

Volume 81: No. 2
February 1995



VYTIS

Knights of Lithuania

VASARIS / FEBRUARY

DURING THIS MONTH, IN LITHUANIA, THE FIRST THAW BEGINS. PEOPLE ARE BEGINNING TO THINK ABOUT SUMMER ("VASARA") AND MAKE PLANS FOR SUMMER TASKS. THE SUN SHINES MORE BRIGHTLY AT MIDDAY, WATER BEGINS TO DRIP FROM THE ROOF IN BEAUTIFUL ICE CANDLES, WHILE PEOPLE ANTICIPATE SPRING.



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All correspondence should reach the editor by the **first of the month**, two months in advance of the issue and should be typewritten and double spaced. Except for the information contained in the Official News, the Knights of Lithuania and editors assume no responsibility for the statement or opinions made by the contributors or no obligation to return any material or photos unsolicited. Use of material from VYTIS is permissible only if credit is given to VYTIS, its authors, artists or photographers.

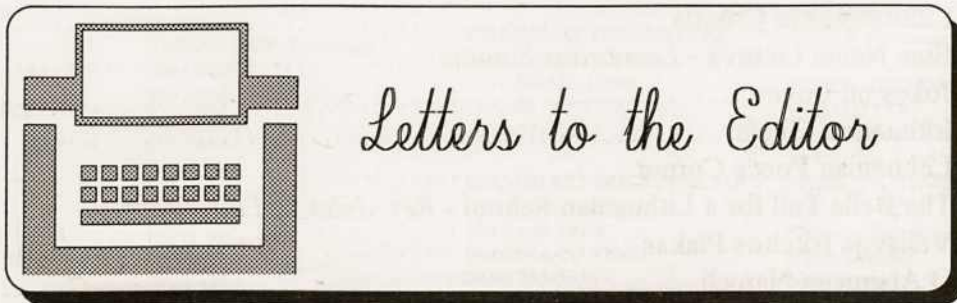
FROM YOUR EDITOR

Thanks so much for all your phone calls and words of encouragement! We want to continue to create a VYTIS everyone will enjoy reading.

This month, February is a month dear to our hearts. When I was a youngster, Lithuanian Independence Day on February 16 meant a full day devoted to traditional Lithuanian dances, poetry, prose, and speeches. We wondered why we celebrated when Lithuania was still choked by The Soviet Union. At that time most of us really never thought freedom would ever come to Lithuania. But here we are in 1995. Now Lithuania is learning the responsibilities of freedom which is probably the toughest lesson of all.

Let us keep up the good work with our K of L activities. It is through our efforts, no matter how seemingly insignificant, that we will truly make a difference.

- *Maryte Abbott*



82nd National Convention Update

To the Editor:

Several months have transpired since C-102 in Detroit placed the accepted bid for hosting the 82nd Nation Convention. Preparations are well underway and significant progress is occurring. The convention committee includes Tim Baibak, chairman; Robert S. Boris, consultant; Regina Juska, secretary; Irene Vizgirda, treasurer; Michael Shea, ad book chair; and Onute Selenis, registration committee chair. The contract has been signed with the Novi Hilton Hotel, 21111 Haggerty Road, Novi, MI. Tel. is 1-800-HILTONS. Room rates are \$72 single and \$82 double. Suites range from \$245-300 per night and there are a limited number available. Registrations and reservations are now being accepted. The registrants must state they are delegates of the K of L Convention in order to receive the discounted room rate. Members are requested to forward registrations to : Regina Justa, 4638 51st Street, Detroit, MI 48210-2725. There are many pleasant surprises in store for the attendees. A good time is 100% guaranteed! Mark August 9-13 on your calendar for the 82nd National Convention. We look forward to seeing you in August. (See back inside cover for more information.)

Regina Juska

THE REBIRTH OF A NATION-STATE

For 75 years now, we, Lithuanian-Americans, have variously celebrated or mourned, toasted or sadly commemorated and above all prayed on February 16th with one point of focus: Lithuanian Independence. It was on the 16th of February in 1918, that a gathering of people's representatives promulgated the announcement that Lithuania was reborn and made a formal plea to the Heads of States of Russia, Germany and other nations to recognize the re-established political state. Specifically, the Council of Lithuania proclaimed *"...restoration of an independent Lithuanian nation based on democratic foundations with its capital in Vilnius; and furthermore, this nation is to be free from any unions with other nations which previously had existed..."*

This proclamation became popularly known as the "Declaration of Lithuanian Independence" and the day of its issuance (February 16th) was called Lithuanian Independence Day; however, when the Lithuanian Government set up its official calendar in 1990, a new, somewhat obscure name was assigned to this National Holiday. It is now specified as "The Restoration of the State Day." This change in name is more than a mere semantic difference. With this name, there is recognition of an important historic fact: Legally (de jure) and in reality (de facto), Lithuania had ceased to exist in 1795 with the final partition of Poland-Lithuania. The act and declaration on February 16th announced the restoration of Lithuania as a political entity. It signalled not simply the independence but the rebirth of Lithuania.

In the aftermath of World War I, there began a breakup of many of the world's great Empires. Much credence was given to the concept of "self-determination" and under this concept many of the peoples or nations (in the sense of ethnic/national identity) claimed a right to self-

government. They set up their own political state. In most cases, there was no historical precedence for the identification of that nation-state despite a centuries old history of the people forming that ethnic group. (Estonia and Latvia could be cited as examples.)

February 16 - "Restoration of Statehood Day"

Celebrates the rebirth of the nation-state without attachments or dependencies on other political entities. The Kaunas and Vilnius Provinces were combined into a single state outside the crumbling Tsarist Russian Empire. It also signalled formal abrogation of the 1569 Lublin Treaty by which Lithuania and Poland formed a confederation.

Lithuania was unique. It had existed for over 500 years as a distinct political entity. For much of the period it was actually the largest state in Europe. After a series of ruinous wars and recurrent epidemics of plague, starting in the early 1700's, the country was left physically debilitated. Politically it was rendered impotent by the jealousy and corruption that marked the confederated central government of Poland-Lithuania. It was ripe for conquest, and in 1795 there occurred the Third and Final Partition of Poland-Lithuania. Most of the Lithuanian territory was taken over by Russia, some minor portions by Prussia; Polish territory was annexed by Austria, Prussia and Russia. Eight provinces were formed out of Lithuania: the Slavic speaking territories were formed into separate provinces which eventually melded into Ukraine and Belorus. The Lithuanian-speaking territo-

FROM YOUR EDITOR

ries which fell under Tsarist Russia formed two regional provinces with capitals at Kaunas for the western territory; Vilnius for the northern, eastern area. A southwestern region, Suvalkija, was taken over by the Prussians. When the Prussians and Austrians agreed to reestablishment of a Polish state with the capital at Warsaw, the Suvalkija area was included and has since been considered part of Poland.

While the state was killed and dismembered, the nation lived on in the hearts of its Lithuanian-speaking populace. Despite continuous pogroms of suppression and Russification, the people and the nation persisted. Every generation between 1795 and 1918 became engaged in efforts to restore the state. Some uprisings were small - perhaps involving only students; some were large and involved Poles as well as Lithuanians. All were unsuccessful and resulted in heightened repression and subjugation. Schools of higher learning were closed; monasteries and convents were disbanded by Tsarist decree. During the final 40 years (1864 - 1905), teaching of the Lithuanian language and almost all printing (books and newspapers) in Lithuanian were prohibited. Those few tolerated Lithuanian language publications had to be printed with Cyrillic characters.

Gradually, towards the end of the 19th Century, the fidelity of the peasant classes to the Lithuanian language and culture began to

influence the largely-Polonized intelligentsia and aristocracy. A so-called period of "National Reawakening" ensued. This rediscovery of Lithuanian nationalism may have been engendered by the tenacious hold onto their unique ethnic identity by the common folk of what was

July 6 - "The Day of Statehood"

Commemorates the Coronation of Mindaugas in 1253. Faced with the onslaught of the Teutonic Knights, which had already devastated their ethnic cousins along the southern Baltic coast, Mindaugas and other leaders/chiefs formed a common defense union. Eventually, Mindaugas came to dominate the group. Hoping to avert further attacks from the "Crusaders," he accepted Christianity and petitioned the Pope for recognition. The Pope agreed and authorized Mindaugas' coronation as King of the Lithuanians. The coronation establishes a singular event which is used to signify the "Birth of the Lithuanian State."

once called Lithuania; but, it was the almost forgotten lore of the "Golden Ages" of the Grand Duchy which truly inspired the movement. It is quite understandable then that the great patriotic poem out of this period (and which now serves as the national anthem) should give but one definition to Lithuania, our Homeland: "Land of Heroes."

In 1944, Lithuania again became a hidden nation. Its independent statehood was subverted by the Communists and occupying Red Army.

Its annexation into the Soviet Union, which was fraudulently proclaimed in 1940, was forcibly reimplemented. The inspirational power of the Grand Duchy period was well recognized by the Soviet occupiers. The Communist regime persistently distorted even the medieval history of Lithuania and minimized the significance of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania. The Communist regime feared the "cult of the Grand Dukes"; it hampered objective historical research of the medieval Grand Duchy. Yet, as during the period of Tsarist domination, the Lithuanian nation persevered in maintaining knowledge and pride in its noble history. Indeed, the inspiration which eventually came to dominate the Sajūdis Movement in 1989, also derived more

from the Grand Duchy years than from the "Smetona period" or individual readings of the tracts of world renowned democratic thought.

Above all, the reestablishment of a Lithuanian nation-state clearly evidenced that the Lithuanian people never abandoned their traditions of statehood and were never reconciled to their incorporation into either the Russian Empire or the Soviet Union. The Lithuanian people's fight for their state was a long one, won with the blood of many known and unsung heroes. Tens of thousands laid down their lives, died of starvation in Siberia or lived lives of unspeakable deprivation both in exile and at home. Thousands of emigres in self-imposed exile dedicated lives and fortune to the attainment of that elusive goal- Lithuanian Independence.

The history and experience of the Lithuanian nation proves that Lithuania can only develop economically and culturally within the creative environment of a free and independent state guaranteed by its own laws. In its 750 years, Lithuanian experience could be characterized as positive with strong political, economic, social and cultural advances only during those periods when it was free and independent. During the Grand Duchy period, the rule of law was codified in the Lithuanian Statutes. These were unparalleled anywhere in the world until the late 20th Century in recognition of the dignity of man and tolerance of ethnic, linguistic and religious differences.

Conversely when not independent, the Lithuanian condition could only be described as in

decline. During the union with Poland, there was a steady erosion of the social structure. The aristocracy rapidly adopted Polish customs, language, culture. They became alienated from their own people and society developed into the worst forms of feudalism. The free-born peasantry were largely reduced to bonded serf-

dom. After annexation by Tsarist Russia, lands were confiscated and turned over to Russian officers or favored nobility. Lithuanians found themselves subservient to foreign overlords. As late as the early 20th century, Lithuanians wishing to emigrate to a better life in the Americas, had to follow a procedure

and route not unlike the "Underground Railroad" familiar in American history as a means of escape for Southern slaves in the 19th century. The equal deprivations of the Soviet period have been well documented. The total forceful sovietization of the country included the collectivization of farms, violent recruitment of young men into military service, mass deportations and the extermination of whole villages.

Today, Lithuania is a country unoccupied by foreign troops; respectful of the rights of all ethnic and religious minorities, and with no obstacles to friendly relations with its neighbors. The struggle for Lithuanian statehood has been long and hard and continues.

TE GYVUOJA PER AMŽIUS LAISVA LIETUVA

(Prepared by Vincent Boris, Supreme Council, Lithuanian Affairs Chair with some material provided by His Excellency Alfonsas Eidintas, Ambassador to the United States.)

March 11 - "Restoration of Independence Day"

This National commemorative day recognizes that day in 1990 when the freely-elected Lithuanian representative assembly decreed restoration of the Republic of Lithuania and abrogated any ties (legally or illegally implemented) with the Soviet Union.

OFFICIAL NEWS

Aid to Lithuania

Dear K of L Members,

In 1990, during our 77th convention in Pittsburgh, when the idea of sending medicine and medical supplies to Lithuania was introduced, no one would have or could have predicted that a few years later, sixteen 40 ft containers worth over 10 MILLION dollars would have been sent to our brothers and sisters. You made it happen! Now is it equally impossible to forecast how many more containers will be shipped to meet the continuing need. We do know, however, that your continued support will keep the lifeline flowing.



Another factor is evident that Christian concern, has enabled us to reach this milestone. A heartfelt "aciu" - "thanks" cannot adequately convey what you deserve. I trust that the good Lord, who alone knows the amount of your sacrifice, will repay a hundredfold.

Recently, a non-Lithuanian from Santa Paula, California, Paulette Montoya, the mother of eight children called, to ask if she could contribute to AID TO LITHUANIA. She began collecting medicine and medical supplies in her community to make up at least one 40 ft container! Shortly, she will have sufficient supplies to complete our seventeenth container.

A retired Episcopalian doctor, Bart Etter in Memphis, Tennessee called and also asked for permission to begin collecting supplies for AID TO LITHUANIA. He expects to have enough supplies to fill a 40 ft container within a couple of months. That could be container #18.

Steve Livanavage, President of Dialysist, Cedar Knolls, NJ, has not only donated several container loads of supplies for dialysis patients, but has allowed AID TO LITHUANIA to use his warehouse facilities to assemble medical supplies from the eastern part of the USA. His personnel have collected, sorted and loaded containers at absolutely no cost to AID TO LITHUANIA.

Venice Grantham, President of "Lithuanians in Texas," the only Lithuanian organization in Texas, recently sponsored a raffle which netted \$ 1,500.00 for AID TO LITHUANIA.

Frank Petrauskas, a past National President, has collected close to 100 cartons of medicine from the Syracuse area. Each carton is worth between two and three thousand dollars.

Len Kapochus of Council # 3 in Philadelphia has performed a outstanding task of raising money and collecting medicine in the Amber District.

These six people all share one motivation, namely, they feel it a privilege to be able to help the people of Lithuania during this critical period. Lives have been saved, the infirm cured and suffering eased! In our

83 year history, has the K of L ever achieved such a monumental accomplishment? Truly, these have been our "shining hours." The selfless willingness of so many to help, encourages me to again ask for your support in any way possible * Raising funds * Collecting medicine and supplies * Prayer for the success of this endeavor.

Aciu - thanks again to all those who have already contributed. Your continued and future support of this magnificent KNIGHTS OF LITHUANIA project is obviously necessary.

May the New Year be prosperous for each and every one of you. By sharing your prosperity with "the least of our brethren," may God's choicest blessings be yours during the coming year.

Vytiskai,

AID TO LITHUANIA, INC.
Robert S. Boris, President

Knights of Lithuania District and Council Contributions in 1994

Mid-America District	\$ 2,000.00
Council - 102 & 139 Detroit	1,044.20
Council - 63 Lehigh Valley PA	1,000.00
Council - 110 Maspeth NY	1,000.00
Council - 26 Worcester MA	750.00
Council - 3 Philadelphia PA	625.00
Amber District	250.00
Council - 143 Pittston PA	248.00
Council - 16 Chicago IL	200.00
Council - 112 Chicago IL	142.50
K of L Excursion II Participants	115.00
Council - 29 Newark NJ	105.83
Council - 100 Amsterdam NY	105.50
Council - 19 Pittsburgh PA	100.00
Council - 10 Athol-Gardner MA	100.00
Council - 153 Treasure Coast FL	100.00
Council - 96 Dayton OH	85.00
Council - 144 Anthracite PA	81.81
Council - 24 Chicago IL	50.00
Council - 52 Elizabeth NJ	50.00
Council - 41 Brooklyn NY	26.00
Council - 103 Providence RI	25.79
Council - 78 Lawrence MA	25.00
Council - 116 Worcester MA	10.00
Total 1994	\$ 8,239.63



Aid to Lithuania

Lithuania Sees Results of All Our Hard Work



(Left) Archbishop Audrys Backis of Vilnius, speaks at the blessing & dedication of the Caritas Soup Kitchen in Vilnius. (Top Right) L to R - Snieguole Rudzinskiene, Edita Kundrotiene and Father Vidmantas Rudokas, Directors of Vilnius branch of Caritas & Caritas Family Center. (Bottom) L to R - Sister Marianne, OSF, Tony Balsis and Sister Dolorita, OSF, unpacking music books sent by the McDonald family of C-144 Anthracite, PA. The sisters are now working in Kreitinga, Lithuania. Tony is working at the Vilnius Center for Alcohol & Drug Abusers and is Aid to Lithuania's "in country" representative.



Aid to Lithuania Container #16 which was shipped from Dialysist, Inc. of Cedar Knolls, NJ being unloaded at Antakalnio University Hospital on Sept 2, 1994. The largest portion of the shipment was supplies for the Nephrology Dept. under the direction of Dr. Balys Dainys donated by Steve Livanavage of Dialysist. *Photos courtesy of Robert S. Boris, President, Aid to Lithuania, Inc.*



SEEKING NATIONAL CONVENTION SITES

Your council can join the ranks of those who have successfully hosted a Knights of Lithuania National Convention by providing a site for the 83rd National Convention in 1996. Many benefits, such as publicity and recognition for your council, increased membership, a sense of accomplishment and teamwork, and financial gain can be derived from hosting a national convention. If you think that your city would be an attractive location and your council is willing to extend its hospitality to K of L members from across the United States, please contact one of the Supreme Council Trustees: John Baltrus or Peter Zansitis, by early July. They can put you in touch with convention leaders from past years, so you can determine what is needed before making an official invitation at this year's National Convention in Detroit.

A Priest Forever

©1994 by Albert Cizauskas

Some men exist, others live. Father Bruno Kruzas, formerly pastor of the now defunct Lithuanian parish of St. George in Brooklyn, fell into the latter category. In a world where self-gratification has become the common rule, it comes as almost a shock that there are men and women who, like Father Bruno, live beyond the Golden Rule. They love their neighbor, not as much as themselves, but more so.

Father died of a massive stroke and heart attack on February 2 of this year. He had suffered strokes and heart attacks in the past as a result of which he was partially paralyzed. He ignored their warning signals, however, and continued to work in the Lord's vineyard until the very end, a smiling man of thought and prayer and good works. In a letter only weeks before his death, he had written: "At present, I still say Mass each day and I can still help the pastor (Father Palubinskas of the Lithuanian Church of the Annunciation) How long I will be able to do so, remains to be seen."

Fifty years a Priest

Several years ago, Father Bruno celebrated the golden anniversary of his ordination, recalling the stirring words of the Old Testament, "Thou art a priest forever, according to the order of Melchisadech." Hundreds of his friends packed St. George's church for a solemn high mass of thanksgiving, concelebrated by five priests and presided by Bishop Baltakis. A gala banquet followed at

which Father's numerous well-wishers and recipients of his kindness during the past half century had an opportunity to express their appreciation of a good priest.

The many speakers at the banquet attested to Father's transcendent faith which illumined all that he did, a virtue allied to a deep sense of humanity and brightened by a joyous sense of humor. Everyone was comfortable with him because he was comfortable with his own priesthood. There were abundant references to Father's willingness, often at considerable personal sacrifice, to help those who needed help at critical junctures of their lives, whether it was for moral guidance, financial assistance, or spiritual comfort. I can attest to his willingness to help as I recall that he managed to have my mother admitted to a hospital when other hospitals had turned her away so that she received the care she needed during the last days of her life.

The Life of a Lithuanian Church Prolonged

Few in the Lithuanian American community today realize how much Father Bruno had done to advance their cause. Through his foresight and entrepreneurial spirit, the historic Lithuanian church of St. George's, even though on the brink of bankruptcy, was enabled to function until a few years ago. After his appointment as pastor in 1967, Father had recourse to an activity that has become a favorite means of support for Catholic institutions in financial difficulty. He organized a weekly game of bingo that turned out to be a big hit. Through it, Father was able to sustain a Lithuanian parish with virtually no Lithuanian parishioners. The church had been built by impoverished Lithuanian immigrants in 1914 literally with their blood, sweat and tears, one of the few Lithuanian churches in the United States that was not a hand-me-down

by earlier immigrants from other lands. As a further point of historic pride, St. George's was even designed by a Lithuanian architect.

Until recently, the church remained a haven of peace and beauty in the run-down neighborhood of the Brooklyn Navy Yard, a significant religious and cultural landmark for Lithuanian Americans. Sadly, the church fell victim to the social and demographic changes transforming the cities of the United States. The original members had died and their children, now out of the melting pot and into the mainstream of American society, had moved to better neighborhoods. Their places were taken by blacks and Hispanics, just as Lithuanians had earlier displaced the Irish and Germans.

The CYA

Another outstanding achievement of this outstanding priest was the Catholic Youth Association, the CYA, in the neighboring parish of the Annunciation, where Father had started his priestly career. He became the inspirational head of this unique organization which flourished in the late 30's into the postwar period. Once again, the background story is the same: Lithuanians were beginning to share in the American dream, moving to fresher, greener neighborhoods. The obverse of this was that the younger generation was in danger of losing its ethnic, and perhaps even its religious, identity. Father Bruno's solution was the formation of the CYA which provided a focal point for Lithuanian youth in the New York city area, with activities ranging from socials and sports, to drama and a monthly journal. It was so successful that the Bishop's paper, the Tablet, called the CYA the finest organization of its kind in the entire Brooklyn diocese, which then extended from Greenpoint to Montauk Point and boasted 580 members.

When the war came, Father Bruno continued the CYA almost single-handedly, a big morale booster for those serving in foreign lands, giving them a place to come home to again.

For the CYA generation, and for the descendants of the original founders of St. George's, the golden anniversary banquet provided an emotional occasion, when the old bonds of friendship were renewed, and the experiences of an earlier day could be shared with Father Bruno. The presence of so many friends, including some from far-off States, demonstrated once again Father Bruno's charismatic ability to draw people together through time and space. He had given freely of himself, and in doing so, had planted deep the roots of their Lithuanian American and religious heritage in the children of earlier immigrants.

The End of the Journey

It was only fitting that Father Bruno died after he had returned to Annunciation Church. It was there that he attended its parish school, was ordained and served for 29 years until appointed pastor of St. George's in 1967, then for the last three years of his life back to Annunciation where his roots, religious and worldly, were to be found.

He had gone the whole circle. He had returned home.

A final demonstration of the love and esteem his friends had for him was the outpouring of more than a hundred masses they requested at Annunciation for the repose of his soul. ^{xxx}

Did you know? Population in Lithuania has been declining since 1992 due to emigration of Russians and other nationalities plus, declining birth rates. In 1989, the population of Lithuania was 3.7 million, from 3.1 million in 1970. *from the Baltic Independent No 5/241.

STOCK MARKET PREDICTOR

Eugene Kunsitis, a long time member and currently vice-president of Cleveland C-25, has designed and marketed a coin called "The Pocket Analyst" to assist the financial wizards of Wall Street and individual investors in determining the direction the financial world is heading.

In a recent interview in Cleveland's Plain Dealer, Eugene, a retired industrial salesman and repairman, said he developed the idea to make light of Wall Street's unpredictable and seemingly random nature: a coin to flip to divine if there will be a bull market or a bear market. The faces of the coin are adorned with a bull on one side and a bear on the other side. The coins, made of nickel silver, are the size of silver dollars. In 1983, the coin was designed as a fun item, like the "pet rock" and turning Mr. Kunsitis' hobby into



a venture. An advertisement was placed in the Wall Street Journal and fliers were sent to magazines and newspapers around the country. This produced sales of about 4,000 coins. The coin, appeared in USA Today before the Christmas holiday, creating interest and orders from around the Country and as far away as Hong Kong, Australia, Germany and England. Mail and phone orders were received up to 100 per day. The mail delivery to the Kunsitis' home became so heavy the mail carrier inquired about this increased load. Eugene estimated he would sell 2,000 coins this year at \$10.50 each and his remaining stash of 500 coins would be depleted when the Christmas orders were filled. Eugene and his wife Ursula, who helped fill orders and answered the phone, were interviewed on Cleveland's television station, Channel 5, as well as many radio stations across the country. With all this activity Eugene and Ursula had very little time to prepare for the Christmas Holiday and now are probably sitting back catching their breath. What's next Eugene and Ursula?

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS



Robert Ramanousky
C-112

Thomas Grighun
C-141

Algis & Gloria Adomkaitis
C-17

Helen Bernitsky
C-141

Ruth Dravinskas
C-17

Geraldine Babak
C-102

Nancy Miro Pawasauskas
C-141

Helen Ruginius
C-144

Peter J. Balcius
C-141

LITHUANIANS IN THE NEWS

LITHUANIANS IN CROATIA

Since August 1994, a platoon of Lithuanian soldiers has been working under Danish operational command with Danbat-6 in the northern sector of Croatia. Initially manning observation posts jointly

with the Danish, the Lithuanians now have responsibility for their own positions and are being instructed in the ways of peacekeeping by the Danish.

Michael Yuknis, a native of Chicago, member of C-112 and former Supreme Council Lithuanian Affairs Chair, has been working for the United Nations for some seven years now. For the past two years, he had been associated with UNICEF. He is currently stationed in Bosnia. From his home base in Sarajevo he has also worked in Mostar and Bihac tending to the needs of children and mothers in these war-devastated areas.

He managed to connect with the Lithuanian troops, who are stationed in Croatia on a six month tour of duty. Michael reports that he had a most pleasant time socializing with the troops for a short while before both he and they had to resume their assigned tasks.

These troops will be leaving the area in March. Their replacements will have been trained again by Danish noncommissioned officers in Lithuania during December 1994. After an additional month of orientation in Denmark during February they will travel to Croatia to replace this initial contingent. That is, if the



Michael Yuknis (C-112) meets Lithuanian peacekeeping contingent in Croatia

Croatians extend their acceptance of UN peace-keepers. The Danish-Lithuanian cooperative effort has been developed under the Partnership for Peace. Their participation in the peacekeeping effort demonstrates readiness for NATO membership.



It's a long way home for the Lithuanians; but even further for Mike.

EINA NAUJA LIETUVA

Griuvėsiai ... apdege namai ...
 Upės patvinę kraujais ...
 Puvesiai ... kur žiuri - kapai ...
 Šmėklos belaksto keliais ...

Senovej sugriautos pilies
 Likę griuvėsiai ... ir dar
 Ranka naujo priešo palies -
 Griaus? Gal išgriovė dabar?

Aplinkiu išalkę varnai
 Skraido, klaikiai šaukdami;
 Nuskurę, nuleisti sparnai,
 Krankia, kažką, jausdami! ...

Atskrido ir arasnarsus,
 Blaške ir draskė visus!
 Siautėja po girių, laukus -
 Dieve, tėvynė pražus! ...

Išaušo rytužis gražus,
 Brėkšta aušrele antsti.
 Viltis griuvėsiuose ... nežus ...
 Saulė ją šildo skaisiti!

Atbudo, atgijo gamta!
 Stovi griuvėsiuos nauja
 Esybe! ... tai kelias tauta! ...
 Žengia nauja Lietuva!

Iš kelio, iš kelio visi,
 Jai, kurie renget kapus!
 Iš kelio, o šmėkla tamsi -
 Eina nauja Lietuva!

1918 m
 Leonardas Simutis

Jokes on Love

Never let a fool kiss you, or
a kiss fool you.



You can be happily married
if you take advise from a sage: never forget
your wife's birthday, but never remember
her age.

The early husband gets his own breakfast.

You can always get someone to love you,
even if it's yourself.

*Thanks to Rev. John Savukynas, MIC and
his "Laughing Matter"*

VACATION IN SUNNY FLORIDA !

Room with private bath
\$200 per week. Room
with semi-private bath
\$150 per week. Includes
heated pool, air
conditioning. Near
shopping malls and
beach.

A. Zupko
5886 Guest Court
North Fort Myers, FL
33903 (tel)

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Send this subscription blank and \$15.00 for a one year subscription to Vytis Business Manager, Richard Niedvares, P.O. Box 81615, Chicago, IL 60681-0615. Make check payable to: the Knights of Lithuania. Write, call or fax Mr. Niedvares with change of address, additional copies, lost copies or placing advertising. Tel. (312) 764-3996; fax (312) 764-5847.

Name (please print)

Address

City

State

Zip code

(_____) _____
Telephone



Editor's Note: We'd love to hear from some of our member chefs out there. Each month, we'd like to feature some favorite Lithuanian recipes enjoyed by members. To become our monthly guest chef, submit three to six of your favorite Lithuanian recipes. Please type them and include your name, council, city and state. You may even include the history of the recipe if it has been handed down, a photo of the chef cooking it or the food itself. Please put **LITHUANIAN CHEFS** on the envelope. *Aciu.*

A letter from Margarete Dolvalgo or Green Valley, AZ noted that her Lithuanian husband recalled Christmas family traditions while reading the Christmas Vytis. Mrs. Dolvalgo was especially interested in biscuits with poppy seed milk. Here is one recipe. Perhaps other readers have their favorites.

Slizikai (Christmas Eve Biscuits with Poppy Seed Milk)

1 cup self-rising flour
2 cups ordinary flour
2 tbsps. powdered sugar
1 egg
1/2 lb. margarine or butter

1 cup cold water

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

Poppy Seed Milk

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

adapted from:
LITHUANIAN CUSTOMS AND TRADITIONS
© 1989 by Danute Brazyte
Bindokiene
published by Lithuanian World Community, Chicago

There is an old Lithuanian proverb that says, "If a woman cannot bake bread, she is not a homemaker." Although today many men are also excellent chefs and bakers.

One of my grandmother's favorites was a bread recipe similar to Irish Soda bread, but without the raisins. It has a cake-like texture, and is delicious right out of the oven or toasted later on.

GRANDMA'S BREAD

Makes 4 loaves

1 cup milk or 1 cup water
1/2 lb. butter
2 heaping tbs. Crisco shortening
1/2 tsp. salt
1 1/2 cups sugar
5 yeast cakes
5 lbs. flour
10 eggs

Combine first 5 ingredients in a saucepan and bring to a boil, pour into a bowl and let cool. Add yeast. Mix eggs separately, then add to mixture. Gradually mix in flour. Cover bowl with a cloth and let rise to double. Knead dough thoroughly and let rise again until double. Mold loaves in greased bread baking pans. Bake in 350 degree oven for one hour or until top is golden brown. Can be served plain, with butter, jam or used for sandwiches. From the archives of Louise Kerbelis C-110 Amsterdam member and mother of Mirga Bablin.

Great book to have on hand:
FAVORITES FROM LITHUANIAN COOKERY
Copyright 1989
by Izabele Sinkeviciute
published by Darbininkas, Brooklyn, NY



LITHUANIAN POET'S CORNER

NAMELIS

Stovi pamišky namelis
Kadaise pečių jam' stačiau
Sunku buvo atpažinti
Kaip aš ji ten pamačiau

Niekas namely negyvena
Ten iškritę jo langai
Senas pasakas ten sekė
Sienos klausėsi tyliai

Pečiaus plytos ten iškritę
Čia kadaise jas libdžiau
Vėjas pelenus išžarstė
Skaudu širdžiai kai mačiau

Ten užeidavo gynėjai
Ginę laisvę Lietuvos
O dabar atskrides varnas
Kartais kranksi ant tvoros

Saulė leidosi už miško
Už rausvųjų debesų
Prie namelio duobes gilios
Partizanų užkastu

Šiurpi tylą tam' namely
Nieks netars žodžio linksmaus
Tiktai šaltas rūstus vėjas
Tą namelį ten nugriaus !

THE LITTLE HOME

A little home stands beside the woods.
Once I built a stove therein.
It was difficult to recognize it
When I saw it there.

No one lives in the home.
Its windows have fallen out.
Old stories were told there
As the walls listened silently.

The bricks of the stove have fallen out
Here at one time I cemented them.
Now the wind scatters the ashes.
It hurt my heart to see this.

Freedom fighters used to visit there
They fought for Lithuania's freedom
But now only crows which have flown
here
Occasionally hawk on the fence.

The sun sets beyond the forest,
Behind the reddish clouds,
Beside the deep holes dug near the home,
Where the partisans are buried.

An eerie silence fills the home.
No one will utter a happy word here.
Only the cold, angry wind
Will tear this beloved home down.

by **DOMAS ANDRIUSKA**
Council 29, Newark, NJ

(a loose translation of the poem "Namelis", by
Loretta Stukas, HM)

The Bells Toll for a Lithuanian School

by Rev. John C. Petrauskas, MIC

Editor's Note: This is the first of a three part series on the history and establishment of Marianapolis College.

In the spring of 1926, Archbishop George Matulaitis, the Superior General of the Marian Fathers, accompanied by Father Francis Bucys, the Provincial of the Lithuanian Province, arrived in Chicago to review the initial efforts of the Marian Fathers to establish a Marian apostolate in the United States.

When the Superior General noticed that ten novices had taken residence in the recently acquired Hinsdale Illinois property. A former 220 acre farm, instead of proceeding with his original intention of withdrawing all of the Marian Fathers in the United

States to Lithuania, he, established a Province of the Marian Fathers in the United States and named Felix Kudira as the first Provincial.

The Superior General and the new Provincial then made formal visit to the Archbishop of Chicago, Cardinal George Mundelein to request his permission to establish a college for young men in Hinsdale. Cardinal Mundelein readily granted permission.

Early in July of 1926, Archbishop George Matulaitis blessed the new school which assumed the title of Marian Hills Junior College. The initial enrollment was 26 students. The enrollment was restricted to young men of Lithuanian extraction and the purpose of the school was to prepare candidates for the priesthood who would staff the educational institutions conducted admission requirements and the rigorous daily schedule, ever increasing numbers of students by the Marian

Fathers.

In spite of the strict admission requirements and the rigorous daily schedule, ever increasing numbers of students found the unique program challenging and the enrollment increased so rapidly that by 1931 the college had outgrown its physical facilities and a decision was made to relocate the school.

After lengthy discussions, consisting for the most part of financial considerations, the Marian Fathers, for the sum of \$97,500, purchased the Norman B. Ream 305 acre estate in Thompson, Connecticut, an ideal rural location with physical facilities readily adaptable to school purposes.

The Marian Fathers took possession of the property on May 21, 1931. It was originally planned to begin operating as a college in September of 1932, but with the arrival of the new Superior General, Bishop Francis Bucys in June of 1931, it was decided, at his urging, to open the new school on September 8, 1931.

Father John Navickas, the rector of the new school, arrived on September 3rd and began to administer the affairs of what was then known as St. Mary's College.

The first academic year began with a four year high school program and one year of college. During each succeeding year, an additional year of college was to be added until the academic program consisted of four years of high school and four years of college.

For the 1931-1932 school year, 62 resident students were enrolled, 22 of whom were scholastics - brothers with vows, ten were postulants and 30 were secular students. All were male and all were of Lithuanian extraction.

The first graduation exercises took place on June 8, 1932. Nine students completed the first year of college and a like number completed the fourth year of high school.

Shortly after the close of the first school year, a distinguished visitor to the school was Bishop Maurice F. McAuliffe, Auxiliary Bishop of Hartford. In an informal conversation with the school staff, Bishop McAuliffe said; "I have been everywhere, in Europe I have seen many beautiful places, but nowhere have I seen anything like this.

Divine Providence has given us Catholics this blessed place."

In its second year of operation, the school program consisted of four years of high school and two years of college, with an enrollment of 72 students, 21 of whom were members of the Marian Congregation.

Father Navickas encouraged the students to display their talents of whatever kind. For example, on January 12, 1933, on the occasion of a reception for the visiting Superior General, the program consisted of songs by the school glee club, selections by the school orchestra, and a scene from "The Prophecy", a dramatic production which Father Navickas translated into Lithuanian.

On the evening of June 6, 1933, unpretentious graduation exercises took place in the school library. The graduating class consisted of nine Junior College and seven High School graduates. Valedictorians were Brother Joseph Dambrauskas for the sixth year class and Brother Anthony Miciunas for the fourth year class.

MARIANAPOLIS COLLEGE

In a House Council meeting of January 27, the subject of incorporation was on the agenda. A motivating force for incorporation was that it would solve the costly problem of property taxes. It was at this meeting, too, a proposal was accepted to change the name of the school from St. Mary's College to Marianapolis College, a more unique name. The name, Marianapolis is closely associated with the city of Marijampole in Lithuania where the Marian Fathers first established themselves in that country. On June 9th, 1933, the General Assembly of the State of Connecticut passed a special act incorporating Marianapolis College in Thompson, Connecticut. The Act states, in part:

"The purpose of said corporation (Marianapolis College) shall be to maintain and conduct and institution for the education of young men in the various branches of classical, scientific, and ecclesiastical education and such other departments of learning as may be determined by its by-laws."

In its third year as an educational

institution in its Thompson location, the school was known in its official title - Marianapolis College.

As the school year was coming to a close, the new Superior General, Father Andrew Cikoto, conducted a customary visitation. He reported that the economic condition of the college was, unfortunately, tenuous. Combined tuition and farm income were insufficient to meet expenses. Not all students could afford the \$300 tuition. It was world wide depression time.

Since most of the students were potential candidates for the priesthood in the Congregation of Marian Fathers or the diocesan priesthood, the school program differed from that of secular colleges. Attendance at all religious services was compulsory. The schedule called for a half hour of meditation before Mass and attendance at daily Mass. There was also a common examination of conscience in the morning and the evening and fifteen minutes of spiritual reading.

A vigorous battle to increase the enrollment and to improve the financial condition of Marianapolis was waged during the summer months of 1934. Advertisements stating the school's purpose and admission procedure appeared frequently in the Lithuanian press. In August, a school catalog, the first to be printed in English, appeared. Its statement of purpose and aims was the following:

"Marianapolis College was established by the Marian Fathers to offer young men an education based on the principles of Catholic morality. The aim of the college is not merely the training of the mind, but more especially, the building of strong character."

Incidentally, the financing of the 1934-1935 school catalogue was underwritten by twelve pages of paid advertisements.

The new school year reflected the increased efforts to improve the enrollment, with 30 newly enrolled students for a total enrollment of 82 students, 50 of whom were enrolled in the high school and 32 in the two years of college - all Lithuanians.

Next Month: Part 2 - Marianapolis College, A Fight to Flourish...then WWII

Vėliavos Iškeltos Plakas



Vė-liavos iš- kel-tos plakas, renkas vyrai, žy- gis bus.
Už kal - nų - ka-ra-lių ta - kas, Vil-nius vėl priglaus palkus.

Ir sustos prie vyro vyras,
Žygi priesaika parems,
Sudrebės po kojom žvyras,
Užtvaru nebus keliams.

Kils iš dulkių Gediminas,
Zilas kalnas sudrebės,
Kad pulkai jo kaulus gina
Iš dešinės ir iš kairės.

Vėliava nuskaidrins veidus,
Kils ir rymos ant pilies,
Ir skardės po miestą aidas
Is dešinės ir iš kairės.



The first song is a patriotic song, the flags are raised as citizens and soldiers come to the aid of the Country; the next a sweet lullaby. --
both songs from Subatos Vakareli - Isleido Vokietijos Lietuviu Jaunimo Sajunga - 06840 Lampertheim- Huttenfeld - © 1982

O Atsimenu namelį



O at-si-me-nu na-me-li, aš gim-ti-ni sa-vo,
Kur mo-tu-lė prie ra-te-lio sup-da ma piū-nia-vo.

Ir dai-ne-lė ta lop-ši-nė, ta dai-na mo-tu-lės
ir šiandie-ną man au-sy-se skam-ba čiū-čia liū-lia.

Čiūčia liulia, mažutėli,
Auk greičiau, užauki.
Ir tėvynė ir Dievulis
Tavęs jauno laukia...
Kai išklystu į pasaulį
Platu, begalini,
Tėviškėlės atminimas
Man laimužę mini...

Kai į saulę pasižiūriu,
Vakaro sauluze,
Man ji primena, kaip gyva,
Mylima motužė,
Ir kasdien regiu tą kaimą,
Ta nameli savo,
Kur gyvenimo palaima
Man lopsy liuliavo.

Kalbėkime Lietuviškai



GENDER IN THE LITHUANIAN LANGUAGE

All Lithuanian nouns are either masculine or feminine. We recognize the gender of the noun from its ending. In the nominative case singular MASCULINE NOUNS have the following endings:

-as	vyras - man, husband namas - house	-ys	našlys - widower arklys - horse
-is	brolis - brother pavasaris - spring	-us	žmogus - man, human being dangus - sky

FEMININE NOUNS have the following endings (in the nominative case singular)

-a	žiema - winter vasara - summer	-is	naktis - night akis - eye
-e	kėdė - chair lėlė - doll	-i	marti - daughter-in-law

Very few nouns may have both forms:

masculine and feminine. These are nouns denoting mostly people's occupations and nationalities. For example:

daktaras (M), daktarė (F) - doctor dainininkas (M), dainininkė (F) - singer studentas (M), studentė (F) - student lietuvis (M), lietuvė (F) - Lithuanian amerikietis (M), amerikietė (F) - American italas (M), italė (F) - Italian

Remember also:

ponas (M) - Mister (gentleman) and ponija (F) - Misses (lady)
draugas (M) and draugė (F) - friend

It is important to know the gender of the noun in order to match other words correctly with it.

For example:

geras draugas (m), but gera draugė (F) -
good friend-jaunas vyras (M) - young
husband, jauna žmona (F) - young wife

Or:

Koks tavo vardas? (M), but Kokia tavo
pavardė (F)

What is your first name? What is your
last name?

Let's Speak Lithuanian !



Compare gender of some nouns in these phrases
of GREETINGS

Labas vakaras (M) - good evening

Labas rytas (M) - good morning

Labą dieną (F) good afternoon

GREETINGS & CIVILITIES

Yes - taip

No - ne

Excuse me - Atsiprašau. Atsiprašau, kuri dabar valanda? Excuse me, what's the time?

Sorry - Atsiprašau, aš pavėlavau. - I'm sorry I'm late.

Please - Prašau duoti man puoduką kavos. - Please, give me a cup of coffee.

Thank you (very much) - Ačiū (labai), deku. You're welcome - Prašau.

Thank you for your help.- Ačiū už pagalbą.

That's all right. - Nėra už ka.

Hello! Hi! - Labas! Sveikas(for a man) , sveika (for a woman),
sveiki (for men), sveikos (for women).

How are you? -Kaip sekasi?

Very well. Thank you. - Ačiū, gerai.

Good bye - Viso gero. Viso labo. Sudie(u).

See you. - Iki pasimatymo. Iki greito pasimatymo.

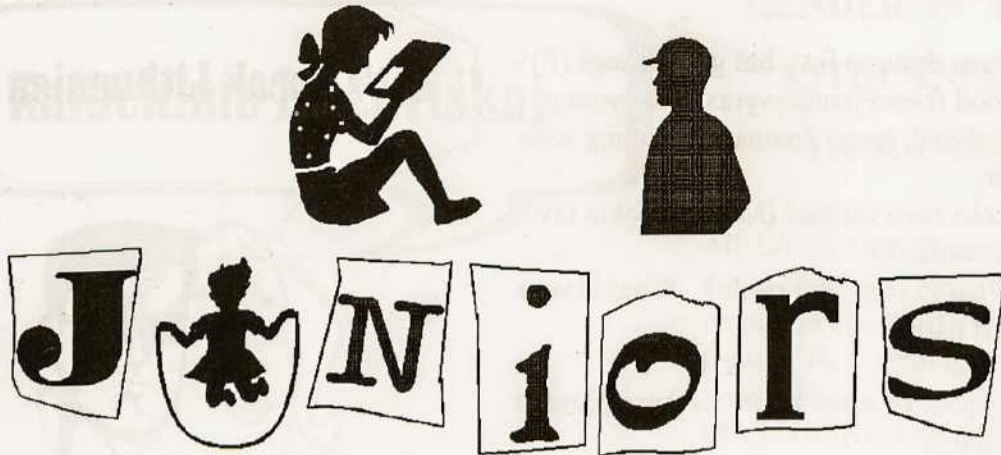
Good luck - Laimingai.

Good night -Labanakt.

I'm very pleased to write to you. - Labai malonu jums rašyti.

Su pagarba,

Dr. Virginia Vaitekoniš-Obando



Juniors Forum

News & Views about Juniors

Junior Councils continued to flourish in the 70's and remained active from the articles written by the Supreme Council Vice-Presidents in charge of Juniors and the Juniors themselves. All this showing the Juniors remaining a vital part of the Knights of Lithuania.

One change took place during this item. There was little written about Junior Council District Conventions. What had occurred, the Juniors began holding their conventions in conjunction with the general organization's national conventions.

The Juniors have been holding their own activities during the day while joining in with the national convention's evening functions planned by the host council. The Juniors do have one business session which has been held on Saturday mornings. In the afternoon they participate in the general assembly.

Time is allocated to the Juniors in which they share with us what they have done and learned during the weekend. This is then followed with Junior Conventionships being awarded. One of the Junior's usually volunteers to write up the Junior Activities for the convention issue of the VYTIS. This participation of the Juniors has created many friendship between districts and councils.

Results from all of this: Former Juniors are and have been on the Supreme Council Board! Former

Juniors are and have been on their District Boards! Former Juniors are and have been officers in their own councils!! I am looking forward to hearing from the council volunteers willing to sacrifice time and energy in organizing or reorganizing Junior Councils. If you are a former Junior, sharing your experiences as a Junior Advisor would be most valuable! There is so much potential out there!

Junior Advisor/Council **Lifeline of the Knights of Lithuania** **Dedication/time/work**

I am throwing a challenge out to the Juniors. The month of May is fast approaching. With this month dedicated to the Blessed Mother and all mothers, I am asking you to write a short story and/or a poem to the Blessed Mother or to your mother. Send these thoughts to the VYTIS Editor:

Mrs. Maryte Abbott
40-28 Locust Street
Sunnyside Gardens, NY 11104

The deadline, with your material on the Editor's desk, is March 15, 1995. Be sure to include a picture of you and your Mom!. If you wish, please send me a copy of you material. Aciu!!!!

Frances R. Petkus SC 3rd Vice-President
800 Haldeman Avenue Dayton, Ohio 45404-1442
(513) 236 0395

Council News '95

MID-CENTRAL DISTRICT

by *Andrea Baltrus*

The Mid-Central District held its annual fall meeting and pilgrimage in Detroit the weekend of October 7th, 8th and 9th. The weekend was hosted by Council 102, and served as an excellent warm-up for their hosting of the National Convention later this year.

The weekend started with registration and a reception at the Hampton Inn in Dearborn. The evening featured strolling musicians and plenty of snacks and drinks. Members were able to catch up on their summer activities, especially telling stories and showing photos from either the National Convention or the Song Festival in Lithuania.

The District held its meeting on Saturday morning under the able leadership of District President, Lillian Petravicius. Official reports were given on the National Convention and the latest developments at Aid to Lithuania, which is headquartered in the Detroit area. We were glad to hear of the great success of the George Perles Golf Tournament. Everyone expressed hope that this effort will continue, whatever the outcome of coach Perles' season at Michigan State. Congratulations to all the officers who were elected to District office. Lillian was reelected District President. She and others who were reelected will be joined by new officers, Secretary - Donna Bunikis (C-102), Treasurer - Tom Bruzga (C-86), and Cultural

Chair - Violet Panavas (C-102). We are especially pleased to have two younger gentlemen serving in office at the District level for the first time: Sergeant at Arms - Tim Baibak (C-120) and 2nd VP - Brian Johnson (C-19)

The remainder of Saturday was devoted to a shopping "pilgrimage" to Frankenmuth, Michigan. The town preserves its settler's German heritage through its authentic Bavarian architecture, food, and lifestyle. Our bus arrived at midafternoon and headed straight for the world's largest Christmas store, Bronner's Christmas World. By stepping inside, we immediately jumped two months ahead and were in the middle of a Christmas wonderland.

After wandering around the huge store in amazement for an hour, and picking up our Lithuanian Christmas ornament, we headed for the center of town. The festive atmosphere of the town was in full swing that weekend because it was Oktoberfest. The sidewalks were jammed with tourists, who were taking advantage of the unseasonably warm weather. It was difficult to decide where to go and what to see. Some favorite stops were the brewery, the dollhouse miniatures shop, and the clock company with its many grandfather and cuckoo clocks. Before heading home, some relaxed by sitting on the porches of some Stores while others tried one of the two famous Bavarian restaurants in town. By the time our delicious meals were finished it had begun to rain and cool down considerably. We were pleased the bad weather held off long enough to make our day enjoyable.

On final day of our Pilgrimage we gathered for

mass at St. Anthony's Church in Detroit. During the mass our newly-elected officers were administered the oath of office and some of our members received their third degrees. Following mass we were treated to a delicious meal in the parish hall. Everyone then headed to St. Anne's Church for benediction and a memorial service for the deceased members of our district. St. Anne's is the oldest church in Detroit, having been established in 1701. The present building, dating to 1886, is truly magnificent.

Finally, by mid-afternoon, everyone was headed home with fond memories of another fun and sociable weekend with our friends from the district and our guests from Chicago. Many thanks to C-102 President, Larry Hoefner, and his committee for putting together a great weekend. This of course raises our expectations for the National Convention, but we are sure they will deliver. We hope to see everyone back in Detroit on May 19-21 for the District's spring meeting and bowling tournament. Council 79 of Southfield will be our hosts.

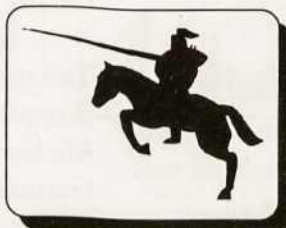
NEW ENGLAND DISTRICT

by *Aldona Marcavage*

"What's left of summer but a faded rose" go the lyrics of a pretty song. how quickly it all passed - the day dreams - the extreme heat - the vacations. Now everyone is energized and ready to accomplish great things. St. Joseph's church in Waterbury, CT was filled with Knights of Lithuania from all 14 Councils of the New England for the fall convention on October 2, 1994. Rev. Francis Karvelis celebrated Mass, assisted by Rev. J.

Petrauskas, MIC and deacon Gvazdauskas. The beautiful sounds from the choir loft were a real treat.

NED president Bertha Stoskus invite Fr. Karvelis for the invocation. He extended his warmest greetings and said he was happy to have all the Knights in attendance, since St. Joseph's parish is celebrating its centennial. Father asked us to keep in our prayers Father Paul Sabulis of St. Joseph and Fr. Albert Karalis of St. Casimir in New Haven. Both are in hospitals. Joseph Stiklius, the Waterbury council president welcomed the attendees of the convention. Bertha Stoskus



efficiently breezed through a lengthy agenda. Due to the absence of Marion Hobitz, the treasurer's report was read by Clemencine Miller (3rd V.P.). Irene Tamulevich reported that the plans for the Cultural Festival are taking shape and once more we can expect success. It will be co-hosted by C-17 Boston and C-103 Providence. Entertainment will be provided by "Vetra" dancers from New Haven. They have recently returned from Lithuania where they participated in the Song and Dance Festival.

Two month old Alexandra Rose Cote was the youngest guest at the K. of L. National Convention and made a hit with everyone. Her mother Veronica E. Cote gave a report on the eligibility for the NED scholarship. She advised reaching out, inviting high school students to join the K.of L. so they could become eligible and even someday become winners. This year there was but one scholarship awarded. It was to Ryan Miller C-141 the grandson of Clem Miller. Congratulations and best wishes. NED Officers and Committees for 1994 - 1995 President - Aldona Marcavage

Spiritual Advisor - Rev. Peter Shakalis - Brockton, MA

President - Bertha Stoskus - Providence, R. I.

1st V. P., - Howard Beaudette - Gardner

2nd V. P., - William Wisniauskas - Gardner

3rd V. P. - Clemencine Miller - Trumbull, CT

Secretary - Sylvia Shukis - Brockton, MA

Corr. Secy. - Sonia Skricki - Norwood

Treasurer - Marion Hobitz - Methuen

Trustees: Sylvester Marcavage - Milford, CT,

Sandra Melish - Norwood

Public Relations - Aldona Marcavage - Milford,

CT; Lithuanian Affairs - Victor Mathieu -

Bristol, RI; Lith. Cultural - Ignatius Hobits -

Methuen; Archives: Longinas Svelnys -

Needham;

Alexander Akule - Saugus

Ritual: HM Rita Pinkus - Worcester,

MA, Marion Racicot - Worcester, Al

Butkins - Providence, RI

Scholarship: Veronica B. Cote - E.

Wareham, William Piacintini -

Providence, RI, Blanche Genaitis -

Gardner

Sports: Irene Tamulevic - Paxton

National Convention delegate Jos. Sticklius of C-7 reported as did alternate Larry Svelnys of C-17. delegate Mario Hobitz - C-78 was unable to attend the Chicago convention.

Sr. Helen Ivanauskaite of Brockton expressed her gratitude to the K. of L, for the strong support to Lithuanians Children's Relief, enabling performance of many miracles.

Among items already sent were 12 containers of food, clothing, medicals - 27 washers and dryers plus 7,000 diapers. Sent to date was \$1,565,000.00 worth of aid. Sr. Helen

requested continued collection of used postage stamps. Aldona Peters presented Sister with a huge box of stamps collected in Bpt., CT. A resolution to send \$100.00 for Children's Relief was amended to \$500.00 and was accepted.

This will aid all orphanages - not just one. Sr. Helen also suggested that greetings should be sent to the new pastor in Brockton - Fr. John Prusaitis - who has replaced Fr. Peter Shakalis, who has retired. It was suggested that we wish Sister Helen a Happy Birthday - so she was serenaded with gusto! Ilgiausiu metu mieloji Sesele!

This summer's known travelers were: HM Rita Pinkus, who attended the National Convention. She had a mishap while in Chicago. Rita fell and broke her arm. She recuperated at her daughter's home in PA. We are happy to see her fully recovered here in Waterbury. In

August John and Betty Skricki and their daughter Irene traveled to Lithuania. Terry and Stan Wasil attended the Song and Dance Festival. Sandra Melish enjoyed her trip to Alaska and when she returned she received her 4th degree on Oct. 2nd in St. Joseph's church in Waterbury, CT. Alice and Stephen Wilcinskaskas of C-141 received

their 3rd. Congratulations!

Brone Wisniauskas (C-10) enjoyed a nice visit with family and friends in her Teviske. With jet-lag in the past, the very talented Brone is completed a very beautiful painting of the log cabin homestead of Aldona Marcavage's mother's birthplace - Laukminiskiu kaimas which is no longer in existence. What a treasured object filled with so much sentimental memories for the recipient. How nice it is to have such a talented artist in our midst.

Five copies of the K. of L. history: "Lithuanian Fraternalism: 75 Years of U. S. Knights of Lithuania by William Wolkovich - Valkavicius were raffled. The winners: C-10 Athol, C-135 Ansonia, C-7 Waterbury, C-27 Norwood,



C-116 Worcester. Members voted to donate an extra \$50.00 to Msgr. A. Bartkus at St. Casimir's College in Rome Italy. (the previous donation was \$300.) \$100.00 will be donated to the National Scholarship fund - and "Vytis" will be remembered with a full page ad for Christmas.

The NED spring convention will be hosted by C-30 Westfield, MA on April 30,

1995. The next National Convention will be in Detroit, MI August 9th - 13th, 1995.

After swearing in of the new officers and the transfer of the District flag from Joe Sticklius, Waterbury to Ben Coach, Westfield, the convention was adjourned with a closing prayer by Fr. Karvelis and the singing of the Vyciu himnas.

A most sincere Lithuanian "Aciu" to the Waterbury seimininkes for the hearty dinner. It was all the more enjoyable because it was shared with friends from the 14 Councils of New England.

C-12, New York, N.Y.

by Irene Senken

If one were to conjure up some thoughts as to what makes our council so unique, the following may be contributing factors:

Our Lady of Vilnius Church (the place of our meetings) is surrounded by large industrial buildings and the church is right next to the famous Holland Tunnel.



Some of the C-12, New York gang at Our Lady of Vilnius Hall.

The members of Council 12 do not live in the area with the exception of one or two members travel to and from our meeting place for most members is by subway. Some members live as much as 125 miles and come in by car.

What would motivate these people to attend meetings from such distances? The answer is to keep Our Lady of Vilnius viable as a Lithuanian parish and the friendly atmosphere that prevails. This council was referred to as the Family Council some years ago and to date it still is.

Our parish dinner in October was a huge success and as usual the plaudits go to the hard working committee. The Christmas party was well attended a huge success, to the point that the refreshments were depleted.

We are fortunate to have as a member a lovely lady known as Ann Charles. Ann is a correspondent to the United Nations representing the Baltic Nations. In her talk to the council at our January meeting she apprised

us as to her recent trip to Lithuania.

Ann stated that the recent fighting in Cheknya has aroused the Lithuanian nation to picket against the Russians and to stop the slaughter. The Russians are a formidable enemy and should be watched very closely.

Get well wishes go to Alma Kerango who had a fall we wish her a speedy recovery. Mitch Marcinauskis is quite ill and prayers are requested on his behalf.

Congratulations to Patricia (daughter of the Senkens) on her marriage to Dr. Robert HITSCHERICH on Dec. 10 of Lafayette Hill Pa. Anthony YAKOVONIS is enjoying himself in Puerto Rico, and Millie PIETZ likewise is enjoying the sun in Fla.

C-25, Cleveland by *Dolly Obraitis*

The Spring MCD meeting and Bowling Tournament, in Pittsburg, was a great success. Two teams represented Cleveland, but only one trophy winner, M. Gray, for pins over average. Well, there is always next year!

On Sunday, May 29th, D. and T. Oberaitis celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary with a 12:30 PM Mass and reception immediately following. Msgr. Goldikovskis and Fr. Kijauskas were in attendance with 130 guests.

On July 3rd, with the attendants, L. and J. Farrell hosted a shower for their sister, Suzanne, who is the daughter of C. and N. Machutas. She is now Mrs. Robert Kish. Another wedding of note: Jane, daughter of R. Guzauskas, was united in marriage with David Ruby, M. D., on August 27th. Ilgiausi'4 metu

to all of the above.

D. and J. Marks and D. Oberaitis received their 4th degree medals at the National Convention in Chicago. They also represented C-25 as delegates. On Friday evening, after the official business was completed, they gave out-going National president Frances Petkus, assistance at her "turning-over-the gavel" party. The "sharing of the gifts" of newly installed Honorary Members E. Sluzas and A. Wargo, made Saturday, a night to remember. The K, of L. singers, entertained on both nights. T'was an impromptu drafting of voices. We also had the pleasure of meeting Dr. Alfonsas Eidintas, the Lithuanian Ambassador to the United States. As a diplomat working for Lithuania's welfare, he let us know Lithuania's great needs in any size, shape or form. Let this aid continue.

This past summer L. Tabbert and F. Lucas departed to their Heavenly Home. Amzina atilsi duok jiems Viespatie. Please continue your prayers for H. Valley recuperating from surgery.

Many thanks to our bakers, helpers and supporters for their assistance at our Koffee Klotch (and bake sale) held on Sunday, September 11. Our Lady of Perpetual Help parish fund profited from the donations. T. Oberaitis, chairperson, is, (present tense) proud of you all!

Twelve members attended the pilgrimage in Detroit, MI. Congratulations to the newly elected district officers, and to the members who received their Achievement medals, B. August, F. Pranskevich and R. Guzauskas.

Roses to the honored class of '44, which include Dolly O., retired R.N., at the annual

Homecoming Dinner, held October 7th, at St. Vincent Charity Hospital.

Daisies to our new member, Theresa Capuria. We wish you many happy years with us.

Forget-Me-Nots to and from our reelected council officers. All maintained in their same positions. However, due to health reasons, F. Prunskевич, took over for A. Perko as our Sunshine Lady.

P.S. - One more big five-o for the past year. December 2nd, was the 50th Anniversary of someone's 21st Birthday!!

C-26, Worcester, MA

by Olga

Happy New Year, everyone! 1995 already brought with it a new member: Miss Pauline Brosky. The warmest of welcomes, Polly!

Our Christmas party, as usual, chaired by the previous year's president (Rita Pinkus) and her board of officers was a very merry occasion. Sprigs of balsam and silver pine cones formed the base for candy canes and marshmallow snowmen; the table centerpieces, created by Ann Walinsky who outdoes herself each time. Christmas carols delicious foods wonderful companionship all made for a delightful evening. Also present were our three Marian Fathers: Father John Petrauskas our spiritual advisor, Fr. Vincent Parulis, our pastor at Saint Casimir's, and Father Anthony Nockunas, assistant pastor.

Most things in life can be bittersweet yes? After nearly eighteen -years as president of our Council 26, Rita Pinkus decided against another term. So,, sweet were the years of her presidency, but sad for us to accept her decision. Grateful thanks and appreciation,



HM Rita Pinkus, after serving 18 years as president of C-26, Worcester has decided to step down. Members honored Rita on Dec. 13, 1994, with flowers, gifts, words and songs. Photo by Dorothy Spokis

dear Rita, for keeping us afloat and active, and for being a friend to us all. Rita's vice-president, Anne Leseman, has now assumed the role of president. We promise Anne and her board our loyal support. Among Ann's first duties was the pleasant task of arranging a proper testimonial for her predecessor, Rita. Rita has been presented roses and a purse accompanied by thunderous applause by her members, as a token of the appreciation of us all. "Ilgiausiu Metu" was sung in her honor...then back to work for Rita who, with her committees prepared the food for this auspicious event. A Christmas testimonial, indeed!

Council 26 will host a meeting of the Supreme Council to be held on March 25th.

Congratulations to Joseph Salkaus who

recently received the Second Degree of the Knights of Lithuania, which was conferred by our ritual chairman, Marion Racicot.

Our Torrance, California member, Ann Grazulis, is convalescing after a brief stay in the hospital. These last bits of news reminds us of Perry Como's theme song, "You are never far away..." Yes? Keep in touch!

Last, but not least, thanks to Barbara Pantos who was responsible for spreading C-26's fame as Council News Correspondent for VYTIS during the past few years. C-26 Officers are:

Rev. John Petrauskas, M.I.C. - Spiritual Advisor; Anne Leseman - president; Joan Wojciak - vice president; Ruth Gadilauskas - recording secretary; Marion Racicot - financial secretary; Lillian Kondrotas - treasurer; William Leseman - Auditor; Charles Kulakusky - sergeant at arms; Dorothy Spokis - Public Relations; Eduardas Meilus, Jr. - Lithuanian Affairs; Olga Kersis - Vytis Correspondent; Ann Bucinkas - Sunshine Lady.

C - 52, Elizabeth, NJ

by William Senkus

Knights of Lithuania, Elizabeth Council 52, held its annual election of officers on Saturday, September 24 and the following were elected: Annie Mitchell Metalavich, president; Ann Baronas, vice president; Ruth Brazinski, recording secretary; Julian Liana, treasurer and Frances Milewski, financial secretary.

Rev. Al Zemeikis, pastor of Sts. Peter and Paul R.C. Church, will continue as spiritual advisor of the club.

Annie M. Matalavich, a delegate to the Knights of Lithuania national convention held in August in Chicago reported on the activities and future

plans of the K. of L. organization.

Elizabeth C-52 will celebrate st. Casimir's Communion breakfast March 12, 1995 with Ruth Brazinski and Juliana Liana in charge of arrangements for the affair.

Isabel Keturwitis and Lee Gruynis, parishioners of Sts. Peter and Paul parish, were the recipients of the 1994 jubilee Medal, for distinguished services within the Archdiocese of Newark, Both are members of the K. of L. Council 52.

Beginning in January, 1995, Sts. Peter and Paul R. C. Church will celebrate its Centennial 1895 1995 with a continuous yearlong program.

Father Al Zemeikis is looking for old pictures of the parish. He is particularly interested in pictures of the old church of Sts. Peter and Paul (1895 - 1910) then located on Ripley Place, now the church hall. Father Zemeikis phone number is 352 - 2271.

C-72, Binghamton, NY

by John R. Mankus

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

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

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

Barbara Miller completed her very successful tenure as the Amber District Raffle Chairperson. 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, "Vytis" correspondent and Lithuanian Language, Carla Wilson - Vice President, Irene Grikenis - Ritual Chairperson Arthur Stankevitz - Secretary, Barbara Miller - Treasurer, Robert Skiba - Financial Secretary and Trustee, Ralph Sadauskas - Sergeant at Arms, Charles Almanas - Sergeant at Arms, Helen Sverika - Public Relations and Trustee, Felix Svereika - Sergeant at Arms, Edward

Radin - Trustee.

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

Since we began our humanitarian Aid to Lithuania drive, our council has shipped twenty-six large packages of medical and humanitarian supplies to five convents in the city of Kaunas and to 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 Benedictine Sisters and The Servants of the Sacred Heart. Many thank you letters were translated by John Mankus and shared with our members and Father John Mikalajunas also shared these letters with Saint Joseph's Church parishioners, who continue to contribute generously to this drive. Special thanks to



C-74 Scranton Knights at Centennial Dinner. (Front) Marie Laske, Ona Matulevich, Bishop Paul Baltakis, Msgr. Michael Ozalas; (Back) Richard Laske, Ann Paleunas, Helen Cravath, Joan Noreika, Casimir Yanish. Photo by White's Photo © 1994

American Legion 1645, Binghamton NY for their generous monetary donation to help with shipment cost.

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

C-74, Scranton, PA

by Marie Laske

We would like to congratulate our new slate of officers for the coming year and hope they will do their best to keep our council active and interesting.

They are:

President - Marie Laske

Vice President -

Rose Stanches

Recording Secretary

- Helen Churi

Financial secretary -

Martha Brack

Treasurer - Edward

Romanauskas

Lithuanian Affairs -

Helen Cravath

Ritual Affairs - Peg

Romanauskas

Hospitality - Regina

Yetkowski

Trustees - Leo

Zewicki, John

Ramoska, Jerry

Costello Sgt-at-arms -

Richard Laske

Public Relations -

Della Zvirbliš

Vytis Correspondent - Marie Laske

Spiritual Advisor - Msgr. Peter Madus

Ann Huffstutler is on the sick list, send her a card - Mountain Rest, East Mountain, Scranton, PA

We were pleased to have Brother Casimir Roland from California attend our November meeting. Brother opened and closed the meeting with a prayer. He is the brother of Lee Bozenko and Mary Costello.

Our condolences go out to Helen Chure and Margaret Clegg on the death of their sister Mary Stucka Gavas. May she rest in peace !



*Centennial Mass at St. Joseph's Lithuanian Church in Scranton
© 1994 White's Photo*

Bishop James Timlin, the Bishop of Scranton was main celebrant at St. Joseph's Lithuanian Church Centennial Mass, which was concelebrated by Bishop Paulius Baltakis, OFM, Msgr. Peter Madus, Msgr. Michael

Ozalas, with 22 other priests. The choir sang beautifully and it was accompanied by trumpets. Some of the K. of L. members wore their colorful native Lithuanian costumes. Much thanks goes to Msgr. Madus for his well-planned efforts on behalf of this event. Aciu uz gera darba!

At the Centennial dinner, my husband and I received a "Certificate of Appreciation" for our leadership in the K. of L. and St. Joseph's parish, which we gratefully accepted from Regina Petrauskas, Lithuanian American Commissioner, Penna Heritage Affairs Commission.

Our centennial Lithuanian and other recipes cook book should be published by mid-December. For information contact: Marie Laske, 1082 W. Market, Scranton, Pa 18508 - 1244 or phone (717) 347 1347

Best Wishes for the New Year to all our K. of L. Brothers and Sisters from Council 74.

C - 96, Dayton, OH

by Maryagnes Mikalauskas

Council 96 visited 31 graves for the Annual prayer and pilgrimage to Calvary Cemetery. Following 9:30 AM Mass at Holy Cross on Sunday, September 11th, members gathered in the church undercroft for coffee and cakes before making the trip. A special mum arrangement was placed on the stone of our beloved departed pastor, Father Vaclovas Katarskis.

September 18th was the birthday celebration of our new parish administrator Father Michael Holloran. Members attended and participated in the Mass. We were pleased to meet Father's family. George Mikalauskas hand carved an

Irish Celtic Cross for Father which was presented to him before the closing of Mass. The choir sang "When Irish Eyes are Smiling", as Father left the church. The undercroft even filled with song, as we sang to Father in Lithuanian.

Religious chairman Jim Geiger received a response from our adopted order in Lithuania, Sisters of Christ the King. They received the shipment of goods. Currently, the monetary collection is being taken from our Dayton Lithuanian community to be donated to the order. This donation will be used in the schools.

The Council continues to plan for upcoming autumn activities: Fall Bake Sale, Pilgrimage to Detroit and the 1995 election of officers.

Please pray for the sister of member Frances Petkus who entered God's Kingdom. Keep the infirm members in your prayers.

More C-96 News.. by Frances R. Petkus
Mother Nature added her special touch to our Annual Christmas Caroling by spreading a light covering of snow on the ground and trees. This Put the carolers into full gear for this special event on Dec. 11th. There were 35 carolers comprised of Regular and Junior members plus a few guests. We visited 2 nursing homes, Holy Cross parish shut-ins, council members recuperating from various illness and members over 80 years of age! All told 27 poinsettia plants were distributed. Our oldest person visited was 105 years old and she was full of vim and vigor. Chairperson for this most rewarding day was MaryAgnes Mikalauskas. MaryAgnes also added to the singing as we were accompanied by her guitar playing. Songs were sung in English and Lithuanian. Our Juniors made special Christmas ornaments as gifts to those we



*C-96 ,Dayton
Christmas
Carolers. Photo by
Jim Geiger*

visited. This was under the guidance of Junior Advisor Annamarie Sluzas Berger assisted by Julie Goecke. We even had Santa Claus to help with the gift giving! Our day was topped off with a supper in the church hall by our Social Committee, Elaine Pacovsky and Laurreta Pant. Helping were Rob Pant and Linda Miller. The Carolers went home contented and once more feeling they received more than they gave. At the Dec. 4th meeting we held our annual distribution of our Charity Fund. This is money raised by donations and a percentage from money making projects. Recipients this year were North Dayton Food Pantry, Aid to Lithuania, Inc. and St. Casimir's Guild. At the meeting Amy Berczelly, Molly Geiger and Henry Pant qualified for the First Degree. Eric Geiger made qualifications for the Second Degree. Congratulations! Our Nashville, TN member, Mark Bell, visiting Dayton, was able to attend this meeting!

The following C #96 Board members for 1995 were omitted in the December issue of VYTIS:

Sports - Joseph Fletcher; Condolence - Eloise Berczelly; By-Laws - Eleanor and Joseph Mantz. The councils Annual Christmas Dinner took place on Dec. 7th at Elinor's Amber Rose Restaurant. Chairperson Frances Mikalauskas must be thanked once again for a fantastic job putting the evening together. George Mikalauskas continues to out do himself with Christmas ornaments, hand carved, for the participants. Elinor not only had treats for us, she brought in "live music" to entertain us. This led to a fun sing along! Many in attendance contributed to the Aid To Lithuania envelope that was passed around!!! To one and all Labai Aciu!!!

Our parish's Lithuanian Cultural Committee held Kucios on December 18th in the parish hall. It was well attended and everyone really enjoyed the evening. Under the chairmanship of Elinor Sluzas and her committee, the traditional 12 foods were prepared with most

everyone taking something of each item. For those not familiar with Kucios, Elinor shared the meaning from the booklet put together by Fr. Anthony Jurgelaitis, O.P., of Providence, RI. One of the highlights of the evening was the fortune telling by Elinor and Jim Geiger for those who drew straws. It was good to see so many council members on the committee and participating. This was a first for Fr. Michael Holloran, our administrator and council Spiritual Advisor. Father did get into the 'mood' of the evening and was the last to have his 'fortune' told. Good job on that by Elinor! Out-of-town members in for the holidays visiting family were the Boekes, Joe and Ann of Grand Rapids, MI; Staff Sgt. Michael F. Petkus stationed in the Bronx, NY; Tim Pacovsky of St. Petersburg, FL; 2nd Class Petty Officer Michael Pant of Washington, DC. It was good to see them and get updated on their activities, etc.

Congratulations go out to Bill and Ann Gitzinger on the occasion of their 50th Wedding Anniversary; Rob Pant and Linda Miller on their engagement!

Get well wishes go to Ann Gitzinger and Richard Conrady! May 1995 be a healthier year for one and all.

In closing we must thank Eric Geiger and Rob Pant for the wonderful job they did in setting up the K of L Christmas Tree. It was loaded with Lithuanian ornaments thanks to Sally Miller and her 'students'. The tree looked beautiful in front of the St. Casimir's altar that had been donated by the council.

C-102, Detroit

by Mariute

Our August meeting was held at the beautiful home of Eve and Joe Stark on Orchard Lake. After the meeting all enjoyed socializing at the corn roast. Delegates for the National

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Convention were chosen: Terry and Mike Shea, Regina Juskis, Bill Zager, Joe and Eve Stark and Richard Straksys. Tim Baibak went as a delegate from our Mid-Central District. All are waiting to hear their reports.

Grandmother of the month award goes to Terry Medonis, who spent three weeks in New York, baby-sitting while her daughter-in-law recuperated from surgery. Get well wishes are extended to Merry Hofner and John Stanievich recuperating from surgeries.

Joe and Maryanne Guerriero celebrated their 45th wedding anniversary with a month long motor trip out West. The trip also included a 7 day Alaskan cruise.

Our World Medical volunteers are still at it, not missing a week is Ona Seidakis, and helping are Frank and Donna Bunikis.

Terry Medonis and Donna Bunikis are busy working on the Pilgrimage weekend of October 7, 8 and 9. The weekend will include our District meeting. Hope to see all of you there.

More...C - 102 Detroit, MI
by Mariute

Congratulations to our newly elected National President, Mrs. Evelyn Ozelis and other



IN MEMORIAM

Rest in Peace

Alexander F. Maculaitis
C-50, New Haven
April 20, 1994

Mrs. Eleanor Lewicki
C-19
December 12, 1994

James Kules
C-30
December 4, 1994

Helen Kratulis
C-144
December 23, 1994

Domicella (Sophie) Slye
C-110
December 23, 1994

Pius Kazlauskas
C-152
December 29, 1994
(91 years old)

Supreme Council officers. Good luck to retiring President, Fran Petkus, you did a good job. Our delegates brought back interesting reports from the convention and the honor of recruiting the most members for the past year was awarded to our council. Speaking about new members, we welcomed Dorothy McIntire, Donute Miskinis, Viktorita Fuhruwerk, and Pat and Della Zyren, at our October meeting. Also, attending the meeting was Dale Jonytis, from Lithuania, who is visiting her cousin Mary Taylor.

October was a very busy month for our council. We hosted the Mid-Central District meeting and Pilgrimage. The whole weekend was hosted by Donna and Frank Bunikis and Terry and Ray Medonis with help from our members. Regina Juska, Tim, Baibak and Donna Bunikis were elected officers in the District. Saturday, the guests were bussed to Frankenmuth, Michigan for a day of shopping at Bronners and dining at the different restaurants in the area. Everyone enjoyed the trip. Friday nights get

together featured our musicians. Joe Stark and John Stanievich music with sing-a-long Frank Bunikis, and dancing by Suzen Ortman. The sing-a-long on the bus Saturday featured Robert Martin from Chicago and the dancing by Suzen Ortman. A Sunday Mass, celebrated by pastor Fr. Babonis and Fr. Stan. Joe Guerriero and Joe and Eve Stark received their Third Degree medal. After Mass dinner was served in the Church Hall. After the repast, we traveled a few blocks to St. Ann's Church, the oldest Catholic Church in Detroit, where we held our pilgrimage. Fr. Babonis offered benediction and the councils from Cleveland, Dayton, Dubois, Pittsburgh and Detroit, lit candles and read the names of their deceased members - a very moving ceremony, Recognition Medals were awarded to the following council members worthy of them: The recipients from our council: The Bunikis, Medonis, Guerriero, Starks, Stanievich, Hofners, Ruth Wagster, Regina Juska and Bob Boris Congratulations to all medal honorees.

Bob Boris reported that container no. 16 was sent out in October. It will contain a complete dental office equipped with all the required dental equipment.

Our spiritual chairwoman, Donna Stanieve, gave a very interesting report on the origin of Lithuanian money lending to the Leta. Every month she has an interesting report.

Chairman Tim Baibak and his committee are busy organizing the National Convention that Council 102 will be hosting in August, 1995. Plans are progressing very nicely and you will be receiving material on it soon. Make vacation plans accordingly so you will be able to enjoy a fruitful convention and also have much fun.

Get well wishes are extended to our president, Lorry Hofner. Deepest sympathies go out to Tom Bruzga of Dubois, PA, on the passing of his wife this summer, a lovely and fashionable lady,. May her soul rest in peace.

C-110, Maspeth, NY *by Bruno Rutkunas*

It was June in January for our council members. Joe Thomas and Genevieve Christian became Mr. & Mrs. Joe Thomas on January 7th. On Sunday, January 15th, an informal conference was held at the Brooklyn Annunciation Church Hall, where the new Lithuanian Consul, Mr. Petras Anusas was introduced to the attendees. Knights of Lithuania Councils from New York, Brooklyn, Great Neck and Maspeth were invited. Helen Matulonis, Jean Bruno and Brian Rutkunas represented our council.

The joint meeting was arranged by Laime Hood, New York president of the LAC

(Lithuanian American Community) and included a few LAC representatives and board members from the Zidinys, the Lithuanian Cultural Center. The theme of this get together was to help the young immigrants from Lithuania organize a social club or join an existing organization to keep alive the customs and traditions of Lithuania. Two young immigrants present were impressed by the existing organizations and were grateful to all. The Consulate General, Petras Anusas, spoke and requested some help in his new position. Volunteers are needed for receptionists and advise on getting the best services such as lawyers, correspondents, messengers, etc. were discussed.

This meeting was hoped to lead to closer joint relationships among Lithuanian organizations toward our common goals. After all, whether we are born in Lithuania or born of Lithuanian parents in the United States, we both share the heritage of the Republic of Lithuania.

In the beginning of this New Year, members Domicella Slye and Walter Brasanskas died peacefully; please offer prayers for them and all deceased members. Violet Zvirblis has been chosen as our Vytis correspondent, replacing Maryte Abbott, the new Editor of Vytis.

C-112, Marquette Park, IL *by Gerrie*

Good food, music, singing, seeing old friends -- all this at the Christmas party which followed our regular meeting in December. Thanks to co-chairladies Julie Zakarka and Geffie Chaplin for making all the arrangements. Our member, Don Sharko, did his usual outstanding job of catering for us -- his kugelis is super -- and kept the food coming until everyone had

their fill. The pastries and appetizers were delicious -- all made by the ladies of C-112, and Al Mockus and Peter Jasaitis made sure that everyone had enough refreshments. After the food was gone, we sat back to listen to our favorite singer, Al Brazis, accompanied by that talented pianist (my son), Robert Mockus, for a selection of Christmas songs. So enjoyable. Then Robert got us all together for an old-fashioned sing-a-long led by Denise Zakarka and Arvydas Zygas. Did anyone notice Santa Claus passing out little gifts to everyone? He came a little early this year, but we were glad to see him. The chairladies express their gratitude to everyone who pitched in and helped.

Before the start of the party, 2nd V.P. Ellie Kasputis administered the K of L oath to new members Josephine Alfanso and Arvydas Zygas. Welcome aboard! Ellie Kasputis hosted our December board meeting and, once again, turned it into an extra special evening. Following our meeting, Ellie set up an enormous buffet table laden with all kinds of

delicious treats. She's been doing this for a number of years, and we all appreciate the time and effort it takes to do this. Thanks, again, Ellie.

Got Sunday, April 30, 1995, marked on your calendar? You should. It's a GAMES PARTY at Nativity B.V.M. parish hall, 1:00 p.m. Co-chairladies for this event Vera Paukstis,

Ann Marie and Donna Juraitis promise us a fun-filled afternoon. Ellie Kasputis is busy lining up some very special prizes for the raffle to ensure that no one will be disappointed. Proceeds from this event will be donated to Nativity B.V.M. and the College in Rome. We need your help to make this a success! We were saddened to learn of the passing of longtime member, Tony Yuknis. Estelle Rogers notified members of the wake service and Al Mockus officiated.



C-112's Santa Claus, Louis Rogers, takes a breather with his mom, Estelle Rogers, after delivering gifts

Tony was a major contributor to the Vytis magazine some years ago, and was also a very talented artist. He will be missed.

While many of us adopted Lithuanian orphans, Val and Joe Stanaitis went that extra mile and adopted an entire family -- of 12. Val and Joe put together a large box of items which they shipped to the family in Lithuania. One of the children from this family was present at our December meeting and shared a beautiful letter the family had sent. This was truly a Christmas story.

Congratulations to Rita Zakarka as her nursing career now takes her into the home health field. She is a terrific lady who is always on the go and involved in everything. Hope you enjoy this new vocation. Sporting brand new tans are Al and Aldona Brazis who just got back from Nassau. Way to go! We'd all trade a trip like that for this fluffy white stuff.

FEBRUARY ❧ ALMANAC ❧ VASARIS

A Prayer for February:

*Apsaugok, Aukščiausias, tą mylimą šalį
kur mūsų sodybos, kur bočių kapai!*

Protect, O Most High, that beloved land,
Our ancestral home and our Forebearers'
Eternal resting place.

In February:

- Feb 2 - Feast of the Presentation at the Temple. As prescribed by Mosaic Law, forty days after his birth, Jesus was taken by his parents to the Temple at Jerusalem for a ritual dedication to God. Known as Candlemas Day (Grabnyčios in Lithuania); it is traditionally a day when pure beeswax candles are blessed and distributed to the faithful. The candles are reserved for use when a priest comes into the home with Holy Viaticum for a dying parishoner. These blessed candles are also lit and placed beside the casket during the wake.
- Feb 12 - Abraham Lincoln's Birthday - Formerly a National holiday; its observation is now combined with Washington's Birthday and celebrated as a collective Presidents Day.
- Feb 14 - Valentine's Day. Traditionally, a day to express your affection for a loved one.
- Feb 16 - Reinstatement of Lithuanian statehood (1918) - Lithuanian National Holiday. It commemorates the day on which the Council of Lithuania issued its proclamation on the re-establishment of an independent Lithuanian state.
- Feb 20 - President's Day - National Holiday in honor of all U. S. Presidents.
- Feb 22 - George Washington's Birthday. Celebration transferred to Feb 20.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THOSE CELEBRATING A NAME'S DAY IN FEBRUARY:

Agatha (Feb 5)	Alex (Feb 17)	Alexander (Feb 26)
Alvyra (Feb 23)	Andrew (Feb 4)	Apolonija (Feb 9)
Asta (Feb 3)	Benedict (Feb 12)	Bernadette (Feb18)
Birute (Feb 4)	Bridgit (Feb 1)	Catherine (Feb 13)
Cyril (Feb14)	Dimitri (Feb24)	Edgar (Feb 3)
Gabriel (Feb 27)	Gilbert (Feb4)	Ilona (Feb 4)
John (Feb 8)	Julian (Feb 16)	Laimutis (Feb 16)
Leon (Feb 20)	Loreta (Feb 13)	Mantas (Feb 12)
Marius (Feb9)	Mirga (Feb 23)	Richard (Feb7)
Valdas (Feb 28)	Valentine (Feb 14)	Victor (Feb 25)
Vida (Feb 1)		



From the host site for this year's 82nd National Convention:

Detroit, long maligned and often overlooked as a place to gather, is looking forward to bringing the Knights of Lithuania together for just such a festive occasion August (9-13). Council 102 and St. Anthony's are celebrating 75 years of service to God & Country. What better way to culminate such a feast than bringing together the Supreme Council and delegates from all across the land, here, to Detroit.

Detroit, one of the oldest communities in the nation celebrates continually with its parks, zoos, museums, festivals, and art presentations. Cultural diversity is the byword in our area as all number of ethnic groups call Detroit, if not "home" (away from home), then the "hub" of their activities, and the Knights of Lithuania are no different.

We have long enjoyed Greenfield Village & Henry Ford Museum, The Detroit Art Institute, The Science Museum, The annual Renaissance Festival, The International Freedom Festival and the long standing Ethnic Festivals at Hart Plaza, Top notch stage and movie functions at the Fox Theater, newly renovated to its original splendor, rivaling any theater in the country. We have much to be thankful for. Aid to Lithuania has its home here. As does the George Perles Annual Invitational, its main fund raising activity.

As our district gathered here in October for its annual Fall Pilgrimage at St. Annes one of the oldest Catholic churches in the country, we warmed ourselves with thoughts of a celebration in the late summer next year with our Archbishop, the Knights and a culture which is alive and well here in Detroit,

Looking forward to seeing one & all,
Tim Baibak, General Chairperson
 Host Committee 82nd National Convention,
 Knights of Lithuania

***Detroit Council 102 Founded in 1920
 Celebrating 75 years of Service to God and Country***

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EVENTS



1995 KNIGHTS OF LITHUANIA SCHEDULED ACTIVITIES

Volunteer Day-World Medical Relief

Feb. 11, 25 Detroit, C-102
 Mar. 11, 25 & Apr. 8, 22

For further info contact:

Regina Juska (313) 554-3288

"Lithuanian Independence" Celebration

Feb. 4 Norwood, MA, C-27

Albie Jarvis (617) 762-2613

"Memories of Lithuania" Banquet

Feb. 5 MAMD

Evelyn Ozelis (312) 254-7553

St. Casimir Day Celebrations

Mar. 5 Detroit, Host C-79
 Mar. 12 AMBD, Host: C-3
 Mar. 26 MAD, Host: C-110

Marge Daphkus (810) 478-4912
 Agnes Mickunas (609) 931-3306
 Bruno Rutkunas (516) 628-2292

Supreme Council Meeting

Mar. 25 Host: C-26, Worcester, MA

Ruth Serafinas (508) 829-6037

2nd Annual George Perles Invitational Golf Tournament, Aid to Lithuania Benefit - Western Golf Tournament and Country Club

June 13 Host: C-102 Detroit

Robert Boris (810) 682-0098

1995 National Convention

Aug. 9-13 Host: C-102, Detroit

Regina Juska (313) 554-3288

(Note: If your council/district has a scheduled function that is not listed above, we did not know about it. please inform the VYTIS Editor whenever you schedule an activity.)