Lithuanian menu was the most delectable. C-26 wishes to thank the Lithuanian staff for an enjoyable stay. Those members in attendance were: John Putis, Al and Vivian Rodgers, Aldona Waska, Lillian Kondrotas, Victoria Augustine, Barbara Pantos, Frances Grigas, Dot Spokis, Vitty and Ruth Gadilauskas, Ruth Margosian, Christine Delonis, Ann Bacinskas, and H.M. Rita Pinkus

Have a great Summer!

Barbara Pantos



C-27 Norwood, MA

Another busy season of activities for our Council. In April, Betty and John Skricki, Lenore and Albie Jarvis, Katherine Perednia attended the successful NED Convention in Worcester. Kath Perednia had just returned from a whirlwind trip to Orlando and the Magic Kingdom. Sandra Melish was lucky enough to enjoy a second Easter celebration with her Russian Orthodox friends. George Barton's wife, Birute, is slowly recovering from leg surgery. Paul Zukas capably headed up the committee for the May Bottle-Can Drive.

Rev. William Wolkovich and parishioners prepared for the Canonical Visitation on Memorial Day Weekend of Bishop Daniel Hart.

The May Bottle-Can Drive spearheaded by hard-working Paul Zukas and Al Jarvis was a notable success, and enabled us to make a contribution to St. George's Renovation Fund.

It was a good turnout at our June brunch meeting at the Marriott. Fr. Bill brought us up to date on Bishop Hart's Canonical Visitation to our parish. Terry and Stan Wasil shared their plans for their upcoming visit to Lithuania to visit relatives and enjoy the Music/Dance Festival. George Barton showed us the new Lithuanian currency. Dorothy Ausevic, our on-the-go lady headed out for work after our brunch meeting. Sandra Melish, Mary Ann Tamasanis and Ed were looking forward to an afternoon of Polka Dancing later on. Helen and Stan Dallalis journeyed up from Falmouth. Frances and Stanley Medveski came from Rhode Island to be with us. Vin and Frances Kasauskis, Paul Zukas, Al and Lenore Jarvis all agreed that it was the best way to have a meeting by celebrating with food and friends.

Betty and John Skricki were at their daughter's graduation from Princeton.

On June 12, the K of L hosted the refreshments following the Mass and commemoration of the Tragic Days of June.

Many members were at the Franciscan Monastery to attend the Retreat at Kennebunkport, Maine. Helen Dallalis worked hard for this event.

It's a good group at C-27. VALIO!

Zaibas

Paul Zukas and Albie Jarvis

C-29 Newark, NJ

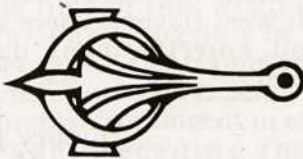
On Palm Sunday, March 27, our Council held its Annual Cake Sale. This affair turned out to be an all-out effort, where almost all of our members got involved. There are those that do the baking and other that make all sorts of crafts for our Craft Table and still others that make Afghans for the Raffle. Margie and Walter Brazaitis and their terrific kitchen crew worked days to fill orders for "Take Home Packages" of homemade desros. I must make mention of Sally Delunas, who for several years has made Palm Crosses for the cemetery. Also, to Marie Guoba who filled many orders to make homemade horseradish. Thank you Sally and Marie! There are still others that got involved by selling raffle tickets, selling and bagging the baked goods and last, but not least, all those that helped clean up before and after the sale. Mary Honeyemas chaired the affair and by far was one of our better moneymakers. At last count our profit was \$1,400 plus, all of which we donated to our church, Holy Trinity R.C. Church in Newark. Thank you Mary and your terrific crew for a job well done!

Immediately following the Cake Sale, we held our regular monthly meeting and were reminded by Vice President Harold Kaminkas to continue bringing in food stuff to help feed the homeless from St. John's Church in Newark. Our Sunshine Lady, Marie Guoba, welcomed Emmy and Anthony Grazulis, both of whom had undergone surgery this past winter. God bless them both for a speedy recovery and a healthy future!

On a sad note, condolences to Elizabeth (Betty) Luciev whose husband, John, passed away in March. John was an Associate Member of our Council for many years and was well liked by all. May he rest in peace! Condolences also to Mary Honeyemas whose brother, Edward Jotantos, passed away April 3, 1994. May he rest in peace!

Until the next time,
Su Diev,

Eve Coll



C-30 Westfield, MA

Since our St. Casimir's Parish was yoked with St. Peter's Slovak Parish with one priest serving both parishes our rectory was left vacant. The Passionist Monastery, nearby in West Springfield, recently closed so the Passionists and the Diocese of Springfield made arrangements to establish a small community residence in our rectory which will now house two Passionists: Brother Terrance Scanlon, the Executive Director of the "Chalice of Salvation" televised Mass, and Father Columkille O'Grady who specializes in preaching ministry in the diocese. The residence is now known as the Passionist Community of St. Casimir and will also house visiting Passionists who preside at the weekly televised Mass or are in the area for other preaching assignments. This arrangement should ease the financial burden of our Parish maintaining an empty rectory.

Again this Spring, C-30 and the Parish Choir made the delicious Lithuanian Desros for Easter. The project was a success resulting in added financial help to the Parish and our Treasury. The three-day workshop is a lot of work, a lot of fun and very productive with all available members working. Jim and Marcia Rogers do the planning, scheduling and ordering of the supplies, and Louise Buckities had a very tired ear after taking all the telephone orders. There was a job for everyone who volunteered and all looked forward to the potluck wind-down dinner with the star attraction -- what else but baked desros.

As always sadness creeps into our midst. Nellie Dardinski, Marcia Rogers' mom, passed away after a long illness. We extend our sympathy and prayers to Marcia and Jim and family.

We also enjoy good news - Jim and Marcia's daughter, Gail, and son-in-law, Joe, had their first child, a boy. Also, Theresa Atkocaitis; son, Rob, and daughter-in-law, Terry, had their first baby, a boy. Congratulations to the new parents and grandparents!

C-30 was well represented at the NED Spring Convention hosted by C-116 South Worcester with Mass at Our Lady of Vilna

Church and the sessions at the popular Maironis Park. Irene Tamulevich and her committees made it a beautiful day. Our delegates were Helen Alexik, Ben and Cooky Coach, Jim and Marcia and Jim Kules. Fran Kules was busy with her camera -- when do we see the pictures, Fran?

Joe and Lou Buckities are back home after spending some time with son, Joey, in South Carolina, and Sophie Kucharski was in California visiting son, John, and his family and came home long enough to say ôHiö and headed for Florida. Maybe the beautiful weather will keep our members home now long enough to plan a Council summer picnic.

Likite sveiki -- have a good summer.
Cooky

C-46 Forest City, PA

1994 came in with a lot of snow, blizzard winds and zero weather.

February 13 was flag raising day. It was a bitter cold morning, and we already had 30 inches of snow with 30 foot drifts. Impossible to raise a flag. We did stay in the church after Mass and had a small ceremony. March 6 was our St. Casimir's Celebration. Father Sitkio said a very nice Mass. Gifts were carried by members of the K of L, dressed in ethnic clothes. We had a very nice breakfast in the Mary Ann Restaurant following Mass. Also, a brief meeting was held.

On April 10 a meeting was held. Members who attended the St. Casimir Mass in Piston were very pleased with the ceremony. Stasia Wallace, our President; Josephine (Joan) Opeka, Treasurer; John Morris, Past President, and Dorothy Anzukes. Our members attended the Mass. They were very impressed with Father Pete saying the Mass and Sermon in Lithuanian. We seldom hear our native language. The host members (Pittston) cordially greeted our members and served coffee and breakfast rolls. After Mass, dinner was served and a district meeting was held. It was one of our nicer days with an enjoyable program.

It was one of our nicer days with an enjoyable program.

April 17, Father Sitko called a congregation meeting to make plans for the 100th Anniversary of the Lithuanian parish in Forest City. We are looking forward to this event.

Blanche Motsko

C-50 New Haven, CT

C-50 continues to pray for the continued good health of all our members - including Emiliya Saulys and our Treasurer, Anne Meskins. We extend sympathy to Al and John Papeika on the loss of their brother. Condolences to Helen Maculaitis and Helen Case who each had a sister pass away during the same week in April. Member, Al Maculaitis, also lost his four-year struggle with cancer and passed to his eternal rest that same week. Sympathy is extended to his wife, Irene, his children and his sister, Helen Medley. Father Karalis conducted the K of L Ritual at his wake which was attended by many members. We pray that all of our deceased members and relatives rest in peace.

Belated birthday greetings to our Sunshine Lady, Eleanor Gutauskas. She celebrated her 75th birthday at a party hosted by her family.

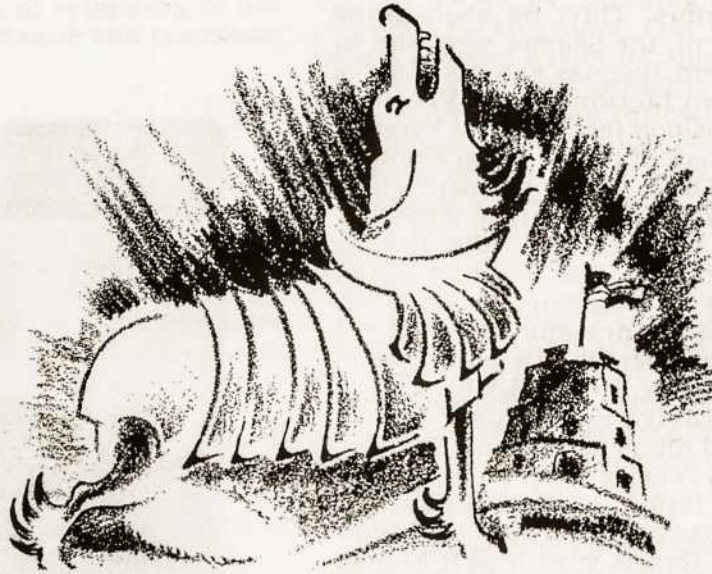
Many thanks to our efficient financial secretary, Helen Klimaszewski, and her able assistant, Helen Lostys. They have put much time and work into getting our membership records in order.

Members worked hard to help make the St. Casimir's parish food fair a success. Potato pancakes, kugelis and Lithuanian sausage were enjoyed by those in attendance - Thanks to Theresa Strimaitis and her cooks. Home baked goods were abundant, including the traditional Easter breads made by Edity Kazlauskas. Foods were purchased and taken home to be enjoyed on Ester Sunday.

Travel chairlady, Irene Melzies, is planning two bus trips in the fall. The first is to Atlantic City on Saturday, October 1. A bus trip is also planned from the New Haven Area to the New England District Scholarship Picnic at Maironis Park on Sunday, October 16. Any K of L members interested in either of these trips should contact Irene at (203) 937-0213.

Charles Dekas and Bill Bachinski have been busy recruiting C-50 members to work at the annual Lithuanian Festival sponsored by St. Casimir's Church. This year the well-attended event will take place on Sunday, August 28, 1994, at the Polish American Club on West Spring Street in West Haven. There will be good Lithuanian food, entertainment, dancing and games for children.

Audrey Toole



C-63 Lehigh Valley, PA

The membership offered their prayers and extended their condolences to member, Adolf and Heidi Klova, upon the loss of their son, Michael, and to members, Andrew and Adele Keraga, upon the loss of their granddaughter, Carolyn (Cary) Boch. May their souls rest in peace.

C-63 had another very successful Flea Market Sale on April 29 and 30. Our treasury netted \$450 after all expenses. Our thanks go to the co-chairs of this event, Dora Lushis and Valeria Smickle. Also, to Frank and Delores Connolly who helped setup the merchandise.

The membership donated another twenty boxes of clothing for shipment to Lithuania. Prez Bob Kova delivered the boxes to the collection point in Philadelphia. This ongoing project enjoys much popular support from the members as does the shipment of school supplies to Lithuanian orphans which is chaired by Jane Lutick. It's food for the soul.

At the time of this writing, final plans were laid for participation in Allentown's Independence Day Celebration on July 3. Co-chairs, Evelyn Harryn and Delores Connolly, will lead the Lithuanian contingent in ethnic costume in the parade preceding the fireworks demonstration. Twenty-six ethnic groups will participate.

All logistics for operation of the potato pancake stand at Bethlehem's Christmas City Fair on 15, 16, and 17 of July had been coordinated and our Council was ready to go. The event is trio-chaired by Jack and Dora Lushis and Valeria Smickle.

A bus trip to Ellis Island and to the Statue of Liberty in New York was also finalized and all the participants are ready to go! Our Council is indeed fortunate that these two symbols of the search for freedom are so close by. Many will be searching for some evidence of grandpa's or grandma's arrival. Evelyn Harryn and Jane Lutick are co-chairing this project.

Eleven members of Lehigh Valley C-63, led by Prez Bob Klova, attended the Lithuanian-American Conference which was held on April 28 at Fort Indiantown Gap and hosted by the Pennsylvania National Guard. The PNG, which is among fourteen other National Guards, was chosen to be the American Military Liaison with the Republic of Lithuania. The other National Guards were each assigned as liaisons with a country which was formerly a part of the now deposed Soviet Union. This is under the federal program, "Partnership for Peace" which is the alternative to membership in NATO. The welcoming address was presented by the State Adjutant General, Major General Gerald T. Sajer. He was followed by Brigadier General James W.

McVay, who with Colonel Robert V. Barziloski, detailed the implementation of the program in Lithuania. Colonel Barziloski, a Lithuanian-American, was chosen to head the American Liaison Team in Vilnius. Three members of the Lithuanian parliament, the Seimas, were also in attendance. They were Justinas Karosas, head of the parliamentarian faction LDDP, Vladimir Yarmolenko an opposition member, and Vytautis Petkevicius, Chairman of the National Security Committee of the LDDP. The parliamentarians were assisted by a brilliant 20-year old translator from Vilnius, Jonas Valatkevicius. After fielding numerous questions from the floor the hosts, guest and members from various Councils sat down to a delicious dinner and informal get together. Council members in attendance were: Andy and Adele Keraga, Helen Bixler, Lillian Klinosky, Paul and Evelyn Harryn, Jane Lutick, Walter Balchunas, Al Klizas and Joseph Ogint.

Council has received word that Verna Razzis, mother of fellow member Elizabeth Eisenhower, suffered a stroke and was hospitalized. Mrs. Razzis was a well-known singer during the '30's and '40's when she sang on Sunday afternoon polka shows on a Pottsville, PA radio station. Several Council members were witness to her beautiful voice when she sang before a group of people who had gathered together after the Lithuanian Sadauto Concert in Frackville, PA last November 7. A prayer for her recovery would be appreciated by Liz and her husband, Douglas.

Maryann Von Bing was introduced to our Council by Prez Klova. She has applied for membership after having patronized our Flea Market sale where she struck up the acquaintance of Dora Lushis and Valeria Smickle. We welcome her to the "only Lithuanian voice in the Lehigh Valley". We're glad to have you!

Vytiškai,
Joseph F. Ogint (Uogintas)

C-79 Southfield, MI

Our May meeting was quite productive. Bill and Margaret Dapkus (our new President) and Joe Panavas were prepared by Ritual Chairlady, Sylvia Jarosz to receive their third degrees during the MCD District Meeting scheduled for May 20-22 in Pittsburgh, PA.

Ten members were approved by the Council for the Special Award to be bestowed at the District Fall Pilgrimage.

During the last few months, we have gained the following new members: Dr. Fred and Lynn Broniak, Antanas Bulota, Rita Krumpoch, Don Laurinaitis, Dale Malesh, and Antoinette, Catherine and Danielle Walsh. We are happy

they joined us and hope they will become active members.



Magdalena Smailis

IN MEMORIAM

On May 2, 1994, C-79 lost a valued member. Magdalena (Maggie) Smailis died of cancer. With her daughters, Margaret Ann Nashlon and Marianne Newberry at her bedside, she peacefully slipped into the hereafter.

Maggie, as she was known to her countless friends, joined our reactivated Council in 1960. She became an active member almost immediately, joining committees and becoming an officer.

Looking through her record, there was not a year that she failed to serve as an officer of the Council, District or Supreme Council. Before illness struck, she rarely missed attending District or National Conventions.

Since 1976, she had been our Council's President. If her name was not listed as a committee member, she felt as Council President, it was her duty to know and see that all committees' and officers' duties were fulfilled.

On May 6, we sadly bid farewell to a fellow member and friend. A considerable number gathered for the Mass of Resurrection. Twelve honorary pallbearers, consisting of Council and Women's Alliance Chapter, 54 members (she was their Treasurer) followed the casket into Divine Providence Church, where she was a Parish Council member for years.

Our Council and, I'm sure, all the friends she accumulated throughout the country, convey most sincere expressions of sympathy to her family, Margaret Ann, Marianne and grandson, Chip.

Richard Danielak explained the importance of the June 14 Golf Invitational to be hosted by George Perles, the Lithuanian football coach at Michigan State University. All profits from the event will be donated to the Aid to Lithuania Fund. Many radio, TV, political and sports celebrities will participate. Our Council voted to help by paying for the printed matter necessary for the project. It will be designated: "In memory of Magdalena Smailis" our recently deceased President.

Our future activities include the annual Family Day Picnic, scheduled for Saturday, July 30. The Fall Festival this year will be held Sunday, November 13. Members are urged to note these dates and make an effort to attend.

The meeting was adjourned with a silent prayer for Maggie's soul.

Bee Jay

C-96 Dayton, OH

Lithuanian Independence Day was celebrated on February 27 at Holy Cross Church. Following the Mass, all joined in the church hall to enjoy a delicious meal. *Saryšis* president, Aldona Ryan, and Cultural Chair, Elinor Sluzas, discussed the various changes in Lithuania. The afternoon included a video presentation of the 1993 Knights of Lithuania Pilgrimage to Lithuania. We had special guests from both Cincinnati, Ohio and Lithuania.

St. Casimir's Day Celebration was held on March 6 beginning with Mass at Holy Cross Church. After the service, the K of L oath was recited by new members, Mark Bell and Molly Geiger. Welcome to the Knights of Lithuania! Also, the First Degree was awarded to Judy Sluzas and Connie Geiger, and Second Degree to Annamarie Berger. Congratulations! Following the ceremony, we enjoyed brunch at the Casa Lupita Restaurant. Thirty-five people in all including Mark Bell, our member from Nashville, TN and his mother, June. Thanks to Jim Geiger for organizing the church service, and Frances Mikalauskas for handling the dinner reservations.

Council 96 has adopted the Sisters of Christ the King in Kaunas, Lithuania. On March 15, five packages, totalling 197 pounds were prepared for shipment. Our members donated both goods and money for shipping. Frances and George Mikalauskas drove the boxes to Cleveland for mailing. On the following day, while in Cleveland, Frances and George attended the Mass celebrated at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Lithuanian Parish. Prof. Vytautas Landsbergis, former President of Lithuania was in attendance. Following the Mass a reception was held in the auditorium.

The annual Palm Sunday Bake Sale, chaired by Annamarie Berger, was a great success with profits of over \$ 250.00. Many wonderfully delicious items were prepared by our members. Many prizes were donated towards the raffles including Amber Rose certificates, liquor, cheeses, wine and more. Thanks to all who helped.

Please pray for our Holy Cross Church to remain an independent and autonomous parish.

MaryAgnes Mikalauskas



C-110 members visit Childrens' Hospital at Vilnius University. l to r Dr. Antanas Simulis, Jenny Christian, Joe Thomas, Dr. Kestutis Samiukas.

C-110 Maspeth, NY

We had pleasant sunshine on April 24 at our special K of L Mass and brunch meeting. Members who had suffered broken bones, aches and pains from our snowy last winter, all seemed in good spirits. Bright spring flowers gave us happiness as our Transfiguration Choir added their voices and Father Raila celebrated the Mass.

Our meeting featured Kristina Levisauskaite and Vilija Baniene of Kaunas, exchange students at Farmingdale State University. The Lithuanian women are studying banking and economics. They admitted that Lithuania has a long way to go to bring its banking standards to that of the United States. "Although *litas* trades currently at four per every US dollar, the US currency is still a premium to trade with and preferred by many." Kristina said. The women are part of a foreign exchange program sponsored by the Agency for international Development in Washington, DC and SUNY at Farmingdale College of Technology. The Lithuanian proposal that sent the students here was chosen with only two others from neighboring Eastern European countries. Over 700 proposals from Eastern Europe were sent to Washington for the banking program.

The two women spoke of the gratitude they have towards American-Lithuanians and the K of L. They told of the shortages and troubles Lithuania faces while it sets up new democratic standards and laws. One of the women pointed out how beautiful Transfiguration Church was, and compared to others, reminded her of Lithuania.

In other news, members voted to send one hundred dollars each to Kaunas Kudiku Namai, our Kaunas children's orphanage, and the Vilnius University Children's Hospital. Council members, Joe Thomas and Igni & Evelyn Walles will personally deliver the donations and let us know how other goods we sent were received. Member Fred Daniel added \$40 to the fund and received a special applause from the group.

Entertainment Committee Chairman, Joe Thomas, finalized the two day trip to the Amish Country which features a dinner theater production of *oMameo* and a complete Amish Celebration Tour. Quite a few members scheduled to go seemed to look forward to the good time. Plans were also made for our Memorial Day Parade on May 29. This year the Lithuanians will lead the parade by marching in the first division.



K of L'ers enjoying Amish Trip (l to r) kneeling- Ed and Fran Jackatt, Bruno Rutkunas; Standing Evelyn Walles, Alice and Heby Laukaitis, Fred & Bea Luska, Jean Rutkunas, Tony Yakaitis, Helen Matulaitis and Tom Tarmey.



C-110 member Joe Thomas presents donation to Dr. Simulis

ADDITIONAL NEWS

Wow! What a parade! Dozens of C-110 K of L members began our Memorial Day by marching in the Annual Maspeth Memorial Day Parade. We held Lithuanian and American flags, wreaths, and banners which remembered our fallen soldiers and civilians in the World Wars and Lithuania's fight for independence. Some of the ladies wore their beautiful traditional Lithuanian costumes others wore Proud to be Lithuanian caps which gave our group a great unified look. Members that did not march cheered from the sidelines as we passed them.

Of course, we were blessed with a Lithuanian Mass at Transfiguration Church, performed by spiritual advisor, Msgr. Frank Bulovas. Hungry marchers and members were treated to hot dogs, homemade sauerkraut, beer and sodas after the parade.

The highlight of our meeting was a report made by Joe Thomas of a special visit made to Kaunas Kudiku Namai and the Vilnius University Children's Hospital. Council members Joe Thomas, Jenny Christian, Igni and Evelyn Walles personally delivered K of L monetary donations to our two adopted projects and told us emotional stories of the conditions. The children's hospital was in dire need of rubber gloves, scalpels for operations, and casting materials to mend broken bones. The orphanage, home to a hundred children, was also in dire

need of supplies. The group added their own personal funds to increase the monetary donation. Member, Evelyn Walles, noted the emotional experience "leaves our tears in Lithuania". Member, Thomas, said he would look into providing rubber gloves and other needed medical supplies by contacting area hospitals. Some members voiced concern with sending money, since doctors who average an \$80 per month wage, could easily better themselves by collecting donations and moving elsewhere. Council members wanted to assure themselves that the funds actually do go for the intended causes and will continue to seek the needed supplies for the orphanage and hospital.

Entertainment Committee Chairman, Joe Thomas, spoke of the success of the two-day trip to the Amish Country enjoyed by a group of 43 K of L'ers. In addition to a dinner theater production of "Mame", members received a complete Amish Celebration Tour which featured a "wedding" of Mr. Thomas and Jenny Christian. Members commented that the Amish country reminded them of Lithuania, especially the horse-drawn carriages. "The Amish have more horses and larger families," one member noted. A typical Amish family has a dozen children. Plans for upcoming entertainment include a one-day paddle boat trip scheduled for August.

Maryte Abbott

C-112 Chicago, II

Congratulations to our Third Degree recipients: Joe Kuizin, Adella Zunas, and Matt & Philomena Vilutis. It took a long time but you made it!

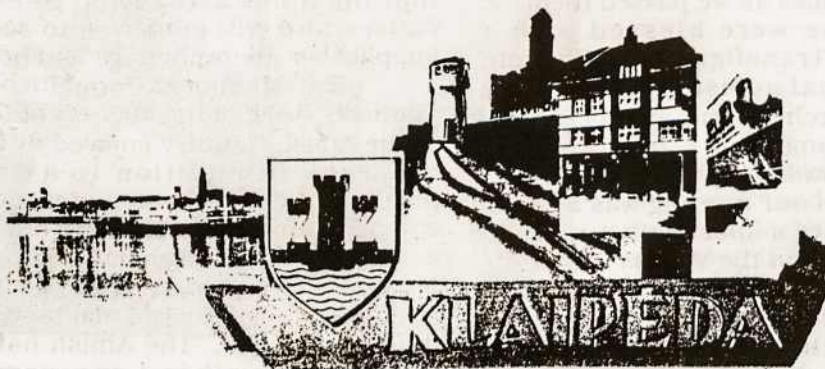
Our thanks to Cultural Chairman, Leonas Narbutis, for continuing to provide us with interesting topics and speakers for our monthly meetings. In March, we listened to Birute Jasaitiene of the Lithuanian Human Services Council who gave us an insight as to what services are available for Lithuanians in need of help. In April, Mary Krauciunas presented an interesting look at the earliest Lithuanians to settle in the Chicago area, going as far back as 1870. We enjoy these special additions to our meetings and hope that they continue.

A small group of Council members gathered at ST. Casimir Cemetery on April 19 for the dedication of Eleanore LaurinÆs monument, followed by Mass and a luncheon. Thanks to Jule Zakarka for arranging this tribute to a very special member who will always be remembered and missed.

We all appreciate the fine job Valeria Stanaitis is doing in collecting dues from our 300+ members. This is a BIG job, and she does it in a very efficient manner.

It was a beautiful Sunday morning, temperature in the low 80's, the perfect day for our Champagne Brunch. And they came, members, friends, parishioners to the Nativity Church Hall to make this a rousing success. We had worked hard for this day because proceeds would be given to the Nativity B.V.M. We are grateful to all who supported this worthwhile endeavor. The hardworking committee: Vida Sakevicius and Terry Vaitkus who co-chaired the event; Ellie Kasputis who outdid herself (once again) in scouting out the wide assortment of raffle prizes; Al Mockus, Peter Jasaitis and Aldona Brazis who poured the champagne and kept the refreshments coming; Julie Zakarka for manning the door and the huge job of mailing out tickets and keeping track of returns; Lorraine Svelnis for the posters we circulated throughout the neighborhood (she couldn't be with us -- Holy Cross Hospital was honoring Lorraine for her many hours of volunteer work -- Congratulations we missed you); all the ladies who baked for our sweets table, and all who volunteered to set up and clean up -- the list is endless -- we could not have done it without you.

Gerrie



C-136 Hudson-Mohawk, NY

Our April meeting was well attended where plans were made to participate in the "FESTIVAL OF NATIONS" on May 14, 1994.

It was decided to offer potato pancakes again this year in addition to poppyseed muffins, rye bread, farmers' cheese, the tree cake and apple juice. Gen Deery volunteered to make her famous mushroom cookies that are as delicious as they are unique and attractive. They look so much like the real thing that people inquire if mushrooms are really part of the ingredients.

A gathering of members representing our council attended funeral services for Benerly Hayner, husband and father of Helen Hayner and Lynn McCafferty respectively. We extend our deepest sympathy to the family.

On Saturday May 14, we represented Lithuania in our booth at the Festival of Nations. It was a gorgeous, sunny day and so many people attended and visited our booth that we soon ran out of food items. Next year we will surely prepare for more. All in all it proved to be a successful endeavor and we all had fun, in spite of the back-breaking work involved.

Our First Annual Communion Breakfast following Mass and Communion at Holy Cross Church in Schenectady occurred on Sunday May 22. We had a great turnout for the event and all who attended enjoyed the celebration.

Our final meeting for the season was held on June 9 at a local restaurant where all enjoyed a delicious dinner. We wound up our affairs prior to breaking for the summer. A good time was had by all.

Dot Richmire

C-141 Bridgeport, CT

The opening prayer for the April meeting was said by Lee Marcinka. Due to Pat Silk's absence, Barbara Schmidt read the Treasurer's report and also the correspondence - a letter from Loretta Stukas about the 10th Anniversary of the K of L Foundation and this year's essay contest regarding Lithuanian customs practiced at home. President Clemencine Miller reported \$759 was collected toward Aid to Lithuania. The St. Casimir Brunch netted \$80 in direct donations, plus the membership voted an additional \$100 toward support of the Pontifical College in Rome.

On March 18, a sizable group assembled to sort and pack boxes for Viltis Humanitarian Aid to Lithuania. On the 19th, we sent 1,001 pounds in 47 boxes. Armundas Zakarauskas,



Hostess Committee for c-141
St. Casimir Brunch

chairman of this project, was gratified that so many responded to the call on such short notice.

Ninety-three Knights and Parishioners attended the party at the Three Doors Restaurant in honor of Msgr. Pranckus' 75th Birthday. Organist, Mary Grosso, provided piano music and talented Vice President, Armundas Zakarauskas, accordion for community singing and dancing. A good time was had by all in attendance.

C-141 is joining in with other St. George parishioners finalizing plans for Msgr.'s retirement.

Joseph Janiunas gave an in-depth report on the latest developments in Lithuania, and her emergence in highest achievement.

This year St. George Church celebrates its 87th Birthday. It was built in 1907 by Lithuanian immigrants of Bridgeport, who wanted a church speaking and praying in their language, singing Lithuanian Hymns, and observing traditions familiar to their heritage. The first wooden structure is now in back of the brick church and serves as a hall for social affairs. Over the years the rafters would ring with Lithuanian dainos, and there were many balls, plays, minstrels, and dances there.

St. George merged with Sacred Heart, January 1, 1966, and became a territorial parish. Sacred Heart Elementary School became a part of St. George Parish, and in 1979, St. Anthony School merged also. All were supported by St. George's Parish.

A bi-lingual Mass of Thanksgiving was celebrated at 10:00 A.M. on Sunday May



C-141 February 16th Independence
Day Commemoration Committee

15, 1994, upon Monsignor's 75th birthday and the retirement of the Pastor who was the main celebrant. His Excellency Bishop Egan presided and Father John Rikteraitis, Pastor of St. Andrew's in New Britain, CT was the homilist. A luncheon was served downstairs after the Mass.

Ad multos Annos, Msgr. Pranckus!

Delegates to the NED Spring Convention on April 24 in Worcester were: Aldona and Peter Peters, Helen and Joseph Janiunas, Sophie Putrimas, Lee Marcinka, and Aldona & Sylvester Marcavage.

Two beautiful afghans, donated by Lee Marcinka were raffled at our meeting in place of 50/50. The lucky winners were Helen Simanis and Ann Petrus.

Aldona



Rev. Saulius Filipavicius
from Troskunai, Lithuania

C-147 St. Petersburg, FL

Antanas Grabauskas, Ona Semoleviciene, Valeria Lescinskas and Maria Gelazius represented our Council at the Romo Kalantos Minejimas, which was held at the Lithuanian Club on May 4 and on May 8 at Holy Name Church.

During the Mother's Day Luncheon, Valeria also read a few passages honoring MOTHER.

Get well wishes to Frank Stann who was hospitalized in St. Anthony's Hospital. We wish you a speedy recovery Frank. Our Council voted to sponsor Rasa Gervickaite, a Lithuanian orphan for one year. She is in Kauno Garlevos Gyventoje. A check for \$150 was mailed to Mociute Valtukiene with a letter of acceptance on behalf of Knights of Lithuania, C-147. All details were handled by Dr. Aldona Valis and Maria Gelazius.

At our April Meeting, Dr. Aldona Valis arranged and collected for a care package to be sent to Cecilijai Speckauskienei in Taurage, Lietuva for the care of three orphans - Ausra, Rita and Jolanta. Besides various gifts that were collected, members that were present, donated \$70. The Council also agreed to adopt one orphan for one year for \$150.

Ona Semoleviciene will be leaving for Lavonia, New York in June for family celebrations. There are three graduations scheduled.

Dolores Jonaitis

C-150 Kansas City, KS

On March 5, 1994, Members Anita and Bill Strumillo were the gracious hosts to C-150's spring meeting. A social hour included a show and tell sharing of old photographs of members marking special events such as school graduations or weddings, etc. The business portion of the meeting was followed by a summary of the life of St. Casimir. After the meeting, members in a body, attended Mass in honor of St. Casimir at Blessed Sacrament Church in Kansas City, KS.

On May 22, 1994, C-150 members participated in and helped present a Lithuanian Heritage Day at the West Wyandotte Library in Kansas City. Lithuanians in the metropolitan area were invited to bring items indicative of Lithuanian culture to exhibit. Artistic wall banners and fresh flowers sparked the display. Colorfully adorned tables provided the backdrop for displaying items in the categories of religion, culture, handicrafts, history, music, current events, politics, and language. Refreshments were served, and most of the visitors showed a keen interest in our displays, evidenced by the questions they asked as they examined the items at each table.

The public was invited to this event through publicity in our local Catholic newspaper, THE LEAVEN, as well as several other local secular papers like the KANSAS CITY STAR.

Charlotte Zemaityte Horvatic

C-153 Treasure Coast, FL

After our February 7 meeting and all the reports for the St. Casimir's Banquet were finalized, a surprise 50th Wedding Anniversary Party for Al and Florence Miskinis was held by the members of C-153. Gifts received were: a delicious cream cheese filled cake, a lovely bride doll made by Frances Daniels, gold tray, and yellow roses were presented to Al and Florence. A champagne toast and blessing by Rev. V. Pikturna to the happy couple ended the very enjoyable meeting. Happy Birthday was sung to Jim Marcinkus, our Vice President. He is a blessing to us by his joyful assistance in all projects.

March 6 was a beautiful warm day, as usual. Opening ceremonies for our annual St. Casimir's Day began with the procession into St. Paul of the Cross Church in North Palm Beach with the following members participating as:

Crossbearer John Tamashauskas; the Book - Aldona Biliunas, St. Casimir's Picture - Michael Yudiskas, the Lithuanian Flag - Jim Marcinkas, the American Flag - Vincent Sakas, the Royal Crown - Josephine Lubinsky, Crown of Thorns - Stella Miskinis, the Lilies of Purity - France Daniels, followed by Rev. V. Pikturna and Bishop Paul Baltakis O.F.M. We were greatly honored this year by having Bishop Baltakis as celebrant and Rev. V. Pikturna as co-celebrant. Lectors were Aldona Biliunas and John Tamashauskas. Music was by the Dainos Chorus directed by Irena Manomaitis and soloist was Ona Jameikis of the Palm Beach Opera Company accompanied by Louis Stukas.

Immediately following Mass, we all hurried to the Quality Resort on the ocean on Singer Island for the banquet. It was filled to capacity and included guests Elsie Komisky and Eleanor Vaicaitis of the Amber District and Bertha Stoskus of the New England District. Opening prayers were by the bishop and he graciously greeted all guests from near and far. The food was delicious.



C-153 Treasure Coast
Frances Daniels - Pres, Rev. V. Pikturna
Bishop Paulius Baltakis.

A very successful raffle made lucky recipients happy including Walter Berzinskas who won the beautiful picture of the *RUPINTOJELIS* painted by our own talented artist, Aldona Biliunas. A sing-a-long with Mr. and Mrs. V. Salciunas and Mr. Augunas leading all the guests accompanied by Lou Stukas on the piano ended another glorious St. Casimir's Day Celebration.

On April 17, a complete report was given to all members of C-153 about our successful banquet. Plans were presented for the May Day procession to be held May 1 at St. Jude's Church in Jupiter which is home parish for many K of L's of C-153. All Lithuanian have been invited by the Palm Beach Diocese to participate in the procession. All nationalities will be represented and dressed in their individual costumes and singing hymns to MARY in their native language. C-153 will carry the picture of Our Lady of Siluva and sing, of course, Marija, Marija

Condolences were sent to the family of Albina Wiggins who passed away April 15. She was always generous to our affairs. May she rest in peace.

Yours truly will be at the Jupiter Medical Center for a hip replacement on April 27.

Florencija Miskinis

C-154 Spring Hill, FL

The fact that our Council does not schedule meetings during the summer months does not extinguish our enthusiasm for adventure and fun among our members.

We joined the American-Lithuanian Social Club of Spring Hill for a picnic at Crew's Park in Port Richey. Our President,, Joe Kuchinskas was the chef. Add to his artistry at the grill, the enticing side dishes prepared by our ladies, and we came upon a grand gourmet banquet. No weight watchers attended this feast!

Next, we brought on the grande dame of party planning, Virginia Kentra, and her husband, Ray. They were instrumental in bidding farewell to the Snow birds with a dinner and dance at the K of C Hall in Holiday. The highlight of that event featured a Su Diev' cake -- How's that for ingenuity?

Mother's Day was celebrated at A-P Hall in Hudson by a number of our members. After dinner and dancing, we toasted our mothers!

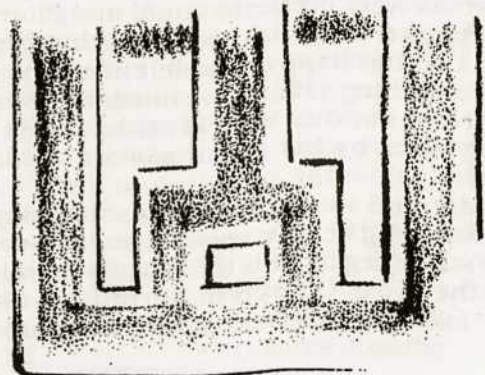
Our champion travelers were on the road again. Annette and Bill Grezevich drove to

Houston, Texas to participate in the baptismal ceremony of their great-grandson, Edward Louis.

We sent delegates to the MAD District Meeting at the Seminary in Douglaston, New York. We are looking forward to the report of this meeting. The Great Neck Council has always hosted a very stimulating well-organized program. How fortunate we are to be a part of their endeavor.

May the long beautiful days of summer fill our hearts with love for one another.

Sadye G. Petraitis



In the good old summertime ©by Albert Cizauskas

Was the summertime all that good in the old days? It depends. The farther back we dig into the past, the more we tend to idealize it. I make no claim to have avoided the cliché pit in recalling the things that made summers very special for me a long time ago in the Lithuanian community of Williamsburg, Brooklyn.

Summers were hot then too, but people complained less and enjoyed themselves more than we do despite our air-conditioned comfort and anything goes clothing. Or so it seems to me, in this our summer of torrid discontent.

My remembrance of things long past begins with a summer's morning, walking with father (who had to quit work because of a disability) to the old church for morning Mass. There was much liturgical singing then, since Lithuanians preferred High Mass but the singing was not confined to the Mass. Both before and after the Mass, the choirmaster and the celebrant chanted the liturgies for the souls departed. Of course, I was rather anxious to start my non-ecclesiastical day and fidgeted endlessly through these endless services. At least, father didn't, as mother did on weekends, make the round of the Stations of the Cross and the various statues for personal devotions after Mass which I had to endure with her.

After church, father and I shopped in the open-air market on Havemeyer Street for vegetables, like potatoes, of which we ate a lot, or, if it was Friday, perhaps a gefullte herring. When the price was right (about three pounds for ten cents during the season), we might even buy some peaches. These marketing expeditions often exploded with a shouting match between father and some of the peddlers. For some reason, he would become very excited and call them the ultimate insult in Yiddish - "Jewish Pig" and they would counter by calling him - "Christian Dog". When this happened, I would slink away in deep embarrassment, pretending that I belonged to someone else.

Father had an unusual hobby - raising and trading canaries. The little yellow birds were wonderful pets, requiring little

more than a cage, grain to eat, and water. The reward was beautiful full-throated singing.

The canary trade among Lithuanian fanciers in Williamsburg was limited to the warmer weather because of the bird's frail constitution and was accompanied by all the chicanery of horse trading. Occasionally, father got stuck with a non-singer which he had exchanged for a proven artist. He would turn right around and try to foist the non-singer onto one of the other members of the avian fraternity. Sometimes he succeeded, sometimes he failed. None of this petty trickery, however broke up the group; apparently sharp trading was considered part of the game. From it I learned that father doesn't always know best.

The most remarkable episode of father's canary days was a believe-it-or-not affair. One day, he placed a cage on the fire escape with his prime singer in it to give the little bird some fresh air and sunshine. But this time, the gate of the cage somehow swung open and the treasure of father's life escaped. In despair, he turned to St. Anthony, the holy retriever. An hour later, another canary flew into the cage, and one that sang nearly as well. I can't say how this strange thing happened; I can only say, I learned my second lesson, that a bird in a cage is worth two on a wing.



Antanas Tamošaitis.

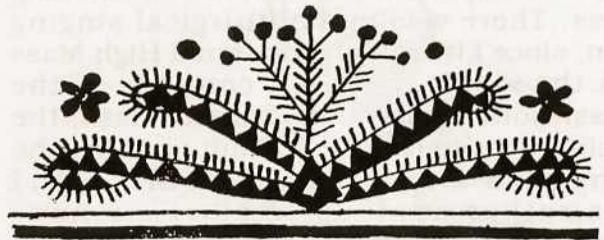
During the long summer days, I read a lot, at first, books like Horatio Alger's inspirational stories of young heroes who, through pluck and perseverance, win fame and fortune, and sometimes too, the hand of the boss's daughter. Others were Victor Appleton's Tom Swift series. The first book I owned and greatly treasured was *Tom Swift and His Motorcycle*. (This had no relation to today's black-suited, drug- addicted hellions on motor "bikes") Then, during high school summers, I went on to Walter Scott's medieval adventures. One summer, I lost myself in Dickens' melodramatic world of Victorian England.

For other recreation, there was handball played with friends in school courtyards or skating - the old fashioned way - around Williamsburg streets, maybe down Union Avenue past the Russian Orthodox Church with its white, onion-shaped dome and slanted cross, or all the way to the Brooklyn Navy Yard on Flushing Avenue. At times, when the temperature soared into the 90's, some good soul opened a "Johnnie Pump" - fire hydrant - and placed a board over its mouth so that the water spurted into the air and drenched the many delighted kids, including me. Neighborhood pools were scarce, although there was a huge one in McCarren Park, that oasis between Williamsburg and Greenpoint. Some more adventurous youngsters went swimming in the East River, near the Metropolitan Avenue Pier, where there was some empty shore line. Once, we even saw a crocodile under the pier, resting its scaly body on the soft, river-bottom mud.

The most exciting thing about Williamsburg summers in those far off days was its honest-to-goodness horse auction. It took place Fridays on Rutledge Street, where stables lined the long block up from Broadway. Horses were a great fascination for us city kids, especially so many of them in one place. We seldom missed a chance to peek into the stables with this heavy odor of horse manure and warm animal bodies. All of us kids vied with one another in clicking our tongues and calling out nonsense to make the horses look at us. The creatures, however, deciding we had nothing they wanted, lazily turned back to the more important business of munching on their feed. I had only one complaint, but a big one,

about the stables being close to where we lived then; mother regularly made me shovel up some of the horse manure for her geraniums to my great discomfort and the glee of my friends.

The auction was a real show-stopper. It was like a big, friendly, yet business-sharp country fair, with farmers from all over Long Island, peddlers and representatives of businesses, like dairies and bakeries, which still used horse-drawn wagons for home deliveries. While chewing tobacco and expertly spitting out the juice, the horse buyers would feel the animals over carefully, especially their shanks and pry open their mouths to examine teeth, an indignity to which the animals took particular exception.



The horses to be sold were all washed and brushed, their coats glistening in the sun: even their hooves were polished bright for the big event. The highlight was when the auctioneer showed off the speed of individual horses to prove their fitness, maybe not for the Kentucky Derby, but for at least the more prosaic work for which they were reared. The horses were hitched to a light, open wagon. A stand-up driver with a cracking whip made the beasts gallop down and back up the long block, with sparks flashing off the cobblestones. That's when we kids decided to become cowboys or at least stablehands. The bidding began after each run, the auctioneer's chant sounding like the tobacco seller's on the old Lucky Strike radio program. We tried, but we couldn't come close to the lightening-fast lingo of the Rutledge Street auctioneer.

The sad thing about the Williamsburg horse stables is that they disappeared in the late '30's, replaced by auto repair shops.

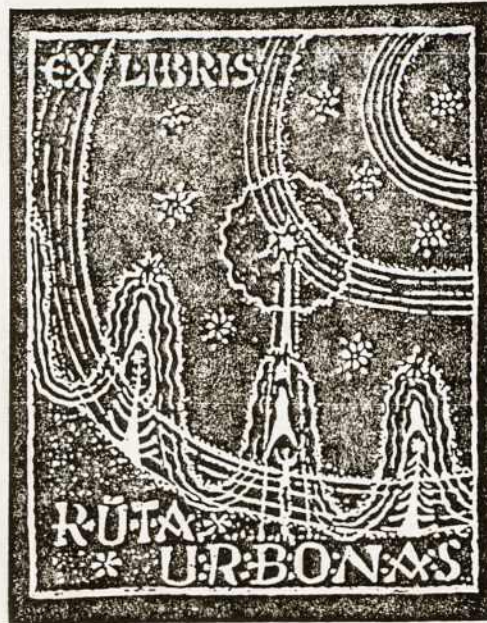
Coney Island was everyone's favorite way of beating the heat. My family was no exception, and most weekends we joined the mass exodus to New York's big ocean playground, riding the Sea Beach Express the length of Brooklyn.

The end-of-the-line stop was a huge, covered station, crowded with stands selling all sorts of goodies to tempt the beachgoer before he got to the beach. For a kid, the sights and smells were excruciating: hot dogs roasting on grills, corn on the cob with vats of melted butter for dipping, root beer foaming out of big Hire's barrels, Cracker Jacks (no popcorn then) in cardboard boxes with a secret little toy, like a penny whistle, inside each box. We never bought anything here, to my great disappointment, because we always came equipped with home made sandwiches of last night's leftovers, which seemed so much less appetizing than the sizzling hotdogs at the stands.

As we emerged from the subway exit into the blinding sunlight, our eyes were dazzled by the glitzy, half-moon facade of Luna Park, with its main attraction, the Mile Sky Chaser, dominating the scene. Screaming teenagers clung to their dates as the cars plunged down a steep drop and then roared up another hill. It took me a long time before I ventured even onto the Scenic Railway, which lived up to its name, but I graduated eventually to the wildest ride of all - The Cyclone.

When we reached the boardwalk, we usually stopped for a moment, looking for a spot where we could merge into the huge mass of humanity before us. Somehow, we managed to nudge ourselves onto a foot or two of beach sand, sharing it with a rich mosaic of New York's ethnic groups: Jews. Italians, Poles, Germans, and others including Lithuanians. The next day, we eagerly, but foolishly scanned the *Daily News* photos to spot ourselves among the million or more beachgoers of which the tabloid's headlines boasted.

The ocean seemed cold and bracing at Coney Island. Before I learned to swim, I tip-toed in, each wave splashing me higher and higher in a form of cold water torture, until I



was all wet. My brother tried to convince me that ocean water could easily hold me up, which I doubted for a long time. Anyway, once in, it was great fun trying to guess where the waves would break, finding myself rolling over and over on the gritty bottom as I guessed wrong.

We broke the law at Coney Island, playing a game of hide-and-seek with the police beach patrol. This was because we wore our bathing suits underneath our street clothes, not wishing to undergo the additional expense of patronizing the bath houses. Fines were pretty stiff for disrobing on the beach, even with bathing suits underneath. All this could be fun up to a point, but the return trip was a real nightmare. Despite the hour or so we tried to dry out, bathing suits stubbornly retained a good measure of sand and salt. I would squirm and scratch, wriggle and writhe, until other travellers on the subway looked at me, some with pity for my supposed affliction, others with evident disapproval mixed with apprehension. Most embarrassing was the moment when we reached our home station, as all of us left a damp profile of our backsides on the subway car seats.

With the passage of years, one impression of Coney Island grows more vivid, blotting everything else out. This is the idiotic grin on many of the posters advertising George C. Tillyou's Steeplechase Park, the other amusement area besides Luna Park. All the memories of the old Coney Island, its overcrowded beach, its punishing waves, the

smell of roasting hot dogs, and the damp, scratchy ride home on the subway, everything seems to dissolve in my mind into one big, toothy grin, like Alice's Cheshire Cat.

Movie-houses had no air conditioning until sometime into the '30's. That great event coincided more or less with the arrival of motion pictures that "talked". Before that time, movie-houses had fans; some were able to roll back their roofs for the evening showing. A few smaller theatres even had an outdoor area in back with moveable seats.

A tremendous cheer went up in the dark when the camera transformed the night by flashing on the white screen a Buster Keaton two-reel comedy, followed perhaps by Lillian Gish in a tear-jerker, or by the sex throb, Rudolph Valentino as a roving-eyed Arab in one of his many sheik pictures. A piano player, all the while, accented musically the melodrama on the screen. The magic of the magic lantern was very real outdoors, under the stars.

By the '30's, we got a radio at home. I remember listening to it during the long summer evenings, as dusk turned into night. There were many radio skits, led off by everyone's favorite, Amos 'n Andy, the Bill Cosby Show of the time. Amos 'n Andy were no wealthy Huxtables. They were what white folks thought of the blacks before the social revolution of the '60's. Still it was gentle, relaxed humor, as I recall the series, without a trace of intended racism. Then, in the dark, my sister and I would shiver through the manic laughter of the Shadow or the exotic misadventures of Chandu the Magician.

When I tired of radio, I went outside to watch the fireflies blinking their lights in the gathering darkness and listen to the calls of the late peddlers. They always fascinated me, each one with his individual cry, often indecipherable but, after a while, identifiable like a trademark. One in particular captured the magic of a summer night with his high-pitched chant of - water-mellow, mellow - almost like a prayer ending the long day.



When it came time, mother sometimes allowed me to sleep on the fire-escape, where the night breeze played over me, and I could look up and marvel at the mystery of the star-filled sky. Gradually, the late sounds of the city dwindled to a low hum, lulling me to sleep. Mother looked in every once in a while, a smile of peaceful content crossing her face.

Yes, for those of us growing up in Williamsburg half a lifetime ago, summer was a good time.

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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