

Merry Christmas!
Have a Safe and Happy New Year!

2021



Your BaltHerNet

Mai Raud-Pähn 100

Far from Home. Songs of Siberian Estonians

The University of Latvia 100

A Historical Moment for the Lithuanian Diaspora

Anniversary of the Lithuanian Community in Estonia

North American Premiere of "The Jump"

Conference on Memory Policy in Lithuania

First Baltic Migrants For Canberra

Tartu College 50th Anniversary celebration

VEMU's Virtual Autumn Program

School Lore Competition for Estonians in Canada

A Living Archival Project for Our Times - „Vienotība”

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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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TAKE PART IN THE INITIATIVE BY VABAMU TO COLLECT FILMS SHOWCASING THE LIVES OF ESTONIAN COMMUNITIES ABROAD

The initiative takes place in cooperation with ETV2 and its purpose is to produce new episodes of the show 8 mm ELU (LIFE on 8 mm) and update our museum collection with films depicting the lives of Estonian communities abroad. We are collecting materials recorded on 8 mm and Super8 film.

The series 8 mm ELU (LIFE on 8 mm) has successfully aired on Estonian Public Broadcasting channels and gained significant views. The first two seasons focussed on films recorded by local Estonians. Now, the show makers want viewers to see the stories of Estonian communities abroad.

See: <https://vabamu.ee/collections/film-collecting-campaign-of-estonian-communities-abroad>

MAI RAUD-PÄHN 100

On November 2nd, the oldest member of the Baltic Heritage Network, Mai Raud-Pähn, celebrated her 100th birthday. Mai joined the organization during its early years as the leader of the Stockholm Estonian Archives Group. She has been a BaltHerNet honorary member since 2014.



A jubilee party took place on November 5th at the initiative of the Association of Estonians in Sweden (AES). It was a modern hybrid event: Mai and Sirle Sööt, the chairwoman of the AES were together at Mai's house, some guests gathered at the Stockholm Estonian House, the rest of the guests were at their homes and everyone celebrated together over Zoom. We looked at Mai's photo albums, listened to the jubilarian's presentation on silver

handicrafts, enjoyed musical interludes, and heard many well wishes. BaltHerNet also sent a video greeting to Mai.

Mai Raud-Pähn was born in Pärnu. She was able to become an elementary school teacher in Estonia and taught for three years. However, in the fall of 1944 she had to flee – first to Germany and later through Denmark to Sweden.

In Sweden, Mai held various positions before she was able to continue her studies in art. She studied calligraphy at night courses and later at the Drawing Teachers Institute. Following graduation, she was a drawing teacher in Visby. From 1959-1964, Mai studied art history, archaeology, ethnology and started researching silver handicraft with professor Sten Karling at the University of Stockholm. In 1972, she received her Licentiate Degree with her thesis „Silversmiths in Tallinn 1474-1659.“

In 1980, Mai Raud-Pähn began working at the Association of Estonians in Sweden office as a secretary. She became the Office Director in 1987, which she held until her retirement. During the years 1987-2014, she was the Editor-in-Chief of the magazine Rahvuslik Kontakt (National Contact). Mai has been active in many organizations: the Swedish Estonian Association Board of Representatives, Estonian Association of Academic Women, Estonian Women Students' Society, TRIINU, and the Society of Friends of the Estonian National Museum. She was also a member and secretary of the active Estonian Scientific Society in Sweden.

Mai has been to many of the BaltHerNet summer schools and conferences, sharing her personal memories with us and discussing the work of the Swedish Estonian Archives Group. She was also our primary assistant when we organized an info day about Estonian archives abroad at the Stockholm Estonian House in 2009.

Mai is quietly wordy, witty, infinitely active, and a true lady, who will never lose her poise. Mai is also quite lucky. At the BaltHerNet summer school closing party there is always a large raffle, where the prizes are books, films, and the grand prize is free participation at the next summer school. Mai has won the

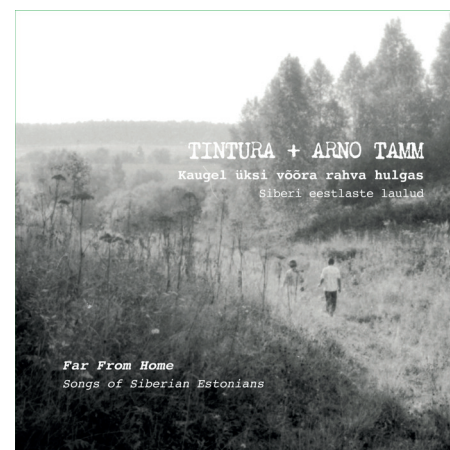
grand prize twice and without cheating. The last prize she won at the 2017 Haapsalu summer school, she has not yet been able to use...

In closing, one more memory from the summer school in 2017. We were listening to Anton Pärn tell us about the artist and the history of the house at the Ants Laikmaa Museum. When there was a pause, Mai started telling us how she had met Laikmaa in real life... The museum guide and all of us with only our knowledge from books, went pale – she spoke so simply and naturally of this person we had only ever read books about. She spoke as we would, if we had run into Hando Runnel (for non-Estonians, this is a famous living Estonian poet) on the street in Tartu again. Thus, we are all living bridges between different times, sharing stories and life experiences across generations. It is wonderful that Mai is our bridge to our people's past. We would like to thank her for all she has done during her long life and we wish her happiness and good health!

FAR FROM HOME. SONGS OF SIBERIAN ESTONIANS. BY TINTURA AND ARNO TAMM 2020

Tintura and Arno Tamm began collaborating in 1917. Tintura blend beats and traditional music from their native Estonia to create a soundscape that seamlessly reflects the ancient songs and tunes of their homeland. They occupy a space where Baltic electronica meets tender folk song and fiddle music.

Tintura musicians were inspired by the Estonians who were born, raised, and lived in Siberia. They have said: "The recordings of Siberian Estonian folk songs seemed to radiate a necessity to



and delight for gathering and singing together, and we realised they filled some kind of a space within us”.

The majority of Estonians in Siberia are the descendants of Estonians who emigrated upon the coercion of the Imperial Russian central government in the final decade of the 19th century and at the beginning of the 20th century, when Estonia was part of Imperial Russia. Settlements that were established even earlier were made up of people deported to Siberia by the Russian imperial government.

Expeditions to Siberia organized by the Estonian Folklore Archives in the 1990s and 2000s produced recordings that, together with the anthology “Songs of Siberian Estonians” (compiled by Anu Korb, published in 2005) served as source material for this album. In 2014, the improved anthology was made available online. <http://www.folklore.ee/pubte/eraamat/siberilaulud/eestlased/>

Estonians who migrated to Siberia treasured and preserved the songs they had learned from their ancestors. They were passed down from generation to generation. Due to the new cultural and linguistic environment, the songs acquired hybrid tones and manners of stylistic expression. The Estonians in Siberia assign particular importance to community singing.

Tintura musicians hope that the new album will inspire listeners and serve as a stimulus for further exploration of folk songs in Siberia and Estonia alike.

Anu Korb

THE UNIVERSITY OF LATVIA 100

On January 19, 2020 at the Toronto Latvian Centre the 100th anniversary of University of Latvia was celebrated. There were 12 other speakers at this gathering, each charged with the task of presenting something interesting, personal or academic, worthy of the gathering of ex-alumni and the diaspora at large. The afternoon was memorable. Three hymns rang out during the gathering, first of all, the Latvian national anthem (Dievs sveti Latviju), next the Hymn of the University of Latvia (Lidzigi saulei

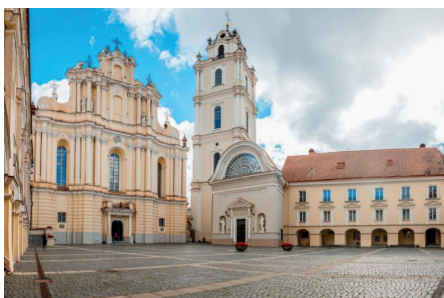
tu atnes mums dienu) and at end the assembled stood to join in the immortal academic hymn sacred to every student, Gaudeamus igitur.



The University of Latvia is the youngest of the three Baltic greats. University of Latvia in Riga founded in 1819.



The second oldest is the University of Tartu in Estonia. University of Tartu, founded in 1632.



The oldest is the University of Vilnius in Lithuania, The University of Vilnius, founded in 1579.

There were 12 other speakers at this gathering, each charged with the task of presenting something interesting, personal or academic, worthy of the gathering of ex-alumni and the diaspora at large - in three minutes. The afternoon was memorable. Three hymns rang out during the gathering, first of all, the Latvian national anthem (Dievs sveti Latviju), next - towards the middle of the presentation, the Hymn of the University of Latvia (Lidzigi saulei tu atnes mums dienu) and at end the presentation the assembled stood to join in the immortal academic hymn sacred to every student, Gaudeamus igitur.

During the time of the First National Awakening, a period that lasted from

the 1850's until the 1880's, there was a real push for education, not only for the elite but also for the common people in Latvia. The University of Latvia actually started out as the Riga Politechnical Institute or the Riga Polytechnicum in 1862, but was accredited as a University (Universitas Latviensis) in 1919 by the approval of the constitution of Latvia. Subsequently it underwent several name changes with the various occupations that plagued the country. At the advent of the Soviet occupation the University was renamed the Latvian State University. Then briefly with the Nazi occupation (1942-1944) it was called the University of Riga and at the Soviet occupation in 1944, it went back to the State University of Latvia of Peteris Stucka. Once Latvia regained its independence in 1991, the University reclaimed its name on September 18th, 1991 as The University of Latvia. At the same time the University reclaimed the various symbols of the university, such as the flag, the emblem, the hymn and the chain and robes of the Rector.

Currently there are roughly 15,000 students, both Latvian and international, who are studying at one of the 13 faculties the University offers. Most courses are taught in Latvian, but over 200 courses are taught in English, including medicine and dentistry, to accommodate the international students that come there to study but expect to return to their home country and fully expect that their studies in Latvia will be granted credit in their home country. It is important to note that from its earliest beginnings, the University offered scholarships and bursaries to worthy applicants who lacked the funds to finance their education. Education was highly regarded in Latvia, and many of the students came from poor farm families.

CBSS (the Council of the Baltic Sea States) established in 1993 in Helsinki, created the Euro Faculty, an organization designed to support the reforms at the three Baltic Universities in Tartu, Riga and Vilnius. Its statutes were accepted at the Third Ministerial session in Tallinn, Estonia and its aim was to bring the Baltic Universities up to the Western standard, to facilitate



the acceptance of their degrees in other countries. They concentrated at that time to reform and co-ordinate the Higher Education in Law, Economics, and Public and Business Administration and the seat of their administration was at the University of Latvia in Riga. They functioned until 2005 when the three Baltic States entered into the European Union.

In 2019, the University of Latvia celebrated its one hundredth anniversary. Actually, the celebrations started a year early. On September 19th of 2018, the celebrations were officially declared open and their program lasted all through the following year with speeches, seminars, countless get-togethers for students in both academic and social venues, concerts, a travelling library and exposition and many other offerings. The crown jewel of the year long celebrations was a grand ball (Carpe Noctem) or Seize the Night of the Century, in the grand auditorium of the University on September 27th 2019, organized for any and all students, alumni, professors and benefactors.

To honour the centenary of the University, the Latvian Post released two commemorative stamps.

Today, the University of Latvia is highly regarded among the ranks of the



Universities and students alike, offering a life rich in both academic and social education. Besides the regular degrees, the Bachelor, the Master and the Doctor of Education, students and guest lecturers from abroad enrich the life of the students. Fraternity and sorority life flourishes, the University boasts several choirs such as the Minjona, a woman's choir, dance groups, a student theatre and countless clubs and academic organizations that allow for both heated debates and relaxation.

The motto of the University is *Scientiae et Patriae!!*

Irena Zvaguls

A HISTORICAL MOMENT FOR THE LITHUANIAN DIASPORA

The October 11 elections will enter the history of the Lithuanian diaspora and Lithuania. For the first time, the diaspora had elected its "own" representative in the Parliament of Lithuania. Alongside Italy, France, and Moldova, the country became the fifth state in the world where it is possible.

By establishing a single-member constituency for global Lithuanians, Lithuania became the first in the North-Eastern region of Europe to have a direct representative of Lithuanian citizens living abroad in its Parliament. The opportunity evoked by the newly created constituency became a phenomenon of civic activism. Ten candidates competed for the diaspora's votes, the global voters elected Aušrinė Armonaitė, 31-year-old leader of liberal Freedom Party.

A dedicated constituency of global Lithuanians came into being after global Lithuanians' overwhelming activity in the 2019 referendum for amendment of the constitutional clause on citizenship by birthright. Even though the referendum was short of votes, the record number of registered voters—more than 60,000 overseas voters—became a strong argument for forming a separate constituency for the diaspora to have a dedicated parliamentarian.

In this year's elections, global Lithuanians reached one more record. As compared to the last Parliament elections, twice as many overseas voters



MŪSŲ METAS DABAR

Logo of the civic initiative, Our time is NOW.

exercised their constitutional right and made the constituency the largest and the most active in Lithuania. The civic initiative, Mūsų Metas DABAR (Our time is NOW), run by a diverse team of global Lithuanians, played a major role in this electoral engagement wave. It united the major umbrella organizations of Lithuanians abroad and more than 70 volunteers from 30 countries for a coordinated campaign in social networks, fundraising, organization of candidate debates as well as public relations.

Source: Lithuaniatribune.com

VIRTUAL LESSONS FOR STUDENTS OF LITHUANIAN SCHOOL OF WASHINGTON, DC

The Documentary Heritage Research Department of the National Library of Lithuania is participating in the virtual educational project "Lithuania-Washington," initiated

The project was initiated by the Lithuanian School of Washington.



by the Lithuanian Saturday School in Washington, DC (USA). This year, Dainius Vaitiekūnas, head of the Lithuanian Studies Unit, and Jolanta Zabarskaitė, chief researcher from the same unit, have joined the project.

The project will run for seven months. Its main goal is to introduce students of Lithuanian origin with Lithuanian traditions, culture, history, folk art, and most importantly—to implement it in an accessible and playful way. Zabarskaitė is in charge of Lithuanian language lessons, Vaitiekūnas is responsible for literature. The project also collaborates with the Kaunas State Puppet Theater, folk artists Donata Gričiūtė-Jutkienė and Laura Raine and history teacher Algis Bitautas. Ilona Strumickienė, head of the Adolfas Damušis Center for Democratic Studies of the National Library of Lithuania, has contributed to the development of the program.

Friendship is the theme of this month's lessons. Vaitiekūnas's first lesson was dedicated to the analysis of Mikalojus Konstantinas Čiurlionis's work "Friendship." The lesson also touched upon Romanticism and Maironis, one of the most prominent Lithuanian poets of that era. Zabarskaitė discussed the origins of the Lithuanian alphabet, talked about the first Lithuanian book and dictionary, the friendship with Czechs and Poles and the letters the Lithuanians borrowed from them.

THE MAGAZINE PASAULIO LIETUVIS WILL BE PUBLISHED ONCE A YEAR

The magazine Pasaulio lietuvis [The World Lithuanian] has changed its format. From now on it will be published only once a year. The new publication is larger in volume, having acquired an even clearer structure. Several researchers of the Documentary Heritage Research Department of the National Library of Lithuania contributed to the first issue of the magazine. Dr. Dalia Cidzikaitė interviews Marijus Gudynas, the director of the World Lithuanian Department at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Lithuania. Deimantė Žukauskienė writes about the Lithuanian community in South America



The first issue of a new format magazine.

and the future plans of the Lithuanians in Venezuela. Dr. Ilona Strumickienė, head of the Adolfas Damušis Center for Democratic Studies, contributed two texts on emigration. Both articles are part of the Center's current project "30 Stories for 30 Years: The Experiences of Returning Immigrants and Their Contribution to the Consolidation of Lithuania's Statehood."

THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE LITHUANIAN COMMUNITY IN ESTONIA



To commemorate its 40th anniversary, the Lithuanian Community in Estonia created a new logo.

On October 10, the Lithuanian Community in Estonia (LCE) celebrated its 40th anniversary and the 30th anniversary of joining the World Lithuanian Community. In 1980, the Lithuanian Community in Estonia, continuing the traditions of the first Lithuanian Society in Tallinn (then Reval) founded in 1917, was registered as a society. Another ten years had passed, and it was renamed the community.

"Compared to other Lithuanian diaspora communities, in terms of

number of members, we are a small community, with about 70 active members. But we have an endless desire to maintain our identity," Rita Kuzminienė, the President of LCE, said in the event.

The traces of Lithuanians in Estonia go back to Jonas Jablonskis and his period in Reval. Together with Prof. Petras Avizonis he wrote the famous "Lithuanian Language Grammar." The University of Dorpat (today the University of Tartu) is yet another place that played an important role in Lithuanian history. This is where a number of Lithuanian medical doctors studied.

Milda Marija Trinskytė, the founder and first chairwoman of the LCE, shared her memories of the community's activities. Cecilija Rasa Unt, the chairwoman for thirty years, who wrote a book about the LCE, noted that most Lithuanians came to Estonia in the post-WWII years, when former deportees were not allowed to settle in their homeland. Until 2000, up to 2,000 Lithuanians lived in Estonia.

Source: Lrt.lt

NORTH AMERICAN PREMIERE OF "THE JUMP"

On November 11-19, the American audience had a chance to watch a Lithuanian film "The Jump" (dir. Giedrė Žickytė; 2020, Lithuania / Latvia / France) based on historic facts. In 1970, off the coast of Cape Cod, a Lithuanian sailor Simas Kudirka jumped



from his Soviet ship onto a US Coast Guard vessel seeking asylum. Denied refuge by the American crew, Kudirka was sentenced to a Soviet labor camp for treason, sparking an international cause célèbre. As his dramatic case played out in the media reaching the highest levels of the US government, this ordinary man became a symbol for freedom-seeking refugees everywhere.

Film trailer: <http://www.moonmakers.lt/portfolio-items/the-jump/?portfolioCats=8%2C7%2C11>

CONFERENCE ON MEMORY POLICY IN LITHUANIA

On September 29, the Adolfas Damušis Center for Democratic Studies of the National Library of Lithuania organized its annual conference. The topic of this year's conference was "Memory Policy in Lithuania: Trends, Challenges and Opportunities."

Researchers, political scientists, and historians attended the conference. Among them, Dr. Daiva Dapkutė of the Lithuanian Immigration Institute of Vytautas Magnus University, Dr. Monika Kareniauskaitė of the Lithuanian Genocide and Resistance Research Center, Dr. Rasa Čepaitienė of the Lithuanian Institute of History, Prof. Valdas Rakutis from Klaipėda University, Dr. Norbertas Černiauskas, Vice-Dean of the History Department of Vilnius University, Vilnius University Ph.D. students, Antanas Terleckas and Darius Indrišionis, and researchers from the National Library of Lithuania.

Four main topics were discussed at the conference: methodological and practical aspects of memory policy; narratives shaping memory policy; challenges of the Soviet period to the politics and culture of memory; and resistance in memory culture and politics.



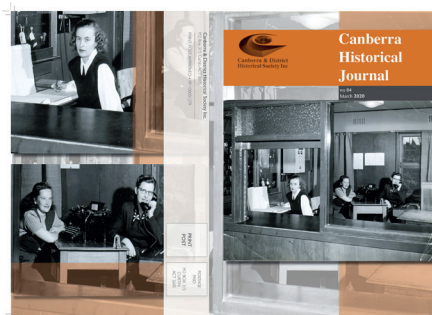
Photo: Sevilė Charsika

A NEW INTERN AT THE NATIONAL LIBRARY OF LITHUANIA



A new intern Augustas Alekna, a Vilnius University senior, has joined the Lithuanian Studies Unit of the National Library of Lithuania. Alekna is doing his BA in political science and diplomacy. His BA thesis is focused on the analysis of the displaced persons' or war refugees' reflections about their status and fate and memory politics in contemporary Lithuania. The intern has joined the ongoing Unit's projects and research. During the four-month internship, he hopes to deepen his competencies in social science research and acquire new ones.

FIRST BALTIC MIGRANTS FOR CANBERRA



From the cover inwards, the March 2020 issue of the Canberra Historical Journal features Ann Tündern-Smith's article about 60 Baltic women who arrived in the then small capital city of Australia in December 1947.

The group was more than half of the women on the first voyage of Displaced Persons to Australia after World War II. They departed Europe at the start of November 1947 and reached Australia exactly four weeks later.

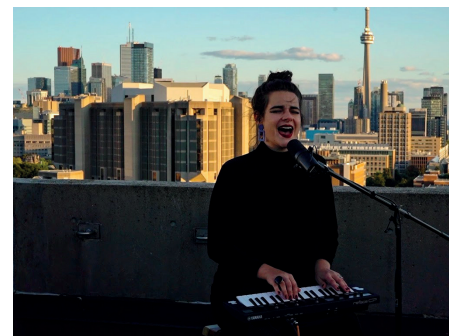
All of the passengers on the first voyage were from the Baltic States. This was a deliberate choice, motivated in part by

the Australian Government's sympathy for the loss of the brief independence of the three countries.

The passengers numbered 843, of whom 114 were women. The 60 women sent to work in the fledgling national capital provide a cohort for the study of their past histories; the types of work to which they were put; and the demography and sociology of their later lives in Australia.

Ann has a small number of additional copies of the issue to donate to interested researchers and institutions. For more information, please contact her at [<tundern@yahoo.com.au>](mailto:tundern@yahoo.com.au).

TARTU COLLEGE 50TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION



Kaili Kinnon performing on the roof of Tartu College.

Photo: Paul Külaspea

On Saturday, September 19, 2020, exactly 50 years had passed from the festive opening of Tartu College. VEMU celebrated this important occasion with a special virtual program, which included birthday wishes from all around the world and historical documentary film clips from the early years of Tartu College. The climax of the night was Kaili Kinnon's rooftop concert: "Songs for Tartu" part of the Estonian Music Week live stream series.

CELEBRATING LANGUAGES

The Worldwide Estonian Language Week took place from September 21–27. The same week European Language Day was celebrated on September 26. To mark both these occasions, VEMU organized a quiz on the history and present usage of Estonian language as well as the languages of Estonia's neighbouring countries (Latvian, Lithuanian, Finnish and Russian). It showed the differences and similarities



Rasmus Rattas, the author of the idea and main implementer of the exhibit.

Photo: Piret Noorhani

of the languages that have lived side-by-side for centuries.

The quiz competition ran from September 26 to October 4. During that period, six people out of 70 answered all the questions right and were awarded. The quiz is still open for the public - if you want to test your knowledge, access it here: <https://forms.gle/vXPLwo7rTH4EXwVm7>

VEMU also organized a virtual window exhibition to promote Estonia and the Estonian language in the windows of the G-floor of Tartu College. In the evenings, Bloor Street pedestrians could see Marko Mäetamm's language themed postcards and learn some Estonian. The exhibition was also part of the Ontario Culture Days Festival.

VEMU'S VIRTUAL AUTUMN PROGRAM

Despite the pandemic, VEMU had a very active program for the autumn. Lectures, workshops and celebrations were organized virtually, using different online platforms: YouTube, Zoom and Facebook.

Some of the VEMU lectures were dedicated to the pandemic. In October, Piret Voolaid, Senior Researcher at the Department of Folklore in the Estonian Literary Museum, gave a lecture about the role of folklore in the straining COVID-19 crisis. The folklorists at the Estonian Literary Museum already started collecting COVID-19 folklore as digital heritage in January 2020, when the virus devastated the city of Wuhan in China. In her lecture, Voolaid showed samples of anecdotes and memes as examples of crisis folklore, which expresses different emotions like the fear of the unknown mainly in a humoristic way. In November,

Professor Emeritus of Medicine, Peeter Põldre, gave a lecture on the past, present and future of COVID-19. The lecture offered a great opportunity to ask questions from an eminent medical doctor.

The third lecture in the autumn season was organized for the 101st anniversary celebration of Tartu University as an Estonian language university. Tartu University Visiting Estonian Diaspora Professor David Ilmar Lepasaar Beecher gave a lecture on the topic "Home and Exile: The Place of Tartu in Me and in the World," followed by a discussion and celebration.



Besides lectures, there were also other events. "Cooking with Käbi," a cooking workshop, taught participants how to make hearty and delicious dishes: salad, beetroot soup and Estonian style sushi. Together with Kotkajärve Forest University, VEMU organized the Canadian premiere of a new Estonian documentary film "Fred Jüssi: The Beauty of Being." It portrays an Estonian nature philosopher who has given deep consideration to the fundamental questions of being human. The film is a hymn for living slowly, a philosophy which can also be seen as very topical during COVID-19.

As this year marks the anniversaries of many Estonian diaspora authors (Bernard Kangro 110,

Kalju Lepik 100, Ilmar Külvet 100) as well as the publishing house Estonian Authors Cooperative 70 (Eesti Kirjanike Kooperatiiv), VEMU co-organised with partners in Sweden (Estonian Scientific Society in Sweden - South Sweden Chapter, Lund Estonian House



Association, Embassy of the Republic of Estonia in Sweden) a seminar marking the Celebration of Diaspora Writers.

See VEMU's autumn livestreams on the VEMU YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/user/VEMUESC>

ESTONIAN MUSIC WEEK'S LIVESTREAM SERIES

This autumn Estonian Music Week (EMW) started a Livestream Concert Series to commemorate Tartu College's 50th Anniversary. The first concert took place during the Tartu College 50 online celebration. The event culminated with a rooftop concert by the beloved local singer-songwriter Kaili Kinnon. Her smoky soul pop was a perfect fit with the sunset over the Toronto skyline.

The second livestream moved to the basement, to the VEMU archival depository, where experimental multi-genre producer, turntablist, vocalist, and instrumentalist Erik Laar mixed old diaspora music with more contemporary tunes. About 500 people joined the concert via Facebook.

The live stream series consisted not only of music, but also included Marcus Kolga's interesting talk "Tallinn Calling: Jazz, Punk, Rock n' Roll and Youth Culture in The Soviet Union."



At the beginning of December, one more live stream was organized, this time featuring a duo called Honeypaw, who live in one of the suites of Tartu College. Its members are Jurgita Žvinklytė from Lithuania, and Matti Palonen, who is of Finnish heritage. Their sound is steeped in traditional Lithuanian and Finnish musical and literary motifs. Honeypaw uses Lithuanian sutartinė songs which includes overlapping multiple rhythms and melodies of the same length. The duo's music also draws from the Finnish epic Kalevala and multicultural Toronto. Their main instrument

is the Finnish jouhikko (lyre). The concert was organized in collaboration with the Finnish Studies Program at the University of Toronto and acknowledged Finnish Independence Day on December 6th.

In addition to the partners and sponsors, VEMU wants to thank the youthful and inspiring EMW team, Sebastian Buccioni and Elis Jaansoo as well as their volunteer film crew, for making all these events possible! You can follow the EMW activities from Facebook or by subscribing to their e-mail newsletter <https://www.facebook.com/EstonianMusicWeek>

SCHOOL LORE COMPETITION FOR ESTONIANS IN CANADA

In December 2020, VEMU started collecting school heritage from people with an Estonian background in Canada. This collection competition is organized in collaboration with the Estonian Literary Museum. The Estonian Literary Museum has previously collected school folklore or school lore in Estonia in 1992, 2007 and 2018.

In Canada, the collection of school lore is taking place for the first time, thus it is all the more important. School pupils will play an important role acknowledging and preserving Estonian culture in diaspora. At the same time, the organizers are eager to get responses not only from present day pupils, but also from adults who wish to reflect back on their school days at the Estonian supplementary school and show comparisons with their experiences at Canadian schools. Having materials from different periods would give a good basis for analyzing changes in the Estonian diaspora school culture.

The material collected will be organized to various subcategories: jokes and anecdotes; fears, beliefs and predictions; important dates and celebrations; free time and friends, games and pastimes.



The collected material will be used for research purposes and possibly also for a publication and exhibit. The collection campaign will take place until May 31, 2021. More info and instructions on how to participate here: <https://www.vemu.ca/index.php/en/>

DR TERRY KASS RECEIVES ASA AWARD



As well as acting as chair of the Estonian Archives in Australia, Dr Terry Kass is a practising professional historian and heritage consultant. At the Annual General Meeting of the Australian Society of Archivists on 18 September 2020, his recent publication, *Unlocking land: A guide to Crown Land Records* held at State Archives NSW received the 2019 Phyllis Mander Jones Award; Australian Society of Archivists: Best finding aid to an archival collection held by an Australian institution or about Australia for *Unlocking Land: A Guide to Crown Land Records* held at State Archives,

The guide has been well received within the historical profession. Both professional and amateur historians as well as archivists have welcomed this publication.

The citation by the Australian Society of Archivists' judges comments 'This remarkable and outstanding guide unlocks the difficult to use and complex Crown Land records, and demonstrates the author's deep and detailed knowledge of the Crown Land Records.'

The Estonian Archives in Australia congratulate Dr Kass on the award.

A LIVING ARCHIVAL PROJECT FOR OUR TIMES - „Vienotība”

On the occasion of the celebration of the 102nd anniversary of Latvia's Declaration of Independence, a first time ever event was created as a

collaboration of the Latvian National Federation in Canada (LNAK), the Toronto Latvian Canadian Cultural Centre and community centres across the country. The main theme was to mark November 18 with a sense of unity from coast (Atlantic) to coast (Pacific) to coast (Arctic).

An open invitation went out for video greetings from community schools, choirs, dance groups, families or simply any individuals who wanted to wish a Happy Birthday to the nation. The final compilation was over two hours. As mentioned, this was not only a first time virtual event, but a first for all participants, considering the challenges of COVID. From filming to participation, it took some creativity to stick to social distancing and protective measures such as the wearing of masks.

Though the use of Zoom has serious limitations in picture quality and sound, it nevertheless allowed involvement from a large sector of the community. Also, in spite of length and quality issues, the feedback was both enthusiastic and emotional. For example, some presentations included old photographs from previous generations which were basically their own family treasures or souvenirs. In other cases, families sat watching the screen in order to spot old friends, and enjoy a bit of nostalgia.

The compilation of video greetings was a success in that it brought the vastly scattered Latvian-Canadian population together with the use of relatively inexpensive and easy to use current technology. It certainly contributed to the support of cultural identity.

In addition to Zoom, streaming took place on Facebook and the programme is still available on Youtube.

<https://youtu.be/iCfTayx3Jul>

Based on this success, LNAK is preparing a musical Christmas greeting.

Needless to say, these productions will end up in KLAM, the Canadian Latvian Archive and Museum.

Andris Kesteris, President

Latvian National Federation in Canada

Baltic Federation in Canada