



# Vytis – The Knight

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*“Let Freedom Ring...”*

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2004-2005**

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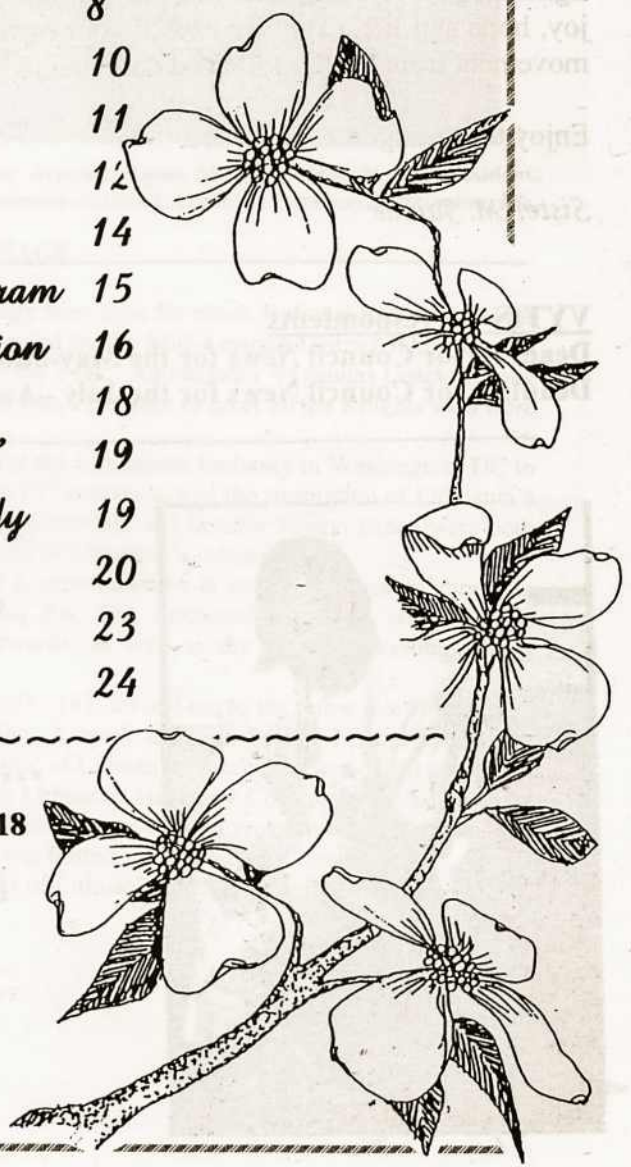
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**Mission Statement: The Knights of Lithuania endeavors to instill in its members an attachment to Lithuania, the land of our ancestors, and knowledge, appreciation and love of the Lithuanian language, customs and culture.**

# ~ Turinys ~

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## *To My Fellow Knights*

President Adamkus of Lithuania announced that he would not be attending the Moscow celebration in May commemorating the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the overthrow of the Nazi regime. He made this announcement to coincide with the March 11<sup>th</sup> Lithuanian Independence Holiday after much consultation and soul-searching. This decision has been hailed by a number of leaders of various countries and areas of administration. Many of us here in the United States who sent messages requesting this action are rejoicing today. At this time, it would be well to send a thank you to the President of Lithuania thanking him for his courage and prudence in discerning this difficult situation.

The March 11<sup>th</sup> events of 1990 commemorated this year reflected the resurrection theme. In the wake of independence, we moved from darkness to light, slavery to freedom, and symbolically from death to life.

We have moved from lent to Easter in the same way. The sacrifices of lent have given way to Easter light and joy, freedom and new life. In the spirit of the season, we wish each of our readers Easter joy, hope and life. May we each, in our own way and corner of the country, be leaders who facilitate movement from death to life and darkness to light. *For God and country!*

Enjoy the springtime. It is here.

*Sister M. Janine*

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### **VYTIS Correspondents**

**Deadline for Council News for the May-June Vytis is April 15.**

**Deadline for Council News for the July -Aug. Vytis is JUNE 1.**

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*A Blessing from the  
Risen Lord*

*To you this Easter!*

.....  
*Linksmų Vėlykų  
linkime Jums, ir daug  
Dievo palaimos!  
E-74 Scranton*



## "Let Freedom<sup>5</sup> Ring"



L. to R.: John R. Mankus, Lith. Affairs Chair; Senator John McCain, Arizona; Agnes Mickunas, HM, K of L president; Senator Joseph Biden at February 16<sup>th</sup> Lithuanian Independence Commemoration, Lithuanian Embassy, Wasington, DC.

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The month of February and the beginning of March was an extremely busy time for me as National President. It was an honor to attend the annual "Memories of Lithuania" banquet hosted by the Mid-America District. This year the District honored Honorary Consul Vaclovas Kleiza as the "Man of the Year." Ambassador Vygaudas Usackas made a special effort to take part in this wonderful evening. On my part it was a pleasure to greet all the Knights who were in attendance as well as all the guests.

On February 16<sup>th</sup>, the Ambassador and his wife hosted a reception at the Lithuanian Embassy in Washington, DC to commemorate the anniversary of Lithuania's Independence and the 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the restoration of Lithuania's independence that we all witnessed on March 11, 1990. Senator John McCain and Senator Joseph Biden were both awarded the Medal of Gediminas for their continuing work in support of Lithuania's initiatives.

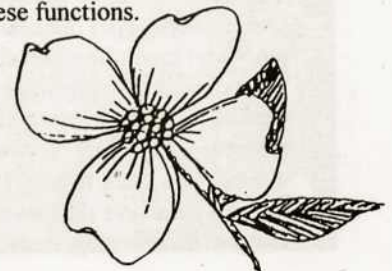
On February 28<sup>th</sup>, I was asked to participate as the official K of L representative at ceremonies commemorating Lithuania's independence in St. Casimir Church in Philadelphia, PA. The ambassador and his wife were in attendance at both the Mass in Church and the reception afterwards, as well as the afternoon ceremonies in Lithuanian Music Hall.

During my stay in St. Petersburg, Florida, John Jonaitis, President of C-147, invited me to say a few words on behalf of the Knights of Lithuania at their St. Casimir's Day celebration. A week later, on March 11, the Lithuanian American Club of Florida and the Honorary Consulate of the Republic of Lithuania presented a wonderful concert to celebrate the 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Restoration of Independence to Lithuania. Honorary Consuls from various parts of the United States participated and I was able to meet many of them. A post-concert reception was sponsored by the Embassy of the Republic of Lithuania to the United States and was hosted by Ambassador Usackas.

It was a rewarding experience to participate on behalf of the Knights of Lithuania at all these functions.

*Agnes V. Mickunas, HLM*

President



## Faith & Values...

As a photographer, I am always looking for the unexpected. So much of what we do has a sameness to it. This summer, my wife and daughter and I took a 16-day tour through Russia and Eastern Europe. Many of the places we visited felt familiar, even though I had never been to them. The opulence of St. Petersburg. The sight of Red Square — where we had seen televised parades on May Day with thousands of soldiers and tanks and rockets, with Nikita Khrushchev standing on the huge viewing platform. They are historic places and you have feelings about them. For my generation, they are the images of the Cold War. Then you encounter the really unexpected.

The itinerary said: “Day 12: Vilnius - Siauliai-Riga. After breakfast we departed from Vilnius with our first stop being a visit to Siauliai and the ‘Hill of Crosses’—symbol of resistance against Soviet occupation. I had no idea what to expect at this Lithuanian landmark, but I wasn’t expecting much.

On the bus ride, the tour guide told us we would all want to get ready for a group picture, because this was the place where everyone wanted a group shot. I was skeptical. I’m not really into “group photos.” As we drew closer, the guide gave us some information about it. It had been bulldozed by the Communists numerous times, but then was reborn. People came from all over Lithuania to place a cross there. It is a national shrine. Pope John Paul II visited and blessed the site in 1993. It sounded as if it might be interesting.

Eventually, I could see the hill in the distance, in the middle of a big park. When the bus finally stopped in the parking lot, everyone was very quiet. For a few seconds you really don’t know what to do. You just look. And look. But after your eyes take it in, you realize you can walk around it and into it.

I had two cameras hanging from my neck, one with black and white film, the other with color. I started shooting. All I could think about was that I wasn’t going to have enough time. And the light was not good. The sky was alternating between cloudy and harsh midday sun, neither considered great light. Early morning or late afternoon would have been much better. But, you take the opportunities as they come.

There are said to be thousands of crosses, but it looks like millions. As I looked more closely, I could see more and more. I looked at what appeared to be a dirt mound covered with crosses. I realized it was a mound created by tiny crosses piled on top of more tiny crosses. They were as small as the ones you wear around your neck to huge, beautifully carved crosses. And all sizes and skill levels in between. Some of the crosses had writing; some had pictures. Some had

rosaries. But, I had only 20 minutes. I shot two rolls of film.

When it was time to leave, we stood with the group as our tour director picked up each person’s camera from a pile on the ground and shot a frame so everybody would have their own copy.

We got back on the bus and pulled away. Everyone was quiet again, at least for a while. We had experienced a place that few people can even imagine.

\*\*\*\*\*

ON THE WEB: For more information about the Hill of Crosses: [www.lcn.lt/en/bl/](http://www.lcn.lt/en/bl/)

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The Hill of Crosses —symbol of Lithuanian resistance—is on the left bank of the Kulpe River, about seven miles from Siauliai (SHOO-lay.) It is about 200 feet long and about 150 feet wide. The site was occupied by a wooden castle during the 14<sup>th</sup> century.

The first crosses were believed to have been placed on the hill by relatives of victims of rebellions against the Russians in 1831 and 1863, when rebels were secretly buried there. By the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, the Hill of Crosses was widely known as a sacred place. It took on a special importance during Soviet times, becoming a symbol of anonymous resistance to the regime. The Soviets had taken over Lithuania during World War II, and they destroyed the hill in 1961, 1973 and again in 1975. They burned the wooden crosses and melted the metal ones into scrap. They covered the area with waste. But after each destruction, the people found a way to return and add more crosses. It became a symbol of Catholic resistance to the Soviet regime.

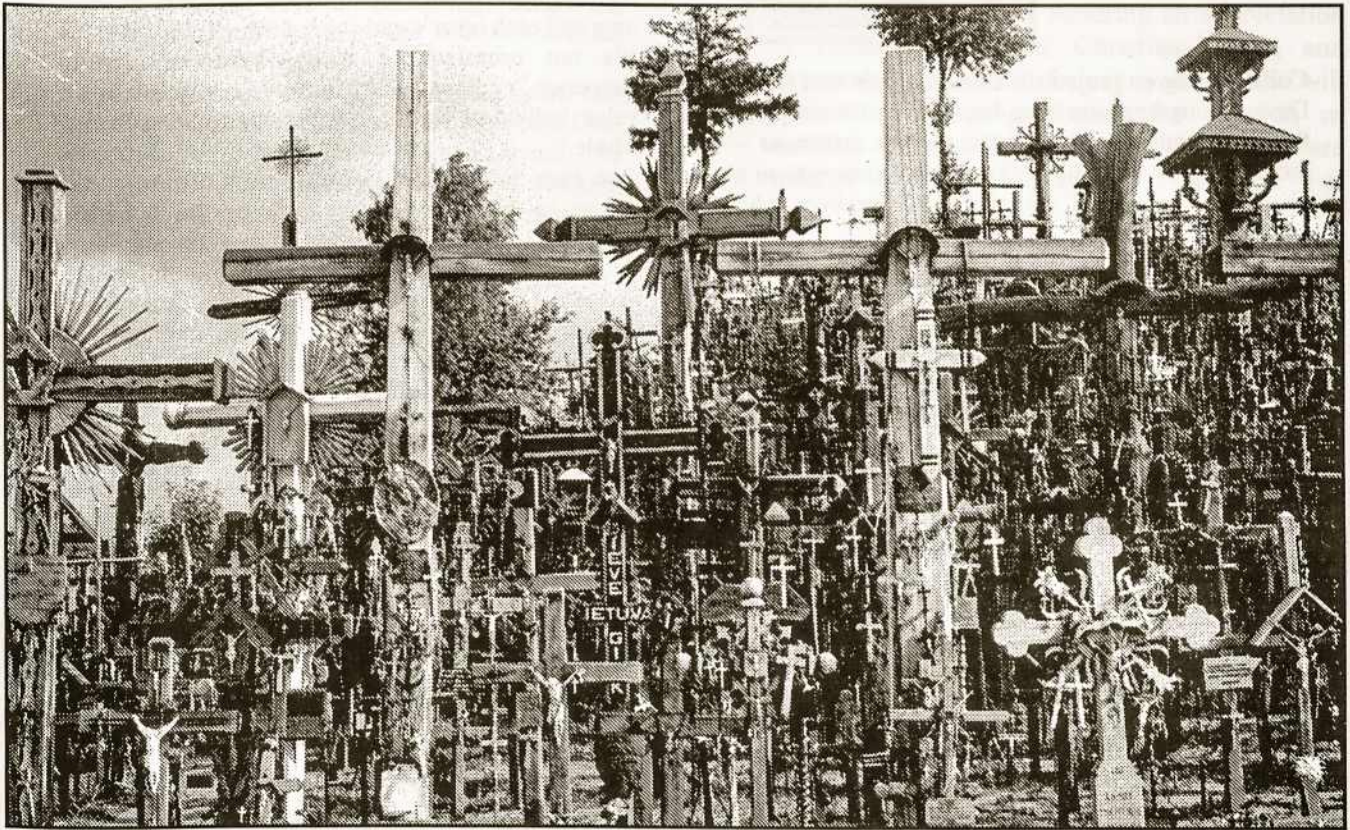
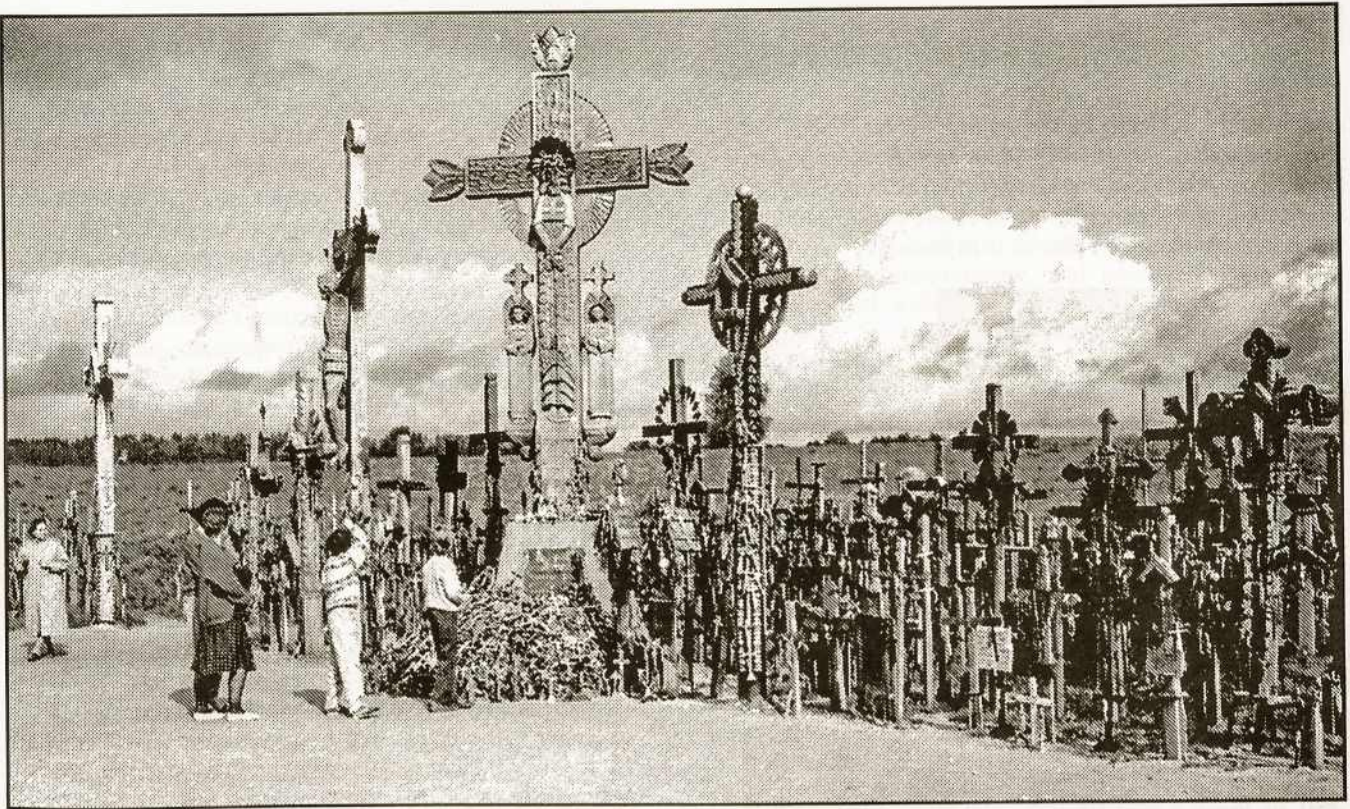
When the Soviet empire collapsed, the Hill of Crosses became both a Lithuanian and a world phenomenon. It gained worldwide fame after the visit of Pope John Paul II on Sept. 7, 1993.

The crosses were counted in 1900 and estimated at more than 100. By 1938 there were more than 400. In 1961 the Soviet government demolished 5,000 crosses, and hundreds more in 1973 and 1975. After the political change, the crosses were counted by enthusiasts from Siauliai. They found more than 14,000 large crosses, some higher than 12 feet, and about 41,000 small crosses (smaller than 20 inches.) Today’s estimates range from 50,000 to hundreds of thousands. Each visitor tries to leave a cross or a rosary. Those who have not brought any make one from pebbles, twigs or grass.

—Source: Lithuanian Catholic Church.

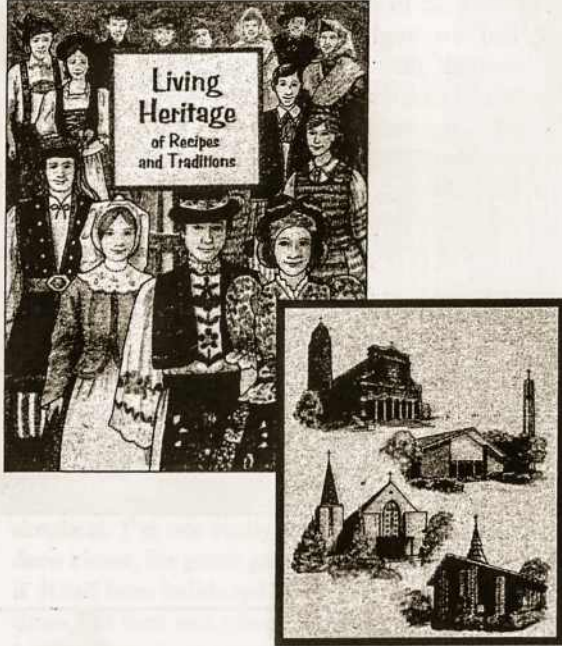
By Louie Favorite  
The Atlanta Journal-Constitution  
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## Old North Dayton Preserves History in Cookbook...

(A wonderful example of how one American priest, in charge of four parishes, came to understand the feeling of his parishioners of ethnic background, and how important their church is to them.)



Collaborating on projects is something the Old North Dayton congregations have been doing formally for the last couple of years. Sharing ethnic traditions – including their Catholic heritage – has always been a given for the unique community's neighbors who attend Holy Cross, St. Adalbert, St Stephen and Our Lady of the Rosary parishes, all of which now share a common pastor, Father Michael Holloran.

The latest project is the parishes' collaboration on a special cookbook titled, *Living Heritage of Recipes and Traditions*.

"We wanted a cookbook for all the people to treasure and as a way to pass on the ethnic traditions and recipes," explained Phyllis Wysinski, member of the cookbook committee.

The genesis for this multi-parish partnership was a surprise party planned by the four communities to honor Father Holloran on his 20<sup>th</sup> priestly jubilee in 2002. Parishioners have continued to collaborate on parties, picnics and, informally, activities that are drawing them closer together.

"These projects are just the beginning and demonstrate the respect and cooperation that all of us have for each other," said Wysinski. "We see

ourselves as a family that is there for each other and having fun in the process."

The latest venture – a cookbook with more than 400 recipes – focuses on that familial fun and allowed parishioners of German, Hungarian, Lithuanian, Polish and other ethnic backgrounds to share their treasured traditions and themselves, not only with a finished cookbook, but throughout the process as the recipes were assembled.

"When a chef gets ready to prepare a special dish, he carefully lays out every ingredient in measured amounts," said Elinor Sluzas, member of the cookbook committee. This is called *mise en place*. The key is to blend the meats, the herbs, the spices and the vegetables in a way that does not disturb the perfect balance of each and produces a harmonious blend of flavors."

That is the mission of the Old North Dayton's parishes.

"They have always been neighbors, except that they went to different churches," Father Holloran explained. "Now they share a pastor and have common programs." And because food and drink is an important part of each of the cultural identities, "it's wonderful that they are sharing these traditions."

"It's an example of how you can keep separate parishes and identities and, at the same time, honor and cooperate with each other. They each have their own national customs and cultures. They respect their own and each other's and enjoy them all," he said.

It's not necessary to merge into one pot to cooperate," Father Holloran said. It's possible to value individual practices while contributing to the whole."

One case in point is Holy Cross' Christmas Eve dinner, a family gathering offered as a parish tradition. Holy Cross parishioners have been inviting members of the other parishes the last several years, and many look forward to the dinner where they can learn about the Lithuanian culture, he said.

In the same way, the cookbook is a way to share cultural traditions and archive the important histories of these faith-filled Catholics in the Dayton area. Set in a three-ring binder, the cookbook is dedicated "with pleasure and thankfulness" to Father Holloran, "our own master chef," Sluzas said. It is adorned with original color artwork created by Father Holloran's sister, Maureen Deis, a graphic designer, depicting traditional ethnic dress on the front and the four churches on the back.

Within its pages are brief histories of the parishes, Scripture, index tabs with photos and sketches from parish files, cooking tips, herb and spice guide and a complete index.

Each recipe bears the name of the contributor and home church/ethnic tradition, divided in traditional



categories of appetizers and beverages, soups and salads, vegetables and side dishes, main dishes, bread and rolls, desserts, cookies and candy and "this and that."

The committee included Michele Daley LaFlamé, Wysinski, Cathie Weinrich, Tillie Durko, Maureen Deis, Betty Gray, Lena Habodasz, Sue Harper, Ffan Petkus, Sluzas, Bill Wysinski, Lou Durko, Ted Deis and Mitchell Smith. Thirteen women volunteered as typists.

The first printing of 500 books was sold out before the shipment arrived.

"Since we are very proud of our community and our book, we would like to share it with others," said Wysinski, a decision that prompted parishioners to order a second printing, expected in early February.

To order the cookbook, mail a check for \$15, which included shipping, payable to Our Lady of the Rosary Cookbook, 22 Notre Dame Avenue, Dayton, OH 45404. The envelope should be marked, "cookbook" and include name, address and phone number.

"I think the community-building committee is great," said Father Holloran, who credits the parishioners with taking the initiative and making the ongoing collaboration so successful.

"There is such a strong sense of community within the four parishes," he said. "We want to preserve (the history) while at the same time draw together in cooperative ways," such as with shared ministries, including religious education and Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA).

The next collaborative function organized by the Old North Dayton parishes is the third annual Mardi Gras celebration Feb. 5 at the Polish Club in Dayton. The evening will feature a dinner of jambalaya, chicken, bread pudding, salads and a king cake, dancing and socializing with old and new friends. A king and queen will lead the celebration.

(By Lenore Christopher, from *The Catholic Telegraph*, Jan. 14, 2005.)

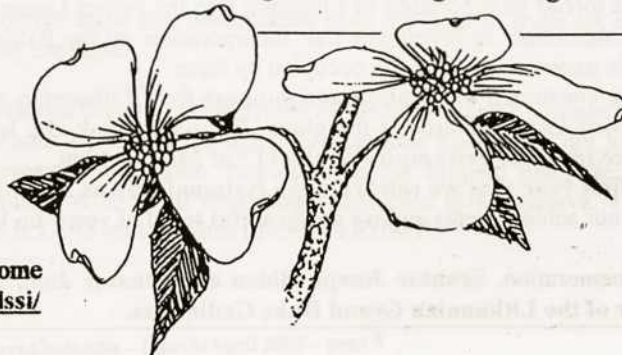
### THE BALTIC STUDIES SUMMER INSTITUTE (BALSSI)

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June 17 – August 12, 2005

Will offer the following courses:

- \*First year Lithuanian
- \*Baltic Cultures course

More information available on Balssi 2005 home page: <http://www.indiana.edu/~iaunrc/balssi/>



### LITHUANIAN LANGUAGE COURSE

The 20<sup>th</sup> annual Lithuanian language course at **Camp Dainava**, Manchester, Michigan, will take place August 7 – 14. This one-week intensive course, operating under the auspices of the Lithuanian Educational Council of the USA, is designed for beginners, intermediate, and advanced students, or those just wishing to refresh their Lithuanian. The course is taught by experienced instructors in vacation-like surroundings and atmosphere. There are no limitations regarding age or formal education. For more information please contact:

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### Neringa 2005

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#### Camps Conducted in English

**June 25-29:** Heritage Family Camp

**July 31-Aug. 13:** Children's Camp for ages 7-16, with tentative continuation Aug. 13-20 for ages 13-16.

**Aug. 21-27:** Bilingual college student camp



L.toR.: Agnes Mickunas, HM, Barbara Mickunas Currie, Ambassador V. Usackas, Mrs. Loreta Usackas, at the Lithuanian Independence Day Commemoration at the Lithuanian Embassy, Washington, DC, Feb. 16, 2005

#### LITHUANIAN AFFAIRS UPDATE

*“Let Freedom Ring...”*

(by John R. Mankus, National Lithuanian Affairs Committee chair)

**Lithuanian Independence Day Commemoration, Feb. 16, 2005, at the Lithuanian Embassy, Washington, DC.** K of L President, Agnes Mickunas, HM, and daughter, Barbara, along with K of L Affairs chair, John R. Mankus and wife, Grace, participated in the Lithuanian Independence Day Ceremonies at the Lithuanian Embassy. The guests included; **Senators Joseph Biden of Delaware, Richard J. Durbin of Illinois and John McCain of Arizona**, leaders of Lithuanian American Organizations, Republic of Lithuania officials, U.S. State Department representatives, NATO and European Union members. We had the opportunity to meet the Senators and personally thank them on behalf of the Knights of Lithuania for their long years of support of Lithuania.

I also had the opportunity to meet with a number of Lithuanian Government officials, including former commander of the Lithuanian Armed Forces, **Major General Jonas Kronkaitis**. Under his command, the Lithuanian Armed Forces were modernized to meet with NATO standards.

The following is an excerpt from the speech by **Ambassador Vygaudas Usackas**:

On **February 16, 1918**, Lithuanians proved to the world their commitment to the values of democracy, liberty and freedom, and restored the independent state of Lithuania. However, our ancestors were unable to enjoy independence and freedom for long. The **criminal Molotov-Ribentrop Pact** and **continued Soviet occupation after the end of the Second World War** deprived Lithuania and other Baltic countries from being a part of free and democratic Europe. **For 50 years, the United States of America led the policy for the non-recognition** of the unlawful and forced incorporation of Lithuania into the Soviet Union. In 1953, the United States Congress created the “Select Committee to investigate the ‘Incorporation’ of the Baltic States into the U.S.S.R.,” which determined that the Baltic nations were illegally occupied by force.”

Thanks to the **continued inspiration and support** from Lithuanian Americans and the US government as well as many friends of Lithuania around the globe, **Lithuania took the lead and was the first country to proclaim independence from the evil empire on the 11<sup>th</sup> of March, 1990.**

**This is the first year that we celebrate the National Day as a full-fledged member of the EU and NATO. We are proud of our achievements and we are grateful to all of you who helped us in this historical journey.”**

At the commemoration, **Senator Joseph Biden and Senator John McCain** were awarded the **Grand Cross of Commander of the Lithuanian Grand Duke Gediminas**.

**Ukraine is looking to Lithuania for assistance with EU, NATO integration – The Foreign Minister of Ukraine, Konstantin Grishchenko,** asked Lithuania to share experience on EU and NATO integration when he met with **President Valdas Adamkus in Vilnius.** Grishchenko said integration bids would be a priority on the agenda of the government of Ukraine.

**Russian citizens' railway transit through Lithuania running smoothly** – According to data provided by the State Border Guard Service, upon tightening document requirements for Russian citizens traveling by transit via Lithuania in the beginning of this year, no incidents or misunderstandings have been reported at the Lithuanian border. Out of **29, 922 Russian citizens** who traveled via the territory of Lithuania by trains in January, **merely 5 were refused entry from Russia** to the country. In January, **Lithuanian State Border Guard Service** officials registered no attempts by Russian citizens to travel to or from the **Kaliningrad Region** with domestic passports, which are no longer recognized as valid travel documents for railway transit via Lithuania

**Unit I of Ignalina nuclear plant shutdown** – In compliance with its commitment to the European Union, **Lithuania shut down Unit I of Ignalina Nuclear plant on December 31.** The electricity load of the plant was reduced to 250 MS and the red stop button was pressed. "That's it. Ten seconds and total silence. Everything went on smoothly and in line with the plan," said Viktoras Sevaldinas, CEO of the plant. **Unit II is expected to be closed by the end of 2009.** Lithuanian top officials, however, have said that the country should remain a nuclear power state in the future. The Lithuanian government has called the country, "**the most nuclear dependent state in the world.**" Currently, about 80 percent of the electricity demand in Lithuania is generated at the Ignalina plant.

**Lithuania to introduce Euro in 2007** – Subject to final approval by the **European Council,** Lithuania will introduce the Euro as its legal means of payment from **January 1, 2007.** Parallel circulation of Litas and Euro would be permitted until January 14, 2007, **the Bank of Lithuania** has reported. The Euro will remain the legal circulating medium in Lithuania from **January 15, 2007.**

**27 investors want to build wind power plants in Lithuania** – Another 27 companies and private individuals have expressed their interest in building wind power facilities in Lithuania. The state-run power transmission company, **Lietuvos Energija (Lithuanian Energy)** last year invited tenders for expansion of energy generation capacities by building wind power plants with a capacity or up to 12 megawatts (MW.) 27 potential bidders had registered for participate in the public tender by January 31. The bids would be accepted March 17-29, with the winning bidders to be announced by April 21.

**Almost 300 children adopted in Lithuania last year** – Some 298 children were adopted in Lithuania last year, as compared with 221 in 2003, 231 in 2002 and 180 in 2001. The Social Security and Labor Ministry has reported that last year, Lithuanian citizens adopted 93 children. Most of them – 25 – were adopted by Kaunas, 13 by Vilnius, 9 by Klaipeda, and 6 by Siauliai residents. Spouses of a child's biological mother or father adopted 102 children. Most of them were adopted by residents of Vilnius (14), Kaunas (11), and Siauliai (9). Foreign citizens adopted 103 Lithuanian children. According to the press release, 40 children have left for Italy, 25 to France and the US.

**Majority of Lithuanians approve of initiative to ban smoking in public catering establishments** – According to the survey conducted by the Spinter pollster – over half of the Lithuanian residents (57%) would approve of the initiative to ban smoking in public catering establishments. There are more women, middle-aged and older people, city residents among the supporters of a strict ban on smoking in public catering establishments. Some 40% of those polled would disapprove of the initiative to ban smoking in public catering establishments. The survey suggests that both, the supporters and opponents of the initiative agree that nonsmokers have the right to fresh air, and a ban on smoking is one of the strictest forms of securing the right.

**Who forgot Vilnius? -** The capital of Lithuania has been left off the route of the high-speed European railway. **Rail Baltica** is to connect Helsinki, Riga, Kaunas and Warsaw. Vilnius mayor, **Arturas Zuokas,** is not letting this go unnoticed. He has proposed several alternatives for discussion. According to the original plan, the Rail Baltica would be built along the eastern edge of Kaunas. A terminal would be constructed in Karmelava, 15 kilometers north of Kaunas. The terminal's expected cost is 1.192 million litas (345 MM EUR.)



## Scholarship Committee

### *Knights of Lithuania National Scholarship Program for 2005-2006 Awards to be Announced at the 92nd National Convention in Pittsburgh, PA*

The *Knights of Lithuania Scholarship Program* is intended to help a worthy and deserving Knight obtain a college education. Applicants must be a member of the organization for at least **two** years in order to be eligible to apply for a scholarship award. (This will be verified with the National Financial Secretary.) The Scholarship Program is intended to be a stimulus for young Lithuanian-Americans to join and be active in our organization. Service to the Knights of Lithuania organization is of prime importance to be considered for this award.

Scholarships are awarded annually as a grant. Applications must be complete (e.g., picture, transcripts, recommendations, etc) to be considered by the Scholarship Committee. Applications will be available January 1, 2005 and must be submitted **NO LATER THAN JUNE 15, 2005. APPLICATION INFORMATION RECEIVED AFTER THIS DATE WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED FOR THE 2005 AWARDS.** The awards are paid to the recipient in two installments.

**\*\*\*\*\* APPLICANTS MAY APPLY FOR A SCHOLARSHIP MORE THAN ONCE. \*\*\*\*\***

There are various scholarships available with individual amounts decided upon by the Scholarship Committee by vote each year.

Each applicant is responsible for completing the application and securing entrance to the college of his/her choice. If the recipient of an award drops out of college, or if his/her scholastic standing becomes unsatisfactory to the college, the unexpended balance of the award may be forfeited at the discretion of the Scholarship Committee.

*Scholarship awards may be made to a person for undergraduate or graduate work. There is no age limitation. Organizational activity within the Knights of Lithuania is one of the most important criteria for obtaining a scholarship along with the following requirements and stipulation.:*

An applicant's *qualifications* will be based on recommendations made by his/her 1) *Council President or Council 3rd Vice President*; 2) *Spiritual Advisor or Pastor*; 3) *Former Teacher*; 4) *Character Reference*. Applicants will be evaluated on scholastic records, financial need, and most importantly, K of L involvement. The Scholarship Committee will carefully study the applications and decisions of the committee are final. Recipients of the Scholarship Awards will be announced at the annual National Convention of the Knights of Lithuania.

For more information, contact the Scholarship Committee Chairperson:

**John P. Baltrus**  
*c/o Knights of Lithuania Scholarship Program*  
 118 Vine Street  
 Jefferson Hills, PA 15025-4034  
 412-233-2764

***Requests for applications forms for the 2005-2006 Scholarships must be received by May 15, 2005***

**KNIGHTS OF LITHUANIA FOUNDATION, INC.  
2005 ESSAY CONTEST**

Each year, the Knights of Lithuania Foundation asks K of L members to research a selected topic and write an essay on the topic. This project enables three lucky members to earn some prize money and all to share ideas with other members. This year, the Essay Committee decided to again ask members to write about their K of L Councils or members. Specifically, we invite each interested member to write an essay giving his or her ideas about:

**“Memories of Things Lithuanian” or  
“Why Do I Love Lithuania?”**

Rules are listed below.

**LENGTH:** 450 to 500 words (count all words.)

**DEADLINE:** July 1, 2005. Essays received after this date will not be considered.

**ELIGIBILITY:** A contestant must be a Knights of Lithuania member (Honorary, Regular or Associate) in GOOD STANDING.

Because Junior members cannot be expected to meet the standards of adult members, there will be a separate prize category for Juniors, who are members of a Junior Council which is duly registered with the Supreme Council.

**CRITERIA:** Essays will be judged on content and originality. Correct grammar and neatness will also be considered in judging.

**MANUSCRIPT:** Must be typed or written legibly, double spaced. The FIRST PAGE should contain ONLY your name, address, Council number, and the essay title. Succeeding pages should contain the essay contents, but NOT your name. This is to assure anonymity in judging. Junior entries should be identified as such, giving the name and Junior Council number.

**PRIZES:**

- 1<sup>ST</sup> Prize - \$300.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Prize - \$200.
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Prize - \$100.

Monetary gifts will also be given to prize winning Junior member entries.

**JUDGES:** One member of each K of L District, plus 2004 contest Winner.

**MAIL TO:** Bernice Aviza, 9 Tremont Street, Albany, New York 11205

**WINNERS:** Will be announced August, 2005, during the 92<sup>nd</sup> National Convention in Pittsburgh, PA. Winning entries will be published in VYTIS.

**SPONSOR:** KNIGHTS OF LITHUANIA FOUNDATION, INC., via a grant from Msgr. Juozas Prunskis.

The **KNIGHTS OF LITHUANIA FOUNDATION, INC.** is a tax-exempt endowment fund which uses interest from its investments to finance cultural and religious projects, helping the K of L AND Lithuania. This contest is just one of its projects.

The Foundation has been in existence for over 20 years. You can help keep it in existence by joining the Foundation to increase its capital and provide more funds to help Lithuania and Lithuanian projects. A donation of \$100 entitles you to membership in the Foundation, and supports the Knights' future. Are YOU a member of the Foundation? If not, why not join today? If you are a member, consider making an additional donation.

Send your tax-deductible donation to:      Ann Marie Kassel, Treasurer  
8200 Anchor Dr., 801  
Woodridge, IL 60517

*"Mr. and Mrs. Lithuania"*  
*William and Bernice Wisnauskas*  
*preserving the Lithuanian Culture*



William "Bill" Wisnauskas and his wife, Bernice, have been preserving and spreading knowledge of Lithuanian traditions for decades. Bernice made the ethnic items above, a straw picture depicting a nature scene, a doll, "Birute," in highlands native dress, and a plate of decorated Easter eggs.

To anyone who has been around the Gardner-Worcester area for any time, the names of William "Bill" and Bernice Wisnauskas are synonymous with Lithuanian Culture. Both have been deeply involved in its preservation all their adult lives. Bill is a second generation Gardnerite whose parents, Joseph and Amelia, immigrated separately from Lithuania in the early 1900's. He delivered newspapers and worked in his mother's Limerick Street bakery as a teen before his 1945 graduation from Gardner High School. Bernice, nee Brone Savulis, in Rekatia, Liubavas parish, Lithuania, attended school there until the Russian occupation endangered the family's lives. They fled to Poland from their 54 - acre farm on the border, leaving all their belongings behind. She finished her grammar and business home course in Poland and managed a country grocery store in Zydkaimen. About her arrival in this country, Bernice said she lived in Worcester among many other Liths who had settled there, joining St. Casimir's parish choir, and ethnic societies. Her participation led to her meeting Bill, when as an accomplished baker, she made a cake for a club raffle. The elaborately decorated harvest scene cake impressed Bill, who asked who had made it and wanted to meet her. They married after a year's courtship, working together since. Both feel pride in their country as well as in their heritage.

The couple's activities prove their dedication to their ideals. For 23 years, Bill was president of the Athol-Gardner Council, Knights of Lithuania, to which he has belonged for 55 years, and has been the "Vytis" national magazine correspondent for 35 years. For many years, he has been a trustee for the New England District and is master of ceremonies for local official observances.

He was involved in the New England 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration of the death of patron St. Casimir at Holy Cross Cathedral in 1984, and the NE celebration of the 600<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Lithuania's acceptance of Christianity held in Boston a year later. In 1986, he compiled an extensive history of the early 1900's migration of Lithuanians to Gardner, beginning with the first arrivals.

For many years, Feb. 16 was proclaimed "Lithuanian Day" in Gardner. The observance this year is planned for March 13.

Bernice practices and demonstrates many of the traditional Lithuanian arts, including Easter egg decorating. Her 50 decorated Easter eggs have won the best of show at the Franklin County Fair in Greenfield one year. She makes straw pictures and fashions the intricate European straw Christmas tree ornaments and dolls in authentic Lithuanian costumes.

She is cultural chairperson of the local Knights of Lithuania and for the New England District. The public views her cultural art work each year at the Ethnic night at Gardner High School, and along with Asta Kraskauskas at the Gardner Museum.

Many of her oil paintings were displayed in 1993 at Mount Wachusett Community College, earning several ribbons.

Bill and Brone have been married for 35 years, and love to travel to Europe, including to Lithuania, Bernice to her hometown five times. "There is nothing left of the farm, the Russians took it apart," she stated. "It was beautiful before." She keeps the memories precious, wishing she had photographs as well, as she tries to describe the sights and sounds of the life her family once knew.

The couple is foremost locally in bringing recognition of the old country traditions to both Liths and non-Liths.

They're not finished yet, as they plan to continue as long as they can.

(Excerpts from the Gardner News from the article by correspondent, Mary Moreau)

# <sup>15</sup>*Knight Life...*



**Kucios – Dec. 19, 2004. L. to R.: Nellie Melaika, Co-ch.; Sophia Fiorentino, MC.; Bill Wisniauskas, Dick Qualters, Co-ch.; Brone Wisniauskas**



**Brone Wisniauskas and Nellie Melaika at the Lithuanian style Christmas Tree at the Kucios.**

**SMILE A WHILE, CAT LOVERS...**

Dwight Nelson recently told a true story about the pastor of his church. He had a kitten that climbed up a tree in his backyard and then was afraid to come down. The pastor coaxed, offered warm milk, etc..

The kitty would not come down. The tree was not sturdy enough to climb, so the pastor decided that if he tied a rope to his car and drove away so that the tree bent down, he could then reach up and get the kitten.

That's what he did, all the while checking his progress in the car. He then figured if he went just a little bit further, the tree would be bent sufficiently for him to reach the kitten. But, as he moved the car a little further forward, the rope broke.

The tree went "boing!" and the kitten instantly sailed through the air – out of sight.

The pastor felt terrible. He walked all over the neighborhood asking people if they'd seen a little kitten. No. Nobody had seen a stray kitten. So he prayed, "Lord, I just commit this kitten to your keeping," and went about his business.

A few days later, he was at the grocery store, and met one of his church members. He happened to look into her shopping cart and was amazed to see cat food. This woman was a cat hater and everyone knew it, so he asked her, "Why are you buying cat food when you hate cats so much?"

She replied, "You won't believe this," and then told him how her little girl had been begging her for a cat, but she kept refusing. Then a few days before, the child had begged again, so the Mom finally told her little girl, "Well, if God gives you a cat, I'll let you keep it."

She told the pastor, "I watched my child go out in the yard, get on her knees, and ask God for a cat. And really, Pastor, you won't believe this, but I saw it with my own eyes. A kitten suddenly came flying out of the blue sky, with its paws outspread, and landed right in front of her."

Never underestimate the Power of God and His unique sense of humor.

**SMILES WITHOUT WRINKLES...**

(By Leondas J. Galinskas, C-102)

In a vegetarian restaurant: "All we are saying is, give peas a chance."

In a dog biscuit company: "Caution! We bake for animals."

In a Casino: "We care where the chips fall."

In a barbershop: "Beware of falling locks."

At a restaurant: "Eat now, pay waiter."

At a matchmaking company: "We want to light your fire."

At a pickle company: "Welcome, dilly beloved."

People can be divided into three groups: those who make things happen, those who watch things happen, and those who wonder what happened.

Jim ran into Ralph for the first time since Ralph had quit his job to become a writer. Jim: "How are you doing, Ralph? Have you sold anything yet? Ralph: "Sure have. My car, my watch, my TV and my radio."

Don't worry about finding your station in life. Somebody will be sure to tell you where to get off.

Sign outside a psychiatrist's office: "Satisfaction guaranteed or your mania back."

The penalty for bigamy is two mothers-in-law.

Too many calories add up to an awfully big figure!

We may travel faster than sound, but not faster than gossip.

A recession is when we count our money. Prosperity is when we count our calories.

The last word in an argument is what a wife has. Anything after that is the beginning of another argument.

**A Note from Becky Pataki, Supreme Council 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-president:**

Anyone needing any K of L tri-fold brochures to place in back of your church, or display during your special events, especially to attract new members, please send a note to:

Becky Pataki  
142 Forest Street  
Kearny, NJ 07032

Or E-mail:



**KNIGHTS OF LITHUANIA**  
**92<sup>ND</sup> NATIONAL CONVENTION**

August 11 – 14, 2005

Host: Pittsburgh, PA, Council 19

Temporary Agenda

**Wednesday, Aug. 10:**

Convention registration: 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Pre-convention tour to St. Anthony's Chapel, Heinz History Center, Mt. Washington and the Lithuanian classrooms.

Depart 10 a.m. and return to hotel approximately 5 p.m.

Supreme Council meeting at hotel: 8 p.m.

**Thursday, Aug. 11**

Convention registration: 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Opening Mass at the Wyndham Pittsburgh hotel at 10 a.m., followed by lunch.

Junior convention meeting: Wyndham Pittsburgh, 2:30 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Get-together night: Gateway Clipper dinner, dance and cruise. Buses will leave hotel for Downtown Pittsburgh at 6 p.m.. Buses will return approximately 10:30 p.m.

**Friday, Aug. 12**

Convention registration: 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Morning Mass at the hotel, 8:30 a.m.

Junior outing to the Carnegie Science and Sports Center

Lunch at the hotel.

Afternoon on your own. Free shuttles run to a nearby mall with a selection of restaurants.

Cultural night at the hotel, Pittsburgh's Neris dancers, and poetry in Lithuanian and English, 7:30 p.m.

**Saturday, Aug. 13**

Convention registration: 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Morning Mass at the hotel, 8:30 a.m.

Lunch on your own.

Convention Banquet, hotel: 6 p.m. to ???

Juniors' Pizza Party, 7 p.m.

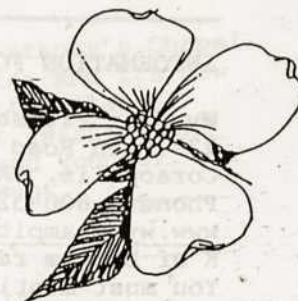
**Sunday, Aug. 14**

Supreme Council meeting at hotel: 10 a.m.

Brunch at the hotel, 10 a.m.

Closing Mass in the chapel of the Motherhouse of the Sisters of St. Francis, Grove and McRoberts roads, Whitehall, noon.

Convention photo



**KNIGHTS OF LITHUANIA****92nd National Convention****AUGUST 11-14, 2005****Host: Pittsburgh Council 19**

Dear Members and Friends,

The Knights of Lithuania will be returning to Pittsburgh for the first time in 15 years for our national convention. The convention promises to be memorable. You can use this form to place an ad or offer greetings in the 2005 Convention Program.

Program books are treasured keepsakes that delegates and guests use both during the convention and refer to later.

While the prices of many medicines and Medicare premiums have risen sharply, ad sizes and prices remain unchanged from last year.

\_\_\_\_\_ \$120 full page

\_\_\_\_\_ \$15 Patron greeting

\_\_\_\_\_ \$60 half page

\_\_\_\_\_ \$30 quarter page

\_\_\_\_\_ \$5 Knights of Lithuania friend  
(name only)

Please submit your ad on a separate piece of paper. (Camera-ready copy is welcome.)

DEADLINE FOR ADS: JUNE 30, 2005

Make checks payable to Knights of Lithuania, Council 19.

Mail ads with payment to:

Eric Grabowsky, chairman, program book

5103 Cherryvale Dr.

Pittsburgh, PA 15236-1607

412-884-1252

e-mail: EGrabowsky@msn.com

**INFORMATION FOR HOTEL RESERVATIONS**

Wyndham Pittsburgh Airport

777 Aten Road

Coraopolis, PA 15108

Phone 1-800-328-9297

[www.wyndhampittsburghairport.com](http://www.wyndhampittsburghairport.com)

K of L room rate: single or double -- \$99 per room, plus taxes

You must mention that you are with the Knights of Lithuania 92<sup>nd</sup> national convention to receive the convention rate.

Room reservations must be made by Aug. 1, 2005, to assure room availability.

**Free parking**

**Free Airport shuttle - 10 minutes to Pittsburgh International Airport**

**Free shuttle to restaurants and mall**

**Indoor/outdoor pools**

CONVENTION REGISTRATION FORM  
KNIGHTS OF LITHUANIA  
92nd National Convention  
AUGUST 11-14, 2005  
Host: Pittsburgh Council 19

CONVENTION SITE: Wyndham Pittsburgh Airport  
777 Aten Road  
Coraopolis, PA 15108  
Phone 1-800-328-9297  
[www.wyndhampittsburghairport.com](http://www.wyndhampittsburghairport.com)

First name \_\_\_\_\_ Last name \_\_\_\_\_ Council No. \_\_\_\_\_  
(Please print)

Street \_\_\_\_\_ Phone number \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zipcode \_\_\_\_\_

Early registration, up to July 1 (\$195 per person) Amount \_\_\_\_\_

Late registration, after July 1 (\$225 per person) Amount \_\_\_\_\_

Junior registration: \$75

Name of child \_\_\_\_\_

Age of child \_\_\_\_\_ Council No. \_\_\_\_\_ Amount \_\_\_\_\_  
(Please put names and ages of additional children on a separate sheet.)

CONVENTION REGISTRATION INCLUDES: Bus service for events.  
Thursday lunch and evening boat ride and buffet dinner.  
Friday cultural night  
Saturday evening banquet and dance  
Sunday breakfast before closing mass

PRE-CONVENTION ACTIVITY:

Wednesday, Aug. 10, 2005: Molly's Trolley trip to St. Anthony's Chapel and its collection of relics, to the Heinz History Center and its new Western Pennsylvania Sports Hall of Fame, and to the Lithuanian classrooms at the University of Pittsburgh. Lunch on Mt. Washington.  
Cost: \$59 per person; half price for children, age 12 and younger.  
Number of adult participants \_\_\_\_\_ children \_\_\_\_\_ Amount \_\_\_\_\_

Total amount \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to: Knights of Lithuania, Council 19

Mail checks and registration forms to:  
Len Barcousky, registration coordinator  
7028 Flaccus Road  
Pittsburgh, PA 15202  
Phone: 412-766-1499 (evenings)  
724-772-0184 (days)  
E-mail: [lbarcousky@post-gazette.com](mailto:lbarcousky@post-gazette.com)

## *K of L Juniors in Action...*



**April Vician** left, and **Kate Jagiella** recite the Lithuanian national anthem Sunday while dressed in traditional folk costumes at the Lithuanian independence Day Celebration at the American Legion Post No. 430 in Merrillville, Ind.

### "FREEDOM RINGS"

(By Melanie Csepiga, Local Times Correspondent)

**Merrillville, Ind.** Standing solemnly, they sang the "Star Spangled Banner," then followed it with Lithuania's National Anthem, "Lietuvos Himnas," before reciting the Pledge of Allegiance, all eyes on the U.S. flag.

It was a telling beginning for an afternoon of celebration Sunday when the Lithuanian-American Organizations of Northwest Indiana gathered to observe the 87<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Lithuanian Independence Day.

"Lithuanians are very loyal to America because America has been very good to us," said **Faustas Strolia**, an Oak Forest, Ill. composer whose partisan songs were part of the day's observance.

The day's theme honored all who died in the cause of freedom, particularly Lithuanian partisans who fought and died between 1944 and 1953.

And, although the anniversary celebrated independence gained in 1918, those gathered did not forget Lithuania's emergence from the Iron Curtain in 1990.

"Lithuania was the first to declare its independence from Russia," said Justin Jagiella, a Hebron resident and president of the Lithuanian-American Council of

Lake County. He credits the Baltic country's leadership for the domino effect that followed. "We never thought Lithuania would be free in our lifetime."

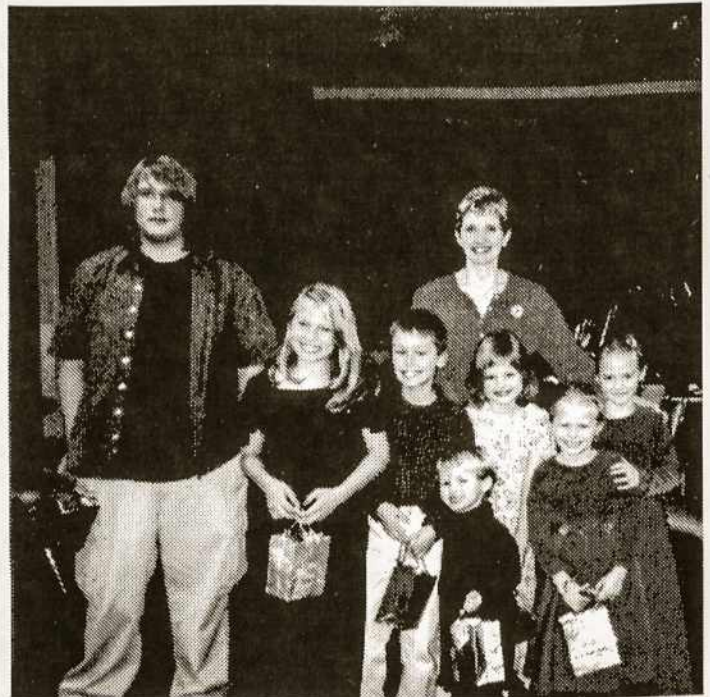
His mother, Mildred Jagiella said, "Remembering is important. If we don't take the trouble to remember, freedom can be taken away." She remembers, she said, two uncles deported to Siberia and an aunt who is buried in Siberia somewhere. She said the current generation needs to know the history of the captive Baltic nations.

**April Vician, II** of Gary is a ready learner.

Dressed in a traditional folk costume from the country she has never seen, Vician says she hopes to one day travel to Lithuania. "I think the costumes are cool, and the language is fun, too," she said.

**Kate Jagiella**, Justin Jagiella's 12-year old daughter, said she enjoys learning about the home of her ancestors. "When we were little, we went to the Lithuanian school in Gary, but it's closed now," she said. Kate Jagiella said she has had great fun practicing such Lithuanian crafts as waxing Easter eggs.

Special guests for the afternoon included Schererville resident Birute Vilutis, president of the Lithuanian-American Community of the United States, and Monsignor Ignatius Urbonas, who offered prayers for those who had died for freedom.



A group of very, very happy Junior K of L's at Christmas time, pictured here with their adult mentors. C-157, Lemont, IL.

**“LIAUDĖS MEDICINOS PATARIMAI”**

1. Sergant arteroskleroze, kepenų, širdies ligomis, reikia per para suvalgyti po 100g varškės.
2. Jei skauda dantį, uždėkite ant jo gabaliuką svogūno. Skausmas (dažnai) praeina.
3. Nuo nuplikimo galima įtrinti galvą perpjautų svogūnų ir po to žibalų.
4. Rytą ir vakarą įtrinkite veido oda morkos sultimis. Tai pagyvina oda, pašalina dėmes.
5. Niežams gydyti tinka tepala, pagamintas iš susmulkintų žalio šermukšnio žievių su nesūdytais taukais.
6. Nudegimai, egzemos gydomas žaliomis trintomis bulvėmis.
7. Nuo įvairių sumušimų, sutinimų, tinka nesūdyti kiškio taukai. Reikia ištepti jais sumuštą vietą ir šiltai aprišti.
8. Senovėje uteles naikindavo krapų su kiaulienos taukais tepalu.
9. Gydo gastrita ir mažina rūgštingumą, spanguolės.
10. Alyvų žiedų nuoviras gydo inkstų ir kepenų akmenlige.
11. Kepenų ligas gydo sumaišytos lygiomis dalimis raugintų kopūstų ir pomidorų sultys.
12. Sergant migrena, padeda medus. Kasdien reikia suvalgyti 1-2 arbatinius šaukštelius medaus prieš valgį, galima užsigerti arbata ar pienu.
13. Pagyvenusiems žmonėms, kurie naktį pabudę, nebegali užmigti, patariama suvalgyti po 1-2 šaukštus medaus.
14. Ramiau ir kiekiau miegosite jei prieš miegą išgersite stiklinę šilto pieno.

(From “Millie,” RN)

**THE THREE PRESIDENTS**

**Pictured at the Right:**

**L.to R.: Birute Vilutis, Bendruomene;**

**Justin Jagiella, American Lithuanian Council  
ALTAS;**

**Joanna Rudzevicius, Knights of Lithuania,  
Chapter 82, Gary, IN.**

**At the Independence Day Celebration, Feb.  
20, 2005.**



PLAY

# RIZIKA

## LITHUANIAN JEOPARDY

BY Bronius Krokys, C-3

**Object of the Game:** To grow in (or test) your knowledge of Lithuanian history and related events by playing Rizika.

**Goal:** 70 – 75 points by year's end.

**Scoring:** 5 points for each correct answer.

**To Play:** Find the answers to the questions from the Lithuanian Encyclopedia, a person, or internet and record your answers.

Check your answers in the next *Vytis* issue and keep track of your points.

## AID TO LITHUANIA

**Donations for the period July 1, 2004 to December 31, 2004**

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#### Under \$25.00

Mrs O Pusdesris, Detroit, MI \* Mrs S Juska (IMO Juozas Juska) Detroit, MI \* Mrs A Bunikis (IMO Rev.V Krisciunevicius) Beaverton, OR \* Mrs F McNichols (Mo. Teresa Shelter IMO Carol Miller) Burbank, IL \* Florence Zaleskas, S.Boston, MA \* Florence Zaleskas (Trade School) S.Boston, MA \* Florence Zaleskas (Mo. Teresa Shelter) S.Boston, MA \* Mr & Mrs F Petrauskas (IMO Mary Zutant) Baldwinsville, NY \* Pollu Ziausys (Sem.Fund) Amsterdam, NY \* Pollu Ziausys, Amsterdam, NY \* James M Gapsis (Mo. Teresa Shelter) Philadelphia, PA \* Albert J Gustaff (Mo. Teresa Shelter IMO Leona Gustaff) Frederick, MD \* Stephany Gutauskas (IMO Daina Kapochus) Philadelphia, PA \* Mr & Mrs J Savitski (IMO Deceased Family) Bethlehem, PA \* Bronius V Krokys (IMO Deceased Family) Philadelphia, PA \* Mrs D Drumstas (IMO Joseph Drumstas) Philadelphia, PA \* Mr & Mrs A Vaitiekaitis (Trade School IMO Rimgaudas Svoba) Canton, MI \* Ms E Sadonis (Mo. Teresa Shelter) Verona, NJ \* Ms M Evans, Brigatine, NJ \* Mrs E Bulota, Detroit, MI \* Mrs S Staknis (IMO C.A.Staknis) Kearny, NJ \* Mrs F McNichols (Mo. Teresa Shelter IMO Randal McNichols) Burbank, IL \* Mr J Gapsis (IMO Dr.J Stukas) Philadelphia, PA \* Mr & Mrs AVaitiekaitis (Trade School IMO Rimgaudas Svoba) Canton, MI \* Mrs F McNichols (IMO Peter Tamasiunas) Burbank, IL \*



L. to R.: Mrs. A. Pauzuolis, Mr. Povilaitis, both receiving their first degrees; Julie Zakarka, Ritual C-112; Mr. A. Pauzuolis, receiving second degree, and Georgeanne Macke, MAMD District Ritual Chair.



## District & Council News

### New England District

#### C-17 So. Boston, MA Regina

Stormy weather did not prevent hardy K of L'ers from attending the annual Christmas party. Msgr. Al Contons celebrated the 4PM Mass. A short meeting followed. Despite the sleet, hail, and freezing rain, a lively and enjoyable party commenced. Gerard's Caterers served Lithuanian kielbasi and kapusti and more. Frank Markuns and Walter Bosy served the liquids. Committee members Mildred Daniels, Albert and Elaine Kniupis were kept busy.

Several of our more musically talented members have been busy during the holidays. Choir Director, Alice Ruseckas, is directing Barbara Trybe and William Olevitz in her group. Their distinctive cummerbund attire is quite fetching. Also, Albert and Elaine Kniupis are quite active members of the musical Leisure Group of West Roxbury. Dainuokite!

All were happy to see Fr. Steve Zukas' mother, Louise Zukas, when she attended C-1's annual Kucios at Our Lady of Sorrows Convent, Brockton. Louise said she had been determined to recuperate and attend the gathering. Looking good, Louise! At the Kucios, C-17 member, Al Siauris, presented a very generous check from the closing Cambridge Lithuanian Club to Sr. Helen, CJC, for the Lithuanian Children Relief Fund.

Pres Frank Markuns is leaving for several months to recuperate at the home of his sister, Lucy Gaputis and husband, Tony, at Deltona, FL. The Sunshine Committee, Ann Norinkavich and Frances Zerveskes, report members recently hospitalized-but-now-recuperating: Al Wachack (Brenda's father) also Milly Vallis. Upcoming event, St. Casimir

Communion Breakfast, is being planned by committee members Alice Olevitz, Billy Olevitz, Frances Zaleskas and others. It will be the 1st Sunday in March at the 10:30 Mass. As there has been no recent news of the closing of the St. Peter Lithuanian Church, we will continue on with hope and prayer.

Msgr. Al Contons will be leaving shortly for an assignment as temporary Pastor in a church at Pompano Beach, Florida. When this duty is over, he will then leave as Chaplain on a cruise ship on an extended tour to the Mediterranean. Bon Voyage, Msgr. Albert! Sudiev. Iki kitu susitikimu.

On March 17, 2005, our own C-17 Spiritual Director, Fr. Stephen Zukas, as the Grand Marshal, will be leading the So. Boston St. Patrick Day Parade. A special breakfast to honor Fr. Steve and others was held the previous Sunday and was attended by many C-17 members and other parishoners.

At the 10:30AM Mass, Feb 27, at St. Peter Lithuanian Church, the main celebrant was Fr. Stanley Azaro, OP, Dominican Friar, and co-celebrant Fr. Stephen Zukas. The C-17 Annual St. Casimir Breakfast followed in the Parish Hall. Gerard's Restaurant was the caterer and the tasty food was enthusiastically consumed by more than 75 guests. It was great to see the many friendly faces and K of L members visiting from Norwood C-27 and also Lawrence C-78.

Acting Pres Florence Zaleskas welcomed all the guests and was the MC. The guest speaker was Fr Stanley Azaro, OP, Dominican Friar. Fr spoke of his many years of work in Lithuania. After 50 years of Soviet persecution, it is now a time of hope and rebuilding. The priory church, St. Philip and St. James is in Vilnius, Lithuania. The Vicariate of the Holy Guardian Angels in Lithuania was established in 1993. The Dominican Order is dedicated to Preach the Word of God and to Educate. Following the guest speaker, Fr. Albin Janiunas, Spiritual Director C-78

finished with a rousing song and ended with "Tegyvuoja Vyciai".

Anna Norm and Frances Zerveskes, Sunshine Committee, report: Our sympathy goes out to Brenda Wachack and brother who recently lost their father, Al Wachack, C-17 member. Thoughts and prayers go out to both Joseph and Ruth Slanina, both longtime members now residing in Connecticut, who are ill. Their daughters, Sr. Mary Ruth and Donna, are helpful and supportive. Also, member Aldona Kropas will be having surgery and we wish her a speedy recovery.

Welcome home, Barbara Trybe. You look cheerful and energized from your vacation in the Caribbean.

An extension for St. Peter Lithuanian Parish has been granted until May 10, 2005 from the Congregation of the Clergy, Vatican City. Pastor Father Stephen Zukas' message to all parishoners is, "Let us pray for one intention with one unified voice that God's will be done."

#### C-6 Hartford, CT BetteAnn Liudzius

Our council was busy on March 4. They had invited members and office workers who attended the 12:05 Mass to celebrate the Feast of St. Casimir. It was most fitting that the Mass celebrant was Father CHARLES Jacobs. He spoke on the many qualities of our Patron Saint and he was most impressed by St. Casimir's compassion for the poor. Fr. said that if we emulate St. Casimir's example we may become Saints someday. Irene Petkaitis was the reader. Music was provided by the Hartford Men's Trio- our own George Petkaitis with brothers, Alfonsas and Vytas Zdanys. One of the hymns they sang was "O Sventasis Karalaiti" written by George Petkaitis..

Following the Mass all were invited to a luncheon in the church hall.

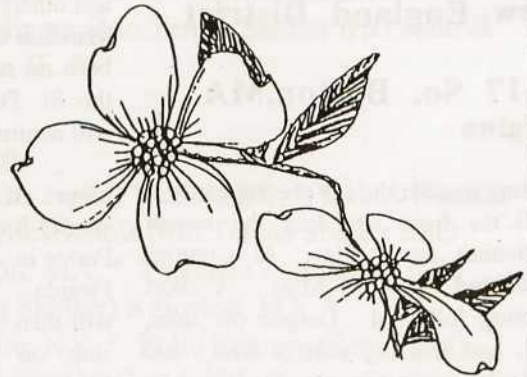
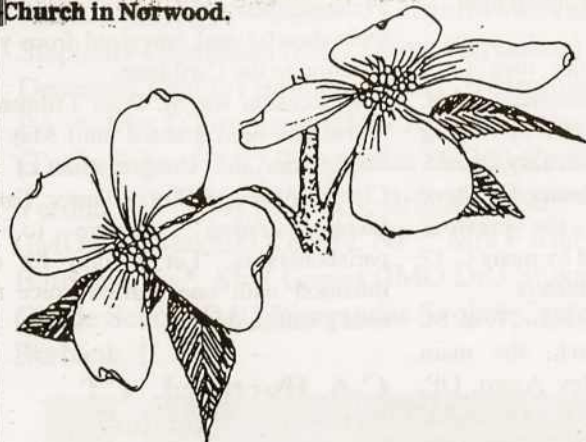
At Fr Jacob's request, the committee not only provided sandwiches, salads,

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# In Memoriam...



**For 22 years, Father Wolkovich was pastor of St. George Church in Norwood.**



“The funeral was impressive, with over 30 priests and a full church. A musical group, ‘Trinity Brass,’ and the church organ provided the music. There were professional soloists and a violin solo. Father Stephen Zukas said the ‘Prayer of Commendation’ in Lithuanian. Bishop Sean O’Malley of Boston presided at the wake service the night before. His Assistant was presider at the funeral Mass. Norwood parishioners (of the closed parish) came by bus. (Regretfully, there was no mention of the Knights of Lithuania.)”

Vytiskai,

*Vivian Rodgers,*

NED President

## K of L Obituaries

| Council | Name                       | City           | State | Date of Death |
|---------|----------------------------|----------------|-------|---------------|
| 6       | Valerie Bancroft           | Hartford       | CT    | 1/23/05       |
| 6       | Joseph Klimas              | Middletown     | CT    | 3/12/05       |
| 16      | Theodora Lapinskas         | Orland Park    | IL    | 1/11/05       |
| 17      | Alfred Wachack             | Dorchester     | MA    | 2/01/05       |
| 19      | Edward Johnson             | Pittsburgh     | PA    | 1/20/05       |
| 25      | Albert Bendokas            | Brecksville    | OH    | 1/08/05       |
| 27      | Rev. William Wolkovich, HM | Marlboro       | MA    | 1/12/05       |
| 29      | Anne Klimas                | Garwood        | NJ    | 12/23/04      |
| 50      | Robert Peterson            | Hubbardsville  | NY    | 12/6/04       |
| 52      | Rev. Albert Zemeikis       | Elizabeth      | NJ    | 1/23/05       |
| 63      | Albert Slopik              | Easton         | PA    | 1/01/05       |
| 96      | Elena Zukaitis             | Dayton         | OH    | 11/21/04      |
| 103     | Victor Mathieu             | Providence     | RI    | 11/16/04      |
| 103     | Denis Begonis              | No. Providence | RI    | 1/08/05       |
| 112     | Peter Burns                | Seattle        | WA    | 2/01/05       |
| 141     | Peter Radzwillas           | Bridgeport     | CT    | 1/24/05       |
| 144     | Eleanor Visgaitis          | Shenandoah     | PA    | 2/13/05       |
| 146     | Ramona Gross               | Dillsburg      | PA    | 12/1/04       |
| 146     | John Yasalonis             | New Cumberland | PA    | 1/14/05       |

desserts, coffee and tea in the hall, but guests were also able to pack up refreshments to take back to work. Committee members were Frances Ambrose, Wanda Kruk, Judy Landers, Irene Petkaitis and Leona Sawka. Are the halos on order?

### **C-10 Athol-Gardner Vincukas**

A turkey supper was held at St. Francis recently to benefit the current building fund that raised over a thousand dollars. Sophia Fiorentino and Dick Gatautis, both K of L'ers, did an excellent job with the 2 Chinese Auction tables. Another successful lasagna supper was held in Feb.

It was good to see Marie Colo back on her feet after a recent illness that kept her away from several meetings and parish functions. Also, Dr. Marie Shatos and Dr. Jackie Doherty - whose occupations take them to Boston every day from Athol- attended our last meeting to everyone's surprise and delight.

Joanna Chastney is spending the winter in FL with her brother.

Thanks to Dick and Brone Qualters, our K of L photographers, for all the photos taken at our functions.

Brone Wisniauskas had a Lithuanian Cultural display at the annual Ethnic Day at the Gardner High School. Bravo, Brone!

Condolences are extended to the family of the late Fr. William Wolkovich, Pastor of St. George, Norwood's parish up to its recent closing. Father is remembered for his love of music and a passion for Lithuanian Catholic history. He was awarded the Order of Gediminas by the Republic of Lithuania for his lifetime contributions in Lithuanian history. His funeral was held in his native parish of St. Michael's in Hudson, MA. Rest in Peace, Father!

Condolences are extended to the family of the late Anna Walinsky of Worcester. Rest in Peace, Ann.

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

Because of the New England winters, there was no January meeting. However, Mother Nature did not care, because February was a great month for snowstorms, if you like to shovel. We started the New Year for our council with a Potluck Supper. As usual, our members outdid themselves. All the home-made goodies were prepared with a lot of love. A special drawing was held to decide who would be the evening's Sweetheart Valentines. The winners were Bill Leseman and Teresa Adomavicius.

It is with great sadness that three of our members passed away since our last meeting. They were Dorothy Vaicilonis (1st degree), Adele Ulevich (2nd degree), and Anna Walinsky (4th degree). We shall miss them and our prayers go out to them and their families. Wonderful thank you notes were received from their families. They appreciated the Ritual at the funeral parlors and the members attending the Masses in a group. This is a fitting farewell to members who have been with us as family.

Many of you, I am sure, will remember Anna Walinsky. She had been an active member in our council for over 50 years and had attended many conventions and district meetings. She had a wonderful smile and personality and was always willing to help where needed. One of her exceptional gifts - and she had many- was to make centerpieces and flower arrangements whether it was for a meeting, a special function, or in church. Anna was the organist and choir director for St. Casimir's Parish for many years. In addition, she arranged and directed concerts at various Lithuanian functions. She was a member of the Organist Guild of America and sang with the Worcester County Music Festival. In addition to the K of L, she was active in several other Lithuanian organizations.

This has been a year for people getting sick. The following members were added to our sick list: Dorothy Zaliekas, Ann Leseman, Dorothy Lalone, and Kazys Adomavicius. We hope that they will be feeling well soon. Aldona Waska was welcomed back to our group. She is feeling much better and it was good to see her among us again.

The Holy Hour on Feb 27 was discussed. There will be priests and confession so that one can complete their Easter duty. Afterwards, refreshments will be served in the parish hall. Rita Margosian, Ruth Gadilauskas, and Jenny Puris volunteered to head up the refreshment committee.

Everyone was asked to bring to the next meeting their Christmas cards and any other cards along with the stamps from the envelopes for Sister Helen in Brockton.

The Grabauskas's left the next day for a trip to Arizona to visit their sons, Gary and Tommy. Hopefully, by the time they get there, the rain will have stopped.

### **C-27 Norwood, MA Zaibas**

It was a sad beginning to the New Year of 2005 for K of L Council 27. We deeply regret the loss of our Spiritual Advisor, Rev. Wm. Wolkavich, in January. His deep spiritual being, indomitable courage and many talents enriched the lives of all who knew him. He will be missed.

Our council gathered for its first meeting of the year at a local restaurant for brunch. 16 members and 8 guests came. Charles Treციokas and wife, Carol, welcomed all. Charles reminded members that our next 2 meetings will be held at St. Mary's, E. Walpole, on Sunday, Feb 13, and Sunday, March 13 at 8:30 AM. when plans will be discussed for the coming year. Ed and Ramona Gonski were in attendance. Ramona is our efficient treasurer.

Sandra Melish, our financial secretary, was still toe-tapping after her trip to Dollywood. Sgt-at-arms Sonia Betty Skricki was looking forward to her oncoming visit to Maryland where she stays with her daughter and grandkids. Ritual chairman, George Barton, made a request that members contribute to the building fund of the Cathedral he visits in Lithuania. Joyce Kaseta, Dorothy Ausevich, Kay Perednia, Albie and Leonora Jarvis shared news on their winter activities. Lillian and Ted Callahan came. Ted's retirement lasted all of 4 days when he was called back to work. Way to go, Ted! A special warm welcome greeted Louise Zukas who came with husband, Paul. Louise has made a miracle recovery. Good to be with her. As always, the guests of our members added joy to the meeting.

We look forward to our Council 27 continuing to meet and share the friendships that were instilled in us at our beloved St. George Lithuanian Church and its late Pastor and our Spiritual Director, Fr. Bill.

## Mid Atlantic District

### MAD District Becky Pataki

The Mid Atlantic District was held on Sept 25, 2004, hosted by C-136, at Holy Cross Church in Schenectady, NY.

The new roster of officers was elected for the coming year. Congratulations to: Spiritual Advisor, Fr. Vytautas Volertas; Pres, Cathy Nakrosis; 2nd VP Membership, Bernice Aviza; 3rd VP, Mrs. Antoinette Sakal; Rec Sec, Julia Schroeder; Treas, Becky Pataki; Trustees, John Nakrosis and Christopher Schroeder; Ritual, Lynn Haynor McDonald; Lithuanian Affairs, Ed Barkowski; Lithuanian Language/Culture, Polly Ziausys; PR/Vytis, Becky Pataki; Mandate, John Sakal.

At our meeting, we heard reports and reviews of the National Convention and the delegates who attended. We also discussed ideas for fundraising programs and projects.

That's all for now from MAD.

### C-90 Kearny, NJ Becky Pataki

Once we recovered from hosting the National Convention in August, Council 90 regrouped and started planning our activities for this coming year.

We started with the election of our officers and are pleased to announce the following leaders of our group: Pres, Roland Buchholz; VP/Newsletter, John Nakrosis; Treas, Ellie Nakrosis; Rec Sec, Irene Zarbetski; Fin Sec, Cathy Nakrosis; Ritual, Audrey Przybylski; PR/Vytis Corresp, Becky Pataki; Archives, Laima Kohanski; Lithuanian Culture, Florence Schirm; Sunshine, Nellie Stodolski; Jr Council head, Audrey Przybylski.

We held our annual Christmas Party on Sunday, Dec 19. Everyone brought a dish to make the party a delicious success. All who attended were full and happy.

Currently, we are preparing for our flag raising and social. It will be held on Sunday, Feb 13 at the Kearny Town Hall, beginning at 12:30PM. A social will follow immediately after at the LCCC in Kearny. We encourage all members from the surrounding councils and the MidAtlantic District to join us and help celebrate this important day.

Our next function will then be a Potato Pancake Dance on Sunday, March 6. Make your reservations early and be prepared for some really delicious affair!!! This event was always a great time in the past and we are anticipating the fun and good food to continue on this year. So, if you don't already have plans, by all means, pencil in C-90!

We are honored to have the MAD Convention being held in Kearny, and

hosted by the District, on April 3. The day will begin with Mass at Our Lady of Sorrows Church at 11:30, followed by a luncheon and the meeting at the LCCC. Again, we encourage all members who can attend this meeting to do so. It is important that we get together for both business and pleasure. Well, hope that everyone is happy and healthy and as warm as can be expected.

### C-136 Hudson-Mohawk Dorothy Richmire

Belated Happy New Year to all our faithful K of L members and their loved ones. May this year be a healthy and productive year for all.

Our first meeting of the New Year was opened with our new Pres, Michael Sargalis, leading us with a prayer, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Bill Jazewicz. Bernice reported that some of the profits realized at the Albany Festival of Nations will be used to purchase shoes/boots for Lithuanian orphans.

Lynn, who heads the Membership & Ritual Committee reminded members of the importance of paying dues on time. Otherwise, membership is cancelled and has to be renewed, causing extra, unnecessary paperwork.

Tentative plans were made for observing Lithuanian Independence Day on Feb 20, providing arrangements can be made for church services.

It was so good to see Bea Jazewicz looking healthy and happy after a serious illness. Welcome back, Bea.

It was also good to have Ardis Daury present. She has been unable to attend recent meetings due to her work schedule.

Our Feb meeting was well-attended. The 2 orthopaedic surgeons from Lithuania that we aided in their passage were here to observe surgical procedures. Also Bob Duda, who with Ginger Houghton have been instrumental in accepting donations of medical equipment from all parts of the country to send to Lithuania. All three

enjoyed our celebration and we enjoyed visiting with them.

Ed Barkowski presided over the meeting in the absence of Pres Michael Sargalis. We discussed Lithuanian Independence Day.

A vote was taken for the proposal by K of L to accept new members who may not be Catholic or Lithuanian as long as they are devoted to Lithuanian causes. Members accepted the proposal.

On Feb 13, Holy Cross Church was filled with K of L members and guests at Mass celebrated by Pastor Richard Carlino. Flag bearers were Adam and Keith Westerling; Lector, Kathleen Lisson; Presentation of Gifts, Helen Hayner, Lynn Mac Donald, Estelle Nelson, Dorothy Richmire; Eucharistic ministers, William Jasewicz, Dorothy Richmire, Kathleen Lisson. The speaker, Tina Panetta Zaza, representing Congressman Michael McNulty; the Proclamation was read by Chief of Police Michael Geraci, representing the Mayor of Schenectady, Brian Stratton.

Choir, Bernice Aviza, Genevieve Deery, William R. Jasewicz, Regina Kot and Joan Wilgocki. The 7th anniversary of the death of Rev. Bernard Gustas was observed. Following Mass, a buffet of Lithuanian specialties was enjoyed.

## Amber District

### C-3 Philadelphia Victor Stepanovitch

The year 2005 started off on the wrong foot for 2 of our members, Margaret Allen and Leonard Kapouchas. Both had surgery. We all wish them a complete recovery.

Welcome home, Marge and Charles Petronis from Hawaii where they attended the wedding of their son, Drew. We do hope Marge put on a hula skirt and did a little hula dancing.

C-3 sends their congratulations to Alberta Weigand and her husband on

their new home. Good luck and may both of you spend many happy days there together.

C-3 members will attend the Pre-Lenten Banquet at St. George's Church which is held, annually, to start the beginning of Lent.

On Feb 27, the Lithuanian community will be celebrating Lithuanian Independence Day. Mass will be celebrated at St. Casimir's Church, followed by festivities at the Lithuanian hall. Many of our members will be present at this affair.

In March our members will be traveling to St. Claire to attend the Amber District Meeting.

On April 23, we will be going on our yearly pilgrimage and this year we will visit the St. Jude Shrine, then on to the Inner Harbor in Baltimore.

C-3 wishes to one and all members a very Happy, Holy Easter.

### C-6 Lehigh Valley Evelyn Harryn

C-63 has been very busy since Sept. It seems we just had our council picnic and we are planning another one.

In Sept we had election of officers. We also inducted them at this meeting. They are as follows: Pres, Evelyn Harryn; VP, Anna H. McDonald; Treas, Walter Balchunas; Rec Sec, Francis Smith; Fin Sec/Membership, Steven Tichy. Council Chaplan is Walter Balehunas; Sgt-at-arms, Thomas McDonald, Tom Shaulis; Trustees, Walter Balchunas, Evelyn Harryn, Valeria Smickle; Rituals, Christine Merlo, Frances Smith, Norma Lipsen; "Sunshine Lady", Valeria Smickle.

In Sept we proceeded to work on our budget by making our donations to our Lithuanian causes. We also make an annual donation to Deborah Hospital and the Salvation Army, our dear St. Michael's Church and Aid to Lithuania is always our top priority.

In Oct we held a Flea Market to replenish our treasury. We had excellent cooperation from our

membership. Our work crews were very reliable. We are so grateful to Valeria Smickle for all of her work and hours she puts into it. We are about to have another one in April.

C-63 hosted the Amber District in Oct. We had terrific attendance. We always have a happy time when we get together with our "Lithuanian Family". John Mankus always adds a highlight to the meeting when he recites Lithuanian poetry. On that note, congratulations go out to Anna H. McDonald. A poem that she wrote was chosen as the official poem of the State of Pennsylvania. It is called "Hail to Pennsylvania". Anna Helen, we are proud of you!

In Nov, we held our annual "Harvest Feast". This is done in a covered dish style. Lillian Klinosky did a beautiful job decorating the hall in an autumn setting. There were so many delicious gourmet dishes that we enjoyed. Henry and Kitty Kozlusky treated us to some delicious Halupkies. We decorated our beautiful Lithuanian Christmas tree again. It was one of 14 other ethnic trees on exhibition. They were in the lobby of South Bethlehem University Comfort Suites. This is sponsored each year by the South Bethlehem Historical Society. Once again, our tree was the most popular. The public is intrigued with our delicate natural straw and handmade ornaments. Some of us also attended the opening ceremonies and tree lighting. The committee this year was Frances Smith, Evelyn Harryn, Lillian Klinosky.

In Dec, we held our "Portrayal of Kucios". The Lithuanian Choir participated in the Procession of Lights. Our annual toastmaster, Joe Kohanski, once again gave a toast full of good wishes and holiday spirit. Our annual reader of traditions and superstitions, Ed Klova, did a fine job informing all present of these ancient customs and beliefs. This is always greatly enjoyed. The Sing-a-long of English and Lithuanian Christmas carols was directed by Ben Apanavicius. After the Kucios event, we held a "Basket of Cheer" raffle. Stanley Juknevic was the

lucky winner of the big prize. It was really an abundant basket of cheer. We wish to thank Christene Merlo and Helen Shaulis for helping with the sale of tickets to make this fund-raiser a success.

C-63 held their flag-raising ceremony on the Circle in downtown Easton. We had a Spring-like day, and so a very nice crowd showed up. Everyone then went back to the church hall. A delicious brunch was enjoyed by all.

In March, some of us are planning to attend the Amber District in St Clair, PA. It will be hosted by C-144 Our council will celebrate St. Casimir's Day, Independence Day, and our Regained Independence, on March 20. We will have a catered affair.

On February 2nd, we lost a dear member, Joseph Russell. Amzina Atsilsi. Joe was a longtime member of the Knights of Lithuania. He was President and active member of the Newark, NJ council for many years. He will be sorely missed by many Knights.

We are looking forward to the arrival of Spring! Pray for Peace in the world. Pray for the safety of our military people.

### **C-74 Scranton, PA Marie Laske**

Our Kucios was a great success with about 95 people.

We had our Lithuanian flag raising at Scranton City Hall. The weather was fine and we had a nice group. Richard Laske welcomed everyone and Marie Laske, Pres of C-74 introduced the speakers. John Pocius read the proclamation;

Council person Janet Evans commented on how nice it is to keep up our Lithuanian heritage; Jean Kavalines read a computer article about the Pope's mother being of Lithuanian descent. Many were surprised. Jim O'Neil spoke about emancipations. Robert Gilbert spoke on early Lithuania. We were honored to have Betty and Frank Kwater from Montrose. Frank is Pres

of C-46, Forest City. He spoke on Lithuanian Independence and taking their stand against oppression and communism. Mrs Shimkus and husband, Vito, from Clarks Summit also attended. Vito told of his hard times trying to come to America with his parents and brother and sister. His sister was fatally shot, and this, of course, was a very hard time for the family. All his children are very intelligent and are college graduates.

We missed our friends from Pittston, especially Nellie Bayoras Romanas who came faithfully and now she is home-bound. Please pray for her and Mary Twardzik who is very ill. Our faithful Liz Kaminskas who retired from her work as a bookkeeper at age 82 is now in a nursing home. And Della Zvirblis. May God send His angels to aid them in their sufferings.

'Wishing every K of L'er and their families a good year. SuDievu.

### **C-143 Pittston, PA Mary Ann Connor**

The K of L C-143, Pittston, PA, had a reorganization meeting on Dec 6 and new officers were elected. Pres, Jean Kapochus Mihalick; VP, Helen Mary Karpovich; Rec Sec, Pam Smith; Fin Sec, Martha Warnagaris; Treas, Mary Ann Cipolla; Historian, Ursula Danoski; Vytis corresp, Mary Ann Connor; Cultural Chair, Martha Warnagaris; Ritual chair, Jean Mihalick. The members celebrated Kucios on Dec 20 at St. Casimir's Church Hall. Our group was honored to have 3 clergy in attendance; Spiritual Advisor, Fr. Peter Alisauskas, Msgr. John Bendick and Fr. Hugh McGroarty.

Each member participated by providing a covered dish, beverages, and/or supplies needed to make the dinner a success. Martha Warnagaris led the group in singing Christmas carols and distributing presents. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the evening until the report of snow outside sent everyone home.

A few of our members need to be

included on your prayer lists: Anna Walatkas, Julie Atmonavage and Ann Marie Sewatski are in personal care homes. Mary Timek is back home recuperating. Nellie Bayoras Romano's condition is improving steadily and she is now able to attend meetings again. Mary Ann Connor still needs prayers. Thanks to all of you and keep those prayers coming.

### **C-144 Anthracite Ona**

Council 144 has lost another dear member, John Koons, who was a Charter Member of the council and who worked all the years until a few months before his death. John, along with his wife, Mary, was always available. He helped build our floats in the early years, worked hard at all the Lithuanian Days. When they were held in the parks he hauled props for our programs and was available for any work that was to be done. After we went to the Mall with Lithuanian Days he worked hard at the Kugelis Stand. He sang in the Zarija Choir and very rarely missed a meeting. Jonai, we will miss you. Amzina Atsilsi.

We hosted the Amber District Meeting and St. Casimir's Day celebration. Pres Larry Domalakes was Lector at the Mass. Marian Wydra received her fourth degree medal which was presented and blessed by Spiritual Advisor, Rev. Ronald Jankaitis; carrying the gifts at the Offertory, the men with juostas and the women in costume were: Peter Terasavage, Anna Snoich, Karen Domalakes, Meredith Domalakes, John Paul Domalakes and John Miravich. At the dinner, Judge John Domalakes (the only Lithuanian to serve on the bench in Schuylkill County) gave a talk on Lithuania Today. Anne Wargo chaired the event, assisted by Florence Shimkus, Ginner Kazlauskas, Bernice Mikatavage, Evelyn Prep and Anna Snoich. Anna presented everyone attending with a yellow, green, and red pin cross. Members from 8 councils

attended and it was a successful and fruitful meeting.

We remember our home-bound and nursing home residents each Christmas and Easter with a Spiritual Bouquet. Members are urged to remember those who once worked and now are no longer capable of doing so.

Lithuanian Days will be held this year on Aug 6 and 7. We selected the earlier date so we would not conflict with the National Convention. Happy Spring and Summer to all our Vyciai Family. We hope to see you in August.

## Mid Central District

### C-19 Pittsburgh, PA Len Barcoucky

Andy Rozger, age 91, was the oldest and Justin Johnson, age 2, was the youngest person to meet at St. Casimir's Cemetery in Whitehall for the annual All Soul's Day commemoration.

About a half dozen people from Pittsburgh's C-19 gathered Nov 7 to light a candle, say prayers and leave flowers in memory of friends and family members.

Council Pres, John Baltrus, led the service with Rozger offering prayers in Lithuanian. The names of all deceased Knights were read.

Weather could not have been better for an outdoor event in November. Skies were blue and a warm sun shone down on the Marian Shrine where the commemoration was held. The Bible readings were from Isaiah, Paul's Epistle to the Romans and the Gospel of St. John. All Soul's Day (Nov 2) follows All Saints' Day (Nov 1) and in Lithuania people make it a point to pray not only for relatives and loved ones but also for those who would otherwise be forgotten.

### C-25 Cleveland, OH Ursula Kunsitis

A Happy and Healthy 2005 is wished by C-25 to all!

Dick and Jean Marks returned from snowy, cold Montana after visiting with daughter, Mary Beth and husband, Randy, over the Christmas holidays and are now back to snowy, cold Cleveland! Helen and Bill Jakubs enjoyed their 15-day cruise of the Hawaiian Islands over the holidays. This was their first Christmas away from family and friends and they were both missed!

Dec 21, our council enjoyed the Three Irish Tenors with their presentation of the "Songs of the Season" and a delicious dinner held at the Croatian Lodge Center. 23 members and guests attended and we had great weather for a change. It was our pleasure to have Fr. Gediminas and Nijole Kersnauskas and our Honorary Lithuanian Consul, Ingrida Bublys, and her dad, Henry Stasas and Mary Ann Koss join us in the festivities. A big Thank You to Pres Theresa Capuria for making all the arrangements and for the gift packages containing the Lithuanian flag ornament! It was great to have the Ivoska's with us, including son, Bill, and to see Ann doing so well.

I am sorry to tell you that long-time member Albert Bendokas passed away on Jan 8. Our deepest sympathy and condolences to his wife, Eleanor, and daughters Peggy and Lisa and son, Martin, and their families. Al served in WWII with the 86th Blackhawk Division. Members attended the K of L Ritual Service and Funeral Mass at St. Basil's Church. We will miss you, Al, and may your soul rest in Peace.

While we are here, shivering in single-digit temperatures, Jim and Joan Thompson are spending 6 weeks in sunny Ft. Meyers!

Good News: Council meetings are resuming March 6 with our annual St. Casimir celebration at Our Lady of Perpetual Help at the 10 AM Mass to be followed by our luncheon/meeting at Finamore's Restaurant. Meetings are also scheduled for 4/1, 5/6, 6/3 at 4PM. Helen Garnis, and Vince and Marion Gray are now residing in nursing homes. Please remember them and our other house-bound members with cards

and calls.

Helen Valley is at home recovering. Fin Sec, Cathy Kaczmarek is also recovering at home.

Fran Pranskevich is enjoying a taste of "assisted living" while family vacations in the sunny South.

Steve Yurkovic and son, Fr. Dale, enjoyed a 2nd trip to Czechoslovakia visiting relatives and friends. Not only did Steve get to see the inside of a Czech hospital, but is trying to decipher the hospital bill he received.

Who was the distinguished gentleman carrying the American flag during the Lithuanian Independence Day Procession at OLPH on Feb 13? None other than Gene Kunsitis, the Orchid Man! Job well done!

Dick and Jean Marks plan a get-together with X-Clevelanders in Indian Rock, FL. A special hello to John Andrulis, Betty August, Agnes Bartkus, Bill and Helen Jakubs, Ben Karklius, Charlie and Nelda Machutas, Rose Rew, Steve and Lillian Yurkovic. You are in our thoughts and prayers.

Happy Easter to all!

### C-96 Dayton, OH Frances Petkus HM

Recently our council sponsored a No Bake Bake Sale with all the proceeds going to charity. Chaired by Elinor Sluzas and Eloise Berczelly, this project proved to be a tremendous success. Our members were very generous, making it possible for the council to send a donation to K of L Aid to Lithuania, Inc., K of L St. Casimir's Guild, Inc., K of L Our Lady of Siluva Fund, Inc., Lithuanian Catholic Relief Aid of Brooklyn, NY, Lithuanian Children's Relief, Inc. of Brockton, MA, North East Dayton Churches Emergency Fund and Holy Cross Church Lithuanian Cultural Committee (Kocius).

Feb 13 saw the Lithuanian community of Dayton celebrate the anniversary of Lithuanian Independence. Mass was held at Holy Cross Church at 10:30AM. Our guest priest, Rev.

Johan Rotan, head of the University of Dayton's Marianist program, gave a wonderful homily tying Lithuania's plight with the readings of the day. Mass was closed with the singing of the Lithuanian National Anthem in Lithuanian and then in English.

After Mass everyone headed to the church hall for a very special brunch prepared by C-96's Social Chair Elaine Pacovsky and Judy Petrokas. There was plenty to eat therefore no one should have gone home hungry. Guest speaker was MCD Pres, Michael F. Petkus. Exchange of information and ideas shared by those present added to the program. Eloise Berczelly handled the donations that were made which in turn were sent to K of L Aid to Lithuania, Inc. Thanks to Elaine and to all who were generous in their donations.

Council Social Chair Elaine Pacovsky prepared a light lunch prior to our Feb 6, 2005, monthly council meeting. The soup, sandwich and dessert gave the meeting a boost to our energy setting up a very active meeting. Thank you, Elaine!!!

Our members had a great time at the 3rd Annual Four Parish Mardi Gras sponsored by the Four Parish Committee. Handling Holy Cross's part were Elinor Sluzas, Michael, Norma and Erin Petkus, the Fletchers, Joseph, Christine, and Alex, and Fran Petkus making the jambalaya and bread pudding! Elinor and Fran are busy now with the Four Parish cookbook, "Living Heritage of Recipes and Traditions" which is now in its third printing!!!

Old North Dayton has lost two of its citizens with Elinor Sluzas and her sister, Rita Ambrose, moving into their new condos in the Tipp City area of Montgomery County, Ohio. Their condos are across the road from each other and, fortunately, not too far from Old North Dayton. Wishes of years of Happiness in their new homes!!!

A warm welcome was extended to Daniel (Danny) Tucker who moved up from our Junior council to become a

regular member. Danny took his K of L oath at the Jan 9, 2005 meeting and immediately volunteered to Chair the council's Palm Sunday Bake Sale!!! Congratulations to Danny on his recent awards from the Huber Heights Police Explorer Post. In Jan, Danny was recognized for Outstanding Scholastic Achievement for 2004! The award recognizes the Explorer who is able to maintain a 3.0 or above grade point average. This is the 2nd year in a row Danny received this award. He also received his 3-year service star and the only one out of 14 Explorers to earn it. Danny plans to attend Eastern Kentucky University majoring in Law Enforcement with a minor in Forensic Science.

Get well wishes are sent to Helen Keivel who has joined our list of members being cared for with assisted living; Robert Keivel, John Berczelly, Gary Thiele, Ida Kavy and Jerome (Jerry) Scott. Speedy recovery to one and all.

A Blessed Easter to everyone and a Happy Spring!!!

## Mid America District

### C-157 Lemont, IL Terry Strolia

Our council began the year's activities with the election of officers at our Fall meeting: Pres, Ann Marie Juraitis; VP, Georgianna Macke; Treas, Charles Macke; Fin Sec, Irene Macke; Corresp Sec, Donna Juraitis; Rec Sec Ann Marie Kassel, HM; Sgt-at-arms, Terry Strolia; Trustee, Vyto Shukis; Spiritual Advisor, Msgr. Ignas Urbonas, HM.

As Chicagoland was treated to another beautiful autumn season, members joined our District on a pilgrimage to the Shrine of the Miraculous Medal in Perryville, MO. The overnight event proved to be both spiritually and socially rewarding.

In November, our council hosted the annual Mass in remembrance of deceased members. The Mass was held

at the chapel of the Holy Family Villa in Lemont. Mass was celebrated by our District Spiritual Advisor, Rev. A. Zakarauskas, HM. Ann Marie Juraitis and Sr. Janine Golubickis handled the arrangements, including the reading of names of this year's deceased and placing a rose on the altar for each. The District Choir, under the direction of Faustas Strolia, HM sang. Afterward, many of the 41 attendees headed to Hackney's Restaurant for a delicious brunch. Ann Marie Kassel handled the arrangements.

Once again, C-157 hosted a traditional Kucios at the Lithuanian World Center. The event, chaired by Terry Strolia, was very well-attended, with guests from other local councils. Msgr. Urbonas explained to us, especially our Juniors, the reason for all these beautiful traditions, and opened the event with a blessing. We ended the evening with a raffle, capably handled by Donna and Ann Marie Juraitis, followed by a sing-a-long led by Faustas Strolia, HM.

In Spring, members both worked and attended the traditional 45th MAMD Memories of Lithuania Banquet held at the Chateau BuSche where Honorary Consul General of Chicago, Vaclavas Kleiza, received the annual award. We were very happy to have SC President, Agnes Mickunas, HM, in our midst.

Currently members are anxiously preparing for the next District meeting to be held in Los Angeles, CA, hosted by Maryte Sepikas and her gracious council, C-133. We all expect to have a great time.

### C-82 Gary, IN Daisy Talley

Despite the gloomy weather, a warm welcome was given to all by Justin Jagiella, Pres of the Lithuanian American Council of Lake County, IN, to celebrate the 87th anniversary of Lithuanian Independence on Feb 20, 2005, at the American Legion in Merrillville. The celebration was hosted by the Lithuanian American



organizations of Northwest Indiana. After the Pledge of Allegiance and the Anthems led by Paul Strolia, Mistress of Ceremonies, Birute Vilutis, Pres of Lithuanian American Community of the U.S., Inc., East Chicago, Indiana Chapter welcomed the crowd.

A prayer by Monsignor Ignas Urbonas was said for those who died for the cause of freedom.

A delicious traditional Lithuanian dinner prepared by the capable hands of Loreta Vician, Ursula Tavaras, Joanna Rudzevicius and Mildred Jagiella was enjoyed by all.

A talk was given by Sr. Janine Golubickis, SSC and she received a floral bouquet from April Vician and Kate Jagiella, Juniors dressed in beautiful Lithuanian costumes.

Joanna Rudzevicius, Pres of C-82 also greeted everyone.

A presentation of a resolution to preserve freedom was read by Justin Jagiella. It was passed, unanimously and will be sent to the President of the U.S., Congress, and the Senate.

Benediction was given by Msgr. Urbonas.

Everyone sang "God Bless America" in English and in the Lithuanian translation by Faustas Strolia, HM.

A music program by Paul Strolia - tho suffering from flu- touched hearts and brought tears to many.

Our dear new member, Sr. Lamberta, is in our prayers, seriously ill. Also ill is Barbara Balt.

Another new member, Rachael Thorbjornsen, a Disney employee, toured her grandmother, Mildred Jagiella, through the "Magic Kingdom" at Disney World. The flowers were abloom and 70 degrees! Then the reality of the Northland!

We welcome member Albina Zook back to C-82. BIG welcome!

Loreta Vician and Joanna Rudzevicius attended the "Verbos" classes at Balzekas Museum and now have some beautiful creations! Nice tradition.

## C-110 Maspeth, NY

### Bruno Rutkunas

Early in the fall of 2004, our scheduled Halloween dance was cancelled, since many members were not able to attend. We did have a warm buffet and tasty drinks to celebrate our Council's 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary!

Our Kucios celebration featured 12 home-prepared meatless dishes with soothing beverages. Invited guest, Joe Thomas, was honored for his 60 full years of entertainment: he played favorite songs and melodies with his well-known accordion. All 75 guests were pleased with the special activities on December 19, 2004.

Our president, Julia Schroder, was elected as the new Supreme Council chairperson for Lithuanian language and culture at the National Convention in August. Julia and her son, Christopher, were honored guests at the Lithuanian festival in Los Angeles, where they went, along with Ambassador Usackas, to Ruta Lee's home for a pleasant visit.

Our future programs include an 11:30 a.m. Mass for St. Casimir on Feb. 27, and a special Mass at 11:30 a.m., April 24<sup>th</sup>, for all deceased members of Council 110.

Our executive board remained basically the same, with Ed Jakatt retiring as Ritual chairperson, who will continue until a new candidate is chosen.

Men can read smaller print than women.  
Women can hear better.

The most ironic trivia fact about Mel Blanc (voice of Bugs Bunny) is that he was allergic to carrots.

## A GREAT COMEDIAN'S CREDO

I live by this credo" Have a little laugh at life and look around you for happiness instead of sadness. Laughter has always brought me out of unhappy situations. Even in your darkest moment, you usually can find something to laugh about if you try hard enough.

### Red Skelton (1913-1997) Comedian

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#### ATTENTION!

Any Council in need of new Constitutions, please contact Mary Beth Slakis, or Joe Stiklius. Addresses and E-mail can be found on the inside front cover of this Vytis.

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Honey is the only food that doesn't spoil.

Walt Disney was afraid of mice.

If a jet ski runs for an hour, non-stop, it Pollutes more than a car does for a year.

Television is a communications medium. It's called that because most of what you See on it is neither rare nor well done.

## MAMD District

### J M Shain

Having arrived in Los Angeles (all 22 of us) on Friday, March 4, District members were welcomed by Maryte Šepikas, C-133 president, with the loving warmth of true Lithuanian-Californian hospitality, i.e., hugs, kisses, sandwiches and other refreshments. All were then whisked away to the very modern, recently constructed Cathedral of Our Lady of the Angels for a specially guided tour. On the beautiful tapestries which hang on each side of the interior cathedral walls, both St. Casimir and Bishop Matulaitis are depicted together with many other saints. While visiting the crypts beneath the church, everyone saw where Gregory Peck is buried. The immensity of the Cathedral is truly impressive, as well as the beauty and simplicity of the altar of sacrifice. The tour guide was excellent and explained every detail and feature of the building. Everyone then checked into the hotel and met for dinner.

Saturday morning was spent at the meeting, expertly presided over by MAMD president, Robert Martin, Jr. The Pastor, Rev. S. Anužis, greeted and welcomed the Knights in both Lithuanian and English. A delicious, typically Lithuanian meal was served by C-133 members. The MAMD awards were bestowed upon Maryte Sepikas of C-133 and Richard Niedvares of C-36. Aldona Zajauskas and Sister Johanna Marie both received their 3<sup>rd</sup> degrees at the meeting, too. Members of C-133 then received medals and certificates for their dedication and hard work.

The next item on the agenda for the weekend was a ride to Palm Springs to see the play, "Senior Class," starring Ana Maria Alberghetti, our very own Ruta Lee, Julius LaRosa and

It was a musical comedy expertly performed by

these great actors. The stars of the show then came to the lobby and greeted each of the K of L's individually (in a receiving line) and then took a group picture with us. Afterwards, we all drove to the home of Ruta Lee right there in Palm Springs, where she again proved herself the perfectly gracious hostess. The K of L also presented Ruta Lee with an award from the District. She then allowed us to take photos with her. The next day, Sunday, the Feast of St. Casimir was magnificently celebrated at the 10:30 Mass in the parish church. In attendance were the Lithuanian Scouts, the K of L members and the parishioners. After the Mass, the Scouts sponsored the "Kaziuko Mūgė" on the parish grounds and in the hall. Delicious food could be purchased in the hall, as well as various items at the booths.

On Sunday afternoon, a group of K of L's opted for Universal Studios, while the others went to Forest Lawn to see the famous paintings of the Crucifixion and the Resurrection, and also the special stained-glass window of the Last Supper. We also saw the crypt where Red Skelton is buried. This was followed by a tour through downtown LA, via two vans. Maryte Šepikas was our expert guide.

On our way to the airport Monday morning, we stopped in Santa Monica for one last peek at the Pacific Ocean. We then left LA at 76 degrees, and landed in Chicago 3 hours and 35 minutes later to a 30 degree temperature and a freezing wind chill factor!

A humongous "Ačiū" to Maryte Šepikas and her Council - 133 members for again showing us such a terrific time. God bless you!

### C-112 Chicago, IL

#### S J Marie

Council -112 members met in the Nativity BVM parish hall on March

15, 2005. Maria Deksnis, speaking for her daughter Andrea, announced that our Council now has 5 new YOUNG adult members. She also stated that the Juniors will again be sponsoring a palm-weaving session at noon on March 19, in the parish hall. This will be followed by a bowling outing on 103<sup>rd</sup> & Cicero Avenues.

Maria, who is also the Council's financial secretary, informed us that we now have a total of 217 members.

Alvina Giedraitis agreed to be the PR person for the English newspapers. Dolores Wainauskis also gave her Treasurer's report. The Sergeants-at-Arms had no report, and there was no need for "crowd control." Rev. Anthony Markus, pastor, and our spiritual advisor, announced that Rev. A. Zygas is here from Lithuania and is giving 2 days of recollection for the parishioners. He will then go on to Los Angeles and do the same. Father Markus asked for volunteers to assist at the "coffee and.." on Sundays after the Masses. The Deksnis family was the first to volunteer.

The delighted winner of the 50/50 fundraiser for Lithuania, run at each meeting by Sister Theresa Papsis, was, Mary Anna Gercius. Social Committee chair, Regina Juskaitis, gave her report of the results of the Christmas Party.

All were then encouraged to attend the National Convention in Pittsburgh this August 11-14.

The meeting then ended, and the bestowal of 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> degrees took place. This was followed by refreshments served by the Social Committee.

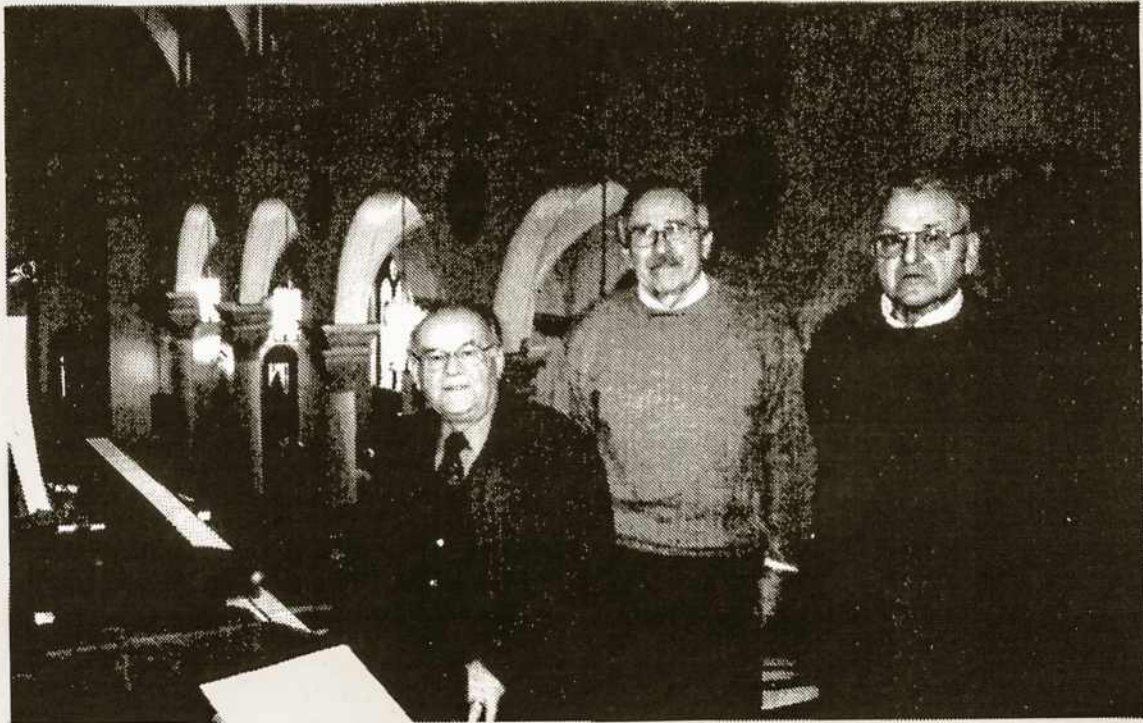
All wished each other a "Happy Easter" as they left for home.

"Linksmų Vėlykų" also to all of you from Council -112. Iki pasimatymo!

## *Knight Life...*



Two happy recipients of this year's MAMD awards are: Maryte Sepikas, C-133, L.A., (center), and Richard Niedvares, C-36, Chicago. Awards were presented by MAMD president, Robert Martin, Jr., C-16.



L. to R.: Council 6 members, George Petkaitis at the organ, Alfonsas Zdanys, Vytas Zdanys, at the Mass in honor of St. Casimir at Holy Trinity Church, Hartford, CT.

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*Remember Arbor Day,  
April 25; Plant a tree.*

## Trees

I think that I shall never see  
A poem lovely as a tree.  
A tree whose hungry mouth is pressed  
Against the earth's sweet flowing breast.  
A tree that looks at God all day,  
And lifts her leafy arms to pray;  
A tree that may in summer wear  
A nest of robins in her hair;  
Upon whose bosom snow has lain;  
Who intimately lives with rain.  
Poems are made by fools like me,  
But only God can make a tree.

(By Joyce Kilmer)