House of Lithuania

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

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VILNIUS TO BE EUROPEAN UNION'S CAPITAL OF CULTURE IN 2009

Lithuania is the first country among the new member states of the European Union (EU) to have its capital nominated for the European Capital of Culture status. Vilnius will share the honor with Vienna, Austria, the second City of Culture to serve in 2009.

The concept of the European Capitals of Culture was approved by the Council of EU Ministers in 1985,upon the initiative of Melinda Mercouri, then Greek Minister of Culture. A city is selected Capital of European Culture for one year and is provided with an opportunity to promote its own culture among nationals of other European Union countries. The outline of the "Vilnius - European Capital of Culture 2009"project was presented to the European Commission's Selection Panel in 2006.

The Lithuanian Ministry of Culture announced the main criteria of the European Capital of Culture program as:

- The program has to be based on the collaboration of European countries, to highlight richness and diversity and emphasize the common aspects of the European cultures.
- The program has to engage the population of the European Capital of Culture and of other countries and lead to lasting development of the city's cultural life.

The Year 2009 is an exceptional year for Lithuania, as it will also celebrate the Millennium of the first historical mention of Lithuania.

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For information about the House of Lithuania, please contact Julie Benedict, 619-507-7156 or visit http://houseoflithuania.org

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Meeting & Potluck

Saturday, January 13, 2006

1 P.M. – Allied Gardens Recreation Center /

GARDENS ROOM

5155 Greenbriar Ave., San Diego

HOUSE OF PACIFIC RELATIONS PROGRAM OF 2007 EVENTS DUE SHORTLY

The House of Pacific Relations, the umbrella entity for the International Cottages, with and without buildings, such a the House of Lithuania held its first House of Delegates meeting of the year on Sunday, January 7, 2007. The initial and primary responsibility of the new officers is the preparation of the schedule for Lawn Programs, given on each Sunday of month, except during the winter months. The House of Lithuania may possibly have ours around July 6, honoring the founding of the Lithuanian State in 1253 with the crowning of King Mindaugas (1203-1263).

An historical side note is that Mindaugas, known as Mindouh, in the history of Belarus, and as a member of the "heathen Litva tribe." Mindouh became a prince in Belarus, according to their history, and consolidated eastern Lithuania and western Belarusian territories into the Grand Duchy of Lithuania (GDL) and Rus.

History has many perspectives, even of a shared history.

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2007 MEMBERSHIP YEAR BEGINS

Dues for the Year 2007 are payable as of January 1St Annual dues are $10 for the opportunity to chat with Lithuanian-speakers or to learn, or share, something new about Lithuanian culture or history. Jack Murray, HoL Membership Chairman, will be collecting the dues and updating membership records.

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