

Short Form

Return of Organization Exempt From Income Tax

OMB No. 1545-1150

2008

Open to Public Inspection

Form 990-EZ

Under section 501(c), 527, or 4947(a)(1) of the Internal Revenue Code (except black lung benefit trust or private foundation)

Sponsoring organizations of donor advised funds and controlling organizations as defined in section 512(b)(13) must file Form 990. All other organizations with gross receipts less than \$1,000,000 and total assets less than \$2,500,000 at the end of the year may use this form.

The organization may have to use a copy of this return to satisfy state reporting requirements.

Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service

A For the 2008 calendar year, or tax year beginning May 1, 2008, and ending April 30, 2009

B Check if applicable:

- Address change
- Name change
- Initial return
- Termination
- Amended return
- Application pending

Please use IRS label or print or type. See Specific Instructions.

C Name of organization

Latvian Foundation, Inc.

Number and street (or P.O. box, if mail is not delivered to street address) Room/suite
1907 Autumn Crest Lane

City or town, state or country, and ZIP + 4
Kalamazoo, MI 49008-4819

D Employer identification number

23 7089477

E Telephone number

(269) 382-1176

F Group Exemption Number

Section 501(c)(3) organizations and 4947(a)(1) nonexempt charitable trusts must attach a completed Schedule A (Form 990 or 990-EZ).

G Accounting method: Cash Accrual
Other (specify)

I Website: www.latviesufonds.info

H Check if the organization is not required to attach Schedule B (Form 990, 990-EZ, or 990-PF).

J Organization type (check only one) - 501(c) (3) (insert no.) 4947(a)(1) or 527

K Check if the organization is not a section 509(a)(3) supporting organization and its gross receipts are normally not more than \$25,000. A return is not required, but if the organization chooses to file a return, be sure to file a complete return.

L Add lines 5b, 6b, and 7b, to line 9 to determine gross receipts; if \$1,000,000 or more, file Form 990 instead of Form 990-EZ

Part I Revenue, Expenses, and Changes in Net Assets or Fund Balances (See the instructions for Part I.)

Revenue	1	Contributions, gifts, grants, and similar amounts received						1	6,198
	2	Program service revenue including government fees and contracts						2	
	3	Membership dues and assessments						3	189
	4	Investment income						4	17,638
	5a	Gross amount from sale of assets other than inventory	5a	251,557					
	b	Less: cost or other basis and sales expenses	5b	194,912					
	5c	Gain or (loss) from sale of assets other than inventory (Subtract line 5b from line 5a) (attach schedule)					5c		56,645
	6	Special events and activities (complete applicable parts of Schedule G). If any amount is from gaming, check here <input type="checkbox"/>							
	a	Gross revenue (not including \$ of contributions reported on line 1)	6a						
	b	Less: direct expenses other than fundraising expenses	6b						
6c	Net income or (loss) from special events and activities (Subtract line 6b from line 6a)					6c			
7a	Gross sales of inventory, less returns and allowances	7a							
b	Less: cost of goods sold	7b							
7c	Gross profit or (loss) from sales of inventory (Subtract line 7b from line 7a)					7c			
8	Other revenue (describe Currency adjust. foreign member loans & other transactions)					8		13,569	
9	Total revenue. Add lines 1, 2, 3, 4, 5c, 6c, 7c, and 8.					9		94,239	
Expenses	10	Grants and similar amounts paid (attach schedule)						10	44,812
	11	Benefits paid to or for members						11	
	12	Salaries, other compensation, and employee benefits						12	
	13	Professional fees and other payments to independent contractors						13	3,334
	14	Occupancy, rent, utilities, and maintenance						14	
	15	Printing, publications, postage, and shipping						15	5,173
	16	Other expenses (describe See attached Statement 2)						16	7,979
	17	Total expenses. Add lines 10 through 16.						17	61,298
Net Assets	18	Excess or (deficit) for the year (Subtract line 17 from line 9)						18	32,941
	19	Net assets or fund balances at beginning of year (from line 27, column (A)) (must agree with end-of-year figure reported on prior year's return)						19	458,983
	20	Other changes in net assets or fund balances (attach explanation)						20	(245,302)
	21	Net assets or fund balances at end of year. Combine lines 18 through 20.						21	246,622

Part II Balance Sheets. If Total assets on line 25, column (B) are \$2,500,000 or more, file Form 990 instead of Form 990-EZ.

(See the instructions for Part II.)

	(A) Beginning of year	(B) End of year
22 Cash, savings, and investments	829,767	626,054
23 Land and buildings		
24 Other assets (describe)		
25 Total assets	829,767	626,054
26 Total liabilities (describe See attached Statement 4)	370,784	379,432
27 Net assets or fund balances (line 27 of column (B) must agree with line 21)	458,983	246,622

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Part V Other Information (Note the statement requirements in the instructions for Part VI.)

	Yes	No
33 Did the organization engage in any activity not previously reported to the IRS? If "Yes," attach a detailed description of each activity	33	
34 Were any changes made to the organizing or governing documents but not reported to the IRS? If "Yes," attach a conformed copy of the changes	34	
35 If the organization had income from business activities, such as those reported on lines 2, 6a, and 7a (among others), but not reported on Form 990-T, attach a statement explaining your reason for not reporting the income on Form 990-T.		
a Did the organization have unrelated business gross income of \$1,000 or more or section 6033(e) notice, reporting, and proxy tax requirements?	35a	
b If "Yes," has it filed a tax return on Form 990-T for this year?	35b	
36 Was there a liquidation, dissolution, termination, or substantial contraction during the year? If "Yes," complete applicable parts of Schedule N	36	
37a Enter amount of political expenditures, direct or indirect, as described in the instructions. ▶ 37a		
b Did the organization file Form 1120-POL for this year?	37b	
38a Did the organization borrow from, or make any loans to, any officer, director, trustee, or key employee or were any such loans made in a prior year and still unpaid at the start of the period covered by this return?	38a	
b If "Yes," complete Schedule L, Part II and enter the total amount involved	38b	
39 Section 501(c)(7) organizations. Enter:		
a Initiation fees and capital contributions included on line 9	39a	
b Gross receipts, included on line 9, for public use of club facilities	39b	
40a Section 501(c)(3) organizations. Enter amount of tax imposed on the organization during the year under: section 4911 ▶ _____ ; section 4912 ▶ _____ ; section 4955 ▶ _____		
b Section 501(c)(3) and (4) organizations. Did the organization engage in any section 4958 excess benefit transaction during the year or did it become aware of an excess benefit transaction from a prior year? If "Yes," complete Schedule L, Part I	40b	
c Enter amount of tax imposed on organization managers or disqualified persons during the year under sections 4912, 4955, and 4958 ▶ _____		
d Enter amount of tax on line 40c reimbursed by the organization ▶ _____		
e All organizations. At any time during the tax year, was the organization a party to a prohibited tax shelter transaction? If "Yes," complete Form 8886-T.	40e	

41 List the states with which a copy of this return is filed. ▶ Michigan

42a The books are in care of ▶ Tija Karklis Telephone no. ▶ (651) 395-8051
 Located at ▶ 195 5th Street East, Apt. 2801, St. Paul, MN ZIP + 4 ▶ 55101

	Yes	No
b At any time during the calendar year, did the organization have an interest in or a signature or other authority over a financial account in a foreign country (such as a bank account, securities account, or other financial account)? If "Yes," enter the name of the foreign country: ▶ Latvia, Canada, Australia See the instructions for exceptions and filing requirements for Form TD F 90-22.1, Report of Foreign Bank and Financial Accounts.	42b	
c At any time during the calendar year, did the organization maintain an office outside of the U.S.? If "Yes," enter the name of the foreign country: ▶ _____	42c	

43 Section 4947(a)(1) nonexempt charitable trusts filing Form 990-EZ in lieu of Form 1041—Check here ▶
 and enter the amount of tax-exempt interest received or accrued during the tax year ▶ 43

	Yes	No
44 Did the organization maintain any donor advised funds? If "Yes," Form 990 must be completed instead of Form 990-EZ	44	
45 Is any related organization a controlled entity of the organization within the meaning of section 512(b)(13)? If "Yes," Form 990 must be completed instead of Form 990-EZ	45	

Part VI Section 501(c)(3) organizations only. All section 501(c)(3) organizations must answer questions 46-49 and complete the tables for lines 50 and 51.

- | | Yes | No |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 46 Did the organization engage in direct or indirect political campaign activities on behalf of or in opposition to candidates for public office? If "Yes," complete Schedule C, Part I | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 47 Did the organization engage in lobbying activities? If "Yes," complete Schedule C, Part II | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 48 Is the organization operating a school as described in section 170(b)(1)(A)(ii)? If "Yes," complete Schedule E | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 49a Did the organization make any transfers to an exempt non-charitable related organization? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 49b If "Yes," was the related organization(s) a section 527 organization? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
- 50** Complete this table for the five highest compensated employees (other than officers, directors, trustees or key employees) who each received more than \$100,000 of compensation from the organization. If there is none, enter "None."

(a) Name and address of each employee paid more than \$100,000	(b) Title and average hours per week devoted to position	(c) Compensation	(d) Contributions to employee benefit plans & deferred compensation	(e) Expense account and other allowances
None				
Total number of other employees paid over \$100,000 ▶				

51 Complete this table for the five highest compensated independent contractors who each received more than \$100,000 of compensation from the organization. If there is none, enter "None."

(a) Name and address of each independent contractor paid more than \$100,000	(b) Type of service	(c) Compensation
None		
Total number of other independent contractors each receiving over \$100,000 . . ▶		

Sign Here Under penalties of perjury, I declare that I have examined this return, including accompanying schedules and statements, and to the best of my knowledge and belief, it is true, correct, and complete. Declaration of preparer (other than officer) is based on all information of which preparer has any knowledge.

▶ *Tija Karklis* Signature of officer ▶ 10/13/09 Date

▶ Tija Karklis, Treasurer Type of print name and title.

Paid Preparer's Use Only

Preparer's signature ▶ _____ Date _____ Check if self-employed

Firm's name (or yours if self-employed), address, and ZIP + 4 ▶ _____ Preparer's Identifying Number (See instructions) _____

EIN ▶ _____ Phone no. ▶ () _____

May the IRS discuss this return with the preparer shown above? See instructions ▶ Yes No

SCHEDULE A
(Form 990 or 990-EZ)

Public Charity Status and Public Support

OMB No. 1545-0047

2008

Open to Public Inspection

Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service

To be completed by all section 501(c)(3) organizations and section 4947(a)(1) nonexempt charitable trusts.

▶ Attach to Form 990 or Form 990-EZ. ▶ See separate instructions.

Name of the organization

Latvian Foundation, Inc.

Employer identification number

23 : 7089477

Part I Reason for Public Charity Status (All organizations must complete this part.) (see instructions)

The organization is not a private foundation because it is: (Please check only **one** organization.)

- 1 A church, convention of churches, or association of churches described in **section 170(b)(1)(A)(i)**.
- 2 A school described in **section 170(b)(1)(A)(ii)**. (Attach Schedule E.)
- 3 A hospital or a cooperative hospital service organization described in **section 170(b)(1)(A)(iii)**. (Attach Schedule H.)
- 4 A medical research organization operated in conjunction with a hospital described in **section 170(b)(1)(A)(iii)**. Enter the hospital's name, city, and state: _____
- 5 An organization operated for the benefit of a college or university owned or operated by a governmental unit described in **section 170(b)(1)(A)(iv)**. (Complete Part II.)
- 6 A federal, state, or local government or governmental unit described in **section 170(b)(1)(A)(v)**.
- 7 An organization that normally receives a substantial part of its support from a governmental unit or from the general public described in **section 170(b)(1)(A)(vi)**. (Complete Part II.)
- 8 A community trust described in **section 170(b)(1)(A)(vi)**. (Complete Part II.)
- 9 An organization that normally receives: (1) more than 33 1/3 % of its support from contributions, membership fees, and gross receipts from activities related to its exempt functions—subject to certain exceptions, and (2) no more than 33 1/3 % of its support from gross investment income and unrelated business taxable income (less section 511 tax) from businesses acquired by the organization after June 30, 1975. See **section 509(a)(2)**. (Complete Part III.)
- 10 An organization organized and operated exclusively to test for public safety. See **section 509(a)(4)**. (see instructions)
- 11 An organization organized and operated exclusively for the benefit of, to perform the functions of, or to carry out the purposes of one or more publicly supported organizations described in section 509(a)(1) or section 509(a)(2). See **section 509(a)(3)**. Check the box that describes the type of supporting organization and complete lines 11e through 11h.
 - a Type I b Type II c Type III—Functionally integrated d Type III—Other
- e By checking this box, I certify that the organization is not controlled directly or indirectly by one or more disqualified persons other than foundation managers and other than one or more publicly supported organizations described in section 509(a)(1) or section 509(a)(2).
- f If the organization received a written determination from the IRS that it is a Type I, Type II, or Type III supporting organization, check this box
- g Since August 17, 2006, has the organization accepted any gift or contribution from any of the following persons?
 - (i) A person who directly or indirectly controls, either alone or together with persons described in (ii) and (iii) below, the governing body of the supported organization?
 - (ii) A family member of a person described in (i) above?
 - (iii) A 35% controlled entity of a person described in (i) or (ii) above?

	Yes	No
11g(i)		
11g(ii)		
11g(iii)		

h Provide the following information about the organizations the organization supports.

(i) Name of supported organization	(ii) EIN	(iii) Type of organization (described on lines 1–9 above or IRC section (see instructions))	(iv) Is the organization in col (i) listed in your governing document?		(v) Did you notify the organization in col. (i) of your support?		(vi) Is the organization in col. (i) organized in the U.S.?		(vii) Amount of support
			Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	
Total									

Part II Support Schedule for Organizations Described in Sections 170(b)(1)(A)(iv) and 170(b)(1)(A)(vi)
 (Complete only if you checked the box on line 5, 7, or 8 of Part I.)

Section A. Public Support

Calendar year (or fiscal year beginning in) ▶	(a) 2004	(b) 2005	(c) 2006	(d) 2007	(e) 2008	(f) Total
1 Gifts, grants, contributions, and membership fees received. (Do not include any "unusual grants.")	5,340	2,050	2,795	8,111	6,387	24,683
2 Tax revenues levied for the organization's benefit and either paid to or expended on its behalf						
3 The value of services or facilities furnished by a governmental unit to the organization without charge						
4 Total. Add lines 1-3	5,340	2,050	2,795	8,111	6,387	24,683
5 The portion of total contributions by each person (other than a governmental unit or publicly supported organization) included on line 1 that exceeds 2% of the amount shown on line 11, column (f)						0
6 Public support. Subtract line 5 from line 4.						24,683

Section B. Total Support

Calendar year (or fiscal year beginning in) ▶	(a) 2004	(b) 2005	(c) 2006	(d) 2007	(e) 2008	(f) Total
7 Amounts from line 4						
8 Gross income from interest, dividends, payments received on securities loans, rents, royalties and income from similar sources	32,696	32,538	31,155	26,082	17,638	141,009
9 Net income from unrelated business activities, whether or not the business is regularly carried on						
10 Other income. Do not include gain or loss from the sale of capital assets (Explain in Part IV.)						
11 Total support. Add lines 7 through 10						141,009
12 Gross receipts from related activities, etc. (see instructions)					12	
13 First five years. If the Form 990 is for the organization's first, second, third, fourth, or fifth tax year as a section 501(c)(3) organization, check this box and stop here ▶ <input type="checkbox"/>						

Section C. Computation of Public Support Percentage

14 Public support percentage for 2008 (line 6, column (f) divided by line 11, column (f))	14	.18 %
15 Public support percentage from 2007 Schedule A, Part IV-A, line 26f	15	.14 %
16a 33⅓% support test—2008. If the organization did not check the box on line 13, and line 14 is 33⅓% or more, check this box and stop here. The organization qualifies as a publicly supported organization ▶ <input type="checkbox"/>		
b 33⅓% support test—2007. If the organization did not check a box on line 13 or 16a, and line 15 is 33⅓% or more, check this box and stop here. The organization qualifies as a publicly supported organization ▶ <input type="checkbox"/>		
17a 10%-facts-and-circumstances test—2008. If the organization did not check a box on line 13, 16a, or 16b, and line 14 is 10% or more, and if the organization meets the "facts-and-circumstances" test, check this box and stop here. Explain in Part IV how the organization meets the "facts-and-circumstances" test. The organization qualifies as a publicly supported organization ▶ <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
b 10%-facts-and-circumstances test—2007. If the organization did not check a box on line 13, 16a, 16b, or 17a, and line 15 is 10% or more, and if the organization meets the "facts-and-circumstances" test, check this box and stop here. Explain in Part IV how the organization meets the "facts-and-circumstances" test. The organization qualifies as a publicly supported organization ▶ <input type="checkbox"/>		
18 Private foundation. If the organization did not check a box on line 13, 16a, 16b, 17a, or 17b, check this box and see instructions ▶ <input type="checkbox"/>		

Part III Support Schedule for Organizations Described in Section 509(a)(2)
 (Complete only if you checked the box on line 9 of Part I.)

Section A. Public Support

Calendar year (or fiscal year beginning in) ▶	(a) 2004	(b) 2005	(c) 2006	(d) 2007	(e) 2008	(f) Total
1 Gifts, grants, contributions, and membership fees received. (Do not include any "unusual grants.")						
2 Gross receipts from admissions, merchandise sold or services performed, or facilities furnished in any activity that is related to the organization's tax-exempt purpose						
3 Gross receipts from activities that are not an unrelated trade or business under section 513						
4 Tax revenues levied for the organization's benefit and either paid to or expended on its behalf						
5 The value of services or facilities furnished by a governmental unit to the organization without charge						
6 Total. Add lines 1-5						
7a Amounts included on lines 1, 2, and 3 received from disqualified persons						
b Amounts included on lines 2 and 3 received from other than disqualified persons that exceed the greater of 1% of the total of lines 9, 10c, 11, and 12 for the year or \$5,000						
c Add lines 7a and 7b						
8 Public support (Subtract line 7c from line 6.)						

Section B. Total Support

Calendar year (or fiscal year beginning in) ▶	(a) 2004	(b) 2005	(c) 2006	(d) 2007	(e) 2008	(f) Total
9 Amounts from line 6						
10a Gross income from interest, dividends, payments received on securities loans, rents, royalties and income from similar sources						
b Unrelated business taxable income (less section 511 taxes) from businesses acquired after June 30, 1975						
c Add lines 10a and 10b						
11 Net income from unrelated business activities not included in line 10b, whether or not the business is regularly carried on						
12 Other income. Do not include gain or loss from the sale of capital assets (Explain in Part IV.)						
13 Total support. (Add lines 9, 10c, 11, and 12.)						

14 First five years. If the Form 990 is for the organization's first, second, third, fourth, or fifth tax year as a section 501(c)(3) organization, check this box and stop here ▶

Section C. Computation of Public Support Percentage

15 Public support percentage for 2008 (line 8, column (f) divided by line 13, column (f))	15	%
16 Public support percentage from 2007 Schedule A, Part IV-A, line 27g	16	%

Section D. Computation of Investment Income Percentage

17 Investment income percentage for 2008 (line 10c, column (f) divided by line 13, column (f))	17	%
18 Investment income percentage from 2007 Schedule A, Part IV-A, line 27h	18	%

19a 33 1/3 % support tests—2008. If the organization did not check the box on line 14, and line 15 is more than 33 1/3 %, and line 17 is not more than 33 1/3 %, check this box and stop here. The organization qualifies as a publicly supported organization ▶

b 33 1/3 % support tests—2007. If the organization did not check a box on line 14 or line 19a, and line 16 is more than 33 1/3 %, and line 18 is not more than 33 1/3 %, check this box and stop here. The organization qualifies as a publicly supported organization ▶

20 Private foundation. If the organization did not check a box on line 14, 19a, or 19b, check this box and see instructions ▶

STATEMENT 1**FORM 990EZ** Part I, lines 5a,b, and c Gain (loss) from publicly traded securities

DESCRIPTION	BOUGHT DATE	SOLD DATE	COST OR OTHER BASIS	SALE PRICE	LONG AND SHORT TERM GAIN (LOSS)
Home Depot Inc.	7/6/1998	5/21/2008	19,939.61	34,728.01	14,788.40
Zimmer Holdings Inc.	8/7/2001	5/21/2008	1,720.50	4,325.92	2,605.42
Verizon Communications	7/7/2007	6/19/2008	13,588.83	37,065.54	23,476.71
Icon Energy	4/5/2007	7/30/2008	25,000.00	30,528.41	(1,669.54)
Dividend and gain reinvestment	12/18/2007	7/30/2008	7,197.95		
I-Shares US Gas & Oil Exploration	4/17/2007	10/8/2008	22,030.95	15,295.40	(6,735.55)
Canadian Natural Resources	12/16/1997	10/14/2008	9,641.04	27,590.09	17,949.05
Barrick Gold Corp	1/25/2006	10/24/2008	7,622.87	8,854.00	1,231.13
Toronto Dominion BK Ont Com	1/4/1993	11/26/2008	4,209.40	15,934.76	11,725.36
Berkshire Hathaway Inc DEL CL B	12/8/2008	2/23/2009	33,960.75	26,668.90	(7,291.85)
Morgan JP & Co Inc MTN BE 6% 1/15/2009 (Bond)	6/15/1999	1/15/2009	50,000.00	50,000.00	-
Brokerage account capital gains for year				566.34	566.34
Part I, lines 5a, 5b, 5c Sales, cost, and gain			194,911.90	251,557.37	56,645.47

STATEMENT 2**FORM 99EZ** Part I, Line 16 Other Expenses

Office Supplies	657.64
Bank Charges	350.57
State, Federal and foreign taxes	291.31
Administrative fee	200.88
LF Annual and Semi annual meetings	629.55
Travel costs to LF Annual and Semi annual meetings	5,848.64
Part I, Line 16 Other Expenses	7,978.59

STATEMENT 3**FORM 99EZ** Part I, Line 20 Other changes in net assets

DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT
UNREALIZED GAIN (LOSS) FROM INVESTMENTS	(\$245,302.01)
Part I, Line 20 Other changes in net assets	(\$245,302.01)

LATVIAN FOUNDATION, INC.

YEAR ENDING APRIL 30, 2009

23-708947

STATEMENT 4

FORM 99EZ

Part II, Line 26 Total liabilities

	<u>April 30, 2008</u>	<u>April 30, 2009</u>
Grants payable	65,398.07	86,183.85
Expenses payable		1,895.20
Long term Liability:		
Member loans (invested)	<u>305,385.92</u>	<u>291,353.42</u>
	<u>370,783.99</u>	<u>379,432.47</u>

Form 990, Part II, Line 22 Cash Grants and Allocations

Project Description	Donee's Address	Donee's Name	Amount
"3x3" Family Camp in Michigan and New York	3814 Hunter Rd. Kintnersville, PA 18930 USA	Laila Medne	2000
Publication of book by author Anna Zigure about Latvian life and culture in refugee camps	SIA "Jumava" Dzirnavu iela 73-1 LV-1011 Riga Latvia	Evija Veide	2000
CD recording of A. Ivaska's poetry	Zeltinu iela 25-54 Riga LV-1035 Latvia	Anita Rozkalne	2000
Exhibit featuring members of the Latvian, Estonian, and Lithuanian communities in Washington	University of Washington Libraries BOX 352900 Seattle, WA 98195-2900 USA	Nicolette Bromberg	1200
EVS 2008 - Summer camp for Latvian children in Europe to improve language skills	Gertrudes iela 53-1 Riga, LV-1011 Latvia	Velga Zegnere	2000
Publication of anthology of Latvian exile literature	Vesetas iela 8-37 LV-1013 Riga Latvia	Margita Gailitis	6000
Traveling exhibit about Latvian exiles around the world	630 23rd Ave. NW New Brighton, MN 55112 USA	Andris Straumanis	6200
Support to Occupation Museum of Latvia for video documentation	Strelnieku laukums 1 LV-1050 Riga Latvia	Gundega Mihele	7800
Support for a production by a San Francisco Latvian theater group	131 Langdon St. Newton, MA 02458-1982 USA	Marcis Voldins	2000
Support for publication of a book about diaspora literature	Aspazijas bulv. 24 LV-1050 Riga Latvia	Sigita Kusnere	10000
Karlis Irbitis Scholarship Fund	Lacplesa iela 75-III Riga, LV-1011 Latvia	Vita Dike	2612
Bierins Award, awarded to community leader Baiba Bredovska	250 Homewood Ave. Hamilton, ON L8P 2M8 Canada	Juris Zommers	1000
		TOTAL	44812

Facts and Circumstances – Public support statement

The fiscal year FY2009 was particularly difficult. The severe downturn in the economy and stock market has dramatically eroded the Latvian Foundation investment portfolio value and income and thus the ability to fund grants. The FY 2010 grants have been reduced to about \$14,000 from \$45,000 the previous year. The grant levels are determined a year in advance to allow for timely submittal and evaluation, and thus, in good faith, the published grant levels for FY2009 could not be adjusted downward.

Our fundraising efforts continue with some success, but given the economy it will be a challenge. An informational brochure was created which is and will be used to attract potential new members. A copy of the brochure is attached.

The Foundation faced a major setback with the sudden death of Astrida Levensteins. Astrida was a dedicated, creative board member. As an employee of the United States Department of State, she was involved with establishing student exchange programs between Iraq and the United States. She is greatly missed.

Background

The Latvian Foundation, Inc. (LF) founded in 1976 was organized to receive and administer funds for the preservation of Latvian culture, for conducting informative and educational undertakings to preserve and perpetuate Latvian culture and ethnic traditions, for sponsoring research on Latvian history, and for rendering assistance in the publication, preparation and promulgation of Latvian literary works.

Public Support

The Latvian Foundation meets the ten-percent public support requirement. The FY2009 Part III, Section C. line 14 public support percentage is 18%. In FY2008 the percentage was 14%.

The Latvian Foundation currently has about 1,000 members. Of these, about 700 are life-time members having donated (400) or loaned (300) \$1,000 to the LF. These funds have been segregated and invested. The cumulative investment, initiation fee, and general donation income is used for grants and operating costs.

The investment income is **all** derived from the contributions and loans from the general public of our membership group. In FY2009 investment income from funds **loaned** to LF by members was about \$7,500. Total investment income was about \$17,600. This was a significant reduction from the \$26,000 income in FY2008.

The initiation fees and contributions were established to allow broad membership participation. The current initiation fee is \$50. With an overall donation of \$120 a year (\$10 a month) the member can vote for grant projects and any votes required at the annual membership meeting or any special meetings. Once payments of \$1,000 have been received, either in the form of a donation or loan, the member is a life voting member. Repayment of loans cancels the membership.

Attraction of public support

The Latvian Foundation was organized with a forceful fund raising approach. The efforts over the years have been successful in accumulating nearly \$700,000 in membership donations and loans that are currently invested. The goal is to reach \$1 million.

Changing circumstances and events, especially the end of the Soviet rule in Latvia, have diverted talent, time, diligence, energy, interest, and funding away from many established organizations including LF. It continues to be a challenge to the émigré Latvian community to come to grips with the reality of this dramatic change.

The LF is an all-volunteer organization. The six Board members generally serve six years and provide strategic leadership as well as organizational and administrative management of the organization's daily needs. This approach has functioned quite successfully over the course of almost 35 years.

The current Board is working diligently to meet the challenges of change. All operational areas are still under evaluation and much has been done. Accounting systems have been reworked to allow for timely internal and external reporting. Financial advisors assist with accounting and IRS filing matters. A committee assists in locating qualified Board Members as positions are vacated. Board meetings are held more frequently via modern teleconferencing technologies. Grant submission, evaluation, and administrative procedures have been revamped to provide greater "transparency" to the grant process.

There is still a great need for the support LF provides to the Latvian community. We see an increasing number of proposals from organizations in Latvia whose projects are consistent with LF's mission, and who cannot yet fully rely on the Latvian government and society to fund their efforts. At the same time Latvian communities abroad, particularly in the U.S. and Canada, continue to evolve and thus need the Foundation's support. Every year the number of proposals submitted far outnumbers the amount of annual funding LF has available for projects. The current Board is aware of the continued need and committed to addressing the challenges ahead.

This year the Board addressed fundraising efforts by increasing its outreach to the Latvian community in the U.S. and abroad. An informational brochure was created which is and will be used to attract potential new members.

Additional factors

A number of the additional factors have been previously addressed.

The Board members have been selected because of special knowledge or expertise or are community leaders. "Position descriptions" have been prepared for all operating areas so that potential Board members are fully aware and informed of the scope and responsibilities of their positions.

The LF grant projects since 1976 have provided wide and varied services for the benefit of the general public of our membership group. Examples are: production and publication of books: dictionaries, school, children's, educational, literary works, etc; location and preservation of historical materials, including materials about Soviet occupation of Latvia, documentation of Latvian exile communities in the U.S. and elsewhere, etc.; musical compositions, publications, and presentations; acquisition of school publications and materials, including internet-based projects; projects bringing Latvian artists together and showcasing the latest trends in Latvian art; youth and family camps promoting Latvian language and culture.