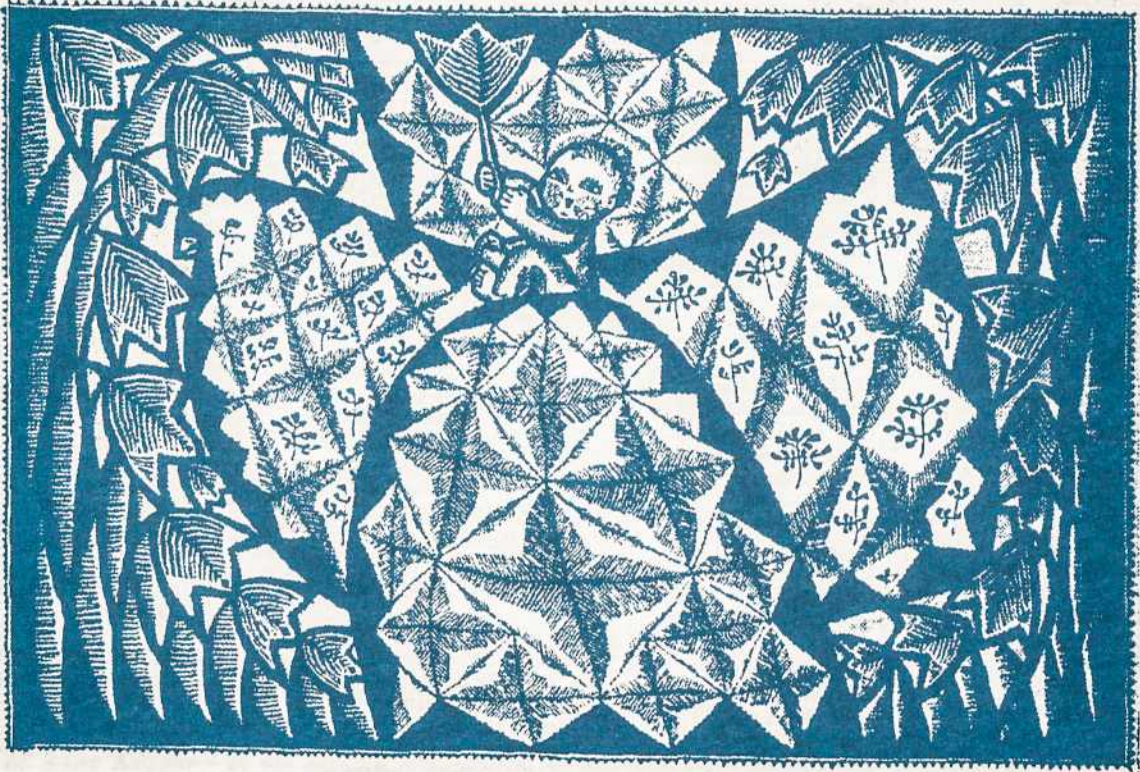


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VYTIS - the Knight - is the official publication of the Knight of Lithuania. The Knights of Lithuania endeavors to instill in its members an attachment to Lithuania, the land of their ancestors, and a knowledge, appreciation and love of the Lithuanian language, customs and culture.

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.

*Editorial***To My Fellow Knights:**

As we move into the New Year, we reflect once again on the meaning of January 13, when 14 civilians lost their lives six short years ago at the Vilnius TV tower in a movement that helped to trigger the collapse of the Soviet Empire. This month's article by Vince Boris on the KGB Museum of Vilnius teaches us to pray "never again" in reviewing what our relatives endured in that chamber of horrors and to remind us to appreciate the freedom now available to Lithuanians. Of course, we know the opportunities for capitalistic gains also present new problems, as Ed Baranauskas presents in his story on Tobacco in Lithuania. Younger Europeans as a whole seem to enjoy this bad habit more so than their American counterparts. We are listening to some of your requests, as tallied in the results of the first VYTIS reader's questionnaire. Enjoy the issue! Wishing everyone abundant Health and Happiness in 1997.

*Letters to the Editor***1st VP Sledgehammer**

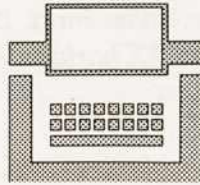
To the Editor:

I have been an active Knights of Lithuania member for over forty years and have never before written anything close to a complaint to a VYTIS Editor. However, after reading the Convention Issue of the VYTIS, I am compelled to write and must let you know my thoughts on what was printed in this issue.

The Knights of Lithuania has always been a close knit organization - one in which American-Lithuanians have shared common interests and goals, and have also made lifetime friends. The Convention issue of the Vytis seemed to be an attempt to tear apart the very soul of the Knights of Lithuania.

Quite frankly, I was at the Convention and did not see it as "pitting brother against brother". To refer to the Convention as a reminder of Lithuanian KGB members torturing and murdering their own kind was a totally abhorrent and degrading statement to make about the Knights of Lithuania. The past Editors - Aldona Ryan, Loretta Stukas and Mary Kober - would never have printed such a terrible statement in the Vytis. None of them would ever put in anything in the Vytis that reflected badly on the organization.

Any controversy that occurred at the



Convention did not escalate until afterwards when a venomous letter was circulated. That letter degraded and insulted the Supreme Council and its younger members who are the future of the Knights of Lithuania. That letter was biased, full of untruths and self-serving. It

is quite evident that you are in agreement with the accusations contained in that letter. It is your prerogative to agree or disagree. However, your personal opinion does not belong in the Vytis.

The report of the fifth plenary session was done from a totally negative point of view. Instead of reporting the positive good that was accomplished, you chose to report it as financial aid taken away from the various Knights of Lithuania funds and causes without any regard or just cause. You know in your heart a lot of thought, effort and soul searching went into the recommended decisions concerning the amount of financial donations that the Knights of Lithuania could afford.

In your editorial on page 2 you make a point to particularly call attention your own Council (C-110) donation to Aid to Lithuania. I am sure your Council also donates to other worthy charities in smaller amounts, but you conveniently failed to mention that.

I must point out something else to you. In the listing of ATL donations there is a whole slew of donations from Council 3 and Council 3 members - which adds up to approximately \$1,300. All these Council 3 donations were turned in to the

Greetings Committee at the Convention so that it would be evident that C-3 is very supportive of ATL. Most of the members listed were not present at the Convention itself.

However, you just chose to brag about your own Council's donation. I find that positively unethical. You should certainly be proud of your Council, but no Vytis Editor ever before put their own Council on a pedestal at the expense of all the others. I am sure the other Councils who donated what they were able to afford also took exception to your ill advised remarks.

Also, you overlooked and did not mention at all the \$2,000 pledge made by the Mid-America District to be divided in equal \$500 increments to ATL, St. Casimir's Guild, K. of L. Foundation and the Scholarship Fund. Another one you didn't think worth much was \$1,000 donated by Aldona Kirtsuk in equal \$500 increments each to ATL and St. Casimir's Guild. Ann Supernavage donated almost \$500 spread out among at least seven funds. Larry Svelnis donated \$500 to the Foundation.

It seems to me that since these large donations were divided among other K. of L. funds, then they were deemed not worthy to be mentioned by you. You chose to focus on just the entire amount of a donation made to only one K. of L. fund (the fund of your personal choice). True K. of L.'ers are supportive of as many K. of L. funds as they can handier It would be a wiser choice for you to print the donations as submitted by the Greetings Committee and omit any personal views, thoughts or opinions. I am sure that the K. of L. members mentioned above felt slighted by your comments - and rightly so!

On page 36 you printed an article and a photo about the First Lady visiting East and Central Europe. This had nothing to do at all with the Convention or with things going on in Lithuania. It was not Convention oriented and had no place in the Convention issue. It is very clear to see where your allegiance lies.

Your personal note to friends in Pallatine, IL was out of order and a misuse of the Vytis. The Vytis is not to be used as your courier for personal correspondence.

Being Vytis Editor is not an easy job. However, you are doing yourself a real disservice by printing personal one-sided opinions, views and advice. I strongly suggest that you focus your time

and energies into making a real commitment to the Knights of Lithuania by making certain that the Vytis magazine is edited and printed in a professional, non-biased manner. Please make sure that all future articles contained therein are a real credit to yourself and the Knights of Lithuania.

Vytiškai,
Agnes V. Mickunas
 1st Vice President, Supreme Council

Editor's Comments: If we have truly offended anyone, mea culpa, but we don't think it's possible to please everyone all of the time. Looking up the meaning of the word "editor" in the 1948 Funk & Wagnall's New Desk Standard Dictionary, the word means, "one having charge of a publication." An "editorial" is defined as "an article written by the editor or subordinate as an expression of opinion." Other editors you mentioned did not include editorials. It is my firm belief as your editor since we still enjoy freedom of the press in our country, expressions of opinion, even those who disagree should be considered for publication. But really, Agnes, do we not have a right to be proud of C-110 who produced the bulk of the 4th degree candidates this year? And Bruno Rutkunas is a great example of a hard working Council president. All councils are welcome to write others in for publication consideration in our "unsung heroes" section. In fact, we'd like to hear from more of you. Come on, Agnes, aren't you acting a bit too mean spirited? Anyone else brave enough to comment?

Convention Kudos

To the Editor:

The C-50 delegates found the convention in Brockton both enlightening and informative as many of us have experienced. No function takes place without something going wrong - but any mishaps were handled smoothly.

The Saturday night banquet rated an A+. The setting, the food, the brevity of speeches, the music and dancing were superb!

Audrey Toole, C-50, New Haven, CT
 (☞ More letters on page 35)

A Dark Journey into a Painted Past

by Vincent B. Boris

It was an average midsummer day in Vilnius. The temperature was warm and one could almost feel an approaching summer squall that could rise suddenly with a quick downpour. It would wash the dusty streets and then just as quickly pass. The street was somewhat crowded, with a cacophony of traffic noises, children's laughter, and adult conversations in a variety of languages. This is Vilnius, Lithuania, in 1996, only five years after the people had valiantly demonstrated their desire for independence and firmly rejected their forced amalgamation into the Soviet Empire.

The contrast with earlier times was remarkable. In that relatively short period innumerable changes had been made. The street we were on, was a broad avenue stretching from the imposing Romanesque Cathedral to the central, governmental complex. It had been reclaimed; its name restored to Gedimino Prospekt in honor of Gediminas, the medieval ruler and founder of the city. It is the "Main Street" of Vilnius and the heart of the city. The street is flanked by a

scattering of governmental and ministry office buildings and old hotels interspersed with a few shops and restaurants. Gone is the somber gray drabness that had been "socialist reality." Now, the street is filled with color and bustling with activity. Many buildings have been refurbished or at least given new street level facades. Everywhere there are signs of the reopening to the West - IBM and Kodak; Benetton's and Pepsi; Xerox and Snickers. The jumble of colors and sounds reflects a cosmopolitan ambiance befitting the Capitol city of a modern European democracy.

Midway up the avenue, about a mile from the Cathedral, there is a small tree filled park area indenting into the surrounding government office buildings. At its entrance is a somber memorial, replicating what might be the most ancient form of memorial devised by humankind. A stone cairn. The pyramidal structure stands about six feet high and is composed of numerous individual stones, each in size somewhere between that of an orange and a grapefruit. Each stone is marked with a name and a date. Each name is that of a Vilnius resident martyred in the most ominous aspect of socialist reality. Each date records their premature death through assassination, tortuous imprisonment or Siberian exile.

As cairns in the past were used not only as memorials but also as signposts or milestones along a difficult journey, this cairn is both a memorial to victims of communism but also a singular starting post on a dark and difficult journey that so many in the past generations were forced to travel and we, of the present generations, are compelled by conscience to retrace lest they and their martyrdom be forgotten or worse, that it again become reality. As we were to find out later, this had not always been a green park area. Earlier it

had been a driveway up to a gate in the wrought iron fence and a side entrance to the adjacent building. The building housed the Ministry of State Security and was the former headquarters of that nefarious organization known by the initials - K G B.

We, three Americans of Lithuanian descent on a tour of our ancestors' homeland, paused for a silent prayer at the cairn, then walked up and through the gate to the side



The curator at the entrance of the KGB Museum, himself once a prisoner

doors with a simple sign identifying this as the entrance to the "KGB Museum." Inside, there was a short flight of stairs leading to an open room in which an elderly gentleman, appearing to be a docent, sat awaiting visitors. Around his room were several poster board displays showing historical facts, statistics and other general information. He explained that the cellar of this Ministry building had been converted into a complex of interrogation rooms and holding cells where political prisoners were confined pending a decision on

their fate - execution or exile. The average internment here was only a few months; but the wheels of the Soviet bureaucracy moved in their own unique rhythm so that one never knew how long this confinement would last and in many cases how it would end. Our guide, himself, had been held in this prison for several months as a prelude to Siberian exile.

One display had portrait photos of the five or six Commandants of the prison giving their names and dates of tenure. Their names were obviously Lithuanian. When we questioned this point, the guide confirmed that the commander, the administrative staff, and interrogators were in fact Lithuanians. The guards were drawn from the Red Army and came from various areas of the Soviet Union. (How long had we simplistically assumed that the Lithuanians were the victims - the "bad guys" were the Russians!) This was but the first of several shocks to our senses and sensibilities that we would experience in the next hour. Our descent into hell had begun.

The entrance we had used was the same one used by the KGB. Their "black Marias" would pull up to the gate and the detainee hustled quickly through the door and down a long flight of stairs to the cellar. There were no handrails or other fixtures that might be grabbed for balance; the walls were padded. At the foot of the stairs a locked door and on a side wall, a sliding panel window through which a clerk would receive the related documentation. The locked door was then buzzed open, the detainee taken through and put into a holding cell while the paperwork was completed by the clerk. The temporary cell was probably designed as broom closet. Three feet by three feet with no lighting, no window, no seats or benches. If more prisoners were brought in, they too were literally stuffed together into that same space.

This cell is at one end of a long corridor with a series of numbered doors every ten or twelve feet on both sides. On the right side,

the rooms were used for the clerk and records and possibly a guard lounge. On the left, there are a series of rooms, each with a special purpose during the in-processing of the prisoner. When the initial paperwork was completed, the prisoner was taken from the small holding cell and led to the first in the series of rooms. The first room was used for a complete stripped body search. After the search, the clothes were returned less belts, shoelaces, or any type of metal button or decoration. Money, jewelry, cigarettes, pens and other personal possessions were confiscated.

Next door, the room had writing tables where the prisoner would fill out additional forms. The charges against him/her were read and the prisoner had the opportunity to sign a confession of guilt. If there was no confession, the next stop was an interrogation room and there were three types:

- The first simple interrogation room reminded me of what we might see in a Hollywood movie: A single chair facing the door but in the middle of the room. It was illuminated by a single bright bulb with no shade. The questioner would sit just inside the door in the shadows,
- The second room was meant for recalcitrant prisoners. Each was made to stand on a 12 inch diameter pedestal about six inches high. The pedestal stood in the middle of a shallow pit that would be flooded with lye solution. If the prisoner became tired lie could easily slip or fall into the lye.
- The third type was a soundproofed room with heavy thick leather padding on the floor and walls. No explanation of its function was needed. One could still see the dark maroon patches of dried blood.

The interrogations would continue without pause until satisfactory answers were obtained. The teams of questioners would change from time to time; the prisoner would be kept awake and under questioning as long as required.

Having completed this "in-processing", the prisoner was then assigned to normal detention cells. Each was a long narrow room (approximately 6' x 10') with a small casement window near the ceiling at the end of the room opposite the door. There were no furnishings other than a simple pail to receive bodily wastes. As

many as 40 individuals could be assigned to each of these cells. One had to sleep on the side since there was not enough room for all to lie their backs. Discipline was strict - there was never any talking allowed. One could sleep only at night. During the day, one was expected to stand or sit cross legged on the floor facing the door with backs to the window.

There was a central latrine/shower room that each cell was given periodic access to. Ten minutes might be allotted, which was usually not enough time for everyone to take care of their individual needs. The pail from the cell was also emptied once a day. There was an adjacent courtyard where the prison were taken for 15 minutes each day. They could silently walk the perimeter the yard for exercise but had to keep their heads bowed and their eyes directed at the ground. There were guards both in the courtyard and at gun emplacements at each corner of the yard on the roof of the adjacent building .

The courtyard had other functions as well. Transport trucks were brought into the yard to be loaded with those prisoners destined for Siberian exile. Other trucks were brought in to cart away the bodies of those who had died or had been executed. And, finally, the yard served also as the venue for executions by firing squad if such had been ordered. Inside the prison in a sub-cellar was an execution room where prisoners were killed by a single handgun shot into the brain.

Our guide had pointed out the cell in which Bishop Borisevičius from Telšiai had been detained. He confirmed that it was in this very courtyard that the Bishop had been executed by firing squad some 50 years ago. God, alone, knows how many others passed through this dark journey. We said a quiet prayer for the peaceful repose of their souls as we left the prison environs and reentered the vibrant life of today's Vilnius. The summer rains came down and we happily let them wash away the lingering stench and feel of that place in the heart of Vilnius.

Ed. note: Your VYTIS editor was also on this tour, with Fr. J. Walter Stanievich, C-102. Although not a journey for the faint of heart, it was the most emotional and most remembered of the 1996 Aid to Lithuania Baltic tour, since a great many of my own relatives disappeared in places like this.

*K of L Foundation
Essay Contest Winner*

How Should the Changes in Lithuania Effect the Focus of Knights of Lithuania Activity?

Hon Mention

Charlotte Zemaitis Horvatic, C-150

The Knights of Lithuania, since its beginnings, has bonded its members in a fraternal kinship while promoting Catholic spirituality, American citizenship, and keeping Lithuanian traditions alive.

The Knights, logo, so symbolic of the dignity and greatness which God calls men to strive for, has inspired members to manifest that calling by working for the benefit of their American communities, and the people of Lithuania.

When Lithuania achieved its independence in 1992, the Knights launched *AID TO LITHUANIA*, sending tons of medical supplies, food, books and clothing to begin the healing process after decades Soviet oppression. Volunteer teachers, doctors, and experts in many fields worked diligently to mobilize a nation into reawakening.

Today, Lithuania, like a toddler learning to walk, unsteadily wavers as it struggles for the balance needed to make democracy work.

Conflicting ideas regarding political and economical policies have mushroomed in a society now free to express itself; resulting in confusion and ambivalence.

The advent of business enterprises, legal and otherwise, has created a great inequality in

economic circumstances, causing resentment and dissatisfaction. For even as government and business sectors move toward economic growth, the majority of citizens, lacking in contacts and resources, are unable to change the quality of their lives to any great degree.

While continuing the work of *AID TO LITHUANIA*, the Knights of Lithuania must be in the question of how long and how much aid will be required before Lithuania can be economically secure. Will we be able to continue this work indefinitely, and if not, what will be the deciding factors involved?

I suggest that we begin now, to seek ways to implement self-reliance in small Lithuanian rural communities. Educating grass-roots communities in team-building; and establishing co-ops and neighborhood communities will create an environment for self-empowerment. For example, volunteers could bring hands-on agricultural, business, technical expertise to

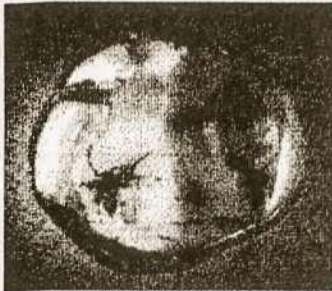
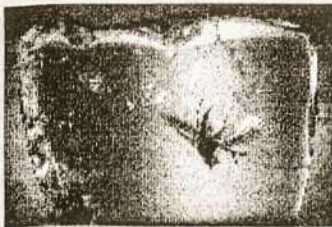
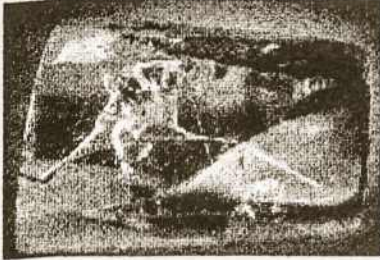
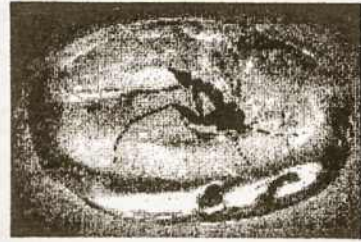
many for whom such education is out of the question. This program could begin in a small way, and grow gradually. Conceivably, it could make such a positive impact that far-reaching results will be seen by the turn of the next century. Those with vision will see the possibilities.

The dignity of man and the joy of his humanity is awakened when he learns to catch his own fish, instead of receiving one already caught by another. That joy reflects back to the teacher as the student's exaltation in learning, becomes a reality for both to share. Sharing in that joy brings forth empowerment.



"Today, Lithuania, like a toddler learning to walk, unsteadily wavers as it struggles for the balance needed to make democracy work."

A HISTORY OF AMBER



"And I looked, and behold, a whirlwind come out of the north, a great cloud, and a fire Infolding itself, and a brightness was about it, and out of the midst thereof as the colour of amber, out of the midst of the fire." Ezekiel 1:4, A.V.

Pictured above from top right: Amber from Lithuania with a fungus-gnat (grybinis uodas); bush cricket (žiogas); snipe fly (slankmusė) and the spider (voras).

Although we Lithuanians have loved amber for centuries, many Americans only became familiar with it following the movie hit "Jurassic Park." In the movie, a fossilized mosquito was discovered in South American amber. Following the movie, jewelry shops displayed more amber and made the semi-precious resin more popular than ever before. As we know, some of the world's best amber comes from the Baltic coast of Lithuania. Beautiful displays of some of the larger pieces with insects and small animals trapped inside can be seen at the Amber Museum in Lithuania. Recently, New York's Museum of Natural History also had an impressive amber exhibit. But for now, we'd like to take a look at the historical and biblical descriptions of one of the first gemstones.

Amber is described as a yellow to orange-brown translucent gem material; an ancient name of "electrum" denoted its peculiar electrical qualities; it is actually the solidified and fossilized resin of extinct varieties of coniferous trees.

The words 'sea gold' brings to mind pictures of full-rigged ships breasting the waves, bloody hand-to-hand battles on heaving decks, and the captured cargoes of treasure-laden galleons sailing home to Spain. Yet sea gold is not the stolen treasure of marauding pirates. It is amber, the ancient gem material scooped up by fishermen from the stormy waters of the Baltic Sea from times long past man's memory to the present day.

Amber is one of the oldest gemstones. Archaeologists have shown that it was used for amulets which have been found in the tombs of Stone Age men. Of rich color, its peculiar electrical qualities made it magical to primitive man, who longed to possess it. Widespread trade in amber developed as early as 9,000 years ago when Scandinavian sailors and traders of the Baltic area carried it along the important river routes to the Mediterranean,

reaching Knossos, Crete, the world's marketplace of those days. Then hardy Phoenician traders bartered for it, bearing it to every profitable port on the inland sea. Baltic amber found in Cretan archaeological sites illustrates the lengthy journeys made for the highly prized material.

The famous city of Mycenae, Greece, yielded much amber when its ruins were excavated. Writings from those days in Mediterranean lands indicate that amber beads were considered a cure for goiter. Surprisingly, they are still occasionally purchased for this reason. Amber was highly prized as a pendant, more for its protection against witchcraft than for its glowing beauty.

Pliny argued, correctly, that amber was the resin of pine trees, but he thought the trees were still living. He was skeptical of ancient beliefs about amber's origin: the tears of a particular bird, solidified urine of the lynx, coagulated sea-foam, the slime of some unknown, mysterious lake. He was positive about its potent medicinal uses. Salve of amber and Attic honey improved dim sight, and amber pulverized and drunk in water cured diseases of the stomach. Pliny also described amber's peculiar magnetic attraction. Amber, when rubbed rapidly between the fingers, draws to itself straw and dry leaves.

Amber may have had ritualistic uses in ancient times because of its flammability, replacing pine wood shavings used by the Greeks and Romans in kindling the holy hearthfire. It was burned as incense, and women of early civilizations often carried lumps of amber, rubbing them to induce its distinctive fragrance.

Amber is a fossil resin from prehistoric pine trees, formed in the Tertiary and later geological periods. Pine forests covered Northern Europe, and in some areas are still extensive. These trees, like their modern relatives, exuded great amounts of resin. As

the resin oozed through the bark of the trees, it formed irregular lumps, creating a fascinating and accurate history booklet. Inquisitive insects, entrapped in the sticky, golden-colored gum, were completely encased as the resin continued to flow. When the resin had changed to amber, their bodies became perfectly preserved in the most minute detail.

Amber containing an insect was among the most valued possessions of ancient peoples, who believed it warded away witchcraft. Modern people doubt the magic but nevertheless place great value on amber with inclusions. The museum at the University of Konisberg in East Prussia had more than 70,000 fine amber specimens. This remarkable exhibit was unfortunately destroyed during World War II. Many insects found in those ancient forests, or related species, still exist today: ants, mosquitoes, flies, and roaches have been found; spiders (small arachnids) have been preserved in amber and are much like their modern descendants. Even a famous fossil flea, the only one known to science, was found entrapped in its amber tomb. Seeds, pine needles, bits of wood, and flowerlets have been found embedded in the amber, giving much information about those very ancient times.

The altered resin known as amber is found in a sedimentary deposit called "blue earth" which underlies the region southeast of the Baltic Sea.

While the Bible's Authorized Version describes the brightness of the fiery whirlwind "as the colour of amber" other versions describe the color as that of shining or glowing metal or gleaming bronze. The ancient name "electrum" meant the alloy of gold and silver as well as amber. Certainly a beautiful golden glow is meant in Ezekiel. *Sources include : Gems and Minerals of the Bible* © 1967 New York



Examples of Christ in 1997

As Catholics, we can be better prepared for the Third Millennium by what the Holy Father has prepared. By his designation, we are beginning in this year the start of three years of preparation before the jubilee year of 2000 with the focus on Christ in 1997. 1998 will focus on the Holy Spirit and 1999 will focus on God the Father.

Lithuanians were latecomers to the Christian tradition, being the last of the Europeans to accept Christianity. Historically, Christianity took root in Lithuania only toward the middle of the Second Millennium. As stubbornly as they were in holding on to their pagan beliefs and practices, Lithuanians, once converted, have proven to be equally tenacious in devotion to Christianity. Being Roman Catholic is our heritage and a very important part of how we define ourselves. It is a faith tempered by repression and nurtured by the blood of martyrdom even in modern times. We take great pride in this heritage and look forward to the celebration of the Third Millennium with the Universal Church.

This month, we can reflect on Lithuania's most Blessed George Matulaitis who died 70 years ago on January 27 in Kaunas. He used his life to exemplify that of Our Lord, Jesus Christ, with an endearing humility. As an illustration, in 1918, when he was asked to become Bishop of Vilnius, that was not in his own life's plans. He was hesitant about accepting the position and wanted to continue his work with the Marian Congregation, which he felt still needed him.



Blessed George Matulaitis

Vilnius in 1918 was a diocese spread over a 90 thousand kilometer area without a bishop for ten years. The area's three million inhabitants spilled into a melting pot of religions, rites and nationalities, situated on the borders of Russia and exposed to the process of russification. This same territory was also split apart and contested by militant political factions.

George Matulaitis made his reluctance known to Rome on this appointment, pointing out especially the friction between the varied nationalities. He hinted about his own plans. But the interests of the Church held out and on the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, December 1, he was consecrated bishop at the Cathedral of Vilnius. In his words to his new congregation, he said:

"In the example of Christ, I will try to embrace everyone, to be everything to everyone. I am ready to suffer death for the sake of truth. to you, I only wish to be a father and a shepherd, imitating Christ. The field of my work is the kingdom of Christ, the Church militant; my lot is Christ."

And so it was with the next seven years of the life of Blessed George. He faced opposition of all kinds, persecutions, threats of arrest and death, attacks in the press, provocations, undue interference, and attempts to get rid of him through diplomatic channels.

The motto on his coat of arms which was symbolic of him remained and can be read on his tomb at Marijampole. "Vince malum in bono" or conquer evil through good. A good motto to reflect on now in 1997 as part of our preparation for the Third Millennium.

Sources: The Servant of God Archbishop George Matulaitis, 1974, Chicago and V. Boris.



The Thinking Christ



Joseph G. Simanis
C-141, Bridgeport, CT
Nov. 17, 1996

Walter Lukaszewski
C-50, New Haven, CT
Aug. 11, 1996

Albert Gutaszkas
C-50, New Haven, CT
Aug. 11, 1996

Olga Savitskas Gray
C-135, Ansonia, CT
November 6, 1996

Nellie Masyjada
C-118, Hazelton, PA
November 9, 1996

Matthew Krywicki
C-29, Newark, NJ
July 16, 1996

Glydas Douches
C-29, Newark, NJ
October 27, 1996

Anna Golmanovich
C-29, Newark, NJ
October 29, 1996

Rev. Bernard A. Shimkus
C-144, Anthracite, PA
November 10, 1996

Mary Gillis
C-72, Binghamton, NY
May 17, 1996

John E. Guokas
C-72, Binghamton, NY
Sept. 30, 1996

In Memoriam

Ansonia Council 135
lost a tireless worker, a
valuable leader and a

warm friend on November 6, 1996. **Olga Savitskas Gray**, C-135 president, was called to Home by Our Heavenly Father. She is survived by a sister, two brothers and two nephews. One of the nephews, Fr. Kacergius of Troy, NY, conducted the K. of L. wake ritual with much feeling for his beloved aunt. A large group of Knights from Ansonia, Bridgeport, and Waterbury gathered to say a prayerful goodbye. Olga will be sorely missed, but we must be happy for nearness to God in Eternal Life.

†††

Past president of C-50, New Haven, CT, **Albert Gutaszkas** died on Aug. 11, 1996, following a brief illness. In addition to his involvement in the K. of L., he was also a Knights of Columbus member and a communicant of St. Casimir's Church of New Haven. Besides his wife, Eleanor, he leaves two sons and six grandchildren.

†††

C-141 Bridgeport, CT, member, **Joseph G. Simanis**, was called Home to His Heavenly Father on November 17, 1996. He was the organizer and founder of the Lithuanian Catholic Mission in Washington, DC, and served on the national board of the United American Lithuanian Relief Foundation and the Lithuanian Catholic Federation. He was also the coordinator of the Lithuanian Independence Day observances at St. Matthew's Cathedral in Washington, DC and served as a Eucharistic minister and Adult Educator at the Washington Catholic Church of the Annunciation. He also served in the Korean War, was educated at Yale and received a Master's from Indiana University. He is survived by his wife, Jane, two children and a sister. Donations made in his memory may be sent to the Lithuanian Orphan Care, 2711 West 71st St., Chicago, IL 60629.

†††

Rev. Bernard Shimkus, C-144, Anthracite, PA, member died November 10, 1996. He was also a pastor at St. Agnes Church in West Chester, PA, and a chaplain for a local Knights of Columbus chapter. Fr. Shimkus leaves a sister, Florence, and nieces and nephews.

*May these souls and all the souls of the
faithful departed rest in Eternal Peace.*

The Tobacco Story in Lithuania

by Edward W.
Baranauskas, C-100



A supermarket in the Pašilaičiai section of Vilnius with Marlboro ads, shopping carts and checkout scanners.

We live in a changing world today where the old adage "nothing is forever" holds true. I keep thinking of how much our attitude towards smoking, as an example, has changed over the years.

I can remember the days when smoking was looked upon by many of us as socially acceptable behavior. However, laws are now on the books where smoking is severely restricted at social gatherings, the workplace, in restaurants, and in public transportation.

Gone are the days when tobacco companies were the chief sponsors of many of our favorite television and radio programs. Now, like the liquor industry, they no longer are able to advertise their products over the airwaves. What does the future hold for these companies, and for the financial security of the farmers in the United States who grow tobacco for their livelihood?

The answer, it seems, lies in the lucrative markets in foreign countries. Let's take Lithuania as an example.

Philip Morris, the giant multinational American corporation, is today the largest investor in Lithuania. It remains as the only cigarette producer there. The Kova tobacco plant in Kaunas, after more than 80 years of operation, went bankrupt because it could not compete with foreign companies. Philip Morris offered to buy its production equipment

as scrap metal and to give the 250 employees the equivalent of two years salary as severance pay.

In 1993, Philip Morris acquired the Klaipeda Tobacco Factory. In the fall of 1995 construction began on a new 25 million dollar plant in the industrial zone of Klaipeda that will create about 400 new jobs and will produce six billion cigarettes a year. The plant hopes to be in operation by 1997.

This, of course, has put the Lithuanian government in a difficult position. How do you discourage people from smoking when the largest investor in the country is a tobacco company?

All cigarette packs sold in Lithuania have labels, just as in the United States, warning the smoker that smoking is damaging to health. To further emphasize that point, starting in 1997, the lettering on these labels will be much larger in size.

In May of 1996, the Lithuanian parliament approved a law prohibiting the advertisement of tobacco, and an even more restrictive one on alcohol. However, these distinguished legislators must have had second thoughts because they voted in August to have the Constitutional Court decide on the legality of such laws. Until the court's ruling is made, these laws were suspended.

According to unofficial estimates, tobacco and alcohol advertising account for about ten

million litas a year in Lithuania, perhaps even more. (This would be about two and a half million US dollars). Tobacco advertisements alone account for about 34 per cent of all commercial time on television. Should the court decide that the laws are legal, imagine the financial impact this would have on television stations, newspapers and other publications that depend on this revenue.

The government's financial experts have yet to put together a balanced budget. This deficit spending over the years has resulted in borrowing so much money from foreign sources that the national debt on these loans is fast approaching one billion dollars. Can the treasury afford to deny itself this much needed revenue? Lithuania is a small country, and its struggling economy is not as diversified as that of the United States.

When I visited Lithuania this past summer, I was impressed to see so much advertising, both outdoor and indoor, for so many varied products and services. My biggest surprise came when I went to a supermarket in the Pašilaičiai section of Vilnius and saw the huge Marlboro cigarette ads at each checkout counter. The Philip Morris Company appears to be going all out to

encourage people to smoke their brand of cigarettes.

I doubt very much if banning all advertising on tobacco and alcohol is the answer to preventing, or controlling alcoholism, or that it will ever stop people from smoking. It is the children, the future of Lithuania, that the government should direct its attention to.

The Ministries of Health and Education should get together, by government mandate, and work out a program to educate the youngsters, starting with those in the middle schools. Health care professionals should give lectures on the harm that drinking and smoking will eventually cause to their minds and bodies.

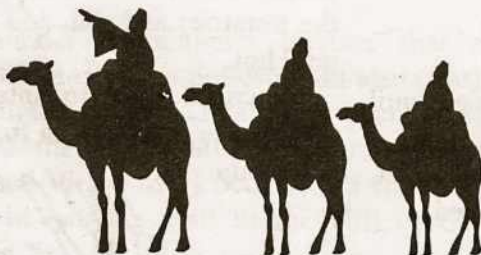
While drinking and smoking may be bad for the nation's health, the banning of such advertising will certainly be bad for the nation's weak economy as well.

Ed Baranauskas has made eleven trips to Lithuania since his first trip in 1926 as a child. He noted the disappearance of the drab dullness under Soviet rule and noted the most striking changes were made during the past two years.

*As the sheperds and magi heard and
responded to God's message of
"Peace on Earth and Good Will to Men",
let all Knights of Lithuania do likewise in
1997 for "God and Country"*

A Blessed Christmas & New Year to All

Council 103 ~ Providence, RI



Linksmų Kalėdų Švenčių



**Council 152
Eastern Long Island, NY**

*Wishes a Blessed Christmas
and a Happy New Year
to all our Fellow
Knights of Lithuania Everywhere!*

John Sakal, President



Lithuanian Chefs

*In a wonderful book, **The Frugal Gourmet on our Immigrant Ancestors**, ©1990 Avon Books, Jeff Smith, includes Lithuanian recipes along with 34 other ethnic groups. In the Lithuanian prelude to the recipes, he describes our relatives as "obstinate and courageous". The mini-history is quite complementary. These are a few of the Frugal Gourmet's best tested Lithuanian recipes.*

Kugelis Potato Pudding

6 ounces thick cut bacon, cut into 1/8 inch pieces
 6 pounds russet potatoes, peeled and finely grated
 1 medium yellow onion, peeled and finely grated
 1 5-ounce can evaporated milk
 5 eggs, beaten
 2 teaspoons salt
 Freshly ground black pepper to taste
 1 tbs. butter, melted

Fry the bacon until crisp and set aside. Run the grated potato and onion through a meat grinder on coarse. Add the bacon with its drippings

and the remaining ingredients except the butter. Mix well and pour into a 13 x 8 x 2-inch buttered glass baking dish. Bake at 425 degrees for 1/2 hour, then reduce the heat to 375 degrees for 25 minutes more.

Note: for best results, the pudding should be at least 2 inches deep in the pan.

Serves 8 - 10.

Saltibarsciai Cold Beet Soup

10 beets, about 3-3 1/2 lbs. with greens
 3 1/2 quarts water
 2 medium cucumbers, peeled and coarsely julienned
 1/4 cup finely chopped fresh dill
 1/4 cup distilled white vinegar
 Salt and freshly ground pepper to taste
 1 pint sour cream

Garnish

2 russet potatoes, boiled until just tender
 1 medium yellow onion, peeled and finely chopped
 4 tablespoons butter
 4 tablespoons vegetable oil

2 tablespoons chopped fresh dill

Remove and save the best greens for another use. Leave one inch of the stem on the beets to prevent excess bleeding. Scrub the beets clean and place them in a 5 to 6 qt. pot. Cover with 3 1/2 quarts of water, bring to a boil, then simmer uncovered for 20 minutes or until just tender.

Drain the beets, reserving the beet water and allow to cool. Strain the water making sure to remove any dirt that may have clung to the beets. Set it aside.

Trim and peel the beets and cut 8 of them into short julienne. Grate the remainder of beets on the coarse side of a hand grater.

In a 6 to 8 qt. stainless steel pot, combine 3 quarts of the reserved beet water, the beets, cucumbers, dill, vinegar, and salt and pepper. In a separate bowl, whip the sour cream with 1 cup of the reserved water. Mix until smooth. Add to the pot, and stir in. Chill several hours.

Peel and dice the potatoes.

Sauté the onion in the butter and oil until clear. Add the potatoes and dill, and toss until hot.

Serve the potato mixture on the side as a garnish for the cold soup.



Lithuanians in the News

FR. MIKALAJUNAS of BINGHAMTON C-92 FINDS CATHOLICISM ALIVE IN LITHUANIA

Father John Mikalajunas, pastor of St. Joseph's Church of Binghamton, NY, was optimistic about the Lithuanians strong Catholic faith upon returning from a pilgrimage to Lithuania this past July. He was the first priest from a Western Country to celebrate Mass in Šiluva in 1989. He noted the following changes:

- Before 1991, government officials restricted enrollment in one Catholic seminary to 25 students. Today there are three seminaries with a total enrollment of 350 students.

- In 1989, before independence, while in Lithuania, Fr. Mikalajunas was asked to baptize a baby girl. He performed it secretly in the sacristy of the church to preserve the family's safety. Today open baptisms are performed in groups of 15 with many people around.

Father Mikalajunas advises that other, non-Lithuanian Catholics might also consider a pilgrimage to Lithuania and especially Šiluva, where the first European apparition of the Blessed Virgin Mary occurred in 1608. His trip also included a visit to the Hill of Crosses, where he said Mass on the same spot where Pope John Paul II did in 1993. Another item of



View from the choir loft of St. Casimir's in Amsterdam, NY.

interest to all Catholics would be a visit to the Dominican Church of the Holy Spirit in Vilnius. In 1933, the first image of Divine Mercy was painted in Lithuania and in 1987 the original painting was hung there.

- *The Catholic Sun, Binghamton 9/96*

St. Casimir's of Amsterdam, NY, Closes

The Diocese of Albany, NY, decided to close the almost 90 year old St. Casimir's Church of Amsterdam, NY following a final service on Thanksgiving Day. During it's last Sunday service on November 24, a crowd of over 300 parishioners and families came to say good-bye. Although a small group of parishioners have formed a restoration committee to try and keep the beautiful church open, officials claim another bad winter could cause the church's roof to collapse. C-100 Knights will now meet at St. John's, a neighboring Polish parish, which will also

absorb the close to 500 families of the former St. Casimir's. (*More in a future VYTIS issue.*)

Romas Kezys (C-41) appointed Lithuanian Tourist Information Director in the USA

The Republic of Lithuania recently appointed Romas Kezys as the Director of the Lithuanian Tourist Information Center in the United States. He will be promoting tourism to Lithuania and disseminating information to the media. Mr. Kezys signed the one year contract with the Director of the Department of Tourism, Antanas Petrauskas, on November 21 in Vilnius. The center will be located at 40-24 235 St., Douglaston, NY where Mr. Kezys also operates Vytis International Travel Service.

Audrey Toole in Who's Who

Audrey Medley Toole, Secretary of C-50, New Haven, and fourth degree Knight was recently honored in the Who's Who Among American Teachers © 1996. She, along with other teachers in the United States, was recognized as the best in educators today.

She has taught at St. Lawrence School in West Haven for over 20 years. Ms. Toole had received her B.S. from New Haven State Teacher's College and M.S. from Southern CT State University.

Two Lithuanian-American Nuns Found Hospice in Utena

Sr. Michele Garas and Sr. Dolorita Butkus have founded a 30-bed "St. Clare's" hospice in Utena, Lithuania, after a local Caritas worker received a broken down hospital building from Utena city fathers. The need for such a facility, according to Sr. Dolorita is simply that many Lithuanians live 6 or more in a two bedroom



Romas Kezys (center) with Antanas Petrauskas at the Dept. of Tourism in Vilnius

apartment and if one of them is dying for months at a time, the hardship can be excruciating. On the farms, many of the houses have dirt floors, not the best place for the dying. The two sisters hope to refurbish the building.

Sr. Michele, a native of Utena, is a Sister of St. Francis, came to America at age seven and had taught for many years in Detroit. Sr. Dolorita spent 31 years as a nurse in Illinois and taught pastoral ministry at St. Anthony's College in Kretinga before moving to Utena.

-Medical Mission News, Fall 1996

PRIZE WINNING LITHUANIAN PIANIST PERFORMS AT HUNGARIAN EMBASSY IN NYC

Mūza Rubackytė, a most gifted pianist, treated music lovers with a lovely performance on November 6 at the Hungarian Embassy. Born into a family of well known musicians, she made her debut at the age of 7 in Vilnius with the Lithuanian National Chamber Orchestra. She won first prize in the National Young Artists Competition at 13 and went on to capture awards around the world. Mūza Rubackytė made her first US debut in Newport, RI in 1995 where she received a standing ovation. Her concert included three

Preludes from Ciurlionis, the popular Lithuanian artist, along with pieces from Bach, Liszt and Beethoven. A Rhode Island reviewer at *Fanfare* aptly described Ms. Rubackytė as "an artist of phenomenal power who must be counted among the world's most gifted pianists."

ST. ANN'S OF SCRANTON, PA, DECLARED A BASILICA BY VATICAN

St. Ann's Monastery Shrine of Scranton was declared a Minor Basilica by the Holy See in Rome this past October. Rev. James C. Timlin, Bishop of Scranton made the announcement and bestowed the rare honor. There are fewer than 50 minor basilicas in the United States. St. Ann's, which was first constructed in 1905, as a monastery and shrine. The building had undergone extensive interior and exterior renovations recently as a phase of a \$6 million campaign.

Bishop Timlin had also made a special pilgrimage this past summer to Lithuania to place a special cross at the Hill of Crosses.

Scranton is home to C-74.

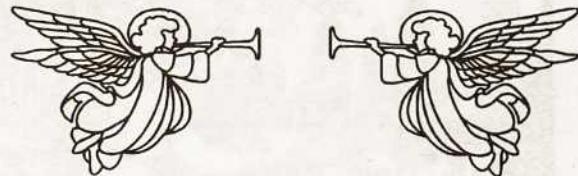
- *the Catholic Light* 10/96

Lithuanian Version Released

Your Journey to Success: A guide for Young Lithuanians by Raimonda Mikatavage was released in Lithuania by Šviesos Publishers in Kaunas. The book's title is *Tavo Kelias į Sėkmę* and like its English version counterpart, hopes to help guide young Lithuanians in adapting to their new freedoms.

Big Blood DONOR

Mr. Balys Brasauskas was given special recognition for having donated a total of 18 gallons and 2 pints of blood over the past 46 years, according to the American Red Cross.



A Blessed, Healthy and Prosperous Christmas and New Year 1997

*Linksmų, Šveikų ir Laimingų
Šventų Kalėdų ir Naujųjų Metų*

Council 147

St. Petersburg, Florida

Balys is a distant relative of the President of Lithuania. He came to America after WWII.

A lot of Lithuanian blood is hereby serving in a life preserving way.

-*Amer. Legion Post 154 Legionnaire and Eddy Budelis, C-3*

Balzekas Museum Honors David Mackiewich

Chicago's Balzekas Museum of Lithuanian Culture honored Mr. David Mackiewich, the Chairman and President of Standard Federal Bank of Illinois at their 30th Anniversary Excellence Award Dinner in December. Mr. Mackiewich was honored for his humanitarian work in support of the Lithuanian American community in the Chicago area and beyond.

Mr. Mackiewich is a past chairman of both the Chicagoland Association of Savings Institutions and the Illinois League of Savings Institutions.

Du gaideliai

Allegretto

legato

The first system of music consists of two staves. The upper staff is in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 4/4 time signature. It begins with a whole rest, followed by a series of quarter notes: G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4. The lower staff is in bass clef with the same key signature and time signature. It features a continuous eighth-note accompaniment pattern: G2, A2, B2, C3, B2, A2, G2. A dynamic marking of *mf* is placed above the first measure. A fermata is placed over the final measure of the lower staff, with a '4' below it.

The second system continues the piece. The upper staff has quarter notes: G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4. The lower staff continues the eighth-note accompaniment. A dynamic marking of *mp* is placed above the first measure of the second half of the system. A repeat sign is present at the end of the system.

The third system continues the piece. The upper staff has quarter notes: G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4. The lower staff continues the eighth-note accompaniment. A fermata is placed over the final measure of the lower staff, with a '5' below it.

The fourth system features two first endings. The upper staff has quarter notes: G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4. The lower staff has a whole note G2. The first ending is marked with a '1.' above the first measure. The second ending is marked with a '2.' above the first measure and consists of a whole note G4. A fermata is placed over the final measure of the lower staff.

Folk music**Du gaideliai**

Du gaideliai, du gaideliai
 Baltus žirnius kūlė.
 Dvi vištelės, dvi vištelės
 Į malūną vežė.

Ožys malė, ožys malė,
 Ožka pikliavojo,
 O ši trečia ožkytelė
 Miltus nusijojo.

Musė maišė, musė maišė,
 Uodas vandens nešė.
 Saulė virė, saulė virė,
 Mėnesėlis kepė.



*Folk music from Šaltinėlis by Nijolė Bogutaitė
 Dėdiniėnė ©1993 Vilnius Muzika; Art by
 Šimonis © 1966*

Wisdom to Ponder... Do You Just Belong

Are you an active member, the kind that would be missed,
 Or are you just contented that your name is on the list?

Do you attend the meetings and mingle with the crowd,
 Or do you stay at home and crab both long and loud?

Do you take an active part to help the club along?
 Or are you satisfied to be the kind who "just belongs"?

Do you ever go to visit a member who is sick,
 Or leave the work for just a few, then talk about "the clique"?

There is quite a program scheduled that means success -- if done,
 And it can be accomplished with the help of everyone.

So attend the meetings regularly, and help with hand and heart;
 Don't be "just a member", but take an active part !

Think this over, Member, are we RIGHT or WRONG?
 Are you an ACTIVE MEMBER, or do you "just belong"?

Composed by Bill Link, Rear Commodore; submitted by the New England District

C-96 Dayton parish

Holy Cross Lithuanian Roman Catholic Church

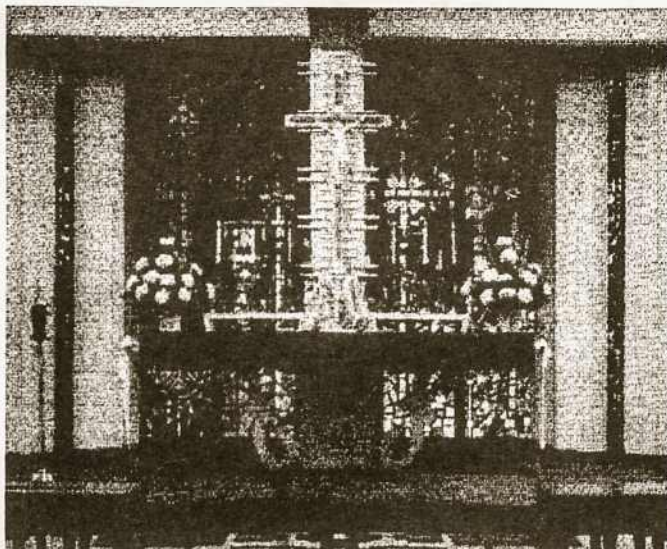
by Elinor Sluzas and Fran Petkus

In 1902 the Lithuanians in the Dayton community numbered more than 300. Also, in 1902 St. Peter's Fraternal Society was organized with the intent of establishing a Lithuanian Parish. That same year the Society bought 8 lot tracks of land on the SW corner of Leo and Lukaswitz (now know as Rita St.) Streets for \$1,500.00.

In 1911 the Archdiocese of Cincinnati granted the Lithuanians of Dayton approval to organize a Lithuanian Parish. To realize their dream many began making contributions on a regular monthly basis. These determined Lithuanians held picnics, socials and other money making projects to raise the necessary funds to reach their goal.

Before they completed construction of the church they wanted assurance of having a Lithuanian priest. It took a great deal of effort to obtain one, but this mission was finally accomplished on May 1, 1914. This is considered the official date and beginning of Holy Cross Parish. The new church was blessed on March 21, 1915. It took awhile for these hearty parishioners to pay off the debt incurred but pay it off they did by the end of 1941.

Holy Cross Church, upon completion of its remodeling, was rededicated on November 22, 1964. Two columns were erected in the front of the church. Lithuanian designs were incorporated in the brick work of the front walls and the roof was extended. Glass doors with Lithuanian emblems were installed. A new bell tower, which is electronically controlled, was erected, also with Lithuanian motifs. The 29 ft 7 inch steeple cross was fabricated in Chicago. The inside of the church saw much change, also. The flooring is in a Lithuanian design. The faceted slab glass windows



The main altar features a panorama of Lithuanian crosses.

and the panorama behind the main altar were made by Adolf Valeska Studios of Chicago. The thick stained glass was imported from France. The scene behind the altar portrays the Hill of Crosses. The side windows show Lithuanian style shrines among which are the following symbols: The Holy Trinity, Our Blessed Mother, Passion of the Redemption and the Seven Sacraments. On the side altars is a bas-relief of Our Lady of the Gates of Dawn and of Saint Casimir. This is the only church of this style, with this type of original stained glass designs, in the entire United States. Parishioners of Holy Cross have been generous with their gifts to the parish.

Several years ago, under the threat of Holy Cross Church being closed or made into a chapel, parishioners and friends rose to the occasion. Through the intercession of Our Blessed Mother, St. Casimir and Blessed George Matulaitis our prayers were answered. We are continuing as a parish, and we are blessed with a fine young priest as our pastor, Rev. Michael Holloran. We are anxious to share our church with you as you attend Mass here during the 84th National Convention - August 7 - 10, 1997!!!!



(Excepts taken from Holy Cross Parish Golden Jubilee Booklet 1914-1964.)

The Beautiful Region of Dzūkija - Dainava

WHERE MUSHROOMS AND BERRIES WERE OBTAINED

by Jonas Miskinis

translated by Antonia M. Wackell, C-116

Between Traku, Varena, Marcinkonis, Druskininku, Merkinė, Linkavos, Ratnyčia, Ezeronis, Dubič and Kabalas, there extends a particularly natural, very beautiful region overgrown with pine forests. Here and there, it bristles with hillocks. In places it is speckled with small blue lakes and winding rivers, but above all...the most remarkable, distinctive sands. According to the writer, Vinco Kreves-Miskevičius, "This is the REGION of SONGS - this southern DZŪKIJA!

In this region I had spent my most beautiful young days. This area particularly made an impression upon the visiting tourists. You see, rarely are there fertile fields and green meadows. Everywhere, there are only pines, birches, poor plants and hillocks over which the wind carries clouds of dust.

CZAR ALEXANDER'S "FARMING"

In the past, this region had a different appearance. It was overgrown with thick pines, birch trees, and along the river banks and lower spots, black elderberry trees grew. However, in those times, the forests did not have great value, and so they were misused and felled.

When in the year 1861, Czar Aleksander issued "farming", giving land to the peasants. Dainavos peasants received large hectares of land - between tens of thousands with forests.

There was plenty of land, but it was infertile. The peasants felled the forest, plowed up the stumps and sowed winter crops.

At first, in such newly cleared land - this humus soil, the grain grew well, but not for long. You see, the sand disturbed between the stumps, now unprotected by the forest, combined with the wind storms soon began to threaten the remaining pines and especially the workable land.

Almost all this area, after the first World War, was occupied by the Polish. Almost 19 years of

oppression and great poverty. The Polish Administration was less concerned. The winds still blew the sand, especially in Marcinkonis, Varena and Ratnyčios districts' green areas.

During the year of Lithuanian Independence, the land administration was concerned about the Dainavos area - how much of it was independent. For example, in Varena region, Alytaus district, an experimental station was organized for the utilization of sand, which accomplished various experiments concerning culture and plants. Even though the sandy soil was not quiet, with unusual amounts of fertilizer and work, the results were good - producing good yields.

Having abolished Varena's distress, the overgrowth of the former Glebas river banks - a few years later, what had been a wasted area became green with young pines, and after 20 years there grew beautiful pine trees. It was ascertained that with great effort, it was possible to plant crops or set in trees in those sandy areas.

In addition, long efforts showed that the sands were not of a dangerous nature. In them, vegetation quickly rooted and branched out as did the willows and junipers with which from ancient times, the people knew how to make various artistic baskets.

MUSHROOMS AND BERRIES

From time immemorial, this region's pine forests became famous for its mushrooms. Here, predominated mushrooms of major varieties: morels, boletus, chanterelle and many, many others. The morels are the first Spring mushrooms. They appear in the beginning of April. In rainy summers boletus mushrooms grow. At times, the mushroom pickers gather so many that they return with entire wagons full. But because they dry them in bread ovens, many come to nothing. Merkinė, a mushroom factory to dry mushrooms, had considerable success.

Another valuable abundant crop - is the wealth of cranberries. In the swamps grow the cranberries which the women pick in the autumn.

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But not everywhere, because the bogs and water make it inaccessible to the berries. When the bogs and water freeze up, then approach is made easier and picking is completed. It is to be noted, that the berries gathered averaged 60 tons a year.

Also many blueberries and whortleberries grow here. It seems that this region's conditions for them are favorable. Blueberry and whortleberry blossoms have great significance for the bees. However, above all, the greatest attraction offered to the bees is the heather, which takes over large areas, and also the cultured plant - buckwheat, out of its blossoms bees carry large amounts of delicious honey.

HOW DID THE RIVER GLEBAS ORIGINATE?

A young maiden was driving the oxen home because a storm was approaching. But the oxen had not eaten their fill, so they ignored demands nor heeded the drubbing of the switch. Particularly lagging was the largest of them called GLEBAS, because his flabby belly hung down. The maiden struck him with the switch and yelled: "Home, Glebas!" And in that instant the heavens became violent. Such an ocean of water spilled down so that it became a great river.

You see, the maiden had guessed the name of the river, which the winds and storms had protected in the sky. When the river's name was shouted, it spilled down to earth.

translated by Antonia M. Wackell



Did You Know?

The Lithuanian birth rate continues to decline; during the six months period Jan-June 1996, 16,777 infants were born, 999 less than the same time period of 1995. Also, compared to the previous period, there were 884 more weddings and 605 more divorces.

-source, The Lithuanian Weekly

Getting Involved in Baltic Affairs

by *Ingrida Losis*
with *Pranas Cižiūnas*

The general elections are finally over, with unfortunately one of the lowest voter turnout in years. Both the House of Representatives and Senate remain in the control of the Republicans, and as we all know, President Clinton was elected to a second term. JBANC, or the Joint Baltic American National Committee Inc. representing the Lithuanian American Council, Inc. as well as the Estonian American National Council, Inc. and the American Latvian Association, Inc. lost many friends at the adjournment of the 104th Congress. However, we hope to make several inroads with the freshman class.

Not only has JBANC seen a change in Congress, but many members of the Clinton Administration have expressed their desire to return to private life. Resignations of significance to Baltic Americans include Secretary of State Warren Christopher and Defense Minister William Perry.

Before the elections, JBANC along with other Baltic organizations made significant headway in the Clinton Administration in regards to NATO membership for the Baltic states. With most recent announcements, it is yet unclear as to the fate of these negotiations. Although JBANC will continue to press the issue, the fate of NATO membership will ultimately rest on Madeleine Albright, Secretary Christopher's replacement.

By all accounts, the next four years will test the metal of President Clinton's foreign policy agenda. As the Administration is preparing for another term, JBANC has begun to prepare for the 105th Congress. We need your help to ensure that the Baltic American community does not take steps backwards. By joining other Baltic activists in the Baltic Activist Network you agree to :

Write letters to Members of Congress. Meet with your Congressional delegation when appropriate. Share information provided by JBANC with other members of your community; Write letters to the editor of your local newspaper.

It may sound like a lot, but it's not. Just a few minutes of your time when the need arises is all that is required. Most people who have joined key contact programs will admit that although there is a time commitment, in the end, being part of the democratic legislative process can be fun. In previous JBANC Chronicle's we have written on the importance of being a Baltic Activist, and it is you, who ultimately makes the difference.

How To Become Involved

It is quite easy to get involved in Baltic politics. However, you must take the first step by calling JBANC at (301) 340-1954, filing at (301) 309-1406 or E-mailing at jbanc@jbanc.org and request to be put on the Baltic Activist Network list, This will enable JBANC to send you legislation alerts and information as needed.

The second step is writing a letter of congratulations to your member of Congress, and Senator if applicable, and congratulate them on their victory. In your correspondence give a brief overview of the Baltics and areas of legislative concern. You may also want to let your Representative/Senator know about the local Baltic community. Let the Representative or Senator know that you will be contacting their office if legislation concerning the Baltics is introduced or is being considered by the House of Representatives of Senate.

Third, send a copy of your correspondence and any reply to JBANC at 400 Hurley Ave., Rockville, MD 20850.

It's that easy. As you can see, in three easy steps, you can become a vital member of the Baltic Activist Network. Through the commitment of you and others, JBANC can continue to effectively represent the interests of Baltic Americans before the United States Congress.



Ingrida Losis is a Latvian member of the JBANC Board of Directors; Pranas Cižiūnas is the Operations Manager at JBANC and a member of Council 142, Washington, DC. See also page 35 for upcoming event.

Kalbėkime Lietuviškai



Questions ...I like

Let's Speak Lithuanian!



The "tag question" in English is not as frequently used in Lithuanian. There are several ways of expressing 'do you, don't you, have you, haven't you, will you, won't you' etc. in Lithuanian.

With a negative question, *ar ne?* after positive statements. Literally it means: 'is it not, was it not, will it not', etc. This is used most frequently. For example:

Dr. Vitkus yra jaunas, ar ne?

Dr. Vitkus is young, isn't he?

Jis puikus žmogus, ar ne?

He is a fine man, isn't he?

With a positive word-question *tiesa?* meaning 'true, correct?' This word can be used both after the positive statements and the negative statements. For example:

Jo namas geras, tiesa?

His house is nice, is it not?

Jis nieko nežino, tiesa?

He knows nothing, does he?

With a negative question *ar ne tiesa?* 'is that not so?' Primarily, this is used after positive statements, but sometimes it occurs after negative sentences or clauses.

Jis yra geras profesorius, ar ne tiesa?

He is a good professor, isn't he?

Jis nieko nekoks žmogus, ar ne tiesa?

He is not a very fine man, is he?

To express 'I like' in Lithuanian, use the third person of the verb *patikti* 'to please' plus the dative: *man patinka* (literally means 'it please to me') 'I like'.

man patinka - I like

tau patinka - you like

jam/jai patinka - he/she likes

mums patinka - we like

jums patinka - you like

jiems/joms patinka - they (masc./fem.) like

Since *patinka* is the third person for both singular and plural, it is used with singular, plural and infinitive subjects. For example:

Man patinka tas namas - I like that house.

Man patinka tie namai - I like those houses.

Man patinka skaityti bibliotekoje - I like to read in the library.

Mėgti can also be used to express 'like', but suggests a more permanent liking, a more intimate relationship, but the difference is very idiomatic.

I like professor Vitkus

1) *Man patinka profesorius Vitkus.*

2) *Aš mėgstu profesorių Vitkų.*

1) *means* I like the professor as a man, his appearance, etc.

2) *means* I like him as a professor, his way of lecturing, etc.

Sometimes the choice of the word *patikti* or *mėgti* depends on the object. Thus, it is better

to say *man patinka Amerika* 'I like America',
man patinka šitas namas 'I like this house',
man patinka šita mergaitė 'I like this girl' than
mėgstu Ameriką, mėgstu šita namą or mėgstu
šitą mergaitę.

But it is possible to say *mėgstu juodą duoną* 'I like black bread.' *mėgstu vaisius* 'I like fruit.', *mėgstu skaityti* 'I like to read' *mėgstu keliauti* 'I like to travel' or *man patinka juoda duona* 'I like black bread.' *man patinka vaisiai* 'I like fruit.', *man patinka skaityti* 'I like to read' *man patinka keliauti* 'I like to travel'.

Conversation:

Ar jūs ne ponas Šarkis? Aš čia jo laukiu.

Ne. Aš esu Antanas Rimas. O jūs?

Jonas Valys. Aš esu advokatas.

Aš esu pašto valdininkas. Aš dirbu pašte.

Ar jus esate vedęs? Turite šeimą?

Taip. Turiu vieną sūnų ir vieną dukterį.

Mano dukte yra studentė.

O jūsų sūnus?

Mano sūnus yra inžinierius.

Buvo labai malonu su jumis pasikalbėti.

Sudieu.

Translation:

Are you not Mr. Sharkis? I have been waiting for him here.

No. I am Antanas Rimas. And you?

Jonas Valys. I am a lawyer.

I am a postal employee. I work at the post office.

Are you married? Do you have a family?

Yes. I have a son and a daughter. My daughter is a student.

And your son?

My son is an engineer.

It was a pleasure to speak with you. Good bye.

From Introduction to Modern Lithuanian by L. Dambriunas, ©1967 Franciscian Fathers, Brooklyn



Predicting the Future of the New Year

Similar to the Christmas Eve prognostications are those of New Year's Eve and New Year's Day. For instance, people stayed up on New Year's Eve at least until midnight to greet the New Year. If an individual slept through such an important event, his entire year will go badly, he'll be groggy and lazy.

Among other predictions of a personal nature were:

If a person falls on New Year's Day, he will be unlucky all year.

Whatever news is heard first on New Year's Day will determine the whole year. If the first news is good, the year will be good, if bad, the year will have bad news and sorrow.

Some of the most interesting for the young people are the prophecies of next year's love problems. A girl writes twelve male names on twelve pieces of paper (symbolizing the months of the year) and leaves a thirteenth blank. She folds the papers and places them under her pillow. When she awakens the next morning, she pulls out the first piece her hand encounters and reads it. She will marry whomever's name is on the paper. If she gets the blank piece, she will be alone that year, no one will love her.

A key, ring, small water goblet and a coin are placed under overturned bowls. The bowls are mixed and everyone chooses one in turn. The person who finds the ring will marry that year; whomever finds the water will have a drunk for a spouse; the key means owning a house and the coin signifies wealth. *Source: Lithuanian Customs and Traditions, D. Bindokienė*

Results of **VYTIS** Readers Questionnaire



In an effort to find ways to improve VYTIS, at our last convention in Brockton, we asked VYTIS readers to let us know what you enjoyed and what you'd like to see more of in VYTIS. Although we do not intend this as a scientific survey and would've liked to hear from more of you, some of the results were surprising. We heard from 0.75% of the total readership, which is considered a valid sampling by market researchers. Some of the respondents added both positive and negative comments.

Most interesting was finding out what you readers would like to see more of. Topping the list was the desire for an expanded **Lithuanians in the News** section at 61%; more **Lithuanian language** articles at 57% of the respondents, followed by **Lithuanian history and travel** at 53%, **K. of L. Unsung Heroes** at 46%, **Culture and folklore** at 42%, and **Lithuanian Chefs and Council News** tied at approximately 38%.

Lithuanian Political Affairs seemed most important to respondents under the Official Supreme Council News section with 34% seeking more stories and **Aid to Lithuania** ranked second most important with 30%.

A full 73% of respondents stated they have never toured Lithuania and 26% added they are simply not interested in traveling there. 26% of respondents had traveled to Lithuania once or twice on average.

New products to be included that topped readers lists were amber and other jewelry, books on Lithuanian culture and VYTIS calendars.

We will consider your responses as we prepare new VYTIS issues and would like to thank all those who participated. For those brave enough to add their name and council numbers, do enjoy your Lithuanian '96 Olympic basketball bumper stickers.

How to know you are growing older...

Everything hurts, and what doesn't hurt, doesn't work. You get winded playing cards.
 The gleam in your eye is from the sun hitting your bifocals. Your children begin to look middle-aged.
 You feel like the night before, and you haven't been anywhere.
 Your little black book contains only names ending in M.D.
 You join a health club and don't go. You look forward to a dull evening.
 A dripping faucet causes an uncontrollable bladder urge. Your knees buckle, but your belt won't.
 You know all the answers, but nobody asks you the question.
 You need glasses to find your glasses. You sit in a rocking chair and can't get it going.
 You turn off the lights for economic rather than romantic reasons.
 Your back goes out more than you do.
 You have too much room in the house, and not enough in the medicine chest.
 You sink your teeth into a steak and they stay there.
 You wonder why prints are getting smaller and stairs become steeper .. all the time...



C-3, Philadelphia, PA *Daina Kapuchus*

Council 3 elected new officers during their October meeting. The installation of new officers took place on Oct. 6 at St. Casimir's School in Philadelphia.

Newly elected officers are as follows: Rev. Father Eugene Wassel, Spiritual Advisor; John Mickunas, President; Irene Ozalis, Vice President; Walter Svekla, Treasurer; Alice Bacon, Financial Secretary; Aušra Maknys, Recording Secretary; Agnes Mickunas and Irene Svekla, Trustees; Agnes Mickunas, Lillian Greymas and Margaret Petronis, Ritual Committee; Julie Kowrak, Culture; Nellie Pandza, Sunshine; Leonard Kapuchus, Lithuanian Affairs; Daina Kapuchus, Vytis Correspondent.

C - 10, Athol - Gardner, MA *Vincukas*

At our November meeting the following slate of officers was elected: spiritual advisor - Rev. Joseph Jurgelonis, president - William Wišniauskas, vice president - Dr. Henry Gailiūnas; treasurer - Nellie Melaika; financial secretary - Howard Beaudette; recording secretary Joanna Chastney; marshal - David Lucas; cultural chairman - Bronė Wišniauskas; Ritual chairman - Howard Beaudette; "Vytis" - Kathryn Paliulis.

Plans are being formulated to



celebrate Lithuanian Independence Day. On April 5th a Spring supper is planned to benefit St. Francis' building fund.

50th wedding anniversaries congratulations are extended to Bob and Aldona Marcavage of Bridgeport, CT and to the Leassmans' and Benders' of C-26 Worcester, MA.

Dr. Henry Gailiūnas was honored at the Fall Convention in Athol in September. The good doctor was born and raised in Athol and graduated from Athol High. He received his Bachelor of Science in Biology at Boston College and went on to graduate from Georgetown University School of Dentistry. For a year and a half he served in the Navy and was stationed in Baimebridge, MD. On his return from the service he opened a dentist's office in Athol.

The doctor is a 50 year K. of L. and a third degree member. He is an active member of the parish of St. Francis' and has participated in many parish

C- 10's Golden Members . . .

Dr. Henry Gailiūnas, Pres. Bill Wišniauskas and Nellie Melaika are given a special presentation by Bronė Wišniauskas on the occasion of their 50 year membership in the K. of L.

activities, including the Parish Council. Dr. Gailiūnas is a member of the American Dental Association, The Massachusetts Academy of General Dentistry and is a director of the Athol-Clinton Cooperative Bank. We all wish you continual success and good health and continue your services in your parish and the K. of L.

After 30 years of being our council's VYTIS correspondent, I thought it was about time I gave someone else a chance to show off her talent in writing. I take this opportunity to thank the staff of VYTIS and all its readers and wish Kathryn Paliulis the best for the future.

Thank you, Vincukai for such a wonderful job! It was a pleasure to work with you and hope you might consider writing an article for VYTIS. It will be difficult to fill your shoes. Vytiškai, Marytė ir Dalia.



C - 12, New York, NY
Irene Senken

Autumn just passed and we are already into winter. We are busy preparing for a variety of activities during the cold months.

As of this writing the annual dinner of Our Lady of Vilnius parish on October 20 is history. It was successful and provided funds for a various repairs to this 90 year lady - Our Lady of Vilnius parish. During the dinner our spiritual advisor Father Eugene Savicki was presented with his 4th degree. He immediately placed it around the neck of his mother. "It was instinctive," Father said, "she deserves it for raising me."

In November we had our elections. Most of the same people were elected. Our new president is Jovita Sleder. Her husband - Joe Sleder was the president many years ago. By the way, this year Joe Sleder will mark his 60 years in the K. of L. Ilgiausiu metu malonus Juozukai!

We had our Christmas party on December 8th. As usual Santa (Joe Sleder, who has had this job for many a year, did not really need the fake beard, he has a nicer natural one) arrived and gave all the children young and not so young a variety of gifts. Our spiritual advisor Father Eugene Savicki was honored on the occasion of his 10th anniversary in the priesthood. In the name of the council, president Jovita Sleder gave him a plaque created by our talented Aldona Zaunius, who tied a

beautiful sash (woven by another talented member Stasė Aleniūnienė).

We are sorry to report, that a long time and faithful member Bertha Stanwick was called to her Creator. Amžina atilsj, dear Bertha we shall miss you. We also will miss Connie Siatsis, who also was called to her eternal reward. On a brighter note: Connie Nehwadowich, Dalia Bulgaris and Alma Korengo are on the way to recovery. A very happy birthday to Aldona Kepalaite our musician in residence. Ilgiausiu metu!

We missed Helen and Vinnie Cuperwich at our meeting, due to Vinnie's back problems, and Joe Sleder from eye surgery. He now looks like a movie star with dark shades. Please pray for Sister Helen Ivanauskas a member of C-1 Brockton, who has cancer. She is doing a superb job with the childrens' hospitals in Lithuania.

Welcome home to Millie Pietz and Betty Janonis from Greece. It is good to have you two back.

A healthy and happy 1997 to all of you!

C-25, Cleveland, OH
Dolly-O

A two year board term on the Supreme Council of the K of L Foundation, was recommended and accepted by R. Marks. The term fills the vacancy created by the sudden death of Tom Bruzga.

An invitation was extended to our council to join the American-Lithuanian retirees club, on a trip to Pittsburg, PA

by Vic Staskus, May 30th. The trip included a tour of the city, Golden Triangle, PPG, Nationality Rooms at the University of Pittsburg, Allegheny Brewery, and had lunch at the Lithuanian Club. Labai skanu. Incidentally, do you know Ohio's State Rock Song? Ohio's State Stone? Ask Vic!

C-25 helped the Farrells to celebrate the christening of their third daughter, Hailey in July. Next one is a boy, Jim and Laura.

Eight members attended the Lithuanian Cultural Garden Fund Raiser and Recital at the Gwinn Estate in Bratenahl Aug.17.

Coffee Hours sponsored by C-25, following the 10 am mass at Our Lady of Perpetual Help, had a surprise guest. Žydrūnas Ilgauskas of the Cleveland Cavaliers N.B.A. wanted to get to know us. (See photo). A bunch of Forget-You-Nots to all who baked, donated and offered services for the occasion.

Twelve members went to Dayton for a devout, inspiring and informative

Pilgrimage and meeting, the last weekend in September. A nephew, Colonel

James Durning and wife, Lt. Colonel Rose, stationed at Wright Patterson Air ForceBase Hospital, were guests of the Oberaitis' for Sunday's banquet at the Amber Rose restaurant. Roses to our hostess, Elinor Sluzas; she did it again. Thank You, Dayton, for a wonderful occasion.

A big hand (and arm) to all the newly elected officers of C-25.

D. Marks as president, and Jean, as Secretary, are setting

unprecedented records for terms in office. That also goes for all you who maintained the same office as yesteryear.

Prayer offerings to all of our ailing members. Condolences to N.Arunski on the death of her nephew, Bill Smith, on Oct. 1st. He had been a very active K of L'er, in his day.

To round out the year, our annual Christmas Birthday Party for the CHILD, was held at Sterle's, on Sunday, December 15 at 3 pm.

Did you know: Seven days without prayer, makes one **WEAK!**

C-26, Worcester, MA

Stephen V. Walinsky, Sr.

Attendance at our November meeting was great. Fifty two came out in the cold of the night.

During the business agenda of the meeting, a solicitation letter from Aid To Lithuania, Inc. was read to the members resulting with individual contributions of over \$250.00. After the adjournment, a blind auction was conducted by Pres. Anne Leseman. Goods brought in by the membership, provided the necessary articles for the sale. The money raised from this, helped by the persistence of the auctioneer, was added to the individuals donations totaling \$400.00 to benefit the motive.

This turned out to be a fun time and also a display of the **GENEROSITY** of our **BIG HEARTED** bunch of K of L'ers.

With sincere gratitude and all out praise, council 26 acknowledges Anne Leseman, Joan Wojciak, Ruth Gadilauskas,

Blynai Chefs of C-63

*Evelyn Harryn,
Andy Keraga,
Lillian
Klinosky and
Jane Lutick get
ready for the
crowds.*



Dorothy Spokis and Olga Kersis for their serious services of the past year. They and their zeal will never be forgotten.

Much can be said of the incumbents who chose to accept renomination and to hold their posts for another term. They want to continue to serve. Wanting to - is Noble.

The newly elected officers for 1997 are - Pres. Vivian Rodgers, V. Pres. Anne Leseman, Rec. Secretary Irene Markevicius assisted by Aldona Waska, Fin. Secretary Marion Racicot, Treasurer Lillian Kondrotas, Auditor William Leseman, Pub. Relations Ruth Serafinas, Sgt. at Arms Charles Kulakusky, Vytis correspondent Stephen V. Walinsky, Sr., Lith. Affairs Victoria Augustine, and Spiritual Advisor Fr. John Petrauskas.

The evening ended triumphantly with coffee and pastries provided and served by the M. group alphabetically selected to host for the month. Fr. John did his duty spiritually, leading us in reciting the closing prayer.



C-27, Norwood, MA

Liepa

We started off our fall meetings with an enthusiastic group of members who participated in the New England District Convention in Athol. Sandra Melish was reelected Trustee. Norwood Council 27, worked in the kitchen for the Cultural Picnic and Scholarship Drive for the New England District. It was a great time working side by side with Worcester and New Haven members.

In October, our council held elections and planned activities for the year. New members were welcomed: Ellen and Frank Stankevicius, Joseph and Alice Sipas, Ed and Adele Macys.

Our November meeting had our spiritual director, Rev. William Wolkovich, giving a brief overview of the Religious in Pennsylvania.

The ham and bean supper under the capable leadership of Paul and Louise Zukas was an outstanding success. So many members were of great help. The sing-a-long following the supper had us all leave with happy hearts.

C-63, Lehigh Valley, PA
Evelyn Harryn

Summer Break is over, Autumn is in it's glory, and Council-63 is back in action !

We held our first meeting on September 15 th. It began with members attending a Memorial Mass for all council's deceased members. It was decided that each September such a mass will be held. Prior to our meeting, we were saddened by the death of our dear member, Patricia Žilius . Amžina Atsilisj.

On September 29th, we participated in Allentown's "Super Sunday". We were back in business making "Bleenies". There were heavy rains for three days prior to Sunday, predictions for rain all Sunday morning. We chanced it , with a lot of prayers to St. Casimir, and it turned out to be a gorgeous day. Also a profitable one. In the tune of \$ 375.00. For five hours of frying and selling Bleenies, we were happy ! Bob Klova was at the sight with his truck loaded, portable stand and equipment by 7:45 A.M. By 11:00 A.M. we were ready to test the batter . It was perfect ! My great big AČIŪ'S go out to Valentyna and Joseph Ogint for preparing the excellent batter. It was done with alot of expertise and pride. Andy Keraga was our chief expert all day " Fryer ". His assistant, Paul Harryn, dipped the Bleenies onto the grill all day. They were a good working team. Then there was Jane Lutick, Lillian Klinosky, and myself, as cashiers and servers for the day. Bob Klova and his

brother Adolf, came back as relief workers. And were we happy to see them . Also, to tear down and pack up the stand and equipment - They then transported it to the garage of Valeria Smickle, in Easton, where it is stored until our next event.

BIG NEWS - Our council held a "Fall Flea Market" in October. What success ! The total profits from this Fund-Raiser were \$1,126.00. Dora Lushis and Valeria Smickle were extremely grateful to everyone that helped so diligently with this event for three days. Jane Lutick is always there from beginning to end. As is Jack Lushis and Delores and Frank Connolly. The church hall was overflowing with terrific bargains and collectibles. Many Thanks to everyone who helped and donated items to be sold.

On October 6th, Council 63 hosted the Amber District Meeting. There were 59 members in attendance. The luncheon was catered, and enjoyed by all present. We also served a delicious assortment of homemade desserts, fresh fruit and cheese.

Council-63 decorated their Lithuanian Christmas Tree in Bethlehem, Pa. The S. Bethlehem Historical Society had its an annual presentation of ethnic trees. This was held at the Comfort Suites Inn of South Bethlehem , Pa. There were 14 ethnic trees this year. Also this year, for the first time, - St. Michael's Lithuanian Church

Our choir sang Lithuanian Christmas Carols at the opening ceremonies and Tree Lighting festival, under the direction of

the choir director, Ben Apanavičius, Jr. This was held on Dec.1st. Albert Klizas and wife, Jeanette, were guests of honor for the Lithuanian group. Albert was our first contact and chairperson of this event. Chairing the event was Evelyn Harryn, with a committee of Paul Harryn Jane Lutick, Lillian Klinosky, and Adele and Andy Keraga. I must add that Andy Keraga and myself had been very busy making natural straw ornaments. Paul Harryn made birdhouse (ornaments) from tree twigs . Jane Lutick made walnut shell ornaments, ever so delicately ornated !

The Knights of Lithuania also decorated a similar tree at St. Michael, the Archangel Church in Easton, Pa. This was upon the request of our spiritual advisor, Rev. John Grabish , and Rev. Wm. Nohn. It was the first time we did this. This is the only Lithuanian Church in the Lehigh Valley .

Our members, Blanche and Joe Rinkunas celebrated their 57 th wedding anniversary this year. Anne and George Wonsok celebrated their 50th anniversary. Another wonderful Golden Anniversary was celebrated by Florence and Charles Buzas on November 4th. Congratulations and many good wishes to all of you !

C - 74, Scranton, PA
Marie Laske

Bishop J. Carroll McCormick died November 2, 1996. He was bishop of the Scranton diocese from 1966 until 1983.

His uncle, archbishop

Dougherty of Philadelphia attended Bishop McCormick's ordination to the priesthood. Still hanging on the wall in Bishops McCormick's bedroom is a photo of his uncle and a handwritten message from Bishop Dougherty dated on the day of McCormick's ordination to the priesthood. Dougherty advised his nephew to be loyal and obedient to superiors... unworldly, humble and grateful, zealous and laborious; studious and prayerful...careful to avoid temptation, shunning dangerous companions, literature and places.

I think if we all lived according to this advice it would be a much better world.

C-79, Southfield, MI

Bee Jay

Our main, annual project, from which we most expect to profit, was held Sun., Nov. 3 after both masses at Divine Providence Church.

At our monthly meeting, Wed., Nov. 6, Pres. Margaret Dapkus gave a report of each committee's activities during the day and what their intake was. She thanked each member for his/her time and effort exerted to make our function a success.

The kitchen crew was composed of Helen Mykolaitis, Kathy Panavas and Isabel Korsakas, the lady who made the most delicious kugeli. We all wished there were more pans of it!

Violet Panavas took her usual stand selling tickets for the refreshments.

Another popular table was the



Family that prays together...

Richard and Marie Laske of Council 74 with grandchildren at St. Peter's Cathedral for the Rosary. (L to R) Nathan Stebbins, Liz and Rachel Georgia.

"bake sale". Emma Povilaitis had as her assistants: Estelle Gogelis, Ann Salas and Helen and Joe Usoris.

A successful attraction was the ever-present "straw game," where people took chances, hoping to pick the right straw for prizes lined up on the stage edge. It was ably chaired by Pres. Margaret, with Frank Povilaitis and granddaughter Lynn Broniak assisting.

The "Basket of Cheer" raffle was, again, as in previous years, supervised by Sylvia Jarosz and Chuck Mykolaitis.

The competent mother and daughter duo -- Stella Hotra and Tina Bulota never refuse the job of being in charge of the 50/50 raffle. The happy winner this year was Leon Galinskas. Bertha Janus and Ann Uzdavinis were at their old stand -- the "Craft Table." Many holiday items were on sale.

Last, but not least, I'm sure we all wish to thank Bill Dapkus and Joe Panavas, this affair's "gofers." Besides other

duties, they kept all workers well fed!

I want to end this article with the statement that 99% of workers at the Fall Festival were the same participants who work each year. They are getting old and tired. Won't the younger, stronger members please come forward and replace them next year?

C-96, Dayton, OH

Fran Petkus

Another boost to our treasury and charity fund was the council's Annual Fall Bake Sale on November 22-23, 1996! Thanks for a job well done must go to the Chairperson MaryAgnes Mikalauskas and her 'team' - Frances/Elena Mikalauskas, Joan Kavalauskas, Kathy Sinkwitz and Kimberly Walker. Thanks must also go to all the members who baked, donated and purchased sale items. MaryAgnes did a great job rounding up a variety of

raffle prizes.

The following members are part of our standing committees - Religious is Betty Nash; Ritual - Eloise Berczelly; Telephone Squad - Eloise Berczelly, Christine Fletcher, Ann Gitzinger, Joan Kavalauskas, Sue Keivel, Frances Mikalauskas and Betty Nash. The Telephone Squad has been a vital organ of our council in getting information to the membership on short notice. Omitted in a previous column was MCD Junior Advisor - Eleanor Mantz of C -96.

Get well wishes go out to Veronica Omlor, Jimmy Kavalauskas and Ida Kavy. Our very deepest sympathies go to Ann Kondrotas and her family on the sudden loss of her husband, Fred. Both Ann and Fred have been members for many years. May his soul rest in the peace of the Lord.

C -96 members are looking forward to seeing all of you August 7-10, 1997

C-110, Maspeth, NY

Helen Yakaitis

Before reporting on our activities for the months of November and December and future plans, in behalf of C - 110 we wish all the Knights all over the country a Healthy and Happy New Year.

Our meeting started with a prayer by Msgn Frank Bulovas, who also blessed the pot luck luncheon. The luncheon is a new tradition in our council and we all hope it will continue. Usually our council's treasury supplies the food. The food supplied by



*Happy 80th Birthday,
Edward Baranauskas of
C-100, Amsterdam, NY*

the membership was superb and plentiful and enjoyed by all.

After the feasting, the meeting came to order. The first item on the agenda was to send our condolences to Peter Zuyus, whose Mother passed away. Peter is a hard working and sincere volunteer worker and we all share in his sorrow.

Continuing our meeting, a report on our Halloween Dinner and Dance was given. The dance was a howling success. Special thanks to all volunteers and, of course, Chairlady Julia Matulewich, who led the crew so successfully.

On December 8th we had our annual Christmas party held at O'Neal's, so nobody had to prepare, cook or cleanup. Almost 100 council members and friends enjoyed a fish, chicken or roast beef dinner. Among the honored guests were Msgr. Frank Bulovas, our spiritual advisor and HM Fr. S. Raila who

proudly wore his honorary medal telling members "this honorary membership represents all of us." Kudos to chairperson, Stella Stripaikis and her abled helpers for a lovely event.

On December 14th organist, Virginius Barkauskas, who is a member of our council and Transfiguration organist, gave an organ concert at Transfiguration Church. Most of the choir are members of the K. of L. Our annual Kučios was held on December 15th. Chairperson - Mary Stelmokas. More on these events later. Whew, it sure is great to be busy - keeps us out of mischief.

C-135, Ansonia, CT

Nakties Paleda

John A. Sabulis

C-135 is back in the fold of the council news, and is off to a start this year with the following elected slate.

Spiritual Advisor - Rev. Lee W Hellwig

President - John A. Sabulis

Vice-President Frances

Barsevich

Recording Secretary -

Mildred Driznus

Treasurer - Ruth Tyson

Financial Secretary - Lillian

Chaplik

Trustees - John P. Sabulis,

Ruth Doherty and Albert Shurkis

Sgt.-at-Arms - John Yudas

Ritual, Lithuanian Affairs and

Lithuanian Culture - Albert Shurkis

Vytis Correspondent - John A. Sabulis

The Council celebrated their anniversary by going out to the Strand Theatre in Seymour to see

the play "L'il Abner". We had a good turnout of members and enjoyed the musical play. Following the play we all journeyed to "The Sandwich Man" Restaurant where we all enjoyed a sit down meal. We all talked about going to the next play in February.

Just recently we mourned the death of Olga Savitskas Gray who was our recent President and one of the organizers of the Council in Ansonia. Her passing away has brought sadness to many and she will be missed by everyone. She was very active in the Church and Council. Olga was chairperson of the convention that was held in Ansonia.

C-135 wishes everyone a Healthy, Happy New Year.

C-142, Washington, D.C.
Kay A. Yankowski

Member Florence Smith and her sister, Mary, hosted our Christmas Party in their Bowie, MD home on December 8. Their two Maltese pups made a hit with everyone -- snuggled in their beds in the kitchen, always present but never underfoot. Ann Smith rounded out the family. Florence made mushroom soup for the wintry afternoon. Clare Sponis brought Father Andrius Narbekovas (who is the pastor of our Lithuanian Mission) with her. Father said the mass in Baltimore earlier and then they stopped at the Lithuanian Christmas Bazaar for dešru for our party. Beverly Meder and Irene and Len Redecke brought kapusta. Chris Hogan's wife, Laura, was ill but he took a



K. of L. National Spiritual Advisor, Fr. Joseph Anderlonis congratulates Joseph Zukas of C-109 Great Neck, NY on receiving his 4th degree Ritual Medal in Brockton.

doggy bag home for her. John Waylonis came into Washington to pick up Jean Lutwin (and her fish mousse) and Mary Semel with her precious cargo of kugelis; the next stop was Bowie to pick up President Julia Burlen. Joe Chaplick, Kay Yankoski and the balandeles arrived along with almost everyone else at the same time. The flu claimed Al and Gene Cizauskas; Helen Szpakowski was also unable to attend due to illness. Despite the casualties, a good time was had by all.

C - 143, Pittston, PA
Rosemary Darling

At our Amber district convention, held in Binghamton, 4th degrees were presented to: Anna Davala and Frances Sheppel. Third degree

recipients were Ann and Steve Soho and Martha Warnagiris.

Council 143 has gained a new member - Peggy Yanklanas. We are very happy to welcome her.

We would like to extend golden congratulations to Ann and Steve Soho, who celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. They reaffirmed their vows at the 11:00 Mass at St., Casimir's Church in Pittston. Ann, president of C-143 and her husband Steve are VERY active, not only in the Knights of Lithuania but in the church and community. They are there to set up, clean up and anything and everything in between. Congratulations again and many more married years to you both.

Now for a bit of council history. A number of years ago the city of Pittston (home of C-143) started a "Pittston Tomato" Festival. Three days of ethnic foods, games and entertainment. From the very first the Knights of Lithuania members were asked to join in the festival parade. Members marched down the road in their Lithuanian finery. As members aged and legs gave out, decorated cars were added. Some members still walk, some ride but all are proud of their heritage.

October found our council celebrating its 20th birthday. In honor of the occasion a covered dish dinner meeting was held. With Patricia Weiksner as chairperson and Frances Shoppel as co-chairperson a huge amount of food was collected. Everything went beautifully. All the guests enjoyed themselves.

Thank you ladies for a job well done.

C-147, St Petersburg, FL
Dolores Jonaitis

Get Well wishes for Victoria Kleiva who underwent triple bypass surgery. Also Elena Jurkynas after her surgery. Best wishes of health also to Rev. Jonas Gasiunas.

Our November meeting was called to order by our president Anthony Gudonis. Opening prayer was given by Rev. Matas Čyvas, due to the absence of Father Gasiunas who was ill.

Because our recording secretary was hospitalized, no minutes of the previous meeting were read. Irena Diktanas filled in as recording secretary for this meeting. A job well done Irena. Thanks. Maria Gelažius gave the treasury report and

the profitable results of our picnic that we had in the spring. Our trustees, Rev Matas Čyvas and Elena Vilnis, looked over the treasurer's books and said all was in order. Dr. Aldona Valis updated us on Rituals. John Jonaitis reported on the 83rd National Convention detailing all activities. Delegates to the Convention were Aldona Kirstuk, John and Dolores Jonaitis. We all enjoyed the Convention.

Father Steponas Ropolas OFM was honored on his 50th Jubilee of his Ordination. We all sang *Ilgauš Metų*. Elena Bačevičius presented him with a beautiful and delicious torte that she baked. Two candles spelled out "50". He was presented a monetary gift from the Council.



Pictured at a recent meeting at the Florida Hospitality Welcome Center, Rev. Matas Čyvas, C-147 Trustee, was honored on his 80th birthday. (L to R) Father Steponas Ropolas, O.F.M., Rev. Jonas Gasiunas C-147 Spiritual Advisor, Rev. Matas Čyvas and Rev. Mykolas Kirkalas.

Others that donated for the occasion were Maria Gelažius, Kazimiera Arlauskas, Brone Urbonas, Irena Diktanas, Petre Kasperavičiute, and Dolores Jonaitis. Brone Urbonas gracefully took care of the refreshment table. Thank you Brone. It was also voted to place a 1/4 page Christmas ad in *Vytis*.

Elections were held. The new roster of officers are:

Spiritual Advisor - Rev.

Matas Čyvas

President - Anthony Gudonis

Vice-President - Dolores Jonaitis

Recording Secretary - Victoria

Kleiva

Treasurer - Maria Gelazius

Financial Secretary - Eugenia Šatraitis

Trustee - Father Steponas Ropolas, OFM

Trustee - Alena Vilnis

Sergeant at Arms - John Jonaitis

Ritual Chairman - Dr. Aldona

Valis, Dolores Jonaitis, Irena

Diktanas, Brone Urbonas

Lithuanian Affairs - Alfas Shukis

Lithuanian Culture - Irena

Diktanis

Vytis Correspondent - Dolores

Jonaitis

Father Cyvas said the closing prayer. All enjoyed the delicious torte and various pastries and coffee. ❖❖❖

**The Golden
Arches in
Vilnius
photo by
Edward
Baranauskas**



Letters to the Editor:

(continued from page 3)

Boasts about Boris

To the editor:

Please print the following letter our council had recently sent to Mr. Vince Boris, former Supreme Council Lithuanian Affairs Chairman

On behalf of the membership of Council 27, Norwood, of the Knights of Lithuanian, please allow me to extend our sincerest thanks and appreciation to you for all you have done over the past years as Chairman of *Lithuanian Affairs* to higher the cause of Lithuania and the building up of our Knights of Lithuania fellowship.

Be assured that we are both aware of and value the considerable time, effort, dedication and personal finances which you have quietly and efficaciously contributed to our efforts, during this trying time of transition for Lithuania and us all. Even though many of us, like you have kept the eternal flame fit during difficult, times, we receive little from others, but can be assured of knowing deep within our hearts and souls that we have more than done much more than our fair share.

We in Norwood, wish you the best of health and success in your future endeavors.

Nuoširdus lietuviškas ačiū!

Su gilia pagarba! Vytiškai !

Stanley Wasil (Vasiliauskas)
President, Council 27



Happy,
Healthy
and
Prosperous
1997
to All!



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**The Joint American National
Committee 2nd Conference on
Baltic Security and U.S. Policy
in the Region**

**March 7-9, 1997
Washington, D.C.**

**For registration and hotel information,
please contact JBANC
200 Hurley Ave., Rockville, MD 20850
(301) 340-1954 or Fax (301) 309-1406
or email jbanc@jbanc.org
Please register by Feb. 7
\$110 (\$125 after Feb. 7)**

JBANC is a Washington based organization representing the interests of the Estonian American National Council, the American Latvian Association & the Lithuanian American National Council.

LITHUANIAN POETS CORNER

In 1996 a book of poetry was published in Lithuania - "Dangaus Šaknys" (The Roots of Heaven") The author **Vida Janauskaitė - Sereikienė** dedicated one of the poems to her brother, our VYTIS Business Manager, Richard Niedvares. It is called *Ilgesys* (Longing).

Ilgesys (Longing)

Nuo Mičigano (Michigan) vėjai pučia
Pilna Čikaga (Chicago) žiburių
O kaip norėčiau vėl pabūti
Su Tavimi broliuk kartu
Tačiau galingas okeanas
Išskyrė mus ir mes toli
Tiktai mintys klajūnės
Labai dažnai su tavimi.

©1986

And here is a poem dedicated to the freedom fighters of January 13th:

Sausio 13-oji (January 13th)

Tą kraupią nakt- Lietuva budėjo
Kiekvienas buvo ten
Kur liepė jo širdis
Tikroji istorijoj klaidų nebūna
O kokia bus mūsų ateitis?

©1994



Pasmerktieji (Those convicted)

Užaugo mūs karta po karo
Bet daug ką atmenam visi
Nusiausk motulės margą skarą
Ir pasakys jos smilkiniai žili
Kaip į Sibirą keliavo
Į klaikią nežinia būties
Visas dainas jos išdainavo
Iš širdies skausmo nevirties
Kaip gal dainuot tokiam varge?

Kokias kančias ji iškentėjo
Kai vedė šaudyt sūnus jos.

©1980

Your editor's impression. See story on pg. 4.

Ghosts of the KGB Museum

There are no words,
the walls they weep
where naked men, herd like sheep.
They carved their names within the walls,
when they were caught their lives were called.
Another coat of heavy paint,
erase the guilt the guards create.
The smell of death still in the air
the rotting torture everywhere.
Thirty, forty in a room,
taking turns in a sleep of doom.
Numbered in chambers in a dirty, dank hall
waiting for the death knock call.

MBA -Vilnius ©7/4/96

*Poets are encouraged to send in material to the editors. See address on front inside cover.
Art by K. Šimonis.*

MAKE A 1997 NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION...

Support our Knights of Lithuania causes:

PRIESTLY VOCATIONS through the **St. Casimir's Guild**,

a semi-autonomous activity dedicated to the support of the Lithuanian Pontifical College of St. Casimir in Rome. The Guild sponsors three programs: collection of donations for a general endowment fund administered by the Rector, obtaining Mass stipends for the support of Lithuanian priests studying in Rome, and coordinating a program of "adopting" seminarians from Lithuania by providing regular contributions to their non-academic needs.

Checks should be made payable to: **The St. Casimir's Guild** and mailed to:
HM Anna Klizas Wargo, 125 South Morris Street, St. Clair, PA 17970

HUMANITARIAN Aid through **Aid to Lithuania, Inc.**, a semi-autonomous organization

under the aegis of the Knights of Lithuania, that provides medical supplies, equipment and medicines to Lithuania during this crucial transition period from a Soviet-occupied and suppressed nation, to a free and self sufficient democracy. 40-foot containers of donated materials are shipped each calendar quarter; this past year, 11 of these containers were shipped.

Checks should be made payable to: **Aid to Lithuania, Inc.** and mailed to:
HM Robert Boris, 4557 Fairway Court, Waterford, MI 48328

COLLEGE EDUCATION through **K of L Scholarship Awards** presented each year to

deserving members who are pursuing studies at the college level. The Scholarship Fund is totally dependent upon donations and bequests from members. Checks should be made payable to:

Knights of Lithuania Scholarship Fund and mailed to:
Irene Gecas, 207 East 37th St. , New York, NY 10016

CULTURAL ADVANCEMENT through the **K of L Foundation**, an endowment fund which

supports and funds projects to further the cultural, religious or humanitarian objectives of the Knights of Lithuania. Donations are tax deductible. Checks should be made payable to:

Knights of Lithuania Foundation and mailed to:
HM Loretta Stukas, 234 Sunlit Drive, Watchung, NJ 07060



Upkeep of the NATIONAL SHRINE The development of an endowment fund to support the upkeep of the **Chapel of Our Lady of Siluva at the Basilica Shrine of the Immaculate Conception** located in Washington, D.C. was adopted at the 75th Knights of Lithuania Anniversary Convention.

Donations are tax deductible. Checks should be made payable to:

Basilica Shrine of the Immaculate Conception and mailed to:
Julia Burlen, 2403 Belair Drive, Bowie, MD 20715

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Only an oak sprouts from an acorn
 Only a pine spreads its greenery from a cone.
 My parents are Lithuanians,
 That's why I am a Lithuanian.

I cherish the Lithuanian Language and love my parent's land.
 That's my forefathers' testament,
 which I must protect as a treasure entrusted to me.
 The Lithuanian language is one of the oldest in Europe
 and one of the most melodious.

The Lithuanian landscape is the most beautiful in the world.
 In the past Lithuania was a large and powerful
 European nation.

A Lithuanian cherishes his past and from it
 gets strength.

A Lithuanian loves freedom and will sacrifice all for it.
 A Lithuanian respects other opinions,
 but staunchly defends his own.

A Lithuanian in victory is restrained
 and noble to his foe;
 in defeat--undaunted and continues to fight
 with increased fervor.

A Lithuanian speaks little, but sensibly.
 That's why I am proud,
 that I am a Lithuanian.

*-Author
 unknown
 Submitted by
 Leondas J.
 Galinskas,
 C-79
 Art by Kazys
 Simonis*

