



October 2020 Newsletter

Hello, Labas, Happy Halloween Dear Members and Friends,

Here we are, October, in some respects the grandest of all months, from the harvests, to the foliage, to those wonderful Indian summer days and crisp evenings, and yet a bit melancholy, as we approach the final two months of the year, with a lot of uncertainty in so many areas of our lives and what the future holds for us. Nowhere in my memory has any year been so full of upheaval and be this eventful, and yet at the same time uneventful, as alas, all of our usual activities that dotted our calendars were not there. Here's hoping that this edition of our communique finds one and all in good health with no maladies and infirmities and that we continue to put this virus, albeit slowly, behind us.

Yet again, this newsletter is not a substitute for our meeting, but rather a companion, as we have been blessed with the opportunity to meet in person, yet again!. And no, this time it isn't since March that we are meeting but only since September. We as a Council, wish to thank Fr. Aniello for graciously allowing the use of the hall at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel to hold our regular meeting. Thanks also to Marlene Warren, without whose help we couldn't manage all the irons in the fire. Though we don't have much business to discuss, we all certainly welcome the opportunity to meet in person, masks on, distances kept, and see each other's (presumably) smiling faces....

We hope all have been following the emails, though there have been fewer this month than otherwise recently. Our meeting minutes continue to be sent out this way so all can read them at their leisure and have a record of them whenever they wish to access. Last month's minutes had a link to a very interesting article written by Adolphe Bernotas about the Brooklyn neighborhood in concurrence with the Flood of 1955 that was published in the Waterbury Republican American. If you haven't read it, look it up and do so, as I'm sure it'll trigger a flood of memories (pun kind of intended).

An update regarding Janina Nawarskas is that as of recently she has been admitted to the Village at East Farms for continued care of her dementia. Thanks to Bob Orintas for the update, who in turn had received the news from Charles D'Angelo. Please keep her and Charles in your prayers.

There has been no news regarding the building on Green Street since last we met. Usually, the ever ebullient and loutish Leon Farr, President of the Lithuanian Club of Waterbury would give me a random shout to talk about a host of topics. Things have been unnervingly quiet. So, as to where it all stands at this point, I cannot even begin to entertain an update. Suffice it to say that it would be in everyone's best interest that a sale would be consummated in the very near future. Otherwise, Erik Bartkus, myself and Peter Verseckas try our honest best to keep a watchful eye on things.

Financial Secretary Linas Venclauskas has updated many records for our membership due to his initiative of the survey that was sent out and emailed. If you haven't done so, please review it and update it. If you misplaced it, ask to get another or contact Linas to review. Don't let it be like the census, where all of a sudden, it's too late. Also, please keep in mind candidates for membership to our Council and the K of L as an organization. Our ranks have thinned and it would behoove us to recruit any and all interested.

Regarding 3rd degrees, we have been awaiting any further word and sadly, all we hear is crickets. Nary a further word from either the NED President nor the National Ritual Chair. Her last suggestion was to forward those medals to our deserving members awaiting them but nothing since then. I will pursue it yet again, as it would be right and just to present these, again sooner than later.

Due to the virus, activities have been nearly non-existent, and because of continued uncertainties, the annual Kūčios Dinner hangs in limbo with doubts to it taking place. If so, it'll be the first time in about 15 years that it will not take place.

Yet another casualty of this very strange year that has befallen us. However, we as a Council may be able to plan something on a smaller scale along the lines of what we did last year. Our meeting will hopefully decide this.

On a brighter note, the fundraiser for the **Brooklyn Neighborhood Association**, which was a tour of the historic **Riverside Cemetery** and the **Hall Memorial Chapel**, which took place on **Saturday, October 17th at 1 PM**. What an enjoyable afternoon this was for a couple of hours with picture perfect weather, and an information and fact packed tour that benefitted the Brooklyn Neighborhood Association and the Riverside Cemetery Association. Never did I imagine that this would be so well attended! If you want more information as to their future events and updates, find their page on FaceBook or get a hold of Jerry Covino, president of the BNA, and you will be put in touch. By the way, many of our Council members took the opportunity to be a part of this. The funds raised by the BNA will go in part toward the park in Lisa Stokes Velez' memory. Thank you all!

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.

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. Due to the ongoing virus situation, the show has been just music but according to the program manager may soon return to its more normal format. You can even ask Alexa to play this station by stating the call letters. **Tune in and stay 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. They just recently celebrated their thousandth program!

Lastly, if these two sources of Lithuanian music and information leave you yearning for more, there is the internet, where every Lithuanian radio station from Lithuania can be found. There are even apps one can put on their smartphone that have all of them under one listing. One touch and they're playing. Ask me for more information if interested.

We have one copy of the Lithuanian History mentioned in the meeting minutes. Three copies went in a week! I have one book left at present. Let me know if interested and it can be yours for the bargain price of \$50, I can get more copies if more requests are received.

Birthdays for October: Roberta Jacovino, Marian Pelletier, Daniel Ulozas, John Warren, Gintas Zemaitatis. 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

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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!!