House of Lithuania

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

May 13, 2006 – Geguze 13, 2006 | ***Newsletter – Žinios*** | Volume 4, Issue 5

Lithuanian Word for May
"Cuckoo"

Geguzis (May) is the most beautiful month in Lithuania. Everything is sprouting, blooming and verdant. In the forest the call of the cuckoo (gegute or geguze) is heard. The bird is cherished by Lithuanians and gives the month its name. The cuckoo is a mysterious and magic bird. It is the harbinger of true spring. Until the cuckoo's call is heard, venturing outdoors in bare feet is dangerous even if the weather is warm because the earth underneath is still frozen and can cause ailments. The cuckoo's call dispels the last vestige of winter and ensures the cold is gone for good… [There are many folk beliefs] related to the cuckoo's return and call.

From Voras Internet Services, Ltd. http://lithuanian-american.org/educate/tradicijos/months.html

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ETHNIC FOOD FAIR

The House of Lithuania will be passing out "A Taste of Lithuania", better known by us as "saltibarsciai, at the House of Pacific Relations' annual multi-national Ethnic Food Fair. This, now regular Balboa Park event on Memorial Day weekend, will be held this year on May 28th. The concept of a multi-national food fair was the contribution of an early president of the House of Lithuania. Titus Samys, brought the event to San Diego, based on his experience in other ethnic communities, when he was President of the House of Pacific Relations in 1980-81. This year's event will be open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. We still need volunteers to assist in setup, service and teardown. Those interested in representing Lithuania are asked to contact Marianna Bacilla at 858-733-1504, evenings.

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

House of Lithuania

Meeting & Potluck
Saturday, May 13, 2006

1 P.M. – Allied Gardens Recreation Center /

GARDENS ROOM

5155 Greenbriar Ave., San Diego

OPEN HOUSE >o< BALBOA PARK
Sunday May 14th

The House of Lithuania will hold the second of its four 2006 Open Houses on Mothers' Day in the Hall of Nations in Balboa Park. Videos of Lithuania will be played from noon to 4 p.m. Members are encouraged to be present for as long as they can and talk with our visitors.

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A Voice for Baltic Cultural Identify

The Baltic Times reports comments made by the Latvian President recently which equally apply to the nation of Lithuania: ***Latvian President Vaira Vike-Freiberga, during her visit to Finland on April 25, spoke of the need to secure cultural and linguistic identities even as Europe becomes more united. "As Latvians and as Finns, we have to the duty to maintain our linguistic and cultural uniqueness, and to pass it on to our future generations," she s said.***

"Our two countries share a genuine relationship of friendship and trust, which stems from a common perception of past historical events, as well as from a shared vision of our future development, both as partners in the Baltic Sea Region and in the international community, she said.

LAST CHANCE TO BE AN OFFICIAL 2006 MEMBER

The official membership roll of the House of Lithuania will close at the May meeting so it may be reported to the House of Pacific Relations. Only members on the roll will be able to run for office or vote in the fall HoL elections for officers. Don't miss the opportunity to fully participate in this organization, which is dedicated to the display of the Lithuanian culture.

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