

# Vytis



*The Knight - Volume 85 No. 1*



*Kaulinis, 07*

**SAUSIS / JANUARY**

**1999**

**VYTIS**

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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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## On the Calendar (back inside cover)

cover art "*Lietuviškas Kainas*" by *Piešiny's Paulius*  
(c)1967

## Three Kings' Day (January 6th)

On the eve of January 6th, in Lithuania the letters KMB were written over the doors of each household. These letters honored the three kings who came to greet the newly-born Jesus. On this day, costumed kings with retinues visited all of

the farmsteads. Their clothes were seldom actually regal; they consisted of long furs, hats woven from thick sheaves of straw decorated with berry branches and so forth. The kings visited each house to greet its inhabitants with the news of Christ's birth, to herald the new year and to wish them a good harvest. In order to guarantee that the kings' blessings would be fulfilled, farmers showered them with gifts.



## To My Fellow Knights:

I've noticed so many publications seem to ignore the fact that we have a year left before Y2K or the year 2000 and the new millennium. Most people are in a quandary over alleged computer glitches, aliens from outer space and all the fears and phobias of entering into a new century. Yet we haven't even begun 1999 yet.

We've decided to let 1999 be a year of tribute to "unsung heroes" that is, those who have accomplished much for the Knights, for their American communities and for the betterment of our Lithuanian heritage. This month and next, we're featuring a knight who was born in Lithuania at the beginning of the last century and who is one of our featured writers and poets, namely Antonia Wackell. The first part of her autobiography deals with her family's travels and coming to America, and what it was like growing up in Worcester, Massachusetts during the first part of our century. We welcome other stories about other "unsung knights" for future editions, as these folks are the real heroes, rather than the million dollar celebrities one reads about in the mainstream press of today.

We've also featured a few other Lithuanian heroes in these pages along with a tribute to the Baltic sea-coast city of Klaipeda. This third largest city in Lithuania commemorates an anniversary on January 19, of the signing of a treaty in 1923 which rejoined Klaipeda to Lithuania.

We also welcome aboard a new food editor, Fr. Daniel Yenkevich of E. Straudsburg, PA who will edit our Lithuanian Chefs column. *Have a happy and healthy 1999 everyone!*



## Letters to the editor

### SCHOLARSHIP ANNOUNCEMENT

The Scholarship Committee Chairperson is once again seeking advice and suggestions about how to possibly improve and update the mission and purpose of the Knights of Lithuania General Scholarship...So please, if you have any suggestions, please forward them to the Chairperson:

**IRENA GECAS-MCCARTHY**  
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As a reminder for the upcoming 1999 Scholarship Awards to be presented at the National Convention in Philadelphia. According to the present rules of the Committee, please remember:

- 1) There is NO AGE LIMIT.
- 2) Even if you applied and did not receive an award, please submit another application.
- 3) The award is intended for EITHER UNDERGRADUATE OR GRADUATE SCHOOL STUDIES.

4) Most importantly, there is a 2-YEAR MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENT.

5) Remember to register your children as either Junior Members or Full Members (at 16 years of age), even if there is no organized Junior Council.

District and Council Presidents encourage the youth of your councils to apply for Scholarships.

Vytiškai,

*Irena Gecas-McCarthy*

### Story Update

In the February, 1997 issue of VYTIS, page 10, the article that I wrote titled "The Graveyard of Fallen Soviet Heroes", will undergo a change, for it will no longer be a graveyard. When I visited Lithuania this past summer, one of my relatives told me that a group of investors will create a special park on the outskirts of Vilnius that will be called SKULPTURU PARKAS. In it, will be the statues from that former graveyard. Each one will be put on a pedestal, and the ones that had been cut-up will be put together, and cleaned up, including the ones of Lenin and Vincas Kapsukas-Mickevičius. An admission will be charged, of course, and it is hoped that it will make a nice tourist attraction.

*Ed Baranauskas, C-100*

## **Report to K. of L. Membership -**

### **On the visit of President Valdas Adamkus of the Republic of Lithuania to United States and my attendance at the Republic of Lithuania Embassy in Washington at a diplomatic reception and meeting with President Adamkus.**

*John R. Mankus President, SC of the Knights of Lithuania*

President Valdas Adamkus began the official part of his visit to United States in Chicago on October 18th with a breakfast meeting with representatives of all major American Lithuanian Organizations. I requested Faustas Strolia to represent the Knights of Lithuania at this historic meeting. Faustas represented us very well.

On October 19 and 20, President Adamkus met with the Governor of Illinois, Jim Edgar and Archbishop of Chicago Francis George. President Adamkus and the Governor discussed greater cooperation between Lithuania and the state of Illinois. The Governor promised support to Lithuania in the areas of health care, education and agriculture. The President also made a major speech on the priorities of the Lithuanian economy and foreign policy at the Mid American Committee and the Chicago Council on Foreign Relations.

President Adamkus presented Lithuania as "a country in which foreign and security policy is based on liberal democracy and a market economy," and noted that Lithuania's financial system "is stable and reliable." He also delivered a lecture at the political club of Chicago University. During this talk, President Adamkus noted that Lithuania, while seeking NATO membership, continues to implement an open and constructive foreign policy with its neighbors. The President commented, "I would like to single out especially our cooperation with Poland which has never been so dynamic and fruitful."

President Adamkus also met with Illinois US Senator, Richard Durbin and Chicago Mayor, Richard Daley. Senator Durbin expressed great surprise at the progress Lithuania has achieved in the past five years.



**Lithuania's President Valdas Adamkus  
with K of L Pres. John Mankus**

On October 21 President Adamkus arrived in Washington where the most important part of his visit began. His program included meetings with US Commerce and Defense Secretaries William Daley and William Cohen, Senator Robert Byrd, Congressman Christopher Cox, former US Presidential Advisor on national security, Zbygniew

Brzezinski as well as discussions with representatives of Jewish Organizations and members of US NATO Supporters Committee. In his speech to the Center for Strategic and International Studies, President Adamkus stated that the entry of Lithuania in NATO would not spoil its good neighborly relations with Russia." Everybody can agree that the invitation of the Czech Republic, Poland and Hungary to NATO, had no major negative influence on relations with Russia. "I believe that our case would be similar," said the President. During his meeting with President Bill Clinton, President Adamkus voiced Lithuania's aspiration to join NATO and discussed other vital issues regarding bilateral and international relations. While speaking about NATO enlargement, President Adamkus noted that Lithuania has proved its determination not only by words but also by deeds through the implementation of concrete preparatory programs and increased defense spending. President Clinton emphasized that the U.S. supports these aspirations and will continue to assist Lithuania in preparing for membership.

During the diplomatic reception at the Embassy of the Republic of Lithuania, I was introduced to President Adamkus by Ambassador Stasys Sakalauskas. It was a great honor for me to meet and

speak with him. During the conversation I reiterated the Knights of Lithuania support of Lithuania. President Adamkus expressed his gratitude on behalf of Lithuania and its people. Ambassador Sakalauskas and President Adamkus also thanked me for calling and faxing President Clinton and urging him to meet with President Adamkus. At Camp David that week Israeli and Palestinian leaders were in negotiations. President Clinton had cancelled many of his meetings to be available to assist in these negotiations.



**Pittsburgh Penguins' star, Darius Kasparaitis, meets with K of L Pres. John Mankus (See story on Darius on pg. 16)**

The State Department initially cancelled the meeting with President Adamkus, but later, the meeting was rescheduled. At the request of Ambassador Sakalauskas, I as president of Knights of Lithuania and other Lithuanian American leaders contacted the White House and urged that the meeting would be rescheduled. Our efforts were successful and the meeting took place.

Among the 300 guests at the reception were executives from companies already doing business in Lithuania, including Coca-Cola, Motorola, Philip Morris, Master Foods, Stanton Group and Williams International. During the discussions, I learned that investment in Lithuania by these companies was in the hundreds of millions of dollars. Williams International investment is in excess of \$200 million. I was very pleased to see two young seminarians that I had met at

the Lithuanian Pontifical College in Rome. Both arrived in the United States this fall and are studying at the American Catholic University. I also met and spoke with National Hockey League player Darius Kasparaitis of the Pittsburgh Penguins.

On October 22 and 23, President Adamkus met and answered journalists questions at the National Press Club, received the prestigious 1998 Environmental Law Institute Award, met

with Terry Lash Director of the International Nuclear Security Program and Stroub Talbot, Deputy US Secretary of State and met with Henry Shelton, Head of US General Staff. The results of the first official visit to the US by President Adamkus and his Staff were very positive. He received assurance from President Clinton of continued US support to Lithuania for NATO membership and was extended an invitation to attend a NATO summit meeting in April 1999. He received a promise from Defense Secretary William Cohen of further assistance in its integration process for NATO membership, greater cooperation and support from Governor Jim Edgar and continued support from Senator Richard Durbin and other Congressional leaders.



## **Official News**

Notice to all Council Ritual Chairpersons and Committees:

All applications for the fourth Degree must be received by the Supreme Council Ritual Chair along with the proper fee of \$8.00 per application, no later than April 1, 1999.

This will allow enough time to review the applications and to notify the councils of the status of the applicant before the National Convention. Your cooperation and understanding in this matter will be appreciated by the Supreme Council Ritual Committee.

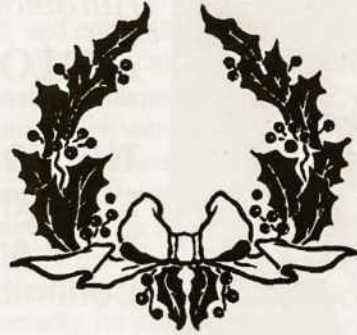
**Clemencine Miller, Chairperson  
Supreme Council Ritual Committee**



In memory of our dear  
member,  
Sylvia Shukis  
who on May 18th  
became a member  
of the most  
Outstanding Council...  
in Heaven

where the K. of L. members  
with the Lord guide us all-  
Del Dievo ir Tevnyés...

**Council 1**  
**Brockton, Massachusetts**



*Linksmų Šv. Kalėdų  
Laimingų Naujųjų Metų*

**Council 30**  
**St. Casimir's Parish**  
**Westfield, MA**

*Hope You Had a Very Merry Christmas  
and Wishing All a Happy New Year*



**Council**  
**112**  
**Chicago**



## Autobiography of our folklore, feature writer and poet Antonia Wackell

### THE YOUNG RETURNEE: Trials and Commitments

I was born on August 7, 1905, when this 20th Century itself was only in its 5th year of existence. Less than

4 years later, my father, Juozas Glavickas and mother, Mikalina Kvietkauskaitė, decided to visit their homeland taking their two small children, Antanina and Bronuka with them.

After a lengthy voyage among very sea-sick passengers, we finally reached our destination. I recall young Mikalina give a sigh of relief and whisper - *"Ačiū Devui, viskas gerai!"* (Thank God, all is well).

She had misgivings about this journey. Superstition, as in ancient times, is still an influence to deal with. For instance, one evening, my parents and friends were playing their favorite game of *vėžimas*. Each time a dealer dealt cards to mother, black cards turned up which disturbed one dealer so much that he refused to deal. Turning to father he said, *"Mielas pone, nevažuokite šį kartą. Prašau ne grįškite!"* (Dear Sir, do not sail this time. I beg you, do not go back.)

Later, mother had a dream. An angel, she said, appeared in her dream and revealed to her that 'There will be three and then only one'. She begged her husband to postpone the journey. He reminded her that their furniture no longer was theirs and passage on the ship had been paid. So we sailed.

We were now under grandfather's roof. One day as we were tending the baby lambs with mother, the sudden appearance of Russian soldiers startled and frightened us. The Russians having learned of father's return (Father, as yet, was not an American citizen) arrived and drove away with him to serve in the Russian Army.

Fortunately, Juozas could read and write in Lithuanian and had sufficient knowledge of Russian and

Polish languages, so he was assigned to work in an office.

In the meantime, a little girl was born, but did not survive. A short while later, Bronukas became very ill. He did not recover 'nuo priepuolio' (from convulsions). Shortly after, I was driven to the town's apothecary for a spreading neck infection.

The pharmacist (doctors were unavailable) quickly prepared a special medication, applying it to the back of the head, upbraiding those who had delivered me for not bringing me in sooner - now he could not be certain of the results.

With the loss of two children, father was all the more determined to get out of the army. The idea of self-inflicting injuries was repugnant to him. Some young men strongly opposed to giving up 20 years of their lives for the Russians, severed fingers or caused some bodily injury to themselves in order to be discharged and sent home.

Father, on the other hand, said that *"Aš išsipirkau save"* (I bought myself out). How he negotiated his release was his personal secret. He never betrayed with whom, nor how many of his American dollars were secreted in a Russian uniform.

Released, he immediately made plans for our return, only to be informed that no ship would be sailing until the following year. At last we boarded a ship in Hamburg, disembarked in New York, and the train carried us back to Worcester where a small tenement awaited us.

When schools reopened, I was not accepted because I had not been registered. "Good" I was told, "that will give you 4 months in which to learn English and perhaps learn to write your name."

During the wintry months of waiting and spotty instructions I received from older children, the registration day finally came. Accompanied by a 9-year old cousin, we entered City Hall's dimly lit corridor furnished with 2 tables presided by two registrars, waiting mothers and children.

All went well until I replied to the question of Nationality. I answered clearly "Lithuanian". I had heard that response innumerable times in our travels so I knew what I was. The recorder paused in her writing, looked up and said, "You mean Lutheran, don't you?"



"No, I am Lithuanian (with emphasis on Lithuanian) not Lutheran".

Realizing that I would not yield to her notion, she asked the registrar beside her, "Did you ever hear of a country called Lithuania?" Without looking up the answer came: "It is a small country on the Baltic Sea, across from Sweden." My registrar gave a mini smile and said, "We always learn something new, don't we? You will enter the first grade."

Turning to my cousin I said, "I will be in the first grade. Don't you ever call me a 'grinorka' (greenhorn) again!" She enjoyed introducing me as "My cousin, the greenhorn, from Lithuania" which never made her one of my favorites.

It was geography time. The teacher rolled down a huge map over the blackboard and named the ocean and countries near it. Then we were ready for the review. Teacher called upon a girl we thought was 'awfully smart' but her answer was wrong. Others called upon just could not supply the correct answers. Then she said, "Antonia, will you tell us the name of the ocean between this country and Europe?" "Atlantic Ocean" was my instant response. I knew it well. I had sailed over it two times.

Of course the answer received her approval, but another disapproval. The lesson ended, desks made tidy, we began our favorite song of departure - "Evening shades are falling fast and another day is over, Jesus bless each little child, Bless us now and evermore." We were dismissed and 'filed out quietly'.

As I left the school grounds, the 'smart girl' and her sister approached me, and before I could compliment her that we thought she was smart, her sister grabbed me and held me while the smart girl smacked me with the warning: "Don't ever be such a smart 'grinorka' again".

The nice man from the newspaper store saved me from being 'wiped out' at the hands of two Lithuanian sisters. "You are the little greenhorn" the man remarked. Somehow, I did not object to the hated word at all. "I will watch you as you go to your house." I felt safe.

A few months later, in order to be closer to father's new store, we moved to a new location and a new school where my limited vocabulary was not questioned or ridiculed.

In this house, a tiny sister, Adelute, waited for my return from school each day. Supported by pillows in her rocking cradle, she laughed joyously at my clownish attempts in acrobatics to amuse her.

One day she did not greet me with her usual baby noises, and only half-opened eyes with difficulty at the sound of my voice calling softly - "Adelute". Mother, very distressed, whispered, "Adelute serga živato". (Little Adelute is sick with dysentery) an alarming word that terrified all mothers of small children. Adelute became another helpless, little victim of the widespread dysentery at the time. Adelute left us that night.

Into the horse-drawn covered carriage the undertaker made father, mother and me comfortable, then unexpectedly, he placed the small white casket on my lap - I was almost seven. "Take your little sister on her last trip on earth," he whispered. Through the heavy misty morning we reached the cemetery where the open ground waited to receive and shelter the little coffin near her young cousin's grave.

We moved again into the tenement adjoining the store. There were few Lithuanian families here, no children my age. However, we were just 2 streets away from City Hall and all the stores that mother and her friends would not patronize for a number of reasons mainly - "too expensive and no one speaks Lithuanian and we speak no English".

Lack of friends and at mother's suggestion to go for a walk, I walked. Beginning with City Hall, I walked north and returned to the plaza. The next walk was to the south and back to the center. By chance, I discovered the library and there I spent many hours reading easy books, *Andersons Fairy Tales* progressing to 'harder books to read'. With the aid of interested librarians, I learned, to use the thick dictionary, and thus my English began to improve.

It was in this store that I began my apprenticeship as a grocery clerk at age - almost eight. My English was improving and so was my father's who was also picking up Yiddish from the many Jewish wholesalers he traded and bartered with.

It was confusing enough trying to decipher accents and brogues, but when a customer begins to scold me in a language that sounded familiar yet was not familiar, then I concluded that she did not like me or my service. I complained to my elders, why did they understand her and I did not. Mother laughed - "She is a Gude (white Russian) and she did not scold you, but would like to have a daughter like you". Thereafter, I served her with a smile.

In time, the market was a success. A buyer appeared and the store had a new owner. Father (who would now be classified as an 'entrepreneur') had decided to rescue another store with vacant living quar-

ters attached.

After introducing myself in yet another school (I had already attended 3 schools) this new teacher remarked to the class that Antonia's family moved around like gypsies. The roomful of students became very quiet. Suddenly a familiar voice shattered the silence: "Teacher, Antonia is not a gypsy! She is my cousin, and I am no gypsy. And the reason why they move around so much is, because her father buys stores, brings in customers, then he sells the stores". Immediately conscious of her outburst and what she said, she sat down but still was upset. I had not known that I would be in the same grade with another cousin. She and her sisters never called me a 'grinorka' or 'greenhorn'. I liked them.

It had been a busy day in the store. Outside, it was a cold heavy snow-falling night. Inside, in mother's kitchen, I had just expressed a hopeful 11 year old's weather prediction that in the morning the factory whistles would broadcast NO SCHOOL TODAY, when all at once, mother 'shushed' me and lowered the kerosene lamp's brightness and disappeared into the bedroom.

I heard her worried voice urge, "Tevai, kelkis, greičiau! Kas-nors yra krautuvei!" (Father, wake up. Hurry! Someone is in the store.) ..."Gal Žiurki!" (Perhaps it's a rat) was the sleepy response... "Ne Žiurki, bet gal vagis!" (Not a mouse, perhaps a thief) That jolted father out of bed, bare footed he charged across the kitchen floor to the connecting door which he carefully opened to avoid a squeak. There, in the alcove opposite was a dark form squeezed half-way through the narrow window and an arm stretched to reach the detached "till" set on the kerosene tank nearby, when all at once the dark form vanished.

Father had a good strong pitching arm so when he swooped up the denuded leg (for the morning's pick-up truck) and pitched it at the struggling form - it was a direct hit, and thru the empty space huge white snowflakes swirled inside. The previous piled-up snow beneath the window was now flattened and spotted with red all the way to the sidewalk. There were no factory whistles blowing 'NO SCHOOL' News traveled all night, because the news of the aborted robbery had many versions from the tellers.

Juozo and Mikalinos' family now numbered 3 girls and 2 boys: Antonia, Martha, Joseph, Mathew and Julia. Larger quarters were necessary. So, we moved up in the world - that is, we moved into the new 3-decker on one of Worcester's seven hills, overlooking the

city and facing west. Another store was purchased at the bottom of the hill and later its neighbor. Both stores had been under the ownership of Jewish proprietors.

School, now, was a long distance away, but I decided to remain here until graduation in 1920. With students from other schools, I was chosen to represent our school to attend the Saturday Art Classes at the Worcester Art Museum. It was an unexpected surprise when our grade school teacher announced at the end of the course that my written description of a painting was judged 'The Best' and the school received the credit.

It was during the influenza epidemic of 1918 (I was spared to nurse all the sick members in our family) that our doctor decided that medicine should be my goal. As the city school's physician, she had access to my grades.

In preparing my high school schedule consisting mainly of required subjects for entrance into Tufts Pre-Med School, I also squeezed in Art. In my four years, I was fortunate to have had generous, helpful educators. Unfortunately, there were unpleasant clashes with three unfriendly ones who gave me no reason for their attitude.

One morning we were slated for gymnasium for check-ups, by our family doctor and as she poked and pushed the interior of my mouth she said in an undertone, "I've just checked your marks. See me after graduation."

I was in a predicament ... thankfully, her prodding my mouth prevented me from revealing the change in my plans. I, no longer, was interested in medicine, when she suddenly said, "Next" and gently pushed me away. In this final year, I was genuinely surprised with the offer of a scholarship to any art school of my choice. In addition to that, our class book 'The Aftermath' listed me as the Class Artist of Class 1924, and included my illustrations.

All these years, I continued to 'help' in the store. But once, when my employer, in signing my report card, saw the "A" beside the word arithmetic, he decided that I could be more helpful doing some of his work. His 3 young Lithuanian employees were not efficient in addition. I was thus bestowed the official and impressive title of 'rokuotoja' relieving him of some responsibility. I enjoyed adding the little 'trust books' at my table in the corner away from all the neighborly gossip.

**[To be continued...NEXT MONTH: The K of L as a youth group and Antonia's extraordinary accomplishments.]**

# Philadelphia C-3

Your Convention Hosts for July 28 - August 1, 1999 Invite You To Begin Making Your Plans To Attend the 86th National Convention

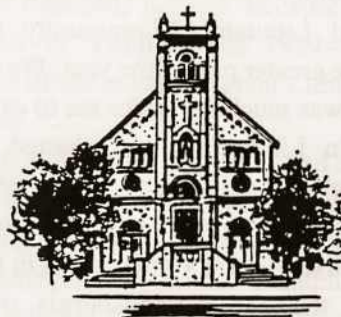
C-3 has chosen the Sheraton Society Hill, One Dock Street as the Convention Hotel. It is located in the heart of "America's Most Historic Square Mile" and is within easy walking distance of historical attractions, Penn's Landing, restaurants, & South Street. The surrounding area of the hotel abounds with activity. You can walk to Penn's Landing and take the RiverLink Ferry over to the new Aquarium in New Jersey. You can arrange for a trolley tour bus to take you around the city in comfort and savor the historical sites of Independence Hall, Betsy Ross House, Old Christ Church. Or perhaps you would choose to take a carriage tour of the city.

Another important reason we chose the Sheraton is because it is located in a highly active and protected area. You will never have to feel apprehensive or uncomfortable when you leave the hotel on your own.

Philadelphia is home to three (3) Lithuanian Churches.



St. Andrew Church  
Founded in 1924



St. Casimir Church  
Founded in 1893



St. George Church  
Founded in 1902

Council 3 has been in existence since 1913 and the bulk of our members have been loyal K. of L'ers for 30, 35 and 40 years. We have been an active Council for all these years. The greater portion of our Council was involved in three previous Conventions that C-3 hosted - in 1958, 1968 and 1983. So, you see, we are not new kids on the block. We will do our very best to insure an unforgettable Convention. We are making plans now for the evening activities and will clue you in when these plans become definite.

# A MEMORABLE MEETING WITH TWO BROTHERS

by Edward Baranauskas

This past summer in Vilnius, I had the unforgettable experience of meeting two brothers, Gabrielius Žemkalnis and Vytautas Landsbergis, members of a family of patriots who for generations played very important parts in the rebirth of the Lithuanian nation. At first, I was puzzled why their last names were different, and how it came to be that Gabrielius lives in Australia, and his brother, Vytautas, in Lithuania.

I met Gabrielius in his office at the Parliament (Seimas) Building, where he served as a representative of the World Lithuanian Community (Lithuanians abroad) for the greater part of the year. We conversed in English, as it was much easier for me to express myself rather than in Lithuanian. We chatted, me in my American English and he with his Australian accent. I would like to share our conversation, as he had no objection to having his story published in the press.

How the name Landsbergis originated in Lithuania is difficult to say. According to documents, two brothers named Landsbergis fled from the Teutonic Knights at Courland during the 13th century, apparently in disagreement with their Grand Master in Riga, took the garrison's horses, and settled down in Lithuania where they lived, we assume, happily after. Historical sources mention another Landsbergis, who was presented with a coat of arms by Grand Duke Švitrigaila. Whether anyone having the name of Landsbergis today could be related to those knights of yesteryear, would be pure speculation.

Gabrielius was born in Kaunas in 1929, and Vytautas in 1932. Their father was the noted architect Vytautas Landsbergis, and he had his name officially changed in 1939 to Žemkalnis, the literal Lithuanian translation of Landsbergis, because he did not want a German name. Their mother, Ona, decided to keep the



*The author and Vytautas Landsbergis*

name Landsbergiene in public life. During the first Soviet occupation, Gabrielius and Vytautas lived with their mother in Kaunas, and used the name Landsbergis, while sister and father lived, in Vilnius. The family got together on weekends.

Life changed dramatically after the war with Germany began in 1941. Gabrielius became involved with the underground press, and at the age of 15, he was arrested. During the first interrogation, he gave the Germans his Lithuanian last name, Žemkalnis, the name he kept from then on. He had no idea what would happen to him. As the Red Army advanced towards Lithuania in the summer of 1944, he was evacuated to East Prussia with the other prisoners to await sentencing. However, as the Red Army advance continued, he was moved to Berlin. He thought surely he would be either shot or hung. Fortunately, the courts had their hands full after the assassination attempt on Hitler failed. Twelve months later the American Army found him at a place called Eichstatt-Reborf, in Bavaria.

When war with Germany began, his father, during the uprising, was appointed a member of the provisional government of Lithuania. But, when the Nazis abolished it six weeks later, the real occupation began.



*The author meets with Gabrielius Žemkalnis*

As the Soviet Army approached Lithuania in 1944, he had a difficult decision to make: should he fled westward, as many others were doing, or should he stay with his family? He decided to go, because he felt that if he did not, then, they would be endangered. Vytautas, age 11, and his mother chose to stay at home. She was an eye specialist and a prison doctor, and did not want to leave her patients, and Vytautas did not want to leave his mother alone.

The general belief, at that time, was that the occupation would last no more than five years, and not fifty. Little did Gabrielius realize that he would never, ever, see his mother again.

His father came looking for Gabrielius in Germany, finally found him, and saved him from starvation. He does not think he would be alive today if it were not for his father.

It is interesting to note that Gabrielius Žemkalnis and Valdas Adamkus are no strangers to each other. Both grew up in Kaunas, attended the same school, were together in the underground, but he was caught and jailed while the future president of Lithuania was not. After the war, they met again at a refugee camp in Germany, attended the same high school, met their future brides there, and graduated. When given the choice of where to emigrate, he chose Australia because he wanted to get as far away from the Soviet Union as

he could. Shortly after he and his wife arrived there, their first child was born.

His father later joined him, and continued with his work as an architect. He designed the Australian Embassy in New Delhi, and other buildings in Melbourne and Brisbane. When he reached the mandatory retirement age of 65, he was not content without his first love, architecture. Life for the better changed in Lithuania after Stalin's death. When Nikita Khrushchev became the leader of the Soviet Union, his policy of "de-Stalinization" permitted many of those who were unjustly deported to Siberia, in the eyes of the government, to return to Lithuania. Even though he was uncertain of what the future might bring, Gabrielius' father decided to go back to Lithuania. The Soviets left him alone after he returned, perhaps because he was the Chief Architect of Vilnius from 1939-44, and was regarded as one of the most important Lithuanian architects of his time.

The saga of Valdas Adamkus had a happy ending. He went to America, eventually, and had a good reputation as a Regional Director of the Environmental Protection Agency. He returned to Lithuania several years ago, established his residence, and recently was elected President of Lithuania.

My conversation with Mr. Žemkalnis then turned to his recent trip to Krasnoyarsk, and he was kind enough to devote some of his time to tell me a little bit about it. It is located about 6,000 kilometers from Vilnius, and he went to visit Lithuanians in that part of Siberia. I found his story very interesting. About fifty years ago, Stalin ordered a massive deportation from Lithuania, and many were brought to Krasnoyarsk before being scattered to other areas. As the years went by, and the political climate changed in the Kremlin, Lithuanians began to move to larger centers, and one of them was Krasnoyarsk. Many of these deportees are now in their 60s and 70s, and their children and grandchildren are from mixed marriages. The impression I had from our conversation was that not many expressed a desire to return to Lithuania to live. Mr. Žemkalnis

cited one example. He met a man who was three years old when he and his grandmother were deported. His mother had died, his father was a partisan, and he had no idea what happened to him. When his grandmother died, he was put in an orphanage where he was raised in the Russian language, went to Russian schools, married a Russian woman, and now hardly speaks any Lithuanian at all. He visited Lithuania in July, went to his birthplace and the cemetery where his mother was buried. He saw his father's gravemarker, the birthdate was on it, but not the date of death. He returned to his family in Krasnoyarsk. This is but one of the many tragic stories of those who were sent to Siberia.

I owe an enormous debt of gratitude to Mr. Žemkalnis for making it possible for me and my brother-in-law to visit his brother, Vytautas, at his office in the Parliament (Seimas) Building. I was a little nervous at first when I was introduced to him. We shook hands, chatted for a few minutes, and I became so relaxed that I felt as if we were old friends. I found him to be a very warm, sincere and friendly person. He had no objections to our taking pictures, in fact, he told me we could take all the pictures we wanted. I thanked him for taking the time from his busy work schedule to see me and my brother-in-law. It was a day I will never forget.

The summer of 1998 will always linger in my memory. I had the distinct honor and pleasure of meeting two distinguished brothers: Gabrielius Žemkalnis, a man who survived the agonies of war, and Vytautas Landsbergis, the person whom I feel, as do countless numbers of others, was the architect of the rebirth of the Lithuanian nation.

#### **Ancestral background**

Both grandfathers played vital roles in Lithuanian history. In the decades before 1905, the Czars of Russia banned the publication of all books and newspapers in the Lithuanian language. They worked, with other groups of intellectuals in publishing newspapers in East Prussia that were later smuggled into Lithuania.

Maternal grandfather Jonas Jablonskis (1860-

## **Welcome New Members**



*Filina Von Braun, C-250 Chicago Srs.*

*Maryann Derbo, C-46*

*Jurgis and Elvyra Vodopalas, C-142*

*Jennifer and Marcus Maulding, C-96*

*Alvin and Florence Zikoras, C-141*

*Bonnie Gulas, C-141*

*Rev. Stephen Zukas, C-17*

*Barbara Kotlar, C-157*

*Benedict & Joanna Nauseda, C-157*

*Ruth Reedy, C-157*

*Agota Tiskus, C-157*

1930) was a distinguished Lithuanian linguist. He is known as the father of the Lithuanian language because of the contributions he made. After Lithuania regained her independence in 1991, the government honored him by issuing a five-litas note with his picture on the front.

Paternal grandfather Gabrielius Landsbergis (pseudonym Žemkalnis; 1852-1916), was a dramatist, actor and pioneer of the Lithuanian theater. He was a prolific journalist and was active in the National Revival.



## **W E B W A T C H**

Our own K of L'er, Romas Kezys of C-41, Brooklyn rated number 7 on HotBot's search engine's Top Ten List of most visited Lithuanian sites. ([www.vytistours.com](http://www.vytistours.com)). Other awesome sites are the Vilnius, Kaunas and Klaipeda "In Your Pocket" series ([www.inyourpocket.com](http://www.inyourpocket.com)) which are a nice addition to the hard copy pocket guides available in Lithuanian hotels. They provide an interesting overview to help plan your next trip to Lietuva.

There's a vast amount of information on Lithuania available to interested browsers. Another editor's favorite is the "Famous Lithuanians" site ([www.angelfire.com/ut/Lithuanian/famous.html](http://www.angelfire.com/ut/Lithuanian/famous.html)). Did you know Jim Backus (the voice of Mr. Magoo) and Joe Juravicius (NY Giants football) are Lithuanians?

# Klaipeda

## Lithuania's Coveted Coastal City

Lithuanians owe much to their third largest city of Klaipeda which is spread along the Baltic Sea and the Curonian Lagoon and situated on both banks of the Danė River. On the left bank of the river is the old town; to the south of the old town near the Curonian Lagoon is the industrial region and fishing port. On the right bank of the Danė is the new town where the present center of the city and the trade port are located. There are more than 205 thousand people living in the city at present, and 63% are Lithuanian.

Klaipeda is Lithuania's gate to the sea. More than half of the people living in the port city work as fishermen, sailors, ship builders, or in other sea-related professions. This is perhaps the reason why there are several thousand more men living in Klaipeda than women.

The history of the city is quite intricate and complex and did not always belong to Lithuania. Archeological data shows there were people living in this area during the first centuries. The formation of the Order of the Crusaders in the south and the Livonian Order in the north were a viable threat to this area in the 13th century. Both Orders began predatory marches into Lithuanian land.

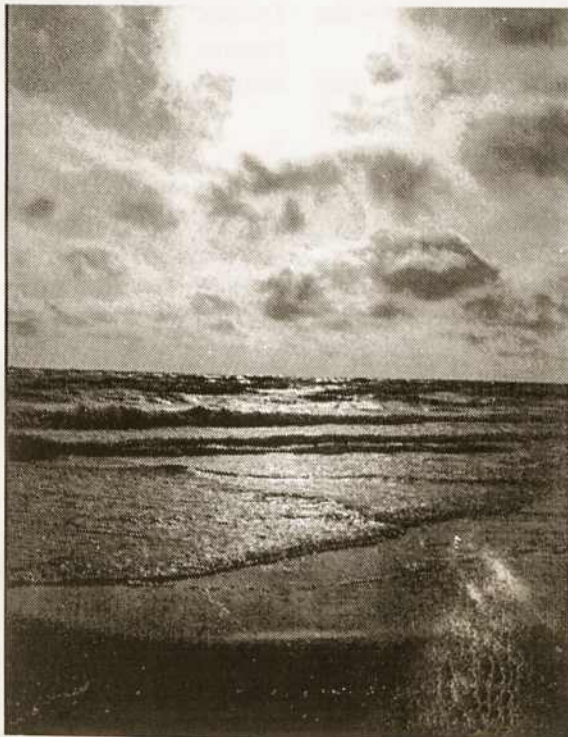
In 1252, the Livonian Order devastated the settlement which was at the mouth of the Danė River and built the first wooden castle in its place. Construction of the stone Memelburg Castle began in 1253. The Lithuanians destroyed the castle more than once, but the

Germans kept rebuilding it. The struggle for the seaport persisted right up until the battle of Grunwald (Zaigiris, 1410), although the Lithuanians could not seem to hold their ground against the well-armed knights. In 1422, Klaipeda was given to the Order of the Crusaders in accordance with the Treaty of Melne. The Lithuanians continued to attack the castle, and in 1455 even managed to take it over. However, the Klaipeda castle is no

longer standing. Archeologists recently did an in-depth investigation of the former castle site. It is located near the sea where a ship repair company now stands.

A settlement gradually appeared near the castle which gradually grew into a town. However, destiny was not favorable for this town. Nearly the entire town burned down in 1540. The town was rebuilt only to fall to the Swedes in 1629 for a period of six years. Then the German feudal lords consolidated in Klaipeda once again and proceeded to oppress and Germanize the inhabitants. Lithuanians were forbidden from working as merchants or artisans and were forced to become auxiliary workers.

In 1757, Klaipeda was occupied by the Russian Navy and remained in their control for more than five years. After the Napoleonic Wars, with Berlin occupied by the French Army, Klaipeda unexpectedly became the capital of Prussia in 1807. The Prussian king lived in Klaipeda for a year. (His royal residence is still standing at 17 Danė Street) reconstructed at the end of the 19th century. It was there that the king signed the decree



*At the seashore in Klaipeda*

for the abolition of serfdom in Prussia.

Disregarding the constantly strengthening national oppression, the Lithuanians in Klaipeda continued to foster their native tongue and national culture. Classes were still taught in Lithuanian, and Lithuanian books were printed.

Klaipeda belonged to Germany up until the First World War, after which it was put under the administration of France. It was only in 1923 that Klaipeda was finally re-annexed into Lithuania. At that time, Lithuanians made up only one-third of its residents. Although Lithuanian businessmen and industrialists gradually took over the Klaipeda industry, German capital still prevailed. Lithuanian economic relations with Klaipeda were enhanced in 1932 by the completion of the Telšiai-Klaipeda railway and in 1938 by the Žemaičiai highway.

World War II nearly wiped the city off the map as more than half of the houses were destroyed as well as much of the businesses. In fact, once the battles ended, military headquarters registered only 28 inhabitants remaining in the city. The modern day city we visit is considered a post war development.

Tourists who would like to form a general image of contemporary Klaipeda should see the three main regions of the port city, namely, the center, the old town, and the new settlements - as well as the Aquatic Museum and Aquarium in Smiltynė.

The center - a representational square intersected by H. Manto Street, which was named for the leader of the Great Prussian Rebellion of 1260-1274. From H. Manto Street, turn into Liepų Street. At the beginning of Liepų Street is the Ethnological Museum (Kraštotyros Muziejus, 7 Liepų St.) and in a public garden a walking distance away you'll find the first sculpture of Donelaitis, the father of Lithuanian secular literature. Behind the garden is the Picture Gallery (Paveikslu Gaierija, 33 Liepų St.). When you leave the gallery) definitely turn into the adjacent M. Mažvydas Sculpture Park (M. Mažvydo Skulptūrų Parkas), which was completed in 1977. Now there are about 100 sculptures of various subjects in the park. After admiring the sculptures, return to H. Manto Street on the other side of Liepų Street. Pay attention to the late-19th century neo-Gothic post office (Paštas, 16 Liepų St.). There are concert bells assembled in the tower of the post office. The

unique Clock Museum (Laikrodžių Muziejus) is set up in a reconstructed house at 12 Liepų Street.

In order to get to the old town, cross over the bridge on H. Manto Street to the left bank of the Danė River, from the bridge, look over to the water fall. Next to it you'll see an artistic symbol of Klaipeda - the sculpture entitled Žvejas, the Fisherman.

The old town's history of the city is written in its architecture. Beginning in the 16th century, the construction of the left bank of the Danė River formed. However, most of the buildings that are still standing were built in the 18-19th centuries.

The central Theatre Square (Teatro Aikštė) has been colorfully renovated accented by a sculpture called "Tarvos Anikė" which is dedicated to poet, Simonas Dachas (1605-1659) who was born in Klaipeda and became famous in other parts of Europe for his love song *Anikė of Taruva*.

The new settlements of Klaipeda begin on Peace Avenue (Taikos Prospektas) with a sculpture of Neringa, the daughter of a fisherman.

A favorite of locals and tourists alike is the Maritime Museum, Aquarium and Dolphinarium, located in Smiltynė by taking the pedestrian ferry across to the Curonian Spit. The exhibits include a reconstruction of a 19th century fishing village, a well stocked aquarium and summer dolphin shows.

Sources: *Lithuanian by Car* by A. Semaška, Algimantis Publishing, Vilnius 1992 and *Klaipeda in Your Pocket* (11/98) website ([www.inyourpocket.com](http://www.inyourpocket.com))

## Laivelis

Pasidirbau	Kelia liūtą,	Kelia auto
Aš laivelį,	Kelia namą,	Keleivinį,
Bet jis daug	Kelia jis	Tik netikrą -
Pakelt negali.	Hipopotamą.	Popierinį.





# PLAUKIA SAU LAIVELIS

St. Šimkaus melodija ir žodžiai

Plaukia sau laivelis piliakalnio link,  
Sėdi jam bernelis, dairosi aplink.  
Iš abiejų pusių vien aukšti krantai  
Ir vien žali žolynėliai, kur tik užmatai.

**Andantino**

*p legato*

*mp*

The musical score is written for piano in 6/8 time. It consists of four systems of music, each with a treble and bass clef staff. The first system is marked 'Andantino' and 'p legato'. The second system continues the piece. The third system is marked 'mp'. The fourth system concludes the piece. The score includes various musical notations such as slurs, accents, and specific fingering numbers (1-5) for both hands. Measure numbers 4, 43, 5, 24, 45, and 25 are indicated above the treble staff. The piece ends with a double bar line and repeat dots.

# Lithuanians in the News

## Young K. of L'er Organist Featured at Washington Cathedral Recital

Virginus Barkauskas, C-110 member and organist for Transfiguration Church in Maspeth, NY was the featured organist at a special recital at the Cathedral Church of Sts. Peter and Paul in Washington, DC on November 8th 1998. He played a special Concerto for Organ which was the United States premiere of Julius Juyliunas Fantasia Improvisazione Finale Symphony No. 6 in G minor, op. 42, Charles-Marie Widar Allegro (1844-1937) Adagio Intermezzo Cantabile Finale.

Born into a musical family in Lithuania in 1964, Virginus Barkauskas was encouraged to begin serious study of music at the age of 10. After graduating from the Music College or Kaunas in Lithuania, he continued his studies at the Lithuanian National Academy of Music of Vilnius under Liana Baronaite and Prof. Leopoldas Digrys, with a double major in piano and organ performance. Mr. Barkauskas began his professional career in the city of Marijampole, where for four years he served as an organist at the Pro-Cathedral of Michael the Archangel.

Virginus also held various positions as sponsor, organizer and director of numerous amateur vocal and instrumental ensembles. In 1992, Mr. Barkauskas was one of the principal producers of the Classical Music Festival in the Pro-Cathedral of Marijampole, which attracted Lithuania's best-known performers. Mr. Barkauskas has performed in many churches in Lithuania, and with various choral groups on Lithuanian National Radio and Television, Vatican Radio in Rome, and at the International Church Music Festival in the Great Hall of the Novosibirsk Conservatory of Music in Russia in 1991.

Since 1992, Mr. Barkauskas has continued his professional career in the United States. Having received a full scholarship from the United States Bishops' Conference, he completed his Master of Arts in Music degree at St. Joseph's College in Rennselaer, Indiana, studying classical and church music with emphasis on organ under Dr. Philip Gehring. In 1995, Mr. Barkauskas was invited by St. Joseph's College to perform at the 30th anniversary of the Liturgical Music



*Virginus Barkauskas*

Program of Rennselaer College.

Since his relocation to the United States, Mr. Barkauskas has performed at some of the great cathedrals of this country. In addition, in 1995 he participated in a performance of his Epiphany Mass on the Time-Warner cable Prayer Channel, was interviewed on Studio One, the television station of the University of Grand Forks, Minnesota.

At present, Mr. Barkauskas is Organist and Choirmaster at Transfiguration Church in Maspeth, New York, and is on the faculty of the Bronx Conservatory of Music.

## NO HURDLE TOO HIGH FOR KASPARAITIS

The smile on Darius Kasparaitis' face seems almost as wide as the Monongahela River, which Pittsburgh's Civic Arena overlooks, and if life got any better for the Pittsburgh Penguins hockey defenseman, he might dive into its waters.

His Penguins are competing better than expected; his paychecks haven't bounced and his line of Kasparaitis Kruncher pickles still can be found on local supermarket shelves.

"Even my neighbor, Alexsey Morozov is buying a lot of them," said Kasparaitis, "although three bucks a jar is expensive."

After a pre-season injury which suggested that the world had fallen on his blond head, Kasparaitis appears to have cleared yet another in a long line of obstacles that included a bout with alcoholism.

"I'm enjoying life," the laughing Lithuanian said after a practice. "It's going on five years since I stopped drinking and I can tell you that sobriety is the best thing

I did in my life - aside from my daughter being born.

"Quitting alcohol was a great opportunity for me because I realized I could have fun without it."

Ironically, the term "quit" seems incongruous in Casper's vocabulary. Devastating injuries that would have sidelined others merely inspire him to bigger and better comebacks, especially in this 1998-99 campaign.

Nobody expected Kasparaitis to be taking a regular turn for Pittsburgh these days or this year. Not after his right knee was so badly mangled in a pre-season match against the Detroit Red Wings that even his agent Mark Gandler figured him finished for the year.

"The accident happened the same way it happened the first time when I was with the Islanders," Kasparaitis remembered while rivulets of sweat trickled down his cheeks. "My knee cracked and I knew right away it was serious. "At first doctors told me there was an 80 per-cent chance I tore my anterior cruciate ligament. But I didn't want surgery because it would have cost me nine months. I didn't want to miss the season; I want to play hockey."

Others recommended rehab and for a month Kasparaitis sufficiently re-built his strength to resume skating and hitting in practices. Finally, he was ready and one of his first challenges was a match between the Penguins and Flyers.

"The Philly game was very important to me" he said, "because Eric Lindros was in their lineup and everybody expected me to do something. I had some hits on him, but I tried to do more hip checks. By the second period, I felt I was back in the game."

Currently in his playing prime, the 26-year-old Kasparaitis envisions himself playing another decade-plus of NHL hockey, providing the knees cooperate. "I want to be like my idol, Slava Fetisov and play until I'm 40," he clucked, "because I can't imagine my life without hockey."

Recuperating referee Paul Stewart echoed the same words on his first NHL night back after cancer surgery. Coincidentally, Stewart officiated a game in



*Kazimieras Čampė*

which Kasparaitis was skating against the New Jersey Devils.

"I looked at Stewart and thought how amazing it is what people can do," Kasparaitis reflected. "Then, I thought about John Cullen and how he has fought back to play hockey again.

"Those guys tell me something about life. You have to live one day at a time because you never know what's going to happen tomorrow. It also tells me I'm a very lucky guy."

*By Stan Fishler, From The Hockey News, 12/5/98*

## Gold medal in fencing to a Lithuanian American

Kazimieras Čampė won the gold medal in fencing on the veterans level on October 5, 1998 in Switzerland at the Championats du Monde d'Escrime). K. Čampė was one of 3 United States teams of 60 plus. In order to be able to compete in Switzerland, he had to win the championships in Austin Texas. Here he had to beat strong Italian and German teams. With only a small margin, he beat the Italian team. With the Germans he achieved a tie and had to go into overtime. He won by one point. In Switzerland 700 athletes from 70 countries competed. In the 60 plus group there were 61 participants from 15 countries. Kazimieras won the competition and the United States flag was raised while the Star Spangled Banner played. Bravo Kazimierai!

## Lithuanian Elected in Mass State Senate

Guy W. Glodis, A Democrat from Worcester, Mass., defeated Republican Karyn Polito during the recent November elections, gathering 55% of the total votes in the second Worcester Senate District. He is a cousin of K. of L'er, Tony Oberaitis of Bay Village, Ohio.





We welcome the recipes of Fr. Daniel Yenkevich, of St. Matthew Parish, East Straudsburg, PA. These seafood favorites are in honor of Klaipeda and Lithuania's seacost.

### FRIED FISH CAKES

1 cup boiled flaked fish  
1 cup cold mashed potatoes  
1 egg, beaten  
2 Tbsp butter  
celery salt  
salt and pepper

Mix all together - fish and potatoes, plus seasoning, add beaten egg, and shape into small cakes. Heat butter in pan and cook until nicely browned.

### FISH FLAKES IN CREAM

2 1/2 cups fish flakes  
1/4 tsp. pepper  
1/2 tsp. salt  
1 cup cream  
3 Tbsp chopped parsley  
2 Tbsp grated onion  
4 Tbsp butter or cooking oil

Put butter or oil in a frying pan over a slow heat. In a bowl, combine the other ingredients with cream, adding fish flakes last. Put into the fat and simmer slowly until thoroughly heated and seasonings

are well blended. Serve on toast or with baked potatoes.

### DEEP-FRIED BUTTERFISH IN SOUR-CREAM SAUCE

2 lbs butterfish (or porgies, perch, trout)  
Salt and pepper  
3/4 cup flour, sifted  
1 egg, beaten slightly  
1/2 cup milk  
1 Tbsp margarine, melted  
Fat for deep frying  
1 cup sour cream  
1 Tbsp minced parsley  
1 Tbsp minced scallions  
Juice of 1/2 lemon  
Dash of cayenne

Wipe fish with damp paper towel. Sprinkle with salt and pepper. Combine egg, flour, margarine and milk; add 1/2 tsp. salt and beat until smooth. Dip fish into batter and fry in hot deep fat until golden brown. Meanwhile, combine sour cream, 1/2 tsp. salt and remaining ingredients. Heat slightly and serve over hot fish.

### WHITING CHOWDER WITH FISH BALLS

2 1/2 lbs fresh whiting (or red snapper, catfish, or carp)  
5 cups cold water  
1 tsp. salt  
1/2 tsp peppercorns  
1 bay leaf  
2 parsley sprigs  
2 celery stalks, sliced

1 onion, sliced  
2 cups potatoes, peeled and diced  
3 Tbsp butter or margarine  
3 Tbsp flour  
4 cups milk  
Dash of cayenne  
Dash of paprika

Place bony section of fish into saucepan with water, seasonings, parsley, celery, and onion. Reserve remaining fish to use in Fish Balls. Heat slowly and simmer 20 minutes. Strain into large kettle. Bring the fish stock to a boil, add Fish Balls and potatoes; cover, reduce heat, and simmer until potatoes are tender, about 20 minutes. Add hot white sauce made with butter, flour, and milk. Mix lightly, being sure not to break Fish Balls. Sprinkle with paprika and chopped parsley, if desired.

### FISH BALLS

Raw whiting (or the above fish you are using)  
1 egg  
2 Tbsp cracker crumbs  
Dash of mace  
1 tsp salt

Force boned fish through food chopper; using medium blade. Combine with remaining ingredients. Shape into 12 balls.

*Žuvis is Lithuanian for fish.*



Confucius say....

Man with one chopstick go hungry.  
Man who eat many prunes get good run for money.

# District and Council News

## Mid America District

Irene Macke

### SINGING AND MILEAGE-PLUS

Perhaps we should rename the Mid-America District (MAMD) Knights of Lithuania (K of L) Choir the Happy Wanderers. Their love of performing Lithuanian songs and their joy and pride in Lithuanian culture motivated their traversing half the globe in two trips, only three months apart.

Just as they had in 1994, about half the choir members traveled to Lithuania to participate in the Lithuanian World Song Festival held in Vilnius from July 3 to July 6, 1998. When the choir, under the direction of Faustas Strolia, began to rehearse the songs for the festival, it seemed hard to believe that four years had passed since the previous festival and, what was for many, their first glimpse of Lithuania. As July drew near, so many questions formed in their minds: Would Lithuania look very much changed? Would her citizens appear happier and more prosperous? Were the restroom facilities any better?

Perhaps one of the happiest experiences of the trip was seeing the country looking a little brighter—much renovation of the



*Getting ready to march in Vilnius.*



*Vyčiai sing in the Los Angeles festival.*

historic buildings has taken place. Some new hotels and nicely renovated old ones provided comfortable accommodations. And the restaurants satisfied the palate with tasty gourmet selections and wonderful Lithuanian specialties. The singers were able to visit again some of Lithuania's beloved religious and historic sites like the Hill of Crosses, the shrine at Šiluva, the Folk Life Museum of Rumšiškis, and Trakai. As in 1994, many of the group were warmly greeted and entertained by relatives whose hos-

pitality is without parallel.

As the singers readied themselves for the songfest on July 6, they were teased by skies that were alternately overcast and brightly sunny. Hoping that the sun would prevail, they stepped off in the parade to Vingiu Park, happily waving to and basking in the greetings of the crowd gathered all along the way. "Lai gyvuoja Vyčiai!" they heard constantly, with kisses blown by toddlers, teens, and oldsters. "Lai gyvuoja Lietuva!" they shouted back, their eyes misting. The thrill of that exchange is impossible to describe; to recall it is to experience the shivers once again. The thrill of the parade made it feel like walk-

ing on air: People hung out of the windows; scores filled the hillsides; children waved American flags. Then, as the marchers neared the park, a light rain began to fall, but they would not allow their spirits to be dampened.

As the program began and the clouds rolled through, the sun peaked out now and then, at one point producing a double rainbow. Surely, this was a sign from heaven! The symbolism proved to be appropriate, but in a way different from that hoped for: The rain continued

intermittently throughout the four-and-a-half-hour concert, and the music soared with the same spirit and power as has the collective Lithuanian soul throughout the sunny and cloudy moments of Lithuania's history. The joy of singing songs such as "Dainų Dainelė," "Ūdrio Daina," and "Neturėk Kitos Žemės," with 16,000 singers and sharing the stage with great artists such as Regina Maciūtė and Vytautas Juozapaitis is without parallel. The slight weariness caused by the dampness and chill was easily balanced by the exhilaration of the experience.

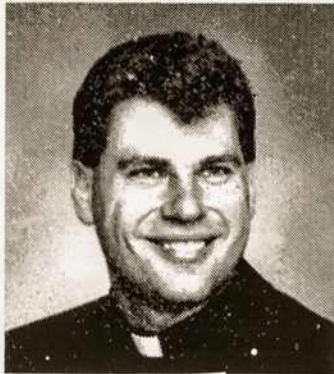
Barely three months later, the singers found themselves on the way to participating in the Lithuanian Days festival in Los Angeles. This delightful fair took place on October 3rd and 4th on the grounds of St. Casimir's Church. For most of the choir members, it was the first visit to this Los Angeles parish, and the southern California sun shone gloriously throughout the festivities. The highlights of the fair included the availability of traditional Lithuanian foods, folk art, oils and graphics by Lithuanian artists, various souvenirs, and, of course, the requisite Baltic amber. The program of entertainment, which continued throughout both days, was a happy mix of Lithuanian folk dances and songs presented by choirs and smaller ensembles. The fact that the

MAMD K of L Choir was invited to participate from among numerous others who wished to participate continues to be a source of great pride to its members. And to be led by one of the fest's honorary chairpersons, Faustas Strolia, caused their chests to swell a little more. The only blemish on the event was not having the other honorary chairperson, Algerd Brazis, on-stage to sing with them because of a mishap that had forced Al to remain in Chicago.

An unusual part of the

agenda included the MAMD meeting of the K of L, organized by Marytė Sepikas. Maryte operates with a force that can be likened to southern California's famed Santa Ana winds. From the time of the singers' arrival, when they were greeted with roses and cookies, until they departed for home, Marytė worked tirelessly and lovingly to see that the singers were transported, fed, and entertained.

Two very special invitations were extended to the Midwestern Knights to visit the



### BIOGRAPHY OF FATHER STEPHEN ZUKAS

Bernard Cardinal Law has announced the appointment of **Rev. Stephen P. Zukas**, a native of Norwood as pastor of St. Peter's (Lithuanian) Church in South Boston. Father Zukas is the son of Paul and Louise (Grazulis) Zukas of Council 27.

He attended Norwood public schools, grades K through 12. He received his elementary school religious education from the

Poor Sisters of Jesus Crucified and the Sorrowful Mother. This happened at St. George Lithuanian Parish in Norwood where Father Zukas received the sacraments of Baptism, First Communion and Confirmation. The Reverend Albert Abracinskas was pastor during these years.

Father Zukas graduated Norwood High School in 1978 and 24 days later found himself in the U.S. Navy Boot Camp of Great Lakes, Illinois. There he also underwent vocational training for the rate of Machinist's Mate. Upon completion of his schooling, Father Zukas reported aboard the U.S.S. Halsey (CG-23), a guided missile cruiser home ported in San Diego for duty. His total time of service was six years.

During his time on the U.S. S. Halsey, Father Zukas traveled the west coast of the United States as well as Hawaii, the Phillipines Islands, Singapore, Australia, Hong Kong, and Thailand. After returning to San Diego, Father Zukas met the base chaplain, Fr. James Boyd. Though his attendance at Sunday and daily Mass, socials after Sunday Mass and Catholic get-togethers on base every Wednesday evening, his enthusiasm for the Catholic faith and the priesthood were very apparent. After hearing Father Boyd give a presentation on seminary life, and hearing another

home of Ruta Lee and her husband and the home of Ruta and Rimas Mulokas. The hospitality extended at the beautiful homes of these generous friends of the K of L was heartwarming and remains a sweet memory in the minds of all who were there. The singers are truly grateful to all who made their participation in the festival and their stay in Los Angeles a lovely experience.



## C-7. South Boston, MA

*HM Alexander Akule*

WE WELCOME FATHER STEPHEN ZUKAS as pastor of St. Peter Lithuanian Parish effective October 5.

Church law requires that as pastors reach the age of 75 they submit a letter of resignation from the office of pastor. They may be re-appointed for a year at a time. Being within a few months of that age I felt that this was an opportune time to request of the Cardinal retirement

status. Some fifty years ago I knew Paul Zukas as president of the Knights of Lithuania Council in Cambridge. I also knew Louise Grazulis as the financial secretary of the K of L Council in Worcester. They married, moved to Norwood, and raised a beautiful family. Stephen served in the United States Navy where he found his vocation, entered St. John Seminary and was ordained six years ago. He was always interested in things Lithuanian, even though he knew only a few words of Lithuanian. Cardinal Law was most gracious in sending him to Lithuania for a year to study the language and religious life of the Lithuanian people.

I could have stayed on as pastor for a few more years, health permitting. Father Steve would soon have been appointed to another parish. But this would be a gamble on my health. I was anxious to assure the future of St. Peter Lithuanian Parish and School with a young and energetic pastor.

I am most grateful to God for the gift of serving His people in St. Peter Parish and School; to Cardinal Law for his leadership and generosity; to Sister David, the Sisters, and staff of St. Peter Parish and School; to Father Zukas for being the hope of the future for St. Peter's; to parishioners, children and friends. There are none any finer! I do not say "Goodbye," because I hope to be with you often.

seminarian invite the Sunday congregation to come and see what seminary life was all about. Father Zukas expressed interest to Father Boyd, who enrolled him in a weekend at the seminary. After that weekend, Father Zukas made the decision to enter the seminary and informed his parents over the telephone.

They were both speechless and happy for his decision. Father Zukas was honorably discharged from the U. S. Navy in May of 1984. After deciding to return to Boston, he applied to and was accepted in St. John's Seminary College of Liberal Arts. Father's majors were Philosophy and Physics, the latter of which he studied at Boston College. While attending the college, he was director of the seminary's special religious education program, as well as volunteering at Emmanuel House in Roxbury and Children's Hospital. Graduating the seminary college cum laude in May of 1988, he studied at St. John's Seminary School of Theology. While there, he taught Confirmation class for three years at Immaculate Conception Parish in Maiden, volunteered one year at St. Francis House in Boston and served his diaconate year at Sacred Heart Parish in No. Quincy. After being ordained on June 13, 1992 by Bernard Cardinal Law in 1992 at the Cathedral of the Holy Cross, he served his first five years of priesthood at St. Margaret Parish in Dorchester. He recently completed one year of study of Lithuanian Language and Culture at University of Vilnius, Lithuania. While doing so, he resided in Holy Cross Parish in the Jeruzele region of Vilnius, three miles north of the city center. Father studied with students from sixteen different countries, including Japan and China.

During his travels, he visited Latvia, Estonia, France, the Netherlands, Poland, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Romania, Denmark, Sweden, and Germany. Father Zukas returned in time to resume his annual summer position as chaplain of the English speaking camp at Camp Neringa in Vermont. His appointment as pastor of St. Peter Parish took effect October 5, 1998. He looks forward to serving the parish.

**C-26, Worcester, MA**

*Stephen V. Walinsky, Sr.*

I'm sitting in front of my typewriter thinking of something new to report, but everything that comes to my mind at this time has been said in my past articles. Such as, the participation of C-26 in district projects, and the activities of our own chapter, district cultural picnic, our own annual picnic, C-26 cake sale, donations and appropriations made to and for the same requests, religious and commemorative services the same. I could send in a copy of last years submission, but, that wouldn't be justly earning my credits. So, now I must think of some other subjects to report. Oh yes, my granddaughter gave birth to her second child, Andrew Joseph Jalbert. Mother Lynne Walinsky Jalbert. A beautiful 50% Lithuanian and 100% VYTIS.

I just remembered another repeat that should have been mentioned in the first paragraph, the same board of officers were reelected for another term. It is my personal opinion that these faithful and supportive people should be awarded honorary membership on a local level. They are true VYCAI at home and away.

One of our annual activities that did have a change was, the location and the presentation of our Christmas Party. We moved from the church hall to Maironis Park. Thus, everyone enjoyed, no one had

to work.

Getting back to the business of our meetings, many interesting topics were presented for the opinions and judgment of the members present. These discussions include the welfare and the concern of those not present. If you were absent, you had no say in the decision. Come to the meet, and tell them what you think, otherwise, you must accept their determination.

If this article should miss the December issue, I hope that you had a joyful Christmas, and if it gets into the January publication - Happy, happy, happy, healthy, healthy, healthy NEW YEAR to all. A special greeting to those who read the article.

**C - 27, Norwood, MA**

*"Žaibas"*

Elections were held with most officers reelected: spiritual director - Rev. William Wolkovich, pres. - Paul Zukas, vice president - Betty Skricki, secretary - Louise Zukas, treasurer - Kath. Perednia, membership - George Barton.

We hosted a successful ham and bean supper in October. The entire committee had a great time setting up, preparing the food, serving and participating in this event.

Rev. Wm. Wolkovich spent part of November visiting Rome and the Lithuanian seminary. He found it a most worthwhile trip. Sandra Melish also visited Rome during the Christmas holidays. Ed

and Mary Ann Motyka are spending 6 months in sunny Florida. Lenore and Albie Jarvis begin 1999 with a 2 month visit to Florida and the southern states.

Lucky George and Birutė Barton. They purchased a condo in Lithuania and plan to spend 6 months of each year there.

In January our council will start the year with a communion breakfast.

In April Council 27 will host the New England District convention. We look forward to seeing our fellow Knights at St. George's church, Norwood, MA.

Iki pasimatymo!

**C-72, Binghamton, NY**

*John R. Mankus*

GERBIAMIEJI:

Elections were held at our November meeting. Officers for 1998 are : Father John Mikalajunas - Spiritual Advisor and Spiritual Programs, John R. Mankus - President, Vytis Correspondent, Lithuanian Culture and Lithuanian Language, Ralph Sadauskas - Vice President, Irene Grikenis - Ritual Chairperson, Arthur Stankevitz - Secretary, Barbara Miller - Treasurer, Robert Skiba - Financial Secretary and Trustee, Charles Almanas -Lithuanian Affairs and Sergeant at Arms, Ralph Sadauskas and Felix Svereika - Sergeant at Arms, Helen Svereika - Trustee and Public Relations, Ed Radin -



Trustee. During 1998 our council with the assistance of many parishioners and friends of St. Joseph's Church has shipped over 100 packages of humanitarian aid shipments to convents, orphanages and needy families in Lithuania. Individually our council members have also shipped many packages of humanitarian supplies directly to families and friends in Lithuania. Twenty two packages were shipped to convents, orphanages and needy families during the Christmas season. A number of thank you letters were already received and translated by John Mankus and shared with our members.

Father John Mikalajunas continues to be a very strong supporter of these shipments. The parish had a 50/50 raffle to assist in the shipment cost of these packages. A sum of \$ 474.00 was realized from the drive. Father John won the raffle and generously donated the money to help cover the medical expenses of an ill priest in our area. Art Stankevitz, Ralph and Mary Ann Sadauskas, Bob and Mary Ann Skiba and John and Grace Mankus attended the fall Amber District meeting and retreat at Kennebunkport Maine at Saint Anthony's Monastery.

Council members Irene and Casey Grikenis, Art Stankevitz, Mary Ann and Harry Pakel, John and Grace Mankus and Barbara Miller have been very active in donating and packing boxes for shipping. Council members Joseph and Carole Mankus and Anthony and Jane Mankus have also contributed gener-



*C-72's Anne Marie Distin  
and Barbara Miller*



*C-72's John Mankus, Irene and  
Casey Grikenis with Christmas  
packages headed for orphanages  
and convents in Lithuania.*

ously to these shipments. Thanks also to Elizabeth Kunce for her handiwork in knitting scarfs, mittens and slippers for the orphanages. On December 2nd Elizabeth celebrated her 91st Birthday. Congratulations to Elizabeth from all our Council members.

Council members Anne Marie Distin and Barbara Miller participated the Ethnic Mass at The Saint Joseph Church in Endicott, NY.

Our council, under the direction of Irene and Casey Grikenis is preparing a display at the Roberson Center International Christmas Tree Forest program for the Christmas season. Traditional Lithuanian straw ornaments are being used to decorate the Christmas tree. Various displays of traditional Lithuanian Christmas and cultural items are being exhibited, including a replica of a wayside cross, cultural display, juostos, Irene's beautiful Lithuanian painting and our Lithuanian flag.

Our Junior Council under the direction of Barbara Miller has been very active, she has organized various youth activities for the Juniors throughout the year. Barbara is also very active as our Councils financial secretary.

Charles Almanas, our Lithuanian Affairs representative has been doing an outstanding job. At each council meeting Charles reports on current news and latest activities and progress of the Adamkus administration in Lithuania.

On November 29th., Bob and Mary Ann Skiba renewed their wedding vows on their 40th wedding anniversary.

## C-74, Scranton, PA

Marie Laske

Our congratulations go out to Helen and Walter Cravath and Betty and Edward Tamosaitis who celebrated their 50th wedding anniversaries in November. May God shower them with His greatest blessings!

My husband Richard and I plus daughter Susan with son Nathan donated 2 car loads of food, medicine, clothing, linens and quilts to the unfortunate people of Honduras. We in America are so lucky to be living in such a bountiful country.

Ona Matulevich is recuperating after a fall in her home.

Leo Zewicki was absent from our last meeting because he fell and broke his glasses and has two black eyes to prove it. Hope to see you soon Leo. Our get well wishes go out to you. (also from the editors).

Jerome Costello is on the mend after surgery on both legs. God speed Jerome!

Our incoming officers are: spiritual advisor - msgr. Peter Madus, president - Marie Laske, vice president - Helen Cravath, treasurer - Margaret Clegg, recording secretary - Ruth Yanish, financial secretary - Martha Brask, Lithuanian affairs - Casimir Yanish, cultural - Lee Bozenko, ritual - Marie Laske, trustees - Richard Laske, Pranas Shimkus, Lee Zewicki, sgt-at-arms - Jerome Costello, public relations - Della Zvirblis, "Vytis" correspondent - Marie Laske.

I was elected president again, not because I am



**C-74's Fr. Joseph Callahan, celebrant for our Lithuanian Rosary. (bottom) Juniors Alexander Laske, Amanda Benechine, Kristin Laske (who crowned the pilgrim statue) and Autumn Laske (crown bearer).**



George Kayganich are off to a good start keeping their throwing arms in good condition for next years MCD tournament in Dayton, on Friday evenings at the MerriBowl.

Congratulations to the Hofners on the birth of

popular, but just because no one else will take the job. (There should be more people like you Marie. Congratulations! - the editors).

Wishing all the very best of everything for the coming year.

Jesus remember me when you come into your kingdom.

Su Dievu!

## C-102, Detroit

Dvynuke

Though we missed the Bunikis' at the Pilgrimage, we're elated to report, Donna has recovered nicely from hernia surgery, and they are now enjoying their winter stay at their Panama City Beach condo, boasting of sunny, 80 degree weather!

Our heartfelt sympathies are extended to C-79's Marge Dapkus upon the death of her soul mate, Bill, of fifty plus years. May his soul rest in Gods heavenly kingdom.

Theresa and Michael Shea gave rave reviews of their land excursion and cruise to Turkey, Greek Isles and the Holy Land.

Richard Straksys' brother, Antanas, not only visited their relatives in the towns of Ragauciai and Svencionies while in Lithuania, he also attended the spectacular Dance Festival.

Our dedicated bowlers, Joe Guerriero, Ruth Wagster and

their 10th grandchild. Baby Meghan Elizabeth made her grand entrance on Sept. 17th to the delight of her parents. Lance and Joanne Hofner.

Due to circumstances and distance, K. of L'ers Bill Juodawlakis, Helen Smolek, HM Bob Boris, to name a few, have been truly missed at our monthly meetings and social events. Hope to see you all soon, hopefully at Mass and Kučios at the Starks on December 13th! Our meetings are held every third Sunday, following 9:00 a.m. corporate mass, in the church hall.

The seven-member delegates, namely Regina Juska-Svoba, Lorry and Merri Hofner, Joe and Maryanne Guerriero and Ray and Theresa Medonis, enjoyed the gracious hospitality at the recent Pilgrimage hosted by Pittsburgh, C-19. They were thoroughly delighted to visit with many of the good sisters at St. Francis Academy, some were former classmates and friends from both St. Anthony's and St. George's Parishes, rehashing old memorable times. Nuoširdingai "Ačiū" to all for an inspiring and fun-filled week-end!

Nice to see Lou Bogart, another retiree on the go, at our August combo corn roast-meeting held at the Starks. "Ačiū labai", Joe and Eve, who always welcome us so warmly. Mariella Klucens did a great job as interpreter for her aunt who was visiting from Peru. Joe Stark did an excellent job at grilling the corn, and Joe Guerriero flipped

the burgers and hot dogs. Edna Klucens' sauerkraut put the icing on the cake.

Our prayers and get-well wishes go to Tim and Chris Baibak, both plagued with ill health recently. May you both be well on the road to recovery.

Congratulations to Vie and Mane Yokin, who celebrated their Golden Anniversary on November 13th, at their Port Charlotte condo. Surprise guests were their daughter Mary Ellen and husband Dave winging it from California, and cousins Merri and Lorry Hofler from Michigan and Tom and Bernie Plunkett from Venice, Florida. May you be blessed with many healthy, fun-filled years of togetherness. Vie and Marie!

Congratulations are also in order for 102 4th Degree recipients, Merri Hofner and Joseph Guerriero.

## **C-100, Amsterdam, NY**

### *Smile and Sparkle*

Lithuanian Day at the Auriesville Shrine took place on August 23. Bernice Aviza chaired the event. Rev. Contons was to be the celebrant of the Mass. However he was not able to attend. One of the priests at the Shrine took over and our pastor Father Grabys assisted. At the organ was our member, Billie Ossenfort. In a recent issue of the local newspaper "The Record", there was an article on Billie. He credited his teacher, professor

Joseph Olsauskas (deceased K. of L'er), as being his teacher, Billie spoke of him fondly and said that he will always be grateful to him. Polly Žiaušys dressed in her Lithuanian attire and Bernice Aviza did the readings. The choir included K. of L'ers Regina Kot, Irene Tice, Betty Kuzmich, Birutė Ralys and Gene Gobis.

Miracles do happen! St. Casimir's church was reopened on September 13. For this grand occasion, Billie Ossenfort was the organist. Choir members from St. Stanislaus, St. John's, Mount Carmel and St. Casimir's sang beautifully.

At the end of October, Father Grabys retired. The parishioners held a farewell party in the church hall. Various church organizations, including C-100, presented him with gifts. He is now residing in Putnam, CT.

During the past year we lost a number of members: Paul Abeling, (husband of Aldona Bablinskas Abeling), Isabelle Dopkus McKinley, Rev. Bernard Gustas (Schenectady council C-136 spiritual advisor), Sadiė Karpus, who was the first secretary of our council when it was first organized. The sister-in-law of Betty Kuzmich, Marie Stanionis went to her Creator. Also the sister of Helen Baltrunas Senecal - Frances Bobinas on November 25th. Amžina atilsj duok mirusiemis Viešpatie ir amžinoji šviesa tegul jiems šviečia.

We held our first fall meeting in September at the Rectory. Father Grabys led us in prayer and then Vyčių himnas was sung. President Mirga Bablin reported on the convention. Delegates also included her husband, Edward and Polly Žiaušys. Friend of Lithuania award was awarded to an Amsterdamian... Cornelio Catena, head of the Amsterdam Memorial Hospital. For many years huge amounts of medical supplies were shipped to Lithuania. Refreshment committee included Regina Hartvigas. Birutė Ralys, Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Rimkus and Gene Gobis.

Once again our October meeting was held at the rectory. Stanley Stankes surprised us with pizzas. Sophie Olbie keeps us abreast as to our finances. Polly recalled her childhood experiences in Lithuania. Eleanore Olichowski and Ed Baranauskas always have some interesting talks on the history of Lithuania.

In November we were very happy to be back in the church hall. Genutė Baranauskas brought a huge cake and we celebrated her husband Ed's birthday.

The membership decided to keep the same officers for 1999: president - Mirga Bablin, 1st vice president - Regina Kot, 2nd vice president - Gene Gobis, secretary - Helen Kluber and treasurer - Sophie Olbie.

Ann Czrew and Eleanore



***C-112 Officers for 1999 with new president, Ed Deksnis seated in the middle.***

Olichowski were in charge of our Christmas party.

Hope your Christmas was merry and best wishes for a healthy and happy 1999 to all!

### **C-112. Chicago**

*Angela Balchunas, s.s.c.*

With the Waterbury convention memories still lingering on after a busy summer, on September 21st council 112 gathered for the first meeting of the season. The meeting was held at Nativity BVM school hall meeting and opened with a prayer by pres. Mickey Petrosius. Without any discussion, election of officers for the 1998-1999 took place. The elections were conducted by vice-pres Al Mockus. The following were elected; President, Ed Deksnis, 1st vice-pres.-Alexander Mockus, 2nd vice-pres - Eleanor Rasputis, 3rd vice-pres -Maria Deksnis, recording .sec. (Meetings only) - Geraldine Chaplin, corresponding sec. Alvina Giedraitis, financial sec.- Theresa Vaitkus, treasurer - Dolores

Wainauskas, trustees - Lorraine Svelnis and Mickey Petrosius, Sgts at arms - Vince Petrosius, Anthony Pauzholis, Edward Pocius, ed. Palchunag, publicity Vytis- Sr. Angela Balchunas,SSC, cultural publicity - English- Aldona Brazis, Lithuanian - Anthony Pauzuos, ritual-Julie Zakarka, courtesy-wakes Estelle Rogers, council photographer - Sr M. Tarcisia Stuglis.

After the induction, the new officers were greeted and wished God's blessings as they began the new term of office.

Congratulations! To Rita Zakarka our very active member of council 112, and Brian Johnson of council 19 - Pittsburgh, on the occasion of their recent marriage which took place, October 16, 1998 at Nativity BVM Church- Chicago. Nuptial mass was celebrated by Reverend Tony Markus, of the Most Holy Redeemer Church. Council's most sincere and best wishes - prayers that the lord shower his abundant blessings as you begin your new way of life. Council 112's loss but C-19's gain. Įlgiausių, sveikiausių laimingiausių metų linki jums Rita we will miss your pleasant smile at C-112.

Congratulations to our member, Vitas G. Paskauskas, who with other candidates, was installed on November 14th by Bishop John Gorman in the diaconate formation program of the Archdiocese of Chicago into the order of acolyte. Vitas is also a member of the

Nativity BVM parish community. Congratulations to Vitas and his wife, Cynthia, as they continue their journey together in the diaconate formation program.

Hope you all enjoyed a blessed Thanksgiving. Looking forward seeing you at a large turnout for the Christmas meeting. God be with you.

### **C-133, Los Angeles, CA**

Our Christmas Party featured Lithuanian holiday traditions, carols and a lottery. Proceeds benefitted our Lithuanian orphanages and Aid to Lithuania. Lottery gifts were appreciated. We had fun while we helped others.

Upcoming events include Feb. 6, 1999 (Saturday) Potato Pancake Ball. 7:00 p.m., St. Casimir's Church. Call (818) 782-1248 for reservations.

June 27, 1999 (Sunday) 50th Anniversary of Spindulya - L.A.'s very best folk dance group. 1:00 p.m., at the Hollywood Palladium.

Happy 100th Birthday to Ona Naumanas I She is the mother of member, Genovaite Karsokas, and grandmother of members, Rita Zavodny, Algis Karsokas and Kest Karsokas.

Welcome to Tomas Pechulis, son of Vaiva and Alyozas Pechulis as well as brother of Kristina. The Peciulis family arranged for shipment of our pipe

organ to Lithuania this summer.

**Engagements -** Wedding bells will be ringing for Suzanne Lippert and Algis (Alex Stalarunas as well as Cassandra Cochran and Mario Fernandez. Suzanne and Alex met at our March 7, 1998 meeting and plan a spring wedding. Cassie and Mario will be married on August 7th.

**Get Well Wishes** Please remember the following members in your prayers: Algis Avizienis, Ceslovas Norkus, Joan and Philip Maniscalchi and Nora Sakalauskas.

Deepest sympathy to Elenute Jasiulavicius on the passing of her mother, Janina.

Thank you to Faustas Strolia and the melodious voices of the Knights of Lithuania Choir. To all the wonderful Mid-Western Knights who enriched our Lithuanian Days and the first Mid-America District Meeting; To Nancy and Robert Aleksa from Arizona for attending;



*C-141's Barbara Schmidt and Helen Simanis decorate Lithuanian tree for "Immigrant Christmas" in Milford, CT.*

To Ruta Lee and Ruta and Rimas Mulokas who opened their hearts and homes and welcomed us with their Lithuanian hospitality and then some; To Robert Novak for his St. Casimir presentation; To Elena Sepikiene for all her krustai; To Isabel Oksas for her cheese; To Mary Beth Slakis, Debbie Hudson, Onute Keblys and Sam Shepherd and all the others who worked our booth; To Victor Ralys and the

††† **IN MEMORIAM** †††

**Julia Trochi Burlen**

**Nov. 28, 1998**

**C-142, Washington, DC**

On a beautiful, sunny, unseasonably warm autumn day late in November, God came to Julia Burlen and took her with Him.

Julia had long been tried as few humans are tried in life, and suffered all her trials without embitterment or self-pity.

Born Julia Trocki in Hudson, Massachusetts, many moons ago, Julia was a Navy veteran having served our country as a WAVE in the years 1941-48. She moved to Washington and was employed as a secretary to Congressman Thompson of Texas. Julia had been a volunteer employee at the Lithuanian Embassy during the tenure of Ambassador Stasys Lozoraitis. Her devotion to everything and anything Lithuanian was without question.

Julia traveled to Lithuania many times — made many friends in Lithuania through her generosity and love of Lithuania culture. The care packages she sent off to Lithuania over the years numbered in the hundreds.

Julia served as president of C-142 for eight years. The Council's meetings were usually held at her Maryland home and were always interesting due to the visit from Vincent Boris, who lived in a nearby town. The Council's picnics will be remembered as happy times, being held in Julia's spacious backyard with John Waylonis as chief chef over the grill.

It is difficult to think of Julia gone, but the good memories cloud the thoughts of her years of pain and suffering.

She will always be remembered in the annals of C-142 history. She now joins the late Eva Migonis, the person responsible for all of us

knowing each other. They were two great Lithuanian-American ladies proud of their heritage and aware of our proud Lithuanian ancestry. Julia, you have left us, but we are here to remember you.

- *Joseph Chaplick, Pres. C-142*

†††

*Catherine Balchunas, 7/31/98*  
C-7, Waterbury

*George Baltrush, 8/28/98*  
C-7, Waterbury

*Valerie Boley, 11/1/98*  
C-7, Waterbury

*Mary Hagglund, 11/18/98*  
C-152, E. Long Island

*Walter Guentert, 11/9/98*  
C-140, Syracuse

*Joseph Sable, 10/22/98*  
C-12, New York City

*Mary Stonis, 11/14/98*  
C-29, Newark

†††

*Amžina atilsį duok*  
*mirusiams viešpatie. Amen.*

Lithuanian Days Committee for honoring the Knights.

A Red Cross donation on behalf of the Knights was made for the recent hurricane victims in Central America.

**C-141, Bridgeport, CT**

*Aldona Marcavage*

Installation of officers and Committee for 1998-1999 was con-

ducted by Msgr. Francis J. Pranckus during Mass on Sunday November 15th. H/M president Clemencine Miller praised the former Sulinakys—Mary Spelman, Claire Carroll, Estelle Wildman, and Irene and John Sulinsky, for the delicious lunch. She said they were like professional caterers. They brought everything deeded---complete table settings and delicious food. Aciu

labai.

Our council participated In Milford Historical Society's Christmas in July. Once more we were part of "Immigrants Christmas" in December. Diane Smith of channel 8 TV covered this event on her "Positively Connecticut" special. Our beautiful tree was not shown, just Barbara Schmidt and her lovely Lithuanian

## On the Calendar...

**39th Annual "Memories of Lithuania" Banquet**  
**February 7, 1999** - Martinique Restaurant, Grand Ballroom. Call Rob Martin, Jr. for details (219) 861-0731

**Feb. 6, 1999, C-133 Potato Pancake Ball.** 7:00 p.m., St. Casimir's Church. Call (818) 782-1248 for reservations.

**March 7, 1999, St. Casimir Day Celebration hosted by C-112.**

Nativity B.V.M. Church, 69th & Washtenaw, 10:30 a.m. Mass.

**District Meetings**  
**Amber - St. Casimir Day - March 14, 1999**  
 Hosts: C-72, Binghamton, NY

**Mid Atlantic - Spring Convention**  
**April 18, 1999**  
 Hosts: C-29, Newark, NJ

**Supreme Council Meeting**  
**April 24, 1999 - Chicago**  
 Call Maria Deksnis for details (773) 476-5896

**1999 National Convention**  
**July 29-Aug. 1, 1999**  
 Hosts: C-3, Philadelphia

**Lithuanian Open Golf Tournament**  
**Sept 25, 1999**  
 Benefit for Lithuanian Children's Relief at Squirrel Run Country Club, West Plymouth, MA

*Send in your district/council and special Lithuanian events for this section. We will also include them in our K. of L. website.*

costume and amber. There was no time for Barbara to explain our customs. - but we were happy with even the brief exposure.

Congratulations to the new Lithuanian family. Jurate and Laurynas Misevieius are now proud parents of son Azuolas (oak tree), born November 2, 1998. God bless. President Miller read an excerpt from the Baltic American freedom League Bulletin asking everyone to contact our senators and representatives to support the Baltic Caucus—support HCR 320 which condemns the Hitler/Stalin Pact of 1939---which should be considered illegal and null and void.

Gintare Ivaska reported that one original document, the Bananavicius copy of the independence is lost, disappeared. However, a second copy held by a former book smuggler has survived. It was hidden in a basement, under the floor.

Our council was born August, 1974, so in 1999 we will be

celebrating its 25th birthday. A party we must have! A committee was formed, chaired by Barbara Schmidt and Nancy Pawasauskas, assisted by Sophie Putrimas, Alice and Stephen Vilcinskas, and Aldena and Sylvester Marcavage. The choice of date and place to be chosen when a committee meeting is called.

After the meeting many council members attended the VETRA VAKARA.S where the dancers celebrated the recent marriage of two of their members. They performed several traditional wedding dances. Beautiful entertainment!

VETRA is celebrating its 15th anniversary. We wish you all a long and happy dance through life.

We wish Helen Baranauskas a speedy recovery from the flu. Prayers are requested for our ailing members: Peter Radewillas, Edmund Stumbris, and Agnes Lazdauskas. Agnes suffered a stroke July 31st, and has been con-

finied to nursing home care. Ray Buzak is putting up a terrific battle with his disabilities caused by MS. Nothing keeps him down, his sense of humor keeps him up!

Plans for next year's important events are being formulated. We are looking forward to Independence Day and St Casimir's Feast Day, then egg dying for Easter. My how time flies. Stay happy and healthy! lki!



### Smiles Without Wrinkles

-When Did My Wild Oats Turn Into Shredded Wheat?

-How Can I Be So Thirsty This Morning, When I Drank So Much Last Night?

-At My Age I've Seen It All; I've Heard It All; I've Done It All; I Just Don't Remember It all.

-I'm Not Paid Enough To Be Nice To You!

-If I Knew Then What I Know Now.... I Would Have Done Then What I Can't Do Now...

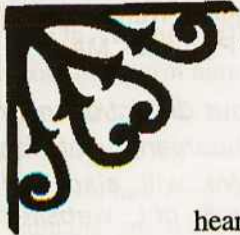
-Mothers of Teenagers Know Why Animals Eat Their Young.

-Lee Galinskas, C-79

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**C 79'S FALL FESTIVAL***(in verse) by Bee Jay*

It began Saturday,  
 November 14 - when five  
 hearty souls, at the hall did convene.

They were Margaret D., Helen M., Stella H., Tina B.  
 and Sylvia J.

Came to set tables, to peel 100 pounds of potatoes for  
 "kugelis gourmet."

Early Sunday morning they, plus others, came back to  
 the hall,

To help, where needed —  
 to make a profit phenomenal.

The kitchen was well-handled by Helen M., Cathy P.  
 and Isabel K.,

Who is a non-member, but makes the best kugeli,  
 we all say.

To buy food from the kitchen  
 you had to see.

Pres. Margaret D. or Julia J., Emma P, or Rachel B.

Who sat at a table selling tickets for weenies and won-  
 derful kugeli.

It seems not enough was made and no time to make  
 more. I'm afraid.

In the vestibule 50/50 raffle tickets  
 were ambitiously sold

By Stella H. and Tina B., active members of old.

Across the way, Sylvia J. and Charlie M.  
 were hawking tickets for "A Basket of Cheer,"  
 their gem.

Many more prizes they also displayed, with other bas-  
 kets which held items home-made,

Three long tables held baked goods galore,  
 sold by Bertha J. Helen U. and Emma P.,  
 it was no chore.

Coffee was well-dispensed by Frank R. and wife,  
 as though they'd been doing it all their life.

I must mention another helper we had, Irene V.  
 by name.

To help President Marge and from  
 another Council she came.

Then raffle drawings were anxiously awaited and  
 winners announced;

To their surprise — Leonard B. 's and Joe C. 's  
 names were pronounced.

They were winners of first prizes, no less,  
 which made these two members glad, oh yes!

To end a profitable endeavor,  
 we went home happy;  
 And if I missed any names,  
 it was not done intentionally.

