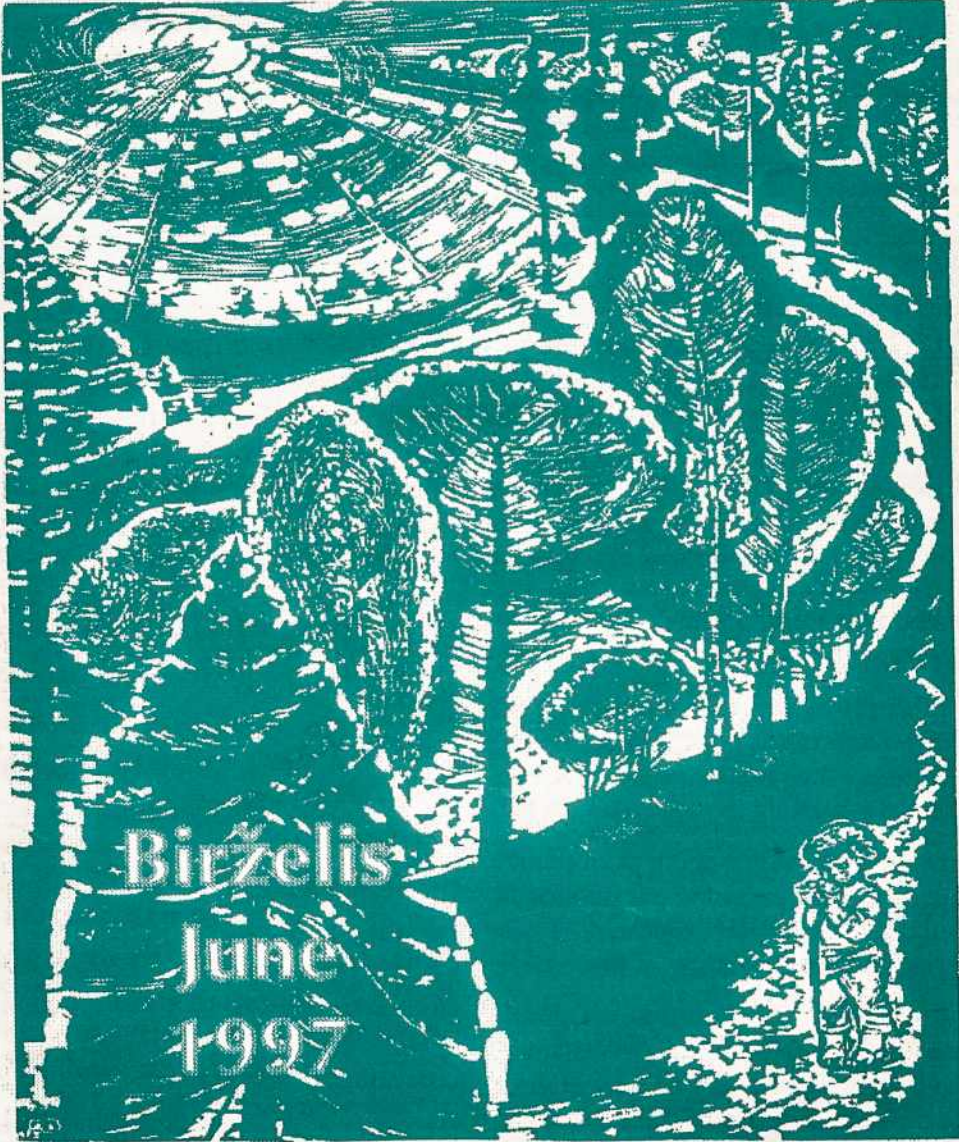


# Wyżsis

The Knight  
volume 83: no. 6



Birželis  
June  
1997

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

### BIRŽELIO 15 JUNE 15

*In memory of those who suffered and died during the Terrible June Days*

Prisiseki, lietuvi, gedulo spalvą,  
Šiandien liūdnoš švinta sukaktuvės:  
Prieš metus vergovės tau pajungę galvą  
Atėjūnų tankai, kardai ir durtuvai.

Meni, kaip dundėjo tėvynės keliai  
Ir svetimo krašto plienas žvangėjo, -  
Ir merkėsi saulės karšti spinduliai  
Nuo juodo gimtinių šalies pavergėjo.

Tylūs, paniurę pulkai alkani,  
Žvairaakiai veidai ir spalvota oda...

Nuo to laiko visvien, kur esi, kur eini,  
Jie, kaip šiurpūs šešėliai, su tavim visada.

Nuo to laiko tau kažkas į širdį įsmigo,  
Įsiėdė į kraują, kaip nuodinga rakštis.  
Nei šviesos, net ramybės tavų nebeliko,  
Tik rūpestis, baimė, klaikuma ir naktis.

Paniekintas glūdi veidmainystės klane,  
Pasotintas šmeižto, apgaulės ir melo,  
Gyvenimas kybo ties juoda bedugne,  
Toks menkas, trapus ir sunykęs be galo.

Praėjo tie metai aikščių, gatvių triukšme,  
Nebeteko žavumo nei žygiai, nei aukos.  
Žengia šiurpūs vaiduokliai tolyn savaime,  
Tik prieblando j kaukės su pašai pa raukos.

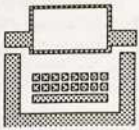
V. Mykolaitis-Putinas 1941.VI.15

*Editorial***To My Fellow KNIGHTS:**

If we need another cause to crusade for, the sanctification of Bl. George Matulaitis is certainly a noble one. Al Cizauskas' story on page 4 presents an inspirational account of Matulaitis too short life. I am still grateful for the side trip to Marijampole while in Lithuania last summer to visit the church that contains Bl. George's remains. Another church named in his honor is being built in Vilnius, so he certainly won't be forgotten. Dr. Michael Yudd also enlightens us to the diligent work done by the Catholic Medical Mission Board in his account on page 8.

As we head towards the summer months, some of us are planning trips to Lithuania to see the sights and our relatives. After reading Ed Baranauskas' stories on Lithuanian Airlines, beginning on page 12, we can soon realize that our Fatherland has come a long way since the doors of freedom opened in 1991. Some of us are planning a trip to Dayton to attend the 84th National Convention, so the history of the Vejeliai Dance Group on page 16 will provide a sampling of things to come as they will be performing for us on cultural night.

Happy Fathers Day to all Dads and those who take on those difficult fatherly roles in life.



*Letters to the  
Editor*

**More Info on the Papal Foundation**

To the Editor:

I was interested to read the Letter to the Editor in the March issue of VYTIS that referred to The Papal Foundation. I am a Research Assistant in the Development Office of The Papal Foundation and recognize the Lushis name and am delighted that Councils from Allentown, Easton and the Lehigh Valley are contributors to the Foundation. It always makes me happy to see a grant toward the seminary in Vilnius when the annual gift is made to our Holy Father.

Two summers ago when I was in Vilnius, I asked my friends if they knew where the seminary was and none could help me out. On my last day, I found someone who knew its location and I plan to visit it and take photos for The Papal Foundation this summer when I am again in Lithuania.

Here is some general information about The Papal Foundation which may be of assistance in the article you plan to publish in an upcoming issue.

Background of The Papal Foundation

- ♦ The Papal Foundation was founded by the American Cardinals in 1988 with an initial goal of raising \$100 million for an endowed fund and an ultimate goal of presenting \$10 million annually in grants to the Holy Father.
- ♦ The current status of the campaign is pledges of \$102,270,000 and a cash total of \$32,575,000.
- ♦ The Foundation this year made a grant of over \$1.5 million dollars to our Holy Father, \$50,000 of which went toward the new seminary in Vilnius. To date, \$450,000 has been given for the continued rebuilding, staffing, furnishing and operation of the seminary.

Sincerely,  
*Kay A. Yankoski*  
*Council 142 Vice President*

## First Lithuanian Schoolmaster in the New World

While touring the New York Stock Exchange at 26 Broad Street in lower Manhattan, one will notice a special plaque on the building as one enters the exchange erected by the Bicentennial Lithuanian Committee. It credits the founder of the first Latin School of New Amsterdam, **Dr. Alexander Carolus Curtius-Cursius**, a Lithuanian scholar who arrived in 1659 to begin the school.

Dr. Curtius was a physician and educator, first schoolmaster in New York City (1659-1661).

On April 10, 1659 the West India Company in Amsterdam, Holland, signed a contract with Dr. Curtius, engaging him as the first rector of the newly established Latin School in New York City (then called New Amsterdam).

At that time New Amsterdam had 200 homes and a population of 15,000. Governor, Peter Stuyvesant, who originated the idea, hoped that a school would form the nucleus for an academy or university. The school building was erected at the south end of Manhattan Island and was ready before Dr. Curtius arrived.

On April 25, 1659, Dr. Curtius, a young bachelor, boarded the ship *Bever* for the new world. The journey lasted more than two months, and on July 4, 1659, he presented himself before a meeting of the New Amsterdam magistrates. He was allotted a salary equivalent to \$200 per year, with an additional \$40 worth of merchandise, land for a garden and permission to teach private lessons.

He was also informed that, in addition to his base salary, each pupil would pay him a



small sum per quarter, and he was permitted to practice medicine. He is considered to have been the first physician of any prominence in the city of New York.

Soon after assuming his duties Dr. Curtius realized that it would be difficult to live on his earnings, so he asked the local government for an increase in pay. Governor Stuyvesant referred the matter to the West India Company in a letter of Sept. 17, 1659. He praised the results achieved by Dr. Curtius thus: "As to his service and diligence we must truly testify that his industry is astonishing and the progress of the young people remarkable." Nevertheless, the Company did not agree to raise his salary as long as Dr. Curtius remained single.

He was also said to be the first schoolteacher to blame parents for their children's bad behavior. He was reprimanded in 1661 on the grounds that he did not keep strict discipline over the boys who fought in class. Dr. Curtius' reply was that "some people do not wish to have their children punished," and asked for a law to back him up. No law was passed and he resigned on July 21, 1661, and returned to Europe.

Although he was known in New Amsterdam as Dr. Curtius, Lithuanians recognize his name as a variation of Kuršius, an inhabitant of Kuršas.

-Submitted by D. Bulvičius and J. Janonis of C-12.



# A MAN TO REMEMBER

by Albert Cizauskas

With evident emotion, Dalia Bulvicius asked in the April 1996 issue of VYTIS whether anyone any longer remembers the Blessed George Matulaitis.

The answer is a decided "Yes," The devoted churchman who revived the nearly extinct order of the Marians, who stubbornly resisted the efforts of the Polish hierarchy to politicize the diocese of Vilnius while he was its bishop, who persuaded the Vatican to recognize newly-independent Lithuania as a church province separate from Polish administration for the first time in its history, Yes, that man is remembered.

He was one of that rare breed who combined action with philosophic insight into the great issues of his age, one of which was to see through the facade of Marxist propaganda seeking to enslave the common man with new chains in place of the old. Of considerable importance too, was his lifelong insistence that politics and religion were entities each with its own separate and distinct claim upon our allegiance.

Here are two recent indications that the Archbishop is not forgotten:

Before his death, Joseph Simanis, a member of the Knights of Lithuania from Washington, DC, composed a moving prayer to Blessed Matulaitis for God's grace upon all those suffering from physical and spiritual impairment. (The prayer may be found in the April issue of VYTIS.)

A biographic sketch of Blessed Matulaitis was published in the February-March 1996 issue of LITHUANIAN HERITAGE which dealt in detail with the life of this saintly man who suffered greatly from recurrent attacks of cancer yet who accomplished so much.

*No, Dalia, he is not forgotten.*



BISHOP JURGIS (GEORGE) Matulaitis is revered for his adamant refusal to tolerate politics within the Church. For this and for a life of brilliant achievement while suffering from crippling attacks of cancer, he was declared "Blessed" during ceremonies in 1987 at Rome commemorating Lithuania's 600th year of Christianity.

In ways that defined his character, Jurgis Matulaitis resembled Thomas More. Both were persons of deep piety and learning, both were practical men of affairs with an illustrious record of achievement, both refused to compromise the high office they held for principles they held dearer and both, in the end, suffered martyrdom, Matulaitis by losing the bishopric of Vilnius and More by losing his head.

## A Promising Theologian

Born in the village of Lūginė near Marijampolė on April 13, 1871, and orphaned at an early age, Jurgis was sent by relatives in Poland to seminaries in that country. There he distinguished himself by winning the highest honors. His Polish background was a mixed asset, however. While it gave him an intimate insight into the Polish character, it made him suspect to Lithuanian partisans who regarded Matulaitis as a supporter of the Polish cause. Nor did it help him with the Poles who looked down on him for not denying his Lithuanian heritage.

Another important influence on the formation

of Matulaitis' character was the contraction of bone cancer. The deadly malady incapacitated him on numerous occasions and its searing pain afflicted him through his relatively short life of 56 years. Because of the cancer he was compelled to give up parish work in Poland at the start of his clerical career and seek medical treatment in Germany. There his restless spirit refused to accept the usual constraints binding an invalid and managed to attend the University of Fribourg in Switzerland where he won a Doctorate in Sacred Theology. Additional honors came his way, bringing him to the attention of Church leaders.

After a partial recovery, Matulaitis was assigned to teach at a Polish seminary but once again his cancer flared up, and it was even feared one of his legs might have to be amputated. As his condition again improved, the young theologian began to probe deeply into theories of social justice, which were then at the forefront of intellectual inquiry, from Marxism at one end, to Papal encyclicals at the other. He translated theory into practice by founding in Warsaw a labor union which attracted over 50,000 members, and edited its journal. He also recruited students for Christian social action. With the spirit of a crusader he organized "social action weeks" in Warsaw and Kaunas, thereby demonstrating that not only socialists but also the Church was concerned about the exploitation of the European worker. Christian social action, of which Matulaitis was an early and effective exponent in Poland and Lithuania, was one of the important forces which helped counter the spread of communism in eastern Europe.

In 1907, he was appointed the first occupant of the chair of sociology at the prestigious Academy of St. Petersburg. Matulaitis' keen intellect, deep knowledge and thorough teaching of practical social problems attracted not only students but even professors at the Academy. He kept climbing up the academic ladder, but his boundless energies sought an outlet in an unexpected way.

### **Revival of the Marians**

It was at this time that he successfully petitioned the Pope to let him restore the Marian order of which only one monk remained. The Marians had been founded in 1673 in Poland to teach the poor and grew rapidly with communities

established in Lithuania, Italy, and Portugal. Religious persecution, however, soon dealt it virtually mortal blows.

And so it came about that a Lithuanian restored an order founded by a Pole. With enthusiasm and zeal he began the immense work of bringing back to life a religious community on the verge of extinction. Matulaitis revised the order's rule and brought it into the 20th century, seeing monasticism not solely as a means of personal sanctification but also as a dynamo to promote social action and cultural life. Marian communities were founded in seven countries. The work of the rejuvenated order can best be illustrated by its activities in Lithuania where its members taught primary and secondary schools, operated model farms, craft workshops and printing presses, and ran libraries and theatrical facilities.

In today's spirit of giving women a more meaningful role in the religious life of the Church, Matulaitis established a congregation called the Sisters of the Immaculate Conception. Like its male counterpart, the women's order prospered and expanded. In the United States it concentrated in the fields of nursing, caring for preschool age children and the aged.

### **Matulaitis in America**

The founder of the modernized Marian order made two visits to the United States. The first took place in 1913 when he established a branch of the Marian order in Chicago. Remarkably, this occurred five years earlier than in Lithuania itself, a singular recognition by Matulaitis of the rapid growth and importance of the Lithuanian catholic community in this country. By 1963, fifty years later, the thriving Marians numbered over one hundred priests in monasteries in midwest and northeast states.

Matulaitis returned as an archbishop in 1926 to represent Lithuania at the 28th Eucharistic Congress. The energetic prelate took advantage of the opportunity to visit scores of Lithuanian parishes where he preached, administered the sacrament of confirmation and even, on one notable occasion, engaged in public debate with Lithuanian socialists.

The seed which Matulaitis had planted here



**Lasting Remains:** The sarcophagus of Bl. George Matulaitis with a painting of him above. A painting St. Casimir is on top. This is part of a shrine with his remains, located at the Church of St. Michael the Archangel in Marijampole.

had clearly taken root. One of its more noted manifestations has been the publication of the daily, *Draugas*, a leading political, cultural, and religious voice of the Lithuanian American Catholic community for many years.

### War

Despite the immediate success of the order, the times were out of joint and the new Marians underwent considerable difficulties in Poland and Lithuania. The war between the Germans and the Russians inflicted untold hardships upon the

Marians and the people they served. On top of his organizational work, Matulaitis found the time to open a shelter for war orphans and even begged in person on the streets of Warsaw to help the helpless ones.

His courageous and selfless work came to the attention of Monsignor Achille Ratti, the Vatican's representative in Poland. The two soon became warm friends. When Ratti was elevated to the rank of Archbishop, he placed himself for a period of eight days under Matulaitis' spiritual guidance in preparation for the exalted step. It was not surprising that when the Archbishop returned to Rome, he became an ardent supporter of the energetic humanitarian priest.

### The Reluctant Bishop

In the waning days of World War I, the Vatican appointed Matulaitis as Bishop of Vilnius despite widespread opposition from both Poles and Lithuanians. Matulaitis made it plain, however, that he would be the shepherd of all his flock. At the same time he petitioned the Vatican to release him from an honor which he correctly foresaw would bring him nothing but anguish and frustration.

The corrosive spirit of ethnic politics intruded even into his investiture ceremonies. A heated controversy erupted about the language he should use in his first formal address to the people of the city. Matulaitis adopted a simple but elegant solution. He addressed the Cathedral's clergy in Latin, then the congregation in Polish and Lithuanian. While this procedure did not please all, it satisfied most. It did not go unnoticed by the Polish element, however, that the new Bishop's address in Lithuanian is said to have been the first since the 15th century that Lithuanian had been heard in the Vilnius Cathedral.

No sooner had the Lithuanian Bishop of a mixed Polish-Lithuanian diocese been installed than a murderous conflict to control the city erupted between the Poles and the Russians. As Bishop, Matulaitis helped calm the people of the contested city and even gave asylum at grave personal risk to those out of favor, including Jews



who for centuries had looked upon Vilnius as their "Second Jerusalem". In his diary, the Bishop exclaimed with an emotion that arose out of the depths of his troubled soul: "Oh God, how strange is this world! The same people who cried out against capital punishment are now themselves killing their captured enemies".

Matulaitis endured six military occupations while Bishop. The city's inhabitants suffered greatly from the maddening seesaw of military advance and retreat. Finally, Polish legions captured the city and ignored a League of Nations mandate that the city be turned over to the Lithuanians. The Polish occupation was exceptionally harsh and lasted until the German invasion of Poland in 1939.

### The End of the Road

After seven bitter years, the end of Matulaitis' time of trial was in sight. In 1925 Poland reached an accord with the Holy See which recognized Polish sovereignty over Vilnius. The Vatican was also prepared to elevate the diocese of Vilnius to an archbishopric. The long suffering prelate knew that the Polish government would never permit a "Litvomanis" to be the first Archbishop of that unhappy city. So the Lithuanian Bishop of Vilnius wrote to Ratti, then Pope Pius XI, explaining once again his vulnerability under Polish harassment, his inability to perform his duties, and his disinclination to stand in the way of Vilnius' elevation. He asked instead that he be permitted to live in Rome and work for the Marian order. His friend, the Pope, agreed.

After a few months in Rome, the Pope demonstrated his appreciation of what Matulaitis had accomplished and was determined not to deny him of the honor he so richly deserved. The Bishop was invested with the rank of titular Archbishop (that is, one without diocese) and was sent to inspect the Lithuanian ecclesiastical establishment, a procedure that normally excluded a native son.

The new assignment was particularly difficult because Lithuanian relations with the Vatican were strained over the Vilnius affair. With customary tact, perseverance and zeal, however, Matulaitis accomplished his task and even went beyond it. He proposed to Rome the formation of a separate province for Lithuania with five dioceses and five Bishops. The Pope concurred. For the first time

the Lithuanian Church was to enjoy an independent life of its own. Matulaitis' work was crowned with a Concordat (a formal agreement between the Holy See and a secular state, regulating relations with each other).

The new Archbishop sent his report to Rome, but before he could return to the Vatican he died suddenly of acute appendicitis on January 27, 1927.

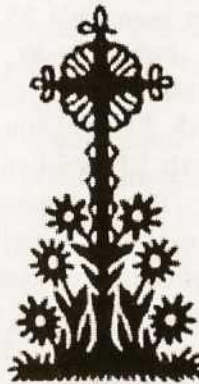
*The Encyclopedia Lithuanica* memorialized Archbishop Matulaitis with the following words: "(his) exemplary life, his resoluteness, unusual gentleness, and deep intellect impressed every one who knew him."

His other Papal supporter, Pius XII (Eugenio Pacelli), initiated the process of beatification in 1952. By a happy coincidence the beatification was concluded by a Polish Pope on June 28, 1987 who said of this extraordinary man: "(Matulaitis) was one who in a heroic manner made himself 'All things to all people', a person conscious of his own pastoral mission, a true apostle of unity".

Ever since Jogaila had accepted the Polish crown in exchange for the Christianizing of Lithuania, the Church there had suffered under a cloud of Polish nationalism. In a life full of achievement, the Archbishop's major legacy to his people was to divorce religion from politics. Like Thomas More, Jurgis Matulaitis knew where to draw the line.



**In Memory of:  
Walter Zilys, C-29**



**Entered into  
Life  
July 12, 1912**



**Entered into  
Rest  
May 29, 1992**

## Catholic Medical Mission Board Donates \$26 MM of Medicine to Lithuanian Hospitals



### *Men with a mission:*

*(l to r) Mike Gorton, Operations Manager, CMMB; Bob Boris, President of ATL, and Terry Kirch, Director CMMB.*

by Michael Yudd, M.D.

The Catholic Medical Mission Board (CMMB) of New York seems to be one of those secrets which are too well kept. Ask any Catholic in the New York area about the CMMB and, chances are, he or she hasn't heard of them. This is unfortunate because the CMMB helps many needy hospitals worldwide, including those in Lithuania. The CMMB quietly goes about its charitable work. One of its major functions is to obtain donated medicines, supplies and equipment from pharmaceutical and medical supplies companies. It then distributes these much needed materials to impoverished hospitals abroad. In 1996, the CMMB sent medicines and supplies which totaled an incredible \$51.4 million in value to needy hospitals in 52 countries. Lithuanian hospitals received eight shipments of medicines worth \$15 million in 1996, and six shipments worth \$11 million in 1995 from the CMMB. This wonderful assistance would not have been possible without the help of the Knights of Lithuania's Aid to Lithuania. Aid to Lithuania paid the considerable shipping expenses for CMMB's medicines, and it was Aid to Lithuania's

president, Bob Boris, who initially sought CMMB's assistance for Lithuanian hospitals.

Fortunately, the CMMB is no secret to the Lithuanians. In 1993, Dr. Balys Dainys, the Director of the Lithuanian Kidney Foundation and Lithuania's Chief Transplant Surgeon, sought CMMB's assistance. Dainys had a major problem: his 200 patients with kidney transplants in Lithuania had only a few weeks' supply of a needed antirejection medicine. If this supply ran out, his patients would be at great risk of rejecting their transplanted kidneys and losing their lives. The lone producer of the needed medicine, Burroughs-Wellcome, refused to donate any to the Lithuanians. Dr. Dainys discussed his plight with Father James Yannarell, S.J., then Director of the CMMB. After listening carefully, Father Yannarell found a distributor for the medicine, wrote a check for \$5,000, and solved this short-term problem. Dr. Dainys, greatly relieved, returned to Lithuania with his supply of medicine.

Aid to Lithuania's President, Bob Boris, then sought assistance from CMMB for needy Lithuanian hospitals. If CMMB could donate needed medicines, then Aid to Lithuania would

pay the container costs to Lithuania. CMMB agreed, and this collaborative effort of the two charitable groups was a Godsend to Lithuanian hospitals. In 1995, six containers of medicines left the CMMB warehouse, and in 1996, another eight containers were shipped to Lithuania. A total of \$26 million worth of medicines was sent. Overseeing the distribution of these medicines in Lithuania is Aid to Lithuania's Paul Bindokas. Mr. Bindokas is a physician's assistant from Chicago who resides in Vilnius. He personally sees that the containers are unloaded and that the medicines are appropriately distributed to needy hospitals. Ninety-four hospitals in Lithuania have benefited from these supplies.

The CMMB is a charitable, nonprofit organization whose scope is to improve health care in the poor countries of the world. Besides giving assistance with medicines and supplies, the CMMB also places volunteer health care workers in overseas hospitals where they are badly needed. The author and his wife, a nurse, worked in a rural hospital in Ghana, West Africa, for a few months in 1985 through a placement of the CMMB.

The CMMB has a colorful history. It was founded in 1912 by Dr. Paluel Joseph Flagg, a young anesthesiologist who had a dream of helping missionaries destined for medical work in foreign lands. In 1928 a Jesuit priest, Father Edward F. Garesche, was appointed its first Director. Following his death in 1960, several Jesuit Fathers continued the tradition of leading the CMMB. The late Bishop Fulton Sheen was a notable member of CMMB's Board of Directors from 1945 to 1976. In 1996 Mr. Terry Kirch was appointed Director. Mr. Kirch brings to the helm an extensive international experience of medical relief work.

Aid to Lithuania wishes to thank the Catholic Medical Mission Board for its kindness and generosity in helping our Lithuanian brothers and sisters. Their charitable assistance is no secret to the Lithuanians.

For more information, write to:  
Mr. Terry Kirch, Director  
**Catholic Medical Mission Board**  
10 West 17th Street  
New York, NY 10011-5765



### World Lithuanian Youth Congress Slated for July 18-27

The Ninth World Lithuanian Youth Congress (WLYA) will be held this year on Cape Cod at the Massachusetts Maritime Academy, July 18-27. The organization was established in 1972 to help émigré Lithuanian youth around the world preserve their culture and heritage. Membership is open to those between 18-35 residing outside the Republic of Lithuania. Every four years the WLYA holds a special congress to unite Lithuanian youth worldwide, focusing on issues of concern to the global Lithuanian community. Through talks, seminars and the voting procedure, ideas and solutions are generated. These ideas are then implemented throughout the following four years until the next Congress.

Highlights of this year's Congress include an organization expo featuring the various political, social and professional Lithuanian organizations; discussion groups on issues plus many social events such as a sunset cruise, camping, and a Boston Red Sox game. The Congress concludes with a closing banquet which is open to all Lithuanians and friends.

The theme of the IX Congress - Lithuanian Heritage Opens the World's Doors with the goal to create a network web to work together and share information to help each other.

For more information, call or fax WLYA president, Tomas Matusaitis at 516-358-6103.

## Lietuvių Moterų Klūbų Federacija Čikagos Klūbas Federation of Lithuanian Women's Clubs Chicago Chapter

Gyvenamasis laikotarpis formuoja reikalavimus, norus, įsipareigojimus ir tikslus. Tikslai organizuotas darbas duoda gerus rezultatus. Lietuvės moterys visuomet turėjo sugebėjimą dirbti organizacinį darbą. Jos mėgsta mąstyti, pasikeisti idėjomis kultūrinėje ir socialinėje plotmėje.

Lietuvių moterų organizacinė veikla prasidėjo prieš 90 metų, kai 1907 m. rugsėjo mėn. 23-24d., buvo sušauktas pirmutinis Lietuvos moterų suvažiavimas, Kaune. Tam suvažiavime dalyvavo apie 300 narių. Tai progai buvo parašytas eilėraštis Ksav. Vanagėlio, kuris nežiūrint, kad ir praėjo 90 metų, turi prasmingus žodžius, tinkančius šiam laikams.

O moters, lietuvės! Jūs - saulė tautos!  
Jūs mūsų geroji viltis!  
Jūms rūpi likimas, garbė Lietuvos,  
Nes jums ji brangioji šalis!

Tat sveikinam jumis, o dukters šalies!  
Pirmėivės tarp mūsų seserų!-

Jums veikiant, auginant jaunasias kartas:  
Brangioji tėvynė žaliuos:  
Ir garbė ir laisvė senovės atras  
Didvyrių daugybė išduos!

Oi bus paminklinga dienele šita  
Visos atmintyj Lietuvos!

O, moters lietuvės! Jūs saulė tautos!  
Jūs mūsų geroji viltis!  
Jums rūpi likimas, garbė Lietuvos  
Nes jums ji brangioji šalis!

To suvažiavimo metu išryškėjo dvi pagrindinės organizacijos: Lietuvių Moterų Sąjunga Vilniuje ir Lietuvių Katalikių Sąjunga Kaune. Nežiūrint, kad moterys veikė skirtingose organizacijose, jos visuomet rado bendrą kalbą.

Prasidėjus Antrajam Pasauliniui Karui ir daugeliui atsidūrus išeivijoje, lietuvė moteris pasiliko ištikima savo idealams ir principams. Puoselėjimas gimtosios kalbos, išsaugojimas tradicijų būsimoms kartoms buvo didelis lietuvės moters įsipareigojimas. Lietuvės moterys suėjo į artimą kontaktą su seserišku bendro likimo tautų moterims, kaip latvėmis ir estėmis. Didelio organizuotumo dėka 1947m kovo mėn 8d Esslingene Vokietijoje buvo įkurta Pabaltijo Moterų Tarba. Tą pačią dieną lietuvaitės suformavo Lietuvių Moterų Tarybą.

Pabaltijo Moterų Tarybos ir Lietuvių Moterų Tarybos pirmininkė buvo išrinkta dr. Marija Žilinskienė.

Tarp 1949m. ir 53m. buvo emigrantų įsikūrimo laikotarpis naujuose pasauliuose. Lietuvės moterys nepasimetė naujoje situacijoje ir stengėsi prisitaikyti naujame gyvenime. New Yorkas tapo lietuvių moterų judėjimo centras. Atsikūrė Lietuvių Moterų Taryba pakeitė savo vardą į Lietuvių Moterų atstovybę.

1959m. lietuvaitės buvo priimtos narėmis į pasaulinę moterų organizaciją, vadinamą General Federation of Women's Club.

Nuo 1963m. Lietuvių Moterų Atstovybė pasivadino Lietuvių Moterų Klūbų Federacija.

1. p. Linkuvienė
2. a.a. dr. Ona Krikščiūnienė
3. Stasė Semėnienė
4. Marija Krauchunienė
5. a.a. Kazimiera Leonaitienė
6. Matilda Marcinkienė
7. Jolanda Kerelienė
8. dr. Vilija R. Kerelytė
9. a.a. Aleksandra Likanderienė
10. Albina Ripskienė
11. dr. Vilija R. Kerelytė - Pirm.

**Frances Grdina**  
C-90, Kearny, NJ

## IN MEMORIAM

**Josephine Kajris**  
C-110, Maspeth, NY  
Mar. 23, 1997

**William Shergalis**  
C-90, Kearny, NJ

**Peggy Zakaras**  
C-36, Chicago, IL

**Helen Gudczauskas**  
C-103, Providence, RI  
April 5, 1997

**Walter Juraska**  
C-16, Chicago, IL  
Mar. 17, 1997

**Albinas Zalinauskas**  
C-36, Chicago, IL

**Josephine Kilkus**  
C-36, Chicago, IL



**Veronica Omlar**  
C-96, Dayton, OH  
Mar. 18, 1997



**John P. Bender**  
C-26, Worcester, MA  
April 17, 1997

## Baltic Enterprise Fund Loans \$4 Million For Lithuanian Businesses

The Baltic American Enterprise Fund approved 18 loans in Lithuania totaling nearly \$4 million dollars as of Sept. 30, 1996. These business loans supported 966 jobs and 272 new projected jobs in businesses located in Vilnius, Kaunas, Šiauliai, Jubarkas and other areas in Lithuania.

Loans range in size from \$13,500 to \$1 million dollars and have assisted entrepreneurs with over 100 employees and fewer than ten. Industries represented include wood processing, transportation, photo finishing, hospitality, wholesale/retail sales, meat processing, garment manufacturing, graphic design and others.

The Baltic-American Enterprise Fund is a private sector not-for-profit corporation funded by the United States Government public sector money through the Agency for International Development. Its sole purpose is to support the development of small to medium sized private enterprises in the Baltic States. It operates as an autonomous organization with authority to manage its operations in a manner appropriate to its program in the Baltic States.

All requests for loans, investments,

guarantees, or technical assistance are reviewed and acted upon at the Fund's head office in Washington, D.C. All transactions are denominated in U.S. dollars and all credit facilities investments, and guarantees are domiciled in the United States.

The Baltic Enterprise Fund reports that every loan on their books as of Sept. 30, 1996 was performing, that is current on payments of principal and interest. Technical assistance to businesses is also a part of the program.

### Trip to Rome Planned

A trip by the Knights of Lithuania is being planned for the 50th anniversary of the St. Casimir's Pontifical College - Feb. 28 to March 7, 1998.

As soon as final plans are completed, information will be forwarded and published in VYTIS.

Any members interested in attending, contact the St. Casimir Guild of the Knights of Lithuania.

Anna Klizas Wargo, President  
St. Casimir Guild of the K. of L.  
125 S. Morris St.  
St. Clair, PA 17970  
(717) 429-0132

# My Flight To Lithuania



by Edward Baranauskas

I never thought I would ever see Lithuania regain her freedom again during my lifetime. After all, the Soviet Union was a mighty superpower with its dreaded Secret Police, the KGB, that suppressed all forms of dissension. It seemed almost impossible, at least to me, that such a regime would ever crumble from within. However, that's exactly what happened in the summer of 1991 when the central government in Moscow collapsed, and each republic went their own way.

I still have vivid memories of my many trips to Lithuania during the Soviet era. How can any American tourist ever forget those anxious and stressful moments while going through Customs in either Leningrad (now called St. Petersburg) or Moscow, when entering and leaving the Soviet Union? I and some of my fellow tourists shared more than one uncomfortable moment as we were being searched by tactless Customs Inspectors. Then, there were those declaration forms that had to be filled out in detail: one item required the exact amount of foreign currency being brought in, and also the exact amount when leaving. Flying to Vilnius from those two cities was only possible by the Soviet national airline, Aeroflot. Thank goodness, those unpleasant memories are now history.

While some changes for the better seemed slow in coming, going to Lithuania is now a pleasant experience instead of the nightmare it once was. Gone are the days when a visa was



*Welcome Aboard:  
Lithuanian Airlines Pilot,  
Capt. Jonas Liegus*

required. Now, upon arriving in Lithuania, an American citizen needs only his, or her valid United States passport. It's as simple as that.

Lithuania has her own national airline, Lithuanian Airlines. How it came into existence makes an interesting story, as we shall later learn.

As I was preparing for my third trip to a free Lithuania in July 1996, I learned that Lithuanian Airlines was inaugurating two weekly flights to Rome beginning in May.

The thought of flying to Vilnius from Rome appealed to me, and my travel agent had no problem in making arrangements. I had previously flown through routes to Copenhagen-Vilnius-Copenhagen and Warsaw-Vilnius-Warsaw with Lithuanian Airlines, and this time I wanted to try a different itinerary. Because LAL does not have any transatlantic routes, all of my connecting flights to Europe originated in New York.

The flight from Kennedy Airport was routine. After landing in Rome, I went through passport control and was surprised that not many Italians spoke English. This presented a temporary problem for me, but eventually I found the Information Booth at the International Flights Departure Terminal. Lithuanian Airlines was located at ticket counter 48, I was told, and checked-in there for my boarding pass. I then went through another passport control and security check. Fortunately for me, there was a two hour gap between landing in Rome and the connecting flight to Vilnius. I had to walk at a brisk pace,

and, even then, it still took me a little more than an hour to reach the LAL boarding gate.

A bus took me and the other 28 passengers to the aircraft waiting for us. It was an American made Boeing 737-200 named Stasys Girenas.

Shortly after takeoff, Captain Jonas Liegus, the senior pilot on board, left the flight compartment momentarily to relax in the First Class section of the cabin, which had no passengers. Seeing this, I left my seat and sat across the aisle from him. I introduced myself. He was pleasantly surprised to learn that I was a Lithuanian-American, and wondered what I was doing in Rome.

During our conversation, he told me that this airplane took the Lithuanian Olympic Team to Atlanta for the games. Since the Boeing 737-200 does not have the range to fly across the North Atlantic from Europe nonstop, I was curious as to how this was possible. There was no problem, he went on to say, and gave the details of the flight plan.

The Olympic flight was done in three stops. Leaving Vilnius, they flew over Latvia, Sweden, Norway and landed at Keflavik Airport in Iceland. The flight took a little over four and a half hours.

From there, they went to Gander in Newfoundland after a flight of four hours. From there, it was on to Atlanta. That flight took about four and a half hours. The entire trip covered 5,242 statute miles in a little over 13 hours of flying time.



*Your smiling crew:  
LAL flight attendants (top)  
Jurgita Baranauskaitė and  
(bottom) Loreta  
Kensgailienė.*



(Note: The airfields at Iceland and Newfoundland played important roles during World War II. Keflavik was built by the U.S. Army and was used as an air force base. Gander was operated by the U.S. military, and was used for ferrying aircraft to Britain and for patrolling the North Atlantic shipping lanes. Today, it is one of the largest international airports in North America.)

My flight to Vilnius, which took about two and a half hours from Rome, was a wonderful experience for me. I had the pleasure of meeting members of the flight crew and chatting with them in Lithuanian. They gladly let me take their pictures. The landing in Vilnius was so smooth it was like landing on a cloud.

My return home was equally interesting. Although I had a confirmed flight to Rome with Lithuanian Airlines, it was canceled due to lack of passengers. A change in my itinerary, however, was made with no problem. I was able to

leave that same morning, also with Lithuanian Airlines, for Amsterdam, and from there was able to get a connecting flight to New York with Delta Airlines.

The flight to Amsterdam was just as interesting as my flight to Vilnius from Rome. The airplane was the same, named Stasys Girenas, but with a different crew. This time there were fifty-two passengers, including myself, and I was the only Lithuanian-American on board. I was pleasantly surprised to see a young man to be one of the Flight

*Do you have your boarding pass? the author boards from Rome on July 5, 1996. This Boeing 737-200 was the plane that transported Team Lithuania to the Olympics last year*



Attendants, named Gintaras Sinkevičius. On all my previous flights with Lithuanian Airlines, all of them were young ladies. This time I had the pleasure of being served by Jurgita Baranauskaite from Alytus. When I showed her my U.S. passport, she was equally surprised to see that I was a Baranauskas, too.

A joint Lithuanian-Danish venture supplies Lithuanian Airlines, and other air carriers operating out of Vilnius, with flight meals. I noticed that the strawberry yogurt I enjoyed was made in the town of Biržai. This has to be a good sign, for it means that Lithuania is slowly, but surely, making a transition to a free market economy. In the long run this is bound to improve the nation's standard of living.

During the flight, as I noticed the happy and smiling people around me, I began to realize what the blessing of freedom must mean to the Lithuanian people. During Soviet times, travel outside its borders was so severely restricted that it was impossible for the average person to go abroad. Now, they can travel to places they never thought they would ever see. Since the door to the cage was torn down in 1991, people, just like the birds, are flying about in every direction.



**Did You Know?** Scholars still cannot decide which is Lithuania's highest hill, Juozapinė or Kruopinė at 294 meters. -*Vilnius in Your Pocket*  
© Summer 1996

## THE STORY OF LITHUANIAN AIRLINES

I am sure there are some people who may not be aware that Lithuania has its own airline, or if they do, know very little about it.

Darius and Girenas, two-Lithuanian pilots, attempted to fly non-stop from New York to Kaunas in 1933 with a single engine airplane. Those were the days when aviation was still in its infancy, and there were some who tried to cross the Atlantic, but were never heard from again. The Lithuanians successfully crossed the North Atlantic, but unfortunately perished when their plane crashed in what was once a part of Germany, but now is a part of Poland. They had hoped their flight, even if it should fail, would inspire the young men of Lithuania to continue the conquest of the skies. Today, that legacy is being fulfilled.

I am grateful to two gentlemen who supplied me with information regarding the birth and operation of Lithuanian Airlines. One of them is Stasys Kašauskas, editor-in-chief of the English language magazine published in Vilnius,



"Lithuania in the World". The other is Dr. Eugenijus Skerstonas, advisor to the General Director of the airline, and editor of the in-flight magazine, "Lithuanian Airlines", which is available to passengers on every flight.

Lithuanian Airlines, as it is known today, was once a branch of Aeroflot, the Soviet national airline, in the days of the Soviet Union. It was a paramilitary organization strictly under Moscow's control and management, and was only authorized to have flights to other Soviet republics. The airports at Vilnius, Kaunas, Šiauliai and Palanga were used for domestic flights or for military purposes. In order to fly to cities in other countries, such as Warsaw or Berlin for example, passengers had to go to either Moscow or Leningrad first, and from there take the flight to the desired destination.

When the Lithuanian Parliament proclaimed the restoration of Lithuanian independence on March 11, 1990, all industries and natural resources were declared to be the property of the nation. This, of course, presented many problems, including the status of fifty-nine aircraft based at the Vilnius Airport. This became a topic of heated political debate. The enemies of free Lithuania had planned to fly the aircraft out of Vilnius to other parts of the Soviet Union, and leave them there. However, pilots loyal to Lithuania foiled the plot. After protracted legal arguments, the aircraft became the property in 1991 of the newly organized Lithuanian Airlines (LAL), a state-owned company established by the Ministry of Transportation.

The newly created company had experienced pilots, mechanics, and flight attendants, but there was a lack of marketing and legal experts on aviation. The airline's business plans were worked out with the help of European consultants. They, as well as passengers arriving in Lithuania, were critical of Russian planes. It became obvious that these airplanes could not compete with the more modern Western-built airliners, and the decision was made that all Russian planes would eventually have to be sold, including the refurbished YAK-42Ds, a three-engine jet seating 108 passengers.

The first Boeing 737-200, leased from the Irish company GPA for five years, arrived at

Vilnius in December of 1991. (The American built 737, according to statistics, is the world's best selling jetliner, and the most reliable, in commercial aviation.) This necessitated sending LAL's technical staff to various countries, such as Ireland, England, Germany, etc., to learn the operation of modern aircraft, which is a costly process for a nation struggling economically. Upon the successful completion of their training, they were awarded certificates to service aircraft on international flights.

Two more Boeing 737-200s were purchased, one was named Steponas Darius and the other Stasys Girenas, to honor the memory of those heroic transatlantic pilots. Monsignor Kazimieras Vasiliauskas, rector of Vilnius Cathedral, christened and blessed both of these airplanes.

After meeting strict Western standards, Lithuanian Airlines was accepted into the IATA, the International Air Transport Association. In 1996, they were approved for membership in the ERA, the European Regional Airlines.

Two other aircraft have been added to the fleet, the Swedish built Saab 340B, a twin-engine turboprop. These 33 seaters were leased for five years, on a two-year trial period. They will be operated on the shorter routes, such as Warsaw, Berlin, and St. Petersburg.

Few Lithuanian women worked as Flight Attendants during the Aeroflot days. Now that Lithuania has its own airline, this profession has become very popular. Every applicant, women as well as men, must meet special requirements before being considered. Among them, are a secondary school diploma, which can be compared to our high school, and fluency in both Lithuanian and English.

Before Lithuania made world headlines in 1990 and 1991, not many people ever heard of such a country, or could locate it on a map of Europe. In fact, some confused the Baltic States with the Balkan States. Lithuania has come a long way since those dark days when very few thought she would ever break out of the prison called the Soviet Union.

The legacy of Darius and Girenas lives on. Lithuania no longer is isolated from the rest of the world, and Lithuanian Airlines is leading the way.





*Dayton Convention Highlights*

## THE EVOLUTION OF A DANCE GROUP

*By Fran Petkus and Elinor Sluzas*

**T**he Lithuanian Community of Dayton has had a Lithuanian dance group as far back as the early 1920's. Nellie Stulgaitis Melazius was the first Dayton dance instructor. She formed a dance group of young girls and taught them dances such as *Noriu Miego*, *Klumpa Kojas* and *Pumpolionius*. Each girl made her own costume... a black silk skirt and a black velvet vest which was criss-cross tied in front with ribbons. A simple white blouse and a colorful apron completed their costume. Some of her dancers were also early K. of L. members - Monica Stulgaitis Petrokas, Julia Stulgaitis Sakalas, Anna Repa Ambrozaitis, Martha Morrow Grinčius, Catherine Servaites Zubrick and Katie Wareika.

In the mid 1940's we had a small group of 8 young ladies who, with Cecelia Melžius their Director, kept alive the Lithuanian dance traditions. With the influx of new Lithuanians after World War II, our little group grew by leaps and bounds. They taught us more intricate Lithuanian dances and they brought with them beautiful, authentic Lithuanian Costumes. With this infusion of authenticity and enthusiasm we went out into the



community and proudly performed our Lithuanian dances.

"We were very popular. We received invitations from all over. I believe we danced on every stage in the Dayton, Ohio area. I remember when we danced at the Island Park Bandshell, we drew the largest crowd they had ever seen. We really tied up traffic that day. We danced at the Montgomery County Fairgrounds and many schools. I remember when we danced at the Hobart Troy Ohio Coliseum, we brought the house down when Charlie Vangas and Alex Pietrzak danced the "Ožalis" Goat Dance. Aldona Ryan arranged for



**K. OF L.'ERS THROUGH THE YEARS:** (pg. 16 top) 1997 Vejeliai Dance Group - back row: Jim Geiger, Eric Geiger, Aaron Geiger, Paul Andolsek, Jamie Seifert, Rob Pant; front row- Kay Andolsek, Julie Rehling, Ariana Liaugminas, Molly Geiger-Director, Rhonda Harvey, Kristy Tipton. Not in photo: Linda Seifert, Norma Petkus, Michael Petkus. (pg. 16 bottom) 1940's Vejeliai Dancers - kneeling: Sally Miller, Elinor Sluzas, Pat Zelinskas Alexander; standing: Dorothy Miller Conrady, Catherine Zubick Prašmantas, Ann Gudelis, Mary Ann Ambrose Blum (dec.), Anne Goldick Scott. (top) 1970's Vejeliai Dancers - 1st row: 2nd -Annamarie Sluzas Berger, 3rd -Elena Mikalauskas, 6th-Irena Gečas, 7th-Vida Gečas; 2nd row, 1st-6th: former director E. Anthony Sluzas, MaryAgnes Mikalauskas, former director Gregory Blum, Kathy Sinkowitz, Michael F. Petkus and Rita Gečas.

us to perform several times on television." wrote Fran Vangas our council member who now lives in Florida with her husband Charlie. Fran was the accordionist for the dance group for many years and Charlie danced with the group.

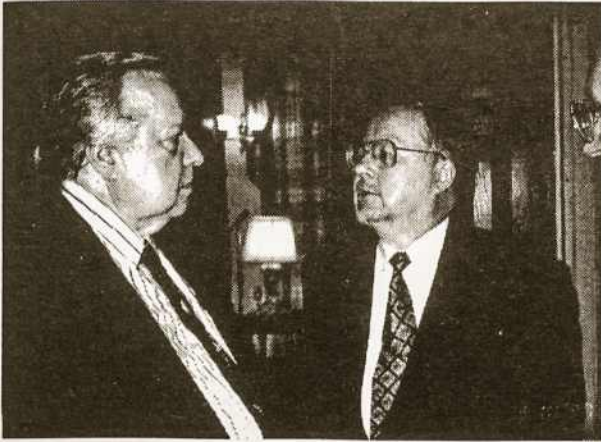
In the 1960's the Lithuanian Dance Group was officially named "Vejeliai" by Aldona Ryan. Since the beginnings the group has had many dedicated leaders ...

..Nellie Melažius, Cecelia Melažius, Charlie and Fran Vangas, Aldona Ryan, Karolyn Ambrose,

Judy Petrokas, Vytenis Čyvas, E. Anthony Sluzas, Gregory Blum and Molly Geiger. Molly is the group's present Director and is a recipient of a K. of L. Scholarship Award. The Vejeliai Dancers have performed at the Dayton International Festival for twenty-four consecutive years. We are very proud of them!!

The Vejeliai Dancers are eager to perform during the National Convention Cultural Night program in our National Air Force Museum Theatre!





# Lithuanians

**Our man in Washington:** former Lithuanian Affairs Chairman, Vincent B. Boris discusses NATO with Prof. Vytautas Landsbergis at a recent meeting at the Lithuanian Embassy in Washington, D.C.

## PUSH FOR NATO CONTINUES

In a continued and accelerated push for the earliest possible accession into NATO, Lithuania dispatched, on a multi-count tour, the most renowned individual from her fight for liberation from Soviet domination. Prof. Vytautas Landsbergis, who had been the Chairman of the Lithuanian Central Committee at the time of the Lithuanian "Singing Revolution" of 1990 and 1991, gained immense international acclaim for his courage and astute leadership during those perilous times. With this universal respect and admiration, Prof. Landsbergis had entrée to government, media and public that could not be matched by any other Lithuanian leader. He is officially, at present, the President of the Lithuanian Parliament (Seimas); and, therefore, could speak knowledgeably and emphatically of the urgent national security concerns of the fledgling democracy sitting at the edge of the Russian bear's lair. During his whirlwind visit to the United States, Prof. Landsbergis met with members of the Lithuanian American communities in Chicago, then with U.S. Government officials and media representatives in Washington, D.C.

At the Lithuanian Embassy in Washington, he was honored at a reception for government officials, members of the diplomatic corps and a few local Lithuanian-American leaders. Of particular interest to our readers may be his immediate

name recognition of the Knights of Lithuania and his comments that the "Vyčiai" were a most important organization and involved in a most significant program of humanitarian aid to Lithuania.

*Submitted by Vince Boris, C-102*

## *Timinskas, another Lithuanian to watch in Basketball*

New York Post sportswriter David Waldstein, in the paper's issue of Sunday February 2, devoted an entire page to Mindaugas Timinskas, a senior with the Iona College basketball team. An NBA scout calls him a "legitimate prospect, one of the best shooters in the country, and the Lithuanian Larry Bird", the superstar who played for the Boston Celtics. The sportswriter called the 6 foot 7 inch from Lithuania as "the best college player in New York".

For Timinskas, just being able to travel outside Lithuania was a remarkable event. Only a few years earlier, his country suffered under the yoke of Soviet domination. Under Stalin's evil regime, his father's family was sent to Siberia after World War II. When the Russians occupied, Timinskas said, they sent over 100,000 Lithuanians to Siberia. They tried to clear out what they called "garbage".

After 10 difficult years, Stasys Timinskas and his family eventually made it back to Lithuania. It was horrible, he recalls.

# in the News

Mindaugas played for the Lithuanian national team last year with Sarunas Marčiulionis and Arvydas Sabonis. Last summer, he was the most valuable player on the gold-medal winning team at the European junior championships.

He is already well-known by basketball fans in Lithuania and may become well-known here as an NBA star.

*-Submitted by Ed Baranauskas, C-100*

## Travel to Lithuania Picks Up

The April 24, 1997 edition of Travel Weekly, a weekly guide book sent to 30,000 U.S. and Canada travel agents featured articles on travel to the Baltics and Nordic Europe.

"This is the first time in history we have received such publicity for Lithuanian tourism," said Lithuanian Tourist Board operator and C-41 member, Romas Kezys. Tourist flights and cruises of the Baltic Countries, especially Lithuania, are featured.

The publication also lists the pluses and minuses of travel to Lithuania as noted on a corresponding Lithuanian travel Internet site. Pluses include newly renovated hotels, cafes and restaurants; while minuses include old fashioned railroads, and few roadside services and not enough renovated hotels.

Along with Kezys' Vytis Travel, Chicago's Al Grigas of GT Travel noted a trend of visitors seeking longer stays in the Baltic capital cities, along with a desire to add St. Petersburg, Russia to an itinerary.

## Mazeika Wins Sales Award

California realtor specialist and relocation counselor, Tony Mazeika, was recently honored with a referral sales award by the Chicago based RELO/International Relocation



Illinois Governor, Jim Edgar recently sponsored a "Tribute to Ethnic Women's Organizations" exhibit in the James R. Thompson Center, which included over 50 tables of different ethnic women's groups. Executive Director for the Governor's Office, Donna Mulcahy Fitts commended the Women's Guild of the Balzakas Museum of Lithuanian Culture for their dedication and commitment in helping others and carrying on their heritage and culture. Pictured (l to r) Margi Mankus, Donna Fitts, Ruth Katauskas, Pat Michalski-asst. to the Governor for Ethnic Affairs and Maryann Moore.

network. The RELO board cited Mazeika and his company for generating \$1 to \$4 million in referral sales in his Southern California community.

Tony and his wife, Danute, are C-133 Los Angeles K. of L.'ers and his father, Anthony J. Mazeika was a life-long K. of L'er since the 1930's. Tony is also active in the Mission Viejo Chamber of Commerce and was part of the Baltic delegation who met with Pres. Bush in 1990 for Lithuanian recognition.

*-Mission Viejo Weekly News*



## Lithuanian Chefs

### Tasty Cakes

June is the month of brides, and in honor of some of our K. of L. brides-to-be, we'd like to feature these sweet treats. Thanks to C-144's chefs for these.

#### KISS ME CAKE (Ann Zaldaris)

6 oz. can frozen orange juice, concentrated, thawed  
2 cups flour  
1 cup sugar  
1 tsp. baking soda  
1 tsp. salt  
1/2 cup shortening  
1/2 cup milk  
2 eggs  
1 cup raisins, optional  
1/3 cup chopped walnuts

Grease and flour the bottom of a 13 x 9 inch cake pan. Combine 1/2 cup orange juice concentrate with rest of ingredients. Blend at lowest speed of electric mixer for 30 seconds. Beat at medium speed for 3 minutes. Pour into pan and bake at 350 degrees for 40-45 minutes. Drizzle remaining orange juice

concentrate over warm cake and sprinkle with sugar nut topping.

#### Sugar nut topping:

1/3 cup sugar  
1/4 cup chopped walnuts  
1 tsp. cinnamon

Combine ingredients in bowl and mix thoroughly. Sprinkle over warm cake.

#### HONEY CAKE Meduolis (Evelyn Prep)

6 egg yolks  
1 cup white sugar  
1 cup hot honey  
1 cup oil  
1 tsp. vanilla  
2 cups flour  
1 tsp. soda  
1 tsp. salt  
1/4 tsp. cloves  
6 egg whites, beaten stiff

Beat egg yolks. Add sugar. Beat well. Add oil, hot honey, vanilla and blend well. Sift dry ingredients. Then add to egg mixture, blending well. Fold in egg whites. Pour in tube pan and bake at 325 degrees for 1 hour.

#### BANANA CAKE (Josephine Miskinis & Josephine Ashman)

3 eggs  
1 1/2 cups sugar  
3/4 cup shortening (Crisco)  
1 tsp. baking soda  
1 tsp. baking powder  
1 cup sour milk  
3 cups flour  
3 mashed bananas  
1 tsp. vanilla  
1 pinch salt

Makes a 2 layer cake.

Cream shortening, add sugar, blend well. Add eggs, one at a time. Blend well. Add vanilla. Add sifted flour, baking soda, baking powder, salt, mix; add milk gradually. Bake in greased pan at 350 degrees for 35 minutes.

Variation: You may use yogurt instead of buttermilk then use following coconut topping between 1/2 of batter in pan and top of batter before baking.

#### Coconut topping:

1/2 cup grated coconut  
1/2 cup brown sugar  
1 tsp. cinnamon  
1/2 tsp. grated ginger  
Mix topping ingredients well before sprinkling over cake.

\*\*\*\*\*

*Fellow Knights and readers are encouraged to send in favorite recipes to the editors' address on inside cover. Please include your council number.*

## Kvatojantis Širmis - The Laughing Steed on St. John's Eve

St. John's Eve, or Joninės happens only once a year, June 24.

This night the young maidens of Juodkrantė (Black Shore) run to the sea for a swim. It is said that in those days the waters were crystal clear and many good fairies would be seen floating there. On St. John's Eve, these fairies would entwine in the tresses of the maidens with moonlight beams, making their faces more beautiful, and professing that in the near future a happy marriage would occur.

On this night, people climbed to the highest peak of Juodkrantė and lit a large bonfire, because it is said that it is by fire that a person's body is cleansed. There all would sing, and discuss various legends about the battles of knights and dragons, and the tricks of the Evil One. It is said that during this night a drunk sitting in a tavern, lost all his money to the devil, that on this night a ghost birch tree under which a beautiful maiden cast out from the sea, was buried.

One of these occurrences, which happened on the highest peak of Raganų Kalno (The Hill of the Witches) a story was relayed to me by an old fisherman about what happened on Joninės to one of his ancestors.

It was St. John's Eve. It was silent, starry night filled with low mysterious echoes. A man went out to fetch his horse from the fields. The next morning he had to go to the market to sell his dried fish. According to tradition, the people of Kuršių never tied up their horses. They were allowed to roam loose in the field. When the people needed them, they went out in search of them.

As his relative was walking on the Raganų Kalnas he saw a beautiful steed standing in the middle of the road staring at him. The man could not tell to which neighbor it belonged.

"It will be easier to find my horse on horseback," thought the man and he jumped upon the steed's broad back. The steed trotted towards



**...people climbed to the highest peak of Juodkrantė and lit a large bonfire, because it is said that it is by fire that a person's body is cleansed.**

the sea. That was all right with the man since he had no bridle or harness. The wind was blowing in from the sea, so all the horses must be there, thought the man.

As the man was glancing around for his horse, the steed was already getting his hooves wet in the sea. Sensing that this ride could end badly, the man tried to get off. Trying one leg and then the other. They would not budge. It seemed as if his clothing was glued to the horse. When the steed felt that the rider wanted to dismount, it rose up on its hind legs and started to laugh, so loudly that the whole shore thundered. The man was trembling with fear, sweat was running down his back. He did not know how to save himself.

The waves were already tickling the soles of his feet. He decided to make the sign of the cross for the very last time.

As soon as he had made the sign of the cross, he found himself up to his armpits sitting in the water. The steed was gone and his terrible laughter had ceased. A light breeze was blowing and only the roaring sound of the ocean was heard. Only then did the man realize that the devil on St. John's Eve changes into a horse and tries to murder human beings. Going ashore, he saw his horse grazing along the beach waiting for its master. Mounting it he happily rode home.

And this is the story of the laughing steed on St. John's Eve!

*from the Legends of Juodkrantė- Raganų Kalnas by Feliksas Marcinkas translated by Dalia Bulvičius illustration, the Talecounter by Teofilis Patiejūnas (Vilnius)*



### Did you know?

When you are right, no one remembers.  
When you are wrong, no one forgets.

# DISTRICT AND COUNCIL NEWS

## Mid-America District Celebrates 37th Annual Memories of Lithuania Banquet

by *Ellie Kasputis*

On Sunday, February 2, 1997, the Mid-America District hosted its 37th Annual "Memories of Lithuania" Banquet at the Martinique Restaurant. Nearly three hundred members, friends and guests gathered to commemorate Lithuania's Independence and to honor one of Chicago's pillar Lithuanian organizations, the Chicago Lithuanian Women's Club. Under the chairmanship of Robert A. Martin, Jr., C-16, this year's committee did a wonderful job of providing an evening of exceptional food, drink, dance and song.

The evening got underway with the introduction of the headtable guests by Gerald Daimid, C-36. This year's guests included: Honorary Member, Algerd Brazis, C-112, who served as the evening's Master of Ceremonies; Aldona Brazis, C-112, a dedicated K of L'er and Al's lovely wife; Rev. Anthony Zakarauskas, C-112, the MAMD's Spiritual Advisor who led everyone in



### Banquet Committee Members

Pictured L to R: (front row) Ellie Kasputis, Robert A. Martin, Jr., Evelyn Ozelis, Algerd Brazis and Aldona Brazis; (back row) Ann Marie Kassel, Peter Paul Robert Zansitis, Diann Martin, Ed Pocius, Terry Strolia and Faustas Strolia. *Photo by Jonas Tamulaitis*

the evening's invocation and benediction; Dr. Peter Paul Robert Zansitis, C-16, MAMD President; Evelyn Ozelis, C-36, Supreme Council President; Robert A. Martin, Jr., and Sophia "Scottie" Zukas, C-36, valued K of L'er and President of the Chicago Lithuanian Women's Club.

The singing of the

Lithuanian and American Anthems was lead by Mary Juzenas, C-112.

During the evening, the district's Eleanor Laurin Memorial Scholarships were presented by Scholarship Committee Chairlady, Julie Zakarka, C-112, along with committee members Al Mockus C-112, and Peter Zansitis to two young K. of





Photos (top left) **Chicago Lithuanian Women's Club Officers** Sophia Zukas, Ruth Hoffman, Harriet Kamin, Frances Simononis, Irene Buchbinder with MAMD president, Peter Paul Robert Zansitis. (top right) **Scholarship Committee and Recipients** Anthony Roland Zumaras, Al Mockus, Julie Zakarka, Peter Paul Robert Zansitis and Jennifer Lynn Hornick (left) **Award Presentation** made by Peter Zansitis to Sophia "Scottie" Zukas. *Photos by Jonas Tamulaitis.*



L'ers, Anthony Roland Zumaras of C-14 and Jennifer Lynn Hornick of C-36. We congratulate these two outstanding young members on this well-deserved award.

The program then called for everyone to be treated to the beautiful dancing of the MAMD Dance Group under the direction of Frank Zapolis, C-36. Our dancers once again delighted all with their fervor, spirit, and enthusiasm. They had all of us dancing along

from our seats. The program then culminated with the incomparable voice of soloist, Genevieve Macys Giedraitis, C-36. Accompanied by well-known pianist, Kimberly Schmidt, Ms. Giedraitis captivated all with a beautiful selection of songs that concluded in an inspiring rendition of "You Never Walk Alone" from *Carousel*.

Finalizing the program was the 1997 "Award of Distinction" presentation to the Chicago Lithuanian Women's Club. This annual award is presented to an individual or organization that

works tirelessly for Lithuania or Lithuanian causes. The C.L.W.C. is certainly a most deserving recipient and we congratulate them on this much deserved honor. The award was accepted by their current President, Sophia "Scottie" Zukas, who is also a longtime K. of L. member from C-36.

After the program, guests danced to the music of Auzlas Stelmokas and his Orchestra. A good time was had by all.

The MAMD wishes to thank everyone who participated in this year's banquet and most especially this year's honorees.

## On the Calendar...

### District Conventions:

*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, Plymouth, MI - Bob Boris (810) 682-0098  
*83rd Annual Lithuanian Days* Schuylkill Mall, Frackville, PA  
 August 16-17 - Anne Wargo (717) 429-0132

### C-7, Waterbury, CT **Arlene Stiklius**

At our March meeting the membership voted to have the K. of L. National Convention in August 1998. The papers were filled out and sent to the Supreme Council. We are now awaiting a reply. The last time a National Convention was held in Waterbury was in 1923, so we are long overdue.

Our council president, Joe Stiklius, was awarded the bronze award by Northeast Utilities for his volunteer work in the community with the K. of L. As a result of this award, our council was presented with a \$300.00 grant on behalf of Joe. This is the second straight year that our council has received such a grant. We thank Joe and Northeast Utilities for this fine gift.

We are all glad to hear that Rev. Joseph Anderlonis is feeling better after surgery.

We wish him a speedy recovery. He is in our prayers.

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

Our council sponsored a roast pork supper on April 5th to benefit the current building fund. About 100 persons attended and enjoyed the delicious meal. General co-chairmen were Sophia Fiorentino and Dr. Henry Gailiūnas; plus chef - Howard Beaudette, coffee - Milda Stasiūnas, with many K. of L.'ers helping in the kitchen, setting-up and donating the pastries. Our council donated \$200 dollars towards the building fund.

Sophia Fiorentino is chairman of a stained glass refurbishing fund and she is accepting donations as memorials.

Nellie Melaika and Dr. Henry Gailiūnas appeared on the front page of the "Athol

Daily News" proclaiming him a member of 50 years of C-10 of the Knights of Lithuania. Bravo Henry! Ilgiausią Metų Henrikai!

The AARP honored 16 Gardner area women at the observance of National Women's History month. Honored posthumously was Ann Jodaitis Dye. Ann died in 1996. She was an instructor and educational director of the U. S. Cadet Nurse Corps at Trusdale Hospital in Fall River. After World War II, Dye received a meritorious award from the Federal Security Department for preparing the largest classes of student nurses in history for military and essential civilian nursing. She is survived by K. of L. member, Beatrice Jodaitis Richard.

Anne Beaudette was also honored posthumously last year as the 1st AARP president in Gardner. She was the mother to our financial secretary Howie Beaudette.

Anna Wilson has moved to Kennebunk, Maine. Because of poor health she wanted to be close to her two daughters, who reside there. We will miss you, Anna!

On the go were Joanna Castney who spent two months in Florida. Nell Melaika went to California. Dr. Henry visited an aunt in St. Petersburg and Bill and Bronė toured Germany, Austria and Switzerland for

15 days. Robert Landry enjoyed Florida.

Pastor Rev. Raymond Messier is chaplain to the Athol Fire Department. He also serves as an on-call fireman. Former pastor of St. Francis and now pastor of St. Anne's and Dennis parishes in Ashburnham and So. Ashburnham, Father really has his hands full with duties. Father, we wish you well!

C-10 wishes to congratulate the N.E.D spiritual advisor, Rev. Peter Shakalis on the occasion of his 50th anniversary of his priestly ordination! *Ilgiausių Metų!*

On the mend are Kathryn Paliulis, Mary Gauronsky and Bob Paliulis.

Sophia Fiorentino donated a Lithuanian flag to St. Francis. It is flown outdoors on special holidays. Bronė Wišniauskas also donated a flag that will be displayed in the church hall. *Ačiū labai merginos.*

This from "Vincukas" filling in for recuperating Kathryn Paliulis.

### **C - 12, New York**

***Dalia Bulvičius for Irene Senken***

Easter Sunday was very special for Our Lady of Vilnius parishioners. Our organ, which was silent for quite a while resounded again as beautifully ever, thanks to Saulius Janušas. He spent countless hours trying to



**C-19's Len Barcouzky as  
Kaledų senėlis**

"resuscitate this "90 year old lady". The parishioners and the pastor, Father Eugene Sawicki are grateful to Saulius, his assistants, Vincentas Katinas and son, Vincentas Katinas, Jr. for a job well done. Saulius wife, Gražina, provided the moral support for the group.

On April 20th, Gražina and her friends hosted a retirement party for Saulius. A juosta (which was woven by C-12 member Stasė Aleniūnas) was presented to Saulius with a hardy "*Ilgiausių Metų*".

At the same time yours truly (Dalia B.) celebrated her big 60! The surprise party was prepared by C-12 member John Lostys. In attendance were members from the three local K. of L. councils. VIP's in attendance were: Fathers Eugene

Sawicki, (C-12's spiritual advisor), Vytautas Palubinskas, (pastor of Annunciation parish, Brooklyn, NY), Daniel Staniškis (pastor of Holy Wisdom parish, New Jersey and member of C-12) and Daniel Yenkvich, (assistant pastor at Annunciation parish).

Romas Drazdauskas provided the accordion music for the sing-along. A good time was had by all.

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

C-19 participated in PPG's "Sparkle Season" festivities entertainment on Saturday December 7, 1996 as Len Barcouzky, C-19's Treasurer, dressed up Kaledų senėlis, the old man of Christmas, and gave a 15 minute speech on Lithuania and its Christmas traditions. The Neris Dancers, who include four C-19 members, performed after Len's talk. Len gave an encore performance the next day for C-19's Christmas brunch at the Holly Hill Inn preceded by a Mass at St Peters. There was no rest for John and Andrea Baltrus, Brian Johnson, or Rob Medonis as they had to rush out to the Oakland section of Pittsburgh to dance for the University of Pittsburgh's Nationality Rooms Open House. Thanks are due John Baltrus and Alice Lewellen for organizing the brunch.

Thirty-five members attended and a good time was had by all.

C-19 along with Prince of Peace Parish sponsored a St. Casimir Day Fair on Sunday March 2, 1997. The Holy Sacrifice of Mass in honor of St. Casimir was celebrated at St. Matthews at 11:00 followed by a pancake breakfast at the Prince of Peace Parish Center. C-19 members Brian Johnson and Rob Medonis demonstrated straw ornaments and margučiai making respectively and the Neris Lithuanian Dancers performed. Thanks to Connie Zatek from Prince of Peace Parish for organizing the event and Paul Zatek for organizing the kitchen. Also thanks to Dalia Yucius for lending books and folk art, and Agatha Bender of C-19 for organizing reservations for the breakfast.

### **C-26, Worcester, MA**

***Stephen V. Walinsky, Sr.***

Do you remember that spaghetti supper that was to be at the April meeting night? Well it did happen. And it was a good one. Everyone that dined was nourished to satisfaction. The four courses starting with wine and ending with Neopolitan ice, made them rear back in their chairs, pat their tummies and whisper, "ah, that was superb".

The meetings of Council 26 are not just to review and discuss money and matters, we gather together as friends to be friends. We listen to each other's complaints about health, we rave about the high cost of living, about who is not doing something right, (of course, we could do it right), we share sorrows and condolences for the ill and the departed. And, once in a while, we hear something good about something or somebody. A good joke is thrown in every so often. This generates an interesting and enjoyable evening out.

Enough of that. The April meeting opened with the swearing in of the newly elected officers who were present. Fr. John administered the oath. Aldona Waska and Lil Condrotas were basking and bathing in the sands and sun of Florida, while Irene Markevičius was needed as a temporary nanny. The group projected and reflected a picture of pride, proud to have been elected to serve their council.

The business of the meeting followed, and continued with the new board of officers steering the ship of state in the right direction.

Viv Rodgers, back from the southern shores, took over the helm and gavel and began her duties as master of matters. Ruth Gadilauskas

took notes, acting as substitute secretary for this session. Programs for the next two meetings were announced. The membership was reminded of coming events in the church hall, and of the June first C-26 picnic at Maironis Park. The turnout for these activities is important for the success of the occasion, and it is up to us to promote them. She told us, and that's the truth.

After the ship is secured in Port by the Authority, the best part of the evening begins, as the food appears from the galley. Sometime it's just coffee with, and then other times it's a full meal, as a spaghetti supper. Of course, the latter takes a little more effort and a lot more preparation. From our treasury of diligent K of L'ers, a co-operative committee emerges and, Voile, we have a banquet.

Whichever it might be at the time, good or grand, Fr. John always has an appropriate blessing to impart on us and the food. Strange as it may be, it does add more flavor to not only the food, but also adds essence to the atmosphere. Thanks, Fr. John.

We then vocalize with prayer and song, professing allegiance to our motto, *For God and Country*, and to what it signifies, Adjourning the business until next month.

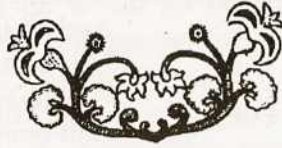
**C - 46, Forest City, PA****Blanch Motsko**

Get well wishes to Charles Cyzeski, Frances Yavorasky and Mary Kilonsky. We wish you all a speedy recovery and good health in the future.

We had a very nice Christmas party at the Dew Drop Inn with Santa distributing gifts.

Our St. Anthony and St. Michael churches were closed in January. The only notice given to parishioners and friends was to be found in the church bulletin accompanied by a blessing from Bishop Timlin of the Scranton diocese. Everybody is very upset about the closing of our beautiful Gothic church. Now we are forced to attend an over crowded church with limited parking space.

Our K. of L. spiritual advisor is Father Sitko, who never attends our meetings. Anthony Yavorsky, the president of our council asked Father Sitko if our council may hold its meetings in the Sacred Heart Church basement. Fr. Sitko informed him that for each meeting our council should pay \$25 for heat. Since our council felt it could not afford this sum, our meetings are held in the unheated basement of St. Anthony's church, huddled around a large kerosene burner. A heater and kerosene were donated by Frank Cyzeski, Sr. Thanks Frank!



Easter baskets were blessed at the remaining 3 churches.

Last year Casimir Stanis, a K. of L. member began his studies towards the priesthood. The council honored Casimir with a farewell luncheon, good wishes and \$100 towards his expenses. We are proud of you Casimir! Gero vėjo!

During the November meeting C - 46 showed its generosity: \$100 was donated to St. Anthony's parish, \$25 each to: Sacred Heart parish, Pontifical College in Rome and Religious Aid. Poinsettias were sent to all our shut-ins.

On March 19th we motored to Shamokin to attend a St. Casimir's Mass offered by Father Alisaukas. A luncheon and the Amber District meeting followed.

Among the attendees were: Stasia Wallace, Florence Kovalski, Anthony Yavorsky, John Morris, Amy Morris, Josephine O'Peka, Dorothy Andzulus, Blanche Motsko. We had 31 delegates. Two of your members won prizes in the fund raising raffle: Josephine O'Peka - \$25 and Helen Zlotucha - \$50. Before we left we were served a hearty brunch and all reflected on the good and productive time.

**C-72, Binghamton, NY****John R. Mankus**

Our Council commemorated Lithuanian Independence Day, February 16th with a Mass, celebrated by Father John Mikalajunas at Saint Joseph's Church. Binghamton Mayor, Richard Bucci read and presented a Lithuanian Independence Day Proclamation to Barbara Miller, who was dressed in her Lithuanian ethnic costume.

Ralph Sadauskas, Irene and Casey Grikenis, Arthur Stankevitz; and John Mankus attended our Amber District Spring meeting hosted by Council 156, Shamokin, PA. on Sunday, March 9th. Over 125 delegates and guests were in attendance. We wish to thank Shamokin Council president, Robert Wislock, and his membership for a very hospitable welcome to our Council delegates and all Amber District delegates and guests. - Father Peter Alisaukas and Father Ted Keating celebrated Mass at Our Lady of Hope Church. Our Council's Saint Casimir day commemoration was celebrated on March 2nd. Father John Mikalajunas celebrated Mass at Saint Joseph's Lithuanian R.C. Church and luncheon was held at Saint Joseph's Educational and Cultural Center. Many members of our Council participated.

## Casimir Yanish

by Ruth Yanish 3/4/97

We're here to honor Casimir,  
He's 80 years old today.  
He started life in Scranton  
And travelled a long way.  
Chuck studied hard at Central,  
Held class office and with the football ran.  
He acted in plays while studying.  
He was a true Renaissance man.  
Chuck spent time in Washington,  
with the U. S. Army Corps,  
A cost accountant at the Pentagon.  
But then came time to study some more.  
So off he went to Boston and Harvard  
Where he was about to change  
his life.  
At a hotel dance - The Carlton  
He met his future wife.  
Then came children and a house

And all that those things bring.  
He painted, papered, hammered,  
He always has helped others,  
And does so even now.  
Chuck worked for the Retarded  
And got new laws passed somehow.  
He's done a lot with his life,  
But there is a few things left to do.  
Go fishing with the grandchildren,  
Go golfing with some friends.  
Watch the sun go own in Phoenix  
After a sunny day ends.  
Keep doing what your're doing Chuck,  
Exercising and eating right.  
An you'll have health and happiness.  
And a life that's long and bright.

***C-74's Casimir Yanish  
celebrates his 80th birthday  
with wife, Ruth, Ann  
Matulavich, Marie and  
Richard Laske***



Our members, Father John Mikalajunas, Mary Ann and Harry Pakel, Irene and Casey Grikenis, Ralph and Mary Ann Sadauskas, Barbara Miller and John and Grace Mankus working with Viltis Lithuanian Relief Parcel Service Inc. directed by Gintaras Karosas along with Vilnius Cathedral Religious Center directed by Monsignor Vasiliauskas. Humanitarian Aid packages addressed to selected families, shipped through VILTIS, are delivered

directly to those selected needy families by local parish priests. We have established a pickup point in Binghamton NY, for monthly package pickup along with several monthly pickup locations in Pennsylvania to ship humanitarian items to needy families in Lithuania. Many members and friends are also making monetary contributions to cover shipping costs. Father John Mikalajunas received a \$200.00 donation from the parish-

ioners of Saint Mary of the Assumption Parish, Binghamton NY. Father John is planning a pilgrimage to the Holyland on September 16-26. Please contact Father for further details.

A Junior Council has been established in our Council under the direction of Barbara Miller. Barbara is organizing various youth activities for the Juniors and is also very active as our Council's financial secretary. Charles Almanas, our Lithuanian Affairs Chair,

gives us timely reports on current news and political affairs in Lithuania.

John Mankus continues to write and translate letters from Lithuania for council members and friends. On July 26th, John will participate with readings in Lithuanian at the St. Ann's Monastery Pilgrimage Mass in Scranton PA, with Rev. Clement Kasinskis, Father Alisauskas, members of Scranton Council and Amber District.

**C - 74, Scranton, PA**  
**Marie Laske**

Our condolences to Helen Churi and Margaret Clegg on the death of their brother.

The surprise snowstorm on the last day of March made traveling impossible, thus it brought two K. of L.'ers to our door. Mary and Jerome were stranded in Scranton and spent the night at our home. We enjoyed dinner and the visit was very pleasant. An emergency arose when Jerome needed insulin. Thus my husband, Dick, got a chance to try out his new red jeep Cherokee on a trip to the drugstore.

We really enjoyed "Memories of Lent and Easter" by Alice Kauneckas Graff of C - 152. We reflected on our own memories of this season. I remember that in order to find the strongest egg my dad would test all the eggs by tapping them on his teeth.

Then he would go next door to our Lithuanian neighbor, John Ezerskas, and they would compete trying to crack the eggs. If my father was the winner, he would come home with a big grin and bragging as to how many eggs he had won. One could easily tell if he was the loser. When he entered the house a loud growl would be heard.

On a sadder note, please pray for Dr. J. C. Noreika who is very ill. He is the son of our member, Joan Noreika.

Council members and friends remember July 26th. We will have a Lithuanian Mass at St. Ann's Basilica in West Scranton at 3 P.M. If you own a Lithuanian national costume please wear it.

**C-96, Dayton, OH**  
**Fran Petkus**

It was a very busy weekend for C-96 members as we prepared for the Supreme Council meeting being held on April 19, 1997 in Dayton! With 90% of the SC Board in attendance and Mother Nature cooperating, everything fell into place. Friday night many from the SC had dinner at Elinor's Amber Rose. From there we went to the Lithuanian Club, site of the Thursday night gathering of the national convention delegates and guests. Next stop was to HM Elinor Sluzas' home where, with the help of Mark and Annamarie Sluzas

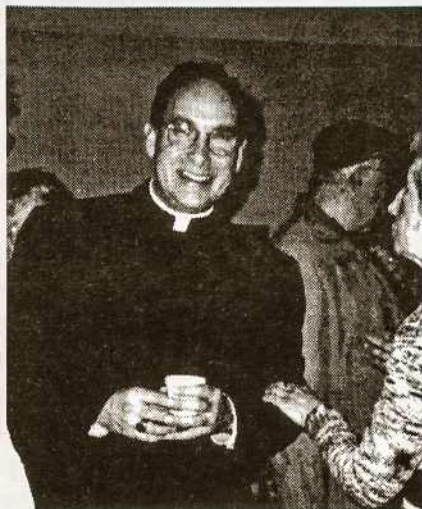
Berger, wonderful desserts, etc. were served!

Saturday morning coffee and donuts greeted the SC members with a lunch served during a break in the meeting. The meeting was opened with a prayer by C 96's Spiritual Advisor, Fr. Michael Holloran. Welcoming the Board, on behalf of C-96, was our Council President, Robert Pant. At one point, the 84th National Convention General Chair, James Geiger, presented the Board with the convention's program. The meeting, under the very capable hands of our National President, Evelyn Ozelis, was a very busy one and it was completed in time for the evening Mass. There was some humor during the meeting thanks to the SC Trustees, Mark Bell (C-96) and Mary Beth Slakis (C-16)!

Following Mass, all returned to Holy Cross' Hall for a buffet supper. Board members who did not make the Saturday evening Mass went to 10:30 AM Mass on Sunday. This was followed with a lively Koffee Klatch in the church hall. Many thanks in preparing for the weekend go to the Chair, Elena Mikalauskas, MCD President and C-96 member. George Mikalauskas was in charge of preparing all the wonderful food along with Frances Mikalauskas, Betty Nash, Eloise Berczelly, Michael and



**C-112's favorite clergy members** include (left) **Canon Vaclovas Zakarauskas**, Spiritual Advisor for more than 30 years who just celebrated his 90th birthday; and (right) **Rev. Mike Yakaitis**, the newly appointed pastor of Nativity B.V.M. parish in Chicago.



Norma Petkus, Joan Kavalasuskas, Elaine Pacovsky, Loretta Pant, Catherine Prasmantas, Rita Ambrose, Annamarie Sluzas Berger, Mark Bell, Rob Pant and Honorary Members Aldona Ryan, Elinor Sluzas and Fran Petkus. Mark and Rob also took care of the 'bar'. Part of the clean up crew came from our Junior Knights Joseph Berger, Robert and Erin Petkus.

Congratulations go to Aaron Geiger on his recent engagement to Kristi Tipton. Aaron, along with being a member of C-96, is organist for Holy Cross Church. Kristi sings in the choir and is a Eucharistic Minister in the parish. You will meet them at the national convention as they are also Vėjeliai Dancers! Our very deepest sympathies go to John and Joyce Boston Berczelly, Amy, Tony and Andrew Berczelly

on the death of their father and grandfather, John Boston. May his soul rest in the peace of our Dear Lord!

By the time you read this article, we will be busy preparing for your arrival to the 84th Knights of Lithuania National Convention - August 6 - 10, 1997! Get plenty of rest and store up that energy as we have much to share with you!

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

Greetings from Amsterdam Council 100!

On November 30th our Bishop Hubbard closed our St. Casimir's Church claiming that the trusells of our church were in dire need of repairs. We have a special committee working and checking with our own engineers. For our last Sunday mass in November the church was

packed. Our mayor, John M. Duchessi Jr., was among those in attendance. Our member Assemblyman Paul Tonko was also present with his parents. Joining us in the choir was our VYTIS editor and her husband.

Many cameras clicked and many tears were shed, but we still have high hopes to get our church reopened. Our parishioners are now attending our neighboring St. John the Baptist church.

Our Christmas party was held at Holiday Inn. Our efficient chairman was Sophie Obie assisted by Helen Hugo, Sophie Malkowicz and Regina Kot. Regina led the group in singing Christmas carols.

To observe St. Casimir's Day this year, members attended a special mass at St. John's and afterwards a luncheon at Valentino's Restaurant. Again, Sophie Olbie and Sophie Malkowitz



were the co-chairmen. Our president, Mirga Bablin, was the mistress of ceremonies. The main speaker was Edward Baranauskas, who gave a most interesting talk on St. Casimir, our patron Saint.

Officers for this year are: president - Mirga Bablin, 1st vice president - Regina Kot, 2nd vice-president- Gene Gobis, Secretary - Helen Kiuber, treasurer - Sophie Olbie. Elizabeth Kuzmich heads the Ritual Committee, Lithuanian Language - Apolonija Ziausys, Lithuanian Affairs - Adeline Raila and Lithuanian history - Edward Baranauskas. Eleanore Olechowski and Agnes Pearson serve on the Sunshine committee.

Edward and Polly Ziausys received a letter of thanks for their collecting and delivering goods for the Lithuanian Children's Relief.

A number of our council members recently lost family members. Our deepest sympathies go out to Edna and Al Luzinas in the loss of Edna's beloved sister, Ida Sidlauskas (Schell) on Dec. 1. Our treasurer, Sophie Olbie, lost her brother, James Kroup on Jan. 2nd and William and Beatrice Jasewicz and family lost William's brother, Joseph who made his peace with God on April 4th. Our council members express their condolences to the families. Amžina atilsj duok mirusiems

Viešpati.

Our meetings are now being held at St. Casimir's Rectory.

### **C-102, Detroit, MI**

#### ***Dvynukes***

EI VYČIAI GYVENAM TAUTAI IR BAŽNYČIAI!

These words were not only heralded in song, but truly exemplified by the diligent efforts of HM Bob Boris, ably assisted by members, Theresa and Michael Shea, Regina Juškaitė, Richard Straksys, Irene Vizgirda, Della and Patricia Zyren, Eve and Joe Stark, Bill Juodawlakis, John and Donna Stanievich, who presented a most gratifying commemoration to St. Casimir. Mass commenced with a processional. Flag bearers and the Offertory procession was represented by both Councils 102 and 79. We were graced with the presence of Fr. Vidmantas Gričius, Pastor of Our Lady Star of the Sea Parish in Šventoji, Lithuania, as homilist and concelebrant of the Mass with our Spiritual Advisor, Fr. Alphonse Babonas. Veneration of the Relic of St. Casimir preceded the Vyčiu Hymnas and recessional. As usual, the voices of St. Anthony's Choir, under Stasys Sližys' direction, blended beautifully. A dinner and program followed in the church hall. Michael Shea did an excellent job as MC, as did

Bob Boris in translating Fr. Gričius' background from Lithuanian into English. Special guests were CEO and Director, Carolyn George and George Samson from World Medical, Inc. All proceeds from this event were donated to Aid to Lithuania, Inc.

Another important event at which 102 members Ona Sadeikienė and her son, Stasys, Michael and Theresa Shea, Irene Vizgirda, Regina Juškaitė, Danielle Kudirka and Bob Boris participated in, was the Lithuanian Independence Day Commemoration on February 16th at Divine Providence Church. Mike, Irene and Danielle know what KP duty is like after peeling countless spuds for this event. A nice monetary contribution was given to ATL. Ačiū Labai! Nice to have Pres. Lorry Hofner and Maryanne Guerriero back in our midst both looking and doing so well after their surgeries.

With the coming of spring, snowbirds Mary and Chuck Taylor, Ray and Terri Medonis have returned, with Frank and Donna Bunikis soon to follow. Donna Stanievich, our Cultural Chairlady, continues to capture our attention with interesting and informative articles on Lithuanian history. Congratulations to Baby Dylan Scott and parents Tim and Chris Baibak! Amazing

**C-142's members  
Kazuiko Muge on  
Palm Sunday 1997**



how Tim managed to attend the meeting to report on the up and coming MCD Bowling-Meeting week-end, with Dylan's Christening in a few short hours. That's Commitment!

**C-109, Great Neck, NY  
*Sadye Petraitis***

The winter weather dealt us enough severe storms to necessitate cancelling some meetings. With the crocus and daffodils challenging the snow, we greet Spring and resume our meetings.

On March 4th, Msgr. Candrea, Pastor of Great Neck's St. Aloysius Church, graciously reserved the 9 A.M. Mass so that we could celebrate St. Casimir's Day. After the Mass, at which we remembered all of our members, living and deceased, we had brunch at a local restaurant. A few of our members have been spontaneously getting together for lunch at various restaurants, just to keep in

touch and for the camaraderie. There is an open invitation, - join us!

Mary Kober, Josephine and Joseph Zukas represented our council at the Mid-Atlantic District Meeting hosted by C-136 in Schenectady, N.Y. We all look forward to attending the Sept. 28th Dist. Meeting in Maspeth, N.Y. Let's support them in great numbers.

A spirited "Ilgiausiq Metq" was extended to Bertha and Howard Fuchs as they celebrated 60 years of married life. We also congratulate and send best wishes to Rita Ann Bernatovich, daughter of Joan and Bill, who was married in Bolton Landing, N.Y. on May 10th.

We are endeavoring to get support for House Resolution 10 introduced by Congressman Solomon, wherein the Baltic States would become members of NATO. Many of us have sent letters to encourage positive response. We enlisted the

help of our friends and relatives to make an impact on our congressmen to see the need for Lithuania to join NATO. Our efforts must succeed!

We join Mary Kober, our President, as she mourns the sudden unexpected death of her husband, Tony Kober. His dedication as a Knight will long be remembered. A popular individual, always in good spirits, he will be missed. Add your prayers to ours in his memory.

Pray, also, for the healing power needed by several of our members. We want all to remain healthy to be able to enjoy life to its fullest.

Peace and love to all the Mom's and Dad's on their special days!

**C-136, Hudson Mohawk NY  
*Lynn McCafferty***

Our local chapter had a lot to be thankful for during the recent Holiday season.

We participated in the 150th year Albany Diocese

Celebration. This was a ceremony with each parish represented displayed their respective church banners. Three of our members attended wearing traditional Lithuanian costumes. Thanks to Dot Richmire, Helen Hayner, and Bernice Aviza for representing Chapter 136.

We had our Christmas dinner party, Thursday, December 5th Thanks to all who donated non-perishable items to help a needy local family. Congratulations are in order for Betty Parker, Helen LaPierre and their committees for a fine job.

We have an update on the Lithuanian Basketball Players which were in our area for a short period. Of the 4 boys, the two youngest, Vaidas and Arvydas are now attending High School in New Canaan, Connecticut, looking forward to completing their studies and pursuing their Basketball careers. The older boys, Mantas and Marius are attending a prep school in West Hartford, Connecticut. Marius is currently an assistant coach for the school. We wish them well and good luck in their endeavors. Some of the members are going to visit them in the near future.

We would like to welcome a new Lithuania native who is currently attending Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in pursuit of her Master Degree in Lighting

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Design. Her name is Dalia Kairiuketienė. She is married and has a young son. She is very interested in learning about American culture and is going to share with us about her life in Lithuania and her impressions of her stay in the United States. Welcome Dalia...

Our deepest sympathies go to the family of Bill Yankowski who passed away during the holidays. His son, Frank, was our spiritual advisor for a time. Bill had always enjoyed coming to the meetings and was very proud of his Lithuanian heritage.

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

Palm Sunday found several of us attending the Lithuanian Scouts 28th Annual Kaziuko Muge. Emily Paukstis bribed her 2 granddaughters into attending with her. Beverly Meder brought Helen

Szpakowski who won a big fuzzy yellow antukus in the drawing. John Waylonis added to his bagful of purchases by winning a chrysanthemum plant, while Pat Carlton found amber earrings to match the necklace she was wearing while her husband, Bob, quietly used his new camera to record these events. Joe Chaplick filled his shopping bag with 2 more dolls for his nieces plus gifts for a family reunion. Jean Lutwin and several other members bought margučiai, but Kay Yankoski was inspired to go home and make some herself. Isabelle Laucka appeared briefly at the beginning looking for her granddaughter. Koldunai, barsčių sruiba, and various tortes were enjoyed by all. Our thoughts and prayers were with President Julia Burlen who was hospitalized again.



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Toli, toli nuo tų lankų  
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 vainiką pyniau iš ramunėlių  
 dobilų žvančių ir rugiagėlių.

Dabar esu labai toli  
 nuo tų kvepiančių gėlių,  
 bet aš jaučiu savo širdį  
 didelę meilę dėl jų.

Kur tas mažas Būdos kaimelis  
 susidėjęs iš trylikos namų.  
 Man buvo labai didelis  
 nes aš augau prie tėvų.

Įvažiaves iš vieno galo  
 kitam gale kelio nerasi.  
 Ar tai čia šposai mažo kaimelio,  
 Ar gal kartais senelių - suprasi?

Nors, dabar, gyvenu didelio miesto gatvėi,  
 ir judėjimas didelis-skausmas net galvos,  
 prisimenu tą kaimelį meilę  
 kur randasi tevynę vidų Lietuvos.

*Domicile K. Jerusevičius*

**RECOLLECTIONS**

Far, far from those meadows  
 Where once I raced among the children,  
 Wove garlands of dainty chamomile,  
 Bells of clover and blue cornflowers.

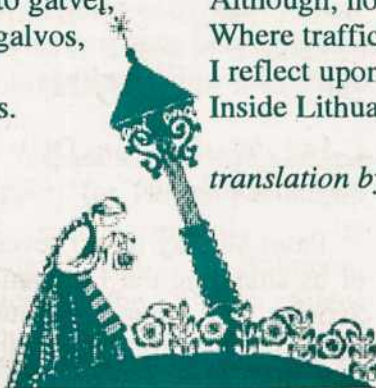
Now I am very far away  
 From those fragrant flowers,  
 But in my heart I still feel  
 Strong affection for them.

There was the little village, Budos,  
 containing thirteen homes  
 To me it was enormous,  
 As I grew up in my parent's home.

If you entered one end of the roadway  
 At the other end, no road will you find.  
 Was this the prank of a small village,  
 Or, perhaps that of our forefathers, who  
 knows?

Although, now I live on a great city street  
 Where traffic is great - headache-inducing.  
 I reflect upon that dear little village  
 Inside Lithuania, our fatherland.

*translation by Antonia M. Wackell*



The author, *Domicile K. Jerusevičius* is a poet living in Brazil and the cousin of C-116 Worcester, Mass. K of L'er, *Antonia M. Wackell*.