



BALTHERNET CONFERENCE IN TARTU TO CELEBRATE 100 YEARS OF THE BALTIC REPUBLICS AND 10 YEARS OF OUR ORGANIZATION

The conference “New Beginnings of Baltic Diaspora” took place at the Estonian National Museum in Tartu from June 26-29. The conference was organized by the NGO Baltic Heritage Network with the help of partners including the Estonian National Museum, the Estonian Literary Museum, Centre of Excellence in Estonian Studies, and the National Archives of Estonia.

The conference celebrated the 100th birthdays of the Republics of Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania. The conference was also an opportunity to examine the current and past experiences diaspora communities have had opening and closing archives. The conference covered topics such as creating new collections, promoting existing collections, questions regarding preservation and accessibility, as well as oral history and family stories, writing memoirs, and the importance of passing history on to following generations. Speakers included academic researchers, memory institution specialists, in addition to hard-working volunteers, and representatives of diaspora community memory institutions.

A total of 24 presentations were made at the Baltic diaspora gathering. Greetings were given by Anne-Ly Reimaa, the Head of International Relations on Integration Issues at the Ministry of Culture, the Director of the Estonian National Museum, Alar Karis, and the President of BaltHerNet, Piret Noorhane. The conference was opened by Uppsala University professor Raimo Raag, whose opening speech focused on the definitions of “new” and “old” in the context of community. Often the development of new communities abroad gives previous generations within the community reason to consider the next generation to be

IN THIS ISSUE:

- **Estonia Opens Memorial in Remembrance of Victims of Communism**
- **First Summer Course for Estonian Dance Teachers Abroad**
- **A Book on Lithuanian-Polish Relations**
- **Reflections of the Worldwide Estonian Societies Festival “Sajaga seltsis”**
- **The Order for Merits to Lithuania**
- **Lithuanian and Estonian at IU Bloomington**
- **Discussion on the Preservation of Lithuanian Identity Abroad**
- **Ruta Karma was nominated for the Languages Award**
- **National Library of Lithuania at the World Lithuanian Events in Vilnius**

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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.

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new. Similarly, ethnic groups give refugee communities their own names. The 19th century emigration that took place for agrarian reasons was without a doubt very different from the migratory wave that took place during and following the Second World War. Each new wave of migration has been accompanied by the renaming of the previous wave. Furthermore, the alteration of terminology is also recognizable over time (terms used early on, such as refugee or displaced persons, change over time or disappear entirely). Therefore, the diaspora lifestyle can be considered cyclical. Professor Raag found that it is interesting to analyze the conference title with “beginnings” plural - was there one similar beginning in the Baltic diaspora or rather many different ones depending on the ethnic group, destinations, period of migration, or other reasons related to the field.

Presentations by academic representatives from abroad included Geert Franzenburg from the University of Münster, Marcus Velke from the University of Bonn, Jüri Kivimäe who has been a longtime professor at the University of Toronto, Pauli Heikkilä from the University of Helsinki, and Kristine Beķere from the Latvian Academy of Sciences. G. Franzenburg discussed the process of constructive memory, memory codes, and culture identity as a dynamic process that has a strong sense of belonging. M. Velke spoke about the Baltic community in post-war Bonn, focusing on two distinguished Baltic exile institutions, the Baltic Institute for Research and Development and the Baltic Christian Students Union. J. Kivimäe gave an overview of the

heritage of the Baltic University that was active in Hamburg and Pinneberg, Germany from 1946 to 1949. The establishment of the Baltic University was incredibly important, as it was very successful in poor conditions providing scholars who had left the Baltic countries academic work and simultaneously providing an academic education to young Balts in DP camps. P. Heikkilä presented a lecture about questions surrounding committees fighting to free Estonia and their activities at their peak during the 1950s and 1960s, when the relationship between the Estonian American National Committee and Committee for a Free Estonia was complicated, including power struggles and attempts to outdo each other's actions. K. Beķere introduced questions regarding the legal consistency of Baltic countries since the end of Second World War until the restoration of national continuity at the beginning of the 1990s. Although representatives of Baltic countries in the free world could not direct USA politics in the direction of the Baltic countries, the activities of diplomats were important for the preservation and recognition of national continuity.

This time there were 5 presentations at the conference about Latvian and Lithuanian diaspora. Presentations covered an introduction of research done on Siberian Latvians living in Krasnoyarsk region based on the Latvian author Melanija Vanaga's work (Liene Salmina), today's composition of Lithuanians in the ethnically Latvian settlement in the Šventoji region (Krišs Kapenieks), Latvian lecturers at the Baltic University (Baiba Vanaga), the activities of the Lithuanian Authors' Society in the United States of America in the 1950-1970s (Žydrone

Kolevinskienė), and research about emigration through the educational programs at the National Library of Lithuania (Jolanta Budriuniene). The rest of the presentations examined the activities of Estonian diaspora in Australia (Inno Salasoo, Maie Barrow, Terry Kass/Jüri Voan), in the United States of America (Ave Marie Blithe) and in Canada (Piret Noorhani). Lectures focusing on Estonian memory institution activities surrounding diaspora included: the research status of Siberian Estonians (Anu Korb), the accessibility of film heritage on topics of diaspora (Ivi Tomingas), the heritage of literary scholar Ivar Ivask (Aija Sakova), the life works of author and artist Gunnar Neeme (Marin Laak), and the literary relationship between the diaspora and the homeland following the Second World War (Anneli Mihkelev). Representative of the “Kogu Me Lugu” (Collecting Our Story) project Michaela Snopkova and Tartu University professor and literary scholar Tiina Ann Kirss gave overviews of capturing life stories. Tiina reviewed the status of the incredible collaborative project “Minu elu ja armastus: Eesti Vabariik 100” (My Love and Life: Estonia 100). The first day ended with Helga Merits' documentary about the Geislingen DP camp, which included children's interviews and a thorough introduction from the author. A guided tour of the Estonian National Museum, the opening of the exhibit “Food: A Treasury of Estonian Heritage. Businesses and Factories in Toronto,” a visit to the National Archives of Estonia, and the opening reception of the exhibit dedicated to Gunnar Neeme at the Estonian Literary Museum all fit into the conference program.

The conference lectures were available via livestream for all those who were curious and soon they will be available on Youtube (use the keywords Baltic Heritage Network to search). The NGO BaltHerNet Annual General Meeting also took place during the conference period and it was decided that the Chief Archivist of the Museum of Estonians Abroad, Piret Noorhane, will continue as the President of BaltHerNet. The Board of Directors was elected: Karin Kiisk (secretary, Estonian National Museum), Vice-Presidents Kristine Bekere (Latvian Academy of Sciences) and Jolanta Budriuniene (Martynas Mažvydas National Library of Lithuania), Board Members Maarja Merivoo-Parro (Tallinn University) and Birgit Kibal (National Archives of Estonia). Two honorary members were also elected: David Jacobs from the Hoover Institute Archives and Andris Kesteris from the Latvian National Federation in Canada.

This conference was the 5th, as they have been taking place every 3 years since 2006. The next destination is in Vilnius in 2021. You are welcome to join us!

Birgit Kibal

ESTONIA OPENS 30,000 SQM MEMORIAL IN REMEMBRANCE OF VICTIMS OF COMMUNISM

On 23 August, the European Day of Remembrance for victims of all totalitarian and authoritarian regimes, a 30,000 square meter memorial was opened in Tallinn with more than 22,000 names of Estonia's victims of communism. On the same day a high-level international conference "Utopia unachieved despite millions



victimised? Communist crimes and European memory" was held in Tallinn.

The memorial commemorating Estonia's victims of communism is dedicated to all Estonian people who suffered under the terror inflicted by the Soviet Union. The names of over 22,000 people who never returned home are inscribed on the memorial's name plaques. They were murdered or died due to inhumane living conditions in imprisonment or forced resettlement and the remains of many of them are in unnamed graves in unknown locations.

At the memorial opening Kersti Kaljulaid, the President of the Republic of Estonia said: "Still, there are those who justify totalitarian ideologies on various pretexts, and say that ideally one or the other is actually noble, only implementation has failed so far. But every totalitarian ideology is by its nature an enemy of freedom, and we know its high price from our own historical experience."

"Democratic countries should stand for the fact that hatred will never lead the decisions of anyone. We need to think about maintaining and protecting democracy and European moral values – citizens' rights and freedoms – from all forms of populism and extremism. Only then we can be sure about the future of our children and

Photo: Kaarel Langemets

grandchildren," the President of the Republic said.

The opening of the Memorial was followed by the high-level conference "Utopia unachieved despite millions victimised? Communist crimes and European memory", organized by the Estonian Institute of Historical Memory, supported by the Estonian Ministry of Justice and the Embassy of Germany to Estonia.

Richard Overy, the Professor of History at the University of Exeter emphasized in his keynote speech that despite that Europe is free from communist regimes, the situation in the world is far from peaceful. "Few Europeans seem willing to acknowledge that China is a single-party authoritarian state that abuses human rights and denies freedom of expression or association to around one-quarter of the world's population." Through this example Mr Overy emphasized the fact that freedom can not be taken for granted. "Historical memory is critical and it must be kept alive not only by the dedicated work of scholars who expose the gap between totalitarian rhetoric and the brutal reality, but by wider public engagement with the memory of victimhood through programmes of education, public events and sites of remembrance," said Mr.

Overy.

Nikita Petrov, the Vice-Chairman of the Board of Memorial's Scientific Research Centre (Russia) agreed with the necessity of a common culture of remembrance in Europe. "It is necessary to create an international court for communist crimes. To talk widely about those crimes through the education system," said Mr. Petrov. He emphasized that it has to be remembered that communist ideologies are based on fear and violence.

Among the speakers of the conference were internationally renown people, such as writer and playwright Sofi Oksanen, historian and Professor of History at the University of Toronto Andres Kasekamp, historian and Professor of History at the University of Exeter Richard Overy, Member of the Board of Trustees of the Platform of European Memory and Conscience Göran Lindblad, historian and vice-chairman of the Board of Memorial's Scientific Research Centre Nikita Petrov.

On the same day, at the invitation of Minister of Justice Urmas Reinsalu, the government representatives of European Union countries gathered in Tallinn to adopt a joint statement to commemorate the victims of communism and to support the initiation of the Estonian government to establish an international museum of the crimes of communism in Tallinn.

"It is noteworthy that the representatives of eight countries demand the continuation of investigations into communism's crimes. It is clear that investigating totalitarian regimes and acknowledging their hostility is a shared responsibility of Europe. Together, we can protect the achieved freedom, democracy, and

human rights against both today's and future threats that arise from hostile ideologies," Reinsalu said.

The government representatives of the European Union member states, who were present at the meeting, also invited the governments of other countries to express their respect for all those who fell victim to the political terror of the totalitarian regimes with the joint statement. At the same time, the participants of the meeting expressed their support for the initiative of the Estonian government to establish an international museum for the victims of communism in Tallinn. The representatives of the ministries of justice and the ministries of foreign affairs in Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania, Croatia, Czech Republic, Poland and Hungary joined the joint statement.

THE ESTONIAN DANCE FESTIVAL MUSEUM ORGANIZED THE FIRST SUMMER COURSE FOR ESTONIAN DANCE TEACHERS ABROAD



Estonian folk dance groups abroad have played a large role in introducing Estonian culture to the world. In 2014, 14 groups from various countries participated in the Estonian Dance Festival in Tallinn. There are 31 folk dance groups from 16 different countries applying to participate in the 2019 XX Estonian Dance Festival. In collaboration with compatriots

living abroad, Estonian cultural festivals also take place outside of Estonia.

From August 15-19, the first summer course for Estonian folk dance teachers abroad organized by the Estonian Dance Festival Museum took place in Kihnu and Pärnu. The goals of the five-day course were to create a functional web of communication between the leaders of Estonian folk dance groups abroad, pass on skills for the heritage and author's dances, as well as for organizing festivals, share experiences, and create a plan for collaboration. The summer school program included skill-building tips for the main patterns of movement in folk dancing, how to prepare a group, and local heritage was introduced. All the leaders of Estonian folk dancing groups abroad were invited to participate to make preparations for the jubilee party in 2019.

The summer course offered the Estonian Dance Festival organizers the opportunity to survey the needs and wishes of the Estonian folk dance groups abroad. Important information about the repertoire, workshops by Estonian dance mentors, and tips on how to acquire folk costumes was shared. A visit to the Kihnu Museum took place and a concert by the ensemble Kihnumaa at the Mõnu farm was attended. In Pärnu, the summer course took place in the new auditorium at Paikuse Elementary School, where the group met the Anna Raudkats Dance Society and enjoyed their concert. In the evening, the open-air performance "Saja-aastane öö" (100-Year-Old Night) was enjoyed at Vallikäärü in Pärnu.

The jubilee dance festival and pre-festival activities were introduced to the course participants by the

Estonian Folk Dance and Folk Music Chairman Kalev Järvela, the Estonian Dance Festival Director Vaike Rajaste, and the leaders of different types of folk dance groups Erika Põlendik, Agne Kurrikoff-Herman, Karin Soosalu, and Rauno Zubko. Folklorist Ingrid Rüütel introduced her publications on Kihnu, Muhu, and Saaremaa cultural heritage. Anne-Ly Reimaa from the Estonian Ministry of Culture discussed the goals of the Compatriots Program and their methods of support for Estonian cultural collectives abroad. Erika Põlendik held a master class for the participants on the main dance steps of Estonian folk dancing and tips on how to teach them. The Estonian Folk Dance and Folk Music dance mentor Tiiu Pärnits introduced Pärnu county's heritage dances and folk costumes. Additionally, a handicraft morning took place where jewelry artists Kairi Himma and Jüri Urb taught participants how to make strings of beads and necklaces to go with folk costumes and how to consider special regional features when making jewelry.

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The goal of the Estonian Dance Festival Museum is to bring the leaders of Estonian Dance groups abroad together and offer them additional training every

2-3 years. A total of 43 dance teachers and group representatives participated in the summer course from ten different countries: Finland, Sweden, USA (Portland), Canada, Holland, Ireland, Germany, Belgium, Luxembourg, and the Czech Republic.

Anne-Ly Reimaa

A BOOK ON LITHUANIAN-POLISH RELATIONS



The author Dr. Giedrė Milerytė-Japertienė is signing her book.

Photo: National Library of Lithuania.

On July 4, Dr. Giedrė Milerytė-Japertienė, the head of the Lithuanian Studies Unit of the Documentary Heritage Research Department at the National Library of Lithuania, presented her monograph "Imagining Lithuanian-Polish Relations in Emigration from 1945 to 1990." The monograph examines the fifty-year Lithuanian-Polish relations in emigration – real contacts as well as ideas, cultivated in private intellectual gatherings, which marked mutual cooperation or provoked hatred. It also highlights a wide debate in the press about the future of Lithuania and Poland, and the attempts to answer the question: What ideas and who in particular resulted in today's harmonious relationship of the two neighboring countries?

The book will be soon published in Poland. The monograph was financially supported by the Research Council of Lithuania and published by the National Library of Lithuania.

SUMMARY AND REFLECTIONS OF THE WORLDWIDE ESTONIAN SOCIETIES FESTIVAL "SAJAGA SELTSIS" (IN COMPANIONSHIP WITH 100)

In 2018, the Republic of Estonia celebrates its 100th birthday and from August 3-4 the Association of Estonian Cultural Societies (EKSÜ) organized a festival "Sajaga seltsis" (In Companionship with 100) to celebrate at the Estonian National Museum in Tartu. The festival brought together cultural people from Latvia, the Suetuk region, Krasnoyarsk region, St. Petersburg, the Crimea, Kiev, London, Toronto, Luxembourg, Melbourne, Portland, Moscow, Minsk, Finland, Tver, and Belarus. Tiit Rosenberg opened the first discussion group "Societies as the Keepers of Estonianness Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow" by giving an overview of Estonian societies throughout Estonian history. Tiina Kirss, Anne-Ly Reimaa, Vera Oinets, and Rein Taagepera also presented on topics about Estonian society activities all over the world.

During the first discussion group the book about the Estonian World Council (ÜEKN) that will be published in September was introduced along with the upcoming ESTO festival taking place in Estonia next year.

In the second discussion group various workshops took place: Preserving the History of Societies (Kärt Summatavet), Collaborations Between Societies (Ants Johanson), Estonianness on This Side and That Side of the Border (Liina Miks), Estonian Cultural Heritage – How Do We Preserve It (Monika Tomingas),



Media and Society Activities – How to Get on Screen (Katrin Uuspõld), Funding Society Activities and Society Economic Activities (Kadri Pau). After the workshops concluded, the leaders summarized them. The discussion groups were moderated by Iivi Zajedova from the Czech Estonian Club.

August 4 was the festival party day, which began with the opening of exhibits by the Forest University in Canada and the London Estonian Society at the Estonian National Museum. This was followed by a parade to the museum park where an oak tree was planted in honour of the activities of societies.

Reet Piiri led a presentation of folk costumes. The party square also had a number of workshops, a handicraft sale, and society book stalls. Keepers of the Estonian language and spirit came to perform on the song and dance stage from all over the world: Estonian Folks and the London Estonian Society Folk Dance Group, St. Petersburg folklore group Neevo, Belarus Estonian Society ensemble Vaaks, the folklore group Kaval Käsi (Clever Hand), character dance group Salome, folk dance group Linda, folk song ensemble Liiso, the Rakke Regi song group, ensembles Allikabänd and Lüüra, folk dance group Kajaks with Kupparimuori and accordianist Ants Habakukk. The day was led by Tiina Kosen and Ülle Kool played accordian at the folk party.

Country day took place on August 5, the day when societies from abroad visited our societies. The Muuga MNS Eha hosted the St. Petersburg Estonian Cultural Society (folklore group Neevo) and the Narva-Jõesuu Estonian Society Kalju hosted the Estonian Society Pääsuke (Belarus Estonian Society ensemble Vaaks).

Liina Miks

DISCUSSION ON THE PRESERVATION OF LITHUANIAN IDENTITY ABROAD



The discussion drew a huge crowd.

Photo: National Library of Lithuania.

The debate about emigration, the Lithuanian identity crisis and global Lithuania is still ongoing in Lithuania. On August 14, 2018, the National Library of Lithuania hosted a discussion about how to preserve Lithuanian identity in the world organized by the Center of Lithuanian Language and Culture.

Every summer in August, the Center organizes a month-long Lithuanian language and culture course. Almost 100 students – from China to Argentina – participate in this summer's course. Some students are of Lithuanian descent, while others, and there are many of them, want to study Lithuanian language because of their deep interest in Lithuanian culture. Vilma Leonavičienė, the director of the Center, noted that every participant has an exciting story about his relation to Lithuania to tell. For some students the

summer language course is the first chance to get acquainted with Lithuania and its people, since they have only heard about this country from their grandparents or great-grandparents. However, there is a substantial group of students who have been returning to the summer language course in Vilnius.

LITHUANIAN AND ESTONIAN AT IU BLOOMINGTON

For the third year in a row, an intensive Lithuanian and Estonian language course returned to the University of Indiana Bloomington (USA). This summer, eight students enrolled in the course: three in Estonian class and five in Lithuanian class, offered by the Baltic Studies Summer Institute (BALSSI).

BALSSI was founded in 1994 and is currently funded by a consortium of American universities: Indiana University, Stanford University, University of California-Berkeley, University of Illinois, University of Pittsburgh, University of Texas, University of Washington, and University of Wisconsin-Madison. At Indiana University, BALSSI is held in conjunction with the Summer Language Workshop and benefits from the Workshop's long experience as a leader in intensive summer language instruction and programming. In the past, BALSSI



The Estonian class is learning how to make open-face sandwiches.

Photo: BALSSI archives.

was hosted by the IU Summer Language Workshop in 1998, 1999, 2005, 2006, 2016, and 2017.

Next year BALSSI will celebrate its 25th anniversary. The program will offer all three languages, Lithuanian, Latvian and Estonian, and will take place at IU Bloomington.

THE ORDER FOR MERITS TO LITHUANIA



Dr. Dalia Cidzikaitė.

Photo: National Library of Lithuania

On July 6, 2018 Dr. Dalia Cidzikaitė, senior researcher of the Lithuanian Studies Unit of Documentary Heritage Research Department at the National Library of Lithuania, was awarded the Order for Merits to Lithuania. The award is presented by the President of Lithuania. Dalia is a former editor-in-chief of the American-Lithuanian newspaper “Draugas,” since 2014, she is the representative of the Lithuanian American Community, Inc. in Lithuania.

THE THREE FRIENDS: DAMUŠIS, KAZICKAS AND AMBROZAITIS

In commemoration of the anniversaries of the three prominent Lithuanian émigré activists and freedom fighters, scientist Adolfas Damušis, philanthropist Juozas Petras Kazickas and doctor Kazys Ambrozaitis, the Martynas Mažvydas National Library of Lithuania, Adolfas Damušis Democracy Studies Centre and the Kazickas Family Foundation



The opening of the exhibition “Three Friends: Damušis, Kazickas and Ambrozaitis”

Photo: National Library of Lithuania. organized a series of events.

On June 15, an exhibition “Three Friends: Damušis, Kazickas and Ambrozaitis” was opened in the National Library of Lithuania. One of the main organizers of the series, the director of Adolfas Damušis Democracy Studies Centre, Vidmantas Valiušaitis, noted, “All three were the children of the independent Republic of Lithuania: during that time, they were raised, grew up, received an education, and distinguished themselves. Their youth coincided with the fate of Lithuania, which was being devastated by Soviet and Nazi occupations. Therefore, one of the most striking links connecting them was the resistance to the occupation regimes of 1940-1944, the commitment to freedom, and the consistent and enduring struggle for democratic Lithuania in 1944-1990. They were lucky to succeed professionally in the West, to witness Lithuania’s independence



The participants discussed various topics related to the Lithuanian diaspora and its relationship with the homeland.

Photo: National Library of Lithuania.

in the 1990’s and to return to their homeland.”

The exhibition is aimed to highlight the life of each of the three activists. Although, all three men were concerned with political and social issues, at the same time they were family persons. The fight for homeland’s freedom, the most significant moments in one’s professional and public life, and most importantly, the great joy of being able to return to free Lithuania, are other important milestones of the exhibition.

The opening of the exhibition was followed by a two-day conference “The Fight for Freedom and the Lithuanian Diaspora: Legacy, Present Concerns and Expectations.”

RUTA KARMA WAS NOMINATED FOR THE LANGUAGES AWARD

In an official ceremony at the National Library of Latvia on 21 August 2018, the Foreign Minister of Latvia, Edgars Rinkēvičs, together with the Foreign Minister of Estonia, Sven Mikser, presented translator Rūta Karma with the Latvian and Estonian Languages Award for her translation of a novel “Varjuteater” (Shadow Theatre) by Estonian writer Viivi Luik.

Edgars Rinkēvičs thanked Rūta Karma for introducing a number of Estonian literature masterpieces to Latvian readers over the years. Both ministers unanimously agreed that the award has become a well-established tradition which enables both neighbouring nations to get to know each other even better. Sven Mikser also praised the laureate’s important contribution to building a bridge between the cultures of Estonia and Latvia.



The award ceremony took place during the first joint meeting of the Latvian and Estonian Governments on 21 August in Riga.

This is the ninth time that the Foreign Ministries of Latvia and Estonia are presenting their award. Over the years, the award has been received not only for prose and poetry translations, but also for academic translations and dictionaries. The aim of the Languages Award is to strengthen bilateral cooperation between both countries by promoting the learning and use of the Latvian and Estonian languages, the work of Latvian-Estonian and Estonian-Latvian translators in translating literary, political, scientific and other texts, and the work of Latvian and Estonian linguists and teachers who contribute to the promotion of Latvian in Estonia and Estonian in Latvia. The monetary value of the award is 3,000 euros, and the award fund is made up of equal contributions from the Ministries of Foreign Affairs of Latvia and Estonia.

The books translated by Rūta Karma also include the works of Jaan Kaplinski, Mari Saat, Mats Traat and other renowned Estonian authors.

Baltic Heritage Network congratulates our long-time friend Rūta on the acknowledgment! Palju õnne, Ruuta! Apsveicu, Rūta!

The participants of the discussion about the world Lithuanian youth.

Photo: National Library of Lithuania

THE NATIONAL LIBRARY OF LITHUANIA AT THE LITHUANIAN EVENTS IN VILNIUS

Thousands of Lithuanians living abroad came to Lithuania to celebrate country's 100 anniversary of independence this summer. The National Library of Lithuania participated in and organized and hosted several events.

On July 1, the Lithuanian Studies Unit of the Documentary Heritage Research Department presented its travelling exhibition "Lithuanian Publishing in Post-WWII Europe" as part of the event "100 Faces of Lithuania – Let's Connect Lithuania" in Vilnius City Hall Square. The exhibition reflects the situation of Lithuanians in the displaced persons' camps in Western countries after WWII.

On July 9, the representatives of the World Lithuanian University at Vytautas Magnus University and the World Lithuanian Youth Association invited the members of Lithuanian diaspora and Lithuanians living in the country to discuss the changes in Lithuanian diaspora's consciousness. Manvydas Džiaugys (Vytautas

Magnus University), Marija Antanavičiūtė (Lithuanian Youth Association in the UK), Dovas Lietuvninkas (Lithuanian American Community, Inc.), Irena Kowalewska (Lithuanian Students' Club Abroad), Rimas Leonavičius (Uruguayan Lithuanian Community), Sandra Bernotaitė (editor-in-chief of the magazine "The World Lithuanian"), Dr. Darius Udrys (Vilnius University), and Prof. Egidijus Aleksandravičius (Vytautas Magnus University) discussed questions: What defines world Lithuanian youth? Are world Lithuanian youth, emigrants and diaspora identical? Do students who study abroad constitute diaspora? and etc. Vladas Oleinikovas, the chairman of the World Lithuanian Youth Association, led the discussion.

On the same day, the National Library of Lithuania hosted another event – the presentation of the book "History of Lithuania. From Medieval Kingdom to Modern Democracy." The book was written and published by American-Lithuanians. The publication, written in English, provides yet another opportunity to introduce the past of Lithuanian people to a broader audience.

