



## August / September 2020 Newsletter

Hello, Labas, Happy Fall Dear Members and Friends,

As is now the routine (almost), we hope all are in good health, with no one ill with the virus and generally staying healthy and keeping their immune systems in top condition. I'm sure I echo many sentiments if I dare say we are sick of hearing of this virus and wish it would simply go away. We don't know if that will ever be one hundred percent the case, but we can certainly hope so. Never underestimate the power of prayer. On a more pleasant note, we hope that all got a chance to enjoy some of the nice yet hot days of summer and, that all survived the storms, power outages, and any other calamities that may have befallen one. Autumn is just about to commence and here's wishing things, all thing, get better. Enough is enough for this year of all the bad, time for some good!

This time, the newsletter is not a substitute for the meeting, but rather a companion, as we have been blessed with the opportunity to meet in person, for the first time since early March. What's that you say? Has it been that long? It certainly feels more like a year!. Thanks to Marlene Warren, our Council's energizer secretary, who arranged that we can do so, and thanks also to Fr. Aniello, for offering the use of the hall at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel. Though we may be forced to keep our social distances and our masks on, I certainly hope the chance to meet in person is fully utilized by all who wish to. Those who will not be in attendance will be able to read this literary marvel via email at their own leisure and catch up.

Speaking of emails, we hope ALL have been fervently following and perusing them as they receive them. I have been trying to do my honest best to do so also. Again, Marlene continues to surpass all expectations and keeps me, and hopefully all of you on the straight and narrow. Also, we have been receiving communications from Dave Boucher for NED business. Apparently, there will be no Fall District Convention, and there was talk of doing a Zoom meeting, but as of this writing no further developments.

On Monday, September 21<sup>st</sup> at 11 AM at St. Leo's Church, a funeral Mass for Doris Blinstrubas will be celebrated. Not sure if it is too late, but if you are planning on attending, please let Judy Vecchitto know.

In regards to our club building, after what seemed to be some action regarding the sale going forward, we have not heard anything since then. With autumn practically here, it would be nice to see something moving forward to finalize a sale. In conversing with Leon Farr, president of the Lithuanian Club, he was floating the idea of having a meeting in one way or another at some point in September. If so, perhaps further information is forthcoming. Otherwise, the grass was mowed in July before the drought and will be again soon. Ertic Bartkus has helped keep an eye on the property and also did a bit of cleanup of brush and such that was in the yard. Any appearance of activity lets it be known that the property is not abandoned. If anyone has extra garbage to put out let Eric know as the bins there are available and add to the visage that someone is looking out for the place.

Financial Secretary Linas Venclauskas has updated many records for our membership due to his initiative. If you are still sitting on the survey, please send it back or email him with any updates. It will help us have the latest information! Speaking of membership, we don't want to sound alarmed, but our ranks have been decimated. Please, talk to any who are of Lithuanian descent or uphold the values of the Knights of Lithuania and ask them to consider joining. Eventually we hope to return to doing the activities we used to at some level and seeing new faces would be most welcome.

Recently we emailed the K of L National Ritual secretary and copied the NED president about not hearing anything regarding 3<sup>rd</sup> degrees. As of this writing, we have yet to hear back on this matter. Our council has five members awaiting this high honor and normally this is done at the district level, but as we all know, that at present cannot be done. As soon as we hear anything, word will be passed along. Bob Orintas and Bill Stokes have tirelessly worked on this.

Normally, page two would list various events and reminders of happenings that our members might have an interest in participating or attending. Thanks to Covid 19, there is a dearth of activities, but keep your eyes and ears open and undoubtedly something will come up.

One such event is a fundraiser for the **Brooklyn Neighborhood Association**, which will be a tour of the historic **Riverside Cemetery** and the **Hall Memorial Chapel**, which will take place on **Saturday, October 17<sup>th</sup> at 1 PM**. This is a great opportunity to learn about both the cemetery and the chapel, help the neighborhood association and the Friends of the Riverside Cemetery, which is also fighting to preserve the historic chapel, which is in danger of being lost due to deterioration and structural issues which need to be remedied. Donation per person is \$ 10. For once, something to do, and a way to do something good!!

As of this moment, there is nothing else to report. We can only hope that as it gets later in the calendar, there may be news to include here about any event.

One item of interest that some may recall is the information we had passed along about **Adolfas Ramanauskas** or better known as "**Vanagas**", the Lithuanian freedom fighter and partisan who was born in New Britain. The Archdiocese of Hartford has granted permission to erect a plaque at St. Andrew's Church in New Britain commemorating this. As more news becomes available we will share it as there certainly will be a dedication ceremony and to honor this Lithuanian hero.

**The Hartford Lithuanian Radio program "Tėvynės Garsai"** or "Sounds of the Homeland", is heard every Sunday from **5 to 6 PM** over **WWUH 91.3 FM**, or the internet at [www.wwuh.org](http://www.wwuh.org). The show now has English segments along with the Lithuanian ones and a variety of music. You can even ask Alexa to play this station by stating the call letters. **Tune in and stay informed and entertained!**

Another **Lithuanian** radio program you may wish to tune in to is broadcast every Tuesday from **WPAT 930 AM** from **9 till 10 PM**. This is Greater New York's weekly program and is exclusively in Lithuanian. It can be listened to over Alexa or via the internet. The program is hosted by Giedre Kumpikaite. Thanks to Erik Bartkus for the heads up on this one.

Lastly, if these two sources of Lithuanian music and information leave something to be desired, there is the internet, where every Lithuanian radio station from Lithuania can be found. There are even apps one can put on their cellphone that have all of them under one listing. One touch and they're playing. The variety is incredible!

**Birthdays for August: Linas Balsys, Mary Blinstubas, Leon Farr, John Kazlauskas, Aliodija Moran, Lisabeth Mindera, Aldona Onalfo, Collette Shukis, Zita Smolskis, Fran Stiklus, Janet Stokes, Judy Vecchitto, Linas Venclauskas. September: Blanche Petkus, Marlene Shea, Marlene Warren. Many Happy Returns! Ilgiausią Metų !!** If I missed someone or erred, kindly let me know! If we do not have your birthday on file we can't announce it...

*Please pray for the souls of our deceased members. Pray for all members who are sick or infirm for a speedy recovery.*

If there is anything you would like to see in our newsletter or know of anything we missed or erred on **please let us know!** ***Follow your email for updates on all matters! Ačiū Labai !***

Vytiškai,

*Linas Balsys*

Linas Balsys  
President  
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*"Overcome evil with good"* Blessed Archbishop George Matulaitis

***P.S. We are in our 104th season!! Let's keep a good thing going!!***