



# WYTIS

KNIGHTS OF LITHUANIA

**Volume 80, Number 10**

**CHRISTMAS ISSUE**

**1994**

**M  
E  
R  
R  
Y  
  
C  
H  
R  
I  
S  
T  
M  
A  
S**



**L  
I  
N  
K  
S  
M  
Ū  
  
Š  
V  
  
K  
A  
L  
Ė  
D  
Ū**

**VYTIS****CHRISTMAS ISSUE 1994****Vol. 80/No. 10**

**KNIGHTS OF LITHUANIA  
SUPREME COUNCIL OFFICERS**  
1994- 1995

**SPIRITUAL ADVISOR**

**Rev Dr Joseph Anderlonis**  
St George's Rectory  
3580 Salmon Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19134  
(215) 739 3102

**PRESIDENT**

**Evelyn Ozelis**  
2533 West 45th Street  
Chicago, IL 60632  
(312) 254 7553

**1-ST VICE-PRESIDENT**

**Thomas Bruzga**  
RR3 Box 60A  
DuBois, PA 15801  
(814) 371-9485

**2-ND VICE-PRESIDENT**

**Robert A Martin, Jr**  
3420 So Lituania Ave  
Chicago, IL 60608  
(312) 376-4779

**3-RD VICE-PRESIDENT**

**Frances R Petkus**  
800 Haldeman Avenue  
Dayton, OH 45404  
(513) 236-0395

**RECORDING SCTY**

**Agnes Mickunas**  
333 Davis Avenue  
Mt Ephraim, NJ 08059  
(609) 931-3306

**TREASURER**

**Edward Barkowski**  
1226 Palma Avenue  
Schenectady, NY 12306  
(518) 355-7483

**FINANCIAL SC'TY**

**Rita Sussko**  
1254 Crandview Avenue  
Union, NJ 07083-3729  
(908 ) 686-4226

**TRUSTEES**

**Peter P Zansitis**  
6939 So Crandon Avenue  
Chicago, IL 60649  
(312) 363-2023

**John P Baltrus**

5325 Orchard Hill Drive  
Pillsburgh, PA 15236  
(412) 881-1716

**AMBER DIST President**

**EIsie Kosmisky**  
140 South Wylan Street  
Frackville, PA 17931  
(717) 874-1181

**MAMD President**

**Algerd Brazis**  
13438 Westview Drive  
Palos Heights, IL 60463  
(708) 361-5594

**MAD President**

**Bernice Aviza**  
6 Tremont St  
Albany, NY 12205  
(518) 459-5256

**MCD President**

**Lillian Petravicus**  
4031 Harlow  
Allen Park, MI 48101  
(313) 386-5326

**NED President**

**Bertha Stoskus**  
165 Holden Street  
Providence, RI 02908  
(401) 331-2605

**LEGAL ADVISOR**

**Saulius V. Kuprys**  
Henehan, Donovan &  
Issacson  
150 S Wacker Dr. Rm 1050  
Chicago, IL 60606  
(312) 346- 5275

**ARCHIVES COMMITTEE**

**Longinas Svelnis, Chair**  
43 Gage Street  
Needham, MA 02192  
(617) 444-7499

**CULTURAL COMM.**

**John R Mankus, Chair**  
1110 Darlene Dnve  
Endicott, NY 13760  
(607) 754-1241

**HON. MEMBERSHIP**

**Loretta Stukas, Chair**  
234 Sunlit Drive  
Watchung, NJ 07060  
(908) 753-5636  
*Stanley Vaitkus, Hon. Chair*  
*Rev. Albert J. Contons*  
*Rev. Anthony Jurgelaitis*  
*Phyllis Grendal*  
*Estelle Rogers*  
*Anne Klizas Wargo*

**PUBLIC RELATIONS**

**Regina Juska, Chair**  
4638 51st Street  
Detroit, MI 48210  
(313) 554-3288

**LITHUANIAN AFFAIRS**

**Vincent B Boris, Chair**  
5678 Vantage Point Road  
Columbia, MD 21044  
(301) 596-4203

**LITH. LANGUAGE**

**Virginia Vaitekoniis-Obando**  
1248 Waverly Place  
Elizabeth, NJ 07206  
(908) 820-9577

**RITUAL COMMITTEE**

**Ann Marie Kassel, Chair**  
8200 Anchor Dr., Apt 801  
Woodridge, IL 60517  
(708) 910-5045

*Nellie B. Romanas*  
*John Mickunas*

**SCHOLARSHIP COMM.**

**Dorothy Banos, Chair**  
11 Hill Top Road  
Pittston, PA 18640  
(717) 655 0976

*Florence Zaleskas, Treas.*

*Maria Deksnis*  
*Irene Gecas*  
*John K Gozjack*  
*Barbara Mickunas*  
*Edward Senken*

**AID TO LITHUANIA**

**Robert S Boris, Chair**  
4557 Fairway Court  
Waterford, MI 48328-3483  
(810) 682 0098

**ST. CASIMIR'S GUILD**

**Anne Klizas Wargo, Chair**  
125 So Morris Stree  
St. Clair, PA 17970  
(717) 429 0132

**K OF L FOUNDATION**

**Loretta Stukas, Chair**  
234 Sunlit Drive  
Watchung, NJ 07060  
(908) 753 5636

VYTIS is published monthly November through June, bi-monthly July/August and September/October by the KNIGHTS OF LITHUANIA, a Not-for-Profit organization. Subscriptions \$ 15.00 per year (Non-members \$20.00). Single copies \$ 2.50. Outside USA \$ 25.00 per year. Second Class Postage paid at Chicago, IL. POSTMASTER: Send returns and corrections to: VYTIS, the Knight, P O. Box 81615, Chicago, IL. 60681-0615.

**VYTIS STAFF**

EDITOR: Eduardas V. Meilus, Jr. Send all editorial correspondence to:  
COUNCIL NEWS EDITOR: Ruth Sarafinas VYTIS-EDITOR OFFICE  
LAYOUT AND DESIGN: Terese I. Meilus P.O. Box 17514  
Worcester, MA 01601-7232  
Tel: (508) 753-7232

Please designate if for Editor or Council News Editor.

## In this issue.../ Šiame Numeryje:

Almanac / Almanachas .....	2
A Christmas Trilogy:	
A Lithuanian Tradition by <i>Loretta Stukas</i> .....	3
A Tradition Suppressed by <i>Vaikaitis Šiltis</i> .....	5
A Tradition Transplanted by <i>Vincent Boris</i> .....	9
Ghosts From A Christmas Past by <i>Maryte Abbott</i> .....	13
VALIO! Fr. Joe .....	21
Christmas Came Early For Little Rita .....	25
Gifts To Lithuania In A Family Tradition .....	27
Music for Christmas Composed by K of L Members:	
"O Greičiau, Greičiau" by <i>Leonard Šimutis</i> .....	31
"Gime Kristus" by <i>Faustas Strolia</i> .....	32
"Tylaji Naktuže" by <i>Faustas Strolia</i> .....	33
"Prakartėlej Kūdikelis" by <i>Liudas Stukas</i> .....	34
Speaking Lithuanian by <i>Virginia Vaitekonis-Obando</i> .....	35
Junior Forum by <i>Fran Petkus</i> .....	37
Official News .....	41
Council News .....	45

*Sincerest wishes for a  
Happy and Holy Christmas  
and a  
Most Prosperous New Year*

Loretta Stukas and Vincent Boris,  
Ad Hoc Editors for December 1994 Issue.

# ALMANACHAS

## GRUODIS - DECEMBER



**GRUODIS** - As with most months of the year, the Lithuanian name for this month of the winter solstice is drawn from nature. The Lithuanian word, *gruodas*, refers to the hard frozen clumps of earth which characterize the fields of farmland in mid-winter Lithuania.

**DECEMBER** - Reflecting an historical incongruity, the name for this last (12th) month of the Gregorian calendar year is taken from the last month of the Roman calendar; however, the Roman calendar had only ten months. Hence, its name - DECEM-ber.



**December 8 - The Feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary.** Instituted when Pope Pius IX defined the dogma on December 8, 1854, the feast celebrates the preservation of Mary from all stain of sin; thereby, making her a worthy dwelling for His Son. It is under this appellation that Mary has been declared Patroness of the United States.

**December 24** - On this date in 1991, Pope John Paul II announced the establishment of two ecclesiastical provinces in Lithuania, Vilnius and Kaunas. The Archbishop of Vilnius serves as metropolitan of the Vilnius province consisting of the Dioceses of Kaišiadorys and Panevėžys in addition to Vilnius. The Province of Kaunas encompasses the Dioceses of Kaunas, Telšiai and Vilkaviškis, with the Archbishop of Kaunas as Metropolitan.

Congratulations to those celebrating their name day in December:

Alfred (Dec 14);	Christine/Nina (Dec 15);	<i>Dalija</i> (Dec 5);
Francis (Dec 3);	John -Damascene (Dec 4);	John of the Cross (Dec 23);
John the Apostle and Evangelist (Dec 27);		<i>Kastytis</i> (Dec 13);
Leocadia (Dec 9);	Lucius, (Dec 2);	Lucy (Dec 13);
Natalie (Dec 1);	Silvester (Dec 31);	Steven (Dec 26);
Victoria (Dec 23);	<i>Vidas</i> (Dec 28);	Zenon (Dec 8)



### A Prayer for December/Advent:

*Rasokit, Dangūs, iš savo aukštybių,  
debesys, lykit lietumi teisybės!  
Išdžiūvus žemė teatsigaivina  
ir Atpirkeją mums teišdaigina.*

Drop down dew, ye heavens, from above,  
And let the clouds rain righteousness;  
let the earth be opened and  
bud forth a Savior.

(Isaiah 45.8)

# A LITHUANIAN TRADITION

by Loretta Stukas

Lithuanians have for many generations looked forward to Christmas not only as a special time of joy and hope, but also as a time to stress the religious aspect of the season, to strengthen family ties, and to join in spirit with others of their nationality in observing a "Lithuanian Christmas"

The most important event of the Christmas season to those of Lithuanian ancestry is the Christmas Eve Supper - *Kučios*. It marks the culmination of four weeks of religious fasting and preparation during Advent.

***KUČIOS*** - the name assigned to the traditional Lithuanian Christmas dinner. Its origin is unclear but is most probably based on an ancient Ruthenian (Byelorussian) name for a buckwheat gruel or porridge that was a peasant staple in the middle ages.

Family members gather in the late afternoon of Christmas Eve for *Kučios*. The home has been thoroughly cleaned and all required daily chores have been completed. The meal is not begun, however, before the first evening star appears. The "family" frequently includes not only relatives but also friends who do not have families with whom to celebrate this feast.

To prepare for the meal, the table is covered with a fine linen cloth, used only on this day and set with the family's finest dishes and service utensils. Fresh hay or straw is placed under the tablecloth as a reminder that the Christ Child was born in a manger. One

extra place is set and one chair is left empty at the table, for absent or recently deceased members of the family. A crucifix and a plate of *plotkelės* are placed in the center of the table. *Plotkelės* are blessed wafers resembling Communion hosts in texture but much larger. They are made only for Christmas and are often prepared in pastel colors and embossed with scenes of the Holy Family.

After a prayer, the head of the family or the oldest member, offers a *plotkele* to each person present, with Christmas greetings and good wishes. All family members and guests then break their wafers and exchange pieces of the wafers with others around the table, also extending Christmas greetings to each other. This symbolizes unity of the family as well as the sharing one's daily bread with others.

## A TYPICAL MENU-

*Herring (Marinated/In tomato sauce)*  
*Soup (Mushroom or Beet)*  
*Fish (Fried and/or baked)*  
*Sauerkraut (Raw, cooked, or salad)*  
*Whole wheat/Oatmeal pudding*  
*Cranberry (jellied sauce or relish)*  
*Christmas Eve biscuits*  
*in Poppy seed milk*  
*Dried Fruit Compote*  
*Cakes/Pastries*

The meal consists of twelve dishes, symbolizing Christ's twelve apostles and also reflecting that it was the twelfth month, December, during which Christ was born. All courses are

traditionally meatless because, in the past, Christmas Eve had been a day of fast and abstinence from meat for all Catholics.

After the *plotkelės* exchange, the meal continues with servings of poppy seed milk (*aguony pienas*) served with *prieškučiai*, hard little biscuits made only for Christmas Eve. The rest of the meal consists of smoked and pickled herring, creamed mushrooms, potatoes, salads a variety of baked and stuffed fish, a compote made of dried fruit, and homemade cranberry pudding (*kisielius*). Cake may be included for dessert. The meal is leisurely; the conversation pleasant. Heated discussions and arguments are avoided because it is believed that the atmosphere surrounding the coming of Christ must be one of peace and good will.

Because of the mystic aspect of the evening, many traditions, superstitions, and legends abound. Each member of the family may pull a straw from under the tablecloth. The length of the straw determines the length of life, or, for the young folks the length of their single life. Melted wax is poured into water while the young and old attempt to identify shapes produced by the wax in order to predict events in their future. A ring, for example, foretells marriage, a cross - death, a ship - travel, and so on.

In the Lithuania of old, which was primarily an agricultural country, many legends were associated with the Christmas story. Many wonderful marvels were thought to occur at midnight of this special day - animals would

be able to speak and well water would mysteriously turn into wine.

After the Christmas Eve Supper, it is customary to leave food on the table for the refreshment of the souls of the deceased. In olden days, it was believed that at midnight the dead return to visit their homes and the Christ Child and his Mother pay a visit to all homes. The food is intended to represent some semblance of traditional Lithuanian hospitality.

The family exchanges Christmas gifts after supper; sings Christmas carols, and prepares to leave for Midnight Mass, which is the culmination of Christmas Eve and the beginning of Christmas Day. *Kalėdos* or Christmas

Day is spent visiting other family and friends, or receiving visitors informally.

Although Lithuania was the last nation of Europe to adopt Christianity more than 600 years ago, its people have remained true to their faith for many centuries, despite countless hardships. After fifty years under Soviet occupation, Lithuania can again celebrate Christmas as an independent nation with restored religious freedom and tolerance. For those 50 years, celebrating Christmas could only be done secretly. Now, once more the people in Lithuania are able to return openly to their ancient tradition.

Lithuanians all over the world have much for which to thank the Christ Child, as they recall the cherished traditions of their ancestors and preserve these beautiful customs.

*Truly, Lithuanians all over the world have much for which to thank the Christ Child, as they recall the cherished traditions of their ancestors and preserve these beautiful customs.*

# A TRADITION SUPPRESSED

*Vaikaitis Šiltis\**

It was barely a month short of my 22nd birthday when I first openly experienced a fully traditional Lithuanian Christmas. True, I was born in Lithuania to a Christian family, baptized and had received First Communion. But I was born in 1968, Soviet power was fully established and atheism the only officially sanctioned way of life. My father was a teacher and everyone in the educational field, as well as their family, were expected to lead a thoroughly Marxist/Leninist life and be an exemplary Communist.

As a child born and raised in Soviet Lithuania, I never really understood why the Christmas celebrations were so significant in America but not in Lithuania. I used to see TASS [the official Soviet news service] reports on Russian TV showing festive and incredible celebrations of Christmas in the United States that were much like our own New Year's celebrations.

*Born and raised in Lithuania, I was in my 21st year of age when I, at last, openly celebrated a truly traditional Lithuanian Christmas. It was in the United States with a group of Americans, most of whom had but a distant and partial Lithuanian heritage.*

As was the custom in the Lithuania of those times, my Grandmother undertook my religious training and prepared me for the reception of the sacraments. Of course, my grandmother told me about how things used to be - that Christmas was a religious holiday celebrating the birth of Christ. However, under the Soviets, people did not publicly observe December 24th and instead trans

*\*Vaikaitis Šiltis (lit.- Grandson Warmth)  
A collective pseudonym for the authors of  
this mosaic of thoughts and recollections of  
Christmas while growing up under the  
Soviets.*

ferred the festivities to a week later. Certainly, as children we could not attend Mass or even approach a church without being reported on or humiliated in school.

Only the older generations, people like my grandparents, who grew up truly believing, seemed unafraid of government disapproval and went to church on December 24th.

My teachers all throughout my school years drilled into me that it was not appropriate for a Soviet Lithuanian citizen to practice religion. This indoctrination was especially strong as that most important of Christian holidays approached. On Christmas, however, we felt safe celebrating quietly within the family circle.

Neither my sister and I nor any of our friends could ever mention the fact that Christmas had any meaning to us because we would be laughed at and punished by the school authorities. Worst of all we would be banned from attending the highlight of the school year, the New Year's Carnival held at every school throughout Lithuania, a few days

before New Year's eve. Not attending the Carnival meant isolation from your friends and peers - Carnival was the social event of the year.

I knew about the traditional meal called *Kučios*, but its religious significance was barely discernable. We (my parents, sister and I) would customarily drive to a neighboring city, where my grandmother lived, for the evening meal on December 24th. We were careful to ensure that we reflected no air of celebration or unusually high spirits. After all, Dec 24 and the following day were routine work/school days and we were supposed to be only on a normal family visit to Grandparents. Arriving at Grandmother's house, we would encounter other family members, and enter her house to be greeted by that marvelous smell of delicious food being prepared in the kitchen and a palpable sense of anticipation of family camaraderie. My Grandmother has remained faithfully religious all her life and we, children, would generally receive a guarded and simple explanation of the significance of the meal and the day.

Thus, we would have a huge family dinner by candlelight. It would start with my mother saying a prayer and then sharing blessed wafers that my grandmother had brought home from church. The foods prepared for the dinner were standard; but usually included

something made only for Christmas. If the meal was meatless, it was not unusual since many of our meals in those days were meatless. For several years, one special Christmas dish consisted meatless *Cepelinai*. (These Christmas *Cepelinai* were filled with minced mushrooms instead of ground meat.) There were special treats and a few things that made this meal a bit more special than other outings to Grandma's house.

There was no thought of going to Midnight Mass. I am not even sure, at this point of time, that there was a Midnight Mass at the local church. Safely surrounded in the bosom of the family, we could say our silent prayers and ponder our secret meditations. One of the enduring mysteries was the apparent increase in greetings being received from friends and acquaintances living abroad. So that when growing up, I felt that there was something that I was missing but couldn't imagine what or why.

*On Christmas, the churches all left their front doors wide open. We kids made a game of scurrying by with a quick peek in to see the lights and decorations. There always seemed to be someone (usually one of our teachers) lurking in the shadows to take down names of those who showed too much interest in what was inside the church. Or even worse, if we sneaked inside. The next day, we would be called to stand up in front of the class and be ridiculed.*

In those years, the authorities had preempted much of what I now know to be Christmas related. These were presented as part of the New Year celebrations. Villages and towns would set up decorated fir trees in front of the city hall. There were no religious symbols only Soviet made toys or decorations. The fir tree was topped off with a giant red Soviet star. The government also provided postcards saying, "Happy New Year" of course, available



only in Russian which could be bought in post offices and newsstands; individuals would also put up fir trees in their houses, decorate them with miniature toys or other Soviet-made baubles and call them New Year's trees (*Naujų metų eglutės*).

Each family in Lithuania, as in America, had their own traditions for celebrating New Year's Day. As a small child, I was always excited about winter because I knew that at the end of December, the best winter month, my father would go out into the woods and would drag home a beautiful New Year's tree.

My little sister and I would spend hours and hours decorating the tree - draping it with colorful balls, cotton, paper snowflakes, candy, cookies and, of course lights. On the top of the tree,

we would place a crown - some other families would place a star. The final touch was to place an "Uncle Frost" under the tree. My own family's figure was about two feet tall, with a red gown, long white hair and a cane. My parents used to say that the reason we were decorating the tree was because on New Year's Eve, we would have special guests like "Uncle Frost" who would secretly deliver us presents under the tree.

Friends and family would exchange gifts in conjunction with the New Year's holiday. Greeting cards, telephone calls and telegrams wishing Good Luck and Prosperity for the New Year were very popular and widely exchanged. Dining out at restaurants and partying at home were equally popular. The

revels might last for at least two days; so it would be January 3 or later, before things would settle down and begin to return to normal. As students we enjoyed the New Year's break.

In 1989, at the time of the first stirring of the national revival and the recently announced revival of official tolerance of religious practice, I noted a surprising development - some of the New Year's trees, were sporting angel shapes instead of the Soviet baubles. At the time, I could only be amazed and could not judge the significance behind this minor change.

*Senelis Šaltis - lit. Grandfather Cold  
A jolly old man, dressed in a red gown /great-coat trimmed with white fur; with long white hair and beard. He visited homes on New Year's Eve and hid presents in the New Year tree. The name comes from the Russian "Dyadya Moroz" or Old Man Frost.*

Then, in 1990, I came to the United States on a student exchange. In the course of time, I was invited to spend the Christmas holidays with newly acquired

Lithuanian-American friends. Nothing could have prepared me for the impact of finally openly experiencing a traditional Lithuanian Christmas. Actually, I attended an early Kučios celebration since the local Knights of Lithuania had a long established practice of holding a Kučios for their organizational family. Then, a few days later, the family Kučios was celebrated on Christmas Eve, followed by the exchanging of gifts and then attendance at Midnight Mass.

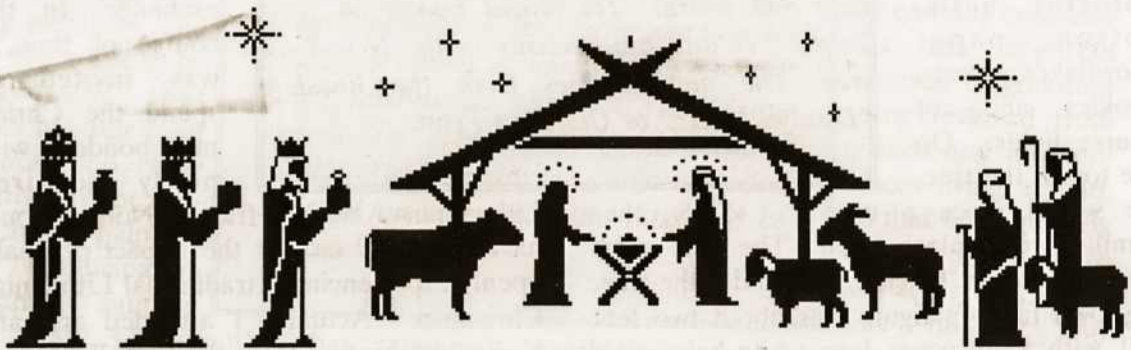
I returned to Lithuania during that August when the Soviet world collapsed and Lithuanian independence became a reality. I astounded my family and friends with tales of the sights and sounds of America and the varied experiences of life in the United States.

Most amazing to them were my stories of the many Lithuanian traditions that had been maintained within the emigre population and their descendants. The stories seemed to them like fairy tales.

The Christmas of 1991 will never be forgotten. For the first time in my life, I was able to openly observe Kučios and Kalėdos with my family and friends. We set up a true Christmas tree. Our family Kučios was a huge celebration, hosted by my parents at home with both Grandmother's and relatives

from both sides of the family attending. In 1993, Lithuania celebrated a formal national Mass at the Cathedral and broadcast the Papal Midnight Mass from the Vatican on Lithuanian State television. Trees throughout Lithuania were decorated with angels and religious symbols. The Cathedral in Vilnius set up a life-sized Nativity Scene. Greetings and signs throughout the country were no longer just Happy New Year but also Merry Christmas. Christmas was no longer a secret family celebration and a religious holy day but a national holiday.

Who knows... in a few years maybe even our stores in Lithuania will be selling candy canes and stocking stuffers on the day after All Saints' Day. Maybe all of us will be singing Jingle Bells and counting down the shopping days until Christmas. However, I hope that this will not diminish the sacred meaning of Christmas that was recently restored to independent Lithuania.



**PEACE!**

**Kalėdų Ramybė Visiems!**

**May we all be blessed in the New Year**

**With endless energy to continue to help our LIETUVA!**

***Council #1, Brockton, MA***

## A TRADITION TRANSPLANTED

by Vincent B. Boris

Among my earliest childhood memories are those of Kučios at my paternal grandmother's home. The first remembered Kučios was circa 1936 and, by that time, my father's family had been in the States some 35 years. Yet, Lithuanian traditions were very strong. (My grandmother throughout her life - and she died in her 70's - never learned to speak English. The common language at home was that strange patois developed by the early Lithuanian immigrants who settled in the coal mining areas of Pennsylvania and the industrial cities like Detroit, Pittsburgh and Chicago.) Being of hearty peasant stock, Grandma would not be satisfied with commercially produced foods. Everything had to be prepared by hand from scratch. In her advanced years, when arthritis made it difficult to manipulate all the kitchen utensils, the daughters and daughters-in-law were pressed into service but Grandma's eagle eye and iron will demanded perfect performance.

Preparation began days earlier. *Plotkelės*, the thin communion-like wafers, were acquired

weeks earlier from the parish organist who dispensed them for a stipend to augment his meager salary. Then the *silikai*, salted herring, were purchased days earlier so that they could be adequately soaked to remove the salt, cleaned and put into a spiced marinade for at least a week. The Christmas Eve biscuits,

which were to be served with poppy-seed milk, were also made days earlier so that they could be dried to a nut-like hardness. Today, we call them *slizikai*; but then we called them "klatskies" (Note the probable Polish-derived name with the English plural ending.) One other Kučios essential was also made days earlier. We called it "Kimmel" (based on the German name for caraway seed which was one of the main ingredients along

with honey and citrus peel. It was a semi-potent home concocted liqueur and is now referred to in Lithuanian as *Krupnikas*.

On Christmas Eve, itself, the family gathered early. The women to help out in the kitchen; the men to smoke and sip "Kimmel" in the parlor. The house was redolent with intriguing smells from the number of dishes being

### A LITHUANIAN-AMERICAN KUČIOS MENU

*Herring in sour cream \ shrimp cocktail*  
*Mushroom-barley soup*  
*Tossed salad*  
*Roast turkey w/stuffing*  
*Honey-baked ham*  
*Kugelis*  
*Sauteed sauerkraut*  
*Beet vinaigrette*  
*Fruit compote*  
*Christmas Eve Biscuits*  
*/with Poppy seed milk*  
*Coffee - Tea*  
*Pumpkin Pie*

prepared in the kitchen. There would be no tree or other decorations yet to signify the event; just a family gathering with a lot of hustle and bustle in the kitchen. It became customary for aunts and uncles to use this gathering as the occasion to introduce their intended spouse to the entire family. So there was frequently no lack of opportunity for good-humored earthy banter, most of which we, children, were not supposed to understand. This was especially so when the situation had changed during the previous year and a new "intended" was brought forth.

At sunset, we would all gather around the table for the ritualized dinner called Kučios. First, there was Grace pronounced by Grandma as was her right as matriarch. This was followed by the breaking and sharing of the "plotkelies." Dinner began with marinated herring and rye bread followed by a specially prepared mushroom-barley soup. Named *Raselė* (Little Dew), it was made but once a year - for Kučios. I should note that these first two courses were usually passed by the non-Lithuanian fiances or fiancées. One because the concept of eating fish separated from its natural state only by salting and marination was beyond the ken of typical "Americans." The other because of the highly pungent taste of *baravykai*, that truly unique Lithuanian mushroom, was enhanced with a liberal dash of pepper and vinegar. It was usually more than an uninitiated palate could take. The

*I will never cease to hold Kučios as an integral part of Christmas traditions... But, in time I have come to realize that the significance of Kučios was not in the traditional foods served but in the coming together of family and friends in that most human of joint endeavors - the breaking of bread together.*

family knew that, once the non-Lithuanian guest could savor and enjoy the *Raselė*, the relationship was serious and had a future.

The rest of the meal consisted of more or less routine dishes - baked fish, a meatless kugelis, cottage cheese blintzes, a buckwheat porridge, sauerkraut, cucumber salad, etc. There were supposed to be twelve courses (one for each of the Apostles) but as a kid I looked forward to the klatskies and poppy seed milk, which were served as dessert along with other pastries.

Soon after dinner, we, youngsters, were put to bed and most of the adults would be off to Midnight Mass. A few adults would remain to "babysit" but more importantly to put up and decorate the Christmas Tree and arrange all the gifts on the floor around the tree. It was indeed the middle of

the night, when after returning from Church the adults would loudly announce that "Santa had come." I shall never forget the awe and joy upon seeing that majestic and brilliantly lit tree. Christmas had indeed come.

Nor will I ever cease to hold "Kučios" as an integral part of Christmas. There could be no Christmas for me without also a Kučios. Even when living far from home with nary a Lithuanian within sight, I have found a way to celebrate Kučios. In Texas, it was with a group from the parish choir; in Germany, it was with fellow residents of the Bachelor

Officer's Quarters. Two things, fortunately, changed over the years. The Church abolished mandatory abstinence on Christmas Eve and American tastes (at least the palates of those with whom I was associated) developed a much higher sophistication. After all, if you are in the military, you probably have had a tour in Europe and were well acquainted with marinated herring widely available in German restaurants. If assigned to the far East, you undoubtedly would have tried sushi in Japan. Then, living in South Texas in San Antonio the home of Tex-Mex dishes, one would become accustomed to foods that far out-rivalled the Rasele for spiciness.

Somehow I always managed to get Plotkelės from home, find commercially prepared herring and a reasonable facsimile to *baravykai*. The Germans have close cousin called *Steinpilzen* (Stone-mushrooms). Adequate help and sometimes food contributions from choir members or fellow BOQ residents was always available, particularly if the participants were fortified with *Krupnikas*. It was no problem to organize a *Kučios* that started traditionally with Plotkelės, herring and *raselė* and ended traditionally at Midnight Mass (even if there were non-Catholics at dinner). In between, we have had a venison roast with *bulvine dešrele* (potato sausage); roast pork with sauteed sauerkraut; charcoal-grilled London broil, etc.

After Grandma had died, Mom assumed the responsibilities for the extended family *Kučios*. Growing up, it had been one of my duties to help prepare for *Kučios*, so I gradually learned all the tasks and mom had written out the recipes to help me prepare the *Kučios* in Texas. After mom died, and most of the food preparation was left to my brother and me, I

suggested that roast turkey and ham were infinitely easier to prepare and left overs much more palatable. So our meatless tradition at home, was also adapted to modern times. In time, I came to realize that the significance of *Kučios* was not in the traditional foods but in the coming together of friends and family to share in that most human of joint endeavors - the breaking of bread together.

I found my non-Lithuanian friends so taken with and impressed by the event that they would eagerly anticipate the next *Kučios*. A couple of friends in San Antonio continue the tradition of a Christmas Eve sit-down dinner with their own family and friends. They even refer to it as *Kučios* - a Lithuanian-derived custom.

It may be a unique facet of Christmas that it is so amenable to cross-cultural exchange. As we celebrate the feast in this country, we might observe that the Christmas tree tradition comes from Germany; the carols from France and Germany and caroling from England; the Creche from Italy. From our Lithuanian heritage comes *Kučios*. I realize that others, namely the Poles and Slovaks share a similar custom. The more the merrier. Revel in it. Share it with your non-Lithuanian friends. God took on human form and validated the fact that all humankind share a common nature. Celebrate the coming of Christ by celebrating the unity and brotherhood of humankind.

**"Let us break bread together."**



**LINKSMŲ KALĖDŲ ŠVENČIŲ  
IR  
LAIMINGŲ NAUJŲ METŲ  
VISIEMS LIETUVOS VYČIAMS**

**KRISTUI GIMUS**

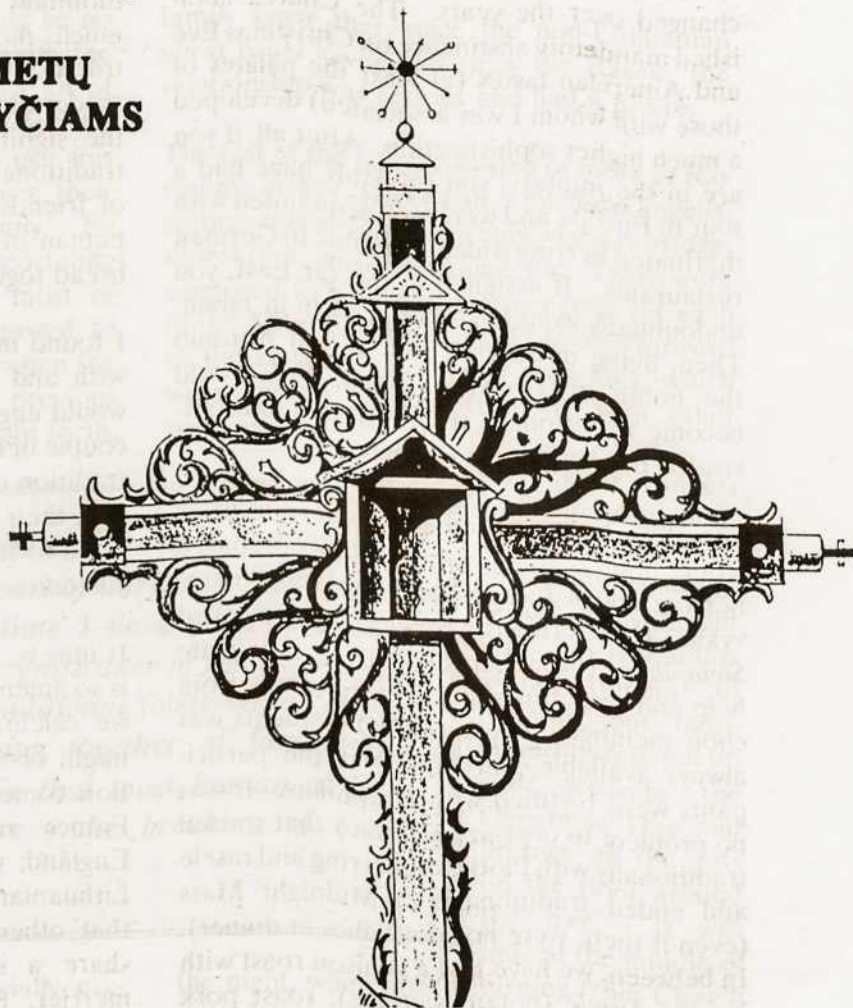
Pasaulis buvo tamsumoje,  
O žmonės nuodėmių klanuos  
Vis skendo, skendo gilumoje...  
Nebuvo kas išgelbsti juos.

Didžiūnai spaudė vargo žmones,  
Kankino, mušė nekaltai,  
Nerodė jiems jokios malonės –  
Tik žudė, smaugė taip šaltai.

Atėjo laukiama gadynė,  
Nušvito žemė ir dangus;  
Vergijos pančius tuoj sutrynė –  
Lengvai atsikvėpė žmogus.

Tarp varguolių gimė Kristus –  
Palaimą atnešė visiems;  
Pravėrė priespaudos Jis spąstus –  
Ir laisvę suteikė žmonėms!

1918 m. Leonardas Šimutis (Ilgesio valandėlės)



from the

**Officers and Members of  
KNIGHTS OF LITHUANIA  
MID-AMERICA DISTRICT**

# Ghosts From A Christmas Past

## A Story of an American Hero

by Maryte Abbott

*Despite being the daughter of a WW II D-Day Normandy invasion veteran, I never expected to gain much meaning from the whole 50th Anniversary commemoration, other than Dad would have yet another chance to relive his war stories. My father, Ed Bablinskas, a C-100 Amsterdam Knight of Lithuania travelled to the D-Day Celebration but realized there was yet another beach that beckoned. It was the scene of a terrible and unforgettable experience; one he had relived over and over on the most solemn holy day of his Lithuanian Catholic heritage, Christmas Eve and its Kučios meal. I never realized what a real American hero was until I had read an old war manuscript my father had tucked among the browned clippings he kept of the War in an old photo album. It was not the commemoration of D-day that brought this archive of the past out to be read and viewed. It was my father's recent heart attack upon his return from the Normandy Anniversary Observance in June. With some modifications for brevity, I have, nevertheless, tried to keep the story in his words and in first person. It is, after all, his story.*

The scene was France, in Cherbourg, near the famed Utah Beach, during the winter of 1944. The Battle of the Bulge was raging in Belgium. Instead of being sent to the battle. I got somehow left behind with a 190 member ship salvage crew here. Christmas was rapidly approaching and it was getting very cold, the zero degree level. Every night just before Christmas, I felt melancholy. This was my third Christmas at war and it was getting worse all the time. Laying in my sleeping bag, I could see the stars above. It seemed like camping in the Adirondack Mountains of my former home in Upstate New York. Yet, this was not camping. We had these lightweight Army sleeping bags, one inside the other, trying to keep warm, sleeping with one's clothes on in the dampness. Though I never wanted to admit it, I cried on many of those damp nights just thinking how miserable life at war was.

Good Lord, why me? Why us? Very few

men are left in our unit, probably less than a hundred. I was a Coxswain of the Western Naval Task Force 126, the Salvage and Fire-fighters Group led by Commander W.A. Sullivan. But on this particular day, he wasn't here; we were leaderless. We could do anything we wanted to do. And the holiday season was here. So, I

*Why do the nations so furiously  
rage together and why do the people  
imagine a vain thing?*

Isaiah, Ps. 2,1.  
Handel, Messiah, Part II

thought, let's just have a party for some of the local orphans. We figured there were quite a few even in this small town. So, I discussed it with my buddies and we figured we'd share whatever we had with those parentless kids. The Battle of the Bulge was going on, but we were still here, so we'd better make the best of it.

Someone went to the orphanage and made arrangements with the nuns there. We tried to abscond with some goodies (as we called it - draw midnight stores) from the Army but nothing was available to us. I had a few oranges saved and that was it from my part, no other sweets were to be had. The other

sailors had not much more. I sat on the beach this Christmas Eve, 1944, yearning to be on the other side of the sea. Ships seemed to be moving up in the distance far away. One ship appeared to be standing still. I stood there, discouraged and then headed back to our headquarters, we named the "little grass shack," a small portion of a bombed out warehouse. I couldn't eat upon returning and decided, instead, to walk to a nearby church for Christmas Eve services.

The Church was small compared to most French Cathedrals built in the Middle Ages. It was bullet ridden by this war. The French priest talked about how tough life was and how terrible life could be. Although my understanding of French was poor, this depressed me more. Having heard enough, I decided to walk back into the cold crystal night. The time was almost eight o'clock.

As I walked back to the dock, there was a lot of commotion. A few dozen men from my unit were there and they asked me for a little help. All they said was that there was a ship out there; it had some problems and they needed help. I offered to go aboard a little mine sweeper with five other sailors and moments later off we went. It must have taken an hour or so to get out there, as the ship was about five miles from shore. The night was bitter zero cold and inky dark. I was not dressed warmly enough to be out at sea this long, I thought, but moments later all these selfish thoughts disappeared.

To this day, I still can't believe what I was about to see. The more I looked, the more it seemed like there were giant corks floating in

the sea. I looked again and they were bodies, corpses. Dozens of them, hundreds and hundreds of corpses on all sides of our little sweeper. These were American soldiers in the water. As we got closer to them, we at first thought they were all alive. We started to pull and tug them up onto the boat. Then, after the first two lifeless bodies were pulled over, panic had taken over. These men were not alive. It was like pulling up heavy, water-logged statues with limp dishrags draped around them. All of these men had their equipment on; most of them had helmets on and had their bags over their backs. A few had rifles still strapped on. I was awestruck, transfixed, at this reality. I could not believe this. It didn't seem real. It was all from outer space, I kept thinking. Tears rolled down my cheeks and stuck to my face stinging in the cold and damp. I was getting numb. These bodies were cold. We kept pulling them out

of the water and into the boat, one by one. The boat of ours was small. We couldn't hold too many. Each time we pulled a man out, we tried to find a little pulse left. Nothing. The ones we thought might have a bit of hope, we took below. The engine

room was small but we managed to take a few bodies down there and to our amazement, maybe two or three thawed out and survived. I still couldn't believe this. The tears continued to freeze to my cheeks; my hands were becoming claws; I could not manipulate my fingers. The death that gripped these drowned men seemed to be creeping up on me. We had thin jackets on, we were constantly freezing.

One self-appointed captain decided it was enough, so we headed back to the dock. I

*A cry was heard at Ramah,  
sobbing and loud lamentations.  
Rachel bewailing her children  
No comfort for her; they are no  
more.*

Jeremiah 31, 15  
Gospel for Dec. 28  
Feast of the Holy Innocents



could not have imagined what we were about to see at the dock itself. I got back to the dock to start to unload the bodies onto a steel pontoon. The pontoon was about 1,000 ft. long. It so happened that this pontoon was located in the corner of the dock where the Army weeks earlier had dumped champagne wine bottles after a party. For some reason this little irony and others like it kept me going.

We laid the bodies of the soldiers upon the dock, one by one. The night seemed to be getting colder. It was charcoal dark. The only light we had was the tiny glow coming off some of the small boats. Two Southern boys who were stationed on this little ship were screaming and yelling, "Hurry up, y'all! Take them all out." I guess they thought we were going out for another trip. Someone else yelled, "Let's go below and get some coffee to warm up." Down below, three of us sipped hot coffee. My mind was spinning in a thousand directions, yet I couldn't speak and neither could the other assistants. Everyone was silent, a reverence for the dead. I knew they were all thinking the same thing: What had gone on out there? What unnamed battle were we cleaning up after? What a Christmas present - Death"

I went back to the dock to help lay out the corpses. From the corner of my eye, I, then, saw two soldiers way down at the far end of a barge. At first, I thought they simply were taking name tags off the dead men, but soon I could see they were stripping the dead men of their valuables. With their sharp knives, they were slicing open pants pockets so wallets with money could be slipped out more easily. Those two soldiers' fatigue pockets

soon bulged with loot. A few moments later two Army colonels appeared out of nowhere. They looked down and spotted the soldiers stripping the dead. They immediately picked up an M.P. somewhere and grabbed the two thieves. Marching the soldiers up the gang plank, they took them to the back of the dock facilities. Two shots rang out in the distance. Whether the thieves got an instant court-martial or were executed on the spot was a question that I had never got answered. I heard no more. Both the colonels and the M.P. disappeared.

Action increased. Now there were about 100 men assisting in the cleanup. A sad part of this episode, I was to find out later, was that no one had been told the ship was sinking. Especially with the shore so close and yet too far to swim to. No one in his right mind would have gone overboard with all his equipment: Guns, sea bags, helmets, heavy wool overcoats, boots.

What made me most upset, however, was seeing the inside of the soldiers' helmets. There inside the webbing of their

helmet liners were pictures of their loved ones, sweethearts, babies, mothers and fathers. In the dim light, the only identification I could see was the outline of the Black Cat displayed on the left shoulder of their heavy coats. The small boats that brought the soldiers to shore, first unloaded them on a steel barge about 1,000 feet long. After a while the whole barge was stacked with bodies, all neatly in a row like cord wood. I could not fathom this awesome sight. Silently, the stacks of bodies grew larger. Two soldiers bent down to pick up another body but the body said, "Where am I?" It terrified them - it was as if the man had risen from the dead

*Myrrh is mine: its bitter perfume  
breathes a life of gathering gloom;  
Sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying,  
Sealed in a stone cold tomb.*

Verse 4,  
We Three Kings of Orient Are  
A 19th Century Christmas Carol

as he was stacked on the barge with the other bodies. No one had observed that he was still alive.

At about 4:30 Christmas morning a small group of aircorps flatbed trucks arrived. They helped us load the bodies aboard their trucks. As silently as this all had happened; it seemed to vanish. A few days later I found out they unloaded the bodies in the back of the hospital. They were quickly taken to a military cemetery about eight miles south of Cherbourg; were buried, and the whole incident ended. The more I thought of this incident, the more it seemed like a bad dream and that whole night - a nightmare. Yet, we had promised local orphans a party. So we forced ourselves to be cheerful or fake it at best and help out with this Christmas festival for these little kids. It was a small but sweet feast, that brought tears to even the most stalwart. Some of the soldiers in our group never knew what had happened just a few hours ago at the shore. They didn't even know that in the darkness on one of the holiest nights of the year, the seas opened up, swallowing hund-

reds of American soldiers, then just closed up again when all had vanished. When I got back to my quarters, I thought somebody would say something about it like comparing it to the sinking of the Titanic, or something. Nothing. The Battle of the Bulge caught all the media's attention and I was not to learn of the details of this disaster until many years later from another veteran's account and from a book called A Night Before Christmas, by Jaquin Sanders, (1963, G.P. Putnam's Sons). A memorial to the men who died that night was dedicated at Fort Rucker, Alabama on May 11, 1987.

More than 750 men were lost from the 66th Panther Infantry Division as they were crossing the English Channel. A torpedo was fired at the command of Oberleutnant Gerhard Meyer in U-486. It found its way to midship on the starboard side of the Leopoldville; it struck at 5:50 p.m. killing 300 instantly in two troop compartments. The remaining fatalities were of those who went into the water and were not rescued when the ship sank a little more than two hours later.

*This forgotten slice of history will be hauntingly remembered at the empty setting of our family's Christmas Eve dinner. My father will have the memories and relive the Christmas Eve night in a far away country where the 750 men of the 66th Unit of the Black Panther Division died in the cold inky blackness of the English Channel. (Maryte Abbott is a C-110, Maspeth Knight of Lithuania.)*



## COVENTRY CAROL

Lully, lulla, thou little tiny child! By by, lully, lullay

O sisters too,  
How may we do  
For to preserve this day  
This poor youngling  
For whom we do sing,  
By by, lully, lullay.

Herrod, the king,  
In his raging.  
Charged he hath this day  
His men of might  
In his own sight,  
All young children to slay.

That woe is me,  
Poor child for thee!  
And ever morn and day,  
For thy parting  
Neither say nor sing  
By by, lully, lullay!

(Taken from an old English Christmas pageant; the song is sung by the women of Bethlehem just before the approach of King Herrod's soldiers.)

## **THE KNIGHTS OF LITHUANIA FOUNDATION, INC.**

was established in 1984 as an Endowment Fund, to:



- finance projects to enhance Knights of Lithuania aims and goals,
- help our members learn and speak out about their Lithuanian heritage,
- send needed help – books, medications, other support – to the suffering people of Lithuania, especially her youth.
- ensure the financial future of the Knights of Lithuania.

Help celebrate the K of L Foundation's **TENTH ANNIVERSARY**

by joining the Foundation or adding to your previous donation. A donation of \$100 will make you a Foundation Member, \$1000 will make you an Honored Member, but a donation of any amount will be most gratefully accepted. To send a tax-deductible donation or obtain more information, write to:



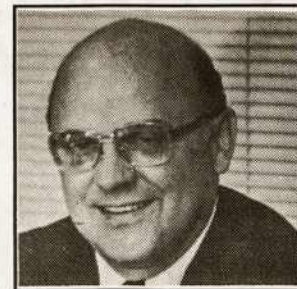
**KNIGHTS OF LITHUANIA FOUNDATION, INC.**  
234 Sunlit Drive  
Watchung, New Jersey 07060




---

***In Loving Memory of ...***  
***DR. JACK J. STUKAS, HONORARY MEMBER***

Jack Stukas loved working in the Knights of Lithuania, and left his legacy -- organizing the Scholarship and Cultural Committees, serving 4 terms as National President and many other offices, organizing K of L trips all over the world, and being a voice on how to keep the Knights on the right track, working for "God and Country."



He treasured life and even in his great pain, considered every new day a gift from God. Jack died as he lived, full of hope and love, but accepting the will of God in his destiny.

My heartfelt thanks to all K of L-ers who prayed for him during his illness and after his death, sent mass offerings, donations and sympathy. A special thanks to all who participated in his wake and funeral. I will value your warm display of friendship always. Please continue to keep Jack in your prayers.

*May God grant you all a most holy and peaceful Christmas and New Year.*

***LORETTA I. STUKAS, HM***  
***Council 29, Newark, NJ***



**WISHING ALL OUR FRIENDS IN**

**THE KNIGHTS OF LITHUANIA**

**A BLESSED CHRISTMAS**

*and a*

**HAPPY, PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR**

**from the**

**OFFICERS AND MEMBERS OF**

**MARQUETTE PARK COUNCIL 112**

**CHICAGO, ILLINOIS**



*Linkime Viesiems Linksmų Šv. Kalėdų  
ir Laimingų 1995 Metų!*

**AČIŪ**  
and  
**CONGRATULATIONS**

**KNIGHTS OF LITHUANIA**  
**You made it happen!**

**Medicine and Medical supplies worth over**

**10 MILLION DOLLARS**

**Sent to Lithuania as of November 1994**

*Keep the spirit of Christmas alive 365 days of the year!*

Please send your contributions to:  
**AID TO LITHUANIA, INC.**

**4557 FAIRWAY COURT  
WATERFORD, MI 48328-3483**

**Ph: (810) 682-0098**

**Fax: (810) 682-5201**

*Linksmų Kalėdų Švenčių ir*

*Laimingų Naujųjų Metų*

*Visiems Lietuvos Vyčiams*



*Merry Christmas and a*

*Happy New Year to all*

*from*

***The OFFICERS and MEMBERS of the***

***NEW ENGLAND DISTRICT***

*Council 1 Brockton, MA*  
*Council 7 Waterbury, CT*  
*Council 10 Athol-Gardner, MA*  
*Council 17 So. Boston, MA*  
*Council 26 Worcester, MA*  
*Council 27 Norwood, MA*  
*Council 30 Westfield, MA*

*Council 50 New Haven, CT*  
*Council 78 Lawrence, MA*  
*Council 103 Providence, RI*  
*Council 116 So. Worcester, MA*  
*Council 135 Ansonia, CT*  
*Council 141 Bridgeport, CT*  
*Council 145 Holyoke, MA*



## VALIO! FATHER JOE

On December 19, 1969, the Reverend Mr. Joseph J. Anderlonis was ordained a priest of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia by Bishop James A. Hickey (now Cardinal Hickey of Washington, D.C.) at the Basilica of St. Peter in Vatican City. On November 20 of this year, the 25th anniversary of that event was commemorated with a Solemn Mass at St. George's Church in Port Richmond (Philadelphia), Pennsylvania. We note the achievement of this milestone with a traditional Lithuanian:

*Ilgiausių metų - Sveikiausių metų - Laimingų metų - Palaimintų metų*

The Reverend Doctor Joseph J. Anderlonis has been the pastor at St. George, one of three still operating Lithuanian parishes in Philadelphia, for 12 years. In addition he has served us, the Knights of Lithuania, as National Spiritual Advisor since 1988. In these recent years, he has come to be well respected and much beloved. We affectionately call him, Fr. Joe.



*Fr. Joe at Gates of Dawn Chapel, Vilnius, 1993*

He is a native Philadelphian and spent his childhood years in the Bridesburg community. He attended St. Andrew and All Saints Elementary Schools and Father Judge High School. Fr. Joe began his preparation for the priesthood at St. Charles Borromeo Seminary in 1962. Completing these studies with highest honors in 1966, he was given the opportunity to pursue further studies in Rome at the North American College. As a resident

of this college, he was enrolled at the Jesuit Pontifical Gregorian University. He earned a Baccalaureate degree in Sacred Theology in 1968. After ordination, he continued his studies and was awarded a Licentiate Degree in 1970.

Fr. Joe, then, returned to Philadelphia to a variety of assignments which included serving as curate at Resurrection Parish, Chester, PA; Associate Pastor at Old St. Mary's (Society Hill); the Basilica-Cathedral of

Sts. Peter and Paul and Holy Savior Church, Linwood, PA. From 1977 until 1982, Fr. Joe served on the faculty of Neumann College, as assistant professor and as chaplain. During this time, he also was the academic supervisor of the Permanent Diaconate program of the Diocese of Wilmington, DE. In 1982, Father Anderlonis was appointed the tenth (in

succession) pastor of St. George Lithuanian Church, as well as designated to serve on the Marriage Tribunal of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia.

Father Anderlonis was awarded a Doctorate in Sacred Theology on May 29, 1987 after finishing additional studies (*magna cum laude*) at the Gregorian University. His doctoral dissertation examined extensively the Christology of the Swedish Lutheran theologian and bishop, Gustaf Aulen (1879-1977). His scholarship and research drew wide praise from Swedish scholars, as well.

It was early in 1988, that Fr. Joe was brought to the attention of the Knights of Lithuania. Our then Spiritual Advisor, Fr. Jurgelaitis, OFM, had indicated his desire to retire and a search for a suitable replacement had been initiated. **Joseph Drumstis**, then President of Council 3 and *a.a.* **Helen Shields, HM**, approached Fr. Joe to determine his willingness to take on such organizational duties in addition to his pastoral and diocesan responsibilities. He did not reject the idea but did indicate that he would have to give it some consideration before making a commitment. Helen undertook an intensive effort of both convincing Fr. Joe to accept the appointment and convincing the leadership and members of the K of L to make the formal offer. She also took action to ensure confirmation of his appointment to the position of National Spiritual Advisor by the Lithuanian-American Priests League, which was the final authority whose approval was mandatory. Her efforts were successful. At the 75th Annual National Convention in Washington, D.C., Fr. Anderlonis was selected and confirmed as National Spiritual Advisor.

It is hard to imagine a better choice or a

more fortunate assignment (for us, Knights). Fr. Joe is an exceptionally gifted homilist. He has spoken at the Masses during the National Conventions and at several Supreme Council meetings. His masterful weaving of the inspirational and spiritual content of Scriptural readings into the fabric of real-world concerns represents a rarely encountered art. He has that almost unique capability to make the universal truths of Holy Scripture attain a special personal relevance to each listener. His smooth professional demeanor has calmed the stormiest confrontations and emotion laden exchanges. His usual wise counsel offers quick resolution to the most thorny problems. And on top of this, he really is a nice guy and a lot of fun to be with.

As Spiritual Advisor, he accompanied the group of K of L's on the Pilgrimage and Heritage Tour of Lithuania in 1993. It hadn't been pre-planned but our 14-day tour was interspersed with seven Masses. For five of these, he was the Celebrant and Homilist. His skill in relating the liturgy to the reality of the time and place were never so evident. The liturgies at the Shrine of the Apparition in Šiluva and at Aušros Vartai were particularly memorable and ensured that the trip would be remembered by all the participants as truly a Pilgrimage.

It should also be noted that Fr. Joe has achieved an additional milestone this year. Having been born in 1944, he has now passed the big 50.

*Congratulations, again, Fr. Joe.*

*We wish you: a long life,  
a healthy life,  
a prosperous life and  
a life filled with blessings.*



# Holiday Greetings

FROM NEW HAVEN, CONN.  
The 72nd National Convention City



*Linksmu  
Kalėdu Švenčiui*

*Laimeingu  
Nauju Metu!*

Rev. A. Karalis  
Pastor  
St. Casimir's Lithuanian Church

Officers and Members  
Knights of Lithuania Council 50

*LINKSMŲ ŠVENTŲ KALĖDŲ*

*IR*

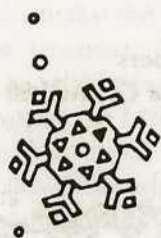
*LAIMINGŲ NAUJŲJŲ METŲ*

*Visiems Lietuvos Vyčiams*



*GARBĖS NARYS*

*KAZYS ŠIPAILA*



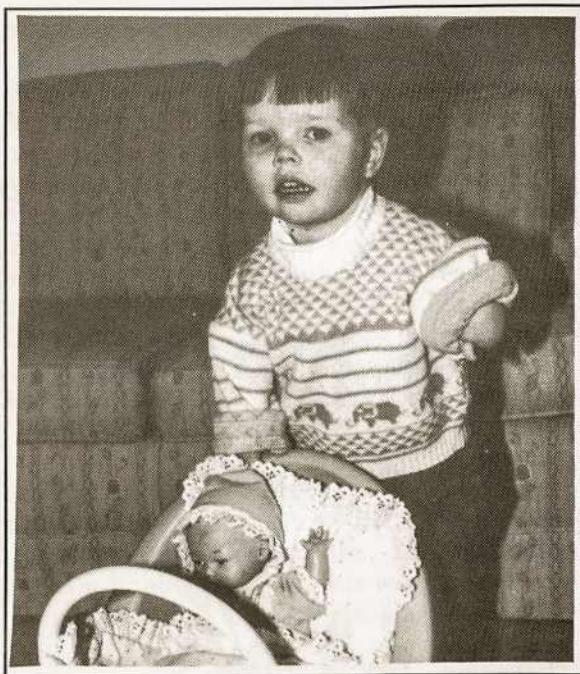
## CHRISTMAS CAME EARLY FOR LITTLE RITA

For little Rita Vasilko, the charming Lithuanian 3 year old who came to the United States from her native Lithuania for medical care early this year, Christmas truly came early. She will enjoy the holidays in the loving care of new adoptive parents, able to take part in normal child play and activity with a new prosthesis and some newly-enabled fingers.

Rita was born in Lithuania with congenital deformities of both arms. She spent her early life in the Vilnius Children's Home. K of L member of C-29, Dr. Michael Yudd, found her in the orphanage and arranged for the charitable organization "Healing the Children" to bring her to the US for surgery and treatment. She arrived in New Jersey last February. Dr. Yudd's aunt and uncle, Mr. & Mrs. John Raudonis of Union, NJ, volunteered to be her foster parents during her stay here, and numerous organizations, including K of L C-29 of Newark, the New Jersey Americans for an Independent Lithuania, and HM Jack and Loretta Stukas' "Memories of Lithuania" Radio hour collected money to help pay some of her incidental expenses as well as donate to the "Healing the Children" organization toward her treatment.

Rita had surgery on her right extremity and was fitted with a prosthesis for the left arm, which ended near the elbow. She required a great deal of physical therapy to improve the function of her only two fingers on her right arm and to use the prosthesis on her left. She has made great progress, and is an active, bright and happy little girl. She can now write, eat by herself, and lift things.

Through the grace of God and the help of



Dr. Yudd, a childless couple fell in love with her and decided to adopt her. In late October, they took Rita back to Vilnius and adopted her in the Lithuanian courts according to Lithuanian laws. To obtain an American visa, they traveled to the American Embassy in Warsaw.

They returned one happy family. Rita is now Rita Jean Oldham and her parents are Deborah and Glenn Oldham.

Dr. Yudd and the Oldhams thank the K of L and others for their concern and support for Rita. Rita's good fortune and that of the Oldhams is shared by all who played a part in giving this beautiful child a new life, first with medical care and now with a loving and caring family.

CHRISTMAS CAME EARLY  
FOR LITTLE RITA

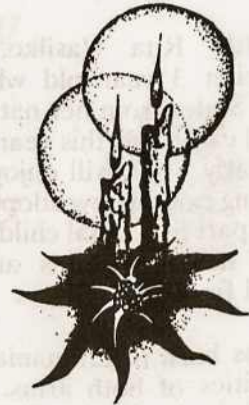
LINKSMŲ ŠVENTŲ KALĖDŲ

**TO ALL OF OUR K OF L MEMBERS**

**A BLESSED MERRY CHRISTMAS**

*and*

**A HAPPY HEALTHY NEW YEAR**



**LINKSMŲ ŠVENTŲ KALĖDŲ**

*ir*

**LAIMINGŲ NAUJUJŲ METŲ**



**KNIGHTS OF LITHUANIA COUNCIL 29**

**NEWARK, NEW JERSEY**



## GIFTS TO LITHUANIA, IN A FAMILY TRADITION

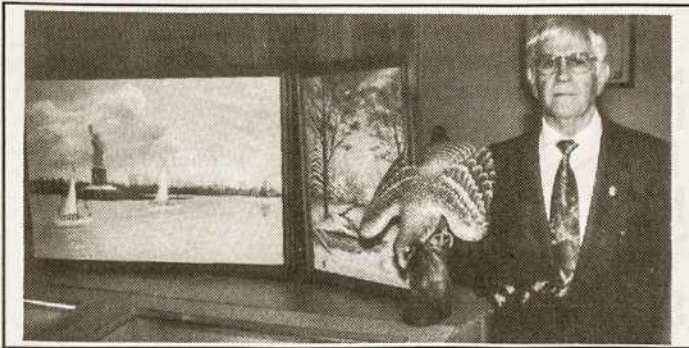
Julijonas Andruška, used to create wood carvings as the mood suited him. His works included a horse with a real mane, a long-necked crane, witches, devils. The art was so realistic it was admired by all who saw it, but unfortunately little remains, except a few pieces in the Kelmė, Lithuania Art Museum. Thus the arrival in Lithuania from New Jersey of Mr. Andruška's son Domas, and a gift of his own art work was cause for celebration for the museum. The Andruška art "dynasty" would continue in the museum.

**Domas Andruška**, a K of L-er of C-29, Newark, visited his native Lithuania this Fall, and donated to the Kelmė Museum several of his own paintings and a wood sculpture of a hawk. The artwork was presented without fanfare, as a memorial to his late father Julijonas Andruška, and will be housed next to his father's work.

One painting depicts a historic moment -- the arrival of the Lithuanian yachts, Lithuanian flag flying, at the US Statue of Liberty. The other is a view of a snow-covered Lithuanian village, romanticized by Domas' memories of his childhood days in Lithuania. The hawk, situated high on a cabinet to depict its preparation for flight, looks as if made of marble, but closer inspection


proves it is indeed wooden.

Domas last visited the museum in his youth, in Lithuania, when the museum was still part of the estate of Graf Guževičius, and when he was still learning the art of painting and wood-carving from his father! His life after that took many unexpected twists and turns. Domas made brick stoves for his neighbors and served as a volunteer in the Lithuanian army. He experienced horror under the Russians and Germans as he fled his newly-occupied homeland. Eventually he found himself in the US, under the care of an uncle. Employed as a mechanical draftsman, he raised a family and became comfortable with a new life, but never forgot his Lithuanian roots. He resumed art as a hobby, and soon his works were in demand by his friends and for art displays.



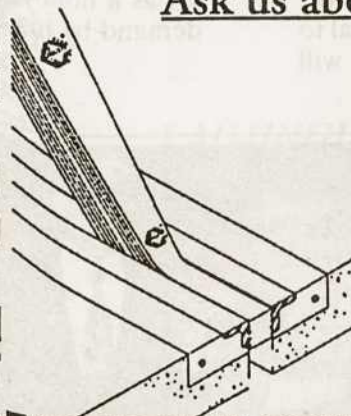
When he revisited Lithuania 18 years ago, he came secretly to Kelmė, with hardly enough time to visit his father's grave. Now Domas has demonstrated his inherited talents, and honored not only his father but also two late brothers -- also artists, with his gifts to his native town's

museum. His last living brother spent most of the days of Domas' visit wiping tears from his eyes, and vowing to encourage other artistic members of the Andruška family to keep their family name alive in the museum with donations of their art work.

**E-POXY INDUSTRIES****Linki Visiems Vyčiams****LINKSMŲ ŠVENTŲ KALĖDŲ****IR LAIMINGŲ NAUJŲ METŲ!**



**X  
P  
A  
N  
S  
I  
O  
N**

**EVAZOTE 380® ESP**  
Outperformed All Others  
Ask us about it!



**J  
O  
I  
N  
T**

**SECONDARY CONTAINMENT**

1 800 833 3400  
518 756 6193  
FAX 518 756 3003  
Ext. 13

14 W. Shore Street  
Ravena, NY  
12143

**E-POXY Presidentas  
Jo Motina****Jo Brolis ir Broliene****DONALD DZEKČIORIUS IR ŠEIMA  
STASE DZEKČIORIAI,****Nare 100-tos Kupos  
ALGIMANTAS IR ANELE DZEČIORIAI  
IR ŠEIMA, Nariai, 100-tos Kuopos**

**THE LITHUANIAN ALLIANCE OF AMERICA  
SUSIVIENIJIMAS LIETUVIŲ AMERIKOJE**

extends to all member of the Knights of Lithuania best wishes for a

**VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS, and a  
MOST PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR!**

*Led by the Star of CHRISTMAS and the Trumpets of the NEW YEAR, we greet all Lithuanians throughout the world, all members of the Knights of Lithuania and all members of the Lithuanian Alliance of America, joining our hearts with the love we all feel for the land of our Birth or Heritage, Lithuania.*

*As you make your New Year's Resolutions at the stroke of midnight on New Year's Eve, please consider participation in the Insurance Program offered by the oldest Lithuanian organization in the world, the LITHUANIAN ALLIANCE OF AMERICA, entering its 109th year of existence with new and exciting plans for your financial future.*

*For information on policies available, please contact:*



**LITHUANIAN ALLIANCE OF AMERICA**  
307 West 30th St.  
New York, NY 10001  
(212) 563-2210



**LAA SUPREME EXECUTIVE BOARD**

<b>PRESIDENT</b> . . . . .	Dr. Vytautas Dargis	<b>TRUSTEE</b> . . . . .	Nellie Bayoras-Romanas
<b>VICE PRESIDENT</b> ..	Vytautas Kasniunas	<b>TRUSTEE</b> . . . . .	Stasys Virpša
<b>SECRETARY</b> . . . . .	Genevieve Meiliunas	<b>MED. ADVISOR.</b> ..	Dr. Vytautas Tauras
<b>TREASURER</b> . . . . .	Loretta I. Stukas		

**LINKSMŲ ŠV. KALĖDŲ IR LAIMINGŲ BEI SVEIKŲ NAUJŲJŲ METŲ**

*The Happiest And Warmest  
of Holiday Greetings To All  
Our Fellow Knights And Friends From*

**The Knights Of Lithuania Choir  
Chicago, Illinois.**



*Our Sincerest Thanks To Everyone  
For All Your Support During  
The Past Year.*



# O GREIČIAU, GREIČIAU

L. J. ŠIMUTIS

Andante

1. *p* O grei-čiau, grei-čiau — *mf* Į Bet-lie-ju bė-kit  
 0 gar-siau, gar-siau — gies-me-les gie-do-kit  
 2. 0 žmo-gau, zi-nai — Šią-nakt Jė-zus gi-mė  
 Lai-mei am-ži-nai — Die-vo gar-bei že-mėj  
 3. 0 grei-čiau, grei-čiau — prie Jė-zaus sku-bė-kit  
 0 gar-siau, gar-siau — Jam gies-mes gie-do-kit

*mf* An-ge-lai dan-gu-je aukš-tai, *mp* gar-bi-na Į šven-  
*p* Dan - - - gu-je šven - - -

*rit.* tai šven-tai *p a tempo* Gar-bi-na džiaugs-min-gai. *rit.*  
 tai šven-tai

The Happiest And Warmest  
of Holiday Greetings To All  
Our Fellow Knights And Friends From

STROMIŠ 1. J

The Knights Of Lithuania Choir

## GIMĖ KRISTUS

Jonas Minelga

LYGIEMS BALSAMS

Unpublished Works © 1979 Faustas Strolia

Faustas Strolia, 1979

Gyvai  $\text{♩} = 70$

*f* *Leggieramente* *mf*

1. Gi - mė Kris - tus, - aš ma - čiau, Pie - me - nė - liai ė - jo.  
3. Trys ka - ra - liai iš ry - tų Auk - so žvaigž - dė se - ka...

*f* *mf* *Fine*

1. Nak - tį žvaigž - dė daug skais - čiau Švie - tė ir žė - rė jo.  
3. Tau prie Ne - mu - no kran - tų Ji pa - ro - dys ta - ką.

PRIEGIESMIS

*mp* *cresc.* *mf*

2. Var - pui gau - džiant, an - ge - lai Gies - mę Jam gie - do - jo.

*mp* *cresc. molto e rall.* *f* *DC* *al Fine*

2. Bal - tos pie - vos ir ši - lai Pa - ta - lė - lj klo - jo. \*)

\*) Po trečio posmo giedoti priegiesmį ir užbaigti pirmu.

Our Sincerest Thanks To Everyone  
For All Your Support During  
The Past Year.

Unpublished Work. © 1977 Faustas Strolia

## TYLIAJĄ NAKTUŽĘ.

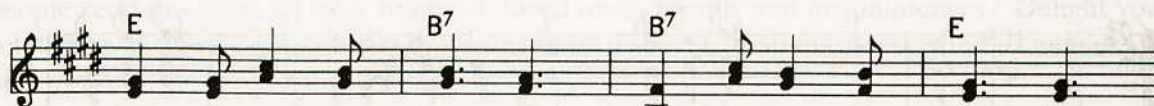
Stasys Garliauskas

LYGIEMS BALSAMS:  $\text{♩} = 75$ 

Faustas Strolia



1. Ty - lia - ja nak - tu - žė žvaigž - dės su - spin - dè - jo.  
 3. Pie - me - nė - liai bė - go Gar - bė a - ti - duo - ti.  
 5. Vėl at - eis Ka - lė - dos, Su - spin - dės žvaigž - du - tės,



1. Kai Jė - zu - lis gi - mē Ma - ža - me Bet - lie - juj.  
 3. Iš ry - tų at - vy - ko Iš - min - čiai barz - do - ti.  
 5. Sku - bės pra - kar - tē - lėn My - lin - čios šir - du - tės.



1. Kai Jė - zu - lis gi - mē Ma - ža - me Bet - lie - juj.  
 3. Iš ry - tų at - vy - ko Iš - min - čiai barz - do - ti.  
 5. Sku - bės pra - kar - tē - lėn My - lin - čios šir - du - tės.



2. Bu - vo la - bai šal - ta, An - ge - lai gie - do - jo.  
 4. Do - va - no - jo auk - so, Smil - ka - lų ir my - ros.



2. Gy - vu - liai su - klu - po Prie Vai - ke - lio ko - jų.  
 4. Nors Jė - zu - lis my - li Žmo - gaus šir - di ty - rą.

Žodīiai Jokūbo Stuko

# PRAKARTĒLĒJ KŪDIKĒLIS

Muzika Liudo Stuko

1. Pra-kar-tē - - lēj Kū-di-kē - lis, ty-liai, ty - liai mie-ga  
 2. Neš-kit do - va-nas džiaugs-min - gai, šven-tos zvaigz-dēs ly-di  
 3. Pa-sku-bē - kim ir mes bē - kim a - ti duo - ti mei-lē

1. Jis, Kas-gi Vieš - - pa-čiu pa- skelbs Jī, kas Jī gar - bins, kas pa  
 2. mi, kū - di kē - liui At-pir- kē - jui iš ar - ti ir iš to  
 3. Jam, Jis at sius - tas skelbt mums džiaugs-mā, gar-bin - kim su - klu-pē

1. gerbs? Bē - kit, pie - me-nys, sku - bē - kit gar-bint Jī  
 2. Jī! Jī pa - links-min-kim gies - mē - mis, Kū-di - Jī  
 3. Jī. Pra-kar-tē - lēn pa-gul - dy - tam, duo-kim gar - li gi-mu - je!  
 bē gi-mu - siam!

Glo - ri - a, in ex - cel - sis De - o,  
 Glo-ri - a, glo-ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o,  
 Glo - ri - a, in ex - cel - sis De - o,  
 Glo-ri - a, glo-ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o,

## LANGUAGE CORNER... ...KALBOS KERTELĖ

### GREETINGS AND SALUTATIONS

The Christmas and New Year's celebrations have always been, and still are, the very most important, most significant, and most beautiful holidays in Lithuania. During these holidays, people send greetings to their relatives, loved ones, friends and acquaintances. Delight your relatives and friends in Lithuania by writing them a short Christmas greeting in Lithuanian. To help you out, we offer a few examples:

**A Formal Greeting:** (Appropriate for casual/older friends, close business associates. Degree of closeness indicated by use of first or last name. Note: use of first name after Mr./Ms. is not normal practice in English).

*Gerbiamas p. Kazimierai,*

*Primkite mano nuoširdžiausius sveikinimus ir geriausius linkėjimus Šv. Kalėdų ir Naujųjų Metų proga. Tegul 1995-ieji aneša Jums ir Jūsų artimiesiems daug laimės, džiaugsmo ir visokeriopos sėkmės.*

*Su pagarba,  
Jonas Kisielius*

Esteemed Mr. Casimir,

(Please) accept my heartfelt greetings and best wishes on the occasion of Christmas and the New Year. May 1995 (lit. the 1995th) bring you and your loved ones good fortune, joy, and success in all undertakings.

With respect,  
John Kisielius

**Greetings to relatives and dear friends:** (Note the distinctly Lithuanian use of a diminutive form in greetings.)

*Brangioji sesute Irena,*

*Sveikinu Tave su Šv. Kalėdom ir Naujaisiais Metais. Linkiu Tau geros sveikatos, laimės, sėkmės asmeniniamo gyvenime. Tegul Tavo dienos būna giedros ir šviesos, pripildytos džiaugsmo ir palaimos. Te padeda Tau Dievas.*

*Bučiuoju,  
Andrius*

Dear (little) sister Irene,

I greet you at this Christmas and New Year season. I wish you good health, good fortune and success in your personal life. May your days be serene and bright, filled with joys and blessings. May God be your guide!

Kissing you,  
Andrew

*Mielioji Jonai, Stase ir Antanai,*

*Nuoširdžiausius sveikinimus ir karščiausius linkėjimus Šv. Kalėdų ir Naujųjų Metų proga Jums siunčia -*

*Jūsų brolis, Vincas*

Dearest John, Stase and Anthony,

Sending you heartiest greetings and warmest salutations on the occasion of this Christmas and New Year season -

Your brother, Vince

\* \* \*

*Mylimoji Augute ir šeimyna,*

*Tegul ateinančios Šv. Kalėdos ir Naujieji, 1995-ieji, Metai atneša Jums visiems daug laimės, džiaugsmo, saulėtų dienų. Tegul pripildo Jūsų širdis meilės, kantrybės ir ramybės.*

*Jus mylintys,  
Agnė ir Tomas*

Beloved Augute and family,

May the coming Christmas and New, 1995th, Year bring you all much good fortune, joy, and sun-filled days. Let your heart be filled with love, patience and peace.

Your loving,  
Agnes and Thomas

\* \* \*

#### SOME WORDS/PHRASES TO REMEMBER:

*Kalėdos* - Christmas (in general)  
*Šv. Kalėdos* - lit. Holy Christmas (In greetings)

*nauji metai* - a new year (in general)  
*Naujieji Metai* - the New Year (in greetings)

*Sveikinimas* - a greeting in general,  
*pasveikinimas* a welcome

*Linkėjimas* - a wish, a wishful greeting -  
regards

*Kalėdų senis* - (equiv.) Santa Claus  
*Linksmų Šv. Kalėdų* - Merry Christmas

*Laimingų Naujųjų Metų* - Happy New Year  
(lit. Fortunate New Year)

*Sveikinti* - to greet  
*Sveikas gyvas* - Hello/Welcome to a man  
*Sveika gyva* - Hello/Welcome to a woman  
*Sveiki gyvi* - Hello to a mixed group

*Lik sveik- (-as, -a, -i)* - Farewell (Stay healthy)  
*Sveiki sulaukę* - - Happy (whatever occasion.)  
*Sveiki sulaukę Naujųjų Metų* -  
Happy New Year

*Linkėti* - to wish (followed by Genitive case)  
*Linkiu laimės* -I wish you good luck  
*geros sveikatos* - good health  
*sėkmės* - success



*Brangieji,*

*Linksmų Šv. Kalėdų ir laimingų Naujųjų Metų!*

*Su meile ir pagarba,  
Dr. Virginia Vaitekonis-Obando*

# Junior's Forum

**News and Views By and About Juniors**

"The future belongs to those who prepare for it," someone once said. Little thought is required to convince ourselves of the wisdom expressed by this potent phrase. Many excellent examples of preparation are found along the road of life. For instance, it takes nine months to prepare an infant for birth; twenty-one years of life go into the preparation of a child for adulthood; and, the rest of man's life is spent in preparation for eternal life.

In the sphere of organizational functions, sad results would be realized if a week, a month or in some cases a year were not spent in preparation for an activity or event. Ask anyone who has headed a committee if this is not true. It would be difficult for anyone to deny, that the better the preparation, the more successful the result, whether it be a party, dance, school exam or trip. One of the most popular excuses offered when people fail in an endeavor, is that "there wasn't enough time" to get ready - to prepare properly. Preparation plays such an important part in our personal lives, that it seems logical that preparation is likewise most necessary in organizational life.

We hear many comments regarding the "aging" of our membership in the K of L today, as well as concern for the future of our organization. Who could deny that the

K of L in many respects falls short of what we would like it to be? Many have asked, just what can be done to improve the situation. In this article, we attempt to explain one practical means, namely JUNIORS. A junior council could be the best sort of preparation for a council's continued existence. Let us describe it as a sort of life insurance. Youngsters in the junior council could be groomed or prepared for eventual membership in the adult council, thereby, assuring a constant flow of new members, new vigor and strength into the adult council. Accordingly the Junior Knights will be trained in the ideals and aims of the Knights of Lithuania organization as well as having become experienced in the execution of responsibility and leadership, the backbone of any club. What better means is there of preparing or insuring a healthy and prosperous K of L in the future years, than by establishing a JUNIOR COUNCIL now? The future belongs to those who prepare and act for it!

The preceding, with some adjustments, was part of an article written by Robert Boris, HM, for the March 1954 issue of *VYTIS*. One might well note that those comments were made some 40 years ago. How relevant to solving our continuing concern is the establishing and maintaining of junior councils. In reviewing *VYTIS* issues for the 1950's, I found the following councils with

Junior VYTIS Correspondents: C-3, Philadelphia; C-12, New York; C-19, Pittsburgh; C-26, Worcester; C-41, Brooklyn; C-52, Elizabeth; C-67, Bayonne; C-78, Lawrence; C-90, Kearney; C-96, Dayton; C-100, Amsterdam; and, C-103, Providence.

To follow-up on this thought, I need additional information and the help from the membership-at-large. How many current members started their association with the K of L as Juniors? Did we miss a Junior Council active in that time period? If you have any additional information, we would very much like to receive it. (Were there other junior councils in addition to those listed? How many members from these junior councils graduated into activity with the regular council?)

In the '50's, C-96, Dayton, had a very active Junior Council. From that time period, four remain in the Knights. C-96 Charter Member **Veronica Omlor** had all her children in the Juniors at that time; one is **Lauretta Omlor Pant**, the newly elected council recording secretary and mother of three third-generation Knights who also began in the Juniors but now belong to the regular council. Another daughter, **Veronica Omlor Heitkamp** rejoined the council following her 1994 K of L trip to

Lithuania. Honorary Member **Mary Lucas'** two daughters were Junior Knights; only **Elaine Lucas Pacovsky** remains in the council; however, her two sons were in the Juniors and have subsequently moved into the regular council. Both sons have been K of L scholarship recipients. **Ada Sinkwitz** had her children in the Juniors with one, **Ann Sinkwitz Boeke**, remaining in the regular council. Ann is among of our out-of-town membership. She and her family live in Grand Rapids, MI.

Dayton Council 96's answer to the question posed in a letter to all council presidents - "Do the Juniors work?" - is a resounding...YES!

Each member with children (or grandchildren) of appropriate age and who might be interested in celebrating their heritage are encouraged to ask their council president for copies of the Junior Council By-Laws and suggestions for organizing and activating a Junior Council. These are found in the K of L Manual or can be obtained by writing to me:

**Frances R. Petkus,**  
Supreme Council 3rd vice-president;  
800 Haldeman Avenue  
Dayton, Ohio 45404-1442.

\* \* \*

*May peace and joy be with you throughout  
the Holiday Season!*



*Have a prosperous and healthy 1995!*



*Linksmu Pventu Kalėdu - Laimingu Naujųjų Metu!*

**Frances R. Petkus, HM,**  
Supreme Council 3rd Vice-president.



**GREETINGS AND TIDINGS OF JOY TO ONE AND ALL!**



**AMSTERDAMO VYČIAI, KUOPA 100,  
LINKI VISIEMS MŪSŲ VYČIAMS**

**LINKSMŲ ŠVENTŲ KALĖDŲ IR  
LAIMINGŲ, SVEIKŲ NAUJŲJŲ METŲ!**

**OFFICERS FOR 1995**

SPIRITUAL ADVISOR	.....	REV. JOSEPH GRABYS
PRESIDENT	.....	IRENE TICE
VICE-PRESIDENT	.....	GENE GOBIS
SECRETARY	.....	BEATRICE JASEWICZ
TREASURER	.....	SOPHIE OLBIE

**COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS**

RITUAL	.....	ELIZABETH KUZMICH
LITHUANIAN AFFAIRS	.....	ADELIN RAILA & EDWARD BARANAUSKAS
CULTURAL	.....	MIRGA BABLIN
LITHUANIAN LANGUAGE	...	APOLONIJA ZIAUSYS
JUNIOR COUNSELOR	.....	CHRISTINE TAMBASCO

## Christmas Blessings



*Tyliau, tyliau giedokit,  
 serafimai.  
 It žvaigždės, jūs,  
 plašdenkite tyliau,-  
 It aš be atdūsio prie Jų,  
 prie mano dešaukamo kymau,  
 Kol rytmečio  
 šviesi žara išauš.*

*Bernardas Brazdėionis  
 „Dieto Motinos lopsini“*

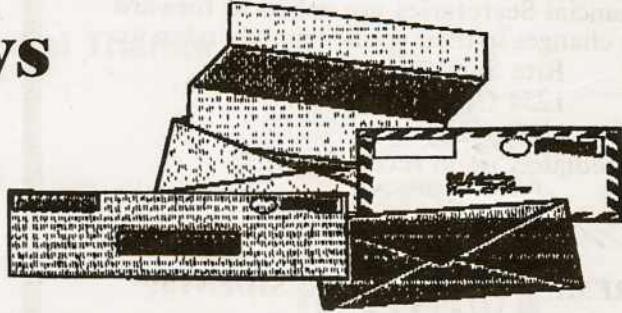
***May the Joys of this season  
 remain in your hearts  
 throughout the happiest  
 of New Years.***

***Anthracite, Council 144***

***Schuylkill County, Pennsylvania***

## OFFICIAL NEWS

## OFICIALUS SKYRIUS



### A BUSY SUPREME COUNCIL MEETING:

The Supreme Council once again enjoyed the "City of Brotherly Love" on Saturday, Oct. 15, 1994. Each time we are there, it is truly a wonderful reception by Father Anderlonis, his staff, and of course C-3. They have extended themselves to make sure that we want for nothing! Lietuviškas Ačiu.

Our meeting covered much business. It involved a lively discussion regarding K of L involvement in a Fund-Raising project with the US Baltic Foundation. The S.C. members unanimously agreed that we have much work with our own funds, and thus cannot participate in the US Baltic Foundation project. We, of course, have not ruled out further participation with them.

SC members voted to further the work towards a membership hand-out and a National Convention Manual.

Before the business meeting, guest Jim Schaefer, Financial Advisor who formerly worked for Pres. Bush spoke to the chairs of our various K of L Funds and our SC Treasurer on the best financial investments.

It would take pages to discuss the agenda of the day. It was quite an experience and

challenge for your newly-elected President. There will be trials and tribulations but I will put all of my energies to work. Thank you for the vote of confidence.

I have received several letters from K of L members and have answered all of them, except, of course, for those that are anonymous or unsigned.

*Evelyn Ozelis*  
Supreme Council President

### A DUES REMINDER:

Members are reminded that dues are payable annually on January 1. If a member's dues are not received by the Supreme Council by March 30, that member is taken off the VYTIS mailing list; if payment is not received by June 30, membership in the organization is terminated.

Be informed that the last National Convention increased dues to \$15.00 per year for full membership. A copy of the complete new DUES PAYMENT SCHEDULE has been sent to each Council President, who should share the details with members at a council meeting.

The cooperation of each member and Council Financial Secretary is needed to keep the K of L membership roster and

VYTIS mailing list current. Council Financial Secretaries are asked to forward any changes in their council membership to:

Rita Sussko, S. C. Fin. Sec'y  
1254 Grandview Ave.

Union, New Jersey 07083

immediately upon receipt of same.

*Rita Sussko*

*Supreme Council Financial Secretary*

#### **A REMINDER TO ALL PRESIDENTS:**

As you know, election of Officers for the 1994 - 1995 term must take place in either September or October. On Sept. 28, 1994, I sent each of you a letter together with a form requesting your council'sd 1994-1995 Roster of Officers and Committee Chairs. To date only 50% of the councils have responded.

It is of the utmost importance that you return your rosters as soon as possible. The Supreme Council needs to have an up-to-date list for any mailings that become necessary during the year.

If you've inadvertently put my request aside, please take a minute now to update your council roster. Please use the stamped self-addressed envelope that was enclosed for your convenience. If you could do this, we would then eliminate any further postage and mailing expenses that would be incurred if I sent you an individual reminder.

*Please note: If you are a newly-elected President for 1994-95 and have no knowledge of the original request or the forms to which I am referring, please contact your prior President.*

Thank you for your cooperation.

*Agnes V. Mickunas*

*Supreme Council Recording Secretary*

### **IN MEMORIAM**

A. † A. CHARLES BAGDON  
C-79, Southfield, MI  
August 4, 1994

A. † A. CASIMIR YAKOVONIS  
C-29, Newark, NJ  
September 27, 1994

A. † A. ALBINA MATTINA  
C-110, Maspeth, NY  
September 30, 1994

A. † A. ANELE BALBATA  
C-153, Treasure Coast, FL  
October 14, 1994

A. † A. ANTHONY MAMENISKIS  
C-79, Southfield, MI  
October 28, 1994

A. † A. WALTER RUCAS  
C-36 Chicago, IL  
October 30, 1994

A. † A. ANTHONY MIGLIORE  
C-110, Maspeth, NY  
November 2, 1994

A. † A. CHARLES AUGUSTINAS  
C-110, Maspeth, NY  
November 4, 1994

A. † A. MARY STANKUS  
C-29, Newark, NJ  
November 10, 1994

A. † A. JOHN ŠIDLAUSKAS  
C-152, Eastern Long Island  
November 14, 1994

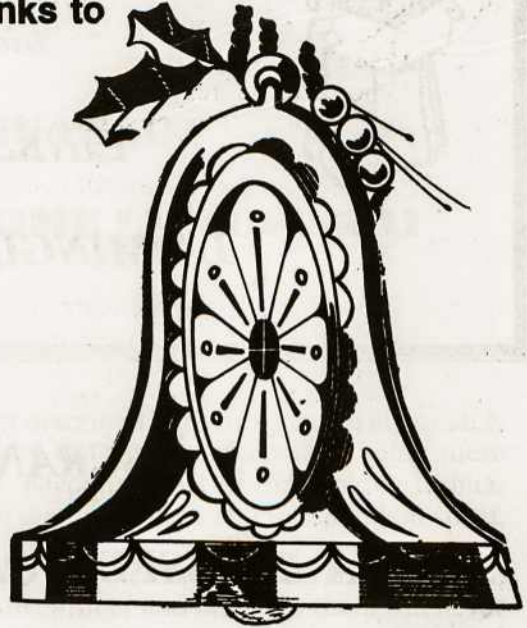
**Holiday Greetings to Knights of Lithuania Everywhere**

**and Special Thanks to**

**Mid-Central District Friends  
who made our Spring Meeting  
such a success**

**LINKSMŲ ŠV. KALĖDŲ**

**COUNCIL 19, PITTSBURGH**



---

**VYČIAI**

Best Wishes for a **HAPPY** and **HOLY**

**HOLIDAY SEASON**

from

**THE MEMBERS OF THE  
MID-CENTRAL DISTRICT**

May Christ's Peace be with you

Today and Throughout the New Year.





*Iveikas Jezau Gimusis*

*Gieda Angelai,*

**LINKSMŲ KALĖDŲ**

*ir*

**LAIMINGŲ NAUJUJŲ MĖTŲ**

*linki*

**SCRANTONO VYČIAI**

**A BLESSED HOLIDAY SEASON TO ALL**

**COUNCIL 74, SCRANTON, PA**

**HAPPY HOLIDAYS TO ALL**

*from*

**COUNCIL 16, CHICAGO**

*Hope all enjoyed the  
81st National Convention.*

*Good Luck to C-102, Detroit  
on the 82nd National Convention*





## ACT LITHUANIAN

## VEIKIME LIETUVIŠKAI

### MID-AMERICA DISTRICT

#### MAM District Choir Sings in Lithuania

On Saturday, July 2, 1994, thirteen members of the MAM District Knights of Lithuania Choir embarked on a journey they dreamed for nearly a lifetime. Until about four years ago, most thought this to be an impossible dream. These singers and other members of a tour group left for Lithuania to attend and participate in the World Lithuanian Song Festival -- the first to be held in a free Lithuania in the past fifty years.

The group had its first taste of Lithuania's welcome when, at the border between Latvia and Lithuania, the border guard confirmed that the buses could pass without the stamping of passports, then smilingly obliged when it became evident that the travelers wanted the stamp as a memento of their trip. Upon arrival at the hotel in Šiauliai, the tourists were warmly greeted by an ensemble of young dancers and musicians, with a special bread-and-salt greeting for the Vyčių Choras Director, Faustas Strolia. While Šiauliai was of great interest for those who were laying eyes for the first time on a Lithuanian city, the excursion to the Hill of Crosses the next day was moving beyond words. No matter how well it has

been described to us, no one can adequately convey the impact of actually being there and becoming part of that unique Lithuanian symbol of faith and independent spirit.

Those who were fortunate enough to have relatives meet and embrace them will never forget that time, nor will others who heard these Lithuanians express their feelings with comments such as "Only God could have brought you to us." Because the Vyčių tour group wished to leave behind some symbol of their visit and join in the spirit of that holy hill, they commissioned the carving of a cross, which they carried up the hill in procession and had placed in the ground.

The remainder of that first week was filled with rehearsals for the choir, and one thing became very clear -- the Lithuanians were determined to make this festival of music as fine and musically perfect as it could be. To their everlasting credit, American Travel Service did all they could to ensure that choir members were treated to the same wonderful and inspiring sights of Vilnius and vicinity as the other tour members: magnificent churches, the Hill of Three Crosses, Vilnius University and Old Town, the Lithuanian Parliament building, the site of the January 1991 massacre at the TV Tower, the ancient capital of Trakai, and



*A. Bagdonas, Dainius (Lithuanian Police Cadet), R. Martin, A. Matulis with K of L Choir Banner.*

others.

On Wednesday, July 6, choir members sang with the other emigrant and native Lithuanian choirs at Antakalnio Cemetery in a deeply moving memorial at the grave sites of those killed at the TV tower in 1991 and of the border patrol members killed by the Soviets shortly after that. Imagine the incredibly beautiful strains of such songs as "Aras" and "Lietuva Brangi" echoing among the pine trees and hills and a few thousand people filing silently, reverently past those graves. To

add to the poignancy, a number of relatives of the murdered young people were standing beside those graves.

The choir departed at 7:00 AM on Thursday for an all-day rehearsal followed by a parade and concert in Kaunas. We all gave special thanks to God for providing clear and warm weather for this full day of outdoor activities. Any weariness was dispelled by the cheers, smiles, and even hugs bestowed on us by the Lithuanians. And when we paraded down the hill into the Song Valley preceded by the Vyčių standard, as Rob Martin said, "It was like being in the Olympics." The mood intensified as we sang each lovely song with

almost 4,000 other singers. But nothing could match our special pride and joy at being directed by our own Faustas in the



*K of L Choir members in Lithuania. Front: Sr. Theresa, M. Kinčius, T. Strolia, A. Bagdonas, Rear: A.M. Kassel, Sr. Tarcisia, Dainius, S. Henson, B. Zibas, I. Macke, A. Matulis.*



beautiful hymn his father, Juozas, wrote, "Parveski, Viešpatie." And as we joined hands with fellow Lithuanians from around the world, swaying in song, tears streaming, our spirits took permanent flight and still float over that valley.

On the second concert day, July 10, the choir attended Holy Mass offered at Vilnius Cathedral by Bishop Baltakis. A parade of participants through the city ended at Vingis Park, the site of the concert. Words are inadequate to describe the beauty of this summer evening and the sound of 14,000 singers giving voice to some of the loveliest songs every written. They continue to reverberate in the memories of those who were there. And a very special place in the memories of the Vyčių Choras members is held by a smiling, wonderful young man named Dainius, a cadet from the Police Academy, who was the choir's guardian angel. He made certain that no one ever got lost, left behind, or went hungry -- and then gave each a bear hug and a kiss on the last night. All begged him to come to America, but he said his mother wouldn't like that!

With the concerts behind them, the choir was able to fully participate in the remainder of the tour: a visit to Palanga and the opportunity of dipping toes in the Baltic as well as trying to take advantage of every chance to buy amber; stops at Klaipeda, Nida, and vicinity; and finally back to Kaunas to see the Old Town and museums.



*K of L Choir with Bishop Baltakis in Lithuania. l.to r.: T. Strolia, Bishop P. Baltakis, I. Macke, S. Henson, R. Martin, A. Kassel, E. Zibas.*

The last sight of Lithuania came with the departure from Vilnius airport, which has a beautiful new terminal. Bound for a two-night stay in Copenhagen, the travelers could not yet realize that they had left behind the days of wonderful bargains. They enjoyed the quaint, albeit expensive, charms of Copenhagen, but when it was time to head homeward, all were ready.

*Irene Macke*

#### **COUNCIL 10 - Athol-Gardner**

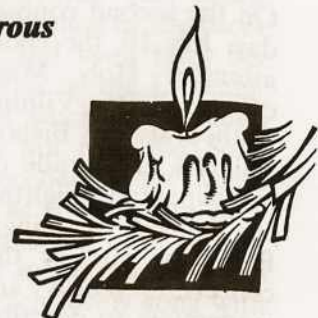
The Athol-Gardner Council of the K of L celebrated their 80th Anniversary on Sunday, Nov. 6, with a Mass in St. Francis Church, Athol. The 10:39 Mass was filled to capacity and was concelebrated by Pastor Rev. Raymond Messier, Rev. Albin Jankauskas of Worcester and Rev. John Petrauskas, MIC, of Gardner. The choir sang Lithuanian hymns under the direction of Theresa Gabis, organist. The singing was



*Best wishes for a*  
**HEALTHY and HAPPY CHRISTMAS to all,**  
*from the MEMBERS of*  
**COUNCIL 141, BRIDGEPORT, CONNECTICUT**

*To my member Knights and Friends,*  
**I Wish you a Blessed, Healthy, Happy and Prosperous**  
**Christmas and New Year**

*Vyčių nariams ir mano draugams,*  
**Šventų, Sveikų, Linksmų ir Laimingų**  
**Šv. Kalėdų ir Naujųjų 1995 Metų**



**HONORARY MEMBER ANNIE MITCHELL MATULAVICH**  
**COUNCIL 52 - ELIZABETH, NJ**

**LINKSMŲ ŠV. KALĖDŲ ir LAIMINGŲ NAUJUJŲ METŲ**

**OFFICERS OF C-118, HAZLETON**

<i>Spir. Advisor</i> . . . . .	<i>Rev. Richard Czachor</i>	<i>Fin. Sec'y</i> . . . . .	<i>Marie Alansky</i>
<i>Pres.</i> . . . . .	<i>Joseph Dancho</i>	<i>Sgt.-at-Arms</i> . . . . .	<i>George Norris</i>
<i>V. Pres</i> . . . . .	<i>Nellie Masyjada</i>	<i>Publicity</i> . . . . .	<i>Irene Norris</i>
<i>Treas.</i> . . . . .	<i>Ruth Alansky</i>	<i>Trustees</i> . . . . .	<i>Helen Hagelgans,</i> <i>Dolores Skitzki</i>
<i>Rec. Sec'y</i> . . . . .	<i>Eleanor Kassick</i>		



**AND MEMBERS OF COUNCIL 118**  
**MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR**



**BEST WISHES FOR A**  
**HEALTHY AND A**  
**HAPPY CHRISTMAS TO ALL**  
**COUNCIL 140**  
**SYRACUSE, NEW YORK**



beautiful and long missed at St. Francis. The members marched into church in procession led by Tina Shatos, our grand lady, and an 80 year old member. When the council was formed in May of 1914, Tina Andraliunas was 10 years old and was accepted as a charter member, but did not have to pay dues until she was 16, and has been a member without interruption for 80 years!

The gifts were brought to the altar by Tina, Nellie Melaika and Brone Wisniauskas, both dressed in Lithuanian costumes.

Following Mass a social hour was held, followed by dinner. Father Petrauskas offered grace and Pres. Bill Wisniauskas served as MC for the program. Sophie Fiorentino read citations from the Governor's office to the Council and Tina. Mrs. Ann Killay presented the citation from the town of Athol.

Following the speaker's program, Edvardas Meilus led the group in a Lithuanian Sing-Along that was well received. Approximately 175 persons attended, including NED President Bertha Stoskus, 17 from St. Casimir's of Worcester and 7 from Westfield. Both dailies gave us excellent front page coverage along with pictures before and after the event. One photo was in color.

The committee members included: General Chairman Bill Wisniauskas, Ticket Co-Chairmen Nellie Melaika and Marie Colo, Decorations Joanna Chastney and Natalie Brighenti, Set-Up and Clean-Up, Howie Beaudette, David Lucas and Bob Paluilis, Printing Katheryn Paluilis, Social Hour Brone Wisniauskas and Marge Senk. All chairmen and their helpers did an excellent job and the event will long be remembered.

Sophie Fiorentino and Dr. Henry Gailiunas were co-chairmen of the parish Fall Whist

Party that netted the parish \$1,700.

Many of our members attended and worked at our NED Festival held at Maironis Park in October.

Best Wishes for Happy Christmas and New Year Holidays are extended to all readers of VYTIS by their VYTIS correspondent.  
*Vinciukas*

### COUNCIL 16 - Chicago

The members of Council 16 hope that everyone who attended the 81st National Convention in Chicago had a good time. We had a great time preparing for your stay with us and are looking forward to next year's Convention in Detroit, MI. Though the convention attendance was lower than we had hoped for, we did name a small profit on the Convention. We were happy to share some of the proceeds with the following: K of L Supreme Council, \$200.00, St. Casimir's Guild - \$300.00, Aid to Lithuania - \$200.00, K of L Foundation - \$100.00 and the K of L Scholarship Fund - \$200.00.

Since the Convention we have been taking life easy, but keeping busy. We held our first meeting of the season in September. At this meeting, we elected our officers for the coming year. They are: Spiritual Advisor - Rev. Richard M. Dodaro, President - Mary Beth Slakis, 1st Vice-President - Kenneth D. Rudmin, 2nd Vice-President - Richard G. Schultz, Recording Secretary - Diann Martin, Treasurer - Peter Paul Robert Zansitis, Financial Secretary - Christine M. Schultz, Ritual Chair - Wanda Pliskaitis, Council Historian - Betty Pliskaitis, and Fund Raising Chair - Deborah Rudmin. We wish all our officers the best of luck.

We are also pleased to announce that four of our council members have been elected

**OUR BEST WISHES TO ALL**

**FOR A BLESSED CHRISTMAS  
AND A JOYFUL NEW YEAR!**

**COUNCIL 52  
ELIZABETH, NEW JERSEY**



**HOLIDAY GREETINGS**

*from*

**COUNCIL 7**

**WATERBURY, CT 06708**

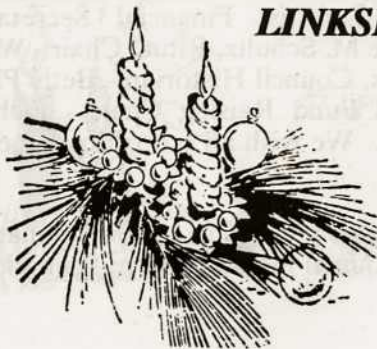
*Nuoširdžiai sveikiname Lietuvos Vyčius Amerikoje  
Linkėdami sėkmės, ištvėrmės jų darbuose,  
Ir Dievo palaimos Šv. Kalėdų bei Naujų Metų Šventėse.*

**ST. PETERSBURG, FLORIDA**

**147-tos KUOPOS VYČIAI**



**LINKSMŲ KALĖDŲ ŠVENČIŲ**



**REV. ALBIN F. JANIUNAS, PP, HM**

**St. Francis Church  
94 Bradford Street  
Lawrence, MA 01840**

to the Board of the Mid-America District. They are: 3rd Vice-President - Robert A. Martin, Jr., Treasurer - Deborah A. Rudmin, Trustee - Peter Paul Robert Zansitis, and Sergeant-at-Arms - Wanda Pliskaitis.

Our members look forward to the coming Holiday Season as well as to participating in various K of L activities in the Chicago area. Here's hoping you have a great end to 1994.

*Rob Martin*

### **COUNCIL 27 - Norwood**

Our October meeting was a brunch held at the Courtyard Marriot. We had reason to celebrate. Sandra Melish had just received her Fourth Degree Medal. Not only did we enjoy a great brunch, but we had the pleasant company of Stanley and Frances Medveski, Dorothy Ausevich, Ted and Lillian Callahan, George Barton, Kath.

Perednia, Albie and Lenore Jarvis, Betty and John Skricki, Mary Ann Tamasanis and Ed, Sr. Eugenia and Rev. Wolkovich.

Other October events included a memorial mass offering by the council for George Barton's mom who had died recently. Too, Father Bill had a successful concert with favorite music played by a string quartet (the pastor and 3 others).

Our November meeting led to an animated discussion of ways to build up our treasury. Amelia Tulis drove up from Hingham for the meeting. It was decided to have a breakfast meeting on December 4, to initiate the holiday spirit. Our January meeting will be Jan. 15, 1995 in order to plan for the Lithuanian Independence program. The Mass will be on Feb. 4 with a program following. We look forward to all our members participating. Until then, Laimingų Naujujų Metų.

*Zaibas*



**A BLESSED  
CHRISTMAS  
TO ALL**



**... AND A  
HAPPY  
AND  
HEALTHY  
NEW YEAR**

**COUNCIL 25 - CLEVELAND, OHIO**



**South Boston, Mass. Council 17  
OFFICERS AND MEMBERS**

*Wish All a  
VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS  
and  
A HAPPY NEW YEAR*



<i>Spiritual Advisor</i> .....	<i>Rev. Albert Contons</i>
<i>President</i> .....	<i>Alexander Akule</i>
<i>1st Vice President</i> .....	<i>Frances Markans</i>
<i>2nd Vice President</i> .....	<i>Longinas Svelnis</i>
<i>3rd Vice President</i> .....	<i>Emily Lehman</i>
<i>Recording Secretary</i> .....	<i>Frances Savicke</i>
<i>Corresponding Secretary</i> .....	<i>Adele Martus</i>
<i>Treasurer</i> .....	<i>Joseph White</i>
<i>Financial Secretary</i> .....	<i>Eva Ball</i>
<i>Trustees</i> .....	<i>Eleanor Mickalonis</i>
	<i>Louis Bazzinatti</i>
<i>Sergeant at Arms</i> .....	<i>Albert Kniupis</i>

**A BLESSED CHRISTMAS**

*and*

**A HAPPY, HEALTHY NEW YEAR**

*from*

**THE OFFICERS, MEMBERS, AND  
JUNIORS OF**

**COUNCIL 136  
HUDSON-MOHAWK, NEW YORK**



### COUNCIL 36 - Chicago

Our June meeting became the date for our pledge night, to support the "St. Casimir Guild." About 125 people attended the "Dinner Is Served" Fund Raiser. It was a great success and we were pleased to be able to present the Guild with a check for \$500.

We also extended our best wishes to council members who are K of L Choir members, on their trip to Lithuania for the Dainų Švente. We know that they would remember this memorable event for many years.

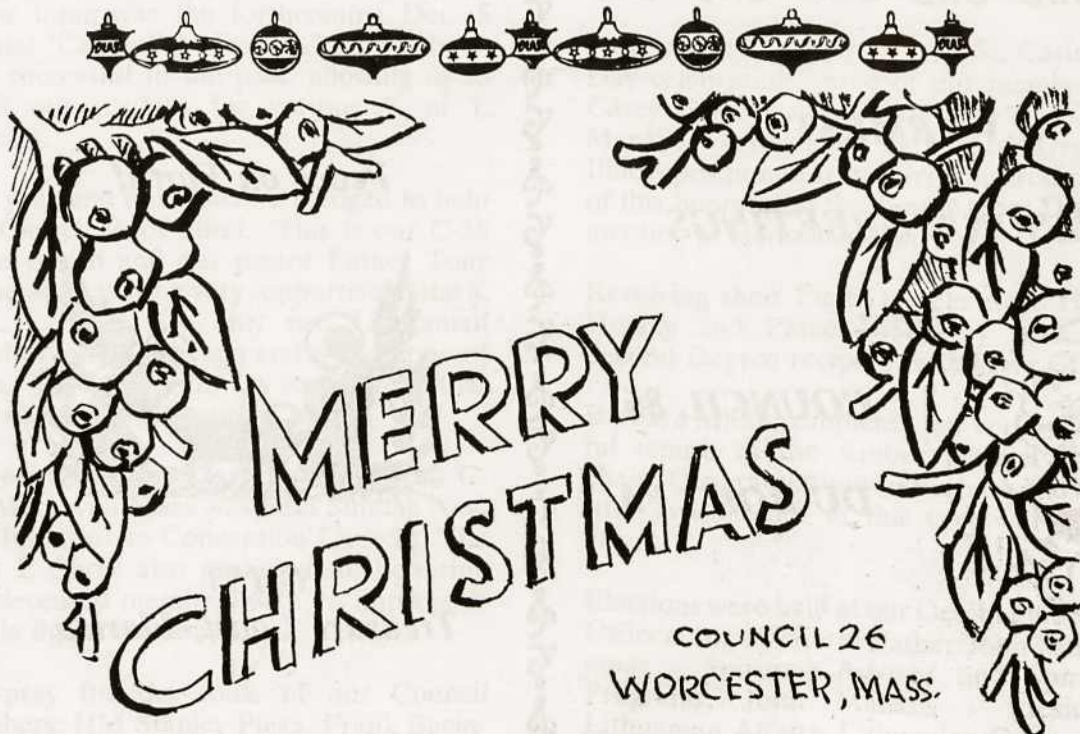
Before we knew it, "Convention Time" had arrived. We had about 12 delegates from our council attending the sessions. Many volunteered to work on various committees such as: Greetings, Mary Kincius; Mandate, Ann Marie Kassel; Resolutions, Terry Strolia; Presidium, Evelyn Ozelis. At our meeting, Scottie Zukas reported on the

overall convention sessions. An unusual event for the Mid-America District and C-36 was the election of Evelyn Ozelis as President of the Supreme Council.

Many members attended the special novena for "Our Lady of Siluva" at our parish.

Our Council hosted the Mid-America Convention Assembly Sept. 17, 1994. Elections were held and there a good attendance.

Sept. 19 was our election meeting. New Officers and committee chairs are as follows: President, Mary Kincius; 1st VP, Ray Wertelka; 2nd VP, Victor Utara; 3rd VP, Sabina Henson; Rec. Sec'y, Frances Urnazius; Corres. Sec'y, Lillian Micka; Fin. Sec'y, Scottie Zukas; Treas., Eva Otrós; Trustees, Irene Norushis, Vince Samaska, Tony Stakenis and Evelyn Ozelis; Sgt. at Arms, Vytautas Dijokas, Frank Zailskas, Albinas Zailskas; Ritual, Scottie Zukas; Lith





**COUNCIL 146,  
HARRISBURG**

*Wishes Everyone*

**A JOYOUS CHRISTMAS**

*and a*

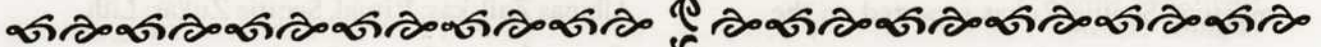
**HAPPY, HEALTHY  
NEW YEAR!**



*Linsmų Šv. Kalėdų*

*Laimingų Naujųjų Metų*

**Council 30  
St. Casimir's Parish  
Westfield, MA**



**WARMEST**

**SEASON'S GREETINGS**

*from*



**COUNCIL 86**

**DU BOIS, PA**

*Peace on Earth!*



**C-153  
Treasure Coast, Florida**



Culture, Ona Naureckas; Lith. Affairs, Evelyn Ozelis; Program, Denise Hornik; Publicity, Al Zukas; VYTIS Corresp., Glenn Parutis; Wake, Ray Wertelka; Social, Johanna Johnston; Cheer Up, Irene Norushis, Val Vilunas. Our own Rev. Fabian Kireilis will continue to be our Spiritual Advisor as he has been for the past 12 years.

As usual, at least 10 members of our Council attended the "DRAUGAS" Fund Raising Banquet.

Father Kireilis encouraged every one to attend the October Rosary Devotions and also to attend Sunday 10:00 AM Mass. It is our Lithuanian Mass and if attendance reaches very low, we could lose this Mass (according to the Archdiocese). This is our heritage which we should preserve.

At our Oct. 17 meeting, we installed our newly-elected officers and chairs. The major topic was the forthcoming Dec. 5 Annual "Candlelight Dinner." It has been very successful in the past, allowing us to fulfill our pledges for various K of L projects.

Last year and this year, we pledged to help our Church Roof Fund. This is our C-36 home parish and our pastor Father Tony Puchenski has been very supportive of the K of L. There are only two Lithuanian parishes left in Chicago and we are one of them. We have been very fortunate in that our other councils support us.

The Mid-America District (jointly with C-36) Memorial Mass was held Sunday Nov. 6 at Immaculate Conception Church. The K of L Choir also participated, honoring our deceased members with an impressive candle light ceremony.

We pray for the souls of our Council members: HM Stanley Pieza, Frank Bacin-

ski, Jr., Steve Rudokas, Walter Rucas, who have gone to their rest.

We are happy to see Dave Gaidas, Vince Samaska, Val Vilunas, and Frances Urnazus making such excellent progress after serious complications with their health. Tony Stakenis and Elena Antanaitis will have extensive surgery soon. We wish them well.

May the Christ Child bless our Knights of Lithuania family, not just at the Holy Christmas Season, but always. Linkime visiems Dievo Palaimos!

*"Untela"*

### COUNCIL 72 - Binghamton

#### GERBIAMIEJI:

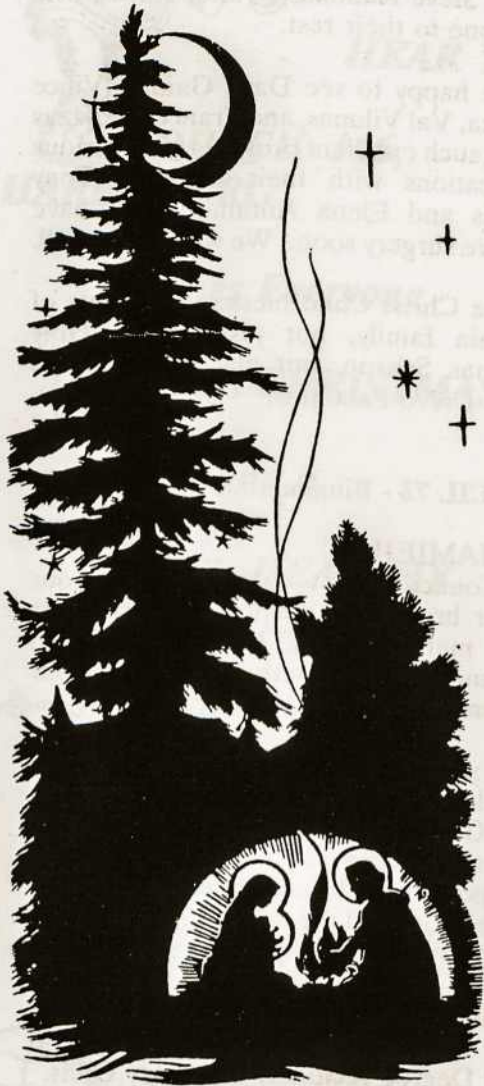
Our Council's first meeting since our summer break was on Sept. 22, with our newest member, Mrs. Marcy Semcho in attendance, along with twenty of our members. Welcome, Marcy.

At this year's Amber District St. Casimir's Day celebration, three of our members -- Casey Grikenis, Art Stankevitz and John Mankus -- received the Third Degree. Illness postponed Irene Grikenis' reception of this honor until the June Amber District meeting at Kennebunkport, ME.

Receiving their First Degrees were Helen Horsky and Pamela (Joksas) Rich and Second Degree recipient was Mary Gillis.

Barbara Miller completed her very successful tenure as the Amber District Raffle chair. Congratulations to Barbara and to all who assisted her in this very worthwhile effort.

Elections were held at our October meeting. Officers for 1995 are: Father John Mikalajunas - Spiritual Advisor and Spiritual Programs, John Mankus - President, Lithuanian Affairs, Lithuanian Culture,



**Council 90  
Kearny, NJ**

**Linksmų Šv. Kalėdų ir  
Laimingų Naujų Metų  
Visiems Lietuvos Vyčiams**

**May the Prince of Peace  
and his Blessed Mother  
bestow on all our fellow  
Knights both near and far  
Health, Happiness and a  
Prosperous New Year!**

VYTIS Correspondent and Lithuanian Language, Carla Wilson - Vice-President, Irene Grikenis - Ritual Chair, Arthur Stankevitz - Secretary, Barbara Miller - Treasurer, Robert Skiba - Financial Secretary and Trustee, Ralph Sadauskas - Sgt.-at-Arms, Charles Almanas - Sgt.-at-Arms, Helen Svareika - Public Relations and Trustee, Felix Svareika - Sgt.-at-Arms, Edward Radin - Trustee.

Our members, Anne Marie Distin, Barbara Miller, Delores Wasileski, and Carla Wilson, participated at St. Joseph's Ethnic Mass, Endicott, NY, wearing traditional Lithuanian costumes.

Since we began our humanitarian AID TO LITHUANIA drive, our humanitarian aid supplies five convents in the city of Kaunas and Vabalninkas Hospital. The five convents are: Sisters of Christ the King, Sisters of Eucharistic Jesus, Sisters of St. Frances of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, the Benedic-

tine Sisters and the Servants of the Sacred Heart. Many thank you letters were translated by John Mankus and shared with St. Joseph's Church parishioners, who continue to contribute generously to this drive. Special thanks go to the AMERICAN LEGION 1645, BINGHAMTON, NY for their large monetary donation to help with shipment costs.

I also want to acknowledge the additional significant contributions by John Kruse, Irene and Casey Grikenis and Art Stankevitz.

*John R. Mankus*

#### COUNCIL 96 - Dayton

The season of Fall not only brings out the foliage, it also reminds us it is time for elections. That is what happened for C-96, Dayton on Saturday, Oct. 22. A special meeting was held, and the following comprise our Board for 1994-95. Spiritual



**CHRISTMAS**

**GREETINGS**

**Council 79**

**Southfield,**

**Michigan**

**SING OUT WITH JOY AND GLADNESS TO ONE  
AND ALL OF OUR KNIGHTS OF LITHUANIA**

**"LINKSMŲ, ŠVENTŲ IR LAIMINGŲ  
ŠVENTŲ KALĖDŲ IR NAUJŲJŲ METŲ**

*From all the*

**EXECUTIVE OFFICERS AND MEMBERS OF THE**

**KNIGHTS OF LITHUANIA,**

**COUNCIL 36**

**BRIGHTON PARK,**

**CHICAGO, ILLINOIS**



- President ..... Mary F. Kincius
- 1st VP ..... Ray Wertelka
- 2nd VP ..... Victor Utara
- 3rd VP ..... Sabina Henson
- Recrdg. Sec'y ..... Frances Urnazus
- Corresp. Sec'y ..... Lillian Micka
- Fin. Sec'y ..... Scottie Zukas
- Treasurer ..... Eva Otros
- Sgt. at Arms ..... Vytautas Dijokas, Frank Zailskas, Albinas Zaliauskas, Jr.
- Trustees ..... Irene Norushis, Vince Samaska, Tony Stakenas, Evelyn Ozelis



Advisor - Fr. Michael Holleran; President - Elena Mikalauskas; 1st Vice President - MaryAgnes Mikalauskas; 2nd Vice President (Junior Advisor) - Annamarie Sluzas Berger; Recording Sec'y - Laurreta Pant; Treasurer - James Geiger; Financial Sec'y - Frances Mikalauskas; Trustees - Joseph E. Mantz, George Mikalauskas; Sgt-at-Arms - Robert Pant, Joseph Fletcher. Committee Chairs: Religious - James and Connie Geiger; Lithuanian Affairs - Aldona Ryan, Stefanija Rastikis; Cultural - Eric Geiger; Ritual/VYTIS Correspondent - Fran Petkus; Bulletin Editor - Julie Goecke; Historian - Molly and Eric Geiger; Social - Elaine Pacovsky, Laurreta Pant; Ways & Means - Eleanor Mantz, Robert Pant; Telephone Squad - Joyce Berczelly; Sarysis - Sally Miller, Stefanija Rastikis; Public Relations - MaryAgnes Mikalauskas; Library - Stefanija Rastikis, Henry and Robert Pant; Photographer - James Geiger.

Thanks go to the Nominating Committee,

Elena and Frances Mikalauskas. Because of their work, the election went smoothly. We thank our out-going officers for keeping us busy throughout their term. We wish the in-coming officers success and look forward to working with them.

K of L Scholarship recipients who are on our Board are -- Elena and MaryAgnes Mikalauskas, Eric Geiger and Julie Goecke. The election was followed by socializing and enjoying the many donated treats.

With our every faithful driver George Mikalauskas, Frances Mikalauskas, Eloise Berczelly and Fran Petkus participated in the MCD Fall Convention/Pilgrimage, hosted by C-102, Detroit, next year's National Convention host. There were no major changes other than election of officers for the 94-95 term. We do have several of our "younger" members now on board. The Pilgrimage was a time to remember the deceased members of the

**TO ALL THE KNIGHTS OF LITHUANIA**

**WE WISH YOU THE BLESSINGS OF PEACE AND HAPPINESS  
AT CHRISTMAS TIME AND ALWAYS.**

**A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR!**

**COUNCIL 3 - PHILADELPHIA, PA**



**A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HEALTHY NEW YEAR TO ALL**



**COUNCIL 12  
NEW YORK CITY**



*Spiritual Advisor* ..... **REV. EUGENE R. SAWICKE**  
*President* ..... **EDMUND BURBA - COOK**  
**EXECUTIVE BOARD and ALL MEMBERS**

*Sveikiname Visus Vyčius  
su Šventomis Kalėdomis  
ir Naujais Metais.  
Linkime Džiugių ir Gražių  
Švenčių ir Stipros Sveikatos.*



**Council 142**

**Washington, DC**

**IN FOND MEMORY OF  
KONNIE SAVICKUS**

**A TRUE KNIGHT  
AND DEAR FRIEND**

**COUNCIL 5**

**LORETTA GRIGALIUNAS,  
PRESIDENT**



*From Your Friends  
at Council 96  
Dayton, Oh.*

district. It was a very sharing weekend and well-hosted, as usual, by C-102. We commend their committee for their work and effort in putting together the weekend. Congratulations to C-96's Elena Mikalauskas who is the new MCD 3rd Vice President.

Joining us that weekend were C-16, Chicago, members Rob and Diann Martin and Mary Beth Slakis. While we were at our meeting, they were packing medical supplies for the next shipment to Lithuania.

While we were in Detroit, some of our members headed south. Our Nashville, TN member, Mark Bell, was co-chair for his parish's Annual October Fest. Joining in the festivities from Dayton were Elena Mikalauskas, Eric Geiger, Robert Pant and Linda Miller; from C-112, Chicago, were Dr. Vidas Noreika and Karen Ramanousky. A great time was had by all. Some of us can remember when we had gotten together with our many inter-council friends other than at Convention times.

Congratulations to Joseph and Christine Fletcher on the birth of their third son. Grandparents are Joseph E. and Eleanor Mantz. Fran Petkus came home from the October SC meeting with praise for the wonderful hospitality of Fr. Joseph Anderlonis, his cooking staff and the members of C-3, Philadelphia. The meeting was a busy one, with much accomplished.

Many of the council members are active in the Dayton Lithuanian Anglers. The Anglers, once again, held a successful Food Sale. The annual sale consists of cabbage rolls, kugelis and turtle soup.

Our deepest sympathy goes to Petron Anthony on the recent loss of her husband, William (Bill). Memorial Mass was held at Holy Cross in Dayton with Bill's Mass of Christian Burial held at St. Francis of Assisi

Church in Torrington, CT. Sympathy goes to Fran Petkus on the loss of her sister, Ann, in Brooklyn, NY

Members of C-96 congratulate our National Spiritual Advisor, Rev. Dr. Joseph Anderlonis, STD, at the celebration of his 25th Anniversary in the Priesthood. May he have many, many more years in the service of our Lord and sharing all those wonderful homilies.

*FRP*

### COUNCIL 133 - Los Angeles

#### Chicago National Convention

Josephine Barada, Mary Bruzas, Jack Bruzas, and Maryte Sepikas attended the wonderful National Convention held in Chicago. Maryte Sepikas won the National and District award for most new members.

#### Lithuanian Days

Lithuanian Days were held the first weekend in October. This weekend has become an annual tradition in which Lithuanian Americans from all across the nation come to celebrate and promote our heritage. We are please to report that our booth was quite successful. We also signed up several new members.

It was wonderful to see our members from Hawaii, Arizona, Utah and Nevada. Arthur Walunas, who has a Lithuanian Polka Band in Utah, entertained us with such joy! Arthur would like to mention that he is always available for Lithuanian functions. to contact him, Arthur C. Walunas, 137 E. 400 N., Parowan, utah 84761, (801) 477-8271.

#### Fall Meeting

On Oct. 15, 1993, a meeting was held in the home of Stase Bajalis in Hancock Park. A roundtable discussion was held featuring members who had just returned from Lietuva, including Tony Dulkis, Albert

**CHRISTMAS GREETINGS**

*May your hearts be open to receive the Gifts of God's Son at CHRISTMAS.*

*Hope, Joy, Love and Peace and a Blessed and Memorable New Year  
To All Members of the Knights of Lithuania.*



**KNIGHTS OF LITHUANIA COUNCIL 24, CHICAGO**

*May the Blessings and Peace  
of CHRISTMAS*

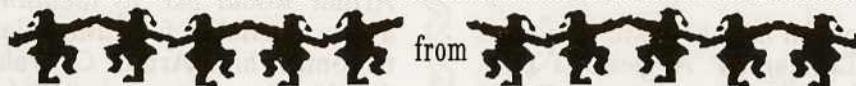
*Be With You Throughout  
the NEW YEAR*



**COUNCIL 103 - PROVIDENCE**

**Season's Greetings**

LINKSMŪ \* SVEIKŪ \* LAIMINGŪ \* ŠVENČIŪ!



**New York Council 41**

Williamsburg, Brooklyn



Bartulis, Daiva and David Grieze-Jurgelevicius and Maryte Sepikas.

Lithuanian Cooking School

The Los Angeles K of L Cooking School is stirring along quite deliciously.

New Members

We are pleased to report that we have over 50 new mbers.

Christmas Meeting and Kučios

On Dec. 3, 1994, we will be celebrating Kučios at tyhe home of Regina Heller in Calabasas. Our meeting will be featuring our annual Christmas party and celebration. The meeting will also feature a lesson in the making of Lithuanian Christmas ornaments. Our council will be participating in our church's annual Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve celebrations.

*Maryte Sepikas*

Dear KNIGHTS OF LITHUANIA,

May our CHRISTMAS Celebrations all remind us of the true meaning of Christmas, which is

**PEACE, JOY AND LOVE.**

May I be the first to wish all of you the happiest of holidays. And as you read the greetings and stories in this issue, I wish to extend sincerest thanks to Vince Boris and Loretta Stukas, for their hard work in aiding the VYTIS staff by preparing this Christmas issue.

Christmas is a time to be with our families and closest friends. Even though there are times when we get angry and annoyed at one another, may this season be the occasion for healing the hurts that often separate us.

May the Birthday of the Child Jesus bless us all an give us the strength, courage and will to continue our very important work "Dievui ir Tevynai" -- "For God and Country."

**A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS TO YOU ALL!**

**EVELYN OZELIS, PRESIDENT,  
and the entire  
KNIGHTS OF LITHUANIA SUPREME COUNCIL**



# DETROIT COUNCIL 102

1920 - 1995

**75 Years - Serving God and Country**

*Wishes you a Christmas filled with Christ's peace  
and*

*Invites you to join us and celebrate our 75th  
anniversary, as we host*

**The 82nd National Convention**

**August 10-13, 1995**

*Watch future issues of Vytis for details and registration  
information!*



**Knights of Lithuania  
LEHIGH VALLEY COUNCIL 63**

Wishes everyone  
A Blessed Christmas  
and a  
Happy New Year!

Linkime Visiems  
Linksmų Šventų Kalėdų  
ir  
Laimingų Naujų Metų!



*Džiaugsmingų ir Geriausių Kalėdų Švenčių ir Naujųjų Metų*

*A Blessed Christmas and a Prosperous New Year to One and All!*

**AMBER DISTRICT OFFICERS AND MEMBERS**



*Merry Christmas - Happy, Healthy New Year*  
**C-135 - ANSONIA, CONNECTICUT**

*Best Wishes for the Holidays*  
**LEE & PAUL MOORE, C-86**

*Linksmų Kalėdų ir Laimingų Naujųjų Metų*  
**KUOPA 78 - LAWRENCE, MASSACHUSETTS**

*Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year*  
**JOHN M. GREEDA-LUKAS, PRESIDENT, COUNCIL 78**

*Just Greetings, from*  
**CLEMINCENE AND VICTOR MILLER, COUNCIL 141**

*Holiday Greetings to all --*  
**JULIA BURLIN, PRESIDENT, COUNCIL 142**



v. šatūnas

TO:

564 P1 112  
John & Ramona Rackauskas  
10425 S. Kenton Ave.  
Oak Lawn IL 60453

Second Class Postage Paid  
Returns and Address  
Corrections to:  
VYTIS - The Knight  
P.O. Box 81615  
Chicago, IL 60681-0615



11-20-1994 1213291 FROM AMERICAN ENTERPRISE TO 13122547553 P.01  
**UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE** **Statement of Ownership, Management, and Circulation**  
(Required by 39 U.S.C. 3685)

1. Publication Title: **VYTIS - THE KNIGHT**

2. Publication No.: **663-1680**

3. Filing Date: **10/4/94**

4. Issue Frequency: **MONTHLY EXCEPT AUGUST & OCTOBER**

5. No. of Issues Published Annually: **10**

6. Annual Subscription Price: **\$10.00**

7. Complete Mailing Address of Known Office of Publication (Street, City, County, State, and ZIP+4) (Not Printer):  
**VYTIS - THE KNIGHT PO BOX 17514 WORCESTER, MA 01601-7514**

8. Complete Mailing Address of Headquarters or General Business Office of Publisher (Not Printer):  
**KNIGHTS OF LITHUANIA 2533 WEST 46th ST Chicago, IL 60632**

9. Full Names and Complete Mailing Addresses of Publisher, Editor, and Managing Editor (Do Not Leave Blank):  
 Publisher (Name and Complete Mailing Address):  
**KNIGHTS OF LITHUANIA 2533 WEST 46th ST Chicago, IL 60632**  
 Editor (Name and Complete Mailing Address):  
**EVERLYN OZELIS, NATIONAL PRESIDENT 2533 WEST 46th ST Chicago, IL 60632**  
 Editor (Name and Complete Mailing Address):  
**EDUARDAS V. MERILIS, JR. PO BOX 17514 WORCESTER, MA 01601-7514**

Managing Editor (Name and Complete Mailing Address):  
**SAME**

10. Owner (If owned by a corporation, its name and address must be stated and also immediately thereafter the names and addresses of stockholders owning or holding 1 percent or more of the total amount of stock. If not owned by a corporation, the names and addresses of the individual owners must be given. If owned by a partnership or other unincorporated firm, its name and address as well as that of each individual must be given. If the publication is published by a nonprofit organization, its name and address must be stated.) (Do Not Leave Blank.)

Full Name	Complete Mailing Address
<b>KNIGHTS OF LITHUANIA</b>	<b>EVERLYN OZELIS, NATIONAL PRES.</b>
	<b>2533 WEST 46th ST</b>
	<b>Chicago, IL 60632</b>

11. Known Bondholders, Mortgagees, and Other Security Holders Owning or Holding 1 Percent or More of Total Amount of Bonds, Mortgages, or Other Securities. If none, check here.  None

12. For completion by nonprofit organizations authorized to mail at special rates. The purpose, function, and nonprofit status of this organization and the exempt status for federal income tax purposes. (Check one)  
 Has Not Changed During Preceding 12 Months  
 Has Changed During Preceding 12 Months (If changed, publisher must submit explanation of change with this statement.)

PS Form 3526, Previous issue (Use instructions on Reverse)

13. Publication Title: **VYTIS - THE KNIGHT**

14. Issue Date for Circulation Data Below: **CONCEPTUAL ISSUES Volume 43 No. 4**

15. Extent and Nature of Circulation	Average No. Copies Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months	Actual No. Copies of Single Issue Published Nearest to Filing Date
a. Total No. Copies (Net Press Run)	3650	3350
b. Paid and Requested Circulation (1) Sales Through Dealers and Carriers, Street Vendors, and Counter Sales (Net Mails)	0	0
(2) Paid or Requested Mail Subscriptions (Include addresses of Paid Copies Exchange Copies)	3300	3150
c. Total Paid and Requested Circulation (Sum of 15b(1) and 15b(2))	3300	3150
d. Free Distribution by Mail (Samples, Complimentary, and Other Free)	0	0
e. Free Distribution Outside the Mail (Carriers or Other Means)	0	0
f. Total Free Distribution (Sum of 15d and 15e)	0	0
g. Total Distribution (Sum of 15c and 15f)	3300	3150
h. Copies Not Distributed (1) Office Use, Leftovers, Spoiled	350	200
(2) Return from News Agents	0	0
i. Total (Sum of 15g, 15h(1), and 15h(2))	3650	3350
Percent Paid and Requested Circulation (15c / 15i x 100)	100%	100%

16. This Statement of Ownership will be printed in the November issue of this publication.  Check box if not required to publish.

17. Signature and Title of Editor, Publisher, Business Manager, or Owner: **Edvardas V. Merilis, Jr. Editor** Date: **10/4/94**

I certify that all information furnished on this form is true and complete. I understand that anyone who furnishes false or misleading information on this form or who omits material or information requested on the form may be subject to criminal sanctions (including fines and imprisonment) and civil sanctions (including multiple damages and civil penalties).