

House of Lithuania

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

May 2005 – Gegužės 2005

Newsletter – Žinios

Volume 3, Issue 5

VE Day Remembered

In remembrance of VE day, President Bush recently visited the Baltic States, as well as the Republic of Georgia. While in Lithuania, Bush met with Lithuanian President Valdas Adamkus. Bush reaffirmed the United States' position that it never recognized the Soviet occupation of the Baltics.

VE Day through Lithuanian Eyes

On May 8, 1945, Europe rejoiced that World War II was over in Europe. Nazi Germany and Fascist Italy had been defeated, making the world a safer place.

Lithuanians, however, had little to celebrate. Nearly five years earlier, on June 15, 1940, Lithuania had been invaded and occupied by the U.S.S.R. While many European countries failed to recognize the U.S.S.R.'s occupation of the Baltic States, no one wanted to oppose the U.S.S.R. too loudly.

Lithuania remained a Soviet Republic through the Cold War until its independence was finally internationally recognized in 1991.

– F.W.



May – The Month of the Cuckoo

The month of May is synonymous with the cuckoo in Lithuania. Hence, the name for May is *Gegužės*, while “cuckoo” is *gegutė* or *gegužė*. It is in May that the cuckoo's calls return to the forest. The cuckoo's call indicates that cold weather is past and that it is safe to go barefoot.

May is for Picnics

In Lithuanian, the verb *gegužinti* comes from the word for May and means “to go on a picnic.” This is because May marks the beginning of the season for picnics. What is interesting about this word is that it has an equivalent in English. On May Day Eve, people would go “a-Maying” in the forest to gather flowers and greenery.

– F.W.

House of Lithuania will not participate in the Ethnic Food Fair

The House of Lithuania will not be participating in this year's Ethnic Food Fair. However, the fair will take place as scheduled on Sunday, May 30th.

The reason for the House of Lithuania's withdrawal is that several members will be attending a memorial that weekend for Tevina Benedict, who passed away earlier this month.

– F.W.

House of Lithuania UPCOMING EVENTS:

Meeting & Potluck

Saturday, May 14th

1 P.M. – Allied Gardens Recreation Center
5155 Greenbriar Ave., San Diego

Hall of Nations Hosting

Sunday, May 15th

12 P.M. – 4 P.M. – Hall of Nations
Balboa Park, San Diego

For information about the House of Lithuania, please contact Francesca Williams at (619) 654-9722 or visit <http://houseoflithuania.org>.