



# Vytis - The Knight

January-February/sausis-vasaris, 2006  
Vol. 92 - No. 1

## Contents - Turinys

1 <sup>st</sup> Vice President's Note .....	22
93 <sup>rd</sup> National Convention Information .....	15
All Souls Day commemorated in Pittsburgh, PA .....	21
District and Council News.....	26
Early Lithuanian American Political Activism and the Lithuanian American Brigade .....	10
Greetings.....	5
Honorary Membership Committee Message.....	14
In Memoriam .....	31
K of L Calendar .....	Back Cover
K of L Foundation Essay Contest Winning Essay.....	7
Lithuanian Knowledge Contest..	25
Lithuanian Poetry .....	25
Lithuanian Recipes .....	23
Lithuanians in the News .....	6
President's Message .....	3
Ritual Committee Message .....	14
Solidarity and Sajudis, and more on solidarity between Poles and Lithuanians .....	19
Thank You to Lietuvių Fondas.....	4
Trustees' Message .....	6
Vytis Helpful Notes .....	14
Vytis Staff Message.....	4
Writers Welcome .....	6

## Lietuvos Tautos Himnas Lithuanian National Anthem

By Dr. Vincas Kudirka

*Lietuva, tėvyne mūsų,  
tu didvyrių žeme!  
Iš praeities tavo sūnūs  
Te stiprybę semia.*

*Tegul tavo vaikai eina  
Vien takais dorybės,  
Tegul dirba tavo naudai  
Ir žmonių gerybei.*

*Tegul saulė Lietuvos  
Tamsumus prašalina  
Ir šviesa, ir tiesa  
Mūs žingsnius telydi.*

*Tegul meilė Lietuvos  
Dega mūsų širdyse.  
Vardan tos Lietuvos  
Vienybė težydi.*

*Lithuania, my homeland,  
land of heroes!  
Let your Sons draw  
strength from the past.*

*Let your children follow  
only the paths of virtue,  
working for the good of their  
native land and for all mankind.*

*Let the sun banish  
all darkness from Lithuania,  
with light and truth  
always guiding our steps.*

*Let the love of Lithuania  
burn in our hearts  
and for the sake of Lithuania  
let unity blossom.*

**LIETUVOS NEPRIKLAUSOMYBĖS DIENA!**  
**VASARIO 16**

**Vytis (The Knight)****JANUARY – FEBRUARY / sauisis – vasaris, 2006 Volume 92 No. 1**

**Knights of Lithuania  
Supreme Council  
Officers  
2005-2006**

**Spiritual Advisor**

Rev. Msgr. Joseph Anderlonis, STD, HM  
St. George Rectory  
3580 Salmon St.  
Philadelphia, PA 19134  
(215) 739-3102 Fax (215) 739-7217  
Mojoander@aol.com

**President**

Agnes V. Mickunas, HM  
333 Davis Ave.  
Mt. Ephraim, NJ 08059  
(856) 931-3306 Fax (509) 757-2696  
ja.mick@verizon.net

**1<sup>st</sup> Vice President**

Becky Pataki  
142 Forest St  
Kearny, NJ 07032  
(201) 955-1122  
Bxtrp97@yahoo.com

**2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President**

Sr. Johanna Marie Shainauskas, SSC  
6727 S. California Ave.  
Chicago, IL 60629  
Tel (773) 778-8211  
Fax (773) 925-8885  
jmshain3@yahoo.com

**3<sup>rd</sup> Vice President**

Andreja Deksnis  
3238 W 108<sup>th</sup> ST  
Chicago, IL 60655  
(773) 780-5565  
adeksnis@purdue.edu

**Recording Secretary**

Dolores Herbert  
5985 Jeannette St  
Philadelphia, PA 19128-1616  
(H) (215) 483-6460  
(C) (267) 971-8856  
doloresherbert@verizon.net

**Treasurer**

Bernice Avila, HM  
8 Tremont ST  
Albany, NY 12205  
(518) 459-5256  
Blaviza@worldnet.att.net

**Financial Secretary**

Ellie Nakrosis  
10 Park Avenue  
Kearny, NJ 07032  
Tel (201) 998-9641  
Fax (201) 997-9866  
Mocuite@aol.com

**Trustees**

Mary Beth Slakis  
18263 Murphy Circle  
Tinley Park, IL 60477-4780  
(708) 342-0193  
mslakis@sbcglobal.net

Joseph Stylus  
50 Oak Hollow Dr.  
Waterbury, CT 06708  
Tel/Fax (203) 574-2046  
jstiklius@msn.com

**Legal Advisor**

Saulius V. Kuprys  
Henchman, Donovan & Isakson  
150 S. Wicker Dr. #1050  
Chicago, IL 60606  
W (312) 346-5275

**VYTIS Editor**

Sr. Johanna Marie Shainauskas, SSC  
6727 S. California Ave.  
Chicago, IL 60629  
Tel (773) 778-8211  
Fax (773) 925-8885  
jmshain3@yahoo.com

**VYTIS Business Manager**

Robert A. Martin, Jr.  
3420 S. Lituania Ave  
Chicago, IL 60608  
Tel/fax: (773) 376-4779  
Amerlith1@aol.com

**Archives Chair.**

Francis Bumilla  
161 King Philip ST  
Raynham, MA 02767  
(508) 823-9325

**Lithuanian Language & Cultural Chair.**

Julia Schroder  
107 Stanley Drive  
Centereach, NY 11720  
Tel/Fax (631) 467-3747  
Jaschr1950@aol.com

**Lithuanian Affairs Chair**

Mildred Jagiella  
15104 Hancock  
Hebron, IN 46341  
(219) 996-6516,  
Mildred36j@yahoo.com

**Honorary Memb. Chair.**

Elinor Sluzas, HM  
4618 Cobblestone Drive  
Tipp City, OH 45371  
(937) 667.4568  
*Anna Klizas Wargo, H.M.*  
*Estelle Rogers, H.M.*  
*Bertha Stoskus, H.M.*  
*Rita Sussko, HM*

**Public Relations Chair**

Regina Juska-Svoba  
1594 Beaupre  
Madison Hts., MI 48071  
Tel (248) 547-2859  
Fax (248) 547-0982  
rjuskasvoba@cs.com

**Ritual Chair.**

Lee Moore  
126 High ST  
Clearfield, PA 16830  
(814) 765-8662  
*Lillian Greymas*  
*Georgianna Macke*  
*Rita Sussko, HM*  
*Clemencine Miller, HM*

**Scholarship Chair**

John Baltrus  
118 Vine Street  
Jefferson Hills, PA 15025  
(412) 233-2764  
jonaspb@verizon.net  
*Barbara Miller*  
*Antoinette Sakal*  
*Robert Damasauskas*  
*Ver. Bizinkauskas-Cote*

**Our Lady of Siluva Fund, Inc.**

Elinor Sluzas, HM  
4618 Cobblestone Drive  
Tipp City, OH 45371  
(937) 667.4568  
Website:  
www.ourladyofsiluva.com

**K of L Foundation, Inc.**

Pres. – Irene Ozalis  
2557 E Ontario ST  
Philadelphia, PA 19134  
(215) 426-6762  
ozalisgreymas@msn.com

**St. Casimir Guild, Inc.**

Pres. Anna Klizas-Wargo, HM  
125 S. Morris St.  
St. Clair, PA 17970  
(570) 429-0132  
akliz1@aol.com

**Aid to Lithuania, Inc.**

Pres. Regina Juska-Svoba  
1594 Beaupre  
Madison Hts., MI 48071  
Tel (248) 547-2859  
Fax (248) 547-0982  
rjuskasvoba@cs.com

**Send all Returns, Articles, District  
and Council News to:**

**VYTIS (THE KNIGHT)  
2601 W. Marquette Rd.  
Chicago, IL 60629-1817**

**Tel/fax:(773)778-9231  
Email: koflvytis@sbcglobal.net**

**Amber District**

Pres. Dianne Drumstas  
131 Federal Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19147  
(215) 271-9005

**Mid-America District**

Pres. – Robert A. Martin, Jr.  
3420 S. Lituania Ave  
Chicago, IL 60608  
Tel/fax: (773) 376-4779  
Amerlith1@aol.com

**Mid-Atlantic District**

Pres. Cathy Nakrosis  
747 Schuyler Ave.  
Kearny, NJ 07032  
(201) 997-3445  
smathyn@yahoo.com

**Mid-Central District**

Pres. Michael F. Petkus  
38 Woodsdale RD  
Dayton, OH 45404  
(937) 235-0341  
mike.petkus@cityofdayton.org

**New England District**

Pres. Vivian M. Rodgers  
53 Houghton Street  
Worcester, MA 01604-3821  
(508) 799-5286  
Mociuteviv@aol.com



Cover Photo: Gediminas Tower,  
Vilnius, Lithuania  
by Theresa Strolia, C-157

**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.**

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Members,

It was with deep regret that I had to accept the resignation of Sister Janine as Vytis Editor. Sister's appointment as Co-Vocation Director for the Sisters of Saint Casimir has added additional and important responsibilities to Sister's daily calendar. Sister Janine would have loved to continue as Vytis Editor but unfortunately we all must prioritize our tasks in order to successfully accomplish commitments that are vitally important to each of us.



We wish Sister Janine the very best in her new position for the Sisters of Saint Casimir congregation. Sister has done a terrific job as our Vytis Editor and we owe her a mountain of thanks and gratitude for all the work that she has done to insure a first class Vytis magazine. Sister Janine, we offer you our love and prayers.

In accordance with the Constitution I have appointed Sister Johanna Shainauskas as Vytis Editor. Sister has graciously accepted this appointment. Also, I have appointed Robert Martin as Business Manager who has also accepted this position with the Vytis. Both are dedicated Knights of Lithuania members and will work together to insure a Vytis magazine that will be a credit to our organization.

The Supreme Council made an important decision when we met in early December. Because of the very serious difficulties and problems we have been experiencing with the printing of our Vytis, after much careful thought, consideration and a thorough investigation, we have made arrangements with Russ' Print Shop of Hebron, Indiana to print our magazine beginning with the Christmas issue. Please be assured that this decision was not made easily.

I wish to sincerely thank and acknowledge Sister Janine, Sister Johanna, Sister Stella, Rob Martin, Mary Beth Slakis and Cynthia Paskauskas who unselfishly pitched in and met the challenge of getting the Christmas issue mailed to you. This was a huge and time-consuming task. Mere words cannot adequately express to each of them just how very grateful we all are for their great personal undertaking for the Knights of Lithuania. Thank you – thank you!!!

One other important note – the Convention Hosts for our 93<sup>rd</sup> National Convention in Lake Buena Vista, Florida are working to make this a memorable Convention. Please plan to attend and join in both the business sessions and the socials that have been planned.

Please participate in events in your area that will be commemorating February 16<sup>th</sup> – Lithuanian Independence Day – an important date to remember in our Lithuanian history.

Vytiškai,

*Agnes V. Mickunas, H.M.*

Agnes V. Mickunas, H.M.

President

To our Fellow Knights:

All of us on your *Vytis* staff wish you all our best for a Healthy and Happy New Year. As we begin 2006, *Vytis* will be experiencing some changes.

First, we wish to join with our president in acknowledging the resignation of Sr. M. Janine Golubickas, SSC. Sr. Janine took the reigns of *Vytis* in 2000 and since then has led our staff with dignity, expertise, and a smiling face. Her departure from the staff is a great loss for all of us and she leaves behind shoes that will be hard to fill. All our thanks to Sister Janine for all her work on *Vytis* for these many years. As we move forward in to this new year we all look forward to the year ahead and the production of all the issues that will be coming out this year.

Second, we wish only the best for our dear old friends at Lithuanian Catholic Press and welcome our dear new friends at Russ' Print Shop, our new printer. Russ' staff is eager to work with us and together we're sure that *Vytis* will be first rate.

Lastly, we wish to thank the Supreme Council for putting their faith in us to publish *Vytis* for you. Again, we look forward to the year ahead.

Vytiškai,

*Sr. Johanna Marie Shainauskas, SSC – Editor*

*Robert A. Martin, Jr. – Business Manager*

*Mildred Jagiella – Council News Editor*

**Ačiū, Ačiū, Ačiū**

On behalf of the entire staff of  
Vytis – The Knight we wish to  
extend our sincerest thanks to

***Lietuvių Fondas***

for their generous grant  
to Vytis-The Knight.

Their support of our publication  
is deeply appreciated.



## *Council 3 Philadelphia*

*Wishes all Knights  
Laimingų Naujų Metų  
and  
asks God's blessings  
for the  
Knights of Lithuania  
in 2006*

***Knights of Lithuania  
Council 19, Pittsburgh, PA***

***Thanks for a great convention!***



***Linksmų Šv. Kalėdų ir  
Laimingų Naujų Metų!***



***Su Šventėmis!!  
Laimingų Naujų Metų!***

***Wishing all our fellow  
Knights a wonderful,  
healthy and prosperous  
New Year!***

***Council 7, Waterbury, CT***

## Lithuanians in the News



John Baltrus receives award from  
University President, Fr. Gabriel Zeis, T.O.R

John Baltrus, President of C-19, Pittsburgh and Chairman of the K of L Scholarship Committee, recently received the 2005 Distinguished Alumnus in Science Award from St. Francis University in Loretto, PA. during the university's Homecoming weekend. John was presented the award by the university's President, Fr. Gabriel Zeis, T.O.R., in recognition of his outstanding scientific achievements and service to scientific organizations. John is a research chemist at the U.S. Department of Energy's National Energy Technology Center in Pittsburgh. He received his B.S. in Chemistry from St. Francis College in 1980 and his Ph.D. from the University of Pittsburgh. He is a Fourth Degree Knight and has been a member of the organization since the early 1980s.

### **Calling all Interested National Convention Hosts**

It's never too early to start thinking about hosting a National Convention. As your Supreme Council Trustees we're calling out to all our councils and districts to begin thinking about hosting our 94<sup>th</sup> National Convention in 2007. If you're interested please contact one of us and we will be happy to answer any questions and send along the bid form to you. Looking forward to hearing from everyone.

Vytiškai,

**Mary Beth Slakis & Joe Stiklius**

Mary Beth Slakis  
18263 Murphy Circle  
Tinley Park, IL 60477-4780  
Tel. 1.708.342.0193  
mslakis@sbcglobal.net

Joseph Stiklius  
50 Oak Hollow Dr.  
Waterbury, CT 06708  
Tel/Fax 1.203.574.2046  
jstiklius@msn.com

### *Feature Writers Welcome!*

*Unleash the writer in you!*

You're Vytis Staff is looking for articles and stories that would be of interest to all our readers to print in Vytis. Please consider sending us your material.

Not sure what we're looking for? Some topics to think about include: A report on a special anniversary celebration, information on a council dinner or dance, etc.

## Knights of Lithuania Foundation, Inc.

### 2005 Essay Contest 2<sup>nd</sup> Place(tie) Winner by Rita Benius



Memories from July 1996 are forever etched into my mind because that's when I traveled to Lithuania with my daughter and husband to meet his family and visit the country of his heritage. As World War II was raging, his parents left Lithuania to live in the United States. The first time my husband went to visit Lithuania was just after it gained its independence. At that time he went by himself but when he went on a return visit five years later my daughter and I decided to join him for a vacation we'll always remember.

One of the main reasons our visit was so special was that despite the language barriers and cultural differences, we were treated very kindly and met with open arms everywhere we went. My husband's relatives happily showed us sites and shared many good meals in restaurants and in their homes. Each place we stayed was different but they all had one thing in common – people greeting us with warm welcomes and friendly smiles.

Arriving in Klaipeda by train from the capital city, Vilnius, one cousin and her two children greeted us with flowers and hugs, making us feel like visiting celebrities. We stayed with them in their high-rise apartment where they had a television, telephone, and other modern conveniences.

My husband has many relatives in Lithuania and we met most of them and their families, too. My daughter and I, who speak few Lithuanian words, had trouble communicating at times, but two cousins we stayed with spoke some English and helped translate. We visited many interesting museums, churches and beach areas – all rich with beauty and history.

One day the cousins brought us to an amazing site – the Hill of Crosses, a mound in the middle of a field covered with thousands of crosses and varying sizes and styles, made of everything from brittle sticks to shining gold, placed there by Lithuanians for many centuries. We happened to go to the Hill of Crosses just after the late Pope John Paul II had paid a visit where he left a beautiful cross with an inscription that thanked the Lithuanian people for the remarkable accomplishment of keeping their faith alive under all those years of communism.

While our trip to the Hill of Crosses left us in awe, the biggest impression left on us by our visit to Lithuania was the kindness of its people. I cannot forget the relatives we visited in a small farmhouse with a dirt floor and chickens running about. These cousins were poor but they had laid out a full meal of fresh vegetables and meats for us to enjoy and while we ate, the wife disappeared into another room and came back carrying a sparkling amber necklace that she gave me to take home as a special reminder of our family's unforgettable visit to Lithuania.



## ***Knight Life***



**Members of the Supreme Council and Family taking in the "Festival of Lights" at the Disney/MGM Studios while in Florida for the Supreme Council Meeting.**

Pictured L to R: Front: Regina Juska-Svoba, Rob Martin, Mary Beth Slakis, Diann Martin (Seated), Ellie Nakrosis, Arlene & Joe Stiklius, George and Ethel Zorn.



**Members of Council 112 talk with His Excellency Bishop Garcia-Stiller of the Archdiocese of Chicago during a meeting at the Nativity B.V.M. Parish Rectory.**

Pictured L to R: Ellie Kasputis, Julie Zakarka, Estelle Rogers, HM, Regina Juskaitis & Bishop Garcia-Stiller.



## ***Knight Life***



**Nativity B.V.M. Parish Staff poses with Chicago's Francis Cardinal George during a meeting at the Parish. Nativity is the home parish of Council 112.**

Pictured L. to R.: Bishop Garcia-Stiller, Rev. Anthony Markus, Pastor, His Emence Francis Cardinal George, Rev. Arvydas Žygas, Associate Pastor and Rev. Don Flens, personal secretary to the Cardinal.



**Chicago's Francis Cardinal George blesses the first of twenty-one boxes of children's clothing, toys, stuffed animals, games and school supplies destined for Lithuania's youth collected at the parish for Christmas. The collection was initiated by Chicago area members of the K of L with the blessings and encouragement of the parish's Pastor, Rev. Anthony Markus. The boxes were forwarded on to Lithuania via assistance from Sister Helen Ivanauskas and Lithuanian Children's Relief (LCR) in Brockton, MA. A huge thank you to all the parishioners of Nativity B.V.M. Parish who donated from their heart for this worthwhile cause.**

## EARLY LITHUANIAN AMERICAN POLITICAL ACTIVISM AND THE LITHUANIAN AMERICAN BRIGADE

By Henry L. Gaidis

To understand the nature of today's Lithuanian American political activities, one needs to have an understanding of how it has developed over the years. Lithuanian immigrants arriving in America during the latter part of the 19th century generally sought to settle in the same area where earlier arriving friends and relatives had established themselves. It was not long before these widely scattered clusters of small Lithuanian enclaves from Boston to Baltimore and from New York to Chicago began to establish their own religious and cultural organizations. By 1906, such small Lithuanian American organizations had established religious and fraternal societies to protect their members from financial problems stemming from unexpected unemployment, illness, and death.

Quickly coming to realize that there was strength in unity, these widely dispersed communities began to unite.

The first Lithuanian-American political conference took place on February 22, 1906, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. At this conference, one hundred sixty-nine representatives from across the nation gathered together and adopted resolutions calling for the introduction of a constitutional freedom for the individual in Lithuania. The Czarist Russian government was asked to grant political autonomy to Lithuania, establish a local parliament in Vilnius, grant political amnesty to the prosecuted, and to return historical and cultural seized treasures. At this conference, the widely diverse political leaning of its members became obvious with strong disagreements arising among those who supported liberal, nationalist, and socialist agendas. Though this conference produced few tangible results, it firmly established in the Lithuanian American community the need for some type of joint political organization.

World War I gave these fledgling Lithuanian American organizations the opportunity to show their unity and political strength. A second Lithuanian American National Convention convened on October 1 and 2, 1914, at Brooklyn, New York, to coordinate the various war relief programs for Lithuania. Though the established goal of war relief was supported by all, again, political disagreements came to the surface. Liberal and socialist representatives could not agree upon any concerted programs or actions which resulted in the social representatives withdrawing from the convention and establishing their own organization under the title Lithuanian Fund (Lietuvos Šelpimo Fondas). The following day, the remaining liberal and nationalist representatives formed the American Lithuanian National Party (Amerikos Lietuvių Tautiškoji Partija).

The name American Lithuanian National Party was quickly changed to the Lithuanian National League of America (Amerikos Lietuvių Tautinė Sandara) to give it a more American quality. The organization's adopted goals were the coordination of the various Lithuanian war relief programs and the establishment of a Lithuanian Information Bureau.

On February 10, 1915, the National Council (Tautos Taryba) was established in Chicago, Illinois, to further coordinate the joint Lithuanian American war assistance effort between the various Catholic, nationalist, and liberal organizations. By June 1915, the noted Lithuanian activist, Dr. Julius Jonas Bielskis, had established an information bureau in Washington, D.C. which was quickly disseminating information about the historical and existing political situation in Lithuania. A second office was soon established in Lausanne, Switzerland. The Lithuanian Information Bureau in Switzerland during the continued German occupation of Lithuania actually served as the unofficial Lithuanian Department of State for the newly established Republic of Lithuania for some time. Today the work of the Information Bureau of the National Council first established in Washington, D.C. continued to be done by Joint Baltic American National Council (JBANC) - a joint endeavor representing the Estonian American National Council, Inc., the American Latvian Association, Inc., and the Lithuanian American Council, Inc.

With the United States entry into World War I, some 30,000-50,000 Lithuanian Americans answered the call to the colors. These newly arriving immigrants and the children of recent immigrants served valiantly in the armed forces of their new country. Hundreds of newly arrived Lithuanian American immigrants died for their country, clearly

demonstrating their willingness to defend the nation that had accepted them in their hour of need.

With the Lithuanian Proclamation of Independence in Vilnius, on February 16, 1918, American Catholics and Nationalist quickly rallied in support for the new government. On March 13, 1919, twelve hundred delegates from various organizations representing some 700,000 American Lithuanians convened at the Third National Congress of Lithuanian-Americans in New York City, New York. They called for the United States to recognize the independence of Lithuania and formed an executive committee to meet with President Woodrow Wilson. That meeting took place on May 3, 1918, where the Congress' adopted resolution asking the President to permit a Lithuanian delegation to attend the planned Peace Conference was presented. To demonstrate their loyalty to the United States, Lithuanian Americans held 4th of July parades across the country where they called for "Each Lithuanian in the spirit of Vytautas and Kosciusko" to champion the cause of freedom for all nations. These early Lithuanian Americans then continued to coordinate their political efforts to gain support for the newly established Lithuanian government through petitions, donations, contribution drives, and the sale of bonds.

Realizing the importance of symbols, the Chicago National Convention, on June 9, 1918, voted to authorize and fund the construction of a Lithuanian American Liberty Bell. On the bell fashioned after the one that rang out liberty in Philadelphia in 1776, was cast a large Lithuanian historical Vytis emblem. The Lithuanian Liberty Bell thereafter toured Lithuanian American communities across the nation, helping to raise money and selling bonds in support of the Republic of Lithuania. The bell was later sent to Lithuania and installed in the belfry of the Vytautas the Great War Museum in Kaunas. Through the efforts of the Lithuanian American community \$1,800,000 in Lithuanian bonds were purchased. With the raised money, orphans were cared for, medical supplies provided, people fed, soldiers supplied, and the Lithuanian nation saved.

Several Lithuanian government officials thereafter acknowledged that without the financial and political assistance provided by the Lithuanian American community the newly established republic would have failed. From such war assistance efforts, the political activities of the Lithuanian American community continued to grow. In 1921, these early Lithuanian Americans displayed another example of political strength through a nation wide petition drive to help gain recognition of the Republic of Lithuania. This petition, containing over one million names, was presented to President Harding which directly led to the July 27, 1922 United States granting of de jure recognition to the Republic of Lithuania.

From these early political efforts, the Lithuanian American community established permanent political organizations that have evolved into the Lithuanian American Council, Inc. As a result, there were established organizations in America to come to the assistance of the Republic of Lithuania during the troubled 1920's and 1930's and championed its cause during the subsequent fifty years of Nazi and Soviet occupation.

The cited history of Lithuanian American political action is known to many of our senior citizens who actually made them happen. The author does not feel worthy to recount the glory of the deeds done by these early Lithuanian Americans. Still, the passage of time has faded their past glories and it is hoped that recounting their victories will enlighten and inspire our younger community members to follow in their tradition.

Although the history of early Lithuanian American political activism has been well documented, little is known about the direct military assistance these heroes gave to Lithuania during its struggle for independence in 1918-1919. Among the various fraternal societies established by the newly arriving Lithuanian immigrants were a number of organizations devoted to the preservation of Lithuanian history and seeking of Lithuanian independence. Organizations with a patriotic and military ideal included the Knights of Saint Casimir, the Knights of St. George, and the Knights of Lithuania and chapters could be found in most Lithuanian American communities across the nation. Such organizations instilled a feeling of dedication and were the catalyst in the movement.

With the establishment of the Republic of Lithuania, the nation was quickly engaged in an armed struggle for survival. Even before the German forces that had occupied the nation were withdrawn, the country had to defend itself against the military aggression of the White Czarist Russian Red Soviet Russian, and Polish forces trying to suppress the nation's existence. Though not widely known, the Lithuanian American community responded to

these threats by organizing paramilitary organizations that would go to Lithuania to take part in the struggle for Lithuanian independence. Among the proposals made and approved at various Lithuanian American conventions was the establishment of a 10,000 man Lithuanian American Brigade within the American Expeditionary force to serve in Lithuania in a similar fashion to American forces being sent to Russia.

Although there was much Lithuanian American support for this idea, the concept was opposed by the United States Department of State which was committed to supporting the Czarist Russian government which had been one of its allies during the First World War. Even though the Soviets had already overthrown the Czar, many government officials still hoped that the Czar could somehow be restored to the Russian throne. To appease those who called for Lithuanian support, Colonel E.J. Dawley, an American military advisor, was sent to Lithuania to review the situation. Upon his return, Colonel Dawley recommended that the Americans provide military aid to Lithuania; nothing tangible materialized. With the ever growing disappointment over the United States delay in providing assistance to the Republic of Lithuania, the Lithuanian American community began to take action into its own hands. To coordinate the effort to establish a Lithuanian American military force, Dr. Julius Bielskis was appointed the Inspector General of the proposed Brigade. Bielskis had previously served as the Director of the Lithuanian Information Bureau and served as the President of the Lithuanian National Council in Washington, D.C. from May 1917 to the end of 1919.

Manpower for the proposed brigade came from returning Lithuanian American World War I veterans who wanted to help in the defense of Lithuania. These men were proven combat veterans, fully trained and prepared for action. Many of these veterans began forming together upon their return to the United States in anticipation of returning to Lithuania and helping to liberate the nation from its oppressors. From small ad hoc groups several larger organizations evolved - the most notable being the Freedom Guards (*Laisvės Sargai*), the American Lithuanian Legion (*Amerikos Lietuvių Kareivių Susivienijimas*). In one published - May, 1919- account estimated that some 75,000 men were ready to go to Lithuania, though most historians estimate that an accurate number was probably somewhere in the 10,000 proposed range.

The following account concerning the Lithuanian American Brigade comes largely from an interview with Dr. Julius J. Bielskis by the noted historian Alfred Erich Senn that was published in *Lituanus Magazine*, Volume 21, No. 3, Fall 1975. The Lithuanian American Congress meeting in Baltimore, Maryland, in early 1919, appointed Bielskis as the chief organizer of the Freedom Guards. He immediately relinquished his position on the council and devoted his full time to the formation of a Lithuanian American Brigade. Bielskis was soon joined by Colonel William N. Swarthout, a volunteer American military officer who had been sent to the United States by Colonel Mykolas Gedgaudas in Paris to investigate the possibility of forming the proposed Brigade.

At that time, Bielskis estimated that approximately 10,000 volunteers were ready to go to Lithuania, but due to the existing political situation the U.S. government would not allow these soldiers to leave the country as a military force. As a result, a clandestine operation had to be developed by Bielskis and Swarthout for Brigade volunteers to leave the country traveling first to Canada as laborers and from there sail to Riga to join the Brigade in Lithuania. Under this plan, the recruitment and travel expenses of such volunteers were to be financed by the Lithuanians with some unpublicized indirect support from the U.S. government.

Upon their arrival in Lithuania, the volunteers were to then be formed into two infantry regiments, a technical regiment, a cavalry battalion, an artillery battery, an engineer battalion, consisting of 205 officers, 1,115 non-commissioned officers, and 4,600 soldiers and served as a unified unit. A Brigade staff contingent consisting of Colonel Swarthout, Major Oscar F. Newkirk, Captain Julius Bielskis, and Captain Vladas Lazdynas, traveled to Lithuania in the fall of 1919 to coordinate final travel for the volunteers and the establishment of the Brigade in Lithuania.

Though the American government continued to oppose the concept of a Lithuanian American Brigade going to the aid of Lithuania, a large number of volunteers had actually been formed and was ready to travel to Lithuania. These volunteers not only consisted of recent Lithuanian migrants, but Lithuanians born in America as well as a good number of non-Lithuanian Americans. Most of the volunteers served in the American military in World War I and were ready to fight and die to establish a free and democratic republic in Lithuania. Still, even with such willing

freedom fighters and the hard work of the leaders in the Lithuanian American community, the dream of a Lithuanian American Brigade did not come to fruition. Only a small number of those volunteering to serve in the Lithuanian American Brigade actually arrived in Lithuania.

Bielskis attributes the failure to form the proposed Lithuanian American Brigade not to the U.S. government, but directly to the opposition of Lithuanian Foreign Minister Augustinas Voldemaras. At that time, Voldemaras was engaged in a power struggle with President Antanas Smetona over the direction the nation was to travel. He was quite blunt when he met with representatives of the Lithuanian American Brigade. He thanked the Lithuanian Americans for their support of the Lithuanian cause, but demanded that the American Brigade volunteers not serve together as a single unit, but be broken up among existing units of the Lithuanian army. He refused to accept the position of the Brigade representatives that it not be broken up as its members were not all Lithuanians, did not speak the Lithuanian language, and were used to a completely different lifestyle than those now serving in the Lithuanian army. The Brigade's position that these volunteers serve together in a similar fashion as the American forces had served in France during the Great War was rejected by Voldemaras. Though the proposed Lithuanian American Brigade was supported by General Sylvestras Zukauskas, Colonel Antanas Merkys, and other high ranking officers, the Brigade failed to materialize through the stubbornness of one man. Voldemaras reportedly feared that the arrival of such a large number of Lithuanian Americans would jeopardize the position of native Lithuanians in the military and government.

As a result only about 500 of the Lithuanian American volunteers traveling alone arrived in Lithuania. These volunteers upon their arrival were disbursed among existing Lithuanian units, as desired by Voldemaras, but served Lithuania with great distinction. Several were decorated with the Cross of Vytis for their bravery in combat. Still one has to wonder if the proposed Lithuanian American Brigade would have changed history. Surely, such volunteers clearly demonstrated the conviction and will of the Lithuanian American community to help its ancestral homeland. Today, we can only speculate what if?

There is no doubt that the political will and financial support provided by these early Lithuanian Americans directly contributed to the successful establishment of the Republic of Lithuania. Their demonstrated action in providing information and education to the President of the United States and members of Congress eventually led to the United States to recognize and support the fledgling new government. These Lithuanian Americans did not then sit back and consider their job as done. They continued to provide both financial and political support to the Republic of Lithuania. These early heroes realized that if Lithuania were to survive it would require the ever continuing support of Lithuanian Americans. For this reason, Lithuanian Americans maintained their established political organizations which immediately came to the assistance of Lithuania when occupied by Soviet and Nazi forces. This efforts did not come cheaply, but these early Lithuanian Americans were more than willing to financially bear the burden of liberty.

Today, in the Lithuanian American community some have voiced that continued political activity is no longer needed. Lithuania has been re-established; the Soviet Union is gone, and all is well in Europe. This is faulty thinking that would have been immediately rejected by our forefathers.

We cannot assume that the Republic of Lithuania which was re-established in 1991 no longer needs the assistance of their Lithuanian American cousins. More than ever, the Republic of Lithuania needs the support of all Lithuanian Americans. Soviet Russian communism may be dead, but its evil political philosophies still exist. Russia proclaims to be a democracy; there is little doubt that the Russian Bear still fosters a lust for the Baltic States

Today, the Lithuanian American Council-through the political work done by the Joint Baltic American National Council (JBanc) is the most effective way to support the Republic of Lithuania. Over the years, JBANC has repeatedly demonstrated its ability to successfully represent Lithuanian American causes through its established liason with the White House and members of Congress.. Though the members of the Board of Directors of JBANC serve as unpaid volunteers, the operation of its office and nature of its work requires financial support. Lobbyists spend hundreds of thousands of dollars to have access to the President and members of Congress. JBANC does your work for pennies on the dollar and its proven success allows regular access to such individuals. Still the organization needs your continuing financial support. For this reason, I ask the Lithuanian American Council and all Americans to continue their financial support to JBANC which remains faithful to our past history and traditions.

*Please make a special note. .*

#### **FOURTH DEGREE APPLICATIONS**

The Supreme Council Ritual Committee requests that all applications for the Fourth Degree be submitted before May 1, 2006. Any received after that date will be held for the following year.

If anyone needs to get in touch with me between January 1 to April 1, 2006, please call: 1.561.242.0133 or write to:

Mrs. Lee Moore  
18 Easthampton A  
West Palm Beach, FL 33417

#### **HONORARY MEMBERSHIP CANDIDATE**

**Council 16** – Chicago, and the Mid-America District, under Secret Ballot, after reviewing the qualifications, approved that **ROBERT A. MARTIN, JR.** is a worthy candidate for Honorary Member consideration.

*Elinor Sluzas, HM Chairperson*

#### **VYTIS PUBLICATION DEADLINES:**

<b><u>Issue</u></b>	<b><u>Due Date</u></b>
Jan./Feb.	January 1 <sup>st</sup>
Mar./Apr.	March 1 <sup>st</sup>
May/Jun.	May 1 <sup>st</sup>
Jul./Aug.	July 1 <sup>st</sup>
Convention	September 1 <sup>st</sup>
Sep./Oct.	September 15 <sup>th</sup>
Nov./Dec.	November 1 <sup>st</sup>

#### **VYTIS reminders from the Editor**

Articles for *Vytis* should be sent composed and complete. We can edit, but cannot assume responsibility for composition, nor can we guarantee return of photos. Please be sure to include a PRINTED description with each photo, especially names. This will allow us to include a caption with names and events spelled correctly.

Your contributions are appreciated; however, articles from other newspapers and magazines cannot be used without permission. Should you find an article in another source that you feel our membership would enjoy or benefit from reading please send it along to us with proper written permission from its original source.

#### **PLEASE HELP US TO KEEP OUR COSTS DOWN.**

**If you leave your regular residence temporarily for the winter** (or otherwise), please inform Ellie Nakrosis, the National Financial Secretary. This will allow us to ship your issue to you without it being returned from the Post Office. When you are away, *Vytis* is not deliverable, we are charged first class mail rates for the return of undeliverable periodicals.

**If you move**, please inform your council financial secretary or president as soon as possible.

#### **Council Financial Secretaries**

You are responsible to **send official changes of address and death notices** of members of your Council to **Ellie Nakrosis, the National Financial Secretary**. Please forward this information on as soon as possible. **DO NOT SEND THIS TO THE VYTIS OFFICE.**

## 93<sup>rd</sup> National Convention Pre-Convention Tour Highlights



This information on the Holy Land Experience is borrowed from their website with our gratitude.

Below is some interesting information about this year's Pre-Convention Tour. If you'd like to attend please see the Convention Registration Form provided in this issue of Vytis.

### **The Experience**

*The Holy Land Experience* (opened Feb. 5, 2001) is a \$16 million, 15-acre "living, biblical history museum," recreating in elaborate and authentic detail the city of Jerusalem and its religious importance between the years 1450 B.C. and A.D. 66 (through the Old and New Testaments, from Genesis through Revelation). It is a total sensory experience that is educational, historical, theatrical, inspirational, and evangelistic, blending sights, sounds, and tastes that transport guests 7,000 miles away and 3,000 years back in time.

### **Its purpose is three-fold:**

- 1) To create a wholesome, family oriented, and educational facility where Christians can come to be encouraged and reinforced in their faith...
- 2) To create a "total immersion" experience that offers historical proof of the Bible and dynamically demonstrates that the Bible is "God's Word to man", and...
- 3) To lovingly share the message of the grace of God for sinful men, as demonstrated in the death, burial, and resurrection of His Son. From the moment that guests pass through the gates of the "walled city" of ancient Jerusalem and enter a bustling, authentic A.D. 66 Jerusalem street market, they embark on a journey that is unequalled anywhere in the world. They are able to see, touch, hear, and even taste the fascinating culture of the Holy Land in a world-class, living, Biblically-based museum.

### **The Journey**

*The Holy Land Experience* really begins when guests drive through the themed Roman-arch entrance and take their first look at the lushly landscaped grounds and the architectural transformation that has taken place in the heart of Florida's vacation wonderland. Giant date palms, some towering 30 feet over the "centuries-old" city, are interspersed with olive trees, Jerusalem Thorn trees used for the crown during Christ's crucifixion, Italian Cypress, pomegranate and fig trees, aloe plants (the oil from which was used to prepare the body of Jesus for entombment), acacia trees, oleanders, and a variety of unusual grasses that help to create an arid environment in specific areas.

### **Development & Design**

*The Holy Land Experience* is a development of Zion's Hope, a not-for-profit, non-denominational Christian ministry and educational organization headquartered in Orlando, Florida.

We hope that you will find *The Holy Land Experience* as interesting as we have and plan on joining us for the Pre-Convention Tour.



**Knights of Lithuania**  
**93<sup>rd</sup> National Convention**  
**August 3-6, 2006**  
**Host: Supreme Council**

Dear Members:

*This year we, the Knights of Lithuania, will be holding our 93<sup>rd</sup> National Convention in beautiful Lake Buena Vista, Florida from Thursday, August 3<sup>rd</sup> to Sunday, August 6<sup>th</sup>. Our convention hotel will be the wonderful Grosvenor Resort in the Walt Disney World® Resort, site of our memorable 2001 National Convention. We look forward to welcoming everyone once again to this magical family friendly location.*

*As we have in the past we will be once again sponsoring a convention program book. This annual convention keepsake is a great place to greet your dear old friends, welcome new ones and celebrate another great year for the Knights of Lithuania. We ask that you consider placing a greeting/ad in this year's program. What a great way to say labas to all your friends as they come together for another K of L Convention.*

*This year we are happy to announce that we will once again be able to keep the prices for these treasured greetings and ads the same as they have been for the last few years.*

*Hoping to be able to include your greeting in this year's convention program book.*

Vytiškai,

The 93<sup>rd</sup> National Convention Committee

_____ \$120.00 Full Page (8½" x 11")	_____ \$60.00 Half Page (8½" x 5 ½")	_____ \$30.00 Quarter Page (4¼" x 5 ½")
_____ \$15.00 Patron (3 Lines Only)	_____ \$5.00 Friend (Name & Council # Only)	

Please feel free to submit your ad on a separate piece of paper or use the space below for your copy and we'll set it up for you. (Camera-ready copy or computer files are always welcome.)

**DEADLINE FOR ADS: JUNE 30, 2006**

Write your copy here:

Make checks payable to: **Knights of Lithuania**

Mail greetings/ads with payment to:  
**Rob Martin, Program Book Chair**  
 3420 South Lituanica Avenue  
 Chicago, IL 60608-6720  
 1.773.376.4779 (Phone/Fax)  
 Amerlith1@aol.com (Email)

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---





**Knights of Lithuania**  
**93<sup>rd</sup> National Convention**  
**August 3-6, 2006**  
**Host: Supreme Council**

**CONVENTION REGISTRATION FORM**

(PLEASE PRINT)

First Name \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name \_\_\_\_\_ Council # \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Early Registration – By June 30<sup>th</sup>: \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$200 per person Amount \_\_\_\_\_

Late Registration – After July 1<sup>st</sup>: \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$230 per person Amount \_\_\_\_\_

Junior Registration – By June 30<sup>th</sup>: \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$100 per Junior Amount \_\_\_\_\_

Junior Registration – After July 1<sup>st</sup>: \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$115 per Junior Amount \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Junior: \_\_\_\_\_ Age of Junior: \_\_\_\_\_ Council #: \_\_\_\_\_  
 (Please put information for additional Juniors on a separate sheet.)

**Convention Registration Includes (For Adults):** Bus service for events as needed, Thursday Evening Get-Together at “Disney's Spirit of Aloha Dinner Show”, Friday and Saturday Morning Continental Breakfasts, Saturday evening banquet & Sunday Farewell Breakfast Buffet. (Special note: Please be advised that due to Church Mass Schedule our Convention Closing Mass on Sunday is scheduled for 1:30p.m.)

**Convention Registration Includes (For Juniors):** Includes all mentioned in Adult Registration and Junior Outing on Friday to Magic Kingdom Park from 9:00a.m. to 3:00p.m..

**Pre-Convention Activity: The Holy Land Experience**

Wednesday, August 2, 2006: Cost - \$45.00 per person / \$30.00 per Junior

Cost includes transportation to The Holy Land Experience, Entrance and Tour. Lunch is on your own while we are there. Please refer to the information on this unique activity on page 15 of this issue of Vytis.

Number of adult participants \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$45.00 Amount \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Junior participants \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$30.00 Amount \_\_\_\_\_

**Total amount enclosed (Registrations and Pre-Convention Activities) Amount \_\_\_\_\_**

Make checks payable to:  
**Knights of Lithuania**

Mail checks and completed registration forms to:

**Becky Pataki, Registration Chair**

**142 Forest St**

**Kearny, NJ 07032**

Phone: 1.201.955.1122 / Email: Bxtrp97@yahoo.com

**Convention Site:**

Grosvenor Resort

1850 Hotel Plaza Boulevard

Lake Buena Vista, FL 32830

Reservations: 1.800.624.4109

Rate Code: Knights of Lithuania

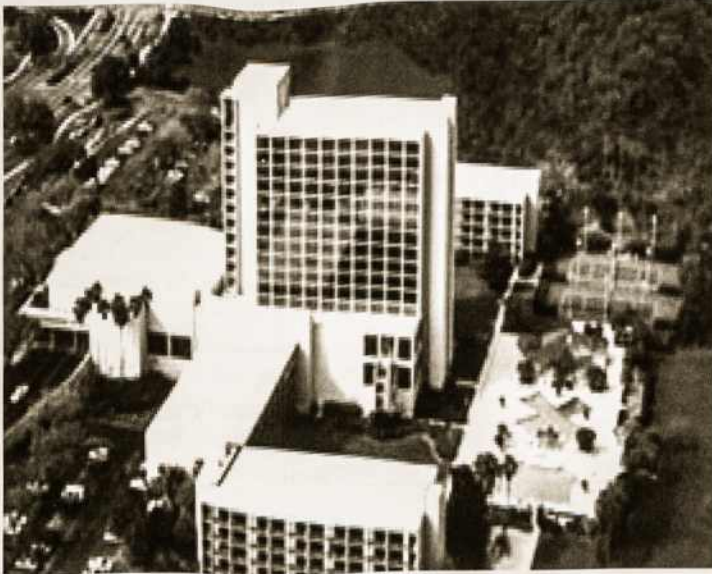
www.grosvenorresort.com

Room Rate: \$85.00 per night per room

(\$105.00 Approximate cost per room per night including taxes & fees)

Rate valid for reservations made through June 30<sup>th</sup>. After July 1<sup>st</sup> rooms and rate subject to availability. This rate is also available three days before and after the convention.

## 93<sup>rd</sup> National Convention Highlights about Our Hotel



Of all the Disney Resorts and hotels, the Grosvenor Resort has the most to offer your family. Enjoy an elegant stay and comfortable price in the Downtown Disney Resort area! The Grosvenor Resort houses 626 Guest Rooms and suites in a 19 story tower and twin wings. The spacious and comfortable lobby features an elegant British and Colonial interior design. Gracious amenities and extensive recreation facilities combine with full service for a great price value. Plenty of parking is included.



View from a Tower Room of Downtown Disney

### Tower Rooms

The Grosvenor Tower offers breathtaking panoramic views of the DOWNTOWN DISNEY® area and lush Florida landscape. Tower rooms have a traditional interior hotel hallway entrance. Each room is conveniently equipped with a 25" color television, radio-alarm clock, hair dryer, iron and ironing board, refrigerator, data ports, in-room safe and daily newspaper. Enjoy complimentary fresh-brewed international and regular coffee and teas daily in the comfort of your guest room.

*Special Note: This information is borrowed with our gratitude from the Grosvenor Hotel website for your information. Planning on attending the convention? Please consult the Convention Registration Form in this issue of Vytis.*



View of a Tower Room

## **Solidarity and Sajudis, and more on solidarity between Poles and Lithuanians**

by Dr. Michael Szporer

Dr. Michael Szporer is a Collegiate Professor of English and Communications at the University of Maryland University College and Founding Member of American Polish Advisory Council. This article is the written transcript of his speech given during the 2005 Lithuanian American Congress at the Sisters of Saint Casimir Motherhouse in Chicago, IL.

I should introduce myself as the person responsible for putting Vytautas Landsbergis behind the piano on the tenth anniversary of March 11<sup>th</sup> [when Lithuania first declared independence from USSR] at the Coolidge Auditorium of the Library of Congress in a premiere of the music of Mikolajus Ciurlionis.

### ***I. Solidarity and Sajudis: Differences and Cooperation***

Solidarity strike of August 1980 [and the sixteen months of freedom that followed] was a death blow to communism because after that the collapse of communism became more visible to the world if not inevitable—even to Soviet leaders [specifically Yuri Andropov].

Solidarity strike was a worker revolution, a grassroots movement—the vast majority was for the free trade union; the nationalist or social movement components were there but secondary. Solidarity's triumph involved about 750,000 workers in August, and well over a million by early September, mobilizing about half a nation of 20 million people—the largest strike in the world. Solidarity union registration exceeded ten million members—the largest union in the world.

One could add that high percentage of Solidarity leaders were repatriated from the Kresy—Borusewicz [Lithuania], Walentynowicz [Ukraine], Lis [Belarus]...

By contrast to Solidarity 1980, Sajudis was principally a nationalist movement, largely in reaction to the homogenizing Soviet identity. It was intellectual in character resembling KOR [some former party reformists, notably Jacek Kuron and Adam Michnik] or may be even better the nationalist Young Poland or ROPCiO.

Most of Sajudis leaders, like Landsbergis, emerged from the Jerozolimki group [around Valdas Vildjunas], or similar largely intellectual circles, which resembled the Polish flying university. The grassroots component in Lithuania [and really in much of the former Soviet union] came with mobilization of the masses around mainly national aspirations.

The fledgling Solidarity government in 1989-91 supported Vytautas Landsbergis where it could, particularly in helping to get Lithuanian Poles on the side of Lithuanian independence—for example in helping the Znad Willi group [Czeslaw Okinczyc and Romuald Mieczkowski]; about 40% Lithuanian Poles eventually did support independence. This was significant since there were strong overtures from Moscow, including a real oddity, [unimaginable to most Poles] the formation of Polish Soviet Republic [Soviet Deputy Jan Ciechanowicz—in Chicago?].

### ***II. Some misunderstanding between Lithuanians and Poles: Questions of point of view and Clarifying***

While I know that at the time Vytautas Landsbergis personally expected more from Poles [instant recognition], one must remember at the time Solidarity government under Tadeusz Mazowiecki government was weak and under a threat of a potential coup [second martial law]. Moreover, at the time Poland was negotiating Soviet troop withdrawal from its territories. One must recall that the first Polish government was negotiated and it was not until 1991, when Lech Walesa becomes president, does Solidarity consolidate power.

For Poles, the Kresy [Borderlands] was a taboo subject in communist Poland—Lithuania [of Czeslaw Milosz and Tadeusz Konwicki] a

reminiscence of different, free and independent Poland—not a wounded Soviet satellite state. After all Poland was the only victorious ally country of World War II [with 3<sup>rd</sup> largest army after USSR and US] that lost 20% of its territory—whose victorious troops were not allowed to march in the victory parade—and whose underground army fought the Soviets in a secret civil war.

For some postwar Lithuanians, Polish longing for the Kresy [Borderlands] was a vestige of imperialism—a misunderstanding to be sure—but an understandable one. It had to do with that PERSONAL UNION but it really goes back to Jozef Pilsudski and the taking of Vilnius as part of the Russo-Polish war—to force Lithuanians to join him and the Poles against the Soviets. It is seldom admitted but Jozef Pilsudski, one must remember, was a Zemitian, proud of his Lithuanian roots who often had problems with “znad wislanie” [Vistulans or Poles]. He often chastised them for their being too indecisive for his Lithuanian taste. Even general Lucjan Zeligowski wasn't sure what he was [a Russian, a Pole or a boy from just outside of Vilnius]. Quite simply he was a good example of a tutejszy [or local], eventually emerging into an identity. Most of his soldiers were similar, from Lithuania.

On the personal union [special relationship] between Poland and Lithuania, one does not really have to go way back to Jogaila [Jagiello] and Vytautas [Witold], or the 3<sup>rd</sup> of May Constitution or the Commonwealth of Two Nations. Audrius Butkevičius, Lithuania's first defense minister in the Landsbergis government, after much celebration admitted that he was a cousin of Colonel Butkiewicz who against orders General Lucjan Zeligowski orders decided to march on Kaunas during the pre-war Polish-Lithuanian conflict [part of the Russo-Polish war]. My friend Rasa Kulvieciute's family was executed in Katyn as Polish officers, and professor Vytautas

Landsbergis told me a similar story. Lithuanians at Katyn!

### **III: Returning to Normalcy, Ideals and Vision**

The personal union is quite personal even in recent history binding the two nations—and if today it has developed into a friendship, it is a tribute to stabilization of Europe's center. Lithuanian poet Thomas Venclova was right to call that center which is our homeland wounded, perhaps even psychologically. Consider the centuries old shifting of borders, the internecine conflicts. It all had an impact in shaping personalities, and yes even warping psychology. Only now, one might argue, with European and NATO solidarity Central Europe is returning to normal.

No one in my opinion understood Polish-Lithuanian solidarity—and central European Solidarity—better than my friend the late Stasys Sakalauskas, Lithuania's ambassador to the United States. On the day that Poland, Hungary and Czech Republic entered NATO, Stasys left me a voice mail message on an answering machine in Polish: “Long live the Commonwealth of Two Nations—and perhaps we should throw in Ukraine to correct Pilsudski's mistake.”

Stasys very obviously just joked [or as we say in America, joshed]; he was happy for the Central Europeans and wanted Lithuania in NATO. On a serious note, Stasys believed—that both Lithuania and Ukraine ought to be in NATO [and European Union]. Stasys was the diplomat brought Lithuania into NATO—stood at the forefront of that struggle here in America. No one better than Stasys understood that such solidarity secured stability and assured normalcy in that unstable region of shifting borders we call Central Europe, our homeland.

We really should bring Ukraine into the fold—and express our solidarity with those other Litvini [the Belarusians,] curtailing the reign of “the last dictator in Europe” “batka” Lukashenka.

## Stormy skies fail to deter Lithuanian-Americans Marking All Soul's Day

By Len Barcoucky

New faces joined veterans at St. Casimir's Cemetery in Whitehall, PA for an annual All Soul's Day commemoration.

About a dozen people from Pittsburgh Council 19 of the Knights of Lithuania and from the Lithuanian Citizens Society ignored rain and wind on November 6<sup>th</sup> to light a candle and say prayers in memory of friends and family members.



Ducking the rain drops were, from left, George Zelinskas, John Baltrus, Helen Girdis Zappa, John Kuncas, Linda Brown, Amy Peterson, Brian Pederson, Kathie Skalka and Violet Stanny. (Photo by Len Barcoucky)

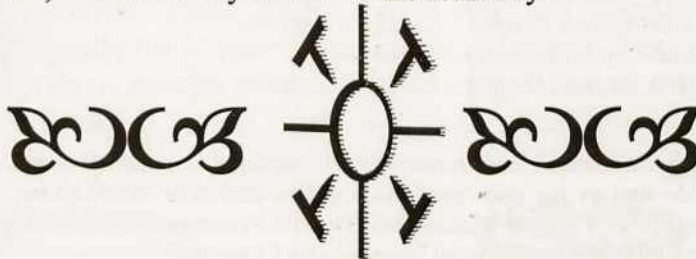


John Kuncas lights a candle to start the All Soul's Day commemoration at St. Casimir's Cemetery, Whitehall, PA. (Photo by Len Barcoucky)

Council 19 President, John Baltrus, led the service, with John Kuncas, Len Barcoucky and Amy Pederson, whose late father was Lithuanian, sharing the readings. The short program included prayers in both Lithuanian and English. As is the custom at the annual event, the names of all deceased Knights were read aloud.

Following several years of ideal weather, this year's commemoration was held on a wet afternoon. Rain poured down a few minutes before the service began, but halted just long enough for the "Our Father" and "Sveika Marija" to be recited.

Council 19 commemorates All Souls' Day, November 2<sup>nd</sup>, on the Sunday closest to the feast day.



## Supreme Council 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President's Report on Terms of Office for 2005-2006

In accordance with a resolution approved at the National Convention in Chicago, the 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President was directed to maintain a roster of all officers and committees. Names printed in bold will have fulfilled their maximum number of terms. Below is Vice-President Becky Pataki's report for 2005-2006:

### Officers

Spiritual Advisor – Rev. Msgr. Joseph Anderlonis, STD, HM – *Appointed by Lithuanian RC Priests League*

**President – Agnes V. Mickunas, HM – 3<sup>rd</sup> Term**

1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President – Becky Pataki – 1<sup>st</sup> Term

2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President – Sr. Johanna Marie Shainauskas, SSC – 1<sup>st</sup> Term

3<sup>rd</sup> Vice-President – Andrea Deksnis – 1<sup>st</sup> Term

Recording Secretary – Dolores Herbert – 1<sup>st</sup> Term

Treasurer – Bernice Aviza, HM – 1<sup>st</sup> Term

Financial Secretary – Elena Nakrosis – 1<sup>st</sup> Term

**Trustee – Mary Beth Slakis – 3<sup>rd</sup> Term**

**Trustee – Joseph Stiklius – 3<sup>rd</sup> Term**

### Scholarship: (Each member is elected to a 3 year term by their district.)

Barbara Miller, Amber District Rep. – Elected in 2004 – Current term expires 2007

Robert Damasauskas, Mid America District Rep. – Elected in 2005 – Current term expires in 2008

Antoinette Sakal, Mid-Atlantic District Rep. – Elected in 2005 – Current term expires 2008

**John Baltrus, Mid-Central District Rep. & Chair – Elected in 2003 – Current term expires 2006**

Veronica Bizinkauskas-Cote, New England District Rep. – Elected in 2004 – Current term expires 2007

### Ritual: (Each member is elected to a 3 year term by their district.)

Lillian Greymas, Amber District Rep. – Elected in 2005 – Current Term expires in 2008

**Georgianna Macke, Mid America District Rep. – Elected in 2003 – Current Term expires in 2006**

Rita Sussko, HM, Mid Atlantic District Rep. – Elected in 2004 – Current Term expires in 2007

Lee Moore, Mid Central District Rep. & Chair – Elected in 2004 - Current Term expires in 2007

Clem Miller, HM, New England District Rep. – Elected in 2005 – Current Term expires in 2008

### Honorary Membership: (Each member is elected to a 5 year term by their district.)

Anne Wargo, HM – Amber District Rep. – Elected in 2005 – Current term expires in 2010.

**Estelle Rogers, HM – Mid America District Rep. – Elected in 2004 – Current term expires 2006. (2 year term)**

Rita Sussko, HM – Mid Atlantic District Rep. – Elected in 2003. – Current term expires in 2008.

Elinor Sluzas, HM – Mid Central District Rep. & Chair – Elected in 2002 - Current term expires in 2007.

Bertha Stoskus, HM – New England District Rep. – Elected in 2003 – Current term expires in 2008.

### Other Committees (These committees, by our constitution have no term limitation set upon them.)

Archives Chair – Frances Bumila 3<sup>rd</sup> Term

Lithuanian Affairs Chair – Mildred Jagiella – 1<sup>st</sup> Term

Lithuanian Language & Cultural Chair – Julia Schroder – 2<sup>nd</sup> Term

Public Relations Chair – Regina Juska-Svoba – 3<sup>rd</sup> Term

### District Presidents (Each President is elected by their district following their individual district by-laws.)

Amber District – Dianne Drumstas

Mid-America District – Robert A. Martin, Jr.

Mid-Atlantic District – Catherine Nakrosis

Mid-Central District – Michael Petkus

New England District – Vivian Rodgers

Special Note: Please remember, all Supreme Council Members are elected for a one year term and may run for re-election as per our constitution unless otherwise stated there. Members are encouraged to consider running for office and should contact their District President if interested. Currently, the five district presidents comprise the members of the National Nominations Committee.



## Lithuanian Recipes



Cold winter weather got you down? Looking for something yummy to eat? Why not try one of the delicious suggestions below? We wish to thank the Sisters of St. Casimir for giving us permission to share these selections from their cookbook, "Jubilee Gems". Enjoy!

### **Raisin Twisted Bread (Rasinis Suktas Pyragas)**

From Mrs. Vera Paukstis

#### Ingredients

2 pkg. dry yeast  
2 c. milk (scalded)  
½ c. water  
½ lb. margarine  
1 c. raisins  
1 c. sugar  
4 eggs (well beaten)  
2 tsp. salt  
9 c. flour  
1 tsp. anise seed

#### Directions

Melt margarine in saucepan with milk to temperature of 130°. Pour over sugar, salt, raisins, anise seed in large bowl. Add 2 c. flour and dry yeast. Stir and keep temperature from 120°-130°. Dry rapid, yeast needs this temperature. Add beaten eggs, and the rest of the flour. Beat well. Let rise. When raised, the second time, form into 3 pieces and shape into 3 sausage shaped rolls. Braid the rolls and put them in 3 greased bread pans. Brush the tops with beaten egg mixed with 1 tsp. milk. Bake in 325° oven for 30 min.; at 350° for 30 min. more.

### **Barley Soup (Miežinių Kruopų Sriuba)**

From Mrs. Alice Sharko

#### Ingredients

2 qt. meat stock  
2 carrots (diced)  
1 stalk celery (chopped)  
2 potatoes (diced)  
Sour Cream (optional)  
6 oz. pearl barley  
1/3 c. mushrooms (optional)  
4 T. butter  
Salt and Pepper (to taste)

#### Directions

Wash the barley and cover with meat stock. Bring to boiling point and simmer until tender. Add the butter gradually. In the remaining stock boil the vegetables and mushrooms. Then add the cooked barley and season with salt and pepper. Add a few T. of sour cream if you want.

### **Pickled Beets (Rauginti Burokeliai)**

From Mrs. Vera Paukstis

#### Ingredients

2 c. water  
1 c. white vinegar  
2 tsp. salt  
Fresh beets (boiled, peeled and sliced)  
2 large onions (sliced)  
1 c. sugar  
1 T. pickling spices (tied in cheese cloth)

#### Directions

Blend ingredients and bring to a boil. Add cooked, sliced beets and onions and simmer gently for 15 min. Pack into clean hot jars. Note: Have enough stock while cooking to cover the beets.



### *Knight Life*



**Council 96 Annual Cemetery visit at the gravesite of Fr. Titas Narbutas & Fr. Vaclovas Katariskis**  
 Pictured: L to R: Erin Petkus, Anne Louise Tucker, Fran Petkus, HM, Mike Petkus, Elaine Pacovsky, Tommy Petkus, Helen Vaitkus, George & Frances Mikalauskas, Elinor Sluzas, Loretta & Henry Pant. Photo taken by Robert Petkus



**MCD Fall Convention/Pilgrimage – Detroit, MI**  
 Pictured: L to R: Patricia Zyren (C-102 President), Mike Petkus (MCD President) Della & John Zyren (C-102). Photo taken by Fran Petkus, HM.



### Test your Lithuanian Knowledge Contest

Our member, Bronius Krokys, suggested we might think about adding a little Lithuanian Trivia to the Vytis and we thought it was a great idea. So, below find our first five questions for this year. Play along for fun at home or if you'd like to enter our contest send your answers in by March 15<sup>th</sup> to play against your fellow members around the country. We'll keep track of your scores and report the top five scorers, the correct answers and the next five questions in the next issue. We'll announce the 2006 winner in the Jan./Feb. 2007 issue. The questions will appear in the six bi-monthly issues only. Play along and good luck.

1. Who wrote the Lithuanian National Anthem?
2. What colors make up the national flag of Lithuania and how are they arranged?
3. Who was the first president of Independent Lithuania?
4. Who was the first seated President of the United States to visit Lithuania?
5. What are the names of the regions of Lithuania?

There you have them. Remember, if you want to enter the contest you need to send your answers in by March 15<sup>th</sup> to Vytis – The Knight, Lithuanian Knowledge Contest, 2601 West Marquette Road, Chicago, IL 60629. Please be sure to include your name and council number.

As we commemorate Lithuania's Independence this February 16th, we thought you may enjoy this short poem in it's original Lithuanian accompanied by it's English translation.

#### Dieve, Lietuva Gink

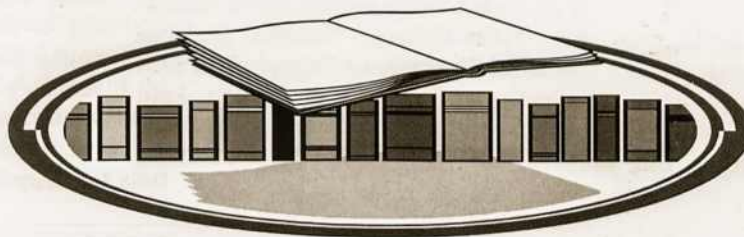
*Dieve, vargingaja Vargšei užsnūdusisiai  
Ir nelaimingaja Velei pabudusiai  
Lietuva gink! Laimę gamink.*

Išrašyta iš skaitymų knygos liaudies mokykloms "Mūsų Dirva." Knyga priguli prie I klasės mokinio Igno Urbanavičiaus maždaug (1920m.)

#### Defend Lithuania, O God

*O God, defend Arising from slumber,  
poor and prepare her  
opressed Lithuania. for blessings.*

This short poem was copied from a first class (grade) elementary reader commonly used in country schools around the 1920's.



## District & Council News

### Mid Central District C-25 Cleveland Ursula Kunsitis

2006 Council 25 officers are to be commended for taking on their positions for another year. A big THANK YOU to Theresa Capuria, Pres Richard Marks, VP; Dolly Oberaitis, Rec Sec; Cathy Kaczmarek, Fin Secy; Vyto Staskus, Treas; Ursula Kunsitis, Bulletin Secy and Vytis Corresp; Nellie Samas, Sunshine Comm; Jean Marks, Ritual Chm; Frank Joga, Lithuanian Affairs Chm; Ray Vanagas, Joe Ivoska, Trustees; Gene Kunsitis, Sgt-at-arms; Dick and Jean Marks, Coffee Hour Chm!

Vyto and Angela Staskus traveled to Pittsburgh to help celebrate a friend's birthday party, with over another 100 guests - sounds like great fun! From there, they journeyed on to Niagara-on-the-Lake and enjoyed the sights, musicals, plays, etc.

On Nov 13, Dick and Jean and Gene and Ursula took in the St. George Annual Fall Festival. This was Gene and my first time at this event and we were amazed at the great number of beautiful Chinese Raffle tables, delicious turkey dinner and luscious desserts. It is really unbelievable what a small crew can do. Congratulations to Fr. Joseph Bacevice and his "crew"!

We all wish Dolly Oberaitis' daughter, Emily, a good recovery after her recent surgery.

Congratulations to Nellie Samas on her newly acquired Honda Accord - Happy Driving!

Stay well to Joe Ivoska!

Our social member, Agnes Bartkus passed away on Nov 27. Dick Marks

led a prayer service at the funeral home and the funeral Mass was attended by Eleanor Bendokas, Gene and Ursula, Jean Marks, Dolly Oberaitis and Nellie Samas. Agnes had been a member for over 29 years and kept up her membership after her husband, Bruno, passed away 9 years ago. We all send our deepest sympathy to daughter Barbara Galuska, son, William, and to their families. Agnes was a loving grandmother of 7 and great grandmother of 6 and will be missed by all who knew her!

Best wishes to all our members for a happy and healthy 2006 and a special hello to John Andrulis, Helen Garnis, Vince and Marion Gray, Bill and Helen Jakubs, Charles and Nelda Machutas, Fran Franskevich, Rose Rew, Stella Sankal, Adelle Zupka Tanner, Helen Valley and Lillian Yurkovic. You are all in our thoughts and prayers!

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

The Fall of the year brings to mind District and Council elections for the 2005-2006 term and C-96 Dayton, OH, covered that area on Sept 25. Officers and committee chair for the council are the following:: Spiritual Advisor, Rev. Michael Holloran; Pres, Anne Louise Tucker; 1st VP, Robert H. Pant; 3rd VP, Christine Fletcher/Michael F. Petkus; Rec Sec, Mary Agnes Mikalauskas; Treas, Helen Vaitkus; Fin Sec, Frances Mikalauskas; Trustees, George A. Mikalauskas, Andrew Berczelly; Sgt-at-Arms, Robert D. Petkus. Committee chairs: Religious, Elinor Sluzas, HM; Lithuanian Affairs/Cultural/Recognition award, George Mikalauskas; Ritual, Frances Petkus, HM/Eloise Berczelly; Vytis/Council Bulletin Editor, Frances Petkus, HM;; Historian, Elena Mikalauskas;; Photographer/Parish Council/Sarysis Rep, Loretta Pant; Social/Condolence, Elaine Pacovsky; Ways and Means/Public Relations,

Mary Agnes Mikalauskas; Council By-Laws, Robert/Linda Pant/Frances Petkus, HM; Telephone squad, Joyce Berczelly. Congratulations one and all and much success in all your endeavors!

Sept 25 also saw members participating in our annual Mass for the living and deceased members of our council at 10:30 am at Holy Cross Church. Following Mass, Kristina Dambrauskas read the names of those members who are buried out of town - 16 in all. After Mass, we broke up into four groups heading to Calvary Cemetery where prayers, flowers, and moments of reminiscing were held at each member's gravesite - 54 in all. Flowers were taken care of by Fran Petkus, whose husband, Mike, started this council project over 50 years ago, and Judith Petrokas. Thanks go to the Mikalauskas', George and Frances Milauskas for having water for us as Mother Nature blessed us with a beautiful but very warm day. From the cemetery we headed back to the church hall for our Sept/Oct meeting and Election of Officers with pizza sponsored by the council; snacks by Anne Louise Tucker and dessert by Elaine Pacovsky.

On the weekend of Sept 30-Oct 2, council members Anne Louise Tucker, the Mikalauskas' George/Frances/Elena Elinor Sluzas and Fran/Michael Petkus headed to Detroit for the MCD Fall Convention/Pilgrimage. C-102 certainly made all the members and delegates feel most welcomed and they had plenty for us to eat, etc. The visit to Sweetest Heart of Mary Church was most inspiring with the beauty of the church. It was built in late 1800 with that wonderful austere feel of old European churches. The moderator had plenty of stories of the parish-good and bad- to share with us. Prior to the closing Mass for the weekend at St. Anthony's chapel, names of the deceased members in the district were read by a rep from each council. Members of C-96 who are on the MCD

Board are Pres. Michael F. Petkus; Rec sec. Frances Petkus, HM; Public Relations/Ad, Elinor Sluzas, HM; MCD Recognition award, George A. Mikalauskas. Many council members went home with lots of goodies from their raffle winnings! We can't thank C-102 enough for all their work in hosting this wonderful weekend!!

Our Four Parish Committee pulled together a 50/50's Dance, which in reality was a surprise birthday party for Fr. Michael Holloran's 50th birthday!!! Fr. Mike was once again surprised that so many people could keep a secret that long!

The Lithuanian Anglers of Holy Cross Church, of which many council members belong (men only), completely "sold out" at their annual homemade Turtle Soup and Kugelis Sale. Winners in their raffle from our council were Norma Petkus and Lauretta Pant !!!

Get well wishes go out to Paulette Petkus, our Louisville, KY, member.

Deepest sympathies are sent to Ann (Martinaitis) Gitzinger and her family on the loss of her husband, Wilfred (Bill). Bill and Ann have been members of the council for over 50 years. Bill was a First Degree Knight and supportive of the Knights. May he Rest in the Peace of the Lord!!!

### **New England District C-6 Hartford, CT Bette Ann Liudzius**

Whoever said, "October's bright blue weather", should have been here in CT the last few weeks. Many chilly, dreary and dismal rainy days did not put anyone in a mood to attend a meeting. Still, our members trudged through the mist and then patiently waited as the routine business agenda continued until....coffee started spewing out over the floor. Quickly, our Pres, Joe Stiklius

sprang into action, assisted by former council Pres, Gene Ziurys. Ed Balskus lent a helping hand and soon things were back to normal. Maybe poltergeists were at work to spice up the evening. Our hospitality hostesses-Irene Celinka, Judy Landers, Leona Sawka, and Kristina Serksnas and chairperson, Angela Balskus, quickly had more coffee brewing to quench our thirst after we had sampled the various goodies on the dessert table. Lately, they have been including fruit, but who can stay on a diet when tempted by all those homemade calories?

Father John Rikteraitis, who had been away at a retreat last meeting, opened the Nov one with his usual prayer. He asked God's blessing on our work so that we would cooperate with one another as a family. Beginning next month, Fr. John will teach us all the Lithuanian Mass responses as some third generation Lithuanians have difficulty with the pronunciation.

Perhaps we should enter our treasurer, Florence Grigas, into the Guinness Book of Records for having the shortest report. All she had to report was the interest on our bank balance - six cents! Fundraisers better be coming up soon.

Dalia Dzikas spoke about Lithuanian folk dancing. Of course, this is a subject dear to her heart as she is director of the Berzelis Dance Group. We learned that after Lithuania became free in 1918, there was a revived interest in folk culture. Material was gathered from the rural areas by students. What folk tales were told? What songs were sung during planting, harvesting, weaving, family celebrations, etc.? Many of the songs were made into dances. Now, the intricate, elaborate dances that we see at folk dance festivals have been choreographed for stage presentation but their basis is from the countryside of Lithuania.

Brian Daigle, chair of our annual

Friendship Breakfast nearly collapsed when our president said that it would be held from 6-9 AM. Sorry, Brian, technical error. Good luck on the fundraiser.

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

A joyful Mass of Thanksgiving and Celebration was held at St. Peter Lithuanian Church on Oct 23, 2005. Magr. Albert Contons and Pastor Fr. Stephen Zukas were the celebrants. The church overflowed with almost 300 parishoners. The liturgy and music and choir were uplifting. Many KofL C-17 members with the Friends of St. Peter Parish worked hard and helped and participated. Following Mass, Gloria Adomkaitis, who was the Overall Event Coordinator, delivered an emotional and enthusiastic talk. Msgr. Contons, Fr. Steve, and others gave short and inspiring talks. All were cheered and applauded by the parishoners who greatly appreciated their contributions and hard work.

It has been over one year that loyal parishoners banded together to work towards the victory of defending the need and keeping open St. Peter's. The Archbishop of Boston has reversed his decision to close St. Peter's (for the time being). Now is the time to look to the future and also to be vigilant. We must remain united, self-sufficient, and grow, in order to continue our survival as an active Lithuanian Catholic ministry in Boston and surrounding towns.

The bountiful luncheon that followed the Mass was graciously provided and served by the parishoners and Friends to an exuberant crowd. Aciu visiems!

Ilgiausiu Metu was sung at the C-17 meeting for members Albert and Elaine Kniupis who are celebrating their Sixtieth Wedding Anniversary! Also Laimingu Metu to Arnold and Patricia

Plevokas who are celebrating their Thirty third Wedding Anniversary. Valio! Valio!

Happy vacationing for Bill Olevitz, C-17 traveling Secretary, who went to Prague, Czechoslovakia.

Special daily morning Masses were held recently in Las Vegas, celebrated by our own Fr. Steve Zukas and Fr. Carr. This was for the comfort and inspiration of the Bull Rider competitors who were participating and risking their lives in the Annual Bull Riding Championship. Five countries took part: U.S., Canada, Brazil, Mexico and Australia.

Get well wishes go out to Robert Ruseckas, and also Betty Balukonis.

The Christmas season party this year will be Dec 3, featuring a Roast Beef Dinner catered by Gerard's. Children's socks, underthings, etc. will be donated to Lithuanian Children's Relief.

'Sveiki sulauke Sventu Kaledu!

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

The Nov 13, 2005 meeting of C-27 of Norwood, MA was held in our new location at St. Mary's, East Walpole. Despite our no longer having St. George Lithuanian R.C. Church of Norwood, our council - small as it is - is working diligently to stay together. We owe much praise and thanks to all who continue to stay with us. Particular thanks are due to our leaders, Carol and Charles Treciokas. They not only devote much time and energy to our own C-27 but travel and participate in the New England District meetings as well as helping at this year's National Convention.

Too, George Barton is always there to keep us on track and guide us. He has great knowledge of the true aims and

directions of our organization, the Knights of Lithuania.

We warmly greet and welcome our new members, Marcia Perednia and Jeff and Susan Padell. They have already made valuable contributions to our meetings. Sveikiname jumis.

Hopefully, year 2006 will bring ramybes, dauk dziauksmo ir laimes to our families and our fellow VYCIAI.

### **C-144 Anthracite, PA Ona**

Election of officers was held in November with Larry Domalakes, President; Florence Shimkus, VP; Ann Wargo, Secretary; Elsie Kosmisky, Financial Secretary; and Paul Domalakes, Treasurer. Committee heads were Joe Martunas, Lithuanian Affairs; Cultural, Meredith Domalakes; Humanitarian Aid, Bernice Mikatavage.

Installation of officers was held at Mass at St. Casimir's Church, Dec 12, followed by the Annual Kucios. Alice O'Donnell was chairperson; co-chair was Suzanne Domalakes. Once again, it was a beautiful affair. Evelyn Prep once again decorated the tables beautifully. President Larry Domalakes welcomed everyone and did the opening prayer as our Spiritual Director, Fr. Jankaitas, was incapacitated. Fr. Leibner, a retired priest, had the Mass and the installation in Church. He was unable to attend the Kucios. Singing of Lithuanian Christmas carols was led by Paul Domalakes. Our Cultural Chairperson, Meredith Domalakes gave an excellent presentation of Lithuanian Christmas customs. After the breaking of the plotkeles, a traditional Kucios dinner cooked by our members was served.

Following the dinner, the Junior Knights "Gintaras Dancers" sang Christmas carols and did several Lithuanian folk dances. What a pleasure it was to see these children.

Our Guest Speaker was Major Christopher Ferrara, a member of the Pennsylvania National Guard who spoke on the relationship between the Pennsylvania National Guard and the Lithuanian National Guard and the good relationship between both. It has done much to help Lithuania develop its military.

As this year ends, we look forward to 2006 being a better year for all. We wish our Brother and Sister Vyciai a Happy, Healthy and Prosperous New Year.

#### **Smiles without wrinkles**

Blessed are those who go around in circles for they shall be called Big Wheels.



Some open minds should be closed for repairs.



The advantage of exercising every day is that you die healthier.



Why do they lock gas-station restrooms? Are they afraid someone will clean them?



A man arrived home from work and was greeted at the door by his wife. "I have good news and bad news," she told him. "Give me the good news first," he said. "The air bag works!"

## *Knights Life*



**Council 143 President, Jean Kapochus Mihalick congratulates Nellie Bayoras Romanas on her Honorary Membership during the Council's Tri-Celebration.**



**Council 143 Happy over 80's Members during the Council's Tri-Celebration.**

Pictured L to R: Front: Celestine Swantkowski, Anna Walatkas, Marcella Bartoli, Marie Lauck, Nellie Bayoras Romanas. Standing: Ursula Danoski, Steve Soha, Marion Perks, Fr. Navy Kuman, Fr. Peter Alisauskas (Spiritual Advisor), Eleanor Bellanco, Genevieve Dajnowski and Anastasia Stanley.  
Not Pictured: Rosalie Kizis, Julia Atmonavage, Anna Davala, Frances Evans & Mary Timek.

## C-143, Pittston, PA Jean Mihalick

The Knights of Lithuania, Council 143 held a Triple Celebration by hosting a Tea Social on Sunday, July 10, 2005, following the 11:00 Mass at St. Casimir's Church Hall in Pittston. We celebrated our Silver Anniversary plus four.

In the summer of 1976, Rev. Anthony Jurgelaitis O.P. and Philip Skebeikis, from the Supreme Council, visited St. Casimir's to organize a Knights of Lithuania Organization. They, together with Father Peter Alisauskas organized the group in November 1976. The charter was granted.

Our first president was Mr. Peter Menchinsky, Vice President was Charles Dajnowski, Secretary, Dorothy Banos, Financial Secretary, and Nellie T. Bayoras: Treasurer, Grace Kazacavage: Spiritual Advisor Rev. Peter Alisauskas. Twenty nine years later, the group is still in existence.

The current officers for 2005 are: President, Jean Kapochus Mihalick, Vice President: Helen Mary Karpovich, Recording Secretary, Mary Pamela Smith: Financial Secretary: Martha Warnagiris, Treasurer, Mary Ann Cipolla: Public Relations: Clem Jasonis: Sergeant At Arms, Casimir Kizis Jr.

At the celebration on July 10<sup>th</sup>, we honored all members of our group who have reached the age of eighty or more. The honored guests were: Rev. Peter Alisauskas, Julia Atmonavage,

Marcella Bartoli, Eleanor Bellanco, Genevieve Dajnowski, Ursula Danoski, Anna Davala, Frances Evans, Rosalie Kizis (Now Deceased), Marie Lauck, Marion Perks, Nellie B. Romanas, Anna Marie Sewatsky, Steve Soha, Anastasia Stanley, Celestine Swantkowski, Mary Timek and Anna Walatkas.

The group was also honored to pay special tribute to their esteemed member, Nellie Bayoras Romanas. Congratulations were extended to her for receiving her Honorary Membership. The reception to honor Nellie for this prestigious award, had been delayed because Nellie had gotten a stroke shortly after she received this honor. She is recuperating and is doing much better at this time.

Father Peter Alisauskas gave the invocation. Monsignor John Bendik gave remarks. Fr. Navy Kumar, who had the honored members repeat the oath in church, also attended, as well as our special guest from C-3, who is now the Amber District and National Recording Secretary, Delores Herbert. Delores said a few words of congratulations to the group.

The committee worked very diligently in order to make this event a success. The hall was decorated beautifully, with Lithuanian colors. Yvonne Branas, once again worked her creative wonders. The invitations and the programs which she made were outstanding, As well as the beautiful sheet cake which she ordered and designed with the K of L Motif on it. On the committee were Peggy Yanklunas, Mary Ann Cipolla, Helen Karpovich, Clem Jasonis, Steve Soha, Genevieve Dajnowski, Ursula Danoski, Father Peter Alisauskas, Rosalie Kizis (now

deceased), Anastasia Stanley, Yvonne Branas, and Pam Smith and Jean Mihalick.

All the members served on the committee. They all contributed something towards the success of the celebration. Food and desserts and drinks (coffee, tea, and soda) were brought in by the members. Steve Soha, our right hand man made the coffee. He brought enough bagels and cream cheese for the entire assembly. He also made a bottle of vyritis and shared it with everybody. Pam Smith made the most delicious sandwiches, four different kind, some were made on colored bread. She wrapped them beautifully in colored plastic. Anastasia Stanley made a delicious punch. Mrs. Bartoli brought her famous sticky buns.

A special thanks to our volunteers who helped serve and prepare the tables with the food for this special occasion. They were Kelly Ann Larson, Janice Perfetto, and Christopher Larson. A special thanks to Jack Bartoli, for sharing his jokes, also for cutting the special cake. (All Lithuanians)

Please pray for our sick members, Anna Walatkas, Anna Marie Sewatsky, Mary Timek and Frances Evans.

It was a beautiful day for this Tri Celebration. The atmosphere was jovial and exciting, all present seemed to be enjoying themselves, especially those who were being honored. It was truly a success. Thank you St. Casimir.



## *In Memoriam – May They Rest In Peace*



### Council 1

*Edward Cominski – June 8, 2005*

### Council 5

*Loretta Grigaliunas – May 8, 2005*

### Council 10

*Helen N. Simkunas – November 27, 2005*

*Vincent Kulisanski – December 17, 2005*

*Robert A. Palūjilis – December 20, 2005*

### Council 12

*Nancy Bielskis – June 27, 1905*

### Council 19

*Andrew Rozger – November 23, 2005*

### Council 25

*Elizabeth August – May 8, 2005*

*Agnes Bartkus – November 27, 2005*

### Council 26

*Virginia Bloom – June 27, 1905*

*Helen Gillus – October 2005*

### Council 29

*Virginia Kaminskas – October 3, 2005*

### Council 50

*Leo Yanus – April 29, 2005*

*William Bachinsky – May 1, 2005*

*Evelyn Lepensky – August 1, 2005*

### Council 72

*Freda Hanson – March 12, 2005*

### Council 90

*Helen Grigaliunas – May 1, 2005*

### Council 96

*Annadel Miller – May 23, 2005*

*Ildefonsas Bucmys – September 2, 2005*

*Wilfred W. Gitzinger – October 9, 2005*

### Council 102

*Joseph Stark – June 26, 2005*

### Council 103

*Edward Guravskas – July 17, 2005*

### Council 109

*Vincent J. Dragunat – August 8, 2005*

*Starsy Wesey – October 13, 2005*

*Alexander Wesey – November 29, 2005*

### Council 110

*Brenda Razickas – September 2005*

*George W. Dagus – November 26, 2005*

### Council 112

*Vytautas Skucas – August 30, 2005*

*Bruce Neberieza – September 2005*

*Arnold Brazis – November 2005*

*Alda Dorcak – December 2005*

### Council 133

*Albert Audick – January 2005*

*Msgr. Algirdas Olsauskas – January 2005*

### Council 143

*MaryAnn Mihalick-Connor – March 27, 2005*

*Frances Shoppel – May 6, 2005*

*Rosalie Kizis – July 31, 2005*

### Council 144

*Joseph Dancho – June 27, 1905*

### Council 147

*Vladas Gelaziū – October 29, 2005*

### Council 152

*John Bodnevich – April 30, 2005*

*Helen Ceponis – July 12, 2005*

### Council 153

*Louis Stukas – July 2, 2005*

### Council 157

*John Maluska – May 24, 2005*

*Lucille Kazunas – July 4, 2005*

*Algis Liepinaitis – November 2005*

*Benedict J. Nauseda – November 14, 2005*

*Walter G. Tenclinger – December 2005*

*Vera Paukstis – December 24, 2005*



**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**  
**VYTIS – THE KNIGHT**  
 2601 West Marquette Road  
 Chicago, IL 60629-1817

**Periodicals**  
**Postage Paid at**  
**Chicago, IL**

543 P19 112  
 Dr. John & Ramune Rackauskas  
 PO BOX 143  
 BEVERLY SHORES IN 46301-0143

**❄ ❄ ❄ ❄ *Knights of Lithuania Calendar of Events* ❄ ❄ ❄ ❄**

**January 2006**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Happy New Year to One and All  
 21<sup>st</sup> Mid-America District Bowling

**February 2006**

- 4<sup>th</sup> Mid-America District 46<sup>th</sup> Annual Memories of Lithuania Banquet, Chicago, IL  
 12<sup>th</sup> Lithuanian American Council Lithuanian Independence Day Commemoration in Chicago, IL @ Maria High School Auditorium, California Ave & Marquette Rd.  
 14<sup>th</sup> Valentine's Day  
 16<sup>th</sup> Lithuanian Independence Day – Valio Lietuva!  
 18<sup>th</sup> Mid-America District Bowling  
 19<sup>th</sup> C-141 Lithuanian Independence Day Program – Starts at noon at St. George Church, 443 Park Ave., Bridgeport, CT. For additional information contact B. Schmidt.  
 20<sup>th</sup> President's Day

**March 2006**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Ash Wednesday  
 4<sup>th</sup> St. Casimir's Day  
 5<sup>th</sup> Mid-Atlantic District Spring Convention. Hosted by Council 29, Newark, NJ.  
 11<sup>th</sup> Mid-America District St. Casimir's Day Mass, Luncheon and Spring Meeting, Hosted by Council 157, Lemont, IL  
 12<sup>th</sup> Amber District Meeting, Hosted by C-63 Lehigh Valley  
 18<sup>th</sup> Mid-America District Bowling  
 19<sup>th</sup> C-141 St. Casimir's Day Celebration– Starts at noon at St. George Church, 443 Park Ave., Bridgeport, CT. For additional information contact B. Schmidt.

**April 2006**

- 9<sup>th</sup> Palm Sunday  
 16<sup>th</sup> Easter Sunday  
 22<sup>nd</sup> Mid-America District Bowling

**May 2006**

- 6<sup>th</sup> Supreme Council Meeting. Host: Council 3, Philadelphia, PA  
 14<sup>th</sup> Mother's Day  
 19<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> Mid-Central District Spring Meeting and Bowling Tournament. Host Council 25, Cleveland.  
 20<sup>th</sup> Mid-America District Bowling  
 29<sup>th</sup> Memorial Day

**June 2006**

- 14<sup>th</sup> Flag Day  
 18<sup>th</sup> Father's Day

**July 2006**

- 2<sup>nd</sup> 8<sup>th</sup> Lithuanian Song Festival in Chicago, IL. Check <http://lithuaniansongfest.org> for more information.  
 4<sup>th</sup> Independence Day – God Bless America!

**August 2006**

- 3<sup>rd</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> 93<sup>rd</sup> National Convention. Lake Buena Vista, Florida, hosted by your Supreme Council

**September 2006**

- 4<sup>th</sup> Labor Day  
 16<sup>th</sup> Mid-America District Bowling

**October 2006**

- 8<sup>th</sup> 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Commemoration Mass of the Our Lady of Siluva Chapel at the Basilica of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, DC.  
 9<sup>th</sup> Columbus Day  
 21<sup>st</sup> Mid-America District Bowling

**November 2006**

- 1<sup>st</sup> All Saint's Day  
 2<sup>nd</sup> All Soul's Day  
 11<sup>th</sup> Veteran's Day  
 18<sup>th</sup> Mid-America District Bowling  
 23<sup>rd</sup> Thanksgiving Day

**December 2006**

- 24<sup>th</sup> Christmas Eve  
 25<sup>th</sup> Christmas Day  
 31<sup>st</sup> New Year's Eve