



Council 7 Waterbury

April 2022 Newsletter

Hello, Labas, Happy Easter, Su Šventom Vėlykom, Dear Members and Friends,

Happy belated Easter to one and all, but fear not, as Lithuania also celebrates the Sunday after Easter as **Atvėlykis**, considered every bit as important in the calendar as Easter Sunday itself. In Lithuania, there is a second round of celebrating the season, and even as far as a second round of egg decorating and another bountiful feast and continued visiting of friends and relatives. So, in keeping with the season, **su Atvėlykų Sekmadienio!**

It is with great sadness that we remember **Collette Shukis**, a long time member of our Council, who passed away on March 24th. As a Council, we remembered her with the Knights of Lithuania ritual at her wake. I can honestly say that she was quite the character especially many years ago and wouldn't be afraid of letting you know where she stood on an issue. I actually found that out in person myself early on in my presidency of the council. But once differences were settled, a better friend could not be found. She will truly be missed by all who knew her, and those that didn't, well, you missed out. On behalf of all of us we extend our sincerest sympathies and prayers to her relatives. Lastly, we are also glad that she made it to our council Christmas Party, where she got a chance to see and talk with everyone.

Also, while writing this, word reached us that Barbara Kenausis' sister, **Anne Kenausis**, passed away Friday. Per the request of the family, there will be no wake or funeral Mass, only prayers at her burial, of which as of this writing I have no details. Thanks to Robert Orintas for the email relaying this information.

As mentioned previously, the **Revitalization Sub Committee**, which is the group discussing and proposing changes to the Knights of Lithuania organization nationally, has been meeting via Zoom. Of course, I left out that **Christian Allyn**, our youngest member and **Fran Stiklus** are a part of this, not just **Marlene Warren**, and **Linas Venclauskas**. If anyone is interested in helping out, please let any one of them know. The work this committee is doing is of highest import, as it pertains to the future of the **K of L!**

So apparently, one chapter in the book that was our former club rooms may be closing, and perhaps another may open. With all that I wrote last time, at our last meeting, Bob Orintas filled us in on what at that time, was impending regarding the sale of the buildings to Waterbury. The Archdiocese reversed course regarding our former home, and is including it in the sale to the City. There were also many other points brought up as to what may or may not happen. Lo and behold, after a lengthy period of quiet, the Waterbury Republican American woke everyone up with an article that a hearing regarding all this was taking place that very same evening. Several council members and parishioners attended, and most of us were upset more at the fact that the we read or heard about the sale not from within, but from elsewhere. The same group met with the Mayor several days later, and after lengthy discussions, we hold nothing against the city and the impending sale. There is the actual public hearing this Monday at City Hall in Aldermanic Chambers for those that may wish to go and speak. I for one, and only speaking for myself, do not want to see the sale get derailed at this point. Mayor O'Leary's vision, and the hopes that our late beloved member Lisa Stokes Velez had for Brooklyn, are hanging on this, as well as the future of St. Joseph Parish. What the Archdiocese will do after the sale, no one can predict, but our chances of survival appear better if all goes well. As for the building and the next chapter, we shall wait to see what conversations take place after all may be finalized.

Our annual **Lithuanian Mayor for the Day and Flag Raising Ceremonies** are scheduled to take place on Friday, **July 8th**, which is the date closest to King Mindaugas Day, and conducive to holding it outdoors. Rain date is a week later on **July 15th** should it be necessary. We not only need to decide who we shall honor, but how we can raise awareness and publicity for this event, and thereby, have a great event and get ourselves and Lithuania, noticed. This is most important in these critical and unbelievable times we are living in. Take one look as to what's happening in Ukraine.

Mark your calendars for **June 18th**, the date for our Council's **Spring Fling**, which will take place where our Christmas party did, the **Cafe on Congress, at 1 PM**. More details will shortly be finalized, and will be provided to all. If the last event was any indication, this one should be a roaring success and fun time too!

The Lithuanian Folk Dance group "**Berželis**" will be celebrating its **50th Anniversary** on **Saturday, May 21st, 6 PM**, Holy Trinity Church Hall, 53 Capital Avenue, Hartford. The program will feature the group, along with **Ruta Pakšaitė Cole** performing Lithuanian songs. Tickets are \$25 per person, and include the program and dinner. Please note, absolutely **NO** tickets will be sold at the door due to limited capacity and all ticket orders must be placed and paid for by **May 14th**. Yours truly will not only be part of the performing group, but is also your contact for ticket orders. My phone number is 203.241.3695 After a long dry spell of nothing to do, here's your chance. **Don't miss it!**

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. Since the pandemic, the show has been only music. 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.

Thanks to our member **Julija Minkunas**, here is yet another great **Lithuanian** program to listen to; **Sundays** from **8 till 10 AM**, over **WJCU** in Cleveland. Some parts are in English. Look for it on the internet or ask **Alexa** to play it.

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 Stokes Velez. The meetings are on the second **Thursday** of every month at **6:30 PM**. 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 April: Eleanor Barkauskas, Joseph Kasinskas, Anna Juraskas, Peter Verseckas. 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! I have no way to keep track unless someone corrects me!

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 for peace in the world. Pray for the people of Ukraine and for the people of Russia too.

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 !** Our next meeting will be on May 22nd.

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!!