House of Lithuania

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

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HOUSE OF LITHUANIA

Saturday, February 13, 2010

POTLUCK AT 1 P.M. –

HoL meeting follows

Allied Gardens Recreation Center

GARDEN ROOM

5155 Greenbriar Ave., San Diego

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VISITORS WELCOME!!!

For directions call: 619-713-2713 or 619-507-7156

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DAYS NEVER TO BE FORGOTTEN

January 13 **The Martyrs at the Vilnius Television Tower in 1991**

February 18 **The signing in 1918 of the Act of Independence by the Resurrected Lithuanian State**

March 11 **In 1990 the Supreme Council of the Republic of Lithuania proclaimed new era of statehood**

July 6 **Crowning in 1253 of Mindaugas, as the one and only King of the new State of Lithuania**

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Information on the House of Lithuania

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http://www.sdhpr.org/Countries/Lithuania.htm

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A Commentary

LITHUANIA!
MAKING A PLACE IN THE WORLD

Does Lithuania have a good reputation in the world society, or in the United States? Often times it does not. Though no society is free of prejudice or cruel acts against others within their territories, the world dream has been of peace and acceptance of our differences, and makes use of these precious differences to better.

Lithuania has been in the world's view at least since the time of *The Canterbury Tales*, 1387 and 1400, which starts with a tale of a Knight back from fighting with the Prussian knights against **Lettow**. However, not all literary references are kind. A famous American poet wrote an unkindly tale of a Lithuanian Baron returning to the home of his peasant parents, incognito, to be killed by them for his money. Why was it written? Don't know!

Whether it be in comic strips, or groans from some European communities, Lithuanians are seen as picky, as stubborn, perhaps, thinking of themselves. Different!

Lithuanians lived for centuries in a multi-lingual, multi-ethnic, multi-religious association that history knows as the largest country at its time—the Grand Duchy of Lithuania. Ethnic Lithuanians (Lithuania Proper) were a small group in comparison to the other countries within the Grand Duchy.

For 750 years the Ashkenazi Jews lived in the GDL. From that group came the Litvaks (Lithuanian Jews). They created the towns; Lithuanians were peasants and warriors, not townspeople. These were Medieval times! Each group went its own way, side by side, but did not. necessarily share the same national enemies --. that being the weakness of an un-integrated, multi-ethnic society.

Currently I hear that in WWII, while ethnic Lithuanians fled the Russians, some Jews sided with the Russians and that is reason to distrust them. But in American we can live and work together, respect each other, even if we do not agree, and to share in common civic values.

–Julie-Meilute Benedict (Zilinskaite)

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