



LEADING STAR LEDSTJÄRNAN

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www.orderofruneberg.org

International *Scholarship* Winners

We are pleased to announce the 2012 International Order of Runeberg scholarship recipients. They are Austin Connell, New Haven, CT, Lodge #205; Elise Kelleher, Vancouver Lodge #124; and Joanne Mamaril, Vancouver Lodge #124. These students are all working very hard to achieve their goal. We are proud to have them as Order of Runeberg members. Our Best Wishes to Austin, Elise, and Joanne for a future that will meet their expectations.

Austin Connell has been a member of New Haven, CT, Lodge #205 for 8 years. His academic achievements are very impressive and he is involved in sports (baseball, basketball, soccer, and swimming). He was captain of both cross country and track teams. He has been a member of the National Honor Society and World Language Honor Society all 4 years of high school. Austin is concise and cogent with his writings and has sharp speaking skills. He has done many hours of community service, volunteered at church events, and organized a Work Camp of 450 kids to work on underprivileged people's houses. Austin's career goal is to be a Chief Environment Officer. Best of Luck, Austin, as you continue your studies in University.



Austin Connell

Elise Kelleher joined Vancouver Lodge #124 three years ago. She is attending Simon Fraser University, working toward a Bachelor of Education. She has excellent academic skills, including analysis and writing. Her studies center around History, Education, and Business. As a history student she has completed courses focusing on Canadian immigration trends, which adds to her interest in the Order of Runeberg. Elise attends meetings when she is able and also enjoys the Christmas and summer functions, which she attends with her grandfather, Gus Bergman, a longtime member of Lodge #124. Elise's career goal is to be a teacher. We wish Elise a successful career.



Elise Kelleher

Joanne Mamaril has been a Vancouver Lodge #124 member for 5 years. She became interested in the Order of Runeberg when she was a caregiver to Lodge #124 lifetime member, the late Mrs. Anna Peterson. Joanne assisted Mrs. Peterson when she attended meetings and lodge picnics and activities. She also volunteered at the Midsummer Festival and worked on the "O/R Topics", the local newsletter. She is currently working as a physiotherapy assistant. Receiving the scholarship will help her pursue her career as a physiotherapist. Good Luck, Joanne, in your chosen career.



Joanne Mamaril

Lorene Mara
Scholarship Chairman

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International Order of Runeberg Supreme Board President's Message



I hope all our IOR members in Canada, USA, and the "Finlandia Order of Runeberg" are enjoying the beginning of the summer season!

There is a very nice website, brought to my attention by Veli Niinimaa—"Suomi Kutsuu" (Finland Calling), which originates from the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. This website is a video broadcast. As its names implies, the website has Finnish-language music and a combination of Finnish and

English language news and interviews. Maybe some of you are aware of it already, since it has been broadcasting since 1962. You may easily view the website. One way to do this is to enter "Finland Calling" in your favorite search engine. Alternatively, you may go to our Order of Runeberg website, www.orderofruneberg.org, then select the "Links" page, and click on the "Finland Calling" link.

Another interesting website, brought to my attention by Laura Jensen (a member of our Tacoma, WA, Lodge #106), is the "Scandinavian Immigrant Experience" archive at Pacific Lutheran University's website. The Scandinavian Immigrant Experience Collection is a depository of historical materials relating to immigrants to the Pacific Northwest from Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, and Sweden. It includes the Oral History Project, containing the recorded interviews of 282 men and women who emigrated from Scandinavia and settled in the Pacific

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Summer Festivals

There are many festivals taking place during the next several months and even into early fall. Some are very big with lots to do such as FinnThunder 2012 (see page 7) in Thunder Bay, Ontario, and FinnFest USA 2012 in Tucson, Arizona, in October. However, almost every state and province where there is a community of people who have come from Finland has a festival. All of you probably know about one, but have you ever been to the festival? They need your support to be able to continue year after year. So why not make this the year that you attend your local festival. You may even meet and make new friends and learn about other organizations and events that promote Finland. Give it a try!

—DH

Please submit all news, resolutions, and articles by August 24 for publication in the September *Leading Star*

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International Order of Runeberg Supreme Board President's Message

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Northwest. The interviews are recorded on cassettes at the PLU library. The website has partial interview transcription highlights of important aspects of the recorded interviews.

As mentioned elsewhere in this *Leading Star* issue, we have the unfortunate news that two of our lodges are planning to disband at year-end. These are the Crescent City, CA, lodge and the Norwood, MA, lodge. We will miss these lodges, and more importantly, miss the lodges' members. I would like to remind Crescent City and Norwood lodges' members that there are two ways in which individuals from the lodges may continue their membership: (1) selecting another lodge to join (suggest the nearest lodge), or (2) continue in Runeberg by selecting our "Security Lodge" membership option. This option was put in place for members not living within commuting distance of a lodge.

The loss of these two lodges highlights the importance of each of us focusing on increasing membership, such as:

- Inviting people with Finnish / Swedish-Finnish cultural background to join us.
- The importance of bringing young people into our lodges.
- If you live in an area that currently doesn't have a local lodge, organizing a new lodge would be a wonderful addition to Runeberg, and provide local community benefits.

Please feel free to contact any Runeberg Supreme Board member by phone or email for assistance with any of the above membership ideas. Board members' contact information is at our website.

As in previous communications, I'd like to again remind you:

If your lodge would like information posted on your lodge's web page, email or call me with the information you'd like posted, such as meetings schedule, meetings locations, etc. Thank you to Nils Holm and Shea Teixeira for their Lodges #101 and #124 web-pages editing.

Enjoy your summer,
Stew Lyons

Letter to IOR May 13, 2012

Dear Officers of the International Order of Runeberg Supreme Lodge,
It is with sadness and after a prolonged period of deliberation that our Order of Runeberg Lodge #211, following standard procedures, will be disbanding effective June 1, 2012. We are grateful for the many happy memories we have of times we have spent as members of this lodge; however age and illness of our current members make it impossible to continue.

Regretfully,
William O. Kivi, Jr.
President
Runeberg Lodge #211
Norwood, Massachusetts

From the Past: 1952 Helsinki Olympics Helsingin Olympialaiset

The 13th Olympic Summer Games (July 19–Aug. 3, 1952) were the only Olympics hosted by Finland. Helsinki was awarded the 1940 games, but the wars caused a twelve-year postponement.

The games attracted 4,025 athletes, including 518 women. The number of participating nations was 69, and 43 of them won a medal in the 149 different events. USA won the most medals, and Finland placed eighth in the medal count with six gold and 22 medals in total.

The Helsinki Olympics were noted for Paavo Nurmi, Emil Zatopec, Peace Angel Barbara Robbraut-Pleyer, Coca-Cola and chewing gum. They were the last real Olympic games, focused on competition, not commercialism. In 1952 Helsinki and all of Finland were the centre of attention.

From *North American FINNPRIDE* by Veli M. J. Niinimaa

Genealogy Corner



June Pelo, A Dedicated Genealogist

The great emigration to North America began at the close of the 1800s and the beginning of the 1900s. It was quite substantial from Swedish-speaking Österbotten. During the peak period 1880–1899, a total of 1,462 people from Karleby obtained passports to travel to America. Statistics for 1865–1920 show that nearly 3,000 people emigrated from Karleby and some emigrated to Africa, Australia, and South America as well as to America.

The emigrants wanted to go to the areas where their relatives and friends had previously gone. They had settled in many locations, such as Bronx in New York, Palisade in Minnesota, Coos Bay (Marshfield) in Oregon, Eureka in California, and Grand Rapids in Michigan.

During the 1800s Finland was in the second phase of a demographic evolution. The birthrate grew and more children reached maturity than previously. This led to hardship earning a living in a great part of the country. The situation became especially difficult in areas where small farms dominated, such as Rösö village.

The years 1867–69 were bad harvest years when the crops were worsened by a very rainy summer in 1867; severe drought and early frost nights came the following year. Many mouths needed to be fed. The situation was worse for the poor and needy people who became desperate. The gap in income was great and Russianization politics created discontent.

Instead of Russian obligations, many chose the way to the West. The lack of arable land in Finland, especially in coastal villages in northern Swedish Österbotten, was also a contributing factor. In America free land was promised according to the “Homestead Act”, a law that implied that one was allotted land which he was allowed to use for five years, then he received full ownership of the land. America used a lot of publicity to get as many emigrants as possible. There were many mines and factories; railroad construction required workers; cities and homes were being built; and

Emigration to North America

workers were needed, both skilled and the unskilled. Housekeepers were in great demand.

Industries cooperated with shipping companies that had local agents in port cities. All of this was written about in *Norra Posten* and *Österbottningen*. The agents helped with travel, providing information on services and the sale of tickets. America was portrayed as a paradise. The greatest impression came from American letters. They told of happiness and success.

They wrote reluctantly of failures, but that the people managed to cope over there.

The letters were circulated among the farms.

They read them over and over, and

many were enticed to go to America. Pictures were often enclosed with the letters, often from the father in the family who had traveled ahead and established himself. Then the rest of the family followed him.



Travel to the Promised Land

The first emigrants traveled by sailboat that often carried cargo. People traveled in the cargo hold and the journey could take as long as three months. Seasickness and scurvy were common among the emigrants who were not used to travel. The smell of feces and filth was prolonged. When the number of emigrants increased, ships were built solely for taking passengers and the journey became more endurable. A port in England was established as a stop before continuing the long voyage over the Atlantic.

The railroads were in full development in Finland and the road network was improved. People no longer had to travel only by horse and wagon. In Gamlakarleby it was possible to take a train to go south. Hangö was an important point of departure for our emigrants to America. The coming of steamships greatly shortened travel time. Then the trip to America took only twelve days. After 1880 the emigrants traveled solely by steamship. In 1915 the America-Linien was formed, which made travel much better. One could now travel comfortably to New York.

Travel to Ellis Island

Whatever the conditions or how fast ships traveled, the ultimate objective was Ellis Island. Before Ellis Island became the emigrants' final stop, two other places were

used: Castle Garden and Barge Island. Barge Island was used for only a short period when the Ellis Island reception hall burned and had to be restored. When the destination was reached, one had to meet customs officers, passport inspectors, and public health authorities. Everything was checked. Everyone who entered the country had to be healthy and fit. Those who weren't cleared by health authorities were sent home. Most of the emigrants passed inspection.

Many of the emigrants from the Karleby area supported themselves as carpenters, loggers, and construction workers.

Some became foremen or trained to become building contractors. Some worked in the mining and fishing industries. The people went to America to work. Farmers who bought land but didn't have the money to buy equipment occasionally took work as loggers. Then they earned the money to use the land and build their houses. Most of the women took jobs as housekeepers. Many also worked as seamstresses and washerwomen.

Search for a Better Future

In 1866 farmer's son Axel Johansson Harald took a passport to America. In July 1880 farmer Adolf Adolfsson Kankkonen and wife Edla Sofia traveled to America. In June 1881 farmer Anders Johansson Härmälä took a passport to America for five years. His twelve-year-old daughter Johanna traveled with him on the same passport. In May 1882 Matts Herman Mattsson Lidsle took a passport to America for two years. On his own passport Anders Viktor Härmälä (17) traveled at the same time as his father. The Härmälä children didn't live very long in the new country. Son Anders died the same year he arrived and daughter Johanna died two years later. Anders Johansson's wife Lena Mattsdotter Härmälä was left in Finland with five children born between 1871 and 1880.

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LODGE NEWS

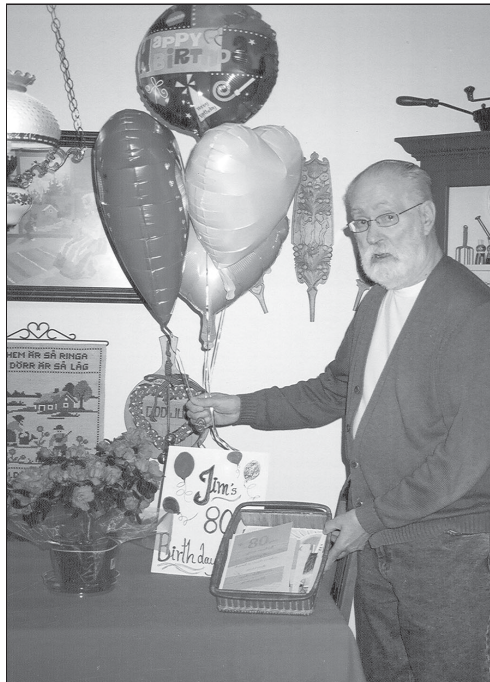


Lodge #106 Tacoma, Washington

The Agnew children gathered all their children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren up front together with the Morach families from Oak Harbor, Eugene, and Mt. Vernon to lead everyone in singing “Happy Birthday” to Jim, followed by the Swedish Happy Birthday song: “Ja må Han Leva, Ja måttan Leva, Ja må Han Leva uti 100 år — Ja visst ska Han Leva, Ja visst ska Han Leva uti 100 år. Hurra, Hurra, Hurra, Hurra!” Followed by lots of hugs for Faffa and Moffo and Foffa Jim.



Happy “80th” Birthday, Dad



Lots of cards, emails, phone calls, and colorful balloons and a beautiful azalea plant from friends Gilbert and Rhea Linden



Jim Agnew was surprised to have Bo and Barbro Tunestam, longtime close friends, drive down from Everett, WA, to attend his “80th” Birthday party that was held at St. Marks Lutheran Church in Lacey, WA.



More surprises for Jim: Sibyl and Sam Hunter from Lakewood, WA



Our O.R. member Elsie Thomson, 91 years old, wearing her “AutoAlert” pendent help button, which automatically places a call for help. Elsie spoke and told us about how fortunate it was in her case to be wearing it, and also for her family. Elsie lives alone and several of our Order of Runeberg members also are in the same situation.

The colorful round balls on the table are a type of “therapy” when you can’t sleep and perhaps lay awake and worry. You take a styrofoam ball and wrap strips of material around it to make a colorful display for a basket.



Jim Agnew was surprised to have Bo and Barbro Tunestam, longtime close friends, drive down from Everett, WA, to attend his “80th” Birthday party that was held at St. Marks Lutheran Church in Lacey, WA.



O.R. member Lena Holman together with her husband David celebrating her “Special Birthday” in April! “Ja må du Leva uti 100 år!” The flags represent the Finland-Swedish for Lena and Irish for David. See Tacoma Lodge News



LODGE NEWS



Lodge #106 Tacoma, Washington

On a windy, rainy Saturday in February it was a brave group of 27 members who showed up for the meeting. Elsie and Eileen had decorated the tables in the Valentine spirit, and John was there to get the coffeepot brewing. He really knows how to make a good pot of coffee. As always, there was a good variety of food and desserts—and we all enjoyed 1st and 2nd helpings.

Diana Nelson had sent us a nice letter with Happy New Year greetings. We miss seeing you. Also, special greetings from Edna and George Hashagen, and warm “Thank You’s” for keeping them in our thoughts and prayers.

Tacoma-Olympia members decided not to host the “Jeppo Kryddorna Group” as they seem to have their own schedule all set. They will be performing at the Scandinavian Days in Astoria, also in Seattle. Dates and time when they perform are listed in our newsletter and emails that our secretary, Monica, sent our members. Thank you, Monica, for all the extra time and changes you put into keeping us informed.

Our member Debbie Santelli hopes to make it to the “Jeppo Kryddornas” performances and see her relatives in the group. Hopefully, she’ll get a lot of pictures of them also.

The SFHS trip to Finland is all set to leave June 12, 2012, with Lee and Marilyn Thompson as tour leaders. We will be thinking of you as you travel along on the west coast of Österbotten on down to Kronoby, Jakobstad, Nykarleby, Oravais, Kimobruk,... Perhaps you’ll make a stop at “Kaffestugan” in Oravais and sit and enjoy the view over the water, which is part of the Gulf of Bothnia. Look up into the woods and see a big red house with white trim with a sign pointing up there “HAVIS.” That is my childhood home that my parents built. I lived there from age 2 to 14 years of age; and my brother, Roger, was born there in 1939.

Perhaps you’ll see the monument and the battlefield from 1808–1809 when Sweden lost Finland. It’s worth a stop. Jim and I have taken several groups up there, also, when we have been tour leaders. Enjoy Åbo, Helsingfors, and especially the Åland Islands. We will be thinking of you all; and, perhaps, you will consider giving us a tour at an Order of Runeberg meeting in the coming year.

Our April meeting was well attended, with 30 adults and 2 children. Monica brought such a nice variety of Spring flowers from her garden to decorate each table. Eeva and Marita brought some Easter decorations that went well with the cute Easter bunnies! And let’s not forget the food and dessert tables—a very nice variety. Good coffee goes well with good conversation. Thank you, Suzanne, for always

Lodge #205 New Haven, Connecticut

The New Haven Lodge held its traditional “summer picnic” gathering on June 2nd at the home of Inke Sunala. Inke graciously hosted all of us and fed us endless smoked salmon from her grill. Absolutely delicious, Inke! Thanks also to everyone else who contributed to the table fare.

Of special note were our guests Tuomo, Heidi and Iida Aho, who just arrived from Finland, and are planning to stay in the USA. Also of special note, Anne-Lilja Rentof and her dad, Pekka, traveled all the way from their home, in Manhattan, NY, to participate in our summer picnic event.

All-in-all—a fun day!
Submitted by *Stew Lyons*



Clockwise, from 7 o’clock: *Doug Davie, Lise Rondum, Liisa Lindholm, Glenn & Sandy Havumaki, Dottie & Klas Bjork, Peter & Anne-Lilja Rentof, & Tuomo Aho*



Our summer picnic host: *Inke Sunala*



From Left: *Sandy & Glenn Havumaki, Doug Davie, & David Lessig*



From Left: *Dottie Bjork, Sirpa Lessig, & Liisa Lindholm*

being on top of keeping the kitchen cleaned up after each meeting. There were at least 10 April birthdays present at our meeting. A phone call from Edna Hashagen just before we were leaving for Runeberg: She wanted to once again thank everyone for remembering them with cards and special wishes.

Also, special “Hello’s” from the Nystedts in Oravais, Ann-May and Olaf, and the Nymarks, Nils and Benita, from Bunnäs. Remember them from 2009 when the folkdancers and singers were our guests here in Olympia.

Thank you, Eeva, for buying and donating name labels for our members. We all wish you a safe and nice trip back home to Finland for a special visit with family and

friends. We look forward to hearing about it when you are back. Your son John will keep plenty busy keeping things under control while you are away.

It was good to see Sandra McCloud and grandchildren and to meet Mary Ann Stewart and to have Chenny Lieu with us again.

Then it was our member Elsie Thomson’s turn to tell us a little about the “AutoAlert” Lifeline she felt saved her life and also how thankful and happy she was to be back at the meetings with us all again. (See picture on page 4.)

Our next O.R. meeting will be at Carolyn Nelson’s home in June.

Until then, be well and happy!
As always,
Marita Agnew, President #106



Resolutions

Lodge #124 Vancouver, B.C., Canada

It is with deep sorrow that we report the passing of

Bruce Gordon Warne

who passed away suddenly on March 3, 2012, at his home in Burnaby, B.C.

He is survived by his wife of 54 years, Alfie; son Charles, daughter Susan, son-in-law Garry, and grandsons Garrett and Shane.

He was pre-deceased by his parents Theo and Robina Warne and three brothers Doug, Ted, and Chuck.

Bruce was a member of the Carpenters Union and worked as a lather and gyproc installer for many years on large Vancouver buildings.

Bruce was an avid golfer. In later years he and Alfie both enjoyed golfing at Central Park in Burnaby.

Bruce joined Lodge #124 in May of 2007.

Members of Lodge #124 extend their deepest sympathies to Alfie and family.



Resolution Committee

Genealogy Corner

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In May 1882 she took a passport to America with the five children.

In Astoria, Oregon, our countrymen founded a large cooperative undertaking. It was known as Union Fishermens Cooperative Packing Company, and it was involved with catching, canning, and the export of salmon. During 1891–1913 Frans Kankkonen worked as the first director of the company. He was born 1864 and emigrated to America, as well as his brothers Carl Villhelm and Matts Fritiof. The brothers were building contractors and built St. Mary's Hospital in Astoria.

The American Package was Welcomed

The emigrants were welded together through the Swedish language, its customs, and its religion. They built churches and maintained their own congregations. Terjärv Church in the Bronx is an example of this. There were Swedish-speaking newspapers such as *Finska-Amerikanen* and *Norden* that supplied news from the homeland. Letter contact and the "American packages" are something that comes to the mind of Rödsö residents who have American relatives. Previously, people were eager with correspondence and some letters have been preserved a long time. American packages were welcomed. They included cloth, clothing, dried fruit, cans with Maxwell House coffee, and chewing gum.

Documentation of the destinies of the emigrants has been included in local historical research. The fate of many emigrants is unknown and contract with many emigrants and their descendants has been lost. Now it is possible to find one's Ostrobothnian or American family. The Internet has been of great importance in this work.

Rödsöboken, by Ole Granholm
English translation by **June Pelo**

Photojournalist murdered in Finland

BETHLEHEM (Ma'an) — A Finnish photojournalist who worked in Bethlehem during the second intifada was murdered on Thursday in the west coast of Finland, local media reported.

Police said Carina Appel, 45, was shot dead while chopping down trees on a plot of land in the village of Siipyy where she planned to build a home, the Finnish news site Helsingin Sanomat reported.

The suspected gunman was found dead around 40 meters away from her body, the report said. He was an 80-year-old neighbor who police believe may have killed Appel because he felt rejected by her.

Journalists at Ma'an who worked with Appel remember her as a hardworking and persistent news photographer.

"It was really heartbreaking to me when I heard she was killed just after she decided to settle down and leave behind all the hard days she witnessed as a photojournalist," a former colleague said.

Ma'an News Agency

11/04/2012

Letter from Birgit Nabb about Carina Appel to Alfred Nelson

Vasa, 23rd April 2012

Hi, Alfred,

I have some news for you, both good and bad. Signe-Anita Lindgren got a doctor's degree recently. She has been teaching at the Swedish university called Åbo Akademi in Turku (Åbo) and now took a doctor's degree on the subject of how reading- and writing-handicapped people manage at a university.

I have not seen her for many years until I suddenly ran into her the other day here in Vasa where she was a guest lecturer. Her husband was with her. He is a former pupil of mine and is also an employee at the university.

The bad news is that another of your "Finn Kids" is dead. Carina Appel was trained to be a police woman but had been working as a war photographer in various corners of unrest in Europe and elsewhere for many years. Now she had settled down in a quiet village south of Vasa where she had her family roots and was going to build a house of her own. She was working in the wood at her lot when an 81-year-old man, who was considered a bit strange, shot her dead—and then himself. He had been pursuing her because of unrequited love. It was a shock to everybody who knew her and caused big headlines in the newspapers. I thought you should also know.

Hope you are in satisfactory health.
I am.

Hälsningar!
Birgit Nabb

Carina was an exchange student during the school year 1984–85 and Signe-Anita during 1986–87.

Alfred Nelson has been an active member of Runeberg for many years and was very involved with the exchange student program.

Organizers readying for FinnThunder 2012

By Raija Warkentin

For 72 years, Finnish-Canadians have gathered together for an annual celebration. This year, the 73rd celebration, with the name FinnThunder 2012, will be held in Thunder Bay, Ontario, on the weekend of July 27–29. This year it is geared to attract people of all ages and everyone is welcome whether you are Finn or not.

There will be many events held throughout the city, including sporting events, stage plays, music performances, workshops, lectures, films, dances, art exhibits, and a marketplace. The public will have the opportunity to learn such things as how to make Finnish pancakes (lettuja) and coffee bread (pulla). Tango teachers Tomas and Erita are coming from Finland to teach both Finnish and Argentinean styles and will also give public performances several times during the festival.

At a special event at Boulevard Lake on July 27, the festival will attempt to beat the Guinness Book of World Records in the Nordic walk. Poles will be available for rent or purchase prior to the start of the event. The current record is held in Sweden with 1,026 people walking three kilometers. Our goal is to reach 1,500 people. Please join us in this effort!

For young people, there will be BMX racing and grass skiing races, while adults can partake in a bowling and golf tournament. And typical for us crazy Finns, there will be a wife-carrying competition. Children will have a special breakfast with Santa, and a sing along Finnish Christmas songs (in English) with Santa.

Raimo Salo from Finland will treat the audience by performing old Toivo Kärki wartime songs. He is also a film director and will show some of his documentaries. Kelly Saxberg has organized an on-going film festival for the duration of the weekend. Another Finnish performer, Dr. Risto Laitila, a TV health show host, will do a show for the Thunder Bay audience. He will also perform in another role, as “Doc Jerry,” a musician. There will be a talent stage where artists will give performances throughout the festival.

Two stage plays are planned, one in Finnish “Rengin rakkaus” and one in English, written by the three Maki sisters (Katja, Taina, and Della) as a chain-writing bee titled “The Old Woman and the Barefoot Maiden.” It is full of ancient Finnish mythology and imagery.

There are dances planned for three nights. On Friday, Thunder Bay’s own Pelimanni Orchestra will play at Finlandia Hall. Saturday, the main dance will be held at Moose Hall to the beat of the Minneapolis band Tango Pohjan Tähdén. On Sunday night, there will be two dance venues, one in Finlandia Hall featuring The Kenny Konnection as well as a yet to be named group; and the other will be outdoors on Bay Street with different bands performing.

More information and festival registration can be found at www.finnthunder2012.com.
–The Finnish American Reporter June 2012



This is FinnFest USA

FinnFest USA, a nationally based 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation, organizes an annual festival to celebrate Finland, Finnish America, and Finnish culture. It operates independently from any political or religious groups. The Board of Directors of FinnFest USA selects festival sites and provides direction. The national office is maintained by the President, and is currently located in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Each annual festival is organized by a local site working under the supervision of the national board. Local Finnish American organizations and individuals work with the entire community in organizing the festival. Partnerships with local institutions include: the Convention and Visitors’ Bureau, arts organizations, colleges and universities, civic organizations. Festival events often join on-going summer community festivals and become part of local theatrical, music, art, literature, historical exhibitions, and lecture series.

The festival is held over a 3–5 day period at a time determined by the host site usually during the summer. Festivals have been held at a variety of sites from parks to college campuses to conference centers.

Mission Statement

As a national keystone Finnish American organization, FinnFest USA is committed to creating a broader community of all Finnish Americans, Finnish citizens living in America, and other Americans. It does this through the creation of an annual festival as well as through other relevant opportunities for community building.

From the Internet

Highlights of the International Supreme Board Conference Call by Skype on February 19, 2012

Attendance: Present: 7 Board members, *Leading Star* Editor
Absent: one
Discussion:
FinnFest November 8–11, 2012, Tucson, Arizona—An attempt will be made to have brochures representing OR available – (If any OR members plan to attend, please advise Stew.)
Theresa Kokkonen planned to further investigate having an International Convention in Las Vegas.

Reports:
There was an error in the Certificates of Appreciation presented to worthy recipients at the Eureka Convention. The certificates did not indicate what organization had presented them. A new seal with the Order of Runeberg insignia on it was sent to all recipients indicating that the certificate was presented on behalf of the International Order of Runeberg.

The *Leading Star* will be publishing the revised Constitution when the revisions are complete.

Website activity is down, which is disappointing. The history of individual lodges as written in the *Memorabilia* is now on the Web. Stew was acknowledged for the great job done in reproducing this on the OR website.

Scholarship donations to date (Nov. 10–Feb. 18, 2012) are in the amount of \$1,151.00. This will also be reported in the *Leading Star*.

Treasurer’s Report:
US Bank \$4,017.94
UBS Money Market \$3,389.57
UBS CD’S \$60,249.27

There is a CD coming due shortly that will be renewed.

Old Business:

Discussion continued regarding the change of venue for the 2014 International Order of Runeberg Convention. Janet had received all but 4 delegate ballots. There were two “no” votes not to change and twenty “yes” votes to make the change. International Order of Runeberg costs for delegates going from west to east was of considerable concern. After much discussion the Board then took an open vote and it was voted unanimously to hold the 2014 Convention in Vancouver, B.C., Canada. The Vancouver host Lodge #124 has offered to pay for the venue facilities as rent is required for the Scandinavian Community Centre. Lodge #124 prefers August as a suitable time, but this requires further discussion.

All membership lists are not in yet. To date, there are 13 Security members.

Stew is in the process of contacting the Finlandia Lodge to see if they would be open to further involvement with the North American Lodges. (Perhaps through the website).

New Business:

Membership is a concern as numbers are down. Discussion will be ongoing as to the direction we need to take to encourage new members. Several lodges are dwindling to less than 20 members.

Dale welcomes information regarding books and articles for the *Leading Star*. Resolutions are billed at \$5.00 per inch.

Skype phone fee for the group conference call was \$30.48. This cost is for the connection to USA and Canada.

The next Conference call will take place on June 10, 2012.

Submitted by Annabelle Kergan

A New Book: *Finland-Swedes in Michigan*

By Mika Roinila, Ph.D.



Who are the Finland-Swedes? Defined as citizens of Finland with a Swedish mother tongue, many know these people as “Swede-Finns” or simply “Swedes.” This book, the first ever to focus on this ethnolinguistic minority living in Michigan, examines the origins of the Finland-Swedes and traces their immigration patterns, beginning with the arrival of hundreds in the United States in the 1860s. A growing population until the 1920s, when immigration restrictions were put in place, the Finland-Swedes brought with them unique economic, social, cultural, religious, and political institutions, explored here in groundbreaking detail. Drawing on archival, church, and congregational records, interviews, and correspondence, this book paints a vivid portrait of Finland-Swedish life in photographs and text, and also includes detailed maps that show the movement of this group over time. The latest title in the Discovering the Peoples of Michigan series even includes a sampling of traditional Finland-Swedish recipes.

Born in Finland, Mika Roinila is an expert in many aspects of the Finnish immigrant experience. He is the International Baccalaureate Program Coordinator & Fulbright Specialist at John Adams High School in South Bend. Mika lives in Mishawaka, Indiana. The book is available from Michigan State University Press and at Amazon.com.

Finnfest USA: From Determination to Success



Board of Directors

From left to right: *Tarmo Hannula, Bob Selvala, Ritva Scott (Cultural Attache, Embassy of Finland, Washington, D.C.) and Tauri Aaltio in a meeting in Helsinki, Finland, in 1986*

FinnFest USA originated in 1982, when Tauri Aaltio, Executive Director of Finland Society, Helsinki, Finland, hosted a meeting in Minneapolis. Representatives of 39 Finnish American organizations met to discuss the idea of holding an annual nationally based summer festival like there used to be. Those gatherings had been central to Finnish American cultural life. The group liked the idea and the first festival was held in Minneapolis in 1983 with approximately 1,000 people attending. Since that origin, the festival has traveled back and forth across the country, hosted by regions and communities with connections to Finnish American cultural history.

That 1983 FinnFest created the basic paradigm all future FinnFests have used. Finnish food, arts and crafts, music, lectures, and social dances became the core elements of the festival. Already at the second FinnFest held at Fitchburg, Massachusetts, in 1984, the local organizers added to the paradigm something they called “tori,” a marketplace. Tori became not only a place to buy and sell goods, but an information center and exhibition hall where organizations could present themselves to the public. Other things such as a parade, genealogy, a play written specifically for FinnFest, and a commission of a choral symphonic piece were later added to bring Finland together with America. FinnFest has had many prestigious guests from Finland, including the President Tarja Halonen, who has visited FinnFest twice. Olympic Gold Medalist Lasse Viren carried the torch to the opening ceremony in Hancock, Michigan, 1985.

FinnFest has become the place where Americans meet other Americans who share similar histories. Knowing that others share knowledge about people, places, and events has become a major reward of attending FinnFest. The annual festival offers a place to meet and share a common culture largely invisible in American life. With the strength of numbers, dialogue about new goals for Finnish America and Finns in America has been born at FinnFest.

Robert Selvala served as the first president and executive secretary of FinnFest. He was a third generation Finnish American and a businessman who dedicated his entire life in creating the foundation for the FinnFest we know and enjoy today.

From the Internet

Migration Institute/ Siirtolaisinstituutti

Migration Institute aims to promote and carry out migration and ethnic research, and encourages the compilation, storage and documentation of material relating to international and internal migration in Finland. It serves also as a resource site for genealogists. Migration Institute was founded in 1974 and has its headquarters in Turku.

Contact information: Eerikinkatu 34, 20100 Turku, Finland

+358 – 2 – 284 0440 www.migrationinstitute.fi

From North American FINNPRIDE by Veli M. J. Niinimaa

Did you know?

There are around 600,000 first and second generation Finns living abroad. If the third and subsequent generations are taken into account, the amount rises to around 1.3 million. According to the Finnish Population Register Centre 254,909 Finnish citizens live outside of Finland (2004).

From North American FINNPRIDE by Veli M. J. Niinimaa