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Sveikinam Visas Motinas!

Cover Art: Žvejo Giminas (*The birth of a fisherman*) Iš ciklo... "Mano Tėvynė dainose ir legendose", © 1963 by Aldona Skirutytė of Vilnius

Table of Contents - Turinys

To Our Fellow Knights	2
Letters to the Editor	2
Boris Yeltsin Blinks - <i>Len Barcoucky</i>	3
Šiluva, the Town and Shrine - <i>Vincent B. Boris</i>	4
I Remember a Great Mama - <i>Elinor A. Sluzas</i>	6
The Legend of Birutė - <i>Ed Baranauskas</i>	8
In Memoriam	10
Bertha Stoskus - Candidate for Honorary Membership	11
Aid to Lithuania Contributions	13
Pontifical Lithuanian College	14
84th National Convention Registration	15
The Dayton K. of L. Family - <i>Fran Petkus and Elinor Sluzas</i>	16
Music - Pavasarėlio Trumpa Naktuzė	18
Vincas Kudirka, a brief biography - <i>John R. Mankus</i>	19
St. Clare's Hospice	21
Lithuanian Chefs	22
District and Council News	23
Back Page Poems - Motinai, Hymn to Our Lady of Šiluva	



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.

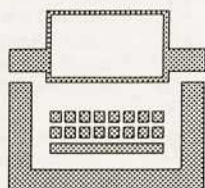
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*Editorial***To My Fellow Knights:**

Happy Mother's Day to all our lovely Moms, Grandmoms and those who help Mom out with her many untiring tasks. This special day is celebrated in Lithuania as well and this month features a story on a special mother of Elinor Sluzas on page 6, along with the beginning of a new series on important Lithuanian women (most of them mothers) in Lithuanian history starting with Birutė by Ed Baranauskas on page 8. Of course, the highest honor is bestowed on our Blessed Mother, and Our Lady of Šiluva (page 4) to whom this issue is dedicated.

A beautiful card was sent to us from Regina Yetkowskas and her mother, Domicella, who live in Scranton. Along with the Easter prayers and greetings was a separate note that said they enjoy our "bi-monthly" magazine and wish they could receive one every month. Perhaps these two ladies have not been receiving their MONTHLY VYTIS (except for August and Sept.)? Perhaps there are more of you who also think we are bi-monthly. Although we have been publishing these on schedule, our printers in Chicago have had problems with an old press (which has since been replaced) and have been behind in schedule. Coupled with changes in U.S. Postal status, sometimes VYTIS seems to take up to eight weeks from the time finished copy and photos are sent in until the time issues are received. We are hoping this will get better with a new press, but in the meantime, please let us know if you do not receive your issues in a timely manner. Call or write to myself or the Business Manager and we'll make sure you receive monthly issues.

The letter writing campaign which asks each of you to write Pres. Clinton to seek inclusion of Lithuania into NATO has had a positive effect on Washington according to our sources. At press time we heard that a thousand individuals have already expressed concern on this issue. These individual letters do make a difference and may help to change some minds.

*Letters to the Editor***Thanks for Scholarship Support at the Rome Seminary**

To the Editor:

I am happy to thank the Knights of Lithuania for the generosity and care about seminarians. Your contribution was appreciated by me and Archbishop Audrys J. Backis.

This year is my first one in Rome. I am 22 years old and continue my studies in seminary starting with the first year in Theology. The beginning was really impressive although, as my Italian gets better, my English is not as fluid as it once was. Some English speaking pen-mates and fellows at the University and Seminary are my hope. At present, I

am preparing myself for exams. After passing them, I will have more courage to continue my studies. Hopefully for five years to receive a Licentiate in Theology. Thank you. You are in my prayers.

Mr. Robertas Salasevicius
Roma, Italy

(Ed. note: See also page 14 for more information on our Lithuanian seminarians studying in Rome.)

Folk Music for Piano

To the Editor:

Thank you for printing "Du Gaideliai" in the Sausio/January issue. I hope someone played this charming little folk song. I've included another folksong for spring called "Pavasarielio trumpa nakužė" from a new book of songs called Piano Pamokos which I'm preparing for Lithuanian students.

Nijolė B. Dėdinas
West Chester, PA

(Ed. note: See music on page 18)

Another Editor's Remarks

Dear Editor:

Compliments on your magazine, which is getting better day-by-day.

I do want to point out an error in your February 1997 issue. You state that the Lithuanian Statue of Freedom is located "in Town Hall Square in the Old Town of Kaunas, in the center of the square."

This is not so. The Statue of Freedom stands a few miles away from Town Hall Square and the Old Town in the newer section of Kaunas. It actually stands in the center of what was called Freedom Square, in front of the Vytautas the Great Museum. The statue was erected in 1928 and, as you correctly say, was reconstructed and rededicated in 1989. The pyramidal monument (☞ letters continued on page 5)

Opinion

BORIS YELTSIN BLINKS

By Len Barcoucky

Lithuanian Affairs Chairman

Those of us who have argued that Bill Clinton should hang tough in his talks with Boris Yeltsin over NATO enlargement can take comfort in the results of the Helsinki Summit. Despite having only one good leg to stand on during that March meeting in Finland, President Clinton kept his footing on the enlargement issue, and Yeltsin appeared to give grudging assent. Or at least the Russian leader was unwilling to damage broader U.S. Russian relations over the question.

Carla Anne Robbins and Steve Liesman, two reporters for The Wall Street Journal, point out in the paper's March 24 edition that there is a second, related reason why Yeltsin was unwilling to ratchet up any battle with the U.S. and Western Europe over NATO. The Russian economy remains in a shambles. Turning it around must be Yeltsin's first priority and he cannot be distracted by side issues. American and European aid and know-how will be critical in restarting Russian farms, mines and factories.

Don't think that Yeltsin walked away empty handed. In return for his flexibility on the NATO issue, President Clinton promised him loan and credit guarantees to help boost investment in Russia. The leaders agreed on a

plan to further cut the number of nuclear missiles each country has. And while no one is seriously talking about Russian membership in NATO, the president promised U.S. support for Russia's efforts to join the powerful World Trade Organization. Eventual Russian membership in that powerful "club" could go far to reduce Russian fears of being cut off from the rest of Europe.

The meeting in Helsinki will take some of the pressure off representatives from countries in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization when they meet in July. Those of us who support membership for Lithuania in NATO are not expecting an invitation this summer. But the path has been made a little smoother for countries like Poland, Hungary and the Czech Republic to join without alienating Russia or signaling an abandonment of the Baltics.

Just before he went to Helsinki, Bill Clinton tore cartilage in his knee and couldn't walk without assistance. Such a situation has to recall sad memories of a physically frail President Roosevelt at Yalta 52 years earlier. At that meeting, Roosevelt agreed to cede control of the Baltics and Eastern Europe to Josef Stalin. Many political analysts and columnists advised Clinton that he shouldn't weaken Yeltsin's shaky domestic position by pushing the NATO question. He rejected that advice. And as he sat there in Helsinki with his injured leg propped up, Bill Clinton never stood taller.

◆◆◆

Šiluva - the town and the Shrine of Our Lady

by Vincent B. Boris
from *K. of L. Heritage Tour*
book, ©1993.

Šiluva is both a town and a religious shrine in western Lithuania. Its population was 996 in 1970; but up to 100,000 people have been attracted to the religious festival, honoring the Blessed Virgin Mary which is held annually on the Feast of the Nativity of Mary (Sept. 8).

In 1457, the local landlord Petras Gedgaudas built a Roman Catholic church dedicated to the Nativity of Mary. The parish festivals on the feast of the Nativity of Our Lady soon became known not only throughout Samogitia but they also attracted Lithuanians even from Prussia. Equally famous among the people was the painting of Mary, believed to be a copy of Maria Maggiore in Rome.

When the Reformation swept over Lithuania in the 16th century, one of its supporters, Sophie Wnuczko (Vnučkienė) who had acquired the estate and town in 1592 founded an advanced school for the preparation of Calvinist teachers and ministers. At the same time, the holdings of the Catholic parish were confiscated.

Around 1606, the Catholics, led by the Rev. Jonas Kazakevičius, initiated court proceedings to regain their property. In the course of the litigation, an unusual event happened and is recorded as follows by a handwritten history of the Šiluva church:

"Shepherd boys from a nearby village while grazing their flock on church lands saw a girl, with flowing hair, on a large rock, holding a child in her arms and sadly weeping.



*Švč. Dieva Motinos
apsireiškimas Šiluvoje. The
painting of Mary, believed to
be a copy of Maria Maggiore
in Rome.*

One of the shepherds ran to the Calvinist catechist and told him what had happened. The catechist approached the rock (and got up the courage to ask): 'Girl, why are you weeping?' The girl answered: 'I am weeping because once, at this place, my son was worshiped, while now they plow and sow here.' Having said this, she disappeared."

This is believed to have occurred around the year 1608. In 1612, reportedly led by a blind man, searchers found an old trunk buried at the site of the apparitions. It contained parish documents and church articles, including the church's founding deed. On July 22, 1622, the tribunal decided in favor of the Catholics. In 1625, Rev. Kazakevičius built a small wooden church in place of the earlier one; at the site of the apparition, he erected a small chapel. In 1641, he rebuilt the church, giving it a Latin cross plan. The chapel at the apparition site was also enlarged in 1663. Finally in 1760, construction of a brick church was begun; the work lasted 25 years. At the time of consecration (Sept. 8, 1786) of the new church, the picture of the Holy Virgin was crowned with the crown of the chapter of St. Peter's in Rome. The celebration lasted three days and drew a crowd of 30,000 people from Lithuania, Poland and Prussia.

During the Russian occupation (from 1795), the famous Šiluva devotions annually attracted up to 50,000 pilgrims. During the time of the press ban (1864-1904) illegal



Fr. Eduardas Simaška, pastor of Nativity of Our Lady Church of Šiluva in 1996.

publications were distributed among the people. As a consequence, the Russians outlawed such mass gatherings (until 1905). During the period of national independence (1919-1940) up to 100,000 persons took part in the annual Šiluva devotions. Under Soviet rule, the pilgrimages were again severely restricted and impeded.

In 1908, architect Anton Wiwulski (Vivulskis), who resided in Paris, designed a new chapel. The construction began in 1912, was interrupted by the war and completed in 1924. It is named the Chapel of the Apparition of Mary. In 1975, Pope Paul VI granted to the church of Šiluva the honorary title of *Basilica minor*. In 1978, the chapel was renovated and the stained glass windows restored.

In 1996, the Aid to Lithuania tour group visited both the church and shrine where the apparition took place. We were met by Fr. Eduardas Simaška, the current pastor, who allowed us a tour of the beautiful church and the chapel. If you have not seen Šiluva, this most inspirational site is worth seeing on your next trip to Lithuania.

Letters (continued from page 3)

which you also mention, is Lithuania's Monument of the Unknown Soldier. It stands at one end of the same square. It was originally built in 1921 to honor those who died for Lithuania's freedom. In 1934, the remains of an unknown soldier were buried under the monument and from that day on it has been known as the Monument of the Unknown Soldier. Both this monument and the Statue of Freedom were destroyed during the Soviet occupation. They both were reerected after Lithuania regained its independence.

In your section, "Lithuanians in the News", Richard Marks writes about Vytautas Staskus of Cleveland who has been helping a Jewish synagogue in the Lithuanian city of "Kovno". The problem is that no city by that name exists in Lithuania. If I am not mistaken, that is the name that the Germans used for the city of Kaunas in the past. But this name has not been used by anyone since the German occupation in World

War II, and certainly never by Lithuanians. I know Vytautas Staskus and I'm certain that he would never use this name to refer to Kaunas either. Where do these things come from? They only confuse people and distort the facts.

Val Ramonis
Editor in Chief

Lithuanian Heritage Magazine



Did You Know? In Kaunas, a division of Kraft Foods International called AB Kraft Jacobs Suchard Lietuva, has won recognition awards for its products and promotions. Coffee, chocolate and snack foods have been produced there since 1993 when Kraft took over the 75-year old state owned Kaunas Confectionary factory. This plant manufactures chocolate under the brand name Karūna, meaning "crown" and distributes to Russia, Latvia and Belarus. New promotions included a sweepstakes for a new car.

-The Philip Morris Globe submitted by Wally Tenclinger, C-36

I Remember a Great



Dayton Immigrants: (2nd row) the author's mother, Anna Repa Ambrose with best friend, Monica Stulgaitis Petrokas; (first row) Jim Gudelis, Catherine Servaites Zubrick and unknown girl.

by HM Elinor Ambrose Sluzas, C-96

As we bring to a close the final chapter of the 20th century, I can't help but reflect on the passing of a generation of extraordinary people, the likes of which we will never see again. I am moved to write this story upon the passing of my 93 year old mother, whose life mirrored the lives of many early immigrants who traveled to these shores at the turn of the century.

In 1914, a thirteen year-old little girl half hidden behind her mother's long skirts, reluctantly, shyly, trudged down the ramp of the ship "NORDSTRUM" onto the shores of a foreign land,

The United States of America. Thus began the saga of a little Lithuanian immigrant girl named Anna.

After many exhausting hours of processing through Immigration in Philadelphia and shuffling from place to place, Anna and her Mamyte finally found themselves on a midnight train headed for the wild west of Dayton, Ohio.

The tall stacks of chimneys of the steel mills in Pennsylvania and West Virginia belched smoke and fire, which looked to Anna like long black fingers reaching for the heavens. She slid down into her seat and buried her face in her mothers lap and prayed. She was sure that this train was taking

them straight to "hell". The soft touch of her mother's hand and the train's clackety-clack soon lulled her to sleep.

After long, hot hours, the train chugged into Dayton's Union Station. In the distance, Anna could see her Papa in his baggy, oversized suit. As they were getting off of the train, she tore away from Mamyte's firm grasp and ran to the open arms of her Papa. When he put her down he opened a rough, scarred hand and held it out to Anna. There, wrapped in a brown piece of paper was a little block of chocolate for his little girl.... this was her first taste of America.... and it was sweet.

Two years earlier, her Papa, Simon Repa left Alexsota, Lithuania to come to the United States to earn enough money to bring his wife and child to a better life. He settled in Dayton, Ohio, where at that time, the famous Barney and Smith Car Works was looking for craftsmen to help build their elaborate wooden Railroad Cars. (Which we now only see on old Western Movies.) He had found them a little place to live and space for a little garden in Old North Dayton. Here, one found clusters of Lithuanian, German, Hungarian, and Polish immigrants all searching for the good life in this new land.

It was a bad time to come to these United States. The streets were teeming with immigrants

Mama ...

all looking for work. Prejudice against foreigners was rampant and with it came hunger and fear for the unknown. They clung together and with each new wave of immigrants their Lithuanian Community grew. After years of sacrifice and hard work, they built their Holy Cross Church. This was THEIR center ... this was THEIR security from which they drew their strength.

Anna was an only child but she filled her life with wonderful new friends who came from every corner of Lithuania. Her best and life long friend Monica Stulgaitis found her way to Dayton through the coal mines of West Virginia where her father first worked. Since money was scarce, the girls went to work in the Cigar Factories of Dayton. Anna and Monica both had a great sense of humor. They would tell us that they were "Strippers" which was true. (They stripped tobacco leaves for cigars.)

Their social lives centered around activities at the Lithuanian, Holy Cross Church.

Every evening was filled long summer walks... picnics by the river... choir practice..."Ratalis" Theatrical Group... Knights of Lithuania... Young Ladies Sodality .. and fund raisers to help the new, free Lithuania of 1918. During this time the little girls grew up, fell in love and married... Monica to Joseph Petrokas and Anna to Frank (Ambrose) Ambrazaitis.

Married life was difficult during the depression, Daddy lost his job and we were forced to go on "Relief". He became very ill. He was a broken man. Mama was the one who gathered us together for evening prayer. She was the one who encouraged Daddy, praised him, patted him on the back, pushed him and when he was so sick, nursing him back to health. She truly was "The Wind Beneath His Wings". Mama was our light in time of darkness ... she taught us how to pray ... she taught us how to laugh ... she taught us how to give

and Daddy taught us how to sing.

This little immigrant girl named Anna raised five children, nursed and cared for her stroke-paralyzed father and her cancer ridden blind mother. Widowed at 54, she never complained and was always thankful to God and our heavenly Mother. For 40 years she took reverent pride in washing and ironing the church linens and often she gathered flowers from the neighbors and put them on the altars at church.

There are a lot of people whom we call GREAT!

**...a little
block of
chocolate...
was her first
taste of
America ...
and it was
sweet.**

Is it because of their Wealth? Athletic Prowess? Name? Education? Power?

Achievements?

Or...could it be one whose life was like the sun's rays, filling with warmth everyone she touched.

This quiet, sweet, gentle woman made us feel that we were very special. Mama gave all of her life to help those in need... secretly... quietly... without flourish. One of her favorite sayings

was "The good Lord is so good to me my pot is never empty."

In purely materialistic worldly standards, Mama's life was a failure. No Stocks... No Bonds... No Bank Account and her children had to bury her.

On April 5, 1995 when the sun was just beginning to smile through the early morning haze, our heavenly Father must have looked down at Mama and said..... "Anna, your pot is empty... it's time to come home."

How proud we her children are to look back on the life of this precious, gentle woman and know that she gave away everything she had... and followed HIM!

She was 93 that cool Wednesday morning when God called her home. In her obituary, we asked that contributions be made to AID TO LITHUANIA in lieu of flowers. In this, her final act of charity, \$3,108.00 was sent to help those in need, in the land of her birth.

Truly.... Anna was a GREAT woman!



*Women in Lithuanian History*PART ONE - - - **THE LEGEND OF BIRUTĖ***by Edward Baranauskas*

Many stories have been told, and many songs have been sung, about a woman who played a vital role in the history of Lithuania. Her name was Birutė.

While historians have some documented proof about her life from Lithuanian and other chronicles, most of the stories about Birute were handed down by Lithuanians from generation to generation. They were generally believed to have some historical basis because of that. Since these stories could not be verified, however, they have been called merely legends by historians.

The year of her birth is not known. She was born near Palanga to a family of Samogitian magnates, probably early in the 14th century. It may be of interest to note that Samogitia is a part of Lithuania that is today known as Žemaitija. Palanga is located on the shores of the Baltic Sea with miles of beaches of pure sand. It is surrounded by pine forests and stands between two hills that are associated with many legends. All of this lends a distinct romantic aura to Palanga.

The lovely Birutė was a priestess (Lith.: Vaidilutė). On an altar at the top of the highest hill in Palanga, she and her vestal companions guarded and kept the sacred fires burning day and night. This was part of the pagan ritual that dated back to the days of the ancient Lithuanians.



The sculpture of Birutė in Palanga, Lithuania taken by the author in 1995. At the base of the statue is carved "Tau Birutė" meaning "To you, Birutė" created by Konstancija Petrikaitė -Tulienė in 1965.

The chance meeting and the marriage of Grand Duke Keštutis and Birutė became a beautiful love story, and a legend.

Grand Duke Keštutis was on his way home to Trakai after defeating the Teutonic Knights in battle, and stopped at Palanga. One day, while riding on horseback, he saw a beautiful maiden walking barefoot along the beach. She had long, blonde braids with a wreath of ruta on her head, and was wearing an amber necklace around her neck. He was charmed by her beauty. He wanted her to be his wife, and asked for her hand in marriage. At first, she did not consent because she was a priestess. According to pagan custom, she promised the gods to preserve her chastity until the end of her days, and was herself honored as a goddess.

But, how could she say "no" to a Grand Duke of Lithuania? Keštutis took her from there by force, and accompanied her with great respect to Trakai, his residence. He invited his brothers, took Birutė as his wife, and held a large wedding feast.

Kęstutis, like his brother Algirdas, was married twice. Nothing is known about his first wife: her name, where she came from, or what became of her. Kęstutis and Birutė were parents of three sons, that much is certain. Some historians think that there may have been a fourth son, but that cannot be proven. Since historians surmise that Kęstutis was born about 1300, so he must have been close to 50 years of age when he took Birutė for his second wife. She may have been half his age, considering the fact that she became the mother of three sons and three daughters.

Their first child, a son, was born about 1350 at the palace in Trakai. Little did they realize then, that this baby boy would some day become the most famous of all of Lithuania's rulers. He was named Vytautas, and in his later years, became known as Vytautas the Great.

Birutė and Kęstutis did not live happily ever after, unfortunately. The villain who ended the marriage, and brought their lives to a tragic end, was the son of his brother, Algirdas. His name was Jogaila.

Jogaila engineered a coup in 1182 that removed Grand Duke Kęstutis as ruler of Lithuania. He and his son Vytautas were arrested and imprisoned. Kęstutis died in prison under mysterious circumstances. Vytautas, fearing for his life, managed to escape and eventually made his way to Prussia. He was given refuge by Lithuania's greatest enemy, the Teutonic Knights. According to some historians, Kęstutis sent Birutė to Brasta for safety before all of this political upheaval occurred.

(Note: Brasta is a city about 185 miles southwest of Vilnius, and was formerly known

"BIRUTE HAS BEEN REVERED FOR CENTURIES BECAUSE SHE GAVE LITHUANIA ONE OF ITS GREATEST AND MOST BELOVED RULERS, VYTAUTAS THE GREAT."

as Brest-Litovsk. It was then a part of the principality of Trakai, which was ruled by Kęstutis. Today it is a part of Belarus.)

What really happened to Kęstutis and the other members of his family? Some historians say that Jogaila ordered the execution of Kęstutis; his wife, Birutė; her brother, Vydimantas, and other relatives of Kęstutis' family.

Some interesting information as to how

Kęstutis and Birutė met their fate can be found in the book, "Jogaila", published in Kaunas in 1935 and written by the noted Lithuanian author, A. Šapoka.

According to some Lithuanian sources, Kęstutis was murdered on orders from Jogaila, while other historians do not agree. Vytautas, after he was given refuge in Prussia, gave written statements to the magistrate of the Teutonic Order that Jogaila and his brother Skirgaila took away his lands, murdered his father and mother, and had him put in prison. Another Teutonic Order memorandum stated that Jogaila strangled Kęstutis and drowned Birutė. But, who knows what actually did happen?

Another legend about Birutė, and it is only that, states that she returned to her native Palanga after the death of Kęstutis and remained devoted to her pagan gods until she died there in 1389. It is believed that she was buried on, or near, the hill by her sons Vytautas and Žygimantas at her request. This hill is well known by Lithuanians as "Birutės Kalnas", or translated into English, means "Birutė's Hill". A chronicle written by Motiejus Strijkovskis in 1582 stated that the hill in Palanga, at that time, was believed to be her burial ground. Because the local

population adored her, it was named in her honor. People came here quite often to pray to her, but with the passage of time, this practice gradually faded.

There is a high-relief sculpture that graces one of the paths that lead to the top of the hill. It is the figure of a young woman standing on a stone pedestal with the words inscribed: "Tau, Birutė." These words may not mean much, or to convey much feeling to the average tourist who sees it, but to the Lithuanians those two little words convey a

deep feeling of love and respect for her. In effect, they are telling her that this sculpture is dedicated "to you, Birutė" because we love you, and it expresses a love that has not faded over the centuries. It created by the noted Lithuanian sculptor, Konstancija Petrikaitė-Tulienė in 1965.

The exact year is not known, but the pastor of Palanga had a small house of worship built at the top of "Birutės Kalnas" to give the area a more Christian meaning, and named it "St. George's chapel". This wooden structure decayed and began to crumble as the years went by, and another one was constructed in its place. This one, too, eventually suffered from the ravages of time and was in dire need of repair. In 1868 it was replaced with a red brick, octagon-shaped, neo-Gothic chapel designed by Karl Meer and still stands there today. Legend has it that it was built on the very spot that Birutė guarded and kept the sacred fires burning.

The beautiful hill named in her honor is still regarded by many Lithuanians as a national shrine. Birutė has been revered for centuries because she gave Lithuania one of its greatest and most beloved rulers, Vytautas the Great.

Footnote to history:

The name of Vytautas was, and still is, one of the most popular names given to Lithuanian sons by their parents. There are so many men bearing that name that a club, "Vytautu Klubas", was founded several years ago. They hold meetings from time to time.

What a coincidence that the man who helped Lithuania to break loose from the shackles of the Soviet Union also carries the name of Vytautas.

That man is Vytautas Landsbergis.



Did You Know? Birutės Hill in Palanga towers over the Palanga Botanical Park, built in 1897-1907, which contains over 200 varieties of trees and shrubs, one of the richest and most beautiful parks in Lithuania.

In Memoriam

Evelyn Niksa

C-152, E. Long Island, NY

March 1, 1997

Adela Emanuele

C-19, Pittsburgh, PA

Helen Ambrose

C-110, Maspeth, NY

Feb. 17, 1997

William Yankowski

C-136, Hudson Mohawk, NY

Charles Krusa

C-38, Kenosha, WI

March 4, 1997

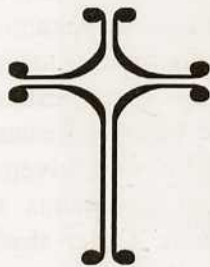
Francis L. Barry

C-147, St. Petersburg, FL

Oct. 30, 1996

May their souls rest in the peace of our Lord.

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



Bertha Stoskus - Candidate for Honorary Membership

When one dreams one thinks of what is possible. When the dream is realized it becomes a source of pride and joy to all. Such has been the history of the Lithuanian community in the state of Rhode Island. The first dream realized was the establishment of St. Casimir Church in 1919. The second dream realized was the establishment of Council 103 of the Knights of Lithuania in 1931. The third dream realized was when Bertha Savickis Stoskus became a member of the council in 1941. Each event, a dream fulfilled, has become a source of pride and joy to the Lithuanian Community in Rhode Island.

Born on August 21, 1924, in Providence, Rhode Island, Bertha was raised in a family with three siblings by her immigrant parents from the Žemaitija region of Lithuania. Her father instilled in the children an exceptional pride in their heritage and a strong sense of Lithuanian nationalism. Before beginning public school in Providence, the children were taught the Lithuanian national anthem by him. Her mother instilled in the children a love and respect for the traditions and customs of their homeland. Prior to the establishment of St. Casimir School, Lithuanian nuns from Worcester, Massachusetts taught Bertha and other immigrant parents' children the Lithuanian language and provided them with religious instruction on Saturday mornings. Thus, before ever thinking of joining the Knights of Lithuania, Bertha was embodied with the spirit of the organization's motto, "Del Dievo Ir Tėvynės."

Bertha continued to strengthen her allegiance and dedication to the organization when she met John Stoskus at a K. of L. function and later married him in 1952. Following their marriage, they lived in Chicago where they were active in Council 112. Moving to Providence in 1957, they joined Council 103 and assisted in reactivating the nearly dormant group. Together they served



Council 103 and the national organization in an untiring manner. Council 103 hosted the Knights of Lithuania National Convention in 1977 which Bertha and John Co-Chaired along with Fr. Anthony Jurgelaitis of Providence College. The convention is remembered as one of the most successful in the organization's history. John was posthumously awarded Honorary Membership in 1981. Today, Bertha continues on in that tradition. Since joining the Knights of Lithuania in 1941, she has served and held office in Council 103 in various capacities: President, Vice-President, Corresponding Secretary, Secretary, Cultural Chair, Lithuanian Affairs Chair, convention delegate, various fund raising committees chair, and always a dependable volunteer. Bertha's commitment to "God and Country" has been manifested in a variety of ways beyond the Knights of Lithuania. Her parish activities have included membership in both the junior and senior choirs, the Mothers' Guild, and various parish committees including the Fiftieth and Seventy-Fifth Anniversary Committees. Also, she participated on the St. Casimir Church committee for the 600th Anniversary of Christianity in Lithuania in 1986. Venturing into the civic arena, Bertha has served as the Lithuanian representative to the City of Providence Heritage Committee and was instrumental in bringing the Čiurlionis Ensemble

to the City of Providence in 1978. In 1979, she served on the committee that established a Lithuanian Resource Collection at the Providence College Library and Providence Public Library to observe the 500th Anniversary of the establishment of the University of Vilnius.

Reflecting on her many accomplishments, Bertha cited her work to establish the Lithuanian Heritage Sub-Committee as part of Rhode Island's celebration of the American Bicentennial as the most meaningful and personally satisfying. For the first time Lithuanians statewide came together to bring to the attention of their fellow citizens the heritage that was the source of their strong ethnic pride. Ethnic exhibits, participation in the state Ethnic Heritage Parade, a Kučios at the Rhode Island State House, a Celebrated Mass on the plaza of the state capital, the presentation of a Rūpintojėlis to the now governor and a Lithuanian buffet at the Governor's inaugural reception are cherished and lasting memories for her. The 1975 National Convention in New York hold another cherished memory for Bertha - it was there that Bertha and her sisters, Beatrice and Ruth, received their Fourth Degree Medals for their service to the Knights of Lithuania.

Currently, Bertha's energies are dedicated to service to the New England District. Having held the offices of Corresponding Secretary and Secretary, she was elected President of the New England District in 1991 and has continued in that post to the present. Her able leadership is the source of the smooth and successful running of the district, now facing a declining and aging membership. Diligent, conscientious, uncomplaining, cheerful and hopeful are adjectives that have characterized her well in the past and in her present role. At present, Bertha feels up to the challenge and will continue to serve the Knights of Lithuania in the spirit of "Del Dievo ir Tėvynės."

"Honor" may be variously defined as credit for acting well, sticking to action that is right, acting in a usual or expected manner, great respect or high regard. Any definition applies to Bertha as a person and her membership in the Knights of Lithuania. "Honorary" may be defined as given or done as an honor. Therefore, it is truly fitting and most appropriate that the Knights of Lithuania's highest award, Honorary Membership, be conferred upon Bertha Savickis Stoskus.



Aid To Lithuania, Inc.'s 4th Annual Perles Golf Tournament

The 4th Annual George Perles Golf Invitational benefiting Aid to Lithuania, Inc. tee's off Friday June 13, 1997 on the fairways of the championship Golden Fox - Fox Hills Country Club in Plymouth, Michigan. Once again fellow Lithuanian American, George Perles, former head coach of Michigan State University will host the event along with Bob Boris, Pres. of ATL.

As ATL's largest fund-raiser of the year, guests will have a chance to compete for vacation giveaways, win the "closest to the pin contest," shoot "the longest drive," have a cocktail with George Perles and be photographed with the Piston's Automotion Dance Team!

After 18 holes of golf, a cocktail reception awaits at the luxurious club house, where guests will be joined by a large group of Detroit area Lithuanians for the Awards Banquet which will be emceed by the hilarious Al Rugienius, Jr. After dinner, an outstanding orchestra will provide music for your dancing pleasure..... and don't forget the "silent auction" featuring extraordinary items and sports memorabilia.

This year, we expect golfers from Toronto, Chicago and Cleveland to participate and challenge the "Unbeatable Foursome" from Grand Rapids, MI, who have walked away with the winning trophies for the last three years! There will be a special prize to the foursome that beats them.

Call Bob Boris, President of ATL, (810) 682-0098 for more details about attending the tournament, banquet or just getting involved.

1996 Knights of Lithuania Contributions To AID TO LITHUANIA, INC.

Supreme Council	\$2,250.00
C - 110 Maspeth, NY	1,000.00
C - 144 Anthracite, PA	1,000.00
Mid America District	500.00
C - 90 Kearny, NJ	500.00
C - 63 Lehigh Valley, PA	400.00
C - 102 Detroit, MI	400.00
C - 96 Dayton, OH	320.00
C - 143 Pittston, PA	307.40
C - 29 Newark, NJ	300.00
C - 79 Southfield, MI	300.00
Amber District	221.00
C - 109 Great Neck, NY	200.00
C - 112 Chicago, IL - Marquette Park	154.00
C - 26 Worcester, MA	123.00
New England District	100.00
Mid Atlantic District	100.00
Mid Central District	100.00
C - 3 Philadelphia, PA	100.00
C - 50 New Haven, CT	100.00
C - 52 Elizabeth, NJ	100.00
C - 86 DuBois, PA	100.00
C - 100 Amsterdam, NY	100.00
C - 103 Providence, RI	100.00
C - 118 Hazelton, PA	100.00
C - 141 Bridgeport, CT	100.00
C - 153 Treasure Coast, FL	100.00
C - 156 Shamokin, PA	100.00
C - 136 Hudson Mohawk, NY	25.00
TOTAL: \$9,300.40	



*Aid To Lithuania, Inc's
container number 44, being loaded
on February 17, 1997 with medical
supplies bound for Lithuania,
thanks to all our
generous donors.*



Lithuanians and Golf

According to the 20th Century Golf Chronicle, Lithuanians were noted trophy winners. In 1931, Billy Burke (Burkauskas) won the 1931 U.S. Open at the Inverness Club in Toledo, Ohio. Burke, who resided in Naugatuck, near Waterbury, CT, beat his opponent, George Von Elm, by one stroke (148-149) in a second 36-hole playoff. They had played the longest playoff in major championship history (72 holes).



In 1933, another Lithuanian, Johnny Goodman of Nebraska, turned golfdom's head when he won the 1933 U.S. Open as an amateur. Known as "Little Slam", Goodman scored a shocking upset when he defeated Ralph Guldahl at the North Shore Country Club in Glenview, IL. He was the fifth and last amateur to win the title.

Goodman in 1937 completed his personal career by defeating Ray Billows in the U.S. Amateur championship in Portland, Oregon.



PONTIFICIO COLLEGIO LITUANO S. CASIMIRO

Rome, April 1997

ANNUAL APPEAL TO THE WESTERN LITHUANIAN COMMUNITIES BY THE PONTIFICAL LITHUANIAN COLLEGE/SEMINARY OF ST. CASIMIR IN ROME

Sunday, April 20, has been designated by the Holy Father as the thirty-fourth annual **World Day of Prayer for Vocations**. As he has each year, the Holy Father has directed the attention of all church members, both religious and secular, toward their duty and responsibility to foster vocations. Certainly, it is most appropriate that the prayers of all the faithful include petitions for an increased response to God's call to religious service.

In all the dioceses of the world, this day of prayer will be established. It will also be observed in Lithuania, where as we well know an increase in positive responses to vocations has become most urgent. The Day of Prayer will be observed by us, Lithuanians, in the Diaspora, who are very much aware of the support needed by the now three seminaries, the reactivated parishes and organizations in the homeland. Even our own parishes and organizations which were established with great effort and sacrifice by our predecessors are now facing extreme difficulty without Lithuanian clergy. We would most sincerely hope that these parishes could be maintained to minister to the yet-remaining parishioners of Lithuanian birth or heritage. A lack of adequate responses by Lithuanian young men to the call to priestly service is as critical to us living outside the borders of Lithuania as it is in the homeland.

We, therefore, ask that in your prayers you also include the intentions of this our unique college/seminary for Lithuanians in Rome. On our part, the college with great joy thanks God and to our benefactors who have so faithfully stood with us.

When the academic year ends this June, fifteen young priests will have merited advanced academic degrees; **three will receive doctorate degrees and twelve will be awarded licentiate degrees** (a theological degree equivalent to a secular Masters). This achievement, by so many at the same time, may be unprecedented in the history of the Lithuanian Catholic Church. We commend these young priests to you, brother and sister Lithuanians, and beseech you to provide whatever help you can, coupled with friendship and with fervent and unending prayers as they embark on a difficult ministry in Lithuania. We know all too well the damage perpetrated on the spirituality and morality of Lithuania during the recent occupation.

Of course, the operation and mission of St. Casimir college will not end with the graduation of these students. We await the arrival of a new group of students from Lithuania for the coming academic year. There is always a need to provide the communities of believers, whether in Lithuania or in the Diaspora with well-prepared clergy trained in advanced theology or philosophy which is usually available in Rome or other foreign universities. Almost all the nations of the world have established colleges like St. Casimir's in Rome. We believe that having a college in Rome

will be a continuing requirement for Lithuania as it is for other nations of the world.

The Lithuanian College in Rome has an obligation to continue to fulfill its unique mission.

Where, other than at the center of the Universal Church, could a young Lithuanian priest adequately prepare himself for pastoral work in Lithuanian or among Lithuanians wherever they might be found.

As previously in my annual letters, so in this one, **my basic purpose is threefold:**

1. **To request prayers** for those being called to the religious life and those who have already responded to the call that they might accept and persevere in their vocations. We need many holy priests both in Lithuania and in the Diaspora.

2. **To invite assistance** for our establishment (St. Casimir's College in Rome) through material gifts. It is our duty to guarantee its future.

3. **To invite new benefactors** into our ranks. Each year we find that more and more of our existing benefactors are lost through death, poor health, relocation back to Lithuania, etc. In order that our College be able to continue, it is imperative that these spaces be refilled. For that reason we ask our present benefactors and friends be alert to recruit new benefactors.

We are most appreciative of all your efforts. We are making this same appeal to the entire Lithuanian community through the Lithuanian-language press (and radio): Draugas, Darbininkas, Tėviškės Žiburiai, Vytis, Tėviškės Aidai (in Australia). We believe that we will receive a good response.

On behalf of the staff, students and sisters at the College, my sincere thanks to all those who have demonstrated their solidarity through kindness and friendship. Once again, I ask for your support your prayers and your moral, spiritual and material assistance. For our part, we will as always include in our prayers the intentions of all our benefactors, both living and dead.

With respect and thanks,
Prel. Al. Bartkus, Rector

Checks and new Benefactor's name and address - fill in and send to:

Pontificio Collegio Lituano
c/o Mons. Al. Bartkus
V. Casalmonferrato, 20
00182 Roma - Italia

In the United States, a tax deductible gift can be made through:

St. Casimir Guild
c/o Mrs. Anne Wargo
125 S. Morris St.
St. Clair, PA. 17970

Knights of Lithuania
84th NATIONAL CONVENTION
AUGUST 7-10, 1997

Convention Site: Holiday Inn and Homewood Suites
I-675 Conference Center
Fairborn/Dayton, Ohio
Host: Council 96



CONVENTION REGISTRATION FORM

Name: _____ Council No. _____
(Please Print)

Street: _____ Phone No. _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Name or Nickname as you prefer it to be shown on your badge: _____

Approximate Arrival (Date/Time) _____ Plane or Automobile

Approximate Departure (Date/Time) _____

I will attend as: (circle one) Delegate Alternate Guest Junior Clergy Honorary Member

I will participate in the Pre-Convention activity \$40.00 (circle one) Yes No

Enclosed check in the amount of \$ _____

(Payable to Knights of Lithuania Council 96)

Mail to:

Lauretta Pant, Registration Coordinator
3247 Ravenwood Drive
Fairborn, Ohio 45324-2227
(937) 878-8589

Early Registration: \$115.00

After June 1, 1997: \$120.00

Juniors Registration: \$ 60.00

Be sure to make your hotel reservations under the Knights of Lithuania before
July 1, 1997 to qualify for the special rates.

The Dayton K. of L. Family wants

by Fran Petkus and Elinor Sluzas

With the 84th National Convention fast approaching, like a wedding, we are busy tying up "loose ends" in anticipation of your arrival. It takes many hands working together to prepare for a national convention, as you well know. In this segment of our convention articles we would like you to "meet" some of those members from C #96 who are working hard to make your convention and visit to the Dayton area very special.

Fr. Michael Holloran is our Spiritual Advisor. Father had the opportunity to meet many Knights in September of 1996 when C#96 hosted the MCD Fall Convention /Pilgrimage. Fr. Mike is very supportive of the Knights and looks forward to meeting you.

Our General Chairman is James Geiger. Jim is our councils treasurer and is President of Holy Cross, Parish Council, a member of our parish choir and a 'Vejeliai Dancer'. Chairing a national convention is a first for Jim but he has chaired many other projects including Dayton's Annual World A'Fair several years for the Lithuanian community.

On our convention committee (photo page 17) In the 1st row (sitting) L - R: Annamarie Sluzas Berger who is chair of the Closing Banquet/Ball. Annamarie has 'grown-up,' in the K of L with her beginnings as a Junior. Annamaire has held many positions with C #96 including Vice

President in charge of Juniors, Condolence Chair and Chaired numerous other projects. Christine Mantz Fletcher also moved into the council from the Juniors. Christine has been C #96 Vice President in

charge of Juniors and has also chaired or been on many committees. For the convention, Chris is on the Junior Activities Committee and helping at the Saturday Banquet. At present, Christine is C #96's Vice President in charge of Juniors. Robert (Rob) Pant,* another former Junior and now C #96 President, is Chair of the Pre-Convention Tour of Dayton. Rob is also a 'Vejeliai Dancer' and has been very active in the council. Elena Mikalauskas, another former Junior, has been council president and at present is MCD President and C#96 Vice President of special projects. Elena is on the Pre-Convention Tour Committee and has many ideas to "discover Dayton".

Norma Petkus has been part of the council for many years. Norma is on the Junior Activities, Registration and Pre-Convention Tour Committees. Norma is also a 'Vejeliai Dancer, (of which she has hand crafted many of dancer's shirts, etc.) and a member of our parish choir.

2nd Row (also sitting) L - R: Loretta Pant, a former Junior, C #96 Recording Secretary and Coordinator for

Hotel Reservations and Convention Registration. If you have any problems with the hotel, Loretta will be there to help you. Betty Nash is helping with



*(top) Spiritual Advisor,
Fr. Michael Holloran
(bottom) Dayton
Convention Chairman,
Jim Geiger*



YOU in their August 1997 album

Registration. Connie Geiger has been busy collecting all kinds of "goodies" to give you when you register. Connie Chairs this very special project. Connie is on the Program Book Committee, is our parish choir director and C #96 Photographer. Fran Petkus is Coordinator for the convention Masses and Co-Publicity Chair. Fran is also the convention treasurer. Fran is an Honorary Member and has held many positions in the organization, including National President. At present she is on the Honorary Membership Committee for the MCD.

3rd row (standing) L - R: Henry Pant is C #96 Sgt-at-Arms and Chair of our council's library.

He will be busy at the registration tables. Henry is with the Greene County Sheriff's Department. Need help in that area, see Henry. Elinor Sluzas is Chair of the Cultural Night, Co-Publicity Chair and Chair of the Pre-Banquet Cocktail Party. She is also on the Saturday Banquet and Mass Arrangements Committees. Elinor is an Honorary Member and has held many positions in the organization. Jim Geiger, the 84th National Convention Chair, you have met. Judy Petrokas is Chair of the National Convention Program Book. Judy is Recording Secretary for the National Convention Committee and is on the Mass Arrangements Committee. Judy, a past president of C #96, has held many positions in the council. George Mikalauskas is on the committee making arrangements for the Masses. George is Trustee for C #96 and MCD Coordinator for the MCD Special Recognition Award. George is well known throughout the K of L for his hand crafted artifacts and shrines.

Other members of the national convention



Dayton 1997 Convention Committee

committee not present for the photo are: Elaine Pacovsky, Chair of the "Anti-up for Charity" Get-together on Thursday and her committee: Catherine Prasmantas, Kathy Sinkwitz. Molly Geiger, 'Vejeliai Dancers' instructor, Program Book and special gifts for the Juniors Committees. Registration committee members are Linda Pant, Ann Boeke (our Grand Rapids, MI member), Rita Ambrose and Joyce Berczelly. Michael Petkus, at present stationed in the Bronx, NY with the Marines, is Chair of Junior Activities. Also on the committee is Jams Pacovsky and Julie Goecke, Joseph E. Mantz Mass Committee; Mark Bell (our Nashville, TN member) is Chair of the Sunday Morning Brunch. Aldona Ryan, Honorary Member, is Chair of the Artifacts Committee. Plus other members who will be there for you!

IT IS NOW COUNT DOWN TIME UNTIL WE SEE YOU - AUGUST 6 - 10, 1997!!!!

Pavasarielio trumpa naktuzė

*Pavasarielio trumpa naktuzė,
Dar mano mergelė miegelio nori. (2x)*

*Imsiu kirvelį, kirsiu langelį,
Nušviesiu mergelei tamsiąją klėtę. (2x)*

Moderato

The musical score is written for piano in 3/4 time, featuring a treble and bass clef. The tempo is marked 'Moderato'. The score is divided into four systems, each with two staves. The first system includes the markings 'dolce' and 'mp'. The second system includes the marking 'p'. The third system includes the marking 'rit...'. The score contains various musical notations including notes, rests, and fingerings (e.g., 1, 2, 3, 4, 5). The piece concludes with a double bar line.

Vincas Kudirka, a brief biography

by John R. Mankus

Vincas Kudirka was born on the last day of December in 1858 in the village of Paežeriai in the district of Marijampolė. After graduating Marijampolė High School, he entered Seinų Seminary at his father's urging. After two years at the seminary, he realized that priesthood was not his calling and went back to Marijampolė High School for additional courses. Next, he entered Warsaw University to study philosophy and later, medicine.

With no funds from home, he worked his way through college. He also earned money by translating works of Karl Marx which was forbidden by the Czar. This resulted in a two year expulsion from the University by Czarist police for political activity. Vincas Kudirka finally graduated in 1890 with a degree in medicine. Until his death in November 16th, 1899, he dedicated his life to the awakening of both nobility and peasantry to the truth, beauty and greatness of Lithuanian history, language and culture.

With the cessation of printing of the newspaper *Aušra* in 1888, Kudirka immediately takes steps to start a new newspaper and with the support of several colleagues, in 1889, he began the publication of *Varpas*. In *Varpas* he established "Tėvynės Varpą" column where for ten years he wrote patriotic articles on all phases of life including religion, health, humor, philosophy, culture and struggle for independence.

In many of his articles, he wrote about his struggle and other Lithuanian students' struggle to keep their Lithuanian heritage. In Marijampolė High School and Seinų Seminary, pupils were taught in Polish and to a lesser degree, Russian. Lithuanian was the language of "peasants".



Dr. Vincas Kudirka

With education, whether it be high school, seminary or university, most of the Lithuanian students became little "Polish gentleman". Many would not speak Lithuanian at all, except to communicate with servants and peasants. Kudirka writes that for a time he also became a "Polish gentleman" and always tried to speak Polish with other students.

He even felt embarrassed speaking Lithuanian with his parents. During their visits, he would take them to out of the way places and away from other students so they would not be able to hear them speak Lithuanian.

After a time however, he was ashamed of his behavior and felt that he was participating in destroying his native heritage. He awoke to become a great patriot of Lithuanian language, music and culture. His accomplishments are many, besides *Lietuvos Himnas* and the newspaper *Varpas*, he wrote volumes of articles, poems, songs, children's educational books many short stories and novels. His more famous works include, *Lietuvos Tiltas Atsiminimai*, *Vilkai*, *Cenzūros Klausimas*, *Laisvos Valandos*, *Tiesas Eilėms Rašyti* and poems *Varpas*, *Labora*, *Ne Tas Yra Didis*, *Maniesiems* and many others. He also translated great number of books from Polish, Russian and German into Lithuanian.



Did You know? In Paežeriai, the birthplace of Vincas Kudirka, there is an old granary, the town's oldest building. It currently houses a collection of Kudirka's writings and personal artifacts. A memorial stone dedicated to him can also be found on that farmstead.

Lithuanians in the News



Three notable Lithuanians met at the C-102, Detroit February 16 Independence celebration. (l to r) Kestutis Miskinis, president D.L.O.C.; Major Valdemaras Sarapinas, military attaché to the Lith. Embassy in Washington and Bob Boris, President of Aid to Lithuania, Inc.



Orphaned in America

The tragic news covered on television and in newspapers in New York City regarding the horrendous murder of two Lithuanian-born immigrants on Easter Sunday occupied much of the Knights of Lithuania Council No. 41 meeting on Sunday, April 6th. Killed were Jūratė and Rimgaudas Dainys, brutally murdered on Easter Sunday morning by Abel Rosas, an obsessed coworker of Jūratė. Eight year old Lukas Dainys, son of the murdered couple, was left a brokenhearted orphan. His parents came to America, the dreamland, to give him a nice life and education. This tragedy left him alone.

The heartbroken Lukas has since left New York and returned to Lithuania to live with his grandmother in Kaunas.

C - 41 wishes to spearhead a collection of funds for the young Lukas during the next few months, which will be collected and invested in a bank in New York as a trust for Lukas when he becomes 18 years old. We Vyčiai of Council No. 41 turn to all Vyčiai, to open their hearts and respond with donations. Donations for the Lukas Dainys Education Fund can be sent to: K. of L. Council No. 41 / Annunciation Church, 259 North 5th Street, Brooklyn, New York 11211.

Lithuanian Dog Lover

Kenneth Walles, General Manager of the Hotel Pennsylvania near Madison Square Garden in New York, son of C-110's members Evelyn and Ignes Walles, graciously played host to a third of the Westminster Kennel Club's annual show dogs. His hotel is one of the few that accommodate these pedigreed pooches each year. While dog biscuits replaced candy in the glass bowls at the front desk, Walles also made sure copies of the City's Health Law 1310, the pooper-scooper act, were placed on each bed.

When asked about pedigree by an owner of a Westminster canine champion, Walles noted "his pedigree was Lithuanian". -*NY Daily News*

Twin Hoopsters at Southampton

Evelyna and Rita Breivaite, 19 year old twins from Panevežys, were invited by Southampton College, NY, to play basketball as members of the "Lady Colonials".

As young school girls, they were taller than most and their gym teacher recommended they play basketball. By high school, they were stars in the Panevežys team competing in an inter-town circuit.

In a growing trend to recruit outstanding athletes from abroad, the Breivaites were offered scholarships to play basketball and study in the United States.

While they were reluctant to leave their parents and younger brother behind, they were eager to embark on their new adventure. Knowledge of English was crucial upon their arrival last summer and it is reported they are excellent students and playing well. -

Southampton Press and Peter Dykovitz, C-152

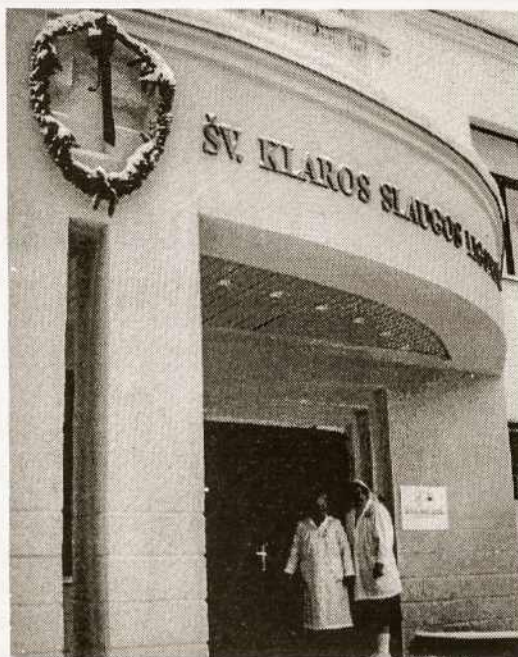


Food for Thought

Everyone wants to be loved. If they can't be loved, they want to be feared. If they can't be feared they must be hated. Everyone needs recognition of existence.



**The Good Work goes on
at St. Clare's Hospice in
Utena, Lithuania**



Before renovation (top left) and After (top right) photos of the new St. Clare's Hospice in Utena. (Bottom left) Sister Dolorita (standing at left) and Dr. Brazeniene (bottom left) entertain patients and children at the hospice Christmas party on 12/27/96. One generous but anonymous K. of L.'er even donated the new refrigerator /freezer for the hospice kitchen.

Useful phrases for a trip by train...

I want a ticket to Kaunas.

express train

first class, second class, third class

You have to pay for extra weight.

Here are the tickets for the luggage.

Take your seats.

The train is going to start.

When does the train arrive?

When does the train leave for...?

That trunk is too heavy for you.

Get a porter and let him carry it.

Prašau bilietą į Kauną.

greitasis traukinys

pirmos klasės, antros klasės, trečios klasės

Turėsit primokėti už viršaus svorį.

Štai čia bagažo bilietai.

Užimkit savo vietas.

Traukinys tuoj išeina.

Kada ateina traukinys?

Kada traukinys išeina į ...?

Ta daiktadėtė tamstai per sunki.

Paimkit nešėją ir duokit jam nešti.

From Lithuanian Self-Taught, 1958, M.

Variakojytė-Inkenienė, Fifth Edition



Lithuanian Chefs

Tasty Appetizers & Salads

Stuffed Chicken in Aspic *Įdaryta višta drebučiuose*

- 1 medium chicken
- 1/2 lb. veal
- 2 tablespoons bread crumbs
- 1 egg
- 1 cup milk
- 2 carrots
- 1 onion
- Pepper, salt, parsley

Wash chicken, cut off neck and wing tips. Skin carefully, taking care not to tear the skin. Leave wings and drumsticks attached, bone in.

Bone the chicken meat, add the veal and grind in meat grinder. Chop the onion and saute in chicken fat. Add bread crumbs, onion, salt and pepper to meat and grind once again. Place mixture in bowl, add egg and milk and stir to mix well. Mixture should be light and fluffy.

Sew up the chicken skin leaving an opening. Stuff with the mixture and completely sew up the opening. Wrap the

chicken in cheesecloth, put in a pot, pour in cold water to cover. Add carrots, parsley, bay leaves and cook over low heat 1 - 1 1/2 hours. Add salt during the last part of cooking. When cooked, press the chicken and cool in the broth where it cooked.

When cool. remove chicken from the pot, unwrap cheesecloth, remove thread. Cut into slices, taking care not to spoil its shape, arrange (on its back) on a platter and pour broth over it. Chill.

This dish is ready to serve when chilled.

Red Beet Salad with Onions *Burokėlių salotos su svogūnais*

- 4 medium red beets
- 2 medium onions
- 1/2 cup distilled vinegar
- 1 bay leaf
- 6 both kinds of peppercorns
- 1 teas. sugar, salt to taste

Marinade: Boil water with spices, add wine vinegar to taste, salt, sugar. Cool, pour over beets.

Peel boiled beets and grate coarsely. Add chopped onions,

pour marinade over the mixture and let stand a couple of hours in a cool place. Then add salt to taste, sugar, a few tablespoons of oil, mix and place in salad bowl. Serve with dark meats and herring.

Tomatoes Stuffed with Mushrooms

Pomidorai įdaryti grybais

- 10 medium tomatoes
- 1 large onion
- 1/2 cup oil
- 1/2 lb. dried mushrooms
- 2 tablespoons bread crumbs
- Salt, pepper to taste

Wash and dry firm tomatoes, cut off tops, scoop out seeds and pulp. Very lightly sprinkle with salt and pepper.

Saute finely chopped onion in oil until golden, add chopped cooked mushrooms, bread crumbs, salt, pepper, mix and saute mixture briefly.

Stuff tomatoes with above mixture, cover with tomato tops, secure with toothpick. Place in baking dish, not touching each other and bake in 300 degree oven, 15-20 minutes. Check frequently to avoid splitting of tomato skins. Remove from oven and baste with pan juices. Leave in baking dish until cooled. Serve cold.

Fellow Knights and readers are encouraged to send in favorite recipes to the editors' address on inside cover.

DISTRICT & COUNCIL NEWS

Mid-Atlantic District

HM Mary Kober

On a beautiful but crisp Sunday March 9th morning, approximately 40 members and guests boarded the bus in Maspeth for Schenectady which was sponsored by Maspeth C-110. We arrived for Mass at Holy Cross Church in Schenectady. Mass was celebrated by Rev. Bernard Gustas, spiritual advisor of C-136, our hosts Hudson-Mohawk. Immediately following, a delicious luncheon was served in St. Mary's Parish Hall also in Schenectady.

Meeting was opened with a prayer by MAD Pres. Ed Barkowski. Lynn McCafferty, president of host C-136 greeted all members and guests to the meeting. A moment of silence was rendered for Anthony Kober of C-109 and other members who have recently passed away. The President reported on a few highlights held at the Supreme Council meeting in Philadelphia in October. 1st Vice President (Membership) Mary Abbott spoke about how new members could be canvassed. 2nd Vice Pres. (Juniors) Bernice Aviza spoke about the junior activity in the District. Cultural Chair, Anthony Yacavonis gave a humorous and interesting talk on Lithuanian songs and music, promising to "bring his mandolin" for a sing-a-long at the next meeting. Ritual Chair Joseph Zukas informed there were

On the Calendar...

District Conventions:

Mid-Central Dist., C-102 hosts, May 16-18, 1997

Amber District, St. Casimir's Church, St. Clair, PA June 1, '97

Mid-Atlantic Dist., hosts C-110, Sept. 28, 1997

National Convention:

C-96 Dayton, OH Hosts, August 7-10, 1997

James Geiger, Conv. Chmn. (937) 836-7996

Robt. Pant, C-96 Pres. (937) 228-8641

Other Events: ATL's 4th Annual George Perles Invitational

June 13, 1997 Plymouth, MI - Bob Boris (810) 682-0098

several third degree recipients. However, he congratulated Isabelle Valentine of C-110 who was the only one attending who received her third degree at the morning mass. Becky Nakrosis on the Mandate Committee reported there were 52 delegates in attendance.

Several resolutions were unanimously accepted. A resolution was accepted to amend the scheduling of district meetings to April and September instead of March/September, due to unpredictable weather in March. Donations were made in amounts of \$100 to Aid to Lithuania; \$100 to Scholarship Committee; \$100 to Lithuanian Catholic Religious Aid; \$50. for 1/2 page ad in the Convention journal; and \$100. to Special Olympics, Eddy Skamarakas, a Lithuanian who was diagnosed with Down Syndrome, but has won numerous medals in track and field, power lifting, bowling and basketball through the Special Olympics programs. The money will help offset travel expenses.

The highlight of the afternoon was the annual raffle conducted by Raffle Committee Chair, Mary Kober. The following were lucky winners: \$300. Jim Winnery, Schenectady; \$100. Bill Kumeta, C-41; \$50. Mary Shalins, C-41; \$50. Ed Barkowski, C-136; \$25. Knights of Lithuania, Mid-America District, Chicago; \$25. W. Montvilo, C-110; \$25. Helen Lutkus, C-90; \$25. V. Kiukys, C-29. The District thanks all who participated in this raffle. The host council also conducted their raffle wherein many of the members in attendance went home with interesting prizes. Before C-110's bus left for New York, host C-136 graciously set up a table with sandwiches for the members to enjoy on their three hour trip home. Thank you Hudson-Mohawk C-136 for being hospitable.

The next district meeting will be held at the 11:15 a.m. following a Lithuanian Mass at Transfiguration Church, Maspeth, NY on September 28th, 1997 with C-110 as hosts.

AMBER DISTRICT

Agute

Our newest Council, St. Michael's (Shamokin, PA) C-156, were our gracious hosts for the Amber District's St. Casimir's Day celebration on Sunday, March 9. The day dawned bright and clear and made traveling a pleasant experience. Father Ted of Our Lady of Hope Parish and Father Peter, District Spiritual Advisor, were Co-Celebrants of the Mass. Fourth Degrees were bestowed upon John Koons, Mary Labadis, Helen Matunis and Mary Narcavage. Leonard Kapochus was awarded his Third Degree during the afternoon session of the District Meeting. Handling the appropriate ceremonials were John Mickunas, Supreme Council Ritual Chair, and Anne Challan, Dianne Drumstas and Helen Chesko who comprise the Amber District Ritual Committee. Our heartiest congratulations and best wishes to all these recipients!

Richard Laske of C-74 Scranton was the Chairperson for this year's Amber District Raffle. It was a very successful venture and we are most appreciative of everyone's support and interest in this most important project. We thank Dick for taking charge of this year's raffle. A great job! Council 3 Philadelphia will chair this project for next year.

Our thanks to Robert Wislock, President of C-156, and to all the members of C-156 for their gracious hospitality. It was a pleasure to meet and spend



Berzelis Folk Dance Group of Hartford performed at C-10's Lithuanian Independence celebration on Feb. 16.

some time with our newest members. We look forward to being in their company again at our next District Convention.

Ann Wargo invited the Amber District to hold the June meeting in Frackville. Best wishes to all for a Happy Spring.

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

On February 23th our council sponsored the annual Lithuanian Independence Day observance at St. Francis Church in Athol, MA.

After mass, the program began with the invocation given by pastor, Rev. Raymond Messier. The American and Lithuanian anthems were sung. Council president, William Wišniauskas, who was the MC, gave the opening address. He introduced the "Berzelis" folk dance group of Hartford, CT. Its irector is Dalia Dzikas. They

performed six folk dances and later asked the public to dance with them. Berzelis has participated in six Lithuanian folk dance festivals. They occur every four years in the United States and Canada. They were much appreciated by the 175 persons attending.

Mayor Charles J. Manca of Gardner presented a proclamation from the city and named Feb. 23 "Lithuanian Day" in Gardner. Congressman John Olver of Dist. I gave us greetings from Washington. Both gave great speeches. The benediction was given by spiritual advisor, Rev. Joseph Jurgelonis. The program ended with the singing of "Maria, Maria". Later, a Lithuanian style buffet was served to all, about 60 attendees. The chairman was Bill Wišniauskas assisted by Sophia Fiorentino, coffee and pastry chair; Howard Beaudette, supper



C-19's Cultural Affairs Officer, Rob Medonis with guest, Milda Richardson, Lithuanian folklorist at the Prince of Peace Center.

chair; hostesses in national costumes, Nellie Melaika and Bronė Wišniauskas; set up chair, Dr. Henry Gailiunas and Paul Krustapentus, and the entire K. of L. council with food donations. Both dailies gave excellent coverage with pictures.

It is worth noting that one of our members, Beatrice Jodaitis Richard's uncle, Bishop Justinas Staugaitis, was one of the signers of the Lithuanian Declaration of Independence on Feb. 16, 1918.

Get well wishes go to Bob Paluilis who recently had knee surgery.

C - 12, New York, NY

Jeanne Janonis (for Irene Senken)

At our February meeting we had a short program prepared by Dalia Bulvičius commemorating Lithuanian Independence Day - February 16. John Lostys was Master of Ceremonies. The

membership sang the American National Anthem, followed with a short talk by John Lostys on the celebration and meaning of Lithuanian Independence day. A few Lithuanian poems were recited by Aldona Zaunius and the program was closed with the singing of the Lithuanian National Anthem.

On March 2nd we had our annual St. Casimir's Communion Breakfast following the mass; members and guests sat down to a delicious meal prepared by our membership. The following were presented with degrees they had earned in the Knights of Lithuania - our talented pianist and choir director Aldona Kepalaitė received her third degree, John Lostys his second degree and George and Stasė Aleliūnas and Adolfas Kasperaitis their first degrees. Our congratulations to all!

On June 4th - The Annual European Folk Festival will be held at Holy Wisdom Byzantine Catholic Church, 197 Emmans Road, Succasunna, NJ. Rev. Daniel Staniškis (our member) the pastor - invites all "to come on down". Father Daniel's phone is - 201 - 584 - 0414. This is a very enjoyable event - let's get a group together and attend.

At our National Convention this year in Dayton, Ohio, our member Stella Marcinauskis will be receiving her Fourth degree. We are proud of you Stella! Several C-12 members plan to attend.

Vincent and Vida Gendvilas very generously invited a young

Lithuanian physician to share their home with them until August, while he is attending school in the U. S.

C-19, Pittsburgh, PA ***Rob Medonis***

Council-19 and its members have kept up an active schedule. Four of its members, Andrea and John Baltrus, Brian Johnson, and Rob Medonis traveled to Chicago over the Fourth of July weekend for the 10th Lithuanian Folk Dance Festival. These Knights did not stop dancing in Chicago as they were part of the Neris Dancers full time group which performed at the following events between August 1996 and March 1997: Prince of Peace Parish Picnic, Lithuanian Citizens Society's September meeting, Scottdale Coal/ Coke Heritage Festival, Lithuanian Classroom Committee Scholarship Dinner, PPG "Sparkle Season" entertainment, University of Pittsburgh Nationality Rooms Holiday Open House, Lithuanian Language Class/Lithuanian Classroom Committee Christmas Party, Prince of Peace Parish St. Casimir Day Fair, and finally the Lithuanian Independence Day Banquet. Many thanks are in order to Dalia Yucius and Suzanne Plutt who initiated the idea of going full-time and who organized the practices, dances and music. Thanks are also due to Connie Zatek and Sandy Johnson for organizing the children's group.

The Council along with Prince of Peace Parish co-sponsored a Lithuanian folklore lecture on Saturday October 19, 1996 at the Prince of

Peace Parish Center. Milda Richardson, a Lithuanian folklorist from Boston, graciously donated her time to present a very informative lecture on Lithuanian weaving and wood-carving. Thanks go out to Milda Richardson, Connie Zatek for reserving a room on very short notice and helping with PR, and finally to Len Barcoucky, C-19 Treasurer, for donating his slide projector.

C-26, Worcester, MA

Stephen V. Walinsky, Sr.

During the Annual St. Casimir Parish Dinner, two dedicated hard working fourth degree members of Council 26 received recognition from the Parish Council and its parishioners, for their extra effort services that benefit their Parish and our church. Each received a standing ovation plus a blazer, meaningful of, and the equivalent of a Masters Golf Jacket, given for outstanding individual performance.

The Walinsky and Leseman names have been frequently mentioned and in the VYTIS; here they are again, Anna W. and Bill L. rightfully deserving the honor bestowed them for their caring applications.

Rewards are not earned JUST LIKE THAT. Congratulations from all of the Knights of Lithuania.

Despite the threatening weather, a favorable crowd came to the March meeting. Disappointing in one way, but not disheartening, but because the blind auction could have had more bidders if more members had come. Even so, the Aid to Lithuania and its childrens lunch

fund received an appropriation of one hundred and ten dollars. At times during the auction, the bidding resounded like they who bid really wanted the article. Bless the bidders, lads and lasses, for the interest and feelings they have for the orphaned and the impoverished children of Lithuania.

Fr. John Petrauskas gave us a rundown of the tentative planned program for the Holy Hour and Penitential Service which was scheduled for the afternoon of March 16th. The clergy of St. Casimir hosted the faithful for the devotion. Fr. John also mentioned that two priests from Marianapolis College would be visiting and would assist as confessors.

The coffee and pastries were served by the "P" initial group this month. The coffee was good, and the treats were great. Not a crumb was left. We give satisfaction and thanks to them.

How does spaghetti and meatballs sound for our next meeting?

The closing prayer and the singing of the VYČIU hymnas sent vibrant echoes throughout the meeting hall. Such was the mood for the entire evening.

P. S. Wouldn't it be nice if *all* of the members of C-26 came to **Maironis Park on June 1, 1997 for the councils' Annual Picnic?** Also, bring as many guests as you wish.

C-29 Newark, NJ

Rita S. Sussko

The holidays have come and gone and now it is time for Council 29 to resume business as usual.

Our first meeting of the New

Year was held on January 5th. This has been a sad time for us. We had to report the demise of several of our long time members. May they all rest in peace!

On February 2nd we celebrated Lithuanian Independence Day. Our very competent Lithuanian Affairs chairperson, Joseph Russell, conducted the program and gave a most interesting talk on past and present Lithuania. A Proclamation by the Governor of New Jersey was read by Rita Sussko. Joseph then called on members to interject their thoughts and views on the occasion. Anthony Grazulis spoke on the history of Lithuania, past and present. Vladas Audenas extended a Greeting from Bendruomenė. Council 29 extends a big "AČIŪ LABAI" to the Boy Scouts of Council 50, Newark, New Jersey, who were the flag bearers and also served as Altar boys for the Commemoration Mass.

The hostesses for the day were Marie Guoba, Jean Tatoris, Nijole Miknevicus, Ada Andruska and Dana Rogers.

Following the commemoration, we held our February meeting and made plans to celebrate St. Casimir's Annual Communion Breakfast. March 2nd we held our Annual St. Casimir's Communion Breakfast. Mass was celebrated by our Spiritual Advisor, Fr. Peter Uhde. He impressed upon us the hardship endured by St. Casimir and the opposite life style of his father. The path we should try to follow is like that which St. Casimir took.

HM Loretta Stukas did both

readings at Mass. Rita Sussko read the description of each as it was presented to Fr. Pete, by HM Kazys Sipaila, Nijole and Vytautas Miknevičius, Anthony Grazulis, Joseph Russell, Virginia and Harold Kaminskas. Valentinas Tumelis and Vytautas Miknevičius were flag bearers.

Ann O'Neill, Ritual Chairperson, congratulated Lillian Russell and Harold Kaminskas upon receipt of their 3rd Degree. Dana Rogers was our most capable Chairperson, assisted by her hard working committee.

Ada Andruska, Domas Andruska, Marge Brazaitis, Walter Brazaitis, Marie Guoba, Harold Kaminskas, Jean Kaminskas, Betty Luciw, Jennie Miklasavige, Nijole Miknevičius, Vytautas Miknevičius, Helen Radicsh, Joseph Russell, Kazys Sipaila, Loretta Stukas, Rita Sussko and Valentinas Tumelis. Beautiful crosses were the favors and they were all made and donated by our talented Walter Brazaitis.

On March 9th Council 29 was represented at the MAD meeting by Ann O'Neill and Rita Sussko.

LM Vaclovas Kuikys was one of the lucky winners of \$25.00 from the annual District raffle. Council 136 was our most gracious host. We are now looking forward to our next District meeting to be held in Maspeth, NY, in September.

During the Holy season of Lent, after attending Stations of the Cross, those present were invited to partake of a light lunch served by Council members in the church hall.

Happy, Healthy Spring to all.

C - 41, Brooklyn, NY

Dalia Bulvičius

On March 16, a very important event took place at Annunciation parish in Brooklyn, NY. It was the birthday of one of the favorite parishioners and a long time C-41 member, Mary Shalins, otherwise known as Marytė Šalinskienė. She is our local funeral director, who during our time of grief comforts us both spiritually and physically. You would have to look very hard to find someone in the New York, New Jersey or Pennsylvania Lithuanian communities, who does not know and love Mary. Therefore, the local K. of L. and parish council prepared a real bash for her. Or as the pastor, Fr. Vytautas Palubinskas put it - "it was one of the nicest events he ever attended."

The festivities started with mass requested by Marytės assistant and "right hand" Ona Barauskienė. It was concelebrated by pastor Father V. Palubinskas; former pastor Jonas Pakalniškis; the superior of the Lithuanian Franciscans in Brooklyn, Father Francis Giedgaudas, OFM; and HM Father Stasys Raila. During his sermon, Father Palubinskas wished Marytė many more fruitful years.

After mass everyone gathered in the parish hall which was beautifully decorated with a variety of spring flowers. Before the meal Father Palubinskas gave a brief outline of Marytės life. She was born in Forest City, PA, her parents were from Panevežys, in the Aukštaitija region of Lithuania. This region

is known for its generosity, remarked Father Palubinskas. In her youth Marytė worked in Manhattan and got to know, the then Cardinal Francis Spellman. Mary has a beautiful alto voice, and she and her two sisters Jūlytė and Onytė sang at various Lithuanian functions.

Parish council president, Vladas Sidas was master of ceremonies. He asked Father Giedgaudas, OFM to say grace before the meal. Father spoke on behalf of Bishop Paulius Baltakis, OFM and the provincial of the Lithuanian Franciscans Father Placidus Barius, OFM and himself. He thanked Marytė for her great help ever since the Franciscans arrived in the United States. She always extended a helping hand. She also was a great help in "moving" to a larger friary - St. John's cemetery which already has 21 "residents". Bill Kumeta, president of C - 41, thanked Marytė for her generosity, and remarked that C - 41 was proud to have her as a member. Perhaps Romas Kezys, the director of the local Lithuanian radio program "Laisvės Žiburys", had the most original greeting for Marytė. He proclaimed: "Maryte, may you live long enough to bury all of us"!

After a delicious meal, the kitchen workers marched in, each holding a homemade cake. They all deserve a big Ačiū labai for their efforts. In charge of the music and dancing was Romas Dainauskas. He serenaded Marytė with his accordian and beautiful voice. It seems every male wanted to dance with her. Here again the most original was

Romas Kezys. He got down on one knee and Marytė grasped his hand danced the "ratelį" around him. After that four "pallbearers" serenaded Marytė and presented her with a bouquet of flowers. Her assistant, O. Barauskienė also got one, as her birthday was fast approaching.

Of course the event would not be complete without a word and a song from Marytė. She thanked all for coming, remembering her childhood and her parents, who instilled the love of Lithuania in her. She spoke about her siblings and a happy Lithuanian home. The she sang a few of her favorite Lithuanian songs.

Yours truly knows Marytė and her family for almost 40 years. She is not only a great friend of C - 41, but of C - 12 in New York, and C - 110 in Maspeth, NY. And of course the closest to her heart is C - 43 in Forest City, her home town. She tries to get there whenever time permits.

Dainuok ir toliau Maryte, juk tu esi dukra dainuojančios Lietuvos!

C-50, New Haven, CT

Audrey Toole

Council 50 celebrated St. Casimir's day with a dinner buffet on March 2, at the St. Casimir's church hall. Father Stephen Krugel spoke about our Lithuanian heritage and shared experiences of his visit to Lithuania. Father Krugel, an assistant pastor at St. Bernadette's church in New Haven, is one of 30 priests nationwide, who provide advice and counseling through the chat rooms of "Catholic Priests on Line". He has recently become a

member of Council 50. Members and friends enjoyed the dinner and his talk. Irene Meizies and her committee worked hard to plan and set up as well as to clean up.

We pray for the health of several members who are in various stages of recuperation: Frank Antin, Eleanor Gutyauskas, John Saulys, Father Edw. Gradeck, Leo Tamulis, Mary Yanus, Ann Berzinis and Zener Tamulis.

Third degrees were awarded to Frank and Elizabeth Gybowski, Emilia Saulys and Anna Rinkevičius at our recent ceremony.

Members of C-50 worked at the Palm Sunday Food Festival which is a fund raiser for St. Casimir's church. Lithuanian foods and baked goods were prepared for sale by K. of L'ers.

C - 74, Scranton, PA

Marie Laske

In March, to honored our patron Saint Casimir, we received communion as a group and afterwards enjoyed a breakfast at Perkins.

Casimir Yanish celebrated his 80th birthday at Coopers Seafood. Along with Casimir's relatives and friends, we enjoyed a wonderful dinner. His wife Ruth wrote a poem in honor of Casimir. His son Dr. Michael spoke on what a wonderful father he was and what an good influence he had on his children's lives.

We attended the Amber District Meeting at Shamokin. The Mass was celebrated by Father Ted Keating and Father Peter Alisaukas. During the mass the beautiful Lithuanian

hymns were sung. and we were blessed with the relic of St. Casimir. District president John Mankus presided over the meeting and recited a beautiful Lithuanian poem. Ann Helen McDonald was our other poet. She recited for us her latest creation.

The dinner was delicious and plentiful. It was prepared by K. of L. members. Richard Laske was raffle chairperson, who by the way, won, \$25.00.

Congratulations to Leonard Karpochus and John Koons, who were awarded their 3rd degrees. Also to Mary Labadis, Helen Matunis and Mary Narcavage who received their 4th. God bless you all.

C-79, Southfield, MI

Bee Jay

Our March meeting was opened with a prayer by Pres. Margaret Dapkus.

Before our regular Council business was begun, we were introduced to a, guest - Fr. Nidmantas Gričius. He is here from Lithuania, from a small town on the Baltic Sea named "Šventove." His parish is building a church. Their funds are depleted and construction cannot proceed until the roof is put on. Our Council helped him with a donation from the treasury and with individual contributions. He had an interpreter, Irene Vizgirda, who helped with our questions regarding the state of the Catholic Church in Lithuania. We marveled at his youthful appearance when he told us he has reached the "ripe old age of 28." Because of his intellect, he was ordained at 24!



(left) C-90's second Lithuanian Wayside Cross dedication at Kearny's Riverbank Park on October 20, 1996. (Bottom) On February 16, 1997, Council 90 members celebrated Lithuania's Independence by our annual Flag Raising at Kearny's Town Hall.

After the enlightening episode with Fr. Gričius, we went on to Council matters. Treas. Leonard Balkus announced our financial standing -- saying we must work hard at our annual Fall Festival to replenish the treasury.

Fin. Sec. and Cultural Chairperson. Stella Hotra gave her reports. She read an amusing article on Lithuanian Christening customs which had us chuckling. Among others, she read that a child born on April 1st. will turn out to be a liar and one born at midnight, especially on the eve of All Souls' day will be clairvoyant.

Pres. Margaret reminded us our first fall endeavor will be hosting the **Mid. Central District Pilgrimage, scheduled for Sept. 26-28.** The following month, on Sunday, **Oct. 26,** we will be scurrying around our auditorium during the **Fall Festival.** We were reminded that workers were needed for both affairs, especially those with novel ideas for a successful outcome.

On Sunday, March 9, nine Council members travelled to St. Anthony's Parish for the annual St. Casimir commemoration hosted by C-102. Fr. N. Gričius officiated telling us about his life

as a pastor in a newly-formed parish in Lithuania. A delicious dinner in the parish hall followed, with speeches by World Medical Relief executives reminding us of

the importance of our help in this very worthwhile project.

In other news, Helen Santorum, one of our long-time members (herself handicapped) lost her husband. Edward Santorum passed away Feb. 3rd. We extend our sympathy to Helen and our prayers go out to her in her disability. We should also remember members in nursing homes -- Carl Janson and Sophie Zager. Joe Usoris was on the sick list and recently became the proud owner of a pacemaker. We wish him well.

As I repeat in each writing, our officers wish there were more Council participants during local and out-of-parish activities.

C-90, Kearny, NJ ***Becky Nakrosis***

Council 90 has been quite active in the past few months with some major projects being completed. Our main focus for



the past year was fund raising to build our second Lithuanian Wayside Cross in Kearny. Our efforts were rewarded on October 20, 1996, when Council 90 members and guests were present at the dedication of our cross in Kearny's Riverbank Park. The cross was constructed by Dayton's K of L member, George Mikalauskas, who delivered the cross and erected it. One of the unique aspects that Council 90 included in the cross is a Memorial Plaque onto which members listed the names of over 60 people to be remembered. Our membership was pleased to have K.of L. National President, Evelyn Oželis, and other Supreme Council members in attendance at the dedication. Other guests were our Mayor, members of our Town Council and several members from C-29 in Newark.

Some of our recent fund

raising activities for the cross included a Chinese Auction. We were fortunate enough to have a wonderful response to this event, which was held last September. Two-hundred-fifteen people attended from our local area. This fund raiser was significant in helping us to achieve our goal.

On February 16, 1997, Council 90 members celebrated Lithuania's Independence by our annual Flag Raising at Kearny's Town Hall. Kearny's Mayor was present along with representation of the Town Council. Council 90 was honored by the presence of the local VFW Honor Guard.

Also on February 16th, Council 90 held their annual Pancake Dance. The hard work and long planning were rewarded to the Committee members as the event was a true success and was heavily attended. Joe Thomas performed for the adults and a puppeteer kept the children occupied.

Council 90's Spiritual Advisor, Monsignor Dominic Pocus, retired as Pastor of Our Lady of Sorrows Church recently. We were happy to hear that he has been named Pastor Emeritus and will continue to reside at Our Lady of Sorrows Rectory. He will also continue as our Spiritual Advisor.

Council 90 is involved in the construction of a new Amber Room to be located in the newly renovated Lithuanian Catholic Community Center in Kearny. This room will be used to house our records along with our archives, pictures and memorabilia. Our membership is very excited about this new meeting room.

The Lithuanian Catholic

C-96 Degree recipients in front of St. Casimir's altar: HM Fran Petkus with Aaron Geiger, 1st degree; Henry and Lauretta Pant, 2nd degrees.



Community Center is also the focal point of Council 90's Children's Cultural Activity Days. This program allows children from the area, both Lithuanian and non-Lithuanian, to get together and learn about the Lithuanian culture and some of our folk tales. Dr. Virginia Vaitekoniš Obando, from Council 52, is conducting these cultural days in conjunction with Council 90's Audrey Przybylski.

Council 90 is continuing to collect and send cancelled postage stamps to Sister Helen in Brockton, Massachusetts, Council 1. We are assisting in sponsoring the first American athlete to compete in the Lithuanian Special Olympics. A donation is being sent to this groundbreaker in North Carolina, in order to help defray the costs of his trip over.

Finally, our Council is in the process of translating old minutes from the 1940's through the 1960's into English. We view this program as very important as it is, in essence, a living history of the Knights, Council 90 and America in the last few decades.

C-96, Dayton, Ohio Fran Petkus

Holy Cross Church's 10:30 AM Mass on March 2nd was dedicated to our council's Annual St. Casimir's Day Celebration. Henry Pant led the membership into church carrying C-96's Cross made by George Mikalauskas. Offertory Bearers, which included placing St. Casimir's picture and Lily at the St. Casimir's Altar, were Mark Bell, Lauretta and Robert Pant and Betty Nash. Following the Mass, Stefanija Raštikis led the congregation in the Litany to St. Casimir in Lithuanian. Formal presentation of the First Degree was awarded to Aaron Geiger, and the Second Degree was presented to Lauretta and Henry Pant by Council Ritual Chair, Fran Petkus. Closing out the beautiful services was the singing of the Vyčiu Himnas!

From church, members headed to the Peasant Stock for a wonderful buffet brunch and our council's monthly meeting. Hearty thanks must go to the committee putting this day together for all of us to share: Chair George Mikalauskas,



Ready to dish out a great meal at Chicago C-112's Italian Fest are: Lorraine Svelnis, Lucille Shotas and Dolores Wainauskis.

Frances Mikalauskas and Betty Nash. Special mention must go to C-96 member Mark Bell, SC Trustee, who made the trip up from Nashville, TN to participate!!!

Get well wishes go to Dorothy Miller Conrady, Jimmie Kavalasuskas, Michael J. Petkus, Joseph Gudelis, Pauline Pietrzak and Janet Veigel-Birt. Also, get well prayers to our National Spiritual Advisor, Fr. Joseph Anderlonis. Our very deepest sympathies to the family of Veronica Omlor. Veronica was 87 years young when the Good Lord called her to His home. Veronica was a Fourth Degree Knight, recipient of the MCD Recognition Award and a Charter Member of C-96. Special prayers to daughters Lauretta Pant and Veronica Heitkamp; grandsons Michael, Robert and William Pant and all other members of the family. May her soul and the souls of the faithful departed rest in peace! By the time you read this column the K. of L. 84th National Convention will be fast approaching. We are ready for

you and anxious to make your stay a very memorable one! See you August 6 - 7, 1997!!!!

C -102, Detroit, MI
Dvynukės

Checking in from Panama City Beach, Fla. with a few tidbits from our reporters.

Heading the incapacitated list is Mary Anne Guerriero, home from the hospital and getting therapy, after an unfortunate fall broke her thigh bone. Our president, Lorry Hofner, is recuperating nicely from his second knee replacement. Just can't keep a good man down.

Our council members worked on the February 16th celebration and on the St. Casimir's Day ceremonies at St. Anthony's. The profits from these affairs went to the Aid to Lithuania organization.

On his latest visit to Lithuania, Bob Boris noted the threadbare linens at the Hospice in Utėna and was inspired to spearhead a local project of ATL - Michiganians collected linens, sheets, towels etc. and enough other necessities to fill a container.

The following is an excerpt of a letter Donna Bunikis received from Sister Dolorita: "Thank you for all that you sent to St. Clare's Hospice for our patients. So very generous of you. It has been a very severe winter. Being about Our Father's business has been a full time enterprise. One needs running shoes each day. On behalf of our patients and staff, all of us - Thank you".

P. S. If you need expert potato peelers for kugelis, contact Mike and Theresa Shea.

C - 110, Maspeth, NY
Helen Yakaitis

Our St. Casimir's celebration took place on March 23rd. During Mass the third degree medal was awarded to Ann Morrissey who earned it by her diligent and hard work. Ann is in charge of collecting and shipping clothing and toys to children in two Lithuanian orphanages. These shipments go out about five or six times a year. Our council is truly grateful to Ann and her helpers. Congratulations Ann on your award and also on yours and Paul's 29th wedding anniversary.

After Mass, a delicious hot luncheon of dešros, bulvės and rauginti kopūstai was served. Especially enjoyable was the black Lithuanian bread and the cheese koldūnai. A big "ačiū

labai" to the kitchen staff who prepared this fabulous meal.

We knuckled down to business after the celebration. We discussed our upcoming spring dance on April 27th., at Transfiguration parish hall after the 11:15 Lithuanian mass. Julia Matulewich is chairlady. We thank her for taking on this task. She did a terrific job as chairlady of our Halloween Dance.

Our parish priests, Rev. Ted Rooney and pastor Emeritus Msgr. Frank Bulovas sent mass vestments to Lithuania where they are sorely needed.

Our council will host the MAD convention in September 28th, at Transfiguration parish in Maspeth, NY.

Our financial secretary, Jean Mactutis lost her daughter in law. Also member Gen Thomas recently lost her sister. We send our sincere condolences.

Women were the winners of our raffle: Anne Kaskyke, Frances Migliore, Evelyn Wallis, Marytė Abbott and Helen Yakaitis. We sang a hardy Ilgiausių metų to all March birthday celebrants. Msngr. Bulovas closed our meeting with a prayer and we then sang the Vyčių himnas.

C-112, Chicago, IL

Gerrie

Congratulations to Anne and George Kairis who received their First Degrees at our February meeting, and Jack Abramite, Alvina Giedraitis and Phyllis Pelletier who received their Second. Grozvyda Giedraitis received her Third Degree at the St. Casimir's Day commemoration. The only way to accumulate those needed points



Vetra Folk Dancers perform in Bridgeport, CT for C-141 and guests on Feb. 16.

for your next degree is by volunteering to serve on a committee or elective office -- so, let's get busy and start piling up those points.

Thanks to everyone who helped make our "Italian Fest" a huge success. It wasn't easy convincing Lithuanians that they would love Italian food, but it seems we did a good job of it judging from the many plates piled high with spaghetti and ravioli. Our able committee worked hard on Fest details for many weeks -- Julie Zakarka and Estelle Rogers took reservations and sold tickets; Ellie Kasputis, our hard-working raffle chairlady, once again almost single-handedly, rounded up the prizes and sold more raffle tickets than anyone; Lorraine Svelnis made the table decorations that were gorgeous and received so many compliments; Mickey Petrosius cooked many, many pots of spaghetti and ravioli and meat sauce and without her we might still be waiting for dinner; Anele Pocius baked cakes and convinced the rest of us to also bake; Antoinette Paskauskas

chopped innumerable heads of lettuce (and never lost a finger); Dolores Wainauskas rounded up all those delicious Jello molds everyone loves; and Vera Paukstis and Ann Marie Juraitis added the crowning touch -- hot garlic bread on every table!

Thanks to our "wine girls" Kathy Svelnis, Rita and Denise Zakarka -- who made sure every diner had a full glass of wine; our bar chairman, Al Mockus, and his helpers, Peter Jasaitis and Ed Pocius; our able kitchen runners Al Dagis and John Chaplin who made sure the buffet table never ran out of food; and the ladies who served the dinners: Lorraine Svelnis, Lucille Shotas, and Dolores Wainauskis.

Maria Deksnis helped her Junior council organize their own raffle booth (which was a sell out), and made sure we had able workers in the coat room. Louis Rogers did a super job of making sure everything was spic 'n span before guests arrived.

The list is endless of people who pitched in to help and, of course, it was you, our members and guests, who came, bought

raffle tickets, and really made this, our only fund raiser of the year, the success it was. Yours truly, who chaired the event, is very much indebted to everyone.

Refreshments for our St. Joseph's Table in March were provided by the gentlemen of our council, Al Mockus, Al Dagus, Jack Abramite, and Peter Jasaitis (to give the ladies a much needed rest) and they did a great job!

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

Bedecked in colorful Lithuanian sashes, our members marched into church behind the two flags, carried in by Sylvester Marcavage and Stephen Wilcinskas to begin the celebration of Lithuanian Independence Day. Holy Mass was celebrated by Msgr. Pranckus. Refreshments were served in the parish hall. Guests were welcomed by Msgr. Pranckus, President Clemencine Miller, and Sigitas Liaukus who re-presented Bendruomene. We were privileged to hear Alan Strudas, Vice president of St. Vincent's Medical Center, (and one of our newer members) as guest speaker. He made the afternoon very interesting with his presentation of slides taken by him in Lithuania. Mr. Strudas said he went to Lithuania to trace his roots and to visit his son who is teaching advanced English and History at Vytautas Magnus University and Kaunas Technology Institute. Mr. Strudas' slides showed U.S. medical supplies being received at the Kaunas Red Cross Hospital. We saw also the outmoded interior of the state owned hospital, with its ancient

furnishings and supplies still in use. The Sisters of Charity at St. Vincent's generously provided two full containers of much needed medical supplies. A big Lithuania "ačiū" to these nuns.

Very much enjoyed by all were our favorite folk dancers "VETRA" from New Haven. The hi-lite of our Lithuanian display on the stage was a replica of the Hill of crosses creatively designed by Bob Marcavage.

The annual egg decorating class directed by Clemencine Miller was held March 22nd. A delightful afternoon.

Sunday March 16th we celebrated St. Casimir's Day with a gourmet breakfast following the Lithuanian Mass. Due to the quick wit and effervescent personality of Peter Balcius -- never was the raffle drawing more enjoyable. The committee responsible for the success of this day consisted of:

Clemencine Miller, Stella Marcinauskis, Barbara Schmidt, Aldona and Pete Peters, Alice and Stephen Wilcinskas, Marie and Bill Brilvitch, Evelyn Christian, Sophie Putrimas, Bob Marcavage and Pat Silk.

I must mention -- the Easter display on stage attracted attention because of its artistically arranged "margučiai" made by various members and surrounded by spring flowers. Lovely!

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

Our sympathy goes out to the family of Francis Barri, who passed away on October 30, 1996. Francis has only been with C-147 since January of

1996. He was originally with C-1 in Brockton, MA. May his soul rest in peace.

Congratulations are in order for our two new members. Joseph Dana transferred from Council 142, Washington DC, in January 1997. His wife Dale became a new member on March 9, 1997. We welcome both.

Our St Casimir Celebration started with 1 o'clock Mass at Holy Name Church in Gulfport. Father Steponas Ropolas O.F.M. was the Celebrant. Concelebrants were Rev. Matthew Čyvas, Kun. Boleslovas Jonauskas from Klaipeda Lithuania and Kun. Kestutis Vilutis from Kaunas Lithuania. Our president Anthony Gudonis, and Dr. Aldona Valis, ritual Chairperson, carried the gifts to the altar. Following Mass, dinner was served at the Lithuanian American Club. Father Steponas, who said the opening prayer, and the other Concelebrants were our guests. Kun. Kestutis Vilutis spoke briefly to the Knights about conditions in Lithuania. We later joined the program in the main hall. Kun. Boleslovas Jonauskas spoke to the entire group. We were happy to see our out-of-towners attend our festivities: Victor and Lucy Sanders from Venice Florida, and Joseph and Dale Dana from Punta Gorda Florida. Dr Aldona Valis was chairperson assisted by Irena Diktanas and Maria Gelazius.

◆◆◆

*Sveikinam visas
Motinas!*



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MOTINAI

V. Mykolaitis - Putinas, 1939.IX.25

Submitted by R. J. Bagdonas, Hamilton, Ontario

Tas vakaras kaip krištolas,
 O tolyje varpai,
 Tokį motute, vakarą
 Ir tu mane supai.

Pro langą saulė leidosi
 Pašvaiste ugnine, -
 Tu, poterį kalbėdama,
 Meldeisi už mane.

Kad aš užaugčiau didelį,
 Ir sveikas, ir gražus, -
 O saulė žarstė vygėje
 Tuos žerėnčius dažus.

Paskui atėjo sutemos,
 Juoda rudens naktis.
 Per naktį alpo motinos
 Nerimstanti širdis.

Kai išklydau iš tėviškės,
 Atsimenu gerai,
 Galulaukės arimuose
 Liepsnojo vakarai.

O kai grįžau pavasarį
 Su paukščiais iš pietų,
 Audringi rinkos debesys
 Ant tėviškės skliautų.

Radau tave palinkusią,
 Kaip obelį laukuos.
 Ne, nebedaug tau nemigų
 Gegužė iškukuos...

Ak, rodos, vakar - užvakar,
 Motut, mane supai,
 O štai tą tylų vakarą
 Tau skambina varpai.

Hymn to Our Lady of Šiluva

One summer day, while attending their sheep,
 Children were playing,
 And heard someone weep.
 Standing there on a rock,
 Was Our Lady most mild,
 Crying tears of great sorrow,
 Holding Jesus.....her child.

Our Lady of Šiluva,
 I give you my heart,
 Like the flame of a candle,
 May it shine in the dark,
 With a deeper pure faith,
 With a true love for your Son,
 Bring me home when I wander,
 Bring home everyone...

Our Lady of Šiluva,
 Madonna and Child,
 I kneel and I ask,
 Mother, mercy most mild,
 Like a star you will guide me,
 If I'm blind help me see,
 My treasure is Jesus,
 For eternity...for eternity.



by Joseph F. M. Pokorny ©1995. Dedicated to Our Lady of Šiluva and our National Spiritual Advisor, Fr. Joseph Anderlonis on his 13th year anniversary at St. George Parish, Philadelphia on 9/8/95.