



CRITICAL TIMES SHOW IMPORTANCE OF EANC WORK IN WASHINGTON

When Estonia became independent, many thought that our political battle had been won. Russia was either too weak to cause trouble or would become a democratic country. Many Estonian Americans believed that this mission of the Estonian American National Council was no longer relevant.

Would that it were so! For the past decade, increasingly ominous signals have emanated from Russia. Russian military exercises near the Estonian border, belligerent propaganda discrediting the Baltic countries, sophisticated falsehoods directed to Russian speakers and the West aimed at rewriting history, increased investment in critical industries, and near-monopoly on energy supplies have all been cause for alarm. It is now obvious that these were part of Putin's master plan to reinstitute the Soviet Union.

EANC continued to maintain its political contacts and networks, even though the message we received from the U.S. government, and also Estonian diplomats, was that all was well. EANC continued to fund and help direct the Joint Baltic American National Committee (JBANC), together with the Latvian and Lithuanian central organizations, to ensure that our contacts in Congress and the Administration remained fresh. We participated in the work of the Central and East European Coalition (CEEC), comprised of 18 national organizations representing more than 20 million Americans of Central and Eastern Europe

heritage, to document our issues, and to jointly take action as necessary.

All of that has become increasingly necessary, as recent events in Ukraine have shown, for more and more, there is talk of the Baltic countries being vulnerable to Russian incursion.



Rally in Washington DC to support Ukraine.

Left to right: Liina Sarapik, Anne Sarapik, Agu Ets, Tiina Ets, Lya Karm, Maria Laukaitis, Marju Rink-Abel

Thanks to this continued focus on representing Estonian American interests in Washington, we have been able to meet recently with high officials in the State Department and the White House's National Security Council. We have received assurances regarding NATO's and the U.S.'s commitment to the Baltic countries. JBANC staff has canvassed almost all Senate offices with letters requesting support in countering Russia's aggression. And our friends at the CEEC have used their considerable influence to get our message across.

When you support EANC, you help support this work. It is not free – it requires resources to maintain this level of effort year after year. I believe that



EANC's work, together with that of JBANC and CEEC, has been time and money well spent, indeed vital, to the well-being of Estonia.

Marju Rink-Abel
President, EANC

KRIITILISED AJAD TÕESTAVAD ERKÜ WASHINGTONI TÖÖ TÄHTSUST

Kui Eesti sai vabaks, arvasid paljud, et meie poliitiline sõda oli võidetud. Venemaa oli kas liiga nõrk, et pahandust tekitada, või temast võib saada demokraatlik riik, Paljud Ameerika eestlased arvasid, et see Eesti Rahvuskomitee Ühendriikides missioon ei olnud enam oluline.

Oleks see nii! Viimasel kümnendikul on tulnud järjest ähvardavamaid signaale Venemaalt. Vene sõjamaoõvrid

Eesti piiri lähedal, pealepressiv, halvustav propaganda Balti riikide kohta, teadlikud valed suunatud venekeelt rääkijatele ja Läänele ajaloo ümberkirjutamiseks, ja peaaegu täielik energia toodete monopol, on olnud põhjused muretsemiseks. Nüüd on selge, et need on kõik osa Putini suurest plaanist taastada Nõukogude Liit.

continued on page 5

EANC Executive Board/ ERKÜ Juhatus

Marju Rink-Abel, President • Eric Suuberg, Vice President • Erik Puskar, Treasurer • Ülle Ederma, Secretary
Krista Altok-Tassa • Arne Kalm • Gilda Karu • Maia Linask • Arved Plaks • Airi Vaga • Imar Vanderer • Viiv Vanderer

EANC ENGAGES PRIIT VESILIND TO COMPLETE HISTORY OF ESTONIANS IN AMERICA



Priit Vesilind

The Estonian American National Council is pleased to announce that it has engaged Priit Vesilind to finish the history of Estonians in the United States since World War II. The book, which has a working title of "Estonians in America: Seventy Years of Struggle and Success," will provide details on the history and activities of Estonian refugees and displaced persons, and their descendants.

Mr. Vesilind will build on the manuscript originally prepared by Enn Kõiva, with contributions by many other individuals, covering the period from approximately 1949 to 2000, and which has since undergone revisions and additions under the editorship of Marju Rink-Abel. Mr. Vesilind will be contacting selected Estonian American organizations to update information and to acquire photographic material for the book.

Mr. Vesilind is a former senior writer and photojournalist for National Geographic magazine. He has written and photographically illustrated three books about political and cultural affairs in Estonia, including "The Singing Revolution."

The book is slated for publication in late 2016.

EANC thanks all who helped support this significant project, either through written or financial contributions.

EANC ELECTIONS

As of this publication date, voting is underway or has ended for the Estonian American National Council's XXI Council. Election results will be announced in August. The new council will convene at EANC's annual meeting Sept. 27-28, 2014, in Stamford, CT. (See also "Upcoming Events.")

EANC PRESENTS ARVO PÄRT WITH LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

In honor of his "Extraordinary Contributions of Artistic and Cultural Significance/ Erakordse Tähtsusega Heliloominguliste ja Kultuuriliste Panuste Eest," Marju Rink-Abel, EANC president, presented Arvo Pärt with a Lifetime Achievement Award at a special post-Carnegie Hall concert reception on May 31, 2014.



*Marju Rink-Abel, Arvo Pärt at Carnegie Hall
(Photo: Arved Plaks)*



*Lifetime Achievement Award
Plaque for Arvo Pärt*

THE ESTONIAN WORLD COUNCIL'S ANNUAL MEETING IN RIGA, LATVIA.

On April 25-26, 2014, representatives from Estonian organizations in 12 countries around the world met in Riga to discuss common issues, and to elect new officers. Laas Leivat, Estonian honorary consul in Canada, is the new director; Jaak Juhansoo, who declined to run again for director, is now treasurer. Representing the Estonian American National Council were Marju Rink-Abel, Eric Suuberg, Ülle Ederma, Kersti Linask, and Maia Linask.

EANC representatives to Estonian World Council outside the Estonian House in Riga. L to R: Ülle Ederma, Eric Suuberg, Marju Rink-Abel, Kersti Linask, Maia Linask. (Photo from Ülle Ederma)



INTERVIEW WITH AMBASSADOR MARINA KALJURAND

Marina Kaljurand, Ambassador of the Republic of Estonia to the United States, began her tour of duty here in 2011. She will be leaving her post this Fall.



Amb. Marina Kaljurand

What were your most important priorities when you started your ambassadorship here?

The Ambassador, together with all of the embassy's diplomats, implements Estonia's foreign policy in America. In this sense, the Ambassador does not have his or her own foreign policy or personal goals. The relationship between Estonia and the U.S. has been very good over the years. Not for nothing does Estonia believe that the U.S. is its closest, most logical and natural ally.

Traditionally, Estonia and the United States have closely cooperated in the areas of security and defense. Security is and will remain the cornerstone of our relationship. However, in recent years we have developed and strengthened relationships in other fields, including cybersecurity and development cooperation. Estonia and the United States were the first countries that signed the Cooperative Cybersecurity Memorandum of Understanding.

Economic and educational cooperation has also increased. An increasing number of U.S. tourists visit Estonia. And yet, relations between countries will never reach a level where you can sit down, sigh and say - everything is done! There is always something you can do more and better. I wish Eerik Marmeij, the next ambassador, much success!

What surprised you most of all when you first came to the U.S.?

I cannot say that anything was very surprising to me. I lived in Boston from 1994-1995, where I studied at Tufts University's Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy. Of course, a student's and an ambassador's life are very different, but the Americans with whom I came into contact then, and whom I've met now, are basically the same. There are, however, many things that I like about the U.S. and Americans.

I like American patriotism because it is sincere. By patriotism I mean how U.S. school children are taught to respect their country and flag: a flag is in every classroom and every morning starts with the "Pledge of Allegiance." I like how veterans are respected at NBA games: they are asked to stand, and the clapping for them is even louder than for the NBA stars. I like the way Americans appreciate and respect their fellow countrymen - whether it's the elementary school teacher who risked her life to save her students during yet another school shooting, or a retail worker who brought warm clothes, food and drink to the people stuck on a snowed-in highway. Helping each other and supporting each other. This is heartfelt, and inevitably I have wondered if there could be more mutual support, understanding – and patriotism – in Estonia.

Do you have any suggestions for how the Estonian American community can better assist the Estonian Embassy in its work?

The Estonian Embassy has always had very good close ties to the U.S. Estonian community. During my tenure, I have visited scores of Estonian American organizations. I thought it was very important symbolically to recognize and emphasize the role of every organization in the USA/North America and of every Estonian living here in representing Estonia. I have repeatedly said that all Estonians are ambassadors of their homeland in the broadest sense of the word.

One of my brightest memories will be how we all worked together to give the U.S. Arvo Pärt's music concert, which took place on May 27, 2014 at the Kennedy Center. Without the support of Estonian organizations, foundations, churches, and individuals this would not have succeeded. We can be proud that such a wonderful event took place in Washington and that everyone could attend because the concert was free. Thank you!

How do you view the work of EANC and JBANC in terms of strengthening the U.S.'s support for Estonia?

I greatly respect the activities of these organizations, and their willingness and effort to keep up with new

Interview With Ambassador Marina Kaljurand, continued on page 4

DID YOU KNOW? KAS TEATE?

Victims of Communism Memorial

If you are planning to visit Washington DC this summer, don't forget to include the Victims of Communism Memorial in your itinerary. The memorial is dedicated "to the more than one hundred million victims of communism" and is meant to ensure "that the history of communist tyranny will be taught to future generations," according to the Victims of Communism Memorial Foundation. It was dedicated by President George W. Bush on June 12, 2007, the 20th anniversary of President Ronald Reagan's "tear down this wall" speech in front of the Berlin Wall. The Victims of Communism Memorial is located at the intersection of Massachusetts and New Jersey Avenues and G Street, NW, two blocks from Union Station and within view of the U.S. Capitol.



Upcoming Events / Tulevased Üritused

EANC's annual meeting will take place Sept. 27-28 in Stamford, Connecticut. The public is invited to attend a special panel discussion Saturday afternoon, Sept. 27, on "Estonians in America – Past, Present and Future." Speakers will include Priit Vesilind, who has been engaged by EANC to finish the book "Estonians in America."

After the Saturday afternoon seminar, there will be a formal dinner honoring winners of EANC's 2014 awards. The awards ceremony and dinner will be open to the public; reservations required. Nominations for award recipients are currently under review by the EANC Board. EANC thanks everyone who submitted nominations for the 2014 awards!

Updates on the seminar, dinner and award winners will be announced in the Vaba Eesti Sõna newspaper and on EANC's website, www.estosite.org.

Interested in organizing a local Estonian activity? EANC can help! Contact Linda Rink at erku@estosite.org.

Olete huvitatud kohalike eesti üritusi korraldama? ERKÜ saab aidata! Võtke kontakti Linda Rinkiga - erku@estosite.org.

(Ambassador Kaljurand, continued from page 3)

challenges. Now, even after the restoration of independence for the Baltic nations, I know that these organizations continue to play an important role. It is extremely important to keeping in mind the crimes of communism and to fight against authoritarian regimes. Because the world is not yet free, and unfortunately there are dozens of countries who can only dream of freedom and democracy. You are a voice for them, like you were the voice for Estonia and for Estonians in Estonia when they could not speak for themselves. I very much hope, actually I am certain, that you will never again have to speak for Estonia by yourselves, because now we will do the work together: Estonians in Estonia and Estonians abroad.

What can the Estonian American community do to get newly-emigrated Estonians involved in Estonian activities?

There are too few Estonians for us not to hold together. I encourage all Estonians living in the U.S. to look up the nearest society or organization and participate in its activities. And if your cities or states do not have an Estonian Society, start one! Keep the Estonian language and culture alive! I am very happy that my first task as ambassador was to open the Estonian school in Washington DC.

What has brought you the greatest pleasure during your stay in the U.S?

In terms of my work, I am most pleased that long-planned projects, visits and meetings have been successful. For example, the Baltic presidents' meeting with President Obama last August, and the cybersecurity pact signed by the Foreign Ministers in December. Foreign Minister Paet's visit to Washington during last February's snowstorm was memorable. I have enjoyed President Ilves' public appearances, especially in higher education, and have been proud when the audience warmly received his remarks and even years later recalled them. I have enjoyed working with wonderful colleagues – other ambassadors as well as at the embassy.

On a personal note, I rejoiced when my daughter Kaisa came last year to study criminal psychology at George Washington University and was very pleased with her studies. I remember celebrating New Year's Eve in New York with my son Kristjan and watching the wonderful fireworks in Central Park. I am lucky that my husband Kalle has continued to be my supporter and ally, who has been by my side for important and official moments in Washington DC, Ottawa, Toronto, Mexico City and other cities. I can confidently say that the number of joyful occasions have far exceeded the sadder ones.



Karl Altau,
JBANC Managing Director

The situation in Ukraine has prompted JBANC to operate in crisis mode since the shootings in the Maidan in mid-February. While the May 25 election has given some hope, the Kremlin's badly disguised military assault against Ukraine proceeds apace, together with its attempts to discredit Ukraine and lie to its Western supporters. There is no time to let down our guard. We are committed to ensure that there

aren't any rollbacks, particularly in U.S. policies towards the region, and especially with respect to the defense of the Baltic countries.

JBANC has many tools at its disposal to disseminate information, network with other organizations and individuals, and to use these resources to project the influence of the Baltic-American community in Washington, DC.

At monthly meetings of the JBANC board, strategies for the coming months are laid out. In July, EANC takes over the JBANC reins, during the annual rotation of the presidency. JBANC works closely with its three parent organizations, including EANC, and with many members in Congress, including those in the Baltic Caucus and in relevant committees, and with key congressional staffers. Coordination with grassroots activists and the media are key in spreading the word.

In 2014, JBANC began issuing an e-newsletter, to encapsulate the most pressing issues of the day. Four numbers will have been published by July. In addition, JBANC has also hosted online Google+ Hangouts, to discuss relevant

topics with experts. JBANC is also making an impact on Facebook and especially on Twitter, with key policy makers, media resources, and activists. JBANC is getting noticed, and the Baltic-American voice is being heard.

To help raise awareness in support of Ukraine, JBANC has also taken to the streets. It organized one of the first rallies in support of Ukraine in early March. It has since supported a number of other pro-Ukraine, anti-Putin demonstrations, and coordinated efforts at rallies and demonstrations in New York and Chicago as well as Washington, DC.

JBANC continues to work closely with Congress, e.g. to support the Ukraine aid bill, and to inform about Putin's disinformation campaign. Letters have been distributed to the entire Congress on these issues.

The Central and East European Coalition (CEEC), of which both EANC and JBANC are members, is also gearing up for a series of congressional visits in June and July. It has initiated regular meetings with both the National Security Council, and the State Department, with Deputy Assistant Secretary level officials.

We remain extremely concerned about Moscow's continuing aggression, particularly in regard to threats toward the Baltics. We have to do as much as we can to support democracy and freedom in Ukraine. If Putin's forces of repression and imperial lawlessness prevail, not only Ukraine is in peril. The Baltics are surely next targets. It's a great challenge for NATO, the European Union, and the United States. JBANC will continue to focus on exposing Russian propaganda, and support measures to help bolster energy security and increase U.S. international broadcasting to the region, broaden NATO and U.S. assurance measures to beef up defense capabilities, widen sanctions, and so on.

Critical Times Show Importance of EANC Work in Washington, continued from page 1

ERKÜ hoidis alal oma poliitilisi kontakte ja sidet, kuigi sõnumid, mida saime Ameerika valitsuselt ja ka Eesti diplomaatidelt ütlesid, et kõik on hästi. ERKÜ jätkas Ühendatud Ameerika Balti Komitee (ÜBAK) toetamist ja juhtimist, koos Läti ja Leedu keskorganisatsioonidega, kindlustamaks, et meie suhted Kongressiga ja Ameerika valitsusega oleksid värsked. Meie osalesime Kesk- ja Ida-Euroopa Koalitsiooni (CEEC) töös, esindades üle 20 miljoni Kesk-ja Ida-Euroopa päritoluga ameeriklast kaheksateistkümnest üle-Ameerika organisatsioonist, et dokumenteerida päevakorras olevaid küsimusi ja koos tegutseda vajaduse korral.

See kõik on olnud järjest oluline, nagu viimased uudised Ukrainast on tõestanud, sest enam-ja-enam kuuleb jutte, et Venemaa agressioon võib ohustada Balti riike. Tänu sel-

lele, et pidev siht on olnud Ameerika eestlaste esindamine Washingtonis, oleme hiljuti saanud kokku kõrgete ametnikkudega Välisministeeriumis ja Valge Maja Riikliku Julgeolekunõukogus. Oleme saanud kinnitusi NATO ja Ameerika kohustustest Balti riikide vastu. ÜBAK on külastanud peaaegu kõiki Senati kontoreid kirjadega, mis paluvad abi Vene agressiooni vastu. Ja meie CEEC sõbrad on kasutanud nende märgatavat mõju meie sõnumi edasi- viimiseks.

Kui teie toetate ERKÜ-t, siis teie toetate seda tööd. See ei ole tasuta, vaid vajab ressursse, et aastast aastasse säärast jõupingutust alal hoida. Minu usun, et ERKÜ töö, koos ÜBAKiga ja CEEC-ga, on olnud hästi kulutatud aeg ja raha, ja hädavajalik Eesti heaolule.

ESTONIAN AMERICAN NATIONAL COUNCIL, INC.

1420 Locust St., Suite 31N
Philadelphia, PA 19102

IN THIS ISSUE

- EANC's Work in Washington
 - EANC News
 - Interview with Ambassador Marina Kaljurand
 - Did You Know?
 - Upcoming Events
 - JBANC Update from Washington DC
-
- ERKÜ Töö Washingtonis
 - ERKÜ Uudised
 - Intervjuu Suursaadik Marina Kaljurannaga
 - Kas Teate?
 - Tulevased Üritused
 - JBANC'i ülevaade Washingtonist

EANC NEWSLETTER - July 2014

ERKÜ TEATAJA - juuli 2014



*Arvo Pärt & Tõnu Kaljuste at Carnegie Hall
(Photo: Eleri Ever)*



*Estonians from around the world at the
Estonian World Council meeting in Riga
(Photo: Aho Rebas)*