



INTRODUCING THE NEW XXI ESTONIAN AMERICAN NATIONAL COUNCIL UUS XXI EESTI RAHVUSKOMITEE ÜHENDRIIKIDES



EANC XXI Council. First row: K. Altau (JBANC Managing Director), P. Vesilind (guest), I. Vanderer, A. Bliithe, A. Altau, K. Linask, M. Rink-Abel, Ambassador Eerik Marmei, V. Vanderer, M. Prima, G. Karu, M. Brokaw, M. Orumaa Craig, Ü. Ederma. Second row: A. Plaks (guest), L. Rink, M. Linask, T. Tubalkain, M. Krull, M. Davey, K. Linask-Goode, K. Allpere, M. Bartling, A. Hurt. Back row: E. Puskar, T. Vanderer, J. Tint (guest), L. Fritzell, M. Otsmaa, A. Kalm, E. Suuberg, A. Simonson, A. Reinfeldt. (Absent: A. Soosaar, E. Meisner, T. Urv, U. Wompa) (Photo: Siiri Lind)

Elections were held for the XXI Estonian American National Council last summer – thank you to everyone who voted! The new Council, whose term is from September 2014-2018, consists of 30 representatives from all parts of the United States:

Valimised XXI Eesti Rahvuskomitee Ühendriikides Esinduskogule toimusid läinud suvel - täname kõiki kes hääletasid! Uus Esinduskogu, mille ametiaeg on september 2014-2018, koosneb 30 liikmest mitmest Ameerika piirkonnast.

Kristi Allpere, GA	Leif Fritzell, ND	Mati Otsmaa, CA	Toomas Tubalkain, OH
Aliisa Altau, MD	Arne Kalm, CA	Matti Prima, NJ	Tiina K. Urv, MD
Mai-Liis Bartling, CA	Gilda Karu, IL	Erik Puskar, MD	Ilmar Vanderer, NJ
Ave Bliithe, NJ	Mirjam Krull, DC	Aavo Reinfeldt, CA	Tõnu Vanderer, NJ
Marianne Brokaw, MI	Kersti Linask, FL	Marju Rink-Abel, MD	Viiu Vanderer, NJ
Monika Orumaa Craig, FL	Maia Linask, VA	Andres Simonson, NJ	Urmas Wompa, NY
Marit Davey, CA	Kadri Linask-Goode, WA	Alvar Soosaar, PA	
Ülle Ederma, NJ	Epp Meisner, DC	Eric Suuberg, RI	

Biographies of all members can be found on www.estosite.org, under "EANC Elections."

ESTONIAN AMERICAN NATIONAL COUNCIL HOSTS "ESTONIANS IN AMERICA" SEMINAR

EANC hosted a special panel discussion on the topic: "**Estonians in America: Past, Present, and Future**" to mark the 70 years since the September 1944 flight of over 70,000 Estonians from the Soviet invasion of Estonia. The following distinguished panelists presented their views to the audience of about 100 on September 27 in Stamford CT.



*Moderator Maia Linask, Priit Vesilind, Laas Leivat, Marcus Kolga, Toivo Tänavsuu
(Photo: Siiri Lind)*

- **Arne Kalm** and **Arved Plaks**, the panelists for "**Estonians in America: The Past**," provided their perspectives on how the Estonian community in the United States has changed over the years, with an overview of its extensive political and cultural activities. Arne Kalm, a finance executive and current EANC Board member, is an active member of the Los Angeles Estonian community; Mr. Plaks, whose Board term just ended, is an avid participant of choir and folk dance performances, and a free-lance photographer and writer.

- **Priit Vesilind**, **Laas Leivat**, **Marcus Kolga**, and **Toivo Tänavsuu** discussed "**Estonians in America: The Present**." Mr. Vesilind, who is a former senior editor at National Geographic, and has been engaged by EANC to finish the book "Estonians in America," discussed his view on how to present the Estonian American history and experience in the book. Laas Leivat is the new president of the Estonian World Council, the Estonian Honorary Consul General in Canada and an editor of the Canadian newspaper "Eesti Elu." Canadian Estonian Marcus Kolga is an award-winning documentary filmmaker.

Particularly noteworthy was the discussion of the Russian annexation of Crimea and invasion of Ukraine and the impact on the political landscape in the West and for Estonian American and Estonian

Canadian activity. Toivo Tänavsuu is an Estonian journalist with "Eesti Ekspress," who provided an overview of his recently-founded Estonian charity, "Kingitud Elu" (The Gift of Life - www.kingitudelu.ee), to help Estonians needing expensive cancer medicines.

- EANC Board members **Mirjam Krull**, Chair of the Washington, D.C. Estonian Society, and **Andres Simonson**, guest writer for the e-magazine "Estonian World," shared their perspectives on "**Estonians in America: The Future**." With the aid of Mr. Simonson's crystal ball, which he lent to the panel, the two panelists discussed the importance of recognizing an increasingly diverse and non-Estonian-speaking Estonian American community, and also ways to include our youth, who are our future. Connecticut Estonian scouts and girl guides, who were in uniform and helped with registration of attendees, were singled out as examples of our future leaders. **Andrus Viirg**, Director of Enterprise Estonia - Silicon Valley, ended the panel discussion with an overview of Estonian start-up firms in the United States, and the future of investments between the United States and Estonia.

Panel moderators were Linda Rink, EANC Executive Director, and EANC Board members Maia Linask and Eric Suuberg.

EANC 2014 AWARDS RECIPIENTS

Newly-elected members of the XXI Estonian American National Council, guests and other Estonian Americans gathered at the Sheraton Hotel in Stamford, Connecticut, on September 27, 2014, to honor the recipients of EANC's 2014 awards. The awards recognize the work of exceptional individuals or entities in preserving and nurturing our Estonian heritage, culture and language in the United States, or for outstanding contributions in a field of endeavor. The EANC awards tradition was established in 2012 in conjunction with the Council's 60th anniversary.

Jaak Juhansoo: "Distinguished Service."

Juhansoo is a long-time Estonian activist and former Estonian World Council president (2007-2014). In addition to being president and honorary member of the Boston Estonian Society, he has been president and a board member of the Baltic Society of New England, treasurer and board member of the Captive Nations Committee, an elected EANC member. He received the White Star IV Order from the Estonian government in 2007, and the Canadian-Estonian award for freedom fighting in 2003.



Jaak Juhansoo, Linda Rink, Marju Rink-Abel (photo: Siiri Lind)



*Ulle Ederma & Sirje Uriko
(Photo: Siiri Lind)*

The Nordic Press: "Outstanding Organization."

The Nordic Press, Inc. is publisher of Vaba Eesti Sõna, the USA's only Estonian-language newspaper. The newspaper celebrated its 60th uninterrupted year of publication on June 11, 2014. Published in New York, it serves readers across all of North America, as well as Estonia and other parts of the world. Editor-in-chiefs have included Evald Roosaare, Erich Ernits, Harald Raudsepp, Talvi Laev, Aire Salmre, Airi Vaga, and currently Kärt Ulman. Sirje Uriko is Board Chairman of The Nordic Press, Inc.

James and Maureen Tusty: "Outstanding Achievement."

The Tustys are producers of the widely-viewed films, "The Singing Revolution" and "To Breathe As One." James Tusty is Executive Producer and Co-Filmmaker along with his wife, Maureen, in their company Sky Films, Inc. Their most noted collaboration is the film documentary "The Singing Revolution," which tells the story of Estonia's non-violent massive singing demonstrations and their role in the collapse of the Soviet Union and the regaining of Estonian independence. Released in 2008, "The Singing Revolution" generated over 300 million press impressions, reached 125 North American theatrical markets, and is used as course material in schools throughout the United States. The 2014 release "To Breathe As One" showcases Estonia's "Laulupidu" Song Festival from the perspective of the participating Piedmont East Bay (CA) Children's Choir.



*Maureen & James Tusty
(Photo: Siiri Lind)*



Tiina Fischgrund & Leena Kangro (Photo: Siiri Lind)

The Estonian Boy Scouts: "Outstanding Organization."

For long-time work instilling the Estonian spirit in our youth. President Tiina Fischgrund received the award.

The Estonian Girl Guides: "Outstanding Organization." For long-time work instilling the Estonian spirit in our youth. President Leena Kangro received the award.

Scouting has had a long tradition in Estonia, beginning in 1911. Carrying on this tradition, the Estonian Girl Guides and Boy Scouts in the USA have played an important role in involving the next generations with their Estonian heritage and traditions.

How to apply for support from the Estonian American National Council

As part of its mission, EANC provides support to U.S. events, projects, and activities that document, maintain or introduce our language, cultural heritage, and history. If you wish to apply for monetary support on behalf of an Estonian American organization, institution or group, or for a project, download the application from www.estosite.org, complete and mail or e-mail to: Linda Rink, Executive Director, EANC, 1420 Locust St., Suite 31N, Philadelphia, PA 19102; e-mail: erku@estosite.org.

Please note that EANC does not provide financial assistance to individuals.

EANC is a non-profit 501(c)3 organization sustained by voluntary, tax-deductible contributions. Our funds are thus limited, and we unfortunately cannot accommodate all requests for financial support. All applications are reviewed by the EANC Board. For more information on EANC's mission, go to www.estosite.org/ "About EANC."

Eesti Rahvuskomitee Ühendriikides toetuse taotluse juhised

Üks osa ERKÜ ülesandest on toetada Ameerika Ühendriikide üritusi, projekte ja tegevusi, mis tutvustavad, säilitavad ja dokumenteerivad meie keelt, kultuuripärandit ja ajalugu. Kui te soovite taotleda ERKÜ kaudu rahalist toetust mõne Eesti Ameerika organisatsiooni, asutuse, grupi või projekti jaoks siis palun täitke ära taotluse (www.estosite.org) ja saatke postiga või e-kirjaga järgnevale aadressile: Linda Rink, tegevdirektor, ERKÜ, 1420 Locust St., Suite 31N, Philadelphia, PA 19102, email: erku@estosite.org

Teadmiseks veel, et ERKÜ ei toeta rahaliselt eraisikuid.

ERKÜ on mittetulundusühing, mille aluseks on vabatahtlikud, maksuvabad annetused. Meie rahalised vahendid on piiratud ja kahjuks ei suuda me kõiki abivajajaid rahaliselt toetada. Kõik avaldused vaadatakse läbi ERKÜ juhatuse poolt. Rohkem informatsiooni ERKÜ kohta leiate veebilehelt www.estosite.org/ "About EANC."

The EANC Newsletter / ERKU Teataja is written predominantly in English for an important reason – we want to inform and engage as many Estonian Americans as possible. Due to the cost of printing, we cannot publish the entire newsletter in both English and Estonian. In the future we may consider publishing electronically, which is much less expensive. Until then, we are gathering e-mail addresses from our readers, so please write your e-mail address on your donation form.

ERKÜ Teataja ilmub peamiselt inglise keeles tähtsal põhjusel - meie soovime informeerida ja hõivata nii palju Ameerika eestlasi kui võimalik. Trükikulude tõttu meie ei saa ringkirja välja anda mõlemis inglise ja eesti keeles. Tulevikus võime kaaluda elektroonilist väljaannet, mis on palju odavam. Seni korjame e-meili aadresse lugejatelt ja palume, et kirjutate oma e-meil aadress annetusvormile.

Meet the new XXI EANC Board of Directors Tutvuge uue ERKÜ XXI Juhatusega



From left: Matti Prima, Maia Linask, Mirjam Krull, Mai-Liis Bartling, Marju Rink-Abel, Eric Suuberg, Arne Kalm, Kristi Allpere, Andres Simonson
(absent: Alvar Soosaar, Tiina Urv)
(Photo: Arved Plaks)

Marju Rink-Abel is assuming her third four-year term as president. Noteworthy is the fact that many new and younger members were elected to both the Council and Board. Of the eleven Board members, seven are new.

Esimees Marju Rink-Abel alustab oma kolmandat nelja-aastast ametiaega. Märkimisväärne on asjaolu, et palju uusi ja nooremaid liikmeid valiti Esinduskoosseis ja juhatusse. Üheteistkümnest juhatuseliikmest on seitse uued.

BOARD/JUHATUS

President/Esimees: Marju Rink-Abel

Vice President/Aseesimees: Eric Suuberg

Treasurer/Laekur: Tiina Urv

Secretary/Sekretär: Maia Linask

Other Board Members/Juhatuse liikmed: Kristi Allpere, Mai-Liis Bartling, Arne Kalm, Mirjam Krull, Matti Prima, Andres Simonson, Alvar Soosaar



Karl Altau,
JBANC Managing Director

As the 113th Session of the United States Congress approaches its end, it's time to look at current JBANC activities and take a peek at 2015.

There are a number of key initiatives that we are following and advocating for. One is the **European Reassurance Initiative (ERI)**, outlined in a Sept. 3 White House FACT SHEET: U.S. Support and Reassurance Initiatives for the Baltics and Central Europe (you can read the Fact Sheet on www.estosite.org)

The ERI covers many U.S. projects bolstering security for the Baltic countries and their Central European neighbors, and counters Putin's aggression and attempts to destabilize the region. We want to ensure that support for these programs remains sufficient, perhaps beyond the initial requested funding of \$1 billion. While there is no specific ERI legislation at this moment, we envision that it will be taken up and pass, perhaps via the Defense appropriations process.

Together with our Central and East European Coalition partners, we continue to support Ukraine's struggles against Putin's onslaught through a series of measures including:

- * **H.R.5190**, the "Ukraine Security Assistance Act of 2014," provides military assistance to Ukraine.
- * **H.R.5241**, the "Crimea Annexation Non-recognition Act" prohibits the U.S. from recognizing (to recognize) de jure or de facto the annexation of Crimea by the Russian Federation.
- * **S.2828**, the "Ukraine Freedom Support Act of 2014" provides military and security assistance to Ukraine, and imposes further sanctions on the Russian Federation.

Other issues JBANC is tracking and advocating for are:

- * the **Black Ribbon Day** resolution, which passed in the House in May, and now awaits Senate action.
- * **U.S. International Communications Reform Act of 2014**, which passed in the House in July. We are urging the Senate to take up the bill. (It is also vital to) Increased funding for broadcasting directed to the region is vital (as leverage against) to counteract Putin's propaganda machinery and disinformation campaigns.
- * **Support for Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) export initiatives**, which would help the Baltic and neighboring

Central and East European (CEE) countries lessen dependency on Russian gas. There are a number of current measures, and the issue will likely be taken up again in 2015.

Following November's midterm elections, (it is certain) there will be many new faces in Congress. We intend to help bring new and existing Members up to speed on issues of concern to the Baltic-American communities. Together with House Baltic Caucus co-chairmen John Shimkus (R-IL) and Adam Schiff (D-CA), we will reach out to recruit new members to the Caucus. **Your contacting your House and Senate representatives to show your support on these initiatives would make a great difference to Baltic security. Please help at this critical time!**

JBANC is also gearing up for its 11th Baltic conference, to be held in Washington, DC in mid-April. Please look for updates online. Follow us also on Twitter (@JBANCchatter) and Facebook, and invite your friends to follow us as well!

- Karl Altau

WHY I JOINED EANC



I'm one of the new members of EANC. Which begs the question, why am I here? The fame? The fortune? No. My motivation is carved from a sense of duty. One only needs to take the temperature of geopolitical affairs in Eastern Europe to see the patient is ill. Our fatherland is threatened. And as our world shrinks due to the interconnectedness of our times, the elixir is an international pill. Here, part of the panacea is purely political – raising awareness on Capitol Hill. But an equally vital active ingredient of our prescription includes galvanizing Estonian-Americans to embrace both sides of the hyphen by getting involved. Now, as with most medicines, there are side effects. But not to worry. Even if the Eurasian situation cools in the near term, you will merely be left with a heightened sense of heritage and belonging to a unique and special group. - Andres Simonson

ESTONIAN AMERICAN NATIONAL COUNCIL, INC.

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*EANC President Marju Rink-Abel, Estonian Consul General Eva-Maria Liimets, EANC Board member Kristi Allpere in Stamford.
(Photo: Siiri Lind)*



*The audience listens raptly to the panel discussion "Estonians in America: Past, Present and Future" Sept. 27, 2014, Stamford, CT
(Photo: Siiri Lind)*



*Connecticut "Vikerlased" Boy Scouts helping to register for the Stamford panel discussion: Jaak Rakfeldt, Silver Laur, Karl Siismets.
(Photo: Siiri Lind)*