



Vytis - The Knight

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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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FRONT COVER PHOTO: Rima Povilionytė, from Lithuania, singing at the Vyėių Convention last August in Dedham, MA. Rima is also a Lithuanian folk culture counselor at Camp Nėringa. (Story in this issue. See page 14).

Sunday - May 9, 2004

*Happy Belated Mother's Day to All Our
K of L Moms! God bless you!*

Sunday - June 20, 2004

*Happy Father's Day to All of Our
K of L Dads! God bless you!*

To My Fellow Knights

Oh, the power of the word! We could write books on this idea, but here are just a few examples.

This is the Year of the Lithuanian Press and Language. Lithuania was changed because of the words brave men smuggled into Lithuania at the time of the ban on the Latin alphabet. The budding Lithuanian nation grew through the prolific literature at her beginnings after 1918. What about the impact made by the clandestine publishing and dissemination of the *Chronicles of the Lithuanian Catholic Church*? The prayer book *Mary, Save Us*, written on small papers in the frigid and tortuous Siberian camps by young heroic women, has been translated into many languages.

Of less significance but of pleasure to us, *Lithuanian Heritage Magazine* mentioned the fact that our publication *Vytis the Knight* is in its 90th year and that *Draugas* this year is celebrating its 95th anniversary as a continuous daily Lithuanian periodical in the United States.

We Knights of Lithuania appreciate our verbal and cultural heritage. May we remind you of the opportunities to express this by entering the annual essay contest if not this year, then perhaps next year. Summer language camps have good programs in the Midwest as well as at Neringa in Vermont.

If you haven't made arrangements for the K of L Convention, please do so soon. The Vytis staff is anxious to see you there. Iki pasimatymo tenai! Before that, have a good summer.

Sister M. Janine

NOTICE: Vytis Correspondents - the deadline for the next District and Council News has been extended to July 1.

In Memoriam...

Council	Name	City	State	Date of Death
6	Catherine Phillips	Granby	CT	4/9/04
17	Patricia Akule	No Andover	MA	3/28/04
25	Albert Wallis	Mentor	OH	4/17/04
26	Virginia Cummings	Worcester	MA	3/13/04
29	George Degutis	Randolph	NJ	4/10/04
50	Frank Radziunas	Branford	CT	4/17/04
50	Frank Antin	Hamden	CT	4/20/04
86	Ben Bruzga	DuBois	PA	3/28/04
110	Anna Linkonis	Middle Village	NY	4/8/04
110	Alice Krauciunas	Richmond Hill	NY	4/4/04
112	Vladas Paliulionis	Berwyn	IL	3/11/04
141	Anne M. Gecevich	Bridgeport	CT	3/6/04
141	Amelia Wilson	Milford	Ct	4/27/04
144	Estelle Nojunas	Redback	NJ	3/23/04
144	Julia Norcross	Tamaqua	PA	3/21/04
152	Albin Umpa	Calverton	NY	4/24/04

President's Message

Dear K. of L. Members:

March 29, 2004 - What an historic day!. All Lithuanians proudly celebrated Lithuania's formal admission into NATO. Several K. of L. members attended the formal ceremony on the South Lawn of the White House and the evening reception at the Corcoran Gallery of Art. An awesome experience for all those in attendance!

Also, Lithuania, along with 9 other countries, became a full member of the European Union. On May 4 a ceremony and reception was held in the House of Representatives in Washington, DC to celebrate the enlargement of the European Union..

Members of the Supreme Council met in Secaucus, NJ on April 17. The Convention hotel is top notch. The Supreme Council worked diligently at the meeting to make the Convention sessions interesting and efficient. After much discussion and a hard look at what must be accomplished, we were able to solidify the Convention format into three sessions. The delegates will be able to enjoy free time late Friday afternoon and evening.

I urge all to make plans to attend this year's Convention. It is only through active delegate input and participation that the Supreme Council can effectively continue their work on your behalf.

Vytiškai,

*Agnes V. Michunas, H.M.
President*



Lithuanian Midshipmen at the US Naval Academy, Annapolis. Jonas Laucys, Marius Čaras and Tadas Alasevčius, with John Mankus, K of L Lith. Affairs Chair, at the Lithuanian Embassy in Washington, DC.

Resolution: Change in procedure of election of Honorary Membership Committee Members

Submitted by: District Presidents

Whereas, Article XII, Section 3 of the constitution explains the procedure by which the members of the Honorary Membership Committee are elected and how candidates are presented, and

Whereas, currently a conflict exists between the rules stated in the constitution and the procedure currently being followed by the committee, therefore

Be it resolved that the delegates to the 91st National Convention amend the constitution as is concerns Article XII, Section 3 to the following:

The Honorary Membership Committee consists of one elected Honorary Member from each district. One member of the committee is elected each year for a five-year term. Each year the committee members shall elect their own chair and secretary.

The committee investigates and weighs the qualifications of candidates for Honorary Membership. The committee shall present to the delegates of the National Convention qualified candidates for elevation to Honorary Membership for approval. Upon approval of a candidate, his/her biography shall be published in Vytis. His/Her Honorary Membership will then be conferred upon them at the next National Convention.

Be it further resolved that if approved this policy change takes effect immediately.

Notice: Copies of the new K of L Constitution will be distributed at the National Convention in August to the **Council Presidents** or a **designated delegate** from the council. Please note on the mandate who will receive the Constitution and how many copies of the Constitution are desired. The mandates will be sent in early May and should be returned by June 15, 2004.

Smiles Without Wrinkles...

(L.J.Galinskas C-102)

Never put both feet in your mouth at the same time, because you won't have a leg to stand on.

A man who rows the boat doesn't have time to rock it.

The best and most beautiful things in the world cannot be seen or touched...they must be felt with the heart!

I live in my own little world. But, that's okay. They know me there.

If flying is so safe, why do they call the airport "The Terminal?"

Our Day at the White House



Mere words could never describe the excitement of receiving an invitation to the White House, but "unbelievable," "exciting," and "a true honor" come to mind. Therefore, it was with great pride, humility and a deep sense of honor that on March 29th several members of the Knights of Lithuania accepted the invitation of President Bush to the NATO Enlargement Ceremony on the White House's South Lawn. Under a cloudless sky guests began arriving



around 1:00p.m. for the late afternoon ceremony which was also attended by diplomats from the member nations of NATO. As the President's own Military Band played for the crowds, we gathered to watch history being made. With true excitement we watched as members of Congress, the Senate, the President's Cabinet and Staff took their places with the rest of us. It wasn't long before the Prime

Ministers of Bulgaria, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania, Slovak Republic, and Slovenia joined the Secretary General of NATO at the podium to await the appearance of President Bush who was last to be introduced.

During his remarks the President commended each new NATO Member Nation for its dedication and perseverance in attaining its membership, calling to mind many of its accomplishments. He thanked each of them on behalf of the United States for the friendship and support and welcomed them all to NATO. He further expressed that from this day forward any nation that chooses to make an enemy of any of these nations makes an enemy of the United States, remarks that received thunderous applause

from all of us gathered on the lawn. As the President introduced each Prime Minister, everyone applauded. Not being biased, I have to admit that as Prime Minister Brazauskas was introduced, the Lithuanians cheered the loudest. The President also reiterated that the doors to NATO are open to all freedom-



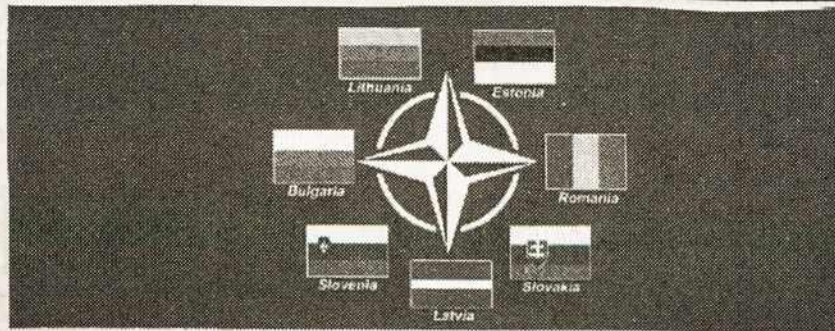
loving nations.

All too soon, the ceremony came to an end and as the fanfare died down, we were allowed to take photographs. What a memorable time it was as we posed for group photos at the White House! Of special mention is the honor of knowing that invited from the Knights of Lithuania were our current National President, Agnes Mickunas, HM, four former Presidents: Loretta Stukas, HM, Evelyn Ozelis, John Mankus, and Rob Martin, all of whom were in attendance. Among other Knights present were National Treasurer Ellie Nakrosis, Mid-Atlantic District President Maryte Abbott, Legal Advisor Saulius Kuprys and Lithuanian Language & Culture Chair Larry Misevicius.



That evening many of us were privileged to attend a reception at the Corcoran Gallery to celebrate this historic event. What an honor for Lithuanian Americans when the host committee selected a Lithuanian, Mrs. Regina Narusis, to serve as MC for the evening! The program included remarks by Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld.

What a historic day for Lithuania, what a memorable day for all of us! Ilgiausią metų, Lietuva ir ačiu labai, Mr. President.



*The Ambassadors of
Bulgaria, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania, the Slovak
Republic, and Slovenia to the United States of America*

*In cooperation with
Central and Eastern European Coalition*

Welcome you to a Gala Reception

*to honor the visit by Their Excellencies the Prime Ministers of
Albania, Bulgaria, Croatia, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania,
Macedonia, Romania,
the Slovak Republic, and Slovenia
and to celebrate accession to NATO
At the Corcoran Gallery of Art*

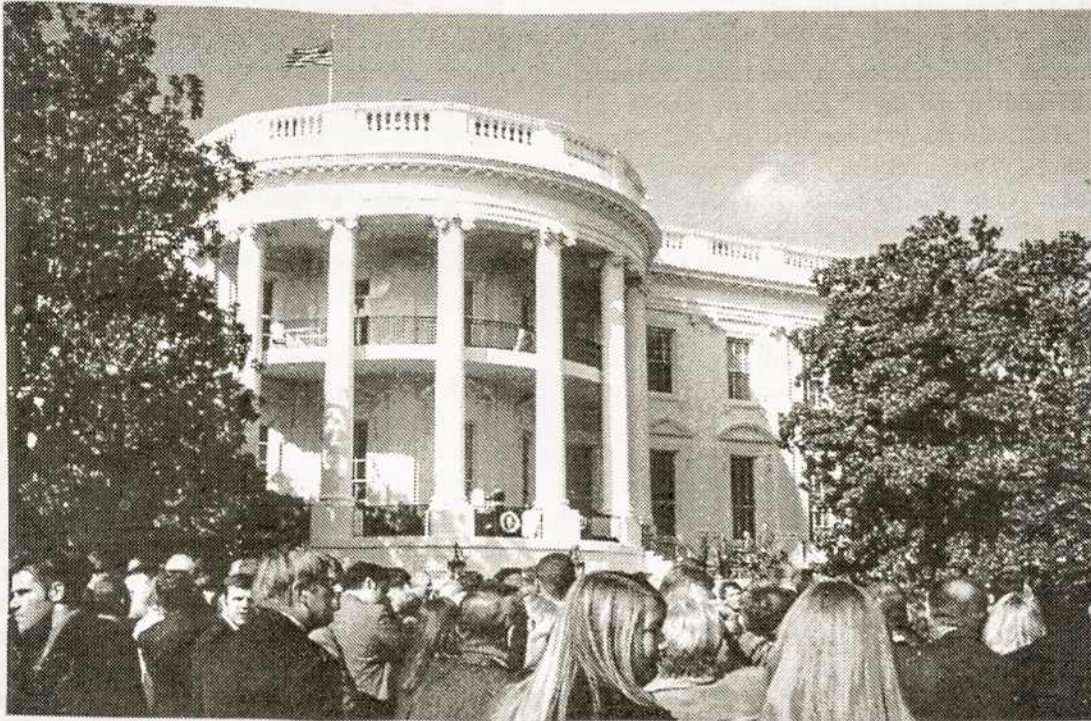
Monday, March 29, 2004

**Remarks by the Prime Minister of the Republic of Lithuania,
His Excellency Algirdas Mykolas BRAZAUSKAS,
at a Press Conference at the National Press Club
in Washington, DC, on March 29, 2004**

Today is a historic day for Lithuania and six other European Nations who became full-fledged members of NATO.

Our accession to the Alliance means an expansion of the area of security and stability and a decisive step towards creating a Europe whole and free. It will also help to promote and to strengthen even better relations between enlarged NATO and all of its neighbors, including Russia.

Accession to NATO



The ceremony outside the White House on March 29, 2004, Washington, D.C.



L to R: Lith. Ambassador to the USA & Mexico, Mr. Vygaudas Ušackas; Lithuanian Prime Minister, Algirdas Mykolas Brazauskas; and Lith. Defense Minister, Linas Linkevičius, at the Corcoran Gallery of Art.

(Photos by Larry Misevicius)

(Remarks by His Excellency Algirdas Mykolas Brazauskas continued)

Lithuania's commitment to continue defense modernization and fight against new threats of the XXI century is supported by necessary resources. Two weeks ago an Agreement on Defense Policy was signed by all parliamentary parties of Lithuania to spend at least 2 percent of the annual GDP on defense needs until the year of 2008.

One month from now, we will also become members of the European Union. We will use our membership in both organizations to strengthen the Transatlantic link that has for many decades been the cornerstone of Europe's security.

On a final note, I wish to thank President Bush and all American people for their unwavering support to the independence of Lithuania and other Baltic states: Estonia and Latvia. I am proud to be part of this historic event when dreams come true.

NATO'S newest enlargement
Milestone from the Baltic to the Black Sea
International Herald Tribune
Monday, March 29, 2004

This article was contributed by Simeon Saxe-Coburg Gotha, prime minister of Bulgaria; Juhan Parts, prime minister of Estonia; Indulis Emsis, prime minister of Latvia; Algirdas Brazauskas, prime minister of Lithuania; Adrian Natase, prime minister of Romania; Mikulas Dzurinda, prime minister of Slovakia; and Anton Rop, prime minister of Slovenia. Today, our countries are becoming members of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. NATO will now unite 26 allies. This is a historic accomplishment for our countries, for NATO, for Europe, and for the whole Euro-Atlantic community.

Membership in NATO is the achievement of our long-standing goal to rejoin the Euro-Atlantic family of nations. By virtue of our culture and values, we have always felt that we belonged to this family, from which we had been separated. This round of NATO enlargement, the biggest ever, embraces countries from the Baltic to the Adriatic and Black Seas. It represents another important step toward the fulfillment of our joint

vision of an undivided, democratic and peaceful Europe. Today, nearly 50 million more people in Europe will feel more secure in the knowledge that history will not repeat itself.

We are well aware that NATO membership is not a one-way street. For us, the benefits of membership go hand in hand with obligations. We are ready to assume those responsibilities, and to contribute politically, as well as militarily to our common endeavor of making our neighborhood and that of others a safe place to live.

Each of the new members is a contributor to peace and security. We bring our unique experience, strategic value, capabilities and knowledge to the alliance. We are sharing our firsthand experience in political, economic and military transformation with other countries. Our integration processes serve as a model for extending the area of freedom, democracy and stability toward the western Balkans, Eastern Europe, the Black Sea region, the southern Caucasus and Central Asia. We also bring new military capabilities to the alliance. These capabilities have already been put to the test in various NATO missions, from the western Balkans to Afghanistan. We are determined to improve them even further. On our way to NATO, we began the Vilnius process, which promoted cooperation over competition. This spirit of solidarity will now help us work within NATO in a consensual manner. It will re-energize the alliance and make it stronger.

We are entering NATO on the eve of its 55th anniversary. By signing the North Atlantic Treaty on April 4, 1949, 12 allies undertook "to safeguard the freedom, common heritage and civilization of their peoples, founded on the principles of democracy, individual liberty and the rule of law." This commitment is as vital today as it was in past decades. It is so not despite, but because of the nature of the security environment, which has changed so dramatically in recent years. The current security agenda of NATO is a challenging one: tackling the new threats of terrorism and proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their deadly nexus; carrying out ongoing operations from Kosovo to Afghanistan; enhancing relations with 20 partner states who want to work with NATO and assisting those who aspire to NATO membership or wish to join its Partnership for Peace; developing practical cooperation with Russia; reinforcing

the dialogue with Mediterranean countries; and exploring possibilities of engaging countries in the greater Middle East. And at the same time NATO is working to upgrade alliance capabilities for pursuing new tasks.

This ambitious agenda requires a clear focus, determination and commitment to close cooperation within the alliance. The trans-Atlantic link, which is at the core of NATO, remains essential for the security of the Euro-Atlantic area. We are committed to keeping that link because Europe and North America must work together to succeed. NATO's achievements including enlargement - a major security in its own right - are proof of that success.

St. Casimir Celebration 2004 Draws Lithuanian- Americans from Several Groups

Celebrating St. Casimir's Day with members of the Sisters of St. Francis has become a tradition for members of Pittsburgh council 19 and their friends from the Lithuanian Citizens Society of Western Pennsylvania.

This year's event offered a special treat to Council member, Eric Grabowski. He had a chance to renew a friendship with Sister Irene Pacekonis, his sixth-grade teacher at St. Gabriel's School.

Sister Irene has also created a tradition of her own. Each year she makes and distributes a small handicraft to everyone attending the event. This year, she presented guests with a small crocheted cross.

About 30 Knights and members of the Citizens Society attended the Mass and brunch on March 7, at the Sisters' motherhouse in Whitehall, to mark the Feast of St. Casimir. St. Casimir is Lithuania's only Roman Catholic saint, and his Feast Day, March 4, has been celebrated for almost five centuries.

Father Bernie Tickerhoof celebrated the Mass. Organist, Patti Donohue Burns, provided the music and led in the singing of Lithuanian and English hymns.

Foods at the brunch included traditional bacon buns.

Sister J. Lora Dambroski, the order's provincial minister for the United States, greeted the guests. Sister Marian Blodis coordinated the event.

*~Len Barcousky
Council - 19~*



Eric Grabowski, Sister Marian Blodis, Brian and Rita Johnson



Brian Johnson, Eric Grabowski, Julie McCartney and Peter Barcousky

A Gracious Thank You from Lithuania...

The K of L Foundation, at its 2003 Annual Meeting, voted to send a donation of \$1,000 to the Senior Citizen Home and Orphanage at Rumbonys, Lithuania. The home is operated by the Sisters of the Immaculate Conception of Lithuania. These funds were taken from the interest received from donations to the K of L Foundation. As has been told before, the Foundation is an Endowment Fund, where donations are considered Capital and are invested in various Bank Accounts and Securities. The interest gained from these investments is used for various K of L type activities – prizes for the Annual Essay Contest, the Karklius Scholarship, aiding the K of L Archives, and mostly, for donations to the needy in Lithuania.

Following is the original Lithuanian Thank You letter received by Loretta Stukas, Foundation President, from Sister Danute Saboniute, of the Senior Citizen Home and the Orphanage. The letter is then followed by an English translation of the contents....

~~~~~  
Didziai Gerbiama Pone Loreta Stukas,

Labai nuosirdziai dekoju uz didele auka, 1,000 doleriu Rumbonius seneliu prieglaudai ir naslaiciams. Jus, gerbiamoji Pone, mus labai pradziuginote. Jusu pinigis panaudojome seneliams ir naslaiciams patalynes isigyti. Kadaingi buvo labai sudevetos. Seneliu globos namuose globojame vienuolika vienisu seneliu. Naslaiciu globojame sesiolika. Naslaiciai ivairaus amziaus. Visus leidziamė mokyti. Mokosi ivairiose mokyklose. Viena mergaite studijuoja Kaune, Vytauto Didziojo Universitete, Teologijos fakultete I kurse. Vienas berniukas studijuoja Marijampoles Kunigu Seminarijoje IV-ame kurse. Taip pat stengiamės padeti musu parapijoje gyvenanciom , daugiavaikiu, asocialiu ir socialiu remtiniu seimu vaikams. Tu seimu vaikai daznokai ateina prasyti duonos ir kokio kito maisto. Pagal galimybes stengiamės duoti maisto ir drabuziu. Daznokai reikia pirkti ir vaistai. Pinigu neduodame nes nezinome ant ko praleis. Be kitu paramos to padaryti negaletume. Gave auka stengiamės panaudoti ten kur labiausiai reikia.

Mes gyvename ne keturi kilometrai no Alytaus - Rumboniu parapijoje, grazus krastovaizdis, arti

Nemuno upes. Seneliai gyvena naujai pastatyta me, o mes su naslaiciais gyvename sename parapijos me. Su seneliais gyvena viena sesele. O su naslaiciais gyvename trys.

Dar karta nuosirdziai dekojame uz auka kuria gavome per Religine salpa.

Su pagarba ir dekingumu,

*Sesuo Danute Saboniute*

Rumbonys 2004.1.30

~~~~~  
Dear Mrs. Loretta Stukas,

We most sincerely thank you and the Knights of Lithuania Foundation for your large donation of \$1,000 to the Rumbonis Home for the Aged and Orphans. You, dear lady, made us very happy. Some of your donated funds (from the Foundation) are being used to purchase bed linens for the elderly and the orphans, because the existing ones were very worn. In the Home for the Aged, we take care of 11 single senior citizens. In the Orphanage, we care for 16 orphans. The orphans are of various ages. We send them all to study. They study in various schools. One girl is in her first year, studying Theology in the Vytautas the Great University in Kaunas. One boy is studying at the Mariampolis Seminary, fourth year. We also attempt to assist the children of larger families of our parish, and those incapacitated with social problems. Those families' children frequently come to us asking for bread or other food. As per our means, we try to give them food and clothing. Frequently, we must also purchase medications for them. We don't give them money, for we are not sure how it will be used. Without the help of others, we would not be able to do these things. Upon receiving a donation, we try to use it where it is most needed.

We live four kilometers from Alytus – in the parish of Rumbonis, a place of beautiful nature, near the Nemunas River. The Senior Citizens live in a newly erected home, and we who live with the Orphans, live in the old parish home. One Sister lives with the Senior Citizens, and three Sisters live with the Orphans.

Once more, thank you most sincerely for your donation which we received through the Lithuanian Religious Aid.

With respect and gratitude.

Sister Danute Sabonis



Kūčios - The orphans visit the Seniors



The Rumbonių "family"

K of L Foundation, Inc. *Essay ~ Honorable Mention*

"Once Again, a Member Delighted"

As a rejoined member of Council 7, I am thrilled, because of the news of the "Knights of Lithuania" and other Council activities written in *Vytis* magazine during my absence, in which I have been abreast with. It pleases me to read about your outstanding members and their humanitarian works through the church and other avenues.

I had resigned as a member before, because I injured both my knees on separate occasions, and was unable to get around. Now that I have returned and joining in along with your good works, it is wonderful to be associated with the club.

In the past, not as a member though, I have worked, with the help of other active members of the club, here in Waterbury, CT., sending dry goods, clothing and toys to a Lithuanian handicapped orphanage in Ukmerge, Lithuania. In part, their return letter to us, "How did you find us?" "Thank you for the packages that you sent!" It was a great feeling and I was elated that we worked together to accomplish this, and that members invited me to join along with them. Their statement was music to my ears.

Our seniors gathered as a small community effort to please the Lithuanian Orphanage. We have a sisterhood, as well as a brotherhood here. As it was, we were not a legal organization with a "name," quote, which was an obstacle that plagued us. It was difficult to obtain an ad in our local newspaper because of it. I had quoted to them, "Why not?" We are a group of seniors, working together for the benefit of other human beings. The local newspaper came through, and the ad was printed, showing just what we needed for the orphans.

It was so exciting when I joined the Knights of Lithuania for the first time! "I'm going to belong with the rest of my ethnic people." It was great meeting others of the same persuasion. It's a true Gift that we receive along the way - a gift of friendship.

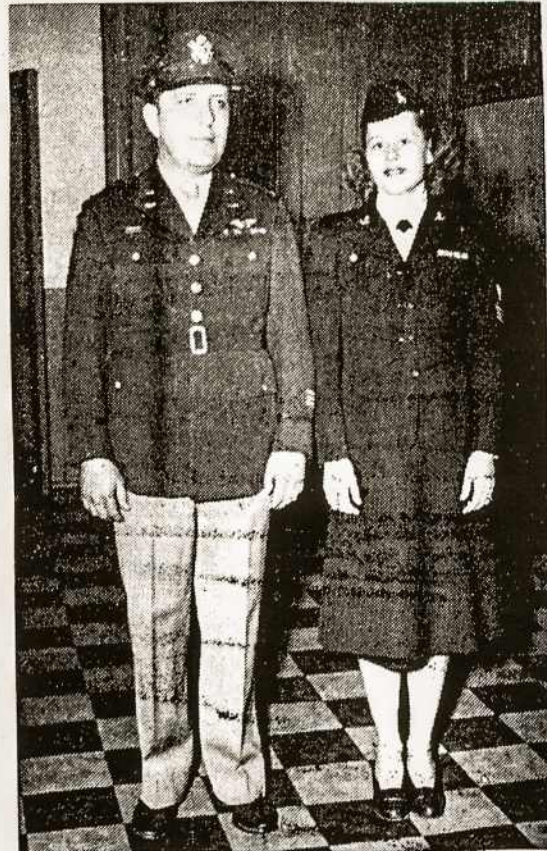
"What should and can I give now?" My explanation felt deep. "I'll do what I can, now that my knees are mobile again and the healing I received from the Almighty God!" Getting around now is much easier without my cane.

I am also quite elated about the Baltic States being freed. It had been quite a long time of oppression they suffered. We all prayed immeasurably for our freedom. Our prayers were answered. I will keep praying to keep the aggressors away forever. Please join in with us.

Now that I have returned to the club with a great deal of anticipation of what's ahead for me, and hoping I can accomplish more for my countries, here in the United States, as well as Lithuania.

~ Elaine Mastrianno

Council 7 - Waterbury, Ct.



Vincent and Florence Morkus in uniform - 1953

HOW TWO WORLD WAR II VETERANS FOUND EACH OTHER A Love Story

World War II brought a lot of changes to Florence Litwinas' life. Pearl Harbor put her on an unexpected career path and ignited a lifelong love of country. Florence was caught up in a wave of patriotism that had swept the country in the wake of the attack. Within weeks she left her job and enlisted in the women's Navy Corps, Unit 42, the Connecticut Yankees division. After boot camp Florence was assigned to Navy communications in Washington for 33 months.

"We had a good time," says Florence. "There were thousands of women who had enlisted. We dated, went out and had fun. We rode the boats in the Tidal Basin and went all around Washington. A lot of the girls found guys, but I hadn't gone into the service to find a husband."

In December, 1945, with the war over and her service completed, Florence returned home. There was no special man in her life until a few months later, when a handsome Army Air Corps pilot offered Florence and her mother a ride home from church.

Vincent "Willy" Morkus was a fellow veteran and a local war hero. While flying a mission over Germany, he had been shot down, wounded, captured and spent 15 months in a German concentration camp. And he was as patriotic as Florence. "He'd received the Purple Heart and other medals," says Florence.

He'd also had his eye on the pretty former WAVE for years it turned out.

At a Memorial Day picnic, he proposed. On the Fourth of July, the couple picked their wedding date - Labor Day. "The holidays were important to us," says Florence. "Plus it made it easy to remember our anniversaries."

On Labor Day 1946, "Flo and Vin" were married, settled in Hartford, and raised two lovely daughters. The couple was active in civic, church and military service organizations including the Knights of Lithuania. The girls grew up, married and had families of their own.

"When he retired, we started to travel the world," says Florence. "We celebrated our anniversaries on cruises. We went to Europe, to Lithuania and to the Holy Land. We were lucky. We had our health, and we had our family. I thought we'd have many more years together."

On a cold, windy day in January (after 57 years of marriage), Vincent Morkus was buried in Arlington National Cemetery with full military honors, including an honor guard and a 21-gun salute. The flag from the coffin, a video of the service and mementos of their service careers are among Flo's most prized possessions. A red, white and blue flag-covered wreath on her front door and Old Glory hanging by the carriage are tributes to the fly boy she met and fell in love with so many years ago.

"When I go, I'll be buried right next to him," says Florence. "We'll be there with all the other service men and women who served their country. It's the right place for us to be."

Editor's note: The full article appeared in the 3/7/04 issue of The Courant of Hartford CT

The Perfect Place to Be...

(Alexandra Grizas-camp alumna and counselor)

Nestled deep in a small Vermont town lies the true meaning of "a home away from home." During two months each summer, hundreds of children and adults come together based on their love of the Lithuanian culture at Camp Neringa. Upon their arrival, campers simply pick up from where they left off with old friends, yet new friendships are quickly made each year. Among the green trees and under blue skies, laughter echoes in every corner of the campground. Whether the testimonials be squeals of joy coming from the prudas (pond) as the younger campers hunt for salamanders or giggling from girls as they cartwheel across the field, there is no doubt that Neringa has brought many groups of best friends together for a summer of excitement and memories for over 30 years, and Neringa will continue to do so for many years to come.

The summer's themes (such as Jonines (summer solstice celebration), World War II occupation history, Uzgavenes (Mardi Gras), or Neringa's birthday are woven into each day of camp. Through activities such as, cooking, music, language, drama and dancing, Lithuanian culture is taught in a fun and interactive way. Campers can look forward to familiar and new program elements each summer. Talent Night, Drama Night, and the ever-popular Linksmavakariai (dances) are truly traditions at Neringa. Sports Day riles up even the youngest campers for a day of competition in, of course, sports, but even more importantly, in creativity, talent, spirit, and teamwork. At the end of the day, regardless of who wins or loses, no one goes to bed angry or disappointed, rather, every single camper is happy to have had so much FUN!

Beyond the program lies what truly makes Neringa "home away from home." Neringa's vadovai (counselors), who are usually graduated campers, are truly devoted to Neringa in both heart and spirit. These enthusiasts make Neringa that much more special with their infectious smiles, loving and compassionate hearts, and youthful spirits. Vadovai live with their campers in cabins (that are by no means considered "roughing it") to ensure that campers are engaged in the program, safe, and happy. At bedtime, from cabin doors flow the sounds of

vadovai telling stories of a soft guitar strumming, lulling the children to sleep.

Further adding to the home-like atmosphere are smiling cooks in the kitchen, who prepare all meals and snacks for the campers. Aside from American classics like peanut butter and jelly sandwiches, the campers have a chance to try Lithuanian dishes like potato kugel, cold beet soup, or Lithuanian rye bread. It is absolutely no secret that no one goes hungry at camp. Few camps could make the transition of being away from home for the first time, or even the fifth time, as smooth and easy as does Neringa.

But, Neringa is so much more than even this. Albeit bragging about something close to your heart is easy, there truly is so much about Neringa that makes it a unique and desirable place to be. Perhaps for this reason, people return year after year - some since Neringa's very first summer! Camp Neringa is made up of fun and friendships, religion and culture, history and the future. Neringa is a place to learn, and a place to grow personally. Your decision is simple. If you are of Lithuanian descent, if you enjoy having a family of hundreds of friends with whom you'll forge memories for a lifetime, Camp Neringa is the perfect place to be.

Camp Neringa offers programs for children as well as families in Lithuanian and English. Please visit www.neringa.org or call Camp Director Vida Strazdis at 978-582-5592 for more information about Camp Neringa and the 2004 camping season.



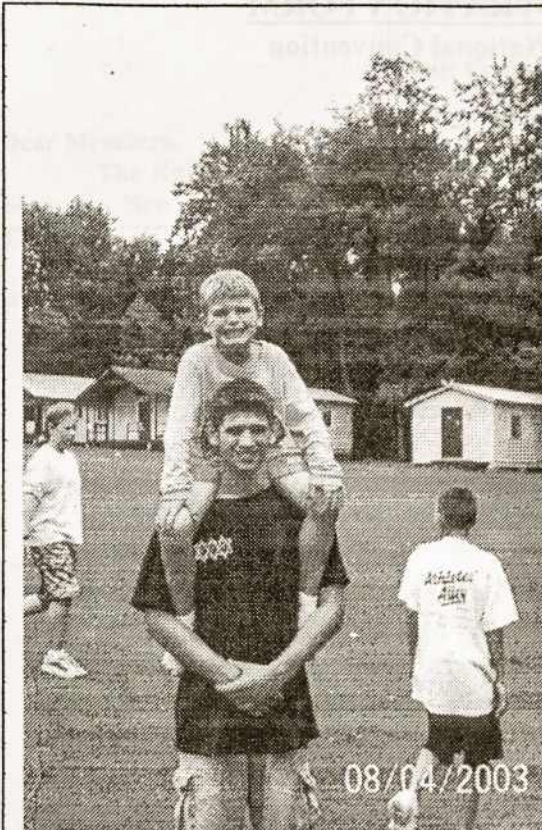
2004 SUMMER CAMPS IN ENGLISH:

June 26-30: For families with young children

August 1-14: For children aged 7-16



Camp Neringa, located in Marlboro, Vermont, is founded and sponsored by the Sisters of the Immaculate Conception



Some Happy Campers

enjoying summer at

Neringa.

Oi, kaip gera



ėia bėti!

CONVENTION REGISTRATION FORM**Knights of Lithuania 91st National Convention****Convention Site: Crowne Plaza Hotel****2 Harmon Plaza****Secaucus, NJ 07094****Host: Council 90 Kearny, NJ**

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

Street: _____ Phone No. _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip _____

Early Registration - \$195.00 per person (Prior to July 1)

Amount _____

Late Registration - \$225.00 per person (After July 1)

Amount _____

Junior Registration: \$80.00

Name of Child _____

Age of Child _____

Amount _____

CONVENTION REGISTRATION INCLUDES:

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

PRE-CONVENTION ACTIVITY:

Wednesday, August 3, 2004 - Trip to Ellis Island and Statue of
 Liberty (including lunch). Departure: 8:00 A.M.

Cost: \$50.00 per person

Amount _____

Make checks payable to: Knights of Lithuania Council 90

Total Amount _____

Mail checks and Registration Forms to :

Ellie Nakrošis, Registration Coordinator

10 Park Avenue

Kearny, NJ 07032

Phone: (201) 998-9641

**KNIGHTS OF LITHUANIA
91st National Convention**

Host: Council 90 - Kearny, NJ

Dear Members,

The Knights of Lithuania 91st National Convention will be held August 4th to 8th, 2004, in Secaucus, New Jersey...**ONLY SEVEN MILES FROM THE "BIG APPLE," THE GREATEST CITY IN THE WORLD!!**

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

_____ \$120.00 Full Page
8 -1/2" x 11"

_____ \$15.00 Patron Greeting (Use 3 lines below)
First Line _____

_____ \$60.00 Half Page
8-1/2" x 5-1/2"

Second Line _____

_____ \$30.00 Quarter Page
4-1/4" x 2-3/4"

Third Line _____

_____ \$5.00 Kearny Friend (Name Only)

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

DEADLINE FOR ADS: JUNE 15, 2004

Make checks payable to: Knights of Lithuania Council 90.....Amount _____

Mail Ads with payment to: Eleanor Rokas, Chair - Program Book
343 Elm Street
Kearny, NJ 07032

INFORMATION FOR HOTEL RESERVATIONS

Crowne Plaza Hotel
2 Harmon Plaza
Secaucus, NJ 07084
Phone: 201-348-6900 ext. 7205

Special K of L Room Rates: Single/Double - \$99.00 per room plus applicable taxes

(Please note: you **MUST** mention that you are with the **Knights of Lithuania 91st National Convention** to receive these rates!!!)

A Limited Number of Suites are Available!

ROOM RESERVATIONS should be made by JULY 1, 2004 to insure room availability

**Parking is FREE.
Valet parking is \$5.00 per car.**

K of L Octagenarians Celebrate

Ilgiausiu Metų!



Rev. Dr. Mathew Cyvas

CELEBRATING ONE'S 80TH

Valeria Leščinskienė C-147

They flew by like a dream
 -those beautiful years
 Filled with pain as well as joy.
 Ask not of destiny the years remaining;
 He/She will not reveal it.

The days pass so quickly,
 They prod one's pace to quicken more.
 It's as though a voice is calling
 to hurry even faster.
 Please stop! Wait, don't rush!
 I may not make it
 To bid my friends farewell.

An Update on our Favorite Man of Years and Years.

He is also Spiritual Advisor for Council 147
 Rev. Dr. Mathew Cyvas celebrates his 88th
 birthday. Best wishes from our Pastor, Kan. B.
 Talasis and Parishioners.

The following is a poem written by Mrs. V.
 Lescinskiene, An English translation follows.



Rev. M. Cyvas celebrates his 88th.

80 metų gimtadienio proga.

Prabėgo, lyg sapnas, metų gražiu,
 Skausmo ir džiaugsmo pilni.
 Likimo neklausiu, jis nepasakys,
 Kiek metų dar liko skaičiuoti .

Dienos greit bėga.
 Vis greitina žingsnį
 Atrodo, kas šaukia skubėt.
 Sustokite! Palaukit, neskubėkit,
 Nes galiu nespėti,
 Draugam pasakyti, "sudie."

**Valeria Leščinskienė
 C-147, St. Petersburg, FL**



Valeria Leščinskienė celebrates her 80th

District & Council News

Mid Atlantic District

MAD District Meeting Bruno Rutkunas

March 28: On a clear day in Maspeth, 7 councils on the Knights of Lithuania celebrated and honored Saint Casimir who dedicated his life to the principles of our Catholic religion as we know it today. Before Mass, Bishop Paulius Baltakis presented the 3rd degree K of L medals to Antoinette Pointis and Rev. Vitas Volertas with Lynn Haynor, Ritual chairperson of MAD, along with Edward Jakatt, Ritual chair of C-110, witnessing the ceremony. After the 11:30AM Lithuanian Mass, on March 28, 2004, over 60 members and guests gathered in the Transfiguration Church Hall. A hearty luncheon buffet was available to the attendees with choice of beverages. The Spring MAD convention and meeting started after the coffee and cake, fruit pieces, and candy were served

For the eighth time since 1989, C-110 hosted the MAD Mini-Convention. C-90 has hosted the MAD for 5 times. Member delegates from 7 K of L councils were present and a meaningful afternoon of events were attained.

After our Buffet Brunch in the Transfiguration Hall, the Spring session of MAD convention was started by Pres. Maryte Abbott. Highlights included reports by: Bernice Aviza, stating that more effort is required to maintain our membership rolls; we lost 52 members last year; Antoinette Sakal of C-152 happily reported that their council has enrolled 7 KofL Juniors.

Last winter's snow caused postponements of meetings and other events for C-90, C-100, smaller attendance for Kucios at C-110 and Christmas Party

at C-152. C-136 has been donating medical supplies to many orphanages; C-152 added 3 members and will have their annual picnic July 13, way out on Orient Point, Long Island. C-12 reported that Our Lady of Vilnius Church in Manhattan needs a new roof.

Cathy Nakrosis, MAD Treasurer, is going to have a raffle for the next meeting; by the end of the meeting, the treasury went down - monetary donations were authorized by the membership for ads in National Convention, Delegates, Aid to Lithuania, Sponsorship of Honorary Member Bernice Aviza, Our Lady of Siluva Shrine, ad in St. Casimir's booklet, etc. Becky Pataki of C-90, Kearny, as host, outlined the events planned at the National Convention - Aug 5-8. Regina Kot, Cultural Chair', will supply information on amber, Easter, and Christmas traditional doings upon request, from any interested members and friends.

For the Fall MAD meeting, plans are being made to have a Pilgrimage to the Auriesville Shrine, upstate, on Sept 26, 2004; bus transportation will be required.

Reports were made about the formal admittance of Lithuania and the Baltic countries into NATO - at last.

C-12 New York, NY Irene Senken

Due to the inclement weather, many meetings were cancelled. I am writing what I know while in sunny Florida.

'Attended St. Casimir's celebration in March at St. Jude's Church, Tequesta, Florida. Bishop Baltakis was the main celebrant with Monsignor Contons. A luncheon followed at the Waterford Hotel, near-by. KofL members from several councils were in attendance.

'Had dinner at Lee and Paul Moore's, one evening. Their guest was Monsgr.

Contons. A lovely time was had by all.

Get well soon: Vinnie Cuperwich, Irene Senken, Ed Senken.

Stella Marcinauskis's son, Stephen, a doctor in NJ, received the "Man of the Year Award". Congratulations!

Best wishes to Joe Kscenaitis, Jeanne Janonis, Stella Marcinauskis - Long Time Members.

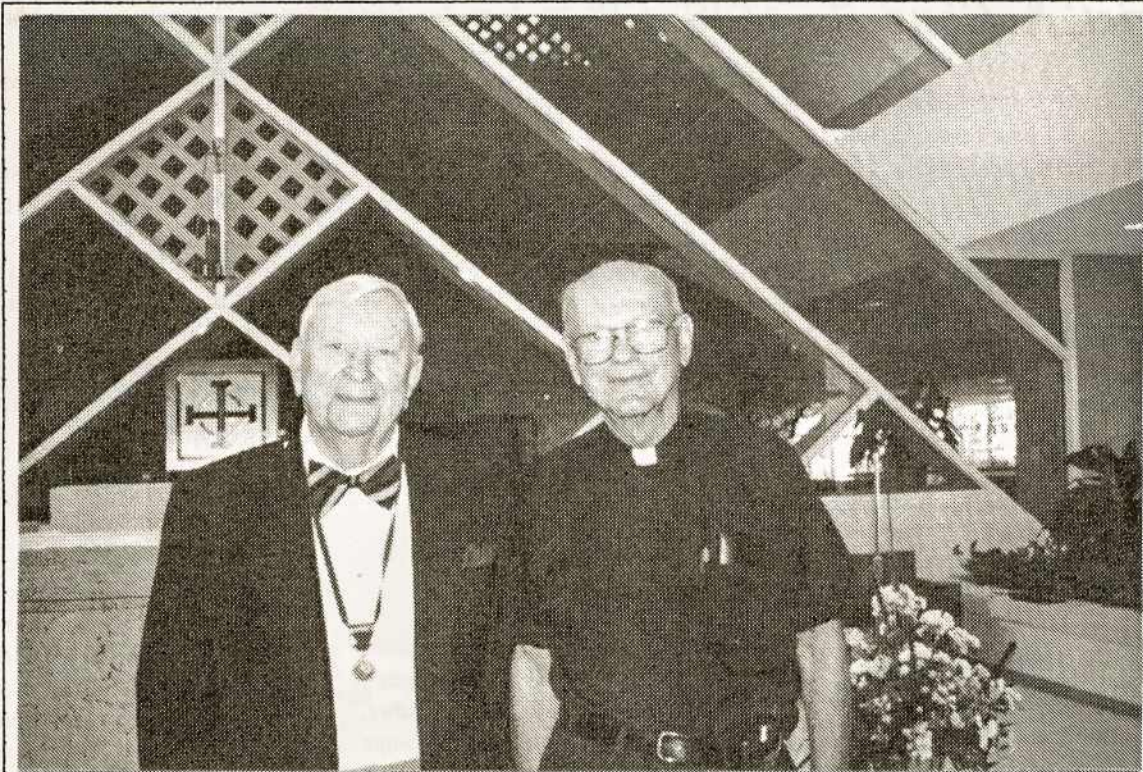
C-100 Amsterdam, NY "Reggie"

The November meeting was held in St. Casimir's Rectory, right after 10:00AM Mass on Sunday. Plans were made to have a Christmas Party in Dec. Sophie Olbie and Regina Kot accepted chairs'. Our new secretary, Kristen Olechowski, read the minutes of the last meeting and Regina Kot read an interesting article from the Lithuanian Heritage magazine. Coffee and refreshments were served. The Christmas Party took place at Parillo's Restaurant. 25 members and guests attended. Sr. Roberta O'Rourke, Parish Life Director, gave the invocation. Prizes were won by many.

St. Casimir's yearly brunch was held at Valentino's Restaurant after a Mass at St. Casimir's Church. It was nice that Bernice Aviza, our District secretary, could join us. Regina Kot read an article on St. Casimir's life. We were glad to see Walter Malkowicz who was recuperating and able to join us.

Irene and Harold could not be with us because they left for Florida for some sunshine and relaxation. We were sad to hear about Irene's mother's, Nancy Yakas, death.

Our VP, Diane Bablin, will be returning home this month from St. Petersburg Beach, FL. She was there for most of the winter months. Also, Regina Hartvigas is back with us from AZ. She was visiting her brother, Victor Rimkus and his wife, Gerry.



Alphonse Miskinis - 3rd degree recipient. Msgr. Albert Contons congratulates Al. March 7, 2004, C-153 Treasure Coast, FL.



St. Casimir Banquet - C-153 Treasure Coast, FL.: Itor.: Lou Stukas, Egle Dudiene, Msgr. A. Contons, Bishop Baltakis, Kestutis Miklas, Hon. Vice-Consul, Stanley Balzekas of Palm Beach Consulate.

Our St. Casimir's Church will be celebrating 100 years with a Mass and Banquet on June 6. Many events have taken place. Centennial Committee is asking for help trying to establish a data base of former parishoners, alumni of St. Casimir's School and friends. They would like to add their names to the data base in trying to reach them informing them of their schedule. Also, a Centennial booklet is in the works.

C136 Hudson Mohawk Dorothy Richmire

Our annual observation of Lithuanian Independence was well-attended and we are especially grateful to our Spiritual Advisor, Fr. Richard Carlino, for helping to make our commemoration special. He invited 2 visiting priests, Fr. Richard Dybas and Fr. Michael Goodavich as co-celebrants of the Mass. Fr. Goodavich, as the homilist, spoke favorably of his experiences while living in Lithuania for a year, teaching young students. Six of our lovely ladies were attired in traditional Lithuanian dress and brought authenticity and color to the celebration. The excellent choir sang Lithuanian hymns.

Our usual selection of Lithuanian foods prepared by members and friends were enjoyed by all, following Mass. We extend our appreciation to Kathy Lisson, Publicity Chair, for notifying the area papers, Channel 16, and having a Times-Warner cameraman on hand, covering the event - which was later shown on Channel 9 for all viewers to see. We are grateful to Mayor Brian U. Stratton who read the Proclamation and to Tina Panetta Zaza, a representative of Rep. Michael R. McNulty, who read a message from the congressman.

At our Mar 14 meeting, we enjoyed many surprise treats, thanks to Bernice Aviza, Jo Sasinowski, Dot Richmire, and Polly Zausis. Bernice presented a meaningful program honoring Saints Casimir, Patrick, and Joseph. Then

Lynn Hayner presented 1st degrees to Kathy Lisson and Dorothy Hicks, in addition to 2nd degrees to Frances Maslanka and Robert Fuerst. Congratulations to the recipients and to Bernice and Lynn for planning the programs.

Our sick list includes Adam Westerling, Ed Sargalis, Virginia Barkowski, and Joan Parker. Prayers and good wishes are wished for all.

April 15, ten members of our council met at Holy Cross Church. We had plenty of goodies to munch on, thanks to Gen Deery, Gran Maslanka, Dot Richmire, and Jo Sasinowski. Kathy Lisson suggested that we participate in the Stockade Walkabout scheduled for September 18. This affair allows ticket holders to visit historical homes and churches in the Stockade neighborhood. We could incorporate Hosts/Guides in Lithuanian dress and traditional foods.

Our faithful Angels of Mercy for Lithuania were at it again. On Mar 19, Bob Duda, Ed Barkowski and Tom Burnikas made 2 trips to Amsterdam Hospital to pick up wheelchairs and assorted medical supplies and clothing from Ed and Polly Ziausys's home. All these items are headed for Lithuania. Thank you, guys!

C153 Treasure Coast Florence V. Miskinis

Our first meeting of the season in Oct resulted in a unanimous vote for all our past Board. They were all gracious to accept and were sworn in by Lee Moore. Guests were Lee and Paul Moore, C-68. Seeing them was a pleasure and we appreciate all the help and input they give us.

In January, Al and Florence Miskinis donated \$2,000 to Aid to Lithuania for a seminarian in need. In Feb, the Miskinis's celebrated their 60th Wedding Anniversary.

Our annual St. Casimir Day celebration began with Mass in St. Jude's Chapel.

The day was more memorable with Bishop Paul Baltakis as celebrant and Msgr. Albert Contons from So. Boston as co-celebrant. Procession included: Dorothy Parrilli, Cross bearer; Lithuanian flag carried by Paul Moore; American flag by James Parrilli; Ritual Chair Lee Moore escorted Al Miskinis, 3rd degree recipient, followed by Bishop Baltakis and Msgr. Contons. The 3rd degree medal was bestowed by Msgr. Contons to Al Miskinis.

Dainos Chorus was at its best with new Director, Renata Armalaite and accompanied by Lou Stukas.

Following Mass, we all assembled at the Waterford Hotel in No. Palm Beach for the banquet. Guests were from Canada, Chicago, Lithuania, and all parts of Florida. Chairperson Lou Stukas did a fabulous job. Thanks Lou, You're Great! You have a lifetime position. Aciu!

Guest speakers were Egle Dudiene who returned to Lithuania the following week; Msgr. Albert Contons who told everyone that he's looking for a place to buy and all guests jubilantly proclaimed their appreciation to finally find a Spiritual Advisor for C-153 and the entire Lithuanian community. Bravo!; Kestutis Miklas, Pres of LB; Honorary Vice-Consul Stanley Balzekas, Jr.; Rima Zotovas, Pres. of the Lithuanian Museum in Lake Worth.

Vincas Staknys was declared champion ticket-seller by Lou Stukas.

Food was good and the company was exceptional. The raffle was a great success. Of course, Lou Stukas won the beautiful "popcorn" afghan made and donated by Ursula Malakas. We all envied his great prize. It was great to see Ursula again. A sumptuous basket of delicacies was won by Lillian Pechulis of Bridgewater, MA, who is vacationing with her sister, Frances Daniels. Last was the lovely painting by our talented artist-member, Aldona Biliunas, and won by Irena Manomaitis. Chair of the Banquet was Lou Stukas; Co-chairs Dorothy and Jim Parrilli; assisted by Valarie Bissol, Florence Morris, Miskinis, Blanche Vogel.



St. Petersburg choir in concert, under the direction of Dr. Bronius Kazenas.



Valeria Lescinskiene, celebrating her 80th birthday. Pictured are her daughter, Nijole with husband Romas, and daughter Loreta with husband, Algirdas. (Feb. 23, 2004.)

On Mar 28, a large group of C-153 went to the Marriott Hotel to honor Dainos Chorus on their Twentieth Anniversary. Directed by Renata Armalaitis, the chorus was outstanding and received a standing ovation.

At our April meeting, we donated all money allotted to our favorite Lithuanian charities.

Liudas Stukas will be our delegate to the convention in Kearny, NJ.

A lovely table was decorated with a basket of yellow jonquils and 2 baskets of traditional Easter eggs - to see, enjoy, and who was lucky to take the eggs home. Desserts by Valarie Bissol and Blanche Vogel were enjoyed by all. We had a great year and said our sad farewells with hugs and kisses til we meet again in October.

Mid Central District

C-25 Cleveland, Ohio Ursula Kunsitis

We celebrated St. Casimir's Day on March 7 at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church with our Spiritual Advisor, Fr. Gediminas Kijauskas. A big thank-you to flag bearers Joe Ivoska and Jim Thompson and to the gift bearers Al and Eleanor Bendokas, Theresa Capuria, Todd Craig, Dolly Oberaitis and Nellie Samas; and, of course, to Gene Kunsitis for his lovely, traditional orchid; and to the following members for their attendance: Ann Ivoska, Joan Ortman, Cliff and Catherine Schneider, Vyto and Angela Staskus, Joan Thompson, Steve and Lillian Yorkovic and yours truly. Even though our council is dwindling, the parishoners were very impressed with our faithful remembrance of our Patron Saint, St. Casimir. Thank you, one and all. Following Mass we all enjoyed a delicious luncheon at Finamore's Restaurant. Raffle winners of bountiful packages of "pierogi's" were Ann Ivoska and Angela Staskus. Many thanks to Pres Theresa Capuria for making all the necessary arrangements.

I received a call from Betty August in Georgia. She wished everyone a "HAPPY ST. CASIMIR'S DAY" and said that she misses everyone. We miss you, too, Betty!

Nellie Arunski celebrated her 86th birthday on Mar 20 and would love to hear from her many K of L friends.

Ben Karklius, the Kunsitis's, the Marks and the Staskus' enjoyed the evening of Mar 27 at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Auditorium, featuring the Men's Choir of the Military Academy of Lithuania, "KARIUNAS". The 12 handsome young men in uniform presented an interesting program with well-trained voices. It was fun to talk and mingle w/ them at the reception that followed.

ATT: Mid Central District: C-25 will be hosting the MCD Sept 25.

A special "Hello" to our many ill and house-bound members. We miss you all and you are all in our thoughts and prayers! Thank you for the many years of your friendship!

On Apr 2nd, it was good to see our members once again, as we resumed our council meetings. A BIG WELCOME to Robert Kaczmarek (brother of Kathy) who joined our council. Congratulations to Kathy who will be graduating in June with a degree in Business Management from Cuyahoga Community College. Bob proudly announced that he was recently presented with his first granddaughter, Chloe, by daughter, Emily. This also makes Kathy a Great-Aunt! Congratulations to all. Winner of our 50/50 raffle was Jean Marks.

We would like to thank Betty August for the Mass she had offered at OLPH on April 3 for all the living and deceased members of our council. Fr. Gediminas officiated at the Mass and Jean and Dick Marks and Gene Kunsitis presented the Offertory Gifts. What a nice gesture. Stay well and much happiness in Georgia!

Our deepest sympathy and prayers to Al Bendokas and his family on the death of his brother, Frank, on March 31.

Our council was also saddened by the death of Albert Wallis on April 17. Al

was a Fourth Degree member of C-25 and previously a member of the Dayton council. Members attended our KofL Prayer Service led by Fr. Kijauskas and VP Jean Marks. Our deepest sympathy to his children, William and Patricia.

April 25, Ben Karklius, Jean and Dick Marks, Dolly Oberaitis, and Vyto and Angela Staskus attended the Atvelykiu Svente (Velukinis stalas) (Post-Easter Family Dinner) at OLPH Church. The hall was packed - the food, including roast pig- was fabulous and the pastries, delicious. This dinner was a parish benefit and a great success. Members - see what you missed!

Congratulations to Hailey Farrell, granddaughter of Nelda and Charles Machutas, who made her First Holy Communion, April 24. Nelda flew in from Arizona for this special event and spent a few days back in Cleveland.

Congratulations to Gene Kunsitis on his 2 award-winning orchids at the Greater Cleveland Orchid Society Show. He also received awards on his ceramic orchids as well as his two watercolors. What talent!

C-96 Dayton, Ohio Frances Petkus, HM

March 7, 2004, like other councils, saw C-96 celebrate our Annual St. Casimir' Day. The Mass was held at Holy Cross Lithuanian Roman Catholic Church at 10:30AM. Council members were led into church by our council Sgt-at-Arms, Robert Petkus. Prior to Mass, Fr. Michael Holloran presented Linda Pant with her Third Degree Medal. Stefanija Rastikis, following Mass, led the Litany to St. Casimir in Lithuanian. Presentation of the First Degree went to Andrew Berczely, Kristina Dambrauskas and Robert Petkus. Andrew and Robert are former Junior Knights. Congratulations to one and all

After Mass members headed to the Old Country Buffet for brunch and monthly meeting. Fr. Dwight Campbell of Peoria, IL., on a special study program

Knight Life



C-74, Richard Laske who was awarded "Rotaterian of the Year," in North Scranton, and wife Marie.



Major Rolandas Zorys, Assistance Defense Attache, John R. Mankus, K of L Lith. Affairs Chair, LTC Gediminas Grina, Defense Attache, H.E. Vygaudas Usackas, Ambassador, at the Lith. Embassy, Washington, DC, commemorating the 85th anniversary of the establishment of the Lithuanian Armed Forces.

at the University of Dayton opened the meeting with a prayer. With Fr. Johan Roten head of the Marianist Department at the University of Dayton closing the meeting with a prayer. These two priests have been special in helping Fr. Holloran with our Four Parish Masses. Thanks must go to JoAnn and Gary Thiele for chairing this event for the council. Another job well done!!!

The Lithuanian Community of Cincinnati held its Lithuanian Day Celebration on March 7th. Guest speaker was our MCD President and C-96's Vice-President Michael Petkus. His topic covered his Lithuanian background and, as a retired United States Marine, touched on areas where the United States military shared with the Lithuanian military material now available to modern armed forces.

Get well wishes go to our Condolence/Social Chair Elaine Pacovsky, Eloise A. Berczelly and JoAnn Thiele. Congratulations go to C-96 President Robert and Linda Pant on the newest addition to their family, Andrew Robert. Proud grandparents are Henry and Laretta Pant and uncle Michael Pant.

Congratulations are also sent to the Keivel's - great-grandmother, Helen Keivel and new grandparents, Robert and Susan Keivel on the birth of Dominic Marcus!! Much happiness to one and all!

Deepest sympathies go to Eloise Berczelly, John/Joyce, Andrew Berczelly and her family on the loss of her brother, uncle, Stanley Sluzas. May he rest in the peace of the Lord!!

Amber District

C-46 Forest City, PA Betty Kwader

Our regular meeting was held on Jan 4 in spite of the cold and snow. Members spoke of the wonderful Christmas Party at the Crystal Pines Restaurant. 25

members and guests attended. There was no gift exchange, but \$5 each was donated to pay the shipping expense for the package to our Lithuanian Orphan Care girl. Members donated clothing and food items.

Next year we will try to plan our party so we will be able to attend the Kucios of Scranton.

Betty Kwader and Pres Frank Kwader sent packages to their sponsor child and family in Birstonas. Betty's ladies' club also sent 4 packages of Christmas gifts for the students of Klebiskio Pagrindine Mokykla/School.

It was voted to send a donation to the Pontifical Lithuanian College, Msgr. Al Bartkus.

We are happy to hear that our Degree Officer, John Morris, is recuperating.

Thank you to Josephine O'Peka for her services as correspondent for many years. Betty Kwader, new correspondent, requests that members submit items to be included.

Upcoming events discussed were the Feb 16 Independence Day flag-raising in Scranton. C-46's St. Casimir Day celebration March 7, and Amber District meeting Mar 14 in Philadelphia. Representatives from our council will attend.

President Kwader mentioned many current events from Lithuania. It makes us all proud of our heritage to see our fellow Lithuanians progressing so much since their independence.

C-74 Scranton, PA Marie Laske

Four members of C-74 went to the Philadelphia Amber District meeting. The weather was beautiful and the trip was very scenic. Rev. Msgr. Joseph Anderlonis, Pastor of St. George's Church, celebrated the Mass and greeted everyone at the meeting and gave the blessing. We had dinner music by the MacDonald Band, Mother, Father, and Son. It was very nice to hear all the Lithuanian songs. Diane Drumsta conducted the meeting. John Mankus

gave his report and recited a beautiful poem. The drawing was held; no one from our council won.

I brought a tape of the Lithuanian Dance Festival to our last meeting to show to our members. They really enjoyed the beautiful Lithuanian costumes, the dancing, and the singing. The winter is past and we wish all the best summer ever.

"Real generosity is doing something for someone who'll never find out."

C-144 Anthracite, PA Brone/ Ona

C-144 observed Lithuanian Independence Day February 15 with Mass at St. Casimir's Church celebrated by our Spiritual Director, Rev. Ronald Jankaitis, followed by a luncheon in the church hall. Atty Karen Domalakes was the guest speaker. Her presentation, "A History of Lithuania" was very interesting and well received. The affair was capably chaired by Suzanne Domalakes and Terri Rautzahn and their committee did a fine job of serving and cleaning up. A big aciu to all.

Plans were made to attend the District St. Casimir's Day meeting March 14 in Philadelphia, hosted by C-3. A mini-bus will be chartered for those going.

We were saddened by the loss of five council members. Adolph Kalvaitis was a new member but he was always a great supporter of our Lithuanian Days. Alma Linder, Beatrice Wasley and Stanley Silkunas were long time, very active KofL members. We remember them for being dependable, hard workers for all of our affairs. Also, we lost another member, Estelle Najunas. She attended all meetings and affairs until she had to go to a Personal Care Home. Amzina Atsilsis. We ask God to have mercy on the souls of all the Faithful Departed of the KofL.

Congratulations to our Spiritual Advisor, Rev. Ron Jankaitis, who is

Knight Life



The "Daliija" Folk Group that performed at the Lithuanian Independence Day observance.



Deacon Jim Couture at his farewell party at St. Francis recently, seen with Brone and Dick Qualters.

celebrating the 25th Anniversary of his Ordination. We also congratulate Rev. Robert Potts, Pastor of St. George's Parish in Shenandoah, longtime member of our council, on the 40th Anniversary of his Ordination. May God grant both Fr. Ron and Fr. Potts many more healthy and happy years in His service.

We are getting ready for the 90th Lithuanian Days which will be Aug 14 and 15 at the Schuylkill Mall in Frackville, PA, at the intersection of I-81 and Rt 61. Peter Teresavage is Chairman and will do an excellent job as he has always done. This year's celebration will be one not to miss. Many good things are being planned. God only knows how long we will be able to continue the tradition. In 90 years, it was never missed, even during the WWII War Years. We hope to see many of you in Frackville to celebrate Lithuanian Days.

Our Humanitarian Aid Committee has been busy again, packing boxes to go to Lithuania. What a great group they are, putting in many hours of hard work and not asking for any kudos.

The St. Casimir Day celebration was well-attended with an excellent program. The dinner was chaired by Suzanne Domalakes and Teri Rautzahn. A special Mass was held at St. Casimir's and, as usual, Fr. Ron's homily was great. Pres Larry Domalakes opened the program. Thanks to Bernice Mikatavage who wrote and directed a skit, "The Life of St. Casimir". This was presented by our young people. Meredith Domalakes a student at Marian High School, narrated. The skit was performed by Albert Rutecki who played young Casimir. William Dronick, Casimir as a teen-ager; Kaitlyn Thompson, mother of St. Casimir, all students at Good Shepherd Regional School in Minersville. What a joy it was to see these young people perform. Thanks to all of them and to the committee who prepared a lovely tribute to our Patron Saint.

Happy Spring and Summer to all.

New England District

NED Meeting Vincukas

The Athol-Gardner C-10 K of I, hosted the NED Spring Convention at St. Francis Church. 100 delegates from the 14 councils were in attendance.

Activities began with a Mass offered for the deceased members. Rev. Stephen D Johnson, Pastor, was celebrant, assisted by Deacon Scott Colley. The parish choir, under the direction of Theresa Gabis, sang. Following Mass, both national anthems were sung.

During Mass, the following local members received their Third Degree: Sophia Fiorentino, Marie Colo, Joanna Chastney, David Lucas, Pamela Bouthilier, and Maryann Langlois.

Dinner was served following Mass. Sessions began at 1:30PM with District President Vivian Rogers of Worcester presiding.

A cheese and wine break was held, followed by Vespers and Rosary, under the direction of Deacon Colley.

General Chairman was Pres Henry Gailunas. Hostesses Marie Colo and Nellie Melaika dressed in national Lithuanian costumes; wine libation chairman, James Kraskauskas of Anthony's Liquor Store in Gardner; Break chairmen Richard Gatautis and Vince Kuliansky; raffle Bernice and Bill Wisniauskas; program, Pamela Bouthilier. (See C-10 news)

The local council granted charter on May 28, 1914, is now celebrating their 90th Anniversary of active work "For God and Country", their motto. It is one of the oldest, active ethnic organizations in the area.

C-6 Hartford, CT Bette Ann Liudzius

I think Santa forgot Holy Trinity parish. The roof was structurally damaged and the church and parish hall were closed for repairs, before Christmas. Fr Jacobs

and Sr. Mary Louise were the hero and heroine of the crisis. The Rectory was used for meetings, temporarily, and the Lithuanian Mass was celebrated at the Sisters of St. Joseph Convent. "Thank the Lord, we are now back at the church. We don't realize how much we need something until we lose it," said our President, Gene Ziurys.

Our present membership stands at 89. Kay Urban takes up Alyce Gegesky's challenge to increase it to 100. Kay always has applications for membership in her pocket.

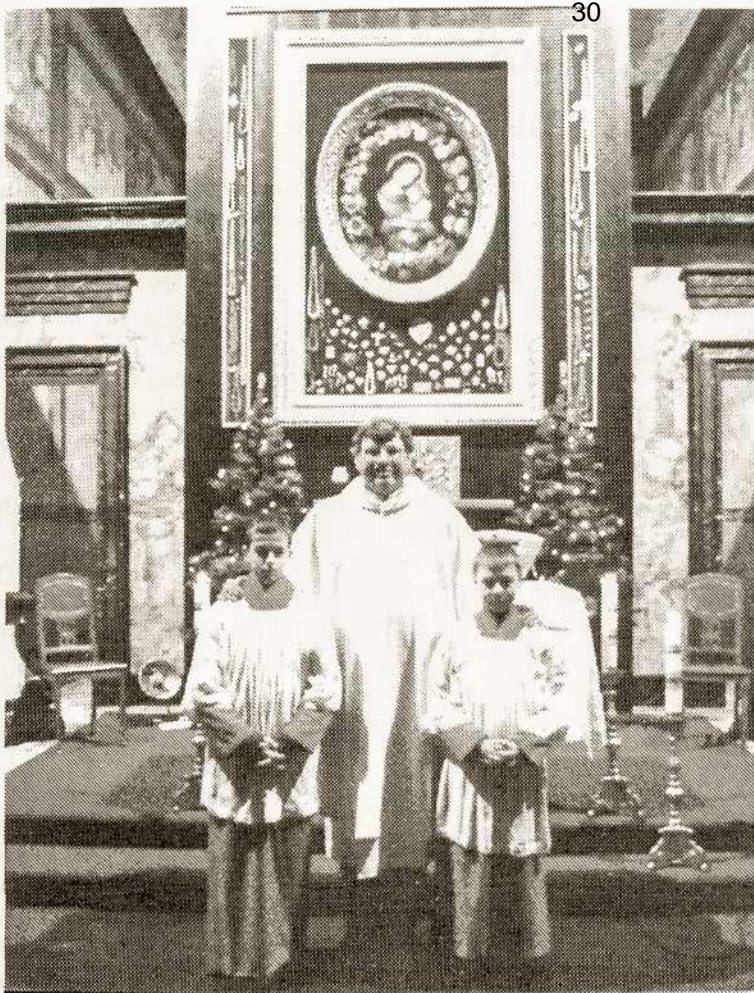
Hospitality hostesses for February were Florence Ambrose, Carlyann Balskus, Valerie Bancroft under the leadership of Gertrude Kruzinauskas and Birute Pellerin.

Melvina Klebauskas and Suzanna Mayfield are new members.

Richard Huck presented a very interesting talk on the background history of Feb 16 and also explained many Shrove Tuesday (Uzgavenes) traditions. He also read from the Marian Helper magazine re: Cardinal Audrys Backis of Lithuania and the Gothic style 15th century Holy Trinity Church to serve as the Lithuanian National Shrine dedicated to the Divine Mercy. Richard also spoke of Marija Gimbutas's book re: Baltic mythology.

The March meeting featured delicious treats prepared by social co-persons Gertrude Kruzinauskas and Birute Pellerin, assisted by committee members Birute Daigle, Agnes Gagnon, Lillian Joseph and Wanda Kruk.

On March 4 at 12:05PM, Rev. Charles Jacobs celebrated our St. Casimir's Day Mass at Holy Trinity Church. The council was fortunate that this year the Hartford Men's Trio (Jurgis Petkaitis, Holy Trinity's organist & choir director and brothers Alfonsas & Vytas Zdanys) were able to sing. The Lithuanian hymns in honor of St. Casimir were "O Sventasis Karalaitis" and "Giesme I Sventa Kazimiera". In the back of the church, prayer cards were distributed and the council members and guests gathered around the statue of the Patron Saint of Lithuania to pray together



Father Stephen Zukas with Altar Servers (Klaupciukai) Pazaislio Baznycioje, with the unique painting of the Madonna and Child.

St. Peter Lithuanian parish sponsored a week of summer camp for Altar Servers of Finding of the Holy Cross parish in Vilnius. After spending the week of summer camp at Pazaislis, 2002, Father Steve returned for a joyful reunion, January, 2004.



**Father Stephen Zukas
C-17, Spiritual Director**

**Kardinolas Backis
Cardinal-Archbishop of Vilnius**

before going down to the parish hall for "light refreshments". I guess the word was out that assorted sandwiches, salads, desserts, coffee, tea, and punch made the event a brunch. Over 100 people attended, even a photographer from a local newspaper. Congratulations to co-chairpersons Leona Sawka and Louise Piwoski - also committee members Fran Ambrose, Lillian Jacobs, Wanda Klinkevich, Mary Kozicki, Wanda Kruk, Irene Petkaitis, Judy Landers, Madelyn Ratches, Dottie Ryzdiel for a job well done.

C-10 Athol Gardner Vincukas

Our council sponsored the annual Lithuanian Independence Day observance on March 14. The activities began with the morning Mass offered for the intention of those who gave their lives for her freedom. The PM program began with an invocation and minute of silence followed by the singing of both national anthems. MC William Wisniauskas gave a history of Lithuania from King Mindaugas to the present. In 1990 she was the first Republic to break away from the Soviet Union. She has been admitted to NATO and the European Union, to the dismay of the Soviets who have said they shall return to the Baltics.

The Dalija Ensemble of Worcester-Boston under the direction of Egida Matulionis presented an excellent program of song and dance from years gone by. The costumes, also from ages past, the ancient instruments, the kankles and skudutis were played during the program. All the details were given in both languages.

Following the program a great Lithuanian buffet supper was served. Armand and Pamela Bouthilier did a great job as Kitchen Chairmen. Nellie Malaika was hostess; Milda Stasiunas, coffee; Maryann Langlois, Clara Zetkauskas and Richard Gatautis, set-up; Brone Wisniauskas, decorations - and

the entire KofL with food and clean-up. Henry Gailunas is local President. Pastor Rev. Johnson arrived late but was very impressed. The Athol press carried a picture of the group before and a lengthy article following the event.

On the local scene, one of the original 22 signers of the Independence document was a young priest, Rev. Justinas Staugaitis, later becoming the Bishop of Telsiai. He was an uncle-in-law of our late member from Gardner, Beatrice Jodaitis Richard.

Our council observed the Feast of our Patron, St. Casimir, by attending the 10:45 Mass at St. Francis on March 7, followed by a buffet at the Cypress Grove in Ridge, NH.

Andrea Plaskiewicz and daughter of Olympia, WA spent some time visiting her parents, Tom and Marie Colo of Athol.

Natalie Brighenti spent 3 weeks in Florida; The Lepkowski's spent 5 wks in Florida, returned just in time for our Independence program.

Condolences are extended to our Chaplain, Rev. Joseph Jurgelonis, on the death of his aunt, Virginia Cummings.

Brone Wisniauskas presented a Lithuanian Cultural display on behalf of the KofL at the annual Ethnic Day at the Gardner High School, in March.

C-17 So. Boston, MA Regina

Before our April monthly meeting, Spiritual Director, Fr. Steve Zukas, celebrated the 4PM Mass. Following this, he blessed the beautiful new stained glass windows and the new memorial plaques. The center window is in memory of former President and HM Alexander Akule. Then Vice Pres Florence Zaleskas directed the meeting.

C-17 member Chef Vytas Ivanouskas - with his 2 daughters, Nijole and Vida, Pres Frank Markuns, other C-17 members, and including St. Peter

confirmation class - delighted the St. Peter Senior Citizens at the annual banquet held in March. The Lithuanian menu with special desserts was exceptional. As Vytas is fond to say, "Vunderbar!" C-17 member, Al Siauris - with the aid of the Cambridge Lithuanian Citizens Club - was very generous again. Aciu labai, visiems!

Saint Casimir's Day Communion Breakfast was well-attended. The 10:30 Mass was con-celebrated by Msgr. Albert Contons and Fr. Steve Zukas. A special blessing - healing of the sick - followed. After the tasty breakfast, the guest speaker, Mrs. Mirga Girmius, Doctor of Philosophy, presented very interesting highlights of St. Casimir's life and the Age of the Renaissance.

Deepest sympathy is extended to family and many friends of Patricia Akule. She has joined her dear husband, Alexander. Both were outstanding members with a long legacy of service to the council and to the parish.

Also, another long time member, Julia Wachack passed away. We extend our sincere sympathy to her daughter, Brenda, and the family. Many C-17 members participated in both services.

Fr. Steve and Larry Svelnis spoke of the inner turmoil in Lithuania. Fr. Steve asked for prayers for help in the process of the reconfiguration of parishes. All the Pastors will receive FedEx Delivery on the same day, next month, on the decision of Archbishop Sean O'Malley.

Also, our prayers and get well wishes go out to Virginia Markuns. Frank and Virginia's happy news is the birth of their first great-grandson who joins his twin sisters.

The Centennial celebration for St. Peter Lithuanian Parish is scheduled for Sept 12, 2004, Sunday.

Likit sveiki. Iki pasimatymo.



Aušrelė Sakalaitė gives Keynote address at the Lithuanian Independence Day Commemoration as Birutė Vilutis, and Joanna Rudzevičius of C-82 listen along with Msgr. I. Urbonas C157 and C82 spiritual advisor.



Lithuanian Independence Day Commemoration in Merrillville, IN

C-26 Worcester, MA Ruta

After our March meeting, a Penny Social was held. Each member was asked to bring in an unwrapped gift item. These were arranged on a table with a small container in front of each. Then, tickets were sold by the strip. Members then dropped tickets into various containers of items that they were interested in winning. Once everyone was done with their selections, Ann Leseman took charge and a drawing was held from each container. It was exciting to see if you were the lucky winner. This was a good way to earn extra money for the Lithuanian Orphans and have a lot of fun doing it.

On March 27, the annual Mass for sick and deceased members was held. The next day a Holy Hour was held for our council. Members, their families and friends attended. Joan Wojciak and her able committee were in charge of the reception which followed in the church hall. Rev. John Petrauskas came and participated in the Holy Hour with Rev. Richard Jakubauskas, our Spiritual Advisor.

At our April meeting, Elena Nasitano was a guest speaker; she is a volunteer counselor for SHINE- Serving the Health/Information Needs of Elders. The State of Mass... Health Insurance Counseling Program sponsors this for people 65 and over. After her talk, she answered questions. With so many things going on in the healthcare area, Elena was able to convey some very helpful information to our members.

We extend our sympathy to our members - Irene Markevicius and her husband, Edward, in the loss of Irene's sister, Kristina M. (Kausevicius) Zemaitis, and also to Marion and Arthur Racicot in the loss of their son-in-law, Walter Kuras. Virginia Cummings who was a longtime member of our council also passed away. She was Marion Racicot's aunt.

C-27 Norwood, MA Zaibas

C-27 is concerned with worry that their beloved St. George Lithuanian R.C. Church is on the list of the Boston Diocese for closure. Our council plans to continue our KofL connection. Louise and Paul Zukas, Fr. Bill and others are looking for solutions as to where and when to meet, should that be necessary.

Our esteemed Pastor and Spiritual Director, Rev. William Wolkavich, has submitted his resignation to the Bishop. Fr. Bill has been an outstanding, talented, devoted, hardworking, dedicated Pastor and Spiritual Director. He is a good friend to the parish and to the KofL. We wish him well and plan to stay in touch.

Our council, small in number, but vigorous in spirit and comradeship has enjoyed being part of the friendships and varied activities of members of all KofL councils both in New England and nationally.

At the NED Convention so capably hosted by C-10, these members attended and participated: Charles and Carol Treციokas, S.Betty Skricki, Dorothy Ausevich, Sandra Melish, Stan and Terry Wasil and Leonora Jarvis. Charles Treციokas was selected to represent NED as a delegate to the National Convention; Carol Treციokas was selected as an alternate.

Stan Wasil presented a recommendation to NED that a resolution be presented to the National Convention to add an amendment to the constitution that members, after fulfilling all the requirements needed for 3rd and 4th degrees, be allowed to receive their medals and not need to wait the 3 or 4 years as stated. NED voted to have it presented at the Aug Convention. Good Idea! We are all getting older.

C-27 welcomed back snowbirds Ed and Maryann Motyka. They thanked Ramona Gonski for her never-ending hospitality. Helen Dallalis of Falmouth wrote of her continued interest & support

of our council.

Hopefully, our next column to the Vytis will have good news of our directions.

Lai Dievas jums palaimina.

C-141 Bridgeport, CT Florence Zikaras

Our annual St. Casimir's Communion Breakfast was held in March. After Mass at St. George's Church, breakfast was served in the church hall. We were glad so many members brought along their families to share in the celebration. The meal was prepared by our members Kathy Balcius, Alice Wilcinskas, Nancy Pawasauskas, Linas Stasaipis, Marie Brilvitch and Florence Zikaras. Thanks to all the ladies who prepared the kugelis. Following the invocation by the Pastor, Rev. Julio Lopresti, IVE Marie Brilvitch read a brief history about St. Casimir. John Balcius provided some familiar recorded Lithuanian songs. Following the breakfast, Peter Balcius conducted the annual fund-raising raffle. Gifts were donated by members and friends.

At the April meeting, members voted to donate to the Vetra Dancers, headed by our own Nancy Pawasauskas, to help defray the expenses incurring for their trip to Chicago. Vendor policies at our meeting and events were reviewed. Plans were formulated for our annual summer picnic in Aug to be held at the home of HM Clemencine Miller.

On the sick list were Peter and Aldona Peters, Stella Marcinauskis and HM Clemencine Miller. Pere Radzwillas is at Astoria Park Nursing Home. Sophie Putremas, now in California, is recuperating.

Condolences to the Wilcinskas family upon the loss of their niece.

Belated congratulations to Anna Ross on her 90th birthday!



Happy recipients of the K of L medals: Rev. Vitas Volertas and Antoinette Pointis.



On the occasion of awarding the 3rd degree K of L medals at the MAD meeting, March 28, 2004 at Transfiguration Church, Maspeth, New York.



Recipients Rev. Vitas Volertas & Antoinette Pointis of C-110 with Bishop Paulius Baltakis, Lynn Haynor, MAD ritual chair, Edward Jakatt and Julia Schroder, Pres. of C-110 witness the ceremony.



Mr. & Mrs. Frank Petrauskas, Liz Kaminskas, John Mankus, Jean Kavelines, Jim O'Neal and Marie Laske, at Philadelphia Amber District Celebration.

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Happy Summer!