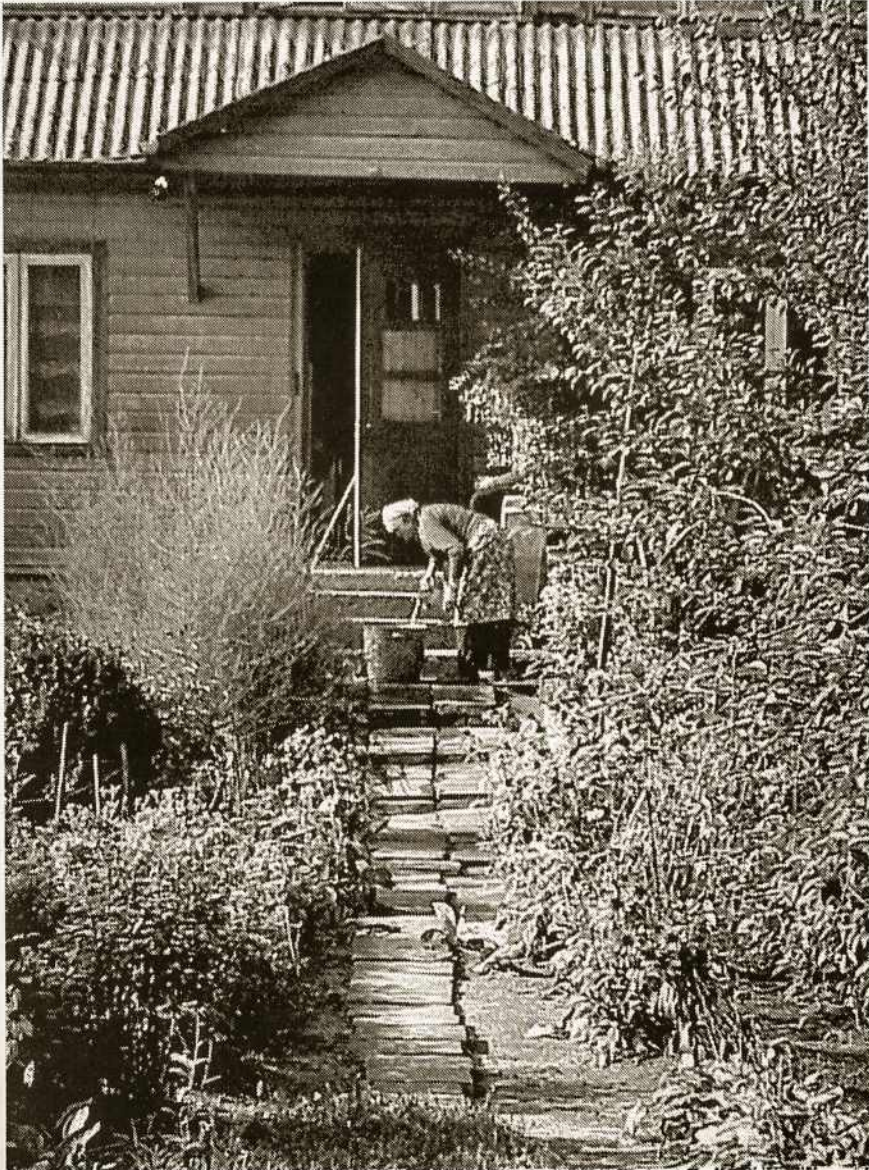


Y T I S



Volume 86 No. 4

THE KNIGHT



BALANDIS - APRIL 2000

Vytis- The Knight

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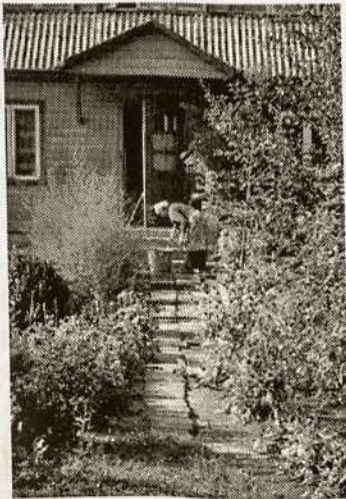


The Knights of Lithuania ENDEAVORS

TO INSTILL IN ITS MEMBERS
AN ATTACHMENT TO LITHUANIA,
THE LAND OF OUR ANCESTORS,
AND A KNOWLEDGE,
APPRECIATION
AND LOVE OF THE LITHUANIAN
LANGUAGE, CUSTOMS AND
CULTURE SINCE THE K OF L
BEGAN IN 1913.

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On the Cover:

Ona's Garden in Siauliai – JJA 8/99

Spring and Easter:

The word for Easter, *Velykos*, means "important day". The word is very accurate because Easter was the year's most solemn feast in Lithuania. Easter is not only the feast of Christ's Resurrection, but also nature's awakening from a long winter's sleep.

From Lith. Customs & Traditions
D. Bindokiene © 1989

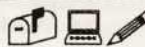
To My Fellow Knights

We must learn to work together, even with those whom we may not share views. Recently, First Lady Hillary Clinton marched in a parade a block from my house. Although I am not a big fan of Mrs. Clinton, just in case she does get to become New York's next junior senator, I thought it be good to let her know we Lithuanian-Americans are to be recognized.

The woman whom many call the "first lady of the K of L", namely Loretta Stukas, is due for a prestigious award from the Lithuanian Government in early July (see page 12).

New York area Lithuanians were treated to a moving solo organ concert featuring Virginius Barkauskas, a very talented C-110 member, on Sunday evening March 12 at Lincoln Center. Close to four hundred heard him play on the Swiss organ at Alice Tully Hall that features 4,224 pipes, 62 stops and 36 ranks. An introduction was given by Kestutis Bileris, Chair of the Lithuanian-American Community, sponsors of the event with an introduction by the new Lithuanian Consul General, Rimantas Morkvenas. The concert featured the New York premier of a work by Julius Juzeliunas, one of Lithuania's most illustrious composers, along with Bach's Prelude and Fugue in E-flat Major and Widor's Symphony No. 6 in G minor. Mr. Barkauskas had dedicated his concert to the 10th anniversary of Lithuania's reinstatement of independence. It was a beautiful piece of solo talent and well received, indeed.

And speaking of famous people, there's a lot of good anticipation on meeting Lithuania's President, Valdas Adamkus and his wife at the K of L Convention in Los Angeles on July 27-30. Another "famous" person, Giedra Gustas, from LA will be giving demonstrations on creating those awesome colorful Lithuanian Easter Eggs. Read her story on page 8 and try your own attempts at them. Happy Easter to all!



Letters & email

to the editor

Lithuanian Special Guest

To the Editor:

Dr. Laimutis Paskevicius attended a three-week program on Hospital Administration sponsored by Mercy International Health Services and coordinated by St. Joseph Mercy Hospital in Pontiac, Michigan. While in the United States, Dr. Paskevicius resided at the home of Theresa (Stasiulaitis) and Michael Shea, current officers of Aid to Lithuania, Inc. Dr. Paskevicius is currently affiliated with The Ministry of

Health, Vilnius, as Head of the Environmental Health Services Division. During his visit, Dr. Paskevicius had the opportunity to meet with many members of the Lithuanian/American community, Board Members of Aid to Lithuania, the Medical Community in Michigan and even met with the Lithuanian Ambassador to the United States, Stasys Sakalauskas, when he addressed a Lithuanian Independence celebration. He is returning to Vilnius to continue his work in bringing the Medical care in Lithuania as up to date as possible. He constantly praised the work of Aid to Lithuania in helping the people of Lithuania.

*Theresa and Michael Shea,
C-102 (via email)*

☞ Letters continued on page 15

President's Report to the K. of L. Membership

*John R. Mankus
K. of L. President*

Report to K of L membership on my attendance at the Vilnius Gaon Jewish State Museum Exhibition in the U.S. Capitol, September 22, 1999, "Gift to Lithuania" Conference Nov. 5-7, 1999 and at the Republic of Lithuania Embassy in Washington D.C. for Lithuanian Independence Day Commemoration, February 16, 2000. Also meetings with various U.S. State Department officials, members of U.S. Congress, representatives of corporations that are investing in Lithuania, leaders of Lithuanian-American Organizations and Lithuanian Embassy Staff.



John R. Mankus and Lithuanian Foreign Minister Algirdas Saudargas at a meeting in Washington, DC

The Vilnius Gaon Exhibition was co-sponsored by U.S. Senator Richard Durbin, Ministry of Culture, Republic of Lithuania, The Center for Democracy, Anti-Defamation League, American Jewish Committee and the Embassy of the Republic of Lithuania. Main speakers at the Exhibits dedication were Senator Richard Durbin, Congressmen Tom Lantos, Sam Gejdenson and Martin Frost, Emanuelis Zingeris, Chairman of the Human Rights Committee of the Seimas, Ambassador Stasys Sakalauskas and Undersecretary of State Stuart Eizenstat.

In a letter from President Valdas Adamkus to the attendees of the Exhibition, the President stated "This exhibit from Vilnius ghetto is a testament to the spiritual and cultural strength of Lithuanian Jewry. The Vilnius ghetto posters reminds us to do what is necessary, so that justice is done for the victims whose only crime was that they were Jews".

The Lithuanian Ministry of Education working with U.S. Jewish Organizations has expanded the teaching of courses on the Holocaust in Lithuanian schools. From my discussions with Emanuelis Zingeris, Vice Minister of Culture Ina Marciulionyte and other dignitaries from Lithuania, I was informed that school textbooks are being rewritten and published. Seminars, con-

ferences and university courses are helping to fill the knowledge gap hidden from the Lithuanian people for over 50 years. Prime Minister Andrius Kubilius and Emanuelis Zingeris on January 25, 2000, headed a large delegation to Stockholm to participate at the Holocaust Education Conference. A Historical Commission has been set up on the evaluation of crimes of the Nazi and Soviet occupation regimes. Monuments and memorials have been erected to honor past leaders of Jewish communities and to remember and mourn the victims of the Holocaust. Lithuanian government has assisted with promotional material and has given \$100,000 to the Vilnius Jewish community for the 200th commemoration of Gaon's death.

I participated at the "Gift to Lithuania" Conference (concisely reported by Regina Juska-Svoba in the February VYTIS issue) with a number of our Knights of Lithuania members. The purpose of the conference was to summarize the humanitarian work done, to exchange ideas and to better understand what is needed to be done. There are many organizations, groups and individuals assisting Lithuania with humanitarian help. If we combine the assistance provided to Lithuania by our Aid to Lithuania, Inc., St. Casimir's Guild, K. of L. Foundation and individual Councils,

there is no question that the Knights of Lithuania ranks at the top of the list. The conference was informative and the exchange of information will assist us all in our work for Lithuania. As a follow up to "Gift to Lithuania" Conference, A "Lithuanian Organization's " Conference was held in Chicago in December. I requested Robert Martin Jr., Mid-America District President and Sister Johanna M. Shainauskas to attend and represent the K. of L. The purpose was to find ways for improving the cooperation between our organizations. I have always been a strong advocate of improved inter-organizational communication, I believe these type of conferences will improve both communication and cooperation between our Lithuanian American Organizations. I was selected to be a member of the Organization Committee for future activities.

After celebrating Lithuanian Independence Day Commemoration on February 13th, with a Mass at St. Joseph Lithuanian R.C. Church, Binghamton NY, I was invited to participate at the Lithuanian Independence Day Celebration at the Lithuanian Embassy in Washington DC. Ambassador Stasys Sakalauskas and members of his staff greeted approximately 250 guests. U.S. State Department officials included Lawrence Dunham, Assistant Chief of Protocol and Richard Norland, Director of European Affairs were in attendance, along with leading members of Lithuanian-American, Baltic and Jewish American Organizations. Also attending were a large number of European State officials, ambassadors and representatives of U.S. Industries doing or planning to do business in Lithuania. In discussions with Ambassador Stasys Sakalauskas, Lawrence Dunham and Richard Norland, Baltic security, joint venture investment, economic assistance, trade, NATO and European Union were the main topics.

To Lithuania, the primary and perhaps the two most important foreign issues are entry into NATO and the European Union, The European Commission in its October, year end 1999 report, recommended the start of negotiations for Lithuania's membership in the European Union. Lithuania is also very actively pursuing good bilateral relations with Latvia, Estonia, Russia, Russia's Kaliningrad Region, Belarus and Poland. Some

key items since my last report to our membership:

1. Where several years ago virtually all Russian officials were against Lithuania's entry into NATO, today several have stated publicly that NATO entry is up to Lithuania.

2. Kaliningrad Region constitutes around 12 % of Lithuania's trade with Russia. Also, Lithuania is third in the number of joint ventures in Kaliningrad, with more being planned.

3. Relations between Lithuania and Poland have never been better. Both countries have committed themselves to a "strategic partnership" to "support each other's integration into European and Euro-Atlantic structures". Free trade agreement, abolition of Visas and a common military peace keeping unit agreement have been signed.

4. To increase investment opportunities, Lithuania has introduced Free Economic Zones in the major cities, including Kaunas and Klaipeda. In 1999, the US had surpassed Sweden as the largest investor. Lithuania has the highest-educated work force in Central and Eastern Europe and one of the lowest labor and operating costs. With four international airports, a major ice free port in Klaipeda and a European-standard road network, Lithuania is rapidly becoming the regional transport hub, linking European Union countries with East.

5. Lithuania's Armed Forces are participating peace keeping operations with NATO, UN and are in bilateral cooperation with 20 foreign partners including most NATO members.

There is no question that Lithuania is moving forward in its bilateral relations with its neighbors and with Western Europe. Under President Adamkus great strides have been made in the economic and political relations with United States and Western Europe. Our Lithuanian American Organizations must continue to work and cooperate with each other and to continue our strong support for Lithuania, Ambassador Sakalauskas again expressed a strong desire for a close working relationship with Lithuanian-American organizations and extended an invitation for future meetings at the Lithuanian Embassy in Washington D.C.



Patron Saint of Horses

St. George

April 23rd is the feast of St. George. It has been written that St. George was martyred during the reign of the Roman Emperor Diocletian. In the 12th Century, as legend had it, St. George was a courageous knight, who slew a dragon, which represented evil in the world. St. George is still very popular in Eastern Europe. His feast day has become entwined with the real beginning of spring.

In Lithuania, St. George is one of the most popular saints. As in other countries, he is held as the patron saint of animals, especially horses. In old Lithuania, on the Feast Day of St. George, one could not till the field with

horses, or disturb the earth, as it was necessary to let the horses rest, for it was their holiday. If this was not done, it was believed that you went against the Saint's wishes, and your animals would sicken and die, and your horses would be prone to the attack of wolves. It was also believed that St. George protected animals while they grazed in the fields; therefore, on his feast day, the animals were let out to graze for the first time following the end of winter. In the Fall, on returning the animals to their stalls, it was said that their protection was then taken over by St. Michael. In several stalls in old Lithuania, you would find pictures of St. George, who would see to it that the animals would be fruitful and multiply. On his feast day, animals would also be better fed and attended, and would never be punished or struck. In the Alytus region of Lithuania, before the dawn of St. George's Day, called "Jurgines," horses would be led to rivers and lakes to bathe, for it was said that this would make them more beautiful and free of

parasites throughout the year.

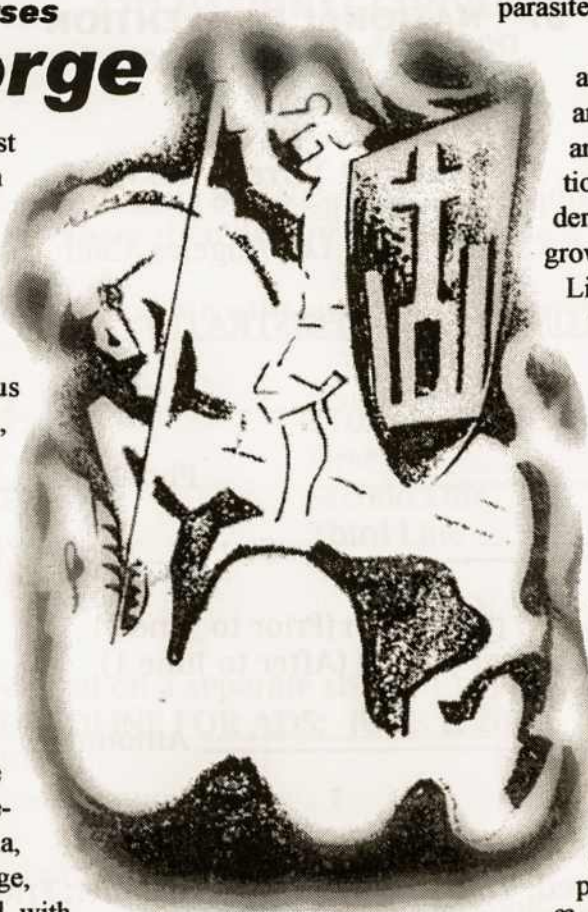
With traditions associated with animals and pastures, came legends and stories associated with plants and grass. St. George was petitioned to unlock the good earth, render essential dew, and help the grass grow thick and green. In western Lithuania, on that day, the maidens' would plant their gardens of rue or ruta, the national flower of their country, so that they would grow beautifully. If the feast day of St. George was cold, it was a good omen: the harvest would be good, and the hay bountiful. In Liskiava, Lithuania, three prayers would be said to St. George, so that their animals would be protected from wolves, who were also under the saint's jurisdiction.

As a good harvest and bountiful animals were attributed to the graces of St. George, it isn't surprising that the farmers gave many offerings to him. On his feast day, they

would bring eggs and milk products, and place them in front of his statue or picture in the village church. Some gave food in his name to the parish priests, or offered Mass to St. George for the health of their animals. In the Gerveciai section of Lithuania, two loaves of bread would be baked, with 5 eggs each added to the batter. The two loaves would then be borne around the fields twelve times. One would be buried in the field, and the other consumed, in order that the wolves would not attack the sheep, and the cows would be healthy throughout the year. This was actually an offering to the Mother Earth retained from pagan times. As the egg is a symbol of fertility and new life, it also played a role in folklore surrounding the Feast of St. George. Eggs were colored during "Jurgines," as well as at Easter.

These are just a few of the many traditions and customs surrounding the celebration in old Lithuania of the popular feast day of St. George.

from the files of Jack Stukas. ❖❖❖





**KNIGHTS OF LITHUANIA
87TH NATIONAL CONVENTION
JULY 27 - 30, 2000**



Convention Site: Sheraton Universal Hotel
333 Universal Terrace Parkway
Hollywood Hills, CA
Host: Council 133 - Los Angeles, California

CONVENTION REGISTRATION FORM

First Name(s): _____ Last Name: _____ Council No. _____

Street: _____ Phone No.: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

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

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

Junior Registration: \$80.00

Name of Child _____ Amount _____

Age of Child _____

CONVENTION REGISTRATION INCLUDES:

All bus service as required; Thursday Night Get-Together; Friday Cultural Evening; Coffee after morning Mass in hotel on Friday and Saturday; Friday Luncheon; Saturday Night Banquet and Dance and Sunday Brunch - Reception at the church hall after mass.

PRE-CONVENTION ACTIVITY:

Wednesday, July 26, 2000 - Bus Tour of Los Angeles and attend a TV show.

Departure 10:00 a.m. \$25.00 per person Amount \$ _____

Make Checks Payable to:

Knights of Lithuania - Council 133

Total Amount \$ _____

Mail Checks and Registration Forms to:

Maryte Sepikas

Registration Coordinator

6143 Fulton Avenue

Valley Glen, CA 91401

(818) 782-1248 (telephone and fax)

If you have any questions or special requests, please do not hesitate to call or write. Thank you.



**KNIGHTS OF LITHUANIA
87TH NATIONAL CONVENTION
JULY 27 - 30, 2000**



Dear Members,

The Knights of Lithuania 87th National Convention will be held July 27 - 30, 2000, in Los Angeles where there is nothing finer than a "Knight in California".

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

-----\$100.00 Full Page 4" x 7"	\$10.00 Patron Greeting (Use 3 lines) First Line _____ Second Line _____ Third Line _____
-----\$ 50.00 Half Page 4" x 3 ½"	
-----\$ 25.00 Quarter Page 4" x 1 ¾"	-----\$5.00 (Name only)

You may submit your ad on a separate sheet of paper. Camera ready copy is always welcome. **DEADLINE FOR ADS: JUNE 1, 2000.**

Make checks payable to:

Knights of Lithuania - Council 133

Amount \$_____

Mail ads with payment to:

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Chair - Program Book
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Los Angeles, CA 90027
(323) 666-9103 (phone)
(323) 953-0192 (fax)
email Reklaityte@aol.com

Information for Hotel Reservations

Sheraton Universal Hotel
333 Universal Terrace Parkway
Hollywood Hills, CA

Direct Phone: Nancy (818) 509-2755

Special KofL Room Rates: Single/Double - \$105.00 per room plus applicable taxes. Executive Suite - \$200.00 - One Bedroom Suite (with parlor) - \$350.00. (Please Note: You **MUST** mention that you are with the Knights of Lithuania for these rates.)

Special Parking Rates will be available.

Room reservations should be by July 1, 2000 to insure room availability.

In Los Angeles, Giedra Gustas is known as the Lithuanian Easter Egg-spert

Margučiai - Lithuanian Easter Eggs

By Giedra Gustas, C-133

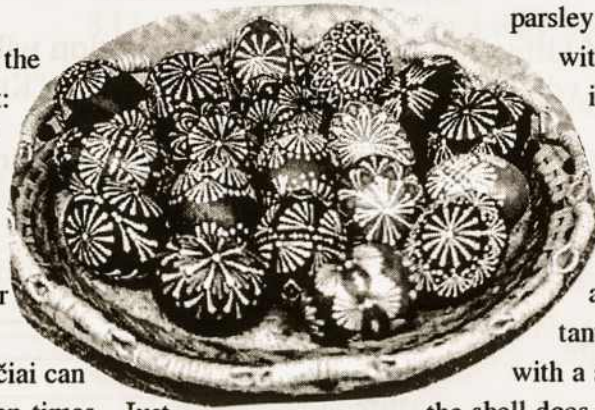
For the greater part of the year, eggs mean breakfast: scrambled, poached or sunny side-up. At Easter something very special happens to ordinary eggs. They become "Margučiai" all dressed up for the holidays.

The origins of Margučiai can be traced back to pre-Christian times. Just like Easter, the festivals of spring were also a celebration of the rebirth of nature and a festival of life. Look at Margučiai and you can see symbolic representations of the sun, buds ready to burst, wreaths of spring flowers and the Christian cross in the patterns. Symbols of the past and present are combined in a truly Lithuanian way.

Most Eastern Europeans follow the same tradition: Ukrainians and Poles have their beautifully decorated "Pysanki". But as in all forms of folk art, each nation has its own unique interpretations and unique decorating techniques.

The variety and combinations of colors are limitless since commercial dyes are readily available. Now, special Easter Egg dyes as well as food coloring can be used to obtain any color desired. Before, only natural dyes made from leaves and barks were used - linden leaves for green, dried linden leaves for yellow, oak bark for gray, onion skins for shades of brown. The colors created from these natural dyes were soft and subtle.

The simplest authentic Margučiai can be made using the natural dyes from onion skins. The egg is wrapped in onion skins and boiled in water with a touch of vinegar. The wrapping produces subtle shadings where the skins overlap. A sprig of rue, fern or even



parsley placed on the egg, then secured with cheesecloth will leave an exact imprint of the sprig in pale shades of yellow. This variation is very easy and makes a surprisingly beautiful Margučiai.

Very often Margučiai are decorated using a wax-resistant process. Patterns are applied with a stylus, where the wax is applied, the shell does not absorb the dye. All the pattern is applied for a two-toned egg. For multicolored eggs, a part of the pattern is applied, the egg is dyed and more pattern is applied. This process is repeated until the desired result is achieved.

The tools aren't fancy - all it takes is a straight pin inserted into the eraser end of a pencil. (the stylus) and a container of wax that is heated (an uncoated jar lid is perfect). The stylus is dipped into the melted wax and a stroke is applied. A steady hand, a bit of practice and the imagination are the only requirements for success in this handicraft.

The aristocrat of Margučiai is etched or engraved. Here the egg is dyed a solid deep color. The design is then etched using a sharp tool such as a razor blade or Exacto knife. Care needs to be taken so that the shells are not punctured or broken. This method takes a great deal of practice and patience, but the results are well worth it.

Margučiai are brought by the "Velyku Bobute" (Grandmother of Easter) and left hidden throughout the house and garden to be found by the children. Later in the day, egg rolling and other games are played using the Margučiai.

The Easter meal begins with the battle of the Margučiai. The eggs are struck against each other, the strongest egg, with no "battle cracks" wins and the



Giedra and her mother, Ona Gustiene at Lithuanian Days in Los Angeles this past October.

owner claims the defeated egg. A great deal of care goes into the selection of the competition egg for this event. Egg conformation is scrutinized and pretesting is undertaken. Often you'll see tapping of the egg against the front teeth to assess the strength of the shell. It is an art in itself to test the egg without breaking it.

The most beautifully decorated eggs are spared from the confrontation and given as presents to the guests. They are displayed and kept long after Easter. The patterns and colors of the Margučiai remind Lithuanians of their rich and ancient traditions and history.

Wax-Resistant Margučiai

Materials

Eggs: an even surface is most important, bumps and

Meet Los Angeles' Most "Egg" citing Lady . . . GIEDRA GUSTAS!

Los Angeles' foremost "egg"spert on Lithuanian Easter Eggs ("Margučiai"), Giedra Gustas, began displaying her artistic talents as a child. As in most Lithuanian homes, Giedra was taught how to make the spring masterpieces by her mother as an Easter family tradition.

Giedra is still fascinated by the remarkable egg and its simple shape and form. Her art is still her primary source of pleasure. When she adds a little color and wax, phenomenal magical results are seen. Giedra sees the egg as a symbol of life, spring and rebirth.

Giedra's beautiful

egg art has been displayed and admired throughout the Southern California area at schools, Lithuanian Days, fairs, festivals and the libraries of Beverly Hills, Santa Monica and Los Angeles.

Her remarkable talents will be showcased and available for purchase at the 87th National Convention to be held in Los Angeles from July 27 through 30, 2000. She will be conducting a class in making Lithuanian Easter eggs for both the Juniors and interested adults. Please sign up for her class if you are interested in this very special Lithuanian art.

A proud member of Council 133, Giedra is always the highlight of our Easter meeting where she shares the tradition with all members.

Maryte Sepikas

blemishes will interfere with decorating and dying. You may use hard boiled eggs or if you wish to blow out the eggs, decorate them while they are raw, then blow them out after they are decorated.

Stylus: a straight pin inserted into the eraser end of a pencil. Try various sizes of pin heads for different effects.

Wax container: an uncoated jar lid from a coffee or mayonnaise jar.

Wax: Bees wax, paraffin or candle shavings all work well.

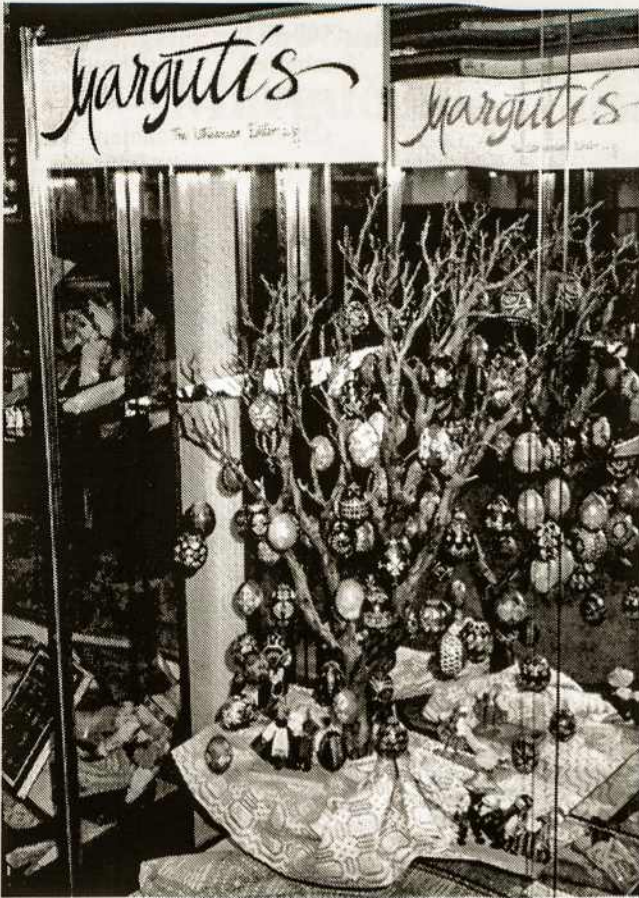
Heat: Try any of these but be extremely careful when children are decorating the eggs.

Coffee cup warmer

Hot plate

Electric frying pan lined with foil

Put a small amount of wax in the container and



Part of the egg display at the Beverly Hills Library

set on heat source to melt. Reduce heat if wax starts to smoke. If the heat is too low, the wax will solidify on the pin before you can make the design.

Eggs should be room temperature or lukewarm. Practice on eggs that cracked during boiling to develop speed and accuracy.

Dip the pin head in heated wax and quickly make a stroke towards yourself on the egg surface. You can steady your hand by bracing on finger on the egg. Turn the egg as you go, making sure you are drawing the stylus towards yourself.

You can make dots, lines, tear drops, leaves, curved lines and combinations. You can write names, greetings and dates on your Margučiai. If you wish, you may draw guidelines lightly with a pencil on the egg shell. They will not show after the egg is dyed. Try to make long straight strokes.

The portion of the pattern that is to remain white is applied to the undyed white egg.

When the egg is dyed a light color (e.g. yellow), gently pat the egg dry using a soft paper towel, as the waxed portion remains white.

Wax is applied to that portion of the pattern that is to remain yellow. The egg is then dyed a contrasting or darker color (e.g. blue or green).

You may use as many or as few colors as you wish. Plan your colors carefully and make note of the successful color combinations.

Leaf Print Margučiai

Supplies to decorate 6 eggs

6 raw eggs

6 pieces of cheesecloth, muslin or pantyhose (at least 9" square)

6 sprigs of rue, parsley, fern or other small leafed plants

6 rubber bands

Easter Egg dyes of desired colors

To make your own Easter Egg dyes, add 1 tbsp. Of food coloring and 1 tbsp. Vinegar to a glass of cool boiled water or purified water. Use more or less food coloring to make lighter or darker shades of dye. This process is easier if you work with a partner.

One person holds the egg horizontally, the other person places the leaf on the egg

The cheesecloth or panty hose is stretched over the egg and secured with a rubber band or twisty tie. Dip the egg in the dye (try to keep the fabric above the rubber band dry). Pat dry with a paper towel.

To obtain multi-colored shading, move the fabric around the leaf gently using the ball of your thumb. Dip the egg into a contrasting color of dye. Pat dry. Remove the rubber band and fabric. The surface of the egg can be rubbed with bacon or non-stick vegetable oil spray to give it a sheen. ❖❖❖

Note to Convention Goers: Hotel discount rates will be available to K of L members during the weekends before and after the convention, so plan on making July in Los Angeles a vacation!

M. Sepikas

In Memoriam

A Tribute to Sister Francesca

By Len Barcoucky

When I think of Sister Francesca Walls, the image that comes to mind is of someone always active. When she wasn't writing letters on behalf of Lithuanian independence, she was making straw ornaments or decorating eggs at Pittsburgh's annual Folk Festival. When she wasn't leading the singing or the prayers at our Knights of Lithuania Christmas celebrations, she was handcrafting costumes for Lithuanian dolls.

What makes that image more amazing is that the woman I had the good fortune to know for the past 14 years was 75 when I met her. I can't imagine what a dynamo she must have been during the previous decades when she taught school, instructed Lithuanian classes, served as an administrator of her order, directed folk choirs and provided choreography and costumes for a dance group.

Sister Francesca died Dec. 8, 1999, at age 89. Born Leona Eugenia Walls in 1910 in DuBois, Pennsylvania, she grew up in Detroit. She joined the Sisters of St. Francis of the Providence of God in 1926 and embarked upon a lifetime of service to God, her order and Lithuania.

Sister Francesca began teaching while she studied at Duquesne University, receiving a bachelor of science degree in music. She later earned her master's degree in education after doing graduate work at St. Louis University, Mercy College in Detroit and Seton Hill College. For almost 40 years she taught in Catholic schools in four states and 11 cities, mostly music and home economics. She also served as a school principal and as treasurer of her order. "Throughout her life, she continually took advantage of on-



Sister Francesca makes traditional Lithuanian straw ornaments at the Pittsburgh Folk Festival in 1988.

going educational opportunities. She never rested on her laurels," Sister Joanne Brazinski said at the wake service for Sister Francesca.

"She was always busy with something," agreed Bill Kolicius, a member of Pittsburgh Council 19. Currently a national trustee, Bill remembered Sister Francesca and her blood sister, Sister Alverna, attending national conventions and Mid-central districts for many years. In recent years, ill health meant that both had to stay closer to their motherhouse in Whitehall, outside Pittsburgh. It was there that Mid-central district delegates met with both of them in 1998 when a fall pilgrimage was hosted by C-19.

I decided against taking my son Peter to the funeral Mass for Sister Francesca, because I was worried that an active 5-year-old boy might be a distraction.

I need not have been concerned. Sister Francesca's life had been centered around teaching. Children of all ages attended her wake and funeral service in the chapel at the motherhouse. In addition to her own young relatives, the children, grandchildren, nieces and nephews of many of her former students were there. They came to pay last respects to a woman devoted to her faith, her profession and her Lithuanian heritage.



IN MEMORIAM

Joseph R. Lenk

Feb. 7, 2000 C-110, Maspeth, NY

Adele Victoria Svet

Feb. 6, 2000, C-25 Cleveland, OH

Jonas Krisciunas

Feb. 17, 2000 C-24, Chicago

Anna Milbut Nardini

January 18, 2000 C-144 Anthracite

Helen Budrick (Lifetime Mem)

November 25, 1999 C-110 Maspeth

Charles Fogelman

January 1, 2000 C-110 Maspeth

Juozas Bacevicius

January 2000 C-16 Chicago

Sr. M. Agnesine

February, 2000 C-16 Chicago

Peter Kukanskis

February 4, 2000 C-7 Waterbury

Aldona Ryan, Honorary Member

February 6, 2000 C-96 Dayton

Richard Conrady

February 11, 2000 C-96 Dayton

Isabel Reedick

February 25, 2000 C-25 Cleveland

Denise Vaikutis

January 9, 2000 C-112 Chicago

Jospeh Janaitis

Sept. 8, 1999 C-136 Hud-Mohawk

Doris Laurenski

Sept. 12, 1999 C-136 Hud-Mohawk

Clara Tulia

Feb. 14, 2000 C-136 Hud-Mohawk

Isabel Agnes Reedick

Feb. 25, 2000 C-25 Cleveland, OH

Dr. Pauline Luzakas, founder and past president, Cambridge, MA K of L chapter, physician for over 50 years.

Lithuanians

in the news

LORETTA STUKAS TO RECEIVE LITHUANIAN AWARD



On Friday, Feb. 18, 2000, Loretta Stukas of Watchung, NJ, received a Cablegram from Andrius Meskauskas, Lithuanian Chancellor responsible for Awards, stating that, on the occasion of Lithuanian Independence Day, she has been selected to receive the "Order of Grand Duke Gediminas" Award from the President of Lithuania, Valdas Adarnkus. The award is in recognition of her contributions to Lithuania. The award will be officially conferred by President Adarnkus in Vilnius, Lithuania, on July 6, 2000.

Mrs. Stukas has been active with many organizations during the fight for Lithuanian Independence, and since then, helping with providing humanitarian aid for the people of Lithuania. Her primary work has been with the Knights of Lithuania, where she has served as National President, Editor of the organization's official

organ VYTIS, and has served in many other capacities. Currently, she is President of the Knights of Lithuania Foundation and Chair of the Knights' Honorary Membership Committee. She also serves as National Treasurer of the Lithuanian Alliance of America, Treasurer of the Americans for Independent Lithuania (where she served earlier as President), and others. She also served two terms as a board member of Lithuanian Catholic Religious Aid, a philanthropic group which provides humanitarian aid to churches, convents, homeless shelters and needy families in Lithuania.

In 1992, she and her late husband, Jack, collected over \$60,000 to send a group of medics to Lithuania from Deborah Hospital to operate on Lithuanian children suffering from heart problems. Because of the amount collected, Deborah was also able to equip several operating rooms and provide other medical equipment needed by this newly-independent nation. (For more information, please contact Loretta Stukas, 908-753-5636, FAX 908-753-9492).



Feb. 16th Commemoration in Chicago

Illinois Governor, George H. Ryan's assistant, Pat Michalski (center) presents a proclamation to Evelyn Ozelis, (left) past K of L president and current president of the Chicago Chapter of the Lithuanian American Council on behalf of the 82nd Anniversary of Lithuanian Independence on February 16th, 2000. Vida Sakevicius, Mistress of Ceremonies (right) was also on hand.

Feb . 16th Commemoration in Detroit

Before the ceremonies, Aid to Lithuania president, Regina Juska-Svoba (right) had a chance to speak with US Senator, Spencer Abraham and his wife, Jane (center) ATL corresponding secretary, Bill Zager (left) was also present.



KP Duty

V-16 "chefs" peel potatoes for kugelis dinner include Lithuanian Ambassador Stasys Sakalauskas (seated at left) and Bill Zager from C-102(right). Standing are Stefanija Juska, Margaret Dapkus (C-79 president), Della and Pat Zyren and Regina Juska-Svoba (all of C-102).



Šiauliai Members who received the Award of Distinction at the "Memories of Lithuania" Banquet, on Feb. 6, 2000 , at the Martingue in Evergreen Park, IL

Folktales

THE SPARROWS

Translated by Antonia M. Wackell
Žemaitė Iš Žemaitės Raštai

In Lithuania, when it was not occupied by Germans, the villagers would often prepare ale and invite their neighbors for a drink, to sing and to frolic.

The sparrows chirping on the roofs witnessed all that, and thought that being drunk must be good since the people are so happy, they sing and carouse.

So one day, the sparrows summoned their large family on the roof and chirped on how best to make a better and happier life for themselves, better their existence. After long discussions and arguments, they voted to prepare ale for themselves, drink and sing and be happy.

But who will make the beer? rose the question. All at once it was quiet, beaks were lowered. One, having asked permission to be heard, timidly said: "Brothers! I could not accept the task of making the beer. The wind destroyed my nest, I must now repair it, prop it up."

Another chirped that he must feed his little ones. "My little wife is incubating the eggs", answered a third one, "I must relieve her every day to sit on the eggs while she searches for her dinner. I can't waste time in making the brew." Still, another said, "I was left a widower, the cat ate my little female, I must now get married quickly."

And so each one excused himself from making the ale. One aging sparrow, the convention's president, began to speak. "Gentlemen! Although you desire the ale, no one knows how to make it. That point must be calmly considered. I will offer a suggestion: My master, in whose barn I have a nest high up, is now making plans for a wedding and has begun to make the ale. I watched as he soaked the barley and the dried hops. I will, as I am sitting on my perch, observe how he prepares that beer, and later I will tell you and you will make it... We will all drink until we get tipsy." The birds were delighted. They danced and flapped their wings.

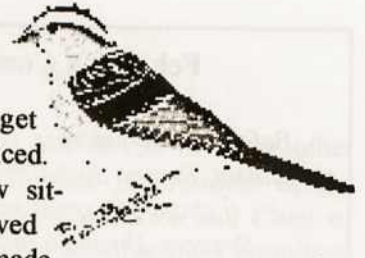
"Wonderful, Uncle, thinking of that! We will make the beer, then we will invite friends; we will

dance, sing until we get drunk," the sparrows rejoiced.

The old sparrow sitting on his perch observed closely how the farmer made the beer. The fire burned day and night until his eyes smarted from the smoke, but he was patient, looking, learning, fulfilling the conventions' decision. He saw the largest barrels in which flowed the ale; in another the mash cooled, still another the ale begins to work, the hops are added, then the malt, and filtered into the barrels... And oh what water! Those kettles just boil and boil on the fire! -- What work there is in making the ale! Watching, the old sparrow began to tremble. Many people will gather. So many barrels of ale are being prepared for them... And as for us, there are hundreds and thousands of sparrows. How are we to get the barrels, casks and boilers? ... At least there is no worry about malt, and barley is still in the fields, the thrashing, also all hops have not yet been harvested everywhere, but for equipment and the place... Everywhere there are cats, crows and chickens... Trouble aplenty! thought the old sparrow as he sat on his perch. Finally he decided: -- What do those young ones know about work. What they are concerned about is to get drunk... Blockheads! They must first learn to drink. We can't get them drunk, lead them on the wrong path... Rather I say nothing and I will make some for myself and will try to get drunk... If the beer will be a success, then I'll make some for them.... As he planned, so he accomplished.

Immediately flying out, he took a grain of barley, brought it and dipped it into the rain-filled cow's foot print on the road. He plucked off a tassell of hop and again brought it and placed it in with the barley. The little sparrow dances around, kicks, the beer grows and cools. While the grain steeps, swells, the water in the hole begins to foam in the sun.

The little sparrow rejoices, flutters around, because his beer is growing nicely... He TASTED it -- Good! Perching beside the hole, the old one drank. It seems, he drank so much, but there was still more in the hole. And God's gift should not be thrown, out, it must



be finished. The sparrow drank and drank until he did become drunk. Drunk was the old one now, wings stretched out, little feet extended, he rolled on the grass in the sun!

Wherever he was - he was no longer there, the cat - slurp! had seized the bird! The little sparrow begged:

"Chirp! Chirp! dear cat! dear brother! I am innocent! I am not drunk. I only roll in the sun to amuse myself. Let me free! Do not kill me Chirp! dearest brother."

"I will destroy you! I will not let you free," mutters the cat, wagging his whiskers, "God gave me a tasty tidbit, I can't let it go?"

Muttering, the cat carried the sparrow to the dry grass. The sparrow knew that death was now at his nose,

trembling he chirped:

"You plan to destroy me, you say. God gave you a good portion, so first you must bless..."

The sparrow is right - rumbled the cat and, putting down the little sparrow, he raised his foot to bless...

Swish... a flutter of wings and the bird flew off, out of his clutches, alighting in the willow tree so excited, he danced and chirped:

"If not drunk - do not roll around."

--God given - do not bless...

The cat stared at the sparrow, leaps! springs! Grimacing, dribbling saliva, whiskers quivering,- Miau!!

"I'll get you yet, you will not be so high and mighty! --I will get you!!" ❖❖❖

☞ *Letters continued from page 2*

Artists Credits

To the Editor:

Regarding the artist who painted the Stations of the Cross (VYTIS March 2000 issue cover), the name of the artist is Salvinija Giedrimiene. She is living and working in Vilnius. She has completed Ciurlionis Arts High School in Vilnius and the Vilnius Academy of Fine Arts.

March 18th nine of the sixth years seminarians will be ordained as deacons in our seminary chapel.

Sincerely Yours

Father H.F.Fischer

St. Joseph Seminary, Vilnius

Corrections

To the editor:

I wish to correct an error in the January issue. I had inadvertently submitted Julia Troiano as one of our departed Vyciai. Julia is a very active member of C-110. Her husband, Jerry, is our deceased Knight, having joined the company of heaven on September 17 1999. I truly apologize for this error and omission. I extend my deepest sympathy to the Troiano family on their loss.

Mark H. Bell

National Financial Secretary

Omission:

The back cover line art used in VYTIS February 2000 issue should have been credited to the Lithuanian Museum of Art in Lemont, IL. Editors regret the omission.

Summer Camp Time:

Camp Neringa

Camp Neringa is a Lithuanian Heritage Camp located in Marlboro Vermont. It offers sessions in English and in Lithuanian for children and families of Lithuanian descent. The program focuses on Lithuanian culture and personal development. The 2000 calendar is as follows:

June 29-July 4: English speaking family camp

July 9-23: LT speaking children's camp- ages 10-16

July 23-29: LT speaking children's camp- ages 6-10

July 30-August 5: LT speaking family camp

Aug 6-19: English speaking children's camp-ages 7-16

For more information contact Camp Neringa at:

617-923-4583 or neringai@yahoo.com

Dana Grajuskaite

LITHUANIAN LANGUAGE COURSE

The 15th annual Lithuanian Language Course at Camp Dainava, Manchester, Michigan will take place August 6-13, 2000. This intensive course, operating under the auspices of the Educational Council of the Lithuanian American Community of the USA, is designed for beginners, intermediate, and advanced students, or those just wishing to refresh their Lithuanian.

The course is taught by experienced instructors in vacation-like surroundings and atmosphere. There are no limitations regarding age or formal education. For more information please contact:

Mr. Vytautas Jonaitis, 1546 Quarry N. W., Grand Rapids, MI 49504; phone 616-458-6378

email: yjonaitis@juno.com

KNIGHTS OF LITHUANIA MEMBERSHIP SURVEY

What is the organization's future going into the next Millennium?

With the start of a new year and new era, it is an appropriate time for all of us to reflect on our organization. Please voice your opinion now. Your responses will provide input to a presentation to be made at the upcoming National Convention in Los Angeles in July/August 2000. If you have questions, please contact the Survey's Administrators - Robert Martin (219-861-0731) or Irena Gecas-McCarthy (516-746-0820).

PLEASE TAKE THE TIME TO COMPLETE THIS SURVEY!!!!!!!!!! DEADLINE JUNE 30, 2000!!!!!!!!!!!!

1. Please rank the following types of activities in order of importance to you and which are considered the most rewarding to you and your family. Rank from 1 (most important) to 3 (least important) and please explain your answer with specific examples.

- ___ Cultural: _____
- ___ Social: _____
- ___ Religious: _____
- ___ Philanthropy/Charity/Humanitarianism: _____
- ___ Other: Please explain: _____

2. In which events do you regularly participate? (Please answer Yes or No for each)

[If Yes, please explain what aspects of the events you like the most?]

[If No, please explain, what you like least about the events?]

Yes or No Council meetings and activities: _____

Yes or No District meetings and activities: _____

Yes or No National convention: _____

3. What changes would you recommend to the following processes/policies to encourage more active participation?

Membership Rules or Dues: _____

Meetings (Council, District): _____

Council, District, National Structure: _____

Committees and Ancillary Organizations: _____

Ritual/Point Process: _____

Vytis Magazine: _____

Other: _____

4. Regarding National Conventions:

Which city would you like to see host a future convention? _____

Would you suggest any changes to the format of the convention? _____

Number of Days? _____

Format/Number of Sessions? _____

Topics Discussed? _____

5. Is your spouse a member? _____ (Yes/No)

If no, why not?

___ Not Catholic _____ No time

___ Not Lithuanian; little personal interest _____ Other: _____

KNIGHTS OF LITHUANIA MEMBERSHIP SURVEY

What is the organization's future going into the next Millennium?

6. Are your children members of the organization? _____ (Yes/No)
 If you have adult children, are your grandchildren members of the organization? _____ (Yes/No)

If yes to either question, why?

- I would like my children to meet young Lithuanians.
 I would like my children to learn about the Lithuanian culture, language, etc.
 I want to have some activities that we can participate in as a family.
 Because my parents encouraged me to join and membership is a family tradition.
 Other _____

If no to either question, why?:

- Not enough active members of the same age group (list age group: _____)
 Too expensive.
 Activities not interesting.
 Too busy with other activities – school, sports, work, other groups. _____
 Other _____

7. How much longer do you think the K of L will remain a viable organization ? (Please check one that applies.)

In 5 years? _____ In 10 years? _____ In 30 years? _____
 In 5-10 years? _____ In 20 years? _____

8. If under 10 years, why?
- _____
- _____

9. How do you view your activity and commitment to the organization? (Please check one.)

Committed and very active _____ Somewhat committed and not active
 Committed and somewhat active _____ Not committed and not active
 Committed but not active _____

ADDITIONAL BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- a) How long have you been a member of the organization?

Under 2 years? _____ 2-5 years? _____ 5-10 years? _____
 10-20 years? _____ 20+ years? _____

- b) Have you ever served as an officer at any of the following levels? (Please answer Yes/No)

Council Level _____ Y _____ N
 District Level _____ Y _____ N
 National Level _____ Y _____ N

- c) Please check your appropriate age group:

20 or younger _____ 21-30 _____ 31-40 _____
 41-50 _____ 51-60 _____ 61-70 _____ 70+ _____

- d) Which District do you belong to?

Amber _____ New England _____ Mid-Central _____
 Mid-Atlantic _____ Mid-America _____

- e) On average, how many Council meetings do you attend each year? _____ (Number/Per Year)

- f) Have you regularly attended District meetings/functions each year? _____ (Yes/No)

PLEASE SEND YOUR CONFIDENTIAL RESPONSE TO:

ROBERT MARTIN
C/O K OF L SURVEY
133 SOUTH LAKE AVENUE
MICHIGAN CITY, IN 46360

Survey Responses will be consolidated and summarized by the Survey's Coordinators (Robert Martin and Irena Gecas-McCarthy) for the Los Angeles National Convention.

AID TO LITHUANIA

Donations for the period July 1, 1999 to December 31, 1999

Over \$1,000.00

Ms Anne T. Baronas IMO Baronas Family (Seminary) Colonia, NJ \$171,686.24
Robert S. Boris IMO Vincent Boris (Spec. Charities) Marco Island, FL \$8,000.00
Ms Anne T Baronas (Specified Charities) Colonia, NJ \$6,000.00
Robert S. Boris IMO Vincent Boris (Spec. Charities) Marco Island, FL \$5,800.00
Mr Benedict Karklius IMO Akvile Karklius (Sem Fund) Cleveland, OH \$3,500.00
Robert S. Boris IMO Vincent Boris (Seminary Fund) Marco Island, FL \$2,000.00
(Anonymous) IMO Frank Gudelis, HM (Seminary Fund) \$2,000.00
Lee C Marcinka IMO John Marcinka (Seminary Fund) Monroe, CT \$2,000.00
Aldona J Kirstuk (Seminary Fund) St. Petersburg Beach, FL \$2,000.00
Robert S. Boris IMO Vincent Boris (Caritas Vaiku Cent.) Marco Island, FL \$2,000.00
Mr & Mrs A Alexander (Seminary Fund) Torrington, CT \$2,000.00
Mr & Mrs J Motiejunas (Seminary Fund) Prescott, AZ \$2,000.00
Mr Anthony Baron (Seminary Fund) Colonia, NJ \$2,000.00
Dr. Hal Learman (Seminary Fund) Bloomfield Hills, MI \$2,000.00
Miss Anne T Baronas (Seminary Fund) Colonia, NJ \$2,000.00
Ms Nellie Stodolski IMO Katrina & Kaz. Lutvinas (Sem. Fund) Kearny, NJ \$2,000.00
K of L Council 156 - St Michael (Seminary Fund) Samokin, PA \$1,000.00
Ms Olympia Zelinski (Seminary Fund) Danville, PA \$1,000.00
Mr & Mrs Matt Vilutis (Seminary Fund) Frankfort, IL \$1,000.00
K of L Council # 110 Maspeth, NY \$1,000.00
K of L Supreme Council \$1,000.00
Sts Peter & Paul Parish (Seminary Fund) Elizabeth, NJ \$1,000.00

\$500.00

Angela Minsavitch IMO J M Miklasevicius Hampton Bays, NY * Mrs Estelle Sims
Blairstown, NJ

\$300.00 to \$350.00

Gediminas Balanda Warren, MI * Mid America District Chicago, IL * Ms. Diane Neverouck
, Applegate, MI * St. Peter & Paul Parish Seminary Fund Elizabeth, NJ

\$100.00 to \$299.00

Maryte Abbott IMO D. Bulvicius & V. Boris Sunnyside, NY * Mr & Mrs Jack Abbott IMO
 V. Boris & D. Bulvicius Sunnyside, NY * Eleanor Aleliunas Pittsburgh, PA * Ms Bernice
 Aviza IMO Msgr Francis Bulovas Albany, NY * Rev. Alfonsas Babonas Detroit, MI * Mr
 Richard P. Baks Grosse Pointe, MI * Rev. William Benonis (Seminary Fund) Swarthmore,
 PA * Mr & Mrs Algerd Brazis IMO Irene Sankus Palos Heights, IL * A V Cerekas IMO
 Niola Cerekas Warren, MI * Mr & Mrs F Degutis Worcester, MA * Benjamin F Dirgins
 IMO Helen F Dirgins Fairfield, CT * Mr & Mrs Stanley Diskavich IMO Mary Versabskas
 Torrington, CT * Mrs. M Greer Naples, FL * Liudas Grunavas Detroit, MI * Theodore
 Guest IMO V Gecevicius Dayton, OH * Ms Marion Hobitz Methuen, MA * Mr & Mrs
 Edward Jakatt Moriches, NY * Mr William Juodawlakis IMO Mary Ann Livonia, MI * K of

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L Amber District IMO Deceased Members Mt. Ephraim, NJ * K of L Council # 109 Great Neck, NY * K of L Council 112 Marquette Park, IL * K of L Council # 152 E Long Island, NY * K of L Council 156 Shamokin, PA * K of L Council # 3 Philadelphia, PA * K of L Council # 46 Forest City, PA * K of L Mid-Atlantic District * Anna M Kapochus IMO Frank Kapochus Brookhaven, PA * Daina Kapochus IMO Marilyn Kapochus Egg Harbor City, NJ * Leonard Kapochus IMO Marilyn Kapochus Milmay, NJ * Mr & Mrs Thomas P Koshis Cheshire, CT * Bess Kucinsky Trevoise, PA * Mrs Catherine Kurpowic Detroit, MI * Rom Leparskas Warren, MI * Joseph L. Machonis IMO Connie Machonis Essington, PA * Dorothy Machonis IMO Family Glen Mills, PA * Juliann D Majeski IMO Frank Kapochus Aston, PA * Rev. Peter J. Malin (Seminary Fund) Port Richey, FL * David Mancini IMO Amelia & Eric Mancinc Dunedin, FL * Jean Mihalik IMO Mihalik/Kapochus Families Larksville, PA * Mr & Mrs V Milukas Plainview, NY * Nellie Pandza Holmes, PA * Mr & Mrs E Pantos West Boylston, MA * Sister Margaret Louis Rupsis Nerinx, KY * Michael & Theresa Shea IMO Stasiulaitis Family Bloomfield Hills, MI * V.A. Shukis & Sons Builders IMO Mr & Mrs B Shukis Indian Head Park, IL * Elinor Sluzas Dayton, OH * Mr & Mrs J Sniokaitis Commerce, MI * Dr & Mrs S Strasius Ann Arbor, MI * Sts. Peter & Paul Church (Seminary Fund) Elizabeth, NJ * Mr Josphe Svelnis Needham, MA * Regina Juska-Svoba IMO Vincent Boris (Seminary Fund) Madison Heights, MI * Regina Juska-Svoba IMO Rimgaudas (Seminary Fund) Madison Heights, MI * Mary Vaitkus (Seminary Fund) Belleville, IL * Mr & Mrs Matt Vilutis Frankfort, IL * Mr & Mrs J White South Boston, MA * Mr & Mrs Albert Yatkaukas IMO Family & C-12 Members Little River, SC * William J Zager IMO John & Martha (Seminary Fund) Ann Arbor, MI * Rev. Albert J. Zanavich (Seminary Fund) Ansonia, CT * Mr & Mrs A Zenka Bellerose Manor, NY * Patricia Zyren Melvindale, MI * Helen Zytkowski Amsterdam, NY

\$50.00 to \$99.00

Mr & Mrs R Abela IMO Ursula Vitas Livonia, MI * Anella Sanderson IMO Simoraitis & Bakaitis Family (Seminary Fund) Chicago, IL * Mirga D. Bablin IMO Deceased Family Amsterdam, NY * Leonard Balkus Farmington Hills, MI * Alphonse J Balsis IMO Family Cape May, NJ * Al Baran IMO Peter Baranowski Stratford, CT * Robert S. Boris IMO Elena Rasytinis Marco Island, FL * Edward M Budelis Eldersburg, MD * John Chernoski Ewing, NJ * Mary Ann Cipolla West Pittston, PA * Mrs John L Cornell (Seminary Fund) Sun City, AZ * George & Beatrice Cramblet Detroit, MI * Dr. & Mrs R Gineitis Dayton, OH * Ramona Gonski IMO Ona Bikinas Hyde Park, MA * Mr & Mrs Vincent Gray (Seminary Fund) So Euclid, OH * Mr & Mrs J Hoeschele IMO Valentina Osteika Canton, MI * Ms Ann Marie Jaskel IMO Family Philadelphia, PA * Mr & Mrs J Jonaitis Gulfport, FL * K of L Council # 143 Pittston, PA * K of L Council # 16 Chicago, IL * K of L Council # 79 Southfield, MI * K of L Council # 86 DuBois, PA * K of L Council # 90 Kearny, NJ * K of L Council # 96 Dayton, OH * Ms Carol Kaminskas Framington Hills, MI * Karen V Kapochus IMO Marilyn Kapochus Cologne, NJ * Helen Karpovich IMO Karpovich/Kapochus Family Wilkes-Barre, PA * Rev. Francis Karvelis Southington, CT * Rev. Francis Karvelis (Seminary Fund) Southington, CT * Michael Kohut Jr. Sugarloaf, PA * Mary Labadis IMO Helen & Bill Labadis Gilberton, PA

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Total 316 Donations \$238,540.74

A sincere THANKS to all who made this record breaking 6 months possible. A very special thanks to MS ANNE BARONAS whose extremely generous gift has made possible the establishment of an endowed scholarship fund for post -graduate or specialized studies by young Lithuanian priests at major centers of learning around the world. This fund will be administered by the Archbishop of Vilnius.

Lithuanian People...Match 'em	4 Charles Bronson _____	g present Architect of West Point
	5 Dick Butkus _____	h author, "Princess Daisey"
	6 Judith Krantz _____	i tennis great
<i>Edward Budelis</i>	7 Joseph Staniunas _____	j syndicated columnist
	8 Adm F E Bakutis _____	
	9 Saul Bellow _____	
Here is a Matching test that I think readers will find a fun and interesting challenge. Try it. See how many you can get correctly.	10 Vitas Gerulaitis _____	Scoring:
	Choices	7-10 Labai gabus
fill in the blanks with choices	a designed U S Lincoln penny	3-6 Gabus
	b born in Vilnius, 1901	1-2 Read VYTIS more often
	c Kazys Bucinskas	
1 Jascha Heifitz _____	d Malibou, CA dentist	<i>Answers to</i> p 5 101
2 Jack Sharkey _____	e boxing champion	<i>Match'em</i> o t f 6
3 Victor Brenner _____	f WW 2 flying ace	v e f 8
		a z s L
		q I y 9



Lithuanian Chefs

Favorite Rye Breads

Ruth Fisher C-152

RYE BREAD TORTE DUONINIS TORTAS

10 egg yolks & whites
10 tbsps. sugar
1 tsp. ground cloves
1 tsp. cinnamon
1/2 tsp. nutmeg
10 tbsps. very dark rye bread crumbs
(dried and ground)
2 tbsps. potato flour
1/2 tsp. baking powder

Cream together egg yolks and sugar. Add spices. Cover 5 tablespoons of the bread crumbs with enough milk to cover. Soak 5 minutes. Add, with remaining 5 tablespoons crumbs, to the yolk mixture. Beat well. Add sifted potato flour and baking powder. Gently fold in the stiffly beaten egg whites. Pour into round cake or torte pan lined with greased paper. Bake at 350° 1/2 hour to 45 minutes. Cool. Cut into 3 layers. Put together with Filling:

1 lb. butter
1 tsp. vanilla (or 1 stick vanilla)
2 cups powdered sugar
3/4 cup milk
3 egg yolks
2 cups lingonberries

(If using stick vanilla, scald milk with vanilla stick. Cool. Remove stick). Cream butter and sugar. Add vanilla (if using extract). Add milk, a spoonfull at a time, and yolks one at a time, while continuing to beat. Place bottom layer of cake on plate. Sprinkle generously with compote (or fruit) juice to

which 1 or 2 jiggers of rum or brandy have been added. Spread with filling. Place second layer on top of filling. Sprinkle with juice, spread with cooked and sweetened lingonberries (cranberries or fruit preserves may be substituted). Cover with third layer, sprinkle with juice, spread with filling. Decorate with maraschino cherries or candied fruit. Keep in refrigerator.

RUGINE DUONA LITHUANIAN STYLE

2 lbs. dark rye flour
1 wine glass vinegar
1 to 3 tps. salt
1 to 3 tps. caraway seeds
3/4 cake yeast
1 cup lukewarm water
1/2 cup sugar
all-purpose flour

Should be mixed in a wooden pail or bucket (oak, if possible). Season a new pail by rubbing it with salt, finely cut onion and caraway seeds. If pail is used rarely for mixing dough, season it freshly. When freshly seasoned pail is used, decrease amount of salt and caraway seeds for dough. Dilute vinegar with equal amount of boiling water. Stir into rye flour. Add enough boiled water to make a thin paste. Add salt and caraway seed. Let cool. Dissolve 1/2 cake yeast and sugar in 1 cup lukewarm water. Stir into rye mixture while slightly warm. Cover with a cloth. Let stand overnight in warm, even temperature. In the morning add 1/4 cake of yeast which has been dissolved in a little lukewarm water. Stir in enough

all-purpose flour to make a stiff dough. Stir vigorously. Let rise 1 hour. Divide dough in half and place in large bread-pans which have been greased and sprinkled with cracker meal or corn meal. Let rise again 15 to 30 minutes. Bake in very hot oven until top is brown. Then reduce temperature to moderate, continue baking nearly 3 hours.

RYE BREAD RUGINE DUONA

3/4 cup lukewarm water
1/2 cup molasses
4 tps. salt
1 to 3 tps. caraway seed
2 tbsps. shortening
3 pkgs. compressed or dry yeast
3/4 cup lukewarm water
2 cups coarse rye meal
4 cups (about) white flour

Mix together first five ingredients. Add yeast which has been softened in 3/4 cup water for 5 minutes. Mix in with a big spoon the unsifted rye meal and sifted flour. If too thick, use hand to mix. Turn out dough on lightly floured board, let stand 10 minutes. Knead till smooth and shiny. Shape into a big ball, place in a very large bowl. Cover with damp cloth. Let rise in a warm place (about 85°) until double in bulk (1 1/2 to 2 hours). Punch down the dough and divide into 2 parts. Shape each part into a smooth ball. Put balls in opposite corners of corn-meal sprinkled baking sheet. Cover with damp cloth. Let rise in a warm place for about an hour. Bake in moderate oven (375°) for about 45 minutes. ❖❖❖

Council News

C-3, Philadelphia, PA **Victor Stepalovitch and** **Stephany Gutauskas**

A Lithuanian language class was held before C-3's February meeting. During the meeting, members learned of requests from Lithuania for American English books. Donations of encyclopedias, novels, and children's books, for example, are welcome. Donated texts will be shipped to Lithuania as soon as it is feasible. Members who have photographs of old cars, and are willing to part with them, are requested to give them to Len Kapochus, who will send them to a 16-year-old in Lithuania who is keenly interested in automobiles.

During the meeting, C-3 members also heard a report about Archbishop Jurgis Matulaitis (1871-1927) who was active in the field of social justice. Members further learned that amber was selected as the gemstone of the new millennium.

On February 16, several members were present at a mass at St. George Church to celebrate Lithuanian Independence Day. Stephany Gutauskas, wearing a ceremonial juosta in honor of the day, presented the offertory gifts at mass.

On February 20, members also participated in a community celebration of Lithuanian Independence, which began with mass at St. George Church. Parishioners from the Lithuanian parishes of St. George, St. Andrew, and St. Casimir attended this mass. The Church was decorated with Lithuanian yellow, green, and red bows on entrance railings, choir loft,

pews, and candlesticks. Tricolor was also reflected in the flowers at the altar donated by St. George parish. The procession into the church featured five flags: United States, Lithuania, Knights of Lithuania, Council 3 (Victor Stepalovitch, flagbearer), Lithuanian Scouts, and Ateitininkai. Women dressed in ethnic costume or wearing a juosta and men wearing their juostas processed into church to the instrumental strains of "Lietuva Brangi" followed by "Pulkim Ant Keliu." Monsignor Joseph Anderlonis, National Spiritual Advisor of the K of L, was the main celebrant of the mass, with concelebrant Monsignor Leon Peck, Honorary Canon of the Lithuanian Diocese of Vilkaviskis. The mass was said in Lithuanian with English translation of gospel and homily. In his homily, Monsignor Anderlonis emphasized that all of the struggles and tribulations of the Lithuanian people were worthwhile in that they led to the independence and freedom of an entire nation. Four special gifts were presented at the offertory; a small carved wooden cross, a tray of Lithuanian soil, a loaf of Lithuanian dark bread, and a piece of amber—all closely tied to our Lithuanian heritage. Choir Director Joseph Pokorny led the choir and congregation in the song of praise, "Ausros Vartu Madonna," the dismissal hymn, "Marija, Marija," and the Lithuanian National Anthem, "Lietuva, Tėvyne Musu."

Also on February 20, many council members were present at the civic celebration of Lithuanian Independence Day at the Lithuanian Music Hall. After the posting of the colors, the audience sang the

American and the Lithuanian National Anthems. Monsignor Anderlonis gave the invocation. Official greetings to the Lithuanian community were presented in the form of proclamations from Philadelphia Mayor John Street and New Jersey Governor Christie Whitman supporting the admission of Lithuania to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. Dr. Oskaras Jusys, Permanent Representative of Lithuania to the United Nations, gave the keynote address that delineated Lithuania's desire to become a member of NATO. Two slide presentations followed, one focused on the past 100 years in the life of Lithuanian-Americans in Philadelphia; the other on the past 10 years of progress by free Lithuania. The cultural program featured a medley of Lithuanian folk songs, folk dances, and music presented by the Lithuanian Folk Dance Group "Zilvinas," the Lithuanian Country Band, the Philadelphia "Kankles" Ensemble, the Children's Folk Dance Group and the Children's Choir from the Vincas Kreye Lithuanian School. The audience particularly enjoyed the dance of the new soldier during which dancers occasionally beat on the floor with wooden sticks in time to the music. The rapping of the sticks sounded like soldiers' feet marching. The dance of Lithuania, the land of the fire worshippers, was also well received. There was no doubt that the children's choir's singing of "Our Flag" and "I'm a Lithuanian" captured the heart of the audience. The program concluded with communal singing of "Lietuva Brangi" and a retirement of the colors. Refreshments were served at a reception following the program.

Council 6, Hartford, CT

Leona Sawka

On March 5th, Council 6 participated in the Lithuanian Scouts Food and Crafts Fair by selling jewelry and assorted items as a money maker. This event was held in the church hall of Holy Trinity Church, Hartford. The Fair was a great success and enjoyed by all who attended.

This Council's third meeting was held on Tuesday, March 7th. Membership has now grown to 37. The newest members were inducted at this meeting.

Additional offices are as follows: Lithuanian Affairs, Judy Landers; Social, Leona Sawka and Cultural, Irene Petkaitis.

Council 7 Waterbury, CT

Adele Klenske

Well, here we are at the end of February with winter just about a memory. We made it through another one - thanks to the good Lord and soon we will be welcoming yet another spring!

Our Waterbury Lithuanians came through in flying colors (yellow, green and red) to give Lithuanian Independence Day the proper recognition. On Sunday February 13th, the Lithuanian Community Club hosted a program at St. Joseph's school hall. A guest speaker from Pennsylvania was present, as well as the men's choir, who sang some of our ethnic songs - ending with "America the Beautiful" and the Lithuanian anthem. All this followed by a tasty dinner - kugeli included!

Thanks to our Vice President, Linas Balsys, who was Master of Ceremonies for the above program and who announced our K of L flag raising several times during

the program - we had a great outpouring of our fellow Lithuanians! This ceremony took place on February 16th at the Waterbury City Hall courtyard with our Mayor, Phil Giordano and our very own Richard Dubauskas, who was honorary mayor for the day.

After the flag raising, we all trooped into City Hall, where a short ceremony was held. Richard was presented with proclamations from the visiting dignitaries, as well as a certificate of special Congressional recognition and a letter of congratulations from Representative James Maloney. Richard's speech was inspiring. He mentioned the struggle, which Lithuania had through much of its existence and the joyful day of eventual independence from Russia. He made us all proud of our heritage... Way to go, Richard - if you ever decide to run for any office, you can count on our vote!

Our regular monthly meeting, postponed a week because of inclement weather, was held on Friday, February 25th. It was decided by the members present to have another **pancake breakfast on April 9th**. Crank up your ovens ladies and bake those cakes for our usual cake sale, which turns out to be an ever popular and fairly lucrative undertaking.

We celebrated St. Casimir's Day by attending the 4 PM vigil Mass at St. Joseph's Church. Members met in our clubrooms and marched as a body into church. After Mass, light refreshments were served in our clubroom.

Just another reminder about the National Convention - July 27-30th. Members who are interested in attending are asked to sign up as soon as possible so that arrangements can be made for proper transportation and air travel. We're hoping for a sizable group so that perhaps our

rates may be better. Our California hosts advise that we fly into Burbank, CA - seems it's less of a hassle to get from there to LA. This means leaving from Providence, RI and thus the idea of group travel. Call Doris Snirpunas to get on this list of travelers. Don't forget folks. Lent began with Ash Wednesday on March 8th. We should try for special sacrifices - it's good for the soul!

C-17, South Boston, MA

Balandis

Special council events included the St. Casimir Communion Breakfast on March 5th at St. Peter's Church, the St. Peter's Senior Dinner on March 26th, **the upcoming New England District Spring Convention on April 30th**, and the New England Retreat in Kennebunkport, ME.

The Pilgrimage tour to Lithuania, featuring the National Eucharistic Congress of Lithuania, will include C17 members Phyllis Gendreau and Florence Zaleskas.

Grandma Mary Martus and grandaunt Adele Martus are rejoicing because Kristin Lichtenberg made the league playoffs with her basketball team. Good job Kristin!

Our Cultural Affairs chairperson, Florence Zaleskas, gave an informed reading on "Gavenos" activities in Lithuania. Larry Svelnis, National Archives Committee Chairman, spoke highly of the Rhode Island doctor who donated a computer for their work. Larry is now looking to purchase a scanner and printer. This equipment is greatly needed, and will be appreciated by the committee.

Sincere get well wishes go out to members Mildred Daniels and Anne Marie Arsenault.

Tuoj bus Verbu
Sekmadienis, didžioji savaitė,



The VETRA Dancers performed at C-141, Bridgeport's Independence Day Celebration at St. George Church Hall Hon Member Stella Marcinauskis in center.

Photo by Jonas Balcius

gavėnos pabaiga, ir Velykos. Lietuvoj visą šeimą dažydavo margučius.

Don't forget to take time out and decorate those Easter eggs!

Council 25 - Cleveland

Ursula Kunsitis

We closed 1999 with a very enjoyable evening at the Creation Lodge where we held our Annual Christmas Party. Dinner was enjoyed by over 40 members where we were entertained by "CHARO" who played a great Flamenco Guitar -- and YES, she can still sing!

Congratulations to Rich Oberaitis (son of Dolly Oberaitis) who recently shot 257-290-276 for a score of 823 in the Men's Bowling League at Mahall's Lanes in Lakewood, OH. It was the first career 800 for Rich and the highest series in the storied history of Mahall's Alleys!

Dick and Jean Marks spent their Christmas Holidays in Montana visiting their daughter Mary Beth and son-in-law, Randy. They were flabbergasted by the great warm weather--usually they are faced with blizzard conditions. Friday, January 21st will be a day Joe and Ann

Ivoska soon won't forget. Returning home from a family funeral in DuBois they hit icy road conditions and their car, as well as their son's car, were both demolished by a semi truck. They know too well what the saying "I feel like I've been hit by a semi" means! We are all happy that they are both doing well and recovering nicely.

Congratulations and best wishes to Msgr. Alexander Goldikovskis who celebrated his 95th Birthday on St. Valentine's Day. Msgr. was the Spiritual Advisor of our Senior Council when it was in existence a number of years back.

We had a good Council representation at the February 13th Lithuanian Independence Day Celebration at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church where a Mass of Thanksgiving was held followed by an afternoon program in the church auditorium where guests were greeted by Fr. Gediminas Kijauskas, Pastor, and the Honorary Dr. Rimantas Morkvenas, Consul General of Lithuania in New York. Our wonderful Exultate Choir, directed by Rita Kliorys, as well as our various dance groups, including the Grandinele performed. This was

a very happy, enjoyable Lithuanian Independence Day celebration!

February was a sad month for C-25. We lost two loyal members. Adele Victoria Svet died on February 6th. She was a Fourth Degree Member and had joined our Council in 1962. Isabel Agnes Reedick, sister of Frances Mikalauskas (Dayton) and Charles Machutas (Arizona) passed away on February 25th. Isabel was a Third Degree Member and had joined our Council in 1971. Our deepest sympathy is extended to their families.

Even though it was a sad occasion that brought Charles and Nelda Machutas and George and Frances Mikalauskas and family back to Cleveland, it was good to see our fellow Knights again!

Jim and Joan Thompson and Fran Pranskevich looking tanned and rested at our February Meeting after their Florida vacation. It was good to see our Treasurer back again after his extensive travels!!

C-26, Worcester, MA

Stephen V. Walinsky, Sr.

February was an interesting and busy month for C-26, starting

with the customary Valentine potluck supper before the monthly meeting. As always, the ladies treated the gentlemen with their delectable concoctions, and the men responded with gratitude and contentment. Then followed the meeting, expertly guided by President Vivian Rodgers, who explained up-coming activities with profit possibilities and projections into the future.

Letters of thanks were received from our beneficiaries in Lithuania of the projects C-26 supports: a parish and orphan facilities.

Fr. John Petrauskas started making plans for the Holy Hour that is to happen in March. He always does a good job.

The members of C-26, C-116, and all of interested Lithuanians of Worcester were invited to a welcome gathering for Zita Masiulyte, a Lithuanian nurse scholar. She was sponsored by the Nursing Dept. of Anna Maria College. Her stay here lasted for two months, during which time she visited hospitals in Connecticut and Massachusetts. Zita was one of the nurses who entertained our girls when they were in Lithuania. The reception was very well attended.

It was good news to hear that Tony Anton survived a heart attack, and that he is at home resting. Tony and Bea have not been as active as in the past, because of health set backs. During the early days of March, I also will have had a total knee replacement.

C-82, Gary, IN

Mildred Jagiella

On Feb 13, Council 82 joined with ALTAS and Bendruomene's East Chicago/ IN Chapter to celebrate Lithuanian Independence Day. Our members,

who are scattered all over the countryside, gathered at VFW 1563 in Merrillville for the prayer service for those who died for the independence of America and Lithuania. Dinner followed this solemn event.

Our able and gracious mistress of ceremonies, Birute Vilutis, introduced Vince Gumulauskis, as well as, Casimir Bait, Sr. Janine Golubickis, and Kestutis Siupienius - our speaker on current events in Lithuania.

A resolution to continue working toward Lithuanian NATO membership and encouraging local representatives to join the Baltic Caucasus passed unanimously.

Bronius Muras, world-renown accordion virtuoso, performed a superb program, along with a sing-a-long and some brave souls who "tripped the light fantastic".

A dozen attendees joined us as new members and we look forward to their unique participation.

Smiles were abundant as we left basking in the warmth of old friends and new, remembering and enjoying Laisva Lietuva.

C-96 Dayton, Ohio

Fran Petkus

Like many Lithuanian communities throughout the United States, Dayton held the 82nd anniversary of Lithuania's Declaration of Independence on February 20th. A Mass of thanksgiving was held at Holy Cross Lithuanian R. C. Church with Rev. Michael Holloran as celebrant. Acolytes and Offertory Bearer were C-96 Junior Knights. Following Mass, a special brunch was held in the church hall. Mrs. Milda Gulbinskas-Lenkauskas, of Cincinnati and member of the

Lithuanian World Community, was our guest speaker. Mrs. Lenkauskas' unique presentation held the interest of all attending. Rather than speaking first in Lithuanian and then English, she entwined the two languages. Mrs. Lenkauskas was very complimentary towards the activities of the K of L. As usual our Dayton Vejeliai Dancers put on a very entertaining performance and included a few new dances, thanks to the tapes that Barbara Schmidt, of C #141, shared with them. Donations were collected for Aid to Lithuania, the Vejeliai Dancers, and the Lithuanian World Community. Turnout for the occasion was great! It was a well-rounded program arranged by the Parish's Sarysis Committee of which many C-96 members belong.

Get well wishes go out to Tina Kavy. We are happy to see that recent members who were hospitalized are home on their way to recovery - Joyce Berczelly, Linda Pant, and Elinor Sluzas!

Our deepest sympathies go to Anna Louise, Ronald, and Danny Tucker on the loss of their father/grandfather, Richard Conrady. Our sympathies also go to the family of Honorary Member Aldona Ryan. Aldona was determined to whip the cancer that took over, but the cancer won out on February 5th. Aldona, at one time, was VYTIS Editor. May their souls rest in the peace of the Lord!

Several years ago C-96 adopted Christ the King Sisters of Vilnius. Each year we have a fund drive to raise money for them. George Mikalauskas has chaired this project many times. This year George has added a special gift for the drive. Anyone donating thirty dollars or more will receive a hand crafted cross designed and made by George. Please make your checks out to "Knights of Lithuania, C-96" and

mail to: George A. Mikalauskas, 104 E. Bruce Ave., Dayton, OH 45405. Donations cover postage and handling. The deadline is May 15, 2000.

C-110, Maspeth **Bruno Rutkunas**

Our council members celebrated the occasion of the Lithuanian independence of February 16, on February 20, attending the 11:15 am Lithuanian Mass at the Transfiguration Church in Maspeth where the choirs of the Annunciation and Transfiguration joined together in song and prayer. The attendance there and later at the Lithuanian Cultural Center (Židinys) was very impressive. Bishop Paulius Baltakis celebrated Mass and was present at the center. About six C-110 gracious young women wore their costumes in church.

Our February meeting on the 27th was well attended where plans were made for future events, especially for the MAD meeting on March 26; with a special Mass at 11:15 am for deceased district spiritual advisor, Msgr. Frank Bulovas, and this event we honored the memory of Saint Casimir and his dedications to the Catholic faith.

Our council continues to try to enlist some new younger American-Lithuanians to the K of L, most difficult!!! Our generous brunches are always a big hit and thanks to the efforts of our own Peter Zuyus who for many years has purchased and stored many items in his home, always put up the coffee and always to leave last, after making sure the area is cleaned up and spic and span. And I don't think he has missed attending the 7:30am mass every Monday for years. We are very grateful for his efforts, thank you Peter Zuyus. As our elderly members

get older, many pass away and the list is getting to be too long.

We continue to ship needed items to Lithuania, with our second shipment going or already shipped by now (March). It looks like about a dozen members expect to attend the convention this year in Los Angeles.

C-112, Chicago **Sr. Johanne M.** **Shainauskas, SSC**

Council 112 members sadly mourned the death of one of its long-time members, Mr. Albertas Matulis, a Vyciu Council member for 37 years, and a Vyciu Choir member. Albertas was laid to rest in St. Casimir cemetery on Dec. 18, 1999. Many Vyciu council and choir members were in attendance to bid their last farewell. He will be greatly missed!

C-112 held its annual Christmas Party on December 14, 1999. This event was chaired by Ed and Maria Deksnis, and held in the Nativity B.V.M. parish hall. Denise Zakarka and her accompanist entertained us all with their beautiful Christmas carols, in both English and Lithuanian. A most delicious meal (which included kugelis and mostaccoli made by President, Mickey Petrosius) was served, and a fantastic time was had by all. As a result of members' kindness, and the efforts of Sister Theresa Papsis, \$150 dollars was collected for Aid to Lithuania at the Christmas event.

Many of our Council members also attended the annual "Memories of Lithuania" banquet held in the Grand Ballroom of the Martinique Restaurant, in Evergreen Park, Illinois, on February 6th. Mr. Robert Martin, Jr. and Mr. Algerd Brazis served as co-chairs for this event. About 300 people were in

attendance. The entertainment presented by Mr. Bronius Muras, a World Class International Accordion Virtuoso from Klaipeda, Lithuania, was superb! The Knights' dance group also delighted us with 3 beautifully choreographed presentations. The Award of Distinction this year was presented to "Lietuvos Sauliu Sajunga Iseivijoje Cikagos Rajono Juru Sauliu Nemuno Rintine"

The Council's annual St. Casimir's Day Mass was celebrated at the Marian Fathers' Chapel on March 5th. A special lunch was served afterwards.

C-135 Ansonia, CT **J.P. Sabulis**

Well, here we are again with the important news once again. Again its the election: Spiritual Advisor, Father Patrick Berkery; President, Frances Barsevich; Vice-President, John A. Sabulis; Secretary, Mildred Driznus; Treasurer, Ruth Tyson; Financial Secretary, Lillian Chaplick; Sgt. at Arms, Thomas Koshis; Trustees, 1 Year -John P. Sabulis; 2 Years-Eleanor Marganski; 3 Years- Thomas Koshis; Cultural/Historian, Albert Shurkis; Vytis Correspondent, John P. Sabulis; Ritual, Ann Winkis. Lots of luck to all and we all hope the year 2000 is a good one.

Plans are being formulated for the **50th Anniversary of the Council to be celebrated on May 7th, 2000**. Mass at 10:00 am will be followed by a Luncheon to be held at the Colonial Tavern in Oxford. A good time is planned for all on that date. All former and present members are invited to participate in this celebration. More information will be available at a later date.

A sad time in our midst. Our past pastor, Father Raymond B. Yuskauskas, better known to all as

"Father Ray" passed away on Saturday, February 12 at 3:00 p.m. at Middlesex Hospital. Father Ray lay in state here at St. Anthony's Church on Wednesday, February 16, from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. A memorial Mass was held immediately after. Father was buried on Thursday from St. Patrick's Church in East Hampton with a solemn funeral service, presided over by Archbishop Cronin. May we always keep him in our prayers. May he rest in peace.

Well, well, I see the Bridgeport crowd makes the paper with the West Haven group, I'm talking about the two light footed dancers, Joseph Karmuza and Nancy Pawasauskas members of VETRA. Good to see talented ones still at it.

C-136 Hudson Mohawk ***Dorothy Richmire***

Mother Nature has reminded us, once again, that the northeast winters are bound to find us either complaining or salivating at the results of a major snowstorm. There are those who do not enjoy shoveling, slipping, sliding, or finding themselves stuck in a snowbank and those that are winter sport enthusiasts, and enjoy the wonder of a new snowfall. Whatever your choice, the good news is, spring is just around the corner.

To commemorate the 82nd anniversary of Lithuanian Independence, our council acted as hosts for members of Holy Cross Church and Lithuanian-American members of the community on Sunday, February 20. The day started with mass celebrated by Rev. D. McGuire, a visiting cleric from Australia, who substituted for Rev. Joseph Biondino who was unable to travel due to icy road conditions.

The church was filled to capacity, the sun brightly streaming

through the windows allowing the stained glass figures to absolutely glow. The choir, accompanied by our organist, Frieda Pierone, offered the traditional hymns including Pulkim Ant Keliu, Marija, Marija and both the Lithuanian and American Anthems.

A special collection was taken up by members of our council acting as ushers for Lithuanian Catholic Religious Aid. The money is earmarked for the crucial needs of Catholics in Lithuania. Mayor Albert Jurczynski issued the proclamation of Lithuanian Independence Day and Chief of Police; Gregory Kazmerczak presented it to the Council in the Mayor's absence. Also, Mr. Robert Carr, representing Congressman Michael McNulty, acknowledged the Independence of Lithuania.

Immediately after mass, council members outdid themselves by offering very appealing samples of Lithuanian cuisine. It was a cooperative effort brilliantly organized under the leadership of Chairperson Sue Freer, Ed Barkowski and Chick Rupsis. Guests expressed many complimentary comments as they were leaving.

On the sick list, please pray for Helen La Pierre, Stephanie Dwilit, and Frank Zebuda. Also, our council mourns the recent loss of 4th degree member Clara Tulio. Our Lord called her to Heaven after a long illness and she will be greatly missed.

C-141, Bridgeport, CT ***Aldona Marcavage***

All the work and planning, for the 82nd Independence Day celebration brought gratifying results. Our members, wearing sashes, marched into church behind the American and Lithuanian flags.

Flag bearers were Peter Peters and Sigita Liaukus. Dressed in native costumes, Barbara Schmidt and Nancy Pawasauskas followed to the strains of "Apsaugok Auksciausias" on the organ. A special prayer for Lithuania was read with emotion by Helen Janiunas before the Mass of Thanksgiving began. Celebrant was Msgr. Francis J. Pranckus. Everyone was happy to see Msgr. Pranckus on the altar, since he had been quite ill.

A social hour with a variety of refreshments followed in the church hall. H/M President Clemencine Miller greeted all who joined us for this happy occasion. The collection designated for the K of L Medical Aid to Lithuania netted over \$2,000, much needed assistance to the newly regained independent republic.

Guest speaker was Honorable Judge Thomas B. Griglun of Meriden. In 1993, he became a member of LABAS (Lith. American Bar Assoc.). He made 4 trips to Lithuania to meet with LABAS counterparts. He has been working with the Lithuanian attorneys to help restructure the judicial system. He assisted in reviewing the Lithuanian Constitution and restructured amendments to comply with the independent country where everything had been Russified. We wish Judge Griglun and LABAS success in their efforts to make the Judicial system uniquely Lithuanian.

The lively VETRA dancers entertained, performing two new dances in their repertoire, much to everyone's pleasure. Gaile Ivaskaite is their new teacher. The event received good coverage from the Conn. Post photographer.

Two special birthday luncheons were held--one for Msgr. Pranckus whose birthday was March 24th---and one for Stella

Marcinauskis 75th birthday on March 20th. Many happy returns to both, with an abundance of God's blessings.

Our annual St. Casimir Day brunch was held March 19th this year. Stella Marcinauskis is formulating plans for a bus trip to Toronto for the July Dance Festival. VETRA will be participating. For details contact Stella.

Mark your calendars for April 30th—the NED Spring convention in South Boston. An opportunity to meet old friends—and enjoy. A friendly hello from A & B to Helen Z. via Marie of C-74.

Dr. Izadore Rosenfeld says "Your attitude toward life and the pleasures you derive from it, are critical to healthy longevity."

C-142 Washington, DC

Joseph Chaplick

The slate of officers for 2000 consists of President, Joseph Chaplick; Vice President, John E. Waylonis; Secretary, Patricia Carlton; Treasurer, Jean Lutwin; and Financial Secretary, Jean Lutwin. This group has volunteered to serve another year. Pat Carlton is the exception, as this is her first year.

Council 142 has two new members, Richard and Mary Lou Koehl, from Arlington, Virginia. Mary Lou is the daughter of fellow Knight, Anthony Ratkus, and sister of Knight, Loretta Ratkus. The three make a fine family representation. Beverly Meder and her daughter, Cynthia, is the other family group of members in our Council.

After enjoying C-142's summer picnic, Jean Lutwin and I were off to the National Convention in Philadelphia. At the convention's Saturday night banquet, I was seated next to Dorothy Banos. Dorothy lived into the new Millennium year,



Guest speaker Hon Judge Thomas B. Grigun of Meriden at C-141's Lithuanian Independence Day ceremonies at St. George Hall on Feb. 20. Photo by Jonas Balcius

but never knew it. She died January 3rd. I knew Dorothy all of her life. We grew up in the same town and I was often a guest at her home. Dorothy lived in a grand house on a high hill with a spectacular view of Wyoming Valley and the Susquehanna River. Dot was of Greek-Lithuanian heritage, and proud of it. Her Lithuanian grandmother had a great influence on her. Dorothy's father owned a tavern and after he died, Dot and her two brothers looked after the business. Dot would teach class in high school during the day, and tend bar at night. Dot was a fourth degree Knight, and was active in the Supreme Council in C143, and president of the Amber District. She traveled to Lithuania many times with her best friend, Nellie Bayoras Romanas. Dorothy was an educator, a volunteer to help the needy, a good person, and a good friend. For her viewing, Dorothy was dressed in her ecumenical minister's robe. At her funeral mass in St.

Casimir's, the church was packed. The respect and esteem shown her was unusual for a lay person. However, she was an unusual lay person, and will be severely missed.

C-143, Pittston, PA

The Kucios was once again, wondrously celebrated at St. Casimir's Church in Pittston, Pennsylvania, on Sunday, December 5, 1999 with 43 guests in attendance. Co-chairmen Rosemary Durling and Jean Kapochus Mihalick did another great job of involving many members in the entire program. Committee members were Mary Ann Cipolla, Helen Karpovich, Patricia Weiksner and Peggy Yanklunis. We were pleased to welcome back Father Peter Alisauskas, who offered invocation and the blessing of the Plotkeles. A beautiful Christmas display was set up by Martha and Bob Warnagaris.

The celebration began when Rachel and Sarah Connor sighted the first star of the evening. Mary Anna McGill the led everyone in singing Silent Night, while K of L members lit candles at each table. Jean Mihalick, President, welcomed all and Francis Evans gave the greeting and presented the toast.

The invocation and blessing were given and dinner was served with members donating many items including: silke (herring) from Casimir Kizis, Jr.; home made cheese from Anna Walatkas and Rosalie Kizis; slizikai (biscuits) by Jean Mihalick; aguonu pienas (poppysed milk) by Leonard Kapochus; kopustu (cabbage) from Ursala Danoski; kisielius (fruit pudding) by Rosemary Durling; kompotas (fruit compote) by Anastasia Stanley; ausukes (cookies) by Mary Ann Connor; mushroom cookies by Anna Davala; chocolates and mints by Dorothy Larson; cranberry nut loaves by

Genevieve Dajnowski; pineapple loaves by Patricia Weiksner; wine from Mary Ann Cipolla and Eleanor Bellanco. Leonard Kapochus served as chief cook.

During dinner, Leonard Kapochus, representative from Council 3 of Philadelphia, gave a menu interpretation. Ursala Danoski explained the importance of the Lithuanian Christmas tradition. The after dinner festivities included a Lithuanian Auction conducted by Rosemary Durling and seasonal music was accompanied by Maureen Salley on piano.

Mary Ann Cipolla presented the gifts for our priests to Monsignor Bendik who has been of great support for all of our K of L activities. Monsignor then closed out the evening with benediction. Many thanks to all who contributed in any way in making our Kucios so meaningful and successful.

Officer and Committee Members were installed at a special mass at St. Casimir's Church in Pittston on January 2, 2000, with a social following in the Church Hall. Congratulations and success to all.

Our next project was the Lithuanian Flag Raising Ceremonies conducted in Pittston, PA. on February 15th and in Wilkes-Barre, PA. on February 16th.

Sadly, we must note the passing of two long time K of L members. Anne Challan of White Haven, PA. and Dorothy Banos of Pittston, PA. Amzina Atsili.

C-144, Anthracite Ona

The Anthracite Council is saddened by the loss of five good members since January; Mary Gustus, a charter member; Dr. Vincent Mikatavage; Ann Milbut



*Council 143,
Pittston, PA's
Rosemary
Durling and
Jean Kapochus
Mihalick,
co-chairs at
1999 Kucios*

Nardini; Mary Matunis; and Marge Rozmerski. We were also sad to lose our Amber District President, Dorothy Banos. Our sympathy to the families of our dear departed members. Amzina Atsili.

Ann Bendrick is chairperson for the Amber District's St. Casimir's Breakfast and meeting. We are happy to have Sister Marilyn Kuzmickas, Superior General of the Sisters of St. Casimir, as our guest who will speak on the cause of the beatification of Mother Maria Kaupas, the foundress of the Sisters of St. Casimir. We must continue to pray for this cause. Many of our Pennsylvania parishes were aided by the Sisters of St. Casimir and still are today.

Thanks to Anna Helen and Tom McDonald who represented the Council at the Pottsville Court House in commemoration of Lithuanian Independence Day.

Our Humanitarian Aid Committee is hard at work preparing more packages to be sent to the poor, schools, orphans, and hospices in Lithuania. Thanks to Annie Morgalis who houses all the items. This committee works very hard collecting items. If used clothing is obtained they go through them, send only what is good, clean what has to be cleaned. They get needed food, vitamins, books, etc. Many letters of thanks have been received from the grateful recipients of these packages. Things are very hard in Lithuania

today and we must do all we can to help. The Council pays for all shipping, but the committee does all the work collecting, packaging and mailing. Simta aci to all these wonderful people and to all the members who contribute in any way.

Our Lithuanian Affairs Chairman, Joseph Martunis, is hospitalized. Joe comes to the meetings each month with a concise report on Lithuanian affairs. He listens to Radio Vilnius every night and brings the Council up to date on the happenings there. Get well soon Joe, we miss you.

Bernie Zilaitis, who just returned from another trip to Lithuania, reported in Joe's place this month. Our Ritual Chairman, Helen Chesko, is currently recuperating in a nursing home. She too, has been an active member since we organized. President Marian Wydra is kept busy keeping Lithuania in the news. She is a very dedicated Lithuanian and we appreciate all she does. Her husband, Joe, and her daughter are both on the sick list and she still finds time for the Council. Our best wishes to our fellow Vyciai for a Happy Easter.

C-147, St. Petersburg, FL Dolores Jonaitis

Get well wishes are extended this month to Elena Jurkynas, Angela Shukis, Alfas Shukis, and Elena Vilnius. Wishing

the best of health to all of you.

Our Kucius this year was a beautiful ceremony and tradition. The choir sang some lovely selections. Irene Diktanas, Brone Urbonas, and Anthony Gudonis are members of the choir.

Frank and Irene Petrauskas were visiting Florida in February, and were weekend guests of John and Dolores Jonaitis. We attended Lithuanian Mass at Holy Name Church in Gulf Port. Rev. Matas Cyvas and Br. Astijus Kurgys O.F.M. were the celebrants. Next, we went to the American Lithuanian Club for dinner. Amazing as to how many Lithuanians come for dinner every Sunday.

Our February meeting was called to order by President John Jonaitis, who said the opening prayer as our Spiritual Advisor was delayed. He swore in three new members Frank Petraitis, Antanina Petraitis, and David Mancini. David became a member last year, but didn't get sworn in. He has now become a lifetime member and has contributed generously to "Aid to Lithuania". Applications for Auksa Kronas, Rasa Petraitis, and Stase Jancauskiene were accepted and mailed to Mark Bell. Irene Diktanas read the minutes from the previous meeting. Maria Gelazius read the Treasurer's Report. Dolores Jonaitis gave the Trustee's Report.

Alfas Shukis and Dr. Aldona Valis were presented their 4th Degrees at the St. Casimir's Day Mass on March 5th.

Plans for our concert for this year fell through. We will be looking at a picnic instead. It was voted to send our adopted "Naslaite", Rosa Gervickaite, in Lithuania, \$150.00 again this year.

As a tribute to February 16th, Valeria Lescinskas read a few words. Then we all sang "Lietuva

Brangi". Janina Lauras presented a check for \$150.00 to Council #147, from the family of Melvina Ugenas, who passed away September 22, 1999. She was a member for 20 years and one of our Charter members. We thank her family, son Paul, daughters Aldona and Ruta, and niece Janina Lauras. Again, "Aciu Sirdingai."

Thanks to our wonderful donors for all the lovely cakes, etc. for the February 16th celebration. Brone Urbonas baked a lovely torte, while Victor Sanders baked a luscious cheesecake. Other donors include Dolores Jonaitis, Ona Semolaviciene, Janina Lauras, Irene Diktanas, Kazimiera Arlauskas, Donna Jurenas, Laimute Alvarado, Genovaite Bakas and Valeria Lescinskas.

C-152 E. Long Island

Julie M. Lott

Here on Long Island we got through the winter without any major snowstorms. Had a short spell of frigid days, but managed to cope. We did have to cancel our January meeting, but that was because the center wasn't available for our usual second Sunday. That meant our February meeting entailed getting the agenda cleared of all important business. The attendance wasn't as large as it normally is since we still have members vacationing. Muriel and Ray Lofmark were away for a month as was Alberta Clark, who spends the winters at her Florida hide-away. They are all important to us and it will be good to have them back in attendance again.

We had our St. Casimir celebration on March 12th with a 10:30 mass at the Lady of Ostrabrama church in Cutchogue, followed by a covered dish luncheon at the center. That being the main topic the agenda then all other

officers gave their reports.

Fred Lucka read an interesting piece of Lithuanian heritage on the legacy of Vincus Kudirka. Born in 1858, died in 1899 he accomplished so much in his short life. Not only was he a poet and editor but also the first true columnist in Lithuanian journalism. He wrote the words and melody of the song "Lietura Teyvne Musu" which became the Lithuanian anthem. A very interesting man to read about.

Peter Dykovitz also read an article in "Bridges" on one of the largest universities in Lithuania. More and more knowledge is available about Lithuania now. Perhaps it would be a good idea if more of us would subscribe to some source of Lithuanian reading. It would be a step in the right direction of learning about our roots.

Sadly I must report again the passing of three more of our members. Blanche Zeidat, Nellie Sarkas and Stanley Malinauskas. Stanley was my twin brother and I must say the bonds between twins are very strong. I also lost a sister in February, so I felt quite alone in their passing. Also want to extend our condolences to member Anne Gradowski, who also lost her sister. May they all rest in peace.

Our council is getting smaller each year. There just aren't many people to recruit in these small communities, but I hope we can come up with some sort of membership drive. Any ideas member Knights? Bring them with you to upcoming meetings.

With Easter approaching, a most special time of the year. Council 152 would like to say "Happy Easter" to all our fellow Knights.

And so I'll leave you all with this quote: "The reward of a thing well done is to have done it" ❖❖❖

**BLESSED JURGIS MATULAITIS CATHOLIC
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The Seven Last Words of Christ

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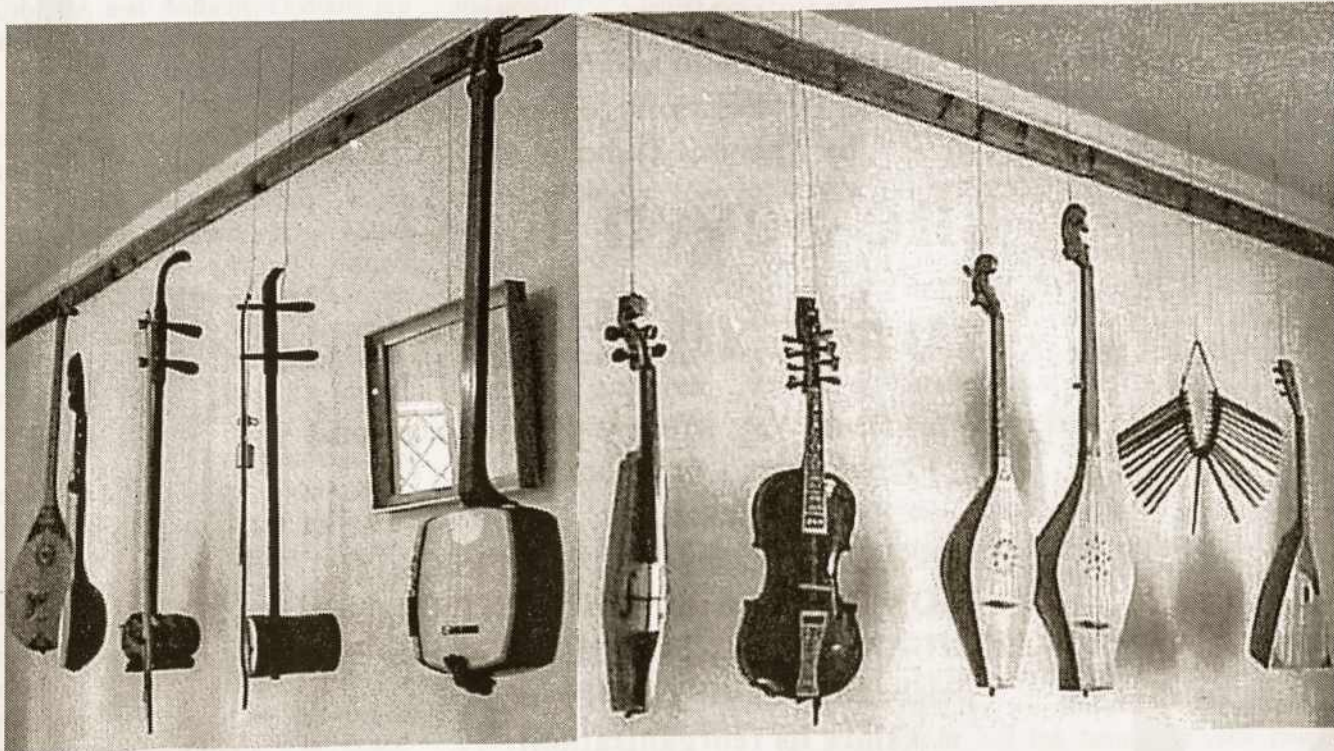
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Sunday, April 2, 2000, 1:30 PM**

Photo by Algimantas Kezys

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LITHUANIAN STRINGS

Lithuanian string instruments gracefully hang from the ceiling as part of the permanent display at the Museum of Folk Music and Instruments in Kaunas.

(Lietuvos tautinės muzikos muziejus)

Hundreds of instruments are on display here, a treat for the music and history lover, and those who want a full verbal hour long lecture, may listen as the museum's curator discusses this priceless collection.

The wooden buildings that house the instruments are located in a charming cobblestone courtyard in Kaunas Old Town.

(Photos by JJA 8/99)

