

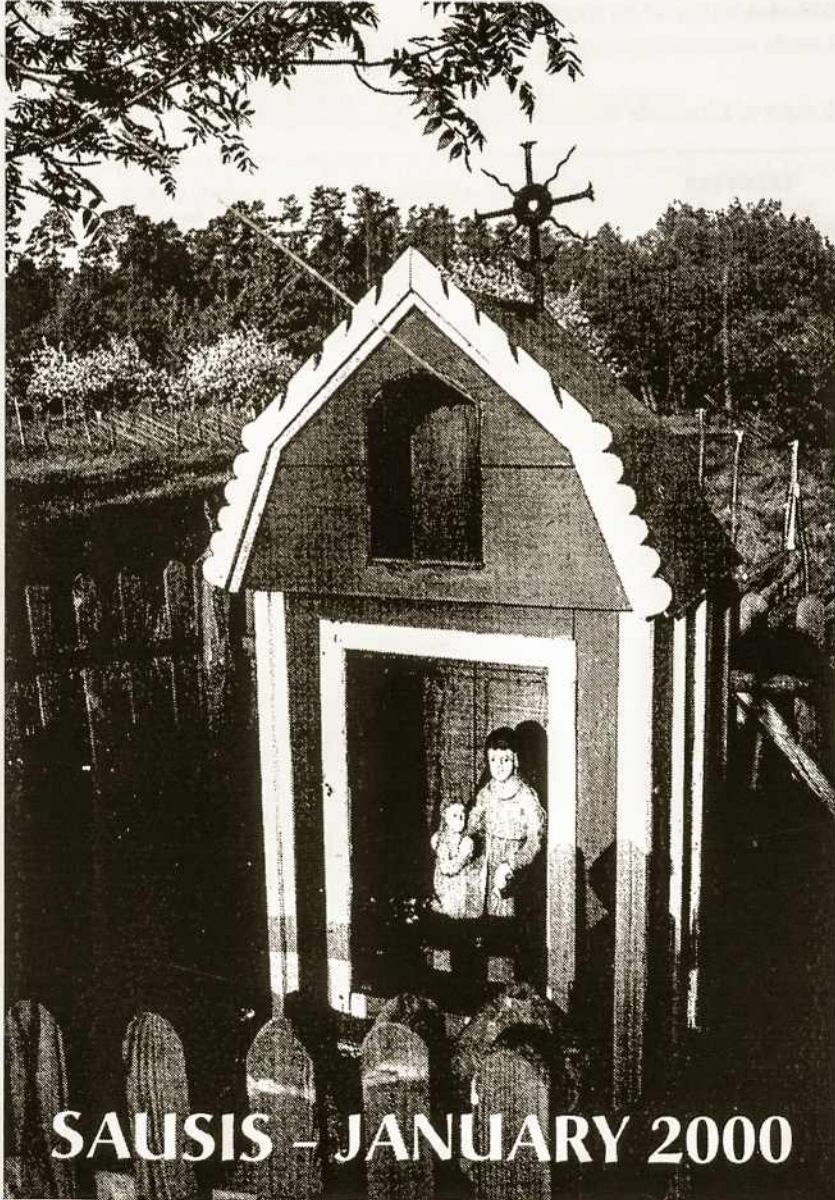


**Y T I S**



*Volume 86 No. 1*

**THE KNIGHT**



**SAUSIS - JANUARY 2000**

# Vytis- The Knight

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(215) 739-3102

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(937) 236-1260  
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(773) 476-5135

## TREASURER

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## FINANCIAL SECRETARY

Mark H. Bell  
1224A 7th Avenue, North  
Nashville, TN 37208-2606  
615-256-3790  
Mhvarpas@aol.com

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### VYTIS - The Knight - STAFF

**Editor:** Maryte Abbott

**Send all editorial and district/council news  
correspondence to:**

M. Abbott - VYTIS - The Knight  
P.O. Box 1934  
Grand Central Station, NY 10163-1934

**Editorial:** tel/fax (718) 937-3352

**E-mail:** vyteditor@juno.com

**Layout and Design:** MBA Designs

**Council News Editor:** Becky Nakrosis Pataki

**Business Manager:** Mary Kinčius

**Send all change of addresses, subscription notices,  
greetings payments to:** VYTIS-The Knight

Business Manager - M. Kinčius

P.O. Box 32020,

Chicago, Illinois 60632-0020.

**Business:** tel. (773) 927-4990

**Knight of Lithuania Webpage:** <http://www.geocities.com/heartland/prairie/3802>

### TRUSTEES

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9326 High Meadow Dr.  
Allison Park, PA 15101  
(412) 364-1622

Paul Strolia  
20921 Barrington Ln  
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(312) 346-5275

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(908) 753-5636



### *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 1917.*

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## On the Cover:

Chapel near Žemaitija village at the Lithuanian national ethnographic museum.

## Dedication:

*From the prayer of His Holiness Pope John Paul II For the celebration of the Great Jubilee of the Year 2000 - "Father, grant that your Son's disciples, purified in memory and acknowledging their failings, may be one, that the world may believe. May dialogue between the followers of the great religions prosper. And may all people discover The joy of being your children. May the intercession of Mary, Mother of your faithful people, In union with the prayers of the Apostles, The Christian Martyrs, And the righteous of all nations in every age, Make the Holy Year a time of renewed hope And joy in the Spirit For each of us and for the whole Church."*

## *To My Fellow Knights*

When most of us were children, the year 2000 seemed impossibly far away, we never imagined the date being anything but 19XX. But here we are into a different set of digits and a brave new world. Because I am writing this before Y2K, as the new year has been coined, I am uncertain of any of the computer disasters and other problems that people predicted might happen. If indeed disaster has struck, our only hope is to pray that it can indeed be quickly rectified and we can continue with all the incredible progress that was begun in the last century. Some people were told to choose a sacred spot in which to celebrate the new millennium, other purists claim that the new millennium will not actually begin until 2001. In any event, the best one can wish for is good health, the rest will come with effort and work.

This is my sixth and final year as your VYTIS editor. Anyone interested in this fascinating and challenging position should contact myself or John Mankus (address on inside cover). My only recommendation besides computer literacy is that someone in the Chicago area should take over this position since our printers are located there, and it would be advantageous for the editor to personally interface with production and printing.



## **L e t t e r s** to the editor

### **CONVENTION PROTOCOL**

To the Editor:

Reading the Sept.-October issue of Vytis - on Council Delegates/Alt/Guest I noticed the name of Julie Kowarak missing from the list. I know that she attended all sessions because she was with me all the time and rode with me to the convention each day. On inquiring on learned that she signed in the first day and was told on other days she did not have to. Not being too familiar with the procedures of the convention she thought she did not have to sign in for every session. I know it is not the fault of those; at the registration desk. Is there anyway this can be corrected and let it be known she attended.

Respectfully yours,  
*Victor Stepalovitch C-3 Phila.*



### **MORE DEBATE ON THE LATIN MASS**

To the Editor:

Recently I had the opportunity to spend, some time with a group of Knights of Lithuania who were visiting St. Boniface Church in the diocese of Pittsburgh where the Latin Mass ("Tridentine Mass") is offered. I wanted to write in order to extend an invitation to all the Knights to attend this beautiful celebration of the Mass.

Many people seem to think that the celebration of the Mass according to rites prior to the changes of Vatican II is outlawed. This was never the case. There are many rites within the Catholic Church, most of them Eastern, or Byzantine, but even within the Western, or Latin, rite there have always been different forms of celebrating Mass. After the most recent changes in the Mass at the end of the sixties we all became familiar with the form of the Mass that is so widespread today, in English, with the priest facing the people. But the older form of Mass, which actually goes back almost unchanged to the sixth century, continued to be offered. In 1988, Pope John Paul II published a special indult to provide Catholics with the opportunity for the celebration of the Latin Mass as it had existed for many centuries. He asked for the support of the local bishops throughout the world for the reestablishment of this form of the Mass, "by a wide and generous application of the directives already issued by the Apostolic See for the use of the Roman Missal according to the typical edition of 1962."

This is precisely what we are doing at St. Boniface Church on the Northside, where every Sunday a Low Mass is offered at SAM and a High Mass at 11AM. We are grateful to Bishop Donald Wueri and to Fr. Lawrence DiNardo, our pastor, for their kindness in providing a beautiful church for us, and in helping in so many ways to assist our Latin Mass Community. Many people seem to think the Latin Mass is a bit of nostalgia for "old timers."

Nothing could be further from the truth. We have many young and large families, and teenagers and college students who come on their own. Lots of times young people have discovered the Latin Mass without the support of their families. I myself am only 45, so I have only very hazy memories of the Latin Mass from my childhood. It is a privilege to celebrate this beautiful, prayerful Mass, together with Fr. Thomas Murphy, and Fr. Eugene Dougherty, the chaplain of the Latin Mass Community. Each Sunday we have about 600 people in attendance at the two Latin Masses.

You are most cordially welcome to visit us and we hope that some of your members may want to become a part of our community. God bless you.

*Fr. Kenneth Myers  
St. Boniface Church, Pittsburgh PA*

#### WEBWATCH

To the editor:

You might want to put this website in VYTIS. It contains some very beautiful pictures of Lithuanian shrines from a recent trip to Lithuania. [www.connix.com/~mfk/karvelis/](http://www.connix.com/~mfk/karvelis/)

*Fr. Francis Karvelis, Southington, CT*

#### YOU ARE NOT ALONE

To the editor:

Let us reflect upon our lives as we grow older. It's true that we are beings who have to remember ...phone codes, area codes, bank codes, date of birth, house address, social security - numbers galore to be remembered. However, we do not want to admit as we age, that a memory loss can be a sign of senile dementia. We lose sight, hearing and energy too. But, don't we expect some losses?

Age, hearing and energy seem to be the main attributes to the recent loss of membership in the Knights of Lithuania. How can we remedy this? BRING IN THE YOUTH.

Congratulations are extended to the Councils where Fran Petkus and Bernice Aviza coordinate a very active YOUTH. To these ladies and many others, a "Flying Banner" over their heads - "Ačiu" and may others follow you in your footsteps. The interest is great. Councils who are affiliated with church/school are asked to help replace our deceased and elderly members. We must continue to reign!

*Helen Matulonis  
C-110, Maspeth*

#### MOTHER MARIA KAUPAS

Gerb. Redaktore:

Aš jau seniai priklausau "Vyčiams" ir gaunu Jūsų gražiai išleista "VYTI".

Gegužės mėnesį buvo jame parašyta ir apie Pažaislį. Labai gerai. Tiktai tenai niekur nebuvo paminėta Šv. Kazimiero seserų įkūrėja MARIJA KAUPAITĖ.

Siunčiu Jums paveikslėlį su žiniomis apie Ją ir prašau taip pat atspausdinti "VYTYJE".

Su geriausiais linkėjimais ir pagarba,

*Grožvyda Giedraitis  
Chicago, IL*



"There is no limit to the good you can do, if you don't care who gets credit for it." -Mother Teresa



## Official News... Y2K Dues

Just a reminder that now is a great time to pay your council financial secretary dues for 2000. If they are not received by the National Financial Secretary by March 31 2000, your name will be dropped from the Vytis mailing list. Additionally, if not paid by June 30 2000, you will be dropped from the organization.

We are currently computerizing the Knights of Lithuania membership records, and keeping to this schedule will make the process more efficient, error-free and beneficial to all Vyčiai.

**Mark H. Bell  
Nat'l. Fin. Sec.**

# Rebuilding a Village Church in Lithuania

by Fr. William Wolkovich-Valkavičius  
pastor of St. George, Norwood, Massachusetts

Paul Rogers of St. George Parish in Norwood, Massachusetts, is a member of whom our parishioners are quite proud. Why? Let this interview tell the story.

**Q.** Since you are not of Lithuanian heritage, why did you become interested in restoring a lost church in Lithuania?

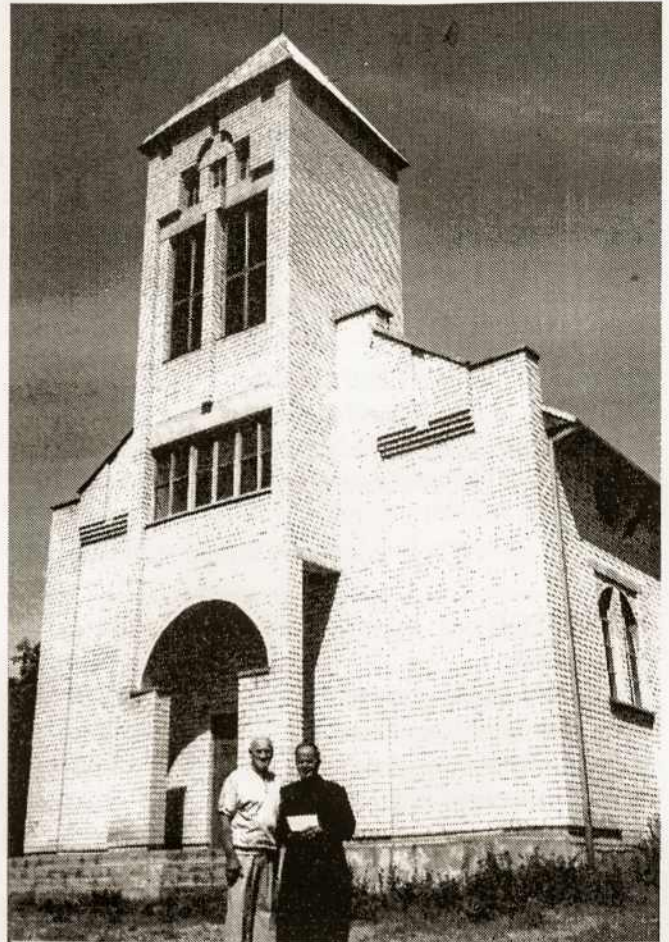
**A.** The mother of my wife Blanche (now deceased) came from St. Monica Parish in Ryliškiiai, a village about 100 kilometers, southwest of Vilnius on the Nemunas River, within some twenty kilometers of the Polish border. In 1979, my wife and I, accompanied by my teenage grandsons visited there. Staying two weeks in Ryliškiiai, I became interested in the history of the church ruins, about 50 kilometers from the family farmhouse. The church had been set afire on a night in the 1940s - "Soviet Constitution Day." - After a meeting in the village school, a gang of unruly Reds proceeded to the church and ignited it with a torch. They then stood by until the building burned down to the ground, meanwhile preventing any parishioners' attempt to quell the flames. As soon as Lithuania recovered its freedom, I was determined to help rebuild a new St. Monica as a gift in memory of my wife.

**Q.** What did the scene look like at the outset?

**A.** It was a bizarre sight. After a half century, a group of birch trees had sprung up out of the cellar remains. The original stone steps had survived intact. As a focal point of dedication at the beginning, we erected a hand-hewn cross, fashioned by a local wood craftsman. To hoist the cross upright, my grandson Kevin and I lent a hand to about ten villagers.

**Q.** Is there something in your background that equipped you for this task?

**A.** I had a variety of skills to offer from my



*Paul Rogers and Fr. Stanislovas Stankevičius  
at the new St. Monica Church in Ryliškiiai*

experience as cabinet maker and expertise in construction. A native acted as Clerk of the Works as overall supervisor.

**Q.** How did you manage to proceed?

**A.** In 1990, word circulated that the church could be rebuilt without fanfare, chiefly by volunteers - with no help from civil authorities or solicitation of money from America. Without publicity, excavation began that year, relying on plans drawn up by an engineer from nearby Alytus. In the summer of 1991, the foundation was prepared Soviet style, i.e., no poured concrete into forms as done in the United States. Instead, huge cement blocks - about 5 feet long, 3 feet wide, and 3 feet high, were put in place with the use of

farm tractors, ropes, pulleys, and just plain manpower. Late that summer and into early fall, erection of bearing walls began, consisting of white cement blocks - 8 inches long, 4 inches wide, and 3 inches thick.

**Q.** Did you have access to much equipment?

**A.** Very little by the way of power tools. For the most part, we had to get by with hand instruments. We did have an electrically-powered cement mixer that could handle two bags of cement and a proportionate amount of sand to mix mortar for the brick layers. The fine sand for the mortar mix was screened by hand from local gravel pits. The major progress came on weekends when a few professional brick-layers were on hand, aided by a number of farmers and amateur brick layers. The adult farm hands recruited their teenage sons. Sometimes as many as 20 to 40 laborers formed the pool. On weekdays, the number fell to half or fewer, as we carried bricks, sifted sand, mixed mortar, erected staging and scaffolding.

**Q.** How many trips did you make to Ryliskiai and for what duration?

**A.** All told, I spent approximately a full year, spread out over three summers.

**Q.** When was the restoration completed?

**A.** By summer of 1994 the interior was done, with the installation of pews. Outside, there remained some grading and planting of shrubs and floral trees, thanks to a donation from the K. of L. Council-27 of Norwood. The edifice walls are in white cement brick (heavier than common in the USA). There was no iron or steel used in this construction. The lintels over the doors and windows are concrete. Interior walls are of plaster over the bricks, with a concrete floor. Wood (quite expensive in Lithuania) is used for the altar, confessionals, and pews. The roof trusses of wood from local forests are covered with boards (plywood sheeting was not used here at the time of construction), with a protective covering of galvanized tin. Typical of village churches, there is no heating system. The villagers' faith must warm not only hearts but bodies as well! Two wooden outdoor privies testify to the lack of indoor

plumbing.

**Q.** What about the dedication and reconsecration ceremonies?

**A.** Even before the work was entirely finished, anxious worshipers gathered in 1993 in the structure, still lacking kneelers and pews. Women brought chairs from homes for the bare cement floor. Most participants stood anyway. The altar floor of stained finished planks of native hard pine lent an air of accomplishment. The head of the diocese of Kaišiadorys, Most Rev. Juozas Matulaitis, presided, flanked by dignitaries - both clergy and laity. I was among the honored guests, speaking through a relative who acted as interpreter. Beaming among the participants was the church administrator, Fr. Stanislovas Stankevicius.

**Q.** Did you manage to learn some Lithuanian?

**A.** The project called for brawn and "savvy" but not much talk. I got by with smiles, gestures, and a few words here and there.

Thank you very much for giving the readers of VYTIS some incentive to "go and do likewise," as Jesus taught us.



## IN MEMORIAM

<b>Edmund Carlitus</b> November 8, 1999 C-144 Anthracite, PA	<b>Blanche A. Zeidat</b> Nov. 16, 1999 C-152 E. Long Island
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<b>Albina Niewierowski</b> October 24, 1999 C-110 Maspeth	<b>Pauline Sutkus</b> November 16, 1999 C-36 Chicago, IL
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<b>Julia Troiano</b> September 17, 1999 C-110 Maspeth, NY	<b>Stanley J. Malinauskas</b> Nov. 17, 1999 C-152 E. Long Island
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<b>Zeno Yokshas</b> Nov. 9, 1999 C-19 Pittsburgh	<b>Rest in Peace</b>
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*Profile*

# Archbishop of Vilnius Audrys Bačkis

In the May-June 1999 issue of "TEESIE" a monthly publication of Vilnius "Šv. Juozapo kunigu seminarijos", an article about Archbishop of Vilnius Audrys Bačkis outlines an interesting youth.

In the interview for the paper, the archbishop in his own words points out that in his boyhood he was a little bit of a trouble maker. He got involved in fights since he was strong and always tried to be the winner. A great friendship existed with his brother who was 2 years older but being boys, they did get into fights.

"Although in front of our parents we were very united, that is, if one of us got punished the other brother often expressed concern about the punishment," he added.

"Once I cut the electrical cord, put one end in a glass of water and poured salt in the glass until the electricity ceased to work in my room and also the whole house. I just wanted to make sure that what my physics teacher was telling us was true."

"One of my fingers which I cannot fully extend I injured already being a priest. This happened in 1974 when I came to Washington to visit my parents. The area in which they were living was not very safe. One time when I came to the house and started packing there was nobody in there house. As I opened up one drawer I found something that looked like a small door handle. It was a small pistol. Taking it into my hand and inspecting it, I shot myself in the palm. There was a need for several operations. Until the ambulance arrived I wiped all the blood stains off the walls."

"I started playing tennis in scout camps. In the camps we played soccer, volley ball and even boxing. Tennis was a very elite sport because you had to have your own racket and also pay for the use of the court. I only started playing tennis on a more organized level



when I was already a priest."

The article also mentions that the archbishop in his youth

liked serving mass. Having finished high school it appeared that he had expressed interest in studying engineering. He started studying mathematics but all of a sudden changed his interest and decided to study for the priesthood. It appears that that the interest to become a priest always existed from early childhood. In an essay that he wrote for a school assignment his theme of was "I want to be a priest who is in charge of other priests".

Upon joining the seminary, he had both very happy and sad moments. Sad moments were when students in the seminary lacked enthusiasm for prayer, studies and completion of various assignments.

"It is as if they were waiting for somebody to point them in the right direction. What brings me happy moments is that there are youngsters who upon joining the seminary hear and listen to the call of God and very seriously prepare for all the duties of the priesthood."

The archbishop has a doctorate in canon law, can freely speak in nine languages and has also served as papal nuncio to Finland before being appointed the duties of archbishop in Vilnius.

Sister Zita CR, editor of TEESIE was very grateful for the openness of the archbishop in sharing his road to the priesthood and also for the insights which he shared with her and the readers.

*Translated by Fr. Vytas Volertas*



## Candidate for Honorary Membership

### Rev. Peter A. Shakalis

### N.E.D. Spiritual Advisor



The following activities outline some of Rev. Peter A. Shakalis' past activities in the Knights of Lithuania, in the various parishes Divine Providence sent him.

During his seminary days, Fr. Shakalis was involved in reorganizing the Knights of Lithuania in Cambridge when in about 1944, Dr. Pauline Lazackas M.D. and Father held meetings with about 19 members in the Austin Bowling Alleys on Austin St. Cambridge. The council was able to use a room there rent free since her father was part owner. The parish hall was not available on weekdays.

After Ordination in 1947, Fr. Peter was sent to St. Francis, Lawrence, Ma. where he met Mykolas Norkunas who immediately approached him about reactivating the K. of L. council. The council was very successful under his capable and inspiring leadership. They had enough members to stage plays among which was "Snipnystis" a comedy, the "Upper Room" by Robert Hugh Benson, a play depicting Christ's Passion and death and a Musical "April Showers" These events implemented our treasury. Mykolas Norkunas and Fr. Shakalis became very close friends until Norkunas' death.

When he was transferred to St. George's, Norwood, Ma., he found a very active Council with very many members. There with others he organized a Junior K. of L. with John Chervokas as president and had a large membership of about 75 Juniors and a baseball team in the Little League.

When transferred to St. Joseph's in Lowell, Ma, the K.of L. was quickly organized the because there was an enthusiasm for Lithuanian activities among the parishioners.

In 1965, Fr. Shakalis returned to St. Francis as Pastor and continued to encourage the K.of L. in all

their activities being present at all their meetings.

Then in 1970, he was

appointed Pastor of St Casimir, Brockton, Ma. where he found a very vibrant K. of L. and for twenty years was very supportive of their enthusiasm in keeping the Lithuanian traditions alive.

Several years ago Fr. Sahkalis was appointed New England District Spiritual Adviser where he strove to be as effective as possible by being available and participating in all K.of L. activities.

While stationed at St. Joseph's Church in Boston, he was Chaplain of the Suffolk County Jail on Charles St. in Boston, Mass.

For nine years he had served as Newman Club Chaplain of the Massachusetts General Hospital School of Nursing. During these years he was assigned as assistant to the Chaplain of the Massachusetts Senate and the Boston City Council whose duty was to open each session with a prayer.

His Eminence Richard Cardinal Cushing appointed Fr. Shakailis as Spiritual Director of the Brockton -Plymouth Holy Name Societies.

In both 1984 and in 1994 he was awarded the Clergy Award by the Archdiocese of Boston Holy Name Society.

In the summer of 1993 he spent his vacation with twenty two American University Students who voluntarily devoted four weeks of their summer vacation to teach the English language. Fr Farrell and Fr. Shakalis taught Catholic doctrine, celebrated Mass and heard Confessions for 175 High School students, the boys camp at Berciunai and the girls camp at the

Cathedral High School in Panevežys.

In 1994 he worked with the University Students with boys at Anuksciai, Svedesai and the girls camp in Silelis.

In 1995 he continued the same work with the boys camp in Berciunai and the girls camp in Sedliva

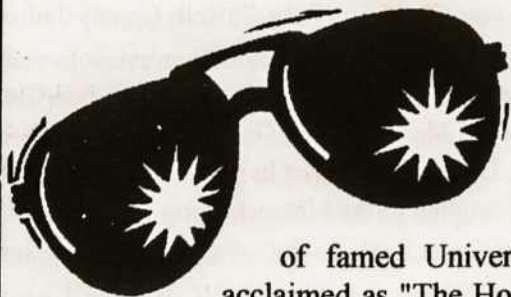
In 1996 the boys camp was in Berciunai and the girls camp was in Silelis. In 1997 he worked with the High School students from Great Britain who camped at the Ciurlonis Institute in Vilnius.

In 1998, he was stationed at the cultural Institute on Jogailo gatve in Vilnius. In 1999, he preached at a retreat for the Dievo Apvaizdo Sescrys in Panevezys. During those years he resided at Sv. Petro ir Sv. Povilo klebonija and assisted the priests in celebrating Mass as well as spending some time hearing confessions. Fr. Shakalis said he had enjoyed every moment for the people were so hospitable and famished for religion.

The reason for this ambitious venture was to assist the Lithuanian youth, in acquiring a facility in the English language which is an International language. This is necessary for commerce and business and offers vast opportunities for their future dealings with the Western Industrial Nations. The instructions in the Catholic Faith teaches them the fundamentals of living a Christian life and helps restore the moral values which were denied them for the past 50 years of Communist persecution.

Fr. Shakalis spent five months in Lithuania during which he was in charge of Sv. Jukubo ir Philypo Church and Hospital for a month while Fr. Grigaitis O. P. made a pilgrimage to France.

"I am most grateful to Almighty God for the opportunity to serve our wonderful Lithuanian people," he added.



**Mark Your Calendars for Sunny California!**  
Knights of Lithuania Convention  
Los Angeles, July 27 - 30, 2000

**Where we'll be staying: the Sheraton Universal**

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*Watch for news and updates on this most exciting event in next month's VYTIS.*

**K of L Foundation Essay Contest Winners  
Honorable Mention**

## **What My Lithuanian Heritage Has Done For Me**

*Natalie Palladino  
C-24, Chicago*

For as long as I can remember, my mother has been influencing the Lithuanian culture upon me. That meant always speaking to me in Lithuanian, giving me the opportunity to attend Lithuanian Saturday School followed by Lithuanian Scouts, preparing an assortment of Lithuanian meals, always making it a Lithuanian Christmas, taking me to Lithuania, driving me to the Knights of Lithuania Vyčiai Dancing, and of course involving me in the Knights of Lithuania.

With every Lithuanian organization or activity I've belonged to or associated myself with, I can say I've learned and experienced something new at every gathering. Whether it was the Knights of Lithuania conventions, Lithuanian scouts, Lithuanian basketball, or even Christmas. It's these experiences that will never be forgotten. It's these experiences that my non-Lithuanian friends will never experience.

I can't help but feel a little sorry for my non-Lithuanian friends. Only because I think I've gained so much from the Lithuanian culture and its organizations. The great times I've had fund raising for the Knights for Lithuanian Juniors, going to the space museum at the Knights of Lithuania convention in Washington D.C., going to the underground cave at the Knights of Lithuania convention in Dayton, Ohio. Lithuanian Scouts has taught me so much about Dieva, Tevyne and artima. The songs at the campfires and the night games are all part of the fond memories that will always be cherished.

Despite all the great times, it hasn't been until



recently that I really started to appreciate everything that my mother has done to install the Lithuanian culture upon me. I am currently on a high school exchange year in Switzerland, meaning that I'm not anymore constantly surrounded by the Lithuanian culture. This exchange year helped me realize the significance, preciousness and the opportunities that my Lithuanian culture and language have to offer. I've also learned that every language and culture that is learned truly makes you wiser, more intelligent and

self-reliant. I must have heard that line a billion times before I realized it.

A lot of my friends in Switzerland have only one or two nationalities: French, Swiss, German or Italian. When I tell them that I'm Lithuanian, the first reaction is almost always "Lithuanian, hah?" Then I explain a little geography, history and then I usually end up saying a couple of phrases. At the end everyone has been like "Hey that's pretty cool." Two of my Lithuanian friends had come to visit me during Easter. I found myself wanting to speak Lithuanian with them. It was a great feeling to be able to communicate with them without anyone understanding. Laughing and reminiscing with them about times we've shared through Lithuanian Scouts and school. Our friendship is based on one common bond, our heritage.

The Lithuanian culture and heritage that I've acquired throughout the years will not be lost. I will instill these values and traditions to my children and grandchildren. I thank God that I've had the opportunity to experience my Lithuanian culture and its pride.



# Lithuanians *in the news*

## Amber Districts' Anna Helen McDonald and husband use wood scraps to make crosses sent around the world

At a table surrounded by wooden religious varying design and stature sits Anna Helen McDonald and her husband, Thomas F. Their dog, Puddles, looks on.

Boxes filled with crosses dedicated to saints, statues of Madonna with child - more woodwork than you can shake a stick at-mi the refurbished one-room schoolhouse that the McDonalds call home.

"We don't waste wood of any kind," said Anna Helen, brushing the sawdust from one of the crosses.

Their son, Brian, brings them any wood he can find. His newest haul is the old paneling from the sanctuary of St. John's United Church of Christ in Schuylkill Haven. "He's our wood picker," said Anna Helen affectionately.

What began as a hobby has proved something more for this retired couple, married 48 years, who have donated more than 250 crosses to churches and orphanages nationwide and overseas. It also sparked an interest in the country from which Anna Helen and Thomas find the most inspiration - Lithuania.

"It's a labor of love," said Anna Helen, who designs the crosses. Thomas does the woodwork.

Known in some circles as the "Lithuanian Irishmen,"

Their crosses travel internationally to Lithuania, Poland, Malta and England, among other places. From time to time, the McDonalds send some to the hospice.

"We've seen the hospice grow from the letters and pictures we receive from the children and the clergy," said Anna Helen, who keeps in contact with people of the hospice. Written in Lithuanian and English, "We love those letters," she said.

The McDonalds make crosses that range from the more elaborate Madonna and Angel shrines to more simple Wayside crosses. The most familiar is the Lady of Garbondal, Spain, better known as Our Lady of



Mount Carmel.

"We donated nine Madonna crosses to the St. Ambrose School (Schuylkill Haven), naming them 'traveling Madonnas' because one child from each grade got to take one home," said Anna Helen.

An award-winning poet, Anna Helen's work has been featured in numerous magazines and her poem, "Plea for Freedom in Lithuania," was broadcast over Radio Free Europe.

Thomas, a disabled Korean veteran, is a retired teacher and band director at Nativity.

*from Pottsville (PA) Republican by Jaime Blakeslee, 10/8/99*

## Pittsburgh's Lithuanian Sister Featured Nationally

The 12th annual national appeal for The Retirement Fund for Religious was made in most Catholic dioceses throughout the country the weekend of December 11-12 and was highlighted by a large poster with two pictures supplied by the Sisters of St. Francis of the Providence of God. One, with children shown playing, is from the archives of the order and the other is of Sister Mary Jaskel (Lithuanian name-Jaskelevicius).

Here's how Sister Mary was chosen for the picture. An official of The United States Catholic Conference asked Ginny Cunningham of Momingside to be project manager for this year's Retirement Fund for Religious. Ms. Cunningham had been involved in

preparing a brochure for the congregation for the past year and during that time, she viewed some of the archive photos. She saw a picture of Sister M. Augusta with a group of first graders and the picture appealed to her. She asked to use it and also requested one photo of one of the older Sisters to be shown in the poster. Sister Mary was picked.

Donations to last year's collection exceeded \$30.5 million which went to more than 500 religious institutes representing 42,177 senior members. Less than 4% of the proceeds went to promotion and administration.

Sister Mary was born in Philadelphia and she took her final vows in 1939. She has done many things: she has been a high school English teacher, a guidance counselor; a principal at St. Casimir's grade school and high school from 1962 to 1968; from 1976 to 1982 she was on the General Council of her Congregation and has visited Lithuania and Italy.

While teaching at a diocesan high school in Hartford, Connecticut, she became acquainted with an opening for a position as archivist for the Archdiocese of Hartford. In 1985 she applied and was hired. By attending workshops and conferences sponsored by various organizations of archivists, she learned



**Sister Mary Jaskel**

the procedures for processing and preserving archival documents and artifacts. Nine years ago she was appointed Archives Director at the Motherhouse and she has been busy since then working with records going back to 1922, the year when the order was founded. She is aided by Sister M. Beatrice Siratavic and Agne Bolshakov plus volunteers.

Sister Mary says that there is enough work to keep going for a lifetime and then some. Once organized, all details are entered into computers. There are vital community records including member lists, financial data, legal and church documents, deliberations made by the sisters' governing bodies and chronicles of individual sisters who live in the house. Then there are photographs, Lithuanian documents to be translated into English and all sorts of memorabilia. She has two rooms filled with data going back to 1922 plus two working rooms for preparing materials.

The Sisters of St. Francis of the Providence of God was founded in 1922 through the efforts of Fr. Michael L. Krusas, Chicago, and Fr. John J. Sukaitis and Fr. Magnus J. Kazenas, both of St. Casimir's Church, South Side, Pittsburgh. A 33-acre farm was purchased in 1922 for \$16,000. A Motherhouse was built and opened in 1925. Today, in the United States the order has 112 nuns and 70 in Brazil. For a period of

time, it provided health services in Ethiopia. In addition, the congregation sent three sisters to Lithuania for re-evangelization. Most of the sisters are of Lithuanian descent and there are about 80 retirees in the Motherhouse. When its school, the Academy closed, a day care center was opened and the second floor was rented to the Early Learning Institute set up for special education.

*-from the Pittsburgh Catholic 7/99 and the Lith. Citizen's Soc. Newsletter 10/99*



CHICAGO, ILL - Governor George H. Ryan sponsored a United Nations Day program in honor of the International Year of Older Persons 1999. The program included speakers from Illinois Department on Aging and United Nations Association. Over 200 people participated in the parade in international costumes representing more than 30 nations. The event took place at the James R. Thompson Center with over 1,000 in attendance.



# VIRGINIUS BARKAUSKAS

Alice Tully Hall

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**Sunday, March 12, 2000 6:00 PM**

**Works by Bach, Guillou,**

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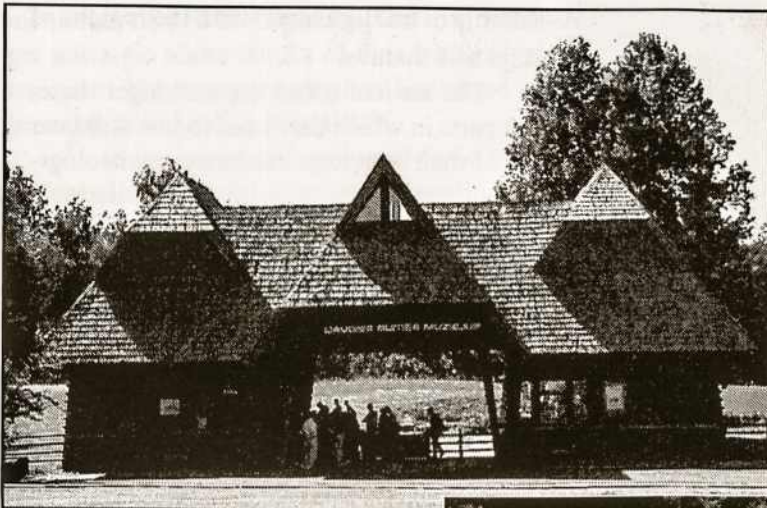
(212) 875-5050 Center Charge (212) 721-6500

\$35, \$25, \$20

**Virginus Barkauskas**, a Knights of Lithuania member of C-110 in Maspeth, NY, has performed throughout the United States and Lithuania as a guest solo organist. His notable performances include the National Cathedral of Saint Peter and Paul, the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C., St. Mary's Cathedral in San Francisco, California and the Cathedral of Mary Our Queen in Baltimore, Maryland. He has also appeared at Valparaiso University in Valparaiso and St. Joseph's College in Rensselaer, both in Indiana. Mr. Barkauskas was born in Lithuania in 1964 and began studying in a specialized music school at the age of ten. Having received a full scholarship from the United States Bishop's Conference, he completed his Master of Arts Degree in Music at St. Joseph's College in Rensselaer, Indiana. While there, Mr. Barkauskas studied under the renowned organist-composer Dr. Philip Gehring.

**The Consulate General of Republic of Lithuania and the Lithuanian-American Community, Inc are sponsoring this organ recital to commemorate the 10th Anniversary of the Reinstatement of the Independence of Lithuania. Donations are most appreciated to help defray the cost of this production and are tax-deductible.**

**Checks should be made out to: "Lithuanian-American Community" and sent to:  
Lithuanian-American Community c/o Kestutis Bileris  
84-19 108th Street,  
Richmond Hill, NY 11418**



*Rumšiškės*  
THE OPEN-AIR  
HOMELAND MUSEUM  
OF  
LITHUANIA



To remember and cherish our Lithuanian roots is probably one reason why this 172 hectare open air museum was built in 1966. Located near Kaišiadorys (between Vilnius and Kaunas), Rumšiškės depicts how Lithuanians lived from the 18th to the beginning of the 20th century.

We all have come from the green farmsteads in rural parts. Even if we are second or the third generation from those who tilled the land with a wooden plough, our roots are deep in the land of blooming meadows, blue lakes, clear rivers, rustling forests all steeped in the sweat of our ancestors. In ancient times this land was inhabited by Baltic tribes: the Curonians, the Seliai, the Samogitians, the Highlanders, the Yotvingians and the Lithuanians. At present there are only two sister tribes left - Zemaitija (Samogitia) and



Aukstaitija (The Highlands) with the regions of Dzūkija and Suduva.

The ancient tribes are no longer there, but the parts in which they used to live still bear marks of their previous existence: archeological monuments, dialects, folklore peculiarities, building structures, woven cloths and wood carvings. All these convey the atmosphere of the bygone ages. It is thanks to them that we witness such a variety of scenery and country life.

This plot of land of 1 76 hectares in area covered by old forests, deep gullies of brooks and hundred-year-old oaks has become home of thousands of ancient monuments of country life: woven cloths, furniture, household utensils and implements.

In no other place, however, can one find examples of house building structures - farm houses and outbuildings in which the Lithuanians used to live and work. Thanks to this particular quality this museum stands apart from others and is justly referred to as an open-air museum.

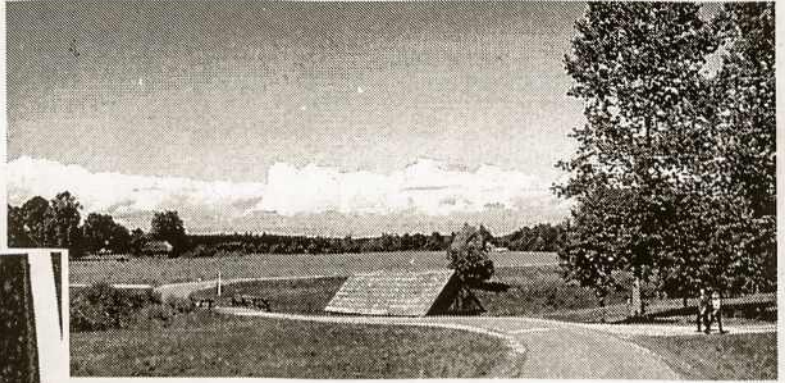
Today the most Lithuanians live in urban apartments. The younger generations do not even remember what the wooden structures once built by their ancestors looked like; all those farm houses, huts and cabins. Nor do they know much about the lives of their inhabitants. Knowing little or nothing about those people, we are nevertheless closely connected to them by historical and tribal ties. Most of us no longer have cherished





memories of our birth-places. One can hardly get nostalgic about blocks of flats built of grey concrete. The image of our lost homeland can be recaptured here in Rumšiškės.

In the past Lithuania used to be a land of forests. Lithuanian forests are mentioned in many songs and literary works. The forests



monuments of our old countryside and it is our duty to preserve them for the new generations. The museum has more than one hundred structures of this kind.

Each building moved to the museum is different from others. And each building is a kind of a representative of those that have not survived to this day. Buildings were different in various parts of Lithuania. Therefore each structure here, even if housing no exposition, is to be regarded as a significant object. Its size, decoration and general appearance were determined by the environment and the needs of the household. Poor peasants living in the Dzukija woodlands preferred their own type of building, while the inhabitants of the

provided building material and game, also honey, berries and mushrooms, as well as hiding and protecting the Lithuanians from their enemies. Many things for household use were made of wood. Therefore this museum can be considered as a museum of woodwork.

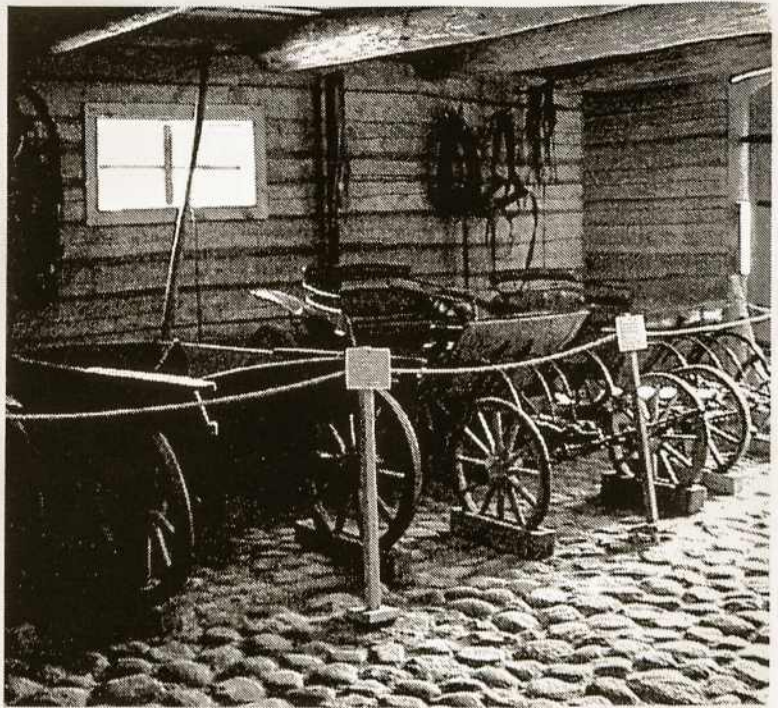
In fact the most important exhibits are the buildings themselves. In the course of decades many original old buildings were allowed to run wild or were simply destroyed. Nowadays you will hardly come across a well-preserved rural building dating back to the 19th century. The restored buildings transported to the museum from various parts of Lithuania seem to be the only ones to have retained their original appearance. They are the most valuable



Suvalkija and Zemaitija (Samogitia) had a style of their own. Naturally, reflected in those buildings were the talents of the masters and the traditions that had formed in the course of centuries. No doubt, the house of a well-to-do farmer looked different from that of a poor peasant at the edge of a village. The building of either type, however, polished and perfected by numerous generations is an example of folk tradition. Every such building is worth attention. The proportions of the buildings, the forms of the roofs, the decoration of windows and doors, beams and vaults, the way the logs were joined and the foundation material will present a lot of room for thought.

Buildings are grouped at the museum in the same way as they are grouped in farmsteads. It's quite natural, as each villager had a farmstead of his own. The restored farmsteads are made up of buildings from one particular region. The names of farmsteads show their original locality, too. For example, the Darbenai farmstead shows that it comprises buildings from that township,

Each farmstead is noted for not only its main



buildings, but also for the so-called small architecture, i.e. fences, gates, dogs' kennels, wells with sweeps, beehives, crosses or roadside poles with statuettes of saints. All these are re-constructed according to the traditions of that particular region. The same is true of the green

areas of the farmsteads, i. e. orchards, decorative trees, kitchen gardens and flower beds. There used to be isolated and village farmsteads. These are also represented at the museum. The exhibits of the museum furnish a possibility for the visitor to catch a glimpse of everyday life and the usual environment in various rural areas of Lithuania. In this respect it is not only the house that is important, but also the furniture, clothes, linens, dishes, implements, art and crafts. So these things are displayed in numerous buildings and farmsteads. They occupy places in which they have always been kept traditionally. Such expositions in an old authentic house create a realistic picture of the old Lithuanian countryside.

*from The Open Air Museum of Lithuania, by Vytautas Stanikūnas, Baltijos Aras, pub. 1999 and other sources* ♦♦♦



by Stephany Gutauskas

# ISVEIKATA

Humans have made beer and similar fermented beverages for several thousand years. Earliest written records indicate Mesopotamians brewed beer in 6000 B.C. In 4000 B.C., Egyptian kings, priests, and pyramid builders alike drank beer made from barley malt. About 2000 B.C., Babylonian King Hammurabi wrote laws governing the manufacture and sale of beer. Ancient Chinese, Indians, and Persians brewed beer from grain native to their countries. Ancient Greeks and Romans utilized a beer like substance as libation during sacred feasts honoring their goddesses of agriculture, Demeter and Ceres respectively. As hops were unknown to ancient civilizations, early cultures relied on sage, bog myrtle, ground ivy, or cedar to flavor their their beer. Generally speaking, in ancient times, the climate favored grape growing and wine making in the Mediterranean basin area, whereas more central and northern climes favored grain production and beer brewing.

In Christian times, monks, within their monasteries in many areas of Europe, built the first breweries. Monk-brewed beer was intended for consumption within monastery precincts, thus, the friars themselves, pilgrims, and other travelers who boarded within the monastery's guest rooms enjoyed monastic brew. Only a few monasteries brewed beer for outside sale or barter. Once the method for producing beer became more widely known, women, in rural areas, took over brewing beer for consumption in the home. Oftentimes, brewing and baking took place in the same kitchen. As time went on, brewing guilds began to appear in urban

areas, and these guilds produced beer for consumption by the masses living within the city.

Several discoveries were important to brewing history. The first was the discovery, at the beginning of the 16th century, that hops utilized in the brewing process not only improved the aroma and flavor of beer' they also helped retard its spoilage. The longer a beer remained fresh, the greater the distance it could be transported. This meant brewing could become a profitable commercial enterprise via trade with distant cities and countries.



The second discovery was steam power which ran some of the machinery of the early Industrial Revolution. Steam-driven machines could grind grain, mix mash and heat kettles faster and more uniformly than humans, thus more product could be produced with less manpower. Beer making moved out of the cottage and expanded into factory-sized breweries where production volume increased dramatically. In 1875, Louis

Pasteur was responsible for the third discovery—that bacteria caused fermented beverages to spoil. Pasteur's development of pasteurization, a process in which fermented liquids are heated, via steam, and kept for a certain time at temperatures (150-170 degrees F) sufficient to kill bacteria, greatly improved the quality and potability of beer. Emil Christian Hansen, a Danish biochemist, was responsible for the fourth discovery—that certain yeasts were detrimental to the fermentation of beer. Hansen developed the first pure lager yeast culture, in 1883, which met with immediate success when it improved the quality of the beer made at the Carlsberg Brewery in Copenhagen. Within a decade, breweries around the world were buying up the pure yeast strains produced by Hansen.

Historically, brewing in Lithuania dates back to the 11th century. As in western and central Europe,

monks' beer brewed in monasteries and alewives' beer brewed in the cottage kitchen eventually gave way to beer produced by commercial breweries.

In Lithuania today, the largest breweries are Kalnapilis, established in Panevėžys in 1902; Švyturys, established in Klaipėda in 1784; Utenos Alus, established in Utena in 1977; Ragutis, established in Kaunas in 1853; Vilniaus Tauras, located in Vilnius; and Gubernija, established in Šiauliai in 1786. The major breweries produce about 50 different brands of beer, both light-colored and dark with consumers preferring the paler-colored beers. There are also about 300 regional breweries which produce dark "village beer" chiefly in the northern region of Biržai as well as in other regions of Lithuania. Most Lithuanian-brewed beer is consumed in Lithuania. Very little is exported. Kaliningrad, at one time, was the chief foreign market, but stiff excise taxes dried up the Russian demand. Currently, Latvia is the major importer of Lithuanian beer.

While Lithuania was still a part of the U.S.S.R., Soviets invested in vodka distilleries rather than in beer breweries located on Lithuanian soil; thus, when vodka plants were getting modernized, many Lithuanian breweries were producing beer with old, outdated equipment. During 1970-90, one major brewery, Kalnapilis, replaced virtually all of its old equipment and modernized its operation, but Kalnapilis was the exception rather than the rule.

At the time of independence in 1991, the majority of Lithuanian-produced beer was of low quality. In some bars and restaurants, waiters watered down beer before serving it to patrons. Also, at that time, little campaigning was done to advertise Lithuanian beer products. As a result, foreign competitors, with breweries run with modernized equipment and advanced technology, were able to offer quality beer to Lithuanians at a reasonable price. In 1992, imported beer had captured 35% of the Lithuanian market.

Foreign competition galvanized Lithuanian

breweries into action. In the 1990's, foreign investors merged, with a few Lithuanian breweries, as was the case with Kalnapilis' 1994 merger with Baltic Beverages Holding consisting of two northern beer-producing giants, Sweden's Pripps Ringness and Finnish Hartwell, or they gained controlling shares in the stock and ownership of a few Lithuanian breweries, as was the case with Estonian investment fund Hansa Investments and Baltic Beverage Holding's buying 51% of the shares and control over Utenos. With new capital, Lithuanian breweries, whether foreign controlled or not, were able to renovate, modernize plants and equipment, apply technology (for example, advances in the glass industry aided production of beer bottles that weighed less yet were more breakage resistant), and improved the overall quality of their beer. Quality of Lithuanian-brewed beer improved so much in the 1990's that foreign-brewed beer dropped to 3.5% of market share in 1997.

With foreign mergers or takeovers of several Lithuanian breweries, there also came some alteration in beer recipes.

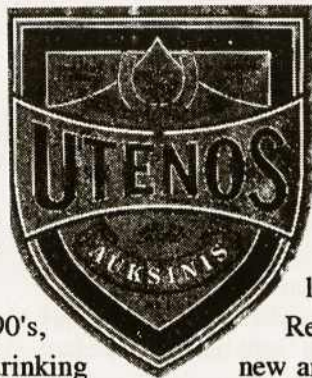
Kalnapilis' beer-brewing formulas changed when it merged with Baltic Beverages Holding. Hagutis also changed its recipes after obtaining a license from Pilsner Urquell of Pizen, the Czech Republic, to produce the Gambrinus brand of beer.

As Švyturys is the only large Lithuanian brewery existing today which does not rely on foreign investment to run its operation, it still retains its own formulas and manages to produce a distinctive Lithuanian beer. On the whole, it seems that Lithuanians are slowly losing the unique taste of true Lithuanian beer which Audrius Vidžys, Vice President of the Lithuanian Brewers' Association, describes as "a little more sweet than than foreign beers because it is less fermented, and some sugar still remains in it; it has more body." Lithuanian beer typically contains about 20% sugar, foreign beers about 10%.



In the 1990's, Lithuanian breweries discovered the importance of advertising and promoting consumption of Lithuanian beer, and they began aggressive marketing campaigns. In recent years, Vilnius played host to biannual beer festivals, similar to the Herman Oktoberfest, which introduced thousands to the virtues of Lithuanian beer. In 1998, Kalnapilis conducted, the first Beer School seminar in Lithuania to provide unbiased information about beer, in laymen's terms, to the public and to promote beer drinking among Lithuanians.

Gradually, throughout the 1990's, Lithuanians have changed their beer drinking habits. Under the Soviets, it was considered bizarre when a Lithuanian woman drank beer in public. In the late 1990's, it is common to see women sipping beer in bars and restaurants. Furthermore, Lithuanians slowly changed their attitude toward beer. No longer a workers' drink, beer became in the Lithuanian mind, everyman's drink. With patriotic fervor, Lithuanians were increasingly becoming discriminating in their taste for and consumption of Lithuanian-brewed beer. Yet, in 1994, when the Lithuanian government first imposed an excise tax on beer, beer consumption decreased, from 1996 to 1998, when excise tax remained stable, Lithuanians increased their beer consumption.



Throughout the decade, with 63% of consumers drinking bottled beer in the home as opposed to nearly 27% imbibing beer drawn from kegs in bars and restaurants, the demand for bottled beer rose. To satisfy consumer demand, the large breweries began running at or near full capacity.

In 1997, local beer sales increased by 20%, and all Lithuanian breweries showed a profit. In the early 1990's, per capita beer consumption among Lithuanians was 32 liters; in 1997, it stood at 44 liters. Renovation, modernization, introduction of new and advanced technologies, extensive advertising, consumer education, a stable excise tax, and an increasingly chauvinistic taste for Lithuanian-made beer have all contributed to making the beer industry a vital part of Lithuania's modern economy during the past decade and will most likely continue to do so in the future.



*Editor's note: Lithuanian beer has won awards in many European beer tasting contests, the latest was held this past fall in Germany.*

*"Lithuania is a beer drinkers paradise", quoted a group of American tourists visiting Vilnius this past summer.*



### **Smiles without Wrinkles**

*This humor is from the files of the long time comedian, Joey Adams, who recently passed away.*

**AUTOBIOGRAPHY:** An unrivaled vehicle for telling the truth about other people.

**CABBAGE:** A vegetable about as large and wise as a man's head.

**EGOTIST:** An individual more interested in himself than in me.

**FASHION:** A form of ugliness so intolerable that we have to alter it every six months.

**HOLLYWOOD:** A place where they

place you under contract instead of observation.

**HOPE:** The feeling you have that the feeling you have isn't permanent.

**INCOME TAX RETURNS:** The most imaginative fiction written today.

**LIBERATED WOMAN:** One who has sex before marriage and a job after.

**LOVE:** An ocean of emotions entirely surrounded by expenses.

**MONEY:** It is good for bribing yourself through the inconveniences of life.

**MURDERER:** One who is presumed to be innocent until proven insane.

**NARCISSIST:** Someone better looking than you.

**OLD AGE:** When you've met so many people that every new person you meet reminds you of someone else.

**POLITICAL HISTORY:** Far too criminal a subject to be a fit thing to teach children.

**PSYCHIATRY:** The care of the id by the odd.

**SCHIZOPHRENIA:** A condition in which you never have to eat alone again.

**TRADITION:** What you resort to when you don't have the time or money to do it right.

# Lithuanian Chefs



## Award Winning Suppers

by Anna Helen McDonald

### HAM-CHICKEN BAKE WITH YAM BISCUITS

Republican Cook- Off winner 1987 - 2nd place winner

1/2 cup chopped onion  
 1/2 cup chopped celery  
 1/4 cup butter or margarine  
 1/4 cup enriched flour  
 1 1/2 cups chicken broth  
 1 1/2 cups light cream or milk  
 2 cups diced cooked or canned ham  
 2 cups diced cooked chicken  
 1 3 oz. can (2/3) boiled sliced mushrooms, drained  
 1 teaspoon poultry seasoning  
 1/2 teaspoon monosodium glutamate  
 1/4 teaspoon salt  
 Dash pepper

Cook onion and celery in butter till tender but not brown; blend in flour. Stir in broth and light cream all at once; cook and stir till sauce comes to a boil. Add ham, chicken, mushrooms, and seasonings; heat through. Pour into greased 11 1/2" x 7 1/2" x 1 1/2" baking dish. Top hot mixture with yam biscuits. Bake at 350 degrees for 30 to 35 minutes or until biscuits are done and casserole is hot.

Preparation for the Yam Biscuits:

Combine 1 cup mashed cooked yams, 1/3 cup melted butter, and 1 beaten egg. Sift together 1 cup sifted enriched flour, 2 teaspoons baking powder, and 1/2 teaspoon salt; Blend into yam mixture. Drop by tablespoons around edge of hot casserole. Bake as above.

Makes 6 to 8 servings

### Chicken To Go Biscuit

1st Prize Winner - Poultry- division  
 Share your Recipe contest 1976  
 Pottsville, PA Republican

2 tablespoons butter or margarine  
 2 tablespoons flour  
 1/4 teaspoon salt  
 dash pepper  
 1/2 cup milk  
 2 cups cubed, cooked chicken  
 1 1/4 cups (5 oz) shredded cheddar cheese  
 1/2 cup (4 oz) chopped or sliced mushrooms ( drained)  
 1 can (9.5 oz) flakey refrigerated butter-milk biscuits  
 1 egg, slightly beaten  
 3 cups cornflakes crushed or 1 cup cornflake crumbs

In a medium saucepan melt butter, stir in flour, salt, and pepper until well blended. Add milk all at once. Cook about one minute until thickened, stirring occasionally. Stir in chicken, cheese and mushrooms; set aside. Separate biscuit dough into 10 biscuits. Roll or pat out each into 5 inch circles. Place about 1/4 cup chicken mixture on each biscuit circle; shape into stocks 4 inches long. Wrap dough around chicken mixture, pressing edges to seal. Dip rolls in egg then coat with crushed corn flakes. Place on ungreased cookie sheet. Bake at 400 degrees for 20 to 30 minutes until golden brown. Note: to make ahead, prepare cover and refrigerate up to 2 hours before baking. (Great for a picnic) serves 4 to 9 persons

### Stuffed Pork Shoulder

Winner- Republican Cook Off 1980- 1st Prize Winner

5 lbs. boneless, fresh, cushion pork shoulder  
 Poultry seasoning  
 Salt Pepper  
 1 recipe Sage Stuffing

Sage Stuffing: Toss together 4 cups dry bread cubes 1 cup chopped celery 1/2 cup chopped onion 1 1/2 Tsp. sage 1 1/2 Tsp. salt 1/4 Tsp. pepper; Add 1/3 cup melted butter, then just enough water to moisten. Mix lightly.

Rub outside of meat and pocket with poultry seasoning, sprinkle with salt and pepper. Lightly stuff with sage stuffing (cut larger pocket to hold more stuffing) Close opening with skewers and tie with cord. Place meat fat side up on rack in shallow roasting pan. Do not cover. Roast in slow oven, 325 degrees, about 4 hours or until pork is well done (no pink). Make gravy from pan drippings. serves 8

Note: This was my Granny's recipe; I modernized it a little. I had to figure measurements 'cause she used a "pinch" a "handful" and tell by "feel" if it's right. like Granny said.



Editor's note: Mrs. R.J. Chepega of Trenton NJ writes: Any good rye bread recipes out there? Also, soups? Q. What does "cream" mean in "cream the butter, sugar and eggs"? A. to mix the ingredients into a creamy-like consistency. Q. When a recipe calls for vanilla, but does not give an amount, how much should one use? A. One teaspoon or less, usually to taste. Readers are welcome to send recipes to to Chefs column to address of editor (See inside cover).

# District & Council News

## Amber District

Anna Helen McDonald

The Amber

District of the Knight's of Lithuania

held their fall meeting at St. Michael's Church, Easton, PA. A 10:30 a.m. mass was celebrated, followed by a luncheon in the Church hall, hosted by Lehigh Valley Council #63. The meeting was held immediately after.

Vice President Frank Petrauskas opened the meeting in the absence of President Dorothy Banos, who was ill. Pastor Rev. John Gravish gave a blessing. Council president Evelyn Harryn welcomed the Councils and thanked them for attending. Members of the St. Michael's Choir sang "Lietuva Brangi" - the second anthem of Lithuania.

Secretary Martha Winigaras and Treasurer Nellie Bayoras Romanas gave reports. National President John Mankus gave a talk and recited a Lithuanian poem. Trustee Eleanor Vaicaitis gave her report. A Convention Report was given by Nellie Bayoras Romanas containing many interesting details. The Mandate Committee gave their report - 7 Councils were present, 32 Delegates, 17 guests - a total of 49 attending.

The Annual Presidents' reports were given: Council 3, Philadelphia - John Mickunas; Council 63 - Lehigh Valley - Evelyn Harryn; Council 72 - Binghamton N.Y. - John Mankus; Council 140 - Syracuse, N.Y. - Frank Petrauskas; Council 143-Pittston - Gene Mehalick; Council



*C-144 Members Anna and Tom McDonald celebrated their 48 wedding anniversary*

144- Anthracite - Ann Wargo; and Council 146- Harrisburg - Joanna Gilbert

Eleanor Vaicaitis, Raffle Chairman, announced the District Raffle would be held March 12, 2000, at the St. Casimir's Church, St Clair, Pa., hosted by Anthracite Council 144.

Len Kapochas, Lithuanian Affairs, gave a report. His "hand-outs" were very informative and greatly appreciated.

Officers for the 1999-2000 term were announced:

President - Dorothy Banos; Vice President - Frank Petrauskas; Secretary - Martha Wynagaras; Treasurer - Nellie Bayoras Romanas; Lithuania Affairs - Len Kapochus; Lithuanian Culture - John Mankus; Trustees - Eleanor Vaicaitis and Elsie Kosminsky; Ritual - Diane Drumstas; Public Relations - Agnes Mickunas; Vytis Correspondent - Anna Helen McDonald; Historian - Thomas McDonald

After a closing prayer by Vice President, Frank Petrauskas, and the singing of the Lithuanian Anthem and "Vyciu Hymnas", the

meeting was closed.

A reminder, our St. Casimir's Day meeting will be held March 12th, 2000, at Saint Casimir's Church, hosted by Council #144. The day will begin with a 10:30 a.m. mass celebrated by Fr. Ronald Jankaitis, at St. Casimir's Lithuanian Church followed by a dinner in the church hall.

## C3, Philadelphia, PA

Victor Stepalovitch & S. Gutauskas

Council 3 members, John and Agnes Mickunas, Irene Ozalis, Lillian Greymas, Dianne Drumstas, Mary Bigenis, and Leonard Kapochus attended the Amber District Council meeting in Easton, PA, on October 10, 1999. John and Agnes Mickunas also attended a recent Supreme Council meeting in Los Angeles, CA. They were quite pleased with the gracious hospitality shown by actress Ruta Lee, whose home they visited while staying in California.

Our council initiated Lithuanian language sessions with Raymond Pukis as coach before the beginning of its October meeting. At that meeting, C-3 welcomed John Chernoski as a new member. Elections for executive officers and committee chairpersons were held with the following results: President, Irene Ozalis; Vice President, Agnes Mickunas; Treasurer, Walter Svekia; Financial Secretary, Alice Bacon; Recording Secretary, Ausra Maknys; Trustees, (1st) Lillian Greymas, (2nd) John Mickunas; Spiritual Advisor, Rev. Eugene Wassel, Ritual Chair; Irene Ozalis, Irene Svekia, Margaret Petronis; Culture Chair, Julie Kowrak; Sunshine Chair, Nellie Pandza; Lithuanian Affairs Chair, Leonard Kapochus; Vytis Correspondents, Victor Stenalovitch

# District & Council News



## C-140 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration

and Stephany Gutauskas; and Lithuanian Language Chair, Raymond Pukis. Msgr. Joseph Anderlonis administered the oath of office to the newly elected officers. After the meeting, Irene Ozalis held an organizational session to prepare for C-3's December kucios. In November, C-3 members attended 11:00 a.m. mass, at St. George Church and enjoyed bagels, cake, coffee, and tea after the service. At the C-3 meeting, a collection was taken up for Father Jakimavicius, who ministers to senior citizens and orphans in Runbonys, Lithuania. Leonard Kapochus reported there is high priority need for Tylenol and adult-size diapers (for example, Depend undergarments) in Lithuania. Agnes Mickunas reported that, in Lithuanian classrooms today, 6 students must share one textbook during their religious instruction, and there is great need to print more texts for such students.

After the meeting, C-3 members went to a Lithuanian Muge held at the Lithuanian Music Hall. This year, the Fair featured

two videos, "Discovering Lithuania," which provided general information about our favorite Baltic country, and "One World--The Baltic States," which covered Estonian, Latvian, and Lithuanian struggles for independence from the Soviet Union. There was also a small display of Lithuanian straw ornaments at the Fair. An instructor had patterns, needles, thread, and pre-cut straws on hand to encourage visitors to make their own ornaments to take home. The Zilvinas Dance Troupe provided lively entertainment that was immensely enjoyed by the audience. At the booths, some of the items offered for sale were Lithuanian woodcarvings, T-shirts, golf shirts, sweatshirts, books, videos. CD's, cassettes, juostas, terra cotta votive candleholders, amber jewelry, wooden Christmas ornaments, decals, flags, dolls, and greeting cards. Food items available included a variety of cakes, tarts, cookies, and baked breads, as well as babka, farmer's cheese, and ham. Platter selections included balandeliai, desros, and blynai. C-3

members all had a very good time at the Fair.

Congratulations to Victor Stepalovitch upon duplication of several of his recipes in the September/October issue of Vytis. Members of C-3 who have sampled Victor's cuisine can attest that he is an excellent chef.

Congratulations also go to Barbara Mickunas who recently announced her engagement.

Council 3 will be holding their Annual Kucios on Saturday, December 15th, at St. George's Church Hall. This will be the 15th year in which the Council has held this affair and all members are busy preparing for this occasion.

Some of our Council members will also be joining our National Spiritual Advisor Msgr. Joseph Anderlonis at St. George's Church Hall to welcome in the new Millennium on New Years Eve.

C-3 Members will be holding a Christmas Party at the Coastline Restaurant in N. J. Members will also be sharing gifts at this time.

## C- 140, Syracuse *Pusbrolis*

This past summer saw a lot of activity with C-140 members. Mary Margaret and Dan Petrick took a number of bus trips to various locations. They enjoy seeing new places and doing new things. When he isn't traveling, Dan is out on the golf course at pine Grove. He is a very avid golfer. Guy and Ellie Pagano also have done a lot of traveling visiting with their children in Boston and Georgia and then taking a recent trip to Europe. Not to be outdone brother Gerry Zutant toured Italy and then onto Rome for an audience with the Pope. Gerry is quite the golfer. In



# District & Council News

his life time he has had four hole-in-ones. This summer he has gotten 2 hole-in-ones in the same month. How do you like that for accuracy! Jack and Catherine Brandt are still very active with the retired Seabees and that requires a lot of traveling. They try to spend as much time as possible at their summer home in northern Vermont. Norman Klimas took a recent trip to Las Vegas to visit with his friend Mary.

Veronica Sutkus had open heart surgery during the summer. She has recovered nicely and is back in full swing. She had nice visits with a few of her sisters and her brother Joe. Now she is back to her favorite past time of bingo. Veronica does well with bingo. She wins more than her share.

We don't see much of Dawn Rudd lately as she does a lot of traveling. She and her friend just returned from a boat trip to Bermuda. Cassie Stanley and sister Ruth Hare just travel locally so we see them most of the time.

At our September meeting, Frank and Irene Petrauskas gave a glowing report on the Philly Convention. They gave high praises to the committee for conducting an excellent convention. We held our elections at this meeting and the entire slate of officers were reelected.

In October we celebrated our 25th anniversary as a council with a big party at Frank and Irene Petrauskas' condo. First some of us attended Mass at St. Stephen's church and later came the party. There was much food and drink and fellowship. Nobody went home hungry. We looked at the albums of pictures taken during our 25 years and we reminisced about our various past activities. Particularly our hosting the 63th National

Convention in 1978 when we were only 4 years old. Our 20 years of participation in the Festival of Nations when we would go through 11 bushels of potatoes in 2 days for our delicious potato pancakes. Our many years of participation with the Captive Nations in rallies, parades, protest marches, banquets, and proclamation signing each year with our Mayor and County Executive. We were and still are an active council.

It was good to see some of our long time members who don't get out much now. Coming in from New Hartford was Anne Guentert and coming in from Cazenovia was Vic and Helen Johnson. They were glad to be back with us. Katherine Cravetts at 91 years is still an active girl, still doing her own house work. She walks to St. Stephen's most every morning for morning Mass. Unable to attend was our long time member, Mary Zutant, who is in a nursing home.

We miss her singing. Oh how she loved to sing Lithuanian folk songs. Also unable to attend was Sara Yurkon who just doesn't grace us with her presence. Dawn Rudd was on a Cruise to Bermuda. It was a good party and we are looking forward to the next 25 years.

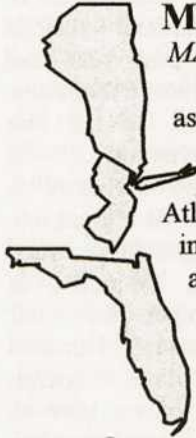
## C146, Harrisburg, PA

On Sunday, December 5, our annual Kucios was held at the East Shore Public Library in Harrisburg. Almost the entire membership attended with several guests. The dinner was great with many ethnic foods. All of the members brought a covered dish, which varied from fish to velnias kiausiniai, (deviled eggs). A big hit of the meal was a huge loaf of home made Lithuanian bread (at least 2 and a half feet in diameter and about

10 inches high) Not only was it enormous, but it was very SKANU. In fact it was so large that everyone attending was able to take a sizable piece home with them.

Among the guests were Ed Zemaitis' son, who recently retired from the U.S. Navy and his grandson who is home on leave from the Navy. He has just completed his training in Groton, Connecticut to serve on nuclear submarines.

A very short meeting was held and the distribution of the Christmas Gifts was achieved. The Kucios ended on a high note, and everyone left with the spirit of Christmas.



**MAD**  
MAD Notice

We are asking all Council Secretaries in our Mid-Atlantic District to immediately forward a complete listing (names and addresses) of their own council's 2000 Executive Board and Committees (even if they have not changed) to the Supreme Council National Secretary: Sr. Joanna M. Shainauskas, 6804 So. Washtenaw Avenue, Chicago, IL 60629-1826.

Also, please send a copy of this same listing to our Mid-Atlantic District Secretary: Mrs. Frances Jakatt, 77-10 Wildflower Court, Moriches, L.I., N.Y. -11955-2034. Thank you!

## C 29 Newark

Rita Sussko

LABAS!

Council 29

# District & Council News



*C-29 Exec. Board Members – (photo far left) Harold Kaminskas, Helen Radicsh, Elizabeth Luciw, HM Kazys Sipaila, Pres. Rita Sussko and Paula Paskas*

welcomed in the new season on September 5th, with our first meeting of the season. In July/August, HM Loretta Stukas, who also chairs the Honorary Membership Committee and the K of L Foundation, also Rita S. Sussko, who was National Financial Secretary for the past year and chaired the Mandate Committee, represented Council 29 at the National Convention in Philadelphia. Rita's successor is Mark Bell, who will do a great job. Our sincerest congratulations and best wishes to him. Council 3 of Philadelphia along with our National Spiritual Advisor, Honored Member Rev. Msgr. Joseph Anderlonis, really knows how to host a fantastic convention. For those unable to attend - sorry!

Nijole Miknevicious and Ada Andruska, our Council's Nominating Committee, presented their slate to for elections in October. The resulting officers are Spiritual Advisor, our dear Fr. Peter Uhde; President Kazys Sipaila; Vice President Harold Kaminskas; Recording Secretary Helen Radicsh; Financial Secretary Rita S. Sussko; Correspondence Elizabeth Luciw; Treasurer Paula Paskas; Trustees Ada Andruska, Danute Byliene, and John Sisak; Sergeants at Arms Vytautas Miknevicious and

Valentinas Tumelis; Ritual Chairperson Ann O'Neill; Lithuanian Affairs Vytautas Miknevicious; Lithuanian Culture Emilia Sadonis; Spiritual Programs Nijole Miknevicious; Sunshine Marie Guoba; and, VYTIS Correspondent Rita S. Sussko.

Our Annual Dinner and Dance was held on October 12th. Chairperson was Marie Guoba and Cocktail Hour Chairperson was Ann O'Neill. As we repeat each year, they, along with their hard working committee members did their usual excellent job. Joe Thomas provided the music and a good time was had by all.

On a sad note we lost two members, Agnes Dutkus and Joseph Krukauskas, may they rest in peace.

At our November meeting, we honored the 100th Anniversary of the death of Vincas Kudirka, composer of the Lithuanian Anthem. Our Cultural Chairperson, Emilia Sadonis, invited Danielius Sadauskas, soloist from the Lithuanian Philharmonic, who rendered melodies from the era of Vincas Kudirka and miscellaneous other composers and poets. Our happy news is that two of our longtime members, Vytautas and Irene Jadelis celebrated their 40th Wedding Anniv. Congratulations and we wish them many, many

more. A group of Council 29 members, along with our President, Kazys Sipaila, went to the LCCC in Kearny, NJ, to partake of the delicious Lithuanian Luncheon, which is served on the second Sunday of each month. In December we will also attend the Kujios. These meals are catered by our long time Council 29 members, Valentinas, and his lovely spouse, Regina Melinis.

## C100 Amsterdam, NY

### Reggie

At our October meeting, Sr. Roberta O'Rourke, Pastoral Associate of our parish at St. Casimir's Church, was welcomed. She was asked by our president Mirga Bablin to lead us in a prayer. An attempt to elect new officers failed, they remained mostly the same, with the exception of a new Secretary, Eleanor Olechowski; and new Cultural Chairman, Irene Tice.

Bernice Aviza and Ed Baranauskas asked for volunteers to work at the upcoming Festival of Nations in Albany. They received help from Gerry Drenzek, Polly Ziausys and Betty Kusmich. Mirga Bablin and Polly Ziausys attended the March MAD meeting in Newark, NJ, as delegates and gave us a report. Edward Baranauskas made it to the recent one in Kearny, NJ, and was elected chairman to the District Lithuanian Affairs Committee.

Few members from our

# District & Council News



**C-110's Halloween Party winners  
Anthony and Rita Ceremella**

council visited the May Festival of Nations in Schenectady, NY, and were seen at the Lithuanian booth - Polly Ziausys, Genevieve Gobis, Regina Kot and Eleanor Olechowski. Bernice Aviza and Ed Baranauskas served them with Lithuanian goodies from C-136. It was nice to see old friends from that council.

The "Gift to Lithuania" Conference, on Nov. 5 - Nov. 7, at the Key Bridge Marriott in Arlington, Va., was attended by Polly Ziausys and Bernice Aviza. The event was sponsored by the Lithuanian Human Services Council of USA, together with the Embassy of Lith.-American Community, Inc. Washington D.C. Chapter. The purpose of this conference was to summarize the work that was done, analyze what has and has not worked. Also, get information from individuals who have worked, and are continuing to work, for Lithuania's people providing humanitarian assistance.

At Saturday's reception at the Lithuanian Embassy, Polly recognized a familiar face, our

former Junior, and then regular K of L'er, from our council - Michael Mikolaitis. He lives near Washington, DC, and is very active in American-Lithuanian youth organizations. They exchanged many pleasant memories, and Mike asked about friends at his hometown.

Our officers Mirga Bablin, Regina Kot, Eleanor Olechowski, Sophie Olbie, and Gene Gobis are organizing a Christmas dinner-party. It will be held at the Raindancer Restaurant.

Many of our council members attended Jack Sweet's wake, who died on November 11, 1999. We will miss you, Jack.

## C110, Maspeth, Queens

We closed out the 75th Anniversary of our council's origin with a Halloween Dinner-Dance. Home cooked fresh Desros (Kielbasi), followed by tender roast beef type pot roast, along with all the side dishes, was prepared by our own John Klimas and served by C-110 waiters with black bow ties. Live music, as well as disco type music, was provided by member Joe Thomas and his associate. Best costume prizes were awarded to VAMPIRE AL, KING KONG TONY, BAD WITCH RITA, BIG HEAD VINNIE, FAIRY LOREN and GAMBINO JOE.

Care package shipments continued to be forwarded to the needy in Lithuania during October and November. Our 25th Kuljios will be over when you read this article happening on December 12th.

We continue to have a fine turnout of dedicated members to our monthly meetings, discussing our donations and events in Lithuania.

Watch future editions of the

Vytis for detailed information about the planned March 12, 2000; concert at Lincoln Center, by C-110 organist Virginius Barkauskas.

## C 136 Hudson-Mohawk

*Dorothy Richmire*

On Sunday, October 17, the Festival of Nations was held at the Empire State Plaza in Albany and the following were there to serve those that stopped at our booth; Bernice Aviza, Ed Baranauskas, Ed Barkowski, Sue Freer, Diane Hill, Bill and Bea Jasewicz, Shelly LeVine, Chick Rupsis, and Stella White. Also members of C-100 Amsterdam came to help and we thank especially: Polly Ziausys, Betty Kuzmich, and Jerry Drenzak. A great big Aciu to all. Due to their dedication and hard work, our Lithuanian food booth sold out completely and the arts and crafts did well also. In addition, there was plenty of interest shown in the Lithuanian house candles.

At our recent meeting we voted to meet on Sunday afternoons during the winter months. Therefore, our January, February, and March meetings will start at 1:00 p.m. on the first Sunday of the month. Our Lithuanian Independence Day Mass has been scheduled for Sunday, February 20, at Holy Cross Church.

Members are looking forward to our annual Christmas Dinner Party to be held on Sunday, December 5 at the Bayou Cafe.

Congratulations to Bea and Bill Jasewicz, who received their Fourth Degree at the Convention this past summer.

Ed and Virginia Barkowski took time out for travel to the southern states for a couple of weeks recently. Their granddaughter, Christine Ciarmello

# District & Council News

married Golden G. Richard on October 31, in New Orleans, Louisiana. Since it was Halloween, the guests were invited to come in costume. They all had a great time celebrating the event.



## MAMM C133, LOS ANGELES

Our December meeting of the Los Angeles Council of the Knights of Lithuania took place on December 11 at the home of Valerija and Larry Hale in Northridge. On Dec. 12 at noon at St. Casimir's Hall we celebrated our KUCIOS (CHRISTMAS EVE) luncheon and Christmas Party that featured Lithuanian holiday traditions, carols and a lottery. The spirit of Kaledos filled our hearts as we sang Lithuanian Christmas carols and shared holiday memories. A choir led us in song. Lottery gifts were appreciated. We had fun while helping others.

Please mail your 1999 dues (made payable to the Knights of Lithuania) to our Financial Secretary, Josephine Barzda, 147 A So. Peck Drive, Beverly Hills, California 90212.

Other recent events included Lithuanian artist Arunas Zilyis, Art Show at the BGH Galley, in Santa Monica; the Saturday School (Kaledy Eglute) Christmas Program, on Dec. 18 at St. Casimir's

Hall and numerous New Year's events.

Welcome to John Erikas Petras, first born child of Alicijia and Dennis Petras, born on August 29, 1999, a third generation knight. John's father is our council's treasurer. His proud uncle is Leonard Petras. John's grandparents were also very active knights.

Congratulations and best wishes to Vilia Variakojis and Joseph Chavit who were wed on September 25, 1999. The bride is daughter of members Aldona "Pukas" and Vidmantas Variakojis. Wedding bells will be ringing in July for Alina Gaidamauskas and Linas Venckus. The bride is a Lithuanian from Argentina.

Welcome New Members James Marcinskas and Thomas Shatas.

Please remember the following members in your prayers: Stella Audick, Dorothy Banos and Juozas Kaributas.

Deepest sympathy to Maryte Newsom on the passing of her brother, Petras Sandanavicius of New York City. Petras lived in Los Angeles for a time and was active in the Lithuanian Drama Club.

Thank you to Knights of Lithuania Supreme Council who held their first ever Supreme Council meeting in Los Angeles and participated in our Lithuanian Days. Thanks also to Ruta Lee and Webb Lowe who opened their hearts and homes and welcomed us with their Lithuanian hospitality and then some; to Annamaria Sluzas Berger and Faustas Strolia and the Strolia Family Band who sang and performed during Lithuanian Days; to Elena Sepikiene for all her krustai; to Debbie Hudson, Nicholas Hudson, Tony Dulkis, Stella Balesh, Cindy Castaneda, Onute Keblys,

Linas Sepikas and Sam Shepherd and all the other volunteers who worked our booth.

Thank you to Romas Jasiukonis for hosting our very wonderful autumn meeting and Octoberfest.

St. Casimir's Choir cordially invites all singers to join them. The choir is in special need of tenors. Please call Victor Ralys at (213) 664-2723.

Mark your calendars for July 27 - 30, 2000 when the Knights of Lithuania host the National Convention in Los Angeles at the Sheraton Universal Hotel in Universal City. It's a must go.



## C79, SOUTHFIELD, MI

*Bee Jay*

Our Council's 1999 calendar wasn't dotted with monthly activities or even bi-monthly. We are not happy to admit that age has taken its toll of our ranks.

After our annual Family Day Picnic in July, we looked toward the next date -Sunday, November 14. That is when our annual Fall Festival took place. After 10:30 AM Mass all committee members were at their assigned posts, waiting for the first wave of customers. We were kept busy - the "Basket of Cheer" raffle people, the 50/50 raffle ticket sellers. Bake Sale ladies, dispensers of kitchen goodies (specifically the delicious

# District & Council News



**C-96's Aaron and Kristy Geiger were recently married at Holy Cross Church with Fr. Michael Holloran officiating.**

Keller, John Kolinske, Violet Panavas, Frank Povilaitis and Helen Santorum. Some are confined in their homes, some are recuperating from surgery and others reside in nursing homes. The majority above were active members in our Council. Please remember them in your prayers.

We now turn our thoughts to St. Casimir's Day. Since it was voted to skip January and February meetings, we're hoping for a better participation at the March meeting.

## C 96 Dayton, Ohio

*Fran Petkus*

With the holidays almost behind us, there is much to be thankful for, our faith, sharing time with family and friends, and a new year with many surprises in store for us.

At our last meeting we had some additions to our council's board: Religious Committee Co-Chaired by Gary and JoAnn Thiele; C96 Parish Council /Sarysis Representative-Lauretta Pant; MCD Recognition Chair - George A. Mikalauskas. A committee that works in the background and is very special is our Telephone Squad. This committee calls the membership for special projects, reservations for functions, council wake services, etc. Chairing this committee is Joyce Berczely. On the Squad are Christine Fletcher; Ann Gitzinger; Joan Kavalauskas, Susan Keivel, Frances Mikalauskas, Lauretta Pant, and Linda Pant.

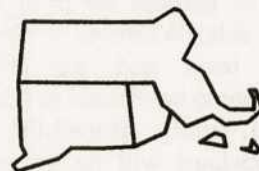
Our council's Annual Fall Bake Sale was held on November

13-14th in the church hall. Chair, Henry Pant, and his committee, Lauretta, Robert and Linda Pant, did an excellent job in putting the event together. It also took the membership with their donations and participation to make the sale the success it was. Elaine Pacovsky must be thanked for a special Koffee Klatch she chaired which added to the income of the Bake Sale.

Congratulations to our Glendale, Arizona, members Joe and Ann Boeke on becoming grandparents for the first time to three babies, Ella, James, and Benjamin. Aaron and Kristy Geiger were recently married at Holy Cross Church with Fr. Michael Holloran officiating. You may remember these members, as Aaron is organist for Holy Cross Church and Supreme Council K of L Scholarship winner of the Alice Karklis Award. Kristy and Aaron are both Vejeliiai Dancers, with Kristy being their new director. Congratulations with many years of happiness to you both!

Get well wishes to Christina Kavy and Larry Pacovsky. Deepest sympathies go to Mark, Annamarie, and Joseph Berger on the recent loss of their mother/grandmother, Frances. May she rest in the peace of the Lord.

**NED  
C 7**



**Waterbury, CT**

*Adele Klenske*

Greetings! By the time this article goes to press, the holidays will just be fond memories. Hopefully, all had a good Thanksgiving and a merry, healthy,

kugeli), the ticket sellers and the Parish Coffee servers. Everyone who participated in putting the affair together was gratified by the monetary results. All were complimented by C. Pros. Margaret Dapkus for a job well done.

At our December meeting we learned these organizations, charities and individuals benefited by our efforts: Aid to Lithuania, LCRA (Sister Helen), Capuchins, Fr. Aloyzas Volskis, (our Spiritual Advisor), Divine Providence Church and St. Casimir's Guild. After the meeting, we have for some years, observed, the Lithuanian tradition of the Christmas Eve feast - "Kucios." It was pot-luck, which made it more interesting and enjoyable.

The day before the meeting, death took one of our members - Edward Salas. He and his wife, Ann, have been members since 1959, when our Council was reorganized. He passed away November 30. May God grant him eternal rest.

Our sick list keeps growing. Every month a new addition appears. At this time we have the following: Adele Bagdon, Carl Janson, Mary

# District & Council News

and blessed Christmas.

Our ham dinner on November 14th was again a huge success. Many thanks to the committee and all our guests who attended. We are most grateful for your continued support.

The next regular meeting was our Christmas gathering scheduled for December 17th, at which time a potluck supper added to the regular business meeting that followed.

The Lithuanian Community ladies hosted the Kujios celebration on Sunday December 19th at 4:00 PM at St. Joseph's Hall. This is a very traditional and most meaningful Lithuanian Kujios, much anticipated and enjoyed by all that attend. These ladies are to be commended.

We have selected our "Lithuanian Mayor for a Day." Richard Dubauskas will be sworn in as Mayor on February 16, 2000, which is Lithuanian Independence Day. He is very active in St. Joseph's Parish, where he is on the Pastoral Council, and can be depended upon for any parish functions. He is also a dedicated K of L Member, on the Board of Directors, and an active participant on the committees for our various fundraisers. We must give credit to his very supportive wife, Rose, who is always hard at work at Richard's side, or perhaps he is at work at HER side. Whatever - they are a great team and we are most fortunate to have them as part of our K of L family. Hopefully, the day that Richard will be sworn in as Mayor will be very well attended - in support of this honor to Richard and the recognition of Lithuanian Independence Day.

Our president, Joe Stikius has had a few health problems of

late, and is scheduled for some surgery in the near future. We all wish him the best of luck and a speedy recovery.

## C 10 Athol-Gardner

### *Vincukas*

The following slate of officers was elected for the year 2000:

Pres-Dr. Henry Gailunas; VP - William Wisniauskas; Treasurer-Nellie Melaika; Recording Secretary-Pamela Bouthillier; Fin. Secretary - Howard Beaudette; Marshall-David Lucas; Cultural Chair-Brone Wisniauskas; Ritual Chairperson-Howard Beaudette; Vytas Corres. William Wisniauskas; and Spiritual Advisor-Rev. Joseph Jurgelonis.

James Kraskauskas recently returned from a second trip to Lithuania this year.

Our deepest sympathies go to Bronius Savulis and family on the recent loss of wife, Brone. The funeral mass and reception at Sacred Heart Church in Green Field was a great consolation for the family. Brone was sister-in-law to Brone Wisniauskas of Gardner.

Condolences are sent to Ed and Helen Lepkowski, and family, on their loss.

Council 10 has had much activity with its members. Here are some of the highlights. Armand Bouthillier again this year was the recipient of many awards for his Gardner produce at the Franklin Fair in Greenfield. Nellie Melaika recently returned from a trip to Georgia. Doctor Gailunas and wife Brone returned from a religious pilgrimage to Spain, France, and Italy. Ann Zilinsky and son are kept busy in their maple syrup business. Congratulations are extended to Lillian Germaitis Erickson's daughter, AnnMarie, on her recent

marriage in Seattle, Washington.

Please keep in your prayers C10 members Helen Simkunas and David Lucas, who are under the weather at the present time.

## C-50, New Haven, CT

### *Audrey Toole*

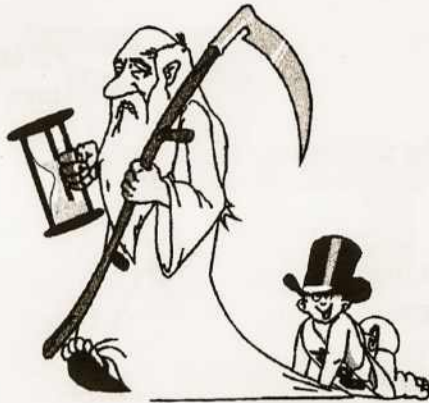
Council 50 looks forward to the year 2000 with optimism. Our officers for the year are: president, Isabel Peterson; 1st VP, Magdalen Cronin; 2nd VP, Mary Geipel; Sec. Audrey Toole; Treas. Evelyn Lepensky; Fin. Sec. Helen Klimaszewski; trustees, Joan Augustine, Mary Ann Capelli and Helen Lostys; Sgt. at arms, Anthony Kordorsky; ritual, Edward Toole; Lith. culture, Isabel Peterson; Vytis corr. Audrey Toole; historian, Anna Kordorsky; sunshine, Helen Medley; ways and means, Michael and Irene Meizies; telephone squad, Helen lostys, Marcella Stadolnik, Ann Berzinis, Nell Papeika, Magdalen Cronin, Ann Lukaszewski, Genevieve Michalik, Mary Ann Cappelli and Mary Yesukevich.

The final months of 1999 were busy ones. We welcomed new member, Nancy Conlan and extended our best wishes to her parents Joseph and Barbara Augustine for their 55th wedding anniversary.

During the Summer months we enjoyed a pancake breakfast and our council outing. In the Fall, many members gathered at a testimonial dinner for our always-working Irene Meizies. Our Christmas Boutique and council Christmas party finished the year.

We shared sadness in the loss of members Alice Dekas, Stanley Taragowski, Mary Bachinski and Emily Saulys. May their souls rest in peace. ❖❖❖

# Laimingų Naujų Metų



**Council 140**  
**Syracuse**  
**New York**



**D**uring the past two centuries Lithuania has suffered loss of freedom, religion, human rights, almost lost her language and endured endless years of sorrow as a captive nation.

**W**ith the new Millennium, let us pray daily that "Mūsų Lietuva" can continue to live in Freedom, grow and prosper as a free nation!!!

**Council 1**  
**Brockton, MA**

*An invitation to participate in the*

## **PILGRIMAGE TOUR TO LITHUANIA MAY 29 - JUNE 14, 2000**

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Oh, language, defend and protect me,  
 seat me on your knee, accept me,  
 as with a foolish child softly coax  
 and gently suckle and feed me.  
 Be a madonna to me, and bread,  
 should it change into divine manna,  
 give us, when we return from journeys -  
 beyond marshes where ganders feed.  
 Raise me as a tireless mother's child  
 with a willow and baked wheat rounds.  
 And the grand ladies as they ride past  
 will take me over the rain-drenched roads  
 to a close town where I would converse  
 at market- places and in ships.  
 Where storms are loud for the heart to take,  
 I will batter windows with sticks.  
 And you will greet me - from my journeys  
 with a foreign country's accent.  
 I will sit down to you at your feet  
 and we shall lament together.

*Translated from Lithuanian by ANTONIA M. WACKELL  
 - MARKAS ZINGERIS ( Jewish Lithuanian poet )*

