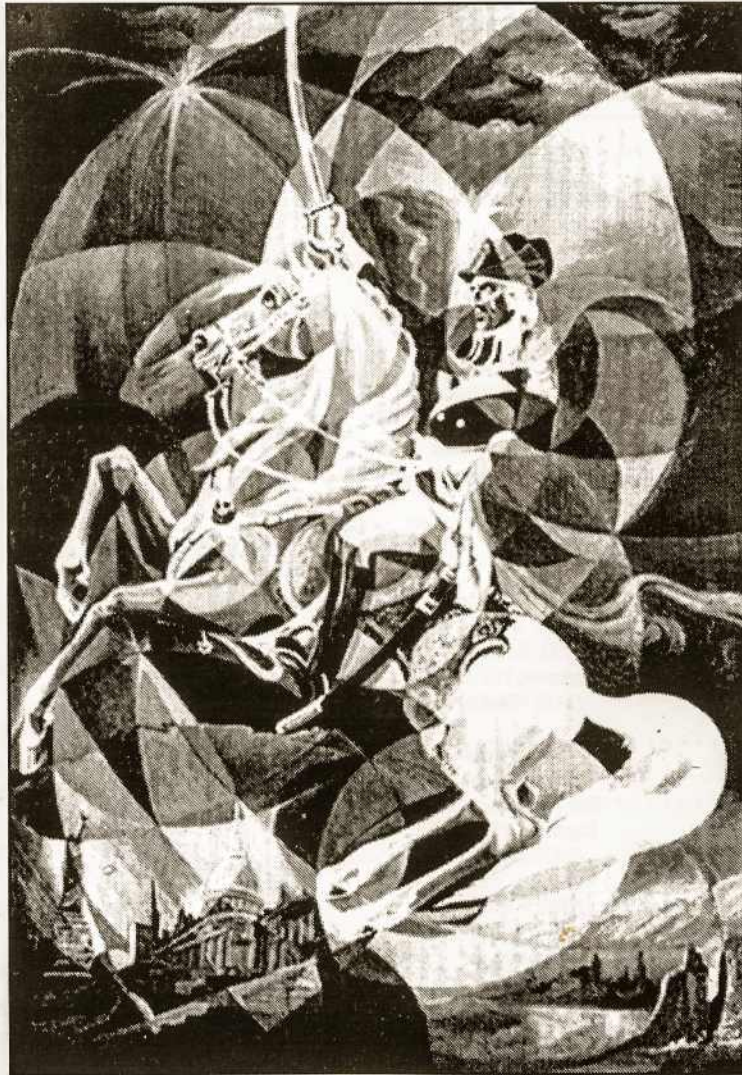


Vytis



The Knight - Volume 85 No. 2



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/ February 1999

VYTIS

-The Knight -
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 (See address under Hon. Mem.)

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 since the K of L began in 1913.

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cover art: *George Washington*, by Jurgis Juodis(c)1967. We commemorate our first US President's birthday on February 22 (He was born in 1732).

To My Fellow Knights:

When one thinks of K of L role models, one can begin with Robert S. "Bob" Boris. He exemplifies what our organization is all about, the aspect of using our talents to aid our ancestral homeland. He does what he says and when he promises something, the promise is kept. He will always be known to me as the "original energy" of Aid to Lithuania, and is one single person who has truly made a difference in the lives of our Lithuanian brothers and sisters. God bless Bob on his continued endeavors, and bless his successor, *Regina J. Svoba*, as the new President of Aid to Lithuania, Inc. Although we do not feature a special story on Mr. Boris, this month we conclude a story on another K of L role model, *Antonia Wackell*, on page 10. The writer fills us in on what our organization was like in the twenties, when single young people joined. *Ed Baranauskas* gives us some understanding on what the Catholic Church had to endure in Lithuania on page 8; as well as *Rob Medonis'* opinion on the Tridentine Mass on page 16. We hope you also enjoy *Frank Petrauskas'* gardening tips on page 17 as his professionalism has proved to be a godsend to those of us who love the soil. And to plan ahead, the committee in Philly presents a sampler on page 13, with registration info in the centerfold. Enjoy!

"Do more than exist; live. Do more than touch; feel. Do more than look; observe. Do more than read, absorb. Do more than hear; listen. Do more than listen; understand. Do more than think; ponder. Do more than talk; say something." (*John H. Rhoades*)

Letters to the editor



To the editor:

The latest issue of the VYTIS Magazine carried an article by Edward Baranauskas, a frequent contributor to the Lithuanian American press.

Entitled simply, "People", the article dealt with a most unusual and hardly-known incident in Nazi-occupied Lithuania. That Mr. Baranauskas recognized the unique character of the subject of his article, becomes apparent when he lists two sources for its authenticity.

More than three years ago, another Lithuanian American journal, ran a piece entitled, "A JAPANESE SCHINDLER IN LITHUANIA" (See BRIDGES, January/February, 1995). As a matter of professional courtesy, the editor of VYTIS may wish to alert readers to that article. In it, the author quotes the then ambassador to Japan, Walter Mondale, as saying, "Schindler got into saving lives for the wrong reasons, namely the profit he could make by using Jewish workers in his factory. By contrast, Sugihara the Japanese Consul General at Kaunas in 1940 and his wife acted altruistically, and what is more, they knew they were

risking their lives and their futures by saving Jewish Lithuanians."

The author of that article is the writer of this letter.

Albert Cizauskas
Falls Church, VA
via email

We get letters...

Thanks for for the write up in the "Vytis"(Darius and Girenas commemoration). I would have thanked you sooner but I fell in my home August 7th and broke my hip and injured many other parts of this old body.....

I am lucky to have a daughter and her family who insisted I move into their home and they are giving me tender loving care. Daughter Helen Grabauskas and husband Vytautas are good to me. Grandchildren Michael, Carol, Lorraine live nearby.

"Vytis"magazine is enjoyable to read. Issues get better each time. I love you, write to me.

Helen Venis
Camp Hill, PA

(*Helen Venis was a long time correspondent for Council 110 Maspeth in VYTIS and a faithful member of the Knights of Lithuania. We wish her well - Editors*)

☛ more letters on page 16

AID TO LITHUANIA, INC.

APPOINTS NEW PRESIDENT

The Board of Directors elected **REGINA JUSKASVOBA** President of Aid To Lithuania Inc. (ATL), effective January 1st 1999. Regina has been a very active officer of ATL since 1990, as well as a member of the Board of Directors. Regina has served as a Vice-president and was responsible for Public Relations as well as countless other responsibilities, which has provided her with the experience necessary to successfully assume her new position.

Robert S. Boris in relinquishing the position of President, which he held since the inception of ATL in 1990, will remain Chairman of the Board of Directors, the governing body of ATL.

Since 1990, ATL has financed 64 shipments, mostly 40 ft containers to Lithuanian Health care givers - Caritas Kaunas, Caritas-Vilnius, Caritas-Marijampolė, St James Hospital-Vilnius, the Dialysis Unit at Santariškės Hospital-Vilnius, St. Clare's Hospice in Utena, The Christian Maternity Center-Kaunas. The Lithuanian Ministry of Health, through their supportive offices distributed 30 containers to over 100 hospitals throughout the country based on the greatest need. The total value of the medicine and medical supplies as of October 1998 is over 53 million dollars, ATL is able to provide the people of Lithuania with \$182.25 worth of medicine and medical supplies for every dollar spent on this project. Major donors of medicine are Catholic Medical Mission Board, NY; Pharmacists Without Borders, France and World Medical Relief, Detroit.

Along with the medical assistance program, ATL has provided financial assistance totaling \$26,000.00 to soup kitchens, youth programs and



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parishes needing help. In most instances these grants were made by specific bequests or donor requests.

Many people feel that one of Lithuania's greatest needs today is spiritual renewal. Well trained priests are able to meet this challenge. Therefore ATL is responding to Archbishop Bačkis' request for assistance in providing scholarships for seminarians studying at the newly-built St. Joseph's Seminary in Vilnius. The seminary serves the Archdiocese of Vilnius, as well as, the Diocese of Panevėžys and Kaišadorys. ATL has initiated a program, whereby a seminarian can be "adopted" by donors willing to provide an annual scholarship of \$2,000.00. 70 students are presently

enrolled in the seminary. To date, current adoptive parents include:

Mrs. Nellie Stodolski [IMO Katrina Lutvinas]

Kearny, NJ

Jonas & Ona Motiejunas [IMO Motiejunas family]

Prescott, AZ

Mr & Mrs Anthony Alexander

Torrington CT

Robert S. Boris [IMO Vincent Boris]

Waterford MI

Mr & Mrs Benedictas Karklius

Cleveland OH

Ms Aldona J. Kirstuk

St Petersburg FL

Rev. Fr. Peter Shakalis

Plymouth, MA

St. Casimir Guild Report

Dear Knights:

As the New Year begins, I wish to thank all of you who supported the St. Casimir Guild in 1998. Your donations, Mass requests and continued support is so important to the Pontifical Lithuanian College in Rome.

The student Priests from Lithuania who are at the College are the brightest young men who come to Rome for advanced studies and will return to teach in the Seminaries and work for the church in Lithuania. They depend on Mass Stipends for living expenses as they come to Rome without any financial assistance. There are also the Priests at the College who depend largely on this income. In many of our churches here, the Priest cannot hold all the Masses request. Some of our Churches are combined with other parishes and it is almost impossible to obtain a Mass in your Parish. Any Masses sent through the St. Casimir Guild are forwarded to Rome at the end of each month along with the Mass Stipends. Some Councils request Masses for deceased members. We have Mass Cards both for deceased and Special Intentions. We will be happy to send these to you upon request.

At the Convention in Waterbury, Ct., Msgr. Bartkus asked Councils and Members to consider purchasing a bed for the Guest House. Much of the income received from the Guest House is used for support of the College. To date we have received 41 beds and 100 beds are needed. Please support this project. If going to Rome, consider staying at the Guest House, it is adjacent to the College.

On behalf of Msgr. Bartkus, the Priests and Students at the Lithuanian Pontifical College, we say "Ačiū Širdingai" and ask for your continued kindness.

The list of Contributors from Jan. 1 to Dec. 31, 1998 follows.

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Anna Klizas Wargo, President

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 Council 19, Pittsburgh, Pa.
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Thanks to all who have contributed to the Bed Project.

Donations received as follows: 1998 Convention Donations were listed in Convention Issue of VYTIS.

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Also received in 1998 from the estate of deceased member Olga S. Gray, C-141 a bequest of \$13,007.45.

For further information on the Knights of Lithuania St. Casimir Guild or to place a donation, contact:



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The 20 Signers of the Lithuanian Declaration of Independence



81 years ago 20 men in Lithuania signed the declaration of Lithuanians regaining of independence.

The declaration stating that Lithuania was regaining her independence once again was signed in Vilnius of February 16th, 1918. It was signed by the 20 members of the Council. They were:

1. **Jonas Basanavičius**, called the patriarch of Lithuania. He signed the declaration at age 67. He died in 1927 February 16, exactly 9 years after signing the act.
2. **Saliamonas Banaitis**, who signed the act at age 54. He died in Kaunas in 1933, 15 years after signing the act.
3. **Mykolas Biržiška** He signed the act at age 36 and died in Los Angeles, in 1962. 44 years after the event.
4. **Kazimieras Bizauskas**, who was 25 when he signed the Act. In 1940 he was deported to Siberia. His future is unknown.
5. **Pranas Dovydaitis**, who at age 32 signed the Act. In 1941 he was deported to Siberia where he died.
6. **Steponas Kairys**. He signed the act at age 40. He died in the United States in 1964 - 46 years after the signing.
7. **Petras Klimas** signed the act at age 27. In 1944 deported to Siberia for 10 years. In 1969 he died in Kaunas on January 16th.
8. **Donatas Malinauskas** who was 56 when he signed

the Declaration of Independence. On June 14th 1941 he was deported to Siberia.

9. **Vladas Mironas** was 38 when he signed. In 1947 he was deported to Siberia where he died.

10. **Stanislovas Marutavičius** was 56 at the time of the signing. He died in 1932 in Kaunas.

11. **Alfonsas Petrulis**, signed at age 46. Died 10 years after the signing in 1928.

12. **Jonas Smilgevičius**, signed at age 48th. Died in Kaunas in 1942 - 24 years after the signature.

13. **Justinas Staugaitis**, signed at age 52, He died in Lithuania in 1943 25 years after the act.

14. **Antanas Smetona**, Lithuania's first president. Signed the act at age 44. Died in Cleveland in 1944 - 26 years after the signing.

15. **Aleksandras Stulginskis**, was 33 when he signed. Lithuania's 2th president. In 1941 deported to Siberia. returned in 1956.

16. **Jurgis Šaulys**. He was 39 years old died in Switzerland in 1948 30 years after signing.

17. **Kazimieras Šaulys** signed the document at the age of 46. Died in Switzerland in 1964 - 46 years after the signature.

18. **Jokūbas Šernas** was 30 years old when he signed. Died in Kaunas in 1926, 8 years after signing.

19. **Jonas Vailokaitis** was 32 years old when he signed. Died in Germany in 1944, 26 years after the signing.

20. **Jonas Vileišis** signed at age 46. Died in Kaunas in 1942, 34 years after.

-translated by D. Bulvičius, art by P. Jurkauskas.



Actual Newspaper Headlines (collected by journalists)

4-H girls win prizes for fat calves.

Teacher strike idles kids.

Two Soviet ships collide, one dies.

Police begin campaign to run down jaywalkers

Two sisters reunited after 18 years in checkout counter.



One Man's Influence on Lithuanian Independence - **Dr. Vincas Kudirka**

This year we commemorate the 100th anniversary of the death of Vincas Kudirka, poet and composer of the Lithuanian National Anthem.

Born in 1858, Kudirka was a great Lithuanian patriot, famous writer and author of the Lithuanian National Anthem. But in order to fully understand him, we must understand the times in which he lived. Lithuanians had been suffering from Russian domination since the end of the 18th century and Polish culture dominated for three centuries prior to that.

Following the revolt of 1863, the Russian Czarist government inflicted such terrible repression on Lithuania, that the governor-general, Muriaviev, became known in history as the "hangman". After that revolt, Lithuanians were even forbidden to use the Latin alphabet and were told to use the Cyrillic one used by the Russians. But the stubborn Lithuanians resisted and published Lithuanian works in the Latin alphabet in East Prussia, where a part of the Lithuanian nation was living under German rule, and smuggled the material across the border, clandestinely distributing it throughout the country. Newspapers of nationalistic inspiration, forced to circulate underground, explained to the people their rights and privileges, threw light upon the designs of the Russian government and urged people to resist. They fostered the idea of nationhood and were successful in arousing the passive and conservatively inclined peasant class into a nation.

The book ban in Lithuania lasted from 1865 to 1904. Two heroic types arose during this 40 year period that became national symbols for future generations. The first was the man who smuggled literature across the heavily-guarded border. In spreading the writings throughout the land, he risked his life, was pursued and persecuted and often punished by exile to Siberia. But he never lost courage and was the ultimate victor over the oppressive Russian administration. The second type was the writer, himself, also persecuted, hiding under a pen name, always subject to searches, often arrested, imprisoned or deported. In this group, we find Dr. Vincas Kudirka.

In 1889, Dr. Kudirka and some of his friends founded "Varpas" (the Bell) a monthly newspaper of liberal tendencies, which lasted until 1905. The paper was widely read in Lithuania, exerting a great influence in forming Lithuanian

national and public opinion. In his articles, Kudirka reacted to the various positive and negative aspects of life in Lithuania with the sharp insight of a talented journalist and the zeal of a patriot.

He wrote: "Lithuanians must know Lithuania. Each one of us must know where a Lithuanian weeps, where he is happy, where poor and where rich, where he is abandoned and oppressed, where free and happy. In order that we may know who among our brothers needs help, and who can help us. We must know the feelings, thoughts and works of all Lithuanians, so that it will be clear on whom we may rely to defend the fatherland and to bring it happiness."

In particular, Kudirka wrote many angry words describing the wrongs inflicted upon the Lithuanian nation by the Russian government.

In his popular satirical stories, Kudirka sharply derided Russian officials in Lithuania as being ignorant, corrupt, drunkards, oppressors of the people and persecutors of the book smugglers. Kudirka's poetry is also social in content and mirrors his humanitarian spirit. One of his poems was destined to become especially popular, becoming the Lithuanian national anthem, "Lietuva Tėvyne Musu" (Lithuania Our Fatherland). It was originally published in Varpas in 1898, along with the music, which he also wrote. In the poem, Kudirka recalls Lithuania's past, from which the present should draw its strength; he exhorts his countrymen to follow in the path of virtue and work for the good of Lithuania; he hopes that the sun will disperse the present darkness and that light and truth will guide Lithuania's footsteps, that love for Lithuania will burn in people's hearts and unity will flourish.

At the same time, it aroused the hostility of the Russian government, which prohibited the singing of this anthem during public concerts before World War I. Such acts could not eradicate the song from people's memories, however, and after World War I, it was made the official anthem of the new Lithuanian state. One can easily understand why it was again banned by the Soviet government following the invasion and forced incorporation of Lithuania into the USSR in 1940. Again, government orders did not suffice to make the people forget their anthem. Today *Lietuva Tėvyne Musu* is proudly sung by Lithuanians all over the world and in free Lithuania at last.

Sources: the files of Dr. J. Stukas, *Kultūros Barai* (1/89) and T. Michalski.

The Agonizing Years of the Catholic Church in Lithuania

by *Edward Baranauskas*

The Catholic Church has historically been interwoven with Lithuania's national identity and its struggle for independence, going back to the difficult years of oppressive rule by the czars of Russia, and during its brief period of independence. The occupation of Lithuania by the Soviet Army in June of 1940 did not end this inseparable relationship, but only temporarily suspended it.

What followed were some of the most turbulent and terrifying years in the history of modern Lithuania. Joseph Stalin, the dictator of the Soviet Union, was determined to accomplish his plan of converting the Lithuanian people to communism and atheism.

His first order of business was to replace the duly elected government with one loyal to Moscow. He was now in a position to begin his reign of terror, and one of his first goals was to neutralize the influence of the Catholic Church on the Lithuanian people. The representative of the Holy See was expelled. Religious books were destroyed, and Catholic printing plants were confiscated. The teaching of religion and the recitation of prayers in schools were forbidden. Two seminaries were closed, but the one in Kaunas was permitted to operate on a very limited scale.

Stalin considered the Church and the clergy to be his open and secret enemy. None of Lithuania's 1,450 priests renounced their faith even though they were harassed, tortured, or murdered. In addition, it is estimated that perhaps as much as 30,000 people or more were sent to the frozen



Vilnius Cathedral P. Paulius Jurkauskas

wastes of Siberia before Hitler interrupted Stalin's deportation plans when he attacked the Soviet Union in June of 1941.

As the Soviet Army retreated from Lithuania, most Lithuanians at first viewed the arriving Germans as liberators. Most felt their independence would be restored now that the Russians were gone. Unfortunately, one form of tyranny was now being replaced by another. When any bishop or priest protested the violence that followed, they were arrested, sent to Nazi concentration camps, or were executed.

As the tide of war turned against the retreating Germans, and the advancing Soviet Army approached Lithuania in the summer of 1944, people by the thousands fled westward to avoid the dreadful fate they felt certain awaited them. The Germans evacuated three bishops, and hundreds of priests and nuns also fled to the west. Those priests who stayed behind were sure they would be needed where they lived. Thousands of others, unable to

escape, fled to the forests seeking refuge.

The guns of war may have been silenced in Europe when the Germans surrendered to the Allies in May of 1945, however, the soil of Lithuania was still being drenched in blood. By early 1945, some 30,000 armed men, hiding in their bunkers in the forests, were engaged in a struggle with the Soviet authorities and their collaborators. As the repression increased, so did the fighting. Contact between the priests and the partisans was inevitable. The Soviets were angered when some bishops refused to urge the partisans to lay down their arms. Instead, they appealed for all the violence to end, which did not please the Communists.

Stalin now vented his full fury against the Lithuanian people, the Church, and the clergy. About 400,000 men, women, and children were eventually sent to the wastelands of Siberia. The war against religion was resumed in earnest. Between 1944 and 1953, 270 priests were convicted of anti-Soviet activities and many were deported to the gulags. The exact number of priests who met their death during the years of resistance to Soviet rule is unknown.

The Church hierarchy was kept under constant, close surveillance by the Soviet security apparatus. One of the first to be arrested was Bishop Vincentas Borisevičius of Telšiai. He was executed in February of 1946 on the charge of treason.

Bishop Pranas Ramanauskas, his auxiliary, was exiled to Siberia later that same year. Bishop Teofilus Matulionis of Kaišiadorys, and his replacement, Monsignor Bernardas Sužiedelis suffered the same fate. Archbishop Mečislovas Reinys of Vilnius was arrested in June of 1947, and died in Vladimir Prison in 1953. Bishop Kazimieras Paltarokas of Panevėžys was Lithuania's only active bishop by the middle of 1947. During the

late 1940's about a third of Lithuania's priests were deported.

Stalin died on March 5, 1953. His passing ended the most agonizing period of the Catholic Church in Lithuania. Shortly after Nikita Krushchev came into power, he startled the Communist world by publicly denouncing Stalin for being the tyrant and the murderer that he was. His policy of "de-Stalinization" permitted thousands of Lithuanians, who were uprooted from their homes and deported without just cause, to be freed from the camps. Some were allowed to return, while others were not. About thirty percent of the incarcerated priests were released, as well as two bishops, Matulionis and Ramanauskas. However, after returning to Lithuania, their activities were severely restricted.

Unfortunately, the lull in the war against religion proved to be temporary. The hard-liners prevailed, and the crackdown on the Church, its hierarchy, the priests, and the faithful continued unabated for decades.

One has to wonder what the future for the Lithuanian people would have been like if Stalin did not die when he did.



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

- Alice Benedict, C-152
- Madeline Aucker, C-144
- Karen Dallabrida, C-144
- Rita Kuras, C-157
- Sr. Joanne Marie Shainauskas, C-112
- Stephanie Simonaitis, C-112
- Donna Zauskas, C-16
- William Yudiskas, C-110
- Sophie Montvilas, C-112
- Raymond Pulkis, C-3
- Daniel Lombardi, C-110

Autobiography of our folklore, feature writer and poet
Antonia Wackell

Part II

Last month, Mrs. Wackell, who was born at the beginning of the nineteenth century, described her young life in Worcester, Mass, the daughter of Lithuanian shopkeepers and entrepreneurs. This month she concludes her story with her membership in the K of L and lifetime accomplishments.

I now commuted to Boston taking the popular and congested morning train at 7:27 at the Union Station arriving in the Back Bay Station, an hour later. Crossing Copley Square onto Boylston Street, I was soon at the door of the School of Practical Art, very close to the city's exhibits. Library and the Art Museum. During the School's public exhibition, the recognition and ribbons on my work left me speechless and happy.

My awareness of the K of L began when an aunt complained to her sister, my mother, that it was lonely walking to the *Vyčiu susirinkimus*. That gloomy attitude was the convincing factor in my escorting her to a few meetings. When mother asked me for a rundown of the business, my truthful answers were "Užmiga !"

I remembered the Knights and persuaded my highschool friends to join with me (one would be my companion all the way home). We had heard that the Council's membership had decreased due to the organization's preference structure - once married you withdrew. But we felt the need to belong to a youth group.

The *Vyciai*, once again, became active with the addition of seven young (us) members. The Drama Group went into action performing well-attended plays in the church hall. Never an aspiring thespian, I was assigned the title "Sufleris" and the range of functions it involved.

Then the K of L Basketball Quintet came into being. Organized by a Holy Cross star athlete, and captain of the popular Knight's Quintet, ultimately became the champion basket-ball team in New England. The girls also formed their team, but did not win an equivalent title or recognition.

Busy years pass swiftly. The unavoidable happened again. Youth met youth, wedded, and membership dwindled. Living far from activities (member of the church choir and president of the Moksleiviu Draugija) there was no purpose for me to continue alone.



Fortunately, for the council, there remained one devoted, faithful Vytis who remained to perpetuate the Council's numeral.

Still in my possession, is a 72-year old silver Tea Set, a memorable wedding gift from this councils membership - a once sincere, opened-hearted, helpful group of Lithuanian-born and American-born youth, has always been a shining reminder of those years - 78 years ago.

COMMITMENTS...

The new church in the southern part of the city where we lived was being built and soon to be completed. For many years, a few loyal men and their wives, presided by Juozas Glavickas, with the Holy Cross athlete, "Steve" Wackell as the interpreter, met with two opposing bishops for another church in the southern part where they lived.

Their pleas were ignored. Finally, they appealed to the Holy Father, Pope Pius XI, in Rome. Their plea was acknowledged and granted. The Holy Father advised them to meet with Bishop Thomas M. O'Leary. The boundary was established May 16, 1925. The blessing and first Mass in Our Lady of Vilna Church was celebrated October 24, 1926. The following morning, October 25, 1926, Father Julius Caplikas, first pastor, joined in matrimony, his cousin, Stanley Wackell and Antonia Glavickas.

For several years I was busy - at least, I thought I was, with our children, Richard and Vivian, my husband's insurance brokerage office, his entry into politics as the first Lithuanian to be elected councilman in Worcester. Followed later, as the Selective Service

Board Chairman, I was stunned to hear my parent's reproachful words : "Why don't you get out and do something. The children no longer need your care. You were once very active, "Dabar" he continued, (and here, I will not translate) " tupi kaip vista ant tvoros!" and magnanimously offered his and mother's services as sitters for their 6 and 11 year old grandchildren. Transportation would be no problem -they lived on the first level and we lived on the second.

"Why don't you consider the *Moteru Sajunga*, a national fraternal organization" suggested my friend on a visit to her hometown from Lithuania. Our parish did have a chapter previously organized by Fr. Caplikas. In 1938, that is where I enrolled, and later to others. The Knights Council 116, was not yet receptive to spouses. Later, both Richard and Vivian became active members and still later, C-116 membership was increased by the addition of two "old people" as we were described by a shocked individual almost 50 years ago.

I was an organizer and member of the United Lithuanian Relief Fund, Inc.; chairman of the Lithuanian Art Exhibit at the Worcester Festival of Nationalities held in the Auditorium; vice president of the Worcester Area Council of Lithuanian Organizations; seer of the parish Federation of Societies. For many years I was secretary of the Holy Family for Men and Women; Womens Sodality and organizer of Vilna Social Club and a member of the Parish Council, also of World War II Fathers, Mothers and Wives Society.

After serving as president of the Women's Alliance, chapter 69 almost 30 intermittent years, national director of Maine, Massachusetts and New Hampshire, chaired several national board committees, English secretary at the national conventions of the Womens Alliance, I was conferred the title of Honorary Member in 1955, and contributed translations for the 50th Golden Jubilee Book of the Alliance, National President 1970-4.

A popular fund raiser in the parish was the annual supper prepared by the women for 500 to 700 diners. It was my responsibility for 10 years to prepare the menu, order supplies and make arrangements. I served as chairman for 2 receptions for newly-ordained clergy.

January 28, 1950, Bishop John J. Wright arrived as the first bishop of the new Diocese of Worcester. Almost immediately the Diocesan League of Catholic Women was created to include diocesan Women's Organizations and clubs.

The first Congress was held in the Auditorium in

1951, and I served as chairman of Delegates Kits, in 1952, chairman of Opening Exercises; in 1953, chairman of Exhibits. In 1954, I was appointed first vice-chairman of the Congress and in 1955, I was appointed as chairman of the Fifth Diocesan Congress.

I was appointed and served 26 years on the Board of Corporators of Saint Vincent Hospital. I served as secretary of the Advisory Board of Mount Saint Ann (Formerly St Ann's) Orphanage. For the 16th National Liturgical Week, under the patronage of Bishop Wright held in Worcester in 1955, I served on the Hospitality Committee. With my son, Richard, we became leaders for Pope Pius Confraternity of Christian Doctrine in our parish.

Governor Paul A. Dever, in 1950, appointed me as a trustee of Grafton State Hospital, and reappointed for a second term by Gov. Foster Furcolo. I was secretary and then elected Chairman of the Board of Trustees. After 14 years as trustee, I resigned.

From 1962 to 1966, I served as the president of the Catholic Womens Club of Worcester established in 1906, and represented the club at the National Convention in Cobo Hall, Detroit. I was vice pres. of the Diocesan Council of Women.

In the Guild of Our Lady of Providence, (aid society for the Hospital) I was corresponding secretary chairman of Volunteer Service, Junior Guild, and delegate to the American Hospital Association National Convention in the Stock Yards, Chicago.

In 1957, I was chairman of the Eighth Fall Assembly for the guild. Proceeds of these annual assemblies benefit a specific hospital project. In 1956, I served as chairman of the book committee -"The Church of Worcester, New England" - with a foreword by Bishop Wright, written by John G. Deedy, editor of the Catholic Free Press, and illustrated by Jack Frost, artist. An autograph party was held at Bancroft Hotel. Proceeds were used to build a nurses' training school.

I am still a member of the Holy Cross Club of Greater Worcester. I took a course in Public Speaking at the Institute of industrial Relations at Holy Cross College. I returned to continue art studies at the Museum, and acrylics with Sister M. Gratia S.S.C.

When censor boards prevailed in cities, I was secretary of the Worcester Motion Picture and Theater Review Board until we were informed that censor boards were illegal. (Currently, there is a need for similar boards, in my opinion.)

At the Ethnic Seminar, April 25, 1978, sponsored by the Worcester County Organization for Ethnic

Affairs, I was a panel speaker. My subject was "THE LITHUANIAN WOMAN". At a subsequent seminar, my topic was "The Lithuanian People of Worcester from 1881 to 1981.

The Parish Council, Sept. 24, 1974, decided to publish a commemorative book in English and Lithuanian. It was proposed that I write the history of the parish since I was more familiar with its beginning. The books were completed in time for the Golden Jubilee dinner on May 25, 1975.

At the dinner, there were two speakers, Juozas Glavickas (now in his 90th year) related the difficulties they encountered, in Lithuanian, and Stanley Wackell spoke in English. Julia Aiksnoras was not present. They were the last remaining members of the original founders. Bishop Bernard Flanagan, honored guest speaker, in his address, was profoundly impressed by the "persistent founders" for the church. When Bishop Flanagan came to Worcester as our second bishop, I served on the Citywide Reception.

At our Catholic Womens Club Christmas Tea

(1954), we listened to a lecture on "Catholic Literary Personalities in Worcester" given by a well-known priest/writer, in his presentation, he mentioned a list of writers " ... of the modern period who made significant contributions to Worcester Catholic Literary history."

In his list, he included "Mrs. Stanley J. Wackell who has translated considerable poetry from Lithuanian to English and is herself a poet." That unexpected, information left me in a complete state of shock.

My contributions, articles, poetry and biographies have appeared in Lithuanian and American newspapers, and magazines.

In 1996, I was greatly surprised and honored to receive the first VYTIS MAGAZINE EDITORS AWARD for my "Efforts in Poetry." These unexpected Tributes are personal gifts to treasure.

In conclusion- To paraphrase a great writer, Walter Scott, "I cannot say, my friends, how these truths may be. I only wrote these few memoirs on what happened to me." ❖❖❖

In Memoriam

Vytautas Dijokas
January 7, 1999
C-36, Chicago, IL

Joseph Puchalski
Dec. 28, 1998
C-27, Norwood, MA

Roman Wensek
Dec. 15, 1998
C-110, Maspeth, NY

Albert Klizas
Dec. 13, 1998

John Pacesa
Nov. 1998
C-110, Maspeth

Joseph Ryba
Dec. 15, 1998
C-110, Maspeth

Rest in Peace
Amžina Atilsis

Thomas Unites
Dec. 5, 1998
C-19, Pittsburgh, PA

"We mourn the passing of Thomas S. Unites, age 73, on Saturday, December 5, 1998. Known to all as Tom, he was truly one of a kind. "When the Lord made him, He then broke the mold", certainly applies. Tom grew up in Duquesne, orphaned at an early age, then drifting through life in a great variety of jobs, most recently as caretaker at the Lithuanian

Country Club. Before that he had been steward for the Lithuanian Citizens' Society, for the Lithuanian Workers' Association, and an interim bartender in between. Also he was a Life Member of Council 19 of the Knights of Lithuania.

Tom was best known for his love and participation in all kinds of ethnic folk dancing, Lithuanian most of all. He was a real disciple of the late Vytautas Beliajus, Lithuanian grand master of all folk dances, and was a promoter of Vyto's monthly journal Viltis (Hope), dedicated to dancing, folklore and Lithuanian studies. In recent years Tom was slowed down considerably by Father Time and easy living.

He'll also be remembered for his uncanny memory and knowledge of Lithuanian names and people, from where they hail, and to whom they are related. To find out anything like that, always the best source was to ask Tom.

Life's afflictions took their toll on Tom, he had numerous bouts in the hospital and finally after another heart attack there was no one more time.

To Tom's wife Lillian we all offer our sincere sympathy. His remains were cremated, but Tom's spirit lives on enjoying Klumpakojis, Suktinis, and all such good things in the great hereafter."

-Bill Kolčius



86th National Convention Philadelphia, PA. - The City That Loves You Back

Philadelphia is a city of historical sites. Numerous events occurred right here in Philadelphia which shaped the face of our nation as we know it today. Philadelphia is also a city of historical Catholic Churches. Old St Joseph's Church founded in 1733 is the oldest Roman Catholic Church in Philadelphia and is located only two blocks from our Convention hotel.

Three blocks away is Old St. Mary's Church and Cemetery. Old St. Mary's is the second oldest Catholic Church in Philadelphia. It also served as the first Cathedral of the Diocese of Philadelphia from 1810 to 1838. It was built in 1763 and last remodeled in 1963. Old St. Mary's was the site of the first public religious commemoration of the Declaration of Independence. People such as the ecumenical George Washington worshiped here and Puritan born John Adams came too and wrote to his wife, Abigail, of the beauty and charm he felt in the Church. Prominent people buried in the cemetery in the rear of the church include John Barry, the Father of the American Navy; Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis's great-great grandfather, Michael Bouvier; Thomas Fitzsimons, George Meade and many others. The pastor of Old Saint Mary's has graciously consented to allow us to hold our Convention's Opening Mass there on Thursday morning.

We must make special mention of our own National Spiritual Advisor's Parish. Monsignor Anderlonis is Pastor of St. George's Lithuanian Church in the Port Richmond section of Philadelphia. Our closing Mass will be celebrated at St. George's Church. Several years ago Monsignor Anderlonis found his parish Church in need of a new roof and some internal repairs. Through his efforts and the generosity of his parishioners, the inside of his church was completely remodeled. Monsignor Joe is especially proud of the statue of Our Lady of Siluva which he had specially carved in Italy and which graces the side altar.

Thanks to the efforts of Monsignor Joe, the main celebrant at the closing Mass will be Anthony Cardinal Bevilacqua, Archbishop of Philadelphia.

The Sheraton Society Hill Hotel is located in the Olde City section of Philadelphia. Looking east from the hotel one faces Penn's Landing and the Delaware River. On the bank across the river lies the New Jersey State Aquarium. A pedestrian ferry runs from Penn's Landing to the Aquarium in the summer. The hotel lies at the edge of the Independence National Park. Three blocks west will bring you to Independence Hall and the Liberty Bell. Within walking distance of this area are many other interesting sites, such as the Betsy Ross House, Ben Franklin's grave, the Philadelphia Mint, and Christ Church. North and south of the hotel in a three-block radius, over fifty restaurants, delicatessens and specialty shops can be found. Three major television stations are located in the area. The Olde City Tavern is located across the street from the hotel. It has been restored to its original condition. In Colonial times it was a gathering place for the men who were involved in the Declaration of Independence.

The Sheraton Society Hill Hotel is a stately four-story brick building. It is located between the Society Hill Towers and the Delaware River. Due to the influence of the residents of the Society Hill Towers the hotel and other structures in the area are not permitted to be of a height that would block the river view of the tower residents. Off street parking is limited to the garage under the hotel, an open lot across the street, or the city-owned parking garage, one-half block north of the hotel.

The city of Philadelphia and the National Park Service are very proud and protective of this area and the tourists who come to visit. In the summer it is not uncommon to see crowds of people outdoors till the wee hours of the morning.

More information concerning historic Philadelphia and K. of L. Convention activities will be forthcoming in the next issue of the VYTIS.



KNIGHTS OF LITHUANIA
86TH NATIONAL CONVENTION
JULY 29 - AUGUST 1, 1999



Convention Site: Sheraton Society Hill Hotel
One Dock Street
Philadelphia, Pa.

Host: Council 3 Philadelphia

CONVENTION REGISTRATION FORM

First Name(s): _____ **Last Name:** _____ **Council No.** _____
 (Please Print)

Street: _____ **Phone No.** _____

City: _____ **State:** _____ **Zip:** _____

Early Registration - \$160.00 per person (Prior to June 1) **Amount** _____

Late Registration - \$165.00 per person (After June 1) **Amount** _____

Junior Registration: \$80.00

Name of Child _____

Age of Child _____

Amount _____

CONVENTION REGISTRATION INCLUDES:

All Bus Service as required; Thursday Night Get-Together; Friday Cultural Evening;
 Coffee after morning Mass in Hotel on Friday and Saturday; Friday Luncheon;
 Saturday Night Banquet and Dance; and Sunday Brunch in Hotel before the Closing Mass.

PRE-CONVENTION ACTIVITY:

Wednesday, July 28, 1999 – Bus Trip to Atlantic City Casino

Departure: 10:00 A.M. (ADULTS ONLY) - \$25.00 per person **Amount** _____

Make Checks Payable to: Knights of Lithuania Council 3- - - - - Total Amount _____

**Mail Checks and
 Registration Forms to:**

Lillian Greymas, Registration Coordinator
2557 E. Ontario Street
Philadelphia, PA 19134
(215 - 426-6762)



**KNIGHTS OF LITHUANIA
86th NATIONAL CONVENTION
JULY 29 - AUGUST 1, 1999**



Host: Council 3 Philadelphia

Dear Members,

The Knights of Lithuania 86th National Convention will be held July 29 - August 1, 1999, in Philadelphia, PA..... the City of Brotherly Love and the City that loves you back!!!

Greet your fellow Knights with an ad in the Convention Program Book. Ad sizes and costs are as follows:

_____ \$100.00 Full Page 4" x 7"	_____ \$ 10.00 Patron Greeting (Use 3 Lines below)
_____ \$ 50.00 Half Page 4" x 3 1/2"	First Line _____
_____ \$ 25.00 Quarter Page 4" x 1 3/4"	Second Line _____
	Third Line _____
	_____ \$ 5.00 Philly Pal (Name Only)

You may submit your ad on a separate piece of paper. Camera ready copy is welcome.

DEADLINE FOR ADS: JUNE 1, 1999

Make Checks Payable to: Knights of Lithuania Council 3 - - - - - Amount _____

Mail Ads with Payment to: Margaret Petronis, Chair - Program Book
223 Dickinson Street
Philadelphia, PA 19147

Information for Hotel Reservations

Sheraton Society Hill Hotel
One Dock Street, Philadelphia, PA 19106
Phone: 1-800- 325-3535
Direct Phone : 215-238-6000

Special K. of L. Room Rates: Single/Double - \$105.00 per room plus applicable taxes
(Please Note: You MUST mention that you are with the Knights of Lithuania for these rates!!!)

A Limited Number of Suites are Available:
One Bedroom Suite (with parlor) - \$275.00
Two Bedroom Suite (with parlor) - \$350.00
(Please Note: We suggest using Direct Phone No. to order suites.)

Room reservations should be made by JUNE 1, 1999 to insure room availability.

Parking will be extra.

Opinion

An Appreciation of the Tridentine Mass

by Rob Medonis, C-19

What sustained St. Casimir, Blessed Michael Giedraitis, and Blessed Archbishop George Matulaitis? The Tridentine Mass. What consoled Bishop Vincentas Borisevicius on November 18, 1946, the day a Bolshevik firing squad executed him in Vilnius? The Tridentine Mass. What sustained Archbishop Mecislovas Reins during his years in Vladimir Prison in Russia? The Tridentine Mass. What sustained Bishop Teofilis Matulionis during his imprisonment in Siberia? The Tridentine Mass.

The Knights of Lithuania face many problems. Its mission to promote Catholic Lithuanian culture in America holds little appeal to two generations of secularized, assimilated Lithuanian-Americans. The Knights have an aging membership, which few young people are joining. An answer to this crisis can be found in the same place Bishop Borisevicius did the day he faced his killers' rifles: the Tridentine Mass.

Pope Paul VI replaced the Tridentine Mass with the Novus Ordo Mass in 1970 but Pope John Paul II reversed the situation in 1988 through his Apostolic Letter, *Ecclesia Dei*. This Papal document, which was a pastoral response to the requests of the faithful, granted "To all those Catholic faithful who feel attached to some previous liturgical and disciplinary forms of the Latin tradition" a right to the Tridentine Mass. The Pope granted this right to all Latin Rite Catholics without regard to age or motive and asked his fellow Bishops to provide a "wide and generous" application of this right. The Pope is not the only one who approves of the Tridentine Mass. Young people approve of it too. The Priestly Fraternity of St. Peter, a society of apostolic life of pontifical right founded with the approval of the Pope in 1988, is dedicated to preserving the age-old Latin rite of the Mass and sacraments. The Fraternity has grown so much in North America since 1993 that it is building a new seminary in Denton, Nebraska that will accommodate 100 seminarians and faculty. The congregation at the Tridentine Mass in Pittsburgh contains many young people and couples with young children.

The Knights promote contradictory goals in that they strive to preserve Lithuanian traditions but not Catholic ones. Critics charge Lithuanian traditions are too hard, too boring, and what is the point of learning them in the first place? Proponents of the Tridentine Mass face the same charges. Critics claim no one understands the Tridentine Mass' rubrics or its language or its music. However the critics are wrong for Latin experienced a popularity boom in public high schools beginning in the 80's and Gregorian chant recordings sold millions of copies in the 90's. When Americans make an effort to learn the rubrics of the Tridentine Mass, Latin, and Gregorian chant it is a small step to learning the Lithuanian language and Lithuanian traditions.

Nostalgia does not explain the popularity of Gregorian chant or Latin language studies. Nor does it create new seminaries. Promoting the Tridentine Mass complements the Knights' organizational goals and provides an avenue to recruit the younger generations.



☛ from "letters to the editor" on page 2



DID YOU KNOW?

To the editor:

I am enclosing a copy of the 5 litas note showing the picture of the father of the Lithuanian language-- --Jonas Jablonskis—his name you can just about see--it is above the letters IT in LITAS.

He is the maternal grandfather of Vytautas Landsbergis and Gabrielius Zemkalnis-- the two brothers I had the honor of meeting in Vilnius this past summer. (See story "Meeting Two Brothers" in Jan 1999 issue.)

Ed Baranauskas, C-100

The Lithuanian Gardener Out in the Garden

by Frank Petrauskas

Pruning and Trimming

One of the biggest problems with most home landscapes is over grown shrubs, when the shrubs were newly planted they were small and they fit nicely in the landscape. Each year they add new growth and if they aren't pruned and trimmed, they soon become overgrown. Many home owners are afraid to trim for fear of killing the shrub. It is next to impossible to kill a shrub by pruning and trimming.

If your landscape is over grown I will show you how to bring it back to good shape over a period of 2 to 3 years. That's the secret, cut back a certain amount each year. Some people go in and butcher the poor shrubs and all you have left is brown stems and branches. That's a No -No. That is wrong.

Spring is the best time to prune most shrubs. Especially the evergreen shrubs, both narrow leaf and broad leaf. April is an excellent month for heavy pruning. Then the shrubs have a full growing season to develop new growth and fill in the open areas. Most shrubs recover from pruning at a rapid rate.

The way plants will respond to pruning can often be determined before the cut is made. When a part of a plant is cut off, the general response of the plant is to make new growth at or near the cut. All new shoots begin with buds. They may form near the cut or they may occur at a node or joint of the stem.

The art of pruning is rather simple. All it takes is some good common sense. First you should stand back and look over your entire landscape. Determine which shrubs need pruning and how much they should be pruned. Try to visualize how they should look at the right size for your taste. Then get your tools together and go to work.

You will need hand pruning shears, lopping shears and a pruning saw. These tools should take care of all pruning situations.

We'll start with the evergreen shrubs as they



cause the most anxiety with people as to how they should be pruned and how much they should be pruned. If you want to cut back more than a foot of the shrub then I suggest you do it over a period of 2 to 3 years.

The Taxus family or Japanese Yews are the most widely used evergreens and they are the easiest to prune and are the quickest to recover. You can make deeper cuts but as with all evergreens please be sure there is some green left on the stem or branch below your cut. Then the plant will have a more neat appearance.

The Juniperus family or Junipers, as they are commonly called, are fast growing shrubs especially the spreaders, Pfitzer and Glauca Hetzi. We have to be more cautious with this family because the older plants have most of the growth on the outside and nothing on the inside. Always be sure some green is left on the stem or branch. Heavy pruning is definitely a 2 to 3 year project.

The Arborvitae and Cedars are more adapted to shearing than heavy pruning. However if you have a tall upright and you want it cut back just take your saw and cut the trunk at a practical height. The top will grow in again.

With the Pines, Firs, Hemlock and Spruces we have to be much more careful. Their growth is on the outside so we are restricted as to how much we can cut off. They also are more adapted to shearing.

Broad leaf evergreens such as Azaleas, Camellias, Hollies, Boxwood, and rhododendron are sight pruned. There usually is green throughout the plant so you cut accordingly.

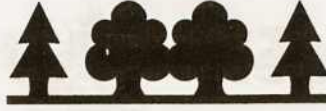
All of the information I have given you so far pertains to a heavier April pruning. Once the new growth comes along the plant should be trimmed at least once a year usually in mid to late summer. This will make the plant more compact and more attractive.

Our deciduous or ornamental shrubs are pruned

differently than the evergreen shrubs. As a rule the best time to prune them is after they blossom. The larger shrubs such as lilac, mock-orange, forsythia, beautybush, ninebark, butterfly bush and kerria should have some of the older stems cut right back to the ground. Just leave enough of the younger stems to give the plant a nice appearance. Also prune the straggly growth and the plant will be much more compact. Never prune straight across a shrub. Always stagger your cuts so you leave the plant with a more natural appearance.

Hedges sometimes become overgrown and they need a heavy pruning. Hedges grown of privet, barberry and cotoneaster can be cut back very hard in the Spring to give you whatever size you desire. If it's an old hedge it would be wise to cut back some of the old stems to ground level. This way you will allow more light to the inside which will result in more growth to the inside. Your hedge will become more full and more attractive. To keep it attractive you must trim it regularly.

Remember now, pruning and trimming are very important if you wish to maintain a beautiful landscape. Once shrubs become overgrown they tend to lose their beauty. Spring is the best time to do heavy pruning. In the warmer areas you could start in March while in the cooler areas you would do your pruning in April. As I said before, if the shrub requires a real heavy pruning, do it over a period of 2 to 3 years. Cut so much off each



year so as to maintain a decent looking shrub. Once the pruning is completed the shrub will fill in with new growth and become attractive again.

Again remember, all of your pruning is for naught if you don't maintain a regular trimming program. You must trim every year and as often as necessary to maintain a beautiful landscape. A happy new year to all and happy gardening.



Thoughts to ponder...

Happiness is a perfume you cannot pour on others without getting a few drops on yourself.

Ralph Waldo Emerson

Success is getting what you want, happiness is wanting what you get.

Dave Gardner

Imagination is more important than knowledge.

Albert Einstein

I like long walks, especially when they are taken by people who annoy me.

Fred Allen

Doing nothing is the hardest work of all.

Anonymous

Smiles Without Wrinkles

A funny thing happened to me at a K. of L. convention.

We would like to inaugurate a new feature in VYTIS. We believe we need a little more humor. How about sharing your remembrances of Knights of Lithuania national conventions. Here is my favorite.

For many years I used to visit my dear friend the late Helen Shields in Philadelphia. It was New Years and the Mummies were marching. Helen's house was like Grand Central Station. Mostly K. of L. members arrived to wish their beloved mentor a happy new year.

So when the 70th (if I am not mistaken) annual convention was scheduled for Philadelphia I jumped at the chance. It was a marvelous convention. Of course it would be since Helen was its chairman. After the Saturday evening banquet we spilled out into the hotel corridors singing Lithuanian songs accompanied by the Strolia boys on accordians. Among our favorites was "Leiskit į Tėvyne". It was not a favorite of one sleepy Lithuanian guest, however: "Po velnių kas jus neleidžia - važiuokite!" That sure put a damper on our frivolity.

Please share some of your memories with us.

-Dalia Bulvičius

Fr. Dan's

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

(Formerly Lithuanian Chefs)

by Fr. Daniel Yenkevich

CORNED BEEF & CABBAGE

4 lb (or more) corned beef brisket
2 or 3 onions, whole
6 whole cloves, stick two in each onion
2 cloves garlic
2 bay leaves
6 carrots, pared
1 medium head cabbage, cut in 6 wedges

Place corned beef in a Dutch oven or large heavy pot; barely cover the corned beef with hot water. Add onions, garlic and all seasonings. Cover and simmer for about 1 hour per pound of corned beef, until tender. Remove meat from the liquid, and add carrots and potatoes to the liquid. Bring to gentle boil for 10 minutes. Then add cabbage and cook an additional 20 minutes. When ready to serve, slice the beef across the grain in thin slices. Serve with mustard and horseradish.

LITHUANIAN KUGELIS

6 or 7 large potatoes
1/4 lb fat back or ham fat
2 large onion, chopped
2 eggs slightly beaten
1 tsp salt
1/4 tsp pepper
1/2 cup milk
1/4 cup flour

First dice the fat back of ham fat into small pieces and lightly fry until browned and crisp, then add the chopped onion to it and fry until soft and golden. Grate the potatoes and add the fried fat back or ham fat with the onions while hot to the potatoes. Add the eggs, milk, flour and seasoning and mix well. Taste and adjust salt and pepper. Pour into a 8x8x2 (or larger baking pan that has been slightly greased. Bake in a

pre-heated oven at 400 degrees for about an hour. Top should be golden brown. Enjoy with sour cream.

GRAPEFRUIT & CHICKEN SALAD

2 grapefruit (medium)
1/2 cup plain yogurt
1/4 cup mayonnaise
1 Tbsp minced fresh dill or 1 tsp. dried dill weed
1 1/4 lbs chicken breast, cooked and cut in 1/2" pieces
1/2 cup chopped celery
2 scallions, chopped
2 Tbsp chopped pimiento (optional)
Salt and pepper to taste
Sprigs of fresh dill for garnish

First cut grapefruit in half cross-wise. With grapefruit knife separate each section from the membrane. Cut removed sections into bite-size pieces and set aside. Remove all membrane from shells and discard, set shells aside.

Next, in a bowl combine mayonnaise, yogurt, dill and salt and pepper to taste. Blend well, then add grapefruit, chicken, celery, scallions and pimiento. Blend lightly. Cover and refrigerate until serving time. Wrap grapefruit shells and refrigerate separately. At serving time, scoop about 2/3 cup of chicken salad into each grapefruit shell. Garnish with dill sprig.

CHICKEN MARSALA WITH MUSHROOMS

3 Tbsp flour
1/2 tsp. ground pepper (fresh)
4 skinless boneless chicken breasts, halved and pounded to 1/4" thick
4 Tbsp butter or margarine
1 Tbsp vegetable oil
1/2 cup chopped onion
2 garlic cloves, chopped
1/2 lb mushrooms, sliced
3 Tbsp dry Marsala
2/3 cup beef stock

Salt to taste

First, mix flour and pepper together in dish; dredge chicken pieces in flour mixture to coat; shake off excess. Secondly, heat 2 Tbsp butter in a large frying pan with the vegetable oil over medium heat. Cook the chicken until lightly brown, about 3 minutes on each side. Remove and keep warm. Add onions and garlic and saute for about 3 minutes until tender. Add mushrooms and cook until they are lightly browned, 3 to 5 minutes. Next return the chicken to pan, stir in Marsala and beef stock. Bring to a boil, then reduce heat and simmer until liquid is reduced, by one third. Whisk in the remaining butter. Season with salt and pepper to taste. Serve over buttered, parsleyed noodles.

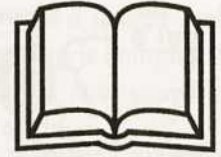
LITHUANIAN - JEWISH COFFEE CAKE

2 cups sugar
1/2 lb of butter
3 cups flour
2 tsp baking soda
3 tsp baking powder
1 pint sour cream
4 eggs
2 tsp vanilla
1 cup sugar
1 tsp cinnamon
1/2 cup chopped nuts

Cream butter with sugar. Blend flour, baking soda and baking powder together and mix well. Add sour cream, and eggs one at a time and then the vanilla. Pour the batter into an ungreased pan. Make a mixture of 1 cup sugar, cinnamon and chopped nuts. Add most of this mixture to the batter in the pan, mix it in well. Sprinkle the rest of the mixture over the top of the batter. Bake at 350 deg. for 45 minutes to an hour.

❖❖❖

Lithuanian Library Info & Books



Some Information About the Newberry Library in Chicago

Faustas Strolia

In 1901, the privately sponsored Newberry Library in Chicago acquired the enormous Prince Louis-Lucien Bonaparte library collection consisting of more than 15,000 volumes. Among them there are also 66 Lithuanian books and other editions. Prince Bonaparte was an amateur linguist who was interested in different European languages. In his collection, there are a number of Lithuanian grammar books by various authors, such as: 1-2. Daniel Klein (1653 and 1654), 3. Wilhelm Hack (1730), 4. Pilypas Ruigis (1745), 5. Gottfried Ostermeyer (1791), 6. Kristijonas Milkus (1800), 7. August Schleicher (1856-1857), and 8. Friedrich Kurschat (1876).

Also quite impressive is the collection of his East Prussian dictionaries by: 1. Hack (1730), 2. R. Ruigis (1747), 3. Milkus (1800), Ferdinand Nesselmann (1851), and S. Kušaitis (1870-1874).

Among the older Lithuanian books to be mentioned are the "Giesmių Knygos" (religious hymn books) published in 1751. Although the library does not own any originals by Martynas Mažvydas' books, it acquired quite a few, newly reprinted Mažvydas' texts, editions from Lithuania having reference to his name.

This information was provided to me by Nijolė Martinaitytė-Nelson (who is the chairperson of the 450 years Mažvydas Catechism Commemoration Committee). She extracted it from scholar Giedrius Subacius' article "Senujų lietuviškų knygų rinkys Čikagoje" printed in *Draugas* (2/15/97). I just translated it into English.

NB. In the dictionary collection, there are different initials before the names Ruigis and Kursaitis (Kurschat)

which could mean a different person, most likely to be a brother of the previously mentioned one. Also, all the German sounding names were having a Lithuanian spelling and were declined with Lithuanian endings according to rules of Lithuanian grammar (Frydricho, Vilhelmo, Hacko, Gotfrydo Ostermeyerio, etc.)

Book review: *Road-side Dog*

Czeslaw Milosz (he won the 1980 Nobel Prize for Literature) *Road-side Dog* is a book of mostly short prose pieces, musings, etc. which is a way the author, now in his 80's sums up making sense of his life. The following piece reaches back to his youth in Lithuania during the early part of our century...

"I went on a journey to acquaint myself with my province, in a two-horse wagon with a lot of fodder and a tin bucket rattling in the back. The bucket was required for the horses to drink from. I traveled through a country of hills and pine groves that gave way to woodlands where swirls of smoke hovered over the roofs of houses, as if they were on fire, for they were chimneyless cabins; I crossed districts of fields and lakes. It was so interesting to be moving, to give the horses their rein, and wait until, in the next valley, a village slowly appeared, or a park with the white spot of a manor house in it. And always we were barked at by a dog, assiduous in its duty. That was the beginning of the century; this is its end. I have been thinking not only of the people who lived there once but also of the generations of dogs accompanying them in their everyday bustle, and one night—I don't know where it came from—in a predawn sleep, that funny and tender phrase composed itself: a road-side dog."

-submitted by Joseph Chaplick, C-142, from The Washington Post, Book World, Road-side Dog (c)1998 by Czeslaw Milosz, Farrar S. Giroux, Inc., pub.

The Ethnic Regions of Lithuania



There are four major ethnic regions in Lithuania: Žemaitija (Western Lithuania), Aukštaitija (Central and Eastern Lithuania), Dzūkija (southeastern Lithuania on both sides of the Nemunas river), Suvalkija (the northern parts to the south of the Nemunas river). The westernmost part of Žemaitija around the port of Klaipėda is rather different from the rest of this region. It has been known as Lithuania Minor. (A part of what has been known as Lithuania Minor is now included into the Russian Federation and Kaliningrad region, formerly Königsberg). The formation of Lithuanian ethnic regions was determined by different political, economic and sometimes even religious conditions. Žemaitija and Aukštaitija have always enjoyed the greatest degree of stability.

At the beginning Žemaitija was a geographical concept, it referred to the lowlands to the west of the Neris river. The economic conditions of the Žemaitian peasants have always been better than those of the Aukštaitian peasants. Here farms were larger and older because they were never divided among the sons after the father's death. The culture of Žemaitija and Lithuania Minor have very much in common.

Aukštaitija is the largest ethnic region. It includes the fertile Central Plain and the undulating hills and lakes of Eastern Lithuania. Aukštaitians used to divide their farms among their sons. Therefore, there were a lot of small farms. Villages built along the single High Street survived here for a very long time.

In the parts which were occupied by Poland in 1920, villages of this kind have survived to the present days. Aukštaitians have managed to preserve better their old crafts and the features of communal life. Eastern Aukštaitians and western Byelorussians have a lot in common, because Aukštaitija and northern Byelorussia used to belong to the same ethnic culture.

Džukians saddle the Nemunas river.

They owe their name to the phonetic peculiarities of their dialect (*they pronounce t, d, tv, dv before i and e as ts, dz, tsv, dzv*). Earlier Dzūkija and the adjacent districts of Byelorussia belonged to one and the same unified ethnic area. To

the present day Lithuanians residing in the Gervėčiai and Peleša district in Byelorussia speak Lithuanian.

Suvalkija is the youngest region deriving its name from the town of Suvalkai belonging to Poland. It has also been known as Uznemune or Suduva. In the Middle Ages this area was devastated by the Teutonic Order. In the 15th and 18th centuries it was settled mostly by newcomers from Aukštaitija, Žemaitija, Lithuanians from Prussia and Western Europe.

After the partitioning of the Polish-Lithuanian state in 1795 this country, together with Dzūkija as far as the Nemunas river, was given to Prussia, and later, thanks to Napoleon, it was included into the Warsaw Principality. Serfdom was abolished here in 1807, much earlier than in the rest of Lithuania. The movement of farmers from villages to farmsteads started here also much earlier.

According to the census taken in 1897, the rate of literacy among the peasants of the Suvalkai Province was the highest in the Russian Empire. Up until as late as 1940, Suvalkija, differently from the other Lithuanian regions, adhered to Napoleon's Statute Book. At present two of the Suvalkai district, Punkskas and Seinai, although inhabited mostly by Lithuanians, belong to Poland.

Although the borderlines between different ethnic regions in Lithuania cannot be established very strictly because there is a lot of overlapping in their linguistic, architectural, artistic and natural characteristics, the study and comparison of these characteristics enables us to know and feel better the beauty of Lithuanian folk culture.

from J. Kudirka website book "THE LITHUANIANS" (C)1996 Lith. Folk Culture Centre.

District & Council News

C-3 Philadelphia, PA *Stepalovitch*

Thirteen members of C-3 Phila. journeyed to Kennebunkport Maine for the Amber District meeting the weekend, of Sept. 13th. The first night they arrived a social was held at the home of one of its members, Julie Kowrak. The home was across the street from St. Anthony's monastery where the meeting was to take place. Julie also led in a sing-a-long on Saturday night where the Amber District also hosted a Social evening.

Elections were held in October for Officers of C-3 for 1998-1999. Following is a list of newly elected Officers: President, John Mickunas; Vice President: Irene Ozalis; Treasurer, Walter Svekla, Financial Sec., Alice Bacaon; Rec. Sec., Ausrā Maknys; Trustee (1st yr) Agnes Mickunas; Trustee (2nd-2 yrs), Lillian Greymas; Spiritual Advisor, Rev. Eugene Wassel; Committee Chairpersons: (1st Chair-1 yr) Ritual, Marge Petronis; Ritual, (2nd chair- 2 yrs) Irene Ozalis; Ritual (3rd chair - 3 yrs) Irene Svekla; Culture, Julie Kowrak; Sunshine Lady, Nellie Pandza; Lithuanian Affairs, Leonard Kapochus; VYTIS Corresp. Victor Stepalovitch; Lith. Language Correspondent, Bronius Krokys.

On December 6, 1998 a Christmas party for all members of C-3 Phila. was held at the

Coastline Restaurant in NJ; All had an enjoyable time.

Kučios, our fourteenth anniversary of this dinner was held on the 12th of December after the 5:00 P.M. mass at St. Georges Church Hall. St. George's is the home Parish of our Spiritual Supreme Council Advisor Msgr. Joseph Anderlonis. This event was held to a full house and all had a wonderful and enjoyable time.

C-3 extends to all members of the Knights of Lithuania a very healthy and prosperous 1999. Laimingu naujuju metu.

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

On Sunday, December 20th our council had its annual Kučios at St. Francis Church hall. 35 members attended. Our pastor, the Rev. Raymond Messier read the Christmas Gospel of Luke. Sophia Fiorentino lighted the Advent candles and master of ceremonies, Bill Wišniauskas read the names of the council's deceased members with a special remembrance to the most recent death, Tina Shatas our 84 year member at age 94.

Fr. Messier offered grace, broke and shared the plotkeliai with all and they, in turn, with one another. The menu consisted of 12 meatless dishes starting with clam chowder made by Armand Barthelie, herring dishes, baked haddock, meatless kugelis, hot and cold kopustai,

various jellied salads and calorie-loaded Christmas goodies.

Elizabeth Penney did the narration of the customs, traditions and superstitions of Lithuanian Kučios and Christmas.

The superstitions and games of chance were acted out under the direction of cultural chairman, Bronė Wišniauskas.

Following the meal, carols were sung beginning with the traditional "Sveikas Jėzau Gimusis". The hall was decorated in the holiday mode along with Lithuanian tree ornaments with straw made by the parishes Women's Guild.

Fr. John Petrauskas MIC and Fr., Antanas Nockunas, MIC both of St. Casimir's, Worcester were guests at this happy occasion.

Co-Chairmen were Sophia Fiorentino and Bronė Wišniauskas and Armand Bouthilier, who assisted Bronė in the kitchen. Howard Boudette was honored at the Kučios on the occasion of his birthday.

Our deep condolences are extended to James Kraskauskas and family on the death of mother Annie Lucasevičius Kraskauskas at age 92 on Dec 26. Annie and her husband are longtime business people of Gardner. They recently celebrated their 65 wedding anniversary.

Dr. Henry Gailiūnas had spent a month in Lithuania last year. Doc, tell us what is the attraction there?



C-112, Chicago Juniors enacted a skit depicting the miracle of Our Lady of Šiluva on September 8, 1998. The crown used was blessed by the Holy Father when the Knights saw him in Lithuania in 1993. Fr. Tony Markus is their Spiritual Advisor.

C-12, New York City *Dalia*

This is the month when we celebrate Lithuania's 81 anniversary of regaining her independence. Let's all remember her in our prayers.

A most sincere thanks to Jeanne Janonis for doing such a marvelous job on our newsletter. Both in English and Lithuanian she keeps us informed (especially those who can not attend the meetings) of the happenings in our council. For many years our dear Eugenija is working for God and Country. With her late husband HM Larry Janonis she was there assisting him at dozens of our national conventions. What a perfect candidate for honorary membership.

Annual elections were held in November and we are pleased to advise that the same board and committees were reelected.

Best wishes to Tony Yacavonis, who became 90 years young on January 18th. Also to Betty Janonis who was given a surprise party by her family for her 75th birthday on October 18th.

Ed and Irene Senken

vacationed in Italy for a couple of weeks this past summer and came home with many nice memories.

We were very sorry to learn that Joe Sable who was in poor health for several years passed away in October. May the good Lord grant him eternal rest. Until next time - GOD BLESS!

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

With the first sunrise of a new and unpredictable year, the progress and the success of C-26 is in the hands and minds and with the steerage of an experienced board of officers. With the reins in the hands of Pres. Vivian Rodgers, all doubts disappear and the unpredictables will be conquered. The horse power of the band wagon is provided by the rest of the board, and all wonder vanishes. The membership can rest assured that the efforts of the board, and your support, the new year looks good for C-26.

The St. Casimir Parish, our sponsor, had the honor and

privilege to entertain Rev. Adam Boniecki M.I.C. the Superior General of the Congregation of Marian Fathers. During his visit he partook as assistant to the baptizer, Fr. John at the baptism of Andrew Joseph Jalbert. Thank you Fr. Boniecki.

Mark and Kathleen Walinsky flew in from Colorado to visit with friends and family. Away from home for Mark and still a member of C-26, they told me that they like to read about the happenings and welfare of their council.

Joe Ivaska suffered from the results of a fall and was confined in a rehab home for a while. He is now doing fine. Mae Anusauskas, a long time K of L'er, is now in a rest home, comfortable and happy.

The Xmas party was great, lots of fun, plenty to eat, with wine and song we had a wonderful time. The nicety of the affair was the planning and programing.

I missed the deadline for

submissions for the December issue, for which I am sorry, (I have a good excuse, age and speed). Will try to keep up with the times.

C-36, Chicago, IL

Rutele

Mea Culpa! There has been a change in some of the elected officers of C-36 previously reported. Sabina Henson has been installed, as 3rd Vice-President and Lillian Micka as Financial Secretary. Added to the list of Sgt. of Arms is Algis Vailokaitis. Installation of officers for the new term took place at the November meeting. We are pleased to announce that Rev. Fabian P. Kireilis has agreed, to be our Spiritual Advisor.

Several members of C-36 attended the Mid-America District picnic on November 1st in Lemont, Illinois. The event was a huge success with musical selections by Paul Strolia, the K of L Choir under the direction of Faustas Strolia, and Frank Zapolis and the K of L Dancers. Our own Mary Kincius presided over the kitchen. The highlight of the event was the announcement of the new Council 157 in Lemont, IL. Congratulations and much success.

On Sunday, November 22nd a Memorial Mass was held at Immaculate Conception Church for deceased council members who passed away during the year, namely, Rev. Anthony Miciunas, Saveria Wade, Harriet Apke and Jerome Jankus. May their souls rest in peace.

Our Annual Candlelight Dinner/Dance which was held in



Fourth Degree Recipients at the Mid America District Meeting include Mary Juzenas, C-112; Salomėja Daulienė, C-36 and Vytautas Dijorkas, C-36. (Mr. Dijorkas passed away recently on Jan. 7.)

the Immaculate Conception School Hall on December 5th was tremendously successful with guests participating from neighboring councils in the Chicago area and from various other organizations. Kudos go to the capable committee who worked so very hard. Kazys Ozelis did a great job with the decorations, Lil Micka was a super bartender, "Instant Raffle" by Denise Hornik, and the very talented Mary F. Kincius supervised the kitchen. Couldn't do without Evelyn Ozelis who handled the reservations. Entertainment was provided by Algimantas Barniskis on the keyboard.

Two lovely young ladies from Lithuania accompanied him with guitar and duets. The food and service was excellent. There were many cash raffle prizes and a beautiful hand-carved wooden chapel donated by Marty Gestautas. A good time was had by all.

The December meeting

was very short so that we could celebrate a traditional "Kučios" dinner with the custom of sharing plotkeles and 12 meatless dishes, leaving a place setting for the deceased. Good health and God's blessings were wished for the New Year.

C-74, Scranton, PA

Marie Laske

We had a wonderful turnout for our traditional Kučios at St. Joseph's hall. Sister Elizabeth Žemaitis said grace and prayed for all the K. of L. members, who carried on this traditional meal and for all those who attended. We had 12 different foods including a Lithuanian cake.

After grace everyone broke the plotkeliai (holy wafer) and wished peace to one another.

Our delicious and plentiful meal was served by Jean Karulines, my daughters Susan and Sandi and Sandi's husband Charles and granddaughter Rachel, plus our friends Mary Davis and Claire Carlin, as most of our members were physically unable to serve. Margaret Clegg and Peg Romanuskas served punch, made with 7-Up, cranberry juice and ice cream.

Sister Angela and sister Elizabeth plus some of our choir members and guests led the singing of Lithuanian and English



Memories of Lithuania banquet committee includes: (1st row) Faustas Strolia, Ellie Kasputis, Fr. Anthony Zakarauskas, Robert Martin, Jr. (2nd row) Edward Pocius, Aušra Padalino, Aldona Brazis, Lucille Sholas and Theresa Strolia (3rd row) Richard Niedvares, Peter Zansitis, Diane Martin and Frank Zapolis (*not in photo, Algerd Brazis*)

Christmas carols. It was a wonderful gathering and everyone had the Christmas spirit. Maybe a little nip of viritas helped.

Granddaughter, Rachel Georgia, sold tickets for a raffle on a gingerbread house made by grandson Nathan Stebbenis and his mother, my daughter Susan. The money was sent to Lithuanian orphans.

Stanley Bozenko trimmed our Christmas tree with Lithuanian straw ornaments. Assisting him were Helen Cravath and cousin, Mary Globis Twardzik. A huge ačiū to everyone who helped in any way and those who came. It was especially nice to have a Rotary exchange student, age 17 from Hungary, who sang 2 songs in Hungarian. We had guests from all of Scranton and the surrounding area.

Della Žvirblis is home after eye surgery. Casimir Yanish is recuperating after serious surgery. Get well wishes to both of them.

Pray for Msgn. Michael Ozales who will be celebrating his 87th birthday. At present he is recuperating after a long hospitalization in Philadelphia.

Life is God's gift to us. What we do with our life is our gift to God!

C-96, Dayton, 0᠓

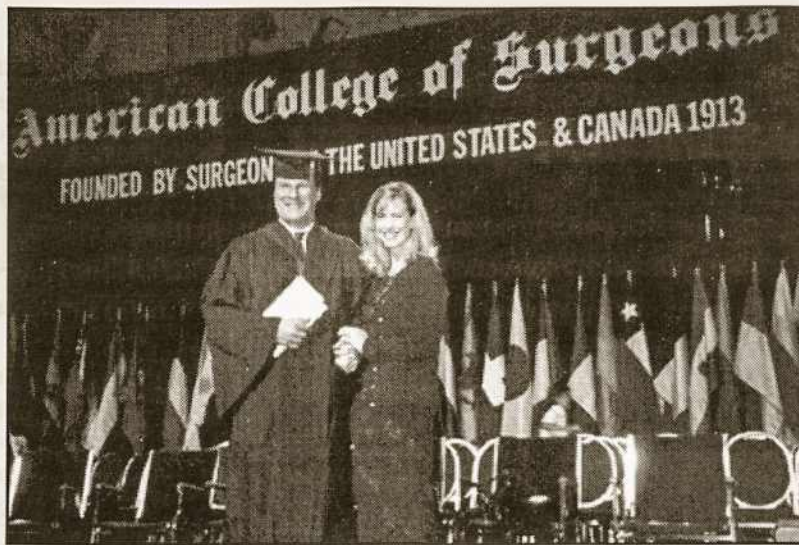
Fran Petkus

The Holiday Season is a very giving time. Once again the members of C - 96, parishioners of Holy Cross Church and friends were very generous. This year's gift to our adopted order of nuns, Christ the King in Vilnius, exceeded all others. Sister Igne, of Putnam, graciously saw that our gift was safely delivered. Thanks must go to George and Frances Mikalauskas for the excellent job they did co-chairing this special project. C-96's December meetings is the month we dispose of our Charity Fund. This fund is built up throughout the year from donations, percentage from all council money making projects, etc. This year's donations went to Old North Dayton's Food Pantry, Lithuanian Catholic Religious Aid and Aid to Lithuania, Inc. Prior to our December meeting, we held our Annual Christmas Caroling visiting shut-ins and nursing homes. Poinsettias were given at each stop. The oldest

person we sang to was a lady 109 years young! Following caroling, we headed back to the church hall for supper, donated by Holy Cross Parish's Lithuanian Cultural Committee. Once again we were led in singing by MaryAgnes Mikalauskas and her guitar. MaryAgnes chaired this special function along with Frances and Elena Mikalauskas. Keeping supper warm was in the hands of Elaine Pacovsky and Kathy Sinkwitz.

Elinor Sluzas made special arrangements for our council's Annual Christmas Dinner which was held at the Dayton Women's Club. It was very elegant and well attended. Added to the festivities, George Mikalauskas had a special drawing. After handing out tickets, with the prize being hand crafted Christmas ornaments made by George, name pulled was our Spiritual Advisor, Fr. Mike! Some members exchanged gifts while other made a donation to Aid to Lithuania, Inc.

Congratulations to our Junior Advisors, Christine Fletcher and Julie Goecke, for a very successful K of L Junior's Christmas Bake and Craft Sale. Under the leadership, and the



C-110's Dr. Steven J. Laukaitis was inducted into the American College of Surgeons on Oct. 26 and continues his practice as a Ophthalmic Plastic and Reconstructive Surgeon in Bellevue, Washington.

C-110, Waspeth, NY *Elena*

help of many, Elinor Sluzas put together another very successful Kučios. Prior to dinner, readings of scripture were presented by Fr. Mike followed by prayer. After the sharing of the Christmas Wafer and apple, everyone headed for the main table taking part in the twelve foods that are served for Kučios. This function was well attended and the sharing of the occasion was felt by all.

Congratulations go to new grandparents Loretta and Henry Pant. This makes our council president Robert Pant a new uncle and Linda a new aunt. Get well wishes go to Bernadette Noreikas, Ann Gitzinger, Karl Keivel, Stefanija Raštikis and Annamari Sluzas Berger!

Congratulations to Molly Geiger on her graduation from the Police Academy. Molly may now be addressed as Officer Geiger! Out of town members in for the Holidays were Joe and Ann Boeke now living in Glendale, Arizona and from C-7, Waterbury, formally of C - 96, Pat (Zelinskas) Alexander and Tony.

They walked together for 62 years and they worked together. On the morning of December 13th, Roman Wensek and his wife Sophie walked together to the Transfiguration Parish Hall to finish up the last touches for the traditional Kučios. Little was it known that this would be their last waltz together.

A religious family at all times, they did have a social life. Their smiles, infectious grins were always to be remembered especially when they were the Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers on the dance floor. However, the Almighty Hand was stretching out and on Dec. 15th, Roman was called to His Maker. His death was a shock to all, particularly the Knights with whom he associated with for 18 years. He earned his 4th degree after serving as Treasurer and other duties - a most competent and dedicated member at all times. He will be sorely missed by all and we extend our condolences and prayers to his wife Sophie, children, grandchildren and family. Amžina atilsi, Romai.

Our traditional Kučios was well attended and, as always, it has become an International event. A satisfying feeling envelopes us when the guests request to be remembered for the next function. Thanks are extended to the many who worked diligently to make this day a memorable one. Now that the merriment of holidays is over, our thoughts go forward to dieting and more activity. The Atlantic City bus trips, on a monthly basis, are enjoyed by a lovely family of members and friends. Meetings are well attended and we are in the planning stages of a dinner dance on April 25th commemorating 75 years of existence. Via this column, I am taking the liberty to address all of our members requesting their support in this historical event of our Council. The Knights, although not a parish organization, is the largest in number of Transfiguration and we aim to hold our number until circumstances warrant otherwise. Remember, we work for God and Country.

A speedy recovery is

wished Catherine Ward who is in rehabilitation after a fall and to many other ailing members. Yesterday is History, Tomorrow is Mystery, Today is a Gift, that's why they call it THE PRESENT.

C-140 Syracuse, NY

Pusbrolis

1998 was a busy year for most of our members. Our Independence Celebration was well attended and it included Mass at St. Stephen's along with a Program and Brunch. Cassie Stanley and Ruth Hare always do a good job with the February Brunch.

March brings us our St. Casimir Celebration with Mass and a program at St. Stephen's and then we all went to the K. of C. Castle for Brunch. It was good to see Walt and Anne Guentert who came in from New Hartford. Norman Klimas was the chairman and he gave us a very enjoyable day. The next week Frank and Irene Petrauskas went to Philadelphia for the Amber District meeting. Frank chaired the meeting because President Dorothy Banos was hospitalized.

Long time member Della Marcaitis died on April 13. Della was a hard worker and always a joy to be around. She enjoyed all Lithuanian activities and especially the K of L she was proud to be a member. May her soul rest in peace. Amžina atilsi, Delia. Our sympathy to husband Joe.

Norman Klimas made two trips to Las Vegas in April and December to visit with his friend Mary. Dawn Rudd came back after spending the Winter in Florida. That's tough duty

Dawn. Victor and Joy Diorio retired and have moved to Florida. We wish them well.

Jerry Zutant was hospitalized for a while during the Winter and spent quite some time recuperating. Now he's as good as new. He and brother-in-law Guy Pagano treated us to some delicious goodies at our June meeting. Guy and Elnora Pagano spent three weeks visiting England, Scotland, and Wales in the summer. Frank and Irene Petrauskas bought a condo in Baldwinsville and they moved at the end of July. Their address is 289 Higgins Dr., Baldwinsville, NY 13027.

At the Navy Seabee convention in August our own Jack Brandt was elected national commander of the Navy Seabee Veterans of America. Jack has held offices on the local level, the state level and on the national level, wife Catherine was re-elected as the auxiliary president. She also held many offices over the years. We congratulate them both and wish them well in their new duties. We don't see them much now because of all of their traveling. During the summer they are often at their second home in Vermont.

Helen Johnson had a serious operation in September. She recovered nicely and is up and around and about her business. Husband Victor has slowed down a bit but is still active and in good shape. We miss them at our meetings but they are with us in spirit.

Frank and Irene Petrauskas attended the National Convention in Waterbury. They said it was a very good

convention and they had a wonderful time. Each year the host council does an excellent job staging the convention. Our organization is unique in that we put on a convention that other organizations can't possibly equal let alone surpass. Our camaraderie, our friendliness, our sense of duty stands us above the others. We have a good thing going folks—don't let it die out. We're looking forward to another good one in Philly.

The Amber District meeting was held at the Franciscan Monastery in Kennebunkport in September with a very nice turnout. Frank and Irene represented C-140. It's always a nice place to visit and Sophie and the ladies do a good job making you feel comfortable.

We extended a warm welcome to Vida Mikuzyte who is from Vilnius Lithuania. Vida is a nice young lady who will be with us for a year. She works as a nanny for a family in Syracuse and takes night courses at the University. She enjoys attending our meetings and says we are now her Lithuanian family.

We were saddened in November with the passing of Walter Guentert. Walt and Anne are long time members. Walt was a most likeable guy, he could get along with anybody. We're sure going to miss him. May his soul rest in peace. Our sympathy to Anne and daughter Lee.

Our Christmas Brunch was a nice affair. First we attended Mass at St. Stephen's then we went to The Ramada Inn for the Brunch. A turn out of 25 people enjoyed good food and good fellowship. It was good to

see and visit with Mary Zutant who has had some health problems recently.

We leave you with a wish for a pleasant '99 to all.

C-144. Anthracite, PA

Ona

Our annual Kučios was chaired this year by Elsie Kosmisky. Šimta Ačiū to her and her committee. Father Ron Jankaitis opened with a beautiful prayer and since it was Dec. 6, a prayer was also offered for all Veterans and all who perished at Pearl Harbor.

Brother Joseph Zutelis spoke on Christmas Eve customs in Eastern Europe and Lithuania. Singing of Lithuanian Carols was led by Cultural Chairperson, Mary Koons. Our Kučios meal is all the traditional foods served by our forefathers on Kučios. It is gratifying to see the young families who attend so their children would get to know these customs.

President Marian Wydra, as always, gave an inspiring welcome to all who attended.

All members who are in nursing homes are remembered by the Council especially at Christmas. These people, who worked very hard when they were able must not be forgotten.

Congratulations to Joe and Florence Yanall who celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary. May God grant them many more.

Condolences to Anne Wargo who lost her brother Albert Klizas the week before Christmas. Al was one of the founders of the Lehigh Valley Council and their first President.

"Amžina Atilsi, Albinai".

Šimta Ačiū to our Council members who have supported the Bed Project for the Lithuanian Pontifical College. A total of fifteen beds has been donated, 3 from the Council and 12 from individual members.

A donation was sent to our adopted orphan for Christmas plus 18 boxes to the orphanages and poor schools in Lithuania. Many letters have been received thanking the council for their generosity. Our special thanks to Bernice Mikatavage and her Committee who obtain the items, pack the boxes and sent them out. Many of the items are bought by the Council, however these people obtain good items from many sources. The council pays for all shipping. Many hours of hard work is done--Ačiū to the Orphan Committee.

We also still collect stamps for Sister Helen's Stamp project.

As we begin a new year under the leadership of Marian Wydra, who is a real Lithuanian dynamo, we pray we can do better and so, do more for Lithuania's causes.

May God grant many blessings to all our Vyčiu brothers and sisters in 1999.

C-147. St Petersburg, FL Dolores Jonaitis

We hope Father Steponas Ropolas O.F.M., is feeling better.

Also cheers for Father Matas Čyvas, who stepped in to help, before he was ready healthwise, after his accident. Father Augenius Jurgutis OFM, from Toronto Canada, stayed at our mission in St. Pete Beach, for

2 1/2 weeks. He had a full schedule. Then Father Gedmintas Numgaudis OFM, from Kretinga Lithuania, stayed for 2 weeks. Presently Father Antanas Grabnickas OFM, also from Kretinga, may stay a little longer.

Aldona Kirstuk was visiting in Phoenix Arizona in November. Genovaite Bakas was hospitalized in December. We hope you and your husband Bronius are feeling better.

Our concert on November 21, 1998, given by The Summit Orchestra and Singers, was a great success. Nearly 250 people attended. The orchestra opened with "Lietuva Tevyne Musu" much to our surprise. We didn't know they had the music. Too bad they didn't tell us, we had the translation of words in English.

Chairmen for the Concert were John Jonaitis and Anthony Gudonis. Committee members were: Irena Diktanas, Maria Gelažius, Janina Lauras, Dolores Jonaitis, Joseph Daniliauskas and our ticket Chairman, Laimute Alvarado. We thank each and every one of you. It was a job well done.

Kariuomenis Švente was observed on November 22, 1998, with a presentation of Flags at Holy Name Church and later at the Lithuanian Hall also, following dinner. John Jonaitis carried the K of L Flag and Valeria Lesčinskas and Kazimiera Arlauskas were the attendants.

Our meeting in December was opened by our President Anthony Gudonis. Opening prayers by our Spiritual Advisor Rev. Matas Čyvas. Special guests were Father Antanas Grabnickas OFM, and Laimute

Alvarado, who handled our tickets for our concert. She did a splendid job. Irena Diktanas read the minutes from the previous meeting in fine detail. You are appreciated. Alfas Shukis was on the nominating committee and presented the slate.

Officers are: Spiritual Advisor, Rev. Matas Čyvas; President, John Jonaitis; Vice President, Dolores Jonaitis; Recording Secretary, Irena Diktanas; Treasurer; Maria Gelažius; Financial Secretary, Eugenia Šatraitis; Trustees, Anthony Gudonis, Janina Lauras; Sergeant-at-Arms, Vladas Gelažius; Ritual Chairman, Dr. Aldona Valis; Committee, Dolores Jonaitis, Irena Diktanas, Bronė Urbonas; Lithuan. Affairs, Alfas Shukis; Lithuan. Culture, Irena Diktanas; Vytis Correspondent, Dolores Jonaitis.

Our meeting came to a close. Delicious refreshments were served. Donaters were: Ona Semolavičianė, Irena Diktanas, Petre Kasperavičiūtė, Dolores Jonaitis, Kazimiera Arlauskas, Brone Urbonienė and Valeira Lesčinskas. Thank you Ladies.

Kučios was observed at the Lithuanian American Club. Over 380 attended. It was traditional and enjoyed by all. The ever beautiful choir, dressed in red and black, added to the beautiful atmosphere. Later we all sang Christmas Carols in Lithuanian.

C-156, Shamokin, PA **Olympia M. Zelinski**

We are in the process of working together to increase our membership and our goals of service and contributions to

worthy causes.

The council awarded scholarships to Jennifer Wislock and Geoffrey Kinder to further their education. Both are members of the council. Jennifer at present is attending Bloomsburg University of Pennsylvania and Geoffrey is a student at Clarion University of Pennsylvania.

We had our traditional Christmas dešros (kielbasi) and horseradish sale on December 22. The orders were delivered by the president, Bob Wislock himself.

Our traditional Kučios supper on December 11th was held in Our Lady of Hope hall. Many of the members brought various traditional Kučios dishes. Father Ted Keating our spiritual advisor opened the meal by reciting the Rosary. Each table had a member recite a decade of the Rosary. Father Keating received a monetary gift. After the meal, annual membership dues were collected.

At our meeting we voted to have a committee to plan our budget for 1999. It met at Dave Kinder's to make the final preparations and will report at the January meeting.

New officers for 1999 are: president - Bob Wislock, first vice president - Dave Kinder, second vice president - John Charnosky, Sr.; treasurer - Rose Paczkoski; secretary - Mary Ann Charnoski; Fin. Sec. Kathy Wislock; "Vytis" correspondent and ritual chairman - Olympia Zelinski; trustees - Alberta Bartash and John Charnosky, Sr.

In order to support our

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

March 7, 1999, St. Casimir Day Celebration hosted by C112. 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

various charities we have Bingo every month.

A Mass was offered at Lourdes Regional High School for Bobby Barsh. He was a member of our council.



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*LABORA*

While young, oh brother, plant crops of grain
 And do not neglect the soil! Then, when you feel
 How body takes stiffness, your soul now drowsy,
 It is late already to work: you cannot sow, you cannot harvest.

While in the heart is burning that holy fire,
 Which pulls to work and gives so much strength
 Because even the feeble and weak can stand as a giant,
 Oh work, in order that the fire does not go out.

While you still admire your own ideals, brother,
 Reach only for those ideals righteous and high
 So hurry! Later you... may disavow it
 For a bit of gold, and a spoonful of tasty food.

Read the book of life, page by page,
 Without stopping, because sometimes trapped into laziness
 You decay; and do not go into the grave
 Without leaving a mark: that a person was here.

Oh, if so difficult that work of yours
 And strength pines away already, disheartened, disquieted
 So take a look at the work of your young friends -
 In one glance from them you will be revived.

Vincas Kudirka

Translated into English by Philip Klemka

