

10 YEARS OF EMPOWERING YOUNG RESEARCHERS

This season marks the ten year anniversary of the Baltic Heritage Network young diaspora researchers' seminars.

With dozens of events held in Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Russia and the United States, Baltic Heritage Network has helped create an international forum for emerging scholars to present their work. The event series has also been crucial for developing mutually beneficial working relationships between global Baltic heritage professionals.

The current season started out with anthropological participatory observation in the former Estonian village Simititsa in Russia. BaltHerNet researchers joined descendants of the villagers at the cemetery where they helped clean

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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 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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the plots and took part in the erecting of a monument in honour of the ancestors buried in foreign soil. They also visited the Estonian St. John's church in St. Petersburg and experienced walking a segment of the route which the largest mass demonstration in support Estonian autonomy took in 1917. The seminar also touched upon other Finno-Ugric groups in the region.

The follow-up event took place in Lahemaa, where one of the people born in Simititsa opened up her home and photo collection for further exploration. On December 11th, new research findings from a wide range of topics from Latvian Entrepreneurship in the U.S. and Canada, to the history of Estonians in Kazakhstan will be explored in Riga, at the Latvian University during a pan-Baltic seminar.

The Baltic Heritage Network young diaspora researcher's seminars are financed by the Compatriot's Program, run by the Estonian Ministry of Education and Research.

Maarja Merivoo-Parro

LATVIAN MUSICIANS IN CANADA

Music is the foundation of Latvian culture, beginning with folk songs and continuing with symphonies and opera and other forms of musical expression. Latvia, proportionally to its population, has produced

a remarkable number of world-renowned musicians. Here I will look at those who arrived in Canada after WWII leaving their un-erasable musical footsteps and at others who followed in those footsteps.

Halifax was for many the place where Latvians took their first footsteps in Canada and where they began their professional musical careers on this side of the ocean. Opera singer Mariss Vētra (1901-1965) and family arrived in Halifax in January 1947 and started teaching at the Maritime Academy of Music where he organized an opera course. At that time there was no opera theatre, nor even an orchestra. With his students, Vētra started giving concert performances of opera fragments.

On the 200th anniversary of Halifax in 1949, with the assistance of other musicians, Vētra and his students performed Mozart's opera Don Giovanni, which was the very first opera performance in this city. Within the next three years they performed another five operas. Thus, with the assistance of the Nova Scotia Opera Association, Opera Nova Scotia was born. A few years later, Mariss Vētra moved to Toronto where he established his vocal studio and continued to teach singers.

Pianist Alfreds Štrombergs (1922-2006) arrived in Canada in 1948, a year after Mariss Vētra, and was

his invaluable assistant. He taught at the Maritime Academy of Music, which later became the Maritime Conservatory for Performing Arts. In 1949, Štrombergs organized the Halifax Symphonette to accompany performances of the Nova Scotia Opera Association. This ensemble evolved to become the Halifax Symphony in 1957, and after merging with the New Brunswick Symphony Orchestra became the Atlantic Symphony Orchestra.

This brings us to another Latvian musician, composer Jānis Kalniņš (1904-2000). Kalniņš immigrated to Canada in 1948, working initially as the organist and choirmaster of St. Paul's United Church in Fredericton, New Brunswick.

In 1951, Kalniņš took up two new appointments. The first was as Professor of Music at Fredericton's Teachers' College. By the time he retired from that position 20 years later, Professor Kalniņš had taught more than 700 students.

The second appointment was as conductor of the Fredericton Civic Orchestra. In 1959 he joined the Saint John's Symphony Orchestra and was an important part in the evolution of this group into the New Brunswick Symphony Orchestra in 1961. At that time Kalniņš was appointed its Principal Conductor.

On his 80th birthday, Dr. Kalniņš was honoured with a gala concert organized by Toronto's Latvian community in recognition of his contribution to the development of music in Canada. Another concert in his honour took place in Chicago one week later, and a third tribute concert took place in New York the following month. As part of the year's celebrations, President Ronald Reagan sent Dr. Kalniņš a congratulatory letter on October 19, 1984. In 1986, Mount Allison University created the Dr Jānis Kalniņš Award in his honour.

Composer Tālvāldis Ķeniņš (1919-2008) came to Canada rather late – on November 18, 1981, from Paris, France; this same day, Latvia's Day of Independence, became his

first day as organist of St. Andrew's Latvian Lutheran Congregation. In Ķeniņš' own words: "We arrived in the morning of 18th November and right after breakfast was taken to St. Andrew's Church. [...] This was a very important event - the very first time a Latvian communal service was to commemorate Latvia's independence in a newly acquired Latvian Church ... and the first time its newly arrived organist sat at the huge organ".*

In September of 1952, he joined the Faculty of Music at the University of Toronto where he taught for the next thirty-two years. Among his students were two other noted Latvian musicians: composer Imants Ramiņš and pianist Arturs Ozoliņš.

Ķeniņš was also active in Latvian society as a composer and as an organizer of various musical events in Canada including the Latvian Song and Dance Festivals in Canada. This year, his son Juris Ķeniņš – cellist, composer, teacher – followed in his father's footsteps as the Chair of the Board of the XV Latvian Song and Dance Festival in Canada.

Latvian Musical life in Canada is unimaginable without conductor and composer, Arvīds Purvs (1926-). After his arrival in Toronto from England in 1956, he took over the leadership of St. Andrew's church choir (founded by Tālvāldis Ķeniņš) and conducted it for the next forty-two years. He also conducted the women's choir Zīle for twenty-six years and the Latvian Baptist Choir for thirty years. As conductor and organizer, Arvīds Purvs was an invaluable part of the Latvian Song and Dance Festivals in exile in Canada, the USA, and Europe. After the declaration of Latvia's regained Independence on May 4, 1990, Purvs conducted at the XX Latvian Song and X Dance Festival in Riga, Latvia. On October 29 of the same year, the Toronto Mendelssohn Choir and the Toronto Symphony Orchestra performed his Cantata "Toward the Light" (Pret gaismu, original Latvian text by Ingrida Viksna, translated into English by Uldis Fogels). Purvs' book *Pa skanošu vasaru* (Through

Resounding Summer) is a lasting heritage of Latvian musicianship in exile.

Imants Ramiņš (1943-), the well-known Canadian composer, was born in Latvia. After spending some years in refugee camps in Germany after WWII, he came to Canada with his family in 1948. His life of music started first in Toronto as a student at the Royal Conservatory of Music and at the University of Toronto, continued at the Académie Mozarteum in Salzburg, Austria and at the University of British Columbia.

Upon returning to Canada, he settled in British Columbia and there continued his musical career. He founded the Prince George Symphony, the Youth Symphony of the Okanagan, NOVA Children's Choir and the AURA Chamber Choir.

Ramiņš has composed for many musical genres: solo voice, chamber music, choral music, symphonies, concertos, and operas. His music has been performed on six continents and in such famous places as Carnegie Hall and the Forbidden City. In 2017, the University of Toronto honoured him with a concert by student musicians, choirs and orchestras, who performed some of his most beloved pieces, including Latvian the folk song *Pūt vējiņi* (Blow Wind).

To celebrate both the legacy of Elmer Iseler, who had been Ramiņš professor at U of T, and Canada's 150th anniversary year, the Elmer Iseler Singers commissioned Ramiņš to compose a large-scale work. Thus "The Beauty of Dissonance, the Beauty of Strength", which runs over 40 minutes in eight movements, was born.

Conductor Ivars Tauriņš (1956-) grew up in Toronto and like many renowned musicians started musical activities early in life – piano studies at age eight, violin at thirteen and during his final year at North Toronto Collegiate, viola studies. He continued his musical education at the Royal Conservatory of Music with orchestral and conductor

training programs, continuing at the Conservatory of Music in The Hague, Netherlands, the University of Western Ontario, and the University of Toronto.

Equally at home conducting symphonic and choral repertoire, Ivars Tauriņš is the founding director of the Tafelmusik Chamber Choir, now in its 39th season and was also a violinist with Tafelmusik orchestra. In 2002, Tauriņš paid homage to his Latvian roots by organizing a Christmas concert, *Baltic Noel*, featuring a number of Baltic choirs including the Latvian choir *Dzirksts* ("Spark", conducted by Vizma Maksiņa) and Latvian/Canadian mezzo-soprano Vilma Indra Vitols. His annual performances of *The Messiah*, led by Tauriņš dressed as Herr Handel himself, are a hot ticket on the Toronto Christmas concert scene.

Gunta Dreifelds played an important role in the development of the revolutionary technology that fundamentally changed how we view and enjoy one of the richest musical expressions – opera. In 1983, Dreifelds was part of the Canadian Opera Company team which included General Director Lotfi Mansouri and Director of Operations John Leberg, who invented SURTITLES, thus making opera sung in foreign languages understood as never before. The first opera performed with SURTITLES was the COC's production of Richard Strauss's *Elektra* on January 21, 1983. Since then, SURTITLES have become part of opera performances worldwide. Gunta Dreifelds credits SURTITLES, at least in part, with an upsurge in opera attendance. At the Latvian National Opera in Riga, SURTITLES were first used in 2000.

Laura Adlers, Management Consultant, although not a professional musician herself, has done a great deal to introduce Latvian music and musicians to Canada by promoting special projects. One such project was organizing the Canadian premiere of Ēriks Ešenvalds' composition *Nordic Lights*, a multi-

media rendering of the aurora borealis, which was performed by the Orpheus Choir and Symphonic Orchestra on February 24, 2018. To quote the Latvian Ambassador to Canada, Kārlis Eihenbaums: “[she] ... takes Latvian culture out of Latvian bounds.”

References:

The Canadian Encyclopedia

Canadian Music Centre

“Janka” by Alfons Kalns

**Starp divām pasaulēm* (“Between Two Worlds”) pg. 53, by Ingrida Zemzare

Thank you to my editor Vilma Indra Vitols

Ženija Vitols

Director of the Canadian Latvian Archive and Museum

A SUNNY OCTOBER IN SIBERIA



The last October was surprisingly sunny in Siberia and full of bright events. We organized Michaelmas Festival In Siberia (Mickklipäev), in which the “Rõka külaselts ja sõbrad” group from Estonia and a brilliant master in the national Estonian art and costumes from St. Petersburg Society of Estonian Culture Tatiana Sigacheva took part.

Michaelmas Day or Harvest Day, folk holiday was first arranged in Krasnoyarsk in 2005 on the initiative of Krasnoyarsk Eesti Cultural Autonomy. The national tradition demands that this



holiday take place in a rural area and we have regularly organized it, since 2015, in the Khaidak Village. The Estonian and Seto dwellers of the village and Estonians we invited from other villages were happy to gather and share the joy of the holiday. This year, the event was also arranged in the New Pechora (Uus Petseri) and Upper Suetuk (Ülem Söetuk) Villages. We covered 2000 km between the three villages and, wherever we stopped on our way, local people met us with great hospitality. As this was a bumper harvest year in Siberia, the tables were near to breaking with tasty dishes. Estonian villagers were very grateful to the wonderful musician Henrik Hinrikus who masterly played Teppo the lõõts (a kind of accordion) and sang. Those who heard him will surely remember him long. Michaelmas Day is the day of peace, forgiveness, reconciliation, happiness, and thanking God for life. After harvesting comes the time for needlework and folklore. By Michaelmas Day, “turnips should be already in bins and a woman at home”.

Tatiana Sigacheva taught children to make national Estonian dolls. Every child who took her lessons left with a doll made by him/herself.

A well-known Estonian cuisine popularizer Tauno Laasing told the people the cuisine secrets and even cooked various tasty things himself using the products brought by the visiting Estonian group. Peipus dishes were a real discovery for us. We tasted, for the first time, onions and fish found around and in the Peipus.

The day we came to the Upper Suetuk Village, it was very warm (+19 C), “golden” autumn. Henrik Hinrikus said, “both people and



animals are happy here in their own ways”.

However, it was time for us to go back to Krasnoyarsk. On October 16, Days of Estonian Cinema began. The Head of the Estonian Cinema Institute Edit Sepp gave a lecture at Krasnoyarsk Cinema House. This was the first lecture on the history of Estonian cinema and it aroused the lively interest of the audience, the theatre was full. The Councilor on Cultural Issues of the Embassy of Estonia in Moscow Dimitri Mironov was translating the lecture from Estonian into Russian. The best Estonian films for adults and children were shown during the following week.

The traditional Day of Finnish-Ugrian Peoples was arranged on October 19. The holiday began with a tea party and lesson on making Sipsik Doll, which Tatiana Sigacheva gave to both children and their parents. She read passages from “Sipsik”, a story



by Estonian writer Eno Raud. At the end of the lesson, “Sipsik” animated cartoon was shown to the audience.

Then was the opening of “Finnish-Ugrian Peoples’ Dolls” exhibition, which Tatiana Sigacheva brought to Krasnoyarsk. The exhibits presented were made under Large Doll School Project based on the materials provided by the Russian Museum of Ethnography and Helsinki Museum. Among the visitors of the exhibition were teacher and students of the Folklore Art Department of Siberian Institute of Arts, who then tried to make non-sewed Finnish-Ugrian dolls with the help of Tatiana Sigacheva.

Then there was music, Estonian, Seto, and even a song in *livõ kēļ* (a coastal Finnish language), followed by singing and dancing in a ring and Külli Kell taught all comers how to play national games, sing songs, and dance. The day the guests departed was still warm.

On the last day of October, the Annual Krasnoyarsk Book Fair opened. As many as 250 publishing houses brought their books to the fair. The organizers made the fair a big cultural event. There was an Estonian book spot. Alexandra and KPD, Estonian publishing houses, sent books by modern Estonian writers Andrus Kivirähk, Jaan Kaplinski, Leelo Tungal, Maarja Kangro, Juri Kuuskemaa, Piret Raud, Rein Raud and others. Some of them are in Russian and some, for children, are bilingual to help learn Estonian.

We were volunteers and recommended the books to the visitors.

We sold quite a few books to Russian and Estonian literature lovers, bookshops and libraries.

Newly published books were sent to the Ülem Suetuk Village. Winter is already round the corner! Well, it is not a problem for us to while away long winter evenings.

Let’s read Estonian books and remember the sunny October we spent together with our friends in Siberia.

AN EXHIBITION ABOUT LITHUANIANS IN SOUTH AMERICA

The exhibition “Lithuanians of the World: Uruguay and Argentina” was exhibited in Vilnius Lukiškės Square this fall. It tells the stories of Lithuanians who travelled to South America in the mid-20th century.

Along with the photographs of Uruguayan and Argentine Lithuanian community members by Berta Tilmantaitė, nineteen narratives tell stories about Lithuanians who came to South America in search of happiness and peace or to escape misfortune. The members of the Uruguayan and Argentine communities shared their memories of Lithuania, told about difficult first years and their desire to return home, as well as the importance of the local Lithuanian community and attempts to preserve national identity abroad.

The expedition of the Lithuanian Archives Literature and Art to Uruguay and Argentina that



Meeting with the members of Lithuanian community “Mindaugas” based in Berisso, Argentina. Photo: Berta Tilmantaitė

took place on January 2019 was supported by the February Sixteenth Fund (Lithuania). During the trip, researchers gathered documentary heritage of Lithuanian communities’ in South America cultural activities and recorded their memories and stories. Twenty-six meetings took place and many unique historical archival documents were collected. The members of the community handed over photos, memoirs, letters, and periodicals.

It is not known when exactly the first Lithuanians arrived in Uruguay and Argentina. However, it is known that in the early 20th century, the Lithuanians established communities and were very active in Uruguay and Argentina. They helped Lithuania to declare independence, raised funds for various charitable foundations, published newspapers and books and organized performances, commemorations, and dinners. Although cultural activities have helped to keep the Lithuanian language alive and maintain national identity, the membership in Uruguayan and Argentine Lithuanian communities has been diminishing.

THE LITHUANIAN MINISTER OF CULTURE VISITED THE UNITED STATES

In early September, the Lithuanian Minister of Culture, Mindaugas Kvietkauskas, visited New York and Chicago. In New York, the Minister met with the director of YIVO Institute for Jewish Research, Jonathan Brent. They discussed the cooperation between the Institute and Lithuania and other relevant issues in preparation for next year’s commemoration of Vilna Gaon (born Elijah ben Solomon Zalman) and Lithuanian Jewish history.



General consul M. Bekešius (on the left) with Lithuanian writer Tomas Venclova. Photo: General Consulate of the Republic of Lithuania in Chicago.

The Minister participated in the Litvak Days organized for the first time in New York and Chicago on the initiative of the Consulate of the Republic of Lithuania in NY. The event included a public lecture and three debates. In New York, Kvietkauskas, along with writer Tomas Venclova and Prof. Saulius Sužiedėlis participated in the discussion “Challenges of Multiculturalism in Contemporary Lithuania.”

While in New York, Kvietkauskas also visited one of the world's largest American avant-garde film archives, Anthology Film Archives, founded in the early 1960s by Lithuanian-American Jonas Mekas. The Minister participated in the opening of the exhibition of the Lithuanian American artist Vytautas Ignas and met with representatives of the Lithuanian Alliance of America and the Lithuanian National Foundation.



The Minister of Culture visited the Balzekas Museum of Lithuanian Culture in Chicago. Photo: General Consulate of the Republic of Lithuania in Chicago

In Chicago, Kvietkauskas paid a visit at the University of Illinois at Chicago, the Poetry Foundation in Chicago, and met with the leaders of the Lithuanian World Center in Lemont. At the UIC, where students can learn Lithuanian language as part of their academic curriculum, the Minister participated in a discussion “The Narratives of Pluralism: Lithuania’s Past and Present” and met with the students of the Lithuanian Culture course.

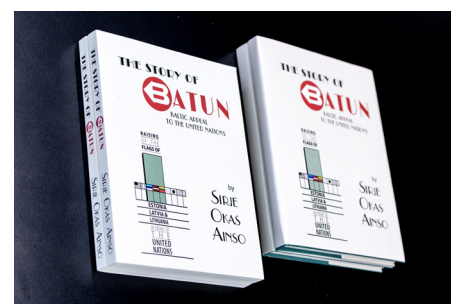
TWO PhD THESES ON LITHUANIAN DIASPORA

On October 25, a doctorate student of Vytautas Magnus University, Egidijus Balandis, successfully defended his PhD thesis “Sport in the Social Fabric of Lithuanian-Americans in the Early 20th Century.”

Using the history of the sport, Balandis analyzes the activities of Lithuanian-American organizations and civic participation of Lithuanians in American life. The main goal of his thesis is to explore the role of sport in a wider social fabric of Lithuanian-Americans of the early 20th century. Balandis looks at the attempts by Lithuanian-Americans to establish contacts and accumulate social capital through sports organizations, competitions, the non-sport activities of Lithuanian-American athletics clubs and the celebrities of that time. Using archival sources, periodicals and historiography, the author analyzes the by-laws of Lithuanian-American sports clubs, features of self-governance, various forms of activities, social functions, and their involvement in building social networks and relations with a broader part of the civil society of Lithuanian diaspora. In doing so, he tries to

answer the question what role did sport play in social networks of ideologically oriented Lithuanian-American movements, and what attitudes they held towards sport and sports activities. Balandis also investigates the attempts of the Lithuanian-American media and more famous athletes and fans to construct the portraits of sports heroes and their intentions to use these portraits as both an opportunity to bring Lithuanians together and as a tool of social control applied on different diaspora layers.

On October 11, Monika Šipelytė, a doctorate student of Vilnius University, defended her Ph.D. thesis on the topic of political and diplomatic activities of Lithuanians in Switzerland in 1915-1919 and their impact on the statehood of Lithuania. The dissertation analyzes in depth the early emigration of Lithuanians to Switzerland and their political aspirations, actions, and achievements during the WWI. More specific activities, such as international and national conferences, development and dissemination of state projects, publishing, and internal and external correspondence are discussed in five chronologically arranged chapters.



THE STORY OF BATUN PRESENTED AT THE NATIONAL LIBRARY OF LITHUANIA

On September 12, a book *The Story of BATUN—Baltic Appeal to the United Nations (1966-*



The author Sirje Okas Ains (on the left) was present at the event. Photo: Vygaudas Juozaitis/National Library of Lithuania.

1991), published in 2018 by Estonian-born Sirje Okas Ains was presented at the Martynas Mažvydas National Library of Lithuania. BATUN is the Lithuanian, Latvian and Estonian movement founded in the US in the late 1960s, which main goal was to seek independence for the Baltic States and their membership in the United Nations.

A collection of documents presents the historical narrative of the Baltic States and the successful collaboration between the three nations. The author Sirje Okas Ains offers an interesting narrative based on documents, photos and personal insights. The book also contains a collection of archival documents which include not only documents testifying to various BATUN's activities, but also organization's correspondence with ambassadors, materials distributed and produced by the organization, and examples of the BATUN's newsletter.

Sirje Okas Ains is an artist and a longtime member of BATUN. She grew up in Argentina and graduated from the University of Buenos Aires. In 1968, she moved with her family to the United States, where she studied arts at New York University. In 1969, she became actively involved in BATUN becoming a member of the board. Later she was delegated to the United Nations missions and the UN Human Rights Committee.

AN EXHIBITION ABOUT THE HISTORY OF LITHUANIAN-CANADIAN COMMUNITY, INC.

From September 23 to October 31, the visitors of the National Library of Lithuania had an opportunity to see the exhibition dedicated to Lithuanian-Canadian Community, Inc. and its political, cultural, and educational activities over the past 67 years. The organizers of the exhibition are the Lithuanian Museum-Archives of Canada and the Lithuanian-Canadian Community, Inc.

The exhibition presents the history of Lithuanians in Canada: the establishment and development of the Lithuanian Community, its political, cultural, and social activities, as well as significant support to Lithuania, especially in the early 1990s. The stands showcase the photos from the first Lithuanian Days in Canada, the World Lithuanian Community Congress in New York, and the first World Lithuanian Youth Congress in Chicago. The exhibition also demonstrates the cooperation of the Lithuanian-Canadians with the Reform Movement of Lithuania and the state of Lithuania after the restoration of independence and reminds of many other important events that took place during the 67-year-old history of the Community.



An exhibition about the history of Lithuanian-Canadian Community ran from Sep 23 to Oct 31. Photo: National Library of Lithuania/ Arūnas Sartanavičius

The exposition was supplemented by a video which was specially prepared by the staff of the National Library of Lithuania. In the video, various people from the field of culture, diplomacy and politics share their thoughts about Lithuanians in Canada, the development of relations between Canada and Lithuania and other important issues. The video in Lithuanian can be found on "Youtube": <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hFmRiZjyT0Y>

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE "RELIGIOUS COMMUNITIES IN THE AGE OF MIGRATION" IN KAUNAS



*Dr Ilona Strumickienė
Photo: Ina Ėmužienė*

On October 24-25, 2019 the Vytautas Magnus University Research Cluster "Church Relations with State and Society in Lithuania" invited a broad international group of researchers to the conference on the religious communities in the age of migration. The goal of the conference was to explore and discuss the religious history and contemporary processes of the Catholic Church, religious communities (such as Jews, Muslims, Catholics, Lutherans and Orthodox), migration, and diasporas.

Researchers from various research fields: religion, theology, history, political science, sociology, cultural science, public communication, and art history representing different countries (Belarus, Finland, Hungary,

Holland, US and Lithuania) gathered to the conference.

Two researchers from the Adolfas Damušis Democracy Studies Center of National Library of Lithuania participated in the conference. Dr Ilona Strumickienė, director of the Center, in her presentation “Returning Migrants and Their Influence on Lithuania’s Social and Religious Life” talked about re-emigration processes and the religious influences and expressions brought back by re-emigrants. In the presentation “Listening to ‘the Words of God’ on Lithuanian-American Radio,” Dr Ina Ėmužienė analyzed various forms of religion in the American radio media and its different expressions and impact on the Lithuanian-American community.

AUSTRALIAN LITHUANIAN COMMUNITY ARCHIVES NEWS

The Lithuanian-Australian newspaper “Mūsų pastogė” informs that last December the Australian Lithuanian Community, Inc. Board of Directors decided to invigorate the Australian Lithuanian Community Archive so that it is the preferred option for people to donate their archive material.

As a result, the Board appointed a management committee, currently chaired by the interim chair Tony Cibiras. The committee is also looking for “archive ambassadors” in all communities and the organizations to help promote the Archive.

The Committee’s longer-term plan is to collect, collate and digitize the history of Lithuanians in Australia and make it available online. One of the options being discussed is to partner with the National Library of Lithuania to gain access to the portal www.epaveldas.lt.

Another is to join with the Lithuanian Archives Project in Chicago www.lithuanianarchivesproject.org and use their portal.

On November 1, the Australian Lithuanian Archives shared another piece of news. The Archives has been successful in obtaining a grant from the National Library of Australia. This highly competitive grant gives the Archives funding for a Significant Assessment appraisal on the collection which will open up opportunities for further funding.



Archivist Daina Pocius and Australian Lithuanian Community President at the presentation ceremony. Photo: The Australian Lithuanian Archives.

AUSTRALIAN LITHUANIAN ARCHIVE

The Archive aims to preserve and provide access to an authentic record of the people, programmes and governance of the Lithuanian community in Australia. The Archive contains records created by the Lithuanian community in Australia that are worthy of permanent preservation. The primary collection dates from 1947 and includes minutes, reports, correspondence and other material from various clubs, groups and organisation in Australia.

The material was kept, in numerous places over the years until the 1990’s when it was consolidated in Adelaide. Much of the material was brought together for the publication of the Australian Lithuanian Metrašitis (Yearbook), the editing committee was based in Adelaide and here the collection remained. The Archive is housed in the Adelaide Lithuanian Catholic Centre in St Peters, where we have storage rooms and a large workroom.

We aim to increase knowledge and understanding of Lithuanian history and culture, both that of Lithuania and concerning Lithuanians in Australia.

The Archive seeks to:

- Select records that best document the community.
- Ensure the reliability of evidence through maintenance of the context and order of the archival records entrusted to its care.
- Create and maintain electronic and hard-copy descriptive tools that provide intellectual and administrative control of the records.
- Provide a physical environment for records that ensures their long-term viability and usefulness.
- Respond to the needs of the general public for historical evidence and information.
- To make available these materials and objects to the public for study and enjoyment.
- To cooperate with like organisations in activities which promote the history and/or heritage to our mutual benefit.

The Australian Lithuanian Archive is responsible to the Australian Lithuanian Community Federal Council (Australijos Lietuvių Bendruomenės Krašto Taryba). A national committee has been established with representatives from the main states of Australia. The Archive is managed by an honorary Archivist with



qualifications in this field and supported by volunteers.

We are committed to making the archives more accessible to users from around the world and have begun to digitise much of our collection. In the following year we hope to have an online presence to showcase some of our material. In 2020 the Archive as we know it today will be celebrating its 30th year. Stay up to date with the activities of the Archives by liking our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/australianlithuanianarchives>

Contact: Daina Pocius, Honorary Archivist

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MY TARTU - COLLECTION

CAMPAIGN TO CELEBRATE THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF TARTU COLLEGE

In September 2020, Tartu College will celebrate its 50th birthday. Throughout these long years, this building has been home to many Toronto university students as a residence, as well as a home to Estonians, non-Estonians, and guests from near and far. Tartu has been an intellectual home for the academic Estonians of Toronto, where hundreds of meetings and other parties have been held. Tens of cultural organizations and hundreds of volunteers have come together in the rooms of Tartu. Here, songs have been sung and dances held, exhibits organized, films and theatre performances viewed, and music enjoyed. Tartu is home to the largest Estonian archives and library collections outside of Estonia, which were

established as the initiative of the Tartu Institute and Dr Endel Aruja. Now, these collections continue to be developed as

VEMU, the Museum of Estonians Abroad. Tartu College is also home to the newspaper Eesti Elu.

For many, Tartu is a very personal place – weddings, confirmations and birthdays have been held here, and final goodbyes to community members have been said. At Tartu, the Greeks of Master's Buffeteria and the hard-working Portuguese housekeeping staff have continuously bustled around with Estonians. Tartu has been a workplace for many Estonians, but also to those who only learned about Estonia and Estonians once they started collecting knowledge through their work. Visitors from Estonia and all over the world have been to Tartu. For many, Tartu reminded them of home, for others, it has been an opportunity to learn about Canadian Estonians, Estonia, and Estonians overall.

Every one of us has our own Tartu story or sometimes many, as relationships with Tartu College may have changed at different stages of life. What is your Tartu? Share your memories of Tartu College with us in writing, or by audio or video recording. Send us photos, films, and meaningful items, which help illustrate your story. If you wish for us to interview you, please let us know.

A selection of information and material that we collect from the campaign will be used for the Tartu College 50th birthday exhibit, which will be opened at Tartu College in September 2020. Prizes will be awarded for the best contributions!

Questionnaire

The following questions are meant to support your memories. There is no obligation to answer all the questions – they are only meant to spark your memory for what is important to you.

What was your first encounter with Tartu College?

Do you remember what the corner of Bloor St. and Madison Ave. looked like before TC was built? Describe the area and/or share photos.

Do you remember the construction of TC? Do you or does anyone in your family have any personal connections to it? What connections? Describe and/or share photos.

Did you participate in the TC opening party? Describe.

Have you ever lived at TC? When? Why? Who were your neighbours, friends? How many of the residents knew the story of TC, that it is Estonian owned, and that there is a city in Estonia with the same name? Describe your everyday life and that of the other residents. Did TC residents have unique behaviours or traditions? Where did you party when you lived at TC, where did you go with friends? Did you participate in the work of organizations located in the building and attend the events? Describe them. Where did you eat when you lived at TC? Bring to mind fun moments when living at TC.

Have you ever worked at TC? What was your role? When? In which part of the building? What path led you to work at TC? Why did you leave? Describe your work. Who were your co-workers? How many of them were Estonian, how many had other backgrounds and where were they from? Describe everyday business at TC.

Bring to mind colourful and vivid moments during your work life at TC, with colleagues, clients, etc.

Have you and what kind of relationship have you had with Master's Buffeteria? If you have dined there, during what stages of life and why? Who was working in the restaurant at that time? Describe and remember interesting stories and people. What do you think of the restaurant's menu? Has it changed over the years? Has the layout and design of the restaurant changed over time? Who were the other restaurant guests? Has the type of guest changed over time? Have you used any other of Master's Buffeteria's services (catering, party preparation)?

Have you ever been a volunteer at TC? When? For what organizations? What did/does this organization do? What were/are your responsibilities? Have you ever received recognition for your volunteer work at Tartu College? What kind of recognition? Remember any exciting instances during your volunteer activities at TC.

Have you ever organized events at TC? When? What kinds? With whom? Describe.

Have you attended academic and cultural events at TC? When? When were you an especially active participant? Which events? Which events have you enjoyed the most and have been the most interesting?

Have you ever lived at TC as a short-term guest? When? Why? Describe your stay and contact with the local Estonian community.

Have you ever visited the archives and library collections at TC as a reader or researcher? When? What was your goal? Who did you meet

during your visit? Describe your time at TC.

Have you ever visited TC as a tourist? When? In association with what? Who did you meet? Describe your visit and impressions.

Are you and how are you/ have you been associated with the Chair of Estonian Studies and/or its establishment at the University of Toronto? Have you ever participated in courses as a university student at the Chair of Estonian Studies? When? Which courses? Who are/were your instructors?

Tartu College and the Toronto Estonian House. What role has one or the other played in your life? How would you compare them? What makes one or the other special?

What has been the importance and meaning of TC for Canadians and especially Toronto Estonians? And for Estonians in Estonia? How well-known is Tartu College in Estonia?

What has been the importance and meaning of TC for Toronto and Canada? How well-known is TC among non-Estonians as an Estonian company, a cultural centre, and repository for historical collections?

Please send your memories, photos, archival material, artefacts, and other items that preserve the history of Tartu College by email to piret.noorhani@vemu.ca, or by mail to Estonian Studies Centre/ VEMU, 310 Bloor St. W., Toronto, ON, M5S 1W4 by March 31, 2020.

Info: Piret Noorhani, t. 416 925 9405, piret.noorhani@vemu.ca



VEMU CELEBRATES THE YEAR OF ESTONIAN LANGUAGE

2019 is UNESCO's International Year of Indigenous Languages. In Estonia, as well as in Canada at the Museum of Estonians Abroad, VEMU, the Year of Estonian Language was celebrated.

Wednesday, September 11, a book launch of "Selected Works" by Urve Karuks was held at Tartu College. Wednesday, September 11, a book launch of Selected Works by Urve Karuks was held at Tartu College. The book of works by the prominent Canadian-Estonian poet Urve Karuks was compiled by Sirje Kiin and Linda Karuks and includes poems that have not been published before. The book was first launched at the Writers' Union House in Tallinn on May 29, 2019.

The launch event in Toronto included speeches by the literary scholar Sirje Kiin and the children of the poet, Linda Karuks, Alar Karuks. Urve's poetry was read by Eveli Kõrre, Ellen Valter, and Eerik Purje. The Estonian actor Anu Lamp also joined the poetry reading via Skype. Toivo Kulpa performed with the guitar.



From the left: Linda Karuks, Sirje Kiin, Alar Karuks. Photo: P. Noorhani

In October, VEMU hosted well-known authors from Estonia, Rein Raud and Kai Aareleid, at the 40th Toronto International Festival of Authors (TIFA).

Rein Raud is not only an established author, but also a well-known scholar in Cultural and Japanese Studies. From 2006-2011, he was the Rector of Tallinn University. Raud has written 9 novels, 5 poetry collections, as well as various translations, and academic studies. Three of his novels have been translated into English and he has received awards and nominations for these works. At TIFA, he presented his book "Death of a Perfect Sentence".

Kai Aareleid is a freelance translator and author who has written two novels, two poetry collections and one novel collection. Her novel "Burning Cities" was translated into English in 2018 and was presented at TIFA.

The authors had three panels during the TIFA festival programme from October 26-30 and met with their Canadian-Estonian readers at Tartu College on Sunday, November 3. Their trip was sponsored by the Estonian Studies Centre and the Cultural Endowment of Estonia.

THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE GREAT ESCAPE WAS COMMEMORATED AT VEMU

On Sunday, September 22, the Museum of Estonians Abroad, VEMU commemorated the 75th anniversary of the Great Escape of 1944 with the event Songs of Exile. The event was led by Andres Raudsepp. He led musical performances by Järvi Linda, Lauri Kalle, Avo Kittask, and Liina Purje-Lepik. The event also included a short presentation in



the format of an interview about
From the left: Avo Kittask, Järvi Linda Raudsepp, Andres Raudsepp, Lauri Kalle Raudsepp, Liina Purje-Leppik, Elli Kipper.

the Estonian translation of Dr. Jaak Jürison's book "Viimane rong Eestist" and group singing.

THE RECTOR OF TARTU UNIVERSITY VISITED TORONTO

At the end of October, Tartu University's Centennial Anniversary as an Estonian language university was celebrated in Toronto. A high-level delegation from Tartu University visited the University of Toronto and Tartu College. This delegation consisted of the Rector of Tartu University, Prof. Toomas Asser, and four distinguished Estonian scholars who gave lectures at the University of Toronto on the following topics: Dr. Aigi Rahi-Tamm "Bringing War into Everyday: Re-education of Society in Postwar Soviet Estonia," Dr.

Mihkel Solvak "Internet Voting in Estonia," Prof. Margit Sutrop "Should We Trust Artificial Intelligence?," Dr. Mait Metspalu „Digging Genomes for Propelling Medicine and Understanding Our Past.”

On Friday, October 25, Tartu College hosted a reception for the 100th anniversary celebration where the Rector of Tartu University gave a speech and the local academic mixed choir Ööbik performed.

LECTURES AND EXHIBIT OPENING AT VEMU

In the fall season, the Museum of Estonians Abroad, VEMU organized several lectures at Tartu College expanding on different historical events and traditions both in Estonia and among the Estonian Canadians.

On September 28, Tartu College's 49th anniversary was celebrated with the Dr. Vello Soots Memorial Lecture by the founder of Kalev Estienne, Evelyn Koop, and opening of the exhibition „Estonian Sport in Canada.” Kalle Voolaid and Toomas Koitmäe from the Estonian Sports and Olympic Museum in Tartu spoke about the exhibit and their partnership with VEMU.



Photo by Peeter Põldre ©2019

*The Rector of Tartu University,
Prof. Toomas Asser visiting VEMU.
Photo: J. Helin*



Puuluup with other performers and team members after a successful concert at Artscape Sandbox. Photo. P. Põldre

On October 23, Andres Raudsepp gave a lecture on the Estonian Song Festival tradition. On November 6, Prof. Andres Kasekamp spoke about the Silent Era in Estonia.

ESTONIAN MUSIC WEEK AND TECH CONFERENCE LATITUDE44 IN TORONTO

One of the biggest events for VEMU this year was the second Estonian Music Week, which took place November 14-17. It brought contemporary music stars both from Estonia and Canada to Toronto. This year the programme was geared toward modern classical, tech, pop/jazz, and folk music.

On Thursday, October 14, Ensemble U: (EE) gave three exclusive concerts with a Virtual Reality (VR) program, "Raba." Sixty people had the chance to listen to modern classical music with VR images of an Estonian bog.

The same evening, we had the EMW opening party at Archeo in the Distillery District with live jazz music by August Riik and Andrew Marzotto (TOR) and Vaiko Eplik (EE) as DJ later that night.

On Friday, October 15, we had a fun evening with post-folk band Puuluup (EE), local smoky soul-pop singer Kaili Kinnon (Canada), and the extravagant Mari Sild Band from Montreal.

Radio host Jaymz Bee hosted the evening.

On Saturday, October 16, the Estonian indie pop icon NOËP made a club full of people dance to his popular songs. The festival finished with the EMW closing party "Wrap it up!" on Sunday, October 17 at Tartu College. Tiina Kiik (TOR) and Vaiko Eplik (EE) performed and formed a great connection with their audience.

The Estonian Music Week Culture Club also organised three concerts this fall. On September 17, Curly Strings drew 220 people to dance and sing at Tartu College. On November 29, in Hamilton and on November 30, in Toronto, two multiple award-winning singer-

songwriters from opposite sides of the world, Canada's Laila Biali and Estonia's Kadri Voorand, joined forces for two amazing evenings of music.

In conjunction with Estonian Music Week, the Estonian Studies Centre/VEMU organized

Latitude44 - a tech conference featuring Estonian tech, e-Governance, and start-ups. The conference brought together 160 tech-minded people at WE Global Learning Centre in Toronto on November 14-15. The programme featured high-level speakers from both Estonia and Canada. Feedback from the event was highly positive.

Events were supported by the Estonian Studies Centre, Tartu College, the Estonian Credit Union, the Estonian Foundation of Canada, the Estonian Ministry of Culture, the Estonian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Integration Foundation (Estonia), Startup Estonia, Nortal, Superangel, Deloitte and patrons Toomas Koger, Vaike Kõlvet, Anita Genua, and Trina McCrae.



The panel on cybersecurity: How to Take Cover. From the left: moderator Josh Gold, MP John McKay (Canada) and Siim Alatalu from the NATO Cooperative Cyber Defence Centre of Excellence (Estonia). Photo: E. Jaansoo