

VYTIS - THE KNIGHT

Vol. 87 No. 7 July/August - liepa/ruggjūtis 2001



They Called It America

(Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver)

God built him a continent of glory, and filled it with treasures untold. He studded it with sweet-flowing fountains, and traced it with long-winding streams. He carpeted it with soft-rolling prairies, and columned it with thundering mountains. He graced it with deep-shadowed forests, and filled them with song. ★

Then he called unto a thousand peoples, and summoned the bravest among them. They came from the ends of the earth, each bearing a gift and a hope. The glow of adventure was in their eyes, and in their hearts the glory of hope. ★

And out of the bounty of earth, and the labor of men; out of the longing of heart and the prayer of souls; out of the memory of ages and the hopes of the world, God fashioned a nation in love, and blessed it with purpose sublime.

And they called it *America!*

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Liepa/rugpjutis - July/August 2001 Volume 87: No. 7

VYTIS (THE KNIGHT) (ISSN 0042-9384) is published monthly except bi-monthly July-August and September-October by the KNIGHTS OF LITHUANIA, 2601 W. Marquette Rd., Chicago, Illinois 60629-1817

Subscription is \$20.00 per year. Single copy \$3.00. Outside USA \$25.00 per year. Periodical Postage paid at Chicago, IL. Postmaster: Send address changes to: VYTIS (The Knight), c/o Business Mgr.

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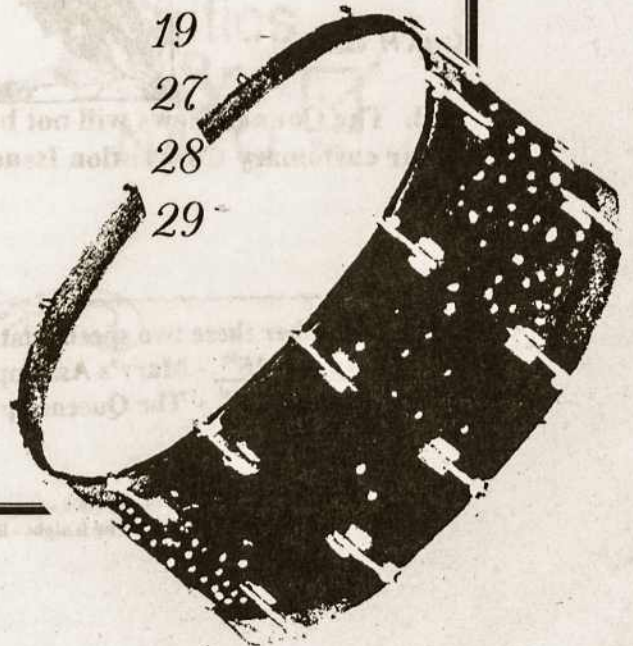


Mission Statement: *The Knights of Lithuania endeavors to instill in its members an attachment to Lithuania, the land of our ancestors, and knowledge, appreciation and love of the Lithuanian language, customs and culture.*



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To My Fellow Knights

BRIDGING THE GENERATIONS! That's the motto for our 2001 Knights of Lithuania Convention in Florida and isn't it a fitting one? The history of the Knights of Lithuania spans many generations.

The generation closest to that of our founders have completed the action time of life. We stand on their accomplishments, and our bridge to them is **reverence, deference, and respect.**

The grandparent generation comprises much of our organizational leadership. These wisely appreciate the history of the past, have weathered many storms and continue working and promoting the good. They are bridged by **our admiration and appreciation.**

Those not yet seniors who support and sustain family, community and organization derive strength from commonality and camaraderie. For them **cooperation, support and encouragement** are fitting. Those are the bridges.

But how to bridge the chasm to youth! Here lies the challenge, not just for us, but for the Church and society as well. The challenge is one of bridging with **Invitation, Involvement, and Integration.** **Here's where we build the strongest bridges.**

When we've involved youth in our organization, we will enjoy the next generation of great grandchildren with pride and joy as we dream and hope and pray for them.

We hope to see you at the convention. But, if we can't, let's build those bridges that **bridge the generations** no matter where we are. *For God and country!*

Vytiškai,

Sister M. Janine



N.B. The Council News will not be published in the Sept./Oct. issue of VYTIS. This is our customary Convention Issue. The Council News will resume in the November issue.

Let's remember these two special dates in August:
August 15th - Mary's Assumption into heaven.
August 22nd - The Queenship of Mary

**N
BALTICS
T
O
Now!**

President's Corner:

It's hard to believe that it's already summer, and our 88th National Convention is just around the corner. Sure hope you'll be able to join us. As you have already seen in the June issue of Vytis, our convention schedule is complete, or so I thought. I am very happy to announce a few changes, more like additions, to our agenda.

First, after our session on Friday, we have added a Q & A about our ritual system. Interested members can join National Ritual Chair, Clemencine Miller, HM, for an hour-long session designed to answer any questions you might have about ritual. This "session" is optional, but I strongly recommend it for those newer members who are not sure about how ritual works. Of course, those long-time members who would like to brush up on the system are welcome, too. Clem will be happy to answer your questions for you.

Second, after speaking with this year's Friend of Lithuania Award recipient, Ginger Houghton, I'm pleased to inform our members that during our Saturday afternoon session we will be treated to a short presentation from Ginger about her work for Lithuania. I am sure all those present will enjoy hearing what Ginger has to tell us.

Finally, on convention that is, I would like to encourage all our members who have a Lithuanian costume to please bring it with them to Florida. It would be nice to show our pride in Lithuania by having as many members possible in costume for the Closing Mass and Convention Photo. I know it will be warm in Florida, but our buses and the Church are air-conditioned, so we should all remain comfortable. Please consider it.

Well, as I wrap up this letter, I would just like to take this time to thank everyone for the opportunity to serve as your Supreme Council President. This past year has been an exciting one for me, and I hope you are happy with the job we have done. I also want to thank you for the great team you elected last year to serve with me. They have truly been wonderful to work with. To all of the members of the Supreme Council, I wish to say thank you for your support, camaraderie and dedication. You have made this past year truly enjoyable.

Now, everyone, enjoy your summer, and even if you aren't able to be with us in Florida for the convention, please keep all of those who are attending in your prayers as we gather once more to plan the future of the Knights of Lithuania.

Ačiū labai!

Vytiškai,

Rob Martin

Baltics

&

NATO



Yes



Lithuanian Affairs Update ★★

By John R. Mankus, Chairman National Lithuanian Affairs Committee (June 5, 2001)

NATO ENLARGEMENT

The next few months will be a critical time for Lithuania's aspiration in becoming a NATO member. In the very near future, President Bush and his advisors will decide which countries to invite into NATO. We must continue our participation in letter writing to President Bush, our Congressmen and Senators. We must continue to contact and ask our friends and neighbors to sign NATO petitions and get the message to our elected officials. It is clear that the invitation to join NATO is the priority and the goal of the Government and the people of Lithuania. President Adamkus, in his recent letter to me and to other Lithuanian-American Organizations, urged us to continue to work together to successfully Promote Lithuania's candidacy into NATO. He also emphasized that without our wholehearted support the NATO entry could not be achieved. Let me restate several points that we must continue to undertake:

-To effectuate the promise made by President George W. Bush in the course of his campaign, to lead the effort to expand NATO in 2002 and thereby assure that Lithuania is among the invited members at that time.

-To influence members of his administration, Senate and Congress, governors and mayors, by emphasizing that NATO expansion is the most effective means to create a free, unified and secure Europe.

-To inform the Lithuanian community of the importance of NATO enlargement and to form a positive opinion among the public, political leaders and media.

-To encourage our local Councils and representatives to organize delegations to visit and inform our elected representatives.

-To urge influential and prominent people to positively commit themselves to NATO enlargement and Lithuania's invitation in the year 2002.

We must make Lithuania's admission into NATO our commitment and our goal. By all of us working together, we will prevail.

Action in/by Lithuania for NATO admission

-In early May, prime ministers of the "Vilnius Ten" countries met in the Slovakian capital of Bratislava. The "Vilnius Nine" group was formed after the last year's Vilnius conference, and now, joined by Croatia, it is called the "Vilnius Ten." The prime ministers of Albania, Bulgaria, Croatia, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Macedonia, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia, together with Czech President **Vaclav Havel**, Poland's ex-foreign minister **Bronislaw Geremek**, and former U.S. presidential adviser for national security **Zbigniew Brzezinski**, attended the international conference, "Europe's New Democratic States: Leadership and Responsibility." Lithuanian Prime Minister, **Rolandas Paksas**, speaking at the conference urged the countries of the West not to delay NATO enlargement. He stated, "**There will be no losers in NATO enlargement**, while the Alliance, the new member states and even the enlargement opponent, Russia, will benefit." **Paksas** reminded that Lithuania is not only a country seeking security guarantees, but also a country capable of making its own contribution to the collective defense system and called the issue of the Baltic states' NATO membership "the most important question of all at present." Czech President, **Vaclav Havel**, underscored that he failed "to understand why these three free countries shouldn't be offered membership as soon as possible, especially as they are working hard to be ready for it." "I therefore believe that an invitation to join the Alliance should be extended to them at the next NATO summit in Prague."

-On May 4, President **Valdas Adamkus** received Foreign Minister of Hungary, **Janos Martonyi**. The Hungarian Foreign Minister reassured President Adamkus of his country's **support for Lithuania's membership into NATO**.

-In Lithuania, just like in the United States, there are many political views, however, there is complete agreement on NATO and European Union. On May 23, ten Lithuanian parties signed a historic agreement reaffirming the countries' aspiration to NATO membership and active participation in European Union's (EU) common foreign and security policy. The agreement on Lithuania's Defense Policy in 2001-2004 was signed by representatives of both

ruling and opposition parties, along with other political organizations, at a solemn ceremony at the Parliament (Seimas). "Only belonging to NATO's collective defense system, can Lithuania ensure its long-term and stable security," reads the document. "We have demonstrated our unity." "It is a very good sign before the upcoming NATO Parliamentary Assembly's session and the 2002 NATO summit meeting," said **Arturas Paulauskas**, the leader of the ruling Social Liberal Union and Parliament Chairman.

-NATO confirmed that it planned a meeting on June 13. Heads of State from alliance members would be invited to attend. The NATO Summit is intended to address problems in the Balkans, the U.S.' plans to develop an antimissile defense system and **enlargement of the alliance**. "The decision to call a NATO summit meeting in Brussels this June to, among other matters, discuss the alliance's enlargement indicates that the debates on the issue are held on the top level," said Lithuanian Foreign Ministry's Director of Information and Culture department, **Petras Zapolskas**. He also stated the time cycle between the meetings in Brussels and Prague in 2002 should give enough time for the alliance to assess progress made by individual candidates in the implementation of their Membership Action Plans. "Lithuania's agenda remains unchanged - Lithuania hopes to receive and invitation to NATO in Prague in 2002," Zapolskas said.

-Lithuanian Parliament Chairman **Arturas Paulauskas**, met President of German Bundestag Wolfgang Thierse. Paulauskas spoke about Germany's importance in Lithuanian bids to join NATO and the EU. Paulauskas recalled statements Germany has made in the past, that it is Lithuania's advocate in Euro-Atlantic integration. He said he expected Germany's policy and support for Lithuania would remain consistent in the future. Thierse gave assurances of his country's support for Lithuania's objectives of joining the EU and NATO.

LITHUANIA'S Military preparedness for NATO entry

-On May 8-10, the military exercises called, "Blue Hope '01" by the command of the joint Lithuanian-Polish battalion, "LITPOLBAT" were held at the officers'

tactical training center in Nemencine. This is the second round of exercises by the battalion's headquarters this year, devoted to peacekeeping activities. This was in preparation before the international exercises, "Amber Hope 2001," where "LITPOLBAT" troops will be participating along with other forces.

-Swedish advisors began to train the Lithuanian Volunteer National Defense Forces with instructors provided by the Swedish National Guard's training center. Swedish officers trained Lithuanian soldiers for territorial defense. Theoretical foundations were taught at the headquarters of the Lithuanian volunteer forces in Vilnius, while training on the ground occurred at the National Defense Volunteer Forces' Major Bulvicius Training Center in Raudondvaris.

New briefs from Lithuanian Newspapers

-Lithuania uses taxpayers' money to educate qualified nurses for foreign countries - nursing specialists train to go abroad for jobs. A nurse getting 520 litai (\$130) per month in Lithuania, can earn as much as \$2,000 abroad. Moreover, the work and social conditions outside Lithuania are better. There is a high demand for nurses in Ireland and Norway; others find jobs in Sweden, Finland and Iceland. The professional level of Lithuanian nurses conforms to the level needed in those countries.

-Lithuanian exports grew by 15 per cent, and imports by 14.2 per cent in the first quarter of this year, compared to the same period in 2000, the Department of Statistics announced. In January-March, 2001, Lithuania's exports amounted to 4.288 billion litai, and imports totaled 5.690 billion litai. Lithuanian exports to the European Union (EU) accounted for 50.1 per cent of the overall exports of the country.

-More than 34,000 students of secondary schools took the compulsory examinations. 12,000 chose a state exam which, at the same time represents a university exam. This year, the National Examination Center is organizing an overall 7 state graduation examinations which universities recognize as entrance exams. After passing the compulsory exam, students will take optional ones. The main session of secondary school examinations will end on June 12.

-Dairy product exports from Lithuania rose by a fifth in the January-April period of this

year, while dairy product imports declined nearly threefold over the same period. Over the four months, Lithuania exported 24, 830 tons of dairy products, a 19.4 increase on the same time last year when this figure stood at 20, 801 tons. Sour cream exports increased 11.2 times to 1,020 tons, yogurt exports increased eight times to 145,000 tons, milk sugar exports rose fivefold to 1,970 tons. In January-April, Lithuania exported 10,010 tons of cheese, up by 15.9 per cent versus the respective period in 2000, and butter exports were down by 19 per cent to 2,470 tons. Estonia, Latvia and the European Union are the main markets for Lithuanian dairy exports.

-Prime Minister **Rolandas Paksas** was concerned about a possibility of losing his seat. The President's office and the ruling coalition have started considering changing the incumbent premier for another politician from the Liberal Union. "It has been proposed to select a more determined and obedient person," Paksas spoke out at the Saturday held congress of the Liberal Union. However, even though some of the Liberal Union members were not satisfied with their leadership and its actions, the party reelected Paksas for the second term.

"Political life is not a Gospel; the situation can change," Social Democrat leader **Algirdas Brazauskas** said. He did not rule out the possibility that Social Democrats and Social Liberals might form a ruling coalition in the future. However, he denied reports about ongoing negotiations between Social Democrats and Social Liberals on formation of a new coalition.

-President **Valdas Adamkus** alluded that, if Social Democrats find a political partner to form a new majority, he would agree with the formation of a New Cabinet. "From a viewpoint of democratic politics, all political streams or parties are absolutely free to choose their political way, that is, in their opinion, the best for the State," Adamkus said. He underscored, however, the openness in the political life. Hence, negotiations on new power should proceed openly. Social Democrats say they would take over the initiative if the present power coalition falters. Party leaders are inclined to wait until the ruling coalition fails to govern, while some Social Democrat party members urge the leadership to be more active and "take the power right now."

European Union Activity

-Finnish President, **Tarja Halonen**, told Lithuanian Foreign Minister, **Antanas Valionis**, in Helsinki on May 21, that Finland supports Lithuania's bid for membership in the European Union. She noted with satisfaction, that Lithuania had reached the midpoint of its EU admission negotiations when it closed two more chapters on May 17.

Lithuania hosted the international conference, "European Integration: Economic and Security: Implications for Central and Eastern Europe," on May 21. At the conference, President Adamkus said, "It is gratifying that more and more often Vilnius is chosen as the venue for important discussions on the European and Euro-Atlantic issues. I believe that European integration and security deserve to be discussed in Vilnius. Actually, it is not only we who want to keep the finger on the pulse of the European unification. I hope that our European partners also find it useful to come here, as they can get enriched with the ideas and learn about the concerns originating in a very distinctive cultural and political background." He also said, "Today a most threatening challenge to Lithuania is the prospect of failing to catch up with the social and economic development of Europe. Therefore, it is imperative for us to fully integrate with the rest of Europe sooner, rather than later."

~~~~~  
 Ask not what your country can do for you—  
 ask what you can do for your country.

~John F. Kennedy~

*I think the true discovery of America is before us. I think the true fulfillment of our spirit, of our people, of our mighty and immortal land, is yet to come . . . certain as the morning, inevitable as noon.*

—Thomas Wolfe



# Growing Older

## Without Fear

by Dr. Wayne E. Oates

Feeling good about yourself and in control of your life is tremendously important at any age—but especially as you grow older, when you may feel besieged by many threats to your well-being.

Over time, your youthful appearance and vigor may have diminished. You may have had to give up activities you once enjoyed. Perhaps you do not feel as productive as before retirement; perhaps you no longer have the financial security of former years. You may have suffered illness or loss of eyesight, hearing, bladder control, mobility. And most painful of all, you have probably experienced the deaths of people very dear to you.

This parade of losses can make you question your very purpose in living and can arouse many fears: Can I make it without my helpmate of so many years? How will I manage to take care of myself? Will I become a useless burden to my relatives? Will I be able to adjust to living somewhere else? What if I don't have enough time left to accomplish all I wanted to? Will I be able to withstand the pain of my illness? What is death like?

### Working your way through.

The fear of aging is the common denominator in all these reactions. How can you and I best face the real fears and anxieties, then, that accompany aging?

**1. Keep on giving of yourself—and receive graciously.** The world needs you! To feel needed and to meet the needs of other people, especially members of your immediate family, can be a main source of meaning and hope for you. Your age equips you to make unique contributions. These contributions lie in the realm of the wisdom that hindsight can give, the foresight that

experience can provide, and the compassion that suffering can foster.

Take the risk of meeting new people and making new friends. You can learn to appreciate these people and put some of your old ideas to the test of new information and challenges from them.

If you remain open and listen well and are gracious to those around you, you will cultivate enduring and fulfilling relationships.

**2. Make friends of all ages.** An 86-year-old once said to me: "If I had not made many friends of all ages, I wouldn't have any friends now. I would have outlived them all and been alone in the world!"

If you have friends only in your own age group, you might tend to "pool," and thus reinforce all your fears of aging. If you have older friends, however, you can borrow from their wisdom about coping with getting older. You will find that some of them look upon their years as the advantage of seniority rather than the curse of aging.

When you cultivate younger friends, their spirit of youth will renew your own youth; their visions will inspire you. Their consultation with you as an older person will emphasize some of the advantages of your years. And, indeed, there are many. You will see your younger friends struggling through problems that you can thank God are in the past for you! And your memories and experience will give them clues and cues for their life pilgrimages.

**3. Learn new skills.** Olympic gold medal winners frequently find they are "over the hill" by the time of the next Olympiad. Their one skill is no longer of use to them. If you identify yourself with one skill, and then outlive that skill, life might begin to seem over for you.

Don't be afraid to learn new skills. You can learn very complex new tasks, while shedding some that are obsolete. Diversify your skills and develop abilities that defy the passing of years. I am grateful that I learned the additional skill of writing.

As I write these skills to you, I have a skill that remains useful to me at 71 years of age. In fact, being 71 enhances this skill, as art is enhanced with age. You can do similar things that are unique to you.

**4. Come to terms with the losses you have sustained.** Allow yourself to mourn the sorrowful loss of your brother or sister, your mother or father, your child, your spouse, your close friend.

You must grieve fully, giving grief the time to do its work. You will move through stages of shock, numbness, alternately accepting and rejecting the tragic reality, pouring out your sorrow in tears, and ultimately coming to a sense of peace with yourself and God.

Grieving takes time, but should not become a way of life. You must not make your loss an idol around which you organize your whole life. Give yourself the time that you need to grieve, but envision a time when you are going to reorganize your life and get on with the challenges life has for you.

**5. Don't wallow in self-pity and despair.** People who stand up well to hardship assume that a certain amount of "bad luck," suffering, disappointment, and grief are the common lot of all people. The fear of aging, on the other hand, thrives on the assumption that I am somehow an exception and that this just *shouldn't* be happening to me.

If feelings of hopelessness deepen into a clinical depression, this can be a hazard to your health. You may even so resent the process of aging that you are tempted to end your life *now*. Yet, depression is one of the most treatable emotional disorders. If your own efforts at pulling out of despair are not enough, consult your physician.

**6. Don't be afraid to ask for help.** Maintaining independence and control over your own decision-making are highly prized rights. But you may find that some of the problems you face as you grow older require more expertise or resources than you possess. Take advantage of the services in

your community—whether you need a different living situation, help around the home, transportation, counseling, medical assistance, financial advice. Use your social network family and friends – to locate the help that you need. Relying on others for help does not mean becoming totally dependent on them.

**7. Take inventory of factors that age you.** Smoking, cholesterol-rich foods, excessive exposure to the sun, a sedentary life-style, driving without seatbelts fastened—these practices can make your "health age" much higher than your actual age.

Look at your family heritage for indications of your probable longevity. If you have parents who are still living or lived to an advanced age, try to determine the secret of their longevity. What were their health habits? Do you have similar ones? Did they have good medical care? Do you have excellent medical care and follow your doctor's instructions? If your parents died prematurely, what caused their death?

Longevity is a combination of good heredity and good health habits. When you know the facts about your heritage, you can take sensible precautions to "outwit the genetic odds."

**8. Turn to God who is faithful throughout the years.** Amidst all the changes of aging, it helps to maintain continuity with your past. You need to continue to weave the threads in the pattern of your life that have been strong and constant. Many older adults find their faith to be just such an ongoing thread in their life.

Especially at this time when you are not as physically active as you once were, you can direct your energies to your interior, spiritual life. You can bask in the reassuring presence of the God who gave you life itself and who has attended you throughout all the days of your life. You can take this opportunity to prayerfully assess your past and come to terms with it, forgiving and asking forgiveness.

And you can transform any fear of old age into an awesome reverence of God, whose love is timeless, whose promise of life lasts forever.

**Take heart.** As an older adult, you now have the experience and strength and wisdom to deal well with life's challenges—even the challenge of aging itself. If you can affirm your aging, and refuse to let your life get stagnant, your aging will present you with rich opportunities to explore new dimensions of yourself.

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 "By being interested he/she becomes interesting and need never become "old" in the traditional sense." —Garth Wood, *The Myth of Neurosis: Overcoming the Illness Excuse*

★ ★ ★
 "The wiser mind mourns less for what age takes away than for what it leaves behind."
 ~William Wordsworth, *The Fountain*

~~~~~ ★ ★ ★  
**God Bless Our Native Land...**

God bless our native land;  
 Firm may she ever stand  
 Through storm and night;  
 When the wild tempests rave,  
 Ruler of wind and wave,  
 O God, our country save  
 By your great might.  
 Not for this land alone,  
 But be God's mercies shown  
 From shore to shore;  
 And may the nations see  
 That all should neighbors be,  
 And form one family  
 The wide world o'er.



★ ★ ★  
*A Message from*  
*the Internet...*

★ ★ ★  
**POLITICAL PRAYER**

When Mr. Joe Wright was asked to open the new session of the Kansas Senate, everyone was expecting the usual generalities, but this is what they heard:

"Heavenly Father, we come before you today to ask your forgiveness and to seek your direction and guidance.

We know Your Word says, "Woe to those who call evil good," but that is exactly what we have done.

We have lost our spiritual equilibrium and reversed our values. We confess that.

We have ridiculed the absolute truth of Your Word and called it Pluralism.

We have exploited the poor and called it the lottery.

We have rewarded laziness and called it welfare.

We have killed our unborn and have called it choice.

We have shot abortionists and called it justifiable.

We have neglected to discipline our children and called it building self-esteem.

We have abused power and have called it politics.

We have coveted our neighbor's possessions and called it ambition.

We have polluted the air with profanity and pornography and called it freedom of expression.

We have ridiculed the time-honored values of our forefathers and called it enlightenment.

Search us, O God, and know our hearts today; cleanse us from every sin and set us free. Guide and bless these men and women who have been sent to direct us to the center of Your will and to openly ask these things in the name of Your Son, the living Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen!"

## Friend of Lithuania

### Award Candidate



Ginger L. Houghton

I am very pleased to announce that this year's candidate to receive the **KNIGHTS OF LITHUANIA, FRIEND OF LITHUANIA AWARD**, is *Ginger L. Houghton* of Schenectady, New York.

Ginger is a Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist (CRNA) with strong clinical, teaching and managerial experience in the health care field. She holds the National Certification of Nurse Anesthetists Registered Nurse, State of New York. Her education includes classes at the Schenectady Cooperative Program for Licensed Practical Nurses, Associate in Applied Science from Hudson Valley C.C., evening courses at the Schenectady C.C., and a Bachelor of Science Degree from the University of the State of New York in Albany, New York. Ginger has many certifications, including Advanced Cardiac Life Support, Advanced First Aid Instructor and CPR Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation Instructor. Ginger holds the rank of Lieutenant Colonel, Chief Nurse/Nurse Administrator in the U.S. Air National Guard.

Since the re-establishment of Lithuania's independence, her work for Lithuania has been nothing short of monumental. Through her efforts, an open heart surgery was provided to a Lithuanian patient in 1977, an electric wheelchair was shipped to a patient, an electric bed shipped to a quadriplegic along with two years of cardiac medication. Working with Lithuanian friend, Bob Duda, Ginger sends humanitarian support to three families in Lithuania as part of "Saulute Kids" program, including three new computers to each of their "Saulute Kids." In April, 2000, she and Bob organized the 109<sup>th</sup> Air National Guard medical deployment unit for a two-week exercise with Lithuanian Medical Teams in the Kaunas area. It was very well received and favorably written up in the **Kauno Diena** newspaper. A second deployment exercise is planned for 2002.

Through Ginger's efforts, seven Heart-Lung machines were shipped through the "Great Circle Tour," and eleven containers of medical supplies to Lithuanian Hospitals. Working with the Shriners' Hospital in Springfield, MA., an eleven year old boy was provided with a right arm prosthesis. Also, a Nurse Educator has been provided to Kaunas Poly Clinic from Saint Peter's Hospital. Ginger has worked closely with the local K of L chapter to assist Lithuania, and has worked closely with me in providing prescription eye glasses to a needy family in Lithuania.

In progress is, to provide an Orthopedic Surgeon to Kaunas Poly Clinic and to a hospital in Marijampole for Orthopedic surgeries, in September. Her contacts with St. Peter's hospital provide the use of warehouse space, temperature controlled storage, loading and dock equipment, including the use of a fork lift.

Over the years we have presented the "Friend of Lithuania" Award to a varied group of people. I am very pleased that we will be presenting this year's award to Ginger Houghton, who has done so much for the sick and the needy in Lithuania.

John R. Mankus, Chairman  
Lithuanian Affairs Committee Chair  
Knight of Lithuania Supreme Council  
1110 Darlene Drive  
Endicott, NY 13760  
(tel/fax 607-754-2429)

**PIONEER LIVING SERIES~18 topics on integration and inclusiveness of immigrants.**

This is a 9 part educational series being shown on PBS, written, directed and produced by **Raimonda Mikatavage, C-144**. The series is on immigration and more information can be obtained by e-mailing:

<bermika@pottsville.infi.net>

Raimonda is an immigrant—her family defected in the 1970's, and you may have remembered the story when they were in Chicago. One segment contains a lot on Lithuania, and ends with the Lithuanian National Anthem. Usually, one segment is shown each week, but it is really up to the local PBS station. If it was already shown in your area, you may request the station to rerun it. Below is the link that will keep you updated at your convenience:

<http://www.pioneerliving.com/carriage.htm>

The list will always be sorted by state. ★

(Above information contributed to Vytis by Bernice Mikatavage, K of L, C-144, Humanitarian Aid Chair, 321 St. Francis St., Minersville, PA, 17954)



*Prayer for the Nation...* ★ ★

Judge of the nations, hear us;  
We rest our faith in Thee.  
Stay Thou forever near us  
And guide us constantly.  
Through all our days protected  
By Thy unfailing light,  
We shall not be deflected  
From paths of truth and right.

Eternal Father, teach us  
The courage of the free.  
With Thy pure spirit reach us  
With faith and charity.  
Illumine all around us  
With brotherhood and love.  
In all our ways surround us  
With wisdom from above.

★ ★  
God of the years, remind us  
Of our great history,  
The memories that bind us  
In one fraternity—  
Heroes who served before us,  
Whose valor paved the way  
For this flag floating o'er us—  
Oh, bless this land today!

(Vincent Godfrey Burns)



The Team: LtoR: Back row: June Stankus, Ed Barkowski both (C-136), Bob Duda, Ginger Houghton, Tom McDermott (NYS Air National Guard), Susan Freer, Bernice Aviza (C136). Front row: Richard Fuerst (C136) and Willie (NYS Air National Guard).

☆☆☆  
*Juniors in*  
 ☆☆☆  
*Action...*



☆☆☆  
 Carol Luschas - K of L Junior C-144  
 Easter - 2001

☆☆☆  
 Carol Luschas is pictured here with the project she presented at her school.

☆☆☆  
 Carol's enthusiasm for her Lithuanian heritage is boundless. She has learned how to fashion natural straw ornaments, cook and bake Lithuanian cuisine and dye and scratch "marguciai." We are so proud of her. It's wonderful to know that there is someone young to carry on the Lithuanian traditions. (~Bernice Mikatavage - C.-144) ☆☆☆

☆☆☆  
*Attention,*  
 ☆☆☆  
*Vytis Readers!*

*Making It in America: A Sourcebook on Eminent Ethnic Americans* has just been published by ABC CLIO, Santa Barbara, CA; Denver, CO, & London, England. Entries on 90 ethnic communities were submitted by 93 experts. Entries were assigned in proportion to the size of an ethnic group. Five slots were given to Lithuanians. A detailed editor's essay explained the norms for selection, one of which was variety. Historian, Father William Wolkovich-Valkavicius, C-27, of Norwood, MA, was invited to write the Lithuanian essays. His subjects were: Mother Maria Kaupas, Bronius Kviklys, Leonardas Simutis, our own Knights: Jack & Loretta Stukas, and Father Juozas Zebris. VTYIS readers may wish to ask their local libraries to obtain this fascinating reference work. (Fr. WW-V).

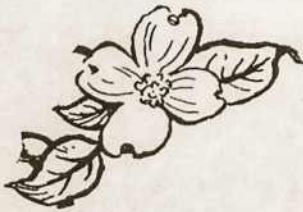
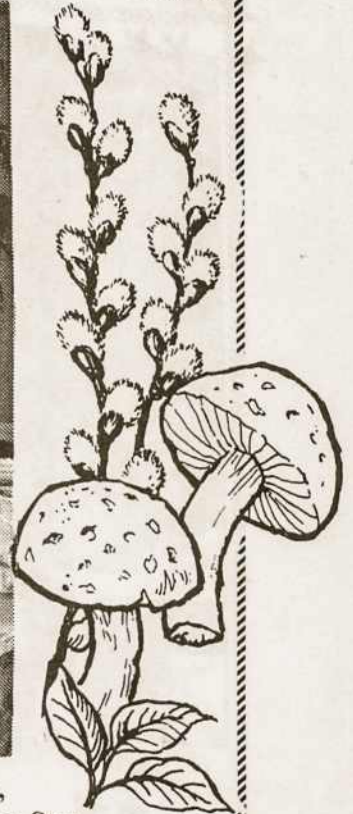


AMERICAN LITHUANIAN  
 TELEVISION...

(ALTV) celebrated its 5th anniversary this April. To date, ALTV has shown over 250 programs. The Chicago-based one-hour Lithuanian TV program is the only one outside of Lithuania. It is shown on Channel 23 twice a week, Thursdays and Sundays. Its originator, producer, director and announcer is Arvydas Reneckis, who arrived from Lithuania some ten years ago.

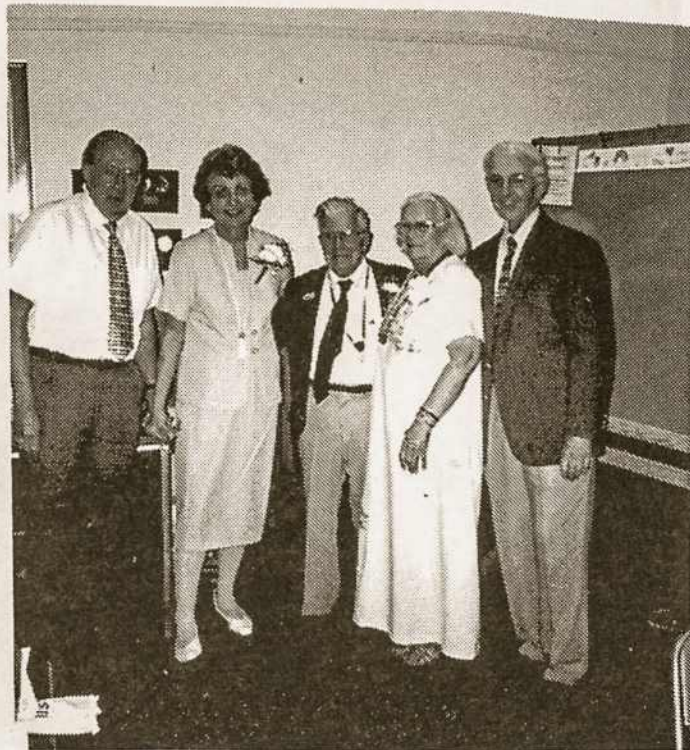


St. Casimir's Banquet, C-153, Treasure Coast, Florida. L.toR.: Dorothy Parrilli, Rima Zotovas, Honorary Consul, Stanley Balzekas, Jr., Bishop Paul Baltakis, Lou Stukas.



4th Degree  
Council 153  
Treasure Coast, Florida

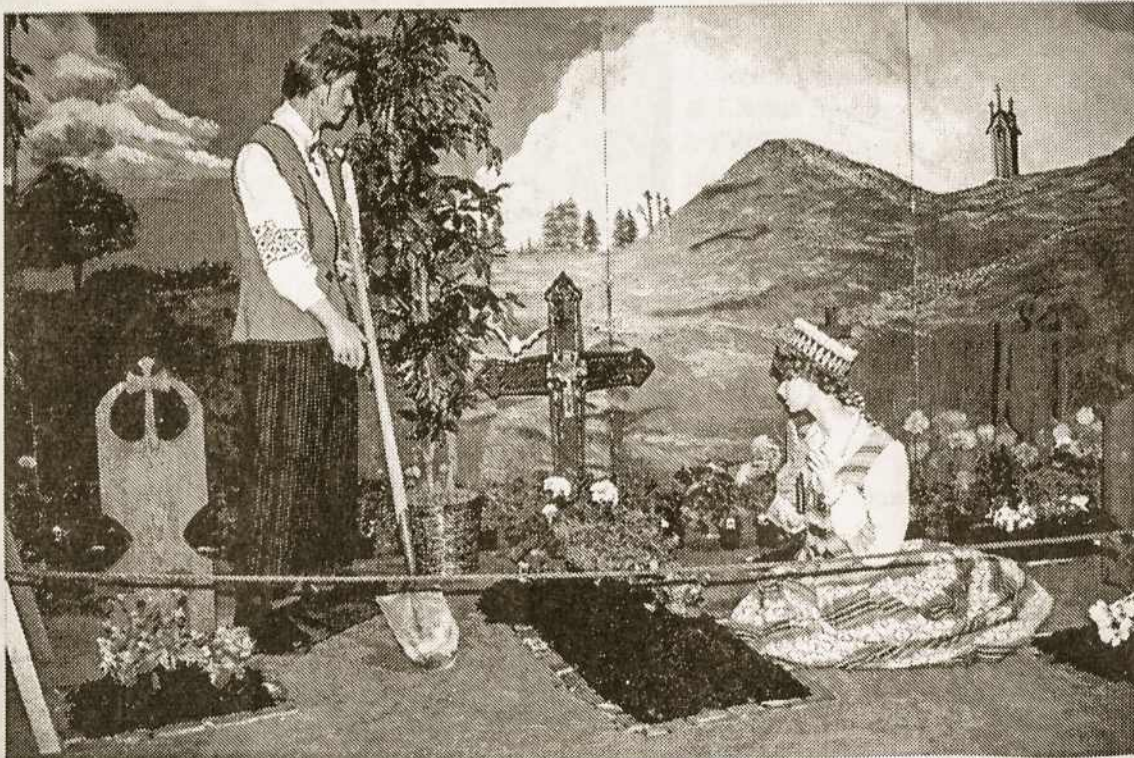
L. to R.; James Marcinkus,  
Loretta Stukas,  
John Tamashauskas,  
Connie Scheibelhut and  
Lou Stukas



# *Knight Life...*



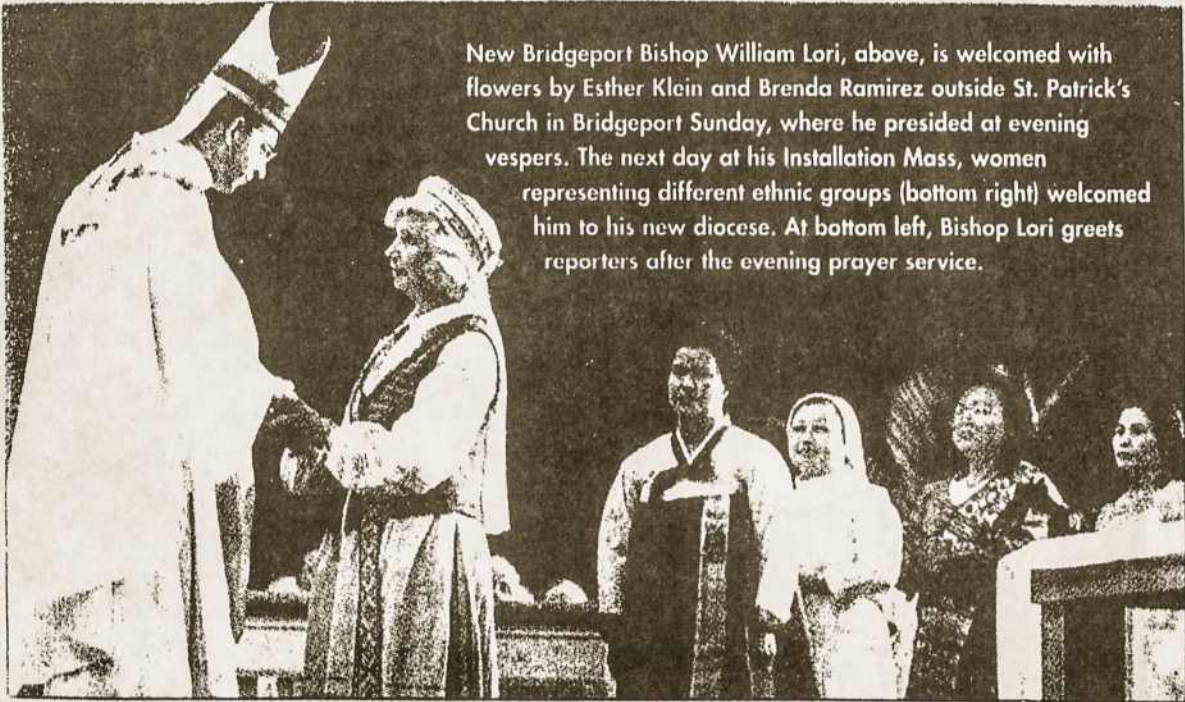
New England District Convention, Waterbury, CT, 4/29/01. L. to R.: Joe Stiklius, president, New England District; Mark Bell, Supreme Council Financial Secretary, visiting.



A scene at Dayton's World A'fair at the Lithuanian Area. A Tribute to Mothers.



# *Knight Life...*



New Bridgeport Bishop William Lori, above, is welcomed with flowers by Esther Klein and Brenda Ramirez outside St. Patrick's Church in Bridgeport Sunday, where he presided at evening vespers. The next day at his Installation Mass, women representing different ethnic groups (bottom right) welcomed him to his new diocese. At bottom left, Bishop Lori greets reporters after the evening prayer service.



Helen Simanis, C-141, Bridgeport, CT, greets His Excellency Bishop William E. Lori, S.T.D., fourth Bishop of Bridgeport during his Installation ceremony.



Laretta Pant presenting 3rd Degree Certificate to Mark Bell, C-96. Holy Cross Church.

# *Knight Life...*



Mark Bell received 3rd Degree Medal. L. to R.: Thom Bell, Fran Petkus, Mark Bell, Lauretta Pant, Rev. Michael Holloran. Back: June Bell. C-96



"Vejeliai" Dancers at Dayton's World A'fair. C-96





National President, Robert Martin, Jr. presents an award plaque to C-36's then president, Mary F. Kincius, on the occasion of that Council's 85<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Congratulations, Council 36!



Rev. Jaunius Kelpas of Immaculate Conception Church, is a guest speaker at C-36's 85<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, which took place in the Amber Room of the Balzekas Museum of Lithuanian Culture in Chicago, Illinois.



# Knight Life...



Council - 6, Commemoration of Lithuanian Independence Day. On March 15, a reception was held at the State Capitol, Hartford, with Governor John Roland. L. to R. Victor Kogelis, Irene Petkaitis, Alyce Gegesky, Janina Nawarskas, Dana Grajauskas, Danguole Banevicius, Governor John Roland, Kristina Serksnas, Rep. Ruth C. Fahrbach, Judy Landers, Carol Balskus and Daniel Moreland, Staff Assistant to the Governor.



★ ★ ★  
C-26

## MULTICULTURAL SPRING HOLIDAY FESTIVAL

L. to R.: Aldona Waskas,  
Anne Leseman and  
Bill Leseman.

## District & Council News

### Mid Central District

#### C-79 Southfield, MI Bertha Janus

Our council hosted the Mid-Central District Spring meeting and Bowling Tournament the weekend of May 18, 19, and 20th. We were happy to welcome all who came from Councils 16, 25, 79, 96 and 102.

The Friday night get-together was well-attended with all in a receptive mood, cordially greeting old acquaintances from previous meetings and conventions. Quite soon it was almost impossible to hear the toe-tapping music of violinist, John Stanievich and accordionist, Joe Stark - the laughter and conversation had become so lively. A tasty buffet was served by the Food Committee.

The evening ended on an amiable note with all looking forward to the meeting the next morning and Bowling Tournament in the afternoon.

Saturday morning we gathered again at The Comfort Inn in Farmington Hills. The meeting was run efficiently by President Fran Petkus. Matters were discussed and voted upon in record time. Rob Martin, our National President, told us how important it is for us to complete forms or write our own letters to Washington dignitaries, telling them of our desire to have the Baltic countries represented in NATO. He urged us to help the cause by not neglecting to send forms he provided us

At the conclusion, Elinor Sluzas entertained us with a song about "Senior Life" to the tune of "My Favorite Things" from "The Sound of Music". It brought chuckles to all.

After a hasty lunch, the majority left for the bowling alley to vie for trophies and cash prizes. There were 18 teams of bowlers - the largest number in five years. Sam Perritino of C-102 had charge of the bowling portion of the weekend and was commended for a job well done. During the evening, several tables of card players gathered to play their favorite games.

Sunday morning we drove to Divine Providence Church in Southfield. Father Aloyzas Volskis officiated by conferring four Fourth Degrees before Mass. The recipients were: Kay Kurpowic, Albina Kurpowic, Helen Mykolaitis and Joseph Panavas.

Dinner was served after Mass in the Cultural Center where the MCD raffle was held, later. The winners were: Albert Bendocar, 1st prize, \$250; Fran Petkus, \$150, 2nd prize; Sarah Kleesens, 3rd prize. Our council also had a raffle of a dozen various prizes, won by some pleased attendees.

Bowlers who won cash prizes were Tony Montes, Patty Montes, Jerry Perritino, Tim Baibak and Sue Baibak. C-79 claimed the Traveling Trophy. 12 each received a bowling pin painted in the Lithuanian yellow, green and red colors which was a surprise to all. If more detailed information is wanted regarding scores of other winners and losers, please contact Bea Cramblet.

At the conclusion of the weekend - as they were leaving - delegates praised our efforts on providing a successful get-together. We hope they left with a feeling of accomplishment, camaraderie and good will.

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

Our Florida member, Michael Pant, was in town just in time to attend our May monthly meeting. Michael doesn't have many opportunities to

make a council meeting and this one proved productive. His "second the motion" was loud and clear. It was good to see you, Michael.

May is a special time for our Juniors. They continue to follow the custom of past C-96 Juniors by holding the Annual May Crowning of the Blessed Mother. Joseph Berger had the honor, this year, of placing the special wreath of flowers on our Blessed Mother's head. The Juniors were the Lectors and Offertory Bearers for the Mass which was dedicated to the living and deceased mothers of C-96.

Following Mass the Juniors had a special brunch for their mothers and mothers of the parish. The setting was an English Tea Social. There were displays of tea servers on the tables and one table with a true English touch. Holding a Millionaire Contest for their mothers, with Alex Fletcher as MC, the winner was Joyce Berczelly! Thanks must go to the Junior Advisors, Christine Fletcher, Julia Goecke and their helpers, for the time and effort they put forth in encouraging the Juniors with the planning.

George, Frances and Elena Mikalauskas, Elinor Sluzas and Fran Petkus headed to Southfield, MI the weekend of May 18-20th for the MCD Spring Convention and Bowling Tournament. At our meeting we had the pleasure of the SC President, Rob Martin, share news of his participation in the Consistory of Audrys Juozas Cardinal Backis; news from the recent JBANC Conference in Washington, DC in conjunction with the work getting the Baltic States into NATO; updated news and information of the 88th National Convention in Orlando, FL.

We did have more teams at this year's bowling tournament and a very special thanks must go to Sam Perritino, Jr. and his helper, Bea Cramblet, etc. of C-102 for all the work they did in making the success it was. C-79 was the



winning team! Bowlers from Dayton were Elena and Fran with Elena going home with money for being on the winning team and having single game high with HC! Lee/Paul Moore, C-86, must be thanked for showing Dayton members how to play Bingo using cards and 'Golf'. Many thanks must go to the members of C-79 and their president, Margaret Dapkus, for hosting a very productive and fun weekend!!! Our MCD Ritual committee member Lauretta Pant made all the arrangements with Fr. Michael Holloran for the presentation of the Third Degree Medal to Mark H. Bell prior to the Mass on May 27th. (Mark could not make the MCD Mass on the 20th as he was doing Supreme Council work at the NFD that weekend.) Congratulations, Mark!!!

Once again the Lithuanian Community of Dayton received an 'Excellence Award' for their display at Dayton's Annual World A'Fair! The theme this year "A Tribute to Mothers!" From the earliest days in Lithuania mothers were honored, valued and loved. The 1529 Statute of Lithuania states children must care for their mother in her old age. The Lithuanian Constitution of 1922 states "Motherhood is under the State's special protection." Love for mother is reflected in Lithuanian music and folklore. Dayton's display, according to legend, sees a mother consoling her children as they weep at her grave. She visits them in the form of a dove and protects them as her soul enters a tree nearby at the cemetery. In the Lithuanian language there are 80 terms or ways to say Mother. No matter how it is said, it means unconditional love!

Our Vejeliai Dancers once again did an outstanding job on the formal and informal stages as part of the weekend festivities. It was good to see that many of the Knights were helping in this parish project. Special thanks go to C-112 members Estelle Rogers and Ellie Kasputis for sharing their amber

with us. It was certainly greatly appreciated! Special thanks must go to Elinor Sluzas and her creative talents and also to the Geigers, Jim and Connie, as they put in many, many hours in the planning!!!

Congratulations to Molly Geiger on her engagement to Josh Haas! The Class of 2000-2001 from Capitol University had a gathering for the graduates as special presentations were to be given. C-96's Judy Petrokas was awarded "Student of the Year!" There is no time limit on getting an education! Way to Go, Judy.

### Amber District

### C-3 Philadelphia, PA Stephany Gutauskas

Knights' prayers are especially requested for Daina Kapochus, our young Vyte, who is ill. Daina and her father, Leonard, would like supplicants to ask Blessed Jurgis Matulaitis to intercede to the Lord on her behalf.

South Philly girls, Dianne Drumstas and Margaret Petronis, provided a hearty social after our council meeting on May 20. Everyone raved about the balandeliai. Many Vyciai returned for seconds of cake topped with Cool Whip and fresh strawberries. What a treat!

We wish a Happy Father's Day to all our members who are great-grandfathers, grandfathers, fathers and godfathers.

Walter Mameniskis, former president of C-3, is just bursting with pride over his son, Algird, who obtained a Bachelor of Science degree from St. Joseph's University, where he was on the Dean's List for four years and a Doctor of Medicine degree from Temple University. Dr. Mameniskis is a Board Certified General Surgeon and Plastic Surgeon. He currently maintains his own private practice in

Philadelphia. The doctor is also the son of the late Violet Mameniskis who was a member of our council.

### C-74 Scranton, PA Marie Laske

St. Francis of Assisi Kitchen which invites all the less fortunate to their Soup Kitchen had a reception for all volunteers. The Knights of Lithuania who attended the reception were Elizabeth Kaminskis, Martha Wagner, Margaret Clegg, Richard and Marie Laske and the Laske's daughter, Susan Stebbins, and her son, Nathan. The food was great... fabulous... with desserts and chocolates for all. Lee Vincent's Band played music from our time.

Della Zvirblis is in the hospital for rehab. Helen Cravath's husband, Walter, is very ill. Dorothy Sarnowskas is also ill and is homebound. Also, Jerry Costello is seriously ill. Please remember them in your prayers.

Viltis picked up packages May 11 at St. Joseph's Church and we have quite a few people to send packages to help our people in our homeland. We also had a clothing collection for the Lithuanian orphanages. People were overly generous.

Msgr. Peter Madus celebrated a beautiful Memorial Day Mass at St. Joseph's Cemetery. We had about 20 people, including Sister Paraclete and Sister Angela. It was damp and windy and at times I thought we would be air-bound. We sang a few songs and Msgr. Madus prayed for all the deceased. Afterwards we stayed for the Veterans' Service which was very nice.

Please remember Thursday, July 26th, St. Ann's Day. We will have a Mass by Rev. Clement Kasinskis at St. Ann's Basilica and it will be said in Lithuanian and we will sing many

Lithuanian songs. Time: 2:30.

Pray for Rev. George Stalavicz who served at St. Joseph's Church years ago. He was buried June 4th.

Success for our convention.

"Whatever you ask for in prayer, with faith, you will receive."

## Mid Atlantic District

### MAD District Meeting April 29, 2001 Bruno Rutkunas



Our Spring Convention was hosted by C-90 of Kearny, NJ and the meeting was held at the Lithuanian Community Center after Mass at Our Lady of Sorrows R.C. Church. After a satisfying buffet lunch, President Edward Barkowski introduced the featured guest speaker, Ramantas Morkvenas, the Lithuanian Consul General of NY. He encouraged all members and friends of the Knights to write to Congressmen to support having Lithuania admitted to NATO. Members approved generous monetary donations to St. Casimir's Guild, aid for Vytis, Holy Trinity Church, Aid to Lithuania, Our Lady of Siluva and to the Lithuanian Consul General of NY.

Attending the meeting was SC President, Robert Martin, who stated that the need for young, interested men and women to be active in the Knights organization is crucial to the life of the Knights. He also presented a plan and recommendations for a formula for future sites and MAD meetings. All the council reports featured many contributions and celebrations of Lithuanian Independence, honoring St. Casimir, Good Friday and many shipments of goods to Lithuania, as well as support and help for local parishes.

The next MAD meeting is scheduled

for Sept 9, 2001, hosted by C-100, Amsterdam, NY. Although there were not very many delegates present, much good was accomplished and everyone felt good about this Spring meeting.

### C-136 Hudson-Mohawk Dorothy Richmire



The rain that traditionally arrives in April is finally here now helping to overcome the drought. Let us hope that it came in time to help the farmers.

We sure have had a busy month, starting with our meeting early in May. Bea Jasewicz conducted the meeting in the absence of President Sue Freer. She also took the minutes. Petitions were distributed to send to President Bush to support resolutions that would allow Lithuania and other Baltic nations to join NATO. Everyone, please send in the petitions.

Our annual Festival of Nations was successful thanks to those who worked so hard preparing the food and those who offered our goodies to the public. Volunteers were: Gen Deery who offered her hand-formed mushroom cookies that sold out before noon. Bea and Bill Jasewicz for their virtini, always a hit. Bernice Aviza for supplying the items that make our booth so special. Dot Richmire and brother Ed Barkowski for their separate versions of kapustas; they both sold out. Also, thanks to Sue Freer, Fran Maslanka, Richard Fuerst, Jo Sasinowski, for her recipe for kugelis which is especially delicious. June Stankus, Chick Rupsis, Ann Morgalis and Dorothy Hicks and Bill Barkowski who helped Sue, June, and Ed erect our booth. We could not have done it without everyone's cooperation and support. Acui.

Special Kudos to the St. Casimir Lithuanian Dancers of Amsterdam for their outstanding performance.. We sure were proud of their talent.

We want to thank Ed and Gen Baranauskas for their generous monetary gift presented to our council. We deeply appreciate their kind thoughtfulness and we pray that their permanent move to Lithuania to enjoy their retirement will bring them continued good health and happiness. We will miss them and we wish them well.

Thanks to Virginia Barkowski, several K of L members were fortunate to have lunch with Ann Jillian at the Empire State Plaza Convention Center on May 7th. Ann is a cancer survivor and is of Lithuanian descent. She is a very entertaining, dynamic and inspirational speaker. She stressed the fact that her deep abiding faith gave her the courage to face her adversities. In addition, she has a beautiful singing voice. She ended the program with her rendition of "Wind Beneath My Wings". Those who were able to enjoy the program were: Bernice Aviza, Virginia Barkowski, who organized the event, Dorothy Hicks, Frances Maslanka, Betty and Joan Parker, Dot Richmire, Jo Sasinowski and June Stankus. It was held in conjunction with the Women's Health Expo. ★

On Sunday, May 13, after the 9 o'clock Mass, a reception was held at Holy Cross Church Hall for noted Lithuanian cardiologist/surgeon Rimantas Benetis. He is visiting various hospitals and attending conferences in the USA. Dr. Benetis expressed his appreciation for the medical equipment and other much-needed supplies we have sent to Lithuanian hospitals. He is the head of a Cardiology Clinic and informed us that he was the first surgeon to perform a heart transplant in Kaunas, Lithuania. Ginger and Bob who are instrumental in organizing the shipments had a medical emergency and could not attend. We all wish Bob a full recovery from his emergency eye surgery. Our thoughts and prayers are with him.

On the sick list: Helen LaPierre, Stella

White, Stephanie Dwulitt, Frank Zebuda. They would love to hear from you, a card, a call, or a visit would surely cheer them up.

Upcoming events: June 6-End of year banquet; July 22-Putnam CT bus trip; Aug 19 - Lithuanian Day at Auriesville Shrine; Sept 21, 22, 23 - annual Fall Cluster Festival at St. John the Evangelist. Hope to see you all there.

Thanks to Virginia and Bea for your input; our collaboration helped to make this account of events more accurate and complete.

Thought for the day: God gives us the ingredients, but He doesn't give us the recipe.

### **C-110 Maspeth, NY** ★ **Bruno Rutkunas** ★★

As time flies by, we sometimes forget all that has happened to us and to the world. We should never forget our roots and continue to show our colors while helping Lithuania, domestically and politically. Let us keep requesting President Bush to support Lithuania's desire to become part of NATO. Our council for the past 10 years has joined the Veterans' Memorial Day March along a mile of Grand Avenue in Maspeth, showing that Lithuania remembers the Freedom Fighters who gave their lives for independence. Many ethnic groups and religions are represented with marching high school bands and banners. Msgr. Frank Bulovas always represented the Lithuanian Catholics; perhaps not many members are able to walk the whole parade but we did have a good number joining in, this year, thanks to the efforts of Ann Morrissey. Our rewards consist of hotdogs, sauerkraut, beer and good cheer at the conclusion of this event.

President John Klimas, along with a carload of Knights attended the Spring

MAD convention in Kearny, NJ. All were impressed with guest speakers Robert Martin, Jr, Supreme Council President and Ramantas Morkvenas, Lithuanian Consul General of NY.

At our May meeting, Edward Jakatt, Ritual Chairperson, presented 3rd Degree medals to William Montvila, Amelia Sable, and Alex Sipplack. Our own recording secretary, Helen Matulonis, continues to host and arrange monthly Atlantic City bus rides. Some visitors actually come back with a larger wallet or purse. All excess bus fare monies are donated to the Transfiguration Church.

"You are getting old when you get the same sensation from a rocking chair that you once got from a roller coaster."

### **C-152 E. Long Island** ★★ **Julie Lott** ★★

On March 11 of this year, C-152 honored our Patron Saint, St. Casimir. Many members attended Mass as a group while others who had already been to an earlier Mass helped set up for the annual luncheon. Our dedicated ladies outdid themselves, as usual, by providing some of the most delicious dishes. What a selection: salads, main entrees, desserts and beverages. It was truly a feast. After we all satisfied our appetites, we had a brief meeting, presided by President Muriel Lofmark who had just returned from vacation the night before. At this time, our slate of officers was sworn in, thus making the day extra special. VERY NICE!! It was also announced that MAD meeting was April 29 in Kearney, NJ, and we had 8 delegates sign up to attend. A very nice showing for C-152.

The date set for our annual picnic is Tuesday, July 10, with a raindate for Wednesday, July 11. Mark your calendars, Knights, and remember to pack an extra large picnic basket and invite your family and friends to come

to the picnic grounds at Orient State Park. Again, I'd like to invite our neighboring councils to join us, too. Remember the fun we had last year with music provided by Fred Lucka and his "Boom Box"? We don't have meetings in July and August and so this outing takes care of us for the summer.

Our Christmas party is also on the calendar for December 9. Again, it will be held at the Birchwood in Riverhead. We are all familiar with the place so that there should be no problem in getting there... except for inclement weather which we don't anticipate. We've booked Joe Thomas again to entertain us with his lively music. Remember to keep this date open. ★

We are planning a Chinese Auction for October, so start thinking about your donations. Only new items are expected and your good judgement and generosity will be much appreciated.

Spring is such a special time of year with all the Easter preparations and the many other chores and yet our Palm Sunday meeting was so well-attended. We should be proud to belong to such a dedicated council. The table for this meeting was done with an Easter theme. Needless to say the flowers and the Easter eggs were lovely and impressive.

The K of L meetings are not just for fun and eating; we do have some important issues to address as well which require the opinion of all the Knights. This time our dedicated member, Antoinette Sakal, took the initiative and introduced the idea of a Junior Council. I asked all our members to invite and encourage their grandchildren to join. I'm sure they'll find it very rewarding and interesting.

Our get-well wishes are extended to our Knight, Adele Latinis, who had another set-back in her road to recovery. We miss you, Adele! Get well soon! ★



## C-153 Treasure Coast Florence V. Miskinis ★★

Our new Board Officers elected in October were: Pres-Joan Bizausky; VP Josie Lubinski; Sec-Florence Miskinis; Treas/Fin Sec-James Marcinkus; Sgt-at-arms- Al Miskinis; Ritual- James Marcinkus; Vytis Corresp- Florence Miskinis

November 5, C-153 members attended Mass at St. Jude's Chapel to see our beloved 92 yr. elder John Tamashauskas receive his Fourth Degree medal. Jim Marcinkus carried the Lithuanian flag and John was escorted by Loretta Stukas and Connie Scheibelhut. The medal was blessed by Rev. Anthony Chepanis, our Spiritual Advisor, and presented jointly with Loretta Stukas to John.

Dainos Chorus, directed by Prof. John Samoska and accompanied by Lou Stukas provided the music. Soloist was Regina Peters of Ft. Lauderdale whose lovely voice gave the final touch to the wonderful day for John! After Mass, all members gathered in the conference room to pay homage to John! He worked so hard - since its inception - for C-153. ★

Dec 3 our annual Christmas festivities were held at St. Jude's. Numerous guests from C-133-California - and the Dainos Chorus attended. All C-153 members, ably assisted by Valarie Bisoll, brought traditional foods, including desros by Al Miskinis and Aldona Biliunas. Plotkeles were shared by everyone and Lithuanian hand-made straw ornaments made by Florence Miskinis graced the table.

New officers and new members were sworn in by Joan Bizausky, President. The raffle was a huge success and the day of feasting and unity was enjoyed by all.

Rev. Anthony Chepanis, our Spiritual

Advisor, fell while saying Mass Jan 7th. He injured his shoulder and required surgery and therapy. He won't be back until Oct 7th. Other members who were hospitalized were Florence Miskinis and Lou Stukas.

Two members who passed away were Sadye Alexander and Paulina Banys. May they Rest in Peace!

Saint Casimir's Day started with a beautiful, warm, sunny day and solemn Mass celebrated by Bishop Paul Baltakis in St. Jude's Chapel, Tequesta. The procession consisted of: Cross-bearer-Victor Malakas; Lithuanian flag-Jim Marcinkus; American flag-Jim Parrilli; St. Casimir picture- Valarie Bissoll; Crown of thorns- Joan Bizausky; Regal crown- Dorothy Parrilli; Lillies - Josie Lubinski; Holy Scripture- Mr. Barus and His Excellency, Bishop Paul Baltakis. Dainos Chorus, directed by John Samoska and accompanied by organist, Lou Stukas, provided the music. Guest soloist was Ona Jameikis of Chicago, Illinois. Her beautiful voice resounded to all corners of the church and her rendition of the hymn composed by Lou Stukas was glorious.

Following the Mass, 102 guests gathered at the Waterford Hotel in No. Palm Beach for the banquet honoring our Patron Saint, Saint Casimir.

Dorothy Parrilli, Chairperson and Mistress of Ceremonies, introduced the honored guests. They were: Bishop Paul Baltakis, Stanley Balzekas, Jr., Honorary Consul of Palm Beach, Rima Zotovas, Lou Stukas, and Ona Jameikis. ★★

Dorothy Parrilli and Joan Bizausky presented a plaque to Lou Stukas in gratitude. Besides being a charter member of C-153, but giving all his energy and willingness to always help in all projects to make all our affairs such a success! God bless you, Lou!

Rita Zotovas and Eugene Manomaitis gave a brief history of the Lithuanian Museum's 10th anniversary in Lake Worth. The beautiful painting by Rima Zotovas called "Memories of Vilnius" was won by Hon. Consul Stanley Balzekas, Jr. Aldona Biliunas, our own talented artist, made a guest very happy and the raffle chaired by Joan Bizausky such a success!

It was such a pleasure to have as guests at our meetings and affairs Paul and Lee Moore of C-86 and Irene Senken of C-12. Please come often when in town.

## New England District

### C-6 Hartford, CT Leona Sawka



The June meeting - our last meeting until September - began with 2 new members, Elaine Dufour and Helen Klimas being sworn in and welcomed. Congratulations, Elaine and Helen. Hope you enjoy many happy years with C-6.

Membership chairman, Alyce Gegesky, advised members that the revised membership packets will not be available until September.

Since Holy Trinity Church, Hartford, is having a special Mass for the Lithuanian-American

commemoration/deportation on Sunday, June 10, Irene Petkaitis, Cultural Chairman, talked about the mass deportations of Lithuanians by Russians which began July 14-15, 1941. During that time, thousands of people were deported, including over 1600 infants, 2165 children, ages 4-10, 427 elderly over 70; also, the families of many teachers and farmers were affected. Men were separated from their wives and children were separated from their parents. Rail car windows were boarded and each carried 50-60 people. Many people died on the way to camps. Conditions were deplorable and children

were forced into labor camps. An appeal was made to the UN in 1941. This process was resumed in 1944 and 1945 through 1950.

"NATO mania explodes in Vilnius" was Judy Landers subject. The most popular word to be heard in Vilnius this week is NATO. The NATO Parliamentary Assembly was probably the largest international event that Lithuania has seen in the last decade. John Shimkus, a Lithuanian congressman (Illinois) of Lithuanian origin, was among the assembly's participants. He claims that Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia each have a chance in 2002. US Sen Richard Durbin (Illinois), another Lithuanian-American in the US delegation said, "I am proud to be an American with Lithuanian roots. I want to give my word that I will do everything possible so that Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia become NATO members...."

Many letters have already been signed by K of L members and many more should go out in support of the Baltics.

Lastly, we would like to congratulate C-109 (Great Neck, L.I.) on their perseverance in continuing and reorganizing their council. Congratulations and best wishes in the future.

### **C-7 Waterbury, CT** **Arlene & Joe Stiklius**

We hope that all of our K of L moms had an enjoyable Mother's Day.

At the time, however, we were saddened by the passing of Rev. Paul Sabulis on May 10, 2001. Rev. Paul was not only a former Spiritual Advisor but a great friend to all of us. Please remember him in your prayers.

Also, we mourn the passing of Marion Jenusaitis, sister of Collette Shukis. Marion was not only a strong supporter

of C-7 but a good bowler as well and she always had a pleasant smile. She will be sadly missed.



A hearty Aciu to all the hard workers who made the New England District Convention in Waterbury a huge success. C-7 received many compliments on the great food and snacks. The workers are: Doris Snirpunas, Holly Ambrose, Denise Petkus, Blanche Petkus, Doris Blinn, Adele Klenske, Eleanor Barkauskas, Ed and Betty Bebrin, Rich and Rose Dubauskas, Joe and Arlene Stiklius, Mark Bell and Mary Bell. We also received good assistance from Kathy Collins who is St. Joseph School Development Coordinator. We hope we got everyone who helped out.

There are 2 students of Lithuanian descent graduating in June from St. Joseph School. They are Joshua Bartkus and Crystal Velez. Congratulations to both of them. Also, with the end of the school year, Richard Josephs, school principal, will be retiring. We wish him well.

May birthday greetings go out to: Betty Bebrin, Henry Kachirgis, Eric Karpavich, Elaine Mastrienne, Nellie Matalunas, Erikas Norkevicius, Valerie Povilaitis, Joseph Samaska, Bill Shukaitis and Edmund Shukaitis.

A very special Aciu to John Veturis and the Lithuanian Club for the very tasty kugelis at the NED Convention and the 8th annual St. Joseph School Development dinner as well. Lithuanian food at its best.

That's all for now, folks. God bless all of you.

### **C-17 South Boston, MA** **Regina Alexander**

What a pleasant way to start the May Council meeting! A delicious Blynu supper was served hot and tasty by

Chefs Frank and Virginia Markuns and Joseph and Anne White. This was followed by home-baked pastries from Ann Norinkavich, Alice Opanasets and Aldona Kropas. Special guests included Sisters David, Loretta, James. Nice to see you!

A special 44th Anniversary "Laimingu Metu" was sung to Joseph and Anne White who received a Happy Anniversary cake from the Markuns and they shared it with all.

Congratulations to Great-Grandparents Frank and Virginia Markuns! God bless twin girls Mackenzie and Kalyn.

Father Zukas is really trying hard to become more proficient in the Lithuanian language and culture. He returns to Lithuania for 2 weeks for more studying. Father announced upcoming plans for a St. Peter Parish Reunion Picnic at Our Lady of Sorrows Convent, Brockton, Sunday, September 16, 2001. Save the day!

We extend our deepest sympathy to member Frances Petreikis Zibutis upon the sudden death of her son, John Francis.

Also our sympathy goes to the family of Mrs. Anna Bishop who passed away recently.

Speedy recovery to all our members who have been under the weather, lately, especially Brenda Wachack, Lillian Vallis, Beattie Stakutis, Lou Mikalonis, Lucy Gaputis.

Best wishes to all our members for a safe and happy summer. Iki pasimatymo, likit sveiki.

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



Father John Petrauskas, our Spiritual Advisor, announced at our May meeting that Council 26 received its charter on

May 1, 1916. This is now the year of our 85th anniversary of dedicated service to God and Country. He congratulated everyone in being faithful to the purposes of the organization. He then led the members in a special prayer for our Council.

The meeting was preceded by a wonderful Kugeli Dinner. Members were treated to this Lithuanian specialty. It was absolutely delicious and just melted in your mouth. Seconds were offered to those that had larger appetites. The cooks "extraordinaire" were Marion and Arthur Racicot, Vivian and Al Rodgers, Anne and Bill Leseman, Lillian Kondrotas and Aldona Waska. After the meal, they received an ovation of applause! We Lithuanians do love a good Kugeli. Ann Walinsky also performed her magic with centerpieces for all the tables with vases of pink carnations, baby's breath, greens and pink ribbons.

At the recent New England District Meeting, Joan Wojciak and Al Rodgers received their Third Degrees. Joseph Salkaus was also scheduled to receive his Third; however, he was vacationing in Florida. It will be awarded to him at a future date. ★★

Ethnic pride shone at the recent Multicultural Spring Holiday Festival held in Worcester. A group of our K of L's were involved, especially at the kickoff ceremonies. Anne Leseman, the chairperson for the Lithuanian organizations of Worcester, read the citation that was issued by the Senate of the Massachusetts State House. Bill Leseman led the parade of flags. He carried the American flag. Aldona Waska, dressed in a modern Lithuanian outfit, carried the Lithuanian flag. Irene Markevicius, dressed in a traditional Lithuanian costume, carried the Lithuanian Girl Scout flag.

Other Lithuanians involved, but not K of L members, that carried flags were Chet Savickas, the Massachusetts State

flag; Ray Jakubauskas, the Lithuanian flag; and Bruno Naras, the Lithuanian Boy Scout flag. Our nationality was very well represented. In charge of Lithuanian food were Aldona Jakununas and Ona Miliauskas. Various deserts and breads were available. One could purchase some of these special delights. A beautiful display of Lithuanian articles was presented by Ray Jakubauskas, which included woodcarvings, wayside crosses, amber jewelry, woven goods and dolls.

Approximately 1,000 people attended this daylong festival of song, dance and food. Not only were you entertained, but also there were posters and descriptions of various nationalities and important facts about their heritage. It was a day of entertainment plus a day of learning with an exchange of knowledge.

Lillian Kondrotas and Aldona Waska returned after two months in St. Petersburg, Florida. While there they attended a performance of La Traviata. A Russian tour group performed it. The lead male singer was Lithuanian. His name was Audrius Rubezius. He was educated at the Klaipeda S. Dimkus Conservatory and the Lithuanian Academy of Music. They said it was an experience they will not forget. Also, the Salkau family recently returned after two months in Fort Myers, Florida. They are tan and healthy looking and certainly make the rest of us look anemic. ★

Ruth and Vitty Gadilauskas are celebrating their 53rd anniversary. Everyone applauded them and wished them many more years together. They will be leaving in the near future on a tour to Newfoundland and very excited about this trip. The tour includes visitations to four different ports. Congratulations were also extended to Mae Bucinkas who recently married Roger Olson.

## C-141 Bridgeport, CT Nancy Pawasauskas ★

C-141 hosted a brunch on Sunday, March 18, 2001 to commemorate St. Casimir's Day. 73 members and guests attended. Generous gifts were sent to St. Casimir's Pontifical College and Aid to Lithuania from the profits.

C-141 President and HM Clem Miller recently ran a workshop in Newtown, CT, on Lithuanian Easter egg decorating. All those who attended were non-Lithuanian and Clem reported that they all did great working with the bee's wax. What a great way to share some of our rich culture!

St. George's Church is showing its age and is badly in need of repairs. Plans for a renovation drive dedicated to the memory of Msgr. Pranckus have been announced. What better memorial to our beloved Msgr. Pranckus who tirelessly and lovingly served our parish for so many years than to preserve the church he loved so dearly?

Gary Anderson, a C-141 member and parishoner and member of the choir at St. James R.C. Church in Stratford, CT, announced that the choir has completed a CD which will be available to the public soon. We're all looking forward to its release.

It may be early, but C-141 is already thinking of Christmas. We will be sponsoring a decorated tree at the Wadsworth Athenaeum in Hartford, CT, this year. Every year, the Wadsworth displays trees from diverse nationalities and cultures, and this year have included a traditional Lithuanian tree decorated entirely with straw ornaments. The ladies of C-141 have scheduled several workshops to start making the ornaments.

Get well greetings go out to Peter Radzwillas and Ann Getsavitch. The hostesses for our April meeting, Alice

Wilcinkas, Barbara Wilcinkas Schmidt and Kathy Balcius did a fantastic job, even providing a huge basket of colored eggs.

Steve and Alice Wilcinkas received the 4th degrees at the NED Convention in Waterbury, CT, on April 29, 2001. Congratulations to Steve and Alice!

It was great to see Aldona Marcavage at the NED Convention and at C-141's May meeting! We've missed you!

And our heartfelt sympathy goes out to the family of Ed Stumbris who passed away March 23, 2001.

Thanks to the Berans family for hosting the May meeting. Besides providing a bountiful buffet lunch, they decorated the meeting hall with buckets of yellow roses, red carnations and lots of greens which were raffled off after the meeting. Just beautiful!

## Mid America District

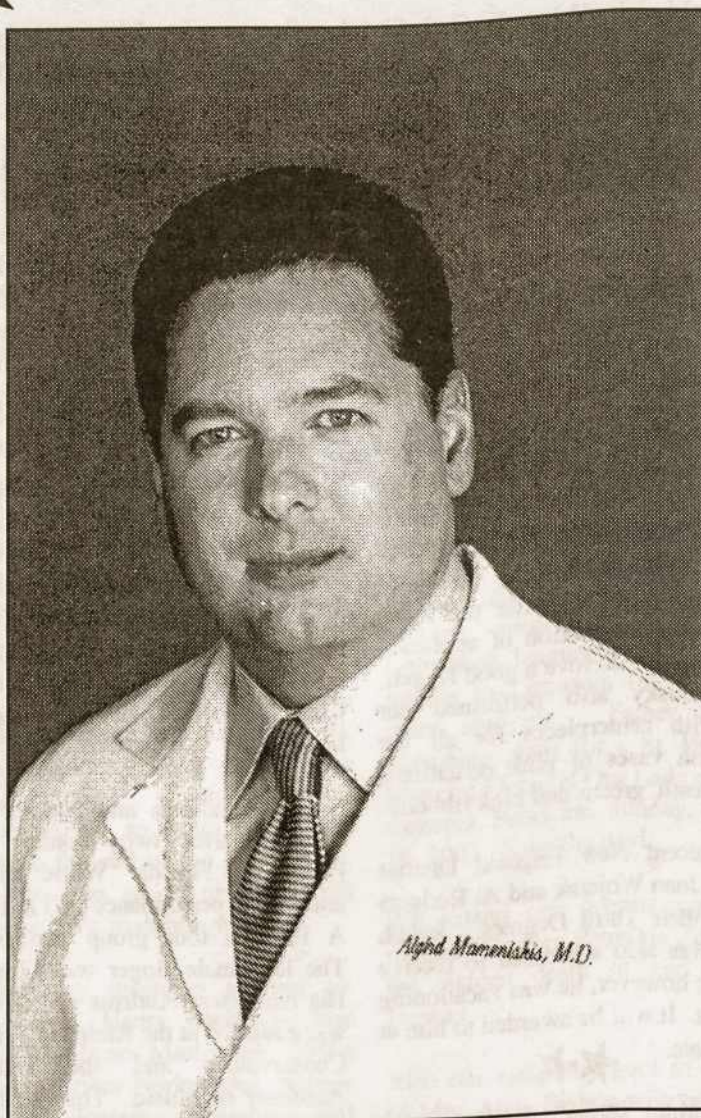
### C-82 Gary, IN Millie Lapinskas Jagiella

Sister Janine, Casimir Balt, President, and Mildred Jagiella attended the MAMD District meeting on June 5th at Nativity B.V.M. Chicago hospitality excelled! C-82 will host the next District meeting at our annual outdoor Mass/picnic at the VFW in Merrillville, IN - rain or shine - Sept 16. Msgr. Urbonas continues to celebrate this Mass/Reunion for us; we are deeply grateful. All are cordially invited.

Council News Editor Note:

Dear Vytis Correspondents,

Just a reminder that you are under strict orders to relax and enjoy your summer and the National Convention. Council News will resume AFTER the special Convention issue. Your dedication and hard work are appreciated! IKI' .....



Algird Mameniškis, M.D., son of Walter and the late Violet Mameniškis, member of Council 3. Congratulations on your wonderful achievement, Doctor!

## Council - 112 Chicago, IL

Sr. Johanna Marie Shainauskas

Our Council did a wonderful job of hosting the MAMD meeting this past June. Under the careful supervision of Anele Pocius, her committee was responsible for serving all participants a delicious dinner, and also acting as truly welcoming hostesses. Thank you!

At this meeting, all our area Councils were invited to join in the District's second annual pilgrimage, this time to Holy Hills, Wisconsin. This special trip, under the expert organizing leadership of Terry Strolia, is being planned for September 22<sup>nd</sup>. We are all looking forward to a prayerful experience and an enjoyable time. Among other events that are being planned is the Annual "Mem'ries of Lithuania Banquet." Evelyn Ozelis and Algird Brazis, HM, agreed to be co-chairs for this event once again. They always do a terrific job!

## Ateities Žiedai...

Mums reik žmonių,  
Kurie prikeltų tautą.  
Kurie ją vestų  
Ateities keliu...  
Mums reik žmonių,  
Kurie ją gerbtų ir mylėtų,  
Mums reikia daug gerų  
Ir pasišventusių žmonių...

Mums reik darbuotojų,  
Svajūnų ir poetų,  
Mums reikia patriotų  
Su širdim gyva,  
Kad laisvėje  
Žydėtų ir žaliuotų  
Vėl išsilaisvinus  
Ir prisikėlus Lietuva.

(Romualdas Kisielius, "Žaidzos Širdyje")



## In Memoriam...

C-7 Rev. Paul P. Sabulis  
C-7 Marion Jenusaitis  
C-17 John F. Zibutis  
C-25 Ursula Kunsitis  
C-27 Katherine Adakonis  
C-27 Joseph Sipas  
C-36 Geraldine "Gerry" Mack  
C-110 Helen Tamulinas  
C-140 Victor Johnson  
C-144 Mary McGinley  
C-144 Mary Gustus  
C-153 Sadye Alexander  
C-153 Paulina Banys

## Rugpjūčio mėnesio Marijos Šventės:



rugpjūčio 15d.~Marijos dangun ėmimas  
rugpjūčio 22d.- Marijos Karalienės šventė

### GIESMĖ

Karaliene dangiškoji, Karaliene!  
O pažvelk I mus meilingoji,  
Karaliene, Marija!  
Marija, melsk už mus,  
Marija, melsk už mus!

Motina gailiaširdystės, Karaliene!  
Užtarėja krikščionystės,  
Karaliene, Marija!  
Marija, melsk už mus,  
Marija, melsk už mus!

Melk kad Dievas dovanotų,, Karaliene!  
Jam tarnaut pagelbą duotų,  
Karaliene, Marija!  
Marija, melsk už mus,  
Marija, melsk už mus!

### MALDA

Marija, dangaus ir žemės karaliene, sergėk ir globok mūsų tėvynę ir josios vaikelius.  
Amen.



Please send the next Council News on or before October 1st.

## Letter to the Editor...

In the June issue of "Vytis - The Knight," I was very delighted to read the article about "Siluva" written by Mrs. Elinor Sluzas. I would like to express some of my thoughts.

Not too many people realize that the Blessed Mother's appearance in the town of Siluva, in Lithuania, was the first in Europe (in 1608), and, as Mrs. Sluzas states, "two hundred years before Lourdes and Fatima." This was a real honor that was bestowed on Lithuania, which was even recognized and recorded by the Vatican as a true miracle.

It is a shame that religious disputes and politics have hindered this miracle from being more widely known throughout the world.

As the UNESCO President stated in Vilnius this year, Lithuania is a beautiful country, with a remarkable history, art, architecture and culture, but there is very little written, or other information available for foreign visitors in any language. This is also true about Siluva.

An effort should be made to publicize this miracle to the Catholics of the world, and not just to remind us and keep it hidden as was done in the past.

Very truly yours,  
Algis Liepinaitis  
Riverside, IL

Good-bye, all! See you at the Convention.  
We'll be back with the Sept./Oct. issue  
of the Vytis.

Have a wonderful summer! Sudiev!

~The Vytis Staff.~



"On to Florida, James! Let's Go!"

## Attention, Attention!



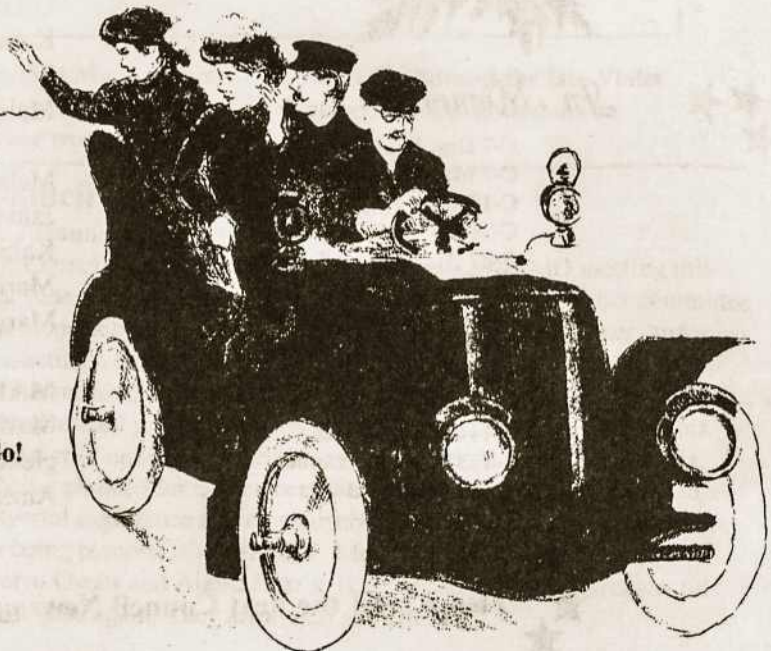
We are planning a reunion of the New Jersey "Ruta Ensemble," which was organized by a.a. Dr. Jokubas Stukas as part of the "Memories of Lithuania Radio Hour," and need to find as many of the past members as possible, so that they may be invited. The Reunion is planned for May, 2002, in Kearny, NJ.

If you are a former member of "Ruta," either the chorus or dance group, please send us your name and address. Also, if you know other former members, please also send their names, and if possible, their addresses. Please send all information to the following:

Mrs. Loretta Stukas  
234 Sunlit Drive  
Watchung, NJ 07069-6225  
Tel. 908-753-5636  
FAX: 908-753-9492  
e-mail: stukiene@worldnet.att.net

We look forward to hearing from you, and hope to see you next Spring.

Ruta Reunion Committee:  
Valentinas Melinis, Viola Skripata, Loretta Stukas



## August

*The yellow goldenrod is dressed  
In gala-day attire;  
The glowing redweed by the fence  
Shines like a crimson fire;  
And from the hot field's farthest edge  
The cricket's soft refrain  
With mellow accent tells the tale  
That August's here again.*

*The wild hop, from the young elm's bough,  
Sways on the languid breeze,  
And here and there the autumn tints  
Gleam faintly through the trees.  
All Nature helps to swell the song  
And chant the same refrain;  
July and June have slipped away  
And August's here again.*

(Helen Maria Winslow)



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Chicago IL 60636-1039



*"Not like the brazen giant of Greek fame,  
With conquering limbs astride from land to land;  
Here at our sea-washed, sunset gates shall stand  
A mighty woman with a torch, whose flame  
Is the imprisoned lightning, and her name  
Mother of Exiles. From her beacon-hand  
Glow world-wide welcome; her mild eyes command  
The air-bridged harbor that twin cities frame.*



*"Keep, ancient lands, your storied pomp!" cries she  
With silent lips. "Give me your tired, your poor,  
Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free.  
The wretched refuse of your teeming shore.  
Send these, the homeless, tempest-tost to me,  
I lift my lamp beside the golden door!"*



Inscription on the Statue of Liberty  
Emma Lazarus, 1883

