

Volume 81: No. 3  
March 1995



# VYTIS

Knights of Lithuania



## KOVAS / MARCH

**A TIME OF CHANGE, OF STRUGGLE ("KOVA") BETWEEN THE WINTER AND THE SPRING IN LITHUANIA. ALSO, THE TIME OF THE RETURN OF THE ROOK ("KOVAS") A BIRD OF THE CROW FAMILY. IT'S CAWING PROCLAIMS THAT SPRING HAS NEARLY ARRIVED.**

**VYTIS**  
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 1994-1995

**Kovas / March 1995**  
**Volume 81: No.3**

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VYTIS (663680) is published monthly November through June, bi-monthly July-August and September-October by the KNIGHTS OF LITHUANIA, a Not for Profit organization. Subscription is \$15.00 per year. Single copy \$3.00. Outside USA \$30.00 per year. Second Class Postage paid at Chicago, IL. Postmaster: Send returns and corrections to: Business Manager VYTIS the Knight, P.O. Box 81615, Chicago, IL 60681-0615.

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Cover illustration from a relief sculpture by Lithuanian Juozas Zikaras.

*Šventasis Kazimierai, Lietuvos Vyčių Globėjau!  
Vadovauk musu kovai už tauta ir Baznycia. Padek mums  
isteseti tai, ka jaunomis širdimis pasiryzome. Per Kristu,  
musų Viešpati. Amen.*

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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.

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## FROM YOUR EDITOR

Everyone speaks of freedom. Freedom from want. Freedom from fear. Freedom to earn a living doing what one does best. Freedom to go and do as we please. Freedom from any form of slavery. Even in the United States we do not have all these freedoms, and certainly not yet in Lithuania.

Lithuania has gained her freedom from the Soviet Union, but the Russians are up to their old tricks by deliberately attacking the civilian population of Chechnya, using multiple rocket launchers, napalm, cluster bombs and phosphorous bombs. The whole city of Grozny has been destroyed, according to Chechnya President Dzhokhar Dudayev. The Russians refuse to let the people remove all the dead in Grozny, and dogs and cats are eating the carrion. Russian troops are looting. All because of oil located in that area on the Black Sea.

According to Lally Weymouth of the Washington Post, Russia has expansionist plans and intends to spread its influence to other ex-Soviet republics. Lithuania and Latvia head the list. "In the long run," Weymouth continues, "the Russian political aim is the aim of Peter the Great...to reach the warm water ports."

The United States sends foreign aid to Russia with portions of our taxes going to fuel their army. In Congress, a bill called HR7 was debated. The bill originally stated that the Baltic countries be added for consideration into NATO before the end of the century.

The Lithuanian Ambassador to the US., Alfonsas Eidintas, met with a delegation of Lithuanian Americans on Tuesday, Feb. 14, to stress the necessity of including Lithuania for NATO consideration. He said Lithuanians are fearful of another Chechnya slaughter but with "something in writing" to emphasize the U.S. position, preferably favorable for NATO consideration, the country could breathe easier. The Russians still have the greater strength in numbers, weapons and clout, so Lithuania, must arm herself with good alliances and trustworthy support from the community of friendly nations to thwart off any imperialistic threats by Russia. NATO consideration could make the Russians think twice.

I had the opportunity to become a part of this lobbyist group, thanks to the support of my council-110 and thanks to its president, Bruno Rutkunas and his quick thinking. Romas Kezys, Lithuanian radio personality from Long Island Council, sought Evelyn Ozelis, President of the K of L to represent the K of L at these crucial meetings. When he couldn't get in touch on such late notice, Bruno recommended a member of his council, the new VYTIS editor. A group of a dozen representatives from Lithuanian organizations and businesses obtained an appointment with Congressman Benjamin Gilman, - chairman of the International Relations Committee - asking him to support Lithuania's inclusion into NATO in the form of an amendment by Congressman Durbin (a Lithuanian Congressman from Illinois). After the 15 minute meeting, we were told he supported the Lithuanian cause. Besides myself and Mr. Kezys, we were joined by Vincent Boris, of the Lithuanian Affairs Committee, Jonas Genys, Arvydas Barzdukas, Simas Velonskis and Rabbi Ronald Greenwald of the YIVO Institute.

Perhaps we Lithuanians were the deciding factor that caused Congressman Gilman to not only support our cause, but also to cosponsor the Durbin amendment and strengthening the vote. (See the following story, *Coverage of the Washington Meeting* on page 3.)

Maybe it's time to look at the real situation rather than the mythical one.

Lithuania's continued independence will only be assured if we speak up and even this offers no guarantee. The Senate subcommittee on foreign operations will be holding hearings on NATO soon. We should write, fax, and call our U.S. senators.. Let them know that we want Lithuania included in joining NATO. Let's tell these senators to limit aid to Russia until the Chechnian slaughter is stopped.

With our voices heard, we may help to maintain and insure Lithuania's freedom.

## Coverage of the Washington Meeting - 2/14/95

### A Valentine's Gift to Lithuania

by Romas Kezys

When a fax came into my office, on Feb. 10 concerning the vote on Bill H.R. 7, I realized that the subject matter was of extreme importance to Lithuania. H.R. 7 with amendment submitted by Congressman Torricelli (D-NJ) would, delete Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia and Ukraine from the list of countries which would be candidates to become NATO members.

These countries would find themselves under the Russian influence. The United States and Western Europe would have no obligation to protect or defend those countries against possible Russian aggression in the future. Congressman Richard Durbin (R. 111.) introduced an amendment which would keep these countries in the H.R. 7 bill as candidates for future NATO membership. Richard Durbin's mother is Lithuanian.

The FAX distributed by the Washington office of the Lithuanian American Community, Inc., urged all, US citizens to call their congressmen and urge them to vote for the Durbin amendment.

After receiving sufficient information on H.R. 7 and the amendments, I gave a strong editorial on the radio Sunday, Feb. 12. I urged our listeners to get to their phones and call their congressmen. The response by our listeners strong and swift. Especially great sensitivity was demonstrated by the Knights of Lithuania. Mary Kober of Great Neck C-109 called and said she collected 100 signatures and was sending them express mail to her congressman; Bill Kumeta, president C-41 called for additional information and said he will contact his members and will urge them to make those calls; Ramute Cesnavicius informed the Annunciation parish choir in Brooklyn about the subject



Ninan/Indian Express/New Delhi

matter and the members promised to call. Vytautas Mazelis spent the whole day phoning his friends urging them to do the same. 10 - 15 people called about this matter of great urgency.

..."Lithuania's President, **Algirdas Brazauskas** reaffirmed his country's aspirations to become a member of the European Union, the Western European Union and NATO. It was made in a speech presented during his annual meeting with foreign ambassadors and representatives held in the seaside resort of Palanga on January 20. The Lithuanian Leader emphasized that the final aim of Lithuania's integration into Western structures is membership in the three organizations."

- *Baltic Observer, No.5/151*

However, the most important call came from New York businessman Simas Velonskis. Mr. Velonskis' congressman was Benjamin Gilman (R.-NY) who is the Chairman, of the Committee on International Relations. And as such he is probably the most important member of Congress in this particular field. Velonskis was asked to call Gilman. He recommended we speak with Gilman and other

congressmen. He asked Rabbi Greenwald to get us an appointment Gilman, and we were given Valentine's Day, Feb. 14 appointment, just a few hours before the bill was presented before congress for a debate.

Velonskis immediately called Lithuania's ambassador Dr., Alfonsas Eidintas to inform him about this appointment, Mr. Eidintas supported this meeting enthusiastically. We proceeded jointly to form a delegation. After a few hours of telephone calls a delegation was made up of the following people: Mr. S. Velonskis, Rabbi R. Greenwald, K of L representatives

Maryte Abbott and Mr. Vincent Boris, Arvydas Barzduka (Lithuanian American Community), Dr. J. Genys (Lithuanian American Council), and Romas Kezys (New York Lithuanian radio announcer). Ambassador Eidintas also participated and presented to Mr. Gilman the position of Lithuania's government on this matter, while the others urged Gilman to support the Durbin amendment.

At that point I realized how important it is close personal contacts in politics.

Thursday, Feb. 16 all of us waited -nervously for the results of voting.

Late in the afternoon I received a call from Simas

"...The meeting...reflected the concern in the U.S. business community to the viability of Lithuania as an independent republic and the apparent lack of confidence in the US Government in considering Lithuania as even a potential candidate for NATO membership as reflected in the changed wording of that portion of H.R. 7 which addresses NATO expansion.

These concerns are shared by the other Lithuanian-Americans attending the meeting. **Ambassador (Dr. Alfonsas) Eidintas** had been invited to provide the most authoritative background on the significance of NATO candidacy and eventual membership to Lithuania. He did this most ably... Lithuanians are convinced that any indicated diminution in US confidence, support or assistance will be viewed by Russia as an open invitation to reestablish a sphere of interest in the Baltic region."

**-Vincent B. Boris**

*from his report to K of L President, Evelyn Ozellis on 2/15/95*

"...Our country now, the restored independent Republic of Lithuania, is not secure yet from the external power, expansionist and imperialist as before, aggressive and inhuman in its today's no-human-rights action in Chechnya. Therefore, we have been badly surprised some days ago by (the) decision of the International Relations Committee of the (US) House of Representatives, to exclude Lithuania from the list of the candidates to NATO. I hope this hesitation and mistake can be improved."

**- Vytautas Landsbergis**

*from an open letter distributed to members of the US House of Representatives, 2/14/95*

It was a great victory. Many people contributed to it. Beside our meeting, many citizens called their congressmen, members of Lithuanian Parliament visited various officials, as did Dr. Vytautas Landsbergis. Strong support came from Polish, Czech and other Eastern European countries officials, Lithuanian American Community, Inc. put much effort towards this victory. This victory is a great blow to the rising imperialism of Russia and a precious gift to Lithuania on her Independence Day.

*Romas Kezys is a Lithuanian radio personality broadcasting "Lithuanian World Review" weekly over WNWK-FM in Bayside, NY and a member of the Knights of Lithuania.*

Other members are invited to send their comments about this issue to:

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P.O. Box 1934  
Grand Central Station, NY,  
10163-1934

Valonskis :  
"Congratulations! We won!". H.R. 7 with the Durbin amendment passed 241 vs. 181, 13 abstentions.

Of the 241 votes, 223 were Republicans.

Ambassador Eidintas stated later that the bill passed because Congressman Gilman strongly supported it.

# *Sventas Kazimieras*

SAINT CASIMIR 1458-1484

On March 4th, Lithuanians all over the world celebrate the feast of St. Casimir, the patron saint of Lithuania. Born in 1458, the grandson of Jogaila, Grand Duke of Lithuania and King of Poland, Casimir refused the throne, rejected all riches, refused to marry and dedicated his short life to our Lord. He fasted, wore meager clothing and slept on the floor. The young prince would be frequently seen kneeling alone even in the bitter cold winter at the gates of the Cathedral of Vilnius. He died in 1484 and was buried in Vilnius Cathedral where a chapel was erected in his honor.



Immediately after Casimir's death, the people of Vilnius began to pray at his grave. Soon several authentic miracles were recognized. It is believed that Pope Leo X canonized St. Casimir in 1521, but the saint has been recognized in our time by Pope Pius XII (1948) as the special saint of Lithuanian youth.

There have been many legends about St. Casimir, but none more popular than

the "Army of St. Casimir" referring to the liberation of the Fort of Polock in the mid 16th century. Lithuanians were faced with liberating the besieged fortress from the Muscovites. The Dauguva River between the Lithuanian cavalry and the Russian army was swollen. The Russians surrounded it on three sides, setting up tents and bonfires, confident the fort would fall before long. Suddenly on the Lithuanian side, there appeared a mysterious white horseman, who dashed into the swirling currents and shouted, "Follow me!" This encouraged the cavalry to charge in after him, crossing the river and saving the day. The enemy fled in panic. When officers began looking for the hero of the battle, he was not to be found. No one ever saw him again, but testimony claimed the horseman was none other than St. Casimir. In modern times we call this a legend, but in heroic times, a miracle! *(Compiled from VYTIS St. Casimir 500th Commemorative issue, March 1984 and other sources.)*



*The text of the Blessed Virgin was included in the coffin of St. Casimir reflecting the special guiding light of St. Casimir's devotion to Our Lady:*

"All my senses, heart affections, strive to sound her glory forth: Spread abroad the sweet memorials of the Virgin's priceless worth: Where the voice of music thrilling, Where the tongue of eloquence, That can utter hymns beseeming All her matchless excellence?"

**St. Casimir, great worshipper of the Queen of Heaven, most Holy Mary, you have shown your special protection of our fatherland, Lithuania many times, miraculously saving her from the enemy, protect her, we beseech Thee, always and in all her necessities.**



## Sts. Peter & Paul R. C. Church Celebrates a Century

*by William A. Senken, C-52  
Lithuanian American Historical Society*

Sts. Peter & Paul R.C. Church of Elizabeth, NJ, celebrated the beginning of its Centennial Jubilee--100th Anniversary in 1995 with Rev. Alfred T. Zemeikis, pastor as celebrant of the Mass at 12 noon on Sunday, January 8.

On Feb 19., there was a wreath laying at the Wayside Cross, followed by the 11 a.m. Mass commemorating Lithuanian Independence Day. A centennial Reunion Big Band Dinner Dance was also held on Feb. 25, while events coming up during the entire year seem exceptionally inviting.

In 1895, Elizabeth, NJ Lithuanians had their Sts. Peter & Paul Church, at 216 Ripley Place, blessed by Bishop Winand Wigger of the Newark Diocese. Fr. Joseph Servetka served as its first pastor. Due to illness, Fr. Servetka left the congregation. In 1896, Rev. Bartholomew Zindzius was appointed pastor, where he remained for 28 years, from 1896 to 1924.

In 1910, through Fr. Zindzius efforts and the Newark Diocese, a new yellow brick church, Sts. Peter & Paul, was built in Elizabeth and was one of the most beautiful churches in the area.

Rev. Joseph Simonaitis took Fr. Zindzius place in 1924. He erected the first Wayside Cross, constructed by parishioner, Stanley Valatka.

Rev. Micheal G. Kemezis was appointed pastor in 1953, following the death of Fr. Simonaitis. Fr. Kemezis established the





church's "Siluva Altar" which holds a piece of Lithuanian rock, taken from the rock the Virgin Mary appeared on in 1608 in Siluva, Lithuania.

Rev. Kemezis and Rev. Simonaitis reorganized the Elizabeth Knights of Lithuania in 1937. Both were staunch supporters of K of L council 52. Rev. Michael G. Kemezis was elevated to Rt. Rev. Msgr. Kemezis in 1959 by Pope John XXIII and delivered the invocation to open the US Senate on Lithuanian Independence Day in 1962.

**Schedule of 1995 Events  
Sts. Peter & Paul Centennial Year -  
C-52, Elizabeth NJ**

March 12 - Feast of St. Casimir Mass,  
K of L brunch & cultural presentation.

April 2 - Lithuanian Food Festival

May 21 - 100th Anniversary  
Lithuanian Festival/Picnic

June 25 - Manhattan Dinner Cruise:  
6:30-10:00 pm

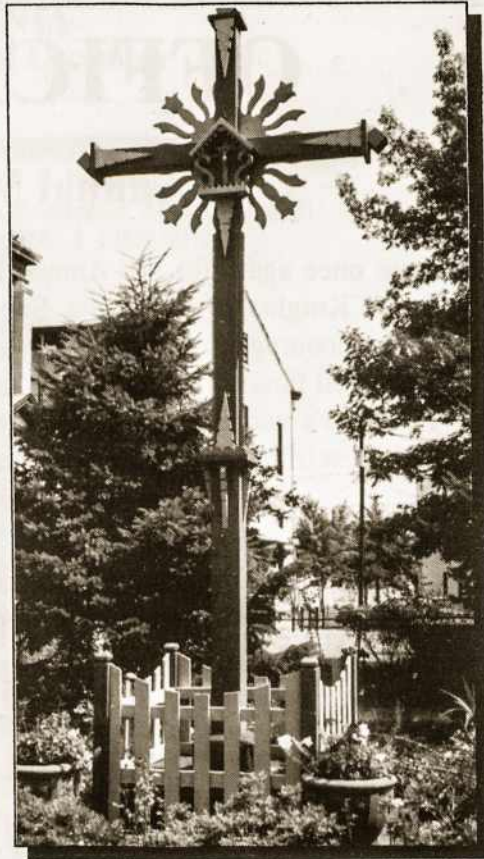
June 29 - Feast of Sts. Peter & Paul,  
cocktail hour following 7 pm (Thurs.)  
Mass

Sept. 10 - Holy Name & Altar  
Societies picnic

Oct. 22 - Bishop's Dinner following 12  
noon Mass

Dec. 18 - Parish Christmas Party

Jan. 7, 1996 - Closing Centennial Mass  
at 12 noon.



Rev. Peter Zemeikis was appointed the administrator of Sts. Peter & Paul in 1969, succeeding the former pastor, Msgr. Kemezis who died earlier that year. In 1978, Father Zemeikis was installed as pastor.

Father Zemeikis enlarged the sanctuary and built a new altar facing the congregation in 1970. He also had a new wayside cross built by parishioner, Albin Stukas. Fr. Zemeikis, in 1983, also led a delegation from the parish to the national shrine "Ausros Vartai" in Lithuania. The shrine, called the "Gates of Dawn" is one of the nation's religious sanctuaries in Lithuania.

A Lithuanian pilgrimage was also led by Fr. Peter Zemeikis was completed in 1984, with Pope John Paul II in Rome as celebrant for the commemoration of the 500th anniversary of the death of St. Casimir, 1484-1984.

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# OFFICIAL NEWS

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## Annual Membership Drive

It's time once again for our Annual Membership Drive. Beginning January 1st and ending June 30, the Knights of Lithuania Supreme Council will be sponsoring our annual drive. Councils are encouraged to sign-up new members and submit their registration card and dues to Supreme Council Financial Secretary, Rita Sussko. An outline of how our drive works is printed below. This year's winners will be announced at the 82nd National Convention in Detroit, MI, this August. Best of luck to all councils and individuals as you strive for the top.

Rob Martin - 2nd Vice President, Membership

## Award Categories

<u>COUNCILS</u>	<u>INDIVIDUALS</u>
<p><b>1st - 2nd - 3rd Places for Councils under 75 members Councils with 76 - 150 members Councils with 150+ members</b></p>	<p><b>1st - 2nd - 3rd Places from Councils under 75 members Councils with 76 - 150 members Councils with 150+ members</b></p>
<p>Increases are determined by the number of new members, including Juniors, minus the number of old members not renewing. Deceased members do not count as non-renewing members. (Example: A council with 50 members at the end of 1994 that signs up 40 new members and has 10 old members leave the council would have an increase of 30 members.)</p>	<p>Increases are determined solely by how many members and individual signs up.</p>

**Corrections & Additions:** OOPS! The subscription blank published last month should have read \$20. for a one year subscription. \$15. is the price for new members. Good bargain!

**Aid to Lithuania** - the following donors were omitted from the Feb. publication:  
**K of L Supreme Council, \$2,364.68 and C-79, Southfield, MI, \$193.20.** Also, in the Jan. issue, listing donors of \$500 - \$999, K of L C-25; Millbury, MA should have been, **C-26, Worcester, MA.**

## AID TO LITHUANIA

Donations received during July thru December 1994

### Over \$1,000.00

Lithuanians in Texas c/o V. Grantham, Stockdale, TX \$ 1,500.00  
 K of L Council # 110, Maspeth, NY \$ 1,000.00  
 Dr. Algis Juocys, D.O., IMO Mykolas Mineikis, Rochester, MI \$ 1,000.00  
 K of L Council # 63, Lehigh Valley, PA \$ 1,000.00

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## St. Casimir Guild

Dear Knights:

Although the list of donors of the St. Casimir Guild of the Lithuanian Pontifical College in Rome was submitted to VYTIS prior to the 1994 Convention, it was not listed. I, therefore, apologise and wish to submit all donations forwarded to the Guild from Sept. 1993 to July 1994. The total amount collected was submitted with the Convention Report.

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To date (2/16/95), we have \$6,875.00 in our Vestment Fund toward a goal of \$10,000.00. A complete accounting of all donors will be given when we have reached our goal. We are still in need of \$3,125.00. It would be nice if we could present a check for \$10,000.00 to Msgr. Bartkus at the 82nd Annual Convention in Detroit. If you can donate something to this cause, please send it to the St. Casimir Guild for the Vestment Fund. The need for these new vestments is great. Please help.

You can also receive Mass Cards for Masses celebrated at the Lithuanian Pontifical College. Mass stipends are \$10.00. There are many student priests and priests at the college and their only means of support is these Mass stipends.

We thank you for your support in the past and pray you will continue to support our adopted Lithuanian Pontifical College.

May God Bless you all.

**Anna K. Wargo, President**  
**The St. Casimir Guild**

## LITHUANIANS IN THE NEWS



*Members wanted to congratulate Rev. Dr. Joseph Anderlonis, our K of L National Spiritual Advisor, for his recent 25th anniversary of his ordination.*

### **DR. VEE NAMED TO CANCER ADVISORY BOARD**

Last September, President Clinton appointed Michigan Cancer Foundation President, Vainutis Vaitkevicius, M.D. to the National Cancer Advisory Board. This presidentially appointed body has the task of advising and assisting the federal cancer effort.

Dr. Vaitkevicius is a member of Aid to Lithuania's Advisory Board and a supporter of many Knights of Lithuania projects.

He will serve a six year term.

"I look forward to continuing reports of progress against this disease which effects the health of so many people in our country," he said. Appointees to the National Cancer Advisory Board are named by the President.

The Board consists of 18 members, 12 from the scientific and health professions and six public members.

### **REFUGEE SERVICE DIRECTOR RESIGNS**

Jesuit Father Richard Ryscavage, the head of U.S. bishops' Migration and Refugee Services (MRS) will resign this summer to take a refugee studies position at Oxford University. Father Ryscavage has been the Executive Director of MRS and president of the USCC's Catholic Legal Immigration Network, Inc. since 1991. He had been deputy director since 1986.

During his tenure at MRS, the agency's work has evolved with the shifting national and global picture for immigrants, he said. When he arrived, MRS was involved in the country's first amnesty program for illegal immigrants, "one of the great social experiments in U.S. history," he noted. Today, refugee and immigration work is of a more global scale, affected by politics, civil wars, ethnic violence and realignment of nations.

In previous positions, Father Ryscavage has been a conflict resolution trainer at the School for International Training in Brattleboro, VT. He was also a youth projects assistant at the Gandhi Peace Foundation in India. He also has worked for the Peace and Human Development Program at Jesuit-run St. Joseph's University in Philadelphia, the Hesbjerg Peace Research College in Denmark and the Instituto Centroamericano de Mercadotecnia y Alimentos in Guatemala.

Father Ryscavage is the son of the late Dr.

Edward Ryscavage of St.Clair, MD.

### **BALTIC THREE FORM ARMY UNIT**

The Presidents of Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia met on February 8 to launch their first combined military unit, a peacekeeping battalion. The three nations still fear their former colonial overlord, Russia, and have looked for ties to the West ever since they won back sovereign nation status.

- NY, Newsday, 2/9/95

### **HOCKEY STAR KASPARAITIS ENJOYS THE FIGHT**

Although N.Y. Islander's star hockey player, Darius Kasparaitis is out on injury at this writing, he's been playing hockey since he was an 8 year old living in Elektrenai, Lithuania. At age 14, he left his hometown to play for the Moscow Dynamo, Jr. team. He was discovered in 1992 by the Islanders when he was playing on the CIS Olympic team.

His parents still live in Lithuania and see him on TV when the station shows the highlights. He is the first Lithuanian to play for the National Hockey League and known for his rough body checking. "I have one way to stop guys," Kasparaitis was quoted recently as saying, "with my hip check or my shoulder." Kasparaitis will not be playing the remainder of the 1995 hockey season.

### **The Lithuanian and the 1909 Lincoln**

In 1909, the 100th anniversary of Lincoln's birth, the first Lincoln penny was produced. Victor David Brenner, the Lithuanian designer of the coin, insisted that his full name be stamped on each coin. The Treasury Department fought the request, but officials finally agreed to place Brenner's initials on the reverse of the 1909 coin. A powerful magnifying glass will help reveal the initials at the bottom left of Lincoln's shoulder in the seven o'clock position.

### **LENT IS COMING TIME TO MEDITATE TIME TO PRAY -**

If work is preceded by prayer, sin will find no entrance into the soul. For when the consciousness of God is firmly established in the heart, the devices of the devil remain sterile, and matters of dispute will always be settled according to justice. Prayer prevents the farmer from committing sin, for his fruit will multiply even on a small plot of land, so that sins no longer enter together with desire for more. It is the same with everyone, with the traveler, with somebody who prepares an expedition or a marriage. Whatever anyone may set out to do, if it is done with prayer the undertaking will prosper and he will be kept from sin, because there is nothing to oppose him and drag the soul into passion. If, on the other hand, a man leaves God out and gives his attention to nothing but his business, then he is inevitably opposed to God, because he is separated from Him. For a person who does not unite himself to God through prayer is separated from God. Through prayer we guard our chastity, control our temper, and rid ourselves of vanity; it makes us forget injuries, overcomes envy, defeats injustice, and makes amends for a sin. Through prayer we obtain physical well-being, a happy home, and a strong, well-ordered society. Prayer will make our nation powerful, our families stronger and more lovable. It will give us victory in war and security in peace! PRAYER



## **One Lithuanian's Opinion**

*by Al Wesey-Vasiliauskas, HM  
C-109, Great Neck, NY  
Council President*

A group of councils in our district (Mid Atlantic District - MAD) met recently with the Lithuanian Consul General, Mr. Petras Anusas, on how Lithuanian-American groups could work together to help newly arrived immigrants from Lithuania learn to assimilate into the American culture.

The immigrants said how they feel left out, can't make friends easily and that New Yorkers are difficult to get along with. They want friends and jobs.

The advice given them was to "do their own thing". They have to reach out and make friends. They should join the American Lithuanian organizations as well as form groups of their own.

My thoughts as I left the meeting were -- why don't they join the local societies and organizations here? Perhaps they feel they are not qualified. We would look into their character. We know the upbringing of the youth in Lithuania under the Communist rule. Fifty years has had a bad effect on all the youth growing up with restrictions, handicaps, no morals, no religion and no respect.

The same conditions confronted the first immigrants that came to America in the early 1900's. They were fleeing the rule of the tsar or the threat of being conscripted into the tsar's army. Times were tough then and the immigrants had good reason to leave Lithuania.

Mykolas Norkunas was angry at the Lithuanian youth in America and founded the Knights of Lithuania in 1913. He talked to friends and priests, organized church halls and got many of the youth together as Knights.

Many councils and church choirs were formed. Up until the 1950's, Lithuanian was the dominant language, spoken at all District and National meetings. VYTIS was ninety percent Lithuanian. I was National President in the 1950's and at that time membership was going down. What to do?

Members were leaving because of mixed marriages to non-Lithuanian spouses who could not join. The Supreme Council suggested we become a family organization and the Knights eventually changed the constitution, adding "associate" membership for non-Lithuanian spouses. This added to our membership, aiding in obtaining Lithuania's freedom, and the aid that Lithuania gets from the Knights today.

The finding of jobs in America is not so easy with the language barrier, Affirmative Action, and green card laws.

I wonder what kind of people these new immigrants are. If they absorbed the Communist propaganda and live by it, we shouldn't have anything to do with them. If they were brought up by their parents with love, religion and a patriotic spirit, they should stay home and help with the reconstruction of the motherland. Anyone familiar with the long, grand history of Lithuania should be willing to make such a sacrifice. But the glitter, propaganda and showoffs of the Western world have given them a bad picture.

My advice to those immigrants is to go home and make a future there. Ambition should be applied to a business, trade or profession. Maybe they should go to school. Lithuania needs good, strong, and sensible youth. Although the situation is bad in Lithuania, things will only get worse if everyone leaves. The Russians are out. It is up to the Lithuanians to rebuild their own country.

82nd National Convention  
 August 10-13, 1995  
 Headquarters: Novi Hilton, Novi, Michigan  
 Host: St. Anthony's Council 102, Detroit, MI



## **AN OPEN LETTER TO THE KNIGHTS OF LITHUANIA:**

Realize this, fellow member Knights; this is the year you can live up to our motto "For God and Country", and do it while combining business and pleasure. All this can be done by attending and PARTICIPATING in the 82nd National Convention being hosted by C-102 in the Detroit area this upcoming August.

Not only can you come to our great peninsula to enjoy our fine summer weather, take a (pre-convention) trip to scenic Frankenmuth to shop and take in the ethnicity of another European culture (German), but you can also help us here celebrate our diamond anniversary with newly elevated Cardinal Adam Maida. Combine this with your active participation in our annual National Convention and you will have "covered all the bases" with one, easy, sweeping motion.

This year's convention will exceed any and all expectations at the last gathering. We made this proclamation at our invitation and we will deliver. To be more specific there will be free parking (a savings of \$80.00 in some cases); five (5) meals included in your registration fee, (2 more than Chicago); this is not to mention the \$23.00 reduction in the price for a room (per night).

We are also offering a real chance to choose your pre-convention activity - the trip to Frankenmuth (\$40.00) complete with an all you can eat famous chicken dinner in a town with world renown, or to take a "hands-on" approach for aiding those in our homeland by taking a trip to World Medical Relief to pack containers and really do-something ... to see and do the real work being done by HM, Bob Boris and his Aid to Lithuania Inc. team. How better to serve God and Country? I can't imagine any better way! Make yourself feel good! Do yourself a favor and join us here August 9-13 for the full program and live up to those words we all long to espouse.

Sincerely,  
**Tim Baibak**  
*General Chairperson*  
*National Convention Committee, Detroit Council 102*

*Founded 1920 - Celebrating 75 Years of Service to God and Country*

## Center for the Study of the [Lithuanian] Diaspora

by (Fr.) William Wolkovich-Valkavicius,  
C-27, Norwood, MA

A few months ago, the "Iseivijos Studiju Centras" [Center for the Study of the Diaspora] took shape in Kaunas at the Vytautas Magnus University under the aegis of historian Prof. Egidijus Aleksandravicius. The ambitious goals of the ISC are set forth in its by-laws as follows:

- a) to establish an archive and library of historical material about activists and organizations of Lithuanians abroad;
- b) to collect, preserve, catalogue, and make use of manuscripts and books;
- c) to gather information about other research centers focused on problems of the Lithuanian Diaspora with an aim to publish a complete catalogue of holdings;
- d) to exhibit archival material;
- e) to foster interdisciplinary research that integrates history, ethnology, philosophy, literature, and other disciplines in the humanities with an eye to probing the problems of emigration and its resultant Diaspora;
- f) to sponsor pertinent seminars and conferences geared to the students and faculty at Vytautas Magnus;
- g) to attract, on a worldwide basis, all academics, students, and devotees for the sake of historical research and study;
- h) to gather information on the most important Lithuanian Diaspora enclaves and their activity all over the world.

The first major task of ISC is to organize the cache, of material willed by the late Bronius Kviklys of Chicago. Recall that he is that journalist giant of a collector, writer, editor, and compiler who wrote an extraordinary four volume geography of Lithuania. Prior to his death, he managed further to publish an unprecedented seven volume series on every Church in Lithuania, replete with photographs.

In a letter (Dec. 12, 1994) to this writer, Prof. Aleksandravicius happily notes that his university has provided space for the archives and the needed reading room, as well as equipping ISC with computer and copying apparatuses. The Jan. 7, 1995 issue of *Draugas* carried a story on ISC.

For Knights of Lithuania the start of the ISC in Kaunas should be an incalculable morale boost, since all K. of L. activity throughout its history will be of immense interest to scholars in our forebears' homeland. Don't throw away anything when you go rummaging through your attics and cellars. ISC is on the lookout for every trace of Lithuanians abroad, especially in the United States where the "iseivija" has been the largest and most significant.



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## The Bells Toll for a Lithuanian School

### *Marianapolis College, A Fight to Flourish...then WWII*

by Rev. John C. Petrauskas, MIC

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

It was during the 1934-1935 school year that the Marianapolis Glee Club made its first radio appearance - in March, over station WAAB in Boston. Another innovation, the Senior high school class, announced plans for both a yearbook and school rings.

The graduation exercises on May 30, 1935 set a pattern which was followed for many years. The Baccalaureate Mass was celebrated out of doors, on the spacious veranda of the attractive main building with parents and guests seated on the spacious front lawn. Dinner was served to the graduates and their guests at the conclusion of the Mass. The graduation exercises took place in the same beautiful setting in mid afternoon with graduates robed in caps and gowns for the first time at a Marianapolis graduation ceremony. Father Navickas, the Rector, brought the graduation exercises to a close with a speech in which he expressed his pleasure in sending out into the world a graduation class of 21 High School and 9 Junior College students, all endowed with a love of God and strengthened by their faith and their ethnic heritage.

Soon after graduation the Rector, Father John Navickas, published this announcement in the Lithuanian press:

"The best and the fundamental manner of financial assistance for Marianapolis is this: if each Lithuanian colony would send two students to the college and pay for their board, room and tuition, Marianapolis would immediately be established on a firm and permanent foundation."

The plea was unproductive. Despite an authorization, granted on April 28, 1937, by the General Assembly of the State of Connecticut for Marianapolis to grant Associate of Arts and Associate of Science degrees and the addition of a third year of college, the 1937-1938 school year began on an inauspicious note. The total enrollment was 76, a decline of ten students from that of the previous year.

For the following school year, however, with the school curriculum encompassing the full four years of college, the enrollment increased to 90 students. Of note, at the same time, the ethnic solidarity of the school was breached for the first time with the enrollment of three non-Lithuanian college students - two of Irish and one of Polish extraction: Malloy, Bergin and Meczywor.

An important announcement appeared in the Putnam Patriot (Vol. LXVII, No. 14) on April 6, 1939. It read, in part:

"The opportunity for the students of the towns of this section to receive a college education at a low cost is being offered at Marianapolis College in Thompson. Under this offer, the students could attend college as day students for a fee of \$100. High School students could attend for half that sum."

By policy decision, Marianapolis formally abandoned its original purpose and status as a

totally Lithuanian school and took the first steps in the process of becoming an "American" school.

On May 2, 1939, by Special Act No. 200, the General Assembly of the State of Connecticut authorized Marianapolis College to confer the degrees of Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Science, truly a major accomplishment of the school administration.

June 11, 1939 was a historic day for Marianapolis. It was graduation day for the first four year college class. Bachelor of Arts degrees were conferred on fifteen graduates, two of whom were from Lithuania: Antanas Skirius and Petras Kupraitis. In addition to the college seniors, there were nine Junior College and twelve High School graduates, all of Lithuanian extraction.

Among the 81 students enrolled for the following school year, three were from Lithuania.

An interesting conversation took place on August 15, 1940 as Father John Navickas celebrated the twentieth anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood. To one of his guests, Rev. Dr. Juozas B. Koncius, Father Navickas revealed his concern for the future of Marianapolis College. To attract more students of Lithuanian extraction, he established a number of athletic scholarships. Most of the scholarship applicants and recipients, however, were non-Lithuanians. Moreover, of all of the students enrolled for the next school year, nearly half were non-Lithuanians. He did everything he possibly could to preserve the college, the only one of its kind in the United States, as a truly Lithuanian institution. The Lithuanians paid no heed to the invitations and the other nationalities were willing and anxious to enroll. What more could be done? He asked Dr. Koncius to reply.

Rev. Dr. Koncius said to accept all students, regardless of nationality, and with a Lithuanian faculty, the spirit of the school will remain Lithuanian. The non-Lithuanian students will be exposed to Lithuanian history and culture and will be favorably disposed and sympathetic to our national aspirations, as well as lessening the financial pressures of the school. The suggestions brought a trace of a smile to the face of Father Navickas. (See Students Word, Vol. IX, No. 9, pg. 210)

The winds of change continued to blow. During the graduation exercises of June 8, 1941, Rev. Dr. John Navickas who had been the Rector of the school for fifteen years - five years in Hinsdale and ten years in Thompson, gave his farewell address and introduced the new Rector, Rev. Dr. Joseph Vaskas. For the first time, student graduation speeches were given in three languages: Lithuanian, English and French and the graduates, for the first time represented a variety of nationalities.

For several years a heart condition had periodically incapacitated Father John Navickas. On September 2, 1941 he died at St. Vincent's Hospital in Worcester. For fifteen years he was the heart and soul of the school.

Another dark cloud took form over the school. In January of 1942, George Yuska, a fourth year college student, became the first Marianapolis student to be drafted for World War II military service. In March, Dr. Eugene Andriulionis was the first member of the faculty to be called for military service.

Ethnic change was readily manifest during the June 14, 1942 graduation exercises encompassing College, Junior College, High School and Post Graduate students. Of the 33 graduates, the non-Lithuanians outnumbered the Lithuanians by 18 to 15.

The football scholarship program proved

to be highly successful athletically, but somewhat impoverished financially. Football scholarships were discontinued and in 1942 only one football game was played. Enrollment declined and the financial situation became very precarious. The 1943 graduation class numbered two College graduates (the last ones), five Junior College and six High School students. Ethnically, however, of the thirteen graduates, eleven were Lithuanians.

The dwindling enrollment was the most important problem confronting the school. Paid school ads appeared in the Lithuanian publications urging parents to enroll their sons at Marianapolis. The old plea of at least one Lithuanian student from each Lithuanian parish was renewed. At the same time an effective student recruitment campaign was initiated in the neighboring parochial and public elementary schools. The enrollment efforts were productive and produced a Freshman class of 40 students and a total enrollment of 87 students for the 1944-1945 school year.

A meeting of all the currently enrolled students of Lithuanian lineage (numbering 28) was called for on November 17 for the purpose of restoring the spirit of Lithuanianism which previously pervaded the campus. The group was addressed by Father Casimir Reklaitis, General Visitor of the Marian Fathers. Officers were elected for the new student organization.

The number of graduates reached a nadir when there were only eight for the June 3, 1945 graduation exercises - seven high school and one post graduate student. Ethnically, the class was equally divided.

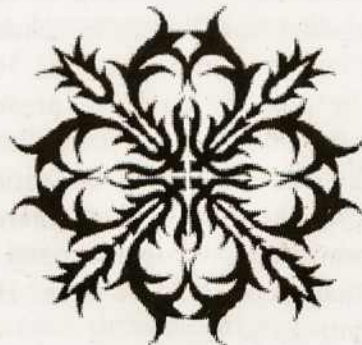
Meanwhile, some developments of importance were taking place unobtrusively. The solicitude of the Lithuanian community was being directed more and more to the Lithuanian Franciscan Fathers who established

themselves in Greene, Maine and the Sisters of the Immaculate Conception of Putnam, Connecticut who were engaged in summer camp and spiritual retreat activities for girls of Lithuanian extraction. Moreover, the Sisters of Jesus Crucified transferred their mother house from Pennsylvania to Brockton, Mass. Financial support provided by Lithuanian benefactors became fragmented and an unfortunate competitiveness commenced for both the attention and the gratuity of the Lithuanian community.

The enrollment for the 1945-1946 school year was 65 students, 46 boarding and 19 day students. Of the boarding students, 14 were Marian scholastics or aspirants to the Marian Congregation and 36 of the students were of Lithuanian extraction.

Bishop Francis Bucys, Superior General of the Marian Fathers, made his first postwar visit to Marianapolis in May of 1946 and conducted a general visitation of the religious community and the school. He was very much disturbed when he learned that the college had ceased to exist and he was determined to discover who made the decision to close the college. It was difficult for him to realize that the college closing was an unintentional war casualty.

*Next Month: Part 3, the conclusion - Marianapolis struggles for survival*





## Juniors Forum

### *News & Views about Juniors*

#### What Constitutes a Junior Advisor?

- One who is willing to give of his or her time to build a Junior Council.
- One willing to instill the Juniors with the importance of their Catholic faith.
- One willing to make the Juniors more aware of their Lithuanian heritage and the Lithuanian people.
- One willing to guide the Juniors with the idea of moving on into the regular council when they become of age.
- One who believes in the importance of a Junior Council with success as a definitive goal.

#### Organizing a Junior Council

- Names of potential Junior Knights could be gathered from the parish list.
- At your first meeting be sure to make the Juniors feel comfortable and project enthusiasm: Have your Spiritual Advisor open the first meeting.
- With so many of our youth being active in school projects, meeting dates and time could be worked around the schedule of the majority.

- As soon as possible, set up officers in the Junior Council. This will give the Juniors an opportunity to learn leadership and build confidence.

- Always make yourself available for questions the Juniors may have. Your interest in them will strengthen the Junior Council.

#### Suggested Activities for the Juniors

Always encourage the Juniors to participate in the regular council programs: ex: St. Casimir's day Mass, etc. Plan money making projects to build the Junior Council Treasury - such as:

- \* Car washes, paper/aluminum can drives
- \* Easter Egg Decorating classes
- \* Lithuanian Christmas Ornament classes
- \* Roller skating, bowling, swimming parties
- \* Picnics with games of competition with prizes for a goal.
- \* Approach your regular members or parents of the Juniors with "Adopt a Junior Activity Month"
- \* Encourage the Juniors to write poetry, stories or articles for VYTIS.

These are just some ideas. Ask your council president for a copy of the section in the Knights of Lithuania Manual "Duties of the Third Vice-President - Juniors"

*Frances R. Petkus, SC 3rd Vice-President*

# Lithuanian Poets Corner

## KUR NEMUNAS IR DAUGUVA

Kur Nemunas ir Dauguva,  
Ten mūsų brangi Lietuva,  
Kur Šušupė, Nerys, Venta  
Ten tėvynė mūsų prigimta.

Mergeles gražios kaip rūtos.  
Tikros dukrerės Birutės.  
Daro darželyj lyseles,  
Seja kvietkas ir rūteles.

Lelijas, rožes sodina,  
Savo darzelius dabina,  
Kad per vasarą žydėtu,  
Razetos, metos kvėpėtu.

Kaip susirenka į krūvą,  
Lietuvaitėms linksma būva,  
Kaip dianuoja savo kalba,  
Tai net padangės suskamba

## WHERE NEMUNAS AND DAUGUVA

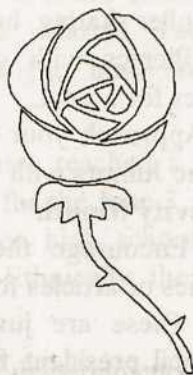
Where Nemunas and Dauguva  
There stands our beloved Lithuania  
Where Sesupe, Nerys, Venta  
There is our nation, land of our birth.

Maidens there are like the roses  
True daughters of Birute are they  
Preparing gardens for seasons approach  
Sowing wheat fields and native rue.

Planting lilies, planting roses  
Beautifying their gardens fair  
To blossom, flower all summer long  
Fragrances lasting all year long

As they gather all together  
Lithuanian maidens, full of joy  
Singing in their native tongue  
Surrounding heaven with their song

*Translated from Lithuanian by John R.  
Mankus, C-72, Binghamton, NY*





**DON'T FORGET US**

I see a hand reaching out  
 In a compassionate plea:  
 Please don't forget us;  
 Now that we are free.

We need so many things.  
 Prayers are only one,  
 But there are down to earth basics  
 That need to be done;  
 Monetary, medical and technical aid  
 Are still battles to be won.

Help us now  
 In our dire hour of need;  
 Think of all the necessities needed  
 To heal and feed.

Help us to spread our culture  
 And our trade  
 Come share with us;  
 There is much progress to be made.

Help us to rebuild a new,  
 Free Lithuania with your aid;  
 Please help us to keep  
 All the promises that were made.

Help us pursue our dreams  
 To rebuild a strong, new nation;  
 Continue to support us  
 With a reborn dedication.

Remember: Freedom  
 Is just stage one;  
 There are many steps  
 Until the job is done.

Pray for us, support us,  
 In every port of storm  
 Until our country has reached  
 A peaceful norm.

- Anna Helen McDonald

**O LIETUVA!**

Kokia graži, paskendus upese ir ežeruos  
 Tave tėveles Nemunas lyg kaspinu apjuos.  
 Mergin-os rūtų darželius papuoš.  
 Senoliai kaip žemeleį arė sudainuos.

O Lietuva!  
 Kokia kantri, paskendus kančiose, varguos.  
 Melsvas upes priplugdė ašaros tautos.  
 Našlaičiai alkani, o Dieve, vel dėjuos,  
 Kai ponai sotūs Palangoj drybsos.

O Lietuva!  
 Laisva dainu šalis!  
 Kokia, gi tavo ateitis?  
 Žemės ukis visad buvo pagarboj,  
 o, dabar - nuskendo lyg dauboj.

Geriej-i žmones!  
 Lietuvai nereikia daug aukų,  
 Mielieji broliai!  
 Lietuva pristigo naujų šviesių galvų.

O, Dieve, kur ieškoti kelrodės žvaigždės,  
 Kuri takeį ekonokikai nušvies?  
 ...Skalauja sūrios bangos Baltijos krantus.  
 O dar sūresnes ašaros pravirkdė žeme mūsų.

O Lietuva!  
 Stipri, išdidi buvai tu visados!  
 Nesutrype ereliai nei tavo Kryžiu kalno, nei  
 maldos.  
 Tikėkime, kad mus vaikai geresis rytdiena  
 šviesia.

O, Lietuva išliks stipri malda, dvasia.

... Tikėkime, Tikėkime ...

- Zita Petrikiene  
 Kedainiu Raj. Seta  
 Lietuva

# Pavasario rytas

L. ŠILELIS

L. SIMUTIS

*mp*

Ir ry-to ra-sa ir sau-lu-tės šviesa. Mar-gu-ju paukšteliai anksty-va daina Gai-  
 Ir miš-ko, ir pievų, dar-žės-lio šie-dai lyg: knibstarpsa-va-ma-loniai, tyliai; Ir

Hm

*rit.*

vi-na jaun-mis; rodis, gam-ti-šė vi-sa at-gi-ju-si dainu-gia-si nau-ja die-na.  
 rausť ne-kaltai lyg mer-se-lių veidai. Ir skiepi-ja mei-lę šir-dy-se gi-liai.

*mp & tempo*

Ir skre-ia aušteliai i pa-dan-gė auš-tis De-kin-ga už gro-žio Ir mei-lės jausmas Ir  
 Ir skre-ia aušteliai i pa-dan-gė auš-tis De-kin-ga už gro-žio Ir mei-lės jausmas

Ir skre-ia aušteliai i pa-dan-gė auš-tis De-kin-ga už gro-žio

*rall. rit. mp*

a - tai šiai šviesai ke - vin-ga viltis... Pa - va-sa-ris išu-gi-na, diūngi-na rūs. Pa

*a tempo*

va - sa - riū dvel - kian - ti mū - su siela Jė - ky - la ir ver - žias i erd - vę aukš - tai, Ir

*ppp*

*p* dan - gų ir že - mę pri - pil - do dai - na: Mes trokštame vent ir my - lė - ti karš - tai.

*rall.* *ppp*



Music this month thanks to Dr. Leonard Simutis, of C-112 Chicago and the 35th Annual Memories of Lithuania Banquet sponsored by the Mid Atlantic District and chaired by our Knights of Lithuania President, Evelyn Ozelis. Over 350 Knights and guests attended this gala event as Dr. Simutis received the 1995 "Award of Distinction".

Dr. Simutis was chairman of the Music Department at Chicago State University until his retirement in 1985 and has been active in composing for many years. He joined the K of L Council 112 in 1938 and later became a member of the Chicago District K of L Choir, participating with them at the New York World's Fair in 1939. He became the director of the Chicago District K of L Choir in 1941, remaining director until 1951, except for the years when he served in the Air Force. He is a fourth degree and lifetime K of L member.



*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 or neatly print 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.*

Anne Wargo of C-144 Anthracite, PA shared her council's Lithuanian recipes from Lithuanian Day Celebrations last month. Finally found the apple blynai recipe that NY Islander, Darius Kasparaitis is said to love!

### **OBUOLINIAI BLYNAI** **Apple Or Banana Bleenies**

1 cup milk  
2 eggs  
1 Tbsp. oil  
1-1/2 cups flour  
1 tsp. vanilla  
1/2 tsp. salt  
1-1/2 tsp. baking powder

1/4 cup brown sugar  
1 coarsely grated large apple  
OR 1 large mashed ripe banana plus 1/8 tsp cinnamon if apple is used.

Beat eggs, milk and oil with rotary beater. Add sugar and sifted dry ingredients. Mix well. Mix in either apple or banana, blend well. Fry in large greased skillet. One large tablespoon of batter per bleenie. Good when served hot with sour cream or vanilla ice cream.

### **LITHUANIAN** **GRYBAI** **Mushroom Cookies** makes about 4 dozen

1/2 cup honey  
1/4 cup granulated sugar  
2 tbs. brown sugar (packed)  
2 tbs. butter or margarine  
1 egg  
1-1/2 tsp. ground cardomom  
1-1/2 tsp. ground cinnamon  
1-1/2 tsp. ground ginger  
1/2 tsp. ground nutmeg

1-1/2 teas. freshly grated lemon peel  
1/2 teas. grated orange peel  
2-3/4 cups all-purpose flour  
3/4 teas. baking soda  
1/4 teas. salt  
2 teas. dairy sour cream  
poppy seeds  
frosting\* see recipe below.

### **FROSTING**

2 cups confectioners sugar  
3 tablespoons water

Mix sugar and 1 tablespoon water. Stir remaining water, a little at a time, beating well after each addition.

Directions: Heat honey in a large saucepan over medium heat until it bubbles around the side of the pan. Remove from heat. Stir in sugars, butter, egg, spices and peels.

Measure flour, baking soda and salt into mixing bowl. stir in honey mixture alternately with sour cream.. Turn into lightly floured board; knead until dough is easy to handle and not sticky, about 5 minutes. Dough should be firm enough to hold impression of finger.

Allow dough to rest for 20 minutes.

Heat oven to 350 degrees. Divide dough into 4 equal parts. Make mushroom "stems" from one part. Shape into two rolls, each about 25

inches long and 3/8" in diameter. Cut into 1 inch lengths, reshaping ends of each "stem" if necessary. Place 1-1/2 inches apart on ungreased baking sheet. Bake until cookies are firm, about 7 minutes. Cool on wire racks.

Enlarge indentations in "caps" with grapefruit knife or small pointed knife. Dip one end of each "stem" into frosting and insert in "caps". Dry mushrooms cap sides down.

Dip each mushroom into frosting completely covering "cap" and underside of "cap". Allow excess frosting to drip into bowl. Sprinkle frosted parts of cookies with poppy seeds. Lay on side on waxed paper to dry. Dry cookies completely before storing in airtight containers. Flavor mellows after 3 or 4 days. Store at room temperature no longer than 6 weeks or in freezer no longer than 3 months.

These cookies look like the real thing, plump mushrooms plucked from a quiet, damp forest floor. In Lithuanian culture, mushrooms are highly prized and contribute their unique flavors to many dishes. In culinary circles, a string of dried mushrooms is as precious and nearly as costly as a necklace of gems. This *official* Lithuanian cookie takes time and patience to make, but the results are well worth the effort.

welcome

new members



**C-3, Phil., PA**  
Antoinette Petrone

**C-10, Athol, MA**  
Anne F. Gatautis  
Clara Zetkowski

**C-17, South Boston, MA**  
Algis Adomkaitis  
Gloria Adomkaitis  
Ruth Dravinskas

**C-25, Cleveland, OH**  
Theresa Capuria

**C-26, Worcester, MA**  
Polly Brosky

**C-30, Westfield, MA**  
Charles Griggs  
Esther Griggs

**C-50, New Haven, CT**  
Lisa Kordorsky

**C-72, Binghamton, NY**  
Marcella Semcho

**C-90, Harrison-Kearny, NJ**  
Anne Novitt-Moreno, MD

**C-96, Dayton, OH**  
Veronica Heitkamp  
Kenneth Heitkamp

**C-102, Detroit, MI**  
Geraldine Baibek  
Viktorija Fuhrwerk  
Dorothy McIntyre  
Donate Miskinis

**C-110, Maspeth, NY**  
Mrs. Therese Ann Zenisek

**C-112, Chicago, IL**  
(Marquette Park)  
Robert Ramanousky  
Algis Bartkus

**C-144, Anthracite, PA**  
Helen Bernitsky  
Robert Bulchis

**C-153, Treasure Cst., FL**  
Anthony Stepanauskas  
Anele Stepanauskas

## BORN-AGAIN LITHUANIAN - FIVE YEARS LATER

by *Katarina Coard*

I am a Born-Again Lithuanian from the Keidosius family in Baltimore and it was only by divine providence that I was in the right place and time to be of some help in the freedom movement. In 1987, I joined the Lithuanian Hall (*Lietuviu Namai*) in Baltimore to take Lithuanian language lessons, naive and clue-less as to what would happen so dramatically. In retrospect, if I had not made that first small start, I could still be "oblivious in suburbia," never having had a front row seat in the freedom movement. As it was, I met not only long-time patriots and Born-Again Lithuanians, but also the oblivious and apathetic ones. "I'm an American," they'd say. That, but for the grace of God, could have been me.

It was mid-1988 when the first inklings of freedom teased us. The words Glasnost and Perestroika, were repeated enough in the press to be on everyone's tongue and to seriously perk up Lithuanian-American ears. At the *Lietuviu*

*Namai* in Baltimore, I was just learning about the 50 years of frustration from Lithuanian emigres who had all but abandoned their dreams of a restored independent Lithuania. Between 1988 and early 1990, there was news of a new national spirit being slowly restored to the captive nations; flags were being displayed, national anthems being sung,

and open worship taking place.

In January 1990, George Ward, businessman and friend, repeatedly telephoned me at work lamenting there was no one, NO ONE, lobbying on Capitol Hill. His engraving business involved contact with congressional offices whose aides reported no visitors or petitions from anyone in the Lithuanian-American community. **(ED NOTE: George Ward is the recipient of the 1992 K of L "Friend of Lithuania" Award)**



*Kathy Coard at the Hill of Crosses, July 1994.  
Her sister (right) and her cousin (left).*

It was then that a truly outstanding Baltimorean, Onile Sestokiene, a practicing M.D. and mother of three, appeared on the scene. She had reportedly checked out a library book on lobbying, then single-handedly began a grass-roots effort. By March 28, 1990, just 17 days after Lithuania declared its independence, Onile had appeared in

Maryland Congresswoman Helen Bentley's office. I met her in April 1990. A friend had suggested that we join her for a meeting in Maryland Senator Paul Sarbanes' office as part of a large Lithuanian-American demonstration in Washington D.C. So, a few of us left the crowd at the Capitol building not fully knowing what to expect or what we were doing. We must have presented a strange sight rushing to find her--a student or two, a couple of men in business suits, and me, half running with my Lithuanian national dress flapping and trying to keep my corona from falling off. We were met in the corridor by Onile and a friend who had a baby in a stroller. After George Ward joined us, we as a group spoke with the executive aids urging Senate pressure on the Administration for quick recognition of Lithuania, reminding them of U.S. non-recognition of the incorporation of the Baltic Republics into the Soviet Union and Lithuania's loss of most favored nation trade status in the bargain.

Onile went on to spearhead an extremely effective Baltimore-based lobbying effort under the name of the Free Lithuania Committee. By God, what one good woman could do. Volunteers too numerous to be named came out of the woodwork; some were active Americans but dormant Lithuanian-Americans; all donated their time and talent with great personal sacrifice, sometimes around the clock in preparation for next-day lobbying (and not just to Maryland congresspeople, but to all of them in 534 offices in three buildings. And to newspaper, radio and television officials. I recall demonstration after demonstration, even at risk to our jobs for being away from the office so often. After Bloody Sunday on January 13, 1990, several of us attended the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) hearing on January 17. Congress was really angry at the Soviet scoundrels' attempt to intimidate Lithuanians and were convinced that this was attempted while



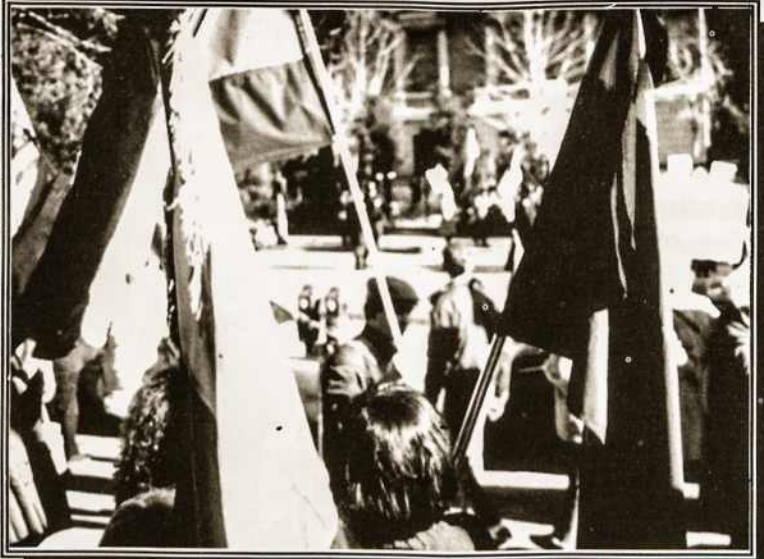
*June 2, 1990 - Lithuanian-Americans demonstrate at U.S. Capitol for immediate recognition of Lithuania.*

America and the world was distracted by Desert Storm.

It took until September 2, 1991, for President Bush to extend U.S. diplomatic recognition to Lithuania. We, born-again Lithuanians, felt a deep resentment and heartache at the long inaction by our government. It is easier now to recall frustrations without the accompanying pain. Somehow Lithuanian-Americans kept their cool, and Lithuanian nationals resorted to singing. When the going got rough, Lithuanians got tough. The shackles of fear were thrown off at last. Freedom meant more than life.

Finally, President Bush extended diplomatic recognition to Lithuania. Let me tell you what a celebration, there was at Lithuanian Hall on Labor Day Monday, September 2, 1991. Champagne flowed inside the great hall while hundreds of people were crying, hugging, laughing, dancing and singing. The Maryland governor and congresspeople stopped by to express congratulations, as well as our Mayor and City Council members. I believe reporters and cameras from every major TV station and newspaper were there.

In June, 1992, I resigned as editor of *Vilties Balsas* to recuperate and to pursue personal Lithuanian goals. It was time to search for any relatives in Lithuania. My grandparents had fled at the turn of the century and died without ever seeing their homeland again. My older relatives had taken vital information about family in Lithuania to heaven with them. The quest seemed impossible. Then in July 1994, I was presented with an opportunity to tour Lithuania with the Knights of Lithuania. While in that marvelous and no longer mythical land, my sister, cousin and I made contact just by word of mouth with a Petras Keidosius, and we have been hearing from true cousins ever since. Can you imagine! We pilgrims were the first family members to return in 100 years, and in within a week we found our missing family. Describe the feelings? We have been blessed by Almighty God; all glory and praise be His, And according to



*Jan. 19, 1991 - Baltimore-Washington Lithuanians Protest "Bloody Sunday" at Soviet Embassy.*

His will, we are planning a return to finally meet the people we fought so hard for.

**IN  
MEMORIAM  
Rest in Peace**



Alphonse S. Marchuska  
C-72, Binghamton  
May 20, 1994

Anthony Yakstis  
C-110, Maspeth  
Jan. 24, 1995

Ann Shiviskis  
C-90, Kearny, NJ  
Jan. 24, 1995

Sr. Athanasia  
C-36, Chicago  
Nov. 29, 1994

Sr. Julie Shainauskas  
C-36, Chicago  
Dec. 6, 1994

Walter Wilkovitch  
C-100, Amsterdam  
Jan. 11, 1995

Helen Brockett  
C-136, Hudson-Mohawk  
Jan. 10, 1995

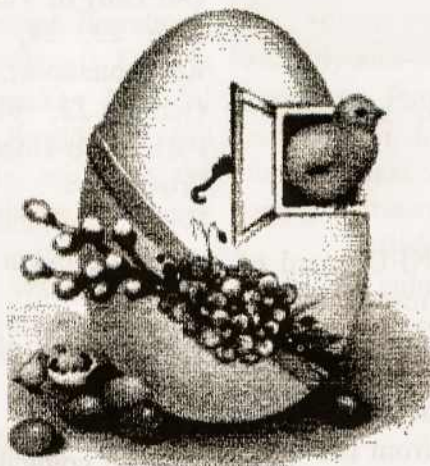
Walter Brazanskas  
C-110, Maspeth  
Jan. 12, 1995

Rev. Matthew Jarasunas  
C-144, Anthracite  
Spiritual Advisor  
Jan. 9, 1995  
(see C-144 council news)



**WE WERE LATE AND MISSED WISHING  
ALL OUR BROTHER COUNCILS - A  
MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A JOYOUS  
NEW YEAR, BUT NOW -**

**KNIGHTS  
OF  
LITHUANIA  
MEMBERS  
& MSGR.  
FRANK  
BULOVAS**



*Sveiki sulaukę šv. Velykų!*

**EXTEND  
OUR  
JOYFUL  
GOOD  
WISHES FOR  
THIS**

**EASTER SEASON !**

**Council 110**

**ALLELUIA !**



**Maspeth, NY**

**ALLELUIA !**

# Council News '95

Please send your council news and photos to our new address:

M.Abbott/D. Bulvicius - VYTIS

P.O. Box 1934

Grand Central Station, NY

10163-1934



## New England District

by *Aldona Marcavage*

On November 26th, 1994, the NED board of directors had a very productive meeting at the ICC "Raudondvaris" in Putnam, CT. Treasurer Marion Hobits reported on the financial results of the Cultural Festival. The scholarship raffle showed an increase of \$170.00 from last year. The support of the councils, however, was very disappointing. The possibility of developing a children-oriented program to create a greater interest was discussed. The Vetra dancers from New Haven were very enjoyable and the one-man band was very good. A suggestion was made to have money prizes next year -well worth trying.

Father Shakalis spoke of his observations as a visitor to Lithuania last summer. He said the Knights are to be commended for their interest in Lithuania. The people there need our prayers and much moral and physical support. They are truly poor and suffering - just hoping their children will have a better life. They need priests and religious to show them the way. So much of their youth is morally bankrupt.

## *Dates to Remember:*

April 26, 1995 - Spring Bowling Rolloff - announced by Irene Tamulevich

April 30th Spring Convention, Westfield, MA

May 21st - annual Holy Hour, Worcester, MA.

Our Lady of Vilnius Church and Maironis Park

June 23, 24, 25 - Annual NED Retreat, Kennebunkport, ME

October 22, 1995 - Cultural Festival, Maironis Park. Co-Hosts will be Norwood and Providence.

Wishing all fellow Knights good health and much success in 1995.

## C - 10, Athol - Gardner, MA

by *Vincukas*

Our council held elections of officers at the October meeting. The following slate was elected: Spiritual Advisor - Rev. Joseph Jurgelonis; Pres. - William Wisniauskas; V.P. - Dr. Henry Gailiunas; Treas. - Nellie Melaika; Recording Sec. - Blanche Genaitis; Fin. Sec. - Howard Beaudette; Marshal - David Lucas; Cultural Chair - Brone Wisniauskas; Ritual Chair - Margaret Senk; Vytis Correspondents - Margaret Senk and William Wisniauskas; Publicity - Bill Wisniauskas.

Anne Gatautis was admitted as a new member. We're happy to have her aboard.

K of Lérs elected to serve as officers of the Lithuanian Outing Association are David Lucas, Walter Mikas, Howard Beaudette and Bill Wisniauskas. Founded in 1926, it is a popular spot on Kendall Pond Gardner.

Knights of Lithuania members serving on the St. Francis parish council Athol are: Sophie Fiorentino, Dr. Henry Gailiunas and Pat Shatas.

On Sunday, December 18th an old fashioned Lithuanian Kucios, the traditional Christmas eve supper of Catholic Lithuania was held at the home of David Lucas in Gardner. It was attended by 34 Knights of Lithuania members.

In memory of the 'Star of Bethlehem' the supper activities began after the first evening star appeared. Chaplain Rev. Joseph Jurgelionis read the Christmas Gospel according to Luke in English and Rev. John Petrauskas MIC of Gardner in Lithuanian. President Bill Wisniauskas was the MC. He explained the various traditions of the Lithuanian Kucios observed by the people of Lithuania. His invocation was offered for the deceased members.

Fr. Jurgelionis blessed the plotkeles and shared them with all in attendance and the members with one another.

At least 12 meatless dishes were served starting with clam chowder and salmon chowder, followed by fried fish, various herring dishes, kugelis, Christmas pastries and farmer's cheese.

Old Lithuanian "burtai" and superstitions were enacted under the direction of Brone Wisniauskas. Following the meal and "burtus" carols were sung beginning with the traditional "Sveikas Jezau Gimusis".

The Lucas barn was decorated in the holiday motif, highlighted with the Lithuanian style tree with straw ornaments.

Kucios can be described as everything Lithuanians hold dear - God, family and country. Lithuania - land of our forebearers all wrapped into one. No other holiday contains such symbolism. Both local newspapers carried lengthy write-ups about our affair.

A sincere lietuviskas aciu is extended to the Lucas family for hosting our annual Kucios. It was good to have Al Muller of Nashua with us. Gracing us with her presence was our "grand lady" Tina Shatos and daughter Dr. Marie Anne.

Former pastor, Rev. Justin Steponaitis died recently and was buried in the Gate of Heaven cemetery, Putnam, CT. Following the funeral services in St. Francis' Church Athol. The funeral Mass was concelebrate by two bishops and 18 priests. Pastor Raymond Messier and Bishop Harrington delivered the eulogies. The parish choir under the direction of Theresa Gabis sang the funeral Mass. The funeral lunch was prepared by the Women's Guild.



The Knights of Lithuania conducted their traditional wake service attended by a large number of members. The funeral pall was placed on the coffin by members Dr. Henry Gailiunas, Howard Beaudelle, Joanna Chastney and Nellie Melaika. Broné Wisniauskas and Helen Simkunas placed a Lithuanian juosta on the coffin.

In the wake service eulogy Bill Wisniauskas praised Father Stepie for his untiring energy in his pastoral duties, his ministry had no age boundaries. He renovated the parish hall and was instrumental in erecting the large steel replica of a Lithuanian wayside cross on the parish grounds. Father had a great love for nature, his gardens are a sight to behold. There were flowers everywhere, the

altars - a blaze of color. In closing, Bill said: "O, Tau mielasis Teveli, visi tariame tikra lietuviska sudievu ir iki pasimatymo aname gyvenime, kur kiekvienas is mūsū anksčiau ar vėliau susitiksimė."

Beatrice Jodaitis Richard's beautiful full bed size embroidered bedspread, with a water lilies design was on exhibit at the "Needle and Things" display at the Gardner Museum in November.

Lillian Snickson and grandson Daniel spent three weeks visiting her mother, Blanche Genaitis.

Eleven Gardner residents attended the beautiful 100th anniversary of St. Casimir's parish in Worcester, MA.

Brone and Bill Wisniauskas were asked to describe Lithuanian Christmas customs to two third grade classes at the Prospect St. School, Gardner. They also decorated a Lithuanian style Christmas tree.

Member Martha Elison, was surprised to play against two Lithuanian natives and their guide at the World - Bridge Tournament, in Albuquerque, NM recently. She will attend another Tournament in January in Las Vegas. Good luck Martha!

Members Brone and Bronius Savulis of Greenfield underwent major surgery recently

and now are on the mend. James Eacmers has been ill the past three months. We wish you well Jim! Recovering from major surgery are Paula Shatas and Stasy Kulisanski.

Our council plans to commemorate the annual Lithuanian Independence Day program.



C-10, Athol, MA "80th Anniversary Dinner" committee members (L to R) Marg Senk, Brone and Bill Wisniauskas and Nellie Melaika.

### C-24, Chicago by Bite

We are honored to have a new moderator, Father V. Rimselis, from the Marian Fathers. Father Peter Cibulskis was transferred to St. Peter's Parish, 3100 - 23rd St., Kenosha, WI 53142. Father is kept busy with pastoral work, christenings, etc.

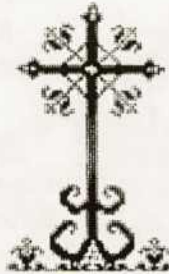
Officers for 1995 are as follows: President Stanley Mankus; 1st V.P. Frank Jurgaitis; 2nd V.P. Bruce Neberieza; 3rd V.P. Ausra Padalino; Treasurer, Frank Jurgaitis; Recording Secretary, Nijole Butts; Financial Secretary, Loretta Simon. Vytis Correspondent is Bernice Neberieza; Trustee,, Vince Neberieza; Sgt.-at-Arms, Kestutis Krisciunas and Social Chairlady hostesses, Irene Murdock and Olga Eastman. We are thankful for this dedicated board and helpers. Our energetic Jr's have been working for fund raisers and participating in K of L affairs Order the direction of Ausra Padalino.

C-24 fund-raiser "Day at the Races" was so successful.. and enjoyable last year, so Frank Jurgaitis has reserved May 7, 1995 for members and guests.

Mark your calendar and join us. Ausra Padalino planned our 1994 member Christmas Party at the Seklycia Restaurant with a delicious Lithuanian full menu. We visited and sang carols and waited for Santa.

Stanley Mankus has been selling Lithuanian dolls with Loretta Simon. They are dressed in beautiful tailor-made costumes and are available along with wood carved wayside crosses and we also have some of the famous K of L windsocks. For information and orders phone Loretta Simon at 708-424-2542 or Josephine Mankus at 312-847-7915. C-24 has been able to make many donations to charitable organizations through all these efforts of our members.

St. Casimir Day, March 4th, there will be a Mass and refreshments for all K of L members at the Marian Fathers Monastery hosted by C-24.



Welcome to two new members, Peter Vaicekauskas, owner of Nerings Restaurant and Alma Morkuviene. Our council is quiet, but a busy group of wonderful energetic members.

Our member Clare O'Dea's mother joined the eternal heavens along with Ron Padalino's mother. Our prayers are offered for their eternal rest.

At present we are looking forward to the "Memories of Lithuania" banquet and meeting members and good friends from the Mid America District. Looking forward to a successful, healthy 1995. I must also tell you that Rachel Jurgaitis had been on the sick list but now is as energetic as ever.

### C - 27, Norwood, MA

*Zaibas*

Linkim visiems laimingu Nauju Metu!

Council 27 had a most merry holiday breakfast

with so many faithful members and four guests participating. We did miss our spiritual director, Father Bill Wolkovich who was battling a winter cold. Chef Albie Jarvis took egg orders, while Amelia Tulis and Leonora Jarvis set the tables. The New England beverage cranberry juice was provided by Lillian and Ted Callahan, who also brought along eggs. Hens were busy at work to supply more eggs brought by Terry and Stan Wasil and George Barton. Paul Zukas literally brought home the bacon. He also was our honored toastmaster and told amusing anecdotes. He gave us food for thought as well as providing a holiday puzzle. Sandra Melish's raspberry and lemon danish were a hit. Dorothy Ausevich brought her delicate, delicious pizzelies. Can't go without Lithuanian bread - Leonora and Terry supplied that. Hashbrowns were served. Betty and John Skricki

made sure our tea and coffee needs were met. Dorothy Adukonis helped serve and clean up. What a great and energetic crew we have!!!

Paul Zukas reminded us to start saving for our Spring Bottle and Can Drive.

Betty and Sandy will enlist everyone's help at the January 15th meeting to prepare for our February 4th, 1995 Lithuanian Independence Day Mass and celebration. We look forward to seeing you all there.

### C - 30, Westfield, MA

*by Cooky*

Our Council's Annual Picnic was hosted by Jim and Marcia Rogers at their summer home on Otis Pond in the Berkshire Hills. Joe and Louise Buckities and Sophie Kucharski rounded out the committee and made the affair

a terrific success. The locale was super. Food was second to none with steak on the grill and members supplied favorite snacks, salads and desserts.

In the Fall our St. Casimir's Parish had a social/fund raiser picnic and

C-30 members contributed to it's success by working and donating 100 lbs. of our famous lietuviskos desras. The members who worked and also made the desras were Helen Alexis, Theresa Atkocaitis, Joe and Lou Buckities, Margaret and Paul Carbonneau Jean Duda, Jim Kules, Jim and Marcia Rogers and Joe Sabonis.

The Ned Convention on Oct. 2 in Waterbury, Ct was well attended by C-30 Members. Delegates were Benny Coach, Lou and Joe Buckities, Jean Duda, Jim Rogers and Sophie Kucharski. Before Mass many of us visited the Lithuanian bakery across the street from the church to get the delicious breads and pastries.

The Convention was spirited and interesting. The reception warm and food delicious. The last order of business was transferring the district flag to Benny Coach, Pres. of Council 30 for the April 1995 Convention in Westfield.

Our traveling members have been traveling! Jean Duda and granddaughter Alicia, Sophie Kucharski and Benny and Cooky Coach all headed West to California to visit family members and to just relax. Benny and Cooky enjoyed Thanksgiving with daughter Gerry and son-in-law. Sophie spent Christmas with son John and family and Jean went before the holidays and enjoyed R & R.

On Nov. First, Past Pres. Joe Sabonis installed the 1995 slate of Council 30 Officers:  
Pres. -- Benny Coach

Vice Pres. -- Joseph Buckities

Sec. -- James Kules

Treas. -- James Rogers

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Lith. Affairs. Chair -- Louise Renaud

Cultural Ch. -- Helen Alexik

Ritual Ch. & Vytis Scribe -- Kunigunda  
Coach

On Dec- 4 we were saddened by the death of our secretary, Jim Kules after a short illness. His wake was very well attended and president, Benny Coach conducted the K of L wake ritual assisted by VP Joe Buckities.

Nellie Lord offered to serve C-30 as secretary, we welcome our new officer with gratitude.

We welcome Charles Griggs as a new member- perhaps we can entice his wife Esther, also to join our group.

At our January meeting we had the pleasure of hearing our guest speaker, Miss Catherine Hudak, a student at Wellesley College, who volunteered to tutor at a camp in Lithuania last Summer- it was a pleasure to hear her youthful interpretation of life as she saw it and conditions -- good, and not so favorable too. She was delighted with the cordiality and warmth extended to her and is anxious to go back to spend a year of study in Lithuania and to learn the language. She made many friends and hated to leave them. Catherine is from West Springfield and is the first member of her family to go to Lithuania since her grandparents emigrated to America.

Likit Sveiki - Spring is just around the corner!

### C - 46, Forest City, PA

by *Blanche Motsko*

One of the best stories was written in our November '94 issue of *Vytis* by Vincent B. Boris. A thorough description of the unforgettable tour of Lithuania during the World's Lithuanian Song Festival. For those of us, who could have and did not go, read it and weep!

December '94 issue of *Vytis* is a real masterpiece. The four stories are spectacular.

Many of us had parents who came to America from Lithuania, bringing with them all of the old customs. Kucios in our house was exactly as described in the *Vytis* but some of us were too young, and only vaguely remember grandma's Kucios. What a treat it is to reminisce or read about these wonderful customs.

All of the books reviewed in the *Vytis* are interesting and knowledgeable and really worth reading.

Our meetings are well attended and enjoyable. After the meetings, we socialize for an hour while enjoying coffee and dessert.

Our Christmas party always brings out many of the members who cannot attend all meetings. Santa visited us and everyone was presented with a gift and table favors.

Our next meeting will be held in February with our new officers presiding. Plans will be made

to honor and celebrate the Feastday of St. Casimir in March.

### C - 50, New Haven, CT

by *Audrey Toole*

Council 50 has approved its slate of officers for 1995. It is as follows:

President - Isabel Peterson

1st Vice President - Bill Bachinski

2nd Vice President - Mary Geipel

Secretary - Audrey Toole

Treasurer - Anne Meskins

Financial Secretary - Helen Klimaszewski

Assistant Fin. Sec. - Helen Lostys

Ritual - Albert Gutasukas

Sergeant at Arms - Tony Kordorsky, Alice Dekas

Lithuanian Affairs - George Kisielius

Trustees - Helen Case, Helen Medley, Charles Dekas

Sunshine - Eleanor Gutasukas

*Vytis* Correspondent- Audrey Toole

Hardworking member Anne Kordorsky was honored at a testimonial dinner. Her years of dedication to Council 50 as well as other volunteer efforts are much appreciated. She is an inspiration to all of us. There were many Knights of Lithuania in attendance at the enjoyable affair.

St. Casimir's church hall was quite busy the weekend of December 10th and 11th. On Saturday it was filled to capacity for the meeting with Archbishop Rozazza. This meeting was to determine the fate of St. Casimir's parish and its lack of a permanent priest. The church will remain open with Father



Casey as administrator and priest for both St. Casimir and St. Boniface. On Sunday the festively decorated hall was the site of our annual Christmas party with good food, good music and good company of fellow members and our temporary priest Fater Krahel.

We continue to pray for Father Karalis.

### **C - 52, Elizabeth, NJ**

*by William Senkus*

Sts. Peter and Paul Roman Catholic Church of Elizabeth celebrated the beginning of its Centennial Jubilee 100th Anniversary in 1995 with Rev. Alfred T. Zemeikis, pastor as celebrant of the Mass at 12 noon on Sunday, January 8. Fr. Peter Aquino and Deacon Henry Keturwitis assisted.

The church choir, directed by Eric Houghton, sang and Julius Veblaitis rendered a violin solo.

A cross bearer led the procession. Altar boys and girls carried lighted candles.

Gailute Kligys, Ruta, Vyto and Michael Kavolius were the pole bearers carrying Lithuanian red, green and yellow colored decorations.

Five women were dressed in Lithuanian native costumes and each carried 'ruta' the national flower of Lithuania. They were: Birute Pocius, Adele Bartys, Helen Karalis, Agnes Alksninus and Isabel Keturwitis. Ruth Brazinski and Vyto Kliguys were the lectors.

Church members sang the Vyciu Hymnas, Lithuanian and American national anthems. Coffee and cake was served in the parish hall and a photo exhibit was shown of past and present parish organizations. (See story, *Sts. Peter and Paul Church*, pg. 6 in this issue.)

### **C-72, Endicott, NY**

*by John R. Mankus*

Many of our members participated in Saint Joseph's Christmas covered dish supper at Saint Joseph's Parish Cultural Center. Our members, Dolores and Henry Wasileski, Carla Wilson and Melane Marchusa all worked hard to make this a very successful event.

Our deepest sympathies go to Melanie Marchuska and Carla Wilson with the loss of her husband and Carla's father, Alphonse S. (Al) Marchuska. Al was a charter member and a very arduous worker of our Council 72. He was secretary of the Lithuanian Alliance of America Lodge 50, the Woodsman of the World and the First Ward Senior Citizen's Choir, a lifetime member of St. Joseph's Lithuanian Church and its choir. We all learned from him... and we will all miss him.

Since we began our humanitarian Aid To Lithuania drive, our council has shipped 52 packages of medical and humanitarian supplies to six convents in Vilnius and Kaunas. We also shipped prescription drugs to hospitals and doctors in Vilnius and Vabalninkas. Many thank you letters were received. These were translated by John Mankus and read to our council. Father John Mikalajunas also shared these letters with Saint Joseph's Church parishioners, who contributed over \$200. and many medical supplies to this drive. Our plans are to continue with this campaign through 1995.

Recovering at the River Mede Nursing Home from a long illness, is our long time member, Elizabeth Kunce. We pray for her recovery.

Our council, under the direction of Irene and Casey Grikenis and Dolores Wasileski participated in the Robertson Center



International Christmas Tree Forest program during the Christmas season. Lithuanian straw ornaments decorated the tree, while traditional Lithuanian cultural items were exhibited, including a replica of a wayside cross, juostos and our Lithuanian flag.

Carla Wilson continues to do an outstanding job as Director of St. Joseph's Church Children's Choir. Charles Almanas, our Lithuanian Affairs representative, has been doing an excellent job, reporting on current news and the situation in Lithuania.

Under the direction of Helen Svereika, Lithuanian Independence Day was commemorated with Binghamton Mayor, Richard Bucci.

### C - 96, Dayton, Ohio

by *Fran Petkus*

At our January 8th meeting plans for the new year were formulated with several activities lined up to put money back into the treasury for the many projects facing the council. Two of our Juniors, Robert and Erin Petkus, were at the meeting. Our council president, Elena Mikalauskas, under Junior Activities, asked them if they had any report to give. Erin responded with an enthusiastic, YES. She shared their Christmas Decorating Project - homemade tree ornaments for the shut-ins. Erin stated "they were beautiful and we had fun making them."

Junior Advisor AnnaMarie Berger has asked council members to "Host the Juniors For A Day" volunteers. Barbara and Julia Goecke along with Mark Berger sponsored the Juniors for January. What started out as a roller skating party (they found the rink closed) ended up as a bowling party. Needless to say the Juniors had a great time as did the adults.

The Montgomery County Historical Society has on display from January 31 to



April 22, 1995 the history of Dayton's Eastern European Community. The theme taken from the sentiments of the new arrivals when they came to America - "To Work, To Worship, To Dance". This community was made up of the Lithuanians, Polish, Hungarians, Czech's and Romanians. They migrated into the Dayton area between 1875 and 1910 when the United States opened its doors to more than 14 millions immigrants. Though steeped in faith and traditions, they had the capability to adjust to life in Dayton. Many of the families of these early immigrants remain in what is called "Old North Dayton". One of the pictures in the display is the photograph of the Knights of Lithuania's 25th National Convention that had been hosted by C #96, Dayton in 1937. As part of the opening program, Elinor Sluzas gave a talk on what she remembers, as a child, living in Old

North Dayton. Many in attendance were seen nodding their heads in agreement with some of Elinor's thoughts. Along with several council members at the display were three of our Juniors in costume, Robert and Erin Petkus and Joseph Berger. It was good to see the Lithuanian community's history in the Dayton area on display for many to review and learn more about us.

Get well wishes go out to Mary Ann Blum and George Mikalauskas!

St. Patrick's Day when "everyone is Irish", is celebrated March 17. Did you know this patron saint of Ireland prayed unceasingly each day. It is said that he recited the 150 Psalms and other prayers and genuflected three-hundred times in adoration of his Creator.

## C - 100, Amsterdam, NY

*by Smile & Sparkle*

Yes, Amsterdam council 100 is very much alive! This is our news happenings which go back to June.

First, a sad note. We lost our member Annacetta Guzielek on June 1. She had a wonderful happy personality and was loved by all. A large group was in attendance for the K of L prayer service. Even Assemblyman Paul Tonko was with us. Our spiritual advisor, Rev. Joseph Grabys led us in prayer, assisted by president, Irene Tice. We know Annacetta is at peace and looking down on us with the Lord!

In June, Irene Tice was approached by Noteworthy Company to have a Lithuanian food booth on the grounds of Amsterdam City Hall. Many members brought Lithuanian delicacies including Jean Maldutis with her bundeles and Polly Ziausys with Krusdai. It was a hot, humid day and we had a sell out on the iced tea. Helping Irene was Regina Kot, Regina Hartvigas, Birute Ralys, Helen Wojcik, Betty Kuzmich and Gene Gobis. Of course, we cannot forget Irene's better half, Harold. There were many others who donated food, etc. to whom we say, "thank you". Our K of L Juniors performed a number of dances.

Betty Kuzmich and Gene Gobis attended the National Convention in Chicago. Betty had a ball on a gambling boat! Both girls were present for all the sessions. A welcome surprise was in store-- the announcement of our member Louise Kleabonas as the first prize recipient in the essay contest!

Two local events also occurred in August. C-100 and C-136 had a combined outing on the shores of the Mohawk River. Our member, Ed Baranauskas and wife, Genute recently returned from Lithuania and he showed us

photos including the apartment they purchased in Vilnius.

Lithuanian Day at Auriesville Shrine of the Martyrs was the next event. Rev. Joseph Grabys, Spiritual Advisor of our council was the celebrant assisted by Rev. Peter Jonaitis (C-100). Bernice Aviza, MAD District president did one reading and national K. of L. treasurer, Ed Barkowski, did the second reading. Junior members dressed in their Lithuanian outfits presented the offertory gifts. St. Casimir's Church choir, all K. of L. érs, with Frank and Irene Petrauskas of Syracuse, and a number of C-136 members made up the members with Billie Ossenfort at the organ.

A get together followed on the picnic grounds. There was food galore! We also wished Bill and Bea Jasewicz a happy anniversary.

After attending Mass, members gathered in Fr. Baltch's hall for our September meeting. Reports were given on the happenings at the Chicago convention by Betty Kuzmich and Gene Gobis. President Irene Tice read many letters accumulated over the summer. Louise Kleabonas was presented with her prize for having won first place with her story, "Mushrooms", which convention delegates kept a surprise. Members were informed that a resolution congratulated our parish with its 90th anniversary. Another resolution commended Polly Ziausys and her husband, Edward, and Bernice Aviza for their continued work in preparing packages for Lithuania. Amsterdam Memorial Hospital was also recognized. The refreshment committee of Birute Ralys, Regina Hartvigas, Geraldine Rimkus and Gene Gobis provided a delicious menu.

At our October meeting, members voted unanimously to retain the same slate of officers for 1995: President - Irene Tice, VP - Gene Gobis; Treasurer - Sophie Olbie; Secretary -



Beatrice Jasewicz;  
Lithuanian Affairs  
- Ed Baranauskas  
and Adeline Raila;  
Cultural - Mirga  
Bablin; Lithuanian  
Language - Polly  
Ziausys and  
Sunshine - Adeline  
Raila. The  
refreshment  
committee of  
Regina Kot,  
Sophie Olbie and  
Helen Hugo  
prepared some tasty dishes.



*(photo left) C-112 Chicago  
2nd VP, Ellie Kasputis  
administers K of L oath to  
Arvydas Zydas and Josephine  
Alfanzo at the council  
Christmas party, while  
recording secretary, Gerrie  
Chaplin, takes the meeting*

attendance and members sang in the choir at his funeral Mass. We extend our deepest sympathy to his wife, Olga, his two daughters and his grandchildren. May he rest in peace.

### **C-110, Maspeth, NY**

*by Violet Zvirblis*

A balmy January Sunday allowed ebullient members to congratulate Maryte Abbott, our new VYTIS editor. Way to go, Maryte!

Thanks to Ann Morrissey and her able team of volunteers Helen Matulonis, Ed Sirgedas and Peter Zuyus, our "parcel express" continues to Lithuania. The last shipment included much needed medical supplies.

And as if that wasn't enough, Council 110 members are adopting a Lithuanian child- via Forgotten Children of the Countryside agency. Again thanks, Ann Morrissey.

Transfiguration Church celebrated Lithuanian Independence Day on Feb. 18 & 19 per Pastor Father Rooney. Members in Lithuanian dress graced every Mass. Congratulations to Emily Kelly on receiving her 1st degree and Vera Kruzick for her 2nd degree.. Please include in your prayers Anthony Yakstis, who died on January 25th. May his soul rest in peace.

Our Christmas party committee included Louise Kleabonas, chair; plus Frances DiBart, Mildred Whelly, Betty Kuzmich, Polly Ziasys, Bill & Bea Jasewicz, Gerry Drenzek, Gene Gobis, Christine Tambasco and a few of our juniors. Our hall turned into a beautiful Christmas scene when the big day arrived. A table was filled with "kucios" food brought by all the members. Father Grabys said the opening prayers. "Linksmu Sventu Kaledu" was heard throughout the hall. For entertainment Regina Kot with Eleanor Olechowski at the piano led the group in singing Christmas carols. Our MAD president, Bernice Aviza did a solo! The chairperson, Louise Kleabonas was commended for her efforts.

We wish members Harold Tice and Frances Bobines a speedy recovery. Also, we bid farewell to our member Walter Wilkevitch in January. Walter was also a choir member. Our K. of L. ritual had a large group in

### C-136, Hudson-Mohawk, NY

by *Dot Richmire*

At our November meeting, our council was privileged to meet Ina Bluzaitė, MD, from Lithuania who was observing at Albany Medical Center in Albany, New York.

Dr. Bluzaitė spoke to us about her experiences in her homeland and also about her observations regarding methods of treatment offered at the hospital. Her talk was most interesting.

In December, we enjoyed our annual Christmas party. We chose to have it catered, and all enjoyed the relaxed atmosphere, food and fellowship. The evening offered all of us a much appreciated break in the hectic holiday season.

At our January meeting, we were pleased to learn that our participation in the "Festival of Nations" our new Governor George Pataki's inaugural reception was not only exciting but rewarding to our council. Two members of Amsterdam C-100 were there to assist us and we thank them.

Sad news. Member Clara Tulio lost her brother recently and we also mourn the loss of member, Helen Brockett. The memorial service in her honor was well attended by members.

We extend our most sincere sympathies to their families.

We're looking forward to our "Independence Day" celebration.

### C - 141 Bridgeport, CT

by *Aldona Markavage*



*C-141 January 1995 Hostesses - Ilona Zakarauskas, Helen Simanis and Anne Laukaitis*

Our November meeting was enriched by the presence of three University of Bridgeport exchange students from Lithuania: Gediminas Keras, Giedre Minkauskaite, and Laurynas Mickevicius. Laurynas presented a brief report on the current events in Lithuania. He spoke about the bridge between Kaunas and Vilnius being blown up and the discovery of plans to blow up the electric reactor at Ignalina. The culprit was found, arrested and sentenced by the Supreme Court to death.

President Clemencine Miller' report revealed that 9 telegrams were sent to Washington regarding the Baltic.

The Viltis Parcel Service came to Bridgeport to collect the many care packages prepared for friends and relatives to be delivered in time for Christmas.

A beautiful Thanksgiving Dinner was served by our November hostesses: Barbara Estok, Rich Haux, Stella Marcinauskis, Lee Marcinka. The 50/50 club winners were: John Kristy (3 wins), Ann Laukaitis, Eleanor Jakutis, Clem Miller, Dr. Wilkes (who donated his winnings to the treasury). Our new Financial



(top) C-141, Armundas Zakavauskas sings with his accordion "Ilgiausiu Metu" to Jonas Balcius on his January Birthday. (bottom) Msgr. Pranckus swears in new member, Peter Balcius.

Secretary, Bill Brilvitch, was busy collecting dues.

The happy wanderers this month were Sophie and Pete Putrimas. They went to California for two weeks, spending Thanksgiving Day with their children Barbara and Donald. Vytautas and Stefa Vaikutis also flew to California to spend three months with their two daughters and their families.

The annual parish Bingo was a great success. Many thanks to the helping hands from Council 141. Another successful and very pleasant event was our celebration of Kucios, which took place December 18th. President Miller welcomed members and guests. Msgr. Pranckus said grace and blessed the Christmas wafers, which were then shared by all. Armundas Zakarauskas was M. C. With his accordion he accompanied the singing of Christmas carols, both in English



and Lithuanian. He also gave a lengthy reading of old Lithuanian customs and games played after the Kucios dinner. Four of the exchange students from Lithuania were our guests. We hope they enjoyed this small reminder of their homeland so far away. Msgr. Pranckus and the new St. George's parish administrator, Father Jose Rebacque were presented with Christmas checks from Council 141.

On the sick list is faithful council worker, Ann Petrus. Please remember her in your prayers.

So ended another year for the Bridgeport council, we wish all fellow knights a healthy and successful new year - looking forward to many more meaningful activities. Let's remember Lithuania's youth in our prayers.

## C - 144

### Anthracite, PA

by Anne K. Wargo

In November we had a pleasant surprise - Msgr. Kazimieras Vasiliauskas, Rector of the Vilnius Cathedral visited our council. Msgr. Vasiliauskas, who spent 20 years in Siberia and as a political prisoner slaved in coal mines, especially wanted to visit Mahanoy City, because an uncle, who helped educate him was buried there. He was not sure if he still had relatives there. He gave us a list of his relatives from this area. And behold! Our own Helen Chesko is related to monsignor. The uncle who educated Msgr. Vasiliauskas was the same uncle who raised Helen. What a surprise for both of them and what a joyful visit. Helen had pictures from

Lithuania of monsignors parents and grandparents and other relatives. Msgr. Vasiliauskas then visited the cemetery where his uncle and aunt are buried. Bernie Zilaitis accompanied him on a visit to coal mines in the area. Even though closed for the winter months, the Tourist Ashland Coal Mines were opened especially for this visitor. Tom McDonald took photos of everything and Bernie, who with his wife, will be spending the Christmas holidays in Lithuania, took them there for the monsignor. It was truly miraculous! Neither Helen nor Msgr. Vasiliauskas was aware of each others existence. What a joy! Our spiritual advisor Father Matthew Jarasunas was Msgr. Vasiliauskas host during the duration of the visit. Since Father Matthew Jarasunas was born in Lithuania, we are sure, he and the monsignor had much to discuss.

Helen Chesko, Eleanor Vaicaitis, Elsie Kosmisky and Anne Wargo attended the Silver Jubilee Celebration in Philadelphia for Father Joe Anderlonis on the occasion of his 25th jubilee as a priest. Their host was Victor Stepolovich of C-3, The members of C-144 wish Father Anderlonis many more happy and fruitful years. The love shown him by his parishioners, friends and the Knights of Lithuania was truly heartwarming.

This year, the Kucios was hosted by Minersville and St. Clair members The Kucios is a traditional Lithuanian Christmas eve supper. Father Matt read the Kucios prayers in Lithuanian. The food served was the traditional food eaten on Christmas eve wherever there are Lithuanians. The members truly enjoyed this wonderful tradition. Our thanks to Lithuanian

Affairs Chairman Joseph Martunas and Cultural Chairman Mary Koons for their informative reports each month. Both perform their duties faithfully.

The Anthracite Council lost two very good members in December. Helen Kratulis, who was a quiet unassuming lady, but who was always willing to help in whatever way she could. Amzina Atsili, Helen.



**Rev. Matthew S. Jarasunas**  
**Sept. 11, 1923 - Jan. 9, 1995**  
**Ordained Dec. 21, 1968**  
**Spiritual Advisor - C-144**

On December 13 our Spiritual Advisor had a heart attack and was rushed to the Reading Hospital where emergency surgery (by-pass) was performed. Father Matthew Jarasunas, Pastor of Our Lady of Siluva Church, continued to have a monthly Lithuanian Mass for our Council despite his previous heart attack. He was the Guiding Light for all of us for many years and we came to love him not only as our Spiritual Advisor but as

a good friend. He was 71 years old when he passed away on January 9. His burial took place January 13.

Father Matthew was born in Lygumai, Lithuania. He was a 20 year old seminarian in 1944 when he and his fellow seminarians were told to leave as the Russians were advancing just 5 miles behind the seminary. They were accepted into a seminary in Germany and after a short while the Nazis came and for many years he was in a Labor Camp in Germany. He then went to England where he worked in Construction and emigrated to Canada where he worked in a factory. When he had enough money saved, he returned to the Seminary and went to the Lithuanian Pontifical, College in Rome. He was ordained December 21, 1968 in Rome at the age of 45. Father Matt was

assigned to the Diocese of Allentown Pa. and became the Pastor of Our Lady of Siluva Church in Maizeville where he served until his death Jan. 9.

On Jan. 12 a Scripture Service was held at the Church with Msgr. Gerald Gobitas presiding. The homily was preached by Father Bill Linkchorst who spoke of his devotion to the K of L as well as his parish. The K of L Wake service was well attended despite the fact that the night was extremely foggy and it was difficult driving. President Anne Wargo and Past President, Joseph Yezulinas conducted the Wake Service.

The Most Rev. Thomas J. Welsh, D.D., J.C.D. the Bishop of Allentown was the main celebrant at the funeral Mass. Principal;

concelebrants were Msgr. Gerald Gobitas, *C-146 members Dangoule Raskevicius, Rev. Francis Baransky, Eduardas Zemaitis and Vilma Balnyte at and Rev. William the Kaunas R.R. Station.* Linkchorst. Msgr.

Gobitas preached an extraordinary homily - he spoke of Father Matt's early hardships. his devotion to God, the Church, the Sick, the K of L -there wasn't a dry eye in the church. It was almost miraculous as the heavy fog lifted prior to the Mass and the sun came out. It was almost as if Father Matt was telling us that he was home with God and to be happy for him. You will be greatly missed, Father Matt. You will always be remembered with much affection. We are sure you are with your parents whom you never saw after you left your beloved homeland, Lithuania. Amzina



Atsilsi-Mes visada atsiminsim tave su daug meiles.

We don't know yet who our new Spiritual Advisor will be, but we are sure our Patron Saint Casimir will guide us in the right direction.

C-144 wishes all our brother and sister Knights a happy, healthy and joyful 1995.

### C - 146, Harrisburg, PA

by *Eduardas Zemaitis*

Our 17th annual Kucios was held at the American Legion Lodge in Camp Hill, PA. A short meeting preceded the festive celebration. The election of officers was brief and decisive since an overwhelming vote to maintain the existing officers was made and seconded. They are: Spiritual Advisor - Father John Smith; President - Joanne Gilbert; Vice President - Lorraine Grabauskas; Recording Secretary - John Povilauskas; Treasurer - Nell Barulis; Trustee - Vity Grabauskas; Trustee - Eduardas Zemaitis; Ritual Eileen West; Lithuanian Culture - Francis Boyle; Public Relations Eduardas Zemaitis; Spiritual Programs - Helen Grabauskas; "Vytis" Correspondent - Eduardas Zemaitis; Lithuanian Language Jean Hallam.

The balance of the evening was spent socializing, eating and of course raffling off the many gifts that were brought by the members. As in the past, everyone enjoyed themselves and left the Kucios in a heightened Christmas Spirit.

Two of the study group members became incapacitated by illness and accident. Stella Graci became ill during her travels in Lithuania. Shortly after her return home she had a relapse and was hospitalized. It was good to see her up and around at the Kucios. Last fall Helen Wysocki suffered a fractured hip while attending Mass and is now recuperating at home. We hope to see her at the meetings again very soon.

Stanley Brazinskas and Ed Zemaitis returned home safely from Lithuania with many educational and heartwarming experiences. Ed had the good fortune of attending the Song and Dance Festival in Kaunas, which was truly a thrilling and rewarding experience. Many photos and several hundred feet of video tapes are available to recapture the memories of their month's visit to their Fatherland.

**C - 147, St. Petersburg, FL**  
by *Dolores Jonaitis*

Our deepest sympathy goes out to our Spiritual Advisor, Father Jonas Gasiunas, on the loss of his sister, who passed away on October 31, 1994. Emilija Gasiunaite was 87 years old. May she rest in peace. Our Knights of Lithuania members who participated at the funeral were: Antanas Gudonis - Candle Bearer at Holy Name Church and Victoria Kleiva read a condolence card to Father Gasiunas.

Valeria Lesàinskas has returned from a trip to Chicago where she visited her daughter. John and Dolores Jonaitis have returned from Connecticut after a hastily planned trip.

Bronius Bakas is convalescing at home. Maria Gelayius, our treasurer, has been hospitalized is also convalescing at home. We wish them both a speedy recovery.

At our November 29th meeting, we had elections of officers. Father Gasiunas was unable to attend. Father Matthew Cyvas offered the opening and closing prayers. Thank you Father Cyvas.

The newly elected officers are: Spiritual Advisor - Rev. Jonas Gasiunas, President - Dolores Jonaitis, 1st Vice President Alfas Shukis, 2nd Vice President Brone Urbonas, Recording Secretary - Victoria Kleiva, Treasurer - Maria Gelayius, Financial Secretary - Violet Kraujalis, Trustee - Rev. Matthew Cyvas and Charles P. Vilnius, Ritual - Dr. Aldona Valis, Lithuanian Affairs Irena Diktanas, Lithuanian Culture - John Jonaitis, "Vytis" Correspondent Dolores Jonaitis.

We are very thankful to Genovaite Bakas for doing a super job as Financial secretary for 4 years. It was a job well done and appreciated. Thank you Genovaite.

We welcome Violet Kraujalis as our Financial Secretary. Thank you Violet.

**C - 153, Treasure Coast, FL**  
by *Florence Miskinis*

October 8th, 1994 a Mass was offered for the repose of the soul of Dr. Jack Stukas, the beloved founder of C - 153, in memory of his 70th birthday. Mass was offered in the St. Jude's Chapel, Tequesta, FL, where Jack's brother Lou Stukas is the organist. C - 153 was organized by Jack and Loretta Stukas and because of their many gracious efforts and assistance, they gave us a wonderful beginning and example to follow. About 100 Lithuanians, including C -153 members and others came to show their great respect for Jack. Rev. Thomas Vengay, was celebrant and John Tamasauskas,



an old-time friend of Jack, was eucharistic minister and acolyte. Ona Jameikis was soloist. At the end of the Mass, Mrs Loretta Stukas gave a loving and beautiful tribute to all of Jack's accomplishments in all phases of his short life. It brought tears to the eyes of many who knew his. The good Lord certainly welcomed Jack at the gates of heaven with a "Well done, good and faithful servant". Jack surely lived by the Vyciu motto: "For God and Country" to the fullest. A reception was held at St. Jude's hall following the Mass.

Less than a week later, on October 14th our dear Nellie Balbota passed away was buried in Newark, NJ where she was a Vyciai member since 1961. Nellie was such a happy and pleasant lady and always helpful in all our activities. We'll always remember her "grybai" cookies and pyraga.



*C-150, Kansas City hosts Dr. Alfonsas Eidintas and dignitaries from Lithuania at members Anita and Bill Strumillo's home. (10/27/94)*

The sick list for the summer and fall included: Frances Daniels, Florence Miskinis, Rose Zukauskas, Walter Lubinsky. We certainly wish everyone a healthy new year of 1995.

On November 6th our annual elections were held. The new board consists of: James Marcinkus - president and treasurer and Franaces Daniels - secretary. All others remain the same. The officers were sworn in by Lou Stukas - a 4th degree Knight. The new members, Mr. and Mrs. Anthony Stepanauskas were welcomed by the Knights.

Following the meeting, all present celebrated all the birthdays for the year including Florence Miskinis 75th birthday. A delicious cake and coffee were served.

December 4th the annual Christmas party was held at St. Paul's Kaufeehaus or C - 153 and guests. Festive tables adorned the room with Baby Jesus as the center of the "reason for the season".

Rev. V. Pikturna, our spiritual advisor, blessed the "plotkeliai" and opened the joyous day with a prayer in gratitude for all our blessings throughout the year. We remembered all our deceased members. Everyone was encouraged to take home some "plotkeliai" for their Kucias. The delicious and bountiful buffet table consisted of all the ethnic goods including: fresh

\*desros (\*for us it is a treat to get fresh desros), kugelio, pickled beets, fresh garden picked tomatoes and all the Christmas goodies imaginable. Chairperson was Lou Stukas assisted by his able committee: Jim Marcinkus, Al and Florence Miskinis, Fraces Daniels, Mike Yudiskas and John Tamasauskas, who always makes the best coffee and "pyraga".

A successful lottery ended the joyous day and ushered in the Christmas season for C - 153 and guests. Mike Yudiskas and Felix Zorskis were in charge of the raffle. Many left with more than 2 or 3 prizes, plus doggy bags, to enjoy the holidays.

## MARCH - KOVAS

As we examine the names of the months, we note that the Lithuanian names have generally been quite different from those of European-Western cultures, That is with one exception - March, which was named after the Roman God of War, Mars. In Lithuanian, *Kovas*, can be viewed as incorporating the root "kov-" which commonly relates to battles, struggles, etc. Thus, it would seem to share a derivative concept with the Roman calendar and refer to the turbulent changing season and battle between lingering winter and oncoming spring.

### A THOUGHT FOR MARCH / LENT 1995:

*Kurs už mus kaltus kentėjai...pasigailėk mūsų!*  
May he who suffered for our sins...have mercy on us!

### IN MARCH:

- Mar 1, 1995 - Ash Wednesday. The beginning of Lent.
- Mar 4, Feast of St.Casimir, Patron of Lithuania, Patron of the Knights of Lithuania.
- Mar 11, Lithuanian National Commemorative Day celebrating the Restoration of Lithuanian Independence in 1990.
- Mar 17, All God's children join their Irish brothers and sisters in the wearing of the green to celebrate St. Paddie's day.
- Mar 20, International Earth Day - First day of spring.
- Mar 27, Palm Sunday - H.H. Pope John Paul II invites all to join with him in prayer for the youth of the world.

### CONGRATULATIONS TO THOSE WHO CELEBRATE NAME DAYS IN MARCH:

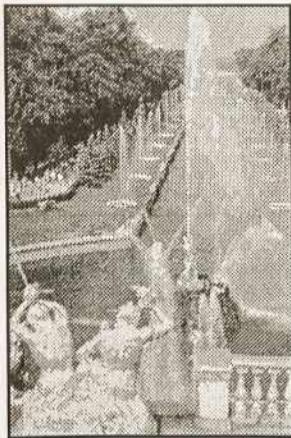
Adrian (Mar 5)	Albin (Mar 1)	Benjamin (Mar 31)
Casimir (Mar 4)	Catherine (Mar 22)	Clement (Mar 15)
Colette (Mar 6)	Constantine (Mar 11)	Cyril (Mar 18)
Dominic (Mar 9)	Elena (Mar 2)	Felix (Mar 26)
Francis (Mar 9)	Herbert (Mar 16)	Irma (Mar 20)
John (of God)(Mar8)	Joseph (Mar 19)	<i>Laima</i> (Mar 8)
Lucius (Mar 5)	Matilda (Mar 14)	Michael (Mar 21)
Patrick (Mar 17)	Paulina (Mar 13)	Rimgaudas(Mar 13)
<i>Rūta</i> (Mar 27)	<i>Sandra</i> (Mar 29)	<i>Saulius</i> (Mar 21)



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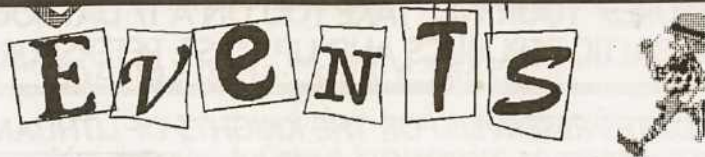
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## 1995 KNIGHTS OF LITHUANIA SCHEDULED ACTIVITIES

### Volunteer Day-World Medical Relief

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

### For further info contact:

Regina Juska (313) 554-3288

### Sts. Peter & Paul Centennial Celebration

Apr. 2 - Lithuanian Food Festival - Elizabeth, NJ, C-52

(See other events on page 6-7 of this issue.)

Lorraine Staboris (908) 352-2271

### St. Casimir Day Celebrations

Mar. 5 Detroit, Host, C-79

Mar. 12 AMBD, Host: C-3

Mar. 26 MAD, Host: C-110

Marge Dapkus (810) 682-0098

Agnes Mickunas (609) 931-3306

Bruno Rutkunas (516) 628-2292

### Spring Celebrations

April 30 NED Spring Convention, Westfield, MA (See pg. 32 for other NED events.)

April 30 C-110, Spring Dinner Dance

Bruno Rutkunas (516) 628-2292

### Supreme Council Meeting

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

Agnes Mickunas (609) 931-3306

### 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, please inform the VYTIS Editor, so we may include it here. Aciu.)*