

"Enjoy the new look of your paper"



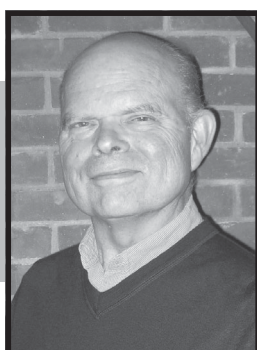
LEADING STAR LEDSTJÄRNAN

CIV EST. 1906 La Palma, California March 2013 Number 1 www.orderofruneberg.org

International Order of Runeberg Supreme Board President's Message

Greetings to our members in Canada, Finland, and USA. If your winter season is anything like it has been here in Connecticut, you may be looking forward to spring and summer. As I write this, there are predictions of more snow for tomorrow!

Considering the Swede-Finn history of our organization, you may find interesting a new page on our IOR website—information on a recently published book, *Finland-Swedes in Michigan*, by Mika Roinila. This book, the first ever to focus on Finland-Swedes 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 book even



includes a sampling of traditional Finland-Swedish recipes. There is a short overview of the book on our website's "Home" page, with a link to our website's new page dedicated to the book. The new web page has additional content detail, author information, and links to where you may purchase the book, and a link for free online viewing of the book.

Our New Haven lodge held its annual St. Urho's Day celebration last evening. We had a special surprise guest attending,

Fred Scimone, who is a past-president of both our New Haven Lodge #205 (back in the late 1960s) and past-president of the International 1974–1978. I learned something very interesting in a conversation with Fred—one method he and other members of the lodge used to increase lodge membership was "cold calling." That is, they would look through the telephone books of Connecticut's cities and towns, and as they found a Swede-Finn name, they'd call the person, explain our organization, and, of course, invite them to attend and join the lodge. At least one current lodge member attending last evening's St. Urho's celebration mentioned that he is a member as a result of Fred's "cold calling" efforts. Of course, I mention this as one "prescription" that

continued on page 10

WHAT'S INSIDE:



Scholarship Report.....	2
Lodge News.....	4-7
Genealogy Corner	8
Highlights Conference Call	14
IOR Convention 2014	14

Why there is a new look to the *Leading Star*

When we first started as editors of the *Leading Star* in 2002, we were mailing out almost 1,000 papers of each issue. Over the years with the changes in membership, that number has dropped to around 300 papers. When the paper is printed in the newspaper style format, the printer requires a minimum press run of 1,000 papers. Since this quantity of papers and the cost of printing them cannot be changed, there was a need to reduce the cost of publishing the *Leading Star*. With the approval of the Supreme Board, we have changed the look of the paper to what you are now reading. This will reduce the cost of publication, and at the same time, provide everything that was in the paper previously. Enjoy the new look of your paper!

Dale and Mary Lou Hjort
Editors

Scholarship Donation Report

The International Order of Runeberg Scholarship Fund receives donations from Lodges as well as individuals. A generous donation was received since the last report from Seattle Lodge #101 in memory of

Annie Osterback	\$30.00
Bonnie Olson	\$100.00
Mildred Sandstrom	\$30.00

Also, general donations were given by the following:

Dollar Bay Lodge #8	\$25.00
Ellen Lindstrom	\$10.00
Bob and Janet Anderson	\$100.00

THANK YOU for contributing to the Scholarship Fund.

We appreciate your support.

Please make your checks out to the International Order of Runeberg Scholarship Fund and send them to:

Janet Anderson, Financial Secretary
6094 Myrtle Ave.
Eureka, CA 95503

Scholarship applications **MUST** be received by **April 30, 2013**.

Lorene Mara, Scholarship Chairman



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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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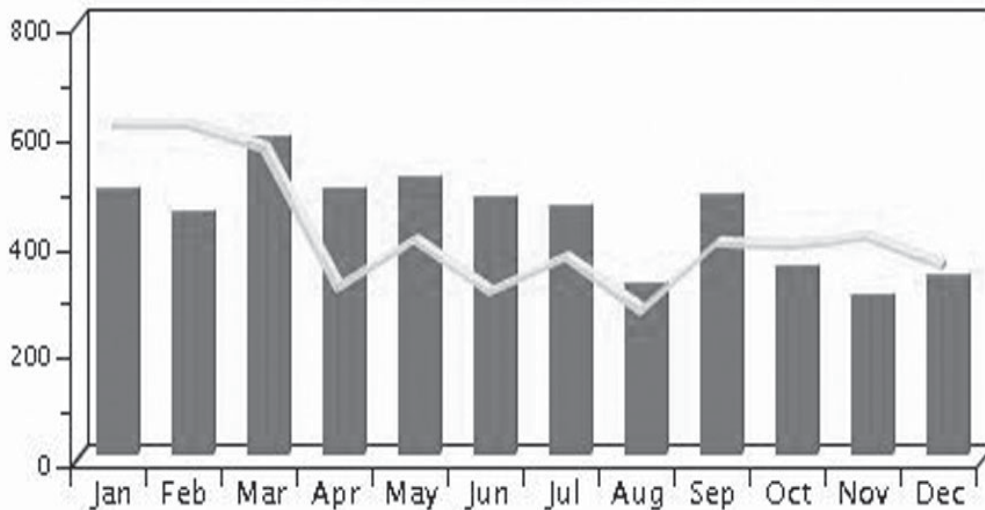
State: _____ Zip: _____

Lodge & Number: _____

IOR Website Activity Report

www.orderofruneberg.org

Page Views Report: 2012



DOWNLOAD REPORT:

BOOKMARK REPORT:

HELP:

PRINT:

Totals: 2012 : 5,190 2011 : 5,018

Page Views Report Details

Month	2012	2011
1. January 2012	488	612
2. February 2012	446	613
3. March 2012	582	574
4. April 2012	486	317
5. May 2012	507	404
6. June 2012	471	306
7. July 2012	458	369
8. August 2012	312	273
9. September 2012	477	398
10. October 2012	342	391
11. November 2012	292	406
12. December 2012	329	355



LODGE NEWS



Lodge #106 Tacoma, Washington

Dear Members near and far:

It was so enjoyable to open our mailbox during the month of December and receive greetings from friends and relatives—mostly from Österbotten and also from Sweden. So many sent photographs of themselves and also of their families. It is so nice

to still have a close contact with my classmates from grade school in Oravais and also from my classmates in Nykarleby when I attended Folkhögskolan in 1953–54. Yes, some have moved away from the area but still find time to send a line or two. It's one way to keep up my Swedish also.

I have been faithful in my writings, especially for a book that's called ORVAS (Oravis). It's all about those with whom I went

to school and also immigrants who came to America or went to Sweden.

The years go by very fast for us all; and I feel that as we keep our Order of Runeberg lodge going and growing in membership even a little, it's well worthwhile to have our get-togethers every other month and keep our interest in the generations of both young and older members.

Our December meeting was held on the 6th of December and



Standing from left:

Jane Ely, Monica Mason,
and **Eileen Scott**

Sitting from left:

Marilyn and Lee Thompson,
Patty Backman, and
Larry Sandell

Standing from left:
Angela and Ed Brannfors
and **Märtha Cederberg**

Sitting from left:
Marie Cain, Roy Cederberg,
and **Carolyn Nelson**



Items on table:

**woman in wooden
candleholder in
Oravais folk
costume,
Lucia Bride,
reindeer horn
candle holder
from Lapland
and handmade
hat from Lapland,
wooden Kräkla.
Guess what it's
used for?**



LODGE NEWS



it so happened to be 95 years ago since the Senate Government of Finland declared its independence that day. The weather wasn't the best that day, but some 29 brave souls did make it to our Runeberg get-together on that day. We all had a chance to visit, enjoy the Christmas table decorations and each other's company, and, of course, the wonderful food that had been prepared for the occasion.

Valentine's Day is just around the corner, and some of our members will have their birthdays. The very first day of birthdays we'll be remembering our namesake, Johan Ludvig Runeberg—born February 5, 1804. Then David Offerall's birthday will come up on February 9. Les Johnson will reach a milestone of turning 90 years young on the 17th of February. On the 24th of February, Drisilla

Ramberg will also reach a milestone. Then, Monica will see her birthday come up on the end of February on the 28th—almost a Leap Year baby!

Let's enjoy and be thankful for each day that comes our way!

As always, your friend and O.R. president. Be happy and well.

Marita Agnew



Standing from left:

***John LaLone, Eeva LaLone,
and Lee Thompson***

Sitting:

Rhea and Gilbert Linden

***The lantern and Tomtenissar
belong to Eeva LaLone.***

***Seen in this picture are 5 people
who were part of the Swede-Finn
Historical Society June 2012
trip to Österbotten and
Äland Island plus a couple
of days in Stockholm, Sweden.***

From left: ***Jane Ely,
Patty Backman, Sandi Gaffney
(Chehalis), Andrew Carlson,
and Shirley Jenkins. Jane, Patty,
and Andrew are Tacoma
#106 members.***





LODGE NEWS



Lodge # 205 New Haven , CT



*Three past / current presidents of International Order of Runeberg
L-R: Fred Scimone (1974–1978), Stew Lyons (current IOR President),
and George Nousiainen (1994–1998 and 2002–2006)*



*Seated, L-R: Peter Rentof, Fred Scimone, Sandy Havumaki,
Lise Rondum, Kaarina Lyons, Tuula Berke
Standing, L-R: Brenda Nousiainen, Roy Kosonen, Klas Bjork,
Glenn Havumaki, Robert Berke, Dottie Bjork, George Nousiainen,
Stew Lyons*

Since the last (December) issue of the *Leading Star*, New Haven Lodge #205 has held both our annual “Bowling & Pizza” event, and our “St. Urho’s Day Celebration.”

Our annual “Bowling & Pizza” event, held on January 26, was extremely well attended, including many children and young adults, as shown in this article’s accompanying pictures. After an enjoyable time bowling, Inke Sunila hosted at her home the “pizza dinner”, which included appetizers, salads, and desserts brought by lodge members, and Inke provided 20 cups of coffee for Stew J.

Our annual “St. Urho’s Day Celebration” held on March 16, and hosted by Brenda and George Nousiainen, was also well attended. Of course, accepted attire for the evening reflected a preponderance of the traditional St. Urho’s Day colors (green and purple). Although this article’s accompanying pictures are in black and white, you may get an appreciation of the green and purple colors by visiting the Lodge #205 web page on the



LODGE NEWS



1 Noora Garnett	6 Dottie Bjork	11 Donna Connell	16 Christina Bjork	21 Peter Rentof
2 Riitta Salzberg	7 Jamie Garnett	12 Kiersten Bjork	17 George Nousiainen	22 Bowling shoe 😊
3 Lise Rondum	8 Klas Bjork	13 Christian Bjork	18 Ken Bjork	23 Anne-Lilja Rentof
4 Aaron Garnet	9 Inke Sunila	14 Tim Connell	19 Doug Davie	24 Kaarina Lyons
5 Roy Kosonen	10 Ryan Connell	15 Jason Garnett	20 Liisa Lindholm	25 Stew Lyons
				26 Brenda Nousiainen

IOR website. The featured activity of the evening (potluck dinner notwithstanding) was the group recitation of the “Ode to St. Urho”, which was lead by Peter Rentof (note his “grass-hopper cap” in the group photo). By virtue of the alignment of the stars, sun, and

moon, we had a very unusual event for the evening—three IOR presidents, two past (Fred Scimone, 1974–1978, and George Nousiainen, 1994–1998, 2002–2006), and the current IOR President Stew

Lyons—were all in attendance. See this article’s accompanying picture. It must be mentioned that the potluck dinner, which included appetizers, salads, main dishes, and desserts, prepared and brought by lodge members, was absolutely delicious.

Submitted by *Stew Lyons*

Genealogy Corner

Farm Weddings in Terjärv and Vermont

During my early years in the U.S. when it was time to plan a trip home to greet my near and dear, I always hoped that I could attend a farm wedding while I was there. Most of the time my wishes were unfulfilled. It was always nice to associate with the people in my home village, Småbonders. It was especially nice to listen to the discussions of old people and hear them crack jokes with each other. One thing we youngsters always looked forward to in the summer was weddings. At that time there were many. It was the high point of our summer. The entire village was involved in planning and directing so that everything was in order on the big day.

When the bridal couple arrived at the church and went through the entry, it was all pomp and great style when the orchestra played the bridal



**June Pelo,
A Dedicated Genealogist**

march. The whole village was there and congratulated the couple. It was really a moving event. During the festivities there was food and drinks and music to entertain the guests.

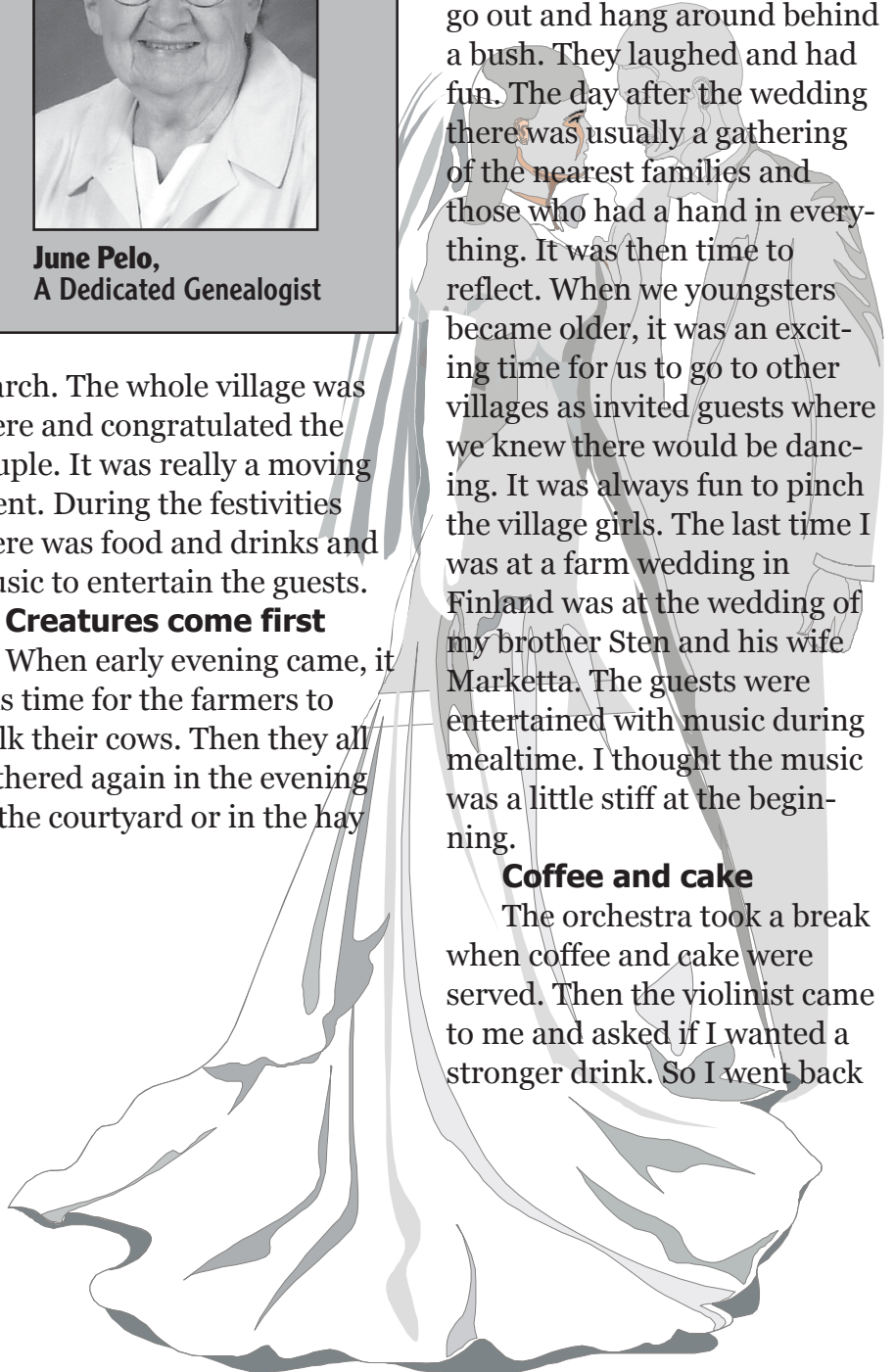
Creatures come first

When early evening came, it was time for the farmers to milk their cows. Then they all gathered again in the evening in the courtyard or in the hay

barn when the dancing began. We boys stood there and enjoyed the music and admired the fine couples dancing. We often saw big boys and old men go out and hang around behind a bush. They laughed and had fun. The day after the wedding there was usually a gathering of the nearest families and those who had a hand in everything. It was then time to reflect. When we youngsters became older, it was an exciting time for us to go to other villages as invited guests where we knew there would be dancing. It was always fun to pinch the village girls. The last time I was at a farm wedding in Finland was at the wedding of my brother Sten and his wife Marketta. The guests were entertained with music during mealtime. I thought the music was a little stiff at the beginning.

Coffee and cake

The orchestra took a break when coffee and cake were served. Then the violinist came to me and asked if I wanted a stronger drink. So I went back



behind the bush. After that, the music became faster and louder. The violin bow flew over the strings with such speed that it smoked when Onni played.

Wedding in Vermont

During the latest Labor Day festival, I had the occasion to be at a farm wedding here in America. This event was in Huntington, Vermont, "The Green Mountain State." My entire family was invited. Guests came from near and far in the U.S. According to my calculation, there were over 200 guests and the whole event lasted three days. The bridal couple were Lindsay Lyman-Clarke and Justin Rich. They met when they studied at Cornell University. Justin and his parents, Ron and Pam, and their daughters Bethany and Allison are my neighbors and our good friends. Both Ron and Pam have Swedish roots. On Friday evening, there was a "Welcome Dinner" in the home of the bride's parents, Ted and Virginia. Their home was in a beautiful wooded grove surrounded by a beautiful garden where we all gathered. The mood was genial and quiet. It was the opportunity to meet other guests. There was plenty of food and drink. By the time the evening was over, I had

met all of them. The high point was when slice, also called pizza, was served. Slices of every kind were baked in a brick oven that was heated with wood. On Saturday afternoon, we all gathered at "Burnt Rock Farm", a farm the bride's parents bought several years ago. In addition to their permanent jobs, they also grow greenery. There in a greenhouse was a table covered with flowers the bride had grown. We all enjoyed cocktails and hors d'oeuvres. The wedding took place in a flower-bedecked bower by the shore of a river. The bride was radiant and the groom was stylish. They were a perfect pair. Afterwards, there was a fine meal followed by light music and dancing that went on late into the night.

Farewell lunch

On Sunday, all the guests were invited to a farewell luncheon at the home of the newlyweds. The meal was arranged by the bridegroom's parents and the meal was outstanding. It was also an occasion to take it easy, to sit and talk, to take part in various games on the lawn or swim in the river. Later in the afternoon, it was time for us to say Goodbye. When we were near the Canadian border, we extended our week for several days in French-speaking Quebec. To speak English, one has the feeling of being in a foreign

land. When evening came on our last day there, we looked for a place to spend the night. Far from the populated area, we came across an "Auberger" lodging along the shore of large beautiful Lake Magog. A man in a white chef's uniform stood by the door. My wife Bernice went up to him and asked if he was "Le Proprietaire"? "Oui," he replied. He was just preparing to close the hotel for the season. It must have been my wife's charm, for he took mercy on us and opened the door wide. He stuck out his hand and faced the door and said, "Entrez s'il vous plait!" We were the only guests there. Then he waited on us as if we were gentry. He was also an excellent cook. There was a wonderful aroma in the air when he served an excellent meal that melted in our mouths. Until late in the evening, I sat there at the bar with a glass of cognac and discussed current events with the owner. It went on in French, which I don't speak. During such circumstances, one can say little of significance.

Donald Vidjeskog
Norden, 2 Oct. 2010
English translation
by *June Pelo*

President's Message

continued from page 1

can be taken to reverse the “disease” of declining IOR membership. If you were not already aware, we lost two lodges at the end of 2012—Crescent City, CA, & Norwood, MA. These two losses can be directly attributed to: (a) average age of the lodge’s membership at a point where they found it difficult to continue the lodge, and (b) there needs to be more effort made to attract new members, including younger people. We all (myself included) need to renew and invigorate our efforts to add new members of all ages. To facilitate increased membership, some website updates were completed recently: (a) added “Membership”

to the main menu, allowing improved visibility; (b) created a “Join IOR” button at the top of the Home page that, when clicked, brings the visitor to the “Membership” page, and (c) on the Membership page, increased emphasis & explanation of “Security Lodge” membership—the “Security Lodge” membership would be the choice for people living far from any of our lodge locations. The website can facilitate new membership; however, it is incumbent on each of us to exert our individual effort to increase membership.

Each of our lodges has a page at the IOR website—I encourage your lodge to take full advantage of this resource. In anticipation of poten-

tial new lodge members surfing the Internet for a local Swede-Finn cultural organization, it’s very important to have current lodge information posted on your lodge’s web page (such as meetings schedule, meetings locations, special activities, etc.). If your lodge would like information posted on your lodge’s web page, email or call me (stewlyons@gmail.com, 203-457-1655) with the information you’d like posted. For members of Lodge #101 (Seattle, WA) and Lodge #124 (Vancouver, BC), send your lodge information directly to Nils Holm for Lodge #101 or Shea Teixeira for Lodge #124.

Looking forward to spring and summer.

Stew Lyons

The Swedish Finn Historical Society Meeting

The Annual Meeting and Luncheon of the Swedish Finn and Historical Society (SFHS) was held on Saturday, March 9, 2013, at the Swedish Cultural Center (SCC) in Seattle. The International Order of Runeberg (IOR) was well represented at this meeting. Attending from Vancouver, BC, Canada, Lodge #124 were Annabelle Kergan, Eric and Lorene Mara, Janet Duxbury, Tor-Enk and Etel Rosback, and George and Ulla Nelson. Nils Holm was there from Seattle Lodge #101. Coming from Tacoma Lodge #106 was Ed Brannfors. And coming to visit family as well as attend this meeting was myself, Dale Hjort, your *Leading Star* editor.

The mission of the SFHS is to gather and preserve the emigration history of the Swedish Finns across the world, to connect the Swedish Finns to their roots in Finland and to celebrate our cultural heritage.

The program began with a social hour in the SCC with background music by the Lindquists. A traditional Swedish meal was served for lunch consisting of marinated herring/Knäckebroöd, limpa bread, golden carrot salad, roast leg of lamb and spinach mashed potatoes, beets with sour cream and dill, and for dessert rice pudding with raspberry sauce.

The featured entertainment followed with Swedish Finn music provided by the Pia-Karin Helsing Group from Sweden.

The business meeting concluded the day and was led by Dick Erickson, who is the president of SFHS and also a member of our own IOR Tacoma Lodge #106.

The SFHS has many of the same purposes as our IOR, and it was very enjoyable to spend a day with so many people—over 130—who have an interest in our culture and heritage.

Submitted by *Dale Hjort*



FinnFest USA 2013 June 19–23 Tervetuloa!

Greetings from Michigan's Copper Country—the “Finnish American nesting place.” More than 30 percent of us claim Finnish descent, and we're all ready to celebrate our heritage with you—at FinnFest USA 2013!

On Midsummer's Eve 1865, some thirty Finns and Sámi landed on the shores of the Portage Canal in Hancock and began work in the copper mines the next day. Though much has changed since then, we have maintained many of the traditions these people brought with them, forming our own unique Finnish American culture that reflects our roots and our continued ties to Finns worldwide. From Suomi College (now Finlandia University) to the tumultuous 1913 Copper Strike, to the Heikinpäivä Midwinter Festival, Hancock remains a pivotal center of Finnish American culture. So join us at Midsummer—our legendary winter snows will have melted away, revealing stunning surroundings to immerse yourself in. We are ready to provide you with an unforgettable FinnFest experience, done in true Copper Country style—copper over gold, sauna over spa, and pasty over pâté. We'll have our coffee brewing, our saunas warming, and our communities ready to welcome both new and longtime friends. See for yourself why FinnFest should be your Midsummer destination in 2013!

See www.finnfestusa2013.org for more information.

From the *Internet*

Finns boosting Sweden's population

The share of Swedes with Finnish heritage is growing, says Sisu uutiset, the Finnish-language news service of Swedish public broadcaster SVT.

The number of people with Finnish roots in Sweden has grown by 40,000 in the last four years to account for 7.4 percent of the population, according to Sisu uutiset. Last year Sweden was home to 712,000 people claiming direct Finnish descent.

While the community of first generation Finnish immigrants in the country is declining, the number of second and third generations Finns

is growing. Statistics Sweden reports that 164,000 Finnish-born people lived in the country last year—a drop of 11,000 from 2008.

Finnish communities are clustered around Norrbotten, Sweden's northernmost county, as well as in the cities of Stockholm, Uppsala, and Gothenburg. But with 83 percent of inhabitants claiming Finnish roots, Haparanda on the Swedish-Finnish border is the heart of Finland in Sweden.

The Finnish American Reporter
March 2013

FINNFUN2013

74th Annual Finnish Canadian Grand Festival

June 27 to July 1, 2013 • Sudbury, Ontario, Canada



Phone Toss Championships with the winners going on to the World Cell Phone Toss Championships in Savonlinna, Finland. In addition, there will be a Rubber Boot Toss, the FINNFUN2013 Wife Carrying Championships with the winners going to Iceland, the Blue Lagoon Spa, and Pesäpallo (Finnish baseball) just to name a few events. Affordable fun for the whole family is our goal; with children's and youths' programmes all weekend long and, of course, there will be great

Welcome, Finns and Friends, to FINNFUN2013. From Thursday, June 27, to Monday July 1, 2013, Sudbury will once again be the host city for the 74th Annual Finnish Canadian Grand Festival to be held at Laurentian University, Finlandia Village, and Wanup. FINNFUN2013 is a non-profit festival organized and managed by volunteers.

This will be a very special Finnish Canadian Grand Festival 'Suurjuhlat' since it will be the 74th annual: a special honour for the Finns of Sudbury to host this wonderful event for the twentieth time since its inception. The Festival was begun as a picnic on the shore of Lake Ramsey at CPR Bay in the summer of 1940 on the

Dominion Day weekend and has been held every year since: the first seven years in Sudbury, before being hosted by other cities across Canada. The festival is open to everyone in the community or beyond—whether they be of Finnish heritage or not.

A full 5 days of activities have been arranged including seminars, lectures, demonstrations, workshops, displays, theatre, a concert, dances, marketplace, art and photography shows, and athletic field events. On Canada Day, a Nordic Walk for the Guinness World Record is to be held in Sudbury for the first time at Laurentian University. Once again, we will be hosting the Canadian Cell

Finnish food. Family entertainment will take place at Finlandia Village on Friday June 28. Also, on Friday: a Charity Golf Tournament for Finlandia Village Sudbury Finnish Rest Home Society will be held at Timberwolf Golf Club. The Best Ball Scramble starts at 12:00 noon.

Sudbury will be hosting entertainers, musicians, and out-of-town guests from Finland, Sweden, Russia, Australia, the USA, and from all across Canada. With this in mind, it has opened up some advertising opportunities, which we have bundled together and are offering to you. Donations-in-kind can be part of any sponsoring package.

See www.finnfun2013.ca for more information.

From the *Internet*



Finland ranked as one of the most innovative countries

Finland was ranked as a number one country when measured by researcher concentration and second by its research and intensity. The financial news provider Bloomberg has ranked Finland to the fourth place in its innovation rankings.

The Bloomberg Rankings examined more than 200 countries and sovereign regions to determine how innovative they were, and based on the examinations it has published its list of top 50 countries. The number one country by innovation was USA, second South Korea and third Germany.

Bloomberg measured innovation by seven factors, including research and development intensity, productivity, high-tech density, researcher concentration, manufacturing capability, education levels and patent activity. Each country was ranked on a scale of 0 to 100 percent.

In these rankings Finland was placed as a number one country based on researcher concentration and second by its research and intensity. It was third when measured by tertiary efficiency, 11th on high-tech density and 14th on productivity.

Research and development intensity was based on R&D as a percentage of gross national product (GDP), productivity on GDP per employee and per hour worked, and high-tech density is based on the percentage of publicly listed companies who specialize in areas including aerospace, defense, biotechnology, Internet software and renewable energy firms.

From the Internet at
www.bloomberg.com

Highlights— International Supreme Board Conference Call by Skype on February 24, 2013

Attendance: All Board members present and Leading Star Editor

Treasurer's Report: Balances noted as of 1-31-13

Checking Account = \$5,847.33 (as of today's meeting—\$6,017.33)

Money Market = \$3,816.18

CD's = \$60,315.47

Report was approved, passed.

Reports:

Resolution billings are on their way to individual lodges.

Website traffic has increased. Interest in Runeberg continues for requests to be security members (current total 13).

Security membership needs to be explained and perhaps a new name should be considered.

Scholarship funds \$1,335.00—Board voted to increase fund if necessary in order to present three \$500.00 scholarships

Old Business:

The date for the 2014 International Convention will be August 15–16 in Vancouver, B.C. (Burnaby) hosted by Lodge #124. Vancouver will pay for hall rental; International will contribute \$1,000.00 to offset additional expenses.

Constitution updates available soon.

Leading Star format will be changed in order to reduce expenses and eliminate paper waste. We must print 1,000 copies; however we require only about 300. With each printing, Dale must destroy [or store] the excess papers. We will look into sending the paper out digitally for any members who wish an email copy. Everyone will continue to receive *Leading Star* by mail at this point; but in the future, we will look at using digital copy as an alternate for those wishing so. This would save printing and mailing costs as well as being environmentally friendly.

Membership ideas—create a level of membership that would be more aligned to history and Finnish heritage. Send *Leading Star* to new Security Lodge members to encourage the joining of a local or even distant lodge.

Tabled Business:

Discussion re-the direction and future of the International Order of Runeberg.

An informal roundtable discussion of any interested Lodge members attending the Swedish-Finn Historical Society Annual General Meeting March 9, 2013, in Seattle was planned. This group could forward suggestions to the Board for inclusions in the June 9 conference call meeting. Adjourned 5:30 p.m. PST

Respectfully submitted,
Annabelle Kergan

International Order of Runeberg Convention 2014

Hello Members: Now that a date has been set—August 15–16, 2014—it is time to start planning. If you have never been to Vancouver and Burnaby, British Columbia, you are definitely in for a treat! Vancouver is a very cosmopolitan city offering anything that a tourist would enjoy. Burnaby is Vancouver's nextdoor neighbor, a city in itself, offering many exciting things, also.

Just a thumbnail glance at Convention headquarters—we have, of course, the Scandinavian Community Centre that will be the hub of our Convention activities. The S.C.C. is located in the centre of Burnaby. It offers free and easy parking. The facility is entered into with a slight slope so stairs are not an issue. The location is easily accessible from the 401 freeway if you arrive from the U.S. by car. Flying will bring you into the Vancouver International Airport. There are several hotels and motels within driving distance of the Centre so accommodation will not be a concern. If you fly in and need transportation, we can arrange for a local member to pick you up and deliver you back. Information regarding suggested accommodation will follow later.

The setting of the Centre is somewhat rural—where greenery and flowers abound. Ready to greet you are a very large Swedish Dala Horse and a wood carving of a Nordic Viking, standing stoically at the entrance. The Centre is home to five Nordic Communities—Iceland, Denmark, Finland, Sweden, and Norway. Each country has its own room while the Lounge, Main Hall, and outdoor Beer Garden and deck are shared by all. We in Vancouver are hoping to see as many Runebergers as possible as we are planning a very special event. So—mark your calendars and start your plans now! We of Lodge #124 are ready to welcome you!

Submitted by **Anabelle Kergan**

FinnFest USA 2013

Welcome to the Copper Country



FinnFest USA 2013 Board of Directors

Back row, from left: *Robin Bonini, Duane Aho, Scott MacInnes, Pete Negro, Dallas Bond, Glenn Anderson*
 Front row, from left: *John Kiltinen, Pauline Kiltinen, Mary Pekkala, Hilary Virtanen, James Kurtti, David Maki, Kevin Manninen*

FinnFest USA 2013,
 June 19–23, is...

An opportunity to learn

Traditionally, FinnFest USA celebrations offer speakers and attendees a chance to share with one another their expertise and interests through lectures, workshops, panel discussions, exhibitions, and more. It also gives people outside of the ethnic community the opportunity to learn about their Finnish neighbors. From genealogy to weaving, music to sports, and education forums to technology, FinnFest USA explores it all!

A space for celebration and commemoration

A festival of surprising depth and proportion, FinnFest USA 2013 will be held in connection with the following:

- Juhannus Midsummer Celebration (Toivola)
- the 100-year commemoration of the 1913 Copper Strike and the Italian Hall Disaster
- the sesquicentennial of the City of Hancock
- Bridgefest (Houghton)
- New Power Tour: Generations of Energy
- Pine Mountain Music Festival
- Reunion of Finnish War Children Evacuees
- arts exhibitions and performances
- spiritual fellowship with multiple denominations
- music and dancing

A chance for Finns worldwide to connect...

- with your family and friends at numerous private family and community group reunions
- with fellow Finns from their own backyard, from across the country, or across the ocean!
- with their heritage in America
- with modern Finland

Something for everyone

From our lectures and discussion panels to our concerts and performances to our tori markets boasting popular Finnish American and Finnish goods, FinnFest USA 2013 will be the best thing you can do all year!

Join us! We know you'll be glad you did!

See www.finnfestusa2013.org for more information.

From the *Internet*

THE LEADING STAR

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Visit our website:
www.orderofruneberg.org

CURRENCY RATES

1 EUR = 1.28225 USD

1 USD = 0.779879 EUR

New York 03/31/13

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news, resolutions, and articles by
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