

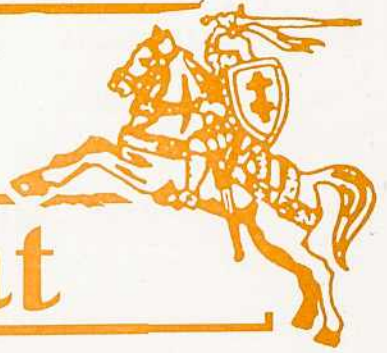
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# VYTIS

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## The Knight

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November / Lapkritis 1994 — Volume 80 Number 9



**VYTIS**

KNIGHTS OF LITHUANIA

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## MŪSŲ TAUTOS KALENDORIUS

### LAPKRITIS

- 2 d. 1918 m. Lietuvos Valstybės Taryba priėmė laikinąją konstituciją.  
 . 1862 m. Pasandravyje, Šiluvos valsč., gimė Maironis (mirė 1932.VI.28.).
- 3 d. 1320 m. Gediminas sumušė prie žemių vokiečių kariuomenę.  
 . 1934 m. įsigalėjo Baltijos valstybių politinės santarvės sutartis.
- 4 d. 1893 m. Gudeliuose, Papilio valsč., gimė poetas Kazys Binkis (mirė 1942.IV.27).
- 6 d. 1879 m. Pažiegėje, Dusetų valsč., gimė kalbininkas Kazys Būga (mirė 1924.XII.1.).
- 7 d. 1917 m. Rusijoje bolševikai pagrobė valdžią ir paskelbė savo diktatūrą.
- 7-10 d. 1917 m. Berne, Šveicarijoje, įvyko lietuvių konferencija.
- 9 d. 1893 m. Kražiuose rusai įvykdė lietuvių maldininkų skerdynes.
- 10 d. 1849 m. Voveriškiuose gimė Martynas Šernas (mirė 1908.IV.14).  
 . 1922 m. šv. Sostas pripažino Lietuvą de jure.
- 11 d. 1918 m. pradėjo veikti pirmoji laikinoji Lietuvos vyriausybė, kurios premjeru buvo Augustinas Volde-  
 maras.  
 . 1939 m. Kaune mirė Mykolas Šleževičius (gimė 1882. II.21.).
- 15 d. 1919 m. iš Lietuvos išsikraustė paskutinis vokiečių transportas.
- 16 d. 1899 m. mirė Lietuvos himno autorius ir rašytojas dr. Vincas Kudirka (gimė 1858.XII.31.).
- 17 d. 1872 m. Joniškėlio valsč. gimė J. Lindė Dobilas (mirė 1934.XII.2.).
- 18 d. 1881 m. Paliukuose, Pumpėnų valsč., gimė dailininkas-skulptorius Juozas Zikaras (mirė 1944.XI.10.).
- 20 d. 1870 m. Memelhofe gimė kompozitorius Teodoras Brazys (mirė 1930.XI.11.).  
 . 1882 m. Žižonyse, Čipėnų valsč., gimė Ernestas Galvanauskas.
- 21-23 d. 1905 m. Vilniuje įvyko didysis lietuvių seimas.
- 21-22 d. 1919 m. kautynės bermontininkų fronte ir didelis lietuvių laimėjimas prie Radviliškio.
- 21 d. 1920 m. Lietuvos kariuomenė sumušė lenkus ties Giedraičiais.
- 23 d. 1918 m. pradėta organizuoti Lietuvos kariuomenė.
- 24 d. 1864 m. mirė Simanas Daukantas (gimė 1793.X.28).  
 . 1881 m. Margiuose, Pažerių valsč., gimė dailininkas Petras Rimša (mirė 1961.X.2.).
- 29 d. 1920 m. Tautų Sąjungos kontrolės komisija nustatė tarp lenkų ir lietuvių kariuomenių neutralią zoną.

# „KAIP GRĮŽTANČIUS NAMO PAUKŠČIUS“<sup>1</sup>

## A RETURN TO WHERE WE'VE NEVER BEEN

by Vincent B. Boris

For most this was the first visit ever to Lithuania; for others it was the latest among several; for me it was the third visit. Yet, for all of us, there was one inexplicable but commonly felt verity: we were not strangers in the land - we were home. Like the migratory bird, we had come half way around the wide world on an instinctive quest, and now each experienced, simply by being here, the warm secure feeling once associated with a mother's (or grandmother's) embrace. Intuitively, we knew that this was our nest, our ancestral home, our Tėvyne.

### KAUNAS

It was an inauspicious beginning. Violent storms on the night before had left the air traffic all along the Eastern seaboard in a complete snarl. Even 24 hours after the storm, we in Washington left for Frankfurt an hour late; Boston and Newark had similar delays. In Chicago and New York, the wait was even longer. Those departing from those latter two cities missed the connecting Lufthansa flight to Vilnius from Frankfurt but luckily found a Lithuanian Airlines flight from Frankfurt later in the day.

As we on-time arrivals boarded one of the two busses to take us to Kaunas, the clouds began to thicken and most of the hour and a half ride to Kaunas was accompanied by a downpour. The guides said that it had not rained in Lithuania for some time. So, we could not begrudge the Lithuanian farmers their much needed rain even though in our hearts we felt somewhat disgruntled that the rain had waited for our arrival to do its thing. But upon our arrival in Kaunas the



*Lietuva Brangi, Mano Tėvyne*<sup>2</sup>

rain stopped and the sun came out to make a glorious fresh afternoon. A perfect time to sit at a sidewalk cafe on Laisvės Aleja, sipping rather potent dark brew from Utenos Gėrimai called Aukštaičių Alus and watch the fashion parade along the pedestrian promenade. I have since been told that Friday is a popular day for weddings. Many of the pedestrians were most probably on their way to a wedding reception. The stylishness and chic of the passers-by was truly remarkable. There was to be seen no vestige of the stereotypical frumpy "Soviet woman" here in Lithuania on this day or, for that matter, throughout the trip. The men, as well, appeared in well-tailored, sharply pressed suits. This is not to say that there were none in casual clothes. In fact, at the table next to me sat five students looking every bit like their counterparts everywhere in the world with jeans or running suits, T-shirts from some American college and Reeboks or reasonable facsimile.

And then there was the ubiquitous American tourist in running shoes and shorts, etc. But wait - they aren't

just tourists, they're friends, *John and Andrea Baltrus*, K of L-ers from Pittsburgh enjoying a day in Kaunas while visiting with relatives. This chance encounter, first of many which would occur during the next two weeks, perhaps deepened the feelings of being "at home" - inevitably one met friends and/or

*Lietuva! Lietuva! Mūsų tėvų gimtinė. Tikrai buvo malonu aplankyti mūsų laisvąją Lietuvą. Lai gyvuoja per amžius! <sup>3</sup>*

Algirdas, Aldona Brazis, C-112  
Chicago, IL

relatives at the most unexpected times. I have probably wandered longer and more often in Washington, D.C. without encountering acquaintances than ever in Lithuania.

This first exposure to Lithuania 1994 provided another pleasant surprise - the outcropping of entrepreneurship. During previous visits, we had encountered a number of street corner kiosks selling things like audio cassettes and newspapers. Today, in Kaunas (as well as elsewhere - as we were to find out) the main streets in the shopping areas are filled with kiosks, stands, folding tables covered with merchandise of all sorts from bananas, soft drinks, ice cream, jewelry, books and video tapes. Many of the purveyors manning these stands looked as though they had just entered their teen years but they already displayed a mastery of salesmanship.

This first day ended with a marvelously memorable evening at the "*Gildija*" restaurant which faces on the Town Square in the Old Town section of Kaunas. It is so named because it occupies the site of an old Guild Hall and has a decor that is evocative of the medieval with beamed ceilings, leaded glass

windows, heavy oak furniture, high backed chairs that somewhat resembled thrones, etc. The highlight of the evening was a post-dinner entertainment worthy of a medieval court. *Veronika Pavilioniene*, the prima donna of Lithuanian folk singers, and her troupe of four musician/singers provided a full concert of a wide range of Lithuanian folk music. Since those of our group, delayed in their departure from the States, joined us mid-way through dinner and were seated in an adjacent room, the entertainers alternated their performance between the two rooms (without repetitions) and continuously played or sang for over two hours. As a finale, a few of the musicians coaxed us out on the floor to join

*This has been a most memorable trip for me. Seeing my family in Lithuania and hearing first hand the stories of the atrocities that have happened to them. My love for Lithuania has deepened.*

Helen Santorum, C-79  
Southfield, Mich.

them in a few simple folk dances. We had come to Lithuania to experience a Festival of Folk Song and Dance. There could not have been a more appropriate prelude.

The next day, our touring began in earnest. The entire group went first to an attraction that had not been included on the itinerary last year, The Devil's Museum. The tour guide explained that in Lithuania, the Devil had a dual personality. As in all of Christendom, the Devil was believed to be the Evil One, tempting man into sin and away from God. At the same time, Lithuanian folklore contained a devil-like character that was less sinister and more impish than evil. He

tempted man into minor vices such as drinking, gambling and laziness. The museum contains exhibits of all aspects and manifestations of the devil. There are pieces of fine art and sculpture as well as horrendous examples of Ozark Mountain tourist schlock. The characterization of the Devil as seen through various cultures was most interesting.

While the neophyte group moved on to the Čiurlionis Museum and the standard Old Town tour of Kaunas, we, veterans, from previous visits moved on to lesser known treats. One of these, the Museum of Lithuanian Folk Music Instruments was fascinating and should be placed on the must-see list of future tourists. In existence slightly over ten years, it is already outstripping the available exhibit space. Since the restoration of independence, many visiting foreign political and business dignitaries have responded by contributing instruments from their own culture to add to the Lithuanian folk instruments which range from simple hand made reed pipes to a full three rank pipe organ. The founder, curator and museum tour guide, *Vaidotas Stulga*, not only explained the various displays but aptly demonstrated as many as

time would allow. I found particularly interesting the exhibit of accordions and concertinas, in which p. Stulga could show and demonstrate the differences in appearance, construction and sound between Lithuanian, Russian, German, Italian, etc. versions of basically the same type of instrument.

To our great delight, there is in the museum a small restaurant which features Lithuanian folk cuisine. Our dinner there began with an excellent *šaltibarščiai* (Lithuanian cold beet soup) followed by our introduction to traditional *medžiotojų dešrelė* (Lithuanian hunter's sausages) stacked like cordwood on a saucer filled with alcohol which when flamed heated the smoked sausages. The highlight, however, was the dessert, *Šaltosai*. Much the same as meat-filled *koldūnai* or cheese/mushroom-filled *virtiniai*, these were light dumplings filled with fresh blueberries. They were accompanied by an additional bowl of fresh blueberry sauce that could be ladled on top of the dumplings. Dinner was followed by a short folk song sing-along to the accompaniment of a Lithuanian accordion. Talk about soul food - I doubt my Lithuanian soul had ever been so satiated.



„Šalis, kur miega kapuos didvyriai!  
Ne veltui bočiai tave taip gynė.“ 4

**THAT WAS THEN:** (10 years ago)

- \* movement severely restricted
- \* no independent, unescorted travel
- \* unsmiling service personnel
- \* uncommunicative, unresponsive drivers
- \* unable to locate or contact priest even in a church building

As we walked around Kaunas Old Town after dinner, we encountered one of the newer sights and sounds of free Lithuania - a troupe of Hare Krishna. Some like the leader, who sang the Hare mantra through a bull horn, were dressed in the saffron-colored robes which identify the sect. Others repeating the mantra were dressed in normal street wear. All appeared to be fairly young. Later in front of the main Kaunas department store in "New Town" along Laisves Aleja, we encountered another group of street evangelists - *Tikėjimo Žodis* (Word of Faith). This group, also mostly young post-teens, consisted of at least a fifty voice choir accompanied by four guitarists. When the singing had attracted a sufficient crowd, the Bible-armed preacher would step out to address the listeners, who would as quickly dissipate and the singing finished. A few stayed to listen.

Evening in Kaunas began with a semi-private Mass in the Cathedral, continued with supper and dancing at a "downtown" night club and was capped by what has now become K of L tour tradition, a BYO-whatever party in the hotel to rehash events of the day, sing and socialize with the tour staff as well as, sometimes, the hotel staff.

**THE NEMUNAS**

Sunday morning, we gathered early with anticipation of the 2-3 hour ride down the Nemunas by hydrofoil to Nida, the famed Lithuanian resort on the Courish Spit, a narrow strip of mostly sandy land which separates the salt-water Baltic Sea from the fresh water Courish Lagoon into which flows the Nemunas and several other Lithuanian rivers. There are several villages; but, the whole Spit is administratively named, *Neringa*.

*Tytkiai, Tytkiai Nemunelis teka.* (Softly, softly flows the Nemunas) Perhaps so, in song and poetry; but not when you are in the "Raketa." A hydrofoil may provide the speediest travel across water but it is not the quietest. The drone of the pulsating engines soon had all, but the most intrepid travellers, lulled into a deep sleep for most the the 200 plus kilometer trip. Those that remained awake were generally discouraged from staying on deck. The air draft streaming down the speedy craft (cruising at some 40 mph) was cold enough even on a warm July morning to keep most in the closed cabin. Additionally, there was a small refreshment counter selling coffee, tea, soft drinks and Estonian beer or stronger.

Absent the hydrofoil, the Nemunas would

**THIS IS NOW:** (Post-Soviet)

- \* we travelled freely, with the group or privately;
- \* Tour guides and hotel staff all friendly, helpful, always available;
- \* Bus drivers congenial, responsive willing to converse, helpful;
- \* Priests readily accessible, open and willing to be of assistance.

What a big difference -

Elsie Kosmisky,  
Amber District



indeed have been surprisingly quiet. Except at Kaunas and later at Sovetsk, there was virtually no waterfront improvement. No piers for fishing boats, no improved beaches (we did see a few knots of swimmers taking advantage of the naturally sandy shore). For the entire distance from Kaunas to the mouth, a little more than 200 km downriver, only two bridges crossed the river. We saw no sailboats, canoes or other craft plying the beautifully calm waters.

One could imagine that this is how the river had appeared for centuries. In a way, the noisy hydrofoil seemed to be intruding into a scene of ethereal, timeless peace. Yet, I could not help but consider how many times in history this tranquility had been shattered by opposing armies. The early Teutonic Knights of the Cross attempting to eliminate the last vestige of paganism from Europe in the 1200's; as well as the Napoleonic Grand Army of France on its ill-fated march to Moscow and in utter defeat had crossed here. The Nazi Wehrmacht on its way to the siege of Leningrad, and the Soviet Red Army pursuing the retreating Germans had all crossed this magnificent river, here, at the place called Sovetsk, but history remembers as Tilsit (Tilžė). Here, a treaty of friendship between Napoleon and Tsar Alexander I was

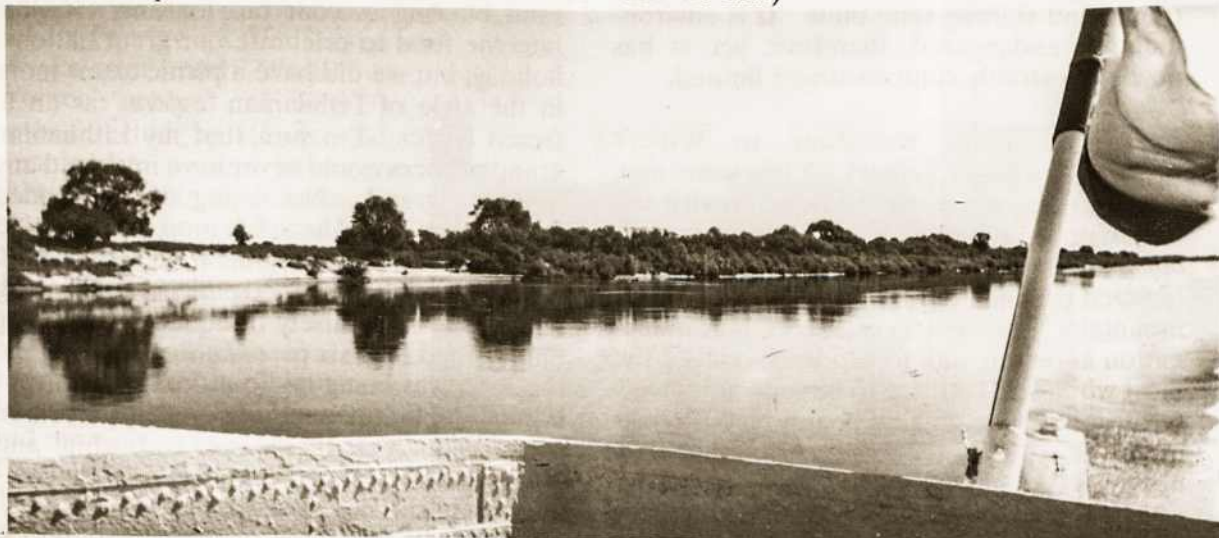
negotiated on a barge anchored in the middle of the Nemunas. "*Sic transit gloria mundi.*"

Here the courageous book-carriers smuggled forbidden books, papers and periodicals into Lithuania from Tilsit were they were printed in proscribed Roman alphabet Lithuanian. How many defenders and foes, friends and enemies, patriots and invaders had perished in these waters?

*"Quietly, quietly flows the Niemen, but not so quietly as a mother's tears."*

#### THE BALTIC COAST

We had arrived at Nida in time for the mid-day meal which was served at "*Peterine*," a newly reopened restaurant, owned and operated by a most engaging young Lithuanian chef, *Raimondas Šimkus*, who had graduated from a western culinary arts school. We were fortunately to encounter him twice again during the trip since he would be preparing the food for our 4th of July picnic the next day as well as our evening meal in Panevėžys on the day following that. (I've reached the conclusion that when you are on a trip arranged by a travel agent who is also a gourmand, you can be assured of an exceptionally palate pleasing experience. We were and we did.)



*„Plaukia Nemunėlis, tykiai ir ramiai!“<sup>5</sup>*



"*Buvo geras gaspadorius*"<sup>6</sup>  
Al Grigas introducing Chef Raimondas

After dinner, we did the requisite amber shopping and walked around the beach area to help digest the delicious repast before boarding our buses for the trip up to the ferry crossing to Klaipėda. On the way, we first stopped at one of the few elevated sites where we could look north and see the Baltic on our left and the Courish Lagoon (*Kuršių Marios*) on the right. To the south one got a nice overview of the Nida area. The land surrounding that spot is composed mostly of fragile and shifting sand dune. It is environmentally endangered; therefore, access has now been strictly controlled and limited.

Continuing north we came to Witch's Mountain (*Raganų Kalnas*). A few years ago, woodworking artists were invited to visit the mountain and to carve out an appropriate *objet d'art* representative of their art as inspired by, and reflecting, the folklore of the mountain. The artists combined their imagination and their skill to produce some of the most whimsical statuary to be seen anywhere. Grotesque to the point of beauty, yet interesting and surprising, the art is scattered along a heavily wooded path that steeply winds up then down the legendary hill. Only a few of the group responded to the challenge of the hill. Many remained behind to examine the stores of amber ware that seemed to abound

everywhere we stopped.

As we neared the ferry landing, we were again reminded of the vast progress toward normality that Lithuania has achieved. During the occupation years, Nida and virtually the entire Courish spit was restricted territory. Even native Lithuanians needed special permission to venture into the area. Yet, today, on this Sunday evening in July, there was a 3-4 km queue of cars waiting for transport back to the mainland. They had obviously spent the weekend or the day enjoying the resorts on the Spit. It is

ironic, perhaps, that heavy traffic and a 3 km back-up should be evidence of progress; but I think it was. It was an unplanned, yet clear testimony more convincing than any political rhetoric, that the conditions of life have improved for a number of young families (judging from the number of young children romping outside the stalled autos).

#### 4th of JULY - PALANGA

We did not have baseball and hot dogs, with sand blowing in your face or ants crawling into the food to celebrate our great national holiday; but we did have a picnic albeit more in the style of Lithuanian "*bajorai*" as an al fresco buffet. I'm sure that my Lithuanian grandmothers would never have imagined any quite so grand. Not being of the landed gentry, they would have felt more comfortable in the kitchen preparing the food rather than, sitting at umbrella-shaded patio tables, sipping beer, wine or a variety of liqueurs and being entertained by a six piece *kaimo kapela* while the food was being laid out on a magnificent buffet table manned by chef-uniformed attendants. Yes, there were red, white and blue balloons, plates and napkins to commemorate the day, and we gave the band a break, for an interlude of American and Lithuanian patriotic songs, before resuming the dancing and singing and feasting. We even



"Bajoriškas" Bufetas <sup>7</sup>

found out that *medžiotojų dešrelė* in a split *bandele* slathered with *mustardas* and *kečupas* were acceptable substitutes for hot dogs. The "picnic" was held on the patio of a party pavilion in a wooded area just yards from the sandy Baltic beach. The weather was great; the ambience - fantastic; the food - ample and delicious; the liquid refreshments - more than ample. The picnic had been planned to be one of the highlights of the tour and it exceeded all expectations.

Another pleasant surprise awaited us at the hotel. Two groups, the Šiaulai men's chorus of Palanga and "Svaja" the Women's chorus of Kretinga, both directed by *Aloyzas Žilys*, combined to present an evening choral concert in the hotel auditorium. It may have originally been planned as a final rehearsal for the song festival which was to begin two days later; but it developed into a full dress concert in honor of their American guests - with the men in their uniforms and the women in concert gowns. To acknowledge our holiday, there was a short postlude with a rendition of "America, the Beautiful" led by Al Brazis and played by the Lithuanian pianist who had

accompanied the choruses yet played the American songs without the benefit of sheet music or scores to follow.

**KLAIPĖDA AND POINTS EAST**  
We bid farewell to the beautiful coastal resort area of Lithuania the following day, but not before another interlude of what else but amber and other souvenir shopping in Klaipėda. The open mart in the town center drew the largest crowds, but the few quality handicraft stores along the sides of the square did get their share of the tourist dollars.

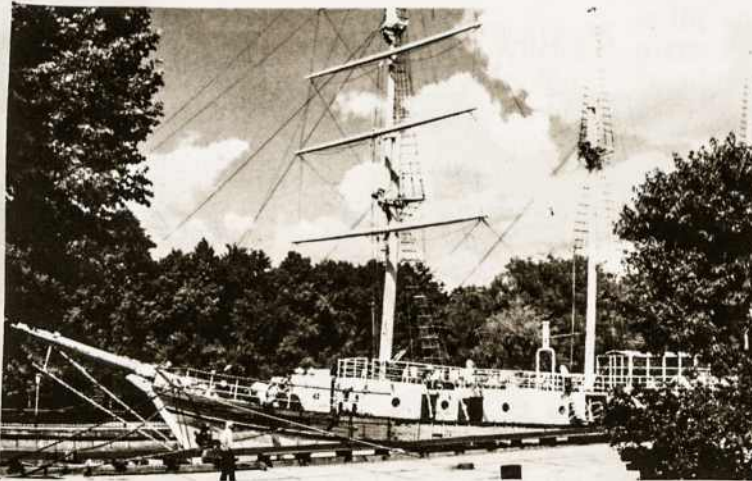
The main feature of the square is a fountain topped by a statue of a beautiful young girl, Anna from Tharau (a town now called Vladimirov in the Kaliningrad district). The statue was originally erected in 1912, destroyed during the war, completely recast and re-installed in 1989. The fountain is dedicated to Memel (Klaipėda) born German poet Simon Dach (1605-1659) who reportedly had fallen in love with the girl and composed poetry and songs in her honor.



Amerikos "Bajorai" <sup>8</sup>

While in Klaipėda, we visited the Clock Museum, which has an interesting display of timepieces of all sizes and shapes, reflecting both primitive ingenuity and modern technology. Because of its limited capacity for tourists, half the group at a time visited the museum. The rest strolled in Mažvydas Sculpture Park, a short distance away. Much like Witch's Mountain, the park is dotted with wooden sculptures. These works, although largely in the primitive style, were far less whimsical than those on the Mountain. This was, perhaps, appropriate because until 1977 the park had been the central cemetery of Klaipėda. An inscription in Lithuanian on a plaque at the main entrance reads: "The red terror did not only annihilate the living but also those who were already dead and it did not stop before the Klaipėda cemetery."

For the mid-day meal, we stopped at the *Meridianas*, a three-masted schooner which has been permanently moored on the southern bank of the Danė river. It has also been converted into a restaurant and sometimes disco (fortunately we did not have to contend with the disco part although there was subdued Lithuanian rock as background music). With a relatively new exterior paint job, it was among the more picturesque of the eating places that we visited.



„(Ne)Plaukia sau laivelis...“ 9

That afternoon we had a reprise of one of the most memorable events of the previous K of L excursion to Lithuania, a concert by POLIFONIJA in the Tytuvėnai church. This year the concert had a significantly different theme, consisting of modern works as well as some non-religious works as opposed to last years mostly Mozart program. This year we had an additional treat in having our own Al Brazis perform Franck's "Panis Angelicus" in Lithuanian with choral accompaniment. The performance was excellent from all aspects; POLIFONIJA, the State Chamber Choir of the city of Šiauliai, is indeed a world-class choral group.

After a short visit to the Chapel of the Apparition at Šiluva, we continued on to Panevėžys for an overnight stop. The newly reopened and refurbished hotel (having repaired the extensive damage caused by a fairly recent bomb detonation in the elevator shaft) offered another pleasant surprise. The modern dining room/night club provided world class entertainment with a live show worthy of a Las Vegas club. The show featured *Birute Petrikyte* and her daughter, *Angelina*. They sang duets as well as solos, and were backed-up by a troupe of about six dancers who also appeared singly and in varying size groups. One might note that with each successive number the dancers appeared with scantier and scantier costumes but never quite reached the point of complete bareness.

We had come to Lithuania for the Song Festival and within the span of a week we had experienced a true festival of song from plaintive folk, through classic choral, religious and sacred music to popular rock show tunes.

The long drive to Vilnius began the next morning. But before we left northern Lithuania, we made



*Kryžių Kalnas* (Hill of Crosses) - K of L Cross is in center of this view.

a stop at *Kryžių Kalnas* to offer a prayer at the now year-old K of L cross and be reinspired at that place of indomitable faith. There was a slight detour in Šiauliai as we attempted to locate the family home/birthplace of *Danguole Jurgutis*, one of our group. Disappointingly, the house was no longer standing.

In the churchyard of Šiauliai's Church of Sts. Peter and Paul, we found a newly erected monument to the deportees who had perished in exile. It was a pyramid of rocks about five feet high - each rock was inscribed with the name of the deportee, the place of exile and the date of death. A similar, but much larger, monument has also been constructed in Vilnius, adjacent to what had been the KGB headquarters.

Stopping for the mid-day meal in Šeduva at a converted old wind-mill, we continued our gastronomic tour of old Lithuania. The mill is located in the middle of farming land which gave our city-dwelling tourists an opportunity to get up-close and familiar with an astonished cow that lowed loudly in response to the unexpected attention. A couple of enterprising youngsters, equipped with buckets of water and some rags, had set up a car washing service in the restaurant parking lot. Our large tour buses were too intimidating, so they sat and waited in glum dejection



"... *Palikome mes kryžkelėj viską, ka tik turėjom. Jaunystę, juoką, ašaros ir tuos kuriuos mylėjom...*" <sup>10</sup>

*The view at the Baltic Sea  
was EYE CATCHING!*

Ronnie Heitkamp  
Council 96, Dayton

since our group had filled the restaurant. Several cars of late diners were pulling in as we left, so perhaps, their day was not a bust.

#### VILNIUS

We arrived in Vilnius in late afternoon and immediately sensed the festive mood and an air of holiday. A number of women and men were dressed in national costumes. There was a day (and night) long folk festival on Cathedral Square just a few blocks from our hotel, although the formal Song Festival was to officially begin in Kaunas on the following day.

We checked into the hotel and made our way to supper at one of Vilnius' newer posh restaurants, the *Juoda Raudona* (The Black and Red). Ensnconced in the basement of what had been the Communist Youth League (KOMSOMOL) headquarters, it is popular with diplomatic and foreign business personnel. Surprisingly, it also was one of the few disappointments in food service. The ambience was excellent, subdued lighting, crisp linens on the table, tuxedo-ed waiters, etc.; but, the service was spotty and through some misunderstanding of what was available, a number of the group had ordered caviar filled crepes. The crepes were delicious but were appetizer-sized and left some still hungry.

After dinner, we wandered over to Cathedral Square where the festivities were still in full swing. Musical groups, bands, vocal groups and dancers from the outlying parts of Lithuania were performing sequentially on a temporary stage set up at one end of the square. At other parts of the square and in the adjacent park area improvisational groups

of singers, dancer and players were performing to the enjoyment and sometimes participation of onlookers. The formal ceremonies had not yet occurred but the festival had started and continued into the night. At Vilnius's latitude, night does not get very dark or last very long in mid-summer.

There were three major events in Vilnius to mark the festival. On Friday, there was the *Ansamblių Vakarai* (The evening of Ensembles), which started at 10 PM and featured both singers and dancers in a series of beautifully choreographed displays of folkloric art. It took place in Kalnų Parkas, a natural amphitheater with bleacher type seats along the inner slope of a ring of hills. The flat grassy open space in the center was large enough to accommodate several hundred dancers.

Saturday was "the Day of Dance." Activity focused on the Žalgiris soccer stadium. With a general theme of "We were, We are, We will be", the dance program was highly choreographed to build a sort of chronological framework to dance. It began with with a prologue ritualistic dance around the sacred

*It will be an experience I'll treasure  
always. I had a wonderful time.*

Katerina Coard  
Baltimore, MD

fire which was brought in by white robed "vestal virgins" and placed on a stone pyre in the center of the stadium. The dance continued with the men in balletic mock battle movements. The program finally gave way to the more familiar folk dances which symbolically represent the actions of daily life from sowing to reaping to weaving and courting. Elder dance groups joined in to participate for a group of "family dances" with the more courtly quadrilles and line dances.

Then as the Lithuania-born native dancers

retreated from the field, dancers from the Lithuanian diaspora took their place. For the first time in Lithuanian history, Lithuanians from Argentina, Australia, Belarus, Canada, Germany, Latvia, Poland, Russia, Ukraine, the United States had come together in their Tėvyne to celebrate their cultural oneness. Even the light rain, which had begun as they entered the field, could not dampen their enthusiasm nor the wildly appreciative acclaim of the audience which now included many of the native dancers who had remained on the sidelines to watch.

Finally, all the dancers, native and visiting; young and old, came together to completely fill the playing field in an exuberant reprise of Lithuanian traditional dances typical of a Saturday night village party.

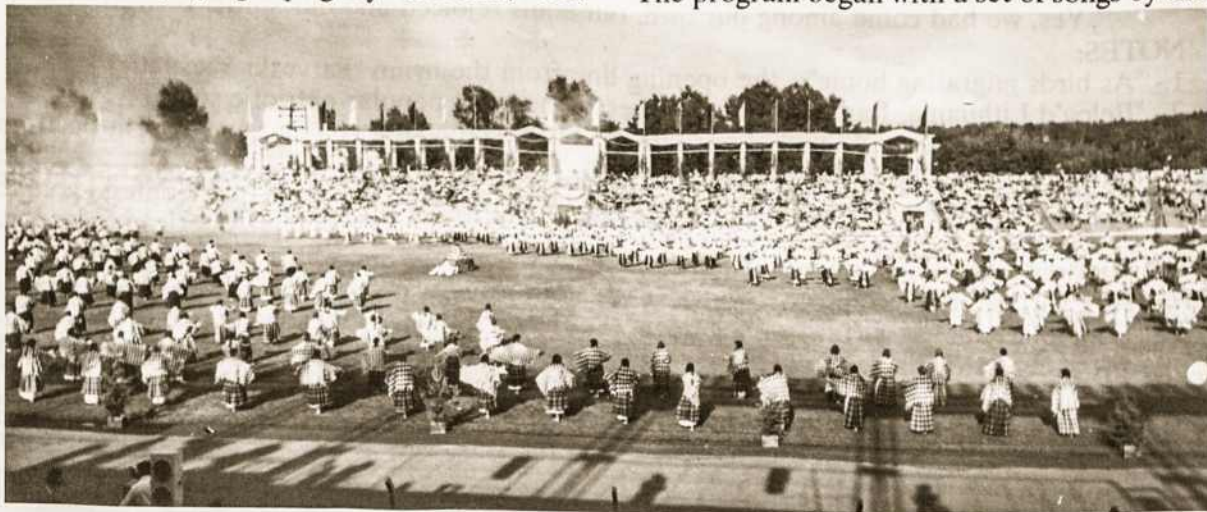
The culmination of the festival came on Sunday. It started with a parade of singers that formed in Cathedral Square, progressed down Gedimino pospektas and eventually entered Vingis Park. The parade took two and a half hours to pass our vantage point in front of the Neringa Hotel. The paraders were dressed in national costumes; concert dress and some (mostly the Americans and Canadians) in jeans and sport shoes.

Between the singers came bands from all over Lithuania playing sprightly marches, folk

melodies and even some Souza. The groups sang as they marched, the bands played, the majorettes strutted and twirled their batons. Repeatedly, the onlookers shouted a "valio" as they recognized groups. Each section carried banners proclaiming their point of origin, which also brought a round of cheers. The acclaim was especially enthusiastic for the American groups which drew cheers from all the onlookers. For ourselves, we watched most of the parade from in front of the Neringa Hotel, then jumped into our bus to ride to Vingis Park.

The area immediately in front of the sound stage (or band shell) had been roped off and temporary benches set up for reserved seating (which I suspect was largely occupied by visitors and tourists). The areas to the sides and behind the reserved seating were open to the public and filled with local residents and visitors from outlying cities and villages. Once the concert began, it didn't really matter where you were seated - the sound system was excellent and the real spectacle was the sound of thousands of massed choristers united in song.

The Festival of Song began with the lighting of a symbolic flame, high atop the stage structure. The torch to light the flame was carried by American-born *Darius Polikaitis*. The program began with a set of songs by the



„...Žemėj visoį dar tokio vakaro nebuvo...“ 11



„Supinsiu dainužė iš meilės jausmų“<sup>12</sup>

combined mixed choirs. This was followed by few songs by the men's choruses; then one selection for men and boys choir. As the singers took a rest, an intermission was filled with band music played by the massed wind instrument and percussion bands. The songs resumed with women's choruses, followed by children's and youth groups. The program ended with a massing of all the participants in one huge unified choral group. I heard estimates that there were something like 17,000 singers brought together on the stage. It was at this point that our own (Honorary

Member Candidate) *Faustas Strolia* came to the podium to direct this massive group in a performance of his own arrangement of his father's music, *Parveski, Viešpatie* (Bring us home, Lord). Out of the 39 participating conductors, Faustas was one of three privileged to conduct their own composition or arrangement.

It was, is and will be unforgettable. We had another day and a half in Vilnius and a side trip to Druskininkai, but it all seemed so anticlimactic.

„Leiskit į Tėvynę, Leiskit pas savus, Ten pradžiugs krūtinė, atgaivins jausmus.“

Yes, we had come among our own; our souls rejoiced and our spirits revived.

NOTES:

\* \* \*

- 1.- "As birds migrating home" - the opening line from the hymn "Parveski Viešpatie"
- 2.- "Belov'd Lithuania, Land of my forefathers" The most popular patriotic song.
- 3.- "Lithuania! Lithuania! Land of our fathers' birth. Truly, it was a pleasure to visit our free Lithuania. May it prosper forever!"
- 4.- "Land where heroes repose in their graves; not in vain did our forefathers defend you."
- 5.- "Softly and peacefully flows the Niemen" Opening line of a Lithuanian-American folk song.
- 6.- "He was a good host" modification to popular folksong - "She was a good hostess."
- 7.- A "lordly" buffet.
- 8.- The American "gentry."
- 9.- "The lone sailboat is (not) sailing down the river." Popular folk song (without the "not").
- 10.- From "Ir Tas Dulkėtas Traukinys" (And that dust-covered Train). Song of deportees. "On our 'Way of the Cross' we left behind all we had: Youth, Laughter, Tears and those we loved."
- 11.- From *Vakaro Šokis* (Evening dance). "In all this land, there never was such an evening."
- 12.- Folk song title: "I'll weave a little song from the strands of love."



# SING LITHUANIAN - DAINUOKIME LIETUVIŠKAI

## KALNIŠKĖS MŪŠIS

Partizanų daina \*)

Alfonas MIKULSKIS

Grave ♩=40

VYRŲ  
CHORAS

1. Kai ge - gu - žy žie - dus sklei - dé o - be - lys lau - kuos, lau - kuos,  
 2. Ko - von sto - jo par - ti - za - nai - lais - vės va - na - gai, ka - riai,  
 3. Ir pra - bi - lo gink - lai mū - sų ug - ni - mi karš - ta, karš - ta,  
 4. Did - vy - riai ko - vo - je kri - to per - ver - ta šir - dim. šir - dim,  
 5. Se - se, pink vai - ni - ką rū - tų, at - nešk pa - slap - čia, slap - čia,

*mf - p*

žiau - rūs prie - šai mus ap - su - po Kal - niš - kės miš - kuos, miš - kuos;  
 už tē - vy - nės lais - vę bran - gią ko - vė - si nar - siai, nar - siai;  
 kri - to prie - šo tan - kios ei - lės - re - tē - jo gre - ta, gre - ta;  
 iš krū - ti - nių sru - vo krau - jas - ak, kul - ka žiau - ri, žiau - ri;  
 bro - li, juo - dą me - džio kry - žių pa - sta - tyk nak - čia, nak - čia;

1. kuos. —  
 siai. —  
 ta. —  
 ri! —  
 čia. —

2. kuos. —  
 siai. —  
 ta. —  
 ri! —  
 čia. —

\*) Iš partizanų J. Daumanto-Skrajuono užrašė A. Mikulskis.

## ANT KALNO KLEVELIS

Liaudies daina

Kazys Viktoras BANAITIS

Larghetto  $\text{♩} = 60$ MIŠRUS  
CHORAS

1. Ant kal-no kle-ve-lis sto - vė - jo. ant kal-no kle-ve-lis sto - vė - jo,  
 2. Kle-ve-lio la-pe-liai mir - gė - jo, kle-ve-lio la-pe-liai mir - gė - jo,  
 3. Bro-le-lis žir-ge-lj bal - no - jo, bro-le-lis žir-ge-lj bal - no - jo,  
 4. Su sa-vo mer-ge-le kal - bė - jo, su sa-vo mer-ge-le kal - bė - jo,

più mosso  $\text{♩} = 104$ 

ant kal-no kle-ve-lis, ant kal-no kle-ve-lis, ant kal - no kle-ve - lis sto - vė - jo,  
 kle-ve-lio la-pe-liai, kle-ve-lio la-pe-liai, kle-ve - lio la-pe - liai, mir - gė - jo,  
 bro-le-lis žir-ge-lj, bro-le-lis žir-ge-lj, bro-le - lis žir-ge - lj, bal - no - jo,  
 su sa-vo mer-ge-le, su sa-vo mer-ge-le, su sa-vo mer-ge - le, kal - bė - jo,  
 vai sto - vė - jo,  
 vai mir - gė - jo,  
 vai bal - no - jo,  
 vai kal - bė - jo.

1. Ant kal-no kle-ve-lis, ant kal-no kle-ve-lis, ant kal - no kle-ve-lis, ant kal-no kle-ve - lis,  
 2. Kle-ve-lio la-pe-liai, kle-ve-lio la-pe-liai, kle-ve - lio la-pe-liai, kle-ve-lio la-pe - liai,  
 3. Bro-le-lis žir-ge-lj, bro-le-lis žir-ge-lj, bro-le - lis žir-ge-lj, bro-le - lis žir-ge - lj,  
 4. Su sa-vo mer-ge-le, su sa-vo mer-ge-le, su sa - vo mer-ge-le, su sa-vo mer-ge - le,

ant kal-no kle-ve-lis, ant kal-no kle-ve-lis, ant kal - no kle-ve - lis sto - vė - jo.  
 kle-ve-lio la-pe-liai, kle-ve-lio la-pe-liai, kle-ve - lio la-pe - liai, mir - gė - jo.  
 bro-le-lis žir-ge-lj, bro-le-lis žir-ge-lj, bro-le - lis žir-ge - lj, bal - no - jo.  
 su sa-vo mer-ge-le, su sa-vo mer-ge-le, su sa - vo mer-ge-le, kal - bė - jo.

ant - kal - no kle - ve - lis, kle - ve - lis sto - vė - jo.  
 kle - ve - lio la - pe - liai, la - pe - liai mir - gė - jo.  
 bro - le - lis žir - ge - lj, žir - ge - lj bal - no - jo.  
 su sa - vo mer - ge - le, mer - ge - le kal - bė - jo.

kle - ve - lis sto - vė - jo.  
 la - pe - liai mir - gė - jo.  
 žir - ge - lj bal - no - jo.  
 mer - ge - le kal - bė - jo.

## TĒVYNĒS MARŠS

N. Girginaitė

Giedra GUDAUSKIENĒ

LYGŪS  
BALSAI

1. Ten gra-žu-sis mū-sų Vil-nius,  
 2. Ten Pa-lan-gos jū-ra ū-žia,  
 3. Kau - nas, Vil-nius ir Tra - kai

PIANO



Ge - di-mi-no pa-sta - ty - tas.  
 pa - da - vi-mų gar-są sklei-džia,  
 tai did - vy-rių mūs ta - kai.

Ten slap-tin-gas, aukš-tas kal - nas bo-čių  
 Ten so - dy-bos ir miš - kai, ten ga -  
 Ten sva - jo - nės ir vil - tis, ten kas -



Ša - tri - ja pra - min - tas.  
 lin - gi mil - ži - nai.  
 die - ną mūs šir - dis.

Ša - tri - ja pra - min - tas.  
 lin - gi mil - ži - nai.  
 die - ną mūs šir - dis.



# ŠIRDIS DAR ŽYDI

P. Lembertas \*)

Juozas BERTULIS

Vyrių chorui aranžavo J. Štarka

Maršo tempas

VYRIŲ  
CHORAS

*mf poco a poco cresc.*

1. Šir - dis dar žy - di, dar jau - na, skam - bėk, ai - dėk šau - ni dai - tu, ir jis, ir aš, ir pil - na; ir kil - ki tau - ré skli - di - na: šir - dis dar žy - di, dar jau - na; ir tu - šir - dy taip ge - ra, taip jau - ku, kad jaust i - mi ne tik už du; šir - va, mūs pa - ly - do - vė am - ži - na su - skam - ba vėl vil - čių pil - na; mūs.

*f* *sub. p*

na, ir kil - ki tau - ré skli - di - na: šir - dis dar žy - di, dar jau - na; ir tu - šir - dy taip ge - ra, taip jau - ku, kad jaust i - mi ne tik už du; šir - va, mūs pa - ly - do - vė am - ži - na su - skam - ba vėl vil - čių pil - na; mūs

*f*

kil - ki tau - ré skli - di - na: šir - dis dar žy - di, dar jau - na; ir dy taip ge - ra, taip jau - ku, kad jaust i - mi ne tik už du... pa - ly - do - vė am - ži - na vėl su - skam - ba vil - čių pil - na.

\*) Originalas parašytas J. Žengės eilėraščiui "NEBIJOM NIEKO". Jo žodžiai tinka ir šiai aranžuotei.

**IN MEMORIAM**

a.†a.

Frances Mueller C-10  
May 20, 1994

a.†a.

Jeanne Bruzga C-86  
June 11, 1994

a.†a.

HM Stasys Lozoraitis  
June 13, 1994

a.†a.

Josephine Juzenas C-112  
June 8, 1994

a.†a.

Annacetta Guzieles C-100  
June 1, 1994

a.†a.

Stephen Contons C-17  
June 6, 1994

a.†a.

Regina Schmidt C-29  
June 21, 1994

a.†a.

Nell Stancavage C-144  
June 19, 1994

a.†a.

Steve Rudokas C-36  
July 6, 1994

a.†a.

Walter Yurkus C-12  
August 25, 1994

a.†a.

William Statkevicius C-109  
August 8, 1994

a.†a.

HM Jack Sharkey  
August 16, 1994

a.†a.

Joseph Shukitt C-144  
June 14, 1994

a.†a.

Catherine Dobar C-29  
September 10, 1994

a.†a.

Anthony Gelchus C-90  
September 25, 1994

a.†a.

Casimir Yakavonis C-29  
September 27, 1994

a.†a.

Anele Balbota C-153  
October 14, 1994

a.†a.

Clarence Micknis C-86  
September 18, 1994

*Amžinaji Atilsj duok mirusiems, Višpatie  
ir amžinoji šviesa jiems tešviečia.  
Tegu ilsis ramybėje. Amen.*

## Thanksgiving Day at Four Corners by Antonia M. Wackell

Our earliest recollection of Thanksgiving is linked with a group of small children asking each other - "Is your father working on Thanksgiving Day?"

If the answer was - no - then all was well. But if the answer was yes - then shocked disapproving voices harped - " He shouldn't be working on Thanksgiving Day ! " or " It's Thanksgiving Day ! Doesn't he know it ? " as though the parent was planning to commit an offense against a law that had to be immediately clarified for him to be set right.

Children felt that it was important for the fathers to be home on Thanksgiving day - It's a family day when everyone thanks God for everything like on Sunday ! - an that was that.

Somehow Thanksgiving Day at Four Corners ( a four-street community of many nationalities ) was not anticipated with intense excitement. There was nothing festive before the day's arrival; nothing wonderful in the air. There was no enchantment for children like the coming of Christmas; it was just another day with a special name attached to it on which fathers either worked or did not work.

To be sure, Thanksgiving festivals were customarily set aside in their native countries and celebrated in many ways at the conclusion of harvest seasons. But, in this newly adopted country whose regional history, customs and habits they were slowly learning, Thanksgiving Day at first held little meaning for them. Families then consisted of young, very homesick parents with child or two, and like the pilgrims who settled the Massachusetts wilderness in the 17th Century, they too came to these shores for the same reasons at the end of the 19th and the beginning of the 20th Century.

## Meaning Came Later

In time, they learned the significance of the great American Day, and we were thankful for the freedom and security that a quiet Massachusetts city had offered to them. They learned to cherish America, its history, traditions, customs and Thanksgiving Day.

Once children knew its origin, pupils looked forward each year to the play and tableaux depicting the landing of the Pilgrims produced ( in costumes of course ! ) by various classrooms. The outstanding feature of the school activities, however, was the day set aside for the Thanksgiving Day food baskets.

## Food for the Needy

A few days before Thanksgiving Day, school children returning for the afternoon session came laden with bags of potatoes, bags of flour, cranberries, heads of cabbage, squash, turnips, parsnips, carrots tea, cocoa, crackers or something canned ( limited variety in those days ) and placed them carefully in one corner of the classroom.

Later those donations were divided into separate bags or baskets and still later they were delivered to the less fortunate families. We were assured that although a turkey would not be included in the basket, nevertheless, families would find a chicken, a roast of some kind or something else with the staples. We never knew who received these baskets or who was entrusted with the work of delivering them to the needy families.

## " Over the River "

We enjoyed the special programs in the school hall, when all the grades in the building were called to hear recitations and listen to invited speakers talk about the Pilgrims and Thanksgiving Day. The high point in the program came when student voices - soft, young, high-pitched, loud and gruff, blended into one as they recited

" The Landing of the Pilgrim Fathers in New England " and the delightful lilted poem - " over the river and through the woods to grandfather's house we go..."

The hall seemed to vibrate with happy, healthy voices. To many of our schoolmates - Grandfather's House - were only words that appeared in the poem, for the majority of them had never seen their grandfather's home across the ocean, yet they recited the lines with such enthusiasm and pleasure as to make one feel that they would be riding to Grandfather's house " over the white and drifting snow....."

### In the Kitchen

Thanksgiving Days dawned frosty and cold, or dreary and dark, with a promise of snow, but only a scattering of snowflakes fell. We could never decide whether the snow came too late for Thanksgiving Day or Thanksgiving Day came too soon for the snow.

The morning hours outside were quiet, but they were busy hours in the kitchens. The wood burning stoves did their best to cook, to roast and to maintain uniform temperatures for baking. The turkey, a symbol of the feast, was a desirable dish, but it was not a popular item on the housewife's list. They were not plentiful at the time. The prices ranged up to 78 cents per pound, a price that did not meet with a budget's approval.

### Turkeys unsought

Once, our favorite grocer, in order to have a wide variety of holiday meats, included among his order of geese, ducks, chickens, suckling pigs and roasts - two stout toms, handsome for both the eyes and the appetites.

Before sundown, the store refrigerator ( called an ice box then ) was completely emptied of all the meats but for one lonely bird left hanging on the hook. Housewives who came in to make last minute purchases of fruits, nuts and ruby jelly, could not be prevailed upon to even bargain with the grocer for the turkey and the last cake of ice in the refrigerator was melting fast away !

Objections and reasons as to why they could shoulder the tom turkey were repetitious:

The turkey was too big;

The ice box at home was too small or else they lacked that essential piece of furniture.

Consequently on that Thanksgiving Day we had an additional course to our dinner - we thoroughly enjoyed the right side of that unwanted turkey, while its left side graced our cousin's dinner table.

**Happy Thanksgiving to all !!!!!!!**



# EAT LITHUANIAN - VALGOME LIETUVIŠKAI

## Beržo Šaka Birch Log

9 Egg Yolks  
10 Egg Whites  
1 1/2 cups sugar  
1 3/4 cup flour  
1 tsp. baking powder  
2 tbsps. fresh lemon juice  
grated rind of 1 lemon.

### Filling:

1 lb dried prunes  
1/2 cup butter  
1 cup sugar  
2 tbsps. cocoa or 1 square  
cooking chocolate

2 egg yolks  
1 tsp. vanilla  
Filling preparation: Boil the prunes until soft. Strain, remove pits. Force pulp through sieve or food mill. Cream sugar and butter, add yolks, beat well. Add prune pulp, vanilla and cocoa or melted chocolate. Beat well.

Cake preparation: Cream yolks and sugar. Add lemon juice and rind. Beat egg whites until stiff add to first mixture alternately with sifted flour and baking powder. Pour into jelly roll or cookie tin lined with greased wax paper. Bake 15-20 minutes at 350 deg. Mark off and reserve 1/3 of the cake; place the rest on a pastry cloth or dish towel, spread with filling and roll up like a jelly roll. Roll the

reserved portion of the cake into 3 or 4 smaller rolls (the branches) of unequal thickness. Cut one end of each roll diagonally, attach to the large roll (the log) with icing at different angles to imitate stubs of branches. Frost the entire surface with white frosting. Make birch-bark markings with chocolate icing.

batter (about one inch thick) into baking pan. Bake 30 mins at 350 deg. For a moister cake when one sprinkle top with sweetened water to which rum or rum flavoring has been added. Spread top of cake with fruit puree or with the prune filling used in the Birch Log recipe. Sprinkle with chopped almonds. Cut into triangular pieces for serving

## Meduolis Honey Cake

1 cup honey  
1 cup sugar  
1 cup sour cream  
4 eggs  
2 tbsps. melted butter  
3 cups flour  
2 tbsps baking soda  
1 tbsps mixed spices  
cinnamon  
cloves  
pepper  
ginger  
cardamon  
grated rind of lemon  
grated rind of orange  
1/2 cup almonds

Beat honey, gradually adding sugar and cream. Beat in eggs one at a time. Sift flour and soda. Add flour, spices and butter gradually to honey mixture, beating constantly. For a richer color, a 3 tbsps caramelized sugar. Pour

## Citrininė Boba Lemon Torte

3 lemons  
2 cups flour  
1 cup potato flour  
4 cups sugar  
24 egg whites

Simmer whole lemons in water until they are quite soft when tested with a toothpick. Remove from water. Cool. Cut into small pieces, removing seeds. Mash lemons, adding sugar. Fold in egg whites which have been beaten stiff. Gradually add sifted flour and potato flour, stirring in one direction. Pour into a torte pan greased with butter. Bake one hour in moderate oven.



## Ėžiukai Porcupines

10 egg yolks  
12 egg whites  
1 1/2 cups sugar  
1 1/2 cup poppy seed  
1 cup white bread crumbs  
1 tbsp. melted butter  
1/2 tsp. vanilla  
grated lemon rind  
1/2 cup almonds

Cream yolks and sugar. Add parboiled and drained poppy seed which has been sprinkled with a little flour and potato starch. Add egg whites beaten stiff. Combine well with all other ingredients except for almonds. Bake in shallow cake tins 20-30 mins at 350 deg. Cut a foundation piece of cake in outline form of a porcupine. Spread with filling, build up into a rounded porcupine body using progressively smaller cut pieces of cake, spreading each layer with filling. Shape carefully to resemble a porcupine. Cut a small round piece of the cake for the head. Attach to body with a toothpick. Use cloves for the eyes. Ice entire cake. Prepare almond quills, insert all over the form to resemble porcupine quills.

*Almond quills:* Soak Almonds. Peel. Cut into lengthwise slivers. Brown very slightly in oven.

*Filling:* Beat 5 eggs in top of double boiler. While the eggs are heating, gradually stir in 1 3/8 cup sugar. Heat and stir until thick. Cream 1 3/8 cup of butter.

Cool eggs, slowly beat in the creamed butter, a little at a time. Add vanilla or other flavoring.

*Icing:* Boil together 2 cups sugar, 1/2 cup water and 1 tsp. lemon juice until quite thick. Beat well.

## Napoleonas

4 cups flour  
1 lb. lightly salted butter  
1 pint sour cream

Sift flour onto pastry board. With pastry blender or two knives gradually cut softened butter into flour until crumbly. Blend in sour cream. With hands form dough into 11 or 12 egg-sized round balls. Refrigerate overnight in covered bowl. Before baking let dough stand at room temperature about 15 minutes. Roll each ball almost wafer thin on a very lightly floured board. Roughly fit into a 12 inch ungreased pie pan. Prick all over with a fork. Bake each layer at 350 degrees 4 to 5 minutes. Cool. Stack layers atop each other. With a very sharp knife, even the sides, saving trimmings for crumbs. Put layers together with filling.

**Filling:**

1 1/2 lb unsalted butter  
2 cups powdered sugar  
8 egg yolks  
1 pkg. vanilla pudding mix  
2 cups milk  
1/2 cup half and half

or

Carnation milk

2 tsp. vanilla  
juice of 1 lemon

Cream butter, yolks and sugar. Stir pudding mix into one cup cold milk. Bring to boil, stirring constantly. Gradually pour and stir pudding into butter and yolks. Scald and slowly pour in 1 cup milk, cream and vanilla. Slowly add heated lemon juice. Cool. Spread about 1 tbsp. between each layer. Frost sides and top with same filling, sprinkle with finely crumbed layer trimmings. Several layers may be spread with stewed apricots, apple puree or berry preserves.



## Junior's Corner

by Fran Petkus  
SC Third Vice-President

In the next several issues of VYTIS, I plan to run a series of success stories involving the Junior Knights. Actually anyone who has been a Junior Knight, whether he/she chooses to "move or not to move" into the regular council, with the "seed" of their Lithuanian heritage embedded is a success in itself.

In the late 1930's early 1940's C-96 Dayton, OH had a junior council. Many of these Juniors joined the regular council when they became of age. Several of these Juniors are now deceased and some did not move into the regular council. There are three Juniors from this period of time still members and I will share what has developed from this.

Jimmy Kavaliauskas has been active until health problems slowed him down. Jimmy is a Second Degree Knight participated in council sports and worked on many committees. Upon his marriage to Joan, we gained a very active associate member. In turn their children Diane and Andy were Juniors and council members at one time and have taken part in council functions when not members. The family all belong to Holy Cross Lithuanian Roman Catholic Church.

Patronella (Pat) Zelinskas nka Patronella (Pat) Alexaner upon moving into the regular council has been active "forever". Pat has been on too many committees to list, but at one point in time she was on the Supreme Council Lithuanian Affairs Committee. Pat has attended many district and national conventions. Pat was instrumental in what later became our annual Christmas Carolling to the shut-ins and elderly of the parish. The project began with hosting socials/bingo at the Dayton State Mental Health hospital. Pat is a Fourth Degree Knight and has moved to C-7 Waterbury, CT upon her marriage to Tony. She is now chair of

C-7's Lithuanian Affairs Committee.

Eleanor Petkus Mantz is also a Fourth Degree Knight. She, too, has been on too many committees to list on a council and district level. Eleanor has been president of C-96 and has attended many district and national conventions. Upon her marriage to Joseph we gained another very active associate member. Joe is also a Fourth Degree Knight. Their 5 children all, at one point in time have been members of the Juniors with 3 remaining in the regular council. One daughter, Barbara Mantz Coecke is our council Treasurer. She is a Second Degree Knight and her 2 children have been a part of the Juniors. Julie Coecke, a K of L Scholarship recipient is now the council Bulletin Editor. Cathy Mantz Roberts and her husband Jerry, an associate member, with Jerry being in the military are part of our out of town members. Christine Mantz Fletcher, a Fourth Degree Knight, has been council president, sports participant and on too many committees to list. Her husband is a Third Degree Knight who at times belonged to the Juniors. Joe has been on too many committees to list and has been our council Sports Chairperson for many years. Their one son, Alex, is in the Juniors. Chris and Joe, themselves, have been Junior Advisors in the past.

As you can see, such can come from a Junior Council. The Mantz family is now a Third Generation Junior Knights.

Starting a Junior Council does take time, effort, patience and dedication. Having a Junior Council can happen! Contact the Supreme Council Third Vice-President or your district's Junior Advisor. Share your stories with me for publication.





## ACT LITHUANIAN - VEIKIME LIETUVIŠKAI

### NEW ENGLAND DISTRICT

Retreat Briefs - This year's cool rainy weather kept many of the retreatants in the confines of the Guest House Friday and Saturday evenings -either playing games in the reception room or exchanging pleasantries with friends. The conferences with Retreat Master Fr. Jurgelaitis, and the dining room were also in the same building, making it easy to ignore the weather conditions for a couple of days. Sunday and Monday were absolutely beautiful - the best! Fr. Jurgelaitis's themes were interesting and informative making the sessions enjoyable. To begin, he invited the Holy Spirit to fill our hearts and kindle in them the fire of His love. He also asked St. Paul to join us and reminded everyone to be proud to be children of God. We were cautioned to seriously weigh the teachings of some college professors and school teachers who are trying to destroy the unity of faith. There is a dangerous wave of disobedience, he said, among us all - clergy, religious, teenagers, young adults and seniors. We must show God that we love Him by love for our family, our neighbor and fellow workers. Pope John Paul II wants everyone to read the New Baltimore Catechism. A Christian life is LOVE - do nothing to sadden the Holy Spirit. Fr. Jurgelaitis encouraged us to seek the Sacrament of Reconciliation more frequently. God's power works through Sacraments. We go to confession because God is calling us -- do not reject this Sacrament, but let God change our lives -- "Let go - Let God". Father ended the Friday conference with, "Aren't you glad to have St. Paul as Retreat Master tonight?" If we go home with just a little bit better understanding of how good God is, this retreat will have been worthwhile.



Rev. Jurgelaitis speaks at the NED Retreat  
Kennebunkport, ME

Sunday Noon, NED President Bertha Stoskus presented Fr. Jurgelaitis with a card and gift plus our warm wishes for his 50th Anniversary in God's service as a Priest. A hearty "Ilgiausiu Metu" was followed by Father's famous "Aciu, aciū--aciuciū aciū" -- as only he can sing it. A little more singing followed because Helen and Stan Dallalis were celebrating their 45th Wedding Anniversary - and two birthdays were discovered. Happy birthday to Jack DeGennero and Sophie Putrimas, both of Council-141. The beautiful - artistically decorated - cake was wheeled in by the talented kitchen crew. Delicious!!!



C-26 President HM Rita Pinkus holding the newest NED Member Miss Cote ( C-1 )

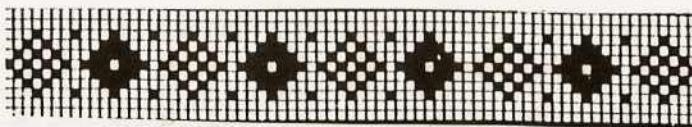
Victor and Bea Mathieu were not with us this year. They celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary in a big way. Bless you and Congratulations! Missing and missed were former NED President and his lovely wife, Al Akule and Pat. We offer our prayers for the return of your good health.

The three "best friends" from C-26 Worcester again modeled some lovely look-alike outfits for our enjoyment. Nice planning Aldona Waska, Lillian Kondrotas, and Victoria Augustine.

One more successful Lithuanian we can be proud of -- a cousin of Aldona Kropis (of South Boston) - we discovered - began the chain of "Weathervane" Seafood Restaurants found in Maine, New Hampshire, and Massachusetts with just a small shack and look at them now!!! Congratulations and continued success.

Hopefully, we will meet again in Waterbury on October 2 for the NED Fall Convention and in Shrewsbury (Maironis Park) on October 23 for the annual Cultural Festival. A happy and blessed summer to all!

Su vytiska meile, Aldona Marcavage



## C-7 WATERBURY, CT

Council 7 ended its last meeting in June with a guest speaker, Mr. Ed LaFrance. He spoke to us about basic first aid and CPR. He gave simple instructions about conducting first aid and the use of rubber gloves when first aid or CPR. Mr. LaFrance teaches classes in first aid and CPR for Northeast Utilities and does private lessons for people who would like to learn proper techniques of doing CPR.

We held our last dinner for the summer also in June. It was a traditional Lithuanian dinner which consisted of Kugelis, Lithuanian sausage, vegetables, and desert. Many thanks to all who attended the dinner. Those who helped were Ann Kundruatis, Doris Blynn, Ann Roach, Frances Januska, Frances Bellchunis, Doris Snirpunas, and Theresa Shukaitis.

President Joe Stiklius recently presented our annual scholarships to four students attending St. Joseph School on Class Night. Selection of the students were done first on Lithuanian heritage and then need. Those receive the scholarships were: Kristen Rosky, Jessica Cass, Jonathan Green, and Joseph Farina.

The slate of officers for September 1994 - September 1995 are:

Spiritual Advisor - Fr. Francis Karavelis  
 President - Joseph Stiklius  
 1st Vice President - Ann Kundrotas  
 Assistant to President  
 Recording Secretary - Virginia C. Kosa  
 Financial Secretary - Doris Snirpunas  
 Treasurer - Arlene Stiklius  
 Trustees Agnes Baltrush and  
 Doris Blinn  
 Sergeant at Arms - Eric Pavich  
 Ritual - Ann Vaichus  
 Lithuanian Affairs - Pat Alexander  
 Lithuanian Culture - Victor Vaitkus  
 Public Relations - Fr. Francis Karvelis  
 Spiritual Programs - Fr. Francis Karvelis  
 Vytis Correspondent - Francis Stiklius  
 Board of Directors - Ed White  
 Walter Blinn, Victor Vaitkus  
 Alma Torre, Ed Berbrin  
 Marge Phibin, Toni White  
 Betty Bebrin, Frances Stiklius



Fran Stiklius



people who were spending a few months in the United States. They were from Lithuania. One night we were entertained by a very good musician who could play any song requested in both languages. The kitchen help joined our party and participated in both the singing and dancing.; they knew all the songs. One young lady entertained us by singing a solo. The church was beautiful and so inviting that we attended Mass each morning.

Our St. Anthony's Church is 100 years old in 1994. We are now in the process of having a dedication to his event. A special Mass will be said by Father Sitko, our Pastor, and his invited guest priests on September 4. We expect a lot of present members, past members and friends to attend our Mass and dinner.

On July 9, we lost a very dear active member, Josephine Marshall, County Commissioner. Joey was very active and helpful in all aspects. She is sadly missed by her family and all who knew her.

Blanche Motsko

### **C-50 NEW HAVEN, CT**

Council 50 members worked hard to make the St. Casimir's Parish Lithuanian Festival a success. The weather was beautiful; the park well situated; the Kugelis (and other foods) delicious; and the music danceable. Over 300 people came to take part. None of this would have been possible without the help of many dedicated K of L'ers - including Charles and Alice Dekas, Bill and Mary Bachinski, Tony and Anne Kordorsky, Al and Eleanor Gutasukas, Walter and Anne Lukaszewski, Frank and Elizabeth Gybowski, Don and MaryAnn Capelli, Ed and Audrey Toole, Mike and Irene Meizies, Isabel Peterson, Marcie Stadolnik, Edith Kazlauskas, Joan Augustine, Helen Case, Leo Tamulis, Theresa Strimaitis, Vida Cronin, Betty Macknis, Helen Bohan, Frances Prishwalko, Helen Lostys, Genevieve Mickalik, Al Papeika, Marion Meshako, and Nell Papeika. Thanks to all who helped and to those who supported the festival.

We continue to pray for the healthy recovery of our Spiritual Advisor, Father Karalis, who has undergone major surgery. Also, remembered in our prayers are recovering members: Marion Meshako and Helen Medley as well as Frank Antin who is facing future surgery.

Audrey Toole





## C-63 LEHIGH VALLEY, PA

Several Lehigh Valley Council 63 members reserved time from their July 4 Independence Day weekend to demonstrate that they, indeed, are very dedicated "Lietuvai". They represented Lithuania in the Parade of Nations program which preceded the fireworks spectacular. Parkettes gymnastic show, Army skydivers, military band and much more in Allentown's J. Birney Crum Stadium. Thirty nationalities participated in the event sponsored by the Allentown Police Athletic League. Shown in the picture above/below representing Lietuva were: John Skraban with placard behind him from left to right is Andrew Keraga - flag bearer, Walter Balchunas bearing a wooden replica of a Lithuanian wayside cross, Valerie Smickle, Adele Keraga and Jane Lutick in Lithuanian costumes. The ladies carried large bouquets of fresh green ruta with red carnations and a beautiful large yellow sating bow with streamers to compliment the Lithuanian Flag. Dina Skraban carried a doll in Lithuanian costume and wore yellow green and red ribbons atop her waist-Long blonde hair. Interestingly, Dina and John



Skraban are our Council's "adopted Lithuanians" who participate in many council affairs. They are nine and eleven years old and are of Slovenian-Mexican-Italian descent. The children are very intrigued by Lithuanian culture and customs. Our Recording Secretary; Eleven Harris, has been their "Nanny" since they were toddlers, hence, their interest. Evelyn also was the coordinator of the Lithuanian contingent.

The second photo, from left to right are: Walter Balchunas, Jane Lutick, Valeria Smickle, Adele Keraga and husband, Andrew Keraga.

On July 16, 17 and 18, C-63 again had an extremely successful operation of their potato pancake (blynai) stand at the Bethlehem, PA Christmas City Fair. Long lines of customers



formed early each day and continued to closing time. Our stand is becoming a tradition at the fair and attracts many out-of-staters in addition to the locals. Oftentimes, the customers receive a dissertation about Lithuania, its glorious past, the difficult present, and a hopeful future. In a sense, it is also a "Lithuanian Orientation Center". The event was tri-chaired by Jack & Dora Lushis and Valeria Smickle and a dedicated and hardworking staff to whom Council is very grateful. As the years go by and take their toll, it becomes increasingly difficult for the aging staff to cope with the demands of operation. It would be lamentable if the operation could not continue. A sizable source of revenue which is presently used for Lithuanian charitable purposes would be lost as would be the niche of recognition the Knights of Lithuania have established in Pennsylvania's Lehigh Valley. Its continued operation is needed now more than ever before.

Joseph F. Ogint (Juozas Uogintas)

### C-74 SCRANTON, PA

Our Knights had a Lithuanian table at the Scranton Library with ethnic foods. All money went to refurbish the library. Jean Kasielines was coordinator, Martha Brach and Rose Stankes Chairpersons, assisted by Edward and Peg Romanauskas, Marie and Richard Laske and John Lamaska. Our table was awarded for best food.

We also participated in St. Joseph's Church Flea Market, which was a great success with much good merchandise.

We welcome our two new members, Margaret Clegg and her sister, Helen Churi. I am sure they will be an asset to our Council.

Our Knights attended the service at the tomb for the unborn located at the cathedral cemetery in West Scranton. Msgr. John Dougherty Vicar General of the Scranton Diocese presided at the service for all unborn babies who are victims of abortion. Get well wishes to all our homebound.

My husband and I went on a tour to Lithuania for two weeks in July for the Song and Dance Festival, which was magnificent - over 2,000 dancers, all dancing in step. If we only went to see the festival, it would have been enough. The trip was great! We had excellent seating each time and the weather was beautiful. We sat a few seats behind Linbergeras and the Lithuanian President, Algirdas Brazauskas, who was very cordial and shook hands with us. Coming out after the festival, there was no pushing or shoving. The people were very considerate. In the stores they were never in a hurry. They make it more of a social time when shopping.



Lithuania is so much better this year than two years ago when I was there. The stores have an abundance of clothing, shoes, meat bananas, and we even bought some kiwi fruit. Anything is available if you have the money

At St. Ann's Monastery in West Scranton, our Lithuanian Hour celebrated on the feast of St. Ann's Day. It was well attended. The Monastery was filled to capacity. Music ministry was Al Bulevich and Helen Moran who did an excellent job. Members of Council 74 and 143 formed the Offertory Procession with their colorful dresses. Amanda Benckine carried the Ruta Basket and members put a sprig in. She is Della Zirblis's granddaughter.

Robert Herikas Cloruci, a member of the Catholic Choral Group, and of Italian descent, joins us each year to sing our Lithuanian songs with his vibrant voice.

Rev. C. Kasinskas made the announcements and blessed religious articles. Father Peter Alisaukas led the Stations of the Cross. Msgr. A. Norkunas led St. Ann's Prayer, and Msgr. Michael Ozalas, the Benediction with the Blessed Sacrament. Marie Laske, President Council 74, was coordinator. Sincere thanks is extended to everyone who took time out of their busy lives to come and joint us.

Plan to come to the October Lithuanian Rosary at St. Peters Cathedral the first Sunday of October. For more information, call Nellie Bayors or Maria Laske.

Hope to see you at St. Joseph's Church, October 9, for the Amber District Meeting.

Marie Laske



## C-79 SOUTHFIELD, MI

Our Council had a busy summer this year. Our new President, Margaret Dapkus, finishing the term after the May death of long-time President, Maggie Smailis. She has been diligently performing her duties -- overseeing all committees and future undertakings.

June 14 was the date of the George Perles Invitational Golf Tournament -- with all proceeds delegated to "Aid to Lithuania". Our Richard Danielak had charge of the printing for the event held at Redford, Michigan's Western Golf and Country Club.

For those not "in the know" - George Perles is a Lithuanian and head coach of the famous Michigan State University football team. Having visited Lithuania, he saw the dire need for funds -- his reason for hosting the event. Including sports celebrities, 155 golfers participated and diners at the elegant dinner in the evening brought \$57,376 into the fund which was initiated by a \$10,000 donation from the estate of J. Anthony and Anne E. Kratage (in their memory). They were our Council members since 1960 until their deaths several years ago. Their son, Robert A. Kratage, negotiated the gift. Bob Boris, President of ATL, was very pleased and said the total surpassed the arranging committee's expectations, which was only half the amount received.

Our Annual Family Day Picnic took place Saturday, July 30, in the grove of the Divine Providence Parish. Mother Nature cooperated with a beautiful sunny day and mild temperatures. AT least 50 members came to socialize and enjoy food prepared by various members under the supervision of Violet Panavas, chairperson of the outing.

Margaret and Bill Dapkus, Ann Uzdavinis and Bertha Janus flew to Chicago for the 81st National Convention. Margaret agreed to serve on the Greetings Committee. She was amazed (as all were) that when the contributions were tabulated the total donated for the various charities was over \$10,000. The four delegates agreed it was a well-planned convention, with free time for shopping the noted "Miracle Mile" of Chicago's well-known Michigan Avenue and venturing into intriguing restaurants of the area.

We will now be concentrating our efforts on the next Council undertaking - our Annual Fall Festival slated for Sunday, November 13. It is the hope of the officers that all members will work toward the success of the affair.

Bee Jay



Irene Tamulevich C-116 President offers  
Lithuanian Artifacts for sale

## C-96 DAYTON, OH

The Knight's Mothers Day Celebration began with a 9:30 A.M. Mass at Holy Cross Church. The choir filled the church with beautiful music. Our Junior Knights held the procession and the crowning of the Blessed Virgin. Following the service, all were invited to the church hall to enjoy delicious food and wonderful company. Junior advisor Annamarie Berger assisted with the children's presentation - a handmade custom designed T-shirt for the mothers. It certainly was a good morning.

Members who attended the MCD Bowling Convention had a great time. They appreciated the time and energy the host council placed into the event.

Throughout the year, member M. Sally Milaskavitz has been teaching the council the fine art of Lithuanian Christmas tree ornament making. Every two weeks, members gathered in the church hall to diligently work on the hand-crafted items. This year all ornaments were made to be sold at the Annual World A'Fair in downtown Dayton. This yearly three day event showcases the various ethnic communities in the Dayton area. The Lithuanians hosted an 800 sq. ft. booth. Members Annamarie Berger and Jim Geiger co-chaired the activity. Thanks to all members who worked in the various capacities.

Our council's summer picnic was held in the end of June this year. Although the weather was a dreary raining day, the spirits of those in attendance was energetic. We held our fun summertime day in the church hall. The food was delightful as was the company.

Our members have also been busy this summer working for the Lithuanian Social Club's Picnic. It seems as if a Lithuanian's work is never finished.

Please keep all the members in prayer.

MaryAgnes Mikalauskas



Bertha Stoskus, Maria Tovaresh Ashmanskas and Sr. Helen Ivanauskas at the NED convention

## C-102 DETROIT, MI

Our council member enjoyed a fun weekend at the Mid-Central District Meeting and Bowling Tournament in Pittsburgh, PA in May. Our council delegates to the meeting were: Tim Baibak and Joe & Maryanne Guerriero. Tim was nominated as a delegate for the District to the National Convention in Chicago. Our bowling team came in second place. The bowlers were Rose Sawnick, George Kayganich, Norm Hein and The Guerriero's. Also, walking away with bowling prizes were C-102 members Chris and Susin Baibak, Jane O'Donnell, Randy O'Donnell and George Cramblett. We were honored to be able to attend one of the last Masses at their St. Anthony's Church, which was being closed by the Dioceses.

The AID TO LITHUANIA GOLF TOURNAMENT was a huge success! Sponsored in the name of Ann Kratage and organized by George Perles, Football Coach at Michigan State University, and Bob Boris. It was a complete sell out. Time Baibak and Joe Guerriero, Jr. represented C-102 as golfers. Donna and Frank Bunikis ran the silent auction at the dinner and Helen Smolik sold 50-50 tickets at the dinner. Dinner music was donated by our musical members: Joe Stark, John Stanievich, and Ray Petcavage (a former C-102 member). All are planning next year's tournament; get your reservations in early. After the tournament, Bob Boris Bill Zager and Regina Juskus toured Lithuania again.

Our June meeting, conducted by President Lorri Hofner, was a very successful one with 25 members in attendance after Mass at St. Anthony's. We welcomed new members Al Cerekas and Irene Vizgirda. Chairpersons Donna Bunikis and Terry Medonis told of the plans scheduled for the Fall Pilgrimage that we are hosting the weekend of October 7-9. Hope all can come. Our Cultural Representative, Donna Stanievich, gave a very interesting report on Vytautas and the Tectonic Knights. Frank Bunikis also added to the report. Dr. Michael Acromite brought his fiancée, Pamela Morrison to the Meeting. Congratulations to both.

Deepest sympathies are extended to Mare Nashlon and Maryanne Newberry on the passing of their mother, Maggie Smalis, President of C-79. My fondest memories of Maggie are her leadership of C-79 and her dancing with her grandson, Chip, at all the functions. Deepest sympathies go also to Lorreta Stukas on the passing of her husband, Jack. May their souls rest in peace.

Hope to see all at our Pilgrimage in October.



When K of L friends meet, we're all smiles

Meriute



## MID-ATLANTIC DISTRICT

Nearly a hundred Mid-Atlantic District Knights convened at the Immaculate Conception Center in Douglaston, NY on June 12 for our final meeting before the Summer. Great Neck C-109, our hosts, introduced many of us to this beautiful religious center of the Diocese of Brooklyn where a special Lithuanian Mass was celebrated by Father Stanislaus Raila and Father John Pakalniskis.

Members came from as far away as Spring Hill, Florida (C-154) -Mohawk, NY (C-136). We were treated to a delicious hot buffet which included a number of tasty desserts. But our Great Neck hosts certainly broke the record for the number of prizes during their raffle of 73 great prizes which included handmade picture frames, Lithuanian memorabilia, floral hanging baskets and baskets of cheer to a \$25 Savings Bond donated from the National Westminster Bank. Special thanks must be given to Josephine Zukas, Al Wesey, Mary and Anthony Kober and C-109 Knights who worked so hard to coordinate this successful event.

At the meeting, District President Berniece Aviza discussed an educational exchange project currently being developed between the State Education Department in Albany, NY and the Lithuanian Department Minister of Cultural Affairs and Administration. Two schools, located in Pottsdam and Syracuse, NY will work with Lithuanian schools on a foreign exchange project. Further details will be available later as the project unfolds.



C-7 Awardees

Also of note, President Aviza commended Polly Ziausys of Amsterdam C-100 for arranging the donation of medical machinery from area hospitals valued at over \$50,000 to hospital facilities in Lithuania.



Discussions at the convention included Councils' work with various Lithuanian orphanages. Concern was expressed on whether goods sent to Lithuania are being received and utilized by those we intended them for. Most Councils, like C-110 of Maspeth have directed shipments to specific orphanages and hospitals, and when goods are shipped, arrangements are made to have them received by the right parties. Ideas presented also included an "adopt an orphan" or helping individuals at specific hospitals and orphanages, and the receipt of acknowledgments.

Members were invited to join the 36 Annual Captive Nations Week Parade on Sunday, July 17 in New York City. The parade will assemble at 9:00 A.M. from 59th Street and 5th Ave to St. Patrick's Cathedral where Mass will be celebrated at 10:00 A.M. Although Lithuania is now an independent country, the threat of Communist domination still looms, and the parade is a show of solidarity with other freedom-loving peoples.

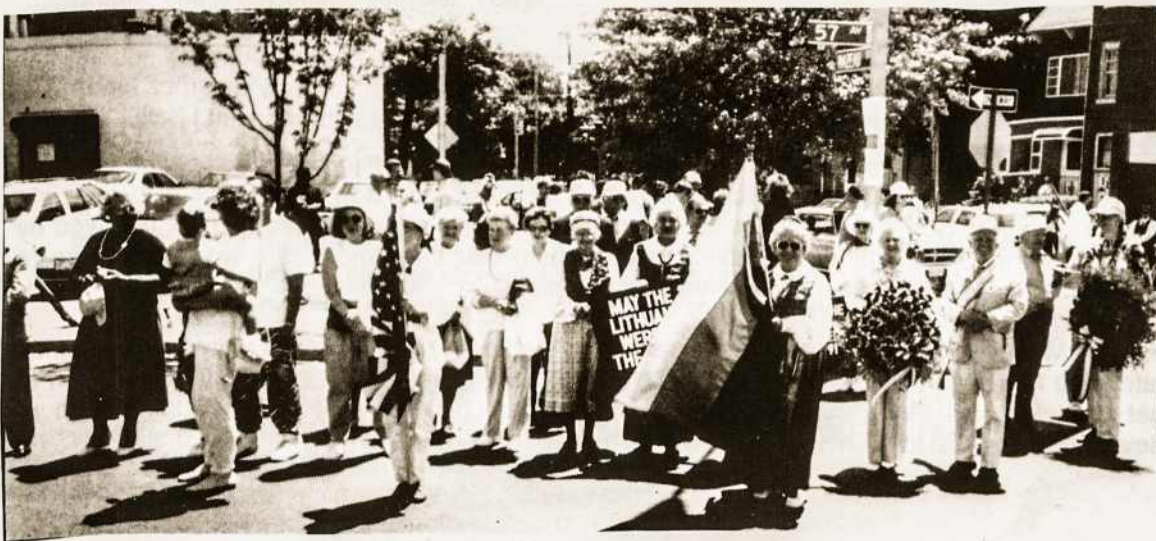
A committee was formed to investigate the possibility of hosting the 1996 K of L National Convention in Long Island, NY. A discussion of Long Island's beautiful summer treats, such as Jones Beach and summer Theaters, plus the offer of a more reasonable hotel rate than New York City prompted members to explore the possibility. Josephine Zukas, Muriel Lekstutis and Bruno Rutkunas were named to said committee.

Middle Atlantic District (MAD) Raffle tickets to help increase the District's dwindling resources were distributed to Council Presidents by Ed Senken, District First Vice President of Membership. Tickets will be available to members also at the National Convention in August. Chances are \$1 each or six tickets for \$5. The drawing for cash prizes will be awarded at a future MAD Convention next March.

National Convention delegates nominated to represent the District are Muriel Lekstutis of C-152 and Stella Stripeikas of C-110.

Our next MAD Convention is slated for Sunday, September 25th. Hosts will be Brooklyn C-41.

Maryte Abbott



## C-110 MASPETH, NY

Our last council meeting for the season in Maspeth on Sunday, June 26, 1994, blessed us with good weather, good food, and good company. After a traditional Lithuanian Mass celebrated by Father John Pakalniskis and an opening prayer said by Spiritual Advisor, Msg. Frank Bulovas, summer foods were enjoyed by over a hundred members and guests.

The highlight of the meeting was the special annual raffle whose proceeds of \$1,000 are donated to the Lithuanian Catholic Relief organization of the K of L Supreme Council. Member Terry Points won the first prize of \$200; Medallion Dreitlein won second of \$150; and Anna Balsis won third of \$100. Congratulations to these lucky winners and to other members who also won a number of donated gift prizes and our monthly 50/50 raffle prizes.

Our Knights also voted to increase our allotted donations to the Lithuanian orphanage and children's hospital by \$600. This sum added to our \$400 budget will enable us to provide some much needed basic medical supplies to the children's hospital. Members Ann Morressey,



Joe Thomas and Maryte Abbott were named to a committee to find out exactly what types of supplies are needed, how to get the best price for these, and how to ship them to the right source properly. Some members voiced concern with goods being donated and not received by the right parties. Committee members assured them that the utmost care would be taken to make sure the children's hospital received our donations.

Member Helen Venis was given a standing ovation for her years of loyalty to the Knights, attending meetings that sometimes took many hours and many forms of public transportation to get to Helen was also the former Vytis correspondent and exhibits an outstanding form of devotion to the K of L.

In upcoming news, members are planning on welcoming a new pastor of Transfiguration at our next meeting scheduled for September 18. Plans were also made for attending the next Mid-Atlantic Convention on September 25 at the Annunciation Church in Brooklyn. The October Halloween Dinner Dance Chairpersons Evelyn Wallis and Genevieve Christian were already selling tickets for the October 30 event which promises to be another great time.

Maryte Abbott

## C-112 CHICAGO, IL

We mourn the loss of C-112 members Josephine Juzenas and Laverne Wopereis and offer our heartfelt condolences to their families. Our prayers go with Leonas Narbutis who brought his mother, who was in her 90's back to Lithuania for a visit. She had only been there a few days when she passed away. It appears to have been a fateful journey.

Board members helped host the MAMD meeting at the Nativity Church Hall in June. It was very hot, in the mid 90's, but we had a large turnout and everyone enjoyed the luncheon buffet and then a productive business meeting was held.

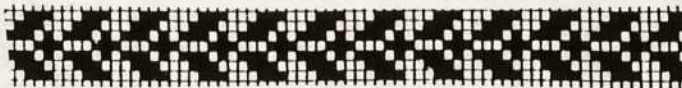
Congratulations to members who received degrees during the May meeting: Edward and Sophie Balchunas and Vida Sakavicius, 1st Degree; Apolinaras Bagdonas, Sr., Angela Balchunas, and Mary Ann Gercius, 2nd Degree.

Welcome to new members Robert and Mary Piorkowski and Florence Kaminskas. We hope you will come down to our meetings and join us at our socials and fund-raisers. We know you'll like us!

Our last business meeting of the year was long because of the many items that had to be discussed and resolved before adjournment. Thanks to Terry Vaitkus, and helper, Peter Jasaitis, who served a very sumptuous buffet after the meeting. It looked gorgeous and tasted great! You really outdid yourself, Terry.

Our guest speaker was an officer from the Chicago Police Department who spoke to us about some very basic things we can all do to protect ourselves and our homes from unexpected assaults. I think we all appreciated some of these tips.

Our members responded to the plight of the Lithuanian orphans and, as of this writing, are sponsoring 14 children. We thank everyone for their generosity and sincerely hope this will make some of their lives a little easier. Birute Jasaitas from Lithuanian Human Services was present at the June meeting to receive a check from coordinator, Julie Zakarka. She, in turn, left pictures and biographies of some of the children we will be sponsoring.



Thanks to all of the officers and committee members for a job well done and making time in their busy schedules to serve on the Board of Directors. It is not always easy to find the time to attend meetings and helping with fund raisers and socials. We all appreciate the extra effort you made. Hopefully, many of you will be returning for another term when we convene in September with the start of a new year and also the election of new officers.

Gerrie



Pictured: Rev. Joseph Anderlonis, Julia Kowrak (C-3) and Pres. A. Brazauskas.

### **C-141 BRIDGEPORT, CT**

Very obviously we needed only the clear, gentle voice of President Clemencine Miller to bring the meeting to order--well, no alternative. You see, Clem hid the gavel from her grandson so well she now cannot find it. The May meeting began with a prayer led by Vladas Barius. Many changes were taking place this month! Msgr. Francis Pranchkus' retirement was the cause. We have lost such a familiar figure of some 42 years -- our Pastor -- our Spiritual Advisor. The Thanksgiving Mass on May 15 was unforgettable. Msgr. Pranchkus was the main celebrant, assisted by concelebrants Rev. Msgr. A Villamide, Rev. Jose Rebaque, SAC; Msgr. F. G. Galla, Rev. John Rikteraitis (homilist), Deacon John Rigely (C-141), Rev. Msgr. K. Wallin as Master of Ceremonies with the presence of Most Rev. Edward M. Egan, Bishop of Bridgeport plus Six Spanish altar servers, the Organist - Mary Grosso, Choir Director G. Vazuez. Among the ushers and greeters was Peter Putrimas (C-141). Gift Bearers were Joseph and Molly Pranchkus, Bob Marcavage and Ann Petrus, Viviana and Leslima Mora, Edgardo Pena. Jonas and Kathy Balcius video taped it all, so the memory will linger on. A bountiful reception followed in the newly-renovated church hall. Nearly 400 people attended to wish Monsignor a happy and blessed retirement.

Our June meeting began with a big and well-lit birthday cake and a booming "happy birthday" for all the June "babies": Bob Silk, Mitch Marcinauskis, Peter and Sophie Putrimas, Dot and Jack DeGennero, Vytautas Vaikutis, Helen and Joe Janiunas, Peter Radzwillas, and Al Trainis.

Gintare Ivaska and Clem Miller met with Msgr. Driscoll and Msgr. Galla in regard to the fate of our church. After 5 meetings we were informed that all activities and all requests must first be cleared through Fr. Jose - Administrator of St. George. There will be a Lithuanian Mass on the 3rd Sunday of each month at 11:00 A.M. To be sure no one takes away this privilege - this part of our heritage - everyone makes an effort to attend this Mass each month.

A vote was taken in favor of the amendment to our By-Laws: A non-Lithuanian priest may be Spiritual Advisor and Associate Member.

Mitch Marcinauskis reported that the education system in Lithuania still reflects some Communist traits. Much improvement is needed. Aldona Peters thanked members for all the used stamps which she will send to Sr. Helen Ivanauskas. Please continue collecting stamps. A donation of \$100 was decided upon to support the NED Scholarship Fund. President Miller once more explained that anyone wishing to go to the Maine retreat next year must let her know NOW! Some people were disappointed because they did not decide in time -- and space is limited. Enjoying the 1994 NED Retreat were Jean and John Rigely, Clem and Vic Miller, Aldona and Pete Peters, Dot and Jack DeGennero, Sophie and Pete Putrimas, Aldona and bob Marcavage, Anne Petrus and Ev Christian. C-141 had two birthdays that were noted in Maine -- Jack DeGennero and Sophie Putrimas.

The annual council picnic will be held on the "Miller Green" on August 20. Bring chairs and a surprise "Pot Luck". Because of the vacation season, there will be no meeting in July and August. Barbara Wilcinskis-Schmidt did not go to Germany with her students this year, because she went to Lithuania with the VETRA dancers to participate in the Song and Dance Festival in Vilnius. Vytautas Vaikutis is also vacationing with relatives and friends in Lithuania.

On July 6, President Clinton visited the Baltic States and met with all three Presidents. He is the first U.S. President to visit the Baltics.

#### MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

OCTOBER 2, 1994 NED Fall Convention hosted by C-7 Waterbury, CT

OCTOBER 23, 1994 NED Cultural Festival, Maironis Park, Shrewsbury, MA

I hear a few scholarship raffle tickets are still available. Wishing you all a healthy happy summer!

Su Vytiska Meile, Aldona Marcavage





### **C-142 WASHINGTON, D.C.**

The Lithuanian community in Washington was greatly saddened by the death of Ambassador Lozoraitis on June 13. He was Lithuania's chief diplomatic representative to the United States during the difficult and exciting days when Lithuania reclaimed its right to independence, the first of the 15 enslaved "republics" to do so. Ambassador Lozoraitis's charismatic personality and accessibility to American media were of enormous benefit in publicizing Lithuania's right to exist as a free nation. Under his leadership, the Lithuanian Embassy on 16th Street became a star attraction on Washington's diplomatic circuit.

Ambassador Lozoraitis was also a supporter of the Knights of Lithuania and had been inducted into its exclusive ranks of "Honorary Membership."

A special Mass was held in his memory at the Chapel of Our Lady of Siluva in the National Shrine on June 15. Monsignor George Sarauskas, adviser to the U.S. Catholic Bishops' Conference was the celebrant, and Victor Nakas, a member of the Embassy staff under Lozoraitis, delivered the eulogy, extolling the virtues of this extraordinary man.

Members of C-142 also participated in the events and activities mentioned briefly below.

Earlier on June 15, Lithuania's current Ambassador, Eidintas, spoke to a large group at the Library of Congress. The talk was one of a series under the auspices of the Library's East European office. The Ambassador's remarks focused on trade difficulties with Russia. He explained that Russia desires to carve out a customs-free corridor across Lithuania for the free passage of Russian goods to the Russian enclave of Kaliningrad. Such an extra-territorial enclave would seriously threaten Lithuanian sovereignty. To compel Lithuania to cede these rights, Russia has refused to apply Most-Favored-Nation status for Lithuanian imports. As a result, Russian tariffs on Lithuanian goods have risen precipitously. This is very injurious since Russia is normally the largest outlet for Lithuanian exports.

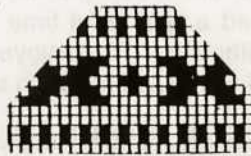
On May 25, members of the Baltic-American communities met with officials of the State Department, the National Security Council and U.S. AID. As reported by Vincent Boris, Chairperson of the K of L's Lithuanian Affairs, in his monthly "Lithuanian Affairs Bulletin" for June, this was the latest in a continuing series of meetings arranged by the Joint Baltic National Committee (Jbank) to receive an update on current U.S. policy on the Baltic republics and provide a forum for an exchange of views between U.S. Government policy makers and

community representatives. Those desirous of obtaining the details of the meeting are advised to refer to Mr. Boris' Bulletin.

The U.S. Baltic Foundation hosted a luncheon on June 22 with high ranking Lithuanian officials who were here on a mission to explore the establishment of Foreign Trade zones in the Baltic countries in order to encourage industrial development on free-market lines. The mission was headed by Jonas Birziskis, Minister of Transportation and K. Klimasauskas, Minister of Trade and Industry. The Mayor of Siauliai and the General Director of the Klaipeda Trade Port were members of the 12-man mission group. The mission addressed a wide-range of transportation, trade, and industrial issues, including the conversion of military airports to civilian uses, improvement of Lithuania's air navigation system and steps to upgrade Lithuania's rail and port facilities. During the pre-luncheon discussions, one of the mission's members expressed to the writer his optimism about the successful privatization program being implemented by the present government. Mission members apparently had been chosen with care as many were fluent in English and conversant with a broad spectrum of Lithuanian problems. The mission is the latest in a series of aggressive steps taken by the Lithuanian administration to reconvert the country from the stagnation of Soviet socialist misrule.

The Council's activities are not all work and no play. Observing the dictum enunciated by a wise man, that he who laughs lasts, the Council held its traditional picnic on June 5 at the spacious home and grounds of President Julia Burlen. Hot dogs, hamburgers and Lithuanian sausages were served, embellished with potato salad, tomatoes, cucumbers and beans, and topped off with a variety of toothsome desserts. As a special treat, members were able to imbibe an amber ale brewed at a local mini-brewery under the supervision of Tom Cizauskas, son of member Gene and Al, an expert steeped in the lore and skill of brewing.

Al and Gene Cizauskas



## C-143 PITTSTON, PA

Our Pot Luck Supper was held in July at St. Casimir's Parish Hall, and our members supplied all the delicious food which everyone enjoyed. Pam Smith and her co-chairperson, Patricia Weiksner, plus two of our new members did an outstanding job. The tables were decorated with tri-colored pastel tablecloths and floral centerpieces. A beautiful candelabrum flickered its light upon the luscious desserts.

Father Peter Alisaukas, our Spiritual Advisor, offered the invocation. A meeting followed with Dorothy Banos presiding. Reports were submitted by our Cultural Arts Chairperson, Mary Ann Cipolla, who for the past three years provided us with her interesting presentations. Nellie Bayoras-Romanas told about her trip to Lithuania. Ann Soha gave a report on the Amber District Meeting in Kennebunkport. Another three pound canister for Lithuanian Aid was collected by Marcella Bartoli. God bless you, Marcella!

Our president thanked everyone for making the occasion such a success and to everyone who assisted in the kitchen cleanup, especially to David Cipolla and Steve Soha.

The next day our Council participated in the closing of St. Ann's Novena in Scranton. The Novena drew about 100,000 worshipers. Marie Laske, C-74, must be complimented for making the arrangements for the beautiful Lithuanian Service. Also, our Knights should be applauded for wearing their Lithuanian attire in the sweltering heat.

A great time was had at the Chicago Convention and success and best wishes to the newly elected Supreme Council Officers.

Steve Soda

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

Get well wishes for Frank and Bertha Stann, Frank was hospitalized and is now recuperating at home. Also, Bertha, we hope you are feeling better.

Jonas Valauskas has been ill and hospitalized since December 1993. He is now in the Pasadena Manor Nursing Home.

Summer is upon us and many of our members are visiting Lithuania, their homeland. Petre Kasparaviciute went in July. Father Cyvas also spent 3 weeks there in July. Maria Gelazius left August 10.

Margarita Petrikas, daughter of Dr. Joseph Petrikas, attended the Dainu Svente with the K of L group to Lithuania. She had a wonderful time and especially the Song Festival. The weather was too hot-unusual for Lithuania. She enjoyed visiting her relatives and is especially grateful for the opportunity to travel with our Knights on such a well-organized trip of two weeks.

Aldona Kirstuk, John and Dolores Jonaitis and Victoria Kleva attended the 81st National Convention in Chicago as delegates. We were happy to have Victoria's daughter, Angela, as our guest. Aldon Kirstuk was very much at home at the convention as Chicago is her home town. Her Chicago friends were most hospitable. We also enjoyed the company of Joe and Irene Yanek and Lee and Paul Moore from DuBois, PA and Frank and Irene Petrauskas from Syracuse, NY They were great!

A one-year's mind Mass for Ona Petrikas, wife of Dr. Joseph Petrikas, was held at Holy Name Church in Gulfport on Sunday August 20. It was celebrated by Father Stephen Ropolas OFM and concelebrated by Father Matthew Cyvas, Father Jonas Gasiunas, Father Mykolas Kirkalys OFM, and Father Petras Banunas OFM. After Mass, at dinner, at the Lithuanian Club, Dr. Petrikas thanked everybody for joining him in his prayers and sharing his sorrow. In appreciation, he donated the dinner wine for all in attendance.

Thanks Aldona for the lovely luncheon,

Dolores Jonaitis



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

Our part of the world has eastern end of Long Island, has been in the grip of a persistent drought for at least the last two months. A condition which has been both worrisome and costly for our local farmers. We are, however, thankful that we have been spared the evils of floods, forest fires and earthquake after shocks which have ravaged large areas of our country over these past spring and summer months.

Social activities of our Council included our successful Bake Sale on Sunday, August 14, and our Boat Ride held on the extremely pleasant evening of Tuesday, August 16. The latter festivity was greatly enlivened by the tireless efforts of Joe Thomas and his much-traveled accordion. Our thanks to Peter Dykovitz for putting the little trip together.

Under the skilled chairmanship of Joe Bealis, planning is well along for our Council's annual Christmas Party at the Miller Place Inn, Miller Place, NY on Sunday, December 18.

C-152 is delighted to welcome back to our fold Charlene and Felix Zorskis. Many happy returns to you both; we have missed you!

The prayers of our readers are respectfully asked for the happy repose of the souls of: John Louis, son-in-law, of our Knights, Irene and Joe Allen; our fellow -Knight, Gabariel Baksys; and Vincent W. Zukas, brother of our Past President, Michael Zukas. May God grant them eternal rest!

Tom Tarmey

## **C-154 SPRING HILL, FL**

Although our council does not schedule formal meetings during the summer months, we meet frequently to enjoy social gatherings, trips and other forms of enjoyable events.

On Memorial Day, we celebrated at a picnic hosted by Virginia and Ray Kentra at the K of C Hall in Holiday. For Father's Day, we toasted our fathers and the men we made fathers (our husbands) at the P.N. Hall in Hudson. Annette Grezevich arranged that affair that was a super success with dinner and an evening of dancing.

Tarpon Springs was the scene of our boat trip on "Mr. Lucky." What a day - food, music and even some gambling made for one super day out.

Helen and George Mayer spent a month with family in Garden City, NY.

John and Sadye Petraitis were designated delegates to the MAD Meeting in June held at the Immaculate Conception Center in Douglaston, NY. C-109 of Great Neck did a really great job as hosts of this meeting. Not only was the setting at the former Seminary awe-inspiring, but a spirited meeting and a bountiful buffet rounded out a successful event..

Joe Kuchinkas is formulating plans for a stellar year. He is a real leader intent on making our council the very best one.

Alex Walluk underwent eye surgery. His unprecedented speedy recovery found him and Bridget on their way to Chenango Forks and a stay at their camp with family.

Enjoy every day but remember to thank God for all the good things in life.

Sadye G. Petraitis





## KNIGHTS OF LITHUANIA SCHEDULED ACTIVITIES

### For further info contact:

#### "Kučios" Dinner

Dec 3 . . . .	Los Angeles, C #133 . . . . .	Maryte Sepikas (818) 782-1248
Dec 10 . . .	Philadelphia, C #3 . . . . .	Agnes Mickunas (609) 931-3306
Dec 19 . . .	Detroit, C #102 . . . . .	Eve Stark (810) 682-0396
Dec 19 . . .	Chicago, C #36 . . . . .	Evelyn Ozelis (312) 254-7553

#### Christmas Party

Dec 4 . . . .	Newark, C #29 . . . . .	Dana Rogers (201) 667-7805
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#### Candelight Dinner

Dec 3 . . . .	Chicago, C #36 . . . . .	Evelyn Ozelis (312) 254-7553
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#### Volunteer Day-World Medical Relief

Jan 14, 28 .	Detroit, C #102 . . . . .	Regina Juska (313) 554-3288
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#### "Lithuanian Independence" Celebration

Feb 4 . . . .	Norwood, MA, C #27 . . . . .	Albie Jarvis (617) 762-2613
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#### "Memories of Lithuania" Banquet

Feb 5 . . . .	MAMD . . . . .	Evelyn Ozelis (312) 254-7553
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#### St. Casimir Day Celebration

Mar 12 . . .	AMBD, Host: C #3 (Philadelphia) . . .	Agnes Mickunas (609) 931-3306
Mar 26 . . .	MAD, Host C #110 (Maspeth) . . . . .	Bruno Rutkunas (516) 628-2292

#### 1995 National Convention

Aug 9-13 . .	Detroit, Host C #102 . . . . .	Regina Juška (313) 554-3288
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**(NOTE: If your council/district has a scheduled function that is not listed above, we didn't know about it. INFORM THE VYTIS EDITOR WHENEVER YOU SCHEDULE AN ACTIVITY.)**

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