House of Lithuania

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

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House of Lithuania

MONTHLY MEETING

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LITHUANIAN POTLUCK

Saturday, February 14, 2009

1 P.M. – 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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LITHUANIA'S
DAY OF COMMEMERATION
January 13, 1991
TELEVISION TOWER VICTIMS

VILNIUS - Prime Minister Andrius Kubilius said that the European Commission has for the first time urged Russia to cooperate in investigating the January 12, 1991 TV Tower incident where 14 people were shot dead or crushed by Soviet tanks that stormed the parliament and TV Tower. Thousands of unarmed people had confronted Soviet troops while Lithuania was battling to regain its independence.

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OPINION

Kermit says, it is not easy being green. Well, as an American, it is not easy being of Lithuanian heritage. As a school girl I had to learn to draw maps to show where in the world was Lithuania. My schoolmates never heard of it. And I had a funny name—Meilute—impossible for them to pronounce. As I grew, along side the new heritage of American history and customs, I learned of those of my parents –the amazing history of a small union of tribes that went out of the mashes of the Baltic to take over all of Eastern Europe, and then disappeared off the pages of history. Yes, I tell my friends, there were Crusaders in Lithuania, converting pagans to Christianity by the sword. Terrible devastation was done, and when the Swedes came, more devastation. Peoples from all over Europe and the Baltic tribes were encouraged to resettle the empty land.

Today in Lithuania, the many ethnic groups are encouraged to retain they languages and cultures, just as in America. Here we celebrate Cinco de Mayo, St Patrick's Day, and one does not have to be Mexican or Irish to enjoy the day. Though the history books of Western Europe may not include the rise and fall of the Lithuanian Empire it was there and as I honor the American Revolution I honor those days of the past that gave my parents their ideals. Through the House of Lithuania and its program of cultural outreach, I, for one, try to share the Lithuanian Heritage with all, in unison with the other Houses who share their own contributions to the community. –Julie Meilute Benedict
(born Meilute Galis Zilis)

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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