

# VYTIS



The Knight - volume 84 no. 5



Geguže

May

1998



**VYTIS**

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

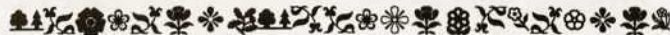


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Cover art "Motina" - *K. Muziedas, date unknown*



## **Novena Prayer for Mother's Day -**

Dear Lord, Thank you for my mother. I celebrate the woman who gave me life, and all mothers who have helped me along the way. Bless them for teaching me to live in the faith, ministering to my spiritual needs, working to make my life easier, befriending me in good times and in bad, praying and sacrificing for me, and for protecting my welfare. Heavenly Father, pour down your graces on them and hear the prayers dedicated to their honor. Amen.



# TO MY FELLOW KNIGHTS

When I heard the news about how everyone on the K of L St. Casimir Guild's trip to Rome had such a great time in the eternal city, I wished my bags would've been packed as well. (See story on page 4). I hope to receive a few more comments by those lucky blessed souls who enjoyed the tour, and hope the K of L plans another trip soon.

In this annual tribute to mother's month, we look at Lithuania's strength in her great women, most notably, mothers of the distant and not so distant past who have influenced us greatly, keeping the Lithuanian heritage alive down through the generations. We celebrate God giving us these special women who constantly give more than they receive. So, to my own and all K of L mothers, enjoy your special day.

As we again near the summer and convention time, some interesting background and history on St. Joseph parish in Waterbury awaits readers on page 16. Our New England hosts are planning a great time for August 6-9, including a pre-convention trip to Immaculate Conception convent and Foxwoods casino.



## Letters to the Editor

### Lithuanian Greeting Cards?

To the editor:

Hallmark cards sells Italian, Irish, Spanish, Polish and cards of many nationalities, but they do not sell Lithuanian cards. I called them and asked why not, and they told me to send a request to:

Hallmark Cards, Inc.  
Consumer Affairs Dept.  
P.O. Box 419034  
Kansas City, MO 64141-6034

We Lithuanians should write letters to them and tell them we are interested. Thought I'd share this with your readers.

*Regina Yetkowskas  
Scranton, PA*

### IMO Rev. Joseph Simonaitis

Dear Editor:

Enclosed is my annual donation of \$25.00 to the VYTIS Fund in honor of Rev. Joseph Simonaitis, Honorary Member from C-52, Elizabeth, NJ.

Sincerely,

*HM Annie Mitchell Matalavich  
C-52, Elizabeth, NJ*

*Ed. Note: Ačiū labai from the editors. We appreciate your generosity.*

## More Lithuanians Noted in Publishing

To the editor:

It indeed is good to read more about our own heritage, even if it's about our pre-Christian background. Recently the New York Times reviewed the book, *The Barbarian Conversion*, by Richard Fletcher. In it, Lithuanians are credited with holding on to their pagan roots for the longest period of time compared to their other European counterparts. They name a "Friar Nicholas" who advises a Lithuanian king against conversion but do not provide any dates. Any historians out there? Who is he and when did this happen?

*A C-12 member*

*Ed. Note: Perhaps in an upcoming issue we will review the book.*



## OFFICIAL NEWS FROM THE RITUAL COMMITTEE

**All applications for 4<sup>th</sup> Degree Medals must  
be submitted by June 30, 1998 to**

**Elsie Kosmisky  
Ritual Chairperson  
140 So. Wylan Street  
Frackville, PA 17931-1916**





## IN COMMEMORATION OF THE APPARITION OF OUR LADY OF ŠILUVA 1608 • 1998

Our Blessed Mother appeared in 1608 in the same place where a church had formerly been built in honor of her Nativity. This church burned down in 1536 and had not been rebuilt. Close to that place the Calvinists built their own church and the pastor also had his residence there. Many people of Šiluva left their faith for Calvinism. While shepherds were watching their flocks one day Mary appeared on a stone — young, beautiful, with an infant in her arms, but weeping and silent. In the evening the shepherds related this incident to their relatives and acquaintances. The following day many people from Šiluva gathered and waited as though something unusual was going to happen. The Calvinist pastor was there with Solomon, his student. Both scolded the people for believing these stories. In the midst of their rebuke, Mary, with the Child, again appeared weeping mournfully. The pastor inquired why she was weeping. Mary answered: "In the past my Son was honored here, but now people plough and sow".

The Šiluva people were greatly disturbed by this apparition. They remembered having heard from their grandparents that in this-particular place, there once had been a Catholic church. They knew also that the people had great devotion to Our Blessed Mother.

News of the incident spread throughout the country. The Bishop of Žemaičiai sent Canon J. Kazakevičius to investigate the matter. A blind man, one hundred years old, asserted that at the place of the apparition, amidst the ruins of the old church, an iron trunk was buried which contained the church documents, a miraculous picture, church vestments and other things. Canon Kazakevičius began a search for documents which would verify that this place, now in the hands of the Calvinists, really belonged to the Catholics. One such document he found in Raseiniai but the evidence was not



sufficient to warrant filing a lawsuit. After 4 years, Canon Kazakevičius returned to Šiluva with the blind old man and asked him to show the exact spot of the buried trunk. Brought to the place of the apparition, the blind man instantly regained his eyesight. He marked the spot to be dug up and the iron trunk was found. That was in 1612.

After 10 years (1622) the Catholics won the lawsuit. The old church bell was also returned with the following words inscribed on it: "O florans rosa, Mater Dei speciosa". (O blooming Rose, Mother of God of unusual splendor). In 1623 when the new church was built, the old bell was heard

again.

Tens of thousands of people came from various parts of Lithuania. The parish church had to be enlarged. In 1651 that was done. 140 years later (1786) a new church of Renaissance architecture was built, while on the place of the apparition a wooden chapel served until 1912 when a beautiful edifice was begun and completed in 1924. On the apparition stone, in the center of the chapel, an altar stands and high above it a statue of Our Lady of Šiluva.

### NOVENA

Before the Miraculous Picture of Our Lady of Šiluva

O Mother of Perpetual Help, miraculous Mary, thou who at Šiluva bestowest God's abundant graces, be mindful also of me, a sinner, prostrate before thy picture. Obtain for me from thy Son the forgiveness of my sins, and the favor which I request (here mention your intention), and help me to gain eternal happiness with thee in heaven. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

O Miraculous Lady of Šiluva, pray for us who have recourse to thee.

O Mary, who didst appear at Šiluva, intercede for us who beseech thy aid!

(3 Hail Marys.)(*Cum. Ecclesiastica Aprobatione*)  
*Immaculata Press, Putnam, Connecticut.*)

Article courtesy of Fr. Tony Markus.





## K of L'ers Celebrate 50<sup>th</sup> Jubilee of Lithuanian Pontifical College on Rome Pilgrimage



*Forty Five members of the Knights of Lithuania from across the USA arrived in Rome.*

*by HM Anna K. Wargo*

It was a warm and sunny morning when the members of the Knights of Lithuania arrived in Rome for the celebration of the 50th. Jubilee of the Pontifical Lithuanian College in Rome. Msgr. Bartkus was at the airport when we arrived at 10 A.M. and we were all rushed to a waiting bus to go to St. Peter's Square for the weekly Angelus.

When we arrived at St. Peters, Priests, students and Nuns from the College greeted us with a huge Lithuanian flag as we waited for the Holy Father to appear at the upper window. After the prayers and regular greetings, he greeted our group in Lithuanian and then waved to us. What a thrill for us all! We then went to the Michelangelo Hotel which was just a short walk from St. Peter's Square. After getting settled, some rested, some went out and we all met for dinner that night.

Monday we toured Rome. We saw Ancient Rome, the Coliseum, the Forum, etc. We walked to the Trevi Fountain and saw the basilicas, the Pantheon, Michelangelo's Moses and ended at St.

Peter's Basilica before we returned to the Hotel. It was a very interesting day and we saw a great deal of Rome.

Tuesday some of the group went to Florence and the rest had a free day. Helen Chesko, Mary Kincius and I took a cab to the Pontifical Lithuanian College and Msgr. Bartkus introduced us to many of the student Nuns. He took us to lunch at the Restaurant where we were to have the Jubilee Banquet. It was located on the Appian Way across from the Catacombs. After a leisurely and delicious meal, the students came to decorate for the banquet the next day. When they were finished we had delicious desert and cappuccino. Those who went to Florence came back excited by all they had seen and those who saw more of Rome were tired but happy. We all met again for dinner at the hotel.

Wednesday, March 4, the bus came to take us to Mass at the Basilica of Santa Maria Maggiore. Since the Holy Father was on retreat, the Principal Celebrant was Pio Cardinal Laghi. Many of us remembered him as he was once Papal Nuncio in



Washington. Archbishop Backis could not attend as he was ill. Archbishop Bulaitis concelebrated with the Lithuanian Bishops. Although the weather was like Spring, the church was cold so we all wore coats. The Mass was in Latin with Lithuanian Hymns. Our President John Mankus did the readings at Mass and I



*50<sup>th</sup> Jubilee Mass on March 4<sup>th</sup> concelebrated by Cardinal Pio Laghi, Archbishop Bulaitis, bishops, msgrs., priests and seminarians.*

was privileged to do the English Prayers of the Faithful. These were done in English, Lithuanian and Italian. It was a beautiful Mass. Everyone felt the holiness.

We were then taken to the restaurant for the Jubilee Dinner. The gardens at the restaurant were beautiful and a cocktail hour was held outdoors before the dinner. It was nice meeting the many guests informally at that time. The dinner was a Roman Feast. Msgr. Bartkus in his opening welcome thanked the Knights for all they did for the College and praised the organization to the highest degree. President John Mankus gave a very nice greeting in Lithuanian from the K of L. It was a truly beautiful day.

Thursday, some of the group took a tour to Pompei and Sorrento. Those who stayed went to the open house at the College. At the College we were shown the Vestments which the K of L donated. These were used for the first time at the Mass and in each vestment was sown a label donated by the Vyčiai. We toured the facilities and Msgr. Bartkus explained everything to us. Some of the students guided us, all extremely intelligent young men who will go back to teach in the Seminaries in Lithuania and to assist in the Dioceses. We met the new Bishop in the new Diocese of Šiauliai, a young and energetic Priest. We renewed our acquaintance with Bishop Vaicus of Klaipeda and personally met all the Bishops and Priests who attended. A reception followed where everyone had a good time

and became acquainted with one another. The Students and Nuns presented a Concert of Lithuanian Music with beautiful voices and songs. It was a delightful day and everyone returned happy. We met for dinner but no one was hungry. The group from Pompei returned also happy with the day.

Friday, some of the people who could not attend the Open House on Thursday went to the College and some went to Capri. The rest of us shopped and saw more of Rome. Many of the younger ones walked most of Rome. We went to the Vatican Museum and Sistine Chapel. We went through St. Peter's Basilica again. Victor Stepulavitch walked over the Bridge of Angels many times, he was so fascinated with it. It was a free day that everyone enjoyed.

We were all grateful to Father Tony Markus of Chicago who held Mass in the first floor lobby for us every day before we went to breakfast.

On Saturday we left the Michelangelo and went to Tivoli where we stayed overnight on top of the mountain in a beautiful hotel that had been a Castle. It was really luxurious. We toured the Tivoli Gardens and that night had a lovely farewell dinner at the Hotel. Father Tony held a Mass for us in the morning and we left for the airport where we boarded the plane for home. We left beautiful sunny springlike days to return to rain and snow, but a happy and tired group of K of L's.



## Mother's Day Tribute

# MY MOTHER'S LOVE LIVES ON FOREVER

by HM Loretta I. Stukas

It was at once both a tragic moment and a beautiful sight... her face radiant with an immortal glow, her few wrinkles of 90 years of life disappeared...she was at peace and clearly in God's presence. But those left behind were suddenly without a mother, grandmother, confidant and best friend. My dear mother, Vlade Kassel, breathed her last breath just after noon, Sunday, Feb. 22, with me, her granddaughter Georgianna Macke, her beloved great- granddaughter Elizabeth and my best friend, Bernadette, nearby... She died peacefully, quietly, without pain, in her own bed in my home .

My mother, Vlade Buteikytė was born in Ukmerge, Lithuania, in 1907. In her youth she endured the hardships associated with the occupation of her nation by the Russian Czar, World War I, and the beginnings of Lithuanian independence. As one of three children, with only two years of formal schooling, most of her education came from her family, where she learned religion, Lithuanian culture, and cooking, gardening, and other domestic arts, all of which she used in her later life.

At age 21, Vlade's beauty and grace caught the eye of Paul Kassel (Kaselis), a naturalized American citizen visiting his native Lithuania. He visited her, wooed her, and won her heart and hand and they married in February, 1929. In December of that same year, they came to the U.S., intending to return to Lithuania. After a few years they eventually accepted the USA as their new home. Vlade learned English, became an American citizen, and raised three children - Albert, Loretta, and Paul - to respect the USA, but to never forget their Lithuanian heritage. So we would never forget who we are, she insisted that we speak Lithuanian at



*Loretta Stukas and Mother, Vlade*

home.

Her life was not without tragedy. They say the most difficult loss for a mother is the death of her first born son. In 1973, my brother Albert died at age 43 of kidney disease. It took a heavy toll on our family. Then in 1980, my father became ill with a variety of disabling accidents, ailments and operations which lasted six

years, until his death in 1986. All the while, Mom cared for him herself with love and compassion. He died in her arms of a heart attack. When the emergency workers arrived, they remarked at how well he had been taken care of.

She was a beautiful, humble, unassuming, gracious lady. Always smiling, she acclimated herself to changes in the world and her family. She and Dad worked hard and sacrificed to provide education and well-being for their children. She had a wonderful relationship with God, which served her well in coping with the ups and downs of life and set a fine example for us.

She loved her children and grandchildren, and was always on hand to help and enjoy them. She came to New Jersey to help me care for my husband, Jack when he was terminally ill in 1994; when I broke my ankle in 1996, she was there again to care for me. And when the grandchildren celebrated special events, she was there to help celebrate with them. She and Dad shared what they had by sending countless packages to less fortunate relatives in Lithuania during the difficult Communist era and after. She never let a holiday go by without sharing it with others and if neighbors or friends took ill, she was one of the first to visit and care for them.

While never a member of the Knights of Lithuania, she firmly believed in K of L ideals, rejoiced at their children belonging, and spent much time and energy entertaining visiting and local K of



L-ers. Many K of L-ers from various US cities recall enjoying their hospitality, and her specialties of "Kugelis", "Bandukies", "Krupnik", etc. She enjoyed Lithuanian culture, loved to attend Lithuanian concerts, operas, dance and song festivals. She read the Lithuanian press avidly, and listened faithfully to all the Lithuanian radio programs in Chicago. She never missed a program, keeping different radios in her home tuned to each of the programs. Her neighbors drove her to Church but she frequently opted to walk.

With her children in far off states, her greatest recreation was caring for her garden - sharing her fresh tomatoes, beets, cucumbers, carrots, etc., with her neighbors and friends. It was only last June, when our family gathered to celebrate her 90th birthday. As late as last September, she was mowing her lawn and tending her garden. It gave her great joy.

In October, Mom was diagnosed with "Aplastic Anemia", a quickly debilitating blood disease. It necessitated a sudden move from her home of 54 years to my home in New Jersey on Dec. 6. She accepted God's will and faced her greatest suffering as she acclimated herself to this new, less active and more dependent life. She mourned her past life of the garden as she kept in touch by phone with her friends and family. At home or in the hospital, she greeted the doctors, nurses, priests and anyone who visited her with a smile, a quick wit, and a fond thank you. To her, anyone who had a hand in helping her was an angel. Looking after her was a lesson in how to accept God's plan, and I would not have had it any other way. I treasured the hours and days together, the opportunity to help her and keep her comfortable during her courageous battle, even as she grew weaker each day.

My mother was laid to rest in Chicago's St. Casimir Cemetery, after a beautiful Mass at her home church of the Immaculate Conception, with



*Great granddaughter,  
Elizabeth and Vlade*

family, many friends and K of L-ers attending and the music of the K of L Choir, led by Faustas Strolia. Her pastor correctly described her as a truly holy woman, and a fine example of a generation the likes of which can never be duplicated.

In the days and weeks that followed, as reality set in, we realized what a treasure we had perhaps taken for granted and now lost, and what a great gift we had in our Mother's Love. It was a love that was never harsh, never selfish, always caring. She rejoiced in our successes, consoled us in our sorrows, and picked us up when we faltered. I hope that by reminiscing about her life, we can continue to benefit by her fine example.

God just lends us a mother. When He takes her away, a part of her remains in our hearts forever. We still feel the warmth of her caring, and her wisdom will live forever in our hearts. Her love lives on in the lives she touched with her gentle, caring way. I yearn to touch and kiss her, massage her feet, prepare her a special treat, share some news. I long for her sage advice, but can only rely on memories of those special times with her, and pray that I never forget the lessons she taught me.

Her memorial card carried a poem which was felt exactly described her passing:

God saw you getting weary,  
He did what He thought best.  
He put His arms around you  
And said "Come and rest."  
He opened up His golden gates  
On that heartbreaking day.  
And with His arms around you,  
You gently slipped away.  
It broke our hearts to lose you  
You did not go alone.  
A part of us went with you  
The day God called you home.







## *Agnes Mickunas*

### CANDIDATE FOR HONORARY MEMBERSHIP

were married in September 1964 have a daughter, Barbara, who is also active in the K of L and a recipient of the K of L Scholarship award in 1987.

Agnes has held every office in Council 3 many times, chaired every standing Committee, and still is a Council officer today. She has served as the Amber District Secretary, Supreme Council Secretary under Helen Shields, H.M., the first woman President of the Organization, and again recently under Fran Petkus, H.M. and Evelyn Ozelis, and is currently the Supreme Council First Vice President and the Amber District Vytis Correspondent.

In the 1950's and early 60's Agnes was Musical Director for all C-3's Minstrel and Musical shows. She also assisted as C-3's Choir Director. Agnes is an accomplished musician, having studied the piano for over sixteen years. For over a decade, she was the Co-Editor and publisher of the Knights and Days, a monthly publication distributed throughout the old New York-New Jersey District. It contained news of C-3 and information of the happenings throughout the District. She was a member of Fr. Jutt's Lithuanian Affairs letter writing committee, where she wrote over one hundred letters a year and received a plaque from Fr. Jutt for her efforts. She was very active in the planning and development of C-3's Lithuanian display at the International Folk Festival held for years at Philadelphia's Convention Hall.

She was on the planning committee and worked at three National Conventions held in Philadelphia, and helped with Supreme Council Conventions in Allentown, PA, Washington D.C. and St. Petersburg, Florida. For numerous years, Agnes as served on the Mandate Committee at the Conventions. She has also been a delegate (☞ Continued on page 10)

**Y**ears ago, when Council 3 Philadelphia was mentioned, everyone thought of Helen Shields who personified "Knights of Lithuania" to the n'th degree. Helen has passed to her eternal reward and, now another member of C-3 has risen to take her place in the Vyčiai on all levels; Council, District and National. Agnes Timmins Mickunas can be described as a K of L lady of the 90's.

Agnes was born to first generation Lithuanian parents. She attended St. Casimir grade school and was taught by the Sisters of St. Casimir. There she nurtured her Lithuanian Culture. She continued through Catholic high school. She is a past President of St. Casimir's Sodality organization. At that time she helped organize and run Friday night dances for the Parish and Community teens. Agnes sang in St. Casimir's school choir and later in the adult Church choir.

Agnes joined the Knights of Lithuania in 1954 while still in high school. C-3 was a group of young, vibrant Lithuanian Americans of comparable age. In 1966 she received her 4th degree at the National Convention in Worcester. It was in Council 3 where Agnes first met John Mickunas. They



# Clemincine Miller

## CANDIDATE FOR HONORARY MEMBERSHIP

When one speaks of a person "wearing many hats", those words describe Clemincine Miller to a "T". Her many accomplishments achieved with her caring and loving touch have endeared her to the Knights of Lithuania members on all levels. Her generous spirit has made her many friends in the Knights and other church and civic organizations, these characteristics make her a remarkable Lithuanian whom Council 141 is proud to call their own.

The members of Council 141, Bridgeport, CT and the New England District proudly present Clemincine Miller as a candidate for Honorary Membership. Clemincine is a charter member of Council 141, and since its organization, has continued to be an active member of the Knights of Lithuania not only in her own council, but also in the New England District and on the National level. Clem serves as a director of the Knights of Lithuania Foundation and is currently serving on the Supreme Council as a member of the Ritual Committee.

Clemincine was born in Bridgeport on August 24, 1919, the daughter of Klement and Julia Ignatavicius, immigrants from the Rokiskis and Zemaitija regions Lithuania. Her parents and their five children built a home on farm land, gardened and took care of all the animals. Although upon entering kindergarten. Clem did not speak English, she learned quickly and has many happy memories of the farm. Clem did not believe in idling, even in early school years. In grammar school, she cleaned houses. Her spare time in high school years was spent as a mother's helper in Greenwich, CT. After graduation, she worked weekends in a bakery and weekdays, on the General Electric radio department assembly line, to earn money for her



education.

In 1939, Clem was accepted at the Cumberland Hospital, Brooklyn, NY as a student nurse. After graduation in 1942, she worked as an industrial nurse at McKesson and Robbins. In December, 1943, Clem married Navy man Victor Miller and began working as a Red Cross and hospital volunteer. She served as an Army nurse in 1945, then returned to her job at McKessons. Clem and Victor had two sons, Ronald and Wayne. While working as a visiting nurse, she cared for the famous Helen Keller. A 1958 graduate of the University of Bridgeport, she became a school nurse teacher. She then attended Fairfield University and became a certified teacher and taught for 22 years, and earned her Masters Degree and a 6th Year Certificate. Clem attended Yale University for credits in public health.

Clem, a Fourth Degree member of the Knights, has served Council 141 as recording secretary, vice-president and has been President from 1987 to the present. In 1978, she actively worked at Sacred Heart University for Lithuanian Cultural Month. In 1985, she



organized Lithuanian language lessons around her dining room table, after Lithuanian classes were discontinued at Sacred Heart University. These classes continued until 1997.

In 1989, Clem organized the still active Junior Council of C-141, and continues to encourage the youngsters to appreciate their Lithuanian heritage. That C-141 Juniors have figured actively as prize winners in the K of L Foundation Essay Contest attests to Clem's encouragement of her young Council members and her grandchildren to try their hand at researching Lithuanian culture and writing about it. It is a rare National Convention that Clem is not accompanied by one of her grandchildren.

Pursuing her interest in young people's education, she served on the K of L Scholarship Committee both as third vice-president of the New England District and as Treasurer/Secretary for twelve years on the Supreme Council Scholarship Committee. She narrated Lithuanian folk tales to school children and arranged to have a Lithuanian dance group perform at Trumbull High School.

St. George Church has benefitted from Clem's religious convictions. She has served on the Parish Council, worked on the organizing committee for the 75th Anniversary of St. George Church and the 25th Anniversary of Rev. Rebaque's ordination. She also served as co-chairman of Msgr. Pranckus' retirement party and 75th Birthday Party. Her zeal led her to organize the group to keep the Lithuanian Mass.

Educating the community in the culture and traditions of Lithuania has been Clem's goal. She has lectured to the Slavanic Retirement Group and the Trumbull Women's Club. Clem also has helped several non-Lithuanian couples adopt Lithuanian children. She served as an interpreter for Lithuanian doctors visiting Bridgeport Hospital and toured Trumbull Schools with Lithuanian student teachers.

Clem's continued love of Lithuania and its culture and traditions, along with her respect for God and Country plus her zealous efforts for the enrichment of the Knights of Lithuania make Clemcine Ignatevičius Miller an excellent

candidate for Honorary Membership in the Knights of Lithuania.

### **Agnes Mickunas, Candidate for Honorary Membership**

*(Continued from page 8)*

at more than thirty Conventions. Since Fr. Anderlonis has been National Spiritual Advisor, Agnes has arranged hotel accommodations and transportation to the meeting site for all Supreme Council members attending meetings in Philadelphia each year. She has computerized and distributed lists for Supreme Council, District and Council officers; helped design forms and portions of the K of L Manual; helped with the K of L page on the Internet and continues to assist wherever she can. She has traveled with the K of L to Lithuania and recently to Italy for the Fiftieth Anniversary of the Lithuanian College in Rome.

Agnes has also been very active for the K of L in the Church and on the community level. In the past, she helped Helen Shields, teach school children the art of Lithuanian straw Christmas decorations and Lithuanian Easter egg decorating. She was an officer in the PTA and helped raise school funds. Agnes was a member of the planning committee for the celebration of St. Casimir's Church's One Hundredth Anniversary. From helping at C-3 sponsored affairs, District events, Supreme Council business and down to the Kučios Dinner C-3 has sponsored at St. George's Parish for the past 13 years, Agnes has always made herself available for the Church and the Knights of Lithuania.

Agnes and her family live in Mount Ephraim, New Jersey. She still works for an International chemical Company headquartered in Philadelphia, where she seizes every opportunity to further the cause of Lithuania. Everyone up to the President of the Company knows of Agnes' Lithuanian heritage. She is director of the Christmas musical programs presented at the main office each year. Agnes' dedication and diligence for the organization and her devotion to her Catholic faith make her an ideal candidate for Honorary Membership.



## SONGS OF JOY AND PRAISE

by Irene Macke

**A**fter a brief summer rest for their vocal cords and in response to an invitation from the Lietuviu Bendruomene, the Mid-America District Choir began their 1997-1998 performance year by singing at Sunday Mass at the Lithuanian World Center in Lemont, Illinois, on September 14, 1997. After the Lithuanian Mass, they presented a program of traditional songs. As an expression of gratitude for the choir's many years of participation in programs in the Lithuanian community, Bronė Nainienė presented a plaque to Choir Director Faustas Strolia.

For the next six weeks, the choir struggled with a unique challenge: learning some of the hymns of Martynas Mažvydas. As Director Strolia explained to Vytis readers in the December issue, the challenge lay partly in determining the proper pronunciation of the lyrics. From the point of view of one of those who struggled, let me attest to the difficulty of mastering the rhythm, which, while deceptively simple, took significant effort because of its unfamiliarity. The reward for these efforts was the joy of performing at two very special events celebrating the 450<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first book published in the Lithuanian language: Catechismus by Martinus Mosvidius (1547). The first performance was at Newberry Library in Chicago on October 25; the second was on the very next day at Balzekas Museum. With the able assistance of soloist Algird Brazis, the choir took great pride in participating in this unique cultural event with others from the Chicago Lithuanian community and special guests from Lithuania.

On Sunday, November 16, the choir

participated at Mass at St. Daniel the Prophet Church in Chicago. After Mass, they once again presented a program of traditional songs.

In December, along with preparations for the holidays, the singers happily took part in a program that presented less of a challenge than the Mažvydas hymns. It has become a tradition for the choir to sing a Christmas program for senior citizens at Holy Cross Hospital. After sharing dinner together, the choir sings a program of Lithuanian Christmas hymns and invites the seniors to join in a sing-along of Christmas songs in English. It's hard to tell which of the two groups enjoys it most.

As the new year approached, it became apparent that the choir's treasury needed an infusion of funds. On January 8, therefore, a banquet-fundraiser was held at the Jesuit Center.

The evening included a Lithuanian meal, a brief program of well-loved Lithuanian songs presented by the choir, and a raffle of a variety of donated items—"spirits," collectibles, and the like. Because of the generous support of family and friends, the treasury is better able to support choir activities.

To avoid a conflict with other remembrances of Lithuania's February 16 Independence Day, a celebration was held at Immaculate Conception parish on February 8 in which the choir was invited to participate. Attired in traditional costumes, the choir sang at Mass and in a program following, which included selections such as "Oi Toli, Toli," "Poeto Svajonė," and "Valiok, Dalgeli, Valiok."

Don't you think that for a choir that's more than 80 years old, this is a very lively bunch?



*Faustas Strolia accepting the plaque of appreciation from Bronė Nainienė.*



# An Overview of the Lithuanian Woman in Legend and History

by Mirga Bablin

## **L**egend and Early History

Throughout all the turbulent times of Lithuanian history, the Lithuanian woman played an important role and often assumed heavy burdens and responsibilities for the preservation of the nation's identity and very existence. The Lithuanian woman was glorified in legend and epic. As queen, princess, and noble woman, she distinguished herself in the Lithuania of Kings and Grand Dukes. Centuries later, during the national renaissance, even as a simple farmer's wife, she was seen asserting herself and helping to pave the way for restoration of Lithuania's independence. When independence came, she assumed new duties and earned new laurels in every field of national life.

Since time immemorial, Lithuanians have had their ideal of womanhood. Their symbol and animistic mythology embodied the feminine ideal in a sylvan or water spirits, which they called *Laumė*, a being that is akin to the good fairies of Western European folklore. This spirit-maid, surviving to this day in hundreds of folk tales, was a symbolic personification of the ideal Lithuanian woman: a tall, flaxen-haired, blue-eyed, buxom maiden with a calm and melodious voice; a compassionate nurse and industrious maternal guardian of the aged and children.

Legends - folk creations of a bygone age - have given us many types of women. Some of these legendary women are sublimated examples of heroic Lithuanian maidens. Such, for instance, was *Pajauta*, the chaste daughter of the chief druid, *Lizdeika*. Folk tradition has it that rather than marry a foreign, non-believer and thereby betray the old pagan religion, she sacrificed herself to the wolves. A second *Pajauta* was the beautiful daughter of Duke *Kernius*. She led an exemplary life as spouse and mother and was respected by her subjects. When she died, her son, *Kukovietis*, erected a wooden monument in her memory on the shore of Lake

*Žasliai*. In time, this wooden monument rotted and fell away, but in its place emerged a miraculous linden tree.

Loyalty was another feminine virtue extolled in historical legends.

*Gražina*, the wife of *Liutaveras*, Duke of *Naugardukas*, learned that her husband was plotting with the Teutonic Knights against his liege lord, *Vytautas*. Donning her husband's armor, *Gražina* led the forces of *Naugardukas* against the Teutonic Knights. Though the knights were soundly defeated, *Gražina* fell in battle, preserving the honor of her household.

Another princess of *Naugardukas* was *Živilė*, whose father would not permit her to marry her lover of lower rank. The lover, however, was determined to free her from her father's clutches, and with a band of Ruthenians forced his way into the castle. But *Živilė*'s loyalty to her father and his people was stronger than her love for the swain. She stabbed her would-be rescuer and rallied the men-at-arms of the castle to repel the invaders. After the rout of the enemy, *Živilė* stabbed herself to death to atone for the strife she had caused.

## **I**n the Land of Kings and Princes

The first Lithuanian woman known in history is Queen *Morta* (*Martha*), the wife of *Mindaugas*, creator of the Lithuanian state. That statue of this renowned couple assumes monumental proportions in the Lithuanian history of the thirteenth century. It was *Mindaugas* and *Morta* who accepted Christianity for the Lithuanian nation in 1251. Two years later, *Morta* was crowned queen. She performed her family duties with dignity, received foreign envoys in the regal castles and also participated in the political activities of her husband. Queen *Morta* was *Mindaugas*' advisor and assistant. Friends and strangers alike had to reckon with her. She died earlier than *Mindaugas*, but the exact date



is unknown.

In the following century, another woman entered the spotlight of Lithuanian history. She was Aldona, the daughter of King Gediminas. Because of reasons of state, namely, Lithuania's need to effect an alliance against the Teutonic Knights, Aldona was married to Wladislaw Lokietka's son, Casimir, who was later known as King Casimir the Great. For her dowry, she asked her father for the return of 25,000 Polish prisoners of war to Poland, a country whose queen she was about to become. Amid much acclaim and blessings, Aldona journeyed from Vilnius to Crakow, Poland's capital. Unfortunately, she did not fare well in her new country. Her husband proved unfaithful. The queen sought solace in charitable works and music. She died, a young woman, leaving two daughters, who later married into the Luxembourg and Habsburg families of the Holy Roman Empire. Aldona's granddaughter became the wife of Emperor Charles IV.

The fate of Birutė was different. To this day, she is surrounded by emotional legends and poetry. The daughter of a Samogitian Duke from the Palanga seacoast, become the wife of Kestutis and the mother of the famed Vytautas the Great. Birutė came to be regarded as guardian of the Lithuanian national hearth and symbol of dedicated Lithuanian motherhood. A mound, held to her burial site, is still kept in high esteem after more than six hundred years.

Birutė's son, Vytautas had an illustrious spouse, Ona, sister of Lord Sudimantas. Ona (Anna) is characteristic of the typical Lithuanian woman. A mother, but also a boon companion of her husband. Her interests were wide; she was a public figure and politically minded. Ona loved honors, but she also knew how to make sacrifices. During a political chaos, when her husband was thrown into prison by Jogaila, his wily cousin, she devised a means for his escape. Free, once more, Vytautas forced his cousin to recognize him as Grand Duke of Lithuania. After Jogaila was crowned King of Poland, Vytautas became a virtual sovereign of the Lithuanian Grand



*Birutė came to be regarded as guardian of the Lithuanian national hearth and symbol of dedicated Lithuanian motherhood.*

Duchy. Ona was his co-worker. She signed writs of warranty, which her husband would fulfill, received emissaries of the Teutonic Knights, and stood firmly at his side when war broke out with the Knights. Ona died in 1418, without seeing her husband granted a royal crown. Ona was described as "the most elegant woman in Europe."

The only daughter of Vytautas and Ona was Sophia, an energetic and strong-willed woman, who married the Grand Duke of Moscow. Though living in an alien environment, where women were traditionally kept in the terem, the Muscovite equivalent of the Oriental harem, Sophia did not accept this strange custom. She was not a slave to her husband, but actively engaged in Kremlin politics. After her husband died, she fought for her son's rights to the throne. While her father, Vytautas, was alive, she felt secure, seeking his protection over her family. After his death, she continued her firm role in the Kremlin, although she was driven from the throne and even imprisoned. She ultimately regained the throne for her son, chose a wife for him, and defended Moscow against the inroads of the Tartars.

## **A** *t the Dawn of Lithuania's Freedom*

When Jogaila became the King of Poland, ushering in the renowned Jagelonian Dynasty, his sister, Aleksandra had great influence in Polish politics. Aleksandra had married the Duke of Mazovia. She went down in posterity as a cofounder, with Jogaila, of the University of Cracow. Her capable daughter was to be the mother of Habsburg Emperor, Frederick IV.

The fourth wife of Jogaila was a Lithuanian, Sofia, Dutchess of Alšėnai. She was the first queen of Poland to ensure that her subjects had the Holy Scriptures in their native language.

She played a prominent role in having her offspring chosen as rulers of Lithuania and Poland. From the fourteenth to the middle of the sixteenth century, relations between Lithuanians and Poles were strained. This is evidenced in the fate of Dutchess Barbora Radvila, whose brother and cousin



were high dignitaries of Lithuania. Dutchess Barbora was a ravishing beauty. Her love affair with Lithuania's Grand Duke Žygimantas (Sigismund August) led to a stormy episode in the history of Lithuania and



Poland. The ruler's mother and the Polish nobles were opposed to the marriage of the heir to the Polish throne to the daughter of Lithuania's most influential family. The young couple, however, married in secret. Finally, Sigismund August became King of Poland and had Barbora crowned queen. But their joy was short-lived.

Weakened by a long illness (it is said that the dowager Queen Bona poisoned her), Queen Barbora died, a victim of the quarrels between Lithuanian and Polish nobility.

From 1795 to 1918 was a long and difficult period that followed Imperial Russia's annexation of Lithuania. During those years, the Lithuanians repeatedly rose against the czarist despotism, women joining their men folk in the struggle to restore the nation's freedom. In the 1831 rebellion, Countess Emilija Plateris, a patriotic Samogitian girl, distinguished herself as a guerrilla colonel and died from wounds received in combat. The rebellion was suppressed with great bloodshed. The old University of Vilnius, a fountainhead of national thought and aspirations, was closed. Men and women who participated in the rebellion were deported to Siberia. Some succeeded in escaping to the West.

In the 1863 revolt, many women gave food, shelter and other aid to the families of men who joined the revolt. They helped the volunteers, hid and clothed rebels. Some were subjected to severe punishment because their men were in rebel ranks.

Dominika Dalevskis, a widow in Vilnius, suffered the most. Her son, Titas, was executed in Vilnius. Another son, Pranciškus, received a sentence of twenty years hard labor. Konstantinas migrated to France. Aleksandras, returning from Siberia, died in Vilnius before the revolt. Mrs. Dalevskis and her six daughters were deported to the depths of Russia. Banishing her to Ufa province, Governor General Muraviev declared: "Let the mother, who has nurtured so many mutineers, settle near the roads of the penal camps. Let her observe

her sons, relatives and friends being driven along the road in chains." On this very road, Mrs. Dalevskis saw Pranciškus being taken to Siberian exile. The son fell at his mother's feet while she embraced him without a sob or

tear.

Russian gendarmes sent hundreds of rebels to the gallows. Thousands were deported to the desolate wastelands of Russia. All Lithuanian schools were closed. In 1864, the Lithuanian language was banned in all public offices, the use of Latin characters in Lithuanian publications prohibited. Dark days had indeed descended upon Lithuania.

In the struggle with the Czarist government, women were active participants. Lithuanian peasant women helped preserve their ancient language. Seated at her spinning wheel, she taught her children to read in the native language, telling them stories and legends about their country's great past.

The political maturity of the women runs like an unbroken thread throughout Lithuanian history.

Women were among the devoted book smugglers who clandestinely brought into the country Lithuanian books and newspapers printed in East Prussia and the United States. They distributed them among the common folk hungry for the forbidden Lithuanian word. For their patriotic work, many were arrested and banished to Siberia. Among the most prominent women who directed book smuggling from Tilžė (East Prussia) was Morta Zaunius, who later organized the Lithuanian exhibit at the World's Fair in Paris in 1901.

Prior to the First World War, the national political work of women was clandestine. They engaged in underground party activities, helped liberate political prisoners and arranged their escape abroad. They edited clandestine and public newspapers and wrote articles on women's rights. They were often under police surveillance.

When the Kaiser's armies occupied Lithuania in 1915 and the retreating Russians transported part of the population to Russia, Lithuanian women faced adversity with patience and fortitude.

With the fall of the Russian colossus during the March 1917 revolution, Lithuanian women in Russia organized in groups to speed up their return to their homeland. In Moscow, they formed the Lithuanian



Women's Freedom Union, with Ona Mašiotas as its suffragette-type chairman. On February 16, 1918, Lithuania declared her independence. Even before the impending collapse of Imperial Germany, many refugees had started on their return journey from Russia. The Lithuanian women were going back to rebuild their homeland.

### **W**omen in Today's Lithuania

It has been seven years since Lithuania's independence and the women in Lithuania today are striving for equality in a strongly patriarchal society. With inequality prevailing at home, at work and in society at large, there are still some barriers to be overcome, not the least of which is to educate society about gender equality.

"The economic position of women has worsened, while crime against them has increased," reports last year's United Nations Development Program (UNDP), Human Development Program for Lithuania. The statistics of violence against women reveal that, in the first nine months of 1996, 310 women were murdered. Another occurrence, previously unknown in Lithuania, is the trafficking of women for sexual exploitation. Also, one in five women are victims of domestic violence. "Women who comprise more than half the population, have been largely excluded from participation in decision-making and have incomes 40% lower than men," the UNDP report reveals.

Some claim that the media compounds existing problems with the portrayal of the traditional view of women on the radio, TV and in the press. They limit the scope of women's interests to cooking, cosmetics, fashion and child-rearing. Irena Litvinaitė, editor of *Women's World*, the newsletter of the Women's Issues Information Center, states, "Rarely will you find in these programs, an intellectual, active, independent and self-sufficient woman, capable of accommodating work and family responsibilities. These sorts of women are often portrayed unattractively and even derisively."

There is an emergence of an outspoken women's movement in Lithuania, however. There are now over 40 women's organizations in Lithuania. Before independence, there was only one. Nijolė Steponkutė is chairwoman of the Lithuanian Women's Society (LWS) established in 1990. A non-governmental and non-political organization, it

runs the Women's Conservative Center in Vilnius, which opened in 1993.

Today, the Center deals with a host of problems affecting women. "The single greatest concern is unemployment; these women are terribly poor and often have children to feed," says Steponkutė. "Women currently account for 60% of the unemployed in Lithuania." Because Lithuanian society considers a woman's place is in the home, this assumption affects the labor market, which often offers women jobs that are not wanted by men," states the UNDP report. Until last year, it was standard practice in Vilnius University's medical faculty to reserve spots for male students with lower grades. In the Journalism faculty, a similar quota system was used until 1994. Presently, Lithuania's Education System can no longer support this type of discrimination, as the Country's Parliament ratified the UN convention on the elimination of discrimination against women in September 1995.

Combined with the alarming rise in violence and prostitution and the deteriorating quality of life for women, the situation often seems bleak. Steponkutė is optimistic, however, "In six years our women have changed considerably," she said. "There has been a great change in the political arena, with every party promoting women in government." There are 24 women in the current Parliament, as compared with 10 in the last Parliament. "We can make our own choices now," she adds, "and change will come."

As we women in America have come a long way since the days of our forefathers, I am confident that the women in Lithuania will, one day, nobly achieve their goal.



**Did You Know?** One of the first Lithuanian settlements to be mentioned in written sources was the town of Ukmergė (1225) Originally called, Vilkmėrgė, it is named for a legendary genie. It was told that the genie lived in a dark forest where Tautvilas, the son of Duke Daugsprungas, went hunting. He ran out of arrows, was attacked by wolves, only to be saved by Vilkmėrgė, the beautiful genie, who drove them away. Later, Daugsprungas built a castle and named it Vilkmėrgė, in honor of the genie. Only a hill remains today.



***Pre-convention Items of Interest***

# **St. Joseph Church in Waterbury, Ct. - From Past to Present**

by *Lillian Benesevich, C-7*

**S**t. Joseph Roman Catholic church is the oldest Lithuanian Church in New England, dating officially from May 28, 1894. It was organized with the Reverend John Zebris as its first pastor to provide for the spiritual needs of the growing immigrant population of the city. The church and its parish school are located, as they always have been, in the Brooklyn section of Waterbury Connecticut.

The growth and achievement of St. Joseph parish in their 103 years may be measured by the spiritual, social and civic involvement in the Lithuanian community. The first church was a modest wood frame structure with a seating capacity of barely 300, yet it was considered adequate to accommodate the entire congregation in the early years. This original church was replaced by the much larger current brick edifice in 1904 under the leadership of the Reverend Peter Saurusaitis who succeeded Father Zebris as pastor in 1898. In 1920 the interior was refurbished, a new organ and new stained glass windows were installed under the guidance of pastor, Reverend Joseph Valentiejus. With the erection of the new church, the old wooden structure was moved, remodeled and enlarged to become the parish school. St. Joseph school was opened in the fall of 1904 with an enrollment of 72 students and a temporary staff of lay teacher. In 1905, the Sisters of the Holy Spirit were invited to take on the work of teaching. After a few short years, the makeshift quarters of this first school proved wholly inadequate and in 1912 coinciding with the first graduation class, Father Saurusaitis completed the building of a new school. Even this was to be outgrown and in 1924 Father Valentiejus embarked upon the ambitious project of erecting a second school building that would provide for the

current and future needs of the parish. The new school was completed in 1925 and stands on the site of the original wooden structure. While providing classroom facilities to meet the educational needs of its children, it also included an auditorium with a stage and a bowling alley in its basement, making it a true parish center, adaptable to meet the recreational need and social activities of the parish. It was from this school hall that Professor Alexander Aleksis, the parish organist for over 50 years and the composer of the Knights of Lithuania hymn, produced and directed over 150 plays, concerts and operettas.

St. Joseph has the distinction of being one of the few churches in the Archdiocese of Hartford that possessed a home for its orphaned children. It was instituted in 1919 and for the 33 years of its existence provided shelter, sustenance and a parish family for over 500 children and day care for countless others whose parent labored in the nearby factories.

After forty years of serving as pastor, Father Valentiejus retired in July 1959, the day after his seventy sixth birthday. His kindness, modesty and concern for his people endeared him to many generations of the parish families. Father Edward Gradeck was appointed pastor as his successor. He brought with him a spirit of energy and dynamism. Under his guidance, the parish debt was paid off and the parish physical plant revitalized - a new convent built, the church interior renovated in the spirit of the Second Vatican Council and the older school building demolished. Father Gradeck retired in 1968, and only recently passed away in 1997, at the time being the oldest priest ordained in the Archdiocese.

Nature and the economy had begun to take their toll on the parish census. Almost 200 families



were lost to the parish either through death or loss of housing in the great flood of 1955. Urban renewal in the form of highway construction causing the additional demolition of area housing forced another 165 families away from the area. The upward mobility of the immigrants' children began to pull families from the inner city neighborhoods like Brooklyn to the surrounding suburbs. They no longer depended on this church to help them live in the new and strange secular world, provide a sense of community or worship God.



Father George Vilciauskas succeeded Father Gradeck as pastor. He took as his challenge to stem this exodus and maintain an active parish life. He placed a high priority on St. Joseph School to provide exemplary education for the area's Catholic children, the source of continuity not only for our parish, but also for parishes now without their own schools. There have been three and four generations of parishioners who have attended this school. The past generations were prepared by the Daughters of the Holy Spirit, but since 1975 the school has relied on an all lay staff. Father Vilciauskas passed away in 1985, but gave one last and continuing display of faith in the parish by establishing an educational trust fund for the parishioners who graduated from the school and choose to continue their education in one of the two Catholic high schools in the city.

Father Francis Karvelis was appointed pastor in 1986. The population of the parish began to age since young families of Lithuanian descent decided to join the suburban parishes near their homes rather than follow their parents back to the inner city church of their grandparents. Although a smaller parish, the people still sustained a lively community as seen in the formation of a parish council in 1992 to assist Father Karvelis in the day to day operations and the re-establishment of the annual parish picnic to reunite scattered friends, past and current parishioners. The greatest recent challenge for the parish has been sustaining the school. In 1994, faced with the possibility of closing

its doors, a coalition of parishioners, parents, faculty and concerned individuals from the community at large rallied to keep the school from closing with extraordinary fund raising efforts. They have continued this work, highlighting their effort with the annual school fund dinner.

While dedicated to work within the parish community, St. Joseph Church has continued to honor the heritage and homeland of its founders. Since 1990, we have had the new Vilnius parish of Blessed George Matulaitis as our sister parish and have

and will continue to support them financially with special collections taken at Masses during the year, plus spiritually with our continued prayers and socially with visits and packages from our parishioners. We also support the Vilnius soup kitchens with a monthly collection from the parish.

St. Joseph realizes that the rebirth of the parish lies in the rebirth of the neighborhood, It serves the needs of the community by opening its school hall and classrooms to the neighbor associations, block watches and city sponsored meetings. The convent, which once housed eighteen nuns, has since served as the nursing school for St. Mary's hospital and now is home to Carolyn's Place, an organization which offers sanctuary and assistance to unmarried pregnant young women.

What St. Joseph achieved was done unselfishly with the love and labor of its people for their faith, their church and their community. With continued effort and prayers, we will continue to be the spiritual bedrock for the foundation of the new millennium, one full of hope and promise.

*The K. of L. Council 7, Waterbury will host the 85<sup>th</sup> National Convention on August 6-9, 1998. See page 18 for more information and registration form.*



#### **Did you Know?**

In the first quarter of the 18<sup>th</sup> century, high on the imported goods list for Lithuanians, be they gentry, clergy or townspeople was works of fine art, especially Italian painters. Many people had beautiful collections.



*"For God and Country"*

# Knights of Lithuania

*Host: Council 7*

*Convention Site:  
Sheraton Four Points Hotel  
Waterbury, Connecticut  
August 6-9, 1998*

## 85th National Convention

### REGISTRATION AND RATE INFORMATION

**Convention Registration Rate:**

Early Registration Rate:	(Deadline June 1, 1998)	\$120.00
Late Registration Rate:	(After June 1, 1998)	\$130.00
Junior Registration Rate:		\$60.00
Pre-Convention Tour/Dinner:		\$45.00

**Convention Registration Includes:**

Bus services to Opening and Closing Masses; Supper and Get Together at the Lithuanian Club, Thursday, Cultural Night, Friday; (Coffee/Donuts on Fri. and Sat. after Mass), Friday Luncheon; Convention Banquet Saturday and Sunday Brunch.

**Hotel:**

(K of L Rates Honored until July 1, 1998)

Sheraton Four Points Hotel

3580 East Main St., Waterbury, CT 06705

1-800-541-0469

Standard Double \$ 72.00 Per Night

King Double \$ 72.00 Per Night

Queen Suites \$145.00 Per Night

\*CT State Tax Added To Prices

Please call Sheraton for your Hotel rates.

**Pre-Convention Trip/Activity:**

Foxwoods Casino Ledyard CT. Lunch.

Stop by Immaculate Conception Convent. Putnam, CT

Marijos Nekalto Prasidejimo Vienuolynas

Mail your pre-convention tour and convention registration to K of L Council 7 - P.O. Box 3435

Waterbury, CT 06705. Make checks payable to K of L Council 7.



# Lithuanians in the News

## Joseph Matulevich appointed Regional Director of Texaco Natural Gas - International

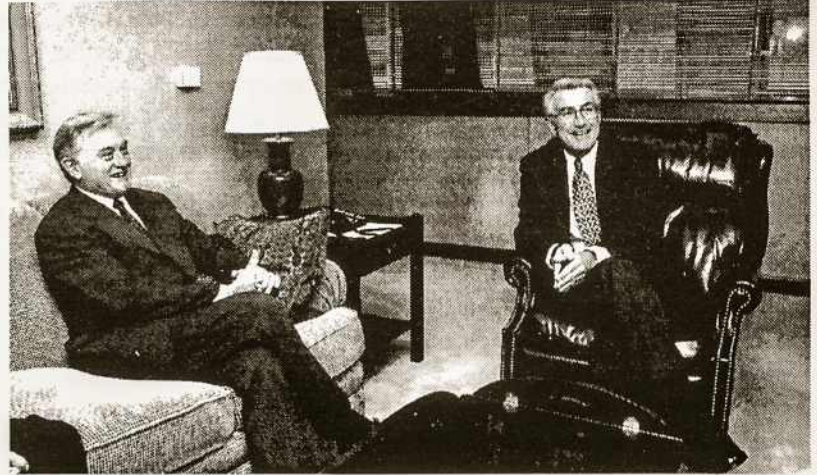
Joseph Matulevich will assume responsibility for Texaco's marketing operations in the United Kingdom, and for the development of international gas opportunities in Europe and Africa. He will continue to be based in London.

He joined Texaco in 1969 as an accountant in the Comptrollers Department in New York. In 1989, Matulevich was appointed Assistant to Management in the office of Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer Alien J. Krowe, and in 1990 named Manager of Finance in the Finance Department. Matulevich was Director of Project Finance in New York from March 1993 until January 1995, when he became Finance Director of Texaco



*Joseph Matulevich of Texaco*

Matulevich served as Financial Director until his most recent appointment. Matulevich is from Scranton, PA. Matulevich received a bachelor of science degree in accounting from the University of Scranton in Pennsylvania in 1969 and earned a master's degree from New York University in 1973. *From the TEXACO News, Jan. 17, 1998. Joseph's mother, Anna Matulevich, is a 3<sup>rd</sup> degree, C-74 Knight.*



*Newly Elected President of Lithuania, Valdas V. Adamkus, (l) a long time resident of Hinsdale, IL and longest serving senior official in the Environmental Protection Agency meets with Illinois Governor, Jim Edgar, (r) prior to his departure from the United States in February*

## Importer Finds Niche with Baalta Vodka

When Edward Stevens (Stepanavičius), president of Lietuva Imports, Ltd. In Chester, OH, makes a pitch for Baalta Vodka, he calmly suggests a taste test to let the product speak for itself.

Premiering in Chester last June, Baalta Vodka was the first vodka ever imported from Lithuania. The Baalta brand's origin traces back to 1547, where it was distilled through a time-honored process that includes multiple filtration through quartz crystals and birch coals.

The product is available in 120 retail outlets in Ohio.

*From the Chagrin Falls, OH Times (2/5/98)  
Submitted by Ursula Kunsitis, C-25, Cleveland.*



# LITHUANIAN CHEFS



## “Little Nut” Honey Cakes Riešutėlių meduolis

3 ½ cups flour  
4 eggs  
2 tablespoons sugar  
1 teaspoon baking powder  
3 tablespoons alcohol spirits  
4 tablespoons milk or water  
1 lb. lard for deep frying  
syrup:  
1 ½ cups honey  
1 ½ cups sugar  
1 teas. ginger

Mix all the ingredients for dough except the lard, and knead well. Shape dough into pencil - thin rolls and cut the rolls into 1/3 inch long pieces.

Heat the lard, as for doughnuts, add some of the dough pieces and simmer while mixing, until golden. The “little nuts” swell up while cooking, therefore, they should not be made too large. When golden brown, remove with a slotted spoon from the fat and place into a bowl. Put more uncooked dough pieces into the fat, and repeat the procedure until all the dough pieces are cooked.

Using the honey and the sugar, cook a syrup, a drop of which, when put into a cold water, will not melt. Add the ginger to the hot syrup. Pour prepared syrup over the “little nuts” and mix. Line pan with greased waxed paper, pour mixture into the pan, press well and put in a cold place to set. Cut into serving pieces, just like

other honey cakes, before serving. This honey cake must be kept in a dry, cool place, since it absorbs moisture readily, the syrup begins to melt and the cake falls apart.

*From the Bar/Bat Mitzvah  
Guide 1998 recipes from the  
Lithuanian Jewish*

### *Community: Tsimmes*

*(Popular in Vilnius and  
Brooklyn during the early part  
of the century, tsimmes with  
beets, turnips, carrots and meat  
make a wonderful family meal.  
The author notes that children  
love it, but do not tell the  
children about the beets and  
turnips.)*

3 teaspoons salt  
½ teaspoon pepper  
3 lbs. Flanken, chuck or brisket  
of beef  
2 onions, chopped  
2 tablespoons flour  
3 cups boiling water  
¼ cup honey or to taste  
8 carrots, coarsely grated  
1 beet, coarsely grated  
1 turnip, coarsely grated  
1 sweet potato, peeled and  
quartered (optional)

Mix 2 teaspoons of the salt and pepper and rub it into the beef. Place in a Dutch oven or heavy pot with the onions and brown slowly over a medium heat. Add the flour, mixing well. Add the water, stirring, until it reaches the boiling point. Cover and simmer slowly for about 1 hour.

Mix the honey in with the meat, then add the vegetables and remaining salt. Cover and bake in a preheated 375-degree oven for an hour and a half, removing the cover for the last 15 to 20 minutes. Taste and adjust seasonings, if necessary. Makes 6-8 servings.

**Lick your fingers Kugel**  
*An American Jewish Classic  
with dark brown sugar and  
pecans.*

1 ½ sticks (¾ cups) salted  
butter or margarine  
¾ cup dark brown sugar  
1 cup pecans, halved  
1 pound wide noodles  
4 large eggs  
1 teaspoon cinnamon  
½ cup sugar  
2 teaspoons salt

Melt the butter in a 12-cup mold or tube pan. Swirl it around the bottom and up the sides. Press the brown sugar into the bottom and press the pecans into the sugar.

Boil the noodles according to package directions and then drain. Mix with the eggs, remaining butter, melted, cinnamon, sugar and salt and pour into the mold.

Bake in a preheated 350-degree oven for 1 hour and 15 minutes or until the top is brown. Let sit for 15 minutes before unmolding. The top will become slightly hard, like a praline. Serve cold or room temperature. Yields 10 - 12 servings.





# THE LITHUANIAN GARDENER

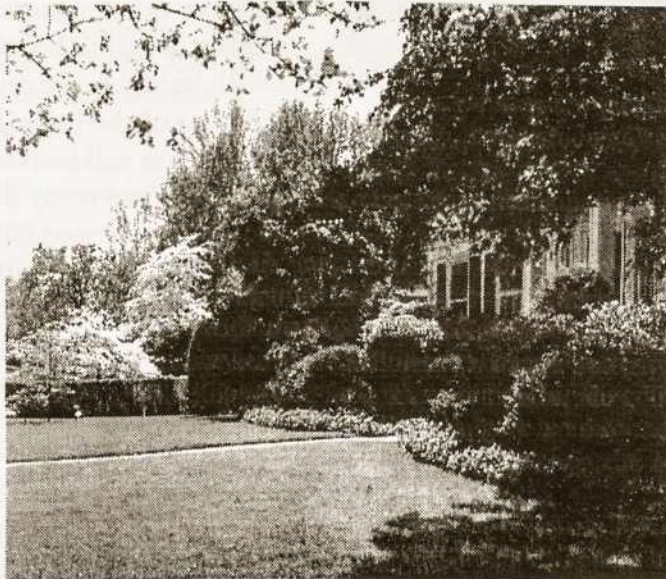
## Foundation Planting

By HM Frank Petrauskas

Each time I write I'll try to write about a subject which appeals to as many people as possible. I'll write about annuals, perennials, trees, shrubs both deciduous and evergreen, lawns and how to maintain a good lawn, spring flowering bulbs, roses, house plants, fruits and nuts and, of course, vegetables.

Today I would like to write about How to Plan and Plant a Foundation Planting. When we purchase a new house that is one of the first jobs we must do. We want the house to look attractive so we plant some shrubs and trees and flowers around the house. Even with an older established house you may want to take out some old shrubs and replace them with new. Sometimes shrubs become way overgrown and the only alternative is to remove them and plant new.

Before we do any planting we should have some type of a plan. You could have a landscape architect or a landscape designer draw up a plan for you, which will cost you some money, or you could draw up a plan yourself. It's not difficult—you can do it. Just take a large tablet and a pencil and stand in front of your house. Now draw an outline of your house at ground level. Include all entry ways, porches,



*"Your front door should be the focal point of your plan."*

driveway and sidewalks. Draw them as close to scale as possible. Once your lines are drawn then take a tape measure and measure your house. Place those figures on your plan, for example the distance from the front corner to the front entryway. Place the distance on every line you drew and than you will know how many shrubs you

can plant.

Your front door should be the focal point of your plan. On each side of the entrance way we plant a medium sized shrub. Next is the 2 corners of the house and there we plant a larger shrub or two if the space allows. Under the windows we usually plant lower spreading shrubs so as they don't block the windows. Now don't plant any shrub any closer than 4 feet from the house, 4 feet from the sidewalk, 4 feet from the driveway, and 4 feet from another shrub. An ornamental tree should not be planted any closer than 10 feet from the house. A large shade tree should be planted 20 to 30 feet from the house. Before planting know where your gas line, your water line and your underground electric lines are located. Don't plant on top of these lines. Also don't plant trees underneath electric lines,



telephone lines and cable lines. Before planting look around and check things over closely.

Once you plant your basic shrubs you can add more low growing facer shrubs if you so desire and if space allows. Start off simple and as you progress you will feel your way around and you will be able to make good decisions as to what to plant next. When you have your plan together go to a local nursery or garden center and check out the shrubs and trees they have in stock. Select the plants that appeal to you and mark them on your plan. Be sure to find out what size each plant will be at maturity. You want the right sized plant in the right location. All shrubs should be pruned and trimmed each year which is a good way to keep your planting looking neat.

Nursery stock is nearly all potted or balled and burlaped so planting can be done most anytime. When you remove the plant from a pot be sure to scratch the exposed roots with your fingers or a small cultivator so as they will make better contact with the backfill soil. Dig the hole twice the width of the root ball, set the plant in

the hole and fill the hole with water. If the water drains quickly then fill the hole again. After a few minutes of soaking then you can back fill around the plant with good decent soil. I like to mix some dried manure with my soil. It gives the plant a gentle boost. Be sure to tamp the backfill lightly to prevent air pockets. Fill only to the top of the ball. Rake out your planting and then you will be ready for mulch.

There are many different mulches. They vary from the various types and sizes of bark, the various types and sizes of stone, shells and good ol' peat moss. For the best weed control in your planting, I recommend placing 4 to 6 mil black plastic under your mulch. Be sure to leave enough of an opening under the plant for water to penetrate. Once your mulch is down and you've cleaned up the area, then take your hose and water your entire planting with a spray of water. You shouldn't have to water again if you receive a normal rainfall. Good luck on your planting.



## In Memoriam

**Victoria Kleiva**  
C-147, St. Petersburg, FL  
March 11, 1998

**Robert Taragowski**  
C-50, New Haven, CT  
Jan. 23, 1998

**Violet A. Brazaitis**  
C-135, Ansonia, CT  
Feb. 25, 1998

**Mary Ann Yokstas**  
C-141, Bridgeport, CT  
March 1, 1998

**Albert Butkins**  
C-103, Providence, RI  
March 18, 1998

**Joseph A. Akelaitis**  
C-135, Ansonia, CT  
Feb. 26, 1998

**Frank Rozgaitis**  
C-25, Cleveland, OH  
March 1, 1998

**Rev. John Gasiunas**  
former Sp. Advisor C-147  
St. Petersburg, FL  
March 9, 1998

**Dr. Joseph Mikalonis**  
C-17, So. Boston, MA  
March 4, 1998



*Amžina atilsī duok  
mirusiems  
Viešpatie ir  
amžinoji šviesa  
tegujiems šviečia,  
Amen.*



# The Magic of Camp Neringa

Is it possible to celebrate a traditional Lithuanian Easter in July? Can you experience what it was like in Lithuania during the Second World War? Can you learn to weave a beautiful Lithuanian sash in a week, and in the following one learn at least 3 new Lithuanian songs?

At Camp Neringa anything is possible! Over the past 29 years, hundreds of children and families have felt the magic of Camp Neringa. This summer hundreds more will be part of a magical experience which inspires children and families to learn about their Lithuanian roots, experience Lithuanian traditions, and learn to love and respect their cultural heritage.

Camp Neringa, nestled in the awesome mountains and forest of Vermont, offers camps in Lithuanian and in English for both children and families of Lithuanian decent. Camping at Neringa encourages children to learn about their roots and experience their heritage, all within a supportive Christian atmosphere and in the spirit of summer camp fun. Typical activities (which are never accomplished typically!) include: Lithuanian dancing, singing and folk art, faith/value discussion groups, Catholic liturgy and prayer, and of course, creative games, sports, swimming, hiking and lots of new friends and challenging experiences.

The campers themselves describe Neringa best:

*"Camp is fun and a learning place. You learn many Lithuanian customs and dances." Mark, age 9 - "Not only is camp fun and exciting, but also a beautiful home filled with a wonderful family of friends" - Philitha, age 13.*

*"This family weekend helps us to remember what's really important in life" Marybeth. a Neringa morn. "Neringa is a special place, when I'm not here I still have great memories. As the years go on, I*



*Decorating Lithuanian Easter Eggs at Camp Neringa. Photo by L. Kulbis*

*think camp has helped me mature in many ways. I hope I keep the tradition up with my kids and future generations." - Nick, age 14.*

We would love you to be a to be part of the Neringa tradition!

This year's camping season includes two sessions in English. A two week camp for children from 7-16 years of age from August 2-15 and a 4



*Camp Neringa Campers at the annual Lithuanian picnic in Putnam, CT. Photo by D. Dilba*

day session for families with small children from August 19-23. The summer is full of camps conducted in Lithuanian for children and youth from 6-20 as well as for families with young children.

Encourage your relatives and friends to experience the magic Neringa has to offer. For more information please contact: Dana Grajauskas, 66 Salisbury Rd. Watertown, MA 02172 tel: 617-923-4583 email: neringai@yahoo.com.





# Šypsniai be raukšlių

# Smiles without Wrinkles

Now for some "real  
Lithuanian" according to the  
satirist by the pen name Runcė  
Dandierinas (Leonardas  
Zitkevičius)

Svetimos pupos ir nuosavos lūpos

Gražiai mes lietuviškai mokam:  
Visokius galvočius prašokam.  
Anglišką žodį pagaunam -  
Lietuviškus marškinius maunam.

Į gatvę išėję kas rytą,  
Žygiuojam, kaip lordai per štrytą.  
Batai šiušiais patampa,  
Korneriu krikštijam kampa.

Leidė vačina kičeną.  
Tyčeris boisą tyčina.  
Draiveris draivina karą.  
Liandorus grinorių bara.

Vakar pentinom fliorą  
Šiandien klyninam štorą  
Džionkus iš jardo mūvinam,  
Šitai pat mes kalbą lietuvinam.

**Letter from an elderly  
Lithuanian gentleman  
to his lady love.**

Pranešu, kad aš dar gyvas,  
ar duobėn neįkritau,  
Bet užmiršti jau praėdėjau  
Ir galvoj vis siaubingiau.

*I want you to know  
that I am still alive.  
And did not fall yet into the hole.  
But I started to forget  
And a storm is raging in my head.*



Su artritu susitaikiau,  
Dantys valdiški. O.K.,  
Akiniai taip pat neblogi,  
Tik su protu ne juokai.

*I made peace with my arthritis.  
My teeth, a gift from the  
government.  
My glasses are not too bad.  
But I am worried about my brain.*

Priešais laiptus atsistojęs  
Atsiminti negaliu:  
Ar man reikia jais užlipti,  
Ar užlipęs jau esu...

*Standing before the staircase I  
can not recall,  
if I went already up  
Or I have yet to climb?*

Atidaręs šaldytuvą,  
Smegeninę pakratau:  
Ar aš maistą ten įdėjau,  
Ar išinti ketinau...

*Opening the refrigerator, I shake  
my head. Did I put the food in  
Or must I take it out*

Ir tada, kai jau sutemsta,  
Sėdžiu lovoj ir maštau:  
Ar jau laikas man miegoti.  
Ar aš ką tik pabudau...

*And then when it gets dark  
And I am sitting on my bed  
Am I going to sleep,  
Or is it time to get up?*

Jeigu man eilė rašyti,  
Tai nepyk, atsiprašau:  
Atmintis man susimaišė,  
Ar rašyti, ar rašiau.

*If it is my turn to write a letter  
Please do not be angry  
My brain is helpless  
Did I write, or am supposed to*

Tik žinok, kad Tave myliu,  
Bet jau paštą greity išneš,  
Lik sveika, mano brangioji!

*But be sure, I love you And the  
postman will pick up the letter  
soon So best wishes my dear one*

Stoviu ir net paraudau:  
Užuot laišką Tau išsiuntęs,  
Aš pats voką atidariau.

*But now I am blushing  
Instead of sending you the letter  
I opened it myself.*

*Translated by D. Bulvičius  
From "Lai"*



# District & Council News

## Amber District

### Aglite

Sunday, March 15th dawned bright and clear - a wonderful day for traveling to Philadelphia to celebrate St. Casimir's Day. By bus and private car the delegates and guests arrived to participate in this very important K.of L. event.

Rev. Joseph Anderlonis celebrated the Mass at his parish church, St. George's. Father Joe led the Fourth Degree Ritual ceremony and accompanying prayers, and with the assistance of Elsie Kosmisky, Supreme Council Ritual Chair, conferred the Fourth Degree to Pranas Shirnkus and Leo Zewicki, both of C-74 Scranton. Both had previously been approved by the Supreme Council Ritual Committee as having met the requirements for the Fourth Degree. Congratulations and best wishes to both members. Wear your medals proudly!

After Mass all the delegates proceeded back to the Parish Hall where C-3, under the leadership of John Mickunas, had prepared a hot home-cooked meal. Joe Drumstas was his able assistant in the kitchen. C-3 members provided additional delicacies and set up a sweet table bursting with homemade cakes that topped off the meal and satisfied everyone's sweet tooth.



*Rev. Dr. Joseph Anderlonis bestows the 4<sup>th</sup> degree on Leo Zewicki and Phanas Shimkus of Scranton, C-74 at Amber District meeting.*

Dorothy Banos, President, was unable to be with us to conduct the meeting due to having just undergone some major surgery a few weeks before the meeting. Dorothy, we missed you and our prayers are with you for a full and complete recover. We look forward to seeing you and having you at the helm at the June meeting.

In Dorothy's absence, Frank Petrauskas, Vice-President, conducted the meeting. Good job, Frank. Helen Cliesko, along with Dianne Drumstas, awarded the Third Degree to Helen Karpovich and Jean Kapochus Mihalick both of C-143 Pittston. Our good wishes to these two deserving ladies.

We all send get well wishes to Father Peter Alisaukas, our District's Spiritual Advisor, and Anne Challan, Ritual Committee member. We missed you both at the meeting and hope

you will soon be feeling up to par.

The Amber District Raffle, chaired this year by John Mickunas, produced a handsome profit for the Amber District Treasury. Thank you to all the Councils and members who made this another successful venture. This raffle is the District's only source of fund raising and it is most important that everyone participate to the fullest. Next year's Chair will be announced

at the June meeting.

C-156, Shamokin will host the next District meeting on Sunday, June 14. It was agreed that this meeting will be scheduled for approximately 1:30 in the afternoon. The Council will provide only refreshments and a light snack, rather than the large dinners that were previously supplied. This change was agreed upon to make it easier for all Councils to host District meetings. Details concerning reservations will be sent to all the Councils prior to the meeting.

The District meetings provide a means of much needed communication among all the member Councils of the District. It is important that we continue to have District meetings on a quarterly basis.

See you in Shamokin on June 14!!



### C-3 Philadelphia, PA

*Daina Kapochus*

The Amber District Convention/St. Casimir's Day Commemoration will be hosted by Council 3 at St. George's Lithuanian Church, Salmon and Venango Streets, Philadelphia. Fr. Joseph Anderlonis graciously consented to have the Knights participate at the 11:30 a.m. Mass with dinner and the meeting immediately following in St. George's Hall. C-3 members are enthusiastically preparing for and look forward to welcoming the officers, delegates and guests.

Council 3 members donated toward the purchase of a warm coat and winter boots for Evalina Baranauskaitė, our "adopted child" who lives in Panevėžys, Lithuania. Thanks to John and Agnes Mickunas who graciously shopped, packed, and sent. It's expected that we'll also send a gift (hopefully roller blades) that should arrive in time for Evalina's birthday on August 24.

A hearty welcome, was given to Anne Marie Jaskel and Walt Svekla who had recently been laid up. We also had the opportunity to welcome three prospective members (Eileen Chadwick, June Walbank, and Patricia Walbank) who were introduced by Anne Marie Jaskel.

Approximately twelve C-3 members left Philadelphia Airport to travel to Rome to participate in the 50th Anniversary Celebrations at St. Casimir's College in March. The possibility of a future weekend trip to the Pocono Mountains of Pennsylvania is also being considered.



*The Sodauto Folk Ensemble of So. Boston. Fifteen performers participated in the C-10 event.*

Members participated at Lithuanian Independence Day Activities on February 14 to 16th that included Masses at St. George's Church, St. Andrew's Lithuanian Church, and the Lithuanian Music Hall. Thanks to Aušra Maknys who furnished us with an accurate agenda of events.

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

On March 8th, our council commemorated the feast of St. Casimir at St. Francis church by attending the 10:30 Mass in a body and receiving Holy Communion. The gifts were brought to the altar by Mary Piragis McCollons and Nellie Melaika. After Mass the group had dinner at the Tully Mill Pond restaurant, a former factory which was refurbished into a great eating place. The commemoration was co-chaired by Marie Cole and Bill Wišniauskas.

The annual Lithuanian Independence Day celebration was held on March 15th at St. Francis church hall. About 125 area residents attended and enjoyed the Sodauto folk ensemble from So. Boston. It was a beautiful afternoon of Lithuanian songs and

dances. The director of the group is Gina Kupčinskas. The group invited the public to dance with it which added much to the event. Fifteen dancers participated.

The invocation was given by Rev. John Petrauskas, MIC of St. Casimir's, Worcester, MA. After the singing of the hymns, Bill Wišniauskas gave the opening address and acted as M.C. Mayor Charles Frances presented a proclamation from the City of Gardner and proclaimed Sunday March 15th as Lithuanian Day in Gardner. He praised the local group for fostering the culture of Lithuania. All in attendance were treated to coffee and cake. A Lithuanian buffet was later enjoyed. Both dailies gave nice write-ups with pictures before and after the event.

The general committee was headed by Bill and Bronė Wišniauskas, the hostesses were Nellie Melaika and Marie Cole, the program was arranged by Sophia Fiorentino, the kitchen workers were Armand and Pam Bouthlier, coffee served by Milda Stasiunas and Anna Taft, collectors David Lucas and Roberta Landry, refreshments and clean-up the entire council body.





### C-12. New York, NY

*The gift bearers during the Offertory at Our Lady of Vilnius Church, Manhattan, NY. For St. Casimir Day Mass in March were: From left to right: Anna Simuliunas, Catherine Simuliunas, president Jovita Sleder, Aldona Zaunius, Grazina Janusas and Lisa Simuliunas with the gifts.*

Publicity - Bill Wišniauskas.

Bronė Qualters and husband Richard both work at the annual River Rat Race held at the Miller's river in Athol during the pancake supper. This year, Roberta Landry also was on the committee. For years Bronė has also been doing volunteer work at the Athol Memorial hospital.

Dr. Henry Gailiūnas has returned from the K. of L. trip to Rome and Spain.

Bronė Wišniauskas had a large Lithuanian display at the Ethnic Day at the Lunenburg High School on March 27 and on April 3rd. She demonstrated the art of making Lithuanian straw Christmas tree ornaments. There was Lithuanian decorated tree on display during the Ethnic Awareness Day. For three years now Bronė was working on the Christmas and margučiai displays and lessons. Bravo, Brone!

Congratulations to Amelia Budwich, the first woman bowler

to enter the Hall of Fame in the greater Gardner area and to son Steve for his 2nd 300 frame at the Ten Pins. Amelia's brother is also the brother of Bill Wišniauskas and Steve is owner of Gardner Ten Pins.

With the Titanic again in the news it is worthy to note that Father Montvila was on the way to the United States to become pastor of St. Francis' parish, Athol. He was one of three Catholic priests aboard, who were given seats in the lifeboats. They gave up their places and heard confessions until the very end. Before leaving for the States he was curate at the parish of Liubavas, Bronės Wišniauskas home parish. In another local Gardner angle, a young priest, the Rev. Justinas Staugaitis was one of the signers of the Lithuanian Declaration of Independence in 1918. He later was consecrated and appointed the first Bishop of Telšiai. Bishop Staugaitis was the uncle of

Gardner's resident Beatrice (Juodaitis) Richard.

On this Memorial Day let us praise those who made the supreme sacrifice. Seven young men from Gardner and ten in Athol died so the rest of us could enjoy complete freedom. A stained glass window (created by Sophia Fiorentino) at St. Francis' parish honors these Lithuanian heroes. May they all rest in peace.

Best wishes to our shut-ins: Anna Ambrose, Anna Wilson, Jeannie Poshkus and Amelis Vaitkūnas.

Condolences are extended to Paul Krustapentis and family on the recent death of father John Krustapentis. Throughout the years, John was a devoted parishioner and worker of St. Francis. To Jennie Poshkus we extend our sincerest sympathy on the death of her brother Anthony Gataitis.

I would like to quote part of an editorial written by Tom Wickman in the "Gardner News" - Ethnic Celebration: "On Sunday, the Athol-Gardner Council, K. of L., commemorate the independence of Lithuania with a special program at St. Francis' church in Athol. The event featured a group of folk dancers and singers from So. Boston. The refreshments that were served at the event included many ethnic dishes.

The photo that appeared on page 3 of the "Gardner News" on March 12 prior to the occasion stirred some thoughts of just how important the retention of native customs are to many people in the Greater Gardner area.

The local Lithuanians a dedicated group of individuals. They devote a great deal of their



time to carry on traditions dear to their homelands, whether they are second, third or even fourth generations removed. In addition to the council activities, the Lithuanian Outer Association stages events at its quarters on the shores of Hinds Pond. The "Liths" as so many of us refer to it over the years, is a popular place for summertime dips. I still reminisce about late editor, Al Abbot's daily sojourns to that sandy area and, as a result, the deep tan he would carry all season long. Al, of course, was not Lithuanian, but the group has warmly welcomed people of all races, nationalities, religious denominations and genders to its grounds throughout the years."

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

*Stephen V. Walinsky, Sr.*

William C. Buckley died on February 27, 1998. I say for myself and for anyone who knew him, I shall miss you, Bill. We lost a special person and a special friend. If you knew him, you had to like him. May the angels guide your drives straight down the fairways and on to the eternal greens.

His sorrowful death, renews recollections of our long ago years, and the mutual friends with whom we shared our leisure hours. I remember, with pleasant memories, Charlie Tagman, Steve Ulevich, Connie Daucunas, Pete Parolis, Julius Puzar, John and Al Bender, Al and Frank Kondrotas, Joe Grigaitis, Fran Ginkus, Vin Grazulis, Stan Kamendulis, Joe Kirklauskas, Al Anusauskas and others, that this old mind of mine fails to remember at this time. They were all GENTLEMEN.



*C-29's Rita Sussko and Dana Rogers, communion breakfast chairperson*

It is fitting at this time to mention the honor bestowed upon two of our 4th degree members who were recognized for their zealous participation in parish affairs, and behind the scenes needs. Olga Kersis and Stephen Walinsky, Jr were awarded each with the traditional THANK YOU coat during the St. Casimir Parish dinner which took place on March 1, 1998.

On the same date, C-26 membership collectively attended a High Holy Mass, to commemorate St. Casimir's Day and to concentrate upon the intended intentions for the deceased of Council 26. Each also had someone special for whose soul they designated their prayers throughout the Services. This is what happened at the C-26 March 1998 meeting ----

Another very important undertaking for our council is to organize, sponsor and subscribe benefactors to support a visit to Lithuania this year by a number of nurses, to provide medical

equipment and teaching seminars for the nurses and doctors of Kaunas, Vilnius and Vilkauskas. The personnel to make this mission of care, are from Anna Maria College and Memorial Hosp. of Southbridge, MA. They will be in Lithuania May 21 to June 2, 1998. This will be their third visit. The two prior missions have shown great strides in "lessons learned". If you wish to help, checks can be made out to Anna Maria College-Lithuania Paxton, MA 01512 - Please mention C-26

Lithuanian Affairs chairperson, Victoria Augustine, read excerpts from a newspaper article written about Daniel Grabauskas, Dir. of Affairs in Lithuania, his job and of his accomplishments. Fr. John compared and explained the differences of the Governments of Lithuania and that of the United States. His talk also contained a biography of the newly elected President of Lithuania, Vladas Adamskas, and also a brief job description of the presidency

Before Fr. John started his lesson on Lithuania, he promised to close in 15 minutes. He had given a bell to Chas. Kulakusky, and instructed him to signal when it was time for him to stop. And which he did, for that he received a big round of applause.

### **C - 29, Newark, NJ**

*Rita Sussko*

Our Annual St. Casimir's Mass, celebrated by our beloved Spiritual Advisor, Fr. Peter M. Uhde, and Communion Breakfast was held on March 1st. Chairperson, Dana Rogers, did an outstanding job. Dana also did



*Pittston flag raising included: (l to r) Nellie Bayoras Romanas, Marie and Richard Laske, Father Lasky John Wanta, Karen and Attny. Dan Flannery*



both readings in Lithuanian at Mass.

The Offeratory procession consisted of the following members and the gifts which they carried: President and Honorary Member Kazys Sipaila a picture of St. Casimir, Nijolė Miknevičius lilies, Vytautas Miknevičius a cross, Paula Paskas a crown of gold, Harold Kaminskas a crown of thorns, Ada and Domas Andruska presented the wine, water and hosts. Rita Sussko narrated the procession. Valentinas Tumelis and Bernard Skripata were flag bearers.

After Mass our president called on Rita Sussko, who read a Proclamation from State of New Jersey Governor, Christine W. Whitman, designating February 16th, 1998 as Republic of Lithuania Day and recognizing the outstanding contributions bestowed upon the Garden State by the 41,000 Americans of Lithuanian decent, who reside in the State. Kazys then called on Dr. Rože Šornkaitė, who relayed what the conditions are which now exist in free Lithuania and the great need for our help. After a blessing

by Fr. Pete all partook of a delicious roast turkey dinner, prepared and served under the able direction of our primo cook, Marie Guoba along with Ann O'Neill and Helen Sisak also the ever faithful committee members (as follows) who seem to be always there to answer the call for HELP: Domas and Ada Andruska, Marie Guoba, Virginia Kaminskas, Nellie Krynicki, Betty Luciw, Jennie Miklasavige, Nijole and Vytautas Miknevičius, Nellie Nechiporuk, Ann O'Neill, Petrė Pliškaitė, Helen Radicsh, HM Kazys Sipaila, John and Helen Sisak, Rita Sussko.

After dinner we were entertained by the very talented Dave Rimelis, with a story. Dave also accompanied us by violin in singing "Happy Birthday" to Anna Skurdenis and her sister-in-law Eva Zilyis. Dave is the son of our longtime member Ed Rimelis. Fr. Pete expressed his thanks to the Knights of Lithuania for their perseverance and faith.

Council - 29 received two new members today also, Dolores Pydeski and Mildred Lallasher, wife of longtime member Richard Lallasher - WELCOME ladies. We



*C-74's Ann Patelunas receives her 4<sup>th</sup> degree from Marie Laske, C-74 Pres. Ann is homebound.*

were saddened by the death of our faithful member, Walter Brazaitis. Anyone who attended a St. Casimir's Communion Breakfast or a MAD meeting in Newark received a sampling of Walter's talent - he would hand make the favors for C - 29. We now also share grief with HM Loretta Stukas on the death of her Mother February 22nd. May they rest in Peace.

The next event will be a luncheon and cake and craft sale on Palm Sunday for the benefit of Holy Trinity Church.



Our members from Lithuanians and Catholics. Mentor, Ohio, Consuella and John Mankus, Supreme Chester Karchefsky, who Council President gave a report. journeyed to Dayton to attend the Afterwards he recited (from National Convention as Delegates of Council - 29 are now joining the other "snowbirds" and going to Florida. Have a great vacation - wish we were there!

In our area we have been blessed with a mild winter and favorable weather—so far. Wishing all a safe, successful trip to Rome and a HEALTHY, HAPPY SPRING.

### **C - 74, Scranton, PA**

*Marie Laske*

We received communion as a body in honor of St. Casimir at St. Joseph's Lithuanian church and after Mass we had brunch at Perkins' Pancake House. It was good to see Ann Duduwicz again after being homebound. Again we celebrated Casimir Yanisch's birthday with a cake and the whole place joined us in singing happy birthday. Casimir was 81 years young on March 4th.

Marie Beneckienė won the Lithuanian award. Jean Karelinė drew the winning ticket.

We attended the Amber District Meeting In Philadelphia. The weather was great and we enjoyed the ride. The tapes of Lithuanian music was enjoyed by all.

Before the Mass our Supreme Council K. of L. Spiritual Advisor Rev. Dr. Joseph Anderlonis bestowed the 4th degree to Pranas Shimkus and Leo Zeivicki. It was a beautiful ceremony. Rev. Anderlonis homily was about putting others first instead of ourselves. He stressed that we all should be good

Pray for Msgr. Michael Ozalas who is very sick. Get well wishes to Dorothy Banos, our Amber District president and Casimir Yanish. Both of them had operations.

Remember July 26. The Lithuanian Mass at St. Ann's Basilica (located off S. Main Ave, Scranton exit 50) will be at 2:45 PM. Please wear your national costumes.

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

On March 8th members celebrated our Annual St. Casimir's Day Mass at 10:30 AM at Holy Cross Church. Our council's president, Robert Pant, led the Juniors and members into church with our council's cross. The Juniors carried the traditional lily and a picture of St. Casimir. All were placed at the St. Casimir's altar. The Juniors were also the Offertory Bearers. At the end of Mass, Stefanija Raštikis led us in the Litany to St. Casimir in Lithuanian. This was followed with presentation of the First Degree to Linda Pant and the Second Degree to Mark Bell, Michael Pant, Connie and Molly Geiger! Services were closed with the singing of the Vyčių Himnas. Members headed to the church hall where our monthly meeting took place. When the meeting was over we gathered at the Stockyard Inn for breakfast/dinner. Everyone enjoyed themselves! Thanks must

go to the committee, George and Frances Mikalauskas and Betty Nash for a very successful day. Congratulations must go to Aldona Ryan HM who chaired World Day of Prayer for the churches in Ode North Dayton. Holy Cross Church was the host for this year's event. Turn out was very good. Fr. Michael Holloran and the local ministers had a very inspiring program. Kitty Lamarr must be thanked, also, as she helped Aldona with the social following services. At this time we ask you to say some prayers for Aldona. She suddenly became ill and so we pray she is well on the road to recovery by the time you read this. Michael F. Petkus has been busy chairing the practice



*Council 96 President,  
Rob Pant with Council Cross*



bowling sessions the council has been having. Members are gearing up for the MCD bowling tournament being hosted by C-16, Chicago!

Mark Bell, our Nashville, TN member, shared stories of his K of L trip to Rome for the 50th Anniversary of the Lithuanian Pontifical College. Wonder if, from stories of the side events, Rome is still the same? A 'behind the scenes committee' that is 'always there' when emergencies and special projects arise is our council's Telephone Squad. Joining the committee this year under the chairmanship of Joyce Berczelly are: Eloise A. Berczelly, Christine Fletcher, Ann Gitzinger, Joan Kavalauskas, Sue Keivel, Frances Mikalauskas and Betty Nash. A big Thank You one and all! Everyone have a wonderful Spring/Summer! !

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

Sunday March 29th was a very special day for this council. We celebrated the feast of our patron Šv. Kazimieras - St. Casimir. We welcomed visitors from our sister councils C-12 in Manhattan and C-41 Brooklyn. The good Lord had given us a beautiful day and as we gathered for Mass sunlight was streaming through the skylight of the church. Of course we were saddened that our organist could not be with us on this special occasion. (He had a concert at Resurrection Church in Toronto), but we improvised. The choir did a beautiful job singing a capella (Virgilijus you would have been proud of us). Our dear member from C-41 Marytė Šalinskienė led us in the communion hymn - "Jėzau pas

mane ateiki?!. We tell you - our Mary is a phenomenon. Not only did she attend Mass at Annunciation, her parish, but came to join us in Maspeth, and later went to the Cultural Center for the event honoring Monsignor Antanas Rubšys, who just finished translating the Bible into Lithuanian. Marytė, we wish we had your energy.

The celebrant of the Mass was our own honorary member Father Stasys Raila. We are always happy to see him. Like Marytė, he is full of energy. Last year he celebrated his 90th birthday and on April 1, of this year, his 65th year in the Priesthood. Ad multos annos mielas kunige Raila! As always, his sermons were very interesting as well as food for thought. He recited for us a prayer in Hebrew and asked what it was. Not many knew that it was the Our Father.

After Mass, a beautiful meal was set up for us in the parish hall. Each table was decorated with spring flowers and the food, as always in Maspeth was delicious and plentiful. Our Easter diets went out of the window. A special thanks to president Bruno Rutkūnas, Helen Matulionis, Anne Morrissey, Konstancija Nehwadvovich with able assistants who kept things running. Ačiū labai mielieji!

After the repast, Anne Morrissey, whose heart and soul is with the orphans in Lithuania, asked all of us to come to her aid. It is people like Anne, who keep the future of Lithuania alive. Anne also asked all to make an effort to attend the Lithuanian Mass in Maspeth. Two who made the effort today (all the way from Brooklyn) were long time Council News correspondent, Joe Dugan and his

lovely wife Anne. Joe's reports were every Council News editors' dream.

Council 110 - Ilgiausią Metų!

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

The March 17 quarterly meeting gave us a number of good reasons to get together. First of all, we had our regular business meeting. Then on to the Degree presentation presided over by our chairlady, Julie Zakarka. Congratulations to Regina Endrukaitis who received the First Degree, and Antonette Paskauskas, Vera Paukštis, and Andrius Baltrusaitis who received Second Degrees. Keep on working and piling up those points and before you know it, you'll be getting your next degree. After these items were taken care of, we went on to enjoy delicious corned beef sandwiches with all the trimmings and a beautifully decorated cake, all arranged and prepared by Pres. Mickey Petrosius and her husband Vince in celebration of St. Casimir's Day and St. Patrick's Day. Thanks so much for everything!

First V.P. Al Mockus has devoted many hours to coordinating an Evangelization Program through his parish. He first started by organizing a "Homecoming" for all inactive Catholics with participants from 12 parishes, and later went on to speak to an audience of about 400 parish leaders from 60 parishes. This program has become so successful that inquiries come from all parts of the country, and, the most recent from Holy Name Cathedral in Chicago on how to



## ON THE CALENDAR...

**August 6-9, 1998 - K of L.**

**Convention:**

**Host: Council 7 - Waterbury, CT  
Sheraton Four Points - Waterbury,  
CT**

### **1998 District Conventions:**

**October 2-4 - Mid-America District - Fall Meeting Weekend. C-133 Hosts, Los Angeles, CA. For Information: Diann Martin (773) 376-4779.**

### **Other Events**

**May 15-17** Mid-Central District - K of L Bowling Tournament and District Meeting. Best Western Inn of Burr Ridge, IL. Council 16 hosts. For Info: Rob Martin (773) 376-4779.

**May 31-** 90th Anniv. of St. Francis Church, Lawrence, MA.

**July 26 -C-74** Lithuanian Mass, St. Ann's Basilica (lower church) 3:45 PM Scranton, PA.

*Send in your council's upcoming events along with council news for the calendar.*

start a similar program. Francis Cardinal George, Archbishop of Chicago, champions Evangelization and has made appearances at several functions with Al to lend his support.

Members participated in a St. Casimir's Day Mass, luncheon and business meeting during which Third Degrees were presented to our council members Srs. Therese Papsis, Angela Balchunas, Tarcisia Stuglis, and Mary Banky and Apolinaras Bagdonas. Susan Binkis received her Fourth Degree during the Mass. We congratulate you for your many years of active participation in council activities.

### **C - 141 Bridgeport, CT**

*Aldona Marcavage*

This year's St. Casimir's Day celebration was a most memorable affair. The church and

hall were filled with guests. They were welcomed by president Clemencine Miller. Msgr. Francis Pranckus said Grace and the fun began. The food was great, but it was the program that claimed our attention. Junior member Bonnie Gulas read her essay on St. Casimir. Sr. Helen Ivanauskaitė CJC from Brockton was our honored guest speaker. Her talk was of the subject closest to her heart -- her needy children in Lithuania. She told us that thousands of children were abandoned during the Soviet occupation. Hundreds of children were born with severe birth defects as a result of the Chernobyl explosion. Corrective surgery, performed by American and Lithuanian doctors, is

restoring children and giving them a second chance for a normal life. Due in part to malnutrition, TB is rampant and sanatoriums are

crowded. Sister Helen showed slides of current hardships being endured by infants and teenagers in hospitals and institutions. Our help continues to be needed.

The cultural committee comprised of Gintarė Ivaška, Milda Liaukas, Carol and Raymond Buzak filled tables and walls with reproductions of works of famous Lithuanian artists for our enjoyment. Our hall never looked better.

Msgr. Pranckus celebrated another birthday with a happy luncheon party given by the Knights, God's blessings and love and many happy returns, Monsignor.

Congratulations and God's never-ending care HM Father Albin Janiunas of C - 78 Lawrence, Mass. on the jubilee of his 50th anniversary of priesthood. VALIO!!



Mary Spellman is recuperating from surgery, and if all the prayers and good wishes are heard she should be well again in no time. More member's need prayers for health; Edward Yokstas, Peter Radzwillas, recuperating at home after a recent hospital stay. Sarah Miller who is temporarily confined at home. Get well, soon you all ...

On March 1st, Mary Ann Yokstas departed this world. May she rest in peace and joy.

Sincere sympathy to Bob, Pat Silk and family on the loss of Bob's dear mother. May she enjoy the wonders of eternity.

At this writing, we are looking forward to the NED spring convention in Lawrence April 26th, Hope you were there!

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

Belated Get Well wishes for Aldona Kirstuk who had eye surgery in February. We're glad you're doing so well.

March 1, 1998, at the 1:00 Lithuanian Mass, requested by K of L Council 147 in observance of St. Casimir Day, Father Matas Čyvas was presented his 3rd Degree Medal. Anthony Gudonis, our president, pinned on his medal. Our K of L Flag was also part of the ceremony, carried by Antanas Grabauskas and assisted by attendant Irena Diktanas. Mass was celebrated by Father Steponas Ropolas O.F.M. Father Čyvas was a Concelebrant. After Mass all enjoyed dinner at the Lithuanian Club. Father Čyvas was then presented his 3rd Degree Certificate.

Rev. Jonas Gasiūnas passed away March 9, 1998 at

Palms of Pasadena Hospital. He was born in Lithuania and was 93 years old. He was Spiritual Advisor for our Council until 1996, and then left because of failing health. He joined our Council January 28, 1978, after arriving here in Florida in 1973 from East St Louis, III. He was presented his 4th Degree on March 3, 1985. Our deepest sympathy is extended to his niece, Zita and relatives in Lithuania.

Also sympathy to the family of Victoria Kleiva, passed away March 11, 1998. She was born in Lithuania, and came to Pinellas County in 1972. She was 87 years old, and held the position of Recording Secretary since 1978, when she joined. She was a diligent worker. She is survived by two daughters Loretta and Angela and grandchildren. She will be greatly missed by all.

**C-156 Shamokin, PA**

The first charter member of our council Robert C. Barsh died on January 17. The council celebrated his funeral Mass on January 23 at Mother Cabrini Church, Shamokin. Rev. Philip Daniels was the Mass celebrant. Over 80 family, council members, and friends attended this liturgy. David Kinder served as lector, Jennifer Wislock as cantor, and Josh Charnosky and Andrew Wislock as altar servers. At Kalokitis and Ray Comoss were the Eucharistic Ministers. A special thank you is extended to Lorraine Kinder who coordinated the liturgy. Larry and Caren Kinder graciously sponsored a dinner at the Country House Restaurant for the guests after the Mass.

A pizza party was held at James' Pizza on Friday, February 20 to celebrate the council members' birthdays. Twenty four members enjoyed the pizza and were able to socialize with one another on this occasion.

Council members celebrated St. Casimir's Day on Sunday, March 1. Over 30 council members participated in a prayer service which emphasized that "Jesus Christ is the Light of Our World". Jennifer Wislock served as liturgy leader. Olympia Zelinski read the life of St. Casimir and a reflection prayer to the saint. After the service, a meeting was held in which the council received a thank you letter for its donation to the St. Casimir's Guild. The council also made plans for its bus trip to St. Elizabeth Seton Shrine on August 15 where a Mass will be celebrated by the council's spiritual adviser, Father Ted Keating. During this trip, the group will also journey to Our Lady of Lourdes Grotto at Mount Saint Mary's College, Emmitsburg, Maryland to recite the rosary. Fifteen council members attended the Amber District St. Casimir's mass and meeting in Philadelphia on March 15. A social with a variety of delicious desserts was served after the meeting.



**Happy Mother's Day to all K. of L. Mothers.**





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## Birds in the Woods

Still other voices, in many other conversations:

There are redbreasts, wrens, thrushes, and other variations,  
 There are woodpeckers, magpies, and others with strange and beautiful songs.

One laughs, the other laments, while another with mischief responds,  
 And exquisite of them all is the nightingale's melody:

Full, high, wild sweet notes — loud and free...

The sounds ring, hum and buzz through the shrubbery, all day long,  
 Sounds and songs that pierce the heart, — as does, Lithuania's song.

Varied voices are all combined in this forest symphony:

And every little leaf seems to clatter, chirp and call from the branches in the tree.

There is no preparation, yet the sounds all harmonize:

Even these little voices, the listening ear does not recognize.

When the green meadows will hold their blossom festival,

And all the flowers — each other will encircle,

Then at a distance, will appear, a glorious display of colors — summer's testimonial.

*From "Anyksčiu Šilelis" by Bishop A. Baranauskas*

*Translated into English by Antonia Wackell*

