

# Vyis



# IS



The Knight  
volume 83: no. 2



Vasaris - February 1997



**VYTIS****-THE KNIGHT-**

KNIGHTS OF LITHUANIA  
SUPREME COUNCIL  
OFFICERS

1997



*VASARIS - FEBRUARY 1997*  
*VOLUME 83: No. 2*

**SPIRITUAL ADVISOR**  
Rev. Dr. Joseph Anderlonis  
St. George's Rectory  
3580 Salmon Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19134  
(215) 739-3102

**PRESIDENT**  
Evelyn Ozelis  
2533 West 45 Street  
Chicago, IL 60632  
(773) 254-7553

**FIRST VICE PRESIDENT**  
Agnes Mickunas  
333 Davis Avenue  
Mt. Ephraim, NJ 08059  
(609) 931-3306

**SECOND VICE PRESIDENT**  
Robert A. Martin, Jr.  
3420 So. Lituanica Av.  
Chicago, IL 60608  
(773) 376-4779

**THIRD VICE PRESIDENT**  
Maria Deksnis  
3330 W. 85th St.  
Chicago, IL 60652  
(773) 476-5896

**RECORDING SECRETARY**  
Bernice Aviza  
8 Tremont Street  
Albany, NY 12205  
(518) 459-5256

**TREASURER**  
John P. Baltrus  
5325 Orchard Hill Drive  
Pittsburgh, PA 15236  
(412) 881-1716

**FINANCIAL SECRETARY**  
Dorothy A. Banos  
11 Hill Top Road  
Pittston, PA 18640  
(717) 655-0976

**TRUSTEES**  
Mark H. Bell  
1224A 7th Avenue, North  
Nashville, TN 37208  
(615) 256-3790

VYTIS (THE KNIGHT) (ISSN 0042-9384) is published monthly except bi-monthly July-August and September-October by the KNIGHTS OF LITHUANIA, 6817 N. Ridge Blvd., Chicago, Illinois. 60645-4916. Subscription is \$20.00 per year. Single copy \$3.00. Outside USA \$25.00 per year. Periodical Postage paid at Chicago, IL. Postmaster: Send address changes to: VYTIS (The Knight), Business Manager, P.O. Box 60453, Chicago, Illinois 60660-0453.

**VYTIS - The Knight - STAFF**

**Editor:** Marytė Abbott  
**Council News Editor:** Dalia Bulvičius  
**Layout and Design:** MBA Designs  
**Bus. Manager:** Richard Niedvares  
tel. (773) 764-3996 fx. (773) 764-5847

Send all editorial correspondence to:  
M. Abbott - VYTIS - The Knight  
P.O. Box 1934  
Grand Central Sta. NY 10163-1934  
tel/fax (718) 937-3352

**TRUSTEES**  
Mary Beth Slakis  
11113 Wisconsin Ct., -2C  
Orland Park, IL 60462  
(708) 479-3792

**AMBER DIST. President**  
John R. Mankus  
1110 Darlene Drive  
Endicott, NY 13760  
(607) 754-1241

**MAMD President**  
Peter P. Zansitis  
6939 So. Crandon Avenue  
Chicago, IL 60649  
(773) 363-2023

**MAD President**  
Edward Barkowski  
1226 Palma Ave.  
Schenectady, NY 12306  
(518) 355-7483

**MCD President**  
Elena Mikalauskas  
104 E. Bruce Ave.  
Dayton, OH 45405  
(513) 275-8235

**NED President**  
Bertha Stoskus  
165 Holden Street  
Providence, RI 02908  
(401) 331-2605

**LEGAL ADVISOR**  
Saulius V. Kuprys  
Henchan, Donovan, Issacson  
150 S. Wacker Dr. Rm. 1050  
Chicago, IL 60606  
(773) 346-5275

**ARCHIVES COMMITTEE**  
Longinas Svelnis, Chair  
43 Gage Street  
Needham, MA 02192  
(617) 444-7499

**CULTURAL COMMITTEE**  
John R. Mankus, Chair  
1110 Darlene Drive  
Endicott, NY 13760  
(607) 754-1241

**HONORARY MEMBERSHIP**  
Loretta Stukas, Chair  
234 Sunlit Drive  
Watchung, NJ 07060  
(908) 753-5636  
*Rev. Albert J. Contons*  
*Frances Pethus*  
*Rita Pinkus*  
*Estelle Rogers*  
*Anne Kilzas Wargo*

**PUBLIC RELATIONS**  
Regina Juska, Chair  
4638 51st Street  
Detroit, MI 48210  
(313) 554-3288

**LITHUANIAN AFFAIRS**  
Len Barcoucky  
7028 Flaccus Rd.  
Pittsburgh, PA 15202  
(412) 766-1499

**LITHUANIAN LANGUAGE**  
Dr. Virginia Vaitekoniš Obando  
1248 Waverly Place  
Elizabeth, NJ 07206  
(908) 820-9577

**RITUAL COMMITTEE**  
John Mickunas, Chair  
333 Davis Avenue  
Mt. Ephraim, NJ 08059  
(609) 931-3306  
*Elsie Kosmisky*  
*Clemencine Miller*

**SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE**  
Irene Gecas, Chair  
207 East 37St. - Apt. 2C  
New York, NY 10016  
*Veronica Bizinkauskas Cote*  
*Richard Schultz*  
*Edward Senken*  
*Eleanor Vaicaitis*

**AID TO LITHUANIA**  
Robert S. Boris, Chair  
4557 Fairway Court  
Waterford, MI 48328-3483  
(810) 682-0098

**ST. CASIMIR 'S GUILD**  
Anne Klizas Wargo, Chair  
125 So. Morris Street  
St. Clair, PA 17970  
(717) 429-0132

**K OF L FOUNDATION**  
Loretta Stukas, Chair  
234 Sunlit Drive  
Watchung, NJ 07060  
(908) 753-5636



## *table of contents - turinys*

To Our Fellow Knights .....	2
Letters to the Editor .....	2
Lithuanian Independence Day Proclamations - <i>Loretta I. Stukas</i> .....	3
Barbora Žagaretė - <i>Vincent B. Boris</i> .....	6
In Memoriam .....	9
The Graveyard of Fallen Soviet Heroes - <i>Edward Baranauskas</i> .....	10
The Case for a Really Big Nato - <i>Len Barcoucky</i> .....	12
St. Casimir Guild - <i>Anna Klizas Wargo</i> .....	14
Music Centerfold - <i>Laisvės Aidai - Faustas Strolia</i> .....	16
Lithuanian Poets on Feb. 16 .....	18
How Did Neringa Get Her Name? - <i>Dalia Bulvičius</i> .....	19
Lithuanian Chefs .....	20
K. of L. Essay Winner - <i>Jessica Waska</i> .....	21
Sights and Sounds of Dayton - <i>Fran Petkus and Elinor Sluzas</i> .....	22
Lithuanians in the News .....	24
Council News .....	26
Back Page Poetry - Beautiful Land of Our Fathers - <i>Antonia Wackell</i>	



### Cover illustration:

Located in Town Hall Square in the Old Town of Kaunas, in the center of the square is the Lithuanian Independence Memorial. This Statue of Freedom, which commemorates the restoration of Lithuanian statehood was re-erected in 1989 during perestroika. The following year a pyramidal memorial, also located in the square, was erected for the people who died for Lithuanian freedom.

*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.



## To Our Fellow Knights:

We hope that by the time you receive this issue, your council or district will have sponsored a February 16 Lithuanian Independence celebration. Whether a formal affair with proclamations and speeches or informal with songs and dances, it should be a thought provoking time dedicated to the desire to maintain hard-won independence both here and in Lithuania and to keep our Lithuanian culture alive.



## *Letters to the Editor*

### SUGGESTIONS FOR ADDITIONAL REVENUE NEEDED

To the editor:

By now many of you have heard of the Supreme Council's recent concern with the financial status of our organization. While there have been several debates as to the level of concern that is warranted and the means for achieving financial stability, the facts do show that the average balance of funds in our treasury at the national level had decreased by approximately \$30,000 (or 30%) over the three years preceding June of 1995. Of even more concern was that the rate of decrease in funds increased significantly in each succeeding year.

Prior to and including the last National Convention, several steps were taken to decrease our spending and control future expenses. Many of these decisions were not easy and certainly not without controversy. Some of our cuts have not been kind, but they have come across-the-board because the deficit between income and expenses was large and balancing our budget was done primarily with cutting expenses in mind. While the manner in which our balanced budget for 1996-1997 was achieved was not amenable to all, the majority of the delegates at the last convention went along with the plan that was presented. As a result, we are living within our means for now. Of course that does not mean that we have forgotten about the areas where funding was cut. We would like to bring our level of spending in these worthy areas back to its prior level, if not increase it. We also have to be concerned with the ever-rising costs of running our organization.

With that in mind and hoping not to have to

meet future increases in expenses with additional cuts, a resolution was passed at the last National Convention requesting the appointment of a committee to investigate means for generating additional revenue for the organization. I was appointed by our National President to chair this committee. The members of the committee are already partially in place and met at the Supreme Council meeting in Philadelphia in October. The committee will have at least one member from each district.

One of the goals of the committee is to have as much input from the entire organization as possible. This means you, its members! We invite you to submit in writing any and all ideas you may have for our organization to generate revenue. Some suggestions we have already discussed include raffles, merchandising, and even a small increase in dues. Please add to our list of suggestions. It would be best if you include your name and phone number so someone may contact you, if more details are needed or your suggestion is not clear. Please do not suggest cuts in spending. That is not the purpose of our committee. All suggestions will be considered by the entire committee before recommendations are forwarded to the Supreme Council. There will be no pre-screening before the committee sees your suggestion.

Please take this opportunity to contribute to the organization seriously. Its future will depend on you. Here is your chance to make a positive contribution and not just sit back and complain about the cuts in spending. The committee thanks you in advance for your involvement.

Send your suggestions no later than **April 1, 1997** to: John P. Baltrus, Finance Committee, 5325 Orchard Hill Drive, Pittsburgh, PA 15236.





## Lithuanian Independence Day Proclamations

# THINGS OF THE PAST -- OR THE PRESENT?

*By Loretta I. Stukas*

As one pages through past issues of VYTIS, it becomes obvious that one of the most popular February activities of Knights and other American Lithuanians during the past 50 some years was getting city, state or national political figures to sign a proclamation affirming the right of Lithuania to be free, and to commemorate her Independence Day on Feb. 16. Sometimes, the Proclamations were presented only in writing, but most often, they were signed by a governor, mayor, or other official during a special ceremony that included local American Lithuanian leaders. K of L members were invariably involved and often were the ceremony organizers and the proclamation authors. The Proclamations and the ceremonies in which public officials signed them were of great importance during the fight for Lithuania's independence, for they kept Lithuania's plight in the forefront ... the officials recognized Lithuania's right to independence, the media spread the word that Americans were working toward the restoration of her independence, and the people attending the, ceremonies were energized to continue their fight.

The history of these events dates back to 1940, when members of various American Lithuanian organizations banded together to assist their native Lithuania in freeing herself of Communist occupation. A new, umbrella organization, was born, calling itself at first the "Council to Help Lithuania", and eventually the "American Lithuanian Council". A group of representatives of this new organization were received by President Franklin Roosevelt in the White House on Oct. 15, 1940, during which the President officially declared that the US

would never accept the occupation of Lithuania by Communist Russia as legal. He said Lithuania had not "lost" her independence, it was just temporarily interrupted, and the time will come when she will again be free. He also "chided" the representatives for referring to Lithuania as "small" ... for even the smallest of nations has the right to be free.. The Knights were represented at this meeting by the late HM, Leonard Simutis, one of the K. of L. founders.

American Lithuanians took Mr. Roosevelt's remarks to heart, and decided to continue reminding the world that Lithuania must be free. They took their message to Presidents, Governors, Mayors, Senators and Congressmen. One by one, governors and mayors declared Feb. 16 "Republic of Lithuania Day", usually at the request of the American Lithuanian Council, but frequently at the request of K of L members and councils. On Feb. 15, 1952, a delegation from the American Lithuanian Council met with President Harry Truman to receive a Lithuanian Independence Proclamation and by 1953, the US Senate and House of Representatives were conducting their own Lithuanian Independence commemorations, during which a member of the American Lithuanian clergy would open tile session with a prayer for Lithuania, and senators and members of Congress would express their intentions to assist in the Lithuanian freedom movement. As a result of his stirring talk to Lithuanians on Feb. 16, 1953 in New York, Congressman Charles J. Kersten accompanied a delegation of the American Lithuanian Council on a visit to President Dwight Eisenhower later, on March 26, 1953, where Mr. Kersten promised to sponsor in the House a resolution which called for the





*1982 - NJ Governor Thomas Kean receives amber cufflinks from American Lithuanian delegates (left) HM, the late Dr. Jack Stukas, then Lith. Affairs Chairman and the author, then National K. of L. President and Rev. Albert Matulis*

creation of a special committee to investigate Communist aggression and the commission of the crime of genocide in the Baltic States. Such a resolution was unanimously adopted by Congress. Mr. Kersten kept his promise! In recognition of his efforts, Mr. Kersten became the first recipient of the new Knights of Lithuania "Friend of Lithuania" Award at the National K of L Convention in 1955.

In the Nov. 1955 issue of VYTIS, Rev. Contons writes "last Feb. 16, ... the governors of 12 states declared Republic of Lithuania Day. Mayors of 24 American cities did the same. 25 Senators and 69 Representatives in Congress spoke about Lithuania and renewed their hope that some day Lithuania would again be numbered among the free nations of the world. To a large extent this growing interest in the liberation of Lithuania is the fruit of the public spirited efforts of the Knights of Lithuania." The Knights indeed were active in keeping Lithuania's plight before the public eye. They continued assisting the American Lithuanian Council and many times initiating Proclamation signing ceremonies in their respective states and cities. Thanks to K. of L.

efforts, the Assemblies and Senates of several states voted to make an annual Lithuanian Independence Proclamation mandatory. And every year, the sitting President or Secretary of State had issued a statement of support for Lithuanian Independence from the White House on Feb. 16.

Clearly, these actions played their part in restoring Lithuania's independence. How? By keeping her plight before not only American Lithuanians but also other Americans, especially public officials. The ceremonies and proclamations were reported in the media, bringing information about Lithuania into the public eye. The fact that Americans were striving to help them did not escape

Lithuania's citizens either, giving them ever-growing courage to strengthen their own efforts for freedom. One cannot forget the pictures of Lithuanians bravely rallying for their beloved "Lietuva" on the streets of Vilnius, Kaunas, and other cities in the late 80's and the videos of their singing the up-to-then forbidden Lithuanian National Anthem and shouting "LIETUVA, LIETUVA ...". Would they have risked life and limb had they not had the support of the West, especially the USA? One such video was played at the start of the K. of L. 75th Anniversary Convention in Washington in 1988, and there was not a dry eye in the room as delegates joined in singing the anthem. The tears did not represent sorrow, but rather joy and gratitude. When Lithuania voted to declare her independence, and thus become "the mouse that roared", taking the first steps toward the destruction of the Soviet Union, she became the pride of the world, and all the phone calls, paper work, visits, etc. related to the Lithuanian Independence Day Proclamations proved worthwhile.

But what now? Lithuania is free and



independent. Our efforts had paid off. Now we can relax and do something else. Or can we? One member of my council remarked recently that while Lithuania was occupied, we held Independence Rallies, obtained Republic of Lithuania Proclamations, wrote letters to the media, etc. Now that she is independent, where are the Independence Rallies, where are the Proclamations? Is our job REALLY over? I think not!



Would a good parent abandon a child once she had learned to walk? Would a good teacher abandon a student just because he can finally read? And can we abandon our loved ones in Lithuania just because she is free? Our work IS NOT DONE, and will not be done until Lithuania can stand on her own feet. After over 50 years of suppression and occupation, she needs our help in rebuilding her economy, reestablishing her citizens' health, strengthening her democracy, and keeping her borders safe. We MUST CONTINUE to urge our leaders and our media to help Lithuania, with aid and with trade. The K. of L. affiliate, "Aid to Lithuania" sends millions of dollars worth of medication to Lithuania each year, through the generous donations of members and non-members alike. The K of L. Foundation supplies books to Lithuania's children and seminarians, habits, medication, shoes, etc. to Lithuanian nuns. Many individual members provide economic aid to their Lithuanian relatives, and many members and friends have even begun engaging in setting up business trade with Lithuania. But these steps, and the need for more of the same and new steps must be publicized and encouraged. How? One obvious way is by public proclamations, celebrations, letters to the editors of local newspapers. Lithuanian Independence Proclamations must continue, as should the signing ceremonies and the letters to the editors.

Proclamations and publicity about Lithuania needs a new emphasis. We should ask our public officials to congratulate Lithuania on achieving independence, and dealing well with her new

democracy. Since her independence, Lithuania has had several democratic elections, with changing results. Elections were administered peacefully with the employment of democratic principles, The results significantly changed the Lithuanian administration, indicating that Lithuanian citizens studied candidates and issues intelligently. They appear to have embarked on a steady road to overcoming

50 years of suffering and oppression, but their journey needs encouragement and aid from the West.

All three Baltic States have applied for NATO Membership, but thus far, membership has not been granted to any of them. We, their kin in the West, cannot let these struggling nations be bypassed because other nations consider them to be too small to be significant. No nation should be denied cooperative protection because her area is too small or her army too weak. We read recently that Russia has formed a new alliance with Communist China. The implications of this alliance are frightening, considering that many Russian citizens still believe that an independent Lithuania should be part of Russia. Will China help Russia reoccupy Lithuania? Lithuania needs to quickly and firmly prepare for becoming active in the Western European community, to prove that she can stand on her own. She may be small, but her citizens are hardworking, talented and artistic. With our help, American companies could learn about the available Lithuanian talents and products. Our US leaders and companies should be encouraged to trade with Lithuania, aid her in establishing a good legal system, and an adequate protection system.

For over 50 years, we persisted in urging our public leaders to remember Lithuania's plight and to officially declare Republic of Lithuania Day all over the USA. Our persistence paid off with Lithuania's independence! Now we cannot slack off, but rather become even more persistent in reminding the world that Lithuania has much to contribute to the world community. Our support, the West's help, and Lithuania's continuing perseverance should result in a Lithuania we can proudly say is a nation worthy of her newly-earned independence. ❖❖❖



*Local Lithuanian Saints*

## BARBORA ŽAGARETĖ

*(Barbara of Žagarė)**by Vincent B. Boris***Prologue:**

All was in readiness. Tomorrow under cover of darkness, Barbara Leveikaite, though only in her teens, would slip out of her home and begin the long journey that would take her from her beloved homeland forever. The journey would be hard and fraught with danger. Particularly the early part as she made her way secretly from the far north of Lithuania near the Latvian border to the far southwestern section. Arriving there, she would make a clandestine border crossing into Prussia; then cross Prussia into Germany proper and to the port at Bremen. In Prussia and Germany, there would be less danger, but while in the Russian-ruled territory of Lithuania, there were dangers on all sides from the cruel Russian police, the brutal Cossacks, as well as greedy peasants hoping for a reward if they tipped off authorities on the runaways.

True, serfdom had been abolished some forty years earlier in 1861, but the common folk of Lithuania still needed permission from the landlord or local noble to be able to leave their residence. It was difficult enough to obtain if you were leaving to marry a boy from the neighboring village; but when leaving the country - to go to America - it was almost impossible to get permission. So one had to sneak away to travel at night and hide during the day. The thick forests, wide fields with tall grasses or grain and an occasional friendly Lithuanian freedman could offer many places to hide during the day. But there were precious few places, where one could safely pause for food and rest without fear of being apprehended by the feared Cossacks. Who

knows what they might do to her before returning her to her "owner." It could be a few days before field hands were missed and the alert issued; but, Barbara Leveikaitė was being trained as a house servant. Her absence would be noted immediately and the alert issued to the authorities to be on the lookout for another runaway.

With rising apprehension and anxiety, Barbara said her furtive goodbyes to family and friends. There was but one more task to complete; she could not leave Lithuania without a last visit to her namesake, patron and confidant, Barbara of Žagarė. People in the area usually referred to her as Saint Barbara although, as they well knew, the Church had never formally pronounced her a saint. Nevertheless, in the basement crypt of a small village church in Old Žagarė lay the remains of "Saint" Barbara in a simple hardwood casket with a glass cover that allowed a visitor a clear view of the uncorrupted body of the "Saint." Barbara had been in her late teens or possibly early twenties when she had died three or four centuries earlier, but the skin on the face and hands looked yet quite fresh and pliable.

There in the quiet dimness of the crypt, young Barbara Leveikaite sat and communed with her patron and confidant. Sharing these last few moments in her homeland, she could speak of her great apprehension and terrible dread. Her destination was America, and there she would be married to a man she had never met, although he was known to her family. He was somewhat older and she had been very much unimpressed by an early picture of him that she had been shown. After asking for "Saint" Barbara's protection and continued



help in her future life in America, young Barbara began to feel that consoling calm and ease of spirit that she had always developed during a visit with her favorite Saint. Thus, assured that her prayers had been heard and all would be well, she took a final leave from Barbara of Žagarė and made ready for her departure filled with inner tranquility and confidence rather than fear and foreboding.

---

*...Assured that her prayers had been heard and all would be well, she took a final leave from Barbara of Žagarė and made ready for her departure filled with inner tranquility and confidence rather than fear and foreboding.*

---

Lithuanian Grand Duchy by Grand Duke Keštutis who ordered a great fortress to be built near Žagarė. Being located on a frequently contested frontier, command of the fortress, named Raktuvė, was generally given to the fiercest of warlords. Battles along the frontier were almost incessant well into the 16th Century as possession of the area changed from Lithuanians to Livonians, to Swedes and back.

### **Part I -**

### **The Story of Barbara of Žagarė**

To understand the story of Barbara of Žagarė and its significance, it would be useful to put her in a geopolitical and historical context. Žagarė, itself, is one of the oldest settlements in Lithuania, having been established prior to 1254 when first mention was made of it in German documents. The inhabitants at this time were Semigalians, one of the several major groupings of Baltic peoples; but the Semigalians, themselves, were divided into several sub-groups. The western districts, on the shores of the Baltic Sea, had by the 13th Century fallen under the control of a separatist and a more aggressive band of the Teutonic Order, Knights of the Sword, while those further north and east were ruled by the Bishop of Riga, as head of the Livonian Order.

One of the earliest leaders in the area of Žagarė is believed to have built a fortress on a hill along the left (west) bank of the river Švėtė. This fortress hill, called Žvilgaitis Hill, is still today a prominent feature of the geography of the area. From this stronghold, Prince Žvilgaitis succeeded in fighting off the Knights of the Sword and leading his own army on raids into the richer provinces of Riga. Eventually, his district, centered around Žagarė, had been assimilated into the

The overall political scene continued to be in recurrent turmoil, and the social system deteriorated for the people. Then, an additional conflict entered the scene. Christianity had made its second introduction into Lithuania with the Baptism of Jogaila and his marriage to Jadwiga, the Polish Queen. The Lithuanian nobility followed suit and Lithuania was well on the road to becoming a Roman Catholic nation. The peasantry, who understood neither the Latin nor the Polish used for religious services attended the church of their feudal lord, as their social position required, but most often retained allegiance to their pagan beliefs and practices. The first Catholic church was built in Žagarė in 1523.

A few years later (and only ten years after Luther had nailed his theses on the door of Wittenburg Cathedral) the first Lutheran teachings were heard in Vilnius. The forces of the Reformation made swift and great inroads into Northern Europe and were carried by merchants and Lithuanian students studying in European universities into Lithuania. Lutheran thought came through Prussia and spread rapidly into Samogitia; Evangelical Reformed (Calvinist) thought came in through Poland and made great headway with the Lithuanian aristocracy and major landholders who attempted to emulate their Polish peers.



Russian Orthodoxy continued to press in from the East. All competed with Roman Catholicism for the hearts and minds of the Lithuanians. The political union of Lithuania with Poland had given Roman Catholicism an early ascendancy throughout the country. The conversion to Calvinism of some of the most influential of Lithuanian families (the Radvilas family, for example) changed the situation dramatically and Lithuania was on the verge



*Barbara found solace in visiting the church and in continuing her mother's humanitarian aid to the serfs.*

of becoming a totally Calvinist country. As quickly as the Reformation had spread in Lithuania; it almost as quickly faded in the face of an aggressive counter-reformation waged by the Roman Catholics with the assistance of the Jesuits who had been invited into the country specifically for that purpose.

By the 17th Century, the Livonian Order had been significantly weakened and ceased to attack Lithuanian territory. The Lithuanians, similarly, were decimated in population and exhausted from the recurrent wars. In Žagarė, several large manor-houses had been built to accommodate the resident nobility who had been awarded "economy estates" for their wartime contributions and valor. This meant that the land continued to be owned by the state but was managed by individuals who provided a percentage of their gross profit to the Grand Duke. The common folk of the region found themselves inevitably and increasingly enmeshed into a most brutal form of feudal serfdom. The people did not submit willingly to this imposed servitude, and a sequence of peasant uprisings would periodically enflame the countryside; sometimes, the resident nobility would be murdered during the uprising. None of these

uprisings were successful but usually resulted in severe repercussions, executions and exile to Siberia. Over the years a deep distrust, resentment and hatred developed between the peasantry and the nobility or local landholders.

It was into this unstable and conflict-ridden milieu that Barbara Umestauskaite was born. The Umestauskas family were numbered among the nobility and had been awarded the "economy estate" around the site of the old fortress-hill of Raktuve. They had also built the largest of the manor-houses in Žagarė. Barbara's father had been a successful soldier warrior in the service of the Grand Duke. He proved to be an effective land-baron - a stern disciplinarian over his peasants. It is not known whether he had adopted Christianity. If he had, it could not have been more than superficial. Nothing is known of the origins of Barbara's mother. She had the reputation among the servants as being a kind and pious Christian gentlewoman. Without the knowledge of her husband, who most certainly would have opposed or forbidden such activity, she would often visit among the estate's serfs comforting and ministering to the ill, assisting the women through childbirth and other difficulties.

Barbara was an only child and, as she grew up, she would accompany her mother on the secretive missions of mercy among the serfs. Her mother versed her well in the tenets of Catholicism and the exercise of Christian charity, so that Barbara developed into a quiet, pious and gentle young girl. Unfortunately, her mother died while Barbara was yet a young girl and her father soon remarried. Barbara's step-mother was more of the mold of her



father. Brusque, unkind to servants, ungentle to Barbara, the step-mother made Barbara's life at home a misery. Barbara found solace in visiting the church and in continuing her mother's humanitarian aid to the serfs. Now, however, she had to keep these hidden from both her father and her step-mother.

It was intolerable. After a few years of trying to live within this circle of jealousy, hate and intolerance, Barbara ran away to a Benedictine convent in Riga determined to become a nun and spend her life in service to the Lord. Her father had other plans. She was young and beautiful - his only child; and, his only opportunity to improve his social position through a politically or financially beneficial arranged marriage. He followed her to Riga and demanded her return home. The nuns, intimidated by his position and power, could not resist his demands. Barbara, herself, yielded to the demands of filial obedience and

returned home.

Shortly after her return, there occurred in 1648 an incident so terrible that even the house-servants would not speak of the attendant circumstances. It seems that one night, her father came to Barbara's room intent on forcing himself on her. (Perhaps he felt, that by defiling her virginity, she could never again consider joining, or be accepted by, a convent.) Barbara defended herself as best she could and in the ensuing struggle either fell, was pushed or jumped from her second story window onto the pavement below and was killed.

*To be continued next month:*

**Part II - the Legend of "Saint" Barbara**

*The story of Barbora Žagaretė is based primarily on an anonymous monograph published circa 1986 in Kaunas. It was translated into English by Dr. Virginia Vaitekoniš-Obando. Art on pg. 8 by Kazys Šimonis, Vilnius ©1966*

## In Memoriam

**Juozas Lapinskas**  
C-16, Chicago  
Oct. 16, 1996

**Stella Pruska**  
C-110, Maspeth, NY  
Nov. 17, 1996

**John Norinkavich**  
C-17, South Boston, MA  
June 9, 1996

**Alex Waliack**  
C-17, South Boston, MA  
Nov. 22, 1996

**Bertha Stanwick**  
C-12, New York, NY  
Nov. 9, 1996

**Peter Garbincius**  
C-12, New York, NY  
Dec. 10, 1996

**Joseph A. Samuolis**  
C-152, E. Long Island, NY  
Dec. 11, 1996

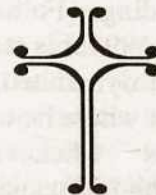
**Walter Niksa**  
C-152, E. Long Island, NY  
Dec. 27, 1996

**Betty Petrosky**  
C-79, Southfield, MI  
Oct. 29, 1996

**Vince Bridgewater**  
C-79, Southfield, MI  
Nov. 23, 1996

**Eva Endrusaites**  
C-110, Maspeth, NY  
Nov. 22, 1996

**Bruno Barchus**  
C-25, Cleveland, OH  
Nov. 26, 1996



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



# THE GRAVEYARD OF FALLEN SOVIET HEROES

by *Ed Baranauskas*

Now that Lithuania has regained her independence, there are many new places of interest for tourists to see, some of which were not there during the Soviet era. Gone are the days when monuments and statues dedicated to Soviet heroes graced Vilnius and the Lithuanian countryside. They were removed when political change swept the former Soviet Empire. What happened to these memorials, and where are they now? Here is a brief story about three of them.

Take Joseph Stalin, as a classic example. At first, he was revered as a war hero and a great leader by his fellow hardliners. After his death, Nikita Khrushchev came into power and denounced him for being responsible for the murder of countless millions of his own people. No longer called a hero, but now disgraced as the ruthless tyrant that he was, a policy of "de-Stalinization" took shape throughout the Soviet Union. In Vilnius, his statue stood on a pedestal in front of the train station facing the city. It was removed shortly afterwards and disposed of by his fellow Communists.

The State of Vladimir Lenin, the founder of the Soviet Union, once stood on a pedestal in Lenin Square (now called Lukiškių Square) with his outstretched hands facing the former KGB building. Following the failed coup in August of 1991, his statue was removed and its foundation dynamited. Nothing now remains on the spot where he once elegantly stood.

Vincas Mickevičius-Kapsukas helped organize the Lithuanian Communist Party, and was one of its leaders during the Bolshevik Revolution. It was customary in those days for revolutionaries to be known by a name other than their surname. In his case, he adopted Kapsukas to be his official name. To honor

his memory, the Soviet regime renamed the city of Marijampole to Kapsukas, and Vilnius University became Kapsukas University. His tall statue stood in front of an art museum in the heart of Vilnius. After the winds of change swept across Lithuania, the names of the city and university were restored, and his statue no longer graced the landscape of Vilnius.

But what became of all those monuments? Did the Lithuanians send them to a factory somewhere, have them melted down and perhaps made pots and pans out of those scoundrels? I learned what became of some of them during my visit to Lithuania this past summer.

Having glanced through the official guide to the city, "Vilnius in Your Pocket", I came to the list of places that would be of interest to tourists. That section was titled "What to See". I was pleasantly surprised to see a few paragraphs devoted to the "Stalin and Lenin Graveyard". I never knew there was such a place. The address, telephone number and visiting hours were all listed. I called this to the attention of my relatives. They knew of its existence, and where it was, but had no idea it had become a tourist attraction. It could easily be reached, they told me, because it was just over the city line and not far from the Vilnius Airport.

I must say, in all honesty, that whomever wrote that article did not state the facts accurately, as I found out after I got there.

We found the graveyard without too much difficulty because my relatives were familiar with the area. The gates to the entrance were closed and locked. A watchman came out of his booth and spoke to us in Russian, not Lithuanian. Fortunately for me, my relatives speak Russian fluently, and convinced him that we only wanted to see the discarded monuments, take some pictures, and nothing





*The author, Ed Baranauskas, at Stalin's feet at the graveyard of the fallen Soviet heroes.*

else. They were in the grass near the fence, and not far from his booth. What looked like a warehouse, or a factory was close by and probably off-limits to visitors. The watchman watched us closely, probably to make sure we kept our word.

It was quite a sight for all of us. My relatives located Lenin and Kapsukas, beheaded, under a pile and we didn't dare climb over them for fear of slipping and getting hurt. We found a bust of Kapsukas by himself, and in good condition. Our biggest joy was finding Stalin laying on his back, in the grass, undamaged. We took a lot of pictures, thanked the watchman for letting us in, and left for Vilnius.

I remember reading a story about an American entrepreneur who wanted to buy a statue of Lenin for his collection. He looked all over Russia, so the story went, and finally found one after a lengthy search. With the collapse of the Soviet Union, there is no longer a demand for statues of Lenin. The factory that made them went out of business.

I have a suggestion for the Lithuanian government. Why not have a museum of

former Soviet heroes? It would be a good tourist attraction, I think, and they could make some money. I feel the statue of Stalin is a collector's item and should be preserved, even though he is the most despised man in Lithuania who brings back haunting memories of one of the most horrifying periods in Lithuanian history.



**Valentines Day in Lithuania** last year began with Eldaras Bareisis and Vita Rackauskaite's 50 hour kiss in Vilnius.

The couple won a kissing marathon.

They beat 12 other couples for a trip to Egypt and \$1000 in spending money.



According to Lithuanian journalist Gabija Steponenaite, until industrial times, men discovered their brides while hunting in the forests or riding through distant towns. If any spied a lovely young woman, he would send out "scouts" to check her out. If they returned with a favorable report, a matchmaker was sent. If a favorable match was made, bread was broken, a deal was struck and pre nuptial announcements were made in both fiancés towns for six weeks before the wedding to make sure nobody objected. (NY Daily News, 2/4/96)



# THE CASE FOR A REALLY BIG NATO

By Len Barcousky  
Lithuanian Affairs Chairman

By the time we get together in August for our national convention in Dayton, the question of whether and when Lithuania will become a member of NATO is likely to have been answered. In July, representatives from countries in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization will meet in Madrid, Spain. There they will work out final plans on how to expand the Western alliance into Central Europe.

Despite continuing complaints from Russian diplomats, Poland, Hungary and the Czech Republic all are likely to win some kind of inclusion under the NATO defense umbrella. Membership, or even a timetable for eventual membership, for Lithuania, the other Baltic states, Romania and Slovenia -- all new democracies that look to the West--appears much less likely.

U.S. leadership will be critical on this question. The bad news is that President Clinton has been no great friend of Lithuania. Like George Bush before him, the President's major concern has been to keep Russia happy, or at least quiet. And just as George Bush before him placed all his faith in Gorbachev, Clinton relies more on his personal contact with Boris Yeltsin than on any strategic vision.

At least two other factors, however, are in Lithuania's favor. Weighing against the president's natural inclination to favor Russia and his general indifference to foreign affairs is his unmatched political sense. No one can judge the slightest change in the meaning of a poll number better than Clinton. If the president can be shown through political lobbying and a letter-writing campaign that voters care about what happens in Lithuania and the other former Communist states, he will

pay close attention. Second, the replacement of Warren Christopher with Madeleine Albright as secretary of state is good news. A refugee from the former Czechoslovakia, she is aware on a personal level of what life is like under Russian domination. She already has shown more sympathy and understanding for the concerns of smaller nations in Europe and around the world than Christopher ever did.

The issues surrounding expansion of NATO are not simple ones. It is easy to see why Russia would fear the inclusion of any of its former satellites and territories into a Western alliance. Fortunately, both NATO leaders and representatives from potential member countries are ready to negotiate and compromise. For example, NATO leaders already have agreed not to place nuclear missiles in any new nations added to the alliance, a move that should relieve the most serious Russia anxieties.

*New York Times* columnist William Safire, a loyal supporter of a greatly expanded NATO, made another good point in a recent essay. Political events in the years since the breakup of the former Soviet Union have shown that Russia has little or nothing to fear from the West. Russia remains a nuclear power and is unlikely to be attacked by Hungary or Slovenia. Russia's real problems are likely to come from Muslim nations to the south or from its traditional enemy to the east, China.

"Enlargement [of NATO] must include the Baltic nations," Safire wrote. "That's where modern Communist imperialism began, in a deal between Hitler and Stalin, and it is where the Evil Empire began to come apart..."

If Lithuania and its democratic neighbors are left completely out of the organization that has deterred aggression, encouraged regional cooperation and maintained peace in Western



Europe for almost half a century, Russian expansionists will be encouraged. This will put strong pressure on even otherwise friendly Russian governments to seek to reestablish dominance in the "near abroad." But if NATO, urged on by the United States, can agree on terms for rapid membership for all European democracies, the benefits will be great. Fragile democracies throughout the region will be encouraged. And since democracies rarely fight other democracies, general European stability will be enhanced. Western influence will continue to expand throughout Central Europe. With its international position and national security improved, Lithuania's economic prospects would brighten as the country becomes even more attractive to outside investors.

So what should we be doing in the coming critical months?

We should seek every opportunity to work together with other organizations to build support for NATO expansion. The influence of

Lithuanian-Americans is increased when we speak together with Baltic-, Romanian-, Polish-, Czech-, Hungarian- and Slovenian-Americans.

And we should keep those cards and letters coming. President Clinton's address is below:

**President Bill Clinton**  
**The White House**  
**1600 Pennsylvania Ave.**  
**Washington, D.C. 20500**

Remind the President that Lithuania has come so far down the road to democracy and free markets since it led the fight for independence that resulted in the breakup of the Soviet empire. Tell him that quick admission into NATO would be a fitting and well deserved reward for the courage and wisdom its people have demonstrated.

*Len Barcoucky is the Lithuanian Affairs Chairman, a member of C-19, Pittsburgh and an editor for the Pittsburgh Post Gazette.*

*You can make a difference...Join us at*  
**The Joint Baltic American National Committee**  
**2nd Conference on Baltic Security and**  
**U.S. Policy in the Region**  
**March 7 - 9, 1997 - Washington, D.C.**

Topics include: NATO Expansion,  
 Foreign Investment in the Baltics,  
 Security in the Region, Future for Activists

*Speakers include: H.E. Alfonsas Eidintas, Lithuanian Ambassador to the U.S.; H.E. Ojars Kalnins, Latvian Amb. to the U.S. and H. E. Lawrence P. Taylor, U.S. Amb. to Estonia*

Registration fee of \$110 (before Feb. 7, \$125 after Feb. 7) includes lunch and dinner.  
 For hotel reservations and further information, please contact **JBANC** at (301) 340-1954  
 or fax (301) 309-1406 or E-mail: [jbanc@jbanc.org](mailto:jbanc@jbanc.org)

400 Hurley Avenue  
 Rockville, MD 20850



## The Saint Casimir Guild of the Pontifical Lithuanian College in Rome

In the Fall of 1995, the Pontifical Lithuanian College in Rome began to observe the 50th Anniversary of its establishment.

In October of 1945, the first Lithuanian students arrived in Rome. Most of these came from Germany. Juridicial recognition of the Lithuanian College in Rome by the Holy See was May 1, 1945. The solemn observance of the Golden Jubilee will be held in March of 1998 to coincide with the 50th Anniversary of the formal Papal recognition and confirmation of the establishment of the college in 1948.

Msgr. L. Tulaba, SSD, P.A. was rector of the College until his retirement in October of 1995 when Msgr. Al Bartkus was officially nominated by the Holy See as Rector.

Throughout the years of Lithuania's enslavement by the Soviet Union, seminarians at the College were Lithuanians outside Lithuania. The college was able to function with donations from Lithuanians all over the world and through the generosity of the American Bishops Conference. This is true to this day, as although free, Lithuania is unable to help in any way with the maintenance of the College.

Since August of 1991, for the first time since World War II, students arrived at the college; seminarains and student priests. There are currently 16 student priests and 9 Holy Family Nuns studying at the College from Lithuania.

At the August 1984 National Convention of the Knights of Lithuania, the members officially adopted the pontifical Lithuanian College. In April of 1989 the inauguration of



the St. Casimir Guild took place. The St. Casimir Guild is a free standing "not for profit" organization under the guidance and direction of the Knights of Lithuania. The first president, Robert Boris, successfully

established the Rules and Regulations; the Board of Directors and the guidelines of the Committee. Attorney Saulius Kuprys obtained our "tax deductible" status with the I.R.S. It was with the experienced guidance of Robert Boris that the St. Casimir Guild has flourished. In 1991, with the added pressures of *Aid to Lithuania, Inc.* Robert resigned as President and Anna Klizas Wargo was elected. Robert continues to advise in his Vice Presidency of the Committee.

A pilgrimage is being planned for St. Casimir's Day in 1998 to celebrate the Golden Jubilee of the College. Arrangements are now being made and each Council will be notified by March of this year as to the details.

The College is also preparing a Commemorative Book for the occasion. Anyone wishing to send a greeting, can do so through the St. Casimir Guild. More will be presented on this also in March.

Msgr. Bartkus, the priests and students thank all those who contributed in 1996 and ask for your continued support.

God bless you all!

Vytiškai,  
*Anna Klizas Wargo*  
President, St. Casimir Guild



***St. Casimir Guild Donations  
received in 1996 -  
January 1 - December 31***

**Benefactors - \$1,000.00 to \$5,999.00**

Patricia Kamar,  
I.M.O., Fr. Vincent Kamarauskas, Brookfield, IL  
Sophie Dameika, Durand, IL  
Fr. Mathew Cyvas, St. Petersburg, FL.  
Rev. Joseph Grabys, Amsterdam, NY  
Supreme Council  
Anthracite Council 144

**Sponsors - \$500.00 to \$999.00**

Robert and Marie Rondeau, Bristol, RI  
Algirdas J. Stepaitis, Arlington Hts., IL  
Mid-America, Knights of Lithuania Institute  
C-63, Lehigh Valley, PA

**Patrons - \$100.00 to \$499.00**

St. Andrew's Lithuanian Church, Philadelphia  
I.M.O. John Cardinal Krol  
Bronius and Janina Cikotas, Alexandria, VA  
Bendruomene, Philadelphia  
I.M.O. John Cardinal Krol  
Helen Curtis Wilkinson Verace,  
Ellicott City, MD  
Daniel Rogers, Pittsburgh, PA  
Msgr. Vito Martusevich, Philadelphia, PA  
Florence A. Zaleskas, S. Boston, MA  
Dr. and Mrs. Augustinus Laucis, Mt. Olive, IL  
Virginia Jakstis Kelly, W. Palm Beach, FL  
Mr. And Mrs. Joseph White, So. Boston, MA  
Regina V. Taunys, Putnam, CT  
Angela Minasavich, Hampton Bay, NY  
Isabelle Whitney, Upland, CA  
Vytautas Bielauskas, Ph.D., Cincinnati, OH  
Council 96, Dayton, OH  
Council 152, Eastern Long Island, NY  
Council 29, Newark, NJ  
Council 17, Boston, MA  
Council 110, Maspeth, NY  
Council 118, Hazelton, PA  
Council 109, Great Neck, NY  
Council 41, Brooklyn, NY

Council 3, Philadelphia, PA  
Mid Central District

**Donors - \$26.00 to \$99.00**

Mr. and Mrs. Bernard Lesky, Hagerstown, MD  
Mr. and Mrs. Fred Lucka, Mattituck, NY  
Leona Wornczyk, Hazelton, PA  
HM Faustas Strolia, Oak Park, IL  
Andrew G. Rozger, Pittsburgh, PA  
Longinas L. Svelnis, Needham, MA  
Mr. and Mrs. John Tyson, Ansonia, CT  
Julius Boytruis, Ridgewood, NY  
Beatrice and Fred Lucka, Mattituck, NY  
I.M.O. Petras Baltrulionis  
Council 36, Hudson Mohawk, NY  
Council 141, Bridgeport, CT  
Council 25, Cleveland, OH  
Council 146, Harrisburg, PA  
Council 135, Ansonia, CT

**\$25.00 or Less**

Elizabeth Romick, McKeesport, PA  
Mathilda Milauskas, New Kensington, PA  
Annie Morgalis, Minersville, PA  
I.M.O. Msgr. Joseph Neverauskas  
Nellie Melaika, Athol, MA  
Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Panza  
I.M.O. deceased family members  
Peter Medgansis, Trumbull, CT  
Clair Frankonis, Fairfield, CT  
Carol P. Duggan, Fairfield, CT  
Richard Haux, Fairfield, CT  
Albert J. Matunis, Shenandoah, PA  
Edmund and Ann Carlitus, Ringtown, PA  
Betty Chacho, Bridgeport, CT  
Council 3, Philadelphia  
I.M.O. Fr. Kajetonas Sakalauskas  
Julia Antonaitis Kowrak, Phil. PA  
Members from Ansonia, CT  
I.M.O. Mitchell Marcinauskas, Sr.  
Mr. and Mrs. John Ashmont, Brick, NJ  
Leonard W. Kapochus, Milmay, NJ  
Mrs. Charles Taylor, Kissimmee, FL  
Anthony Zusinas, Moon Twp., PA  
Gintautas Vitkus, Rancho Palos Verdes, CA  
Alex Norvilas, M.D., Oak Lawn, IL  
Council 36, Chicago, IL



## LAISVĒS AIDAI\*)

Jonas Minelga

Faustas Strolia

 *Dolce*  
♩ = 60

Ne-už-miršk, ne-už-miršk, sū-nai-tė-li, mū-sų  
Ar ne-svei-ki-no bun-dan-čios gi-rios par-ti-

bo-šiy že-me-lės šven-tos, Kur pa-skęs-ta žie-duos va-sa-rė-lė  
za-ny žva-lių-jų gre-ty?! Ver-kia že-mė, pri-glau-dus did-vy-rius,

prie Ne-vė-žio, Du-by-sos, Ven-tos, Kur pa-skęs-ta va-sa-  
nuo Vil-ne-lės<sub>2</sub> lig, ma-rių kran-ty, Ver-kia že-mė nuo Vil-

rė-lė prie Du-by-sos, Ven-tos. Sa-va-  
ne-lės li-gi ma-rių kran-ty. Pro ne-

no-riai už-lais-vę ten ko-vės, Gim-tą že-mę ap-lais-tė krau-  
ma-ry krū-ti-nė-je ryž-tą Kelk tri-spal-vę lig mels-vo dan-

*U* (toliau žodžius)

*p* *mf* *f*

*dim.* *mf*

♩ = 100



LAISVĖS AIDAI - Jonas Minelga, mifr. chorui - Faustas Strolia 2

*cresc.*

*mf*

ju, *\*\**) Kad mūs pir-kios, go-je-liai, šven-to - vės Su-žė-  
 gaus, *\*\**) Jau prie Ne-mu-no lais-vė su - grį - žo, Ne, ne

*cresc.*

*mf*

*\*\**) Poeto originale: Te prie Nemuno laisvė sugrižta

*f*

rė - ty ry - to - jum nau - ju. Kad mūs pir-kios, go-je-liai, šven-  
 am-žiais tē - vy - nē ver - gaus! Jau prie Ne - mu - no lais - vė su -

*f*

*mf* *rit.*

to - vės Su-žė- rė - ty ry - to - jum nau - ju! *1.* *2.* *p*  
 grį - žo, Ne, ne am - žiais tē - vy - nē ver - gaus! Tē

*mf* *rit.*

*Meno mosso* *cresc.* *mf* *a tempo* *ff*

vy - nē, tē - vy - nē, ne am-žiais tē - vy - nē ver - gaus!

*cresc.* *mf* *ff*

*\**) Piano accompaniment available: 15325 Sequoia, Oak Forest, IL 60452

© Faustas Strolia, 1969



*Lithuanian poets remind us...of the not so distant past*

## Feb. 16 Independence Day

Rimas Bagdonas translated this poem into two languages German and English. It practically became the hymn of the Lithuanians who fled their homeland.

### ARAS

Viktoras Šimaitis  
(In the Lithuanian original)

Kaip aras pašautas ir blaškomas vėjo,  
Toli nuo tėvynės randuos.  
Tik vieno maldauju, o Viešpatie geras,  
Leisk numirt bent tėvynės laukuos.

Kaip būdavo gera po liepom šakotom  
Nuvargusia galvą priglaust.  
Ir rytą auksinį palankėm rasotom  
Nubrist iki pačio dangaus.

Upeliai tekėjo, miškeliai šlamėjo  
Kur aš mažutėlis gimiau.  
Tie patys upeliai, miškai, uogenojai,  
Tik mes nebetie, nebetie.

### THE EAGLE

An eagle in turmoil, away from the homeland.  
I tend all my wounds here alone.  
I beg Thee, Almighty, fulfill my last longing -  
Let me die in the fields of my home.

Back home was so nice take a rest under  
linden.  
To lay my tired head, rest in pray.  
And then in the morning, with dew on the  
meadows.  
Climb so high in the blue of the sky.

The brooks full of water, the wind in the  
forest,  
Where I then a youngster became.  
The brooks and the forests - remained the same  
as before,  
But we are not the same, not the same.

This is a poem called "**Šešiolikta vasario**"  
(The 16th of February" - Lithuania's  
Independence Day") was submitted to us by K.  
of L. C-152 member Angela Minsavitch. It is  
from a booklet of poetry "Iš vargo gimę...  
(Born from Poverty)" by Adolfina Jurkutė.  
The author, who spent time in Siberia, is a  
relative of Angela. This booklet, published by  
her son, Viktoras Žemarskis, is a testament of  
her ordeals.

### ŠEŠIOLIKTA VASARIO

O šešiolikta vasario,  
Buvometave praradę.  
Nežinodami žiaurumo,  
Ką patyrėm be tavęs?!

Tave žamynė po padu,  
Trypė ir tyčiojosi.  
Tu buvai gyva kartu,  
Skės dama kraujuose,

Klupamaėjai pirmyn  
Miškais ir leynais.  
Su nepaprasta viltim  
Lietuvos Tėvynės.

Štai ir vėl mes sutavim,  
Šešiolikta vasario,  
Mylime visa širidm -  
Keliauk per mūsų šalį!

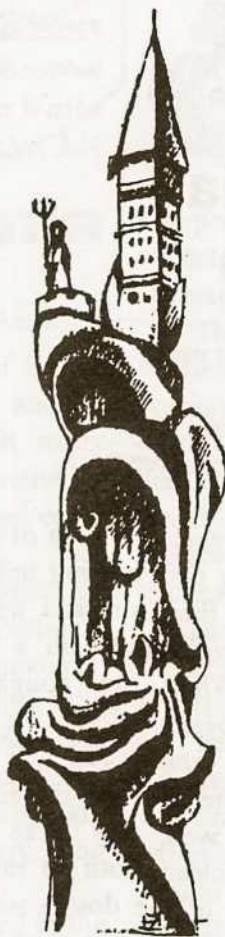


## How did Neringa get her name?

Many years ago on an island in the Baltic Sea stood a fortress build from hundred year old oak trees. Its weather vanes shone in the sunlight as the winds twirled them around. This fortress was the former holy place of the goddess, Laima. She was the goddess who, in pagan times determined a person's joys and sorrows. The populace who were very pious, faithfully worshipped her, brought her offerings and the vestal virgins manned the eternal flame. In those times the fortress was rule by Karvaitis a special knight, who defended his country bravely so the people called him "the great".

One year when the harvest was especially plentiful and the hunters never returned home empty handed, and the nets of the fishermen were breaking with their huge loads, Karvaitis and his wife became the proud parents of a baby girl. The parents were ecstatic with joy. They adored their beautiful daughter with milk white skin. The girl proved to be beautiful, clever and was known for her kindness. People believed that the goddess Laima gave her all these gifts.

As soon as the parents named their child Neringa, she began to grow. Not by years but days. When she was 9 months old her golden braids were down to her ankles. The parents rushed to build her a castle to fit her height - a castle fit for giants. When the girl reached the 18th spring in her lifetime she was a joy to the



The Birth of Neringa  
by Jonas Jakštas  
(Švenčionys)

populace. Wherever she went she brought joy. If a fisherman was stranded and a storm was approaching, she pulled his boat to shore. If a traveler's or a postman's vehicle got stuck in mud, Neringa pulled it to firmer ground. The news of Neringa's beauty and goodness spread among the coast dwellers. Many fine lads proposed to her, but to no avail. Neringa would only marry the one, who could throw a stone across the sea to Ventes Castle.

Many tried but without success. Nobody was that strong. One day the Lord of the Ventes Castle came to propose. He looked deeply into Neringa's eyes and picked up a stone and threw it exactly where Neringa desired and thus became engaged to him. But the sea god, Bangputis, (the wave maker) became enraged that Neringa did not consult him about her engagement. A great storm arose. The sky and sea intermingled. For 13 days the storm raged on. It washed out the foundation of the Ventes fortress and many fishermen's boats were lost at sea. Seeing this horror, Neringa filled her apron with sand and waded into the ragging waters. With this sand she made a schield which separated the sea from the bay. The sea then calmed and Neringa got married, had many giant children and lived happily ever after. And that is how Neringa got its name.

*A legend from the book "Lietuva Juodkrantė - Raganų Kalnas" translated to English by Dalia Bulvičius.*







## Lithuanian Chefs

### Cold Weather Soups

#### Tomato Soup with Meat-Filled Pastry *Pomidorų Sriuba su Pyragaičiais*

3 lbs. beef with bones  
1 lb. soup greens  
12 each both kinds of peppercorns  
1 bay leaf  
4-5 tomatoes  
1 tablespoon potato starch  
1 tablespoon butter

Make a clear broth using the meat, soup greens and spices. Strain. Cut tomatoes into pieces; cook slightly and force through strainer. Add butter to the tomato paste and cook briefly over a low heat. Add tomatoes to broth. Dissolve potato starch in cold broth and add to soup. Bring soup to a boil. Pour into tureen and sprinkle with chopped parsley.

#### Pastry:

3 cups flour  
4 oz. butter

1 lemon peel  
3 eggs  
1 cup milk  
1 teaspoon yeast

Mix yeast with a bit of sugar. Make a dough using milk and 1/2 of the flour and let rise. Beat egg yolks with a bit of salt. When the dough has risen, beat well so that there are no lumps, add egg yolks and the other ingredients, knead well, and wrap in a moist, clean cloth so that the surface of the dough will not dry out. Put in a cool place. When chilled, roll out again and repeat the previous process 4-5 times. When rolled out for the last time, spread with the meat filling, roll up the pastry, and put on baking sheet to rise. When risen, brush with egg and bake about 20 minutes.

#### Meat filling:

1 lb. cooked meat  
1 tablespoon butter  
2 egg yolks  
2 tbs. bread crumbs  
Pepper, salt, onion

Grind cooked meat, add bread crumbs, chopped onion sauteed in butter, and grind again. Saute the mixture, cool and add eggs and other ingredients. Mix well, spread on prepared dough.

Before serving, cut into 1-inch slices and arrange on a platterso that the edge of one slice overlaps the previous slice.

#### Meatless Beet Soup with Sour Cream

#### *Barščiai be Mėsos su Grietine*

2 lbs red beets  
2 onions  
6 dried mushrooms  
10 of both kinds of peppercorns  
2 bay leaves  
1 cup sour cream  
1 lb. soup greens  
Salt

Make vegetable broth, strain and let stand until sediment settles to the bottom. Cut mushrooms, which had been cooked in the broth, into julienne strips. Peel cooked beets and grate coarsely or cut into small strips, add to broth. Add lemon or beet juice, for tartness, to taste and bring to a boil. Before serving, add mushrooms and slowly stir in well beaten sour cream. Serve with boiled or fried potatoes.





*K of L Foundation*  
*Essay Contest Winner*  
*Hon Mention*  
 Jessica Waska  
 C-26, Worcester, MA



## Aiding Lithuania

**A**s Lithuania continues to establish itself as an independent nation after years of Soviet occupation, the Knights of Lithuania and its individual members can participate in many activities to aid the country. These activities include education, monetary support, and other forms of donations.

Monetary support can be contributed by anyone, whether an individual or a national organization, and its applications are universal. It can be used to aid in supporting the unemployed, who barely can provide for themselves or their families. It also could be used to support Catholic institutions, which are suffering, or even to help industry and strengthen the economy.

The money could also be used to aid in the funding of soup kitchens and shelters so that the impoverished of Lithuania always have the opportunity to eat a full meal and sleep under a roof in a bed. Generous donations to Lithuania from the Knights of Lithuania would greatly help those who are struggling to survive as a nation.

Other kinds of donations from the Knights of Lithuania and other organizations could make success more possible for Lithuania. Members could hold a drive to collect old or unused articles of clothing or blankets and other household items to provide for the poor in Lithuania. Some members, if they feel ambitious enough, could even make clothing or buy new items to donate, but that would not be necessary. Canned goods and other

non-perishable food items could also be collected to be sent to help the hungry in Lithuania.

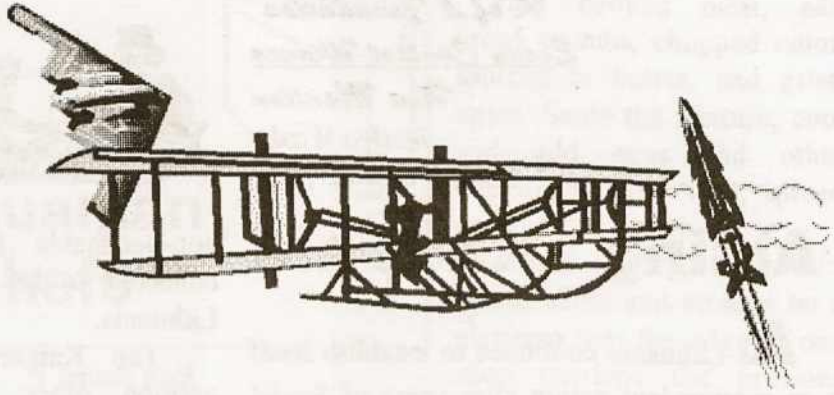
The Knights of Lithuania could also petition other national organizations and corporations for aid. These organizations and corporations could be persuaded to donate necessities that Knights of Lithuania members could not otherwise obtain. For example, medical supplies could be given to hospitals and rural doctors, so that the sick throughout Lithuania could be treated. Donations like these could provide Lithuanians with things that they might otherwise think were luxuries.

Perhaps the most important activity that the Knights of Lithuania should be involved in is education. Education is essential for any nation's survival. Colleges and universities should be reinforced as well as the local schools so that the next generation can be more capable of running the country and advancing the economy. If anyone is willing to volunteer, he or she should be sent by the Knights of Lithuania to help with the organization and training of a better police force so that crime can be prevented and arms smuggling can stop. Not only will this make Lithuania safer, but it will also improve the national spirit and stamina.

All of these measures mentioned will improve life in Lithuania. However, it cannot be accomplished without the help of the Knights of Lithuania. Without the involvement of the Knights of Lithuania, Lithuania might not succeed, but, fortunately, because there are so many generous members in the organization, that will never happen. ❖❖❖



## *SIGHTS and SOUNDS of DAYTON*



*By Elinor Sluzas and  
Fran Petkus*

### **The UNITED STATES AIR FORCE MUSEUM:**

This is the world's largest military aviation museum that was dedicated in 1971. The six million dollar attraction is Ohio's largest free tourist display. Here you can see over 10 acres of aircraft and other exhibits under the roof. This museum attracts visitors from all over the world and is very family oriented. There are over 300 aircraft and rockets. There is the B52 and B-1A bombers and the F117A "Stealth Fighter" as well as the Apollo 15 space capsule which circled the moon in 1971. There is a fine display on the history of flight including the space exploration programs. There are over 6,000 personal artifacts, documents, photographs and mementos of Air Force history to view. At the museum's 500 seat Carney Auditorium you can see free historical movies shown daily. There is also a gift shop, bookstore, cafe and picnic shelters.

The museum houses a giant screen IMAX Theatre. Shows such as "Destiny in Space" and "To Fly" gives one the feeling of 'being there'.

### **WRIGHT BROTHERS MEMORIAL:**

This monument to the Wright Brothers was dedicated by the citizens of Dayton, on August 19, 1940. It is made of pink granite mined from the vicinity of the first flight near Kitty Hawk, NC and holds two bronze plaques. One tells of the Wrights' contribution to flight and the other lists 119 names of those early

flyers who trained with the Wright Brothers. From this point you can overlook Huffman Field which is now the site of an active runway for Wright Patterson Air Force Base. The field became the world's first airplane hanger and first pilot training school.

### **CARILLON PARK:**

This 61 acre park was first opened to the public in 1950. It is the site of a unique collection of historical buildings and exhibits which tell the story of the development of the Dayton area. Among the most known in this collection is the Wright Brother's first practical plane; antique Dayton made automobiles - a 1912 Cadillac first equipped with Charles F. Kettering's self-starter; a functioning 1930 letter press Print Shop; a wooden railroad car; a Grist Mill; a horse drawn Fire Engine; an original covered bridge; one of the first homes in Dayton and much more to see.

### **DEEDS CARILLON:**

A 40 foot bell tower, one of the six true carillons in the United States, and the first designed so that all of the bells are visible. The bells rang first on Easter Sunday morning in 1942.

### **DAYTON MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY:**

This 4 million structure boasts attractions including a hands-on learning center for grade school to junior high, RoboBugs, a giant animated insect collection, a



physical science "Doing the Wave" display on wave phenomena, which includes demonstrations on light, objects, sound and radio waves and more. A computerized Digistar Planetarium which creates spectacular three dimensional effects is also available for your enjoyment.

#### OREGON HISTORIC DISTRICT:

Once slated for the wrecking ball, this unique settlement of Dayton's oldest neighborhood began in 1829 and is now a haven of specialty shops, bookstores, record and music shops and a unique blend of dining establishments. The intricate architectural details of another century makes for a charming setting. One can take a relaxing stroll along cobblestone streets and, if one wishes, can sip coffee at an outdoor cafe. Eyecatching are the Victorian porches and limestone walks. At night it transforms into a lively entertainment center.

#### YOUNG'S JERSEY DAIRY:

Young's Dairy raises its own cows and as a result makes delicious home made ice cream. They have a golf course called "Udders & Putters". You can have super stacked sandwiches, take a ride around the farm on a tractor-drawn buggy, visit the barn to see the animals, feed the goats, etc. This is about 15 minutes from the convention facilities!



#### ELINOR'S AMBER ROSE:

Built at the turn of the century, it was known as Sig's General Store. There, one could buy anything from a horse collar to a love collar. The men would gather to drink "home brew" and play Pinochle or bowl the little "Duck Pins" on the alleys in the basement of the building. Mr. & Mrs. Ksiezopolski raised their family of seven children in the living quarters of the store. Because of its ethnic significance to the Dayton community, the building is on the National Register of Historic Places.

Today it houses the Amber Rose Restaurant. If you want to learn about the "Resident Ghost" of the Amber Rose, read the book "Haunted Ohio"!



It's Here!!!

## The New English Edition of Draugas - the Friend

Now you can get news about Lithuania and Lithuanians in the US in this special weekly edition. A must for all councils. Makes a great gift for your Lithuanian friends.

Subscription rates are only \$60.00 per year; \$40.00 for six months. Or save \$10.00 and get a two year subscription for \$110.00.

Please print name and address clearly. Send check to : "Draugas" and mail to Draugas, Subscription Dept., 4545 West 63rd St., Chicago, IL 60629. For questions, call (312) 585-9500.

## KNIGHTS OF LITHUANIA PINS & TIE TACS

Display this pin proudly on a tie, shirt, jacket or cap. Handsomely detailed in goldtone and red, these enameled pins also make great gifts for friends and family.

Specify:

- A. Tie tac cloisonne (men's) \$4.00 each
- B. Clasp pin (women's) \$4.25 each

*Supplies limited. Order now!*

Send orders to:

Mr. John Baltrus  
5325 Orchard Hill Dr.  
Pittsburgh, PA 15236-1733



## Lithuanians in the News



### Honorary Lithuanian Consul of Ohio

Ingrida  
Gertrude  
Bublys was  
appointed  
Honorary  
Consul General

of the Republic of Lithuania by the Republic of Lithuania's Minister of Foreign Affairs, Povilas Gyls on Sept. 16, 1996. On November 17, Dr. Alfonsas Eidintas, Lithuanian Ambassador in Washington attended the opening of the Consulate Office which is located on the grounds of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church, 18021 Marcella Rd. in Cleveland.

Bublys is a Board Member of the World Trade Assoc. in Ohio and Vilnius and is president of a consulting firm.

*Submitted by Ursula Kunsitis, C-25*

### New Life at Kovno Synagogue

Vytautas Staskus, Cleveland C-25 member, traveled many times to Lithuania and was featured in the Cleveland Jewish News for his deliverance of synagogue prayer apparel and funds to the Kovno Synagogue near Vilnius, Lithuania.

It all started several years ago when his daughter, Rita, a travel agent, decided to go to Lithuania to visit relatives. She was asked by a Jewish co-worker whose father was from Lithuania, to deliver a "chai" a small monetary gift meaning "life" to the first synagogue she found. Arriving in Lithuania, Rita asked relatives if they knew of a synagogue close by. They did not.

One day, while sight seeing in Kovno, an hour away from Vilnius, she wandered to the outskirts of

the city and discovered a very old synagogue with several men in prayer inside. She delivered the gift for which they were very grateful and noticed the tattered prayer books and poor condition of the building.

Returning to the United States, Rita told her coworkers of the condition and they decided to "adopt" the congregation. Blue boxes were set up at the travel office, located in a Jewish neighborhood, for cash contributions.

An article appeared about Rita and the synagogue in the Cleveland Jewish News. This stimulated cash and apparel contributions.

For the past two years, Vytautas (Vic) Staskus and family have traveled to Lithuania five times. Before leaving, Vic would call his daughter's office and ask, "Where's the chai money to give to the shul?"

On one visit, when arriving in Lithuania, Vic went to the Kovno shul with the gifts and a personal note written in Lithuanian from his daughter. He had visited the shul after Sabbath services where he joined the congregants for "kiddish" (vodka and cake) after services. The men were grateful for the gifts and called Rita their "guardian angel".

Among the congregants, Vic met a Lithuanian Catholic man who was a shul "regular". During WWII this man had hid fifty Jews from the Nazis and has ever since been closely aligned with the small Jewish population in Kovno.

Staskus had learned that the 180 year old Kovno Synagogue was going to be condemned by the government for structural violations. In desperation, the Rabbi asked a Catholic priest, Jonas Kavaliauskas, who was able to donate much needed money for the synagogue to stay open.

It is a real pleasure to speak with the Stoskus family about their trips to Lithuania, but this has to be tops. Also, Rita Stoskus has been asked to speak about this at a Sunday forum at Anshe-Chesed-Fairmont Temple.

*Submitted by Richard Marks, Pres. C-25*



## Priest Celebrates 50th Anniversary with the Pontiff

Msgr. Francis J. Statkas, a member of C-3, Philadelphia, celebrated his fiftieth jubilee with more than 100 cardinals, bishops and 1,500 priest jubilarians in Rome on November 10, 1996.

Msgr. Statkas was one of the lucky ones. He was chosen to represent all the priests of the North American continent at a Papal audience in the Vatican's Paul VI Hall. There the Pope personally presented Msgr. Statkas with the commemorative stole the jubilarians received.

*Submitted by Diane Drumstas, C-3*

### Citizen of the World - Victor Mathieu

Rhode Island's Pawtucket Times recently paid a tribute to one of its outstanding Lithuanian-American citizens, Victor Mathieu recently in a column written by George Bonin on Nov. 25. Bonin noted Mr. Mathieu's contributions as councilman while a resident of Central Falls, his activities at his parish, St. Matthew's and he and his wife, Beatrice' work in the many Lithuanian causes. Most notable was his arrangement of an annual second Sunday of June memorial depicting the "Tragic June Days of the early 1940's" at his territorial parish of St. Mary's since 1976.

### Classical Organ Recital

C-110 member, organist, Virginijus Barkauskas performed a memorable organ recital at Transfiguration parish in Maspeth, NY on Dec. 14 for council members and friends.

A recent arrival from Varena, Lithuania, Virginijus graduated the Music College in Kaunas in 1982, and continued his studies at the Lithuanian National Academy of Music in Vilnius, with double majors in organ and piano performances. He is a member of the faculty of the Bronx Conservatory of



# VACATION IN SUNNY FLORIDA!

**Book your reservations now with Alice. Room with private bath \$200 per week. Room with semi-private bath \$150 per week. Includes continental breakfast, heated pool, air conditioning. Near shopping malls, golf courses and beach.**

**Alice Zupko - 5886 Guest Court -  
North Fort Myers, FL 33903  
tel. (941) 656-5886**

Music, organist, and choir director for Transfiguration Church in Maspeth.

### Pittsburgh Penguin's Hockey Great Kasparaitis impresses the Homeland

The coach from Lithuania called Darius Kasparaitis before the start of training for the World Cup in Lithuania and asked for help. The Lithuanian National Team needed gloves, skates and equipment, since they had little resources. Kasparaitis called Cooper hockey equipment and ordered \$10,000 worth of equipment to be shipped to Lithuania.

"I want to give something back to (my) people because you don't want to just take the money," he added.

*- The Hockey News, Dec. 15, 1996*

**Sarunas Marciulionis** may have more time to devote to his hotel in Vilnius. According to Pete Vesey, sportswriter for the NY Post, habitually injured basketball star Marciulionis will retire from the Golden State Warriors soon. ❖❖❖



# Council News

## C-12-New York, NY

*Irene Senken*

Our November meeting was a memorable one due to the excitement permeated by those who are to be elected to fill seats on the executive board.

For eleven years Ed Cook has guided C-12 with his expertise and know-how conscientiously and as a true master. Ed decided he needs a rest and hopefully his successor will carry on with equal enthusiasm. Incidentally, Ed has been the only male on the executive board for all of those years.

With the counting of all the ballots after every one voted we find that the new executive board are all of the female gender. The following members are now on the new slate of officers: Pres. Jovita Sleder, Vice Pres. Alma Karengo, Secretary Jean Janonas and Treasurer Helen Yurkus. Congratulations to all of these fine members.

As we remain in the competitive spirit, we'd like to make mention of Barbara Yurkus, daughter of our new treasurer Helen Yurkus. Barbara completed the New York City Marathon in 4 hours and 28 minutes. And we have Matthew Senken, son of Ed and Irene Senken, who was in the same Marathon as a wheelchair contender. Matt's finishing time was 4 hours and 59 seconds after two flats and several broken spokes. Matt is grateful to the NYC Fire Dept. for coming to his aid for making necessary

## K. of L. Events on the Calendar

Feb 16. 1997 - Lithuanian Independence Day  
C-141, Bridgeport, CT

March 1 - Italian Fest  
C-112, Marquette Park, Nativity Church Hall

March 7 - MAD St. Casimir's Meeting  
Hosts: C-136 Hudson Mohawk, NY

March 10 - St. Casimir's Communion Brunch  
C-141, Bridgeport, CT

April 27 - NED Spring Convention  
Hosts: C-141, Bridgeport, CT

August 6 - 10 - K. of L. National Convention  
Hosts: C-96, Dayton, OH

repairs enabling him to finish the race. The parents are proud of both of these young American Lithuanians. Congratulations to Barbara, Matthew and their parents.

Council 12 has the good fortune to have a group of newly arrived Lithuanians as members. They truly are a credit to our council due to their cooperative spirit and are faithful in every endeavor. We also have as a new member Adam Nepsie who is with the Armed Forces. Welcome to All!

The following members have been called to our Heavenly Father, Bertha Stanwick and Peter Vaicels. Peter had been the president of C-12 in the 1930's. We were also saddened to learn of the death of Connie Nehwadewich's brother, Anthony. May the Good Lord receive them in his Heavenly abode.

## C - 26, Worcester, MA *Stephen V. Walinsky, Sr.*

The December 1996 business meeting of C- 26 was officially dispensed with, to upstage it with our annual Christmas party.

Plans, preparations and provisions were provided for the event by the Executive Board of the current regime. The committee was moved with enthusiasm, and every one, individually, showed great capabilities. Their efforts to please, were outstanding. Everyone there praised and applauded the delectable cuisine, the beautiful decorations and the conveyance of hospitality by the committee. A Christmas attitude prevailed. It was a combination of a visit to the Christ Child Manger and a trip to Santas workshop, proven by the exuberant singing of the





Golden K. of L.'ers - C-10 members (top left) Dr. Henry Gailunas and Nellie Maleika receive greetings and flowers from Brone Wisnauskas. (Top right) 92-years "young" Tina Shatas receives her third degree medal at the NED Fall Convention in Athol, MA.



Christmas carols and the popular winter songs.

An early visit by Santa Claus, to the St. Casimir Parish rectory, and its residents, created a happiness atmosphere throughout the premises. Santas helpers also rewarded the best behaved fraternal brothers and sisters who attended, with remembrances of the gala occasion.

By the editing and publicizing of such an enjoyable evening, and sociable get-together, C-26 hopes to entice its inactive members to participate and share in the good times of the organization.

Since this was to be the last gathering of the year 1996, no one was anxious to leave, but as the evening was headed for the late hours, departing was concluded with hand shakes and friendly hugs, accompanied with greetings for a Merry Christmas and A Happy New Year to all.

Because of the uncertainty of

the winter precipitation and the difficulties of transportation during the month of January, the Board cancelled the monthly business meeting and postponed the first appearance of the new administration.

This period of sojournment did permit the officers to prepare themselves for the months to follow, to design a calendar for the year.

All indications show that two heads, as of Pres. Vivian Rogers and VP Anne Leseman, are better than one.

The outlook for a successful year appears inevitable. The Board as a united enthused group, are eager to have the activities commence. Dinner meetings are abound for the future.

Spontaneous comments made by some members to your correspondent concerning the future programs of VYCIU 26, contain only expressions of approval with the decisions of

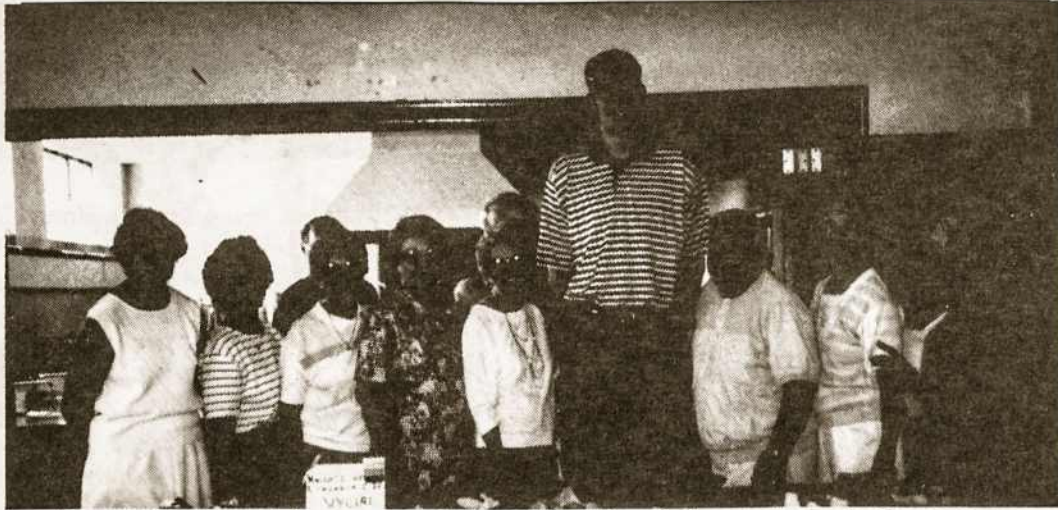
the committees in charge, and they too are anxious to get things started as soon as suitable weather permits.

#### **C - 50, New Haven, CT** ***Audrey Toole***

Council 50 recently celebrated a special Mass for all of its members - including the ailing and the deceased. Preceding this Mass was a ceremony where Ritual Chairman, Ed Toole, presented long overdue 3rd degree medals to several members who had been unable to attend district meetings. New recipients are: Julia Glynn, Michael and Irene Meizies, Marion Meshako, Nellie Perrelli, and Marcella Stadolnik. Congratulations to all of these tireless, dedicated members!

Bill Bachniski and Helen Lostys have accumulated their points and will be the next members to receive the third degree.





Cleveland's C-25 recently treated NBA Cleveland Cavs star Zydrunas Ilgauskas to K. of L. hospitality. Chairperson Tony Oberaitis on his left. Photo by V. Bacevicius.

### **C - 79 , Southfield, MI**

#### ***Bee Jay***

Our December meeting took place Wednesday, on the 4th. of the month. The opening prayer was recited for the repose of the souls of Elizabeth Petroski (dec. Oct. 29) and Vincent Bridzvaitis (dec. Nov. 23). Betty will be missed - her culinary talents were well known. Vince was a shy fellow, held no office but had many friends, having joined our Council at least 20 years ago. We extend our sympathy to their families.

Pres. Margaret Dapkus announced that member Edward Salas suffered a stroke a few days ago. We wish for him a speedy and full recovery. We heard that preparations for our hosting of the Mid-Central annual Fall Pilgrimage are proceeding. It is scheduled for Sept. 26 through 28, 1997.

At the conclusion of the meeting, it was time for

partaking of the covered dishes placed on a long, Christmas-decorated table. It was our "kucios" meal. We had the traditional feast beginning with holy wafers (plotkeles) and a prayer by our Pastor and Spiritual Advisor, Fr. Valdas Valdemaras. Our lady members extended themselves to prepare the authentic dishes.

After the meal, Pres. Marge reminded us we do not meet in January. During the February meeting we will prepare for St. Casimir's celebration in March.

### **C -96, Dayton, OH**

#### ***Fran Petkus***

Our December meetings are always special. It is at this meeting our Charity Fund is dispersed with and 1997 Fund begins with the January meeting. The Charity Fund is built from 10% of all money making projects for the year, our monthly 50/50 meeting raffle

and donations from members and friends. This year recipients of the Fund were - the Northeast Food Pantry, Aid to Lithuania, Inc., St. Casimir's Guild, the LCRA Lunch Program and APPLE. Also, at the meeting Religious Chr. George Mikalauskas announced the results of our very, very successful fund raiser for Christ the King Sisters of Kaunas. These Sisters were the Order our council volunteered to adopt. The donations were made by council members, Holy Cross parishioners and friends.

Congratulations to First Degree qualifier--Aaron Geiger and-Second Degree qualifier--MaryAgnes Mikalauskas.

Members who were winners in our council's monthly 50/50 raffle for 1996 were; Andrew Berczelly, James Geiger (3X), Lauretta Pant, Elena Mikalauskas; Robert Pant, Sally Milaskavitz, Alex Fletcher, Linda Pant, Eleanor Mantz and



Eloise Berczelly!

Following our December meeting, under the direction of our Christmas Caroling Chair - MaryAgnes Mikalaukas, members headed out to visit council members and parishioners who are over 80 shut-ins, at nursing care centers, their homes, etc. All in all we distributed 28 poinsettia plants. It was a wonderful day! We ended up back at the church hall for pizzas and other refreshments. MaryAgnes had a surprise drawing of misc gifts!

Thanks must go to Frances Mikalaukas for continuing to chair the arrangements for our Annual Christmas Dinner. George Mikalaukas outdid himself with the special favors he made for everyone - a white wood carved Lithuanian style Christmas Tree ornament. The dinner was held at Elinor's Amber Rose. Elinor had some surprises herself with special hors d'oeuvres! As in the past, an envelope was passed around for those who wanted to make a donation to Aid To Lithuania, Inc. Those of you who remember the comedian Henny Youngman will understand when we share with you we have a duplicate in our midst by the name of James Birt! Whenever Jim is at a function, no one goes home sad! See you August 6 - 10, 1997!!!!

**C - 102, Detroit, MI**

***Aldona Bunikis***

It's catch-up time .... we have been so busy that writing for VYTIS had to be put on hold.... but, WE'RE BACK!

Our former correspondent, Maryann Guerriero, had the



***Rev. Walter Stanievich***  
***celebrated his 50th***  
***Anniversary in the priesthood***

misfortune to fall and severely injure her right shoulder. Hubby, Joe, had his hands full helping her with chores and running errands. Thankfully, she is responding to therapy and on the mend (can't keep an avid bowler down for long). Joe also spent some time in sick bay and among this years hospitalized were John and Donna Stanievich, President Lorry Hofner with a knee replacement, also Edna Klucens. All are doing well. Lorry is looking forward to have the other knee replaced this winter to be 102's Bionic Man.

Elections in November retained most of our officers. Exceptions were: New secretary Pat Zyren; Lithuanian language, Danguole Kudirka and Theresa Medonis and Donna Bunikis will work on rituals as well as Vytis correspondence. Call or send us your news. We miss Regina Juska at our meetings. She is such a busy lady with Parish affairs, currently chairing the

Parish New Year's Eve Gala, a really glamorous affair. We also wish to extend best wishes on her recent engagement to Rimas Svoba, a very lucky man.

We congratulate former Supreme Council Spiritual Advisor, **Rev. Walter Stanievich** on celebrating his 50th Anniversary in the Priesthood. Several receptions were held in his honor. Iligausiu Metų!

What would we do without Starks-Aukštakalnis'? Not only have they been hosting an annual corn roast at their beautiful home on Cass Lake, but since Bob B.escaped to a condo, our annual Christmas party (Kučios) has been there. Thanks folks, we really appreciate your spirit, to say nothing of the music Joe provides along with John Stanievich. With the song sheets provided by Vince Boris, who comes in from Maryland every year, we have a great time. This year's party had a real family feeling with the two little sons of Tim and Chris Baibak. We did miss Ruth Wagster.

Snowbirds are readying to fly south. Bunikis' are a little late because of health problems, but, expect to be on the beautiful beaches of Panama City by the first of January along with the Medonis'. You-all come and visit .... Not all at once!

Robert Boris continues to be the driving force behind Aid to Lithuania when he is not in Lietuva, or Chicago or New York or some other place drumming up supplies for the Hospice, Orphanage or Soup Kitchen in Lithuania. We understand a dental clinic is in the offing. During his recent





Congratulations! Worcester C-26 members Anne and Bill Leseman renewed their vows at St. Casimir's Church followed by a gala celebration of their 50th wedding anniversary in October. Anne was past president of our council.

- "Olga"

absence, Irene Vizgirda spearheaded the mailing of 3,000 newsletters ably assisted by both C-102 and C-79 members. Helping was Antanas Balsys visiting from Lithuania, folding and stuffing along with speedy Bill Juodwalkis.

**NEWS FLASH!** The Mid West Bowling Tournament will be hosted by C 102 in May and we are inviting all councils to send a team or teams. Chairman, Tim Baibak guarantees a good time.

We ended the year on a sad note. Condolences to Helen Smolek and Theresa Medonis, whose brother, Edward Žaliagiris passed away on December 13th in Florida. Older members will remember his sports ability in baseball and, of course, bowling. Ilsekis ramybeje.

### **C-109, Great Neck, NY**

***Sadye Petraitis***

A new year 1997, a new president, Mary Kober, and we are off with a burst of activities. First, a newsletter informing us of coming events. Next, two great bus trips to Atlantic City.

Not only did the casino benefit from our trips - our treasury increased because of great strategy on Mary's part. Next a Christmas lunch at the west Wind Yacht Club followed by a "between holidays" brunch at Uncle Wok - a great spirit enhancer after the rush of Christmas.

The elevation of the pastor of St. Aloysius Church, Rev. Thomas Candrea to Monsignor gave us an opportunity to express thanks for the use of the church's facilities. We received a beautiful note from Monsignor expressing his thanks for our generous gift.

The Great Neck newspaper covered the retirement of Al and Starcy Wesley with a report of their many years of dedicated work at their Nursery.

Joseph Majewsky wrote a beautiful article in Balzekas Museum's Genealogy Newsletter describing with pictures his new founded roots in Lithuania, by using genealogy information through the museum.

The Petraitis have left for a

four month stay in sunny Florida. Our council will miss them through this period.

Having heard the beautiful song, "Here I Am Lord, Do You Need Me", our long time member, Stacia Wain was needed and God took her back to eternal rest.

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

***Helen Yakaitis***

Our 22nd annual Kučios was a great success. Over 150 attended and enjoyed all the ceremonies and the great traditional foods. In charge of the kitchen as always were John and Al Klimas with a nice crowd of volunteers. The affair was a financial success and the profits went to worthy causes. Thanks to Mary Stelmokas, chairperson, and her able crew.

The success of any affair is always due to the efforts of the dedicated volunteers of an organization. Our council is indebted to the chairman, co-chairperson, secretary, waitresses, kitchen staff and helpers, food shoppers, ticket sellers and all the guests who attended and supported our efforts to provide a memorable and joyful celebration of a traditional Kučios.

On a sadder note - our deepest sympathies to member Taphilia Samanka, who lost her husband. Please also pray for faithful members Eva Andrusaitis and Stella Pruska, who went to their eternal reward.

Our council had a busy and fruitful 1996. We thank the good Lord and ask for the same in 1997.



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

Following a very short regular meeting in December, everyone looked forward to the Christmas party that was to follow. Mickey Petrocius and family provided the dinner and did all the work, including set up and clean up by themselves. Everything was delicious and we are very grateful to Mickey and her family. Husband, Vince donated 10 bud vases with Christmas arrangements to be given as door prizes and this made for a nice surprise. A 3-piece band entertained us with music for our listening and dancing pleasure, and helped with a Christmas sing-along.

Sr. Theresa Papsis was guest speaker at our October meeting and gave us an insight into living in Lithuania for an entire year. Sister was there teaching and regaled us with her adventures and misadventures.

Dr. Julie Clarich, a Naprapath and Chiropracter, was our November guest speaker. She gave a very thorough presentation and made suggestions that were practical and easy to follow. Judging from the number of health questions from the membership, she should be encouraged to join our council -we need her!

Eleven members met at St. Casimir's Cemetery on November 3 to take part in the annual "Cemetery Walk" and visited 12 graves of members who had died within the last three years. Prayers were said at the graves and a flower was left on each one.

Make plans to attend the council fund raiser "Italian Fest" on Saturday, March 1, 6:00 p.m., Nativity church hall. The committee plans an Italian dinner with all the trimmings and you're sure to enjoy the tunes played by our accordionist. Raffle chairlady, Ellie Kasputis, has rounded up many valuable prizes so there will be lots of winners. See Julie Zakarka and Estelle Rogers for a reservation.

**C-141, Bridgeport, CT**  
*Aldona Marcavage*

Our annual council Kučios was lovely. We prayed, we sang, we feasted on traditional treats --- a special Christmas Eve ritual. We really were eating "history" -- keeping alive age-old Lithuanian customs, but modified a bit to meet our present day needs. Our Kučios supper began at noon instead of at twilight. Msgr. Pranckus blessed the plotkeles and then we shared them with one another. Marie Brilvitch did a fine job as emcee. Toastmaster, Bob Marcavage asked everyone to remember our deceased members in our Christmas prayers. President Clemencine Miller presented Msgr. Pranckus and Father Jose (Parish Administrator) with a modest Christmas gift to show them our gratitude for always being there for us.

This year's snow birds in Florida are Lee Marcinka, Armundas Zakarauskas and Richard Haux.

We are proud to have as member Alan Strudas, Sr. who is Vice President of Facilities and Support Services at St. Vincent's

Medical Center. Through his initiative and our members' support and funding, a much needed-mamography unit is on its way to a hospital in Lithuania.

We offer our prayers and sympathies to Helen Simanis whose brother (our member) passed away in December. Marie Brilvitch recently lost her mother, Victor Miller lost his brother, and Stephen Wilcinkas also lost his brother. Remember "Those we love are never gone--they live forever in our hearts".

**C-144, Anthracite, PA**  
*Anne Wargo*

Council 144 is saddened at the death of Fr. Bernard Shimkus. Father Bernie even though he is ill, when he was able, conducted Lithuanian masses for us. Father Bernie, with the help of his sister, before he passed away shipped his extensive library to the Lithuanian Pontifical College in Rome. In fact, it was sent out the same week he died. His wake service was well attended by C-144 members. Fr. Ron Jankaitis, our spiritual advisor, gave a beautiful talk about Fr. Bernie prior to the service. Our condolences to Florence and the Shimkus family. Another star is shining in heaven.

Due to the needs of Aid to Lithuania, the Council sent a \$1,000 donation. Another donation was made to APPLE, plus our local Vietnam Memorial and Miners Memorial her in Shenandoah. Many of our forefathers gave up their lives in the mines.



Our Kučia was enjoyed by all who attended. Fr. Ron and Brother Joseph Zutelis conducted the prayer service and the traditional Kučios foods were served. Our thanks to all the committee members who worked hard to present a good meal and to cultural chairman, Mary Koons, who presented a Christmas reading and lead the traditional Christmas carols.

The old year ended on a sad note with the death of member, Charles Milbut. Our condolences to his sister, Ann Milbut Nardini. Amžina Atsilsi, Charles.

We now look forward to 1997 as it is the 20th anniversary of the founding of C-144. We hope to make this a good year starting with our St. Casimir's Day Breakfast in March at which time we had our first installation of officers in 1977 with our godparents, Hon. Members Joseph Yenualaitis (R.I.P.) and Loretta Stukas attending.

### **C - 153, Treasure Coast, FL** ***Florence V. Miskinis***

Delegates James Marcinkus, Frances Daniels and Florence Miskinis returned from the 83rd K. of L. Convention in Brockton, MA. At our October meeting, president, Jim Marcinkus gave a very informative and complete report about all the events and sessions of the convention. At the 4th session, Frances Daniels received the 2nd place award in the individual membership category. It was a tie with C -16 of Chicago, IL. Congratulations Frances!

It took Florence Miskinis 3 hours to fly to Boston from

Florida but also another 3 hours and 15 minutes to travel from Logan airport to Brockton, MA.(only 20 miles south of Boston) Airport traffic at 3:30 PM was horrendous! Please note Gov. Weld!

The results of the November 3rd election are: President - James Marcinkus, Vice President - Ann Aukstikalnis, Financial secretary - James Marcinkus, Recording Secretary - Joan Bizousky, Treasurer - Josephine Lubinski, Trustee - Josephine Lubinski, Sgt. of Arms - Vito Patrick, Lithuanian Affairs - Anthony Stepanauskas, Lithuanian Culture - John Tamasauskas, "Vytis" correspondent - Florence V. Miskinis, Ritual - Open.

December 1st was the annual Christmas celebration at the *Kauffehaus*. The members of C-153 came bearing their gifts of delicious ethnic goods to the Christmas decorated buffet table. The festivities began with a prayer by Father V. Pikturna, our spiritual advisor. Jim Marcinkus presented plotkelės which were shared by all the members. The buffet fulfilled the desires of all present, and of course, the desserts and punch disappeared quickly. Especially good was Anele Stepanauskas' košeliėna. It was such a treat! Thank you Anele for thinking about it! Of course the menu wouldn't have been complete without the dešros. Thanks to Al Miskinis, the chef has finally perfected the recipe (less pepper!). Aldona Biliunas' kugelis and Josie Lubinskis' deviled eggs disappeared in short order. Sauerkraut by Frances Daniels and Helen Hebenstreit was

excellent! It was so nice to see to many of our members who returned from the cold North including Mike Yudiskas.

Red roses were presented to each member celebrating Christmas birthdays. Įgiausių metų to Al Labanauskas who was 88 Christmas day, also Ona Mehler and Stella Miskinis. Tony Stepanauskas celebrated his ? birthday December 8th. Frances Daniels and Connie Scheibelhut both were New Year's day babies.

The raffle was a great success and ended our lovely day with many taking a gift and a goody bag to enjoy another day.

All members of C-153 participated in all the preparations of this successful affair. Laimingų Naujųjų Metų visiems!

*(A huge ačiū labai, Florence, for your lovely sentiments and your kind wishes. We appreciate a pat on the back once in a while. Maryte ir Dalia.)*

#### **Gems from Fr. John Savukynas' Laughing Matter:**

- Life is a series of movements from one chair to another.
- Friends may come and friends may go, but enemies accumulate.
- When you are right, no one remembers, when you are wrong, no one forgets.
- Anytime things appear to be getting better, you have overlooked something.
- When all else fails, read the instructions.



## VYTIS Gift Subscriptions to Spread Your Lithuanian Culture!



Why not send VYTIS to a child, grandchild, or friend in the U.S. who may love to read about our fascinating Lithuanian heritage and Lithuanian activities around the country. Subscription prices may be going up soon, so \$20.00 per year is STILL a bargain.

Just send the following information and a check for \$20.00 payable to: **Knights of Lithuania**. Indicate full name and address of recipient. Include city, state and zip code. Send to:  
**VYTIS Business Manager, Richard Niedvares**  
**P.O. Box 60453**  
**Chicago, IL 60660-0453**

SAVE \$5.00 and become involved in keeping our Lithuanianism alive here in the USA. Our membership dues of ONLY \$15.00 per year include a subscription to VYTIS per household. New members also receive a complementary gift tote bag for joining! Write today to: **K. of L. Financial Secretary, Dorothy Banos** (address on front inside cover) and ask for *Membership* information.

### Lithuanian Name Days in February:

Vasaris

1. Cinija (Cina), Ignotas (Ignas), Sigibertas (Sigas), Gytautas (Gytas)
2. Adelbaldas (Adelas), Adeloga (Ada, Loga)
3. Ansgaras (Ansgas), Berlinda (Bera, Linda), Blažiejus (Blažys), Ata, Radvilas (Radys)
4. Andriejus Korsinis (Andrius), Joana iš Valois (Jonė), Nitardas (Nitas, Ardas)
5. Agota (Aga), Avitas (Avas), Vodalis (Dalys), Birutė, Gaudvinas (Gaudas)
6. Darata (Dara), Titas, Vedastas, Alkis
7. Adaukas, arba Adauktas (Adas, Auktas), Meldonas (Meldas), Romualdas (Romas)
8. Jonas iš Matos, Mengoldas (Mengas)
9. Altas, Apolònija (Apola, Polė), Erikas (Eras), Kirilas (Kiras), Joviltas (Jovas)
10. Amantas (Amas, Mantas), Sotera (Tera)
11. Adolfas (Adas), Ardanas (Ardas), Helviza (Hela, Elva), Gustautas (Gustas)
12. Liudanas (Liudas), Aleksis
13. Agabas (Agas), Algaudas (Algas)
14. Valentinas (Valys), Geda, Saulius
15. Faustinas (Faustas), Jovitas (Jovas), Girdenis (Girdys), Nirginda (Nirga)
16. Pilypa (Pilė), Onesimas (Onys)
17. Silvinas (Silvas)
18. Angilbertas (Angilas, Angas), Bernadeta, Lengvenis (Lengvys)
19. Belina (Bela, Lina), Gabinas (Gabys), Šarunas
20. Amata, Nilas
21. Eleonora (Elė, Lora, Nora), Jovilas
22. Margarita (Marga), Gintautė (Ginta)
23. Jurminas (Juras), Romana (Roma)
24. Adelė (Ada), Goda, Virgaudas (Virgas)
25. Adeltrūda (Alda), Gerlandas (Gerlas), Rasa
26. Isabelė, Matilda, Aurimė (Aura)
27. Gabrielius (Gabrys) Honorina (Nora), Vilmantė (Vilma)
28. Antonija (Anta), Alna, Vilgardas (Vilgas)



**ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED:**

VYTIS (The Knight)  
 P.O. Box 60453  
 Chicago, IL 60660-0453

S47 P6 444  
 THE LITHUANIAN INFORMATION CENTER  
 EDITOR'S EXCHANGE COPY  
 5620 SOUTH CLAREMONT  
 CHICAGO IL 60636

Periodical  
 Postage Paid

## Beautiful Land of our Fathers

Do you remember an amber land encircled by forest and marshes;  
 A land of wandering dunes and sturdy pines;  
 Sea drops of amber cast upon her silvery beaches;  
 Churches on hill tops, like tall observing shrines?

I remember a snow covered meadow - as far as the eye could see;  
 And the wolves in the towering dark green forest; and wayside crosses of rarest artistry.

It is a beautiful land of peasants with a precious language of her own,  
 A language old, and rich with legends and songs  
 Of every hill and grove, lake and forest, flower and stone.

My home is a low thatched cottage set upon a sloping hill, with clambering vines around its door;  
 There's a garden of mint and rue and marigolds too;  
 and a sparkling glimpse of the crystal river and shore.

The larks circle above as the ploughman sings; The sower sings of the bounty his seeds will give;  
 While the golden harvest grows with the reapers songs;  
 The raftsmen on the river sing of the forests where they live.

Spinning wheels whir as the women sing - of their empty homes now that the young have flown;  
 Maidens, toiling in their gardens, sing of love and the rue,  
 A symbol of purity and youth that is now their own.

At eventide, when all work is done - voices in song rise joyfully from the shore,  
 And the moon beams on the tuneful scene - while I sit and listen at the cottage door.

Have you heard of the legend of Crosses; and the lake that was formed from the giant's tears;  
 Of the beautiful lakes that came down from the sky; and a toll of sunken bells as a storm appears?

Why cuckoos assemble at the "cuckoo oak" when Winter snows melt and warm Spring nears?  
 Why the nightingale's charming coaxing melody will linger forever throughout the years?

Strange, beautiful Lithuania, where the sky is the softest, palest blue;  
 Where the sun warms her land with its golden rays...and wraps all her beauty around -  
 with songs and the rue.

This beautiful land is the country I once knew...

*-Antonia M. Wackell*