

## GRAND REOPENING OF THE LATVIAN MUSEUM Under the auspices of the American Latvian Association in association with Heritage Montgomery

Sunday, December 4, 2022, 12:00 PM, Rockville, MD

**11:00 AM:** Church service will be held in the sanctuary of the Latvian Evangelical Lutheran Church of Washington, DC. (in English and Latvian). All welcome.  
Pastor: The Very Reverend Anita Vārsberga Pāža.

**12:00:** Grand Reopening Ceremony with remarks including:

GREETING BY MARISA GUDRAIS, Executive Director, American Latvian Association

### NEW DIRECTIONS FOR THE LATVIAN MUSEUM

Valda Grinbergs, Director of Cultural Affairs, American Latvian Association

- Goals of the new Latvian museum exhibits. Reaching out to wider audiences.
- Commemoration of the Museum's director, the late Lilita Bergs, and her service to the ALA Latvian Museum.
- Citation of merit honoring Lilita Bergs for her service by the World Federation of Free Latvians (Pasaulē Brīvo Latviešu Apvienība - PBLA).
- Presentation of commemorative plaque to be installed at the museum entrance.

Pēteris Dajevskis, Project Director

- Project scope to create new exhibits for The Latvian Museum.

### WORDS FROM OUR HONORED GUESTS

- Martiņš Andersons, President of the American Latvian Association
- Māris Selga, Ambassador of the Republic of Latvia to the United States
- Karl Altau, Managing Director, Joint Baltic American National Committee, Inc.

LATVIAN HISTORY FOR OUR TIMES – Greetings from Dr. Andrejs Plakāns, Professor Emeritus of History at Iowa State University. [Pre-recorded video message.]

## CREATING THE MUSEUM'S VIDEOS

*Kristaps Ločmelis, Video creator and animator, London, UK*

Pre-recorded video message in which Mr. Ločmelis reflects on the production of three video programs created for *The Latvian Museum* including:

- *Johann Cristoph Brotze's "People and Transportatation on the Streets of Rīga."*
- *The Baltic Way to Independence.*
- *Post Independence: Rebuilding a Nation*

*Māra Pelēcis, Director, Minneapolis, MN*

Personal reflections by Ms. Pelēcis on producing two video programs and voice overs for *The Latvian Museum* including:

- Standing Up for Latvia - The story of Anti-Soviet Demonstrations in the West
- Seeking Shelter - Life in Displaced Persons Camps, 1945 - 1951.
- A pre-recorded joint discussion about the recording process of the museum's video voice overs by actress Laila Robins with Māra Pelēcis.

## FOR OUR CHILDREN

*Daina Block, Head of the Washington Latvian School*

- The role of ALA's Latvian Museum as a teaching aid for our times.

*Edward Gebhardt.* Student at Swarthmore High School, PA, and graduate of the Philadelphia Latvian School.

- Making connections with America's young people to convey Latvian history and heritage.

## APPRECIATION

*Ann Clausen, Exhibit Developer for The Latvian Museum Project*

- Expression of thanks to our volunteers.

## INVITATION TO VISIT THE MUSEUM

*Renāte Grāvers, Visitor Services Coordinator for The Latvian Museum*

Audience members will be invited to visit the Latvian Museum's new exhibits on the lower level. Visitation will be organized on a sequential basis in groups of 15-20 people that will be announced.