



CONGRATULATIONS TO BALTHERNET MEMBERS IVI ZAJEDOVA AND
PIRET NOORHANI!



Ivi Zajedova

Estonian Citizen's Day is celebrated on November 26. Every year, the Foreign Ministry awards letters of appreciation to people and civic organizations who have promoted and upheld Estonia around the world.

Piret Noorhani received a letter for her efforts in Canada in organizing archive materials on the history of Estonians, and Ivi Zajedova received a letter for her continued contribution in promoting and introducing Estonian causes in the Czech Republic

November 26 marks the day in 1918 that the Provincial Assembly issued an edict on Estonian citizenship. Citizen's Day aims to bolster awareness of citizenship status and raise civic pride and is dedicated to the rights and responsibilities of Estonian citizens.



Piret Noorhani

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The Baltic Heritage Newsletter is distributed quarterly, on-line. The next deadline for submissions is 15 March 2019. Please send all related enquiries and submissions to Piret Noorhani: piretnoorhani@gmail.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 administrating the electronic information website Baltic Heritage Network, a multilingual electronic gateway for information on the cultural heritage of the Baltic diaspora.

www.balther.net

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Priit Pirsko at the conference 100 Years of Baltic Countries. Photo Kai Kiillaspea

AN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE IN TORONTO CELEBRATED THE 100TH BIRTHDAYS OF THE BALTIC COUNTRIES

One of the main events during the Baltic 100 week of celebrations in September was the conference 100 Years of Baltic Republics: Statehood and National Cultures in the Globalizing World that took place on September 21-22, 2018.

Presentations were given at the University of Toronto (Munk School of Global Affairs and Public Policy) on the first day of the conference and were dedicated to questions regarding security and population policy. The keynote speaker was Mare Ainsaar from the University of Tartu, who gave a thorough overview of population issues and potential future scenarios the Baltic countries face. Piret Hartman (Estonian Ministry of Culture), Irene Käosaar (Integration Foundation), and Juri Dreifelds (Brock University) spoke on the topic of Russian-speaking minority integration in the Baltic countries. Aušra Park (Siena College, NY), Aurel Braun (University of Toronto), Marcus

Kolga (MacDonald-Laurier Institute), and Andres Kasekamp (University of Toronto) discussed topics regarding security in the Baltic region.

The first day ended with the performance "APART" by Rakvere Theatre.

The second day of the conference took place at Tartu College simultaneously celebrating the building's 48th birthday. The Dr. Vello Soots Memorial Lecture was presented by the Estonian National Archivist Priit Pirsko. Merli Tamtik (University of Manitoba), Soon Young Jang (University of Toronto/OISE), Triinu Ojamaa (Estonian Literary Museum), Anne-Ly Reimaa (Estonian Ministry of Culture), and Anu Muhonen (University of Toronto) presented during the session on language policy and identity. Speakers on topics surrounding cultural heritage included: Andris Vilks (National Library of Latvia), Dalia Cidzikaite (M. Mažvydas National Library of Lithuania), Jüri Käosaar and Triinu-Tiiu Tamm (KoguMeLugu). In addition, a panel discussion on cultural heritage included Piret Noorhani (VEMU), Ženija Vitols, (Canadian Latvian Archive and Museum), Petra Grantham (Canadian Baltic Immigrant Aid Society), and Andris Kesteris (Baltic Federation in Canada, Latvian National Federation in Canada).

The conference was coordinated by the Museum of Estonians Abroad and the Chair of Estonian Studies at the University of Toronto in cooperation with the central political Baltic organizations in Canada. The event was supported by the Estonian Studies Centre, Chair of Estonian Studies Foundation,

Estonian Foundation of Canada, Integration Foundation/Compatriots Program, and the Baltic Federation in Canada. In addition to the above mentioned individuals, other Estonian government officials participated in Baltic 100 Week, also holding work meetings with their Canadian counterparts, and meeting with local Estonian organizations.

The second day concluded with the opening of the exhibit "Estonia Through 100 Pairs of Eyes" and a festive reception.

RAKVERE THEATRE PERFORMED IN TORONTO

September 20 and 21, 2018 the Rakvere Theatre performed "APART: Estonians Abroad and at Home" in Toronto.

The play was commissioned by the Estonian Studies Centre/VEMU and is a gift for the Republic of Estonia's 100th birthday. The play was written by Liisi Rohumäe who spent a month in Toronto in the spring of 2016 at the invitation of VEMU to interview Canadian Estonians and conduct research in the archives. The opening show took place in Rakvere in March 2018. The project was supported by the Estonian Government (EV 100) and the Integration Foundation and completed according to the sectoral development program "Compatriots Program 2014-2020."

The guests from Rakvere also met with the Toronto Estonian



Photo: Taavi Tamtik

residents at the retirement home Ehatare and the Toronto Estonian Supplementary School students and teachers.

MIGRATION AND DIASPORA RESEARCHERS FROM 23 COUNTRIES GATHERED AT THE ESTONIAN LITERARY MUSEUM

From November 29 - December 1, 2018 the Annual Conference of the Centre of Excellence in Estonian Studies "On the Move: Migration and Diasporas" took place at the Estonian Literary Museum, Tartu, Estonia.

The idea of this scientific conference grew out of the real life: the word 'migration' - often accompanied by 'crises', reaches our ears and eyes every day via various media channels. The contemporary world is increasingly defined by the mobility of people, information, services, and cultural practices. To interpret these processes, international scholars from different fields will focus on aspects such as successive waves of migration and remigration; social and cultural adoption in host countries; migration as a lifestyle; sources and methods of migration and diaspora research, including life writing and oral history interviews; representation of migration and diaspora in literature and visual arts.

More information is available on the conference webpage: <https://www.folklore.ee/CEES/migrationdiaspora2018/>.

Triinu Ojamaa

"ESTONIA THROUGH 100 PAIRS OF EYES" ARRIVED IN TORONTO

On September 22, the exhibit "Estonia Through 100 Pairs of Eyes" was opened at the Museum of Estonians Abroad, VEMU.

The exhibit, dedicated to the



Team, models and performers at the opening of the exhibit "Estonia Through 100 Pairs of Eyes". From left: Kaire van der Toorn-Guthan, Piiret Noorhani, Jaan Ots, Liisbet Valter-Kalm, Maria Valdmaa, Toomas Volkmann, Mike Auksi.

Photo: K. van der Toorn Guthan

Republic of Estonia's big birthday, reflects a visual story of Estonia, which is told by 100 Estonians and Estonian spirited people ages 1-100 through their portraits, eyes, and emotions. The oldest model, 100 years old, was born the same year as the Republic of Estonia in 1918. The youngest came into this world on February 24, 2017. The exhibit presents one Estonian for every year of the Republic of Estonia.

In parallel to the portraits the exhibit introduces Estonia as a place, where we come from, where we live. Thus, there are also 100 images of some of the most well-known places in Estonia (i.e. The Old Town of Tallinn), buildings (farmhouses), emotions (the Song Festival), accomplishments (e-Estonia), and phenomena (bogs). All of these examples give someone who does not know about Estonia an idea of our country, culture, nature, technical achievements, cuisine, and traditions. These two visuals, the portraits and sceneries, are intertwined by short texts in

Estonian and English.

The idea and concept of the exhibit is by Kaire van der Toorn-Guthan and Toomas Volkmann. The exhibit curator is Kaire van der Toorn-Guthan. The portraits were taken by one of Estonia's most recognized fashion photographers Toomas Volkmann. The Estonian sceneries are by distinguished nature photographers Tõnu Runnel and Tõnu Tunnel.

The project leaders Kaire van der Toorn-Guthan and Toomas Volkmann participated in the exhibit opening by presenting the book featuring the exhibit to the Toronto portrait models. Maria Valdmaa and Jaan Ots performed musical accompaniments to open the exhibit.

The exhibit will be on display at VEMU until January 14, 2019.

BALTIC 100 PARTY IN TORONTO

On September 23, 2018 an exciting Baltic 100 party took place at Nathan Phillips Square in Toronto. Throughout the three



Baltic 100 party in Toronto. Photo: Peeter Põldre

hour concert local Estonian, Latvian, and Lithuanian singers and dancers performed. The event was organized by VEMU in collaboration with the central political Baltic organizations in Canada, and the Baltic Federation in Canada.

The guests were also greeted by Canadian politicians: Arif Virani, M.P. Parkdale-High Park, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada, Liberal; Robert Oliphant, M.P. Don Valley West, Liberal, and The Honorable Peter Kent, P.C. M.P. - Thornhill.

EXHIBITION AND DISCUSSION ABOUT RUSSIAN DIASPORA PUBLICATIONS AND PUBLISHERS



Discussion about Russian diaspora publications.

Photo: National Library of Lithuania

At the start of 2018, a Swiss Arminio Sciolli decided to donate part of his Russian diaspora literature collection to the National Library of Lithuania. The

collection consists of rare books, not yet seen in Lithuania. The geography of the collection covers a wide range of places – from South Africa to China – where Russian diaspora communities lived at the beginning of the twentieth century.

On September 21, 2018, the Library invited to the exhibition “Russian Diaspora Literature” opening and discussion about Russian diaspora publications and publishers. Dr. Pavel Lavrinec, Vilnius University professor, provided a broader context and a general overview of the exhibition. Prof. Tomas Venclova, Yale University emeritus and professor of Slavic literature, talked about the history of Russian diaspora in Harbin, China, its cultural life and his impressions from recent trip there.

TRAVELLING EXHIBIT FROM ESTONIA TO TORONTO

Saturday, September 29, the travelling exhibit dedicated to the Republic of Estonia’s 100th birthday by the Vabamu Museum of Occupations and Freedom “Masters of Our Own Homes: Estonia at 100” was opened in the Tartu College parking lot, future home to the Estonian Centre (2021). The exhibit was well

attended during Nuit Blanche and the following three weeks. The Toronto Estonian Supplementary School students also visited the exhibit spending a school evening with Sander Jürisson from Vabamu and Piret Noorhani from VEMU.

The exhibit travelled on from Toronto to Boston, where it can be viewed during the Baltic 100 events in November.

Sander Jürisson who had travelled to Toronto to help put up the exhibit gave also a lecture at VEMU about the renovated Occupations and Freedom Museum in Tallinn.

TWO BOOKS ON LITHUANIAN- AMERICAN CONTRIBUTION TO LITHUANIA’S INDEPENDENCE

This year, two capital books about Lithuanian-American contribution to Lithuania’s statehood and independence were published in Lithuania.

The first book, *Long Live Lithuania! Lithuanian American Contribution to Lithuania’s Statehood* is a compilation of documents, discussions, articles, correspondence and comments of various US governmental institutions and Lithuanian-American Community, Inc. related to the long-standing efforts by Lithuanian-Americans to fight for Lithuania’s freedom. The compiler of the book, Regina Narusis, JD, the chairman of the Royal Palace Restoration Committee for the



Photo: National Library of Lithuania



Photo: National Library of Lithuania

USA and a long-time chairman of Lithuanian-American Community, Inc. and World Lithuanian Community, hopes that the new book will contribute to a better understanding of Lithuanian-American input into the restoration and consolidation of Lithuania's statehood from the late 19th century to the present day.

The second book, *Lithuanian American Support for Lithuania 1918-2018* by prof. Juozas Skirius, based on archival documents, periodicals, memoirs and other sources, sheds light on the activities of Lithuanian-Americans from 1918 to 2018. The author distinguishes three main periods, during which Lithuanian immigrants in the US have provided financial, political, informational and cultural support to their compatriots in the homeland and Lithuanian state. They defended Lithuania's independence and made efforts to liberate Lithuanian nation from multiple occupations. The book also discusses the activities of Lithuanian-American charity organizations and their attempts to provide financial support to Lithuania and its people.

THE ESTONIAN NEWSPAPER IN AUSTRALIA, *MEIE KODU*, HAS PUBLISHED TWO ARTICLES ABOUT THE BALTIC HERITAGE NETWORK CONFERENCE HELD IN TARTU IN JUNE THIS YEAR.

One was an Estonian-language interview of BaltHerNet member and Estonian Archivist in Australia, Maie Barrow, by journalist Aale Kask Ong. Aale is also a Councillor of the Estonian Archives in Australia. The interview covered the history of the Baltic Heritage Network, its conferences and workshops, as well as the most recent conference. It appeared in *Meie Kodu* on 10 October.

The second article by BaltHerNet member and Councillor of the Estonian Archives in Australia, Ann Tünder-Smith, was an English-language focus on her impressions of the program for this year's conference. It was published on 24 October. It concluded by inviting readers to find out more about the Network through its Web site.

Ann Tünder-Smith

A CONFERENCE ON CHALLENGES OF DIASPORA AND MIGRATION

On September 28, 2018, the Valdas Adamkus Presidential Library-Museum and the Vytautas Magnus University Lithuanian Emigration Institute invited to the second international conference "Diaspora and Migration:



Photo: The Valdas Adamkus Presidential Library-Museum

Theoretical Approaches, Complex and Interdisciplinary Research." The conference was aimed at the history of Lithuanian diaspora, the challenges of modern migration, as well as other ethnic diaspora communities, history and activities of various émigré organizations, specific aspects of the diaspora culture, and comparative diaspora studies of the Baltic States.

The conference drew researchers from Lithuania, Great Britain, Poland, Latvia and Finland, who presented their research in the field of history of Polish, Lithuanian and Latvian diaspora communities, as well as the latest studies on migration processes that had taken place in recent decades. The conference focused on theoretical insights on modern diaspora and migration research, discussed the possibilities for interdisciplinary research.

The conference was organized by the Vytautas Magnus University Lithuanian Emigration Institute, which for more than two decades has been researching the history of diaspora and migration processes and serving as an archive and library for Lithuanian diaspora heritage. The Institute has been organizing scientific conferences, seminars and exhibitions dedicated to the history of diaspora.

The conference is an international bi-annual event. The first conference took place in 2016.

A PH.D. THESIS ABOUT LITHUANIAN ELECTRONIC MEDIA IN THE US

This fall, a Ph.D. candidate Ina Ėmužienė defended her thesis on Lithuanian radio and TV programs in the US from 1944 to 1990. Electronic media is a new theme in Lithuanian diaspora

history. In her research, Ina analyzes radio and TV programs broadcasted in the US territory and mostly aimed at Lithuanian-American community. She looks at 58 radio programs and 2 TV shows describing their operating principles, organizational scale, various forms and impact on Lithuanian-American community. In doing so, Ina analyzes the US federal policy toward audio-visual media creators of national ethnic groups, explains the electronic media “strategy” developed by the Lithuanian-American community and its goals, reconstructs the space of the audio-visual communication media within the community, its organizational principles and policies, and analyzes the role of radio broadcasts in breakthrough stages of the development of Lithuanian diaspora. While analyzing the content of Lithuanian-American radio and television programs, Ina reveals the most acute problems of Lithuanian diaspora community and attempts by radio and TV to solve them.

The doctoral thesis (in Lithuanian) can be accessed at <https://eltalpykla.vdu.lt/>

CANADIAN BALTIC IMMIGRANT AID SOCIETY CELEBRATES 70 YEARS IN CANADA



The Canadian Baltic Immigrant Aid Society (C.B.I.A.S.) is the home of Baltic Germans in



Sophie Barcus, the owner of the Sophie Barcus Radio Program in Chicago (1932–1987), in her studio. Photo: Lithuanian Archives Project

Canada. It was founded in 1948 to encourage the emigration of Baltic Germans to Canada and provide aid upon arrival. Today, it represents a community that exists for the purpose of kinship and heritage preservation. With regional branches across Canada, members gather together for cultural activities and celebrations.

2018 marks the 70th anniversary of the organization in Canada and a celebration was held at the Waterloo Inn and Conference Centre on August 10-12. The weekend included a “pub night” on Friday, a scavenger hunt and lunch at Laurel Creek Conservation Area, heritage presentations and a dinner/dance on Saturday and a breakfast on Sunday.

The C.B.I.A.S. is an active community that nurtures and maintains its history, traditions and cultural ties. The organization is currently focusing on heritage

preservation by gathering materials, cultural information and stories and has been working with Estonian, Latvian and Lithuanian organizations who are engaged in similar efforts. Together, they have formed a collaborative partnership known as “Baltic Canadian Imprints”. The group promotes the exploration of each others’ unique identity within a shared Baltic history.

Anyone wishing to find out more about Baltic Germans in Canada and/or the activities of Baltic Canadian Imprints is encouraged to contact: Petra Grantham - President, National Executive C.B.I.A.S. cbias.hv@hotmail.com

Petra Grantham

