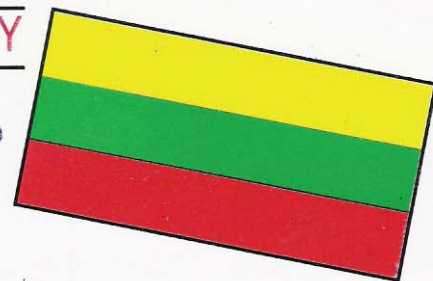


Newsletter



March 2007

EDITOR'S DESK

Get well wishes go out to Agnes Kuzin who recently broke her hip. Agnes is re-cooperating at home, and we hope to see her smiling face soon!

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Congratulations to the February 50-50 winner Don Martello. Don graciously donated his winnings back to the Society. If you recall, Don also won the January 50-50 and returned his winnings back to the Society. Thank you Don!

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The January 21, 2007, edition of the Pittsburgh Post Gazette discussed memories of the Mellon Arena during the past 46 years. Reference in the article was made to tennis pro Vitas Gerulaitis of the Pittsburgh Triangles who was known as the "Lithuanian Lion" for his flowing hair mane. Nice to see a reference to a famous Lithuanian associated with Pittsburgh.

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Nationality Room President Vince Rogers announced at the February meeting that the University of Pittsburgh Nationality Rooms have been designated by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania as a National Treasure.

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Happy 90th birthday to Sam Aleliunas! The January 2007 edition of the St. Casimir Alumni Association Newsletter featured an article on Sam celebrating the momentous event this past November. Congratulations Sam!

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The Winter 2007 edition of Duquesne University Magazine features an article on Sr. Margaret Carney, OSF, and President of St. Bonaventure University. Sr. Margaret had served eight years as general superior for the Sisters of St. Francis of the Providence of God in Whitehall. She is the second woman president of St. Bonaventure and the first to hold the job in a permanent capacity.

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The LCS Newsletter is always looking for stories of interest to the Lithuanian community. If you have one that you'd like to share, please contact Janet Petrauskas at 412-341-7925 or j_petrauskas@yahoo.com.

Vytautas J. Sliupas to speak at the March meeting and Independence Day Celebration

Vytautas Sliupas will be LCS's guest speaker at the March meeting which will commemorate Lithuanian Independence Day. Vytautas J. Sliupas, P.E., is President of Auksuciai Foundation for Agricultural and Forest Development, a non-profit organization promoting small scale Lithuanian farmers to become more self-sufficient and competitive in a free market economy. Following is a brief bio.

Vytautas J. Sliupas was born in Palanga in 1930. At the age of 6 with his parents, he visited the USA and Pittsburgh where his father had many friends. Vytautas remembers the Lithuanian Room at the University.

Sliupas moved to the USA in 1947. He is a graduate of the Illinois Institute of Technology (IIT) in Chicago, and holds an M.S. from the University of Wisconsin in Madison, WI.

While living in Chicago, he was very active in Lithuanian organizations including the Lithuanian Student Association, Lithuanian Student Scouts (Akademikai Skautai) one of the earliest organizers of Lithuanian scouts in Chicago, and the first leader of LITUANUS support group. He actively participated with articles in Sandara, Naujienos, Dirva, and Draugas.

Sliupas has had an illustrious career working in many countries around the globe. At the age of 55, he decided to retire and devote his time to Lithuanian causes. He worked with the Republican Party, until Pres. George Bush, Sr. procrastinated in recognizing Lithuania's Independence. In

1987, he organized the non-profit organization "Archyvas of Dr. Jonas Sliupas" - (which collects Lithuanian-American early publications, books and other memorabilia and by now has 408 donors). Then in 1997, organized the "Class Action Complaint Group to the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe (the Helsinki Commission)" trying to help Lithuanians recover their properties which were confiscated by the Soviets. He testified at the hearing of a U.S. Congressional Committee.

In 1997, together with a group of volunteers from the University of California, Davis, he created yet another non-profit organization, the "Auksuciai Foundation" Its purpose was to help small scale Lithuanian farmers learn modern farming techniques so they could compete in the European free market.

Vytautas frequently visits Lithuania. In the last 20 years, he has been there 32 times. Being non-political, he easily communicates with people of all political beliefs, whether they are "right-wing" or "left-wing". That way he can form an independent opinion of what is happening in Lithuania. He himself considers mostly being in the center.

Membership drive is on!

The membership drive is in full swing! Sign up your friends and family for membership with their fellow Pittsburgh Lithuanians. Membership is only \$15 per person for one-year.

Membership includes a one-year subscription to our monthly newsletter, monthly social meetings and gatherings, and many other great events.

If you join now through June 2007, your \$10 initiation fee will be waived.

For more information or an application, please see John Baltrus or Frank Ziukas.

Don't wait--JOIN TODAY!

Updating the LCS Newsletter Mailing List

The mailing list for our newsletter is being updated! If you are not a member of the Society, but still wish to receive the newsletter each month, please contact Frank Ziukas and indicate that you want to remain on the mailing list for 2007. **Your response must be received by March 15, 2007, or your name will be removed.**

Address your response to Lithuanian Citizens Society, ATTN: Frank Ziukas, 1725 Jane Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15203.



Volunteers Sought for LCS Committee

The Society received a fairly good response to last month's request for volunteers to staff the Society's various committees. One committee that could still use a few more volunteers is the **Facilities Use Committee**. This committee is charged with examining the possibility of using the Society's facilities to generate more income, primarily through rental of the buildings and grounds. The committee will examine the logistics involved with such rentals and help to determine whether they are feasible. If you would like to be a member of this committee, please contact John Baltrus at 412-233-2764 or president@pittsburghlithuanians.com.

Possible Volunteers needed for purchasing and delivering soft drinks

The Board of Directors has investigated the possibility of purchasing soft drinks, primarily for resale at the weekly bingos, from a source other than our current supplier. This could result in a significant financial savings to the organization. In order to be able to do this it will require finding someone willing to pick up and deliver to the Lithuanian Hall approximately 100 cases of pop five times per year. Because of the potential savings, the Board is willing to consider offers from interested individuals to do this for a nominal fee. Of course volunteers would be also welcome. Interested individuals should contact John Baltrus.

In order to move forward with this idea, it will also require that the Society purchase a double-wide pop cooler. If you know of someone who may be selling a used cooler in working order at a reasonable price, please contact John or one of the Board members.

Lithuanian Club Bingo

March 2007 Specials!

March 4 - Monthly Drawing:

>2 Drawings: 1 month and 6 months free admission

March 14 - \$15 Discount Nights

March 17 - Gift for all for St. Patrick's Day ♣

March 21 - \$15 discount night

\$1 off

COUPON

Valid March 2007

\$1 off

COUPON

Valid March 2007

\$1 off

COUPON

Valid March 2007

\$1 off

COUPON

Valid March 2007

Lithuanian Language Courses Offered in Michigan

The 22nd annual Lithuanian language courses at Camp Dainava, Manchester, Michigan will take place June 24 - July 1, 2007. These one-week intensive courses, operating under the auspices of the Lithuanian Educational Council of the USA, are designed for beginners, intermediate, and advanced students, or those just wishing to refresh their Lithuanian. The courses are taught by experienced instructors in vacation-like surroundings and atmosphere. There are no limitations regarding age or formal education.

For more information, please contact Vytautas Jonaitis, 1332 Sprucewood Dr. N.W., Grand Rapids, MI 49504, ph. 616-453-7549; email: vjonaitis@juno.com, or search the web for Dainava Language Courses.

Memories of Opening Day at the Country Club in Jefferson

Society Member Adelaide Chubis Kearney recalls the opening of the Lithuanian Country Club on Coal Valley Road and asks if any other Society Members remember the event. Adelaide's younger sister Dolores and Larry Marciulatis were Godmother and Godfather at that event. A few family names could be remembered but there were many more. Grebliunas, Puskinigas, Vitartis, Nauyokas, Pivaronis, Gedris, Salvolskis, and Stulginskis.

Pay your LCS Dues today!

Just a reminder that your 2007 yearly dues are due by March 31. The fee is just \$15 for the year and includes many benefits. Members that are late with their payments will lose their status of good standing and not be permitted to attend any Society Meetings. To avoid any penalty, promptly pay your dues today.

Send your remittance to: LCS, ATTN: Frank Ziaukas, 1726 Jane Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15203

John Eugene Waylonis

John Waylonis, 89, member of the Lithuanian Citizens' Society, died on Friday, February 2.

John is survived by his brothers, Dr. J. Robert Waylonis of Bethel Park, and Hon. Philip L. Waylonis of Valhalla, NY. He is also survived by 29 loving nieces and nephews.

May he rest in peace.

Lithuania Mulling Iraq Troop Withdrawal

VILNIUS, Lithuania — Lithuania is "seriously considering" withdrawing its 53 troops from Iraq, a government spokeswoman said.

Defense Ministry spokeswoman Ruta Apeitkyte told The Associated Press that the Baltic country was considering not replacing the contingent when its mission ends in August.

It was the first time that Lithuania, a staunch U.S. ally, indicated it would reduce its commitment in Iraq.

(Source: Foxnews.com 2/21/07)

Lithuanian Nationality Room Committee

Vince Rogers, President of the Nationality Room Committee, thanks all those who recently renewed their membership with the Lithuanian Room Committee of the University of Pittsburgh. Because of the recently membership drive, Vince said membership increased dramatically.

A new membership directory is in the process of being created for all members and will be distributed shortly.

Jane Blazaitis

Jane Blazaitis died on Friday, February 9. She is the wife of the late Barney P. Blazaitis, and sister of the late Mildred Yutz and Stanley Dansevich. She is survived by her son Charles, sister-in-law Anna Dansevich, nieces Charlene Schueler, Patricia Mauersburg, and Jane Dansevich.

May she rest in peace.

Lithuanian Citizens' Society of Western PA

President - John Baltrus

Vice President - Nancy Binkney

Recording Sec'y - Ausra Cunningham

Financial Sec'y - Frank Ziaukas

Treasurer - Greg Baurnes

Directors - Andrew Marculaitis,

Mathilda Milauskas, Janet Petrauskas,

Kathie Skalka, Halina Stabacinskiene, and Gerri Todd

Sergeant-at-Arms - Rose Carroll and Kastytis Vaicenasa

Newsletter - Janet Petrauskas

1010 Arch Avenue

Pittsburgh, PA 15234

412-341-7925

Future of Nuclear Power in Lithuania

by Vytautas Miselis

Unit 1 of the Ignalina Nuclear Power Plant (NPP), as per the established agreements with the European Union, was shut down on at the end of 2004. Closure of Unit 2 is scheduled for 2009. Since the Ignalina NPP produces more than 75% of Lithuania's electrical output, its closure would cause a major shift in the electrical demand and supply balance in the entire Baltic electrical system. However, governmental strategic energy programs specify that Lithuania will maintain the nuclear power option in its future energy mix.

Recently, a memorandum of understanding for conducting a feasibility study on building a new NPP was signed by the heads of three Baltic power companies: Lietuvos Energetika, Latvenergo and Esti Energia. In October 2006, a fact finding team consisting of A. S. Matelionis, General Director of Kauno Energia; and R. Bakas, Strategy department Head, Kauno Energia visited the Westinghouse Monroeville, PA offices. The choice of nuclear power technology and the relevant environmental aspects for the construction of the new Westinghouse NPP "AP 1000" were considered. In this effort, Vytautas Miselis facilitated the initial, pre-conference, contacts with Westinghouse. The photo (right) shows part of the conference participants at the Westinghouse offices in Monroeville.

Fire at Hill of Crosses

Part of the famous Hill of Crosses near Siauliai was ravaged by fire during the night of December 29, destroying or damaging several thousand wooden crosses, among them some very old and valuable ones. According to firefighters, the first devastated an area 50 square meters in size on the top of the hill. A passerby driving along with road saw the fire and called the fire department. It took 3 fire engines 45 minutes to extinguish the fire. Although the cause of the fire is still under investigation, it is believed that it started from a candle left by a visitor. Although it is prohibited by law, many of those who visit the hill, leave lighted candles in memory of their deceased relatives. The Bishop of Siauliai, Eugenijus Bartulis, said it is important to emphasize to people that there is no need to light candles on the hill, since it is not a cemetery but a place of prayer and meditation. The Hill of Crosses, which is located about 12 kilometers from the city of Siauliai, receives some 5,000 visitors a week. It is believed that it has over 200,000 crosses of every size. A lighted candle left on the hill caused a similar fire 8 years ago.

(Source: Lithuanian Heritage)



A new Westinghouse Nuclear Power Plant, the AP 1000 model designed in Monroeville, PA, may be in the future of Lithuania's energy mix. Some of the conference participants are shown with a model of the new AP 1000 reactor. Front row: Rimantas Bakas, Strategy Department Head – Kauno Energija (Rimas visited our society in 1993 when he was involved in the design of the AP 600 reactor as a guest engineer at Westinghouse) and Sigitas Matelionis, General Director – Kauno Energia. Second row - left side: Vytautas Mickus, Westinghouse (Vytautas is a new Society member and a Neris dancer); Ted Zimmermann, Westinghouse conference organizer. Second row - right side: Kastitis Vaicenas, Westinghouse (Kastitis is a Society member).

Father Francis P. Plantés 1920-2007

Father Francis P. Plantés, former longtime pastor of SS. Peter and Paul in Homestead, died February 13 at age 87. Fr. Plantés was born in North Braddock and was baptized in the former St. Isidore Lithuanian Parish in Braddock. He was the chaplain and member of the Knights of Lithuania, and a member of the Lithuanian Nationality Rooms of the University of Pittsburgh.

He was ordained in 1945 at St. Vincent Archabbey by Bishop Hugh Boyle.

Fr. Plantés served as parochial vicar at St. James in Sewickly from 1945-51, and St. Titus in Aliquippa from 1951-55 and as chaplain at Mayview State Hospital in Bridgeville from 1955-61.

He was pastor of SS. Peter and Paul in Homestead for 31 years from 1961-92, while also serving as administrator of St. Isidore in Braddock and St. Anthony in Homestead.

Fr. Plantés later served as parochial vicar at Our Lady of the Most Blessed Sacrament in Natrona Heights from 1992 until his retirement in 1996. He was a judge of the diocesan Tribunal from 1971-86, dean of the South East Deanery from 1977-83 and a member of the Knights of Columbus.

He is survived by his sister, Elizabeth Kodis of Los Alamos, NM.

May he rest in peace.

(Source: Pittsburgh Catholic 2/22/07)

Do you Remember the "Old South-Side" 1930-1940?

The following article was submitted by Adelaide Chubis Kearney who enjoys reading the newsletter and decided to submit an article to share with the membership. Thank you Adelaide!

Articles such as this are welcomed for publication. If you would like to submit a story, please contact Editor Janet Petrauskas at 412-341-7925.

Looking back on growing up on the now "yuppie" Southside during the 1930's, I can't help but wonder WHAT or WHO made it such a liveable part of the city. We had blocks of ethnic groups throughout. The Irish settled mainly on 30th Street near the Holy Cross Church. The German population on 28th and Sarah near St. Peter's, Serbians on 25th, and Slovaks around 19th with St. Matthew's nearby. The Polish lived close to St. Joseph's on South 18th Street. The Lithuanians between 19th and 23rd Streets with St. Casimir's on 21st and Sarah.

Speaking of Lithuanians, we had our share of businesses. A shoestore owned by Mr. Strawvinskis, jewelry store by Mr. Kraus, bar and restaurant run by the Young family and photographer, Mr. Petraitis. There were three meat markets owned by Lithuanians. John Chubis, my father, on 23rd and Carson, Joseph Packroznis on 25th and Sarah and Stanley Simon on 21st and Carson. During this time would you believe a woman ran a full-fledged bank? It was known as the "Polithania State Bank" (Polish-Lithuanian), run by Agatha Sutkaitis. We had two funeral homes: Marciulaitis on 21st and Carson and David Wenslovas I believe was on South 19th Street. Last but not least, and still growing strong on the Southside, is the T and T Hardware on 21st and Carson owned by the Tumas and Tamalaitis families.

March (Kovas) Birthdays Listed

Among members with March birthdays are: Robert F. Savinis, (1); Ruth Burdulis (2); Geraldine Todd (3); Joseph G. Rozman (5); Mary Tamy (8).

J. Raymond Sabo Jr. (9); Gladys Zimmerly (9); Janet McCloskey Carlisle (10); Jane Sipp (10); Paul Yucius (16).

Ruta Trakumiene (18); Frances Petkunas (19); Jerome Kavis (20); Gregory Baurnes (21); John Kaclik (24); Amy Pederson (26); Nancy Labuskes Hokaj (27).

Phyllis Russlan Poleski (27); Andrew Marculaitis (28); Joyce Ann Ruediger (28); Anthony Zusinas (20); Laima Spokauskiene (20).

Linksmų Gimtadienių!

New York, New York Playtime for Pitts- burgh Lithuanians



Nancy Binkney, Mildred Sukys, and Andrius Petrauskas took time out during their recent trip to New York City to catch the latest issue of the LCS Newsletter. Nancy and Mildred were visiting with their daughters Lisa and Janet, and grandchildren, Emily and Andrius, to see the Broadway show *The Lion King*. (photo by Janet Petrauskas.)

Attention All Readers of the LCS Newsletter!

We are in the process of updating our mailing records for the newsletter. Currently, we use the U.S. Postal Service returned mail service as indicators of undeliverable mail. Many newsletters are not deliverable due to "temporary absence."

In order to help reduce our costs, we ask that you notify Frank Ziaukas at 412-381-5502 when you will be away for a protracted period of time. Please indicate the date you are leaving, the date of your planned return, and any alternative address for mailing of the newsletter.

If the LCS receives **two** consecutive notices that there is a temporary absence, your name and address will be removed from the mailing list.

Sisters of Saint Casimir celebrate 100th Anniversary

The Sisters of Saint Casimir are celebrating the 100th anniversary of their founding this year. The congregation of Lithuanian nuns was established in Scranton, PA, in 1907 by Sister Maria Kaupas and co-foundresses, Sister Immaculata and Sister Concepta. In 1911, the Sisters established their Motherhouse and Novitiate

con't. next column

New York City Lithuanian Parish to Close

New York City Lithuanian Parish to Close

Our Lady of Vilnius parish in Manhattan has decided to close its doors. Located across from the entrance to the Holland Tunnel, the New York diocese has begun the process of closing the parish.

The parish was founded in 1905 as a national parish to serve Lithuanian Catholics then living in the New York metropolitan area. Such parishes were established around that time to serve the large number of immigrants from various countries by providing services in their native language and preserving their cultural and religious celebrations.

However, Sunday Mass attendance had decreased to its current number of approximately 100 people, and the Mass was celebrated in English, not Lithuanian. There were virtually no weddings or baptisms in the parish in recent years, the archdiocese said.

(Source: *Catholic New York*, 2/1/07)

Sisters Celebrate Anniversary

con't.

in Chicago. Their ministering included works of charity, the education of youth, nursing, care of the aged, and social work among the Lithuanian immigrants. More information about the Sisters of St. Casimir can be obtained at www.ssc2601.com. (Source: *Lithuanian Heritage*)

Every Sunday 12:30 to 1:00 p.m.

WEDO 810 AM

echoes98@hotmail.com

• Echoes of Lithuania

Sunday & Wednesday from 7 - 10 p.m.

• BINGO

Sunday, March 11 at 2 p.m.

• Members' Meeting

Thursday, March 8 at 5:30 p.m.

• Board of Directors Meeting

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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