



Council 7 Waterbury

January 2022 Newsletter

Hello, Labas, Happy New Year, Dear Members and Friends,

This is one of the rare times I didn't write a December or Christmas newsletter and we went straight to January. The reasons are fairly obvious, as we held our Christmas get together shortly after our November meeting. We sincerely hope that everyone had a safe, joyous and blessed Christmas, and that the Grinch didn't take your presents, or Santa leave any coal in your stocking! More than anything, staying healthy is the best gift anyone can receive and hold on to. Trying times continue, but I as do most, hope that we truly are at the end of this plague that has beset us, both health wise and politically speaking. As hard as it may seem, life needs to be lived, as hardships yet again continue to be endured.

Thanks to the efforts of **Marlene Warren**, **Fran Stiklus** and **Vita Tumkus Ciullo**, we had a Christmas Party! And what a time apparently was had by all! Yes, that first sentence is a repeat of what was in the last newsletter except for the change from future to past tense. No meeting was held that day as the environment wouldn't have been conducive to such, seeing as it would have been difficult to speak over everyone and be heard. Apparently, everyone enjoyed themselves so much, that thought is being given to holding a future affair at the same venue, that being the **Cafe on Congress**. If there was any drawback, it was a small shortage of seating, but that aside, the coziness of it was enjoyed by all. Financially we did well also: after taking away all the expenses and such, our net gain for our treasury was \$55.00. The event was attended by 41 members and guests, which was more than we thought would be attending. As your Council president, I was thrilled to see that many of our members for once. Again, thanks to all who attended, and all who had a hand in helping out in any way in putting this together.

As a recap, at the event dedicating the plaque to **Adolfas Ramanauskas**, or **Vanagas**, which was held in New Britain's St. Andrews Church where he was baptized, was attended by an unexpectedly high number of guests on the Sunday of Thanksgiving weekend. I was asked to emcee that event, but had to decline as plans took me to Chicago that weekend. From what I gather it was very successful, even though the fate of the church at this time appears to be not good. As with many parishes, it is facing closure, as pastor, Father Smith is retiring and services are being consolidated.

In an email received from David Boucher, NED President, the K of L nationally is 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.

Regarding the next journal entry in the continuing saga regarding the building, after what seemed to be a glimmer of hope that something was finally going to move forward, all has gone quiet. Father Aniello continues to ask me if I've heard anything, and all I can say is no. I've not heard anything further from the City of Waterbury, and no meeting has materialized. The Lithuanian Club of Waterbury wants to throw in the towel in pursuing the purchase as they are facing a large expense in repairing the wall at the former club location, but many of us on the Board of Directors do not want to see that happen. We will continue to monitor the situation and will keep everyone informed as soon anything transpires. We shall reach out to the Mayor's office once more to see if the matter will start to move again.

Last Sunday, the **Waterbury Republican - American** published an editorial that had Lithuania and its stand on Taiwan and China in the spotlight. If you missed it, I will have a copy at the meeting and if members are interested, we can make copies. Factually it was spot on other than an error that we were part of St. Blaise Parish. I plan on writing them to thank them for the editorial on behalf of the Lithuanian Community of Waterbury as a whole.

Finally, regarding our annual **Lithuanian Mayor for the Day and Flag Raising** ceremonies, due to the ongoing Covid pandemic and situation, they are erring on the side of caution and not holding any such events. There was a suggestion from the Mayor's Office when Marlene Warren, our never tiring Council Secretary inquired, that if we wished, they would put out a Proclamation marking the day and the honoree. I expressed my opinion that until we can do the event in person, that we would wait. So as of now, it is on hold until such time the city deems it is ok to do so.

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 December: Jane Ambrozaitis, Vytautas Jankauskas, Valerie Rodgers, Arlene Stiklius, Valerie Wentworth. January: Rosemary Kasinskas, Robert Orintas, Suzanne Serva, Robert Steponaitis, Joe Stiklius, Geraldine Ulozas, Diane Whitehouse. 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. Pray to Blessed George Matulaitis for an end to this Covid pandemic and peace in the world.

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 107th season!! Let's keep a good thing going!!