



LEADING STAR LEDSTJÄRNAN

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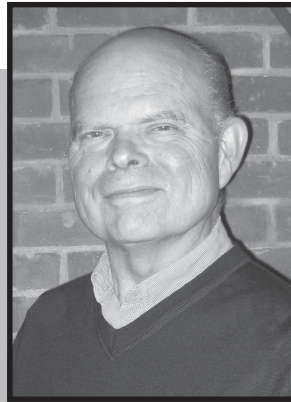
International Order of Runeberg Supreme Board President's Message

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.

This morning, Sunday, March 9, I was listening to NPR radio's "Weekend Edition Sunday." I had the pleasure to hear a four-minute story titled, "What the U.S. Can Learn from Finland, Where School Starts at Age 7." The story, done by Claudio Sanchez, Education Correspondent for NPR, starts out by pointing out that "Finland, a country the size of Minnesota, beats the U.S. in math, reading, and science, even though Finnish children don't start school until age 7" and "despite the late start, the vast majority arrive with solid reading and math skills. By age 15, Finnish students outperform all but a few countries on international assessments." The story mentions that Krista Kiuru, Finland's Minister of Education and Science, met with education officials in Washington recently, and attributes Finland's success to:

- "Every child in Finland under age 7 has the right to childcare and preschool by law, regardless of family income."

- "Over 97 percent of 3 to 6 year olds attend a program of one type or another. But, says Kiuru, the key to Finland's universal preschool system is quality." "High-quality teachers," "daycare teachers with Bachelor degrees."



- And the third factor: "strong values in the political level. Political consensus and support help."

Kiuru says if Finland has a lesson to offer, it is: "If you invest in early childhood education, in preschool and daycare, that will lead [to] better results—that is the "Finnish way."

If you'd like to hear the entire story, using your computer (or your local library's computer), go to:

- **Our website**
(www.orderofruneberg.org)
& select the "IOR - News, Events & Info" page for a link to the story, or

- The NPR website and enter a search for "What the U.S. Can Learn from Finland"

As mentioned in this column previously, 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 potential new lodge members surfing the Internet for a local Finnish / Finn-Swede 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 (my contact information is at our website) with the information you'd like posted. For members of Lodge #124, Vancouver, B.C. send your lodge information directly to Shea Teixeira.

Looking forward to spring and summer,

Stew Lyons

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Getting Ready for Convention

This is the year for the International Convention which will take place in Burnaby, B.C., Canada, on August 15 and 16. In this issue you will find information about hotel accommodations. As a reminder, you will need a passport to travel to Canada. There will be further information in the June issue of the paper about registration for the Convention. Also in this issue you will find proposals for change that will be part of the business of the Convention.

This is the time of year to submit applications for scholarships. The application form can be found at the website or obtained by writing the editors. The application must be received by April 30 to an address in Canada, so please allow plenty of time for it to arrive.

—DH

Website Activity Explanation

The accompanying chart and “Page Views Report” Summary and Details show that our Order of Runeberg website’s (<http://www.orderofruneberg.org>) pages have been visited (viewed by) an average of almost 5,100 times per year for the past two years. The year 2012, shown by the line in the chart, had 4 percent more visits (5,190) compared to 2013, which had 4,981 views, shown by the bars in the chart.

The best way to further increase interest and visits to our website is by adding new and interesting content. You’re encouraged to submit content and ideas for our website especially, but not limited to, your lodge’s recent activities and plans. To add new and interesting content, contact me (my email & phone

numbers are at our website under “About Us / IOR Board Members”), or use our “Suggestions & Feedback” form, found under “About Us.” I am looking forward to your suggestions and/or content submissions.

For our IOR website,

Stew Lyons

CURRENCY RATES

1 CAD = 0.9038 USD

1 USD = 1.1060 CAD

03/28/14



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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:

Dale & Mary Lou Hjort

7682 Tracy Lane

La Palma, CA 90623-1501

Name: _____

Street: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip _____

Lodge & Number: _____

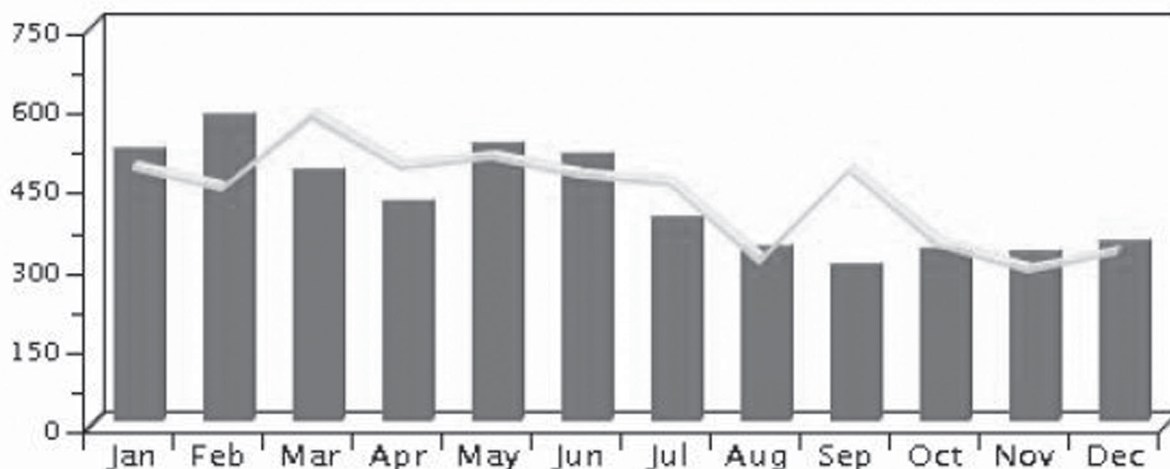
IOR Website Activity Report

www.orderofruneberg.org

Page Views by Month

Reporting Date: 2013

Page: Entire Site



Page Views by Month Report Summary

	2013	2012
Total	4,981	5,190

Page Views Report Details

Month	2013	2012
1. January 2013	510	488
2. February 2013	574	446
3. March 2013	473	582
4. April 2013	413	486
5. May 2013	524	507
6. June 2013	502	471
7. July 2013	382	458
8. August 2013	329	312
9. September 2013	293	477
10. October 2013	324	342
11. November 2013	317	292
12. December 2013	340	329



LODGE NEWS



Lodge #106 Tacoma, Washington

Our February meeting was well attended. Some 41 people enjoyed getting together on this dark and rainy day. The tables were decorated with flowers, and the food was extra good.

Those having birthdays in February were:
our namesake, Johan L. Runeberg
David Offerall
Lee Thompson
Drisilla Ramberg
Monica Mason.

The next meeting will be in April and, hopefully, April showers will bring May flowers. Looking forward to seeing all of you there.

Marita Agnew,
President, Tacoma Lodge #106



My childhood home in Oravais in the early 1930s. It's overlooking the Bay of Bothnia. The home is called "Havis." I was 2 years old when we moved in there. My brother Roger was born in that house in 1939, March 27, just as the war broke out.



Our home here in Olympia, Washington, (2013 early spring) in the "Village at Union Mills"



*Sten-Erik Andreassen, summer 2013
—our youngest grandchild—
born April 17, 1996, and a member of
Tacoma Lodge #106.*



LODGE NEWS



Lodge #8, Dollar Bay, Michigan

Our March meeting had a Saint Patrick's Day theme. Here are some pictures of our outgoing president, Theresa Kokkonen, and our incoming president, Karen Ziemnick. Also included is a picture of some of our members having fun at a ping-pong table.

Submitted by **Jay Ringler**,
Treasurer
Lodge #8 Dollar Bay



Theresa Kokkonen – last time in the President's chair



Karen Ziemnick and Theresa Kokkonen – passing of the gavel



Karen Ziemnick – Back in the President's chair



Jay Ringler, Dennis Schmitz, Brad Banfield, and Tom Ozanich – playing ping-pong on our new table



LODGE NEWS



Lodge #205 New Haven, CT

New Haven Lodge #205 enjoyed our annual “Bowling and Pizza” event on Saturday, January 25, as shown in the accompanying pictures. Bowling were: Roy Kosonen; Klas & Dottie Bjork; Inke Sunila; David & Sirpa Lessig; Stew & Kaarina Lyons; Noora, Aaron, Jamie, & Jason Garnett.

Additional members—Glenn & Sandy Havumaki and Robert & Tuula Burke—joined us for the second portion of the event, a social and dinner gathering at the home of our wonderful host, Inke Sunila. The dinner included appetizers, salads, pizza, and desserts.

My apologies for not taking more pictures during dinner. I must have again been side-tracked by all the delicious foods brought by members. As our host, Inke Sunila, will affirm, as usual, I drank more cups of coffee than the average Finn—and that’s a lot of coffee!

Submitted by *Stew Lyons*



L-R: *Noora, Aaron, Jamie & Jason Garnett; Kaarina Lyons; Roy Kosonen; Klas Bjork; Inke Sunila; David & Sirpa Lessig; Stew Lyons; & Dottie Bjork*



L-R standing: *David Lessig; Inke Sunila; Klas Bjork; & Roy Kosonen*

L-R seated at table: *Kaarina Lyons & Noora Garnett*



L-R :
*Kaarina Lyons
& Noora Garnett*



LODGE NEWS



L-R: *Jason & Jamie Garnett*



L-R: *Inke Sunila & Roy Kosonen*



L-R: *Aaron & Jamie Garnett enjoying the desserts table at Inke's home*

Recipes from Lodge #106, Tacoma, WA

Munio kaka (cake)

3 eggs
1½ cups sugar
1 cup butter
½ cup milk
1½ cup flour
1½ tsp. baking powder
1 tsp. vanilla
cream of wheat (for pan)

Whisk together eggs, vanilla and sugar; melt butter and add milk; and then blend in with eggs, vanilla and sugar. Mix flour and baking powder into the batter. Pour into bundt pan that has been buttered and sprinkled with cream of wheat and bake at 350° F for approximately 35 minutes.

Submitted by **Karlyn Andreassen**
Tacoma Lodge #106

Swedish Potato Salad

4 cold, cooked potatoes, sliced
2 medium cooked beets,
thinly sliced
1 head lettuce
3 egg yolks
salt, pepper and
dry mustard to taste
1 tsp. sugar
¼ cup salad oil
2 tbsp. vinegar
¼ cup cream

The potatoes are sliced and beets are thinly sliced.

The lettuce is also cut into thin strips.

Mix all these vegetables lightly in a bowl.

Make a dressing: by adding the salt, pepper, mustard and sugar to the egg yolks.

While beating, add the oil, vinegar, and the cream in that order.

Pour the dressing over the salad and toss lightly.

Sent in by: **Marita Agnew**
President Tacoma Lodge #106

Genealogy Corner

Readers whose families immigrated from Sundby village in Pedersöre parish will enjoy the following description of life there at the turn of the century, written by a former resident of the village:

SUNDBY

Sundby village in Pedersöre parish lies close to the big highway about 8 km south of old Pedersöre church. A present day traveler would wonder how the village got its name as his eyes can discern nothing other than the little stream that runs through the village from Kovjoki in the south. A hundred years ago when the village acquired its first buildings, it looked different. The names sund, näs, fjärd, and vik, which are still preserved, were then a reality. As late as 1933, it was still possible during the spring floods to see that one could row a boat along the road while the entire group of farms were isolated from each other by a body of water; then one had the impression that the name of the village was well chosen.

Let us look at the village as it appeared immediately after the turn of the century. The village land consisted of a large part of meadowland, which was inundated during the spring and early summer by water that formed fjärds, bays, and channels. During favorable summers these low-lying meadows gave a



June Pelo,
A Dedicated Genealogist

good yield in sedge and horsetail. The rural areas of the cities of Jakobstad and Nykarleby still have large acreage in Sundby. Between these spring-flooded bays and sounds lies a wood-clad neck of land and fertile acreage upon which is situated some of the most noble red-painted farms. In the middle of these acres was the largest farm, Hällnäs, and at each group of farms rye grew during midsummer and in the fall there were splendid rows of tilled land as straight as an arrow.

There is a house in Sundby that is apart from its surroundings in both size and color. It is the large, white 2-storied building at Gästgivars, built some time in the mid-1700s of wood that was

originally intended for Larsmo church. Because of a dispute about building a church in Larsmo, the residents were compelled to postpone work on a church, so part of the wood meant for the church was transported to Sundby and used to build a house intended for four families. The timber in the house is of an unusually coarse pine, which was covered by plaster on the outside. As one of the older houses in the village, it has its own interesting history associated with the time more than 60 years ago when it was made into an inn.

People arrived in horse and carriage. The post messenger drove his own coach for which the best horses were used, and he blew into a horn to make known his arrival. High Russian officials arrived in their coaches and tossed copper coins into the mud of the yard to entertain small boys who greedily threw themselves onto the ground without thinking about getting their clothing dirty or of the delight they furnished the Russian gentlemen.

In addition to this large house in the village, there were several smaller houses near Gästgivars and not far along the main road

was the Sandbacka house. South of the main road was Holländer, to the right and farther along the side road was Kristoffers, and at the end near the woods was the Degernäs house. At the bend of the main road between Smedas and Pysbacka was the elementary school where J.V. Westerlund was a pioneer and Oskar Häggström continued to educate the increasing families.

West of Vannäs fjärd was the group of houses called Vannäs which gave the fjärd its name, and Käll, on the highest hill in the village. From there one had a good view over the surroundings and one could see the high pointed church steeple of Pedersöre, also the church weathervane and bell tower. East of the Vannäs fjärd along the road was Näsebacka, known for its hunters and hounds. Farther along the same road was Svede. On the shore of the stream in the middle of the village was the Grägg house which was called Tontte and Valla, in everyday speech. At the end of Kassnäs creek there was Stor- and Lill-Kassnäs that had a roadway leading to Bennäs road.

If one went from the village to the school through Brännboa woods, it was not very pleasant in the dark. As the old people related, Ryss-Ant died on the road to Kassnäs and no one knew about it until the ravens began to gather around in a mass. At the end of Bennäs road is Hummeljut, known for its blacksmith Hummeljuts Ant.

Sundby residents are modest and reserved. All are industrious farmers who tend their farms, their cows and horses, their

houses and children to the best of their ability. In this connection we cannot omit one person who meant more to the village than many others. He was Gustav Käll who took the initiative in 1898 to undertake what needed to be done and after 38 years and many difficulties, was able to see his life's work completed.

Another person of special interest should be mentioned. Along the road to Gästgivars was a little red cottage beneath high birch and aspen trees.

There lived Kådmakars-Hann (Hanna), known for her medicine in all the parishes. People brought their sick children to her; some came from long distances — from Nedervetil, Oravais, and Vörå. Nearly every day some long-distance visitor asked village residents where this woman lived. She learned her profession from her stepmother Kajs who used to journey all the way to Evijärvi once a week to "doctor" the pastor's sick offspring.

If we continued along the road to Kristoffers, we would see a lonely little red cottage in the

pine woods. In the window we would see geraniums and myrtle, and along the cottage path wild rosebushes blossomed. Rosa Hålländer, called Ros or Sammals-Ros, lived there with her cat, her cow, and her sheep; but she was often seen in the village visiting relatives and neighbors. She was the village encyclopedia. Ask her when anyone was born and you had an answer at once. Ask her anything. She was always cheerful and talkative.

The village store was at Valla. There Lisas-Fi sold 17 candy lozenges for 10 pennies and a stick of licorice for 5 pennies, also sugar, grain, material for clothing, and many other things.

At Gästgivars there was a special poor couple called Ant and Hann. They lived in a little gray hut along the road. Ant fished with his net and Hann earned a few coins helping at the house and then cooked potatoes or a little grain. But she had long fingers. People knew it but pretended they didn't. She only stole what she needed for household use. Funeral feasts were a great

continued on page 10



Sundby village in Pedersöre parish

Genealogy Corner

continued from page 9

event for the couple. Then they had a lot of good food, and the people took up a collection for the poor. Ant and Hann were the poor and the money was given to them. But on Monday Hann was sick. She had obviously eaten too much good food. Then Ant had to walk along the road to the city to buy wine. It was not the first time. Anders and Hanna, as they called each other, went to the lemonade shop and we boys spent all our coins on lemonade that cost 20 pennies a bottle. We had many amusing times with these coins because Anders was touchy and superstitious and it was fun when he became irritated.

The water around Sundby was rich in fish and in addition to being farmers, the men fished during the spring and summer. The only fisherman by trade in the village was Skomakars-Herman, who fished mostly at Flatanabba.

The third day of Christmas was the old men's day. The old men gathered together to discuss internal village affairs. They drank many cups of strong coffee and smoked many pipes of tobacco during the discussion.

People who married in the summer usually held a two-day wedding, while a winter wedding lasted only one day. From one of the large homes the bridal couple and the musicians rode to the bride's home. Byggas-Vick from Östensö was the musician used

most often. He was a quiet and considerate country musician who remained longer at his art than most of the others. Old bridal customs no longer remain and seldom do we see a bride with the large crown on her head. Weddings are more simplified, but a beautiful cloth on a cushion on which the bridal couple knelt is still used and everything is calm and serious.

But life was not only sun and gladness. There was often a funeral ceremony and burial. People gathered at the funeral feast at 6–7 o'clock in the morning. The aroma of spruce twigs and strong coffee drifted through the doorway. Skrädda-Mattas-Alfred would lead with his fragile voice in a hymn, and the funeral guests joined in singing. Later they would return to the church and sing many comforting songs and hymns from the songbook.

This is an approximate picture of life and the people of Sundby during the turn of the century. There have been many changes and the picture we see today has changed in many ways. At the end of 1936 the entire landscape changed. Many of the people written about moved away, customs and practices changed, but all the same, people continue to live there even if under new conditions, and with information to improve and preserve the best from earlier generations. May the new generation not fail!

By Vilhelm Sandnäs from
Den Österbottniska Byn

English translation by
June Pelo

Slow Cooker Recipes

Creamed Ham and Potatoes

Ingredients are:

- 2 lg. red potatoes
- 1/3 cup Velveeta cubed cheese
- 3/4 cup cubed fully cooked ham
- 1 tbsp. dried minced onion
- 2/3 cup condensed cream of celery soup, undiluted
- 1 cup milk
- 1 tbsp. all-purpose flour
- 1/4 tsp. pepper

1. In a 1½ qt. slow cooker coated with cooking spray, layer the potatoes, cheese, ham, and onion.
2. In a small bowl, combine soup and milk. Whisk in flour and pepper. Pour over potatoes. Cover and cook on low for 5–6 hours or until potatoes are tender. Stir before serving.

Makes 2 servings.

Home-style Stew

Ingredients are:

- 1½ pounds lean ground beef
- 1 tsp. chili powder
- 1 can (14½ oz.) stewed tomatoes
- 1 garlic clove, minced
- 1 can (8 oz.) tomato sauce
- 1¼ tsp. salt
- 1 small onion, chopped
- ½ tsp. paprika
- 1 small green onion chopped,
- ¼ tsp. pepper
- 1 small green pepper, chopped
- 1 can chopped green chilies
- ½ cup minced parsley

Crumble the beef into a slow cooker. Add the next 11 ingredients and mix well.

Cover and cook on high for 4 hours or until heated through.

Serve over rice or pasta.

Serve with cheddar, sour cream, or green onions.

Sprinkle parsley on top.

Yield: 6 servings.

Very tasty!

Both recipes by Tacoma Lodge #106
President **Marita Agnew**

Highlights International Supreme Board Conference Call by Skype on February 16, 2014

Attendance: All Board members present
and *Leading Star* Editors

Treasurer's Report: As of 1-31-14

Checking account	\$9,829.56
Money Market	\$4,071.18
CD's	\$64,172.78
Total Funds:	\$74,002.34

Report approved, passed.

Reports:

Financial Secretary's Report – checking account - \$6,511.53 as of February 2014

Scholarship Fund: San Francisco lodge has donated \$ 2,000.00 to the scholarship fund as a tribute to the next generation. Total as of February 16, 2014, (including San Francisco donation) is \$3,511.53. Seattle is sending a donation after they complete their business re: disbanding.

Leading Star: Resolutions are to be printed in the March and June issues in preparation for the August Convention.

Website: Activity is slightly ahead of January 2013 total. The Constitution is currently on the website and the printing of a booklet will be determined after the Convention.

Old Business:

Convention Information: Plans are underway. Information will be posted in the *Leading Star* and the website as plans unfold. A tourist information package will be mailed to all Lodge Presidents. In the package also is a list of all Burnaby hotel/motel facilities within the Burnaby Visitor's Guide.

There are only seven lodges active. These lodges are entitled to send 2 delegates. Board members are entitled to vote. The result is that only 23 members will have voting privileges. All members are welcome and encouraged to participate in the business discussions, but only delegates will cast the deciding votes.

IRA Tax Exemptions: The Supreme Board voted to make a one-time payment to Lodges of \$400.00 each to help offset this fine.

It was with sadness that the passing of long-time member, Jim Agnew, husband of Marita Agnew, President of the Tacoma lodge, was reported. He was an active member of Tacoma lodge—and previously, the Western District and Portland lodge. A card of condolence will be sent to the family on behalf of the board.

Security Lodge Information: Membership is collected at \$15.00 per year. This entitles the member to receive the *Leading Star*.

Meeting adjourned at 6:02 p.m. PST

Respectfully Submitted:
Annabelle Kergan

Obituary

James "Jim" Agnew

January 11, 1932,
to January 31, 2014

Born on January 11, 1932, to Robert and Lorraine Jones in Bozeman, Montana, adopted by the Agnew family in Olympia at the age of 12. Dad attended Olympia High, graduating in 1950. He married Marita Gustafson on October 30, 1954, at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church in Olympia, Washington.

Dad had a love of singing that took him from the choir at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church to the Air Force quartet he sang in while stationed in Kirksville, Missouri. He sang for many years with the Order of Runeberg choirs that traveled in the USA, Canada, and Finland. He loved singing the songs when they came to him.

Dad also loved his flowers and his yard in both Vancouver and Olympia. He had an abundant amount of flowers with a beautiful variety of colors most of the year round. He loved working on his needlepoint pictures that were given as gifts to many family members and to his friends. Also, he was not afraid to try his hand at other handcrafts, such as macramé and latch hook rugs for his little grandchildren.

He and Mom welcomed four special children into this world: David, Bill, Kathleen, and Karlyn. They had seven grandchildren: Michelle, Rebekah, Melissa, Connor, Austin, Mikaela, and Sten-Erik and five great grandchildren: Brandon, Jayna, Kaylyn, Anabelle, and Sawyer.

Dad left us on January 31, 2014, after a short illness. Please remember him with fondness, for he loved you all and appreciated your friendship. May he rest in peace.

Submitted by the
Agnew Family



Hotel Recommendations for the 2014 IOR Convention

The welcome mat is out for the 2014 International Order of Runeberg Convention, August 15th and 16th, to be held in Burnaby, B.C., and hosted by Vancouver Lodge #124.

Yes, it is time to start making plans as you anticipate coming to the Convention!

Each lodge has been sent a tourist package so that visitors will have some idea of what Burnaby and Vancouver have to offer. The president of each lodge has been asked to share this with their members. Included is a guide to Burnaby with a map indicating the location of the Scandinavian Community Centre.

We have been asked to inform members as to available accommodation. In the package sent to all lodges the pamphlet about Burnaby has a list of all the major hotels and motels available in our area.

As well, the committee contacted four facilities that have offered a discount should they receive a booking of five rooms or more. Each of these four hotel/motels has the Order of Runeberg on file with our Convention dates registered. If using one of these venues, please mention that you are with the Order. All bookings are done by individuals requiring accommodation and not through the Convention Committee. The information is only provided to help you decide for yourself where you wish to be.

Here are the four facilities that the committee visited with some personal comments added. All the facilities have websites so they can easily be checked out via the Internet.

Our website www.orderofruneberg.org also carries the information for all available places in Burnaby.

ACCENT INN:

3777 Henning Drive, Burnaby

1-604-473-5000 www.accentinns.com

The Inn has a shuttle service that can be booked to take you to and from the Centre.

Rate quoted for a group booking is \$119 plus tax. (Anita Fraess, Assist. Manager)

BEST WESTERN KINGS INN:

5411 Kingsway, Burnaby

1-604-438-1383 www.bestwesternkingsinn.com

Rate quoted for group booking is single queen, \$109 plus tax.; two queen, \$ 119 plus tax.

(Vivian Leung, Booking/Conference Manager)

EXECUTIVE INN:

4201 Lougheed Hwy. Burnaby

1-604-298-2010 www.executivehotels.net/Burnaby

Rate quoted = Queen Suite with a pullout sofa bed is \$115 plus tax (Sales Manager Matt Clooten)

DELTA BURNABY:

4331 Dominion Street, Burnaby

1-604-453-0754 www.deltahotels.com/burnaby

Rate quoted is \$119 plus tax – or \$149 deluxe plus tax (Tyler Foley, Conference Services Manager)

The Accent Inn: small, friendly – restaurant attached, lot parking – shuttle available

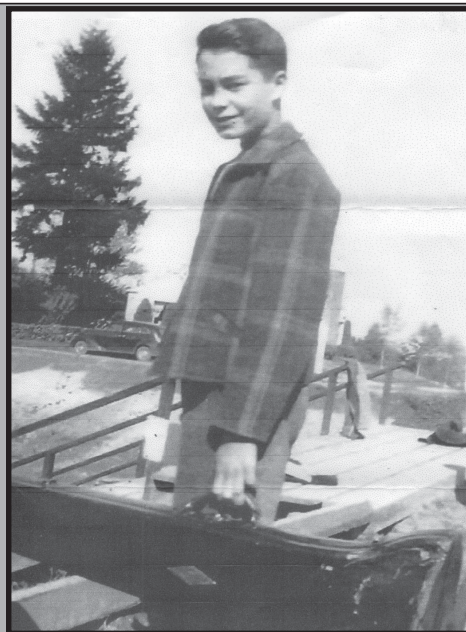
The Best Western: small, friendly – restaurant attached, lot parking

Executive Inn: larger hotel (reserved 10 rooms for group rate), friendly, nice restaurant within – lot and underground parking

Delta Inn: (10 rooms for group rate) very large, newly renovated hotel with large grand casino attached – friendly, underground parking – possible shuttle

All these facilities are not far from the Centre, but the Delta Inn is the closest.

The two larger hotels might give a group rate if fewer rooms are booked.



James "Jim" Agnew
January 11, 1932 to January 31, 2014

Norden editor honored

Erik R. Hermans recently received an award from Svenskk-Österbottniska Samfundet (Swedish Ostrobothnian Society) for his cultural contributions. He is the editor-in-chief of *Norden*, the only Swedish newspaper that is published in the U.S. The paper focuses on the news of the Swedish-speaking population in Finland.

Hermans is from Närpes, a town in the Ostrobothnia region of Western Finland, but he has lived in New York for several decades.

Chairman of Svensk-Österbottniska Samfundet, Kjell Herberts, had high praises for the man: "With his one-man editorial staff in Manhattan, New York, Herman has maintained an informative newspaper on events related to Swedish-speaking Finland for over 50 years.

"Despite the limited financial opportunities and the diminishing target audience, Hermans has done tireless work for preserving the link between Nordic American immigrants and their old home country—it's a cultural and social achievement that deserves appreciation."

Kjell Herberts also noted that *Norden* is the only Finland-Swedish newspaper that isn't connected to a particular Finnish region. Ever since Hermans began as the editor in 1962, every issue has dedicated a page to each four areas that are populated by Swedish-speaking people in Finland: Ostrobothnia, Nyland, Åboland, and Åland.

The paper is the oldest Finnish newspaper outside of Finland.

Hermans officially retired in 1995, but nobody, including himself, has noticed a change of pace since then.

"I don't know how to be idle," he said. "I always need to be doing something."

He attended the festivities in Vaasa, Finland, on Wednesday, February 5, but flew back to New York less than four days later to work on the next issue of his paper.

Editor's note: This story, which originally appeared in Swedish in *Norden*, was translated for FAR by Minna Salomaa.

The Finnish American Reporter
March 2014

Tataran Romany Gypsy

In Oravais now and then you would see a cart or wagon pulled by a horse, coming or going on Vasa vagen, R 8 these days. The people were strange and fascinating to us. As we could hear them speak it was not Finnish, Swedish, Russian or German. They were speaking Romany. How were Goran and I supposed to know that, they were scary and mysterious; casting spells right and left. The reason that the cow went dry, the hen quit laying, the mink got out, the tooth ached, etc., etc. Papa explained that these people from Europe who traveled around looking for work and earned money by fixing things and telling fortunes. They also were good at repairing horse harnesses. Fafa, my father's dad, let them camp in the field south of Famos near the big rock that was hit by lightning all the time. Don't go near that rock when you hear thunder or you will be gone in a flash. Goran and I developed a theory. If you run by in a flash, you won't be hit by a flash. Anyway "Havis" and "Famos" were not bothered by the Tataran much. But in Oravais it was different. The word went out quickly. Tataran kommer, store to store doors closed and locked, shades pulled. Here in America we call it mob shoplifting, or something else until the government can think (sorry, misnomer) or come up with a new agency to fix it, but first they have to fund it. Back to the tale of the Tataran. Doors closed, locked, shade down. Faster Anna owned a store, sorry it was a "Boutique" in Oravais she sold items used in sewing, needles, thread, etc. Faster Anna in command as usual, "Under the counter, don't talk, don't breathe, don't make a move, don't make a sound." We can't. You're scaring the hell out of us. Goran and I, wide-eyed and trembling. This is it we will never be confirmed, called into the S/A (Suomi Arme), vote for the Svenska Folkpartiet candidate or anything! This must be the end of us. Softly, Anna said, would you like something to drink while we wait? We said yes and they went away. We will get to vote. We won't be sold into slavery. Tak och Lov! We had our first "Pilsner" beer sitting under the counter with Faster Anna. The day of the invasion of the Oravais Boutique was over. Goran and I agreed "POMACH" tasted better.

Submitted by *Roger Gustafson*,
Lodge #106 Tacoma



Finnfest USA 2014 Destination The Twin Cities Region

Why come to the Twin Cities in 2014? Because this lively Finnish community is enticing us to experience 21st Century Finnish and Finnish-American life and thought.

In this urban setting, we will explore new ways to share Finland and Finnish America with all Americans. Come to celebrate and enjoy a vital culture that continues to challenge and enrich us. Come to meet and share time with others also intrigued by Finland and Finnish America in this global village we all live in today.

Come to Minneapolis, the weekend of August 8–10. Plan a two- to three-day weekend filled with the sights, the sounds, and the ideas of Finland and Finnish America, two days of lectures, panels, and music followed by a third day of fun planned for all ages. FinnFest USA's tori will anchor these three days. Come early on Thursday for an all-day genealogy workshop. Or come early enough to attend the Opening Ceremony on Thursday evening, August 7.

Music for all tastes and ages, traditional as well as contemporary, means a rare opportunity to feast on Finnish music, to explore all kinds of Finnish music in an American setting. Folk and classical music will mingle with world, jazz, pop, and rock, and for the first time ever, at a FinnFest USA, hip-hop.

Come even earlier, starting on August 5. Join a group cheering at a Twins game on Tuesday or Wednesday. Or attend our two-day education conference, "From Cradle to Career: Education for a 21st Century World." Or take a tour out to Cokato, the oldest continuous Finnish community in North America. Give yourself more leisurely time to visit three outstanding exhibits at the Minneapolis Institute of Art, the American Swedish Institute, and the Textile Center.

If you attended FinnFest USA 2013, you experienced the life and energy of one of the great centers of Finnish America, the Copper Country in the northernmost part of the Upper Peninsula. The entire U.P., a region widely known as a densely Finnish population area, defines an Upper Midwest version of Finnish American traditions.

Less known, the Twin Cities in Minnesota has emerged as the 21st Century home of the largest metropolitan area of Finns in the USA...yes, larger than Detroit, Seattle, the Bay Area, Boston, and New York City, all communities that, in the mid 20th Century, could have claimed that status. Like Seattle and the Bay Area, this region's Finns live in close harmony with Swedes, Norwegians, Danes, and Icelanders. In the Twin Cities, the five groups create a national Nordic voice speaking up for Nordic values in the USA.

Come to see what this urban center is all about. Let's commemorate that we Finns have been a continuous stream of migration since 1864, and let's start to talk about a future we can build with Finland and with America. Come to Minneapolis August 8–10 ... a two- to three-day weekend filled with the sights, sounds, and ideas of Finland and Finnish America.

by *Marianne Wargelin*

See www.finnfestusa2014 for more information.
From the Internet

**Visit our
website:**
www.orderofruneberg.org

**Please submit all
news, resolutions, and articles by
June 8
for publication in the June
*Leading Star***

Proposals for Change for Discussion at the 2014 IOR Convention

1. Be it resolved that the International Order of Runeberg be dissolved.

Pro: The dissolution resolve is due to extreme shrinking membership, cost of Conventions, and the decline in activities that a Supreme Board is required to do.

Con: Continuation of the Order in its current form would be possible with the restructuring of the organization and changes to the Constitution and Bylaws allowing the Order of Runeberg to continue.

2. Be it resolved that International Conventions be discontinued due to shrinking membership and extensive cost of Conventions.

Pro: and **Con:** Remains the same as for Resolution number 1.

3. Be it resolved that after December 2014, no more monies in the form of dues be forwarded to the Supreme Board Treasury by local lodges.

Pro: The discontinuance of dues would enable all remaining Lodges to keep their dues collected within their own treasury for local use. It would also decrease the total amount of money needed to be re-directed should the Order of Runeberg be dissolved.

Con: The dues collected would continue to support the Order of Runeberg for the purposes for which it currently uses said funds.

4. Be it resolved that should the Supreme Board be discontinued, the remaining lodges may continue to operate under the name of the Order of Runeberg.

Pro: A resolve to determine the legality of using the name Order of Runeberg by individual groups that wish to retain the name status.

Con: Without this necessary resolve, remaining Lodges wishing to continue independently would possibly have to change their name, possibly contrary to the wishes of the majority.

5. Be it resolved that should the Supreme Board be eliminated, the *Leading Star* will continue to publish until all International Order of Runeberg business is completed.

Pro: The *Leading Star* is the main source of communication between all remaining members.

Con: Without this resolve, the *Leading Star* could be abolished before any finalization of the Order of Runeberg would be complete.

6. Be it resolved that should the Supreme Board be disbanded, a designated portion of the remaining funds be sent to the existing lodges to use for their local scholarship fund, charity, or lodge use. The amount should be established by a committee and then presented to the membership for final decision making.

Pro: This resolve would allow for pre-planning of the designation of funds that are held in the Supreme Board treasury.

Con: Without a resolve to pre-plan the designation of funds, hasty decisions could lead to detrimental results.

7. Be it resolved that in the event that the International Order of Runeberg disbands, all money remaining after bills, disbursements, and such related money matters are complete, that the residue of the Treasury be sent to the Swedish-Finn Historical Society, the legal repository for all documents pertaining to the Order of Runeberg.

Pro: The Swedish Finn Historical Society is the organization that has been the repository for all lodge documents. They have been responsible for archiving Order of Runeberg materials for many years.

Con: Spreading any remaining funds to several other organizations would be for good-will purposes.

Submitted by **Lorene Mara**,
President of Lodge #124,
Vancouver, B.C., Canada
Janet Duxbury, Secretary

Security Lodge Change

Change the name
“security lodge member”
to
“associate member”
to better reflect a more
appropriate terminology.

THE LEADING STAR

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

Address Service Requested

2014 INTERNATIONAL ORDER OF RUNEBERG SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION RULES

The International Order of Runeberg (IOR) has three (3) scholarships, each in the amount of \$1,000.00, available annually to ALL members of IOR pursuing education at an institution of higher learning or a vocational school or for further studies towards an advanced degree.

The scholarship is open not only to high school graduates but to adults and college students who meet the eligibility requirements.

**Scholarship application must be received
by April 30 of the current year.**

The eligibility rules are:

1. All members of the IOR are eligible to apply.
2. Applicant must be a current member in good standing (dues paid) of the IOR and have been a member for at least one year prior to application. Verification of membership must be submitted by the Financial Secretary of the applicant's lodge.
3. An applicant may win a scholarship every two years (not consecutive years) for a maximum of three scholarships.
4. Impartial judges will be chosen by the Supreme Board each year.

5. Application must be typed or neatly written.

6. Letter of recommendation (optional) may be included from a teacher, employer, or community service supervisor.

7. Application must be accompanied with a copy of the applicant's transcript, if applicable.

8. On a separate single page, write a statement telling why you should be awarded this scholarship (must be typewritten).

9. Send completed application along with verification of membership, any letters of recommendation and transcript (if applicable) to:



Lorene Mara
2nd Vice President,
Scholarship Chairman
2021 Palliser Avenue
Coquitlam, B.C. V3K 1W8
Canada

**The application form is available online at
www.orderofruneberg.org
or by writing to the editors at the address on page 2.**