



# LEADING STAR LEDSTJÄRNAN

CIV

EST. 1906

La Palma, California

March 2011

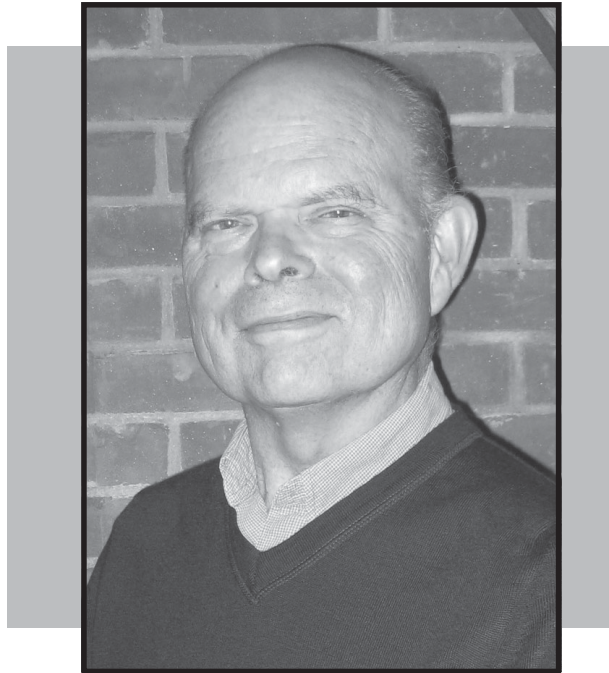
Number 1

## International Order of Runeberg Supreme Board President's Message

**Wow!** Mother Nature has shown us here in Connecticut, New England, and much of North America what winter really means—cold, with record-breaking amounts of snow. Did this winter remind you of Finland?

We have been asking our members for their thoughts and opinions on the merger of Runeberg with another organization, such as the Swedish-Finn Historical Society. In the most recent IOR Board teleconference it was concluded that our membership feels strongly that the Order of Runeberg remain an independent organization. Based on this feedback, members will be happy to know it was decided to not pursue the amalgamation consideration any further and the committee formed to consider it has been dissolved. I would like to thank all who participated in the discussion.

As reported in the *Leading Star's* December issue, I have called all the lodges over the last few months. One purpose of the telephone call was to obtain an email contact within each



lodge. Having at least one email contact for each lodge provides a quick and easy method to convey information of interest to the lodges. And that email communication should occur in both directions—I'm hoping that the lodge contacts will also email me to provide current lodge news updates, such as "next meeting" information (date, time, location, etc.), and any other information that a lodge would like to be published at our website (<http://www.orderofruneberg.org>). In addition to written "lodge happenings",

pictures and videos may be included for publication on the respective lodge's page at our website. If there are additional lodge members who would like to be included in the email distribution list, use the "Suggestions & Feedback" form at the website (under "About Us") to let us know.

A second goal of my phone calls to each lodge was to obtain and confirm the information needed to publish contact information (name, phone number, email address, and/or mailing address) for all lodges. As reported in the *Leading Star's* December issue, this was accomplished, and the contact information gathered has been published on each lodge's website page. The designated lodge contact(s) should check their contact information for accuracy and completeness. You may want to look at other lodges' web pages for ideas that can be used on your lodge's web page. I would like to thank Nils Holm (Lodge #101) and Shea Teixeira (Lodge #124) for editing their lodge's web page.

Well, I'm looking forward to the longer and warmer days of Spring time! How about you?

Fraternally,  
**Stew Lyons**

### WHAT'S INSIDE:

- Highlights Teleconference ..... 2
- Genealogy Corner ..... 3
- Lodge News ..... 4-5
- Resolutions ..... 6
- Convention Minutes Con'td ..... 7
- Museun Exhibition ..... 8



*Thank You*

Dear International Order of Runeberg

My name is Anette Hogberg and I was recently awarded one of your 500 dollar scholarships. I would like to thank you so much for choosing me to be one of the recipients. I am currently in the last semester of the Licensed Practical Nurse Program in Dawson Creek, British Columbia, and will graduate on September 15<sup>th</sup>, 2010. This scholarship has been helpful in paying for some of the cost of this program, as post secondary school can be quite expensive. I would like to thank you once again for this scholarship and I am very honoured to be one of the recipients as my grandparents have been longtime members of the International Order of Runeberg.

Yours truly,  
Anette Hogberg

*Editors note:* This thank you was received last year and should have been in the December 2010 issue of the paper.



*Thank You*

International Order of Runeberg:

Thank you for the generous scholarship. It has helped me further my education financially and was much appreciated.

I am currently in my second semester at Lincoln Memorial University and I am studying animal science. I really enjoy my studies and am looking forward to finishing my first year of college.

My family has belonged to the Butte, Montana, Lodge #105, Order of Runeberg for many years. My grandparents have been actively involved and our whole family enjoys participating in the lodge.

Thank you once again.

Sincerely,  
Katie Murto

### Scholarship Donation Report

The International Order of Runeberg Scholarship Fund relies on donations from lodges as well as individuals to have money available for scholarships.

In 2009, Seattle Lodge #101 made a generous donation of \$2500.00.

Most recently, the following donations have been received:

Theresa Kokkonen	\$40.00
Annabelle Kergan	\$20.00
Coos Bay Lodge #126	
In memory of Roy Bredskar	\$10.00
Janet Anderson	\$20.00
Vancouver Lodge #124	\$500.00
Brenda and George Nousiainen	
In memory of Erik Dahlbacka	\$25.00

Thank You to all who have contributed to the Scholarship Fund.

Scholarship applications must be received by April 30, 2011.

Lorene Mara  
Scholarship Chairman

## Planning for 2011

During each year there are a multitude of events and festivals that take place throughout the U.S. and Canada relating to Finland and Scandinavia. Two of them are noted in this paper. FinnWest 2011 will be happening in Vancouver (Burnaby), B.C., Canada from July 29 to July 31. FinnFest USA is taking place in San Diego during the month of August.

If you happen to visit one of these or any other event, write about your experience, send it to us, and we will put it in the paper. If you have some pictures, send them along also. Let's all share with one another.

There is still time to apply for the scholarship. The application form was in the December issue of the paper and is also available at the website.

—DH

Please submit all news, resolutions, and articles by **May 31** for publication in the **June *Leading Star***

**The LEADING STAR** (ISSN No. 0744-7485) is published quarterly by the International Order of Runeberg for its members and others interested in the Order at 7682 Tracy Lane, La Palma, California 90623-1501. Periodical postage paid at Whittier, CA.



**The *Leading Star* / *Ledstjärnan***  
Int'l. President: Stewart Lyons  
Editors: Dale and Mary Lou Hjort

Subscriptions payable in advance  
**One Year, U.S. & Canada** \$15.00  
**Overseas** \$20.00

Resolutions, single column, per inch, \$5.00

Advertising rates available upon request.

Address all correspondence to:

Postmaster: Send changes of address to:

**The *Leading Star*, Attn: Dale & Mary Lou Hjort**

7682 Tracy Lane  
La Palma, CA 90623-1501  
Telephone/Fax: 714-739-0932  
Email: d.mlhjort@juno.com

Correspondents: Information received by the first Friday of the quarterly month or as noted will be included in that quarter's issue.

To correct our listing of your address, fill in the requested information in the form below and send your old mailing label to:

**Dale & Mary Lou Hjort**  
7682 Tracy Lane  
La Palma, CA 90623-1501

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Street: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Lodge & Number: \_\_\_\_\_

## Highlights from the International Order of Runeberg Supreme Board Teleconference Calls

October 17, 2010 and February 20, 2011

Attendance:

All officers, *Leading Star* Editor, and Website Editor

**Leading Star reports: Dale Hjort**

- Complimentary copies of the *Leading Star* are sent to several other organizations. A minimum of 1,000 copies must be printed—well over the amount required. Any lodge or member wanting extra copies, contact Dale (contact # in *Leading Star*)

- Editor always wants more copy material...photos, lodge happenings, interesting articles—Editor's job is to compile in preparation to print—we as members must submit information. Deadlines to submit articles are the end of February, May, August, and November.

**Website Editor: Stew Lyons**

- 2010 saw an increase in activity with 5,595 visits. 2011 (until end of February) had 1,001 visits, giving a projection of expected visits for 2011 to 7,456 visits, an indication that our website is increasing in use. Stew has contacted all local lodges to obtain a contact person to report activities and such to the website editor. More lodges could/should be actively participating. Currently, three lodges do have individuals reporting information to Stew for additions to their web pages.

**Old Business:**

- Update on exploration of amalgamation —Fact finding...Lodges that responded to questionnaire all felt we should continue as is with looking at ways to cut costs. The Swedish Finn Historical Society contact felt that their purposes and ours were not a good blend for amalgamation as both groups have very different mission statements. After discussion, it was voted unanimously to discontinue further exploration and the committee was dissolved.

- Request for help with genealogy for SFHS—in 2010, all lodges were contacted, but no response was received. More information will be forthcoming as to the actual role individual lodges and/or members could or would have to play.

- Concerns over the cost of the next convention (location—Dollar Bay) were discussed. More information is required before any action will be taken regarding the location and the potential costs. Dollar Bay has been made aware of these concerns.

- Updating of the Constitution is in progress.

- Convention minutes publication is in progress.

- Security Lodge membership is available to anyone living in an area where there is no local lodge. Several Security Lodge members have been added to our membership list through the website. These individuals receive the *Leading Star* and currently do not have voting privileges at Conventions (may change in future).

Next teleconference call via Skype is scheduled for May 15, 2011. It was felt by all present that computer teleconferencing is very acceptable and best of all, free.

Submitted by **Annabelle Kergan**



**Yes, indeed, this is the 28th FinnFest USA, attracting again thousands of participants from all over the world — mostly from the USA, Canada, Mexico, and Finland. And in 2011, for the first time ever, the FinnFest USA will be held in the southernmost California, in San Diego — the 8th largest city in the United States of America.**

**What's new in FinnFest 2011? For the first time, the FinnFest is actually a month-long event. The Mayor of the City of San Diego has signed a proclamation to declare August 2011 to be the Month of Finland in San Diego. The traditional FinnFest weekend will be, of course, the highlight of the festivities and it has been scheduled in the middle of the month of August. Also, for the first time in the FinnFest history, the Government of Finland is participating in planning of the program.**



# Genealogy Corner

## Back Home Again



June Pelo, A Dedicated Genealogist

When the cold winter is a mere memory, we all set our sights on the coming summer and families with children plan their summer activities. Most of us already had our summer plans made. So it was with me after I had been in the U.S. for three years. My thoughts began to go to my homeland. I had scraped enough money together to go home to visit my family.

This trip, as well as many that followed, was with Iceland Air Charter. At that time the Norden Society used to charter an entire plane to fly to Finland. It was much cheaper to fly the charter than to buy a single ticket from an airline. It allowed me to have money for my visit at home.

From Helsingfors, I had to take a train and bus to get home. In Gamlakarleby (now Karleby), I took a bus to Småbonders. The timetable for this bus line was adapted to be suitable for workers who had jobs in Gamlakarleby. It was interesting to sit there in the bus and listen to a familiar dialect that I hadn't heard for a long time. Old Nedervetil men who were on the way home from work talked about the past. Nedervetil and Gamlakarleby people have a singular sense of humor.

Suddenly, I heard one man, who seemed to be the leader for this group, begin to talk of a past event. It was about a young mother with her son, who were on their way to the city. When they neared the city, the conductor began to collect payment from the passengers. When he came to the young mother, he asked her how old the boy was. The mother said, "He is six years old." The boy exclaimed loudly so all could hear, "No, I am eight years old." (Children six and under could travel free.) The woman became so embarrassed and red that she hid her face in her hands as if she hoped she could disappear.

Often when I think back on this event, I regretted that I didn't step up in the bus and say that I was that boy. Surely, the men would have appreciated hearing what had become of that outspoken eight-year-old. I was then a typical reserved and stiff Scandinavian. Now, thanks to my dear wife Bernice, I have begun to be half civilized.

I well remember that trip to the city. It was in the autumn when I began school for the second grade. My mother Etel took me to the city to buy clothes for me to attend school. My younger brother Roy wanted to come with us. Despite his tears, he was left home. He didn't go to school yet so my old worn rags were good enough for him. He was already the same size as I.

There I was, going to the city in my bare feet, without shoes, and in thin summer clothes—and I froze in the cold autumn weather as we walked on the cold stone pavement from store to store. My mother warned me, not in so many words, that I

should shut up when she bargained about the price. I decided not to put my foot in my mouth twice on the same day. My mother, a war widow with six children, stretched out each penny as much as she could. When we went into Åström's clothing store, suddenly I found myself looking into Roy's eyes. I could not understand the impudence this young scamp had—that he had the nerve to follow us all the way to the city! Since I was the oldest of the boys, I was also the boss. I exclaimed, "Why are you here? Go home!" There I stood, talking before a large mirror that stood in the way. I thought I was looking at my brother. I don't remember if we owned a mirror when I was a child.

I had been away only three short years so there were many changes during that time. All of my friends had families and permanent jobs. The girls that I had known were also married. I had difficulty understanding this. The economical and social conditions had moved ahead in great strides. When I talked with parliament member Ragnar Granvik and mentioned how surprised I was by progress that had been achieved, he said that we take the best from Sweden and adapt it for our own conditions.

After I had been home for some weeks and visited all our friends and relatives, I began to have the feeling that I had worn out my welcome. It was not because I was not welcome. No, on the contrary, I was always welcome. But they all had their own lives that had developed while I was away. I was no longer part of their lives. I began to feel all the more that I was an American. I had planted my roots here in the USA.

One Saturday evening I sat there with my mother and watched a variety program on a Finnish TV channel that showed a fine re-run of "Fiddler on the Roof." I had recently seen that show on Broadway. Afterwards, there was an interview with the American movie star Gregory Peck. I was surprised that he talked fluent Finnish. His wife, Greta, came from Finland. Later, much was written about Gregory Peck in the Finnish weekly newspapers. One female bath attendant, Leena, at Vaakuna Hotel

where Peck stayed, became well known because she took a sauna with him during his visit there.

When it was time for me to go back to the U.S., it was difficult to bid goodbye to my mother. Many tears fell when my brother Sten drove me to the railroad station. I was sure I would never see her again. She was so old—53 years! Such was my thought when I was a young man. But my mother later came to America three times. The first time, she lived with me for two years when I began to study at the university. She had a job as a temporary maid for a millionaire in Manhattan. Brave she was when she took the subway from the Bronx to Manhattan by herself. Not bad for a farmer's wife from Småbonders.

On my return trip, I took the night train to Helsingfors and arrived early in the morning. I had the entire day to visit the city. Departure time for my flight was in the evening. Helsingfors was no longer so eye-catching to me. After all, I now lived in the center of the universe, New York City! So, I went around Helsingfors and observed the city and all it had to offer. I was also in the cathedral, the parliament building, and many times in the new Kiasma Museum.

During my wanderings, I found myself in front of the Vaakuna Hotel. It was time for lunch and I thought that if this restaurant was good enough for Gregory Peck, it was good enough for me. I was served by a friendly waitress. I mentioned to her that I saw Gregory Peck on TV and I had read of his sauna at the hotel. She said, "You can also bathe here if you wish." I thought if it was good enough for Gregory Peck, it would be good enough for me. There I found myself naked in the sauna with Leena, built like a heavyweight wrestler. She poured water on the hot baked stones so the steam belched out like a volcano. She stood and hit me with a bunch of birch twigs so that I was as red as a cooked crayfish. Then she tossed me on a bench and washed me up and down and gave me a thorough massage so that my muscles ached. I have never been so roughly handled by a woman such as she. But it was actually refreshing. After that, I rested a short time on a wooden bench. When I finally came out of the hotel, I was a new man. There I floated along the street for everyone to see and admire. I was a "Gregory Peck."

Donald Widjeskog

Norden, 30 May 2010

English translation by *June Pelo*

### News from June Pelo:

Many of you know that 10 years ago I had advanced stage 3 colon cancer with the possibility of 5 years to live. Ten years later after surgery, treatment, etc., my oncologist discharged me today as a survivor. Testing last week showed no signs of cancer. My oncologist was new in town 10 years ago and I was one of his first patients. He felt a special bond with me and hopes I'll stop and visit him from time to time. :-)





# LODGE NEWS



## Lodge #106 Tacoma, Washington



From right to left: Laura Jensen, Marie Cain with her daughter and grand-daughter



From left to right: Bev Nelson, Martha and Roy Cederberg

On December 11, 2010, we held our Christmas Potluck Meeting with a total of 36 attending. Our tables were decorated with beautiful mini poinsettias, which later were given to a person at each table whose birthday fell closest to Christmas. "Thank you, John, for donating the poinsettias." We welcomed two new members, Eeva Kaija LaLone and her son John. The variety of special foods were enjoyed by us all as we visited with each other and enjoyed the beautifully decorated tree and tables. Greetings were forwarded from members unable to attend: Dorrit Lov, Yakima; Agnes Rand, Oregon; Diana Nelson; and Brian Magnusson in Sweden. We were sad to learn that our dear friend and member Bernhard Lov of Yakima had been ill and quietly had passed away. A private family graveside service was held in Yakima at the Terrace Heights Memorial Cemetery.

"Thank you, all, for supporting our Tacoma Lodge by attending our meetings"; and one can tell that we all enjoy each other's friendships. Also, "Thank you, Carolyn, for bringing the microphone." It sure was a help. Hope we will be able to have one each meeting day.

It is now a New Year, 2011, and we are already into the month of February. On the 19<sup>th</sup> of February we held our first meeting of the year and also enjoyed Valentine's Day. February birthdays were recognized, which also included Johan Ludwig Runeberg, our namesake.

A good turnout of members, who are always happy to see each other. We were 32 present, with two of those being guests and hopefully will be joining our Tacoma #106 Lodge.

All the tables were decorated with red hearts and primroses and our potluck and dessert tables were inviting as always. Compliments to the "Coffeemaker Cook, John"! There was not a drop of coffee left



From left to right: Edna and George Hashagen, Darin Johnson and Patricia Gribble

in the 75-cup pot. Time to open the meeting for business at hand about the future of the IOR. I had asked Ed Brannfors to present the possibilities for our Runeberg lodges that are being considered. All IOR members have a say in this. "Thank you, Ed." There will be more discussions and decision yet to come.

After a refill of coffee and dessert, it was time to introduce longtime Tacoma O.R. members, Marge Kunscaak and Shirleyanne Sargent. Both were dressed in their beautiful national folkdräkt from Sweden. This particular folkdräkt was designed 1906 as the national dress of Sweden. Each province of Sweden has its own style of folkdräkt. Marge and Shirleyanne took turns telling and showing us treasured family keepsakes and sharing family stories. All of our members could have listened and asked many more questions of them; however, I hope they both will sit down and write about all their memories or perhaps someone could tape their conversations. Pictures were taken of them both and their keepsakes and will appear in the next *Leading Star* issue that comes out.

In closing, I would like to share with you a true story. It proves how small this world of ours is.... I'll try to make it simple and short. I'll begin with me. In 1953-54, I attended a folkhög skola in Nykarleby, Finland, in Home Economic., weaving, etc. There were 64 girls and 12 boys enrolled from all of Swedish Ostrobothnia and two Danish girls. We lived in a dormitory the whole year. My contact with all those friends is very close. So, my one girl friend, who lives in Jakobstad, writes in her Christmas letter this past year (2010)—Birgitta is her name—Birgitta writes to me:

Dear Marita, I have a neighbor whose name is also Marita and she noticed that I receive letters and cards from Olympia quite often. Would your Marita in Olympia, WA, by any chance, know my cousin, who lives in Olympia? His name is Larry Kronquist.

So, when I, Marita Agnew in Olympia, WA, read this, I got the Olympia phone book out. Sure enough, there is a Larry Kronquist, address, and phone number. So, I called him and we had a good, long visit by phone, and he was familiar with the Order of Runeberg and his parents were involved years ago in Tacoma and he had pictures from some singing events. Yes, of course, he was at our Tacoma Order of Runeberg meeting on February 19, 2011, here in Olympia.

So, until next time—be well and greetings to all IOR members from a "snowy Wednesday afternoon."

*Marita Agnew*

President, Tacoma, WA, Lodge #106

## Lodge #130 New Westminster, BC, Canada

Greta Nelson, former member of our lodge, who served as our most diligent chorus president for many years, has passed away. Her family, friends, and colleagues attended a memorial service held on January 6, 2011. Many tributes were given and the Runeberg chorus performed several songs.

Greta was born in Finland in 1920. She came to Canada as a five-year-old with her mother and two older siblings. Her father had emigrated earlier.

Recently, I read her autobiography. She looks back upon things past: her first years in Finland and then to a life on the family farm in Aldergrove, outside Vancouver. Using primitive tools to work their land, they were able to eke out a decent living and raise their own food. She writes: "We bought a stump ranch and made it bloom." Despite the family's humble financial state, she and her sister and brother were able to attend university and further their education. Greta became a teacher; she also had a Master's Degree in Psychology. She favoured fundamental changes in political or social conditions and she was a staunch supporter of women's rights.

I feel privileged to have known Greta.

Two hundred seven years have passed since Finland's national poet, Johan Ludwig Runeberg, was born; and we are still celebrating his birthday every February 5<sup>th</sup>.

Canadian Friends of Finland hosted a concert commemorating his birthday at the Scandinavian Centre in Burnaby on February 6, 2011. During the concert, we were entertained by a dramatized presentation of the poet's life and loves. The chorus, joined by the Sons of Norway chorus, performed several of Runeberg's songs. Yasashi Ishimura surprised us all when he sang "Vårt Land" in both Finnish and Swedish to the original tune composed by the poet himself.

"Vårt Land" was adapted as Finland's national anthem and sung for the first time, it is believed, at a spring festival somewhere in Finland in 1848. The day ended with coffee and Runeberg "tårtor" for all to enjoy.

Meanwhile, we continue to meet monthly. At our February meeting, we celebrated Evelyn Carlson's 80<sup>th</sup> birthday. For the past 27 years, she has been in charge of the financial aspects of our lodge. We appreciate her contributions and enjoyed coffee and birthday cake with her at the end of our meeting.

In December, we came together for a potluck dinner and to celebrate the season. It was a time for us to gather and wish each other the best for a healthy and happy 2011. We extend the same wishes to all of you.

Sincerely,  
*Nancy Snickars*

Visit our website:  
[www.orderofruneberg.org](http://www.orderofruneberg.org)





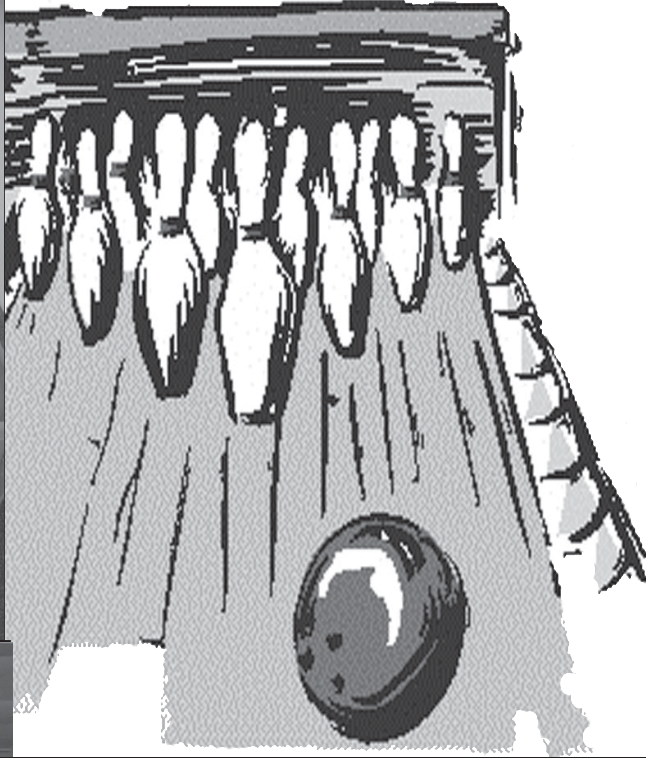
# LODGE NEWS



## Lodge #205 New Haven, Connecticut

In January, New Haven Lodge #205 members had to dig their way out of deep, record breaking amounts of snow to participate in the lodge's annual Bowling & Pizza Meeting. Despite the record amounts of snow, the lodge had great event participation, as seen in these pictures.

Submitted by *Stew Lyons*



*Seated: Kaarina Lyons, 1<sup>st</sup> row (L-R): George Nousiainen, Kiersten Bjork, Christian Bjork, Esther Brasile, Brenda Nousiainen, Sirpa Aho, 2<sup>nd</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup> rows (L-R): Austin Connell, Christine Bjork, Ken Bjork, Dottie Bjork, Klas Bjork, Ruth Natzel, Wayne Natzel, Ari Aho*

*Seated (L-R): Austin Connell, Brenda Nousiainen, Kiersten Bjork, Christine Bjork  
Rear (L-R): Esther Brasile, Ken Bjork, George Nousiainen*



*L-R: Dottie Bjork, Christian Bjork, Sirpa Aho*

*Enjoying pizza and desserts!  
Seated (L-R): Sandy Havumaki, Ari Aho, Sirpa Aho  
2<sup>nd</sup> row: Esther Brasile, Ruth Natzel, Klas Bjork, Glenn Havumaki*





## Resolutions

### Lodge #126 Coos Bay, Oregon

It is with deepest sorrow that we report the loss of our lodge sister

#### Clara Patricia "Pat" Hinderlie

who passed away on January 8, 2011, in Coos Bay, OR at age 93. A graveside service was held on January 14 at Willamette National Cemetery in Portland.

Pat was born May 24, 1917, in Astoria, OR, the daughter of Joseph Albert and Fannie Sophie (Palo) Harris. Her father was a lighthouse keeper at Point Wilson and Cape Disappointment, WA. She graduated from high school in Port Townsend, WA. The family moved to the Cape Arago Lighthouse where she met her husband, Arthur Rodney Hinderlie. He was stationed in the Coast Guard while living there. They were married January 5, 1937, in North Bend. They lived in Oregon and Washington at various Coast Guard stations. He retired in 1960 and then built their dream home on East Bay Drive, Coos Bay.

She enjoyed her hobbies: knitting, button collecting, and flower gardening. She especially enjoyed her children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren, and friends.

Pat became a member of Runeberg Lodge #126, November 4, 1976.

She is survived by her children, John Hinderlie and wife, Wilma of Elma, WA; Thomas Hinderlie of Fremont, CA; and David Hinderlie and wife Dianna of Des Moines, WA; siblings, Paula Erickson and Ronald Harris, both of Coos Bay; ten grandchildren, nineteen great-grandchildren, and two great-great-grandchildren.

Lodge #126 extends its deepest sympathy to Clara's family.

Resolution Committee

*Pat Moen  
Clara Robinson  
Gary Robinson*



### Lodge #211 Norwood, Massachusetts

It is with deep sorrow that we report the passing of our sister

#### Grace Christina (Magnuson) McMullin

on November 5, 2010, at 90 years of age. Grace was a lifelong Norwood resident and held various jobs, including working for the Norwood Tannery, secretary at Norwood High School, and secretary at Norwood Northrop Corporation until she retired.

Grace was an active member of Runeberg Lodge #211 after joining the lodge November 2, 1962. She was a vital part of our lodge, attending conventions, planning activities, and serving on many committees. She held the position of Recording Secretary from 1985.

Grace was the beloved wife of the late Leonard "Mac" McMullin.

Grace leaves her 3 cats, many friends, and family members; especially her devoted daughter Christina McMullin of Norwood; daughter Sheila McMullin of Woonsocket, R.I.; and daughter Kathleen Benjamin of Douglas, MA. She also leaves grandchildren Lisa Archer, Stephen Benjamin, Michael Benjamin, Kevin Benjamin, and 9 great-grandchildren.

She was a faithful member of Emmanuel Lutheran Church. A funeral service was held on Tuesday, November 9, at 10 a.m., at Emmanuel Lutheran Church in Norwood. Burial was at Knollwood Memorial Park in Carton, MA.

Members of Lodge #211 extend their deepest sympathy to Christina and her family.

Resolution Committee



### Lodge #126 Coos Bay, Oregon

It is with deepest sorrow that we report the loss of our lodge brother

#### Ralph W. Ingman

who passed away October 9, 2010, in North Bend, OR. A funeral service for Ralph, age 91, was held on October 15, at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church in Coos Bay.

Ralph was born May 10, 1919, to Oscar and Ester (Hendrickson) in the Englewood District of Coos Bay. His parents were Swedish-speaking immigrants from Finland. The family owned a dairy farm where Ralph and his two brothers and sister were raised and helped with the chores. He was the youngest of the four.

He was married to Margaret Anderson October 1944. They enjoyed 37 years together. They both were Runeberg members and enjoyed the Scandinavian dancing and other lodge activities. Ralph was a member of the Runeberg lodge for 77 years, having joined August 18, 1933. He was very active in the lodge including serving a term as president. He also enjoyed bowling. You could always count on Ralph to furnish the ice cream and cones for our annual picnic, including our picnic of August 2010.

His employment over the years included log truck driver, operating a bulldozer, and being a millwright for the Jorgensen Mill. He had a wonderful sense of humor. He was a longtime member of the National Grange. He enjoyed hunting and fishing as well.

Ralph is survived by his niece, Barbara, and husband, Norman Leeling of North Bend; nephew, Fred Ingman and Sharey of Eugene; nephew, Rodney Ingman of Sweet Home; six great-nephews; one great-niece; and several cousins in Finland.

He was preceded in death by his parents, sister Elvira Ingman, brothers Valde and Harold Ingman, and wife Margie Ingman.

Lodge #126 extends its deepest sympathy to Ralph's family.

Resolution Committee

*Ruth Shutter  
Clara Robinson  
Gary Robinson*



### Greetings! Terve! Bonjour! Chimo! Hej!

In any language, FinnWest 2011 is ready to welcome you.

Whether you are Finnish, a Finnophile, or just a Finn wannabe, Vancouver is the place to be July 29 to July 31, 2011. We hosted the world during the Olympics and now we would like to host you in beautiful British Columbia.

Finnish Canadian Cultural Federation The FinnWest 2011 celebrations will provide you with a familiar anchor for your visit to the West Coast of Canada. There will be Finnish music and food, culture and sports—all delivered with a dose of good old-fashioned hospitality.

The cities of Burnaby and Vancouver, as well as the whole province of British Columbia, have a lot to offer—so come early or stay late. Just make us your vacation destination next summer!

Tervetuloa! Welcome! Välkommen!

Kyösti Sutela

Chair

FinnWest 2011 Organizing Committee



Continued from the December 2010 Issue

# 24<sup>th</sup> International Convention

## Minutes/Reports • Eureka, California • August 20–22, 2010

**Law #2:** BE IT RESOLVED THAT Article II delete...the Dominion of. The Law Committee concurs with this change. Doug Hanson moved and it was seconded by Sonja Dahlbacka to agree with the committee and accept this change. Motion was passed.

**Law #3:** BE IT RESOLVED THAT Article II Section II is changed to read... This Order shall be composed of local Lodges, which shall hold regular stated meetings at least quarterly, formed as hereinafter provided with the limits of the United States and Canada.

The Law Committee concurs with this change. Doug Hanson moved and it was seconded by Sonja Dahlbacka to agree with the committee and accept this change. Motion was passed.

**Law #4:** BE IT RESOLVED THAT Article III is changed to read...The Order shall hold International Conventions at least once every four years.

The Law Committee finds this to be a moot point as it was approved at the 2006 Convention in Portland, Oregon.

**Law #5:** BE IT RESOLVED THAT Article V Section 6 be changed to read...A member must be initiated before he/she becomes entitled to any rights and privileges of membership. Initiation shall take place in accordance with individual Lodge formalities and routines.

The Law Committee concurs with this change. Doug Hanson moved and it was seconded by Theresa Kokkonen to agree with the committee and accept this change. Motion was passed.

**Law #6:** BE IT RESOLVED THAT Article VI Section 1 be changed to read...The initiation/joining fee, which is transmitted together with the application, may not be less than \$2.00 for membership.

The Law Committee concurs with this change. Doug Hanson moved and it was seconded by Tor Rosback to agree with the committee and accept this change. Motion was passed.

**Law #7:** BE IT RESOLVED THAT Article VII Section 4 is changed to read...A member desiring to move to another local Lodge of the Order shall be entitled upon payment in full of all dues to his/her local Lodge, to a letter of Transfer, signed by the President and Secretary, declaring him/her to be a member in good standing. Upon presentation of the letter to the new local Lodge, the member shall be admitted, if favorably voted on in accordance with Article V, Section 4, of this Constitution and Bylaws. Secretary of receiving Lodge shall forward said information to the Supreme Board Secretary to effect change in records.

The Law Committee concurs with this change. Sonja Dahlbacka moved and it was seconded by Ron Kokkonen to agree with the committee and accept this change. Motion was passed.

**Law #8:** BE IT RESOLVED THAT Article IX add two words to sentence #1 to read as...The Marshall, if elected, shall give the sign of greeting to the President at the opening of the meeting and shall demand the same from all members present.

The Law Committee concurs with this change. Theresa Kokkonen moved and was seconded by Flossie Sheldon to agree with the committee and accept this change. Motion was passed.

**Law #9:** BE IT RESOLVED THAT Article IX be changed to read...Besides these officers, the local Lodges may elect other officers if necessary.

The Law Committee concurs with this change. George Nousiainen moved and it was seconded by Sonja Dahlbacka to agree with the committee and accept this change. Motion was passed.

**Law #10:** BE IT RESOLVED THAT Article IX Section 18 be changed to read...A local Lodge shall have the option of having a Nominating Committee, formed by the local Lodge members at a regular Lodge meeting.

The Law Committee concurs with this change. Sonja Dahlbacka moved and it was seconded by Theresa Kokkonen to agree with the committee and accept this change. Motion was passed.

**Law #11:** BE IT RESOLVED THAT Article IX Section 18 changed to read...Each individual local Lodge shall have the right to incorporate under the laws of the State/Province in which it is located—subject to review and approval by the Supreme Board.

The Law Committee concurs with this change. Bob Anderson moved and it was seconded by Sonja Dahlbacka to agree with the committee and accept this change. Motion was passed.

**Law #12:** BE IT RESOLVED THAT Article XII Section 2 is changed to...The disbanding Lodge must individually notify, appropriately, all of its members of its intention to disband.

The Law Committee concurs with this change. Sonja Dahlbacka moved and it was seconded by Doug Hanson to agree with the committee and accept this change. Motion was passed.

**Law #13:** BE IT RESOLVED THAT Article XII Section 2 addition after last sentence of paragraph two...This member will officially become a Security Lodge member but without voting privileges at International Conventions.

Discussion was held on considering defining the meaning of Security Lodge and the fact that we have more and more members in it.

The Law Committee concurs with this change. Theresa Kokkonen moved and it was seconded by Flossie Sheldon to agree with the committee and accept this change. Motion was passed.

**Law #14:** BE IT RESOLVED THAT Article XIV Section 1...delete Officers, who neglect to have the various books of the local Lodge and other necessary belongings

present at a regular meeting, shall for each negligence pay such a fine as a local Lodge may impose.

The Law Committee concurs with this change. George Nousiainen moved and it was seconded by Sonja Dahlbacka to agree with the committee and accept this change. Motion was passed.

**Law #15:** BE IT RESOLVED THAT Article XIV Section 2 delete...all fines imposed by a local Lodge, if not paid at once, shall be paid by the fined member in addition to the regular dues if his/her rights as a member shall be retained.

The Law Committee moves to delete simply because it falls under Section 1. Doug Hanson moved and it was seconded by Sonja Dahlbacka to agree with the committee and accept this change. Motion was carried.

**Law #16:** BE IT RESOLVED THAT Article XIV Section 3 delete...no member has the right to discuss in public anything that takes place at a meeting of a local Lodge.

The Law Committee non-concurs with this change. Doug Hanson moved to concur with the non-concurrence but then rescinded his motion. Doug Hanson agrees with the Committee and moved not to pass and it was seconded by Sonja Dahlbacka. Motion was passed.

**Law #17: Members present at a funeral.** BE IT RESOLVED THAT Article XIV Section 8 be changed to read...all members are reminded to be present at the funeral of a deceased member.

The Law Committee concurs with this change. George Nousiainen moved to concur and was seconded by Lorene Mara. Motion was passed.

**Law #18:** BE IT RESOLVED THAT Article XV Section 4 be changed to read...local Lodges are encouraged to organize song and/or orchestral groups within their areas for the purpose of preserving Nordic culture and traditions of our founders in song and music.

The Law Committee concurs with this law. George Nousiainen says that there is a conflict with language such as with the Finance Committee's dilemma with the Swedish language but for this law says Nordic Culture. It is decided that the language of culture is acceptable. Tor Rosback moved and it was seconded by Sonja Dahlbacka to agree with the committee and accept this change. Motion was passed.

**Law #19:** BE IT RESOLVED THAT Article III Section 3 be amended to show delegate entitlement to the Conventions of the Order be as follows...Lodges with membership up to twenty-five in total shall be entitled to choose one delegate. Lodges with membership over twenty-five up to fifty shall be entitled to choose two delegates. Lodges with membership from fifty-one up to one hundred shall be entitled to choose three delegates. Lodges with membership over one hundred shall be entitled to an additional delegate for each 50 members thereafter.

The Law Committee was concerned about impact on small Lodges and their enthusiasm to continue further; so the committee felt that the importance of furthering the organization, this would have a negative impact on future growth so the committee after long discussion unanimously recommended non-concurrence.

Theresa Kokkonen moved and Flossie Sheldon seconded to agree with the committee on the non-concurrence. Motion passed.

President Annabelle Kergan was escorted from the room. Doug Hanson moved that we spend \$80.00 on a gift for Annabelle. Brenda Nousiainen seconded and motion was passed.

Lorene Mara read a letter regarding missing historical and financial records. Copy attached.

Flossie Sheldon proposed that the Supreme Board be paid their wages. Historically, this has been the accommodation costs. In all conventions in the past, the Supreme Board has been paid per diem for their hotel rooms.

Doug Hanson seconded the motion. According to Ron Kokkonen on his 2006 papers, it says that they were paid \$75.00 per day for the two days but hotel charges change each convention. Motion passed.

### ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION: Ed Brannfors led the discussion...

Addendum to the June 2010 *Leading Star* attached to the minutes:

**Question:** How financially stable is SFHS?

It is presently located in the Swedish Center in Seattle and they do pay the rent there. They have considerable financial stability due to excessive donations of over a million dollars. Their goal is to join with other Scandinavian groups to promote Scandinavian heritage. Dick Erickson is the current president of SFHS. His report is active and publications are rather active. It was founded in 1991.

**Question:** Do you see the need to amalgamate with another organization or do we just keep operating as is until the funds run dry?

Stew Lyons optimistically looks toward doing things that will grow this organization so he has some concern about just two options being considered.

**Question:** If change is forthcoming, is the SFHS the place to begin our plan for change? If not, where/who do we amalgamate with?

Doug Hanson says that in 1920 the Order of Runeberg amalgamated with two other groups and formed the Order of Runeberg, and the Order of Runeberg has been operating since then. Discussion was held on what to do with funds if the Order of Runeberg dissolves.

**Question:** How do you see our position within the SFHS? Do we become a separate chapter of their organization or do we just dissolve the Order and those wishing to do so join their membership?

Many Runeberg members are already SFHS members, what about dues? SFHS has discussed what we can do to become more socially active. In some ways it would seem like we are ideally suited to go together due to the existing structure. See us forming

continued on page 8



## 24<sup>th</sup> International Convention

continued from page 7

chapters, maintaining social networks as we go forward. The Runeberg Lodge may not be called Runeberg if joining SFHS. We would save a considerable amount of money. We go through, as discussed, print 1,000 copies of the *Leading Star* and send out something under 500, that would be an expense eliminated. There might be a slight expense for two sides in the quarterly but sometimes it is hard to even get enough information or articles for two pages in the *Leading Star*. Teleconference calls are expensive as well. Funds may be kept under the umbrella of SFHS.

**Question:** How do we best communicate? SFHS has a *Quarterly*; do we somehow continue with the *Leading Star* or use the *Quarterly* for our communication?

We want input and discussion from the members.

**Question:** What can SFHS do for the Order of Runeberg?

The Society has extensive genealogy resources for everyone to use.

**Question:** Do we keep our individual Lodges as is and operate independently, eliminating a Supreme Board and Conventions, etc., or do we just dissolve all Lodges and those members wishing to will just join in with SFHS?

We want input and discussion from the membership.

Ed Brannfors also wanted to inform members that this idea has not been presented to SFHS and the Society has not been part of the idea.

Officers will be installed at the banquet. Certificates of Appreciation will be presented at the banquet for outstanding service and accomplishments to:

Eric Mara	Doug Hanson
Marita Agnew	Nellie Hanson
George Nousiainen	Brenda Nousiainen

Theresa Kokkonen offered to host the next convention in 2014. Doug Hanson moved and it was seconded by George Nousiainen to have the convention in Dollar Bay. Theresa said they are selling T-shirts with the Runeberg logo on them as a fundraiser.

Since there was no further business in this portion of the convention, President Annabelle Kergan declared the meeting adjourned at 4:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Janet Anderson

Secretary

During the Banquet two longtime members were honored. Bob Anderson read a brief history about Elsie Isackson and her involvement in the Order. She has held many offices and worked with the youth for many years. We honor her for her outstanding service.

Leo Wilson read a brief history about Wiana Rustin and her long time involvement in the Order. We honor her for her outstanding service. Corsages were given to our honorees.

We enjoyed a program of accordion music played by Barbara Winter and Michael Sanossian.

## Museum Exhibition

*Seattle—The Nordic Heritage Museum is pleased to announce a new exhibition: Vessels of the Heart: Fairbanks at Arabia / Cushing and Salmenhaara at Alfred which opens Friday, March 4, and runs through Sunday, May 22, 2011.*

**V**essels of the Heart reveals a rich dialogue between artists in Finland and the United States in the second half of the twentieth century. At the center of the story is Washington ceramicist Richard Fairbanks, who spent an influential Fulbright year at the Arabia ceramics factory in Finland in 1959–1960, witnessing a golden age of Scandinavian design. In his introduction to the book, *Richard Fairbanks, American Potter*, art critic Matthew Kangas writes: “Once his body of work is closely examined, it becomes clear that Richard Fairbanks is among the most important, if not the most important, potter in the history of the Pacific Northwest.”

Fairbanks (1929–1989), a native of Yakima, Washington, first studied ceramics at the University of Washington in the early 1950s. His rural background was the foundation for a connection to early American farm pottery and a dedication to functional pottery that would endure throughout his career, and which set him apart from other Pacific Northwest ceramicists at the time. In 1959, Fairbanks was awarded a Fulbright grant to study at the Institute for Applied Arts in Helsinki and work as a guest artist at the Arabia ceramics manufacturing firm. The factory, founded in 1873, was known for simple, functionalist designs—many inspired by natural materials and by Finnish folk art.

Fairbanks thrived in this atmosphere, meeting colleagues such as Kyllikki Salmenhaara (1915–1981). Salmenhaara had studied at New York’s Alfred University during her own education abroad. She shared Fairbanks’ regard for American folk pottery, and the two artists forged a friendship that continued until Salmenhaara’s death. “Ceramics are not only to be looked at. They should be touched and felt,” according to Salmenhaara. In the 1960s, because of an accident, Salmenhaara could no



*Kyllikki Salmenhaara vase, 1959–1960.  
Photo by Richard Fairbanks*



*Nordic Heritage Museum*

longer work with the potter’s wheel and she began a new career in teaching. As a teacher, Salmenhaara underlined the knowledge of material and command of technique as the basis of all creative work. She wrote the first textbook in ceramics written in the Finnish language.

During her tenure at Alfred University, Salmenhaara was an influence on Val Cushing (1931– ), who was a ceramics graduate student when they first met in 1956. When the Finnish potter returned years later as a guest professor, Cushing was then teaching in Alfred’s graduate ceramics department. Professor Cushing remains productive in his studio, exhibiting and lec-

turing widely as a highly recognized leader in his field. “I aspire to make pottery that is both beautiful and useful,” Cushing has said. “I place as much emphasis as I can on the sensuous qualities of a pot. I do this mainly by the use of color, form, and surface textures that are as stimulating to see as to touch.”

Together, works by Fairbanks, Salmenhaara, and Cushing call to mind conversations about form, function, aesthetics, and technique between artists in Scandinavia and North America.

For general information, visit [www.nordicmuseum.org](http://www.nordicmuseum.org) or phone (206) 789-5707

Museum hours: Tues.–Sat., 10 am to 4 pm; Sun. 12 noon to 4 pm; Mon. closed

Admission: \$6 general; \$5 seniors & college students; \$4 children over 5 years;

FREE for children under 5 and museum members

The museum is located at 3014 NW 67<sup>th</sup> Street, Seattle, WA 98117

### About the Nordic Heritage Museum

With over 55,000 visitors annually, the Nordic Heritage Museum is a cultural treasure in the Pacific Northwest. It is the only museum in the United States that represents the cultural heritage of all five Nordic countries: Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, and Sweden. The Museum’s mission is to share Nordic culture with people of all ages and backgrounds by exhibiting art and objects, preserving collections, providing educational and cultural experiences, and serving as a community gathering place. The Nordic Heritage Museum presents a wide range of vibrant programs including contemporary art exhibitions, outstanding concerts, lectures and films, and a variety of special events throughout the year.