



EANC ELECTIONS / ERKÜ VALIMISED

Become more involved in your Estonian American community!

EANC will be holding its elections for members of the new XXI Council this spring, and is actively looking for candidates! Members are elected for four years and meet at least once a year to review past accomplishments and to vote on the upcoming year's budget and activity plan. The new council will convene at EANC's annual meeting Sept. 27-28, 2014, in Stamford, Connecticut.

Candidates must live in the United States and be at least 21 years old on the day of the election, and either possess Estonian citizenship or be eligible for it, belong to the Estonian community through family relationship, or certify on the election ballot to being Estonian.

Application forms and further information are on the EANC website (www.estosite.org). The application form requests brief biographical information, a statement why the applicant is interested in Council membership, and a photo. Applications must be postmarked by March 20, 2014.



EANC elected members / ERKÜ valitud liikmed 2010

Olge rohkem Ameerika eesti ühiskonnaga seotud!

ERKÜ XXI Esinduskogu valimised toimuvad sel kevadel ja ERKÜ aktiivselt otsib kandidaate! Liikmed on valitud neljaks aastaks ja saavad kokku vähemalt kord aastas eelmise aasta aruannete kinnitamiseks, algava aasta eelarve ja tegevuskava vastuvõtmiseks. Aastakoosolek toimub 27.-28. septembril, 2014, Stamford, Connecticutis.

Kandidaadid peavad elama Ameerika Ühendriikides ja olema valimistähtpäeval vähemalt 21 aastat vana, omama õigust saada Eesti kodakonsust, kuuluma USA eesti ühiskonda perekondliku kuuluvuse tõttu, või ennast valimistöendil eestlasena registreerima.

Sooviavalduslehti ja infot saab ERKÜ koduleheküljelt (www.estosite.org). Sooviavalduslehega tuleb saata ka kandidaadi lühike elulookirjeldus, põhjusi kandideermiseks, ja foto. Sooviavalduste tähtaeg on postmargi templiga 20. märts, 2014.a.

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

THE ESTONIAN AMERICAN EXPERIENCE – FIRST VISIT TO ESTONIA

In our November newsletter we invited your answers to the question: ***“When was the first time you visited Estonia, and what was your most vivid impression?”***

Here are a few excerpts from those of you who shared your personal experiences; to read the full accounts, go to “The Estonian American Experience” on www.estosite.org.



Viru Gates

(Photo: Ain Avik, Tallinn City Tourist Office & Convention Bureau)

A dream come true and a dream shattered

“To have a dream come true and to have a dream be shattered at the same time, I never expected. My dream had been to meet my father as a grown up. That dream I realized in 1968 when I was 28 years old... In spite of the fact that Estonia was behind the Iron Curtain, I was determined to set my feet on the soil of my beloved Estonia and walk together with my father for the first time since infancy regardless of the risks. The moment I saw my father, I was forever marred with the realization what the Soviets had done to him, the family and the entire country of Estonia. The hopelessness, despair and fear were on the faces of most of the Estonians living there.

— Maie Currie

From a gloomy black and white film to a full color production

“My first visit back to Estonia was in the summer of 1995. I had left for the United States during the soviet time in early 1990, with no intention of staying, but... Arriving from Finland, I kept waiting for the familiar ‘kilukarbi siluett’ (anchovy tin silhouette) to appear and was overcome by its beauty over the sparkling sea. In Tallinn harbor it was a great relief to no longer be greeted by squinty-eyed armed soviet border guards and German shepherds... During my subsequent visits I have admired the continued progress of free Estonia. Re-playing all the memories in my mind, Estonia seems to have transformed from a gloomy black and white film to a full color production. Except... at some point it crossed too far into the neon glitz. I wish I could still walk the quiet cobblestone streets of Toompea all by myself, like I used to do as a schoolgirl. Now I need to fight my way through crowds of tourists congregating in front of the endless overpriced souvenir stores.”

— Ave Maria Blithe

All I could see was a sea of flowers

“My first trip to Estonia was in the summer of 1986 when Estonia was still under the gloom of Communist regime... It began as we stood on the deck of ‘Georg Ots’ and watched in silence as the spires of churches of Tallinn rose from behind the horizon. There was no need for words, just tears. And from then on, tears and more tears... some from utter sadness, sympathy and anger, some from overwhelming tenderness. As the “gates” opened at the harbor and we could see the hundreds of relatives who had come to greet us, all I could see was a sea of flowers... After warm and tearful hugs and kisses from our relatives who had come to greet us, we were put on a bus to Viru hotel... We had never seen such dilapidated buildings with dirty windows and dusty windowsills, dusty streets, lifeless and drably clothed people with somber faces, such hopelessness... As we were pulling out of Tallinn harbor, we tossed our bouquets of flowers into the sea - so to say good-bye to Estonia with flowers, a tearful and a sad good-bye to a sad country that we loved so.”

— Ülle Ederma

THE ARVO PÄRT PROJECT - INTERVIEW WITH DR. PETER BOUTENEFF OF ST. VLADIMIR'S ORTHODOX THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

Celebrated Estonian composer Arvo Pärt will be visiting the United States this spring for "The Arvo Part Project," which will feature exclusive performances at Carnegie Hall in New York and the Kennedy Center in Washington DC. We interviewed Dr. Peter Bouteneff, Associate Professor in Systematic Theology at St. Vladimir's Orthodox Theological Seminary, who is spearheading the project.



Arvo Pärt

Q. Arvo Pärt is arguably the world's greatest living composer – certainly, he is the most-performed living composer. Why is he so popular?

A. He is indeed the most-performed living composer in the world, for the past three years running. His music also is featured in a huge number of films — so it has become part of the contemporary cultural soundtrack. Among other great contemporary composers, perhaps nobody else's music has quite this breadth of appeal, or this potency. Most people who get to know his music are really seized by it; it's hard to be neutral about it. It's music that listens to you. It hears people's suffering, and tells them that suffering isn't the last word.

Q. What is the Arvo Pärt Project all about?

A. The Project seeks to bring new insight into the music of Arvo Pärt. He is so widely performed and studied, but there are important missing pieces, especially regarding the "spirituality" that people perceive at the heart of his music. The two main goals of the Project are to present his music in the best venues, with the best musicians possible, and to contribute to the conversation about the [Orthodox] spiritual core of his music.

Q. How did the idea for the project come about? Was it from yourself, Arvo Pärt, or St. Vladimir's Seminary?

A. The idea began with my colleague Nicholas Reeves and myself; it received immediate support from the seminary administration, and — to our joy — was warmly received by Arvo and Nora Pärt during our first visit in December 2011.

Q. Is there any significance to the year 2014 for the major events?

A. It is the seminary's 75th anniversary, so the concert series, and the ceremony where we confer on him our honorary doctorate, will be the grand finale event of our landmark year.



*Arvo Pärt, Dr. Peter Bouteneff,
Nora Pärt*

Q. Is the Arvo Pärt Project only meant for the United States? Is the Arvo Pärt Centre in Estonia involved?

A. The Project is lodged with St. Vladimir's Seminary, but whatever material may come out of it (such as publications) are meant for anyone and everyone. The International Arvo Pärt Centre, located in Laulasmaa, has supported the Project. Beyond 2014, our every hope is that the Project will have a continued life, expressed in publications, lectures, and conferences. For this we will seek to continue strengthening our relationship with the Pärt Centre in Estonia as the Centre continues to grow.

Q. Is there anything you would like to add?

A. Yes definitely! None of our plans could have been achieved without the profound support of the Estonian Ministry of Culture, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the Estonian embassy in Washington. More generally speaking, one of the most enriching parts of this whole journey has been coming to know Estonia, its history and culture, and its people both in Estonia and here in the States. EANC has been a wonderful and unconditionally supportive partner in our work. The Arvo Pärt Project has grown into a major Estonian-American event, and that makes us extremely happy.

DID YOU KNOW? KAS TEATE?



Elin Toona Gottschalk
(Photo: Kaja Telmet)

The *Economist* magazine has selected "Into Exile: A Life Story of War and Peace" by **Elin Toona Gottschalk** as one of the best books of 2013: "The poignant autobiography of an Estonian schoolgirl whose childhood was marred by war and family breakdown. She moves from her occupied homeland through the ruins of Germany to the grim, snobbish world of austerity Britain." EANC provided financial support for the book's distribution.

Estonian conductor **Tõnu Kaljuste** won a Grammy Award in the Best Choral Performance category for his work on composer **Arvo Pärt's** album "Adam's Lament" at the 56th Annual Grammy Awards in Los Angeles.

"Adam's Lament" was recorded with the Estonian Philharmonic Chamber Choir, the Sinfonietta Riga, the Tallinn Chamber Orchestra, the Latvian Radio Choir and the Vox Clamantis ensemble.



Tõnu Kaljuste & Arvo Pärt

Estonian American **Kalev H.**

Leetaru has been honored as one of *Foreign Policy Magazine's* top 100 Global Thinkers of 2013, a prestigious award which recognizes "the world's most exciting people... A master of 'big data,' Leetaru uses high-powered algorithms to analyze vast quantities of news reports and other publicly available intelligence, enabling him to see previously hidden patterns in economic and political developments."



Kalev Leetaru
(Photo: Foreign Policy magazine)

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.

UPCOMING EVENTS / TULEVASED ÜRITUSED

Arvo Pärt Project schedule for Spring 2014

- May 27: Kennedy Center, Washington, DC; Concert with the EPCC and the TCO.
- May 28: George Washington University; Panel discussion organized by the Phillips Collection with GWU faculty and Dr. Peter Bouteneff
- May 29: The Phillips Collection, Washington, DC; Chamber Concert with members of the TCO and EPCC.
- May 31: St. Vladimir's Seminary; bestowal of honorary doctorate on Arvo Pärt.
- May 31: Carnegie Hall; Concert with the EPCC and the TCO.
- June 2: Metropolitan Museum of Art; Concert with the EPCC.
- June 11: Metropolitan Museum of Art; "Spirit in Sound and Space: A Conversation Inspired by Arvo Pärt"

"To Breathe As One" (Üheshingamine), Sky Films' new film about Laulupidu, will be airing on public television in May, June and July of this year. Check your local listings to see when it is playing in your area, or the "To Breathe As One" website to see a list of broadcasts: <http://www.tobreatheasone.com/screenings>.

It is also possible to bring "To Breathe As One" to your local theater! For more information, go to: <http://www.tobreatheasone.com/host-a-screening>. Jim and Maureen Tusty are also available by email (jim@skyfilmsinc.com) or phone (518-674-1630) if you have any questions about how to do this.

2015 KLENK-IEP – Cruising Estonian Style! The joint KLENK (Kesk-Lääne Eesti Noorte Koondis / Midwestern Estonian Youth Association) and IEP (Idaranniku Eesti Päevad / East Coast Estonian Days) event will combine Estonian culture with sunshine, Caribbean islands, fine dining and luxurious travel. Both the KLENK-IEP 2015 program and the cruise are now available for booking. For more information and registration, go to <http://klenk-iep2015.com>, call 561-409-9335, or contact Rein Luning via e-mail: rluning@KLENK-IEP2015.com.



*Karl Altau,
JBANC Managing Director*

Karl Altau, Managing Director of the Joint Baltic American National Committee, reports:

One of JBANC's main areas of focus in this 113th Session of Congress has been working with the U.S. House of Representatives to pass legislation supporting the designation of August 23 as "Black Ribbon Day" to recognize the victims of Soviet Communist and Nazi regimes.

As of January 20, there are 38 co-sponsors for H. Res. 302; 26 are members of the House Baltic Caucus. Whether because of a member's personal or professional interest, or because of a constituent connection, the Caucus remains a valuable vehicle for advancing interest in America's relationship with Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania. It is important to reach out to members of Congress in order to increase the number of co-sponsors for H. Res. 302. The next few months are critical.

There are two significant anniversaries coming up – and reasons to support H. Res. 302 in 2014. It is the 75th anniversary of the signing of the Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact in 1939, which led to the carving up of Europe between two totalitarian states. The date also marks the 25th anniversary of the 1989 Baltic Way. That action helped demonstrate both the love for Baltic liberty and the failure of the Soviet Empire. Today, Moscow still does not recognize the USSR occupation of the Baltic countries, legitimizing the actions of the Soviet past, without atonement.

For more information, visit JBANC's website <http://jbanc.org> and the resource page for the House Baltic Caucus: <http://housebalticcaucus.webs.com>. Please contact your Member of Congress if he or she has not yet signed on. Your message counts!

The Joint Baltic American National Committee, Inc. (JBANC) represents the Estonian American National Council, the American Latvian Association, and the Lithuanian American Council.

The Estonian American Experience, continued from page 2

I will remember for my mother

In the Fall of 1944 my then 15-year-old mother Luule Täht lived with her family in Tartu in a home built by her grandfather... One night as they sat down to dinner the dreaded phone call came: "leave now, you are on tonight's list."... I visited Estonia with my mom in 1994 during her first trip back to Estonia on the 50th anniversary of that fateful phone call in 1944! That trip was only a few years after Estonia's independence, so things were still rough and run down at that time... We traveled to Estonia four times, revisiting many of the towns my mom remembered from her childhood... Sadly mom now has Alzheimer's and her memories of those years are gone. So I will remember for her.

- Marty (Märt) Wilson

The most educational experience of my university years

I visited Estonia for the first time in 1977 after receiving an invitation from my father's brother to spend a month with his family in Tallinn... I was twenty-one years old and, while I had dreamed all my life of visiting Estonia, I never imagined that opportunity would come to me during those years of occupation. I will never forget arriving in Estonia and feeling as if I had come home. I couldn't speak the language and was completely dependent on my uncle for all communication but that didn't matter...The stark contrast between my life in America and the lives of my relatives under Soviet occupation was, without doubt, the most educational experience of my university years. However, even more than that, I gained a greater appreciation and understanding of my father and Estonian culture.

- Gayleen Gandy

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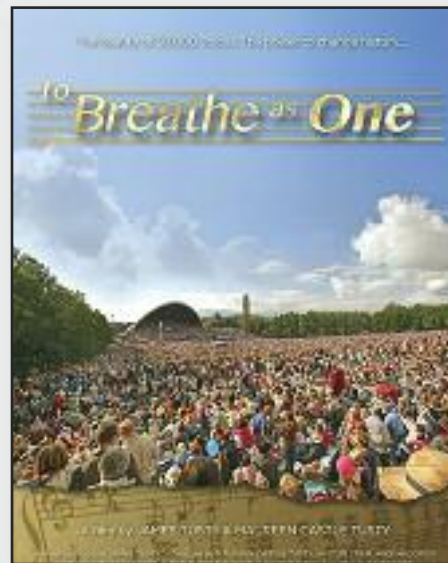
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EANC NEWSLETTER - March 2014 **ERKÜ TEATAJA - märts 2014**



Arvo Pärt Project
May – June 2014



"To Breathe As One" / "Üheshingamine"
Airing on public television - Spring 2014

THE ESTONIAN AMERICAN EXPERIENCE – WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO YOU?
OLLA EESTI-AMEERIKLANE – MIDA SEE TÄHENDAB TEILE?