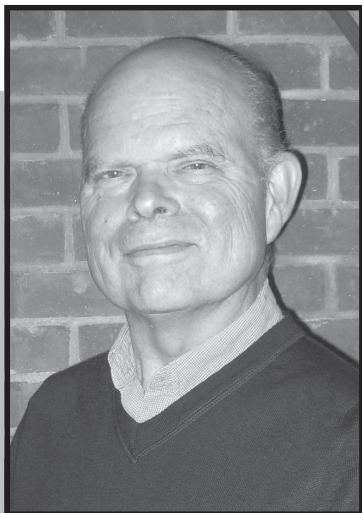




LEADING STAR LEDSTJÄRNAN

CVIII EST. 1906 La Palma, California December 2014 Number 4 www.orderofruneberg.org

International Order of Runeberg Supreme Board President's Message



*Greetings to our
members
in Canada, Finland,
and USA.*

As I write this "President's Message" on December 7th, I would like to mention that December 8th is the birthday of the great Finnish composer Jean Sibelius, born in Hämeenlinna, Finland. Next year will mark the 150th anniversary of his birth. As mentioned in the Finlandia Foundation's "December News of Finnish America" email, celebrations are planned around the globe, including dozens of events in the U.S. supported by Finlandia Foundation National. You may

also learn more about Sibelius at our IOR website: From the home page, orderofruneberg.org, select the "Cultural Topics," then select "Sibelius & Finlandia," or use this link:
www.orderofruneberg.org/culturaltopics/sibeliusfinlandia.html.

In addition to learning about Sibelius, the web page has two links to performances of Sibelius' "Finlandia" (Hunter College & NPR), and since these links will open in a separate browser window, you'll be able to listen to "Finlandia", while at

continued on page 2

*God Jul Och Gott Nott År
From the Supreme Board & Michigan Resident Agent*

Annabelle Kergan
Past President

Stewart Lyons
President

Nils Holm
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2nd Vice President

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Resident Agent



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Ready for the new year

This year is coming to a close and the new year is not far off. For those applying for scholarships the deadline for application comes very much quicker this year. Applications must be received by February 15, 2015, and you should allow extra time for mailing to Canada. Also, two different types of scholarships are available this year. In addition to the normal higher education scholarship there is one for the study of the Swedish or Finnish languages. All the information about the scholarships is found on page 15 of this paper.

We will be experiencing a change in the IOR next year, but let us not keep that from our continuing to share about ourselves and meeting together.

—DH

President's Message

continued from page 1

the same time, continue exploring our website!

As mentioned in the September *Leading Star* issue's "President's Message", I reported, with sadness, that the delegates representing their respective lodges, after much discussion, resolved that the International Order of Runeberg be dissolved, effective March 31, 2015, with the Supreme Board serving until no later than March 31, 2015, to resolve legal and financial matters. Also reported: (1) it was resolved that should the Supreme Board be discontinued, the remaining lodges may continue to operate under the name of the "Order of Runeberg" and (2) After determining that the annual costs for the *Leading*

Star newspaper publication are approximately \$3,000 and our editors, Dale & Mary Lou Hjort, are willing to continue their service, it was decided to allocate \$9,000 (with a small portion going to our website), which should allow *Leading Star* and website publication for almost three years, assuming the remaining lodges contribute content articles and pictures.

Note that the next issue of the *Leading Star* will be the last issue that represents the International Order of Runeberg. The content of the following issues will represent the continued goals of maintaining Swedish-speaking Finnish and Finnish culture & traditions. In light of the planned March 31st IOR



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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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Board dissolution, please think about and offer your suggestions for a *Leading Star* column to replace this IOR "President's Message" column. You may email your suggestions to the *Leading Star* editors (Email: d.mlhjort@juno.com), or myself (Email: stewlyons@gmail.com).

There's a page on our website to view pictures from our IOR 2014 Convention. You may view it by going to our "Home" page, <http://www.orderofruneberg.org>, and click on the Convention pictures page link. Attendees who have pictures from the convention who would like to share and display on our website may email pictures to me. Please provide a caption (i.e.: description, names) in your email for the picture(s) you send.

For lodges that plan to continue after March 31st, I encour-

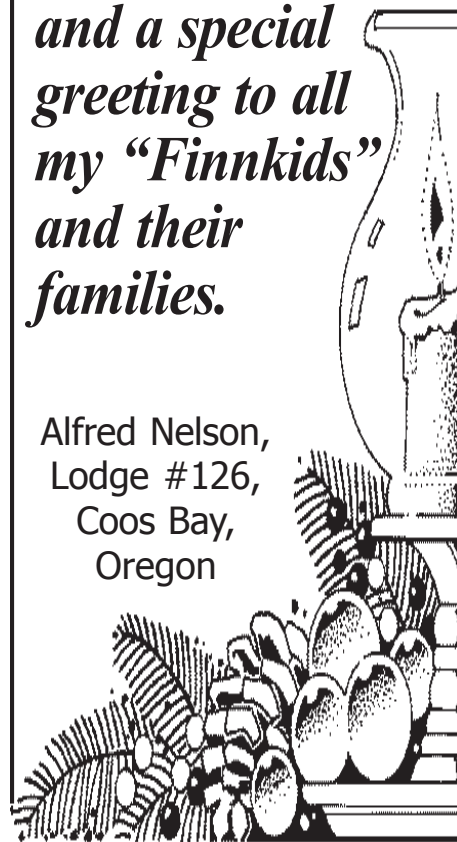
age your lodge to take advantage of their lodge's web page on our website. Have you checked your lodge's web page? Does it reflect accurate up-to-date lodge information (meetings schedule, meetings locations)? Is there information to encourage potential new members to contact the lodge? If your lodge would like information posted on your lodge's web page, email or call me—contact info above, and at our website.

*Have a
Merry Christmas
and
Happy New Year!*

Stew Lyons
President, IOR

*Holiday
greetings to all
and a special
greeting to all
my "Finnkids"
and their
families.*

Alfred Nelson,
Lodge #126,
Coos Bay,
Oregon



Finland will increase retirement age over next 10 years

Finland's minimum retirement age will rise gradually to 65 years as part of a 2 billion euro (\$2.6 billion) long-term pension reform agreed on September 26 by employers and a number of trade unions.

Lifting the retirement age, which the coalition government says will ease the cost of caring for Finland's aging population, has been a sensitive subject in the Nordic country in recent years. In 2009, the previous government backed off such a plan after resistance from unions and leftist parties.

Some unions walked out of the talks that resulted in the deal although their opposition is not likely to derail the changes.

The government is also planning reforms to healthcare and local government as it seeks to ease

the strain on public finances of demographic change and slower growth in one of Europe's few remaining triple-A rated economies.

In a statement, the government, which faces elections next April, said the deal will cover about a quarter of an estimated long-term fiscal gap of around 4 percent of gross domestic product, or 8 billion euros.

"This deal strengthens the credibility of Finland's economic policy," said Jyri Hakamies, director general of the Confederation of Finnish Industries.

But some trade unions rejected the agreement.
—*The Finnish American Reporter*
November 2014

Genealogy Corner

Vörå Descendant Finds His Roots

Most Finlanders have some relatives in the U.S. While some have had contact with their relatives throughout the years, others have had contact only through the things sent to them by relatives in America. In the U.S. there is a newly awakened interest in restoring contact with relatives in the Nordic countries. Genealogy was the method used by Harald Faber of Minnetonka, Minnesota, to contact his relatives in Vörå. In the summer of 1996 he visited Finland for the first time. Two years later he returned with several of his family members.

According to ship passenger lists, over 1.3 million people emigrated from harbors in Sweden between 1859 and 1893. The emigrants came from all the Nordic countries, and later many of them came to work in the places shown as the destination in passenger lists.

A Million Emigrated

Over a million Finlanders have emigrated during the last 100 years, with most of them from Lappland, Österbotten, and Åland. Without emigration, Finland would today have an estimated 6–7 million inhabitants. One can study this on the CD disk “Emigrants” that is found in the Genealogical Society library in Finland. The stream of emi-



June Pelo,
A Dedicated Genealogist

grants from Finland went in waves. The first wave in the 1600s went to middle Sweden's uninhabited wooded areas.

The U.S. emigration began around the 1860s and went on until the 1930s when the U.S. began to introduce restrictions on immigration. In the 1850s and 1860s Sweden did not tempt any Finlander to pack his suitcase. About a fifth of all who left from Finland to the U.S. had Swedish as a mother tongue, or in other words, 73,000 of Finland's Swedes emigrated during 1870–1929.

New Interest in Genealogy

It is a well-known fact that many Finlanders landed in Minnesota. During later years Swedish Americans had a newly awakened interest for the “Old Country” and vice versa. Films such as “Fargo” and “Titanic” described aspects and the consequences of the life and country to which most Nordic people came. A musical has also been made

based on Moberg's book *Utvandrarna (The Emigrants)*.

Contact Ceased

Here in Finland some still wonder what has happened since the last letter arrived. Many have lost contact because the first emigrants' children and grandchildren did not write or have moved without giving a new address.

Through genealogy Harald Faber, with roots in Rejpelt village in Vörå, found several new friends in Vörå. His mother's mother's mother was Lovisa Fredson, and she emigrated at the turn of the century to reunite with her husband Johan West, who had emigrated two years earlier. Their destination was Two Harbors, Minnesota, which is on Lake Superior. The customary jobs for the male emigrants were working on the ore ships and harbor work. Johan also worked for a mining company in the harbor of Two Harbors. His great grandson visited Vörå for the first time in 1996. On that trip he had a pedigree chart of names of people unknown to him, whose names he found through a genealogical organization in the U.S.

Rapid Integration in the New Land

In Vörå it was known that several Vörå residents had traveled to Two Harbors. But that was all. Letter contact had slacked off rather quickly. Perhaps it was because of events in the family of the people who emigrated. Several children died at a young

age and perhaps the people did not realize it was important to keep in contact with the Old Country. Finland's Swedes in the US were quickly integrated into the new land.

Many Took a New Name

To adapt to the change, many people changed to a more English-sounding name. So did Johan and Lovisa. They took the names John and Louisa Westrom. In the beginning they spoke Swedish in the home, but after a while the children began to answer their parents in English, so gradually they began to speak only English.

In the summer of 1998 when Harald Faber visited Vörå together with his mother Helen, his mother's brother Jim Hall and his wife Jean, as well as three of the family's children, Helen began with greetings in Swedish but thereafter she spoke in English. One of the grandchildren, Anna Marinos, had a summer

job at a bakery and she said that she worked with several Finlanders whose father's and mother's parents spoke Finnish when they came to the US. They still speak Finnish among themselves and Anna wondered if it is because Finnish grammar is more different from English than Swedish is.

Contact Through Associations and Internet

Today in the US there are organizations whose purpose is to facilitate genealogy and preserve the Swedish cultural heritage. The International Order of Runeberg is located in several places. Among them: Worcester, Massachusetts; Tacoma, Washington; Dollar Bay, Michigan; Eureka, California; Coos Bay, Oregon; New Haven, Connecticut. The Order maintains an archive and assists with information about Swedish descendants and their activities in the US.

The Swedish Finn Historical Society is a rather new society

that was established in 1991. They work to preserve the Finland Swedish cultural heritage in the US. The Society maintains a public archive for researchers and has members in the US, the Nordic countries, and Canada. In addition to these two organizations, there are other Finnish American organizations and clubs in the US that work to maintain contact and information between both countries. More about them can also be found on the Internet.

Finland and Vasa in Minnesota

Minnesota resembles Scandinavia. It is no wonder so many emigrants quickly adjusted to the new country. As a joke or to alleviate homesickness, cities were named after places in the Old Country. "Finland" is a little place not far from Silver Bay on Lake Superior. "Vasa" also is supposed to be somewhere in Minnesota. Both towns are in places with agriculture as the largest source of income, related Anna and Harald during their visit to Vörå.

It was most interesting for the families from Minnesota to see the place from which their mother's mother's mother emigrated. The house no longer stands, but the place today is near Storberget's dance hall and summer theater. The red loft and family estate that were used to establish a fund for the theater

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Discovering Vasa, an historic Swedish settlement in Minnesota. Vasa, named in honor of King Gustav Vasa, Swedish ruler from 1523 to 1560.



LODGE NEWS



Lodge #205 New Haven, Connecticut

Annual

“Fall Hike & Potluck Dinner”

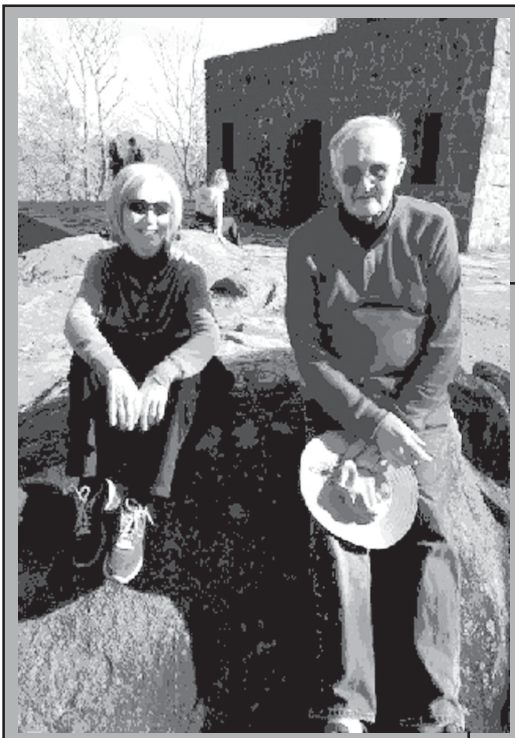
New Haven Lodge #205 enjoyed our annual “Fall Hike & Potluck Dinner” on Saturday, October 25th. As shown in the accompanying pictures, we hiked at Sleeping Giant State Park in Hamden, CT, taking the hiking trail that leads all the way up to

the Lookout Tower. The weather was perfect—dry, sunny, with moderate fall season temperatures.

Additional lodge members and family joined us for the second portion of the event, the Potluck Dinner, wonderfully hosted

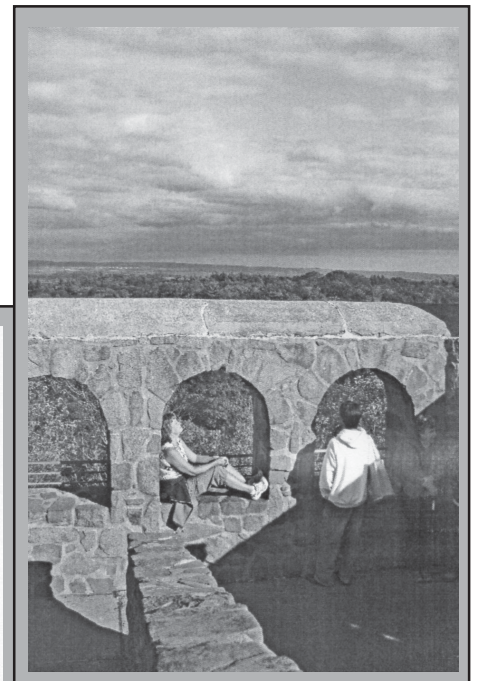
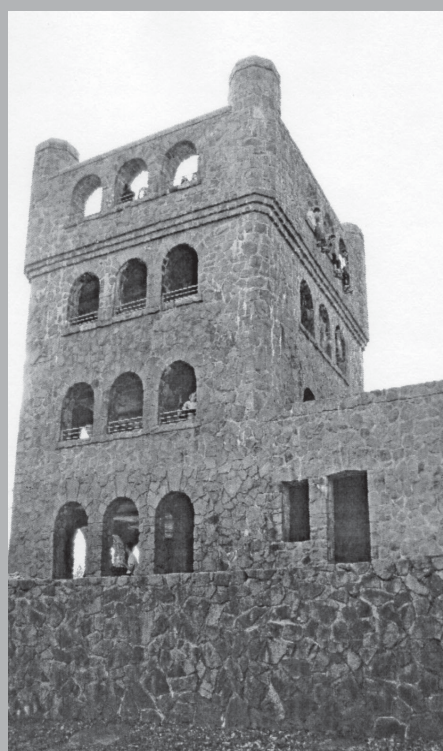
by Doug Davies and Liisa Lindholm. The appetizers, main dishes, salads, and desserts provided by our hosts and members were all delicious. My apologies for not taking pictures during the Potluck Dinner.

Stew Lyons



*Sirpa Lessig and
Klas Bjork with Lookout
Tower in background*

*View of the
Lookout Tower*



*View from Lookout
Tower's top level*

Genealogy Corner

continued from page 5

plays is a good example of how an Östrobothnian farmer cottage looked at the time when Lovisa decided to follow her Johan to the US.

Fifteen-year-old Rachel had a chance to find out how it was to sleep in the "girl's loft" during a warm summer night at the close of the previous century. Her brother Dennis was more interested in Finland's rock music and had a list of purchases to take to Vasa the next day.

Work in the Mines, in the Woods or as a Home Servant

Finland's Swedes often chose their residence in the new country according to the work they did in their homeland. Tailors and craftsmen worked in New York, Boston, Cleveland, or Chicago. Seamen often became construction workers in harbor cities, while quarries in Maine drew hundreds of workers from Finland. Lumberjacks of Finnish stock were usually in the northern states and in Fitchburg, Massachusetts. Detroit and Chicago offered jobs to industrial workers. One of the largest employers was the mining industry. Women were coveted as servants in well-to-do families and they also worked in the textile industry. It was typical that people gathered in the US in "settlements" together with people

from the same parish or village. Many of Finland's Swedish Österbottningars lived in Worcester, Massachusetts, while Ålanders settled in Norwood, Massachusetts. Nykarleby residents are found in Coos Bay, Oregon, and many Ålander, Terjärv, and Närpes residents chose to live in New York.

Picky Eaters

As an example, in the publication issued by the Swedish Finn Historical Society (Newsletter April 1, 1997) is a narration by Arthur Mattson who emigrated from Terjärv. He worked as a "logger" in the area of Rochester, Washington, in the 1910s.

"Loggers worked from daylight to dark. They usually had to live in bunkhouses out in the woods and there was nothing nice about them. There were about 10 to 20 loggers in each bunkhouse. The logging camps had to provide good food in order to keep the good loggers. If the food was not good, the good logger would move to another camp that was reputed to have good food."

By Maria Holmström, Helsingfors Norden, 2 March 2000

English translation by
June Pelo



Eric Norman Westerberg

passed away October 16, 2014, at his home on Mercer Island, WA, at the age of 85. He was born February 10, 1929, in Detroit to Swedish speaking Finns who returned to Finland when he was one year old. He went to school in Turku and served in the Finnish Military as a teenage volunteer during WWII. In 1950 he married his hometown sweetheart Benita Eklund. After Norm received his MSc in Chemical Engineering from Åbo Akademi in 1953, the two moved to the USA after learning that Norm had dual citizenship by birth. After taking a temporary job in Pennsylvania, Norm was promptly drafted into the US Army in June 1954. After basic training he was sent to Germany for 18 months while Benita stayed behind in Gardner, MA. In latter 1955, Benita and newborn son Dan joined Norm in Germany. A year later the family moved to Cleveland, OH, where Norm worked as a project engineer for a major chemical manufacturer. In 1956, they returned to Finland where Norm was



employed by EKONO Consulting Engineers—a relation that would last for close to thirty years. After the birth of their daughter Chris in Helsinki, the family was sent to Oak Ridge, TN, where Norm participated in a one-year international course in nuclear power safety; son Ken was also born here.

Norm worked for clients worldwide, his major interests being energy and environmental conservation. He was named EKONO's Executive Vice President for the company in 1971. During the years 1967–69, the

family moved to Bellevue, WA, while Norm commuted to Seattle while starting up an EKONO subsidiary of EKONO Inc., providing energy saving and pollution control technology to the US forest products industry. The next ten years, back in Finland, as a representative of EKONO, Norm held leadership roles in organizations like the World Energy Conference and the International Federation of Consulting

Engineers. He presented some one hundred publications and lectures in over twenty countries in his field of interest.

In September 1979 Norm returned to the Northwest to serve as President of EKONO Inc., which was now located in Bellevue, WA. The family soon followed and it became clear that this was the last move. Norm became heavily involved in local Finnish and Nordic activities. He joined both the Finnish Lutheran Church and the Finnish Choral Society in Seattle, serving terms as President with both. He funded the Finnish American Chamber of Commerce in the Northwest in 1981, and was a cofounder of the Swedish Finn Historical Society in 1991. He served as Vice President of the Swedish Club, President of the Advisory Board of the UW Scandinavian Department, and was a long time Trustee of the Nordic Heritage Museum.

In 1985 Norm was appointed Honorary Consul of Finland for Washington State, serving as such for sixteen years. He served as Chairman for FinnFest USA '89 held on the UW campus, and served ten years on the FinnFest USA national board. During the period 1998–2007 he served as Vice Speaker of the Finnish Expatriate Parliament, representing Finnish immigrants and their descendants in the USA and Latin American. A favorite hobby was immigration research, and he presented

“Profile of Nordic Americans 1850–2000.”

He was bestowed the
insignia of Knight Commander
of the Finnish Order of the
Lion, presented in 1996
by then President
Martti Ahtisaari of Finland.

many lectures and articles on the theme “Profile of Nordic Americans 1850–2000.” He was bestowed the insignia of Knight Commander of the Finnish Order of the Lion, presented in 1996 by then President Martti Ahtisaari of Finland.

Above all, family was most important to Norm. Finnish summers were spent with the family on the islands of the Finnish Archipelago, where extended family would meet, and where lifelong friendships were made that continue to this day. Norm had a wonderful sense of humor, was an accomplished accordion player, and a skilled woodworker who built many a deck, shelving, and outhouse on the Finnish islands. Norm loved home projects, and sought any excuse to make a run to the local hardware store. He enjoyed solitaire, reading, Milano cookies, and listening to “The Scandinavian Hour” on KKNW

1150 Saturday mornings. He was a loving, involved Mofi/Fafa who was a frequent presence in stands or on sidelines at sporting events of the grandkids. He attended many school functions, and particularly enjoyed getting the kids out among nature to visit favorite places of Enatai and Luther Burbank parks, and canoeing excursions in the arboretum.

Norm is survived by his beloved wife of 63 years, Benita; son Dan Westerberg; daughter Chris (Fanis) Beroukas; son Ken (Nancy) Westerberg; granddaughters Vanessa and Niki Beroukas; grandsons Tom and Mike Westerberg; and great-granddaughter Madison Westerberg. He also leaves behind brother Finn (Solveig) Westerberg in Stockholm, Sweden. He was preceded in death by a brother Sven in Sweden, and a sister Maggie in Finland. Norm will be greatly missed by all who knew him.

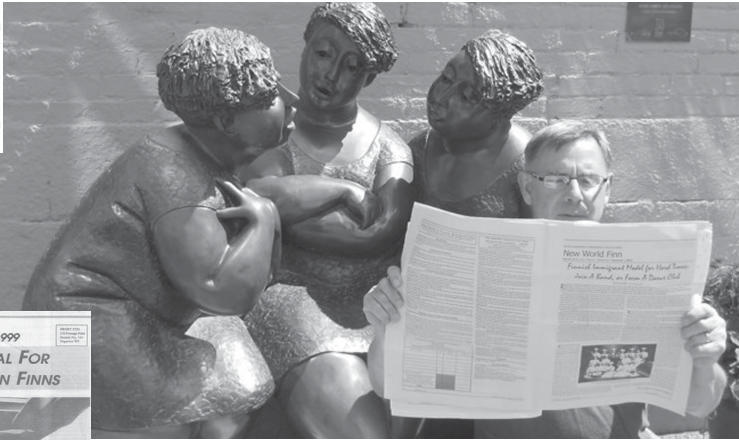
Memorial Service was held Saturday, November 22, 11:00 a.m., Finnish Lutheran Church, 8504 13th Ave. NW, Seattle, WA 98117.

Remembrances can be made to Nordic Heritage Museum, 3014 NW 67th St., Seattle, WA 98117.

Published in *The Seattle Times* from Nov. 7 to Nov. 8, 2014

Editor’s note: Norman was a member of Seattle, Washington Lodge #101.

Finnish-American newspaper to cease publication



Enjoying the “New World Finn”

Cedar Grove, Wisc.—After 15 years of publishing, first as a monthly then as a quarterly, “New World Finn” will cease publication after its December 2014 issue.

“We tried to carry on as long as we could,” said publisher Ivy Nevala, who served in that role for the publication since its inception in 1999. “We wanted to continue doing our work, so it’s kind of bittersweet.”

The paper’s founding could be described as kind of bitter, as well. “New World Finn” formed during a turbulent transition period in the world of Finnish-American newspapers. Tyomies Society was in the process of relocating “Finnish American Reporter” to Suomi College (now Finlandia University) and the Society was stricken with internal conflict. This came to a head, and several members left the society and formed their own newspaper.

In its early years, “New World Finn” was a competitor with “FAR,” but over time the rivalry faded and the papers

enjoyed a collegial working relationship.

According to information published in the journal’s Autumn 2014 edition, “New World Finn” serves approximately 250 subscribers throughout North America. While those involved with the paper enjoyed their work immensely, the low subscriber numbers made the decision to cease publication all but inevitable.

“The biggest challenge is to try to get circulation that would make the paper viable,” Nevala explained. “People like to share newspapers, which is fine, but that doesn’t bring any income to the publisher.”

In the Autumn 2014 issue, Nevala wrote: “It is no longer financially feasible to continue publishing, because our readership is so small. That is true, and it’s a picture of our Finnish American society. Younger people aren’t interested or don’t have the time to read.”

Those who did read “New World Finn” during the last decade and a half were well

served by editors who, Nevala said, were ideal for their roles.

“Gerry Henkel and Lynn Laitala (both of whom had served as FAR editors at one point) did an outstanding job,” she said. “They have tremendous connections within the Finnish community and that was a big plus for us.”

It wasn’t just those who had the bylines, though.

“It was very gratifying to get the wonderful correspondence from our readers, showing their appreciation and sharing things they’ve learned.”

After the final issue comes off the presses next month, Nevala, who is 85 years old, isn’t sure what she’ll do with the newly-available time, but she’s certain she won’t be bored.

“I think we’re all ready to retire,” she said of herself and current editor Henkel, who is 71, “but who knows what that retirement will be. I know Gerry will continue with his kantele business, and I already have many things that I do, so I’m not sure I want to add anything else.”

Regardless what she chooses, Nevala completes this chapter of her Finnish-American activities with mixed emotions.

“It hurts, because I feel like I have to call myself a quitter,” she said. “It was an extremely difficult decision that I kept trying to put off. But when I look at reality, I know it’s time.”

By **David Maki**
The Finnish
American Reporter
November 2014

Stubb implies Apple “killed” Finnish industries



Prime Minister Alexander Stubb has made headlines in the international media in recent days. In his latest encounter, he spoke to US broadcaster CNBC, pointing the finger of blame at tech giant Apple for the downfall of two of Finland's biggest industries.

Describing Nokia and the Finnish paper industry as “two champions that went down”, the Finnish Prime Minister nonetheless adopted an optimistic tone with regards to the future of Finnish industry.

“A little bit paradoxically I guess one could say that the iPhone killed Nokia and the iPad killed the Finnish paper industry, but we'll make a comeback,” Stubb said in the CNBC interview.

Nokia's devices and services business was bought out by US firm Microsoft in April this year at a time when the former front runner was feeling the brunt of a long struggle to maintain market share against rivals Apple and Samsung.

Again endeavoring to remain upbeat in response to questions regarding Standard and Poor's

recent downgrading of Finland's credit status, Prime Minister Stubb urged the nation to simply “keep at it.”

“Usually what happens is that when you have dire times you get a lot of innovation, and I think from the public sector our job is to create the platform for it,” he said.

Who's to blame?

The interview has sparked debate across the blogosphere, with many saying that the PM has now made an enemy of Apple.

Indeed, it's not the first time that Alexander Stubb has been called up on his pithy comments on the issue. In July the premier told Swedish financial newspaper *Dagens Industri* that Steve Jobs “took our jobs.”

The Finnish Prime Minister has been gaining some other international press of late, although not all of it paints Finland in a favorable light.

US financial analyst Bloomberg also ran a piece on the Finnish Prime Minister on Sunday. Quoting PM Stubb's interview with Radio Finland the same weekend, in which he said reform—not waiting for growth—was the key to resolving the nation's financial difficulties, the piece highlighted Finland's slide from a model of fiscal policy to its emergence as one of the weakest economies in Northern Europe

—The Finnish
American Reporter
November 2014

Cooperation Is the Key in Business in California

In doing business, the power of cooperation is tremendous, especially for a small nation. The whole is greater than the sum of its parts. This is why cooperation has been, and will be also in the future, the key theme of the Consulate General of Finland in Los Angeles.

Southern California is full of opportunities, and San Diego is one of its hidden gems. The city boasts with expertise in e.g. health, biotech, life sciences, cleantech and military industries. For example, bio renewable companies in the region have attracted over \$800 million in early-stage investment over the past decade. There are over 850 companies focused in clean technologies.

continued



Commercial Attaché Jussi Salonen (left) with FACC President Teuvo Pulkkinen and SACC President Jimmie Bergren at Green Connections '14 in San Diego.

The Consulate General has lately been active in San Diego. First the staff participated in the Finnish American Chamber of Commerce (FACC) San Diego chapter's first anniversary. The brand new FACC San Diego is already very active and eager to help Finnish businesses in the area. Second, the Swedish Chamber of Commerce put together the Green Connections '14 seminar that attracted experts of clean technologies. Perhaps in the future there will be even more Nordic cooperation next to the busiest border crossing in the world.

A good example of Finnish-American cooperation was play writer Markus Leikola's "Snow Leopard's Den" theater play, which had its international premiere at the Santa Monica Promenade Playhouse on October 10. It was directed by Katariina Laurila, who also played one of the leading roles, whereas the rest of the cast was American. The premiere was sponsored by the Consulate General, and among the guests were both Finnish and American creative industry representatives, as well as business contacts.



Mrs. Tuula Markkanen, play writer Markus Leikola, and Consul General Juha Markkanen at the premiere of "Snow Leopard's Den" in Santa Monica Promenade Playhouse.

Many of us know that next year is the 150th anniversary of the birth of the Finnish composer Jean Sibelius. The Consulate General kicked off the anniversary events by partnering with Finlandia Foundation on October 29 for a jazz concert by world famous jazz musician Olli Soikkeli and his band. This event gathered over 80 prominent jazz

enthusiasts and possible future collaborators for the upcoming anniversary year.

One of the main industries in Los Angeles has always been the film industry, and supporting Finnish films plays an important role at the Consulate General. Our long term collaboration with Finnish Film Foundation (amongst others) is paying off, and the rise of Finnish independent films was noted in *LA Weekly's* American Film Market coverage.

This year has proved that when it comes to co-operation, we Finns can achieve great things together once we set our minds into it. A lesson learned from our successful gaming sector is that cooperation is sometimes more beneficial to everybody than competition. In the gaming sector the scarce resources and best practices are shared. This lesson applies to all aspects of life. "Rising tide lifts all the boats", as Ilkka Paananen, CEO of the gaming company Supercell has said.

From *Finland in the U.S.* Newsletter,
December 4, 2014



FinnFest USA 2015 occurs in Buffalo, New York, over a long weekend in October in special celebration of the 150th anniversary of the birth of Finnish composer Jean Sibelius and the 75th anniversary of the opening of Buffalo's Kleinhans Music Hall, designed by Finnish architects Eliel and Eero Saarinen and designated "one of the greatest concert halls in the United States." FinnFest USA 2015 programming will take place at the Hyatt Regency Buffalo/Hotel and Conference Center and at Kleinhans Music Hall.

From the Internet



Tampere doughnuts attract Finns and tourists alike

The general consensus among doughnut-lovers in Finland is if you want a delicious fresh sugar doughnut, there is no place like the following.

The 26-metre-high Pyynikki Observation Tower, built in 1929 from red granite, is located on top of Finland's highest gravel ridge, Pyynikinharju, and offers a spectacular view of Tampere.

Downstairs there is a café that has become famous for its doughnuts, baked on the spot using a secret recipe. The café is open for business all year round, every single day.

The secret donut recipe of Tampere's Pyynikki Observation Tower got its start in the 1980s. As a baker of the famous sweet snacks, Jutta Hildén knows the mystery behind their success.

"Of course I can't reveal the recipe. It is a secret, as all Tampere residents are well aware," says Hildén.

"The doughnuts first rise in the warm oven, then we poke a hole in the centre with our thumb before we deep-fry them—no moulds, just a finger. Then they are fried in 170-degree oil until they are a nice golden brown," she explains.

Lines out the door

The Tower's café starting selling gluten-free sugar doughnuts last autumn, but their standard

doughnut continues to be their biggest seller. A line of customers runs out the door almost every day.

"There's no formula for the lines. Some days it rains in sheets all day and there is still a line out the door. On sunny days, holidays, and at summer's peak, the line extends all the way out to the parking lot," says Hildén.

Locals are naturally regular customers, but the doughnut's reputation has spread so far that many foreign tourists also make it a stop on their sightseeing route.

"Tourists are very interested and they take lots of photos. I think doughnuts are of interest the world over. Our local delicacy is pretty well-known. Then there are those that have competitions—who can eat the most in one sitting," says Hildén.

Even Turku residents, traditionally Tampere's good-natured adversaries, have to admit that the doughnuts are world-class. Some even drive to Tampere just to satisfy their craving.

"One woman told me at the check-out that she had come all the way from Turku to buy doughnuts. Tampere was quite a detour, but she just had to stop and bring some home," says Hildén.

From "Finland in the U.S." Newsletter,
June 4, 2014

Christmas

A handcrafted paper Christmas ornament found on Swedish Finn trees. Scandinavian children weave this ornament, instead of paper chains we see in the U.S. It is made with a double weave technique so that it can hold candy or other holiday treats.

"SFHS Newsletter" Volume I, Issue 2,
November 30, 2014,
Nyland Edition



'Norden' merges with European newspaper



The board of Norden News Inc., New York, has started co-operation with the Finnish-Swedish monthly, "Est Elle," which is printed in Vasa. The new name for the paper is "Est Elle & Norden USA" and the first issue was on 6 November 2014.

Thanks to this co-operation, "Norden" can reach many new readers in Finland. "Est Elle" will also reach Finnish-Swedish readers in the United States, and offer life style reportage and cur-

rent affairs in the Finnish-American community. Est Elle was founded in 2012 and has subscribers in Swedish Finland, Sweden and elsewhere in Europe.

Norden subscriptions for 2014 cover the November, December and January issues of Est Elle and Norden USA.

—*The Finnish American Reporter*
December 2014

Finnish composers played third-most often in U.S.

The Baltimore Symphony Orchestra gathered data on the 2014–15 seasons that have been programmed by 21 major American orchestras. The orchestras were selected based on size and operating budget.

The orchestra created a database with most concerts and pieces—excluding pop or family concerts—that these orchestras will play during the coming season.

For those pieces performed, the data tracks the number of performances a given piece will receive, the composer, a piece's composition date, soloists, the

composer's nationality, gender and whether the composer is living.

According to the database, Finnish composers are the third-most performed living composers, with 5½ percent of all the performances, following U.S. (54½ percent) and the UK (nearly 9 percent).

Composer and conductor Esa-Pekka Salonen is the fifth-most performed living composer, with 14 performances scheduled for the upcoming season. By comparison, the most performed living composer overall is John Adams (35 performances) and the most performed composer overall is Beethoven (317 performances).

—*The Finnish American Reporter*
December 2014

Swedes put more funds toward Finnish language

The status of the Finnish language in Sweden is set to be strengthened in the coming years, when seven more municipalities are set to join the administrative unit for towns with large Finnish populations. That obliges them to provide certain services, including care for the elderly, in Finnish.

The Swedish public radio company's Finnish language service Sisuradio reports that Malmö, Trelleborg, Mariestad, Smedjebacken, Nykvarn, Oxelosund and Ludvika have asked to join the administrative district for Finnish, and a planned increase in government funding in the new budget is now set to make that possible.

Finnish became an official minority language in Sweden in 1999. At present Finnish and the closely related Maenkieli language can be used in official situations in five municipalities in the Tornio river valley. That Finnish minority is regarded as 'territorially-linked' in Swedish legislation, while the nearly one million people of Finnish origin elsewhere in the country have fewer rights to use Finnish.

—*The Finnish American Reporter*
December 2014

Swedish or Finnish Language Scholarship

Guidelines for the language scholarship:

The \$500 Scholarship for the Cultural Study of Swedish or Finnish will be awarded to anyone wishing to study the language(s). The student must send proof of enrollment and show the cost of the course along with the completed "Language Scholarship" application. Should the tuition requirement be less than \$500, the asking amount only for the applicable course will be paid. The maximum tuition paid out for an individual language course will not exceed \$500.

Important dates:

Application and any support documents must be received by February 15, 2015. Note to USA applicants: Due to frequent long delays with mail to

Canada, it is recommended that applications be submitted at least three weeks before February 15, 2015 (i.e., January 25, 2015).

Scholarship(s) will be awarded March 1, 2015. Applications can be found at the website www.orderofruneberg.org and look for the word "scholarships."

This is a onetime scholarship offer. Send completed application and proof of enrollment to:

Lorene Mara
Scholarship Chairperson
2021 Palliser Ave.
Coquitlam, BC V3K1W8
Canada

International Order of Runeberg \$1,000 Scholarship

Rules and Application Form

The International Order of Runeberg (IOR) has annually awarded three scholarships, each in the amount of \$1,000, available to all members of the IOR pursuing education at an institution of higher learning or a vocational school 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 applications must be received by February 15, 2015.

- Scholarships will be awarded March 1, 2015.

- Applications can be found at the website www.orderofruneberg.org and look for the word "scholarships."

Application and any support documents must be received by February 15, 2015. Note to USA applicants: Due to frequent long delays with mail to Canada, it is recommended that applications be submitted at least three weeks before February 15, 2015 (i.e., January 25, 2015).

This is our final scholarship.



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 the membership must be submitted by the Financial Secretary of the applicant's lodge.
3. An applicant can be awarded 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. Letters of recommendation 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. Write a statement telling why you should be awarded this scholarship (must be typewritten).
9. Send completed application along with verification of membership, letter(s) of recommendation, a personal written statement, and transcript (if applicable) to:

Lorene Mara
Scholarship Chairperson
2021 Palliser Ave.
Coquitlam, BC V3K1W8
Canada

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Dale & Mary Lou Hjort
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1 EURO = 1.246 USD

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XE-12/13/14

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