House of Lithuania

House of Pacific Relations, International Cottages, Inc., Balboa Park, San Diego, California

November 14, 2009 – Lapkristis, 14, 2009 ***Newsletter –Žinios*** Volume 7, Issue 11

House of Lithuania

LITHUANIAN POTLUCK 1 P.M.

Monthly Meeting After Lunch

GUESTS WELCOME

Saturday, November 14, 2009

Allied Gardens Recreation Center

GARDENS ROOM

5155 Greenbriar Ave., San Diego

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For directions call
Julie-Meilute Benedict 619-507-7156, or
Francesca Williams 858-395-5168

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OPEN HOUSE IN BALBOA PARK

Sunday, November 22, is the House of Lithuania's turn to have the Public Open House at the Hall of Nations, which is located near the International Cottages, off President's Way. Video's of Lithuania and Lithuanian history will be shown from Noon to 4 p.m. It is a good opportunity to learn about Lithuania.

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Membership Information

For information about the House of Lithuania, please contact Francesca Williams, 858-395-5168 http://www.house-of-lithuania.org or visit the House of Pacific Relations site: http://www/sdhpr.org

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A HEAD TWIRLING HISTORY

VILNIUS - On Oct. 28, Lithuania celebrated the 70th anniversary of regaining its capital city, Vilnius in 1939. Officials and youth showed their joy.

Candles, small Polish flags with black ribbons were brought to Vilnius' Rasu Cemetery where the heart of Jozef Pilsudski, Poland's Inter-war leader, lay under a black granite slab since 1935. A short history follows:

Feb. 16, 1918, the Czarist armies were defeated and, Lithuania proclaimed its independence in Vilnius, capital of the ancient, multi-ethnic Lithuanian empire.

The July 12, 1920 peace treaty between Lithuania and Soviet Russia and the Oct. 7, 1920 truce treaty with Poland, allowed Vilnius to stay in Lithuania's hands.

Early October 1920, Pilsudski, of Lithuanian-origin, captured Vilnius. He wanted to recreate the Polish-Lithuanian confederation. A result was Lithuania and Poland had no diplomatic relations until 1938.

Aug. 23, 1939, Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact made Lithuania a satellite state of Germany. On September 1, 1939,Germany invaded Poland and encouraged Lithuania to attack and take Vilnius back. Instead, Lithuania proclaimed neutrality and gave refuge to thousands of Polish soldiers.

On Sept. 18, 1939, the USSR attacked Poland, and occupied Vilnius. On Sept. 28, 1939, Germany and the USSR readjusted the Molotov-Ribbentrop pact to transfer Lithuania to the USSR sphere of influence.

On Oct. 10, 1939, Lithuania concluded the Mutual Assistance Treaty with the USSR. Lithuania received Vilnius but was forced to allow Soviet military bases.

On Oct. 27, 1939, the Lithuanian army marched into Vilnius. However, the joy was short –

In June-July, 1940, the USSR occupied Lithuania.

On March 11, 1990, Lithuania re-established its independence from the USSR.>>*Excerpt Baltic Times*