



# LEADING STAR LEDSTJÄRNAN

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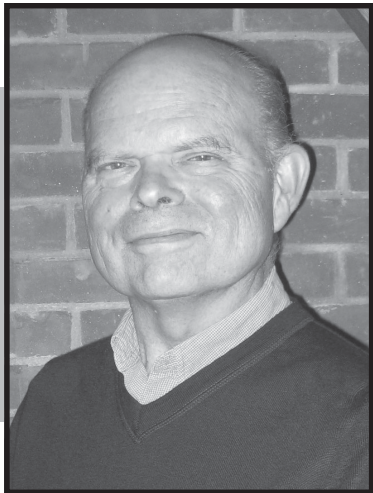
La Palma, California

September 2011

Number 3

[www.orderofruneberg.org](http://www.orderofruneberg.org)

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



***I hope you all have had a great summer!***

Kaarina and I are looking forward to the moderate temperatures typical of the fall season and nature's palate of tree leaf colors. Here in New England the fall foliage can be spectacular!

Some of our members may remember, have read, or, if lucky enough, have a personal copy of the book IOR published in 1968: *Memorabilia of the International Order of Runeberg 1898–1968 in Words and Pictures*. It is a fascinating and history-laden book with hundreds of historical photos—including at least seven pictures of lodge buildings: (Negaunee, MI; Eureka, CA;

Eveleth, MN; Dollar Bay, MI [1904 photo]; Escanaba, MI; Felch, MI; Coos Bay / Marshfield, OR).

Apparently, the Library of Congress has also found it to be a valuable reference. The book was used by the Library of Congress as a resource for their presentation "The Finns in America" (<http://www.loc.gov/rr/european/FinnsAmer/finchro.html>). The book is so rich in history and pictures that I took the time to scan all 199 pages, placing the electronic version on our website. This allows the book to be available to anyone on the world-wide-web. You can view, read, and print any page in the book at our website: <http://www.orderofruneberg.org>.

Many of our current members will see pictures that include their parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, etc. Information and pictures on the "Finlandia" lodge (Vasa, Finland) are also included. The book also docu-

ments the importance and central role of music—choirs, bands, traditional dance, etc., within and among the lodges—the book refers to numerous music-focused tours to and from Finland. Although the book was published without a table of contents, one has been created for the Web version of the book.

In closing, I am continually impressed with Finland's news-making presence on the world stage. For example, news reports and articles on Finland's high marks in education, health care, and the arts—especially music. Speaking of music, at the top of my "favorites" list is Jean Sibelius' "Finlandia," which has become a powerful expression of patriotism for Finns. You can read about Sibelius at our website, and listen to Finlandia while surfing the Net.

Fraternally,  
Stew Lyons

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## *Celebrate the Magic of Christmas* with a personal Christmas Greeting . . . in the *Leading Star*

Christmas is approaching. Christmas greetings maybe sent to other IOR members and your friends through the media of the *Leading Star* at the cost of \$5.00 per column inch (minimum). Please write your greeting in this form and mail it to your *Leading Star* editors. You will be billed; or if you are submitting your name and lodge only, please include your \$5.00 check with the form.

Thank you,

**Mail to: *Leading Star***

Attn: Dale Hjort  
7682 Tracy Lane  
La Palma, CA 90623

OR

E-Mail: [d.mlhjort@juno.com](mailto:d.mlhjort@juno.com)

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

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

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

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

Greeting: \_\_\_\_\_

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## The Next Issue of the Paper

**M**any of the lodges take a break during the summer and so there are not many activities to report on. But now that fall is here and meetings are resuming, we hope to hear from every lodge in one way or another. Tell us what activities are taking place and what you are planning to do.

Send us a short (or long) article and we will make sure that it gets in the December issue of the paper. If you have some pictures, that would be even better. We will need your article by November 15 for the next issue. Send it to us by mail, e-mail, or FAX. All our information is located below.

Send us your Christmas greeting this year as an individual or as a lodge. We hope that we will receive many so they can be shared with everyone.

—DH

Please submit all news, resolutions, and articles by November 15 for publication in the December *Leading Star*

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Editors: Dale and Mary Lou Hjort

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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:

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

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

## From the Scholarship Recipients



**Ann-Marie Osterback**



**Erin Roufosse**



**Colby Teixeira**

Dear IOR and IOR Scholarship Committee,

Thank you for your scholarship reward of \$500 towards my dissertation research at the University of California at Santa Cruz. Your contribution will go towards the purchase of six textbooks needed to study and pass my dissertation qualifying exam. My family has valued the support that the IOR community has provided since their immigration from Finland in the 1960s, and this scholarship reward is a wonderful continuation of the support IOR provides.

With sincere appreciation,  
**Ann-Marie Osterback**

Thank You

Thank you so much for selecting me as one of the recipients for the Runeberg Scholarship. The money will help go towards my education at Eastern New Mexico University. Your support is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,  
**Erin Roufosse**

August 15, 2011

Re: International Order of Runeberg Scholarship Committee

To whom it may concern:

I am thankful and honoured to have been chosen to receive the \$500.00 International Order of Runeberg scholarship. With this financial assistance I will be able to achieve my educational goals at Simon Fraser University. I will be able to pursue my life time goals in Criminology and Psychology, and provide a better future for myself. This opportunity that you have provided me will change my life in a tremendous way.

I have signed up for the fall semester at Simon Fraser University, which will commence September 7, 2011. I am excited to continue my university degree and pursue my career goals.

Thank you again for this generous and wonderful gift that you have provided me.

Yours truly,  
**Colby Teixeira**

## Scholarship Donation Report

The International Order of Runeberg Scholarship Fund has recently received some generous donations;

**In Memory of Clara Hinderlie and Ralph Ingman,**

**Coos Bay Lodge #126** \$20.00

**In Memory of Ruth Shutter,**

**Manfred Olson** \$50.00

**Janet and Bob Anderson** \$50.00

**Gary and Clara Robinson** \$25.00

**Marilyn Reiher** \$100.00

**Coos Bay Lodge #126** \$10.00

**THANK YOU** for contributing to the Scholarship Fund. We rely on donations so we can award scholarships.

**Lorene Mara  
Scholarship Chairman**

## Did You Know?

Finland is the most sparsely populated country in the European Union, with only 16 inhabitants per km<sup>2</sup>. There are exactly 187,888 lakes (larger than 500 m<sup>2</sup>) and 179,584 islands within the territory of Finland.



# Genealogy Corner



**June Pelo, A Dedicated Genealogist**

Brita Malin Kaitfors (1793–1879) tells about an August day in 1809 when the Cossacks came to her farm at Buldans in Nedervetil.

Brita Malin was born 27 Nov 1793 at Buldans and died 29 Apr 1879 in Gamlakarleby. She was fifteen years old when she witnessed the disastrous August day in 1809. The story was handed down verbally to Karin Hellman through the family. Brita Malin was Karin Hellman's mother's father's mother's mother. Karin said, "My mother's father's sister Maria Johanna Björklund (nee Sarén) was sixteen years old when Brita Malin died." Johanna, who was later called Faster Hanna, was Brita Malin's daughter's daughter.

Brita Malin told Johanna about the olden days and customs and about what happened at Buldans that day in August 1809. Faster Johanna, who died 1949, told Karin about Brita Malin who is the "I" person in this story....

It was a beautiful day at home in Buldans. The birch trees' branches were white and the birds flew from branch to branch. As a little girl I often stood and watched them. I told the other children that I wished I could fly. They asked me where I would fly, and I told them I would fly to heaven. They said I would fall down and then they laughed. But I said that I would see more up there than they did.

Now it will soon be the long journey ahead for me, but not the trip I dreamed of as a child. Now I can only look back at my life. The older I become, the more I think of my childhood and my childhood home. I had no idea I would become a citizen of the city. My father's father and my father had often been to the city. Grandfather was the church warden and parish clerk and had, together with the priest, Anders Chydenius, often gone into Gamlakarleby. They wore baskets on their backs in which they had butter. Chydenius collected the butter for his friends or relatives, and grandfather ordered butter for us. But I had only been to the city one time when I worked as a maid there.

But now you shall hear about what happened that sad day at the end of August 1809. Out in the fields the rye stood in long rows. Early in the morning Father had gone to the woods with our hound, Freja. We could hear how she barked when some birds flew up. She was a good bird hound. As they were on their way out of the house, Father's brother said that she hunts Cossacks. My stepmother said, "God help us that we don't have them here. Today is a good day for picking berries, so the girls have gone to the woods with their baskets; but you, Brita, do the milking as usual," she continued.

I was nearly sixteen and the oldest girl at Buldans, so I had to do the milking in the morning. My own mother had died when I was nearly two years old. If Father had not remarried, I don't know how he would have managed with the farm. I had several siblings and we all had the same mother. Father's youngest brother lived with us and helped with the men's work. He suffered from lung disease and could not do a whole day's work. We children loved him because he would tell us stories.

That morning when Freja barked so loudly in the woods was the last time I did the milking at Buldans. We had already begun to take in the grain. There was war in the country and people knew what could happen. I milked in the barn every morning before I drove the animals out to the pasture. While I sat on the milking stool that morning, I heard someone outside the open door. I knew it was Father's brother because I heard him having a coughing spell. I stood up and went out to see what was the matter.

"The Cossacks are coming! Cossacks are coming," he panted and had another coughing spell.

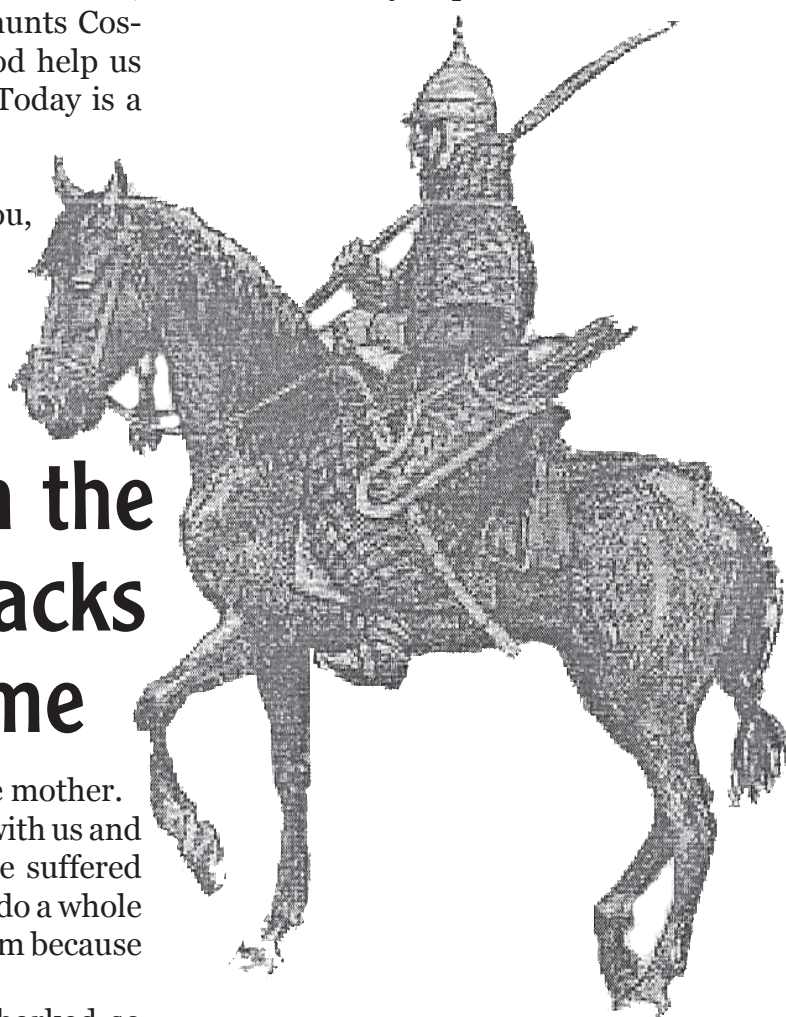
At the same time Father came running with Freja on a leash. Mickel rode by and called out that a group of Cossacks were on the way. He saw ten of them.

Mother, who was in the sauna, had heard us and came running from there. "Lord Jesus, help us. Now the girls should hide. To the little woods with you and stay there as long as you see Cossacks if the Russians come." Father said to Mother, "It is better if they see you have no weapons."

We were hidden in the woods when we heard horses galloping. My heart beat in my chest like a smith's hammer as I was on my stomach behind a juniper bush. Mother peeked out toward the farm from behind a bush. She had the small girls with her. My brother was so little he didn't know enough

to be afraid. He was on his stomach and sucking his thumb.

Mother said, "There are one, two, three...fourteen Cossacks with long pikes and horses. Lord Jesus, help us. They have formed a ring around Father and his brother. One of them stuck his lance in Matts—no, he just pointed at him."



## When the Cossacks Came

I was so afraid for Father that I raised up, but Mother dragged me down by my skirt and I fell back to the ground. She said, "Have you lost your senses, girl, lie still."

Now I peeked under the branches. The Cossack who held the lance on Father said something to him. It seemed that the Cossack understood some Swedish. I could not hear what he said to Father nor what Father answered. But Father and his brother stood next to each other the entire time. Father was the master and stood in front of his brother. So it was as always, Father was strong and powerful and his brother relied on him.

Then a couple Cossacks got down from their horses and went into the house. Another Cossack rode around the house and one of them rode out into the pasture. There was only one Cossack remaining before Father and his brother. His brother said something to Father, who reached out his hand and put his other hand on his shoulder. Then they stood there and looked each other in the eye. The Cossack who talked with them, reached for the shoulder, nodded and got off his horse.

I said, "Mother, what do you think they said?"

"I do not know, but it seems as if they agreed to something. Maybe the Cossacks only want food and quarters. I have just baked bread, now they will probably eat ev-





# LODGE NEWS



## Lodge #130 New Westminster, B.C., Canada

At our meeting in May, we celebrated president Birdy Mara's 80<sup>th</sup> birthday. A bouquet of roses was presented to her with good wishes for the day and many happy and healthy years ahead. As hostess for the day Birdy served us an array of



delicious sandwiches, cakes and goodies for us to enjoy.

Birdy has been the lodge president for many years. She and her family arrived in Canada in 1957 and almost immediately joined the Order of Runeberg. As I have mentioned before in my articles, this organization was a welcoming refuge for all of us when we arrived in Canada; and here, life-

long friendships were made.

Due to the unkind summer weather in July, our annual picnic was again an indoor event. However, great fellowship and good food made it a great Saturday afternoon.

Some of our members have health problems, but we were happy that Saga Backlund was able to attend. Elvi Nyholm has recently had successful eye surgery. Hope to see her at future meetings when we meet again in the fall.

Sincerely,  
*Nancy Snickars*

On the last night of the festival, J. Karjalainen and the Polka Billies as well as Ismo Alanko Teholla enabled attendees to feel the energy and creativity of contemporary Finnish rock music in a rock concert in the space that earlier that day featured chamber musicians. Opening for these rock musicians were jazz pianist, Lenni-Kalle Taipale and jazz singer Sami Pitkämä. It was that kind of a festival of Finnish music. A music lover could go from one music genre to another throughout the day and evening.

A major festival highlight included the chance to interact with the Moomins, the characters created by Tove Jansson in a series of beloved Finnish children's books about Moominvalley. Both children and adults wanted to talk to the Moomins and have their photograph taken with the Moomins. Minneapolis attorney, Elaine Kumpula, who had provided the legal assistance needed for the Moomins to get their visas to come to the USA, was only one of many who went home with photos. The Moomins themselves had such a good time at the festival that they began discussions with the FinnFest USA board about how they could become a regular feature at future festivals.

### Lectures and panel discussions

Since the first year of FinnFest USA, lectures and panels have enabled FinnFests to create stimulating and challenging discussions. San Diego's program continued in that tradition, this year emphasizing opportunities to learn more about contemporary Finland. Already on Tuesday, August 9th, a day before the festival formally began, "Brave Questions", an all day seminar, looked at public education, its challenges and its potential. Looking closing at the system in Finland, speakers provided insights into what is happening in Finland's public schools today and reasons for its high international test scores. Well received, future festival goers should expect that education will be a topic again.

That emphasis on Finland continued in individual lectures and panels that followed throughout the festival. People heard "the latest" on the impact of Finland's recent parliament elections, the debt crisis in Greece, the migration that is transforming European countries into multi-cultural societies. Finland, as one European country coping with these contemporary issues, provided a context and a perspective that the American media generally fails to include. Included among the speakers were a Finnish member of the European Parliament, the Archbishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland, and a researcher at the Migration Institute. Many attendees spoke about how meaningful this experience had been for them personally.

Written by *Marianne Wargelin*,  
Finnish Honorar Consul in the  
Twin Cities  
From [http://www.finnfestusa.org/  
events/current-event.html](http://www.finnfestusa.org/events/current-event.html)

## Goodbye, FinnFest 2011!

**August 10-14, 2011**

Thank you all who came and made this event a huge success. See you next year in Tucson!

The 2011 FinnFest USA festival, held at the Town & Country Convention and Resort Center in San Diego, had promised a chance to get to know contemporary Finland. Attendees confirm that Finland took on new meaning as a contemporary country with a contemporary culture with much to interest all Americans, regardless of their previous connection to Finland.

Music, a central component of all FinnFests, this year, emphasized contemporary Finnish music and musicians. All varieties of Finnish music were offered, including folk, rock, gospel, pop, jazz, and classical. Both Finns and Americans, including Minneapolis-based Kaivama, Singing Strings, and Saana, created music in the tori, on a sunny outdoor courtyard, and in two auditoriums devoted to concerts and performances.

Kantele players were everywhere. Key-noters were the American Wilho Saari, NEH Heritage Artist in 2006, now this year's Finlandia Foundation National Performer of the Year, and the Koistinen Kantele Duo from Finland. Anttu Koistinen, first seen at the 2005 FinnFest USA festival, returned this year with Olga Shishkina, a Russian kantele player studying at the Sibelius Academy, to play a wide

repertoire of electronic Kantele music. Merja Sorja, Finlandia Foundation's first Performer of the Year, in 1996, served as host for a kantele concert that included a kantele "orchestra" made up of players from across the USA, including Joyce Hakala, founder of Koivun Kaiku.

Classical music included two chamber music concerts, two solo recitals, and a panel discussion about contemporary Finnish music performance. Organized by musician and conductor, Craig Johnson, the events created opportunities for professional American and Finnish musicians to come together to perform seldom heard works by Finnish composers. Gregory Barrett, Katri Ervamaa, Folke Gräsbeck, Will Haapaniemi, James Koenig, Alyssa Moquin, Päivikki Nykter, Mikko Raasakka, Karl Rahkonen and Ulla Suokko contributed virtuoso performances that brought audience members to their feet again and again.

Finland's contemporary gospel music, performed by a gospel choir formed of singers from Seattle and San Diego, featured Finland's leading gospel music composer and performer, Pekka Simojoki, and his daughter, Henna Simojoki. The two also performed in concert alone and Pekka joined Jonathon Rundman, Minneapolis Lutheran liturgy composer and half of the duo Kaivama, in a discussion about contemporary religious music composition.





## Lodge #106 Tacoma, Washington



June 26, 2011, "Midsummer Sunday" at Carolyn Nelson's home on Clear Lake in Eatonville, Washington. Carolyn Nelson, our hostess for the day, and Ed Brannfors with beautiful Mt. Rainier in the background. It so happened, also, to be Ed Brannfors' birthday that day!



June 26, Midsummer 2011  
"Midsommar Flickor"

Marge Kunschak and Shirleyanne Sargent enjoying the beautiful sunny day out on Clear Lake in Eatonville at the Tacoma #106 Order of Runeberg Picnic!

Enjoying our Midsummer Picnic out on Clear Lake were 27 happy members from Tacoma Lodge. Thank you, Carolyn, for extending your welcoming invitation once again to your home on the lake. A beautiful summer day it was—good food and happy faces and lots of laughs. Happy Birthday wishes to Gilbert Linden, Ed Brannfors, and Brian Magnusson in faraway Sweden. Also, May birthdays were Tom Mason and Carolyn Nelson.

Our August picnic was enjoyed out on Lake Sammamish at John Sandstrom's lake home with all the beautiful summer flowers that John so tenderly plants and cares for. Thank you, John, once again from all the 27 Runebergarg that enjoyed visiting together, partaking of the great food table goodies and the beautiful view over the lake. "Happy Birthday" was sung for those having had a birthday already and those still to celebrate—Sandra McCloud, Agnes Warren, Roy and Martha Cederberg, Angela Brannfors, and Dorrit Lov...not forgetting some of the anniversary dates in July: Gilbert and Rhea Linden—57 years, Ray and Sally Thompson—48 years, and Al and Drisilla Ramberg—65 years. Also, good to have Gosta Hellman, Nils Holm, Inge Carlson (Camano Island) and Erik and Viola Anderson (of Marysville) join us. And there is one more special and dear friend in Vancouver, B.C., Runeberg Lodge #124 that both Jim and I send our belated "Happy Birthday" to and that is Miia Kronholm. And to all Runeberg members near and far, "Hello to each and everyone." Keep writing to the *Leading Star*.

Marita Agnew, President #106

## Supreme Board Teleconference Call

Conference by Skype June 12th, 2011:

Attendance: All board members present with the exception of Gary Robinson (out of town); also present were *Leading Star* Editor and Website Editor.

*Leading Star* report: Dale Hjort

Positive news—an increase in pictures and articles submitted for publication. There are always extra copies of our newspaper. Individuals and organizations who might wish to receive copies should contact Dale.

FinnFest and FinnWest: We have donated money towards expenses in the past. Discussion with a decision to donate \$50 to each group. Support of sister organizations was agreed to be beneficial.

Website Editor: Stew Lyons

Web visitations are pleasantly rising. Web news should always be kept up to date by individual Lodges so that information stays current. The Web address will be worked into the *Leading Star* heading for easier access.

### Old Business:

All Lodges now have email contact with Stew.

Concerns have surfaced regarding the cost of travel to Dollar Bay for the next International Convention. The majority of officers reside on the West Coast and the Supreme Board Treasury provides transportation funding for officers and delegates to conventions. The overall cost would be quite steep. After discussion with the Dollar Bay Lodge, it was felt that we should re-visit the motion which was passed at the 2010 Convention in Eureka, California. Decision: Draft a letter of explanation and a ballot to be sent to all delegates requesting their vote (yes or no) for an alternate destination. A stamped, self-addressed envelope would be sent to all 2010 delegates to accommodate this procedure. Vancouver Lodge #124 has extended an invitation to the International Order of Runeberg to hold the 2014 in Vancouver should a closer venue be required.

Little response has been received regarding the genealogy as requested by the Swedish-Finn Historical Society. To further assist, information will be printed in the *Leading Star*.

Lost records—after continued attempts to retrieve all the lost records, it was once again agreed that the issue was closed.

Constitution revisions are being worked on. Revisions will be forthcoming when completed.

Discussion and decision made to make new members a top priority. Our fall meeting will put this at the top of the agenda. The website is attracting new Security members, but actual Lodge membership is down considerably.

### Treasurer's Report:

Checking account—May 31, 2011 \$7064.93 UBS balance \$63,381.42  
(This is set up on a ladder basis—6 CDs with due dates at different times.)

### Scholarship Report:

Three scholarships awarded. Unfortunately, two applications arrived after the deadline. Applicants will be urged to apply early to avoid disappointment.

### Membership report:

Butte—increase of 5 members (Congratulations!)

2010 = 462 adults 26 juniors Total: 488

2011 = 407 adults 26 juniors Total: 433

Loss of 55 members in all

Finlandia Lodge in Finland has been contacted with the possibility to remain connected.

Call began at 4:18 p.m. PDT; ended at 5:56 p.m. PDT.

Next Skype conference call—October 16, 2011, at 4:00 p.m. PST

Submitted by:  
Annabelle Kergan





## Resolutions

### Lodge #102 Eureka, California

On December 16, 2010,

#### Erik Dahlbacka

let go of his earthly body to join his beloved wife, Kaija, while his favorite polka music played in the background.

Erik was the eldest son born in Loulus, Finland, to Arne and Annie Dahlbacka. He attended school until the 5<sup>th</sup> grade and then quit to go to work after losing his father. He fibbed about his age and was hired to work in a trucking company. When it was discovered that he was 13 and not 15, the bosses wanted to let him go but didn't because they claimed he was the best worker they had. He went to war against Russia as a corpsman on the front and demanded that the deceased be treated with respect and dignity. That is how Erik lived his life, with dignity. He believed a man's handshake and word was his bond.

He met Kaija and after serving in the war they were married. When there was a threat of more Russian takeover, he and Kaija began their journey to America, landing in Australia where he worked in mines and pineapple plantations. He was coaxed to America by his Aunt Vera, and they traveled to Windsor, CA. It was while there that his cousin, John Ahlquist, talked him into coming to Eureka to work in the woods with him. Erik retired from working in the woods in the 1970s.

They came to America with no English language and very little money, but set to work immediately learning the language and earning a living. He worked building houses and fixing up homes for his rental business.

Erik was a member of the Order of Runeberg since 1954 and had the title of Past President, Local Lodge #102, and Past Western District President. He took his heritage seriously and worked to preserve it through the Order of Runeberg. They were avid polka dancers, traveling 9 months of the year following polka parties until about 5 years ago. They made many friends along their travels, friendships that continue today.

Erik is survived by his brother, John Dahlbacka; his daughters, Lisa and Sonja Dahlbacka; grandchildren Sarah Carroll, Trevor and Morgan Beebe, and Levi Jones; great-grandchildren Shyloh Nicholson and Fiona and Henry Beebe.



### Lodge #124 Vancouver, B.C., Canada.

It is with deep sorrow that we report the passing of longtime member

#### Nils Edgar Juthans

who passed away peacefully at the Cheam Village Resident Care Facility in Agassiz, B.C., on August 7, 2011, after a pro-longed illness. He was predeceased on April 21, 2005, by his loving wife Thora.

Nils Juthans was born in Harrstrom, Finland, July, 1933. Nils emigrated from Finland to Canada in the 1950s—returning to Finland shortly thereafter to wed his high school sweetheart Thora, both returning to make a new life in Canada. Nils prospered in his new country working as a logger and faller in the forests of the west coast. He went on to become the owner/operator of Lion's Logging, falling timber for the GVRD. He retired early from the forestry industry after sustaining a logging injury. He then began work with Smithrite Industries and Vancouver's, then, new water treatment facility.

Nils was an active and loyal member of the Vancouver Order of Runeberg—joining Lodge #124 on September 24, 1962. He was very involved in many Lodge activities—bowling, mid-summer events, concerts, and conventions. He always attended meetings and was an active participant. When ill health required that he move beyond the Vancouver area to be closer to family, he was always pleased to attend special events when family members were able to bring him, continuing his affiliation with the Order of Runeberg though at a distance. Membership in the Order was of prime importance to him.

He will be loving remembered by his daughter Katrina (Stuart); son Jeff (Anne); and grandchildren, Nathan, Adam, Kimberly, Katja and Kristian. He is also remembered by many nephews and a niece, as well as extended families both in Finland and Canada.

A funeral service and interment was held in Nil's memory on Friday, August 26, 2011, at Forest Lawn Memorial Park, Burnaby, B.C.

Members of the International Order of Runeberg and Vancouver Lodge #124 extend their deepest sympathy to his family.

Resolution Committee

*Annabelle Kergan and Lorene Mara*

### Lodge #126 Coos Bay, Oregon

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

#### Ruth Shutter

who passed away peacefully June 30, 2011, in Coos Bay of natural causes. A memorial service to celebrate her life was held at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church with Pastor Jon Strasman officiating.

Ruth Elizabeth Anderson was born March 26, 1913, in Marshfield to Anders and Hilda (Hagquist) Anderson. Ruth was raised on her parents' dairy farm, which is now part of the South Slough Estuary Sanctuary Reserve. Her education started in a one-room school with all eight grades, then attending high school in North Bend, graduating in 1930. For the next two years she attended Southern Oregon Normal School in Ashland. Over the next 32 years she taught all grades at Hauser, then primary grades in Charleston, Kentuck Inlet, Empire, and Coos River. Her last 16 years were spent teaching first grade at Blossom Gulch Elementary School in Coos Bay.

In 1937, Ruth married Arthur Shutter of Lakeside. They were blessed with one daughter. Ruth and Art enjoyed social events, sports, and traveling in their trailer. They enjoyed 42 years of marriage.

Ruth enjoyed baking Swedish coffee breads for gifts, baked-food sales, bazaars, or just to have with a cup of coffee. She was a life member of Doric chapter No. 53 Order of Eastern Star, a member of Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, and Daughters of the Nile.

Ruth was an active member of Lodge #126 for the past 82 years. She served one term as president, and many years as recording secretary, with the important role of keeping the president organized. She enjoyed many years bowling and traveling with the local lodge team. Ruth also looked forward to lodge dances, picnics, and our annual "Hamburger Feed." Watching the smile on her face as she watched the children sit on Santa's lap at the Christmas Party will not be forgotten. Ruth was always willing to help wherever needed.

Ruth is survived by her daughter, Kathlene "Kathy" Lahti; granddaughter, Rebeca Moir-Evans; and grandchildren, Cyprus Culley and Emma Evans. She had numerous nieces and nephews.

The members of Lodge #126 extend their deepest sympathy to her family. Ruth will be greatly missed.

Resolution Committee

*Heidi McCarthy*

*Gary Robinson*

*Harriet Rempelos*

## FinnWest is finished!

After months and months of planning, FinnWest 2011 is over. It was an incredible three days that left all of us with a feeling of pride in our Finnishness.

Kudos and bouquets go out first and foremost to our many volunteers. They were at the core of our success. They carried, swept, chauffeured, hammered, cooked, typed, cleaned, served, guarded, and did whatever was asked of them. We thank them.

Our sponsors believed in our mission to create a memorable Finnish experience

in British Columbia and helped make the event a reality through their support.

The performers took our breath away. Such incredible talent! We were able to indulge in the old familiar music, get an update on what's new in Finland and peek at what the younger generation is going to offer in the future. The spoken word at the lectures brought us new cultural avenues to explore as well as giving us historical insights into our heritage. Everyone fed our mind and our soul with their creativity.

Finally, and most importantly, it was wonderful to see so many local Finns in the audience. We wanted to give you a menu of Finnish experiences and we were so happy that you came out to enjoy what we had to offer. Thank you for your participation.

All of us made some new friends and got re-acquainted with old friends. To each and every one, we say NÄKEMIIN!

*Kyösti Sutela*

Chair FinnWest 2011

Organizing Committee

From <http://finnwest2011.com/>



NORDIC  
FASHION  
BIENNALE

NFB

## 2011 Nordic Fashion Biennale Readies for September 30 Opening at the Nordic Heritage Museum in Seattle

Six-week exhibition celebrates  
Nordic design, fashion and innovation



**SEATTLE** - September 13, 2011 - Nordic fashion, design and culture will be showcased in Seattle on September 30 when the Nordic Heritage Museum in Seattle, WA, and the Nordic House in Reykjavik, in partnership with Iceland Naturally, officially open the 2011 Nordic Fashion Biennale. The Biennale, an international celebration of Nordic culture, fashion and design, is open to the public and will run through November 13 at the Nordic Heritage Museum. During the six-week long exhibition, detailed installations will highlight the best of Nordic fashion, design and photography. International designers will lead a two-day fashion and design summit, and 12 young US designers will be competing for a trip to Iceland's Fashion Week and the cachet of winning both a juried and a "People's Choice" award for their original Nordic-inspired fashion designs.

### The Exhibition

Anchoring the Nordic Fashion Biennale is the exhibition Looking Back to Find our Future which features cutting-edge, contemporary Nordic fashion and jewelry from designers throughout the Nordic regions, including Iceland, the Faroe Islands, Greenland, Finland, Denmark, Norway and Sweden.

New York-based Icelandic visual artist and fashion designer Hrafnhildur Arnardóttir (aka Shoplifter) was selected to curate the exhibition. Well known for her work with the Museum of Modern Art in New York and collaborations with the musician Björk, Shoplifter plays with the juxtaposition of old and new by integrating exhibition pieces into the existing historic collection at the Nordic Heritage Museum in Seattle. The vision is one which blurs past and present while highlighting the cultural influences and deep roots that inspire many modern Nordic pieces.

"The Nordic Fashion Biennale is a platform where we offer a celebration and an insight into the Nordic spirit, the marriage of creativity with practicality in fashion, and the surprising and astonishingly beautiful results," said Shoplifter, curator for the Nordic Fashion Biennale 2011. "I have a deep respect for the history of fashion and

human creativity when it comes to beautifying ourselves and our surroundings. At the Nordic Fashion Biennale people can experience our global similarities and differences and create their own connections between the past and modern reality."

In addition to the design installations, the six-week engagement will also include an exhibition of Nordic street fashion featuring photography from Reykjavik, Greenland, Faroe Islands, Copenhagen, Helsinki, Oslo and Stockholm.

### The Summit

The Nordic Fashion Biennale 2011 will kick off on September 30th with the NFB 2011 Fashion Summit, a series of interactive presentations and discussions led by industry trendsetters and leaders. Designers, artists, and fashion students are invited to join in a discussion of fashion, cultural heritage and sustainability, designed to open a dialogue and spark creativity between master professionals and young emerging designers. The symposium will feature presentations by 14 prominent speakers including Yvan Mispelaere, Creative Designer for Diane Von Furstenberg; New York-based Áslaug Magnúsdóttir, founder of Moda Operandi; and Iceland designer Mundi Vondi, known for his recent work on the film "Rabbit Hole."

"If the fashion industry is controlled by the establishment, the creativity slowly fades away," said Mundi Vondi, Icelandic artist, designer and participant in the Fashion Summit. "Before we know it, all fashion shows start blurring together, looking more and more alike. We need fresh blood in the fashion industry. And what better way to get an infusion of fresh ideas and a rush of creativity, than by spending two days with designers and artists from all over the world?"

Themes woven throughout the Fashion Summit will include sustainability, cultural heritage and branding as it relates to fashion. According to New York-based stylist

and designer Edda Gudmundsdóttir, a fashion insider who is co-curating the Summit.

"Our speakers come from the complete spectrum of the fashion industry—from a mom and pop operation to a multibillion dollar company. They represent enormous variety both in business models and in creativity, addressing all aspects of modern fashion business from the artisan to the global business leader. With the summit, we show multiple levels of operations and approaches to fashion, discussing for example, sustainability, slow fashion and how it relates to the global aspect of multi-cultural consumerism."

A complete list of topics, speakers and presenters, as well as registration information, is available at:

[www.nordicfashionbiennale.com](http://www.nordicfashionbiennale.com).

Space is limited and people are encouraged to register early.

### The Competition

The final component of the 2011 Nordic Fashion Biennale is the North by Northwest (N x NW) fashion competition, designed to spark inspiration and creativity from unique designs and trends in Nordic fashion. Students and emerging designers from the West Coast were invited to submit entries and 12 designers from California, Oregon, Washington State and British Columbia have been chosen as finalists. The finalists' entries will be displayed on the Nordic Fashion Biennale website and a panel of judges as well as online voting will determine two grand prize winners, who will receive a trip to Iceland for the Reykjavik Fashion Week in 2012.

The 2011 Nordic Fashion Biennale is being produced in part due to the generous support from numerous partners including Iceland Naturally, Icelandair Cargo, Icelandic USA, Inc., Volvo, Marel, Trilogy International Partners, Scan|Design Foundation by Inger & Jens Bruun, Barbro Osher Pro Suecia Foundation, Artsfund, 4Culture, and the Seattle Office of Arts and Cultural Affairs.

For more information on the designers and artists participating in the 2011 Nordic Fashion Biennale, a full schedule of events and ticket information, visit [www.nordicfashionbiennale.com](http://www.nordicfashionbiennale.com).



# When the Cossacks Came

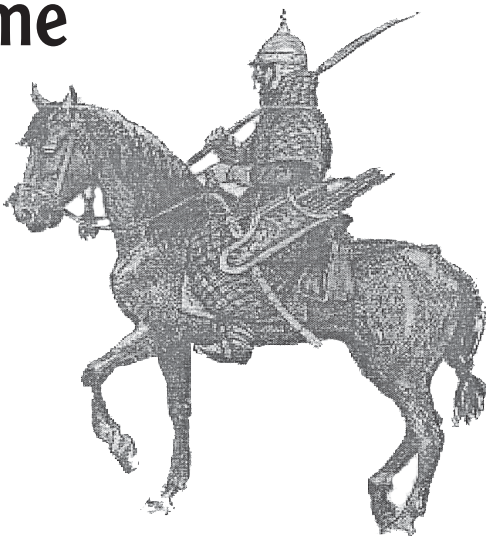
continued from page 3

everything. But better that than to lose our lives. I think it is going better than we thought. Thanks, thanks, good Jesus.”

I saw a Cossack come out of the house with my half-full milk pail. I can still to this day see him before me, when he stood there and drank from the pail, while his horse ate grass. Pappa and his brother stood there by the house. There was only one Cossack guarding them, and he got off his horse and went around to the pasture. He looked now and then at his prisoners. The other Cossack went into the house, storehouse and sauna. They went everywhere and brought out all the food and bedding. They drove the animals out into the field. They swept the grain out of the barn. They let the sow loose. There was only the boar that was left in the sty. Two of the Cossacks looked for the mare. Freja jumped around and barked until one of them kicked her. Then Father tied a rope on her as she came limping to him.

Suddenly, they knocked down a sheep who still had two half-grown lambs beside her, and they slaughtered her. Mother saw them come with the best cow. They also took her life; Mother nearly cried out. Now it was I who covered her mouth with my hand.

We hid there behind the bushes all day, while we watched them kill our animals, eat our bread and water their horses at the well. The Cossacks offered food to Father and his brother, but they shook their heads and refused to eat. One time Father wanted a drink. He carried water to his brother who drank water from the same trough where the Cossacks watered their horses.



My little brother was hungry and thirsty and crying. To keep him quiet, Mother opened her blouse and fed him. Then he sucked his thumb and slept.

Father's brother had sat during the entire time with his head on his knees, while Father closely watched what the Cossacks were doing.

Time passed as we remained hidden. The Cossacks ate and slept. There were only two of them guarding their prisoners. I asked Mother what they would do to Father. She said they would not do anything to him now. If they were going to take his life, they would have done it before now. If only they would go on their way and not spend the night here. We have the house and our ground left. The woods are full of rabbits and birds, and it won't be the first time we ate bark bread. Our lives are left intact.

At last it looked as if the Cossacks would go. They loaded meat and all other food on their horses. Suddenly, Father stood up and began to run to the house, but a Cossack thrust his lance before him.

Now we could smell the fire and saw smoke coming from the chimney. They

were going to burn the whole house. Soon all the buildings were ablaze. Mother sat up and saw the destruction, tears running down her cheeks, but no sound came from her lips. The children pressed against her, terror had gripped them and they sat as silently as Mother and me.

Now the Cossacks went to where the mare was. Father and his brother hugged each other. Then his brother climbed on the mare and rode away with the Cossacks. That was the last time I saw him.

“Dear Jesus, help us,” cried Mother, “they burned our grain.”

She put down the baby and started toward the house. She was howling now. I took her in my arms and began to go home with the children. Our eyes smarted from the smoke. All the animals lay dead. Those who weren't killed lay there bloodied with shattered eyes. Mother and Father tried to get into the house, but the heat drove them away. Later, neighbors came from nearby, but it was of no help, everything burned up.

Father told us the Cossacks were lost and wanted a guide to Perho. They wanted to take him and some of the older people, but father's brother stepped forward and said, “I'll go because you have many children to care for and this will likely be my last journey. I am not married and no one will mourn me.”

It was his last journey. No one knows where his last resting place is. But I shall soon meet him and thank him for sparing the life of Father. I'll take his hand and say nothing, but he will know.

**Karin Hellman**

Ååglide, 2003

English translation by **June Pelo**

When the Cossacks Came

## Helsinki both livable, expensive, survey says



A recent survey by the lifestyle magazine “Monocle” placed Helsinki right at the top of the pile in its list of the top 20 most livable cities, but before the locals had much time to digest this snippet of information came the news that everyone was well aware of anyway: Helsinki is also among the world's most expensive cities.

The Finnish capital rose one place to 13<sup>th</sup> in the list compiled annually by ECA International, a London-based consulting agency that describes itself as “the world's leader in the development and provision of solutions for the management and assignment of employees around the world.”

Tokyo once again heads the table, and Sydney looks to have been among the highest flyers, jumping from 29<sup>th</sup> last year to 16<sup>th</sup> now.

Several other Australian cities made sharp moves upwards, with costs rising owing to the strong local currency.

Helsinki's position has not been helped by the commensurate weakening of the euro, although this has been noticed in the rankings of Berlin (35<sup>th</sup> from 25<sup>th</sup> in 2010) and Paris (20<sup>th</sup> from 16<sup>th</sup>), for instance.

By comparison with New Yorkers, people in Helsinki have to spend 13 percent more on food and as much as 56 percent more on clothing.

Personal hygiene products cost 15 percent more, but on the other hand general living costs and Internet access come cheaper for the Helsinki residents.

For some reason, New York City appears to be limited to Manhattan, which is ranked 44<sup>th</sup>. London does not even feature in the top 50.

Europe's most expensive city is Oslo, which took second place behind Tokyo in the global figures. The top two cities were unchanged from last year.

Of the other Nordics, Stockholm comes in behind Helsinki in 17<sup>th</sup> and has gone up three places, while Copenhagen has seen a contrary development, falling four places to rest only just above Helsinki as the 12<sup>th</sup> most costly place to live.

Living costs have risen most sharply in Switzerland, but it appears even in Africa one can find expensive places to live, as Luanda in Angola shows up in seventh place and Libreville in Gabon in the top 20.

From *The Finnish American Reporter*  
—July 2011