



Linda Bento-Rei
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July 30, 2026

Dear Jennifer McCormack,

My friend and colleague, Marjorie Bollinger-Hogan, recommended that I write to you regarding the possibility of our chamber music group performing at Nashua Public Library. We specifically have a stunning and unique program which contains three Lithuanian composers (one living) and a female composer (also still living). Marje mentioned that there is a fund dedicated to supporting concerts that promote Lithuanian culture. I would like to apply for a grant to fund a concert and pre-concert lecture which I believe would be very revered by the local Nashua Lithuanian Community. Our proposed concert date is October 8, 2026, 6:30-7:00 PM Lecture, 7:00-8:30 PM Concert.

My pianist, Vytas Baksys, is Lithuanian and a member of the Boston Symphony Orchestra. His sister, Milda Richardson, is an author/educator and will present a lecture about a book that she co-edited about Lithuanian history. My pianist and I toured Europe last Spring, 2025 and performed a similar program in Germany, Greece and Lithuania. We have recorded several professional CD's together which are frequently aired on WSMR Tampa Classical Radio. I have attached a Press Release which outlines the details of the tour and our performance history. The program which we are offering to you includes Marje. She has performed several times with us throughout New England and in Florida.

My husband and I founded Sarasota Musica Viva when we relocated from Massachusetts to Florida in 2016. It is a non-profit chamber music organization. We showcase world class musicians – many local to Southwest Florida - and some very special guests. When Marje suggested applying for a grant through Nashua Public Library, I thought submitting a request through our non-profit would give legitimacy to our ask and also provide an opportunity for a tax benefit for the Library.

Thank you in advance for your consideration. Please see the attachments that follow this letter in your email.

Wishing you all the best,

Linda Bento-Rei
www.lindabentorei.com

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Grant Proposal

1. Performer/ Lecturer stipend @ \$500 each	\$ 2,000.00
2. Travel:	
Vytas & Milda	\$ 70.00
Marje Bollinger Hogan	\$ 300.00
Linda Bento-Rei	\$ 350.00
3. Lodging:	
Marje & Linda 2 nights	\$ 560.00
4. Advertising	<u>\$ 500.00</u>
5. Total	\$3,780.00

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Lecture

In Lithuania, 2026 is the year of Balys Gajauskas. Including some history about him would help frame the event and Milda's presentation on the book she co-edited, *Childhood in Forced Exile*. The LPKTS headquarters in Kaunas is where Vytas and I performed last June.

Balys Gajauskas (1926-2017), was a "prisoner of conscience" who fought against Soviet occupation and spent 37 years in various prisons and particularly brutal Soviet forced labor camps (gulags). When Lithuania's independence was reinstated, he was one of the signers of the Act of Re-Establishment of the State of Lithuania and served in the reconstituted parliament 1990-1992. He then was appointed director for Lithuania's security (Department of Defense). From 1989 to 1997 Gajauskas was president of LPKTS (Lithuanian Association of Political Prisoners and Deportees). Lithuania is honoring him by declaring 2026 as the Year of Balys Gajauskas.

Presentation of New Book in English Translation

CHILDHOOD IN FORCED EXILE

Compiler: Stanislovas Abromavičius

Co-Editors: Milda B. Richardson, R.E. Richardson

Translators: Rūta Guffey, Milda B. Richardson, Živilė Vaitkus

The membership of the Association of Lithuanian Political Prisoners and Exiles (LPKTS) includes tens of thousands of former Soviet political prisoners and exiles. The Association has already published four volumes of the series *Tremties vaikai* (Children of Exile) compiled by Stanislovas Abromavičius. The four-volume series contains 250 family stories, their destiny, torment, starvation, and degradation in Siberia and places of exile such as Kazakhstan and Buryat. The books contain more than 1200 photographs of special historical importance documenting the lives of deportees both in their homeland of Lithuania and in Siberian exile.

Russian propaganda has been waging a campaign filled with lies about the false "humanitarian" deportation of Lithuanian people. The propaganda contains false claims that those being deported were given a daily monetary allowance, that food was distributed in the train cars and milk given to

children, and even that medical attention was provided. In order to refute the falsehoods, the Association decided to publish a volume in English translation with the help of American scholars Rūta Guffey, Milda B. Richardson, R.E. Richardson, and Živilė Vaitkus. This volume contains memoirs and photographs of survivors and witnesses selected from the original series. The English translation focuses on deportees who were under the age of 16 deported during the 1941-1952 period.

This enterprise was undertaken to help preserve the collective memory of the deportations, battles, and hardships endured by Lithuanians during the World War II period and, in so doing, to give life to the ideas of true citizenship, national pride, and cultural consciousness.

APIE KNYGOS AUTORIŲ, REDAKTORIUS IR VERTĖJAS

Visuomeninė organizacija Lietuvos politinių kalinių ir tremtinių sąjunga (LPKTS) jungia kelias dešimtis tūkstančių buvusių sovietinių politinių kalinių bei tremtinių. Ji išleido ir rašytojo Stanislovo Abromavičiaus keturių knygų ciklą „Tremties vaikai“, taip pat leidinį 10-12 metų vaikams „Vaikystė Sibiro toliuose“. Knygoje aprašytos 250 šeimų istorijos, jų likimai, žūtys, badas ir pažeminimai Sibire bei kitose tremties vietovėse: Kazachstane, Buriatijoje ir kitur. Knygoje išspausdinta apie 1200 istorinę vertę turinčių nuotraukų iš tremtinių gyvenimo Lietuvoje ir Sibire,

Deja, svetur gyvenantiems rusiškoji propaganda pradėjo kompaniją apie melagingą „humanišką“ tremiant Lietuvos žmones, tai yra mokėtus dienpinigius, dalintą maistą vagonuose, pieną vaikams, medicininę priežiūrą. Kad šį melą paneigti, padedant JAV lietuviams, visų pirma Prof. Mildai B. Richardson, Emerita, Prof. Robertui Richardson, Emeritus, Rūtai Jerašiui Guffey, Živilei Kliorytei Vaitkienei ir sumanė išleisti šią knygą. Ji pasieks Lietuvos ambasadas užsienyje, lietuvių bendruomenes, lietuviškas mokyklėles, svetur gyvenančius lietuvius ir kitų tautybių žmones.

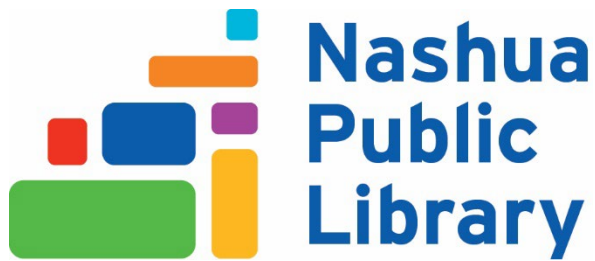
Taip prisidėdame prie mūsų susitelkimo reikšti ir įgyvendinti idėjas, brandinančias visuomenės pilietiškumą, tautinę savimonę ir kultūrinį sąmoningumą, taip pat pokario kovų ir tremčių atminimo išsaugojimui.

CHILDHOOD IN FORCED EXILE

Stanislovas Abromavičius

CHILDHOOD IN FORCED EXILE





August 4, 2026
Director's Report

Buildings and Grounds

As of July 1, the city facilities department assumed full responsibility for the maintenance of the building. The city team is working hard to become familiar with all of our systems and have already handled several issues including elevator failures, electrical issues and clogged toilets. Our janitors (Brittany and Juan) continue to work their full schedules here, keeping the building clean for staff and customers.

Department updates

None this month: stay tuned for September's meeting! We have been busy with the Summer Reading challenge, some fantastic concerts and programs, getting the Burbank collection up on the website and other fun projects.

Administration updates

- **Staffing changes:** Jessica Loksh has completed her temporary role as library assistant, her last day was 7/31. I have extended Irma Palacios' temporary hire for an additional 90 days to 10/31, while we fill a vacancy and wait for a resolution of another staff person's medical leave.
- **Updates from city:** In July the city launched a new Employee Assistance program, which offers support for all city staff and families on topics ranging from financial planning to legal advice and mental health. The city's wellness coordinator has hosted several trainings

where staff can learn more about the features of this new program and will continue to promote it during her regular visits to the library and other city departments.

Renovation updates

In the packet for the building committee, you will receive a design guidance document to review. This document outlines guiding principles for the design to ensure the library's and the city's priorities and goals are met during all phases of the project. There are a couple of elements of that document that I'd like to highlight:

- **Sustainability:** On 7/28 Trustee Jette and I had a conversation with the city energy manager Doria Brown about identifying options that will help the renovated building be as energy efficient as possible and incorporate sustainable energy practices. One topic we discussed at length was the introduction of solar panels as part of the overall energy solution for the new building, and how that initial investment can reduce and control energy costs over the life of the building. I know that there are plans to explore energy options during this schematic design phase, so now is a great time for the Trustees to be talking about priorities in terms of energy and sustainability.
- **Space for Nashua CTV studio and offices:** The topic of finding space in the renovated building to relocate the Nashua CTV studio came up due to my work on the city's CTAB committee. I believe there is good synergy between the library's mission and the work of the community television team, and both organizations could benefit from their inclusion in the new building. Our customers would have access to video recording and editing technology that the library doesn't offer, it would be easier for the Nashua CTV team to record the performances and programs in the newly renovated spaces both inside and outside of the building and their location here would provide more visibility and connection to the public. Moving forward with this concept would of course be contingent upon sufficient space and a source of funding,