

VYŠIS



The Knight
volume 82: no. 5



Sveikinam Visas Motinas!

Gegužė / May 1996

VYTIS
-THE KNIGHT-
 KNIGHTS OF LITHUANIA
 SUPREME COUNCIL
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 1996



Gegužė
 May 1996
 Volume 82: No. 5

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Cover photo:
Two generations:
Great grandmother and
her great grandchild
 by Algimantas Žižiūnas
 Vilnius, Lithuania

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

To My Fellow Knights:



Blessed Mother, Pray for us.

At the same time I was also sent an English translation from an Italian prayer from the Sanctuary of Divine Mercy at Centurano, Italy. The Title "I Am a God with the Sensibility of a Mother!" depicts God's "feminine side" that is, the sensitive, caring nurturing aspects of what one associates with a mother, but may be found in teachers, nurses, social workers and those in the caretaking professions. And many of these workers in the '90's are men.

Although the whole prayer is worth meditating on, and if anyone would like a copy, just write me and ask, I found this quote worth sharing:

"A true mother, however ugly her offspring may be, does not think of him as such; for her, the child is always beautiful and she will always consider him like this in her heart.

It is good like this, but exactly so is My Heart in respect to souls which are even ugly, bespattered with paint, filthy. My love always considers them beautiful."

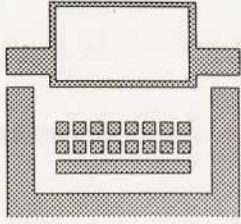
A married woman, wife and mother was always held in high honor in Lithuania. A Lithuanian law of 1588 stated that the penalty for murdering a wife-mother was twice as severe as killing a man. The welfare of the homestead and family was determined by the wife-mother's industriousness and talents.

May is the month of Mary and of Mothers. This month we salute Lithuanian mothers with the photography of Lithuania's Žižiūnas and the poetry of Mary Lasky, along with female saints Rita and Joan of Arc who portrayed feminism long before it became fashionable.

Happy Mother's Day!



It is with the deepest regret and sorrow, that we announce at press time the recent death of our Knight's of Lithuania, **First Vice President, Tom Bruzga** on April 11, 1996 at his home in DuBois, PA. More information will be available in the June issue. Condolences can be sent in care of his family to Tom's address on the front inside cover. The editors and staff of VYTIS, along with the Supreme Council express our condolences and will miss him.



Letters to the Editor

Another VYTIS "Ghost Editor"

Dear Editor,

Recently my friend, Vin Kasauskas of C-27 Norwood MA gave me his copy of the 80th Anniversary VYTIS where I read in the article "VYTIS Then and Now" that Ignas Sakalas and Phyllis Grendal were editors (1942-1946).

In 1944, while stationed at Ft. Monmouth NJ, I met Aldona Sakalas, daughter of Ignas Sakalas. On more than one occasion, I saw Aldona working on VYTIS. Her father would send her the input and she would edit and return the issue for publication.

How about giving Aldona Sakalas an honorable mention for her efforts as "ghost editor" for VYTIS.

**Ed Shakalis
Plymouth, MA**

Editor's note: Thanks for letting us know about Aldona. Editors are very grateful for the work produced by unsung heroes and "ghost editors" needed to publish VYTIS.

Lithuanian Radio?

To the editor:

First of all I would like to tell you how much I have enjoyed your articles since you took over VYTIS. What a great improvement. You're doing a fine job!

My father was born in Vilnius and my mother was born in Kaunas, around the 1880s. We always spoke the language in the house so I still can talk and understand it. They have passed on over 30 years ago and what wonderful parents!

Now I would like to know two things.-

1. Do you have to belong to the K of L in order to receive the VYTIS? And how much for the year?

2. I understand there is a Lithuanian broadcast station in Vilnius. Can you tell me what frequency and our time. In English and Lithuanian? I have heard it, but I think the frequency has changed.



Aldona Sakalas and Shakalis in 1944

By the way, I am an Amateur Radio Operator for over 40 years and since Perestroika have talked direct to Lithuania on the short-wave. My call letters are K 1 A M G. I have met over 40 Lithuanians on the 20 meter band. They were very glad to hear Lithuanian coming from America.

So God Bless you all and thanks again for all your wonderful articles keeping us informed about our heritage. Su Diev!

**Anthony J. Sidla
C-103, Providence, RI**

The answer to 1. is yes, one does not have to be a K. of L. member to receive VYTIS. Subscriptions are \$20.00 per year payable to the Knights of Lithuania. Send check to the VYTIS Business Manager (address on inside cover) with name and address where to send the issues.

2. Sources have not gotten back to me yet on Lithuanian radio stations. Anyone know?

Rights for Minorities

Dr. Petras Anusas, Consul General of Lithuania, recently wrote a rebuttal to a March 24, 1996 *NY Times* article which cited the Russians as the new "despised" minority in Lithuania. He said that minorities in Lithuania enjoy not only equal political, economic and social rights but also privileges in education, elections and cultural life. Although Russians constitute only 8 percent of the population, they enjoy state-sponsored, Russian-language preschool institutions, schools, newspapers, television and radio.

Official News

Resolution to Amend the Constitution of the Knights of Lithuania

as

Proposed by the Supreme, Council on March 23, 1996

WHEREAS the Supreme Council has previously established the position of VYTIS business manager, and

WHEREAS the business matters of the VYTIS are of importance to the deliberations of the Supreme Council, and

WHEREAS, the presence of the VYTIS business manager has been essential at Supreme Council meetings,

BE IT RESOLVED by this 83rd National Convention of the Knights of Lithuania that the Knights of Lithuania Constitution be amended as follows:

1. Article X, Section 1, which now reads, in part:

"The Supreme Council shall consist of... district presidents; VYTIS editor; legal advisor,

will read:

"The Supreme Council shall consist of... district presidents; VYTIS editor; *VYTIS business manager*; legal advisor.

2. Article X, Section 2, which now reads, in part:

" ... editor and the legal advisor are appointed by the Supreme Council and are nonvoting members of the Supreme Council."

will read:

... "VYTIS editor, *VYTIS business manager*, and the legal advisor are appointed by the Supreme Council and are nonvoting members of the Supreme Council. "

Article XI, Section 8, which now reads, in part:

" The appointed members of the Supreme Council are the VYTIS editor and the legal advisor."

will read:

" ... The appointed members of the Supreme Council are the VYTIS editor,

VYTIS business manager, and the legal advisor.

Article XI, Section 8, will have added subsection c. to read;

" c. *The VYTIS business manager handles the mailing, subscriptions, advertisements and other business matters of VYTIS.*

(Note: Proposed additions are printed above in *italics* for clarification.)

PROPOSED BY-LAW CHANGE:

WHEREAS the Knights of Lithuania within the last year have placed part of its assets with Smith Barney Inc. through Lynx Investment Advisors,

BE IT RESOLVED that the part of ARTICLE XVI, SECTION 2 of the Constitution of the Knights of Lithuania reading:

"These assets are kept in the Knights of Lithuania name in federally insured banking institutions."

be changed to read:

"The Supreme Council may select a corporate institution to handle, invest and maintain the Organization's funds; provided, however, that such institutions must be regulated by the Federal Reserve Board or Securities and Exchange Commission or must provide adequate and sufficient insurance, as determined by the Supreme Council, for all accounts maintained by the Organization with such institutions."

Applications for 4th Degree, along with a check for \$8.00, must be received by the National Ritual Committee before June 30, 1996.

Nellie-Bayoras Romanas
Ritual Chairman

Displaying the Flags Properly

To all Sergeants at Arms - now that we're nearing Memorial Day, Armed Forces Day, and the summer holidays, you may need a reminder on how to properly display flags.

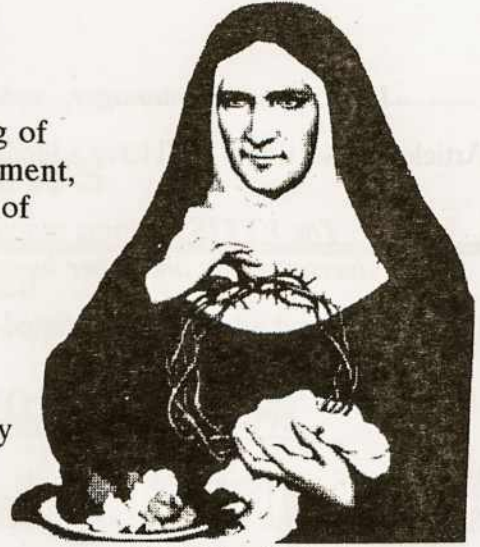
According to US Flag Etiquette flags when displayed on a church pulpit, the flag of the United States should be flown from a staff placed on the clergyman's right as he faces the congregation. All other flags on the pulpit or chancel should be on his left side.

However when the flag is displayed on the floor of the church, on a level with the congregation, the position of the flag is reversed from that above. It is placed on the right of the congregation, as one faces the pulpit or chancel.

When used on a speaker's platform, the flag should be displayed above and behind the speaker. It should never be used to cover the speaker's table nor to drape over the front of the platform. If flown from a staff, it should be on the speaker's right. Submitted by *Vincent Samaskas of C-36, Chicago*

"I AM WOMAN"

In a strange way these lyrics from a Helen Reddy song of 1972, which became the anthem of the women's movement, seems quite appropriate for these outstanding women of the 15th century. Although contemporaries, they led distinctly different lives. One, a submissive housewife and mother, had to contend with abusive and brutal husband and sons. The other broke out of the expected submissive role of women, donned men's clothes and armor, and led her nation's army to victory over British forces. Throughout their life despite scorn and abuse, both retained their complete trust in God and followed their conscience wherever it led. One died at age 76, quietly as a nun; the second was burned at the stake as a heretic at age 19. Both were recognized for their heroic virtue and canonized in the twentieth century.



St. Rita of Cascia
May 22
Patroness of Impossible Causes

St. Rita of Cascia was born at Roccaporena near Spoleta, Italy, of elderly parents. She was a dutiful and devout child, who early on expressed a desire to become a nun. Her parents, however, had decided to arrange a marriage for her when she was but 12 years of age. She accepted her parents decision as reflecting the will of God. Her parents' choice was unfortunate, her husband proved to be dissolute and violent. For eighteen years. Rita bore her husband's insults and infidelities, as she prayed for his conversion.

There came a time when he repented and begged for forgiveness and was forgiven. Shortly after that, he became embroiled in a fight in a tavern and was stabbed to death. Her sons, who had grown up emulating their father had not disdained showing equal disrespect for their mother. Since they had sworn to avenge their father's death, Rita prayed that God might intervene to prevent them from becoming murderers. Before they could carry out their revenge, both contracted what proved to be a fatal illness. Rita gently nursed them in their affliction while fervently praying for their salvation. In the end, they, too, repented and begged forgiveness.

*God, through the prayers
of St. Rita, may we learn
to bear our crosses in life
in the same spirit in
which she bore hers.
Amen.*

Left alone in the world, Rita decided to fulfill her childhood dream and enter the Augustinian convent at Cascia. The convent, however, had a rule to accept only virgins, so that she was refused entrance. Rita persevered and after several requests, she was finally admitted. She lived out her life in prayer, meditation and obedience. She died on May 22, 1457, but was not canonized until 1900.



St. Joan of Arc
May 30
Patroness of France

St. Joan of Arc was born in the obscure village of Domremy in the Champagne region of France. Her parents were of the peasant class; they had six children of which Joan was the youngest. At the age of thirteen, she experienced the first of her supernatural visions. She described the first vision as a voice emanating from nearby and accompanied by a bright light. Later visions included additional voices and eventually she could see three of the speakers who were identified as St. Michael, St. Catherine and St. Margaret.

The initial visions imparted personal messages; but in May 1428, she received her major mission: to save France by aiding the Dauphin Charles to reclaim his kingdom. The Dauphin, the son of the insane Charles VI, had been prevented from assuming the crown by the losses incurred during the Hundred Years War between France and England. Following the instructions from her "voices,"

she went to see the commander of the military forces in the region. At first, she was laughed at and sent back home.

But her "voices" were insistent and she returned and, guided by what she had been told, predicted a serious defeat of the French forces. Later she immediately recognized the Dauphin even though he had assumed a disguise. Having overcome the skepticism of authorities, she was given a small expeditionary force with which she raised the siege of Orleans. This momentous achievement was followed by additional victories. Finally, on July 17, 1429, Charles was crowned Charles VII at Rheims, with Joan standing at his side.

Although the mission, imparted by the "voices," had been accomplished, Joan continued her campaign to drive the English from France. But each of her subsequent battles failed. She was wounded and finally captured by John of Luxembourg, then allied with the English. After a few months confinement in Burgundy, she was sold to the British, who subsequently summoned an ecclesiastical court to try her for witchcraft and heresy.

Eventually found guilty as a lapsed heretic, she was burned at the stake in Rouen on May 30, 1431. She was nineteen. Thirty years later, at the request of her family, Pope Callistus III appointed a court to review the case. The court found her innocent; it quashed the trial and the verdict with a complete rehabilitation of Joan. She was canonized in 1920.

Lord, You wondrously raised up St. Joan to defend the Faith and her country. Through her intercession, grant that the Church may overcome the snares of her enemies. Amen.

KNIGHTS OF LITHUANIA FOUNDATION, INC.

1996 ESSAY CONTEST

For over 50 years, one of the Knights of Lithuania's main goals was the restoration of independence to Lithuania. Lithuania is finally free, but not "out of the woods". Shortages abound, crime is rampant, her people need to be educated in the ways of democracy.

The question arises ... how and how much should the K of L address Lithuania's new needs? What new projects can we start to BEST help this fledgling nation? And what about our other goals -- keeping Lithuanianism alive among ourselves, enhancing our own organization? Where should our emphasis be placed? The Knights of Lithuania Foundation, Inc. invites all K of L members to ponder these thoughts

and provide some new ideas as to how to reorder our K of L goals, by entering its annual Essay Contest. The topic this year is:

"How should the changes in Lithuania affect the focus of Knights of Lithuania activity? Explain which activities should be minimized or dropped, which should be maximized or added -- and why!"

This year's contest should provide you the opportunity to consider where our organization is going, and make your recommendations for its future. Enter the Contest and share your thoughts. Rules are listed below.

- LENGTH:** 450 to 500 words (count all words).
- DEADLINE:** July 1, 1996. Essays received after this date will not be considered.
- ELIGIBILITY:** A contestant must be a Knights of Lithuania member (Honorary, Regular or Associate) in GOOD STANDING, OR a member of a Junior Council which is duly registered with the Supreme Council.
- CRITERIA:** Essays will be judged on content, originality, and ATTENTION TO CONTEST TOPIC. Correct grammar and neatness will also be considered in judging.
- MANUSCRIPT:** Must be typed or written legibly, double spaced. The FIRST PAGE should contain ONLY your name, address, council number, and the essay title. Succeeding pages should contain the essay contents but NOT your name. This is to assure anonymity in judging.
- PRIZES:** 1st Prize - \$300, 2nd Prize - \$200, 3rd Prize - \$100.
- JUDGES:** Adolf Klova (AMD), Clemencine Miller (NED), Evelyn Ozelis (MAMD), Aldona Ryan (MCD), Loretta Stukas (MAD), Bonnie Electra Gulas (1995 Contest Winner)
- MAIL TO:** Mrs. Aldona Ryan, 6591 McEwen Rd., Centerville, OH 45459
- WINNERS:** Will be announced August, 1996, during the 83rd National Convention in Brockton, MA. Winning entries will be published in VYTIS.
- SPONSOR:** KNIGHTS OF LITHUANIA FOUNDATION, INC., via a grant from Msgr. Juozas Prunskis.

The KNIGHTS OF LITHUANIA FOUNDATION, INC. is a tax-exempt endowment fund which uses interest from its investments to finance cultural and religious projects, helping the K of L AND Lithuania. This contest is just one of its projects.

The Foundation has been in existence for 12 years. You can help keep it in existence by joining the Foundation to increase its capital and provide more funds to help Lithuania and Lithuanian projects. A donation of \$100 entitles you to membership in the

Foundation, and supports the Knights' future. Are YOU a member of the Foundation? If not, why not join today? If you are a member, consider making an additional donation.

Send your tax-deductible donation to:
Mr. Peter P. Zansitis, Treasurer
5939 S. Crandon Ave.
Chicago, IL 60649

Knights of Lithuanian Foundation 1995 Essay Contest Winner
Knights of Lithuania
Benefits in Leadership Skills

John P. Baltrus
C-19, Pittsburgh, PA
Honorable mention

An initial benefit of joining the Knights was having a way to hold on to my heritage after the death of my father. He was the one who always showed an interest in Lithuanian events and corresponded with relatives overseas. I thought it would be such a waste if I were to let his enthusiasm for Lithuania only be a distant memory. The Knights of Lithuania, with its mix of social, humanitarian and political activities, provided the best means for becoming active in the Lithuanian Community.

Surprisingly, my most noteworthy ongoing benefit of K of L membership relates to my professional career. It is no secret that upon joining the Knights, I was a quiet person, generally nervous speaking in front of groups, and usually not one to take on difficult projects. The first two descriptions can still apply somewhat today, but I feel that I have made significant progress in each of these areas. My activities in the organization have been a primary factor leading to improvements in these areas.

What motivated me to become a leader in the Knights was the frustration I developed while attending K of L meetings and the encouragement, which I have received from many members, to help change things for the better. The best way to make those changes has been by taking on various elected offices and projects. In doing so, I have developed skills that have benefited my professional career.

Although I am still somewhat uncomfortable in front of groups, my position in various offices of the Knights, especially president of my council and district, has forced me to develop skills in speaking before groups of people and dealing with the diverse personalities found in such an organization. The

friendliness and encouragement of the members helped put me at ease. Now when I give a scientific presentation in front of a group of scientists, who may or may not be friendly, I draw upon my experiences in front of K of L members and am able to speak more effectively.

Holding leadership positions in the Knights has also helped me develop leadership skills, so that I am not afraid to take on projects at work or take leadership positions in local scientific organizations. A good example of how my participation in a K of L event has benefited my professional career can be seen in my co-chairing of a National Convention. The experience I gained in helping to put together that convention helped me develop my confidence and organizational skills, which I have successfully transferred to my work as a volunteer in helping to organize the largest conference in the world in my profession! It has helped me to rapidly advance in that organization, as a committee chairman and now the treasurer and a member of the board of directors.

In conclusion I think that I have gained significant skills by participating in the Knights, and that those skills continue to benefit me personally and professionally each day.



Wisdom of the Ages...

Upon hearing of the recent capture of the alleged Unibomber and learning he was once a college professor, a Lithuanian responded with an old saying:

"Iš didelio rašto
 Išėjo iš krašto."

(Literal translation " from brilliant
 studies, one goes over the edge.")



Book Review**A Long Overdue Book
Your Journey to Success**

It is with great enthusiasm that we announce a just released book - **Your Journey to Success: A Guide for Young Lithuanians**, ©1996 by Raimonda Mikatavage. 183 pages, \$14.95 Published by Melodija Books, P. O. Box 689, Hampstead, MD 21074, Fax: 410 374 - 3569.

The author Raimonda Mikatavage, was born in Kaunas Lithuania in 1962. When she was ten, her family, consisting of Father Zigmantas Butkus, his wife Dr. Danute, eleven year old sister Loretta, and three year old brother Rimvydas, all defected to the U.S.

Raimonda's three loves - personal development, writing, and Lithuania - have come together in this book; I feel that this book is a valuable starting point of practical advice for young Lithuanians in search of a quality life, especially in these rapidly changing times and in their new capitalistic society.

Although it lacks the detail of a scholarly work and the inspiration of a good self help book and is rather thin on content, I found it to be a pleasure to read. It contains practical advice for young Lithuanians in search of personal success, filled with humorous anecdotes and inspirational quotes. The author's respect and love for the people of her homeland is quite evident and communicates well.

The soft cover book, features the author on the cover with the title in the colors of the Lithuanian flag - yellow, green and red. The book is divided into 5 chapters /I - You; II - You and God; III - You and Others; IV - You and Work, V - You as a Leader. It ends with a poem by Raimonda, written when she was eleven years old in Lithuanian - Mano Tevyne, and a questionnaire: What do you think of this book?

Our organization's past Supreme Council president Anna Klizas Wargo, had this to say, "As a longtime social worker I find the authors insight on today's problems valuable not only to Lithuanian youth, but to Americans as well." Svajūnas Nekrašas, a Fulbright scholar from Lithuania

remarked: "A remarkably personal and articulate analysis of the importance of our values, beliefs and choices. A diary that is too good to be kept secret."

Some little gems from the humor break: Sound really does travel slower than light. The advice parents give to their 18-year olds does not reach them until they are 40. How do you like my dress? It reminds me of water. You mean it is see-through? No, it has no taste. Or some - food for thought: The proper function of a man is to live... not to exist. - Jack London.

May I urge you to order a few of these books for your council and use them during the meeting. We promise you will enjoy them and enrich your meetings. It would also make a wonderful gift for an American - Lithuanian or anybody.

The author is planning a Lithuanian version to be published in Lithuania later this year. For ordering information, contact the publisher.

Reviewed by Dalia Bulvičius



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Romas Kezys, Pres.
K of L C-41



WE HEARD THE PEWITS CRY GYVI! GYVI!

by *Antonia M. Wackell*

Many years ago, we sailed from US to visit our grandparents in Lithuania. While we were there, little brother and I, often heard the screams of the pewit (*pempe*) and mother - with her keen imagination - interpreted their screams in this way: beg-kit beg-kit na-mo vai-kai GYVI! GYVI! (*run-run-home-children ALIVE! ALIVE!*)

We believed all the interpretations offered by those older, wiser and more knowledgeable in bird lore. Time and again we searched for them in the meadows and since we were restricted to creep and search, our efforts went woefully unrewarded. So we pressed for satisfaction. "They are there!" insisted our new countrymen, aunts and cousins. "They are there! But young Americans can't see them!"

When other birds called out loud and clear: kukka-cot kuk-ka-cot-



vai-kai-jau-pa-vaaaaaa-sa-ris (*children now it is spring time*), we knew and let everyone know that Jau gegutes kukuoja (*now the cuckoos call*) enjoying their cheery cuckoos, but they were more often heard than seen. When we would ask to be shown the trees in which they nested, the answers would be in "Mikolojaus Dvare" (*Michael's Manor*). "Where

was the manor?" We were favored with smiles, and the directions were - "Toli. Toli. (Far. Far.)" We never saw the manor, nor heard it mentioned in their conversations of events. In time we began to think for ourselves and began to interpret some of the answers to be 'made up'.

As for the popular storks (*garnai*), they were very visible nesting on the chimneys, but their calls were disappointing and not memorable. They did not chuckle like the gegutes nor scream like the cheerful pempes. They were just huge and handsome.



" GYVI! GYVI! "

Translated by
Antonia M. Wackell

The little bird perches on the mound, its crest standing up. It flies away. Quickly it hides among last year's browned meadow grasses, crest still upright. Suddenly, it rises striking the air with broad flapping wings - rising still higher in the air, over the meadow and ploughing, turns over and shrieks in a shrill triumphant call: " GYVI! GYVI!"

Even the snipe hearing the pewit's scream begins to chirp flamboyantly, more

cheerfully. The pewit turns in the air, the air is so clear, so blue. The pewit can't just calmly fly. She rises, dives, rises again, always turning. Near the meadow, on moist land, golden bridges of marsh marigolds bloom. A real Spring banquet for all the goatsuckers and finches. If a cloud appeared then cold slushy weather would come. The pewit then huddles somewhere next to a hillock and waits for sunny days. When spring's sun shone the pewit's call was heard by all. However, not everyone sees the pewit, but everyone hears her and everyone praises her. The snow just sprinkled and the first leaves from the black earth came up.

Where the pewit shrieks there it will nest. It is now the middle of April. A nest is necessary to set the eggs in the meadows hillock. The pewits like the damp meadows best, but also will nest in the smaller marshes, or sometimes, they will weave a nest on the ploughed land. Having found a satisfactory hollow, the cock sits into it, turns, and with his chest he settles it a little, smoothens it out somewhat and lines it with dried vetch. This is how their nest is woven.

The female lays four eggs in the nest. The eggs in the nest are nicely arranged, all sharp points toward the center. If someone touches and leaves them in disorder, the pewit, upon her return, instantly notices the disarrangement. All eggs are turned and put back in order and only then will she sit upon them again. These eggs are beautifully colored and camouflaged, so one must be careful while walking, you could step on them, accidentally. What trouble, what anxiety, until the little pewits break out of their eggshells.

Often if a man walks near the nest, or a dog runs by, or a crow flutters above, carefully investigating his next meal, the pewits rise to attack the enemy - they plunge - they shriek and

protest. When the little birds hatch from the eggs they are covered with dark yellow fluff. A little downy ball with a small beak, with no sign of a crest on its head. When they hear the elder pewits cry of alarm, they crowd around a hillock, snuggle into a small hole in the ground and just melt into it. If only one pair of pewits nest in the area, there is trouble. But, hearing the cry of alarm, other pewits arrive flying from their nests to help drive the crow away.

With many worms, many kinds of insects, caterpillars, the pewits rear their chicks until they sense it is time to leave.

The month of June, middle of July, the pewits leave. Our birds winter mainly in Spain and Portugal. In the springtime, those who return will again be rejoicing and shrieking.

Author unknown

pempe-pewit
vyturys-snipe
Perkuno oželiais-goatsuckers
kikiliais - finches
varna - crow
GYVI! GYVI! - Alive! Alive!

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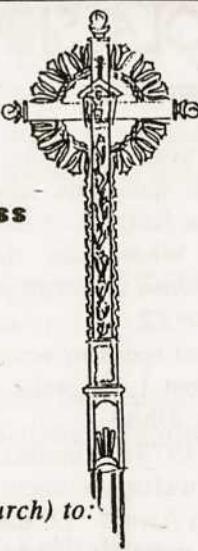
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Junior Council of the Month

by *Elena Mikalauskas, 3rd VP Juniors*

Each month a Junior Council will be featured in Vytis. The intent is to familiarize ourselves with other Junior members in our organization and read about their activities. This month's feature is:

Knights of Lithuania - Juniors C- 112 - Chicago

Maria Deksnis is the Junior Advisor for Council 112. Currently there are fifteen Junior members. Theresa Barnabee, Ausra Buzenas, Andrea Deksnis (Vice President), Alex Deksnis, Alison Lechowicz (Sergeant at Arms), Lauren

Lechowicz (Sergeant at Arms), Alina Meile, Vicki Moore (Sergeant at Arms), Jacqueline Petrosius, Ausra Pumputis (Secretary), Jasmina Pumputis (President), Michael Pumputis (Treasurer), Colleen Silk, Erika Silk, Adam Umbrasas.

The following is a partial list of activities the Juniors have participated in over the past few months.

Cards were made for Roberta Urbaite, their foster child in Lithuania. Christmas treats and cookies were made for the C-112 Christmas party.

Father Tony Markus talked to the Juniors about St. Blaise and the blessing of their throats.

A mini convention was held in Chicago and included a pool and pizza party. A special mass featuring two musicians (Mary and John) and the blessing of the palms was celebrated by Father Tony Markus. Also Lithuanian palm branches were made out of palms and dried flowers.

Please feel free to submit articles to the Vytis regarding your Council membership and activities. I will also be phoning Junior Advisors obtaining information regarding Junior involvement in the Knights of Lithuania Organization.

KNIGHTS OF LITHUANIA SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

by *Fran Petkus*

Each year when the national convention takes place questions arise when mention is made of the Knights of Lithuania's Scholarship Award. Where are the past scholarship recipients? Are they still part of the Knights of Lithuania?

I cannot speak or write about other council recipients but I can write about those from C -96 Dayton, Ohio!

Since 1973 our council has been blessed to have had twelve members receive the K of L Scholarship Award. Of the twelve only one no longer is a member. She is employed with the U.S Security Department and in a special clarified area therefore cannot belong to the Knights at this time.

Our first recipient was Laima Rastikis. Laima has a BA in Communications and Political Science. She runs her own business as a professional writer, communications and seminar consultant. Laima was one of 20 US municipal officials to participate in the U.S. Baltic Foundation and National League of Cities project in Lithuania. With her mother, Stefanija, who had not been back to Lithuania in 50 years, Laima made another visit to the homeland of her parents. Laima, now raising a young family, participates in council activities when time permits.

One very active member many of you have met, Elena Mikalauskas, is National Third Vice-President in charge of Juniors and has been on the MCD Board in the past. Elena is C -96's President and a Fourth Degree Knight! She has been a very busy member. Elena earned a Masters of Science-Nursing Administration in 1994. Elena is a Clinical Nurse Specialist of Bone Marrow Transplant

and an Oncology Certified Nurse. You can read her material on Juniors in the VYTIS and meet her in Brockton as she prepares the Junior Knights Annual Convention Meeting.

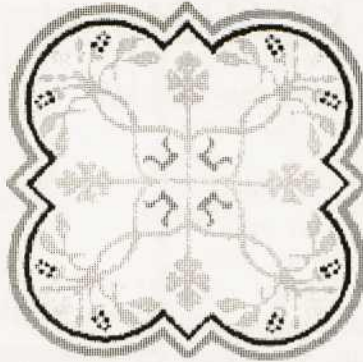
MaryAgnes Mikalauskas is another active member. MaryAgnes has been our Public Relations Chairperson for quite a few years. She has been our VYTIS Correspondent and council 1st Vice President in the past.

MaryAgnes has chaired our Annual Christmas Caroling Program, along with leading us in song with her guitar, for the past several years. MaryAgnes has her BS in Psychology and a Master in Business and Industrial Management. MaryAgnes is presently working for the city of Dayton as a Social Service Technician. She has received several civic awards!

James Pacovsky has a BS in Marketing. James is presently working as an Account Executive with Ameritech. James participates in council activities when ever possible as he, too, is raising a young family. James was inspired with his Lithuanian heritage from his grandmother, now deceased, Mary Lucas, HM!

Molly Geiger, our latest recipient, received her award at the national convention in Novi, MI. Many of you met Molly as she is the director of our Dayton Vejelis Dancers. Molly is presently working on her Associates Degree in Visual Communication and Interior Design. Molly is C -96's Historian, on the Lithuanian Affairs Committee and does some of the art work for our council projects. Molly, representing Lithuania at Dayton's Annual World AIFair, was voted Miss World AIFair in 1995. Molly received recognition, also, with an Outstanding Youth Ministry Award!

Eric Geiger has been C -96 Junior Advisor and is presently the council's Cultural Chairperson. Aaron Geiger is majoring in music and is full time organist for Holy Cross Church. Eric and Aaron are both members of the Vejelis Dancers. Julie Goecke has been C -96's Junior Advisor and held the position of C -96 Bulletin Editor for several years. Barbara Lastoskie is one of our St. Petersburg, FL members. Tim Pacovsky has recently returned from Florida. He found it not to



his liking! Rita Gecas has been working in Cincinnati, OH with her career in nursing. Presently she is on family leave in Florida helping her mother through a serious illness.

All of our Scholarship recipients "grew up" in the Juniors! The "seeds" were planted then "sprouted" when these young people moved into the regular council. We have been blessed!

We have several special projects forming between 1996-97 and look forward to sharing the talents of the younger generations.

As to the value of the Knights of Lithuania's Scholarship Award, there is no question, we do gain! If this award is presented with the intention of expecting something in return, we are giving the award for the wrong reason. It is our obligation, in my opinion, to willingly give our youth the opportunity to further their education. Those who do become active members means we would be twice blessed!

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Kalbėkime Lietuviškai



KLAUSIMAI

Questions

by Dr. Virginia Vaitekoniš
Obando

Let's Speak Lithuanian!



To form a GENERAL QUESTION in Lithuanian you do not have to change anything in the sentence. In order to ask a question, you have to use the verbal intonation of English general questions. For instance, in "Do you speak Lithuanian?" you may add the word ar (if, whether) or gal (perhaps, would you). Here are some examples:

(Tu) supranti Lietuviškai? - Do you understand Lithuanian?

(Compare: Tu supranti Lietuviškai. - You understand Lithuanian.)

Tu gyveni Amerikoje? - Do you live in America?

Norite pailsėti? - Do you want to rest?

Ar norite valgyti? - Do you want to eat?

Gal galite man padėti? - Could you help me?

Gal norite kavos? - Would you like some coffee?

Possible answers to a general question:

taip - yes, **ne** - no, **ačiū** - thank you, **labai ačiū** - thank you very much

Note: Unlike in English, **AČIŪ** can be used both when you accept an offer or refuse it.

Gal norite paragauti lietuviško vyno? - Would you like to taste Lithuanian wine?

Taip, noriu. Labai ačiū. Yes, please. Thank you very much.

Ar norite

sriubos? - Would you like some soup?

Ne, nenoriu. Aš ne alkanas. No, thank you. I am not hungry.

SPECIAL QUESTIONS begin with an interrogative word, but here are no other changes in the sentence. The most often used

INTERROGATIVE WORDS are:

kas - what, who

kur - where

kada - when

kaip - how

kodėl why

kiek - how many, how much

Some polite requests for information

GAL GALĖTUMĖTE PASAKYTI, - COULD YOU TELL ME...

KURI DABAR VALANDA? -

What time it is?

kur yra bankas?

where the bank is?

kada jis ateis?

when he is coming?

kada išvyksta traukinys?

when the train leaves?

AŠ NORĖČIAU SUŽINOTI

I'D LIKE TO KNOW...

kaip ten nuvykti.

how to get there.

apie tavo planus.

about your plans

kur galėčiau nusipirkti bilietą.

where I can buy a ticket.

ATSIPRAŠAU, AŠ NORIU PAKLAUSTI... EXCUSE ME, I

WANT TO ASK...

kaip nuvažiuoti į paštą.

how to get to the Post Office.

kodėl jis vėluoja.

why he is late.

kiek dabar valandų.

what time it is?

GAL PASAKYTUMĖTE

WOULD YOU TELL ME

kas atsitiko?

what happened here?

koks jo adresas ir telefonas?

his address and telephone?



Thanks to Elinor Sluzas at Elinn's Amber Rose Restaurant in Dayton, OH (C--96) for these special sweets that can be tried for Mother's Day.

LITHUANIAN NAPOLEON TORTE

1 pound lightly salted butter, softened
4 cups all-purpose flour
1 pint dairy sour cream

FILLING No. 1:

3/4 cup sugar
5 tablespoons all-purpose flour (or 2 1/2 tablespoons cornstarch)
1/4 teaspoon salt
2 cups milk
4 egg yolks, beaten
1 teaspoon vanilla

FILLING No. 2:

2 cans (14 ounces each) sweetened condensed milk (not evaporated)
6 egg yolks, well beaten
2 teaspoons vanilla
1/2 pound butter, softened

In a large mixing bowl, cut butter into flour for pie dough. Blend into sour cream. Form into 11 or 12 balls. Cover and refrigerate overnight. At baking time, let dough stand at room temperature for 15 minutes. On a lightly floured board, roll out each ball to an almost wafer-thin

round. Fit each round into an ungreased 12-inch pie pan; prick all over. Bake at 350 degrees 4 to 5 minutes or until lightly browned. Cool. When all rounds are baked and cooled, place

one on a flat platter and thinly spread with either filling. Continue stacking and filling until one pastry layer remains. With a dull knife, trim off irregular edges to make torte smoothly round. Frost top and sides with remaining filling. Crush remaining pastry layer and completely cover torte with crumbs. Refrigerate several hours. Torte yields 32 servings; cut a circle in center, then cut entire torte into 4 quarters; center yields 4 pieces, each outer quarter can yield 7.

FILLING No 1: in top of a double boiler, mix together sugar, flour and salt. Gradually add hot milk, stirring constantly. Cook and stir over simmering water until thickened. Pour a small amount over egg yolks, mix thoroughly, then return to pan; cook and stir 2 minutes. Remove from heat and stir in vanilla. Cool.

FILLING No.2: in top of double boiler, over hot but not boiling water cook sweetened condensed milk, stirring frequently, until thickened, about 30 minutes. Add eggs slowly, in a thin stream, stirring constantly. Cook and stir 10 more minutes. Chill. In a large mixing bowl, beat

butter until fluffy. Slowly beat in chilled milk mixture.

Note: for each torte, use either one of these fillings but not both.

RASPBERRY TORTE

CAKE

1 1/3 cups flour
1 teaspoon baking powder
1/3 cup sugar
1/2 cup butter or margarine, softened
1 egg
1/4 cup seedless black rasp. jam

Heat oven to 350 degrees. Grease a 9 inch springform pan. In a medium size bowl, cut or process the butter into the dry ingredients. Mix in egg until moistened. Press dough on the bottom and sides of the pan. Spread jam over the dough and chill while making the filling.

FILLING:

1/2 cup butter or margarine
2/3 cup sugar
1/2 teaspoon almond extract
2 eggs
1 cup almonds, ground or chopped
1/4 cup seedless black raspberry jam

Cream butter and sugar. Add vanilla extract and eggs, beating after each addition. Stir in the almonds. Spoon filling over the cake layer. Bake for 50 minutes or until golden brown. Carefully remove the sides from the springform pan. Spread the remaining jam over the cooled cake.

GLAZE:

1/2 cup powdered sugar
2 teaspoons lemon juice

In a small bowl, blend sugar and juice until smooth. Drizzle over torte. Serves 10.

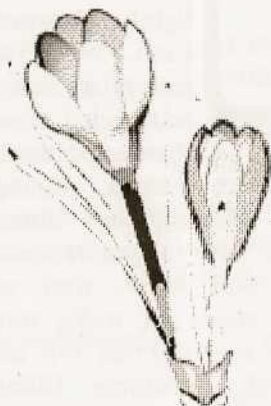


LITHUANIANS IN THE NEWS



Rhode Island Flower Show Shows off Lithuanian Horticultural Talents

Spring began early in Rhode Island when Feb. 21 opened the Flower & Garden Show. Lithuanians from Providence, RI, C-103 with the green thumbs included



Mark Zelonis, Executive Director Blithewold Mansions and Gardens (and his wife, Sally) who hosted the preview party for this year's show.

Walter Katkevich and Barbara Frierich, brother and sister, manager and owner of the Coggeshall Farm Museum in Bristol, RI, exhibited at the Flower Show with a Spring Kitchen of the 1790's theme.

The kitchen garden included plants grown during the time period such as vegetables, and herbs both culinary and medicinal. Rambling shrubs with fruit such as gooseberries, currants, and cranberries were also a part of the exhibit.

-Submitted by Bea & Vic Mathews, C-103

PILGRIMAGE TO LITHUANIA July 1996

In the Footsteps of Pope John Paul II

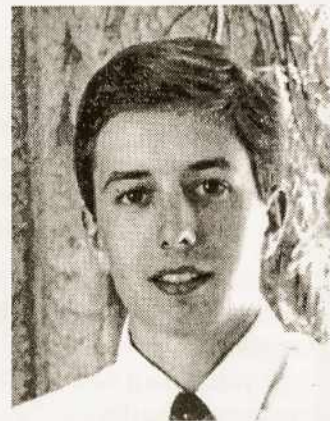
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Med Student

Richardas "Richie" Kumeta, son of Bill and Shirley Kumeta, is now studying at the University of Arizona Medical School where he was accepted following graduation from University of Arizona with a degree in Molecular and Cellular Biology. Richie was a member of "Phi Beta Kappa" honorary society. He also was a member of the Lithuanian Basketball team and attended Marionas Saturday School while living in New York. His father, Bill, is the president of Council C-41, Brooklyn.



MOTHER SENT ME

LITHUANIA

English version by
C.H.B.

Folk Song

Andante

To the sea my moth - er sent me, To the sea to
bring her wa - ter, - Say - ing, "O be care - ful daugh - ter."

Came a seagull slowly flying
While I dipped the blue sea water
In my hands I might have caught her.

Came a black boat slowly sailing.
With a single sail of yellow,
Steered by such a handsome fellow.

Cried the young and handsome fellow,
"Drain the sea not with your pitcher
for my lips are warmer, richer.

In my boat with sail of yellow
Side by side we'll cross the water"
Mother called, "Be careful, daughter."

Thankful be, my good sense taught me
Not to covet being richer
But to run home with my pitcher.

Siuntė mane

Siuntė mane motinėle
[jūreles vandenėlio.) 2

Man besemiant vandenėlį
Ir atlėkė gulbinėlis.) 2

Ir atbėgo juods laivelis
Tam laivelyj jauns bernelis.) 2

Eik šian, mano mergužėle,
Aš perkelsiu per jūrėlę.) 2

Dievas davė man protelį,
Kad nesėdau į laivelį.) 2

LITHUANIAN BAKED BEER AND THE SMITHSONIAN

©1996 by Albert Cizauskas

Tom Cizauskas, son of Gene and Al of Council 142, spoke November 2 at the Smithsonian, Washington's renowned historical and cultural institution. Tom, a graduate of the Siebel Institute of Chicago, the MIT of the science and art of brewing, lectured on beer as the liquid history of mankind, before 250+ beer enthusiasts. He traced its origin to the shores of the Baltic where it appeared as baked beer or "keptinis alus," the fortuitous result of Lithuanian women baking bread.

While engaged in this domestic chore, Lithuanian women noticed a yeasty residue in the batter they prepared for baking bread. Being both imaginative and innovative, they began to experiment by adding various grains and water to the bread to produce what turned out to be a most unusual beverage. Sipping their handiwork, these early brew meisters liked what they had by chance concocted, not least for the pleasant glow it imparted. So popular did baked beer become that it spilled over into neighboring countries like Poland with the same enthusiastic approval rating.

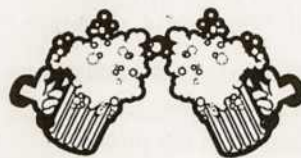
The intriguing story of Lithuanian baked beer was one of a number of side trips on which Tom took his rapt audience during a tour d'horizon of the liquid history of beer. While doing so, he also gave a detailed critique of American specialty brews largely hand crafted in the small breweries proliferating throughout the U.S. During the short span of the past five years, Tom maintained that Americans have changed the way they drink and think about a beverage that is now rivaling wine among a growing number of discerning drinkers.

As a result, professional beer connoisseur's in this country are today extolling the good qualities of Lithuanian baked beer. One of them hailed it as a classic thirst quencher and dismissed some of the popular American beers as no more than "lawnmower" brews. He also came upon a Polish cook book containing the recipe for Lithuanian cooked beer while on a beer hunting trip to eastern Europe. He had the recipe translated and featured in an American trade journal. Here are a few of the steps for brewing this ancient and exotic beer to give VYTIS readers a hint of its very special qualities:

".....coarse ground rye and oats are mixed with water and clean straw to form a still dough that is kneaded. Loaves are formed and baked until crusty and then broken up and added to a barrel of hot water with hops and linden blossoms added. The resultant mash is then covered and allowed to sit until fermentation takes place."

Folklore has it that Lithuanians drank "keptinies alaus" from the cask which leads me to speculate whether they might also have amended the Our Father slightly: "Duok mums šiandien duonos ir keptines alaus. (Give us this day our daily bread and baked beer.)"

To which I would respond with a hearty "Amen."



In Memoriam

Adele Albers

C-3, Philadelphia, PA - Jan. 5, 1996

Aldona Guest

C-112, Chicago, IL - Feb. 9, 1996

James Eacman

C-10, Athol, MA - Feb. 13, 1996

Joseph Zelonis

C-144, Anthracite, PA - March 17, 1996

Helen Yocis

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

Alice Sepek

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

Anna Bender

C-144, Anthracite, PA - Dec. 19, 1995

Ilona Kerr

C-133, Los Angeles, CA - Feb. 1996

Mildred Chinik

C-19, Pittsburgh, PA - March 15, 1996

Ann Kesauskas

C-110, Maspeth, NY - March 26, 1996

Kazimiera Sadauskas

C-29, Newark, NJ - Jan. 2, 1996

Albert J. Zemaitis

C-150, Kansas City, KS - Feb. 23, 1996

Kazys Alzinas

C-36, Chicago, IL - Apr. 1996

Rev. Joseph A. Dambrauskas, M.I.C.

C-36, Chicago, IL - Apr. 1996

May their souls rest in the peace of our Lord.

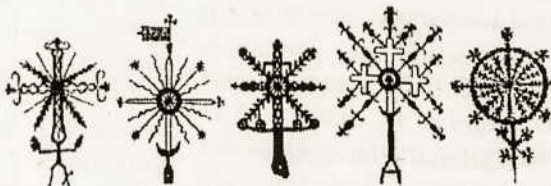
*Amžina atilsj duok mirusiemš Viešpatie ir
amžinoji šviesa tegul jiems šviečia, Amen.*

We Remember Fr. Vincent J. Parulis

We of C-26, St. Casimir's of Worcester, Massachusetts, grieve the loss of our beloved pastor, Father Vincent J. Parulis, M.I.C. Father Vincent was a true son of our parish, born in 1914 in Worcester, son of the late Vincent and Agnes Parulis. Father is survived by two brothers, John and Eugene and their families of Cape Cod, MA. Father suffered a stroke on Feb. 13 from which he never recovered. He died on March 23rd, leaving behind a sorrow filled parish.



The Marian Fathers and Brothers of Marianapolis, the Marian Fathers of our own parish, all of the sixty priests concelebrating Father Vincent's funeral Mass, including three bishops of the Worcester Diocese, and a church filled with lay mourners, created a service of spiritual beauty beyond expression. We ask all our K. of L. friends to join with us in prayer for Father Vincent's precious soul. Father was buried on March 28 in the Marian section of St. Casimir's Cemetery in Chicago. He was a member of C-26.



Council News

Editor's note to all photographers: Please check your photos before sending them to us. Make sure they are labeled and the pictures are in focus. Ačiū.

AMBER DISTRICT

Agnes Mickunas

Council 72 Binghamton hosted the Amber District's St. Casimir's Day Celebration and

meeting on Sunday, March 10. Over 100 delegates and guests representing 11 of the 12 Councils in the District were present for the day's events. We thank all the members of C-72 for being such gracious hosts. We certainly appreciate all your efforts.

Rev. John Mikalajunas, C-72's Spiritual Advisor and Pastor, and Rev. Peter

Alisauskas, Amber District Spiritual Advisor, concelebrated the Mass at St. Joseph's Church. Third Degrees were awarded to Ann Soha (C-143); Steve Soha (C-143); Martha Warnagiris (C-143); Evelyn Harryn (C-63); Helen Mackavage (C-144); Julie Kowrak (C-3); Charles Alamas (C-72) and Mary Guokas (C-72). Helen Chesko, Anne Challan and Dianne Drumstas conducted the ceremonial with pomp and dignity.

Nellie B. Romanas, National Ritual Chair, received special permission from the National President to award Fourth Degrees to Anna Davalla and Frances Shoppel, both of C-143. Mrs. Romanas was assisted by Elsie Kosmisky and John Mickunas. Congratulations and Best Wishes to all the new recipients.

John Mankus, Amber District President, conducted the business meeting. The Mandate Committee consisted of Dianne Drumstas (C-3); Evelyn Prep (C-144); Evelyn Harryn (C-63); Mary Labadis (C-144); and Agnes Mickunas (C-3). John Mankus and Anna Helen McDonald were chosen to represent the Amber District at the National Convention in Brockton.

The big winner of our Amber District raffle was Richard Laske, C-74 Scranton. Congratulations Richard! Our heartiest thanks to Joanna Gilbert, C-146 Harrisburg, who

On the Calendar...

For further info. contact:

July 15, 1996 - 3rd Annual George Perles Golf Tournament for Aid to Lithuania, Paint Creek Country Club, Lake Orion, MI
Bob Boris (810)-682-0098

District Conventions

June 9, MAD Convention Hosts C-29, Newark, NJ	<i>Marie Guoba</i> (201) 589-2001
May 17 - 19, Mid Central District Meeting and Bowling Tourm. - C-25, Cleveland, OH	<i>Richard Marks</i> (216) 381-7287
June 2, Amber Dist. Convention Hosts C-143, Pittston, PA	
Sept. 27 to 29, MCD Fall Conv./Pilgrimage Hosts C-96 Dayton, OH	<i>Elena Mikalauskas</i> (513) 275- 8235

Council Events

May 25, 40th Pittsburgh Folk Festival (Lith. Day) David Lawrence Convention Ctr.	<i>John Baltrus</i> (412) 881-1716
June 30, C-110's Summer party & raffle	<i>Bruno Rutkunas</i> (516) 628-2292

1996 National Convention

August 8-11 Host: C-1, Brockton, MA	<i>Veronica Bizinkauskas</i> (508) 586-0650
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(Note: If your council/district has a scheduled function that's not listed, please inform the VYTIS Editor, so we may include it here.)

chaired this very successful raffle. We appreciate the work she put into making this project a success.

Having just won the big prize, Richard Laske graciously volunteered to Chair the next raffle. All proceeds go to the Amber District Treasury. Our most sincere thanks to all the Councils and members of our District who have cooperated year after year to make this annual venture so successful.

Everyone joined in a lively rendition of "Happy Birthday" to President John Mankus. Ilgiausių Metų John!

We are so pleased that the members of our newest Council 156 of St. Michael's in Shamokin are taking an active part in the District meetings.

Our next Amber District meeting will be hosted by C-143 Pittston on Sunday, June 2. Mark this date on your calendars! It will be a day well spent - guaranteed!!!!

Happy summer to all! Then start packing your bags!! Next stop - the National Convention in Brockton - August 8 - 11.

MID-ATLANTIC DISTRICT

Mary R. Kober

The St. Casimir Day Celebration and District meeting were held on Sunday, March 10th, 1996. Mass was offered at Our Lady of Sorrows Church in Kearny, NJ with celebrant Rev. Anthony Paskus officiating. Prior to Mass, Ritual Chair Joseph Zukas bestowed following ritual degrees. Medals and certificates were handed out by Msgr. D. Pocus and assisted

by Becky Nakrosis and Cathy Cierpial of C-90 Kearny:

FOURTH

DEGREE:

Marie Guoba,
C-29; Nellie
Krynicky, C-29

THIRD

DEGREE:

Mary Barkus,
C-110; Amelia
Gregotowicz,
C-110; Anna
Linkonis, C-110;
Mary Tumelis,
C-110; Jean
Tatoris, C-110;
Elena Nakrosis,
C-90; Eleanor
Rokas, C-90;

Leonard Rokas, C-90; Nellie Stodolski, C-90; Estelle Nelson, C-136.

Following recipients were not available to receive their third degrees: John Nakrosis - C-90; Walter Staskus - C-90; George Blecka - C-109; Helen LaPierre - C-136; Shelley LaVine - C-136.

Following C-153 recipients received their third degrees in Florida: Rev. Vytautas Pikturna, Frances Daniels, Florence Morris, James Marcinkus

Immediately following Mass, buffet luncheon was served at Lithuanian Catholic Center. After dining and socializing, meeting was opened by Pres. Ed Barkowski. Welcoming address was given by Kearny member Theresa Bilaitis. Guest speaker Jeanne Dorr from Lithuanian American Community (Bendruomene) spoke about their project Lithuanian Children's Fund.

President Barkowski reported on several important matters

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taking place at the National Executive Board meeting last October in Philadelphia, 1st Vice President (Membership) Mary Abbott encouraged parents and grandparents to recruit their children to become K of L members 2nd Vice President (Juniors) Bernice Aviza spoke about Junior activity in C-100 and C-136. A trip to Ellis Island and Statue of Liberty was held in April Secretary Muriel Lekstutis read minutes of previous meeting and Josephine Zukas gave the Treasurer's report Ritual Chair Joseph Zukas gave a detailed report on how applications should be completed by councils. Ritual Chairs are not using the guidelines established in the Ritual Section of the National K of L Manual. It is important to follow these instructions and use the latest credit for ritual points. He instructed all Council Presidents to feed the latest revised information to their ritual chairs.



New Degree Recipients

Left: MCD's Ritual Chair, Fran Petkus presents Elaine Pacovsky her 2nd degree; bottom left: 3rd degree recipients from C-110 at MAD March 10 meeting Amelia Gregotowich, Mary Barkus and Ann Linkonis; bottom right: 4th degree recipients at MAD Marie Guopa (Joe Zukas, Ritual) and Nellie Krynicki



Cultural Chair Anthony Yakavonis reported that while he was on vacation in Puerto Rico, he played a few Lithuanian songs on his mandolin which were greatly appreciated by the natives. Lithuanian Affairs Chair Romas Kezys gave an informative report regarding the political activities in Lithuania. He stated that life in Lithuania is very pessimistic with the present leaders being part of the Communistic regime. Elections will be held next year with Algirdas Brazauskas running for another term. Also interested in the Presidency is Vaidas Adamkus, an American from Chicago. Mr. Kezys also mentioned that the Lithuanian Radio Program in New York will be celebrating its 30th

anniversary on November 9th. A professional dance group from Lithuania will perform at Lincoln Center in New York City. Everyone is invited.

A fund raising project was approved with prizes to be given out at the next St. Casimir's Day celebration in March 1997.

Loretta Stukas spoke on behalf of Lithuanian Catholic Religious Aid's Children's Lunch Program. Donations are requested to provide lunches to indigent and orphaned children through the religious staff in Lithuania. There is a great need for this project to be successful. Checks should be made out to *Lithuanian Catholic Religious Aid* and mailed directly to Loretta Stukas at 234 Sunlit Dr., Watchung, NJ 07060.

Several resolutions were unanimously accepted. Donations were made to National Scholarship - \$100; 1/2 page ad in Convention journal \$60; Adopt an Orphan (Bendruomene) - \$150; Lithuanian Catholic Religious Aid Children's Program - \$100.

Mandate committee reported a total of 103 attending: 1 Clergy, 5 District officers, 4 Honorary members 76 delegates and 17 guests. Nine councils were represented. The district consists of a total of 14 councils. The meeting closed with Lithuanian prayers led by Kazys Sipaila, C-29.

The next district meeting will be held in Newark, NJ on June 9th with C-29 as hosts.

NEW ENGLAND DISTRICT

Twenty four persons were in attendance, including Rev. John Petrauskas, spiritual director and Rev. Norkunas, assistant-pastor, at the NED board meeting at St. Casimir's in Worcester, Mass.

This year's cultural festival will be on October 20th at Maironis Park. C-50 New Haven and C-27 Norwood will be the hosts. The program will include a dance group from South Boston. In addition, a possible story hour with a Lithuanian theme plus games for children. The scholarship raffle will be offering five money prizes. Worcester C-26 is seeking donations of prizes for their fish bowl game of chance.

The annual retreat to Kennebunkport, Maine will be June 21, 22, and 23. Father Barber will be our retreat master. Ritual degrees will be awarded at the NED Convention in Ansonia, Connecticut on April 28th.

Victor and Bea Mathieu extended an invitation to Bristol, R.I. on June 8 for a board meeting and social. June will also mark the 25th anniversary of the death of Fr. John Jutt.

**Happy Mother's Day
to All
our
Mothers**



plans for the commemoration are being formulated.

Notes for this report were supplied by the kindness of Bill Wisniewski for Aldona Marcavage.

C-3-Philadelphia, PA *Daina Kapochus Miller*

Our council sponsored the eleventh annual Kučios at St. George's hall in Philadelphia on December 9, 1995. Many members of C-3 gathered early Saturday morning and joined forces transforming an empty hall into a setting of a traditional Christmas Eve dinner. In a matter of hours, a typical Kučios menu was prepared, a small Christmas tree was adorned by beautiful Lithuanian straw ornaments and dry hay was placed under each tablecloth to remind us of how the Christ child was born. No less than twelve dishes were served all meatless, to commemorate the Twelve Apostles. The menu consisted of Herring (silke), Poppysseed milk (Aguonu Pienas), Beet soup (Barsciu Sriuba), mushrooms (Grybai), Fishcakes (Zuvies Kothetai), Dark Bread (Juoda Duona), Fruit Compote (Kompotas), Sauerkraut Salad (Kopustu Salotos), Fruit Pudding (Kisielius), Fried Smelts (Keptos Sehavos), Boiled Potatoes (Virtos Bulves), Baked Whiting (Zuvies), and Christmas Wafers (Plotkeles). Each table had a plate of Plotkeles or Blessed Wafers which were shared by each person at your table. As each person shared a piece of his or her wafer, wishes for a Merry Christmas and a happy and

healthy New Year were extended. Many members of C-3 played an active role in the Kučios. Stanley Petraitis lead everyone in Lithuanian song, -while Ausra Maknys shared a rendition of Lithuanian tradition while growing up. Marge Petronis did a wonderful job as MC and kept everything flowing for an enjoyable evening for all. There were numerous members who worked behind the scenes from running errands, picking up needed items, setting up the hall, serving the meal, making door and raffle prizes ;and the most important part --cleaning up! Thanks to all!

Co-chairpersons Irene Ozalis and Victor Stepalovitch made sure everything ran smoothly from start to finish and are to be commended for a job well done. No matter what role each person played, I know it was a successful evening of good food, fun, and company.

C-7 - Waterbury, CT *Arlene Stiklius*

With most of the harsh winter behind us, we look forward to spring and many events coming up.

Congratulations to the Lithuanian Community for a job well done on the Lithuanian Independence Day festivities. All of us that attended, had a very enjoyable time.

Joseph Stiklius, president of the K of L, Council 7 was made Mayor for the day as part of the celebration of Lithuanian Independence Day by the Lithuanian Community.

Best wishes to William Brillis who is home recovering from recent surgery.

We welcome our newest members Arlene Shea and Catherine and Vincent Balchunas.

C - 12, Manhattan, NY

Dalia Bulvičius for Irene Senken

During the holiday season our council had a real treat. Past Supreme Council president and honorary member Fran Petkus and her family paid us a visit. A number of years ago she lived in New York and belonged to our council. Here she was married by the then pastor Rev. George Gurinskas and later moved with her husband to Dayton, OH. Fran was introduced during Mass and everyone gave her a big hand. After mass during coffee and... Fran shared many choice anecdotes about life with C - 12. She recalled a dance, before which not a sign of snow. Afterwards almost a foot of the white stuff came down. The guys carried the girls to the trains! (Would this be true in the '90's?)

A few weeks after Fran's visit - surprise. In the middle of the blizzard of ninety six, yours truly received a letter from our cheery honorary member Frank Petrauskas in Syracuse: "Don't fret about your blizzards down there, Frank tried to calm me. In the first weeks of January we had one hundred inches!" Thanks, Frank, that made my day. It would have been forty four inches over my head!

Our January and February meetings were canceled. We must really admire our hearty PA

C-19's Sr. Francesca (center front) with Festival chairpersons at Lith. Hall on 2/11: Tillie Milauskas and Gail Barkus, back row: Janet Ruperto, John Baltrus and Rose Carroll.



and MA councils members, who do not miss one meeting. Just like the Post Office...neither hail or snow... Good job gang.

Good weather prevailed thanks, probably to St. Casimir, our March communion breakfast was served. Although the weather was cold, a nice group showed up. Helen Yurkus was the chairperson and with her crew did a marvelous job. Jean Janonis distributed cards with the prayer to St. Casimir. Maryte Abbott, the VYTIS editor, was our special guest. Her visits are perfect for your editors to discuss our work on VYTIS.

January, February, March birthdays were celebrated during our communion breakfast. President Ed Burba Cook brought out a cake to the strains of Ilgiausiu Metu. Vinnie Cuprevich our refreshment chairman opened Champagne which Millie Pietz provided to celebrate her thirty ninth plus forty one birthday. Millie your really don't look a day over.... Millie takes good care of herself, right after our meeting, she took off for a rest in Florida. Did you have a good rest miela biciule?

No more blizzards dear Lord, please, its time to smell the flowers!

C-19-Pittsburgh, PA
Rob Medonis

This year, Memorial Day weekend (May 24 - 26th) will mark the 40th anniversary of the Pittsburgh Folk Festival. The Lithuanians of the Pittsburgh area are only one of four ethnic groups that have participated in the Festival every year since its inception. The Festival is especially important to C- 19 members, because so many of them are involved with organizing the Lithuanians' participation. Although the Festival could not be a success without the help from the members of Pittsburgh's other Lithuanian organizations, we are especially proud of our C-19 member's commitment.

The Lithuanian's participation in the first Festival was directed by Sr. Francesca, a member of our council, who organized a dance group from St. Francis Academy. Our council's late spiritual advisor, Rev. Walter Karaveckis, organized the Lithuanian food booth at the

Festival for over 25 years. Many other members of our council have participated in various capacities throughout the rich history of the Festival.

Today we continue the tradition of K of L involvement in chairing key Festival committees. Council president, John Baltrus is general chairman for the Lithuanian group for the fifth consecutive year. He and his wife, Andrea, also chair the Lithuanian food booth. The Cultural display is put together under the direction of C-19 members, Tillie Milauskas and Rose Carroll. The display this year will feature the Lithuanian celebration of Joninės, midsummer's eve. Ticket sales are handled by our council's vice-president, Robert Medonis, Jr; Bill Kolicius is the group's historian, Vito Yucius provides publicity through his Sunday radio program, and Brian Johnson is building chairman. Finally, council members Rob Medonis, Brian Johnson and Andrea and John Baltrus are members of the Neris dance group, which performs each year at the Festival. This year the group will be highlighting dances they will perform later at the Lithuanian Dance Festival in Chicago. Many other C-19 members also volunteer their time and efforts, without which the festival could not be a success.

Council 19 members and the rest of Pittsburgh's Lithuanian Community invite everyone to Pittsburgh and the David L. Lawrence Convention Center on Saturday, May 25th, when Lithuania will be one of the highlight groups at the 40th

Annual Pittsburgh Folk Festival. Enjoy Lithuanian dance performances, Lithuanian food, a cultural display and booths teaching and selling Lithuanian crafts. Further details can be obtained by calling 412-881-1716.

C-26 - Worcester, MA *"Olga"*

President Anne Leseman continues to keep us active!

We extend greetings to Father Anthony Nockunas, MIC, and Father John Petrauskas, MIC, on the occasion - of their Feast Days in June.

Mary Duggan is home now after many weeks in the hospital, and doing well. We don't see John Ridick too often because he spends all his time with his ailing wife, Ann, at St. Francis on Thorne Street.

The Ridicks are the parents of Sister Joyce, SSG, PhD. Sister Joyce is teaching at the seminary in Cromwell Connecticut. Many years ago, Sister was the recording secretary for C-26.

Heartfelt sympathy to Eva Peciulis and her family on the death of Eva's husband, John, in February. May the Lord grant him eternal rest.

Frances Kulakusky is back to active participation following some hospitalization. And, Irene Mamavich is well once more following a triple bi-pass surgery

To record here the details of our hall's dedication would take endless reporting and we are so fearful of omitting anyone. A large committee of dedicated parish workers presented an affair which will be remembered for all time. Lack of space will

prevent mention of everyone, but at this time please know that two special K. of L.'ers were recognized at our dedication: Honorary Member Ann Bender (C-26) for her many years of service to the parish and to Anthony Miner (C-116) also a member of our parish and a staunch worker. Each was presented with a beautifully tailored jacket.

Co-chairpersons of the event were- Stephen Walinsky, Jr. and Carol Tagman Grigas.

The absence of our pastor, Father Vincent Parulis, M.I.C., because of illness, placed a cloud of sadness over our dedication. Father died three weeks later. (See In Memoriam, elsewhere in this issue.)

C-29 - Newark, NJ *Rita Sussko*

Spring has not arrived as yet, but with the days of mild weather, everyone appears to be picking up their old enthusiasm.

Council 29 canceled our January meeting due to the weather, but with the break in February, our meeting was held.

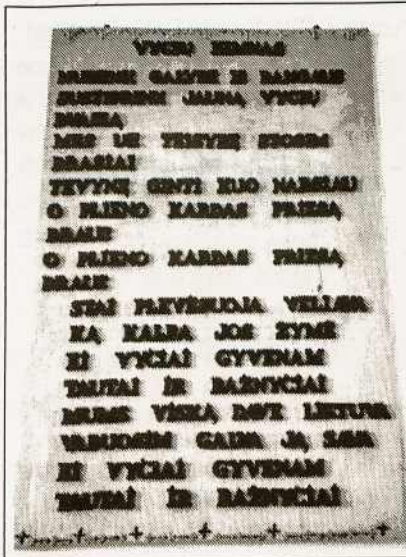
Many of our members worked diligently at our pre-lenten potato pancake dance. All proceeds of this affair are donated to Holy Trinity Lithuanian Church. During February, our long distance members, Consuella and Chester Karchefsky from Mentor Ohio, visited New Jersey.

Life Member, Vaclovas Kiukys, presented Council 29 with a beautiful hand carved plaque with the words to the "VYČIUS HYMNAS". Mr. Kiukys also carved a Wayside

Cross, which he presented to James Florio, former Governor of New Jersey. We are very proud to claim him as a member.

On March 3rd we held our annual St. Casimir's Communion Breakfast, chaired by Nellie Krynicki, followed by our March meeting. Guest speaker and Council 29 member, also father of three children, two of whom are adopted from Lithuania, Dr. Michael Yudd relayed to us the dire need for our ongoing support to Lithuania. At the suggestion of our Sunshine Lady, Marie Guoba, we presented Dr. Yudd with a check for \$300.00 to help defray the cost of container shipment.

On March 10th at the 10:30 Mass at Our Lady of Sorrows Church in Kearny NJ Marie Guoba and Nellie Krynicki were awarded their 4th Degree medals. On this day also Mary Tumelis and Jean Tatoris were awarded their 3rd Degree. All awards made by Joseph Zukas, who has done the most outstanding job as MAD Ritual Chairman. Our compliments to Joe, he is the best! Council 29 was represented with 2 Honorary Members, 13 Delegates, 1 District Officer and 5 Guests. We do miss seeing the presence



*C-29's Vyčių Hymnas
by Vaclovas Kiukys*

of our very long time popular and active member, Mary Stonis, at our meetings and affairs. We sincerely wish Mary a return to good health and also to C-29.

Wishing all our fellow Knights and their families, a HEALTHY, HAPPY Spring!

C - 46, Forest City, PA Blanche Motsko

Our church was beautifully decorated at Christmas due to the efforts of Charles Cyzeski and

his crew. All three altars looked spectacular decorated with trees and flowers. A huge live tree was decorated with Lithuanian straw ornaments and garlands. Although we had a severe cold winter and much snow, we still managed to have all of our meetings. During our January meeting, Casimir Stanis, who toured Bosnia, gave us an interesting talk about his trip. He shared with us many snapshots. He also gave each member a handmade rosary which all of us will cherish. Thank you, Casimir.

In February Dorothy Anzulus and her family spent 2 weeks near Daytona, Florida. She escaped some of our bad weather.

Alice Punter - our president and her husband Bill spent three weeks in Daytona and it was already spring when they returned.

In February we celebrated Lithuania's Independence Day. At our church. We hoisted the Lithuanian flag and sang songs. Our thanks to all those who work at this project year after year.

In March we had a St. Casimir Mass. Gifts during the Offertory were brought by members in ethnic clothing.



C-36 Members attending the Lith. American Women's Guild Amber Ball Cotillion in Chicago.

(l to r) Al Zukas, Mary F. Kincius, Scottie Zukas and K. of L. President, Evelyn Ozelis.

Mass was offered by our spiritual advisor Father Sitko. After Mass we enjoyed a delicious breakfast at Mary Ann's Restaurant. A short meeting followed.

On March tenth, three delegates: Stasia Wallace, Amy Morris and Dorothy Andzulis and four members Jean and Frank O Peka, John Morris and Blanche Motsko attended the St. Casimir Mass and district meeting hosted by Council 72 in Binghamton. Amber District spiritual advisor Father Pete presented many with third and fourth degrees. A beautiful Lithuanian Mass was celebrated by Fr. Mikalajunas, and the choir sang beautifully. Afterwards we had a delicious dinner at the Cultural Hall followed by the district meeting. A huge raffle followed. Then we enjoyed various cold cuts and dessert.

Joan O Peke and Blanche Motsko are planning to tour Russia and Lithuania in July. Gero vejo.

C-72, Binghamton, NY

John R. Mankus

GERBIAMIEJI:

Our Council's Lithuanian Independence Day commemoration started with Mass at Saint Joseph's Lithuanian Roman Catholic Church celebrated by Father John Mikalajunas. Along with many of our members and friends, Mayor Richard Bucci of Binghamton attended the celebration. Saint Joseph's Choir under the direction of Carla Wilson led us in the singing of *Lietuva Teyvne Musu, Lietuva*



***Helen Chesko,
Ritual Committee
(center) is flanked
by Council 72 third
degree recipients
Mary Guokas and
Charles Almanas.***

Brangi and Marija, Marija. Mayor Bucci read and presented a Proclamation, recognizing the 78th Anniversary of Lithuanian Independence to Delores Wasileski, who was dressed in native Lithuanian costume. After Mass, approximately eighty people joined us at Saint Joseph's Cultural Center for refreshments. Our members Marcella Semcho, Mary Ann Pakel, Irene Grikenis and Helen Svereika provided home baked cakes and dozens of cookies and other pastries for the occasion.

Congratulations from all our members go out to Felix and Helen Svereika who recently celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary.

I wish to thank Stanley Pakel for his generous donation to help our council ship medical and humanitarian supplies to convents and hospitals in Vilnius and Kaunas.

Amber District meeting was held in Binghamton, NY on March 10th; ten councils were present with a total of 117 members and guests attending.

Father Peter Alisauskas and Father John Mikalajunas celebrated Mass at Saint Joseph's Lithuanian R. C. Church. Two members of our council, Mary

Guokas and Charles Almanas received their third degrees.

Delegates and guests enjoyed chicken dinner and home baked rye bread by Art Stankevitz. Dinner committee consisting of Irene and Casey Grikenis, John and Grace Mankus, Milane Marchuska, Delores and Henry Wasilesky worked hard to make the delegates welcome. They were ably assisted by Carla Wilson, Ralph Sadauskas, Ed and Mary Radin, Anna Marie Distin, Marcella Semcho and Mary Ann Pakel.

C-79, Southfield, MI

Bee Jay

Our monthly meeting, Wed. March 6, brought out the old reliables on a cold, wind-blown day.

During the usual business reports, our Fin. Sec., Stella Hotra stated we gained two members, Ralph and Agatha Conti, who transferred from C-139. We hope they become active participants.

Stella also holds the position of Cultural Chairperson. She presented an interesting article on our anthem. It held our attention with facts about the composition we had not known before.

Pres. Margaret Dapkus gave us a report on St. Casimir's Day, celebrated just three days ago. Approximately 40 C. 79, 102 and 139 members attended Mass at Divine Providence Church. After the service we trooped into the vast auditorium/gym to take part in the annual Fair ("Kaziuko Muge") put on by Boy and Girl Scouts of the parish. C-102 member, Irene Vizgirda, is to be commended and thanked for her help in serving the reserved tables of K. of L'ers. Delicious kugelis and cepelinai were the most popular items on the menu.

Genute Nanyte, Fr. V. Valdemaras' housekeeper made a short visit to introduce herself and Pres. Marge offered her our help in getting settled in her new home.

We heard Helen Santorum, our once very-active Lithuanian Affairs Chairperson is still confined, at home, coping with a slow process of recovery, after major knee surgery several months ago. She misses our meetings and gatherings and asks our prayers for a complete recovery.

We were happy to see Walter Hotra attending the meeting, recovering from serious surgery last Fall.

Pres. Marge announced the date of the annual Mid-Central Bowling Tournament and meeting. It will take place May 17-19 in Cleveland, OH, hosted by C-25. Members who do not attend meetings and interested in participating, please contact any officer for more information.

It was also announced our annual Fall Festival will be held Sunday, Nov. 3, 1996. We are urged to begin preparing for it --

with homemade crafts and other goodies, ladies.

After the meeting we enjoyed a social hour, munching on bagels and accompaniments, while catching up on our activities since the previous meeting.

C -96 - Dayton, OH *Fran Petkus*

Like so many Lithuanian communities throughout the United States, we in the Dayton area celebrated the anniversary of Lithuania's Independence Day, also. We began the day on February 25th with Mass at 9:30 AM at Holy Cross Church. At the end of Mass the singing of the American and Lithuanian anthems could be heard beyond the walls of church. It was very inspirational and heart warming. Junior Knights Joseph Berger and Alex Fletcher were the Offertory Bearers.

Following Mass a buffet lunch was held. With C -96 member Elaine Pacovsky in charge of the main course and parishioners bringing a wonderful variety of 'covered dishes', no one went home hungry. Opening prayer was given by Fr. Mike Holloran. This year's resolution to be sent to President Clinton was read by C -96 member, Judy Petrokas. Our guest speaker was Gediminas Jomantas of Klaipeda, Lithuania. Gediminas is in the US on a student visa and is presently studying at the Franciscan University in Steubenville, Ohio. Gediminas, having been away from home for a little better than two years, surprised his family with a visit

during the holidays. The changes he observed are what he shared with us. He sang some very heart rendering songs that our young Lithuanian students are writing in prayer for Lithuania during this difficult time of transition to a free state. From all we heard, Lithuania needs our prayers now more than ever!

Sarysis President Aldona Ryan, C-96 Honorary Member, chaired the event. C -96 member George Mikalauskas volunteered, very successfully, to collect donations for Aid to Lithuania, Inc.

We wish a very happy 25th Wedding Anniversary to Robert and Susan Keivell. Get well wishes go to Henry Pant, Joseph Gudelis, Ada Sinkwitz, Michael J. Petkus and our council president, Elena Mikalauskas!

We thank our out-of-town members, Arman/Venice Grantham (Texas), Paulette Petkus (Kentucky), Charles/Fran Vangas (Florida), Joe/Ann Boeke (Michigan), Irena Gecas (NY), for continuing to participate in the many charities the council supports.

C - 96's Annual St. Casimir's Day Celebration began with Mass at 9:30 AM on March 10th at Holy Cross Church. Members were preceded into church by our council's cross made by George Mikalauskas. Mark Bell placed St. Casimir's picture and lily at the St. Casimir's Altar. Offertory bearers were the Pant family; Henry, Lauretta, Michael, Robert and Linda. Following Mass Stefanija Raštikis led us in the Litany to St. Casimir in Lithuanian. Presentation of Degrees was

held. Mark Bell was awarded the First Degree by Ritual Committee member Eloise Berczelly. The Second Degree was awarded to Rev. Michael Holloran and Elaine Pacovsky by Ritual Chair Fran Petkus. The singing of the Vycių Himnas closed the church portion of our celebration.

Members headed to the parish hall for their monthly meeting. From there we all headed to Anticoli's for a sit down breakfast/dinner rounding out a memorable day!

Jim Geiger has been busy setting days aside for members to participate in Lithuanian straw ornament classes in preparation for Dayton's Annual World A'Fair Weekend on May 30-June 1-2, 1996. Sally Miller has been the instructor along with Jim.

Elena Mikalauskas, SC 3rd Vice-President (Juniors), Mark Bell, SC Trustee, BM Elinor Sluzas and HM Fran Petkus returned home from a weekend attending the March 23rd SC meeting in Pittsburgh, PA. All returned home tired from a weekend packed with a busy meeting and fulfilled meetings-after-the-meeting sessions! In spite of some differences during the meeting, there was plenty of informal discussion after and much sharing of friendship in true K of L style! Our hosts for this wonderful weekend were members of C -19, Pittsburgh and the the Sisters of St. Francis of the Providence of God.

C -96's Sports Committee, Joseph Fletcher, Mike U Audrey Blum, has started the bowling sessions preparing for the MCD

Spring Convention/Bowling Tournament in Cleveland, Ohio.

George and Frances Mikalauskas recently returned home from a "quick decision" trip to Rome. Their home base was the facilities at the Lithuanian College, Rome. It was a packed visit as they were hosted by Msgr. Antanas Jonušas. They did visit with Msgr. Al Bartkus and had the pleasure of meeting the Vatican Head in South Korea, Archbishop John V. Bulaitis. One evening was spent with the Lithuanian Ambassador to Italy and Greece, Romanas Podagėlis, his wife Aldona and daughter Victoria, for dinner.

Get well wishes are sent to Henry Pant!

We offer our deepest sympathies to council member John Sipek and his family on the loss of his wife, Alice. May she rest in the peace of the Lord!

C-100 - Amsterdam, NY ***Smile and Sparkle***

Our council members attended the 10:40 a. m. mass on March 3 which our spiritual advisor, Rev. Joseph Grabys celebrated. During Holy Communion, the choir, all K. of L'ers, sang "Sventes Kazimieras". The mass ended and all members traveled to Valentino's Restaurant in Cranesville, where our chairmen Mrs. Sophie Olbie and Mrs. Sophie Malkowicz arranged a dinner and program.

President Mirga Bablin welcomed all members and guests Father Grabys gave the invocation. Following the meal, Sophie Malkowicz called on the

past president, Irene Tice who gave an excellent talk on the life of St. Casimir.

Prizes were won by Edward Bablin, Gerard Drenzek, and Gene Gobis.

We are very proud of our junior president, Mikalina Tambasco. She was congratulated on winning the first prize for her poem "Lietuva". It was printed in VYTIS.

N.Y.-N.J. district Junior Vice President Bernice Aviza joined us for the occasion. Ed Baranauskas and wife Genute attended from Schenectady as did our ritual chairman Elizabeth Kuzmich from Scotia.

Lest we forget.... congratulations to Irene Tice and her husband, Harold, to Val and Louise Kleabonis and family.... Our Xmas party.... to Walter and Sophie Malkowicz, Bill and Beatrice Jasewicz, Polly Ziausys. Sophie, Olbie, Regina Kot, Eleanore Olechowski, Gerard Drenzek, Ann Czerw, Gene Gobis.

The hall was beautifully decorated ... the Xmas spirit was everywhere. A great deal of credit goes to Irene Tice and Gerard Drenzek. The decorations were beautiful! The music by Wally kept everyone on the dance floor! Some of the attendees included Fran Dibart, Mildred Whelly, Helen Hugo, Al and Joan Bagdonas and many, many more.

Father Grabys started the traditional breaking of the Xmas wafer (plotkele) and everyone got into the act. All too soon it was time to leave. *Iki kitų Kaledų! Lai Nauji Metai atneša visiems geros sveikatos,*

Congratulations to Val and Joe Stanaitis of C-112 Chicago who celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on May 4. Both have been active K of L'ers for 40 years, holding elective offices and later editing, publishing and mailing the district bulletin for more than 13 yrs.



At dinner Father thanked all the Knights who came and filled the church. He felt it was an honor and was happy to have us with him. Father Peter Alisaukas, spiritual advisor of the Amber district was concelebrant. God bless these two priests who know our Lithuanian needs.

pasisekimo darbe ir daug naujų Vyčių!

Radio station WCSS again contacted Gene Gobis regarding an hour Lithuanian Christmas program. Gene contacted Mirga Bablin and Regina Hartvigas who had new Xmas recordings from Cleveland, Ohio which she was kind enough to lend. Mirga found some interesting facts on a Lithuanian Christmas and they had enough material for an hour's program. The station had it on both Christmas Eve and Day.

C - 102, Scranton, PA
Marie Laske

Council 74 awarded the first degrees to three members: Helen Churl, Margaret Clegg and Regina Yetkowskas. Congratulations. Our ritual chairperson is Peg Romanauskas. Due to the recent death of Edward Romanauskas, Margaret Clegg is now treasurer.

Our deepest sympathy goes out to Betty Ramosiatis on the death of her brother, Sam Wanagaitis.

Although we do not sing any Lithuanian hymns during Mass, our council received communion as a group when we celebrated the feast of our patron St.

Casimir on Sunday March 3rd. We had our breakfast at Perkins Pancake House and were surprised at such a large turnout. Casimir Yanish who celebrates his birthday on March fourth received a special award.

We attended the Amber District meeting. Rev. Fr. John Mikalajunas, pastor of St. Joseph's church in Binghamton, blessed us with a St. Casimir relic. Father spoke beautifully about our Lithuanian traditions and heritage. "Don't hold your traditions and heritage and culture in your hearts," said Father, "share them with others, don't let them die within you. Ruta - the Lithuanian flower is the Joy of Life. The bride wears it on the right side of her head and passes it to the left side when she marries. Love embraces us."

"Our ancestors wanted a better life in the New World. So they could continue with their traditions," continued Father, they built churches, schools and seminaries."

We really admire this vibrant and truly Lithuanian priest. He ended with blessing the people and after Mass he gave a special blessing to the altar boys. Then we sang Lithuanian songs.

Ilgiausių metų.

Everyone who attended this Mass came home with such a deep feeling for our heritage.

We had members who were awarded their third and fourth degrees.

Richard Laske, Scranton C-74 won first prize in the raffle, three hundred dollars. This now makes him chairperson for next year's raffle at the Amber district meeting.

John Ramoska is on the way to recovery after a weak spell. Helen Churi, our recording secretary, was also in the hospital.

C - 109, Great Neck, NY
J. C. Petraitis

The winter of 96 will be forever etched in our book of memories as being one deserving of many descriptions.

For all of us, it meant no meetings - a real minus; because we look forward to getting together for discussions and most importantly, try to fulfill the priority goals of our organization.

For most of us, it meant endless snow to shovel, countless days of being home

bound with an occasional trip outdoors to experience the bone chilling winds.

On March 3rd, St. Casimir's Day, twenty five Knights proudly showed their devotion to our patron saint by attending mass at St. Aloysius Church in Great Neck. Although this is not a Lithuanian church we were warmly received by the congregation. After the celebration of mass, we all went to a local restaurant for breakfast.

As for our social calendar: two fiftieth wedding anniversaries: Mary Ann and Stanley Sosaris and Al and Bertha Bedel. Both couples still have the love lights in their eyes. Congratulations and many, many more anniversaries.

Our sick fellow Knights had us on our knees in prayer for a speedy recovery for all of them. Our prayers were answered - all are enjoying good health again: Wally Mordes, Jane Schwarz, Gladys Banks and Henry Miklas. Josephine Zukas sustained a serious fall and had to have surgery. At present she is well once again.

Hugs for the grandmother for a fifth time - Lou Ann Rush.

Spring must be ready to break into blossom, is that a robin I hear?

C- 110, Maspeth, NY ***Dorothy Sakal***

Council members attended the 11:45 am mass celebrating St. Casimir on March 31 after which a hot brunch of desros and sauerkraut followed with our monthly meeting.

An interesting guest was presented with Ann Morrissey, a Lithuanian from Australia, who told us of our brethren "down under".

On Good Friday, our council participated with others at Maspeth's Transfiguration Parish in a procession of the Stations of the Cross through the Maspeth Community. The procession was led by Bishop Thomas Daly of the Brooklyn Diocese with our Msgr. Frank Bulovas representing Transfiguration.

A donation of \$100 from our council was approved to be sent to the Franciscan Monastery to help defray the repairs from the recent break-in.

C-136, Hudson Mohawk, NY ***Dorothy Richmire***

At a recent meeting of the Mid-Atlantic District on March 10, 1996, Council 136 was well represented. Congratulations to Estelle Nelson on receiving her Third Degree at the meeting. Two other members were eligible but unable to attend. Helen LaPierre and Shelley LeVine will receive their Third Degree at our annual dinner in June. All three members have participated on most committees serving in various capacities. We are 'grateful for their devotion and dedication.

At our March meeting we were happy to welcome new member, Gerda Korla. Congratulations Gerda. We were also pleased to have guests, Jean and William Collett who are potential new members. We are always happy to share with new members the rich traditions of the Knights.

A bus trip to New York City is being planned for April 27. The trip will include a visit to Ellis Island and the Statue of Liberty. Members and guests are invited to attend and it looks like we have an enthusiastic response. We all hope it will be a successful and enjoyable event.

Sunday, March 17 we celebrated St Casimir's feast day and tipped our hats to our Irish friends and relatives as well. Those of us who were able attended mass and a buffet breakfast following mass.

C-141-Bridgeport, CT

After months of planning, the committee for St. Casimir's brunch realized a large attendance; first to celebrate a mass at St. George Church, then all participated in a highly pleasing meal after Msgr. Pranckus said grace. The nearly one hundred-people present were fortunate to hear our, spirited, invited guest Sister Igne of the Sisters of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, founded by Blessed George Matulaitis in 1918.

Sister Igne spoke of the thirty four nuns in Putnam, Conn. who are dedicated to their tasks in the convent, the Matulaitis Nursing Home and the summer children's camps in Vermont and Michigan and schools in Canada. Profits from the brunch were donated to the St. Casimir's Pontifical College in Rome.

Get well wishes and a speedy recovery to fellow members: John Kristy, Benjamin Dirgins, Anna Laukaitis, Aldona

Elena Bacevičius (center with candle) at official ceremony receives her 4th degree in Holy Name Church in Gulfport, FL. at the St. Casimir Day Celebration on March 3, 1996. With her are Kazimiera Arlauskas, Antanas Grabauskas, Irena Diktanas, Rev. Matas Čyvas and Rev. Jonas Gasiunas, Spiritual Advisor.



Marcavage, and Josephine Wisniewski.

Stella Marcinauskis will be traveling to Lithuania this Spring to fulfill her husband's wish to bury his and his mother's ashes in their beloved Lithuania.

Iki, Sylvester Marcavage for Aldona

C-142 - Washington DC ***Kay A. Yankoski***

Here's a review of 1995 council activities:

In February, the Annual Independence Day Mass was held in St. Matthew's Cathedral in Washington, DC. Their choir does an amazing rendition of both Marija, Marija and the Lithuanian National Anthem. Programs followed at the University of Maryland.

In March, the Lithuanian Scouts held their Kaziuko Muge. For the first time, a fashion show of clothes from Lithuania was part of the activities. Wool coats, jackets and vests were particularly attractive.

In May, we had a meeting to discuss the programs for the balance of the year. And Julia Burlen, our Council President, was off to Lithuania once again, this time visiting Vilnius, Kaunas, Jeznas, Druskininkai and Marcinkonių Kaime.

In June, we had our Annual Picnic in Julia's backyard. And, as usual, John Waylonis was the chief cook in charge of grilling.

In July, Kay Yankoski, Council VP, went on her fifth trip to Lithuania. Highlights of this trip were the Mindaugas Holiday on July 8 and 5 days in Nida, where Raganu Kalnas is not to be missed.

In October, our monthly Lithuanian Mass honored the deceased members of Council 142. Council members provided refreshments for the reception afterward in the church hall.

In December, we had our Annual Christmas Party with Mary Semel's famous kugelis (none better!), desru from Pennsylvania courtesy of Jean Lutwin, fabulous kapusta from Irene Redecke, Helen Szpakowski's poppy seed cake, and other foodstuffs too numerous to mention. Home and hospitality were provided by Beverly Meder.

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

Council 147 welcomes our new member, Francis L. Barry from Bradenton Florida. A great big welcome to you Francis,

from all of us here in St. Petersburg.

Get well wishes for Ona Semolevičiene and Victoria Jacobson. Also Emilija Grušas. We hope you are all feeling better. Vytautas and Stephanie Vaikutis from Council 141, Bridgeport Connecticut, were guests of John and Dolores Jonaitis for a week in March.

Our St. Casimir Day Celebration was an especially joyous occasion for us this year. It started with Antanas Grabauskas carrying in our Knights of Lithuania flag, to Most Holy Name of Jesus Church. His attendants were Irena Diktanas and Kazimiera Arlauskas. They were escorted to the altar by our president Anthony Gudonis. Following were Elena Bacevičius, our 4th degree recipient, carrying a lighted candle, and members of C- 147. Father Matas Čyvas and Father Jonas Gasiunas, led her in prayer and the K of L "Pasiaukujimas". After receiving her medal, she kissed our Knights of Lithuania Flag. Mass was celebrated by Father Stephonas Ropolas - O.F.M. Concelebrants were Rev. Matas Čyvas, Rev. Jonas Gasiunas, Father Kirkalas, Father

Benediktas Jurčius O.F.M. from Lithuania, and Father Leonardas Andriekus O.F.M. from Kennebunkport, Maine. The giftbearers, in Lithuanian dress, were Irena Diktanas and Kazimiera Arlauskas. Dinner followed for 50 members and guests, in the Lithuanian club. Elena Bacevičius baked a delicious torte for this special occasion. All Mass Celebrants were our guests. Our program consisted of readings by Valeria Lesčinskas and Victoria Kleiva.



*C-147 February 16th 1996 Minejimas
(L to R) Maryte Verbickas, Irena Diktanas, Antanas
Grabauskas, Valeria Lescinskas and Kazimiera Arlauskas.*

AID TO LITHUANIA RECEIVES LETTERS OF GRATITUDE FROM LITHUANIA

During the last few months, Aid to Lithuania, Inc., has received letters of gratitude for medications and medical supplies sent to hospitals, clinics etc., from Lithuania. We would like to share some of these letters with our membership.

Ona Grimalauskienė, Consultant to the Ministry of Health of Lithuania.

"I would like to express my heartfelt thanks for your assistance to the people of Lithuania over the past year."

Nijole Kibildienė, Head physician Republican Hospital of Šiauliai

"We became aware of Aid to Lithuania from one of our colleagues, Dr. J. Mikalauksas, who recently returned to Lithuania from the United States. We operate a multifunctional hospital with various departments which include: surgical, psychotherapeutic, neurological, geriatric, pediatric, obstetrics/gynecology. Our hospital is one of the largest in Lithuania, accommodating and occupying 1360 bed capacity. Our materials and equipment are poor. We do not have the financial means to obtain many of the necessary supplies, medications, equipment that are necessary to function as a hospital. We, therefore, request any possible assistance to send us medications."

Dr. Elva Marčiulionienė, Director, Caritas Diagnostic Center, Kaunas.

"We are thankful for the new donations we have received from Aid to Lithuania in cooperation with Catholic Medical Mission Board. All the boxes reached us in good condition. I am thankful of your confidence and I will inform you about the division of the donations at a later date."

-Compiled and translated by Regina Juska, P. R. Chair

*Pakelkime balsus!*³⁸ *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'ovuers** 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.**



GEGUZE - 1996 - MAY

A prayer for May:

*Taikos ir meiles trokšta žmonija,
Žmogaus širdis taip ilgisi ramybės!
O ją atras tik Tavo širdyje,
Tik Motinos glėby ji vėl rami bus.*

**All mankind thirsts for love and peace
The human heart so longs for serenity!
But only in Your heart can they be found,
In your Motherly embrace, can we find rest!**

This month, we observe:

- May 1 Feast of St. Joseph, the worker. In early times, it was not unusual for the Church to Christianize a secular feast or holiday by imparting some religious significance. In modern times, the International Labor Day (except in the US) was designated as a feast of St. Joseph in commemoration of his life as a manual laborer.
- May 2 National Day of Prayer
- May 5 Blessed Michael Giedraitis. A member of the Order of Canons Regular (White Augustinians), he entered the order at Bistryčia, northeast of Vilnius. He later received a doctorate in philosophy from Cracow University. He died on May 5, 1485. A life of extraordinary piety led to his beatification in 1544.
- May 5 Mother's day in Lithuania.
- May 12 Mother's Day in the USA
- May 18 Armed Forces Day in the USA
- May 26 Pentecost Sunday - Sometimes referred to as the Birthday of the Church.
- May 27 Memorial Day. Inaugurated in 1868 on May 30 as a date to decorate the graves of the Civil War dead, it has come to be a day of commemoration of all dead and has been transferred to the last Monday in May. Also known as Decoration Day.

AND A HAPPY NAME'S DAY TO ALL NAMED:

Aldona (May 22)
Algimantas (May 25)
Angela (May 5)
Arūnas (May 17)
Danutė (May 7)
Eglė (May 31)
Erik (May 18)
Gintaras (May 5)

Gražina (May 1)
Gregory (May 25)
Irene (May 5)
James (May 3)
Joan (May 30)
Joana (May 24)
Julia (May 22)
Matthew (May 14)

Miglė (May 11)
Mindaugas (May 17)
Petronėle (May 31)
Philip (May 3 or 26)
Rita (May 22)
Vincent (May 24)
Vitalija (May 4)

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My Lithuanian Mother

When I sit in the evening
 and my work is done for the day
 My thoughts start to wander
 on this day in May.

I think of my mother
 so meek and so mild
 I think of how she looked to me
 when I was a child.

She had a knob on her head
 not a hair out of place
 a neatly pressed apron
 and a smile on her face.

She washed clothes on a washboard
 and hung them to drip on a line
 until she became modern
 and bought a wringer on time.

Her soup she would cook
 was fit for a king
 with a bone and potatoes
 and whatever a few cents would bring.

When everything went wrong
 and she was unable to cope
 she would rock in her chair
 with her rosary found hope.

Her stories she would tell us
 when her day was done
 brings memories of yesterday
 when we were so young!

Marie Lasky, C-74 Scranton

Photo at bottom is Marie's mother, Emma Mastauskas Sarnauskas (1895-1979). She was sister to Balys Mastauskas a delegate to Lithuania when Woodrow Wilson was president. The Lithuanian government honored him with the order of Gediminas.

