



Council 7 Waterbury

November 2021 Newsletter

Hello, Labas, Happy Thanksgiving, Dear Members and Friends,

Here we are, already November! Where oh where does the time go? In a few short days time, we will be celebrating Thanksgiving. Our sincerest wishes that the holiday find everyone well, and that all who wish to do so may celebrate it to the fullest with family, relatives, and friends. As we have mentioned before and will continue to do so while this never ending pandemic continues to plague us, we sincerely hope all are healthy and that no one is going through the illness or any other form of grief.

It used to be that I saved the first paragraph to talk about weather or what we needed to do at our building. Doing yardwork reminded me how we would get a group of volunteers together to rake and clean the yard at the club. No more of that for the foreseeable. Does anyone miss that? I won't hold my breath for the answer! Otherwise, the weather has been on our side throughout the fall, more so than in many years. Enjoy each day God grants us!

Thanks to the efforts of **Marlene Warren**, **Fran Stiklus** and **Vita Tumkus Ciullo**, we will be having a Christmas party and meeting after all. They researched a few different alternatives and put several suggestions on the table. It seems that Daveluys, where we have successfully had past affairs, raised prices beyond the pale. (I guess renovations cost money). There were a couple of other thoughts, but by chance we found out that the **Cafe on Congress**, whose cook is a friend of Marlene's, gave us an offer that we couldn't ignore. After a Zoom call between yours truly and the aforementioned officers and member, we decided unanimously to have our get together there, and in doing so, support a local business and remain in Brooklyn, close to home so to speak. For further information, please see the email with the flyer with information. Please, consider attending! Bring a future member! Honestly, I think we will have a great afternoon!

In the last year or more, I have brought up the name of **Adolfas Ramanauskas**, or **Vanagas**, at least a few times. To refresh your memory, this is the Lithuanian partisan that was born in New Britain, and then at a very young age, his family moved back to Lithuania, where fate led him to become the de facto leader of the Lithuanian resistance after World War 2. A while back, a plaque was obtained from Lithuanian sources, and was mounted in St. Andrew's Church. Finally, after a long wait, the plaque will be blessed and a ceremony of commemoration will take place. Save the date of Sunday, November 28th, directly after the 9 AM Mass, the ceremony shall commence. Invited guests and speakers will include the Consul General of Lithuania in New York, a general from the Lithuanian Army, possibly the Ambassador of Lithuania from Washington D.C.. Following the ceremony, the documentary produced by Vytautas Landsbergis, "*A Portrait of Vanagas*", will be shown, followed by coffee, refreshments, and fellowship with a chance to meet all. Please consider attending, there is no admission charge, and you'll be honoring one of the greatest heroes in recent Lithuanian history, whose roots are from our own state, and our own Lithuanian Community. A detailed announcement can be found in Facebook under Lithuanians in Connecticut, in both languages.

As we draw closer to Christmas and related celebrations, **Robert Orintas** has informed us that he has the Lithuanian Christmas wafers, or "*plotkeles*" available for purchase. As usual, an envelope of four will set you back a dollar. Get them while you can. He will have them at this meeting, and hopefully at other opportunities. Many thanks to him for continuing this timeless tradition.

In an email received from David Boucher, NED President, they are looking to set up a committee that would continue to explore and try to revitalize the Knights of Lithuania as an organization. The meetings would be held virtually. Anyone interested in joining please let one of us know and we'll get the ball rolling. Hopefully this is the first of many steps to bring us back and make us viable into the future.

As regards the building that we used to call home, there has been some action regarding certain matters, The St. Joseph's Finance Council met just a few days ago, and apparently the City of Waterbury is definitely pursuing plans to purchase the former school and convent building, Along those lines, Father Aniello has mentioned that a survey will be performed to carve out what land would remain with the building. Also, my second letter to the City, to Monroe Webster specifically, garnered a response and he has forwarded the email to David Lepore, who from what I can gather will be contacting yours truly to schedule a meeting regarding this survey and most importantly, the rear boundary and access to the parking lot of the school. If we receive notice of such meeting, even with short notice, we hope to be present and also perhaps draw an officer of the Lithuanian Club in to the discussions. On another note, the Lithuanian Club still has it's own issues to resolve, and we hope in general that all will turn out favorably for all parties involved, from the Lithuanian Club, to the parish, to the K of L, and lastly the City of Waterbury. Thanks goes out to **John Ambrozaitis**, who has done his best to keep all parties informed.

The Hartford Lithuanian Radio program " Tėvynės Garsai " or " Sounds of the Homeland " is heard Sundays 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 may soon return to its normal format. By the way, you can have **Alexa** play the program just 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 on **WPAT 930 AM** from **9 till 10 PM**. This is Greater New York's weekly program and only in Lithuanian. It can be heard via **Alexa** or the internet also.

Lastly, going on the internet or by using an app on a smartphone, one can find numerous sources for Lithuanian music and news from all over the globe! I even know of a program from Cleveland on Sunday mornings that is worth the while!

The **Brooklyn Neighborhood Association** is continuing their meetings via Zoom. Work has not only started but is progressing on the park that was long in the planning stages and will be named in part for Lisa Velez. The meetings are on the second Thursday of every month at 6:30. Contact **Jerry Covino** or myself for further information. Also, please follow **Riverside Cemetery** on Facebook or other sources. They are sincerely doing their best to turn things around at the cemetery and continue to seek assistance regarding the memorial chapel.

Birthdays for November: Ina Grove, Janina Nawarskas, Zaidre Petruskevicius, Priscilla Steponaitis, Anne Vaichus and Jonas Zemaitaitis. Happy Birthday!! Many Happy Returns! Ilgiausią Metų !! I will do my best to keep everyone mentioned in the newsletters as we go along. If I missed someone or erred, please let me know!

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

Council 7, Waterbury, CT

" Overcome evil with good " Blessed Archbishop George Matulaitis

P.S. We are in our 106th season!! Let's keep a good thing going!!