



Council 7 Waterbury

May 2022 Newsletter

Hello, Labas, belated Happy Mothers Day, Happy upcoming Memorial Day, Dear Members and Friends,

Well, here it is May and finally, some true spring weather, if not a glimpse of summer, has happened upon us. What a welcome relief compared to all that cold, wind and otherwise dreary weather it seems we've been having for quite some time. Our hope is that allergy sufferers are doing ok, as this time of year is a bear in that realm. But so far it seems there's less green on the cars and ground than one usually notices. Perhaps the winds did us a favor of sorts.

Where oh where to begin... always plenty of things on our plate. Perhaps best to start off with our upcoming **Flag Raising and Mayor for the Day**. An important order of business is to determine who we shall honor. We didn't have an honoree last year, due to pandemic circumstances. Also, once we have a candidate, I have to ask one and all to come out and support the event, but also to do one's best to promote it to friends, fellow Lithuanians, and post the event on social media. If everyone does a little, a lot will get done! The date of this will be **Friday, July 8th, 10 AM**, the day closest to **King Mindaugas Day**, or Lithuanian Statehood Day, taking place at Waterbury City Hall. Rain date is Friday July 15th.

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. **Christian Allyn, Marlene Warren, Linas Venclauskas** and **Fran Stiklus** have been hard at work. The next task at hand is establishing a council Facebook page along with a website. If anyone is interested in helping out, please let any one of them know. The work this committee is doing is invaluable, as it pertains to the future of the **K of L**!

As of this writing, one lengthy chapter regarding St. Joseph Parish and our former home, has closed. After much pro and con discussion, public speaking by countless individuals, upset and concerned parishioners, several opinions and ideas, the Board of Aldermen voted last Monday to purchase the former St. Joseph's School building and Convent, and thrown into that was our former club building. As mentioned previously, once the sale goes through and is finalized, there will be opportunity to see what is next. Bob Orintas brought up a viable plan to proceed with at our last meeting, should the city be amenable to it. As it is, after touring the convent building, Mayor Neil O'Leary agreed to using the former chapel area for a possible Lithuanian heritage room, as the city has no use for that space and can separate it, entrance and exit wise, from the rest of the building. This will also preserve the windows there. So now we will await word and we are sure there will be much to discuss and iron out going forward. I have said this to many people; it is not a perfect victory, but certainly a far better solution for all at this point in time. The Archdiocese is out of the picture, and that was for many reasons, a stumbling block. Now, let's all do our best to bring people and former parishioners back to St. Joseph's, so that we remain viable and vibrant into the foreseeable future.

Mark your calendars for **June 18th**, the date for our Council's **Spring Fling**, which will take place at the **Cafe on Congress, at 1 PM**. The location is on Congress Avenue at the bottom of Washington Ave. Price per person will be \$20. All tickets must be bought in advance, with the deadline being Monday, June 13th. One raffle item per person only, and at least a non perishable food item donation for the St. Vincent DePaul Society. Keep your eyes peeled for the flyer, which will be emailed and sent out shortly. We expect that this event will be at least as fun filled as the last one here!

The Lithuanian Folk Dance group "**Berželis**" will be celebrating it's **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 Pakštaitė 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! And now for the bad and good news; No more tickets are available, as the event has sold out! Barring some last minute adjustment, if you don't have a ticket... You blew it! Sorry!

Last meeting, our member **Jonas Zemaitaitis**, gave an interesting presentation on the first few years of Lithuania's independence and the battles and struggles that they endured to establish both the country and the borders, as well as getting all the foreign armies and legions out of the country. **Juozas Karmuza** added how his father was one of those who fought in the fledgling Lithuanian Armed Forces during that very same time. We look forward to Jonas' next presentation!

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. Presently, the station is running their semi annual fund drive as they are non profit. If you can support the station, please visit their website, WWUH.org, and follow the instructions to donate. 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 now finally meeting in person again. This past Thursday they met at Duggan School. 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 are actively seeking donations to restore the bronze sculpture that was cut up and almost lost to vandalism and theft. Estimates are in the range of 30 thousand dollars to complete this task and save it for posterity.

Birthdays for May: Ellen Jarus Hanley. 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. Pray for the end of the insanity that seems to have overtaken the entire planet.

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 Saturday, **June 18th**, as part of the Spring Fling. Make plans to be a part of it!

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!!