



Stiftelsen BRÖDET

Newsletter
May 2023
ESTONIA

*Dear Friends and
Supporters,*



Ülo Kalm

Ülo Kalm, the Foundation's contact person was previously, head of the municipality of Nuckö, where the majority of the population was Swedish speaking until World War II. He is now Director of Aiboland Museum in Hapsal. Aiboland is the collective name for Estonia's (formerly) Swedish communities. As our donors know, SB-Foundation supported the museum's projects for Ukrainian refugees in 2022, for which Ülo is grateful and tells us it has been of great help. Ülo tactfully asked us if similar support might be given in 2023, which the Board happily granted. Thus, plans could be realized for a bus tour to Tallinn for the volunteers and Ukrainian refugees who have manufactured camouflage nets for Ukraine. Here are pictures and a brief summary of the trip.



The first stop was at the newly renovated medieval St. Nicholas Church (Estonian: Niguliste Kirke), which today is a museum.

In Tallin they did, of course, also visit St. Michael's Swedish Church (Estonian: Rootsi-Mihkli kirik, Swedish: Svenska Sankt Mikaelsskyrkan), which for several centuries was an important spiritual center for Swedes in Estonia. The original church was built in the



13th century, with later additions and reconstructions in Gothic and Baroque styles. The church was partially destroyed during the Soviet bombing of the city in 1944. The few Estonian Swedes who remained after the war were unable to keep their church during prevailing Soviet laws about religious practices and to their great sorry had to witness their church converted into a sports club. The



church was in this humiliating state, when the Foundation's Board member Ivar Boman came to play a large and important role when he was asked to address the situation. Ivar fell to his knees in the ruined church and called for God's help. Ivar was inspired to write to the Swedish king and plead for funds to reconstruct the church. His appeal was heard, and in 1992, after a visit by the royal couple to the now independent Estonia, the church was returned to the re-assembled Swedish congregation. Since 1992, regular worship services are celebrated at the church. Concerts can be



performed there and its basement is home to a museum. Outside the church portals fly both the Estonian and Swedish flags. – The travelers from Hapsal were served coffee in the church's congregation hall. Finally, the travelers walked to Toompea (a word derived from the German Domberg, i.e., Cathedral Hill), where the Parliament (Riigikogu) is located in a reconstructed castle, also known as Reval Palace. The events of the day made the Estonians and Ukrainians feel that they share many experiences.

The refugees from Ukraine and our friends in Estonia send grateful greetings to all donors via us on the Board of **SB-Foundation**, *Arne, Elisabeth, Gloria, Ivar, Lena, Roger*

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