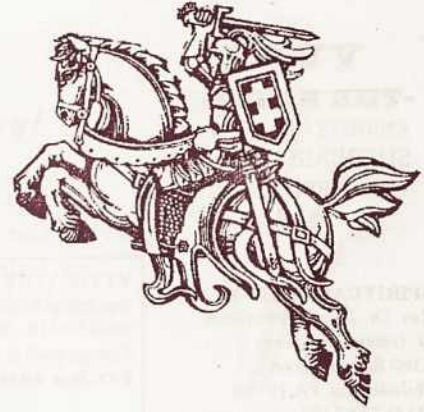
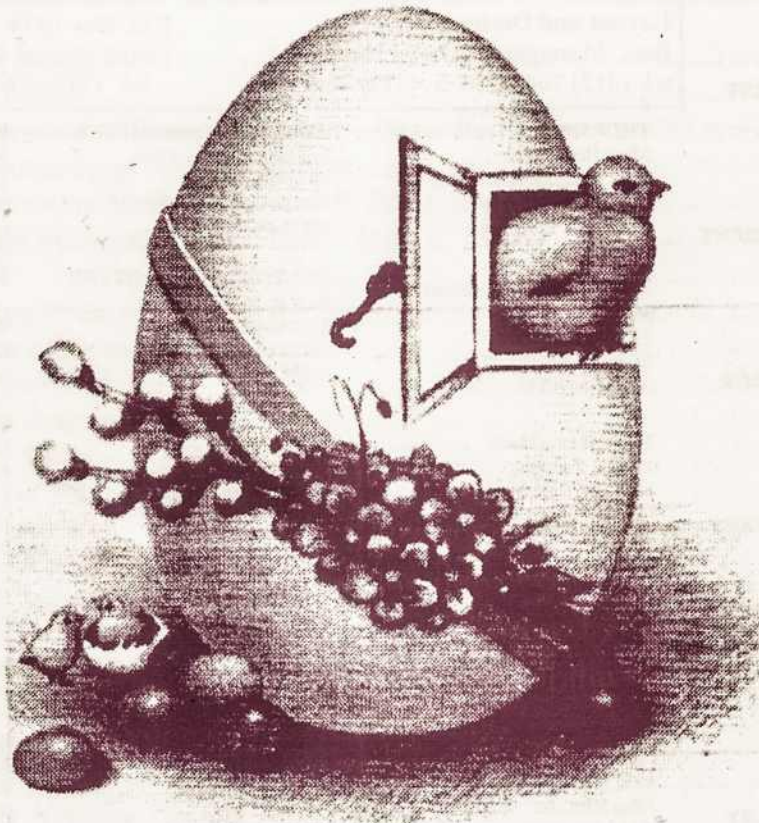


VYTAIS



The Knight
volume 82: no. 4



Sveiki sulaukę šv. Velykų!

Balandis/April 1996

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-THE KNIGHT -
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Velykos - the Lithuanian word for Easter means "important day". Easter is not only the Resurrection of Christ, but also the awakening of nature from winter's sleep.



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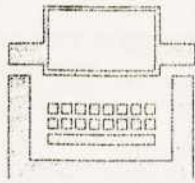
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To My Fellow Knights:

Spring is much welcome after the blizzard of '96 winter with record breaking snows. We welcome the warm sun shining on our faces, the songs of the first birds, the crocus and other flowers. It is a time of joy for the risen Christ at Easter to a lighter time of jokes and frolic on April Fools. I hope all of you appreciate this time of the year as much as I do.

Spring is also a busy time of year when we plan for the summer. Our convention in Brockton, MA is a nice place to be in August when temperatures get muggy especially in the cities. The committee is planning an extraordinary time. Hope to see you there. Happy Easter to all. May we all stay healthy and wise.



Letters to the Editor

Convention Ramblings

To the Editor:

Life for so many of us has reached a semi-retired status and physical activity has been replaced with fond memories. Being in that category I find myself thinking more and more of my K. of L. friends that were a great part of my life. So many of them have gone to their great reward, many have joined the cane brigade while the more fortunate are still working hard at keeping our organization alive and well.

Probably the most memorable times are the annual National Conventions. I remember the first one I attended was in New Jersey where I met so many of the people I had read about in VYTIS.

Sylvia Shukis was my guide and mentor and I soon became well acquainted. The homemade Krupnikas we brought with us was a great icebreaker. We both were elected as Presidium Secretaries much to our surprise.

For myself the Cleveland Convention is one that will always be memorable. The meeting went on till late afternoon and a candidate for president could not be found. In a desperate situation desperate measures were called for and I was nominated and elected. The late Dr. Peter Bizinkauskas was elected 1 st. vice-president.

Being National President is a job I'll never forget. A great deal of effort has been made throughout the years that has kept our heritage and traditions alive. The aid that has been extended by K. of L. to Lithuania after she regained her freedom is phenomenal. Without the years of nourishing and fostering this love of country could all of that been accomplished? I only wish I could have been able to participate more actively. Let us continue with our work for there is still ways to go and problems to solve.

The Constitutional Convention was held in Lawrence but it was Brockton that hosted the first National Convention where the Supreme Council was elected. Council 1 was honored with the election of Anna Kasteta as National Secretary and Margaret Mazgelis as Treasurer.

Some of the memories that Anna Kaseta related about the first convention were fascinating. She told of the thrill of entertaining a guest from Paris, the Honorable P. Gabys who impressed all the ladies with his charm and gallantry. The convention hall was decorated with small birch trees while ruta and roses were placed on the tables. She could still recall the heavenly scent.

Many friendships were made with some ending in romance and marriage. Council 1 hopes to welcome you to Brockton in August and hope we can help add to many pleasant memories. *(See page 10 for convention registration information.)*

**Former National K. of L. President
Susan K. Boraskas**



Guest Editorial

Whatever happened to Blessed Archbishop George Matulaitis?

by *Dalia Bulvičius*

In nineteen ninety seven it will be seventy years since the death of Archbishop George Matulaitis and 10 years since he was beatified by our Holy Father in Rome. Does anyone still remember these events? In nineteen eighty seven when Lithuanians were commemorating the six hundred years of Christianity, Pope John Paul II beatified Archbishop Matulaitis. The Lithuanians in their homeland and abroad were ecstatic. By the thousands they traveled to Rome, filled up the pages of the press with a variety of news items and long articles, organized dozens of commemorations. Organizations such as our Knights of Lithuania were in the forefront of it all. Then all of a sudden all this hyper hoopla stopped. It seems like a fad that comes in vogue and then disappeared into the dusty pages of history. One wonders. Does Lithuania really want another saint, or perhaps St. Casimir is enough?

Therefore, it came as a breath of fresh air when Annunciation parish in Brooklyn, NY (home base of council 41) decided that blessed archbishop George was neglected for too long. We must revive him. We must pray to him for another miracle and hasten his canonization. The pastor, Fr. Vytautas Palubinskas agreed with this idea, so Sunday, February 4th was chosen as the day. How appropriate this date was - Mission Sunday - the day we honor the great missionary of Lithuania.

The commemoration began with holy Mass offered by Bishop Paulius Baltakis, OFM. Bishop Baltakis in his sermon recalled incidents from blessed Georges life: his frail health, which tormented him all his life, his reorganization of the Marian community in Lithuania and his impact on Lithuania as a whole.

After Mass, the pastor invited everyone to the rectory for the continuation of the commemoration.

Father Vytautas gave a short outline of lesser known facts about the archbishop. It was nice to hear that when archbishop George visited the United States he came to our Lady of Vilnius parish, /home base of C- 12/ in Manhattan, NY and administered the sacrament of confirmation.. Father Palubinskas ended his talk by urging all to pray that our Holy Father, on June 28, the tenth anniversary of the archbishops beatification, will proclaim Archbishop George Matulaitis a saint.

We believe the Knights of Lithuania should start making plans for that special event next June. Lets follow the good example of Annunciation parish. Let us remember Archbishop George at each of our meetings. Most important is to pray as a group before or after our meetings for this special intention and perhaps a miracle will occur.

If you should need further information about Archbishop George Matulaitis, feel free to contact us at the Vytis editorial address and we will try to assist you.

From the writings of Blessed Archbishop George Matulaitis...

"If Lithuania needs my sacrifices I won't refuse. I am not afraid of danger, and I do not hold myself precious. What worries me is that I could offer myself without accomplishing anything."

"We are not different by external signs but only the spiritual, the holy life, the pure Catholic learning, skillfulness, dutyfulness, diligence, zealousness, love for God and neighbor plus a firm faith."

"Let me, God, burn up like the candles on the altar, from the heat of my work, and the fire of love for You and your Church."



MARGUCIAI - EASTER EGGS

by Fr. Ed Stockus

The Incredible Edible Egg; boil it, poach it, bake with it, put it in salads and soup, fry it, sunny side up, turned over, scrambled, or in a soufflé. It is eaten by approximately 85% of the people in the world; as deviled eggs, Eggs Benedict, French toast, powdered for commercial use, Egg McMuffin, and in many more ways to be cooked than it can be described in this article. It comes in a perfectly designed protective package (a spherical shell), and has been used in fertility rites, egg rolling, egg tossing contests, egg hunts and decorated to be presented as a gift of love, mysticism, worship, and offerings to a Divine presence.

The egg has been used as a divine symbol by the Egyptians as far back as 1580-1085 B.C.; The Assyrians, Greeks, Romans, and the Chinese worshipped the egg as a gift from the Divine Gods. Christianity inherited the egg tradition and adopted it as a symbol of rebirth, new life, a resurrection of salvation - and hence, the Easter Egg came into being as we know it today.

A decorated egg given as a gift to another has become widespread in the approximately 3000 years of its history and it would be impossible to describe all the past and present customs/traditions applied to the egg. However, I will discuss the one tradition I know very well - The Lithuanian "MARGUCIAI". This article may help the reader understand the customs and traditions that are a part of our Lithuanian heritage.

Two basic methods of decorating eggs are employed, the Scratch technique and the Wax technique. Both methods use a color dye to



add to the beauty of the decoration, and to satisfy the superstitions that certain colors will ward off evil spirits. Some colors provide good fortune, and others impart a personal wish onto other people. It is interesting to note that symbolisms, superstitions, imparted beliefs, and many aspects of peasant family life can be traced through the artistic features, ingenuity of pattern, softness of tone, and the composition of the Easter egg designs.

In Lithuania, Easter is the most important and celebrated season of the year. Easter represents the end of winter and all of its related chores and concerns, as well as the time for preparation of the soil for planting. This is the end of the long winter sleep, a time of awakening and new birth, a time of growth and life. The shuttered windows are unfettered to let in the warmth of the new sun and the doors are opened for a breath of fresh spring air to cleanse the rooms from winter's grip upon the household.

Before Easter, when the hens begin to lay eggs, all households would save the prize eggs, those with hard shells, large size and the best of decorative shapes. By Palm Sunday preparations are well under way for the great time of Easter egg decorating. Each community, county, and city would have added some of their own ingenuity of design in

through the centuries by parents to their children.

The patterns are indicative of Lithuania's past, steeped in nature worship and close to the soil with its great forests that abound across this lovely land. The motifs and symbols are a part of this nature; the snowflake and its delicate lacework, the daisy flower with a symmetry of petals in perfect circular form around a central heart, dots that represent the myriad of stars at night, crosses, leaves, animals, birds and the intricate patterns of a carpenter's lattice work used throughout the design of homes, porches and wayside prayer stations.

The various patterns and combinations provide an unlimited number of patterns, restricted only when we do not take the time out from our daily chores to let God in.

Easter eggs are used as gifts of love. Games are also played to acquire decorated eggs by contest. One that is most popular among children has evolved into a family contest at the Easter breakfast and dinner table. The guests at the table would choose an egg of great strength from the bowl of decorated eggs. This is determined by striking the front teeth with the pointed end of the egg. The chosen

egg is used by a guest to attempt to break the shell of an egg of another guest. When the losers have given up their broken eggs to the winner, the winner would have the opportunity to return the eggs to the loser guests as a loving symbol of accepting their burden of loss by returning the egg as their expression of love. (However we must be wary of children with devious minds who may come with their own egg that has been emptied of its raw contents and filled with wax and then decorated.)

Many use egg themes to decorate their homes during the Easter season with Easter egg trees, window adornments of Easter egg birds and dinner table decorations. These things remind us that we must take time out to cherish and nourish the customs and cultures of our nationality.

Submitted by Mary Kincius, C-36, who is a cousin to Fr. Stockus. This article originally appeared in the parish bulletin from St. Germain's, Oak Lawn, IL last Easter.



How the Easter Date was Chosen



Unlike the fixed date of Christmas, Easter moves with the moon. It is celebrated on the first Sunday after the first full moon occurring on or after March 21, the vernal equinox.

Sixth century monk, Dionysius Exiguus, worked out the formula for the date creating the B.C.-A.D. system for numbering years. He did this to end the controversy of when the Easter holyday is observed which began in the second century following the death of Christ.

The Roman practice was based on the Julian calendar and the gospels of Mathew, Mark and Luke, which present the Last Supper as a Passover meal. They placed Easter on a Sunday, the day of the Resurrection.

St. George, the Great Martyr

Patron of England, Co-patron of Lithuania

The veneration of St. George was introduced in the Greek church where the appellation of the "Great Martyr" was assigned to him. He is venerated in Georgia which bears his name, Spain, Portugal, Italy, Lithuania, and England. He was named patron of England in 1222. Along with St. Casimir, he is considered the co-patron of Lithuania.

Despite this widespread and long standing veneration, there is extremely little known about him other than he was a Roman soldier and suffered martyrdom under the Emperor Diocletian at Nicomedia in the beginning of the 4th century.

The earliest writings about him were picked up by a sect called the Gelasians who were later condemned as heretics and their writings placed on the Index of Forbidden Books. Nevertheless, Pope Leo II (683) dedicated a basilica in his honor at Velabro, in Rome, Italy, and added the feast of St. George to the Roman calendar.

According to the legend of St. George, he was born at Cappadocia in the 3rd Century and instructed in the Christian faith by his mother. He became a soldier in the Roman army, but defied the



14th Century Icon, Church of the Virgin of Trypiti, Aighion, Greece

Emperor. (It is believed by some that, St. George tore down the imperial edicts of persecution.) He was handed over to torturers, who tried every means to put him to death. He was beaten with clubs, tortured with red-hot irons, given poison to drink, crushed between two spiked wheels, thrown into a caldron of molten lead but came through unscathed. Then, pretending that he was willing to offer sacrifice to the idols, when all the people had assembled, George prayed, and fire coming down from heaven killed all the pagan priests and people. In

the end, however, circa 304 A.D., St. George was beheaded. In the middle of the fourth century, a church was built over his tomb at Lydda, Palestine.

The Crusaders adopted him as their patron and were probably responsible for the propagation of his cult in Europe. He continues to be considered the patron of Christian armies.

In iconography, St. George is usually shown astride a horse and in combat with a dragon; however, there is no firm documentary trail of this legend before the 12th Century. It is believed, therefore, to be a late accretion to the story of St. George.

St. George and the Dragon

According to legend, St. George was riding in the province of Lybia and came upon a city named Sylene which was located near a marshy swamp into which there came a dragon. The dragon had a most fiercely unpleasant breath which also caused a pestilence in the area over which it breathed. The citizens of the city had gathered to slay the dragon but were repelled by its terrible breath. Being unable to kill it, they had begun to offer it two lambs for food each day so that it would not approach the city. When the supply of lambs ran out, they began making human sacrifices identifying the victims from among the children of the city by drawing lots. On the day, that St. George happened by, the lot had fallen on the



King's own daughter and there were no volunteers to substitute for her. So, dressed as a bride, the young princess approached the swamp; but, St. George intervened and pinioned the dragon with his lance. Then, taking the princess' girdle (apron), he tied one end around the neck of the dragon; the other end he gave to the princess to lead it back to the city. When they returned to the city, they found the King and all the citizens waiting in amazement.

St. George told them that if they would convert to Christianity and believe in Jesus Christ, he would slay the dragon. They did convert and he kept his promise. (One version has him marry the princess before returning to Palestine and martyrdom.)

St. George and Lithuania

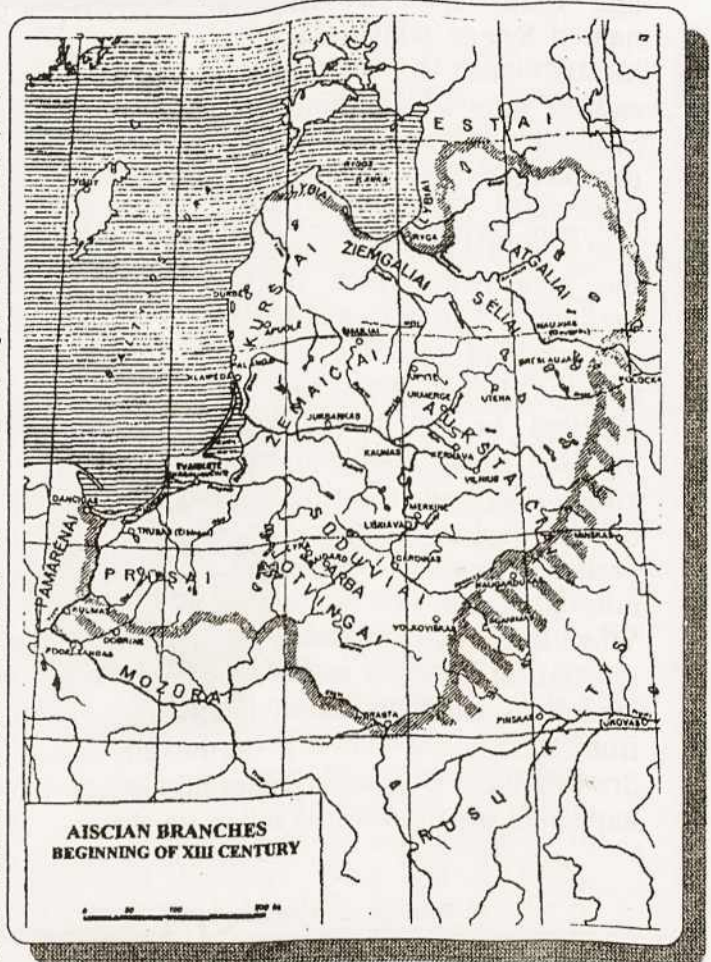
The cultus of St. George spread throughout the Byzantine Church and deeply into eastern Europe. It was from here that knowledge of George spread into Lithuania. The name, George, became quite common among Lithuanians even before the acceptance of Christianity in 1386 by Lithuania. With the legend of the Dragon, iconography increasingly showed St. George mounted on a white steed. Thus, in the eastern Church, St. George became also the patron of horses and domesticated animals. This latter attribute greatly endeared him to Lithuanians. It was not long before the feast of St. George (April 23) merged with an ancient folkloric spring-time custom which involved a variety of pagan rituals related to preparing the animals for spring/summer planting or other work. It became a custom that on *Jurginès* (the feast of St. George) one did no work with horses; this was their holiday. Other rituals and invocations on this day ensured that dairy cattle would remain healthy and productive; lambs and sheep protected from wolves, etc. With the modernization of Lithuania, this practice seems to have waned. Now in the post-Soviet period, *Jurginès* continues more in memory than in practice.

Mindaugas, His Struggle to Unite Lithuania

by John R. Mankus

The struggle to unify the Aiscian branches of Lithuania, did not occur in a day. (See *Aiscian Branches map*). After the fall of Prussia, Kursiais and Ziemgaliais to the Crusaders, it became evident to the princes of the other Lithuanian branches to unify or be conquered by the Crusaders (*Teutonic and Livonian Orders*) from the West and North, or the Russ (*Russian*), Ukrainian and Tartar principalities from the East and South.

In the late eleven hundred and early twelve hundred, as the invasions became more frequent, especially from the Teutonic Order (See *Lithuanian, Teutonic Castle Map on next page*), for mutual protection, collective defense treaties were necessary. these however were usually for a very limited time and no single strong leader/ruler would emerge. It is not known how many Lithuanian (*Aiscian*) dukes and princes existed before and during Mindaugas' time. From various chronicles compiled after battles, it was not unusual to have over twenty princes represent Lithuania at peace treaty signing. From historical documents, it is relatively certain that sometime between 1219 and 1229 the number of ruling princes representing Lithuania, was drastically reduced. Five family groups emerged as representing Lithuania, Mindaugas family, being among the five. Some historians believe that before 1219 Mindaugas' father actually began the unification process and Mindaugas completed the unification. During this period, Mindaugas, being a very capable military leader by



conquest and a strong diplomat by negotiation, was able to secure the loyalty of many of the lesser dukes in most of the Lithuanian (*Aiscian*) branches.

By 1229, Mindaugas, although not yet the ruler of united Lithuania, was in a very strong position to achieve this goal. His brother and the brothers two sons (*Tautvila and Erdvila*), were successfully securing Lithuanian Eastern and Southern borders. At the signing of a peace treaty with Voluines principality in 1236, securing the districts of Gardinas, Naugardukas, Slanimas and Volkoviskis,



Mindaugas signed the peace treaty documents as the Ruler of Lithuania.

During the same year at the Battle of Šiauliai (actually near Šiauliai), united Lithuanian armies achieved a great victory against the invading Livonian Order. Historians are not certain whether Mindaugas or his close ally, Prince Pykintas led the Lithuanian armies, but what is certain is that the victory was so complete, that more than ninety percent of the Crusader army was destroyed. In 1237, the Teutonic Order absorbed the remnants of the Livonian Order. After the Victory at Siauliai, most chronicles indicate that Mindaugas became the undisputed ruler of Lithuania.



SHARE A SMILE

A smile does not cost anything but it gives so much.

A smile makes rich the one on whom it is bestowed, but does not make the bestower poorer.

A smile lasts only a second, but often the remembrance of it lasts a long time.

No one is so rich that he can live without a smile and no one is so poor that he can not bestow a smile.

For no one is a smile more important than one who is not able to give one himself.

A smile is like a babbling brook - it makes us happy, refreshes us for in still water breed parasites.

A smile is like a flowing river, if you want to swim in it be sure its deep enough.

A smile destroys the worst emotion of all - hopelessness.

To smile is to overcome obstacles and open up possibilities.

A smile is the medicine of nature. From all aches, but one can not buy it, send it, one can not steal it because its worth is only then when it is most needed.

A smile grants the traveler a rest, joy for a troubled soul. peace for the suffering heart, it improves the mood to those who are disgusted with the world. If you notice that a person does not smile at you, even though you believed you were worthy of it, be merciful and smile....

The world is a mirror in which we see our reflection. If you smile at it will smile back, if you scowl at it will turn its back to you.

A smile is the spirit of the mind, prayer and confidence. There are people who live with a smile on their lips. It is natural to please those around them.

A smile can be the start of faith, help a sinner return to God. Many people and unable of happiness, they are sick both in spirit and body, they require your smile. Share it.

-Šaltinis

Pakelkime balsus! Lift our voices!
KNIGHTS OF LITHUANIA 83RD NATIONAL CONVENTION
 Council 1 Brockton, Massachusetts August 7-11, 1996

Registration Information

Early Registration (by June 1).....	\$120.00
Late Registration (after June 1).....	\$125.00
Junior/Youth Registration (under 18)*	\$80.00
Pre-convention Trip to Plymouth.....	\$45.00
Post convention bus to Logan airport	\$7.00

Convention Registration includes:

Charter **bus** service to all convention events, **reception** after Opening Mass, Thursday evening Get-Together with **deluxe hors d'ouvres** and **show**, continental **breakfast** Friday and Saturday, **luncheon** on Friday, cultural night **concert** Friday evening, mid-afternoon **refreshment** break Friday and Saturday, closing **banquet** and **dancing** with orchestra, and full **breakfast** Sunday morning.

Convention Hotel:

Holiday Inn, 195 Westgate Drive, Brockton, MA 02401 (508) 588-6300 extension 401. Special Knights of Lithuania rate of only **\$70.00** per night, single or double. Suites available. Be sure to mention the convention when you make your reservation. The hotel will honor this special rate **ONLY** until **June 1**. You may make your reservation with credit card by calling the Brockton Holiday Inn directly or by mail. **Make your reservation by June 1 for the special rate!!**

Pre-Convention Activity

Wednesday, August 7: Pre-convention trip to historic **Plymouth, Ma.** Bus departs hotel at 10:00AM and returns at 4:00PM. Ticket price **includes:** charter bus, admission to **Plimouth Plantation**, the **Mayflower II**, and **lunch** at the famous McGrath's Restaurant. Walk the beautiful waterfront and see **Plymouth Rock**. Tickets are \$45.00 per person. **Register by June 1.**

Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State, Zip _____
 Council # and city _____

Delegate Yes No Guest Yes No Junior Yes No
 Please include **\$120.00** (\$125.00 after June 1) per delegate or guest, **\$80.00** for Juniors.

Pre-convention trip to Plymouth Plantation, Mayflower II, and lunch. Yes No
 Please include additional **\$45.00** per person for the pre-convention trip.

I have made my reservations (by **June 1, 1996**) with the Holiday Inn Brockton to receive special Knights of Lithuania Convention rate of **\$70.00** per room per night. Yes No

I would like to reserve a place on the bus for a **return trip** to Logan Airport. **\$7.00 each**
 My airline departure time on Sunday is _____

Please make all registration and pre-convention activity checks payable to: **K of L Council 1.**





WHY SHOULD I BE A K. of L. JUNIOR KNIGHT?

3rd VP Juniors, Elena Mikalauskas

What would your response be to someone of "Junior" age who asked you why should they join the Knights of Lithuania and be a "Junior Knight"? There are so many issues and questions that come into play when you begin to think of your response. How do sports, school, friends, family and church events compete for their time? What are they willing to give up so they can participate in Junior activities? Which activities should they choose and when?

In order to have contact with potential Juniors we need to encourage their parents to become involved. Show the parents that there are events that both they and their children can participate in. There are different levels of commitment in the Knights of Lithuania. Even though we would like them to become involved in the many activities of the Knights of Lithuania we will accept what they are willing to give.

What may be helpful when talking to these individuals of "Junior age" is to let them know that the activities they will participate in will be fun. The Junior Advisors will take into consideration what it is that the Juniors would like to do and when possible incorporate those ideas into the days events. The meetings will have some structure but the Juniors will be able to have input into the decisions being made. The Advisors will be there to offer support but the Juniors will have an opportunity to try new ideas.

The Knights of Lithuania Councils should continue to invite the Juniors to participate in

activities. To develop a relationship between the groups, members could sponsor a Junior activity bridging the gap between the ages. There is also the need at times to provide financial support for Junior fundraising activities. Be prepared to give a few dollars to help them raise money to participate in events that they choose.

By participating in the Juniors, members will have gained the responsibility of holding an office. They will have learned more about their ethnic culture when so many people today are unable to trace their family ties. They will develop friendships that will last throughout the years. And they will have stories to tell ...

It would be nice to hear from any juniors that would like to write and state why they became a Junior, what keeps them involved and what we could do to make the Juniors activities more attractive. Please send your responses to: Marytė Abbott VYTIS - The Knight - P.C. Box 1934, Grand Central Station, New York 10163-1934.



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Ethics in the New Lithuania

Part III - St. John's professor's views Along with St. John's Associate Dean of the College of Business Administration, Prof. John Dobbins, VYTIS spoke with Associate Professors Dick Williams, Charles Wankel, Jay Nathan and John Manna. All five professors had taught Business, Ethics and Law to Lithuanian students for at least one semester at Vilnius University beginning in 1992. And they all had something to say regarding the business ethics in post communist Lithuania.

"We started with respect for the human person and try to get our Lithuanian students to focus on that."

I had the opportunity to be the first non-Lithuanian to address the First Annual Conference on Economic Reform. in 1992. There were over 300 people in attendance including people from Landsbergis administration to government people from President Brazauskas present government and faculty from the universities. When each group would present their particular points, the other would openly laugh at and mock them, not really paying attention. When I got up to speak, I was a little apprehensive but tried to strike a tone on which they'd all agree. I knew that one of the things they would resent deeply was having some American professor come in and be so bold to assume that they have any handle on the problems of Lithuania and offer quick fix solutions. That was the major problem with a lot of the initial aid that went into Lithuania. Others assumed the Lithuanians were idiots and could try quick solutions. What they discovered was the Lithuanians were very bright but there were no fast solutions.

My speech struck the note that they should be very proud of the people they have. That no matter



Prof. Jay Nathan with students at Vilnius University.

what political ideology they had come from, they have some real talents and quality people. There are more doctorates in Lithuania per capita than in any other country.

Most Americans look at the communist era and say it was so terrible, dark, evil, wicked. Lithuanians saw many good values from that old communist system like working together, teamwork, the young pioneers. I see saving these values that the Lithuanians now miss, combining them with what the soviets didn't have like the creativity, freedom, empowerment, efficiency, to a customer driven focus of the West.

"The synthesis of both of the good extracted from the communist system and capitalist system will be the long term answer."

- Prof. John Dobbins

"Whistle blowing reminds Lithuanians of spying on each other during the old days"

In American business ethics, if one sees something going wrong its considered a very good thing to report the transgression to the management of the company. If its a safety issue, one would report to the authorities. What I've noticed is that not only in Lithuania, but in Russia, Bulgaria, and other former communist countries I've been to, there is so much of a holdover of what happened before

this is considered a no no. They worry about it, reacting very badly. Reminds them of the former KGB.

We don't react well to whistle blowers in this country, either. But in our American society, whistleblowing has become more of a moral standard.

People in Lithuania and their region are going through something like the 1920's in America. A transition is needed, government has to establish itself, define itself, where it wants to be. Only then can the people say these are the laws passed, we're going to enforce them. Surely, if there's a good moral fiber in the society itself, they will be able to stop the crime as well as here in America. Not perfect, but we passed Rico statutes to destroy the corruption.

- John Manna - law professor

"People are not hopeless, but have a dour, pessimistic attitude. They need time."

I was in Lithuania in Summer of 1994 not to teach but to work with the Catholic television center in Kaunas. They produce a one hour prime time television program twice a month. While I was over there, the July issue of Newsweek magazine featured a 12 page insert by the Lithuanian government presenting a positive marketing and public relations effort directed towards American companies. What struck me was the reaction of the people at the television center. These were all university educated, all spoke English and warm and receptive. They said the insert was government propaganda, rather hopeless and it's not really going to mean much because the government doesn't mean this.

One Lithuanian told me he was optimistic, things will get better, but not for his seven year old son. Maybe for his grandson, whom he may never see...

The people's basic needs have to be met - food, shelter, safety, having a job, etc. - before we can expect them to help others, or be ethical in business conduct. We have to show them the benefits of business every step of the way. There is a great deal

of skepticism. But we must show them how to help themselves.

- Prof. Dick Williams

"Lithuanians were so, in a way, American in their approach. They simply don't believe anything until you show them."

Unlike the other Eastern Europeans, the Lithuanians challenge everything. There's something about their minds. They don't accept anything, at least from what I've noticed.

I'm very optimistic about what's going to happen concerning the ethical standards of Lithuanian firms. I was talking to one Lithuanian businessman who was also working at the University of Vilnius computer department. He had started his own computer business and was leaving the university to run it. Initially, he had ten companies supplying him in Lithuania and found seven of them had undesirable practices. They did not keep their word, maintain contracts, deliver on time, maintain decent quality, switched samples, etc. So then he just did business with the other three. He felt that being ethical was the way to do business. Patronizing the good companies by word of mouth, badmouthing those in business for the short term will cause them to go out of business. Cheaters will not survive.

- Dr. Charles Wankel

"We can make it happen with a plan, time and patience."

The American economy is so dynamic and many countries use this as a leverage point. There are well talented Lithuanian students. Some of them are entrepreneurial. We made a connection and attempted to help them stay on course showing success by example. Many are involved in contract manufacturing and work with sizable Lithuanian populations in New York and Chicago. We can make it happen with a plan, time and patience. We have faxes and email.

- Dr. Jay Nathan



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Smiles

Some Extra Humor for April Fools

Compiled by Dalia Bulvičius



Life in Scotland

A Scotsman and his wife are eating in a restaurant. They order a roll, cut it in half. The wife started eating her portion, but the husband did not touch his.

- Is anything wrong? - asks the waiter.
 - No nothing. We are sharing one set of false teeth. When she finishes I will eat.

- *Do you have a picture of your twins?*
 - Yes, here.
 - *But this is only one?*
 - Its enough. They both look the alike.

- *Where is your wedding ring?*
 - It is my wife's turn to wear it.

- *I heard that you decided not to divorce your wife.*
 - I can't find another solution, she got so fat that she is unable to return her wedding ring.

- *What kind of dog is that?*
 - A police dog.
 - *But he does not look at all like a police dog?*
 - Of course not. He works undercover.

Judge to defendant:

- *This the third time you are in court. What does it mean?*
 - That I need more practice replied the man.

Mary was bragging to her friend:

- *Last year I posed for a picture. It was called Cleopatra and the asp.*

- And who posed for Cleopatra? - asked her friend.

If you are going around in circles, maybe it is because you are cutting too many corners.

- I have a terrific dog. Each day he gets me the paper.
 - That's nothing. Many dogs do that.
 - Not when one does not have a subscription.

Wife ordering tomb stone for husband.

- Make it a plain monument and put his name in the right place.
 A few weeks later the monument is ready. The inscription reads.
 "Harry Smith in the right place."

A Little Beethoven humor...

For our ninth wedding anniversary I sent my wife flowers and dictated to the florist what I wished to be on the accompanying card: Our Ninth is better than Beethoven's - referring to the great Ninth Symphony.

That evening, my wife greeted me with a big welcome-home kiss and coyly asked if I was not ashamed of the immodest sentiment on the card. What will the florist think? Puzzled, I checked the card. It read: Our nights are better than Beethovens.

Two Lithuanian women are walking on the street in Juno Beach, FL.

- As one begins to cross the street, she does not see a car coming.
 - *Neikit, neikit /do not walk/* - yells her friend.
 A nearby man gets all excited:
 - Hey lady, who is naked?

A smile is something you do in the morning and get it over with. - W. C. Fields



IN MY DREAMS

English version by
C. H. B.

Folk Dance

Allegretto

Lis-ten, I've a dream to tell you, To a maid I'm plight-ed.

Yes-ter-day this maid I saw,— Long I stared af-fright-ed.

Yes-ter-day this maid I saw,— Long I stared af-fright-ed.

Was this maid a mist or shadow
In the garden walking?
There she wove a wreath of rue,
Soft, I heard her talking.

Tell me little glossy leaflet
Now so neatly braided
How, O how, may I wear you
When your green has faded?

Now bloom in Mother's garden,
Rose by bees attended;
When a lover comes to pluck me,
Rose life will be ended.

Noriu miego

Noriu miego, saldaus miego,
Neturiu kur gulti.
Jaučiu kieme mergužėlę, neturiu ką siūsti!) 2

Siunčiau, siunčiau pasiuntinį,
Ką mergužė veikia?
Žalių rūtų darželėlyj vainikėlį pina.) 2

Ir pindama, dabindama,
Su vainiku kalba:
Vainikėlį žalių rūtų kur aš tave dėsiu?) 2

Kaip buvau aš pas močiutę,
Kaip rožė žydė jau,
Pas tave mans bernužėli, kaip ruta pavytau!) 2

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LITHUANIAN INDEPENDENCE DAY

2/16/1996

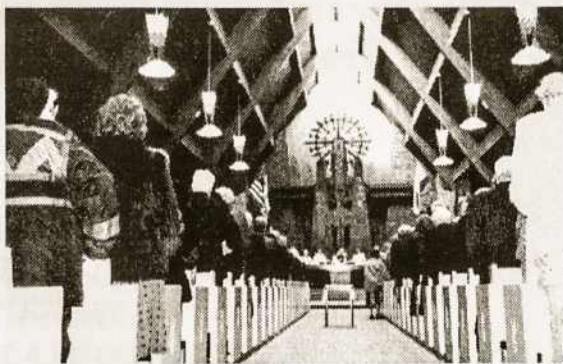
New York Style



Photos: (Left) Friday evening, 2/16, saw the Proclamation hosted at the United Nations celebration (from left to right) H. E. Dr. Oskas Jusys and his wife, Roma; your editor and Consul General Dr. Petras Anusas. (bottom Left) Special advisor and ambassador, Anicetas Simutis (sitting at left) poses with New York area Lithuanians. (Bottom) More than 250 area council members and friends of Lithuania attended Maspeth's Transfiguration service on Sunday Feb. 18th. Choirs of C-110 Maspeth and C-41 Brooklyn combined voices for this Lithuanian Independence event.



A special prompting in the Jan. issue of the Lithuanian Affairs Newsletter, editor Vince Boris offered the suggestion for members to obtain proclamations for Lithuanian Independence Day on Feb. 16. New York area councils and your editor procured one from New York Mayor, Rudolph Guiliani.



The Proclamation weathered a snowstorm to be highlighted at a United Nations reception, a special Mass at the Church of the Transfiguration in Maspeth and finally given to the Consul General, Mr. Petras Anusas. He accepted the Proclamation for the Consulate and it will be displayed there for all visitors to see.



(Above) C-110 Secretary Helen Matulonis reads the Proclamation following the service. Sr. John Kelly (center of photo) of St. John's University meets Lithuanians. (Bottom) Romas Kezys (organizer of the event) with Mayor of Vilnius, Alis Vidunas.



(Bottom Right) Your editor presents the Proclamation to Mr. Petras Anusas at the consulate.



Kalbėkime Lietuviškai



Apie lietuviškas pavardes

Lithuanian family names

by Dr. Virginia Vaitekoniš Obando

All Lithuanian family names exist in three variant forms: one for a male, one for a married woman, one for an unmarried woman. masculine surnames usually have masculine endings: -as, -us, -is, -ys For e.g. PETRAUSKAS, BARTKUS, BIELINIS, DAGYS.

Family names for a married woman are formed by dropping the masculine ending and adding the suffix -IENĖ. Thus, the suffix -IENĖ conveys the same idea as the English contraction Mrs. does.

Petrauskas -	PETRAUSKIENĖ
Bartkus -	BARTKIENĖ
Bielinis -	BIELINIENĖ
Dagys -	DAGIENĖ

Family names for an unmarried woman are formed by dropping the masculine ending and adding the suffixes: -AITĖ, -UTĖ, YTĖ.

Petrauskas -	PETRAUSKAITĖ
Tupikas -	TUPIKAITĖ
Bartkus -	BARTKUTĖ
Venckus -	VENCKUTĖ
Bielinis -	BIELINYTĖ
Sabonis -	SABONYTĖ
Dagys -	DAGIENĖ
Gaidys -	GAIDYTĖ

There is a small group of family names that end in -A. These follow the pattern of the names ending in -AS.

Tyla -	TYLIENĖ -	TYLAITĖ
Šalna -	ŠALNIENĖ -	ŠALNAITĖ

In formal style the word PONAS (Mr.) is used before a man's name, PONIA (Mrs.) before a married woman's name, PANELĖ before an unmarried woman's name (in informal style these words are very often omitted).

ponas JONAITIS - ponia JONAITIENĖ - panelė JONAITYTĖ

When addressing a person directly we use the VOCATIVE, which is one of the seven grammatical cases in Lithuanian. Unlike other cases in Lithuanian it is not governed by prepositions, it has no verbs to go with it. In that sense, it could be viewed as a separate syntactic phrase or utterance that can occur at the beginning, in the middle, or at the end of the sentence. Here are some examples:

Labą diena, pone Jokubauskai. (*Nominative - ponas Jokubauskas*)

Kaip gyvenate, pone Miškini? (*Nominative - ponas Miškinis*)

How are you, Mr. Miškinis?

Pone Andriuli, ar galiu užteiti? (*Nominative - ponas Andriulis*)

Mr. Andriulis, may I come in?

Labai malonu, panele Skripkute, jus vėl matyti. (*Nominative panelė Skripkutė*)

I am glad to see you again, Miss Skripkutė.

Let's Speak Lithuanian !



DO YOU SPEAK LITHUANIAN?

Pone Viluti, ar jūs mokate lietuviškai/ angliškai?

Mr. Vilutis, do you speak Lithuanian/ English?

Aš visiškai nemoku lietuviškai/angliškai.

I don't speak Lithuanian/English at all.

Panele Stripeikaite, aš nesuprantu lietuviškai. Gal galite pakartoti angliškai/ Gal galite išversti į anglų kalbą?

Miss Stripeikaite, I don't understand Lithuanian. Can you say it in English/ Can you translate it into English?

Pone Petrauskai, atsiprašau, jus labai greitai kalbate. Aš negaliu suprasti. Prašom kalbėti lėčiau.

Mr. Petrauskas, I am sorry, you speak very fast. I can't understand. Could you speak slower.

TRY THESE TONGUE TWISTERS:

GERI VYRAI GERĄ ALŲ GERĖ, GERDAMI GYRĖ: GERĄ ALŲ GERA GERTI.

Good men were drinking good beer, while drinking it they were saying - It's great to drink good beer.

ŠEŠIOS ŽĄSYS SU ŠEŠIAIS ŽĄSIUKAIS.

Six geese with six goslings.

REMEMBERING ANNA LISOWSKI

by Ed Baranauskas

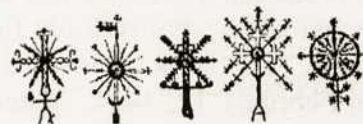
I was saddened to read of the passing of Anna Lisowski, C-74 of Scranton, in the November issue of the VYTIS. We corresponded for many years because we regarded each other as relatives, although we actually were not.

I first met Ann, very unexpectedly, years ago at a K. of L. Mid-Atlantic District-meeting in Amsterdam, New York hosted by Council 100. At that time the Syracuse and some of the Pennsylvania councils were a part of that district. I was mingling with some of the delegates when Ann walked up to me. She noticed my name tag pinned on my jacket lapel, and said: "So you're a Baranauskas'. Well, I am one, too!" Before I could say anything, she explained that it was her maiden name, and that she was Anna Lisowski from Scranton. We kissed each other on the cheek, and then Ann went on to say that it was also her mother's maiden name. I was quite

surprised when I heard that.

Ann went on to explain that her parents were married in Lithuania before coming to the United States. When they went to the parish priest to announce their intentions to marry, the priest claimed he could not do so because they were related. The future bride and groom protested that they were not, as he was from one Baranauskas family and she was from another and were not related. The pastor went around the villages and asked a lot of questions, and when he was convinced of the facts, he married them.

I had the pleasure of seeing Ann again at two more Mid-Atlantic District meetings. After the councils were aligned into other districts, I didn't have the opportunity to see Ann again.



THE FOUR WIVES OF JOGAILA

by *Edward Baranauskas*

Part IV - Conclusion

The death of Jogaila's third wife, Elizabeth, in 1419 resulted in another confrontation between himself and the Polish nobility. They decided, several years before, that Jadvyga, his daughter from his second marriage, would be his successor and were looking for an acceptable husband for her. They were unyielding in their position, but Jogaila had other plans.

His decision upset the Polish lords, and changed the course of history. His cousin Vytautas proposed that he marry Princess Sonka, the daughter of Kiev's Prince Andrius (Andrew). Her paternal grandmother and Vytautas' wife were sisters. She was known in Lithuania as Sonka, and was of the Orthodox faith because it was the tradition that Lithuanian princes who ruled Slavic lands take the people's beliefs. When she converted to Catholicism, she took the name of Sophie.

The nobility was adamant in their opposition because they feared that Lithuania's influence in Cracow would strengthen very much. Jogaila was not discouraged. He and Sophie went to Naugardukas, a town in Lithuania but today a part of Belarus, and were married there on February 7, 1422 in great splendor. Jogaila was already 70, and Sophie about 17. It was a marriage marked by disparity in age.

The coronation ceremony was delayed for two years before the Polish lords finally gave their consent. Sophie was crowned Queen of Poland on February 12, 1424. Later that year she gave birth to their first child, a son, named

Ladislav, his father's baptismal name. A few years later a second son was born, named Casimir, but he died as an infant. On November 30, 1427 their third son was born, and was also named Casimir, the same as his deceased brother. He was of perfect health, and bore a striking resemblance to his father, who was then 75.

The family success astounded many, and people began to gossip that Sophie was not faithful to her husband. To end these rumors, she swore before the Bishop of Cracow that she was innocent, and that these accusations were false. Sophie was vindicated. It was believed that these charges were made against her on political grounds in order to deny the legitimacy of Jogaila's sons, thus nullifying his hopes for a dynasty.

The birth of a prince was a blessing for Jogaila, for the nobility agreed to recognize Prince Ladislav as heir to the throne. When Jogaila died in 1434, his son, still a minor, became King Ladislav III at the age of 10.

Jogaila ruled Poland for 48 years and was the longest reigning monarch in its history. Polish historians regard his tenure on the throne as the start of the Jagellonian dynasty, the "Golden Age" or the "Golden Centuries" of Polish history. Lithuanian historians regard that period as the continuation of the Gediminian dynasty. It ended in 1572 when the male line died out. Ann, the last Jagellonian princess, died childless.

Postscript to history:

Casimir, Jogaila's other son, at the age of 13 was elected by the magnates of Lithuania in 1440 as the sovereign Grand Duke of Lithuania. The traditional coronation ceremonies took place at the Cathedral of Vilnius.

When his brother, King Vladislas III died in battle against the Turks in 1444, the Poles then offered the Polish throne to the Lithuanian Grand Duke. He was next in line of succession. After three years of squabbling between the Poles and Lithuanians, Casimir's coronation as King of Poland took place in Cracow in June 1447. He became King Casimir IV.

King Casimir IV married Elizabeth of Austria in 1454. They had thirteen children, of whom two died as infants. Six were sons. Their third child, and second son, was named Casimir, and it was he who eventually became Saint Casimir, the Patron Saint of Lithuania.

Jadvyga, Jogaila's daughter from his second marriage, died in 1431 at the age of 23 and never married. She was considered by the Polish nobility as the heiress to the throne at one time. But, Jogaila's fourth marriage and the birth of two sons changed everything.

Queen Sophie, his wife, died in Cracow at the age of 56 and was regarded by historians as one of the outstanding female sovereigns of her era. Two Lithuanians, Jogaila and Sophie, changed the course of history of both Poland and Lithuania.



Information on "The Four Wives of Jogaila" was obtained from the following sources:

Jogaila- by A. Šapoka, published in Kaunas in 1935

Jagiellonian Poland- by Pawel Jusienica

Jadwiga of Anjou and the Rise of East Central Europe- by Oscar Halecki

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In Memoriam



Alice Sipek
C-100, Amsterdam, NY
June 2, 1995

Helen Yocis
C-110, Maspeth, NY
Feb. 8, 1996

Msgr. Joseph Neverauskas
C-144, Anthracite, PA
Jan. 13, 1996

Edward Romanauskas
C-74, Scranton, PA
Jan. 21, 1996

Joseph Steponavic
C-7, Waterbury, CT
Dec. 5, 1995

Casimir Vallon
C-26, Worcester, MA
Dec. 1995

**Amžina atilsj duok
miruseims Viešpatie**

The Lithuanians of The Chenango Valley

by *HM Frank Petrauskas*



Swipas, Migonis, Balush,
Minakus, Petrauskas,
Lesatavicius, Klickus,
Mardusa, Laukaitis, Lamaitis,
Petreikis, Simanas, Bigalus,
Petrkavicius, and Simonaitis.

Most Lithuanian immigrants upon arriving in the United States, would look to locate themselves and their families in cities and towns which had industries so they could find themselves jobs. The mid to later 1800's it was along the East coast and in the Pennsylvania coal country. By the early 1900's migration was headed to the midwest to cities such as Pittsburgh, Youngstown, Cleveland, Dayton, Detroit, Grand Rapids, Gary, Kenosha, Kansas City and of course, Chicago where the larger number of immigrants settled.

I have a phenomena to share with you. It's about a number of Lithuanian families that settled in the Chenango valley area of south, central New York State. Get out your map of New York State and locate Syracuse in the center of the state, look southeast of Syracuse about 45 miles and you will see the village of Sherburne which is on Route 12. This is the area where they settled.

This information was collected from two C-140 members, Victor Johnson, whose parents were the second family in the colony and Joseph Marcaitis whose father was a carpenter and built barns for the colony.

The parents of Victor Johnson were John and Beatrice Yancauskas came to the United States in 1907 and located in Pittston, PA. John got a job in the coal mine but mining was not to his liking. In 1908 John's friend, John Getchonis, bought farmland in the Sherburne area. John Yancauskas checked it out and decided to buy farm land, too. The land was inexpensive because it was marginal land and the area was very sparsely settled. Word soon got out. Other Lithuanian immigrants began arriving and buying land and by 1915 about 50 families had located in the area to take up farming. There were two areas where they settled, the first was Columbus Hill and the other was Moscow Hill. Some of the early families were Getchonis, Yancauskas, Shalna, Romanas, Kazlauskas,

Farming was difficult at the beginning. There were a number of obstacles to overcome. People were poor and uneducated. They had very little equipment, few horses for farming and no resources to purchase more. But, they had their health and strength and a strong determination to succeed because, for the most part, they were young families and could accept a little adversity.

Families would share and assist each other. They would help each other in plowing their fields, cutting and harvesting their hay crop, threshing their oats and wheat and any other work where assistance was needed. Working together, families developed a strong bonding which lasted for many years. They all lived within a five mile area so it was easy to walk to each others farms.

People would get together socially a few times during the Summer. They even had an informal organization, meeting early Sunday afternoon. After the meeting the men would bring out a keg of beer and the women would bring out the food and they would eat and drink and socialize for the rest of the afternoon. The chairman was Mike Minakus as he was the only one who had any formal education. The community also got together for weddings and funerals and other special events.

When families first arrived in Sherburne they would go to St. George's Lithuanian Church in Utica, to make their Easter duty. Some attended more than once a year. The distance was about 35 miles and transportation was difficult in those days. Victor Johnson was baptized and made his first communion in St. George's Church. Around 1920 the pastor of St. Malachy's Church in Sherburne told some of the Lithuanian families that they didn't have to go to St. George's for confession, they could confess in Lithuanian to him. He said, "I can pretty much tell the seriousness of your sins, even though the language is different, and I will give you penance accordingly". This made it easier for the people and some went to church more often.

Victor's older brother (by one year) John both went to a one room schoolhouse for grade school. They had a lady teacher and she often played games with the kids. One afternoon during recess they played ball. After recess she told the children to go back to their studies. Teacher also had a flower garden growing in front of the school and as the kids filed into school, she bent over to pull out some weeds. John was carrying a bat and as he approached her the temptation was too great. He swung and hit her square on her rear end. She jumped up and gave out a loud yell, her face was as red as a beet. Yes, you guessed it, John was on her hit list for the rest of the school year.

In the 1920's a few of the families saved enough money to purchase larger farms. Usually it was in the same area. But some went further out. Migonis moved near Hamilton and Swipas near Brookfield. In 1929 Yancauskas or Johnson, to which the name was changed, bought a larger farm near Cazenovia. They sold their old farm to Adam Rolanitis. During World War II, Victor and his brothers started up a saw mill on the farm and they cut big oak timbers for the Navy ship builders. Today the saw mill is a very modern operation and it is run by Victor's son Paul, a former All American football player at Penn State University Paul ships lumber all over the world.

During the 1930's there was more selling of farms as the children were becoming young adults and many didn't want a life of farming. They moved to cities and towns to work in the factories and shops. Despite the slight exodus of young people, the remaining families often got together socially. With better transportation it was easier to travel greater distances.

World War II brought major changes in the colony. Many young men went off to fight for their country. Others, both men and women, went to the factories to help the war effort. The only ones left on the farms were the parents and possibly a few younger children who had to keep the operation going as best they could.

One young lady who went off to Washington, D.C. to work was Eva Migonis. In the 1970's Eva

started Council 142 and was its first president. Eva was a very hard worker which she undoubtedly learned from working on the farm. Eva's sister, Marge was a member of C-140 Syracuse for a number of years.

The 50's, 60's and 70's saw the passing of the parents. Their passing brought an end to the informal get togethers of the Lithuanian farmers. The children and grandchildren who continued to farm were not interested in maintaining any kind of Lithuanian identity. Most married non Lithuanians and they ceased to use the language and practice the traditions.



A few families maintained a strong Lithuanian identity. One was the Johnson family. In the late 1950's my company landscaped Victor's new house in Cazenovia. He took me to the farm to meet his parents who were still living there. They were so happy to meet a Lithuanian from outside of the colony. They brought out the food and drink and we spent a very enjoyable afternoon

together. Victor and his brothers inherited a strong spirit of Lithuanianism from their parents. Even though they married non Lithuanians they participate in all of our Lithuanian activities. They have been members of C-140 since our inception in 1974. John was co-chairman and Victor was treasurer for our Syracuse national convention in 1978.

I researched this article in late November 1995. Victor and I drove throughout the countryside and he would point out the different farms and other points of interest. It was easy to visualize the colony when it was at the height of activity. As we passed through Sherburne we visited St. Malachy's Church and then we visited the cemetery. It was almost like visiting a Lithuanian parish cemetery. With names like Yurkonis, Matalaitis, Juozaitis, Kupris, Minakus, Ringcavich, Danisavicius, Petroski, Alishauskas and Kazlauskas. These are just the names we could see from the roadway. With over a foot of snow on the ground, we couldn't cover the entire cemetery. I'm sure there are more Lithuanians who are in their final rest from the labors of this Lithuanian farm colony.

AID TO LITHUANIA

Donations for the period 7/1/1995 to 12/31/95

Knights of Lithuania - Supreme Council \$ 1,750.00
Knights of Lithuania - Council # 102 Detroit, MI \$ 1,242.99
Wayne Fontes - Detroit Lions, Pontiac MI \$ 1,000.00
Anonymous, IL \$ 1,000.00
Knights of Lithuania - Council # 110 Maspeth, NY \$ 1,000.00
Dr. Al Juocys, Rochester, MI \$ 1,000.00
Schuyler Savings Bank - Kearny, NJ \$ 1,000.00

\$500.00 to \$1,000.00

Anna M. Billa • Point Pleasant, PA
Margaret A. Senk - IMO Lenny Davidonis • Athol, MA

\$250.00 to \$499.00

Anonymous, NY • Anna M. Billa, IMO Family, Point Pleasant, PA • Mr & Mrs Leo F. Garity, Lexington, MI • Aldona J. Kirstuk, St. Petersburg Beach, FL • Mr & Mrs Vincent Mackelis, Linden, NJ • Victor Stepalovitch, Philadelphia, PA • Mr & Mrs Matt Vilutis, Frankfort, IL

\$100.00 to \$249.00

Mrs Birute Bacevicius, Warren, MI • Mr Richard P Baks, Grosse Pointe, MI • Mr & Mrs Charles Brazinski, Linden, NJ • Mr & Mrs Al Brazis, Palos Heights, IL • Mrs Julia T. Burlen, Bowie, MD • Mr & Mrs Stanley Diskavich, Torrington, CT • Ms Mary Duggan, Worcester, MA • Tom Farrington, Brighton, MI • Hedwig Gedeika, IMO Beloved Husband, Ridley Park, PA • K of L Amber District, Frackville, PA • K of L Amber District - Sweatshirt Sale, Milmay, NJ • K of L Convention 50/50 Raffle, Detroit, MI • K of L Council # 110, Maspeth, NY • K of L Council # 143, In behalf of Marcella Bartoli, Old Forge, PA • Mr & Mrs. J White, So. Boston, MA • K of L Council # 3 Philadelphia, PA • K of L Council # 3 Philadelphia, PA • K of L Mid America District, Chicago, IL • K of L Mid Atlantic District, Schenectady, NY • K of L Mid Central District, DuBois, PA • Ann Kapochus IMO Frank A Kapochus, Brookhaven, PA • Karen V. Kapochus, IMO Marilyn Kapochus, Milmay, NJ • Mr Len Kapochus IMO Marilyn Kapochus, Milmay, NJ • Ms Eleanor C. Kasputis, Chicago, IL • Mr & Mrs I Kaunelis, Westland, MI • Joseph L. Machonis, IMO Constance Machonis, Essington, PA • Juliann Kapochus Majeski, IMO Frank A Kapochus, Aston, PA • Ausra Maknys, Philadelphia, PA • Mrs S Marcinauskis, IMO Mitchell Marcinauskis, Shelton CT • J. Mihalick, IMO Dorothy & John Kapochus-Petrauskas, Larksville, PA • Mr & Mrs Jurgis Mikaila, Seminole, FL • Daina & Mark Miller, IMO Marilyn Kapochus, Milmay, NJ • The Misses Diane & Rita Neverouck, Applegate, MI • Petras Pagojus, Detroit, MI • Ray & Nellie Pandza, IMO Family, Holmes, PA • Mrs Barbara Pantos, W. Boylston, MA • Ms Phyllis Pelletier, Chicago, IL • Mrs. Helen Piscopo, Harrison, NY • Mr & Mrs Vincent Prusinskas, San Diego, CA • Mr & Mrs C Sadeika, Farmington Hills, MI • Sharon Shoemaker, IMO Fred & Thom Shoemaker, Dorothy, NJ • Mrs. Joseph Sims, Blairstown, NJ • Ms Elinor Sluzas, Dayton, OH • Victor Stepalovitch, Philadelphia, PA • Ann M. Vilkas, Warwick, RI • John E. Waylonis, Fairfax Station, VA • Mr & Mrs J Zukas, Port Washington, NY •

\$50.00 to \$99.00

Bernice Aviza, Albany, NY • Rev. Alfonsas Babonas, Detroit, MI • Alphonse Balsis, IMO Family Cape May, NJ • Jonas Bartkus, IMO Stasys Bartkus, Dearborn Heights, MI • Mr & Mrs V Biliunas Palm Beach Gardens, FL • Ms. Jennie Blanchet, Esmond, RI • Mr & Mrs Frank Bunikis, Royal Oak, MI • Mrs. Julia Trocki Burlen, Bowie, MD • Ms Marge Carns, IMO Margaret Rasavage & Family, Du Bois, PA • Mr & Mrs Albert Cizauskas, Falls Church, VA • Bill & Margaret Dapkus, Farmington Hills, MI • Mr & Mrs F Degutis, Worcester, MA • Dr B Girnius, IHO Mr & Mrs I Kaunelis, Allen Park, MI • Liudas Grunavas, Detroit, MI • Mr & Mrs Ignatius Hobitz, Metheun, MA

● Robert & Lorraine Holdsworth, IMO J & H Lazarich, Downingtown, PA ● Anne Marie Jaskel, Philadelphia, PA ● K of L Council # 16, Chicago, IL ● K of L Council # 25 Cleveland, OH ● K of L Mid Central District, Allen Park, MI ● K of L Mid-America District, Evergreen Prk, IL ● Helen Karpovich, IMO A. Kaprovich & Karpovich Fam, Wilkes-Barre, PA ● Rita Karrytais, Worcester, MA ● Michael Kohut, Jr, Sugarloaf, PA ● Mr & Mrs V Kutkus, IHO Mr & Mrs I Kaunelis, Dearborn Heights, MI ● Mr. V. Leparskas, Detroit, MI ● Mr. Rom Leparskas, Warren, MI ● Philip & Dorothy Machonis, IMO Family, Glen Mills, PA ● Walter A. Mameniskis, IMO Family, Glenside, PA ● Robert Marus, D.D.S. Yardley, PA ● Paul & Dorothy Monkaitis, Media PA ● Ted Navickas, Coeur D Alene, ID ● Josephine O'Peka, IMO B. Stanis & M. Kapochus, Forest City, PA ● Anelia Onderko, IMO Nellie Luke, Pittston, PA ● Mr & Mrs John Pieffer, IMO Mary Ann Blum, Springfield, OH ● Mr & Mrs. Al Raubiskis, Chicago, IL ● Kazys & Roza Razauskas, Dearborn Heights, MI ● Joseph & Evelyn Ribon, Milford, CT ● Estelle J. Rogers, Oak Lawn, IL ● Andrew G. Rozger, Pittsburgh, PA ● Annamarie Sewatsky, Pittston, PA ● Mr E Skiotys, Livonia, MI ● St. Butkaus Sauliu K-pa, Dearborn Heights, MI ● St. Peter & Paul's Holy Name, Hazelton, PA ● Mr & Mrs John Stricki, Norwood, MA ● Aleksandra Webor, IHO Mr & Mrs. I Kaunelis, Pontiac, MI ● Anonymous, Munhall, PA ● Mrs. Julia Zakarka, Evergreen Park, IL ●

\$25.00 to \$49.00

Peggy & Allen Warren, IMO Marilyn Kapochus, Cape May, NJ ● Mr & Mrs Ignas Anuzis, Troy, MI ● Mirga & Ed Bablin, Amsterdam, NY ● Alice Bacon, IMO William Bacon, Holmes, PA ● Ms Laima Baltrenas, Glendale, CA ● Peter J. Banion, Rochester, MI ● Dorothy A Banos, Pittston, PA ● Stefanija Barmus, Chicago, IL ● Louis J. Bogart, Bloomfield Hills, MI ● Mr Tom Bruzga, DuBois, PA ● Mr & Mrs Peter Cekaitis, Wayne, PA ● K. Cernis, W. Bloomfield, MI ● Helen Chesko, Mahanoy City, PA ● Mrs. Elena Cizauskas, IHO Mr & Mrs I Kaunelis, Detroit, MI ● Linas Erlingas, Dearborn Heights, MI ● Joseph J. Gudonis, Philadelphia, PA ● Mr & Mrs T Guest, Dayton, OH ● Flavius Jankauskas, IMO Vincenta Jankauskas, Hatboro, PA ● John & Dolores Jonaitis, Gulfport, FL ● Mrs Stefanija Juska, IHO Mr & Mrs I Kaunelis, Detroit, MI ● Miss Regina Juska, IHO Mr & Mrs I Kaunelis, Detroit, MI ● Karl A. Kapochus, IMO Marilyn Kapochus, Wilkes-Barre, PA ● Tomas Mark Kapochus, IMO Marilyn Kapochus, Mountaintop, PA ● Aldonna Keaney, No. Quincy, MA ● Vete Kelmelis, Torrington, CT ● Aniele Kendrick, IMO Grandparents, Holmes, PA ● Mary F. Kincius, Chicago, IL ● Elsie Kosmisky, Frackville, PA ● Mr & Mrs A Leparskas, Warren, MI ● Lithuanian Social Club - Dayton, OH ● Theodore Long, Willmette, IL ● Lee Marcinka, Monroe, CT ● Ruth Margis, IMO Charles, Media, PA ● Mr & Mrs. Richard Marks, South Euclid, OH ● Mr & Mrs Walter Markunas, Saratoga Springs, NY ● Anonymous, Trumbull CT ● Mrs Morkus K. Mitrius, Bloomfield Hills, MI ● Mr & Mrs P Monkaitis, IMO Monkaitis & Morris Fam, Media, PA ● Mary Moran, IMO Millie Oblick, Plymouth PA ● Mr & Mrs Charles Mykolaitis, Redford, MI ● Ann & Al Navitt, IMO Nvitt & Zinis Family, Yukon, OK ● Mr & Mrs Anthony Oberaitis, Bay Village, OH ● Frances Petkus, IMO Mitchell Marcinauskas, Dayton, OH ● Frances Petkus, Dayton, OH ● Frank & Irene Petrauskas, Syracuse, NY ● Anthony P. Polmon, Southbury, CT ● Paul Rismiller, IMO Marily Kapochus, Nanticoke, PA ● Mary Beth Slakis, Orland Park, IL ● Bertha Stoskus, Providence, RI ● Ted Straub, Kingston, PA ● Charles & Donna Sulmar, Springdale, PA ● Ms Anna D. Supernavage, IMO Wm. Labadis, Minersville, PA ● Ms Ruth Tyson, Ansonia, CT ● Mr & Mrs N. Udrys, Birmingham, MI ● E. D. Valeska, Cincinnati, OH ● Mr & Mrs. A. Zenka, Bellerose Manor, NY ●

less than \$25.00

Mr & Mrs. Aloyzas Aidis, Bethesda, MD, ● Anonymous, Milmay, NJ ● Anonymous, Milmay, NJ ● Mr. Jonas Bartkus, IHO Mr & Mrs I Kaunelis, Dearborn Heights, MI, ● Anna M. Bazis IMO Family, Philadelphia, PA, ● Agatha Bender, Pittsburgh, PA, ● A. M. Boreisis, Phoenix AZ, ● Robert S. Boris, IMO Pranas Cizauskas, Waterford, MI, ● Eugenija Bulotiene, IMO Stasys Bartkus, Detroit, MI ● Mr & Mrs Joseph T. Carroll, Richmond Hills, NY ● Malvina Casper, IHO Mr & Mrs I Kaunelis, Pontiac, MI ● Joe & Diane Drumstas, IMO Marilyn Kapochus, Philadelphia, PA, ● Agnes L. Gackenbach, Emmaus, PA ● Stasys Garliauskas, Manchester, MI ● Gene Gobis, Amsterdam,

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COUNCIL NEWS

On the Calendar...

For further info. contact:

District Conventions

June 9, MAD Convention
Hosts C-29, Newark, NJ

May 17 - 19, Mid Central District Meeting
and Bowling Tourn. - C-25, Cleveland, OH

April 28, NED Spring Conv. & Holy Hour
Hosts C-135, Ansonia, CT

Sept. 27 to 29, MCD Fall Conv./Pilgrimage
Hosts C-96 Dayton, OH

Rita Sussko
(908) 686-4226

Richard Marks
(216) 381-7287

Bertha Stoskus
(401) 331-2605

Elena Mikalauskas
(513) 275-8235

Council Events

Apr. 16, 7:30 pm. C-112 hosts guest speaker, Mother General
Marilyn Kuzmickas of the Srs. of St. Casimir

A. Griedraitis
(312) 737-2421

April 28, Spring Dinner Dance, C-110, Maspeth, NY

Bruno Rutkunas
(516) 628-2292

May 25, 40th Pittsburgh Folk Festival (Lith. Day)

David Lawrence Convention Ctr.

John Baltrus
(412) 881-1716

1996 National Convention

August 8-11

Host: C-1, Brockton, MA

Veronica Bizinkauskas
(508) 586-0650

(Note: If your council/district has a scheduled function that's not listed, please inform the VYTIS Editor, so we may include it here. Ačiū.)



C - 7 - Waterbury, CT

Arlene Stiklius

Council 7 is happy to report that our president Joseph Stiklius was honored by the Lithuanian Community February 16, 1996 as "Mayor of the Day", in commemorating Lithuanian Independence Day. The festivities started at 9 A.M. Friday, February 16th. in front of the City Hall with raising of the Lithuanian flag. Ceremonies continued in the Aldermatic Chambers with guest speakers, while we enjoyed pastries and coffee. Ačiū labai to the Lithuanian Community for this honor.

On the evening of February 16, 1996 at our monthly meeting we had a guest speaker, Helen Sellei who spoke about the Lithuanian orphanage Fund. Continuing the work of the late Victor Viatkus was starting this fund in our area at the time of his death.

We wish Natlija Velicka and Ann Roach a speedy recovery from their recent illnesses.

C-10-Athol - Gardner, MA

Vincukas

In January, K. of L. members, sisters Betty Penney and Ann Morse of Gardner with a group of nurses, traveled to Lithuania. Their goal was to provide assistance in regard to a variety of health care initiatives. They visited



(L to R) C-10's President Bill Wišniauskas, Rev. John Petrauskas, MIC and Rev. Albin Yankauskas at the council Kučios.

a variety of health care initiatives. They visited hospitals and nursing homes to share their medical knowledge and attended health care symposiums. Needed supplies donated by the Fallon Health care HMO were distributed in the areas of obstetrics, intensive care, orthopedics, physical therapy, labor and delivery nurses and clinical education materials. At our February meeting Betty shared her experiences with our council. Her parents came from Vabalninkas parish. One day Betty and Ann traveled to visit relatives.

Condolences are extended to Anna Wilson on the recent death of her sister Stephanie Loks of Idaho. Anna recently recuperated from pneumonia.

The Athol and Gardner dailies have been printing old ethnic photos from early Lithuanian colony life.

The Athol Daily News printed the commemoration proclamation by President Bill Clinton about February 16 and

the symbolism of this day to the Lithuanian American community. A further article mentioned the Lithuanian flag, donated by member Sophie Fiorentino, which flew at the church the week of February 16th.

Our council celebrated its 82th birthday on May 29. It is safe to say that our council has the oldest members in terms of uninterrupted years as members. Tina Andraliunas Shatos joined at age 10 and marked her 92nd birthday in January. Tina, mes visi linkime Jums dar daug gražiu metu ir stiprios sveikatos.

We were saddened at the death of Sylvester Lucas, father of David on February 12th. His fall from a ladder hastened his death. Each year Sylvester and his wife Alice invited our council members to hold the annual Kučios ceremony in their barn affectionately know as the penthouse. Sylvester had many talents, among them as carpenter, handy man, and plumber. He was a devoted

husband to wife Alice for 62 years, caring father of four children and grandfather to three. He was a good neighbor, friend of the K. of L and a Christian gentleman. Many K. of L. members attended his wake and the beautiful funeral Mass and burial services. Our deep condolences are extended to his family. I am sure he is with the Lord because of his life of service and kindness to others. We will miss Sylvester.

C-19- Pittsburgh - PA

Rob Medonis

Council 19's November meeting was highlighted by James McCoy, our program speaker, who related his experiences as a reporter for the **Pittsburgh Catholic**. Mr. McCoy had written an article in March of 1995 for the **Pittsburgh Catholic** on Aid to Lithuania which resulted in positive publicity for both Council-19 and Aid to Lithuania. Also at our November meeting Knight Tillie Milauskas, who moonlights as a member of the Charity Committee of the Lithuanian Citizen's Society of Western Pennsylvania, announced that the Citizens Society was paying for the shipping of St. Casimir's organ, hand carved Stations of the Cross, and bell to Lithuania sometime in 1996. The December meeting was a combined Christmas banquet/Kučios and business meeting. The meeting was held on balcony of the Lithuanian Hall and thirty members

attended including Sisters Francesca and Alverna of the Sisters of St. Francis of the Providence of God.

Sister Francesca, a member of our council, donated Lithuanian materials from the Lithuanian Room at St. Francis Convent to the Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania in a ceremony at the Convent on Saturday January 13, 1996. Rachael Colker, an Archivist with the Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania, accepted the materials on behalf of the Historical Society. Sister Francesca had collected numerous items over the past forty years in her effort to keep Lithuanian culture alive in Western Pennsylvania. Among the items were newspaper clippings, Lithuanian language teaching materials, and poetry composed by the Sisters. Due to renovations at the Convent which commenced in 1993 the Lithuanian Room was shut down and the materials stored in the basements of C-19 member Len Barcoucky and Rob Medonis. Rob Medonis and Len Barcoucky had approached the Historical Society in the Spring of 1995 to see if the Society had any interest in the materials. The Society was asked because

the materials could not be kept at the Convent any more and they were of no use sitting in Len's and Rob's basements. The materials will be available to any person interested in Lithuanian history in Western Pennsylvania.

C - 26 - Worcester, MA

Olga

Our president, Ann Leseman, continues to come up with entertaining ideas! At a recent meeting, Auctioneer Ann led us in a blind auction resulting in much fun. No bids higher than \$3.00 resulted in clever purchases and a nice little profit for our council as well.

Carol Tagman Grigas, a physical therapist in the Worcester area, was invited to give a presentation before her peers recently, the topic was "Neuro Development Approach to Rehabilitation." Much preparation resulted in a most successful program.

Mary Duggan is home at last after several weeks of hospital confinement. Marion Shapiro, on the sick list now, is wished a rapid recovery.

A warm welcome to our newest members: Father Vincent Parulis, MIC, who is pastor at our Saint Casimir's Church, and to Ruth Miller of Millbury, Massachusetts.

Thanks to Father Anthony Nockunas, MIC, associate at St. Casimirs, we learned of a concert held at the Sisters of the Immaculate Conception in Putnam, Connecticut, in January. Enjoying the world-famous Vilnius String Quartet in the Sisters' Chapel were Bartha Stoskuss NED President of Providence Rhode Island, Anna Miller of C-116 and Olga Kersis of C-26. Be well, happy and at peace. Iki sekančio numerio.

C - 36 - Chicago, IL

Balandėlis

Praise the Lord and His divine goodness for giving us the good and holy life, His abundant blessings and guidance and his presence in all that we do, and try to do. I continue the description of our Council 36, its efforts and activities since I wrote in September.

First of all, we are under the direction of new officers: Pres., Scottie Zukas; 1st V. P., Ray Wertelka; 2nd V. P. Victor Utara; 3rd. V. P. Denise Hornik; Financial Secretary - Ann Marie Kassel; Recording Secretary Frances Urnazus; Corresponding Secretary Lillian Micka; Treasurer, Eva Otrós, Trustees - Irene Norushis,

(L to R) Rachel Colker, archivist of the Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania accepts donated materials from C-19's members Sister Francesca and Rob Medonis at the Sisters of St. Francis Convent on January 13.



Evelyn Oželis, Vince Samaska, Anthony Stakenas; Sgt. at Arms - Vyto Dijokas, Albinas Zaliauskas, Frank Zailskas; Social - Johanna Johnston and Sally Daulys; Publicity - Mary F. Kincius; Lithuanian Affairs - Evelyn Oželis; Vytis correspondent - Mary F. Kincius; Cheer - Irene Norushis and Val Vilunas; Lithuanian culture - Sally Daulys; Ritual - Georgiann Macke. Much success in all your ventures and undertakings.

What a grand occasion was the Candlelight Dinner Dance under the direction of Scottie Zukas and Evelyn Oželis. The nourishing food was catered by Talman Deli. The delicate and dainty pastries by our members, the music by Richard Sokas ensemble, and the men at the bar were kept busy. This pre-Christmas event with spectacular hall decorations and lights keeps the crowd coming back for more.

Our December meeting was preempted by a Kučios solemnization with prayer and the traditional wafer sharing. It was opened by our spiritual moderator, Rev. Fabian P. Kireilis. Again Talman Deli triumphed with its assortment of traditional dishes. Some members brought more food from home. The dessert table made us resolved to give up these goodies for Advent. Many of us departed for home with armfuls of instant raffle prizes. Most of the profit obtained from this fund-raiser will be used to help offset some of the operating expenses of Immaculate Conception parish. The rest will be sent to the



C-36 Kučios Kitchen Krew (L to R) Sally Daulys, President of local Bendruomene; Lucille Kilkus and C-36 President Mary F. Kincius.

orphans in Lithuania. The new parish organist, A. Barniškis, provided keyboard melodies for English and Lithuanian Christmas carols. Our Lithuanians love to sing.

In Feb., we commemorated Lithuanian Independence Day. On March 3rd a district meeting was held at the Immaculate Conception parish. It was hosted by C-36. The two captivating sisters, Ann Marie Kassel and Terry Strolia were in charge of the district meeting. It was a very special occasion for Rev. Fabian Kireilis, who received his 4th degree. He rightfully deserves it for his decades of service to C-36.

Easter is now upon us, and spring will soon turn into summer. During our June meeting on the third Monday of the month, we will have a "Luncheon is Served" Party. This will be the last fund raiser until we start making plans for the National Convention.

Iki pasimatymo... Linkiu Jums ramybės, geros sveikatos ir drasiai pasitikti jokių pavojų.

C- 50 - New Haven, CT

Audry Toole

St. Casimir's Church hall was the gathering place for a delicious dinner in honor of the feast of St. Casimir. K. of L.'ers and friends shared in the good food and good company for the occasion.

Ritual chairman, Al Gutauskas and sunshine chairlady, Eleanor Gurauskas have had to resign their positions due to health reasons. We thank them for jobs well done and pray for improvements in their health.

Helen Medley as agreed to take over as sunshine chairlady. The names of Evelyn Lepensky, Nell Papeika, Ann Lukaszewski and Helen Balchus were omitted from the telephone squad. Get well wishes are relayed to Charles Dekas, Frank Antin, Helen Bohan, Nell Papeika and Robert Peterson.

C - 74 - Scranton, PA

Marie Laske

On Saturday January 13th, Bishop James Timlin celebrated a Pro-Life Mass at St. Peters Cathedral. Due to the blizzard we could not have a procession on the streets of Scranton. Auxiliary Bishop John Dougherty let the rosary at the altar.

Penna was declared a federal disaster area, as thousands of residents returned to soggy, muddy homes in the wake of the worst flooding in two decades. My friend Aldona Grimes who went to Lithuania with my husband Richard and myself, had to leave her home

as she had no electricity or heat because the gas was turned off for fear of explosion.

We enjoyed socializing and watching movies which were made by Peter Gobuzas of New York who made these memories of our travels to Lithuania during the Lithuanian festival.

Our beloved treasurer for ten years, Edward Romanauskas, died Sunday January 21st. Edward, sixty five, was a pleasant gentleman always willing to work. At many fund-raisers he was the pancake fryer. He read in Lithuanian whenever he was needed. He was the lector at all our Lithuanian Rosaries at St. Peter's Cathedral. He attended all district meetings. He was a wonderful friend to all who knew him. He had a beautiful family - one son and three daughters, and nine grandchildren. His wife, Peg, is our ritual chairperson. At the funeral services where there was a large turnout, our Knights served as honor guards. During the eulogy the priest said: "Do not let your heart be troubled." It is easy to say but so hard to accept. Ed was a generous, quiet man with genuine qualities, it is a sad farewell, Ed left us for a time but not forever, we will see him again. Amžina atilsi - rest in peace dear Edward.

February fourth, the sixteenth Ethnic Rosary Devotion was conducted at St. Peter's Cathedral. The Rosary was recited in Lithuanian, Gaelic, Polish, French, German, Italian and Slovak. Mrs. Nellie Bayoras Romanas led the Rosary.

C-96 - Dayton, OH

Fran Petkus

Like so many Catholic communities throughout the states, Holy Cross Lithuanian Roman Catholic Church, Dayton, Ohio, faced being joined with another church in the area and made a chapel. Having been in suspense the past two plus years, our prayers have been answered! We will be sharing a priest, but remain a parish. We have been in Father Michael Holloran's care these past two plus years. Many of you have met him and know what a gem we have. We can now move forward and continue to work with Fr. Mike!

A valuable committee within the council is the Telephone Squad. This committee calls the membership when there is an emergency or for reservations, etc. Joining the chairperson, Joyce Berzcelly, this term are: Eloise Berzcelly, Christine Fletcher, Ann Gitzinger, Joan Kavalauskas, Susan Keivel, Frances Mikalauskas and Betty Nash.

While in NY for the holidays, I went to Mass at the church I was married in 43 years ago, - Our Lady of Vilnius. After Mass my son, Michael, stationed with the Marine Reserves in the Bronx, myself and family, all members of C-96, participated in the parish's coffee clatch.

Get well wishes go out to members recovering from various surgeries: Stanley Vaitkus, Eugenia Gečas, Helen Keivel and MaryAgnes Mikalauskas! Our deepest sympathies go to the Rastikis

family on the recent loss of Julius ... to Stefanija his wife, daughter Laima (C-96 member) and her family, Jule, Tom, Ausra and their families. Julius was organist at Holy Cross Church for over 35 years and a member of C-96.

C-100 - Amsterdam, NY

Smile and Sparkle

On Saturday, February 17, a special mass in observance of Lithuania's 78th anniversary was held at St. Casimir's Church with pastor Rev. Joseph Grabys, who is also the Spiritual Advisor of our Council 100, as the celebrant.

The entrance procession with Gerard Drenzek and Edward Baranauskas carrying the American and Lithuanian flags, were followed by the Junior K. of Lers dressed in their Lithuanian outfits, the acolytes, Assemblyman Paul Tonko, and Rev. Joseph Grabys.

St. Casimir's choir, all members of C-100, with John Nye at the organ, sang Lithuanian hymns throughout the Mass. The sermon by Rev. Grabys, dealt with Lithuania's existence from around 1263 to the present, the Christianization of the country, the loss of the country's freedom to the communists and her restoration to an independent nation. The service ended with the choir and the congregation singing the national anthems of our country and of Lithuania. Members and friends gathered in Father Baltch's Hall where a commemorative program followed. President Mirga Bablin welcomed the attendees.

She also reminisced about an event from her childhood. Her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Michael Kerbelis entertained at their East end home a former president of Lithuania, Antanas Smetona, when he visited our city of Amsterdam. She then introduced Assemblyman Paul Tonko. He started by saying that he was proud to be a member of the Knights of Lithuania. He spoke of the many years of oppression that Lithuania suffered under the rule of the Russian communists. Mayor John Duchessi's proclamation, proclaiming February 16, 1996 as Republic of Lithuania Day in Amsterdam was read by 2nd Vice President Gene Gobis.

1st VP Regina Kot and Genete Baranauskas (Schenectady) with Eleanore Ulechowski at the piano, led the group in singing a number of Lithuanian folk songs. Mr. Ed Baranauskas concluded the program with the showing of video tapes of young Lithuanians performing folk dances. The planning committee included: Mirga Bablin, Regina Kot, Helen Kiuber, Gerard Drenzek, Walter and Sophie Malkowicz, Ed Bablin and Bill Burimaukas,

A pleasant day was had by all. Lai gyvuoja Laisva Lietuva per amžius!

A special note: We extend our deepest- sympathy from our members to Paul and Aldona Abeling in the loss of their son Frederick (Fred) on Saturday Feb. 17. May he rest in peace, Amen. Our deepest sympathies go out to our member Michael Mikolaitis in the recent passing

of his beloved mother, Sadie Mikolaitis.

C-103 - Providence, RI

Bertha Stoskus

It has been a while since you have heard from us, but we're still alive and kicking. John and Natalie Gervalis always the perfect hosts for our summer meeting are now faced with a new challenge. John has been ailing for many months and has been alternately hospitalized and at a rehabilitation center. Helen Gudeczaukas traveled down to West Virginia to say a last good-bye to her brother Charles Sabaitis who passed away last fall.

Our council bid a sad farewell to Joe Kiela a longtime K of L member, choir member and Pres. of the Lithuanian Club.

Then too, Helen Denesevich made the Providence Journal "Human Interest" story upon her retirement as crossing guard in the City of Providence.

Anthony Sidla has rejoined our council, welcome back Tony.

News of our religious members: Str. Apollinara is now the Matulaitis Nursing Home. Rev. Valdemar Cukuras, S.T.D. had back surgery in December but is fully recovered and is up and around.

For those we don't see very often, this is all the news that has been called to my attention. Smile and be happy.

C-110 - Maspeth, NY

Dorothy Sakal

Our January 1996 meeting was well attended after the big

blizzard dig out. Thank you notes were received from the orphanages supported by our council as well as a thanks from our adopted child, Erica. C-110 voted to adopt another child, a boy.

On February 18, 1996 Lithuanian Independence Day was celebrated at Transfiguration church. (See picture story elsewhere in this issue.)

Three C-110 members (Mary Barkus, Amelia Gregotovich and Ann Linkonis) received their Third Degree medals and certificates at our District Meeting held March 10 in Kearny, NJ. Alberta Victor and Maryte Abbott recently earned their Second Degrees.

C-112 - Chicago, IL

Gerrie

Congratulations to John Svelnis, recipient of this year's Eleanore H. Lauren Scholarship award which was presented to him at the Memories of Lithuania Banquet in February. John, who is the son of Lorraine and the late Frank Svelnis, is soon to be graduated from the University of Illinois with a Masters degree in structural engineering. It was my pleasure to babysit John when he was a tot and his Mom was working as a teacher. His favorite lunch was silver dollar pancakes and he had me flipping flapjacks almost every day. I must have made more pancakes than Aunt Jemima, but I think they contained a magical ingredient because he turned out to be such a fine young man. Best of luck in your future endeavors, John.

Second degrees were presented to Peter Jasaitis, Bernice Raubiskis and Vida Sakevicius at our February meeting. It takes a number of years to accumulate enough points for this degree and we congratulate you. Before you know it, you'll be eligible for your Third!

Special thanks to Dr. Peter Brazis guest speaker at our February meeting. Dr. Brazis specializes in corneal and refractive surgery. He made a very informative slide presentation on cataract surgery procedures and afterward he was gracious enough to answer members' questions relating to eye problems.

Close friends of the Zakarka family gathered for the 5th anniversary Mass for Al Zakarka on Feb. 25. at Nativity B.V.M. The years have flown by but he is still very much remembered and missed.

C-136-Hudson-Mohawk, NY

Dot Richmire

We are well into a new year with high hopes and dreams and we wish all members and their families good health, good fortune and happy days. We celebrated the holidays by attending a Christmas dinner party at a restaurant owned by Chick Rupsis' family. Bernice Aviza made certain we had our thinking caps on by offering some brain-teasing puzzles we all tried to solve. Prizes were awarded to winners and we all had a lot of fun. The party was well attended and it was so good to see Stephanie Dwulitt

who had been on the get-well list of late. Hope she will feel well enough to become more actively involved again.

January's meeting was well attended considering the weather. We welcomed a new member, George Nevulis. He was accompanied by his brother, Robert who also recently joined us. Welcome to both gentlemen.

On February 18 we celebrated Lithuanian Independence Day with a mass offered by our spiritual leader, Rev. Bernard Gustas at Holy Cross Church. Following mass, we invited members of the parish and guests to join us for coffee and finger foods prepared by members. It was a great occasion for nibbling and visiting.

Happy Spring everyone!

C-140 - Syracuse, NY ***Pusbroolis***

We'll start this newsletter with May of 1995 and bring you up to date with the happenings of C-140. Frank and Irene Petrauskas celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary on May 29.

Jack and Catherine Brandt are officially retired.

It's good to have Mary Zutant, who was incapacitated, back with us again.

C-140 was saddened in July by the passing of Mike Wilton. Mike was well liked by all who came in contact with him. St. John's Church was filled to capacity for the funeral Mass which was a concelebrated Mass. Surviving Mike are daughters Meg and Marcia, both

members of C-140 and daughters Marlene and Mary Beth and son Michael.

With August came the national convention and Detroit did a wonderful job. C-140 was well represented with Katherine, Veronica Sutkus, Jack and Catherine Brandt, and Frank and Irene Petrauskas. They all came to support and participate in Frank Petrauskas elevation to Honorary Membership. The party given by Frank and Faustas Strolia, in their suite, was well attended and successful. We were impressed with Regina Juska of C-102 and her constant motion throughout the convention. Whatever job had to be done she was there to do it.

Our annual Christmas Brunch was held at Act II restaurant on Sunday, December 17 after 9:00 Mass at St. Stephen's. We had a nice turnout of members and guests.

Joe and Della Marcaitis are an amazing couple. Joe recently had a heart pacemaker installed at the Veterans Hospital and Della who is confined to a wheelchair purchased a battery powered chair. Now she is able to maneuver by herself. She and Joe go out in their Van quite often when the weather is decent. Joe said, "It takes a lot to hold down a good Lithuanian".

John Stanley is another tough Lithuanian. John has had some health problems in recent years but he keeps plugging along. He still gets out, he still drives despite his adversity.

Had a nice note and donation from Mary and Chet Nowak our members from Niagara Falls.

Mary writes that St. George's Lithuanian Church is being considered for closing by the Bishop. Hope he reconsiders.

C-144 - Anthracite, PA

Ona

The heavy winter storms and cold weather took a toll on our members. In December we lost Anna Bender. Anna was quiet but efficient and helped in whatever we could. Then we lost Bill Remus after a long illness. Bill was a well known woodcarver.

On January 13, Msgr. Joseph A. Neverauskas died at Holy Family Manor in Bethlehem after a long illness. Msgr. was Pastor Emeritus of St. George's Church in Shenandoah and one of the founders of our council. He was the one who named the Council, the Anthracite Council. Msgr. Neverauskas was ordained May 26, 1938 and elevated to Monsignor on March 14, 1977. He served as historian for the Lithuanian Day Celebrations which were held at Lakewood Park, and published articles in the Lithuanian Day Program Book for many years. He wrote two books, "Strophe's Sonnets" and "The Adventures of Ziggy Zilch". He contributed as a writer and translator to many Lithuanian Newspapers and Journals. Msgr. Neverauskas was one of the guiding spirits of C. 144 until his illness and will be fondly remembered always. Amžina Atsilsi Msgr., Anna and Bill.

On a happy note Nellie and Ed Gans celebrated their 68th. Wedding Anniversary and

renewed their wedding vows at St. Joseph's Church in Mahanoy City. Ilgiausiu Metu, Nellie and Ed.

Due to the winter storms we canceled our Jan. and Feb. meetings. Our annual St. Casimir's Day affair was March 3 at St. Casimir's Church in St. Clair. Bernice Mikatavage was Chairperson assisted by Annie Morgalis.

C-146 - Harrisburg, PA

Eduardas Remaitis

Council members and their families celebrated our 18th annual Kucios, which, as in the past, was held at the American Legion Lodge in Camp Hill, Pa. The last topic on the business agenda was the election of officers to serve in 1996. After a short discussion, a motion was made and voted on to maintain last years officers with a few changes. The results of the election was as follows:

Spiritual Advisor - - Fr. John F. Smith; President - Joanna Gilbert; V.P. - Lorraine Grabauskas; Recording Secretary John Povilaitis; Fin. Sec. and Treas. - Nell Berulis; Trustees - Vity Grabauskas, Eduardas Žemaitis; Ritual - Joseph L. Unitis; Lithuanian Affairs - Joan Suders; Lith. Culture - Eugene Rusetsky; Public Relations - Eduardas Žemaitis; Spiritual Programs, Helen Grabauskas; Vytis Correspondent - Eduardas Žemaitis; Lith. Language - Jean Hallam



The festive event ended with our President, Joanna Gilbert thanking everyone for their Participation in the success of our 18th Kucios.

C-147- St. Petersburg, FL

Dolores Jonaitis

Our January meeting was opened by Dolores Jonaitis, our vice president, due to the absence of our president, Anthony Gudonis, who injured his foot on the day before Christmas. We wish him a speedy recovery. Father Juozas Grabys, from C-100 Amsterdam, NY, was our guest.

First degrees were awarded to: Kazimiera Arlauskas, Elena Jurkynas, Genevieve Juška, Father Steponas Ropolas, OFM, and Eugenia Šatraitis. Second degrees were awarded to: Dana Jurenas, Ona Miniatiene and Julia Rodowk.

It was Brone Urbonas birthday so we all sang *Ilgiausiu metu*. Donators were: Ona Semolavičiene, Dolores Jonaitis, Brone Urboniene, Dr. Aldona Valys, Kazimiera Arlauskas, Elena Baceviciene, Irena Diktanas and Veronica Pleskiene.

We were honored by Bishop Paulius Baltakis, at our Sunday Mass, the past two weeks. He was the celebrant assisted by six concelebrants in St. Petersburg for the installation of Monsignor Robert Lynch as Bishop at St. Jude's Cathedral. The ceremony was attended by some fifty or more bishops and six cardinals. It was the highlight of St. Petersburg and was televised in its entirety for 2 hours and 40 minutes.

BALANDIS ⚡ 1996 ⚡ APRIL

*Linksma diena mums nušvito,
visi troškom džiaugsmo šito,
Kėlės Kristus, mirtis krito.*

O happy the day that has dawned for us,
who have long awaited this joyful news,
Christ is arisen, the pall of death is broken.

In April:

- April 1 April Fool's Day. A day for practical jokes observed in many areas of the world including the U.S. and Lithuania. It is not unusual for papers or periodicals to publish outrageous stories in their April or April 1 edition. So be careful reading this issue.
- April 4 On this day in 1926, His Holiness Pope Pius XI established the dioceses of Kaišiadorys, Panevėžys, Telšiai, and Vilkaviškis. These were combined into a separate ecclesiastical province with the Archdiocese of Kaunas at the center. (Remember that Vilnius had been invaded by the Polish army in 1922 and later annexed by Poland.)
- April 7 Easter Sunday - *Sveiki sulauke Šv. Velykų!* Happy Easter!
- April 22 Earth Day - It's only one planet; we live on it; keep it clean.
- April 23 Feast of St. George, who is revered as the second patron of Lithuania (second only to St. Casimir.)
- April 25 Feast of St. Mark, the Evangelist. It is day when the Church in Lithuania calls for special prayers for peace, health and a good harvest. Special services with processions are held in parish churches and the faithful are asked to recite the Litany of the Saints in their homes.
- April 28 Vocation Sunday - Pray that those who are called, hear and respond.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THOSE HAVING A NAME'S DAY IN APRIL:

Alfredas (Apr 12)	Danutė (Apr 22)	Rasa (Apr 9)
Algirdas (Apr 30)	George (Apr 23)	Richard (Apr 3)
Apolonius (Apr 10)	Hugo (Apr 1)	Rimantė (Apr 5)
<i>Aušra</i> (Apr 27)	Irene (Apr 3)	Stanley (Apr 11)
Benedict (Apr 16)	Julius (Apr 12)	Theodora (Apr 1)
Catherine (Apr 29)	<i>Jūratė</i> (Apr 12)	<i>Vaiva</i> (Apr 14)
Celestine (Apr 5)	Leon (Apr 19)	Vincent (Apr 5)
Dalia (Apr 9)	Mark (Apr 25)	Walter (Apr 8)
<i>Dangė</i> (Apr 5)	Martin (Apr 13)	<i>Zenon</i> (Apr 12)

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The Mother Tongue

Love, love your mother tongue, my child
 That your motherland has taught you.
 Your first prayer, innocent and mild
 from your youthful soul she drew.
 Through her, your first words of music
 You expressed the yearnings of your heart.
 Through her, the love of beauty, she was quick
 To breathe into your heart.

In your swaddling clothes feeling neglected,
 Over your cradle floated the songs,
 And into your heart consolation was spread
 Through your dear mother's loving crib songs.
 The sky, the sun, the buds of the flowers,
 The butterflies and grasshoppers charmed your soul,
 It seemed to you, as though the songs of the birds
 Echoed with your mother's words.

The mother tongue, my child, you must love and admire,
 For she is the first who will serve you -
 Offering consolation, your childish prayer inspire,
 And in your first love, intercede for you.

--Author unknown.

Translated from the Lithuanian by Antonia M. Wackell