



# BALTIC HERITAGE NETWORK

NEWSLETTER NO. 2 (7) 2014

ISSN 2228-3390



Keiu Kullas (photo: P. Noorhani)

## HANDICRAFTS AND COOKING AT VEMU

The winter-spring season at VEMU was once again filled with events. The amount of topics expanded, to include interesting subjects like handicrafts and culinary traditions.

On May 5, the first event of the series "Cooking with Susi Holmberg" took place at Tartu College. The topic was "Learning Vanaema's Recipes". Under the guidance of Estonian-born chef Susi Holmberg, participants learned how to prepare salted salmon, fresh pickles, mincemeat sauce, and semolina cream. Susi spoke and Ellen Valter moderated the evening. This pair is already known from a similar series on OMNI TV. Participants could view the demo table from a camera showing what was cooking on the stove. Afterwards, everyone was able to taste the food as well. The next cooking evening will take place this year in November.

A few days before, a room of women gathered on one inspiring Sunday at Tartu College to hear and see local handicraft enthusiast and master weaver Anu Sepp in her lecture/workshop "My Creation in Handicraft and Knitting". Anu spoke about how her fantasy and image-rich fabrics have taken shape. She also demonstrated how to make a wrist warmer, something that has recently gained popularity in Estonia.



Tartu College President Jaan Meri, Susi Holmberg and Ellen Valter. (photo: P. Pöldre)



Anu Sepp (photo: P. Noorhani)

Estonia's only filigree jewellery master, Keiu Kullas visited Toronto in the middle of March. Keiu gave many lectures and workshops at Tartu College, as well as at the Ehatare retirement home. He also spoke about the filigree traditions in Estonian folk jewellery. He asked participants to bring along Estonian family jewellery and photos of how and where they are worn. We are also shown Keiu's creations. Many lucky participants of the upcoming song festival in Estonia were able to buy Keiu's jewellery to be worn with their folk costumes. Everyone learned something new about how to wear their traditional jewellery correctly.

■ Piret Noorhani

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## A Note from the Editor:

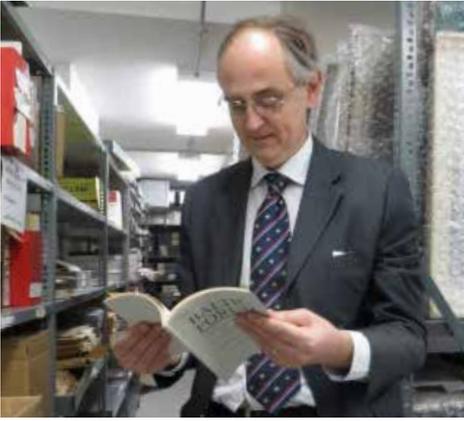
The submission deadline for the next issue is August 15, 2014. We welcome news articles, conference information, calls for papers, new publication information, and images. Please send articles in English with high quality images to:

Kristina Lupp  
kriss.lupp@me.com

The Non-Profit Association Baltic Heritage Network was founded in Tartu on January 11, 2008. NPA BaltHerNet was established to foster cooperation between national and private archives, museums, libraries, and institutions of research, public associations and organizations collecting and studying the cultural heritage of the Baltic diaspora. It aims to facilitate the preservation and research of the historically valuable cultural property of the Baltic diaspora, as well as to ensure accessibility of these materials to the public.

NPA BaltHerNet is also committed to the organising of conferences, seminars and workshops, and to developing and administering the electronic information website Baltic Heritage Network, a multilingual electronic gateway for information on the cultural heritage of the Baltic diaspora.

The Baltic Heritage Newsletter is distributed quarterly, on-line. The newsletter is compiled and edited by Kristina Lupp. Please send all related enquiries and submissions to Kristina Lupp: kriss.lupp@me.com  
www.balther.net  
ISSN 2228-3390



## EDWARD LUCAS IN TORONTO

The Economist journalist and recognised Eastern European expert Edward Lucas was invited to speak at VEMU/Estonian Studies Centre in Toronto.

Lucas spoke on 24 April at a luncheon at the Albany Club, organised by the Royal Military Institute, The NATO Council of Canada, and VEMU/ESC on the topic "Russian Intelligence after Snowden". On the evening of the same day, the lecture "Why Estonia Matters?" took place at Tartu College. Because the recent Russian aggression in Ukraine has made the world anxious, both events were very well attended. In addition to Estonians, many other Eastern Europeans attended the event at Tartu College. Peter Van Loan, a member of Canadian Parliament with Estonian roots attended. The lectures were followed by lively discussions. Lucas's first appearance at Tartu College was followed by a standing ovation.

The third annual VEMU fundraising evening took place on 25 April. The keynote speaker was Edward Lucas, whose lecture was entitled "Confessions of an Estophile". The Scandinavian caterer Karelia Kitchen prepared a formal dinner. All of funds raised will go towards the VEMU building fund.

Lucas, historian and friend to Estonia was also given a tour of Tartu College and the VEMU archives. "I could certainly stay here longer", he said while in the archives, when something new had peaked his interest from the bookshelves. This was Lucas' first visit to Toronto. Before he left, he remarked that apart from Estonian sights, he had not seen much of this big city. In addition to Tartu College, Lucas visited the Toronto Estonian House.

■ Piret Noorhani

## TOPICS AND PROBLEMS IN LITHUANIAN DIASPORA RESEARCH

For more than 20 years, young Lithuanian researchers have been free to choose any topic they want for their BA, MA, or PhD thesis. Quite a number of them choose to write about Lithuanian diaspora.

In an attempt to gather scholars working in the diaspora field and to help them to identify and find the sources they need, the Lituonica Department of Martynas Mažvydas National Library of Lithuania organised the seminar "Researching Lithuanian Diaspora: Choosing From A Variety of Sources and Applying Them". The event, organised for the first time, drew in six young researchers studying at Vilnius and Kaunas universities.

The topics discussed in the seminar varied from: Litvak (Lithuanian Jews) emigration in 1945–1990 (Sigita Žemaitytė) to Polish Lithuanian and Norwegian Lithuanian Communities (Aistė Klimavičiūtė and Gintarė Lukoševičiūtė); to the image of Brazil in literature written by Lithuanians living in the country (Deimantė Bandzevičiūtė) to audio-visual archives of the American Lithuanian community of 1944–1990 (Ina Vaičiūnaitė); to the phenomena of Birutė Ciplijauskaitė, professor emeritus at the University of Wisconsin Madison and the renowned scholar of Spanish studies (Akvilė Šimėnienė).

Giedrė Milerytė, Ph.D., senior researcher at Lituonica Department, talked about where to find diaspora related sources in Lithuania. Jolanta Garlaitė, the department's senior bibliographer, presented participants with useful information about Lithuanian diaspora bibliographies – both published and on-line.

The seminar provided a great opportunity for young scholars to introduce their research and to discuss problems and challenges they face when choosing from a variety of sources.

In the future, the Lituonica Department plans to organise similar seminars at least one a year in hope that it will significantly contribute to Lithuanian diaspora studies and the researchers themselves.

■ Dalia Cidzikaitė

## CALL FOR PAPERS – DIASPORA CONFERENCE

This fall the Baltic community is commemorating the 70th anniversary of the great escape that took thousands of Estonians, Latvians and Lithuanians to the West. In affiliation with that the Estonian Diaspora Academy in collaboration with Tallinn University Institute of History and Expatriate Estonian Literature Centre is organizing a conference for migration and diaspora researchers as well as archivists and museologists who are active in the field. The event will take place in Tallinn University on September 18-19 2014.

Presentations on following subjects are encouraged:

- Estonians, Latvians and Lithuanians adaptation to life abroad: perspective of the ethnic community and of the wider society
- National and ethnic dimensions in the culture and history of Baltic diasporas
- Communication with homeland
- Transnationalism, the present and future perspectives of Baltic diasporas
- Collecting the diaspora: principles and practices

On September 20th an oral history day will be held in collaboration with the Estonian Museum of Occupations. There the floor will be given to representatives of the Estonian diaspora who can share their memories, life experience and opinions on the following subjects:

- The great escape, choosing a country of destination, the decades of exile
- Adapting to life abroad: relationships, climate, society
- ESTO and other significant events: insights from behind the scenes, human contact
- Communicating with relatives through the Iron Curtain
- Return to Estonia as a former refugee or a descendant of refugees.

Please send abstracts (up to one A4 in length) for the conference and/or oral history day before May 25th 2014 to [pagulaskonverents@gmail.com](mailto:pagulaskonverents@gmail.com)

We are looking forward to your submissions and hope to see many fascinating issues raised.

Conference committee: Aivar Jürgenson, Sander Jürisson, Maarja Merivoo-Parro



THE MAKING AND BREAKING  
OF SOVIET LITHUANIA  
Memory and modernity in the wake of war

Violeta Davoliūtė

R  
ROUTLEDGE

## BOOK LAUNCH: “THE MAKING AND BREAKING OF SOVIET LITHUANIA” AT THE NATIONAL LIBRARY OF LITHUANIA

On April 9, the National Library of Lithuania hosted a book event – the discussion of “The Making and Breaking of Soviet Lithuania: Memory and Modernity in the Wake of War” (London: Routledge, 2013) by Violeta Davoliūtė. In the discussion led by Dalia Cidzikaitė, the author of the book, Violeta Davoliūtė, historian Tomas Balkelis, journalist and translator Jonas Ohman, and philosopher Nerija Putinaitė discussed the strongest and weakest points of the book.

In a new study, Davoliūtė uses various sources, among them interviews with the representatives of Soviet Lithuanian intelligentsia, autobiographical memories, newspapers and magazines, literary works, and others. She is very detailed in her descriptions of the traumatic events of the 20th century, such as the Holocaust, deportations, and collectivization, and their impact on Soviet Lithuanian society.

Davoliūtė's focus is the generation of the 1930s and its role in social, political, and cultural processes of that time. “[That generation] was born and came of age when Lithuania was independent; they were the first ones to use the possibilities of social mobility that became available to them; they graduated from universities, were given good jobs, and filled in the social vacuum that was felt in the cities after the war; and later they became the makers of a new ideology and society”, says Davoliūtė.



Photo: Martynas Mažvydas National Library of Lithuania

The book, written in English, presents many new possibilities for researchers who study Soviet Lithuania's social and cultural development in the second half of the 20th century. There is no doubt that the forthcoming Lithuanian translation of the book will be popular among Lithuanian readers as well.

■ Jolanta Budriūnienė

## ENN NÕU'S FILM COLLECTION AVAILABLE ON-LINE

Enn Nõu's film material about Estonian refugee culture in Sweden is available for viewing on YouTube.

Enn Nõu (born 1933 in Tallinn) fled to Sweden together with his family in 1944. In addition to his career in medicine, he is also a well-known Estonian writer and has been a board member of many writers', cultural, and political organisations in Sweden as well as Estonia.

Enn Nõu is also a zealous archivist. Over the years, he has collected and donated a large amount of historical exile Estonian materials to Estonian archives. Recently he began uploading his old films and videos to YouTube. The videos are all around one hour in length and show Estonian exile culture and other activities in Sweden, starting in 1955. The film material can be found at: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC8T1SLnpDbX2I0WWHaIvxA> or by searching Enn Nõu (with õ character).

■ Karin Kiisk

## ALBERTA'S ESTONIANS, 1899 – PRESENT

During the last two centuries, hundreds of thousands of Estonians have emigrated (voluntarily or forcibly) to the other parts of the world – from metropolises like New York to the steppes of Siberia and jungles

of Brazil. One colourful page in Estonian migration history is Alberta's Estonian settlement, which dates back to the year 1899, when the first Estonian pioneers arrived in the province of Alberta.

It is wonderful to see how Alberta's relatively small Estonian community is vibrant, even after a century from the founding of the community. In 2005, the Alberta Estonian Heritage Society (AEHS) was established with the aim of preserving Estonian culture and traditions. AEHS have been very active in this field: they have captured a 30-minute documentary Alberta's Estonians (2007), published a richly illustrated and valuable book Freedom, Land, & Legacy: Alberta's Estonians 1899-2009 and prepared a great exhibit Alberta's Estonian 1899 – present, which is now on display to the Estonian public at the Academic Library of Tallinn University (Rävala pst 10, Tallinn) from Thursday, May 15.

The exhibit highlights Estonian pioneers who arrived in Alberta beginning in 1899. It discusses the reasons for Estonian immigration to Alberta, the establishment of several Estonian communities, personal stories, their social, political, cultural and economic activities and so on.

The exhibition arrived in Tallinn with the help of AEHS and the Estonian Expatriate Literature Centre, and will be on display until the end of June. I would like to thank the members of AEHS and specially Mr. Ain Dave Kiil for the support in bringing the exhibition to Tallinn.

■ Sander Jürisson, Head of Estonian Expatriate Literature Centre



## 1944: IMAGES OF THE GREAT ESCAPE

In the summer and autumn of 1944, approximately 70,000 Estonians escaped across the Baltic Sea to Finland, Sweden, and Germany from the advancing Soviet army. The lives of individuals and families were changed as soon as they decided to step foot on boats or ships. Crossing the sea changed the borders between a life lived in Estonia and Estonian life lived abroad. What was thought to be a temporary departure turned into something real; the cost of moving to a free land was losing one's homeland, which only became clear decades later. An event that changed one's life is difficult to forget; even 70 years later the images of refugees remain important.

The heart of the exhibition starts at the moment of departure from Estonia until life began at the first stop in Sweden or Germany.

13 June – 5 October 2014 Estonian National Museum in Tartu

Curators: Riina Reinvelt, Mairo Selgmäe

## THE ARCHIVE OF THE BALTIC UNIVERSITY (HAMBURG 1946-1949)

*"We hope that some day our story may be told..."*

*"(...) Our institution will be recorded by history; the reason being that it is unique. Refugees do not usually have the mental spirit to create a university, but we had the spirit and therefore, our institution can be regarded as a historical event. (...)"*

*Information Bulletin Baltic University, 13 December 1947.*

The Baltic University was created in the midst of chaos, and started under the most difficult conditions in devastated Germany.

At the beginning, there was no scientific equipment and no means of acquiring any, no salaries for teachers. Despite these facts, academic people of the three Baltic Countries organised a university in Hamburg with a few months, with eight faculties and 17 departments. Classes started on March 14, 1946.

It was 'the cheapest academic undertaking the world had ever known', 'no university in the world can boast more democratic relations between professors and the students' and 'it may be regarded as one of the most successful and promising examples of international co-operation.'

Despite all these noteworthy facts, the Baltic University is not a well-remembered institute – perhaps it is almost forgotten. However, not entirely: there are still people who have a memory of this university, whose career started right there in Hamburg, who have pictures, documents, and stories to tell.

I knew about the Baltic University, as my father had once been a student there. I had found his notebook, many years after he had passed away, among his papers. I searched for information and decided that I would try to make a documentary film about this remarkable institute.

Over the past years, I have been able to trace former students of all three nationalities around the world. However, I was also looking for documents. In March 2013, I received information from Tartu University Library concerning documents about the Baltic University that had belonged to Uppsala University Library. I then contacted Uppsala Library about these documents; but to find out if they had other information about the Baltic University. The answer I received was: 'We can find no information neither here at the University Library Section for Manuscripts and Music, nor at the University Archives about a transfer of archival material to Tartu University Library. What we do have are the Archives of the so-called "Lettiska nationella fonden" (Latvian National Foundation), which comprise of 47 rather large boxes, the contents of which have not been sorted or registered.' These boxes contained material about the Baltic University.

It was only this year, thanks to support from Tartu College in Toronto, that I was able to search these 47 boxes. I was a bit worried about the contents of the boxes when travelling to Uppsala, as even Raimo Raag working at Uppsala University, but also Alexander Loit, a historian working in Uppsala, had not heard about the archive. Later it was revealed that the librarian in Uppsala did not know about the archive either until I wrote him, as the boxes had not be catalogued.

The content of the boxes was beyond expectation. The material was not totally unsorted: there were boxes containing 'Archiv des Rektorats' (21 boxes), as well as boxes containing student applications and lists. These boxes were sorted by nationality: indicated either with E, LA, or LI on the folders. Then there were boxes containing material from the faculties (one box for every faculty with information about courses, teachers and students), as well as boxes for sports, administration, and correspondence.

I spent the most time searching the boxes of the Rektorats, which contained documents and correspondence about the first meeting of academics and the first ideas for the university until its closure: transcripts of meetings, letters, telegrams, and so on. Even without thorough research, it was clear how many difficulties the staff had to face from the very start, how many battles they had to fight to keep the university open. The staff of the faculty wrote eloquent letters pleading their case and received simple orders what or what not to do. From 1947 onwards the staff tried to move the whole university to the UK, Canada, USA, and even Ethiopia. All attempts failed.

Unfortunately, most of the documents were not in a chronological order. Sometimes I did not know whether a correspondence had just stopped, or whether the continuation could be found in another folder. Some folders were very hard to open and it was difficult to read all the documents.

This is such a pity as this archive is a goldmine of information – for all those interested in the first post-war year in Germany in the British zone: information about how the UNRRA and later IRO worked, what kind of rules and regulations the refugees had to live by and how the economy worked. However, it gives insight into the functioning of the Baltic University. Reading through the documents left me wondering how the academic staff had the courage and determination to go on and I can only admire their achievements.

How the archive of the Baltic University ended up in Uppsala is not yet clear. The Latvian Foundation in Sweden does not know and neither does the Stockholm National Archive. When the Baltic University closed its doors it was most likely in the hands of Eduards Sturms, but by 1952 it was no longer in his possession. I still hope to find an answer to the travels of the archive, but most important is the knowledge that all the material ended up in Uppsala and can be researched there now.

■ Helga Merits

## VISITING ESTONIANS IN TORONTO

After the Second World War, some of the largest communities of Estonians in exile formed around the world –Stockholm, Sydney, New York, Lakewood in New Jersey, and so on. One of the most important centres was Toronto, where thousands of Estonians found their new home.

In February of this year, I had the opportunity to visit the Toronto Estonian community for the first time, as well as two archives. I spent two weeks in Toronto, though not nearly enough time, I got a brief overview of the developments of the Estonian society, its structure and functions, as well as materials found in the archives.

Until now, I had only visited the diaspora communities in Brazil, which today has nearly vanished. The multi-layered community that Toronto has managed to maintain surprised me in a positive way. Even though the heyday of the Toronto Estonian community is behind it by a few decades, it remains one of the last and strongest of the exile Estonian communities. The abundance and diversity of different organisations is impressive, reflecting on what could be a parallel world, built at the time Estonia was occupied –they have their own bank, many different religious congregations, a nursing home, two cultural centres, the Estonian House and Tartu College, many choirs and folk dance groups, and a well written and formatted weekly newspaper.

I had the good fortune of visiting many of these organisations. Since I had planned my trip around being in Toronto on 24 February, Estonian Independence Day, I was able to participate in many events surrounding this occasion. These events included: the Toronto Estonian School creative evening, the Independence Day concert in the Grand Hall of the Toronto Estonian House, the honorary consul Laas Leivat's reception at Tartu College, which in its authenticity and with the large number of participants symbolised the sustainability of the Toronto Estonian community.

For diaspora researchers, this multifaceted community is enlightening and inspiring, and makes one think about spending more time in Toronto to do in-depth research together with VEMU and the Estonian Central Archives of Canada, as well as participatory observations of members of the Estonian society in order to understand the mechanisms behind a single vibrant diaspora community.

■ Sander Jürisson



Guests Liisi Eglit from Stanford University Library (right) and Ave Maria Blithe from the Estonian Archives in the United States (left) together with VEMU head archivist Piret Noorhani (photo: K. Kuivits)

## MEMORIAL EVENT IN TORONTO TO COMMEMORATE OLGA KISTLER-RITSO

On April 5, a memorial event was held in Toronto, commemorating Dr. Olga Kistler-Ritso, an Estonian émigré who, together with thousands of other Estonians, was forced to flee the country during World War II.

Olga rebuilt her life in the United States, where she married a renowned physicist and inventor Walter P. Kistler, and became a mother of their daughter Sylvia. Olga also ran a successful medical practice and was active in the local Estonian community. After Estonia regained independence in 1991, Olga sought ways to give back to her home country, and therefore created the Kistler-Ritso Foundation. The foundation supported the establishment of The Museum of Occupations in Tallinn (2003), and recently made an endowment to Stanford University Libraries, enabling the creation of its Baltic studies program (2013). Olga passed away on November 18, 2013. Her daughter Sylvia Thompson serves as the president of the foundation.

The event for commemorating Olga was hosted by VEMU/Estonian Studies Centre and brought together 30-40 people, among them guests from the United States: Ave-Maria Blithe from The Estonian Archives in the US (Lakewood, NJ) and Liisi Eglit from Stanford University. The event consisted of four talks and two film screenings, which all glimpsed into different aspects of Olga's life and her legacy.

Piret Noorhani (VEMU/Tartu College) spoke about "Patrons and Museums", focusing on a few examples of members of Estonian diaspora who have supported Estonian museums both in Estonia and abroad. Olga's niece Lydia Ritso-Kadai, who was the main person behind the idea of organizing the event, gave a personal insight into her aunt's life and legacy ("Olga Kistler-Ritso and Her Life's Work"). The remaining two presentations by Kadri Viies

(via Skype) and Liisi Eglit gave an overview of Olga's input into enhancing the Estonian and Baltic studies both in Estonia and in the United States. Kadri's presentation "The Museum of Occupations and Its Creator" focused on the creation of the museum, and its state more than ten years later: the museum serves as a preserver of the Estonian memory, and shares info about the 50-year-long occupation period to both Estonians and visitors. Liisi's presentation ("Baltic Collections of the Stanford University Libraries") gave an overview of Olga's endowment to Stanford University Libraries (SUL) and how this initiative has transformed SUL's Baltic collections, making it possible to create a Baltic studies' program and to speak about establishing a Baltic chair at Stanford in the near future.

The first film, "Design and Construction of the Museum of Occupation and Fight for Freedom", gave a good overview of the ideas behind the creation of the museum in Estonia, and the construction of the first building in Estonia specifically designed to be a museum. The second film, "The Woman Who Gave Estonia the Gift of a Museum: Olga Kistler-Ritso", offered a more personal insight into Olga's life through the interviews with her family. The film is also viewable here: <https://library.stanford.edu/guides/baltic-studies>

Although Olga Kistler-Ritso is no longer with us, she will surely be remembered and her legacy will be carried on both in Estonia and in the United States.

The day before the memorial, visitors were given a chance to see the VEMU archives and discuss possible future cooperation.

■ Liisi Eglit, Assistant Curator for Estonian and Baltic Studies, Stanford University Libraries

## ESTONIAN MEMORY SEMINAR AT STANFORD UNIVERSITY

On April 26, a seminar dedicated to collecting Estonian memory was held at Stanford University. The event consisted of three presentations and a tour of Green Library and its Estonian/Baltic collections. Liisi Eglit gave an overview of Stanford University Libraries' Baltic program, David Jacobs spoke about Hoover Institution Archives' Estonian collections, and Uve Poom, a special guests from Estonia, talked about current projects of Unitas foundation and Kogu Me Lugu (Collect Our Story/Our Entire Story) network.



Uve Poom (photo: L. Eglit)

## BALTIC HERITAGE NETWORK XIX DIASPORA SEMINAR PROGRAMME MAY 30, 2014

Latvian University (Raina bulvaris 19), Riga Faculty of Theology, basement floor, auditorium 3

### Session 1

8.30 Opening remarks by Baltic Heritage Network board members

8.40 Michael Auksi (Tallinn)  
Wisdom of the Elders and traditional people – aboriginal perspectives on the development of young people

9.10 Guntis Svitins (Riga)  
Records about Tobago in collections of the Latvian National Archives

9.40 Ann Aaresild (Tartu)  
Diasporas and contact with homeland

10.10 Coffee

### Session 2

10.30 Toms Kikuts (Riga)  
Sources on the 19th century Latvian diaspora: situation and perspectives

11.00 Lilita Zalkalns (Stockholm)  
Latvian diaspora reactions to the Soviet Repatriation campaign 1955-1958

11.30 Lunch

### Session 3

13.00 Sander Jürisson (Tallinn)  
25/40 years of Estonian Expatriate Literature Centre

13.30 Rima Gungor (Vilnius)  
New documentary film: Game Changer: Lithuania's Nonviolent Revolution

14.00 Coffee

### Session 4

14.30 Liene Salmina (Valmiera)  
Latvian diaspora communities in Siberia and their connections with Latvia

15.00 Kristine Bekere (Riga)  
Soviet propaganda on Latvian emigrés: the case of „Daugavas Vanagi“

15.30 Discussion and closing remarks.

16.00 Guided tour in the Museum of the Occupation of Latvia

## KEEPERS OF THE LOOM: ESTONIAN WOMEN'S STORIES OF THE BALTIC DIASPORA

This year marks the 70th anniversary of the 1944 mass exodus from Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania that was triggered by the Soviet annexation of the Baltic republics. For those who still remember the 1940 elections in Estonia, there are some chilling parallels regarding the recent referendum and resulting annexation of Crimea by Russia. In 1940, Soviet armies entered the Baltics, then carried out "elections" in which only communist candidates were allowed to stand. Subsequently, the Baltic states "requested" joining the Soviets. This was followed in 1941 by massive deportations of native people to Siberia. When German armies entered, they drove the Soviet forces out, but when in 1944, the German armies retreated from the Baltics, and the Soviet forces were returning, those who could find a way to escape, fled their homelands.

We are now looking for corporate and individual sponsorship and will be launching a crowd funding website shortly. We hope this will enable us to broaden the scope and participation of the project.

We are still seeking stories, both from men and women, who

remember their own, or their parents' stories of conditions before and during leaving in the 1940s.

MPI is now seeking support and volunteers to complete the documentary. MPI has established a website for the project: [www.keepersoftheloom.com](http://www.keepersoftheloom.com)

We are also looking to film individuals who might be willing to share their thoughts about the current situation in Crimea/the Ukraine, specific historic parallels and the implications for the Baltic nations.

We are creating some re-enactments, but are also looking for additional stories to film, about the keeping of folk art, folk clothing and traditions alive, as well as stories about the meaning and value of these in people's lives.

Are you a researcher who could help us seek archival materials? Do you have a similar story to tell about yourself or your parents leaving Estonia and coming to a new country? We are interested in gathering stories from around the globe, so if your family landed in Australia, or South America, or the USA, we'd love to hear from you. Do you have Estonian folk costumes? We are also trying

to follow the thread of Estonian identity as expressed through folk costumes, folk clothing and crafts, so we are also looking for examples of work done in Estonia and brought to Canada or the West after the War. Edgy Estonian themed design? Have you found a new way to express your Estonian identity? Or used skills you learned from your folks in an unexpected way? Are you a composer or musician? We are looking to develop a unique score specifically for this film. If you'd like to help, let us know.

Are you a recent immigrant, or do you know people still in Estonia? We are also looking for stories about how this cultural heritage was maintained in Estonia after the War. Are you in film and need some volunteer hours/credits? We are looking for editors who can help piece things together, especially Estonian speaking editors to help with Estonian footage.

Any little bit will help us make it great! If you have a story or skill to share, please contact us at the following link.  
[info@keepersoftheloom.com](mailto:info@keepersoftheloom.com)

More information:  
[www.keepersoftheloom.com](http://www.keepersoftheloom.com)

## COLLECTING VIDEO TESTIMONIALS OF ESTONIAN DIASPORA JULY 2-8 AT THE MUSEUM OF OCCUPATIONS

Kogu Me Lugu (KML) is an oral history initiative to collect video testimonials of people (direct witnesses or their friends and relatives) who have lived under or fled from the Soviet and/or the German occupation in Estonia or migrated as a result of acts committed by these regimes (<http://kogumelugu.ee/>). We expect the families of Estonian diaspora to share their story in Tallinn during Laulupidu (July 2-8 2014).

Video testimonials are stored at the Museum of Occupations and the Stanford University Library. KML was initiated by the Unitas Foundation, which aims to raise awareness of human rights violations committed by Soviet and Nazi German occupations. We are seeking for stories in both Estonian and English. All relevant materials (photos, letters etc.) are very welcome.

Please come and share your family story with future generations!

Please contact KML producer to schedule your interview:

Anna Hints

Email: [anna.hints@unitasfoundation.org](mailto:anna.hints@unitasfoundation.org)

Telephone: +372 55 699 602